

Thunderbird Bulletin

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



EXECUTIVE NOTICE

When a friend dies it's important to be there for those left behind. In the last few years, many of our Gyro members have died and we need to stay connected with their widows. **These "Golden Girls" are very welcome to attend certain events and to know that we are there for them.**

If a member's relationship breaks down, it is disruptive time for all involved, especially for the member and his spouse. Our policy is for **a Gyro's former spouse not to be invited to attend club events without the express permission of the current member.** Divorce severs any relationship between the club and the divorcée. We are a fraternity of men and our members must come first.

The Executive, December 2018.

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EDITORIAL

Before Christmas existed, there was the winter solstice, celebrated in the pre-Christian era as a time of hope and fun, though few went as far as the Roman Saturnalia! (Look it up ...).

Camosun Gyro loves Christmas and especially the annual party that brings us all together. This year, it's on 18 December at the Uplands. The children also get a dose of Gyro at the annual kids' party with Santa. It's also at the Uplands on the Saturday morning before, December 18.

Let's hope that some of those "Gyrants" grow up to become Gyros and continue our tradition of friendship and fun. That's not just at Christmas; it's all through the year.

Happy Christmas, everyone!

A WORD FROM PRESIDENT MARC DUMAIS



November was just right. Not too busy, not too rainy, even a little sunny. We enjoyed another great App 'n Yap hosted by Inger and Pat. Colm stepped in as our guest speaker and although unaccustomed as he is with public speaking got everyone talking about third world aid and chickens. (You had to have been there!).

Christmas will soon be upon us. The lights are being strung, and the old family recipes are being dug up as we prepare for the feast and the holiday with family and friends. It's an exciting time and the calendar is getting filled quickly if it isn't already. I'm looking forward to hearing our last guest speaker of the year (if you don't count Santa, of course ...) on December 4th. The Children's Christmas party comes eleven days later on Saturday the 15th and the Christmas Ball

concludes the year on Tuesday December 18th. Before that, we have an app 'n yap, rechristened for the occasion a *Jingle, Mingle 'n Mix*, on December 14th hosted by Hedley and Liz to keep up the Christmas spirit.

Looking into the New Year, we will be celebrating Robbie Burns on January 15th, which is a Tuesday. As usual, this will be a mixed event. So, find your best bib and tucker – and your kilt, if you have one – and gird yourself for a wee dram or two and a spot of Haggis.

Merry Christmas to everyone and I wish us all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

LADY GYROS

Inger Marshall is upbeat about the forthcoming Lady Gyros' Christmas lunch at the Fireside Grill on December 7th promising a "good turnout". So, ladies, if you haven't already done so, now is the time to write or call Inger to get your name on the list!

Meanwhile, she and Dawn (Cameron) are still looking for the missing Gyro plates (see page 9).

Four Questions to ... Kees Schaddelee

What would you say defines “you”?

I am a small "C" conservative. I enjoy my own company, but I am not closed-minded - I know that because I have been happily married for 52 years (and she still hasn't left me!).

What would you take to a desert island (excluding books and music)?

A deck of cards, sun tan lotion, lots of Southern Comfort and maybe one of those new life-like companion dolls from Japan model number BIKT&A. Just someone to talk to, of course ... but you never know ...

Favourite memory?

When you're 73 years old and you think about all your memories, like marrying a girl beyond your dreams, two great sons and working with a great family for 50 years, there are so many memories that come to mind. One particularly sharp memory that comes back a lot, though, is steaming into Victoria's Inner Harbour as a nine-year-old boy on June 1st, 1955. My brother and I were standing on the bow of one of C.P.R ferries and it was spectacular.

Why did you join Gyro?

Not having gone to high school or university and working in one place for over 50 years, my range of contacts was limited so I thought Gyro would be a good fit. Indeed, since joining Gyro I have met all sorts of different, always interesting and loyal friends that I have never regretted being a Camosun Gyro. Bonita and I are away a lot, but it is always a pleasure to come home to Gyro!



Who is ... Bob Skene?

Judy, my wife for 55 years, and I moved to Victoria in 1979. We have three children and eight grandchildren, all of whom, I'm delighted to say are living on Vancouver Island. The Honeymoon Bay, Lake Cowichan, cottage we bought in 1992 has – and continues to be – a great source of fun and family togetherness.

I received my Bachelor of Commerce degree from UBC in 1965 and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in same year.

I was born in Vancouver in 1940, moved to Toronto 27 years later as Head Office Chief Accountant with Canadian Breweries (a promotion from being Plant Accountant) and then to Ottawa in 1969 to take up a position as Vice President, Finance, with Computel Systems Ltd., a fledgling computer services company providing remote job-entry services. During my ten-year tenure Computel grew from 50 to 1,000 employees with annual revenues of \$50 million.

One of my major accomplishments at Computel as Executive Vice President was to secure a 5-year contract with the Ministry of Planning in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to operate and manage the Ministry's IBM data centre. Thirty of Computel's employees in Canada relocated to Riyadh to service this contract.

