

# REGIONAL NEWS

## CANADA

Next Submission Date:  
**December 22, 2017**

### Editorial

The annual Congress of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) and the assembly of Council were held in Basel August 18-20. Canada was well represented by your five newly elected delegates among the 140 delegates from around the world (see page 3). Delegate Silvia Schoch was elected onto the OSA board by Council.

This is the last edition of «Regional News Canada» for 2017. Thank you for your interest and thank you to all who have contributed with stories, information, news and advertisements!

«Swiss Review» is published six times per year with four editions containing the «Regional News.» Article and advertisement submission dates for next year's «Regional News Canada» are as follows:

- ◆ 1/2018—Friday, December 22, 2017
- ◆ 2/2018—Tuesday, February 20, 2018
- ◆ 3/2018—Monday, April 16, 2018
- ◆ 5/2018—Monday, August 20, 2018

Please send your contributions by the above deadlines to: [silv.schoch@gmail.com](mailto:silv.schoch@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you!



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

### Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver Jungbürgerfeier in Vancouver for the Class of 1999

*As a contribution to the celebration of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2017—age of the legal majority in Switzerland—the Consul General of Switzerland in Vancouver, Pascal Bornoz, invited the young Swiss adults residing in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon and the Northwest Territories to join him for an event on June 18<sup>th</sup> at the residence of the Swiss Confederation.*



Young adult Swiss at the Consulate General of Switzerland

Shortly before 11 am, twenty of the 152 invited members of the Class of 1999 arrived with their parents and a handful of proud grandparents. Some families had to fly, take a ferry and/or drive several hours to attend this event in West Vancouver!

Once greeted by the Consul General, his team and family, the seventy guests gathered on the terrace where Alphorn players and two beautiful Bernese mountain dogs were ready to entertain them. Regardless of the grey sky, the stage was set for a happy, colourful event. Claudia Thomas, Head of the consular section, made the members of the Class 1999 aware of the

rights and obligations of a Swiss citizen abroad. She was followed by members of the Swiss community who, in turn, introduced their functions as advocates of Swiss institutions: Silvia Schoch, OSA Delegate for Western Canada and Swiss Review editor; Silvia Kinvig, Coordinator of the choir of the Swiss Society in Vancouver, and Frank Suter, President of the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association.

The goal of the first part of the program was to encourage an active contribution to shape the future of Switzerland. Then the young adults were briefly quizzed about Switzerland. After a traditional lunch the quiz results were announced. Thanks to our very generous sponsors—Switzerland's leading leisure travel airline *Edelweiss* and *Lindt & Sprüngli (Canada)*—the lucky winners took fantastic prizes home: two huge Lindt chocolate baskets full of goodies for the runners-up and a return ticket for two from Vancouver or Calgary to Zürich on Edelweiss for the top winner.

At around 3 pm, we bid farewell to the happy crowd and sent the new generation of Swiss adults on their way with a bag full of information, more souvenirs and a praline

box from Lindt & Sprüngli.

The Consul General of Switzerland in Vancouver and his team thank the speakers and the generous sponsors for their contribution to the success of an unforgettable event. It has been particularly inspiring to interact with the members of the Class of 1999, their families and friends, and to learn about their achievements, passions, plans and aspirations. A wonderful and motivated group of young and adult Swiss abroad!

The team of the  
Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver

*From left to right: Julia N. Hauert, 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up; Pierce J. Huser, winner of the grand prize; Walter Muurmans, Edelweiss Manager Western Canada Operations; 1st runner-up, Nadja J. Fähndrich; Pascal Bornoz, Consul General of Switzerland*





### Jodler Klub Heimattreu from Calgary at Jodlerfest in Switzerland

On June 19<sup>th</sup> 2017, members of the Jodler Klub Heimattreu (JKH) boarded a plane bound for Switzerland. Their destination: The 30<sup>th</sup> Eidgenössische Jodlerfest in Brig. The club had competed in seven Jodlerfests before, but this was my first time travelling with them.

