



GYROLIFE



GYRO - A FRATERNITY OF FRIENDSHIP
In Calgary since 1921

November 2023

Upcoming Events

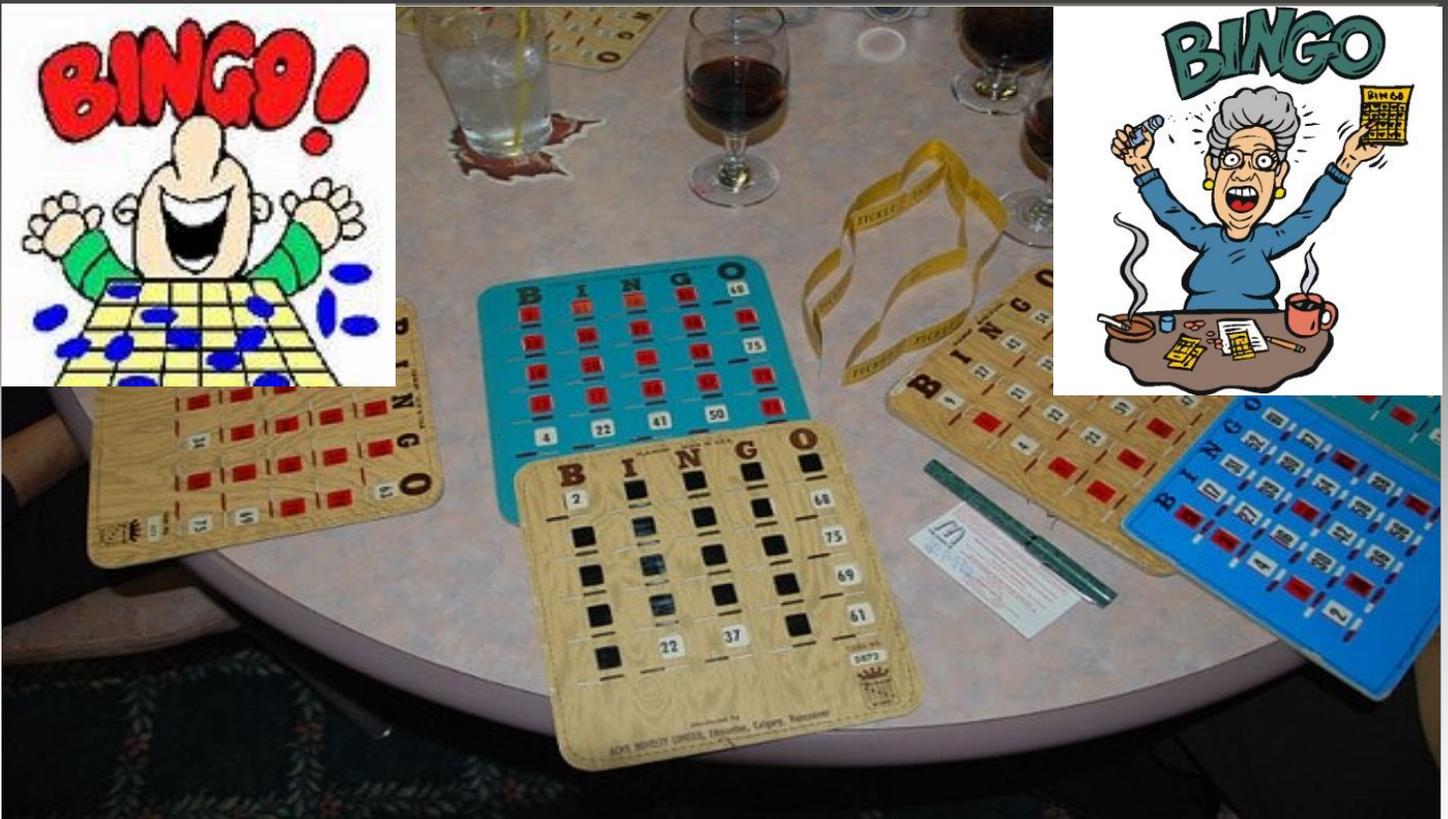
REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCHEON

Members of the Calgary and Stampede City clubs (and friends) have received an Evite to attend a REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCHEON on November 9 at the Hotel Blackfoot . After lunch , our own Denis Couturier will give a presentation (with visuals) on the Normandy Coast including references to War Memorials in the area. **If you haven't already done so please respond to that Evite with a YES or your regrets immediately.** The Hotel requires that Team Nixon provide them with the number of people that will be attending the event one week in advance of the event. Hope to see you there!



Yesterday I went to MacDonalds for lunch and had a kid's "Happy Meal". He cried and his mom had unpleasant things to say to me!

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Annual Charity Bingo

Your Hosts: Team Nixon

When: Thursday, November 16, 2023.

Time: 5pm to 10pm (we will be eating supper before Bingo which starts at 7pm).

