



Edmonton Pond GAGGLES

www.edmontonpond.com

Sep/Oct 2016

Upcoming Events:

RUSH Event
October, TBA

Christmas Luncheon
December, Date TBA

Grand Nest Convention
Savannah, GA
July 11-13, 2017

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

[Grand Nest Check-in](#)

[Gala Report](#)

[Grand Nest Convention](#)

[Golf Report](#)

[AGM Report](#)

[Edmonton Pond Officers](#)

[Membership Application](#)

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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MESSAGE FROM MLG KEEGAN

Welcome back everyone. I hope the flock enjoyed their summer. This is my first message as the newly appointed MLG and I have big shoes to fill but I'll keep this on topic. Last year's AGM went well and we saw the election of the new Blue Goose Executive. We also got to thank Harvey for all his work last year and welcome him as the PMLG.

Our season is starting up again and we will be planning events for the year. Of course we'll keep the traditions alive with the Christmas Charity Lunch and the Spring Gala but we're always looking for ideas and input as to what you guys want to do. My email is on the website so feel free to contact me at any time.

Long forward into future we are preparing for the 2018 Blue Goose Convention and we'll look for ways this year to incorporate that into our events. Make sure to check your emails soon for the next upcoming event.

... Keegan McLennan, MLG



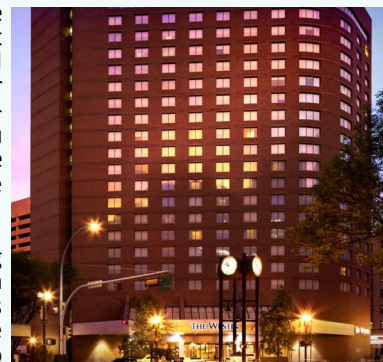
2018 Convention

Summer has passed and we move a step closer to our opportunity for showcasing Edmonton to the International Order! We are less than two years from hosting the Grand Nest Convention on July 11 to 13, 2018, at the Westin Hotel in downtown Edmonton. We have made some great fundraising progress to date by gaining sponsorships totaling over a third of our \$200,000 plus convention budget. But, we

haven't yet reached our goal and you can expect to hear from our committee in the months ahead as we try to solidify a stronger financial base. For those of you that would like to contribute individually, we can accept any amount but if you make it \$218, then you'll be welcomed to the Flight to '18 Club. More details about this are included elsewhere in this issue of the Gaggles.

In preparation for the convention, we are hosting Grand Nest's Mid-Year Meeting next spring on April 21 to 23, 2017, at the Westin Hotel. On this weekend, several of the Grand Nest executive and Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders will come to Edmonton in order to get an update from our committee as to the progress being made, tour the facilities and get acquainted with our host city. They will then be able to return to their regions and share their experience to help promote the 2018 Convention. To make their visit memorable, we are making plans for that weekend. Stay tuned as plans develop!

The convention planning committee has grown to over 15 involved ganders but we are always looking for more help as there are different aspects of the convention that need to be considered. If you would like to get involved in a sub-committee, then please contact PMLG Andrew Happer at ahapper@sintraeng.com.



... PMLG Andrew Happer
Convention Chair

PASSENGER LIST

Neil Miller
Mark Robertson
Ron Thompson



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JOIN THE CLUB

We encourage all Edmonton Pond members to consider joining the **Flight to '18 Club**.

Blue Goose conventions are indeed unique events. They bring together Ganders from across Canada and the US to participate in the business and fellowship of the order. Many long-lasting friendships have started at a Grand Nest Convention.

Members who have attended a convention can attest to the value of the event. Most will tell you that they came away with a much greater understanding of what Blue Goose is all about. Through interaction with fellow members from across our country and south of the border one comes to fully appreciate the dedication of our honorable order to its founding precepts of **Character, Charity and Fellowship**.

Pond members can now participate in the success of the 2018 convention in Edmonton by joining the Flight to '18 Club. Your \$218 donation will secure your membership, a unique thank you gift, your name listed on our website and special recognition at the convention. For more info contact edmontonpond@gmail.com



GRAND NEST CHECK-IN

Well it has been very busy on the Grand Nest side of things since our annual convention in St. Louis. We have had some changes with regards to the Grand Nest executive members. Our dear friend and colleague Jerry Hale continues his valiant battle with cancer and has stepped down from his role as our Grand Historian. Filling his boots for this position is our own Canadian PMLGG John Bishop from Nova Scotia pond. John will work tirelessly with Jerry and GGN (Grand Guardian of the Nest) Dan Rich also from Hartford Pond to transfer some of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International archives from Hartford to Nova Scotia. Both Dan and John are working diligently towards completing the past historical record of our order. They all have their work cut out for them as they proceed from 2010 to 2016 which is the last section to be completed and bringing our records up to date. No small task for sure.

