

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 41 (2014)  
**Heft:** 3

**Anhang:** Regional news : Canada

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# REGIONAL NEWS

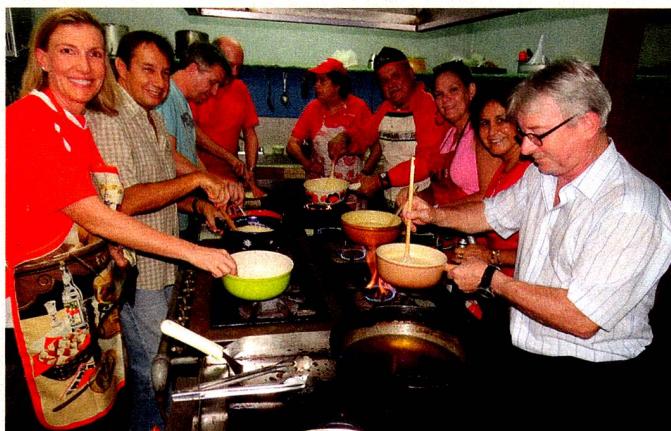
## CANADA

### Editorial

Dear Readers across Canada and in Switzerland,



During a recent trip to Panamá, the Honorary Consul of Switzerland, Mr. Nils Petterson and his wife Patricia were so kind to meet with me over dinner at the local Swiss Restaurant. Over a delicious meal of fresh trucha I learned of the approx. 600 Swiss living in Panamá, the country's double digit growth rates in past years and the recent election of a new President. Panamá City is a surprising metropolis with an impressive high rise skyline. When the Consul learned that I had plans to visit El Valle de Anton, the largest populated crater in the world, he invited me to join the active members of the Club Suizo who happened to hold their annual fondue meeting during my visit there. In lush surroundings of swaying palm trees and an entry way lined with tropical flowers, I was greeted by warm smiles and a large Swiss flag at the door. Inside, the room had been decorated with strings of colorful Swiss flags and cow bells, and the mini St. Galler sausages served with the chilled white wine were first rate. Second generation Swiss-Panamanian President Yvonne (far left) introduced me to the membership in rapid Spanish and flawless Schwiizerdütsch, but English and

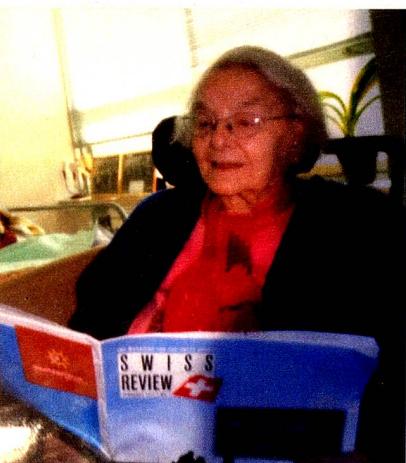


French were spoken throughout the evening just as easily. It was a lively and fun event with the heads of each table being called to the kitchen to prepare the fondue for their table themselves. The evening ended with a Panamanian style Jass. The rules of the game were Swiss all right, but this was clearly a community event with onlookers commenting, advising and teaching the game or having a general discussion with the players in several languages and with much laughter. Swiss adaptation at its best. Thank you for a fun evening, Club Suizo de Panamá!

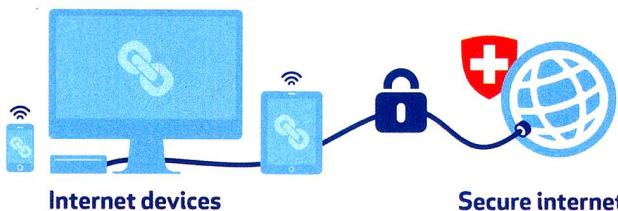
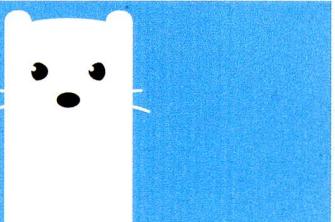
Please allow me to introduce you to a dedicated Swiss Review Reader: Mrs. Frieda Rosa Hug, who turned 104 years young in March of 2014! Mrs. Hug was 38 when she immigrated with husband Walter and two teenage daughters in 1948, having sold a small farm in Nesselbach, Kt. Aargau, and quitting her job at a hat factory in Wohlen in order to take possession of the family's new dairy farm in Mitchell, ON. At age 58 Frieda moved to London, ON, to be closer to her daughters. She worked as a Cook at a Lodge and cared for students at a fraternity, cooking, shopping and looking after them until she turned 75. As Frieda had purchased some rental properties over the years, she managed and acted as a landlord until her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Thereafter, she gave up her own home and lived with her two daughters and their families, alternating every two weeks until January 2014, when she decided to move into a nursing home where she celebrated her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday this March, surrounded by family and friends.

