



# ***THE GYROLOG***

**THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON**

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

**President-[John Mann](#), Past President-[Sam Gruden](#),  
1st Vice-President-[Jack Little](#), 2nd Vice-President-[David Dyck](#),  
Secretary-[Barry Walker](#), Treasurer-[Gary Campbell](#),  
Directors-[Michael Mant](#), [Jamie Fleming](#), [David Dyck](#), [Len Stevens](#)  
Database Administrator-[John Ross](#), Gyrolog Editor-[Fred Schulte](#)**

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## **FEBRUARY 2015**

Those celebrating their birthdays are **Dick Nichols** on the 8<sup>th</sup>, **Ken Willan** on the 9<sup>th</sup> and **Jack Ellis** on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **Bruce** and **Bronwyn Swanson**, 37 years on the 8<sup>th</sup>; **Sam Gruden** and **Bea McKenzie**, 24 years on the 14<sup>th</sup> and **Larry** and **Rosa Wang**, 49 years on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

During the 1980's and 1990's the Edmonton Gyro Club and individual members contributed funds to the Centre of Gerontology at the University of Alberta with matching dollars from the province to establish an endowment fund. The **Centre for Gerontology Fund** currently provides yearly; one undergraduate scholarship of \$700, and a Master's and PhD scholarship each of \$1200.

This year's recipient of the Gyro Club of Edmonton Graduate Scholarship in Aging at the PhD level is **Stephanie Chamberlain**, Faculty of Nursing. Stephanie is in her 1<sup>st</sup> year of the PhD program in Nursing. She completed her undergraduate degree in Health Science (with a minor in Gerontology) at the University of Ottawa, followed by a Master of Arts degree at Mount St. Vincent University (Nova Scotia) in Family Studies and Gerontology. She is now doing her PhD with Dr. Carol Estabrooks, Canada Research Chair in Knowledge Translation, with a focus on interventions to improve care for long-term care residents with cognitive impairment. She has received numerous awards and recognitions in the area of aging, and is an active community volunteer with the Alzheimer's Society and CapitalCare Norwood, a local long-term care facility.

The recipient of the Masters level award is **Teresa Lawrence**, Department of Human Ecology, Faculty of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences. Teresa is in her second year of the program and is in a course-based Master's degree. Her area of study is in Aging Policy and Practice. She did an undergraduate degree here at the U. of A. with a double major in Comparative Literature and Classical Studies. She has taken numerous courses in Aging and also has volunteered in the community in activities related to aging, including working with the Geri Actors Intergenerational Theatre Company through the Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton. She is currently doing a practicum with the Government of Alberta and hopes to obtain a permanent position to aid in the development of policy that enhances quality of life of seniors. Her supervisor is Dr. Janet Fast, a national and internationally known scholar in gerontology.

**Marty Larson** and **Fred Schulte** presented these scholarships to Stephanie and Teresa on January 28<sup>th</sup> in the offices of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine in Corbett Hall.



Photo by Jeannine Guerette

Marty Larson **Stephanie Chamberlain** Tammy Hopper **Teresa Lawrence** Fred Schulte

**President John Mann** welcomed 38 Gyros to the February 3<sup>rd</sup> luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club.

**Walter Yakimets** introduced our guest speaker, **Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail** who is interested in aviation, hails from Ottawa, is an award winning writer, speaker and who is Edmonton's Historian Laureate.

Danielle's interest in flying probably started, in part, by the fact that her grandfather flew Lancaster Bombers in WW II. She is currently working on a novel entitled "*Chasing Skies*" which describes the lives of women that ferried WW II bombers. **Dr. Owen Cornish**, a 92 year old former bomber pilot and past Edmonton Gyro Club member has agreed to meet Danielle in the second week of February.

