

Regional news : Canada

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REGIONAL NEWS

CANADA

Editorial

Dear Readers:

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) - the publisher of the *Swiss Review* magazine - has given these Regional News Pages a new (light blue) look. If you would like to comment on the (hopefully) improved layout and colour scheme, please email me and I will forward your remarks to the OSA in Berne.

In this edition, you'll notice a resurgence of club activity: no less than seven Swiss Clubs report on their recent activities and plans for upcoming events, notably for actual face-to-face, in-person gathe-

rings that should allow us to rekindle a sense of belonging to a community. This positive development is a gratifying indication we've collectively managed to take a big step forward in dealing with one of the most pressing societal issues in recent times!

If you are musically inclined, and particularly if you are a member of a choir, have a look at page V. It introduces a unique, globe-spanning event (planned for September 2023) that strives to send a musical message of peace right around the world. The project initiator is a Swiss musician.

Speaking of peace, on page VIII, a member of the Swiss community here in Canada writes compellingly about animal welfare, reminding us that in the absence of peace, not only can people suffer, but animals, too!

Now, I would like to wish everyone a celebratory Swiss National Day and a glorious Canadian summer!



ANDREW VON STUERMER
REGIONAL EDITOR

avs@telus.net

Swiss Club Thames Valley

It seems there is a light at the end of the tunnel!

Finally, after two years surrounded by our four walls, we are able to breathe and move more freely again.

The Swiss Club Thames Valley has decided to have a **1st of August celebration**. It will be held on July 31, 2022 at the Monkton Community Centre and starts at 11 am.

Since the Committee was not able to come together until a few weeks ago, the planning of this event is still ongoing. I'm sure it will be great to see and talk to each other after such a long time.

Now that the restrictions have been lifted, fingers crossed it stays that way. I'm certain we will be able to hold more events again.

I hope this information finds you in good health!

MARIANNE TRACHSEL
SWISS CLUB THAMES VALLEY

Swiss Club Toronto

Join the Swiss Club Toronto to Celebrate Switzerland's 731st Birthday!

Enjoy delicious Swiss food, have a nussgipfel with a coffee, buy some souvenirs, and don't forget our famous raffle!

There will be music, kids' entertainment, and our famous raffle with fabulous gifts.

It's your chance to reconnect with Swiss friends from near and far after a long couple of years off - and meet some new ones as well!

- **When:** Sunday, July 24, 2022 from 12 pm – 5 pm;
- **Location:** German Canadian Club Hansa (Hansa Haus)
6650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, ON L5W 1N3.

Admission and parking are provided by the Swiss Club Toronto.

Please RSVP at <https://forms.gle/dTPyv7BUiGe2iJQy8>.

Best,

NADIA BERGER
PRESIDENT
SWISS CLUB TORONTO



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

Compatriotes et Ami(e)s de la Communauté Suisse,

Après ces deux années d'isolement entrecoupés de courts moments de retrouvailles, nous ressentons le besoin, et même la nécessité de se retrouver et se revoir en personne. Nous devons retrouver ce sentiment d'appartenance à une communauté. **Quoi de mieux que notre traditionnelle Fête Nationale Suisse au Mont Sutton en 2022!**

Vous lisez ces quelques lignes en juillet, mais elles ont été écrites à la fin du mois de mai. Tout semble indiqué que nous nous rencontrerons ce 30 juillet prochain. Le comité organisateur y travaille très fort, avec moins de temps de préparations.

Certaines façons de faire ont changé. Le programme annuel 2022 est seulement en virtuel sur notre site web. Financièrement, il nous est impossible de le faire imprimer et poster, ayant perdu plusieurs commanditaires. Cette année, nous n'avons pas de canton ou de région à l'honneur.

Par manque de temps, pas de billets de tombola vendus à l'avance. Par contre, il y aura vente de billets, sur place, pour un tirage de plusieurs prix de présence très intéressants.

Pour ce qui est de la Fête, la journée commencera peut-être un peu plus tard en matinée. Dû à quelques changements sur le site du Mont Sutton, la Fête se déroulera principalement sous le grand chapiteau et à l'extérieur dans le stationnement P2A.

