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REGIONAL NEWS CANADA

Editorial

Dear Readers across Canada and in Switzerland:
As your new editor of *Regional News Canada*, I am delighted to wish you a Happy New Year with this first issue of 2014. I hope you will enjoy an informative and pleasurable reading experience. Beyond of-



Silvia Schoch

ficial communications of the Swiss Representations in Canada, these regional pages are your newsletter—the newsletter of the Swiss Organizations and their members in Canada, for events announcements, special reports, news, introductions and other topics of interest to

Swiss-Canadians. *Swiss Review* magazine is published six times per year and features this *Regional News Canada* complement four times in its mid section (February, April, June, and October). The magazine is available free of charge to Swiss citizens matriculated at a Swiss Consulate in Canada and a small fee to other readers. It is published in English, French and German in either print or electronic format. If you wish to subscribe, wish to switch languages or switch receiving the magazine from electronic to print format or vice-versa, please call the Swiss Consulate in your area. You will find the phone number on page eight. Happy reading. Silvia Schoch, Editor

Swiss Immigration to Canada

Ilona Shulman Spaar is the Swiss author of a book commissioned by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver at the occasion of its 100th anniversary. Ilona, having lived seven years in

Canada herself, traces fascinating lives of many Swiss immigrants to Canada from the 16th century to present day.

With historical accuracy and a great deal of warmth, we learn about Swiss Mercenaries, Fur Traders and Miners, Politicians, Business People, Farmers, Publishers, Watch Makers, Artists, Entrepreneurs, Scientists and of course the famous Swiss Mountain Guides who were instrumental in developing the Canadian Rockies.

In virtually every category and throughout the ages, Swiss immigrants have made significant contributions to Canadian society, prosperity and growth. Such as a 22-year-old named Ermatinger from Schaffhausen who married his 15 year old Ojibwa princess sweetheart after he was saved by her tribe during a severe winter storm. By all accounts, it was a very happy marriage, lasting 30 years, producing 13 children and a rise from Swiss trapper to the upper echelons of Montreal society during the eighteenth century.

Equally vividly, we learn about the contemporary story of Felix Schellenberg who lived in Hilfikon, Canton Zürich, until he decided to make his long-held dream come true: becoming a cowboy in Canada. Together with his wife Jasmin from Basel he immigrated to Canada in 1979. Today, the family runs a successful, cross-generational bio-dynamic and certified organic cattle ranch in the wilderness of the beautiful Chilcotin valley. The book is a fitting commemoration to the pioneer spirit of Swiss people past and present in Canada.

Silvia Schoch



Left: the Schellenberg family at Rafter 25 Ranch, their Demeter and Certified Organic ranch in Redstone, BC, where they also operate Kinikinik Restaurant and Store. In Vancouver, their organic meats are available on Commercial Drive. www.pasturetoplate.ca

Right: Felix Schellenberg, living his dream in Canada.

Photos: © Felix und Jasmin Schellenberg



Ilona Shulman Spaar

Swiss Immigration to Canada

Achievements – Testimonies – Relations

240 pages in colour, English, hardcover, 11"x11", richly illustrated
Publisher: © Consulate General of Switzerland, Vancouver

You are invited to dive into a vibrant mosaic of stories about Swiss immigration to Canada from the last hundred years and beyond. What do you really know about the legacy, testimonies, and achievements of Swiss settlers? What drove these people to leave their home country and chase their dreams abroad? Who were these "sturdy Switzers," as they were often referred to? Never before has such a comprehensive book given insight into the lives and adventures of Swiss immigrants to Canada. A must-have for yourself and your family.

Introductory price: 25.00 CAD through amazon.ca

Ilona Shulman Spaar



Swiss Immigration to Canada

Achievements
Testimonies
Relations

Edmonton

Swiss Men's Choir

We mourn deeply the passing of our President's wife, our good friend Gabrielle Voegeli. She has been a gracious and supportive colleague for many years. Until Gaby fell ill two years ago, she helped in our concerts by singing alto in the female group, the Ad Hoc Trio. The group would come on to sing three delightful songs in the middle of each concert. We give thanks for Gaby's presence in our lives.

