

# REGIONAL NEWS

## CANADA

### Editorial

Dear Readers: We've all heard the saying, "May you live in interesting times". Well, 2020 was perhaps a tad *too* interesting (of note: long ago, "interesting" meant "of concern"). I'm sure you'll agree, we'll gladly accept a less offbeat, more welcoming, and freer 2021! On that note, let's dive into this

first issue of the year: Clubs speak about pandemic restrictions and how they come to grips with this experience; the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad gears up for elections; we introduce three (diplomatic) newcomers; and more! Here's hoping we all have a good run in 2021! [avs@telus.net](mailto:avs@telus.net)



ANDREW VON STUERMER,  
REGIONAL EDITOR,  
CANADA

### Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

2020 was challenging in many ways. We hope that 2021 brings you and your families and loved ones joy, happiness, health, and a return to normalcy. Even though most in-person gatherings were not possible in 2020, the Ottawa Valley Swiss Club (OVSC) still brought the Swiss community together by creating a memorable August 1st celebration, as well as a magical virtual children's Christmas party.

Rather than marking August 1st with our usual gathering on a summer evening, we distributed packages of bratwurst, cervelas, brötli, and almond croissants to OVSC members, at a safe distance of course. Families cooked traditional sausages and celebrated in their own ways, be it by lighting colourful lanterns ("Lampions"), singing traditional songs, or wearing red and white.

On December 6, children and parents gathered around their screens to celebrate the start of the 2020 holiday season. Samichlaus and Mrs. Santa Claus dropped in on the virtual call, wishing the children and their families a very merry Christmas. Through the magic of the season, Mr. and Mrs. Claus were even able to distribute gifts!



Lovely choir songs from the Montagna Singers, a slideshow on past festivities, and a virtual talent show were the highlights of 2020's slightly different celebration. The

children eagerly welcomed the Grittibänz, gingerbread house decorating kits, Swiss crafts, and chocolate advent calendars. Clearly, pandemic restrictions were not going to stop anyone from celebrating the holidays with a twist!

While 2020 may have been different in terms of gatherings and celebrations, we will stay connected and look forward to once again seeing everyone in person.

For information on the OVSC, visit [www.ottawavalleysswissclub.ca](http://www.ottawavalleysswissclub.ca), our Facebook page, or e-mail [info@ottawavalleysswissclub.ca](mailto:info@ottawavalleysswissclub.ca).

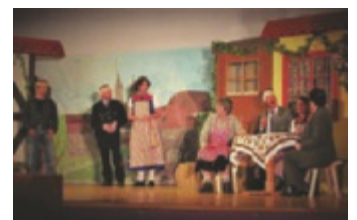
OLIVIA CRAFT

### Swiss Club Toronto Theatre Group

Dear Friends of the Swiss Theatre: As you well know, with this ongoing pandemic, most events were cancelled or have been postponed to the distant future. The Theatre Group has also decided not to put on any plays in 2021; it's very regrettable but really the most reasonable solution.

So, we take this opportunity to reminisce with a performance from 2005, the earliest play where we have digital photos. Written by playwright Ulla Kling, it's called "De Guggel-Chrieg" - the story of an unruly rooster that robs the villagers of much of their sleep and causes friction in the neighbourhood. As the rooster is about to meet its maker by court order, it is saved by the love of the rooster owner's daughter, and the son next door.

Our actors were: Ursula Kohler, Ivana Stehlik, Claudia Günter, Petra Rutz, Werner Flury, Rita Aebi, Reto Günter, Franz Zuber, Gion Fravi, and Margareth Donnelly. The play was directed by Walter Brunner; Maggie Hess was the souffléuse; stage setting was by Heike and Arnold Koch. Wishing you all the best for 2021!



MAGGIE HESS AND WALTER BRUNNER

## Organisation of the Swiss Abroad / Auslandschweizer-Organisation

### Inviting Swiss Citizens Residing in Canada to Become MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD for the Four-Year Term 2021 - 2025

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) (German: "Auslandschweizer-Organisation" or "ASO") is headquartered in Berne, Switzerland. The OSA's highest organ is the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA), often referred to as "the parliament of the Fifth Switzerland".

