

# Thunderbird Bulletin

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



## KEEPING UP

As from this month, we will be dating the *Bulletin* in the month it appears, rather than the one it covers, so this is be the “November” edition, but we’re calling it “October/November” to avoid a possibly confusing gap.

This is the last time I will be using this space as Editor. Henceforth, we’ll be using this sidebar for special announcements, pictures ... anything that merits a front-page highlight.

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**Len Cox's Celebration of Life :**  
**Uplands Golf Club**  
**Saturday, November 10**  
**from 2 – 6 PM**

## EDITORIAL

It seems we’ve had a spate of Gyro events lately, but one was especially relevant in these, often troubled, times. Our Founders’ Night, graciously organised by our friends in the Victoria Club, was an annual reminder of who we are and where we come from.

These values of friendship and solidarity continue to remain strong. The spirit of Gyro friendship can be an antidote to hatred and exclusion; perhaps we should remember this amid the terrible events that have happened recently so close to our border.

## A WORD FROM PRESIDENT MARC DUMAIS



October was another great month for Camosun. I was pleased that my good friend Captain Mulholland was able to speak to us about Canada's submarine service (see the September *Bulletin*). He spent more time at sea and away from home than most sailors that I know. Much of what he has done in submarines remain Top Secret.

Paddy and Harry Hyde deserve our gratitude for opening their home to host the month's very successful App & Yap. These events are great in the way they bring Gyros and their partners together in a relaxed, informal atmosphere where everyone chips in. Pat and Inger Marshall have volunteered their Gordon Head home (again!) to host the next one on November 9<sup>th</sup> and I'm sure we'll have yet another fun event.

Founders' Night on October 16<sup>th</sup> was well organised by our friends from the Victoria Club. It was their turn this year; ours is next year, so we need to start planning to make it an even better event! Victoria will be celebrating their centenary in 2020, when it will be their turn again, and, in consideration of that and a reminder of our Founders' era, I like the idea of everyone's being invited to turn up in period dress. Some did this year (see the report elsewhere in the *Bulletin* and the photo starring, among others, our own Mr Neely), but it would be nice if we could generalise that. We should also be starting now to identify a guest speaker who should be someone relevant to the Club and its ideals. All suggestions welcome!

The Fall Ball was awesome. Rick and Ron really paid attention to the details. Everyone made a great effort arriving in their masks and Venetian attire. The band got everyone moving and of course the President went away with a basket of chocolate and a round of golf to work it off.

November calendar is filling up. Apart from the Marshalls's App & Yap (see above) on the 9<sup>th</sup>, we have a celebration of life for our dear friend Len Cox at 2PM the next day at the Uplands. Our regular meeting is on November 20<sup>th</sup>, preceded by an Executive meeting at 5pm.

Grey Cup is Sunday November 25<sup>th</sup>. We have challenged Victoria Club to a poker tournament to be hosted by Don Boulton. If you're interested, please make sure you contact me or Don.

Don't forget Pub Night Monday Nov 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Four Questions to ... Hunter McDonald\*

*What would you say defines “you”?*

I feel that “service” defines me. As a youngster I was involved with the Boy Scout movement, and eventually became a leader. When I came to live in Canada, I started an aboriginal Cree troop in Carlyle Saskatchewan.

After leaving home in Scotland at 21, for Canada, I worked at a residential school in Kenora, Ontario as a Senior Boy Supervisor. One of my tasks was to report any resident speaking their mother tongue, the punishment for which would be caning. This reminded me of the colonial practice that denigrated indigenous peoples; to say it discreetly, I never heard one word of their mother tongue! I did not agree with this practice and never reported to the headmaster any violation.

I became a police officer in St. Boniface Manitoba in 1965. Four years later I joined the RCMP. I never refer to myself as “law enforcement,” but rather a “peacekeeper”, which stood me in good stead to be Director of Security at the University of Victoria for 10 years, and then a private investigator. All in all, I was in related careers in public service for 47 years.



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

A cell phone and a blow-up doll (for companionship, of course)!

*Favourite memory?*

The births of my two children, for one of which I was actually present. I also enjoyed a lifetime of sailing, culminating in a circuit of Vancouver Island.

*Why did you join Gyro?*

I wanted to be part of a men's social group. I have very much enjoyed being involved with a group of men with such different professions and backgrounds. This variety has contributed to the quality of our Gyro social events, the wide range of speakers for our dinner meetings and the diversity of the friendships I have made through Gyro.

\*Hunter has been a Gyro for almost 12 years (the claymore sword is real, by the way, so do remember to keep on his good side – or at least on his left).



