



November/December 2011

The Official Magazine of the Swiss Society of Vancouver since 1953

<http://www.swiss-society.org>

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Merry Christmas!!!

Letter from the Editor

Christmas, along with all of the Swiss traditions, is being celebrated in many Canadian households. Waldweihnacht is coming soon, and Santa Claus will make an appearance on Mt. Seymour. With the New Year - 2012 - coming up, is a good time to make resolutions on volunteering: This is year I will be the President of the Swiss Society. This is the year, I will take on planning children's events or other activities. Or, if that isn't your thing, you could be one of the 100 people needed to run the European Festival in May at the Swangard Stadium. In the meantime, you can see the Vancouver Weihnachtsmarkt on AhornTV: <http://ahorntv.com/>, as well as many other episodes. Another area to get involved is in the Environmental Movement: Join the Recycling Council! <http://rcbc.bc.ca>. Frohe Weihnachten!

Interview with Swiss Society President



What would you like to say to the membership this Christmas?

Peter: I wish everybody a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year, and we hope that all of the members stay healthy, happy and prosperous in 2012. Thank you to the Board, the volunteers, and everybody who keeps the Society running smoothly. The highlight of this year was the Saengerfest2011 and the 1. of August celebration with the Simmentaler Volksmusikanten here for the first time.

President to give someone else a chance to take over the job while I am still around to help. I will stay on the Board as Past President and be there for the new President. We need to give other people an opportunity to volunteer and do something for the Swiss Society.

What goals do you have for the Swiss Society in 2012?

Peter: We can only succeed as a Society and a club, if we let the younger generation carry on. These may be Canadian-born children who don't need the Society like we did and like to play hockey, soccer etc. We have to nurture them and let them do things their way. We want to keep the club going for our children and grandchildren. People join Swiss Clubs for their children. We have to celebrate the past and look forward to the future. Youth of today like to do things on a spontaneous basis and often make last-minute decisions. We need to be more flexible and support those who support the Society. Kids need opportunities to bond with each other and spend time together in a fun way.

How long were you President and why are you leaving?

Peter: So many years that I can't even remember! I am leaving the position of

What tip do you give the new President?

Peter: Build/maintain a strong Board.
The End (by Elke Porter)



Above: Peter - Photo by Richard Lee

To the left: General Consulate of Switzerland at Seniors Christmas Party in North Vancouver
To the right: Nick Schwabe at the same fully booked Party!





MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We would like to express our sincere appreciation of Susanne Wilson, who so faithfully looks after the members for the Outdoors Club, the Seniors and the Choir. She also prints out the Herald and distributes it to those with no e-mail address.

Membership Details for 2012!

Swiss Society Membership Rates

Individual:	\$30
Family:	\$40
Senior Individual:	\$15
Senior w/spouse:	\$20

The price is the same for both active members (you or your spouse is a Swiss National or descendant) and for the Associate Members (non-Swiss National). However, Associate Members may not vote at the AGM.

This is a discussion that will be held at the AGM - Do members still feel this is the right thing to do? What if the new President is a very active Member, but not Swiss? At this point, direction from the Board points to being more flexible in membership rules in the future and even allowing the President or Vice-President to be a non-Swiss National, as long as the other is a true Native Swiss. What do YOU think? If you feel strongly either way, make sure you attend the AGM to have your say.

Outdoor Club Membership Rates

Single/Family:	\$12/\$18
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Choir Membership Rates

Individual:	\$60
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*All Membership Renewals Needed by **March 31st, 2012!!***

Thank you for supporting the Swiss Society of Vancouver in the past! Members who filled out a Membership/Liability form already can just send in the Membership payment (no form necessary). You are able to pay for the SSV; Outdoors Club and Choir with one cheque. If you don't know if your Membership form is current, please call 604 888-6949 or e-mail Susanne Wilson at membership@swiss-society.org. Please send cheques to Swiss Society of Vancouver:

PO Box 4468
349 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 3Z8

If you miss sending in the payment by the **March 31st, 2012** deadline, Susanne would need another form filled out, because it has then lapsed and the liability is expired. Forms are available on-line at the SSV web-site under Membership, or you can call Susanne and ask her to send you one. Changes in Membership status, changes in address or all new members, require a brand new form...



