

REGIONAL NEWS

CANADA

Editorial

Dear Readers: A blessed 2022! In investing, there's a phenomena called over-hedging, where hedges - typically useful tools - are applied in an exaggerated or undisciplined fashion. The result? Too much protection can actually generate losses should the investment recover and rise as originally anticipated - the hedges are now a problem. Investors may overcompensate in this way because of fear or emotional

distress. Since 2020, we've been on that kind of ride - a rollercoaster of unremitting tensions, dazzling contradictions, and ever-changing narratives. Here's hoping we don't over-hedge and won't face unintended consequences once this scary episode has run its course! avs@telus.net



ANDREW VON STUERMER,
REGIONAL EDITOR

Swiss Club Toronto

Although 2021 was a quiet year for the Swiss Club Toronto, we were safely able to have several in-person events, including:

- A few outdoor gatherings as part of our once-a-month Swiss Socials that invite members and those interested in joining the Swiss community for a drink and some laughs;
- A gathering to support the Swiss National Team during the Euro Cup;
- Our annual Board dinner - it was great to see our Board members face-to-face again after almost two years of Zoom meetings!

We hope 2022 brings us more freedom to run our typical events, such as all-you-can-eat raclette, fondue, Jass, bowling, and the performances of our Swiss German Theatre Group. If we're lucky, we'll be able to hold our annual Swiss National Day celebration in late July.

We hope to see many of you again, as our events pick up. In the meantime, we hope everyone is staying well and wish to thank our members for their continued support of the Swiss Club Toronto, and for attending our events. New members are always welcome!

NADIA BERGER



Matterhorn Swiss Club (Montreal)

As I submit this report at the end of 2021, we still have been unable to hold any activities. We do have in mind to hold our AGM this Spring and combine it with a seasonal lunch at a family friendly location; however, due to COVID-19, we must wait and see if this will be possible. Members will be advised when we have news. Under normal circumstances our yearly activities usually consist of four or five events, as follows:

- February or early March: Annual General Meeting and a dinner;
- June: A visit to a place of interest - either local or out of town - followed by a good dinner;
- Mid-August: A barbecue picnic at a member's home;
- Fall: Sometimes, we hold an outing followed by a nice meal;
- November: An informal meeting / get-together at a nice restaurant;
- In addition, about 25 of our members usually volunteer at the Swiss National Day celebrations at Mont Sutton.

Until we can meet again, we hope that everyone stays safe and healthy. New members are always welcome!

WALTER SPIRIG, PRESIDENT, 514 - 694 - 3718



FÉDÉRATION DES SOCIÉTÉS SUISSES DE L'EST DU CANADA
FEDERATION OF SWISS SOCIETIES IN EASTERN CANADA

Chère communauté suisse, chers amis et chères amies,

Ces quelques mots sont écrits à la fin du mois de décembre pour la parution de février 2022. Où en serons-nous avec la Covid-19 et ses variants multiples?

Depuis plus de 40 ans, la principale activité de la Fédération des Sociétés Suisses de l'Est du Canada (Fédé) est l'organisation de la fête nationale suisse au Mont Sutton. De quelques centaines de personnes à ses débuts c'est maintenant, du moins jusqu'en 2019, une moyenne de 2 500 visiteurs chaque année. Évènement très familial, de tout-petits à nos aînés. C'était devenue la célébration de la fête nationale suisse la plus grande à l'extérieur de la Suisse.

Le comité actuel de la Fédé se réunit au début du mois de février 2022 pour l'assemblée générale annuelle, avec les présidents et présidentes et des représentant(e)s de la majorité des clubs et sociétés suisses du Québec. Y participent aussi le délégué à l'OSE ainsi que d'anciens présidents de la Fédé. Serons-nous en virtuel ou en présentiel?

Il y sera naturellement question d'élection pour le comité. Suite à quelques départs, nous sommes à la recherche de nouveaux membres et d'un candidat pour la présidence.

