



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](#)**

MAY 2014

Those celebrating their birthdays in May are **Tracy DesLaurier** on the 5th, **Andy Friderichsen** on the 13th, **David Burnett** on the 18th, **Cec Butt** on the 23rd, **Allan Warrack** on the 24th and **David Winfield** on the 25th. Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **Dick and Vi Moskalyk**, 57 years on the 15th; **Sheldon and Judy Weatherby**, 43 years on the 15th; **Cec and Martina Butt**; 46 years on the 18th; **Fred and Paulette Schulte**, 46 years on the 18th; **Chuck and Myrna Gerhart**, 49 years on the 22nd; **Peter and Katherine Morrison**, 34 years on the 30th and **Bob and June Kerrison**, 55 years on the 30th.

Just a Boy...

Got to understand the lad-
He's not eager to be bad;
If the right he always knew,
He would be as old as you.
Were he now exceeding wise,
He'd be just about your size;
When he does things that annoy,
Don't forget- he's just a boy.

Being just a boy he'll do
Much you will not him to;
He'll be careless of his ways,
Have his disobedient days.
Wilful, wild and headstrong, too,
He'll need guidance kind and true;
Things of value he'll destroy,
But reflect- he's just a boy.

Could he know and understand,
He would need no guiding hand;
But he's young and hasn't learned
How life's corners must be turned.
Doesn't know from day to day
There is more to life than play.
More to face than selfish joy.
Don't forget- he's just a boy.

Just a boy who needs a friend,
Patient, kindly to the end;
Needs a father who will show
Him the things he wants to know,
Take him with you when you walk,
Listen to him when he wants to talk,
His companionship enjoy,
Don't forget- he's just a boy.

Poem taken from the DURGIN-PARK menu, Boston Massachusetts

President Sam Gruden welcomed a large group of Gyros, Gyrettes and guests to the May 6th Dinner and **Executive Officers Installation** held at the Derrick Golf and Winter Club. **District Governor Jim Malott** was introduced as well as **David Burnett's** guests **Garry** and **Heather Tansem**.

Past International President Marty Larson welcomed **Peter Carter** as a new and returning Gyro. Peter was previously a member of the Edmonton Club from 1996 to 2010. Marty spoke briefly about the Gyro fraternity and then completed Peter's induction. The membership enthusiastically cheered and welcomed Peter and Eileen.



Marty Larson

Peter Carter

Sam Gruden

District Governor Jim Malott recognized **Marty Larson** for his long standing membership and contribution to the Gyro fraternity and presented him with his **50 year pin**. Marty was introduced to GYRO by Wes Van Dusen and joined the Edmonton Club on January 25th, 1964. Marty commented that during his tenure as President in 1974-75, only two present day members were in the club, **Mort Morter and David Burnett**.

Please refer to the January 2014 Gyrolog for a more detailed account of Marty's life in GYRO.

District Governor Jim also recognized **Gordon Robertson** for his **25 years** of membership in the Edmonton Club and presented him with his pin. Gord was sponsored by John Pedden and joined our club in 1989. He served as President in 1999-2000 and has said that GYRO is the best organization he has ever joined. Gordon will be 89 years young on October 2nd and still plays golf on Monday's and Tuesday's. Please refer to the September 2012 Gyrolog for a more detailed account of Gord's life.



Jim Malott Gord Robertson Marty Larson Sam Gruden

Jim Malott then proceeded to install **John Mann** as President, **Jack Little** as 1st Vice-President, **Sam Gruden** as Past President and **Len Stevens, Jamie Fleming** and **Michael Mant**, Directors.



Sam Gruden

Jim Malott

John Mann

Jack Little



Len Stevens

Jamie Fleming

Michael Mant

John Ross introduced our guest speaker **Paulina Retamales** and her thesis supervisor, **PearlAnn Reichwein**. Paulina's parents are Chilean and came to Canada in 1978. Paulina was born in Ft. McMurray in 1981 and returned to Chile with her parents at age eight. Paulina was raised in a small town called Quilpue near the Pacific Ocean and the Andes. She has been inspired by nature and her surrounding environment. As a Physical education teacher, Paulina developed programs that allowed children to play outdoors and in nature. After working several years in play programs and outdoor play in Chile, she decided it was important to do more research in order to understand children's play and improve the programs. Paulina and her husband moved to Edmonton and she enrolled in a Masters' program at the University of Alberta.

