

# Thunderbird Bulletin

Camosun Gyro Club, Victoria, B.C., Canada



## KEEPING UP

Have you ever been on the Executive?

If the answer is “no”, then now is the time to step up. Our Club exists because some people take on the responsibilities of making it so (as Star Trek Captain Luc, might have said, but didn’t).

Our incoming President Pat Marshall needs a full and functioning Executive to support him and ensure that the Club continues to serve its members as a place of friendship and fun.

It’s up to *YOU*.

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## EDITORIAL

We are often reminded how privileged we are. At almost every meeting, someone saying Grace recognises the good fortune we share.

All over the world, crazy things are happening: the Middle East is on fire, the UK is in total confusion over “to Brexit or not to Brexit”, the climate is insane and we dare not comment on what is going on south of our border. (Of course, we have our “Lavalin affair” but, really, next to the rest?

We are privileged. Best of all, however, we have each other: Gyro friends, one and all. That’s a precious gift to keep. Despite our differences – and maybe because of them – we know and value our friendship. It’s good to remind ourselves of that when everything else falls apart.

## A WORD FROM PRESIDENT MARC DUMAIS



March came in like a Lion and then, *poof!* Up jumped spring and went straight into summer (at least at the time of writing). We had the pleasure of two great speakers both of whom I've known for years. Judge Gerry Pash has had remarkable career and his talk to us may well have been his last engagement before his official retirement. Eric Walker provided some insights into his fascinating and oft-misunderstood world, which is one of being a consultant to one of the most successful private equity companies in the world that specialises in rescuing failing manufacturing companies.

I want to thank John and Diane, who overcame the elements to host the App'nYap after the first scheduled event had to postponed because of excessive snow (in Victoria!?). Their place is just so very beautiful and the views overlooking Victoria and Esquimault harbour provided a perfect backdrop to the great conversations people were having throughout the house.

We're in the last month of the unique Gyro Calendar and I'm looking forward to the finale of the year that is the Installation weekend. Already, we have at least a dozen guests coming from out of town. The venues are booked, we have the bands lined up for Friday and Saturday nights, and Hedley, Liz and Terry will be making a wonderful brunch at Stu and Dawn's house for moosemilk on Sunday. Break out your best doctor scrubs, or naughty nurse costume – the Doctor will be in the house on the Friday night at the Canadian Forces Sailing Association in Esquimault. Installation is free to Camosun members and Golden girls. Watch for the evite and DO respond!

A warm welcome our new Gyros Michael Gatens (Heidi), Ray Mew and Ed Navickas (Carol).

I'm sure I represent all of us in wishing best wishes to Con Rusnak for a full and a speedy recovery.

Our next meeting is April 2 and will have our AGM on that date. An email with the Agenda and proposed budget has gone out (or will have by the time you read this). April 16 our guest speaker is Tom Pederson speaking on: Climate Change: It's a Responsibility AND an Opportunity! I would encourage you to invite as many potential Gyros to this meeting as its sure to be a most interesting presentation.

Marc

## Regular dinner meeting, March 5<sup>th</sup> at Uplands

Vice President (and likely future President) Pat Marshall was in the Chair and summoned Bob Skene to toast the Queen after a particularly rousing rendition of our national anthem. Bruce Macfarlane led us in Grace.

We enjoyed a particularly lovely “surf and turf” dinner, followed by our esteemed guest speaker.

He was Citizenship Judge Gerry Pash, a title and role that is being phased out because of new regulations that cover citizenship applications and are no longer subject to interpretation. Gerry explained briefly his background in communication, the Canadian Armed Forces (in which he is now a reservist) and as a radio executive in the Okanagan and elsewhere. He regularly assists in events as an advisor and MC.

The main body of the talk was about the duties of a Citizenship Judge. He demonstrated that some of the rules had to be applied subtly, so as not to exclude people from citizenship who were clearly integrated into Canadian life and committed to Canada. He mentioned the experience of persons working in jobs that regularly took them out of the country, such as long-distance truck drivers, while they were clearly at home in Canada. Other adjudications included people whose language skills may not have been quite up-to-par but who were clearly making the required effort.

A particularly interesting moment was the reminder to us all that, prior to 1947, none of us born in Canada would have been “Canadian” because, at that point all of us would have been “British Subjects”!

Gerry came across as being profoundly proud of Canada, not the least because of the people he met whose greatest desire was to become Canadian: fair, honest, multi-ethnic, safe, free and committed to equality for all.

We are really a country of immigrants and are justly proud of our fairness towards all those seeking Citizenship.

Paul Fogh-Dohmsmidt thanked the Speaker.

