

REGIONAL NEWS

CANADA

Editorial

Autumn is upon us and what an enjoyable time of year it is. Swiss Societies across Canada celebrate fall with apple pickings, wine tastings, Swiss folk music choir and jodel events and traditional Metzgete. And of course, in almost all clubs the popular and fun Jass season has started again, culminating in end-of-year or springtime championships! I wish you much enjoyment of all of these events which fill the season and culminate many places in one of the highlights of the year: the Christmas Dinner with Samichlaus appearance and children's treats.

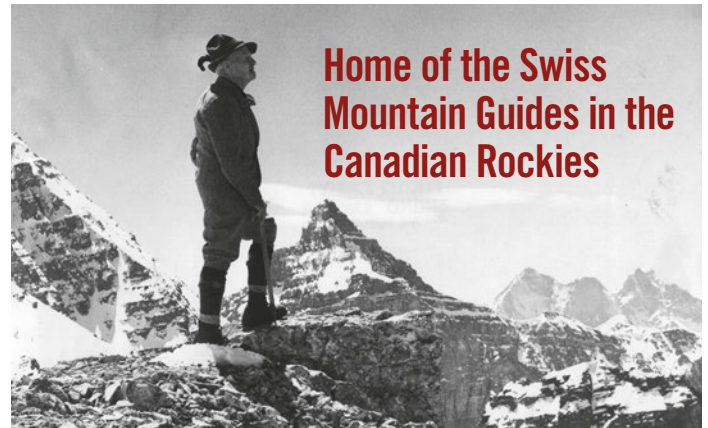
■ Reading this issue of the Swiss Review, you will have noticed the new layout and design which also applies to the Regional News. The layout has been commissioned at Swiss

Review Main Editorial Office in Bern and encompasses a lighter and more modern look. I enjoy working within the new parameters and invite your reader comments and impressions. Please continue to submit interesting articles of all nature Swiss. These are more effectively highlighted by good quality (300dpi resolution) electronic photographs. Please include the photographer's name so the source can be appropriately acknowledged.

■ A most warm welcome to our new Ambassador in Ottawa, Mr. Beat Nobs. You find his introductory address on page three. We are looking forward to meeting you and your wife personally, Mr. Nobs.



SILVIA SCHOCH
EDITOR «REGIONAL
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Ilona Shulman Spaar

Swiss Immigration to Canada

Achievements – Testimonies – Relations

240 pages in colour, English, hardcover, 11" x 11", 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

Ilona Shulman Spaar



Swiss Immigration to Canada

Achievements
Testimonies
Relations

Montréal: Compagnie des Vignolants du Vignoble Neuchâtelois

Quels sont les buts de la Compagnie des Vignolants du Vignoble Neuchâtelois (CV2N) Ambassade de Montréal?

Depuis 32 ans cette confrérie bachique entretient l'amitié autour d'une bouteille de vin de Neuchâtel et d'un bon repas. Tous le monde est le bienvenu lors de nos rencontre (Frairie) qui ont lieu deux fois l'an, une hors de Montréal (50-75 km) à saveur de campagne au printemps et une autre en ville, en automne. Les Frairies ont lieu le dimanche midi.

Le comité d'organisation (Directoire) achète des vins de Neuchâtel exclusifs et les jumelle à un menu planifié dans un restaurant apportez-votre-vin, de très bon niveau. Nous servons selon les menus trois vins, au choix du caviste et du sommelier, Non-Filtré, oeil de perdrix, Pinot noir, Gamaret-garanoir, chaselas et parfois autres. Depuis 2012, année de notre voyage en Suisse pour fêter les 30 ans, notre encaveur est le Domaine de Montmollin à Auvornier, aussi présent à la SAQ.

Après avoir participé à une ou plusieurs Frairie, la personne intéressée peu demandé (et est encouragée à le faire!) à être intronisée Vignolants, selon la coutume de la CV2N de Neuchâtel. Un montant de 95 \$ sera demandé pour le sautoir et la gerle ainsi que le diplôme de Vignolant, avec intronisation pendant la prochaine Frairie pour être présenté à la compagnie par une marraine ou un parrain.



