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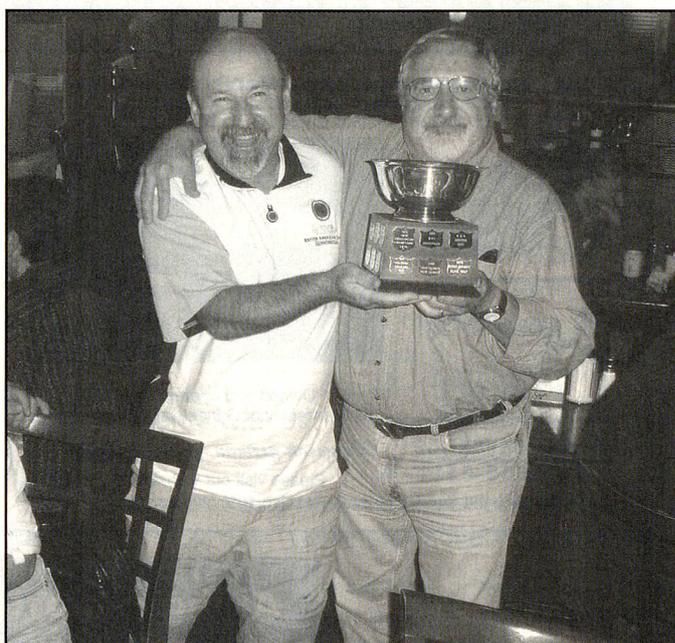
Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

Car Rally

Nineteen participants enjoyed this year's car rally that was held on Sunday, October 2nd. Congratulations to the winners of the Gastner Cup, Werner Siegrist (driver) and Kurt Portmann (navigator). Thank you to the organizers of the event, Mark A. Schneider and Kate Dickins.

Jost am Rhyn

President



The Winners of the 2005 Car Rally

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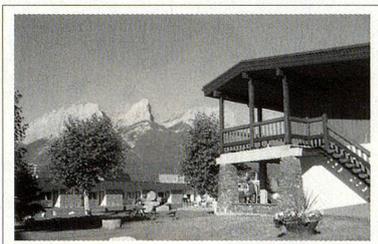
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Interior Swiss Club

We are happy to report about the good time we all had at our 50th Anniversary Celebration! The traditional roast beef dinner was delicious, as expected, and the dessert of chocolate mousse was richly European. Our most honored guest, Deputy Consul of Switzerland, Max Kuenzle and his wife Simone presented our group with a fine speech that we really enjoyed. President Lilly Senn, that with the help of many volunteers, organized the event, paid honor and tribute to some of our very devoted founding members, past Presidents, and hard working Board Members. A big thank you to Elisabeth Reymond for her most gracious contribution as Master of Ceremonies. We were honored to have the visiting Vancouver Dorfmusik at our event. They belted out many classic European tunes for all age groups. There were Anniversary cakes, specially made confections donated for the event by Erwin's Fine Baking, fantastic door prizes and as if that was not enough excitement, we then danced for the remaining evening to the musical styling of The Vernon Blaskapelle and Music by John Tiefenauer.

This years' Samichlaus Party was full of holiday cheer! The kids were excited to see Samichlaus and Schmutzli and even more excited to see what was in the big red bag! The children were all lucky enough to make the "nice" list this year and things were pretty quiet while they enjoyed their treat bags! Thanks to Fred Affolter for sharing some wonderful Christmas Carols with us accompanied by his long time friend on the piano. Also a big thank you to all who brought Christmas Treats-a delicious party as usual. Those who stayed for the post party Fondue Plausch had a great time as well. It was nice to enjoy a quiet fondue with friends, a great way to get into the Christmas Spirit.

On December 23rd, the Swiss Junior Hockey Team came to Vernon for an exhibition game against Russia. There was a large Swiss delegation on hand to support them. Flags waved, bells rang out and "Hop Schweiz" could be heard loud and clear! Our very own Fred Affolter sang the

Swiss National Anthem in front of a sold out crowd of 3500 people! Not only was it a great event, but a great effort was put forth by the Swiss Team as well!

Our AGM will be held on Sunday April 9th, 2006 at the Odd Fellows Hall in Armstrong from 1-3pm. We hope to see many members turn out to make their votes count.

The Annual Spring Dance is set to take place on Saturday, April 22nd, 2006 at the Schubert Center in Vernon. It will include a sit down dinner and entertainment by the Vernon Blaskapelle. The Spring Dance is always a favorite with our members and this year will be no exception!

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

Please visit our Website at www.interiorswissclub.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

On behalf of the Interior Swiss Club, I wish you all a sunny spring! By the time this arrives on your doorstep you may be enjoying the first tulips of the year! Lets hope so!

Karen Cleland

Highlights of the Interior Swiss Club 1955-2005

The Interior Swiss Club was established on October 24th, 1955 with the signing of the Constitution by the founding members: Albert Moser, Mrs. Rose Torny, Godfrey Camenzind, Hans Jacob Blattner and Rudolf Egli. The objects of the club at that time were to improve the moral, social and physical condition of the Swiss people in Canada and to promote the principals of true friendship and mutual assistance among the members of the club.

