



# **THE GYROLOG**

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

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Res. 438-1406

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Res. 488-2856

## **Editor**

Allan Douglas  
Phone/Fax 433-5409

March 21, 2005

**President Dick** welcomed 33 Gyros plus their guests to the Mayfair Club. **Marty Larson** led us in Cheerio and **Rev. John Dowds** asked the blessing.

**Larry Dobson** introduced his guests Bruce Swanson and his son Glenn Dobson. **President Dick** welcomed Wayne Tingley, **Walter Yakimets's** friend Doug McMullen was present as was **Peter Carter's** friend Doug Ingersoll. Finally **John Ross** introduced us to Garry Hodgins and Jim McKelvie.

**President Dick** thanked **Victor Jagoldas** for the very successful bocce evening.

**Walter Yakimets** informed members that your scribe has been writing the Gyrolog for ten years. Someone calculated that this would have involved about 240 issues. On behalf of the Club, **Walter** presented me with a gift certificate for a dinner at Jack's Grill. He also assured everyone that Jack has confirmed that he will have some old bull for me. Thank you to all involved in providing this thoughtful present.

**Larry Dobson** introduced Bruce Saville our guest speaker. Bruce founded Saville systems in 1982 and grew the business to include offices in the United States and Ireland. He sold it in 1999 and has been involved in charities, non-profit boards, the Board of Governors of the University of Alberta etc. since that time. His topic was No Hockey, No Debt and No Future.

Bruce pointed out that what some perceived as a small gap between the owners and the players association recently was not at all close. The players association accepted a salary cap at \$49 million with no other changes to the agreement. The owners, on the other hand wanted significant changes including to entry level salaries. He stated that other sports have more lucrative contracts and that the NFL television contract pays for all on field personnel. In hockey, each team needs to be able to keep players and be profitable and cannot be in the position of giving up star players due to the budget.

At a time when Alberta has “No Debt” Bruce questioned the lack of funding for homeless people and poor children. He cited the example of Kids Cottage that was started in part by Colleen Klein. It provides housing for 18 children 12 years old and younger who require temporary shelter from homes that are not safe. It has been full for years and the need has been clearly demonstrated. Yet the government provides only \$300,000 of the \$900,000 annual budget. \$600,000 must be raised annually through charitable endeavors. He argued that with no debt the province should be funding the total budget so that charitable fund raising could address emerging needs.

In 2003 the Edmonton Food Bank distributed 5.5 million pounds of food including school lunches and snacks. The federal government contributed nothing, the province nothing and the city \$15,000. He said that governments got involved in smoking because it is counter to health and wellbeing and should be of concern to all levels of government. Bruce argued that hunger is also counter to health and wellbeing and should be of concern to all levels of government.

His “No Future” theme related to those in our midst who are poor and lack access to what they need to succeed. He said that we have chosen capitalism as our economic system and we have built cracks wide enough for some people to fall through. To ensure equal opportunity the poor should have free access to city properties. There is a ‘donate a ride’ system in place for people to donate bus tickets for people in need. He argues that there should be free bus transportation to people living in poverty because transportation is key to getting ahead.

He outlined a project involving 150 disadvantaged students from 3 public and 2 catholic schools in Edmonton. The students in the project were given increased access to computers, training for their teachers and extra help, 2 trips to the Odysium per year, a free week at the Odysium each year and full family passes to the Odysium. In 2003 after 6 years, the control group of disadvantaged students obtained 67% of acceptable standards, the regular students achieved 84%, and the students in the project achieved 100%. For standards of excellence the similar numbers were 4%, 26%, and 39%.

Alberta has the worst high school drop out rate in the country and only 61% of males graduate from high school. In 2003, 16% of people aged 18 to 21 were at university and many more wanted to go but there were no more spaces. The percentage for other provinces are 29 for Ontario, 39 for Nova Scotia, and 26 for Newfoundland.

In closing he recommended that we read Mel Hurtig’s book “Pay the Rent or Feed the Children” which is about social justice, responsibility and fairness in society.

**Alan Rusler** thanked the speaker on our behalf and **John Stroppa** won a free lunch.

**Mort Morter** had no report of illness in the club. However, **Marty Larson** said that **John Dowd’s** son Alex is receiving chemo therapy again. **John** explained that he was in remission for 18 months and will go through two cycles of chemo with the goal of

remission and a stem cell transplant. The best wishes and prayers of members of the Gyro club go to Alex and his family.

