

REGIONAL NEWS

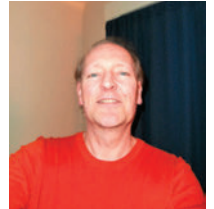
CANADA

Editorial

Dear Readers: Apart from being informative, this issue is packed with celebratory, educational, competitive, and potentially rewarding content. (And as a real treat: a certain virus that rhymes with the Roman poet *Ovid* only crops up in two articles). So, are you perhaps in the mood for celebration? Then turn to pages III and VII. Ready for an idea to

help raise your kids bilingually? Refer to page V. Want your children to engage competitively while instilling in them a respect for Swiss traditions? Go to page IV. Think the goddess *Fortuna* might be smiling upon you? Test your luck on page VIII. And if all that's not enough, there's still other great content, too ... Enjoy!

avs@telus.net



ANDREW VON STUERMER,
REGIONAL EDITOR,
CANADA



Nouveau logo "Des Alpes aux Rockies" créé par l'artiste suisse Anna Sommer / The new "From the Alps to the Rockies" logo designed by Swiss illustrator Anna Sommer

Balado «Des Alpes aux Rocheuses»

Les Représentations suisses au Canada présentent "Des Alpes aux Rocheuses", **saison 2**, une série de podcasts sur des sujets tels que les sciences, la culture, l'économie, l'innovation, la durabilité, le tourisme et bien d'autres, célébrant les liens uniques entre la Suisse et le Canada.

Ce que la saison 2 vous réserve: Plongez dans la nouvelle saison et écoutez l'histoire de deux jeunes étudiantes canadiennes et leurs expériences d'études en Suisse. L'illustratrice Virginie Egger vous invite dans son univers de livres pour enfants, vous parle de son parcours ainsi que de la façon dont elle développe ses personnages. La copilote de rallye la plus décorée d'Amérique du Nord, Nathalie Richard, vous donne un aperçu du monde trépidant de la course automobile. Et ce n'est qu'un début...

■ À raison d'au moins une fois par mois, découvrez ces sympathiques balados sur iTunes <https://apple.co/3k3zkgE>, Spotify <https://spoti.fi/3axbruF> et YouTube <https://youtu.be/rWAEHilivyY>.

Podcast "From the Alps to the Rockies"

The Swiss Representations in Canada present *From the Alps to the Rockies - Season 2* - a podcast that celebrates unique Swiss-Canadian connections. This second season features the latest stories, new interviews, and a redesigned logo by Swiss illustrator Anna Sommer.

Here's what Season 2 has in store for you: Two young Canadian students share their experiences of studying abroad in Switzerland; Swiss-Canadian illustrator Virginie Egger invites you into her world of children's books and talks about the process of developing her popular characters; Swiss-Canadian Nathalie Richard - the most decorated rally co-driver in North America - gives us a peek into the fast-paced world of car racing; and more ... !

■ *From the Alps to the Rockies* on iTunes <https://apple.co/3k3zkgE>, Spotify <https://spoti.fi/3axbruF>, YouTube <https://youtu.be/rWAEHilivyY>.

Matterhorn Swiss Club (Montreal)

As of spring 2021, we still have been unable to hold any activities due to COVID-19. We hope to resume our get-togethers by early fall. Under normal circumstances, our yearly activities typically 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, followed by a 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 get-together at a nice restaurant;
- Usually about 25 of our members 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



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

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

À notre rencontre: découvrez le parcours de Ruth Bichsel



Ruth Bichsel © CG

Ruth Bichsel aime beaucoup l'Amérique du Nord et fait à Montréal un grand retour sur ce continent!

En 35 ans de brillante carrière au sein du Département fédéral des affaires étrangères, c'est la 3ème fois que son chemin la mène dans ce coin du globe.

Entre 1984 et 1987, elle a été chargée des visas au Consulat général de Suisse à San Francisco. Quelques années plus tard, de 1995 à 1999, c'est à New York que Ruth a exercé la fonction d'attachée commerciale au sein de la section économique.

