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Editorial

Chères lectrices, Chers lecteurs du Canada

Je vous invite à participer aux diverses activités organisées par les clubs car leurs agendas ne sont pas en récession. Je suis persuadée que vous passerez un agréable moment loin des soucis quotidiens. Même si tout n'est pas facile, c'est généralement dans ces périodes que l'on peut constater une plus grande participation à la vie sociale.



Dear Readers in Canada

I invite you to participate to the activities organized by the clubs since their agendas are not in a recession. I am confident that you will spend a nice time, away from everyday worries. Even if everything is not easy, it is usually in these times that we see greater participation in social life.

Manuela Fuchs, Regional Infos Canada

AVS/AI Facultative Voluntary OASI/DI scheme

La Caisse suisse de compensation et l'Office AI pour les assurés à l'étranger, unités de la Centrale de compensation, sont les organes compétents pour l'application de l'AVS/AI facultative.

The Swiss Compensation Office and the DI Office for insured persons residing outside Switzerland, which are part of the Central Compensation Office, are the competent authorities for the administration of the voluntary OASI/DI scheme.

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Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

The Ottawa Valley Swiss Club (OVSC) held its traditional Children Christmas Party on December 7, 2008, at the Richelieu Centre. Preceding the event, the Seniors' Christmas Luncheon was held at the same venue. More than a hundred people attended the Luncheon: the food, as usual, was delicious, the Montagna Singers sang appropriate songs, and there was a visit by Saint Nicholas! Adults and

children alike received gifts. After the Seniors' Luncheon, the afternoon was dedicated to the children and the traditional Christmas celebration.

The afternoon program for the children was varied, and was both traditional and innovative.



For a start, children could exercise their wonderful creativity at a craft table by making "Christmassy items" such as a Gingerbread house, Christmas tree garlands or Christmas luminaries. Varieties of games were organized, and were quite popular with both the young and not so young.



The Montagna Singers sang a few Christmas carols, and then led both children and

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adults in intoning popular songs of the season. Before the arrival of Saint Nicholas, some of the children participated in a Talent show: they performed songs of the seasons, play a variety of musical instruments, and Christmas tales were told!



While all these activities went on, there was a large buffet table with all kind of sweets and some dips, which was enjoyed by all. While the children had chocolate milk and juice, the adults could savour a nicely spiced mulled

wine. More than a hundred people, children and adults, attended the party. Truly, this was a "Super Sunday" December 7; the two events at the Richelieu centre were one big Swiss community celebration! A great "Thank you!" is addressed to all who ensured that the day was a complete success.

A number of activities are planned for 2009:

- the 2009 Annual General Meeting on Friday January 23, 2009;
- a German Swiss Theatre night on April 4;
- hopefully, a Swiss stamps exhibition on May 2-3;
- the traditional Golf tournament in June;
- the 1st of August celebration;
- possibly a car rally in September (if there is enough interest to have the event);
- a Night at the Races at the Ottawa Carleton Racetrack is also an activity that may happen in the fall;
- and the Saint Nicholas Party in December.

As well, the Montagna Singers will have their Dinner Dances on April 25 and in late October; and the Seniors will continue to have their monthly luncheons.

Please consult our web site for the latest information on our activities.

<http://www.ottawavalleysswissclub.ca/>

Michel Tadros, President, OVSC

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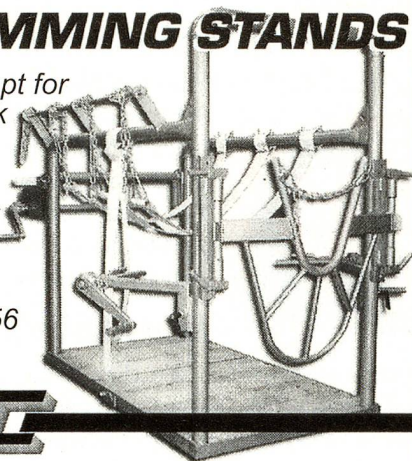
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Seaway Valley Swiss Club

1st August Celebration

The Seaway Valley Swiss Club would like to take a moment to thanks the following people:

- Jean-Luc Jaquemet and family for hosting the August 1st celebration at their farm
- Swiss Embassy for providing the vin d'honneur
- Music provided by " Eastern Ontario Swiss band, Luzia Blaser played by the fire with the alphorn and the Montana Singer were attending the celebration to sing our national song.

