



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

President-Dunc Mills, Past President-Chuck Gerhart

1st Vice-President-Ron Trant

Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-David Burnett,

Directors- Doug Armstrong, Ray Dallaire,

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

Database Administrator-John Ross, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte

Club Website: www.edmontongyroclub.com

OCTOBER 2021

Those celebrating their birthdays are **Roger Russell** on the 5th, **Ken Korchinski** on the 26th, **Mike Matei, 65 years** on the 28th and **Doug Armstrong** on the 31st.

Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **Marty and Shirley Larson**, 61 years on the 8th; **Tony and Care Mazzuca**, 51 years on the 10th and **Gerry and Alice Glassford**, 64 years on the 12th.

SECOND POSTING

Edward (Terry) Mowbrey has applied for membership in our club. **Terry** and his wife **Patricia** live in Edmonton. His email address is t.mowbrey@mowbreygil.com **Trevor Mowbrey** and **Jim Lepp** propose him.

President Dunc Mills played a welcoming tune on the Xylophone with some success and greeted 16 Gyros, **Governor Sid Slade** and new member applicant **Terry Mowbrey** to the Tuesday October 5th Luncheon meeting held at the University Club.

Roger Russell was given a rousing Happy Birthday as he celebrated **83 years today**.

Governor Sid welcomed the opportunity to attend our meeting and update our members on Gyro activities and issues. He encouraged us to try the new portal on the **GYRO International Website**. There has been a significant improvement on access to a wide-ranging amount of District and Club activities and member information. www.gyro.org

Club membership continues to decrease in both the United States and Canada. Gyro International has some funds available to promote new membership. **The best market appears to be just retired men.**



Governor Sid Slade presenting Man-Mile Award to President Dunc Mills

The Man-Mile Award dates back to at least to 1961 when the award was created by **Maurice Klinkhamer** to honour the club which sent the most Gyro members from the farthest distance to the District VIII Convention. Edmonton won the Award this year based on the number of members who committed to attending the Calgary District Convention in September.



Governor Sid presenting the Sherwood Park Horseshoes Trophy

Dunc Mills was invited to the Sherwood Park Gyro Club Horseshoes Tourney on September 27th and was teamed up with **Nestor Slipchuk** and won the event. He looks like a ringer to me!

Fred Schulte was presented with the District VIII Best Bulletin Award.

Dick Nichols was the winner of the Free lunch draw.

It is with regret that we acknowledge the passing of our friend **Leonard Stevens** on October 2nd at age 84.

Len was born and raised in St Catharines, Ontario where he attended Connaught School from grades one to eight. Here he enjoyed soccer, softball, track and field and road hockey. A pee wee hockey team needed a replacement goalie and Len was asked to help when the team went to playoffs. From that point on, Len was involved in goal tending at all three age levels. Len then went on to play in bantam, midget and juvenile leagues. The juvenile league team was one of the farm teams for the Chicago Black Hawks at the time when there were only six teams in the NHL. At this point in time Len decided not to pursue a professional hockey league career partly due to lack of opportunities; **NHL teams carried only one goalie!**

Len began his working career as a management trainee with Beaver Lumber which had 365 retail branches and their headquarters in Winnipeg. His initial work experience included time in St. Catharines, Newmarket, Sarnia and then to Grimsby, Ontario as Branch Manager. In 1969, Len moved to Edmonton as Manager of the 51st. Ave. store; followed by his appointment as District Manager of urban stores and then Merchandize Manager for Alberta. After Molson's took over Beaver, Len went to W.R. Ziegler Ltd. as General Sales Manager. This was followed by nine years with another lumber company. Len then became General Manager of Brown and Rutherford, a lumber/building supplies company in Winnipeg. Back in Edmonton, Len worked with his son to set up Dynamo Auto Services. The last six years of Len's working career was spent with West Fraser Mills in their Panel Board Division.

Len retired in 2002 and continued to coach minor hockey as well as participate in downhill skiing with both the Alberta 55 Group and the Rocky Mountain Ski Club, his passion for over 45 years.

Len was introduced to Gyro by **Bruce Foy** and **John Ross** and was formally inducted into our club in November 2009. Len served as a director in 2013-15. He resigned from our club in March 2019 due to health reasons.

He is survived by Barbara, his wife of 63 years, three children, James (Susan), Mark (Sue), daughter Cathy, four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.



