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REGIONAL NEWS CANADA

Editorial

Dear Readers and Friends across Canada and around the World: It is with delight that I've come to realize that our news not only inform and entertain, but also connect people across the world! We



are evidently read far beyond Canada and Switzerland as I have learned from recent reader feedback. It is also a pleasure for me to work together with you all—members of Swiss Societies, Official Representations and other individuals and organizations in the production of our Regional News!

Making this an informative cross-section of Swiss news in our beautiful adopted home land Canada, I realize how much diversity, creativity and skill we continue to contribute as expatriate Swiss. As Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird points out in the foreword to the book «Swiss Immigration to Canada» by Ilona Shulman Spaar, «...the Swiss influence in Canada has lent significantly to our prosperity and growth and it is abundantly evident that it will continue to do so».

Writing this editorial from Bern, where I'm attending the spring session of the Council of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), renewal and regrowth are in the air. Evident in the balmy days and lush spring colors as seen from the terrace of the Bundeshaus overlooking the traditional 17th & 18th century buildings on the bank of the beautiful, tranquil flowing river Aare; but also in the agenda of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad's current business and future planning. As the session is still ongoing at the time of writing, a more detailed report of the OSA conference will be forthcoming in the next issue.

Ilona Shulman Spaar

Swiss Immigration to Canada Achievements – Testimonies – Relations

240 pages in colour, English, hardcover, 11"x11", richly illustrated
Publisher: © Consulate General of Switzerland, Vancouver

You are invited to dive into a vibrant mosaic of stories about Swiss immigration to Canada from the last hundred years and beyond. What do you really know about the legacy, testimonies, and achievements of Swiss settlers? What drove these people to leave their home country and chase their dreams abroad? Who were these "sturdy Switzers," as they were often referred to? Never before has such a comprehensive book given insight into the lives and adventures of Swiss immigrants to Canada. A must-have for yourself and your family.

Introductory price: **25.00 CAD** through **amazon.ca**

Exciting New Events

In Canada, many new and exciting Swiss and Swiss-related events are being planned and prepared for as you are reading this. The beautiful mountain town of Golden is in full gear organizing its first annual BC Mountain Festival which takes place May 18th & 19th. Dedicated to the celebration of the rich history and pioneering efforts

Photo Golden Museum



Edelweiss Village then and now—Feuz family ca. 1914



Photo Joanne Sweeting

of the Swiss Mountain Guides in the Rockies, and honoring their outstanding contributions to the exploration and development of the mountain culture, the festival features interactive talks and presentations, authentic Swiss food and entertainment, and guided tours through Edelweiss village built in 1912 by CP rail for the Swiss Guides and their families.

An interesting and fun Victoria Day long-weekend event for which you find Tourism Golden's schedule on page 2.

Many Swiss organization celebrate an anniversary this year and are thus planning special events. If you're travelling across Canada, why not tweak your schedule a bit and participate? You would be heartily welcomed! For example at the largest Swiss National Day celebration outside Switzerland in Mount Sutton, Québec. The two-day celebration starts August 1st in the afternoon, and The Federation of Swiss Societies of Eastern Canada has listed a pre-announcement on page 6. Or see the article on page 2 which contains a detailed program outline for this year's Singing & Yodeling Festival July 10-13th in Tacoma, Wa., (USA) where many choirs and musicians from the Pacific Northwest are coming together for this wonderful yearly festival of traditional Swiss folk music.



Mount Sutton, QC., August 1st Swiss National Day celebration

Photo Louis Savard

I wish you a lovely spring and am looking forward to continually receiving your news, your comments and suggestions.

Silvia Schoch, Editor



Golden, BC Mountain Festival

Celebrating Golden's Swiss Guides

Sitting at the confluence of the Columbia and Kicking Horse rivers, and surrounded by the Canadian Rockies, Selkirk and Purcell Mountain Ranges, Golden BC is well known as a paradise for outdoor adventure activities. Here you will find an historic town, lived in and loved by a community who are proud of their heritage of intrepid exploration and mountain tourism which has defined the area over the centuries and which still plays an important part in everyday life and culture of the town today.

On May 18th & 19th, Golden BC is holding the first of what will be an annual event to celebrate not only its history, but the many facets that define Golden as a real mountain town today. The festival will have a different theme each year, including the characters, activities, music, images and culture that define Golden as a pure and unrefined mountain town, and aims to engage and encourage visitors to

keep coming back year after year. Golden is the home of the Swiss Guides. In 1899 the C.P. Rail realised that the completion of the railway through the Kicking Horse Pass and Rogers Pass would enable tourists to enjoy the wonderful mountain scenery and activities. They brought the first generation of Swiss Mountain Guides to safely guide tourists in the mountains surrounding Golden, and so began the first steps of mountain tourism and the connection between Swiss-Canadian mountain cultures which still exist today. The influence of those guides is evident today in the creation of the Canadian Mountain Guide Association, the birth of heli-skiing and the numerous peaks named after the Swiss guides who made the first ascents, as well as the many residents of Golden who bear the names of their ancestors.

