

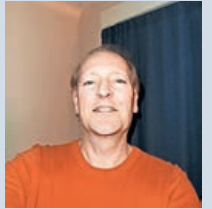
REGIONAL NEWS

CANADA

Dear Readers: The oft-quoted German saying "Wenn jemand eine Reise tut, so kann er was erzählen" ("Those who travel come home with stories to tell"), penned by a poet in 1774, aptly introduces this summer edition of *Regional News Canada*. Two Swiss clubs report on their experiences at two of Switzerland's most cherished traditional events: the Swiss Federal Shooting Festival (Eidgenössisches Schützenfest) in Chur and the Federal Yodelling Festival (Eidgenössisches

Jodlerfest) in Basel. These events do not treat visiting Swiss abroad as a mere afterthought but actively welcome their involvement as an integral part of the celebrations. The Federal Shooting Festival, for example, features a dedicated Swiss Abroad Day. Both festivals take a keen interest in how Swiss communities far from their homeland preserve quintessentially Swiss traditions such as shooting and yodelling. For expatriates, such gatherings

offer an opportunity to strengthen ties with Switzerland and connect with fellow Swiss. The global appeal was evident at the Shooting Festival: it attracted numerous Swiss abroad from Europe, North America, as well as South Africa.



ANDREW VON STUERMER
REGIONAL EDITOR

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

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

Mission consulaire mobile à Winnipeg

Au cours de la semaine du 20 avril, le Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal s'est rendu à Winnipeg pour organiser une session de biométrie mobile.

Cette démarche a permis aux Suissesses et Suisses établis au Manitoba, ainsi qu'à des ressortissants du Saskatchewan, de renouveler sur place leur passeport et leur carte d'identité.

En l'espace de quatre jours, quelque 230 rendez-vous ont été assurés, évitant à de nombreux compatriotes un long déplacement vers leur représentation consulaire compétente.

Ce type d'initiative vise à rapprocher les services consulaires des Suissesses et Suisses de l'étranger, en tenant compte des réalités géographiques du Canada.

Au-delà du service rendu, cette visite a également permis de renforcer les liens avec la communauté suisse de la région.

Mobile Consular Mission in Winnipeg

During the week of April 20, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal travelled to Winnipeg to conduct a mobile biometric session.

This initiative enabled Swiss citizens residing in Manitoba, as well as Swiss nationals from Saskatchewan, to renew their passports and identity cards locally.

Over the course of four days, approximately 230 appointments were conducted, saving many fellow Swiss citizens a lengthy journey to their competent consular representation.

Such initiatives aim to bring consular services closer to Swiss citizens abroad while taking into account Canada's geographic realities.

Beyond the services provided, the visit also helped strengthen ties with the Swiss community in the region.



Winnipeg, Avril / April 2026

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Swiss Club of Manitoba

By the time you read these lines, our summer activities season will already be underway; it began with our picnic on June 21 at Bohren Farm.

Next up is the First of August celebration. This year, it actually takes place on August 1 at the Winnipeg Gliding Club airfield southwest of Starbuck.

Our get-togethers in 2025 were mostly well attended, with the exception of our March AGM, which seems to struggle to bring together a decent number of members; hopefully we'll have a better turnout next time ...

Last December, we had a club presence at the Winnipeg Jets game against the Washington Capitals to mark our Swiss-born player **Nino Niederreiter's 1,000th game in the NHL!** The Jets organisation put together a nice presentation, and we were able to have a short one of our own, and to meet Nino after the match. Many thanks to Renate for organising this event, and to everyone who came for the game; it was a nice evening!



Also, I would like to acknowledge the support we receive from our Swiss representations in Ottawa and Montreal. They always make an effort to help our community, take the time to meet with us when visiting the local authorities, and send people to facilitate our passport renewals. Thank you, we truly appreciate it!

I hope to see big crowds at our upcoming activities. Let's keep promoting our Swiss culture!

FRANCOIS CARRARD, PRESIDENT
SWISS CLUB OF MANITOBA



Matterhorn Swiss Club (Montreal)

Greetings from the Matterhorn Swiss Club in Montreal!