Len and Barbara Stevens

John Boyd presented a musical introduction on the xylophone and **President Dunc Mills** welcomed two guests and 43 Gyros and Gyrettes from the Sherwood Park and Edmonton Gyro Club's for the **Annual Founders Night** celebration at the University Club on October 19th. **President Dunc** welcomed **Governor Sid Slade** and **Sharon**, **President Ted Ewanchuk**, **Al Bleiken** and **Dick** and **Tony Fluker** of the Sherwood Park Gyro Club.

Jim Lochhead presented the Grace.

Al Bleiken spoke of the history of the **Sherwood Park Gyro Club** which was chartered in 1975. He stated that the Edmonton Club led by example for their club. Sherwood Park still have four charter members that will **celebrate 46 years in 2021**.

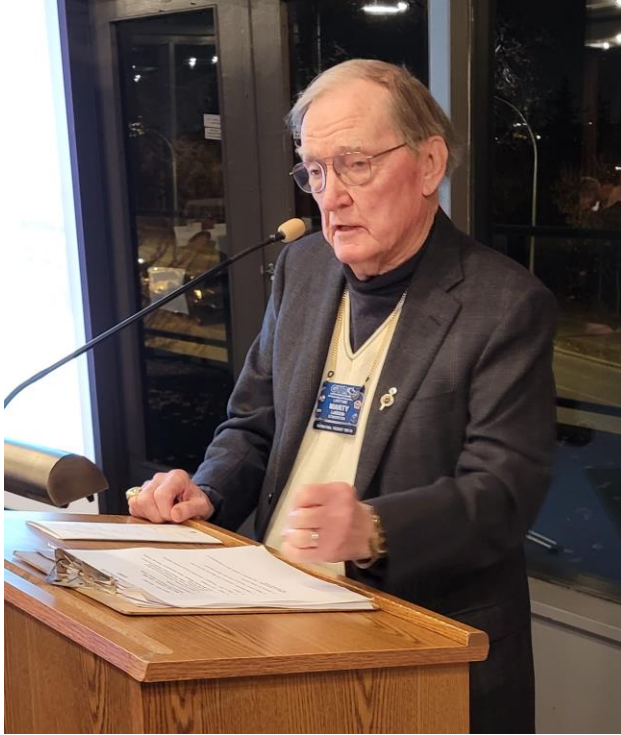
Al also spoke about the founding of Gyro on June 24th, 1912. George V was King of England, Woodrow Wilson was President of the USA and Nicolas II was Emperor of Russia.

Much has changed over the last 109 years, but Gyro has stayed the same, we have become family! Our President. **President Ted Ewanchuk** has been our Zoom mastermind and kept us connected over the last year and a half. We look forward to more face-to-face meetings in the future. Great times lie ahead! What a wonderful legacy Gyro has given us.



Al Bleiken

Marty Larson, our most senior member of the Edmonton Club at 57 years advised that **Howard Wilson**, President of the Edmonton Club in 1972-73 was a key player in the founding of the Sherwood Park Gyro Club. Marty also complimented Sherwood Park for their significant contribution of District Governors for the good of Gyro.



Marty Larson

President Dunc introduced our guest speakers, **Jeffrey Hansen-Carson, President and CEO of Prairie Sky Gondola** and **Claire MacDonald, Development Project Manager**.

Jeffery and Claire stated that the Gondola Project was not their idea, but it came from the community through the **Edmonton Project**.

The Edmonton Project offered the chance for Edmontonians to submit their ideas for something that could become a permanent attraction in the city. Hundreds of submissions were received in 2017. Five prominent Edmontonians were asked to judge the submissions, and they narrowed it down to nine.

1. **YEG Edmonton:** Year-round space in Edmonton's downtown core that could feature local businesses, food vendors and coffee shops.
2. **Food Truck Ferris Wheel:** Showcasing local food trucks with a unique view.
3. **Container City:** Art galleries created out of shipping containers located in downtown parking lots.
4. **The Inner City:** 'Something for everybody container park-Rossdale
5. **Winter River Pavilions:** Flexible spaces in the river valley.
6. **Gondola over the river valley:** Proposal for 'cool commute'.
7. **#One Edmonton:** A projected 'photo album' celebrating life in Edmonton on a downtown building.
8. **Advent Festival:** A European holiday tradition with an Edmonton twist.
9. **River Valley Saunas:** Proposal inspired by outdoor saunas in Scandinavian countries.

Members of the public were given the opportunity to vote online their favourite submission until January 31, 2018.

The Gondola won!

The Edmonton Transit Service Advisory Board published a report on the viability of a Gondola project in September 2018. In June 2019, 12 shareholders incorporated Prairie Sky Gondola Inc.