I grew up watching my father, and later my sister, sing and play alphorn with the Jodler Klub Heimattreu. One of my earliest memories involves sitting in a darkened theatre, watching the club on stage, intoning a haunting natural yodel. For the JKH, the opportunity to compete in the Jodlerfest represents many things: musical achievement, the result of hard work, and most importantly, the chance to get back to our roots and celebrate the vibrant culture of Switzerland.

Beginning with the opening ceremonies held in the grounds of the stately Stockalper palace and ending with the cheering crowds at the closing parade, the Jodlerfest in Brig felt like a surreal experience. My fellow choir members had tried to explain what attending one of these festivals is like, but I found myself unprepared for the scale of the event.

From the moment we disembarked the train in Brig, we were surrounded by throngs of people in colourful traditional Swiss clothing. It seemed as though every ten paces, groups of yodellers had stopped to sing—with more and more people joining in as they passed by. The old-town with its gently winding cobblestone streets was bursting with the sounds of alphorns and sites of Swiss flags being tossed in the air.

We explored the *Jodlermile*, and explored the tents and shops selling intricate lace knit stockings, straw hats and other trappings of our art. We raised our glasses in beer tents and enjoyed delicious raclette sold by street vendors. Though we certainly have our fans in Calgary, the sense of excitement and celebration that surged throughout Brig was overwhelming.

The competition itself was spread out throughout the city in venues ranging from theatres to public gardens. Our choir competed on the second evening of the festival in front of a crowd of discerning jodelling fans and a panel of distinguished judges.

Our competition song, “Bärg Erinnerungige” by Ernst Sommer, is a love letter to the mountains of Switzerland and the free and happy Swiss people who explore them. For second generation Swiss like my sister and I, it’s also filled with nostalgia for a place that seems almost impossibly far away sometimes. We did our best to convey that meaning, and based on the thunderous applause, we were successful. In our jury report, one of the judges mused that we had a “A natural, genuine presentation. One truly believes that the Canadians like to be Swiss”.

The next day, my father, my sister and I participated in the alphorn competition, playing both a duet and a trio. We played in the garden of an old hospital, surrounded by modern sculptures and beautiful flowers. I’ve never seen so many alphorns in one place before, and the variety of songs played and the talent on display was jaw dropping. It was inspiring to compete with so many incredible players from across the country. Speaking with them and hearing their interpretations of songs taught us so many invaluable lessons.

We finished our week in Brig by donning our best western duds and piling on to a hay wagon festooned with Canadian flags for the Jodlerfest parade. Being slowly driven through the streets of a city, while crowds cheer and wave at you is about as close to feeling like a rockstar as most yodellers will ever be.



As a second generation Swiss Canadian, one can often feel isolated from home, from family and even from one's own heritage. Singing with the JKH, and attending the Jodlerfest gives each of us the chance to explore our culture in an incredibly meaningful way. Competition and scores aside, the reason travelling to Brig was so important to our group. It gave us the chance to come together with our countrymen, put aside the things that divide us, and raise our voices in song.

STEPHANIE WEIDMANN



## Présentation de l'équipe des délégués canadiens nouvellement élue au Conseil de l'Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger (OSE)

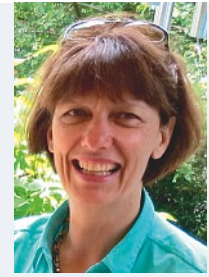
### Les délégués de l'Est du Canada (Français/Anglais)

*Au cours des six derniers mois, les élections des membres du Conseil des Suisses de l'étranger (CSE) – l'organe suprême de l'Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger (OSE) – ont été organisées dans de nombreux pays du monde. Les délégués ont été élus pour un mandat de quatre ans sur la période 2017-2021. L'assemblée constituante du nouveau Conseil s'est tenue le 18 août lors du congrès de l'Association des Suisses de l'étranger à Bâle. L'équipe canadienne élue se réjouit de servir les intérêts de la communauté suisse au Canada. Veuillez contacter vos délégués de l'Est du Canada (Manitoba, Ontario, Québec, Île-du-Prince-Édouard, Nouvelle-Écosse, Nouveau-Brunswick) ou de l'Ouest du Canada (Colombie-Britannique, Alberta, Yukon, Territoires du Nord-Ouest et Saskatchewan) s'ils peuvent vous être utiles ou si vous souhaitez partager une expérience ou une opinion.*

