

REGIONAL NEWS

CANADA

Editorial

Dear Readers: The first-ever direct (online) **elections to the Council of the Swiss Abroad** (CSA) – often referred to as the “Parliament of the Fifth Switzerland” – have concluded. Here are your CSA Delegates by region for the 2025 – 2029 term:

EAST (NL, NS, NB, PE, QC, NU, Bahamas)

- ✱ Philippe Magnenat (Blainville, QC) – re-elected;
- ✱ Jean-René Carle-Mossdorf (Montreal, QC) – newly elected.

CENTRE (ON and MB)

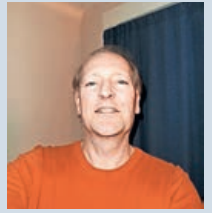
- ✱ Guido Bühlmann-Miyake (North York, ON) – newly elected;
- ✱ Brendan Naef (National Capital Region) – newly elected;
- ✱ Léonie Warkus (National Capital Region) – elected Deputy Delegate.

WEST (SK, AB, BC, NT, and YT)

- ✱ Thomas Arn (West Vancouver, BC) – re-elected;
- ✱ Pascal Méan (Calgary, AB) – newly elected.

Speaking of the Fifth Switzerland, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad has just launched a new international series entitled **1 / 800 000**. A first Canadian example is presented below.

In future editions of the *Swiss Review*, we'll provide more information on how you, too, can participate in this portrait series. Stay tuned!



ANDREW VON STUERMER
REGIONAL EDITOR

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1/800 000



The Fifth Switzerland is a colourful, varied, and multilingual puzzle with well over 800,000 pieces. Today's puzzle piece is ...

... **Alexander Paul Burton** (born Künzli), 35, lives in Toronto, Canada. He is an author, composer, and queer / gay rights advocate.

www.youtube.com/@alexanderpaulburton

What location or country do you call home?

Toronto, London, and Zürich.

What is your native language, and what language do you speak most often?

English, but I have made efforts to learn Swiss-German and French. I now incorporate French into songs, and I have produced one song in German.

What is it like for you being connected to more than one country?

Torn, I am very torn, especially as I have so many creative pursuits and projects on the go. I feel obliged to bring my Swissness into my work and everyday life.

What does "homeland" mean to you?

"Homeland" evokes a deep, almost ancestral connection to

Switzerland. It's about the roots, the cultural bedrock, the shared history, and the landscapes that are etched into my earliest memories and family stories in Canada, the UK, and Switzerland. It's the place where a fundamental part of my identity was forged, even if I no longer live there. It's less about a physical address now, and more about a feeling of origin and belonging to a specific heritage, the feelings that it evokes.

Is a sense of belonging a matter of age?

It certainly evolves with age. When you're younger, belonging might be more tied to immediate family, school, or a very specific peer group. As you mature, your understanding of belonging can broaden. It can become more about shared values, intellectual connections, professional networks, or even a sense of global citizenship. For expats, the process of finding and establishing a new sense of belonging in a different country can be a lifelong journey, constantly adapting as one's life circumstances change.

Is regularly meeting other Swiss people important to you?

Not particularly, but I do like the invitations. I'm just very busy writing books, poetry, and music!

Do you participate in votes in Switzerland? If so, why?

Yes, I do, attentively, because it's important not to waste our democratic right to vote. By ignoring the vote, we dishonour the many Swiss who came before us and fought for rights and freedom.

Read more at www.revue.link/puzzle



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

Avis aux Suisses et Suissesses résidant en Ontario

Le Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal organisera des **Journées consulaires suisses à Toronto du 6 au 10 octobre 2025**. Cette initiative vous permet de **renouveler vos documents d'identité suisses** (passeport et/ou carte d'identité) **sans avoir à vous déplacer à Montréal**.

Une communication a été envoyée en mai à toutes les personnes enregistrées en Ontario disposant d'une adresse courriel valide. L'information a également été partagée via [SwissInTouch](#), l'application officielle destinée aux Suisses et Suissesses de l'étranger.

