

Thunderbird Bulletin

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



KEEPING UP

We're heading into Autumn and this is the first edition of the Gyro "year".

The diligent among you will notice that we are short of some – not all – our regular features: the ones that depend on YOU!

I have asked a number of Gyros to send me their bios and travellers' tales, as well as their "4 Answers" but so far the response has been decidedly underwhelming.

Luckily, our good friend and permanent correspondent, Amis Marshall Ember has been on the ball, and David Else came through with his "4", so all is not lost.

We're counting on all of you who have not yet contributed to the Bulletin to redeem yourselves very soon!!!!!!

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EDITORIAL

Travellin' On

The new season kicks off with our golf tournament and, elsewhere in District 4, other Gyros' installations. We should make an effort to participate in the latter.

President Pat will be heading off to Vernon, your Editor to Kitimat and, we hope, others to other clubs.

Visiting other clubs may not be for everyone, but it does enrich the Gyro experience: we are not alone!

Meanwhile, the *Thunderbird Bulletin* was awarded a prize for the best newsletter from a large club. Kitimat, also in District IV and BC, won the parallel prize for a small club's newsletter. Congratulations to us both: it's BC, Bud!

A WORD FROM PRESIDENT PAT MARSHALL



Fall is in the air and soon we will have the juxtaposition of baseball, football and hockey. Delight for some – despair for others, think of my wife. The weather was great, and Camosun Gyro had three successful events. Thanks to Marie-France and Alex for July App and Yap, Colm and Wanda for hosting the barbeque and Inger for the August App and Yap.

We have a busy Fall season! September 3rd is the golf tournament followed by a mixed dinner for all, including non-golfers. Thanks to Ron Froelk for organising the golf. The talk is on Edith Piaf, the Parisienne Sparrow. September 28th is the Fall Ball organised by Hans Rodenburgh. The band is 'Curl' – they played last year. No meeting on October 3rd and Founder's Night hosted by Camosun is October 15th

Regular dinner meetings November 5th, November 19th, December 3rd and Adult Christmas Party December 17th with the Children's Christmas Party on December 21st. All events are at

the Uplands. The Fall App and Yaps have been organised by Peter Whelan – a deep bow to Peter for this and his communication skills.

The Gyro Ladies liaison committee has organised a Christmas lunch at Victoria Golf Club for Friday, December 6th. A notice will be forthcoming

Going forward we need to gradually grow our membership – or keep it stable and have events that interest our members. To that end I am grateful to Stu for his selection of excellent speakers. There has been some discussion regarding our relationship with Gyro International. The executive will take this up in the Fall and provide feedback to the members.

Finally, we have been recognised for the *Thunderbird Bulletin* by being given the Gyro award for the best large club bulletin – kudos to Colm. Don't forget, though, that he depends on all of us to keep our *Bulletin* going and good!

Pat

President – Pat Marshall	Directors at Large:
1 st Vice – Michael Wedekind	Tim Evans
2nd Vice – Hans Rodenburgh	Rick McKay
Secretary – Peter Whelan	Ron Froelk
Treasurer – Jay Fray	Colm Foy
	PP – Marc Dumais

Le 14 juillet chez Alex et Marie-France



Une bonne soixantaine de gens se sont présentés le 12 juillet chez Marie-France et Alex Skourides pour la fête nationale française (en avance de 2 jours, mais de quoi s'inquiéter ?). Comme d'habitude, la bouffe était bonne, le vin coulait à flots, la compagnie était vive et les conditions météo étaient parfaites !

Nos amis étaient de bon cœur et de bon chœur en chantant l'hymne national : la Marseillaise.

Ainsi, l'espace d'un après-midi, une partie de l'ouest canadien est devenu la France : « Aux enfants de la Patrie, le jour de gloire est arrivé ! »

A la fin, on est tous redevenu canadiens (sauf Marie-France, bien-sûr) qui sera toujours canadienne *et* française !

Fourth of July at the Skourides'



Some sixty folks gathered on July 12 for the annual celebration of the French national day (2 days early, but who's counting?). As ever, the food was delicious, the wine flowed, the company was lively and the weather perfect!

Our friends were in fine voice and formed a great choir to sing the French national anthem, the Marseillaise.

Once again, for a brief afternoon, a corner of Western Canada became French: "Arise, children of the Fatherland, the day of glory is at hand!"

