



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.15, July 29, 1921

**President-Sam Gruden, Past President-John Boyd,
Vice-President-John Mann, Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Gary
Campbell, Directors-Cliff French, Ari Hoeksema,
David Dyck, Len Stevens
Database Administrator-John Ross, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte**

APRIL 2014

Those celebrating their birthdays in April are **Jack Little** on the 1st, **Larry Wang** on the 5th, **Cliff French** on the 7th, **Fred Schulte** on the 13th, **Dick Moskalyk** on the 17th, **Mort Morter** on the 24th and **Larry George** on the 30th. **Val** and **Linda Pohl** celebrate their 47th wedding anniversary on the 1st.

More Bartlett's Words to Live By (Copyright 2006 by Little Brown and Company)

He who knows others is wise;
He who knows himself is enlightened.

Lao-tzu, The Way of Lao-tzu

It is not enough to have a good mind.
The main thing is to use it well.

Rene Descartes, Le Discours de la Methode

You have to study a great deal to know a little.

Charles de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu

What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Emile; or, On Education

Nothing astonishes men so much as common sense and plain dealing

Ralph Waldo Emerson, Essays

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.

John Dewey, Attributed

Nothing is more dangerous than an idea, when it's the only one we have.

Emile Auguste Chartier, Libres

President Sam Gruden welcomed 39 Gyros and three guests to the April 1st luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club.

David Burnett introduced his guest, **Garry Tansem** and **David Winfield** his guest **Steve Lambert**.

John Boyd introduced our guest speaker, **Tommy Banks**, a pianist, conductor arranger, composer, television personality and former senator. Tommy Banks has, as the Toronto Star pointed out, "...done everything a musician could wish for." MacLean's Magazine, observed that "It would be easier to list the things he doesn't do."

Thomas Benjamin Banks was born in Calgary in 1936 and moved to Edmonton in 1949, where he has resided until the present day. He presented a radio show on CKUA called the "The Solo Piano of Tommy Banks" around 1960. He hosted the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) television show, *The Tommy Banks Show* from 1968 until 1983. He provided musical direction for the ceremonies of the XI Commonwealth Games, EXPO' 86, the World University Games, the XV Olympic Winter Games and for countless television shows. He was a founding chairman of the Alberta Foundation for the Performing Arts, a member of the Canada Council from 1989 to 1995 and a policy consultant to the Council from 1996-1998. He was chairman of the Edmonton Concert Hall Foundation from 1989 to 1991. Tommy is the recipient of an honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Alberta, of the Sir Frederick Haultain Prize, the Alberta Order of Excellence and is an Officer of the Order of Canada.

He was **appointed to the Senate** by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson at the recommendation of Prime Minister Jean Chretien **in 2000**. Sitting as a Liberal, Banks was the Chair of the Senate Standing Committee of the Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources from 2002 to 2009. On December 17, 2011, he reached the Senate's mandatory retirement age of 75.

Mr. Banks began his presentation by stating that the Senate is the most misunderstood institution in Canada. Reform is required of not just the Senate but the House of Commons as well. The Members of Parliament have forgotten their roles, duties and responsibilities. The powers of the Senate are equal to Parliament but are rarely used.

An example was given on two reports prepared on the healthcare of Canadians.

In **October 2002, the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, chaired by Senator Michael Kirby**, released its report : ***The Health of Canadians - The Federal Role.***

In this document, the Committee stressed the need for cooperation among all stakeholders to reduce problems of maldistribution, undersupply, and

jurisdictional competition. He recommended that the federal government work with other concerned parties to create a permanent national coordinating body for HHR, to be composed of representatives from key stakeholder groups and the different levels of government.

In **November 2002, Commissioner Roy J. Romanow, Q.C.** released his final report, **Building on Values: The Future of Health Care in Canada.**

It made recommendations supporting the need for a coordinated approach to HHR planning. The report points to the need to:

- substantially improve the base of information about Canada's health workforce through concerted efforts
- to collect, analyze and provide regular reports on critical issues including the recruitment, distribution and remuneration of health care providers.
- establish strategies for addressing the supply, distribution, education, training, and changing skills and patterns of practice for Canada's health workforce.

The **Kirby Report** was completed in four months for very little expenditure while the **Romanow Report** took years and much more money to complete. The Senate continues to use the Kirby Report as a constant reference while the Romanow Report has been ignored by both Parliament and the Senate.