The event started at around 19.30 with the traditional food such as sausage, pastry and drinks, for the kids a play ground consisting of bale of hays were appreciated by all kids following at 21.30 by the lampions parade towards the bonfire and fireworks. The Charge de Mission of the Swiss Embassy Nicholas Bruhl made a brief speech followed by the vin d'honneur..

The Crazy corner was a place well attended by the young adults. The celebration ended around 01.00. We were so lucky with the weather that, over 400 people attended the event, it was the biggest crowd for this event organized by our club. The Seaway Valley Swiss Club Committee would like to thanks everyone who helped setting up and running that wonderful event.

For the people leaving in Eastern Ontario who would like to join the club just contact:

Jean-Pierre Brochon at 1-613-498-9696 .

Most of the events take place around Winchester.

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Montreal

Swiss Women's Club Edelweiss

Once again our fall bazaar was a great success.

We were very pleased with the turnout and are grateful to everyone who supported us. To our generous sponsors, our hard-working members, as well as friends and family who helped us out, I extend a very sincere thank you. We couldn't have done it without you! A special thank you also goes to our Consul General and his wife, Claude and Josiane Duvoisin, for their continued support, and to the consular staff members who worked hard serving raclette to our happy customers.

Please make a note that our next bazaar is already booked for November 7, 2009 at the same location: 375 Louise-Lamy in Dorval.

Our meetings are held at the above-mentioned address on the second Tuesday of every month, at 7:30 p.m., excluding July and August. Coffee and dessert are served following the meeting. Any woman of Swiss descent or married to a Swiss man may become a member.

Thank you to all our committee members, who have all agreed to stay on for another year.

Joanne Spirig, President, 514-694-3718

Montreal

Helvetia Seniors Club

All Swiss and their partners are invited to our gatherings for lectures, or entertainment followed by a luncheon and meeting. Every 3rd Thursday from 11.00 to 2 pm (except July & August) at a Montreal, N. D.G. restaurant.

Tous les Suisses et leurs conjoints sont les bienvenus à assister aux lectures et autres divertissements. Nous nous rencontrons de 11h à 14h (excepté juillet et août) pour déjeuner dans un restaurant du quartier N.D.G. de Montréal.

For more information / Pour plus d'informations:

Bruno (514) 481 2928 or Hans (514) 932 9707

Or check our website: www.jrudi.com/helvetiaseniors



Charmey Désalpe

The "Désalpe" is an annual tradition bringing cattle back home from the Alpine pastures. In Switzerland, the cattle are taken up to the Alps at the beginning of summer in to graze freely for four months in a non-polluted environment. The cattle consist only of dairy cows, goats and sheep.

Perhaps this is why Swiss cheese is in high demand for its unique flavor! Some of the best cheeses come from the

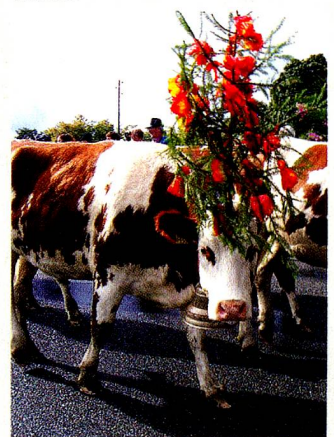
Gruyère region.

I decided to experience this national festival this year and went to a village called Charmey, known to have the most traditional and folkloric festival of the "march of the cows". So there I was on September 27, waiting at 9:00 AM with another 10,000 people or so that had made the trip from all around the country, as well as many tourists from Europe.

The sun was bright and it was a lovely, warm day which made it ideal to roam around the various stands, offering a tasting of different cheeses and wines of the region. It was there that I had an incredible, unforgettable drink: fresh, non-pasteurized cow's milk.

We first witnessed the parade of herdsmen - "Armailis" - in national costume, accompanied by their families, marching at the sound of Alpenhorns and yodels. Then followed the show of the ringing of the bells, where gigantic bells were held solidly by dancers who graciously moved them from their right thigh to their left thigh, making a harmonious musical sound.

As time passed, the crowd began to grow impatient for the best that was to come. Suddenly a heavy silence fell upon the crowd: Here they come!



The first cows came marching along with their shepherds. Each had an enormous bell hanging on its neck and a crown of flowers placed on its head. The cows looked majestic and proud of all the fuss about the march, and the sound of their thundering

bells was sweet music to our ears.