In the beginning there were about 20 members who would meet for the 1st of August at Pillar Lake. Pillar Lake Resort was owned by Albert Moser. August 1st would find the members playing jass, swimming, singing traditional songs and even playing tug 'o' war! As time went on, the club grew and Albert Moser sold Pillar Lake Resort. After careful consideration, it was decided that a clubhouse was in order. Many weekends were spent at Monte Lake on the Buff family's land, building a cabin. The August 1st celebrations were moved there and the club started the tradition of an August 1st Turkey Shoot. Around this time, the club also added Spring and Fall dances to their list of activities. The first dances were held at the Falkland Community Hall, which was a central location for the clubs members. The pre dance dinner was always prepared by dedicated volunteers from the club. The Falkland Hall was also the location of the Annual General Meeting and Jass Tournament for several years. The land that the Swiss Club Cabin was on was eventually sold and the 1st of August Celebration was held in different locations until 1991 when it settled in Cache Creek at the farm of Gus and Anne Fischer.

The club has grown steadily and more events have been added. There are currently 236 members spread out all over the interior of BC. There are two August first celebrations held each year, one is still at the Fischer's Farm in Cache Creek, usually on the long weekend, and the other in Vernon, on August 1st. The fall dance has been dropped but the Spring Dance is still a sold out favorite. For the last 3 years it has been held at and catered by the O'Keefe Ranch Restaurant where members have enjoyed dancing to live music by the Vernon Blaskapelle, under the direction of John Doerwaldt. Every December there is a free Samichlaus Party for members of all ages; it is a great time to catch up with friends, enjoy some traditional Swiss Christmas treats and watch the next generation of the club rejoice in the visit from Samichlaus and Schmutzli. Bowling has also been added to the clubs list of activities. Teams from Kamloops, Salmon Arm, Kelowna and Vernon bowl all winter and then enjoy a season ending tournament and lunch in Kamloops in the spring. Also, since 2001 the club has enjoyed staying in touch through a Newsletter and a Webpage.

The club has had the good fortune of having some events come to them. In 2002 and 2004 the Calgary Theatergruppe Heimatstil traveled to the Okanagan to entertain members with fantastic Swiss dialect plays. And in 2003 The Vancouver Dorfmusik came to play a special concert at the Spring Dance.

Dedicated volunteers and loyal members have managed, for 50 years, to adhere to their original goal of improving the moral, social and physical condition of the Swiss people in Canada and promoting the principals of true friendship and mutual assistance among the members of the club. And with so many young members among us we are sure to continue for another 50 more years.

25 years 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.

For more information about any of the planned events or about joining the choir, e-mail the secretary: secretary@esmc.ab.ca.

Past Events Swiss Trip June 2005 (By Dave Leigh)

It is with fondness and a touch of sadness that I write this reflection of our recent trip to Switzerland. Fondness, because of the wonderful experiences we all had this time round and sadness, because of the terrible beating that the elements have inflicted on some of the areas that we visited. We do grieve your material losses but know that the Swiss spirit will enable you to rebuild even better than before.

The Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir has been to Switzerland several times and each time the tour is better than the last. Maybe we are just becoming better planners, but I think that our hosts have been the catalysts that makes each successive trip so good. We started out on June 16th and flew to Zurich. From the first Aperio in Wallisellen to the final barbeque in Engelburg it was a non-stop flurry of activity. There were formal concerts in Wallisellen, Danis, Wolhusen, Aigle, Lyon (France), Biel, Basel, Jona and Engelburg. We sang the Schubert Mass for male voice in Engelburg and a number of informal songs in Kloten Flughafen, Wallisellen, Brigels, Wolhusen, Malters, Interlaken, Zweisimmen, Bex, Aigle, Chexbres, Beaune (France), Dijon (France), Biel, Basel, Berneck, Engelburg, Spital-Aarau, Lernstudio ZH and Altersheim in Kilchberg and Diepoldsau.

Of course the list of places speaks only to the intensity of the schedule and not to the enjoyment of the performances and especially of the fun of singing after the formal concerts or of reconnecting with the friends we had made during previous trips. It doesn't speak of the tremendous emotional high of singing with Armin Caduff and the terrific singers from Danis and the "La Compagnia Rossini" ensemble. We have learned so much and have so much to give thanks for.

