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# REGIONAL NEWS

## CANADA

Next Submission Date:  
August 20, 2018

### Editorial — New website for the Swiss in Canada

The 13th Presidents' Conference in Western Canada concluded successfully on April 28, 2018 in Vancouver.

Fourteen Presidents and a group of invited guests met and discussed "Digital Communication and Social Networking Strategies" together with keynote speaker Rachel Segal, Instructor at UBC Sauder School of Business. A new Canada-wide website by Swiss Council members, representing the Swiss in Canada at the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, was introduced. See the information on this page.

### New Website for the Swiss living in Canada



The homepage of the OSA Canada website features a large, scenic photograph of a mountain range under a blue sky with white clouds. In the foreground, several people are riding horses through a lush green field. The OSA Canada logo, which includes a stylized globe icon and the text "OSA Canada Organisation of the Swiss Abroad", is positioned in the top left corner. The top right corner contains a navigation menu with links to "Home", "About Us", "OSA", "Latest News", "Swiss Community", and "Contact". The main title "INFORM - NETWORK - REPRESENT - ADVISE" is centered in large, bold, white letters. Below it, the subtitle "The Community & the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad in Canada" is displayed in a smaller, white font. Two call-to-action buttons, "SWISS COMMUNITY" and "ABOUT OSA CANADA", are overlaid on the image. At the bottom left, a small caption reads "Horseback riding Banff, Banff & Lake Louise Tourism/Paul Zizka".

**CLICK, CONNECT & SUBSCRIBE** to [www.osa-canada.com](http://www.osa-canada.com) – the new English language website for the Swiss living in Canada! (French version pending.)

Are you Swiss and do you run your own business, B&B, lodge or society in Canada? Send us an email and we'll display your business with a direct link to your website or email free of charge. Include a photo or two for our Home-page, Latest News, Youth Offers, Swiss Community and other sections.

Sponsoring and French translation opportunities! Drop us a line and sign up to the newsletter and on facebook and get the latest news relevant to the Swiss abroad in Canada. Your team of OSA Delegates in Canada; [info@osa-canada.com](mailto:info@osa-canada.com)

### Regional News Canada seeking new Editor

Per September 15<sup>th</sup>, Regional News Canada is seeking a new editor for the eight page centerfold insert of «Swiss Review» magazine. Regional News Canada is published in four of the six inserts in the main magazine.

Swiss nationals with excellent English, French and German language skills and editorial experience with InDesign software knowledge are invited to apply for the paid position. For more information or to apply, please connect with current editor Silvia Schoch at [silv.schoch@gmail.com](mailto:silv.schoch@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you!



SILVIA SCHOCH,  
REGIONAL EDITOR  
CANADA; MEMBER  
COUNCIL OF THE  
SWISS ABROAD FOR  
WESTERN CANADA



The "The Swiss Community in Canada" section of the OSA Canada website features a red header bar with the text "The Swiss Community in Canada". Below this, there is a photograph of a Swiss community event, showing a white truck and a group of people. To the right, there is a box with the text "THERE ARE AROUND 40,000 REGISTERED SWISS LIVING IN CANADA." and a smaller text block about the purpose of the section. At the bottom, there are two links: "SWISS COMMUNITY GROUPS Alberta" and "SWISS OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONS Embassy".

## Vancouver Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association

Winter and early spring were a very busy time; the 300m range got a face lift. New electric roll shutters were installed and sunshades for the shooting lanes. The office got a new desk and filing cabinets. Needless to say, there were many volunteers involved to get this work done, including some ladies who did a thorough cleaning of the clubhouse. Now that we were ready for the outdoor shooting, we held our opening shoot on March 25 combined with the customary safety course. The event was very well attended. On April 8, shooting at all ranges and a few shooters got a head start with their club champion competitions. In the crossbow range there was also some serious shooting going on with the Fondue Stich. The winner of the competition was Gerhard Hirsig. Congratulations! After the shooting, we were treated to a delicious Fondue dinner with accordion entertainment. What an enjoyable day – a big thank you to all the volunteers! Even if you are not a shooting fan, you are welcome to visit us at our Chalet on any scheduled shooting days, and with any luck you might spot a deer, a bear or just enjoy our beautiful property. Have a great summer and check our website for results and photos: [www.scmra.ca](http://www.scmra.ca).

