

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 47 (2020)  
**Heft:** 2

**Anhang:** Regional news : Canada

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# REGIONAL NEWS

## CANADA

### Editorial

We're into early March and news flow has become completely dominated by an ominous topic: a new virus some call "the event killer". Not only is it inducing panic globally, it's now increasingly leading to the cancellation of social events and gatherings. Most of us are social animals, so this aspect alone can be difficult. Will the current pandemic spell trouble for Swiss clubs in Canada as well? I don't know, but here's a (hopefully encouraging) perspective: a number of clubs are celebrating significant milestone anniversaries this year. They have "been around the block" for decades, experienced good times and bad, worked through their challenges - in short, these clubs have shown resiliency! If you're a club executive who could use a little extra help right now, turn to page III for a portrait of a well-known Swiss community member. No, he's not a virologist, but he has significant insight into club affairs and the tools to help you appeal to a wider (and younger) audience. Best of all, he makes a unique and very generous offer that just might make your day! Seize the opportunity!



ANDREW VON STUERMER,  
REGIONAL EDITOR,  
CANADA

[avs@telus.net](mailto:avs@telus.net)

### Swiss Cultural Society of Calgary



Members of the Swiss Cultural Society of Calgary (SCSC) have many good reasons to be excited these days. In particular, 2020 marks our 60th anniversary and thus holds many celebrations in store for us!

As we reminisce through our archives of the last 60 years, we note the many accomplishments and recognition our Swiss community has received. In this article, we share two historical photos with you. Enjoy!

As with many cultural societies, our goal is always to appeal to new, fresh faces in our communities and at our events. So we got busy and created a few new programmes over the last couple of years with an eye towards our younger generation. We also elected our very first Youth Ambassador - because really, who resonates better with our younger, future generation than a young leader who encourages others to step forward and continue our Swiss legacy here in Canada?

Throughout this year, we hope that the other fun annual Swiss events we've created will build in popularity and attendance. Relentless consistency is key; however, equally important is this: If you see an event of interest to you and your family or friends, you must participate! Or risk that these special and fun Swiss events will no longer be held, due to lack of interest.



SCSC Youth Ambassador, Emma-Lee Reist, speaking at the 2019 Swiss National Day celebration



We're pleased to introduce 11-year-old Miss Emma-Lee Reist, who made her very first public speaking appearance at last year's Swiss National Day celebration. This Youth Ambassador role is also backed by leadership mentoring, and it is supported by our whole community.

We encourage you to visit us at [SwissClubsCalgary.com](http://SwissClubsCalgary.com). Check out our calendar and learn more about our various clubs and special events.

Swiss Cultural Society of Calgary  
403 809 - 6848  
[President@SwissClubsCalgary.com](mailto:President@SwissClubsCalgary.com)

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SONJA GOSTELI, PRESIDENT



**FÉDÉRATION DES SOCIÉTÉS SUISSES DE L'EST DU CANADA**  
**FEDERATION OF SWISS SOCIETIES IN EASTERN CANADA**

**FÊTE NATIONALE SUISSE**

**SAMEDI 1ER AOÛT – MONT-SUTTON QC**

C'est le canton du Jura qui sera l'honneur pour cette 44e édition de la Fête nationale suisse. Nous nous retrouverons donc au Mont-Sutton le samedi 1er août 2020 dans une ambiance festive et joyeuse!

Vous trouverez le programme complet sur notre site web

[www.fedesuisse.com](http://www.fedesuisse.com) au début du mois de juin. Pour ceux qui veilleront tard, n'attendez plus pour réserver votre hébergement dans le beau village de Sutton. Car après une bonne raclette, le groupe jurassien l'Écho des Orçons vous fera sûrement bouger tout au long de la soirée!

**PARTICIPEZ EN TANT QUE BÉNÉVOLES!**

Travaillez pendant 4 heures ou plus et votre entrée vous sera offerte en plus de quelques coupons de nourriture pour les stands sur place. Certificat de bénévolat émis pour les étudiants de moins de 30 ans.

