

January/February 2012

Table of Contents

- 2. Events
- 3. Ostern
- 4. Outdoor Club
- 5. Swiss Choir
- 6. Seniors
- 7. Kurt Fischbacher
- 8. Christmas Luncheon
- 9. Dorfmusik
- 10. Swiss Contact
- 11. Waldweihnacht
- 12. Contact Details

Letter from the Editor

It is not even the middle of February, and it feels like Spring might be arriving soon. Recently, I have begun working with AhornTV selling "Abco Film Video Production Services", as well as content production for social media sites and I love this. Making Youtube videos for corporations... Abco also produces AhornTV (German) and TulipTV (Dutch), and I am working as a PR & Sales Consultant for them, as well. Let me know if you have seen an episode and what you think! At the same time, I work for the Recycling Council of BC as a Communications Consultant and am helping to run the newspaper club in my children's school - training a new generation... Elke

Swiss Herald

The Official Magazine of the Swiss Society of Vancouver since 1953

http://www.swiss-society.org



Board Nominee Karin Kapp

I moved to Canada from Switzerland in May 1988. I chose to come to Vancouver because of the oceans and the mountains, which I thought would help me overcome any homesickness! I have been in Canada for 23 years, and I am loving it!

I was born in Alstaetten SG, Switzerland, which is a town located in the Rhine Valley. However, I am an Appenzellerin, from the beautiful city of Appenzell!

One of my goals for the Swiss Society, is to bring people together, who have a love and an interest to preserve the Swiss Culture in any way possible.

I would like to see an assortment of activities organized, which could be atttractive to families with young children and the youth.

AGM - March 20th at Vancouver Alpenclub at 7:30 pm SHARP!

Board Nominee Mirjam Mai

Question: When did you come to Vancouver & why?

Answer: I came to Vancouver in September 2010 to work as a postdoctoral research fellow (chemistry) at UBC. I liked it so much that I extended my stay for a second year and I am currently looking for a permanent job to settle down in this area.

Through my friend, Alfred Eigenmann, I came in contact with the Vancouver Swiss Choir in October 2010 and I have been an active member of the choir since then. I was strongly involved in the organization of the Saengerfest last year and hope to be a helpful and productive addition to the Executive Board of the Swiss Society with my skills.

Question: What are your goals?

Answer: My goal for the Swiss Society is to get more young people/families involved. The Swiss Society did a great job to maintain Swiss culture and to provide a space where like-minded people can gather and exchange their experiences. This tradition has to be

kept alive and with the experience of our senior members that task also needs the input and energy of the younger generation.





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

PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE TO BE IN VANCOUVER!

After a discussion with Mr. Walter Hildebrand of the Edmonton Swiss Society, it has been decided that the 2012 President's Conference will be held in Vancouver, and hosted by the Swiss Society Vancouver, together with the support of other clubs in the area & the Consulate.

One of the reasons for the change of venue is the planned visit of Ms. Rustichelli from the Organization of Swiss Abroad (OSA) this April, 2012. She will be touring Canada and the US to introduce and promote the latest communication platform www.swisscommunity.org. Some of you might already be using this tool, while other Swiss living abroad might be hearing about it for the first time. Ms. Rutichelli will be in Vancouver, Saturday, April 21st when the Vancouver Dorfmusik hold their traditional Spring Concert at the Alpenclub. (see ad page 9)



Presidents Conference in 2007 - Richard Lee Photo



GOODBYE & THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!

Peter Schaelle, long-time President & Member of the Swiss Society, is leaving! Over the years, he has shown dedication & many hours of time to represent the Swiss in Canada. Peter is shown here during the Olympics wearing his Swiss hat, holding a cowbell with a Swiss flag in the background. Peter is still Vice-President of the European Society, and will be available as past President, but wishes to pass the reigns on to another President - will this be you?







During the recent cold spell (January 16th to 20th approx), our Outdoors Club members Andy Huser and Sepp Rinderli ventured through the slippery and snowed-in Fraser Valley down to our ski cabin in Glacier Springs, just in the nick of time! They cleared the path to the cabin, "unfroze" the hot water tank and prevented substantial damage. We thank Andy and Sepp for their efforts. Pictures above & article by Joe Mueller



OSTERN

In der Schweiz und in vielen deutschsprachigen Ländern suchen Kinder farbige Eier, welche vom "Osterhasen" versteckt wurden. Der Schokoladenkonsum namentlich die "Schoggihasen" steigt in der Osterzeit und danach noch erheblich...



15th ANNUAL EUROPEAN FESTIVAL

May 26th, 2012 - 10 am - 11 pm Swangard Stadium (corner of Kingsway and Boundary Rd, Burnaby)

Cultural displays | European Food | Entertainment | Children's activities | Market Place and more

Online tickets: \$8 At the gate: \$10

Children under 12: Free



Come and explore Europe...right at your door step!





