

Thunderbird Bulletin

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



KEEPING UP

INSTALLATION – it may seem some way a way, but it's not! Camosun's Installation will take place as scheduled on the weekend of May 3rd.

Gyros and their spouses from other Clubs are warmly invited to join us on beautiful Vancouver Island for this event.

A flyer with all the details of the weekend will be going out during March, so do look out for that. Camosun Gyros willing to billet friends from afar should contact Secretary Peter Whelan.

CONTENTS

President's Message	2
Feb 5 th Dinner meeting	3
Past President's Party	4
Lady Gyros, Gyro Park	4
Fake News?	4
4 Questions to ... Hedley Goldsworthy	5
Where in the world? Hans and Vanessa in Croatia and Slovenia	6-7
Who is ... Nasser Shojania?	8-9
Return to the Source	10
The Penultimate Page	11
Stew and Jan Murray	11
The Last Page, Gerry and Pat Neely	12

EDITORIAL

With the news that the Fogh-Dohmsmidts are returning, while the Murrays are leaving, we are filled with mixed emotions. Those of us who knew Paul and Jane before they left are delighted to welcome them home (see page 10).

However, we will miss Stew and Jan, especially since we are aware of their struggles these last few years.

The Gyro "family" is still there for the Murrays, just as we are for the Fogh-Dohmsmidts. "Gone, but not forgotten" is not just a phrase in Gyroland.

A WORD FROM PRESIDENT MARC DUMAIS



It's hard to believe that it has been a year since I became Camosun Gyro President. In Though, at the time the year ahead seemed like a long road, here we are in March with only two months left till our new president and executive become installed.

For those of you who abandoned winter and headed south in February you missed a great time. We installed Raymond Mew as our latest Gyro and Peter Stanford hosted our Past President's party with, once again, a night at Hecklers comedy club. Sandra and I attended the Sydney installation, which was the third for this young club. What a great time we had with a wonderful roast beef dinner! When they announce the date for next year, we should all put it in our calendars.

Our next meeting is March 5 and once again I will unfortunately be away on business. The St. Patrick's Day event on March 19th is now going to be replaced by a regular meeting. Our guest speaker will be Eric Walker who I am excited to introduce to the club. Eric is a retired engineer from General Motors and now consults for various manufacturers as a special consultant. I am sure he will provide a very good insight into how important leadership is for a successful company.

The District Interim in Nanaimo (5th, 6th and 7th) kicks off April, which will also see my last two meetings as President, where I hope to address any issues on which the overall membership should be consulted. I also hope to install one or two new members before our installation in May. Speaking of which, the Installation of Pat Marshall is well in hand. Friday night will be at the Canadian Forces Sailing Association yacht club on the theme of "doctors and nurses". We'll have a four-piece jazz and blues band headlined by Kim Greenwood and backed by three of the best musicians in Victoria. Saturday will be at Uplands with the Katzen Jammers. Sunday will continue with the traditional Sunday brunch and moose milk at Stuart and Dawn Cameron's.

There is still lots to do in the next two months. Hopefully, when asked, you'll all be more than willing and able to help out where needed.

Happy Spring!

Marc

Regular dinner meeting, February 5th at Uplands

Past President Peter Stanford assumed the Chair in the absence of President Marc and First VP Pat Marshall. Peter called upon Paul Fogh-Dohmsmidt to offer Grace and Don Boulton to offer the Toast to the Queen.

Peter reviewed planning for the Past Presidents Party - a mixed event at HECKLERS comedy club on Saturday February 23. Costs for the dinner and comedy presentations will be billed to the Club and drinks and refreshments will be paid for by attendees. Gratuities would be extra and should be given directly to staff. This event replaces the regular dinner meeting which would normally be held on Tuesday February 19.

Evites have been sent for the App& Yap at John and Diane Read's' home; members should RSVP.

Peter Stanford presided over the Installation of new member Raymond Mew. Raymond's sponsor, Marcel Fisher, was unable to attend so Peter presented Raymond with his Gyro pin and name badge and New Member Kit.

Following his Installation, Raymond assumed the role of speaker for the evening, starting with the revelation that he was a rarity in being Victoria-born and raised. The rarity was confirmed when only three, of the thirty or so members attending, affirmed that they also were Victoria born and raised.