Nous discuterons certainement de l'année qui commence, de la possibilité et faisabilité d'une célébration de notre fête en 2022. Les multiples travaux d'organisation commencent habituellement dès la mi-février. Si on se rend compte que ce n'est pas possible...ce sera remis pour 2023.

Nous ferons possiblement un sondage pour savoir ce que vous en pensez. Ce sondage serait sur notre site web www.fedesuisse.com vers la fin février. Votre participation serait très appréciée.

Continuez aussi à nous suivre sur notre page Facebook à www.facebook.com/fedesuisse.

A tous et à toutes, une belle fin d'hiver! Restez en santé! Gardons courage et espoir d'un meilleur futur!

Dear Swiss Community; Dear Friends:

A few words written at the end of December 2021 for publication in February 2022. Where will we be with COVID-19 and its multiple variants?

For more than 40 years now, organising the Swiss National Day celebration at Mont Sutton has been the principal activity of the Federation of Swiss Societies in Eastern Canada (FEDE). From a few hundred people in its early days, this event now attracts - at least up until 2019 - an average of 2,500 visitors per year. It's a very family-oriented affair - from toddlers to seniors - that has become the largest Swiss National Day celebration outside of Switzerland.

In early February 2022, the FEDE committee will meet for its AGM. The presidents and representatives of most Swiss clubs and societies in Quebec will be in attendance; the OSA delegate and the former presidents of the FEDE will also participate. Will the meeting be virtual or face-to-face?

Electing new members to the committee will of course be on the agenda. Given several departures, we are looking for new members, as well as for a candidate for the presidency.

We will certainly be discussing the possibility and feasibility of celebrating our Swiss National Day in 2022. The numerous preparatory tasks usually begin in mid-February. If it turns out that this is not feasible ... the event will be postponed to 2023.

We may do a survey to find out what you think. The survey would be posted on our website www.fedesuisse.com toward the end of February, and your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Continue to follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse.

Wishing you all a beautiful end of winter! Stay healthy! Keep the courage and hope for a better future!



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Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal
Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal

VISIONNEMENT EN LIGNE GRATUIT

Dans le cadre de la journée internationale des femmes, le 8 mars, le Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal a le plaisir de vous offrir la projection du long métrage *l'Ordre divin* (Die göttliche Ordnung), une comédie évoquant la lutte en faveur du droit des femmes en 1971, réalisée par l'Helvète Petra Volpe.

Pour en apprendre davantage et pour vous inscrire, visitez <https://march8.eventbrite.com>.

FREE ONLINE FILM

To highlight this year's International Women's Day, on March 8, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal is pleased to offer the screening of the feature film *The Divine Order* (Die göttliche Ordnung), a comedy about the struggle for women's rights in 1971, directed by our fellow citizen Petra Volpe.

For further details and to register, visit <https://march8.eventbrite.com>.



Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association (Metro Vancouver)



All while complying with COVID-19 regulations, we put on several competitions in the Fall of 2021:

- September 5: Cup of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver. Consul Alexander Dällenbach presented the cup to Rene Zollinger, the competition winner;
- September 19: The very popular Trap Cheese shoot. Even though it was raining, attendance was great, and many Nachdoppel were shot. Roger Grover eventually clinched the *König des Käses* title for 2021;
- October 9 + 10: Our Schützenfest was held amongst members only. Just the same, a good time was had by all, and the kitchen crew looked after us very well;
- October 24: The 300m outdoor shooting season ended with the traditional Saushoot and - of course - a Metzgete dinner;
- November 7: A Jass tournament organised

together with the Swiss Society. There was a good turnout, and Rudolf Maurer spoiled all the participants with an excellent meal. Congratulations to our Jass-König Joe Morach;

- December 5: Samichlaus-Tag. Santa visited and checked up on who had been naughty or nice. While waiting for the man of the season, the children needed something to do. Sandy led at the crafting table, and both the young and the young at heart got in on the action. Glühwein, hot chocolate, and delicious baked goods kept our energy going. Check out the photos at www.scmra.ca.

