



# ***THE GYROLOG***

**THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON**

**Club Charter No.15, July 29, 1921**

**President-Jack Little, Past President-John Mann,  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President-Peter Carter 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President- Ray Dallaire  
Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Gary Campbell,  
Directors- Alan Rusler, Jamie Fleming, Tracy DesLaurier, Tony Mazzuca  
Database Administrator-John Ross, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte**

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## **JULY 2015**

Those celebrating their birthdays are **John Mann** on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Ray Dallaire** on the 16<sup>th</sup> and **Leon Lubin** on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **Jack and Myrna Slobodan, 50 years** on the 3<sup>rd</sup>; **Ken and Arden Korchinski, 51 years** on the 11<sup>th</sup>; **Barry and Valerie Walker, 45 years** on the 11<sup>th</sup>; **Jack and Joyce Brown, 15 years** on the 15<sup>th</sup>; **Len and Barbara Stevens, 57 years** on the 26<sup>th</sup> and **John and 'Mim'-Bertsch Mann, 15 years** on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **SECOND POSTING**

**Jim Lepp** has applied for membership in our club. **Jim** and his wife **Gayl** reside at **412 Tory Point, NW, T6R 3C8**. Their telephone number is **780-430 6462** and their email address is [jinglepp@telusplanet.net](mailto:jinglepp@telusplanet.net) **Jim** has retired as President and CEO of AltaSteel Ltd. in Edmonton. He is proposed by **Chuck Gerhart** and **John Ross**.

We are pleased to confirm that **Bob Bahniuk's** membership application was posted twice in the Gyrolog in May and June. He is now a member of the Edmonton Club. **Congratulations Bob!**

**BRITISH HUMOUR IS DIFFERENT**

These are classified ads, which were actually placed in U.K. Newspapers:

**FREE YORKSHIRE TERRIER.**

8 years old,  
Hateful little bastard.  
Bites!

**FREE PUPPIES**

1/2 Cocker Spaniel, 1/2 sneaky neighbour's dog.

**FREE PUPPIES.**

Mother is a Kennel Club registered German Shepherd.  
Father is a Super Dog, able to leap tall fences in a single bound.

**JOINING NUDIST COLONY!**

Must sell washer and dryer £100.

**WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE.**

Worn once by mistake.  
Call Stephanie.

\*\*\*\* And the WINNER is... \*\*\*\*

**FOR SALE BY OWNER.**

Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica, 45 volumes.  
Excellent condition, £200 or best offer. No longer needed, got married, wife knows everything.

**President Jack Little** welcomed 29 Gyros and two guests to the July 7<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **Roger Russell** led the group in the singing of Cheerio and **David Burnett** presented the Grace.

**Ray Dallaire** introduced his guest and new member applicant, **Ron Trent**.

**Peter Carter** introduced our guest speaker, **Shelley Braiden** who is the Annual and Appeal Manager for the **Canadian Red Cross** in Edmonton. She is responsible for supporting relationships with individual and corporate donors, as well as playing a key role in the running of domestic and international disaster appeals.

A long-time resident of Edmonton, she has held various positions in the non-profit and arts sectors over the years including Alberta Status of Women Action Committee, Fringe Theatre Adventures, Lone Pine Publishing, Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, Boyle Street Community Services and CKUA Radio Network. She has been engaged in community development and projects since the age of 17 and has been involved with the Canadian Red Cross since 2013.

The **Red Cross idea was born in 1859**, when Henry Dunant, a young Swiss man, came upon the scene of a bloody battle in Solferino, Italy, between the armies of imperial Austria and the Franco-Sardinian alliance. Some 40,000 men lay dead or dying on the battlefield and the wounded were lacking medical attention. Dunant organized local people to bind the soldiers' wounds and to feed and comfort them. On his return, he called for the creation of national relief societies to assist those wounded in war, and pointed the way to the future Geneva Conventions. "Would there not be some means, during a period of peace and calm, of forming relief societies whose object would be to have the wounded cared for in time of war by enthusiastic, devoted volunteers, fully qualified for the task?" he wrote.

The **Red Cross was born in 1863** when five Geneva men, including Dunant, set up the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded, later to become the International Committee of the Red Cross. Its emblem was a red cross on a white background: the inverse of the Swiss flag. The following year, 12 governments adopted the first Geneva Convention; a milestone in the history of humanity, offering care for the wounded, and defining medical services as "neutral" on the battlefield.