Our last event was the Annual General Meeting, which was held at the Olympia Grille restaurant in Dollard-des-Ormeaux. The Matterhorn committee members agreed to continue in their positions for 2026 and were elected by acclamation. The committee consists of:

- President: Walter Spirig
- Vice President: Peter Aschwanden
- Treasurer: Gilbert Berthoud
- Secretary: Joanne Spirig
- Member-at-Large: Astrid Aschwanden

The meeting was followed by a pleasant lunch.

Upcoming events:

- August 22: Summer picnic / barbecue;
- September 26: Lunch and an apple-picking outing.

Invitations with all the details will be sent at a later date.

As always, Matterhorn members will be helping out in various areas at the First of August celebrations at Mont Sutton.

WALTER SPIRIG, PRESIDENT
514 - 694 - 3718





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Steffen Milner quitte ses fonctions au Swiss Business Hub Canada



Après quatre ans en poste à Montréal en tant que chef du Swiss Business Hub Canada et consul général adjoint, M. Milner s'apprête à relever un nouveau défi professionnel.

Au cours de son mandat, il a contribué au développement des relations économiques et commerciales entre la Suisse et le Canada en développant les échanges avec des acteurs clés, notamment dans les domaines de l'innovation, des technologies, des sciences de

Steffen Milner, Head of the Swiss Business Hub Canada and Deputy Consul General /
Chef du Swiss Business Hub Canada et consul général adjoint

la vie et du secteur minier. Son engagement a également permis de promouvoir la Suisse auprès des entreprises canadiennes comme lieu d'affaires, d'investissement et d'accès aux marchés européens. Le Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal remercie Steffen Milner pour son professionnalisme et son engagement au service des relations économiques et commerciales entre la Suisse et le Canada, et lui adresse ses meilleurs vœux pour la suite de son parcours.

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

Steffen Milner Announces Departure from Swiss Business Hub Canada

After four years in Montreal as Head of the Swiss Business Hub Canada and Deputy Consul General, Mr. Milner is set to take on a new professional challenge.

During his tenure, he contributed to the development of economic and trade relations between Switzerland and Canada by fostering exchanges with key stakeholders, particularly in the fields of innovation, technology, life sciences, and mining.

His work also helped promote Switzerland among Canadian companies as an attractive destination for business, investment, and access to European markets.

The Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal extends its sincere thanks to Steffen Milner for his professionalism and dedication to advancing Swiss-Canadian economic and trade relations and wishes him every success in his future endeavours.

Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association (Metro Vancouver)

As in most years, the end of winter and beginning of spring 2026 saw general housekeeping and maintenance work carried out at the property and chalet. This year, there was also an electrical audit and an upgrade to the IT systems in the shooting houses and the chalet.

On the shooting front, we held a Schützenfest on March 8 at the indoor 10 m range. The Absenden was well attended, with participants enjoying a cheese fondue and celebratory dinner.

In June, club members travelled to Switzerland to take part in the **Swiss Federal Shooting Festival** (Eidgenössisches Schützenfest) in Chur (www.gr2026.ch). The SCMRA wishes to thank all the local Swiss who made the trip a great success. Nine SCMRA members arrived in Geneva on June 4 and 5.

On June 6, the Exercices de l'Arquebuse et de la Navigation sport shooting club in Geneva (www.arquebuse.ch) invited the Canadians to participate in a friendly competition.

Each shooter was required to shoot the K31, the 90 regular, the 90 modified, and the 57. SCMRA won the club competition, and Jason Zhang placed first in the individual category.

On June 10, the entire team arrived in Chur and then participated in the Auslandschweizer competition on June 12, placing third overall. Four women shot the 50 m event in Domat/Ems, with one winning a medal.

Many thanks go to the Bregaglia shooting club, which very kindly provided STG 57s and 90s so our members could participate in the Eidgenössische Schützenfest. SCMRA members were also invited to visit the Bregaglia clubhouse and participate in another friendly competition on June 16. The top shooter was from Bregaglia, with SCMRA members coming in second and third.

To view pictures and check out additional results, please visit the SCMRA website scmra.ca.

