

REGIONAL NEWS

CANADA

Editorial

Happy 2019! This 1st edition of the year is largely dedicated to a flurry of Swiss club activity right across Canada. Future editions of the Regional News will also bring feature articles, interesting stories, and news impacting the Swiss in Canada. As I settle into this new role, I would like to ex-

press my sincere gratitude for the wave of goodwill that has come my way: congratulations, advice, Christmas cards, dinner invitations, even concert tickets, and more. Thank you very much, everyone! Wishing you good reading, and please stay in touch! avs@telus.net



ANDREW VON STUERMER
REGIONAL EDITOR, CANADA

Swiss NHL Stars Attend Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce Event in Vancouver

On December 5, 2018, the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (SCCC) held its annual Christmas event in Vancouver. Every year, Chamber members and friends gather to celebrate the pre-Christmas season. This year, the more than 100 attendees were treated to a special surprise - four Swiss NHL stars were in attendance!

Sven Baertschi (Vancouver Canucks), Roman Josi, Yannick Weber, and Kevin Fiala (Nashville Predators) all took part in a 'hot stove' podium discussion and a question-and-answer session hosted by Joey Kenward from Sportsnet 650. Since at one time, all four hockey stars had played for the Swiss Junior Ice Hockey Team, this event was the perfect kick-off to the 2018 IIHF World Junior Championship (held in Vancouver and Victoria).

At the end, attendees got a chance to take pictures with the players and receive autographs, and four lucky winners received tickets for a Canucks – Flyers game at Rogers Arena.

The sold-out event was a fantastic experience for everyone. SCCC President Vince Sciamanna: "It was a great pleasure to organise such a unique event for our members and friends". Fabian Lemann, event coordinator and Director of the Board: "Having four of the top NHL players from Switzerland all together at one event is a rare and very special moment."

FABIAN LEMANN



Left: Sven Baertschi, Roman Josi, Yannick Weber, Kevin Fiala, and Vince Sciamanna; Middle: Roman Josi with his Swiss fan Thomas Andrey; Right: Sven Baertschi and Consul General of Switzerland, Pascal Borno.

The Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (SCCC) in Western Canada is a not-for-profit organisation founded in 1965 by Swiss business people living in Vancouver. Goals are to connect Swiss, European, and Canadian industries and companies and create a network, as well as to organise events for members and potential business partners.

Most SCCC Board members have Swiss roots. Every year, the organisation plans multiple social and networking events for members and guest, including two high-profile events annually.

For more information, visit www.swisscanadianchamber.com, or email chamber@swissccc.com

Matterhorn Swiss Club (Montréal)

In November 2018, our informal fall meeting and dinner was held at a new location, the Casa Grecque restaurant in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, QC. We enjoyed a nice get-together and a delicious dinner.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, February 8, also at Casa Grecque. Invitations with all the details will be sent out in January. We are also planning a late spring / early summer family outing; information will be sent out once available.

The Club holds 5 or 6 events or outings each year, and we are pleased to say they are always well-attended. New members are always welcome!

For additional information, please see the Matterhorn Club section on the Federation website: www.fedesuisse.com

WALTER SPIRIG, PRESIDENT: 514 - 694 - 3718

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)

E-voting update: On November 30, 2018, OSA Board Members handed in their e-voting petition to the Swiss Federal Chancellery in Berne. More than 11,000 signatures were collected from 150 countries - a significant number that represents the equivalent of almost 7% of the Swiss abroad registered to vote. OSA's petition requests that by 2021, e-voting be made available to all Swiss living overseas. (Currently, expat Swiss from only ten cantons are eligible for e-voting).

The idea of voting online – whether at the national or international level – has however met with some resistance, typically related to security (cyber-hacking) issues. Despite the ongoing controversy, in mid-December, 2018, the Swiss government approved a draft bill (currently out for consultation by political parties, organisations, and institutions) that seeks to introduce the option of e-voting on a permanent basis.

