



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

**President-David Winfield, Past President-Bruce Swanson,
1st Vice-President- Chuck Gerhart, 2nd Vice-President-Dunc Mills
Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Gary Campbell,
Directors- Bob Bahniuk, Ron Trant, Fred Schulte, Tony Mazzuca
Database Administrator-John Ross, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte
Club Website: www.edmontongyroclub.com**

AUGUST 2019

Those celebrating their birthdays are **Bruce Foy** on the 1st, **Val Pohl** and **Walter Yakimets** on the 4th, **Eric Spink** on the 6th, **Bob Bahniuk** on the 13th, **Taras Chmil** on the 16th and **Peter Gommerud** on the 29th.

Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **Len** and **Jackie Evenson**, 52 years on the 5th; **Eric Spink** and **Christina Gauk**, 18 years on the 18th; **Allan** and **Jean Warrack**, 57 years on the 18th; **Fred** and **Helen Otto**, 59 years on the 19th; **Leon** and **Jo-Anne Lubin**, 54 years on the 23rd; **Dan** and **Sandy Hasinoff**, 51 years on the 24th and **Peter Carter** and **Eileen Kuhl**, 15 years on the 29th.

FIRST POSTING

Danny (Dan) McGuigan has applied for membership in our club. **Dan** and his wife **Christine**, live at **805 Massey Landing NW, Edmonton, AB, T6R 3S8**. Their telephone number is **789-430-4115** and email address [mccuigandan@gmail.com](mailto:m McGuigandan@gmail.com) **Dan** is retired and **Ray Dallaire** and **Ron Trant** propose him.

Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them, but you know they are always there.

President David Winfield welcomed 29 Gyros and our guest speaker to the **August 6th** luncheon meeting held at the Faculty Club.

Allan Warrack introduced our guest speaker **Dr. James A. Robertson, Ph.D., P.Ag. Professor Emeritus, University of Alberta.** Dr. Robertson studied Agriculture at the University of Manitoba from 1949-1953 and completed his M.Sc. degree under Professor **J.H. Ellis in 1955.** He then accepted a position of Assistant Professor of Soil Science at the University of Alberta. In 1960, Robertson was granted leave to study toward a Ph. D at Purdue University in Indiana. His Ph.D. was completed in 1963 and he returned to the University of Alberta. In 1964 Professor Robertson was promoted to Associate Professor and to full Professor in 1971. He served as Chair of the Department of Soil Science from 1989 to his retirement in 1994. Professor Robertson has remained actively involved in Soil Science, largely related to long-term research plots dedicated to soil management.

Dr. Robertson presented a detailed description of the Breton Plots. *Your editor was not able to attend this luncheon meeting and instead has relied on published information on University of Alberta websites.*

The Breton Plots- celebrating 90 years of meaningful contributions in agriculture.

It was 1929 and University of Alberta soil science professor, **Dr. F.A. Wyatt,** was looking to set up research plots in an area with unique soils where settlers were struggling to grow crops. One landowner, **Mr. Ben Flesher,** was swayed to offer up a portion of his land near the Town of Breton, Alberta. It was rumoured that Flesher told Wyatt he could have “the whole dammed thing, because it was no good anyway”.

This event marked the beginning of what is now known as the Breton Plots, a long-term research site that celebrates its 90th anniversary this

year. In scientific research, the anniversary is heroic. It positions the humble Breton Plots as one of the top 10 longest running agricultural soil experiments in North America. As colleagues reflect on the past 90 years, they see a legacy of commitment across institutions, positive impacts on local farm families, and a fair share of healthy conflict among scientific peers.

The location of the Breton Plots is not typical for an agricultural research site. The plots are located on what are called **Gray Wooded soils (Gray Luvisols)**, which are located at the transition from the aspen parkland to the boreal forest. The soils are not ideal for agriculture because they possess different physical and nutrient characteristics compared to the rich productive soils in central and southern Alberta. Despite these drawbacks, Gray Wooded soils were critical for advancing agriculture and settlement, and scientists were determined to figure out how they could help local farmers grow productive crops on newly cleared land.

One of the most significant outcomes came within the first decade of research at the plots. Wyatt had been studying the effect of fertilization with ammonium sulphate on crops and concluded that nitrogen was key to successful crop growth on the wooded soils. His colleague, **Dr. J.D. Newton** was certain that the positive effects were as a result of the sulphur within the ammonium sulphate, not the nitrogen. The debate among peers surfaced publicly, with each publishing a paper in the same journal issue demonstrating their respective interpretations. Over time, sulphur became widely recognized as a key nutrient for farming these tricky wooded soils.

