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REGIONAL INFOS CANADA

9/192

Editorial

Dear readers of the *Swiss Review*,
As autumn is upon us and we've returned to our regular routines, my term as editor of the "Regional Infos Canada" is coming to an end. It has been a rewarding experience to help foster a sense of community among expatriate Swiss across Canada by keeping all informed of club activities. I am pleased to report a return to an 8-page format, this will adequately accommodate Canadian content as of 2014. Please join me in welcoming Silvia Schoch, newly appointed OSA Delegate for Western Canada, who is also taking over the editorial position of the "Regional Infos Canada".

I wish Silvia much success in her new roles.

Message from the Consul General in Montreal

Dear compatriots,
The network of official representations of Switzerland in Canada has been altered considerably with the closure of the Consulate General in Toronto. In fact, as of July 15th 2013, the Consulate General in Montreal has taken over full consular and administrative services for the population of Ontario, Manitoba and Nunavut. As Consul General, I extend a very warm welcome to the residents of these two provinces and territory.

A large number of compatriots living outside the city centre of Toronto will not be overly affected by the reorganization as several consular procedures continue to be addressed by post or via the use of electronic communication. Most hit however are those living in the Toronto area who no longer have access to a physical office within close proximity. My aim is to ensure a smooth transition following the recent changes and to maintain the strong ties that the Swiss communities in Ontario, Manitoba and Nunavut have enjoyed.

I have recently participated in productive exchanges with several representatives of Swiss societies and businesses in order to develop innovative and effective methods to ensure the continuity of established contacts and good relations. I am confident that the results of our discussions will be most satisfactory.

I am also pleased to report that as early as 2014, I expect to initiate "Consular Days" in the Toronto area by using the new mobile biometric stations. Such visits will be promoted well in advance and will allow for the collection of biometric data outside the Consulate General in Montreal. The biometric data is necessary for the delivery of Swiss identity documents.

Chères lectrices et chers lecteurs de la *Revue Suisse*,
L'automne s'est installé, nous avons retourné à nos routines et mon mandat en tant que rédactrice des "Infos régionales" touche à sa fin. Je garderai un bon souvenir de l'expérience enrichissante acquise lors de mon implication à favoriser un sentiment de communauté parmi les Suisses de l'étranger au Canada en les gardant au courant des nombreuses activités organisées par nos sociétés. Je suis heureuse d'annoncer que les "Infos régionales" retrouveront un format de 8 pages dès 2014.

Je vous invite à accueillir Silvia Schoch, nouvelle déléguée de l'OSE pour l'Ouest canadien. Silvia devient également la rédactrice des "Infos régionales", je lui souhaite plein succès dans ses nouvelles fonctions.

BRENDA ANDRES

With the support of our professional consular staff members, I am committed to offer an excellent service to the clientele of our Consulate General. Should you have suggestions or be in the process of developing interesting Swiss related projects, I encourage you to contact the Representation in Montreal, we remain open to consider various proposals and collaborations.

BEST REGARDS, BEAT KASER, CONSUL GENERAL

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Manifestations prochaines:

Soirée Choucroute, samedi le 2 novembre à Ste-Brigide d'Tberville
Fête de la St-Nicolas, dimanche le 8 décembre à Otterburn Park
Assemblée générale annuelle, février 2014 (date à déterminer)

Les événements sont également annoncés sur SwissCommunity.org

Visitez notre site web: www.societesuisseromande.org et suivez-nous sur les réseaux sociaux Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn et Google.

LE COMITÉ 2013

Schweizer Schützengesellschaft

2013 Schweizer Bundesfeier in Sutton Québec

Wir danken unserem Botschafter Herrn Ulrich Lehner, sowie Herrn Rudolf Wyder, Direktor der Auslandschweizer-Organisation für's mitmachen und gratulieren beiden zu Ihren Kranzresultaten.

Wir danken allen Teilnehmern, gratulieren den erfolgreichen Kranzschützen(innen) zu Ihren schönen Leistungen und freuen uns Sie auch nächstes Jahr wieder zum freundlichen Wettkampf begrüßen zu dürfen.

