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REGIONAL NEWS

CANADA

Editorial



SILVIA SCHOCH
EDITOR, REGIONAL
NEWS CANADA, AND
OSA DELEGATE
WESTERN CANADA

Front page news for this regional edition is of course the participation of our Swiss Women's National Soccer Team at the FIFA World Cup Canada 2015™. After the team's strong 2014 top-of-their-group qualifying results, the Edmonton/Calgary and Vancouver/Victoria Swiss Clubs have been abuzz for awhile, buying group tickets for the first three matches of our Swiss Women's team and also putting together a welcoming committee for our Helvetierinnens' arrival in Canada.

Run under the official FIFA slogan "To a Greater Goal™", Victor Montagliani, Chairman of the National Organizing Committee and President of the Canadian Soccer Association says in an exclusive FIFA.com interview. "For sport, for women, for Canada: those are three qualities that highlight our ambitions in hosting a successful FIFA Women's

World Cup." Host country Canada automatically qualifies for the games. Victor continues "It is significant that our Official Slogan is presented for the first time here in Winnipeg. Always one of Canada's important football cities because of its central location, Winnipeg was the site of our first-ever women's national team camp back on Canada Day 1 July 1986. For more than 100 years, soccer has been one of our most beloved sports in Canada, boasting some of the country's greatest athletes, ambassadors and heroes. More than 30 years ago when we launched our national competition in 1982, we were one of the few countries in the world that embraced women's soccer."

Read all about our Swiss Team in the article below and let the "Hopp Schwiiz" fever catch on to you, too! See you at the games.

SILVIA SCHOCH
EMAIL: SILV.SCHOCH@GMAIL.COM

To a Greater Goal™

Having qualified for the first time, the Swiss Women's National Soccer team is more than ready to participate at the FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015™.

In an exclusive interview with FIFA.com, Switzerland's coach Martina Voss-Tecklenburg says: "We want to challenge for top spot and we certainly have a good chance of doing that. We'll have to be at our best in every match, maybe we'll need a little bit of luck and above all we could do without getting many injuries".

And coach Martina knows best. As a former German international, she has won numerous titles during her playing career, including the



German championship six times, and four times each the German cup and the European championship. But then the games' record of the Swiss Women's Soccer team in the qualifying rounds speaks for itself: winning nine games out of ten with only two loss points and a goal ratio of 53:1!

The team performed consistently during the qualifiers against Malta, Serbia, Israel; favourites Denmark and Iceland; finishing at the top of Group 3. Continues Coach Martina: "Every European Championship and World Cup has a positive effect,

especially on the host countries. I'm happy that there will be 24 teams participating at Canada 2015, instead of 16. That is a reflection of the positive developments in the game and the esteem it is held in".

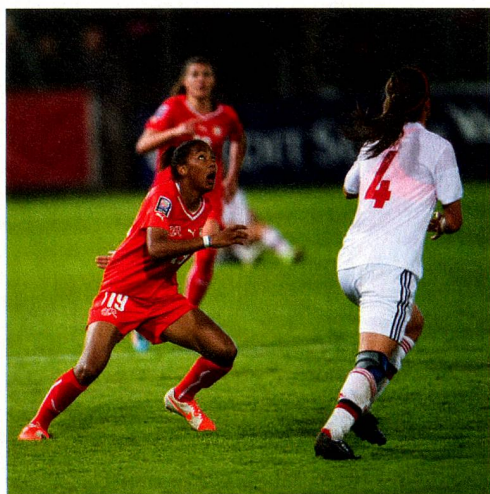
The seventh edition of the Women's World Cup will kick off in Edmonton on June 6th with Canada playing China. In Group C, Switzerland is pitted against defending world champion Japan in their first game in Vancouver on June 8th. A game that will have to bring out the best in our Eidgenossinnen.