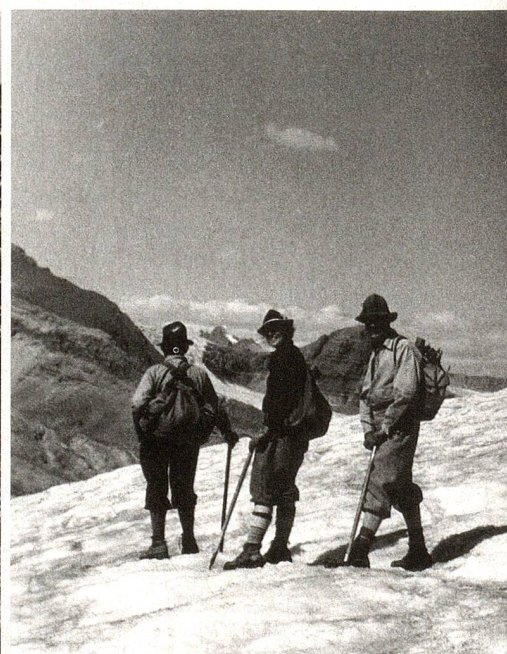
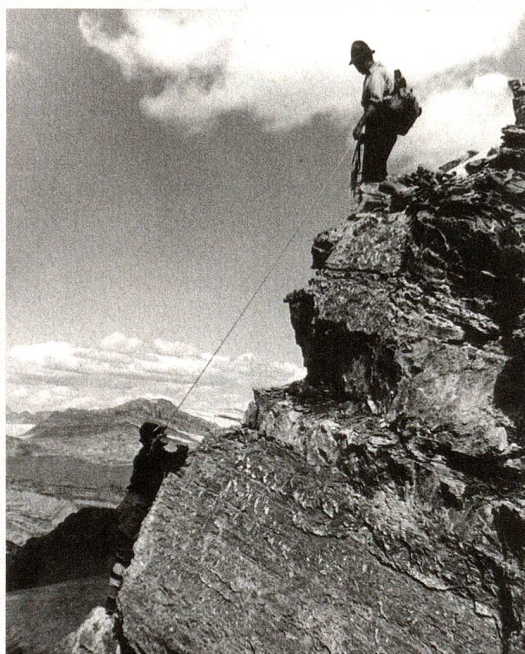
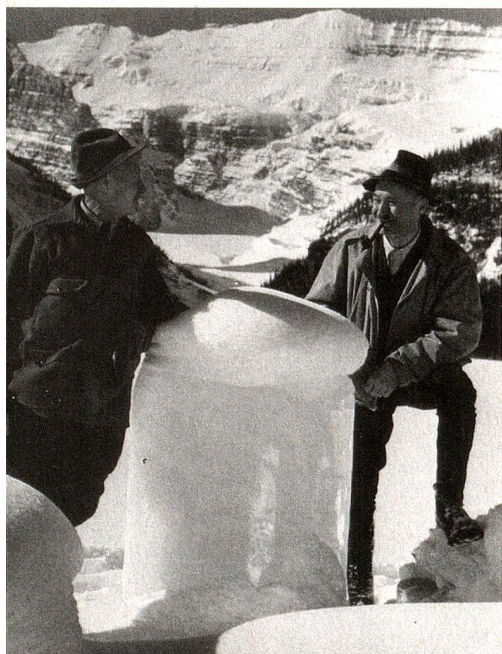
The Edelweiss Village, built in Golden in 1912 by the CPR for the families of the Swiss Guides still exists today, owned by the descendants of Walter Feuz



Scheduled Events

- Swiss Guides – Beyond Adventure movie
- Swiss Guides – Shaping Mountain Culture in Western Canada exhibit sponsored by the Swiss Consulate Vancouver at the Golden Civic Centre
- Guided tours of the private Walter Feuz house at the Edelweiss Village, Golden
- Exhibition of photos from the private collection of Syd Feuz, at the Art Gallery of Golden
- Exhibition of Bruno Engler photos at Purcell Heli-skiing lodge
- Interactive talks on the Swiss Guides influence on adventure tourism and the families of the Swiss Guides at Purcell Heli-skiing Lodge
- Swiss themed entertainment and fun for all ages in the Spirit Square
- Interactive presentation on the construction of the Kicking Horse Pedestrian Bridge – the longest free standing timber frame bridge in Canada
- Golden Farmers Market, raffle and lots more!
- Restaurants featuring traditional Swiss dishes