Canadians first put the symbol and humanitarian ideals of the Red Cross to work in 1885, during the North West Rebellion in present-day Saskatchewan. Although there was no official Red Cross organization in Canada at the time, certain individuals were familiar with the Red Cross movement that had taken root in Europe during the 1860s and 1870s.

After being **founded in Canada in 1896**, there wasn't much for the Canadian Red Cross to do. Red Cross societies generally only worked in wartime, at this point, and Canada was at peace. Then, in 1899, the British Empire went to war in South Africa (known as the "Boer War," 1899-1902), and several contingents of Canadian soldiers were sent overseas to fight.

The First World War marked a major turning point for the Canadian Red Cross Society (CRCS), establishing it as Canada's leading wartime humanitarian aid organization. From the moment the war broke out in August 1914, Canadians were keen and enthusiastic supporters of Red Cross work. The Canadian Red Cross has been active in Alberta since 1909.

The seven **Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross** are:

Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality.

Shelley indicated that 1,130 active volunteers work in Alberta supported by a minimal number of staff. There has been no blood services since 1998. The Red Cross has been active in the area of swimming and water safety for 65 years.

The programs offered in Alberta include:

- Community Support Initiatives
- Emergency and Disaster Services
- Finding Family
- First Aid and CPR Training
- Health Equipment Loan Program and Services
- International Humanitarian Law
- Aboriginal and First Nations Engagement
- Swimming and Water Safety
- Violence, Bullying and Abuse Prevention

Alberta and Canada raised huge amounts of money for the Philippines Disaster and flew in an Emergency Response Unit (ERU) which supplied drinking water and medical aid in a very remote region. The focus on disaster responses is immediate help to the most vulnerable, followed by transition, recovery and long-term development measures.

The Red Cross has been actively involved in providing relief to the evacuated citizens of Lac La Ronge, Saskatchewan due to forest fires. "We respond to the person in front of us"

**John Mann** thanked our speaker for a very informative presentation. The Free Lunch draw was won by **Ron Ramsey**.

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**President Jack Little** welcomed 31 Gyros and three guests to the July 21<sup>st</sup> luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **Val Pohl** led the singing of Cheerio and **David Burnett** presented the Grace.

**Bob Bahniuk** introduced his guest **Taras Chmil**.

**Dick Nichols** reported on another successful year with the **Hockey Pool**. 258, \$20 tickets were sold, payouts to winners totaled \$2410 and \$2500 was transferred to the club's Benevolence Fund.

**Bruce Swanson** introduced our guest speakers, **Denny and Margaret May**.

Denny is the son of World War 1 Ace Pilot **Wilfred "Wop" May**. Denny was born in May 1935 in Edmonton and his first flight was at six weeks old returning home to Ft. McMurray with his parents Violet and Wop. Denny was active in Air Cadets in Vancouver and Calgary and won his wings in 1952. He worked in the aviation field for a while then went on to work with Boy Scouts of Canada in Northern Alberta and the NW Territories. Denny and his wife Margaret live in Edmonton where they are actively involved with Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame and the Alberta Aviation Museum.

**Wilfred Reid May** was born in Carberry, Manitoba on March 20, 1896 to Alex and Elizabeth May. Alex at the age of 25 was already a successful businessman and operated A.E. May & Company Carriages and Implements. Alex May was elected to the Carberry town council in 1899 and won the Mayor's seat in 1901. By 1902, the May family headed west and took a break in their long trip to visit relatives. Mary Swanson, a small three-year old cousin found her way through the difficulties of saying "Wilfred" by switching to "**Woppie**", which she could say very easily. The reaction from everyone, including her six-year-old cousin himself, was such that she used it again and again. By the end of the visit, Wilfred had become "**Wop**" for the rest of his life.

The May family settled in Edmonton near the McKay Avenue School. As Wop grew through his youth and became a teenager in Edmonton, North America was growing too. The continent discovered it had a Northwest Passage in 1906. In 1907, Alexander Graham Bell discovered the space above the horizon by flying his kite above Baddeck, Nova Scotia. In 1909, John A. D. McCurdy completed the first heavier-than-air machine flight in Canada. Two years later, the continent was ready for its first flying exhibition. In April of 1911, the fifteen-year old Wop witnessed the **inaugural Alberta flight of the "Curtiss Pusher"** piloted by Bob St. Henry and Hugh Robinson. Nothing ever captured his imagination like that first view of an airplane.