Special herds passed by, followed by goats and sheepdogs that were also decorated with flowers. There was a short lapse of time between each herd. And last, but not least, a flock of 400 sheep came marching along, but that part of the show was stolen by the shepherd dogs who clearly displayed that their sole and uttermost concern was to keep the flock together. What a tough job it was! Not once did the dogs stop rushing from one side to the other, keeping the stray sheep in line with the others. The most challenging must have been for them to gather all the sheep for the final descent to the plain..

As the afternoon drew high, the first marching cows were already snug in their winter home. It was a very long day for them as they had left the Alpine pastures prior to dawn, and they deserved a good night's rest in their new pastures after the long march on the hard surface of the village streets.

Next time you gather with friends for a cheese fondue, or have a piece of that wonderful Swiss chocolate, have a kind thought for our splendid dairy cows.

Claire Oechstin

Toronto Contact of interest

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154 University Avenue
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Toronto, ON
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email: engswiss@yahoo.ca

Swiss Club of Toronto

90th Swiss Club Toronto Anniversary Party
Saturday, September 27, 2008

What a party this was! Over 250 members and guests (full house) of the Club assembled in the Ballroom of the beautiful Granite Club in Toronto to celebrate the 90th birthday of our Swiss Club, pay tribute to the



generation that came to Canada after the second war and show appreciation and thanks to all members.

All of us were greatly pleased and honored to have among us Ambassador and Mrs. Baumann who came down from Ottawa, as well as our Consul General and Mrs. Ryff.



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Erika Tièche past President of the Club and Chair of the 90th Anniversary Party Committee put together a small but dedicated group of members early in the year who spent untold hours to make this a Birthday Party to remember. The reward for their work was evident in the happy faces of all who attended.

The evening began with a Cocktail Reception (along with Taler-schwingen and Cow Bell ringing demonstrations), which was an opportunity to meet and talk to old friends – and there were many. Peter Schürmann, our excellent Master of Ceremonies, officially opened the evening by introducing the Head Table. He called on Club President Rene Wälti to welcome guests and friends; he was followed by Committee Chair Erika Tièche, by Consul General Bruno Ryff and by Ambassador Werner Baumann who expressed his pleasure to be with us in our vibrant and important City.

An excellent three course dinner was served and afterwards it was time for outstanding and exciting entertainment.

Eva Hajda started off with playing the traditional Swiss Alphorn. President Rene Wälti and Margrit Petermann, both members of the now disbanded Yodel Section, gave a great rendition of a lovely Swiss yodel song. This was followed by a performance of the 17 members Swiss



Farmer's Brass Band who had traveled from Ontario's Thames Valley area to be with us. They received great applause and delighted us with an encore. A different kind of entertainment was the performance of Swiss Canadian Blues Singer Shakura S'Aida who was backed up by two of her band members. She is an electrifying entertainer who is able to interact with her public – and addressing us in perfect Swiss German dialect. It was a superb and enjoyable performance; all in the Ballroom were on their feet wanting to hear more but regretfully she had to leave for another engagement.

Last, but certainly not last, Peter Beck and his Mississauga Express

Dance Band got us all up on the floor and for the next couple of hours the Dance Floor was crowded. It was an evening to remember and a sincere thank you goes to Erika Tièche and her Committee Members, with appreciation also to the Swiss Club Toronto, which contributed part of the expense of the evening. Thank you also to M.C. Peter Schürmann who had to work hard to keep a very crowded agenda on track.

As part of the Celebration the Swiss Club Toronto published a beautifully printed and edited booklet to commemorate the 90th anniversary. It is loaded with great information about the history of the Club, memories by past Presidents, comments by the Chair Persons of the various Sections and some delightful photographs. The booklet was mailed to all members of the Club and it is our hope that it will be kept and treasured as a memento of the event.

Sincere thanks go to President Rene Waelti who did a superb job in assembling material, writing and editing the booklet. Deep appreciation is also due to former President Gottfried Hildenbrand whose company, Swiss Print International, designed and printed the booklet at no cost to the Club.

We also thank our sponsors for the many door prizes, including Swissmar for part sponsoring a set of Wenger kitchen knives for every table setting. The door prizes collected by Erika Tièche were a welcoming surprise to all. Some of the big prizes were Transat Holidays for 2 return tickets from Toronto to Basel, Switzerland Tourism for a week's first class Swiss holiday rail pass for two, Canadian BBR Inc., H.U.H. Imports Inc. sponsored a large basket, Kühne & Nagel with a beautiful "Wallisser Zinnkanne", Lindt Chocolates a basket full of treats. Please see the sponsors listed separately. The private sponsorship was very well received. Their support is much appreciated and made our evening even more special.