In subsequent years, research at the Breton Plots explored the effects of cropping systems, zero tillage, and fertilization regimes on crop production and soil quality. A local farmer noted this research as contributing directly to the viability of crop production from Breton to Cochrane. The Fleshers themselves have stated their family would have never been able to establish their farm in the Breton area without the insights from the Breton Plots.

While sustaining the plots for the past 90 years hasn't been easy, the research site has recently benefited from two important events. The **Flesher family donated an additional 60 acres to the research station in 2015**, 30 acres of which have already been used to establish research trials on carbon sequestration, perennial rye, and hemp. The Breton Plots Endowment Fund has also grown over time with contributions from individuals, municipalities, and the provincial government, providing much needed funding to sustain operations.

"The future, therefore, seems bright", said Dr. James Robertson, Professor Emeritus who oversaw many research projects at the Breton Plots over the course of 25 years. The key to the success for future generations of students working on the Breton Plots, stated Robertson: "One has to have one's eyes open to see things we might not expect". *The preceding article was taken from the Spring 2019 RENEW, University of Alberta, Department of Renewable Resources.*



Dr. F. A. Wyatt



Dr. J. D. Newton

Dr. Frank Wyatt came to Alberta from Illinois in 1919. He established the first Department of Soils in Canada at the University of Alberta. He was very familiar with the long-term Morrow Plots at the University of Illinois.

Dr. John Newton studied at the University of California. He was appointed to the Department of Soils, University of Alberta in 1922. He, with Dr. Wyatt, started research at the Breton Plots.

Mr. Ben Flesher provided the land for the first plots in 1929. Ben did many of the plot operations including tillage, seeding and harvesting. The 20-acre parcel of land on which the Breton Plots are located was purchased by the University of Alberta in 1946. Mr. Flesher was one of the founders of the Breton Plots and made a significant contribution to the research and outreach activities over a span of 40 years. (*University of Alberta, Department of Renewable Resources website*).



An aerial photograph of the Breton Plots taken in 1992. The Classical Plots consist of 6 blocks and 11 treatments. The rotations are (1) a 2-year Wheat-Fallow (WF) rotation; and (2) a 5-year Wheat-Oat-Barley-Hay-Hay (WOBHH) rotation. These plots are located on north half of this research site. Several sets of medium-term experimental plots are in the southern half. Current experiments include management of straw/tillage and phosphorus fertilizer. The research site is well documented and has a meteorological station.

Bruce Foy thanked our speaker for presenting a very interesting and historically important part of Alberta's agricultural history.

The **Free lunch winner** was **David Winfield**.

President David Winfield welcomed 56 Gyros, Gyrette's and our guests Dr. Jack Jhamandas and Stacey Amyotte to the **August 20th** luncheon meeting held at the Faculty Club.

Marty Larson introduced our guest speaker **Dr. Jack H. Jhamandas, MD, PhD, FRCP, FCAHS**.

Jack Jhamandas is currently Distinguished University Professor in the Division of Neurology, Department of Medicine at the University of Alberta. He received his BSc. in Applied Physics and MSc. in Biophysics from the University of Alberta and his MD from the University of Calgary. He completed his clinical training in Neurology at the Montreal Neurological Institute and received his PhD in Neuroscience from McGill University.

Dr. Jhamandas is an established clinical scientist, with research interests in the study of Alzheimer's disease and development of new treatments for this condition. His research has been funded by national and provincial funding agencies. In recognition of his scholastic endeavors, Dr. Jhamandas has received the Gold Medal in Medicine from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada; a Killam Professorship; the Department of Medicine Research Achievement Award; held a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Alzheimer's Research and has been elected as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences and the American Neurological Association.

Your Editor was unable to attend this luncheon meeting and as a result the following information is taken from a new release in the Edmonton Journal by Dr. Jhamandas dated February 16th, 2017.

A team of University of Alberta medical researchers examining **Alzheimer's Disease** has completed a new study that could lead to the development of a powerful pharmaceutical weapon against the degenerative illness.

Testing on genetically engineered mice found that a **particular compound** known as **AC253** has a significant beneficial impact against a rogue protein associated with Alzheimer's. "Not only did we find that the amyloid burden in the brain was reduced... but also, importantly, the mice didn't demonstrate any side effects like weight gain or loss," team leader Dr. Jack Jhamandas. "So, this is very interesting and exciting."

Alzheimer's, which currently afflicts more than 500,000 Canadians, has presented a frustrating puzzle for scientists trying to figure how it develops and how it can be stopped.

To date, a large swath of research has looked at the behavior of abnormally deposited proteins, such as the amyloid protein, which are found in large volumes in the brains of patients with disease.

Jhamandas said his team's research is based around the fact that amyloids produce their toxic effect by interacting with specific types of receptors, including one known as the **amylin receptor**.