Chaque Frairie est ouverte par un petit accueil en costume du Directoire pendant lequel ce font les intronisations dans un décorum amical et folklorique. La réunion fini souvent en chanson dans un plaisir spontané. Nous ne nous prenons pas vraiment au sérieux, ce qui nous permet d'avoir une liste d'envois d'une septantaine d'adresses courriel et une participation à nos repas autour de 40-50 Vignolants (es) ou

amis-amies des Vignolant. Nous avons aussi à notre actif des voyages lors de dates mémorables, comme notre 30^{em} Anniversaire; une trentaine de Vignolants ont passé dix jours en Suisse pour terminer par la Fête des Vendanges de Neuchâtel avec participations aux cérémonies et au cortège, avec les membres de la CV2N de Neuchâtel. Nous avons aussi accueilli une délégation de Neuchâtelois il y a quelques années et la prochaine est prévue en 2016!

Nous tiendrons nos prochaines Frairies de la CV2N à la fin d'octobre et au courant de l'hiver en marge du festival Montréal en lumière dont la Suisse est l'hôte cette année. À votre Santé! Pour information:

Ambassadeur François Matthey
f-matthey-jonais@cspi.qc.ca (514) 328-6656

Le Directoire des Vignolants prêts pour introniser de nouvelle compagne ou nouveau compagnon!

Ottawa: Ottawa Valley Swiss Club



Once again the weather forecast created suspense as the Ottawa Valley Swiss Club prepared to celebrate August First at Billings Estate last July 27th. But the clouds dissipated and a good crowd of Swiss citizens and their friends enjoyed a successful afternoon of music, games, conversation and traditional food, followed by a much-awaited lampion parade. Annette Moser, First Secretary, gracefully represented the Embassy with a short speech. As they do every year, the *Montagna Singers* contributed to the festive part in all four official languages. A special treat was the surprise yodel and accordeon performance of the father/daughter *Duo Clemann*. Thank you to all who attended and especially

the many volunteers who busied themselves before, during and after the event. A big thank you also to all the generous donors for the tombola prizes. The *Montagna Singers* "Metzgete" will be November 8th, Swiss Seniors luncheons are held monthly. Don't miss the Christmas Lunch by SSC, December 7th, followed by the Childrens X-mas Party right after. For information or to contact us, please visit our website: www.ottawavalleysswissclub.ca

Vernon: Interior Swiss Club

Proudly presents *Jodlerclub Heimattreu* from Calgary Saturday, October 18th at Schubert Centre, 3505-30th Avenue, Vernon, BC. Doors open at 6pm; buffet dinner for \$35 at 7pm. Concert starts at 8pm, followed by dance music by *Route 66* at 9pm.



For more information, please call **Lilly Senn, President 250-549-3711.**

Embassy of Switzerland: Beat Nobs, Ambassador

After having represented Switzerland as a diplomat for more than 25 years on four continents and at the crossroads of multiple cultures, I am back in Canada. I discovered this beautiful country during my studies at the University of British Columbia and since then hoped to be able to live in Canada. Thus, my recent nomination as Ambassador of Switzerland to Canada has been both for my wife Irene and myself a dream come true. We are looking forward to exploring every part of this vast country and meeting the members of the Swiss Clubs and the Swiss community in Canada.

The relations between Switzerland and Canada are very close and based on a rich history. Federalism and multilingualism are two features we share and which enhance our common understanding. There are numerous opportunities for cooperation between our two countries, which cover many areas: politics, economy, culture, education and research, just to name a few. It will be my responsibility and pleasure to foster and further enrich our relations.

Representing Switzerland in Canada entails not only the promotion of Swiss political and economic interests, but also the commitment to you, the members of the Swiss community in Canada. This is why it is important to me to strengthen the ties among our Swiss representations in Canada, in order to build a network that you can count on. It is with pleasure that I will take on this challenge and put all my expertise and my commitment to the benefit of Switzerland and the Swiss community in Canada. I look forward to meeting you.

