

REGIONAL NEWS

CANADA

Next Submission Date:
February 15, 2017



SILVIA SCHOCH,
EDITOR AND
OSA DELEGATE/
COUNCIL MEMBER

Editorial

Happy New Year! May 2017 be filled with health, success, and lots of wonderful friendships and activities in your Swiss societies and beyond.

“Swiss Review” is once again published six times in five languages, including four times with 14 regional editions. “Regional News Canada” is one of them. Total circulation to Swiss citizens around the globe is over 400,00, with more than 40,000 dis-

tribution in Canada alone. The main magazine provides special emphasis on politics so Swiss citizens living abroad can exercise their voting rights in an informed manner. The Regional News within the magazine focusses on activities of Swiss associations and official representations in Canada and reports on issues which interest the Swiss and strengthens their ties among each other and to Switzerland.

Submission dates for articles and advertisements to the remaining three issues of “Regional News Canada” for 2017 are as follows: February 15, April 19 and August 16, 2017 for the April, June and October issue respectively.

Please send your text-file articles and high resolution photos (300 dpi) by the above deadlines to: silv.schoch@gmail.com. As always, I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

Jeremy Wick – One of five Swiss-Canadian Hockey Players at Swiss Genève-Servette Hockey Club

The Geneva hockey stadium just across the river Rhône is packed and the atmosphere rivited as I take my seat at this Swiss Cup game in late November 2016. The Servette Fan club has installed itself behind the home goal in large numbers and the rhythmic drumming, waving of flags and cheering never stop once. This high energy atmosphere is one of the facts Jeremy Wick likes to play for the Swiss club: “It’s easy to get excited and stay motivated in this atmosphere, it never quietens down,” he says. Together with four other team players from Canada, Will Petschenig, Tim Traber, Daniel Vukovic, and Cody Almond, Servette is the hockey team with the largest Swiss-Canadian player number in Switzerland. Jeremy attributes this to the fact that club owner Hugh Quennec is Swiss-Canadian, and Head Coach Chris McSorley Canadian. “Another reason is to bring physical play into the game which is generally better developed in North America,” he adds.

Tonight’s game against HC Davos ends in a resounding 6-3 victory for the Geneva club. Fellow Swiss-Canadian Cody Almond scores a beautiful second goal for the team, and Swiss team mate Damien Riat's third goal is launched on a skillful pass by Jeremy Wick.

Jeremy grew up in Grand Valley, Ontario, where his Swiss grandfather had immigrated to from the St. Gallen area. Learning how to skate on the rink his father had made in the family's back yard came right after being steady on his feet. By the time young Jeremy advanced from the local club to the Halton Hurricane AAAs, the passion was well established. At 17, he traded to Georgetown where he was spotted and offered a scholarship at St. Lawrence University in Kanton, NY. Training with this ECAC Division One College Team, playing all U.S. ivy league schools was tough, Jeremy remembers, but he succeeded on and off the ice, graduating with a B.A. in psychology. Organized through *International Sports Management*, the Canadian global event

From left to right:
Will Petschenig,
defender
Tim Traber, forward
Jeremy Wick,
forward
Daniel Vukovic,
defender
Cody Almond,
forward



sports marketing and management company, Jeremy had already spent a summer hockey workshop with the Geneva club and by the time he finished his degree, he had a contract in his pocket.

“On the Servette team, the camaraderie is great,” smiles the advance player. “We’re a good group of guys and get along really well.” He feels comfortable living in cosmopolitan Geneva. The language spoken on the team is English, but together with team mate Cody Almond, Jeremy is now taking French classes.

Last November, he was invited to participate in the Deutschland Cup as part of the Swiss National Team. One game was against Canada. “That was an interesting experience. We lost, but it was very exciting to wear the Swiss National jersey and a really cool experience on a wholly different level, meeting these top league players.”

Jeremy recently signed another three year contract with the Servette club and wedding bells will ring this summer for Jeremy and Amanda Mooney, his college sweetheart who had moved to Switzerland with him three years ago. Congratulations to you two, and good success to all of you Swiss-Canadian Genève-Servette hockey players! We cheer you from afar.

