Victoria Swiss Society: New Ambassador visits British Columbia

In a whirlwind tour to British Columbia at the end of April, His Excellency, Ambassador Dr. Beat Nobs visited the cities of Vancouver and Victoria. Ambassador of Switzerland to Canada and the Bahamas since September 2014, in his previous function, Dr. Nobs was Ambassador/Assistant Secretary for Asia and Pacific at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Bern. In prior appointments during his distinguished career, Dr. Nobs served as Ambassador to New Zealand; was the Ambassador for the Environment as Head of the Delegation and Chief Negotiator of Switzerland for the Environment; and Vice-President UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Accompanied by his charming spouse, Dr. Irene Knöpfel Nobs, Ambassador Nobs held a lecture on Direct Democracy at the University of British Columbia where he himself had been a student in past years; met with Provincial Government Ministers and University Officials accompanied by Consul General V. Strausak, and held receptions for the Presidents and members of local Swiss Societies in both cities. In Vancouver, Ambassador Nobs attended a luncheon with the Board of Directors of the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and in Victoria met with Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon.

In his address to the Swiss Community in Victoria, Ambassador Nobs spoke of the importance of maintaining the official Swiss languages in Canada as a way to “press through the wall and really get to the person” when travelling in Switzerland or elsewhere.

Dr. Nobs urged expatriate Swiss to exercise their right to vote which is offered electronically by more and more Swiss Cantons and facilitates greater ease. “Your unique perspective is of value to Switzerland”, the Ambassador said. Currently, one third of approximately 750,000 expatriate Swiss are making use of their voting rights.

“Switzerland has upped the ante for Consulates in Canada by taking on visa-issuing for a number of other countries, particularly in the Schengen area” Dr. Nobs continued, adding that this is one of the reasons that “the Vancouver Consulate will not close and will continue to be there for the Swiss in Western Canada”.

The Ambassador closed by mentioning how impressed he was by the activities of the Swiss Community in British Columbia and promised that he would return within the next four years. The Ambassador was presented by the Victoria Swiss Society with a West Coast print and editions of the Societies’ Newsletter.

Another fantastic match was the recent Switzerland/Canada women’s world curling match in Sapporo, Japan. Switzerland defeated Canada 5-3. Canada played very well and had many chances right into a closely fought tenth end, but the Swiss sealed the win with another single point on their last rock. Switzerland gold, Canada silver and Swiss Canadians cheering both teams and applauding their fantastic play!

SILVIA SCHOCHE, EDITOR AND OSA DELEGATE WESTERN CANADA
EMAIL: SILV.SCHOCH@GMAIL.COM
**Edmonton Swiss Society: Alberta-Swiss Landsgemeinde**

Landsgemeinde, or open-air assembly, is one of the oldest forms of direct democracy. With its origin believed to date back some 1,500 years to today’s Switzerland and other central Alpine European countries, only the Swiss assemblies survived after the Middle Ages. Today, Glarus and Appenzell Inner Rhodes keep the tradition alive where the Landsgemeinde is still the highest political institution in these two Swiss cantons, usually held at the end of April or beginning of May. (Ed.)

The first Albertan-Swiss Landsgemeinde took place in June 1974. Initiated by Edmonton Swiss Society President and Honorary Consul Dr. Pierre Monod with the objective to bring together Alberta-Swiss from near and far and all walks of life to share a common experience and celebrate their Swiss roots. The Alberta Government granted funds by supporting the vision for “gathering and the purchasing of costumes, bells, crossbows, flags to throw and alphorns,” according to the Societies’ archives.

In 1976, the Consul General of Switzerland, together with the BC Minister of Culture, attended the unveiling of the Highwaymarker to Carl Stettler, the Swiss immigrant to Alberta who founded Blumenau which was later re-named Stettler in his honour. The founding of the Edmonton Swiss Men’s Choir took place at the Landsgemeinde in 1980. The Choir celebrates its 35th anniversary on November 14 with a special performance at the annual Winzerfest.

This year, the Alberta Swiss Landsgemeinde takes place from June 12th to 14th at Ol’ McDonald Resort located near Stettler, AB, on the south shore of Buffalo Lake. One-and-one half hours drive from Edmonton and two hours from Calgary.

To join the Landsgemeinde reserved group site at this full-service, wireless internet family campground, mention at the registration desk that you are with the Swiss group. Call the resort ahead at 403-742-6603 to book a cabin or motel room.

