



# ***THE GYROLOG***

**THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON**

**Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921**

**President-**[Peter Carter](#), **Past President-**[Jack Little](#),  
**1st Vice-President-** [Ray Dallaire](#), **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President-**[Bruce Swanson](#)  
**Secretary-**[Barry Walker](#), **Treasurer-**[Gary Campbell](#),  
**Directors-** [Alan Rusler](#), [Arv Hardin](#), [David Winfield](#)  
**Database Administrator-**[John Ross](#), **Gyrolog Editor-**[Fred Schulte](#)

---

## **JUNE 2016**

Those celebrating their birthdays are **Warren Garbutt** on the 9<sup>th</sup>, **Tony Mazzuca** on the 11<sup>th</sup> and **Jim Lepp** on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **Ray and Donna Dallaire**, 37 years on the 2<sup>nd</sup>; **Ken and Barbara Willan**, **50 years** on the 4<sup>th</sup>; **Walter and Kay Yakimets**, 57 years on the 6<sup>th</sup>; **Larry and Carol Dobson**, 49 years on the 17<sup>th</sup>; **Cliff and Kathryn Revell**, 46 years on the 18<sup>th</sup>; **Ron and Marlene Ramsey**, 56 years on the 24<sup>th</sup>; **Bob and Hanya Bahniuk**, 35 years on the 27<sup>th</sup> and **Jack and Sylvia Little**, 47 years on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

The **First and Second Postings** for new member applicants, **Ron Trant** and **Jack Bowen** appeared in the April and May editions of the GYROLOG. Ron and Jack are now officially members of the Edmonton Gyro Club; welcome gentlemen!



**One hundred and three** Gyros, Gyrettes and guests attended the **District VIII Convention** held at the Fairmont Hot Springs Resort in the Windermere Valley of British Columbia, May 26-29. Seven couples including the Carter's, Larson's, Little's, Ross's, Schulte's, Swanson's and Warrack's were in attendance from Edmonton.

**Sixteen golfers played 18 holes of golf** organized by the Edmonton Club **on the Riverside Course** adjacent and surrounded by the headwaters of the Columbia River. **Bernie Kropp** (Sherwood Park) won the Men's Low Net, **Mike Wagg** (Nelson) Men's Low Gross, **Laura Young** (Calgary, Ladies Low Net and Ladies Low Gross, **Brenda Kropp** (Sherwood Park). The Men's Longest Drive was won by **John Hodgson** (Calgary); Ladies Longest Drive, **Sharon Irving** (Calgary); Men's Longest Putt, **Harold Arnett** (Nelson); Ladies Longest Putt, **Brenda Kropp**; Men's Closest to the Pin, **Bernie Kropp** and Ladies Closest to the Pin, **Gwen Arnett** (Nelson).

A **Car Rally/Poker Run** organized by **Garry Pattison** (Stampede City) was held Friday morning in pouring rain but the groups enjoyed a scenic drive along the west side of the Windermere Valley. A **Cowpoke Western Theme Party** was held Friday evening along with Barn Dance music by 'Cowboy Derm', the Gyro DJ. The **Bocce Tournament** hosted by the Nelson Club was held Saturday afternoon under cold and windy conditions. The winning team consisted of **Shirley** and **Marty Larson** (Edmonton), **Doreen** and **Jim Todd** (Nelson) and spare, **Tammy Darough** (Nelson).

The **Installation of District VIII Officers** on Saturday evening was undertaken by **Matt Johnson**, **Third International Vice President (Olympia)**. Our new **District Governor** is **John Hodgson (Calgary)**, our own **Peter Carter** is **Lt Governor**, **Alan Pentney** is **Immediate Past District Governor** and **Ken Baker** continues as **District Secretary-Treasurer**.

The winner of the **Man-Mile Award** was the **Lethbridge Club** and the **Best Bulletin Award** was won by the **Sherwood Park Club**, **Ken Brisbin**, Editor, Parks Points. The **Membership Award** was announced as a tie between the **Calgary** and **Edmonton** Club's with six new members each.