SILVIA SCHOCH



After winning top title twice in the *Armed Forces* category at the world's largest culinary exhibition - the quadrennial *Culinary Olympics* at the *Internationale Kochkunstausstellung (IKA)* in Erfurt, Germany in 2012, - the SACT team was invited by Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer to cook the winning menu for the Federal Councillors in corpore at the Bundeshaus. The *Armed Forces* cooking category has since been discontinued.

Far right is Neomi Kessler who won first rank 2013 in category *Restaurant Service* at the *Worldskills* competition in Leipzig, Germany, the largest vocational skills excellence event globally.

Swiss Armed Forces Culinary Team wins International Civil Cooking Competitions in 2016; - issues Military Cookbook

The Swiss military cuisine has come a long way. While the famous army biscuit (a recipe developed 55 years ago by Swiss biscuit manufacturer Kambly) is still part of provisions for every member of the Swiss Armed Forces, today's mess hall offers delicious, nutritious meals that routinely include special diets such as vegetarian. "Other dietary allergy restrictions are accommodated wherever possible," states Colonel Jörg Hauri, Commandant, Armed Forces Chef's training course and Swiss Armed Forces Culinary Team.

Since 1938, the Swiss Army trains all their chefs. Today, new recruits undergo primary troop chef training at the modern barrack in Thun. Responsible for meal preparation of forty members of the armed forces, a subsequent educational course to full chef's designation including leadership training is available to those who show aptitude and interest.

Who are the educators of these training programs? Responds Colonel Hauri: "Our advantage lies in the fact that the Swiss Armed Forces have a system of repeat military service over a number of years rather than a long-term, full-time service period, or a professional army. This enables us to recruit world-class chefs who work in the Swiss hospitality industry for our training program."

This pays off for Swiss Armed Forces trained chefs. In addition to qualifying for the federal civil chef's diploma, Colonel Hauri emphasizes that by the time military chefs graduate, they have valuable leadership training under their belt in addition to proven, practical experience which is rarely offered in private-industry vocational training.

It comes as no surprise that this probably

world-wide unique system of military chef's training gave rise to another innovative idea. The stellar Swiss army chef educators, employed as executive chefs at such renown houses as five-star Jungfrau Grand Hotel Victoria in Interlaken or Schweizerhof in Bern, decided to test their skills against their international counterparts. In 1999, the Swiss Armed Forces Culinary Team (SACT) was born.

Staff Adjutant Daniel Marti, Teamleader SACT since 2011, proudly recounts the team's many international successes. Most recently, this included winning the Culinary Trophy for the years 2016 and 2014 at the bi-annual *Intergastra International Hospitality & Gastronomy Trade Fair* in Stuttgart, and winning the armed forces category in the world's largest culinary exhibition, the quadrennial *Culinary Olympics* at *Internationale Kochkunst Ausstellung (IKA)* in Erfurt in 2008 and 2012.

Clad in white cooking blouses over standard-issue army camouflage pants and black fighting boots, the SACT team not only displays their winning creations for the judges, but also sells meals to trade visitors to offset some of the costs. Smilingly, Staffadjutant Marti recounts how popular and quickly the SACT meals get swooped up, with the competing military team members first in line, having being observed to more or less stealthily abandon their own food tables!

When the armed forces category was discontinued in 2012 after SACT had won the competition twice, the team decided to compete at IKA in the private industry regional teams' category, promptly winning two gold medals: one in category *Pâtisserie*, the second in *Culinary Art Display*. This landed the team

sixth place out of 54 contestants. For an interesting and fun write-up how the team prepares for competitions within 21 days when other teams practice for months ahead of time, go to the following link in the Swiss gastro publication "*Der Goldene Fisch*": https://www.goldenerfisch.ch/Portals/0/adam/Content/-col5vrqyka5u1jfkD_vEw/DocumentOrLink/zeitschrift156.pdf (pg 18).

If you're in the Thun area, look up one of roughly eighty cooking events Colonel Hauri's Division puts on every year. You will be served what Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer - head of the Swiss Federal Department of Defence in the previous legislation - called "the best army food in the world."