Among a myriad of topics, these are two further hot-button issues presently keeping the 140 members of the OSA Council busy: (1) Making it easier and less expensive for expats to access Swiss banking services; (2) Fighting planned cuts in welfare benefits for Swiss expatriates.

Do you know the OSA Council Member(s) closest to where you live?

Your Canadian OSA Delegate Team 2017 - 2021

Kati Lyon-Villiger, Ottawa, ON	kati.lyonvilliger@hotmail.ca
Philippe Magnenat, Montréal, QC	magnenatcanada@gmail.com
Florence Pasche, Toronto, ON	florence@osa-canada.com
Silvia Schoch, Victoria, BC	silv.schoch@gmail.com
Heidi Lussi, Vernon, BC	heidil@heidilussi.com

<https://www.aso.ch/>

HEIDI LUSSI AND A. v. STUERMER



Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA)

2019 FYSA SUMMER CAMPS FOR CHILDREN AGED 8 - 14

The dates and locations of our 2019 summer camps are published online at <https://sjas.ch/en/camps/informations/>.

If after reading this information carefully, you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@sjas.ch.

Fondation pour les enfants suisses à l'étranger (FESE)

FESE CAMPS D'ÉTÉ 2019 POUR LES ENFANTS DE 8 À 14 ANS

Les lieux et les dates de nos camps d'été 2019 sont publiés sur notre site <https://sjas.ch/fr/camps/informations>. Si, après avoir lu ces informations, vous avez encore des questions, n'hésitez pas à nous contacter: info@sjas.ch



DEPUIS PLUS DE 50 ANS, CERTAINS DES PLUS GRANDS GROUPES EUROPÉENS, DE MÊME QUE DE NOMBREUSES PME, ONT COMPTÉ SUR LETTE AU CANADA POUR LEUR OFFRIR DES COMPÉTENCES DU PLUS HAUT NIVEAU ET UNE APPROCHE PRATIQUE À LA RÉOLUTION DE LEURS PROBLÈMES.

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Fédération des Sociétés Suisses de l'Est du Canada / Federation of Swiss Societies in Eastern Canada

La Fédération des sociétés suisses de l'est du Canada (FÉDÉ) aura eu son assemblée générale ce 19 janvier. Nous commencerons dès lors les préparatifs pour la Fête Nationale Suisse 2019. Cette Fête, la plus grande à l'extérieur de la Suisse, aura lieu le samedi 3 août 2019, tous jours au Mont Sutton, dans le beau village de Sutton. Chaque année, un canton ou une région de la Suisse est à l'honneur. En 2019, ce sera le canton de Berne. Nous aurons la présence de "die urchigen Emmentaler" venant du canton de Berne, en plus des groupes suisses locaux habituels, en musique et en chansons.

Chaque année, nous préparons un programme couleur envoyé aux suisses dans la province de Québec, par la poste et maintenant surtout par courriel. Vous êtes propriétaire d'une entreprise, d'un commerce ou autre? Si vous voulez mettre une annonce dans ce programme, communiquez avec nous à info@fedesuisse.com. Le délai pour recevoir votre annonce serait le 31 mars 2019. Le coût varie, selon le format, de 100\$ à 1000\$.

Vous pouvez consulter notre programme 2018 en allant sur notre nouveau site web www.fedesuisse.com. Votre annonce inclut automatiquement une bannière de votre compagnie avec un lien vers votre site web.

Sur le site web de la Fédé vous trouverez les liens et l'information des clubs et sociétés suisses de la province de Québec. Ainsi qu'un calendrier des activités de ces clubs, des liens de tout intérêt, des photos de notre Fête Nationale Suisse des années passées, etc, etc.

Votre comité 2018

The Federation of Swiss Societies in Eastern Canada (FEDE) held its Annual General Meeting on January 19. Since then, we've started to prepare for the 2019 Swiss National Day. This celebration, the largest outside Switzerland, will take place on Saturday, August 3, 2019, as always at Mont Sutton, in the beautiful village of Sutton.

