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REGIONAL NEWS

CANADA

Editorial

Dear Readers: Good news! You may already have seen the recent report that the six chalets comprising the Swiss *Edelweiss Village* in Golden, BC, have now been saved, with their future use currently being discussed and a renovation being pursued. Read about the campaign to save this former Swiss colony – the home of the pioneering Swiss

mountain guides in the Rockies - in the April 2022 Regional News overview article, and visit www.swissvillage.ca.

Also on a celebratory note, not *one* but *two* Swiss clubs report turning 70 this year! Read below how the Matterhorn Swiss Club in Montreal and the Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

both celebrated their 70th. Given how much the world has changed since their founding days, the staying power of these institutions is truly noteworthy! avs@telus.net



ANDREW VON STUERMER
REGIONAL EDITOR

Matterhorn Swiss Club (Montreal)

Since our last update, we held three events, all of which saw a good turnout of members and guests. Our **AGM** was held at the end of April at Restaurant Natalino in Dorval, QC, where we enjoyed a delicious lunch.

Our existing Committee members were all willing to continue in their current roles - the **Committee for 2023** remains as follows:

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

Our additional helper is Heidi Berthoud.

Jack Schiess will continue as our auditor.



The next event was our **special 70th anniversary outing** at the beginning of July. We began the day with a harbour cruise, on board which we had a delicious five-course gourmet brunch. After the meal, we sailed downstream through the Montreal harbour, enjoying the views along the way and returning to the dock an hour and a half later.

Following this cruise, our “surprise activity” of the day was a ride on the largest Ferris wheel in Canada - La Grande Roue de Montréal - also located in the Old Port. This Ferris wheel is the height of a twenty-storey building and is made up of 42 air-conditioned 8-passenger cabins. The ride was smooth and quiet and offered spectacular views of the city and surrounding area. Riding this Ferris wheel is a definite must for locals and tourists alike!



The most recent get-together was our **annual summer picnic and barbecue** in mid-August. We thank Juerg and Myrtha Hollinger for hosting this event on their lovely waterfront property.

After a one-day postponement due to the weather, we enjoyed a perfect summer Sunday afternoon. Some members played lawn games, and otherwise, we just enjoyed the sausages, salads, desserts, and good conversations with friends.

New members are always welcome!

WALTER SPIRIG, PRESIDENT
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Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver

Introducing Thomas Schneider, the new Consul General of Switzerland in Vancouver



Thomas Schneider is the new Consul General of Switzerland in Vancouver, representing Switzerland in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories.

He joined the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in 1989 and held various positions in the Swiss diplomatic service.

His most recent posting was to Lagos, Nigeria, where he and his wife Yibei spent almost four years.

Passionate about his work, Thomas looks forward to working with the Swiss community in Western Canada. He is committed to strengthening the ties between Switzerland and Canada and promoting Swiss interests in the region. With the support of his team at the Consulate General, he will build new economic, cultural, educational, and academic relationships and foster existing ones to

enhance the already excellent relations between Switzerland and Western Canada.

Thomas and Yibei are excited to explore their new home. They enjoy spending time outdoors and are looking forward to experiencing all that Western Canada has to offer. And, of course, they look forward to meeting you soon at one of the many Swiss community events in Western Canada!

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

Présentation du nouveau Consul au Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal



Rudolf Wyss a rejoint notre équipe en provenance de l'Ambassade de Suisse au Qatar (Doha). Il remplace Monsieur Giancarlo Paduano, qui a quitté Montréal au mois de juin dernier. M. Wyss a pris ses fonctions le 15 août dernier en qualité de Consul, Chef des affaires consulaires, administratives et culturelles.

Ses racines suisses se trouvent en Thurgovie, où il aime se ressourcer pendant ses vacances. Il est entré au Département des Affaires étrangères en 1985. Il a depuis été affecté dans différents pays dont la France (Nice), le Cameroun (Yaoundé), l'Irak (Bagdad), le Koweït (Koweït City), la Chine (Pékin), la Thaïlande (Bangkok), la Jamaïque (Kingston) et le Brésil (São Paulo et Rio de Janeiro).

