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REGIONAL NEWS

CANADA

Editorial

Dear Readers: Summer is without a doubt Canada's most eagerly anticipated season. But this year, rather than getting Gershwin's *And the livin' is easy* version, we faced: a regionally resurging pandemic our leaders are now trying to curtail using socially-divisive passport mandates; countless massive wildfires (with dangerously close calls for some in the Swiss community); unprecedented heat waves in the West; and an unpopular early elections call. We've been through a lot!

Speaking of elections, we now have a new Council of the Swiss Abroad (it's the legislative body of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad). Turn to page VI to meet your Canadian Delegates for 2021 - 2025, and consider participating in their survey (see page VII) for the Swiss living in Canada - a few minutes well spent! avs@telus.net



ANDREW VON STUERMER,
REGIONAL EDITOR

Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir Association (ESMC)

Dear Friends and Kamerade:

It is with great sadness that I inform you that our Kamerad, friend, and long-time choir member Paul Ehrler passed away on June 1, 2021, one day before his 89th birthday.

Paul will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him. As a founding member of the Edmonton Swiss Society (ESS), he was a pillar within the Swiss Community in Edmonton and Alberta.

However sad this news is, Paul lived a good, long life filled with many great memories. We will remember him as a man who always had a very positive attitude. He was always smiling, having a good time with his Swiss buddies, and he had a certain infectious chuckle that will be greatly missed. He was a wonderful human being, and we feel lucky to have known him. May he rest easy and continue to smile down upon us. We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to Paul's family. Please keep Paul and his family in your prayers!

HANS AND KAMERADE FOR THE ESMC
LUCILLE REGIMBALD AND THE EXECUTIVE GROUP FOR THE ESS

On a different and much more optimistic note, the COVID-19 lockdown was finally going to be over! Most of us had the two vaccine shots and were slowly but surely looking forward to a more normal life again. Our first social in-person meeting was held on July 13 at the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park. Under clear and sunny skies, the 25 attendees (15 choir members and 10 spouses) very much enjoyed the camaraderie, chatting and visiting each other. But our singing - or at least the attempt to sing - was a different story: We had trouble finding the right key for *Kamerade* - our signature song. And then, once we got going, we jumped from the first to the third verse - a sign we also had problems remembering the words!



Paul Ehrler in 2011

August 1: A big THANK-YOU to the Mettler family in Tomahawk, Alberta for offering their farm for the Swiss National Day celebration. And thank you to the Edmonton Swiss Society for organising this event. The 12 singers representing our choir, conducted by Michael von der Burg, entertained the 140 guests with the Swiss National Anthem, followed by the Romansch song *L'Amur*, complemented by an alphorn interlude by Nial Gorman from our choir. It was nice to see so many young families with children. Everybody had a great time.

August 16: Karl Strickler, Chairman of the NASSA21 Organising Committee, invited his team for a thank-you pizza and wine wrap-up get-together.

For information on rehearsals and on how to join us, visit www.esmca.ca. We plan to resume regular rehearsals on October 5, pending the status of possible COVID variants. Like us on Facebook ("Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir"), or enter our name into YouTube to watch and listen to one of our many performances.

PETER THUT



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

Vidéo du 1er août 2021

À défaut d'avoir pu célébrer notre fête nationale en présentiel tous ensemble au Mont Sutton, nous avons demandé à nos compatriotes et ami-e-s de l'Est du Canada de nous envoyer une courte vidéo.

Grâce à quelques participants que nous remercions très chaleureusement, nous avons pu faire un bel assemblage d'environ 5 minutes!

■ Le montage final a été mis en ligne un peu avant le 1er août. Vous pouvez encore visionner la vidéo sur le lien suivant:

<https://youtu.be/5tet4EGl8YQ>

La prochaine parution de l'édition régionale de la Revue suisse étant en 2022, nous vous souhaitons un bel automne et de Joyeuses Fêtes qui, espérons-le, seront plus rassembleuses.

Continuez à nous suivre sur notre site web www.fedesuisse.com où vous trouverez les activités des clubs suisses qui reprendront dès que possible et sur Facebook www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse.

VOTRE COMITÉ 2021

A Video Recording for August 1st, 2021

Since we were unable to celebrate our National Day together in person at Mont Sutton, we asked our fellow citizens and friends from Eastern Canada to send us a short video.

