

# RUSH

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Edmonton Pond

# GAGGLES

[www.edmontonpond.com](http://www.edmontonpond.com)

September/October 2014

## Upcoming Events:

Octoberfest  
October 23, 2014

Initiation  
November TBA

Christmas Luncheon  
December TBA

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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## MESSAGE FROM CHRIS

Welcome to the new season of activities for the Edmonton Pond. I'm honoured and excited to be entrusted as the new MLG for the Edmonton Pond.

It looks to be an exciting year for the Pond as we continue to focus on with the precept of Charity with our Christmas Lunch and annual Gala. We were extremely pleased to visit the Wings of Providence Centre to present a cheque for \$37,000 – the proceeds from our Charity gala last year – that they plan to use in support of the Rocky Forest Daycare.

We will also look to build on the precept of Fellowship as we endeavor to increase our Pond's membership and event attendance through an initiative that the International Order has encouraged called 'Rush for Goslings'. The idea is simple: plan an awesome event, encourage each member to invite one person from the industry, have a great time, and encourage those new people who attend to consider becoming members. Our 'Rush' event will be a Brewmaster's Dinner held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Craft Beer Market. Details are included in this issue of Gaggles. Electronic invites will be sent to all members for your use in circulating to other's in the industry. Please help us make this an awesome vent by RSVP'ing to attend for yourself and one other.

We will be holding an initiation gathering in November and our Christmas lunch in December. Further details about these events and more will be made available to everyone soon.

I look forward to a great year as we work to build the Edmonton Pond.

... Chris Miller, MLG



GKGGE Mark Robertson installs 2014/15 Pond officers: L-R Zoeanne, Harvey, Keegan, Halie, Chris

## AGM

The Edmonton Pond AGM was held on June 17, 2014 at the Chateau Nova Kingsway with 24 Ganders in attendance.

Following the Call to Order by MLG Mike Sherban, approval of the minutes, and the usual committee reports, it was announced that the winner of the "Name

That Convention" contest was Tracy Fata for both the logo and theme. Tracy was presented with her prize of \$100 in gift certificates.

Following an election, a new slate of Pond officers were installed by GKGGE Mark Robertson. The 2014/15 Edmonton Pond Officers are:

Most Loyal Gander  
Supervisor of the Flock  
Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg  
Custodian of the Goslings  
Guardian of the Pond

Chris Miller  
Harvey Heinz  
Keegan McLennan  
Zoeanne Campbell  
Halie Buac

The remaining items of business including approval by the Pond of reimbursement of expenses for attendees at the upcoming Grand Nest Convention in Salt Lake City and the appointment of PMLG Mike Sherban and GOP Halie Buac as the Edmonton Pond delegates to the convention.

## GALA SETS NEW RECORD

Edmonton Pond members and guests once again showed their huge generosity, for which the Edmonton insurance community is known, at the annual Blue Goose Charity Gala. The event, held May 10, 2014 at the River Cree Edmonton Marriott Hotel raised \$37,000 for this year's recipient "The Home Next Door".

Looking very dapper in his bow tie, our very own SOF Chris Miller MC'd the evening which once again featured artist Lewis Lavoie creating a painting that was auctioned off later in the evening. As a jazz band played in the background, guests enjoyed a first class dinner and an opportunity to bid on countless items in the silent auction.

Over the years, the Edmonton Pond has raised over \$216,000 for various charities at its annual events. Our thanks to all of the sponsors, auction item donors, members and guests who supported this year's Gala!



# RUSH

## For Goslings



**Come to the Edmonton Pond Octoberfest \***



**Bring a potential member**



**Click [HERE](#) for membership application**



**Sign him/her up**



**Drink Beer**

\* Lederhosen optional



MLG Chris Miller & COG Zoeanne Campbell present cheque to Linda Churchill of The Wings of Providence

## OCTOBER RUSH

The Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International has declared October as **RUSH** month. "What is **RUSH**" you might well ask. It is a campaign to recruit new members to our order by inviting them to a social event to be held during the month and hopefully encourage them to join Blue Goose.

