

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 44 (2017)
Heft: 3

Anhang: Regional news : Canada

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REGIONAL NEWS

CANADA

Next Submission Date:
August 16, 2017

Editorial

With this issue of the Swiss Review, I also hope spring has arrived in every part of Canada so that the celebrations for three more outstanding anniversaries for Swiss Societies this year can be celebrated during the warm season. **Congratulations to the Swiss Canadian Club Guelph, 40 years; the Victoria Swiss Society, 35 years; and the Wild Rose Yodel Club Calgary, 20 years.**

I am certain you will enjoy hearing a young Swiss voice from the Yukon Territory in this issue when you read about Annina Altherr's experience as Youth Climate Change Ambassador. It is particularly uplifting to read why Annina feels

personally and professionally inspired about solutions to climate change based on her experience at the last UN Convention on Climate Change in Marrakesh. I encourage other Swiss youth from across Canada to submit an article to the Regional News Canada about what they feel passionate about.

Due to the retirement of Mr. Bruno Setz, Delegate of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad in Eastern Canada after serving as OSA Delegate and Council Member for eight years, a new candidate has been elected. Thank you to Mr. Setz for his tireless commitment and work on behalf of Eastern Canada's Swiss. Philippe Magnenat's introduction is on page three. The other newly elected OSA Delegates will be portrayed in the next issue. Enjoy spring!



SILVIA SCHOCH,
EDITOR.
OSA DELEGATE AND
COUNCIL MEMBER
REPRESENTING
WESTERN CANADA

Annina Altherr - Youth Climate Change Ambassador for the Government of Yukon



When I was five years old, my family moved from Switzerland to the Yukon Territory. My parents bought a remote wilderness lodge on Frances Lake, and that is where I spent the next eight summers of my life.

The Yukon is an incredible place to grow up. I hiked, biked, snowshoed, canoed, and camped my way through my childhood. Spending so much of my life outdoors, I developed a deep appreciation for the environment, but also experienced nature's fury. Forest fires had been an inevitable part of Yukon summers, but in 2004, wildfires swept across the Yukon and a record three hundred fires burned two of the 27 million hectares of forest in the Territory. One of those fires came within thirty meters of our wilderness lodge!

This was my first introduction to the impact of climate change, but the Yukon is affected in many ways. Increased lightning storms, flooding and droughts have led to an increase in forest fires. Thawing permafrost is making the shifting ground a challenge to building and road construction. Melting glaciers are changing hydrological systems and impact freshwater systems. Ecosystems are shifting as different temperatures and moisture levels alter where species can survive. Changes in the range of plants and animals have direct impact on Yukoners.

As a university student in the environmental field, this concerns me greatly, but I didn't understand what actions could be taken. I applied for the position of **Yukon Youth Climate Change Ambassador** with the Government of Yukon. As the Ambassador, I learned more about climate change, its impacts, and climate action on the government side. The best part is that I get to share my experience and what I've learned through presentations, blogs, and videos.

Climate change is a global phenomenon, and as such requires global collaboration to come up with mitigation strategies and to address impacts. It is widely accepted that the

current change in climate is driven by human activity, mainly the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG). The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** was established in response to public concern and scientific evidence of human interference in the climate system. Its objective is to stabilize GHG emissions at a level that will prevent dangerous interference with the climate. To do so, the UNFCCC hosts a yearly **Conference of the Parties (COP)** as a way for countries to assess progress, and to establish legally binding obligations for GHG reductions. Last year's COP22 was held in Marrakesh, Morocco in November 2016, and I was fortunate to accompany the Yukon and Canadian delegations to the conference!

Marrakesh is a sprawling, earth-coloured city where pedestrians definitely don't have the right of way and where it's perfectly normal for a family of four to crowd onto a tiny scooter. The fortified old city center was packed with vendors and stalls. Going from this intense expression of Moroccan culture to the site of COP22 was another experience. The massive conference site included hundreds of silver poles flying the flags of each member country, and security lines that rivaled any

Annina Altherr - continued from page 1

airport. Attending were 25,000 delegates, national government representatives, media, non-profit representatives, business people, students and researchers.

