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# REGIONAL NEWS

## CANADA

### Editorial

Dear Reader: Yes, our world appears mad and topsy-turvy right now, but at least you have a great edition of the Regional News Canada waiting for you! In spite of the “event killer” still going around wreaking havoc, some of you felt compelled to stay in touch and “report in” anyway – that’s reassuring and much appreciated! In this issue, there’s a bit of a focus on books and puzzles – an excellent means of temporary escape and diversion. Page III features Swiss–Canadian mystery / crime novel writer Bernadette Calon-

ego. She has drawn great inspiration from her adventurous travels to often very remote parts of the country and has expertly woven her experiences and impressions into compelling stories. On page VII, the author spotlight also shines on Anouk Sugàr. Finally, if your mind is weary of all the bad news yet craves an intellectual challenge, check out page VIII for a number of “pandemic relief word puzzles” designed to test your knowledge of Swiss namesake places in Canada. Take care and have fun! [avs@telus.net](mailto:avs@telus.net)



ANDREW VON STUERMER,  
REGIONAL EDITOR,  
CANADA



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Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal  
Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal

### Important Message to Swiss Citizens Residing in Ontario

Dear Fellow Citizens:

The Consulate General is pleased to inform you that the Swiss Consular Days in Toronto are scheduled to be held during the week of October 5, 2020. This service allows Swiss citizens to renew their identity documents without having to travel to Montreal.

If you wish to take advantage of the upcoming Swiss Consular Days in Toronto this fall, you must apply using one of the following two official websites:

- [www.schweizerpass.ch](http://www.schweizerpass.ch), or
- [www.passeportsuisse.ch](http://www.passeportsuisse.ch).

Make sure you write “Toronto 2020” in the “Remarks” section of the application.

**Your application must be submitted no later than July 30!**

Please note that the number of available appointments is limited; priority will therefore be given to holders whose Swiss identity documents are set to expire within the next 12 months.

For detailed information about our consular services, please visit our website [www.eda.admin.ch/montreal](http://www.eda.admin.ch/montreal) and choose the desired subject under “Services”.

**REMINDER:** In case of an emergency, the Consulate must be able to reach its entire Swiss community quickly. Therefore, please make sure your records and contact details with the Consulate General are always kept up-to-date.

**DISCLAIMER:** Due to the evolving situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Consulate General reserves the right to reschedule the Swiss Consular Days; we will keep you posted.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN MONTREAL



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

### UN ÉTÉ 2020 SANS LA FÊTE NATIONALE SUISSE AU MONT SUTTON

Chère communauté suisse, chères et chers ami(e)s,

Suite à la décision du gouvernement du Québec d'annuler tous les événements culturels prévus au Québec au moins jusqu'à fin août, nous avons le regret de vous annoncer le report de la 44<sup>e</sup> édition de la Fête Nationale suisse qui devait avoir lieu le samedi 1<sup>er</sup> août 2020 au Mont Sutton.

Celle-ci est reportée au samedi 31 juillet 2021 et nous nous réjouissons déjà de vous retrouver! Nous mettrons tout en œuvre pour organiser la plus belle des fêtes en 2021. Veuillez ne pas prendre en considération notre précédent article paru dans la Revue Suisse d'avril 2020 et dont voici une image:



### THE SUMMER OF 2020 WITHOUT THE SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION IN MONT SUTTON

Dear Swiss Community, Dear Friends:

Following the decision of the Government of Quebec to cancel all cultural events in Quebec until at least the end of August, we regret to inform you that the 44<sup>th</sup> edition of the Swiss National Day Celebration - planned for Saturday, August 1, 2020 in Mont Sutton - will be postponed.

The celebration will now take place on Saturday, July 31, 2021, and we are already looking forward to seeing you there!

We will do everything in our power to organise a most beautiful celebration in 2021.

Given the circumstances, please disregard our previous article (shown on the left) published in the April 2020 edition of the Swiss Review.

Nous tenons à remercier toutes les personnes qui se sont impliquées de près ou de loin dans l'organisation de l'édition 2020.

Et en espérant que vous et vos proches vous portez bien, nous vous souhaitons à tous de rester en santé.

Rendez-vous l'an prochain pour fêter en grand!