À Doha, il était en charge des activités suisses pendant la Coupe du Monde de football organisée par la FIFA. Durant cet événement de grande envergure, il a notamment dirigé le Club suisse Doha, qui présentait plusieurs facettes de la culture helvétique.

M. Rudolf Wyss, et sa conjointe Qian, se réjouissent de rencontrer la communauté suisse au Canada, ses habitants et de découvrir les nombreux atouts naturels et culturels de ce magnifique pays.

Introducing the new Consul at the Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal

Rudolf Wyss has joined our team from the Swiss Embassy in Qatar (Doha). He replaces Giancarlo Paduano who left Montreal last June. Mr. Wyss took up his duties as Consul, Head of Consular, Administrative, and Cultural Affairs on August 15.

Mr. Wyss' Swiss roots are in Thurgau where he enjoys quality time while on vacation. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1985 and has since been posted to various countries, including France (Nice), Cameroon (Yaoundé), Iraq (Baghdad), Kuwait (Kuwait City), China (Beijing), Thailand (Bangkok), Jamaica (Kingston), as well as Brazil (São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro).

In Doha, Mr. Wyss was in charge of Swiss activities during the FIFA World Cup. During this major event, he headed up the Swiss Club Doha which presented multiple facets of Swiss culture.

Rudolf Wyss and his partner Qian look forward to meeting the Swiss community in Canada and to discovering the many natural and cultural assets of this magnificent country.



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The Montagna Singers

Send The Montagna Singers to Pittsburgh to attend The North American Swiss Singing Alliance (NASSA) festival in June 2024!



Please help us continue to share our love of Swiss folk music by donating to our Go Fund Me campaign. Your support will be greatly appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you at our next performance. Thank you for helping us keep the tradition of Swiss folk music alive in Ottawa! (Click on the link below for the whole story).

■ [GoFundMe link: Fundraiser by Ian Frei : Send The Montagna Singers to Pittsburgh](#)

Dear Friends and Sängerkameraden:

It is with great sadness that I inform you that our dear friend **Klaus Odermatt** – Swiss chef and choir member of the Ottawa Montagna Singers – passed away in April this year (October 13, 1940 – April 9, 2023).

He will be truly missed by all, and we extend our deepest condolences and sincere sympathy to his wife and family. Klaus was a devoted and loyal partner to Gisèle for 58 years and a loving, generous and very present father and grandfather.

As a chef, Klaus was well known for his savoir-faire in the Ottawa area and recognised by the culinary industry for his constant desire to teach and help others.

Klaus and his wife joined The Montagna Singers in 1979 where life-long friendships were formed. What a wonderful person Klaus was; we feel blessed to have known him! His bass voice and charming demeanour will resonate with us for a long time. Please keep Gisèle and her family in your prayers.

JULES BRUEHLMANN
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE MONTAGNA SINGERS
OTTAWA, ONTARIO





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

Quelle belle fête suisse au Mont Sutton !!!

Merci à toutes les personnes qui sont venues à Sutton pour la fête suisse le 29 juillet dernier. Vous avez été nombreux à venir fêter avec nous malgré la température changeante...soleil, chaleur, pluie, froid et coucher de soleil mémorable. La fête a eu lieu dans le plaisir du début à la fin et nous vous en remercions.

Chaque année, c'est un plaisir pour tout le comité d'organiser cette fête! Nous essayons du mieux qu'on peut d'améliorer certaines choses pour que tout se passe bien et que les gens aillent du plaisir. Nous pouvons dire que c'est une mission accomplie. Cette fête ne serait pas possible sans toutes les personnes bénévoles qui prêtent main forte au comité pour organiser cette formidable journée. Pour cela, nous aimerions remercier sincèrement toutes les personnes bénévoles pour leur aide précieuse durant la fête suisse. Mille fois merci!

