

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Edmonton Pond

GAGGLES

www.edmontonpond.com

January/February 2015

Upcoming Events:

Charity Gala
May 10, 2015

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

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

[Words from Grand Nest](#)

[Fall Initiation Night](#)

[2018 Convention Update](#)

[New Arrival](#)

[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.

Follow the Edmonton Pond



MESSAGE FROM CHRIS

Happy New Year to all the members of the Edmonton Pond.

As we begin the New Year, it's a good time to reflect back on the past year. Over the last three months several key events happened in the life of our Pond that I am pleased to report on.

On October 23rd we held a Brewmaster's Dinner at Craft Beer Market. The event was sold out with 75 people in attendance. In line with the ponds precept of Fellowship (and its unofficial precept of "beer") we had a great night of delicious food and beer pairings. It was great to see so many industry people in the same room for a midweek dinner event. This event was in response to an initiative that the International Order has encouraged called 'Rush for Goslings'. The idea was to increase membership through an event that exposed potential members to the Blue Goose. We certainly accomplished that goal with our Brewmaster's Dinner.

We followed up our Brewmasters evening with an opportunity for those new to the Blue Goose to become members. We hosted a Hockey Night on the Pond at The Pint Off Whyte. A simplified initiation ceremony was held where we welcomed 19 new members into the Pond. The initiation was hockey themed and coincided with the Oilers game against Boston. A second great event to start our new year and the addition of several new members into the Pond is something for our Pond to be proud of.

*"an hour and a half
over lunch affected
the lives of almost
2500 children!"*

Continues on Page 2



MLG Miller with Mountain of Toys

2014 Christmas Luncheon

As guests arrived at this year's once-again-sold-out Christmas Luncheon on December 8th they dropped off unwrapped toys. The toys were piled at the front of the banquet room at The Royal Glenora Club ultimately forming an impressive Mountain of Toys. After the luncheon they were donated to the Zebra Child Protection Services to make Christmas just a little bit happier for a lot of children.

In addition to the gifts, members of the Insurance Industry donated generously to several other fundraising activities at the luncheon which resulted in \$3300 being raised for the E4C School Lunch Program.

The support from attendees was so incredible that MLG Miller announced that he was "blown away by the generosity of the people in our Industry".

More photos on Page 2



CHECK-IN FROM GRAND NEST

Greetings from Grand Nest fellow Ganders.

Of late there have been a few items on the Grand Nest Agenda which I would like to pass along to you.

The first item up for discussion once again is contacting our membership. Most of you will be receiving this bulletin from our Edmonton Pond Website but Grand Nest also send out bulletins and notices from time to time. In order for this to continue to happen we need to make sure that all our Ganders continue to keep our Permanent Wielder MLG Neil Miller up to date with any changes in their e-mail addresses and if you change firms please make sure you contact Neil with your current information. As part of this you must continually check the e-mail settings on your e-mail accounts so that your fire wall and e-mail screening will recognize Bluegoose.Org and Edmontonpond@gmail.com to allow messages to pass through. Otherwise our bulletins may end up in your SPAM or JUNK files. Realize that we put out a bi-monthly bulletin so if you're not seeing one every couple of months – check your Junk mail – it might be there. If you know any ganders who are not receiving the bulletins, please have them contact Neil to double check their information.

The second item that seems to occupy time at Grand Nest – is the use of credit cards to process payment of dues and fees for meetings/events. Grand Nest has approved the use of PayPal as a secure third party provider. Edmonton Pond now accepts dues payment via PayPal and used it very successfully to collect payments for one of our fall events.

Lastly, the Dayton Pond is hosting the Grand Nest Convention in 2019, right after ours in 2018. As part of their fundraising efforts they have established a "2019 Club". A donation of \$201.90 makes you a member of the club and will give you benefits such as:

- Receive a signature "Blue Goose" Sweatshirt (Hoodie or Crew Neck available sizes: S-2XL)
- Be recognized on all associated Blue Goose Social Media!
- Will be listed as a member in all future Dayton Pond newsletters
- Individual recognition in Convention Program
- Given a special "2019" Ribbon on your Convention Name Badge

If you are in a position to help these fine Ganders out through a donation towards 2019, send your cheque (\$US), payable to the Dayton Pond Convention Fund to their Convention Treasurer:

HOBGI - Dayton ATTN: Laura Kraus
P.O. Box 194 Franklin, OH 45005

Here's hoping that you all had a great Holiday Season and all the best in this New Year 2015.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in this New Year.