Votre comité

■ Visitez notre site web [www.fedesuisse.com](http://www.fedesuisse.com) et notre page Facebook [www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse/](https://www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse/) pour rester connectés.

We would like to thank everyone who was directly or indirectly involved in the organisation of the 2020 festivities.

Here's hoping that you and your loved ones are well, and stay healthy and safe.

See you next year - we will celebrate in style!

Your Committee

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



## People - Meet Bernadette Calonego



## The Wonderful Geography of Crime: Swiss-Canadian Crime Author Bernadette Calonego Lures People to Canada with her Murder Mysteries

More than a dozen years ago, I toured the Ekati diamond mine near Yellowknife as a foreign correspondent for Swiss, German, and Austrian newspapers. I was doing research for a three-page feature story in the Neue Zürcher Zeitung. To this day, I remember the epiphany I had up there: diamonds and Canada; this will be part of a crime novel - *my* crime novel. And indeed, I followed up: Yellowknife and a diamond exploration camp in the vast tundra of the Northwest Territories became locations in my mystery novel "Under Dark Waters" (German title: "Unter dunklen Wassern"). As did Vancouver, the Sunshine Coast (where I have been living for almost twenty years), Prince Rupert, Haida Gwaii, and Ootsa Lake.

I'm so lucky - Canada is a paradise for a Swiss-born author. As a journalist, I'm able to experience remote areas which inspire me to write more and more books. Growing up in Nidwalden, on the shores of Lake Lucerne, I would never have dreamt that one day, I would travel on the legendary Dempster Highway in winter - 737 km across the wilderness to Inuvik - and on the old Ice Road to Tuktoyaktuk and the Arctic Ocean. The result of that trip was my murder mystery "The Stranger on the Ice" (German title: "Die Fremde auf dem Eis").

I've discovered that German, Swiss, and Austrian readers love the fact that they get to know exotic parts of Canada through my crime novels. They tell me that in-between travels, my books allow them to explore the country of their dreams in their imagination. Other readers follow in the footsteps of the fictional characters, carrying my books in their luggage. The popular Swiss TV moderator Röbi Koller asked me for a copy of "Die Fremde auf dem Eis" before he and his crew flew to Whitehorse, traveled to Inuvik, and filmed the adventurous journey on the Ice Road. What a great way to introduce readers and viewers to Canada!

As an author, it seems I've become an ambassador of sorts for both countries. When I do book readings in Switzerland, I answer a lot of questions about Canada; and when I do readings in Canada, I talk a lot



about Switzerland. Judging from what my readers tell me, they seem to love the descriptions of Canada's untamed landscapes in my mystery novels as much as they love the suspense of the search for the murderer. My most successful book so far is "Stormy Cove"

(German title: "Die Bucht des Schweigens"). It's set in a tiny fishing community in barren northern Newfoundland. For many people, this book feels very authentic, and I know exactly why: every year I spend time in a small outport village there, because I got hooked by a handsome fisherman ten years ago. After reading "Stormy Cove", some of my readers are determined to travel to Newfoundland; some have already done so, seeking out the locations described in the book.



I think the dynamics in a remote community like "Stormy Cove" are very similar to the way of life in an isolated village in the Swiss Alps. It's a fascinating counterpoint to multicultural cities like Vancouver. In that respect, Canada is not unlike Switzerland: both countries are a study in contrasts and provide great inspiration for crime writers!

I would like my books to be a testament to events and locations that have played a role in Canada's ongoing transformation. In my mystery novels, I've documented places that have disappeared, or are disappearing. For example, since I wrote "The Stranger on the Ice", the Ice Road (shown above) between Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk across the Mackenzie River has been replaced by an overland road. The makeshift diamond exploration camps in the Northwest Territories described in "Under Dark Waters" have made way for huge diamond mines like Ekati and Diavik. And the small fishing hamlets along the coast of Newfoundland are depopulating; their almost archaic way of life might vanish altogether one day. It's a nice feeling they at least survive in my books. Sharing these fascinating places with my Swiss and Canadian readers is my way of saying "thank you" to both countries.