Afterwards, we all became Canadian again (except for Marie-France, of course, who will always be Canadian *and* French!)

Summer Picnic July 20th at the FOYs

Many of those who appeared at the Skourides' for the 14th of July, also turned up for the annual picnic in Shawnigan Lake hosted by Wanda and Colm. Lessons were learned from last year and the event went off with military precision (well, almost ...), attracting visitors from far and wide (actually, Victoria, Campbell River and Nanaimo, but also from Denmark!); it was a truly international Island Gyro affair.

Past President Marc handled the barbecue with naval aplomb, serving the now-traditional hand-made burgers from Wanda's kitchen, accompanied by a variety of salads supplied and co-ordinated by Inger Marshall (who probably hasn't realised yet that she now has a job for LIFE!).



It is rumoured that alcohol was consumed. Whether that was true, or not, it did not interfere with the bocce tournament – or, maybe, it improved it. In any case, in contrast to last year's incomplete competition, this year's teams distinguished themselves with fine displays of



incompetence, as they battled the bumps and gullies of the Foys' rather theoretical "lawn". Male and female elimination rounds resulted in a face off between the finalist teams of each gender and after a thrilling finish, the women took home the Philipps Trophy having routed the men.



The weather behaved but, despite the heat, the much-anticipated couples' balloon fight failed to materialise and the rest of the afternoon was filled with idle chat and heat-resisting libations. Several guests – Sam and Sandra from Nanaimo (top, right, photo), Bill and Barb from Campbell River, Marc and Sandy from Metchosin – stayed on around the campfire until the wee hours.

Steak Fry June 18th at Bob Doell's

Good humour, draft beer and Bob's stupendous hospitality combined to make this yet another successful event. The bocce was hotly contested, many Gyros are getting the hang of Bob's slope! It was all fun and sunshine as we celebrated the traditional final men-only event of the year.

Pictures of the steak fry by Jan Lim are available at <https://camosungyro.com/2019/06/>.

Four Questions to ... David Else*

What defines you?

I suppose it's a desire to be of use while hopefully not screwing up too badly in the process. What's my success rate kin this endeavour? I would say, at best C-Minus.

What would you take to a Desert Island?

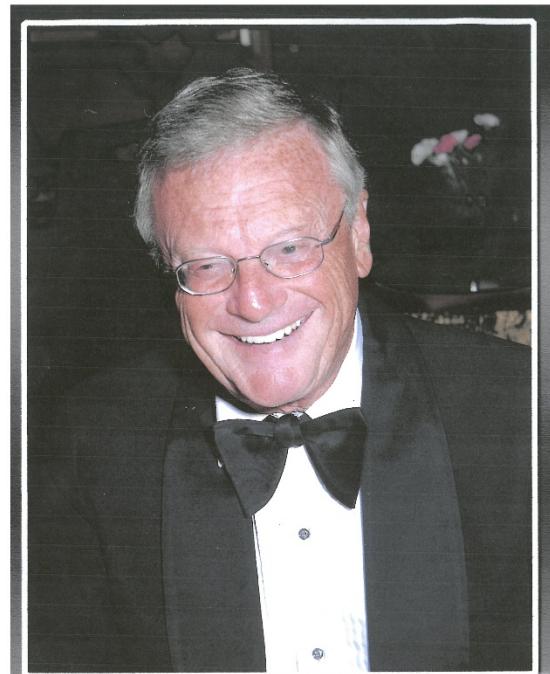
A wooden boat in need of a lot of work and a bottomless bottle of good scotch.

Favourite memory?

Summer holidays at the cottage, far away from boarding school, out on the Bay and at the tiller of my small sailboat, on my own.

Why did you join Gyro?

