



# ***THE GYROLOG***

**THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON**

**Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921**

**President-Jack Bowen, Past President-Ron Trant**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President-Georg Schuller**

**Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Larry Dobson**

**Directors- Bruce Foy, Jim Lepp, Sheldon Weatherby, Martin Marshall**

**Peter Carter (Ex-Officio) Dunc Mills (Ex-Officio)**

**Database Administrator-Chuck Gerhart, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte**

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

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## ***APRIL 2024***

***BIRTHDAYS:*** Larry Wang on the 5<sup>th</sup> and **Fred Schulte, 80 years on the 13<sup>th</sup>.**

***WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:*** Val and Linda Pohl celebrated their 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **GYRO Club of Edmonton – Gerontology Scholarships**

In the mid-1980's to mid-1990's funds were contributed by the Gyro Club of Edmonton, and individual members, with matching funds from the province to establish **The Centre for Gerontology Fund** at the University of Alberta.

The Alberta Centre on Aging was established during this time and the first **Undergraduate Scholarship of \$300 and the first Graduate scholarship of \$500 were awarded in 1999.**

Our Gerontology Fund has continued to grow over the years, and we were able to increase the scholarship categories and amounts in **2007** to provide a \$700 undergraduate, a \$1200 Masters, and \$1200 PhD scholarship.

In 2018, the University of Alberta increased the spending allocation from our Endowment Fund **from 3 to 4%** which enabled us to increase the scholarship values to **\$1000, \$1700, and \$1800.**

### **The recipients for the 2023-24 Gyro Club Scholarships in Aging are:**

**Gyro Club Doctoral Scholarship in Aging - [Parnian Alavier](#), Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.**

**Goal:** to focus on .."understanding the basic underlying molecular events that result in the development of thrombotic complications, which is a major contributing factor towards developing organ failure during aging". Pursuing a research career with a focus on aging. Striving to be an effective researcher in the field of aging in order to enhance the quality of life for our aging population.

**Gyro Club Masters Scholarship in Aging – [Nicole Johnson](#), Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine - Occupational Therapy.**

**Goal:** to "enhance the inclusion and participation of older adults in all aspects of society." Has completed her Master of Gerontology degree and is now pursuing her Masters in Occupational Therapy. Wanting to have a more direct impact on the quality of life of older adults within a homecare, geriatric community mental health or a long-term care setting.

**Gyro Club Undergraduate Scholarship in Aging - [Megha Jose](#), Faculty of Nursing.**

**Goal:** to become a registered nurse and nurse researcher - working with older adults, promoting health and health literacy surrounding healthy aging, particularly among marginalized older adults.

**Martin Marshall** led a group of 22 Gyros, Gyrettes and guests to the **Rig Hand Distillery** in Leduc County on Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We were given a complete tour of the distillery and processing room by **Jaime, Director of Sales, and Marketing.**

The distillery makes vodka, gin, whiskey, rum, honey mead and liqueurs using locally sourced Alberta ingredients. It also just recently started making craft beers. The **Mighty Morley distiller** processes various grains to produce vodka which is also the source of all gin products. The **Schatzi distiller** produces the darker colour alcohols such as rum and rye whiskey.



**Mighty Morley Distiller**

All of the ingredients are locally sourced in Alberta. These ingredients include juniper berries which are added to the vodka alcohol to make gin, along with strawberries, raspberries, rhubarb, dill pickle, blueberries, potatoes, and horseradish.

There is an international rule that stipulates **rum can only be made from sugar cane**. Rig Hand has sourced sugar beets from southern Alberta and named their product “**Brum**”.

Rig Hand’s 2023 **Rocking R 100% Rye Whiskey** was chosen as the “**House of Commons Speaker Rota’s 100% Rye Whiskey**”. This is the first Canadian whiskey chosen in 23 years of this tradition.