Nous aimerions remercier tous les groupes de musique qui ont performé durant la fête : le groupe Swing Maniak Trio (venant directement du canton du Valais), Mont-Gleason Chörli, les rouleurs d'écu, le Jodelduett Maria et Heinz, le soliste Eric Dupasquier, le Quintette de cuivres de l'Union Musicale d'Iberville, les Coralpestres et les Sonneurs de Cloches. Notre journée a été embellie par toutes ces musiques et ces chants, merci beaucoup à tous les musiciens, musiciennes et artistes de la journée.

Merci à SWISS International Airlines de nous avoir permis d'offrir deux billets d'avion pour le tirage de la Tombola. La gagnante était très heureuse évidemment. Merci à tous les commanditaires et les organismes qui ont acheté de la publicité dans notre programme. Votre soutien est important pour nous, un grand merci.

Si vous n'étiez pas là le 29 juillet dernier à Sutton pour la fête suisse, vous pouvez toujours consulter les photos de cette belle journée sur notre site Web : www.fedesuisse.com. Vous pouvez également nous suivre sur la page Facebook de la Fédé : www.facebook.com/fedesuisse. Avec un peu d'avance, nous vous souhaitons une belle fin d'année 2023 et au plaisir de vous revoir en 2024, le 3 août!



© M. Salah Chtioui

VALÉRIE MARTINEZ, VICE-PRÉSIDENTE
AU NOM DU COMITÉ DE LA FÉDÉRATION DES SOCIÉTÉS SUISSES DE L'EST DU CANADA

What a beautiful Swiss National Day at Mont Sutton!!!



© M. Salah Chtioui

A thank-you to everyone who came to Sutton for the Swiss National Day on July 29. Many of you came out to celebrate with us in spite of the changeable weather - sun, heat, rain, cold, and a memorable sunset. The event took place in a festive atmosphere from start to finish - and we thank you for it!

Each year, organising this festival is a privilege for the whole committee! We try as best we can to make improvements, so that everything runs smoothly and people have fun. We can say that this is mission accomplished.

This event would not be possible without all the volunteers who assist the committee in organising this great day. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the volunteers for their precious help during the Swiss National Day festivities!

We would like to thank the music groups that performed during the event: Swing Maniak Trio (coming directly from the canton of Valais), Mont-Gleason Chörli, Talerschwingen, Jodelduett Maria and Heinz, soloist Eric Dupasquier, the Quintette de cuivres de l'Union Musicale d'Iberville, the Coralpestres (alphorns), and the Cow Bell Ringers. Our day was brightened by all this song and music; we thank the musicians and artists!

A thank-you to SWISS International Airlines for providing two plane tickets for the raffle; the winner was obviously very happy! Thank you to all the sponsors and organisations that purchased advertising. Your support is important to us, thank you very much.

If you weren't at Mont Sutton on July 29 for the Swiss National Day, you can always view photos of this beautiful day by visiting our website www.fedesuisse.com. You can also follow us on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fedesuisse.

We wish you a pleasant remainder of the year and look forward to seeing you again in 2024 - on August 3!

VALÉRIE MARTINEZ, VICE-PRESIDENT
ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERATION OF SWISS SOCIETIES
IN EASTERN CANADA

Edmonton Swiss Society and Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir Association



Hello Fellow Swiss & Friends in the Greater Edmonton Area:

The Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir (ESMC) is happy to report that the Sunday afternoon concert, held June 25 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Edmonton, was a great success. The just under 200 guests donated \$1702 to the church, and much-needed food items were directed to the local food bank.

Since Elizabeth Anderson, our Musical Director, was not able to conduct due to her recent surgery, we were privileged to have Maestro Michael Zaugg, Artistic Director of Pro Coro Canada, prepare us for and lead us through the concert. The highlight was the premiere performance of the new folk song *Möcht no-n-es bitzeli läbe* composed by Laura Hawley.

A big THANK-YOU goes to Maggie Naef for hosting the Swiss National Day event at her Art Barn on July 29, and to the many volunteers from the Edmonton Swiss Society (ESS) who prepared the tables, barbecued the sausages, provided the background dinner music, and more.

