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Council and Congress of the Swiss Living Abroad

by Canadian Delegate Verena Tobler Ducommun

From August 20th to 22nd, 2004, I attended the council meeting and the conference in Winterthur, after also having participated at the spring meeting in Bern. Unfortunately, this article can only be printed now, as the deadline for the local edition in the Swiss Review was just before the conference. The following report is a brief overview.

Swiss info.org, the excellent website for daily Swiss news, was discussed. Many Swiss living abroad read it regularly, especially before voting. We need to lobby for better funding.

The council members voted to support citizenship for second- and third-generation foreigners in Switzerland. However, the Swiss electorate later rejected it on September 26, even though many of these "foreigners" were born and schooled in Switzerland.

The council also voted to support the second parcel of the Bilateral Agreements with the EU. The original Bilateral Agreements of 1999 have been in effect since June 2002. According to council president Dr. G. Stucki, they proved to be of great benefit to Switzerland and to the Swiss residing in these countries. There are 370'000 or approximately 60% of our total of 612'000 Swiss abroad that live in EU countries. These agreements have now been expanded and will replace the former Agreements. They will also include the ten new countries that joined the EU in May. A referendum seems likely. This means that the Swiss electorate will vote on some of the agreements, possibly in the second half of 2005.

The biggest news for me was that a large number of Swiss Parliamentarians, from all the main parties, decided to form a support group for the Swiss living abroad. This is very good news indeed. In the meantime they had their first meeting. We now have over eighty contact people in Parliament, thanks to the organizers of this group, National Councillor Thérèse Meyer, and other parliamentarians.

The topic of the Congress on the following day was "Technical Innovation". Dr. Bertrand Piccard spoke about innovation and adventure. The Key note speaker was Federal

Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey who explained the advantages of the Bilateral Agreements II with the EU.

Next year's congress will take place from September 1st to September 4th in Interlaken, and we are all invited. The date is later than usual, because it will coincide with the "Unspunnenfest". This traditional festival was founded in 1805 and expects thousands of participants for its 200th birthday. The last Unspunnenfest took place in 1993. It would be great to see many Swiss-Canadians there.

From January to June 2005, the various Swiss Clubs abroad have to elect or re-elect their delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad for a four-year term. Please read about the procedure in the Swiss Review of October 2004 or on the website revue.ch (under "ASO"). Canada has a right to three delegates and two substitutes who will regularly attend the meetings in Switzerland, at their own cost. We need to have delegates from the three main consular districts (Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver). The delegates can be from any province and get elected by their respective Swiss Club, as we do not have an umbrella organization. Please contact your Swiss Club and me or the ASO office in Bern, if you are considering this interesting volunteer position, and if you know German or French. I will step down after having attended meetings in Switzerland for eight years. During this time we have seen great progress. Every year more Swiss living abroad make use of their right to vote. In 1999 there were 67'000 Swiss living abroad who voted, in 2003 there were already 82'700. Approximately 10% of all Swiss live abroad. The right to vote helps us greatly in defending our interests, and we hope that many more of you will contact your Consulate General for the forms.

Thank you for your interest.

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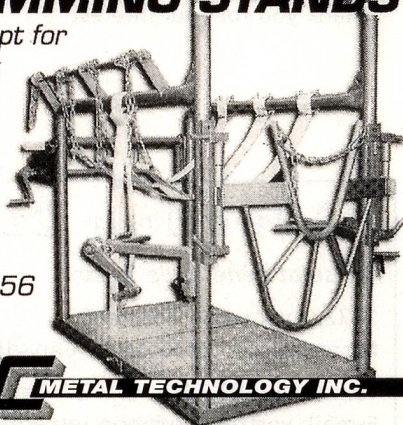
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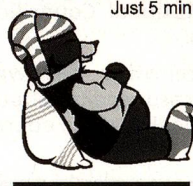
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Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

Christmas Party

This year's party was again a great opportunity for adults to meet and chat with lots of fun and entertainment for the children. Over 90 people assembled on December 5 in the community center of the City View United Church in Ottawa. Among our guests were Mr. Claude Wild, Minister, Swiss Embassy and Mr. Philippe Praz, „Deuxieme Secretaire de L' Ambassade de Suisse", both with their families.

Younger and older children engaged in different crafts. Children of various families presented songs, played piano, presented poems. And no Santa Claus event is complete without our Montagna Singers. We are proud of having this talented, traditional Swiss choir which brings Swiss customs and culture closer to us. Thank you to the Montagna Singers for their ongoing support of our Club events. The Montagna Singers practiced a few songs with our young participants and the children were quite proud to produce their newly acquired skills on stage. And, of course Santa did not forget us. Like every year, he thought of every child and brought them each a gift.

The many cookies and cakes "sweetened the day" for young and old. It was a fun event for all participants.

Car Rally

Ten cars participated in the car rally. The rally brought the participants from Billings Bridge to Mer Bleue Bog on Anderson Road, then through Navan to Trim Road and to Petrie Island where they had lunch and played games. From there they drove through Cumberland and Rockland to Jessups Falls in Plantagenet where they underwent a taste test and from there over some country roads through Plantagenet, Curran, Bourget and Sarsfield to the final destination, where the event ended with a well deserved dinner.

The winners were Mark and Ghislaine Schneider, the second place went to Jacqueline and Christine Rivas and the third place went to Patrick Howard and his three daughters. The booby prize went to Philippe Praz and his two children. Thank you to the last year's winners, the family Hurschler for organizing this event!

For more information, please consult our Web site

www.ottawavalleysswissclub.ca

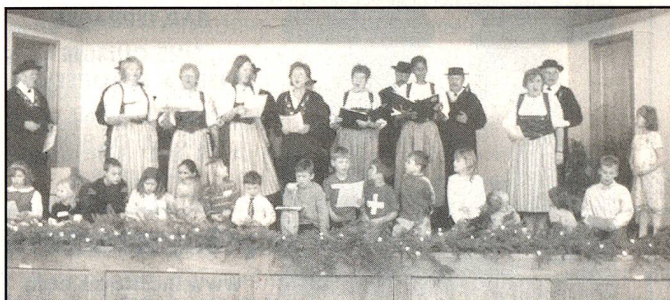
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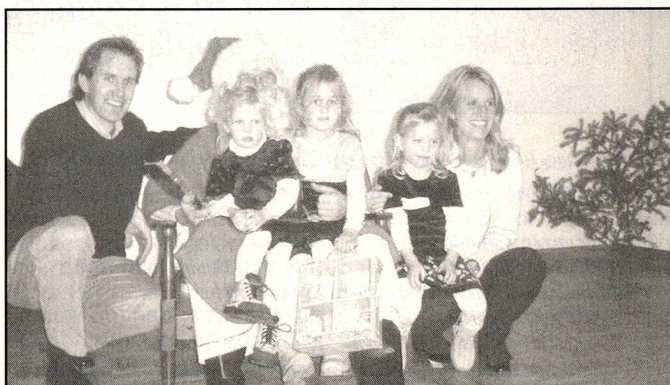
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perform Christmas songs.