C'est néanmoins plus à l'est que Ruth a passé de nombreuses années à servir la Suisse. Passionnée de culture orientale, elle a jalonné son parcours de plusieurs postes dans certaines des villes les plus emblématiques d'Asie.

À Singapour, elle a assisté l'Ambassadeur et géré les projets culturels de 2000 à 2003.

Ruth a été affectée en Chine à deux reprises, d'abord au sein de notre Ambassade à Pékin de 1990 à 1995, puis au Consulat général à Shanghai entre 2015 et 2020, où elle a dirigé l'une des plus grandes sections suisses de visas à l'étranger en qualité de Consule.

Forte de cette vaste expérience, Ruth est heureuse d'être la nouvelle cheffe des affaires consulaires et des visas depuis son arrivée à Montréal l'été dernier.

Elle succède en tant que Consule à Christine Bernhard Hässig qui a quitté Montréal en juillet 2020.

Ruth Bichsel *really* likes North America!

In her 35 years at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, this is Ms. Bichsel's third posting to this part of the world. From 1984 to 1987, she was Visa Officer at the Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco. From 1995 to 1999, her second assignment on this continent brought her to New York, as a Trade Officer in the Economic and Trade Section.

Fascinated by different cultures, other milestones in Ruth's career include various postings to Asia. In Singapore, she assisted the Ambassador and managed cultural projects from 2000 to 2003.

Ruth served twice in China: From 1990 to 1995 at our Embassy in Beijing; and then from 2015 to 2020 - prior to coming to Montreal last summer - she headed one of the largest Swiss visa sections abroad at our Consulate General in Shanghai with the rank of Consul.

Ruth is happy to have accepted the position of Head of Consular and Visa Affairs here in Montreal. As Consul, she succeeds Christine Bernhard Hässig who left Montreal last July.

LETTE

LAWYERS • AVOCATS • RECHTSANWÄLTE

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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1er août – Célébration en ligne

Cette année encore, les représentations suisses du Canada célèbreront la Fête nationale virtuellement. Joignez-vous à leurs festivités du 1er juillet au 1er août 2021! Voici un avant-goût de ce qui vous attend:

- Des publications surprenantes
- Des anecdotes amusantes
- Des balados palpitants ...

Aussi, un film classique suisse vous sera offert en ligne entre le 30 juillet et le 1er août, restez à l'affût! Pour ne rien manquer, soyez sûrs de nous suivre et passez le mot à vos amis!

Ambassade de Suisse à Ottawa:

- Site internet: www.eda.admin.ch/ottawa
- Facebook: [@SwissEmbassyCanada](https://www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyCanada)
- Twitter: [@SwissEmbCanada](https://twitter.com/SwissEmbCanada)

Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal:

- Site internet: www.eda.admin.ch/montreal
- Facebook: [@ConsulateSuisseMontreal](https://www.facebook.com/ConsulateSuisseMontreal)

Consulat général de Suisse à Vancouver:

- Site internet: www.eda.admin.ch/vancouver
- Facebook: [@ConsulateSwissVancouver](https://www.facebook.com/ConsulateSwissVancouver)
- Instagram: [@swisscg_vancouver](https://www.instagram.com/swisscg_vancouver)

Balados et vidéos:

- iTunes: <https://apple.co/3k3zkgE>
- Spotify: <https://spoti.fi/3axbruF>
- YouTube: <https://bit.ly/2QIpvtZ>

August 1st – Online Celebration

This year, the Swiss Representations in Canada will celebrate the Swiss National Day virtually again. Join the festivities from July 1 to August 1, 2021! Here's a sneak peek of what to expect:

- Surprise publications
- Funny anecdotes
- Exciting podcasts ...

Also, a classic Swiss film will be shown online between July 30 and August 1, so stay tuned! Don't miss out, be sure to follow us and spread the word to your friends!