Gyros thought that the Judge knew his subject well, he was proud of his contribution, although critical of some of the new regulations and would have preferred they be made less restrictive (truck driver with regular route through the United States would now have great difficulty acquiring the minimum number of days residing in Canada required for Citizenship).

The Club elected Ed Navickas to membership – welcome Ed!

However, Ed may have wondered if he was in the right place when the Sherriff fined Ray Elford for a ringing cell phone and taxed new member Ray Kew for not wearing his badge ....

The meeting concluded shortly before nine p.m.

David Else

## Regular dinner meeting, March 19<sup>th</sup> at Uplands

1<sup>st</sup> VP (shortly to be not vicious at all) Pat Marshall presided in the absence of our beloved Marc who was absent.

Hedley Goldsworthy, recently grabbed from the jaws of death by a nonetheless geographically challenged ambulance crew, was called upon to express his appreciation (shared, we are sure, by all of us) to the Deity in Grace. Mark Gillis reminded us of our devotion to the Sovereign with a blissfully short call to toast; all of which followed our time-honoured acapella rendition of "O' Canada".

Our speaker, Eric Walker, opened a window into the world of corporate and private-equity takeovers of manufacturing firms in difficulty. Eric has a long experience of management reform and operation at General Motors and Honda (N. America). This insider knowledge has enabled him to identify weak spots – sometimes almost fatal flaws – in manufacturing organisations. Such weaknesses can lead to the collapse of operations and the loss of jobs for many dedicated people. His way of judging the many parts of a Company under investigation is very interesting. Step by step he showed us how to judge the quality of leaders and followers. He explained the Peter Principle (being promoted beyond the level of one's competence), the need for operating systems and the necessity of a viable business plan. He explained the way of judging positive and negative performance and how they affect the bottom line. He used as an example of bad management how dwelling on cost alone can be disastrous for profitability. Managers have to manage, but they also need to recognise that they do not know everything and need to rely on shop-floor experience and expertise. This simple fact is behind the success or failure of many at-risk manufacturing companies that Eric's firm has been involved with.

The presenter was thanked by David Else.

Sherriff Mike Wedekind fined Hedley Goldsworthy for continuing to be alive following his heart attack and even dared to fine Your Esteemed Editor for his sartorial elegance! (Is there no respect or shame, anymore?!!!!!)

David Else

## Annual General Meeting

Although, technically, the AGM should be in the next edition of the *Thunderbird Bulletin* we are so late that it has already taken place, so we are privileged to be able to offer a report.

Gyros will, no doubt, be delighted to hear that the budget for 2019/2020 was passed, following a warm discussion and a particularly clear exposition by our devoted Treasurer, Jay Fray. There will be a very slight increase in dues to compensate for a temporary fall in membership numbers and an anticipated increase in costs.

Directors' reports were presented, reflecting the full range of the many and varied activities of the Club throughout the year, and President Marc offered his own, justifiably positive assessment of his tenure. A slate of incoming officers was verbally presented but, since it lacks two posts, we are not at liberty to reveal its contents in advance of the second April meeting.

News of an impending discussion of a revision of our statutes and constitution was also revealed by legal advisor and pitiless Sherriff, Mike Wedekind.

### Fake News? by A.M. Ember

There is a suggestion in the Cascadia People's Press that the region is about to secede from Canada and the United States. "**Cascadexit**" is currently being secretly debated in the legislatures of all four States and Provinces of Cascadia following a referendum (also secret) held ten years ago. All parties agreed that the results of the referendum should be honoured, resulting in divisions among law makers that faithfully reflect those results: 40% in favour, 40% against and 20% don't know or don't care. The last decade has been spent working out the details of Cascadexit, which should take place on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. Oops!

"**Canamexit**" is the name given to the move to take Canada and Mexico out of North America. Not physically, of course, but all-but. Maps have already been produced that leave a large grey area separating the two countries. The official languages in both countries are now to be Spanish and French (Canada retains the right to communicate with England [Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales having left the UK]) in English). Canada's southern border and Mexico's northern one are now to be sealed by a 2,000-metre-high wall to be paid for by the inhabitants of the grey area. However, since this is a grey area, nobody knows what will happen next.

Rumour has it (but, of course, your correspondent never listens to rumours!) that Gyro International is to leave Gyro. Dubbed "**Gyrexit**" by wags, the move has been precipitated by the total evaporation of the International Executive, believed to have been removed from circulation in the same way as the "missing Gyros" (see earlier editions of this *Bulletin*). Of the many theories put forward for the disappearances, the least unlikely is that they all imbibed too much fine wine and failed to return from the last International Convention. Watch this space – those of you who are left ...