We're indebted to several contributors thanks to whom we were able to put together a beautiful video compilation of about 5 minutes!

■ The final video went live a few days before August 1st. You can still watch it at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/5tet4EGl8YQ>

The next regional edition of the Swiss Review will be published in 2022, so we already wish you a beautiful fall season and Happy Holidays; hopefully, they will be socially more inclusive.

Continue to watch our website www.fedesuisse.com for the activities of our Swiss clubs (which will resume as soon as possible), and follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse.

YOUR 2021 COMMITTEE



HOCKEY IN SWITZERLAND

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

Action consulaire pendant la pandémie

Le Corps consulaire à Montréal a monté un livre électronique en français et en anglais (Flipbook), relatant le travail qu'il a accompli aussi bien au niveau diplomatique que consulaire durant la pandémie. Ce recueil de témoignages, disponible via <https://bit.ly/37HoSFX>, démontre combien les citoyens ont pu et peuvent encore compter sur leurs représentations à l'étranger.

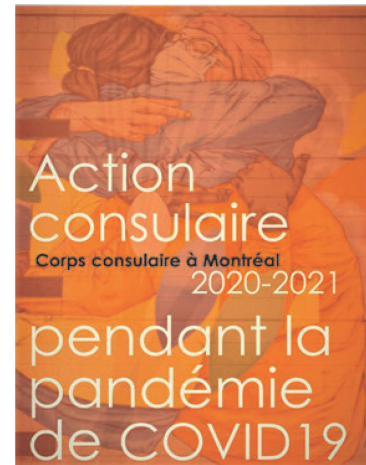
Fidèle au poste quelles que soient les circonstances, l'équipe du Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal est heureuse de vous offrir ses services et renseignements consulaires en tout temps. Que ce soit pour les passeports, l'état civil (naissance, mariage, etc.), les visas, légalisations, naturalisations ou l'AVS, nos spécialistes veillent à publier sur le site internet du Consulat les dernières actualités, aussi relatives aux restrictions de voyage.

Avec son contenu multilingue, cet outil fiable accessible en tout temps peut aussi répondre à vos questions. Notre équipe est heureuse d'avoir pu maintenir les guichets ouverts sans interruption:

« Là pour vous! We Care! »



Consular Activities During the Pandemic



The Consular Corps in Montreal has put together a “flipbook” (an on-line e-publication) in French and English that highlights the accomplishments achieved during the pandemic, both at diplomatic and consular levels. This compilation of field reports, available at bit.ly/37HoSFX, demonstrates to what extent citizens have been able to count on - and may continue to rely on - their representations abroad.

Whatever the circumstances may be, the team at the Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal is always on duty and pleased to offer consular and information services. Whether issues relate to passports, civil status affairs (births, marriages, etc.), visas, legalisations, naturalisations, or social security, our specialists ensure that the latest developments (including current travel restrictions) are posted on the Consulate's website. This source of reliable, multilingual content is easily accessible at all times and may help you find answers to your questions. Our team is proud to have been able to keep the counters open without interruption.

« We Care! Là pour vous! »

Message to Swiss Citizens Residing in Ontario

Dear Fellow Citizens:

The Consulate General in Montreal is pleased to inform you that the fully booked 2020 Swiss Consular Days have been rescheduled. They are now planned to take place from **October 20 to 22**, as well as from **October 25 to 26, 2021**. If you didn't register but would like to take advantage of this offer to renew your identity document(s) in Toronto, you may apply for next year's visit using one of two official websites: www.schweizerpass.ch, or www.passeportsuisse.ch. Make sure you enter “Toronto 2022” in the *Remarks* section of the application. Further information regarding the **Consular Days 2022** will follow early next year.

For details about our consular services, please visit our website at www.eda.admin.ch/montreal and select the desired subject matter under *Services*. **Disclaimer:** Due to the ongoing pandemic, the Consulate General in Montreal reserves the right to reschedule the Consular Days at any time if necessary; we will keep registered applicants posted.

Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association (Metro Vancouver)

Due to COVID-19, we continue to comply with the Public Health Order and are still only allowing members to access the Range.

At the end of July, we were able to hold the long overdue Annual General Meeting (outdoors on the balcony); with the year half over, all Executive members decided to stay on until the next AGM in February 2022.