The hospitality we have been shown is something that the casual visitor to a country will never experience. The hosts that accommodated us in Danis, Aigle, Biel, Jona and Engleburg will always be close to our hearts. The meals were wonderful and we can't even complain about the

extra three kilos we each gained on the trip. They are coming off gradually and will eventually be gone. Thanks for the memories. They will remain, and what memories: singing with the Rieden Men's Choir, a stellar concert in Danis, followed by a great barbeque, singing into the night with Mannerchor Wolhusen, being sent to the salt mine in Bex, singing for our old friend Consul General Peter Felix, his wife and a bunch of French based Swiss ex-pats in Lyon, a quiet and relaxing evening with hosts after the concert in Biel, a wonderful lunch at the Schatzmann's ranch complete with a small presentation by the Berner Dragoons, a good concert in Basel and a fantastic reception afterwards, singing for and with Teamchor Jona (a wonderful group of young people) and a delicious barbeque in Engelburg. This description really only scratches the surface. There was much more. Most of us were talking in anticipation of our next visit. Not all of us are Swiss or have Swiss heritage but we all enjoy Swiss spirit.

Mountain Cultures at Risk Conference

Thank you all for joining us for that super weekend on August 20/21, 2005 at the Banff Centre. We very much enjoyed our accommodations at The Banff Centre. Our concert was appreciated by many guests and conference attendees. Thank you very much to Leslie Taylor (from the Banff Center) for inviting us to perform at the Saturday evening concert "The Range of the Mountains".

Happy 25th Anniversary

Our Fall Season came with lots of activities. It started Sept 6th at 7:00pm at our regular rehearsal place, followed by the Casino for SEMA at Baccarat Casino on Sept. 8th and 9th. Thank you to Doug G. for doing a super job as our GM and for organizing and leading the volunteers. And thank you to all the volunteers for making it happen.

Our concert series continued in company of great artists at the Winspear for the Pilgrim's Hospice. Later, we performed at the Legion for the "Retired Postal Workers".

Then we sang a concert in honor of the 100th birthday of Alberta at the Dnipro Senior's residence. They really love us and appreciate our singing. It was perfect timing for us to practice what we've been rehearsing. Thanks Al for organizing this event, thanks Elizabeth for having performed as a great conductor and Emcee.

Winzerfest 2005

The 25th anniversary Winzerfest was a huge success and was attended by several former choir members. The concert was appreciated by a full-house audience. Our guest of honour was Consul General Robert Helfenstein and his wife Nicole. The food and buffet prepared by our own Peter Johner were appreciated by all, and the dancing and sing-along throughout the evening were enjoyed until the early hours of the morning.

Upcoming engagements

- March 11th to April 2nd 2006, Trip to Chile/ Argentina/ Uruguay
- May 13th, 2006, Jodler Club Heimattreu in Calgary is celebrating their 30th anniversary. ESMC is participating.
- June 10th and 11th, 2006, Landsgemeinde Stettler
- June 15th to 18th, 2006. " NASSA Swiss Singing Festival" in TOLEDO, Oak Shade Grove

Choir CD's

CD's are sold for \$20.- cassettes for \$10.- (plus shipping costs \$5.- if ordered through the internet). Every choir member may purchase for his own use or as a gift CD's for \$10.-.

Alfred V has done a marvelous job bringing our CD's along and selling them at many occasions and events. Unfortunately, he is no longer able to continue in this volunteer position. We appreciate all his dedication and his hard work over the past many years. We hope we can still count on him and his talents for other promotional assignments.

Welcome Markus K, as you have accepted the job of CD sales. Thank you so much in advance for your commitment.

Appreciation Corner

This time we would like to acknowledge our accompanist. Many new members of our choir don't know Marlis Gunderson, as she plays for us only at selected concerts – like the Winzerfest etc.

But her work is often behind the scene: She gets the pieces in question from our director to practice at home. She is not just a pianist – she is a good musician with the ability to follow and anticipate our director.

She has been a friend of the choir for many years.

Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association

As always on the long weekend in the month of May, the Eidg. Feldschiessen and the Feldschlössli-Stich took place with a very good turn out - 26 Members shot the Feldschiessen and 33 competed in the Feldschlössli-Stich with some excellent scores:

<u>Eidg. Feldschiessen</u>		<u>Feldschlössli- Stich</u>	
1. Hirsig, Gerhard	71	1. Bruegger, Rene	70 Max72
2. Morach, Christian	68	2. Nichols, Dave	67
3. Nichols, Dave	68	3. Schurmann, Louis	67
4. Zollinger, Rene	67	4. Schurmann, Roy	67
5. Schurmann, Roy	67	5. Ernst, Ruedi	66

Eidg. Feldschiessen & Feldschlössli-Stich

Aggregate

1. Bruegger, Rene	136Pts. Max. 144
2. Nichols, Dave	135
3. Schurmann, Roy	134
4. Hirsig, Gerhard	132
5. Zollinger, Rene	131

On June 5th, we also had a very good turn out for the Volksschiessen. The Volksschiessen is a fun team shoot for all with no stacked teams. We were able to get 18 teams together and everybody had a good time.

<u>Team</u>	<u>Points</u>
1. Roy Schurmann/Kaitlyn Schurmann	187
2. Gordon Verrall/Maggie Walker	175
3. Bob Edwards/ Claudia Garzitto	172
4. Rene Zollinger/ Constantine	168
5. Rene Zollinger/ Marlies Baumann	167

Unfortunately, due to bad weather, the Trapp shoot had to be cancelled that day.

