Editorial

Both 2015 and 2016 are two years with quite a few anniversary celebrations of Swiss organisations across Canada. Some of them are:

The Edmonton’s Swiss Men’s Choir celebrated their 35th anniversary in November 2015 at their yearly Winzerfest performance, this year in grand style with musicians of the local symphony.

The Yodel Club Heimattreu in Calgary has an upcoming 40th anniversary. The announcement of and invitation to their gala event in April 2016 will find on page five.

The Montagna Singers in Ottawa also celebrated their 40th year together with a big event at the Metzgete in November 2015.

The Vernon Swiss Club commemorated its 60th anniversary with Alphorn, Liedertafel and a dinner-dance swing band event in October last year.

Not to forget the oldest of all Swiss Societies in Canada, the Swiss National Society in Montreal, which duly celebrated its 140th anniversary with a memorable dinner event in November 2014!

Congratulations to all of you!

Western Canada Elects Second OSA Delegate

Congratulations to Mr. Richard Schwendener of Vanderhoof, BC!

Richard was unanimously elected Delegate Western Canada of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) by the Swiss Presidents at the Presidents Conference on November 14, 2015 in Edmonton, AB. Together with Ms. Silvia Schoch, Western Canada is thus once again represented by two Delegates.

Richard and Marianne Schwendener immigrated to Canada in 1993. The former Swiss bank employee is an avid outdoors man who built his own cabin in the Queen Charlotte Islands.

Richard is looking forward to connecting with the Swiss abroad and representing the Swiss Community in Western Canada. He is planning to attend the OSA conference in Switzerland in April 2016 where he is expected to be elected into the Council of the Organisation of the Swiss abroad, the supreme organ of OSA.

Richard can be reached at 250-567-5005 or via email at rschwendener@hwy16.com. For more information on the services of OSA, please go to http://aso.ch/en.

Swiss Presidents Conference of Western Canada

On November 14, 2015, twenty-seven Swiss Presidents and other official Swiss Organisation representatives met at the conference location of the Hotel Château LaCombe, perched atop a high ridge, affording a beautiful view over a frosty Edmonton, AB.

The 12th Conference of Swiss Presidents in Western Canada was opened by Mr. Karl Strickler, President of the Swiss Edmonton Society, and Mr. Hans Voegeli, President of the Edmonton Swiss Men’s Choir. Both these Societies were host organizations for this gathering. Facilitated by Nick Siegenthaler, Vice-President, Edmonton Swiss Society, conference participants shared insight into their Swiss Society and exchanged common findings, concerns and solutions.

Ambassador of Switzerland to Canada, Dr. Beat Nobs gave the keynote address on the current state and future direction of bilateral relations between Canada and Switzerland.

Mr. Peter Zimmerli, Delegate for the Swiss abroad, Consular Directorate, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Bern, outlined the task of the Consular Directorate and the New Swiss Act of Citizens and Institutions abroad.

SILVIA SCHOCHE, EDITOR AND OSA DELEGATE FOR WESTERN CANADA

SILVIA SCHOCHE
Tickets for our choir’s 35th year celebration sold out even earlier than in other years. The hall was beautifully decorated with a bevy of floral offerings and we invited a small orchestra of symphony musicians to accompany us on some of our songs. Audience and choir enjoyed the effect greatly. At the outset of the program, the singers of Pro Coro honored us with two songs directed by Swiss conductor Michael Zaugg, the Scottish ballad Loch Lomond, followed by a jazzy rendition of the American pop classic Mr. Sandman. A very successful combination as the enthusiastic applause indicated! Thank you, Pro Coro, for this wonderful gift.

We were very honored by the personal attendance and an address by the Ambassador of Switzerland to Canada, Dr. Beat Nobs, who was accompanied by Dr. Irene Knopfel Nobs. It was also a great pleasure to welcome our chef and former member Peter Johner. He and co-chef Maxine Zakordonsky cooked a wonderful meal for audience and performers.

