

# REGIONAL NEWS

## CANADA

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April 16, 2018



**SILVIA SCHOCH**  
REGIONAL EDITOR  
CANADA;  
COUNCIL OF THE  
SWISS ABROAD  
WESTERN CANADA

### Editorial

**Three Swiss Societies celebrate anniversaries of 65, 70 respectively 100 years in Canada in 2018. Congratulations to those milestones! The celebration details are found on pages four and five.**

♦ The "No-Billag" initiative was overwhelmingly rejected by the Swiss Abroad with nearly 78% of votes compared to 71% of votes by their compatriots in Switzerland. A resounding affirmation for publicly financed radio and television services. You find an analysis in the main part of this magazine.

♦ Swiss wrestling (French *lutte Suisse*) – colloquially known as *Hoselupf* (Swiss German for "breeches-lifting") – is a style of folk wrestling native to Switzerland. Wrestlers wear *Schwingerhosen* ("wrestling breeches") with belts that are used for taking holds. Throws and trips are common because the first person to pin his or her opponent's shoulders to the ground wins the turn. Read about the successful and popular *Club de lutte Suisse* in Quebec, where this tradition is upheld in Canada since 1984! Happy reading and happy spring! Please send your articles by April 16 to [silv.schoch@gmail.com](mailto:silv.schoch@gmail.com).

## Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)

Three of Canada's five delegates and council members of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad attended OSA's annual spring conference March 9 in Berne.

Philippe Magnenat (Québec & Maritime Provinces), Silvia Schoch and Heidi Lussi (Western Canada) (left to right), further attended a meeting with eight of the roughly 100 members of the *Parliamentary Group of the Swiss Abroad*. The Group was founded in 2004 through a decision taken by the *Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA)*, the highest organ of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), to have the interests of the 'Fifth Switzerland' better represented in Switzerland's political system. Discussed was the status regarding the banks, the social system and electronic voting as it pertains to the Swiss Abroad. More detailed information is available elsewhere in this edition and in your OSA delegate's upcoming report.



## Appointment of Dieter Gautschi as Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Halifax

The Consulate General in Montreal is pleased to inform its compatriots that **Dieter Gautschi** has been appointed as the **new Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Halifax**. Mr. Gautschi succeeds René Botzenhardt who left Nova Scotia last year, due to personal reasons.

Born in Menziken, Dieter Gautschi moved to Canada in 2006, has since occupied several managerial positions and is currently Chief of Human Resources in an international company based in Bedford. He will work closely with the Consulate General in Montreal and the Swiss Business Hub Canada in order to access business opportunities for Swiss companies in Nova Scotia and to maintain an active network with stakeholders in the region.

Because Halifax is an "honorary representation" *without consular au-*



**DIETER GAUTSCHI**  
HONORARY CONSUL OF SWITZERLAND IN HALIFAX

*thority*, please note that Mr. Gautschi does not issue visas, Swiss passports nor is he in a position to process consular issues.

As in the past, those requiring consular assistance are asked to contact the Consulate General in Montreal directly.

We seize this opportunity to thank Mr. Botzenhardt for his excellent contribution to Swiss-Canadian relations and wish to our new Honorary Consul a successful start in his new position.

Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal

**Coquitlam** Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association (SCMRA)

*After a very wet winter we look forward to spring and the outdoor shooting season again. In the meantime, the very enthusiastic shooters keep practicing in the 10m indoor range.*

This year is already off to a good start with a very successful “Fondue Plausch” held together with our friends of the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and a week later we all had a fantastic time during our annual Absenden, where we celebrated all the shooters and trophy winners. We enjoyed an excellent dinner, prepared by our member Rudolf, while we were entertained by the two-man S-Bahn band.

The Annual General Meeting went very smoothly and all the officers got voted in again, obviously the membership is happy with the performance of the Executive. Thank you all for a job well done. Our club has gained 14 new members in 2017 and we wish them many enjoyable hours at the Chalet!