Beat Nobs, Ambassador



Beat Nobs, Ambassadeur
Embassy of Switzerland, Ottawa

Ambassade de Suisse: Beat Nobs, Ambassadeur

Après avoir représenté la Suisse en tant que diplomate pendant plus de 25 ans, sur quatre continents, et au carrefour de multiples cultures, me voici de retour au Canada, pays que j'ai découvert durant mes études à l'Université de la Colombie-Britannique et dans lequel j'espérai avoir la chance de vivre un jour. Ma récente nomination en qualité d'Ambassadeur de Suisse au Canada a dès lors été perçue par mon épouse Irene et moi-même comme un rêve devenu réalité. Nous nous réjouissons déjà d'explorer ce magnifique pays, d'un océan à l'autre, et d'aller à la rencontre des clubs suisses, et plus largement de la communauté suisse au Canada.

Les relations entre la Suisse et le Canada sont chaleureuses et historiques. Le fédéralisme et le multilinguisme sont deux caractéristiques que nous partageons. Les opportunités de coopération entre nos deux pays sont multiples et touchent à tous les domaines, dont notamment la politique, l'économie, la culture, l'éducation et la recherche. Mon objectif sera de développer et approfondir ces relations.

Représenter la Suisse au Canada signifie non seulement promouvoir les intérêts politiques et économiques de la Suisse, mais également un engagement vis-à-vis de vous, membres de la communauté suisse au Canada. D'où l'importance à mes yeux de resserrer les liens entre nos différentes représentations au Canada, afin de tisser un réseau solide sur lequel vous pouvez compter.

Je me réjouis de relever ces défis et de mettre toute mon expérience et mon engagement au service de la Suisse et des Suisses au Canada. Au plaisir de vous rencontrer, **Beat Nobs, Ambassadeur**

Montreal: Federation of Swiss Societies in Eastern Canada

Thanks to the many dedicated volunteers; this year's Swiss National Day in Sutton was a success. The canton of Wallis was well represented through music, entertainment and games.

Next year's theme will be the canton of Appenzell. We invite you all to join us in Sutton, Quebec, on August 1st, 2015. Photos of these past National Day festivities and our program are available on our website <http://www.fedesuisse.com>. Please visit our site regularly for news from our member clubs and societies.

**Montréal:** Fédération des Sociétés Suisses de l'Est du Canada

Grâce aux nombreux bénévoles enthousiastes, la Fête Nationale Suisse à Sutton 2014 fut un succès. Le canton du Valais y était bien présent en musique, jeux et divertissements. Nous vous invitons à vous joindre à nous l'an prochain sous le thème du canton de l'Appenzell, à Sutton, Québec, le 1^{er} août 2015.

Des photos des éditions passées de la Fête Nationale ainsi que notre programmes sont accessibles sur notre site web <http://www.fedesuisse.com>. Visitez régulièrement notre page pour des nouvelles de nos clubs et sociétés membres.

Montreal: Matterhorn Swiss Club

Once again, we had a good turnout of members volunteering at Mont-Sutton. Thanks to you all for contributing towards the success of our Swiss National holiday celebration. Due to cool, rainy weather, we had to postpone our summer picnic to the following day. We then had a perfect warm, sunny afternoon, and about 40 people, members and guests, enjoyed this annual event on Ile Cadieux. The lovely waterfront location, good company, as well as the grilled sausages, assorted salads and Nussgipfel all made for a perfect summer afternoon. Once



Left: Members of the Matterhorn Swiss Club enjoying an impromptu sing-along towards the end of the day at the club's summer picnic

again, special thanks go to Ruedi and Raymonde Pfister for hosting this event. In November, we will have a brief meeting and dinner at a local restaurant. Details will be sent out at a later date. We welcome

new members, both young and not so young! According to our by-laws we ask that you please attend two events before becoming a member.

