Editorial

2017 is an important year for the Swiss community world-wide.

More than 760,000 Swiss citizens—approximately ten percent of total population of Switzerland—live outside the country’s borders. They are represented by 120 elected Swiss Delegates from around the world and twenty Delegates from within Switzerland.

The call to Swiss candidates to stand for nomination as Delegates and Council members in the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) in Berne in order to represent the 40,000 Swiss citizens living in Canada was issued through Swiss umbrella organizations in East and West and in earlier issues of the Regional News Canada.

The Delegates for the three OSA allocated seats in Eastern Canada are in the process of being elected by the Presidents of Swiss organizations in the East at the time of this writing. The election for the two seats in West Canada will be held by the end of April by the Presidents of Swiss Organizations in the West. In this issue, you find an introduction to the three candidates standing for election in Western Canada. All newly elected OSA Delegates across Canada are invited to introduce themselves in the next Swiss Review Regional News Canada.

Consul General of Switzerland in Vancouver, Pascal Bornoz, introduces Swiss Animated Movie at the Victoria Film Festival

The movie theatre down-town Victoria was taken to the last seat on February 12. The expectant atmosphere heightened even further after Consul General Pascal Bornoz’ introduction to the extraordinary Swiss movie «Ma vie de Courgette» (My Life as a Zucchini).

After a ten year incubation period, it took Swiss film director Claude Barras ten months to complete the seventy minute animated feature. Rather than using computer animation, more than fifty different puppets were hand-made for production. Shooting twelve images per second in a stop-motion process, Barras and his team completed four seconds every working day. The effort shows: the film has won several awards, was nominated for an Oscar, and the Victoria audience spontaneously gave it a standing ovation!

In this warm-hearted film (French, with English subtitles), engaging animated characters express emotion with an authenticity that is universally understood. It traces life and experiences of the nine-year old boy Icare, alias Courgette, in a foster facility after his mother’s demise. Not shying away from engaging with some painful realities of life in this coming-of-age story, characters and tale develop through wise, patient and naturally unfolding story telling with just the right amount of humour infused here and there. By the time it becomes evident that the characters on screen begin to bond with one-another, the audience is long glued to the screen.

With the purpose of promoting Swiss linguistic and cultural diversity, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver supported the screening of this work of art in Western Canada. After the joint viewing, Victoria Swiss families and their children were invited to an exchange of views enhanced by refreshments.
Chères et chers compatriotes, Care concittadine, cari concittadini, Liebe Mitbürgerinnen und Mitbürger,

C'est pour moi un grand plaisir de m'adresser à vous sur cette édition de la Revue Suisse. Depuis mon arrivée à Montréal en septembre 2016, j'ai le plaisir de collaborer avec un vaste réseau d'institutions et d'acteurs clés du réseau canado-suisse basé dans ma circonscription consulaire. En effet, épaulée par mon équipe et le Swiss Business Hub – un élément important en matière de commerce et d'investissement au Canada – le Consulat général s'efforce de défendre les intérêts de la Suisse et de promouvoir et renforcer sa présence dans de nombreux domaines tels que l'économie, la science et la culture. Nos Consuls honoraires à Halifax, Québec, Toronto et à Nassau jouent également un rôle important et nous aident à identifier toute opportunité permettant de renforcer les bons liens déjà existants entre la Suisse et l'Est du Canada ainsi que les Bahamas.

Un Consulat général est bien entendu aussi un fournisseur de services. Il me paraît ainsi essentiel de pouvoir vous fournir des prestations agréables, rapides et méticuleuses. Dans cette optique, nous envisageons offrir, comme par le passé, des services de biométrie mobile pour les passeports et d'organiser des rencontres avec nos jeunes concitoyens atteignant leur majorité ainsi que de collaborer avec les Clubs suisses dans notre circonscription. Aussi, je voudrais vous encourager à utiliser davantage notre guichet unique et à actualiser vos données (voir notre communication officielle de février 2017). Par ailleurs, il nous fera plaisir de vous faciliter l'obtention de toute information publique sur la Suisse qui n'est pas disponible sur internet ou de vous communiquer des informations de contact dans le cadre de notre compétence. Nous veillerons à vous aider et à répondre à vos attentes dans toute la mesure du possible.