Raymond outlined his family history and business enterprises that included wholesale produce and grocery marketing. He graduated from Oak Bay High in 1968, and earned a degree in public administration and political science from the University of Victoria. Following graduation, he worked with Manpower and Immigration in Port Hardy, then had stints in the mining, forestry and pharmaceutical businesses. He currently operates Wizard Screens and Awnings on the site of the former Chew's TV and Appliances, a well-known Victoria business operated for many years by Raymond's brother. Although "officially" retired, Raymond nonetheless keeps busy as a member of the Union Club and volunteers his time with the Chinatown Centre.

The Sheriff fined Peter Stanford for no good reason, Gerry Neely for failing to wear his bowler hat with his three-piece suit, Jay Fray for imposing unjustifiable dues assessments to the Sheriff, and Paul Fog-Dohmsmidt, our unsuspecting prodigal "O visiting Gyro Emeritus", also for "no good reason"!

With a shortened agenda, there was sufficient time for presentation of a series of tasteless locker-room jokes by several members, preceded by an interesting and amusing anecdote by Don Boulton from his days in the Commercial Insulation business.

The meeting concluded shortly before nine p.m.

Peter Whelan

Past President's Party at Hecklers

The Past President's Party was held at Hecklers Comedy Club on Saturday, Feb. 23, hosted by Past President Peter Stanford. The weather may have been against us, as some Gyros had to travel through snowy territory and more high winds and snow were in the forecast. Nonetheless, over 30 Camosun Gyro members and their spouses attended, for an evening of tasty pub-style food and comedy. We were able to entirely occupy our own private area near the stage. The MC who took the stage after dinner proved to be local comic Mike Delamont, who some may remember happened to be our headline comedian when Colm Foy hosted our PPP at Hecklers three years ago. The headliner on this occasion was James Kennedy, a rising young comic from Vancouver. The material in the final set of the evening certainly wasn't boring, and at times could really only be called "raunchy"! Overall, there were many hearty laughs during the evening, and healthy rounds of applause from the large appreciative audience in the club.

News from the Lady Gyros

As mentioned in the last issue of the *Thunderbird Bulletin*, the Lady Gyros Annual Topical Dinner meeting will be going ahead **on April 3rd at the Uplands Golf Club**. Inger Marshall reports that the response has been good and that there should be a good turnout to hear a presentation on "Osteoporosis, The Silent Thief" given, as it happens, by her spouse, Dr Pat Marshall. Since this is a paying event and because space may be limited, Lady Gyros are asked to confirm their presence by March 27th by sending a cheque for \$44 to cover a lovely salmon dinner, salad, dessert and tea or coffee (tax and gratuity included) to Inger @ 4102 San Mateo Place, V8N 2K1. If people are planning on inviting guests, they should include their fees at the same time with their cheque.

Cadboro-Gyro Park

According to *Victoria News*, "Fodor's Travel, one of the world's oldest publisher of travel information and advice, lists the playground at Saanich's Cadboro-Gyro Park among 11 unique playgrounds around the world." The *News* article goes on to say "The park itself received its name from Cadboro Bay and the Gyro Club, which bought the original 4.37 acres of land, according to the District of Saanich. The club donated the land to Saanich for a park in 1954 and Saanich began purchasing additional properties in 1961. It underwent repairs in 2014 at a cost of \$430,000." The full article is available [here](#) if you're reading this on your computer or hand-held device.

Who would have thought? Well, our elders did when they thought of donating the land!

Fake News? by A.M. Ember

Following intensive discussions between their respective lawyers, former Attorney General and Minister of Justice Jodie Wilson Raybould and former Trump lawyer Michael Cohen have decided to perform in a "major motion picture" directed by North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un, apparently playing each other. Tentative title: *Spilling the Beans* or *Life at the Summit*. Rumour has it that the idea emerged after they realised they both shared a liking for blue suits and damning testimony. More details in next month's *Thunderbird Bulletin*. You read it here first!

Four Questions to ... Hedley Goldsworthy*

What would you say `defines` you?

A sense of fair play is very important to me and part of that is not tolerating people who don't pull equally on the same rope, which I am sure none of my fellow Gyros may have noticed (!). I usually support the underdog. That may be why I loved team sports especially rugby and rowing although I did participate in boxing, fencing and badminton.

I am a Gemini and as a consequence can be both gregarious and insular. I grew up in a family of quick wit, lots of laughter and, of course, that good old staple: "criticism". What could we have done without that? I love building and fixing things and I think I have become reasonably competent if only because of all the mistakes I have made over the years trying to fix mistakes others made in the first place.