Crowned world champion in Germany in 2011, Japan is a formidable

ABOVE: SWISS WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM. THE DECISION OF THE EXACT TEAM FOR THE CUP WILL BE MADE IN MAY. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS, GO TO [HTTP://WWW.FOOTBALL.CH/DE/SEV/NATIONALTEAMS/A-TEAM-FRAUEN/DAS-A-TEAM-FRAUEN.ASPX](http://www.football.ch/de/sev/nationalteams/a-team-frauen/das-a-team-frauen.aspx)
LEFT: COACH MARTINA VOSS-TECKLENBURG AND TEAM

first team to play. While their win at the last World Cup may have been unexpected, Japan has since continued to achieve stellar results with an Olympic runners-up medal and AFC Women's Asian Cup win. Their play is based on teamwork and unity, short-passing and technical excellence, augmented with depth and quality attack. Their qualifying rounds revealed resilience and commitment despite—or maybe because of—often being shorter in height to some of their opponents. With characteristic modesty, coach Norio Sasaki is quoted on FIFA.com saying that the team's consistent performance have shown him that "...they have good potential and have experienced good lessons for the future".

At the end of the same week, Switzerland will meet Ecuador on June 12th in Vancouver. This will be Ecuador's first appearance at a World Cup.



"We got there by battling and showing real desire. Everyone is proud of this historic women's national team," says Ecuador coach Vanessa Arauz.

Four days later in Edmonton on June 16th, Switzerland will meet Cameroon which qualified for the cup for the first time after triumphs over Côte d'Ivoire in the CAF African Women's Championship 2014 semi-finals. Highly experienced coach Enow Ngachu who, led his team to London 2012, is having a reputation for winning matches from the back.

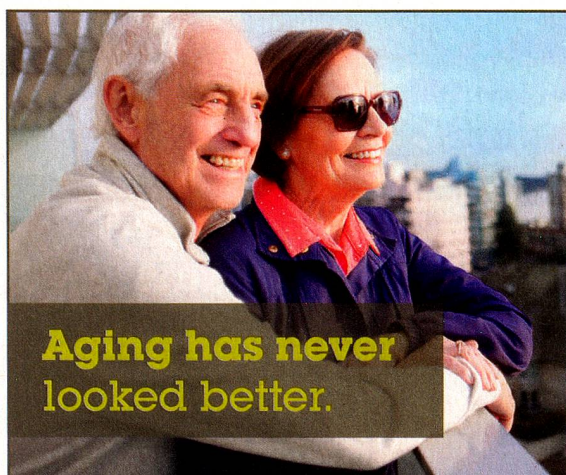
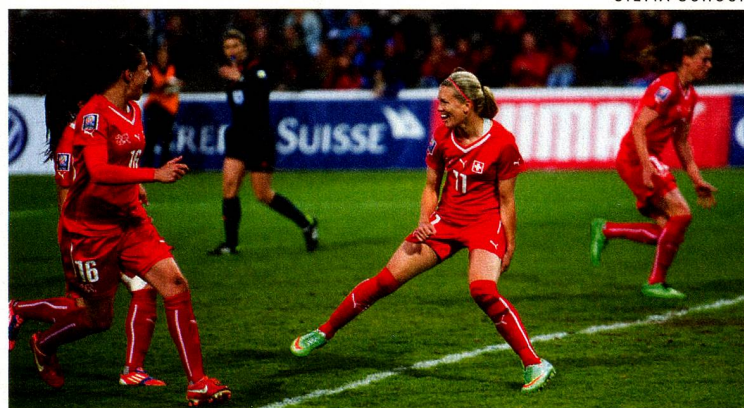
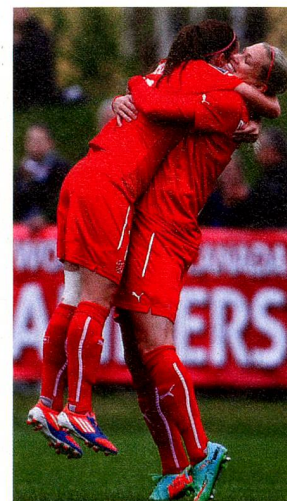
The 24 teams are divided into six groups of four teams each. Each team plays every other team within their group during the first 36 games until June 17th. Beyond stadiums in Vancouver and Edmonton, the World Cup runs coast to coast in the further host cities of Winnipeg, Ottawa, Montreal and

Moncton. After the initial game, Canada plays New Zealand in Edmonton on June 11th, followed by the Netherlands in Montreal on June 15th. The Round of 16 begins with games in Edmonton and Ottawa on June 20th, and the World Cup ends with the final games in Edmonton and Vancouver on July 4th and 5th.

