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REGIONAL INFOS CANADA

Editorial

Dear readers of our *Swiss Review*, this issue will reach you at the start of summer with most clubs preparing to celebrate the 1st of August. I salute the numerous volunteers for their dedicated contributions to the success of the Swiss national day festivities – Cheers!

Halifax:

René Botzenhardt, Honorary Consul

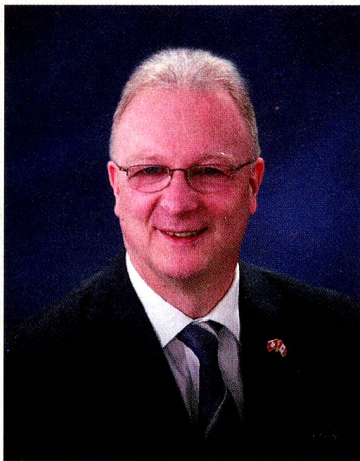


Photo: Calmen Photography, Halifax

On March 26, 2013, René Botzenhardt was appointed Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Nova Scotia. Born and raised in Zurich, René lived and worked there until he moved to Vancouver, in 1989 for a one year assignment. That assignment turned into 24 years (including stop-overs in New York and back in Zurich). In April 2000, he became a Canadian citizen.

In 2005, René and his wife Anna-Lisa, decided to move from the West Coast to the East; from the bustling city of Vancouver to the slower paced, but growing city of Halifax. "We wanted to live where the weather was cool and the friendships warm", said René. "We certainly found this in Nova Scotia."

For the past four years, René served as President of the German Canadian Association of Nova Scotia. This volunteer organization promotes the understanding and appreciation of the German language and the cultures of German speaking countries. René was instrumental in bringing educational institutions and business and community groups together to raise the profile of Switzerland and other German speaking countries in Nova Scotia.

René said of his new role, "I am a proud Swiss-Canadian – I want to help support my fellow Swiss here in Nova Scotia, and to forge relationships that will strengthen economic, cultural, and social ties between the two countries that I call home."

The office of the Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Nova Scotia is located at 5112 Prince Street in downtown Halifax (across the street from the Maritime Museum). If you plan to visit, call ahead (+1-902-835-1291) or e-mail (Halifax@honrep.ch) to make sure that René is there to greet you.

Chers lectrices et lecteurs de notre *Revue Suisse*, cette publication vous parviendra au début de l'été, au moment même où plusieurs clubs seront au cœur de la préparation de la fête nationale suisse. Je profite de l'occasion pour souligner l'implication des nombreux bénévoles dont le dévouement contribuera certainement à la réussite des festivités du 1er août – Bon été! BRENDA ANDRES, "REGIONAL INFOS CANADA"

Montreal:

Swiss Women's Club Edelweiss

The main goal of the Swiss Women's Club Edelweiss consists of voluntary work done by its members and helping out with protégées: Swiss persons in need of support, either financial or by offering transportation, friendly phone calls etc.

There are social activities planned for the summer season: a June luncheon, participation during the Swiss National Day celebration on August 3rd in Sutton, apple picking in September and a fall dinner to be announced on a later date. The annual bazaar will take place on November 9th at the Treffpunkt Haus in Dorval. Monthly meetings are held at the Treffpunkt Haus in Dorval every second Tuesday of the month except for July and August.

For more info, please contact the club's President: 450-466-0921

HOCKEY IN

SWITZERLAND

If you are a hockey player and eligible for a **SWISS PASSPORT** contact:

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10255 Cote de Liesse Road

Dorval, Québec, Canada H9P 1A3

Phone: 514-631 4266

Fax: 514-636 0365

E-mail: d.mccann@mccannequipment.ca

Montreal: Helvetia Seniors Club

All Swiss with their partners are welcome to join our 90 members group, which has started its 11th year of existence. We meet in a restaurant every 3rd Thursday for a luncheon from 11:00 to 2:00pm (except July, August & December) with lectures, entertainment and meetings.

Ottawa: The Swiss Seniors' Club

We are a co-organization with the Ottawa Valley Swiss Club and the Montagna Singers www.montagnasingers.com. Our membership consists of 42 family members and 36 single members. 414 of us attended 10 club events in 2012. Key attractions are the delicious lunches served at each event prepared by Swiss chefs we are fortunate to include among our members. Our club is also fortunate to have access to the Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre at a reasonable cost, a practical location offering ample parking, good transit access, and a very suitable room for our luncheons which feature pleasant conversation and may include a guest speaker, a film or the odd card game. When our gatherings are held in local restaurants they are usually tied to events such as a tour (National Gallery, Royal Canadian Mint) or a short cruise (Ottawa River, Rideau Canal).

We welcome new members of all nationalities and ages!