Family picture with Santa.

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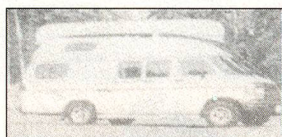
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Edmonton Clubs

Edmonton Swiss Society

For information on any of the events please call Marion (780) 968-8859, Walter (780) 486-8677 or Claudia (780) 462-8077 or go to our website at www.edmonton-swiss.ca

Past Events

On Saturday, November 20, close to 50 members and their friends met at the Britannia Youngstown Community Center for our Fondue and Games Night.

The hall preparations started around 4 o'clock and at 5 o'clock the first guests arrived at the decorated hall, Swiss music playing in the background. Time for welcoming the guests and for some visiting. And then, the kitchen team went to work (as if they had not been working all along). Soon, the first caquelons steaming with tasty fondue started coming out of the kitchen. As many of you may know, a Swiss proverb states "Viele Köche verderben den Brei" (too many cooks spoil the broth). This proverb was definitely proven wrong. AGAIN! The fondue was very tasty, indeed. A Nussgipfel and coffee gave a nice ending to the meal. The pleasant ambiance set the stage for some extended visiting with old and new friends. Some avid Jassers were soon seen shuffling their card decks. As the music played, some of us recognized Swiss hits from our days in Switzerland. Yes, we all had a good time and we are looking forward to the next event. A big thank you THANK YOU to all the volunteers who made this event a success. Without you, events such as this would not be possible.

Our annual Christmas Party was held on Sunday December 5 at Packrat Louie's. Over 80 members were in attendance despite the snowfall and cold temperatures. The 21 very excited children could hardly wait for Santa's arrival. Some draw pictures or made other gifts for him, others told him a story and some just slept right through it while on his arm for the picture. When Santa headed off for other duties one could listen to the beautiful voices of the Men's Choir. They sang Advent and Christmas songs in German, English, Latin, Italian and even Ukrainian. While the adults enjoyed the camaraderie and chats the children were busy with their many craft projects prepared by Natalie and her helpers. At 5 the goodies were gone and people headed for their homes. Thank you to Peter and his staff at the Packrat Louie for having us and also a big thank you to all the other volunteers who contributed in any way to this nice event in this busy time of the year.

Upcoming Events:

- February 26** Metzgete (Butcher's Night)
- March 20** Raclette Plausch, date tentative
- June 10-12** Landsgemeinde in Stettler, call Walter or Claudia for details

Regular events:

Stammtisch

1st Wednesday of the month Stammtisch 6:00 pm at the Restaurant Mill

Kaffee Klatsch

2nd Tuesday of the month Kaffee Klatsch at Packrat Louie, please call Mrs. Fuchs (780) 450-8836

Jass Lovers

To arrange games phone Tom (780) 986-3860 or Paul (780) 464-3355

Edmonton Swiss Rifle Club

Please phone Joe (780) 986-3402 or Daniel (780) 462-8077 for details or directions or e-mail: munot66@hotmail.com

Upcoming Events:

- March 20** Smallbore
- April 23** Fullbore, Smallbore, BBQ – *Shooting 101/F (Introduction to Fullbore Shooting for Beginners)
- May 14** Feldschiessen and Smallbore, BBQ
- June 4** Friendship Match and Smallbore, BBQ
- July 10** Klondike Match and Smallbore, BBQ
- August 6** Obligatorisch and Smallbore, BBQ
- August 28** Postal Matches, NO BBQ
- September 3 & 4** - Annual Schuetzenfest with North American & International Shooters, BBQ

Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir

Please visit our website at www.esmc.ab.ca or call the President Al Eshpeter at 780-458-3357 or Vice President Hans Voegeli at 780-464-1266 or e-mail the secretary: thut.peter@syncrude.com for more information about any of the planned events or about joining the choir.

Past Events

Winzerfest 2004.(by D. Leigh)

**Slice, chop, mix, there has to be a reason.
When forty men put on a feast,
You know its Winzerfest season.**

On November 6th, the Edmonton Swiss Mens' Choir, the Wildrose Yodel Club and guests gathered for our annual Winzerfest celebration. From nine in the morning until late afternoon we decorated the hall at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Sherwood Park (a beautiful hamlet East of Edmonton) and prepared the feast. The doors opened at 6:00 PM and dinner started at 7:00 PM.

Thanks to Peter Johnner's mentoring and the hard work of the choir members and wives, the delicious meal was served without a hitch. Between the main course and the dessert a

concert featuring the Edmonton Swiss Mens Choir was held. It was preceded by selections from the Wildrose Yodel Club from Central Alberta. There is a long standing friendship between the two groups and it was a treat to have the men from Rimbey open for us. We followed with a variety of songs all based on the wine festival theme. A delighted audience showed its appreciation for both choirs.

The band "Sound Flight" rounded off the evening and the dance floor was crowded all night. During the band break, more songs were heard from the choirs as they sang together and separately. During further band breaks, yodels could be heard from the area occupied by the folks from Central Alberta.

We work hard to preserve Swiss Ethnic Music and it is a joy to see that we are in turn supported by Central and Northern Alberta's Swiss Canadian community. And it is great to see that we have so many friends outside the Swiss Community who appreciate and support what we do. This was one of the most successful Winzerfests that we have had.

Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir in Action (by D. Leigh)

From September 4th to the 6th the ESMC hosted the mixed Choeur Forestay from the picturesque village of Chexbres from Canton Vaud, Switzerland. Arriving during the late afternoon, choir members were whisked away by their hosts and treated to dinner. Jet lag combat began immediately afterwards and the next morning well rested guests and hosts set out to brunch and discovery of Edmonton's many attractions.

Our topography is very different from their homeland but our guests found the beauty of the North Saskatchewan River valley to be engaging. From the Strathcona Science Center to Fort Edmonton they found more to do than they could possibly fit in to the time available.