In an interview with the National Soccer Association of Switzerland after the draw of teams and locations, Coach Martina said: "I know that Vancouver is a fabulous city and that many Swiss live in Western Canada. I'm sure we can count on many specators and will have great support at our games".

Let's give our Swiss National Women's Soccer Team an enthusiastic welcome and show of support at the games and upon their arrival. The team is expected to enter Canada at Vancouver airport, May 30th at 2:20 pm with LH 492. If you wish to watch the first two games with the Swiss team in Vancouver, consider booking your seats close to an early group of Swiss-Canadian ticket-holders. For the game on June 8th (JAP-SUI), book between or next to Sections 446 and 447, Rows B and up. For the June 12th match against Ecuador, select in or close to Section 231, around rows CC. See the Calgary Swiss Club article on the following page for ticket bookings close to Swiss fans at the Edmonton stadium. For the latest games updates and to order tickets go to <http://www.fifa.com/womensworldcup/>. See you at the games and Hopp Schwiiz!!

SILVIA SCHOCH



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Vancouver: Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association

We had a good turnout for our annual Absenden, Dinner and Awards, on January 31st, 2015 and indulged in an excellent dinner. We celebrated all the shooters, the trophy and medal winners and also everyone who put a lot of effort and practice in all year around.

The big winners of the 300 meter Club championship were Christian Morach with the Standard Rifle who had 705 points, and Robert Best with the Service Rifle who achieved 649 points. Congratulations to you both!

In the Pistol Section, all around winner with 530 points was Wolf Gallo. Fifty meter Section: Roger Grover was the Champion with 1435 points. In the Junior section it was Max Grover who won the Trophy. Crossbow Section: Club Championship winner was Markus Spycher with 891 points. Congratulation to you all!

The AGM was well attended. A big thank you to our outgoing Secretary, Marco Chioccarello, for a job well done, and welcome to Daniel Meier for taking on this very important job. All the previous officers got re-elected.

We are looking forward to the new outdoors shooting season and it would be great to welcome new members. We had six new members last year, so let's top that this year!

We have another busy year ahead of us, as a good number of shooters will travel to Switzerland in order to attend the Eidgenössische Schützenfest in Visp. For any program changes, please check our website: www.scmra.ca

And remember: there is lunch available on any shooting day and if you take part on the Workparties—Lunch is on the house! What a deal for a day's work! MARLIES BAUMANN

Events Program 2015

March 7: Workparty; 8: Ten meter Schützenfest; 15: Practice all Ranges & Safety course; 29: Championship all Ranges April 11: Workparty incl. Club house cleaning; 12: Championship all Ranges and Crossbow Fondue Stich; 26: Championship all Ranges May 3: 50 m & 300 m & Crossbow Club Championship-Trap; 9: Workparty; 16 & 17: 50 m & 300 m Feldstich & Feldschiessen-Trap; 31: Championship all Ranges June 6: Workparty; 7: Championship all Ranges; 14: Championship all Ranges July 19: Championship all Ranges; 25: Workparty August 1: National Day Celebration

Calgary: Calgary Swiss Cultural Society

Over the last couple of years, our initiative within the Swiss Cultural Society of Calgary was to create more events and activities to attract an even greater interest from our younger Swiss members.

Our informal slogan is *Events and Activities for Young and Young at Heart*. So imagine our delight when Swiss National Athlete Michaela Widmer contacted us, asking if we would be interested in learning more about Skeleton downhill. After all, the sport of skeleton was invented in St. Moritz! It was wonderful to learn that we had a Swiss National athlete living, working, and training right here in Calgary at our Canada Olympic Park facility.

