



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

President-[Peter Carter](#), **Past President-**[Jack Little](#),
1st Vice-President- [Ray Dallaire](#), **2nd Vice-President-**[Bruce Swanson](#)
Secretary-[Barry Walker](#), **Treasurer-**[Gary Campbell](#),
Directors- [Alan Rusler](#), [Arv Hardin](#), [David Winfield](#)
Database Administrator-[John Ross](#), **Gyrolog Editor-**[Fred Schulte](#)

OCTOBER 2016

Those celebrating their birthdays are [Gord Robertson](#), **91 years on the 2nd**, [Roger Russell](#) on the 5th, [Jamie Fleming](#) on the 8th, [Brian Steilo](#) on the 12th, [Ken Korchinski](#) on the 26th and [Mike Matei](#) on the 28th.

Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are [Jamie](#) and [Nancy Fleming](#), 41 years on the 4th; [Marty](#) and [Shirley Larson](#), 56 years on the 8th; [Tony](#) and [Care Mazzuca](#), 46 years on the 10th and [Gerry](#) and [Alice Glassford](#), 59 years on the 12th.



Mike Matei and **Tony Mazzuca** welcomed 24 Gyros to the **Annual Men's Bocce Night** held at the Italian Cultural Centre on **October 4th**. **Jack Little** led the group in the singing of *Cheerio* and **Jim Lochhead** presented the Grace. The preliminary bocce games started at 5:00 pm with teams of three members each playing quickly to decide the winners and losers. A complete Festive Turkey Dinner was served at 6:15 pm and **Gord Robertson** was toasted for his 91st birthday on October 2nd.

The bocce tourney finals followed dinner with teams of four duking it out on either fast or slow courts. The winning team of **Eric Spink, Ron Ramsey, Chuck Gerhart** and **Fred Schulte** received the **Gordon Rennie Trophy**.



Photo Mike Matei

Fred Schulte

Ron Ramsey

Eric Spink

Chuck Gerhart

Jack Ellis, a 27-year member of the Edmonton Gyro Club was born in Edmonton in November, 1939. Jack's parents, Stanley Burns Ellis and Ruth Stewart who were both born in Winnipeg, moved to Edmonton with Canada Packers. Jack completed his schooling at Norwood, Spruce Avenue and finally Victoria High School. His younger sister Joyce lives in Burlington, Ontario and spends her winters in Naples, Florida with husband Vern.

Jack graduated from the University of Alberta in 1959 with a Commerce degree and then articulated with Winspear Hamilton, receiving his **CA designation in 1962**. He was then transferred to Camrose shortly thereafter and enjoyed playing golf and curling.

Jack met **Terrie Heitman** on a blind date in Edmonton. Her grandfather had homesteaded in the South Cooking Lake area east of Edmonton in 1906. Terrie rode a horse to a one room school in the area and then attended high school in Tofield. After high school she worked at the Royal Bank and with the Department of National Defence. Looking for something a little more interesting, Terrie moved to Fort Smith in Northeastern Alberta and worked in the hospital office. She was impressed with the nursing care provided and decided to enroll in the nursing program at the Misericordia Hospital. **Terrie graduated in 1962 as an RN**. Terrie was one of four siblings, an older brother John, a younger brother Richard and younger sister Margaret.

Jack and Terri were married in 1966 and moved back to Edmonton in 1969 and as Jack stated "my curling improved dramatically while my golf went in the opposite direction". *Playing second for Dick Mandlis and Pat Howe, we won three club championships and two runner-up's in the eleven years we played together. Our club went to the **Brier Playdowns** once. We managed to defeat Matt Baldwin and Lionel Wood in back to back games before being eliminated ourselves.*

My most interesting investment was in a hotel in Waikiki in 1977 which after a few problems made a nice profit when it was sold about three years later. We would have loved to have kept it but we could not generate enough off-season business. Surprisingly, it is still run as a small hotel under the name Ewa and is located on Cartwright Street near the zoo.

Jack was the largest unit-holder in a four oil well joint venture when he left the firm in 1984 to go into the oil and gas industry. The other holders were all field personnel so he had the autonomy that he was looking for. It was an industry that if you were a small producer you could sell all the oil you could produce and any oil sold in a month was paid to you by the 25th of the following month. There were no selling or collection problems! When Suncor Energy put most of their conventional wells up for sale, Jack managed to get two of the best ones and was very much in business. The wells are located in the Rowley area northwest of Drumheller which is an hour south of their cottage on Buffalo Lake.