I left Computel in 1979 to become Vice President, Finance and Administration, with BC Systems in Victoria. BC Systems was mandated to provide mainframe computer services, telecommunications and software support to BC ministries and Crown corporations. Four years later, I left BC Systems to start HTS Hi-Tech Systems Inc. Our new company brought 150 people from BC Systems and contracted with them for 5 years to manage the IBM data centre and telecommunication network.

In the Spring of 1990 I left HTS to retire, the first of 3 such attempts., but by the Fall I was participating in the formation of The Vancouver Island Advanced Technology Centre (VIATeC), of which I was CEO for the next 10 years. VIATeC's mandate was to provide business advice, financing sources and networking for start-up technology companies. During the 10 years VIATeC grew to 1,000 members and annual revenues of \$2 billion, which exceeded the Tourism Industry in Victoria.

From VIATeC, I moved on to take up dual positions as VP, Finance and VP, Marketing with WCG, Inc. (West Coast Group), where I stayed until 2005. WCG had provincial government contracts in BC and subsequently in Ontario. WCG's mandate was to work with people on welfare to help them find permanent full-time jobs throughout BC and Ontario. During my tenure we put 100,000 people on welfare back to work.

During our years in Victoria I have been fairly active in a number of volunteer activities:

- Member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce for six years, including President in 1984;
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Victoria Hospital Society for 5 years, including Chairman of the Operations Committee;
- Member of the Board of Directors of The Greater Victoria Airport Authority, for five years, including Chairman of the Finance Committee;
- Member of the Board of Directors of Royal Roads University for 7 years, including 4 years as Chancellor and Chairman;
- Acting President of Royal Roads University for one year in 2006.

Over the years in Victoria we have acquired commercial properties in Victoria and Saanich. The



properties are now managed by two of our children and I have the position of “snoopervisor”.

I have been a Camosun Gyro member for almost 25 years, serving as District IV Secretary in 2002/2003, Camosun Board Member from 2006-2009 and Camosun President for the 2009/2010 season. I was District IV Governor for 2010/11.

Retirement has finally given Judy and me the time to indulge our passion for travel. We have been able to visit more than 60 counties over the past 25 years. Many of our travelling companions have been fellow Gyros and their spouses.

Where in the World Have You Been?

Rob and Cheryl d'Estrubé on the Pilgrims' Trail (Part Two)

Rob says, "The decor in some of the accommodations was eccentric. I had to record this bathroom because I love horses so much." Yeah, right: it's the horses ...



Along the trail pilgrims made internal oaths or promises and celebrated their

commitments by leaving little stones, rosaries, and paper notes along the way.



It is customary along the trail to leave your boots posted when you quit or when you change out to new boots if necessary. One can find these simple reminders of others passages inspiring when one is feeling enervated or low. But, inevitably, one is revived knowing that a boot in Uranus will get you going again.

The Pilgrim Trail committed to divert at every possibility to bring us uphill to every rural church wherein we saw many statues of unfamiliar saint(e)s. This one took my eye in Moissac; she goes variously as Saintes Parapluie, Umbrelle, and Parasole.

Rob d'Estrubé



RECENT EVENTS

REGULAR DINNER MEETING, UPLANDS, 20 NOVEMBER

In the absence of Marc Dumais, the meeting was expertly chaired by VP Pat Marshal who is no slouch at joke telling. All of our members sang a moving rendition of O Canada followed by a toast to the Queen and Chuck Gorrie who, on behalf of all of us, expressed thanks for the blessing of living in a bountiful and relatively safe country (Grace).

Colm Foy, our guest speaker, filled us in on the important work he has been doing assessing the successes of aid programmes around the world. In theory these programmes seem simple “better than giving the poor a quart of milk or an egg, give them a goat or a chicken and then they can have milk and eggs forever”. It’s a different story on the ground.

Canadian farms produce 300 eggs per year on average, versus 40 per year in an East African village. The unfenced chickens are also at the mercy of predators, inadequate feed, and get lost. So, there’s lots of potential for improvement. No brainer, eh?

An enterprising fellow from India came up with a new breed of chicken that could boost production to near 200 eggs per year. These “Kuroiler” chickens were more expensive than the ‘normal’ variety but the increased production could allow the farmer surplus eggs to sell and better her standard of living. The Foundations were ecstatic, the ‘miracle chicken’ of their dreams.

There were a few problems, though. Without buying more eggs (and they were F1 hybrids anyway so unpredictable in breeding terms), you couldn’t increase or even maintain your flock unless some of the eggs were fertilised by roosters. Unfortunately, the roosters of this breed were 2 to 3 times the size of the hens and these randy fellows had the habit of clawing their lovers to death in their mating spasms.

The terrible condition of the roads in many of the areas was also cause for huge losses due to breakage. All the difficulties encountered in these ‘simple solutions to poverty’ make sustained prosperity a dream still needing to be realized in most cases.