Michaela's talk, together with her teammate, Marco Rohrer of Switzerland, was fun and highly informative, and included a skeleton sled demonstration where one of our young members was able to 'try on' the sled. As a further result of that evening's presentation, little did we know that within our own Swiss Cultural Society we had an up and coming young Luge athlete! This is all a very inspiring experience—whether for our own athletic or fitness goals to even just raising our 'life game'. We look forward to keeping you posted on our resident athletic talents. Currently, Michaela Widmer is ranked 2nd in Switzerland and is looking forward to representing the Swiss internationally, and ultimately at the Winter Olympic Games.



al Women's Soccer (Football) Team has qualified for the World Cup! So, in an effort to show some impressive support to our Women's Swiss National Soccer Team, we have reserved a Swiss Fan Section at the Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton as we take on Cameroon on June 16th. Our excitement is difficult to retain as we anticipate the grand representation that we will make on that day from such a "small" country. Anyone wishing to join us in Edmonton for some great sport, show our support, and wave our flags proudly should consider booking their

seats in Section N, near Row 17. Tickets are available online at www.Edmonton.FWWC2015.ca.

For all our ongoing events and activities, friends, family, and neighbors are always welcome to take part in many of the festivities enjoyed within our community. Membership is also nominal if you wish to receive our quarterly newsletter and have this information, along with interesting articles, brought directly to your doorstep. Otherwise, consult our Calendar of Events at our website www.SwissClubsCalgary.com.

SONJA GOSTELI



FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP CANADA 2015™

SWITZERLAND IS COMING TO EDMONTON! BUY TICKETS NOW

Further in sports, one cannot forget that the FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015™ is just around the corner! This is a big deal, as this is the first time in their history that Switzerland's Nation-

Edmonton: Swiss Men's Choir

In a year where we have decided not to stage a spring concert, we find ourselves even busier than ever! It is always a hectic time preparing for the North American Swiss Singing Alliance Sngerfest. This year's edition is no exception. The Sngerfest is being held in New Glarus, Wisconsin. Like the others we have been to, this is something we look forward to. Our last visit to New Glarus in 2003 was a great joy. Our hosts put on a wonderful event and also the location is quite beautiful.

We don't forget our participation in the traditional Landsgemeinde, Saturday, June 13th, where we sing for and connect

with our many Swiss friends. The tent at Old MacDonald's Farm at Buffalo Lake will echo the sounds of our songs and we hope that the Wild Rose Yodel club and Jodelklub Heimttreu will join us. After the singing, we usually get together and enjoy a barbecue with a hearty salad. There's crossbow shooting and Jass to test coordination and the mind.

At the beginning of October, we fly out to Victoria to perform for the local Swiss Society. It will be a fundraising event at the Alix Goolden Hall on the afternoon of Saturday, October 3, 2015. As a choir, we anticipate with joy the op-

portunity of this short visit, and of being able to share our songs with the audience.

Saturday, November 14th, we celebrate our thirty-fifth anniversary, which will be part of our annual Winzerfest event. We are working very hard already to prepare a program that will please our guests. It promises to be a very special evening.

We are currently in the process of employing an assistant director to help Elizabeth with the choir rehearsals and concerts. We hope that this individual will bring along new and younger singers as well. The choir is currently planning another tour through Switzerland and Tyrol in 2016. DAVE LEIGH

Vernon: Interior Swiss Club October 2014 Dinner, Concert and Dance

Located at the Schubert Centre in Vernon, BC., the last Fall Dinner, Concert and Dance proved once again to be a fantastic evening of meeting friends, old and new, and being entertained by the delightful Jodelclub Heimattreu from Calgary as well as the timeless band Route 66.

The event was skillfully organized by our very own president of the Interior Swiss Club, Mrs. Lilly Senn and her team. The Masters of Ceremonies were Karen Cleland and Elisabeth Reymond. Our returning honoured guest was our Consul General of Switzerland for Western Canada, Mr. Urs V. Strausak, and his lovely wife, Mrs. Martina Feil.

This event was once again sold out. Guests for the evening came from Calgary (the performers) and from all over the Interior, including Kamloops, with a total of 27 people. We had guests from Barriere, Cache Creek, Enderby, Armstrong, Cold-

stream, Falkland, Vernon, Kelowna, Salmon Arm, Golden, Quesnel, Williams Lake, Edmonton, and even visitors

from Switzerland! Once everyone was settled at their tables and the evening program was announced, a splendid dinner buffet was served, followed by a delicious variety of desserts. Thereafter followed the first half of a fantastic performance by the Jodlerclub Heimattreu from Calgary. The group consists of three women and more than a dozen men who sang beautiful traditional and newer songs with surprising twists. Some of the song texts highlighted sayings such as "when you are sometimes not doing well, you need a friend that will stand by you", and that sometimes you just have to let your spirit "labambala".

