



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.15, July 29, 1921

**President-*John Boyd*, Past President-*Ari (Dutch) Hoeksema*,
Vice-President-*Sam Gruden*, Secretary-*Barry Walker*, Treasurer-*Gary Campbell*,
Directors-*Cliff French, Jack Little, Jim Lochhead, John Mann*
Database Administrator-*John Ross*, Gyrolog Editor-*Fred Schulte***

SEPTEMBER 2012

Those celebrating their birthdays in September are **Gerry Glassford** on the 5th, **Michael Mant** on the 18th and **Hugh Moncrieff** on the 29th. Those celebrating wedding anniversaries in September are **Bill Taylor** and **Marie Losier**, 9 years on the 1st; **David** and **Marlene Burnett**, 46 years on the 3rd; **Warren** and **Vicki Garbutt**, 53 years on the 5th; **Mort** and **Jean Morter**, 61 years on the 5th; **Allan** and **Elaine Douglas**, 44 years on the 7th; **John** and **Marion Boyd**, 44 years on the 21st; **Bruce** and **Margaret Foy**, 52 years on the 24th and **John** and **Yvette Stroppa**, 59 years on the 26th.

SECOND POSTING

Lawrence (Laurie) Dennis has applied for membership in our club. **Laurie** and his wife **Lee** reside at **#225, 400 Palisades Way** in **Sherwood Park**. Their postal code is **T8H 0H4**. Their telephone number is **780-417-1139** and their email address is **leedennis@shaw.ca** **Laurie** was a member of the Edmonton Rotary Club for 41 years, is retired and still golf's. He is proposed by **Roger Russell** and **Barry Walker**.

SECOND POSTING

Tracy DesLaurier has applied for membership in our club. **Tracy** and his partner **Laura Stebner** live at 10207 31 Street NW. Their postal code is **T5W 1W3**. Their telephone number is **780-441-5158** and their email address is tracy@dfsinc.ca Tracy is an insurance broker and President of DesLaurier Financial Services. Tracy is also Vice-President of the Board of Directors of the Edmonton Heritage Festival Association. He is proposed by **Jack Little** and **John Ross**.

Gordon Robertson was sponsored by **John Pedden** and joined our club in 1989 and served as **President** in 1999-2000.

Gord was born in Edmonton on October 2nd, 1925 to Edwin and Pauline Robertson and was the second of three sons in the family. The Robertson clan was originally from Glengarry, Ontario. Gordon's mother, Pauline was born in the Verdun area of Alberta just south of the Battle River and west of present day Highway 21. Gord's grandfather on his mother's side homesteaded in this area in the 1890's after emigrating from the U.S.A.

Edwin Robertson worked for the John Deere Tractor Company where he repaired magneto's. Gord's family lived in the downtown area near the McKay Avenue School which was the first seat of the Provincial Legislature from 1905 to 1912. Gord attended McKay Avenue from grades 1-4 and then completed grades 5-9 at Oliver School. He attended West Glen High School. One of his summer jobs in grade eleven was shoveling coal into 100 lb. sacks. Immediately after high school Gord worked in Dawson Creek B.C. helping with the survey of a new sewer system and then worked at Fort Nelson with an airport extension project. His next job was an apprentice linotype operator at the Institute of Applied Art which published books and pamphlets. Gord then moved to a job at the Edmonton Bulletin which was nearing the end of its life as Edmonton's first newspaper. In 1947, Gord spent three summer months in Jasper helping prepare the "Jasper Park Totem" newspaper. His artistic skills started to show promise and in later years, Gord completed some admirable artwork.

Gord found employment at the Weber Motors/Weber Real Estate organization. In 1949, Gord started working for Imperial Oil in Redwater undertaking accounting, budgeting and transportation logistics.

Gord's career in Redwater and Edmonton with Imperial Oil spanned 33 and a half years.. He travelled extensively across Canada and was involved in inventory, audit and transportation trouble-shooting. His work included a stint in the Beaufort Sea area which he found to be a beautiful and fascinating area.

Gord met **Eleanor Robertson (nee Robertson)** at a "Y" camp on Wabamun Lake in the Halfmoon Bay area. They were married soon after at **Robertson United Church** by Rev. McQueen. Eleanor worked at the Johnstone-Walker department store on 102 Street for a number of years. They raised three daughters, Joanne, Bonnie and Barbara. Each of their daughters have a boy and a girl and a great-grandson has just arrived.