Last October 26th, members of the Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir were hard at work preparing St. Basil's Cultural Center for the Winzerfest. The hall was a new venue for us, but its good acoustics and the efforts of the members made the evening a great success. We were fortunate to have in attendance Consul Urs Strausak from Vancouver, and Edmonton Pro Coro conductor Michael Zaugg. The dinner, prepared under the mentorship of Chef Peter Johner and featuring the smokehouse prime rib of Hermann Knupp was superb, the beef literally melting in the mouth. The choir renditions of well known Swiss composers and arrangers were well received and Michael Zaugg's glowing critique was encouraging and helpful.

The choir had a busy advent season. Starting with a trip to Holden, Alberta, and ending with a joint concert in St. Albert with the children's

choir of Vital Grandin School, we presented Christmas concerts at several seniors' residences and the Catholic Church in Beaumont, Alberta. The concert with the children is always a favorite of ours and the youngsters really like the singing with "the men".

Time for some Advertisement

One of the problems faced by many male choirs is the recruiting of young men. It is hard to discover them when they are coming over from Switzerland and even harder to convince them to sing without an electric guitar in their hands. The rewards of hard work are evident in the audience response that we receive. After practice, gatherings over pizza and beverages cement the choir's camaraderie. We travel in North America and abroad. We are presently looking forward to our next trip to Switzerland. Look us up at our website www.esmca.ca; listen to us or obtain contact information. You will be warmly welcomed to the wonderful world of Swiss music.

2014 EVENTS

March 6 or 7: Choralfest, McDougall United Church, Edmonton

May 3: Alberta Choral Federation "Run for Music"

June 14: Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir Spring Concert/ Reception with screening premiere of the film "Swiss

Guides in the Rockies", in collaboration with the Swiss Consulate General and Consul General Urs Strausak

July 10-July 13: Tacoma WA trip for the "28th Pacific Coast Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festival."

Peter Thut, Secretary
secretary@esmca.ca

Central Alberta



Winter has come with a vengeance in Central Alberta in early November, however, it takes more to stop the Swiss-Albertans from sitting back and being couch potatoes!

On November 15th, the Wildrose Yodelers and the Yodel Club Heimattreu Calgary hosted a combined concert at the Royal Canadian Legion in Innisfail, Alberta. With an event title like "The Swiss in Concert," many people near and far could not resist being our guests and enjoying an evening of good food, Swiss music, sounds of the Alphorn and Swiss yodeling at its best. For the last segment of the concert, the choirs teamed up on stage as a massed choir. The thirty-four voices thrilled the guests with the songs "Kamerade," "Däheim," and ended the concert with the song "Aabeglogge" to the joy of the audience, who was able to hear and to feel the sounds of the church bells the way the composer, Ernst Sommer, meant it to be.

On a sadder note, in August we had to say our final good-byes to one of our founding members, Ernie Gisler. We all miss Ernie's cheerful presence and are trying to fill the void within the voices in the choir. We are happy to report that a few young men have recently joined our club. The new voices are a welcome addition to the choir and they are doing their

best to attend the rehearsals, which is not always easy with the busy schedule young people have these days. We would be happy to welcome more members to our club. Practice is usually Thursday nights from September until May at the Bentley School.

2014 EVENTS

Please mark your calendar for our 17th annual Spring Fest in Rimbey, Alberta on Saturday, May 3rd, 2014.

