



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

President-Georg Schuller, Past President-Jack Bowen

Vice-President-Ray Dallaire

Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Larry Dobson

Directors- Jim Lepp, Leon Lubin, Martin Marshall, Sheldon Weatherby

Dunc Mills (Ex-Officio)

Database Administrator-Chuck Gerhart, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte

Club Website: www.edmontongyroclub.com

AUGUST 2024

BIRTHDAYS: Bruce Foy on the 1st

Val Pohl and Walter Yakimets on the 4th

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: Len and Jackie Evenson, 57 years on the 5th;
Allan and Jean Warrack, 62 years on the 18th; Leon and Jo-Anne Lubin,
59 years on the 23rd; Dan and Sandy Hasinoff, 56 years on the 24th; and
Peter Carter and Eileen Kuhl, 20 years on the 29th.**

Dunc Mills was presented with **Golf Canada's Distinguished Service Award on August 12th at the Innisfail Golf Club.** The photo shows the group who worked with Dunc over the years.



Vice-President Ray Dallaire welcomed 23 Gyros and two guests to the August 20th luncheon meeting held at the Mill Woods Golf Course, Woodvale Clubhouse.

Walter Yakimets introduced his guest, **Larry Kolmatycki.**

Warren Garbutt advised that a celebration of life will be held for **Cliff Revell** on September 21st at 1:30 pm, Southminster United Church.

Dick Nichols led the singing of Cheerio and **Vice-President Ray** gave the Grace.

Walter Yakimets introduced our guest speaker, **Myrna Kostash**.

Myrna is an acclaimed writer of history and creative non-fiction who makes her home in Edmonton when she is not travelling in pursuit of her varied literary interests and passions. She is inspired in her work by her childhood in the Ukrainian-Canadian community of Edmonton, her rites of passage through the Sixties in the US, Canada and Europe, by her rediscovery of her western Canadian roots in the 1980s, by her return to her spiritual sources in Byzantium and the Eastern Christian (Orthodox) Church, and, most recently, by her re-education in the history of Indigenous and Settler relations in western Canada.

Myrna will present a balanced view in her presentation about the issues leading up to the **Frog Lake “Incident” on April 2, 1885**.

Myrna indicated that she first became interested in the history of the region when she visited the mass grave of Cree warriors in the Battleford area.

*Editor’s note: Eight Cree warriors were hanged on November 27, 1885, including Wandering Spirit. The executed men were found guilty of murder in the **Frog Lake Massacre** and the **Looting of Battleford**. They knew nothing of the legal system and had no legal counsel or other advice. No defense was mounted. Prime Minister John A. MacDonald’s publicly stated policy was to keep the Indians as close as possible to starvation. Source: Wikipedia.*

On **March 26, 1885**, the **North-West Resistance** began west of the settlement of **Duck Lake** on the old Carlton Trail, north of modern Rosthern, Sask. Duck Lake was at the junction of the Carlton and Prince Albert trails, midway between Métis headquarters at Batoche and the North-West Mounted Police at Fort Carlton.

The battle began at about noon when a Cree emissary and a police interpreter scuffled during a parley. The police and volunteers retreated about half an hour later. Twelve of their force of 100 were killed. Six of the slightly larger Cree resistance force died.

The **Duck Lake Uprising** showed the Cree that the “white” could be beat.

In **April 1885, Frog Lake** was a thriving commercial hub, but there was an expectation that indigenous people would not be fed unless they worked. The buffalo had disappeared, the traditional way of life had been severely disrupted and not all tribes had accepted and moved on to their “reservations”.

Big Bear, the Plains Cree Indian Chief, had signed a treaty in 1882 because his people were starving, however he delayed choosing a reserve and his followers were not too happy with the thought of giving up their freedom. During the **1885-85** season Big Bear and his band of Plains Cree wintered on the **Frog Lake Reserve** as guests of the Woodland Cree. There was decided unrest at the time, however Big Bear himself did not want to make trouble with the white man. His war chief, **Wandering Spirit** thought differently.

On April 2, 1885, Wandering Spirit and his young warriors collected all the guns from the white men stationed at Frog Lake. The six members of the Northwest Mounted Police left the reserve as a good will gesture. Most of the white people were herded into the Roman Catholic Church and after a short service, Wandering Spirit decided to move all the white people to his camp. The **Indian agent, Thomas Quinn** was asked three times by Wandering Spirit to move into his camp. There was no alternative to this refusal! The only work offered previously to Wandering Spirit in the Frog Lake settlement was chopping firewood.

Not everyone refused the offer of sanctuary, The priest from Onion Lake accepted the offer from Big Bear.