Frieda has seven grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren. Her granddaughter Susan Lynch reports that her grandmother always has a smile for everyone and enjoys reading in English and German, knitting and watching TV. Our most sincere congratulations from the Swiss Review community to you, dear Mrs. Hug! And much enjoyment with your extensive family this summer to you, and all Swiss Review Readers!

Silvia Schoch, Editor



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## 2 Victoria Victoria Swiss Society

As a sixty member active club, we don't own any premises but hold our events at different venues throughout the city. This year, we struck an agreement with the local Norwegian Club (which already share their premises with the local Swedish and Danish communities), to run four of our events out of their club house. We are opening up these events to the members of the other clubs and are looking forward to an enriching time together!

### SUMMER AND FALL 2014 EVENTS

**June 22:** 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bocce Tournament & Picnic, Mt. Douglas Park. Assembly 12:00 noon at the end of the main parking lot, followed by BBQ (please bring your own food). Spectators welcome; children's games arranged.

**July 16:** Annual Mini Cruise with buffet lunch from Victoria to Vancouver and back, (no stay over in Vancouver), returning with the 11:00 am ferry from Swartz Bay

**August 9:** Swiss National Day Celebration, BBQ and Potluck, Centennial Park, Central Saanich

**September 25:** Art/Hobby Show at Norway House

**October 23:** Raclette/Fondue Swiss Folklore Evening, Norway H.

**November 27:** AGM and Games Night at Norway House

**December 6:** Christmas Dinner at St. Aiden's Church.

Every third Wednesday of the month there is a Ladies Luncheon and we hold regular Jass evenings between September and June. New members and inquiries from anyone interested in Swiss culture always welcome.

Silvia Schoch, Vice President

[silv.schoch@gmail.com](mailto:silv.schoch@gmail.com) (250) 385-7844

## Vancouver Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association 1964 – 2014

The outdoor shooting season is well under way at this time of the year, also the Wednesday afternoon shooting becomes very popular, including the delicious and reasonable suppers which follow after the intense practice. We are also planning and organizing for the August 1<sup>st</sup> celebration which will be held on July 26<sup>th</sup> and we hope for a great turn out and lots of sunshine. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary festivities will start on October 3<sup>rd</sup> with a two-day shooting competition between the Swiss Visitors and S.C.M.R.A. Sunday afternoon, October

5<sup>th</sup> will be the official Ceremony with dinner to follow. The Crossbow section is also celebrating 50 years of existence.

### SUMMER AND FALL 2014 EVENTS

**July 26:** National Day Celebration

**August 10<sup>th</sup>:** Championship all Ranges

**August 24:** Championship all Ranges - Trap

**Sept. 7:** Last Day Club Championship 300m – Trap Cheese shoot

**September 20:** Workparty

**September 21:** Consul Cup

**October 3-5:** Anniversary Celebration

**October 11 and 12:** Schützenfest

**October 26:** Saushoot

**November 1:** Workparty

**November 2:** Jass Tournament

**December 6:** Santa Claus Party

Anyone who likes good company in beautiful Chalet surroundings is welcome to join us on any of the scheduled events. Please check our website for more details and pictures: [www.scmra.ca](http://www.scmra.ca)