Being politically correct has never been, nor will it ever be my strong point and, along with being overly opinionated could mean that, now I am perfect, I don't have to be vain anymore. What a relief!

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

A gun, you never know when you are going to run into a lawyer or a dentist.

What's your Favorite Memory?

My childhood playing in and around the ruins after the war in London and the 1,000 year-old castles and towers on the south coast before they became Heritage Trusts.

My first job after my apprenticeship as an assistant experimental engineer fixing and redesigning service failures on truck and buses. Every day was a new day.

Why did you join Gyro? (They look quite happy about it, don't they? Ed.)



It was a condition that Liz asked me to make before we moved back from Vancouver and that was to join a social group when we returned. We knew Ray and Barb Elford when we lived here previously so that seemed like an easy option. It was a great move for both of us as we have made some of the best friends we have ever had and, as an added bonus, Liz has got to use up all the surplus words she has collected over the years. At least that's my hope going into retirement, but as they say around the Bridge tables "Hope is not a bid".

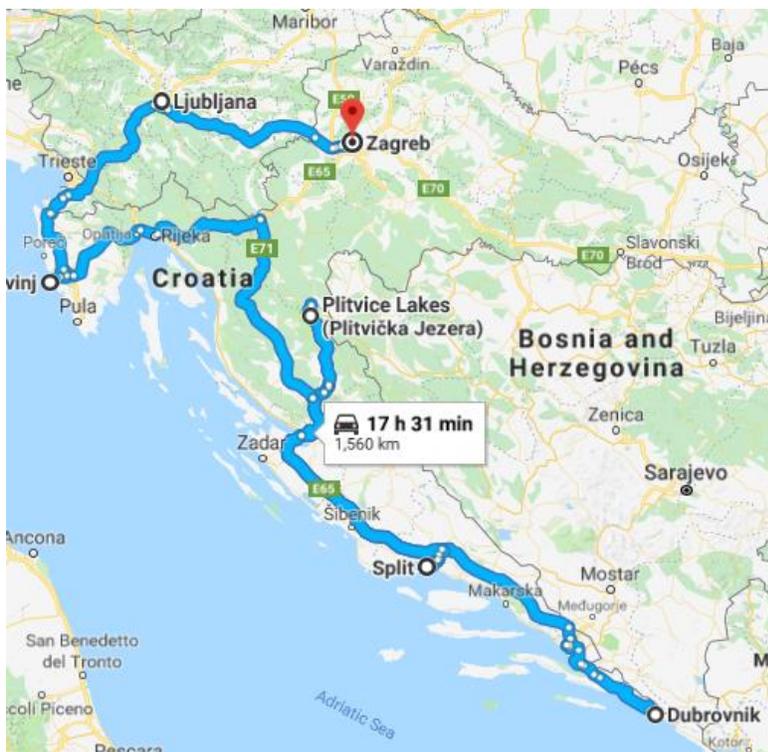
* Hedley has been a Camosun Gyro for almost a quarter of a century.

Where in the World Have You Been?

Hans and Vanessa Rodenburgh in Croatia and Slovenia

Our journey began on September 9th 2018 with a 05:30 flight from Victoria to Vancouver, then on to Frankfurt and to Dubrovnik 24 hours later from our initial departure. Like most, we did our usual due diligence planning months before hand with input from friends and searches of the internet. With a plan in hand and the first 4 nights booked in old town Dubrovnik, we headed out on our adventure with no other bookings. (September being the low season).

Our itinerary: Dubrovnik, Dalmatian islands, Split, Plitvice lakes, Rovinj, Lubljana, (Slovenia), Lake Bled, (Slovenia) and Zagreb. Aggressive even by our standards: over 1,500 Km.



In each place we stayed in “old town” locations and avoided the modern-day city regions. Looking back on our trip, it was an all around delightful experience spending much of our time, walking, site seeing, swimming, hiking, and of course eating. We travelled by foot, by ferry and by car.



Dubrovnik – delivered on all our expectations! scenic, historic, and narrow winding streets so clean you could eat off them (we didn’t, though) and plenty of places to eat. Truly picturesque.

A walking tour of the wall surrounding the city was delightful but take water with you or you won’t make it all the way around.... Like us. (-:



Downside: when the tour ships came in, the city over filled with tourists...bad memories for us of the crushing throngs of Venice!

When we made our escape from Dubrovnik, we went on some of the most fantastic day excursions to the magical, slightly inhabited Dalmation islands where time stood still, and locals still lived as generations did before them. Truly magical, now another of our favorite destinations.