The CSA represents the interests of the approximately 780,000 Swiss abroad before the authorities and the general public in Switzerland. The CSA consists of 120 delegates of Swiss nationality from around the world (representing regional Swiss communities abroad), as well as of 20 delegates from within Switzerland. The number of in-country delegates is determined by the size of a country's regional Swiss communities. This year, Canada was awarded an extra seat, increasing the number of Delegates / Members of Council from five to six: there are now three Delegates for Eastern Canada and three Delegates in Western Canada. The election process begins with this call for qualified candidates to express their interest and submit applications **by May 3, 2021**. The election takes place and candidates will be confirmed in early June. The first OSA / CSA meeting for elected Delegates is scheduled for mid-August 2021 at the OSA Congress in Lugano, Switzerland.

#### Aufgaben der ASO-Länderdelegierten / Ratsmitglieder

- Vertreten der Anliegen der regionalen Schweizergemeinschaft und ihrer Institutionen im Auslandschweizererrat ASR
- Wirken als Anlaufstelle und Auskunftsperson für Landsleute in der Region
- Orientieren der Schweizervereine über die Arbeit und Angebote der ASO sowie über die Aktivitäten des Auslandschweizererrats
- Kontaktpflege (auch virtuell) zu Schweizervereinen, offiziellen Vertretungen und schweizerischen Institutionen in der Region
- Fördern der schweizerischen Präsenz in Kanada und der politischen Partizipation der Auslandschweizerinnen und Auslandschweizern in der Region
- Präsenz und Mitwirken im Auslandschweizererrat und gegebenenfalls in Kommissionen und Arbeitsgruppen.

#### Anforderungen

- Schweizer Bürgerin oder Schweizer Bürger
- In Kanada dauerhaft ansässig
- Gute Deutsch- oder Französischkenntnisse
- Eintrag im schweizerischen Personenstandsregister als

Stimmbürgerin oder Stimmbürger

- Guten Kontakt / Vernetzung mit der regionalen Schweizergemeinschaft
- Teilnahme an ASR-Sitzungen in der Schweiz, vor allem am jährlich im August stattfindenden ASO-Sommerkongress
- Amtsperiode von vier Jahren: August 2021 - August 2025.

Für die Anreise in die Schweiz wird eine Entschädigung von CHF 400 vergütet. Im weiteren wird ein bescheidenes tägliches Sitzungsgeld gewährt.

**Interessiert?** Für weitere Informationen oder die Zustellung Ihrer Bewerbung beachten Sie bitte folgendes:

- Interessentinnen und Interessenten in den Ost-Provinzen Kanadas (bis und mit Manitoba) erhalten weitere Auskünfte oder richten ihre Bewerbung an Herrn Bruno Setz in Montreal, Québec.

E-Mail: [brunosetz@videotron.ca](mailto:brunosetz@videotron.ca)

- Interessentinnen und Interessenten in den West-Provinzen Kanadas (Saskatchewan, Alberta, Britisch Kolumbien, Yukon, Nordwest-Territorien) erhalten weitere Auskünfte oder richten ihre Bewerbung an Herrn Nick Siegenthaler in Edmonton, Alberta.

E-Mail: [siegenthaler.nick@gmail.com](mailto:siegenthaler.nick@gmail.com)

Wir freuen uns, von Ihnen zu hören! **Bewerbungsfrist: 3. Mai 2021.**



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## Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger

# INVITATION AUX CITOYENNES ET CITOYENS SUISSES DU CANADA À DEVENIR MEMBRE DU CONSEIL DES SUISSES DE L'ÉTRANGER POUR UN MANDAT DE 4 ANS: 2021 – 2025

L'Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger (OSE) a son siège social à Berne. L'organe suprême est le Conseil des Suisses de l'étranger (CSE) qui représente auprès des autorités et de l'opinion publique suisse, des intérêts généraux des Suisses et Suissesses vivant à l'étranger (environ 780 000). C'est pourquoi les médias le qualifient souvent de « Parlement de la Cinquième Suisse ».

L'OSE se compose de 120 délégués(es) de nationalité suisse de l'étranger à travers le monde et de 20 délégués(es) résidant en Suisse. Le nombre de délégués(es) est proportionnel aux nombre de Suisses et Suissesses vivant dans une communauté locale ou un pays. Cette année, le Canada a vu son nombre de sièges passer de 5 à 6, c'est-à-dire 3 délégués(es) élus(es) dans la partie est et 3 délégués(es) élu(es) dans la partie ouest du Canada.