For more information about the Golden Mountain Festival, please visit www.TourismGolden.com/festival



Tacoma, Washington 28th Pacific Coast Singing & Yodeling Festival July 10-13

www.swiss-sangerfest-tacoma-2014.org Tel.: 253-678-4924



We would like to share with you an exciting opportunity to be part of the 28th Pacific Coast Swiss Singing & Yodeling Festival of the USSSPC. Some of you may have still good memories of the last Sangerfest in 2011 at UBC in Vancouver. The nine members of the United Swiss Singing Societies of the Pacific Coast, which includes the Vancouver Swiss Choir, are excited to present this four day

event, **July 10-13, 2014**, hosted by the Mannerchor Edelweiss of the Swiss Sportmen's Club of Tacoma, Wa. In addition to the nine USSSPC choirs, four guest groups are participating: The Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir and Wildrose Yodel Club from Alberta, Canada, will be part of the Grand Concert Chorus and also perform independently. Two groups from Switzerland—the Quartet Family Weingart, www.jodler-egge.ch, and Chorli, www.choer.li—are on tap to provide entertainment several times.

This triennial international Sangerfest features singing and yodeling, dancing and alphorns, and is highlighted on Saturday evening by the **Grand Concert of over 250 voices** with each singer in traditional Swiss costume. The 4-star Hotel Murano will be the host hotel and you can book directly via www.hotelmuranotacoma.com. The Hotel has 250 rooms for our event at a rate of \$159.00 per night plus 13.5% hotel occupancy tax. Transportation to the Hotel Murano from the

airport, bus, or train station will not be provided. You can register, order, and pay for badges online using the official website www.swiss-sangerfest-tacoma-2014.org. Anyone wishing to register and order a badge by mail can send a cheque to the address provided on the website. We have set the badge prices at \$280 for non-singers and \$230 for singers.

Thursday, July 10: Registration & welcome reception dinner at Hotel Murano

Friday, July 11: Non-singer cruise from Tacoma to Quartermaster Harbor aboard the Royal Argosy; Grand Concert at Hotel Murano Pavilion followed by reception buffet

Saturday, July 12: Guest society singing performance, lunch, dinner, and dance at the Swiss Sportmen's Club in Bonney Lake

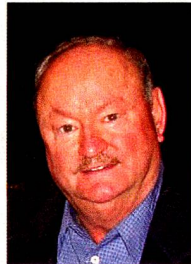
Sunday, July 13: Interfaith worship service followed by Grand Banquet at Hotel Murano.

The non-singer excursion will be a cruise aboard the Royal Argosy, departing and returning to the Museum of Glass dock, only a five minute shuttle or fifteen minute walk from our hotel, The Hotel Murano. Aboard the cruise to Quartermaster Harbor on Vashon Island, you will enjoy a luncheon buffet set on linen covered tables with china and silverware while being entertained by Quartet Family Weingart and Chorli. The Royal Argosy accommodates up to 600 passengers, and non badge holders will have the opportunity to buy tickets for the cruise.

Rolf A. Bruhart, Past-President of the USSSPC and Sangervater, rbrulhart@hotmail.com

Delegue au Conseil de l'Organisation des Suisses de l'Etranger pour l'est du Canada (OSE) Delegate & Council Member of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad Eastern Canada (OSA)

Ne a Bale il y a 72 ans et vit depuis 1967 a Montreal. Marie en 1985. Travaille comme transitaire international (logistique de fret) pendant 50 ans pour Agility Logistics, les dernier six ans comme Vice-President senior. Re-traite depuis six ans. Membre des Organisations Suisses: Swiss National Society (Tresorier); La Chambre de Commerce Canado-Suisse (Vice-President); Helvetia Seniors Club; Societe Suisse Romande; Compagnie des Vignolants du Vignoble Neuchatelais (Directoire).



Bruno Setz

Born 72 years ago in Basel; resident of Montreal for 47 years. Married since 1985, no children. I worked in freight logistics during 50 years for Agility Logistics, during the last six years as Senior Vice-President. Retired since six years. Member of the: Swiss National Society (Treasurer); Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (Vice-President); Helvetia Seniors Club; Societe Suisse Romande; Compagnie des Vignolants du Vignoble Neuchatelais (Director).