End of November, we followed Maestro Michael Zaugg’s invitation to participate at the Pro Coro concert, I see Fire. We performed Vater Unser and Carolienscha, both songs by Swiss composers and had the pleasure of joining Pro Coro for several well-known songs such as Danny Boy and others. This was our first collaboration with Pro Coro and we are looking forward to more.

Christmas season is about reaching out for us to seniors and the general public with our Advent Christmas music. A yearly tradition, we started singing at the Rotary Club Christmas Carol Fest, followed by the Christmas concert at St. Vital Catholic church. Other concerts were at senior residences and extensive care facilities in Edmonton, ending with a joint concert with our music director’s elementary school choir in St. Albert and a presentation in the rotunda of the Alberta Legislature. If there are any male singers interested to join us or to check our calendar of events, please connect with us through our website at www.esmca.ca.

Victoria Swiss Society: The Sound of Switzerland Concert

The idea for the fundraising concert started the concert with a traditional alp prayer and there couldn’t have been a more impressive way to start! A full audience at Alix Goolden Hall. The alphorn players and Leikarringen dancers, three alphorn players, an opera singer, Victoria Swiss Society’s instrumentalists, and choirs, put on a truly memorable event. Many thanks to all performers and especially the Edmonton Men’s Choir for their generous support.

Dave Leigh

Regional News Canada

Edmonton: Edmonton Swiss Society

Victoria Swiss Society: The Sound of Switzerland Concert

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Vernon: Vernon Swiss Club Celebrates 60 Years

On Saturday, October 3rd, 2015, members, friends and guests gathered at the Schubert Center in Vernon for an evening of fun and celebration. The event was sold out. Thank you to everybody for participating as judging the coloring contest. We were entertained on the piano by Hannah Buchmann who had just learned to play Jingle Bells. It was great to see the families (many of our tables were made up of three generations), as well as some new members.

For our next two events, the Raclette luncheon and the Jass tournament will be announced in our next newsletter. These events are usually held between February and April at the host’s convenience, as they are held in members’ homes. For information about our club and events, please contact us at swissclubkootenay@gmail.com or call telephone 506-665-6039.

Guelph: Swiss Canadian Club

Are you in the Guelph area? And do you have an interest in Swiss culture and Swiss activities?

If so, then come and join the Guelph Swiss Canadian Club! We hold several events throughout the year, including indoor and outdoor activities for young and old.

In the upcoming months we will have our annual wine and cheese party, soaking up the sun with an outdoor activity, splashing the summer away at the annual summer barbecue and much more.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events! To receive updates, please email us at our new email address swisscanadianclubguelph@gmail.com or visit our face book page Swiss Canadian Club Guelph.

Regional News Canada

Calgary: Yodel Club Heimattreu Celebrates its 40th Anniversary

When we started the choir in 1976, many of us were new immigrants and still struggling communicating in our new language. Case in point was my initial beer purchase at Safeway which did not turn out too well as I came back with “Root beer” instead of a Canadian brewed “Feldschlössli Bier”. So it was not surprising that Swiss immigrants got together on weekends, played the favored card game, sang or conversed in our familiar dialects. Some formed friendships, some did not; it did not matter, as we were family nevertheless.

It was at one of these gatherings at the Chestermere Lake Community Hall (I think it was a “Metzgete”), that the seven founders had the idea, and also the voices, to form a Yodel Club. Given our circumstances, it had to be named “Heimattreu”. So it was Peter Stapfer in Bass, Fritz Wagner in Tenor, Arthur Bachmann in Tenor, Ruedi Peter in Bass, Arnold Rutzer in Tenor as well as Hans Bossert and I as Yodelers that were setting the foundation.

Arthur Bachmann and Arnold Rutzer were taken from us too early, but their contribution to our choir being able to celebrate its 40 year Anniversary is very much recognized. Now we find ourselves in the envious position of having three young accomplished yodelers, Renata Parent, Maria Zumbuehl and Sonja Weidmann in our midst. Together with Philipp Borrer, our newest young member, the new generation is starting to get traction. We are grateful for our youthful enthusiasm, commitment and confidence.