Les procédures d'élection débiteront dès le début de l'année 2021 et toute personne intéressée devra présenter sa candidature avant le 3 mai 2021. Le nom des candidats(es) élus(es) sera connu début juin. Les personnes élues seront invitées à leur première rencontre de l'OSE / CSE lors du Congrès des Suisses de l'étranger à Lugano à la mi-août 2021.

### Les devoirs des candidats(es) au CSE:

- Informer l'OSE / CSE des questions et des problèmes des associations suisses et organisations faitières à l'étranger
- Faire connaître l'OSE et le CSE au Canada en collaboration avec les associations suisses à l'étranger
- Maintenir des contacts avec les associations et institutions suisses de la région représentée
- Maintenir des contacts avec les représentations suisses (ambassade, consulats de carrière et consulats honoraires) de la région représentée
- Inciter les Suisses et les Suissesses de l'étranger à participer aux activités politiques
- Promouvoir la présence suisse au Canada
- Participer aux travaux des commissions et des groupes de travail de l'OSE.

### Les personnes souhaitant se porter candidates aux élections doivent répondre aux conditions suivantes:

- Posséder la nationalité suisse
- Résider au Canada
- Parler couramment français ou allemand
- Entretenir des contacts avec la communauté suisse de la région représentée
- Être inscrit au registre cantonal en Suisse pour exercer son droit de vote
- Avoir la possibilité de se rendre en Suisse pour participer aux séances du CSE et au Congrès des Suisses de l'étranger en août de chaque année.

Le mandat de 4 ans débute en août 2021 et se termine en août 2025. Les délégués(es) reçoivent une indemnisation pour le voyage en Suisse de CHF 400 par voyage et une modeste somme pour les frais de séance.

**Êtes-vous intéressé** à recevoir des renseignements supplémentaires et savoir à qui remettre sa candidature?

- Toute personne intéressée résidant dans une province de l'est du Canada (Manitoba jusqu'à Terre-Neuve) doit s'adresser à Monsieur Bruno Setz, Montréal, Québec: [brunosetz@videotron.ca](mailto:brunosetz@videotron.ca).
- Toute personne intéressée résidant dans une province de l'ouest du Canada (Saskatchewan, Alberta, Colombie-Britannique, Yukon, Territoires du Nord-Ouest) doit s'adresser à Monsieur Nick Siegenthaler, Edmonton, Alberta: [siegenthaler.nick@gmail.com](mailto:siegenthaler.nick@gmail.com).

Nous espérons recevoir de vos nouvelles. **La période des mises en candidature se termine le 3 mai 2021.**

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### Swiss Club Saskatoon

Due to COVID-19, we had to cancel our AGM, which is normally held in late October. As many of our members do not have virtual access via computers, tablets, or cell phones, we decided to send out a newsletter by postal mail and email, requesting nominations for the Executive, with submissions possible by mail, email, text, or phone. All previous members were up for re-election, and our Executive was acclaimed for another year. We also posted our Financial Report in the newsletter; it passed easily without any challenges or questions.

Last fall, the Executive decided to offer a free one-year membership to all members in good standing. Since we are not holding any events for an entire year and likely even longer, our expenses are minimal; we only need to cover the cost of the newsletters.

The Club was also unable to put on the very popular Santa evening (normally held on the first Friday in December), a potluck with cold

cuts, salads, cheese, and other delicacies, plus an abundance of desserts. Normally, the children come with their parents and grandparents and do colouring and a lot of running around. Some years ago, we added a children's raffle. Santa visits and brings goodie bags with peanuts, chocolate, and oranges. This year, we simply offered delivery or pickup of a goodie bag for interested families. Thank you, Barbara and Edith Wingeier, for taking care of those bags and delivering them!

We currently have no plans for future events. With higher COVID numbers, it may be a long time before it is safe to gather. If you're not already on our contact list and would like to receive information about the Club, contact us at [swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com](mailto:swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com), or call / text me at 1 - 306 - 260 - 8030. New members are always welcome, and membership is free for the first year. Even though our name is Swiss Club Saskatoon, we welcome Swiss from anywhere in Saskatchewan.