**Schatzi Distiller**



**Jaime**

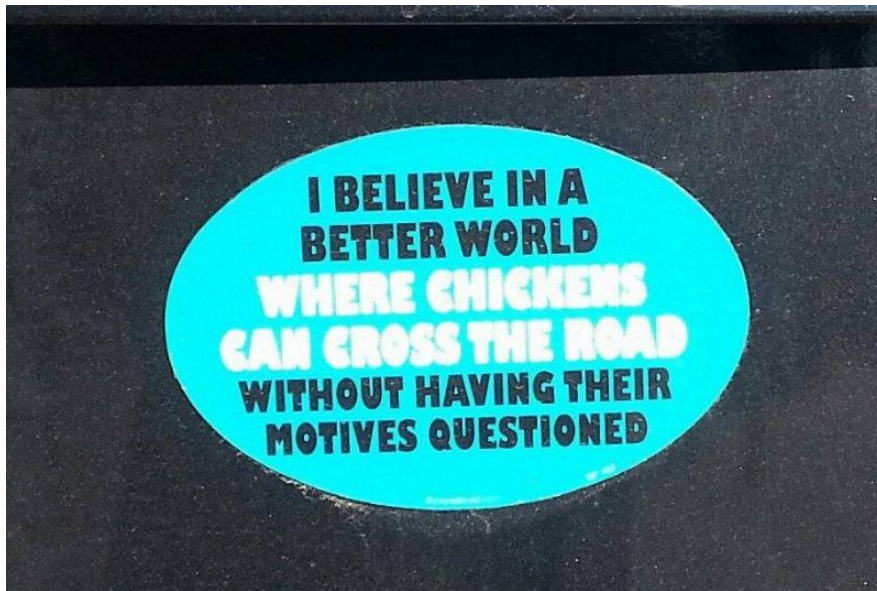






Photos by  
**BRAKE** FOR IT





Quote by Oliver Markus Malloy

**Governor Dunc Mills** played an introductory tune on the Xylophone and **President Jack Bowen** welcomed three guests and 36 Gyros and ladies to the Annual Installation of Officers and Directors held at the Derrick Golf and Winter Club on April 25.

Our guest speaker **Bob Ascah** and his partner **Linda Risdon** were introduced.

**President Nestor Slipchuk** of the Sherwood Park Gyro Club and his partner, **Cynthia** were introduced along with **Jeff Wurtzer**, guest of **Doug Armstrong**.

**Jim Lepp** presented the **University of Alberta Grace**

**Hoc convivio firmati,  
praecepto nostrae universitatis parentes,  
constantius sequamur quaecumque vera.**

**Translation:**

**Refreshed by this meal and fellowship,  
obeying the precept of this our University,  
let us pursue more steadfastly whatsoever things are true.**



**President Jack** thanked **Dunc Mills** for arranging all of the luncheon and dinner events in the last year. **Larry Dobson** was thanked for his work as **Treasurer** and developing the new budget. President Jack thanked all of the Board Members and presented Vice-President **Georg Schuller** with a projector for our power point presentations.

**President Nestor Slipchuk** thanked the Edmonton Gyro Club for their invitation to attend and keeping up the friendship connection.

**Governor Dunc Mills** then proceeded with the installation of our **2024-25 Officers and Directors**.



**Governor Dunc-Directors Jim Lepp Sheldon Weatherby Leon Lubin**



**Treasurer Larry Dobson**



**Secretary Barry Walker**



Past President Jack Bowen President Georg Schuller

**Fred Schulte** introduced our guest speaker **Robert L. (Bob) Ascah**.

Bob studied commerce and public administration at Carleton University and political science at the University of Alberta. He joined Alberta Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs in 1984 moving to Alberta Treasury in 1986. From 1996-2009 Ascah worked at ATB Financial. In 1999, Ascah 's *Politics and Public Debt* was published. From 2009-2013 he was Director of the Institute for Public Economics. He is the editor and contributor to the *A Sales Tax for Alberta: Why and How*. His articles have appeared in Alberta Views, The Conversation, Calgary Herald, Canadian Accountant, and The Globe and Mail. He is a director of the

Solar Panel Investment Co-operative of Edmonton. His blog is [Abpolecon.ca](http://Abpolecon.ca).

Bob started his presentation with some of the earliest known history or provenance.