For detailed information on our upcoming 40th Anniversary celebration, please see the poster.
Montreal: Montreal Swiss Club

Members meet between September and April on the last Friday of the month at the Montalivet. We always have a lot of fun and there is a steady good turnout. At the playoffs each May, prizes are awarded to the top scorers, and at the December jass, members contribute to the Christmas gift table.

December Jass on the 18th, the fourth in a series of eight, was a great success with 87 players attending.

Mrs. Vera Maeder, in great form, won the event. Congratulations!

Thank you all for your contributions to the Christmas gift table, and I wish all our members and their families a Happy New Year!

Our next jass or for more information, please call Herbert Stoll (514) 453-0748.

HERBERT STOLL

SRF1: Auslandschweizer Radio Interview with Rolf Brühlhart, Vancouver

In der Schweizer Radio Sendung “Die fünfte Schweiz” erzählen Schweizerinnen und Schweizer aus ihrem Leben im Ausland. Die Sendung ist jeden Sonntag um 2:30 Uhr Lokalzeit auf SFR1 zu hören.

Mit Humor, gutem Wissen, praktischem Sinn und in schönem Luzerner Schwiizerdütsch beantwortet Rolf Brühlhart die Fragen des Interviewers Mike La Marr: wie er 1976 nach Kanada kam; was seine Beziehung heute – vierzig Jahre später – zur Schweiz und zu Kanada prägt; und wir hören wie er im Stegreif mit einem schönen Jodel abschielt.


SILVIA SCHÖCH

Toronto: Swiss Club Toronto–Theatre Group

“Kei Regel ohne Usnahm”

Lustspiel in drei Akten von Cornelia Amstutz

The play is in Swiss German and performed by the Theatre Group from Toronto at the following dates and locations:

Moorefield, Sunday, April 3, at 1:30 pm
Cathy Stelbil, estabh@hotmail.ca

Ottawa, Saturday, April 9, at 7 pm
contact your local Swiss Club
Toronto, Sunday, April 24, at 2 pm

Estonian House, 985 Broadview Ave.
Maggie Hess (905) 508-8014 or email: Maggie.Hess@Rogers.com

In Toronto we will have a single performance on Sunday afternoon. There will be drinks, lunch and Nussigelp available. We are looking forward to seeing you at one of our performances. For more details, please call your local Swiss Group Representative, Maggie Hess or Walter Brunner at (905) 508-8014.

Ottawa: Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

Upcoming events in 2016

January 29: Annual General Meeting April 9: German Swiss Theatre Night April 16: Montagna Singers Spring Dance June: Annual Golf Tournament Monthly: luncheons by the Swiss Seniors Club

For information or to contact us, please visit our website www.ottawavalleyswissclub.ca.

Helen Natterer

SFR1: Plattform touristischer Angebote von Deutsch sprechenden Auslandschweizern aus aller Welt


IWAN BERGER


IWAN BERGER

教授 Andreas Warburton: Exploring the Frontiers of Knowledge

How did the Universe start? What is it made of? The Big Bang should have created equal amounts of matter and antimatter. So why is there far more matter than antimatter in the Universe? These are some of the questions that physicists at CERN, the world’s largest particle physics laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland, are seeking answers to by studying the components of matter and the forces that hold them together.

These questions have long fascinated Dr. Andreas Warburton, Associate Professor, Department of Physics, at McGill University.

Undecided which area of physics to pursue after completing his undergraduate degree at University of Victoria, it was young student Andreas’ good fortune that he was accepted into one of the coveted summer internships at CERN. Unable to apply as a Canadian citizen since Canada had no formal association with CERN, Andreas submitted his application under his Swiss and UK citizenships. The time spent at CERN in lectures by some of the world’s best scientists were a turning point for him. He took up graduate work in particle physics at the University of Toronto and never looked back.