ELISABETH EILINGER, PRESIDENT, SWISS CLUB SASKATOON

### Matterhorn Swiss Club (Montreal)

Greetings from the Matterhorn Swiss Club in Montreal! Due to COVID-19, our only activity for the year 2020 was our AGM, which was held at the beginning of March. We had thought that by the end of December 2020, plans would be underway for a meeting, activity, or other get-together. Unfortunately, like many other clubs and organisations, this is not the case. As soon as we are able, we look forward to planning an event and to meeting our members again. Until then, we hope everyone stays safe and healthy! New members are always welcome!

WALTER SPIRIG, PRESIDENT, 514 - 694 - 3718



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## Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir Association



The Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir in Lugano. June 24, 2001

We wish everyone a much better 2021! Our AGM, held online via Zoom on November 20, was one of our last activities in 2020 that involved the entire Choir. The Executive remains largely the same: Hans Voegeli, President; Ron Marchinkowski, VP; Roland Allenbach, Treasurer; John Willms, Chriss Varis, and Andreas Schloo, Directors (the new Alternate Director is George Schuller); and Peter Thut, Secretary.

Our Musical Director Elizabeth greeted everyone and looks forward to the time when we can resume our regular rehearsals. She quoted a line from our new song "Möcht no nes bitzeli läbe" ... händ d'Liedli no keis Aend" ("Want to live a little bit more ... there's no end yet to the songs")! President Hans Voegeli thanked everybody for being part of the Choir and for their friendship and camaraderie (be a comrade in good times and bad). He hopes we stay connected until we can sing again safely.

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2020 would have marked our Choir's 40th anniversary; needless to say, we couldn't celebrate that milestone.

Over the years, the Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir has had the opportunity to travel the world as an ambassador of Swiss choral music. Every 3 years, the Choir participated in either a NASSA (North American Swiss Singing Alliance) or a USSSPC (United Swiss Singing Societies of the Pacific Coast) festival in the US or Canada. In addition, we travelled internationally - six times to Switzerland (in 1991, 1995, 2001, 2005, 2010, and 2016), as well as to South America in 2006.

PETER THUT



The Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir. Winter 2019 / 2020

## Swiss Canadian Club Guelph

In a year unlike any other in memory, our members persevered to celebrate Swiss traditions in Canada. Our calendar year is usually full of group events - like our Wine and Cheese Party, the Swiss National Day celebrations, or the Cheese Fondue Party - but not surprisingly, most group events were cancelled due to the undue risk of meeting indoors in large numbers. Individual households and small social "bubbles" were still able to host their own fondue and raclette dinners throughout the year, celebrating Swiss traditions in smaller ways. We all look forward to the time when we can be together again as before.

On a positive note, Club members and guests were able to enjoy a physically-distanced walk along the banks of the Speed River in Guelph. Friends old and new caught up and shared stories of their experiences in 2020. For many, the walk ended with a visit to The Boathouse for some well-deserved ice cream. In normal times, we would have been able to inform our members about the events planned for the year. With all the uncertainty continuing into 2021, the Board will frequently assess what is safe and compliant for group gatherings. Our Facebook page and website are the best sources for Club event details.

Please visit our Facebook page "Swiss-Canadian Club Guelph" or our website [www.guelphswisscanadianclub.webs.com](http://www.guelphswisscanadianclub.webs.com). If you have any questions, email us at [swisscanadianclubguelph@gmail.com](mailto:swisscanadianclubguelph@gmail.com).

Ciao! Bis bald! Au revoir! A revoir!

PATRICK VAN DER ZALM (VICE PRESIDENT)

## Newcomer Profiles / Recent Diplomatic Arrivals: Regula Kurzbein



Liebe Schweizerinnen und Schweizer hier in Kanada, Grüezi! Bonjour! Bongiorno! Bun di! Ich hoffe, Sie sind wohl- auf und mit Zuversicht ins neue Jahr gestartet! Letzten Herbst habe ich meine Arbeit als Stell- vertretende Missionschefin auf der Schweizer Botschaft in Ot- tawa aufgenommen. Wie bei vielen von Ihnen, ist die Freude

bei meiner Familie und mir gross, in Kanada sein zu dürfen! Es ist ein Privileg, die Schweiz im Ausland zu vertreten und die Beziehungen zwischen der Schweiz und unserem Gastland mitzugestalten.