CARL H. DIEHL, PRESIDENT: 514-696 3876 / CDIEHL@VIDEOTRON.CA

Swiss Women's Club Edelweiss

The Edelweiss Bazaar will take place on Saturday November 9th 2013, at the Treffpunkt Hall, 375 Louise-Lamy in Dorval. Please mark your calendars, the annual Bazaar is a special event for Swiss people to get together, to enjoy a small meal and to buy traditional baked goods, jams and crafts while supporting a good cause. Profits from sales are distributed to charities.

The "Edelweiss Ladies" continue to welcome new members, their meetings take place at the Treffpunkt Hall, on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

SUSANNA HANE, PRESIDENT: 450-466 0921

Matterhorn Swiss Club

Several exciting activities were enjoyed this year as 2013 marked the Matterhorn Swiss Clubs's 60th anniversary.

Our club continues to welcome new members, please do not hesitate to contact me for upcoming events.

WALTER SPIRIG, PRESIDENT: 514-694 3718

Swiss National Society Montreal

Our 2013 SNS Metzgete will take place at the same location as last year in Dorval at noon on **Saturday October 26**. Swiss of all ages are welcome. Limited seating, reserve early by contacting: Alfred Delaquis: alfred_delaquis@yahoo.ca / 514-278 9812; or Carl H. Diehl: 514-696 3876 / randolinas@gmail.com.

COMMITTEE: CARL H. DIEHL, PETER FUHRER, BRUNO SETZ, ALFRED DELAQUIS

LETTE

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91st Congress for the Swiss Abroad August 2013 in Davos

Dans l'attente de la publication d'une version en français, n'hésitez pas à contacter Bruno Setz, Délégué de l'Est canadien, pour un survol du 91e congrès de l'Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger.

brunosetz@videotron.ca / 514-767 5123

The congress began with a reception and opening remarks by President Jacques-Simon Eggly Thursday evening. 96 delegates from around the world attended the Annual Meeting. First business of the day was the confirmation of the newly elected country delegates, the election of the OSA and *Swiss Review* executive and the recognition of a newly formed Swiss Society in the Republic of Czechoslovakia. Canada was represented by Eastern Canada Delegates Bruno Setz, Montreal/QC and Ernst Notz, Toronto/ON, and by myself, newly elected delegate Silvia Schoch for Western Canada.

The recent consular closures in North and South America were hotly debated, several delegates spoke up. Ernst Notz expressed concern with reference to the consular closing in Toronto: not only does it negatively affect the Swiss citizens living in his consular area, but the loss of Swiss image and presence across the world and the loss of support of political and economic activity between Switzerland and these countries impacts us all negatively at a time when Switzerland should increase its presence in a globalized world.

Electronic voting for the majority of the Swiss Abroad is supported by the Federal Council for implementation by the next Federal Election in 2015. After approval in the Nationalrat, on-line election of OSA country delegates is scheduled to be implemented for the next general election in 2017.

The draft for the national legislation for the Swiss Abroad, the *Bundesgesetz über die Schweizer Personen und Institutionen in Ausland* has been submitted for consultation by the Staatspolitische Kommission des Staenderates in May 2013. The draft was written by a SPKS sub-commission, based on a parliamentary initiative by Filippo Lombardi *Ständeratspräsident Kanton Tessin* in conjunction with the support of EDA *Eidgen. Departement für auswärtige Angelegenheiten*. The legislative draft includes substantial elements of the legislative draft of the OSA council from its meeting in August 2010. The final draft may be found at <http://www.parlament.ch//d/dokumentation/berichte/vernehmlassungen/11-446/seiten/default.aspx>.

A revision of a pending inheritance tax agreement between France and Switzerland was elaborated on by the French ambassador to Switzerland, M. Michel Duclos, and a discussion ensued with the French delegates.