Sunday evening, we gathered at Packrat Louies' Restaurant for a delicious dinner put on by our own Peter Johner and this team. He was ably assisted by other choir members and their families. There was much singing by Choeur Forestay, Yodel Club Seerose from Fluelen, Canton Uri (who were here on one of Fred Salvisberg's famous tours), and by the Edmonton Swiss Mens' Choir. Swiss culture is indeed alive and well in Edmonton. Throughout the evening, Sylvette Jomini, President of the Chexbres Choir was positively glowing.

Monday at noon, our guests boarded their tour bus for a visit to the mountains and we felt a sense of loss at their parting. It is in exchanges like this that our choir members build and renew valuable relations. They had hosted us on our Swiss tour in 2001. We were delighted to be able to return the favour and hope that more of our friends will travel to Edmonton ("The best city in the best province in the best country in the world").

Westward to the Okanagan (by D. Leigh)

Do we have fun? You bet we do. Between October 1st and 4th, the Edmonton Swiss Mens' Choir and family members toured the wineries of the Okanagan. Every couple of years the men do something to thank our families for allowing us to take time off from them to practice and to perform.

Lest you think that we are simply party central, we can assure you that the wine tasting and food sampling are tempered with organized singing wherever we go. A particular pleasure was an early morning visit to the Red Rooster winery near Penticton. We sang a few songs for expatriate owners Prudence and Beat Mahrer, and Walter Meyer. It was really moving to see the tears in Prudence's eyes as we sang songs that evoked fond memories of her mother land.

Thanks to the organizers of the trip we stayed at the Ponderosa Point Resort, a wonderfully private and quiet place where we could relax and recharge our batteries after a hectic Saturday. On Sunday we visited the Hawthorne Mountain Winery. We ascended a number of switchbacks on a winding mountain road to take part in a delightful tasting and to experience a beautiful view from one of the best sited buildings we have been to.

You can't beat a Swiss man when he puts his foot down- especially when he's stomping grapes. Our team at the Oliver Wine Festival not only won the grape stomping contest, they trounced the competition. Hans Pfaeffli, Kurt Blesi and

Hermann Knupp beat the Calgary team by five and one half inches of wine in the container to three and one half inches. Our men knew what the mission was and never lost sight of it.

Our tour was completed with a wine sampling and salmon meal at the first aboriginal winery in North America (NK' Mip Cellars in Osoyoos). We were well received and found that the reception area had an exceptional acoustics. It was also interesting to discover, that the husband of our hostess is from Bern, CH.

Early the next morning we boarded the bus for our return to Edmonton: but not before singing "O Canada" and "Ode an Gott". It was a tired and satisfied crew who went through the Rogers Pass that Monday, but not too tired to enjoy the splendor of this high mountain road. All right guys, when's the next trip. I can hardly wait!

Upcoming Events:

- Feb 19th** MMM 05, Men making Music with St. David's Welsh Male Voice Choir, the German Male Choir Liederkrantz and the Ukrainian Male Chorus at the Francis Winspear Centre for Music in Edmonton with Guest Conductor Heather Johnson.
- Feb. 25th** AGM 05: Annual General Meeting at the Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe
- May 7th** Guest choir at the annual "Springfest" in Rimbey, hosted by the Wildrose Yodel Club.
- June 10, 11 & 12th** Landsgemeinde in Stettler, Swiss Clubs of Alberta
- June 16th to July 3rd** CH 05 Trip
- Nov. 5** 25th Anniversary Winzerfest
- Spring 2006** Trip to Argentina and Chile
- June 15th to 18th, 2006** "NASSA Swiss Singing Festival" in TOLEDO, Oak Shade Grove"

Central Alberta Wildrose Yodel Club

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www.calgarycrossbowclub.com

The so-called summer this year went fast. The Calgary weather some days was not exactly warm and pleasant for shooting. As every year we participated in three shooting programs with some crossbow clubs in Switzerland and submitted some very respectable scores. The shooting season ended mid October with our annual Endshoot, where we shot at various funny targets including some sausages suspended with a string and of course the usual socializing with members and families. On the October long weekend, several of us drove the long 1000km stretch from Calgary to Vancouver, to compete in their international Schützenfest, shooting with pistol, rifle, small and big bore and of course the crossbow. We tend to shoot better at home, where it doesn't rain all the time, as it did that weekend. But overall we done quite well; the best of the crossbow members placed within the top 10 out of 80 shooters. We are now again into winter mode and shooting hibernation. There is no shooting taking place till about mid April when hopefully the weather will be much warmer again.

The first week in September we managed and staffed the Swiss Pavilion at the Festival of Nations held at Spruce Meadows Masters. For the 4th year Spruce Meadows has again been voted number one Equestrian center of the world. For the first 3 days of the Festival the weather was not on our side. Cold and drizzly conditions kept a lot of people away, thus reducing our sales of Schübli and Pastry, but Saturday and Sunday made up for it. Many thanks to the Calgary Yodel Club Heimattreu and the Dance Group Alpenrösli for their performances on the main stage and in the Swiss pavilion. The Swiss riders did not attend this year's Masters, because of their poor showing in 2003. Insiders at Spruce Meadows however, assure me that the Swiss Team will be invited again for the 2005 Masters tournament.

Fritz Gosteli

Dance Group Alpenroesli

Greetings to everyone. Here we are again with Christmas fast approaching. I really don't know where the time goes. We had a wonderful time at Spruce Meadows and hope everyone there enjoyed themselves also. We performed 3 times in all and, besides a little rain and getting a bit wet, everything

went well. There was lots of great food available and lots to see. On November 6th we had our Fondue evening which was a great success. Many thanks to our chef, Garry von Wyl, who did a wonderful job with the fondue, and all the helping hands who made the evening a success. Many thanks also go to Mr. Domenico Lecursi, who bought the balloon flight tickets for two that we auctioned off. We hope he has a great time on the flight.

On November 20th we participated at the Harvest Dance, hosted by the Yodel Club Wild Rose in Innisfail, and had a wonderful time. We were royally treated by them, had a wonderful supper and, even with very few of our husbands present, seemed to have danced most of the night, and even sometimes with each other. We spent the night at a motel and then met for breakfast and then drove back to Calgary. As the weather was good we all had a safe trip home.

It's been such a busy time for us lately and we finished it off with our Christmas party for the dance group ladies held at the Parthenon Restaurant on November 22nd, and I think we did justice to all the wonderful Greek food, wine, and desserts that they offered. We always have a wonderful time at these gatherings and were fortunate enough to be joined by two of our former dancers, Angelina Waldon and Maya Ackerman. It is always wonderful to see them again and relive some of the good times we shared in the past.

