

Thunderbird Bulletin

Camosun Gyro Club, Victoria, B.C., Canada



KEEPING UP

The big news is the Burns Night on December 15, but let's not forget the App 'n Yapp at Stu and Dawn Cameron's, January 11th.

Meanwhile, your editor has a confession. Remember the case of the lost Gyro plates? Well, they have been found: in the Foys' garage! Oh the shame! Oh the guilt!

Will we ever be able to look our fellow Gyros in the face again?

Probably.

Happy New Year from the *Bulletin*.

CONTENTS

Message from President Marc	2
Burns Night	2
4 Questions to ... Harry Hyde	3
Who is ... Ron Champion?	4-5
Where in the world?	6-7
Recent events	8-9
The Penultimate Page: Birthdays and Fake News	10
The Last Page	11

EDITORIAL

This month marks the beginning of 2019 and another year of fun for Camosun and our sister Gyro clubs throughout North America. We've not been great recently at inter-club relations. Maybe this year we can be better at that.

We sometimes forget that the Gyro movement is bigger than just us at Camosun and on the Island. Perhaps that's because we're bigger than most, maybe a bit smug, but we have a lot to offer and a lot to learn. Let's do it!

A WORD FROM PRESIDENT MARC DUMAIS



Happy New Year!

I hope everyone celebrated the New Year in style. Unfortunately, I was away for much of December, so Sandy and I missed some of the events but I did hear many good things about the month's Gyro happenings. The App n Yap at the Goldsworthys', for example, was well attended and a lot of fun – hopefully we will get to the next one at Stuart and Dawn Cameron's.

Some of the "children" at the Children's Christmas breakfast confessed to having participated for over 17 years, which goes to show we all still have the child inside ... Thank you to our own Santa's helper Ray Elford for organising the breakfast with Santa who made his traditional entrance along the fairway at Uplands in a golf

cart. Even the 20-something "veterans" were charmed. The present-giving was great and the kids were already fired up by our wonderful magician (even if some young sceptics thought they could figure out the tricks!).

It was so nice to see everyone at the Christmas Party. Mike Wedekind and his crew did a fabulous job of putting together a great show for more than 90 guests. Uplands is the perfect setting for our Christmas events and chef is himself a magician in keeping the food quality high and the costs so low.

We are past the hump of our calendar year and so far, so good. I've had tremendous support from the executive and all of Gyro. To be honest it is a lot of fun. I'm looking forward to the rest of the year with Robbie Burns Night, the past president's party, St Paddy's day and the Installation. Let's have a great year!

Marc

BURNS NIGHT

Our now-annual celebration of the great Scottish poet, write and philanderer, Robert (Robbie) Burns will take place at Uplands on 15 January at the Uplands. It's a Tuesday, so there will be no extra costs for Gyros, although the very welcome spouses and partners will be charged an appropriate fee (\$50.00), which is a cheap price to pay to see President Marc in a kilt!

Four Questions to ... Harry Hyde

What would you say defines “you”?

I am a gently and beautifully aging gentleman of high wisdom and extensive knowledge. (The original read, “I am a stupid old fart near the end of life.” I leave it to readers to decide which summary is the most accurate – Editor.)

What would you take to a desert island (excluding books and music)?

On the assumption that Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons*, *West End Blues* of Louis Armstrong, all of Woody Herman’s recordings, *El Paso* by Marty Robins, all of Mose Allison and all of JS Bach’s *Brandenburg Concerti* are already there to listen to while reading *The Years of Lyndon Johnson* by Robert Caro and/or *Truman* by David McCullough that have also been left on the island, I would be sure to take along a full set of clean underwear and a supply of sunscreen for my balding head.

Favourite memory?

Meeting jazz icons Leroy Eliot “Slam” Stewart (an American jazz double bassist and former violinist who could bow the bass while humming or singing an octave higher) and virtuoso jazz pianist Art Tatum, possibly the greatest of all time, in NYC when I was 12.

