



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

**President-Chuck Gerhart, Past President-Bruce Swanson,
1st Vice-President-Dunc Mills**

**Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Gary Campbell,
Directors- Ron Trant, Doug Armstrong, Ray Dallaire,
Dan Hasinoff, Fred Schulte (Ex-Officio)**

**Database Administrator-John Ross, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte
Club Website: www.edmontongyroclub.com**

MARCH 2021

Those celebrating their birthdays are **Alan Rusler** on the 3rd, **Sheldon Weatherby** on the 11th, **Barry Walker 75 years** on the 29th and **Ari (Dutch) Hoeksema** on the 30th. **Mike and Sharon Matei** celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary on the 18th.

President Chuck Gerhart welcomed 30 Gyros to the **March 2nd** Zoom video teleconference.

Fred Schulte introduced **Jack Brown** who was sponsored by **John Plunkett** and joined our club in 2004. He quickly became active and followed me as **President in May 2007**. Jack will be presenting his autobiography today-welcome Jack!

I was born on a cold winter day in January 1936 in central Saskatchewan and spent my first two years on a farm near Langham, Saskatchewan. My maternal grandmother had emigrated from southern Russia and arrived in Quebec City in 1923. She arrived with six children, one of which was my father who was 10 years old at the time and they had no money. Her husband had died from tuberculosis shortly before their departure. My parents were unable to earn a living from farming during the drought years of the depression, the family, which now included my one-year-old sister, left in 1938 for the lumber town of Winfield Alberta. Work was available and the family gradually emerged from relative poverty.

Jack then told this story: *A salesman was driving down a country road and he passed a chicken with an extra leg. The chicken took off and passed the salesman's car. The salesman followed the three-legged chicken and turned left into a farmer's yard. He talked to the farmer who explained that he and his wife loved to eat drumstick's and he decided to breed a chicken with an extra leg to share with their newborn child. The salesman asked how does the extra leg taste? The farmer replied, I don't know we haven't been able to catch the chicken!*

My first recollection of school was running through a swamp one mile from home to a one room school and sitting behind a classmate who used my inkwell for his excess tobacco juice. My grade one was marred by a broken arm sustained when I fell off our chicken coop. There was no doctor and no road, so my mother put my arm over her knees to straighten it out. I missed the rest of Grade One! Grade three was very rewarding, as I read my first book, Pitcairn's Island. That I could read a book came as a marvelous surprise that remains to this day. My formal education was augmented by several summers spent on the farm back in Langham, Saskatchewan. I loved farming and always wanted to be a farmer.

It was about this time in my life that my father decided to form a band. My sister was 10, I was 11, my friend from across the road was 12 and two brothers were ages 7 and 12.

Grade 12 was a challenge as he had to take some correspondence in order to get a diploma. I really wanted to go to University, but I didn't know what to take so asked my teacher, Fred Meleshko, who suggested Medicine.

My first year of pre-medicine was the most difficult of my life. I was financially deprived and had trouble adapting to university life. Fortunately, this improved greatly, and I graduated with an MD in 1960.

Those early professional years went by so fast. Two years of internship were spent at the Royal Alexandra hospital in Edmonton followed by two years of general practice in Barrhead, Alberta. I was lured for greener pastures and was so fortunate to be accepted into the Dermatology Program of the Mayo Clinic. This turned out to be the highlight of my professional life for which I remain eternally grateful.

I enjoyed 32 years of private practice in Dermatology and an association with the University of Alberta Hospital. There were too many activities to list although I must mention my addiction to Little League Baseball.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the two most important people in my life. They include my wife Joyce; we were married in 2000 and my first wife Betty who passed away in 1999 from multiple myeloma. I also pay tribute to my four children one of whom lost his life in a mining accident.

Jack indicated that he acquired a keyboard from Amazon and developed a new pandemic hobby where he records tunes and plays them back accompanied by his clarinet. Jack then played his clarinet and gave us wonderful renditions of *'Til we Meet Again'* by Vera Lynn and *'Crazy'* by Willie Nelson.

Chuck Gerhart thanked Jack for an interesting life story in which he couldn't afford to be a farmer but had a wonderful medical career. His musical talents were also very entertaining!



Joyce and Jack Brown

Leon Lubin introduced our second guest speaker **George Schuller** who has been a friend for 40 years. They have enjoyed skiing, hiking, dinner parties and drinking wines together. George was virtually inducted into our club on October 20, 2020.

George was born in Northern Transylvania, formerly Hungary and now Rumania. He grew up in Southern Germany where he attended school, became a journeyman electrician, studied electrical power engineering, and graduated with a Dipl.Ing. Engineering degree in 1967.