FROHE OSTERN!



Sales & PR Consultant



OUTDOOR CLUB PROGRAM

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!*

March 17th to 18th, 2012 - Ski Weekend at the cabin

Contact: Jeannette Kuenzli

March 20th, 2012 - AGM of the Swiss Society Contact: Peter Schaelle (Deutsches Haus)

March 25th-28th, 2012 - Sun Peaks Weekend

Contact: Jacques Goldschmidt

April 14th, 2012: Hike Burnaby Mountain

Contact: Peter Schaerer

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

Contact: Susanne & Steve Wilson

May 26th, 2012: European Festival at Swangard

Contact: Peter Schaelle 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

Contact: Lotti Frohwein

Jul 25th, 2012: Bowen Island Hike: West to Snug Cove

Contact: Peter Schaerer

August 1st, 2012: Fraser Valley Hike Contact: Sepp Rinderli/Hans-Peter Hauser August 2nd, 2012: Eagle Bluff

Contact: Joe Mueller

September 15th/16th, 2012: Cabin Clean-up & BBQ

Contact: Jeannette Kuenzli

September 16th, 2012: Hermann's Pass (another try)

Contact: Andy Huser

October 7th, 2012: Mount Seymour Hike

Contact: Peter Schaerer

October 21st, 2012: 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

December 29th, 2012 - New Year's Eve Party

Contact: Jacques Goldschmidt

January 19th to 20th, 2013 - Ski Weekend at th Cabin

Contact: Jeanette Kuenzli

January 31, 2013 Annual General Meeting

Contact: Jacques Goldschmidt

All dates are proposals & will need to be confirmed.

Walk on Burnaby Mountain April 14th - Please assemble at 09:30 hours in parking area in Burnaby Centennial Park, (near Horizons Restaurant). Exit Highway 1 at Gaglardi Way, to drive up mountain, turn left onto Burnaby Mountain Parkway at the major interchange, then turn right at Centennial Way.

The walk goes through the forest on the north side of Burnaby Mountain, skirts the east side and crosses the centre of Simon Fraser University on the way back to the starting point. The distance is approximately 10 km with ups and downs on gravel paths, a short rough section and pavement in the University. The estimated time is 3 hours. For information contact: Peter Schaerer; telephone: 604 – 987 3716; e-mail: pschar@axion.net



SWISS CHOIR

President: Marie Louise Hanna: 604 536-6382 or mhanna18@shaw.ca Music Director: Dubravko Pajalic: 604 251-6344 or dpajalic@telus.net For Swiss members who like yodel, sing & play traditional Swiss instruments...

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2012 - VANCOUVER SWISS CHOIR

Feb 23rd, 2012 Mulberry Retirement Residence Concert 7:30 pm Burnaby

Mar 27th & April 3rd Yodel classes for beginners 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm (Place to be announced)

Mar 31st Vancouver Swiss Choir is guest Choir at Concordia Choir Concert - Alpenclub 8:00 pm

April 10th & 17th Yodel classes advanced 10:30 am to 2:30 pm at Maja's

April 24 & May 1 Yodel classes advanced 7:30 pm- 9:30 pm (place to be announced)

May 3-7th Quadra Island Concerts - May 5th at Heriot Inn Dinner and Concert 7:30 pm

May 6 Yodelmass 10 am - Lunch & Concert at Tsa-Kwa-Luten Resort 12:00 noon Quadra Island Yodel class : Saturday May 5, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm at Heriot Inn

May 26th European Festival 11:30 am Performance of Swiss Choir

June 9th Vancouver Swiss Choir Concert (time and place to be announced)

July 28th Swiss National Holiday celebration at Rifle Range

August 1st Swiss National Holiday Celebration in the Valley (pending Invitation)

August 26th Choir Picnic (Time TBA)



Please note, the Yodel classes have very limited spaces and cost \$20 for Vancouver Swiss Choir members and \$50 for other people (depending on spaces) The classes consist of two sessions one week apart / 2 hours each.

The Swiss Choir now practices at the Provincial Assessment Center opposite BCIT on Willingdon & Canada Way every Thursday 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm - visitors are welcome they have however to call us ahead of the visit in order to have some of the song sheets available for them and also to explain the history of the choir somewhat.

Contact: President Marie-Louise Hanna 604 536-6382 (mhanna18@shaw.ca), Vice President Karin Kapp at 604 816-2082 or Advisor Alfred Eigenmann at 604 931-3001!

Next year The Choir is invited to attend the North American Swiss Singing Alliance (NASSA) event in Kitchener, Ontario... Thank You!