The Edmonton Pond is hosting an **OKTOBERFEST** Brewmaster's Dinner on October 23rd as our **RUSH** event (see next page for details). As a follow up, November's meeting will be an Initiation Night.

The plan is simple. We encourage Edmonton Pond members to come out to the event. More importantly, we encourage you to bring along an industry friend who may be interested in joining Blue

Goose. Here is a chance to bring them out to a fun event and let them experience the fellowship of Blue Goose.

Our organization is unique in the insurance industry. **Blue Goose is the only international insurance organization that focuses, not on the business of insurance, but on Character, Charity, and Fellowship.**

So bring a friend or co-worker out on October 23rd to experience the fun and fellowship that is Blue Goose, as we **RUSH for Goslings!**

Seating will be limited so make your reservation early. **Tickets must be purchased in advance** as we have to guarantee numbers.

Contact WGQ Neil Miller at [edmontonpond@gmail.com](mailto:edmontonpond@gmail.com) for tickets or further information.



# Blue Goose



**\$30** : **THURSDAY, OCT 23** **530PM**  
**PER PERSON** : **CRAFT BEER MARKET**  
**GOOD FOOD & GOOD BIER!**

## OKTOBERFEST BREWMASTERS DINNER

The Blue Goose Edmonton Pond is pleased to host a private event for the insurance industry. Come and enjoy a four course meal complete with beer pairings for each course.

Executive Chef, Paul McGreevy, has developed a menu of food and beer selections that compliment the flavours in both. Come out and experience a European style Brewmasters Dinner.

**JOIN US FOR A GREAT MEAL, GREAT BIER, AND A GREAT NIGHT!**

Tickets must be pre-purchased for this event.

RSVP to [Edmontonpond@gmail.com](mailto:Edmontonpond@gmail.com)

Craft Beer Market  
10013 - 101A Avenue NW (off Rice Howard Way)  
Edmonton, AB T5J 0C3

[www.edmontonpond.com](http://www.edmontonpond.com)

## Menu

★ EUROPEAN ★

### WELCOME BEER

Stiegl Radler

### FIRST COURSE

West Coast Dungeness Crab Bisque

Crispy crab fritters

Paired with Erdinger Weiss

### SECOND COURSE

Edam Tartolotte

Pickled beets and organic greens

Paired with La Chouffe

### THIRD COURSE

Roasted Duck Breast

Gouda filled croquette, stone fruit jus

Paired with Chimay Triple

### DESSERT

Sticky Toffee Pudding

Cocoa nib infused ice cream and smoked cherries

Paired with Mort Subite



## CHECK-IN FROM GRAND NEST

Greetings Ganders from Grand Nest.  
Hope you all had a fantastic summer.

This past July the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International Convention was held in beautiful Salt Lake City, Utah. It was a hugely successful convention with several important issues taking place along with events showcasing the host city and state.

Firstly, I would like to thank all the Edmonton Pond delegates and ganders who attended this year's convention representing our Pond. Ganders Neil Miller (Permanent Wielder) and Simon Pugsley and their guests along with the Edmonton Pond delegates; Guardian of the Pond Hailie Bauc, and PMLG Mike Sherban. The Canadian Region over all was well represented with the following delegates and ganders:

BC – Angela Shears, Alberta – Mike Peck and Lynne Fawcett, Saskatchewan – Lee Dixon, Regina – Robert Barlow, Manitoba – Dustin Bales, Ontario – Chris Giffin and Adam Tzarik, Quebec – Jacque Cuierrier, Diane Loyer and Sylvie St-Amour, Nova Scotia – Archie Gillis, Stephen Hagen and PMLGG John Bishop.

Not that we are bragging but Edmonton Pond had more ganders/delegates attend than any other pond across Canada. We can take great pride in our pond and its successful membership involvement.

There were several important events at this year's convention.