Marlies Baumann, Membership Secretary  
(604) 298-3021

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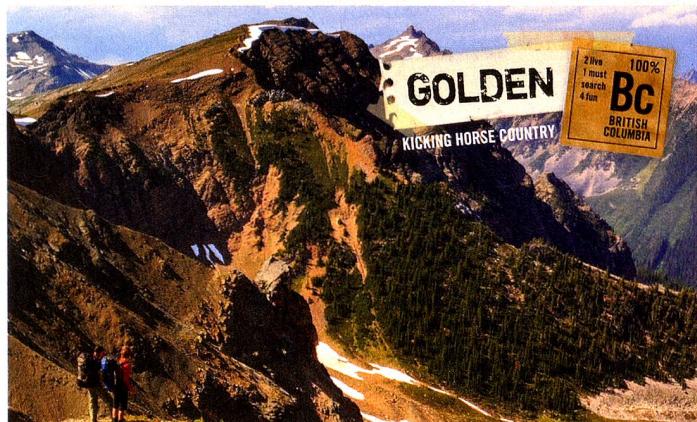
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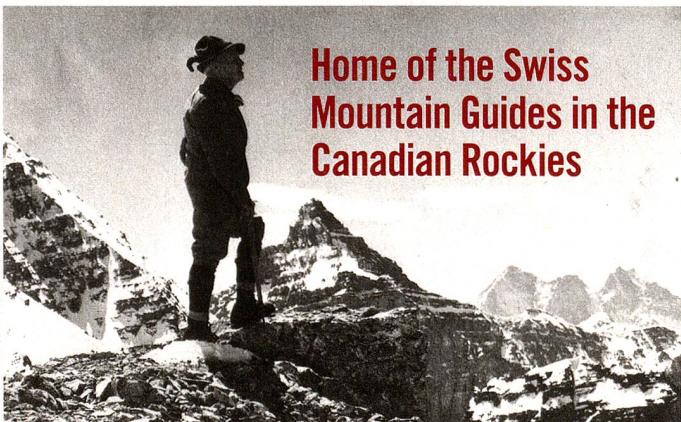
Gérard Herrmann  
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## Vancouver Swiss Society

### 28<sup>th</sup> Pacific Coast Singing & Yodeling Festival Tacoma, Washington, July 10-13

As the host of the past Sängerfest 2011 in Vancouver, the Swiss Society of Vancouver is happy to inform all potential "Schlachtenbummler" in Canada that the final preparations in Tacoma, Washington are going well. It will be the largest Swiss Cultural event in North-America in 2014. The website of this 28<sup>th</sup> Sängerfest of the USSSPC contains all necessary information for singers and non-singers and most importantly also for children who would like to join the 'Kinderchörli' in Tacoma. The final four-day schedule can also be downloaded from the website including online registration for tickets, Singer, Non-Singer and Kinderchörli badges as well as hotel rooms. Do not miss this fantastic event in Tacoma which the Swiss Society of Vancouver can enjoy this year as a participating society. Non-singer badges cost \$280; accommodation and admission for the Grand Concert have to be paid separately. We wish Tacoma all the best with the last preparations! [www.swiss-sangerfest-tacoma-2014.org](http://www.swiss-sangerfest-tacoma-2014.org) Tel.: 253-678-4924



2014 Sängerfest rehearsal with Kurt McKee. Photo: Ted Nodwell

Rolf A. Brülhart, Past-President of the USSSPC and Sängervater  
[rbrulhart@hotmail.com](mailto:rbrulhart@hotmail.com)



## Calgary

### Swiss Folk Dance Club Alpenrösli

We practice every Monday night from 7:30pm – 9:00pm at the Ramsay Community Hall, 1136 – 8th Street SE, Calgary. After practice we meet for a social. We currently have 13 female members with room for growth. If you are interested, you are welcome to drop in at one of our practices, or just contact one of our members. As a new member you will gain:

- New friendships
- Re-connect with your Swiss heritage
- Great exercise
- Opportunity to wear your Tracht (if you don't own one, we will supply you with one)
- A weekly night out with the girls
- Lots of laughs and a good time!

Check our website [www.swiss-dance-group-alpenroesli.ca](http://www.swiss-dance-group-alpenroesli.ca) You will find our newsletter by clicking on the "newsletter" link. The newsletter is updated quarterly.

## Saskatoon Swiss Club Saskatoon

Our Jass tournament was held on Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup> and produced two Jass Meisters: Rosa Nievergelt and Elisabeth Wirz. Congratulations to those two ladies!

### SUMMER AND FALL 2014 EVENTS

**June 22<sup>nd</sup>:** June picnic/BBQ at noon at the farm of Sarah Huizing, daughter of Lydia and Hannes Eymann.

**August 2<sup>nd</sup>:** First of August celebration and party at the park in Warman, SK. This event is held in the evening, starting about 5:00 p.m. The club will be providing the sausages for this BBQ. Directions and further information can be found by either contacting the club ([swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com](mailto:swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com)) or by phone 306-665-6039) or consulting our newsletter (members).