OUTDOOR CLUB

President: Jacques Goldschmidt - 604 996-6253 or goldschmidt.jaques@gmail.com
Membership: Susanne Wilson: 604 888-6949 or membership@swiss-society.org
For the active Swiss members who like to get out and about!

2012/2013 Proposed Program

Dec 30th 2011 to January 1st, 2012 - New Year's Eve
Party at the Cabin
Contact: Jeannette Kuenzli

Jan 21st to 22nd, 2012 - Ski Weekend at the cabin
Contact: Jeannette Kuenzli

January 31st, 2012 AGM
Contact Jacques Goldschmidt

March 17th to 18th, 2012 - Ski Weekend at the cabin
Contact: Jeannette Kuenzli

March 2012 - AGM of the Swiss Society (no date yet)
Contact: Peter Schaele

April 2nd to 5th, 2012
Contact: Jaques Goldschmidt

April 14th, 2012: Hike Burnaby Mountain
Contact: Peter Schaerer

May 6th/20th, 2012: Fort-to-Fort Trail at Fort Langley

May 26th, 2012: European Festival at Swangard
Contact: Peter Schaele or Elke Porter

June 2nd or 3rd: Cabin Clean-up
Contact: Jeannette Kuenzli

June 2nd, 2012: Executive Meeting at the cabin
Contact: Jacques Goldschmidt

June 24th, 2012: Galiano Island
Contact: Joe Mueller

July 16th Week: Denman Island?
Jul 25th, 2012: Bowen Island Hike: West to Snug Cove
Contact: Peter Schaerer

August 11th, 2012: Fraser Valley Hike
August 20th to 24th, 2012: Kootenays
Contact: Henry Hutter

August 26th, 2012: Eagle Club
Contact: Joe Mueller

September 15th to 16th, 2012: Cabin Clean-up
Contact: Jeannette Kuenzli

September 16th, 2012: Hermann's Pass (another try)
October 7th, 2012: Mount Seymour Hike
Contact: Peter Schaerer

October 2012 (TBA): Metzgete/Minnekhada Park
Contact: Fritz Graf

November 4th, 2012: Local Discovery Walk (TBA)

December 6th, 2012: Executive Meeting
Contact: Jacques Goldschmidt

December 16th, 2012:
Waldweihnacht at Mt. Seymour

December 29th, 2012:
Ski weekend/New Year's Executive Party at the Cabin

2013

January 19th to 20th, 2013 - Ski Weekend at th Cabin
Contact: Jeanette Kuenzli

January 31st, 2013: AGM
Contact: Jacques Goldschmidt

Important! Wichtig! Attention! Please!

These dates are proposals only and will need to be confirmed... Leader propose locations for hikes...



SWISS CHOIR

President: Marie Louise Hanna: 604 536-6382 or mhanna13@shaw.ca

Music Director: Dubravko Pajalic: 604 251-6344 or dpajalic@telus.net

For Swiss members who like yodel, sing & play traditional Swiss instruments...

Some Swiss Choir Christmas Events for 2011!

The Swiss Choir will be singing at:

1. Alpenclub, Sunday, December 4th, 2011- Benefit Concert for the German-Canadian Care Home
2. Van Dusen Gardens, Saturday, December 10th, 7:30 pm for the Celebration of Lights
3. The Vancouver Christmas Market (www.vancouverchristmarket.com) Thursday, Dec 15th, 7 pm to 9 pm
4. Waldweihnacht, Sunday, December 18th, 6 pm - Choir will be leading the Forest Walk

They have also been asked to be guests with the Concordia Choir on March 31st, 2012 at the Vancouver Alpenclub. If you would like to join the Choir, please contact Marie Louise for more information about dates and times of practices. They are usually held Thursdays, with the location TBA!

Are you Planning to Fly to Edmonton Within the Year?

We have some tickets available for sale through Westjet Airlines for \$1,46.92. Please contact Peter or Marie-Louise, if you are interested in this.

Kim's Modi Kapelle

Kim's Modi Kapelle is looking for a Schwyzeroergeli player in the Vancouver area.

Vancouver Swiss Choir on Ahorn TV!

<http://ahorntv.com/archive/episoden/season-i/episoden-41-bis-50/episode-47-30-07-2011/>

Participate in the European Festival of 2012!!



Peter Schaele as President of the EurofestBC Society, along with Eva, the MC in 2010...