We encourage you to come up to the range on any of our shooting days for a visit and maybe even try your hand at 300m, 50m, pistol, crossbow, or trap shooting.

2018 Spring & Summer Program SCMRA

- April 8 Championship all Range (Crossbow Fondue Stich)
- April 14 Workparty
- April 22 Championship all Ranges
- May 6 Championship all Ranges-Trap
- May 12 Workparty
- May 19/20 50m & 300m Feldstich-Feldschiessen
- June 3 Championship all Ranges-Trap
- June 16 Workparty
- June 17 Championship all Ranges-13:00 Bruno Huber Shoot
- July 1 Mountain Range Match 09:00-12:00 / 13:00 Volkschiessen
- July 15 Championship all Ranges-Trap / Crossbow- Connie's Manhattan Stich & BBQ
- July 21 Workparty
- July 28 Swiss National Day Celebration

For any program changes please check out our website: [www.scmra.ca](http://www.scmra.ca). Please remember: there is lunch available on any shooting day and if you participate in a workparty-lunch is on the house!

MARLIES BAUMANN



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## Building business links between Switzerland and Western Canada



*The Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization that facilitates business connections between Western Canada and Switzerland. The following article will give you a short introduction and will outline some of the benefits of being a member of the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce.*

The Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (SCCC) is located in Vancouver with representations in Edmonton and Calgary. The majority of the members are in the Lower Mainland Vancouver area, but a growing amount is joining the chamber from Calgary. Eleven directors and six advisors represent the board of the chamber, each of them being from a different industry.

One of the main purposes of the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce is to facilitate networking and to set up unique business opportunities. Several companies have established their businesses in Western Canada through the help of the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce. One of them is the translation agency Diction who opened their office in Gastown, Vancouver, to maintain a 24/7 service to their clients.

Another Swiss company is Wyssen Avalanche Control AG which is providing the Canadian government with their knowledge and resources on avalanche safety in British Columbia. Both companies have reached out to the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce and have been provided with support to establish their businesses.

### Chamber organized events

On a regular basis, the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce is organizing different events – speaker events, members-only events and social gatherings. Just recently,

the chamber organized a walking tour through the greenest building in Vancouver (the old Stock Exchange), held a fondue night, a fundraiser, and a podium discussion about blockchain and bitcoin. The upcoming events are a Member After Hours at the Vancouver Whitecaps Stadium in April, the Annual General Meeting and a Multi Chamber Night organized by the Vancouver Whitecaps in May 2018.

### Chamber online communication

The Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce is not only active offline but also online. The monthly e-newsletter of the SCCC offers a great opportunity to introduce new members, to publish upcoming events, and to share news from Canada and Switzerland. Furthermore, the newsletter gives Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce members a chance to promote their special discounts, offers, and sales. The Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce is regularly publishing interviews with members and directors on their blog to strengthen a connection between the members and provide a platform to be heard.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please visit the Swiss Canadian of Commerce's website at: [http://www.swisscanadianchamber.com/membership\\_info.html](http://www.swisscanadianchamber.com/membership_info.html) or send an email to: [chamber@swissccc.com](mailto:chamber@swissccc.com). You can also find the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce on Social Media where weekly updates are shared.

NINA BADER

## 13th Swiss Presidents' Conference in Western Canada

Saturday, April 28, 2018 9 am - 5 pm

Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association  
Coquitlam, British Columbia

The conference centers around effective traditional and innovative digital communications strategies for Swiss Societies in Canada & the USA, in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce in Vancouver, the President of the Umbrella Organisation for Swiss Societies in Eastern Canada, the President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Twin Cities Swiss American Association (400+ active members) in Minneapolis, USA, and the Delegates of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) in Western Canada.

Board members of OSA registered Swiss Societies across Canada are invited to attend. For more information or registration, please email [swissreviewcanada@gmail.com](mailto:swissreviewcanada@gmail.com).