### More about Bernadette Calonego

- [www.bernadettecalonego.com](http://www.bernadettecalonego.com)
- Instagram: [@bernadettecalonegoauthor](https://www.instagram.com/bernadettecalonegoauthor)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BernadetteCalonego.Author](https://www.facebook.com/BernadetteCalonego.Author)

BERNADETTE CALONEGO



## Swiss Club Thames Valley

On February 21, we held our Metzgete and Jassfinale. After a delicious meal that featured a good old-fashioned Metzgete, the Jassfinale was up next, with 36 members enjoying a few rounds of the card game. Congratulations to Vreni Tobler, the winner of the competition!

We were looking forward to April 19, when a Swiss group from Toronto was scheduled to perform the play "In Himmel wänd alli"; however, due to the current situation, the play had to be cancelled.

We have scheduled numerous activities for the remainder of the Club year (see list on the right), but at this time of uncertainty, it is likely that other planned events will also have to be cancelled.

We will take it day by day and keep you posted.

Take care and stay safe!

### Swiss Club Thames Valley - Upcoming Events 2020

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)

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## Swiss Club Saskatoon

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all events for our Club have been cancelled. Once it is safe to have gatherings, we will begin to plan events again.

Our Raclette Lunch, which had been planned for early April, was of course cancelled as well; we did however receive our shipment of cheese. We may be able to reschedule this popular event at a later date, or hold it in conjunction with another get-together. If not, we will make the cheese available for purchase to Club members.

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. Please note that even though our name is "Swiss Club Saskatoon", we welcome Swiss from anywhere in Saskatchewan!

ELISABETH EILINGER, PRESIDENT, SWISS CLUB SASKATOON

## Matterhorn Swiss Club (Montreal)

Our AGM was held in early March at the Pasta Andrea restaurant in Lachine, QC. Once again, we enjoyed an excellent dinner.

In his annual report, President Walter Spirig reviewed the Club's activities during 2019. He was pleased to report that all our events continue to be well attended.

In choosing the 2020 committee, all 2019 members were willing to continue in their same positions. Given that there were no other nominees, the executive committee won by acclamation (details on the right).

### Matterhorn Swiss Club - 2020 Committee Members

President	Walter Spirig
Vice-President	Peter Aschwanden
Treasurer	Gilbert Berthoud
Secretary	Joanne Spirig
Member-at-Large	Astrid Aschwanden

Due to the COVID-19 situation, plans for future events are currently on hold. Members will be notified once we are able to arrange outings or activities again.

In the meantime, we hope that everyone stays well!

WALTER SPIRIG, PRESIDENT 514-694-3718

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**LETTE**  
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DEPUIS PLUS DE 50 ANS, CERTAINS DES PLUS GRANDS GROUPES EUROPÉENS, DE MÊME QUE DE NOMBREUSES PME, ONT COMPTÉ SUR LETTE AU CANADA POUR LEUR OFFRIR DES COMPÉTENCES DU PLUS HAUT NIVEAU ET UNE APPROCHE PRATIQUE À LA RÉOLUTION DE LEURS PROBLÈMES.

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## Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (Western Canada)



"Women in Business" Event Panelists (left to right): Marissa Grootes, Sandra Phillips, Crista Quijada, Brigit Eichenberger, and Rebecca Paluch

### Women in Business Event

In this day and age, is the role of successful women in the business world still a topic of debate? On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Consulate General of Switzerland and the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (SCCC) in Vancouver hosted a panel discussion on the topic "Women in Business", in order to learn from, connect with, and inspire each other. On March 4, 2020, more than 50 people gathered at the co-working space Werklab ([www.werklab.com](http://www.werklab.com)) for an enriching panel discussion where four Swiss women provided interesting insights into their careers and private lives.

The evening started with warm welcome messages from Andreas Ruffer - the Consul General of Switzerland - and from SCCC President Vince Sciamanna. Rebecca Paluch then kicked off the panel discussion, revealing interesting but shocking current data on businesswomen in Canada. Did you know that Canadian women earn 13.3% less than their male counterparts, or that British Columbia has the largest gender pay gap compared to other Canadian provinces? (Read: "The gender wage gap in Canada: 1998 to 2018" at [www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-004-m/75-004-m2019004-eng.htm](http://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-004-m/75-004-m2019004-eng.htm)). These statistics answer our previous question: yes, even today, it is still imperative that we debate the role of women in business!