MARLIES BAUMANN

### Summer & Fall Program 2018

August 5.	Championship all Ranges – 13:00 Bell shoot
August 19.	Championship all Ranges – (last day for OP & Feld) Fritz Hodel memorial shoot and Bbq.
September 2.	Championship all Ranges – Trap Cheese shoot
September 16.	Cup of the Consulate General of Switzerland
September 22.	Work – Party
September 30.	Last Day Championship all Ranges
October 6. & 7.	Schützenfest
October 21.	Saushoot
October 27.	Work – Party
October 28.	Jass Tournament
December 1.	Santa Claus Party



Photo: Barb Zollinger

## Vancouver Dorfmusik 33rd Annual Concert

The Vancouver Dorfmusik, under the direction of Gordon Koch, performed its 33rd Annual Concert on April 7, 2018 at the Vancouver Alpenclub. The Vancouver Dorfmusik was founded in 1983 by enthusiastic brass players of the local Swiss Society who wanted to perform in the style of a Swiss “village” band. The core repertoire is still traditional but many well known melodies from around the world have been added and the membership has increased from six to twenty musicians. The band makes regular appearances around Vancouver and has performed at such popular events as the Swiss National Day Celebration, Kitsilano Showboat, Ladner Bandfest, Vancouver Scandinavian Festival Whistler Alpine Festival, Edgemont Oktoberfest and the Leavenworth Autumn Festival. Many past performances are featured on YouTube.

The annual concert is the main event of the year and the start of a new playing season. The concert program included a variety of marches, polkas and valses as well as a famous Spanish trumpet feature and a sing along of European seamen songs. The alphorn compositions by Swiss composer Hans Juerg Sommer are always a favourite with the audience and this year, two alphorns were played by Bob Mullett and Ken Gehrs. The Dorfmusik also has an accomplished vocalist Peter Wu who performed the German drinking song: “Im Tiefen Keller”. As a special guest, the Alpiners entertained with many popular European melodies. President Urs Fricker thanked the enthusiastic audience for their great support and attendance over many years as well as MC Elisabeth Rechsteiner, who eloquently guided through the program.

URS FRICKER

The Vancouver Dorfmusik has performed locally and internationally on many occasions. In 1991, Vancouver Dorfmusik travelled to Switzerland and participated in Switzerland's 700 Anniversary celebration.  
Photo: Juliet Fricker





## Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal - Rencontre Jeunesse Suisse 2018

La rencontre annuelle des jeunes citoyens suisses, organisée par le Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal, a eu lieu samedi 14 avril 2018.

Cette année, Mme Bösch Malinen, Consule générale, et Mme Menghetti Coutinho, Consule, ont accueilli une vingtaine de participants venus de la province du Québec mais aussi de la région d'Ottawa.

Cet événement est l'occasion de tisser des liens avec nos jeunes concitoyens, de les sensibiliser à leurs droits et leurs obligations au long de leur vie d'adulte et de les informer sur les diverses possibilités offertes par la Suisse en matière d'études et de formation.

À l'issue d'une présentation abordant ces divers points essentiels, un moment de convivialité a offert une bonne occasion aux participants d'apprendre à se connaître autour d'un repas buffet.

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 au début du mois de novembre. La communauté suisse de l'Ontario sera informée ultérieurement.

CONSULAT GÉNÉRAL DE SUISSE MONTRÉAL

## Important message to Swiss citizens residing in Ontario

The Consulate General is happy to inform you that the "Swiss Consular Days" in Toronto will be repeated again this year and will take place, during the week of November 5<sup>th</sup> 2018. This service allows the Consulate to offer Swiss citizens the opportunity to renew their passports without making a trip to Montreal.