CONGRATULATIONS to our shooters who went to the Eidgenössisches Schützenfest '05 in Frauenfeld, CH. WOW!!!! They came home with the Gold Laurel!!!! 21 clubs took part in the Auslandschweizertag-Vereinswettkampf and Vancouver, S.C.M.R.A. came in 1st with a 91.000 average. Johannesburg was 2nd with a 90.333 average and Cape Town was 3rd with a 90.083 average. Our friends from Los Angeles were 4th and Calgary came in 11th. To top it all off, Rene Bruegger was 1st out of 253 Shooters with a high score of 96 points. All the other Members had good scores as well:

10. Nichols, David	37. Hodel, Hans
11. Zollinger, Rene	39. Ernst, Ruedi
13. Ott, Paul	58. Schurmann, Roy
14. Verrall, Gordon	68. Hirsig, Gerhard
35. Zunzle, Max	74. Fairley, John

79. Zemp, Joe	109. Spycher, Mark
96. Morach, Joe	149. Fraser, Doug
105. Morach, Chris	187. Hodel, Fritz

All our juniors came also home with a Medal.

Congratulations to all of you !!!!!

The 1st of August celebration was successful and well organized but not as many people attended as in previous years. We enjoyed the tunes of the Dorfmusik and the choir. Our Deputy Consul General, Max Kuenzle, addressed the audience with information of the founding of Switzerland. It was nice to see second generation Swiss with their friends having a good time and dancing with the ever popular Band, "S-Bahn". Our sincere thanks go out to all the volunteers. Without them, the celebration would not have run so smoothly.

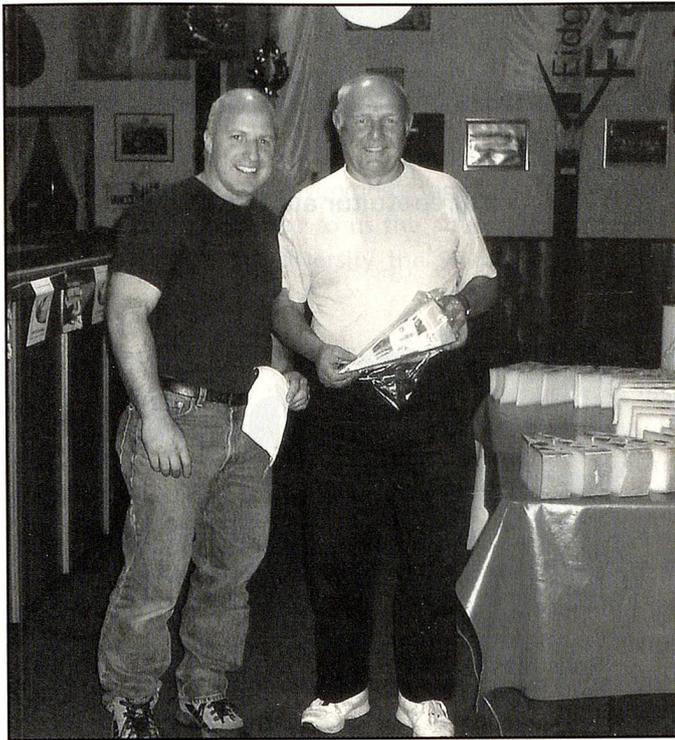
Everyone had great fun at the Bruno Huber Shoot and the Counsel Cup with the round robin competition.

The Cheese Trap Shoot was another great success with 22 shooters trying their luck for a piece of cheese. The "Big Cheese" this year was Markus Spycher but Ruedi Ernst was a close second. The Cheese tasting event was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all and again, many thanks to our sponsors: ARLA Food Co. Burnaby, B.C. and Swiss Cheese Association. Without their support, this event would not have been possible.

We had 73 shooters take part in our ever popular Schützenfest in October with participants from Switzerland, California, Edmonton and Calgary, as well as different parts of B.C. The Schützenkönig for 2005 was



S.C.M.R.A Vancouver, B.C., Cheese tasting event, Sept. 25, 2005



Hans Hodel, organizer of the Trap Shoot (left) and Markus Spycher, winner of the Cheese Trap Shoot, Sept. 25, 2005

Rene Bruegger with 374 points. Rene competed with following adversaries:

- 2. Jeanette Gasser 373 points
- 3. Robert Best 371
- 4. Rene Zollinger 371
- 5. Alfred Bieri 360

The grand finale for our outdoors shooting season was the Saushoot. All 31 participants went home with a piece of meat. The big ham went to Rene Bruegger with 48 points, followed by:

- David Nichols 47 points
- Roy Schurmann 47
- Thaddeus Seidler 46
- Markus Spycher 46
- Gordon Verrall 45
- Louis Schurmann 44
- Rene Zollinger 43

For our traditional Blut and Leberwurst dinner, members from the Outdoors Club and Crossbowers joined us. A big thank you to all those involved.