Given travel restrictions, no one was able to travel to Switzerland to participate at the Eidgenössische Schützenfest in Lucerne; however, thanks to our automated targets, we were able to participate from our home range in the Auslandschweizer competition, where we placed third.

On August 1, Doug and Colette Knight sponsored the Founders' Cup competition; we had a good turnout. Compared to other years, the 1st of August celebration took place with a much smaller crowd (members only). We were honoured by the visit of Andreas Rufer - the Consul General of Switzerland in Vancouver - and his son Stephan.

Beside the shooting, there is never a shortage of work to keep up the good appearance of the Clubhouse: the roof has been repaired, the Chalet received a fresh coat of paint, and the surroundings were all cleaned up. Please visit our new website www.scmra.ca for up-to-date pictures. Stay safe and well until we can meet again!

MARLIES BAUMANN

Vancouver Swiss Choir

To celebrate the 2021 Swiss National Day, we put together a heartwarming **hour-long video** of us in action, and featuring numerous guests:

■ Andreas Rufer, the Consul General of Switzerland in Vancouver; the Vancouver Dorfmusik; Nicki and Kaycee Meier; the Valley Girls; the Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir; Andrea Flukiger solo; and the S-Bahn Band.

■ Enjoy this very special video here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kEPsP6r1NE!



We supply the Vancouver area with healthy meat products through our butcher shop on Commercial Drive and our home-delivery service; since late 2020 we now also ship frozen meat packs across the province in completely compostable packaging and insulation.

Planning a vacation in BC? Why not visit the ranch! We have beautiful accommodations and excellent food served at our on-ranch restaurant by our Swiss chef.



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Turkey - Eggs - Wool**



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Matterhorn Swiss Club (Montreal)

Greetings from the Matterhorn Swiss Club in Montreal! As of late summer 2021, due to COVID-19, we still have been unable to hold any activities this year. While we hope to have at least one get-together this fall, it's currently just wait and see. Under normal circumstances, our yearly activities typically consist of four or five events, as follows:

- February or early March: Annual General Meeting and a dinner;
- June: A visit to a place of interest - either local or out of town - followed by a good dinner;
- Mid-August: A barbecue picnic at a member's home;
- Fall: Sometimes, we hold an outing followed by a nice meal;
- November: An informal meeting / get-together at a nice restaurant;
- In addition, about 25 of our members usually volunteer at the Swiss National Day celebrations at Mont Sutton. Currently, this event is scheduled to be held again in 2022.

Until we can meet again, we hope that everyone stays safe and healthy. New members are always welcome!

WALTER SPIRIG, PRESIDENT, 514 - 694 - 3718

Swiss Club Saskatoon

On July 11, Saskatchewan lifted all COVID restrictions. Businesses and restaurants are back at full capacity and may set their own masking mandates.

On August 7, we very happily held a Bundesfeier at the acreage of Dora and Max Hug. One of our members (Emil Eigenmann) picked up our cervelats and bratwurst order from Valbella Meats in Canmore, AB.



We set up numerous disinfectant stations, and masks were optional - this was mostly an outdoors event, held next to a large garage where one of the overhead doors was left open. Members were able to eat inside the garage, or outside. They brought salads and desserts to share, to supplement the sausages supplied by the Club. Our grill chef was Kaspar Wirz; he was assisted by his wife Elisabeth.

I was very happy to count 38 members (26 adults and 12 children) and to see their smiling faces. It had been a long time between gatherings: our last get-together was in early December 2019! A big thank-you to everyone who worked so hard to put this event together!



Our next event will be the AGM; it is usually held in late October, but as of late August, no date or location has yet been picked. Information will be going out to members via the newsletter.

As always, new members are welcome!

For more information, contact me at swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com, or text / phone 306.260.8030.

ELISABETH EILINGER
PRESIDENT, SWISS CLUB SASKATOON



Council of the Swiss Abroad: Meet your Canadian Delegates 2021 - 2025



Thomas Arn

www.linkedin.com/in/thomas-arn

Thomas Arn wuchs in Biel / Bienne auf und lebt seit 1990 in Kanada; via Toronto ist er nun in Vancouver ansässig. Thomas hat einen Abschluss in Sportwissenschaften der Universität Bern und Weiterbildungen in Marketing und Verkauf.

Als selbstständiger Unternehmer leitet er die SBO Distributors Ltd. ([swissbo.com](https://www.swissbo.com)) sowie *Stories-at-the-Promenade*. Zusammen mit seiner Frau und Tochter genießt Thomas das Reisen, Radfahren und Wandern. Er liest auch gerne und interessiert sich für Sprachen.



