

G Y R O C L U B o f C A L G A R Y



Gyrodeo



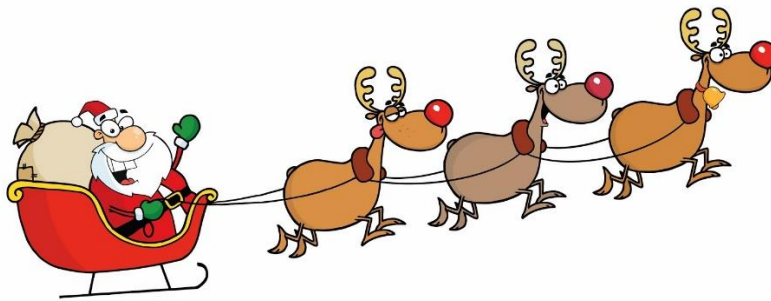
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December 2019 BULLETIN

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2019	
Monday, Dec 16	Christmas Luncheon. See page 2 for details.
Friday, Dec 20	Stampede City Club Christmas Dinner and Dance. See page 3 for details.



OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Will Be Held On

Monday, December 16, 2019

at the

BLACKFOOT INN (5940 Blackfoot Trail SE)

No Host Bar Opens At 11:30 am

The Cost Is \$40.00 Per Person

The Festive Holiday Buffet will commence at 12:30 pm

Menu – Caesar salad, roast turkey with all the trimmings, ham, seasonal vegetables, dessert, and coffee and tea.

WE HAVE CREATED A PROGRAM THAT WILL BE FUN FOR EVERYONE.

SERIOUSLY CONSIDER BRINGING FRIENDS TO THIS GYRO GATHERING.!

I T WILL BE THE BEST GIFT THEY RECEIVE THIS YEAR!





The Stampede City Gyro Club
Cordially Invites You to Our

CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE PARTY

Saturday December 21
6:00 p.m. Cocktails – 7:00 p.m. Dinner

1918 Kensington Road NW (off 18A St.)
Second Floor – Legion Lounge

Parking is at a premium so come early!!!

Live Dance Music by Joel Spire

\$100.00 per couple

Please R.S.V.P. by December 10th to
Ken Williamson at
kenwilliamson@telus.net or
call (403) 818-8890



CHANGES TO THE CLUB ROSTER

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Jim Wood and his wife Jo-Anne
173 Chaparral Valley Drive S.E. Calgary T2X 0L9
403-401-7301 jamespaulwood@gmail.com
Sponsored by Paul Skinner Secondar John Hodgson

Ray Colliver and his wife Caroline
196 Citadel Green N.W. Calgary T3G 4G5
403-239-9716 ray.chocman@shaw.ca
Sponsored by Larry Fenton Secondar Bernie Somerville

Tom Bourne, Bob Wharton, and Les Hamilton have all submitted their resignations. At the executive meeting on November 13th Tom, Bob, and Les received approval to become 'Friends of Gyro'.

Correction for the 2019-2020 roster book:

Correct address for Ray Colliver is 196 Citadel Green N.W.

BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

9th Bill McCartney
11th Ken Friesen
27th Jim Barr

Have a great day gentlemen !!!!!

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

DISTRICT VIII CONVENTION

Hosted by the Stampede City Gyro Club
May 28 – 31, 2020
Medicine Hat, Alberta

INTERNATIONAL and DISTRICT IV CONVENTION

Victoria B.C. - June 9 – 14, 2020



THE 2019-2020 ROSTER BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU PICK YOUR COPIES UP.

Gyro Curlarama – November 1-3, 2019

The Calgary Club hosted this year's Curlarama (some say Curlorama) from November 1st to 3rd with sixty Gyros and guests representing eight clubs from District VIII at the event. Our club's attendees included John Hodgson, Dave Jenner, Bill Schultz, Larry Fenton, Jay Likely, Bob Ulrich and Ken Baker, and we were joined by five guests.

For more than fifty years, Gyro curlers have gathered in Banff in late fall. However, this year the venue moved to Canmore because of uncertainty regarding the availability of appropriate hotel accommodation in Banff. The change proved to be quite acceptable. Upon arrival on Friday at the Canmore Inn & Suites, participants gathered in the hotel's ballroom for snacks, sandwiches, and the customary host bar, and to enjoy Gyro camaraderie.

The curling competition began at 8:00 AM on Saturday at the Canmore Curling Club. Ice conditions were excellent throughout the bonspiel with a keen surface and lots of curl. Teams played at least two or three games during the day. However, the Bob Ulrich team, which included Ken Baker, received an unfortunate position in the draw and had to play four games on Saturday. Not great for Ken, who was just back from 30 days of ocean cruising and whose fitness level was suspect.