The Samichlaus Party was held on Dec.3rd and 21 children were privileged enough to meet the man of the season! Everybody had a good time. The Glühwein warmed our insides and the wonderful baking filled our tummies. A big thank you to Santa and all his helpers.

We like to keep old traditions going and hope that a lot of Swiss and their friends will come and visit us at our

beautiful Chalet and maybe even join us in a game of "Jass" or just socialize.

For more information on our yearly program please visit our website at www.scmra.ca

Paul and Marlies Baumann

Camping Trip in the Kootenays, August 8-12th, 2005

Report by Valentina Karoway

To make a more relaxing trip to our camping destination in the Kootenays, my friend Jolanda and I decided to stop at 'AROSA' Swiss B&B, on Highway 3 near Osoyoos. A beautiful Ranch Resort, immaculately clean, and a very hospitable host provided an excellent place to spend the night and received a delicious traditional Swiss breakfast in the morning. If you have time to take a stroll up in the nearby forest, you may be fortunate to see a rare Blue Bird-mirroring the color of the clear blue sky-, or you may hear at dawn the loud howl of a coyotes pack breaking the silence of the forest- a unique event that one can experience.

The next morning we proceeded on our journey to reach our destination, the West Kootenays. By early afternoon we arrived in Winlaw, nestled in the lower Slocan Valley, and checked in at the 'Arica Gardens' B&B, an excellent place: very clean; very comfortable and very reasonable priced. To our advantage, it was only ten minutes away from Henry's homestead where the other 11 members of the Swiss Outdoors Club were camping. Shirl, one more member, who lives in the valley, joined us every morning for the day adventures. After spending five glorious days in the Slocan Valley of the Kootenays, I can see and understand why for the past eleven years the Swiss Outdoors Club's nature lovers have kept coming back, year after year. This valley is, yet another British Columbian paradise for locals and visitors to enjoy and fall in love with. Through it meanders the slow moving in some areas and rapids in others, crystal clear Slocan River, curving, at some points very narrow, and then spreads its banks wide and free in this beautiful valley. The valley, where one can just forget all the bustle and hustle of the city life, deeply inhale fresh mountain air, relax and enjoy one's favorite activities with family or friends.

Thanks to the generous invitation by our long-time club members, Henry Hutter and Shirl Bayer, we came together with other members of the Swiss Outdoors Club this August for five days to visit them and do some hiking

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together. "My family for this week", Henry loved to say and indeed, as "a family" we were treated. Not only did he share openly his home, he and Shirl also made everybody comfortable and provided us with great entertainment. Our hosts carefully chose our day's activities to please and accommodate each and everyone's tastes. The three hikes that were chosen opened to us the abundance of hidden treasures and the eco-diversity the Slocan Valley has to offer.

We began our adventure with a trek to the Alps Alturas range. This excursion by the all-wheel drive vehicles first took us on a very narrow and bumpy mining (now upgraded to logging) road for about 26 kilometers high up near the tree line where the vistas opened up. On foot we then marched on, through an alpine forest with undergrowth that was still lush considering the dry period of early August season. The alpine flower meadows that we past through unveiled the diversity of rich summer colors enhanced by a crystal clear creek rushing through. Very few of our hikers could not help but stop to cool off by splashing themselves with cold mountain water on this hot summer day. As we came up on the ridge that was taking us to the base of the Alps Alturas area, the vistas opened up presenting us with more spectacular panoramic views. At an elevation of 2000 meters - who could imagine - we found 'Forget-me-nots' among the many wild flowers. Spectacular! And at last, after three hours slogging, we arrived at the base of the Alps Alturas for a well-deserved rest. The nearby lake -still partly covered with ice- enticed for a swim; but nobody took up the invitation. Instead, four hikers in our group broke up to conquer the Mt. Dolly Varden peak (they just can't leave peaks alone!); the rest of our group slowly began our journey back.

The next day our guide, Henry, chose Idaho Peak Lookout as the target. This was less strenuous, but the one of the most popular hikes for its beauty. Again we had to take an old mining road, this time into a somewhat dark and mysterious forest; the trees were bare except for their top half, due to the thickness of the foliage and the lack of sunshine. But when we reached the upper parking lot it all changed. The hour-long trail that we took to the viewpoint unfolded a breathtaking panorama. The first thing one could come up with was a 'WOW'. Array of rich colors swept the alpine meadows with a plethora of blue lupines, white and yellow daisies, scarlet red paintbrush, silvery-white pussytoes, fireweed and many, many other wild flowers. The air was sweet with the scent of fresh summer flowers, clear mountain air, and the view lingered on in our treasure memory. The view reached all around into the Slocan Valley, New Denver, and the Monashee mountain range, the Valhalla Glacier, the Kootenay Glacier, and to the Selkirk Mountains in far distance; - - Paradise ! And

suddenly a vibrant and loud yodeling came from our yodelers, broke the stillness and sent an echo throughout the valley.

