



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

President

Leon Lubin
780 454-9712

OCTOBER 2009

1stVice-President

Bill Taylor
780 430-0330

Those celebrating their birthdays in October are **Gordon Robertson** on the 2nd, **Roger Russell** on the 5th and **Mike Matei** on the 28th.

2ndVice-President

Ari Hoeksema
780 421-7776

The October wedding anniversaries are **Marty and Shirley Larson**, 49 years on the 8th; **Gerry and Alice Glassford**, 52 years on the 12th.

Past President

John Plunkett
780 435-7011

President Leon Lubin welcomed 33 members and six guests to the October 6th, luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. Cheerio was led by "**Dutch**" **Hoeksema** and the Grace was presented by **Ron Ramsey**.

Secretary

Barry Walker
780 475-0983

John Ross introduced his guest **Gordon Oaks**; **Cliff Revell** his guest **Helmut "Nick" Nickolai**, **Larry Dobson** his guest **Alex Stosky** and **Leon Lubin** introduced his guests **Don Vinge** and **Brian Robinson**.

Treasurer

Mike Matei
780 930-1780

Directors

Peter Carter
780 488-2403
Sam Gruden
780 488-5520
Chuck Gerhart
780 439-9792
Ken Willan
780 434-1306

Our guest speaker was **Guy Bridgeman**, **Senior Vice-President, Strategic Planning & Development** for **EPCOR**. In 1996 EPCOR Utilities Inc. was created with the merger of **AQUALTA** and **ELTEC**. This was the first merger in Canada of natural gas, electric power and water utilities. In 2001, EPCOR became the brand name and the City of Edmonton was EPCOR'S sole shareholder. EPCOR presently has 2400 employees and is responsible for the transmission and distribution of electric power, the treatment and distribution of drinking water and the collection and treatment of wastewater. EPCOR also supplies drinking water to 40 communities in the Edmonton Region.

Gyrolog Editor

Fred Schulte
780 434-0925

EPCOR also has contracts with a number of municipalities in Alberta and British Columbia to operate their drinking water and wastewater treatment systems. Those municipal systems in Alberta include Okotoks, Strathmore, Banff and Canmore. In 2009 EPCOR paid dividends of \$132.6 million to the City of Edmonton which accounts for approximately 20% of city tax revenues.

On July 9th, 2009 **Capital Power Corporation** was created. EPCOR has retained 72% of the shares in Capital Power. Albertan's holds 39% of the shares that went public. The company's principle activity is to generate electrical power and owns approximately 3300 megawatts of power generating capacity through 31 plants in North America. EPCOR in partnership with TransAlta Utilities is also building the 450 MW Keephills 3 power plant near Lake Wabamun for \$1.5 billion.

Mr. Bridgeman then focused his presentation on the transmission of electricity in Alberta. There has been no significant upgrading or expansion of the electric transmission system for 20 years. **The Alberta Electrical System Operator (AESO)**, a not-for-profit government entity has identified \$14 billion in new electrical transmission lines that are needed to maintain a reliable system. The new projects would include two direct current (DC) lines between the Calgary and Edmonton areas; new lines connecting power plants in the Lake Wabamun area to the Heartland Industrial Area (Upgrader Alley); upgraded and new lines between the Fort McMurray area and the Edmonton Region and new lines in Southern Alberta to tie into the Calgary region. These lines are proposed to improve reliability as well as allowing new power generators to tie into the provincial grid. Some of the oil sands upgrading plants produce enough excess power to be put into the provincial system. In Southern Alberta, wind power generation has increased dramatically and an upgraded transmission line network will improve access for these smaller generators.

A great deal of controversy has arisen in the last couple of years regarding the **need** for new transmission lines, **route impacts** and the **potential health effects** from electrical magnetic fields (EMF). The provincial government has introduced new draft legislation entitled Bill 50 which would fast-track the "need" phase of the transmission facility approval process for "Critical Transmission Infrastructure Projects"

Mr. Bridgeman then discussed the **Heartland Project** which involves the construction of two 500 kV AC lines between Wabamun and the Heartland Industrial Area northeast of Edmonton. This project is a partnership between EPCOR and AltaLink who are responsible for transmission and distribution outside

of Edmonton. A number of route options have been chosen which would potentially involve new routes around the north side of Edmonton as well as using existing transmission line routes on the south side of Edmonton in the Transportation and Utility Corridor (TUC) (Anthony Henday). Public consultation has occurred over the last year and has resulted in much interest by concerned citizens in the areas of property value, safety (EMF) and demonstrated need. EPCOR and AltaLink expect to file their application to regulatory authorities in the first quarter of 2010.

The presentation raised considerable interest and dozen's of questions were fielded by Guy Bridgeman. It was clear from the tone of questions that many of the underlying issues were rooted in the way the **provincial government** has dealt with electricity rates and the lack of transparency in many of the **policy decisions** related to public consultation on transmission line need and routing.

One of the most interesting areas of interest is the feasibility of building the **new 500 kV lines underground**. Mr. Bridgeman indicated that the technology is largely untried and currently only exists in Japan and more recently in China where new 500 kV lines are under construction. In Europe, underground 400 kV lines have existed for some time. In general terms it can be four to 20 times more expensive to install underground transmission lines. One of the significant cost issues is related to the heat generated by burying the transmission line conductor. The deeper the line is buried the more heat is generated. The electrical conductor must be cooled with liquid nitrogen or equivalent. EPCOR recently completed the construction of an underground 240 kV line from north Edmonton to downtown. The total cost was approximately seven times the cost of an equivalent above ground line. In this case however, a surface right-of-way was not available.

Mr. Bridgeman also gave an example of a hypothetical underground 500 kV line, 25 km in length in which the incremental cost increase over above ground would have been \$923 million.