Jack now had extra time, so he dedicated Wednesdays to the food bank mainly as a swamper on trucks picking up bread, pastry and other food products from supermarkets. The oil wells were all sold by 2001 and he basically retired at this time.

He was introduced to the Gyro fraternity by **Merrill Morstad** and joined the Edmonton Club in 1989. Jack was **President in 1998-99** and has audited the Club's financial statements for many years. Terrie and Jack raised two very outgoing competitive twin daughters, Jean and Susan and are now blessed with a grandson and two granddaughters. The family have enjoyed cross-country skiing and many outings at their cottage on **Buffalo Lake** for more than 50 years.

Terrie and Jack had both enjoyed very good health but that was to change for Jack:

I was diagnosed with Parkinson's about 10 years ago. Noting that both my family doctor and my neurologist recommended walking to slow its progression, and further observing that a high percentage of the Parkinson patients I met were in wheel chairs or pushed walkers, walking has become my number one exercise and activity. The one medication that is effective for most Parkinson patients worked for me immediately. The medication does eventually lose both its potency and its duration as I am starting to find out, but it has brought me ten years of a fairly normal life, even completing a 5km walk for the Parkinson's Society on September 10th.

My other challenge, bladder cancer, was caught in time. A top urologist and the use of BCG therapy made available at the Cross Cancer Hospital to boost the immune system, seems to be working. I have nothing but praise for our health care system in Edmonton including the support groups.

Jack and Terrie have been active and supportive members of Gyro for many years and will be celebrating **50 years of marriage on November 19th!**



President Peter Carter welcomed 51 Gyros and ladies from the Edmonton Club, 17 Gyros and ladies from the Sherwood Park Gyro Club and our guest speaker Radomir Bilash and friend Lydia to the **Annual Founders Night** celebration held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club on October 18th.

Art Merrick led the group in the singing of Cheerio and **John Mann** presented the Grace.

Past District Governor Gerry Glassford spoke on the birth of GYRO in 1912 when three college friends, Ed Kagy, Paul Schwan and Gus Handerson believed what they had experienced was worth sharing with a friend. The first seeds of Gyro were planted in Cleveland, Ohio and spread across the United States and Canada. "Age has no terror" when friendship is carried on through life. The last man to join the Cleveland group as a charter member was **Jimmie Hubbell**. His fascination with the Gyroscope and his persuasive arguments led to the adoption of the name **GYRO** for the new organization. Hubbell likened the Gyroscope to friendship, because "once set in motion, regardless of outside influences, it would maintain its course regardless-not unlike the benefits of friendship." This concept

then evolved into the three defined words which forever cemented the relationship between friendship and the Gyroscope: **Power, Poise and Purpose.**

In January 1917, the 279 members of the five loosely aligned Gyro Clubs, **Cleveland, Chicago, Buffalo, Cincinnati** and **Philadelphia** got serious and held their first convention. Bylaws were created, a letterhead was designed, dues and the first budget were set, a plan to create more clubs was established and a plan for guest speakers was made. **Gyro International** was born!



Photo Peter Carter

Gerry Glassford

Bruce Swanson introduced our guest speaker, **Radomir Bilash**, a fifth generation Ukrainian, who was born in Winnipeg. He really discovered his ties with the Ukraine when his father showed him some of the older historical buildings in Dauphin, Manitoba. Radomir said that after receiving his degree in anthropology, he was trying to find a path like all of us, but fate led him in the direction of his cultural, historical and language roots.

He has been an Adjunct Associate Professor and lecturer in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta and for the last 20+ years Radomir has presented a course on Early Ukrainian-Canadian Culture. Secondly, he was the organizer and delegation leader of the first Cultural delegation from the Government of Alberta to visit Ukraine on the verge of Ukraine's independence. For this effort, he received the Order of Merit from the Government of Ukraine.

Radomir gave a power point presentation on the **Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village - An Open-air Museum**. In 1969, William Hawrelak, Frank Lakusta and a few others decided that it was important to preserve some of the Ukrainian history and culture in a pioneer park. The first Ukrainian immigrants settled northeast of Edmonton after 1892. Most came from Galicia and Bukovyna in what is now the western Ukraine and by 1930 about 250,000 people had left Ukraine to settle in Canada. Although other bloc settlements were established in Saskatchewan and Manitoba and elsewhere in Alberta, the settlement near Edmonton was the largest, eventually covering about 8000 km². A sample of some of the settlement villages follows: Luzan, Kiew, Vilna, Andrew, Musidora, Buchach, Wostok, Radway, Bellis, Hilliard, Myrnam, Lamont, Edna-Star, Shandro and Boian.