Afin de permettre au plus grand nombre de bénéficier de ce service, le délai de soumission a été prolongé jusqu'au **lundi 4 août 2025**.

IMPORTANT :

- Une **demande en ligne distincte** doit être effectuée pour chaque personne, même si une demande est déjà en cours pour Montréal.
- Veuillez indiquer impérativement « **TORONTO 2025** » dans le champ Remarques du formulaire.

Une fois la demande soumise, vous recevrez un courriel de confirmation automatique, qui peut être ignoré. Des précisions concernant la procédure et votre rendez-vous vous seront communiquées d'ici la fin août.

À noter :

- Si vos données personnelles (état civil, nom, etc.) ne sont pas à jour auprès du consulat, cela pourrait retarder, voire empêcher, l'émission de vos nouveaux documents.
- Le consulat se réserve le droit d'annuler ou de reprogrammer les Journées consulaires en cas de demande insuffisante ou de circonstances exceptionnelles.

Pour déposer votre demande :

www.ch-edoc-passantrag.admin.ch

De manière générale, nous vous encourageons à maintenir vos informations personnelles à jour, en particulier votre adresse courriel, afin de continuer à recevoir les communications importantes de votre consulat.

Nous nous réjouissons de vous retrouver à Toronto en octobre prochain !

Notice to Swiss Citizens Residing in Ontario

The Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal will hold its **Swiss Consular Days in Toronto from October 6 to 10, 2025**. This initiative presents you with the opportunity to **renew your Swiss identity documents** (passport and / or identity card) **without having to travel to Montreal**.

In May, we sent a message to all individuals registered in Ontario for whom we have a valid email address on file. The information was also shared via [SwissInTouch](#), the official app for Swiss citizens living abroad.

To allow as many people as possible to benefit from this service, we've extended the submission deadline to **Monday, August 4, 2025**.

IMPORTANT:

- A **separate online application** is required for each person, even if an application is already in progress for Montreal;
- Be sure to enter "**TORONTO 2025**" in the Remarks section of the form.

After submitting your application, you will receive an automated confirmation email, which can be disregarded. Further instructions concerning the procedure and your appointment will be provided by the end of August.

Please note:

- If your personal data on file with the Consulate (e.g. civil status, name, etc.) is not up to date, it could delay or even prevent your new identity documents from being issued;
- In the event of insufficient demand or unforeseen circumstances, the Consulate reserves the right to cancel or reschedule the Consular Days.

To submit your application, visit:

www.ch-edoc-passantrag.admin.ch

As a general reminder, we encourage you to keep your personal information current—particularly your email address—so that you can continue to receive important updates from your Consulate.

We look forward to welcoming you in Toronto this October!



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Un nouveau membre rejoint notre équipe à Montréal !

Nous avons le plaisir de vous présenter **Rico Roffler**, notre stagiaire dans le cadre du programme « Carrière consulaire – niveau managérial ».



Rico Roffler

Cette expérience professionnelle couvre les domaines des affaires consulaires, de la gestion et des finances des programmes de coopération internationale, offrant ainsi une immersion concrète au cœur des activités d'une représentation suisse à l'étranger.

Une belle occasion de découvrir l'ensemble des missions et responsabilités d'une équipe consulaire.

Rico possède un Master of Business Administration (MBA) en Public & Non-Profit Management et une solide expérience dans la gestion publique, notamment dans des rôles administratifs et de leadership.

Avant de rejoindre notre équipe, il a occupé des postes à responsabilités dans les services publics en Suisse.

En dehors de son travail, il est passionné par la culture, le sport et les voyages. Il est un grand amateur de ski, un fan de football et apprécie particulièrement le forró, un genre de musique brésilienne.

Nous nous réjouissons de poursuivre cette collaboration enrichissante et lui souhaitons un parcours réussi et épanouissant parmi nous !