Je vous invite à découvrir notre page Facebook pour rester informé sur une grande variété de nouvelles et d'événements entre nos deux pays, mais aussi de consulter régulièrement notre site internet. Vous y trouverez un vaste éventail d'informations, lié non seulement à vos démarches administratives avec notre Consulat général mais aussi aux changements de loi ou de procédure pertinents pour les Suisses de l'étranger.

Avec mes meilleures salutations et au plaisir de vous lire ou de vous entendre, Elisabeth Bösch Malinen

Dear Compatriots,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you via this edition of the Swiss Review.

Since my arrival in Montreal last September, I enjoy working with a broad network of institutions and key players based in my consular district. Along with my team and the Swiss Business Hub Canada, responsible for facilitating business relations between our countries, the Consulate General represents Switzerland’s interests in various areas such as economic, scientific and cultural affairs. In addition, the Honorary Consuls in Halifax, Quebec, Toronto and in Nassau help us to identify upcoming opportunities and thus to further strengthen the ties between Switzerland and Eastern Canada, as well as with the Bahamas.

A Consulate General is of course also a service provider to its citizens and to the population in its consular district. In addition to offering a vast range of services, we contemplate continuing to offer mobile biometric services for passports and to organize gatherings for our young fellow citizens attaining majority as well as to cooperate with Swiss Clubs in your vicinity. I would also like to encourage you to use our online desk and to update your personal data (please also see our official communication of February 2017). We are always happy to help you find information about Switzerland and to assist you as best we can.

In addition, I invite you to visit our Facebook page updated regularly with interesting posts about Switzerland and which informs our followers about upcoming Swiss related events taking place in Eastern Canada. Take a look at our website too, where you will not only find information regarding various administrative procedures but also information concerning significant changes in the Swiss legislation pertinent to Swiss nationals living abroad.

Yours sincerely, Elisabeth Bösch Malinen
Montréal  PiccB’ois, Fifres et Tambours


Nous recherchons toujours quelques nouveaux membres pour notre groupe. Est-ce que vous jouez le piccolo, la flûte ou un autre instrument, ou est-ce que vous êtes tambour, et vous auriez envie de rencontrer des gens fort sympathiques pour faire de la musique ensemble? Ou est-ce que vous connaissez quelqu’un qui pourrait être intéressé de nous rencontrer? Vous n’avez pas besoin d’être suisse, l’amour pour la musique est suffisant. Pour plus d’information veuillez nous contacter via le site web de la Fédé: www.fedesuisse.com.

BERNARD EGGIMANN

Montreal  Matterhorn Swiss Club

Our Annual General Meeting was held at Terra Mare Restaurant where we enjoyed another delicious dinner. This year we welcome two new members to our committee as our former Vice-President and Member-at-Large, Christian Walz and Annelise Oppliger, decided to resign. We thank them very much for their contributions over the past few years. Our 2017 Committee is as follows: Walter Spirig, President; Peter Aschwanden, Vice-President; Giblert Berthoud, Treasurer; Jo-anne Spirig, Secretary; Astrid Aschwanden, Member-at-large. Jack Schiess was welcomed as our new auditor. Henry Oppliger is since-rely thanked for holding this position for many years!

We are currently planning our spring or early summer outing to Omega Park in Montebello, QC. It is sure to be a very enjoyable day, observing Canadian wildlife in their natural habitat.

Our club holds five or six events or outings each year, and we are pleased to say they are always very well attended. New members are always welcome. For more information please see the Matterhorn Club section on the Federation website: www.fedesuisse.com.

WALTER SPIRIG

A Call to Action for all Swiss in the lower Mainland: The Outdoors Club of the Swiss Society is seeking your Help!

Do you remember the fun car rallies we held? Or the many notable camping trips and mountain climbs? Ski trips, followed by a fondue Plausch in the cabin or summer canoeing and bicycle excursions with picnics? How about the generations of children who grew up with the beloved Swiss Waldweihnachten, organized for nearly forty years? They were just as popular by their parents! Not to mention the support of equally many August first celebrations, dances and most notable the construction and maintenance of Mt. Baker cabin in Glacier Springs, a beautiful chalet close to the Mt. Baker ski and hiking area. The Swiss Outdoor Club is proud of the many wonderful and memorable achievements we have accomplished over the years and even more importantly, of the countless friendships to which we contributed!

Since inception in 1977, the Club and its cabin management have been largely led by a team of volunteers. Now, we need some more young outdoor enthusiasts to join some of our other young leadership members, as many of us ‘original’ Outdoor Club board members wish to pass on the torch to a new leadership generation.

If you enjoy outdoor activities, see great value in organizing and participating in rewarding and fun social community events around outdoor activities for families and individuals, and wish to bring fresh ideas as part of the executive of a club of 140 members, join the Swiss Outdoor Club! Due to retirement, we’re seeking a President, Vice-President and Trip Organizer. There are also opportunities for cabin management volunteers and Treasurer.

Let’s rejuvenate the Swiss Outdoor Club together as part of the larger Swiss Club in Vancouver and infuse it with fresh spirit! Join us on the executive or tell this opportunity to someone you know.

For more information contact: Andreas Schneider at aschneiter@shaw.ca, Jacques Goldschmidt at goldschmidt, jaques@gmail.com or Joe Mueller at josefmueller@shaw.ca. We’re looking forward to hearing from you!

OUTDOOR CLUB OF THE SWISS SOCIETY
On January 28, we celebrated all shooters, members and volunteers. Winner of the 300 meter club championship was René Zollinger with the standard rifle and Robert Best with the service rifle. Pistol section all-around winner: Chris Moraich; 50 meter section: Jim Paton; crossbow section: Gerhard Hirsig. Congratulations to you all!

Our Annual General Meeting was held on February 10 and we thank all past Executive members for their dedication. Special recognition was given to René Zollinger for his hard work as President for the last 19 years. René will carry on as Honorary President, Frank Suter jun. takes over as President and Alain Mühlebach as Vice-President. We are looking forward to the 2017 outdoors shooting season and it would be great to welcome new members. Lunch is always available on official shooting days.

April 9 & 23 Championship all Ranges
May 6 Work-Party
May 7 Championship all Ranges and Trap
May 20/21 50 & 300 meter Feldstich – Feldschiessen
June 4 Championship all Ranges
June 17 Work-Party
June 18 Championship all Ranges. 1 pm Bruno Huber Shoot
July 2 Mountain Range Match 9am-noon. 1pm Volks-schiessen (BBQ - bring your own)
July 16 Championship all Ranges and Trap in afternoon
July 22 Work-Party
July 29 NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

We are a progressive club with lots of events and get-togethers, join us for some shooting, bocci, a walk around our beautiful property, play cards or simply sit together and socialize. Try it, you’ll like it! For more details or program changes please check out our website: www.scmra.ca.

Edmonton Edmonton Swiss Society

We had a good turnout at our Annual General Meeting on January 27, 2017, of our own members as well as delegations from the other Edmonton Swiss clubs, namely the Swiss Riffle Club and the Swiss Men’s Choir.

As always, Kari, our outgoing President, made sure we did not waste any time going through the official part. We had a review over the events of the past year and a brief outlook to upcoming events. The most important part of this year’s AGM was the election of the Executive as two of our members did not stand for re-election. Both Kari Strickler and Teresa Clouston left the executive.

As new President, I would like to take the opportunity to thank them both for the tremendous work they have done for the Edmonton Swiss Society over the past years. At the same time we are excited to welcome two new members to the executive. Sisters Regula and Barbara Winzeler were elected and join the leadership team of our club as Vice-President and Secretary respectively.