At the heart of the COP conference are the negotiations, where representatives from each country work out the “who, what, where, when, why, and how” of climate action treaties being considered.

Outside of the negotiations was an organized maze of white tents and booths hosting thousands of information stalls, displays, presentations, and events, ranging in topic from carbon markets and private sector roles to climate resilience and adaption in indigenous communities. The conference was a central node of all information climate related.

What really amazed me about COP was the level of dedication and cooperation involved. It was astounding to see the



ANNINA ALTHERR (LEFT)

negotiators from almost two hundred countries work very hard to come to an agreement. Cooperation is also about ensuring that everyone’s needs are met. One of the roles of the representatives from each Canadian province and territory was to advise the Canadian negotiating team on which policies being considered would work well on the ground, and which ones might not be possible.

I left Morocco re-inspired and full of hope. I was blown away by the political, social, and economic aspects of climate change that I

hadn’t really thought about before. This is an incredibly complex issue that involves every person and every country on our planet. Seeing the remarkable wealth of knowledge, willingness to collaborate, and genuine passion for climate action was so encouraging. As I continue to make changes in my life to reduce my environmental footprint, I am excited to see how international collaboration continues to evolve. I am looking forward to seeing what the future holds. Having recently finished my university degree, I can’t say for sure what the next years hold for me, but I have a feeling that the fields of climate change research and communication will continue to draw me in. To learn more about my experience with climate change or in Morocco, please visit my blog: <http://ayukoneratcop22.blogspot.ca>. To view a video I created, please go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wh4vknq7rM0>.

ANNINA ALTHERR

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Edmonton Edmonton Swiss Mens' Choir

We send our compliments and best wishes to our friends further south: to the Wildrose Yodel Club on the occasion of their 20th anniversary!

Please save the date for **Saturday, November 11th: Winzerfest 2017 Remembrance Day**, with the theme **150 Year Anniversary Canada Confederation**. Don't miss this event dedicated to Canada's birth-day celebrations right here in the city of Edmonton, Alberta.

Last year, during our stay in San Candido, Alto Adige (South Tyrol), our choir was invited to perform in the filming of the show *Un Passo dal Cielo* at the Italian TV RAI. Please see <https://www.facebook.com/UnPassoDalCieloOfficial/videos/591443291041728/>. (Click *not now* on our Facebook page when the request for *sign in* appears).

We always welcome new singers. We are a diverse group of men who enjoy life by singing together and being “one of the guys”. We practice Tuesday evenings from 7:30-9:30 pm. We hold concerts, workshops and festivals on weekends and various times throughout the year. We tour nationally and internationally. We have a fifty dollar yearly membership fee and request our members’ participation in ticket sales and door prizes for special events. Aside from the fact that we take our singing seriously and are all good friends (“Kamerade” in Swiss), we are just normal guys. Most of all, we have lots of fun doing what we're doing together!

For more information on how to join us or to find out more about current events, please check our website: www.esmca.ca, “like” us on our Facebook page *Edmonton Swiss Mens' Choir*. Enter *Edmonton Swiss Mens' Choir* into YouTube to watch and listen to one of our performances, or call Ron Marcinkoski at (780) 718-2439.

PETER THUT



PHILIPPE MAGNENAT

Philippe Magnenat nouvellement élu comme délégué au Conseil des Suisses de l'étranger (CSE) pour l'est du Canada

Né en 1961 à Lausanne, marié, 2 fils, Benjamin (1991) et Mathieu (1992), après une carrière de plus de 20 ans dans les Force Armée Suisse comme adjudant instructeur, la petite famille Magnenat décide d'immigrer au Québec, patrie de sa conjointe Lyne.

Le 1 août 2002 c'est l'arrivée sur le territoire canadien avec un container maritime, installation à Blainville. Après 1 année plus difficile pour trouver un emploi stable, Philippe s'implique dans la communauté de sa ville d'adoption, sécurité civile, hockey mineur les Bastions dont il a été président de 2005 à 2015. Du côté professionnel, de travailleur autonome, opérateur 911 Sureté du Québec, en 2007 il est engagé comme employé administratif et huissier, par le Consulat général de Suisse, il quittera cette fonction à la fin de l'année dernière. Depuis le début 2017 il travail Hyundai Blainville au service

à la clientèle.

