



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

**President-Ray Dallaire, Past President-Peter Carter,
1st Vice-President- Bruce Swanson, 2nd Vice-President-David Winfield
Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Gary Campbell,
Directors- Tracy DesLaurier, John Mann, Leon Lubin, Len Evenson
Database Administrator-John Ross, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte**

JANUARY 2018

Those celebrating their birthdays are **John Ross** and **Cliff Revell** on the 2nd, **Dunc Mills** on the 24th, **John Boyd** and **Jim Lochhead** on the 26th, **Bob Kerrison** on the 28th and **Jack Brown** on the 31st.

President Ray Dallaire welcomed 31 Gyros and one guest to the January 9th luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **Leon Lubin** led the singing of Cheerio and **Jim Lochhead** presented the Prayer.

Ron Ramsey introduced his guest **Clarence Capjack**.

Past District Governor Gerry Glassford with the help of sponsors **John Mann** and **Dan Hasinoff** inducted **Duncan (Dunc) Mills** as the newest member of the Gyro Club of Edmonton. **Congratulations Dunc!**



Gerry Glassford Dan Hasinoff John Mann **Dunc Mills Ray Dallaire**

The Gyros and Gyrettes of the Edmonton Club met in separate adjoining meeting rooms at the Royal Mayfair. Once the meals were completed, the two groups joined together to hear our guest speaker, **Paula Simons**.

Gyrette, Lorraine Assheton-Smith introduced the **Edmonton Journal's City columnist, Paula Simons**. Paula is a graduate of the University of Alberta and Stanford University, and a former post-graduate fellow at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies. She has played many roles at the Journal, as provincial affairs

columnist, arts, and culture columnist and as a member of the paper's editorial board.

Her work has appeared in a wide variety of Canadian magazines and she is a semi-regular documentary-maker for CBC Radio's IDEAS. Before joining the Journal, she spent six years as a producer with CBC Radio in Edmonton and Toronto. Paula has earned five National Newspaper Award citations of merit for her editorials, columns, and political reporting. In 2014, she was co-winner of the National Newspaper Award for investigative journalism for her work on the Fatal Care investigation into Alberta's child welfare system. She's also received recognition from the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Alberta Centre for Civil Liberties Research, the Canadian Bar Association, and Canada's governor-general for her columns championing civil rights and civil society. In 2008, Paula was honoured by the Edmonton Historical Board for her writing about Edmonton history, architecture, and heritage preservation. In 2012, she won an International EPPY Award, from Editor and Publisher, for best use of social media. In the fall of 2014, Paula, and the Journal team won a silver medal at the Canadian Online Publishing Awards, for their Yegquest social media project. In the summer of 2015, she was honoured by the American Society for Features Journalism for excellence in feature writing and commentary.

Lorraine Assheton-Smith has been a close friend of Paula's since childhood and Paula and David's 21-year-old daughter was delivered by Gyro, Dr. John Boyd.



Paula Simons

Paula began her presentation on the **current secrecy of the Edmonton Police Service** regarding the **identity of murder victims**. There were 42 murders in Edmonton in 2017 of which the identity of 17 victims was kept secret. In 2016, Edmonton recorded 41 homicides and all victims were identified. Homicide is not a private matter, it is an assault on the community. The Police Service has chosen to keep the identity of homicide victims secret in many cases because the family has requested secrecy. It should not be an embarrassing event for the family. Paula has received support from her colleagues across the country on the disclosure of all homicide victims, however, she has received considerable backlash from the public.

Calgary recorded 27 murders in 2017 and none of the victim's identities were kept secret. In 2017, Toronto recorded 61 murders, of which 45 were named. The RCMP has also started withholding names. There is presently an ad-hoc approach across Canada.

As a society, we should care and participate in the grief of murder. However, homicide is nasty and many of us would rather not think about pain, violence, and death.

Since the late 1990s nearly 800 children in Alberta government care have died. In November 2016, Simons published a story that shocked the province. It was about a four-year-old girl named **Serenity**. Serenity had been in foster care before she was placed with distant relatives over the objections of her mother. Those relatives were granted guardianship despite reports of abuse. Child welfare then closed Serenity's file.

Serenity was airlifted to an Edmonton hospital on Sept. 18, 2014, with head injuries, severe hypothermia, serious malnutrition, and anal and genital bruising. She died nine days later, after being removed from life support. She weighed less than 18 pounds. At the time of Serenity's death, her identity was unknown. Serenity's case was highlighted in a report produced by Alberta child and youth advocate Del Graff in November 2016. Serenity's mother provided court records and photos of Serenity to Paula Simons. A subsequent investigation by Simons revealed Serenity's identity, the full extent of her injuries and the shortcomings of the investigation into her death.