The **Western Canada Concept** was a federal political party founded in 1980 with the aim of promoting the separation of the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia, along with the Yukon and Northwest Territories (which included present-day Nunavut), from Canada. Their goal was to create a new nation in Western Canada. [The party argued that Western Canada could not receive fair treatment while the interests of Quebec and Ontario dominated Canadian politics](#)<sup>1</sup>. *Wikipedia*

## Firewall Letter

**The firewall letter was conceived in the aftermath of the 2000 federal election, in which Jean Chrétien won a third majority principally by convincing Ontarians that Albertans were untrustworthy.** It was addressed to Alberta premier Ralph Klein and signed by six people (including Stephen Harper and his adviser at the time, Tom Flanagan), it was a plea for Alberta to take charge of its own future. The goal was for Alberta to carve out a place for itself in Confederation, using its existing constitutional powers, that would insulate the province from an “increasingly hostile government in Ottawa.” The letter’s proposals included **creating a provincial pension plan (like the QPP)**; a provincial police force (like the SQ or OPP); collecting its own provincial income tax (as Quebec does); forcing Senate reform back on to the national agenda; and taking over complete provincial responsibility for health care.

Apart from this list, the letter demanded that Klein do whatever he could to reduce the transfer system that saw Alberta send \$8 billion a year to other parts of the country. In its concluding paragraph, the letter says, “It is imperative to take the initiative, to build firewalls around Alberta, to limit the extent to which an aggressive and hostile federal government can encroach upon legitimate provincial jurisdiction.” *Source: National Post*

The **Fair Deal Panel** report to the government is an account of what the panel heard and learned from consulting with Albertans on what a fair deal in Confederation looks like for Alberta. The panel was launched by **Premier Jason Kenney on November 9, 2019**, with the goal of defining and securing a fair deal for Alberta.

In **September 2023**, a **third-party report** was released by the government. This report was massaged by a three-member **Engagement Panel** which included **Jim Dinning**, Provincial Treasurer 1993-97, **Mary C. Ritchie**, Senior Corporate Director who served as Audit Chair for the CPP Investment Board and **Moin A. Yahya**, Vice-Dean, U of A Faculty of Law 2014-19.

## **What's in it for you?** **An Alberta Pension Plan**

**“On September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Alberta’s government Released an independent, Third-party report Explaining the possibility of Setting up a potential Alberta Pension Plan (APP) Learn what’s in it for you”**

*Albertans pay too much into CPP for the benefits they receive. The report estimates that Albertans could save \$5 billion in the first year alone by moving from the CPP to an APP. That money could be used to increase pension benefits for Alberta seniors and pay cheques for workers. This could mean a reduction in costs for Alberta businesses.*

*“There are many different options to combine contribution pension decreases for workers with benefit improvements for seniors in the design of a new APP. This will depend on how that \$5 billion savings is divided between reductions to contribution rates from workers and increases to seniors. Take our survey to help us with your thoughts on an Alberta Pension Plan.*

*Albertans would receive the same or better benefits they currently have under the CPP, at less cost. The security of those benefits would be dramatically improved under an APP, due to the large pool of money that is expected to be transferred from the CPP to launch an APP.*

**This large pool of money was estimated to be \$334 billion. However, the total value of the CPP as of March 31, 2024, was \$409.6 billion. Clearly this is not politically acceptable or fair! Alberta's actual contribution is 16%.**

**Bob Ascah** has attempted to access the advice provided by Albertans to the government about the APP with no avail. The Freedom of Information and Right to Privacy Act (FOIP) has been used to limit or prevent any public access.

Premier Danielle Smith didn't want to talk about the Alberta Pension Plan during her election campaign.

The **Alberta Pension Protection Act**, passed last fall, makes it so a referendum will be required before Alberta can pull out of the national pension plan. **However, the referendum is non-binding!**

The APP is part of Smith's Alberta-First separatist agenda which paints Ottawa as the oppressive power.