That evening, we enjoyed a superb prime rib and chicken dinner back at the hotel. A moment of silence was observed to remember Bob Rowan who passed away during the summer. Bob was a regular attendee and enthusiastic supporter of Curlarama for more than 45 years. Kudos to Sandy MacLeod of Stampede City for his tribute to Bob in wearing Bob's trademark 'Where's Elmo' sweater and STP tuque during the bonspiel. The Sherwood Park Club, with 12 members participating, was recognized as the 2019 "man miles" winner. Governor Derm Jackman and International vice-president Alan Pentney had words of welcome. In addition, Al Clark gave a promotional pitch for the District's 2020 convention which the Stampede City club will be hosting from May 28 to 31 in Medicine Hat. The dinner concluded with Sherwood Park's Terry Bajer's impromptu presentation of some humorous stories. Following dinner, poker enthusiasts participated in a Texas Hold'em Tournament with Gord Lang, a guest of Bob Ulrich, emerging as the overall winner.

The curling event semi-finals and finals were played on Sunday morning. Congratulations to Larry Fenton's team, which included Jay likely (a former New Brunswick schoolboy curling champion), for winning the A Event. The quartet survived a scare from Edmonton in the semi-finals before besting Cranbrook in the finals. Bob Ulrich's team apparently had not recovered from the grueling physical test of four games on Saturday and fell to Sherwood Park in the B Event final. John Hodgson's team, including Bill Schultz and Dave Jenner, emerged victorious in the C Event while a team from Sherwood Park captured the D Event.



' A ' EVENT WINNERS

**L to R – Guests Wawne Lewanzick & Lorne Kelly
Larry Fenton and Jay Likely**



' C ' EVENT WINNERS

**L to R – John Hodgson, Dave Jenner,
Bill Schultz and guest Lloyd Godfrey.**

My thanks to all who attended this year's Curlarama. And, my special thanks to the following individuals: Bill Schultz for assisting with the purchase of food and supplies for Friday evening and for the related set-up at the hotel; Governor Derm Jackman for manning the registration table; Dave Jenner and Derm's son-in-law, Marvin Cook, for handling 50/50 ticket sales; and Ken Baker for bar tending on Friday evening.

Please note that Curlarama 2020, to be hosted by the Stampede City Club, is currently scheduled for October 31st to November 2nd back in Canmore. Mark your calendars!

**John Hodgson
Curlarama Coordinator.**

Remembrance Day Luncheon – November 6, 2019

There were fifty-eight Gyro, Gyrettes, and guests in attendance at the Remembrance Day Luncheon held at the Carriage House Inn. President Ken Baker welcomed everyone and had Gyro members introduce their guests. Ken gave the grace.

Gary Cobb introduce our guest speaker, Dr. James Hennessy who was born in Peterborough, Ontario, and educated at Trent University and the University of Toronto. Dr. Hennessy joined the Canadian Army Reserve as a private at 16 years of age. He was promoted to Lance-Corporal, Corporal, and then to Sergeant. Dr. Hennessy took his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and was eventually promoted to Captain, and then became a Major. He eventually ended up as a Company Commander with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. He retired from the regular force as a Lieutenant-Colonel and transferred back to the army reserve. His total military service included 19 years in the reserve army and 19 years in the regular force. Dr. Hennessy then began a private dental practice serving as a staff dentist at the Bowden Institute and the Drumheller penitentiary.

His talk today was on Canada's contribution to the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge began on Easter Monday, April 9, 1917. Amid sleet, mud, and shellfire, the soldiers of the Canadian Corps fought their way up the ridge to take the high ground overlooking the Douai plain.

This stunning victory followed years of failed attempts to retake the ridge and also months of planning and preparation for the operation. The ridge had fallen into German hands during the initial advances of 1914. Since then, around 150,000 French and British soldiers had fallen trying to retake it. The Germans had been fortifying their positions on the ridge for years with deep bunkers, overlapping fields of machine gun fire, and layers of barbed wire. When the Canadians attacked, they faced around 8,000 entrenched German defenders.

A preliminary bombardment began on March 20th and lasted for thirteen days. In the meantime, staff were hard at work finding and silencing the German guns. The Royal Flying Corps provided aerial reconnaissance returning with photographs of enemy batteries.