Everything about my mother

Why did you join Gyro?

Tom Wood asked me and they let me in.



Still on the run : Harry Hyde on his birthday

Who is ... Ron Campion?*

My father, born in Birmingham, England and my mother from Belfast, Ireland, produced me at St. Joseph's Hospital on Humboldt Street (long demolished) in Victoria on Feb. 17, 1932, which qualifies me as an "Ole Phart". I seem to have liked the place, since I lived there all my life (lucky eh?). My next exploits, after having been born, were to attend Oaklands school, Vic High and Victoria College.

I had lots of part time jobs: delivering groceries on my bike for McBratney's (Hillside and Douglas, now Scotiabank); selling newspapers on the corner of Yates and Douglas; running a Liberty magazine route; being a swamper on Lambrick's Dairy milk truck. At 16, I was a labourer on the now demolished Memorial Arena making a buck an hour, Wow! \$160 a month. Subsequently, there were more unskilled jobs at: B.C. Forest Products; the "new" Post Office on Yates and Government; Victoria Machinery Depot in Esquimalt Dry Dock; Safeway; Eaton's and the Empress Hotel, (busboy in the dining room.) Clearly, part time work was easy to obtain in those days – all you had to do was get on your bike and get in line at 07:30 at a construction site, show up two days in a row and you were hired (it was just as easy to get fired).

Ritchie Williams, a past President of Camosun Gyro had a trucking company and a contract with Canada Post to clear mailboxes and I was fortunate having just got my drivers licence to get the Esquimalt and Gordon Head route.

I decided to be a Chartered Accountant and in 1951 was articled to Geo. B. Holt, who offered me \$75.00 a month. (\$25.00 more than any of the other firms I interviewed). I was on my way and received my CA designation in 1957, whereupon I became a junior partner in Holt, Campion & Co. My 1/4 share of the net firm income for our first year was about \$6,000 (and we were on easy street).

I first met Helen in 1951, when she was doing her teacher training at Provincial Normal school and I was at Victoria College, both located in the same building where Camosun College, Lansdowne Campus is today. I didn't see her again for a couple of years until one night a group of guys went out for a beer and one said he knew where a group of teachers lived. Guess what? We were invited in and the romance was on. Two years later, we were married in Nanaimo on March 31st, 1956. We had two children: Craig and Jan. While Jan, her husband Randy and our two wonderful grandsons live close in Victoria, we lost Craig to a brain tumor at the age of 21.

In 1968 we merged with Clarkson Gordon & Co., later Ernst & Young. I served on the Council of the BC ICA for several years, was elected a Fellow in 1974 and President in 1978 –79 while a

Council member of The Canadian ICA. These elected professional positions required a lot of travelling and time away from the office and home. By 1986, our staff has risen to 60. Eventually, I felt that I needed a change of careers. I did a lot of soul searching; we had lost our son and, because I had been away from the office so much, things had changed a great deal. At 54 I decided to retire as an active partner. Subsequently, I joined McLeod, Young Weir, an investment company that became Scotia McLeod. After quite a few years with them, I joined Canaccord Capital. I loved my career change and hated to retire but when you hit your eighties you need to give up while you're still ahead and healthy.

Throughout my working life I derived a good living from my hometown, Victoria and always felt a need to give back, which I have tried to do, serving on many community and charitable organisations:

Victoria Chamber of Commerce;
 United Way, one year as Big Gifts Chair;
 City of Victoria Parks and Recreation Commission;
 Greater Victoria Library Board - 4 years;
 Oak Bay Recreation Committee - several years, one as Chairman.

As a CA I was Treasurer of:

Terrific Jazz party; Union Club; Victoria Golf Club and joined

Victoria Hospice for 6 years and was Board member and Chairman of the

Finance Committee for the 1994 Commonwealth Games, a volunteer position I held for 7 years.