**Jim Copeland (Sherwood Park)** was given the **Award of Merit** for his outstanding work in the creation and maintenance of the **District VIII Website**. This is an amazing and comprehensive repository of District information. Check out the website! [www.district8.gyro.ws](http://www.district8.gyro.ws)

**Thanks to the District VIII Executive for organizing a first-class conference!**

**President Peter Carter** welcomed 58 Gyros, Gyrettes and guests to the June 7<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. Cheerio was led by **John Ross** and the Grace was presented by **Jim Lochhead**.

John Ross introduced and provided background on our two newest members, **Jack Bowen** and **Ron Trant**. PDG **Gerry Glassford** then began the induction of Jack and Ron. He asked sponsor **Bob Bahniuk** if he would guide and support Jack Bowen with the responsibilities of members in the Gyro fraternity. Gerry also asked **John Ross** if he would also provide similar guidance and support for Ron Trant. The new members committed to their responsibilities as Gyros and received pins, name badges and the 90-year history of the Edmonton Club.

**Welcome Jack and Ron!**



**John Ross**

**Ron Trant**

**Jack Bowen**

**Bob Bahniuk**

**Gerry Glassford**

**Gerry Glassford** introduced our guest speaker **M. Ann Hall, PhD, Professor Emeritus** in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta, where she began teaching in 1968. She is also a former Chair of the Women's Studies Program in the Faculty of Arts. Although retiring in 1997, she continues to be an active scholar through writing, editorial work, occasional teaching, conference presentations, and volunteer work. She is an expert on the history of women's sport in Canada and her most recent books include **The Grads Are Playing Tonight: The Story of the Edmonton Commercial Graduates Basketball Club (University of Alberta Press, 2012)**; *Immodest and Sensational: 150 Years of Canadian Women in Sport* (James Lorimer, 2008); and *The Girl and the Game: A History of Women's Sport in Canada* (Broadview Press, 2002). She is presently working on a biography of Dr. Geneva Misener (1877-1961), the first woman professor hired at the University of Alberta.

Dr. Hall began her presentation by describing the similarities and connections of The Edmonton Gyros and the Edmonton Grads. The **Edmonton Grads** provided young working women a competitive sport opportunity, a role in civic boosterism, an expectation of high moral standards using an all-male coaching, officiating and support system. The **Edmonton Gyros** built, maintained and supervised Gyro playgrounds with a commitment to children and women. They were part of a civic reform initiative with middle-class men acting as an agent in children's play, young women's athleticism, surveillance and social control. The Edmonton Gyro Club was unique in Canada as all other playground development was spearheaded by women's groups.

The **Edmonton Grads Park** was opened in 1989 and is located in the Westmount Community in area centered at 12103-109 Avenue. A small paved area in the centre of the park is maintained for games of pickup basketball.

John A. McDougall Public School opened in 1913 and in 1914 commercial classes for business and secretarial students were added. The business classes were taught by **J. Percy Page** and his assistant, **Ernest Hyde**. Since there were no other teachers, both had to take over the physical education classes. Page took responsibility for the girl's physical education which included basketball. Basketball was a relatively new sport for girls, especially in Alberta schools. A progressive school inspector introduced basketball in 1904 in Lacombe. Interest in the game spread quickly and soon the Lacombe Girls team was playing teams in Wetaskiwin, Red Deer, Stettler, Ponoka and Edmonton.

By 1914, an Edmonton High school Basketball League had been established consisting of teams from Victoria, Strathcona and Edmonton Technical. The McDougall Commercial Grads requested permission to join. The **1915 original Edmonton Grads Team consisted of Ethel Anderson, Nellie Batson, Mary Bremner, Winnie Martin, Iola Mitchell and Geraldine Reid.**

By 1916, there were enough players in the Edmonton Girls City Basketball League to warrant two divisions, junior and senior. This was the beginning of a feeder system which would provide the Grads with a continuous supply of talented players. By 1919, the Commercial Grads has successfully defended the provincial title for five consecutive years.

