



# ***THE GYROLOG***

**THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON  
Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921**

**President-Dunc Mills, Past President-Chuck Gerhart**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President-Ron Trant**

**Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-David Burnett,**

**Directors- Doug Armstrong, Ray Dallaire,**

**Dan Hasinoff, Martin Marshall, Peter Carter (Ex-Officio)**

**Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte**

**Club Website: [www.edmontongyroclub.com](http://www.edmontongyroclub.com)**

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## **DECEMBER 2021**

## **HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

Those celebrating their birthdays are **Sam Gruden** on the 1<sup>st</sup>, **Ron Ramsey** on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Larry Dobson** on the 16<sup>th</sup>, **Gary Campbell, 80 years on the 17<sup>th</sup>** and **Chuck Gerhart** on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Ari and Kathryn Hoeksema** celebrate their 18<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Jack Little** welcomed 65 Gyros and three guests to our **Annual Christmas Party** at the Edmonton Convention Centre, Riverview Room. **President Dunc Mills** also welcomed the merry throng and **John Boyd** played a Christmas tune on the Xylophone.

**Jim Lochhead** presented the Grace.

**Gyro First International Vice-President, Peter Carter** advised that carol singing would not possible this year due to Alberta Health Covid-19 regulations.

It has been our tradition for twenty years that a designated Gyro would carve the turkey at each table. This year, the tradition changed and **Gyrette, Bronwyn Swanson** volunteered to carve at table 4. Well done, Bronwyn!





**Dick Nichols**



**Jim Lochhead**



**Dunc Mills**



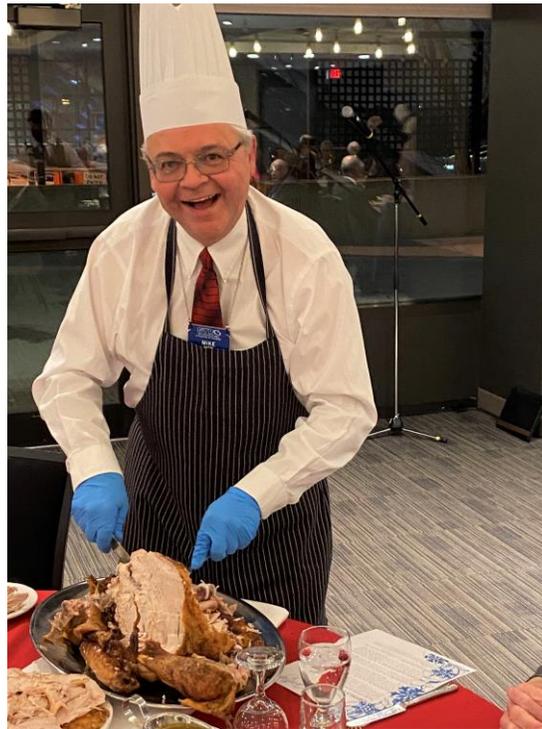
**Jim Lepp**



**Martin Marshall**



**Leon Lubin**



**Mike Matei**



**Peter Carter**

After our Christmas banquet, **Christmas Jeopardy** was introduced. **President Dunc** provided instructions to members at each table, listen to the words of a Christmas tune and then provide the answer in question form. It wasn't quite as simple as it seemed, as many answers were not given in question form. Those that presented correct question answers were rewarded with more candies.

The overall sentiment from Gyros and Gyrettes was that it was wonderful to get together after a two-year absence.

**Thanks to Jack Little and Alan Rusler for organizing a first-class event!**



## John Ross

It is with regret and sadness that we acknowledge the death of **John Ross** on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at age 76. John was a 39-year member of the Edmonton Club and was sponsored by **Allan Warrack** in 1982. He was a phenomenal Gyro and consummate friend. Helen and John were active participants in Gyro Conventions and made many new friends throughout North America. John was active in all aspects of Gyro including President in 1992-93, Membership Chairman, Club Historian, Gyro International Club Database Administrator, and recipient of the **Award of Merit** for Outstanding Service to Gyro in 2003.

## Adventurous Man John Ross

I have known John Ross for over 45 years, starting with our involvement at St. Paul's United Church, and then the adventures began!

In the early 80's, I admired John and Helen's Grumman aluminum canoe and suggested that we take a trip on the North Saskatchewan River. **In the summer of 1985**, John and I paddled from Devon to Edmonton and observed the natural beauty of the river valley. The use of the river by other boaters was fairly low at this time because access was limited and there was still a perception that the river was dirty!

John spoke highly of his first horseback trail ride with **Joe and Doreen Jacobson of Misty Mountain Outfitters in the summer of 1988**. I had the pleasure of joining the group in July 1989 and as an inexperienced rider, was given a swayback horse named "Freightliner" or "Sneer". This horse had a steady gait and sure feet that served me well. The only issue was that each time the horse came to a log on the trail, Sneer would stop and leap over the obstacle. After a couple of jumps, the rest of the riders lined up with their cameras. I hung on and managed to survive the trip without falling off.



**John and Fred 1985**



**John 1989**



**1991**



**John and Euclid 1995**

We made four trips with Joe and Doreen in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1995 in the foothills of southwestern Alberta. These were wonderful times with great friends!

