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REGIONAL NEWS

CANADA

Editorial

Dear Readers: Both Switzerland and Canada are democracies - but we are reminded today (as I write this on Queen Elizabeth's funeral) that Canada is also a constitutional monarchy. In fact, it is one of the oldest continuing monarchies in the world!

Would you happen to know how many Canadian Prime Ministers have served under the Queen?

Remarkably, a dozen have come and gone during her 70-year reign. What is more, Her Majesty the Queen of Canada has met with nearly all of them (in person, that is)!

Speaking of meeting in person, in a televised broadcast that aired during the early days of the pandemic, the Queen stated: "Take comfort that while we may have more still to

endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again."

Auspiciously, we now see evidence of that throughout this issue of the Regional News. Enjoy! avs@telus.net



ANDREW VON STUERMER
REGIONAL EDITOR

Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (Western Canada)

Networking Event - Vancouver Whitecaps FC vs Chicago Fire FC

With one of Switzerland's top soccer players coming to town for a game with his club - the Chicago Fire FC - the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Western Canada (SCCC) couldn't pass up a fantastic opportunity. On July 23, the Chamber teamed up with the Vancouver Whitecaps FC to organise a special networking event for SCCC members and friends at BC Place in Vancouver.

The event started with a welcome speech by SCCC President Fabian Lemann, who highlighted great Swiss and Canadian sports successes, including both national soccer teams having qualified for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. The welcome was rounded out by Joshua Nanavaty, Vice President of Sales and Service at the Vancouver Whitecaps FC.

The stage then belonged to our guests for the much anticipated Q & A session with Axel Schuster, CEO & Sporting Director, Vancouver Whitecaps; and Georg Heitz, Sporting Director, Chicago Fire. The Q&A was moderated by Joey Kenward, On Air Host at Rogers Sports & Media. Both panelists provided interesting insights into their MLS life, including how the league differs from Europe, and what it was like settling into a new city and continent (a question our members may well relate to).



Left to right: Joey Kenward, Fabian Lemann, Axel Schuster, and Georg Heitz

Following the Q&A, and after some networking time amongst SCCC members, everyone made their way to their seats to watch the game.

Playing his first season in North America, Swiss national team star Xherdan Shaqiri was the big match winner, leading Chicago to a 3:1 win. After just 13 minutes, Shaqiri - the league's second most expensive player - amazed the roughly 15,000 fans in BC Place with a shot from 20 meters out. He also set up the final goal. Whether or not this was due to Swiss support is a matter of debate!



For many participants, the highlight of the evening came *after* the game. Thanks to our partner the Vancouver Whitecaps, SCCC members were allowed onto the soccer field and had the opportunity to take pictures with the man of the match - Xherdan Shaqiri. For many, this was a dream come true!

All the participants left with big smiles on their faces. It was a very successful SCCC event with exciting insights, new contacts, good conversations, and a lot of soccer action.





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

New Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Toronto

Nouvelle Consule honoraire de Suisse à Toronto



© A. Soriano

The Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal is pleased to introduce the newly appointed Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Toronto, **Alexandra Soriano**. Reporting directly to the Consul General of Switzerland in Montreal, Line Leon-Pernet, Ms. Soriano's duties include representing the Consulate General at various political, cultural, and economic events and developing a local network of contacts linked to Switzerland.

Our Honorary Consul provides support in emergency situations to fellow citizens who are temporarily in Toronto / GTA and Ontario, such as tourists or students. Swiss residents, however, are asked to continue to contact the Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal for any consular services.

Born in Vevey (Switzerland) in 1973, Alexandra Soriano graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management from the EHL Hospitality Business School in Lausanne. Residing in Toronto for more than 10 years, Ms. Soriano is a senior relocation consultant to international executives and a key partner for numerous Canadian and international companies. She previously held positions as director of marketing and sales in the luxury hospitality industry in Switzerland and contributed for many years to the representation of Switzerland abroad. A Swiss and Canadian citizen, she chaired the Swiss-Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Ontario for more than 5 years and will remain active as a member of the board.