A disagreement arose and soon **Thomas Quinn**, was shot and killed near his home. Shooting continued, and a total of nine white people were killed. There were four white survivors.

Myrna Kostash provided an interesting footnote on **Thomas Quinn**; he was a survivor of the **Minnesota Uprising in 1862**. The uprising lasted five weeks and hundreds of white settlers, army soldiers and Dakota

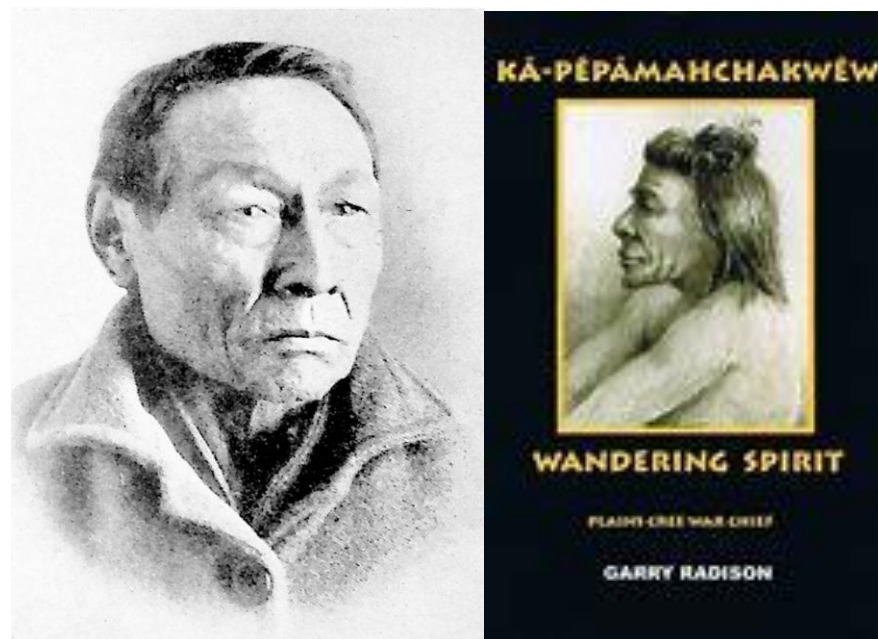
natives were killed. The Dakota Nation was facing starvation and displacement as well. There were 300 captured, and 38 hanged.

Editors note: Thomas Quinn was a native of Minnesota with mixed Sioux and Irish blood. He served in the Wisconsin Regiment during the American Civil War.

The use of the term “**Massacre**” at **Frog Lake** continues to be objected to by the Cree. Other descriptions such as “shootings”, “killings” and “murders” could have been used.

Myrna continued to provide interesting facts about her heritage. Her grandparents settled in the Frog Lake area 15 years before the “Frog Lake incident” She also interviewed Canadian authors including **Rudy Wiebe, Sarah Carter, Heather Devine and Blair Stonechild** who have made significant contributions to the understanding and history of indigenous peoples in Western Canada.

Heather Devine said in her interview: “People want nice easy answers to complex situations. We weren’t there! Oral history, transcripts and settler accounts provide a **small sort of truth**”



Big Bear

Kostash published **The Frog Lake Reader** in 2009 which shedded new light on a tragedy often overshadowed by Louis Riel’s rebellion during the same year.

Ray Dallaire accepted questions from our Gyro audience and thanked Myrna for her presentation.

She was presented with a copy of *Giants of the Pacific Northwest The Hunt Family Totem Poles*, authored by our Gyro, Doug Armstrong.



Myrna and Walter

Ron Trant was the Free Lunch winner.

“Fast Fred”

The GYROLOG August 2024

Upcoming Events:

Corn Roast and Bocce Mixed Event, **Derrick Golf and Winter Club, Tuesday afternoon, September 3rd.**

Bocce: Starts at 4pm, doors open after 3.

Summer BBQ with all the trimmings, \$55 per person

Team Leaders: Bruce Foy, Sam Gruden, Ken Willan

Special Luncheon Meeting, Mill Woods Golf Course, Woodvale Clubhouse, Wednesday, September 11th.

Team Leaders: Dunc Mills and Georg Schuller

Topic: Gyro Restructuring

Luncheon Meeting, Mill Woods Golf Course, Woodvale Clubhouse, Tuesday, September 17th.

Speaker: Fred Schulte

Topic: Albert Water Management History

Joint Men's Bocce Tourney Sherwood Park/Edmonton Gyro Clubs Wednesday, October 2nd, Italian Seniors Centre, 9111-110 Ave.

Time: 5:00 pm

Cost: TBA

Team Leaders: Mike Matei and Augie Annicchiarico