The EUROFEST BC SOCIETY is a not-for-profit organization that manages the European Festival, the multicultural potluck, Europe Day and any other supporting events, to preserve and celebrate the local European culture and European Heritage Month, with residents and tourists in Burnaby and Greater Vancouver, British Columbia.

This year, the Festival is considering a move to the Swangard Stadium. A special meeting will be held on Monday, December 12th, 2011 at 7 pm at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre in Burnaby to discuss this issue, which brings both risk and opportunity to this amazing event.

They will need at least 100 volunteers to make it a success, along with those people who bring special "event knowledge" to the table. I (Elke) have volunteered to do the Media Relations & Communications! Join us!



SENIORS SECTION

President: Werner Rutishauser: 604 929-6923 or wrutish@shaw.ca

Membership: Susanne Wilson: 604 888-6949 or membership@swiss-society.ca

For Swiss members who are 55 to 155 years old!

Filmnachmittag fuer 2012

29th of January 2012	Landammann Stauffacher
26th of February 2012	S'Margritli und Soldaten
25th of March 2012	Menschen die Vorueberziehen
29th of April 2012	Sternenberg
27th of May 2012	Heidi und Peter
14th of October 2012	Heidi
11th of November 2012	Taxichauffeur Baenz

Landammann Stauffacher (from 1941)

Im Jahr 1314 plündert Heinrich Stauffacher mit den Schwyzern im Zuge des Marchenstreits das Kloster Einsiedeln, das unter dem Schutz der Habsburger steht. Die Eidgenossen schwören Ludwig von Bayern die Treue, dessen Widersacher ist Friedrich von Habsburg. Graf Friedrich von Toggenburg versucht die Eidgenossen umzustimmen. Doch unter Werner Stauffachers Führung ziehen sie schlussendlich gegen Leopold in die Schlacht.



Filmnachmittage fuer Senioren immer von 2 Uhr bis 5 Uhr nachmittags

Location and any associated costs TBA...

Anmeldungen bei : Werner Rutishauser Tel.604-929-6923 or Vreni Huser Tel.604-731-4300

We Are Here To Help!

The Seniors Committee has created a new network for needy, lonely or sick seniors – including member or non-members of the SSV – who would like to get a friendly telephone call and/or a visit.

At the moment we are able to visit people in the areas of Greater Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. please let us know when somebody has passed away, so we can inform the members of the SSV. We also would like to know about special birthdays (80 years or older), since the SSV has not registered these dates.

The coordinator of this network for White Rock and South Surrey will be Irma Karsenbarg, Tel. 604-531-1215. For other areas: Trudi Schmidt, 604-988-9543, or Kurt Fischbacher Tel. 604-985-0192

Turning 65?

Please let the SSV know when you reach that magical birthday – 65 years young! Contact Susanne Wilson at 604-888-6949 and we will then add your name to the seniors list and you will be entitled to a reduced membership fee in the Swiss Society. What better way to start your senior lifestyle than by saving oodles of money!!

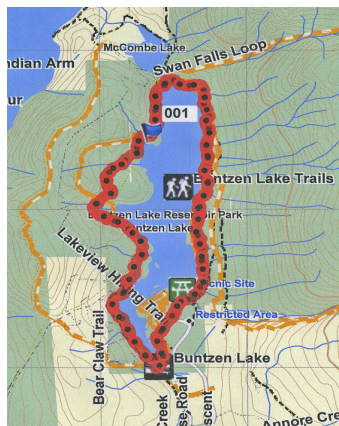


PAST EVENTS

Please send me pictures of any Swiss events you attend, or any pictures you would like to see published at saengerfest2011@hotmail.com

Try to send smaller pictures that are clearly labelled with names/dates, please!

Sunday, October 9th, 2011 Hike at Buntzen Lake



To the far left is a picture of this event by Joe Mueller

The Swiss Outdoors Club organized an easy hike around Buntzen Lake. They walked mostly in forest with short ups and downs, approx. 10 km. They stopped at the beach/picnic ground at the north end of the Lake.

This event was organized by Peter Schaerer: pschar@axion.net or 604 987-3716

Waldweihnacht 2011! All Welcome!

