

Christmas Luncheon

Dec 8th, 2014

Watch for bulletin soon



Edmonton Pond

GAGGLES

www.edmontonpond.com

November/December 2014

Upcoming Events:

Initiation
November 6, 2014

Christmas Luncheon
December 6, 2014

Charity Gala
May 10, 2015

Grand Nest Convention
July 19—22, 2014
Baltimore, MD

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Edmonton Pond Gaggles is published 5 times per year by the Edmonton Pond of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International.

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HOCKEY NIGHT ON THE POND

Join us for a Pub Night for the Oilers game

This event will double as both a Pond gathering and an Initiation. If you or someone you know would like to join the Blue Goose, please contact MLG Chris Miller (780-801-0716) in advance of this event.

Thursday November 6
PINT on WHYTE (8032-104 Street)
5:00 p.m.

OILERS vs BOSTON BRUINS

Cover your own tab RSVP to Halie Buac at halie.buac@intact.net

MESSAGE FROM CHRIS



It's with great pleasure that I provide an update on our most recent Pond event. On October 23rd, the Edmonton Pond hosted our first ever Brewmasters Dinner at Craft Beer Market. This event was planned in response to the Grand Nest challenge from this year's Convention to host an event in an effort to increase exposure and possibly membership for each Pond. Our event was an overwhelming success with over 70 people in attendance.

The evening featured a four-course meal with beer pairings meant to complement the food. It was a great evening full of on of the main precepts of the Blue Goose: fellowship. We had a tonne of positive feedback about the event and it was good to see so many industry people in one room and a Thursday night.

We will be following up on our Brewmasters Dinner with an opportunity for those interested in becoming members to be initiated at our Pond Hockey Initiation Night this Thursday at the Pint Off Whyte. We encourage all members to come out as we have over a dozen new initiates who are looking to become members. We will be watching the Oilers/Bruins game and enjoying food and drink. During the intermission we will conduct a somewhat abbreviated and hockey themed initiation before resuming our fellowship and watching the rest of the game.

We'll wind up the fall session of our Pond's activities with our annual Christmas Lunch on December 8th at the Royal Glenora. Information will follow shortly and tickets will be available soon.

Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the next month and a half at our upcoming events.

... Chris Miller, MLG



CHECK-IN FROM GRAND NEST

Greetings from Grand Nest.

Hope that everyone had a nice summer off and we are now back at full swing into the upcoming year of Blue Goose activities. We have some early numbers to post regarding how the Rush campaign is going for Mid-October. Now these numbers are early and we anticipate that when the dust finally settles and all the ponds have reported in on the success of their Rush of Goslings that these numbers will increase significantly. However in the early stages it is very clear that this promotion will help increase our Gander numbers.

We have about 150 new members posted so far this year, but we also have about 105 drops posted for active members. The drops are for a number of reasons, the primary one being long term members moving into the Life Member category which moves them out of the active membership. Life Members are not required to pay annual dues however, should they volunteer to contribute financially their donations are gratefully accepted.

Region	New / Drops	Net
Eastern	19 / 26	7
Western	5 / 0	5
Canadian	31 / 13	18
Southern	54 / 34	20
Central	43 / 33	10
Total	152 / 106	60

The Canadian Region is holding its own in second place after the Southern Region which has been and is continuing to generate a lot of new ponds/puddles and memberships thanks to our Grand Custodian Linda Meik from Texas.

Grand Nest Officer's continue to move around visiting various ponds throughout the year. I believe our MLGG Bill Olson was last seen in Dayton Ohio in a sea of Cincinnati Bengal fans wearing a Baltimore Raven's jersey. So I encourage you to view the Blue Goose website (bluegoose.org) and link into the social media sites posted on that page. To keep informed as to what is happening and where events are taking place. Also in your own travels remember to look and see if there is a local Blue Goose event taking place during your trip. Contact local pond wielders whose information is posted on the Blue Goose webpage letting them know you're in the area.

Well that is about it – more information on the success of our Rush for Goslings to come by next issue.

And a great big thanks to the organizers and to all who participated in our own Edmonton Rush for Goslings – Oktoberfest. It was a huge success so thanks all who came out and had fun.

*Mark Robertson
Grand Guardian of the Nest*



DUES CHALLENGE

It started with a challenge from PMLG Jim Gardiner. Then PMLG Tony Thibaudeau issued the same challenge to all PMLG's.

The idea is simple: write a cheque for double your dues with the extra going to the 2018 Convention Fund. If you have already sent in your dues payment we will accept a second cheque and will direct it to the Convention Fund.

Thank you to those who have accepted the Challenge so far:

- PMLG Jim Gardiner • Cheryl Gardiner • PMLG Neil Miller**
- PMLG Tony Thibaudeau • Bob Bunker • Tomas Coufal**
- Peter Gerbeth • Kevin Webster • PMLG Mike Sherban**
- Roger Lestus • Dale Mah • Harvey Heinz • Tom Schmit**
- Sarah Hirst • Tom Hirst • PMLG Eugene Way • Les Craig**
- Mark Lunnin • GGN Mark Robertson • Wayne Orchuk**
- Larry Shumka**

WILL YOU BE NEXT?