**Dave Duchak** reported that in Game 14 of the hockey pool on March 5, 2005 Edmonton was in Syracuse. There was no score after either the first or second periods and \$25 went to **President Dick** and Glenn Dobson. The final was 2:1 with Edmonton over the Crunch and \$25 also went to **Gord Rennie** and Chris Glassford.

Game 15 took place on March 12<sup>th</sup> in St. Johns. They were tied 1:1 with the Maple Leafs after the first and the winners were Gordon Brook and **Shirley Larson**. Edmonton was ahead 2:1 after two and the winners were Brooke Weisgeaber and Brandon Bennett. The Maple Leafs won 3:2 in an overtime shoot out and **David McNaughton** and Larry Fierwold each collected \$25.

More from the old Hollywood Squares. Q. What are “Do It”, “I can Help” and “I can’t get Enough”? George Gobel: I don’t know but it is coming from the next apartment. Q. As you grow older, do you tend to gesture more or less with your hands while talking? Rose Marie: You ask me one more growing old question Peter, and I’ll give you a gesture you’ll never forget. Q. Paul why do Hell’s Angels wear leather? Because chiffon wrinkles too easily.

**President Dick** asked me to include a notice in the Gyrolog that due to the 5% increase in the cost of the meals at the Mayfair the cost of luncheon meetings for members will go up to \$10.00

#### ***UPCOMING EVENTS:***

Our election night will be held once again at Kelly’s Saloon on Tuesday April 5, 2005. It will be a dinner meeting, and **Roy Bennett** advises that the cost will be \$40 per person. Dinner will get underway at 6:00 PM. ***BARRY WALKER WOULD LIKE MEMBERS TO WEAR THEIR GOLF SHIRTS FROM THE PROSTATE GOLF TOURNAMENT TO THIS MEETING. NEW MEMBERS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE GOLF SHIRTS AND MAY CONSIDER PURCHASING ONE.***

**The District VIII Interim Convention will be held March 18-20, 2005 at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, in Fairmont, BC.**

**Bruce Foy** announced that the bridge wind-up will be held Wednesday April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Highlands golf club. They would like to see a large number of guests so plan to attend.

**Our annual Prostate Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday June 17, 2005.**

The District VIII Annual Convention will be held June 23-26, 2005 at the Regina Travelodge, in Regina, SK

**John Stroppa** announced plans for a Gyro/Gyrette luncheon to celebrate Thanksgiving. The date is Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 12:00 noon. It will be at the Santa Maria Goretti

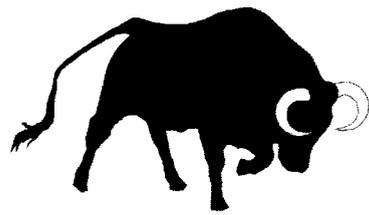
Italian Community Centre, 110 – 90 Street. There is ample free parking available behind the centre, on the front street, or across 90<sup>th</sup> Street in the Commonwealth Stadium parking lot. Further information to follow.

**Walter Yakimets** has booked the same venue for our Christmas party on December 6, 2005.

**Barry Walker** informed us that we will be hosting the District VIII Convention in 2007 from August 9 to 12. It will be at the Delta City Centre Hotel and the room rates will be about \$100.

Same Old Bull

Allan



**John Ross**

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**From:** "John Ross" <ross@compusmart.ab.ca>  
**To:** "Dick Nichols" <nicholsr@telusplanet.net>; "Walter Yakimets" <wwy@incentre.net>; "Fred Schulte" <fred\_sch@telusplanet.net>; "Barry Walker" <walkerb@petersonwalker.ab.ca>; "Mike Matei" <michael.matei@raymondjames.ca>; "Bruce Foy" <jmbfoy@telusplanet.net>; "John Stroppa" <jystropp@shaw.ca>  
**Sent:** 5-Jan-05 3:51 PM  
**Subject:** "Same Old Bull"

Greetings Executive Committee,

***"Same Old Bull" Allan Douglas*** has been our *GyroLog* editor since April 1995, soon to be ***TEN YEARS !***

***Wow, that's two hundred and forty very time consuming editions!***

Such a wonderful contribution to our club, as I believe that the *GyroLog* is the glue that keeps our club strong, on an ongoing basis.

So now, the main reason for my e-mail;

I suggest that Allan's contribution deserves special recognition of some sort.

I'm hoping that you will discuss this at an upcoming Executive Committee meeting, and if you agree that special recognition is warranted, decide what it will be.

( One thought is a gift certificate for a nice restaurant, perhaps Jack's Grill? )

Over to you guys.

Cheerio,

john