SENIORS

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 Landamann Stauffacher 26th of February 2012 S'Margritli und Soldaten

25th of March 2012 Menschen die Vorueberziehen

29th of April 2012 Vitus 27th of May 2012 Heidi

21st of October 2012 Sternenberg

18th of November 2012 Taxichauffeur Baenz

S'Margritli und Soldaten (from 1940)

Herbst 1939. Eine Schweizer Flab-Batterie absolviert im Dorf Chatillaz den Aktivdienst. Ihr Kommandant ist Hauptmann Zollinger, eine Persönlichkeit, zu der die Mannschaft mit Respekt aufschaut. Ebenso wichtig ist für die Kompanie Marguerite, die Tochter des Dorfwirts...



S'Margritli und d'Soldate

Filmnachmittage fuer Senioren immer von 2 Uhr bis 5 Uhr nachmittags Sunday, February 26th, 2012 at the Vancouver Alpenclub 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 members 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

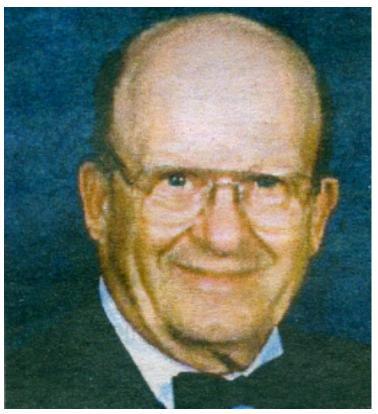
Turning 65?

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!



WESTJET TICKETS AVAILABLE

There are some Westjet Tickets available to buy from the Board. Fly to Edmonton or anywhere else Westjet goes. Contact Marie-Louise, if interested...

Snowy Owl by Urs Boxler



FISCHBACHER, Kurt April 15, 1925 - Jan. 6, 2012 Kurt Fischbacher passed away peacefully on January 6. 2012 at Lions Gate Hospital in North Vancouver, BC at the age of 86 years. Kurt was born in Berg Switzerland and came to Canada in 1947. He learned his trade as a cabinet maker in Switzerland and had a long and successful career as a cabinet maker and master wood worker in Vancouver. He was also an avid pilot and long time member of the Boundary Bay Flying Club, Vancouver Swiss Society. and the North Shore Silver Harbor Senior Center, Kurt will be lovingly remembered by his wife Donna, his step children Bill (Adaire), Linda (Monte), Barbara (Paul), his son Michael, grandchildren, Chrissy, Jessica, Beau, Josh, Tommy, Grace, and great grandchildren Torren, Caysen and Kara. Memorial Service will be held at First Memorial Boal Chapel, 1505 Lillooet Road, North Vancouver, BC, on Saturday, February 4, 2012 at 2:00pm.



PAST EVENTS

The purpose of these events are to promote Swiss traditions & culture, exchange and understanding among Swiss people in BC, assist people of Swiss origin who are immigrants to BC, to participate in the economic, professional & intellectual sectors of their new country...

SSV SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON by Nick Schwabe



Our traditional Seniors Luncheon was held on a crisp and sunny day at 5*C, without snow! The fully booked party was held in the large dining room, filled to capacity with 121 seniors, members and guests. It was nice to see familiar faces,

old timers and their spouses again, and exchange stories, memories and jokes! The round dinner tables seated 10, which created the familiar clan-atmosphere of belonging, friendship and exclusiveness.

Andrea Stolte, attractive Master of Ceremonies, an excellent speaker and entertainer, welcomed the Guests of Honour - Consul General of Switzerland Urs Strausak and Martina; Deputy Consul General Hans-Peter Willi and Riccarda; as well as President SSV Peter Schaelle and Helen. Consul General Strausak spoke about his career, and how he is looking forward to getting to know the Swiss in British Columbia better. Peter Schaelle mentioned his final resignation as President of the Board of the SSV, after many years of dedicated leadership, by the AGM in March, 2012.

Andrea Stolte thanked Urs Strausak and Peter Schaelle for their speeches, Choir conductor Dubravko Pajalic for coming to perform with the Choir the traditional Swiss and Christmas songs, Edwige and Ernie Weingand for sending out the invitations, and doing all the paperwork! Thanks in the name of the Seniors for the support from the SSV.

Finally at 1.30 pm lunch was served: Pea soup or salad, pork roast, mashed potatoes, vegetables, coffee, tea and dessert. The traditional gift from Santa Claus, a little bag of cookies, was handed out to everyone, and thanks offered to the cookie-bakers. These included Marie-Louise Hanna, Barbara Wirsching, Margaret Spengler, Susanne Wilson, Maja Joehl, Elisabeth Appenzeller, Melanie Crook, Trudy Schmidt, Rita Meier, Caroline Merkli, Karin Kapp, Mary Brunold and Maria Logan, who donated the chocolates. Werner Schmidt our patisserieartist, surprised us with a large angel, a Santa Claus, a large cake and lots of his famous marzipan figurines! Thank you Werner.