Mark Robertson
Grand Guardian of the Nest

Message from Chris Cont'd from Page 1

Finally, we hosted our annual Christmas Lunch at the Royal Glenora on December 8th. The lunch was oversold as the Industry once again showed its generous support of local charities. We shook things up a bit this year at the Christmas lunch. Although we still raised funds for the E4C School Lunch program, we also requested that guests bring an unwrapped toy or two for our Christmas Mountain. Overwhelmingly the industry came through as we collected over 250 toys. The sight was spectacular. The gifts were delivered to The Zebra Child Protection Services Centre and were used to give out to the 250 children attending their Christmas party. A table raffle for prizes and coffee cards resulted in \$3,300 being raised for the E4C School Lunch Program. Arlene Thompson, coordinator of the program, indicated that \$3,400 would supply hot lunch for 2,100 children. Amazing that in an hour and a half over lunch we were able to affect the lives of almost 2,500 children in Edmonton. I was proud of our Pond and the industry.

As we look forward to the coming year, we are planning for a Casino Night and our annual Charity Gala, as well as our AGM. Stay tuned for details on these events.

I wish you all a safe and fun-filled holiday season with your loved ones.

... Chris Miller, MLG



FALL INITIATION NIGHT

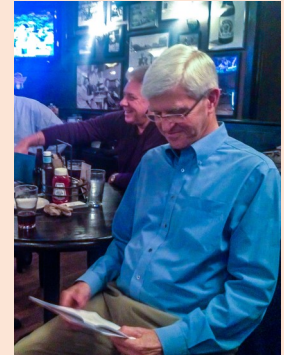
As a follow-up to a very successful RUSH campaign this Fall, Edmonton Pond held an initiation meeting on November 6th at the Pint on Whyte. An enthusiastic turnout of 40, including 19 Goslings, socialized over appetizers and refreshments while they watched the telecast of the Oilers vs Bruins game.

When the formal part of the evening was ready to get underway, KGGE Keegan McLennan escorted the Goslings outside the meeting room for some celebratory shots at the bar. Most appropriately, the drink, called a "Blue Goose", was in fact blue in colour.

At the appropriate time, the large group of Goslings returned to the banks of the pond to complete the initiation ceremony. In keeping with the evening, the ceremony had a hockey theme.

The Edmonton Pond is thrilled to welcome

our new Ganders to The Honorable Order of the Blue Goose. With celebrating that went far into the evening, this may have been our most successful Initiation Night ever.



Proud to be a Diamond Sponsor of the 2018 Grand Nest Convention



SCM IS ITS PEOPLE.

Together, we deliver world-class service through an uncompromising commitment to quality and innovative business solutions for our customers and stakeholders.

www.scm.ca





2018 CONVENTION UPDATE

Well, a new year has started, which means one year closer to our opportunity for hosting the 2018 Grand Nest Convention! We will be welcoming ganders from across Canada and the U.S. for **2018 Northern Migration**. You can see the newly developed logo at the top of this article.

The organizing committee has been meeting regularly and made some great progress. We have set the tentative date for the convention between July 10 and 18, 2018, so that visiting folk can take in the Calgary Stampede and/or Edmonton K-Days. We've visited several hotel venues and have short-listed two that we feel would fit our needs the best. The Chateau Lacombe and FantasyLand Hotel are the top picks. We have solicited preliminary proposals from these venues but will leave the final negotiations to when we have an event planner to assist. On that note, we have been considering three local event planning companies. We interviewed the owners and reviewed their submitted proposals. We will be making a final choice in the months ahead.

We have been discussing various fundraising ideas and have already started seeking sponsorships. We are pleased to already have four companies commit as Diamond Sponsors for the event. Thank you to **Challenge Insurance Group**, **Peace Hills General Insurance**, **SCM Insurance Services**, and **ServiceMaster Restore** for each committing to \$10,000 to the convention. There are lots of sponsorship options available so please get in touch with the committee if your organization is interested in becoming a sponsor. We are well on our way for establishing a strong fund base for the convention. Stay tuned as we roll out other fundraising endeavors including goose bands, framed customized photographs and a spring curling bonspiel!

We have lots of room for others who would like to volunteer on the committee. We meet monthly at 7:30 a.m. at the Denny's Restaurant at 104 Avenue and 108 Street. Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 14th. Please contact me at ahapper@sintraeng.com or (780) 801-0715 if you would like more details about the convention or the organizing committee.

*PMLG Andrew Happer
Convention Chair*



NORTHERN
MIGRATION 2018
DIAMOND SPONSORS



NEW ARRIVAL



On November 13, 2014 Luke Lawrence Reid Holowach was welcomed into this world by mom (Gander) Cheryl Gardiner, dad Aaron Holowach and big brother Dean. Luke weighed in at a healthy 8 lbs 4 oz at birth.

