

# GRAND NEST MARKETING COMMITTEE – 2021

## Blue Goose and the Coronavirus Pandemic

March 2020 through May 2021



*The following Ganders were named to this committee:*

- Patrick DaSilva (Chairperson) [dasilvap@yahoo.com](mailto:dasilvap@yahoo.com) Carolina Pond
- Laura Kraus [krausl@grangeinsurance.com](mailto:krausl@grangeinsurance.com) Cincinnati Pond
- Phillip Morris [phillipmorris11@hotmail.com](mailto:phillipmorris11@hotmail.com) Wisconsin Pond
- Stephanie Petluck [spetluck@comcast.net](mailto:spetluck@comcast.net) Bay State Pond
- Jason Znoy [jason.znoy@sedgwick.com](mailto:jason.znoy@sedgwick.com) Texas Pond
- Grand Nest Advisor: MLGG Dan Rich [dsr23@comcast.net](mailto:dsr23@comcast.net) Hartford Pond

### OUR MISSION

This year's Marketing Committee focused on one thing - how did Blue Goose respond to the Coronavirus pandemic of 2020-2021?

We recognize the historical significance of documenting our activity during this unprecedented time period. We hope the dedication and creativity you will read about on the following pages will be an inspiration to your Pond and the future generations of Ganders.

What were some of the creative marketing campaigns and strategies our Ponds adapted to maintain interest and membership when live meetings were not possible?

How did we exchange information and maintain communication about so many COVID related cancellations? How did we adjust and reinvent long standing traditional events? And how did we creatively invent new virtual events?

What did we do to improve our industry footprint, promote the Blue Goose brand, reinvigorate our use of social media platforms, and grow our organization in an unprecedented time of pandemic lockdown, social distancing, societal shutdown, and closed borders across our two nations?

What did we do to let our membership know that Blue Goose was still active, still relevant, and still honoring our Cardinal Precepts of Character, Charity and Fellowship, even under these unimaginable circumstances?

We looked to document the time period of March 2020 through May 2021.

FACEBOOK posts on our collective group and individual Pond pages served as the source material for this report. If an event or activity was reported on two Facebook pages, we did our best not to duplicate it.

## SOURCE MATERIALS

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/37034319226/>

This Blue Goose group for the entire Honorable Order was created by the Hartford Pond's Wendy Hubbard on November 20, 2008. It currently has 327 members and routinely features posts from many different Ponds. Any member can contribute a post or upload content on behalf of their Pond.

The photos and documents our members routinely upload serve to publicize our Pond and Puddle events. They show the wide spectrum of charitable pursuits and social activities that Blue Goose supported during the pandemic and show inspiring examples of our creativity.

Additional Pond and Puddle Facebook pages were identified as below. These pages varied in degree of activity, and we identified, listed and reviewed all the below sites. Next, we extracted content wherever applicable. We apologize if any Pond or Puddle sites were overlooked. If your site was overlooked, send me the URL and I will revise the report.

Dan Rich, Most Loyal Grand Gander [dsr23@comcast.net](mailto:dsr23@comcast.net)

Alberta	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/The-Honorable-Order-of-the-Blue-Goose-International-Alberta-Pond-1197580573686683">https://www.facebook.com/The-Honorable-Order-of-the-Blue-Goose-International-Alberta-Pond-1197580573686683</a>
Canadian Region	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/299758060583062">https://www.facebook.com/groups/299758060583062</a>
Central Region	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Blue-Goose-Central-Region-417821401904832">https://www.facebook.com/Blue-Goose-Central-Region-417821401904832</a>
British Columbia	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/bluegoosebc">https://www.facebook.com/bluegoosebc</a>
Carolina	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/2478815449020991">https://www.facebook.com/groups/2478815449020991</a>
Cincinnati	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/bluegoosecincy">https://www.facebook.com/bluegoosecincy</a>
Detroit	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/BlueGooseDetroit">https://www.facebook.com/BlueGooseDetroit</a>
Edmonton	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/EdmontonPond">https://www.facebook.com/EdmontonPond</a>
Grand Rapids	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/BlueGooseGrandRapids">https://www.facebook.com/BlueGooseGrandRapids</a>
Kentucky	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/1468303130111038">https://www.facebook.com/groups/1468303130111038</a>
Lansing	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/LansingBlueGoose">https://www.facebook.com/LansingBlueGoose</a>
Manitoba	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/manitobapond">https://www.facebook.com/manitobapond</a>
Michigan	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/MichiganPond">https://www.facebook.com/MichiganPond</a>
Northern Michigan	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/nmpuddle/">https://www.facebook.com/nmpuddle/</a>
Nova Scotia	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/BlueGooseNS">https://www.facebook.com/BlueGooseNS</a>
NYC	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Blue-Goose-New-York-City-Pond-196519797070111">https://www.facebook.com/Blue-Goose-New-York-City-Pond-196519797070111</a>

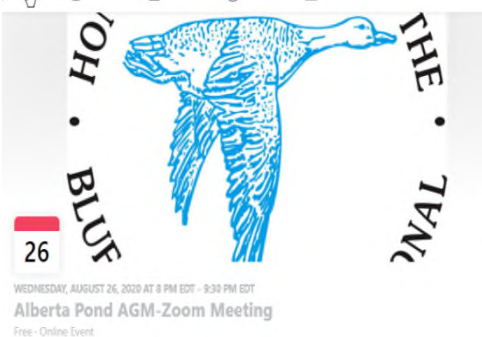
National Capital	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/nationalcapitalpond">https://www.facebook.com/nationalcapitalpond</a>
Quebec	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ohobiqc">https://www.facebook.com/ohobiqc</a>
Regina	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/BlueGooseReginaPond">https://www.facebook.com/BlueGooseReginaPond</a>
Saskatchewan	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/BlueGooseSaskPond">https://www.facebook.com/BlueGooseSaskPond</a>
Southern Region	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/416725172357261/?multi_permaLinks=733931687303273%2C733904450639330%2C733902647306177&amp;notif_id=1620240666927029&amp;notif_t=group_activity&amp;ref=notif">https://www.facebook.com/groups/416725172357261/?multi_permaLinks=733931687303273%2C733904450639330%2C733902647306177&amp;notif_id=1620240666927029&amp;notif_t=group_activity&amp;ref=notif</a>
St Louis	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/BlueGooseSTL">https://www.facebook.com/BlueGooseSTL</a>
Tampa	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/BlueGooseTampa">https://www.facebook.com/BlueGooseTampa</a>
Tennessee	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/bluegoosetnpnd">https://www.facebook.com/bluegoosetnpnd</a>
Texas	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/1611270679166224">https://www.facebook.com/groups/1611270679166224</a>
Virginia	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Blue-Goose-Virginia-Pond-381011768709814">https://www.facebook.com/Blue-Goose-Virginia-Pond-381011768709814</a>
West Virginia	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/West-Virginia-Blue-Goose-278351575945221">https://www.facebook.com/West-Virginia-Blue-Goose-278351575945221</a>
Wisconsin	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/wisconsinhomenest">https://www.facebook.com/wisconsinhomenest</a>

### *The Alberta Pond*

On March 18, 2020, The Alberta Pond announced the postponement of their March 23rd initiation meeting

We will be postponing our initiation meeting initially scheduled for March 23. Stay tuned for details.

Any members requiring assistance during this time of self-isolating and quarantines, please reach out here or to our executive so we can help each other through this.



On August 20, 2020, The Alberta Pond announced their August 26 Annual Meeting will be held on Zoom for “voting to retain our current executive for next season as well as a few other housekeeping necessities.”

Also on August 20, 2020, The Alberta Pond announced a Blue Goose Social Backyard BBQ “to try and get some face time with the membership. Food will be responsibly prepared with gloves and masks and there is plenty of room to social distance. Members, significant others and kids are welcome to attend. Food will be supplied so you just need to bring your own mask, chair and beverages.”



On October 23, 2020, the Alberta Pond announced an October 29<sup>th</sup> Walking Ghost Tour in the historic Calgary Community of Inglewood.



On October 29, 2020 The Alberta Pond held their Walking Ghost Tour with the Calgary & Banff Ghost Tour Company in Inglewood, Calgary.



On December 10, 2020, the Alberta Pond posted a summary of their volunteer activity to support the Women's Centre of Calgary Toy Room the day before. “We had 2 great shifts and were happy to help spread some holiday cheer in this crazy year. Also, a huge thank you to everyone who was able to help us out with donations and First on Site (Will Elliot) for hosting their annual toy drive in support of this event.”



On January 28, 2020, the Alberta Pond posted a message “supporting the Blue Goose while staying safe in these difficult times”. The message was accompanied by a photo showing seven Ganders wearing their Blue Goose masks.



### *British Columbia Pond*

On August 20, 2020, the British Columbia Pond donated \$500 to the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals for their animal rescue farm. The Pond thanked the sponsors (Exclusive Floors, On Side Restoration, and Nude Beverages) and attendees of their March 10th Axe Throwing Event to help raise the funds.





On November 13, 2020, the British Columbia Pond announced that their Annual Toy Drive would be a "COVID Friendly Drive Through Edition". The Pond will be partnering with the Salvation Army to collect toys to benefit our Angel Tree families in Abbotsford & Mission. There will be a collection point in Vancouver on December 2nd and one in Abbotsford on December 3rd.

On December 3, 2020, the British Columbia Pond posted a photo of their Drive Through toy collection in Abbotsford.



On December 21, 2020, The British Columbia Pond announced that February's Month of Caring will be re-imagined with COVID Friendly practices. "MOC IS BACK!!!... and this year we will need more volunteers, contributors and social media shares than ever before!

COVID-19 has brought economic hardship to many in our local communities while restricting our ability to serve. But the pandemic will not stop us from rolling up our sleeves, making a difference, and spreading the love.

This February we will have opportunities for smaller groups of volunteers in soup kitchens and food warehouses, drive-through donations, and virtual ways to support."

On December 24, 2020, The British Columbia Pond posted the results of their December charitable activities. "Merry Christmas Ganders and thank you for your generous support this year! During the Month of December,

we raised \$6,375.00 for the Salvation Army and approximately \$3,000.00 worth of toys were collected. The VIP (Vancouver Island Puddle) also donated \$781.77 for the Cowichan Women Against Violence Society and put together 50 gift bags for women in need! Amazing work for a jolly and festive holiday season”.



On January 7, 2021, The British Columbia Pond publicized their upcoming Month of Caring. “The Blue Goose British Columbia Pond members are champions for equality, givers to their community, and a strong network of support.” Among other campaigns in the MOC, they will bring awareness to the needs of the Covenant House Vancouver and collect feminine hygiene products and donations. “Follow us on our social channels for upcoming opportunities to join us on our mission of choosing our #community as our #valentine next month!”

#### CHARITIES & INITIATIVES WE SUPPORT



Love. Hope. Purpose.


**PERIOD POVERTY - END THE STIGMA**

On January 20, 2021, the British Columbia Pond continued their promotion campaign in support of eight charities and the upcoming February 1<sup>st</sup> kickoff to their Month of Caring.


The supported charities are Ronald McDonald House of British Columbia and Yukon, Nightshift Street Ministries, 5 and 2 Ministries, Union Gospel Mission, Covenant House, Quest Food Exchange, Surrey Food Bank, and awareness of feminine hygiene needs for the homeless.









**in-person**  
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



M.O.C.



**UNION GOSPEL MISSION**  
**THURS. FEB 11TH OR FRI. FEB 12TH**  
**AT CAPACITY**  
1601 East Hastings Street, Vancouver BC 5:00pm - 7:00p  
With UGM's Outreach Workers, you will be preparing dinner to-go for the public that rely on the organization for their meals.