Alternatively, you can purchase Staffadjutant Marti's new cook book "Das Beste aus der Schweizer Militärküche". Old favourites and creative new recipes are illustrated with fabulous photographs and augmented with insightful and funny stories, providing an entertaining look into the history and development of Swiss national as much as Swiss and international military cuisine. Overseas shipping available at www.weberverlag.ch.

SILVIA SCHOCH

Daniel Marti
Schweizer Armee,
Heer, Küchenchef-
lehrgang
**Das Beste aus der
Schweizer
Militärküche
(Deutsch)**
Weber Verlag 2016
CHF69.00 Hardcover,
CHF29.90
Taschenbuch



Edmonton: Edmonton Swiss Society

As temperatures drop and snow falls, we hold our annual fondue night. Over the years, this evening has developed into one of our most successful events. Swiss from Edmonton and surrounding areas flocked to our new venue this year, the community hall, and we were sold out at full capacity with one hundred guests. The fondue is freshly prepared by our awesome kitchen crew and we use a (not so secret anymore) original Swiss fondue recipe. The demand is great and we are very happy to see the growing interest in this event and the Edmonton Swiss Society in general. At all our events we invite local Swiss businesses to present their goods and services to our guests. This has proven to be appreciated by both guests and business owners.

For a few years now we have held the Samichlaus event on the Sunday afternoon closest to December 6th, the traditional Samichlaustag in Switzerland. This is an opportunity for kids to meet Samichlaus and do some hands-on Grittibänz and Guetzli baking (for immediate consumption, of course). We also organize Christmas crafts for the children, small and big.

When Samichlaus arrives, he listens to the children's rhymes and brings gifts of nuts, oranges and sometimes sweets. There was no need for him to bring a "Ruete". There are no naughty kids in Edmonton. This year we had about fifteen youngsters and double the number of grown-ups. We want to grow the event to be more than just for children, so we will add a Samichlaus Jass next year. It is so nice to get together before everybody gets too busy with Christmas and share some delicious Swiss cookies, chocolates, coffee and tea.

New members and interested guests are always welcome at our meetings. Please visit our Facebook page for up-to-date event information. www.facebook.com/edmontonswiss.

NICK SIEGENTHALER



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Vernon: Interior Swiss Club

We celebrated the Interior Swiss Club's 61st Anniversary with a dinner and dance at the Schubert Center and were honored to have our Consul General of Switzerland, Pascal Borno, his wife and daughter and cousin in attendance.

Entering the hall, guests were personally welcomed by our greeters at the door and by festive yellow, white and black balloons. The yellow chrysanthemum floral decorations made the atmosphere like walking into sunshine. Along the way, the content of the many raffle baskets, which had been donated by members of the Swiss Club from Kamloops and Vernon, could be appraised. The music played all evening with our always enjoyable *Route 66* dance band who performed all of the favorites and kept the crowd dancing throughout the evening. Fred Hefti played traditional music with the Alphorn and was asked to perform a second time. Thank you Fred! The professional and articulate Tanya Hasler easily managed the duties of Master of Ceremonies. She was well received in the welcoming comments by our large crowd and kept the program moving forward.



TOP RIGHT: Pascal Borno, Consul General of Switzerland in Vancouver, and Mrs. Borno (to the Consul's right) with Mrs. Lilly Senn, President Interior Swiss Club
BOTTOM LEFT: German Ladies Choir Calgary



We were entertained by the *German Ladies Choir Calgary* who made the trip to Vernon to provide us with a masterful performance under the expert direction of Anne Stollbert, accompanied by pianist Jeannie Park. Master of Ceremonies for the Choir was Erika Janz. The concert started with Schubert's "Die Forelle", and continued with a tour of Europe with melodies from Germany, Holland, France, Italy and other places. The wall puppet performance of *Evita* was especially entertaining and funny. Their skill and humor engaged the crowd all evening. Thank you to the choir and president Roswitha van Putten. A special thank you to all the performers, sponsors, organizers and volunteers who made this another very special event. A big thank you to President Lilly Senn who masterfully organizes this yearly event.