The panel discussion - moderated by Rebecca Paluch - highlighted the professional and personal paths of four SCCC members and friends:

- Marissa Grootes. Founder and CEO of STIL ([www.stilclassics.com](http://www.stilclassics.com));
- Sandra Phillips. Founder and CEO of movmi ([www.movmi.net](http://www.movmi.net));
- Crista Quijada. Owner of Xtophers Salons ([www.xtophersalons.com](http://www.xtophersalons.com));
- Brigit Eichenberger. Leadership Coach and Facilitator ([www.brigitelisabeth.com](http://www.brigitelisabeth.com)).

The panelists shared openly the challenges they had faced, such as working in a male-dominated industry, starting over from scratch, pursuing a career while being a mom, not knowing exactly where the road might lead, or finding the courage to start a business of their own without having an exact plan. They all agreed that women may encounter more difficulties in their careers than men and that they might need to prove themselves more, yet also stressed that such challenges should not keep women from pursuing their passions and goals.

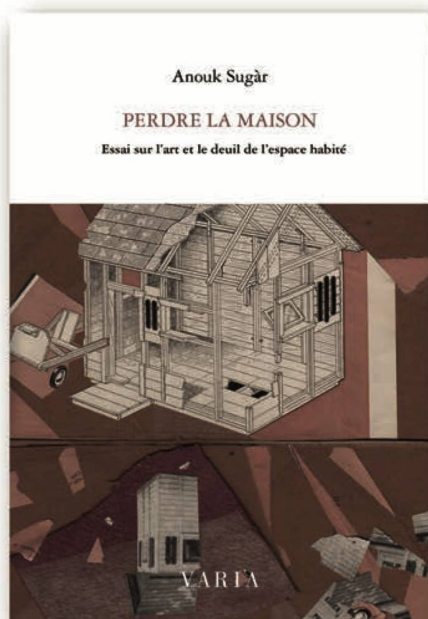
They also emphasised the importance of finding trustworthy mentors and receiving support from their partners and like-minded people. With their dynamic personalities, the panelists filled the room with positive messages and inspiring stories. The audience – a mix of businesspeople from different industries, students, entrepreneurs, and several Consuls – listened intently and had the opportunity to ask questions at the end. The evening ended with a little reception where guests and panelists were able to connect and continue the discussion.

Overall, it was a very enriching and inspiring event, and everyone left with some take-home lessons.

Both the SCCC and the Consulate General of Switzerland would like to thank everyone who attended the event. A special thank-you for their commitment and dedication goes to the outstanding speakers Marissa, Sandra, Crista, Brigit, and Rebecca.

We also wish to thank Werklab for hosting us, and Nina Bader of the Swiss Consulate and Melanie Ferreira of the SCCC for organising the event.

## Author Spotlight - Anouk Sugàr



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## PERDRE LA MAISON

ESSAI SUR L'ART ET LE DEUIL DE L'ESPACE HABITÉ  
ANOUK SUGÀR

Varia Art

Perdre la maison, la laisser derrière, de force ou par choix, c'est bien plus que quitter une coque faite de béton, de bois ou autres matériaux de construction. Cette maison, nous l'avons investie de nos gestes quotidiens, de nos pensées et de nos souvenirs. Nous l'avons modelée à notre image, selon nos goûts et nos besoins. En retour, la maison nous a conféré abri et sécurité, procurant confort et chaleur, non seulement pour le corps, mais aussi pour l'esprit. Que se passe-t-il dès lors qu'elle est perdue ou quittée ?

Cet essai – qui mélange habilement art, architecture, psychanalyse et philosophie – met en scène le deuil du réceptacle de vie qui n'est plus, tout comme cela est fait pour un défunt, puisque la maison est en quelque sorte le double de notre corps. Nécessaire et fascinant temps de transition, afin que puisse s'opérer l'investissement d'un lieu nouveau.

ANOUK SUGÀR est artiste visuelle et sociologue. Elle s'intéresse à la façon dont l'espace est habité et investi, et a développé à ce sujet plusieurs propositions et réflexions par le biais de ses différentes pratiques.