Depuis 15 ans il participe activement aux événements suisse, fête nationale de Sutton, membre de plusieurs club suisse, il représente la Suisse lors des 3 dernières Fêtes Fédérales de Tir en Suisse. Récipiendaire de plusieurs reconnaissances civiques, Temple de la Renommée du hockey Laurentides, Ordre du mérite Blainvillois, championnats du monde IIHF de hockey Montréal-Toronto 2015 et 2017. Philippe Magnenat un vrai suisse au Québec, fiers de ses origines et surtout un bon vivant et très charismatique.

PHILIPPE.MAGNENAT@GMAIL.COM, MOBILE (514) 944-2461, SKYPE: MAGNENAT

Montreal / Montréal Consulate General of Switzerland / Consulat général de Suisse

Rencontre Jeunesse Suisse 2017 - Québec

La deuxième Rencontre jeunesse suisse organisée par le Consulat général à Montréal a eu lieu samedi 8 avril 2017. Les 25 jeunes ayant participé à cet événement spécialement conçu pour eux, provenaient d'un périmètre plus ou moins large autour de Montréal et d'Ottawa.

Le but principal était de tisser des liens avec ces jeunes concitoyens mais aussi de leur permettre de rencontrer d'autres jeunes suisses, de les informer sur les diverses possibilités offertes par la Suisse en matière d'études et de formation, et de leur expliquer les obligations par rapport aux autorités suisses au long de leur vie adulte. Par la suite, les participants ont pu s'entretenir entre eux et ont été régalez avec des spécialités culinaires bien suisses pour l'occasion.

Au vu du succès et de l'intérêt rencontrés par cet événement, nous organiserons une rencontre similaire pour la région de Toronto lors du déplacement pour la biométrie mobile prévu le mois de novembre prochain. Êtes-vous membre d'un Club suisse qui souhaiterait organiser un tel événement? N'hésitez pas à nous contacter.

MARINELLA MENGHETTI COUTINHO, CONSULE; CONSULAT GÉNÉRAL DE SUISSE MONTRÉAL



Important message to Swiss citizens residing in Ontario

Due to the popularity and success of the "Swiss Consular Days" organized in Toronto during the past three years, the Consulate General will repeat the experience by making another visit to Toronto with a mobile pass station in November 2017, most likely between November 6th and 10th. Since the introduction of the biometric passport, applicants must present themselves in person in order to have their biometric data recorded (photo and fingerprints). The mobile pass station allows us to offer Swiss citizens the opportunity to renew their passports without making a trip to Montreal.

If you wish to take advantage the upcoming Swiss Consular Days taking place in Toronto, you must apply for your new passport via one of the following official websites: www.schweizerpass or www.passeportsuisse.ch. Make sure you mention "Toronto 2017" in the remark's section. Your application must be submitted **no later than August 25th 2017**. Please note that as the number of available appointments is limited, priority will be given to holders of Swiss passports expiring within the next twelve months.

IMPORTANT: If you have neglected to update the Consulate General with your current

civil status or a name change, key modifications which must be confirmed by the competent authorities in Switzerland, your request for a passport renewal will regretfully not be considered at this time.

If your application for an appointment is accepted for the next Toronto visit, you will receive detailed information by email in October 2017. Should you wish to receive further information about our consular services, please visit our website or send an e-mail to mon.vertretung@eda.admin.ch.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN MONTREAL

Guelph Swiss Canadian Club Guelph 40th anniversary

The Swiss Canadian Club of Guelph is delighted to celebrate its 40th Anniversary. Our club has been blessed with devoted volunteer board members and equally dedicated members helping the club retain its membership and activities. While many of the club's events have stayed similar over the years (we like to eat!), ongoing efforts are made to encourage members of all ages to attend events. Our club also has the luxury of having other larger Swiss clubs in the area allowing us to support others by participating in their planned activities.

To celebrate this anniversary, the club will be holding a casual celebratory lunch for its members and friends on **Sunday September 10th**. Anyone interested in purchasing a ticket can contact the club at swisscanadianclubguelph@gmail.com.