Bruno Setz est un membre du Conseil et Delegue pour OSE depuis 2009. Bruno Setz is Council Member and Delegate for OSA since 2009. Contactez Bruno a/You can reach Bruno at: 297 rue Corot, Ile des Soeurs, Verdun, Quebec H3E 1K8. Telephone/Residence (514) 767-5123, Cellulaire/Cell.: (514) 952-4010, Courriel/e-mail: brunosetz@videotron.ca



Organisation des Suisses de l'Etranger www.aso.ch



Organisation of the Swiss Abroad www.aso.ch



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4 *Vancouver Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association*

With a very well attended Annual General Meeting and a fun 10m Schützenfest behind us, it is time to start the outdoor shooting season again. This year, we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our Club, and we are very excited to have 50 successful and accident free years behind us! Approximately 50 visitors from Switzerland are planning to attend our Celebration on October 3rd through 5th, 2014. Stay tuned for upcoming details of the actual celebration.

2014 EVENTS

- Sat., April 12th:** Workparty combined with Clubhouse cleaning
- Sunday, April 13th:** Championship all Ranges
- Sunday, April 27th:** Championship all Ranges
- Sunday, May 4th:** Championship all Ranges-Trap
- Saturday, May 10th:** Workparty
- Sat/Sun, May 17/18th:** 50m&300m Feldstich-Feldschiessen-Trap
- Sun., June 1st:** Visit MSV Wangs-Championship all Ranges-Trap
- Sat., June 7th:** Workparty
- Sat., June 14th:** Championship all Ranges-13h Br. Huber Shoot
- Sun., July 6th:** 9h Mountain Range Match-13h Volksschiessen
- Sat., July 19th:** Workparty
- Sun., July 20th:** Championship all Ranges-Trap
- Sat, July 26th:** NATIONAL DAY Celebration

Even if you are not an active shooting fan, you are still welcome to visit us on any scheduled shooting day. Lunch is available from 12:00 to 1:00 pm for a reasonable price. Have you checked out our brand new web page yet? Do not miss it! Go to: www.scmra.ca. There is a lot of information about the history of the Club. I wish you all a successful shooting season.



Marlies Baumann,
Membership Secretary(604) 298-3021



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.

CONTACTEZ BERNARD LETTE À

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Message du Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal

NOUVELLE CONSULE HONORAIRE DE SUISSE À QUÉBEC



Marina Belzile, Consul Général
Beat Kaser, et Gérard Philippin
lors du passage de consignes

Le mandat de notre consul honoraire de Suisse à Québec, M. Gérard Philippin, a pris fin le 31 décembre 2013. Nous remercions chaleureusement M. Philippin et son épouse, qui l'a secondé dans l'accomplissement de ces fonctions pendant les 12 années d'accomplissement de cette charge honorifique en faveur des ressortissants suisses ainsi que pour la sauvegarde des intérêts suisses au Québec.

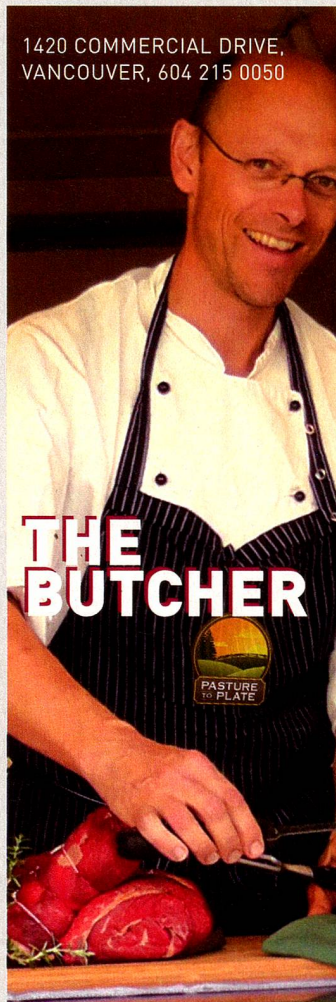
Pour le remplacer, le Gouvernement suisse a nommé le 1er Janvier 2014 Mme Marina Belzile, qui a pris officiellement ses fonctions le 10 janvier dernier.

Mme Belzile est originaire d'Arogno/TI et possède également la nationalité canadienne. Mariée et mère de deux enfants, elle est propriétaire d'une agence touristique à Québec. Elle organise et effectue aussi des visites guidées pour des particuliers et des hauts fonctionnaires étrangers, notamment sur mandat du Gouvernement québécois ou de l'Office du tourisme. Le Consulat de Suisse à Québec n'est pas habilité à fournir des services consulaires. Toute correspondance doit être envoyée au Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal. Nous nous réjouissons de travailler avec Mme Belzile pour affirmer la présence de la Suisse à Québec.

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Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir



We just had a good evening singing and being adjudicated at the annual Alberta Choral-Fest. We received some valuable feedback and constructive criticism, which we will be able to apply when we prepare for the next performances.

2014 EVENTS

Sun., April 27, 11:00 am: Annual Swiss Brunch at La Ronde Revolving Restaurant, Chateau Lacombe Hotel, 10111 Bellamy Hill, Edmonton. Fantastic brunch and delightful company!