Pro Coro Canada and Axios Men's Ensemble

Swiss-Born Conductor Michael Zaugg Leads Pro Coro Canada and Axios Men's Ensemble to JUNO Award



On March 28, Edmonton-based Pro Coro Canada (www.procoro.ca) and Axios Men's Ensemble (www.axiosmensensemble.com) won the 2026 JUNO Award for Classical Album of the Year (Large Ensemble) for Benedict Sheehan's *Ukrainian War Requiem*. The acclaimed recording was conducted by Swiss-born choral conductor Michael Zaugg (www.michaelzaugg.info), Pro Coro Canada's Artistic Director.

The JUNO-winning project brought together two independent Edmonton choral organisations in a significant artistic collaboration. Axios Men's Ensemble commissioned the American composer Benedict Sheehan to create the *Ukrainian War Requiem*, a memorial work dedicated to the victims of the invasion of Ukraine. Pro Coro Canada contributed its tenors and basses, joining Axios for the recording. The 55-voice ensemble included singers from Canada, the United States, and Ukraine.

Released by Cappella Records (www.cappellarecords.com) and distributed by Naxos Records (www.naxos.com), Benedict Sheehan's *Ukrainian War Requiem* draws on the Ukrainian panakhyda (memorial rite), Latin texts, and Jewish musical traditions. The work has received international recognition for its emotional depth and powerful reflection on war, loss, and remembrance.

At the centre of the project was conductor **Michael Zaugg**. Born and raised in Switzerland's Fricktal region, Zaugg studied choral conducting and Schulmusik at the Musikakademie Basel. He was the first Swiss conductor admitted to the prestigious postgraduate programme in professional choir conducting at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm. Before moving to Canada in 2004, he worked as a choral director in the Basel region and across Europe.

After arriving in Canada, Zaugg was initially based in Montreal, where he worked with several leading choral organisations before moving to Edmonton. Since 2012, he has been serving as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of Pro Coro Canada and has also contributed to choral programmes at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

Reflecting on the JUNO Award, Zaugg described the recording as "a vigil in sound", honouring those who lost their lives in the war.

The recording is available through Naxos Records and major streaming platforms.

- Listen to the tracks here: listen.fm/ukrainianwarrequiem



The Montagna Singers (Ottawa)

Sängerfest OTTAWA 2027: Planning Is Underway!

From July 1 - 4, 2027, Ottawa's Montagna Singers are excited to welcome Swiss choirs, yodel clubs, musicians, and supporters from across North America!

One of our major milestones this year has been the launch of the official festival website (see below), which will serve as the central hub for festival information, participant updates, sponsorship opportunities, and eventually registration details. We invite everyone to visit the site and follow along as new information is added in the months ahead.

Sängerfest is made possible through the generosity of businesses, organisations, clubs, and individuals who believe in preserving and celebrating Swiss culture and music in North America. Sponsorship opportunities are now available, and we welcome conversations with potential supporters of all sizes through our website.

The festival will feature choir performances, a mass choir concert, friendly competitions, cultural activities, and opportunities to reconnect with Swiss friends old and new.

Yodel Club Heimattreu (Calgary)

Can you believe we are already halfway through the year? We started June with a performance at the Choirs of the World concert at Temple B'nai Tikvah in Calgary. It was fantastic to experience the diversity of choirs and cultures through song. If you attended, thank you; we hope you enjoyed the concert.

On July 26, we will be performing at the Swiss National Day celebration at Inglewood Community Association Hall.

After months of rehearsals in preparation for our trip to Switzerland, we participated in the **32nd Federal Yodelling Festival (Eidgenössisches Jodlerfest)** (www.jodlerfestbasel.ch) in Basel, Switzerland, from June 26 to 28. This festival takes place every three years in different locations across Switzerland. In addition to yodelling, flag throwing and alphorn playing are also showcased. Fritz Weidmann is Heimattreu's alphorn representative. All three disciplines are judged events with competitions occurring over the weekend. Although most of our club members had been to the festival in previous years, it was a first for our two youngest members, Nicole and me.

In Basel, we performed one song that was judged on Friday, but sang all weekend long with our fellow yodellers. The Jodlerfest brings in yodel clubs from across Switzerland and around the world - it is therefore not surprising to witness spontaneous singing in the streets of Basel. While in Basel, we were also invited to appear on a television programme called *Potzmusig*, which showcases traditional Swiss folk



As plans continue to take shape, we look forward to sharing updates on participating groups, special events, and ways to get involved.