Toronto Swiss Club (above), Matterhorn Swiss Club (below)



# 65 - 70 - 100 years in Canada

Three Swiss Societies celebrate in 2018

## 70 Years Swiss Club Thames Valley

*The year 2018 promises to be an exciting one for our various groups with many great events planned, including a very special milestone: we are celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at our First of August National Day Celebration!*

In 1948, a few newly arrived Swiss families gathered at the farm of Walter and Frieda Hug near Mitchell, ON to honour the Swiss National Holiday. These families continued to meet annually for the birthday of their homeland and each year they were joined by more newcomers. The event was so popular, that within a few short years it was attended by hundreds of people. In the 1950s, a club was formed, the Schweizer Vereinigung West Ontario, Mitchell-London, which in 1960 was renamed the Swiss Club Thames Valley.

*We proudly continue the traditions of these early immigrants and invite you to join us in Monkton on July 29<sup>th</sup> 2018 to commemorate this special anniversary by reliving precious old memories and making wonderful new ones.*

In the meantime, here are some other events you don't want to miss at the Swiss Club Thames Valley! For more information, please check our website at [www.swissclubthamesvalley.com](http://www.swissclubthamesvalley.com).

PIA HAECHLER

**April 8<sup>th</sup>** Theater, **Wellesley** (change of location!)  
**April 14<sup>th</sup>** Get-Together Dance (Chörli), Milverton  
**May 27<sup>th</sup>** Brunch (Chörli), Milverton

**July 8<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>** Motorcycle Tour (Walter Burkhardt)  
**July 29<sup>th</sup>** 70 year anniversary and Swiss National Day celebration



Dear Members of the Swiss Club Toronto,  
Dear Swiss Compatriots of the Greater Toronto Area,  
2018 marks a very important year in the history of the Swiss Club Toronto.

We are celebrating the club's 100 Year anniversary. The club was founded in the Spring of 1918 by Mr. Charles Faessler, a grain merchant who came to Toronto in 1903 and who later became Consul. He encouraged the Swiss in Toronto to form an organization and in 1918 this dream became reality as the Swiss Club Toronto was founded and Mr. Faessler became its first president.

To mark this major milestone, we plan to hold several special events throughout the year. The main event will be our *Swiss Club Toronto 100 Year anniversary Gala Dinner* to be held on *September 29th, 2018, at the Old Mill Restaurant in Toronto.*

More information will be provided in the next "Swiss Review" and "Tell Tale," but please mark this date in your calendar already.

SASCHA FRASSINI

## 65 Years Matterhorn Swiss Club Montreal

*This year, 2018, marks the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Matterhorn Swiss Club.*

In honour of this event, we have planned a special outing in July. We will travel as a group by bus to the lovely town of Magog in the Eastern Townships. There, we will enjoy a gourmet lunch cruise on beautiful Lake Memphragog. Following this, we will have some free time to wander around or shop in Magog before heading to a local winery for a tour and some wine tasting. All in all, it should be a very pleasant and enjoyable day.

The club holds five or six events or outings each year, and we are pleased to say they are always well-attended. New members are always welcome.

For more information please see the Matterhorn Club section on the Federation website: [www.fedesuisse.com](http://www.fedesuisse.com).

WALTER SPIRIG

## HOCKEY IN SWITZERLAND

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

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS MANAGEMENT

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### VANCOUVER SWISS CHOIR



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am Singen in der  
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### Current Projects:

- European Festival May
- Our Spring Concert June
- Swiss National Day Aug, 1<sup>st</sup>
- Christmas Performances
- Prep for Pacific Cost Singing & Yodel Festival 2020 in LA, USA

Please contact Rolf Brulhart at  
[rbrulhart@hotmail.com](mailto:rbrulhart@hotmail.com) or 604-710-7653



## Edmonton Edmonton Swiss Society (ESS)

We held two of our signature events in the fall and early winter. Our annual *Authentic Swiss Fondue Night* was once again a full success. As expected, it sold out well in advance, showing how popular this event is among our members and friends. Besides the always delicious fondue, we also enjoyed the musical performance in the form of an Alphorn presentation by Nial Gorman. As a new feature, we introduced a semi-serious Swiss Quiz, testing the Swiss knowledge among our guests. Many a laughter was the result and the winning table enjoyed the Swiss prize.