Alan Rusler thanked Mr. Bridgeman for a very informative, timely and thought provoking presentation.

Val Pohl was the lucky winner of the free lunch draw.

Power Supply Postscript

The Edmonton Journal reported on October 7th that a new document just released by the provincial Energy department indicates that the province is generating additional electrical reserves and now has more than three times the its minimum target ration of power availability versus demand. Government officials maintain, though, generation remains at critical levels and that new transmission is still desperately needed to keep the lights on in Alberta.

The Edmonton Journal also reported a day later on October 8th that David Erickson, President of the Alberta Electric System Operator stated that "Alberta exports just one per cent of the electricity it generates and is currently barely generating sufficient electricity to meet its own demand." The bottom line, Alberta's power is not for export!

Your Editor believes that the issues surrounding electricity pricing and transmission line capacity are far too complicated for the average citizen to comprehend. In an attempt to put today's world in perspective, I found that in 1891 the Edmonton Electric Lighting and Power Corporation was formed. Alex Taylor was one of the owners of this utility from 1891-1901. In 1902 the Town of Edmonton bought the utility for \$13,500 and by 1905, 24 hour electrical service was offered to 53 customers. To celebrate Alberta's declaration as a province in 1905, free power was provided for one week! Now that was a sign of an enlightened community!

The **Annual Inter-Club Founders Night Event** sponsored by the Sherwood Park Gyro Club was held at the German-Canadian Cultural Association on the evening of October 21st. Nineteen members of the Edmonton Gyro Club joined members from the Crossroads and Sherwood Park Club's for an entertaining and informative meeting.

President Gene Thorarinson welcomed the 60 Gyro's while **Keith Bradley** gave the Toast to the Queen; **Jim Copeland** presented the Grace and **Rikke Dootjes** led the singing of Cheerio. The 50-50 draw was one by **Andy Friderichsen**, a 25 year member of the Edmonton Gyro Club.

President Leon Lubin of the Edmonton Club presented a \$500 cheque to **Don Greig** and **Lawrence Zalasky** of the Sherwood Park Club to assist in their undertaking of the upcoming District VIII Annual Convention to be held August 19th to 22nd, 2010.



Don Greig

Lawrence Zalasky

Leon Lubin

Past District Governor Don Greig presented some background information on the formation of the Gyro International Organization and then proceeded with the installation of new Sherwood Park Club member, **Paul Adilman**. **Sid Slade**, as sponsor was also charged with the responsibility of supporting Paul to achieve the objectives of GYRO. The entire Gyro's present gave a hearty individual welcome to Paul.

Past District Governor Keith Bradley introduced our speaker **Jim Copeland**, **Past President** of the Sherwood Park GYRO Club. Jim is a relatively new member who joined Gyro in 2006 but quickly dived in and took on greater and greater responsibilities. Consistent with this approach, Jim volunteered to speak to us tonight about the founding of Gyro. Jim advised that he had special place in his heart for Gyro as he met his wife as a result of Gyro activities.

Jim began by stating that Gyro began when three college friends, **Paul Schwan**, **Gus Handerson** and **Ed Kagy** decided that the unity of their friendship was worthy of perpetuation and that these friends proposed to include other friends in their organization. The first formal meeting was held in Cleveland on June 24th, 1912. The organization started without any real name and it was not until January 7, 1913 that the name Gyro was adopted. One of the new members, **Jimmy Hubble** championed the term Gyro based on the word "gyroscope," in recognition of the gyral principle which allows an object to maintain its original plane of rotation no matter what happens around it.

Gyro International was incorporated on October 21st, 1914 and that is the reason we celebrate Founders Night on this date. Chicago, the second club was chartered in 1914. Toronto, the first Canadian club was chartered in 1919 and by 1920 a total of 12 clubs had received charters. In 1921, 8 new clubs were chartered including Edmonton, Calgary and Regina. Jimmy Hubble was the Editor of the *GYROSCOPE* from 1923-34.

The members gave Jim Copeland a round of applause for his heartfelt and informative presentation.

The remainder of the evening saw various table groups of Gyro's attempting to answer skill testing questions and undertake other humorous activities. It was apparent from this Editor's point of view that answers to skill testing questions were invariably suspect due to the committee group think!

Thanks to Keith Bradley and his committee for organizing an enjoyable event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Gyro/Gyrette Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, Tuesday, November 3rd.

Speaker: Jackie Rae Greening, CFCW Radio personality and President of the "Roar of the Rings" curling event, Rexall Place December 6th to 13th

Guests are welcome!

Cost: \$15 per person

Contact: Mike Matei

CURLARAMA 2009, Friday evening, November 6-Sunday noon November 8th

Hosted by the Calgary Gyro Club, Curling at the Canmore Curling Club, accommodation at the Voyager Inn, Banff

Cost: \$220 per curler, \$195 per non-curler, includes minimum three games of curling, 2 nights accommodation, 2 breakfasts, Gyro hospitality on Friday night, Saturday night banquet and poker tournament.

Contact: Mike Matei

Gyrette Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, Tuesday, November 10th

Time 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm

Speaker: Patricia Clayton, Registered Dental Hygienist, who owns a business called "Right to You" Mobile Dental Hygiene Services Ltd. Patricia, delivers dental hygiene care to people who can not come to her office.

Contact: Elaine Douglas or Paulette Schulte

Gyro/Gyrette Christmas Party, River View Room, Shaw Conference Centre, Tuesday Evening, December 1st

6:00 pm: Champagne and socializing

6:30 pm: Carved Roast Turkey Dinner

Cost: \$50 per person without wine, \$60 with wine.

Contact: Fred Schulte