After graduating, George worked for two years as an assistant to professors at the engineering college in the instrumentation, high voltage, and computer laboratories. George then worked for an electronics company in Switzerland where he and his wife and two sons lived at Lake Constance. This was followed by 4 years at the head office of **Siemens** in Erlangen near Nuremberg. Here he worked as project engineer in the marketing and engineering department for heavy material handling equipment, concentrating as of 1973 on the Canadian market. Siemens was a large company with 250,000 employees in 1970. Germany had deep, thick ore bodies which required new excavation techniques. Siemens developed a new generation of bucket-wheel excavators. The largest of the new generation was a 14,000-metric tonne, 95-metre-high excavator that could process 250,000 cubic metres a day. In 1975 George was transferred by Siemens to Canada for 4 years to head up the projects he helped secure with suppliers of the mining section of the new **Syncrude** Tarsands Plant. *Syncrude began mining oil sands from Mildred Lake in 1978. A typical oil sands bucket wheel stood 30 metres tall.*



Syncrude Bucket Wheel

The Alberta economy was very dynamic at that time and a new Oilsands plant, namely the Alsands project, was already in the planning stage with potential opportunities. This, but also their attachment to Edmonton, led to the decision for George and his family to remain in Canada and to set up his own electrical engineering office.

However, the unexpected cancellation of the Alsands project in 1982 required George to concentrate on the existing Oil Sands Plants exclusively, namely **Syncrude** and **Suncor**. It became apparent that new plants in the Oilsands were unlikely in the near future and reorientation to other industries became necessary. *Great Canadian Oil Sands (Suncor) started operation in 1967 and was the first oils sands plant to use 1700 tonne bucketwheel excavators.*

In 1998 George retired and concentrated on spending time with his wife who had been diagnosed with terminal cancer.

In 2000 George applied his engineering expertise once again to the renewed activity in the oilsands with **Syncrude's Aurora Mine**. *Between 1998 and 2001, a new mine, Aurora, was opened 35 km north of the original site, and further debottlenecking was undertaken. Production started in Aurora in July 2001. Syncrude's production increased to 90 million barrels (14,000,000 m³) per year by the end of 2001. Total cost for this stage was \$1 billion. Over time Syncrude phased out the dragline, bucketwheel reclaimer, and conveyor ore mining and delivery system in favour of shovel, truck, and hydrotransport technology.*

In 2002, George provided engineering expertise to copper mining projects in Chile. One of these was the **Spence Copper Mine**. *The Spence Mine is in the Atacama Desert in Northern Chile. Feasibility studies were completed in 2002 with mine approval granted in 2004. GPS controlled bucket wheel excavation was used on 300-metre-wide leached copper ore deposits.*

George returned to Alberta in 2006 to work on the **Suncor Fort Hills Surge Facility**. *The Fort Hills Project located 90 km north of Ft. McMurray is an open pit truck a shovel mine capable of sustaining a production of 14,500 tonnes of oil sands per hour. He also worked for Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL) on their Horizon Oil Sands Project. The Horizon Oil Sands Plant includes a surface oil sands mining and bitumen extraction plant, complemented by on-site bitumen upgrading with associated infrastructure to produce high quality synthetic crude oil.*

George fully retired in 2015. He met Karin in 2001 and they married in 2013. They have many interests in common. They love theater and music, are both avid skiers, always take their bicycles on road trips and love travelling.

Chuck Gerhart thanked George for a highly informative presentation.



Karin and George

Fred Schulte was the winner of the Virtual Free Lunch draw.

Chuck Gerhart welcomed 43 Gyros, Gyrettes, guests and our guest speaker to the **March 18th** Zoom video teleconference.

Larry Dobson introduced our guest **Jon Dunbar** who was speaking to us from South Korea. Jon was born in Edmonton and moved to South Korea 17 years ago. He is a copy editor for the Korean Times and is active in Korea studies. He visited North Korea twice in 2010 and 2018.

Jon indicated that when he arrived in South Korea in December 2003, there was no interest by South Koreans in what was going on in North Korea. In August 2010, he went on a tour of North Korea with **Michael Spavor**. You cannot cross on foot across the Demilitarized Zone to North Korea. We had to fly north to China and then fly back to the capital Pyongyang. On the way back to South Korea, we took a six-hour train ride north to China and then flew south to Seoul, South Korea.

Spavor was skilled in North Korean dialects which was helpful when we toured the area from Pyongyang to Kaesong. Many of the residential buildings were designed by East German architects and painted in bright colours such as green and pink. There was no advertising anywhere, just propaganda signs and murals. In contrast, South Korean buildings were mainly grey in colour. *Pyongyang is the capital with a population of 3.3 million and the population of North Korea is 51 million.*

Kaesong, one of the oldest cities of Korea was the capital of the Koryo dynasty (935-1392). Kaesong is a castle city enclosed by a stone wall with four gates. It was overrun by communist forces during the Korean War (1950-53), and in 1951 it was chosen as the site of the first truce talks. After the war, Kaesong was included in North Korea.

In our second visit to North Korea there was many more modern buildings and much more advertising evident. North Korea considers themselves a “nuclear power”, it is a closed society, and the capital is closely guarded.

Michael Spavor was detained in China on December 10, 2018.

Alan Rusler thanked Jon for his insightful presentation about an area little known to most of us.