Each year, a canton or region of Switzerland is honoured. In 2019, it will be the canton of Berne. In addition to the usual local Swiss bands, music, and/or singers, we have the pleasure of featuring "die urchigen Emmentaler" from the canton of Berne.

Each year, we prepare a full-colour events programme that is sent to the Swiss in the Province of Quebec, by postal mail, but now mostly by email. Do you own a business? If you would like to place an ad in our events programme, contact us at info@fedesuisse.com. The deadline to receive your ad is March 31, 2019. Advertising costs depend on the ad's size and may range from \$100 to \$1,000.

To review the 2018 programme of the Swiss National Day celebration in Sutton, visit our new website at www.fedesuisse.com. Your ad will include your business banner and a link to your website.

On the FEDE website, you will find information about - and links to - the Swiss clubs and societies in the Province of Quebec. The website also features a central events calendar with club activities, links of general interest, photos of past years, National Day celebrations, and more.

Your 2018 Committee

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Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

The 2018 Ottawa Valley Swiss Club's annual Christmas festivities were a delight for young and young-at-heart Club members. Celebrations on December 2 started with the annual Seniors' Luncheon, where delicious food and lovely carols performed by the Montagna Singers choir rounded out the event.

Following the luncheon, families and children gathered for the Children's Christmas Party. Children of all ages loved the Gingerbread Man pass-the-parcel game, at the end of which they all received a treat.

The youngsters crafted beautiful evergreen centrepieces to take home and decorate their own Christmas table settings. Crafts, gingerbread decorating, an entertaining talent show, and delicious home-baked goodies were further highlights of the day.

Samichlaus and Schmutzli made a much-anticipated appearance at the end of the party. With greetings for everyone, Samichlaus distributed presents and Grättibänz bread dolls to all the eager children.

For more information on our upcoming events, or to become an OVSC member, please visit our website at ottawavalleysswissclub.ca.

OLIVIA CRAFT



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Learn about us at pasturetoplate.ca

Swiss Club Thames Valley

Fall is a busy time in our neck of the woods – both on the farm and in the Swiss community - but the Schweizer Jodlerfreunde did it again! On September 15, they filled the large hall at the Milverton Rec. Centre and, along with their guest choir from Geuensee, LU, entertained the appreciative crowd with a repertoire of yodel songs.

Our 2018 Annual General Meeting was - as always - held on the first Saturday in November. The cheese fondue was delicious, and the business part ran smoothly.

On November 17, the Swiss Farmer Band (pictured below) celebrated its 25th anniversary. On this special occasion, the 23 members

– including 8 founding members (among them the First Conductor, Arnold Egli, and the First President, Franz Kissling) – put on a wonderful concert, followed by a meal and dancing to the tunes of the Twin City Alpine Echo. Congratulations, Swiss Farmer Band, and best of luck for the next 25 years!

2018 Club activities ended on December 2 with a visit from Santa, who was eagerly awaited by many very excited (and a few apprehensive!) children. A big thank-you to all who came out to support us throughout the year – it's because of you that we're able to look back on another successful year!



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Swiss Club Thames Valley - Upcoming Events 2019

February 22 / 23	Metzgete, Legion Hall, Milverton
April 6	Spring Dance, Rec. Complex, Milverton
April 14	Theater, Comm. Centre, Wellesley
May 26	Brunch, Rec. Complex, Milverton
July 7 / 14	Motorcycle Tour
July 28	Swiss National Holiday Celebration, Monkton
August 18	Seniors' Afternoon (Jodler)
September 21	Jodler Stubete, Rec. Complex, Milverton
November 2	General Meeting, Legion, Milverton
November 16	Concert – Swiss Farmer Band, Rec. Complex, Milverton
December 1	Advent Celebration, Legion, Milverton.