Come one and all. While there is no voting at this Landsgemeinde, there are fun Swiss activities for the entire family: Swiss music entertainment, singing and dance, archery, Jass tournaments, BBQ, campfires and more. KARL STRICKLER

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**Vancouver: Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association**

The indoor shooting season ended with the annual 10m Schützenfest. Thanks to all for a very well organized event.

Our first 300m, 50m, Pistol and Crossbow practice shoot of the season started with the obligatory safety course, where we were once again reminded of the importance of following the safety rules. Let’s hope for another accident free shooting season.

The annual Crossbow Fondue Stich was held on 12. April, the winner of the competition was Joe Morach. After the shooting we were treated to a delicious Fondue dinner and some accordion entertainment. What an enjoyable day that was. Thank you Joe and Connie for organizing this event.

As we are preparing to travel to Switzerland for the Eidgenössische Schützenfest in Visp, the shooters are encouraged to do a lot of practicing. The Ausland Schweizer Tag is on 28. June.

Besides all the shooting, there is a lot of work being done. A few of our hardworking members are replacing the siding on the 300m shooting range, and it starts to look like new again. Even if you are not a shooting fan, you are still welcome to visit us on any scheduled shooting days, and with any luck you might spot a deer or bear, or just enjoy our beautiful property. Have a great summer! Please check our website for results and photos: www.scmra.ca

MARLIES BAUMANN
**2015 Presidents’ Conference announced for Western Canada**

The Edmonton Swiss Society is the host organization for this year’s Presidents’ Conference for Swiss Societies in Western Canada. The conference is scheduled to be held on

Saturday, November 14, 2015 at the Hotel Château Lacombe, Edmonton

The conference commences at 9:00 am and ends at 4:30 pm. Lunch and coffee are included. Detailed schedule plus guest speaker list will be sent to registered participants at the beginning of June. The conference is open for attendance to all Swiss Society members, but only Presidents and official representatives of their Western-Canada Swiss organizations are able to vote. If you wish to register for the conference, please email vancouver@eda.admin.ch or silv.schoch@gmail.com. Please inform how many people from your club are travelling with you.

The conference coincides with the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir at their Annual Winzerfest! The Choir is hard at work, putting together a very special performance. The Consulate General of Switzerland is offering free tickets to all Presidents of the conference who wish to attend this very special evening of entertainment, which also includes dinner. Reservations for additional Winzerfest tickets can be made by contacting Hans Vogeli at (780) 464-1266.

The Hotel Château Lacombe in downtown Edmonton is offering special room rates from Friday to and/or Saturday night. Please contact Sherri Schurer, Sales Manager, or hotel reservation end of May to obtain your special room rate reservation.

The conference is jointly organized between the Edmonton Swiss Society, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver and OSA Delegate for Western Canada, Silvia Schoch.

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**Delegate and Council Member of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA/ASO)**

The Presidents’ Conference of Western Canada is currently seeking candidates for the vacant Western-Canadian OSA seat for the territorial jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Yukon and Northwest Territories).

**Aufgaben/Anforderungen**

- Wirken als Anlaufstelle und Auskunftsperson für Landsleute im oben genannten Gebiet
- Vertretung der Anliegen der vertretenden Schweizergemeinschaft und ihren Institutionen im Auslandschweizerrat (ASR)
- Orientierung der Schweizer Vereine über ASO Arbeiten und Angebote, sowie über die Aktualitäten aus dem ASR
- Kontaktpflege zu Schweizer Vereinen, offiziellen Vertretungen und schweizerischen Institutionen im oben genannten Gebiet
- Förderung der schweizerischen Präsenz in Kanada und der politischen Partizipation der Auslands Schweizer im genannten Gebiet
- Präsenz und Mitwirkung im ASR und gegebenenfalls in Kommissionen und Arbeitsgruppen
- Schweizer Bürger(in)
- Deutsch- oder Französisch sprechend
- Teilnahmen an den ASR Sitzungen in der Schweiz ein- bis zweimal jährlich (März und August)
- Im territorialen Konsularbezirk Vancouver ansässig
- Amtsdauer von vier Jahren

*For further information, please contact Ms. Silvia Schoch, OSA Delegate/CSR Member Western Canada, email: silv.schoch@gmail.com; or submit your application to: Consulate General of Switzerland, World Trade Centre, 790-999 Canada Place, Vancouver, BC, V6C 3E1*

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**CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN MONTREAL**

Important Message to all Swiss Citizens residing in Ontario

Dear Fellow Citizens,

Due to the success of last year’s edition, this Consulate General is pleased to inform you that we will once again organize our “Swiss consular days” with the presence of the mobile biometric passport station in the Greater Toronto area at the beginning of October this year. As you might already know, since the introduction of the Biometric passport, applicants must present themselves in person to record the biometric data: a photograph of the applicant’s face and two fingerprints. The mobile station allows us to come to your area and offer this opportunity to those who meet the criteria as set out below and who wish to have their biometric data recorded directly at the selected location.