At one point, a subgroup of the Jodlerclub, who jokingly called themselves the "thrown together" group, playing the guitar, clarinet, harmonica, two accordions and singing/whistling, entertained us with wonderful impromptu pieces.

A definite highlight of Heimattreu's performance were the solo and duet Alphorn performances by the father and daughter team, Mr. Franz Weidmann and Ms. Sonja Weidmann. During the intermission, guests had the opportunity to dance

to the timeless live music by the band Route 66, while the Jodlers lubricated their vocal chords.

After the second half of the performance by Heimattreu, Route 66 once again took over and offered the guests a chance to dance the night away. Later on, even guests enjoyed jodling, accompanied by members of the Jodlerclub.

The Interior Swiss Club would like to offer a sincere thank you to all who attended in making this event a complete success. Furthermore, a heartfelt thank you to the Calgary Jodlerclub Heimattreu and their artistic director, Ms. Marianne Hamilton, for the fantastic performance; Route 66 for their music entertainment; the Schubert Centre for hosting the event and to Bella Stella Cheese for their generous support of our club.

Lastly, we would like to say to Mrs. Lilly Senn: the Interior Swiss Club is doing very well thanks to your sincere dedication and vision. We all thank you for your leadership! Later this year, we are fortunate to celebrate our 60th Anniversary as a club. We are looking forward to it. Come and celebrate with us! TANJA HASLER



Saskatoon: Saskatoon Swiss Club

We've had an interesting winter here in the Prairies, weather wise. Very cold, then very warm with above normal temperatures and quite a lot of snow melting, then very cold again with lots of snow. But we keep warm and busy!

Our Santa evening, held on December 5th, had Santa visiting us after our potluck supper. Twenty adults and eleven children enjoyed the evening, and the kids loved running around and playing. They even insisted that Santa judge their colouring contest, which was a tough job to do, with all the pictures being so lovely.

We have two upcoming Spring events, one of which is the Raclette luncheon, which will already be in the past by the time you read this. It was March 1st at the home of Annemarie and Heinz Buchmann-Gerber in Saskatoon. We always have a great turnout for this very popular event and are expecting nothing less again this year. It is a great time to get together with other club members over a delicious lunch of Raclette, potatoes, salads and desserts. There's even time for a game of Jass for those who want to practice for the Tournament, which is Saturday May 2nd at the home of Rosemarie Eilinger. Supper of European wieners, potato salad and delicious Swiss buns will start us off at 5:30 p.m., with the tournament scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. Registration is required for this event, please contact Rosa Nievergelt

g.nievergelt@sasktel.net or call 306-242-3839 by April 29th, 2015. Dates for our two summer events, the June picnic and the 1st of August party, have not yet been set. For information about our club, and our events, please contact us at swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com or call 306-665-6039. ELISABETH EILINGER

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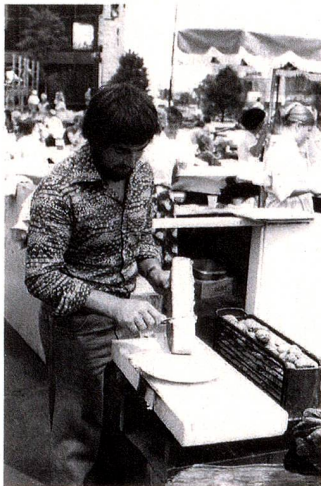
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Guelph: Swiss Canadian Club

The City of Guelph celebrated its 150 anniversary on July 8, 1977. For this occasion, Swiss residents got together and with the support of the Swiss Tourist Office in Toronto, showed the residents and City of Guelph such an impressive Swiss cultural presence that the first club news later reported: "The event on July 8 was a success as the City of Guelph has never seen before". The news continues: "We sold over 3,000 sausages from Hans Egli in Baden, 500 pieces of Fleischchäs, 25 pounds of Raclette cheese and 68 barrels of beer. In conjunction with the jodel choir Toronto and an alphorn player we impressed the city of Guelph to such an extent, we we just had to start up a Swiss Society!"