Elisabeth Eilinger, President



We are always open to any event invitations within Alberta or out-of-Province. Please contact us at [president@swiss-dance-group-alpenroesli.ca](mailto:president@swiss-dance-group-alpenroesli.ca) for more information.

Vreni Schmid, President  
[president@swiss-dance-group-alpenroesli.ca](mailto:president@swiss-dance-group-alpenroesli.ca)

## Montreal Swiss National Society

Metzgete: October 11, 2014 – 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Reception: November 9, 2014

In 1874, a group of Swiss men founded our Society to enjoy friendship and comradship. Today, one hundred and forty years later, our aim remains unchanged. All Swiss Citizens of voting age (men and women) are welcome to become Active Members. We meet four to five times per year on the first Tuesday of the month and have special events on Friday or Saturday at different restaurants in the Montreal region. We welcome all members, their guests and friends at our meetings which include a hearty meal, followed by guest speakers, discussions, Jass or films. Every Monday night we play 10-pin bowling from September until April. For further information, please contact:

Carl H. Diehl, President, 514-696-3876, [randolinas@gmail.com](mailto:randolinas@gmail.com)

# HOCKEY IN SWITZERLAND

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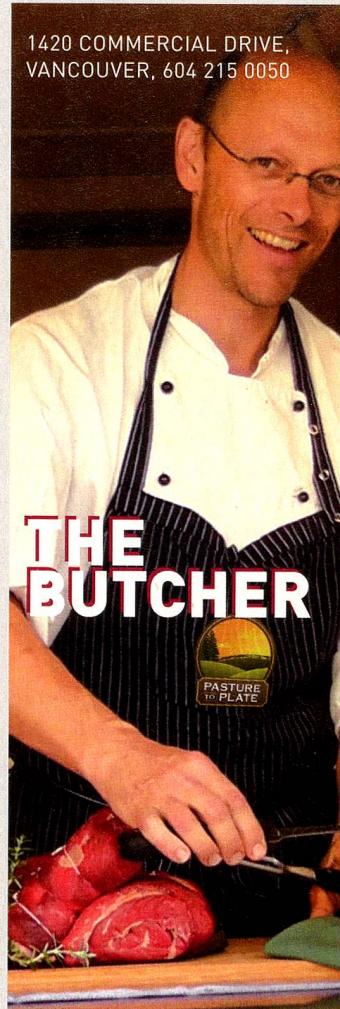


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# Golden Celebration of Swiss Mountain Guides at Golden Mountain Festival

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Nestled between three mountain ranges and two rivers in the Canadian Rocky Mountains lies Golden, BC, a small community, rich in Swiss history. Known for an abundance of mountain adventure activities, the town owes this trait to the Swiss Mountain Guides. On May 17 and 18, Golden celebrated this piece of history with the Golden Mountain Festival; a two-day festival dedicated to the heritage of Swiss Guides in Golden.

Attendees had lots of opportunity to learn about, and meet, some of the iconic Swiss Guides. A documentary highlighting the Swiss Guide's adventure through the Rocky Mountains played while others chose to take a guided tour through one of the famous Swiss Guide Houses at



Swiss Guide Rudi Gertsch talking with visitors

Photo: Tourism Golden/Dibble Photography

the Edelweiss Village. A photo exhibit allowed a personal look into history through an exhibit of private photos from Syd Feuz, an iconic second generation Swiss Guide born in Golden. Other activities included the blowing of the traditional Swiss Alphorn and a Farmer's Market full of vendors in national Swiss dress with traditional treats. Restaurants in the community embraced the history with Swiss-inspired specials for people to enjoy. The Golden Mountain Festival left both tourists and locals with a feeling of nostalgia and a new respect for the people who made this community Golden. For more information and images from the Festival visit [www.goldenfest.ca](http://www.goldenfest.ca).

Faith Dusevic

## Toronto Swiss National Day Celebration Sunday, July 27, 2014, 12 noon - 5 pm at the Country Heritage Park in Milton, Ontario



The Swiss Club Toronto cordially invites you and your friends to a fun filled afternoon with great entertainment, Swiss food, refreshments, our famous Nussgipfel, wagon rides, and much more. Take your family to make new friends and renew old acquaintances. Meet Swiss artists and enjoy their work, and don't forget our famous raffle.