Please visit www.interiorswissclub.ca for more information and photos. ELISABETH NYFELLER, HEIDI HAPALO, SHEILA DOMINO

Vancouver: Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association

We can look back at another successful and accident free outdoor shooting season. The highlight for the Club was once again the invitation to the Rütli-Schiessen am Vierwaldstättersee in Switzerland, which took place November 9th 2016. This shoot is an annual event for the last 154 years. It was an honour to be invited once again to such a traditional shoot and eight members did a lot of practicing before heading off to Switzerland. At the same time they also participated in the Morgarten shoot, which took place just a few days later and turned out to be another challenging experience of outdoor shooting. Everyone returned with a big smile and wonderful stories. Please check out the photos on our webpage: www.scmra.ca.

We started the Christmas season with a nice get-together and entertaining gift exchange at the Chalet. Barb and René served a delicious Spaghetti dinner and everybody contributed a dessert. Even Santa made a quick stop to surprise the youngsters. It was a most enjoyable evening! Thank you to all volunteers.

The 10m indoor shooting is well on the way and some enthusiastic shooters head up to the range just about every Wednesday and Sunday. The annual 10m Schützenfest will take place on March 5th 2017. Everybody is welcome to participate.

February 10th 2017 will be our general meeting. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. For any results, dates changes and pictures check our webpage. I wish you all a very successful 2017 and good shooting.

MARLIES BAUMANN





Toronto:
Swiss Club Theatre Group

Theateraufführung 2017:
Kreuzmordrätzel
(Ein Toter zu wenig)

Photo left: Scene from last season's performance *Kei Regel ohni Usnahm*

Kriminalkomödie in drei Akten von Walter G. Pfau.
Dialektbearbeitung: Enrico Maurer

The play is in **Swiss German** and performed by the Theatre Group from Toronto on the following dates and locations:

- Moorefield** Sunday, April 2nd, 2017 at 1 pm
contact Urs Egli, (519) 595-2456
email: aliceeegli@yahoo.ca
- Ottawa** Saturday, April 8th, 2017 at 7 pm
contact your local Swiss Club representative
- Toronto** Sunday, April 30th, 2017 at 2 pm
Estonian House, 958 Broadview
contact Maggie Hess (905) 508-8014
email walter.brunner@sympatico.ca

The Theatre group is looking forward to seeing you at one of these performances. We hope to make it an exciting event for everyone!

Important: in Toronto we will have a single performance on Sunday afternoon. There will be drinks, lunch and Nussgipfel available. For more details, please contact your local Swiss Club Representative or call Maggie Hess or Walter Brunner at telephone (905) 508-8014.

WALTER BRUNNER

Edmonton: Swiss Men's Choir

Thank you all who participated at our Winzerfest 2016. This year was a slight departure from our usual wine harvest theme. Titled *In Praise of the Homeland*, we helped celebrate 125 years of Ukrainian immigration to Canada. As guest entertainers we welcomed the *Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton*, *Victor Mishalow*, internationally acclaimed bandurist and the *Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Company*. We all very much enjoyed their respective contributions.

On November 18th 2016, we held our AGM. The executive is as follows: President Hans Voegeli; Vice-President Ron Marcinkoski, Treasurer Roland Allenbach; Secretary Peter Thut; Directors Jason Golinowski, Kurt Blesi and Martin Staub. Alternate Director John Willms.

Our Advent season was again busy in 2016. With seven concerts we shared the Christmas spirit at healthcare facilities, seniors' residences, churches and at the Alberta Legislature building.

For 2017 we are planning to participate at the annual *Run for Music* in Edmonton. On Saturday, May 6th, we are invited to take part at the 20th anniversary concert of the Wildrose Yodel Club in Rimbey. June 22-25th we will attend the 29th Pacific Coast Singing and Yodeling Festival in Modesto, CA. See <http://swissongfest2017.com>.