In 1971, the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village Society was formed and relied on private funding. By 1975, the Society was running out of money and they approached Horst Schmid, Alberta Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation 1971-75 and Minister of Government Services and Culture 1975-1979. By 1976, the province agreed to purchase the pioneer village as a Historic Site for \$150,000. The Minister responsible for undertaking the purchase was William Yurko, Minister of Housing and Public Works. Yurko was the grandson of Nazar Yurko from Bukovyna who settled in Boian.

A Master Plan was developed for the Ukrainian Cultural Village to show the lives and experiences of Ukrainian Canadian settlers up to 1930. Homestead records were used along with personal interviews of many of the original settlers. The village depicts life in the rural community, on farmsteads and in a railway-centred town site. The site was cleared of trees more than 100 years ago and as a result it

was important to have a landscape plan so that trees, crops and windbreaks could be developed over time to mimic actual conditions.

Significant site preparation was required before any historic buildings could be moved to the village site. Potable water was not available, and sanitary sewer, water and gas lines had to be installed. The province ultimately committed \$8 million to undertake the development of the village.

“The Village” has a very strong commitment to historical authenticity and the concept of living history. The Village uses a technique known as first-person interpretation which requires that the costumed performers remain *in character* at all times (or as much as is feasibly possible). Actors answer all questions as if it is the year their building portrays. Although this technique is off-putting for some visitors at first, it allows for a much stronger experience of immersion in history than traditional third-party interpretation where the actor acknowledges that he is, in fact, in a museum.

The Master Plan of 1979-2016 is still being followed and to date more than 35 relocated and restored structures including a *burdei* (sod house), a one-room and two-room school, grain elevator, blacksmith shop and three churches of Eastern Byzantine Rite have been established in the Village.

The Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village is located east of Edmonton along Highway 16, just east of Elk Island National Park. **The 2016 summer season starts on May 21st.**

Bill Taylor thanked our speaker for a very interesting and informative presentation.

The **Free Dinner** was to be awarded to the person who was celebrating their birthday on October 18th. Congratulations and Happy Birthday to **Jo-Anne Lubin!**



Portion of Village



A "burdei" (sod house)



Bellis Home Grain Elevator,
built 1922, restored to 1929 appearance

Your Editor is interested in acquiring any pictures taken over the last year at club functions such as Valentines, Executive Installation, District and International Conventions, Annual Golf Tourney, Corn Roast and Bocce etc. Please forward any pictures by email or by hand at your convenience. Thanks!

"Fast Fred"

UPCOMING EVENTS

GYRO DISTRICT VIII 2016 CURL-A-RAMA, Banff Curling Centre, November 4-6th.

Host: Stampede City Gyro Club.

Cost: \$240 per curler, \$175 non-curler based on double occupancy

Accommodation: Voyager Inn, 555 Banff Ave.

Price includes: Curling-minimum 3 games, 6 ends per game, 2-night hotel, 2 breakfast, GYRO hospitality Friday night including dinner and all you can drink, Saturday night banquet (no host bar).

Deadline for receiving entries: October 24th to Dale Green

Contacts: Dale Green, Paul Stout

GYRETTE Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, Tuesday, November 8th.

Time: Registration 11:30, Lunch 12:00 noon

Speaker: Bruce Swanson

Topic: "This is not a Zoo", Wild Animals of Africa, current situation, environment and future prospects.

Contact: Myrna Gerhart

Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, November 1st

Speaker: Pat LaForge

Topic: The Evolution of Rogers Place

Contacts: Tony Mazzuca and Dan Hasinoff

Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, November 15th

Speaker: Stephanie Perilli, Director Fund Development, Valley Zoo Development Society.

Topic: The "Zoos" vision and transformation.

Contacts: Warren Garbutt and John Mann

GYRO/GYRETTE Christmas Party, Riverview Room, Shaw Conference Centre, Tuesday, December 6th

Champagne and socializing: 5:45, Dinner 6:45

Menu: Carved whole turkey at your table.

Cost: TBA

Guests welcome!

Contacts: Bruce Foy, Sam Gruden and Peter Carter

GYRETTE Christmas Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, Tuesday, December 13th

Time: Registration 11:30, Lunch 12:00 noon

Speaker: Kathy Jessup, Writer/Storyteller

Topic: "The Power of Story".

Contact: Cathy Johnson