In August 2011, Dr. Reichwein invited Paulina to participate in a community gathering at **Tipton Park** which included a picnic and a penny carnival that simulated the 1920's GYRO playground era. Paulina learned about the Edmonton Gyro Club and that Tipton Park is a living historic site and also the longest remaining Gyro playground in Edmonton. At this point in time, Paulina decided to learn more about the historical perspective of Children's play in Edmonton. Her Master's degree in Sports and Recreation History was completed in 2013. Her Master's thesis is entitled ***"Gyro Club Playgrounds and Children's Recreation in Edmonton, Alberta Outdoor Play, Civic Life and Urban Reform, 1922-50."***

Paulina spoke of her historical analysis of the Gyro Playground movement and the help she received from the Gyro Club of Edmonton. She interviewed **Gordon Robertson** who has fond memories of playing in Gyro playgrounds including the **Kitchener Playground** at 114 Street and 103 Avenue. The Gyro Club of Edmonton was chartered on July 29, 1921 with a membership of 49 young men; their first objective was to provide playgrounds for children.

The following information is taken from Paulina's thesis which was prepared after two years of research. Sources for her thesis project included old copies of the Gyrolog, club scrapbooks, and oral history interviews. *Sport History Review* will soon publish her article, co-authored with supervisor Dr. PearlAnn Reichwein.

The Gyro Club of Edmonton initiated Edmonton's first three supervised playgrounds; **Patricia Square** in 1922, **Kitchener** and **Tipton** in 1924. Gyro playgrounds and summer play programs became an urban institution central to the lives of children and families. Outdoor spaces for play, education, health and social services among children and youth were linked to building character and behaviour through public standards.

Social reformers living in Canadian cities were also concerned that the working class lived in overcrowded spaces, often in poverty with a high incidence in crime, disease and drunkenness. Playgrounds were proposed to address these problems, through prevention and education, where habits of health and social customs could be taught according to the standards of the dominant Anglo-Canadian middle class.

The playground movement was a model that emerged from Chicago in 1893, where the first public playground was built as part of the progressive quest for social justice and in response to the problems of modern cities. The beginnings of the movement prioritized a child welfare focus and identified a connection between spare time and delinquency.

According to the *Edmonton Journal* in 1925, the community was astonished with this new concept of supervised playgrounds:

"It was a great thing for the children of Edmonton when the local Gyro Club, looking for a suitable objective, decided upon the establishment of playgrounds as an enterprise most worthy of its attention. Supervised play was a thing then practically unknown, and children playing in the streets were the usual order".

The City of Edmonton had been encouraging the construction of parks and play spaces for children, but could not afford to invest in recreation facilities because of tight postwar budgets. The municipal Parks Department had merged into the Engineer's Department as a war economy measure; according to the city administration, leadership to build and run playgrounds had to come from other

sources. In the midst of municipal postwar austerity in 1921, the City Council had to recruit a men's civic group to steer playground projects.

The Gyro Club of Edmonton's first big successful project was "**The Gyro Carnival**" fundraiser to finance their playground projects. The first carnival known as "Round the World Carnival" started on December 1th, 1921 and which lasted three days was held in the McLeod Building; net proceeds were \$960. The Gyro Club also obtained a City grant of \$125 for each month through six months to cover the supervision of the playgrounds. The Carnival was a distinctive vision to introduce play for children. The Gyros brought an artistic circus-style play culture with happiness and excitement to the community.

All three playgrounds were supervised by trained young male instructors--called "**Play Director's**" , who were responsible for playground operations from May to October. One women was hired to work in the Gyro Playgrounds. **Miss Marjorie Davidson** was a physical educator hired as a playground "**story teller**" whose job was to tell stories for one hour in each of three Gyro playgrounds.

The playground activities were diverse, but one of the most awaited activities was the annual circus. Not to be confused with the Gyro carnival fund raisers, the **Gyro Circus** was free playground activity without any admission fee. Hundreds of children and their parents attended to watch the circus procession, where every boy and girl received popcorn and a gift. The Gyros believed playgrounds would encourage a person to know each other as neighbours, which was essential to maintain community relations and improve social capital. Problems such as poverty, crime, isolation and disease, were believed to be the result of mutual distrust in communities.

The activities at the playground would start at 10:00 am in the morning with the flag raising ceremony and the children would gather to salute the Union Jack, a pledge of allegiance to the British flag. It demonstrated how civic life was important to the Gyro Club of Edmonton. **Playground No. 4 for Crippled Children** was built at the University Hospital in **1930**.