Inscrivez-vous dès maintenant auprès de votre club ou directement à la FEDE en écrivant à [info@fedesuisse.com](mailto:info@fedesuisse.com) en indiquant vos disponibilités: VENDREDI et / ou SAMEDI et / ou DIMANCHE. Nous avons besoin de vous!

**TOMBOLA (2.50\$ le billet)**

4'500 billets de tombola seront disponibles à partir de la mi-mai, auprès des membres du comité de la FEDE et de plusieurs clubs, et toute la journée du 1er août sur le site de la Fête. Multipliez vos chances de gagner des prix fantastiques en achetant plusieurs billets!

Vous trouverez la liste de tous les prix très prochainement sur notre site web. Le tirage aura lieu le samedi 1er août 2020 en soirée au Mont-Sutton. Bonne chance à vous!

■ Restez informés en consultant notre site web [www.fedesuisse.com](http://www.fedesuisse.com) et notre page Facebook [www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse/](http://www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse/).

Votre comité 2020

**SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2020 – MONT SUTTON, QC**

This 44th edition of the Swiss National Day celebration will honour the Canton of Jura. Let's meet in Mont Sutton on Saturday, August 1, 2020 in a festive and friendly atmosphere!

The complete activity schedule will be posted on our website [www.fedesuisse.com](http://www.fedesuisse.com)

in early June. For those planning to stay up late, don't wait any longer and book your accommodation in the beautiful village of Sutton now. After a good raclette, the band l'Écho des Orçons from the Jura will surely keep you moving all evening long!

**PARTICIPATE AS A VOLUNTEER!**

Work for 4 hours or more and you'll receive free admission plus several food coupons for onsite food stands. We issue Certificates of Appreciation to volunteering students under the age of 30.

Sign up now through your club / society, or directly with the Federation; email us at [info@fedesuisse.com](mailto:info@fedesuisse.com)

and let us know when you're available: on FRIDAY and / or SATURDAY and / or SUNDAY. We need you!

**RAFFLE (\$2.50 per ticket)**

4,500 raffle tickets will be sold starting mid-May and can be purchased from FEDE committee members, from several clubs, and all day on August 1 directly at the festival site. Purchase multiple tickets to increase your odds of winning fantastic prizes!

On our website, you'll soon find a list of all the prizes. The draw will take place in Mont Sutton on Saturday evening, August 1. Good luck to you!

■ To stay informed, visit our website [www.fedesuisse.com](http://www.fedesuisse.com) and our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse/](http://www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse/).

Your 2020 Committee



Famille Jeanneret-Cabana / The Jeanneret-Cabana family

## People - Meet Klaus Zahnd (kdz\_website\_design)

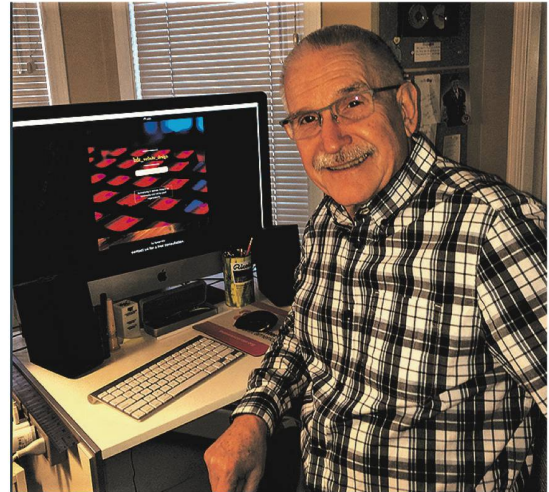
I'm a web designer with a special interest in Swiss clubs in Canada. My focus is on small to medium-sized community organisations, such as choirs, theatre groups, sports organisations, etc.

Deciding to establish a website or Facebook page (or both) is never an easy task - one needs to answer numerous tough questions: "Why do we need a website or Facebook presence? How secure is Facebook? Do we have the money to pay for a good website? Do we need a dedicated person to keep Facebook and our website current?" In my experience, the decision to establish a web presence is often based largely on the feeling that it is "something one should do". Many websites show little more than an online brochure and were originally designed for standard-sized PC screens. But today, half of all website traffic originates from smart phones, so these sites are now difficult to read.

