HAPPY NEW YEAR

Edmonton Pond GAGGLES

www.edmontonpond.com

Jan/Feb 2016

Upcoming Events:

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

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

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

Christmas Luncheon

2018 Convention

Curling

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 HARVEY

Hello Ganders. It is that time of the year when we reflect on the year's challenges, events and the many blessings we are privileged to enjoy in this wonderful country we call home.

We recently held our annual Christmas charity lunch at the Royal Glenora to raise money for E4C inner school lunch program. This program serves 20 inner city schools representing hundreds of students. I do not have the final report at the moment however I believe once we have dealt with the expenses related to this event we will net at least $3000 for this charity. Kudos to David Wintoniak from Ravenhill Agencies Ltd who donated to E4C his winnings from the 50/50 draw to E4C. Cynthie Yakowich from E4C explained how important it is to provide students a meal and a full stomach goes a long way to help feed a hungry mind wanting to learn.

This year we repeated a request for unwrapped toys. Lana Nordlund, Executive Director for Santa's Anonymous, spoke to the need to get a Christmas present to children who are disadvantaged due to family dynamics too numerous to mention here. I did not count all the toys but Lana estimated 150-175 toys representing over $3000 dollars in value. Way to go attendees!!!!

The Christmas lunch was a very busy time and I was amiss for not thanking publically all those who individually or corporately donated gift cards and door prizes to help make this event so successful. Please accept my apologies.

The executive will be meeting in January to plan our next event this winter and then it will be

(Continued on page 2)

GRAND NEST CHECK-IN

Greetings from Grand Nest and our best wishes to the entire Flock of Ganders and their families for a very happy and productive New Year in 2016.
There has not been a tremendous amount of activity over the Holiday season so I thought I would simply recap for you some of the highlights of this past year involving your Grand Nest and the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International.

(In no particular order of importance or date)

- The 109th Convention convened in Baltimore, Maryland and was a great success thanks to the efforts of PMLGG William (Wild Bill) Olson and his cast of supporting Baltimore pirate crew.
- Dan Rich was elected to your GN executive as the Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg to represent the Eastern Region out of the Hartford Pond for convention 2020. All of the other executive members moved up the ladder towards their respective conventions.
- We saw the handing over of the torch from our past Judge Advocate Robert Ross, who served our order in that capacity for 15 years, to your new Judge Advocate Robert W. Cockerham from the St Louis Pond.
- The Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International raised and donated approximately

(Continued on page 2)

(*Message from Harvey, cont'd*)

time to host the annual Blue Goose Gala. Neil Miller, our Wielder of the Goose Quill, sent out a request for volunteers to help organize this year's Gala. Thank you to all of you who have replied and expressed a willingness to help out. It is refreshing to see the enthusiasm already starting to build for this important event.

There is more good news and it has to do with the 2018 Convention but I will not steal the thunder of the Convention chairman but encourage all to read further in this newsletter for the highlights.

I hope to see you at our next event.

… Harvey Heinz, MLG

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Members and guests kicked off the holiday season in style with the annual Edmonton Pond Christmas Luncheon. This popular event, held this year on December 7th, once again drew a sizable crowd to share a bit of Christmas cheer with friends and acquaintances.

Industry generosity was once again demonstrated in the Mountain of Toys collected for Santa's Anonymous . As well, in keeping with the tradition over the past several years, funds were raised for the E4C School Lunch Program. As MLG Harvey Heinz mentioned in his column in this issue, our thanks to David Wintoniak for donating his 50/50 winnings back to E4C.

While the final donation amount hadn't been confirmed at press time, members will be advised once it is available.

Thanks to all of the sponsors and attendees for making this such a tremendous success!

Photos courtesy of Keegan McLennan and Halie Buac.

(Grand Nest cont'd)

$310,000 dollars during the past year to charitable causes dear to our hearts. We also as an order provided almost 2200 hours of community service hours to help those less fortunate than ourselves, and we provided Scholarship awards of roughly $6400.

- The Rush for Goslings event continued to bring in new and energetic members to our order. Over 400 new members were initiated during this past year. This event has helped to put our net numbers in the positive for growth for the second year in a row which is outstanding. New members continue to be a driving force towards our charitable endeavors.

$310,000 donated!

2200 hours of community service!

- The proposal for the redistribution of the USA regions has been completed and it ready for voting on at the 2016 convention. This was a massive project encompassing a tremendous amount of time and effort on the part of your Grand Nest officers from the USA.

Well that's a wrap – short, sweet and simple.

Again all the best in the coming New Year. I look forward to serving as your delegate on the Grand Nest over this coming year.

