

1ST ANNUAL BLUE GOOSE OPEN BONSPIEL
DETAILS ON PAGE 4



Edmonton
Pond
GAGGLES

www.edmontonpond.com

Nov/Dec 2015

Upcoming Events:

Christmas Lunch
Dec 7, 2015

Blue Goose Open Bonspiel
February 26 & 27, 2016
Saskatoon, SK

Grand Nest Convention
July 18—26 2014
St. Louis, MO

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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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2015

Edmonton Pond

Charity Christmas Luncheon

Watch for
Further Details

Monday December 7th



MESSAGE FROM HARVEY

Our MLG was on a well-deserved vacation at press time. Look for the return of his column in the next issue of Gaggles.



GRAND NEST CHECK-IN

Greetings from Grand Nest fellow Ganders.

Well your Grand Nest executive is working hard and diligently on all your behalf's with some exciting news and some not so exciting news. I am always an optimist so will begin with the exciting news.

Grand Nest is looking at developing a webinar to present the "Pond Operations Guide" referred to at the POG. Texas pond is currently working on this project as they have obtained a license for Go-To-Webinar. We are not sure if the license agreement would extend to Canada but once the format and design have been completed either Grand Nest or possibly a Canadian Pond might be able to use it and design a similar program for Canada. Either way it is exciting technology and will help to promote and further our cause by providing an educational base not only for new pond executives but also new gandens to the order as part of an orientation package. Hopefully there will be more information to share on this topic as it develops.

Your Grand Nest is also very close to finalizing the Redistribution of Regions amendment to our constitution. Keep an eye on your e-mail inboxes and make sure that Blue Goose is not being sent to

your junk mail boxes as you will receive a mass mailing of the entire amendment. Although this amendment does not directly affect our Canadian Region, it is an interesting document to read and understand as an example of how our constitution and by-laws work together to make changes. Our Pond will have to provide instruction to our delegates heading to the St. Louis Convention on how our pond wishes to vote on this issue.

We have the opportunity of a \$500 US funds communication and media budget to be used to promote our order at other insurance industry functions being held in Western Canada. Saskatchewan and Regina ponds have put together a Blue Goose Display which they have used and set up at the Saskatchewan Brokers Convention. So if any gandens out there have some ideas on any industry functions we could promote in our area please contact me either by e-mail or by phone. You can always reach out to your local executive members if you find I am unavailable or difficult to contact.

It is that time of year again – Membership Dues – please make sure that you forward your dues to your pond in a timely manner. As a Grand Nest Officer you cannot imagine how much time and effort is spent at the executive levels trying to get ponds to submit their dues to Grand Nest. Often the excuse is that members have not paid their dues so ponds cannot pay Grand Nest. So please let's get our dues in.

Ponds across North America have started to report in with their 'RUSH FOR GOSSLINGS' events and it's great to see that Edmonton Pond's event was a huge success again this year. Thanks to

everyone who came out and made it a great evening. Now we just need to follow up with an initiation to cement the deal. Even if you were unable to attend this Rush event – if you know of any prospective gosling's in need of initiation – please send in the paper work. The success of the RUSH event relies heavily on the follow up of initiating new gandens.



Don't forget that this coming year's convention is being held in St. Louis, Missouri so come and help celebrate under the Arch! Should be a fun time with potential for golfing or maybe a baseball game. There is lots to see and do in this wonderful city.

Well that is about it for now from Grand Nest.

*Mark Robertson
Grand Custodian of the Gandens*

FUTURE GRAND NEST CONVENTIONS

<i>Host</i>	Location	Date
<i>St. Louis Pond</i>	St. Louis, MO	July 20-23, 2016
<i>Southern Region</i>	Savannah, GA	July 11-14, 2017
<i>Edmonton Pond</i>	Edmonton, AB	July 11-13, 2018
<i>Dayton Pond</i>	TBA	TBA

CONVENTION COMMITTEE



I am pleased to announce that we have selected the Westin Hotel as the venue for the 2018 Grand Nest Convention. We feel that this hotel is an excellent facility for our needs and is suitably located for showcasing the amenities and activities in the downtown core.

We have considered the length of the convention and have decided to reduce it to three days in duration, similar to what other ponds are doing and Grand Nest's recommendation. This will allow a fuller schedule over those three days and give attendees more flexibility before and after the convention to take in the local sights. We will be hosting it on July 11-13 (Wed to Fri), 2018. Mark your calendars!