- The passing of the amendment to increase the membership dues to Grand Nest. PMLGG Larry Lewer gave the opposing view to this motion while our own PMLG Mike Sherban stood up and provided comments in favor of this amendment.
- A new pond charter was granted and presented to the Mid Missouri Puddle. The granting of a new pond charter does not occur very often and was a special moment for everyone in attendance who witness this event.
- PMLGG Larry Lewer also presented a motion from the floor towards creating more transparency in our organization by providing all ganders with access to the Grand Nest Balance Sheet and Membership numbers. This motion also passed. This information will not be posted on the Grand Nest website but will be sent directly to each gander through the current Grand Nest bulletins and notices using membership e-mails. So it is important to make sure that you keep your e-mail contact information current with the pond, and also grant the pond e-mails safe sender status so that these bulletins and notices do not head directly to your junk mail box.



2014/15 Grand Nest Officers: L-R GKGGE Kim Bilbrey, GGN Mark Robertson, GCOG Linda Meik, GSOF Randall Wilson, MLGG Bill Olson

- Dayton Pond's Kim Bilbrey was elected to the position of Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg and will be spearheading the Convention 2019 representing the Western Region. The Dayton pond rests within the Central Region so Kim had to undergo a dual membership initiation at this year's convention.

If you have never attended a Convention please feel free to contact any of the ganders attending this year to learn about all the fun times had by all. The fellowship exhibited at these events is truly remarkable making lasting friendships.

Oh I almost forgot, and you will be hearing more about this "Rush for Gosling's" event which is geared up for this coming October. This is an international event and our own Hailie Bauc joining Canadian Regional Rush Chairperson Dustin Bales in coordinating this event across Canada. Congratulations Hailie.

We should also thank all of the Canadian Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders who represent our region. BC – DMLGG Martin Moran, Alberta – DMLGG Lynne Fawcett, Quebec – DMLGG Jacque Cuierrier, Nova Scotia – DMLGG Archie Gillis and our two newest DMLGG's – Dustin Bales from Manitoba Pond and Laurel DiMaso from Ontario Pond. Congratulations all and heartfelt thanks for stepping up to represent our Region.

That's all for now, looking forward to seeing all of you out at the Edmonton Pond's Rush for Goslings event.

*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.

To date the following have accepted the Challenge:

<b>PMLG Jim Gardiner</b>	<b>Cheryl Gardiner</b>	<b>PMLG Neil Miller</b>	<b>PMLG Tony Thibaudeau</b>
<b>Tomas Coufal</b>	<b>Peter Gerbeth</b>	<b>Kevin Webster</b>	<b>PMLG Mike Sherban</b>
<b>Bob Bunker</b>	<b>Dale Mah</b>	<b>Tom Schmit</b>	<b>Sarah Hirst</b>
		<b>Tom Hirst</b>	

**WILL YOU BE NEXT?**



## FIRST CONVENTION

At the AGM in June the topic of convention was being discussed, and that's when I really considered attending. Over the past few years I had heard a little bit about convention and what an attendee can expect. The one thing that really pulled my interest was the opportunity to meet new people from all over Canada and the USA who were like minded insurance professionals. I enjoy meeting new people and making new friends and this sounded like the perfect opportunity.

I realised shortly after that there were people from our Edmonton Pond that continue to go to convention each and every year. They even said they wouldn't miss a convention for anything. And that's because of the really great connections they make with the other attendees.

I decided to go to Utah for the 2014 convention along with Mike Sherban, Neil Miller, Mark Robertson, and Simon Pugsley. I was really looking forward to the fun events on the itinerary including: the pre-convention golf tournament, the model initiation, the Days of '47 Welcome Dinner, the luncheon at Squatters Pub, and the Grand Nest Banquet.

As soon as I got to the airport in Utah I realised that this trip was probably going to change some of my perceptions of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International forever. The very first night I really felt and appreciated the "Fellowship"

that was bringing all these people together. Everyone was so welcoming and no matter how different we were, we could always find something in common to talk about.

"... I realised that this trip was probably going to change some of my perceptions of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International forever."

The model initiation was one of my favourite moments to see. The initiates were brought into the room but had no idea there was an elaborate gun slinging western act going on inside. The costumes were amazing and the banter between the members hosting the initiation was epic. Being a

brand new gosling and partaking in the model initiation is something exciting that you can only experience at convention.