Our next events are:

Picnic in the park on August 15th (location TBA)

Luncheon & guest Speaker on September 15th - Richelieu Center

Fall Luncheon on October 15th - Restaurant L'Orée du Bois

Luncheon & Craft sale on November 14th - Richelieu Center

Nicklaus Luncheon on December 8th - Richelieu Center

KURT PORTMANN, PRESIDENT 613-742-0895 / SWISSSENIORSCLUB@ROGERS.COM

Ottawa: The Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

The Ottawa Valley Swiss Club is turning 60 this year, a milestone the club intends to mark with special events or celebratory activities. The banner year is off to a good start.

At the AGM last February, members and the board thanked outgoing president Michel Tadros for his six years of guidance. We are pleased to announce that Helen Natterer was elected as our new president, having held this position previously from 1993 to 1995. Georges Samne is our newest board member, joining Lise Broadbent, Luc Andre Burdet, Julia Hay, Annette Moser, Asta Rowe and Kati Lyon-Villiger.

The Swiss Theater Group Toronto returned to visit again in April and delighted our members with their play « Lueged emol verbii » at our traditional theater night, and the Montagna Singers held their successful Spring Dance shortly thereafter.

Our next events are:

The Annual Golf Tournament on June 23rd

The Swiss National Holiday on July 28th and the monthly luncheons held by the Swiss Seniors' Club

Preparations are well under way for an especially festive 1st of August celebration, July 28th, at the Billings Estate in Ottawa. For a list of all events and updates, or to contact the Ottawa Valley Swiss Club, please visit our website:

www.ottawavalleywissclub.ca. New members of all ages are welcome.

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Guelph: *Guelph Swiss Canadian Club*

Please join the Guelph Swiss Canadian Club this summer for our Annual Summer BBQ in Rockwood on August 11th, starting at 2:00 pm. The party will go on rain or shine.

If you are not on our email list already and are interested in receiving emails with event dates and locations, please contact Sonja: swissdip39@hotmail.com or "like" us on Facebook at our page "Swiss Canadian Club Guelph" to learn about upcoming events.



Photo: Louise Andrew

Western Canada: *Silvia Schoch,* *OSA Delegate-Candidate*

"Living as a Swiss abroad in a world of increasing mobility, information access and globalization, there is also increasing value in maintaining and strengthening the relationship with our heritage and roots. The two are not mutually exclusive but rather enhancing and broadening personal awareness and understanding to the benefit of people in both countries" says Silvia Schoch, delegate-candidate for representation of Western Canada in the upcoming election for the Organization of the Swiss Abroad. "This is also true for our young people and subsequent generations of Swiss abroad".

Silvia has lived in Canada for nearly 30 years but was born in Zürich in 1957. Completing the Federal Commercial Diploma at SAMD in Davos and continuing her education in HR management, Silvia worked as a personnel consultant for two large recruiting firms in Zürich until the age of 27 when she moved with her husband to Ontario, Canada. Raising their three daughters and after a move to British Columbia in 2002, Silvia continued her education in teaching and writing while working part-time. Today, Silvia lives and works in Victoria, B.C. as a freelance writer/photo journalist with focus on developing countries' reportage.

As a current board member of the Victoria Swiss Society, Silvia is looking forward to the opportunity to engage and serve the Swiss-Canadian community even more if elected to the OSA.

Western Canada: *Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce* *British Columbia & Alberta*

Our mission is to facilitate businesses and individuals to discover unique and innovative business opportunities, establish valuable business connections between Switzerland and Western Canada and to host networking events.

Do you need new business contacts?

Do you need assistance with your import or export business?

Are you looking for business opportunities?

Do you want to stay updated on our latest news?

Or do you just want to network on various event occasions?

Join our Chamber! For more information please visit
www.swisscanadianchamber.com

Vancouver: *Swiss – Canadian Mountain Range* *Association*

After a well-attended annual general meeting with only one new member added to our executive committee, we are looking forward to a safe outdoor shooting season.

2013 Summer Program

June 16th morning – Championship all Ranges

13:00 Bruno Huber shoot

July 7th Mountain Range Match 09:00 – 13:00 *Volkschiessen*

July 20th Work party

July 21st Championship all ranges

July 27th National Day Celebration

Hope to see you on any of these shooting practices and there is always lunch available. For program changes please visit our website: www.scmra.ca

MARLIES BAUMANN, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

LETTE
LAWYERS • AVOCATS • RECHTSANWÄLTE

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

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4 **Vancouver:**
Vancouver Swiss Choir

The Vancouver Swiss Choir is a vibrant, busy community counting 32 active members. Founded in 1966 the choir has provided Swiss folk music and culture ever since. Under the direction of Dubravko Pajalic, who has conducted the Choir for over 10 years, the group has participated in several local events, Pacific Coast Swiss Singing & Yodeling Festivals of the USSSPC (www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7TqFz-U8q8) and has made many guest appearances in the Greater-Vancouver area and across British Columbia. The Choir performs at various venues such as the Vancouver Christmas Market and dinner concerts on Quadra Island, Victoria and Kelowna as well as at the local annual European Festivals. The theme of this year's annual concert is "Like Minded" since 1913 is celebrating the 100 year Anniversary of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver.

