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### Swiss Herald

The Swiss Herald is a non-profit newsletter published 5 times a year by the Swiss Society of Vancouver, under the direction of the Board. It is distributed free of charge to the membership of the SSV with no Internet, as well as through the website of the SSV. For all Swiss Herald information or for advertising inquiries, please contact:

Elke Porter 604 828 8788 or  
kitsilanogerman@hotmail.com

### 2013 /Editorial/Advertising Issue Deadline Mailing

- #1 Jan 15th - Jan 31st, 2013
- #2 Mar 15th - March 31st 2013
- #3 May 15th - May 31st, 2013
- #4 Sep 15th - Sep30th, 2013
- #5 Nov 15th - Nov 30th, 2013

*The editors and publishers of the Swiss Herald do not accept responsibility for inaccuracies and/or omissions of materials submitted by its members via telephone, e-mail or in person.*

# Swiss Herald

The Official Magazine of the Swiss Society of Vancouver since 1953

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

## Letter from the Vice/President

Guten Tag!

I hope that all finds you well and that you had time to enjoy a most spectacular sunny month of October! The weather was gorgeous and very mild; my umbrella with little Swiss cows on it acquired a layer of dust.....

It is time again to present the Swiss Society's work, accomplishments and highlights in this Herald's issue. In the past we would write about upcoming events in this article and throughout the Herald, a bit time consuming and often events would get missed because of not knowing when and where.... well...we have come up with a brand new way to inform, excite and invite you to upcoming events of all kinds! Please take the time and have a look at our NEW CALENDAR EVENT SCHEDULE in this Herald's issue, also available on the Swiss Society Website.

Furthermore, last but not least, we would like to announce that Rolf Brühlhart has been nominated for the 2012 PROVINCIAL NESIKA AWARD! This award recognizes achievements in Multiculturalism, presented by the Honourable John Yap, Minister of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism.

With all of this in mind I would like to let you know: Read the Herald.:)

Enjoy, we always welcome any suggestions and ideas to improve the Herald.

Warm greetings to all of you!

Karin Kapp, President

Mirjam Mai, Vice-President



2011 Waldweihnacht Outing!  
Pictures by Elke



***Frohe Weihnachten und einen guten Rutsch!***

# COMING EVENTS 2013

## JANUARY

6th: Choir Christmas Dinner  
19th-20th: Ski Weekend at Glacier Cabin  
27th: Filmnachmittag  
31st AGM of Outdoor's Club

## FEBRUARY

4th to 6th: Tyrol Ski Lodge in Whistler (reserved 3 nights/20)  
16th to 17th: Ski Weekend at Cabin in Glacier Springs  
24th: Filmnachmittag

## MARCH

16th to 17th: Ski Weekend at cabin in Glacier Springs  
18th: Tentative AGM Date  
24th: Filmnachmittag

## APRIL

20th: Walk around Richmond/Delta  
28th: Filmnachmittag

## MAY

9th: Europe Day (Thursday)  
18th: Lighthouse Park West Vancouver  
25th: European Festival  
26th: Filmnachmittag

## JUNE

8th to 9th: Cabin at Glacier Springs Cleanup Weekend  
June 9th: Executive Meeting at the cabin at Glacier Springs

## JULY

13th: Hike  
27th: Swiss National Day

## AUGUST

5th to 7th: Tyrol Lodge: Discover of Whistler; reserved for 20

## SEPTEMBER

14th: North Shore Hike

## OCTOBER

6th: Filmnachmittag  
20th: Mikkekhada and Metzgete

## NOVEMBER

2nd: Local Discovery Walk  
3rd: Filmnachmittag

## DECEMBER

7th: Seniors Luncheon  
15th: Waldweihnacht  
Dec 29th to Jan 1st: Year End Cabin party at Glacier Springs



# NEW YOUTH GROUP!

Aio Haeberli

youth-group@swiss-society.org

604 803-5910

Young Swiss-Vancouverites, we are looking for you to join the new Youth Club! Starting January 2013, we will feature exciting events like BBQs at Jericho Beach, soccer tournaments in Stanley Park, climbing in Squamish, sailing trips to Bowen Island, kayaking at Deep Cove, badminton in Queen Elizabeth Park, concerts at BC Place Stadium, night photography in Downtown Vancouver, snowboarding in Whistler, camping at Golden Ears Provincial Park. With the Youth Club you will also get to explore a multitude of cultural events, like the Squamish Music Festival, the European Festival, the Vaisakhi Parade, the Chinese New Year, or the Vancouver Film Festival. We aim to support local NGOs and communities by volunteering and fundraising.

As a member of the Youth Club, you will:

- receive a monthly newsletter from the world of entertainment and cultural activities
- explore Vancouver with other young (Swiss-) Vancouverites
- build a network and support local communities

We look forward to having you on board! Your suggestions and ideas for events are most welcome. Stay tuned for the first Youth Club newsletter in January 2013...