The best part of our trip was the Grand Nest Banquet on the final day of convention. We had a wonderful dinner and live band and many of our ganders really lit it up on the dance floor. We even had some of our ganders get up on stage to steal the microphone and take over the drum set.

The people that I met at convention from all over Canada and the USA are going to

be connections that I will have for the rest of my life. I met such a wide range of people including executives, claims investigators, brokers, underwriters, appraisers and marketing representatives. But all in all, no matter how different our work was, we were there for the same purpose. We were there to share and connect with each other under the banner of "Fellowship" and I really do look at our organization with a new understanding.

We have a lot of tradition and we also have our three guiding principles: "Charity", "Character" and "Fellowship". But we have something else that I didn't realise before: we have an opportunity to be the change that we want to see. And change can happen while we also continue to uphold the key principles of "Charity", "Character", and "Fellowship". These three principles do not speak only about our past and present, but they are the direction of our future. The people who I met were passionate about these three things, but they were also looking forward. And this passion not only affects the industry in which we work, but it affects our local communities as well.



Halie with a purchase

I am really proud to be a part of an organization that has been around since 1906 and I can appreciate now that being a part of this is something really special.

Halie Buac, GOP

## CONVENTION RECAP



The 108<sup>th</sup> Grand Nest Convention was held in Salt Lake City, UT July 23-27, 2014. Ganders and guest from across Canada and the US met at the Marriott City Center Hotel, within walking distance of the beautiful Temple Square and the stately Capitol building. Edmonton Pond first-time attendees Halie Buac and Simon Pugsley joined fellow

A golf tournament on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, followed by a Welcome Party that evening, kicked off the Convention.



Ace Sherban

Of course the highlight of the golf tournament was our very own PMLG Mike Sherban hitting a hole-in-one!

The formal part of the convention got underway on the morning of Thursday, July 24 with the Opening Ceremonies and Memorial Service. Then it was the "cast" from *Blazing Saddles* (aka National Capital Pond) who had them rolling in the aisles with their hilarious Model Initiation.



Initiation Team

Outdoor adventurer and publisher of Outdoor Utah Adventure Guide, Red Oerlicher, was the guest speaker at the All Industry Luncheon. His slideshow presentation showcased the incredible beauty of Utah's five state parks.

Regional meeting convened following the luncheon. Thursday evening featured the Family Night Dinner at The Leonardo museum. Meetings dominated the mornings for the final two days winding up with lunch at Squatters Grill on Saturday. Edmonton Pond shared hosting duties of the Hospitality Suite on Friday night with the St. Louis Pond.

While Ganders were busy in meetings, spouses were not forgotten with various activities, tours, and luncheons on their agenda.

With the Grand Banquet and Ball closing the convention on Saturday night it was time to say farewell again to wonderful Blue Goose friends, both old and new



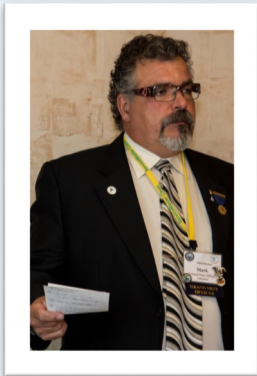
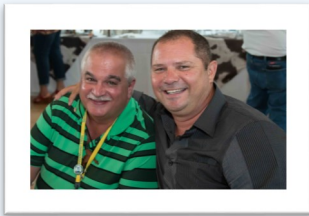
First timers Simon, Halie

Edmonton ganders Mike Sherban, Mark Robertson, and Neil Miller for the 4 days of fun and fellowship.