The big winner of the 2 flights to Switzerland (Basel) by Transat Holidays was: Fritz Staheli of Sharon, ON Congratulations!

It was a great and memorable evening – thanks for the memories!

Members of the 90th Anniversary Committee:

Erika Tièche, Chair; Consul General Bruno Ryff, Rene Wälti, Sonja Evans-Good, Claude Tièche, Martin Zaugg (he was unfortunately unable to attend our evening as he was transferred in August to a new posting at the Consulate General in Sao Paolo, Brazil), Peter Schürmann and Alfred Mettler.

90th Anniversary Sponsors

THANK YOU to all of our generous sponsors, who made this event extra special:

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Erika Tièche, Event Chairperson



Theatre Group – Swiss Club of Toronto

Theateraufführung 2009
 "Miini Luscht, diin Fruscht"
 Schwank in 3 Akten von Hans Wälti

The play is in Swiss German and performed by the Theatre Group from Toronto on the following dates and locations:

Moorefield, 28. March 2009 play starts at 8pm
 contact Walter Burkhardt (519) 393-5211

Ottawa, 4. April 2009
 contact Daniel Stripinis (613) 526-4888

Toronto, 18. April 2009 play starts at 2pm and at 8pm
 Estonian House, 958 Broadview Ave.
 contact Maggie Hess (905) 508-8014
 email: Walter.Brunner@sympatico.ca

The Theatre group is looking forward to see you on one of the performances. We hope to make it an exiting evening for everyone.

In Toronto we will have Drinks and Nussgipfel available, in the evening you can also get Dinner from 6:30 on.

For more details please contact your local Swiss Club Representative or call Maggie Hess or Walter Brunner at (905) 508-8014.

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Mark your calendar for the following events:

Fondue Party Sunday, February 15, 2009, 12:00

Catholic Church Anola, Contact Ueli Messerli, Tel. 204-268-2190

Annual Gen. Meeting, March 8, 2009, 11:00 Lunch, 12:00 meeting

Headingley, Headingley Community Center, 5353 Portage Ave. Headingley.
 Contact Ueli Messerli, Tel. 204-268-2190

Contact one of the board members:

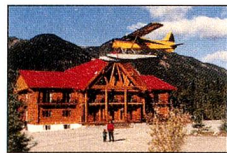
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Swiss Society of Vancouver

Senior's Club

Filmnachmittag an Sonntagen für Senioren at the Vancouver Alpenclub, 4875 Victoria Drive @ 33rd Avenue, Vancouver.

Reserve with Werner Rutishauser 604-929-6923 or Vreni Huser 604-731-4300

February 24, 2-5pm:

'Die Herbstzeitlosen'
<http://www.dieherbstzeitlosen.ch>

March 30, 2-5pm:

'Der Teufel hat gut lachen'

April 27, 2-5pm:

'Oberstadtgass'

Vancouver Cultural Events

Please refer to the following website for information on up-coming events: <http://www.eda.admin.ch/canada> click on Consulate General Vancouver, then on the Downloads: Swiss events in Vancouver

Banff swissfest 09

The Jodlerklub Heimattreu Calgary is the host for the 39th Sängerfest of the North American Swiss Singing Alliance (NASSA).

The Calgary Yodlers have invited all the NASSA member societies to gather at the Banff Centre on June 25, 2009 for a 3 day celebration of the Swiss traditions of Singing and Yodeling.

Besides the Jodlerklub Heimattreu, the Canadian NASSA member choirs are:

- Montagna Singers, Ottawa
- Edmonton Swiss Mens Choir, Edmonton
- Wildrose Yodel Club, Central Alberta
- Thames Valley Swiss Choir, South Western Ontario
- Schweizer Jodlerfreunde, Ontario

The American NASSA choirs are also expected to visit Banff National Park and will travel from Pittsburgh, PA; Toledo, OH; Columbus, OH; Milwaukee, WI; Monroe, WI and New Glarus, WI.

The Obwaldner Trachtenchörli from Sarnen and the Jodlerklub Wattwil have accepted the invitation to participate as featured guest-choirs at this tri-annual celebration of Swiss culture in North America.