The battle began at 5:30am on April 9th, with the first wave of around 15,000 men advancing under the creeping barrage of almost 1000 heavy guns. Most objectives were taken on schedule, and by afternoon most of the ridge was captured, with the notable exception of The Pimple, a high point at the North end of the ridge, where defenders held out until April 12.

By April 12th, the Canadians had taken all of their objectives, as well as 4,000 prisoners. The Canadians held Vimy Ridge. This victory came at a high cost as 3,598 Canadians lost their lives, and 7,000 were wounded during the four-day battle. April 9, 1917 is still the bloodiest day in Canadian military history.

The most important tactical innovation used in this battle was the rolling barrage. Early in the war, when soldiers attacked a position, the artillery would bombard that position and then stop so that the soldiers could run over and take it. However, this caused problems as often the time between the bombardment, and when the soldiers actually arrived on the position, allowed the defenders time to get prepared for the attack, and inflict devastating casualties on the attackers. The rolling barrage meant that the soldiers advanced at the same time as the bombardment. At Vimy, the artillery moved forward 90 meters every three minutes. This meant that soldiers had three minutes to catch up with the barrage and silence any defenders left.

The Canadian achievement in capturing Vimy Ridge owed its success to a range of technical and tactical innovations, very powerful artillery preparation, sound and meticulous planning and thorough preparation.

The battle was a strategic victory as Vimy Ridge was an important observation point over the whole of the Douai plain, a key industrial and railway region in Northern France. The Battle of Vimy Ridge was, also, the first time that all four divisions of the Canadian Corps had fought together. This symbolically showed the strength of Canadians when they fought as one. It was also important that the Canadian Corps, this small colonial unit, had managed to do what both its former colonial powers could not do in retaking the ridge.

Gary Cobb thanked Dr. Hennessey for his most informative and interesting talk and presented him with a small gift as a token of our appreciation.

Ken Baker called George Sanderson, Dave Johnson, and Gerry Pulak to come forward to receive their 5 year membership tag. Bill McCartney was presented with a 15 year membership tag while Gordon Coates received a 20 year membership tag.

In our treasurers absence, Ken reviewed our financial statement advising the members that our cash reserves are adequate and that we broke even last year !!!

Ken reported that planning for the 2021 convention that our club is hosting is underway and the committee is currently reviewing options for a venue. At some point in the not too distant future the committee will be asking for volunteers to help plan and organize the various activities associated to a convention.

Ken reminded everyone of the Charity Bingo which will be held at the Horton Road Legion on November 28th He also mentioned the Christmas Luncheon which will be held at the Hotel Blackfoot on Monday, December 16th.

Ken adjourned the meeting.

DID YOU KNOW.....



Vimy Ridge continues to be a symbol of national pride. The Vimy Memorial was designated a Canadian National historic site and is featured on the back of the Canadian twenty dollar bill (\$20.00). Spend it, save it, but never forget it!

ANNUAL CHARITY BINGO – November 28, 2019

The Annual Charity Bingo was held at the Royal Canadian Legion #285 on Thursday, November 28, 2019. The prizes donated by everyone were phenomenal, as always. A total of seventy-five Gyros, Gyrettes and guests were welcomed by our host, Ron Carter.

The big winner this year was Jill Welkert, daughter of Andrea and Bryan Sherwood, who won the blackout game. Jill received \$150.00 in gift certificates donated by the Stampede Club. Al Fech was the lucky winner of the 50/50 draw.



Ken Baker and Brian Stein



Jill Welkert and Brian Stein

Thanks go to Diane Carter for collecting the entrance fee and selling extra bingo cards. We also thank Ginny Shultz, Arlette Prather, Ann Baker, and Andrea Sherwood for arranging the prizes and setting them up for each game.

The first set of games was called by Angelo Zia, assisted by Bryan Sherwood. The second set of games was called by Ken Prather, assisted by Ken Baker. The final black out-game of the evening was called by Brian Stein, Vice-President of the Stampede Club, assisted by Ken Baker.

Ticket sales for the ever popular 50/50 draw were handled by Chet Mills and John Hodgson. Thank you to everyone for your support.



Ron Carter and Alan Pentney



Alan Pentney and Al Fech

Our special thanks goes to the Stampede Club for their donation of the gift cards valued at \$150.00. Thanks also goes to the Stampede Club members who took the time to come out and support our event. Those who attended were Brian/Vianne Stein, Paul /Brenda Stout, Alan/Tara Pentney, and Jim/Linda Barrette.

President Ken Baker chose 'Cancer Camp for Kids' as the designated charity for this year.