Other than shooting competitions, we performed some fine oak carpentry work inside the Clubhouse - the extension of the Wappenscheiben cabinets is now complete.

I wish you all a very prosperous 2022!

MARLIES BAUMANN

Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

Another year with limitations and shutdowns is behind us. At the Ottawa Valley Swiss Club (OVSC), we have pivoted in many ways in order to stay connected with our members. Whether it was virtual meetings, August 1st celebrations within the family, or a virtual Christmas party, everyone took the new formats in stride. We thank our members for pivoting with us and helping us make these new ways of celebrating successful in keeping the Swiss spirit alive.

In July 2021, the OVSC distributed authentic Swiss Bratwurst and Cervelat sausages to its members, along with delicious Brötli, Mandelgipfeli, and many warm wishes for the first of August festivities. Unfortunately, celebrations had to take place separately, but having such special treats made even small gatherings with family feel like we were together with friends and the Swiss community at large.



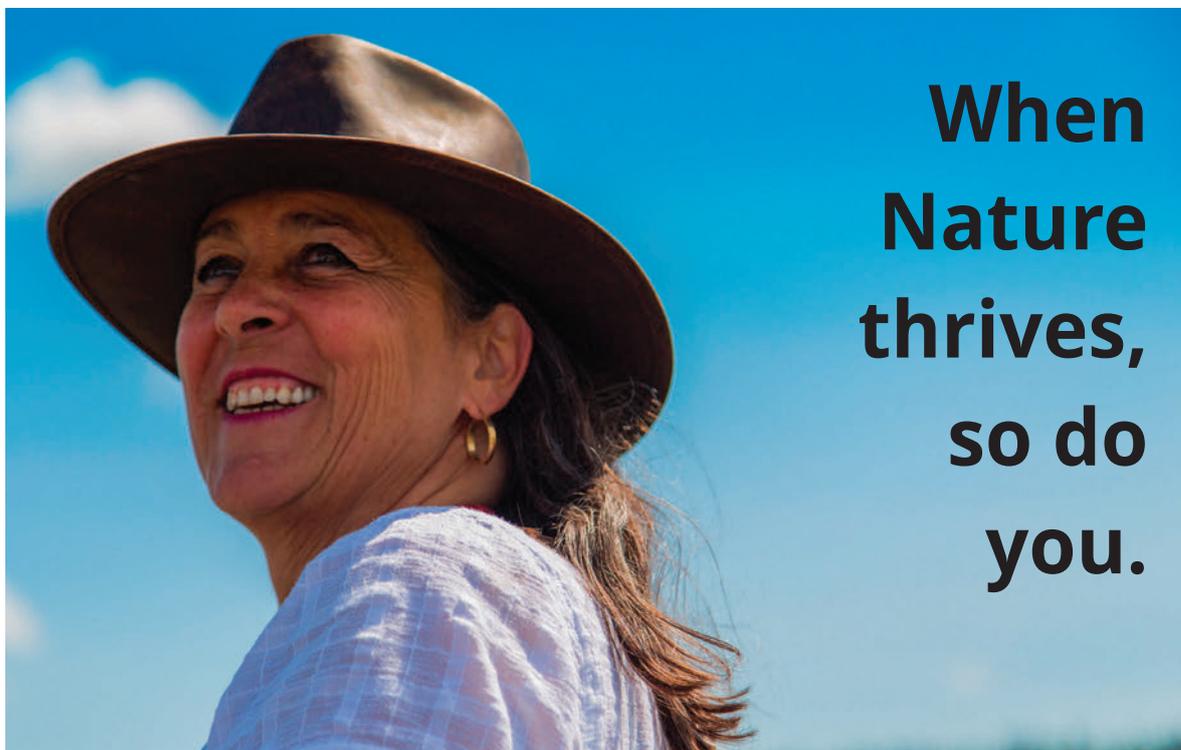
In December, we celebrated the start of the Christmas season, bringing members together virtually this year. The children shared their musical talents and decorated gingerbread houses; Santa delivered gifts to all the children, as well as Grittibänz, chocolate advent calendars, and Swiss keepsakes; Santa sent a special message from the North Pole wishing happiness and health to all; and several members of the Montagna Singers Choir made guest appearances and sang Christmas carols to ring in the festive season.