**12:00 noon** – The Park Opens. Visit some of the thirty heritage buildings. Taste great Swiss food, coffee and Nussgipfel. Beer, wine and soft drinks are also available.



**1:30 pm** – Start of the Official Celebration and Entertainment until 4:30 pm, followed by our famous raffle draw.

**Directions from Toronto:** Country Heritage Park is located at 8560 Tremaine Road, West of Milton. Take 401 West to Highway 25 exit. Go north to the third traffic light. Turn left onto Side Road 5/Regional Road 9. After three kilometers turn left onto Tremaine Road (hidden intersection). Go over the 401 bridge and the Park is immediately on the right. For Country Heritage Park information go to [www.countryheritagepark.com](http://www.countryheritagepark.com), for more event information please visit our website at [www.swissclub-toronto.ca](http://www.swissclub-toronto.ca).

Sascha Frassini, President

[sascha.frassini@swissclubtoronto.ca](mailto:sascha.frassini@swissclubtoronto.ca)

evening. This is also a great event to invite or offer to your visitors from abroad, to let them enjoy something different in our Canadian wilderness. The cost per person will be approximately \$80 to \$90. Space is limited, so it will be first come, first served. For more information please get in touch with me.

Walter Brunner, President

(905) 508-8014, [walter.brunner@sympatico.ca](mailto:walter.brunner@sympatico.ca)

## Toronto Swiss Club Toronto Gym Section: Canoe Trip August 2 - 4



Are you interested in a canoe trip? Don't worry, even if you have never been in a canoe before!

This year once again, the Gym Section of the Swiss Club Toronto is organizing a canoe trip to Algonquin Park on the long weekend August 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 4<sup>th</sup>. We leave very early on Saturday morning and rent canoes before we enter the park. We start out on Magnetawan Lake and have our eye set on a smaller lake.

To get there, we will paddle five to six hours and carry canoes and camping gear over a few short portages. Once there, we look for a nice campsite and set up camp for the two nights over the long weekend. On Sunday, everyone is free to enjoy, relax or explore; soak up some sun or soak in the water; do a little tour with the canoe or enjoy some hiking. On Monday, the real world is already calling again and we will be back in Toronto by early



## Toronto Swiss Club Toronto Men's Section: Family BBQ June 21



On Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, starting at 1:00 pm, we will have our annual Family BBQ at the Egger Dairy Farm in Milton. Walter and Trudi are again looking forward to having us at their beautiful place.

**This event is open to all Swiss Club Members.** Note: In the event of rain we will be indoors in the new barn, so come in any weather. We will supply sausages with buns, potato salad and condiments, as well as coffee. Please bring your own drinks of any kind. There are usually various donated desserts available, thanks in advance to the many donors! If possible, please bring your own lawn chairs and since we expect nice weather, don't forget your sunscreen! **How to get there:** go west on Hwy 401 to Hwy 25. Go south to Steeles Avenue, turn right (west) for 4.3 km to 5244 Steeles Avenue where you will see a large pond on the left (south) side of the road with white swans (unless they're hiding). We will try to place a Swiss flag at the entrance to the farm.

Arno Sigrist, Chairman  
(416) 493-8025, [arno.s@sympatico.ca](mailto:arno.s@sympatico.ca)

## Montreal Matterhorn Swiss Club

For a spring or summer outing, we plan to have a walk at Cooper Marsh in Lancaster, ON, followed by a visit to a large dairy farm in nearby Bainsville. This was a popular event a few years ago, and we are sure that it be well-attended again.

As in the past, Matterhorn members will help out at 1<sup>st</sup> of August celebrations at Mont Sutton. Many volunteers are needed, so we will be counting on many of you to give a few hours of your time to contribute toward a successful Swiss National Day. More information will follow, and please help out where you can.

Our annual summer picnic will once again be held in mid-August at the Pfister residence on Ile Cadieux. New members are welcome, and according to our bylaws, please attend two events before becoming a member.

Walter Spirig, President  
(514) 694-3718



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## Ottawa Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

Spring is finally here. I hope you all survived the long harsh winter well.