If you wish to take advantage of the upcoming "Swiss Consular Days" in Toronto this autumn, you must apply via either of the following official websites: [www.schweizerpass.ch](http://www.schweizerpass.ch) or [www.passeportsuisse.ch](http://www.passeportsuisse.ch) and make sure to mention "Toronto 2018" in the Remarks section. **Your application must be submitted no later than August 30<sup>th</sup>**. 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 your current civil status or a name change with the Consulate General, information which must be confirmed by the competent authorities in Switzerland, your request for a passport renewal will regretfully not be considered. 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](mailto:mon.vertretung@eda.admin.ch).

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN MONTREAL

## Saskatoon Swiss Club Saskatoon

Our first event of the year, the Raclette lunch, was held Sunday February 25, hosted by Rosa Nievergelt in Warman, SK. We had a really great turnout and the Raclette was delicious. The multitude of desserts brought by our members was a wonderful way to end our meal and visit.

Our next event on April 21<sup>st</sup> is our Jass Tournament, hosted by Rosemarie Eilinger in Saskatoon. This is usually our smallest event, with about 15 participants. A quick supper of European wieners and homemade potato salad starts the evening. Winners are awarded plaques to take home and have their name engraved on the large trophy.

Dates for our two summer events have not yet been set. The June BBQ will be held at the acreage of Elisabeth and Kasper Wirz, followed by the 1<sup>st</sup> of August celebration at the park in Warman, SK. That event is usually booked for the Saturday closest to August 1<sup>st</sup>. Our small but dedicated Monthly Lunch Club group continues to meet at a different restaurant each time. It's a great way to try a new restaurant, or return to an old favourite. For specific dates, and to be put on our mailing list and receive information about upcoming events, please contact the club at [swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com](mailto:swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com) or call me at 306-665-6039.

ELISABETH EILINGER

## IV Regional News Canada

### Edmonton Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir

For over 25 years, the Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir has been a significant contributor in supporting the music community in Alberta, other regions within Canada and in Switzerland. The choir has supported over fourty award and scholarship recipients since 1993. The list includes many talented individuals such as esteemed individuals as Ms. Ardelle Ries, Mr. Brendan Lord and Pro Coro Canada. Since 2012, the scholarship program bears the name of our Honorary Member, Erwin Baumann, who was for many years the Honorary Swiss Consul in Edmonton, our first President and long-time active singing member. The **Erwin Baumann Scholarship Fund** awards scholarships to recognise and assist in the development of choir directors, singers and choir related instrumentalists.

Recipients of the 2018 Scholarships will be honoured guests at the annual **Fall Swiss Choir Winzerfest Concert and Dance**, where the awards will be presented. This event will be held at St. Basil's Cultural Center in Edmonton on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

### Montreal: Matterhorn Swiss Club

Our Annual General Meeting was held at the beginning of March at Restaurant Piazza Romano in Pointe-Claire. All members of the 2017 committee were willing to continue in their roles, so the 2018 board remains unchanged.

This year marks the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Matterhorn Swiss Club. In honour of this event, we plan a group excursion by private motor coach to the town of Magog in the Eastern Townships. We'll enjoy a gourmet lunch cruise on Lake Memphramagog, followed by free time to wander around or shop before heading to a local winery for a tour & wine tasting.

As usual, our club will participate at the Swiss National Day Celebrations at Mont-Sutton. Once again, we are asking members to help out by volunteering a few hours of their time. Many volunteers are needed in order to make this big event a success.

WALTER SPIRIG

MARTIN STAUB

### Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir Schedule for 2018

June 9 "Landsgemeinde" with the Edmonton Swiss Society at the Ol' MacDonald's Resort, Buffalo Lake.

June 28- North American Swiss Singing Alliance (NASSA)

July 1st Sängerfest 2018 in Toledo

August 1 Swiss National Day with the Edmonton Swiss Society (Actual date is on Hold)

Nov. 10 Winzerfest 2018. This is always a fun event and of course also fund-raising opportunity for the choir. We usually have an audience of just under 400 guests. If you are a potential corporate sponsor, we would love to hear from you and gladly have your advertisement displayed in our program and on screen.

Check our website [www.esmca.ca](http://www.esmca.ca) for more details and other events or information on how to join or contact us. You may "like" us on Facebook "Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir" or enter our name into YouTube to watch/listen to some of our performances.