Adults \$35; Children 12 and under \$14; Children four and under no charge. ESS and ESMCA Members will pay the server directly with either cash or credit card. RSVP by April 17th, 2014, to Priska at telephone (780) 464-3865 or karlstrickler@shaw.ca

Sun., April 27th 3:00 pm: A Springtime of Brass with Mission Hill Brass Band www.missionhillbrass.ca. Special Guest: The Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir at the St. Albert United Church, 20 Green Grove Drive, St. Albert

Sat., May 3rd: "Run for Music". For more information check out the following link: <http://www.albertachoralfederation.ca/runformusic.asp>

Sat., June 7th: The choir sings at the Edmonton Swiss Society's annual "Landesgemeinde" at the Ol' MacDonald's Resort near Stettler. Details TBA

Sat., June 14th: Spring Concert at St. Basil's Cultural Center featuring the screening/premiere of the film «Swiss Guides in the Rockies» in collaboration with the Swiss Consulate General and Consul General Urs Strausak

Thur., July 10th – Sunday, July 13th: 28th Pacific Coast Swiss Singing & Yodeling Festival in Tacoma, WA. For details, see: <http://www.swiss-sangerfest-tacoma-2014.org/>

Sat., November 1st: Annual Winzerfest—Concert with fine dining and dancing at the Cultural Centre of St. Basil's in Edmonton. We are always looking for new members. If you are interested to join us or to participate at one of the above events, contact us through our website: www.esmca.ca

Peter Thut, Secretary, secretary@esmca.ca

Calgary Swiss Cultural Group

There have been many exciting developments at the Swiss Cultural Society of Calgary. This also includes our annual celebrations that are growing in interest along with the activities within them. Last year's August 1st celebration featured a fun Swiss Trivia Game, so who knows what this year's events might hold.

There are many reasons why the Swiss come to settle in the Calgary area. One very good reason might be the close proximity to the familiar backdrop of the mountains. So, to satisfy the mountaineer in many of us, we are hosting group hikes, catered to both young and old, right here within the Foothills and the Canadian Rockies. And there is definitely something enchanting about "breaking bread" together over a nice lunch on the side of a trail or overlooking a breathtaking scenery!

Another exciting point of interest for the Swiss Cultural



Society of Calgary is the implementation of the Youth Leadership Program. Designed to create a place where both children and young adults from 12 to 20 years of age can come together to learn and grow within their own leadership, along with discovering skills or interests that they may not have even know they had. We all have within us a desire to help or make a difference in our world, however small or great we want this to be for us. Within this environment, tools and initiatives are provided to offer the skills to succeed, not just today, but later in life, too. Our first mission will be to participate in Calgary's annual Pathway and River Clean-up on Sunday May 4th where our Society is registered as a group and where we can come together to help make Calgary a cleaner city, promote environmental stewardship, and create awareness to our Swiss Culture within the highly eclectic Calgary community.

Friends, family, and neighbors are always welcome to take part in the many festivities enjoyed within our community. So please consult our Calendar of Events featured on our website at www.SwissClubsCalgary.com.

Sonja Gosteli, President, (403) 809-6848
President@SwissClubsCalgary.com

Saskatoon Swiss Club Saskatoon

We held our annual Raclette lunch on Sunday, March 2nd at the home of Annemarie and Heinz Buchmann-Gerberin Saskatoon. Despite the cold weather, 22 hungry attendees came, and ate, and were happy. Donated desserts were enjoyed by everyone. After lunch, some of us practiced our Jass game in anticipation of our next event, the Jass Tournament. The Jass Tournament will be held on **Sunday, April 27th** at noon at the home of Rosa and Georg Nievergelt, in Warman. Warman is a rapidly growing town just north of Saskatoon, about a 20 minute drive.

Our summer events are being planned, and we will have our **June picnic/BBQ** at the home of Sarah Huizing, daughter of Lydia and Hannes Eymann. Sarah lives on a dairy farm north of Osler, SK, and we are still planning the date for a Sunday in June. Our 1st of August party has been set for **Saturday, August 2nd** at the park in Warman. More information about these two events will be coming out in our spring newsletter, which will be available in May. You can also contact the club at swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com.

We would like to congratulate the following members on reaching milestone birthdays: **Bruno Koch**, January 6th, 70 years of age; **Rosemarie Elinger**, April 22nd, 80 years of age, and **Emil Eigenmann**, May 5th, 60 years of age. Many happy returns!

Elisabeth Elinger, President
(306) 665-6039

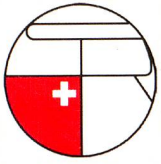
Vancouver Swiss Choir

June 7th, 7pm: Annual Spring Concert 2014 at the Austrian Vancouver Club, 5851 Westminster Hwy. Please join us for our annual fundraiser with new and old songs, yodeling and some surprises, too. Our guests will be the Austrian Melodie Singers who, along with their lovely club house, will be opening their kitchen for us to enjoy their famous Schnitzel plate, at a very reasonable price. Doors open 5:30 pm. Hope to see you there!