Comme d'habitude, en journée et en soirée, plusieurs sortes de saucisses, raclette, Hot-fondue et délicieuses pâtisseries, ainsi que vins suisses et bières. Comme toujours, compétition de lutte suisse, bricolages pour les enfants, etc. Sans oublier la possibilité de prendre le télésiège et admirer le beau paysage montagneux de la région.

Directement de la Suisse, nous aurons un groupe de 6 accordéonistes, Accord'Accord (font partie des Sittelles d'Oron-la-Ville). Ainsi que Brigitta Röösl, yodleuse du canton de Lucerne. Et nos groupes musicaux locaux habituels: Mont-Gleason Chörli, rouleurs d'écu, MGv Harmonie, Maria et Heinz (Jodelduett), soliste Eric Dupasquier, ainsi que Coralpestres et Quintette de cuivres de l'Union Musicale d'Iberville...sans oublier les Sonneurs de Cloches.

Pour de l'informations plus récente, visitez notre site internet www.fedesuisse.com et continuez à nous suivre sur Facebook www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse/.

Nous vous attendons avec impatience le samedi 30 juillet 2022 au Mont Sutton!

VOTRE COMITÉ 2022

Dear Swiss Community; Dear Friends:

After these past two years of isolation - punctuated by brief moments of reunion - we now feel the need, even the necessity, to meet and see each other in person again. We have to rediscover that sense of belonging to a community. **What better way than to celebrate our traditional Swiss National Day at Mont Sutton in 2022!**

You are reading this in July, but it was written at the end of May. There is every indication that we will meet up this coming July 30. The organising committee is working very hard on this, albeit with less time to prepare.

There will be a few changes: The 2022 annual programme will only be available virtually from our website. Having lost several sponsors, it is financially impossible for us to have it printed and mailed out. This year, we won't have a theme canton or region. Due to a lack of time, no raffle tickets will be sold in advance. On the other hand, there will be ticket sales onsite for a draw of several great door prizes.

As for the Festival, the event may start a little later in the morning. Due to several changes on the Mont Sutton site, celebrations will take place mainly under the big top, as well as outside on the P2A parking lot.

As usual, several kinds of sausages, raclette, hot fondue, and delicious pastries, as well as beers and Swiss wines will be available during the day and in the evening. As always, there will be a Swiss wrestling competition, crafts for the children, and more. And let's not forget, you can take the chairlift and admire the region's beautiful mountain landscape.

Directly from Switzerland, we will have Accord'Accord (part of Les Sittelles d'Oron-la-Ville), a group of six accordionists. We will also have Brigitta Röösl, a yodeler from the canton of Lucerne.

And there will be our usual local bands: Mont-Gleason Chörli, Taler-schwingen, MGv Harmonie, Maria and Heinz (Jodelduett), soloist Eric Dupasquier, as well as Les Coralpestres and the Quintette de cuivres de l'Union Musicale d'Iberville ... and not to forget, the Cow Bell Ringers.

For the most up-to-date information, visit our website www.fedesuisse.com and continue to follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse/.

We look forward to seeing you at Mont Sutton on Saturday, July 30, 2022!

YOUR 2022 COMMITTEE



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Important Message to Swiss Citizens Residing in Ontario

Swiss Consular Days – Due to a lack of resources, the Consular Days planned for Toronto this fall will be postponed to 2023. The dates are yet to be determined; further information will follow as soon as it becomes available.

In the meantime, you can always book an appointment in Montreal using the online platform www.passeportsuisse.ch / www.schweizerpass.ch, or – with two months' notice and subject to availability – you may choose another processing centre and take advantage of a trip to Switzerland, or elsewhere, to renew your passport. Special requests should be made in the remarks section of the application, for example:

- Abroad – at another representation;
- In Switzerland – at a cantonal passport office;
- During our pre-announced Consular Days.

For details about our consular services, please visit www.eda.admin.ch/montreal and select the desired subject matter under “Services”.

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

Avis important aux citoyens suisses résidant en Ontario

Journées consulaires suisses – En raison d'un manque de ressources, les journées consulaires prévues à Toronto cet automne seront reportées à 2023. Les dates n'ont pas encore été déterminées, des informations supplémentaires suivront dès qu'elles seront disponibles.