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

A New Team Member Joins Us in Montreal!

We are pleased to introduce **Rico Roffler**, an intern in our Consular Careers – Managerial Level programme.

This professional experience encompasses consular affairs, management, and financial administration of international cooperation programmes, providing hands-on experience at the heart of a Swiss representation abroad. It's a great opportunity to explore the full range of tasks and responsibilities within a consular team.

Rico holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Public and Non-Profit Management and has solid experience in public administration, particularly in administrative and leadership roles.

Prior to joining our team, he held positions of responsibility in public services in Switzerland.

Outside of work, Rico is passionate about culture, sports, and travel. An avid skier and soccer enthusiast, he also enjoys forró, a Brazilian music genre.

We look forward to continuing this rewarding collaboration and wish him a successful and fulfilling journey with us!

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

Chèr.e.s compatriotes suisses et ami.e.s de la communauté suisse,

Vivez l'authenticité suisse au Mont Sutton le 2 août 2025 !

Marquez votre calendrier : le samedi 2 août 2025, dès 10 h, le Mont Sutton se transforme en un véritable coin de Suisse pour notre Fête Nationale ! Pluie ou soleil, notre équipe de bénévoles dévoués vous réserve un accueil chaleureux pour une journée et une soirée riche en découvertes.

Savourez les saveurs helvétiques avec notre offre gourmande : raclette fondante, saucisses et grillades savoureuses, pâtisseries fines, un choix de boissons, Nespresso, bière et vin suisse.

Laissez-vous charmer par les mélodies traditionnelles ! Directement de Suisse, retrouvez Silvia Rymann et son frère Peter Rymann, maîtres du yodel et du « Schwyzerörgeli », accompagnés de Franz Keller au cor des Alpes. La scène locale suisse sera également bien représentée avec le Mont-Gleason Chörli, les rouleurs d'écu, Maria et Heinz (Jodelduett), Eric Dupasquier, le Quintette de cuivres de l'Union Musicale d'Iberville, les Sonneurs de Cloches, les Coralpestres et le chœur d'hommes MGV Lacolle.

Les plus jeunes trouveront leur bonheur avec un coin bricolage créatif. En plus d'une variété de jeux pour petits et grands. En soirée, l'ambiance sera magique avec le cortège aux lampions et le traditionnel feu de joie. Profitez aussi d'une remontée/descente en télésiège pour admirer les panoramas grandioses.

Ne manquez pas l'occasion de gagner des prix incroyables à notre célèbre tombola ! Allez voir la liste des prix sur notre site web... www.fedesuisse.com/tombola.html.

Le premier prix vous emmène en Suisse avec un vol pour 2, des Swiss Pass et une nuit au luxueux Bürgenstock Hôtel et Alpine Spa. Les billets seront disponibles dès fin mai auprès de vos clubs (au Québec), certains commerces « suisses » et au Bureau de Tourisme de Sutton. Et sur le site même de la Fête le samedi 2 août.

Cette année revêt une importance particulière avec le 150^e anniversaire de la présence consulaire suisse au Canada. Nous en profitons pour remercier tous nos commanditaires. Retrouvez le programme complet sur notre site web.

Pour toutes les informations pratiques, rendez-vous sur notre site web : www.fedesuisse.com ou notre page Facebook : www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse.

Votre comité 2025 est impatient de partager cette fête avec vous !

VOTRE COMITÉ 2025

Dear Swiss Community; Dear Friends:

On August 2, experience authentic Swiss culture at Mont Sutton!

Mark your calendars: On Saturday, August 2, 2025, starting at 10 a.m., Mont Sutton will transform into a little corner of Switzerland for our Swiss National Day celebrations! Rain or shine, our team of dedicated volunteers will be on hand to give you a warm welcome for a day and evening filled with discoveries.

Savour the flavours of Switzerland with our gourmet offerings: melt-in-your-mouth raclette, delicious sausages and grilled meats, fine pastries, and a selection of beverages including Nespresso coffee, beer, and Swiss wine.