One of my great loves has been music: I was a trumpet player of sorts in my youth, with The Victoria Boys Band, Lions Youth Band, Canadian Scottish Brass Band. For 12 years I was Treasurer and Director of The Terrific Jazz Party. A highlight period in my musical life. In addition to my trumpet I have a trombone and a ukulele and have had a gut bucket, set of drums and a piano. I have a friend who was great on the piano and we had some pretty rocking sessions. We had to get rid of the drums. (neighbours thought we made too much noise)

I was Camosun Treasurer for several years and 1972-73 President. I feel lucky to have lived as long as I have; Helen and I have so many wonderful memories of our nearly 60 years in Gyro. We feel thankful for the great friendships we have formed with fellow Gyros past and present.

We are also blessed to have Jan and Randy and our grandchildren Josh & Cailum living close by: LIFE IS GOOD!!

****"Young Ron", as he is known, is the doyen of the Camosun Gyro Club: 60 years in 2019!***

Where in the World Have You Been?

Rob and Cheryl d'Estrubé on the Pilgrims' Trail (Part III: Finale)

Hallelujah! the home stretch lies before us. 500 km down, 350 to go. We are descending into Moissac after 5 weeks of drama and travails crossing the remote Massive Central of France. The pilgrim trail snakes diagonally East-West but all of the steep valleys run North-South so it has been a daily experience to arrive at the edge of a plateau, marvel at the scenery in the distance and repress the withering knowledge that we have to climb up that other side for sure. And all the next ones. But millions have done it since the 10th century, so, packs and poles astir, we're off again, but not without complaint. But here at Moissac a new vista presents: a plain to the horizon. The easier part or a boring part by comparison? Sort-of both.



Rolling hills - at last!

Now, instead of vexatious and treacherous trails in the woods we are walking on hard paved roads with some whizzing traffic. Through endless cornfields and vast acres of blackened hangdog sunflowers collectively aware the end is nigh, we bake in 30+ heat, ever

Loneliness of the long-distance hiker I

hoping to find some shade ahead. But the fellow-traveller camaraderie is great and the food ever better as we head further South. Above Moissac in the poorest area of France, we had 3 and 4 course dinners each night at our chambres d' hôtes for about 12 Euros, all-in with all the wine we



Loneliness of the long-distance hiker II

could drink; here the prices are higher but we also get 4,5,6 courses for 15-22 Euros.

We are not in the here and now as we walk through the most ancient of villages and towns in France and our hosts are unfailingly generous of spirit, spirits, and food; it is all very addictive. After about a week and a half we glimpse the Pyrenees impossibly far away.

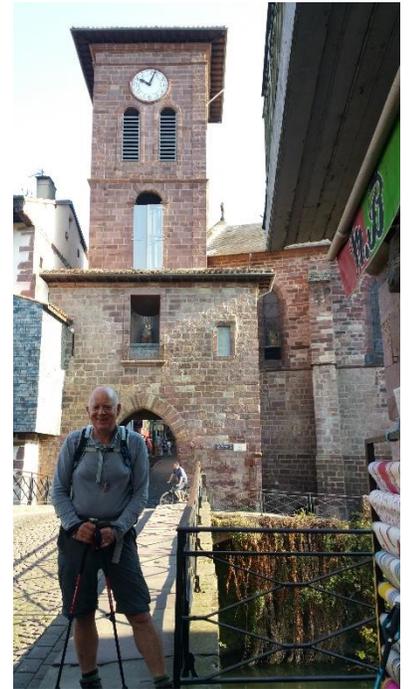


The distant Pyrenees

culture is changing too, now it is Basque, and proudly so. The signs are all in two languages, the Basque being full of Xes; we can only guess their pronunciations. Singing and merriment abound. Although we are faux pilgrims, God is on our side: we made it to the base of the Pyrenees, our destination of St. Jean Pied de Port. Real pilgrims go on over the mountains and into Spain for another 2 months and 800 km to reach Santiago de Compostela on the Camino. Give us a few days and we'll want to do it all over again, but for now we opt to frolic on the beaches of Biarritz for a week. I'm going to make my worn-out boots into planters next Spring.



