



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.15, July 29, 1921

**President-[John Mann](#), Past President-[Sam Gruden](#),
1st Vice-President-[Jack Little](#), 2nd Vice-President-[David Dyck](#),
Secretary-[Barry Walker](#), Treasurer-[Gary Campbell](#),
Directors-[Michael Mant](#), [Jamie Fleming](#), [David Dyck](#), [Len Stevens](#)
Database Administrator-[John Ross](#), Gyrolog Editor-[Fred Schulte](#)**

JULY 2014

Those celebrating their birthdays in July are **John Mann** on the 2nd and **Leon Lubin** on the 18th. Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **Jack** and **Myrna Slobodan**, 49 years on the 3rd; **Ken** and **Arden Korchinski**, **50 years** on the 11th; **Barry** and **Valerie Walker**, 44 years on the 11th; **Jack** and **Joyce Brown**, 14 years on the 15th; **Len** and **Barbara Stevens**, 56 years on the 26th and **John** and **'Mim'-Bertsch Mann**, 14 years on the 28th.

GYRO BRIDGE WINDUP April 2014

Another successful Bridge season ended with a wonderful celebration at the Highlands Golf Club on April 23. Last year's winner, Terrie Ellis, led the singing of Grace. Ken Willan presented the awards:

Warren Garbutt won the trophy and a \$50 gift card with a season high score of 22,270. Other winners were:

Berni Hardin – 2nd high season score of 21960; \$40 gift card

Bruce Foy – evening high man's score of 6690; \$25 gift card

Berni Hardin – evening high woman's score of 5480; \$25 gift card

After the meal, three rounds of bridge completed the evening with the winners being as follows:

Carol Dobson – high woman's score of 4730; \$25 gift card

Jack Ellis – high man's score of 4520; \$25 gift card

Ken Willan – last player to win a trick with the club 2; a deck of cards to practice with

It was decided by a close vote to reduce the number of rounds for next season from 5 to 4 to allow more time to socialize. If any Gyro member would like to join the Bridge Club as either a regular or a spare, please contact **Ken Willan** (780-434-1306) .

President John Mann welcomed 29 Gyros and three guests to the July 15th luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **Roger Russell** led the group in the singing of Cheerio and **Jim Lochhead** gave the Grace. **Jack Little** introduced his guest, **Ray Dallaire** and **John Boyd** his guest, **Tom Cameron**.

Bruce Swanson introduced our guest speaker **Nathan IP**, who was born in Taiwan, but has spent most of his life in Edmonton. He developed an early interest in the underprivileged and as a teenager was an advocate for the homeless people. He interned in Washington, D.C. and took political science and sociology at New York University.

For five years Nathan was Coordinator for the Inclusive Education Initiative at Grant MacEwan University and also worked for Alberta Assisted Community Living helping parents of disabled children and advocating for individuals with disabilities. A major focus for Nathan has been the idea of including individuals with disabilities in mainstream education.

Nathan ran in the October election last year and was elected a Public Trustee in Ward H of the Edmonton Public School Board. His talk today is on the Challenges and Successes in the Edmonton Public Schools.

Inclusive education will be legislated in the new School Act 2015, but there still needs to be support by all parties.

A School Trustee is responsible for governance, setting policies and providing overarching direction for the School Superintendent. Local autonomy for the Edmonton Public School Board has gradually eroded in the last 50 years. Trustees are community advocates and stewards. The lack of school infrastructure and recreation facilities is significantly affecting our children and their parents.

Edmonton Public has 202 schools and 88,000 students with an operating budget of one billion dollars. It is the sixth largest district in Canada and was founded in 1881 as the first taxing authority in the North West Territories.

Vision - Transforming the learners of today into the leaders of tomorrow

Mission- We inspire student successes through high quality learning opportunities, supported by meaningfully engaged students, parents, staff and community.

Edmonton Public Schools have been known as "early adopters" in the 1970's to 1980's using site-based management approaches. All principals set budgets based on specific school requirements. Private schools are not a large part of Edmonton's public school system. The five year high school completion rate is up 2.8% hovering around 70%. This is still not good enough! Two of the factors impacting the completion rate is the booming Alberta economy and the fact that students with a minimum of grade 10 can enter the technical trades.

Edmonton students are achieving strong results in all science subject areas, however there have been decreases in English, Social Studies and Math. These decreases are partly due to the influx of new Canadians, many who are not fluent in English or their own language. The biggest challenges are in coping with the exploding numbers of First Nations and Métis students.

The teaching of Discovery Math has generated a lot of concern by parents and children. There is more than one way to teach multiplication tables but the results from Discovery Math appear to be uneven and controversial.

The challenges on the immediate horizon are the huge increases in student populations and the need for 15 new schools in the next five years.

Jack Brown thanked our speaker for an interesting and thought-provoking presentation. The winner of the Free Lunch draw was **Mort Morter**.

It with regret that we announce the passing of **Patricia Sharp** on July 17th at the age of 93 years. "Pat" was an enthusiastic Gyrette member for many years and when her deteriorating health prevented her from active participation, the Gyrettes bestowed upon her 'Honourary Member' status. She lived a rich, full life with her family and friends in Edmonton. Her husband Howard ("Howie") was an active member of the Edmonton Gyro Club and served as President in 1959-60.

A Memorial Service and Celebration of Pat's life will be held at Foster and McGarvey Funeral Home, 10011-114 Street, Edmonton, on Wednesday, July 30, 2014 at 11:00 am.



Patricia Sharp 1921-2014

A small but enthusiastic group of 12 Gyros and Gyrettes and one granddaughter enjoyed a picnic lunch in **Gyro Park No. 10** at Fort Edmonton on July 22nd. This Gyro park was built with funds raised by the Gyro Clubs of Edmonton, Edmonton Crossroads and Sherwood Park and was officially opened on August 14, 1984. The playground equipment is similar to that used in the nine other playground parks built and operated by the Edmonton Gyro Club between 1921 and 1949.

The weather on July 22nd was perfect and all of the swings, teeter totters, monkey bars and slides were heavily used by a large group of youngsters. Thanks to **John** and **Helen Ross** for hosting this event!



Photo by John Ross

Gyro Park No.10 Fort Edmonton



Photo by John Ross

Bruce Houston has resigned from the Edmonton Gyro Club effective July 17, 2014. Due to other commitments, Bruce has not been able to attend our luncheon meetings. Bruce was sponsored by Allan Douglas and joined our club in 2008. We wish Bruce and Gayle all the best in their future travels.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual GYRO/GYRETTE Golf Tourney, Legends Golf Course, Tuesday, August 5th

Format: Modified Texas Scramble, 9 holes

Tee times: Commencing around 1:00 pm

Cost: \$65 for golf and barbeque, BBQ only \$30

As usual prizes are needed!

Contacts: the Walkers and Russell's

Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, August 19th

Speaker: Ron Gilbertson, former President, Edmonton Economic Development Corporation

Topic: "Guiding Principles for Life"

GYRO/GYRETTE Corn Roast and Bocce, Tuesday evening, September 2

Malmo Community Hall, 11525-48 Ave.

Time: Bocce 4:00 pm, Dinner at 6:30

Corn, Chicken, Salad and Dessert

Cost: \$20 per person, cash bar for beer and wine

Contacts: Roger Russell, David Burnett and friends