The third hike we went on was Mt. Gimli, a somewhat challenging and strenuous hike, with one of the most breathtaking and majestic jagged peaks I have ever seen. When we reached the higher elevation we really had to scramble and work hard to get to a ridge overlooking Mulvey Basin. Some areas were difficult to navigate due to a narrow ridge between drop-off rocks on one side and a vertical granite wall sloping into the valley on the other side (one could get dizzy just looking down). As we paused there, being captured by Nature's Wonders, our yodelers sent their yodels throughout the valley causing a triple echo bouncing effect, leaving us all aw-struck. We were captured by the incredible and mesmerizing impression of that echo seemingly coming from three sides of Mt. Gimli area.

After our hikes on the hot summer days that we had experienced there was nothing more soothing and refreshing than a dip in the Slocan River. The cool water against one's skin made hot and tired bodies feel alive again. And naturally after all these activities it was time for food, wine or beer, and socializing with friends. The first night, spaghetti night, courtesy of Henry and Shirl- was wonderful. The next night -out for pizza and wine in a nearby restaurant (we enjoyed an excellent pizza) -compliments of our Outdoors Club president Josef Mueller on his 68th birthday, and a birthday cake at Henry's house afterwards. That night we all had lots of fun and laughs in celebrating with Schnaps, Kirsch and Pfluemli Wasser. The third night was the cheese fondue night-the Swiss-style fashion. (Not being Swiss I had many experts show me how to dip bread in Kirsch and then into molten cheese the 'proper' way, and I will always remember the penalties for failing to do it right!). Every night we all participated in sharing our food from back home and our fresh vegetables from our gardens. We all equally participated in preparing our food, enormously enjoying eating it together, and cleaning +dishes afterwards while having a lot of fun. Even on a thundery and stormy night (it happened to be our last night) we shared and felt the warmth of good friendship and happiness among us.

Our enormous gratitude from the bottom of our hearts goes to Shirl and Henry for making our stay so wonderful and so memorable. We will always cherish the memories of our vacation in Slocan Valley- a paradisiacal corner of British Columbia.

Valentina Karoway

Swiss Outdoors Club Spring 06 Program

March 27th – Ski week at Sunpeaks Resort 31st, 2006

For the 4th time in four years, we'll head for the famous Sunpeaks Resort for a few days of skiing, crosscountry skiing and snowshoeing.

Cahilty Lodge offers us a favourable Ski Package:

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Please reserve directly with Cahilty Lodge under "Swiss Outdoors Club";

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- tel # : 1-800-244-8424 Reservations
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Jeanette and her volunteers invite for inspection cabin near Mt. Baker

April 14th – Easter weekend at Cabin 17th, 2006

Cabin is reserved for Swiss Society members and friends.

Reserve with Jeanette Kuenzli at
Tel # (604) 576-9617



April 23rd, 2006 Sunday Hike to Mt. Gardner, Bowen Island

We meet at the Horseshoe Bay Ferry at 8.45 am and take the **9.05** am ferry to Snug Cove, Bowen Island

(Cost: \$ 4.50 per person, assuming we buy a "frequent passenger booklet").

From Snug Cove we hike to Killarney Lake for our first rest stop.

Easy hikers then will continue around the lake at leisurely pace, while the more serious hikers will continue uphill through forests to Mt. Gardner .

Easy hike to Killarney: 3-4 hours, minor elevation gain

Hike to Mt. Gardner: 17.5 km, allow 7 hours. Highpoint 727 m.

Ferry departure to Vancouver: 5.05 pm or 6.05 pm

Reserve (to benefit from group ticket) with Joe Mueller, at Tel # (604) 732-6213



May 7th, 2006 Bike Trip in Fraser Valley Contact: Brian Hauser Tel # 1-604-826-5540

Victoria Swiss Society 2005 in Review

On Saturday December 3rd, 2005 our Victoria Swiss Society Annual Christmas Dinner Party took place at St. Aidan's Church Hall. We had a great turnout of about 120 people, who enjoyed a delicious dinner with fabulous desserts along with live entertainment. Santa cruised in from the North Pole to the tune of Here Comes Santa Claus and brought cheer and presents for the children. Lucy Gething provided the piano accompaniment to our singers in a Christmas sing-along. Lindsey Dober played two beautiful Christmas songs on the piano to set the stage for Vice President Rennie Warburton's annual Christmas Story. The accordion performance by Doreen and Sam Iseli got everybody onto the dance floor with the help of an avalanche dance—that was a wonderful sight! The evening ended with the much anticipated raffle of beautiful baskets that provided funds for our donations to local charities.

Looking back, we had a great year with diverse events for everyone. One of the highlights was the visit by the Swiss Ambassador to Canada and the Bahamas, His Excellency Anton Thalman and his wife Dominique Thalman, together with our Swiss Consul General of Vancouver, Robert Helfenstein and his wife Nicole Helfenstein, which culminated in a reception at the University of Victoria Club. Other recent events included a fall hike, educational talks, the terrific 1st of August celebration at Centennial Park, and trips to Dunsmuir Lodge and Qualicum Beach. In October, a few of us participated in the Western Swiss Presidents Conference held in Vancouver this year.