Hooray, we're going there! The land is starting to roll now and becoming much more interesting, looking rather like verdant Swiss scenery but without the big mountains (if there is such a thing). And the



The End (till next time!)

RECENT EVENTS

REGULAR DINNER MEETING, UPLANDS, 04 DECEMBER

In the absence of President Marc and Past President Peter, former President Stu Cameron was in the Chair. He called upon Ron Campion to toast the Sovereign (Editor's note: that should read, "propose a toast to the Queen" – even the Republicans among us do not wish to toast Her Majesty!) and Tim Evans said Grace. Patrick Benloulou introduced his guest Sam Chan.

Michael Gatens, a new Member proposed and sponsored by Terry Fauteux was duly welcomed and installed in the Club. He was, therefore, in place and able to enjoy our fast-paced and amusing speaker, Ian Gibbs, author of *Victoria's Most Haunted*, talk about ghosts in Victoria.

Mr Gibbs is somewhat well known in the area for his popular *Ghost Walks* around the city that have delighted tourists and locals, alike. One of his theories is that there are powers that lie in lines below the ground. When these intersect with other lines, they emit special powers at the intersections. That explains why several churches in Victoria have been built at those intersections to bring extra power to the church. (Editor's note: We find the same phenomenon elsewhere – in Europe, for example.)

Some First Nations used to hang the bones of their ancestors in trees. This, of course, is fine and presents no problem. Unless, that is, someone trespasses on the sacred ground to cut down the trees in order to build something. It seems the Pendrays did that at Shoal Point, now called Laurel Point (where the inn with the Pendray name still stands). The family then built their BA Paint factory on the land. No sooner was it built than it mysteriously burned down. That, however, was not the end of their misfortune. One Pendray son, who liked to race around town in his buggy, fell out of said buggy and was killed by a wheel running over his throat which abruptly ended his employment. Then there's the story that the cleaning ladies at the Inn at Laurel Point won't clean some rooms on their own because of strange happenings in them; the hotel has to send two cleaners in together. Finally, the Pendray Inn, opposite, has a haunted room. It's #4. Seems ghostly heads waft about. When Mr Gibbs mentioned this to a tour group, one couple looked very worried: they'd just checked in and been given a special rate on that room...

In other news, as a reflection of views expressed by certain Lady Gyros, Members voted against "no dress code" for the December 18th Christmas Party. It seems everyone wants to dress up for the event! Even though there's to be no dancing, 81 people have already signed up, according to Secretary Peter Whelan. He did not say whether this number included Paul and Jane Fogh-Dohmsmidt who are back in town escaping the dreadful cold of their new home in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

The Fogh-Dohmsmidts will still be here for the Burns Night dinner on January 15th, another mixed event.

We heard that Golden Girl Greta Cox, Len's widow, has moved into Berwick House on Shelbourne.

Camosun's implacable Deputy Sherriff Spacey fined several hapless Gyro souls for missing name tags. He hit Stuart Cameron with a fine for winning an 8-kilometre run (shameful, at his age!) and took aim at improperly attired Members. Treasurer Jay was wistful as he contemplated all that fine money pouring into Camosun's coffers!

The meeting was closed by Chair Stu Cameron at 21:58.

David Else

RECENT EVENTS Part II

Following the deepest controversy in Camosun Gyro's living (or dead) memory over the vexed question of "to dress or not to dress" for the annual Christmas Party ("adult" version), a vast number of Gyros and their friends and spouses turned out in all their splendour to celebrate the season on December 18. As usual, Uplands chefs excelled themselves in producing a seemingly endless supply of goodies, which was the real reason for the "no dancing" rule: nobody could get out of their seats, never mind hit the dance floor! All the photos immortalising the event can be found at <https://camosungyro.com/2018-christmas-party-photographs-taken-by-jan-lim/> (accessible to members only, I'm afraid) but here are a few "tasters".