One pervasive belief among community organisations is the idea that once a web and / or social media presence has been established, no further involvement is required. In reality, websites and Facebook posts by themselves do not bring in any new members, or sell more tickets. To be successful, a web presence requires frequent attention. Organisations also need to understand their "target audience" better before making web-related decisions. While one club might need a website and a Facebook page, another might require only a website.

I grew up in Berne, where I completed a tool and die maker apprenticeship, earned a business certificate, worked as a purchasing agent, and completed my Swiss military training (rising to the rank of a Sergeant Major). In search of a couple of years of adventure, my wife and I emigrated to Canada in 1969. After the birth of our two beautiful daughters, we had little interest in returning to Switzerland. In 1976, I graduated from the University of Calgary's Management Certificate programme, and in 1979, I co-founded the Calgary Chapter of the Project Management Institute. For 19 years, I held various management positions at an international conglomerate in Calgary. I've also served on the Boards of several companies, was the lead project manager for an IPO, was licensed as a stock broker, and established my own corporate finance and advisory business.

My Swiss roots, love of yodeling, and the need to speak my native "Bärndütsch" motivated me to join the Swiss Club Matterhorn in 1975. In 1976, I co-founded the Jodlerklub Heimattreu (where I served as their first President for two years). In 1979, I was elected President of the Swiss Club Matterhorn in Calgary. 1985: The Swiss government appointed me as the Honorary Consul of Switzerland for Southern Alberta, a position I held for 18 years. 1986: The Swiss government hired me as Project Manager for the Swiss Pavilion at Vancouver's World Expo. 1988: The Swiss Olympic Committee appointed me as the Swiss Olympic Attaché and further selected me to establish a Swiss restaurant at the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary.



1995: Swiss Club Matterhorn members and other Swiss organisations in Calgary asked me to head up an Advisory Committee to advise clubs on improving relations.

I'm proud to be Swiss, and my Swiss roots run deep! I have served the Jodlerklub for over 40 years - as Treasurer, Secretary, President, organiser, and fundraiser. It was natural for me to design and build their website 10 years ago, and I have been managing it ever since. Showing off our Swiss traditions and heritage to the Internet public was worth the many hours of study!

I use a component-based web design system (think "Lego") that is fast and economical for the end-user. Our software supplier - in business since 1996 - updates the packages periodically so that the websites always look modern, are functional and secure, and conform to the latest standards. I specialise in creating "back office" designs for archives and photo chronicles to be stored on the website server. These designs feature a log-in structure that makes them private and secure.

### Reference website designs:

[www.jkheimattreu.com](http://www.jkheimattreu.com)   [www.paintedfish.ca](http://www.paintedfish.ca)   [www.kdz.ca](http://www.kdz.ca)

### FREE EVALUATION !

Get free feedback. I'll answer your website or Facebook questions. Call me at 403 689 - 0099, or use my website contact form at [www.kdz.ca](http://www.kdz.ca). If you'd like to involve a group, let's do a video conference or webinar!

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Klaus Zahnd   403 689 - 0099   [klaus@kdz.ca](mailto:klaus@kdz.ca)   [www.kdz.ca](http://www.kdz.ca)

KLAUS ZAHND

## Swiss Club Thames Valley

Since the club year has just started, there is not yet much to write about. Unfortunately, the Advent Celebration, the last event of 2019, had to be cancelled due to bad weather. Santa was not able to visit with our youngsters. I'm sure they are looking forward to his next visit.

We're looking forward to April 19 when we'll see a play performed by a Swiss group based out of Toronto. Their performance is always very good and fun to watch. I already know there will be lots of laughter.

On May 31, the Swiss Choir invites everyone again to their annual Brunch. You will enjoy Swiss-style food prepared by the members of the Choir. En guete!