Embassy of Switzerland in Ottawa:

- Website: www.eda.admin.ch/ottawa
- Facebook: [@SwissEmbassyCanada](https://www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyCanada)
- Twitter: [@SwissEmbCanada](https://twitter.com/SwissEmbCanada)

Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal:

- Website: www.eda.admin.ch/montreal
- Facebook: [@ConsulateSuisseMontreal](https://www.facebook.com/ConsulateSuisseMontreal)

Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver:

- Website: www.eda.admin.ch/vancouver
- Facebook: [@ConsulateSwissVancouver](https://www.facebook.com/ConsulateSwissVancouver)
- Instagram: [@swisscg_vancouver](https://www.instagram.com/swisscg_vancouver)

Podcasts and Videos:

- iTunes: <https://apple.co/3k3zkgE>
- Spotify: <https://spoti.fi/3axbruF>
- YouTube: <https://bit.ly/2QIpvtZ>

Concours de dessin

"MA TRADITION SUISSE"

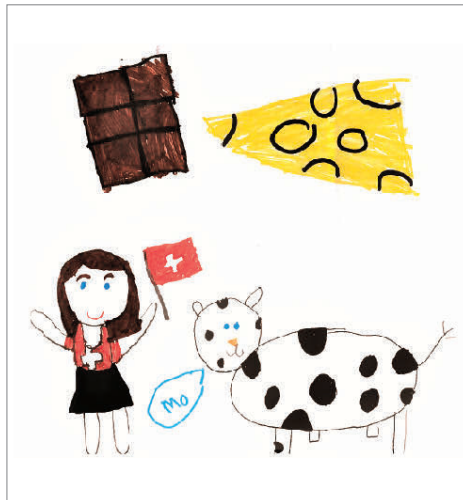
Également dans le cadre de la Fête nationale suisse, vos enfants et tous les jeunes amis de la Suisse jusqu'à 12 ans ont la possibilité de participer au concours de dessin sur le thème "MA TRADITION SUISSE".

Les œuvres sont à retourner sous forme de scan ou photo par e-mail à montreal.newsletter@eda.admin.ch, avec le prénom, âge du participant ainsi que la province de résidence. Un jury sélectionnera les 3 gagnants, qui seront ultérieurement publiés via nos réseaux sociaux.

Délai de réception des œuvres: 30 juin 2021.

!Plusieurs lots sont à gagner pour les dessins sélectionnés ! Les gagnants recevront leur prix directement à la maison.

Bonne chance & à vos crayons!



© Louisa Schoberth(7)



Children's Drawing Contest

"MY SWISS TRADITION"

Also on the occasion of the Swiss National Day celebration, your children and all young friends of Switzerland up to the age of 12 are invited to participate in the "MY SWISS TRADITION" themed drawing contest.

Email your entries as a scan or photo to montreal.newsletter@eda.admin.ch; include the first name and age of the participant, as well as the province of residence. A jury will select three contest winners and post its decision on our social media.

Deadline for receipt of entries: June 30, 2021.

Several prizes available for the selected drawings! Prizes will be shipped directly to the contest winners.

Good luck & sharpen your pencils!



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.



pasturetoplate.ca

Beef - Lamb - Pork - Chicken
Turkey - Eggs - Wool



PASTURE TO PLATE

PEOPLE • ANIMALS • HEALTHY SOILS

Children's Corner - Tara's Stories / Taras Geschichten



Raising children bilingually with Swiss German can be a real challenge, and cultivating the Swiss German language far from Switzerland while not forgetting its many quirky idiosyncrasies is no easy task! After all, there are usually not many opportunities in everyday life to stay playfully on the ball.

Got your attention? Do you want to maintain your Swiss German?

In order to learn and maintain a language in a brain-friendly way, one must develop a "feel" for it. Babies and children achieve this effortlessly while listening. For example, they recognise if someone is happy or sad or whether they are using the language authentically. When learning a language at school, this "feeling" is usually completely absent. It is therefore of particular importance that the brain stem, where our "subconscious" is anchored, hears a lot of language, so that it learns "automatically". It has been shown that 80% of language learners fail, because they remain at a purely cognitive level.