The first event this year, organized by Luc Andre, was an outing on cross-country skis and snow shoes in the Gatineau Park, ending with a fondue. People attending had a great time. The OVSC Annual General Meeting was held February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Our Ambassador, Mr. Ulrich Lehner, briefed us on the major events affecting Switzerland and the Swiss abroad and the state of relations with Canada. The present Board of Directors was re-elected by acclamation. A slide show of influential Swiss and Swiss Artists at home and abroad complimented the evening. Kati Lyon-Villiger surprised us with a quiz on Mr. Lehner's speech and Swiss history that was well received.

### 2014 SUMMER AND FALL EVENTS

**June 22:** Annual Golf Tournament

**July 27:** Swiss National Holiday celebration at Billings Estate

**November 8:** Montagna Singers "Metzgete"

**Monthly:** Luncheons held by the Swiss Seniors

A heartfelt thank you to Asta and Chris who were in charge of the children's games last year. As they are leaving soon for Toronto, the OVSC Board is looking forward to hearing from some enthusiastic folks who would like to help us organize that delightful task again this year. For a list of events, news and updates, or to contact the Ottawa Valley Swiss Club, please visit our website [www.ottawavalleyswissclub.ca](http://www.ottawavalleyswissclub.ca).

Helen Natterer, President



Ottawa Valley Swiss Club Board of Directors 2014



## Montréal L'amicale Suisse des Laurentides

**Bonjour à tous:** C'est enfin la belle saison, donc le 22 juin 2014 le premier méchoui de la saison, c'est un rendez-vous sur la terrasse couverte ou sous la pergola. **Hello to all:** It is finally getting warm, thus on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, we are meeting for the first barbecue of the year, either on the pergola or the covered terrasse. **Grüezi Mitenand:** Es ist soweit: die Tage sind wärmer und so treffen wir uns zum ersten Grill am 22. Juni, 2014. Pour réserver et info/For reservations and info/Für Reservationen und Informationen: [amicale@lheritage.com](mailto:amicale@lheritage.com), (450) 226-2218.

Salutations, L'Ami Gérard Herrmann  
President

## Notice to All Swiss Citizens residing in the Toronto Area

Since the recent introduction of the "Biometric Passport", passport requests must be made in person in order to allow the recording of necessary biometric data which includes: a photograph of the applicant's face and a scan of two fingerprints.

The Consulate General in Montreal is pleased to inform you of the upcoming visit to Toronto of two Consular Officers **during the week of October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014**.

Equipped with a "mobile biometric passport station", this visit will enable the Consular staff to record the required biometric data of those living in the Toronto area. If you would like to take advantage of the opportunity of having your biometric data recorded in Toronto, please complete an application for a new passport via the following website: [www.schweizerpass.ch](http://www.schweizerpass.ch). Please follow the procedure for Swiss nationals living abroad and indicate under "remarks" that you request that your biometric data be recorded in TORONTO.

**Requests for appointments in Toronto will be accepted until August 15<sup>th</sup> 2014.** Holders of Swiss passports which expire within the next 12 months will be given priority.

Once the receipt of your application for a new passport is confirmed, detailed information of your appointment for biometric data will follow. (Date/time, exact location, required documents etc.). Should you require additional information or consular assistance, please visit this Representation's official website at: [www.eda.admin.ch/montreal](http://www.eda.admin.ch/montreal) or to send a mail to: [mon.vertretung@eda.admin.ch](mailto:mon.vertretung@eda.admin.ch).

**The Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal.**

## *Mrs. Kathy Utigard New Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Toronto*

### **Appointment of Mrs. Kathy Utigard as Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Toronto.**

Mrs. Kathy Utigard was appointed Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Toronto on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Reporting to the Consul General of Switzerland in Montreal, her duties will include the representation of the Consulate General at various political, cultural, scientific, economic and commercial related events. Mrs. Utigard will maintain and develop the network of numerous contacts linked to Switzerland. Also, in collaboration with the Consulate General, she will provide support to Swiss nationals in situations of emergency. Our Honorary Consul will not be responsible for consular issues nor will she be responsible for administrative matters. Swiss citizens requiring consular assistance are asked to contact the Consulate General in Montreal directly.

Mrs. Utigard has occupied several positions in various fields during her 30 years in Canada. Her past includes occupations with the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (Ontario), Switzerland Tourism, the Canadian travel industry as well as with a few private businesses. Employed by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Toronto, until its closure last April 30<sup>th</sup>, Mrs Utigard remains an active member of various professional, cultural and Swiss associations.