We hope celebrations will once again return to normal; but in the meantime, we wish all our members and their families happiness and health in 2022. We look forward to seeing you again soon!



To learn more about the OVSC, to stay connected as a member, or to find out about upcoming events, visit www.ottawavalleysswissclub.ca, or e-mail info@ottawavalleysswissclub.ca.

OLIVIA CRAFT



When Nature thrives, so do you.

We supply the Vancouver area with healthy meat products through our butcher shop on Commercial Drive and our home-delivery service; since late 2020 we now also ship frozen meat packs across the province in completely compostable packaging and insulation.

Planning a vacation in BC? Why not visit the ranch! We have beautiful accommodations and excellent food served at our on-ranch restaurant by our Swiss chef.



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Swiss Club Saskatoon

As I write this in late December 2021, we are in the midst of a Siberian cold front in Saskatchewan, with highs (yes, highs) of -30° C ! But we just had 12 cm of new snow, so it's beautiful, if cold, outside.

We had only one event in 2021 - our Bundesfeier in August - and we reported on that in the last issue. Because of COVID numbers rising once again, we are not having any events at all. We will re-evaluate this in late January, so that if we were able to hold a raclette lunch, there would still be time to order the cheese. But the way things are looking, that will be a remote possibility.

In the meantime, the executive has decided that any events held indoors would have to be limited to vaccinated members only.

Our Club mourns the passing of four former and current members during 2021:

- Anneliese Urscheler,
- Dorothy Lukan,
- Alice Geisser,
- and Alois Koller.

If you are not on our contact list and would like to receive information about our Club, please contact us at 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



DEPUIS PLUS DE 50 ANS, CERTAINS DES PLUS GRANDS GROUPES EUROPÉENS, DE MÊME QUE DE NOMBREUSES PME, ONT COMPTÉ SUR LETTE AU CANADA POUR LEUR OFFRIR DES COMPÉTENCES DU PLUS HAUT NIVEAU ET UNE APPROCHE PRATIQUE À LA RÉOLUTION DE LEURS PROBLÈMES.

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Organisation of the Swiss Abroad / Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger / Auslandschweizer-Organisation

Young Swiss Citizens' Celebration in Western Canada



In the summer of 2021, we celebrated a group of young Swiss citizens turning 18 years old. A big thank-you to the Consul General of Vancouver, Mr. Andreas Rufer, and to his deputy, Mr. Alexander Olivier Dällenbach, for organising and hosting such a generous event at the Residence of the Swiss Confederation in Vancouver. The young people had made their journey to Vancouver from many different places in British Columbia and Alberta.

Mr. Rufer and Mr. Dällenbach explained the importance of the coming of age for young Swiss citizens and some of the new rights and responsibilities that go along with it.

The youth took part in completing a fun questionnaire that tested their knowledge of Switzerland. They also filled in a postcard, answering questions about their hopes, dreams, and visions for the Switzerland of tomorrow.



With best wishes from Canada, these postcards were sent to Mr. Filippo Lombardi, the new President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA). He received them with a big smile and sent his regards to all of us in Canada. A statement from Mr. Lombardi after receiving the postcards:

" Many thanks to Canada! As President of the OSA, I was very much looking forward to receiving mail from far away. It's nice to see how committed and motivated our young Swiss abroad are. The OSA will continue to work for the concerns of our citizens abroad!

Best regards from Bern

Filippo Lombardi, President of the OSA "

During the event, Jim Hopson and his partner from Phonos Music entertained the group. Jim's skills on the alphorn are unsurpassed. Three young Swiss successfully tried their hand at playing this difficult instrument.

The event was rounded out with a fantastic tasting of Swiss raclette, Swiss sausages, and Swiss chocolates.

Everybody left with a generous goodie bag and many good memories.