**A lively question period followed our speaker's presentation.**

Some observations were also made:

**Matters of science are ignored by the politicians in the areas of medicine and finance!**

**Alberta and Canada still rely on our oil and gas royalties -The Golden Goose!**

**Past President Jack Bowen** thanked our speaker for his presentation and presented Bob with a copy of Doug Armstrong's book *Giants of the Pacific Northwest The Hunt Family Totem Poles*. **Author, Doug Armstrong signed the book.**



Another successful **Bridge Season** came to an end with lunch at the Olive Garden followed by bridge at the Willan residence. **Sharon French** was a double winner taking home both the trophy (plus \$40) for a season high total of 19990 and \$20 for a single night total of 4630.

Other winners were **Marlene Ramsey** for 2nd high season total of 19860 (\$30) and **Gayle Lepp** for a lady's single night high of 4160 (\$20).

If any Gyro would like to join the Bridge Club as either a regular or a spare, call **Ken Willan (780-434-1306)**.

**Chuck Gerhart and Dunc Mills report on the Hockey Pool Winners.**

| <b>Game 17 March 26</b> | <b>Winners</b>        | <b>First Period</b> | <b>Second</b>         | <b>Final</b> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Oilers vs Jets</b>   |                       |                     |                       |              |
| <b>First Period</b> 0 0 | <b>Marie Losier</b>   | <b>Dan Hasinoff</b> | <b>Sharon Pugsley</b> |              |
| <b>Second</b> 2 1       | <b>Doug Armstrong</b> | <b>Carla Walker</b> | <b>Dunc Mills</b>     |              |
| <b>Final</b> 4 3        | <b>Sharon Matei</b>   | <b>Not sold</b>     | <b>Val Pohl</b>       |              |

| <b>Game 18 April 3</b>  | <b>Winners</b>       | <b>First Period</b>  | <b>Second</b>        | <b>Final</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Oilers vs Stars</b>  |                      |                      |                      |              |
| <b>First Period</b> 0 1 | <b>Myrna Gerhart</b> | <b>Gary Campbell</b> | <b>Gary Campbell</b> |              |
| <b>Second</b> 0 5       | <b>Sandra Foy</b>    | <b>Cal Nichols</b>   | <b>Cal Nichols</b>   |              |
| <b>Final</b> 0 5        | <b>Janet Douglas</b> | <b>Jack Brown</b>    | <b>Jack Brown</b>    |              |

| <b>Game 19 April 13</b>  | <b>Winners</b>            | <b>First Period</b>    | <b>Second</b>          | <b>Final</b> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Oilers vs Canucks</b> |                           |                        |                        |              |
| <b>First Period</b> 0 1  | <b>Dillon Broughton</b>   | <b>Walter Yakimets</b> | <b>Warren Garbutt</b>  |              |
| <b>Second</b> 1 2        | <b>Augie Annicchiarco</b> | <b>Jeremy Hastings</b> | <b>Bronwyn Swanson</b> |              |
| <b>Final</b> 1 3         | <b>Robert Gaetz</b>       | <b>Walter Yakimets</b> | <b>Rebecca Warrack</b> |              |



| Game 20 April 18           | Winners | First Period      | Second         | Final          |
|----------------------------|---------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Oilers vs Avalanche</b> |         |                   |                |                |
| First Period               | 1 4     | Sheldon Weatherby | Myrna Slobodan | Myrna Slobodan |
| Second                     | 1 5     | Fred Mcquaig      | Ken Williamson | Ken Williamson |
| Final                      | 1 5     | Brooke Weisgerber | Warren Douglas | Warren Douglas |

Thanks to **Janice Molofy, Chuck Gerhart, and Dunc Mills** for developing and organizing another very successful Hockey Pool!

**“Fast Fred”**

### Upcoming Events:

**Luncheon Meeting, Mixed Event, May 7<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Mill Woods Golf Course Woodvale Clubhouse.**  
**Speaker/Singer: Cassie Garbutt**  
**Topic: Great Songs of the 1940’s and 1950’s.**  
**Team Leader: Warren Garbutt**

**Special Mixed Event, Telus World of Science. Tuesday May 21<sup>st</sup>.**  
**Time: 1:00-4:30 pm.**  
**Self-Guided tour of Dinosaurs: The Exhibition**  
**Cost: \$22.95**  
**Team Leader: Ken Willan**

**District VIII Convention, Lacombe, Alberta, June 19-20, 2024**