## *Message from the Ambassador of Switzerland to Canada -Message de l'Ambassadeur de Suisse au Canada*

After a little less than three years spent in Canada, it is time for my wife and me to move on and return to Europe. My new responsibilities will take me to Paris as head of the Swiss Delegation to the OECD. Living in Canada where I spent some of my childhood-years was a real privilege and I thoroughly enjoyed my time in this wonderful country. Though our stay will be a little shorter than anticipated, we have had numerous opportunities to crisscross this immense land and meet many of you, members of the Swiss community living in Canada. A community which is both proud of its origins and traditions and well integrated in its new homeland. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the warm welcome that you have always extended to us when our paths crossed.



Though Switzerland and Canada differ in many ways—just consider size and natural resources—many of you have chosen to settle in Canada because it is a land of opportunities. The ties between the two countries are strong, particularly when you consider trade and investments, and during my time in Ottawa, I have tried with my colleagues at the Embassy and in the General Consulates to broaden them to other areas such as research, academia and professional training.

In leaving Canada, I would like to reiterate to you my gratitude for the kindness that you have always extended to my wife and me and introduce my successor, Ambassador Beat Nobs, who will arrive in Ottawa beginning of September. With my best wishes, Ulrich Lehner, Ambassador

Après un peu moins de trois ans passés au Canada, il est temps pour mon épouse et moi-même de poursuivre notre chemin et de retourner en Europe. Mes nouvelles responsabilités me mèneront à Paris où je reprendrai la direction de la Délégation suisse près l'OCDE. Vivre au Canada, où j'ai passé quelques-unes de mes années d'enfance, fut un réel privilège et j'ai beaucoup apprécié mon séjour dans ce magnifique pays. Bien que celui-ci soit un peu plus court que prévu, nous avons eu de nombreuses occasions de silloner cet immense pays et de rencontrer beaucoup d'entre vous, membre de la communauté suisse du Canada. Une communauté qui est à la fois fière de ses origines et de ses traditions et bien intégrée dans son nouveau pays. Je souhaite saisir cette occasion pour vous remercier du chaleureux accueil que vous nous avez réservé à chaque fois que nos chemins se sont croisés.

Bien que la Suisse et le Canada diffèrent dans de nombreux domaines—considérez simplement la taille et les ressources naturelles—vous êtes nombreux à avoir choisi de vous installer au Canada, un pays d'opportunités. Les liens entre les deux pays sont forts, particulièrement dans le domaine du commerce et des investissements ; et durant mon séjour à Ottawa, j'ai cherché, avec mes collègues de l'ambassade et des consulats généraux, à les élargir à d'autres domaines tels que la recherche, le monde académique et la formation professionnelle.

En quittant le Canada, je voudrais vous réitérer toute ma gratitude pour la gentillesse que vous avez toujours témoignée à l'égard de mon épouse et de moi-même et vous présenter mon successeur, l'Ambassadeur Beat Nobs, qui arrivera à Ottawa début septembre. Avec mes meilleurs voeux, Ulrich Lehner, Ambassadeur



## Daniel von Känel – Executive Chef Par Excellence

After completing his Chef's training at the Casino in Bern, Daniel wanted to go to New Zealand. But his parents, insisting on a part of the world with some family connection and the fact that the South African Government paid for his flight, won out. In the summer of 1971, 21 year old Daniel flew to Johannesburg and into the midst of apartheid. Daniel remembers, chuckling: "Internet was non-existent in those days and I knew very little about the place. I certainly didn't realize I was going from summer to winter!" Learning and adapting quickly after arriving in shorts in the middle of a snow-storm became a hallmark for Daniel, who soon moved up the ladder and to the Heerengracht Hotel in Cape Town.

There was no TV in South Africa; no shopping, hiking or entertainment, and everything was segregated. Many Sundays were spent with European co-workers, enjoying the gorgeous landscape. After the friends had worked for some time in South Africa, Daniel's German Cold-Kitchen Chef challenged the group to move to Canada. Each of the four friends accepted and the last to arrive was to buy a case of Champagne for the others. Unbeknownst to them all, their German friend had already applied for a visa to Canada!