**QUEST FOOD EXCHANGE**  
**FRI. FEB 19TH OR FRI. FEB 26TH**  
**AT CAPACITY**  
2020 Dundas Street, Vancouver BC 10:00am - 2:00pm  
In the warehouse, you will be repackaging recovered quality surplus food for redistribution at Quest's not-for-profit grocery markets, where patrons have access to healthy, affordable food in a dignified manner, and a safe and welcoming environment.

On

January 27, 2021, the British Columbia Pond announced registration had opened for two live volunteer opportunities -preparing and serving dinner at the Union Gospel Mission and repackaging food for distribution at the Quest Food Exchange. All volunteer slots were filled within four days.

On February 1, 2021, the British Columbia Pond asked the local insurance industry to support the Month of Caring by considering alternatives to the usual Valentine's Day purchases. "This February, will you instead of investing in a box of chocolates, invest in a care package for a sick child and their family? Instead of buying a card, buy a 12- month supply of feminine hygiene products for at-risk and homeless young women? Instead of giving a teddy bear, give a warm blanket to the homeless? Instead of picking up flowers, pick up an apron and work in a soup kitchen?"

For more information, visit: <https://bluegoosebcpond.com/month-of-caring>



**virtual opportunities**  
available throughout February 2021

**SEND A CARE PACKAGE**  
75 families at the RMH are facing an unimaginable challenge of caring for their sick child, far from home, during a pandemic. For \$75.00, you can send a care package to a sick infant, child, or teen, and their family, filled with comfort items from BC artisans & small businesses.

**SUPPORT 6 OR 12 PERIODS**  
Purchase a 6 or 12 month supply of feminine hygiene products for less than \$50.00. 100% of proceeds will go to the Covenant House Vancouver, where at-risk and homeless young women, aged 16-24, are taking refuge and receiving love, hope and support.

**COLLECT BLANKETS**  
New or old blankets are desperately needed for the non-profit organization, Nightshift Street Ministries. Gather as many as you can and the MOC will pick them up and donate them on your behalf.

**MAKE A PLEDGE**  
Looking to do more? We've created pledges for individuals and groups. Commit to an initiative, connect with friends, family and colleagues for donations. To learn more about your pledge, visit [bluegoosebcpond.com/month-of-caring](https://bluegoosebcpond.com/month-of-caring)

On February 1, through February 4, 2021, the British Columbia Pond published a series of posts asking volunteers to make a pledge or donate a Family Care Package. Some of the packages included a care package filled with comfort items for young patients at the Ronald McDonald House, a 6- or 12-month supply of feminine hygiene products for homeless young women at Vancouver's Covenant House, and blankets for the homeless at Nightshift Street Ministries.

On February 11, 2021, the British Columbia Pond volunteered to help with dinner service at the Union Gospel Mission. "Unlike previous years, where hundreds of people gathered inside UGMs dining room together, UGM is offering hot meals 'to-go' in biodegradable containers and serving hundreds more. This reduces risk and follows the advice of health authorities to limit public gatherings."



**HANDFUL OF COMFORT**  
Commitment: 5 family care packages, \$375  
Benefiting: Ronald McDonald House BC  
We worked with RMH to create boxes filled with comfort items for families of seriously ill infants, children, and teens who are undergoing medical treatments while staying at their home-away-from-home.  
Filled exclusively with products from local BC companies

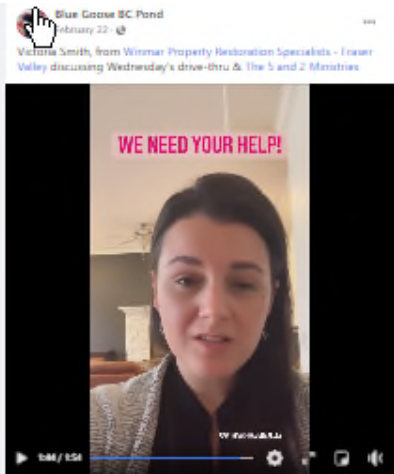


**WRAP IN WARMTH**  
Commitment: 10 blankets  
Benefiting: Nightshift Street Ministries  
Collect 10 new or old blankets and we will pick them up and donate on your behalf. Nightshift provides nightly outreach for people stuck in the cycle of poverty, addiction and homelessness in the Whalley neighbourhood of Surrey.





On February 12 and 19, 2021, volunteers from the British Columbia Pond helped repackage donated food for low income individuals & charitable organizations, at Quest Food Exchange.



On February 22, 2021, the British Columbia Pond posted a video describing their volunteer night at the 5 and 2 Ministries, who provides outreach and support to those who have “fallen through the cracks” by offering shelter, winter coats, and hand warmers during the frigid winter, providing meals, and advocating for more housing options for families that are struggling”.

On March 1, 2021, the British Columbia Pond posted a partial count of what they have collected for Night Shift Street Ministries – ‘79 blankets & sleeping bags, 22 jackets, 4 toques, 7 pairs of gloves, 7 scarves, 360 tampons & 209 pads... And that’s just what we’ve counted!’



On March 3, 2021, the British Columbia Pond held a Virtual Mixology Class that raised \$760 for the Surrey Food Bank

**virtual FUNDRAISER**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3rd  
6:15PM - 8:30PM  
TICKETS: \$30

**SURREY FOOD BANK**  
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Have you ever tried an  
**ON THE CAN RUSH OR CORNER G SMASH?**

Join us for a virtual party like no other, with cocktail lessons, games, prizes and more!

100% of ticket sales go directly to the Surrey Food Bank

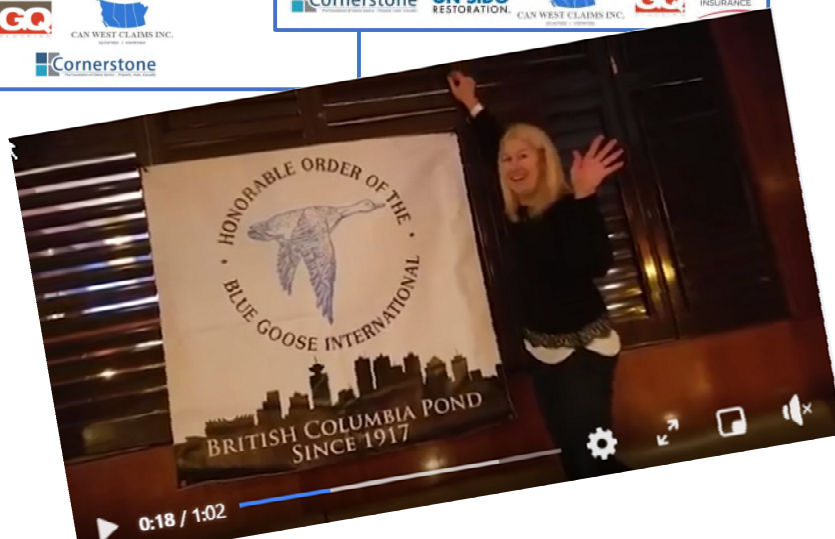
Our Sponsors: Park Insurance, On Side Restoration, Cornerstone Adjusters & Can West Claims Inc.

**PARK INSURANCE** **ON SIDE RESTORATION** **CORNERSTONE** **CAN WEST CLAIMS INC.**

**\$760 RAISED**

Made possible with the support of:  
**PARK INSURANCE** **ON SIDE RESTORATION** **CORNERSTONE** **CAN WEST CLAIMS INC.**

On March 4, 2021, the British Columbia Pond's Month of Caring came to an end. They posted a terrific video summarizing all of their good work over the last 31 days and thanked their volunteers and sponsors.



**MOC's IMPACT FEBRUARY 2021**

**RMHC**  
British Columbia & Yukon  
**30 COMFORT BOXES**  
For the families of sick infants, children & teens at the House  
total raised : \$2,175.00

**UNION GOSPEL MISSION**  
**QUEST** food exchange  
**144 VOLUNTEER HOURS**  
The majority of time spent volunteering at Union Gospel Mission & Quest Food Exchange.

**Covenant House**  
**6,000 PADS & TAMPONS**  
For homeless and at-risk young women at The Covenant House  
total raised : \$1,625

**NIGHTSHIFT**  
Love. Hope. Purpose.  
**OVER 100 BLANKETS**  
In addition to sleeping bags, warm clothing & feminine hygiene products, for the homeless community of Whalley, Surrey BC.

**5 2 MINISTRIES**  
**\$800 & ESSENTIAL ITEMS**  
Multi-city drive-thru collection resulted in countless items, such as food, toiletries & warm clothing, for the homeless community in Chilliwack, Abbotsford and Langley

**SURREY FOOD BANK**  
**\$730 DONATION**  
Raised at our Virtual Fundraiser benefiting the Surrey Foodbank and the neighbourhoods they serve.

Made possible by the generous support of our sponsors, 39 participating companies and countless individuals associated with BC's insurance industry.

**PURAIR** **NEXUS** **CORNERSTONE** **PARK INSURANCE** **WINMAR** **CAN WEST CLAIMS INC.** **ON SIDE RESTORATION** **BOXED**

On April 1, 2021, the British Columbia Pond posted an infographic summarizing what they had accomplished during the Month of Caring.

## The Cincinnati Pond

On May 11, 2020, the Cincinnati Pond posted this message – “Hello Blue Goose Family! We hope this finds you and your families safe and healthy! We have been thinking a lot about you and we know that we are all in difficult times during this pandemic. So, we wanted to share a positive note. On behalf of our Cincinnati Blue Goose Pond, we have recently made some financial donations to three local charities in need.

We have donated to:

1. Shoes for the shoeless-their “Food 4 the People” campaign
2. Relay for life-benefiting the American Cancer Society
3. Loveland Food Bank

Because of you we are able to help others in need. We THANK YOU for your continued support of our Cincinnati Pond. Together we can make a difference!”



On August 28, 2020, the Cincinnati Pond posted their thoughts on the recent Grand Nest Zoom Award Night.

*“It was a great event. We are very excited to share that our Cincinnati Pond took home awards in several areas: The coveted International award, originated by the St. Joe Valley Pond, is for the greatest percentage increase in membership and this year, the award goes to the CINCINNATI POND with a 43% increase.*

### Central Region Awards

*Most new and reinstated members with 23 new members -CINCINNATI POND*

*Best percentage increase with a whopping 43% increase - CINCINNATI POND*

### Charity Fund Award

*Awarded to a Pond that has raised funds for local charities. This award is not necessarily on the greatest amount of funds, but what the Pond has done to include all their membership in the fund-raising effort. This year it is our honor to present the Charity Fund Award to: CINCINNATI POND*

*We are VERY proud of the awards our pond has won!! Because of our amazing members and the membership awards we received. We are awarded a \$250.00 donation to a charity of our choice in our name. Thank you for your continued support and membership of our Pond. WE couldn't do it without you!*

*We are especially proud of the Charity Fund Award!! With the Monte Carlo Night in February, the golf outing in July, the Toy Drive in December and several other smaller donations, we donated over \$30,000 in cash and goods to local charities!!*

*Since July 2019 our Pond has donated:*

*\$29,600.00 in Cash Donations*

*\$12,000.00 in Goods Donations*

*299-Volunteer Hours*

*Our Pond is amazing, and together, we do make a big difference!!! Stay tuned for information regarding a Virtual Event.*

*Thank you,*

*-Your Cincinnati Blue Goose Board*



On November 21, 2020, the Cincinnati Pond announced that in lieu of their usual Christmas Toy Collection Party, they would be looking to find sponsors for 35 children. "These are pictures from last year's Christmas party. This year, due to the pandemic, we will not be able to host a party, but we can still spread some holiday cheer through our donations. These children are so appreciative and sweet. Please help us find sponsors for 35 fourth grade students. I should have their "wishes" any day now and can send you the list. We will again ask for all gifts to be put in a large gift bag and we will deliver them to the school. Every donation is much appreciated!!!! Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas to all!!"