The six principles are:

1. No public funding requested.
2. Open books to the city for validation on a confidential and proprietary basis.
3. A robust engagement plan and mutually beneficial integration with public transit.
4. Minimized ecological footprint.
5. Provide surety.

The alignment of the Gondola follows a route starting at 82 Avenue and Gateway Boulevard (103 Street) north to End of Steel Park on Saskatchewan Drive, then across the North Saskatchewan River to a station east of the old power plant in Rossdale, then north to the Ortona Armory site and on to West Rossdale and downtown. The Downtown Station would be next to Macdonald Drive.

The gondola cabins will hold up to 10 passengers and will be designed to accommodate strollers, wheelchairs, and bicycles. The cabins can be detached from the guideway system at each station for cleaning, maintenance, and repair. A smart card approach will be used to enable seamless transfers to buses and LRT.

The electrical power requirements are expected to be quite low. Construction is expected to begin by 2023 and the gondola ropeway will be completed in summer 2024.

Jim Lepp thanked Jeffery and Claire for a very informative presentation. Questions followed: The projected capital cost is \$155 million with a 16 hour/day operating regime. The gondola will be a transportation system as well as an experience.

We are in the “Experience Business”



Past President Chuck Gerhart chaired the first **Past Presidents dinner** since 2017 at the University Club on Tuesday evening October 26th. Twenty of the 24 living Past Presidents were in attendance plus the Guest of Honour, current President **Dunc Mills**.

Those in attendance by seniority were:

Marty Larson 1964, David Burnett 1974, Allan Warrack 1980, Larry Dobson 1985, Barry Walker 1986, Mike Matei 1988, Jack Ellis 1989, Gerry Glassford 1990, Fred Schulte 1994, Bruce Foy 1997, Walter Yakimets 1998, Dick Nichols 2000, Jack Brown 2004, Chuck Gerhart and Leon Iubin 2006, John Boyd 2008, Jack Little 2010, Bruce Swanson 2012, Peter Carter and Ray Dallaire 2014.

President Dunc Mills led a rousing rendition of Cheerio and a moment of silence for those recently departed Past Presidents, **Gord Robertson, Mort Morter, David Winfield and Bill Taylor** was presented by **Chuck Gerhart**.

A toast to Gyro was presented by **Marty Larson** who spoke of three influential Edmonton Club members. **Nelles Buchanan**, Charter member, Club President, District Governor and 65-year member introduced the idea of **Gyro Playgrounds for Children** at the inaugural meeting in 1921.

Russ Carter, a 67-year member of Gyro, Club President 1941, District Governor 1943, and International President 1952-53. was an Edmonton optometrist who acquired his skills through correspondence school. He was also a great entertainer known as "Mr. Banjo" and could play piano without sheet music.

Wes Van Dusen, a 61-year member of Gyro joined the Edmonton Club in 1941. He was also a key player with his brother **Bryce** in supplying equipment for the **Annual Gyro Carnivals** which funded the development, operation and supervision of Gyro Playgrounds starting in 1934.

Each Past President in order of seniority presented comments and advice to President Dunc. Typically, the new President is roasted and toasted early in his term of office but with the extraordinary challenges presented by COVID-19, this was not practical until now. Dunc Mills has exhibited outstanding leadership qualities in his first six months, and he is **the 101st President!** Our club has a distinctly unique history of one-term Presidents. There was only one President, **Thomas Brown** who served two terms in 1938-39 and 1939-40!

President Dunc responded to the generous and not so subtle advice provided by the Past Presidents by indicating that his philosophy has been for many years, **don't be a knife and forker!** There is more to enjoying a good meal, pitch in, get involved and you will get more back in return. Past President John Mann introduced me to Gyro, and I have never regretted that timely invitation. Chuck Gerhart presented Dunc with the responsibilities of office, namely the heavy chains!







Gyro Hockey Pool Tickets 2021-2022 Season

Due to the increase in demand for the 2020-2021 hockey pool tickets, we will be offering 400 hockey pool tickets for the 2021-2022 season, an increase of 100 tickets. Payouts will remain the same, as will the cost per ticket, \$20 per ticket. Tickets sales will begin October 15, 2021.

Thank you,
Jan Molofy & Dick Nichols

Fast Fred"

Upcoming Events

Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, University Club, November 2nd

Speaker: Vine's Wine Merchants on Rabbit hill Road.

Topic: Types of wines, what makes a good wine, food pairing.

Time 11:30, lunch at noon.

Cost \$25

Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, November 16th.

Annual Christmas Party, Edmonton Convention Centre, Riverview Room, Saturday, December 4th.