On a sadder note, we want to send our condolences to Angela Waldon and her family on the loss of Tony (husband, father, and grandfather) who passed away on November 29, 2004 at the Foothills Hospital. Angela was one of our dancers for many years and we all feel for her and send her our love and kindest regards. May God be with you and yours at this sad time.

It is now time to take a break until the New Year. We will be back in action January 10, 2005 to start our new season.

We are still looking for new dancers to join our dance group. If anyone out there is interested in joining a fun group of ladies for some dancing and good fellowship, we would love to hear from you. For information contact Maria Krohmer @ - 241-0655. Our practices are Monday evenings from 8:00 - 10:00 at the Ramsey Community hall. In case you don't own a Swiss tracht, we are fortunate enough to have a couple of spare ones and you would be welcome to use one. So don't let that stop you from joining us. The more the merrier.

We all want to wish you and yours a Happy and Healthy 2005.

Elsbeth Pleszing

Swiss Rifle Club Tell

P.O. Box 30026, Chinook Postal Outlet, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2H 2V8

The Swiss Rifle Club Tell held the Hunter Shoot on October 31st, the last scheduled shooting event of the season. We had 23 shooters testing their skill against six animal targets. As usual, these targets proved to be elusive to many! Members from the Edmonton Swiss Rifle Club also were in attendance and were a welcome addition to the group! After the shoot, all who were present enjoyed a steak, with soup, salad and dessert and friendly company. Everyone who shot managed to take home something to remember the day with and I would like to thank all who attended.

On the 17th December members and their spouses and or significant other attended the annual Christmas dinner held this year at the Kensington Legion.

Finally... the 2004 Challenge Cup winners are: "A" Cup Hermann König, "B" Cup, Wally Nussbaumer and "C" Cup Mauro Cortiula

A reminder to club members of the Annual General Meeting to be held at the Steve Johnson Range at 7:00 PM 17th Feb 2005. I would also ask those who are planning on attending to consider who they would like to nominate for the executive positions.

Wally Nussbaumer

President, SRCT

2005 Activity Schedule

300 Meter Rifle at Homestead Range

DATE

PROGRAM	CO-ORDINATOR	PHONE
Feb. 17th, 2005 General Meeting 19:30hrs Steve Johnson Range	Wally Nussbaumer	295-0560
May 7th, 8th Regular Programs	Greg Haas	255-6937
May 14th, 15th Regular Programs	Wally Nussbaumer	295-0560
May 21st, 22nd, 23rd Regular Programs	Ruedi Peterer	253-1642
June 11th, 12th Regular Programs	Erwin Glutz	252-2113
June 25th, 26th Regular Programs	Wally Nussbaumer	295-0560
July 2, 2005 Frauenfeld Switzerland		
July 23rd, 24th Regular Programs	Walter Schawalder	249-6327
August 13th, 14th Regular Programs	Peter Trummer	293-5231
Sept 3rd, 4th, 5th Edmonton Schützenfest	Alfred Rusterholz	780-466-7880
Sept 17th, 18th Regular Programs	Theo Christen	281-4773
October 1st Optional	Gregor Haas	255-6937
October 2nd Hunter Shoot	Erwin Glutz	295-0560
October 8th, 9th Vancouver Schützenfest	Walter Schawalder	249-6327
December T.B.A. Christmas Party		

- NOTE: (1) Call listed coordinator one day ahead to avert disappointments as schedule is subject to change
- (2) Semi shooters must always call ahead to ensure rifles are available
- (3) All documentation required by law must be available for inspection should the need arise
- (4) An optional Saturday has been scheduled in October should we find we must cancel a scheduled weekend due to poor weather

50/25 Meter Pistol and Smallbore at Steve Johnson

Pistol Coordinators: Walter Schawalder - 249-6327
Hermann König - 288-5688

April 20th	August 10th, 24th
May 4th, 18th	September 7th, 21st
June 1st, 15th, 29th	October 5th
July 13th, 27th	

NOTE: Call listed coordinator one day ahead to avert disappointments as schedules are subject to change.

Always wear the APRA and SRCT membership cards while on the range

ALL SHOOTERS MUST SIGN THE RANGE LOG BOOK

British Columbia

Interior Swiss Club

Winter is here-the snow is falling and the temperature, too!

Our Fall Hike (Haney Heritage Park) was poorly attended this year. But we have faith in our members and we plan to keep the tradition alive. We will try again next year.

Our Annual Samichlaus Party was a great success! The hall was packed, with children and adults alike, waiting to see Samichlaus and Schmutzli. A hush fell over the crowd when they entered the hall but cheers soon broke out as the children (and some brave adults) recited their "Versli" and received their treats! The afternoon flew by with a flurry of visiting and eating; the traditional "Grittibänz" and Christmas cookies were delicious! Thanks to all who helped make this fun event possible.

We will enjoy our first ever Fondue Evening in Vernon (Feb 12th). It is sure to be success; for who can resist cheese, bread, wine and good company on a cold winter's night?

Bowling is underway with the same gusto of last year! Contact people are: Andy Zuest (832-2833) in Salmon Arm, Rita Schilter (547-6052) in Vernon, Helena Hasler (372-2496) in Kamloops and Barbara Gebert (764-7888) in Kelowna. Our tournament will be held on March 20th in Kamloops.

The Vernon Kaffeeeklatsch is still going strong. We have several faithful members who enjoy the last Tuesday of each month together (2 pm) at el Portillos Coffee House.

Our AGM will be held in Armstrong on March 6th at the Odd Fellows Hall at 3004 Wood Ave (2-4 pm). We hope to see many members there!

The Annual Spring Dance and Concert will be held on April 9th (6 pm) at O'Keefe Restaurant in Vernon. This event is always sold out and I look forward to bringing you a report next issue.

We are looking ahead to our Club's 50th Anniversary and have big plans. Golf shirts with our special 50th Anniversary logo have been produced and are available. We are planning to Chronicle the Clubs past and are interested in anyone who may have information on the Interior Swiss Society's early years. Contact Karen Cleland at 250-545-1324 or karenclend@shaw.ca.

For membership information, please contact Elisabeth Reymond at 250-549-1148 or ereymond@rhb-grischun.ca.

Please visit our Website at
www.interiorswissociety.bc.ca
for up-to-date information and
great pictures of our past events!

Further club information and event tickets can be obtained from our President Lilly Senn at 250-549-3711 or senn@telus.net

Spring will be here before we know it but in the meantime I hope you are enjoying the quiet of another Canadian winter.