For more information about our choir and upcoming events, please visit our website at www.salranch-tours.com/wildrose

Fred Salvisberg, Secretary
(403) 783-8319

Saskatoon Swiss Club

Even though the weather outside was frightful, our Santa evening held on December 6, 2013, was a success with 36 attendees, 14 of which were children. Santa was a great hit, especially when the goodie bags came out of the sack. The children enjoyed running around and playing, and, on their own, organized a colouring contest, which Santa then had to judge! Supper was a potluck which included cold cuts, chili, homemade Swiss buns, fruit, salads, and many deserts. The tables were decorated with pine boughs and tall red candles, with a generous amount of peanuts in the shell, and mandarin oranges to be snacked on during the evening.

2014 EVENTS

The dates for our next two events will be announced in late January. These are the ever popular Raclette luncheon at the home of



Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir (and two lovely ladies)

Message from the Consul General in Vancouver

Liebe Mitbürger,

Nach ihrer erfolgreichen Wahl zur Delegierten im Auslandschweizerrat (ASR) wurde Frau Silvia Schoch anlässlich des Auslandschweizer Kongresses in Davos im August 2013 offiziell in den Rat aufgenommen. Herzliche Gratulation. Frau Schoch lebt in Victoria, BC und wird die Interessen der Auslandschweizer im Westen Kanadas im Rat vertreten. Ich freue mich über diese Wahl und wünsche Silvia viel Erfolg und Befriedigung in diesem Amt. Sie kann bei ihrer Tätigkeit auf die volle Unterstützung des Generalkonsulates zählen. Herr Rolf Brühlhart hat auf Ende 2013 sein Amt als Delegierter des Auslandschweizerrates niedergelegt und ich danke ihm für seinen unermüdlichen Einsatz. Dadurch ist nun der zweite Sitz für Westkanada vakant. Ich lade Sie daher ein, Ihr Interesse für eine Kandidatur anzumelden, damit der Konsularkreis des Konsulates Vancouver wieder mit zwei Mitgliedern im «Parlament» der Auslandschweizer vertreten sein kann. Weitere Informationen darüber finden Sie auf Seite 7.

Als weitere Aufgabe hat Frau Silvia Schoch ab Januar 2014 die Lokalredaktion der Schweizer Revue von Frau Brenda Andres übernommen. Silvia macht sich nun mit der neuen Aufgabe vertraut und als weitere Neuerung im Sinne einer Neugewichtung der Lokalseiten wurde beschlossen, den Lokalteil von bisher vier auf neu acht Seiten zu erhöhen. Ich lade die zuständigen Mitglieder der Schweizer Organisationen ein, die neue Lokalredakteurin bei ihren Bemühungen, die Seiten mit interessanten Artikeln zu füllen, tatkräftig zu unterstützen. Sie freut sich über alle Beiträge bezüglich der Aktivitäten Ihrer Vereinigungen. Dabei kann es sich um Ereignisse aus der Vergangenheit handeln oder auch ein Blick in die Zukunft sein. Weshalb nicht einmal einen Anlass oder ein Projekt als special feature einem breiteren Publikum näher vorstellen? Nutzen Sie die Möglichkeiten dieses praktischen und nun erweiterten Sprachrohrs.

In diesem Sinne wünsche ich Frau Silvia Schoch alles Gute und viel Erfolg als neue Lokalredakteurin. Mit freundlichen Grüßen, Urs Strausak, Generalkonsul

Dear Compatriots,

After her successful election as delegate to the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA), Silvia Schoch was officially appointed to the Council on the occasion of the Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Davos in August 2013. Congratulations! Mrs. Schoch lives in Victoria, BC and represents in the Council the interests of the Swiss Abroad in Western Canada. I am pleased with this choice and wish Silvia Schoch much success and satisfaction in her new position. She will find behind her work the full support of the Consulate General. At the end of 2013, Mr. Rolf Brühlhart resigned from his position as delegate to the CSA and I thank him for his tireless efforts. Thus, the second seat for Western Canada is now vacant. I therefore invite you to announce your interest and register as a candidate, so that the Consular district in Vancouver can once again be represented by two members of the "Parliament" of the Swiss abroad. For further information, please turn to page 7.