We are excited to launch a new event this spring. Inspired by a Swiss Club in Sydney, Australia, we are offering a Swiss Brunch on April 23 this year. This will be an event that is open to all guests interested in enjoying a delicious Swiss Brunch made of homemade breads, Swiss cold cuts, jams, bircher muesli and much more.

Please visit our Facebook page for more and detailed information. We are hoping to see you there! Please also visit our Facebook page for up-to-date information about events. www.facebook.com/edmontonswiss.

Nick Siegenthaler

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Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) - Delegate Elections 2017

Three delegates from East Canada and two from the West represent the Swiss citizens in Canada during a four-year term as part of OSA Council in Switzerland. Following are the three candidates standing for election for the two Western seats. Eastern Canada’s incumbents are invited to portray themselves in the next edition of the Regional News.

Rolf Brühlhart, born in Kt. Luzern, was initially Primarschullehrer, Offizier and finally became Soziologe in 1973. His work as Scientific Secretary of the National Social Science Research Councils of the ISSC, UNESCO, Paris, took him around the world. At the end of his MA studies in Vancouver, he met his wife Josefina with whom he has three children. He served the local Swiss Community as President of the Swiss Society of Vancouver, President of the local Swiss-Canadian Chamber of Commerce and as Co-Founder of the Presidents Conference of Swiss Organizations in Western Canada. From 2007-2013, Rolf served as Delegate to the Council of Swiss Abroad of the OSA in Berne, and from 2008-2011 as President of the United Swiss Singing Societies of the Pacific Coast. He is an active member of the Vancouver Swiss Choir, the SSV, the Swiss Outdoors Club and the SCCC(BC)Inc. It would be an honour for him to serve again as Delegate for the Swiss Abroad of Western Canada for CSA. Rolf can be reached at: rbruhlhart@hotmail.com.

Silvia Schoch is a current OSA Delegate & Council Member representing Western Canada. Silvia is looking forward to the opportunity to serve a second term. As a member of the OSA Executive appointed Direct Elections committee, she is working to make recommendations how to broaden the OSA Delegate election process for the next election in 2021. In 2014, Silvia submitted a paper to OSA Council demonstrating the global connection between lack of clean water & war displacement migration for OSA discussion. Silvia was born and raised in Zurich, completed the federal business diploma and worked as Human Resources Manager in Switzerland and Canada after immigration in 1982. Moving to BC in 2000, Silvia completed her advanced English teaching degree and began a career in writing and journalism. She worked overseas in developing countries, reporting for various NGOs. Today, she lives in Victoria, BC, is a member of the Victoria Swiss Society, Editor of Swiss Review Canada and the Swiss Abroad website Swiss Wanderlust. To request Silvia’s 2016 OSA report, please email her at: silv.schoch@gmail.com.

Heidi Lussi grew up with seven siblings in Stans, Nidwalden. Heidi loves serving people in the best way, a passion which threads throughout her life and which she combines with a sense of adventure. After high school, Heidi attended farmer’s school in Gurtnellen. She then accepted a position to take care of household and children in a doctor’s family until she’d saved sufficient money to take an intensive language course in England. She applied her new skills in the Swiss hotelerie, until completing her French studies in Paris, followed by business school in Lucerne. After running the office of a large Swiss firm, Heidi’s sense of adventure took her to work on a ranch in Canada. Settling in Vernon, BC., Heidi discovered her passion for real estate sales in 1990. She has since helped hundreds of families achieve their real estate dreams with her professional sales team. Heidi is an active member of the Interior Swiss Club and would love the opportunity to assist making the OSA better together with her drive and determination. Reach Heidi at heidia@heidilussi.com.