Karen Cleland

Swiss Society Vancouver

Swiss Crossbow Association Vancouver 1964 - 2004

Snowflakes started to fall this morning and soon the landscape was transformed into a beautiful winter scenery. A sure sign too that our shooting season is over for this year! The scorekeeper and his helpers got busy and checked and added the scores to figure out who will be our champion. We have competed for many trophies and always try to improve our own score from the previous year but there is also the challenge to beat the other shooters and soar above everyone!

At our Awards Presentation at the beautiful chalet of the Mountain Range Association, we were celebrating not only our top shooter but also the achievements of each individual shooter. And we are proud to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Crossbow Association! Everyone has their own fond memories, however, what remains constant over all these years is the friendship and camaraderie among the shooters and their families. We have cheered each other, laughed with and at each other, we have celebrated many happy events and mourned together the passing of dear friends. Our club is strong and we look forward to many more years of friendly competition in a relaxed atmosphere.

I was on holidays in Switzerland when the sad news reached me that our member and friend, Noldi Krieg (80), had suddenly died. It was the Schützenfest weekend and on Saturday he had helped the rifle shooters who came to shoot with the Crossbow. On Sunday, his son wanted to pick him up for a visit to his brother and a Thanksgiving meal, and found him asleep forever. Noldi has been a member of our club for over 30 years. We could always count on him to lend a hand if something needed to be built, whether big or small. He was a very private man and it was difficult to really get to know him. Noldi was a quiet person yet sometimes he would surprise us with some jokes! He enjoyed shooting, he was a natural talent, particularly this year again since he had his eyes operated on and could see the target clearly. Whenever we had a dinner planned after shooting, Noldi would invariably show up with a bucket of Ice Cream for dessert!

Noldi was a dear friend to all of us, we will remember him always and miss his quiet presence up at the range.

Our Absenden/Awards Presentation was a special affair this year and we were pleased to welcome our new Deputy Consul General Max Künzle and his wife Simone, and Rene Zollinger, the President of the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association as our guests of honour. The tables were beautifully prepared and decorated by some of our members and a table was set up with memorabilia from the last 40 years. We enjoyed a marvellous dinner prepared by Andreas Fopp and his crew. Markus Spycher, assisted by his wife Christiane, presented the prizes and trophies. Soon thereafter the Black Forest Boys started to play and everyone was eager to swing their legs to the great tunes. It was a great way to finish our 40th!

Annual Championship Results (S = supported)

1. Joe Morach (S)	931 Points
2. Benni Bürgler (S)	913
3. Elisabeth Reymond	897
4. Benni Merkli (S)	892
5. Johnni Menzi (S)	863
6. Markus Spycher	862
7. Heinz Kuster	852

I would like to thank everyone for the great team effort throughout the season. Awesome!

Elisabeth Reymond

Swiss Outdoors Club

It pays to belong to the Swiss Outdoors Club!

The Swiss Outdoors Club is an integral section of the Swiss Society of Vancouver, B.C.

It has 100 loyal members, operates year round a 25-person capacity ski cabin in Glacier Springs, WA and organizes club weekends, hikes, bike trips and ski tours.

All Swiss and their friends in the region are welcome to participate in any of our activities. We believe in friendship, fitness and fun. So join now and sign up with our membership chair, Barbara Wirsching 604-272-3571.

Membership Fees:

Single	\$ 10.00/year
Family	\$ 15.00/year

Cabin Rental Rates

Members of Club	\$ 11.00/night
Members of Swiss Society	\$ 17.00/night
Nonmembers	\$ 22.00/night
Children (6 - 16 years)	50% discount
Children under 6 years	no charge

Group Rates (For weekends)

Winter season	\$ 450.00
Summer season	\$ 350.00

Important Contacts:

Membership chair:

Barbara Wirsching – 604-272-3571

Cabin Managers:

Jeanette Kunzli – 604-576-9617
Vreni Huser – 604-731-4300

Interested in pictures from past activities and the latest information?

Check the SSV website at www.swiss-society.ca

Hike via Herman Pass to Iceberg Lakes, Oct. 3rd, 2004

Report by Valentina Karoway

Promptly at 10 a.m., on Sunday October 3, twenty-two of us, ranging from youth to golden age, started our hike from the Herman Museum, near Mt. Baker Lodge. The morning turned out to be perfect - beautiful sunshine with a gentle soft breeze and not a cloud in sight - the promise of a magnificent day. We broke up into two smaller groups to follow the National Parks Board's regulations "not to exceed twelve people per group" and make it easier for our group leaders, Irene Fritschi and Joe Mueller. With great excitement we all proceeded on our 5 hour journey, first along Baigley Lake, then up a serpentine trail to Herman Pass (1800 m), down to Iceberg Lakes, onward around Table Mountain to Ptarmigan Ridge Trail, and back via Artists Point to our parking lot.

Joe, the leader of the second group, periodically pointed out the various mountain peaks that surrounded us and explained which lakes those mountain trails would bring the hikers too and how some of those trails could be physically challenging. Mt. Baker is a magnificent formation of numerous peaks surrounded by beautiful lakes, and one could not help but see and admire her highest peak, standing gracefully, covered in sparkling-white radiance. As we were continuing our journey, we constantly came across hills that were full of rich autumn-colored vegetation, which looked like flowers from the distance.

At some point on our hike, somebody spotted three white dots on a "far-away" mountain slope. With the help of binoculars we discovered they were mountain goats. Later on we saw the trio at closer range. On the edge of a ridge they stood majestic, graceful and proud, observing their kingdom.

Finally we reached our destination – Iceberg Lake. What a breath taking picture - perfect scenery - "Mother Nature in its beauty!" We stopped to have a rest, eat our lunch, and of course, to take some pictures.

Only too soon it was time to move on for our return trip. The trail took us around the west side of Table Mountain, over rock slides, up to Ptarmigan Ridge. Naturally, Mother Nature never repeats herself and again offered us new, spectacular vistas all the way over to Skyline Divide, the glaciers of Mt Baker, and then south to Ross Lake in Washington State.

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After completion of our hike, everybody went back to the Outdoors Club's cabin in Glacier Springs to refresh on coffee and Vreni's delicious banana- raisin loaf. We socialized and enjoyed friendly conversation while two members of the Club hurried to cut grass on the cabin's lawn (they obviously weren't tired by the hike !). The day came to an end and it was time to say our goodbyes. We had a great day and I am sure, each and everyone who came on this hiking trip, had pleasant memories to take home.



Upcoming Events:

February 19/20, 05 – Ski weekend at Cabin

Cabin reserved for Club and Swiss Society members.

Potluck dinner.