Another task that Mrs. Silvia Schoch has undertaken since January, 2014 is the local editorial office of the Swiss Review formerly assumed by Mrs. Brenda Andres. Silvia is now making herself familiar with this new task as it was decided to re-balance the local pages and increase the local section from four to eight pages. I invite the competent members of the Swiss clubs and associations to actively support the new local editor in her efforts to fill the pages with interesting articles. She will be happy to receive all the updates regarding the activities of your associations. It may be events from the past or it may be a look into the future. Why not even present to a wider audience an event or a project as a special feature? Take advantage of the possibilities of this practical and now extended mouthpiece.

With that I would like to wish Mrs. Silvia Schoch all the best and every success as the new local editor.

Best regards,

Urs Strausak, The Consul General of Switzerland

Heinz and Annemarie Buchmann-Gerber, followed by the Jass tournament, which will be held in Warman, SK, at the home of Georg and Rosa Nievergelt. A change this time is that the Jass tournament will be held in the afternoon rather than an evening. These two events will take place sometime between mid-February and end of April. Please contact the Swiss Club at swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com or (306) 665-6039 if you would like more information or be put on our contact list.

Elisabeth Eilinger, President
(306) 665-6039

Toronto



Dear friends of the Swiss Club Toronto

Please visit our website (www.swissclubtoronto.ca) often to keep up-to-date with what's happening and consult our newsletter.

Also, like us on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/swissclubtoronto).

If you wish to become a member and receive our 'Tell Tale' newsletter, please contact our membership chairperson Monika Rüber at (416) 203-2026 or by e-mail at monika.ruber@swissclubtoronto.ca.

One of our youngest members of the Swiss Club Toronto!



Stella Lauber, at the age of eight months one of our youngest Swiss abroad, is reading the latest news about Switzerland with a little help from her Daddy, Tim Lauber.

Sascha Frassini, President
sascha.frassini@swissclubtoronto.ca

Photo by Annalies Lauber



We are looking forward to seeing you at one of our performances!

Ottawa Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

The 60th Anniversary of the Ottawa Valley Swiss Club was celebrated in conjunction with the Swiss National Day on July 28th at the Billings Estate in Ottawa. Lots of folks of all ages showed up despite an unfavorable weather forecast. The sun came out just in time and all stayed for fellowship, traditional Swiss sausages and pastries and entertainment by our John Loretan who plays the Alphorn superbly; the "Huibi Chuibi" Accordion Band from Switzerland and the Montagna Singers. Children played games. There were even rounds of Steinstossen. The Embassy was represented by Annette Moser. We thank all the people and businesses who generously donated the prizes for the tombola! We also thank all the volunteers who helped to make this event successful and memorable.

The traditional Childrens Christmas Party got under way December 8th, after a delicious lunch by the Swiss Seniors



Jimmy Guignard-Broadbent, 10 months, adoring Santa

Club. Treated to sweets and desserts, parents and grand parents smiled as the excited children participated in crafts, talent show and games. Christmas carols were sung and the afternoon concluded on a high note as Samichlaus and Schmutzli visited with gifts and Grittibaenze for the children, leaving all with happy faces.

2014 EVENTS

April 5th: Spring Dance by the Montagna Singers

June: Annual Golf Tournament

July 27th: Swiss National Holiday Celebration

Monthly: luncheons held by the Swiss Seniors Club

For information or to contact us, please visit our website: www.ottawavalleysswissclub.ca Helen Natterer, President

Montreal Helvetia Seniors Club

All Swiss with their partners are welcome to join our 90 members group, starting the 11th year of existence. We meet in a restaurant every third Thursday for a luncheon from 11 am to 2 pm (except July, August and December) with interesting lectures, entertainment and meetings.

Tous les Suisses et leurs

conjointes et invités sont les bienvenus. Venez rejoindre nos 90 membres nous commençons le 11^{ème} Anniversaire d'existence du club. Nous nous rencontrons de 11.00h à 2.00h pour un déjeuner le 3^{ème} jeudi de chaque mois (excepté juillet, août et décembre).