Where: Royal Canadian Legion, 9202 Horton Road SW.

Cost: \$20 per person, includes two cards (extra cards \$2.50 each) and your choice of Chicken Fingers, Cheddar Bacon Burger, or One Piece Fish & Chips (all served with Fries). Coffee and Tea are provided all evening at no cost. Also, a cash bar will be open all evening.

Each player attending the bingo should bring a prize they would happily take home if they won it themselves. We will have the normal 50-50 cash draw.

As in prior years, the net proceeds from the event will be donated to a charity favored by our President.

We need to know how many of you are coming and what your dinner choice is. If you have already responded to the Evite that you received earlier in the month, THANK YOU. If you haven't responded please do so as soon as possible.



*A MESSAGE
FROM OUR
PRESIDENT*

To the Calgary Gyro Club,

I thought a short hello was appropriate to get my year as President started. Before the hello, a thank-you needs to be given to past President John L'Ecuyer and his executive for a very successful year. 28 events, new members, a district convention and a ton of fun made 2022-23 a very good year.

A couple of weeks back I read an article in the Globe & Mail about how bad men are at making friends. As many as 1 in 5 men don't have a single close friend. Just when the need for a men's friendship club is rising our club is shrinking. Many in the club have asked the question "Is our club relevant/ needed?" and this article says YES!

Read in The Globe and Mail: <https://apple.news/Aas4UgbMuR1qJ0-TVn9LmZQ>

Let's start with some facts for the club. We have 41 members (maybe – we have a few members sitting on the fence for renewal). This is better than most clubs in North America, but not the best; and it represents continued shrinking. Our club is continuing to age with our average in the mid 70's. Those facts cause a couple of real issues – low numbers for attendance at events that increase our costs as we usually must spread the fixed room costs over the numbers of attendees. And fewer, older, club members have made finding willing hands to make things happen difficult. These are the realities that we start this new term with. So, what are my hopes? I have three and an open mind to hear about more. First, I want to honor and restore some of our historical past practices. I want to set an objective that we have at least 4-6 speaker luncheons over the course of the year.

Speakers are hard to find but we will try our best to find them. Second even with a reduced Directors slate, I want to have as broad involvement of our members as possible in the planning and running of our events. We will still have the team concept, so when your team captain calls, try and contribute as best you can. Lastly, I believe we need to cooperate and collaborate with other clubs including the Stampede Club and others for events and for finding new members. Our membership is much smaller to what it has been in the recent past. With our decreasing numbers it is becoming increasingly difficult to source economical events, but we certainly aren't too small to have fun or to try to source new members.

For 2023-24 "Let's put the fun in Gyro" and do it together.

Your friend in Gyro

Bruce Martin

**GYRO CLUB OF CALGARY
EXECUTIVE**

PRESIDENT

Bruce Martin

VICE PRESIDENT

Zig Doborzynski

PAST PRESIDENT

John L'Ecuyer

TREASURER

John Hodgson

SECRETARY

Larry Fenton

DIRECTORS

Denis Couturier

Ken Prather

Bob Ulrich

Doug Campbell

WEBMASTER / PHOTOGRAPHER

Thor Jepsen

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR
CLUB VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:**

calgarygyroclub.com

Past Presidents Dinner



Pictured in front from left to right are Past Presidents: Gary Cobb, Les Hamilton, Bruce Martin, Ron Carter, Gary Cull and in the Back Row are Dave Jenner, Chet Mills, Ken Baker, John Hodgson, Garry Davies, Zig Doborzynski, Larry Fenton, John L'Ecuyer, Paul Skinner

Gathering on October 19th at Willow Park Golf and Country Club, 14 Past Presidents of our Gyro club enjoyed each other's company and a most delicious meal. This Past Presidents' dinner is a long standing tradition where we review the events of the past year and provide some guidance to our Incoming Gyro President. The fact is that Bruce Martin was our President for the 2017-2018 year, so this will not be his first rodeo.

Yes, there were lots of comments about where our club should be heading, and all offered their opinions to our incoming President.

Running a club like ours and planning events that caters to our members' diverse interests can be challenging. As we bid farewell to October, with the summer months behind us and winter's chill ahead, we remain hopeful that the upcoming year will bring exciting opportunities, fun activities, and a continued sense of togetherness within our Gyro club.

Our past presidents' collective experience and dedication bode well for the future of our club. We're ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities that the upcoming year will bring, with a renewed spirit of unity and commitment.

Installation / Founders



Pictured front left to right: Larry Fenton, Ken Prather, Bob Ulrich, John Hodgson, Doug Campbell, Ridge Forster, Garry Pattison, Dave Smith, Back row left to right: Zig Doborzynski, John L'Ecuyer, Denis Couturier, Bruce Martin, Stuart Chalmers, Governor Dunc Mills, Dale Green, Alan Lynas, and Alan Pentney

On Saturday, October the 28th, 70 Gyros and Gyrettes from both the Calgary and Stampede City Gyro clubs gathered to jointly observe/support the Installation of Officers for the upcoming year and to remember the founders of Gyro. Prior to the start of the program all had the opportunity to enjoy a cocktail and to visit with friends.