As Edmonton's Historian Laureate, Danielle is trying to connect us with our city's heritage. Edmonton has long been one of the major jumping off spots for the Canadian North. Danielle will now tell us about *"Polar Winds- A Century of Flying in the Canadian North"*

Ms. Metcalfe described the challenges facing her in the researching and writing the book. The North is a vast area that became evident as she drove two thousand kilometers along the Alaska and Dempster Highways mostly in a rental car without snow tires. She also flew 1200 kilometers along the 'Big Dipper Route' from Whitehorse, to Dawson City, to Old Crow and to Inuvik aboard Air North's turboprop airliners. Danielle ultimately chose the 60<sup>th</sup> parallel as the lower limit of the North. *Your Editor supplemented Danielle's presentation with excerpts from her book "Polar Winds."*

One of the first examples of flying in the north occurred in Dawson City in 1899 when **"balloonist" Professor John Leonard** made the first balloon ascent in the Yukon, as well as performing aerobatic displays from his airship. In August 1920, Yukoners had their first contact with airborne planes when the **First Alaska Air Expedition** arrived in Whitehorse with four open cockpit DH4B's that were flying from New York City to Nome Alaska. In March 1921, **Imperial Oil** sent two Junkers-Larsen JL-6 airplanes from Edmonton to Fort Norman, NWT to secure its claims to what would become **Norman Wells**. Aerial surveys by aircraft when they worked were useful and efficient.

The first flyers in the Canadian Arctic were Americans. In August 1925, the U.S. Navy sent three identical Loening COA-1 amphibious biplanes by ship to Greenland. The **MacMillan Expedition** landed the planes on Ellesmere Islands Hayes and Flagler Fjords- without Canadian approval.

The **RCAF** did not get its first polar air experience until 1927, when it launched the **Hudson Strait Expedition** using six rugged Fokker Universal monoplanes and a small experimental biplane, for initial base-finding flights. The expedition was commanded by Squadron Leader Thomas A. Lawrence and consisted of six officers, twelve airman, four signal corps personnel, three RCMP constables and nineteen civilians to build the airbases. Lawrence believed in engaging Inuit for northern operations and each aircraft carried an Inuit guide. This proved to be an excellent practice and helped avoid tragedy when severe weather forced aircraft down for prolonged periods. The planes and crews were critical in establishing bases, conducting patrols and taking aerial photos, as well as learning about flying conditions in the North.

By the 1930's, the promise of aviation in the north dovetailed with a mineral boom that turned campsites into town sites. Pilot **Punch Dickens** dropped off Gilbert LaBine in 1930 near Great Bear Lake. Labine found a large deposit of pitchblende (Uraninite). Radium could be extracted from pitchblende and used for cancer treatment and on instrument dials. Radium was worth more than gold at this time!

In January 1932, Albert Johnson the so called "**Mad Trapper of Rat River**" who had set up camp illegally on somebody's trap line began a violent 48 day skirmish with RCMP from the Aklavik detachment, 130 kilometers to the northeast. Numerous contacts with Johnson left one Mountie dead and another seriously wounded. **Wilfred (Wop) May** flew from Ft. McMurray with a ski-equipped Bellanca to assist in the supplying of dog teams, undertaking aerial tracking and evacuating both Mounties to Aklavik.

By 1935, there was a full-on boom centered on **Yellowknife**, which meant air freighting of all kinds. The RCAF, Canadian Airways Limited (CAL), Mackenzie Airways and private planes hauled passengers, mail, dogs, dynamite, food, mining equipment and liquor. Water taxis ran between the town and the mines. Wop May, who became superintendent of the Mackenzie River District of CAL said they even hauled a complete sawmill, along with ice cream beyond the Arctic Circle.

**Blatchford Field – Edmonton**, the first municipal airport in Canada opened on January 8, 1926 and became one of the busiest prewar airfields. Grant McConnachie, founder of Canadian Pacific Airlines based his operations in Edmonton. TransCanada Airlines flights to Edmonton commenced in 1938. When war was declared in 1939, the municipal airport was leased to the federal government for the duration. Based on prior scouting, the Department of Transport completed in January 1940 detailed engineering work for airfields at Grande Prairie, Fort St. John, Fort Nelson, Watson Lake and Whitehorse.

**The Northwest Staging Route** got underway in 1941 when the United States passed the Lend-Lease Act to supply aircraft and munitions first to Britain and then to the U.S.S.R. The 3,057 kilometer route stretched from Great Falls Montana to Fairbanks, Alaska. The first few aircraft were moved on the staging route in September 1941. It wasn't until after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941, that the wisdom of choosing this route was recognized. The construction of both the Alaska Highway and the Canol Pipeline Project generated considerable air traffic. At one point, these projects and the return of pilots from the ferrying aircraft led to as many as five commercial carriers flying through Edmonton. By war's end, over half of the 14,000 aircraft given to the Soviets under the Lend-Lease program flew through Edmonton. On September 29, 1943, the Blatchford Field manager reported that 860 aircraft had been handled.