Au besoin, il est toujours possible de prendre rendez-vous par le biais de la plateforme www.passeportsuisse.ch à Montréal ou – avec un préavis de deux mois et selon les disponibilités – choisir un autre centre de saisie et profiter d'un voyage en Suisse ou ailleurs pour renouveler votre passeport. Les requêtes particulières doivent être indiquées dans les remarques de la demande, par exemple:

- À l'étranger – auprès d'une autre représentation
- En Suisse – auprès d'un bureau cantonal des passeports
- Dans le cadre de nos journées consulaires préalablement annoncées.

Pour en savoir plus sur nos services consulaires, consultez notre site internet www.eda.admin.ch/montreal et sélectionnez le sujet souhaité sous « Services ».

Podcast "From the Alps to the Rockies"

The Swiss representations in Canada invite you to discover the 3rd season of their podcast "From the Alps to the Rockies"! Celebrating the unique connections between Switzerland and Canada, the podcast features personalities from various backgrounds with extraordinary stories that bring together our two nations. Professional experiences, challenges, and successes are shared in French or English. Topics range from culture, immigration, and sports to education, science, and the environment. Several interviews full of anecdotes and Swiss references await you!

Each new segment is launched on the website dedicated to the podcast and through the Facebook pages of each Swiss representation in Canada. The content is available on iTunes, Spotify, and YouTube. **Tune in ... there is content for everyone!**

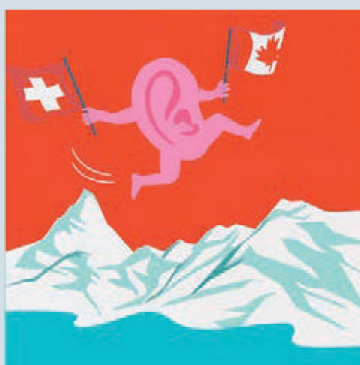


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Balado « Des Alpes aux Rocheuses »

Les représentations suisses au Canada vous invitent à découvrir la 3e saison de leur podcast « Des Alpes aux Rocheuses » ! Célébrant les liens uniques entre la Suisse et le Canada, il présente des personnalités aux histoires extraordinaires qui rapprochent nos deux pays. Ces dernières vous livrent leurs expériences, en anglais ou en français, et vous font part de leurs défis et succès. De culture à l'éducation, en passant par la science, l'environnement, l'immigration et les sports, des entretiens au contenu truffés d'anecdotes et de références helvétiques vous attendent!

Chaque nouveau segment est lancé sur la page internet dédiée à ce balado et par le biais des pages Facebook respectives de chaque représentation. Ces contenus se trouvent sur iTunes, Spotify ou encore YouTube. **Ouïe! Il y en a pour tous les goûts ...**

LIENS / LINKS

Podcast

Website: bit.ly/3weAdJt

iTunes: apple.co/3k3zkgE

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Vancouver

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Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association (Metro Vancouver)

Since COVID restrictions eased off a bit, we were able to put the 2022 programme calendar together - you can view it on our website www.scmra.ca.

We already had a few practice and competition days, plus three very successful work-parties. There is never a shortage of work, and the interior of the Chalet needs to be looked after.

On June 18, we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the official opening of our beautiful Clubhouse - hard to believe!

The first of August will be celebrated on July 31 with a shooting club visiting from Switzerland.

Even if you are not a shooting fan, you are still welcome to visit us on any scheduled shooting day. Enjoy our beautiful property. With any luck, you might spot a deer or even a bear!

Lunch is available for a reasonable price from 12 pm - 1 pm, while quantities last; one menu is prepared by a volunteer.

Have a great summer!

MARLIES BAUMANN

Matterhorn Swiss Club (Montreal)

Greetings from the Matterhorn Swiss Club in Montreal!

After two years, we finally held our first get-together again, combining the AGM with a typical "Cabane à sucre" lunch at the Sucrierie de la Montagne in Rigaud. We enjoyed a delicious lunch in a rustic, old-time environment with lots of good food, music, and atmosphere.

Our committee members were all willing to continue in their current roles, so the committee remains as follows:

- President: Walter Spirig
- Vice-President: Peter Aschwanden
- Treasurer: Gilbert Berthoud
- Secretary: Joanne Spirig
- Member-at-Large: Astrid Aschwanden
- Heidi Berthoud is our additional helper, and Jack Schiess will continue as Auditor.