Reserve with Jeanette Kuenzli (Tel # 604- 576-9617) or Vreni Huser (Tel # 604- 731-4300)

March 7- 11, 2005 – Ski week in Sun Peaks Resort

Ski week at Sunpeaks Resort

For the third time in three years, we'll head for the famous Sunpeaks Resort for a week of downhill skiing, crosscountry skiing and snowshoeing.

Cahilty Lodge offers us an exclusive Ski Package:

\$ 96 per Senior (65 +) per night; includes Lift and Accommodation in hotel room, based on double occupancy.

\$ 110 per Adult per night; includes Lift and Accommodation in hotel room, based on double occupancy.

On Monday evening, March 7th, Nancy Green will host a Reception for the participating Outdoors Club members. Please reserve directly with Cahilty Lodge under "Swiss Outdoors Club ";

e - mail: sales@cahiltylodge.com

tel # : 1-800-244-8424 Reservations

tel # : 1- 250-578- 7454

SSV Seniors

We are here to help!

The Seniors Committee has created a new network for needy, lonely or sick seniors - including members and non-members of the SSV - who would like to get a friendly telephone call and/or a visit. At the moment we are able to visit people in the areas of Greater Vancouver and the Fraser Valley.

Please let us know when somebody passed away, so we can inform the members of the SSV. We would also like to know about special birthdays (80 years or older) since the SSV has not registered these dates.

The coordinator of this network for White Rock and South Surrey is: Irma Karsenbarg, 604-531-1215

For other areas: Trudi Schmidt, 604-988-9543 or Kurt Fischbacher, 604- 985-0192

Turning 65?

Please let the SSV know when you reach that magical birthday - 65 years young!

Contact one of the above. We will then add your name to the Seniors list and you will be entitled to a reduced membership fee in the Swiss Society. What better way to start your senior lifestyle than by saving oodles of money.

Filmnachmittage

Where? At the Vancouver Alpenclub, 4875 Victoria Drive, Vancouver

When? Once a month, Sunday afternoon at 14:00

What? Films in Swiss dialect, Coffee and Cake, good times!

Who? Everyone welcome, members or non-members of the SSV!

How much? \$6.00 per person

Next dates: Feb. 27, Mar 20, Apr 24

Please check the Seniors section of the SSV website at www.swiss-society.ca or the Swiss Herald for details.

Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association, Vancouver

1964 - 2004

40 years of success

We had another successful shooting season. Some of the highlights include the Schützenfest with visitors from Switzerland, California, Edmonton and Calgary, as well as different parts of British Columbia. In total there were 76 shooters.

The Schützenkönig for 2004 was David Nichols with 373 points. David had tough competition from the following:

Rene Zollinger	371 pts.	Ed Knutson	351 pts.
Rene Bruegger	370	Herman Koenig	351
Robert Best	359	Fritz Gosteli	350
Jeannette Gasser	356	Gordon Verrall	348
Walter Schawalder	352	Ruedi Ernst	348

The cheese trap shoot was well attended with 15 shooters. The "Big Cheese" this year was Roy Spicer, Rene Zollinger was a close second. The cheese tasting event was greatly enjoyed by all and again, many thanks to our sponsors: National Cheese Company of Burnaby, B.C. and the Swiss Cheese Association. Without their support this event would not have been possible.



From left to right: Simone Kuenzle, Paul Baumann, Deputy Consul General Max Kuenzle, Joe Morach

The Saushoot took place at the end of October and 30 shooters tried their luck in winning the ham. Rene Bruegger with 50 points out of a possible 50 was the big winner followed by:

Louis Schuermann . . . 49 pts.	Markus Spycher . . 46 pts.
Rene Zollinger 49	Ruedi Ernst 45
Dave Nichols 46	Gerhard Hirsig . . . 45
Gordon Verrall 46	Christian Morach 44
Roy Schuermann 46	Thaddeus Seidler 44

32 Members from the Swiss Outdoors Club joined us for our traditional dinner. Unfortunately, there were no Blutwürste available this year but it was still a delicious feast with the Leberwürste. A big thank you to all those involved.

Our 10 meter indoor shooting is currently running on Wednesdays and Sundays and the Schützenfest is scheduled for February 26 and 27, 2005. If you would like to attend, please check our website for contact information.

The Jass Tournament was held on November 21. Unfortunately, only 20 players participated but a good time was had by everyone. The winner of the first round was Joe Morach and Caroline Merkli won the second round. Overall winner was Caroline Merkli. Congratulations to both and thanks to everybody for participating. Also a big thank you goes to Tracy and Roy Schuermann for organizing this event.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a successful shooting season in 2005 and we hope to see many of you at the Eidgenössische Schützenfest in Frauenfeld.

If you are looking for more information check out our website at www.scmra.ca

Paul and Marlies Baumann

Dorfmusik Vancouver

The Vancouver Dorfmusik has started practicing again for the coming season. We meet every second Friday (weekly towards spring) in the basement of the Holy Family German Parish at 32nd Avenue and Beatrice in Vancouver. New players are always welcome!

We are sorry to hear that our president, Christina Lipps, has developed serious heart problems and is scheduled for surgery this fall. We wish her all the best and a speedy recovery.

Former long-time president, Martin Russenberger, has agreed to act as interim president in Christina's absence. He can be reached by phone at 604-859-4936 or by e-mail at mr1700@telus.net

Our 20th Anniversary Concert will be held on Friday, April 15, 2005 in the German House on Victoria Drive. We are planning to launch our new CD at that time. The concert will include a cross-section of old and new favourites that we have played over the last 20 years. We also have some additional entertainment in the works. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Martin Russenberger

Victoria Swiss Society

Island highs and lows (geographically speaking)

Our fall events ranged from sea level to the lofty peaks (via chair lift!) of Mt Washington.

The weekend at the Qualicum Bay Resort was an outstanding success, enjoyed in great weather. A team of expert clam diggers and culinary artistes teamed up to regale our members with fresh clam chowder. As well, new members Daniel and Verena Krebs from Nanaimo contributed homemade sausages to the event. The verdict was 'delicious'. Activities encompassed swimming and boating at nearby Spider Lake, walks and jass.

Close encounters with forest neighbours.

The September weekend in the mountains, somewhat later than in previous years, was nevertheless smiled on by Mother Nature. Participants enjoyed walks, mushroom picking and chair rides up the mountain. For those not familiar with this region, the views embrace Georgia Strait across to the mountains at Whistler.