We had the pleasure in 1995 of riding with **Euclid Herie, Managing Director of the CNIB** who lost his sight at an early age and showed great determination to ride along the mountain trails west and south of Longview. John and I were tasked with keeping Euclid safe from low hanging branches as we rode the narrow trails. I usually rode ahead and John behind. One day after a long ride, I dropped my guard and forgot to warn Euclid of dead branches as we approached camp. The ensuing whack-whack of branches was part comical and part deep regret.

John looked for more excitement and booked some northern river trips on the **Nahanni River** in the Northwest Territories and the **Tatshenshini** in Yukon/Alaska with Nahanni River Adventures.

I was impressed with the feedback from John on these trips and we decided to try the canoe trip on the **Yukon River in July 1994**. We were blessed with perfect weather, warm river water and sunny skies. Our

guide provided two canoes, a large cedar strip Voyageur and an 18-foot aluminum. The eleven-day journey from **Carmacks to Dawson City** was a trip to be treasured. We practiced no trace camping at each of the island overnight stops. The ladies who participated in the journey loved to swim and we soon chose our nightly stop on the basis of a good swimming beach.

The silence on the river at night was something to behold. When we reached Dawson, we were forced to sleep in a public campground the first night. The noise was almost unbearable and there was a great desire to get back on the river and travel further north in peace!



**John and Fred Yukon River 1994**

**John sponsored my Gyro membership in Gyro in 1994** and the adventures continued.

**In June-July 2001**, John and I travelled with Nahanni River Adventures again on a guided raft trip down the **Burnside River to Bathurst Inlet**. The **main attraction was the Caribou migration** which numbered in the thousands that year. We were also treated to sightings of wolves, badgers, muskoxen, grizzly bears, golden and bald eagles. Our guides

were very careful of our safety on and in the frigid waters of the Burnside. On one occasion, we stopped upstream of the Balanca Rapids and walked over to a viewpoint to determine the safest route through the rapids. After the three rafts successfully navigated this stretch of the river, we asked for a rougher and scarier route next time. Our wish was fulfilled before we knew it and were treated to a very splashy set of rapids which soaked most of us.

After a number of days on the Burnside, we all wished we could wash our hair just once. I and a few others tried to dunk our heads in the river but all we got was a super brain freeze.

John seized the opportunity and boiled one gallon of water, constructed a plastic teepee for privacy and put the warm water in a plastic bag with a nozzle and hung it at the top of the teepee. The instructions were clear, rub soap in your hair, use a small amount to wash and rinse and get out! To everyone's amazement, ten of us were able to wash our hair with just one gallon of warm water!

This is a good insight into John's character, **he was inventive and the kind of guy who liked to help everyone.**

We were privileged to see a part of Canada's north that very few will ever experience!



**Burnside River early July 2001**



**John and Fred**

John's adventures continued. **In 2003, he rode his bicycle across Canada** with a guided tour group from Victoria to St. John's, Newfoundland. Each rider was given the freedom to complete each daily leg on their own and meet at a prearranged evening location. John started noticing unique rural mailboxes made out of various pieces of scrap metal and wood in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. He would photograph the mailbox and then stop at the farmhouse and enquire about the history of the farm and the story behind the mailbox.

His **next guided bicycling adventure took him from Paris, France** to southern Germany along the Danube River bikeway through Austria, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria **to Istanbul, Turkey.**

John was famous for his interest in people wherever he travelled, and he also had no fear, whether it was sea kayaking on the west coast of British Columbia, downhill skiing in Alberta and B.C. or trekking the mountain trails with the Skyline Hikers.

John and I hit it off well right from the beginning of our outdoor adventures. We both loved the wonders of nature and the peace of mind it brought when we slept outdoors under the stars.

He was a great friend, and I miss him!

Fred Schulte

### **Dick Nichols reports on the Hockey Pool Winners.**

Game 4 November 27 Winners      First Period      Second      Final

#### **Oilers vs Golden Knights**

<b>First Period</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Val Pohl</b>	<b>Allan Warrack</b>	<b>Jack Bowen</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>John Ross</b>	<b>Sandy McDonald</b>	<b>Ken Korchinski</b>
<b>Final</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Ron Trant</b>	<b>Cohen Sellar</b>	<b>Mark Power</b>

Game 5 December 7 Winners      First Period      Second      Final

#### **Oilers vs Wild**

<b>First Period</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Gary Campbell</b>	<b>Sutton Baird</b>	<b>Bronwyn Swanson</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Cliff Revell</b>	<b>Mike Matei</b>	<b>Peter Carter</b>
<b>Final</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Walter Yakimets</b>	<b>Philippe Bourbonnais</b>	<b>Kelly Russell</b>

Game 6 December 14 Winners      First Period      Second      Final

#### **Oilers vs Maple Leafs**

<b>First Period</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Jack Little</b>	<b>Morgan Power</b>	<b>Jeremy Hastings</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Heinrich Grosskopf</b>	<b>Walter Yakimets</b>	<b>Kathryn Hoeksema</b>
<b>Final</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Marty Larson</b>	<b>Trish Baird</b>	<b>Cliff Revell</b>

**“Fast Fred”**

## **Upcoming Events**

**Gyro International Convention, Cleveland, Ohio, June 27-30, 2022**

**Gyro District VII Convention, Medicine Hat, Alberta, September 22-25, 2022**