To learn more, visit www.saengerfestottawa.ca and subscribe to receive updates.

We look forward to welcoming the Swiss singing community to Canada's capital in 2027! Mit herzlichen Grüßen aus Ottawa!

THE SÄNGERFEST 2027 ORGANISING COMMITTEE

music. During the broadcast, we discussed how we have been keeping the Swiss music tradition alive in Canada, what it is like to be a yodel club abroad and, of course, we performed a song. You can access the *Potzmusig* episode here:

<https://www.srf.ch/play/tv/sendungen?onlyActiveShows=true>

Load the link above, click on "P", look for "*Potzmusig*", then select the episode entitled "*Live vom 32. Eidg. Jodlerfest 2026 Basel (60 Min)*".

For information about Heimattreu's club history and activities, visit our website www.jkheimattreu.com.

- Facebook: Yodel Club Heimattreu - Jodlerklub Heimattreu
- Instagram: @yodelclubyyyc

NINA RINKLEF



Echoes of the Prairies: A Filmmaker's Quest to Rebuild a Swiss Sod House - UPDATE JUNE 2026

From Cannes to Bern: *The Journey of the Melody*

I am thrilled to share a major milestone for my film, *The Journey of the Melody* (*El viaje de la melodía*).

The project was officially selected to be showcased at the prestigious **Marché du Film (Cannes Film Market) 2026**. As the business counterpart to the renowned festival, this platform is the world's leading marketplace for the film industry. Our participation comes courtesy of CinemaChile, the official agency promoting Chilean audiovisual talent globally.



Working alongside Chilean producers Rod Sáez Chávez, Alejandro Venegas Heresi, and Maureen Herzfeld, we have made the exciting decision to expand the project **from a short film into a feature-length film**.

This format transition is contingent upon securing international co-production partners, with a specific focus on finding European producers who can help bring this vivid historical world to life.

To fund the next crucial phase, I am currently awaiting a decision on a grant application submitted to the Canada Council for the Arts, with results expected in the fall. Should the funding be approved, it will directly back my upcoming research residency in Bern, Switzerland, this fall.

There, I will seek out Swiss producers and actors, conduct deeper family research, and begin translating my script into 1900s Bernese Swiss-German to authentically capture the dialogue of the period on film.

I continue to rely on our grassroots community to fund the construction of our period-accurate 1910 sod house and to record the vital upcoming interview with the last surviving member of the original sod house build.

Thank you for keeping this history alive!

RYAN MCLAY

PRODUCTION COMPANIES

THE JOURNEY OF THE MELODY

EL VIAJE DE LA MELODÍA

Directed by
RYAN MCLAY

FICTION · DRAMA · HISTORICAL | 129 MIN

SYNOPSIS
En Alberta, 1910, una familia suiza soporta el silencio de la pradera, mientras la melodía ancestral de un órgano neumático une a dos hermanos distanciados a través de una enorme brecha psicológica.

SYNOPSIS
In 1910 Alberta, a Swiss family endures prairie silence, as a pneumatic organ's ancestral melody binds two estranged brothers across a vast psychological divide.

PRODUCED BY
Ryan McLay, Alejandro Venegas Heresi, Rod Sáez Chávez, Maureen Herzfeld

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Follow the Journey

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

Venez fêter la Suisse au Mont Sutton le 1er août pour la cinquantième fois !

Déjà cinquante ans que nous célébrons la Suisse au Mont Sutton ! Samedi 1er août, rejoignez-nous une fois encore pour un moment convivial et une atmosphère tout ce qu'il y a de plus helvète !

Vous pourrez notamment déguster raclette, vin blanc et cornet à la crème en écoutant la musique folklorique du Trio Zmoos-Grosjean, venu de Suisse spécialement pour l'occasion. D'autres artistes locaux d'origine suisse partageront aussi leur talent, puisque le Mont-Gleason Chörli, les Rouleurs d'écu, le Jodelduett Maria et Heinz, le soliste Eric Dupasquier, les Coralpestres et le Quintette de cuivres de l'Union Musicale seront de la partie.