We are in the early stages of planning a couple more events for 2022. Members will be advised.

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

WALTER SPIRIG, PRESIDENT
514 - 694 - 3718



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Swiss Club Saskatoon

Our monthly Lunch Club has started going out again to different restaurants in and around Saskatoon. We go on the third Thursday of the month, and the list of restaurants and dates / times are published in our newsletter. This is a great way to try out some restaurants and get together for a short visit over a good meal.

We are planning two outdoor summer events:

- A summer BBQ will be held at noon on Sunday, June 12 at the acreage of Elisabeth and Kaspar Wirz;
- Our 1st of August / Bundesfeier celebration will be held at noon on Sunday, August 7 at the acreage of Dora and Max Hug.

For additional information, refer to our newsletter.

If you are not on our contact list and would like to receive information about our Club, please 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



To embrace world peace
with music ...

On **September 21, 2023** - the International Day of Peace - this major event will take place on many stages around the world. The event is based on an idea by Swiss musician and project initiator Helena Röösl.

On this day, choirs around the world will perform *The Peacemakers*, a composition for choir and orchestra by Karl Jenkins. Based on the different time zones, the words of peace in this musical work will resound around the globe uninterrupted for 24 hours.

Give peace a voice! With this idea and unique message of peace, the organisers are hoping to send out a signal for worldwide solidarity and human dignity, an issue more relevant and urgent than ever!

At the concert in Switzerland, Lea Suter – the activist peacemaker and UN peace representative – will demonstrate her experience in the field. Her impressive portraits of current peacemakers from war zones will accompany the concert and strengthen the musical appeal for the global search for peace. «*An appeal to all of us, wherever we are, to contribute to an uncompromising desire for peace and a 'never-again-war' attitude*». (Lea Suter – www.peaceprints.ch)

The association **TimeDate** (<https://timedate.ch>) - headquartered in Lucerne, Switzerland - is responsible for organising this unique world-wide musical event. Globally, we are looking for enthusiastic choirs, supportive sponsors, and creative contributors, who, through music, would like to strengthen positive peace efforts throughout the world. **We are looking for you!**

- To contact us, please email info@timedate.ch.



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Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir Association

Kate Wilson: Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir Returns to Make a Joyful (and Healthy!) Noise

The following text is a reprint of an article by Kate Wilson that appeared on AlbertaPrimeTimes.com on March 10, 2022.

It's been two years since members of the Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir (ESMC) have been able to sing together, and the news they can now resume is a much-anticipated chance to recruit members. Spoiler: you don't have to be Swiss to be part of the choir.

"We stopped weekly practices mid-March 2020, and because of Omicron, we've just restarted," said ESMC president Hans Voegeli, who co-founded the choir in 1980. "Due to COVID and other reasons, we lost several members. We're always looking for new singers."

When he arrived in Canada in 1974, singing wasn't top of mind: Voegeli says he wasn't even supposed to stay. But after marriage and kids, "You could say I got stuck. We never went back."

Because of Voegeli's career in hospitality, the choir's launch 40 years ago meant most initial members were in the same vocation. "I was working at the restaurant downtown and the chef there, he started the choir with another Swiss chef," he said. "Most of us guys, we were more or less the same age. We had young families, we hung out together."

Many of those first members had no extended family in Canada, Voegeli adds, so the camaraderie that grew naturally was an important factor in the choir's success. Ron Marcinkoski, who thought he was a tenor but found out he's actually a baritone after he joined in 2006, says his reason for joining -- to stoke friendships -- has more than paid off. "Guys don't have a lot of friends, not the same kind of friends that women do," said Marcinkoski, choir vice-president and a recently retired pharmacist. "Now I have thirty guys that I'm friends with."

The friendship and song happens under the watchful eye of the lone female aboard: ESMC artistic director Liz Anderson, who has conducted the choir since 1987. "I love choral music. It's the kind of music that touches me and other people most deeply, because it's made with the human voice," said the award-winning choral director and ESMC conductor. "And for the singer, music utilizes both hemispheres of the brain, so it's a good brain-building activity."