Our master ceremonies, Alan Pentney, PIP, opened the program by leading us in the singing of O Canada. He then recognized those in attendance who had served at both the District and International levels. Paul Stout of the Stampede club was called upon to give a Toast to the King. He then gave the Blessing.

At this point delicious buffet dinner was enjoyed by all who attended.

Following dinner Stuart Chalmers of the Stampede City club gave a toast to the ladies, to which Anne Chalmers gave the ladies reply. Very well done in my opinion! A very interesting Founders Address was then presented by Allan Pentney. After the Founders Address, Governor Duncan Mills was called upon to install the officers of both clubs for the coming year. Prior to installing the club officers, Governor Dunc did take a moment to comment on the contributions of Al Clark to our Gyro organization. Al was a great supporter of Gyro and in particular the Stampede City club and will be missed. Governor Dunc then proceeded to install the executive of the Calgary Gyro Club and then the executive of the Stampede City Club. The newly installed "Past Presidents" spoke of the

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year that had passed and the newly installed Presidents spoke of their vision for the coming year. Pins and plaques in recognition of service to clubs were presented and that ended the formalities.

With the formalities concluded, the band (Silence In B'tween) played dance music for our enjoyment. In July when they played at the District VIII Convention here in Cal-

gary, many very positive comments were received. While the dancers certainly seemed to enjoy the entertainment Saturday evening, it was interesting to see how quickly the crowd thinned out. I wonder, what type of entertainment is of interest to 70 and 80 something Gyros? If you have ideas about this, I am sure the Club Executive would be please to hear from you.

Our Executive and our Dancers



President Bruce and Alida Martin



MC Alan Pentney PIP



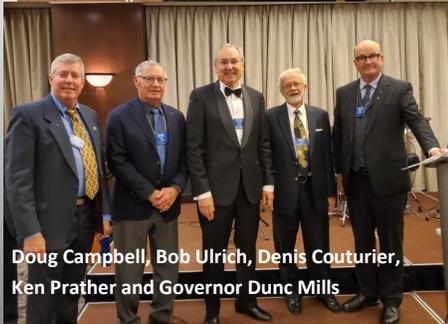
Treasurer John Hodgson and Governor Dunc



IPP John L'Ecuyer and Gov Dunc



Secretary Larry Fenton and Governor Dunc



Doug Campbell, Bob Ulrich, Denis Couturier, Ken Prather and Governor Dunc Mills



Dancers. Angelo and Lucy Zia, Betty and Larry Fenton and Garry and Barb Davies



VP Zig Doborzynski and Gov Dunc



Only Doug Church will be blowing out candles this month AND HE WILL DO IT ON NOVEMBER 5

Did you know that

“Statistics show that those who have the most birthdays, live the longest.”

Tom Bourne joined our Gyro club in 2008 and when his health no longer allowed him to participate in club events he became a “Friend of Gyro”. Sadly, Tom passed away on October 16, 2023 in Edmonton at the age of 88.

Gyro International / District

- ◆ The 2024 International Gyro Convention will be held in Niagara Falls from June 2 to June 6. For complete details check out our club website.
- ◆ District VIII 2024 Gyro Convention details are not yet available. Stay tuned.
- ◆ International 2025 Gyro Convention will be co-hosted by the Edmonton and Sherwood Park clubs. They are in the preliminary planning stages but, it is looking like the convention will be held on a cruise ship on the way to Alaska, probably in the month of June.

To keep yourself informed of the upcoming events please refer often to the club calendar on our website .

I am sorry to report that after twenty years in Gyro, Bryan Sherwood has decided not to re-new his membership in our club this year. We are grateful for the many contributions of his time and talent over the past twenty years and wish him and Andrea the best of health and happiness in the future.

The day after I ate the kid's happy meal, I was back at McDonald's, this time in the drive through. A young lady behind me leaned on her horn and started mouthing some ugly things because she thought I was taking too long to place my order. So, when I got to the first window I paid for her order along with my own. The cashier must have told her what I had done because as we moved up she leaned out her window, waved to me and she began mouthing "thank you", "thank you". I assume

that she was probably feeling embarrassed that I had repaid her rudeness with kindness. When I got to the second window, I showed the server both receipts and I took her food too. Imagine her surprise when she was told I had taken the food **that I had paid for**. Now she must go back to the end of the queue and start all over again. The moral of the story is, don't blow your horn at us old people; we've been around for a long time.

The 2023 –2024 Roster books will be available for distribution at the Annual Charity Bingo

That's all for this month,
Ken Baker, Bulletin Guy