For our youngest members and friends we held our annual *Samichlausen* event on the Sunday closet to December 6<sup>th</sup>, the traditional Swiss Samichlausen day. We baked Grittibaenzen and traditional Swiss Christmas cookies (Mailaenderli, Spitzbuebe and Zimtstaerne). The little ones enjoyed making them almost as much as they enjoy eating them afterwards.

At the time of this writing we are in the middle of an Edmonton deep freeze and we look forward to our upcoming events. The first will be our AGM in March. Our new spring event will be on April 22 when we hold our *Swiss brunch*. We very much look forward to build on the success of our first brunch last year and are planning once again to have musical entertainment as we would like to make this a tradition for most of our events. The brunch will sell out quickly and we invite you to reserve your spot via: [info@edmonton-swiss.ca](mailto:info@edmonton-swiss.ca).

We invite Swiss and friends of Swiss people and Swiss culture to join us for our events. We look forward to seeing our long-time friends and also new faces and new members to become long-time friends. Please visit our Facebook page for up to date information: [www.facebook.com/edmontonswiss](https://www.facebook.com/edmontonswiss).

NICK SIEGENTHALER



Edmonton Swiss Society family events of 2017



## Edmonton Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir

Our highlight for this summer is the Toledo trip to participate at the *2018 North American Swiss Singing Alliance Sangerfest*. We are eagerly practicing for the mass choir and for our competition song and would love to get some new singers. Especially in the first tenor section we could use some additional vocal power.



For the Fall, we are looking forward to *Winzerfest 2018* (for the date see below). This is always a fun event and of course also a fundraising opportunity for the choir. We usually have an audience of just under 400 guests. If you are a potential corporate sponsor, we would love to hear from you and gladly have your advertisement displayed

in our program and on screen. Our plans for 2018 include, but are not limited to:

**Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>:** "Run for Music" by Choir Alberta at Whitemud Park

**Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>:** "Landsgemeinde" with the Edmonton Swiss Society at the Ol' MacDonald's Resort at Buffalo Lake

**Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup>–Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>:**

NASSA (North American Swiss Singing Alliance) Sangerfest 2018 in Toledo

**August 1<sup>st</sup>:** Swiss National Day with the Edmonton Swiss Society in Edmonton

**November 10<sup>th</sup>:** Winzerfest 2018. Annual concert with buffet dinner and dancing to a live band in Edmonton

**November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018:** Annual General Meeting at the Chateau Lacombe Hotel in Edmonton.

Please check our website at [www.es-mca.ca](http://www.es-mca.ca) for more details and other events and/or for more information on how to join or contact us.

You may "like" us on Facebook at "Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir" or enter our name into YouTube to watch/listen to some of our past performances.

PETER THUT

## Guelph Swiss Canadian Club of Guelph

The Swiss Canadian Club of Guelph held their AGM on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and on the 29<sup>th</sup> the new board assembled for the first time. Many of the past board members have given up their posts and we would like to thank them for their commitment and years of service! The new board is excited to serve for the new two-year term. Here an introduction who they are:

**President – Martha Schatti** Martha and husband Bern live on a farm in Rockwood. Martha's hobbies include baking, gardening and quilting. She has recently returned to her floral field doing weddings again and enjoys making brides' dreams come true. Traveling, especially to Switzerland, is a joy and she looks forward to visiting again soon. She is looking forward to working with the present board members.