A presentation by the Director of Swiss Tourism, Jürg Schmid, indicated a 20% reduction of sports tourism in Switzerland and his emphasis on a stronger focus on building what individual strengths Switzerland has within a globalized world. In his words: *Besser = Infrastruktur x Qualität x Differenzierung x Leidenschaft.*

Hansjörg Trachsel, former Secretary of State and political director of EDA Franz von Däniken presented the topic of *Switzerland, globally, regionally, locally*. He characterized Switzerland as *Denkplatz-Werkplatz-Finanzplatz* (place of thinking/creativity, work and finance), with emphasis on training, education, R&D and all aspects of creative innovation. He spoke of countries as *lockere Gefüge in der globalen Welt* (loose associations in a global world). According to the diplomat, this means Switzerland needs to be strongly engaged in the UN and also anchored and in cooperation with other similar thinking organizations and nations. Particularly in Europe, where more than 400,000 Swiss make their home within the EU. Even so, Mr. von Däniken sees the local and national needs growing within the global internationalization, in that the national government retains meaning for the individual citizen through the issuance of passports, social- and health insurance and due to the Swiss consular closures in the world. He closed with the statement that the state has a dual function of cooperation with other nations while retaining its individual character for the citizen.

Mr. Rudolf Wyder, retiring OSA Director, gave an excellent overview of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad during his tenure of 25 years. He summarized the development and accomplishments to date and indicated his perspective on OSA objectives going forward in a globalized world.

The highlight of the conference was the final address to the OSA delegates by Federal Councilor Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf. Councilor Widmer-Schlumpf summarized the importance of the 5th Swiss in a globalized world. *'Quality, Stability, Integrity'* were the words she used to describe the Swiss financial market place and for all of Switzerland and its industries to know its qualities of high political stability, education and quality output. In her final remarks, Councilor Widmer-Schlumpf reminded us that as Swiss Abroad, each of us is an ambassador of Switzerland and that we each play a role in representing our homeland.

Next year's congress theme will be *Information Technology and Social Media* and will take place in the dual locations of Baden and Aarau.

Delegates for Western Canada:

Délégués de l'Ouest canadien:

Sivia Schoch, Victoria, BC
silv.schoch@gmail.com / 250-385 7844

Rolf Brulhart, Vancouver, BC
rbrulhart@hotmail.com / 604-224 6718

Delegates for Eastern Canada:

Délégués de l'Est canadien:

Ernst Notz, Toronto, ON
ernst.notz@rogers.com / 416-473 8681

Kati Lyon-Villager, Ottawa, ON
kati.lyonvillager@hotmail.ca / 613-523 7818

Bruno Setz, à Montréal / Montreal, QC
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4 **Guelph:**
Swiss Canadian Club Guelph

Please join the Swiss Canadian Club Guelph this fall and winter season at the following events:

The annual Cheese Fondue on Saturday October 26th starting at 7:30 pm.

Club Christmas Party on Sunday December 1st

Please contact club for more details.

If you are interested in receiving emails with event dates and locations please email Sonja: swissdip39@hotmail.com.

For pictures, club information and event dates please "like" us on Facebook on our page "Swiss Canadian Club Guelph" or visit our website <http://guelphswisscanadianclub.webs.com/>

Kati Lyon-Villiger, Ph.D.
Ottawa Delegate, Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, since 2010

MBA/Ph.D. (econ.-int.finance) · Uni of Western California, 1983
 M.ès.Sc. (project management) · Uni du Québec, 1981
 B.A. (economics & French literature) · Carleton Uni, 1976

Dr. Kati Lyon-Villiger has lived in Canada since 1965 and has been a member of Swiss clubs in Montreal and Ottawa for many years. Her principal interests are children, the promotion of Swiss traditions, commerce, banking and intellectual pursuits. She believes that the Swiss abroad are pillars bridging their new land with Switzerland on a social, economic and intellectual level. As such, visiting Swiss, professionals, business people, and potential immigrants should be able to address themselves confidently to the local Swiss communities for quick introduction to and integration in this country. The Swiss have given two Governor Generals to Canada and have made extraordinary contributions. Her intent is to ensure that this will continue and help to ever strengthen the ties between our two countries.

Professionally, she was with the Government of Canada for many years, most of them with the Department of Foreign Affairs. She has more than 25 years experience in international development, trade, and commerce and is the author of a number of publications, conference papers, memoranda and compendia. She has administered international development programs and projects, located in some 64 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

KATI LYON-VILLIGER: KATI.LYONVILLIGER@HOTMAIL.CA / 613-523 7818

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