If you are interested, you may apply for your passport by following the procedures, as outlined for Swiss nationals living abroad, on either of these websites: www.schweizerpass or www.passeportsuisse.ch. When applying for the passport, please make sure to mention “Toronto” in the Remarks section (Bemerkungen, Remarques, Osservazioni). Your application must be submitted by August 14th, 2015 at the latest. Should your civil status not be updated in our registry or should you have changed name/s, we cannot consider your application for this service in Toronto, as your dossier will first have to be updated and confirmed by the Swiss authorities in Switzerland.

Please note that this invitation is addressed specifically to holders of Swiss passports which will expire within the next 12 months. The number of available appointment time slots is limited.

If you wish to receive further information about our consular services, please visit our website or send us an e-mail to Mon. Vertretung@eda.admin.ch

SINCERELY, CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN MONTREAL
Ottawa: Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

Our first event this year was the OVSC Annual General Meeting, February 13th. An address by His Excellency, Dr. Beat Nobs, Ambassador of Switzerland, informed us on the current issues affecting Switzerland and the state of relations with Canada. He also emphasized the importance of keeping the Swiss traditions, especially our language.

We are pleased that the Swiss Theater Group Toronto returned to visit again in April. They delighted the audience with their play “Ein verhängnisvoller Nacht” at our traditional theater night. A week later, the Montagna Singers held their successful Spring Dance.

Please note that the date and venue of the 1. August Celebration has changed. The Seaway Valley Swiss Club invited us to a joint celebration at Mont-Sutton, and we will be asking our members to volunteer a few hours to help make this event a success. Our summer picnic will be once again held in mid August, with some even enjoyed the sunshine up on the roof terrace! On Saturday evening, after the traditional fondue supper, Henry Oppliger brought out his accordion; the club provided the songbooks, and so we had a fun evening of singing and joke telling.

As usual, our club will help out at the Swiss National Day celebrations at Mont-Sutton, and we will be asking our members to volunteer a few hours to help make this event a success. Our summer picnic will be once again held in mid August, with thanks to Remy & Rudy Pfister who will host this event.

We hold five or six events or outings each year, and we are pleased to say these are always well-attended. We continue to welcome new members to our club as well. For more information, please call (514) 694-3718.

HELEN NATTERER

Montreal: La Société Suisse Romande

C’est avec grand plaisir que j’ai accepté la présidence de la Société Suisse Romande, mandat qui m’a été confié lors de la dernière assemblée générale tenue le 7 mars dernier à Farnham. Je voudrais remercier chaleureusement, au nom des membres du comité et de tous les membres de la Société Suisse Romande, Madame Jeannette Perriard, qui a été présidente pendant 11 années. Madame Perriard laisse une excellente succession derrière elle, un comité partiellement renouvelé et motivé qui prendra avec enthousiasme l’avenir de la Société Suisse Romande. Je tiens d’ores et déjà à les remercier de leur support dans l’organisation des activités à venir.


En vue de la fête nationale du 1er août à Sutton, je lance un appel à tous nos membres et à leurs amis, afin qu’ils se portent bénévoles pendant quelques heures durant cette journée. Nous avons toujours besoin d’un nombre grandissant de bénévoles pour divers tâches durant la fête, que ce soit à l’entrée du site, pour le service de la raclette, ou autres tâches. Veuillez communiquer vos noms et disponibilités en écrivant à societesuisse@switzerland.org. La Société Suisse Romande est fière de pouvoir remercier ses bénévoles lors d’un repas dans les mois suivants la fête du 1er août.

Membres du comité 2015 de la Société Suisse Romande: Raphaël Delacombaz, président; Bernard Mathieu, vice-président; Françoise Luginbühl, trésorière; Myriam Troesch, secrétaire; administrateur(e)s du comité: Gérard Mojonnet, Jeannette Perriard, Karine Masserey, Barbara Gasser, Alfred Delaquis.