Reliable sources confirm that Victoria has decided to secede from Vancouver Island. The move, known as "**Vexit**", is ostensibly to ensure that the City can remove as many statues as it likes from its municipal buildings. The real reason, however, seems to be that the permanent earthworks connected with the McKenzie Interchange have gone so deep that they have effectively physically severed Victoria on the southern tip of the island from the rest. Indeed, the City has been drifting southwards for some time now, which explains why people's commutes up-island have been getting longer and longer. If the drift continues, Victoria could end up in the United States, which, some say, might not be such a bad thing for the rest of us.

"**Sexit**". Actually, there's no such thing, to your correspondent's knowledge, as "Sexit"; I just wanted to be sure you were paying attention.

## Four Questions to ... Terry Fauteux\*

What defines you?

A worker bee. I really like to keep busy. I enjoy organizing events and paying attention to details. Around home I always have a to-do list covering items in our suite & around the building. I enjoy getting them done & take great pleasure in striking items off the list. Just like my Dad. I always have a "to do list".

What would you take to a Desert Island?

Boat building tools, a bottle of fine single malt scotch to take care of the evenings until my boat is built, a map so I can figure out where to sail to someday.

Favourite memory?

One day while on an African Safari our Jeep woke a huge male lion sleeping beside the road. We were about 12 feet away and I was able to look directly into his eyes and he into mine. The hair stood up on the back of my neck. I will never forget that feeling!

Why did you join Gyro?

In 1994, my brother in law, Michael Fisher, was president of the Nanaimo Gyro Club. He died suddenly of a heart attack while president. I was totally impressed with how the Gyros and Lady Gyros helped Janice with all the funeral arrangements and supported her through this difficult time. I thought that I wanted to belong to a group like that. Little did I know that Mike had already submitted my name to the Camosun Gyro President, Jim Peacock. Shortly afterwards, Jim called and invited me to the club and then sponsored me. Nancy & I had recently become a couple & we joined as Terry & Nancy Fauteux. None of my friends and none of her friends were members but everyone became our friends. To this day most of our friends are Gyros.



- Terry has been a Camosun Gyro for almost 25 years.

- Where in the World Have You Been?

## Patrick and Ann Benloulou Round the Horn

The world is flat. (If you don't believe us, just look at the picture, bottom left!). The world ends at the Horn where everything goes over the edge ....

Nonetheless, we discovered plenty of reasons to say yes to visiting Santiago de Chile. An amazing, vibrant and cosmopolitan city flanked by the awe-inspiring Andes on one side and the Chilean Coastal Range on the other, all in a beautiful valley nothing short of breath-taking. Santiago is a modern and eclectic city, a modern business district boasting the highest building



in all of South America as well as a city rich in history and historical buildings and landmarks. This fast paced city had access to electric bikes, we saw "Zombie" lights (look that up!), and a great appreciation for their beautiful parks some containing indigenous black necked swans. Our tour guide informed us that Chile stretches over 4,300 kilometres from north

to south and is only 350 kilometres from east to west. When visiting Santiago, you must also visit the nearby port town of Valparaiso. A lovely seaside village with colourful painted houses and beautifully-graffitied back streets. It was once the main port south bound to get to the Atlantic from the Pacific before the opening of the Panama Canal.



Our adventure continued when we boarded our cruise ship in San Antonio as we began our 14-day cruise



ending in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Some of the cruise highlights included, the Strait of Magellan and the Beagle Channel (which connect the Atlantic to the Pacific), and the southernmost point of continental South America. Followed by Cape Horn, which is the



southernmost island of Chiles' Tierra del Fuego archipelago.

The Osorno Volcano near the town of Puerto Montt, which reminded me of Japans' Mount Fuji was one of my highlights. In the Falklands we were treated to colonies of King and Magellan penquins. In Argentina the Falklands are known as the Malvinas, still a bone of contention to the Argentinians, and we were prompted by our guides to not bring the history up for discussion.

Our next leg of the journey took us off the boat and inland. If you have seen the movie "The Mission" then you have seen the Iguazu Falls. But the movie really doesn't do this world heritage site justice. Close to the falls, 3 countries, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil all come together at the town of Iguazu. Separated only by the Iquazu River and the Parana River



Before heading home, we spent a week in Buenos Aires. This city is alive with European grandeur and Latin passion. Bring a good pair of walking shoes and enjoy all the flavours of each distinctive neighbourhood. From the exciting energy of the Tango to mouth-watering steaks, wine, and dulce de leche on everything, this capital city of Argentina totally gets under your skin.