YOUR OSA DELEGATES:

- ANTOINE BELAIEFF, TORONTO, ON
- SUZANNE SCHÜRMAN, TORONTO, ON
- PHILIPPE MAGNENAT, BLAINVILLE, QC
- SAM OETTLI, WHITEHORSE, YK
- JOHANN RODUIT, ABBOTSFORD, BC
- THOMAS ARN, VANCOUVER, BC

<https://www.osa-canada.org/news>



VICTORIA FILM FESTIVAL — SWISS FILMS



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Victoria Film Festival: Spotlight on Switzerland with Bettina Oberli

Victoria, February 4 – 13, 2022

Swiss filmmaker Bettina Oberli will take centre stage at this year's edition of the Victoria Film Festival!

The Victoria Film Festival (VFF) has a long tradition of bringing Swiss film productions to Vancouver Island, and it is a long-lasting partner of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver. In 2022, the Festival will show a retrospective of Bettina Oberli's cinematic works with the Director in attendance.

At the festival, Bettina Oberli will be available for audience Q&As, take part in a film industry panel, and give a master class at the University of Victoria.

Bettina Oberli's films at the VFF 2022:

- *My Wonderful Wanda* (Wanda, mein Wunder)
- *Late Bloomers* (Die Herbstzeitlosen)
- *With the Wind* (Le vent tourne)
- *Lovely Louise*

To access the full festival programme, visit www.victoriafilmfestival.com.

On Thursday, February 10, the audience in Metro Vancouver will have a chance to meet Bettina Oberli and to see her latest film *My Wonderful Wanda* at The Cinematheque. For more information, visit www.thecinematheque.ca.



About Bettina Oberli

Bettina Oberli is a renowned director, screenwriter, and producer from Switzerland, who has directed over 20 short and feature films during her career in the film industry. Her most successful and award-winning films are *Late Bloomers* (2006) and *My Wonderful Wanda* (2020), which were screened at various film festivals all over the world.

Bettina Oberli's appearance in Victoria and Vancouver is presented by SWISS FILMS and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver.



Swiss Innovation FEST

Vancouver, April 20 - 28, 2022

The Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver presents the Swiss Innovation FEST. The FEST brings together Swiss and Canadian leaders in the arts and sciences fields to make scientific research accessible, tangible, and exciting!

In partnership with globally leading institutions such as CERN in Switzerland and TRIUMF in Canada, the FEST will feature discussions, art exhibitions, movie screenings, and more.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned!

More at www.innovationfest.net.



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Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir Association



The Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir hopes that everybody is well and filled with a renewed sense of hope and optimism for 2022!

One of the Choir's first live indoor activities in 2021 was the AGM on November 19. It was a hybrid meeting: 15 people gathered in person at the Chateau Lacombe Hotel, and seven members participated on-line via Zoom. The executive remains the same: Hans Voegeli continues as our President; Ron Marcinkoski is the VP; Roland Allenbach,

Treasurer; John Willms, Chriss Varis, and Andreas Schloo are Directors (Alternate Director, George Schuller), and Peter Thut, Secretary.

Immediately after the AGM, we enjoyed our first in-person rehearsal with 18 singers and Elizabeth, our Musical Director. Surprisingly, the sound we produced in the church was very good, even when singing with masks. Considering that the majority of us haven't sung since mid-March 2020, it did go over quite well. Thank you, Elizabeth, for organising the special mask-spacers - they make singing easier!

„Wo man singt, da lass Dich ruhig nieder - böse Menschen singen keine Lieder“. With this motto, we would like to invite new singers. And of course, we always welcome any former members to rejoin us.

Our rehearsal location: Trinity Lutheran Church, 10014 81 Ave NW, Edmonton. We sing every Tuesday from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM.

For more information on how to join us, please visit our website www.esmca.ca, or write to secretary@esmca.ca. Like us on Facebook ("Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir"), or enter our name into YouTube to watch and listen to one of our many performances.

PETER THUT

HOCKEY IN SWITZERLAND

If you are a hockey player and eligible for a **SWISS PASSPORT** contact:

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