Sunday, December 18th, 2011 - Meet at 6 pm

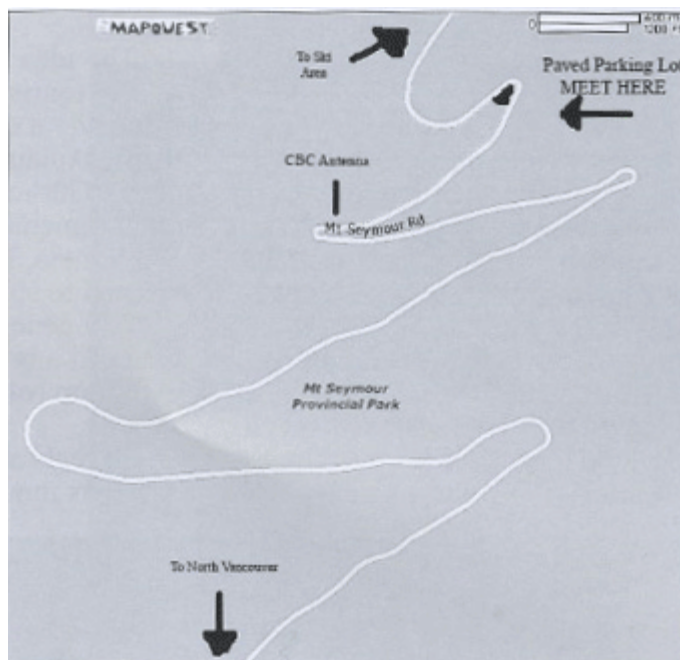
Mt. Seymour Provincial Park

For Swiss Society Members & Friends

Note:

This year, the Swiss Choir will be leading the way! Bring warm clothing and good boots, as the trail might be covered in snow, ice and/or mud. A ski pole and a flashlight are useful. Santa will visit the children! Refreshments and cookies will be served, along with coffee, hot chocolate and tea. No reservations needed!

An event with a 20-year Tradition!





PAST EVENTS

Remember the Outdoors Club AGM coming up in January 31st, 2012 at the Vancouver Alpenclub at 33rd and Victoria in East Vancouver. Then add March 2012 for the Swiss Society AGM. The Choir just had their AGM - ask Marie-Louise for more details!

Oct 23rd, 2011 *Hike in Minnekhada Park, Followed by Metzgete*



Photos and story sent in by
Joe Muller;

Photos by Ricarda Willi



Out door Club Cabin Rental Rates

Members of the Club:	\$11 per night
Members of the SSV	\$20 per night
Non-Members	\$25 per night
Children 6 to 16:	50% discount
Children under 6	No charge



Goodbye Koebi Staebli!

The photo on the right was taken a year ago at the Seniors Christmas Luncheon 2010. Koebi died peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday, November 22nd, 2011 at 5 pm. We will miss him greatly...

The photo on the left shows the true Koebi in his happiest hours - enjoying snow-covered mountains!

Both pictures sent in by Joe Mueller





PAST EVENTS

The Swiss Outdoors Club is an integral Section of the Swiss Society of Vancouver, BC. It promotes friendship, fitness and fun. The Club operates, on behalf of the Swiss Society of Vancouver, a ski cabin (25 person capacity) at Glacier Springs, Washington (near Mt. Baker) and

Sunday, Nov. 13th, 2011 *Sonntags Spaziergang and Lunch in Steveston*

Met at 11 am in front of the Gulf of Georgia Cannery (Museum) in Steveston.

Phase I.

We walked east along the Fraser River arm, through the various displays showing the history of the old fish processing industry and the accommodation of Japanese workers 100 years ago, then onward to the London Heritage Farm. Here those who wanted to could quickly browse for Christmas ornaments and marvel over old farm implements before the group return to Steveston Village along a back road.

Distance: 7 km; Time : 2 hours

About 1:15 pm settled down for lunch in Steveston Village. Options were: eating from a rucksack, fish and chips at Pajo's food outlet (on a barge) or a classy lunch at the Sockeye City Grill overlooking the fishing fleet.

Phase II .

Once they were refreshed and warm and cozy, at about 2.30 pm they headed out again into the biting sea wind and circumnavigate Garry Point Park, along the coast line for another trek. All flat terrain and easy, very easy

Distance: 3 km; Time: They were done by latest 4 pm

Contributed by Joe Muller

24 Hikers joined the Swiss Steveston Hike & Lunch!



Above is a beautiful wood carving of a whale and her calf on the docks...