For more information, visit www.swissclubthamesvalley.com

PIA HÄCHLER



Swiss Club Toronto Theatre Group



Theateraufführung 2019

„Im Meischter sini Geischter“

„Geistreiches“ Lustspiel in 3 Akten

von Lukas Bühler

The play is in Swiss-German and will be performed at the following locations:

- Wellesley: Sunday, April 14, 2019, at 1:00 pm. Rec. Complex/Community Centre, 1000 Maple St. Contact: Urs Egli (519) 595-2456

Email: aliceegli@yahoo.ca

- Toronto: Sunday, April 28, 2019, at 2:00 pm. Latvian Canadian Centre, 4 Credit Union Dr. Contact: Maggie Hess (905) 508-8014

Email: walter.brunner@sympatico.ca

Important: In Toronto, we'll have a single performance on Sunday afternoon! Drinks, lunch, and Nussgipfel will be available.

We look forward to seeing you! For more details, please contact your local Swiss Club Representative, or call Maggie Hess or Walter Brunner at (905) 508 - 8014.

WALTER BRUNNER



Above: Two scenes from "Miss Sophies Erbe" (Miss Sophie's Inheritance)

Swiss Club Saskatoon

Our Club held its AGM on October 21, 2018, at a local restaurant, with a good member turnout. The executive remains largely the same, except that Heinz Buchmann has stepped down from his position as Secretary; we welcome Christine Ens to that position.

The executive for the year ahead: Elisabeth Eilinger, President; Emil Eigenmann, Vice President; Georg Nievergelt, Treasurer; Christine Ens, Secretary; and Rosa Nievergelt, Social Convenor. A big thank-you to our hard-working executive members!

Our Santa evening was held on December 7, 2018, at McClure United Church. We enjoyed a wonderful potluck of cold cuts, cheese, veggies, chili, buns, and scrumptious desserts. A good crowd of 48 attended, with 18 children, 16 of whom sat on Santa's knee when he dropped by. We repeated a children's raffle first held last year with great success, and it was again very popular.

We are currently planning for our Club's 40th anniversary in 2019. The event will be held on August 3, 2019, in conjunction



with the Bundesfeier. More information will be going out to members in the coming months.

Our next event will be a raclette luncheon on February 24, 2019. Our Jass event is still being planned and may be more of a fun Jass than a tournament this year, with some other games also available.

If you are not already on our mailing list and would like to receive information about upcoming events, please contact the Club at swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com, or call me at 306-665-6039.

ELISABETH EILINGER, PRESIDENT

Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir Association



The Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir at Winzerfest 2018

On November 10, 2018, the Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir hosted another successful Winzerfest at St. Basil's Cultural Centre in Edmonton. 2018's theme "Celebrating Friends, Food and Song" truly resonated with the audience. The choir delivered one of its stronger performances, supported by the Swiss Dance Club Alpenroesli from Calgary - a memorable evening for all!

Continuing the tradition of supporting emerging leaders in the disciplines of choral conducting, voice, and choir-related instrumentals, recipients of the 2018 Erwin Baumann Scholarship included Armand Birk and Graham Fast. This Scholarship bears the name of our Honorary Member Erwin Baumann, for many years the Honorary Swiss Consul in Edmonton and the choir's First President, and a significant driving force in the formation and operation of our choir.



Scholarship recipient Armand Birk with Hans Voegeli (right) and Martin Staub (left)

Armand Birk is presently studying Music and Orchestral Conducting at the University of Alberta (U of A). He's a chorister with Chorale Saint-Jean and performed at Carnegie Hall with the New England Symphonic Ensemble in May 2018. A course instructor at the Centre de Développement Musical de l'Alberta, Armand is also Assistant Director for the Galala, as well as Assistant Conductor of Contempo (New Music Ensemble) and the U of A's Opera Workshop for the 2018/19 artistic season.