Melanie Crook, Vice-Coordinator

Montréal

Société Suisse Romande



La Société Suisse Romande célèbre son 60^e anniversaire en 2014 et a donné le coup d'envoi lors de son assemblée générale annuelle, le 23 février. Pour souligner officiellement son 60^e, un repas sera offert aux membres à l'Euro-Spa dans les Cantons de l'est le 27 avril prochain.

ÉVÉNEMENTS 2014

Outre ce repas officiel, voici nos prochaines manifestations: Pique-nique familial, le **dimanche 15 juin**. La fête du 1^{er} Août au Mont Sutton, le Valais est à l'honneur cette année. Comme plusieurs clubs suisses, la SSR et ses membres s'impliquent lors de l'organisation de cette grande fête. Nous recherchons des bénévoles pour donner un peu de leur temps durant la fête et lors du montage et du démontage du site. Vous pouvez nous communiquer vos noms et disponibilités en écrivant à societesuisse.romande@gmail.com. Toutes nos activités sont annoncées sur notre site web: www.societesuisseromande.org/ch/ et sur la plate-forme des Suisses de l'étranger: www.swisscommunity.org. Suivez-nous sur les réseaux sociaux Facebook www.facebook.com/societesuisseromande, Twitter et Flickr. Devenir membre vous intéresse? Écrivez-nous à societesuisseromande@gmail.com.

Alfred Delaquais, Secrétaire
alfred_delaquais@yahoo.ca

Montreal Helvetia Seniors Club



All Swiss with their partners are welcome to join our 90 members group, starting the 11th year of existence. We meet in a restau-

rant every 3rd Thursday for a luncheon from 11am to 2pm (except July, August & December) with lectures, entertainment and meetings.

Tous les Suisses et leurs conjoints et invités sont les bienvenus. Venez rejoindre nos 90 membres nous commençons le 11^{ième} Anniversaire d'existence du club. Nous nous rencontrons de 11h à 2h pour un déjeuner le 3^{ième} jeudi de chaque mois (excepté juillet, août et décembre).

June 19th, 2014: Bison Farm St. Prosper de Champlain and visit the Pilgrimage Church at Cap de Madeleine. Departure 9am, return between 6 and 7pm. Cost for paid up members \$70; non-members \$80. Includes bustrip (56 seats available), visit and see the bison close-up, lunch buffet consisting of bison meatpie, sausage, stew and roastbeef, salad and potatoes, taxes and service. Afterwards we will visit the Church Notre Dame Du Cap. The church was built entirely of stone around the 1700's and is the only one left standing in good condition. Family, friends and children welcome. For more information, reservation and payment before May 15, 2014, please contact:

Barbara Gasser, President
(450) 687-5256, 1060 Ave. Effingham, Laval Qc, H7W 4C2

Montreal Matterhorn Swiss Club

Our Annual General Meeting was held at Terra Mare Restaurant where we enjoyed another delicious dinner. Our committee for 2014 remains unchanged: President: Walter Spirig, Vice-President: Christian Walz, Treasurer: Gilbert Berthoud, Secretary: Joanne Spirig, Member-at-large: Annelise Oppliger.

Our most recent event was the very popular Winter Fun

Montréal

Fédération des sociétés Suisses de l'est du Canada



Chers lecteurs, chères lectrices: La Fédération des Sociétés Suisses de l'Est du Canada vous invite à notre Fête Nationale Suisse 2014 qui aura lieu le samedi 2 août au Mont Sutton, avec pour thème le canton du Valais. Les festivités commenceront déjà le vendredi 1^{er} août en après-midi, avec du folklore dans le village de Sutton. La Fête aura lieu principalement le samedi 2 août au pied du Mont Sutton, qu'il pleuve ou qu'il vente.

Chaque année, il nous faut plus de 100 bénévoles pour nous aider à organiser la Fête Nationale Suisse la plus grande à l'extérieur du pays natal...vous pouvez vous inscrire en tant que bénévole, auprès de votre club ou société ou en écrivant à info@fedesuisse.com. Pour des nouvelles ou plus d'information visitez: www.fedesuisse.com. On se voit donc à Sutton, Votre comité 2014.

Montreal

Federation of Swiss Societies of Eastern Canada



Dear readers, The Federation of Swiss Societies of Eastern Canada invites you to our 2014 Swiss National Day Celebration, Saturday August 2nd, under the banner of the canton of Wallis, at Mount Sutton, QC. The festivities start already on Friday afternoon, August 1st in the village of Sutton with folklore presentations. The main event will take place on Saturday at the foot of Mount Sutton, rain or shine.