The fall hike was at East Sooke Park, a rugged coastal region. The age group on this hike ranged from about 10 to 80 years. After the hike, we had an early supper at a well-known local restaurant. At Qualicum, a perfect weekend saw members engage in various pursuits, since the region has many options within easy driving distance. Activities included hiking, picking blueberries, golf, swimming in Spider Lake, and of course, shopping. Saturday evening, the barbeque al fresco meal attracted over thirty people. Sylvia and Louis Hofstetter, who moved up to the area a couple of years ago, came for the dinner

with several Swiss friends. Sylvia led the singing, playing her dulcimer. The Presidents Conference, hosted by the Swiss Society of Vancouver under the leadership of Peter Schälle, was well-organized and stimulating, broadening our knowledge of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) and prompting us to think about ways of keeping our various clubs vibrant and forward looking. The day ended with a fabulous dinner at the Chalet of the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association in Coquitlam.

I would like to thank the entire Executive of the Victoria Swiss Society for all their energy, commitment and work over the past year to get all our events organized. I really appreciate how smoothly the events were running this year. I particularly would like to thank the outgoing Executive member, Rennie Warburton, for his terrific service on the Executive over the past decade. He served in every capacity—as President, Vice-President, and Director.

Hausi Müller
President



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News from the Consulate General of Switzerland in Toronto

Who would like to be informed about Swiss cultural events?

Many events are finalized only a few weeks before they take place. Therefore, it is often too late to have them published in the Swiss Revue. For this reason, the Consulate General has recently created a new electronic data base in order to inform the people about upcoming events.

Please let us know by e-mail to tor.vertretung@eda.admin.ch if you wish to be on this electronic mail-ing list. If you already receive our cultural news by e-mail and if you do not wish to obtain this information any longer, kindly let us know. Please note, that your personal data will of course be treated con-fidentially.

If you don't have Internet access, we can provide you with the same information by mail. Call us at (416) 593 5371 and we will be pleased to put your name on our list.

We would like to take this occasion to ask you to keep us informed of any mailing and e-mail changes.

Thanking you for your interest in Swiss events and wishing you and your families all the best for the New Year.

Jean-Claude Hagmann
Consul General

Hugo Loetscher auf Nordamerika-Tour

Es war einmal das Schreiben

Im November 2005 begab sich der renommierte Autor Hugo Loetscher auf eine Lese-Reise quer durch Nordamerika. Und wie es sich auf diesem Kontinent ziemt, ging es natürlich von Osten nach Westen. Ob nun in Ottawa, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, Vancouver oder Victoria: gut angekommen ist er immer. Hugo Loetscher hat nämlich was fürs rechte Ankommen übrig – nicht nur im wörtlichen Sinne, aber eben auch im wörtlichen Sinne. Eine Sache der Perspektive? Der Geborgenheit? Der Häuslichkeit? Denn wenn man wo richtig ankommt, dann ist man da unter Umständen auch zu Hause. An vielen Orten zu Hause sein: ist das nicht ein denkbare Attribut des Weltbürgers?

Soll man einem Schweizer, der sich unter anderem lange in Südamerika aufgehalten hat, auf Spanisch oder etwa auf Portugiesisch kommen? Ungewissheit, nicht nur hier. Señor oder Nicht-Señor? Nicht-Señor, weil Demokrat. Mal hinschauen: Lederschuhe. Also doch Señor.

Zeit zum Lesen: Hugo Loetscher geht wie mit Lesebrillen durch die Welt. So wie man durch einen Text geht. Mit offenen Augen. Mit klopfendem Herzen. Mit all seinen Buchstaben. Mit seinen Vorahnungen und mit seinem Staunen. Ganz fremd ist er nirgends. Ganz kategorisch: selten. Denn es gibt immer noch Steine am Wegrand, die er nicht umgedreht hat.

Für ein Porträt fehlt hier der Rahmen, eine Skizze reicht nicht aus. Loetscher versteht sich einfach darauf, Welten zu zählen. Als er den Pazifischen Ozean erreichte, wendete er sich den Staaten zu, um auch dort mal aufs Neue das Ankommen zu üben.

Vasile V. Poenaru



Theatre Group

Theateraufführung 2006

"Die Goldige Chertzänder"

Schwank in 3 Akten von Rolf Staudenman

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

Ottawa 1. April 2006 play starts at 8pm
contact Philippe Praz, (613) 235-1837 ext. 24
c/o Embassy of email:
Switzerland, Ottawa Philippe.Praz@eda.admin.ch

Toronto 22. April 2006 play starts at 2pm and
Estonian House, at 8pm
E958 Broadview Ave. (905) 508-8014
contact Maggie Hess email:
Walter.Brunner@mapinfo.com

Moorefield 29. March 2006 play starts at 8pm
contact Fritz Egger (519) 887-6511
Cell: (519) 292-0138

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

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

Letter from the Prairies

During last fall's general meeting, the following members were elected or re-elected for the 2006 executive committee:

President:	Louise Grassmann
Vice President:	Elisabeth Wirz
Secretary:	Curtis Andrews
Treasurer:	Elisabeth Eilinger
Social Convenor:	Bettina Corrins
And Max Kocher was re-elected Auditor	

Our last social event of the year 2005 took place on December 2nd when we celebrated our annual Santa-Christmas in the community hall of the Holy Family Church in Saskatoon. The evening was chaired by Elisabeth Wirz.