Alexandra Soriano took office on September 1, 2022. As she joined the team of Honorary Consuls based in Eastern Canada, she was warmly welcomed by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal.

Le Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal est heureux de vous présenter la nouvelle Consule honoraire de Suisse à Toronto en la personne d'**Alexandra Soriano**. Dans cette fonction, elle dépend directement de la Consule générale de Suisse à Montréal, Line Leon-Pernet, et a notamment pour tâche de représenter le Consulat général lors de divers événements politiques, culturels et économiques. Mme Soriano s'efforce en outre de développer un réseau de contacts locaux liés à la Suisse.

Notre Consule honoraire offre une assistance à nos concitoyens de passage (touristes ou étudiants) qui se trouvent en situation d'urgence à Toronto / GTA et en Ontario. Les résidents suisses sont priés de continuer de contacter le Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal pour tous les services consulaires.

Née à Vevey (Suisse) en 1973, Alexandra Soriano a obtenu un bachelors en management hôtelier de l'Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne EHL. Résidant à Toronto depuis plus de 10 ans, Mme Soriano est consultante en relocation auprès de cadres internationaux et une partenaire essentielle de nombreuses entreprises canadiennes et internationales. Elle a occupé, par le passé, des postes de direction en marketing et vente dans l'hôtellerie de luxe en Suisse et a contribué pendant de nombreuses années à la représentation de la Suisse à l'étranger.

Citoyenne suisse et canadienne, elle a notamment présidé la Chambre de Commerce Suisse-Canada de l'Ontario pendant plus de 5 ans et y demeure active en tant que membre de la direction.

Alexandra Soriano a pris ses fonctions le 1er septembre 2022, elle a été chaleureusement accueillie par le Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal, alors qu'elle rejoignait l'équipe des consuls honoraires basés dans l'Est du Canada.

Matterhorn Swiss Club (Montreal)

For the first time since 2019, in mid-August we were finally able to hold our summer picnic and barbecue again. Thank you to Juerg and Myrtha Hollinger for hosting this event on their lovely waterfront property! The weather was just perfect, and we enjoyed a very pleasant Saturday afternoon. Some members played lawn games, and otherwise we just enjoyed the sausages, salads, desserts, and good conversations with friends.

We hope to meet again in November for a good dinner and informal get-together. Members will be advised. Until then, we hope that everyone stays safe and healthy. New members are always welcome.

WALTER SPIRIG, PRESIDENT.
514 - 694 - 3718



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

Présentation des nouveaux collaborateurs du Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal

Introducing New Employees at the Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal

Steffen Milner



© S. Milner

Steffen Milner est entré en fonction en tant que Chef du Swiss Business Hub Canada et Consul général adjoint le 2 août dernier. La promotion des intérêts économiques de la Suisse constitue le fil rouge de son parcours professionnel.

Diplômé de l'université de Saint-Gall (HSG), M. Milner est un romand qui a grandi sur l'arc lémanique. En 1996, il intègre le Secrétariat d'Etat à l'économie à Berne (SECO). Sur une période de 25 ans,

il occupe trois postes très différents au sein du SECO qui l'amène à effectuer de nombreuses missions en Asie, en Amérique, en Europe et en Afrique.

Ces expériences ont été entrecoupées par des emplois dans le secteur privé à Zurich (services financiers et technologie) et par une expatriation de 8 ans à Bruxelles où il a travaillé pour l'Association européenne de libre-échange (AELE) et pour l'Organisation des foncières cotées européennes (EPRA).

Steffen ainsi que sa conjointe, Florence et leur fils de 12 ans Florian, se réjouissent de rencontrer tant nos compatriotes que les Canadiens et de découvrir les merveilles de cet immense pays au cours de ces prochaines années.

Steffen Milner took up his duties as Head of the Swiss Business Hub Canada and Deputy Consul General on August 2. Promoting Switzerland's economic interests has been the common thread throughout his career.

A graduate of the University of St. Gallen (HSG), Mr. Milner grew up in the Lemanic region. In 1996, he joined the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs in Berne (SECO). Over a period of 25 years, he held three very different positions within the organisation, leading him to carry out various missions in Asia, America, Europe, and Africa.