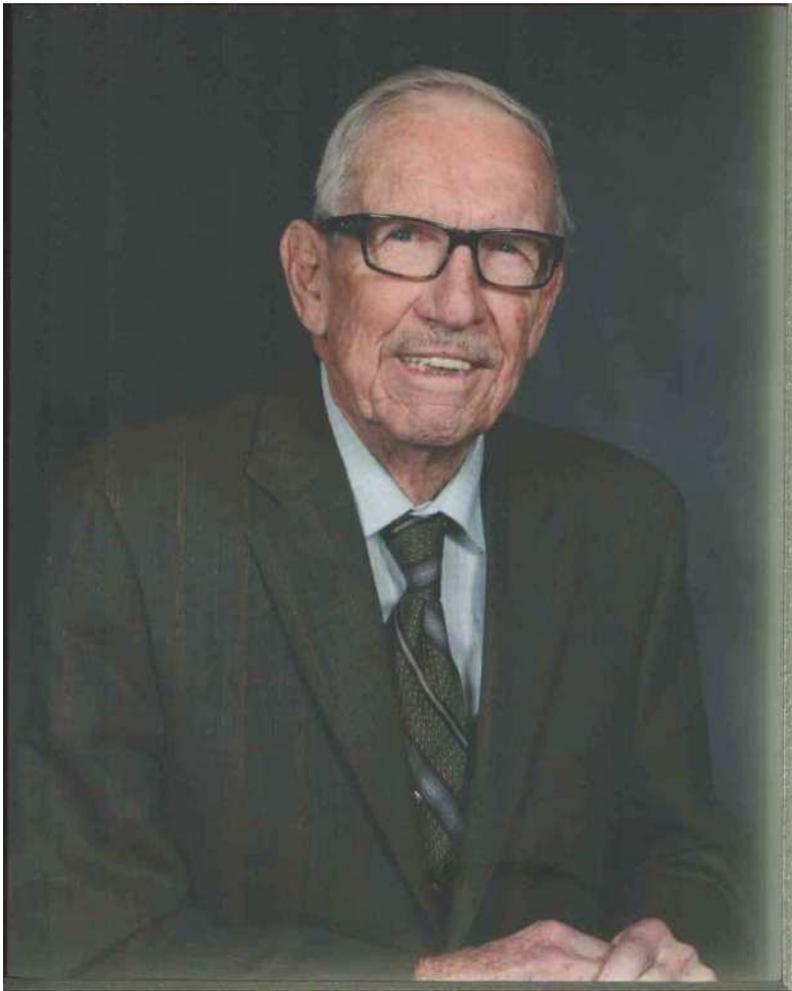
Gord began his curling career in Redwater and continued playing at the Royal Glenora where he met Matt Baldwin in 1956. Gord started playing golf at the Victoria Municipal course ("The Muni") and still golf's twice a week at Fox Run and Whitemud Creek with the ESSO Retiree's and the Shriners (nine holes Monday and 18 holes Tuesday). Gord says his golf score is improving as he gets older!

Gord joined the Shriners in 1980 and was a charter member of the new temple, the Al Shamal Shrine which was formed in July 1985. He served as treasurer for three years and later joined the Shriners Band where he has played the drums and now the tambourine. He is still playing in the band and is the second oldest member.

Gord says that GYRO is the best organization he has ever joined and he looks forward to attending luncheon meetings once the golf season is finished. Gord will be **87 years young** on October 2nd; give him a congratulatory call!

President John Boyd welcomed 25 gyros and four guests to the September 4th luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **Val Pohl** led the group in the singing of Cheerio and **Ari (Dutch) Hoeksema** presented the Grace.

Jack Little introduced **Allan Bolstad**, Executive Director, **Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL)**, **Val Pachal**, Assistant Director, Communications and **Kris Morra**, Marketing Director. Also in attendance was **Laurie Dennis**, new member applicant.



Gordon Robertson

Jack Little indicated that the **EFCL** has a proud history dating back to 1921. There are now 155 Community League members and they are planning for their 100th anniversary in nine years.

Allan Bolstad who was a City of Edmonton Alderman from 1992-2001, reported that the EFCL is interested in celebrating their 100th Anniversary by developing recreation facilities that can be used by all Edmontonians. The City of Edmonton Parks Department has suggested that the EFCL consider enhancing/upgrading a portion of Hawrelak Park. Each league member of the EFCL has committed \$2000 over the next four years to kick start planning and development at Hawrelak Park. **Phase One** will consist of a Community Plaza that will have interpretative signage to recognize contributions by sponsors and information about community league membership dates (target completion 2016). **Phase Two** will involve the restoration

of a natural stream bed to Hawrelak Lake that is currently dry. **Phase Three** may involve the creation of a water feature that would be used by families.

President John thanked our speaker for a very interesting presentation. The winner of the Free Lunch draw was **Cliff Revell**.

Mike Matei, on behalf of **Treasurer, Gary Campbell** presented the **Financial Statements** for the period ending March 31, 2012. On a motion by **Fred Schulte**, the statements were unanimously approved. The proposed **General Fund Budget** for the year ending March 31, 2013 was presented and there was some discussion regarding travel subsidies and financial support to future District VIII Conventions. It was recognized that each club will need to consider both financial and work-in-kind support to the District VIII Executive for the planning of the annual conventions in Fairmont, B.C. **Val Pohl** moved that the 2013 Budget be approved as presented; the motion carried unanimously.