Walter Spirig, President

514-694-3718

Montreal: Helvetia Seniors Club

All Swiss with their partners are welcome to join our 90 member group, starting the 11th year of existence. We meet in a restaurant every third Thursday for a luncheon from 11.00 to 2.00pm (except July, August & December) with lectures, entertainment and meetings. In June we had our outing to



the bison farm and also visited the Basilic Notre Dame; we had a gorgeous day and it was a success. November 20th we will have Santa Claus visiting who will bring us some "goodies". The next meeting will take place Novembre 20, 2014 at 11:00am, Restaurant Monkland, 6151 Monkland Ave. N.D.G. Tous les Suisses et leurs conjoints et invites sont les bienvenus. Venez rejoindre nos 90 membres nous commençons le 11^{ème} Anniversaire d'existence du club. Nous nous rencontrons de 11.00h à 2.00h pour un déjeuner le 3^{ème} jeudi de chaque mois (excepté juillet, août et décembre). Au mois de juin on avait notre sortie; on a visité la ferme de bison et après La Basilique notre Dame. Nous avons eu une merveilleuse journée et bien réussi. **Barbara Gasser, Président**

450-687-5256, barbaragasser@bell.net

Montreal: Swiss Jass Club

The Club held its annual General Meeting on June 21, 2014. All ingredients for a perfect recipe were available: the weather ordered to perfection, the venue in the quiet country setting of St-Lazare, the volunteers including Lotti Balsiger, gracious hosts Gilbert and Heidi Berthoud, and our dedicated committee members. Once everyone arrived and warmed up to each other, Felix moni-

tored the BBQ to serve Bratwurst and Cervela with an assortment of salads. Everyone enjoyed a nice time basking under the sun or sheltered under parasols with a glass of water, wine, or beer. The meeting started and finished on time, providing everyone the opportunity to contribute new ideas and plan for the new Jass season. Herbert mediated the passionate, but friendly exchange and kept everyone focused. Games are held in Dorval on the last Friday of the

month from September to April, culminating with a championship in May. The Swiss Jass Club invites all those interested to contact **Herbert Stoll, President** by phone/email at **514-453-0748/herbert.stoll@videotron.ca**, or any committee member: Felix Mäder, 514-683-7938; Barbara Gasser, 450-687-5256; John Dobler, 514-421-2235; George Christe, 514 364-4958. Location: *Haus der Heimat*.

Vancouver: Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association

By the time you read these lines, our fifty year celebration will be over and the 300m outdoor shooting will come to an end for the season, with the customary Saushoot and Metzgete on October 26th. The Saushoot is for members only since every shooter will get a piece of meat to take home, but the dinner is open to all. For August First we had a good turnout with many small children taking part in the Lampion Umzug. As usual, the Nussgipfel and Crèmeschnitten made by *Schokolade Café* were a big hit and sold out in no time. The Trap Cheese Shoot gets more popular every year. There were 32 participants and each receives a piece of the Gruyère wheel, which was partly

Montreal: Swiss Women's Club Edelweiss

Fall is coming and activities are on the agenda. There will be Apple Picking at the *Kessler Orchard in Farnham* on Tuesday, September 23rd. Ladies and their guests and/or friends, better halves etc. are welcome to bring their picnic. On October 5th members, their families and friends will meet for a *Harvest Lunch at the Alpenhaus Restaurant* in downtown Montreal. Our annual Bazaar is coming soon: Saturday, November 15th at the *Haus der Heimat, 375 Louise-Lamy, Dorval*. All are welcome to come stock up on homemade jams, preserves, baking, pastries, knitting and various items to fill up those Christmas stockings. As usual, there will be games for children and good food for the whole family.