Interspersed among these experiences were assignments in the private sector in Zurich (financial services and technology), as well as an eight-year stint in Brussels, where he worked for the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the European Listed Real Estate Association (EPRA).

Along with his wife Florence and 12-year-old son Florian, Steffen looks forward to meeting fellow citizens and Canadians and to discovering the beauty of this great country over the next few years.

Teresa Chejlava Nkundwa

Teresa Chejlava Nkundwa a rejoint notre équipe en provenance de l'Ambassade de Suisse à Accra (Ghana).

Elle remplace Mme Ruth Bichsel, qui prendra sa retraite prochainement. Mme Chejlava Nkundwa a pris ses fonctions à Montréal le 3 août dernier en tant que Consul, Cheffe des affaires consulaires.

Après avoir étudié dans le canton de Berne, où elle a grandi, elle est entrée au service du Département des affaires étrangères en 1994 et a depuis été affectée dans différents pays : Soudan (Khartoum), Espagne (Barcelone), Émirats arabes unis (Dubai), Côte d'Ivoire (Abidjan), Mozambique (Maputo), Nigeria (Abuja) et Ghana.

Mariée à Aimé Nkundwa, le couple a deux filles : Ayanna et Tanisha, âgées de 14 et 16 ans.

Mme Chejlava Nkundwa est impatiente de relever les défis de sa nouvelle affectation ; elle et sa famille se réjouissent de découvrir le Québec ainsi que les autres provinces canadiennes.

Teresa Chejlava Nkundwa joined our team from the Embassy of Switzerland in Accra (Ghana). She replaces Ms. Ruth Bichsel, who will be retiring in the near future.

Ms. Chejlava Nkundwa took office in Montreal on August 3 as Consul, Head of Consular Affairs. Having studied in the canton of Berne, where she grew up, she joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1994 and has since held postings in various countries: in Sudan (Khartoum), Spain (Barcelona), United Arab Emirates (Dubai), Ivory Coast (Abidjan), Mozambique (Maputo), Nigeria (Abuja), as well as in Ghana.

Married to Aimé Nkundwa, the couple has two daughters: Ayanna and Tanisha, ages 14 and 16.

Ms. Chejlava Nkundwa eagerly awaits the challenges of her new posting. She and her family look forward to discovering Québec and other Canadian provinces.



© T. Chejlava Nkundwa

Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association (Metro Vancouver)

The outdoor shooting season will soon come to an end, and we can look back at a few successful events:

On June 18, we held the 40th anniversary celebration of our Clubhouse. The official opening of the Chalet took place on May 23, 1982. The celebration was filled with good food, good music, good memories, and everyone had a great time.

On July 30, we had a very successful August 1st celebration where we had the pleasure of meeting Consul Silvana Renggli-Frey. Councillor Trish Mandew - Acting Mayor of the City of Coquitlam - gave a short speech. About 50 children participated in a lampion parade. A visiting shooting club from Bussnang, Switzerland also took part in the celebration.

We had the Friendship Shoot the following day, ending the festivities with an excellent dinner, prepared by R. and Ch. Meier. There are lots of photos on our webpage www.scmra.ca. A big thank-you to all the organisers and volunteers!

The annual Schützenfest on the Thanksgiving weekend is in the planning stages, as is the popular Sau Shoot on October 23. Mark your calendars for a Jass tournament on November 6, as well as for the Santa Claus Party on December 4.

MARLIES BAUMANN

Swiss Club Thames Valley

Our 1st of August celebration saw a great turnout. The Schweizer Jodlerfreunde and an alphorn player participated in the official programme. In the afternoon, we were entertained by the Swiss Farmer Band and the Edelweiss Quartett. Members were also able to participate in stone tossing and crossbow shooting.

The children were able to jump in the bouncy cow, get their faces painted, and do some crafts. Among other goodies, our traditional bratwurst and - of course - nussgipfel were available. I think the most important thing this year was that we were able to come together and enjoy each other's company again!

Our next event will be the AGM on November 5.