The girl's great-aunt and great-uncle were charged jointly by the RCMP on October 6, 2017 with one count of failing to provide the necessities of life between May 3, 2013, and Sept. 18, 2014. Let down by a wide range of government and non-governmental services, Serenity was the victim of horrific abuse and neglect.

Simons' article: ***Her name was Serenity. Never forget it.*** spurred the Notley provincial government to convene an all-party committee to investigate the multiple failings of Alberta's child welfare system.

Journalists still want to shine a light in dark corners. Our generation still buys newspapers but many of our children and grandchildren don't. They instead rely on Facebook, Twitter, and other electronic sites. However, in the absence of verified knowledge, people make things up.

Gyrette, Alice Glassford thanked Paula for a very challenging presentation.

Allan Warrack was the winner of the Free Lunch draw.

Editor's Note: **Paula Simons** wrote in her "Commentary" in the **January 27th edition of the Edmonton Journal** that *"After a year of meetings, after hearing from senior bureaucrats and academic experts, from front-line workers and Indigenous community groups, the all-party ministerial panel on child intervention came up with 26 draft recommendations to improve Alberta's troubled child-welfare system. The version I've seen features 26 nebulous exercises in self-important, politically fashionable rhetoric. They won't save the life of one single child."*

President Ray Dallaire welcomed 27 Gyros and two guests to the January 23rd luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **Bruce Swanson** led the singing of Cheerio and **Jim Lochhead** presented the Prayer.

Fred Schulte introduced our two guests, **Paulette Schulte**, and **Margo Long**.

Fred Schulte presented **Margo** as our guest speaker.

Margo was born and raised in Edmonton and attended Harry Ainlay High School and the University of Alberta. She completed her Master of Arts in Anthropology at the University of Calgary.

Margo began her working career with Nortel Networks Corporation in Calgary as a software writer and continued working with Nortel in Whitehorse and Edmonton teleworking from home. She then worked for one of Edmonton's leading marketing companies as a manager and partner for ten years.

In 2017, she made a new-life decision and joined **Youth Empowerment & Support Services (YESS)** as **Executive Director**.

Margo indicated that the site of our original Whyte Avenue Shelter was a brick fire hall built in 1914 but never used because of the ending of the real estate boom and the beginning of the First World war. The building was eventually condemned but then rebuilt to meet code in 1980. The impetus to rebuild came from the people in the surrounding community who were concerned about the number of homeless youths living in Mill Creek Ravine.

Youth who are sexually and physical abused and leave home don't think logically. They feel shamed and sooth themselves with drugs and alcohol. These kids are not developing in a normal way and do not trust adults. Forty-seven percent of adult homeless in Edmonton were homeless youths.

Our **Emergency Shelter** offers a safe place nightly for up to 24 youth between 9pm and 7am. Taking a shower and putting on clean clothes is often the first step to regaining self-esteem. Toiletries, clothing, and other personal items are supplied. They are expected to attend school or look for work during the day.

The **Strathcona Armoury** in Old Strathcona is open from 9am to 9pm and provides heath and addictions support, medical support, case management and a place for businesses and youth to connect for potential job opportunities. Two doctors and one nurse, as well as volunteers deal with numerous medical issues including trench foot which is a major health issue. Kids are allowed to be drunk or high because of their trauma but they are not allowed to use on site. Meals are provided during the day for those youth who have no other place to go.

There is a big gap between getting a job and living on your own. **Two Long-Term Residences: Graham's Place and Shanoa's Place** staffed with support workers are available to allow youth to gain basic life skills such as cooking, cleaning, grocery shopping and financial management.

A coalition of city agencies are mapping out what is going on with youth homelessness across Edmonton. The problem is not restricted to Whyte Avenue. There is anecdotal evidence that up to 4000 youth are homeless in Edmonton. Many of these youths are staying with friends on a temporary basis known as couch-surfing.

Youths between the ages of 15-21 are accommodated at the Emergency Shelter and those between 15-24 can access daytime programs. Often our youth are not connected with Alberta Child and Family Services, leaving them without resources or financial support.

Who are our homeless youth?

Sixty-three percent are male, 47% are aboriginal, 8% are aged 15-16, 37% are 17-19, 22% are 20-21, and 24% 22-24. Fifty-two percent are from Edmonton, 30% from outside Edmonton, 17% from other provinces and 1% from outside Canada. Twenty-four percent report mental health issues, 34% addictions issues and 13% self-harm/suicide concerns.

Many parents and grand-parents of these youths also have similar issues.

In **2016**, 321 youth were served in the Emergency Shelter, 499 in Daytime Programs, and 42 in Long-Term Residence, 64,000 meals were served, and 325 individuals provided 6,725 volunteer hours.

John Ross thanked Margo for sharing her vision and experience.