Sam Oettli

www.linkedin.com/in/sam-oettli/

Sam Oettli was born and raised in Whitehorse, YT by his two immigrated Swiss parents. He has travelled across the North of Canada as a helicopter pilot and mechanic.

Sam found his passion working in the sports and recreation industry at Mt. Sima. Actively working on greenhouse gas reduction projects, he enjoys spending his free time in the outdoors riding his bike.



Antoine Belaieff

www.linkedin.com/in/antoinebelaieff/

Antoine Belaieff grew up in Geneva and moved to Montréal in 1993 prior to making Toronto his home in 1999. Antoine has degrees in business, as well as in urban planning and sustainable development, and he is currently Lead, North America at FAIRTIQ, a Swiss mobile transit ticketing company.

Antoine is involved locally in greenhouse gas reduction and community housing initiatives, and he enjoys running, cycling, traveling, and meeting new people.



Johann Roduit

www.linkedin.com/in/johannroduit/

Originally from beautiful Valais, Johann Roduit is the co-founder and director of Conexkt innovation studio (conexkt.world). Since 2019, he has been a board member of the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Vancouver.

Johann holds a PhD in bioethics from the University of Zurich. In his work, he is committed to integrating ethics into the heart of technology, innovation, and design.



Philippe Magnenat

www.linkedin.com/in/philippe-magnenat-91a7aa37/

D'origine de la Suisse, nous sommes arrivés à Blainville en 2002. Dans plusieurs domaines, j'ai pu prouver mon engagement par exemple, la sécurité civile, le comité de parc et notre association de hockey blainvilloise que j'ai eu le plaisir de présider pendant 10 belles années. Anciennement militaire de carrière, j'ai travaillé quelques années pour la Sûreté du Québec. En 2007, j'ai été employé administratif pour le Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal. Depuis 4 ans, je travaille pour un concessionnaire automobile de Blainville. Mes activités préférées : Grand-papa, et depuis maintenant plus de 3 ans, je suis un adepte de Fat Bike.



Suzanne Schürmann

www.linkedin.com/in/suzanne-schurmann-6067a855/

Suzanne hails from Untersiggenthal near Baden. She originally studied fashion design but pivoted to a rich and diverse career in travel, hospitality, and even modelling which took her to Geneva, Brazil, and finally Toronto, where she has lived with her Swiss husband Peter for about 40 years. Suzanne is a past president of the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce and has long been active in the Toronto Swiss Club. She continues to serve clients as an Executive Travel Coordinator.

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad / Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger / Auslandschweizer-Organisation

*** SONDAGE ***

Suisses et Suissesses au Canada : envoyez-nous vos idées, défis et opportunités

Bonjour! Nous sommes les nouveaux délégué-es au Conseil des Suisses de l'étranger et aimerions en savoir plus sur vos principaux défis et opportunités en tant que Suisses et Suissesses au Canada. Vous nous aiderez ainsi à mieux vous représenter au Conseil des Suisses de l'étranger.

Merci d'avance de prendre le temps de répondre à ces quelques questions! Les informations que vous partagez ne seront utilisées qu'en interne et de manière confidentielle.

Participer a notre sondage:

www.osa-canada.org/news/swiss-delegates-sondage

*** SURVEY ***

Swiss Citizens Living in Canada: Share your Insights, Challenges, & Opportunities

Hello! We're your newly elected delegates of the Council of the Swiss Abroad and would like to learn about your biggest challenges and opportunities as Swiss living in Canada. In this way, you can help us represent you better on the Council of the Swiss Abroad.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to answer a few questions! The information you share with us will only be used internally and will remain confidential.