**Vice-President – Rina Thoma** Rina studied at the University of Guelph and was Manager of Benefit Plan Operations for Student Health and Dental Insurance. She is always on the move, with the next big adventure moving her to Switzerland. Her favourite Swiss Club event is the Christmas Party.

**Secretary – Bruno Ursprung** Bruno and his family are living in Guelph for over ten years. The local Swiss Canadian Club gave

his family a sense of home due to the ever so welcoming people. They always look forward to the events, especially enjoying the annual Wine & Cheese and Fondue gatherings.

**Treasurer – Janice Lockyer** Janice works for a heavy equipment manufacturer as HR Generalist and Health & Safety Specialist. She has three grown children and five grandchildren. In her free time she enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking.

**Director – Liz Wenger** Elisabeth has two grown sons and four grandchildren. She left her job as a travel consultant to take care of her grandchildren. Now that they are teenagers she and her husband Otto love to travel.

**Director – Vreni Lall** Vreni retired from Guelph General Hospital and now volunteers for Lakeside, where she enjoys cooking for the elderly and the sick. She also loves visiting with her four granddaughters and spoils them just a little too much. Vreni enjoys working out at the gym, going for a hike, and catching up with friends over a game of bowling. Traveling together with husband Dominic, grand children and family on trips to Mexico, Trinidad, Switzerland and Cuba is always a joy. (Vreni is missing from the group picture).

**Director – René Thoma** René has been on the board for 16 years. He has three grown children and works as a certified Window and Siding Installer. In his spare time you can find him in the garage, working on a new project. His favourite Swiss Club event is the annual fall Fondue.

We are all looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. <http://guelphswisscanadianclub.webs.com>.

RINA THOMA



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# Une tradition Suisse

## Club de lutte Suisse du centre du Québec

En 1984, onze agriculteurs immigrés de la Suisse allemande, prennent l'initiative de fonder un club de lutte Suisse. Le but était de réunir sport, culture et amitié dans un seul événement. Le club organise quatre fêtes de lutte par année. Trois se déroulent sur des fermes. Ce sont des agriculteurs qui mettent à disposition leur terrain. La lutte se pratique à l'extérieur sur des ronds de sciure de bois. Dans un garage à machinerie, on peut trouver une cantine avec des spécialités suisse. La quatrième fête de lutte se déroule au mont Sutton. C'est un événement organisé par la fédération suisse à l'honneur de la fête nationale suisse, en autres mots fête du 1<sup>er</sup> août.

Il y a trois catégories de lutteurs, les 5-13 ans, 14-17 ans et les seniors. Tous les lutteurs remportent un prix, dont lesquelles sont achetées avec des commandites qu'on ramasse sous forme d'annonces et on les trouve dans un livre d'environ 200 pages, qui sert aussi comme bottin téléphonique surtout parmi les agriculteurs.

Les fêtes des luttes suisse sont bien aimées comme événements sportives, et aussi très appréciées pour leur côté social. Un rendez-vous parfait pour une petite jasette entre amis et pour nous rappeler nos traditions suisse. Même les plus petits y trouvent leur compte en jouant ensemble dans des carrés de sable ou sur des balles de foin.

Vue que durant l'hiver il n'y a pas d'activités sur les terrains, le club organise au mois de février un après midi des cartes et les joueurs peuvent gagner un bon morceau de fromage suisse.

RENATE WILDHABER

Tout le monde est le bienvenue à nos événements!!! Entrée Gratuite!



### Les fêtes en 2018 :

- 20 mai Fête de lutte du printemps  
Famille Arnold, 830 route Carson,  
St Félix de Kingsey, QC
- 1 juillet Fête de lutte Suisse du club  
Famille Fitze, 476 Rang 6, St-Sylvère, QC
- 4 août Lutte suisse du 1<sup>er</sup> août  
Fédération suisse Mont Sutton, QC
- 2 sept Fête de lutte d'automne  
Famille Hirt, 58 Rang 4 ouest, Warwick, QC

### Pour infos :

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