

20 JUNE 2004

Gyro Club of Edmonton Prostate Cancer Golf Tournament
(7th Annual Drive for the Cure)

There is an extraordinary power that seems to be generated when three capable people get together to tackle difficult problems – the three Musketeers; the Big Three of WWII, and the Edmonton Gyro Club's triumvirate of Marty Larson, David Burnett and Barry Walker. We experienced clear evidence of the effective planning and executive power of the latter three on June 9th when, for the first time, they marshaled the Gyro-power and partnered it with the Canadian Cancer Society's 7th Annual Drive for the Cure – a golf tournament dedicated to raising awareness of prostate cancer and funds to conduct research into this disease that one man in six will suffer during the course of their lifetime.

Marty Larsen, long a contributor to causes such as this (his own father having suffered from prostate cancer), had played previously in this tournament. Indeed he had worked with the tournament organizer, Ted Holtby, when the Royal Bank employed them both. Ted indicated to Marty that family pressures were such that he could no longer serve as the key tournament organizer. Marty asked Ted if he would support the idea of proposing to the Gyro Club the concept of it undertaking the tournament's organization – at least for a time certain. Ted applauded the idea and the rest, as they say, is history.

Marty met with David Burnett and Barry Walker to sound them out on the idea. Both saw in the proposal several important gains: an awareness building platform for the concept of Gyro as well as for the poorly understood disease, prostate cancer; a focal point for building Club interest in the health area (an area of health that is male-specific and age related); and a platform upon which Gyro can continue to build social support for members of our society. For more than a year Marty, David, and Barry have met as a team as well as with other key groups and individuals. After gaining the support of the Gyro Club members, Barry accepted the role of chair of the Golf Tournament, assembled his team, stepped up to the tee and sent the "ball" down the fairway. True, there were times the "ball" ended in the rough but in the main they were on the fairway on every drive.

Doug Baker and his people in the Edmonton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society joined the planners and lent their full support to the enterprise. Our "Bag Men", Marty, David, and Barry, visited many business leaders as well as executives of organizations in their drive to raise sponsors for the tournament. They finished this demanding task with 31 sponsors who provided grants of \$1,000 to \$10,000. In addition, another 70 individuals (many of them Gyros) contributed prizes for the tournament. John Ross accepted the portfolio of Gyro Awareness and his signs, his packages of information on Gyro, his wonderful and infectious enthusiasm helped enormously to heighten the level of Gyro Awareness during the Tournament. Bruce Foy and Mike Matei organized the volunteer program and recruited almost 40 individuals, detailed their jobs, and made certain that they had the support necessary. Volunteers from the Sherwood Park Gyro Club added their energy and support to the Tournament and helped to ensure its success.

The day of the Tournament dawned clear and cool. Even as the sun rose on The Links (a beautiful golf course on the north side of Spruce Grove) many Gyros had already arrived at their allotted destinations. A hearty breakfast was served to the 128 players and 40ish volunteers

before the horn sounded for the start of the Texas scramble. There were Gyrettes and Gyros on virtually every hole to welcome the players and to provide refreshments. Our official photographer, Larry Dobson, toured the course on his high-powered golf cart and then took hundreds of photos at the wind-up dinner (bar-b-que ribs, chicken and baked salmon – plus healthy salads). In the end, everyone was a winner. Many prizes were awarded to the players, the volunteers enjoyed the feelings of success that follow such a wonderful event, and the Canadian Cancer Society will receive between \$50,000 and \$60,000 to be directed to prostate cancer research.

Plans are already underway for a special dinner to be held in late October to recognize the major sponsors of the Tournament. The speaker will be a recognized urologist and an authority on prostate cancer. It will be a superb event and one to which Gyros can proudly bring potential members in order to introduce them to the wonderful world of Gyro.

Sincere appreciation to all volunteers from the Sherwood Park and Edmonton Gyro Clubs (Gyrettes and Gyros) and SPECIAL THANKS to Marty, David and Barry. You have proven again that the efforts of a few can make a great difference to many.

Prostate Cancer - Did you Know??

- Early prostate cancer is seldom signaled by any clear symptom
- Disease detection is very difficult
- PC is the single most common form of a solid tumor in humans
- PC is present in more than 9 million men in the USA
- PC kills a man every 13 minutes
- PC affects 1 in 6 men in their lifetime
- PC is second only to lung cancer in annual cancer deaths in the USA
- PC strikes as many men (and causes almost as many deaths annually) as breast cancer does among women. It lacks the national awareness and the level of research funding that breast cancer has received. No one wants to see funding for breast cancer reduced, we want to see funding prostate cancer increased
- There are three common sources of prostate gland problems: inflammation (prostatitis), prostate enlargement (benign prostate hyperplasia), prostate cancer
- No single test of potential prostate cancer is without problems including PSA (prostate specific antigen) tests and DRE (digital rectal examination). Tissue biopsy remains as the “gold standard” of determination but it is both costly and painful.