In 1923, the Grads travelled to London, Ontario and won their first National Tournament against the London team. That same year, they participated in their first international competition against reigning American champions, the Cleveland Favorite-Knits. The Grads won the tourney with a two-game combined score of 53-33. For 17 years from 1923-1940, the basketball fans of North America never saw the Grads relinquish the Underwood Trophy. During these years there were 30 American teams made up of female industrial workers.

The use of the **Edmonton Stock Pavilion built in 1913** with a seating capacity of 5000 guaranteed a strong local following. The Pavilion was used for stock shows, circus events and later professional hockey. Basketball was played in the fall before hockey and in the spring after the ice melted. Without this big pavilion, the Grads probably would not have lasted as long as they did.

In 1924, Percy Page hired **William "Bill" Tait** to coach the junior team, the **Gradettes**. Tait was also **Summer Supervisor** for the **three Edmonton Gyro Parks**. After beating all of the North American teams, Page looked abroad. In 1924, the Grads played in Paris at the invitation of Alice Milliat, founder of Federation Sportive Feminine Internationale and were declared world champions. In 1928 they won the French and European championships. In 1936 the Grads played 9 exhibition games in conjunction with the Berlin Olympics. The first women's Olympic Basketball team wasn't sanctioned until 1976.

During the Grads' 25-year career, there were only 38 players listed in the official game reports. Allowing for an original core of five players, the average turnover was fewer than 2 players a year. All but two came from McDougall Commercial School.

The Team Members were:

Marguerite Bailey, Betty Bawden, Babe Belanger, Elsie Bennie, Mae Brown, Sophie Brown, Evelyn Caulson, Babe Daniel, Etta Dann, Mary Dunn, Elizabeth Elrick, Gladys Fry, Winnie Gallen, Frances Gordon, Hattie Hopkins, Jessie Innis, Daisy Johnson, Dot Johnson, Joan Jonston, Margaret Kinney, Margaret MacBurney, Noel MacDonald, Kate Macrae, Kay MacRitchie, Winnie Martin, Mildred McCormack, Helen McIntosh, Eleanor Mountifield, Mabel Munton, Doris Neale, Helen Northup, Nellie Perry, Betty Ross, Abbie Scott, Connie Smith, Edith Stone, Helen Stone, Jean Williamson.

**John Percy Page** was born in Rochester, New York on May 14, 1887. Page's parents moved back to Ontario where he attended Oakville Junior High School, Hamilton Collegiate Institute, Ontario Normal School and Queen's University. He held a BA degree from Queen's and a Bachelor of Commercial Science degree from the American Institute of business.

Percy Page was known as a gentleman and a "gentle man". His students and players adored him and trusted him. Page knew the girls from the day they started MacDougall School and he watched their academic and physical education progress. He stuck to a few set basketball plays and fundamentals. He stressed team work and had an ability to inspire the ladies. He didn't lay down rules of behaviour but led by example. Page and his wife Maude kept in touch with players after they left the team and maintained life-long friendships.

**The Grads had a remarkable success over the 25 years and played 400 official games, losing only 20.**

In 1940, J. Percy Page was elected as one of the Members of the multi-member Edmonton electoral district of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. He was an Independent and was re-elected again in 1944, serving as Leader of the Opposition from 1944-1948. In 1948, he ran as the candidate for the Independent Citizens' Association of Alberta, but was defeated. He was elected as a Progressive Conservative Member in 1952 and was appointed House Leader of the Conservatives. Page was defeated in the 1959 provincial election.

J. Percy Page was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Alberta on December 19, 1959 and served until January 6, 1966. He died on March 2, 1973.