Save the date for the 2017 Winzerfest on November 11th, Remembrance Day. The theme will be 150 Year Anniversary Canada Confederation. We are always looking for new singers. For more information on how to join us or current events, please go to: www.esmca.ca or "like" us on Facebook (Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir). PETER THUT



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Montreal: Matterhorn Swiss Club

Mid August, we held our annual summer picnic at the home of Remy and Rudy Pfister. This lovely waterfront property added to the friendly ambiance on a hot summer day. We thank the Pfisters for hosting this event. Mid October, we were given a very enjoyable and informative tour at the *Carillon Hydro Power Generating Station*. Following our visit, we headed over to Vankleek Hill, ON where we

enjoyed a delicious dinner at the lovely *Granary Beizli*. It was a beautiful day and the fall colours were spectacular. In November, we held our fall meeting and dinner at the *Terra Marre Restaurant* in Dollard-des-Ormeaux. Once again, we had a delicious meal and good turn-out of members.

Up-coming activities: Annual General Meeting and dinner, Friday, February 3rd at

Terra Mare Restaurant. Winter fun/ski weekend at *Mont-Tremblant*, March 3, 4, 5, 2017.

We hold five or six events each year, and are pleased to say these are always well-attended. New members are always welcome.

For more information, please go to the Matterhorn Club link on the Federation website: www.fedesuisse.com. WALTER SPIRIG

Ottawa: Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

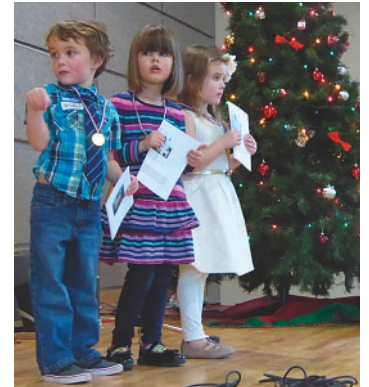
Keeping Swiss Christmas traditions alive for our youngest is always at the heart of the *Ottawa Valley Swiss Club's Annual Children's Christmas party*. With nearly fourty children and many Swiss families present, this year's party kept the tradition well and alive. The kids decorated tasty cookies and gingerbread houses. They also crafted impressive pinecone Santas to place on their Christmas trees at home, enjoyed singing the toy song and passed around presents while the Grittibänz story was told. Santa was eagerly awaited and brought special presents for all youngsters along with Grittibänz. Families brought delicious treats to share and sang Christmas carols with the talented Montagna Singers.

As every year, many children performed songs and carols—some as duets, some as trios—in front of the proud parents and families. It was so encouraging to see the children lose their initial nerves and sing with the loving support and applause from their Swiss-Canadian elders.

The *Seniors Christmas Luncheon*, also held on December 4th, was well-attended. It was a festive wrap-up to a year of delicious and social luncheons prepared by our chefs. On the menu was roast beef as well as chicken, trimmings and delicious desserts.

In November, the Montagna Singers hosted the annual *Metzgete*. This year's culinary feast had a record attendance and featured marvelous chef's delights. On the traditional autumnal menu were blood and liver sausages, sauerkraut, beans, spätzle, pork and spec. Le Cordon Bleu chefs and students contributed the large assortment of tasty desserts.

Visit our website for more information on upcoming winter and family-friendly events at: www.ottawavalleyswissclub.ca.



OLIVIA CRAFT



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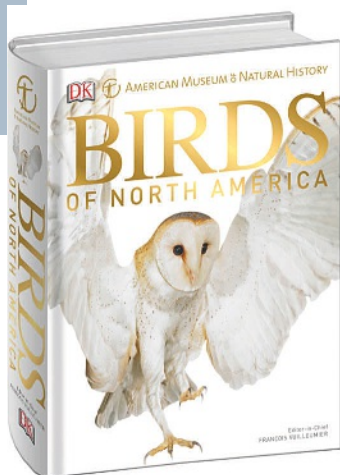
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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
FRANÇOIS VUILLEUMIER, PH.D.
"BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA"
DK PUBLISHING 2016, 752 PAGES
\$40.00 USA, \$50.00 CANADA

Editor-in-Chief of "Birds of North America", Swiss Ornithologist François Vuilleumier, Ph.D., Curator Emeritus, Department of Ornithology at the Museum of Natural History in New York City, edited an up-to-date scientific and enjoyable compendium of North American birds.