Our next meeting dates are February 20th with a program of self-entertainment, jokes and short stories. The next month's meeting is on March 20th. Both are at the Monkland Grill Restaurant on 6151 Monkland Avenue, Montreal. See you there!

Barbara Gasser, President
(450) 687-5256

Manitoba Swiss Club Manitoba

February 9th: Cheese Fondue at the Catholic Church in Steinbach, and at the same date also in Brandon at the Lion's Manor, 35 Victoria Avenue
March 16th: AGM, Phoenix Community Center, 153 Seekings Street, Headingly. Please note the new location. Lunch at 11:00 am, followed by the meeting at noon.

Please contact myself or any director if you have anything you want to have discussed at the AGM.

François Carrard, President
(294) 728-4609

«Vier Fraue und ei Maa»

Lustspiel in drei Akten von Josef Brun

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

Moorefield, 13. April 2014
(Sunday) play starts at 1 pm
contact Walter Burkhardt, tel. (519) 393-5211, or email: walter@quadro.net

Toronto, 26. April 2014
play starts at 2 pm and at 8 pm
Estonian House, 958 Broadview Ave, contact Maggie Hess, tel. (905) 508-8014, magdalena.h@sympatico.ca

An exciting evening for everyone! In Toronto we have drinks and Nussgipfel available, and in the evening you can get dinner from 6:30pm on. For more details please contact your local Swiss Club or call Maggie Hess or Walter Brunner at (905) 508-8014. See you there!

Vancouver Swiss Choir

The Swiss Society of Vancouver has advantageously evolved over the last couple of years as a whole group of younger people have added their energy, ideas, talents and enthusiasm to the club. In particular the Swiss Choir has benefitted. Fresh voices have added range and closer ties to the homeland. We have now three ladies who are willing to travel 1 1/2 hours to come to practice each week and also to performances. They farm in the fertile Fraser Valley and practice Swiss Mountain Yodeling songs which offer more variety to our performances. We also have a Korean member, Hung Kim, who is famous in Korea for his Swiss folk group. He has recently been on Swiss TV. Who knew?

December was a busy month as we performed at the Society Christmas lunch and also at the extremely popular "German Christmas Market" in Vancouver. We were much appreciated by the mostly German speaking stall holders as they reminisced of their childhood while we were singing Oh Tannenbaum, Leise Rieselt der Schnee, Es ist ein Ros entsprungen, and more. Another super popular family activity here is at Van Dusen Garden where we sing

Our 38th Anniversary in 2014
Carnival starts with the
Morgestraich
on Saturday, March 8, 2014
from 6 am to 10:30 am.
It is followed by our

Costume Ball
on Saturday, March 15, 2014
at 7:00 pm
Both Events will be held at
**THE MUSKET RESTAURANT &
BANQUET HALL**
40 Advance Rd., Etobicoke, ON

For more information, check
our website **canadysli.com**, or
give one of us a call or email.
We look forward to hearing
from you!

Philippe Moser (416)385-0856
pmoser@rogers.com
Arno Sigrist (416) 493-8025
arno@sympatico.ca
Heiri Schurmann (416)445-
4609 henryscryo@gmail.com
Sascha Frassini (905)821-2392
frassini@rogers.com



Come «Morgestraich» with us.
We are looking forward to seeing you!

outdoors while many wander
around the pathways amid
millions of tiny lights scat-
tered throughout the trees
and lakes—a must if you are
avoiding abdominal winters
in other parts of the country
while enjoying family visits
here in BC.

2014 EVENTS

July 10-13, 2014 we will be
participating in the Pacific
Coast Singing Society Grand
Concert in Tacoma, Washing-
ton. Happy New Year to All!