To close out the evening the Legion served a light snack of sandwiches, pickles, squares, along with tea and coffee.

Many thanks are extended to everyone who helped out to make this evening a huge success !!!!

Photos by Thor Jepsen ... see all the photos on our web site www.calgarygyroclub.com under 'Gallery'.

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOR.....

No nursing home for us. We'll be checking into a Holiday Inn!

With the average cost for nursing home care being \$188.00 per day, there is a better way when we get old and too feeble. I've already checked on reservations at the Holiday Inn. For a combined long-term stay discount and a senior discount, it's only \$59.23 per night. Breakfast is included, and some have happy hours in the afternoon.

That leaves \$128.77 a day for lunch and dinner in any restaurant we want, or room service, laundry, gratuities and special TV movies. Plus, they provide a spa, swimming pool, a workout room, a lounge and washer-dryer, etc. Most have free toothpaste and razors, and all have free shampoo and soap.

By handing out \$5.00 worth of tips a day, you'll have the entire staff scrambling to help you. They'll treat you like a customer, not a patient.

There's a city bus stop out front, and seniors ride free. The handicap bus will, also, pick you up (if you fake a decent limp). For a change of scenery, take the airport shuttle bus and eat at one of the nice restaurants there. While you're at the airport, fly somewhere. Otherwise, the cash keeps building up.

It takes months to get into decent nursing homes. Holiday Inn will take your reservation today. And you're not stuck in one place forever -- you can move from Inn to Inn, or even from city to city. Want to see Hawaii? They have Holiday Inn there, too.

TV broken? Light bulbs need changing? Need a mattress replaced? No problem. They fix everything, and apologize for the inconvenience. The Inn has a night security person and daily room service. The maid checks to see if you are ok. If not, they'll call an ambulance -- or the undertaker. If you fall and break a hip, Medicare will pay for the hip, and Holiday Inn will upgrade you to a suite for the rest of your life.

And no worries about visits from family. They will always be glad to find you, and will probably check in for a few days mini-vacation. The grandkids can use the pool. What more could you ask for?



So, when I reach that golden age, I'll face it with a grin
and check in to a Holiday Inn !!!!!

A DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) officer stopped at a ranch in Texas, and talked with an old rancher. He told the rancher, "I need to inspect your ranch for illegally grown drugs."

The rancher said, "Okay, but don't go in that field over there.....", as he pointed out the location.

The DEA officer verbally exploded saying, "Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me!" Reaching into his rear pants pocket, he removed his badge and proudly displayed it to the rancher.

"See this badge? This badge means I am allowed to go wherever I wish.... On any land!! No questions asked or answers given!! Have I made myself clear.....do you understand?"

The rancher nodded politely, apologized, and went about his chores.

A short time later, the old rancher heard loud screams, looked up, and saw the DEA officer running for his life, being chased by the rancher's big Santa Gertrudis bull.....

With every step the bull was gaining ground on the officer, and it seemed likely that he'd sure enough get gored before he reached safety. The officer was clearly terrified.

The rancher threw down his tools, ran to the fence and yelled at the top of his lungs.....
"Your badge, show him your BADGE..... ! !"

The jet age can best be described as breakfast in London, lunch in New York, dinner in San Francisco, and luggage in Buenos Aires.

Morris, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical.

A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm.

A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, 'You're really doing great, aren't you?'

Morris replied, "Just doing what you said, Doc, get a hot mamma and be cheerful."

The doctor said, "I didn't say that. I said, you've got a heart murmur, be careful."

Cletus was passing by Billy Bob's hay barn one day when, through a gap in the door, he sees Billy Bob doing a slow and sensual striptease in front of an old green John Deere tractor. Buttocks clenched, Billy Bob performed a slow pirouette, and then gently removed the right strap of his overalls, followed by the left. He then hunched his shoulders forward, and in a classic striptease move, let his overalls fall down to his hips, revealing a torn and frayed plaid shirt. Grabbing both sides of his shirt he ripped it apart to reveal his stained tee shirt underneath. With a final flourish, he tore the tee shirt from his body and hurled his baseball cap onto a pile of hay.

Having seen enough, Cletus rushed in and yelled, "What the heck are you doing, Billy Bob?"

"leez, Cletus, ya scared the bejeezers out of me!" replied an obviously embarrassed Billy Bob. "But me and the wife been having trouble lately in the bedroom department, and the therapist suggested I do something sexy to a tractor."



Merry Christmas



Andrea and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the coming year.

Bryan Sherwood - Editor



KEEP THE FUN IN GYRO