By 1916, Wop was determined to join the war effort as a pilot, but it was not possible to get into a flying corps, Canada simply didn't have one. Undaunted, he decided to enlist in the infantry with intention of transferring to the Royal Flying Corps when he got to England. It was his first lesson in military discipline as he learned to march, salute, shoot and to obey orders. Relentless in making his ambition known, he finally got accepted into the Royal Flying Corps School of Instruction at Acton. He was ultimately given permission by his flying instructor to take a solo flight in the Caudron GIII trainer. He successfully completed his required maneuvers and then added some added loops and figure eights which demonstrated his skill to the instructor. However, his flight was watched by a whole chain of commanding officers who were looking for skill and obedience, not creativity. He remained grounded for a period of time, but on March 21, 1918, he graduated from the 94 Squadron with a grand total of five and a half hours of flying time under his wings. By April 9, with another 39 hours logged, plus training in formation flying and a gunnery course, he had earned himself a posting to the 209 Squadron. Unfortunately, the 22 year old along with his new flying buddies turned a two-day graduation party into a three day bash. As a result he was dismissed by a very stern British Commanding Officer from the squadron.

As luck would have it, Wop bumped into Captain Roy Brown, an old school buddy from Edmonton. Brown convinced the CO to reinstate Lieutenant May into Captain Brown's squadron.

It had taken five months for May to go from a rookie enlisted infantryman to a fully trained fighter pilot. He would have five more months in active combat before the war was officially over. At the beginning of his combat flying he encountered a number of enemy aircraft including one piloted by Baron Manfred von Richthofen known as the **Red Baron**. The Red Baron's plane was shot by Captain Roy Brown and the Baron was fatally wounded by unknown ground fire. By the end of the war Wop was credited with shooting down 13 enemy aircraft.

Captain Wop May returned to Edmonton and he wanted to continue flying and found that his brother has started a commercial flying business. The two brothers rented a Curtiss "Canuck" from the city of Edmonton for \$25 a month, posted a \$1000 performance bond and went into business performing low-flying daredevil antics. By May 1919, business was good enough to call themselves **May Airplanes**. Unfortunately, for even such an energetic and enterprising pilot, expenses were higher than revenue and the May brothers were forced to seek the partnership of another W.W. 1 pilot, George Gorman to stay in business. **May-Gorman Aeroplanes Ltd.** Was established and they delivered the Edmonton Journal and made mercy flights taking doctors and nurses to the needy or bringing them to the hospital.

[This information on the early years of Wop May was taken by your editor from \*Wings of a Hero, Ace "Wop" May\* originally published in 1997 by Sheila Reid and revised in 2014 by Sheila Reid and Denny May.](#)

There is more to tell and your editor will continue the story of Wop May in the August Gyrolog.

**Bill Taylor** thanked our speakers for a most interesting and humorous presentation.

The Free Lunch Draw was won by **Sheldon Weatherby**.



**Wilfred R "Wop" May c1920**

**'Fast Fred'**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Annual GYRO/GYRETTE Golf Tourney, Legends Golf Course, Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Format: Modified Texas Scramble, 9 holes**

**Tee times: Commencing around 1:00 pm**

**Cost: \$65 for golf and dinner, \$30 for dinner only (chicken or steak) with wine**

**As usual prizes are needed!**

**Contacts: the Walker's and Russell's**

### **Monday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, August 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Speaker: James Rajotte, retiring MP, Edmonton-Leduc**

**Contacts: Ken Willan and Val Pohl**

### **Gyro/Gyrette Corn Roast and Bocce, Tuesday Evening, September 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Malmo Community Hall, 11525-48 Ave.**

**Time: Bocce 4:00 pm, Dinner at 6:00 pm**

**Corn, Chicken, Salad and Dessert**

**Cost: \$20 per person, cash bar for beer and wine.**

**Contacts: Roger Russell, David Burnett and friends**

### **Monday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, September 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**Speaker: TBA**

**Contacts: Tony Mazzuca and Jack Slobodan**

### **Curl-A-Rama, Banff, November 6-8**

**Organized by the Calgary Gyro Club**

**Cost: \$240 which includes 2 nights of accommodation, Friday hospitality and food, 2 breakfasts, Saturday banquet and curling. Without curling, \$175.**

**Contact: John Hodgson**