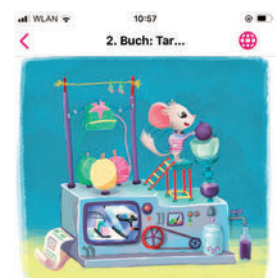
Tara's Stories is a **children's story app** designed to target listening and reading comprehension skills. The app was created by two young Swiss women who lived abroad for a long time and missed readily available, child-friendly, fresh, and modern stories in Swiss German. As a consequence, they launched the app, which presently features 45 stories. You can read and listen to the stories, **switching easily between Swiss German, German, Spanish, and English**.

Tara's Stories are adventurous tales about Tara, her family, and her friends. And about a magic spell that makes Tara shrink, allowing her to dive into the magical fantasy world of Pips, the dormouse.

Who is Tara, and who are her friends? Tara loves to play in the treehouse with her brother Art, bake cookies, and spend the night with her friend Nita. Tara is a normal little girl who explores the world with a childlike curiosity, always up for a new challenge. And yet she is different - Tara has a special secret that only she and her grandmother, who suffers from dementia, know about: on a full and on a new moon, Tara is able to visit the world of the dormice!

What is the authors' philosophy underpinning *Tara's Stories*? Current issues, questions, and concerns - as well as the special needs of children - are very important topics to us. The principles of inclusion, diversity, and equality are taken for granted and are therefore also an important part of our philosophy. The educational aspect and the natural developmental urge of children are not only addressed superficially: each story goes deeper, as it is followed up with an activity, be it a recipe, a drawing, or craft instructions.

■ Head off to discover new Swiss made tales for children aged 4-8 (and for anyone young at heart). Visit *Tara's Stories* at www.app-tara.com/blog.



"Da isch üseri Strickdruckbonbonmaschine" - "Die isch jo cool! Was cha denn die alles?" - "Och. Ganz viell! Buecher und Comics drucke, lisme - aber d Farbe passed meistens nöd zämme. Und



SARA TAUBMAN-HILDEBRAND

North American Swiss Singing Alliance (NASSA)



Bulletin #5 – Cancellation
Edmonton, March 20, 2021

Dear Singer Friends,

After many deliberations and with a heavy heart, we regret to inform you that we have decided to cancel the NASSA 2021 Festival and not postpone it to 2022. Governmental restrictions due to COVID-19 have prevented most choirs from practicing and engaging in the fundraising efforts necessary to travel to Edmonton. These factors, along with the uncertainties we continue to face during these unprecedented times, unfortunately have placed the feasibility of the festival and its success in jeopardy.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and encouragement to persevere with our planning efforts. Without your kind words, we would not have been able to remain as hopeful as we did for a positive outcome. Sadly, we could not buy ourselves enough time.

We have been asked to consider hosting NASSA 2024. At this time, we are unable to commit to this endeavor and require additional time to discuss this possibility within the Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir. Early indications are not encouraging, but we will keep you posted if the situation changes.

When we began organizing NASSA 2021, no one imagined that we would ever be in this situation. COVID-19 has greatly changed our lives and we are all longing to gather once again to enjoy our camaraderie, music, Swiss heritage, and bragging rights. Sometimes, the universe throws a wrench in our lives, but we remain optimistic that circumstances will change in the near future and soon we will be able to revel in our newly regained freedom.

On behalf of the NASSA 2021 Festival Committee we wish you good health,
Yours in the fellowship of song,

Karl Strickler
Chair, NASSA 2021 Organizing Committee

Georg Josi
Vice-Chair, NASSA 2021 Organizing Committee

Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir Association

Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir – 40 Years of Music (1980/81 - 2020/21)

It was in June 1980 that 10 Swiss compatriots - three of whom still sing with the Choir - established the concept of a Swiss Male Chorus at an annual Landsgemeinde near Stettler, Alberta. In June 1981, the Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir Association (ESMC) was incorporated in Alberta - the founding members were: Erwin Baumann, John Buhler, Robert Fierz, Peter Gertsch, Thomas Huwiler, Peter Johner, Hermann Knupp, Werner Merlo, Peter Scholl, and Karl Strickler.