Remember Joe Mueller, eternal photographer, for producing memorable portraits and pictures! (see photos www.swiss-society.ca - SSV Seniors) Finally a great "Thank You" to Blanche & Werner Rutishauser for putting it all together!







DORFMUSIK



President: Urs Fricker julieturs@hotmail.com 604 274-0802





27th Annual Spring Concert

Saturday April 21, 2012 8 p.m.
Vancouver Alpenclub - 4857 Victoria Drive, Vancouver

Special Guest: Walter Petrie Trio "Performing Memorable Melodies"

Admission \$ 20 Juniors \$ 10 - Food and Bar Service
For tickets call Urs Fricker 604 274 0802 or Band Members

The Vancouver Dorfmusik (Blaskapelle) was founded in 1983 by 3 members of the Vancouver Swiss Community to perform Swiss and European style music similar to small village bands.

The Vancouver Dorfmusik has performed locally and internationally on many occasions.

The term 'Blaskapelle' needs a bit of elaboration. In Europe most villages and cities have bands ranging from small groups, brass bands to large concert bands. The Blaskapelle is a separate group and usually has no more than 20 players. Very often, these groups are formed by assembling the good players from several villages or cities. Today there is quite a 'Blaskapellen' movement through Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the Czech Republic.

Presently, the Vancouver Dorfmusik has about 20 players and keeps close ties with the Swiss community. However, the Dorfmusik is becoming increasingly a group of accomplished Canadian players with a variety of ethnic backgrounds who enjoy the European style 'Blaskapelle' playing. Please contact Urs Fricker, President, julieturs@hotmail. com for more information. See videos on: http://www.veengle.com/s/dorfmusik.html



OTHER SWISS CONTACTS

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!

Consul 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@bluewin.ch
www.esther-egger.ch

Short Message from the Editor



PRIME TRAVEL

YEAR-ROUND SPECIAL FARES TO SWITZERLAND/EUROPE

EDELWEISS AIR – CHARTER 2012 CALGARY/VANCOUVER TO ZURICH

Direct & Nonstop three times a week
- May 30 - Sept. 26, 2012 -

Sundays & Wednesday NONSTOP from/to Vancouver Fridays from Calgary and Vancouver

Daily flights with SWISS International Air Lines

Your travel professionals for:

- Charters & tour groups to & from Switzerland
- Complete sports packages for individuals & teams
- Family holiday & adventure packages
- Cruising
- Corporate travel & conferences
- Travel Insurance

FOR ALL YOUR TRAVEL PLANS CALL:

Yvonne Camenzind Kabata Markus Bill (Swiss-Canadian Owner)

PRIME TRAVEL

1852 Marine Drive, West Vancouver BC, V7V 1J6 Ph: 604-925-1212 Fax: 604-925-1866 toll-free: 1-877-925-1212 e-mail: <u>yvonne@prime-travel.com</u> www.prime-travel.com

BC Registration 3656

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!

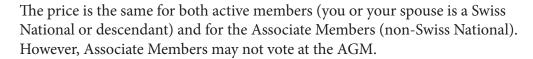


MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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.

Swiss Society Membership Rates

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





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

Choir Membership Rates

Single/Family: \$12/\$18 Individual: \$60

Past Event - Waldweihnacht 2011







December 19th, 2011 was the first time that I had attended the Waldweihnacht, and I really liked it. The children were excited by the snow, my husband was excited by the Gluehwein, and I was excited by the cabin! We walked through the snowy woods, with torches on either side to light our way. We stayed in a clearing and sang Christmas songs with the Swiss Choir. We continued walking and came to a nice, warm cabin with mandarin oranges, peanuts & cookies on each table. Santa came eventually and all the children were given a bag with treats. The Consul General Urs Strausak was there, along with Swiss Chamber President Vince Sciamanna and current President Peter Schaelle. The musicians played, which made a great atmosphere - Elke



DIRECTORY OF SWISS SOCIETY

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

President: Peter Schaelle 604-435-6159 president@swiss-society.org Past President: Rolf Bruelhart 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 To all members: We have a visitor from Switzerland in the Fraser Valley who would like to share a room at Sun Peaks with the Outdoors Club's Ski Outing.

His name is Herbert and he is staying with the Schneiter's where he can be contacted at :604-467-2287.

Please call and make arrangements with him directly.

Honourary Chair

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

Legal Advisor: David Varty 604-684-5356

Out door Club Cabin Rental Rates

Members of the Club:\$11 per nightMembers of the SSV\$20 per nightNon-Members\$25 per nightChildren 6 to 16:50% discountChildren under 6No charge

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 Boxler 604-312-8761, Urs Fricker, 604-274-0802

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

MORE SWISS NEEDED! GET ON BOARD!