*Les Suisses de l'étranger au Canada sont désormais également représentés au Conseil de l'Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger par la déléguée canadienne Silvia Schoch.*



**Heidi Lussi, Vernon, BC**  
heidil@heidilussi.com



**Silvia Schoch, Victoria, BC**  
silv.schoch@gmail.com

## Meet the newly elected team of Canadian delegates to the Council of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)

### The delegates of Western Canada

*Over the past six months, the election of members to the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) - the highest organ of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) - was held in many countries around the world for the four year term 2017-2021. The constituent assembly of the new Council took place on August 18th during the Congress of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad in Basel. The elected Canadian team is looking forward to serving the Swiss community across Canada. Please get in touch with your delegate in eastern Canada (Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick) or western Canada (British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan) if they can be of assistance or if you have an experience or opinion to share.*

*The Swiss Abroad living in Canada are now also represented on the Board of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad with Canadian delegate Silvia Schoch.*



**Philippe Magnenat, Montréal**  
philippe.magnenat@gmail.com



**Florence Pasche, Toronto, ON**  
aso\_delegate@fpg.bio  
Please see Florence's bio below



**Kati Lyon-Villiger, Ottawa, ON**  
kati.lyonvilliger@hotmail.ca

*Due to the retirement of Mr. Erst Notz, Delegate of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad in Eastern Canada after serving as OSA Delegate and Council Member for eight years, delegate Florence Pasche in Toronto, ON has been elected. Thank you, Mr. Notz, for your tireless commitment and work on behalf of Eastern Canada's Swiss, and welcome to Ms. Pasche.*

*Ed.*

### Florence Pasche, OSA delegate, Toronto, ON

Originally from Canton de Vaud, I moved to Canada after completing a PhD in the study of religions at the University of Lausanne. I moved to Toronto with my family in 2012 to pursue my postdoctoral studies through a fellowship of the Swiss National Science Foundation. I have conducted research and taught at various academic institutions in Switzerland and at the University of Toronto. I have been a participant in the activities of the Toronto Swiss Club for the last few years, and I have also recently helped as a volunteer in the Swiss National Day celebration in Milton, Ontario, organizing an arts-and-crafts workshop for children.

As OSA delegate, I will be a strong voice at the Council of the Swiss Abroad to speak for all Swiss living in Canada and outside of Switzerland, including young professionals and academics whose stay abroad might be of limited or uncertain duration. Issues such as the

electronic vote, the maintenance of banking relations, and the optional "AVS/AHV" system will be part of my priorities. I am also much interested in cultural initiatives and in collaborative actions that reflect the values that Switzerland and Canada share together. I believe that not only political, diplomatic, and economic dialogues are important, but that other forms of cultural and artistic engagement between our countries can make a difference in the lives of Swiss citizens living abroad and in the local communities to which they contribute. My professional experience as a researcher in the humanities and social sciences could strengthen such initiatives, enhance such dialogues and contribute to their success. As a mother, I also care deeply about opportunities for young Swiss abroad to connect with Switzerland and its traditions. I very much value this opportunity to represent Swiss people living in Central Canada at the Council of the Swiss Abroad.

FLORENCE PASCHE





Photo above: Consul General of Switzerland, Mr. Pascal Borno, and Mrs. Borno, with members, volunteers and guests at the Swiss National Day celebration of the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association



The Eidgenössische Feldschiesen and Feldstich, the Bruno Huber shoot, the popular Mountain Range match and Volkschiessen have all taken place. Besides the club championship, three weddings took place in our beautiful chalet. We wish the newlyweds all the best!

A very successful celebration of our National Day was held on July 29. Thanks to the mailout from the Consulate of Switzerland 400 people took part including visitors from Switzerland. Fifty-five children participating in the "Lampion-Parade". The beer-garden was a hit and so were the Swiss style apple and plum pies. A big thank you to all the volunteers!

There never seems to be a shortage of work during the monthly work parties and we could use more help. A hearty lunch is provided and the work together is fun! We are looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming *Schützenfest* on October 7 and 8, the *Saushoot and Crossbow endshoot* which will be held October 22, and please mark your calendar for the *Jass Tournament* on October 29, 2017. For program changes and photos please check our website at [www.scmra.ca](http://www.scmra.ca).