A fast catamaran ferry to Split took just over 4 hours. About half of old town consisted of Diocletian's Palace an ancient palace built for the Roman Emperor at the turn of the fourth century AD. Well worth the stopover. We thoroughly enjoyed our time there.



Truly historic! Of course, we also spent 2 days on more trips to the Dalmatian islands...our favorite place to spend time, such as the port city of Hvar.

Rovinj... a northern fishing village which was our most exquisite cozy small village, where some locals still speak Italian, from when it was part of Italy 1918 -1947. One of our favorite locations.... Swimming in the sea every day, quiet, not so touristy, great dining, and still historic. At the top of our favourites of the trip. After three idyllic days in old town Rovinj, time to leave.... Reluctantly!



Finally, Lubliana, Slovenia. It reminded us of an Austrian city complete with a picturesque river running through it. Romantic, quaint and very inviting.

Uh-oh moments? Car towed away in Lubliana, Slovenia.

Missed seeing: Lake Bled, Slovenia, and Plitvice Lakes, Croatia.

Favorites? Swimming in the glassy clear, warm Adriatic Sea, Dalmatian islands, and Rovinj. Regrets? None....

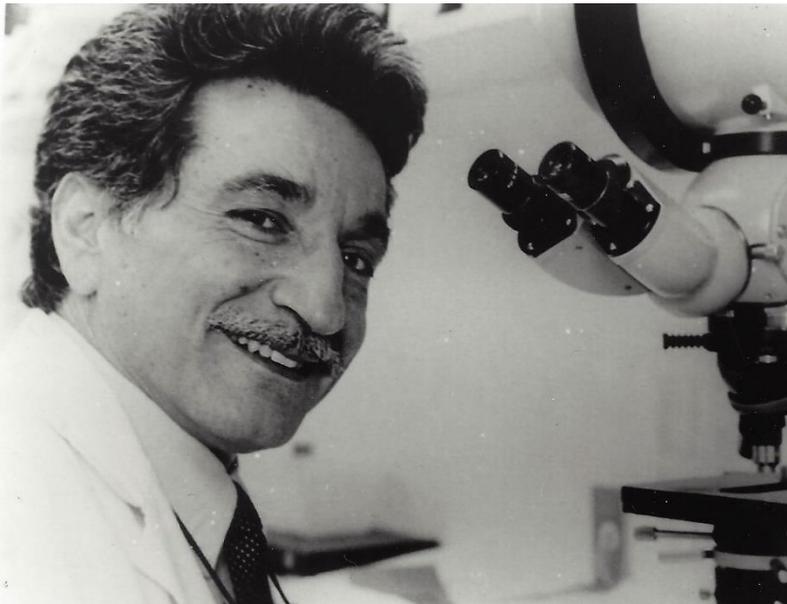


WHO IS ---- NASSER SHOJANIA?*

I was born in 1930 as a slippery ugly boy in Tehran, Iran. My father was a gentleman farmer and my mother was a wise woman. We were nine siblings: seven boys and two girls.

My father was remotely related to the late Shah of Ghajar whose short-lived dynasty ruled Iran between 1906 and 1921 until first forced out by the British and then by the coup d'état that eventually brought Reza Khan and the ill-fated Pahlavi dynasty to power. Reza Khan's son was the last Shah of Persia, who was exiled by the Khomeini regime. My mother was closely related to the great Agha Khan, spiritual leader of the 15 million Nizari Ismaili Muslims.

I did all my education, including my university studies in medicine, in Tehran and practiced as a General Practitioner for six years in Iran before coming to Winnipeg in the summer of 1965



The "Young Pathologist"

where I hoped to become a Pathologist. I succeeded in my ambitions and, in 1970, became the director of the Cranbrook and District Hospitals' laboratories where I worked for a year before returning to Winnipeg as Assistant Professor at Winnipeg General Hospital until November of 1974.

I came to Victoria with my beautiful wife, Mitra, and

three sons to work as a Pathologist, which I did for 30

years until my retirement in 2004. Mitra is the daughter of my first boss in my first job at a cement factory in the city of Dorood, Iran, so, though that was not my future career, it turned out to shape my future anyway! Two of my sons became rheumatologists and one, the middle one, became a lawyer. When I asked him why, though my other two sons became doctors, he decided to become a lawyer, he said, "I wanted to help people!"