Each year we depend on over one hundred volunteers to help us organize the Swiss National Celebration, the world's largest outside of its native country. Please sign up as a volunteer with your club or by writing to info@fedesuisse.com. For more news and information, please log on to: www.fedesuisse.com. We hope to meet you, all in Sutton! Your 2014 committee.

Weekend at Mont-Tremblant. This year, the weather was absolutely perfect, and those present enjoyed



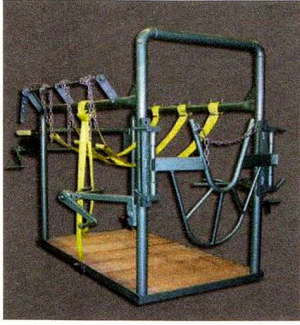
walking in the woods, snowshoeing, cross-country and downhill skiing. Some even enjoyed the sunshine up on the roof terrace! On Saturday evening, after the traditional fondue supper, Henry Oppliger brought out his ac-

cordion; the club provided the songbooks, and so we had a fun evening of singing, dancing and joke telling.

Plans are under way for a June outing which will include a walk at Cooper Marsh in Lancaster, ON, followed by a visit to a large dairy farm in nearby Bainsville. As this event was very popular once before, we expect to have another good turnout this time. We hold five or six events outings each year, and we are pleased to say these are always well-attended. We continue to welcome new members to our club as well.

Walter Spirig, President
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Radio Tell und Radio Heimatklang haben fusioniert. Das neue Radio Tell steht ganz im Dienst der Schweizer Volksmusik und kann via Internetstream unter www.radiotell.ch gehoert werden. Viel Spass!

Montreal

Swiss Women's Club Edelweiss

Since no-one stood for President during our AGM on January 14th, we elected to continue without, and also to modify our yearly schedule of meetings. In 2014, we will meet on **March 11th, June 10th, September 9th and October 14th**, as well as have our usual Spring and Fall outings. The 2014 Bazaar will be held on **November 15th** at the Haus der Heimat in Dorval.

During our March meeting, we allocated \$7,000 as donations to local charities which we support on a yearly basis. These monies are a direct result of the Bazaar. We thank all our supporters and volunteers for the success of the 2013 Bazaar; it wouldn't happen without you! A special thanks to all the knitters, bakers and cooks. We always welcome new members. Come see us at the Haus der Heimat, 375 Louise-Lamy, Dorval, at one of our meetings, or write to us.

Durant l'AGM du 14 janvier dernier, malgré l'absence de nouvelle présidente, nos membres ont opté pour la continuation du club sans présidente. Nous avons également révisé notre liste annuelle de réunions. En 2014, nous nous réunirons **le 11 mars, 10 juin, 9 septembre et 14 octobre**, en plus de nos sorties de printemps et d'automne. Le Bazar 2014 aura lieu **le 15 novembre** au Haus der Heimat à Dorval.

Lors de notre réunion de mars, nous avons alloué \$7 000 en dons à des œuvres caritatives régionales que nous appuyons sur une base annuelle. Cette somme provient directement des recettes du Bazar. Nous tenons à remercier tous nos commanditaires et bénévoles. Sans vous, il n'y aurait pas de Bazar! Un merci tout spécial aux tricoteuses, pâtissières et cuisinières.

Les nouvelles venues sont toujours les bienvenues. Venez nous rencontrer au Haus der Heimat, 375 Louise-Lamy, Dorval à l'occasion d'une de nos réunions ou écrivez-nous.



Swiss Women's Club Edelweiss
301 Dorval Ave., Suite 144, Dorval, QC H9S 3H6
Erika Schimann erikapierre@msn.com ou/or
Eveline Hauri, (514) 703-8563, evelinehauri@gmail.com

Montréal L'amicale Suisse Romande

L'amicale Suisse des Laurentides, est un regroupement de personnes, qui se retrouvent pour causeries, rendez-vous amical dans nos vallons Laurentiens,



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Gérard Herrmann, President
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Gérard Herrmann
Christine Rossier

En 2001, la famille de Bernadette Bender, son fils Sébastien et sa fille Nadine tous deux dans la vingtaine-Roduit, ont émigré avec leurs amis à quatre pattes, trois chiens et un chat, de la Suisse au Canada. Qu'est-ce qui les a poussés à quitter leur climat tempéré du pittoresque village valaisan de Saillon (2500 habit.) pour entamer une nouvelle vie dans le village québécois de Tadoussac (813 habit.) sis au confluent des rivières St-Laurent et du Saguenay? Bernadette rit en se souvenant: «Nous voulions explorer un nouveau mode de vie dans un autre pays et nous avons hésité entre le Canada et l'Australie en raison de ses grands espaces.»