Your Opportunity as OSA Delegate to represent Central Canada

Have you ever wondered how the Swiss who live abroad participate in and find out about which laws and policies will affect them? Do you have what it takes to represent the Swiss citizens who live and work in Canada? Then stand for nomination to be OSA Delegate in the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) for the 2017-2021 term. Due to retirement of the current incumbent, we are accepting nominations for OSA Delegate candidates for the region Central Canada. For election requirements go to http://aso.ch/en/politics/csa-elections-2017. To apply or express an interest, please connect with Sascha Frassini, President, Swiss Club Toronto at sascha.frassini@swissclubtoronto.ca. Application deadline is May 31, 2017.

Edmonton Edmonton Swiss Men’s Choir

Our choir started the new season by learning the mass choir songs as well as our own pieces for the 29 Pacific Coast Singing and Yodeling Festival in Modesto, CA. We will be representing Edmonton with a large group at this festival, which runs from June 22nd to the 25. For more information please refer to: www.swisssongfest2017.com.

Saturday, May 6, 2017 will be a busy day for us: first we participate at the annual Run for Music at the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park in Edmonton. As singers we are reminded that a full-body aerobic exercise such as running or walking at a brisk pace not only builds a strong heart and healthy circulation, but helps to expand the lungs and keep the airways clear. To find out more about the event, to participate or sponsor the ESMC-team, please go to: www.albertachoralfedera tion.ca/ runformusic.asp.

In the evening we take part at the 20 Anniversary concert of the Wildrose Yodel Club in Rimby. We look forward to help celebrate this great milestone with our friends from central Alberta. For more info and order tickets, please check: www.salranch-tours.com/wildrose.

Saturday, June 10: in the afternoon and evening we will be representing Edmonton at the yearly Landsgemeinde at the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park in Edmonton. As singers we are reminded that a full-body aerobic exercise such as running or walking at a brisk pace not only builds a strong heart and healthy circulation, but helps to expand the lungs and keep the airways clear. To find out more about the event, to participate or sponsor the ESMC-team, please go to: www.albertachoralfedera tion.ca/ runformusic.asp.

Save the date of November 11, Rememberance Day, for our Winzerfest 2017 with the theme 150 Year Anniversary Canada Confederation.

We are always looking for new singers. For more information, please check our website: www.esmca.ca or “like” us on Facebook Edmonton Swiss Men’s Choir.

PETER THUT
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Fax: 514-636 0365
E-mail: d.mccann@mccannequipment.ca

Vernon Interior Swiss Club

SPRING DINNER & DANCE
Saturday, June 10, 2017
Schubert Center
3505-30th Avenue, Vernon, B.C.
Doors open at 6 p.m.

Please get ready to tap your toes for this popular event! Doors will open at 6:00 pm with a Happy Hour which will give everyone a chance to meet and mingle.

There is reserved seating for the sit-down dinner which is served at 7 pm. The dancing will start at 8 pm with the performer MUSIC BY BOB KING who will entertain us all night with wonderful dance music.

Cost for the dinner & dance is $35 per person. Advance ticket purchase only: please call 250-549-3711 to reserve your tickets. Deadline to reserve is June 8, 2017. Please visit our website for additional events in 2017: www.interiorswissclub.ca.

California United Swiss Singing Societies of the Pacific Coast, 29th Festival June 22-25, 2017

The San Joaquin Valley Swiss Echoes are hosting the upcoming Singing & Yodeling Festival. The four-day event will take place at the Double Tree Hotel in Modesto (Host Hotel), Modesto Convention Center, Gallo Center for the Arts - Mary Stuart Rogers Theater, and the San Joaquin Valley Swiss Club in Ripon. Approximately 220 to 240 singers from nine participating singing societies (California, Oregon, Washington, Utah and Canada) will be singing melodies from their native homeland dressed in colorful costumes of Swiss tradition.

Our special guest performers will be the Family Rohrer from Sachseln, Switzerland. The sisters Andrea and Petra have been performing as a duet since 1990. In addition to Switzerland, they have performed in Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Holland and China. In recent years their children have joined them in their performances. This will be the family's first trip to California.

Please mark your calendar and join us for a great four-day celebration! For more information, please contact us at www.swisssongfest2017.com.