Melanie Crook,
Vice-Coordinator
Andrea Stolte, Vice President
(604) 874-8930

**Montreal Swiss
National Society
of Montreal
140th Anniversary
1874 - 2014**

In 1874, a group of Swiss men
founded our Society to enjoy
friendship and comradeship.
Today, 140 years later, our
aim remains unchanged. **All
Swiss Citizens of voting
age (Men and Women) can
become Active Members.**

New Members are always
welcome. We meet four to five
times per year on the first
Tuesday of the month—with
additional, special events on

some Fridays or Saturdays—in
different restaurants in the
Montreal region. We welcome
all members, their guests
and friends at our meetings,
which include a hearty meal,
followed by a variety of
interesting activities such as
guest speakers, discussions,
Jass or films. In this pleasant
setting you will be delighted
to hear our four national
languages spoken. Ten-pin
bowling is another special
activity every Monday night
between September and April.

And then we have our
Traditional SNS "Metzgete"!

On October 26th, 2013,
we had 73 persons attending
our SNS "Metzgete" in the
Treffpunkt Hall, where we
came together on Saturday
at noon. The mouthwatering,
traditionally prepared Swiss
feast consisted of Bündner
Gersten Suppe, followed
by Saucisson Vaudoise,
Rippli nach Bauernart
(traditionally smoked),
and boiled beef brisket,
accompanied by gedörren
Bohnen, Sauerkraut, apple
compote and much more!

A hearty thank-you to our
Chef and Kitchen Crew!

2014 EVENTS

First Tuesday of every month:
Regular meetings

October 2014: Traditional SNS
"Metzgete"

November 2014: Special 140th Anniversary Event. For more
information, please call:

Carl H. Diehl, President (514) 683-8090 or (514) 696-3876



Enjoying traditional
Swiss «Metzgete»
Specialties, from left
to right: Andreas,
Chrigi and Simon
Geissbühler; Carl
Diehl, Alice Hermans
and Doris Dargis

**Phenomenal Kitchen-
Crew and Helper: left
to right: Felix Häuser-
mann, Andrée Mar-
tel, Jürg Hertner, Ma-
rienne Studhalter,
Colleen Häusermann
and Hugo Studhalter**



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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Montréal Fifres et Tambours, les PiccB'ois



Die Basler PfeiferInnen [Picc(olos) B(äl)ois] in Montréal sind die unerschrockenen Nachfahren der "Trummele und Pfyfe" Tradition. Traditionelle Basler Fastnachtsmusik mit markdurchdringendem, weithin schallenden Pfeifen und Trommeln militärischen Ursprungs steht neben Zeitgenössischem von klassischen Melodien bis zu Jazz auf unserem Programm.

En plus de nous réunir aux deux semaines, nous profitons de diverses occasions pour nous produire en public, telle la Fête Nationale au Mont Sutton, QC. Que ce soit pour le temps de votre séjour au Québec, ou pour retrouver une passion de jeunesse, venez agrandir nos rangs et, ensembles, jouons notre musique ! Nous pouvons fournir les instruments et même (ré)instruire les plus vaillants !

InteressentInnen können sich am Facebook über uns orientieren: PiccB'ois – Fifres et Tambours à Montréal / www.facebook.com/group/107056106003711; oder direkt bei:

Sandrine Junod Bracco,
President
(514) 489-3736
sjbracco@gmail.com

Montreal Matterhorn Swiss Club

In 2013, the Matterhorn Swiss Club celebrated our 60th anniversary. We are pleased that we are still attracting new and younger members. We hold several events throughout the year and all are well-attended by older and younger members alike.

2014 EVENTS

End of Jan/early Feb: Annual general meeting and dinner at a local restaurant

Earch March: Winter fun weekend at Mont-Tremblant

June: Spring outing (outdoors, walks etc.) and lunch

August: Swiss National Day Festivities at Mont-Sutton

Mid August: Summer picnic on Ile Cadieux

September or early October: Fall outing (walks, easy hikes etc.)