A thank-you to ESMC members who came out and sang with us. An especially big THANK-YOU goes to Irena for conducting for us, as well as to the two guest singers - Maestro Zaugg and Michael Kurschat - for their musical support. Michael Kurschat also entertained the audience with his alphorn solos (see below).

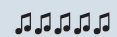
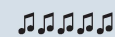
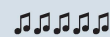


- Our first choir practice started on September 5;
- The ESS fondue night at the Eastwood Community Centre is scheduled for Saturday, November 11;
- The ESS Samichlaus event is scheduled for Sunday, December 3. For more details, check the ESS Facebook page later on.

Please visit our website www.esmca.ca for more information about future events, and on how to join us.

Kindly "like" the ESMC on Facebook under "Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir" or the ESS under "Edmonton Swiss Society".

PETER THUT ON BEHALF OF THE ESS AND THE ESMC



Garon.ch - Pictures from Switzerland

Dear Swiss in Canada:

The majority of you don't get to see Switzerland very often, but you do love to talk about it. Memories from before immigration to Canada - and later vacations in Switzerland - come to mind. With love, you provide information and give advice about your Swiss homeland.

We feel the same way and so fervently that a few years ago, we started capturing our impressions and memories through photographs with much nostalgia and passion.

We - a Canadian and a Swiss - share two homelands. Today, we'll focus only on Switzerland - not on the postcard version, but on the one we view with pride and attachment.

At <https://www.garon.ch/galerie/switzerland/>, you'll find pictures from numerous regions and places. May these scenes and perspectives give you an impression of Switzerland you've likely never seen before. We surely missed some hidden gems, so please let us know about them! We would be happy to make our way there.

Warm regards

BERNARD AND MYRTHA GARON



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Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

On July 30, the Ottawa Valley Swiss Club (OVSC) celebrated the First of August with a lively and festive gathering at Billings Bridge Estate. As many gathered on the historic grounds, the warm, sunny day put everyone in the best of spirits.

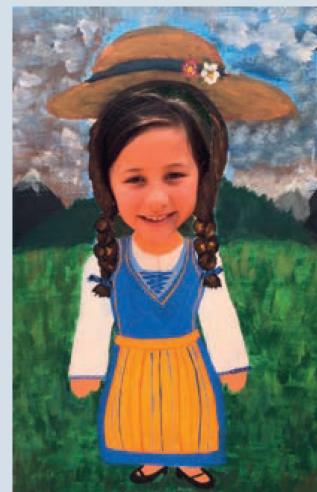
OVSC President Luc-André Burdet presented a welcome address and engaged with the guests while the Montagna Singers enchanted the crowd with happy Swiss songs and led the assembly in the singing of our beautiful Swiss anthem in five languages. Burdet also presented the President of Switzerland's message and offered the Embassy's vin d'honneur to those in attendance.



OVSC's talented group of chefs prepared delicious traditional Swiss food, including tasty sausages and fruit pies, which were enjoyed by all. Thanks to many generous donors, the prize-filled tombola was once again a big success.

Many took part in the games offered - the stone toss was especially well attended with a good number of heavyweights, middleweights, and lightweights participating.

The children also played games and took pictures with Swiss-inspired backdrops where you could transform into notable Swiss personalities, such as Einstein, Tell, or die Stauffacherin.



As the evening came to a close, the children with their colourful lampion lanterns were led by the flag thrower through the woods. It was particularly magical to see their glowing lanterns emerging around the trees on the estate.

Lastly, the OVSC turned 70 this year! We are so thrilled that the Club has been going strong since 1953 and look forward to many more decades of celebrating Swiss life in the Ottawa Valley.

For more information on upcoming events, or to get in touch, please visit www.ottawavalleysswissclub.ca.

OLIVIA CRAFT
PHOTO CREDITS: RAFAEL BOSCH

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Swiss Club Thames Valley

As I sit at my desk, watching some of the leaves changing, I hope the children had a good first couple of weeks back at school.

On April 16, the Swiss Theatre Group Toronto put on a great play.