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## Pandemic Diversion - Word Puzzles on Swiss Place Names in Canada

Swiss place names in Canada - that is the broad concept and underlying theme of the following word puzzles / brain teasers. Note that allowances were made for spelling, umlauts, and French accents.

To make the puzzles more challenging, **anagrams** were used wherever feasible. To come up with an anagram, simply take a word and rearrange all its letters, thereby creating (an)other meaningful word(s). For instance, the word "name" has three anagrams: "mane", "mean", and "amen". The (one) anagram of "coronavirus"? "Carnivorous"!

Ample puzzle hints and clues are provided; they may however be very subtle, so read carefully and ponder deeply! If you'd like to test a hunch, check out the two database links provided below. Good luck!

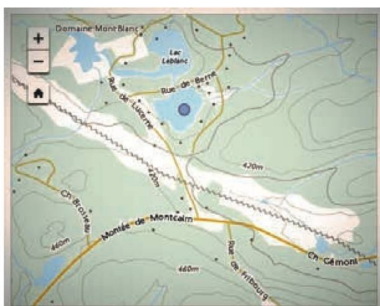


**1** The bird pictured here (Source: Wikipedia) is quite common in Canada. In French, its name consists of three parts, and the first part is identical to the name of a Swiss municipality (population ~ 20k). They say the bird has a lot of courage. There are several lakes in Quebec with this name, though

with minor differences in their spelling. Can you name the lakes?

**2** Speaking of Swiss namesake lakes with slight differences in their spelling: in la belle province, there are seven lakes of national prominence that have these same issues. Any idea what the (almost identically-named) lakes might be called?

**3** You're en route in rural Quebec, heading north-west on the Rue de



Fribourg (see map excerpt. Source: National Resources Canada). Pulling over to look at your map, you realise that just ahead, there's also a Rue de Berne, and a Rue de Lucerne! Swiss expats with naming authority must have been home-

sick, or perhaps they were just overly theme-oriented ("hey, we need a few more Swiss-inspired names around here"). Now, what we're after is the name of the lake these roads surround; needless to say, there's one in Switzerland just like that (only larger). First, find an anagram of the English term for those pointy traction enhancers on soccer shoes (plural!) and translate that into French. Then, after taking a break, renew your efforts. This will hopefully allow you to derive the name of our mystery lake!



Namesake Puzzles Inspiration: Early Days in Zurich, Ontario. Source: [www.Zurichontario.com](http://www.Zurichontario.com)

**4** I've just received a listserve notification (you know, those early-day electronic mailing lists), informing me that very, very, very late in the year, this village in western Switzerland is in a rather celebratory mood. Drop the first half of its two-part name, typically abbreviated anyway, to infer the Canadian namesake. Canada has two lakes with that same name - one in Saskatchewan, one in Ontario. Can you name them?

**5** COVID-19 or not, at this popular place in Vancouver, you will not find a single (conventional) coronal discharge. For no apparent rhyme or reason, you can however eat a peach, give a speech, or even teach there. By the way, its Swiss namesake town was in the international spotlight in 1925. Can you name this place in Vancouver consisting of two words?

**6** Considering the shape the following words are in - "alerting", "altering", "integral", and "relating" - they might serve as a placeholder symbol for an iconic Swiss brand, a product so immediately recognizable and evocative that it makes the heart of every Swiss beat a little faster. At a time of peak buyout frenzy, this product was acquired by an entity far (in another language, they might say, a world) away. Canada has two similarly-called namesakes. Do you know of what peak we speak here in BC, and what its little cousin in Nunavut is called?

**7** On a personal note, I was taken aback to discover that in all of Canada, merely a single place (a public park in Quebec officially named in the nineteen-nineties) carries the name of this man. Considering his stature in the world, it's definitively somewhat disappointing. Can you name the park (you'll need to add his first name as that is not part of the puzzle)?

--> To receive your **answer key** without delay, email [avs@telus.net](mailto:avs@telus.net).

- Canadian Geographical Names Database: [www4.rncan.gc.ca/search-place-names/search?lang=en](http://www4.rncan.gc.ca/search-place-names/search?lang=en)
- List of Swiss Municipalities: [de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liste\\_Schweizer\\_Gemeinden](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liste_Schweizer_Gemeinden)