Allan Warrack for the second luncheon meeting in a row, won the **Free Lunch** draw. **This is getting a little suspicious!**

Gyro Club of Edmonton-Gerontology Scholarships 2018

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 \$700, and a Masters, and PhD scholarship each of \$1200.

This year's winners attended a scholarship presentation ceremony at Corbett Hall, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Alberta on **January 26th**. Your editor had the pleasure of meeting the recipients and presenting the awards.

Mackenzie Martin-Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient

Charlotte Ryder-Burbidge- Graduate Scholarship Recipient-Masters

Saima Rajabali-Graduate Scholarship Recipient- PhD



Charlotte Ryder-Burbidge, Mackenzie Martin, Saima Rajabali

Dick Nichols reports on the results of the Hockey Pool

Game 8 December 29 Winners First Second Final

Oilers vs Blackhawks

First	1	1	Sandy McDonald	Janet Hughes	Jean Warrack
Second	1	2	Jack Heibert	Arlene Dagg	Terri Russell
Final	3	4	Kelly Burnett	Harry Kusnir	Eric Braun

Game 9 January 4 Winners First Second Final

Oilers vs Ducks

First	0	0	Gary Campbell	M. Weisberger	James Glassford
Second	1	0	Bev Russell	Georgia McKinnon	Mikal McKinnon
Final	2	1	Keith Bradley	Walter Yakimets	Walter Yakimets

Game 10 January 12 Winners First Second Final

Oilers vs Coyotes

First	2	2	Eileen Kuhl	Eileen Kuhl	Gary Campbell
Second	2	2	S. Sellar	S.Sellar	Bev Russell
Final	4	2	Unsold	Unsold	Keith Bradley

Game 11 January 20 Winners First Second Final

Oilers vs Canucks

First	2	0	Gordon Brook	B. Weisberger	Preston Russell
Second	3	2	Cory Russell	Barry Walker	Jim Lepp
Final	5	2	Unsold	Alan Rusler	Unsold

Game 12 January 25 Winners First Second Final

Oilers vs Flames

First	0	2	Jack Little	Dan Warrack	Jack Ellis
Second	2	2	Valerie Walker	Marilyn Nichols	Emma Hastings
Final	4	3	Bea McKenzie	Marty Larson	Unsold

'Fast Fred'

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL VALENTINES CELEBRATION, Faculty Club, Winspear Room

Tuesday, February 6th

Time: Reception 6:00 pm, Dinner 7:00

Menu: Baked Filet of Salmon or Prime Rib of Beef

Cost: \$55 per person

Liquor, wine, and beer available at cash bar

Parking: Flat rate \$2, extra parking in Windsor parkade to south.

Contacts: Bruce and Bronwyn Swanson

Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, February 20th

Speaker: **Jerry Bigam**, President of KINNIKINNICK, Manufacturer of Gluten free foods.

Topic: The Gluten Free Phenomenon.

Contacts: Jack Brown and Warren Garbutt

GYRETTE Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, March 13th.

Time: Registration 11:30 Lunch 12:00 noon

Speaker: **Dr. Sheree Kwong See**, Seniors Advocate of Alberta

Contacts: Elaine Douglas and Myrna Slobodan

Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, March 20th

Proposed 2018-19 Budget

Speaker Bob Layton, broadcaster, editorialist 630 CHED and GLOBAL TV.

Contacts: Gary Campbell, Jack Slobodan, and Alan Rusler

GYRO BRIDGE WINDUP, Highlands Golf Course, Wednesday, April 18th

Cocktails: 5:30, Dinner 6:30

Contact: Ken Willan

DISTRICT VIII CONVENTION, Nelson, B.C. June 7-10, 2018

Convention Hotel: Prestige Lakeside Resort, Gyro rates: \$140/night plus tax-City side and \$160/night-Lake side.