## Recent Events

### Founders' Night, October 16 at Uplands Golf Club

This annual event, alternately organised by Victoria and Camosun, commemorates Gyro's founding members, Paul Schwan, Gus Handley and Ed Kagy. They are credited with creating what became the Gyro organisation in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1912. Gyro Clubs all over North America (and now, presumably, in Japan) strive to hold a Founders' celebration, reminding Gyros of the ideals that define a Gyro: Peace and Friendship.

Our celebration followed the now-familiar pattern of a homage to the Founders, followed by a hearty meal and a guest speaker. This year, our friends from the Victoria offered the option to appear in period dress and some of us (though not this writer) did, and here they are (L-R Nigel and Peter from Victoria and our own Gerry Neely):

Our Club provided 35 members and 2 guests, while Victoria mobilised 29 of their members. The prize draw winners appeared to be evenly divided between the Clubs.

The speaker was Dr Mary Sanseverino, serendipitously a former colleague of Victoria Gyro President, Nigel Horspool, in UVic's Department of Computer Science. Mary gave a fascinating talk on the way comparisons between old photographs of mountain areas – often taken during 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping expeditions – and newer versions taken from the same spot can aid our understanding of environmental impacts. Her research (which sounded particularly enjoyable, by the way) is part of the on-going "Mountain Legacy Project", which is also contributing to the development of new computer tools that can be used for more intimate and minute analysis of environmental changes and human impacts in mountain areas.



## The Annual Fall Ball, Uplands Golf Club, October 27

Relative newcomer to Camosun, Rick McKay, proved his worth to us all by organising the 2018 Fall Ball and making it among the most successful ever! Over 70 Gyros and guests crowded into the Uplands dining room for dinner and dancing. Even some who usually rely on walking sticks took to the floor (right)!



Rick and his team – decorators Dawn Cameron, Inger Marshall and Barb Vidler, registrars John and Diane Read, MC Ron Frolek, photographer Jan Lim and “publicist” Secretary Peter Whelan – had proposed a fancy-dress occasion on a Venetian theme and we were not disappointed by the costumes. Masks of every shape and size were in evidence, with some so elaborate that their owners could only be identified by the DNA left on the wine glasses (kidding).



The wisest among us chose masks that not only concealed our identities, but also permitted eating and drinking (left); others, who were not so foresightful (right), had to remain dry and hungry at least until the masks came off.



Music was provided by the excellent band, Curl, a versatile Victoria-based blues combo consisting of Helen Davies (vocals, guitar), Susan Johnson (bass), Dee Cooper

(keyboards), as well as featured guitarist Jazz Fouladianpour and drummer Andy Okell. They kept the dance floor full and hot well into the night.

Besides providing the excellent dinner, the Uplands Golf Club also provided four golf passes to add to the prize draw, which included selections of wines and chocolates, one of which was won by your correspondent.

All in all, it was a fabulous occasion and a good time was had by all.

Next year, Rick?

## Report on the October 2nd Regular meeting, Uplands

President Marc Dumais opened the meeting and led the assembled throng in a hearty rendition of our national anthem, O Canada.

Nasser Shojania proposed the toast to the Sovereign and Tom Wood said Grace.

There were three guests present, all brought along by Marc Dumais: Michael Bradley (son of past president Bill), Derrick Davis, and Jean Fetterley.

Rick McKay filled us in on the final arrangements for the Oct 27 Fall Ball at Uplands.

### *GUEST SPEAKER*

Our guest speaker was Captain Dermot Mulholland, Royal Canadian Navy, who graduated from Royal Roads Military College in 1985, with a BA in Military and Strategic Studies; he volunteered for submarine service in 1986 and served in a variety of roles, from Navigator to Executive Officer, on HMC Submarines ONONDAGA, OJIBWA, and OKANAGAN, as well as Operations Officer of HMCS OSIRIS and Acting Commander of the HMCS OKANAGAN. During his time as acting commander, the Okanagan was used to search for – and found – the two ‘Black Boxes’ belonging to Swissair Flight 111, which had crashed in St. Margaret’s Bay, Nova Scotia.