PMLG Jim Gardiner is one proud Grandpa of now two grandsons!

Congratulations and best wishes to Cheryl and Aaron!



The National Capital Pond is hosting the 109th Annual Blue Goose Convention in famous and historic Baltimore Maryland's Inner Harbor!

We are looking for Sponsors to support our Convention . Join us in an event filled schedule which includes:

THE OPENING CEREMONIES

ALL INDUSTRY LUNCHEON

VENDOR EXPO

DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT CRUISE

Registration for the Convention will open in

January 2015!

Go to our website to find out the details
www.NationalCapitalPond.com



To find out more information about our convention and sponsorships contact convention chairpersons:

Michelle Fitzwater, PMLG, WGQ – 443-717-4143, MichelleFitzwater2@gmail.com

Gene Newman, PMLG- 443-851-9596, newman@verizon.net



CHALLENGE
INSURANCE GROUP INC.

PROVIDER OF INSURANCE FOR:

AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE • TRAVEL • RECREATION VEHICLES
CONTRACTORS • INSPECTORS • ACCOUNTANTS • ENGINEERS
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES & SURVEYORS

...plus much more! Call us today for a quote.

Phone: (780) 487-2444 • Fax: (780) 487-2554

Toll Free: 1-877-642-2444

10466 Mayfield Road, Edmonton, AB, T5P 4P4

www.challengeinsurance.ca



We
are a
PROUD

**CANADA'S
PASSION
CAPITALISTS** | **SUSTAINABILITY
INTENSITY
COURAGE
CREED
CULTURE**
2014 WINNER



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?



RISK-CAN

Underwriting Managers

Phone: (780) 451.5663 Fax: (780) 443.0984 Toll Free: 1.877.451.5663
10466 Mayfield Road, Edmonton, Alberta, T5P 4P4

Local Managing General Agent / Wholesaler Providing Coverage For:

- **MedSurance® A&M** - Insurance for Applied Health & Medical Professionals
- **MedSurance® LTC** - Insurance for Providers of Long Term Care
- **ProSurance™ A&E** - Insurance for Architects & Engineers
- **ProSurance™ ABA** - Insurance for Accountants, Bookkeepers, & Auditors
- **ProSurance™ D&C** - Insurance for Design & Construction Companies
- **ProSurance™ IBA** - Insurance for Insurance Brokers & Agents
- **ProSurance™ PRO** - Insurance for Professionals
- **ProSurance™ RES** - Insurance for Recruitment, Employment, & Staffing Agencies
- **ProSurance™ SURE** - Insurance for Surveyors & Estate Agents
- **TECH** - Insurance for Technology Companies
- **WEB** - Insurance for Online Retailers & Web Publishers

• **PLUS MUCH MORE!** Check out our website for a full list of what we have to offer:

www.riskcan.ca

JIM GARDINER
PRESIDENT



GARDINER APPRAISALS

COMMERCIAL INSURANCE APPRAISERS

5119 Lansdowne Drive N.W.
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 4L1
jim@gardinerappraisals.ca

Edmonton: 780.413.9070
Calgary: 403.225.3009
Fax: 780.413.9071

www.gardinerappraisals.ca



PROVIDER OF INSURANCE FOR:

AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS
LIFE • TRAVEL • RECREATION VEHICLES

...plus much more! Call us today for a free quote.

Phone: (780) 487-2444 • Fax: (780) 487-2554
Toll Free: 1-877-642-2444
10466 Mayfield Road, Edmonton, AB T5P 4P4
www.challengeinsurance.ca

STAND OUT



Your ad could appear here.

For details, contact:
edmontonpond@gmail.com

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

MLG Chris Miller

GGN & PMLG Mark Robertson

PMLG Andrew Happer

GOP Halie Buac

SOF Harvey Heinz

CHANGING JOBS?

Remember to send you new contact details to
edmontonpond@gmail.com

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)

CONTACT US:

Most Loyal Gander

Chris Miller
Sintra Engineering
780-420-1551
cmiller@sintraeng.com

Supervisor of the Flock

Harvey Heinz
Roguski Metcalf & Co. Adjusters
780-465-7708
hheinz@rm-adjusters.com

Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg

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

Custodian of the Goslings

Zoeanne Campbell
Rainbow International
780-452-6462
zoeanne@BelforCanada.ca

Guardian of the Pond

Halie Buac
Intact Insurance
780-934-3737
halie.buac@intact.net

Permanent Wielder of the Goose Quill & Gaggles Editor

Neil Miller
780-458-2526
EdmontonPond@gmail.com

Website

www.edmontonpond.com



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

Work email

Home email

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