Oktoberfest

October 23rd saw an enthusiastic and lively group of Ganders and guests turn up at the Craft Beer Market in downtown Edmonton for the Edmonton Pond Brewmasters Dinner. Officially it was our RUSH event designed to introduce industry members to the fun and fellowship that is Blue Goose and hopefully recruit some new members in the process.

Unofficially it was an opportunity to sample some great food and beer pairings. As a welcome to the event, a refreshing and tasty Stiegl Radler was served. Dinner started with a delicious crab bisque paired with the Erdinger Weiss. This was followed by an Edam Tartelette paired with La Chouffe. The highlight of the meal was an incredible Roasted Duck Breast served with a gouda Crouquette and paired with their Chimay Triple. The dinner was topped off by a sweet desert beer that had a bit of a cherry flavor



which was served with sticky toffee pudding.

PMLG Mike Sherban was the lucky winner of the 50/50 draw while GGN Mark Robertson walked away with a great gift basket. The real winners though were everyone who turned out for this incredibly fun, and gastronomically satisfying, event!

More photos on Page 4.



2018 LOGO UNVEILED

The Grand Nest Convention to be held in Edmonton in 2018 now has a logo thanks to the creative mind of Tracy Fata.

This logo will start to appear on our website and other convention-related communication.

Thanks, Tracy, for a great looking logo!



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Dec 8th, 2014

Details coming soon

THE MAN BEHIND THE AWARD

In November of each year the Insurance Institute of Northern Alberta holds its annual Awards Luncheon. At that ceremony, the Edmonton Pond presents the Ron Thompson Award for Excellence to a first year student in the CIP program with the highest marks in a minimum of 3 courses. It is fitting that the award is named after Ron as he has been probably the hardest-working member that the Edmonton Pond has had since its inception in 1953.

Hailing from Shrewsbury, Shropshire (a town close to the England-Wales border), Ron came to Canada in 1956. Upon his arrival in Canada, Ron wasted no time joining Blue Goose. He was initiated into the Alberta Pond in 1957. In 1965 he moved to Edmonton from Calgary.

Ron's insurance career began in England in 1943 with the Alliance Assurance Co. Ltd. After working at branches in Nottingham and Oxford he decided that opportunities were too few and in 1956 joined the Northern Assurance Co to go to their branch in Calgary. Northern Assurance became Commercial Union Assurance Company in 1968.

After moving to Edmonton, Ron was actively involved our Pond executive, serving as MLG in 1976/77. Ron also served for countless years as the Permanent Wielder of the Edmonton Pond, only retiring from that post a few years ago. But perhaps Ron is best remembered as the editor of Goose Gaggles. Ron, or Lord Thompson II as he is affectionately known, penned the Edmonton Pond newsletter from the early '70's until 2006. Ganders during those years will well remember the monthly newsletter, printed on blue paper, containing Blue Goose news, chastisement of delinquent dues payers, all accompanied by Ron's humorous, and often irreverent view of the world.



PMLG Ron Thompson

Sadly, Ron lost his dear wife and companion Anne in February 2011.

Your current Gaggles editor enjoyed a delightful visit with Ron in mid-September in his high-rise apartment overlooking south Edmonton. I found Lord Thompson II in good health and great spirits. While Ron hasn't been able to make it out to an event in recent times he delights in keeping up with Blue Goose news on the internet.

We want our good friend Ron to know that, while you haven't been to a meeting in a while, you are far from forgotten. For all you have contributed to Blue Goose over countless years, all we can say is a heartfelt **THANKS!**

Oktoberfest Brewmasters Dinner



LAST FLIGHTS

PMLG Jim Ross

On August 27, 2014 James (Jim) D. Ross passed away peacefully at the age of 84 years. He is survived by his wife of 48 years Rita, children Elizabeth, Adrienne, and Julie (Chris), grandchildren Kaleb, Tehya, Jakob, and Madeline, his sister Barb and her children, nieces and nephews Catherine Davis, and Ross, Jenny and Bruce Allford, and his canine companion Loretta. He was predeceased by his daughter Gail, and siblings Jean, Don, and Ian.

Jim was initiated into Blue Goose in 1975 and was MLG in 1980/81. He was very actively involved with the 1993 Convention Committee and as a trustee for the Pond Development Fund for many years.

PMLG Ross was born in Elk Point, Alberta. He earned his Arts Degree (1955) and Law Degree (1958) from the University of Alberta. His law career began with the firm Peterson Ross. In April 1991 he formed his own firm, James D. Ross Professional Corporation. On December 3, 2009 Jim was awarded a 50-year service award by the Law Society of Alberta.