**Some of the Edmonton Grads**



**J. Percy Page**

Another connection with the Edmonton Gyro Club is that **Gord Robertson** was **Noel McDonald Robertson's** brother in law.

**Cliff Revell** thanked our speaker for a wonderful presentation and the Free Lunch Draw was won by **Val Pohl**.

Thanks also to **Walter** and **Stephen Yakimets** for their help with the audio visual presentation by Anne Hall.

On **Friday, June 10, Mr. Barry J. Walker was inducted into the Order of Athabasca University** in recognition of his leadership and his outstanding dedication to Athabasca University during his 10-year term as a public member of the Board of Governors (2004-14), including five years as Board chair (2009-14). During his tenure, he also chaired the Board's Audit Committee and Finance Committee and served as a member of the Executive Committee and the Human Resources Committee. A chartered accountant, Walker has worked with clients in the Athabasca area since the 1960s, and his firm, Peterson Walker LLB established a permanent office in the town in 1985. He watched AU grow and he and his wife Valerie took AU courses out of interest and for professional development. In addition to his participation on the Board and on Board committees, Walker dedicated countless hours to representing AU to the Government of Alberta and to Campus Alberta, to supporting the Open Our World Campaign and to chairing or contributing to executive search and reappointment committees. In 2012, he



and his wife Valerie established the Walker Family Awards in support of AU students in accounting and child and youth counselling.



Photo by David Burnett

**Peter Mackinnon, Interim President** **Barry Walker** **Margaret Mrazek, Interim Board Chair**

**Vice-President Ray Dallaire** welcomed 33 Gyros to the June 21<sup>st</sup> luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. Cheerio was led by **Ron Trant** and the Grace was presented by **Fred Schulte**.

**Treasurer Gary Campbell** introduced the team that looks after the financial business of the Edmonton Gyro Club. **Mike Matei** ensures that the deposit funds in our General, Benevolence and Convention Funds receive the best value from interest bearing GIC's. **Cliff French** plays an important role as back-up to the Treasurer and **Jack Ellis** is our club auditor.

Treasurer Gary then presented the **Financial Statements for the Year Ending March 31, 2016** which include the **Balance Sheet** and the **Statement of Operations and Member's Equity**.

On a motion by **Gary Campbell** and seconded by **John Ross**, the members unanimously approved the Financial Statements, March 31, 2016.



**Cliff French**

**Jack Ellis**

**Gary Campbell**

**Mike Matei**

**Fred Schulte** provided some background on the **Gyro Club of Edmonton Constitution and By-Laws**. The club has had rules and procedural matters enshrined in a Constitution and By-Laws since its formation in 1921. It even had an age limit of 35 in the beginning years which was increased to 40 and then removed for obvious practical reasons. The last review and amendment occurred in 2006-2007 when a major modernization of the document was undertaken. The proposed amendments of the March 20, 2007 Constitution have been reviewed and approved by the Executive. Notice of the proposed amendments was given in the April and May editions of the Gyrolog in accordance with Article XIII--Amendments.

**Article VI—Annual Meeting and Elections** was amended to provide additional flexibility to hold the Installation Meeting in either April or May.

**Article IX—Finance, Fees And Dues-** The financial year of the club was changed from the first of May (replacing April) until the last day of April (replacing March) in the next year.

**Article IX, Section 5** was changed so that the Board shall present a budget for the forthcoming year not less than 30 days prior to the start of Club's financial year.

The changes in Article IX allow the Executive to develop and recommend approval of the upcoming budget prior to the new Executive taking office in May.

**The proposed amendments were moved and seconded by David Winfield and John Ross and approved unanimously by the members present.**

---

**David Winfield** provided a snapshot of his life in Britain, Europe and Canada. David was born in Liverpool, England in 1941. He received his education at the Liverpool Blue Coat School founded in 1708 by master mariner Bryan Blundell and the Reverend Robert Smyth. Smyth administered the school where poor children could be accommodated and cared for and Blundell provided financial backing.