Die Schweiz und Kanada verbinden viele Gemeinsamkeiten. Wir pfe- gen gemeinsame Werte, sprechen mehrere Sprachen, kennen ähnli- che Herausforderungen in Gesellschaft und Wirtschaft und treten auf dem internationalen politischen Parkett oft als Gleichgesinnte auf. Kanada ist im Bereich bilateraler Handel und bei den Direktinvesti- tionen zudem der zweitwichtigste Wirtschaftspartner der Schweiz in den Amerikas.

Als stellvertretende Missionschefin stehe ich der Schweizer Botschaf- terin, Salome Meyer, zur Seite und vertrete sie, wenn sie ausser Lan- des ist. Wir analysieren und berichten für die «Zentrale» in Bern (EDA und weitere Schweizer Bundesstellen) über relevante innen- oder aus- senpolitische Themen, wirtschaftliche, gesellschaftliche und rechtli- che Entwicklungen, bereiten Besuche von Schweizer Bundesrätinnen/ en und ihren Delegationen in Kanada vor, pflegen den Kontakt zu möglichst vielen Menschen und stehen bei unserer Arbeit stets für die Ziele der schweizerischen Aussenpolitik ein. Ich bin stolz darauf, auch einen Senior Science and Technology Counsellor in meinem Team zu haben, der relevante Fragen im Bildungs- und Forschungsbereich be- arbeitet und Fachleute aus der Schweiz und Kanada zusammenbringt. Wir kommunizieren übrigens regelmässig über die sozialen Medien, insbesondere auf Facebook und Twitter («Embassy of Switzerland in Canada»). Beiträge zu Innovation, Nachhaltigkeit und Finanzplatz Schweiz stehen dieses Jahr im Zentrum. Schauen Sie rein !

Vor meinem Eintritt ins Eidgenössische Departement für auswärtige Angelegenheiten EDA arbeitete ich als Rechtsanwältin in der Privat- wirtschaft und in der Verwaltung, schrieb eine Doktorarbeit und en- gagierte mich nebenbei in diversen Vereinen. Als Diplomatin war ich als erstes auf der Schweizer Botschaft in Yangon / Myanmar im Ein- satz, vertrat hernach die Schweizer Interessen in der internationalen Finanz- und Steuerpolitik (in Bern / OECD Paris), bevor es letzten Herbst also weiter nach Ottawa ging.

Sie, geschätzte Leserin, geschätzter Leser, gehören zu den über 40'000

registrierten Schweizer Bürgerinnen und Bürgern in Kanada und sind damit Teil der zweitgrössten Schweizer Gemeinschaft ausserhalb Eu- ropas! Ich würde mich sehr freuen, einigen von Ihnen an einer Bundesfeier oder anlässlich eines Besuches in Ihrer Region zu begegnen. Ich wünsche Ihnen und Ihren Angehörigen alles Gute für 2021! Bleiben Sie gesund.

REGULA KURZBEIN, STV. MISSIONSCHEFIN, SCHWEIZER BOTSCHAFT IN KANADA

Dear Fellow Citizens: Grüezi! Bonjour! Bongiorno! Bun di! I hope you started the New Year well and with confidence! Last fall, I took up my work as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland in Ottawa. Like many of you, my family and I are very happy to be in Ca- nada! It is a privilege to represent Switzerland abroad and to help shape the relationship between Switzerland and our host country.

Switzerland and Canada have many things in common - we share common values, speak several languages, experience similar social and economic challenges, and often work together as like-minded countries in the international political arena. In terms of bilateral trade and direct investment, Canada is Switzerland's second most im- portant economic partner in the Americas.

As Deputy Head of Mission, I work closely with the Swiss Ambassa- dor Salome Meyer, and I'm in charge of the Embassy when she is out of the country. Guided by Swiss foreign policy strategy and objec- tives, we analyse on behalf of and report to our headquarters in Berne on relevant domestic and foreign policy issues, as well as on econo- mic, social, and legal developments. We also prepare visits of Swiss Federal Councillors and their delegations to Canada, and we main- tain contact with as many people as possible. I'm also proud to have a Senior Science and Technology Counsellor on my team who analyses and promotes relevant educational and research topics and brings sta- keholders from Switzerland and Canada together. We also communi- cate regularly via social media, particularly on Facebook and Twitter ("Embassy of Switzerland in Canada"). Our focus this year is innova- tion, sustainability, and Switzerland as a financial centre. Have a look!