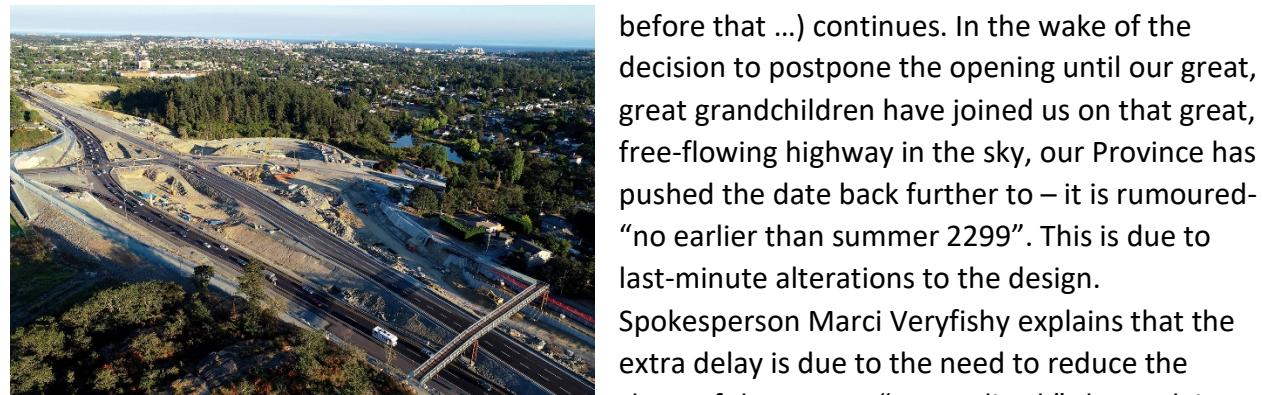
Why did I join Gyros? To be in the company of like-minded companions who, in very short order I realized were more successful than I would ever be but were still willing to accept me for what I could contribute rather than what I could not.



*David has been a Camosun Gyro for nearly 47 years and has always been an active member, including having been President and ferrying friends in need of a ride.

Fake News? by A.M. Ember

The saga of the **McKenzie Interchange** (see last edition, and the edition before and the one before that ...) continues. In the wake of the decision to postpone the opening until our great, great grandchildren have joined us on that great, free-flowing highway in the sky, our Province has pushed the date back further to – it is rumoured – “no earlier than summer 2299”. This is due to last-minute alterations to the design.



Spokesperson Marci Veryfishy explains that the extra delay is due to the need to reduce the slope of the ramps. “We realised,” she explains,

“that we needed to give taxpayers value for money and it is clear that by the opening date, the only viable vehicles on the road will be bicycles, since fossil fuels will be used up and most of the Island under water due to climate change. The bridges,” Ms Veryfishy explains, “will still be high enough for barges to pass under.”

Camosun Gyro Club has received an award at the Reno Convention for its excellent *Thunderbird Bulletin*. In presenting the Award, the International Executive commended your *Bulletin* for its fearless and flawlessly accurate reporting. The commendation said, among other things, “The *Thunderbird Bulletin* sets new bars for excellence, rigour and complete fabrication of which we should, as Gyros, all be proud.” District IV Governor, Jordan Henry, is believed to have been in tears as he thanked the Executive for their exemplary intelligence and rational identification of the best among the best. No other bulletins were in contention, however.

The saga of **Gyrexit** (see the last issue, if you can find it) continues. Following a chaotic Reno Convention, where the competing parties are said to have offered drinks to each other in the hospitality room (a claim later somewhat unconvincingly denied by both sides) the International Executive has said it will meet the October deadline for Gyrexit, when International will formally secede from Gyro. However, the Executive declined, when pressed, to identify which October that would be, except to say that the declaration would be made on the newly opened McKenzie Interchange.

There is no truth in the rumour that **Gyros who fail to contribute** to the *Bulletin* will be blackballed. Contacted by your correspondent, a spokesman claimed, “We do not behave like that in Gyro and will leave their balls alone. However, such offences will be treated with the utmost displeasure.” This terrifying prospect has reportedly resulted in offers of numerous contributions from formerly silent Gyros. However, they have yet to materialise.

A Tale from My Youth

In future editions of the *Bulletin* we are hoping to have occasional stories of spent or misspent youth. I am offering the following story as a starter in the hope that others will soon follow. I should mention that Don Boult and Keith Spacey have contributed stories in previous numbers.

"A fresh paint job", by Colm Foy

Part of my early childhood was spent in what was, apparently, a rough neighbourhood. Our town was cut in two by the railway line that went from Blackpool to everywhere else. We were literally on the "wrong side of the tracks". That was probably a boon for we children because we had all the alleyways of our council estate ("social housing", in Canadian) to play in and a farmer's orchard from which to steal apples.