On December 21, 2020, the Cincinnati Pond posted a summary of their successful Holiday Toy Drive. "We want to thank everyone who donated to the Holiday Toy Drive this year. We were able to give 91 second and fourth graders at Ethel M. Taylor School a very happy holiday!! We delivered the bags of toys and clothes to the school, and the parents picked up the bags. This year we were not able to have a party, but I can't help but think that the parents can now use these gifts to put under their Christmas trees. For many of the families, these gifts mean everything, so thank you all so so much for donating!!"

The Teachers appreciated our generosity and we received this kind note from one of them:

"Thank you so much for all your effort in delivering gifts to our second graders. You all went above and beyond. Thank you for the teacher gift too, it was greatly appreciated, truly. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday. You were a blessing. 😊"

Thank you to our Blue Goose family and friends for your continued support, especially this year, our Blue Goose family exemplified the true meaning of giving and helping others! Together we can make a difference.

We wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and a healthy and prosperous New Year!!

### *The Detroit Puddle*

On December 21, 2020, the Detroit Puddle donated \$4,000 from their golf outing to support Lighthouse's efforts to 'provide food, shelter, and other support to families in need in our community.'





## The Edmonton Pond



On September 21, 2020, the Edmonton Pond announced plans to volunteer with industry partners in a Drive-Thru Donation Drive for hygiene products and warm winter clothing items to support Boyle Street Community Services. The event featured free food, games, giveaways and prizes “all from the safe comfort of your vehicle”.

On February 27, 2021, the Edmonton Pond announced plans for a Virtual Whiskey Tasting on St. Patrick's Day March 17. Local Ganders were able to purchase a set of five whiskey samples and the tasting will be led from a representative from Vines Wine Merchants. Snack Pairings from the Italian Market were also included with the sample pack.



On March 28, 2021, the Edmonton Pond announced plans to host a virtual BINGO Night on Wed, April 21st. “The event will open at 6pm MDT with half an hour of mingling before the first numbers will be drawn at 6:30 pm. The proceeds of the nominal entry fee of \$10 will support a local family mental health organization: CASA Foundation”. All ganders and goslings are welcome to join and there will be prizes for the winners.”

## The Grand Nest and Blue Goose Group Page

On March 20, 2020, the following message was posted by the Grand Nest Officers:

*From Calgary to Fargo to St. Louis to Hartford, it is with heavy hearts that our organization has had to cancel so many events due to the pandemic of CO-VID19. During this ongoing global health emergency, we've had no choice but to ensure the safety of our organization and do our best to protect everyone's health and limit your exposure to becoming infected with the virus. We urge all of you to comply with your state and provincial guidelines and policies. Be safe, and keep your families safe.*

*Please let us know if any of your Ganders or their families have been affected by the pandemic. It is our duty to look out for them. Please do your best to check on your neighbors, especially those that are most vulnerable. Please do your best to continue your support of the local charities as best you can.*

*We know the situation is fluid and seems to change every two hours. We know many of us are very worried about what will be happening in the Spring, over the Summer, and beyond.*

*Grand Nest is in discussions about July's Hartford Convention and held a conference call on March 19th. It is too early to make any decisions now, but we are looking at a variety of options.*

*Take to heart the Blue Goose Ritual -*

*"The care of (our) fellow Ganders is world renowned and unquestioned". Remember our solemn promise "to comfort those who have been afflicted, to send cheer into the sick room, and to lift up and strengthen those who have fallen".*

*In the meantime, be safe and stay healthy.*

*Tote Fair,  
Your Grand Nest Officers*

**On April 10, 2020**, the following message was posted by the Grand Nest:

*Dear Ganders and Blue Goose Families,*

*This has been a time of unprecedented events that have affected every single one of us, our families, friends and business partners.*

*It is with a great deal of sadness that your Grand Nest Officers have concluded that the scheduled Grand Nest Convention in Hartford, CT will not take place in July 2020. We are making arrangements as we speak, to reschedule it in July 2021. We do not take this decision lightly, but with the current state of the pandemic, the many social and travel restrictions that are still in effect, and so many unknowns, we do not want to risk anything that might endanger our members and their families.*

*We want to let you all know that we are thinking of you and your Ponds as well. Grand Nest will be keeping our 2019-2020 officers in their roles for the upcoming 2020-2021 year. Your Ponds have all had an abbreviated season, and many of you have had to cancel prestigious events scheduled for the Spring and early Summer. This has deprived your officers of the opportunity to experience them. So, we are recommending that your officers stay in place one more year to ensure continuity and succession plans for the future.*

*These are uncertain times, but I want you to be certain of one thing, and I will leave you with this quote from our ritual: "The Blue Goose flies high and sure. The care of its fellow Ganders is world renowned and unquestioned." Please take care of your families and your fellow Ganders and let us know if anyone in your Pond is in distress and needs a helping hand.*

*Tote Fair,  
Dan Rich, Most Loyal Grand Gander*

On July 10, 2020, the Grand Nest addressed the pandemic, and posted this inspirational message about one of our longest tenured Ganders:

*Fraternal greetings from your Grand Nest Officers.*

*First and foremost, we hope you and your families are doing well.*

*Clearly, we are in uncharted waters, and it's safe to say that none of us have ever experienced what we've been going through since March.*



*That may not be totally true, because we'd like to tell you about PMLG Ralph Wild of the Manitoba Pond, who was alive for the Spanish Flu of 1918-1920. You see Ralph is 101 years young and although in diapers at the time, lived through it and is well and on his way to living through another pandemic. Ralph is clearly one of our oldest members; both in age and membership (he joined Blue Goose in 1958). How wonderful is it to know that we have members who have been so loyal and dedicated to the Honorable Order?*

*Think of all the history Ralph has lived through!*

*With the loss of the 2020 Hartford Convention we want to stress that we can't concede the entire year. Your Ponds still did a lot in 2019-2020, maybe more so in the first half than in the second half.*

*You held events, you supported charities, you volunteered your personal time, and you created Blue Goose history. We know you have photos to help preserve these events, because who doesn't snap photos on their phones at every opportunity? We need to capture all of your efforts for two big reasons:*

- *We can use your stories and photos for recruiting*
- *We can use your stories and photos to record our history*

*We will have no convention photos for our Grand Nest publications this year, so we need you all to pick up the slack for us.*

*We really need your photos too for website and social media content. We have an exciting advertising and recruiting campaign to launch, but we need your photos to show why Blue Goose is an organization that people will want to join.*

*No story is too big or too small, if each Pond or Puddle can send one thing for the year that would be appreciated. We are thinking of rolling out recognition for a Pond or Puddle once a month and also sharing that story on social media, such as Facebook and LinkedIn.*

*We want to build a buzz of excitement to spread the word about Blue Goose and encourage people to "like", comment and share our stories.*

*Please be sure to include captions with your photos – Pond Name, date, location, details, etc.  
Please send your responses to both [bluegoosestory@gmail.com](mailto:bluegoosestory@gmail.com) AND [unclebish@eastlink.ca](mailto:unclebish@eastlink.ca)*

*Fraternal Regards,  
Your Grand Nest Officers*



On July 27, 2020 and August 12, 2020, the Grand Nest announced an upcoming Zoom Grand Nest Awards Night on August 25, 2020.

Save the Date to join us in an evening of Fellowship as we meet virtually to celebrate our conventions, chat with the officers, and announce the winners of the 2020 Grand Nest Awards.

This will be a Zoom meeting, to be held on Tuesday evening August 25th. The meeting will open at 8:30 p.m. EST.

On August 20, 2020, the Grand Nest saluted the scholarship winners from the Northern Michigan Puddle and all of our Ponds. Altogether, our Ponds and Puddles have donated a total of \$9,600.00 in scholarships this year, of which the Northern Michigan Puddle contributed \$4,000.00.



On August 25, 2020, the Grand Nest hosted an Awards Night and Celebration of our past conventions.

*"Tonight's Grand Nest Convention Celebration and Awards Night was a big success as we had 66 attend from three countries! Congrats to all of the winners and thank you to all of you for remembering the core principles of Blue Goose during these unprecedented times. Special Congrats to our 102-year old Gander Ralph Wild of the Manitoba Pond for so deservedly being named as our Gander of the Year!"*



Here is a screen shot  
of some of our 66  
attendees 😊







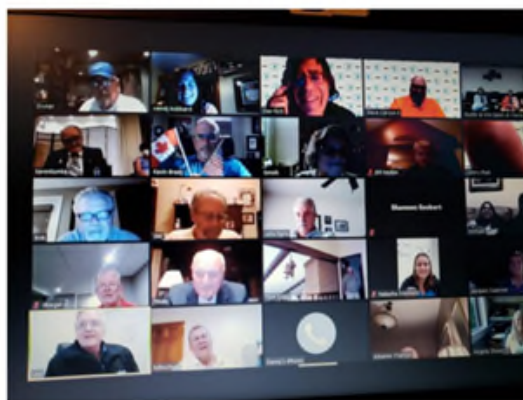
On September 2, 2020, the Texas Pond's Daphney Elliott posted on behalf of the Nine Southern Region Ponds (Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas & Virginia) of their pride in being a part of the charitable endeavors of The Honorable Order of Blue Goose International.

On September 7, 2020, the Grand Nest posted a nine-page PDF summary of the Zoom wards night on the Group Facebook page.

### Blue Goose Holds Historic Virtual Convention Awards Night

By Dan Rich, MLGG

As so many aspects of our professional, personal, educational, and social lives have changed from the restrictions of COVID-19, Blue Goose saw the opportunity to adapt as we held a Virtual Convention and Awards Night on Tuesday August 25, 2020.



On October 15, 2020, Grand Guardian of the Nest Steve Carson posted about the Detroit Puddle's long-time charitable support of the Detroit Goodfellows. The August 14, 2020 event collected hundreds of children's shoes and books

### DETROIT GOODFELLOWS KICKS OFF A 'SUMMER SHOE GIVEAWAY'

On Friday, August 14, the Detroit Goodfellows partnered with Focus: HOPE's Early Learning Child Center on Detroit's west side to distribute more than 200 pairs of shoes to families in need. In addition, 100 soft and hard-cover children's books were donated to the school library. The Focus: HOPE Center's early learning programs educate over 200 children annually and provide 250 new mothers with peer-to-peer support for pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding and early parenting.



For decades the Detroit Goodfellows have been providing shoes and working with schools to identify children in need. Through a strong community partnership with The Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, a fraternal organization of individuals who work in the insurance industry, the Order has assisted the Detroit Goodfellows with our shoe program. In 2019, The Blue Goose – Detroit Puddle donated \$3,200 to support the 2020 Detroit Goodfellows Shoe Program. Since 1991, the Detroit Puddle members have contributed over \$200,000 to the Detroit Goodfellows' mission making a large impact in our community. We sincerely thank the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose – Detroit Puddle for their generous partnership with us and especially for their valuable support to our Shoe Program.

On November 14, 2020, Grand Custodian of the Ganders Wendy Knizek posted about the Nova Scotia Pond's Recognition Night that included the awarding of a 60-year plaque to Colin MacLeod and a 65-year plaque to Tony Hunter.



On November 24, 2020, the Grand Nest shared a post publicizing the National Capital Pond's upcoming Day of Service and Ugly Sweater Contest to benefit the Maryland Food Bank on December 17, 2020.