All photos by Jan Lim, © Camosun Gyro, 2019.

Lots of love and happiness all around, as befits our Club and the season!

THE PENULTIMATE PAGE

Birthdays!

Happy January birthdays to Jan Lim (8th), Jim Bailey (10th), Ken Travers (22nd) and Ron Froelek (28th).

Fake News? by A.M. Ember

Alas, the Referendum on PR for Gyro elections (see the December *Bulletin*) failed to pass. It was as narrow a loss as Canada's Junior Hockey Team in the Internationals: 44,702 votes failed to appear, 6 Gyros voted for the change, but their votes were discounted because of beer stains obscuring the ballot, and 7 Gyros voted against, but their votes were discounted because they arrived a month after the ballot. Said one disappointed Gyro, "I think people lacked information about the options: which one offered the cheapest alcohol?" Another suggested it might have been a good idea to wake up the 44,702 Gyros who had not voted. Had he voted? "Well no," said our hapless witness, "I was asleep in the dining room that month."

Following a report in last month's *Bulletin*, the US Border and Customs has offered a compromise on the "abandoned vehicles" controversy that arises when a snowbird returns to Canada for Christmas by air having arrived by road. The new offer involves the US authorities removing said vehicles to Mexico. Well, not actually to Mexico, to the border where they will be incorporated into the new Wall, due to be completed on the US side by 3089. Owners are to be encouraged to visit their vehicles for a fee of USD1 million, which will be used to fund The Wall. It would only take 50,000 Canadians ...

Duncan Council is thinking of removing the biggest hockey stick in the world (Guinness Book of Records) from the wall of the arena. "We think it's exclusionary", said spokesperson Divein Orelse, "because it may offend lacrosse players." Your reporter asked about other sports. "Oh, you mean soccer or 'football'", said Orelse, "They don't have sticks, only balls. Plenty of balls."

Meanwhile, Camosun Sherriff Mike "No Excuses, to the Gallows!" Wedekind has announced a crackdown on non-matching jackets. Says the Sherriff, "Plaid with blue jeans is just not acceptable, in fact, blue jeans are not acceptable under any circumstances". Offenders will be required to remove them on the spot and fined USD 1million to be dispatched immediately to help fund The Wall.

THE LAST PAGE

YOUR EXECUTIVE 2017/2018

President	Marc DUMAIS	1 st VP	Pat MARSHALL
Secretary	Peter WHELAN	2 nd VP	Brian JOSLING
Treasurer	Jay FRAY	Past President	Peter STANFORD
Director	Rick MCKAY	Director	Ron FROLEK
Director	Mike WEDEKIND	Director	Hans RODENBURGH
Sheriff (ex officio)	Mike WEDEKIND	Bulletin (Ex officio)	Colm FOY

CAMOSUN CLUB CALENDAR

Robbie Burns mixed dinner	15-Jan-19	Uplands
Regular Dinner meeting	5-Feb-19	Uplands
Past President's	23-Feb-19	Past President's party
Regular Dinner meeting	5-Mar-19	Uplands
St Paddy's Day Mixed Party	19-Mar	Uplands Mixed Event
Regular Dinner meeting	2-Apr-19	Uplands
Regular Dinner meeting	16-Apr-19	Uplands
Installation	3-May-19	Uplands
Installation	4-May-19	Uplands
Installation	5-May-19	Uplands
Regular Dinner meeting	21-May-19	Uplands
Offsite Dinner meeting	4-Jun-19	location TBD
Steak Fry	18-Jun-19	

The *Thunderbird Bulletin* is published by the Camosun Gyro Club for the benefit of its members. The views and ideas expressed in the *Bulletin* are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Camosun Club or Gyro International. Overall Editor: Colm Foy (colmfoy@gmail.com).