After a postdoctoral fellowship at Cornell University, and while working on the ATLAS experiment at CERN, Dr Warburton co-authored as lead editor the first publication describing a search for new physics from the CERN Large Hadron Collider. Out of the six major LHC experimental collaborations totaling approximately 10,000 physicists, this ATLAS publication constitutes the first documentation of humankind’s recently ex-
tended physics reach at the higher collision energies, probing the nature of the Universe within the first second following the Big Bang.

From 2007-2013, Dr. Warburton led Canadian research involvement in the international Collider Detector at Fermilab (CDF) collaboration at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory near Chicago, IL. This team of graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and professors worked on studies of quarks and fundamental forces, eventually joining the hunt for the elusive Higgs boson particle. In 2012, Dr. Warburton’s Canadian CDF team contributed to first evidence of the Higgs boson, shortly before the definitive European discovery made at CERN, and where Dr. Warburton was co-author as a member of the ATLAS Collaboration. The CERN Higgs particle discovery enabled—and was cited in—the Nobel Prize in Physics awarded to theorists Higgs and Englert in 2013.

“I’m not in the game to become famous” says Dr. Warburton. “Collaboration leaders often become famous, but important science is less and less individually driven. There is no question that now, to make progress, science needs to work in a collaborative way. In any discovery, there are often hundreds and hundreds of people involved, sometimes over years.” The modest scientist who has an extensive number of articles to his credit, is also physics coordinator for the ATLAS-Canada collaboration, and national Director of Student Affairs for the Canadian Association of Physicists.

While CERN continues to lead on the energy frontier, Dr. Warburton has also joined the Belle II Collaboration, which, with more than 400 international physicists and engineers working near Tokyo, Japan, will soon explore the sensitivity frontier. Complementary to CERN’s program, the recording of large data samples of billions of particle collisions enables searches for very subtle deviations from theoretical predictions and is of great interest to him. “High-rate collision factory particle production like this is bread and butter research in physics,” he smiles. “Trying to understand what these new particles are is very interesting and lots of studies are going on in this field. It’s humbling, but also energizing to realize that only five per cent of our Universe is visible matter, ordinary matter; matter we’re made of. Everything we know and understand is only in these five per cent. He continues “there is strong evidence that twenty-seven per cent of the Universe is dark matter, something that has mass but does not interact with light. We don’t know what it is. The rest is dark energy, and we don’t understand that either.”

The physicist smiles even more broadly and adds a little wistfully: “If we find out what dark matter is in my lifetime I will be very, very happy!”

Despite his international research involvement, Dr. Warburton considers teaching graduate and undergraduate level students important part of his work. Supervising three PhD and MSc students, he also teaches an undergraduate introductory course on experimental methods that all physics students at McGill take.

Staying in touch with reality and doing an ever improved job of informing the public is important to the scientist: “In the particle world it is more difficult to see immediately the potential applications which can be revolutionary. We have to do more and better outreach, telling our story about what’s actually happening at subatomic levels,” he stresses. “We have an obligation to share our work with the public. The technology that comes from science is helping our world in myriad applications now and will do so in the future”.

Raised in Victoria, BC, with younger brothers Mark and Rolf, Andreas spoke Schweizerdutsch from early on and spent Kindergarten in Switzerland. Summer holidays were spent with the Swiss grandparents, with a couple of weeks in the UK with the British grandparents. Andreas was fascinated with Switzerland. He still remembers his grandfather’s military uniform and how his uncle would take out his service rifle for him to play with on the lawn on sunny Sunday afternoons, while people were walking by, saying Grüezi.

Married to Dr. Mira Johri, Professor of Public Health at University of Montreal, the couple recently travelled to rural India where Mira works on a front line public health project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. While in northern India, the couple visited an elementary school in a mountain village they support. Andreas gave a lecture using a pomegranate to illustrate the Higgs boson and stones from the Ganges River to represent other particles, explaining the known workings of the Universe. “It was totally exciting to engage these kids,” and he adds how thrilled he was with the rapt attention and infectious enthusiasm of these students.

This fall, the couple will take a sabbatical. Not to rest, but to further their passions: Mira will work on a global alliance project for vaccines in Geneva and India, while Andreas continues his work at CERN and Belle II in Japan.