Ross Talbott



On September 2, 2014 Ross Talbott, at the age of 81, took his last flight. He was predeceased by his parents, Carl and Esther (nee Lueck); brothers: Raymond, Chet, and Pat; sisters, Jean

and Doris Miller; brothers-in-law: Ern, Herb and Tom; and sister-in-law, Betty. Survived by sisters: Fay Missal, June Missal, and Carol (Rick) Gottselig; and sister-in-law, Lornie. Ross had three children with his first wife, Joy (Doug) Edelman (both deceased); Judy (Rick) Snider, Wanda (Dale) Engel, and Wade (Cheryl Mendryk). He had four children with his second and former wife, Joan (PMLG Gary) Best; Cheryl, Jannet, twins Jason (deceased) and Leslie (Steve) McDougall. He has 14 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Born in Lang, SK, Ross moved away as a teenager, and eventually began his insurance career in Regina, SK. In 1966, his

career led him and his new, young family to Edmonton, AB. Ross will be lovingly remembered for his gentle hands, kind heart, clever wit, as well as his love of sports, and playing cards (especially crib). In his younger years, he'd have welcomed you into his home, played you a country song on his guitar, and made you laugh. He led a quiet and peaceful life in his elder years, and enjoyed recalling happy memories of his family and many friends.

Ross was a member of the Edmonton Pond since 1984.

The Edmonton Pond was enriched by the involvement of PMLG Jim Ross and Gander Ross Talbott. They will be missed by all who knew them.

"Honored, departed Ganders, we salute you and greet you in the silent hall of memory."

Hail, friends, and farewell."



2018 GRAND NEST CONVENTION

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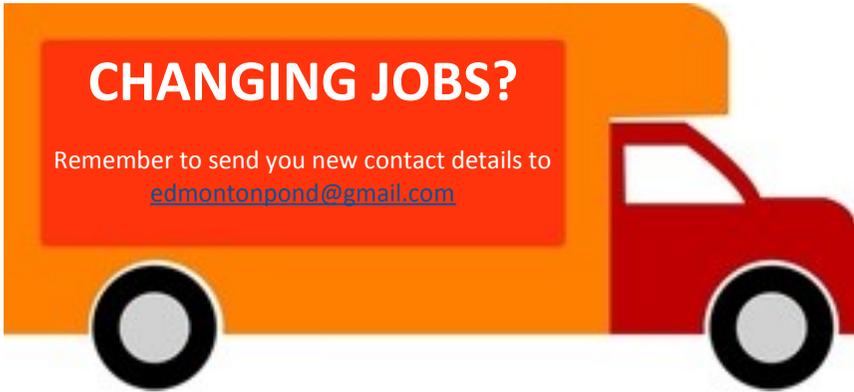


Your ad could appear here.

For details, contact:
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Future Grand Nest Conventions

Host	Location	Date
National Capital Pond	Baltimore	July 19-22, 2015
St. Louis Pond	St. Louis	July 2016
Southern Region	TBA	July 2017
Edmonton Pond	Edmonton	July 2018
Dayton Pond	TBA	TBA



GAGGLES ADVERTISING RATES:

Full Page Ad	\$135/single issue \$600/yr (5 issues)
Half Page Ad	\$85/single issue \$350/yr (5 issues)
Quarter Page Ad	\$50/singe issue \$200/yr (5 issues)
Business Card	\$35/single issue \$125/yr (5 issues)

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Guardian of the Pond

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Neil Miller
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Website

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Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International

Application for the Edmonton Pond

(Application fee of \$50 must be attached)

New Membership

Reinstatement

Flight

Personal Information

Last Name:		First Name:		MI	Name you go by:	
Birthdate:		Spouse's Full Name:				
Home Address :			City:	Province:	Postal Code:	
Home Phone #:	Cell #:	Home email address:				

Professional Information

Employer Name:		Work email address:			
Work Address		City:	Province:	Postal Code:	
Work Phone #:					

I prefer correspondence be sent to my	<input type="checkbox"/>	Work email	<input type="checkbox"/>	Home email	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Have you ever been a member of another pond? [] YES [] NO If "YES" what pond? _____
Flight to _____ Pond from _____ Pond and has paid dues for the
fiscal year ending _____. If officer, position held: _____ Dates: _____

In accordance with CASL I give my consent to receiving emails from the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International and/or The Edmonton Pond. I understand that I may opt out at any time by contacting edmontonpond@gmail.com [] YES [] NO

Date:	Applicants Signature:
-------	-----------------------

New Member Vouched for by Three Ganders

(1)	_____	_____
	Print Sponsor's Name	
(2)	_____	_____
	Print Sponsor's Name	
(3)	_____	_____
	Print Sponsor's Name	

Pond use only: Dated: _____ Approved: _____ **WGQ**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP
EDMONTON POND
HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE, INTERNATIONAL

If you work within the Property and Casualty Insurance Industry, we welcome you to apply for membership in the Edmonton Pond by following these steps:

1. Complete the Application Form (a form which can be completed online and printed can be found at edmontonpond.com/become-a-member)
2. Have your application vouched for by 3 existing members (Ganders) of Blue Goose.
3. Mail your completed application, along with a \$50.00 cheque payable to **Blue Goose Edmonton Pond** (for application fee and current year's dues) to:

Edmonton Pond
54 Arbor Cr.
St. Albert, AB
T8N 3R1

When your application is received you will receive confirmation and further notice once the date of the next Initiation Ceremony has been established.

For further information contact the Edmonton Pond at edmontonpond@gmail.com or go to our website edmontonpond.com