The annual cost of the Senate is about \$2.27 per Canadian while the cost of the House of Commons is \$11.34. In the time period of the Senate, 147 years, it has done its job as many times as it has not under both the Liberals and the Conservatives. Since 2010, the Senate has amended only one Bill mainly because the Conservatives hold an absolute majority of senators. Parliament needs to be fixed as well as the Senate. **Criminal behaviour in the Senate is not new.** It is surprising that some current Senator's do not understand the rules for claiming travel and expenses. Senator's have gone to jail in the past but it is the Senate itself that must decide when to declare that a Senate seat is vacant. A Senator cannot be removed by Parliament or the Prime Minister.

A number of questions followed: [How do we improve the process for selecting Senators?](#)

The law says that the Governor General decides who becomes a Senator. This is not the practice, the Prime Minister recommends to the Governor General. The conventions could be changed to improve the recommendation process to the Governor General.

[Can the House of Commons overrule the Senate?](#)

Neither house can control the other. Nothing can be approved without complete agreement by both houses.

[An observation was made by one of the members about the representation of Senator's in the U.S.A. Each state, no matter how large or small has only two Senators.](#)

In Canada, Senate representation is by region not by province. The four regions of the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario and the Western Provinces each have 24 Senators. At the Québec Conference of 1864, it was determined that Newfoundland and Labrador was a distinct region and should exist outside the equal regional divisions. In 1949, the Newfoundland Act confirmed the original terms of the union with six seats. The Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut each have one Senate seat. Given the history of the allotment of Senate seats and the position of Quebec, there is no possibility of having equal representation by province.

Allan Warrack thanked our speaker for a very sobering presentation. He also commented on Tommy's comments to graduating students at a past Convocation at the University of Alberta.

["Go do good things, feeling good will take care of itself"](#)

Dick Nichols was the winner of the Free Lunch Draw.



Tommy Banks

President Sam presented the **Slate of Officers for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.**

President: John Mann
1st Vice-President: Jack Little
2nd Vice-President: David Dyck
Past President: Sam Gruden
Secretary: Barry Walker
Treasurer: Gary Campbell
Director's: Michael Mant
 Jamie Fleming
 Len Stevens
 David Dyck

On a motion by **Ari Hoeksema**, it was moved that the proposed Slate of Officers be approved. The motion was approved unanimously!

Dick Nichols reports on the results of the Hockey Pool:

Game 18 March 30 Winners First Period Second Period Final

Oilers vs. Rangers

First	0	1	Rudi Lucas	Melissa Gee	Karen Gibson
Second	0	4	Chuck Gerhart	Mark Power	Terri Russell
Final	0	5	Gerard Parker	Jean Morter	Jean Morter

Game 19 April 6 Winners First Period Second Period Final

Oilers vs. Ducks

First	0	1	Scarlett Burnett	Kennedy Brown	Mia Scornaienchi
Second	3	1	Roger Russell	Michael Mant	Brian Scranton
Final	4	2	Gyro	Jean Morter	David Geddes

Game 20 April 6 Winners First Period Second Period Final

Oilers vs. Ducks

First	2	0	Meeansa Chung	Daniel Larson	Lucas Burnett
Second	4	1	David Ross	Janet Douglas	Jennifer Foy
Final	5	2	Gyro	Gyro	Gyro

President Sam Gruden welcomed 34 Gyros and four guests to the April 15th luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **Walter Yakimets** introduced his guest **Stephen Yakimets**, **David Burnett** introduced his returning guest **Garry Tansem** and **Sam Gruden** introduced his guest **Ross Bradford**.

President Sam announced that the **Edmonton Community Foundation** is holding a **25th Anniversary Celebration** at the Valley Zoo on Tuesday **May 13th** from 5:30-8:00 pm. Please RSVP by phoning 780-423-4956.

Sam Gruden introduced our guest speaker **John McGinnis**, a native of Winnipeg, Manitoba. John at an early age learned the art of canoeing at the YMCA and spent many summers paddling on lakes and rivers in Northern Manitoba and Northern Ontario. Since moving to Alberta, John has made canoe trips for 30 years north of the 60th parallel.

His presentation focused on traditional canoeing routes in the NWT north of Great Slave Lake up to an area NE of Great Bear Lake and the Coppermine River. He spoke of the factors that make a **good canoe route**: Few lakes (because of winds), helpful currents, runnable rapids, few if any portages and scenery/wildlife views. On a **good traditional canoe route**, lakes are good, runnable rapids not so good, short steep drops preferable and as many portages as needed.