Nancy Fischer, out on one of the village trails, suddenly met a huge black bear, but the Mt Washington bears are known to be extremely polite with Swiss club members; Nancy didn't turn to look but the bear probably just grunted "gruezi" and affably disappeared into the Salal. Gunter Grambart, particularly appreciated by those members who normally have to put food on the table day in day out, worked overtime in the kitchen to pamper and delight all palates. A fondue supper was enjoyed by all. An all too short a weekend, but good memories for all who went.

For the tenth year, Rennie Warburton led a fall walk, this time through one of Victoria's most beautiful urban areas. It did rain that day, but not sufficiently to daunt the 12 or so hikers who later retired to a local tea room to warm up.

Safaris and snakes and ladders.

An afternoon tea enjoyed in somewhat more relaxing circumstances was enjoyed by some of our senior members at Dunsmuir Lodge. Greth Luescher was one of those present and she had the distinction of turning 90 this year. A thank you to Rennie Warburton for organizing this. The seniors' outing is an annual event, and eligible members are encouraged to participate.

At our September meeting, a games night organized by Hausi seemed to please all. The last time the writer played snakes and ladders was probably some 60 years ago! Other games were quite contemporary.

At the October meeting we were entertained with a video 'on safari' in Africa. We were already acquainted with this corner of the world from a previous fascinating account, (also from Marianne Schaubek and John Johnston), of the founding and maintenance of a village school.

Of carols, culinary delights and conviviality... Christmas 2004.

One could say that they came from far and wide, as the Victoria Swiss society hosted the largest number yet for a Christmas party - some 130 guests. And some members (and former members) indeed came from as far away as Nanaimo and Qualicum Beach.

Thanks to the inventiveness of current president Hausi Muller, we were treated to a fun evening of great variety. Much music - guitar, piano, singing, accordion - blended well with a now traditional Christmas story, seasonal quizzes and socializing.

A large bow to our members...

The evening was also an example of the cooperativeness and talents of our members. The sumptuous dinner and dessert tables, the festive decoration (and later dismantling) of the hall, the table ornamentation, the content and presentation of the raffle gifts, all testify to the skills and dedication of our members.

It is probably safe to say that as we departed in a gentle Westcoast rain, we left with inner smiles, imbued with seasonal goodwill.

Ken Sohm

Of interest to out of town Swiss wishing to attend some of our events:

A new initiative adopted by the executive would offer overnight accommodation, when available, with Swiss families here in Victoria. The offer is to people with Swiss roots from Vancouver Island communities planning to attend one of our events. For information, contact our current secretary,

Marietta Mitchell, (250) 477-4186.

Contact numbers for the Victoria Swiss Society:

Hausi Muller, president, (250) 477-5786
Marietta Mitchell, secretary, (250) 477-4186

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News from the . . .



OUR MAIN FUNDRAISER EVENT

The Annual Bazaar took place on November 13, 2004. Many thanks to all our sponsors, the visitors, the owner and staff at the St. Moritz Restaurant where the event was held, and the help of everybody involved.

As well we celebrated our traditional Christmas dinner on December 14, 2003 at the Restaurant "St. Moritz" in Dorval, it was a festive event and enjoyed by over 60 guests and members of the Club.

Our Club meets every second Tuesday of the month, at the St. Moritz Restaurant for our regular meetings. New members are always welcome, please join us.

Heidi Haeni, President
Hildegard Beck, Vice-President

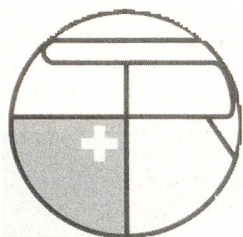


L'Église Unie de Bedford Acton / Vale

Cette paroisse de l'Église Unie du Canada est composée majoritairement d'immigrants Suisses établis dans les Cantons de l'Est depuis 1977 et même avant... La plupart d'entre eux sont agriculteurs.

Pour avoir plus de détails sur notre paroisse contactez Pierre-Paul Lafond, pasteur au 450-776-3294 ou par courriel : lafond@egliseunie.org ou visitez le site web de nos paroisses francophones <http://www.egliseunie.org>

Pierre-Paul Lafond
Pasteur



Société Suisse Romande

La Société Suisse Romande existe depuis 1954. Elle vient donc de fêter ses 50 ans. En juin, nous avons eu une belle soirée avec un repas champêtre pour souligner cet événement. Près de 200 personnes de tout âge se sont bien amusées. Musique, danse et chansons, celles-ci par la Chorale des Oiseaux Migrateurs qui s'est recrée tout spécialement pour cette occasion. Des certificats laminés ont été remis aux personnes qui avaient été nommées membres d'honneur il y a plusieurs années: Gilbert Devantéry, Jacqueline Mayor-Mousseau, Robert Perriard. Les certificats de Jacques Gutknecht, Théodore Portier, Charles Strahm leur ont été apportés, ceux-ci ne pouvant être des nôtres. Nous en avons aussi remis un à M. Bernard Pillonel, Consul général, président d'honneur de la SSR ainsi que du 50e, et d'office membre d'honneur. Denise Perriard, membre du comité depuis maintenant 21 ans et trésorière depuis 20 ans, nommée membre d'honneur en 2004, a elle aussi reçu un certificat. Notons parmi nous la présence de plusieurs anciens présidents de la SSR: Rose-Mary Thonney, aussi présidente de la Fédération des Sociétés Suisse de l'Est du Canada, Jean-Jacques Humert-Droz, président de la SSR durant un temps record de 12 ans, Marie-Claire Vogt, Jacqueline Mousseau et Gilbert Devantéry. Plusieurs prix de présence ont été tirés, dont deux billets d'avion de Swiss Airlines. Chaque convive a reçu un petit verre à vin au logo de la SSR. Nous avons aussi remis un petit livret-souvenir à chaque couple ou famille.

Encore cette année notre raclette de septembre a attiré près de 150 personnes.

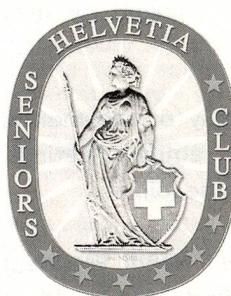
Je remercie les quelques courageux volontaires qui ont travaillé à la Fête nationale suisse, à Sutton, sous une pluie torrentielle et incessante. Nous étions continuellement à l'extérieur, la SSR s'occupant de l'entrée et du stationnement.

Lors de notre soirée choucroute de novembre, où nous étions 120, et en cette année faste du cinquantième, exceptionnellement un deuxième membre d'honneur a été nommé et a reçu un certificat, le très coloré Jean-Paul Cuénoud.