Daniel followed through and arrived in a wintry Toronto with temperatures of minus 22 degrees. At his first job as Sous Chef at the Granite Club he met his future wife, a native from—where else: New Zealand! Kate had been born and raised down-under but moved with her mother to Canada some years earlier.

Kathleen von Känel's face lights up as she laughs, charmed at the memory: "Pastry was my passion and the department wasn't walled off from the general kitchen at the Granite Club. So, one day – I was rolling my baguettes as usual – in walks this good-looking guy with his tall white Chef's hat, beautiful smile on his face and knives in his hands. It just took right then and there between both of us!" They were married six months later and are still happily married nearly 40 years later! Working together as a married couple was against the rules of the Granite Club, so Kate moved to the pastry department at Eaton's Centre and Daniel was offered the Executive Chef's position for the Royal Bank's private dining rooms of the newly-built Royal Bank Tower.

(In case you're wondering: The Swiss Pastry Chef was the last to arrive in Canada. He drove a battered, old VW beetle from Cape Town to Nairobi where he shipped it to India. He then drove across the continent to Rotterdam, taking the boat once more, finally arriving in Montreal. As far as Daniel knows, the car with two million kilometers on it is still in use as an ice-fishing hut in northern Ontario!)

Eventually, the von Känels moved to Canada's West Coast where they were hired as Head Chef and Pastry Chef at the luxurious new Kingfisher Inn on Vancouver Island. Soon after, the couple adopted

their first baby girl. Over the next six years, they welcomed three more adopted children into their family. After some time, Daniel answered a cryptic ad in the paper. It turned out that the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia was looking for an experienced Executive Chef to cook for him, his wife and for numerous Royalty, Heads of States and other dignitaries he entertained regularly at his official residence in Victoria. During the probationary period Daniel lived in the staff quarters of Government House, then the family moved into the charming original Gardener's house on the grounds. Kate had her hands full running the household, figuring out problems like how to keep little Christopher from climbing the wrought-iron fence fronting the Vice-Regal property. She succeeded by coating the upright bars with a lubricating film of Crisco! Meanwhile, Daniel was doing magic by cooking the finest meals of BC meats, fruits, vegetables and wines and also doing the dishes and cleaning the kitchen mostly on his own.

Daniel retired in 2000 after 15 years of outstanding service under three Governors General and with a treasure trove of memories! For example: at the occasion of a State Dinner during the

Commonwealth Games in Victoria in 1994, Daniel went to examine whether everything was ready in the dining room for the dinner he and his kitchen crew had created. The Royal party, together with the Prime Minister, the Lieutenant Governor, the BC Premier and many other dignitaries, was assembled in the adjoining green room. They were just about to walk into the dining room, when in through the front doors flew a bat. Quick-thinking Daniel threw the closest waiter a serving towel and directed him to shoo the untimely bat into the east stairway and

out the window. The plan was executed as masterminded just as the doors opened and HRH Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip entered the successfully de-batted hallway. Daniel had avoided an international incident! The story was told to Queen Elizabeth and the waiter was offered a position at Buckingham Palace! Daniel, received his laurels in recognition of his outstanding culinary service and was honoured in personal audiences by numerous Royalty and Dignitaries: HRH Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip presented him with a pair of cufflinks. Other audiences were with Princess Alexandra and Lady Mountbatten, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, President Weizäcker, and many more. While serving at Government House, Daniel passed the exams for the coveted "Canadian Chef de Cuisine" designation, the highest qualification for a Chef in Canada. He also became experienced in chocolate-making to the delight of the special guests at Government House.

Of course, I had to ask. Today, at home, Kate is usually the one who cooks, except for special occasions, when they complement each other as always, in life and at work: husband and wife; Chef Extraordinaire and Pastry Chef. You'll win either way if you have the privilege of being invited to dinner at the von Känel's! (Daniel and Kate are members of the Victoria Swiss Society.)

Silvia Schoch

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Swiss Review 5/2014 on web-site as of October 4, 2014 at [www.revue.ch/en](http://www.revue.ch/en) or go directly to [Regional News Canada](http://Regional News Canada): [www.revue.ch/regio-en-can](http://www.revue.ch/regio-en-can). Approx. arrival by mail in Canada by third week of October 2014. Deadline for text submissions and advertising with Canadian Editor: September 15, 2014.