"People have been cooped up, and we know singing is good for your health, it's good for depression," said Marcinkoski, noting the mood-enhancing hormones dopamine and oxycontin naturally go up in the body when singing. The deep breathing associated with singing is also conducive to stress relief.

Choir singing has, in fact, been shown to improve mood and induce a sense of social closeness. A 2017 study at the University of Regensburg showed while twenty minutes of choir or solo singing boosts happiness and decreases sadness and worry, the positive effects of singing in a group were more pronounced. Perhaps it's why, around the globe during the pandemic -- in Milan where citizens sang the national anthem from balconies, and Australia's Pub Choir, which became virtual in over 40 countries -- people were singing to boost happiness: to restore lost connections and relieve the stress of lockdown restrictions.

Voegeli says he appreciates the discipline that has brought the Swiss Men's choir acclaim, a selection of CDs, and touring dates. Beyond concerts in Alberta and Canada, the ESMC has toured in Switzerland and South America and performed in the U.S. as members of the North American Swiss Singing Alliance, for which they hosted the Sängersfest in 2000.

Choral singing is a deep part of Swiss culture, says Voegeli, adding an organized choral association in Switzerland goes back to the 1600s. "There were choirs in every little village. People would get together to sing and yodel. There were no TVs, no cinema." The ESMC repertoire reflects that tradition, with songs sung in German, Swiss German, Italian, French, English, and Ukrainian. The choir has also commissioned works by Canadian and Swiss composers.

The choir practices Tuesdays at 7:30 at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Edmonton. Contact Hans at president@esmca.ca or 780 940 2459 to find out more.

KATE WILSON
ALBERTAPRIMETIMES.COM

LETTE
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Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir Association

Dear Friends and Kamerade:

It is with great sadness that I inform you that our Kamerad, friend, and Founding Choir Member **Thomas Huwiler** passed away on March 8, 2022 at age 85.

As a Founding Member of the Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir (ESMC) and as a most active member of the Edmonton Swiss Society, Tom was a well-known backbone within the Swiss Community in Edmonton and Alberta.



For many years, the Swiss Community was able to celebrate their National Holiday (August 1st) event at his farm in Beaumont. In order to welcome his guests, he never shied away from the hard work of setting up tables and benches and decorating.

In addition, he and his wife Anne would often host visiting choirs from Switzerland or South America. Following a Christmas concert in Beaumont, Huwiler's house was always open to welcoming our Choir to an "after-glow".

We remember Tom as a fellow always full of positive spirits. He was a Kamerad and singer par excellence. May he continue to inspire us!

We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to Anne, his wife of 57 years, and to their family.

HANS AND KAMERADE FOR THE ESMC

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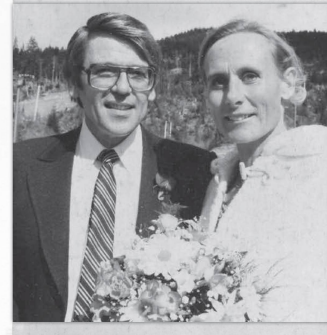
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OBITUARY



Peter Alder

May 25th, 1930 – July 13th, 2021

Born in Basel, Switzerland. Peter came to Canada in 1951 for a visit and fell in love with Canada. He worked in Kemano building power lines and then came to Squamish to work on "those beautiful necklaces," the power lines that run through Whistler. Peter and his first wife Gloria, started a family in Squamish and a building supply and concrete company (Peter Alder Co) on "Paco" Road. He was involved in a bid to build facilities at Creekside before Garibaldi Lifts. He got his big start in the ski industry when he applied for a job with the Red Mountain Ski Club in Rossland as their first professional manager. He got the position because of his work on building towers, his experience back in Switzerland with ski areas and because of his great Swiss accent. While at Red Mountain, Peter was instrumental in starting the Ski Resort Management program at Selkirk College. He moved to management positions at Silver Star, Big White and eventually came back to Whistler as the General Manager for "the ski area on the right," Whistler Mountain.