On November 24, 2020, the Grand Nest reported on the Alberta Pond's Canadian Region Zoom initiation ceremony where we initiated sixteen new Ganders.

We had Ganders from both sides of the border participating, and I was honored to read the Charge and be a part of adding 16 new members to our ranks. We thanked Grand Custodian Wendy Knizek, Tracy Irving and the Alberta Pond for organizing the evening, as well as Grand Supervisor Linda Meik's creative writing skills for creating a fun script for us to follow.

We wrote that if any Ponds were interested in holding their own virtual initiation, they should contact any Grand Nest Officer for a copy of Linda's script which they could easily customize for their use. Our post ended with:

Thank you again to everyone for staying active and positive through this crazy time! I love all the creativity I'm seeing all across North America. Keep it up!

Tote Faire,

Dan Rich, Most Loyal Grand Gander





On December 17, 2020, the Grand Nest reported on the National Capital Pond's creative and highly successful "Blue Goose Reindeer Games". Through their virtual efforts they raised over \$5,000 for the Pond's charities and collected three truckloads of toys for donation. We wrote "This is exactly the kind of creative thinking the Honorable Order must embrace to support our charities and keep our membership engaged until we can once again meet in person."



On December 17, 2020, PMLGG Bill Olson posted an “Aloha” message from Hawaii and asked his fellow Ganders to support the Texas Pond and Southern Region by buying Blue Goose facemasks. “They are comfortable and stylish too.”



On January 21 and February 11, 2021, Grand Guardian of the Nest Steve Carson posted two thank you letters from recipients of the Michigan Pond’s charitable donations. Lighthouse acknowledged their \$4,000 gift to help homelessness and the Detroit Goodfellas thanked Blue Goose for their \$1,500 donation to provide shoes for kids.



On February 19, 2021, three Grand Nest Officers joined the National Capital Pond’s Zoom Happy Hour. MLGG Dan Rich, GSOF Linda Meik, and JA Lorena Kohlruss were joined by PMLGG Bill Olson and over 20 Ganders for a fun evening of laughs and camaraderie. The NCP Officers gave a summary of their formidable charitable activities. The Grand Nest saluted the Pond for the “great creative job they are doing to remember the Honorable Order’s Cardinal Precept of Charity during the time of COVID limitations on live events, and we thanked the Pond Officers “for their continuous creativity in keeping their Pond engaged with terrific ideas to keep our mission alive”





On February 20, 2021, PMLGG Joe Coccia travelled to Bonita Springs, Florida to recognize Gander Mike Mathews for his loyalty to the Honorable Order and present him with his 50-year membership pin.



On February 24, 2021, twenty-three Ganders from across the U.S. and Canada joined an Eastern Region Zoom meeting highlighted by the initiation of thirteen new Ganders from the Penn, NYC, Bay State and Hartford Ponds. The MLGs and Wielders of those four Ponds worked together to identify our uninitiated goslings, a meeting date was set, initiation parts were assigned, and the goslings were invited.

Hartford Pond MLG Kevin Brady was the driving force behind the event, and after he introduced himself, he welcomed Grand Nest Officers MLGG Dan Rich, GSOF Linda Meik, and GNH John Bishop. We played the Charity presentation from the Edmonton Convention to reinforce the importance of charity to our new Ganders.



We asked the Goslings to wear hats so we could identify them easier and we saw a fine display of wing flapping during the initiation. The initiation ceremony saw Hartford's Kevin Brady handle the MLG role, Penn Pond MLG Frank Marx read the Admonition, MLGG Dan Rich read the Charge, and Hartford Wielder Ed Callo wrapped up the presentation and adlibbed that "we'll be mailing out the membership pins".

On February 27, 2021, MLGG Dan Rich posted a message to the membership regarding dues, the need for Ponds to be active and visible and creative.

*"As we head deeper into the New Year, I wanted to reach out and see how you are doing, and by that, I mean individually, within your families, and within your Ponds?"*

*I'd also like to express our thanks to the Ponds who have met their obligations to pay their dues for this year. Dues collection is the only revenue source we have to meet the Honorable Order's operating expenses. This is why our Constitution asks for the dues to be received in September, so we have the ability to pay our bills throughout the year.*

*Our expenses are constant and have not been affected by the pandemic. We need your Pond's payment (\$27 per member) to keep us going.*

*I am asking every MLG, Wielder and Keeper to get together now, get your numbers squared away, and send a check to Terry at P O BOX 340 in Elm Grove, WI 53122.*

*We want your Ponds to remain active and visible, just take a look at some of the wonderfully creative events and charitable fundraisers our Ponds have created. We urge you to do the same and let everyone know that Blue Goose is still viable, still operating, and still dedicated to charity.*

*Thank you and God Bless You All,  
Dan Rich, Most Loyal Grand Gander*

**On March 7, 2021**, the Grand Nest released a statement on what direction we will be taking for the July get together.

*"On February 23rd Sue and I drove to Rentschler Field in East Hartford, the site of an old airport that now is home of the University of Connecticut's 40,000 seat football stadium. We'll be going there again on March 16. Our trips there, unfortunately, are not to see the Huskies score touchdowns, but to receive our Pfizer vaccine shots.*

*The vaccines have been rolling out across the U.S. and Canada and depending on what state or province you live in, you are seeing restaurants, bars, movie theaters or pretty much everything else opening up. How wonderful is that? We're not where we were in early 2020 yet, but that light at the end of the tunnel is shining decidedly brighter as I write this.*

*And although we're not ready to sit in a 40,000-seat football stadium quite yet, things are thankfully moving in an optimistic direction. As I read about the economy re-opening, it occurred to me that Blue Goose never really had to reopen because all of you made sure that Blue Goose never closed. You kept your essential services running, you embraced virtual meetings, you recreated your charitable activities, and you inspired me with your creativity. But just as we're not quite ready to sit in that big football stadium (despite our desires to do so), we're not quite ready to hold a traditional Grand Nest Convention.*

*So just as your Ponds have re-imagined your events, we'll be re-imagining our Summer Gathering as "A Day of Fellowship". For those who can travel to Connecticut, you'll be invited to join us on Sunday July 25 and Monday July 26. And for those who aren't quite ready or able to travel yet, just as our Ponds creatively held events, we'll be using technology to offer a live stream of our activities. The plan is to have our delegates vote on a new slate of officers and have them installed on Sunday, then have a Blue Goose Day of Fellowship at a Connecticut Winery on Monday.*

*Finishing touches are being completed and details and registration plans will be announced very soon. We will be refunding registration payments for those of you who have previously registered for the original convention at the Hartford Marriott, and we will be in touch with our sponsors to offer some options. This has been a most challenging time for all of us, but I am humbled by the strength and resilience you have shown. We want you to know that the Honorable order is alive and well but will be different as we redefine this year's summer gathering. One of the differences will be the timing of the release of delegate credentials. They will go out fairly soon, in a separate mailing from the usual May mailing to the Wielders.*

*We will do our best to balance what is safe and practical along with character, charity and fellowship in July, and we hope you can join us in whatever format you feel most comfortable with.*

*Very Best Regards,*

*Dan Rich, Most Loyal Grand Gander*

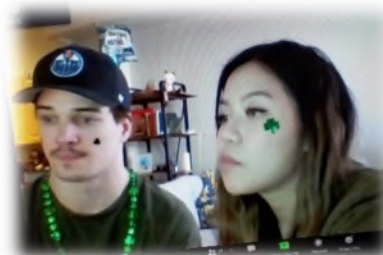




On St. Patrick's Day March 17, 2021, MLGG Dan Rich posted about his visit with the Edmonton Pond on the occasion of their Virtual Whiskey Scotch Tasting. The night was hosted by Steve Richmond of Vine Wine Merchants in Edmonton, and many of the 21 Ganders on-line were fortunate to have ordered a tasting kit with a wee nip of five whiskeys to sip, compare and contrast.

Dan wrote that "The good-natured banter before the presentation began made me nostalgic about all of the good times I've enjoyed with my Canadian friends, and how much I miss you all."

As Steve Richmond said when he finished up, someday "we'll meet up again on the Whiskey Trail." I hope that trail brings us together again very soon".

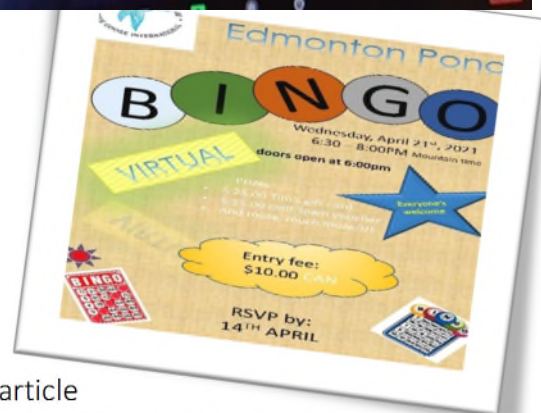




On March 23, 2021, MLGG Dan Rich posted about his visit to the Southern Maryland Puddle through their Zoom meeting. “We had a fun time talking about the slow reopening of the country, swapping vaccine stories, planning your upcoming Spring events, and giving me the opportunity to share the exciting plans the Hartford Pond has for everyone as we look forward to July’s Days of Fellowship.”



On March 28, 2021, MLGG Dan Rich posted about his plans to attend the Edmonton Pond’s upcoming Zoom Bingo Night on April 21, calling it “a wonderful example of Pond creativity and ingenuity.”



On April 4, 2021, Grand Custodian of the Ganders Wendy Knizek posted an article she had placed on the Grand Nest Website. “The Long Strange Trip” detailed the chronology of how the 2020 Hartford Convention will become the 2021 Days of Fellowship.



*“The history of how the Hartford Convention took a long strange trip and shape-shifted from 2020 to 2021 and then into a Days of Fellowship is a saga that unfurled over six years of planning starts, a stop, a second start, a second stop, and an eventual reimagination.*

*Our convention committee started planning the 2020 convention in 2015, when I succeeded the National Capital Pond’s Bill Olson as a Grand Nest Officer for the Eastern Region. As 2015 slowly gave way to the years that followed, our team assembled an ambitious fun filled*

*convention for 175- 200 Ganders and guests to be held at the Hartford Marriott in July 2020. A 60’s themed Welcome Party, live performances of the national anthems, remarks from Jim Calhoun, a golf tournament, a dinner cruise with a steel drum band, a trip to a vineyard, ballroom dancing with mimosas, a magician, a spouse program, a children’s program, a gala Banquet and Ball, a registration website, and corporate and individual sponsors were all set and ready to go. Decorations and goodie bags were ready. We were just four months away.*

*And then came along March 2020 and we all learned a new word – “Coronavirus”. As the virus spread, we started to see Blue Goose events cancelled on both sides of the border. We were first optimistic that things would be fine by the summer, but that turned out to be wishful thinking and we had to postpone the July 2020 convention and reschedule it for the following year.*



*That involved a lot of moving parts, as Blue Goose needed to move the Grapevine, TX Convention from 2021 to 2022 and the Whistler, BC Convention from 2022 to 2023. This required a lot of behind the scenes work, but we got all of our geese in a row and were thrilled to see all of the dominoes successfully fall into place.*

*We had to reschedule every single speaker, performer, and activity to move from 2020 to 2021, and miraculously we were able to do just that.*

*But as we entered late 2020 and early 2021, the public health picture was still bleak, and it was becoming clear that our vision of a large “conventional” convention at the Hartford Marriott for 175 people just wasn’t in the cards for a second consecutive year. So, we cancelled our Marriott contract as well as all our contracts with Tunxis Country Club for golf, two restaurants, two bands, a magician, Coach Calhoun, a dinner cruise, and a transportation company.*