We are very fortunate to have the Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir (www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNHAttL4bk) as guest Choir at this year's concert and are looking forward to a great evening on June 15, 2013 at the Fraserview Church in Richmond, Vancouver. We are proud to have Hong Chul Kim as choir member and Yodeling teacher for a number of years now. Kimi, as he is fondly called, plays the "Schwyzeroergeli" and leads us in great sing-alongs. He has taught Alphorn playing to one of our choir members, Beat Heeb, and we have now our very own Alphorn-Duet (www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qR_i8MzfA). With enthusiasm and pride, the Vancouver Swiss Choir promotes Swiss Folksmusik in British Columbia as ambassadors of our Homeland.

For information please contact mhanna18@shaw.ca and view details on www.swiss-society.org



Vancouver:
Kurznachric - Von Rolf A. Brühlhart,
Delegate ASR/ASO

1 Das Schweizerische Generalkonsulat in Toronto wird geschlossen werden. Die Province of Saskatchewan wird dem Schweizerischen Generalkonsulat Vancouver zugeteilt werden; die Province of Ontario dem Schweizerischen Generalkonsulat Montreal.

2 Die HELPLINE +41-800-24-7-365 des Eidg. Departements für auswärtige Angelegenheiten funktioniert 365 Tage im Jahr rund um die Uhr für Schweizerbürger. www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/rebs/ocea/vaus/embcan/help.html

3 Online-Registrierung für Aslandreisende "Tineris" via die Webseite www.eda.admin.ch/itineris damit sie in einer Krisensituation kontaktiert werden könnten. www.news.admin.ch/message/index.html?lang=de&msg-id=45102

4 Schweizerbanken schliessen nach wie vor die Konti von Auslandschweizern/-innen in Kanada und den USA. ASR-Vorstandsmitglied Nationalrat Roland Büchel reichte im Dezember 2012 eine Motion ein, die vom Bundesrat verlangt sicherzustellen, dass alle Auslandschweizerinnen und Auslandschweizer bei PostFinance ein Konto eröffnen und zu vernünftigen Bedingungen unterhalten können. Viele Delegierte des Auslandschweizerates verhehlten ihren Unmut am 16. März, 2013 in Bern darüber nicht, dass die Schweizer Behörden die Interessen der Auslandschweizer hinsichtlich dieser Themen weitgehend ignorieren.

5 Ein neues Auslandschweizergesetz wird laut Ständeratspräsident Filippo Lombardi etwa in Januar 2015 in Kraft gehen. Das Gesetz widmet sich unter anderem den politischen und sozialen Rechten der Auslandschweizer, dem konsularischen Schutz, den Informationswegen für die Mitglieder der Fünften Schweiz sowie der Frage nach der Rolle der Auslandschweizer-Organisation. www.aso.ch

6 Der 2013 Auslandschweizer-Kongress findet vom 17.-18. August, 2013 in Davos stattfinden. Silvia Schoch, Secretary of the Swiss Society of Victoria, wird sehr wahrscheinlich erstmals als zweiter Delegierter der Presidents Conference of Swiss Organizations in West-Canada an der Sitzung des Auslandschweizerates in Davos vertreten sein. www.aso.ch

7 Die Volksinitiative "gegen die Abzockerei" vom 3.3.2013 2013 wurde von 68% der Stimmbeteiligten und allen Kantonen angenommen und zwar bei einer Stimmbeteiligung von 46%.

8 Momentan sind in der Schweiz u.a. die folgenden Eidgenössische Initiativen im Gang: "gegen die Masseneinwanderung" (SVP) und "Stopp der Überbevölkerung" (Ecopop).

ROLF A. BRÜLHART

PRAKTISCHE INFORMATIONEN / INFOS PRATIQUES / USEFUL INFORMATION

Schweizer Vertretungen im Ausland. Die Adressen aller Schweizer Botschaften und Konsulate finden sich im Internet auf www.eda.admin.ch -> Klick auf Menü "Vertretungen"

Représentations suisses à l'étranger. Vous trouverez les adresses des Ambassades et des Consulats généraux sur www.eda.admin.ch -> Click sur le menu "Représentations"

Swiss representations abroad. You will find addresses of the Embassies and Consulate Generals on www.eda.admin.ch -> Click on "Representations"

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