Since my last report, we have had several other sponsors come on board. Thank you to those who have committed to supporting the Convention. You can see these sponsors listed elsewhere in this issue of the Gaggles. We do have several other fundraising endeavours underway. Make sure you pick up your goose band and look for details on our Flight to '18 Club.

We welcome any ganders who would like to participate in the planning of the 2018 Convention. Please contact Committee Chair, Andrew Happer, at ahapper@sintraeng.com if you are interested.

*PMLG Andrew Happer
Convention Chair*



BREWMASTERS DINNER



The Brewmasters dinner was another success with plenty of attendees. We saw lots of interested new people filling out applications and having their friends and current Blue Goose members next to them able to sign their applications. That's what this event is all about. A non-formal event to stop in to after work, fill your belly with food and beer, meet some new people and enjoy some camaraderie.

The trout dish wasn't the best but the steak melted in your mouth (some extra pieces were liberated from Scott Mcinnis's plate when he wasn't looking). The A+ beer selection polished it all off and it was a great night.

Next up is the Christmas charity lunch. I hope to see you all there.

SOF Keegan McLennan



Photos courtesy of SOF Keegan McLennan & PMLG Mark Robertson



SASKATCHEWAN HOSTS BONSPIEL

The Blue Goose International – Saskatchewan Pond is proud to be hosting the First Annual Open (Men and Women) Curling Bonspiel this year in Saskatoon February 25th-27th 2016.

For over 50 years there has been a curling Bonspiel in Western Canada and this year the Saskatchewan Pond is excited to open up a new event to Men and Women across North America. We have received support from insurance companies and brokers across Canada that want to participate in this new event.

Our executive and membership are excited to have other Blue Goose Ponds support our event that will lay the ground work for future events in the hopes of raising money for charity and encouraging networking within our large Industry.

Please free to contact me with any questions— b.mills@fireandflood.ca

*WGQ Brennen Mills
Saskatchewan Pond*

**Application Form on next page,
or click [HERE](#) to download a pdf
version.**



Blue Goose Open Bonspiel

Proudly Hosted by the Saskatchewan Pond

February 26 & 27, 2016
Granite Curling Club
Saskatoon, SK



More information to follow



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Saskatoon proudly presents:
2016 Blue Goose Open Bonspiel

February 25th - 27th, 2016

Granite Curling Club, Saskatoon, SK

Registration Form

Pond Represented _____

Skip _____ Phone # _____

Email _____

Third _____ Phone # _____

Email _____

Second _____ Phone # _____

Email _____

Lead _____ Phone # _____

Email _____

Alternate _____ Phone # _____

Email _____

Minimum of 2 team members required to be in good standing

<u>PAYMENT AND DEADLINES</u>	<u>ACCOMMODATIONS</u>
Entry Fee \$450.00 per team	Accommodations can be booked through:
5 th or 6 th person \$50.00 per person	Sharaton Cavalier
Banquet only \$50.00	612 Spadina Crescent E
	Saskatoon, SK S7K-3G8
	1 888 627-8184
Entries will not be registered until the cheque is received. Registration deadline is December 15, 2015	www.SharatonCavalierSaskatoon.com
Makes payable to: Blue Goose Saskatchewan	Rooms Reserved: 'Blue Goose Curling Bonspiel'
Send cheques to: ATTN: Tyler Gaspers	Room Rate: \$169/night
1735 Alberta Ave	
Saskatoon, SK S7K-1R7	

For more information, contact Tyler Gaspers tyler@saskdisaster.com or Dallas Jess dallas.jess@icrcommercial.com

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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 ...

GCG & PMLG Mark Robertson

PMLG Andrew Happer

SOF Keegan McLennan

WGQ Brennan Mills (Saskatchewan Pond)

CHANGING JOBS?

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

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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:

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Roguski Metcalf & Co. Adjusters
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hheinz@rm-adjusters.com

Supervisor of the Flock

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

Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg

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

Custodian of the Goslings

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

Guardian of the Pond

Scott MacDuffie
Intact Insurance
(780) 428-7544
scott.macduffie@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/dues fee of \$60 must be attached)

New Membership

Reinstatement

Flight

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

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 Must Be Vouched for by Three Ganders:

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

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Edmonton Pond to:

Halie Buac
c/o Intact Insurance
700, 10830 Jasper Ave.
Edmonton, AB T5J 2B3

OR

Email application to halie.buac@intact.net and pay fee online via **PayPal**. Go to the Membership page of our website www.edmontonpond.com and click on "**Buy Now**" button.

Note: Application is not complete until Application fee/dues have been paid.

Pond use only: Dated: _____ Approved: _____ WGQ