Erika Schimann, Secretary
erikapierre@msn.com

**Montréal:** Club de femmes suisses Edelweiss

L'automne est à nos portes et les activités se multiplient. Il y aura *Cueillette de pommes à la Ferme Kessler à Farnham* le mardi 23 septembre. Les membres, leurs invites, amis et même les conjoints sont invités à emporter un pique-nique. Le 5 octobre les membres, leurs familles et amis se rencontrent pour un *déjeuner des récoltes au restaurant Alpenhaus* au cœur du centre-ville de Montréal. Notre *Bazar annuel* se tiendra le samedi 15 novembre au *Haus der Heimat, 375 rue Louise-Lamy, Dorval*. Tous sont invités à se procurer confitures, conserves, pâtisseries, confections, tricots et d'autres items faits maison en vue de remplir les bas de Noël. Il y aura des jeux pour les enfants et de délicieux plats pour toute la famille.

Erika Schimann, Secretary
erikapierre@msn.com

Edmonton: Swiss Men's Choir

As I sit here, composing this addition for the Swiss Revue, I am listening to music—*The Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir*, naturally. Lest you think I have set off on an ego trip—which would be perfectly natural for me—let me say that we're pretty good and that if you are male, like to sing (even in the shower), or would like to improve your singing ability, we would like to have you join us. You will be auditioned for placement rather than ability. This fall would be an excellent time to have a look at us as we are planning a trip to Switzerland in 2016 and you would qualify for a tour subsidy.

We returned from participating in the *United Swiss Singing Societies of the*



Pacific Coast Sängerkfest held in Tacoma, Washington. It was a very well organized and enjoyable event thanks to Greg Veseley and his committee. The director, Kurt McKee, did an excellent job of preparing the mass choir for the Friday night performance. Saturday at the Swiss park was outstanding with fun performances by many different groups. As always, our last night was spent at our private dinner, punctuated by a good meal, fine wine and an audience that appreciated a fun ad hoc sing by our members, which included singing birthday greetings to other restaurant patrons.

Sadly, we say goodbye to two of our members: Peter Johner and his wife Johanna have moved to the Kelowna area to enjoy a well-earned retirement and warmer winter weather. We will miss his strong first tenor voice, charm and humour. Hugh Semple, singer and alphorn/brass player is moving to Medicine Hat to take up a new job. Suggestion, gentlemen: start up choirs where you are going. Peter, remember, where the weather is good, friends will drop in. Keep a good supply of wine on hand. For August First we gathered with the *Edmonton Swiss Society* at the Mettlers farm near Tomahawk, about ni-

nety kilometers from Edmonton. It is a wonderful location and we really appreciated the Mettlers hospitality. After eating Herman Knupp's great sausages accompanied by the potluck contributions of ESS members, we sang a few of the audience's favourites. Kudos to the *Edmonton Swiss Society* for having organized yet another outstanding Swiss National Day.

On November 1st, we hold our annual Winzerfest celebration with song, a good meal and dancing to a live band. After that we prepare for our Advent and Christmas season singing, often at senior residences and continuing care institutions. We really enjoy bringing joy to the elderly. We also sing for the general public, i.e. Thursday, December 11th at the St. Vital Catholic Church, 4905-50 Street in Beaumont. We are always looking for new members. Please contact us at: www.esmca.ca

Dear Friends: we wish you a beautiful fall season.

Dave Leigh, Director
leighdm75@gmail.com



sponsored by *Arla Food* and the *Swiss Cheese Association*. A big thank you for their generosity. Without their support, this event would not have been possible. Mark your calendar and attend the annual Jass tournament on November 2nd 2014! Always great fun and dinner will be available for a reasonable price. For pictures and more club info please visit our website: www.scmra.ca. **Marlies Baumann, Membership Secretary, 604-298-3021**

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Following Intuition to Success: Christian and Shigi Walz

The blacksmith in the town of Esslingen, Kt. Zürich, was still forging horseshoes where the two brothers Walz watched him fascinatedly, growing up just a stone-throw away. The smell and sound of steel being worked on left a memorable impression on young Christian. It was one of the reasons that prompted him later to seek apprenticeship as Carriage Maker with a leading Fahrzeugbau manufacturer. The second generation family business was a major employer in Uster with demanding standards for their pool of apprentices, carefully selected each year. These standards were more than met with this apprentice during the four year trade learning. Says Christian: "when I joined Walde AG, it was the first time I liked going to school, even to trade school in Zürich every Monday!"