Rehearsals began in the fall of 1980 at the Edelweiss Club, and new members were recruited from the Swiss community. Dan Breda was hired as Director, music was obtained from Switzerland, and so it began ... !



The Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir in 1999 with Jerry Paravicini as President

As fundraising was needed, the Choir held a Springfest and a Winzerfest. With six Swiss chefs in the group, selling tickets for the meal and dance was never difficult. The events were sold-out successes anticipated by many.

The ESMC has travelled and performed across Canada; it has also made 6 concert tours of Switzerland and one concert tour of South America. Furthermore, the Choir has travelled and performed in the United States as a member of the North American Swiss Singing Alliance (NASSA), and it has been a regular guest at festivals of the United Swiss Singing Societies of the Pacific Coast (USSSPC). In addition to participating in many national and international events, the ESMC has also performed in Edmonton and throughout Alberta.

To date, 181 singers have been involved with the ESMC. Throughout its entire existence, the Choir has only had three conductors (Dan Breda, Faye Breda, and Elizabeth Lesoway-Anderson), four accompanists, and one assistant conductor. Elizabeth has been leading the Choir for some 34 years now!

The ESMC makes one proud to be Swiss: the Choir has been instrumental in enhancing Swiss culture locally and internationally, representing Switzerland and the Swiss people with pride wherever it travels!

G. A. (JERRY) PARAVICINI

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Swiss National Day Prize Giveaways

Enter for a chance to win the three Swiss-themed prizes shown below!

There will be **three separate draws**; you may enter one, two, or all three. Prizes will be shipped using Canada Post's expedited mail service (only to mailing addresses in Canada).

If you would like to participate, email avs@telus.net and indicate which draws interest you. Only one entry per person per item. **Entries must be received no later than midnight on July 31, 2021.** Using a random name picker app, the winners will be chosen by the luck of the draw on August 1, 2021. Good luck!

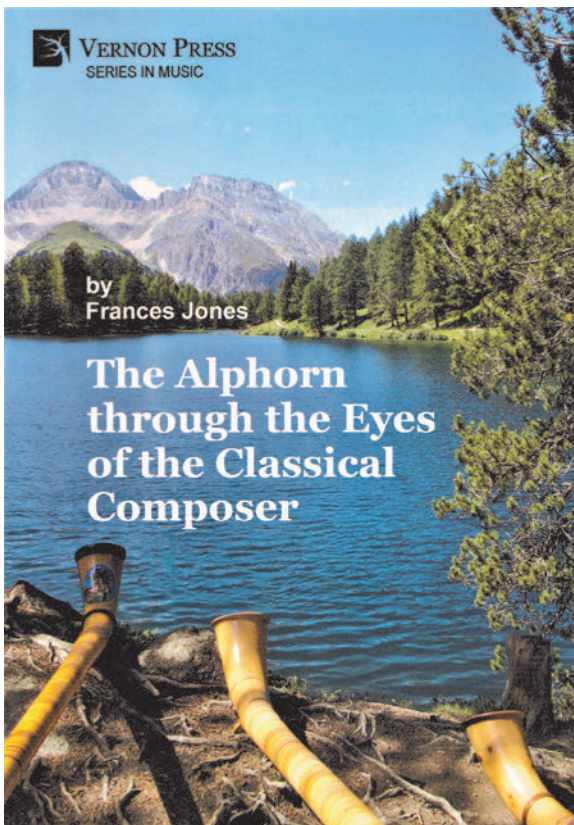
A.V. STUERMER



DRAW 1: "Hütchenspiel / Chapeaux volants / Cappellini volanti". A popular Swiss game of skill for children



DRAW 2: 1982 Swiss stamps celebrating "100 Years of the Gotthard Railway". Miniature sheet in mint condition. Ten stamps at 40 centimes and five decorative fields



DRAW 3: "The Alphorn through the Eyes of the Classical Composer" by Frances Jones. Hardcover book with dust-jacket. 312 pages. © 2020

HOCKEY IN SWITZERLAND

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

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS MANAGEMENT

All ages welcome.



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