Mais le Canada est devenu rapidement le pays de leur choix. Comme l'explique Nadia: «Nous avons trouvé une publicité sur Internet pour la vente d'un domaine de 69 arpents avec dix chalets. Le Domaine des Dunes. Il a aiguisé notre intérêt et après une correspondance par mail avec les propriétaires, nous avons décidé de visiter en janvier 2001 la propriété. «Malgré l'abondance de neige, des températures de -35 degrés et les chalets tous fermés pour la saison, les trois Bender sont tombés en pâmoison devant le charme de la région de Tadoussac, sise dans la partie continentale de la Nouvelle-France du 17e siècle. En charriant, Sébastien a lancé: «Nous avons trouvé la région et l'endroit si magnifiques en hiver qu'elle doit être encore plus étonnante en été!» Les Bender ont été immédiatement charmés par la

beauté des Glaces dans la baie; le fjord du Saguenay, le fleuve St-Laurent, et la neige immaculée. «Et nous ne pouvions imaginer plus belles les dunes de sable fin sous la neige dont nous avons entendu parler!» ajoute Sébastien. La décision a été prise et Sébastien revint bientôt pour acquérir les ficelles du métier et écouter les conseils des précédents propriétaires. Cette prise en charge fut bénéfique pour les Bender qui se sont familiarisés dans l'art de l'hospitalité. Un défi et une belle expérience!


Le 11 septembre 2001, alors qu'ils étaient conduits à l'aéroport de Kloten, ils ont entendu parler à la radio des événements tragiques des tours jumelles à New York. À Zurich, tous les vols étaient annulés. Il n'y avait rien d'autre à faire que de s'inscrire sur une liste d'attente et de retourner à la maison à Saillon et attendre la suite des nouvelles. Après quelques semaines, la compagnie aérienne a appelé et, une fois de plus, toute la famille et les animaux se sont rendus à l'aéroport, avec arrivée à bon port à Montréal le 1er octobre 2001. Une date historique et une chance pour eux car Swissair cessait toute activité sur cette ligne aérienne le lendemain! Les Bender se mirent au travail et n'ont jamais reculé. En 2005, ils avaient aménagé une dizaine de sites avec service complet et plus de 40 places de tentes, au cœur de leur forêt boréale bordant les rives du Saint-Laurent. Quelques années plus tard, deux chalets de luxe ont été ajoutés avec bain tourbillon et vue sur le fleuve. Vers l'été, un parcours finlandais de



La Famille Bender



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2 km a été construit avec une sensibilisation sur la faune et la flore.

Les visiteurs et les invités peuvent profiter du confort de la place, du service personnalisé et chaleureux imprégné du respect des Bender pour la préservation de cet environnement naturel. Avec plus de 400 ans, Tadoussac est la plus ancienne colonie européenne continuellement habitée au Canada, et le plus ancien village français des Amériques. L'eau fraîche de la rivière Saguenay et l'eau chaude salée du Saint-Laurent se rencontrent ici pour créer un environnement marin riche, conférant un endroit idéal et attrayant pour les baleines. Ouvert toute l'année, le Domaine des Dunes est d'un attrait indé-

nié pour le village. Les visiteurs ont la chance de côtoyer des animaux sauvages. Des orignaux, chevreuils, écureuils, ours noirs et plus encore.

Quand vous arrivez dans cet endroit, vous serez épatés par les services et activités toutes proches. Vous serez probablement accueillis d'abord par Sugus, le saint-bernard de 8 ans, chien né en Suisse dont la tâche est de garder le domaine. Ce havre de paix enchantera petits et grands qui pourront recharger leurs batteries et profiter d'un sentiment de bien-être en communion avec la nature. Les Bender, leur personnel et Sugus vous attendent.

Silvia Schoch

OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONS / OSA DELEGATES & HONORARY CONSULS / MEDIA DATA

Swiss Representations in Canada
Embassy Ottawa Tel. (613) 235-1837
Consulate Montréal Tel. (514) 932-7181
Consulate Vancouver T (604) 684-2231
**Editor Regional News Canada and
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Silvia Schoch, Tel. (250) 385-7844, E-
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OSA Delegates Eastern Canada
Bruno Setz, Montréal, QC, brunosetz@
videotron.ca; (514) 767-5123. **Kati
Lyon-Villiger, Ottawa ON,** kati.lyon-
villiger@hotmail.ca; (613) 523-7818.
Ernst Notz, Toronto, ON, ernst.notz@
rogers.com; (416) 473-8681.
OSA Delegate Western Canada
Silvia Schoch, Victoria, BC, silv.
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Honorary Consuls in Canada/Bahamas
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