After graduating at the top of his class, Christian stayed on for two more years. During this time he met Shigi, just the day after she had returned from Canada. Shigi and her family originated from the Zürcher Oberland, but her parents had immigrated to Ontario and moved to their new farm. Disillusioned about finding work in Vankleek Hill, Ontario, after having apprenticed at a large Swiss Bank, and farming not really her thing, Shigi had returned to Switzerland. And while they teamed up personally, both furthered their careers individually for the next few years: Christian gained experience in a variety of industries and processes including the new plastic water bottle production for the airline industry, while Shigi

worked her way up in accounting.

Taking their first joint trip to visit Shigi's folks in 1986, Christian didn't know much about Canada other than that it was big and that there was good fishing. He certainly didn't speak a word of English. So, coming off the plane at Mirabel airport, barely two minutes on Canadian soil, it came as a total surprise to Shigi when she heard Christian exclaim: "I like it! I want to stay here!" Her retort came like gun fire: "No way! Without me! I was here before; you can stay without me!"



Three generations of the family Walz in Vankleek Hill, Ontario

Not long thereafter, however, a path slowly began to unfold: several visits to Canada, coinciding with Christian learning English, developing business contacts in Ontario, completing his mechanical engineering degree in Switzerland and wedding plans. The couple applied for immigration, but wanted to find a way to get married in both countries. In July 1991, the Walzes married civilly in Switzerland, but alas, the newly weds' next day 6am flight to Frankfurt – wedding clothes ready in their suitcase – was delayed. The Swissair pilot radioed their connecting flight and once arrived in Frankfurt, Christian and Shigi were hurriedly escorted across the tarmac, entering the waiting jet via the emergency stairs, so the couple could

make it to their white wedding celebration with family and friends in Canada!

After a brief period of partnership in another organization, Christian and Shigi established their own business, initially providing machine shop and millwright services to local industrial and agricultural clients. In 1996, the official Vankleek building was constructed and today, with a staff of 21 and after three major expansions, the company is even better poised to offer precision machining, fabrication, manufacturing and assembly services, in addition

to custom prototyping and design work. Among his clients, Christian has a reputation that "if Christian can't build it, nobody can!"

Would he immigrate again? Christian says after the birth of daughter Vivienne and twin sons Marc and Phillip, the family stays connected with their roots, travelling to Switzerland often, for business and pleasure. "But every time I'm there for two or three days, I get homesick. To immigrate was a roller coaster, that's the only way to describe it, but a good roller coaster, and Canada is home for all of us now." It seems Christian sensed that instinctively the very first time he arrived at Mirabel airport so many years ago.

SILVIA SCHOCH

Swiss Koo: Hand Made Cuckoo Clocks

Martino and Alexandre, two Swiss industrial designers, have been friends and partners in their design firm in Lausanne for a number of years. In 2013, beyond designing furniture and accessories based on client specifications, they branched out: designing and producing personalized, limited edition Cuckoo Clocks. Building their own CNC milling machine, the first model was launched in October 2013. A number of innovative and colour-

ful designs followed: traditional yet whimsical and creative, a new design is added every season. Every clock is lovingly hand-made, assembled and finished in Renens. Entirely originally designed including hands and bronze weights, with traditional mechanical movements and wood/brass materials from local suppliers, each clock is unique. They are available world-wide through Martino's and Alexandre's website www.swisskoo.ch. Just like the clocks, a creative and fun two minute video captures the essence of the clock-manufacture and demonstrates why they have become a preferred item for unique personal and corporate gift giving.

SILVIA SCHOCH



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REPRÉSENTATIONS SUISSES À L'ÉTRANGER: vous trouverez les adresses des ambassades et consulats suisses sur www.eda.admin.ch -> Cliquez sur le menu «Représentations»

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