The Summer Party will also be hosted by the Swiss Choir, and the date is set for June 21. Not many details are available at the moment; it's a new event and the planning is still going on. But I know this much - there will be food (which is always good), and the Choir will perform.

We invite you to come out and enjoy the upcoming events we've planned for 2020. Hope to see you!

### Swiss Club Thames Valley - Upcoming Events 2020

April 19	Theatre, Comm. Centre, Wellesley
May 31	Brunch, Choir, Rec. Complex, Milverton
June 21	Summer Party, Choir
July 12 / 19	Motorcycle Tour; Contact: <a href="mailto:walterb@quadro.net">walterb@quadro.net</a>
July 26	Bundesfeier, Monkton
September 6	Seniors' Afternoon, Swiss Farmers Band, Gravelridge, Milverton
September 12	Jodler Stubete, Jodler, Rec. Complex, Milverton
November 7	Annual General Meeting, Legion, Milverton
November 21	Concert, Swiss Farmers Band, Rec. Complex, Milverton
December 6	Advent Celebration, Legion, Milverton.

[www.swissclubthamesvalley.com](http://www.swissclubthamesvalley.com)

MARIANNE TRACHSEL



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**Vancouver Swiss Choir**



**SPRING CONCERT**

**Vancouver Swiss Choir  
with The Melodious Mandolins**

Saturday, May 30, 2020  
 All Saints Church, 7405 Royal Oak Ave., Burnaby  
 Time: 2:00 pm  
 Doors open at 1:30 pm  
 Musical Director: Dubravko Pajalic  
 Tickets: \$20.00; Youth 6 - 15: \$10; Children under 6 free  
 Tickets at the door, or from any Choir member  
 Contact: [rbrulhart@hotmail.com](mailto:rbrulhart@hotmail.com)

**HOCKEY IN  
SWITZERLAND**

If you are a hockey player and eligible for a  
**SWISS PASSPORT** contact:

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

**Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association (Metro Vancouver)**

By the time you read this, the outdoor shooting ranges will be open and the practising and competing in full swing.

Due to snow, the Fondue Evening with the Swiss Chamber of Commerce had to be postponed; rather than in the middle of January, it was held on February 1 and turned out to be a great evening.

We had a good turnout for our annual Absenden - Dinner & Awards on January 25. After an excellent meal, we celebrated all the shooters, the trophy, and the medal winners, and everyone who put in a lot of effort and practice all year round.

The big winners of the 300m Club Championship were Rene Zollinger with the Standard Rifle, and Robert Best with the Service Rifle. J. Paton was the big winner in the Smallbore section, and the Pistol section was won by R. Best. Only six members competed in the Crossbow Club Championship, and the big winner was M. Spycher. Congratulations to all of you!

On February 7, we held a successful AGM where all the Executives were re-elected; we're looking forward to a busy and exciting shooting season!

During the winter, a few members kept up the practising at the 10m range. The 10m Schützenfest was held on March 8, which also marked the end of the indoor shooting season.

This year, the Swiss National Day celebration will be on August 1. Please mark your calendar!

For news and programme changes, check our website [www.scmra.ca](http://www.scmra.ca).

MARLIES BAUMANN

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## Swiss Club Saskatoon

At the AGM in October 2019, we decided to forgo our Jass tournament for 2020 due to the low turnout in previous years. No events have thus been held since our Santa party in early December 2019.

Our Raclette Luncheon will take place on Sunday, April 5; it will be hosted by Heinz and Evi Buchmann at noon at their home. Members please check your newsletter for the address and additional information. As usual, we're ordering more than enough raclette cheese and will sell the extras at cost at the event. Our June BBQ will be hosted at the acreage of Max and Dora Hug. The date for this event has not yet been determined, but it is always held on a Sunday. This year, the Bundesfeier / August 1st event will take place on August 1, a Saturday, at the park in Warman, SK. The Club will again be supplying cervelat and weisswurst sausages.

If you're not already on our contact list and would like to receive information about upcoming events, please contact the Club at [swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com](mailto:swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com), or call / text me at 1 - 306 - 260 - 8030. New members are always welcome, and membership is free for the first year!

## Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir Association

ELISABETH EILINGER, PRESIDENT, SWISS CLUB SASKATOON



■ May 2 (Saturday morning): Annual Run for Music ([www.choir-alberta.ca/run-for-music.html](http://www.choir-alberta.ca/run-for-music.html)) in Edmonton, a fundraising and advocacy project of Choir Alberta. Participants will take part in a 5 km run, a 5 km walk, or a 10 km run. While advocating for the importance of choral music, funds raised through Run for Music pledges are split between Choir Alberta and Alberta choirs. Your participation in this event is very much appreciated. To learn how you can be involved as an active runner / walker, or as a sponsor of the Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir (ESMC) team, check our Choir webpage at a later date.

■ May 24 (Sunday, 3:00 pm): We invite you to our Spring Concert at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 10014 81 Ave NW, Edmonton. We're happy the Wildrose Yodel Club is able to join us again as our guest choir. For information and tickets, call Hans Voegeli at 780 464 - 1266.

■ June 13 (Saturday): The ESMC will 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 overnight camping, or day use. Our Choir - together with singers from the Calgary Yodel Club Heimattreu and the Wildrose Yodel Club - is part of the Saturday evening entertainment at the event tent.

■ June 25 - 28 (Thursday to Sunday): Swissfest2020 of the United Swiss Singing Societies of the Pacific Coast in Pasadena, CA. Our Choir is enthusiastic to attend this festival to show that we are truly ambassadors of Swiss culture and Swiss music! For more information, please refer to [www.swissfest2020.com](http://www.swissfest2020.com).

■ November 14 (Saturday): Winzerfest 2020. This will be a very special event for us, as we celebrate the Choir's 40th anniversary with a Grand Concert complete with a surprise interlude, fine dining, and dancing at St. Basil's Cultural Centre, 10819 71 Ave NW, Edmonton.

■ June 24 to 27, 2021: The singing and yodeling festival of the North American Swiss Singing Association (NASSA) is quickly approaching. Choirs from across North America and Switzerland will gather in Edmonton to celebrate our Swiss heritage. The ESMC would be delighted to welcome you as a "Festbummler" (spectator). We also invite potential sponsors to contact us, if you'd like to contribute to this truly Swiss festival. If you'd rather donate your time, there are ample opportunities to volunteer. More information at the NASSA 2021 Sängerfest website [www.nassa2021.ca](http://www.nassa2021.ca).

We're always looking for new members. You don't need to be Swiss, as long as you like to sing. Please refer to [www.esmca.ca](http://www.esmca.ca) for more information on ongoing or upcoming events, and on how to join us. Like us on Facebook "Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir", or watch our performances on YouTube.

PETER THUT



## Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (Western Canada)

### PINTS N' PITCHES (PNP) - Cheers to a great start!

Since the launch of PINTS N' PITCHES (PNP) in August 2019, eight main events have been successfully carried out in four cities in two countries: Vancouver and Abbotsford in Canada, and Sion and Martigny in Switzerland. The Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (SCCC) has been co-hosting the event series in Vancouver where over 30 innovative and open-minded people have been attending to brew their ideas.

During a pub night in August 2019, some friends were discussing the importance of spreading and developing great ideas in order to transform them into services, products, or projects. PNP was born that night, as a platform to provide a safe space to pitch ideas and get feedback prior to jumping into things head first. A place to help entrepreneurs and future entrepreneurs share, articulate, and clarify their business ideas.

We talked to Johann Roduit, SCCC Director and PNP founder:

**Johann, how have you experienced the PNP journey so far?**

I love the ongoing process of exploring potential business ideas. We never had a “grand vision” for it, we started it and wanted to see where things were going. It's still very flexible and evolutive. I'm also thrilled to have seen great support from the community in Vancouver and other places. I think that bringing innovators and like-minded people together around a table, with a beer, is a great formula to open a lot of new opportunities.