*And now we’ve planned a third version of our summer get-together, albeit a slimmed down and very different version. It will be a two-day affair held live in Glastonbury with live streaming available to any member that would like to be a part of this historic event.*

*Some of the event will be familiar to you Convention veterans -you’ll see the delegate voting for, and the installation of the officers, charity presentations and an activity, and the Memorial Service. Some of the event will have a different look, like an afternoon visit to a winery and an outdoor socially distanced dinner.*

*None of this would have been possible without the best and hardest working Convention Committee in the 215 years of Blue Goose history. Thank you, Mark Angiletta, Kevin Brady, Jon Hale, Wendy Hubbard, Lisa Kane, Lori Kovanda, Bill Mullen, Bob Partridge, Paula Pelletier, Sue Rich, and Meeting Planner Extraordinaire Cheryl McShane.*

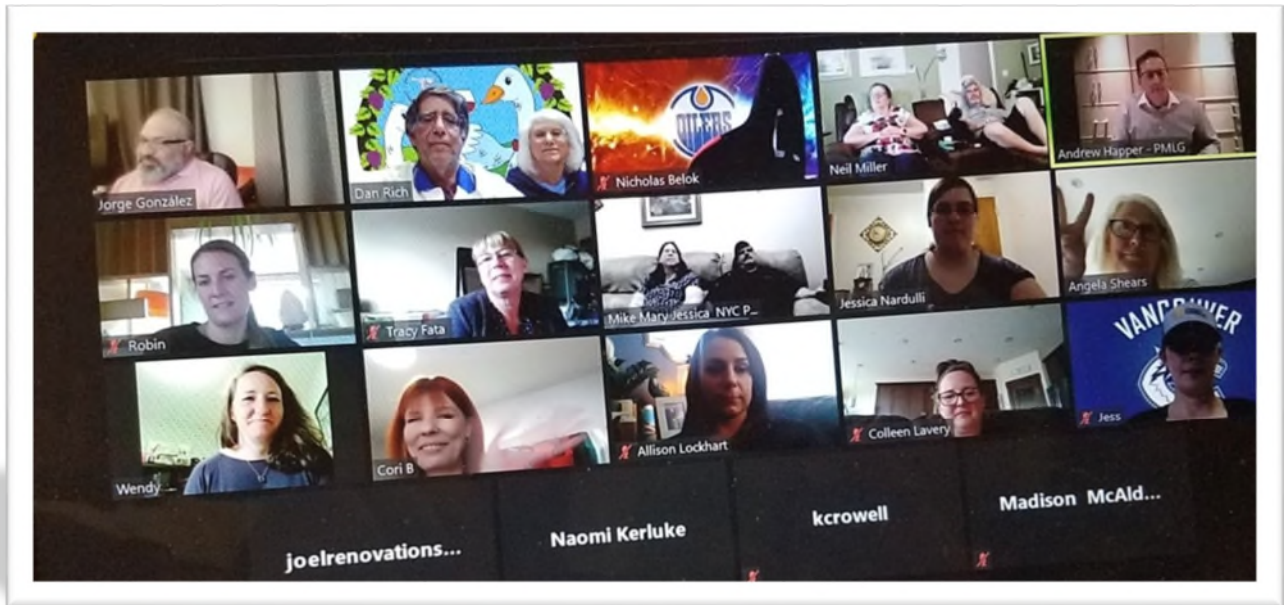
*I also want to thank my colleagues on the Grand Nest for their support, advice, understanding, flexibility and most of all, their friendship.*

*Dan Rich, Most Loyal Grand Gander*

**On April 20, 2021,** the Grand Nest announced that the registration site for July’s “Days of Fellowship” Celebration has opened. It will be shortened and modified version of our traditional summer convention. Instead of being held at the Marriott Hotel in Hartford, it will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Glastonbury, CT. We will live-stream the Sunday delegate vote and proceedings in two sessions. The event will be “live” for those who are comfortable travelling. Monday will feature golf and an interactive charity event in the morning, and the afternoon and evening will be held at Priam Vineyards in Colchester, CT with a Chef’s Dinner.



**On April 21, 2021,** MLGG Dan Rich congratulated the Edmonton Pond for their successful Virtual Bingo Night. He wrote “Sue and I had a blast! I never knew there were so many ways to win at Bingo - One Line, Two Lines, Half Card, Sandwich, Corners, Blackout... it seemed as though the variety was endless. So what if the rules got a little hazy as the night progressed, it was all in the spirit of fun and fellowship...Virtual Bingo was another example of the wonderful creativity I’ve been seeing among the Ponds to keep our membership engaged under these COVID circumstances.”



### *The Hartford Pond*

On May 1, 2020, the Hartford Pond donated 600 snacks that were destined for the welcome bags of our canceled convention to Gifts of Love for their children's program





On May 30, 2020, the Hartford Pond reimagined the interactive charity event planned for the postponed Hartford Convention. Instead of convention attendees assembling 28 Household Helper baskets for the housing units at the Prudence Crandall Center, the Pond decided to donate these baskets now, so badly needed cleaning products, sanitizing wipes, and even toilet paper could get into the hands of those that needed them. Today, six Pond members built the baskets.

On June 23, 2020, the Hartford Pond and Ocean State Puddle delivered 28 Household Helper baskets to the Prudence Crandall Center. The baskets were filled with much needed cleaning and sanitizing supplies.

On July 20, 2020, Hartford Convention Treasurer and PMLG Wendy Hubbard posted her thoughts on what would have otherwise been the final day of the postponed Hartford Convention.

*Dear Fellow Ganders,*

*Today was the day that the Hartford Pond was going to bid you all farewell after an epic annual gathering of our Order. We were going to post a zillion photos, celebrate new friendships made, and pat ourselves on the back for the tremendous charity that we spread throughout the US and Canada. We were going to re-energize our Order and send you all back with messages for your Ponds, and ideas galore!*

*Due to the pandemic, what we can do is send this message of support and care for all of you. We hope your families are healthy. We hope your business is surviving. And we hope that you are still planning to gather your Pond membership in a creative way and get together live when it is safe to do so. Tote Fair, and we look forward to seeing all your smiling faces next summer!*

*If you wish, please raise a cocktail (or mocktail) tonight. Cheers!*

On December 21, 2020, the Hartford Pond donated gift cards to the Prudence Crandall Center of New Britain, CT. Funds to purchase the gift cards were raised by the Pond's drive by Ugly Sweater Contest.





On November 17, 2020, the Pond made its first use of a reusable ceremonial check that was intended to make its debut during the July 2020 Convention's Opening Ceremonies in a presentation to one of our Keynote speakers. The Pond used the check to mark our \$1,000 donation raised through an on-line campaign to benefit the Prudence Crandall Center.



On November 26, 2020, MLG Kevin Brady, of the Hartford Pond posted a Holiday video and message to the Pond. He announced that in lieu of the Pond's traditional Holiday Party and Toy Drive for the Prudence Crandall Center we would be hosting a drive-by collection of gift cards as well as an Ugly Sweater Contest. We consulted with the PCC and learned that the pandemic has increased the incidents of domestic abuse, and their resources have been stretched very thin. The collections were scheduled for Thursday, December 7th and Saturday, December 10th.



VIMEO.COM

### Happy Holidays from the Hartford Pond!

This is "Happy Holidays from the Hartford Pond!" by Kevin Brady on Vimeo, the home for high quality videos and the people who love them.

On December 13, 2020, The Hartford Pond posted a summary of their two-day collection of gift cards for the Prudence Crandall Center. MLG Kevin Brady set up the collection point with a tent, a firepit, and a cooler full of refreshments or hot coffee on this chilly day. Several of Kevin's neighbors dropped by out of curiosity and tossed some cash into the basket. We wanted our late friend and mentor Jerry Hale to be a part of the Character, Charity and Fellowship, so his smiling image was there to remind us of why all of us do what we do across Canada and the U.S.



## BLUE GOOSE CURBSIDE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Two locations to drop off healthy non-perishable foods

Examples -Tea bags, coffee, canned soups and fruit, sugar, flour, tuna, whole wheat pasta, peanut butter, cereal



**When? Saturday March 27**

**Where? Two Locations**

**Location 1** – 132 St. Augustine Street  
**West Hartford** – 10 am through 2 pm

**Location 2** – Sponsored by CRYSTAL RESTORATION SERVICES OF CT, Shop, Darby Insurance/ Fairfield County Real Estate  
200 Mill Plain Road  
**Fairfield, CT** - 10 am through 2 pm

Connecticut Food Bank & Good2u are the state's two regional food banks. Both are members of the national Feeding America network.

Last year, they combined to distribute enough food to provide nearly 40 million meals through a network of more than 700 community-based hunger-relief programs, including food pantries, community kitchens, and emergency shelters, while also working on long-term solutions. More than 8,000 volunteers help power the work of the food banks. Last year, they donated over 62,000 service hours.



On February 28, 2021, the Hartford Pond announced plans for an upcoming drive by food collection event on March 27, 2021. The food drive will be in two collections (upstate and downstate) to benefit the CT Food Bank and Foodshare. We asked for friends and colleagues to “visit us, participate with a donation, and share some character, fellowship and charity for a good cause during a moment of need”.

On March 27, 2021, the Hartford Pond held a food drive to benefit Foodshare and the Connecticut Food Bank. Fourteen members in two locations worked a four-hour shift to collect non-perishable foods.



## The Kentucky Pond

On March 5, 2020, the Kentucky Pond posted this cancellation message “Due to the unfortunate situation of coronavirus and the NCAA cancelling the tournament, we are cancelling the Bracket Party scheduled for March 19th. Our Board is disappointed, but feel it is necessary. We will be planning another fun event to support Down Syndrome Louisville in the near future. Stay tuned!



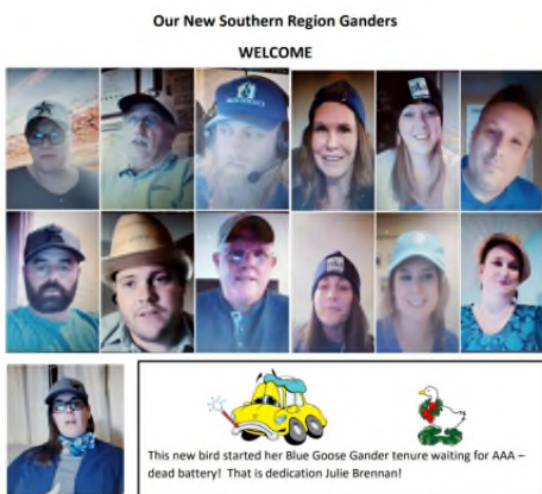
On July 17, 2020, the Kentucky Pond shared a message about the rescheduled dates of the Southern Region’s 2022 Convention in Grapevine, Texas. ‘The 2022 HOBGI Southern Region Convention will be at the Embassy Suites located in Grapevine, Texas. The new dates of the convention will be July 10th through July 14th, 2022. Our convention’s kick-off event “Welcome Party” will be on a Monday night, July 11th, 2022; and the finale (Grand Banquet) will be on a Wednesday night, July 13th, 2022.



On July 31, 2020, the Kentucky Pond announced that their own “Chris Porter, Custodian of the Goslings 2020-2021 for the Kentucky Pond, had won the customized Cornhole Board drawing in support of our Southern Region. Chris is having his boards customized with the Blue Goose logo just like the Texas Pond boards pictured here. He plans to use them at the Kentucky Pond golf outings or other outdoor social gatherings. Thank you to everyone that participated and congratulations Chris!!”