Be charmed by traditional melodies! Straight from Switzerland, meet Silvia Rymann and her brother Peter, masters of yodelling and the Schwyzerörgeli, accompanied by Franz Keller on the alphorn. The local Swiss scene will also be well represented, featuring the Mont-Gleason Chörli, Talerschwigen (traditional Swiss coin spinning / coin rolling), Maria and Heinz (Jodelduett), Eric Dupasquier, the brass quintet from the Union Musicale d'Iberville, the Bell Ringers, the Coralpestres, and the MGV Lacolle men's choir.

Our youngest visitors will enjoy a creative craft corner, and there will be a variety of games for both children and adults. In the evening, the atmosphere will turn magical with a lantern parade and the traditional bonfire. You can also take the chairlift up and down to admire the breathtaking panoramic views.

Don't miss your chance to win incredible prizes in our famous raffle! Check out the full list of prizes at our website www.fedesuisse.com/en/tombola.html.

The grand prize includes a trip to Switzerland for two, Swiss Passes, and a night at the luxurious Bürgenstock Hotel and Alpine Spa. Tickets will be available from late May through your Swiss clubs (in Quebec), selected "Swiss" shops, the Sutton Tourist Office, as well as on-site at the event on Saturday, August 2.

This year is particularly significant, as it marks the 150th anniversary of the Swiss consular presence in Canada.

We take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors!

For the full event programme and all practical details, visit our website www.fedesuisse.com or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse.

Your 2025 committee looks forward to celebrating with you!

YOUR 2025 COMMITTEE

Matterhorn Swiss Club (Montreal)

The AGM was our most recent event, and we also turned it into a fun occasion by holding it at Sucrerie de la Montagne in Rigaud, QC. We enjoyed a delicious, traditional cabane à sucre lunch and were entertained by live Québécois music.

Not only were people able to get up and dance; several of our members and children were invited to the stage to "play the spoons." This sucrerie is in the old, traditional style, with wooden walls, floors, and tables, so there is plenty of atmosphere.

Following lunch, we moved to a separate, quiet room in order to hold our meeting. We were very pleased to have such a good turnout of members, children, and guests. Our committee remains the same as in 2024:

- Walter Spirig: President;
- Peter Aschwanden: Vice President;
- Gilbert Berthoud: Treasurer;
- Joanne Spirig: Secretary;
- Astrid Aschwanden: Member-at-Large;
- Jack Schiess: Auditor.

Heidi Berthoud is not officially on the committee, but she is a major contributor, and her help is greatly appreciated!

Our next event will be the annual summer picnic and barbecue, to be held in mid-August. Members will be advised when plans have been finalised.

This year, the 1st of August celebrations will be held on Saturday, August 2, at Mont Sutton. As usual, our members will be asked to help out - numerous volunteers are needed to make this big event a success.

New members are always welcome!

WALTER SPIRIG, PRESIDENT
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Sie sprechen Deutsch und möchten Ihre Leidenschaft für Kanada mit anderen teilen?

Dann schließen Sie sich unserem Reiseleiter-Team an und schaffen Sie unvergessliche Erinnerungen für unsere Gäste!

Sie erreichen uns unter:

info@misatours.ca oder 819 - 758 - 3155



Yodel Club Heimattreu (Calgary)

It is with heavy hearts that we share that our dear friend and fellow yodel member, **Walter von Rotz**, has passed away.

You could always count on him to make you laugh. We never had a bad practice when he was there, cracking jokes or telling tales.

Joining in 2001, he was a pillar of the yodel club, through performances, competitions, practices, and just friendly camaraderie.

We take comfort in knowing that he was able to join the Jodler-Abig (see right-hand column), and spend an evening surrounded by people who loved him, doing one of the things he loved.

He lived an incredible life, and we are all grateful to have shared many great memories with him. He will always be in our hearts, standing beside us in spirit when we sing his favourite songs.