Peter met a smart, beautiful ski instructor and property developer named Trudy and they started a life together in 1981. After leaving management at Whistler Mountain, Peter worked for the Whistler Resort Association, Ecosign, and then with Al and Nancy Raine on Nancy Greene's Cahilly Lodge at Sun Peaks. Peter was always involved in his community, whether as a Rotarian, on the Chamber of Commerce, and as mentor and good friend to many. Peter promoted Whistler and the BC ski industry at every opportunity. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award in the Whistler Chamber of Commerce's Excellence Awards in 2013. In 2019 the Canada West Ski Areas Association gave Peter the Jimmie Spencer Lifetime Achievement Award.

He is survived by his wife Trudy, sister Ragi (René), children Richard (Ramona), Douglas (Kathryn) and Carol and grandchildren, Justine, Kootenay, Reanna, Cory, Robert, Sam, Brent, Lindsay, Garrett, and great-grandchildren, Walter, Margo, Aliegha, Darien and Ocean, and nieces Corinne, Yvonne (Derrick) and her children Phaedra, Ronan and Arleigh. A memorial service will be held Friday, July 23rd between 3 and 5 pm at Our Lady of the Mountains Chapel in Whistler. Space limited due to COVID protocols. Zoom link 859 2617 7995 code 913523. In lieu of flowers a donation to Whistler Food Bank or the Whistler Skiers Chapel (on CanadaHelps.org) would be appreciated. His lifelong curiosity, generosity of spirit and ready hugs will be greatly missed. To write a condolence to the family, please visit www.squamishfuneralchapel.com



Voice of the Reader - Rescuing Shell-Shocked Caged Zoo Animals in Ukraine

I witnessed first-hand what appeared to be the normal social and schooling behaviours of a well-adapted young refugee boy from the former Yugoslavia. Yet years later, triggered by an inadvertent loud 'bang', he would suddenly drop to his knees, covering head with hands in shock, cowering in fear!

My heart-strings tug amidst the intolerable suffering of animals in war zones, particularly the caged, shell-shocked zoo animals in Ukraine that cannot find a place to cower. Imagine what these animals are experiencing! Scrutinise the pictures and footage the World Wide Web offers. I cannot unsee nor squash my strong visceral empathy. These animals glare expressionless, confused, traumatised, and numb with fear. They tremble or pace constantly, as they succumb to the horrible insanity of a world turned upside down.

Physiologically, neither desensitisation nor counter-phobic training techniques work with fearful, caged zoo animals. Shell-shock becomes ingrained and does not end with cease-fire.

To their horror, several animal rescue operations found exotic animals in abandoned Ukrainian zoos that were either barely surviving or struggling with their last breath. Others had perished slowly from thirst and starvation, and some had been mercilessly tortured and killed by human aggressors.

In the Kyiv Zoo, Tori - the 47-year-old gorilla - cannot be evacuated, either due to age or red tape. The same holds true for a giraffe that also never experienced freedom, and for an elephant under constant sedation and 24/7 surveillance by its handler. Mir (along with a wolf) was however rescued. His rescuer continued Mir's welfare mission by accompanying him personally on the long journey home to a lion sanctuary in South Africa.

We salute you, you brave souls:

- For your relentless and selfless endeavours of staging several Ukraine animal rescue operations. You voluntarily travelled out-of-pocket to zoos within the red zones in Ukraine, putting your lives in grave danger while enduring the same subhuman abhorrent living conditions as the rest of the war-torn citizens;
- For your unwavering attempts and successes in cutting through time-consuming and redundant bureaucratic red tape that hinders the saving and evacuating of defenceless, caged, and shell-shocked zoo animals;
- For enduring the difficulties of scouring for scarce food and water, medical supplies, and temporary shelter to comfort and improve the

present living conditions of these magnificent animals that remain in their zoo cages and enclosures;

- For your awareness of the looming colossal postwar collateral damage. Yet you persist in demonstrating your unwavering love for these unfortunate, traumatised zoo animals that are caught in the midst of a senseless war along with their human handlers;
- For remembering and sending sincere and heartfelt condolences to the families and friends who tragically lost their heroic animal rescuers in Ukraine.

We salute you!

Collectively, we all abhor war. All wars. Whether by unwilling direct involvement, or from the periphery of a military neutral nation. There is human suffering, and there is animal suffering - both unfathomably inconceivable. To save animals is to save ourselves.

For more information on the rescue, relocation, and care of abused wildlife, please visit Warriors of Wildlife at <https://www.warriorsof-wildlife.org>.

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