On November 10, 2020, the Kentucky Pond posted to promote their “TOY and FOOD drive on Wednesday November 18th. We have four drop off sites in Louisville and one in Lexington. Please help us make this a success to make up

for the negative impact COVID has had on our charitable work during 2020. PM me or any board member for more details. We are happy to pick up donations also! Peace, love and happiness to all our ganders, goslings and their families.”





On November 17, 2020, the Southern Region held a Zoom Initiation meeting. Five of the newly initiated fourteen goslings joined the Kentucky Pond. "Let's welcome & congratulate our five newest Ganders of the KY Pond...Julie Brennan, Kelley Gray, Sarah Miller, Jason Rivers & Tammy Sumner. They were initiated Tuesday along with nine other new Ganders from other Southern Ponds on the Southern Region zoom meeting. Tote Fare friends!"



On December 13, 2020, the Kentucky Pond announced the results of their Toy and Food drive. "It is always inspiring to see how generous our KY Pond members & friends are. Thank you so much for stepping up during a pandemic to help others less fortunate. We donated 210 POUNDS of Food to Dare to Care. We also donated \$575 of toys to the Lexington Toys for Tots and \$1,400 of toys to the Louisville Toys for Tots. Along with the toys we will also have a \$400 monetary donation to help them fund items needed for teens. Thank you for helping bring smiles this Holiday Season."

On March 11, 2021, the Kentucky Pond held a Happy Hour at the Raven to benefit Down Syndrome of Louisville

*Happy Hour at The Raven*  
 to benefit Down Syndrome of Louisville  
 March 11th from 4:30 - 7:30



Blue Goose KY is collecting donations for Down Syndrome of Louisville. The DSL organization is close to our hearts and we hope our fellow ganders and friends can help us reach our goal.

The KY Blue Goose & an anonymous donor will match donations up to \$1000.00. Let's strive to meet and pass the match amount!



### *The Lansing Puddle*

On March 12, 2020, the Lansing Puddle announced the postponement of their March meeting.

**There will be no monthly meeting this month. Meetings will resume in April.**

On April 15, 2020, the Lansing Puddle announced the postponement of future meeting until further notice.

On August 7, 2020, The Lansing Puddle announced the cancellation of their upcoming September 17 Golf Outing.

On November 9, 2020, The Lansing Puddle announced the cancellation of their upcoming December 17 Christmas Party.



### *The Northern Michigan Puddle*

On March 5, 2020, the Northern Michigan Puddle announced the opening of the year's scholarship awards campaign. "It is that time of Year! Our scholarship application is available. Up to 4 scholarships will be awarded at \$1,000.00 each on May 27, 2020 at Gaylord High School Scholarship night. Official applications are available at the Gaylord High School office."

### *The Nova Scotia Pond*

On March 5 and April 15, 2020, the Nova Scotia Pond reached out to their members to check on their safety and announce Pandemic related cancellations of Spring and Summer events.



On November 4, 2020, the Nova Scotia Pond held a socially distanced meeting to honor their long-term members. “After a long Covid break, the Nova Scotia Pond flocked together for an evening of fellowship and to recognize some of their long-standing members on November 4, 2020.



Along with 10, 30, 40, and 50-year pins, they awarded plaques for 60 and 65 year memberships. Congratulations!

Michael Sangster – 10 year

Mike Sieber – 30 year

Peter Wolf – 30 year


Steve Conrod – 40 year

Frank Matheson – 50 year

Colin MacLeod – 60 year

Tony Hunter – 65 year


On December 4, 2020, the Nova Scotia Pond reached out to their members with an end of the year message to “reflect on what has been a difficult year” of unfamiliar hurdles... social isolation, and the extreme adaptations made in daily life.




**Blue Goose NS Pond**


December 4, 2020 · 🌐

...



*Official Blue Goose Message*





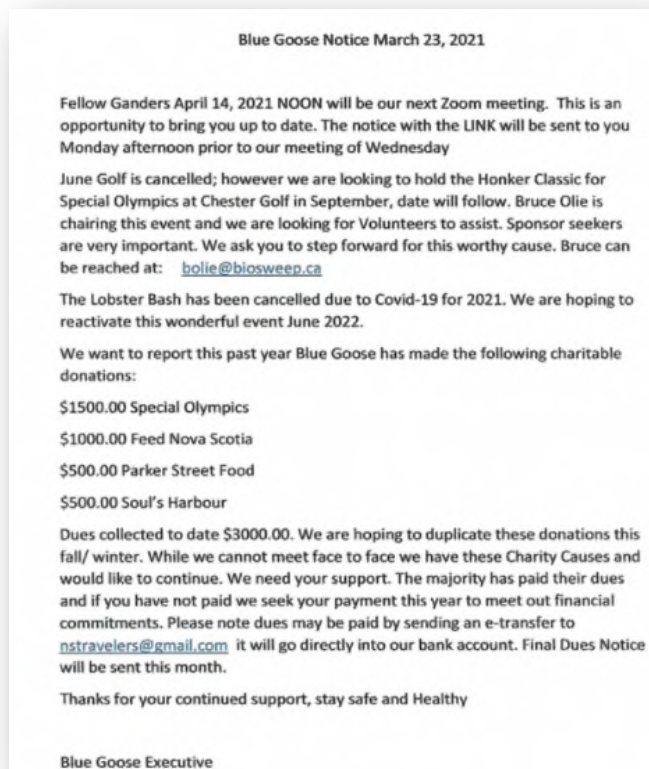
Fellow ganders, with the end of 2020 rapidly approaching, your executive wish to take a moment of your time to reflect on what has been a difficult year for many individuals and organizations. On top of the “normal” challenges life often presents, COVID-19 has offered many of us unfamiliar hurdles, from being more isolated from our family and friends, to the rapid and somewhat extreme adaptations required in the ways we conduct ourselves professionally. Nonetheless, we have done remarkably well in Atlantic Canada and we encourage you to remain diligent and follow public health guidelines so that we can beat this.

If the situation improves we plan to return to our regularly scheduled meetings in the new year and hope to see you all there.

We hope that you can find new creative ways to connect with family and friends while keeping each other safe and healthy over the holidays.  
Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year!



On March 21, 2021, the Nova Scotia Pond reached out to their membership to announce an upcoming April 14, 2021 Zoom meeting and to officially cancel two June events, their Golf Outing and Lobster Bash. They also posted their charitable donation of \$3,500 to four charities



### The Michigan Pond

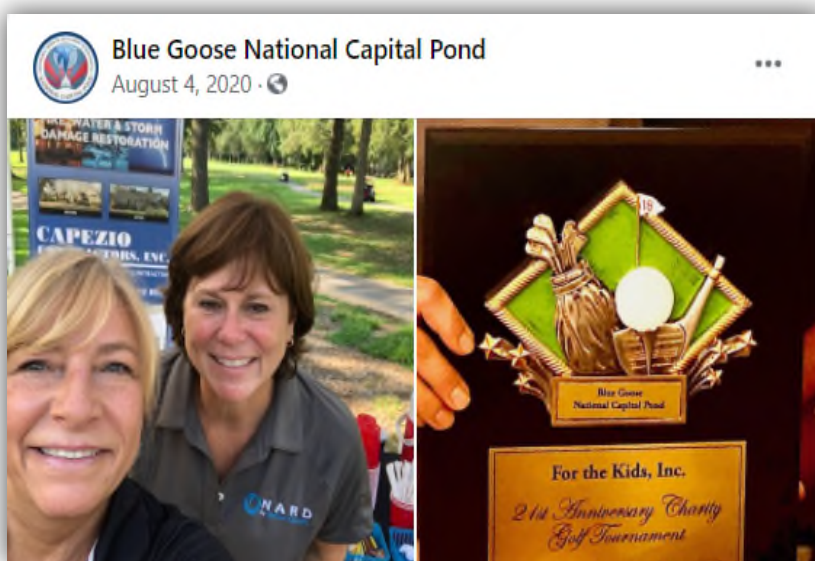
On January 21, 2021, the Michigan Pond posted a "Thank You" letter from The Lighthouse in response to their \$4,000 donation. The Lighthouse's mission is "to leave homelessness behind" and help individuals, seniors, and families in crisis by offering food, shelter, counseling, education, job training and social services.

On February 11, 2021, the Michigan Pond posted a "Thank You" note from the Detroit Goodfellas in response to their \$1,500 to support their shoe program for the youth of Detroit



## The National Capital Pond

On August 4, 2020, the National Capital Pond participated in a charity golf tournament to benefit For the Kids. "We were so proud to be part of this great event to raise money to help local children in need. For the Kids, Inc. choose a local child or family in need each year and host a charity golf tournament. This year our organization The Blue Goose National Capital Pond was recognized as a cooperate sponsor.



On October 13, 2020, the National Capital Pond hosted the 34th Annual Alan "Buster" Levine Memorial Golf Outing for Charity!



On November 11, 2020, the National Capital Pond announced a plan to reinvent their Annual Charity Holiday Party as a virtual fundraising event. "Due to COVID, we are unable to host our Annual Charity Holiday Party. But that is not stopping the NCP from raising money for local Charities, For the Kid's and Camp Inclusion. Please support by purchasing raffle tickets for our 50/50 drawing, a chance to win prizes and donate Toys to our Toy Drive supporting Children's National Medical Center and St. Vincent's - Ed Block Courage House.







On November 16, 2020, the National Capital Pond spent a day of volunteer service. “For the 2nd year in a row, The National Capital Pond is proud to have spent a day of service in Baltimore, Maryland at Second Chance, Inc. assisting with the mission to Retrain, Reclaim and Renew! It was such a fun day of fellowship and charity; we appreciate the opportunity to give back with such a wonderful organization that helps so many. Thank you for having us back.”

On December 8 and 11, 2020, the National Capital Pond posted updates on their Toy Drive for the kids at St. Vincent’s Ed Block Courage House and Children’s National Medical Center.



On December 17, 2020, the National Capital Pond broadcast a live stream of their Reindeer Games Charity Event.





On February 8, 2021, the National Capital Pond presented one of their charities with a donation raised during their Reindeer Games Charity Live Streamed Event. “Patrick Bergin, DiNetta Kerfoot, Barb Markuski, Tiffany Barrett, Wendy Fletcher and Andrea Dawes were honored to present Mike Thomas and Gary Heldt of For the Kids, Inc. with a check for \$3,000 from the proceeds of our 2020 Blue Goose holiday charity fundraiser. THANK YOU, GANDERS AND FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL POND FOR YOUR AMAZING SUPPORT!!! Each year, For the Kids supports a local child with a serious illness by providing financial support to the family for treatment related expenses. For the Kids has donated over \$400,000 through the years, and continues to work hard to help children who need it the most.”



On February 18, 2021, the National Capital Pond hosted a Zoom Happy Hour. “Join the National Capital Pond for our virtual “Happiest Hour” this Thursday February 18th at 5PM!!! All are welcome, come share a toast with old friends, or come meet new friends and learn about our wonderful organization!”