And so they did, with the club still going strong to this day with approximately 75 members meeting every other month. Indoor events are held at the Arkell United Church hall, such as the ever popular wine-and-cheese party coming up this year on May 2. Members round out the menu by bringing desserts to share. A 50/50 draw, door prizes and audio/visual presentation about Switzerland are also on the program this year.

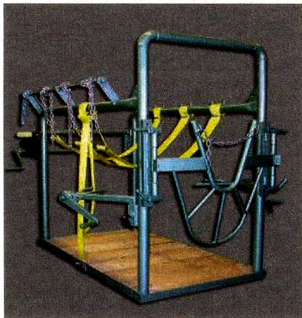
Outdoor get-togethers are held at various locations and include events such a summer evening potluck barbeque at a member's home with swimming pool and outdoor games, or a visit to the donkey sanctuary for families, children and for all young-at-heart. At the other end of the year, a traditional Swiss Waldweihnacht amidst snow covered trees with candles, Christmas stories, songs and goodies for children is also popular with big and small. "Klein, kreativ und fein" might be an appropriate motto for the Guelph Swiss Canadian Club! Following is their article, and we're looking forward to hearing more from you. EDITOR

Are you in the Guelph area? Have an interest in Swiss activities?

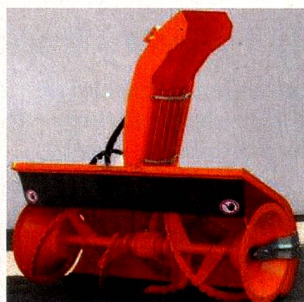
Come out and join us at the following events taking place during the first half of the year. In the upcoming months we will be holding the following events: Games/Jass afternoon, annual Wine and Cheese party, soaking up the sun with a game of mini golf, and splashing the summer away at the annual summer barbeque. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events! For details regarding dates and locations,



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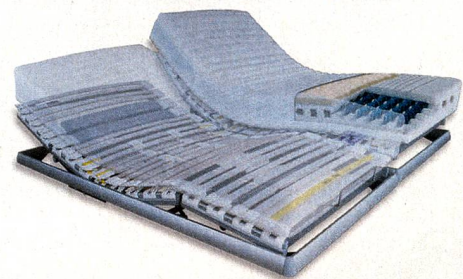
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RINA THOMA

Below: Members of the Guelph Swiss Canadian Club



CONSULAT GÉNÉRAL DE SUISSE, MONTRÉAL

Chères et chers compatriotes,

Vous avez certainement lu dans les dernières éditions de la Revue que, ces derniers mois, la Suisse a été bien présente dans notre arrondissement consulaire. Pour ne citer que trois événements: en septembre dernier la ville de Québec a reçu son horloge monumentale de la part du Canton du Jura. La communauté suisse de Québec a été invitée aux réjouissances publiques. Ensuite le Consulat général s'est déplacé à Toronto pour offrir des services de prise de données biométriques à nos compatriotes. Plus de 150 d'entre vous ont utilisé ce service. Le Consulat général en a également profité pour offrir deux soirées culturelles à notre communauté. En ce début de 2015, notre Pays a brûlé de tous ses feux durant le Festival «Montréal en Lumière». Pays à l'honneur durant ce festival, la Suisse a allumé Montréal.

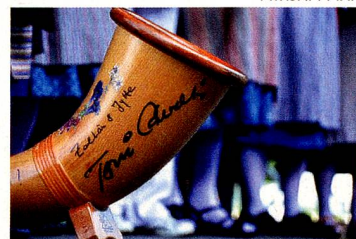
Nous utilisons principalement les pages locales de la Revue suisse pour faire parvenir ces informations à nos quelque 26'000 immatriculés. Malheureusement ce canal n'est pas toujours le plus rapide et nous devons utiliser d'autres moyens de communication pour vous informer dans les meilleurs délais. Nous communiquons donc de plus en plus souvent par voie électronique pour des raisons d'efficacité. Nous devons par contre constater que les changements vous concernant (par exemple adresse postale, courriel, état civil, etc.) ne nous sont souvent pas communiqués. Il est donc important et avantageux pour vous de les tenir à jour. Vous pouvez communiquer vos changements d'adresse directement en ligne sur notre site internet www.eda.admin.ch/Montreal > Services > Immatriculation/Changement d'adresse > Changement d'adresse à l'étranger > Formulaire en ligne de changement d'adresse – Montréal (<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/canada/fr/home/dienstleistungen/immatriculation-adressaenderung/adressaenderung/formular.html>) Pour toute autre question, il vous suffit d'envoyer un courriel à l'adresse suivante mon.kanzlei@eda.admin.ch. Ce lien direct vous garantira un contact rapide et efficace avec votre Consulat général.