We have also had Robert Cockerham stepping down from his position as our Judge Advocate and being replaced by another fellow Canadian gander PLMGG Lorena Kohlruss out of the BC Pond. You may all remember Lorena from the Alberta Pond convention 2012. Join me in wishing Lorena success in her newest role as we all know she will work tirelessly on our behalf.

At this year's 2016 St. Louis convention we were witness to the passing of the constitutional amendment changing the American regions from 5 to 4 with the amalgamation of the Western Region into the Central and Southern Regions. Part of this amalgamation was the creation of a completely new position on your Grand Nest. That of Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg who look after up the finances of our order and strive to bring some continuity into the fiscal responsibilities of all our ponds. PMLGG Randy Wilson from St. Louis has graciously stepped up to this challenge and accepted this new role along with its untold responsibilities.

There were some shifting in committee responsibilities at this year's post-convention meeting. Grand Custodian of the Ganders Kim Bilbrey from Dayton pond will take on Charity, Grand Guardian of the Nest Dan Rich from Hartford pond will take on Communication and Marketing, while yours truly Grand Supervisor of the Flock will take on the challenge of memberships.

(Continued on page 3)

GRAND NEST CHECK-IN (Cont)

We should also recognize the efforts of some of our Canadian DMLGG's (Deputy Most Loyal Grand Gander's) Dustin Bales from Manitoba Pond who again this year will spearhead our Rush for Goslings committee accompanied with DMLGG Brennen Mills from Saskatchewan pond representing the Canadian Region sitting on the Rush for Goslings committee. Our old friend and fellow gander from BC pond DMLGG Martin Moran will again take on the chair for the Communication and Marketing committee. It is truly great to see so many Canadian ganders stepping up to represent our Region on these international committees. Well done ganders in setting the standard for all Canadian ganders to follow.

Also at the 2016 Convention and during our Canadian Regional meetings a motion

from the floor was made and passed unanimously that our friends to the west, BC pond would step up as the host of our next Canadian Region convention in 2022. Other motions from the floor were discussed with one of them being a proposed increase in the annual Canadian Region convention fund contributions. We are currently at \$10 per member and have instructed the delegates in attendance to take this back to their respective ponds to discuss this change so that we could vote on an increase at next year's 2017 convention. With the convention rotation now at every 4 years there is a considerable need for the entire region to provide as much assistance to the hosting pond as we can manage. Discussion also centered on some form or way of sharing convention profits with future hosting ponds. Again, nothing determined or voted on but discussion on this subject again being sent out to the Canadian ponds for

input. I think we all believe in the concept of paying it forward, it is just determining how to pay it forward which needs to be figured out. So attendance at our AGM would be greatly appreciated so that we are prepared to discuss both of these topics with possibly a solution being reached.

Well if you have not tired of reading my report by now, I have certainly run out of words at this point and so for now will say so long from Grand Nest until our next edition of Edmonton Gaggles.

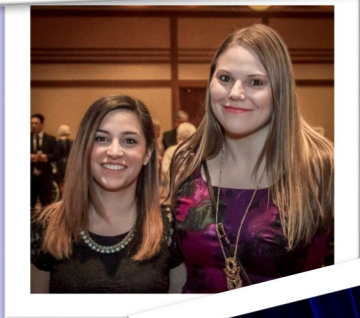
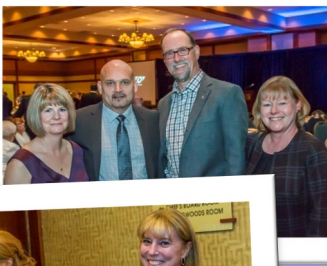
Please remember to Tote Fair in your daily lives and enjoy the full experience of being a gander in the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International.

