



# ***THE GYROLOG***

**THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON**

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

**President-[John Boyd](#), Past President-[Ari \(Dutch\) Hoeksema](#),  
Vice-President-[Sam Gruden](#), Secretary-[Barry Walker](#), Treasurer-[Gary Campbell](#),  
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## **NOVEMBER 2012**

**Marty Larson** celebrated his birthday on the 14th. Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **John and Helen Ross**, 49 years on the 2nd; **Jack and Terrie Ellis**, 46 years on the 19th and **Dick and Marilyn Nichols**, 49 years on the 23rd.

### **SECOND POSTING**

**Bruce Swanson** (nickname **Swannie**) has applied for membership in our club. **Bruce** and his wife **Bronwyn** reside at **196 Quesnell Crescent**. Their postal code is **T5R 5P3**. Their telephone number is **780-413-6301** and their email address is [brswanson@shaw.ca](mailto:brswanson@shaw.ca) **Bruce** is an accountant/consultant/professional photographer and is President of BizAssist Ltd. He is proposed by **Larry Dobson** and **John Ross**.

**Marty Larson** was born in Lacombe, Alberta on November 14th, 1932 and lived in Alix from 1933-1939. His father, Stan was also born in the Lacombe area and was a grain buyer for the Alberta Pacific Grain Company. Marty's mother, Sylvia was born in New York City. Grandfather and grandmother Larson emigrated from North Dakota. The great-grandfather Larson probably changed the family name from Larsen which was Danish when they emigrated to North America.

Marty was the oldest of four brothers and one sister and attended high school in Red Deer and Sylvan Lake. Stan Larson played senior men's baseball and brought in teams from the U.S.A. to play in tournaments. Marty was the bat boy at many of these games and this love of baseball has continued to captivate Marty to this day. He also played hockey including the position of goalie when he was in high school but his career was short-lived; he was a better curler!

After high school Marty worked for the Royal Bank for six years starting in the Village of Standard and moving to Blairmore, Fairview and South Edmonton. He then worked in Northern Canada on the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line in 1956-1957. In 1957, Marty started working for CFCW Radio in Camrose as an announcer. In 1958 he moved to CKRD in Red Deer and did the play by play for hockey and curling. Marty also did some sales work and announcing for the Central Alberta Hockey League. In 1959, **Shirley Dean** and four of her nursing graduate friends moved from the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon to Red Deer. They liked to watch hockey and curling and before long Shirley noticed Marty announcing at the rinks. Marty and Shirley were married on October 8th, 1960.

In 1960 Marty started a four year career with CFRN Television in Edmonton announcing the news and sports as well as football games and the pre-game show. In 1963, Shirley and Marty's daughter Marcia was born. In 1964, he took a three months course in sales at First Investors which was owned by Don Cormie. Marty then went to work for Gairdner & Co., a national investment house. By 1967, he was manager of Gairdner's Edmonton Branch and in 1969 Marty and Shirley moved to Toronto when Marty became National Sales Manager for the company's 20 branches. They stayed for a year and a half and then moved back to Edmonton.

In 1971, Marty began a 17 year career with Pemberton Securities; Future Gyro, **Larry Dobson** was one of the first three staff hired. Marty was on Pemberton's Board of Director's for 16 years and was also Chair of the Investment Dealers Association of Alberta. He became a familiar voice to us for 17 years on CHQT's morning radio show dealing with financial investment matters. During the period 1987-96 Marty also did some television work on "Alberta Business." He served as

an expert witness in court cases involving brokers and brokerage houses and in 1992, began a six year term with the Alberta Securities Commission. Another future Gyro, **Eric Spink** was employed as a legal consultant at the Commission during this period. By the year 2000, Marty had retired from the investment business but he still handles a few private investment accounts.

In 1964, Marty joined the Al Azhar Temple which was a Calgary-based Masonic organization and in 1985 he became a charter member of the new Edmonton-based temple, the Al Shamal Shrine.

Marty was introduced to the Gyro Club of Edmonton members by **Wes Van Dusen** and joined the club in 1964. Marty and Shirley have been active participants and champions of the GYRO fraternity for 48 years. They have attended 29 International Conventions and have involved their three children, Marcia, Dean and Andrea in many local and international Gyro activities. Marty was President of the Edmonton Club in 1974-75, District VIII Governor in 1986 and International President in 1992-93. He was also awarded the Award of Merit for Outstanding Service to Gyro in 1989, the Jimmie Hubbell Award for External Expansion of a new club (St. Albert) in 1992, the Honour Key Award (Gyro's Highest Recognition) in 1994 and the Life Time Achievement Award in 2005. Marty was very proud to receive the Ed Steinbacher Life Time Achievement Award from Mrs. Steinbacher in Milwaukee on July 23, 2005.