November: Fall meeting and dinner at a local restaurant

For more information please contact:

Walter Spirig, President
Joanne Spirig, Secretary
(514) 694-3718
wspirig@gmail.com
joanne.spirig@gmail.com

Dorval Swiss Women's Club Edelweiss

Our club consists of about 80 people and the main goal consists of voluntary work done by its members, helping

out with protégées : Swiss persons in need of support, either financial or by offering transportation, friendly phone calls and more. There are regular social activities planned for the summer season:

2014 EVENTS

A June luncheon, participation during the Swiss National Day celebration, apple picking in September and a fall dinner. The annual bazaar will usually take place in November and all profits are distributed to local charities.

Monthly meetings are held at Treffpunkt Haus in Dorval every second Tuesday of the month except for July and August.

The Swiss Women's Club Edelweiss is welcoming new members at any time. For further information, please contact:

Susanna Hane, President
(450) 466-0921

Victoria Victoria Swiss Society

We're a small but active group of members; some Swiss, some married to a Swiss and some who just love Switzerland. One of our highlights last year was our participation at the Victoria May-Day parade in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Vancouver Consulate.



The Boyd family in front of the Victoria Swiss Society 2013 May Day Parade float

We built and decorated our float, participated in the parade and were joined in this by our friends and the choir of the Vancouver Swiss Society, wearing either traditional costumes or red t-shirts. We were honored by the presence of Consul General Urs Strausak and Deputy Consul Hans-Peter Willi and their spouses. The music on the float was provided by Jim Hopson on Alphorn and our talented members Sam and Doreen Iseli and their accordion group. We also had a large walking group of members and friends which included cart-pulling Swiss Sennehünd. Of course this was followed by a Bratwurst-lunch and the celebrations concluded with a more formal dinner and further entertainment the following day. What fun!

2014 EVENTS

February 28: Swiss Annual Member Dinner at Bistro Suisse, Sydney

March 29: Audio/Video Presentation "Sailboat Cruise to Southeast Alaska" Urs and Judy Boxler

May: Jass Tournament

June: Bocce Tournament

July/Aug: August 1st Celebration

October: Raclette Evening

December 6: Christmas Dinner and Entertainment

Every third Wednesday: Ladies' Luncheon.

For more information please call:

Ric Fischer, President
(250) 472-1850

Delegate and Council Member of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA/ASO)

The President's Conference of Western Canada is currently seeking candidates for the vacant Western-Canadian OSA seat for the territorial jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Yukon and Northwest Territories)

Aufgaben

- Vertretung der Anliegen der vertretenen Schweizergemeinschaft und ihrer Institutionen im Auslandschweizer-rat (ASR)
- Wirken als Anlaufstelle und Auskunftsperson für Landsleute im oben genannten Gebiet
- Orientierung der Schweizervereine über ASO Arbeiten und Angebote, sowie über Aktualitäten aus dem ASR
- Kontaktpflege zu Schweizer Vereinen, offiziellen Vertretungen und schweizerischen Institutionen im oben genannten Gebiet
- Förderung der schweizerischen Präsenz in Kanada und der politischen Partizipation der Auslandschweizer im genannten Gebiet
- Präsenz und Mitwirkung im ASR und gegebenenfalls in Kommissionen und Arbeitsgruppen

Anforderungen

- Schweizer Bürger(in)
- Deutsch- oder Französisch sprechend
- Teilnahme an den ASR Sitzungen in der Schweiz ein- bis zweimal jährlich
- Im territorialen Konsularbezirk Vancouver ansässig

Amts-dauer

- Vier Jahre. Gegenwärtige Amtsperiode endet 2017



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Organisation of the Swiss Abroad www.aso.ch

Message du Consulat général de Suisse en Montréal

COMMERCE SUISSE/CANADA

Nouveau Chef du Swiss Business Hub Canada (SBH)



Markus Reubi

Nous souhaitons à Markus Reubi, qui vient d'arriver à Montréal, une chaleureuse bienvenue et de belles années à venir au Canada, pleines de satisfactions et porteuses de nouveaux projets.