For more information please visit the website:
www.swissfest09.com or contact info@swissfest09.com



Vancouver Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association

Once again we have another successful outdoor shooting season behind us and we can gratefully say it was accident free. Some shooters have started with the indoor practice and are already planning the 10m Schuetzenfest, which is taking place on February 21. +22. 2009, so please mark your calendar and come out and join the fun.

The ever popular Trap Cheese shoot had 30 participants competing, and the big winner was Gabriella Garzitto with 10 out of 10 points and Daniel Casanova was right behind her with 9 points. I am very happy to see the younger generation taking interest in this event. A big THANK YOU goes to the Cheese Sponsors: ARLA Foods and the Swiss Cheese Assoc. and a special Thanks to Lisa for the samples and recipes.

Consul General Cup - This shoot is always full of surprises, we have not had many multiple winners on this one on one competition, Rene Zollinger was first and Dave Nichols second.

The highlight of our annual activities is the Schuetzenfest, always held on the October long weekend, where you meet old friends, discuss your shooting skills and compete in 300m, 50m, Pistol and Cross-bow. It was a very close competition with Rene Z. coming out on top with 360 points. 2nd - Rene Bruegger, 3rd Hans Holzer and 4th Gerhard Hirsig.

The Sau shoot is always a great way to finish our outdoor season and bring home some meat. Out of 32 shooters Rene Zollinger came in first with 49 points out of a possible 50.

He had though competition from David Nichols 47 points, Johan Sauer 47 pts, Frank Suter 46 pts and Hans Hodel 46pts. With the annual feast of "Blut + Leberwurst" we ended a most enjoyable day. Congratulation to all the enthusiastic shooters.

In November we once again had a Jass Tournament organized jointly with the Swiss Society and 24 players participated. The "Handjass" was won by Markus Spycher and Marcel Muller was the winner of the "Schieber". In between, the kitchen crew served us an excellent dinner.

A good time was had by all at the Samichlaus Party and 13 Children were privileged enough to meet the man of the Season.

We like to thank all the helpers that provided their services and time throughout the year, you all know who you are!! And we wish everyone a successful 2009 shooting season.

For more info, results and pictures please check out our website:
www.scmra.ca

Marlies Baumann



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~ SWISS SHOPPING IN CANADA ~

March 14, 2009:

ESMC is joining the Mill Creek Colliery Band as a special guest.

April 17 and 18, 2009:

SEMA/ESMC Casino volunteering

June 13, 2009:

Sing at the ESS Landsgemeinde in Stettler

June 26 to 28, 2009:

NASSA Festival in Calgary/Banff Centre: www.swissfest09.com

Early July 2009:

Year-end party/BBQ at the Pfaeffli's. Details TBA

September 12, 2009:

50th Anniversary Celebration of the Edmonton Swiss Society (ESS). ESMC is happy to participate.

October 2009:

Possible trip to British Columbia

November 7, 2009:

Winzerfest 2009

Spring 2010:

Fruehlings Concert Hold for details

2010: Swiss Trip 2010:

for inquiries contact Elsbeth vdB @: esmc2010@gmail.com

June 23 to 27, 2011:

USSSPC in Vancouver, BC (Pacific Swiss Singing Societies)

CD's:

Please be reminded, that we now have four (4) CD's available for sale through any member or through the Internet: "My Heimat", "Kamerade", "Viva" and "Heilige Nacht"

Edmonton

Swiss Men's Choir

Please visit our website at www.esmc.ab.ca or call our President Hans Voegeli at 780-464-1266 or e-mail the secretary: thut.peter@syncrude.com for more information about any of the planned events or about joining the choir.

We practice every Tuesday evening from 7:30PM to 9:30PM.

Past Events:

Winzerfest 2008

Thank you all for your participation in this great event – from our director, ticket sales coordinator, GM's, crews for set-up, lighting, Tombola, kitchen, bar, door service etc. – everybody chipped in to make this another successful event.

Especially a big "Thank you" goes to Marianne Pfaeffli for dressing up the first six of our ceiling panels. The "Bauernmalerei" on them looked just great. Thank you already in advance for painting the remaining 6 panels for next Winzerfest.

Christmas concerts 2008

Thank you all for attending the various concerts: Dec. 5th in Stony Plain at the 22nd Annual Rotary Club Christmas Carols, Dec 9th at Grandview Capital Care Centre, Dec 10th at St. Vital Church in Beaumont, Dec 14th at ESS Samichlaus Party and Dec 17th at the Arden Theater in St. Albert.