**100 YEARS 1918-2018**  
**Swiss Club Toronto**

### SWISS NATIONAL DAY 2018

Sunday July 29, 2018  
Country Heritage Park in Milton

The Swiss Club Toronto cordially invites you and your friends to come and celebrate with us. Enjoy great entertainment, Swiss food and refreshments, wagon rides, and our famous raffle.

Entertainment by:  
**Ländlertrio Seetal**  
(Directly from the Seetal in Switzerland)



and also  
**The Trillium Alphorns**



**COME** with your family, make new friends and renew old acquaintances. Meet Swiss artists and appreciate their work.

Enjoy delicious Swiss food, have a Nussgipfel with a coffee, buy some souvenirs, and don't forget our famous raffle!

**PROGRAM:**

12:00 noon - THE PARK OPENS  
Visit some of the 30 heritage buildings. Enjoy a Swiss lunch, and for dessert have a Nussgipfel and Coffee.

1:30 p.m. - OFFICIAL CELEBRATION AND ENTERTAINMENT in the Gambrel Barn, finishing at 4:30 p.m., followed by our famous raffle draw.

**ENTRANCE FEES:**  
(including Heritage Park fee and parking)  
**Members & Children: FREE**  
**Non-Members: \$10.00**

**Directions from Toronto:**  
Country Heritage Park is located on 8560 Tremaine Road, west of Milton. Take the 401 West to Highway 25 Exit; go north on 25 to the fourth traffic lights; turn left onto Side Road 5/Regional Road 9; after 3 km turn left onto Tremaine Road (hidden intersection); go over the 401 bridge and the Park is immediately on the right.

If you require further information please contact Sascha Frassini at: (905) 821-2392 or email: [sascha.frassini@swissclubtoronto.ca](mailto:sascha.frassini@swissclubtoronto.ca) For park information: [www.countryheritagepark.com](http://www.countryheritagepark.com) For Swiss Club information: [www.swissclubtoronto.ca](http://www.swissclubtoronto.ca)

**HERE IS WHERE TO FIND US**



**100 YEARS 1918-2018**  
**Swiss Club Toronto**

### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner

**INVITATION**



**Date:** Saturday, September 29th, 2018  
**Time:** 6:00 pm Cocktail / Dinner 7:00 pm  
**Location:** The Old Mill Hotel, 21 Old Mill Road, Toronto  
**Admission:** \$45 per person, Swiss Club members  
(2017 & 2018 membership required to get member price)  
\$90 per person, non-members  
**Includes:** Dinner, Door Prizes, Parking  
Cash Bar (not included)  
**Dress Code:** Semi Formal / Jacket & Tie (no Jeans)  
**Entertainment:** Howard Lopez Band  
Matt Lebar (Accordion)  
Eva Hajda & Erwin Oechslin (Alphorn)

**Seating is limited.**  
Please complete and mail the registration form including payment by September 12, 2018 to:  
Denise Frassini,  
5474 Palmerston Crescent,  
Mississauga, ON, L5M 5Z8  
[905-821-2392 / frassini@rogers.com](mailto:905-821-2392 / frassini@rogers.com)

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for overnight stay at the Old Mill Hotel.  
(subject to availability)  
Please contact the reservation desk  
at 416-236-2641  
or make reservations on-line at  
<https://www.oldmilltoronto.com>



*Come and join us for an evening of fun and memories.*

Bulkley Valley Swiss Club has been in existence for over 80 years. The first Swiss settlers arrived in 1910, followed by an influx in 1937 after a delegation from Switzerland had visited Smithers in the early '30ies and advertised the town as a suitable place for Swiss farmers to settle. Twenty-six people arrived on the same train. The influence of Swiss culture on Smithers is still evident today. One example is the the statue of an Alphorn player on Main street.

Over the years the Swiss of the valley have faithfully met for the annual Swiss picnic. Sometimes we had musical groups performing. We continue to have a strong presence with new people arriving regularly and making Bulkley Valley their home. Apart from the Swiss National Day celebration we hold a brunch in December

and a Fondue social during the long winter months. Many of the community value close friendships with people who share the same cultural background, and enjoy getting together on a regular basis.

Having arrived in the valley with my family as a teenager, I didn't know English or much of what Canadians were like. I wasn't sure I was always going to call Bulkley Valley my home, but over the years I have come to love this place along with its people. I feel privileged to raise our children here and to provide them the experience of growing up on a farm with fellow Canadians as well as interacting with all the Swiss people we regularly meet - young and old. We love to hear immigration stories, past and present, along with sharing the joys and hardships that people experience during a move halfway across the earth.



Beautiful Bulkley Valley offers many outdoor attractions of all kinds along with activities for all seasons. From downhill skiing, cross- and backcountry skiing to hiking, mountainbiking, kayaking, fishing, and hunting - there is no end to explore the outdoors. Many adventurers from all over the world are drawn here repeatedly and some end up making this their permanent home. The many diverse backgrounds of people living in this valley make this a unique and special place to live. MARLIES FLECK



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## VI Regional News Canada Thames Valley Swiss Club

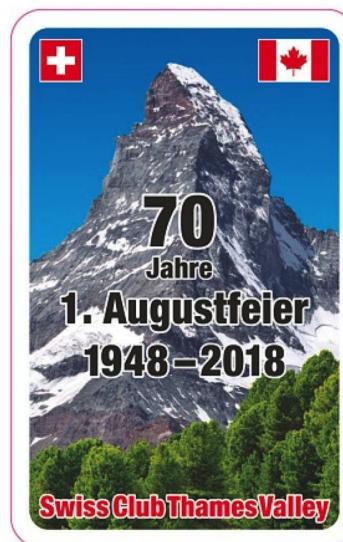
Two of our club's first three events this year have already turned into great memories.

We had a full house at our Metzgete and Jassfinal in February, which was very rewarding for all who were involved in preparing for this evening. We would like to extend a big thank you to the organizers of the Jassfinal, to everybody who worked very hard to put the food on the table, and to all who came out to support this event. What better way to fight the winter blahs than enjoying a hearty meal and playing cards?

They say "Laughter is the best medicine!" With their excellent performance of *Miss Sophie's Erbe*, the Swiss Theater Group Toronto provided us with many doses of this wonder drug. Great acting and a twisted plot spiked with

countless hilarious accusations and name-calling captivated an appreciative audience of all ages on April 8th in Wellesley. Thank you, Swiss Theater Group Toronto, for a wonderful afternoon of laughter!

Spring was not in the air for the Swiss Choir's spring



concert and dance on April 14th. Snow and freezing rain forced the organizers to cancel the event. Disappointing, yes, but it was the right decision and there is always next year! And - there are many more opportunities to get together in the near future. We hope to see you soon!

PIA HÄCHLER

### Thames Valley Schedule for 2018

July 8/15	Motorcycle Tour (Walter Burkhardt)
July 29	Bundesfeier Monkton <b>70th Anniversary</b>
Sept. 2	Seniorentreff (Chörli)
Sept. 15	Jodler Stubete Rec. Complex Milverton
Nov. 3	Generalversammlung Legion Milverton
Nov. 17	Konzert (Swiss Farmer Band) Rec. Complex Milverton
Dec. 2	Adventsfeier Legion Milverton



## P2P PASTURE TO PLATE PEOPLE • ANIMALS • HEALTHY SOILS



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The new board has been busy planning the activities for the upcoming year. In March we hosted a movie afternoon, watching the Heidi film that was released in 2015. The timeless classic was enjoyed by many of our club members and the afternoon was filled with tasty treats and sweet laughs. Our annual Wine and Cheese party, popular at the end of April, was also a big success...but then again, what can go wrong when both wine and cheese are involved! We travelled all the way to Tanzania by a beautiful slide show that was created and presented from a board member travel-enthusiast.

Our upcoming events include hitting the (mini) green at Bingeman's Mini Golf in Kitchener. This event takes place rain or shine on Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2 pm. Hopefully

we will see you there. To help cool off in the summer, we are hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> annual summer BBQ at a board member's house. Everyone will find something to make them smile whether it is food, the swimming pool, badminton, music, and of course, the company of good friends. Please stay tuned for our other events coming up later this year: the fall hike, the cheese Fondue and our Wald Weihnacht party. For the most up-to-date club information please follow us on Facebook (Swiss-Canadian Club Guelph) or check out at [guelphswisscanadianclub.webs.com/](http://guelphswisscanadianclub.webs.com/). If you have any questions, please email: [swisscanadianclubguelph@gmail.com](mailto:swisscanadianclubguelph@gmail.com). We are looking forward to the warmer weather, all of our events and seeing you there!

RINA THOMA

My name is Regula Winzeler and I am a junior high teacher from Edmonton, Alberta. I am looking for a room to rent in or near Vancouver, BC from Sept. 2018- May 2019 while I attend Regent College (located on the UBC campus) to complete the "Graduate Diploma in Christian Studies." I am an active member of the Edmonton Swiss Society and speak fluent German and Swiss German as well as conversational French. I would be happy to give you more information about myself if interested. Email or call me to get in touch: [regulawinzeler@gmail.com](mailto:regulawinzeler@gmail.com) /780 996 1944.



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Fax: 514-636 0365  
E-mail: [d.mccann@mccannequipment.ca](mailto:d.mccann@mccannequipment.ca)

## Ottawa Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

The spring events were a big success. The *Montagna Singers Spring Dance* was a fun and festive evening. Singing and dancing accompanied the delicious food prepared by the choir chefs. The OVSC was very pleased to present the *Toronto Swiss Theatre Group's* Swiss German play "Miss Sophie's Erbe". The entertaining comedy was enjoyed by all. Please join us at our upcoming events: the First of August Celebration on July 29, 2018 at the Billings Estate, and the monthly Swiss Seniors Luncheons. For more information on the club, membership and upcoming events, please visit our website: [ottawavalleyswissclub.ca](http://ottawavalleyswissclub.ca).

OLIVIA CRAFT

## Société Suisse Romonde Québec



*Peu importe nos origines, nous avons tous un jour besoin de renouer avec notre culture et nos traditions. Cette réalité est d'autant plus présente chez les expatriés et leurs descendants.*

Au Québec, il y a plus de 25,000 personnes ayant des origines Suisse, c'est pourquoi, depuis près de 65 ans, la Société Suisse Romande organise des activités pour ses membres, pour la plupart des Suisses francophones et leurs familles, qui désirent maintenir un lien vivant avec leur communauté.

Fondé en 1954, la SSR compte plus d'une centaine de membres et organise chaque année plusieurs évènements à saveur Suisse, dans la grande région de Montréal. Fondue, raclette, et choucroute sont au menu, en plus d'un pique-nique familial où des grillades sont servies. Au début du mois de décembre, pour le plus grand plaisir des enfants, le Saint Nicolas nous rend visite avec des surprises pour tous!

Depuis plus de 40 ans, avec l'aide des bénévoles de la SSR, la Fédération des Sociétés Suisses de l'Est du Canada, organise la fête nationale Suisse au Mont Sutton. Cette grande fête, tenue le samedi le plus proche du 1<sup>er</sup> août, est l'occasion de se retrouver pour vivre le folklore Suisse en famille! Avec plus de 3,000 visiteurs chaque année, cette fête est la plus grande manifestation du genre en dehors de la Confédération Helvétique.

Peu importe si vous avez migré au Québec tout récemment, si vos grands-parents sont venus de Suisse il y a longtemps, ou si vous avez visité ce pays et êtes tombé amoureux de ses paysages, de ses gens et de ses traditions culinaires, venez vous joindre à nous pour une activité festive dont vous vous souviendrez longtemps!

Pour plus d'information sur la Société Suisse Romande et pour connaitre les dates de nos prochaines activités familiales, visitez notre site web au [www.societesuisseromande.org](http://www.societesuisseromande.org) ou notre page Facebook: [facebook.com/societesuisseromande/](https://facebook.com/societesuisseromande/).

MYRIAM TROESCH