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Swiss music, Swiss food, Swiss traditions, Swiss attire—a beautifully decorated hall and a perfect summer day all set the tone for our 1<sup>st</sup> of August celebration on July 29<sup>th</sup> in Monkton.

Despite the absence of some farmers who were tied up with the wheat harvest, the hall filled up nicely for the official celebration, where President Urs Egli presented a varied programme of speeches, songs, and alphorn tunes. The afternoon offered something for everybody, including musical performances and many activities: games, crafts, and a bouncy castle for the children; for adults the traditional stone toss and crossbow

shooting, a Swiss movie, and—maybe best of all—socializing and catching up with old friends. The day was rounded off with catchy tunes from the Seven Castles dance band. With all the good food and fun, it was a great way to party for Switzerland’s 726<sup>th</sup> birthday. A big thank you to all who came out to help us celebrate this special day! “Uf Wederluege” at our upcoming events:

**October 7:** Jodler Stubete Recreation Complex Milverton; **November 4:** Annual General Meeting, Legion Hall Milverton; **November 17:** Concert Swiss Farmer Band, Recreation Complex Milverton; **December 3:** Advent Celebration Legion Hall Milverton. More info at: [www.swissclubthamesvalley.com](http://www.swissclubthamesvalley.com).

PIA HÄCHLER



## Guelph Swiss Canadian Club celebrates 40 year Anniversary

The Guelph Swiss Canadian Club is having a busy year this year; – we are celebrating our forty year anniversary!

Following a fun filled luncheon this past September, the celebrations continue in the fall with our two annual activities. We are excited to invite you to join us for our upcoming *Cheese Fondue Evening*.



There is nothing better than to snuggle up with friends and family over a delicious tasting caquelon full of cheese fondue on a chilly fall evening. This year’s event will be hosted at the end of October. During the evening you will find great company of all ages, a delicious homemade dessert buffet and a table full of tombola goodies, waiting to be won. Following this event will be our *Waldweihnacht Christmas Party*. The evening starts with carols in the forest, followed by goodies and a visit from Santa. For dates and details regarding these fun fall events, please visit our website, <http://guelphswisscanadianclub.webs.com/> or facebook page “Swiss-Canadian Club Guelph” or email us at [swisscanadianclubguelph@gmail.com](mailto:swisscanadianclubguelph@gmail.com). Bis spöter!!

RINA THOMA

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SILVIA SCHOCH, EDITOR

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Our club started the summer by bringing back our June BBQ which was a great success. For the 1<sup>st</sup> of August celebration on July 29<sup>th</sup> more than forty members enjoyed delicious traditional Swiss food on a beautiful evening without mosquitoes!!

Families took advantage of the park's water feature and playground, and we decorated a gazebo and trees with Swiss flags. It was festive!

The AGM will be held on Monday evening, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please note this is a departure from our traditional Sunday noon lunch meeting, and from our previously announced date and time. It will still be held at "The Cave" restaurant on 8<sup>th</sup> Street. AGM first, then we'll eat dinner! Please register for this event—space is limited. Complete information will be in the fall newsletter, or call any board member.

We don't have a booked date yet for the Santa Claus potluck evening, but it is traditionally held on the first Friday evening in December at McClure United Church. See more info in our fall newsletter.

We welcome new members. There is no membership fee the first year, so come and see what we're about! For information about our club and events, please contact us at [swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com](mailto:swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com) or call 306-665-6039.

ELISABETH EILINGER

## Montreal: Matterhorn Swiss Club

At the end of May we enjoyed a beautiful day at Parc Omega in Montebello, QC. Our group of about forty members, guests and children hired an open bus with a guide to take us through the site. We learned about the different animals in the park, including deer, elk, caribou, wild boar, bears, bison, mountain goats, etc. All of us had fun feeding the animals from the bus! Following our day at the park, we enjoyed a delicious dinner at Stephanie's Restaurant in Hawkesbury, ON.