**Fred Carmichael** was the first indigenous person in the Northwest Territories to receive his private and commercial licenses. Antler Aviation was just one of many companies he founded during his long career. By 1959 Carmichael had applied for a full charter license for his company, Reindeer Air Service in Aklavik.

The North is more accessible than ever before to tourists, extreme adventurers, government officials, business people and military personnel—for better or worse. Despite its remoteness from other parts of the world or (or perhaps because of it) people regularly fly to the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. In many ways, southerners hold on to a romantic view of aviation in the North, but for those who live “up here” it continues to be a vital part of daily life.

**David Burnett** thanked the speaker for a very inspiring presentation.

**Dick Nichols** reports on the results of the Hockey Pool.

Game 12	January 29	Winners	First Period	Second	Final
<b>Oilers vs. Sabres</b>					
<b>First</b>	<b>2 1</b>	<b>Ken Willan</b>		<b>Ken Willan</b>	<b>Cliff Revell</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>2 1</b>	Don Roskewich		Don Roskewich	Brooks Ross
<b>Final</b>	<b>3 2</b>	Unsold		Unsold	Unsold

Game 13	February 4	Winners	First Period	Second	Final
<b>Oilers vs. Penguins</b>					
<b>First</b>	<b>0 0</b>	<b>Bruce Foy</b>		Mike Palichuk	Mike Palichuk
<b>Second</b>	<b>0 0</b>	Jennifer Baird		Sarra Dobson	Sarra Dobson
<b>Final</b>	<b>0 0</b>	Ling Luo		Unsold	Unsold

Game 14	February 12	Winners	First Period	Second	Final
<b>Oilers vs. Canadiens</b>					
<b>First</b>	<b>0 1</b>	Kherington Baird		Lucas Burnett	Jonathon Foy
<b>Second</b>	<b>2 2</b>	Cassandra Russell		Karen Gibson	Morgan Burnett
<b>Final</b>	<b>4 3</b>	Gene Zeibarti		Unsold	Brooke Weisberger

Game 15	February 20	Winners	First Period	Second	Final
<b>Oilers vs. Wild</b>					
<b>First</b>	<b>0 2</b>	Rob McKinnon		<b>Larry George</b>	<b>Jack Little</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>0 3</b>	Sharon Moroscat		<b>Mike Matei</b>	<b>Sharon Matei</b>
<b>Final</b>	<b>0 4</b>	<b>Bea McKenzie</b>		Unsold	Unsold

**President John Mann** welcomed 30 Gyros and Gyrettes to this year's **Valentines Party** held in the Papachase Room at the University of Alberta's Faculty Club on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Club members were treated to an outstanding meal and all of the ladies received gifts of wine or chocolates courtesy of Marty and Shirley Larson.



**From front to back, Joyce and Jack Brown, Marlene and David Burnett, Carol and Larry Dobson and Jo-Anne and Leon Lubin**



**From the back, Terrie and Jack Ellis, Allan Warrack, Mim Bertsch-Mann, John Mann and Jean Warrack**

**'Fast Fred'**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Speaker:** Tom Ruth, President and CEO, Edmonton International Airport Authority

**Contacts:** Peter Carter and Allan Warrack

### **Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, March 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Speaker:** Dr. Steve Genius-Probing Alberta's Health Service

**Contacts:** John Boyd and Chuck Gerhart

### **Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, April 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Club Executive Elections and Speaker TBA**

**Contacts:** Alan Rusler and Bill Taylor

### **GYRO International and District III Convention, Buffalo, New York, Adam's Mark Hotel and Convention Center, June 22nd-28th, 2015**

#### **EVENTS:**

**June 22 Executive Committee Meeting, Past Governor's Meeting**

**June 23 Board of Governors Meeting**

**June 24 Ladies Lunch and Guided Tours**

**June 25 District III Business Meeting, Miss Buffalo Lake Erie Dinner Cruise**

**June 26 District III Installation Dinner, Live Entertainment with Roaring 20's Theme and Special Celebrity Guest Speaker**

**June 27 Annual General Meeting, Presidents Banquet, International Officers Installation and Entertainment**

**June 28 Farewell Breakfast**

**Registration Fee:** \$200 per person/\$399 per couple **before February 1st**  
\$225/\$449 after February 1st

**Room Rate:** \$119 per night at Adam's Mark Hotel 866-539-8430

**Convention Contact:** Steve Glamuzina, 716-510-3499

**Email:** [GYROS@GTOWNWINE.COM](mailto:GYROS@GTOWNWINE.COM)

## District VIII of Gyro International 2014 – 2015

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District VIII  
WEB SITE  
District8.gyro.ws

CALGARY

CASTLEGAR

CRANBROOK

EDMONTON  
CROSSROADS

EDMONTON

LETHBRIDGE

NELSON

REGINA

SHERWOOD  
PARK

SPOKANE

STAMPEDE CITY

WALLACE



December 27, 2014

Fellow Gyro's

Subject: Call for nominations for 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Governor

We are in need of a District VIII leader for the Gyro years June 2015 to 2018.