MARIANNE TRACHSEL, SWISS CLUB THAMES VALLEY

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

Seen and Heard at the Congress of the Swiss Abroad



In August, your Canadian delegates on the Council of the Swiss Abroad attended the OSA congress in Lugano.

The first day was dedicated to the Council session. A panel of politicians debated Switzerland-EU relationships, expressing concern and disappointment with the Federal Council and the current state of affairs. The second day started with a speech by the President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr. Ignazio Cassis, followed by presentations, panels, and discussions on the topic of democracy: participation, voting, institutions, information, and more. For those of us accustomed to North American politics, the tone was refreshingly civil.

Key Themes

E-voting: Electronic voting continues to be a priority but also a topic of contention within all parties. When Geneva put an end to e-voting, participation from the Swiss abroad fell from 36% to 27%. E-voting should be introduced in 2023 - 2024 and fully rolled out in 2027. Until an e-ID to vote fully electronically becomes available, voting credentials will still be mailed out.

Banking: A small group of us - supported by over 30 delegates - developed recommendations to facilitate access to financial services. (The situation remains confusing, although the Cantonal Bank of Zurich is now offering accounts to Canadian residents at about the same price as PostFinance, but with better services and no limitations on holdings).

Access to democratic rights: It's not only about e-voting and mailing out ballots earlier, but more generally about participation - if we don't vote, it's easier to ignore us. Only about 210,000 of the roughly 780,000 Swiss abroad are registered to vote, and among those, only about a quarter actually do vote. Increasing participation can give us more visibility and ensure that our issues are taken more seriously.

How we are elected: Currently, OSA delegates are elected by the Swiss clubs. The alternative, tested in some countries in 2017, is a general election giving all Swiss abroad the opportunity to vote. Some delegates feel this is more consistent with Swiss democratic principles. It could also more closely reflect the full diversity of the Swiss abroad: 54% of us are women, and close to 80% are under the age of 65.

→ Tell us what you would like to see from the OSA and from your delegates! Let us know at hello@osa-canada.org.

Vu et entendu au Congrès des Suisses de l'étranger

Vos délégués canadiens au Conseil des Suisses de l'étranger ont assisté au congrès de OSE à Lugano le mois dernier.

Le premier jour est consacré à la session du Conseil. Un panel de politiciens a débattu des relations entre la Suisse et l'UE, au cours duquel ont été exprimées des inquiétudes et des déceptions à l'égard du Conseil fédéral et de l'état actuel des choses.

Le deuxième jour a commencé par un discours du président de la confédération, M. Ignazio Cassis, suivi de présentations, panels et discussions sur le thème de la démocratie : participation, vote, institutions, information, etc. Pour ceux d'entre nous qui connaissent la politique nord-américaine, le ton était d'une civilité rafraîchissante.

Thèmes clés

Vote électronique : le vote électronique reste une priorité, bien que des débats subsistent au sein de tous les partis. Lorsque Genève a arrêté le vote électronique, la participation des Suisses de l'étranger a chuté de 36% à 27%. Le vote électronique devrait être introduit en 2023-2024 et totalement déployé en 2027. Les pouvoirs de vote seront encore envoyés par la poste jusqu'à l'introduction d'une e-ID pour voter de manière entièrement numérique.

Vos délégués au travail sur les banques : Un petit groupe d'entre nous, soutenu par plus de 30 délégués, a élaboré quelques recommandations pour faire progresser l'accès aux services financiers (la situation reste confuse, bien que la Banque cantonale de Zurich offre désormais des comptes aux résidents canadiens à peu près au même prix que PostFinance, mais avec un meilleur service et sans limitation des avoirs).

L'autre sujet est l'accès aux droits démocratiques. Il ne s'agit pas seulement du vote électronique et de l'envoi du matériel de vote plus tôt, mais plus généralement de la participation : si nous ne votons pas, il est plus facile de nous ignorer. Sur les 780 000 Suisses de l'étranger, seuls 210 000 sont inscrits sur les listes électorales, et parmi eux, seul un quart le fait effectivement. Augmenter la participation peut nous donner plus de visibilité et voir nos problèmes pris plus au sérieux.