As we travel through life, there are issues and problems that we face time after time. These "life experiences" shape our lives and those that we interact with. From time to time we need to review the lessons that were taught to us as early as our kindergarten years.

GOLDEN RULES FOR EASIER LIVING

If you open it -- close it.
If you turn it on -- turn it off.
If you unlock it -- lock it up.
If you break it, admit it.
If you can't fix it, call in someone who can.
If you borrow it -- return it.
If you value it -- take care of it.
If you make a mess -- clean it up.
If you move it -- put it back.
If it belongs to someone else
and you want to use it, get permission.
If you don't know how to operate it --
leave it alone.
If it's none of your business, don't ask questions.
If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
If it will brighten someone's day -- say it!

Author Unknown

President John Boyd welcomed 31 Gyros, two new member applicants and two guests to the **September 18th** luncheon meeting held at Royal Mayfair Golf Club.

Val Pohl led the group in the singing of *Cheerio* and **David Burnett** presented the Grace.

Our two new member applicants were **Laurie Dennis** and **Tracy Deslaurier**. President John acknowledged our guest speaker **Vic Bennett** and **John Ross** introduced his guest **John Young**.

President John welcomed our guest speaker **Vic Bennett** who was born in Vancouver but moved to Edmonton at the age of four years. Vic attended the University of Alberta and took three years of Commerce but then the love of horses took over.

Mr. Bennett explained that there was an expectation that he would follow his father in the family business known as Bennett and White Construction. However it was not meant to be; in 1966 he had an opportunity to buy into Cloverbar Saddlery which was going out of business at its Beverly location. He did not receive his Commerce degree but instead dove into the business of horses and saddles. At this time there were only two saddle makers in the Edmonton area; the other maker being R.J. Welsh. For the next eleven years, he learned the business and was producing 1500 saddles per year when he sold out in 1977.

The sale of his saddlery stipulated a five year no-compete agreement; when the five year limit expired, Vic Bennett Saddles was established in 1982. Mr. Bennett concentrated on producing custom made performance saddles. He showed photographs of **various saddle types** which he can make that show a certain style and are designed to meet certain task requirements.

The **All Around** type is designed for ranching; the **Cowboy** type shows the old time look; the **Cutting Horse** type is used for cow/horse tasks and events and is designed with a high front and an open seat which allows the rider more control; the **Reining** type is designed for high speed work and fast spins and the **Roping** type is designed with a shorter seat and extra rawhide in the front to protect the leather.

Mr. Bennett demonstrated how a saddle is made by showing a saddle tree which is a wood frame covered with rawhide. The saddle trees are manufactured by a third party. The next step is the building of a ground seat made of leather which is designed to meet the clients requirements. The goal is make a saddle which works for the horse and the rider. A perfect fit is not possible because the horses shape changes throughout the year and over the life of the horse.

A custom saddle can take up to a week to make but if a number of identical saddles are requested the process can be streamlined using a machine leather cutter. The Calgary Exhibition and Stampede requested 25 saddles this year for the winners in the cow/calf event. The cost of custom saddles can vary between \$5000 and \$10,000 depending on the amount of leather tooling and silver used.

The art of saddle making has been in the past a closely guarded business with little sharing of ideas and techniques. Vic has learned the trade secrets and techniques from his friends in the business in other parts of Canada and the USA. Much more information is now available in print and saddle making courses are offered at some technical schools. Steer hide leather for saddles undergoes a barked tanning process in vats that produces a thicker leather product. There are only two factories left in North America that make saddle leather; one in Pennsylvania and the other in St. Louis, Missouri.

Bill Taylor thanked our speaker for providing a very intriguing insight into the saddle making business.

Jack Brown was the winner of the free lunch draw.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2012 Annual Men's Bocce Night with the St Albert Gyro Club, Tuesday, October 2nd.

Location: Italian Cultural Centre, 14230-133 Ave. Edmonton

Bocce: 5:00 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm

Dinner: Roast Beef, Caesar Salad, Italian Style Potatoes, California Style Potatoes, Rolls & Butter, Hot Apple Pie, Coffee and Tea.

Cost: \$38 per person (no wine), \$48 with wine

Contact: Mike Matei

GYRETTE Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, Tuesday, October 9th

Time: 6:00 pm Cocktails, Dinner 6:30

Speaker: **Rolanda Lee**, Singer, Entertainer

Cost: \$26

Contact: Marlene Burnett

Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, October 16th

Royal Mayfair Golf Club

Contacts: John Boyd and Michael Mant

Founders Night, Men's Only Event with the Sherwood Park Gyro Club, Derrick Golf and Winter Club, 119 Street and 34 Ave., Friday Evening, October 26th.

Cost: \$33

Contacts: Leon Lubin and Allan Warrack

Gyro/Gyrette Christmas Party, Riverview Room, Shaw Conference Centre, Tuesday Evening, December 4th.

Champagne and socializing: 6:00 pm

Carved Roast Turkey Dinner; 6:30 pm

Contacts: Fred Schulte and Sam Gruden