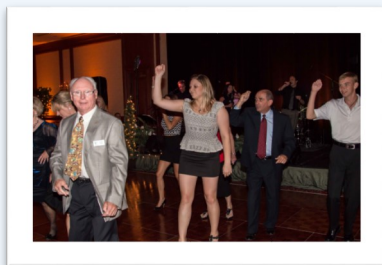
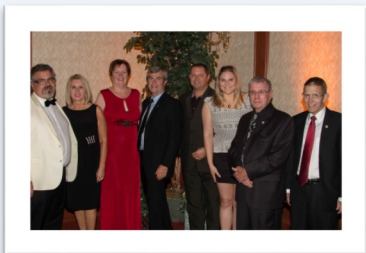
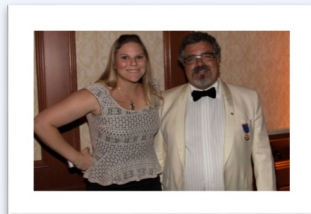
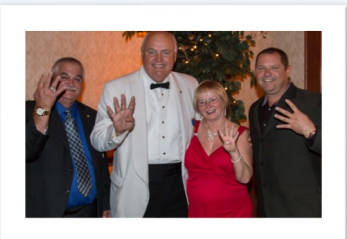
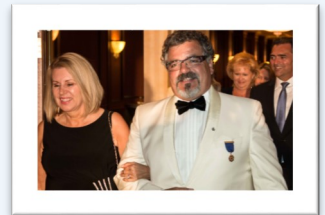
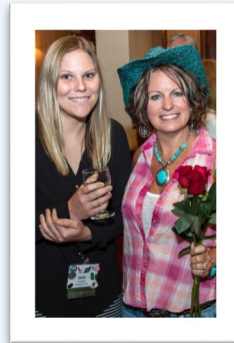
# PHOTO ALBUM

GRAND NEST CONVENTION 2014

SALT LAKE CITY, UT



Click [HERE](#) for more photos





# THANK YOU!

The 2014 Blue Goose Charity Gala, in support of *The Home Next Door*, would not have been the resounding success that it was without the generous support of the following sponsors:

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Wings of Providence



Blue Goose ~~Ski~~ Golf

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

In the largest turnout in recent years, Blue Goose members and guests turned out on

June 5th for what was likely the coldest Interpond Golf Tournament on record. Golfers from Edmonton and Alberta Ponds teed off in +5 temperatures at the Lacombe Golf & Country Club, brav-

ing cold winds and showers for the next 18 holes. It put a whole new meaning into "Blue" Goose!

Special thanks go out to the sponsors, volunteers and hole-in-one spotters who manned various holes to entertain and feed the golfers. It took an extra degree of stamina for them to survive the day!

Once again, PMLG's Eugene Way and Rob Keith, assisted by Ken Bolan, did an outstanding job of organizing the tournament on behalf of the Edmonton Pond.

Tournament winners were **Cam Hiebert** (Overall Low Net), **Jay Laplante** (Alberta Pond Low Net), **Kevin Shaigic** (Edmonton Pond Low Net), and **Ken Lakhram** (55+ Low Net). Edmonton Pond earned the bragging rights in the Inter-Pond competition.

We owe a HUGE debt of gratitude to our tournament sponsors. This tournament was an outstanding success because of their support. These great companies are listed below:

## 2014 Golf Tournament Sponsors

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**Intact Insurance**  
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**ServiceMaster**  
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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



## RISK-CAN Underwriting Managers

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JIM GARDINER  
PRESIDENT



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## CHANGING JOBS?

Remember to send you new contact details to  
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### 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](mailto:cmiller@sintraeng.com)

##### Supervisor of the Flock

Harvey Heinz  
Roguski Metcalf & Co. Adjusters  
780-465-7708  
[hheinz@rm-adjusters.com](mailto:hheinz@rm-adjusters.com)

##### Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg

Keegan McLennan  
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[keegan.mclennan@robertsmcclure.com](mailto:keegan.mclennan@robertsmcclure.com)

##### Custodian of the Goslings

Zoeanne Campbell  
Rainbow International  
780-452-6462  
[zoeanne@BelforCanada.ca](mailto:zoeanne@BelforCanada.ca)

##### Guardian of the Pond

Halie Buac  
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780-934-3737  
[halie.buac@intact.net](mailto:halie.buac@intact.net)

##### Permanent Wielder of the Goose Quill & Gaggles Editor

Neil Miller  
780-458-2526  
[EdmontonPond@gmail.com](mailto:EdmontonPond@gmail.com)

##### Website

[www.edmontonpond.com](http://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 #:	Work email address:		

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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:edmontonpond@gmail.com) or go to our website [edmontonpond.com](http://edmontonpond.com)