Mode d'élection des délégués : Une question qui a été discutée est le mode d'élection des délégués. Actuellement, les délégués sont élus par les clubs suisses. L'alternative, qui a été testée dans certains pays en 2017, était d'organiser une élection générale offrant la possibilité à tous les Suisses de l'étranger de voter. Certains délégués estiment que cette solution est plus conforme aux principes démocratiques suisses. Cela pourrait également garantir que nous reflétions plus fidèlement toute la diversité des Suisses de l'étranger : 54% d'entre nous sont des femmes, et près de 80% ont moins de 65 ans.

→ Dites-nous : qu'aimeriez-vous voir de la part de l'Association des Suisses de l'étranger et de vos délégués ? Faites-le nous savoir à l'adresse hello@osa-canada.org.

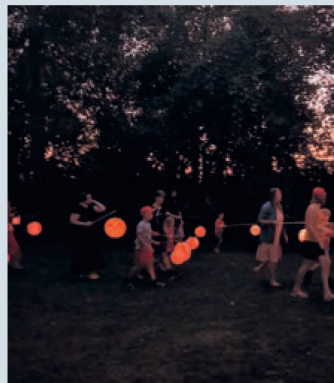
Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

On July 31, after two summers of individual, family-based August 1st celebrations, the Ottawa Valley Swiss Club (OVSC) was thrilled to once again host its annual Swiss National Day celebrations at the beautiful Billings Bridge Estate. After several years of cancelled events due to the pandemic, gathering together with an astounding number of old and new friends was all the more special.

The children enjoyed games and tried to destroy a sweets-filled piñata; stone throwing competitions challenged young and old; the adults were invited to the Jass table; and a tombola offered Swiss and local treats and prizes. We enjoyed delicious bratwurst, cervelats, and various kinds of Swiss wähen and nussgipfel to the happy sounds of Swiss ländler music. It all made for a sunny and happy summer's day and evening.



Following Ambassador Salome Meyer's moving speech, the Montagna Singers choir performed the Swiss national anthem, and a toast of Swiss white and red wines was offered in honour of the nation. At dusk, the children gathered for a traditional lantern parade; their light-filled lantern walk through the trees of the estate was absolutely delightful.



For more information about OVSC events and initiatives, please visit our website www.ottawavalleysswissclub.ca.

OLIVIA CRAFT
PHOTO CREDIT: LISE BROADBENT

Swiss Club Saskatoon

We finally had two events this summer, with two more planned before year's end. In mid-June, we met at the acreage of Elisabeth and Kasper Wirz for a BBQ. We had rain on the drive there, but it ended just in time for us to light the BBQ and start grilling. On August 7, we held our Bundesfeier at the acreage of Dora and Max Hug, with a large turnout of 48 people (33 adults and 15 kids). There was more than enough bratwurst and cervelats, potato & Caesar salad for everyone, and the dessert table was overflowing. The weather cooperated, and we were glad for the shade of the large garage for our meal. There was lots of room outside for the kids to play, and a large garden to admire.



We're still planning our upcoming events. We hope to have our AGM on October 23. Our favourite restaurant for this is no longer open at lunch, so we may have to switch to an evening meal, or to another location. We plan to hold our Children's Santa Evening on December 2 at McClure United Church. Definite dates, times, and locations will be confirmed in our fall 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



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,

Quel plaisir de se revoir lors de notre Fête Nationale Suisse 2022! Nous étions assez nombreux, environ 1,700 personnes de tout âge. Tout ce beau monde avec un grand sourire.

En ce 30 juillet, il faisait un peu froid, venteux, quelques gouttes de pluie. Mais on ne le ressentait pas. Tout le monde avait chaud au cœur!

Nous voulons remercier chaleureusement tous les bénévoles. La plupart le sont depuis de nombreuses années. Pour d'autres c'était la première fois. La Fête ne serait pas possible sans toutes ces personnes au grand cœur. Merci aussi aux habituels groupes de musique et de chant, du Québec et de la Suisse.