Vancouver: European Festival

The 18th European Festival will take place May 30th/31st 2015 at Swangard Stadium in Burnaby, BC. **Visit our Facebook page and win free tickets!** Over 30 nations will come together to showcase the best of their culture, presenting delicious food, live concerts, dancing, and an arts plaza for hand-crafted objects. Visitors will enjoy sampling the best of Europe right in their own backyard! This May you will savour it all, from German Pork Hog to Balkan Cevapi and Polish Pierogi. Come admire the ethnic dresses and join traditional dancing like the Portuguese Vira and the Serbian Kolo. Switzerland has been worthily represented by the

Swiss Society of Vancouver with choir and Dorfmusik for many years. In 2013, the LIKE+++MINDED celebration of 100 years consular representation in Western Canada made Switzerland the first ever featured nation at the European Festival. Germany, Métis and Turkey followed. Gates open at 11am both days. \$10 weekend passes are sold at the gates (\$8 online). Children 12 and under enter free. Visit www.euro-peanfestival.ca for more information.

MIRJAM MAI



GENERAL CONSULATE OF SWITZERLAND, MONTRÉAL

Dear Fellow Citizens,

Switzerland has been featured in our consular district in the past months as you will undoubtedly have read in the last issue of the Swiss Review. Three particular events have taken place – the first in Québec City and the second in Toronto. Last September, the city of Québec was honored with the gift of a monumental clock donated by the Canton of Jura and the Swiss community was invited to partake in the festivities surrounding this donation. In October, the Consulate General set up a biometrics unit in Toronto in order to provide this service to citizens of Toronto and its vicinities. More than 150 people made the most of this procedure. While in Toronto, the General Consulate also staged and presented two cultural evenings for our community. For a couple of weeks in February 2015, our country shone brightly during the «Montréal en Lumière» Festival. As country of honor during this festival, Switzerland lit up Montréal.

Information is relayed to our 26,000 registered citizens through the Regional Section of the Swiss Review. Unfortunately, this method is not necessarily the fastest. For efficiency, we rely more and more on electronic messaging. We have noticed, however, that information or changes concerning your registration (e.g. mailing address, email, civil status, etc.) have not been conveyed. It is of utmost importance and to your advantage to update the information concerning your registration. You may advise of address changes directly online at the following internet website: www.eda.admin.ch/Montreal > Services > Advice: Relocating abroad and return to Switzerland > Registration and change of address > Change of address abroad > Online form for a change of address-Montreal (<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/canada/en/home/services/registration-change-address/change-of-address/online-form-montreal.html>). For all other questions, simply send us an email at the following address mon.kanzlei@eda.admin.ch. This direct link will ensure a quick and efficient contact with your General Consulate.

From TOPtoTOP and Pole to Pole: The Swiss Family Schwörer

Dario and Sabine Schwörer are living their passion: to promote and protect the beauty of our natural world. In 1999, they founded non-profit TOPtoTOP Global Climate Expedition under the patronage of the UN Environment Program.

The expedition is the first to summit the highest peaks on every continent. For every journey in-between, only human power and the forces of nature are used. The close-knit family travels with their four children who were all born on the expedition: Salina 9, Andri 8, Noe 5 and Alegra 3. Says Dario: "Our children open many doors for us. Before, Sabine and I were looked at as extreme sports people. Now we connect in a much more personal way with not just families".



Their mission is to inspire elementary, high school and university students to a better future. To draw attention to our wonderful earth by sharing the expedition's incredible achievements and to inspire personal commitment to practical solutions that counterbalance global climate change.

To-date, the Schwörers have reached more than 80,000 students in over 100 countries. Always per pedes, bicycle, and—occasionally—public transport!