The successful candidate will be 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Governor from June 2015 to June 2016, Governor from June 2016 to June 2017 and Past Governor for the following year.

As you may recall we shortened the term to make it easier for potential candidates. It can be a very rewarding couple of years (The Past Governor doesn't do much) as you meet more gyros and get involved with International affairs.

There are Perks for the job in that travel expenses and fees to International Interims, an International Convention and District conventions are paid by the District.

I believe that every Gyro should consider performing this function as a way of giving back to Gyro for all the fun taken out.

Please respond directly to me, any of our current executives or through your club President if you are willing to be nominated. Call me or email me if you have any questions.

Jim Malott  
Past District Governor  
[jim@beedean.net](mailto:jim@beedean.net)  
780-868-2557





## The Pirates of Panorama are Gathering to Celebrate Gyro Friendship



# Gyro District VIII Convention At Fairmont Hot Springs Resort May 21 to 24, 2015

*CONVENTION ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS*

## Thursday May 21, 2015

### **District VIII Golf Tournament at Riverside Golf Course**

Tee Times 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Green Fees and prizes are included with your golf fee registration. Carts are available if you require one. This is a mixed tournament; everyone plays his or her own ball. There is room for only 48 Golfers, first come, first served.

<b>Registration at the Resort</b>	2:00 PM to 5:00 PM
<b>No Host Cocktails</b>	5:30 PM
<b>Dinner and Entertainment</b>	6:30 PM

## **Friday May 22, 2015**

<b>Registration (Lobby)</b>	8:00 AM to 10:00 AM
<b>Car Rally:</b> Leaves from the upper parking lot	9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
<b>Bocce:</b>	3:00 PM
<b>Dinner Party: (Pirate or Princess Dress)</b>	6:00 PM
<b>Entertainment by Derm the DJ</b>	7:00 PM

## **Saturday May 23, 2015**

<b>Past Governors Breakfast</b>	7:30 AM
<b>Business Meeting</b>	9:00 AM
<b>Ladies Lunch</b>	10:00 AM
 <b>District VIII Hospitality</b>	 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
 <b>Governors Banquet and Ball (Business Casual Dress)</b>	
<b>No Host Bar</b>	5:30 PM
<b>Dinner</b>	6:30 PM
<b>Dancing to L8</b>	9:00 PM

## **Sunday May 24, 2015**

**Float Away Breakfast** - Fairmont Hot Springs Resort 8:00AM to 11:00 AM

**GYRO DISTRICT VIII CONVENTION - May 21 to 24, 2015**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Res) \_\_\_\_\_ (Bus) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Club: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note accommodation if not at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort (**Phone 1-800-663-4979**)

Please specify any special food requirements/allergies:

**REGISTRATION FEE (Canadian Funds but US is accepted – difference will be rebated):**

\$ 395.00 (couple)      \$200.00(single)      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee Includes

- Dinner and Entertainment Thursday
- Car Rally, Bocce, Dinner and Entertainment Friday
- Ladies Luncheon on Saturday
- Banquet and Dance on Saturday evening
- Float away Breakfast on Sunday

**Golf Tournament at Riverside Golf Club - \$85.00 per Golfer (includes prizes and green fees)**

Gyro Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Partner Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Do you require a cart? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Cost to be determined.

Do you have preferred Tee Time \_\_\_\_\_

**Car Rally**

Gyro \_\_\_\_\_ Partner \_\_\_\_\_

**Bocce**

Gyro \_\_\_\_\_ Partner \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make cheque payable to District VIII Gyro and mail cheque and this form to: Ken Baker, 59 Woodgreen Dr. SW, Calgary, AB T2W 4G6**

**Questions: Phone Ken at : 403-281-0920 or email : [kjb.pc@telus.net](mailto:kjb.pc@telus.net)**