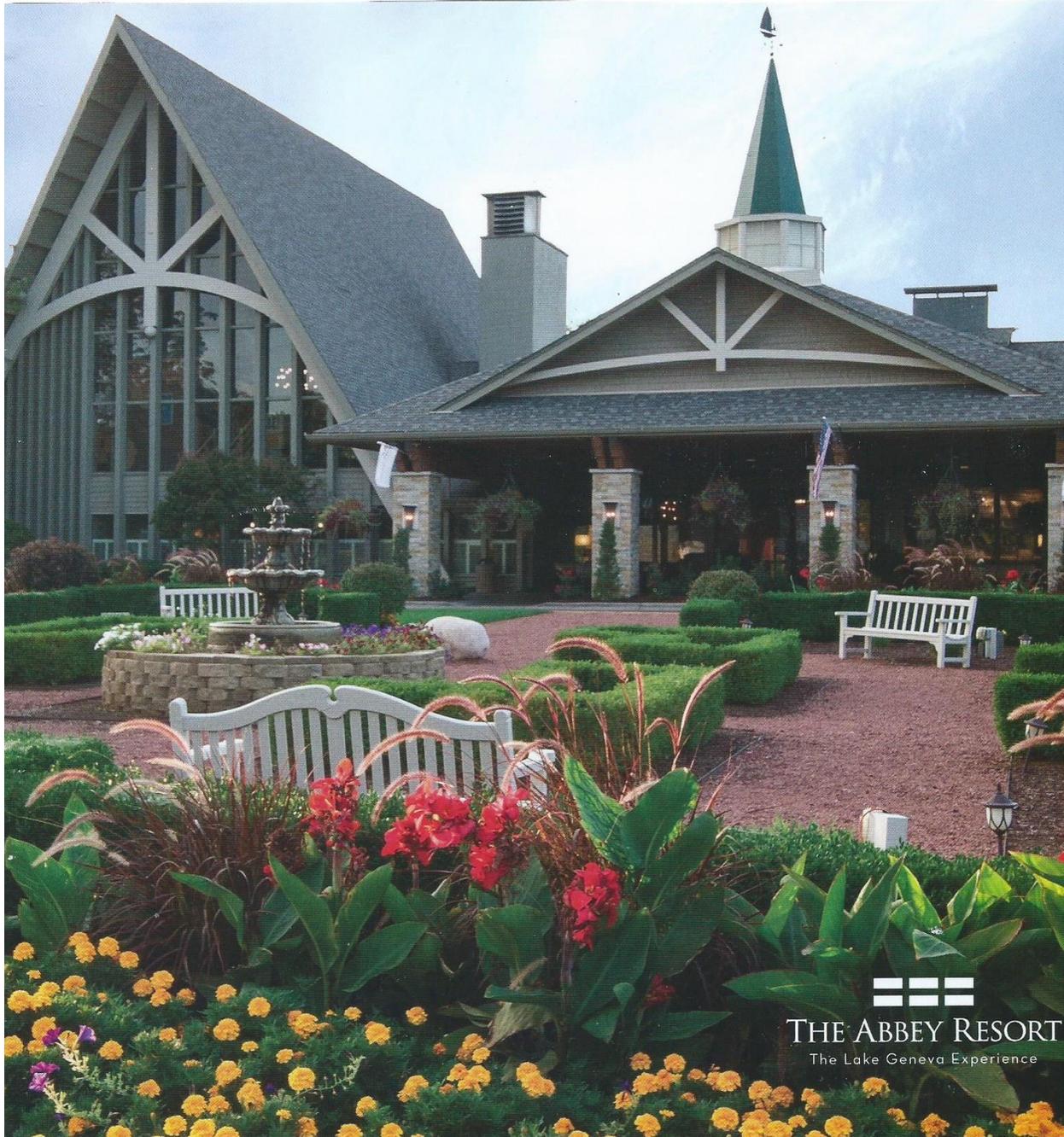
Registration Fee: \$450/couple, single \$225

Convention Link: <http://nelson.gyro.ws/CONVENTION.html>

Nelson Contact: Dave Brown davelinbrown@shaw.ca

GYRO'S AT LAKE GENEVA

JUNE 25 – JUNE 29, 2018




THE ABBEY RESORT
The Lake Geneva Experience

THE ABBEY RESORT
269 Fontana Blvd., Fontana, Wisconsin 53125

Gyro International and District II Convention

Hotel Registration - A block of rooms has been set aside at The Abbey for our Gyro Convention at the rate of \$139 per night. To make your hotel reservation, call 800-709-1323 and press #2. Be sure to mention your reservation is for the Gyro International Convention.

Convention Registration – Early registration begins September 1, 2017. The registration fee is \$250 per couple or \$125 per person. After March 1, 2018 the registration will be \$295 per couple or \$150 per person. Please send your convention registration money to Dave Langfitt, 920 – 7th Avenue #10, Camanche, IA 52730'

The Abbey Resort has many amenities; luxury spa services, free wi-fi, gift shop, valet parking, free parking, fitness center, on-site boat launch and rental, restaurants, lounges, free shuttle, near numerous golf courses and so much more. For more information on what The Abbey has to offer, check out their website: www.TheAbbeyResort.com

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday have the usual meetings, lunches, dinners and of course we can't forget the Hospitality Room. The dinners for Thursday and Friday are included in your convention registration. Thursday, June 28th-District II will be hosting a dinner cruise on the Grand Belle of Geneva on beautiful Lake Geneva. Friday, June 29th – Gyro International dinner in the Abbey's Ballroom with the installation of EC officers.

More information to follow as it gets closer to convention time. It would be a good idea to make your hotel reservation early as the dates of our convention is a very popular time of year for The Abbey. Please direct any questions to Lolita & Neil Baker at their email address: LNBAKER7014@GMAIL.COM