We are pleased that over twenty-five members and friends helped out at Mont-Sutton in order to make the Swiss National Day celebrations a success. Thank you for that great turn-out!

In mid-August we held our annual summer picnic and barbeque at the Pfister residence on Île Cadieux. About thirty-five guests members attended and we had a social afternoon of chatting, playing Bocce and getting together. It was a very pleasant day.

The club holds five or six events or outings each year which 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



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**Edmonton** Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir

Despite missing the opening ceremony of the 29<sup>th</sup> Pacific Coast Swiss Singing & Yodeling Festival in Ripon, CA in June due to mechanical plane issues, we thoroughly enjoyed the three-day individual and mass choir event, including the parade of the flags, in which we proudly participated. The festival ended with an ecumenical church service before the closing ceremony and banquet. The 30<sup>th</sup> festival will be held in three years in Los Angeles.

*The Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir Fall Season starts Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>* and we always like to welcome new singers!

Rehearsals begin at 7:30 pm



PETER THUT

at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 10014 81 Ave. NW, Edmonton. For more information please call Ron Marcinkoski at (780) 718-2439, Hans Voegeli at (780) 464-1266 or e-mail Peter Thut at [secretary@esmca.ca](mailto:secretary@esmca.ca).

*Winzerfest 2017* takes place on **November 11<sup>th</sup>, Remembrance Day**, with the theme **150 Year Anniversary Canada Confederation**. Don't miss this event dedicated to Canada's birthday celebrations, as it will happen right here in the city of Edmonton, Alberta.

During the Advent and Christmas season, **Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** sees the **Annual Christmas Concert in Beaumont**.

Please check our website at [www.esmca.ca](http://www.esmca.ca) for more details on these and other events and for more information on how to join us.

For the year **2018**, our choir is committed to participating at the **NASSA-Sängerfest in Holy Toledo, June 28 to July 1**.

**Young Swiss electronics engineer seeks language & work stay in French and English speaking Canada**

Between January and July 2018 and before continuing his studies, Tobias Blattner is looking to improve his French (ideally 4 months) and English (2 months) in a fam/ranch/gardening or business environment.

Working for board and lodging, Tobias is very motivated to work in Eastern and/or Western Canada. He has agricultural, horticultural and gardening experience. Please contact him directly at [tobias.blattner97@gmail.ch](mailto:tobias.blattner97@gmail.ch).



Ed.



**Ottawa** Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

We were especially lucky to have wonderful summer weather for our August First celebration. On July 30, hundreds attended the event at the Billings Estate, a beautiful historic property with lush gardens close to downtown Ottawa. All enjoyed the delicious bratwurst and cervelat and the tasty 'wähe' and 'nussgipfel' were a delightful and authentic nod to our homeland. A tombola, filled with Swiss treats including chocolates, Swiss accessories and hard-to-find delicacies was also a great hit.

**Bernardo Rutschi**, First Secretary of the Embassy of Switzerland, toasted to Switzerland and all its citizens around the world. Everyone shared cheers, santé and prost over the vin d'honneur generously donated by the Swiss Embassy, while the **Montagna Singers** sang the National Anthem in French and German.

The children played a big role in the festivities and enjoyed parading their colourful, candle-lit lanterns and Swiss flags around the

grounds at dusk. Everyone delighted in games of fishing for prizes, breaking a very sturdy pinata, hopping in sack races and the children competing in a tug-of-war competition against their parents. Many thanks go to all of our hard-working volunteers and generous sponsors who helped make this event a wonderful success!

We encourage everyone to become a member of the OVSC to receive updates on all of our events throughout the year, free admission to some events and to stay in touch with the Swiss Community in the Ottawa Valley. We thank all of our members who keep their memberships current and help fund our many Swiss-inspired events and activities. Please join us at our upcoming events: **November 4 Metzgete Dinner and Dance; December 3 Seniors' Christmas Luncheon & Children's Christmas Party**.

Link to us on facebook, connect through our website [ottawavalleysswissclub.ca](http://ottawavalleysswissclub.ca), or send us an e-mail to: [info@ottawavalleysswissclub.ca](mailto:info@ottawavalleysswissclub.ca).

OLIVIA CRAFT