Before joining the FDFA, I worked as a lawyer in the private sector and with government agencies, wrote a doctoral thesis, and was active in various associations. As a diplomat, prior to moving to Ottawa last fall, I worked at the Embassy of Switzerland in Yangon / Myanmar, then represented Swiss interests in international financial and tax policy in Berne, as well as at the OECD in Paris.

Dear reader, as one of over 40,000 registered Swiss citizens in Canada, you are part of the second largest Swiss community outside of Eu- rope! Once travelling is possible again, I look forward to meeting you at a National Day celebration or on a visit to your region. I wish you and your relatives all the best for 2021! Stay healthy.

REGULA KURZBEIN, DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION, EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND IN KANADA

## Newcomer Profiles / Recent Diplomatic Arrivals: Ulrich Haug and Stefanie Wunderlin



Dear Fellow Citizens in Canada:

My name is Ulrich Haug. At the end of last summer, I assumed the duties of Head of Chancery at the Embassy of Switzerland in Ottawa, succeeding Mr. Bernardo Rutschi.

Born and raised in Central Switzerland (Brunnen), I'm very familiar with Swiss traditions. My professional education took place in a commercial college and ended with a federal diploma. Subsequently, I studied languages in Spain and Britain and then completed a commercial internship in Western Switzerland. In 1985, after a few years of employment with the former Swissair, I switched to consular services with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). Since then, I have been working for the FDFA continuously - in Europe, Latin America, the US, Iran, India, and Pakistan. Living and working abroad un-

der very different conditions was a rich experience, giving me excellent knowledge of the cultures of these countries, as well as of the activities of the FDFA. Throughout these years, I was largely responsible for working with the Swiss community, and I was engaged in various types of administrative tasks within the Swiss government - in Peru, Belgium, and Mexico as a Consul. While the experiences with my fellow citizens were mostly very pleasant and included many unforgettable moments that left a deep impression on me, I unfortunately also had to deal with some difficult moments in consular life (accidents, illnesses, fraud, and others).

My prior assignment was in Mexico City. Now, I'm thrilled to work at the Embassy of Switzerland in Ottawa, where I'm essentially in charge of the organisation and administration of the Chancery. My work also includes financial controlling, administrative caretaking of buildings, responsibility for staff and human resources, and oversight of some legal matters. The Embassy of Switzerland in Canada does not engage in consular services; it therefore does not issue passports or visas (other than official visas), nor does it handle civil status changes and naturalisations. However, where support is needed in matters of a consular nature, we co-operate with our two Consulates General in Montreal and Vancouver.

In contrast to Latin America's primarily warm weather, I'm now fortunate enough to get to know a climatically colder area. I have already discovered the fabulous natural beauty of Ontario and Quebec. We will definitely buy ice skates and use them on Ottawa's uniquely beautiful canal. Also, a holiday ski trip to Mont Tremblant is firmly booked. I'm sure we will spot brown bears and other animals in this country's vast wilderness. My wife and I and our 14-year-old son are very happy to have the opportunity to live and work in beautiful Canada. The wonderful fall pictures in the sunshine are an omen for a good and happy stay, even with COVID-19, which is depressing to us all.

In addition to performing interesting work, I expect to have many pleasant encounters, both professionally and with my fellow citizens. Canada attracts numerous Swiss people and has become a new home for many. I am also confident that this year, I will finally get to know the Swiss clubs and discover the soul of the Swiss associations in Canada.

My fellow citizens: I look forward to getting to know you, particularly those of you in Ontario, but also those of you in other provinces!

ULRICH HAUG  
HEAD OF CHANCERY  
EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND IN OTTAWA



It's my second time around at the Swiss Consulate in Vancouver, and I could not be happier to be back! I had the opportunity to support the Consulate in 2012/13 as Project Coordinator for various events revolving around the centennial celebrations of consular relations between Switzerland and Western Canada. Once my time in Vancouver was up, I returned home to the lovely city of Basel to finish my studies in English and German language and literature. And for the last six years, I have been working as a radio reporter, editor, and presenter. However, my husband and I simply could not forget Vancouver and decided to come back in the spring of 2020. I was lucky that the Consulate was looking to fill a position that fit me like a glove!