Vous pouvez voir des photos de tous ces événements sur notre site web: societesuisseromande.org

Je finis par les dernières phrases d'un texte que j'avais écrit dans le livret-souvenir. "Je sais, je sens que la SSR continuera contre vents et marées, avec des hauts et des bas. Il faut simplement ne pas oublier de garder la flamme, de transmettre notre ardeur à la prochaine génération, aux nouveaux arrivants de tout âge. J'en profite pour remercier les membres du comité organisateur (du 50e), les membres du comité 2004 et quelques collaborateurs anonymes, de leur dévouement."

Jeannette Perriard
Présidente



Helvetia Seniors Club

Come and join our 44 member group in celebrating our second anniversary. Every third Thursday of the month, with the exception of July and August, we meet from 12 to 3 PM for a luncheon. All Swiss seniors and their partners of any origin are welcome.

For more information call: Bruno 514-481-2928 or Rosline 514-931-6566

Venez vous joindre à nous pour célébrer notre 2ème anniversaire. Tous les retraités suisses et leurs conjoints d'autres origines sont les bienvenus. Nous nous rencontrons de 12H00 à 15H00 pour déjeuner le 3ème jeudi de chaque mois (excepté les mois de juillet et d'août).

Pour toutes informations, appeler Bruno 514-481-2928 ou Rosline 514-931-6566.

Toronto

Consulate General of Switzerland

154 University Avenue, Suite 601
Toronto, Ont., M5H 3Y9

Tel.: (416) 593-5371

Fax: (416) 593-5083

e-mail: vertretung@tor.rep.admin.ch

Opening hours for the public:
from Monday to Friday – from 09:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Swiss Women's Club

The past year was a very eventful one as we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of our club. We organised special events such as our two day bus trip to Grand Bend and our Anniversary Lunch in October at the Old Mill in Toronto, the place where our club was founded in 1944. Now we are at the start of a new year and we hope that our club will continue to thrive. We will endeavor to offer again an interesting and diversified program for 2005 and hope that lots of new friendships among our members will develop and old ones will continue to grow.

With my very best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Elisabeth Walder

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our "Kaffeeklatsch" is held at the WESTIN PRINCE HOTEL, Pateo Restaurant, 900 Yorkmills Road (between Leslie & Don Mills), Toronto on the last Wednesday of the month from 2 P.M. The dates for the next few months are: FEBRUARY 23, 2005 and MARCH 30, 2005..

New members are always welcome. For further information contact Elisabeth Walder - Tel. 416 223-7257 or Elisabeth Wright - Tel. 416 694-6802

New members are always welcome.

New broadcast time, Swiss program Sunday at 06:30 am on FM 100.7...

Presently this program is running at 06:00 am, once a week, on Saturday morning. I have just been informed by the program director of CHIN radio that our broadcast time has been changed again.

The new broadcast time for the Swiss program is now Sunday morning at 06:30 am. Since the broadcast time is unfortunately not ideal I would also be very interested if anybody is still able and interested in listening to the program at the new broadcast time. Please send your opinion, comments, questions, requests etc. to my e-mail address: mrickli@rogers.com

Thank your very much for your cooperation.

Markus Rickli



Annual General Meeting

NOTICE OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE SWISS CLUB TORONTO.

The meeting will be held on February 24, 2005 at the Holiday Inn on King, 370 King Street West, Toronto

Cocktails (cash bar) and dinner
(courtesy of the Swiss Club) at 6:30 PM.

Meeting will start at 8:00 PM with the following Agenda:

1. Introduction of the Board Members
2. Minutes of the 2004 General Meeting
3. Presidents report
4. Consolidated financial statements of the Club for the year 2004
5. Finance Commission report
6. Membership report
7. Election of:
 - 1 Finance Commissioner for the term of 3 years
8. Council of the Swiss Abroad report
9. Other business as may properly come before the meeting
10. Swiss Citizen of the year award
11. Adjournment

We hope you will make a special effort to take part in the affairs of your Club by attending the meeting.

Erika Tièche
President

Contacts of interest for the Toronto area:

Swiss Club Toronto: Erika Tièche, President,
416-424-4661, erika@tieche.com
Denise Frassini, Membership,
905-821-2392, frassini@rogers.com

Swiss Rifle Club: Heinz Vollenweider,
tel. 905-707-0243, fax. 905-731-0617

Canadian-Swiss Cultural Assoc. Inc.:
Sonja Evans-Good, 416-922-7532

Council of Swiss Abroad: Vreni Tobler-Ducommun,
416-391-5597,
vduc@rogers.com



Theatre Group

Theaterauffuehrung 2005

"De Güggel-Chrieg"

Schwank in 3 Akten von Ulla Kling
Dialektbearbeitung von Irene Mutter

The play is in Swiss German and performed by the Theatre Group Toronto on the following dates and locations:

Moorefield – 2. April 2005 play starts at 8pm
contact Fritz Egger (519) 887-6511

Toronto 23. April 2005 play starts at 2pm and at 8pm
Estonian House, contact Maggie Hess
958 Broadview Ave. (905) 508-8014
Fax: (905) 508-4859
email: walter.brunner@mapinfo.com

The Theatre group is looking forward to see you at one of the performances. We hope to make it an exiting evening for everyone. In Toronto we will have Drinks and Nussgipfel available, in the evening you can also get Dinner starting at 6:30.

For more details please contact your local Swiss Club Representative or call Maggie Hess or Walter Brunner at (905) 508 8014.

Dear Sponsors and Friends of the Swiss Club Toronto,

We are already in the 2nd month of the New Year, but, I still would like to wish all of you on behalf of the entire Board of Directors a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2005. Thank you for all your support to the Club. We could not do without you.

We always welcome fresh ideas and opinions, and of course new members.

Erika Tièche
President



FLY DIRECT TO ZURICH BELAIR – SUMMER 2005

Charter: starts June 26
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For prices please call:

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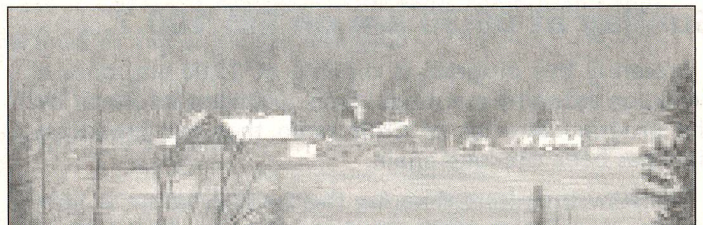
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For more information : www.Royallepageoutaouais.ca MLS # 039850

André Cright 819-360-1018 cell. – 819-281-1998 res.



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