May he rest in peace!



Walter von Rotz

After what felt like a chilly spring, summer has suddenly shown itself. With the added voices we gained at the start of the year, we are as lively as ever. While we have had our fun, we will be going on our summer break soon. The Swiss explorer in us calls too loudly to stay indoors when the weather is so nice. But don't worry, there are still chances to see us (for instance, at the Swiss National Day celebrations).

In February, we were delighted to bring back the **Jodler-Abig** (Yodel Evening), a very successful event with sold-out tickets. With guest performances from the Swiss Folk Dance Club Alpenrösli and the Calgary Fiddlers, it was a night full of music and culture. This night was also truly special for us because we had a VIP guest join us all the way from Switzerland: Karin Niederberger - the current President of the Swiss Yodelling Association - came to Calgary to teach our club a one-week yodel workshop. Thanks to her knowledge and guidance, we discovered that no matter how long you've been singing, there is always more you can learn!

Not only did we improve as individual singers, but also as a choral group. It's always nice to share our growth and see the results reflected back to us when we look out at the smiling crowd in front of us. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped create a memorable night; we hope to bring back the annual tradition.

- Facebook: Yodel Club Heimattreu - Jodlerklub Heimattreu www.facebook.com/yodelclubheimattreu
- Instagram: @yodelclubbyyc www.instagram.com/yodelclubbyyc
- For information about our club's history and activities, visit www.jkheimattreu.com.

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Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association (Metro Vancouver)

At the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association (SCMRA), spring has seen a lot of wildlife activity. There have been sightings of a bear with cubs, and we also spotted a deer with a newborn fawn.



We're now working with the BC Community Bat Program (bcbats.ca/about-us), a network of community bat projects across British Columbia that promotes bat conservation. For the Bat Program, it means they gain knowledge of BC's bat population and health, given the threat of white-nose syndrome (see www.whitenosesyndrome.org and batwatch.ca), which is killing off bat populations. For the SCMRA, it means we now know there are about 60 "residents" in the roof of the Chalet! Volunteers have begun building bat houses to hopefully relocate the bats, which will then allow the club to seal the current entry points.

In early June, we hosted a trap shoot and dinner for the numerous supporters who have generously donated goods, materials, and time to the SCMRA throughout the year. Arla Foods, Four Winds Brewing, and Italian Sporting Goods continue to be generous sponsors!

We've had a very good turnout for the spring work parties, and participation in the 2025 shooting season has been strong since it began on March 23 with the annual safety course and safety declaration.

We look forward to a busy summer season!

Swiss Club Saskatoon

On April 1, Swiss in Saskatchewan were invited to a reception hosted by Olaf Kjelsen, Ambassador of Switzerland to Canada, and Thomas Schneider, Consul General of Switzerland in Vancouver. The reception was held in Saskatoon at the Saskatoon Inn and Convention Centre.

I was pleased to be invited by our two hosts to help welcome the guests as they arrived. Quite a few "new-to-our-club" Swiss were in attendance, and we have invited them to join us at our summer events.

Our raclette lunch on March 16 was a success, with a big turnout of 35 members.

The June BBQ was hosted by Ronny Zimmermann in Asquith, SK, on June 22. Everyone was asked to bring their own meats and a side dish or dessert to be shared with others.

On July 27, Dora and Max Hug will host the 1st of August Bundesfeier at their acreage north of Saskatoon. The club will supply the bratwurst and cervelats. There is no cost for the event.

Our fall and winter events have already been booked:

■ October 26: Our AGM and lunch will be held at the Skychef restaurant in Warman, SK;

■ December 7: The kids' Santa party will be a potluck for all ages, held at the Neuanlage Community Hall in Neuanlage, SK.

If you would like to receive information about our club and its activities, contact us at swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com, or call or text me at 1 - 306 - 260 - 8030. New members are always welcome, and membership is free the first year. Even though our name is Swiss Club Saskatoon, we welcome Swiss from anywhere in Saskatchewan.