On June 18, the Swiss Choir Thames Valley held their Father's Day picnic in Brodhagen. Many people came out to enjoy a fun afternoon, listen to music, and have some snacks.

On July 30, we celebrated our Swiss National Day in Monkton. It was a great day filled with music, food, socialising, and Swiss pride. One of our founding members - who just happens to be my grandma Joan Stadelmann - had five generations in attendance; we had our picture taken to commemorate the occasion!

On August 27, the Swiss Farmer Band had a seniors' afternoon. Everyone enjoyed the great music.

Check out our Facebook group "Thames Valley Swiss Club" and our website <https://swissclubtv.wixsite.com/swiss-club-thames-va>.

CHRISTINE HEIMPEL

Swiss Club Saskatoon

What a season of strange weather patterns! Very hot in May, cooler in June, and then the summer with a variety of conditions, unfortunately with very little moisture.

The **June BBQ** was held on Father's Day, June 18, in Neuanlage, SK. This community is about a 30-minute drive north of Saskatoon, and the event was held at the Neuanlage Community Centre. We were hosted by Hayley and Marc Schwendemann. This Centre is quite large, with a complete kitchen, and all tables and chairs were provided, as well as the BBQ. We had a great turnout, and the weather permitted us to sit outside.

Our **Bundesfeier** on Sunday, July 30, was once again hosted by Dora and Max Hug at their acreage. The Club provided bratwurst and cervelats from Valbella Meats in Canmore, AB, as well as the accompanying salad. Members brought additional side dishes and a large quantity and variety of desserts. At the end of the event, we sold extra sausages to our members. As bratwurst is very popular, and we cannot find much locally that comes close to the real flavour, we made sure to order extra quantities to try to accommodate everyone.

Our **AGM** has been tentatively scheduled for noon on Sunday, October 29. At press time, the restaurant had not yet been selected. For further information, contact the Club, or check your fall newsletter.

The **Santa event** in December has been booked for Saturday, December 2, from 11 am to 4 pm at the Neuanlage Community Centre. Most kids in the Club live closer to this community than to Saskatoon, so we decided to bring the event to them. The time change to noon from a Friday evening also means no more driving into the city in the dark during rush hour! As usual, this will be a cold meal potluck. A kids' raffle will also be held.

If you would like to receive information about our Club and its activities, contact us at swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com, or call / text me at 1-306-260-8030.

New members are always welcome, and membership is free the first year. Even though our name is Swiss Club Saskatoon, we welcome Swiss from anywhere in Saskatchewan!

ELISABETH EILINGER
PRESIDENT
SWISS CLUB SASKATOON

Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association (Metro Vancouver)

As we wave summer goodbye, we can look back at some very exciting Club competitions:

- July 9: Bob Edward's Bruno shoot;
- July 23: Mountain Range match;
- August 12: Founder's Cup shoot;
- September 10: Cup of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver.

These shooting events were a lot of fun, and we thank all our individual sponsors.

The **First of August** celebration on July 29 was a big hit with approximately 450 people attending. Over 50 children took part in the lantern parade (Lampion-Umzug) - it's always a delight to watch!

The barbeque chefs looked after our wellbeing with schübli, bratwurst, and potato salad; and of course - for those with a sweet tooth - there were cremeschnitten and nussgipfel.

An event like this takes a lot of planning and commitment; we want to thank all the volunteers for their work - well done!

The annual **Schützenfest** at the beginning of October is already in the planning stage. It will be followed by the big wind-up of the outdoor shooting season, the ever so popular **Saushoot** on October 22, where every shooter takes home a cut of meat.

Please also mark your calendars for the **Jass tournament** on November 12, to be held in the Clubhouse, organised jointly by the Swiss Society and the SCMRA. Looking forward to seeing all the enthusiastic card players!

As always, check our website www.scmra.ca for photos and further information.

MARLIES BAUMANN

Regional News Canada

The Regional Pages are published four times per year (both in print and online) and consist of an eight-page insert in the Swiss Review magazine.

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