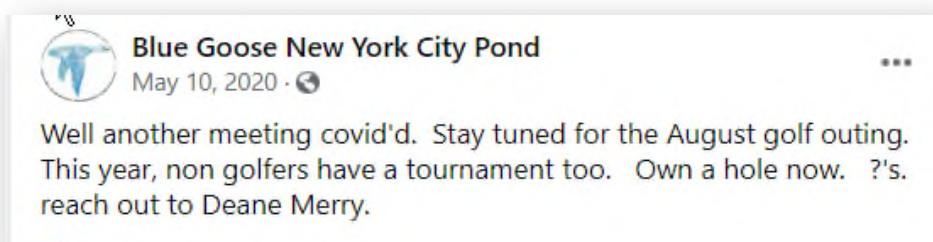
On March 12, 2021, the National Capital Pond’s “Patrick Bergin, DiNetta Kerfoot, Barb Markuski, Tiffany Barrett, Kim Dunworth, and Andrea Dawes were honored to present AJ Rosenthal and Dave Fagan of Camp Inclusion with a check for \$3,000 from the proceeds of our 2020 Blue Goose holiday charity fundraiser. THANK YOU, GANDERS AND FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL POND FOR YOUR AMAZING SUPPORT!!! Camp Inclusion is a summer day camp for any student with or without a cognitive, social, or physical disability. Camp Inclusion is designed to build supportive and inclusive friendships throughout the summer months that carry on throughout the school year. The mission is to promote independence, and confidence through engaging adapted activities that help each individual reach their full potential.



**On April 30, 2021, the National Capital Pond** donated proceeds from their March charity event to HEROES. “Very proud to be part of this organization giving to such wonderful charities! Hero’s, Inc supports families of fallen police, firefighters, agents, EMTs - badge carrying Hero’s in our communities!”

### *The New York City Pond*

**On May 10, 2020**, the New York City Pond announced that “another meeting has been Covid’d.” The post also asked members to keep the date of August 24th open for their upcoming Golf Outing.



**On July 23, 2020**, the New York City Pond announced details for their August 24, 2020 Blue Goose Memorial Golf Outing. “We are excited to invite you to participate in the Annual Blue Goose Golf Outing on Monday, August 24th. The New York City Pond of the Blue Goose established this golf outing to commemorate its colleagues, family, and friends who were victims of the tragedy on September 11th. This year the tournament will take place at the Towers Country Club in Floral Park, NY. We are capped at 64 golfers and 80 for dinner.”



## The Quebec Pond



On May 19, 2020, the Quebec Pond announced the cancellation of their May 28 Lobster Party. A few weeks later, they posted “Last Thursday, the industry event of the year was scheduled to take place: Lobster Night edition 2020. In an ideal world, we could have shared a pleasant moment together during this famous evening. The current context unfortunately makes any gathering impossible. However, it doesn't stop us from thinking about our beautiful community and especially being close to our core values, because beyond pleasure, OHOBI is present to help people and organizations in need. We are proud to announce that during the pandemic, we have paid the total of \$10,500 thanks to the support of the various sponsors and members.”

“Jeudi dernier devait avoir lieu l'événement de l'année dans notre industrie: la soirée Homards édition 2020. Dans un monde idéal, nous aurions pu partager ensemble un agréable moment au cours de cette célèbre soirée. Le contexte actuel rend malheureusement

impossible tout rassemblement. Cependant, cela ne nous empêche pas de penser à notre belle communauté et surtout d'être près de nos valeurs fondamentales, parce qu'au-delà du plaisir, l'OHOB I est présent pour aider des personnes et organismes dans le besoin.

Nous sommes fiers de vous annoncer que pendant la pandémie, nous avons versé la somme totale de 10 500\$ grâce au soutien des différents commanditaires et membres. »

On June 16, 2020, the Quebec Pond announced a volunteer initiative to provide telephone companionship to isolated senior citizens. “Hello dear members of OHOBI. The OHOBI Volunteer Committee is proud to collaborate with the Humanitarian Book during this time of pandemic to give time by helping our seniors break isolation. Join us by contacting Nancy D ' Amour at [nancy.damour@gus.ca](mailto:nancy.damour@gus.ca) to match you with someone. Your implication will be to contact by phone 2 times week, a senior you'll be paired with to chat.”

“Bonjour chers membres de l'OHOB I, Le comité bénévolat de l'OHOB I est fier de collaborer avec le Book humanitaire en cette période de pandémie afin de donner du temps en aidant nos aînés à briser l'isolement. Joignez-vous à nous en communiquant avec Nancy D'Amour à [nancy.damour@gus.ca](mailto:nancy.damour@gus.ca) afin qu'on vous jumèle à une personne. Votre implication sera de contacter par téléphone 2 fois semaine, un aîné avec qui vous serez jumelé pour discuter.”



On June 31, 2020 and September 11, 2020, the Quebec Pond announced the cancellation of their Golf Tournament and Oyster Party.



On November 21 and 28, 2020, the Quebec Pond announced a campaign where members could prepare individually packaged dinners to stock the pantry at le Book Humanaire. "Frigo communautaire pour les plus démunis. C'est avec le désir de mettre du baume dans le cœur des gens dans le besoin en cette période difficile

que nous vous invitons à préparer des repas individuels. Les membres du comité exécutif de l'O.H.O.B.I., Étang du Québec, sont fiers de participer à remplir le frigo communautaire que le BOOK HUMANITAIRE

a mis en place. Comment cela fonctionne?

C'est simple, les gens qui ont faim peuvent aller se chercher un repas cuisiné dans le frigo



en question. À titre de membres de l'O.H.O.B.I., Étang du Québec, nous vous invitons à cuisiner des plats, et ce, sur une base volontaire ce qui veut, entre autres, dire « à vos frais ». Ensuite, le comité bénévole s'engage à récupérer vos plats



cuisinés à votre résidence ou ailleurs et les apporter au frigo communautaire. Quand? Les 21 et 28 novembre prochains et l'heure de la cueillette sera déterminée selon les adresses pour maximiser les déplacements. Qu'est-ce que vous pouvez cuisiner? Des sandwichs, des barres tendres, des pâtes, des biscuits, etc., emballés individuellement. On vous encourage à ajouter une petite note chaleureuse sur vos emballages pour simplement faire plaisir et mettre un sourire sur un visage. Si vous êtes intéressés à participer à cette collecte de plats préparés, il suffit de retourner les informations requises (voir ci-dessous) à Nancy D'Amour. Une belle occasion d'impliquer votre famille à ce projet!

"Community fridge for the poor. It is with the desire to put balm in the hearts of people in need during this difficult time that we invite you to prepare individual meals. Members of the Executive Committee of O.H.O.B.I., Pond of Quebec, are proud to be part of filling the community fridge that the HUMANITARY BOOK has put in place. How does this work? It's simple, hungry people can go get a cooked meal in the fridge in question. As members of the O.H.O.B.I., Pond du Québec, we invite you to cook dishes on a voluntary basis, which means, among others, "at your expense". Then, the volunteer committee will pick up your cooked dishes at your residence or elsewhere and bring them to the community fridge. When? When? Next November 21 and 28 and picking time will be determined by addresses to maximize travel. What can you cook? Sandwiches, tender bars, pasta, cookies etc., individually wrapped. We encourage you to add a little warm note to your packaging to just please and put a smile on a face.

If you are interested in participating in this prepared food collection, just return the required information to Nancy D'Amour.

On March 18, 2021, the Quebec Pond announced the cancellation of their Lobster Party.



**L'ÉVÉNEMENT HOMARD DE CETTE ANNÉE DOIT MALHEUREUSEMENT ÊTRE ANNULÉ**

Si la situation le permet, nous espérons vous voir à nos prochains événements.

**ÉVÉNEMENT ANNULÉ**

**TOURNOI DE GOLF**  
19 Août 2021

**SOIRÉE HUITRES**  
14 Octobre 2021

[www.ohobi.com](http://www.ohobi.com)

### *The Regina Pond*

On March 18, 2020, the Regina Pond announced a virtual fundraiser to support SaskAbilities. Ganders could order a variety of foods from Mom's Pantry, "from croissants to cookie dough, dips to dinner ideas -- Mom's Pantry has what you need! And bonus, funds raised will be put towards our annual donation to SaskAbilities!"



MOMSPANTRY.CA

Fundraising Ideas | Mom's Pantry Fundraising Specialists

### *The Saskatchewan Pond*

On March 22, 2020, the Saskatchewan Pond dropped off donuts, cinnamon buns and bread for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Saskatoon. "We may not be able to do our monthly volunteer baking at the Ronald McDonald House during this time, but we can still contribute to feeding the families. Today, we dropped of 7 dozen donuts, 2 dozen cinnamon buns and bread."



### *The St. Louis Pond*

On February 10, 2021, the St, Louis Pond hosted a virtual Happy Hour and Panel Discussion to discuss the effects of the pandemic on insurance claims.



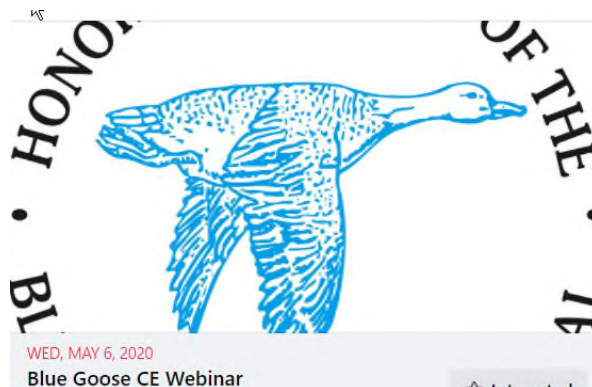


## The Southern Region

On May 5, 2021, the Southern Region announced a campaign to support the Shriner's or Parkland Hospital's Burn Unit by assembling gift baskets for burn victims and their families as a volunteer experience at the July 2022 convention in Grapevine, TX.

## The Tampa Pond

On May 6, 2020, the Tampa Pond sponsored a Continuing Education webinar on Food Forensics and Food Safety.



On November 20, 2020, the Tampa Pond announced the cancellation of their planned January 28, 2021 Shuffleboard and Charity Social.

## The Tennessee Pond

On April 24, 2020, the Tennessee Pond announced a rescheduled date and new location for their golf outing. It was moved back to September 11, 2020. Besides golf, the event included a Bloody Mary bar, a chance to win \$10,000 cash, and a Caribbean cruise for 2.



On September 26, 2020, the Tennessee Pond posted a video to honor Gander Stan Gunnells on reaching a Blue Goose milestone. "Congratulations to Stan Gunnells on 50 years in Blue Goose. You have been a strong foundation to our chapter, and we are so grateful to have you and call you friend. Your kindness, wisdom, humor, and friendship are cherished among all of us. You were part of my initiation team and it was an honor to present you with your 50-year pin."





On October 29, 2020, the Tennessee Pond posted a Congratulations message to Gander Bill Wilson upon his induction into the Robert E. Musto Tennessee Insurance Hall of Fame at Middle Tennessee State University as a member of its 2020 class.



On March 8, 2021, the Tennessee Pond announced an upcoming Zoom meeting with virtual initiations on April 14, 2021.

### *The Texas Pond*

On April 1, 2020, The Texas Pond announced their April meeting was cancelled and they reprinted the Grand Nest Pandemic message from March 20, 2020.

 <i>Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International</i> <b>Texas Pond</b> <i>Charity Fellowship Education</i> 	
<b>TEXAS POND HONKER</b>	
<b>April 2020</b>	<b>Character, Charity, Fellowship</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>NO MEETING IN APRIL</b></u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>DFW TEXAS POND</b></u></p>	
<p>Take to heart the Blue Goose Ritual – "The care of (our) fellow Ganders is world renowned and unquestioned". Remember our solemn promise "to comfort those who have been afflicted, to send cheer into the sick room, and to lift up and strengthen those who have fallen".</p>	

On April 1, 2020, the Texas Pond posted a “Stay Safe, dear ganders” message with a map showing the spread of the Coronavirus outbreak.

On April 28, 2020, the Texas Pond posted some health tips to make working from home a better experience. “Avoid the COVID 19 (pounds) when working from home: Maintain your daily routine, Avoid the kitchen for your workspace, Maintain your Fitbit steps, Start with a healthy breakfast, Plan your snacks, Eat a veggie-filled lunch, Recognize hunger versus boredom, Manage alcohol consumption, Drink your water, Get adequate sleep.