ELISABETH EILINGER
PRESIDENT
SWISS CLUB SASKATOON



Front (left to right): Manfred Gerber, Auditor; Georg Nievergelt, Treasurer; Hayley Schwendemann, Secretary; Marc Schwendemann, Vice President

Centre: Barbara Wingeier, Social Convenor; Elisabeth Eilinger, President

Back: Thomas Schneider, Consul General of Switzerland in Vancouver; Olaf Kjelsen, Ambassador of Switzerland to Canada

Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (Western Canada)

As we celebrate the **40th anniversary** of the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (SCCC), we proudly recognise the exceptional leadership that has guided this organisation over the past four decades.

Each **SCCC president** played a pivotal role in building what the Chamber is today — a dynamic and resilient platform for fostering Swiss-Canadian business ties, community engagement, and cultural exchange. Their dedication laid the foundation for continued growth, relevance, and impact. We extend our sincere thanks to:

- ◇ Adrian Hartmann
- ◇ Peter Brunold
- ◇ Thomas Amgwerd
- ◇ Werner Dettwiler
- ◇ Rupert Bullock
- ◇ Herbert Bolz
- ◇ Rolf Brühlhart
- ◇ Rick Wagner
- ◇ Peter Schaub
- ◇ Vince Sciamanna
- ◇ Fabian Lemann
- ◇ Rick Alder
- ◇ Thomas Arn (current president)

This summer, we had the honour of participating in the 2025 **Jungbürgerfeier**, a young citizens' celebration of their coming of age. This time-honoured ceremony that formally welcomes young Swiss into civic and political life was hosted at the Residence of the Swiss Confederation in West Vancouver. Dating back to the 19th century, this tradition affirms the values of democracy, responsibility, and community that define Swiss identity.

Young Swiss nationals from across the region gathered to celebrate this milestone in a warm and festive atmosphere. The programme included engaging presentations from the Swiss Society of Vancouver, the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association, and the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce, along with traditional cuisine, and a powerful alphorn performance by David Gsponer.

It was inspiring to see the next generation embrace their heritage with pride. The strong turnout and interest — including several new membership requests — shows a genuine desire to stay connected and contribute to the Swiss community abroad.

On June 12, the SCCC hosted its annual **Summer Night Reception** (Sommernachtsfest), once again held at the Residence of the Swiss Confederation. We thank Consul General Thomas Schneider for his generous hospitality!

This beloved tradition brought together long-standing members, new faces, and future leaders of the Chamber.



A scene from the 2025 Sommernachtsfest (Summer Night Reception).

Photo credit: Monika Korbut Photography. www.mkphotoart.ca

The evening was a wonderful reminder of the strength of our network — rooted in friendship, collaboration, and shared purpose. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

Looking ahead, we cordially invite you to our upcoming **First of August celebration** on July 26, hosted at the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range in Coquitlam.

Join us as we honour Switzerland's National Day with an afternoon of food, drinks, music, and celebration — a true gathering of Swiss spirit, open to all.

STEPHAN SOLTERMANN

Swiss Club Thames Valley

Hello from the Swiss Club Thames Valley!

As I write to you, the weather is finally getting nicer, and is much more to my liking. This time, I do not have a lot to write about:

■ On April 12, we had the Swiss Club Toronto Theatre Group perform the play *Alte Lügen rosten nicht*. We had a good turnout;

■ Our next event is the Bundesfeier - it will be held on July 27 in Moncton.

That's all for now. Until next time!

MARIANNE TRACHSEL
SWISS CLUB THAMES VALLEY

Regional News Canada

Regional News Canada is an insert in the *Swiss Review* magazine and appears both in print and online. As of 2025, it is published five times per year.

For information on content submission deadlines, publishing dates, and advertising opportunities, visit the following link:

<https://www.swisscommunity.org/en/news-media/swiss-revue/news-from-your-region/canada>.