Patrick Beloulou

## WHO IS ---- Gerry Neely?\*



I was born in Windsor, Ontario in August 1928 to Adam and Olive Neely. Brother Stewart arrived four years later. After a childhood spent in the Walkerville area of Windsor, I set off to London and completed a Bachelor of Arts – Honours in Economics & Political Science at the University of Western Ontario in 1951. I joined the Toronto brokerage office of A.E. Ames & Co later that year and was then transferred out to the Victoria office in 1952. It was on their bond desk that I met Colin Rutherford, a Gyro and life-long friend.

A few months later in April 1953, I met Patricia (on a blind date!) and my destiny was set. While I returned to the Toronto office at Christmas 1953, it wasn't long before I was back to be with Pat and a fresh start at UBC Law in the fall of 1954. We married in early 1955 and our daughter Sara arrived in the summer of 1956. We were the "first marrieds" in the law class and Sara was the first baby.

I was the first articling student at one of Victoria's oldest firms Pearlman & Lindholm. Following my call to the Bar in 1958, I established a solicitor's practice with a focus on commercial and residential real estate, and wills, estates & trusts. I became a partner in 1965. I changed my status to associate counsel circa 1999 and retired from practice in 2005. A life in the law with one firm is rare indeed!

I was a member of the Victoria Bar Association from 1959; served as a director then later President in 1986/87 and carried on as Past President. One of my concerns was that the Victoria Bar had grown so large that the ordinary civilities one expects from other lawyers were being eroded by the lack of personal contact. Forming subsections was a way to bring together lawyers with shared interests. Apart from the real property and the wills and trusts subsections which I founded, I also initiated monthly meetings for members interested in law office management. I was also a member, executive officer and frequent speaker for the Victoria Estate Planning Council. In 2007, the Victoria Bar Association gave me an award for my "contribution to the law".

My long-standing relationship with the British Columbia Real Estate Association (BCREA) began in the mid-1970s when I was retained to review all provincial legislation impacting the real estate profession. I then began preparing briefs on behalf of the BCREA to various government ministries concerning, among other issues, the protection of Realtors' commissions and the establishment of a real estate foundation.

In 1981, I started writing 17 *Legally Speaking* columns per year, for approximately 18 years, and then once a month, on legal issues that affect realtors. January 2006 was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the columns and the 400<sup>th</sup> was written for September 2006. BCREA describes the *Legally Speaking* columns as "one of the most trusted publications for real estate professionals in BC". In addition to realtors, notaries and lawyers subscribe to the publication which has summarized in excess of five hundred cases in a manner that translates "legal jargon into entertaining, meaningful reading [which] turns risk avoidance into a welcome task". After I finished my time on the columns, the BCREA retained four Vancouver lawyers to take my place!

- Gerry Neely has been a Gyro for over a half a century (55 years) and is the doyen of the Camosun Gyro Club.

## The Penultimate Page

Happy April birthdays to: Marcel Fisher (14/04) and Nick Klompass (15/04).

### Forthcoming Events for District IV

Event Date	Event Description	District
Friday, April 05, 2019	District Interim 	4
Wednesday, April 17, 2019	Fraser Delta Installation	4
Saturday, April 27, 2019	Vancouver; BC Installation	4
Friday, May 03, 2019	Camosun Installation	4
Saturday, May 25, 2019	Kamloops Installation	4
Sunday, June 02, 2019	District Interim International and District IX Convention, Reno, Nevada 	0
Friday, June 07, 2019	Albernis Installation	4
Saturday, June 15, 2019	Vancouver; WA Installation	4
Friday, June 21, 2019	Victoria Installation	4

### Stew and Jan Murray

(Correction) Stew is in Kelowna, but Jan has stayed in Victoria to follow her treatment. Joy Gorrie may have more up-to-date information.

## THE LAST PAGE

### YOUR EXECUTIVE 2017/2018

President	Marc DUMAIS	1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Pat MARSHALL
Secretary	Peter WHELAN	2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	Brian JOSLING
Treasurer	Jay FRAY	Past President	Peter STANFORD
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Director	Mike WEDEKIND	Director	Hans RODENBURGH
Sheriff (ex officio)	Mike WEDEKIND	Bulletin (Ex officio)	Colm FOY

### CAMOSUN CLUB CALENDAR

Regular Dinner meeting	16-Apr-19	Uplands
Installation	3-May-19	Uplands
Installation	4-May-19	Uplands
Installation	5-May-19	Uplands
Regular Dinner meeting	21-May-19	Uplands
Offsite Dinner meeting	4-Jun-19	location TBD
Steak Fry	18-Jun-19	

The *Thunderbird Bulletin* is published by the Camosun Gyro Club for the benefit of its members. The views and ideas expressed in the *Bulletin* are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Camosun Club or Gyro International. Overall Editor: Colm Foy (colmfoy@gmail.com).