

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 42 (2015)  
**Heft:** 5

**Anhang:** Regional news : Canada

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# REGIONAL NEWS

## CANADA

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### Editorial

Summer has passed and so have numerous Swiss National Day Celebrations. Large and small, formal and informal, well publicized and without fanfare, the Swiss across Canada have once again celebrated their roots and home country. Read about some of them in this issue.

■ *Come and gone as well has the FIFA World Cup in Canada with the participation of the Swiss National Women's Soccer Team. Many Swiss-Canadians attended the games and we are proud of the team's participation! What a great performance and learning experience for the ladies and their trainer, whom some of us were able to meet close-up and personal at a cocktail reception organized by the Consul General of Switzerland in Vancouver in the presence of the Ambassador of Switzerland in Canada, Dr. Beat Nobs. Enjoy the photos on page eight.*



■ *By now, you will have received your voting envelope to cast your ballot for the Swiss Federal Elections on October 18<sup>th</sup>. As an expat Swiss in Canada with dual citizenship for over 30 years, I have never been more interested in Swiss politics. I thus hope that the recent decision by the Ontario Court of Appeal to deny Canadians their right to vote who have been living outside Canada for more than five years will be appealed to the Supreme Court.*

Enjoy your voting rights and enjoy this fall in the company of family and friends and the many Swiss activities that arrive with the change of season. Please submit your articles and photos by December 14<sup>th</sup> for the first Swiss Review edition in the New Year.

SILVIA SCHOCH, EDITOR  
AND OSA DELEGATE FOR WESTERN CANADA

### Swiss National Days

In beautiful Prince George, BC, city of 70,000, where a small, independent group of Swiss celebrated together on a warm August first on the banks of Nadsilnich Lake. An attempt to organize the Northern Fraser Valley Swiss into a Club with regular meetings in the '90ies proved difficult due to the extensive terrain.

With families spread many hours distant around Prince George, eg. Quesnel in the South and Fraser Lake in the West, the Nägelis and Ruchs now take the time to stay in touch with their Swiss friends electronically. All the more appreciated are thus the yearly get-togethers in mid-summer, accompanied by delicious, authentic Chlöpfers and Bratwürst from Swiss butcher Alfred Spörri.

Together with wife Elisabeth, Alfred - originally from the Glarnerland, - established A&B Meats in 1990. The family business is well-known for their cus-

tom cuttings of beef, game and authentic Swiss dry meats. Supplemented by hand made Zopf and other potluck delicacies shared among the participants, this celebration was marked by deep conversations, reminiscen-

### Schweizer Fernsehen sucht Auslandschweizer für Fernsehdoku

Für die wöchentliche Freitagabend Sendung SRF *bi de Lüt - Familiensache* (SRF 1, 20.05 Uhr), sucht SRF eine Familie oder ein Paar, welche(s) gegenwärtig/demnächst daran ist, aus Kanada in die Schweiz zurückzukehren. Sind Sie bereit, den Schweizer Zuschauern Einblick zu gewähren über ihren Alltag, ihr Leben und den Umzug in die Schweiz, und diesen mit der Kamera dokumentarisch begleiten zu lassen? SRF liegt es daran, eine spannende, interessante und lebendige Geschichte zu erzählen, wobei Authentizität und Respekt gross geschrieben werden. Drehstart so bald als möglich. Für weitere Fragen steht Ihnen Herr Jonas Keller gerne zur Verfügung. Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen SRF, Zürich, Telefon +41 44 305 62 59; [E-Mail: jonas.keller@srf.ch](mailto:jonas.keller@srf.ch). Alles Gute beim Neustart!

EDITOR

ces of tempi passati and renewing of friendship among a close-knit group of people.

A very different Swiss National Day took place in Sutton, south east of Montreal, QC. Organized yearly by a dedicated

committee of the Federation of Swiss Societies of Eastern Canada since 1977, representing 18 Swiss Associations, and with the help of more than 100 volunteers, this event is well-known for being the largest National

Day celebration outside Switzerland. And it is popular beyond the Swiss community! Around 3,000 visitors yearly enjoy the many folkloric activities, Swiss eateries, open-air market, children's

events, lampion procession, and the traditional night time bonfire.

Many dignitaries attended this year's 39<sup>th</sup> celebration which highlighted the Canton of Appenzell.

Among numerous other North American Swiss concert and choir groups, the Swiss family Knechtle entertained on authentic Appenzell instruments and traditional costumes including the single earring in the men's right ear to the delight of the participants.

One of many celebrations that the Swiss Ambassador to Canada, Dr. Beat Nobs, describes as "...civic spirit of voluntary engagement for many a small or great common cause...", and he continues that this clearly sends a message "...to the outside world and to the people and government in Switzerland that the ties with Switzerland and the Swiss traditions in Canada are alive and well."

EDITOR

**Vancouver:** Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association

Already our trip to Visp, Wallis, Switzerland, in order to attend the Eidgenössische Schützenfest is behind us and it was a huge success with lots of lasting memories created and some good shooting took place. Quite a few members received more than one medal.

At the Ausland-Schweizer competition, the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association Team finished fourth out of 15 Clubs, missing out a podium placement by only 1.03 points. Congratulations to you all!

While the men were shooting, some of the ladies went sightseeing, visiting some original "Walliser Dörfli" like a wine tour in Visperterminen and Mund the Safran Village. We all had a great time. We also took part in the official Parade with a float to promote the International Match which is sponsored by our Association.

Now that the holidays are over, it is time to concentrate on finishing the Club Championship programs and enjoy our beautiful Cha-

let and surroundings.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Schützenfest on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of October. Also please mark your calendar for the Jass Tournament on November 1<sup>st</sup>. For more information please call (604) 298-3021 and check our website for results and photos: [www.scmra.ca](http://www.scmra.ca)

MARLIES BAUMANN



**Raron/Visp, Switzerland:** Eidgenössisches Schützenfest

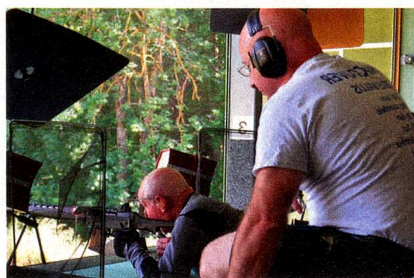
Since 1979, members of the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association have travelled to Switzerland to participate in every shoot of the Swiss Abroad at the Federal Marksmen's Festival (Eidgenössisches Schützenfest).

An important national event since 1824, held every five years in varying locations across Switzerland, it attracts marksmen and markswomen from Switzerland and the Swiss communities across the globe.

This year held in Raron/Visp between June 11 and July 12, 2015, featuring daily regular and specialty shoots and a parade toward the end of June, the event attracted more than 70,000 visitors.

Members and friends of the Vancouver Rifle Association who attended for the first time were amazed to see rifles and other gear not only carried around openly by the participants on the shoot grounds but throughout town, the train station, let alone being casually deposited in the corner during a meal in a restaurant!

It must indeed be a once-over-the-world-



sight, and this year again the event concluded successfully without any incidents.

Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association President René Zollinger, Secretary Dan Meier, Schützenmeister Christian Morach and past Schützenmeister Fritz Hobel, at 94 years of age the oldest participant using his borrowed automatic rifle (shown in action in the bottom picture), were just some of the 45 rifle club members who took mark at the shoot this summer. Other Swiss Canadian clubs were the Calgary and Toronto Rifle associations among other Swiss ex-pat clubs from around the globe.

The Vancouver Association is proud to own a beautiful Chalet that was built with much love and hard member volunteer work in the late seventies. It features a 300m shooting range, a 50m small bore and pistol range, a crossbow range and outdoor trap shooting in a big open area. For the year-round marksmen and markswomen there is an indoor 10m range. The club is very active, holds regular shoots and meetings throughout the year and welcomes new members. EDITOR

## Central Alberta: Wildrose Yodel Club

As I write this report, visibility in Central Alberta is greatly reduced due to smoke, which finds its way to us from forest fires across Western Canada and also from our neighbours south of the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel. Rain is needed to save the crops, but as usual, the weatherman is full of promises but short on deliveries of the wet stuff that we so long for.

The Wildrose Yodelers recently returned from Sangerfest 2015 in New Glarus Wisconsin, where the choir earned "Silver" with the performance of the song "Es strahlends Lache." We are very happy with our award, and also thankful to the jurors for their constructive feedback. These are reminders and encouragements that we are able to improve the quality of our singing. The Sangerfest was a great opportunity for folks with a love of Swiss culture and music to gather from across North America in the environment of their land of choice.

We are proud to have a few young men in our choir with second generation Swiss-Canadian status. Glad to have you on board! On the other hand we have one of our founding members, Joe Rohrer, celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 17<sup>th</sup>. With his passion for travelling, playing Skat and Jass, and his commitment to the Wildrose Yodel Club, Joe is a model of an active senior and a dedicated member of our society. Happy Birthday, Joe!

Please mark your calendar for our 19<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Fest in Rimbey, Alberta on Saturday, April 30, 2016. For more information about our choir and upcoming events, please visit our website at [www.salranch-tours.com/wildrose](http://www.salranch-tours.com/wildrose).

FRED SALVISBERG

## Prince George: August First Celebration

A good crowd of Swiss citizens and their friends enjoyed a successful afternoon of music, games, swimming, conversation and traditional food at Westlake Provincial Park near Prince George. We had a perfect mild and sunny afternoon and about 45 people gathered on the waterfront of the beautiful lake. Special thanks to Regina and Georg Nageli and Isabelle

and Hans Ruch for hosting this event and for spreading invitations to Swiss people of Prince George and surrounding areas. Thanks to everyone who contributed to excellent food and entertainment. Everyone left after enjoyable hours of seeing old and new friends and sharing stories. We will see each other in a year again!

RICHARD SCHWENDENER



Prince George and area Swiss celebrating Swiss National Day 2015

## Victoria Swiss Society: The Sound of Switzerland — Concert

Saturday, October 3, 2015, 3:00 pm Alix Goolden Hall, 907 Pandora Avenue, Victoria

Come listen and enjoy the beautiful voices of the fantastic, award winning and much travelled **Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir**.

Tap your toes to the charming sound of the **Victoria Accordion Club**; take in the delightful folk dances of **Leikarringen** in their red and white traditional costumes. Be charmed by local young opera talent **Corina Fischer** and let the

powerful sound of **three Alphorn players** get under your skin!

You will recognize and hum along to many of your favorite Swiss and international songs. Mark your calendars and book your tickets.

Event Tickets \$15. Call (250) 472-1850 or email [victoriaswissociety@gmail.com](mailto:victoriaswissociety@gmail.com).

Supported by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver. SILVIA SCHOCH

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## Saskatoon Swiss Club

We held our annual Raclette lunch on March 1<sup>st</sup> at the home of Annemarie and Heinz Buchmann in Saskatoon. There were 18 participants and the extra cheese sold rapidly after the event. Thank you to Annemarie and Heinz for hosting us in their home!

Congratulations to our 2015 Jassmeisters: Heinz Buchmann and Elisabeth Eilinger. The annual Jass Tournament was held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. A small but enthusiastic group attended. Thank you to Rosemarie Eilinger for hosting the event in her home!

The Annual June picnic was held on June 28<sup>th</sup> at the acreage of Steve and Kristan Eymann just east of Osler. As the temperature here in the prairies has been quite hot and wanting to be out of the sun, our small group of attendees found shade and shelter in the large garage with easy access to the barbeque placed just outside. The open doors gave us lots of light and a welcome breeze once in a while. Our thanks go to Steve and Kristan and family for hosting us!

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at the Cave Restaurant. The meeting starts with lunch, is followed by a short business meeting and will include elections for executive positions. The always popular raffle will close out the day.

For more information or if you are new to Saskatchewan, please contact the club at [swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com](mailto:swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com) or telephone (306) 665-6039. ELISABETH EILINGER

## Edmonton: Swiss Presidents' Conference for Western Canada 2015

Saturday, November 14, 2015  
Hotel Château Lacombe, Edmonton  
9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Hosted by the Edmonton Swiss Society, supported by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver.

Followed same evening by dinner and Winzerfest performance of the Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir at the occasion of their 35th anniversary.

For more information, please call Silvia Schoch at (250) 385-7844. For special room rates at the conference location, please call Sherri Schurer at (780) 428-6611.

## Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir

June 13<sup>th</sup>: Our annual Landsgemeinde started with a two hour drive through patches of rain and cold. The weather didn't look good, but prior to the evening concert the rain held off and it was only when the audience and we were in the performance tent and well sheltered that the rain came down.

Our choir enjoyed performing and receiving a warm reception from a hardy Swiss audience. We were followed by a delightful dance performance by the Swiss Folk Dance Club Alpenrösli from Calgary. The ladies were a very welcome addition to our annual festivities and we hope that they will make the trip again. The Wildrose Yodel Club, including a couple of yodelers from the Yodel Club Heimattreu Calgary (and we would hope that there will more next year!), rounded out the evening on a happy note. As we sang "Kamerade" we were reminded how close we are as friends and singers. As the performance ended, so did the rain. We went out to barbecue our Weisswurst and the very welcome sun broke through and joined us.

June 18<sup>th</sup> the choir set out for New Glarus, WI, to renew friendships and take part in the North American Swiss Singers Sängerfest. We were familiar with the demands and looked forward to competing again. A small place with a big heart, New Glarus went all out to make the many participants very welcome.

The adjudicated competition and grand concert took place in the local middle/high school. We presented "Vater Unser" by Swiss Composer Kurt Müller. It earned us a gold medal and top overall score for the Sängerfest. The grand concert on Saturday night went very well and was great fun. After the brunch on Sunday we did some ad-hoc singing with the "Jodelklub Echo von Lindenberg" from Switzerland. We wound up the day with a choir dinner and went to bed late after an evening full of camaraderie and more singing.

June 27<sup>th</sup> we took part as a guest group honouring the Ukrainian dance group Veselka. Celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it was an evening that featured their dancing and several ethnic groups, including us.

We look forward to joining the Victoria Swiss Society for an afternoon concert on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and our Choir's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Performance during the annual Winzerfest on November 14<sup>th</sup>. For more information on these and other events, please see our website: <http://www.esmca.ca>.

DAVE LEIGH

2015 Gold Medal winning Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir at the North American Swiss Singers Sängerfest in New Glarus, WI. Music Director Elizabeth Anderson displaying the award.



**Mitchell:** Swiss Club Thames Valley

The Choir's annual Swiss Farmer's Brunch on May 31<sup>st</sup> at the Milverton Recreation Complex was a big success! Everyone who attended was treated to a huge variety of different foods. The choir members were kept busy the whole time, serving nearly 1,000 people.

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Swiss Club Thames Valley Motorcycle Tour took place, organized by Walter Burkhardt. Five motorcycle riders participated in the event. The first stage led them to Owen Sound for lunch at the European Bakery/Restaurant. Then, a visit at the KOA campground (owned and operated by Christian and Elizabeth Thomann) was on the program. Back on the road, the riders traveled to Meaford, Thornbury, Kimberley and Markdale before returning to Mount Forest and separating to return home. Walter would like to thank all the participants. It was a great day and we hope to see everyone again next year!

Our Jodler Club as well as our Choir took part in the North American Singer Competition in New Glarus. Both choirs did a phenomenal job! The Jodlers came back with a silver and the Choir scored a gold medal. Congratulations.

Thanks to so many helping hands we enjoyed another great National Day Celebration at the arena in Monkton, ON.

Already at six in the morning we were busy making a fire to get our traditional vegetable soup cooking in a big pot. At 11 am we kicked off the official start to the day's worth of celebration and activities. The guests were entertained by various speakers and performing choir.

The children were kept busy with crafts and activities and for the adults there was Steinstossen and Armbrustschiessen. At the 'theatre', people enjoyed watching *Die Käserei in der Vehfreude*. Everyone was busy socializing and catching up and then danced the night away to the sounds of the *Golden Keys*. To satisfy hunger throughout the day, sausages and stakes off the grill were offered as well as sandwiches and Swiss specialties.

Upcoming events are the Jodler Stubete on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Recreation Complex in Milverton, followed by the General Meeting at the Milverton Legion on November 7<sup>th</sup>, the consort from the Swiss Farmers Band on November 21<sup>st</sup> at the Milverton Recreation Complex, and the Advents Feier at the Milverton Legion on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see lots of people at all of these events.

SONJA GUTKNECHT



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**Montreal:** Federation of Swiss Societies of Eastern Canada

Once again our National day celebration in Sutton, QC. was a resounding success. Even the weather gods were on our side and provided plenty of sunshine against all predictions of the weather office. Close to 3,000 visitors kept the volunteers very busy all day long and even late into the night. They were entertained with great music from local groups as well as a quintet from Appenzell - the Familie Knechtle - and a 17 year old Swiss musician by the name of Maxime with his "Schwyzer Örgeli" who just happened to be vacationing in Quebec.

This year we featured the region of Appenzell and it was decided to import Appenzeller beer for this occasion. This was a great hit with our visitors since we sold out all 30 barrels of this delicious brew.

The official function at 8 pm was attended by our Ambassador to Canada Dr. Beat Nobs, Mr. Jacques-Simon Eggly, President of the OSA, Mr. Beat Kaser, Consul General of Montreal and the Mayor of Sutton, Mr. Louis Dandenault. This was followed by the "lantern procession" where the traditional 1st of August bonfire was lit. All these activities were filmed by a Swiss Film crew shooting a documentary about Swiss abroad.

We are already looking forward to next year's celebration which will feature the canton of Tessin. Special thanks go not just to the many, many volunteers helping out on the actual day of the event, but also to the ones who worked tirelessly for a solid week to put up the necessary infrastructure.

See you next year in Sutton!

PETER FUHRER

**Montréal:** Fédération des soc. Suisses de l'est du Canada

Encore une fois cette année, la célébration de la Fête nationale suisse fut un succès retentissant. Contrairement aux prédictions météorologiques, nous avons bénéficié d'une température clémente et d'un soleil resplendissant. Les nombreux bénévoles ont répondu à l'appel et ont offert leurs services jusqu'à tard dans la nuit à plus de 3 000 visiteurs. De petits orchestres locaux, un quintet appenzellois - la famille Knechtle - et le jeune suisse Maxime, 17 ans, de passage au Québec avec son « Schwyzer Örgeli », ont créé une ambiance festive tout au cours de la journée et de la soirée.

Cette année, puisque le canton d'Appenzell était à l'honneur, plus de 30 barils de bière de cette région ont été commandés; tout a été vendu au grand plaisir des visiteurs.

Nous avons eu l'honneur de recevoir Dr. Beat Nobs, Ambassadeur de Suisse au Canada, M. Jacques-Simon Eggly, Président de l'Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger, M. Beat Kaser, Consul général de Suisse à Montréal et le maire de Sutton, M. Louis Dandenault.

Suite aux présentations officielles, le défilé aux lanternes s'est rendu au traditionnel feu du 1<sup>er</sup> août. Une équipe suisse responsable de produire un documentaire sur les suisses vivant à l'étranger a enregistré les activités de la journée. La fête de l'année prochaine mettra en valeur le canton du Tessin.

Je remercie tout particulièrement les bénévoles qui ont œuvré au cours de cette journée et aussi tous ceux qui, durant une semaine avant l'évènement, ont travaillé très fort à monter les installations majeures nécessaires à la réalisation de cette fête.

À l'an prochain!

PETER FUHRER



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### Ottawa: The Montagna Singers – Then and Now

In the early fall of 1975, a group of Swiss immigrants in Ottawa came together with the objective of forming a folk choir to celebrate and preserve their musical heritage. Matters progressed very quickly from that inaugural meeting and soon the Montagna Swiss Singers were performing locally at social gatherings. A Constitution was drafted and approved at the first Annual General Meeting the following March and the choir has never looked back since. The inaugural members - in no particular order - were: Roland Loretan; Werner Siegrist\*; Susi Hostettler; Oliva Loretan\*; Elisabeth Morrison; Alice Graf; Dominique Dutoit; Ernst Moser; Josef Hurschler\*; Tildy Cleman; Walter Nauer; Mark Clemann; Hans Luginbuhl; Susanne Statham (Nauer)\*; and Jurg

Roth\*. Jake Moerman was our first conductor and Mark Clemann our first President. Those names marked with an asterisk are active members today.

This year, our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, is as active as ever. From our now famous Dinner Dances presided over by our renowned chefs, to performances at retirement residences, to participating in the North American Swiss Singing Alliance. Most recent at the Saengerfest held in New Glarus, WI, this past June, the choir attained in the competition singing a silver medal in the mixed choir and a bronze medal in the Jodel competition. We will officially celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during the Metzgete to be held at the Ukrainian Church Hall on November 7<sup>th</sup>. We hope to host former members as well as all of our supporters.

JULES BRUEHLMANN



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### Ottawa: Ottawa Swiss Valley Club

Time flies...we are already in the second half of the year!

When you read this, we can already share memories of the past Swiss National Holiday on the farm.

The Kuratli Family, owners of the Sonibrand farm in St. Isidore, has kindly welcomed the Ottawa Swiss Valley Club to ce-

lebrate the first of August together with our compatriots of the Seaway Valley Swiss Club.

Right now, writing this, the preparations for the festivities are in full swing.

For a list of events, news and updates, or to contact the Ottawa Swiss Valley Club, please visit our website [www.ottawavalleyclub.ca](http://www.ottawavalleyclub.ca).

HELEN NATTERER

### Upcoming event dates to put on your calendar:

September 13:

Annual Golf Tournament

November 7:

Montagna Singers Metzgete

December 6:

Seniors Christmas Luncheon

followed by the Children's Party; and monthly luncheons held by the Swiss Seniors Club.

**Montreal:** Matterhorn Swiss Club



Our most recent event was held on June 28<sup>th</sup> in the lower Laurentians at the beautiful Auberge Val Carroll in Harrington, QC. The rain held off and we were able to enjoy a nice walk along the country roads, followed by an excellent lunch inside the Auberge. All-in-all, it was a very pleasant afternoon, and we thank our hosts Josef Oeler and Wayne Carroll for their friendly and welcoming hospitality.

Our summer picnic will be once again held in mid August, with thanks to Remy and Rudy Pfister who will host this event.

We hope to hold a fall outing in September or early October which will also include a walk in nature, and of course, some good food!

We hold five or six events or outings each year, and we are pleased to say these are always well attended.

We continue to welcome new members to our club. For more information, please call (514) 694-3718.

WALTER SPIRIG

**Montreal:** Swiss Jass Club



We held our annual General Meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. We thank our gracious hosts Gilbert and Heidi Berthoud for again allowing us the use of their beautiful home in the quiet country setting of St-Lazare. The volunteers of dedicated committee members had everything prepared. Lotti Balsiger attended to the soft and not so soft drinks, and Felix monitored the BBQ to serve Bratwurst and Cervela.

The meeting started and finished on time with everyone contributing new ideas for the 2015/'16 Jass Season. A new trophy, the 'Shark Cup', donated by Henry Shark, was presented to Leo Hadorn, and the 'Walliser Kanne' to Jean-Pierre Baumann.

Games are held in Dorval at the Haus der Heimat on the last Friday of the month from September to April, culminating with a championship game in May. For more information, please contact Herbert Stoll at (514) 453-0748 or [herbert.stoll@videotron.ca](mailto:herbert.stoll@videotron.ca).

HERBERT STOLL

**Canada:** FIFA Women's Soccer World Cup 2015 Impressions