A special Thank you goes to our very dedicated music director. She inspires us to bring out the best in our performances and she also happens to be an excellent public speaker when she announces our songs.

Planned Events:

February 20, 2009:

AGM at Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton, AB



Edmonton

Swiss Society

President:	Walter Hildebrand, 780 486 8677
1st Vice-President:	Anne Huwiler
2nd Vice-President:	Roger Kirchen
Treasurer:	Priska Strickler
Secretary:	Anita Godwalt
Website:	www.edmonton-swiss.ca

Regular Events:

Kaffeklatsch

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Tony Roma Restaurant in the Bonnie Doon Mall around noon. For more information please call Kay Fuchs at 780 450 8836.

Coming Events:

February 6, 2009 AGM

Daniela Hildebrand

Vancouver
Swiss Club Matterhorn

The Swiss Club Matterhorn is the umbrella organization for the various affiliated Swiss Clubs in Calgary. Our mandate is to act as a liaison between the various Swiss Clubs and to keep the membership informed about ongoing activities. We publish a quarterly newsletter and maintain a website that is updated to reflect the current events.

The SCM and its associated clubs host a number of events throughout the year. These include Swiss National Day on August 1st, folklore evenings, Jass events, Fondue and Raclette evenings, hikes and many others.

Club membership is open to all individuals and families wanting to maintain and participate in Swiss customs and activities. For membership information, please contact our president. For details on our activities, please visit our website at www.swissclubscalgary.com or contact one of our executive or specific clubs at:

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Jodler Club Heimattreu

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Swiss Canadian Volley Ball Club

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Swiss Rifle Club Tell

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Swiss Seniors Group

seniors@swissclubscalgary.com

Swiss Folk Dance Club Alpenrösli

folkdance@swissclubscalgary.com

Soccer Club Helvetic Veterans

soccer@swissclubscalgary.com

Theatre Group Heimatstil

theatregroup@swissclubscalgary.com

Central Alberta
Wildrose Yodel Club



Executive

President:	Alain Favre	403 352 7503
Vice-President:	Benjamin Escher	403 887 1400
Secretary:	Fred Salvisberg	403 783 8319
Treasurer:	Mike Fehr	403 843 3756
Directors at large:	Urs Mueller	403 748 2096
	Thomas Ackermann	403 783 7437

Harvest Concert 2008

November 14th was the day when about three hundred "Friends Of The Swiss Yodel" packed the banquet hall of the Royal Canadian Legion in Innisfail, AB to enjoy a wonderful evening of good food, good entertainment and good dancing.

Hats off to our members Joe, Ernie and Max for their efforts in selling most of the tickets to the sold out crowd. It's not that Joe needs more compliments for his talents in food preparation, but at the age of 73, he single handedly cooked a great meal for all in attendance. One should never forget to thank our spouses who often chip in, getting the food to the buffet, preparing an elaborate Tombola, or run for the little things, which are so crucial to keep things on track.

On the entertainment front, the Wildrose Yodel Club treated the guests to a concert blend of Swiss Yodeling and Rock 'n' Roll songs. Guest entertainer was the very talented fiddler, Craig West of Calgary, who fiddled his way right into the hearts of the people in the audience. His musical skills were a delight and had us listening to sounds normally only heard on a farm, like birds chirping, dogs barking or a barn door closing.

We were happy to see that the Honorary Consul of Switzerland, Andreas Bayer, took the time to attend our concert. Thanks to the large contingency of our friends from the Jodlerklub Heimattreu Calgary in attendance, we were able to close the concert as a massed choir with the song "Kamerade".

New singers are welcome

We can always use more male voices in all levels of our choir. We usually practice Thursday night from September until May at the United Church in Lacombe, AB.

Why don't you join us? - you might enjoy it!!!

Upcoming Events

- Spring Fest - Saturday, May 3, 2008
- Swissfest09 in Banff, AB of the North American Swiss Singing Alliance - June, 25th - 28th, 2008

What's up for next year's August 1st Party?

- It will take place on Saturday evening, August 1st, 2009 at the Forshee Hall. Between Bentley and Rimbey, east side of Hwy. #20 (watch for sign)
- Everybody is invited. Please note that no invitations will be sent out.
- Overnight camping will be available for \$5.00. What a deal !
- For more info please call Susanne @ 403 748 4804

For more information on the Wildrose Yodel Club and it's upcoming events please visit:

www.salranch-tours.com/wildrose

Fred Salvisberg, Secretary

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