North of the tree line, Dene natives such as the Dogrib were tracking caribou for meat and hides. They would start from Fort Rae on the north shore of Great Slave Lake and canoe and trek up as far as the Coppermine River timing their arrival for mid-August to obtain prime caribou hides. The meat would be dried and brought south for use in the winter. These Dene trails had been used for centuries until the arrival of the bush plane. The bush plane made it easier to access caribou and to bring out fresh meat. By 1992, the Dogrib Tribe began to re-establish the traditional routes to pass on the skills and way of life to their younger generations.

John McGinnis paddles by himself and uses a satellite phone for emergency purposes only. He packs about two pounds of dried food for each day of his journey. His canoe and supplies weigh in about 200 lbs and he makes two trips for each portage. Typically he will arrange to fly out on the return of his longer trips.

Jamie Fleming thanked our speaker for an enlightening and delightful presentation.

Jack Ellis was the winner of the Free Lunch draw.

Thanks to **Sam Gruden**, **Jamie Fleming** and **Jack Ellis** for organizing this speaking event.



North West Territories and Nunavut

Cec Butt reported that he has received \$635 from our club members in support of his participation in the **Haida Gwaii Totem Tour** starting June 16th and ending on July 1st at the Stollery Children's Centre. Cec will be one of at least 37 bike riders that will accompany the totem to Edmonton. He expressed his gratitude to our membership for their generosity.

BOSTON STRONG

Your Editor experienced the agony of running and the triumph of finishing the **Boston Marathon on April 21st**. One of the largest fields in Boston Marathon History - 32,530 participants - took off from Hopkinton for the 118th running of the prestigious road race. Elite athletes and weekend warriors ran to renew a determined pursuit of the finish line at Copley Square in Boston. Last year's bombing which killed three bystanders and injured 264 people devastated the citizens of the Boston Region but galvanized a defiance to take back their race from terrorism.

10,000 volunteers and 3500 police officers assisted in an exceptionally well organized running experience. The fan support was noisy and unprecedented. People were packed eight deep in Ashland and 12 deep in Natick and so tight in Back Bay that numbers were impossible to count.

A total of 31,931 runners and 53 wheelchair participants finished the 26.2 mile/42.2 km race. **Meb Keflezighi** of San Diego finished first in **2:08:37** and Kenya's **Rita Jeptoo** became a three time champion and set a new course record of **2:18:57** for females.

I was one of 3,920 racers and bystanders that received medical aid along the route. A severe bout of muscle cramps at the 32 km mark forced me to seek help in the Newton Hills area of the course. After icing and a roller massage, I forged on at a much slower pace and finished the greatest marathon event in the world!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mixed Gyro/Gyrette Event, Club Executive Officers Installation, Tuesday Evening, May 6th,

Derrick Golf and Winter Club, 119 St & 34 Ave

Time: 6:00-9:00 pm

Cost: \$50 per person

Speaker: Paulina Retmales; Paulina has completed her Master's Thesis on the Gyro Club of Edmonton and their Playground Program. The focus of her presentation will be on the period from 1930 to 1940. She will be accompanied by her supervisor Peral Ann Reichwein.

Contact: Sam Gruden

GYRO International and District VIII Convention, Wallace, Idaho, June 15-22, 2014

You may pay your registration on line with VISA or MASTERCARD by going to: www.wallacegyro.com/online-registration.php



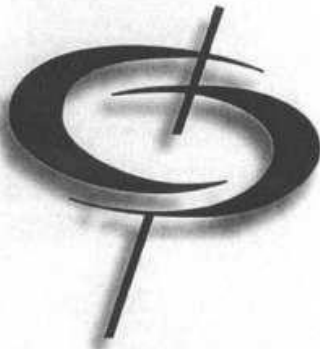
PARTY AT THE DROP OF A BALL!

WHEN THE

WALLACE GYROS HOST

THE 2014 INTERNATIONAL
AND DISTRICT VIII CONVENTIONS

JUNE 15 - 22, 2014



**"Fun for Fun's Sake
and Friendship for
Friendship's Sake"**

COME JOIN THE WALLACE GYRO CLUB
CELEBRATE OUR 80th BIRTHDAY
WITH OUR 73RD LEAD CREEK DERBY
AT THE "CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE"

'There are no strangers here, only friends we haven't met!'