**What makes PNP different from other pitch events?**

A journalist wrote about our event lately, saying that PNP is “*kind of like Dragon's Den, but without the pressure and plenty of beer*”. I think that really captures and summarizes the spirit of our initiative. The relaxed atmosphere makes a huge difference. There are a lot of incredible ideas out there that need a specific platform to be shared. That's what we're trying to offer. In addition, we're at the ideation process; that makes us unique, because a lot of pitch events are more formal and would come after the ideation process. In short, “cool ideas + beers + innovative minds = Pints n' Pitches” - a winning formula!



**What's planned for 2020?**

We've scheduled events in Abbotsford and Vancouver, Canada, and in Sierre, Switzerland, where we've partnered with business students from the Team Academy of the Applied Science University. It's a young and energetic team studying for a bachelor's degree in business. We're also in discussion with sponsors and partners to have some events in front of a jury (with prize money), once the pitches have been perfected. If you know key stakeholders that might be interested in your area, don't hesitate to contact us!

PNP is growing, and you can be part of this story:

- Check out our next events: [www.pintsnpitches.com/events](http://www.pintsnpitches.com/events)
- Pitch your ideas: [www.pintsnpitches.com/speaker-application](http://www.pintsnpitches.com/speaker-application)
- Bring PNP to your community: [www.pintsnpitches.com/membership](http://www.pintsnpitches.com/membership).

SWISS CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (WESTERN CANADA)



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## Matterhorn Swiss Club (Montreal)

Following our AGM in early March, we returned to Pasta Andrea in Lachine, where we had already enjoyed a good dinner in November 2019. Details on the AGM will follow in our next report. Plans are underway for our late spring / early summer outing. We plan to visit the Montreal Aviation Museum in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, followed by lunch at a nice restaurant. This should be a very interesting outing for adults and children alike. Information will be sent out to members when available.

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 [fedesuisse.com](http://fedesuisse.com).

WALTER SPIRIG, PRESIDENT, 514 - 694 - 3718

## Swiss Canadian Club Guelph

The Swiss Canadian Club Guelph (SCCG) met this January for its AGM, starting the 43rd year of the Club. As is tradition in the Club, members are enticed to attend the meeting by a delicious serving of sausages, homemade salads, and nussgipfel (pictured below); however, the hard work has to be done first. 2020 was an election year for the SCCG, and we were thankful that all but one of the Board members agreed to stay on for another term, to continue the great work they have been doing to foster Swiss traditions here in Canada. With mixed feelings we say goodbye for now to Rina Thoma, our wonderful Vice-President. We had the joy of witnessing Rina experience Club activities as a youth, and then to grow into an adult who contributed her time and effort to help plan and run SCCG events. She has also been instrumental in the Club's online and social media presence. While we are sad to see her go, we are excited that she is continuing her life's journey by moving to Switzerland! We wish her well and look forward to hearing of her adventures.

### Swiss Canadian Club Guelph - 2020 Board Members

Martha Schatti – President  
Patrick van der Zalm – Vice-President  
Bruno Ursprung – Secretary  
Janice Lockyer – Treasurer  
Liz Wenger – Director  
Vreni Lall – Director  
Renè Thoma – Director

In 2020, we're excited to offer the following events to our members and others in the Guelph area:

- March 8: We screened the Swiss film "Papa Moll", enjoying an afternoon watching this classic Swiss cartoon character in a live action film.
- April 18: Don't miss our annual Wine and Cheese Party. It's a very popular event. Wine and traditional Swiss cheeses will be served with homemade salads and desserts brought by Club members and visitors.
- June 7: The first half of our year will end with a visit to the Donkey Sanctuary in the Guelph area. Join us at the farm to visit with the donkeys, take in a "donkey talk", and enjoy the grounds.

For event details, please visit our Facebook page "Swiss-Canadian Club Guelph", or visit our website [www.guelphswisscanadianclub.webs.com](http://www.guelphswisscanadianclub.webs.com). If you have any questions, email [swisscanadianclubguelph@gmail.com](mailto:swisscanadianclubguelph@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you at our next event!

Ciao! Bis bald! Au revoir!

PATRICK VAN DER ZALM (VICE-PRESIDENT)