Intended for keen bird watchers who wish to inform themselves of the latest systematic arrangement plus a wealth of other information such as changes in habitat, social behaviour and physical features, this comprehensive guide is equally suited for anyone interested to learn more about their feathered friends of the backyard and beyond. Guaranteed to stimulate conversation as a gorgeous coffee table book with stunning photography and well organized one-species-per-page entries, it may well entice budding ornithologists into the fascinating world of birds.

The physical aesthetics of birds is one reason that drew Dr. Vuilleumier to his life-long passion. Growing up in Geneva, Switzerland, the renowned ornithologist remembers how his father, an artist with special interest in animal sculpture, actively supported his son's early ornithological interests. Recounts the scientist: "Birds are beautiful. There was a huge component of pleasure that drew me to them when I was young and which has fascinated me ever since." He continues: "My father was a member of the Zoological Society of Geneva and introduced me to a keen and influential birder who took me under his wings as a teenager. We went on many bird watching trips together throughout Switzerland, France, Germany, Austria and even Finland. By emulating my mentor, I learned the scientific discipline of taking detailed notes and sketches during field observations, a habit that served me all my life and also brought me much pleasure."

Moving to the United States where he was accepted to, and eventually obtained his Ph.D. at Harvard University, François Vuilleumier had the great fortune to study under one of the world's leading evolutionary biologists, Professor Ernst W. Mayr, sometimes referred to as the "Darwin of the 20th century". Gaining another mentor, Mayr opened his student's eyes to the scientific study of birds and how to conceive evolution from a broad perspective. At about this time, Dr. Vuilleumier also forged his long-term association with the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Starting as a post doctoral fellow, then becoming Curator and eventually Chairman of the Department of Ornithology, a life of travel began for the ornithologist. Extensive stays, covering every country in South America, criss-crossing the world aboard cruise ships, including a Russian Icebreaker to the North Pole, the passionate bird specialist studied his beloved birds around the globe.

Dr. Vuilleumier is uniquely qualified as Editor-in-Chief of *Birds of North America*. With a passion borne of life-long experience, a scientifically trained mind, paired with a great sense of wonder and appreciation for his research subjects, Dr. Vuilleumier edited this book with the dual objective to inform about changes in an important part of our ecosystem while introducing us to the fascinating world of birds in an enjoyable manner.

SILVIA SCHOCH

Foreign Bank Accounts and Old Age Pensions

A few Swiss Canadian residents may have chosen not to declare their Swiss Federal Old-Age and Survivor's Insurance (OASI/AHV/AVS) fiscally here in Canada, and deposited it on a Swiss bank account. These (accumulated) deposits may create serious problems for their owners who didn't comply with their Canadian fiscal obligations.



JEAN-MARC FERLAND,
ATTORNEY IN MONTREAL, QC

Indeed, the Canadian fiscal authorities may be informed in 2018 of the existence of Swiss accounts still opened on January 1st 2017. And once a fiscal audit starts here, previous transactions (for minimum ten years back) may be discovered, and provoke ruinous penalties for "tax evasion".

This explains why some recipients may have considered simply forsaking receiving their OASI, to avoid the fiscal quagmire provoked by the need to deposit this pension somewhere. However, it is not so simple as to stop such a pension payment, as the Swiss authorities may refuse to comply if the interests of third parties (including a foreign state) risk being affected. In short, in the case of a request to forego the OASI, Canadian authorities might very well be consulted!

In other words, either the foreign account itself or even the almost unstoppable receipt of the OASI pension can represent a key which the taxman can use to open a Pandora's box.

For those no longer wanting to play Russian roulette, this situation is not yet irreversible. The voluntary disclosure program, still available in Quebec and all of Canada, permits taxpayers to retroactively put their fiscal affairs in order without a real "loss". Indeed, the taxpayer just ends up paying what he or she should have paid in taxes all along, like all other Canadian taxpayers, plus interests (somewhat reduced). However, the interest on those taxes should not be a factor, as it is generally less than the revenue that should have been generated over all of those years on the entire undeclared capital.

It is important to note that this program, providing immunity concerning the heavy penalties and even threatened prison in extreme cases, has been rendered more and more demanding over the last several years. One can only wonder, in view of this trend, how long the program will remain available considering the recent decline of the Swiss banking secret and the now irreversible AEOL.

JEAN-MARC FERLAND