CHRISTINE WENGER

Come Celebrate 40 Years of the
Swiss-Canadian Club Guelph!

Sunday, September 10th

Includes: Hot Lunch, Refreshments & Dessert

Cost: \$25 Members
\$30 Family & Friends
\$12.50 Child (3-12)

For Tickets/Info email:
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Toronto Swiss Club Toronto

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION
Sunday July 30, 2017
Country Heritage Park, Milton, Ontario
12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m.

12:00 noon - Park Opens Visit some of the 30 heritage buildings. Taste great Swiss food, coffee and Nussgipfel. Beer, wine and soft drinks are also available

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Official Celebration and Entertainment

4:30 p.m., Raffle starts.

The Swiss Club Toronto cordially invites you, your family 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 and make new friends or renew old acquaintances. Meet Swiss artists and enjoy their work, and - remember our famous raffle!

Directions from Toronto: *Country Heritage Park* is located on 8560 Tremaine Rd., west of Milton. Take Hwy 401 west to Hwy. 25. Exit and 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 more information: www.swissclubtoronto.ca. For Park information: www.countryheritagepark.com. SASCHA FRASSINI



Toronto Swiss Club Toronto

SWISS CLUB TORONTO ANNUAL RACLETTE

presented by Amicale Romande
Sunday, September 10, 2017
Simeon Park, Gormely ON
12:00 noon

To Raclette cheese lovers, Amicale Romande is pleased and looking forward to getting the stoves going! Come and enjoy our Raclette at *Simeon Park*, 13190 Woodbine Avenue, Gormley, ON L0H 1G0 (South of Bloomington Rd). Event takes place rain or shine. A large, sheltered pavilion is provided. Cost is thirty dollars per person. Swiss Club Toronto members get a five dollar rebate.

Please note: the park might charge five dollars per car for parking. We are looking forward to seeing you all on Sunday, September 10th. For more information and to make reservations, please contact Jean-Marc Velen at: velenglish@rogers.com. SASCHA FRASSINI

Ottawa Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

We were happy to welcome the *Swiss Theatre Group* from Toronto with their annual theatrical showcase. This year's murderous comedy, *Kreuzmordrätsel*, was centered around crossword puzzles and missing corpses. The talented actors entertained the large crowd who also enjoyed a meal, Basler Lächerli and catching up with friends. *The Montagna Singers* hosted their annual Spring Dance on May 6th. It was a fabulous success and all enjoyed the delicious dinner, festive dancing and wonderful singing.

Please join us for our annual Swiss National Day celebration:

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION
Sunday, July 30, 2017
Billings Estate Museum
2100 Cabot Street, Ottawa
3 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The afternoon will be filled with Swiss games, an exciting tombola, delicious sausages & pies, children's activities and a festive lampion parade. We look forward to seeing all! Stay tuned on facebook and our website for more details about our events: ottawavalleysswissclub.ca. OLIVIA CRAFT

Montreal Matterhorn Swiss Club

At the beginning of March, we held our annual ski/winter fun weekend at Mont-Tremblant, with about 40 members, guests, children and babies participating. It was a sunny, cold weekend and we enjoyed the beautiful outdoors. We attended a special presentation at the adjacent observatory, giving us a chance to learn about the recently discovered new planets and a look at the moon through the large telescope.

As always, Matterhorn Club members and friends will help out at the Swiss National Day celebra-



tions at Mont-Sutton. Many volunteers will be needed to help make this a success, so if you can give a few hours of your time, it is most appreciated! Our picnic and barbeque will be held in mid-August. Our club holds five other events each year which are always well attended. New members are welcome. For more information please see the Matterhorn Club section on the Federation website: www.fedesuisse.com. WALTER SPIRIG

Prime Minister's Award for Excellence

Caren Eigenmann was honored in Ottawa on May 3rd by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who presented her with the *Certificate of Excellence Award 2016-17 in Early Childhood Education for British Columbia*. Caren works and lives with her Swiss family in Port Moody, B.C., her husband Marcel and their two children Kylie and Spencer. *Congratulations, Caren!* EDITOR





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Thames Valley Swiss Club Thames Valley

We were privileged to have the *Swiss Theater Group* from Toronto come and present *Kreuzmordrätsel*.

