



# **THE GYROLOG** THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

## **President**

John Plunkett  
Res. 435-7011

AUGUST 2008

## **1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**

Leon Lubin  
Res. 454-9712

Those celebrating their birthdays in August are **Bruce Foy** on the 1<sup>st</sup>, **Val Pohl** and **Walter Yakimets** on the 4<sup>th</sup>, **Eric Spink** on the 6<sup>th</sup>, **Ken Bowes** and **Peter Fairbridge** on the 7<sup>th</sup>, **Peter Morrison** on the 13<sup>th</sup>, **Allan Douglas** on the 14<sup>th</sup>, **David Duchak** on the 18<sup>th</sup>, **Bill Clarke** on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and **Bruce Houston** on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President**

Bill Taylor  
Res. 430-0330

## **Imm.Past President**

Jack Brown  
Res. 434-0392

The August wedding anniversaries are **David McNaughton** and **Laura Travis**, 21 years on the 1<sup>st</sup>; **David** and **Lauraine Duchak**, 71 years on the 6<sup>th</sup>, **Eric Spink** and **Christina Gauk**, 7 years on the 18<sup>th</sup>; **Allan** and **Jean Warrack**, 46 years on the 18<sup>th</sup>; **Leon** and **Jo-Anne Lubin**, 42 years on the 23<sup>rd</sup>; **Andy** and **Blanche Friderichsen**, 52 years on the 28<sup>th</sup>. **Peter** and **Eileen Carter**, 4 years on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **Secretary**

Barry Walker  
Res. 475-0983

## **Treasurer**

Mike Matei  
Res. 930-1780

## **Directors**

Bill Clarke  
Res. 437-4678  
Peter Carter  
Res. 488-2403  
Sam Gruden  
Res. 488-5520  
Ari Hoeksema  
421-7776

Twelve couples from the Edmonton Club traveled to Nelson B.C. for the **District VIII Convention** held at the Prestige Lakeside Resort and Convention Centre, August 7-10. There were 240 Gyro's and Gyrettes in attendance representing the Regina, Sherwood Park, Edmonton, Calgary, Stampede City, Lethbridge, Cranbrook, Castlegar, Trail, Spokane, Wallace and Nelson Club's. In addition there were attendees from clubs outside of District VIII, including Fresno, California; Hollyburn and Kelowna, B.C.

## **Gyrolog Editor**

Fred Schulte  
Phone 434-0925

On Friday afternoon, August 8<sup>th</sup>, a bocce tournament and BBQ was held at Shannon's Point and the Gyro's/Gyrettes were treated to a spectacular thunder and lightening storm which resulted in three strikes and three fires which were quickly doused by a heavy rain. The B.C. Forest Service followed up immediately with helicopter borne water buckets to extinguish all three fires.

Thanks to Joe Vingo our new District Governor and the Nelson Club for arranging a very enjoyable convention.

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**President John Plunkett** welcomed 24 Gyro's and our guest speaker to the August 19<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. Cheerio was led by **John Ross** and the grace was presented by **Allan Warrack**.

**David Duchak** was recognized for three memorable events that have occurred this summer. **David and Lauraine** celebrated **71 years of marriage** on August 6<sup>th</sup>; David celebrated his **95<sup>th</sup> birthday** on August 18<sup>th</sup> and David also commemorated **65 years** as a Gyro in June.

**Fred Schulte** presented a certificate to David Duchak recognizing his 19<sup>th</sup> years of membership in the Calgary Gyro Club and 46 years in the Gyro Club of Edmonton. The certificate was signed by **Bonar Irving**, President of the Calgary Gyro Club and **John Plunkett**, President of the Edmonton Gyro Club.

Another important event celebrated this month was that of **Irene Watson** who celebrated her **100<sup>th</sup> birthday** on August 16<sup>th</sup> at the home of her daughter, **Helen Ross (John Ross)**.

## **ROSTER 2008-2009**

**Barry Walker is starting the process to update the Club Roster. Please advise him of any e-mail, employment, phone number or address changes.**



**Val Pohl** introduced our guest speaker, **Ron Gilbertson**, **President** and **CEO** of the **Edmonton Economic Development Corporation**. Mr. Gilbertson has been with the corporation since April 2007.

Mr. Gilbertson advises that in terms of investment and GDP, the Edmonton-Calgary Corridor is the most successful economic region in North America. Edmonton has seen significant positive changes in employment, housing starts, disposable income and real GDP growth. Edmonton also is extremely attractive due to the relative affordability of housing. In the past three years, Edmonton has seen a rise in the affordability index from 20 to 40% of total income spent on housing. However, this is still very positive given the indexes for Calgary (45%), Toronto (50%) and Vancouver (70%) and Edmonton's rate is still slightly below the National average.

The Alberta oil sands are being viewed as the world's largest and most politically stable source of oil in the world. There are also some very important and startling trends occurring in the world today.

There are two macro trends occurring in all industrial nations, declining populations and aging populations. Japan as an example, is expected to see a 20% reduction in their population over the next 30 years. These trends will have huge implications on the world's labour forces.