Treasurer Gary Campbell presented the **General Fund Budget May 1, 2021-April 30, 2022**. The budget has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Executive and Board of Directors. **Gary Campbell** moved that the 2021-22 General Fund Budget be approved. The motion was seconded by **Fred Schulte**. There was unanimous approval by those members in attendance.



Pyongyang, North Korea



A view looking into North Korea at the border area within the 4 km wide Demilitarized Zone. Visitors/tourists may enter the blue buildings from either end to walk across the border but must remain in the building.

Winter in Canada has always been a topic of much discussion and debate. The intensity of winter varies from region to region each year, but the stories and tall tales never cease to amaze us. The following photos provide some insight on how Canadian's think and act.



Every year Canada holds a hair freezing contest.

The GYROLOG March 2021



This person's priorities are in order.



You never know when a snowstorm will strike.



One would think that beer is the last thing one needs in such cold weather and one would be wrong.



Nothing to see here, just icebergs passing through. This place is called "Iceberg Alley" and is located near Ferryland, Newfoundland.



The most Canadian photo ever!

Gyro Club of Edmonton-Gerontology Scholarships 2021

In the mid-1980's to mid-1990's, funds were contributed by the Gyro Club of Edmonton, and individual members with matching funds from the province to establish the **Centre for Gerontology Fund** at the University of Alberta. This endowment fund currently provides yearly; one undergraduate scholarship of \$1,000 and a Masters of \$1700 and a PhD scholarship of \$1800.

The winners of this year's scholarships are:

- **Khushwant Bhullar** (Doctoral)- Faculty of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences - focusing on 'aging research focused on nutritional strategies to mitigate age-related physiological and pathological changes'.
- **Rani Fedoruk** (Masters) - Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research - looking at how nutrition / dietary intake and increasing physical activity leads to improvements in quality of life during the aging process.
- **Michelle Leung** (Undergraduate) - Faculty of Nursing - hoping to work as a public health nurse following graduation and assist with the pandemic vaccination campaign.

Dick Nichols reports on the Hockey Pool Winners.

Game 5 February 23 rd	Winners	First Period	Second	Final
Oilers vs Canucks				
First Period	1 3	Val Pohl	Val Pohl	George Schuller
Second	1 3	Jack little	Jack Little	Walter Yakimets
Final	4 3	Gary Campbell	Gary Campbell	Trish Baird

Game 6 February 27 th	Winners	First period	Second	Final
Oilers vs Maple Leafs				
First Period	0 2	Jack Brown	Jack Ellis	Terrie Ellis
Second	0 3	Brooks Ross	Lauren Warrack	Dan Warrack
Final	0 4	Carol Dobson	Sarra Dobson	Larry Dobson

Game 7 March 3 rd	Winners	First Period	Second	Final
Oilers vs Maple Leafs				
First Period	0 1	Sandra Foy	Gary Campbell	Gary Campbell
Second	1 5	Ken Willan	Don Sieben	Brooke Weisgerber
Final	1 6	Karen Jancelwicz	Sandy McDonald	Jim Lochhead

Game 8 March 8	Winners	First Period	Second	Final
Oilers vs Senators				
First Period	1 1	Walter Yakimets	Peter Carter	Peter Carter
Second	3 2	Sharon Shaw	Gary Campbell	Gary Campbell
Final	3 2	Marcia Kashani	Shirley Larson	Shirley Larson

Game 9 March 15	Winners	First Period	Second	Final
Oilers vs Flames				
First Period	0 0	Brian Scranton	Steffan Scornaienchi	Myrna Gerhart
Second	2 3	Grace Burnett	Jonathon Foy	Kaylee
Final	3 4	Barry Walker	Ray Dallaire	Ken Weisgerber

Game 10 March 18	Winners	First Period	Second	Final
Oiler vs Jets				
First Period	0 0	Ryan Power	Jack Ellis	Jack Ellis
Second	2 1	Mike Long	Lauren Warrack	Lauren Warrack
Final	2 1	Jim Lepp	Sarra Dobson	Sarra Dobson

“Fast Fred”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Zoom Video Teleconference, Tuesday April 6th.

Club Elections

Speaker: Sheyenne Levall from STARS

Team Leaders: Bruce Swanson and Ray Dallaire

Zoom Video Teleconference, Tuesday April 20th.

Executive Officers/Directors Installation

Speakers: Marty Larson-Gyro History and John Ross-Gyro Conventions

Team Leaders: Chuck Gerhart and Dan Hasinoff

Zoom Video Teleconference, Tuesday May 4th.

Speaker: Paul Dumont from Cebu, Philippines

Topic: TBA

Team Leader: Ray Dallaire

Zoom Teleconference, Tuesday May 18th.

Autobiographies by Cliff Revell and Ken Willan

Team Leaders: Dunc Mills and Fred Schulte

Gyro Club of Edmonton 100th Anniversary, July 29th.

Gyro International/District 7 Convention and Gyro Club of Winnipeg 100th Anniversary Celebration, August 4-8th.

**Gyro District 8 Convention, Deerfoot Inn and Casino, Gyro Club of Calgary
September 23-26th**