Our Swiss-Canadian Santa, Emil Eigenmann, paid us a visit and distributed to each attending child one of the Saskatoon Swiss Club's little red bags filled with the traditional nuts and mandarins. Those who came enjoyed a lovely evening in the glow of real candle light that started the festive season.

Looking forward to the year 2006, we are eagerly awaiting our Raclette Party on Sunday, February 5th at the house of Heinz and Annemarie Buchmann. This daytime event will be greatly enjoyed by many.

A few members have recently been in Switzerland and they are returning with news and curious little stories. If you want to hear about such things as the new Christmas decorations in Zurich, come to the winter events and ask questions!

Louise Grassmann
Swiss Club Saskatoon



Swiss Carnival Band (Guggemusig)

30th Anniversary in 2006

We are a **Swiss Style Fasnachts Clique**
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The **Carnival Dance** starting at 7 PM
Saturday, March 11th, 2006.

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Martin Zuber (416) 248-5383
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The ECS (École Complémentaire Suisse) of Montréal would like to invite children of all ages to our Annual Summer Camp that is going to be held on the week-end of June 3rd and 4th, 2006. We have been going to the 'Base de Plein Air' in St-Jovite for years now and we have always had lots of fun.

Please be advised that if we do not get more students involved in our school, we will have to close our doors this summer, which would be very unfortunate, given that the ECS will have existed for 18 years so far. However, we see the interest in our special activities is here:

- February; Ski day
- April; Raclette supper
- June; Summer camp
- August; Sutton/games/entertainment for kids
- September; Apple picking
- December; Samichlaus
- Etc...

What do you think? Would you be interested in having your kids attending a Swiss Kids Club? Is there anyone still interested in the school and the activities? Please call or write to us for some feedback. We would love to hear from you.

You can contact me at (450) 825-1217

or

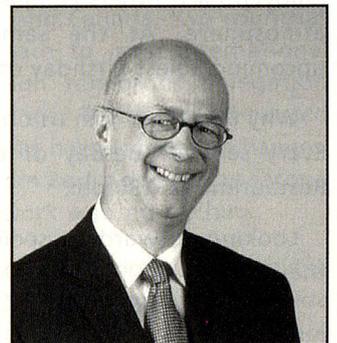
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Thank you very much in advance.

Rita Widmer
President

Un biennois élu au conseil de la ville de Montréal au Canada

Montréal le 6 novembre dernier, **Christian G. Dubois**, né à Bienne en 1949 et résidant de Madretsch pendant 20 ans qui avait émigré au Canada en 1969, a été élu Conseiller de la Ville dans la grande métropole canadienne de Montréal. Monsieur Dubois est marié et père de deux filles et oeuvre dans le domaine de la sécurité routière au Québec.



Christian G. Dubois



Helvetia Seniors Club

Why not join us for an informal luncheon on the 3rd Thursday of each month from noon to 3 pm?

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For more information call:
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Pourquoi ne pas nous rejoindre pour un déjeuner qui se déroule le 3ème jeudi de chaque mois de 12.00 à 15.00 heures ?

Non seulement vous seriez en agréable compagnie avec des compatriotes, mais vous seriez également informé des activités ponctuelles.

Pour toutes informations appelez :
Bruno (514) 481-2928 ou
Rosline (514) 931-6566.

News from the . . .



Sadly, on September 18th, 2005, we lost another member, Fanny Schmid, she was 80 years old.

On a sunny September day we went apple picking at the Kessler Farm in Farnham enjoyed by young and old.

In November, our main fundraiser event, the annual Bazaar, held at the St. Moritz Restaurant was again a big success, thanks to all our sponsors, visitors and the joint work from members and helpers.

This year our Christmas Party took place at the Restaurant "Chez Trudi", many guests and members enjoyed each others company, the good food and festive atmosphere. At the same time we celebrated the upcoming 90iest birthday of Huldi Franken.

Why don't you join us on one of our regular meetings? Every second Tuesday of the month at the St. Moritz Restaurant at 7.30 pm.

Looking forward to seeing you at our events during the year.

Heidi Haeni
President

Joanne Spirig
Vice -President



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Chers amis

Prochainement, des membres du Club de Lutte Suisse passeront chez vous pour solliciter votre contribution publicitaire. Nous vous remercions de votre soutien et espérons bénéficier de votre aide cette année.

Aimeriez-vous être commanditaire ?

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