On April 8, 2017, the *Thames Valley Swiss Choir* hosted their annual Swiss-Canadian Get-Together Dance. The choir entertained us with a variety of songs in the different languages of Switzerland. We were then treated to their guest entertainers *Red Wine and Whiskey*. After a late lunch and a big raffle we danced the night away with the *Golden Keys*.

We hope that we can welcome many familiar and new faces to the upcoming events listed below. Take a look; there is something for everyone! For more information, please visit www.swissclubthamesvalley.com.

SONJA GUTKNECHT



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Upcoming Events 2017 Swiss Club Thames Valley

July 9 (16)	Motorcycle Tour (Walter Burkhardt)
July 30	Swiss National Day Celebration, Monkton
September 10	Seniorentreff
	Swiss Farmer Band, Gravelridge Hall
October 7	Jodler Stubete, Recreation Complex Milverton
November 4	Annual General Meeting, Legion, Milverton
November 18	Concert Swiss Farmer Band
	Recreation Complex Milverton
December 3	Advent Celebration, Milverton Legion

TEDxAbbotsford Trailblazing Presentations

Scientist or student, homemaker or businessperson, if you're passionate about a subject, plan an extraordinary event or have a fabulous idea, TEDxAbbotsford is your opportunity to share your passion!

TEDx is an off-shoot of the well-known TEDTalks. It's a program for local, self-organized events that brings people together around ideas worth sharing. In combination with TEDTalks video and live speakers, the program is designed to spark deep discussion and connection within a small group.

The new **Abbotsford TEDx** initiative is co-founded by Swiss-Canadian John Roduit, a biomedical ethics researcher, recently returned to Canada from his work at University of Zurich. This is John's second TEDx startup. In 2012, he successfully co-launched TEDx in the Swiss city of Martigny, where dozens of speakers and presenters since organized individual and group events.

Such as Alan Roura, the Geneva navigator who spoke about his lifelong dream to participate in the *Vendée Globe* race around the world alone, or Marie-Thérèse Chappaz, who was awarded the title "Vigneronne of the year" by Gault and Millau and subsequently spoke about the role of biodynamic cultivation, or Arianne Rustichelli, Co-Directrice, who spoke about the scope of work of the *Organization of the Swiss Abroad* in Bern.

John Roduit (right in photo) is passionate about TEDx. "It connects people and ideas in a meaningful way. I'm looking forward to meeting Swiss and others in Western Canada for a diversified program under the start-up theme of *Trailblazing*".

For more information or to become a speaker, contact John at info@tedxabbotsford.com.

EDITOR



FÉDÉRATION DES SOCIÉTÉS SUISSES DE L'EST DU CANADA

Chers Compatriotes: Pour la 41^e année, nous avons le plaisir de vous inviter à Sutton (Québec) le 29 juillet 2017 pour fêter avec nous la W. Cette année, la région du Lavaux située sur les rives du lac Léman, est à l'honneur. Comme d'habitude, quelques groupes de musiciens suisses viendront vous divertir durant cette journée. Le programme complet et l'horaire des activités se trouvent dans notre annonce de la présente parution ou sur notre site internet www.fedesuisse.com. Au plaisir de vous rencontrer.

PETER FUHRER



FEDERATION OF SWISS SOCIETIES IN EASTERN CANADA

Dear Compatriotes: You are invited for the 41st consecutive time to join us in Sutton, Qc. this coming July 29th, 2017 to celebrate the **Swiss National Day**. This year, the invited Swiss region is the area of LA-VAUX which is situated along the shores of Lac Léman. As usual, we have arranged for a couple of Swiss musical groups to entertain you throughout the day. For more information and the full program as well as the day schedule, please consult our ad in this edition and/or visit our website at www.fedesuisse.com. Your committee is looking forward to your visit.

PETER FUHRER



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NEXT REGIONAL EDITIONS / PROCHAINES ÉDITIONS RÉGIONALES 2017		
Issue	Submission Deadline	Publishing Date On Line
Numéro	Clôture de rédaction	Date de parution en ligne
1/17	published	publié
2/17	published	publié
3/17	published	publié
5/17	16.08.2017	15.09.2017