M. Markus Reubi, diplomate depuis plus que dix ans, a repris la direction du SBH Canada début janvier 2014. Juriste de formation avec un master de l'Université de St. Gall, Suisse, Markus Reubi a travaillé pour l'entreprise américaine Arthur Andersen avant de rejoindre le département des affaires étrangères (DFAE) en 2003. Il bénéficie d'expériences professionnelles en coopération internationale, dans les domaines des finances et des sciences & technologies. De 2008 à 2012, il a été en poste en Chine en tant que Chef de la Section science, éducation et santé auprès de l'Ambassade de Suisse à Pékin. Avant d'être transféré à Montréal, ce père de trois enfants et passionné de football (soccer) était l'adjoint du Chef des ressources humaines du DFAE.

Le SBH est intégré dans le Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal. Sa responsabilité géographique s'étend à l'ensemble du Canada. Le SBH est l'un des 21 hubs opérés conjointement par le DFAE et par Switzerland Global Enterprise (www.s-ge.com), dont le but commun est de favoriser le développement des entreprises et le rayonnement de la place économique suisse dans le monde entier.



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It all began in 1973, when Danny McCann had the opportunity to play hockey for a year after completing his studies at Loyola College of Montreal. Back in Canada during a discussion regarding European hockey, Danny was asked if per chance he knew a player in North America who wanted to join a Swedish Elite team. Danny did know, assisted in the transfer, and International Sports Management (ISM) was born!

Forty years later, Danny is known the hockey world over for his sterling reputation, solid expertise and proven track record. Importing professional NHL and AHL hockey players from North America to Europe, there is no European hockey coach who doesn't know Danny.

Danny calls the Swiss NLA the NHL of Europe. In Switzerland the sun shines, the arenas are full and the players and their families can enjoy life while earning a professional hockey career. Danny and his son Derek who joined ISM ten years ago, know that the Swiss NLA accept only the highest level of import players, or those with NHL background.

Having a Swiss passport is an advantage for any young Canadian dreaming of a hockey career in Switzerland. Major Junior of University hockey is a good background coming from Canada.

Currently, ISM has two Western Major Junior players and one player in US Division 1 University who will shortly play hockey in Switzerland. Danny and Derek followed these players for a few years, assessing their progress and getting to know them as people and players.



Matt Lombardi, Geneva-Servette, Switzerland.
Placed via ISM in late August 2013.
Photo: courtesy of Geneva-Servette Hockey Club

All three have experienced summer training with Swiss NLA teams. In this way, the teams know the players potential and the players know what is expected. ISM is proud of its high success rate to make a mutually beneficial match between player and club and has proven to go to great length to do so.

In the early 1980s, Danny assisted the now famous hockey brothers Robert and Michael Martin, brothers of NHL Buffalo Sabres Winger Rick Martin, a member of the «French Connection». The Martins knew there was Swiss heritage in their family, but it was Danny who unravelled the story. Their Martins Swiss grandfather was originally named Rugel, but having done intelligence work for England during the war, Willie Rugel was given a new name and immigrated to Canada. To determine the Martins grandfather's Swiss citizenship, Danny ended up visiting his 88 year old cousin living high in the mountains of Campeströ/TI, who not only recognized a photograph of her late cousin, but spontaneously told the facts around the trip the cousins had taken together when the photograph was taken. The judges affirmed the Swiss citizenship of grandfather Rugel based on this testimony, and Swiss citizenship could then legally pass from grandfather via son to the Martin grandsons, thus enabling long and successful hockey careers for both brothers with Swiss teams Ambri Piotta and Zürich. Robert scored the NLA Championship winning goal for SC Bern in 1990.

"The media know us in Europe and it's wonderful to be welcomed everywhere you go" says Danny McCann, celebrating 40 years in business. "It's not a difficult job when you enjoy what you're doing". Congratulations, Danny McCann and ISM!

Silvia Schoch

HOCKEY IN SWITZERLAND

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

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