Participate in our Survey:

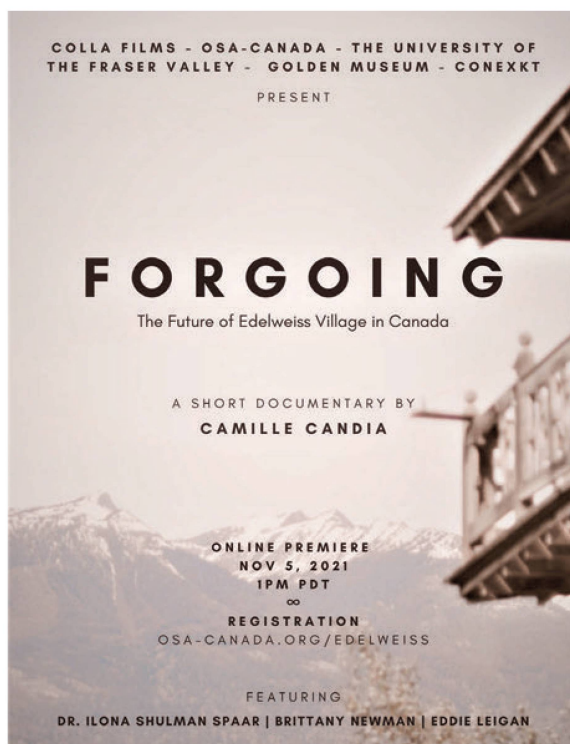
www.osa-canada.org/news/swiss-delegates-survey

The Future of Edelweiss Village: Preserving our Swiss-Canadian Cultural Heritage in the Digital Age

The world is moving faster than at any other time in history. This is exciting, as it means we are continually crossing thresholds of technological innovation and expanding the scope of what is possible. But it also means that - if we move too fast - we risk losing our cultural heritage forever.

Edelweiss Village is the name given to six Swiss-style chalets near Golden, British Columbia. The chalets were built by the Canadian Pacific Railway in the early 20th century to house Swiss mountaineers brought to the region to help tourists navigate the mountainous landscape. The Swiss mountaineers' expertise and experience in traversing similar topography proved invaluable to the region's development. As a result, they ushered in a "golden age of mountaineering". Undoubtedly, *Edelweiss Village* is a cornerstone of Swiss and Canadian cultural heritage. Now, however, the village is empty — and the chalets will likely be sold and re-developed.

Luckily, physical conservation isn't the only way to preserve the most precious relics of our cultural heritage. Just as technological innova-



tion can drive us to progress at perilous rates, it can also help us honour the past. Golden Museum is looking at different options of preserving *Edelweiss Village* digitally. This new format will allow anyone, anywhere, and at any time to visit the chalets virtually. In this way, the Swiss chalets of Golden, along with the Swiss and Canadian cultural heritage they hold, will live on longer than any physical building. They will live on virtually - and they will live on in everyone who accesses this digital tool.

If you would like to have Switzerland's cultural heritage live on in you, come to the premiere of *Forgoing* — a 15 minute mini-documentary that outlines the future of *Edelweiss Village*. Afterwards, you will be able to participate in a panel discussion with Camille Candia, a University of Fraser Valley-trained filmmaker

currently working with Colla Films; Dr. Ilona Shulman Spaar, a Swiss historian; and Brittany Newman, director of the Golden Museum.

For more information, and to register for this event, visit www.osa-canada.org/edelweiss.

DR. JOHANN RODUIT, ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD, DELEGATE OSA-CANADA

GABRIELLE DUMONCEAUX, CONEXKT



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Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver



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**FRIEDRICH
DÜRRENMATT**
100 JAHRE ANS
ANNI ONNS 2021

Event Announcement: Reading of «Die Physiker» by Benjamin Gottwald



The Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver and the Victoria German School are happy to invite you to a virtual reading by German illustrator Benjamin Gottwald, the author of the graphic novel *Die Physiker*, an adaptation of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's famous play. The reading will be held in German; it is also open to German language learners.

Participation is free of charge, and you can even win a prize! This reading and the discussion are part of our 100 Year Anniversary Celebration of Swiss author and playwright Friedrich Dürrenmatt.

■ About the book: Three physicists, pretending to be insane, voluntarily commit themselves to an asylum. It all starts with the physicist Möbius who hopes to discredit his own research. He has made a terrifying discovery, which -



Benjamin Gottwald

should it fall into the wrong hands - could potentially destroy the world. The other two physicists are spies who hope to uncover Möbius' dangerous secret. German illustrator Benjamin Gottwald has adapted Friedrich Dürrenmatt's world-famous play *Die Physiker* into a graphic novel, turning it into a colourful and captivating comic book – a completely new way to experience this extraordinary and compelling story!

WHEN and WHERE

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 12 pm noon PT

Register here to gain FREE access to this virtual event on Zoom:

<https://bit.ly/3gACRJI>

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LETTE

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