OTHER EVENTS

Waltraud Custer: 604 713-6562 or outreachprogram@gcch.ca
German-Canadian Benevolent Society of BC
2010 Harrison Drive, Vancouver, BC V5P 2P6

Carmen Amrein, Mastermusikant aus Deutschland, wird uns am Hackbrett mit Musik und Gesangbegleitung erfreuen. Das Hackbrett-spielen ist eine seltene und historisch interessante Kunst sowohl in der klassischen als auch Volksmusik. Der Klang eignet sich sehr für die Weihnachtszeit.

Wie im Vorjahr möchte ich Sie herzlich einladen, beliebte Advents- und Weihnachtsgedichte wie auch -geschichten vorzutragen oder vortragen zu lassen. So werden wir zusammen mit der Musik und dem Singen einen reichen Nachmittag gestalten. Der Schatz von Vor- und Weihnachtsbräuchen in den deutschen Landen ist reichhaltig. Wir freuen uns auf Ihr und Ihrer Freunde Kommen.

Waltraud Custer
Outreach Coordinator

Other Events!

1. Sunday, December 4th, 2011
Benefit Concert in the Alpen-club with the Swiss Choir, the Lyra Choir & the Concordia Choir at 2 pm
2. Saturday, December 10th, 2011 the Advent Celebration
3. Saturday, January 14th, 2012 Presentation held in the Stuhlmuller Library at the Care Home from Professor Dr. Hanx Schuetze to talk about social change that affects the way children are raised today. A very timely topic for students, parents & grandparents that affect us all.
4. Saturday, January 28th, 2011, the movie "Herbstgold" is planned.

The Board and Outreach Committee wish you a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a great start in the New Year!

ADVENTSFEIER
Das deutsch-kanadische Hilfswerk von BC
lädt ein zu Kaffee, Kuchen
Samstag,
10. Dezember, 2011
14.30 - 17.00 Uhr
Deutsch-Kanadisches Pflegeheim
2010 Harrison Drive,
Vancouver B.C.
604-713-6562
outreachprogram@gcch.ca



OTHER SWISS CONTACT INFO

If there are any other organizations that Swiss Society Members would like to know about, please forward them to me at saengerfest2011@hotmail.com

Ads: \$25 for 1/4 page; \$35 for 1/3 page; \$45 for 1/2 page; \$75 for full page!

Consulate General of Switzerland

Urs Strausak

Consul General

email: vertretung@van.rep.admin.ch

Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Vince Sciamanna

President

chamber@swissccc.com

Swiss Mountain Range Association

Rene Zollinger

President

president@scmra.ca

Vancouver Dorfmusik

Urs Fricker

President

julieturs@hotmail.com

Council of Swiss Abroad (Bern)

Rolf A Brulhart

Western Canada Delegate

rbrulhart@hotmail.com

Also: Past President/Saengervaeter

Esther Egger - no longer in Parliament,

can still be reached at:

Tel. 056/282 56 50

Mobile 079 758 79 71

es.egger@luewin.ch

www.esther-egger.ch

Short Message from the Editor

The Swiss Herald Newsletter encourages its readers to send letters to the editor. If you have a message you want to get out to other readers, maybe discussing a past Herald article or Swiss event, please e-mail: saengerfest2011@hotmail.ca with "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line.

The Herald reserves the right to edit the letters for brevity, grammar and taste; however, it will be kept as close to your own words as possible. We would also appreciate your jokes, recipes & Swiss event photos. The Herald is there for you!



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BC Registration 3656



SWISS COUNCIL ABROAD

Auslandschweizer - Organization: <http://aso.ch/en>
<http://www.swisscommunity.org/en/> - Platform for Swiss Abroad
<http://www.revue.ch/en>

Wahlmanifest 2011 der ASO (only in German, unless someone wants to translate)

Zentralen Auslandschweizer Anliegen:

- Schaffung eines Auslandschweizergesetzes (Ausführungsgesetz zu Art 40 BV)
- Erleichterung der Wahrnehmung der politischen Rechte aus dem Ausland (E-Voting, Teilnahme an Ständewahlen)
- Förderung der internationalen Mobilität der Schweizerinnen und Schweizer (Personenfreizügigkeitsabkommen, Abbau von Hürden)
- Adäquate konsularische Betreuung (ausreichendes Konsularnetz, Ausbau E-Government)
- AusbauderKommunikationmitderFünftenSchweiz(SchweizerRevue,swissinfo SwissCommunity)
- Aufwertung des Auslandschweizerstatus als Repräsentant voran der Fünften Schweiz
- Stärkung/Ausbau der internationalen Präsenz und Mitwirkung der Schweiz

What do the Swiss Abroad want?