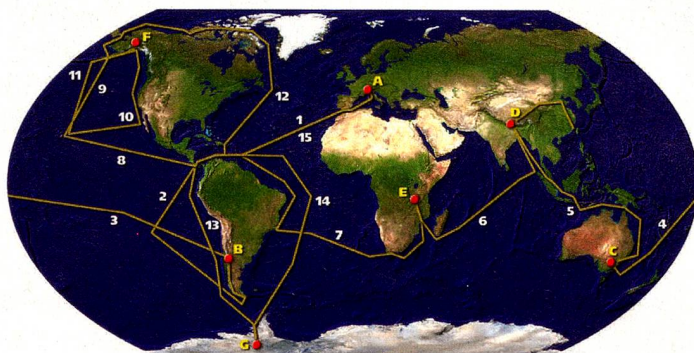
Oceans are crossed in their solar panel and wind turbine equipped yacht 'Pachamama'. Their home on the water is the example for smart renewable technologies, demonstrating what is possible even under extreme conditions.

And they're effective in their message: corporate business is starting to pay attention. Such as Google headquarters in Mountain View, CA, where the family did a presentation which was live-streamed to a further 75,000 Google employees worldwide. Followed that evening by a well attended talk in front of students and faculty at Stanford University. That was the day before my telephone interview with Dario from a 400 student primary school in Santa Cruz, where the family had biked to earlier that morning to do a student presentation, followed by a garbage clean up. Because Dario believes that words need to be followed by action. After our fascinating 45 minute call, I hear Sabine in the background reminding Dario they'd better jump on their bikes and pedal over to the next school.

As a mountain guide growing up in the Swiss Bündner Alps, Dario quickly realized the effects of climate change. It became a passion for this quiet, modest man to find effective ways to open people's eyes to the beauty of our planet and to activate the desire to protect our home. In his wife Sabine, a nurse from Jakobsthal, TG, he found the ideal and equally visionary part-

ner. Among many of their achievements, in the tenth year of their expedition, the team sailed wind-powered to South Africa for the 2011 World Climate Conference in Durban where Bundesrätin Leuthard came on board to sail with them to the UN Rio20+ conference in Brazil.

The family has now entered the final leg of their expedition: to sail the Americas in a figure 8 to both poles and climb Mt. Vinson in Antarctica. Along the way, the team continues to teach and do clean-ups with local student populations, such as clearing a tremendous amount of Tsunami debris from the Gulf of Alaska. "Nature dictates the route and timing of our travels" says Dario. The upcoming journey is to circumnavigate the North American continent via the Northwest Passage. This means taking Pachamama far out into the Pacific to catch trade winds and currents to wind-sail north past Alaska, then east along North-



ern Canada. "By early August we'll know whether we'll make it through the pack ice and into the Atlantic. If so, we will be in Newfoundland by September/October, this year, looking for a suitable harbour to host us, and interested schools, universities and businesses that wish to invite us to share our message," explains Dario. Including informing about the TOPtoTOP Student Climate Solution Contest, for which students can qualify by submitting their climate solution or other environmental action project. The best entries are invited to the two-week TOPtoTOP Climate Solution Award Expedition in Switzerland. Dario will lead the winners as a team on tour very similar to the real expedition. They will climb, cycle and sail to many unique Swiss sites while studying the impact of global warming and learning about effective counter-measures. Grouped in teams, the students report their findings and prepare presentations and press releases. "To see the level of engagement, innovation and creativity in the students is absolutely phenomenal" says Dario. He hopes that after successful completion of the second award program in 2014 with students from all continents, the program will receive long-term, yearly funding from the Swiss Government and Swiss and international corporate sponsors.

Dario concludes: "The students take their experience back to their schools and universities around the world, teach other students and start-up their own environmental initiatives. I can see this program spiralling into a global tipping point of effective solutions around the planet". For more information on the award program, check www.toptotop.org/award/. To support the award, the expedition or schedule educational/corporate presentations, go online at www.toptotop.org. "Like them" on facebook at [TOPtoTOPGlobalClimateExpedition](https://www.facebook.com/TOPtoTOPGlobalClimateExpedition) and watch their movies on the web. For donations go to: www.toptotop.org/bank.php.

SILVIA SCHOCH