*Mark Robertson
Grand Supervisor of the Flock*

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRAND NEST OFFICERS FOR 2016-17



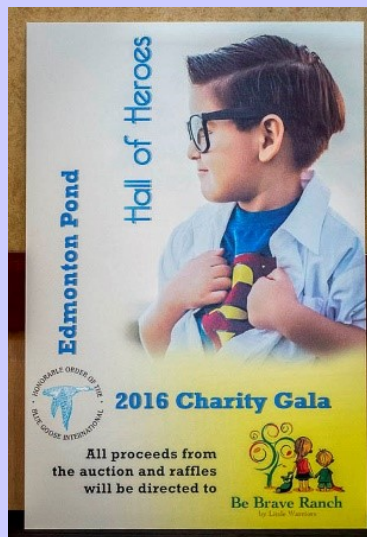
L-R Kim Bilbrey (Grand Custodian), Mark Robertson (Grand Supervisor), Linda Meik (Grand Most Loyal Gander), Dan Rich (Grand Guardian)



2016 CHARITY GALA

The annual Edmonton Pond Charity Gala was held May 7th, 2016 at the Marriott River Cree. This year's theme was "*Hall of Heroes*" with proceeds going to the **Little Warriors Be Brave Ranch**.

We would like to thank PMLG Mike Sherban for chairing this event, as well as all of the sponsors who contributed to yet another successful event.



For more Gala photos, check out the Gallery on our website ...

[Click Here](#)

and scroll down to the Gala section.

2016 GRAND NEST CONVENTION



St. Louis, MO In mid-July, ganders and their families travelled from across Canada and the US to St. Louis, on the banks of the mighty Missouri River, to attend the 110th Grand Nest Convention held July 19-23, 2016.

The Convention kicked off with a Welcome Party that featured a delicious array of food at various stations around the Arch Room Ballroom in the host hotel, the *Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark*. Following dinner we engaged in a mini-Olympics feature 5 fun games. In each of the games, the regions competed against each other for a \$250 prize that would go to the convention fund for the next convention in that region. I am happy to report that Dustin Bales (Manitoba Pond) prevailed at stacking beer cans on a floating plate and won \$250 for the Edmonton Convention fund!

The first full day of the convention started with the opening ceremonies featuring radio personality "Johnny Rabbitt". This was followed by the Memorial Service and the Model Initiation. The guest speaker, Linda Anderson, at the All Industry Luncheon gave a talk on "fire marks". Regional meetings followed in the afternoon and the day was capped off by dinner at the amazing and beautiful Fox Theatre.

The next morning was taken up by the general meeting at which various committee reports were presented. Of note, our very own Grand Custodian Mark Robertson reported that our Honorable Order had raised over \$320,000 in cash and donated items in addition to 2180 volunteer hours in 2015/16. The presentation of awards to various ponds followed. Our order grew by 2 ponds with the presentation of Charters to the Cincinnati Pond and the Northern Ohio Pond. In addition the Ohio Pond was renamed the Columbus Pond. An important historical event occurred with the passage of the Constitutional Amendment realigning our Ponds from 5 regions to 4 regions.

The afternoon and evening were free times with options to go on a city tour, attend a Cardinals game, or enjoy a performance of *Mama Mia* at the open-air Mundy Theater.

The final day started with a presentation by the Texas Pond on next year's convention in Savannah, GA. Great news for anyone who is considering attending ... the hotel is within walking distance of most sites and there is no need for a rental car.

The main item on the agenda for the morning, following various presentations, was the election and installation of Officers. Linda Meik was elected as Grand Most Loyal Gander, Mark Robertson as Grand Supervisor, Kim Bilbrey as Grand Custodian and Dan Rich as Grand Guardian. PMLGG's John Bishop and Joe Coccia installed the new officers.

Following the installation, MLGG Linda Meik appointed PMLGG John Bishop as Grand Historian, PMLGG Lorena Kohl-russ as Judge Advocate, and PMLGG Randy Wilson as Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. The morning wrapped up with our new MLGG's Address of Acceptance followed by various reports and presentations.

The Family Luncheon was held in Ballpark Village. The convention wrapped up with the Grand Nest Banquet and Ball with dancing late into the night to the sounds of Griffin and the Gargoyles.



More photos on the Gallery Page of our Website

[Click HERE](#)



GOLF

The Lacombe Golf and Country Club was once again the site of this year's Inter-pond Golf Tournament. 62 members and guests from the Edmonton and Alberta Ponds enjoyed 18 holes of golf followed by a great banquet.

The overall winner with the lowest net score was Chris Keeler. The winner of the low net from the Alberta Pond contingent was Cam Hiebert while Norm Genge won low net for the Edmonton Pond representation. Skill prize winners included Cam Hiebert (Closest to the Pin), Rod Jones (Longest Put), Randal Carlson (Closest to the Target), Marsha Kelly (Ladies Longest Drive) and Greg Weik (Mens Longest Drive).