As Public Diplomacy Officer, I'm entrusted with engaging the public in a dialogue around Swiss arts and culture. Over the last months, we have put together online film discussions, social media campaigns, and a new events and culture newsletter. As we continue to move forward, I hope we will be able to connect in person again soon, for example at one of the upcoming events revolving around the Swiss author and painter Friedrich Dürrenmatt, who would have turned 100 this year. Connect with us through Facebook, or on our website [www.eda.admin.ch/vancouver](http://www.eda.admin.ch/vancouver). All the best and see you soon!

STEFANIE WUNDERLIN, PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND VISA OFFICER, CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN VANCOUVER



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Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal

### *Yodel Masterclass en ligne: Yolala hi hou!*

Vendredi 27 novembre 2020, les amateurs de yodel, citoyens suisses et amis de l'Helvétie, ont eu l'occasion de participer à un cours de yodel en ligne, organisé par le Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal en collaboration avec Sonja Morgeneegg, yodleuse et professeure de chant de Thurgovie, accompagnée de Petra Hayoz.

L'activité a été inaugurée par un mot de bienvenue de la Consule générale, Line Marie Leon-Pernet, qui a ensuite cédé la parole à Sonja Morgeneegg pour une leçon aussi instructive que divertissante. Non seulement les participants ont eu l'occasion d'en apprendre davantage sur l'histoire du yodel et ses particularités régionales, mais aussi d'apprendre l'Appenzeller Zäuerli, yodel naturel (sans paroles) du canton d'Appenzell. Après un échange questions-réponses animé, nos deux yodleuses ont clos la leçon en chantant deux hymnes de nos montagnes tout en émotions, qui ont laissé leur public pantois d'admiration et de nostalgie.

Restez à l'affût de nos activités, suivez-nous sur les réseaux sociaux pour ne rien manquer!

- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ConsulateSuisseMontreal](https://www.facebook.com/ConsulateSuisseMontreal)
- Chaîne YouTube: Swiss Representations in Canada.



### *Online Yodel Master-Class: Yolala hi hou!*

On November 27, 2020, yodeling enthusiasts – Swiss citizens and friends of Switzerland – had the opportunity to participate in an online yodel master-class organised by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal in collaboration with Sonja Morgeneegg, yodel singer and vocal coach from Thurgau, accompanied by Petra Hayoz.

The event began with greetings from Consul General Line Marie Leon-Pernet. Sonja Morgeneegg then followed with an instructive and entertaining lesson. Not only did the attendees learn more about the history of yodeling and its regional particularities, they were also introduced to an "Appenzeller Zäuerli", a (wordless) natural yodel from the canton of Appenzell. Following an animated question-and-answer session, our two yodel singers left the participants with heartfelt nostalgia, by ending the master-class with two hymns from the Alps!

Stay tuned and follow us on social media:

- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ConsulateSuisseMontreal](https://www.facebook.com/ConsulateSuisseMontreal);
- YouTube channel: "Swiss Representations in Canada".

**FRIEDRICH  
DÜRRENMATT**  
100 JAHRE ANS  
ANNI ONNS 2021

This year, we celebrate 100 years of Friedrich Dürrenmatt - author, playwright, painter, intellectual, provocateur, bon vivant, and more! No other Swiss author has been translated into more languages than Dürrenmatt. To this day, his remarks on art, society, and politics remain relevant, and his plays are still shown frequently on stages around the globe.

In order to honour this extraordinary artist, the Consulates General in Montreal and Vancouver, and the Embassy in Ottawa are planning various events showcasing his work. On his birthday on January 5, the Swiss Representations in Canada launched a campaign on Facebook to introduce Dürrenmatt, his work, and his legacy. Throughout 2021, we will have lectures, exhibitions, film screenings, discussions, and an essay contest. Join us for this anniversary celebration! You'll find information about our activities online:

- Western Canada: [www.eda.admin.ch/Vancouver](https://www.eda.admin.ch/Vancouver) (Newsletter / Events) and [www.facebook.com/ConsulateSwissVancouver](https://www.facebook.com/ConsulateSwissVancouver);
- Montréal: [www.eda.admin.ch/montreal](https://www.eda.admin.ch/montreal) (Infolettre) and [www.facebook.com/ConsulateSuisseMontreal](https://www.facebook.com/ConsulateSuisseMontreal);
- Ottawa: [www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyCanada](https://www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyCanada).