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# REGIONAL NEWS

## CANADA

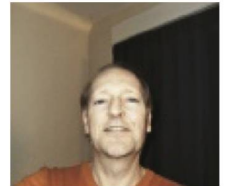
### Editorial

Welcome! With this 2nd edition, we're already at the half-way mark for the year - in July and November, the Swiss Review does not publish a regional insert. Thus a gentle reminder: April 13 (for the May edition) and August 17 (for the September edition) are the two remaining deadlines for submissions in 2019.

Is your club or organisation interested in a feature article? If so, I would be most happy to assist you in getting the ball

rolling; just contact me well ahead of time. To get a taste of what such a showcasing effort might look like, turn to pages VI and VII for a closer look at the Vancouver Swiss Choir. Here, the intent was clear and unapologetic from the onset: Help us get new members!

Sound familiar? Many clubs face identical challenges. Again, if I can help in some (very small) way, let me know. Wishing you much success! [avs@telus.net](mailto:avs@telus.net)



ANDREW VON STUERMER  
REGIONAL EDITOR, CANADA

### Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir Association

On Saturday, June 8, the Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir will again be part of the Swiss Landsgemeinde at the Ol' MacDonald's RV Resort at Buffalo Lake near Stettler. This is always a fun-filled family event at the group campsite (for over-night camping, or for day-use). Together with singers from the Calgary Yodel Club Heimattreu and the Wildrose Yodel Club, our Choir will be part of the Saturday evening entertainment at the events tent.

A week later, on Sunday June 16, at 3:00 pm, we will be having our very own Spring Concert at Trinity Lutheran Church, 10014 81 Ave NW, Edmonton. Vox Hominis, conducted by Graham Fast - an Erwin Bauermann Scholarship recipient - will be our guest choir for this event. For more information and tickets, call Hans Voegeli at 780 464-1266.

The Winzerfest 2019 Grand Concert with fine dining and dancing will be held on Saturday, November 9, at St. Basil's Cultural Centre, 10819 71 Ave NW, Edmonton.



Save the date for the next singing and yodeling festival of the North American Swiss Singing Association (NASSA) - held in Edmonton from June 24 to 27, 2021.

Choirs from North America and Switzerland will celebrate our Swiss heritage. The Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir would be delighted to welcome your choir to participate in the festivities! You will be eligible to perform in the singing competition, as well as to take part in our Grand Concert.

Plus, you will have an opportunity to showcase your singing to the festival attendees outside of the official performances.

If you're an individual music lover, please join us as a Festebummler (spectator). Of course, we also invite potential sponsors to contact us should you wish to contribute to this truly Swiss festival. For more information, please refer to our NASSA 2021 Sngerfest website [www.nassa2021.ca](http://www.nassa2021.ca).



We're always looking for new members. You do not need to be Swiss, as long as you like to sing. For general information on how to join us, or to learn about future events, check our website [www.esmca.ca](http://www.esmca.ca).

PETER THUT



## Swiss Canadian Club Guelph

Every year, the Christmas Party is our Club's final event. A unique aspect of this celebration is the gathering at a candle-lit Christmas tree in the forest, where we sing carols and listen to Christmas stories. At this past year's tree celebration, we read out the history of this tradition; now, we would like to share it with you, in case you were unable to attend.

In some parts of Switzerland, this Christmas celebration in the forest is a long-held custom. In 1977, a few members of the Swiss Canadian Club Guelph suggested we should also make it part of our Club's holiday tradition. Joe Leuthard - one of the Club's founding members - knew of the perfect place to observe such a holiday tradition - he owned a farm in the Guelph Lake Conservation Area and had planted several pine trees there. Joe's property was just right: the trees had grown to an ideal Christmas tree size, and there was a parking lot and a good road for easy access.

A few of the Club members would go ahead into the bush and select a tree to decorate. The remaining members would then assemble in the parking lot and walk into the forest together, looking for the tree decorated with candles. Everyone would then gather around the tree and sing carols, and one of the youngsters would read the Christmas lesson from the Bible. Jakob Amstutz, the resident pastor, would provide some thoughtful insights for the busy holiday season.

With everyone's feet now cold, Club members drove back to the German Clubhouse to await a special visit from Santa, who would bring goodie bags for all the good girls and boys.

40 years later, our Club still upholds this tradition, although we now use a „sister tree“ as the original tree has grown much too large. Club members still enjoy singing carols and listening to Christmas stories.

Traditions are reflected in many of our events throughout the year. The board of the Guelph Club works hard to strike a balance between keeping traditions and introducing new, modern aspects.

We've been busy planning this year's events and hope to see you there.

We started the year off by hosting a movie afternoon at the Arkell Church Hall on Sunday March 3, viewing the classic Swiss tale „Schellen Ursli“.

On April 13 at 6:30 pm, we'll be hosting our much-attended Wine and Cheese Party. For event details, please visit our Facebook page "Swiss-Canadian Club Guelph", or visit our website <https://guelphswisscanadianclub.webs.com>.

If you have any questions, please email: [swisscanadianclubguelph@gmail.com](mailto:swisscanadianclubguelph@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you at our next event. Bis bald!

RINA THOMA





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## Are you moving, getting married, or becoming proud parents?

Please do not forget to inform the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver or Montréal. To do so, please log in at our Online Desk ([www.evera.eda.admin.ch](http://www.evera.eda.admin.ch)), or inform the respective Consulate General directly. Notify us of:

- Any changes to your postal / physical address, phone / cell numbers, or email addresses;
- Civil status changes (marriage, divorce, death in the family, etc.);
- Becoming parents through birth or adoption (Note: Children of a Swiss parent acquire the nationality only if they are registered with the respective Swiss representation);
- Your naturalization (if you are acquiring dual nationality).

## Matterhorn Swiss Club (Montréal)

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Friday, February 8, at the Casa Grecque restaurant in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, QC, where we enjoyed a delicious dinner. All members of the 2018 committee were willing to continue in their roles and won by acclamation.

In early June, we're planning to visit the Canadian Railway Museum (Exporail) in Saint-Constant, QC. Following the tour, we will have a good dinner at a nearby restaurant. This should be a very interesting outing for adults and children alike. Information will be sent out to members when available.

### The Committee for 2019

President	Walter Spirig
Vice-President	Peter Aschwanden
Treasurer	Gilbert Berthoud
Secretary	Joanne Spirig
Member-at-large	Astrid Aschwanden
Jack Schiess will continue as auditor.	

The Club holds about 5 events or outings each year, and we are pleased to say, they are always well-attended.

New members are always welcome! For additional information, please see the Matterhorn Club section on the Federation website [www.Fedesuisse.com](http://www.Fedesuisse.com).

WALTER SPIRIG, PRESIDENT 514-694-3718



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## Swiss Club Thames Valley

As I write this article, the year 2019 is still pretty new. Aside from playing cards, not much has been happening in our local Swiss community. However, some major events are coming up shortly, the Metzgete being our first get-together of the year.

While not a huge affair as far as the number of attendees is concerned, the Metzgete is certainly one of the most labour-intensive events, reminding us - year after year - that we need new and young blood on the executive. We were lucky enough to fill all executive positions for this year, but in order to keep our Swiss heritage, traditions, and club activities alive, it is imperative that we get more people – especially younger ones – to step up to the plate. We thus ask you to please consider serving on the Board in the near future!

### Upcoming Events 2019

April 6	Get-Together Concert and Dance (Chörli), Rec. Complex, Milverton
April 14	Theater, Wellesley
May 26	Brunch (Chörli), Rec. Complex, Milverton
July 7/14	Motorcycle Tour, guide: Walter Burkhardt
July 28	Bundesfeier, Monkton
August 18	Seniorentreff (Schweizer Jodlerfreunde)
September 21	Jodler Stubete (Schweizer Jodlerfreunde), Rec. Complex, Milverton
November 2	Generalversammlung, Legion, Milverton
November 16	Concert and Dance (Swiss Farmer Band), Rec. Complex, Milverton
December 1	Adventsfeier, Legion, Milverton.

PIA HÄCHLER



The Executive for 2019: Paul Müller, Käthi Hostettler, Brigitte Bieri, Sonja Gutknecht, Lydia Habegger, Pia Hächler, and President Urs Egli



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## Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association (Metro Vancouver)

Although we're still in winter mode, there has been a lot of activity at the Chalet. On January 19, we had a great turnout for the Fondue Night with the Swiss Chamber of Commerce. The following week, we celebrated the shooters - the trophy and medal winners, as well as everyone else who put in a lot of effort and practice all year round.

Rene Zollinger (Standard Rifle) and Roy Schurmann (Service Rifle) were the big winners in the 300m Club Championship. Robert Best was the Pistol Section all-around winner while Jim Paton won the 50m Section. Markus Spycher won the Crossbow Section. Congratulations! Please visit our website [www.scmra.ca](http://www.scmra.ca) for photos and Club Championship results.

On February 8, we held a successful AGM at which all our executives were re-elected. On the next day, 15 of us participated in a first aid course at the Chalet; everyone passed the test.

The 300m Range is currently under renovation. An amazing amount of work has already been completed. A special thank-you to Rene Z. for leading the effort, as well as to our volunteers!

Visit the Range on any of our shooting days and try your hand at 50m-, 300m-, Pistol-, Crossbow-, or Trap-shooting!

## 2019 Program (Spring and Summer)

March 3	10m Schützenfest
16	Work-Party
31	Practice all Ranges & Safety Course
April 13	Work-Party & Clubhouse Spring Cleaning
14	Championship all Ranges (Crossbow Fondue Stich)
28	Championship all Ranges
May 5	Championship all Ranges - Trap
11	Work-Party
18 & 19	50m & 300m Feldstich - Feldschiessen
June 2	Championship all Ranges - (last day for Swiss Section)
15	Work-Party
23	Mountain Range Match 09:00 - 12:00 / 13:00 Volksschiessen
30	Championship all Ranges - 13:00 Bruno Huber Shoot
July 14	Championship all Ranges - Trap / Crossbow - Connie's Manhattan Stich & BBQ
20	Work-Party
27	SWISS NATIONAL DAY celebrations.

For program changes, please check our website [www.scmra.ca](http://www.scmra.ca).

Remember, lunch is available on any shooting day; if you participate in a Work-Party, lunch is on the house! What a deal for a day's work.

MARLIES BAUMANN

## HOCKEY IN SWITZERLAND

If you are a hockey player and eligible for a  
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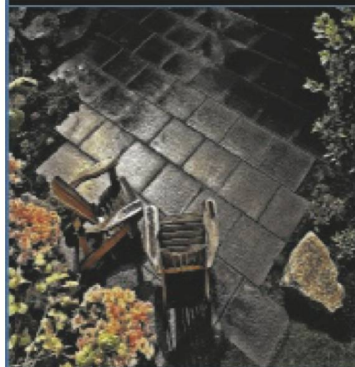
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## Feature - Vancouver Swiss Choir (VSC)

### Introducing the Vancouver Swiss Choir (VSC)

The VSC was founded in 1966! We're a mixed choir of various ages and voices singing Swiss folk music in many languages (English, German, Swiss-German, French, Italian, even Rhaeto-Romanic).

We're currently recruiting new members and encourage beginners to join. No formal musical training is necessary, and you don't have to master any particular language. Dr. Sergio Pires - our accomplished conductor - will provide voice training, and the VSC can also teach you to yodel. We supply traditional Swiss costumes ("Trachten", "Chuteli"). Annual membership fees are ~ \$100. We rehearse every Tuesday from 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm in New Westminster (Metro Vancouver); carpooling is available. A desire to sing, have fun, and meet new people is really at the heart of it!

ROLF A. BRÜLHART - TENOR; LONGTIME VSC MEMBER

### VSC's rich traditions

Our Choir is very diverse! Ever since its inception, the VSC has been putting on annual springtime and Christmas concerts. We also routinely participate in Swiss National Day celebrations, and we perform at benefit events and seniors' homes. Notable VSC performances:

(1) The Pacific Coast Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festivals (we organized and hosted these festivals in 1981 and 2011); (2) The 2010 Winter Olympics; (3) Retreats at the Swiss Society of Vancouver's Mt. Baker cabin; (4) The Vancouver Christmas Market and the VanDusen Festival of Lights; (5) Air Canada inviting us in 2018 to perform at the Vancouver International Airport.

ERNA SCHAEFER - TENOR; LONGTIME MEMBER AND FORMER PRESIDENT

### Two VSC members on why they joined the Choir

Sarah Elbert (Soprano; a recent new member): "I'm already a member of a classical choir and recently joined the VSC - specifically to learn to yodel! I already picked up elements of it from my mentor Andrea Flukiger."

Marianne Vlek (Soprano): "I'm originally from the Netherlands and have been a VSC member for 16 years. I joined because I love to sing, especially in different languages; but most of all, I love to yodel!"



The VSC at the 2018 Swiss National Day celebrations at the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association in Coquitlam, BC

### Upcoming events 2019 / 2020

At this time, we're preparing for our Spring Concert in June, the Swiss National Day celebrations in July, the Christmas Concert in November, and the Seniors' Luncheon in December.

Looking further ahead, in June 2020, the VSC will perform in Los Angeles at the 30th Pacific Coast Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festival (also called "SwissFest2020"). SwissFest2020 is already reflected in our weekly rehearsal schedule; for instance, we're practicing 15 songs for the Gala concert.

By the way, tenor Kimi Hong and I will be bringing our alphorns and Schwyzerörgeli!

BEAT HEEB - BASS; ALPHORN PLAYER



The Vancouver Swiss Choir performing at the 2018 Spring Concert at the Vancouver Alpenclub with its new conductor, Dr. Sergio Pires



## Feature - Vancouver Swiss Choir (VSC)



Vancouver Swiss Choir yodelers Anna-Marie Spaeti, Dorli Meier, and Andrea Flukiger performing at the Vancouver International Airport in 2018

### A Vancouver Swiss Choir member on yodeling

While the terms 'Swiss' and 'yodel' go almost hand in hand, sort of like 'Swiss' and 'cheese' or 'chocolate', it's important to recognize that there isn't a single style of yodeling – rather, there are numerous forms of yodeling, and differing yodeling traditions in many countries. Switzerland in particular has a huge repertoire of songs with lyrics and yodel parts.

At some concerts, I may sing a “Naturjodel” – a wordless form of yodeling. Often, I'll also perform in a yodeling trio with altos Dorli Meier and Anna-Marie Spaeti. Here's a link to such a yodel: <http://youtu.be/Ix4F-TDYXy0>.

ANDREA FLUKIGER - SOPRANO; SOLO / LEAD YODELER

### Three VSC projects to attract younger individuals

A recent Swiss study concluded that most choirs are overaged and struggle to find new members. In my opinion, the best remedy is to work with 'projects' limited in time and scope. One of our projects is to re-establish an informal men's yodeling group, this time including one or two good women yodelers.



2018 Benefit concert for St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton, New Westminster, BC

A second VSC project is to revive the former “Chinderhörli” (children's choir). We might start as soon as this year's Swiss National Day celebrations, as this event in particular tends to attract young families with children.

The Swiss study also found that tenors and basses (in that order) are the most sought-after choir participants. We face similar challenges; so as a third project, the VSC may at times bring in guest singers.

ROLF A. BRÜLHART - TENOR; LONGTIME VSC MEMBER

### Attracting and recruiting new singers

Finding a choir that is just right for you is certainly a case of “different strokes for different folks”. If you're still looking, the VSC may just fit the bill, for the following reasons:

- (1) We strive to keep Swiss vocal traditions alive - it's our raison d'être;
- (2) A diverse, high-quality repertoire; (3) High-level performances;
- (4) A great social environment!

While prospective singers will find basic information on our website [www.swiss-society.org/swiss-choir](http://www.swiss-society.org/swiss-choir), our recruitment relies primarily on word-of-mouth efforts during public performances – here, we always stress that everyone is welcome to join.

DR. SERGIO PIRES - CHORAL CONDUCTOR  
ANDREA FLUKIGER - SOPRANO; SOLO / LEAD YODELER

### Photo credits

A heartfelt thank-you to VSC member Alfred Eigenmann (Bass)!

### Contacting the Vancouver Swiss Choir for more information

- Email Rolf Brühlhart at [rbrulhart@hotmail.com](mailto:rbrulhart@hotmail.com), or call him at 604-710-7653;
- Email Silvia Kinvig, President, at [silkin56@hotmail.com](mailto:silkin56@hotmail.com);
- Contact Dr. Sergio Pires, Conductor, at [sergio.pires@ymail.com](mailto:sergio.pires@ymail.com);
- Visit our website [www.swiss-society.org/swiss-choir](http://www.swiss-society.org/swiss-choir);
- Talk to any of our Choir members!

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May: European Festival  
June: Spring Concert  
August: Swiss National Day  
2020 Pacific Coast Singing & Yodeling Festival in LA

**NO AUDITION. GET IN TOUCH!**  
Email Rolf at [rbrulhart@hotmail.com](mailto:rbrulhart@hotmail.com)



## Swiss Club Saskatoon

As I write this, we're still firmly in winter's grip, with an Arctic vortex breathing down our necks! Having endured many weeks of temperatures well below normal, it was great to get together for our delicious Raclette Lunch on February 24, the perfect meal for a cold winter day!

This year's Jass Tournament will be a bit different. On April 7, on a Sunday afternoon, Rosemarie Eilinger will host an event for the whole family. As turnout for the tournament has dwindled over the past few years, if we don't get at least 8 players, we will put on a fun Jass rather than a tournament. We encourage members to come armed with their favourite Swiss card and board games; and bring the kids to teach them these fun games! It will be an afternoon of cards, games, desserts and coffee, and a lot of visiting.

Our June BBQ will be hosted by Max and Dora Hug at their acreage; the event is currently still in the planning stages.

This year, we will celebrate our Club's 40th anniversary! The event will be held on August 3 (in conjunction with the Bundesfeier) at The Legends, in Warman, SK; it will include a catered meal, activities for the kids, displays, a few short speeches, and a lot of reminiscing. Save the date!

If you would like to receive information about our Club and upcoming events, please contact us at [swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com](mailto:swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com), or call me at 306-665-6039.

ELISABETH EILINGER, PRESIDENT

## People - Meet Elke Porter (European News in Western Canada)



Elke is a writer, communicator, and connector dedicated to the German-speaking community in Western Canada.

Her passion to serve the Swiss and German communities goes back to her time working at the German International School in Sidney, Australia. Here, she was repeatedly impressed by how efficiently and effectively the Swiss, Austrians, and Germans worked together to ensure quality education for their German-speaking students from Europe.

For the past ten years, Elke has been networking extensively within the Swiss community in Western Canada. She:

- Served on the Board of the Swiss Society for three years and spent two years as a member of the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce;
- Was the editor of the following publications: The Swiss Herald (for three years), the German Voices Vancouver newsletter, the Westcoast German News magazine, and "das Schwarze Brett" magazine;
- Spent three years as a member of the Eurofest BC Society (under its President Peter Schalle, from the Swiss Society);
- Taught children from Swiss and German backgrounds at the Westside German School;
- Voiced over a commercial for Garaventa Lift, and interviewed guests on an episode of AhornTV: <https://youtu.be/yV9gjy79zvY>.

Elke's latest venture is the "European News in Western Canada", a website that aims to become Western Canada's leading promoter of European businesses, and strives to assist companies with their market entry and expansion efforts.

Specifically, the site seeks to develop the most comprehensive business directory of European companies in Canada; it also lists events and posts German / European-related job listings.

Reporting on news from Swiss, German, and Austrian sources (as well as from other European countries), the website also connects to the "European News" magazine - published every two months - and links to Elke's YouTube channel ("Elkepr").



Elke Porter, 604 828 8788  
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