On May 5, 2020, the Texas Pond completed their campaign to support the North Texas Food Bank. “Goslings & Ganders... Heed the call of our Mother Goose...It’s almost time for #NTXGivingTuesdayNow on May 5! Early giving has begun, and our friend Ezekiel Elliott of the Dallas Cowboys is matching gifts right now to the North Texas Food Bank – up to \$70,000. Join us today to help our hungry neighbors.

On May 11, 2020, the Texas Pond hosted a Zoom meeting and Trivia Night. Margarita and guacamole recipes were sent prior to the meeting, Ganders were encouraged to enjoy them during the meeting.



and



On June 8, 2020, the Texas Pond hosted a Zoom meeting “Our June Meeting Again Will Be Via Zoom DFW TEXAS POND Come join us for a virtual meeting, Monday June 8th, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. CST! Grab your favorite beverage or snack and catch up on what's happening with everyone! In this ever-changing environment, because of this pandemic, we are still faced with all this social distancing requirements, which makes having a meeting rather difficult. It is no secret that the Blue Goose members and their friends love some good ol’ fellowship and they enjoy seeing each other. The night’s Guest Speaker was Corrine Karp from Community Partners of Dallas.



On July 30, 2020, the Texas Pond posted a seven-year summary of the Pond's charitable activity

Blue Goose Texas Pond  
2020 Charitable Impact – 7 Year Summary

(Donations noted are as of 6/30/20)



**\$43,916** in total donations to NTFB  
North Texas Food Bank distributes donated, purchased and prepared foods through a network of nearly 1,000 feeding programs and 262 Partner Agencies in 13 North Texas counties.



**\$20,469** in total donations to TSRHC  
Regardless of a family's ability to pay for services, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children has treated thousands of children since 1921 for a wide array of orthopedic conditions, sports injuries, dyslexia, and other learning disabilities.



**\$9,669** in total donations to Family Place  
Since 1978 The Family Place has been empowering victims of family violence by providing safe housing, counseling and skills that create independence while building community engagement and advocating for social change to stop family violence.





**\$7,515** in total donations to CPDIX  
Community Partners of Dallas ensures the safety, restores the dignity and inspires hope for more than 20,000 abused and neglected children served by Dallas County Child Protective Services.



**\$13,500** in scholarships to local students  
The Texas Pond began awarding scholarships to eligible students of Blue Goose members in 2015. You can find the scholarship guidelines online at [www.BlueGooseTX.org](http://www.BlueGooseTX.org).

On August 6, 2020, the Texas Pond announced a digital fundraiser for Back to School supply drive to benefit Community Partners that would eventually raise \$1,035.00





**Blue Goose Back-to-School Drive**

*Help us prepare the children we serve go back to school, prepared and ready to learn!*

**\$1,035** raised

On August 6, 2020, the Texas Pond posted a photo of their masked and socially distanced Annual Planning Meeting, promising that “Amazing things planned for the Pond!”



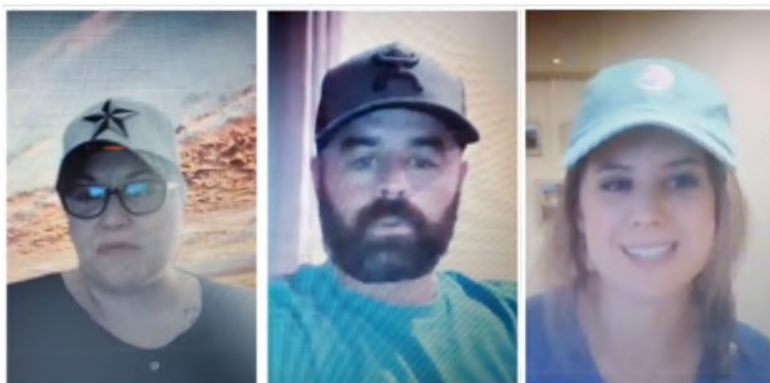
On November 3, 2020, the Texas Pond announced a Digital Charity Drive to fulfill 100 Toy Wishes for 100 children in support of Community Partners of Dallas.



On November 9, 2020, the Texas Pond held a beer themed Zoom meeting with new member initiations.

Welcome our newly (& virtually) inducted #BlueGooseTX #Ganders: [Rachel Scott](#) - El Paso, TX; [Kenny Lusk](#) - Little Elm, TX; and [Taylor Jones](#) - Dallas, TX. Congratulations!

On December 14, 2020, the Texas Pond hosted a Virtual Charcuterie Board Class. Ganders were directed to "Head over to Board + Brie for your #charcuterie materials, today! Funds benefit North Texas Food Bank." Here is a photo of Gander Meegan Howard's impressive Charcuterie Board.



On December 9, 2020, the Texas Pond posted an offer for Ganders to purchase a Blue Goose mask to support the Southern Region Convention.





On January 19, 2021, the Texas Pond posted information for a Valentine's Day themed Zoom meeting. "Learn how to make the famous French Mi-Cuit just in time for Valentines!! Join us February 8th from 5:30-7:00 PM for a 5-Star chocolate and baking class brought to you by Dallas chocolatier Zach Townsend. Wine & Chocolate pairing will also be discussed!"



On March 22, 2021, the Texas Pond announced an April Virtual meeting for the Southern Region. "Happy Spring Everyone!! 🌸 Mark your calendars and RSVP for a Zoom call on April 14th at 6:00 PM CST with all of the Ponds in the Southern Region of Blue Goose land."



Throughout the year, the Texas Pond routinely expressed cheer to their Ganders on the occasion of their birthdays.



### *The Utah Pond*

On September 11, 2020, The Utah Pond held a reduced version of their annual golf tournament, without hole sponsors, prizes, or a clubhouse luncheon. The clubhouse was not available for groups, so lunch on an individual basis was enjoyed in the coffee shop.

On August 21, 2021, The Utah Pond hosted their Summer Party in the form of a socially distanced Steak Fry where our guest wore masks. The event is usually catered, but this year John Paris cooked the steaks himself. The invitation stated, "if you don't feel comfortable coming, it's no problem and we totally understand." The Summer Party raised \$1,200 for the Utah Food Bank and had a great turnout.





## The Virginia Pond

On July 15, 2020, the Virginia Pond held a Zoom meeting

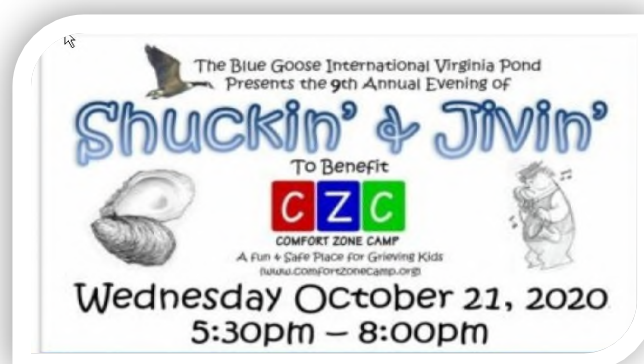
On August 19, 2020, the Virginia Pond held a socially distanced Summer Social at Midnight Brewery. Guests will enjoy craft beverages, live music, food from Braise N Smoke food truck, and great fellowship in a venue with plenty of space for social distancing.”

### Dear Ganders and Friends,

Virginia Pond's 2020 summer social will be held **Wednesday, August 19** at **Midnight Brewery** in Rockville, VA *Family and guests are invited!*



On October 21, 2020, the Virginia Pond hosted “its 10th Annual Shuckin' & Jivin'” event on the patio of the Richmond Country Club. All proceeds benefited the local chapter of Comfort Zone Camp – “a great organization that provides support programs and services for grieving kids”. The Pond raised \$7,000 that was doubled by the Giving Tuesday organization.



On December 9, 2020, the Virginia Pond announced the cancellation of their 2020 Christmas Social.



### Blue Goose - Virginia Pond

December 9, 2020 · 🌐

We are very disappointed at the cancellation of our 2020 Christmas Social due to increased COVID restrictions. We hope to return to in-person fellowship in 2021. In the meantime, we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

On January 20, 2021 & February 17, 2021, the Virginia Pond held Zoom Meetings. The January guest speaker was Anne-Marie Worthy with Comfort Zone Camp who shared how proceeds from the Pond's annual October Shuckin' & Jivin' event have impacted their programs. The February program included two guest speakers on COVID related topics.

On March 17, 2021, the Pond held a “March Madness Virtual Whiskey Tasting experience through Bardstown Bourbon Company! This interactive experience will walk you through some of the science and craft of whiskey-making while enabling you to enjoy a guided sampling of four different products – all from the comfort of your own home. Everything you need to enjoy this experience will be included in a sample tasting kit provided by the distillery. There will be plenty in each of the three bottles for follow-up samples. The Virginia Pond will coordinate a kit pick-up site in Richmond on March 12/13. Special distribution arrangements can be made for participants outside of the Richmond area.” The Virginia Pond’s NCAA Tournament Pool bracket drawing was announced during this event.



### *The West Virginia Puddle*

On March 12, 2020, the West Virginia Puddle announced the cancellation of their March 17, 2020 Clovers and Cocktails for a Cure St. Patrick’s Day Event. “Due to health risks, we will be canceling the Clovers and Cocktails for a Cure. We hope to be able to have the event at a later date. Everyone stay safe!”

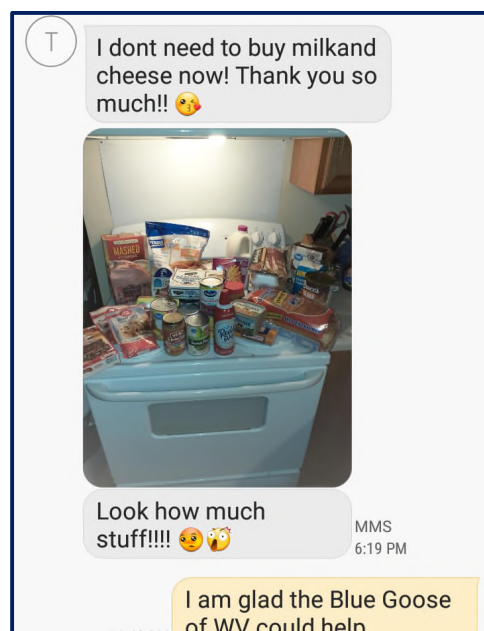
On September 10, 2020, the West Virginia Puddle announced a “COVID Sucks Zombie Golf Tournament” to be played at the Big Bend Golf Course in Upper Falls, West Virginia.



On November 6, 2020, the West Virginia Puddle announced a program to support families in need for Thanksgiving that live in their Tri State Area. They engaged their membership by asking Pond members to nominate a family and explain why they needed assistance. At left is a “Thank You” message from one of the families.

On November 23, and December 13, 2020, the West Virginia Puddle posted about their recent holiday charity events. “We were so happy to help Hope’s Place of Ashland, Kentucky with their virtual cookies with Santa event. We provided 100 filled stockings for children in the area.”

“WV Blue Goose had the privilege of playing Santa today. Our Blue Goose Christmas sleigh is about to depart again to help some more kids have a great Christmas at the Golden Girl Group Home. It’s always an honor to support such a great home and the wonderful girls that they house”.



On March 23, 2021, the West Virginia Puddle announced the cancellation of their April 3, 2021 Adult Easter Egg Hunt.

“According to the Governor’s Executive Order Fairs/Festivals/Events, including One Day Special Events, are not permitted until May 1, 2021. Due to this, we regret to have to cancel the egg hunt once again. Any tickets that have been purchased will be refunded. Hopefully we will be able to do this next year.”