PMLG's Eugene Way and Rob Keith are once again organizing the tournament on behalf of our Pond. All Ganders and their guests are welcome and you can enter as an individual or as a team.

Perhaps most significantly, this year's winner of the Interpond bragging rights for the Lowest Average Net Score was ... The Edmonton Pond!

This year's tournament was hosted by Edmonton Pond. Next year's tournament, on the first Thursday in June, will be hosted by Alberta Pond.

Our thanks to PMLG Eugene Way and PMLG Rob Keith for organizing another successful event!

We would like to also thank the following sponsors whose support is so critical to the success of this annual tournament:

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HISTORY MADE AT 2016 AGM

The Edmonton Pond AGM was held June 13, 2016 at the MKT Beer Market. Following a very tasty dinner the meeting was called to order by MLG Harvey Heinz.



Harvey outlined his year in office starting with the Oktoberfest RUSH event in October and culminating with the Spring Gala and finally the AGM.

Following the approval of the minutes from the 2015 AGM, various committee reports were presented.

New Business included the election of delegates to the Grand Nest Convention in St. Louis, approval of the reimbursement of delegate expenses, a discussion on event venues and concluded with the election and installation of officers.

Newly elected MLG Keegan McLennan made Edmonton Pond History as the first second-generation MLG. Keegan's father, PMLG Jim McLennan led our Pond as MLG in 1994-95. In fact, Keegan attended his first Grand Nest Convention with his parents in San Diego in 1995.

The Edmonton Pond Officers for 2016/17 are:

Most Loyal Gander—Keegan McLennan
Supervisor of the Flock—Scott MacDuffie
Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg—Jorge Gonzalez
Wielder of the Goose Quill—Scott MacDuffie
Custodian of the Goslings—Sarah Hirst
Guardian of the Pond—Steve Starna

The Wielder position was created this year to assist the Permanent Wielder. Scott MacDuffie will carry the dual role of Supervisor and Wielder while PMLG Neil Miller will continue as Permanent Wielder.

Grand Custodian of the Ganders Mark Robertson conducted the installation of officers.



L-R Scott MacDuffie, Keegan McLennan, Steve Starna

Don't sit on the sidelines.

There are many ways you can participate in Blue Goose activities and the Edmonton Pond will be all the better for your help! Some examples:

Help organize the annual Spring Charity Gala—contact PMLG Mike Sherban

mike.sherban@ca.belfor.com

Get involved organizing the 2018 Grand Nest Convention—contact PMLG Andrew Happer

ahapper@sintraengineering.com

Flex your creative or journalistic muscle—help with Gaggles—contact PMLG Neil Miller

edmontonpond@gmail.com

FUTURE GRAND NEST CONVENTIONS

<i>Host</i>	Location	Date
<i>Southern Region</i>	Savannah, GA	July 11-13, 2017
<i>Edmonton Pond</i>	Edmonton, AB	July 11-13, 2018
<i>Dayton Pond</i>	Indianapolis, IN	TBA
<i>Hartford Pond</i>	TBA	TBA

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2017 GRAND NEST CONVENTION

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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GOLD



PMLG Jim Gardiner
PMLG Neil Miller
PMLG Mark Robertson

SILVER





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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Without the contributions of the following Edmonton Pond members, this edition of Gaggles would not have been possible. Our thanks to ...

MLG Keegan McLennan

PMLG Mark Robertson

PMLG Andrew Happer

Photos by PMLG Neil Miller

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CONTACT US:

Most Loyal Gander

Keegan McLennan
Roberts McClure Insurance
780-439-4357
keegan.mclennan@robertsmcclure.com

Supervisor of the Flock, Wielder of the Goose Quill

Scott MacDuffie
Intact Insurance
(780) 428-7544
scott.macduffie@intact.net

Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg

Jorge Gonzalez
SERVPRO of Edmonton
780-784-7777
jgonzalez@servproedmonton.com

Custodian of the Goslings

Sarah Hirst
Claims Pro Inc.
(780) 437-4145
sarah.hirst@scm.ca

Guardian of the Pond

Steve Starna
Stantec
(587) 921-6577
scott.macduffie@intact.net

Permanent Wielder of the Goose Quill & Gaggles Editor

Neil Miller
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EdmontonPond@gmail.com

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	New Membership <input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement <input type="checkbox"/>	Flight <input type="checkbox"/>

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Birthdate:		Spouse's Full Name:		
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Date:	Applicants Signature:
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*Note: Application is not complete until Application fee/dues
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