Captain Mulholland became Commander of the Submarine Training Division at the Operations School in Halifax before commanding submarines HMCS CORNERBROOK and WINDSOR, as well as the Halifax-class frigate HMCS WINNIPEG, becoming only the fifth officer ever to have commanded both a submarine and frigate in this class. He was appointed Command Submarine Safety Officer in Maritime Staff HQ and Director of Maritime Policy Operations and Readiness, N3/J3 Operations in Maritime Forces Pacific/Joint Task Force Pacific Headquarters, responsible for all strategic naval readiness and operations issues. Captain Mulholland became the first Director, Canadian Submarine Force, and assumed command of Maritime Operations Group four and Deputy Commander Canadian Fleet Pacific. He was Director Operations Evaluations for Chief Review Services. His final appointment had been as Branch Head for Strategic Plans & Policy at the Combined Joint Operations. Captain Mulholland has now retired and plans to live in Victoria.

He spoke of his experiences with Canadian Submarine Force and the vital role for our security.

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Our Sheriff, Mike Wedekind, assisted by Keith Spacey and Don Bolt, fined all members not wearing ties, which comprised almost all of them (!) Barbara Elford was fined for winning the golf tournament earlier in the day. Her husband Ray was fined for failing to remember five NHL teams with names of birds.

8:55 PM Meeting Adjourned.

Stuart Cameron

(This report supplements the one by David Else in the previous edition of the *Bulletin*.)



## WHO IS ... Denis Moffatt?

First, a geography lesson! Obtain a map of Southern Ontario. 2. Rotate half a turn clockwise. 3. Note the animal shape (it takes some imagination!). My home town, Owen Sound, is located at the base of the Bruce Peninsula on the southwestern shore of Georgian Bay. That's where I was born on the 10th of July 1939.



Despite its anatomical location, Owen Sound was a great place to be raised. My parents, while somewhat strict in my upbringing, allowed me freedom to explore and learn what nature has to offer.

After High School I attended Teachers' College and secured a job teaching a Grade 5/6 class in Sarnia, Ontario, where I met Diane, the love of my life and my wife for the past 56 years. Teaching, it turned out, was not for me and, leaving it for others, I moved to Toronto, where I worked in the data-processing unit of a major life insurance company in the days of Fortran, punch cards and an IBM 650. When it became apparent that this was a dead-end job, with Diane's encouragement and support, I applied for a "mature student" programme being offered on a trial basis by McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.



Four years later I graduated with a degree in Geography. During final year exams I noticed a sign on a door that read, "Interviews – Walk In". I did; thus began a career in outdoor recreation, natural resources, and park management in Ontario, Manitoba, and BC. That first job entailed the recording of recreation features for the Ontario provincial Conservation Authorities Branch and the Canada Land Inventory programme in the Mississippi River watershed in the eastern part of the province. Five other watershed

surveys followed, before Diane and I, with our daughters, Amy and Susan, migrated to Manitoba where I became Director of Provincial Parks. This move was followed in 1980 by another to BC, where I became Acting Director of the Outdoor Recreation Branch, followed by various positions in BC Parks, the last – and most rewarding – of which was Manager of Conservation Services. We developed and implemented policies, such as the Conservation Principles, guiding the development and management of BC Parks and Protected Areas that are still in force today.

A highlight of this period was representing BC Parks on the committee that negotiated the creation of the Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park. These involved discussions between First Nations, the Province of BC, Yukon, Alaska, Canada and UNESCO. The resulting Park and adjoining Parks and Protected areas constitute the largest international protected area in the world.

Through a series of serendipitous meetings, in 1981 I was invited by Reg Hind and Jack Walter to join the Camosun Gyro Club. The friends, the meetings and events, struck a chord with Diane and me; Gyro became a way of life. With the encouragement and support of the Camosun Gyros I became Club President, District Governor and International President with Diane always at my side. Hence, thanks to Gyro, we have friends and acquaintances across Canada and in many US States. It seems not that long ago, as I sat far away from the "elephant" in a sun-drenched alpine meadow above the junction of the Tatshenshini and Alsek Rivers, that I couldn't help but marvel at "What a Wonderful World" it really is.

## Where in the World Have You Been?

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

The guide book generally lies. Suggestions about little detours one could casually saunter to turn out often to be vexatious grinds to disappointing places, while other descriptions tend to exaggerate the caché. The topographic key on the route map is simple: green or orange or red, depending on difficulty of the trail, but greens can actually be orange, oranges are often reds and reds can be extra-difficult. You never know until you get there; and say, " heeeeeeyyyy...this isn't right".