HEIDI BETSCHART

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LILLY SENN

Family Rohrer from Sachseln, Switzerland are the special guest performers at this year’s festival of the United Swiss Singing Societies of the Pacific Coast in California.

HEIDI BETSCHART
Ottawa  Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

The Ottawa Valley Swiss Club’s AGM in February brought together the Board of Directors and Embassy staff. Anja Zobrist Rentenaar, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy, spoke about their contribution to the celebration of Canada’s 150th anniversary, and Luc André Burdet, OVSC President, highlighted the past year, spoke of the many events we organized and that several new families were welcomed to the club.

The OVSC is happy to welcome Rafael Bosch to the Board of Directors as we bid farewell to Lise Broadbent. We thank Lise for her many years of tireless work and dedication to the board as Secretary and volunteer coordinator, among many other tasks. We are also pleased to announce that Kati Lyon-Villiger was reelected as Delegate to the Council for the Organization of the Swiss Abroad.

Please join us for our Swiss German Theatre evening to be held on April 8th at Sainte-Geneviève Church featuring the comedy "Kreuzmordrätsel." The Montagna Singers will be holding their Spring Dance on May 6th, all are welcome. For more information and for the dates of the monthly Swiss Seniors Luncheons, please visit www.ottawavalleyswissclub.ca.

OLIVIA CRAFT

Toronto  Swiss Club Toronto

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION 2017
Sunday July 30, 2017
Country Heritage Park, Milton, Ontario
12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m.

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 and make new friends or renew old acquaintances. Meet Swiss artists and enjoy their work, and remember our famous raffle.

12:00 noon - Park Opens  Visit some of the 30 heritage buildings. Taste great Swiss food, coffee and Nussgipfel. Beer, wine and soft drinks are also available
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Official Celebration and Entertainment
4:30 p.m., Raffle starts

Directions from Toronto: The Country heritage Park is located on 8560 Tremaine Road, west of Milton. Take the 401 west to Highway 25 exit; go north to the third traffic lights; turn left onto Side Road 5/Regional Road 9; after 3 km 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.

OLIVIA CRAFT

Swiss Club Thames Valley

Swiss Club Thames Valley once again has a varied and interesting annual program for this year. We hope that we can welcome many familiar and also new faces at these events. Take a look; there is something for everyone! For more information please visit www.swissclubthamesvalley.com.

April 8:  Get- together Dance (Chörli) Recreation Complex Milverton
May 28:  Brunch (Chörli) Recreation Complex Milverton
July 9/(16): Motorcycle Tour ( Walter Burkhardt)
July 30:  Bundesfeier, Monkton
Sept. 10:  Seniorentreff; Swiss Farmer Band; Gravelridge Hall
Oct. 7:  Jodler Stubete; Recreation Complex, Milverton
Nov. 4:  Generalversammlung; Legion, Milverton
Nov. 18:  Konzert Swiss Farmer Band; Recreation Complex Milverton
Dec. 3:  Advents Feier; Legion, Milverton

SONJA GUTKNECHT

Swiss Club Toronto

As always, we welcome anyone in the Guelph area to join us for our planned activities. Over the next few months, we look forward to a movie afternoon, our annual Wine and Cheese party and an outing to the Halton County Railway Museum. Plans are also underway for our annual summer barbeque and a special celebration of our 40th anniversary.

For details regarding dates and locations, please email us at swisscanadianclubguelph@gmail.com or contact us through our Swiss Canadian Club Guelph Facebook page.

CHRISTINE WENGER

Swiss Club Guelph

Guelph  Swiss-Canadian Club Guelph

The Swiss Club Guelph is excited to announce our upcoming events. Over the course of the next few months, we look forward to a movie afternoon, our annual Wine and Cheese party, and an outing to the Halton County Railway Museum. Plans are also underway for our annual summer barbecue and a special celebration of our 40th anniversary.

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

OLIVIA CRAFT

Swiss Club Toronto

Ottawa  Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

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OLIVIA CRAFT