Marty and Shirley continue to travel the world and have just returned from a multi- week cruise to the Hawaiian Islands and Tahiti. A significant milestone occurred on **November 14th** when Marty turned **80 years young!**

Congratulations and well done Marty!



**Marty Larson, CFRN Television Circa 1962**

**President John Boyd** welcomed 34 Gyros and four guests to the **November 6th** luncheon meeting held at the Royal Glenora Golf Club. Cheerio was led by **Len Stevens** and the Grace was presented by **Gerry Glassford**.

**Jamie Fleming** introduced his guest **Brent Wilson**, a Toronto Argonaut fan and wannabe cowboy attending the Canadian Finals Rodeo in Edmonton. **Ari (Dutch) Hoeksema** introduced his guest **Cec Butt**.



**Shirley and Marty Larson**



Jamie Fleming introduced our guest speakers, Dr. Marilyn Langevin, Director of Research, [The Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research \(ISTAR\)](#) and Dr. Deryk Beal, Executive Director of ISTAR.

ISTAR was founded by Dr. Einer Boberg and Deborah Kully in 1986 with financial support from the Alberta Elks Foundation as a not-for-profit centre affiliated with the University of Alberta.

**Stuttering** is a speech disorder in which the flow of speech is disrupted by involuntary repetitions and prolongations of sounds, syllables, words or phrases as well as involuntary silent pauses or blocks in which the person who stutters is unable to produce sounds. The term **stuttering** is most commonly associated with involuntary sound repetition, but it also encompasses the abnormal hesitation of pausing before speech, referred to by people who stutter as **blocks**, and the prolongation of certain sounds, usually vowels and semivowels. For many people who stutter, repetition is the primary problem. Blocks and prolongations are learned mechanisms to mask repetition, as the fear of repetitive speaking in public is often the main cause of psychological unease.

The effects of stuttering can be far-reaching, impacting all aspects of a person's life. Stuttering hurts and cost potential. Most of the symptoms of stuttering are like an iceberg, hidden below the surface. Fear can be evident, while shame, guilt, anxiety, hopelessness, isolation and denial are hidden. One per cent of the adult population is effected by stuttering but 5% to 8% of preschoolers can be expected to stutter. The sex ratio appears to widen as children grow: among preschoolers, boys outnumber girls two to one or less, but widens to three to one at first grade and five to one at fifth grade due to higher recovery rates in girls.

There is no cure for stuttering because we don't know what causes it. Intensive therapy can show great progress in three weeks. Life-long maintenance is very important. The old myth about parents causing stuttering by strife has been proven false. Over 63% of young adults who stutter have other disorders such as Down Syndrome.

More than thirty years of research and experience underlie the therapy approach used at ISTAR. Treatment is provided by a professional staff of **registered speech-language pathologists** with expertise in the treatment of stuttering. Each therapist has a minimum of a masters degree in speech-language therapy. Since 1986, ISTAR has treated more than 3,900 clients from other 25 countries. Client ages have ranged from 3 to 82 years. Stuttering therapy is offered year-round for clients in individual and group formats.

The **Communication Improvement Program (CIP)** offers a treatment option for people wanting to improve their communication abilities. The program shares facilities and staff with ISTAR, with which it is affiliated. CIP can improve speaking ability in the following areas: improving clarity of speech or language, expressing thoughts clearly, reducing foreign accents, assisting stroke survivors who have difficulty communicating and improving conversational and/or public speaking skills.

**Teasing and Bullying (TAB)** Children who stutter are often teased and may suffer tension and anxiety as well as loss of self-esteem. This only aggravates their speech problem. The TAB program was developed by ISTAR's Dr. Marilyn Langevin to reduce teasing and bullying in schools. Two thousand kits have been placed in schools across Canada and in most states in the USA.

**Telehealth** Clients who are not able to travel to Edmonton and stay for a complete therapy program may still be helped. The ability to offer this option depends on several factors such as the nature of the problem and availability of local videoconferencing facilities.

There are very few clinics like ISTAR in the world. The funding of ISTAR is based on client fees, 56%, donations, 42% and investment income, 2%. ISTAR is an academic institute of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Alberta.

**Walter Yakimets** thanked our speakers for an outstanding presentation and providing an update on stuttering research.  
The free lunch draw was won by **Gary Campbell**.

**Dick Nichols** reports on the results of the [Hockey Pool](#).

Game 1 November 10	Winners	First Period	Second Period	Final
<b>Oil Kings vs. Pr. George</b>				
<b>First</b>	1	2	<b>Sheldon Weatherby</b>	Marilyn Nichols      Dean Larson
<b>Second</b>	3	2	<b>Jack Ellis</b>	<b>John Boyd</b> Cassandra Russell
<b>Final</b>	4	2		

Game 2 November 20		Winners	First Period	Second Period	Final
<b>Oil Kings vs. Swift Current</b>					
<b>First</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Mort Morter</b>	Cole Keddie	Cole Keddie
<b>Second</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	Teresa Ellis	Teresa Ellis	Teresa Ellis
<b>Final</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	Leanne Dobson	Carol Dobson	Carol Dobson

**President John Boyd** welcomed 32 Gyros and two guests to the **November 20th** luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **Allan Warrack** led the group in the singing of Cheerio and **John Ross** presented the Grace.