Graham Fast is a recent U of A graduate (Master of Music, Choral Conducting). He has worked with many of Edmonton's finest choirs including the Richard Eaton Singers, Pro Coro Canada's #connect youth

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For more info, call Philippe Moser at 416 - 434 - 5837

ARNO SIGRIST

programme, the U of A Madrigal Singers, the Da Camera Singers, Chronos Vocal Ensemble, and Vocal Alchemy.

Special guests at Winzerfest 2018 included the Swiss Folk Dance Club Alpenroesli; Andreas Bayer, Honorary Consul of Switzerland; Erwin Baumann; Heidi Lussi, OSA Delegate for Western Canada; and Michael Zaugg, ProCoro Canada's Artistic Director.

Check www.esmca.ca for membership information and for future events, such as the Nassa21, the North American Swiss Singing Association's Festival in Edmonton (June 24 to 27, 2021). "Like" us on Facebook, or watch us perform on YouTube.

MARTIN STAUB AND PETER THUT



Scholarship recipient Graham Fast with Hans Voegeli (right) and Martin Staub (left)

Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association (Metro Vancouver)

2018 was another very successful shooting season with no accidents!

In October, 58 shooters took part in our ever-popular Schützenfest, with participants coming from Los Angeles, San Diego, Edmonton, Kamloops, and Switzerland. 2018's Schützenkönig was Jim Paton with 372 points. Jim faced tough competition from Daniel Meier (351 points) and from Markus Spycher (348 points). The kitchen crew spoiled us all with excellent meals.

The grand finale for our outdoor shooting season was the Saushoot at the end of October. All 35 participants went home with a piece of meat. To end the day, we all enjoyed a traditional Blut- and Leberwurst dinner. A big thank-you to all the volunteers!

The Samichlaus party was held on December 1, when we were privileged enough to meet the man of the season. A good time was had by all. Glühwein warmed our insides, and wonderful baked goods filled our tummies. A big thank-you to Santa and his helpers. Please check our website www.scmra.ca for the pictures.

We like to keep our old traditions going and hope that many Swiss and their friends will visit us at our beautiful chalet, socialize, and maybe even join us for a game of Jass.

I wish you all a very successful and prosperous 2019!

MARLIES BAUMANN

Interior Swiss Club (British Columbia)



The 2018 Interior Swiss Club's (ISC) annual Fall Concert Dinner and Dance was held on Saturday, October 13, at the Schubert Centre in Vernon. A big thank-you to the organisers and participants of this very successful annual event attended by more than 110 members and friends of the ISC. It was great to welcome so many friends of our community from all parts of BC and Alberta.

ISC Director Helena Hasler and President Lilly Senn, Club volunteers, and Schubert Centre staff all did a great job to make this sold-out event a memorable get-together for Swiss families and friends of all ages.

We greatly appreciated the attendance of Consul Claudia Thomas from the Swiss Consulate in Vancouver, and her address to Club members and the community.

Heidi Lussi - our Western Canada Delegate for the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad - gave us another taste of the Swiss yodeling sound of music that everyone enjoyed a lot. We also wish to thank our new member Peter Podesser for taking pictures of the event.

Our special guests from Kelowna - the Kelowna Liedertafel Choir under the

direction of Rory Fader - spoiled us with a selection of Lieder and songs that most of us have kept close to our hearts and memories.

Rory Fader opened the concert with a traditional alphorn; thank you for those unique sounds!

Following the Kelowna Liedertafel Choir, we were entertained by another alphorn player - Abraham Inniger from Whistler. What a pleasant and very much appreciated surprise; thank you, Abraham!

The rest of the evening was spent sharing stories with old friends and new while listening to the Treblemakers Band, and dancing to great old swings.

After the Treblemakers had finished playing, the singing started: Peter Johner, Peter Meyes, Chris Schmid, Albert Jaggi, and Hanspeter Berger took the lead. Then everybody joined them in singing traditional Swiss songs. Erwin Nyfeler and Walter Zaugg were unfortunately unable to attend; we missed their wonderful voices.

What a great way to end a really fantastic evening. We hope to see you again in the near future!

Christa Donauer