Les festivités auront lieu quel que soit le temps dès 10h. Seuls le cortège aux lampions et le feu de joie dépendent de la météo en soirée. Grâce à votre billet d'entrée, vous pourrez à nouveau profiter du télésiège pour admirer la vue depuis le sommet du Mont Sutton, mais n'oubliez pas de revenir à temps si vous voulez profiter du passage des Sonneurs de cloches ! Et les jeux qui vous ont tant plu l'an passé seront de retour, alors préparez-vous donc à tirer sur la corde ou à faire de la place sur le frigo pour les futures œuvres d'art de vos enfants !

Nous vous réservons quelques surprises pour cet anniversaire si spécial, témoin de la volonté de notre communauté suisse de garder des liens forts à l'étranger. Vous pouvez d'ores et déjà vous procurer des billets de tombola auprès des clubs suisses de votre région ou du bureau de tourisme de Sutton. Ne manquez pas votre chance de gagner un de nos dix prix, dont le fameux voyage en Suisse !

Pressés d'y être ? Nous aussi ! Vous retrouverez plus d'informations et le programme détaillé de la Fête sur le site de la Fédé, [www.fedesuisse.com], et sur notre page Facebook.

Nous sommes à la recherche de bénévoles pour la journée, alors n'hésitez pas à vous manifester dès maintenant en écrivant à fedesuisse@gmail.com si cela vous intéresse, votre aide nous sera précieuse. Et d'ici là, tout de bon !

ZOE COMPTON



For the 50th Time: Come Celebrate Switzerland at Mont Sutton on August 1st!

We have been celebrating Switzerland at Mont Sutton for half a century! On Saturday, August 1st, join us once again for a warm and welcoming gathering and an atmosphere that's as Swiss as it gets!

You'll be able to enjoy raclette, white wine, and cream horns while listening to the folk music of the Trio Zmoos-Grosjean, who will come from Switzerland especially for this occasion. Other local Swiss artists will share their talent, including the Mont-Gleason Chörli, the Rouleurs d'écu, the Jodelduett Maria and Heinz, soloist Eric Dupasquier, the Coralpestres, and the Brass Quintet of the Union Musicale.

The festivities will kick off at 10 a.m., rain or shine. Only the lantern procession and the bonfire will depend on the evening weather conditions. With your entry ticket, you'll once again be able to enjoy a chairlift ride to the top of Mont Sutton – but don't forget to come back in time to watch the bell ringers' procession! And the games you enjoyed so much last year will be back – so, get ready for a game of tug-of-war, or make room on the fridge for your children's future works of art!

We have a few surprises in store for this very special anniversary – a testament to our Swiss community's commitment to maintaining strong ties abroad. You can already purchase raffle tickets from your local Swiss clubs or the Sutton tourism office. Don't miss your chance to win one of our ten prizes, including the coveted trip to Switzerland!

Can't wait to be there? Neither can we! You'll find more information and the detailed programme on the Federation's website (www.fedesuisse.com), and on our Facebook page.

We're looking for volunteers for the day. If you're interested, please reach out to fedesuisse@gmail.com as soon as possible – your help would mean a lot to us. Until then, all the best!

ZOE COMPTON



Swiss Club Saskatoon



With 25 adults and three children present, we held a well-attended raclette lunch at the Neuanlage Community Hall on Sunday, April 12. Our host was Ronny Zimmermann. We now have additional local sources for purchasing raclette cheese, which is welcome news for us all!

On Sunday, June 14, Debby and Frie Sigrist (pictured above) hosted our June BBQ at their home west of Delisle, SK. 39 people were in attendance. This event marked 45 years since the Swiss Club Saskatoon held its first BBQ. Since Debby and Frie Sigrist were the original hosts, it was fitting that they hosted us again this year. The yard and seating area, BBQ area, tents for shade, year-round outdoor enclosed structure, pond with moving water, and fine weather all created the ambience for a perfect day of BBQing! The yard is wonderful: it boasts hundreds of trees and flowering plants planted over 40 years, transforming the area from bare prairie land into an oasis of green.

Dora and Max Hug will host this year's Bundesfeier at their acreage. This time, we will celebrate on the actual date, Saturday, August 1, at noon. The Club will again supply all the sausages.

Once again, we have scheduled our AGM at the Skychef Restaurant in Warman, SK. It will be held at noon on Sunday, October 25.

Our Santa party for children and adults has been booked for noon on Sunday, December 6, 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 / 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



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