This is where AC253 comes in. The compound, which was actually developed for diabetes, blocks the amylin receptor. Previous research from Jhamandas' team showed the drug can protect individual nerve cells that have been exposed to amyloid proteins.

For the new study, his team took the research from the petri dish to animal testing, specifically mice that were genetically engineered to develop Alzheimer's. "When these mice are born, they are normal, but by six months their brains are riddled by amyloid plaques and they cannot find their way out of the proverbial paper bag," Jhamandas said.

In the first part of the study, mice were injected with AC253 directly into the brain. After five months of treatment, the mice performed significantly better in tests of memory and learning than a group of mice that didn't receive the drug, Jhamandas said. Team member Dr. Raina Soudy modified the AC253 compound from a long string of amino acids into a new, round shape, which provided better stability in the blood and had an easier time entering the brain.

For the second part of the study, mice were injected in their bellies with this modified, round form of the compound. The results were similar, with the team noticing fewer amyloid plaques and reduced markers of brain inflammation.

The group is now chopping up AC253 into small pieces. Such fragments are more stable and are an easier tool for making a drug in pill form.

“To make a pill, that’s the endgame”, Jhamandas said> What we hope is to advance the research far enough that it becomes an attractive drug target for Big Pharma to invest in and develop the drug for Alzheimer’s.”

Ken Willan thanked our speaker for a very important and timely presentation.

Ray Dallaire was the **Free Lunch** winner.

“Fast Fred”

UPCOMING EVENTS

CORN ROAST and BOCCE, Mixed Event, Kinsmen Club House, Sept 3rd

Catered by Darlene, owner of **Buttercup Bistro**

Time: Bocce Tournament 4:00 pm, Dinner 6:00

Price: \$35 per person which includes one free drink.

Location: West of Kinsmen Field House at the Kinsmen “River Valley Club House” near the High Level Bridge.

Menu: Baby Back Ribs, Chicken Breasts; Baked Potatoes & all the Toppings; Home-made Baked Beans; Corn on the Cob; Creamy Coleslaw, Greek Salad; Buns & Garlic Bread; Coffee; Bumble Berry Crisp with Whipped Cream.

Team Leaders: Peter Carter, Val Pohl, Bruce Foy



Corn Roast/Bocce location

Gyrette Luncheon Meeting, Faculty Club, Tuesday, September 10th.

Time: Registration 11:30 am, luncheon 12:00 noon.

Speaker: Marilyn Hundleby, PhD, Clinical Psychologist and former Director of Arts in Medicine, Cross Cancer Institute.

Topic: [Wellspring](#), a remarkable source of support for anyone living with cancer and their families.

Contact: Lorraine Assheton-Smith.

Joint Men's Bocce Tourney-Sherwood Park/ Edmonton Gyro Club Lead, [ITAL-CANADIAN SENIORS ASSOCIATION](#), 9111-110 Ave. adjacent to Commonwealth Stadium, Wednesday, October 2nd.

Details: TBA

Team Leaders: Mike Matei and Augie Annicchiario

Joint [Mixed Founders Night-Edmonton and Sherwood Park Gyro Clubs](#), [Belvedere Golf and Country Club](#), Wednesday, October 16th.

Details: TBA

Team Leaders: Fred Schulte and Dunc Mills

[CURLARAMA](#), [Canmore](#), November 1-3.

GYRO DISTRICT VIII – 2019 CURLARAMA

The Best Deal and Most Fun You Can Have in a Weekend
(A Great Event For Inviting Non-Gyros)

HOST: GYRO CLUB OF CALGARY

DATES: NOVEMBER 1 TO 3, 2019 (hospitality starting at 5:30 PM
on Nov 1; curling prizes & wrap-up at noon on Nov 3)

PLACE: CANMORE, ALBERTA

HOTEL: CANMORE INN & SUITES, 1402 BOW VALLEY TRAIL

CURLING: CANMORE CURLING CLUB, 2000 8th AVE.

PRICE: **\$275.00** Cdn. per Curler, **\$215.00** Cdn. per Non-Curler
Prices based on 2 per room - **\$110.00** Single Room Supplement

Price Includes:

- CURLING (minimum of 3 games – 6 ends per game)
- 2 NIGHTS HOTEL
- 2 BREAKFASTS
- GYRO HOSPITALITY FRIDAY EVENING
- Including food and host bar
- SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET
- SATURDAY EVENING POKER TOURNAMENT

PRIZES: Prizes will be awarded to the winning & runner up
teams in each of four curling divisions.

TROPHIES: Last years winners please bring the engraved trophies

DEADLINE: ENTRIES TO BE RECEIVED BY FRI, OCT 11, 2019.
Mail to John Hodgson, 339 Avonburn Rd. SE, Calgary, AB T2H 1N9
or email to jehodgson@shaw.ca

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