1. Die Auslandschweizerpolitik braucht eine einheitliche Gesetzesgrundlage which includes the rights and duties of the 700,000 Swiss Abroad;
 2. Die Wahrnehmung der demokratischen Rechte sofort durch e-voting muss erleichtert werden; die Rechte der Auslandschweizer im EU Raum müssen auch für die restlichen Auslandschweizer adäquat gelten;
 3. Die Schweiz muss die internationale Mobilität ihrer Staatsangehörigen aufrecht erhalten;
 4. Die konsularische Betreuung der Auslandsbürger darf nicht durch weitere Schliessungen von Botschaften und Konsulaten verunmöglicht werden;
 5. Die Kommunikation mit der Fünften Schweiz ist aus- statt abzubauen; dies gilt vor allem aber nicht ausschliesslich für Swissinfo, Swiss Revue, Swisscommunity;
 6. Der Auslandschweizerstatus soll als Schnittstelle zur Diaspora aufgewertet werden
 7. Auslandschweizer wünschen eine international präsent, kooperative Schweiz, offen für Innovationen. Sie verlangen nach wie vor das die lange versprochene quantitative Studie über den Beitrag der Auslandschweizer endlich abgeschlossen und veröffentlicht wird.
-

Goodbye to Micheline Calmy-Rey - Swiss President!



Swiss Info - September 25h, 2011 - Micheline Calmy-Rey became foreign minister in 2003. In 2007 and 2011 she held the annually rotating Swiss presidency. On September 7 she announced her resignation for the end of the year. Her successor will be elected on December 14 during the cabinet election.

According to the foreign ministry, 684,974 Swiss lived abroad in 2009 (+1.3% on 2008). Since 1992 Swiss abroad have had the right to take part in federal votes/elections via mail from abroad.



DIRECTORY OF SWISS SOCIETY

*Peter Schaele: 604 435-6159 or president@swiss-society.org
Peter will be stepping down at the 2012 AGM in less than 4-months.
His shoes are hard to fill, but they will need to be filled! By you?*

President: Peter Schaele 604-435-6159 president@swiss-society.org
Past President: Rolf Bruehlhart 604 710-7653 rbrulhart@hotmail.com
Membership: Susanne Wilson 604-888-6949 membership@swiss-society.org
Secretary: Valentina Boyd 604-729-2963 secretary@swiss-society.org
Webmaster:: Konrad Iten 604-461-5398 vicepresident@swiss-society.org
Seniors: Werner Rutishauser 604-929-6923 wrutish@shaw.org
Herald: Elke Porter 604 828 8788 or saengerfest2011@hotmail.com
Assistant Editor: Nick Schwabe 604 732-4471 or nickschwabe@telus.net

Vice-President: Stepped down—**seeking replacement**
Treasurer: Stepped down—seeking replacement
Entertainment: Stepped down—**seeking replacement**
Children: Stepped down—**seeking replacement**

Honourary Chair

Maria Logan 604-736-6238
Trudi Schmidt 604-988-9543
Vreni Huser 604-731-4300

Legal Advisor: David Varty 604-684-5356

Advisory Members: Maria Logan 604-736 6238, Veronika Bernardis 604-255-1872, Beat Walder 604-224-5544
advisor_1@swiss-society.ca, Alfred Eigenmann 604-931-3001, Heidy Legere 604-420-4464 Auditors: Urs Box-
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The Swiss Herald is a non-profit publication produced 6 times a year by the Swiss Society of Vancouver under the direction of its President and Board of Directors. It is distributed free of charge to the membership of the SSV, as well as through advertiser's facilities, the Swiss-Canadian Chamber of Commerce and through its new website: <http://www.swiss-society.org>. For all Herald editorial and advertising information or questions, please contact: Elke Porter at saengerfest2011@hotmail.com or 604 828 8788.

Information and materials should be in by the week before the end of every second month. Please send any change of address or e-mail to the Swiss Society of Vancouver:
P.O. Box 4468
349 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 3Z8

MORE SWISS NEEDED! GET ON BOARD!