Play programs included constructive work, useful lessons of wood-working, model building and carving. Reading three times a week was presented by ministers of the different churches who would take turns in telling stories. There were also small lending libraries of children's books that were kept at each park. The **Edmonton Journal**, stated on **October 8, 1932**, that "families able to go away for part of the summer in other years had to remain in the city because they had no spare money to travel; in the midst of the Great Depression, the Gyro
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Playgrounds took the place of beaches and lakes for Edmonton's middle and working class children alike." In 1937, students in the Community Extension Department of the University of Alberta brought dramatics to the parks and small plays were presented as a means of constructive play.

The Depression, drought and the Second World War stalled the building of the fifth playground. At the war's end, a barrage of activity up to 1950 would see five more playgrounds built by the Gyros for Edmonton's children. The Edmonton Recreation and Parks Department was organized in 1946 and they took over the operation and maintenance of the nine Gyro Playground Parks.

Paulina Retamales concluded her presentation by stating that the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Gyro Club had entered into a very successful public/private partnership from 1922-1950.

Larry George thanked our speaker for a very educational presentation. He stated that the Gyros got the kids off the streets and now we need to get our kids out of the house and back on to the streets.

Sheldon Weatherby welcomed 22 Gyros and five Gyrettes to **The Leduc No.1 Energy Discovery Centre** for lunch and a tour on May 20th.

The Leduc No. 1 Energy Discovery Centre located 2km east of Devon on Highway 60 opened in 1997 to commemorate the historic discovery of oil at the Leduc No. 1 well site and to showcase Canada's oil and gas industry to the world. It is a not-for-profit and largely volunteer-driven and is owned by the Devon/Leduc Oilfield Historical Society. The Centre offers a hands-on education: climb aboard a working oil rig; enter the World's Largest Drill Bit; create alternative energy in the Learning Lab; and learn just how important this resource is in your day to day life.

Leduc #1 was "spudded in" on a farm belonging to Mike Turta in November 1946. Most members of the drilling crew expected the well would turn out to be another dry hole, and there was good reason for the pessimism. Imperial Oil had a dismal success record, they had

drilled 133 dry holes in a row and the company was about to give up. They urgently needed to discover new sources of crude oil if its refineries were to operate profitably. Imperial Oil had spent \$23 million and the board members reluctantly agreed to 'one more hole'. On **February 13, 1947 light crude oil erupted from the hole.** The well was a hit--a true success that changed Alberta forever.



The preceding information and picture were taken from the Leduc #1 Energy Discovery Centre website: <http://leducnumber1.com/>

Thanks to **Sheldon Weatherby** and **Cec Butt** for organizing this event.

'Fast Fred'

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, June 3rd

Speaker: Fred Schulte

Topic: Building on Flood Plains

Contacts: Rob McLeod and Walter Yakimets

Gyrette General Annual Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, June 10th

Cocktails: 6:00 pm, cash bar

Dinner: 6:30, cost \$28

Contact: Myrna Slobodan

GYRO International and District VIII Convention, Wallace, Idaho, June 15-22, 2014

You may pay your registration on line with VISA or MASTERCARD by going to: www.wallacegyro.com/online-registration.php

Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, July 8th

Speaker: Nathan IP, Edmonton Public School Board Trustee, Ward H

Topic: Successes and challenges of the Edmonton Public Schools.

Contacts: Jack Brown and Bruce Swanson

Old Fashioned GYRO Playground Picnic, Mixed Event, Gyrettes and guests, Tuesday, July 22nd.

Details to follow.

Contacts: John Ross and Mike Matei



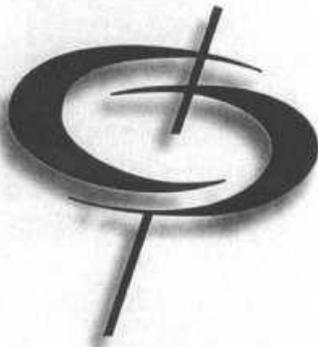
PARTY AT THE DROP OF A BALL!

WHEN THE

WALLACE GYROS HOST

**THE 2014 INTERNATIONAL
AND DISTRICT VIII CONVENTIONS**

JUNE 15 - 22, 2014



**"Fun for Fun's Sake
and Friendship for
Friendship's Sake"**

**COME JOIN THE WALLACE GYRO CLUB
CELEBRATE OUR 80th BIRTHDAY
WITH OUR 73RD LEAD CREEK DERBY
AT THE "CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE"**

'There are no strangers here, only friends we haven't met!'