When I became a Canadian citizen in 1974, I decided that my home was now here in Canada but I wrote many letters to my mother and friends in Iran to compensate for my absence from my former country and those I loved. These letters, talking about bicultural things, kept getting longer and longer. In the end, I published them as a book in



Mitra Shojania looking, no doubt, at her husband!

English called *A Persian Letter: to a Pious Mother in Iran*. In the first paragraph I wrote, “Even though the words are in English, the thoughts are in Persian.” So, I am a Persian Canadian and happy to benefit from both cultures although, Canadian is perhaps gaining the upper hand. I told a radio host some time back, “ ... when we moved to Victoria ... I planted three small trees, smaller than the smallest of our three sons. Now those trees are taller than the roof of our house. As those trees grow, I feel it is me that it is me who is growing roots in this land.”

My pastime, when I was not working in medicine, was literature and, especially, philosophy, which I mostly learned from my Persian and my Canadian friends. This is another way of enjoying the blending of cultures.

*Nasser has been a member of Camosun Gyro for over 23 years.



Back in time for Christmas!

Return to the Source

The Fogh-Dohmsmidts come home!

In 2016, Jane and I moved back to our cottage at Amethyst Harbour, on Lake Superior, about 30 km east of Thunder Bay, Ontario. We had spent 24 years in Thunder Bay before moving to Victoria in 1993. Thunder Bay was where we had raised our two daughters, belonged to the Nor-West Gyro Club, and had lots of terrific friends.

You may be wondering what prompted our return to Thunder Bay after 23 years in beautiful Victoria. We had bought out the family cottage at Amethyst Harbour from Jane's sisters and rebuilt a permanent home there in 2015. We had intended it to be our summer residence, but the difficulties of maintaining two homes 3,000 km apart became apparent. Also, we thought we would like to be closer to our daughter Sue and her family who live in Thunder Bay.

Jane's one condition on moving back to Amethyst was that we needed a garage. If you have ever lived in a northern climate, you know it is no fun to sweep the snow off your car, scrape the windows, de-ice the locks, and get into a freezing vehicle. brrr ... So, we built a 3-car garage to store the cars and the toys that go along with rural living.

We still had good friends in the area, many of whom live permanently at Amethyst Harbour. Jane joined the Book Club there, and we joined a duplicate bridge group in town, had lots of great dinner parties, and got to know our grandchildren more than our previous short visits had allowed. All of this was wonderful, but there was something missing! We desperately missed our community of friends in Victoria.

Joni Mitchell got it right when she penned "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone". The friendships we had made through Camosun Gyro, Cadboro Bay Church, Cordova Bay where we lived for 23 years ... were missing. The long lonely cold winter nights at our home on Lake Superior were beautiful, but lonely. To quote The Beatles, "All the lonely people, where do they all belong?" Well, we now know where we belong! So, as in Mama Mia, "Here we go again". We have purchased a condo in Oak Bay and we are moving back.

We will keep our Amethyst cottage home and return there each summer. Our daughter and her husband would like to live there some day, but the age of their children does not allow that to happen yet. In the meantime, they have accepted responsibility for clearing snow to maintain access during the winter and answering emergency calls if any of the systems need attention.

Gyro has been part of our life for 48 years. We were fortunate to know Margaret and Keith Spacey who had been members of our Nor-West Gyro Club in Thunder Bay, and they invited us into the Camosun Club when we moved to Victoria. We treasure the friendships we have here and truly appreciate the warm welcome we have received since returning. It's great to be back!

The Penultimate Page

Happy March birthdays to: President Marc Dumais and Director Rick McKay (both 02/03) Rob d'Estrubé (04/03); Larry Goble (05/03) and Tom Wood (08/03).

Special mention: Les Wood, our most venerable Gyro turned 95 on February 10th!

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

As many of us are aware, Jan and Stew have been having health problems over the last little while and had already given up their Gordon Head home. Now they have decided to move to Kelowna and so, unfortunately, Stew will also be leaving our Club. However, Joy Gorrie reports that they invite any Camosun Gyros passing through Kelowna to be sure and stop by. We will share details of their address and contacts as soon as they become available. All of us wish them the best of luck in their new abode.

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	5-Mar-19	Uplands
St Paddy's Day Mixed Party	19-Mar	Uplands Mixed Event (To be confirmed)
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	

Gerry and Pat Neely

Congratulations to Gerry and Pat who celebrated 64 years of wedded bliss at the end of February. Way to go, Gerry and Pat!

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).