Nous invitons aussi tous les nouveaux arrivants dans la province à se joindre à notre Société. Une visite rapide sur notre site internet: http://www.societesuisse@switzerland.org vous informe sur nos activités et autres sujets d’intérêts.

RAPHAEL DELACOMBAZ

Montreal: Swiss Women’s Club Edelweiss

Thanks to the generosity of donors and visitors of the Bazaar, the Club was able to distribute 57,000 $ to various local charities. Thank you to all our donors, volunteers and their families and to our visitors. Club members will be participating at the Swiss National Day festivities in Sutton this August 1st. Look for the ladies in traditional dress.

Grâce à la générosité de donateurs et visiteurs au Bazar, le Club a pu distribuer un total de 7 000 $ en dons à des œuvres caritatives locales. Nous tenons à remercier nos donateurs, nos bénévoles et leurs familles et tous nos visiteurs.

De nombreuses membres participeront de nouveau aux festivités de la Fête Nationale Suisse à Sutton ce 1er août. Cherchez les dames en costume traditionnel.

ERIKA SCHIMANN

Montreal: Matterhorn Swiss Club

Our Annual General Meeting was held at Terra Mare Restaurant where we enjoyed another delicious dinner. Our committee for 2016 remains unchanged: President: Walter Spirig, Vice-President: Christian Walz, Treasurer: Gilbert Berthoud, Secretary: Joanne Spirig, Member-at-large: Annelise Oppliger.

Our most recent event was the very popular Winter Fun Weekend at Mont-Tremblant. This year, the weather was absolutely perfect, and those present enjoyed walking in the woods, snowshoeing, cross-country and downhill skiing. Some even enjoyed the sunshine up on the roof terrace! On Saturday evening, after the traditional fondue supper, Henry Oppliger brought out his accordion; the club provided the songbooks, and so we had a fun evening of singing and joke telling.

As usual, our club will help out at the Swiss National Day celebrations at Mont-Sutton, and we will be asking our members to volunteer a few hours to help make this event a success. Our summer picnic will be once again held in mid August, with thanks to Remy & Rudy Pfister who will host this event.

We hold five or six events or outings each year, and we are pleased to say these are always well-attended. We continue to welcome new members to our club as well. For more information, please call (514) 694-3718.

WALTER SPIRIG

Swiss Review / June 2015
Mitchell: Swiss Club Thames Valley

The Metzgete/Jass Meisterschaft at the Legion in Milverton and our theatre afternoon in Moorefield, put on by the Theatre Group from Toronto, were both a great success and we had an awesome turnout. At the Metzgete and Jass Meisterschaft we were first treated to some great food, followed by some intense work for those who worked themselves up to the Jass finals.

In April, our executive group had a terrific day at our annual excursion. This year we started out in Hensell at the Ice Culture Inc. where we had an interesting guided tour, we learned all about how the ice sculptures are made. Then our trip lead us to Huron Ridge Acres, where we were treated to an early taste of spring. We had a tour and were shown how seedling and potting is done in big quantities. Some of us took the opportunity to go pansy shopping. Afterwards, we treated ourselves to a delicious dinner at the Docks in Bayfield. Followed by Brunch (Chörli) May 31st, as well as the Motorcycle Tour (Walter Burkhardt) July 12th/19th.

Our next event coming up is the Bundesfeier in Monkon, where we have a full day planned for everyone to enjoy. Starting off with homemade Veggy Soup at 10 am, then the official start at 11 am with ceremonies etc., and in the afternoon we have “Stein Stossen”, “Armbrust Schiessen”, Games for the Kids as well as just about non-stop entertainment by the Jodler, Chörli, Swiss Farmers Band, Alphornbläser, Schweizerörgeli group, etc. Don’t forget, we are also Dancing the night away with the Golden Keys. You will also have the chance to indulge in Bratwurst, Cervelats and Steaks off the BBQ as well as other well known Swiss foods. Following are the event dates for the rest of 2015:

- August 30: Seniorentreff (Chörli);
- October 3: Jodler Stubete, Recreation Complex Milverton;
- November 7: Generalversammlung Swiss Club, Milverton Legion;
- November 21: Konzert Swiss Farmer Band, Recreation Complex Milverton;
- December 6: Advents Feier, Milverton Legion.

We hope everyone will enjoy all the different events. If you would like to learn more about us, look us up online at our website www.swissclubthamesvalley.com, call Cathy 519 529 3263, or e-mail at cstaehli@hotmail.ca.