We all want to be optimists and hope that red means maybe orange or orange-red: we're tough after all these days on the trail. A red line for at least a kilometer, maybe two, showed on the map ahead. It was a hot day and the walking was ...hot but tolerable: we were down by the river. Of course, what goes down must go up; we turned a sharp corner towards the hillside beside us and the trail became the equivalent of the steepest logging road ever seen, fully rutted and surfaced by rolling rocks of various sizes, all happily animated when stepped on. Bordered on both sides by scrub forest, we turned into perfect alignment with the sun so that the tree shadows stayed with the trees and not on to the road. Eyes fixed straight ahead, we dared not look up, better to be naively ignorant of the endless travails ahead. Seeking relief when we came to any small curve we did look up, only to see more of the same at a slightly different angle. The cycle repeated endlessly and we were forced into five-minute rests four times. The temperature was 38°.



By the grace of God (we are pilgrims, after all) we reached the top, still with our mental blinders on and trudged another 6K to our Chambre d'hôte. Later that evening we dined with some other pilgrims who had followed us by an hour or so. They asked if we saw the refrigerator at the top. All we had seen was a blur of rocks at our feet. And Cheryl is an eagle-eye. THEY had seen the impossible: a free-standing fridge in the woods at the edge of the top of the trail with no overt signs of civilization nearby. A mirage. There was a bashed up old sign on it saying 1 euro per drink, push the button. Ha ha: they walked by laughing. But after a few steps one turned back, placed a coin and pushed the button to open the fridge. She pulled out an ice-cold Coca-Cola. In disbelief they looked at the back of the fridge and saw a power cord snaking infinitely through the woods.

For all our grouching about our discovering the veracity of the guide's red line, it still lied. It forgot to mention that there is a swimming pool at the Chambre d'hôte: all was forgiven.



## THE PENULTIMATE PAGE

### Birthdays!

Happy October birthdays to: Tim Evans (9<sup>th</sup>), John Read (23<sup>rd</sup>) and Jim Arnott (31<sup>st</sup>).

Happy November birthdays to: David Else (8<sup>th</sup>), Keith Spacey (12<sup>th</sup>), Hans Rodenburgh (17<sup>th</sup>) and 1<sup>st</sup> VP Pat Marshall (29<sup>th</sup>).

### The Joy of TEX

Surely there has been a typo. Either the T has been mistaken for its adjacent character in the alphabet, or it has been inadvertently dropped from the end of the word. The former hypothesis is discounted by the distance S resides from T on the standard QWERTY keyboard.

So, did I mean to persuade you to sign up and enjoy social media?

In truth, the TEX was a ruse to grab your attention. You could call it “Fake News”, a term that is commonly employed in this era of misdirection and gaslighting. Stemming from a relentless campaign to trump truth and transparency.

TEX is an acronym for Travel Ex checked in luggage. Simply a travel tip I wanted to share. For the past decade, Cheng and I have learned to fly with only essentials that fit into cabin luggage. This freed us from lugging around suitcases and has allowed us to hop onto earlier connections at various airports around the world. Recently we learned to refine this manoeuvre by packing items that could be discarded after use, so as to accommodate new purchases at our destination. Hope it works for you too.

Jan Lim

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

The FBI person-hunt for the missing Gyros continues. Recently, the focus has shifted to Victoria, BC, where there have been rumours of massed, mask-wearing individuals masquerading as Gyros. Says spokesperson, Terry Furtive, “We believe these individuals might have vital information. However, we have been unable to identify them from CCTV recordings. Whatever they were doing, it was certainly suspicious.”

Meanwhile, Canadians seem to be boring. A book project, *Exciting Canadians*, was intended to be a list of them but was abandoned when only Shania Twain and Céline Dion made the cut.

Camosun Gyro is under RCMP investigation after it was revealed that the Club intends to hold an “Adult X-rated party” on December 18th. Spokesperson K. Spacedout, says such lewd behaviour will not be tolerated in Victoria. The Club cited a typo as being responsible, but the RCMP replied “Typo – psycho, it’s all the same to us – please pass the joint.” Continued ...

## 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
Director	Rick McKAY	Director	Ron FROLEK
Director	John AMISS	Director	Hans RODENBURGH
Sheriff (ex officio)	Mike WEDEKIND	Bulletin (Ex officio)	Colm FOY

## CAMOSUN CLUB CALENDAR

Regular Dinner meeting	20-Nov-18	Uplands
Regular Dinner meeting	4-Dec-18	Uplands
Children's Christmas Party	15-Dec-18	Uplands
Gyro Adult X-mas Party	18 Dec 2018	Uplands
<b>NO Dinner</b>	<b>1-Jan-19</b>	
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
<b>St Paddy's Day Mixed Party</b>	<b>19-Mar</b>	<b>Uplands Mixed Event</b>
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 represent those of the Club or Gyro International. Overall Editor: Colm Foy (colmfoy@gmail.com).