Alberta is presently experiencing a rapid growth in the upgrading and refining of oil sands and heavy oil which are valuable feedstocks for the development of petrochemicals. There is currently \$97 billion invested or committed in upgrading facilities, \$124 billion of potential refining projects and a provincial government vision of \$179 billion in petro-chemical development up to the year 2030. It is expected that \$180 billion will be invested in these areas in just the next 10 years. Our provincial manufacturing is now heavily focused on markets outside of Canada. For example, the Nisku area is presently exporting 65% of their production out of the country.

The world economy is also rapidly changing. The U.S.A. presently accounts for 40% of the world GDP but this is expected to be less than 20% in 25 years. China and India are expected to have the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> largest economies in 30 years. The decline in world poverty is expected to move from 40% to 12% in the same time frame. These economic trends present threats and opportunities for the Alberta economy. It is projected that in 10 years, 83% of all capital investment in Alberta will be located in the Edmonton Region and northern Alberta. Alberta as an energy superpower and an industrial power will need to develop strategies to deal with the availability of labour.

Alberta and Edmonton must become more globally focused to stay in the game. We will need to establish globally competent industries and a superior quality of life. What makes a great City? What is important to us? How do we compare to our world cities of our size?

The Edmonton Economic Development Corporation has developed a list of "Quality of Life" indicators as follows: Economy, Safety, Health, Social Conscience, Education, Places to Live, Environment, Recreation, Culture, Urban Transportation, External Transportation and Image. Edmonton compares very well with other cities of similar population in most of the indicator categories. Improvement is needed in the areas of Safety (Crime), Urban Transportation, External Transportation and Image.

Edmonton is the 425<sup>th</sup> largest city in the world and we will need a vision and a set of plans to navigate successfully to the future.

**Alan Rusler** thanked Mr. Gilbertson for his interesting and thought-provoking presentation. The free lunch draw was won by **Roger Russell**.

Thanks to the team of **Val Pohl**, **Alan Rusler** and **Ron Ramsey** for organizing this luncheon speaking event.

## FIRST POSTINGS

**Ken Willan** has applied for membership in our club; **Ken** and his wife **Barbara** reside at **11242-10A Ave NW** in Edmonton and their postal code is **T6J 6S3**. Their telephone number is **780-434-1306** and their e-mail address is [kb2willan@shaw.ca](mailto:kb2willan@shaw.ca) **Ken** is a retired teacher and is proposed by **Jack Brown** and **Barry Walker**.

**John Boyd** has applied for membership in our club; **John** and his wife **Marion** reside at **12023 Aspen Drive West** in Edmonton and their postal code is **T6J 2B9**. Their telephone number is **780-434-1869** and their e-mail address is [jjboyd@shaw.ca](mailto:jjboyd@shaw.ca) **John** is a semi-retired medical practitioner and is proposed by **Allan Warrack** and **Ron Ramsey**.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Mixed Gyro/Gyrette and Family Event, Tuesday, September 2nd**

#### **Royal Alberta Museum Tour**

Agenda: 10:30 to 11:30 am, one half of group tours the Wild Alberta Gallery, the other half tours the Aboriginal Gallery.

12:00 noon to 1:00 pm, LUNCH, Lasagne with salad, bread and refreshment

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm, Tours of the above galleries are reversed.

Cost: \$25 per adult and \$15 per child under 18 years payable to the Gyro Club of Edmonton.

This is one of the few events that are suitable for children/grandchildren. Bring a guest as well!

Contact: **Leon Lubin** at 454-9712 or **Jack Brown** at 434-0392 for more information or reservations.



**Gyrette Dinner Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club Tuesday September 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Speaker: John Wheelwright, Executive Director of "Dogs with Wings" Assistance Dog Society and a volunteer with one of the trained dogs.**

**Mixed Gyro/Gyrette Bocce Event, Tuesday Evening September 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Bocce and Dinner**

Italian Canadian Seniors Association

9111- 110 Avenue (near Commonwealth Stadium)

**Bocce starts at 5:15 PM**, followed by a break for dinner at 6:30 PM and bocce will continue after dinner.

Cost: \$30 per person with wine, \$25 without wine

Contact: **Roger Russell 780 434-4333**

**Gyro Northlands Races, Sunday afternoon, September 28<sup>th</sup>**

Northlands Spectrum, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Chairman's Suite

12:00 noon -Doors open

12:30 pm -Lunch Buffet

1:00 pm -Post Time

Cost: \$36 per person for prime rib dinner. Gyros or guests

Buffet Menu: Prime Rib of Beef, Chicken Marengo, vegetable medley, salads, desserts, coffee & tea. A cash bar will be available.

Contacts: **Val Pohl 780 462-0511, Harry Nash 780 482-1012**

**Founders Night, Mixed Gyro/Gyrette Event, Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup>**

**District VIII GYRO Curlarama, Friday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>**

Banff, Alberta

Sponsored by the Stampede City Gyro Club

Included in your registration fee will be something for everyone.

- 2 days curling, no experience necessary
- Drinks and Dinner Friday night
- 2 days Breakfast and Dinner Saturday
- Pub crawl in Banff
- Dart Tournament
- Texas Hold-em Poker Tournament

Contact: **Dale Green** [dale@dalegreen.com](mailto:dale@dalegreen.com)