Sonja Gutknecht
Montréal: L’amicale Suisse des Laurentides
Après ce long carême froid et glacial, quoi de mieux, pour la saison estivale, nos activités et rencontres les dimanches reprennent.
Dès fin juin le traditionnel cochonnet sur la broche. A l’agenda le 30 août les Pic Bois de Montréal vous divertiront sur la terrasse dès l’après-midi jusqu’au souper. Musique de chez nous ...

L’AMI GERARD

Hockey in Switzerland

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Phone: 514-631 4266
Fax: 514-636 0365
E-mail: d.mccann@mccannequipment.ca

The Swiss Club Toronto cordially invites you and your friends to a fun filled afternoon with great entertainment, Swiss food, refreshments, our famous Nussgipfel, wagon rides, and much more.

Take your family to make new friends and renew old acquaintances. Meet Swiss artists and enjoy their work, and don’t forget our famous raffle.

12:00 noon - The park opens
Visit some of the thirty heritage buildings. Taste great Swiss food, coffee and Nussgipfel. Beer, wine and soft drinks are also available.

1:30 pm - Official celebration and entertainment until 4:30 pm, followed by our famous raffle draw.

Directions from Toronto: Country Heritage Park is located at 8560 Tremaine Road, west of Milton, Ontario. Take the 401 west to Highway 25 exit. Go north to the third traffic light, turn left onto Side Road 5/Regional Road 9. After three kilometers turn left onto Tremaine Road (hidden intersection). Go over the 401 bridge and the Park is immediately on the right.

For more information please visit our website: www.swissclubtoronto.ca
For park information, go to: www.countryheritagepark.com

SASCHA FRASSINI

Toronto: Swiss Club Toronto–Swiss National Day Celebration
Sunday, July 26, 2015, Country Heritage Park, Milton, 12-5 pm

The Swiss Club Toronto cordially invites you and your friends to a fun filled afternoon with great entertainment, Swiss food, refreshments, our famous Nussgipfel, wagon rides, and much more.

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Chers Compatriotes et Amis de la Suisse,

Nous célébrerons la 39e édition de la Fête Nationale Suisse à Sutton le Samedi 1er Août 2015. C’est avec grand plaisir que nous invitons tous les ressortissants suisses et leurs amis de toutes origines à se joindre à nous pour découvrir la région d’Appenzell, ses traditions, ses spécialités, sa musique, sa culture. Nous aurons le plaisir de vous présenter le quintette «Knechtle» venu directement de l’Appenzell Rhodes-Innérieures. Nous accueillerons aussi des groupes folkloriques traditionnels locaux, des chœurs, chanteurs et danseurs ainsi que des joueurs de cors des Alpes et plusieurs autres artistes de traditions Suisses. Il y aura également des activités pour les enfants ainsi que pour les adultes.

Nous ne pourrions pas tenir cette fête sans l’appui considérable des bénévoles de 18 clubs suisses distincts actifs au Québec ainsi que la contribution généreuse des nombreux commanditaires. Enfin, nous aimerions aussi remercier notre Consulat et la Ville de Sutton pour leur soutien indéfectible. Nous espérons vous voir nombreux à Sutton.

PETER FUHRER

Montreal: Federation of Swiss Societies of Eastern Canada

Dear Compatritions and Friends of Switzerland,

We will be celebrating the Swiss National Day in Sutton on Saturday, 1st of August. It is with great pleasure that we invite all Swiss citizens and their friends of all origins to come discover the region of Appenzell, its traditions, its specialities, its music, its culture. We have the pleasure of presenting “Knechtle” quintet, coming especially from Appenzell Innerrhoden. We will also be featuring traditional local folklore groups, choirs, singers and dancers as well as alphorn players plus many more traditional Swiss attractions.

There will also be plenty of activities for the children and for adults.

This celebration would not be possible without the support of the volunteers of the 18 different Swiss clubs that are active in Quebec as well as the many generous sponsors. We also wish to extend our thanks to our Consulate and the municipality of Sutton for their continued support. We hope to see many of you in Sutton.

PETER FUHRER
Vernon: Interior Swiss Club

Pictured below left are the young and the very young members of the Interior Swiss Club at their annual bowling tournament in Kamloops last April. The bowling techniques were amusing to watch. Our nine year old participant Samantha chose to do a belly landing to place her ball exactly right, and others stood, swung, dropped and rolled the balls to achieve successful strikes and spares to the cheers of our onlookers. For results and more pictures go to the website at http://www.interiorswissclub.ca

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