In 1957, David entered the hospitality industry by taking a Hotel Management Training Course with British Transport Hotels at the Britannia **Adelphi Hotel** in Liverpool and was immersed in every aspect of cooking and food preparation. The original Adelphi hotel dates back to 1826 and the British novelist, Charles Dickens (1812-1870) stayed at the hotel. Due to Liverpool being a major arrival and departure point for ocean liners during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Adelphi served as the most popular hotel in the city for wealthy passengers before they embarked on their journey to North America.

Besides learning all of the technical sides of food and hospitality, Winfield was exposed to the rich and famous at the Adelphi and the Bristol Hotel in Paris. He worked at the Palace Hotel in Spain in 1963 where he interacted with the Royal Family and movie stars. In 1964, David returned to England and worked as an assistant GM at the Welcombe Hotel at Stratford Upon Avon and at other hotels in York, Hull, Ayr and London.

In 1970, David emigrated to Canada and became General Manager at the Sheraton Caravan in Edmonton. From 1972-74 he worked at the Island Hall Hotel in Parksville, Vancouver, Island and then spent 1974-75 at the Crest Hotel in Sydney, Australia. Returning to British Columbia in 1975 Winfield worked as GM

in hotels located in Kitimat, Gold River, Courtney and Salmon Arm until he moved back to Edmonton in sales at the Mayfield Inn. By 1988, David was responsible for the completion of the 96-room Best Western Kananaskis Inn. He continued as general manager for the next 10 years. David continues his management and sales activities in Alberta and is presently a Property Manager with CASAWISE Management in Edmonton.

**Len Evenson** was born in Moose Jaw in 1939 and then later lived in Outlook, Saskatchewan where his father was a school teacher. Len attended school in Edmonton at McCauley. He later took his premed courses at the University of Saskatchewan and then entered Medical School there in 1964. Len took the opportunity to enroll in the Medical Officer Training Program and made a three-year commitment in the military. His first posting was in the Gaza Strip with the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force. He met his future wife Jackie during his Gaza posting. Len finished his military career in Germany with the distinction of never serving in Canada.

Len then completed his residency in gynecology at Edmonton's Charles Camshell Hospital. He then worked at the Royal Alexandra as an obstetrician and then the Grey Nuns until his retirement.

Among many initiatives, Dr. Evenson was a member of the Alberta Medical Association Committee on Reproductive Care (RCC) along with **Dr. John Boyd** of our club. The RCC in its many years of service from 1936 to 2004 collected a storehouse of information about pregnancies and maternal and infant health, and compiled it arduously. As a result, Alberta to this day has one of the most complete and accurate databases on pregnancy and maternal health in the world, and impressively low rates of maternal and infant death and illness.

The Free Lunch draw was won by **Jack Little**.

Three memorable quotes by **Charles Dickens**:

*Have a heart that never hardens, and a temper that never tires, and a touch that never hurts.*

*Reflect upon your present blessings -- of which every man has many -- not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.*

*No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.*

**“Fast Fred”**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, July 5th**

**Speaker: Mitchell Pomphrey, Project Manager**

**Topic: Leduc #1 Energy Discovery Centre “Living Energy Project”**

**Contacts: Sheldon Weatherby and Val Pohl**

**GYRO International Convention, Red Lake (Mackenzie Island), Ontario**

**July 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual GYRO/GYRETTE Golf Tourney, Legends Golf Course, Tuesday,**

**August 16<sup>th</sup>**

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

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

**Cost: TBA**

**As usual prizes are needed!**

**Contacts: Barry and Valerie Walker, Roger Russell**

**Annual GYRO/GYRETTE Corn Roast, Tuesday Afternoon/Evening,**

**September 6<sup>th</sup>, Dayspring Presbyterian Church, 11445-40<sup>th</sup> Ave.**

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

**Corn on the Cob, Chicken, Salad and Dessert**

**Cost: TBA**

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