My best friend was a fellow rascal called Robert. We got up to all kinds of mischief, but rarely got caught. Robert's family was a rarity: they had a TV! We sat in his house watching all sorts of things, but the cowboys and Indians films were our favourites.

We preferred the Indians. They were the best. That was where it all began.

We liked the war paint. We wanted to be Indians. We were seven.

Where could we get paint to paint our bodies like Indians? Robert had the answer: before long, we had raided his dad's paint cans and were busy mimicking our heroes with the paint. Lots of it. We had intended to paint our faces only but soon it was all over our little bodies until we were covered in acrylic house paint from our hair to our toes. We finally went off to see what we looked like in the mirror, leaving painty footprints on his parents' rugs.

What confronted us in our image was wonderfully shocking: we had painted our faces, our shirts, our trousers, even our shoes. There was paint everywhere. It was only after a moment or two that we realised what trouble we were in.

In the logic of two seven-year-olds, there was only one thing to do: hide! So, we did. In the coal hole. Each house on the estate had one at the back. We hid until well after dark. Our parents must have been frantic, and we heard them calling our names all over the estate. My dad even came into the coal shed with his flashlight, but he didn't see us. We wondered why.

Eventually, hours later, we were found and dragged out of the coal shed by Robert's dad.

We expected to be thrashed but, instead, our parents went into paroxysms of laughter! They fell about, screeching and crying, holding their stomachs and groaning with the pain of laughter. The paint had been wet when we went to hide; now we were black and covered in coal dust. It would take our parents hours of scrubbing to get it all off and render us visible in the dark!

The Penultimate Page

Happy September birthdays to: Colm Foy (09/09), Ken Fyke (11/09) and Grant Little (24/09).

Forthcoming Events for District IV

Friday, September 06, 2019	Kitimat Installation	4
Friday, September 06, 2019	Olympia Installation	4
Friday, September 13, 2019	Prince George Installation	4
Saturday, September 14, 2019	Kelowna Installation	4
Friday, September 20, 2019	District Convention District Convention and Vernon Installation 	4
Friday, September 20, 2019	North Shore Installation	4

Fees and Secession

The fees increase agreed at the Reno International Convention has raised the thorny issue of Camosun's participation in the District and International. As a result, the Executive will be discussing the matter and how it is to be brought before the membership at its next meeting (see President Pat's message on page 2).

Gyros may wish to avail themselves of their *Bulletin* to express their opinions and feelings about our belonging to District IV and International. Letters and comments will be welcome.

I should point out that I have been asked (and have, for the time being, agreed) to take on the role of District IV Secretary, so I am not personally entirely neutral on the question. However, as your Editor, I promise scrupulously to exercise independent neutrality on any and all issues discussed by Gyros in the pages of your *Bulletin*.

Colm

THE LAST PAGE

YOUR EXECUTIVE 2019/2020

President	Pat MARSHALL	1 st VP	Mike WEDEKIND
Secretary	Peter WHELAN	2 nd VP	Hans RODENBURGH
Treasurer	Jay FRAY	Past President	Marc DUMAIS
Director	Tim EVANS	Director	Ron FROLEK
Director	Colm FOY	Director	Rick McKAY

CAMOSUN CLUB CALENDAR

Mixed Golf Tournament and Dinner	03 September 19	Uplands
Regular Dinner	17 September 19	Uplands
Fall Ball (mixed)	28 September 19	Uplands
Founders' Night	15 October 19	Uplands (Camosun hosts this year)
Regular Dinner	5 November 19	Uplands
Regular Dinner	19 November 19	Uplands
Regular Dinner	3 December 19	Uplands
Children's Christmas Party	14 December 19	Uplands
Adult Christmas Party (mixed)	17 December 19	Uplands
Regular Dinner	7 January 19	Uplands
Robbie Burns Dinner (mixed)	21 January 20	TBD
Regular Dinner	4 February 20	Uplands
Past President's Party (mixed)	22 February 20	TBD
St Patrick's Dinner (mixed)	17 March 20	Uplands?
Regular Dinner	4 April 20	Uplands
AGM	21 April 20	Uplands
Installation	1,2,3-May-20	Uplands +
Regular Dinner	19 May 20	Uplands
Regular Dinner meeting	2 June 20	Uplands
Steak Fry	18-Jun-20	TBD

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 (colmfoyl@gmail.com).