**Bruce Foy** introduced his guest **John Whitmore**.

**Bruce Foy** also introduced our guest speaker, **Sharon Read, President/CEO of the Excel Society**. Sharon is a third generation Southern Albertan who has two adult sons. Prior to becoming President and CEO of the Excel Society in 2001, Sharon was Chief Operating Officer for the Alberta Mental Health Board. Previous to that she was Director of Special Projects and Coordinator of S.E.A.R.C.H. ( Swift, Efficient, Application of Research in Community health for the Alberta Foundation for Medical Research. As Coordinator of SEARCH, she facilitated the design, development and delivery of a training program in applied research for front-line health professionals within the Regional Health Authorities of Alberta.

Sharon welcomed the opportunity to get their message out to the Gyro Club of Edmonton. She stressed that the Society's approach is to offer a quality of life with person-centred care and a family environment.

Excel's origins began in 1964 with a few clients from Alberta Hospital in Edmonton and was known as the **Sheltered Workshop** which provided facilities, woodworking equipment and instruction to disabled persons. The concept proved so successful that the group purchased a small building on 99th Street and 73rd Avenue to meet the demands of the community for children's furniture and patio furniture. When the Society was incorporated, the Board of Director's decided to expand their services and acquired several group homes to provide housing for disabled persons. As the number of group homes and services expanded, the Society became the "**Excel Resources Society**".



The **Excel Society** today is a not-for-profit organization governed by an active and exceptional volunteer board. The Board's strategy is focused on growth to meet the increasing demand for their services. The Society operates 36 special-care residential facilities in Edmonton and four in Calgary. Front line care is delivered with a person-centred approach that offers choice, flexibility and a feeling of belonging. Many clients have complex needs and their number is increasing. Excel serves both people with developmental disabilities as well as those with physical/mental disabilities. The original focus was on adults but it is now on children and youth because there is a greater chance of success if the disabilities can be addressed at a younger age.

The Society's newest facility is **Balwin Villa** which serves 105 clients with dementia, brain injury and other mental illnesses. Most clients are referred from Alberta Health, however Balwin also offers a number of private pay suites. A designated Assisted Living Facility, clients live in home-like pods with barrier free suites, taking meals together in private dining areas. The facility has a gymnasium that is available to clients for special activities and has an active recreation therapy team working with residents.

The **Excel At Home** program is a new service that supports seniors living in their own home. The services include: care coordination, personal care, home support, personal support, companion and respite; and nursing care.

The **Abilities in Action** pilot project was started in 2010 after **Sharon Read** and **Mayor Stephen Mandel** agreed that the Society's clients should be working for the City of Edmonton. A three tier training program has been developed with a small group of clients and a job coach doing the interior cleaning of ETS busses at the Ferrier Garage. It is expected over time that once skills and confidence are gained, some of these clients will become employees of the City of Edmonton.

For more than 10 years, **The Excel Academy** has delivered high-quality professional development training to staff in the human services industry. In an intimate classroom and lab setting, students have learned essential skills such as Medication Administration, Abuse Awareness, Documentation, WHMIS, Universal Precautions, Non-violent Crisis Prevention & Intervention, CPR and First Aid. The Academy also offers Community Support Worker and Health Care Aide certificate programs.

The Excel Society presently employs 500 people and staffing costs form a larger portion of the overall budget of \$26 million in 2012. Revenue is provided by Alberta Health Services (40%), Persons with Developmental Disabilities (30%), Rent and Food Services (18%), Children's Services (3%), Grants, Sales & Fundraising (4%) and Nunavut/NWT (1%). Financial challenges continue to be staff training costs, computer hardware, maintenance of roofs, furnaces and windows and transportation costs for recreation/camping trips.

**Larry George** thanked our speaker for an excellent presentation which demonstrated the diversity of clients and the phenomenally large umbrella of services provided by the Society.

The free lunch draw was won by **Cliff Revell**.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Gyro/Gyrette Christmas Party, Riverview Room, Shaw Conference Centre, Tuesday Evening, December 4th.**

Champagne and socializing: 6:00 pm

Carved Roast Turkey Dinner; 6:30 pm

Cost: \$70 per person with wine and \$60 without wine

**Guests welcome!**

Contacts: Fred Schulte and Sam Gruden

**Gyro/Gyrette Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, Tuesday, Dec. 18th**

Speaker: Jim Lochhead, who will present a Christmas message.

Contacts: Jack Brown and John Ross

**District VIII Convention, Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, May 23-27, 2013**