It takes men on the ground like Colm to determine if an Aid Program is cost effective or not.

We voted unanimously to admit a new Gyro, Raymond Mew, to our club.

Pat adjourned the meeting and we all went home.

Don Boulton

CAMOSUN/VICTORIA POKER TOURNAMENT

On Grey Cup Sunday the Camosun Poker team crushed Victoria taking all the prize money. Gene Fedderly (Marc's friend playing for Camosun) came out the winner, John was 2nd., Adrian 3rd. and Don 4th. The other two, Kees and Marc, made the supreme sacrifice and went down for the good of the rest. Victoria will have to pick up its game for next year's contest. The Victoria crew did win the Grey Cup pool. John O ended up winning the final prize (supposed to be \$40 but only \$39.00 was left in the pot) but left early so it's still sitting there. Perhaps he should use his windfall to buy an entry into next year's poker tourney. There is an outside chance that Victoria could actually win.

First you must have a dream and then your dream must come true, (long odds but you never know!). – Don Boulton

Fake News? by A.M. Ember

At last we have a culprit for the forest fires that ravaged the Province in the summer and even disturbed our peaceful island. Extensive detective work has established that trees have been carelessly and wilfully shedding leaves and dead branches. This behaviour has resulted in unraked forests, highly susceptible to fires, says BC FNRI Ministry Spokesperson, Marcy Fishy. "The trees are ultimately responsible," asserts Fishy, "so let these fires be a lesson to them!" It was recently claimed that the Finns rake their forests to avoid fires. That really was fake news!

The Referendum on PR for electing Gyro Executives and the President has created great excitement among Gyros. The old and time-tested method of "last man out-of-the-room" is said to have discriminated against: a) handicapped members; b) tipsy members; c) new members unaware of the method; and d) those who were asleep at the time of the "election". The precise new system is to be chosen from among 362 options, including one used only by the Vatican, known as "Smoke & Chimneys". More next month ...

Vancouver Island's many golf clubs have been forced to issue a clarification after they banded together to issue a Christmas and New Year safety notice. "Drinking and driving," says the notice, "is dangerous and should be avoided." The clubs wish to point out that the "driving" in question relates only to motor vehicles, not to the fairways, where it is positively encouraged. "For hydration.", the clubs hasten to add.

Vancouver Island police forces are seeking to resolve a bizarre series of thefts and disappearances. It seems that Camosun Gyro lapel pins have been going missing leading to heavy fines for those caught without them at dinner meetings. Sherriff Mike "No Excuses" Wedekind declares, "I don't care what they claim, no pin is no pin and they will feel the full force of my law." Enquiries are continuing, but not expected to produce much of a result ...

THE PENULTIMATE PAGE

Birthdays!

Happy December Birthdays to: Chuck Gorrie (1st); Norman Prelypchan (23rd) & Bob Doell (28th).

Border Bothers (a cautionary tale passed on by Terry Fauteux)

An interesting situation is developing with the border guys on the US side.

Friends of ours from Cranbrook showed up at the border on their way down to Palm Springs. They were asked about their plans in the US and told the border person that they plan to fly home for Christmas and leave their vehicle in their garage over Christmas. They would then then drive home in March, as usual.

This is something I know I do and most of us that come down here have done for years.

Our friends were denied entry. The reason given was you cannot leave your vehicle in the US “unattended” even though they informed the officer that they had it locked securely in their garage and had a neighbour watching over the house, that did not seem to matter. Our friends (perhaps unwisely!) mentioned to the border officer that thousands of Canadians do this and that they have been doing it ever since they bought their house in the US.

The reply was rather telling, if not chilling: “We now have a president that allows us to enforce the law”.

Not sure what the meaning of this will be going forward or how serious these guys are? Our friends are back in Cranbrook trying to work things out but at this point not sure of the outcome.

Bernie Kropp

The Case of the Missing Plates

Somebody (you know who you are!) is harbouring the Camosun Gyro Club’s exquisite set of 40 porcelain plates. The RCMP, the Mountain Rescue and the Coast Guard have all been informed, so don’t linger, hand them in to Inger (Marshall)!

THE LAST PAGE

YOUR EXECUTIVE 2017/2018

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

CAMOSUN CLUB CALENDAR

Regular Dinner meeting	4-Dec-18	Uplands
Children's Christmas Party	15-Dec-18	Uplands
Gyro Adult X-mas Party	18 Dec 2018	Uplands
NO Dinner	1-Jan-19	
Robbie Burns mixed dinner	15-Jan-19	Uplands
Regular Dinner meeting	5-Feb-19	Uplands
Past President's	23-Feb-19	Past President's party
Regular Dinner meeting	5-Mar-19	Uplands
St Paddy's Day Mixed Party	19-Mar	Uplands Mixed Event
Regular Dinner meeting	2-Apr-19	Uplands
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).