Mark Robertson
Grand Custodian of the Ganders

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

With the ringing in of the New Year, we are one year closer to hosting the Grand Nest Convention. Mark your calendars as the convention is scheduled for July 11 to 13 (Wed to Fri), 2018, at the Westin Hotel in downtown Edmonton!

Fundraising efforts continue and we have made good progress to date with over $85,000 from committed sponsors. Recently, Intact Insurance committed to sponsoring the Grand Nest Banquet that will be held on the Friday evening of the convention. We also have four $10K Diamond sponsors, one $5K Platinum sponsor, seven $2.5K Gold sponsors and two $1K Silver sponsors. Companies can still provide support at the Platinum, Gold and Silver levels. We have also introduced the Flight to '18 Club that individuals can join by making a $218 donation. Individual contributors will be recognized and receive a unique keepsake. If you would like to learn more about each of these sponsorship levels, then please contact PMLG Neil Miller at edmontonpond@gmail.com.

The committee continues to meet monthly and has been structured with individuals in charge of various aspects of the convention planning. Each of the designated areas need additional volunteers to form sub-committees that can assist with specific tasks. We welcome ganders who would like to participate and get involved with the planning of the convention to assist the heads of the sub-committees. Please contact Committee Chair, PMLG Andrew Happer, at ahapper@sintraeng.com for more information.

... PMLG Andrew Happer
Convention Chair

Intact Insurance Regional Vice President Chris Miller presents convention sponsorship to Andrew Happer as other Pond members from Intact look on.

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 MLG Harvey Heinz
hheinz@rm-adjusters.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

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

Entry Deadline Extended

Blue Goose Open Bonspiel

Proudly Hosted by the Saskatchewan Pond

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

HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE INTERNATIONAL

See entry form in this issue or click HERE for pdf version.

On Sale Now

"Northern Migration"
Limited edition print

All proceeds from the sale of this beautiful Alberta landscape, a creation of renowned photographer David Buzzeo, support the 2018 Grand Nest Convention to be held inEdmonton.

To order, contact:
PMLG Neil Miller
edmontonpond@gmail.com
or
780-458-2526

13" X 19" print ... $50
13" X 19" canvas gallery wrap ... $150
other sizes available, please inquire

Help Wanted

Want an outlet for your journalistic abilities?

Want somewhere to flex your artistic talent?

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to assist with the production of Gaggles, the bi-monthly newsletter of the Edmonton Pond. We have endless ways to utilize that creative inner you!

Write an article.
Create a poster.
Cover an event.
Assist with layout.
The opportunities are limitless.

No pay.
No benefits.
No corner office.
Minimal time commitment.
Immense satisfaction.

Contact Neil Miller at edmontonpond@gmail.com to explore how you can help.

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

PAYMENT AND DEADLINES

Entry Fee	$450.00 per team
5th or 6th person	$50.00 per person
Banquet only	$50.00

Entries will not be registered until the cheque is received. Registration deadline is ~~December 15, 2015~~ Deadline Extended

Makes payable to: **Blue Goose Saskatchewan**

Send cheques to: ATTN: Tyler Gaspers
1735 Alberta Ave
Saskatoon, SK S7K-1R7

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations can be booked through:

Sharaton Cavalier
612 Spadina Crescent E
Saskatoon, SK S7K-3G8
1 888 627-8184
www.SharatonCavalierSaskatoon.com

Rooms Reserved: **'Blue Goose Curling Bonspiel'**

Room Rate: **$169/night**

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 …

MLG Harvey Heinz

GCG & PMLG Mark Robertson

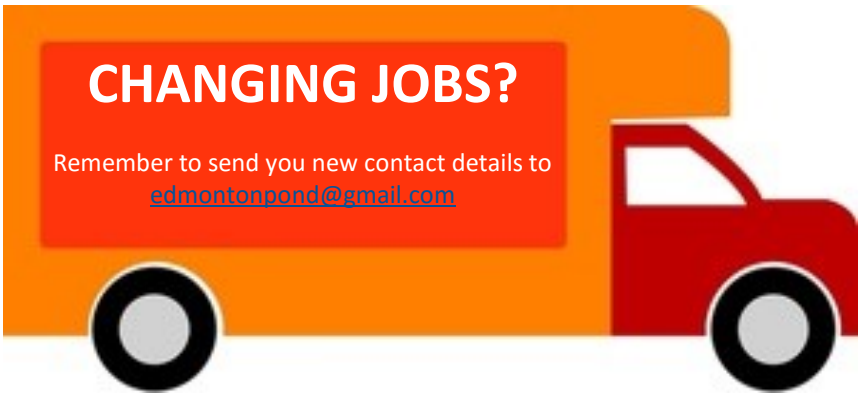
PMLG Andrew Happer

SOF Keegan McLennan

KGGE Halie Buac

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)

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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

Mail application and cheque for $60 payable to **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**

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