Si vous étiez présents et avez des photos et / ou vidéos, vous pouvez nous les transmettre. Nous les ajouterons au site web.

Un couple de québécois voyageur qui visitait la région a filmé l'événement. Ils ont bien apprécié l'atmosphère de Fête et ont même travaillé avec nous. Le lien vers You Tube n'était pas encore disponible au moment d'écrire ces lignes. Il sera sur Facebook et notre site web. Nous remercions Josée Gagné et Yves Thériault.

Pour de l'information plus récente, visitez notre site internet www.fedesuisse.com et continuez à nous suivre sur Facebook www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse/. La prochaine parution de ces Pages Régionales étant en 2023 nous en profitons pour vous souhaiter un bel hiver, de belles fêtes et une Bonne et Heureuse Année remplie de santé, joie et espoir.

Dear Swiss Community; Dear Friends:

What a pleasure it was to see each other again at our 2022 Swiss National Day! We were quite a lot of people, about 1,700 of all ages; everyone with a big smile. On this July 30, it was a bit cold and windy, with a few drops of rain. But we didn't feel it; everyone felt warm at heart!

We want to thank all our volunteers. Most of them have been volunteering for us for many years; for others, it was their first time. This celebration would not have been possible without all these kind-hearted people. Thank you also to the usual bands and singing groups from Quebec and Switzerland.

If you were present and would like to share photos and / or videos, you can send them to us. We will add them to the website.

A couple from Quebec visiting the region filmed the event. They enjoyed the atmosphere and even worked with us. At the time of writing, the YouTube link was not yet available, but it will be posted on Facebook and on our website. We thank Josée Gagné and Yves Thériault.

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

The next issue of the Regional Pages will appear in 2023, so we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a beautiful winter, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year filled with health, joy, and hope!

VOTRE COMITÉ 2022

YOUR 2022 COMMITTEE

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Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir Association

On June 18, we had our first public outdoor concert since the pandemic, at the Louise McKinney Riverfront Park (adjacent to Edmonton's Convention Centre). The weather forecast was not encouraging; however, as we started with the set-up of the loudspeakers, microphones, mixing board, flags and banners, the rain stopped and the sun lit up the stage. We didn't sell any tickets but put up a donation box, collecting \$815! This amount - which included donations from the Edmonton Swiss Society and a \$500 contribution from our Choir - was in support of saving the *Swiss Edelweiss Village* in Golden, BC, the historic

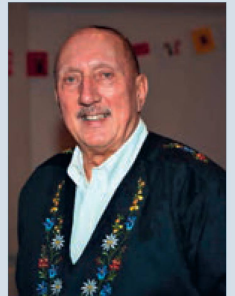


home of the legendary Swiss mountain guides. The village is at risk of disappearing. For details, visit www.swissvillage.ca/donate.

We had a great turnout for the Swiss National Day celebration at Maggie Näf's place. Unfortunately, it rained later on and we couldn't have a bonfire. It was most generous of Maggie to offer her place! Priska and the other ESS executives and various volunteers did a great job of setting up and putting things away afterwards. Thank you to the singers (with support from their spouses) who came out to perform with

Dear Kamerade and Friends of the ESMC:

I announce with great sadness that **Werner Merlo** has passed away. Werner was a founding member of the ESMC and would have been 83 in December. He was a first tenor and helped along many new singers joining our Choir. He'll be missed; may he rest in peace!



On behalf of the Choir, I would like to extend our deepest condolences to his spouse Susi, sons Stephan and Daniel, and to the family.

With silent regards

HANS & KAMERADE OF THE ESMC

us. A big thank-you to Irena for conducting and singing with us. And of course everybody appreciated the professionally barbequed bratwurst and cervelats by hard-working chef Fred!

For information about our events and on how to join us, please visit www.esmca.ca. "Like" us on Facebook "Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir", or enter our name into YouTube to watch and listen to one of our many performances.

PETER THUT

HOCKEY IN SWITZERLAND

If you are a hockey player and eligible for a **SWISS PASSPORT** contact:

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS MANAGEMENT

All ages welcome.



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