## *Seniors "Filmnachmittag" Celebrates 10th Anniversary!*

On October 21st, 2012 the Filmnachmittag organized by Blanche and Werner Rutishauser celebrated its 10th anniversary. Together with the Senior's group and board members of the Swiss Society, Consul General Urs Strausak and his wife Martina Feil as well as Deputy Consul General Hans-Peter Willi and his wife Riccarda watched the same movie that started the Filmnachmittag 10 years ago: Die kleine Niederdorf-Oper. Generous sponsorship of the Consulate General and Pacific Arbour Retirement Communities, represented by Rainer Mueller, made the celebration a festive event.

A huge Ruebli-Torte, numerous Marzipan figurines and a ginger bread logo of the Filmnachmittag were made by patisserie chef Werner Schmidt and admired by all guests. Blanche and Werner Rutishauser did a great job over the past years by organizing the well-liked Filmnachmittag and were rewarded with speeches of the invited guests and a plaque of the Swiss Society that shows their efforts and accomplishments during the past 10 years.



### *Eine kleine Geschichte von den Filmnachmittagen*

Eines Tages im Frühjahr 2002 erhielt ich einen Anruf von Rolf Brühlhart, ob ich einverstanden wäre, etwas für die Senioren zu organisieren. Rolf kam zu einer Besprechung bei uns zu Hause mit grossen Plänen an, unter anderem ein Altersheim fuer Schweizer Senioren. Von den verschiedenen Möglichkeiten die wir besprochen hatten, blieben schlussendlich leider nur noch die Filmnachmittage uebrig.

Glücklicherweise besaßen Juerg Siegenthaler und Yvonne Camenzind vom Schweizer Konsulat einige alte Filme im Schweizer Dialekt, welche sie uns für die ersten Vorführungen zur Verfügung gestellt haben.

Später fand ich im Internet ein Geschäft in Zürich, welches Schweizerfilme verkaufte. Dort haben wir dann in der Folge die naechsten Filme gekauft, die wir mit Spenden von unseren Filmbesuchern finanziert haben. Später erfuhren wir, dass Annemarie Fricker im Besitz von 15 Schweizerfilmen war, die sie uns freundlicherweise zur Vorführung zur Verfügung stellte. In den letzten 10 Jahren haben wir etwa 70 Filme vorgeführt und kein einziger wurde bisher wiederholt. Nun haben wir praktisch alle alten Schweizerfilme gezeigt. In letzter Zeit haben wir von Hans-Peter und Riccarda Willi neuere Schweizerfilme erhalten, wofür wir ganz herzlich danken. Auch danken wir allen, die uns während dieser 10 Jahre geholfen und unterstützt haben. An unseren Filmnachmittagen haben wir durchschnittlich 40 Besucher, die mit viel Freude zusammen kommen und sich in der Pause bei Kaffee und Kuchen mit alten Freunden unterhalten können und Spass haben.



Werner Rutishauser





# SEASONAL EVENTS

Cabin rental fees are being collected by the cabin manager,  
Jeanette Kuenzli, Tel # 604- 576 – 9617, E-mail: ej.kunzli@telus.net or  
Vreni Huser, Tel # 604- 731-4300, E-mail : ahuser@shaw.ca

## ***Deborah Zurbuchen-Junker as New Cabin Assistant!***

Matt and Deborah have been members of the Swiss Society of Vancouver and the Outdoors Club for over a year now and have enjoyed being a part of this Swiss community. Matt and Deborah both love hiking and skiing so joining this club was a good match for their lifestyle. The program that is organized every year for the Outdoors club is wonderful. Deborah was born in Thurgau, Switzerland and then immigrated in 1993 with her family to Ontario, Canada. She has always greatly valued her Swiss roots and makes an effort to keep the Swiss culture as part of her life. Matt was born into a Dutch family in Brampton, Ontario and has learned a bit of the Dutch culture from his parents. He decided to become a Dutch citizen in 2002. He finds certain words in the Swiss dialect similar to the Dutch language and enjoys learning a few words here and there.

Matt and Deborah reside in Langley, B.C. and have lived in B.C. since August 2007. Deborah works as an administrative assistant and Matt works as a chaplain and tutor.



## ***Weihnachten in der Schweiz***

### ***Weihnachten in der Schweiz***

Das wichtigste kirchliche (Familien-)Fest, das in der ganzen Schweiz gefeiert wird, findet an Weihnachten statt. Zu diesem Anlass gehören meistens ein geschmückter Weihnachtsbaum, ein gutes Essen im Familien- oder Freundeskreis, das Austauschen von Geschenken und mancherorts auch das Singen von Weihnachtsliedern sowie das Vorlesen der Weihnachtsgeschichte.

Neujahrstag, bzw. Neujahr, ist der erste Tag des Kalenderjahres und folgt auf Silvester. Im westlichen Kulturraum ist der 1. Januar als Termin für den Jahresanfang seit dem Mittelalter weit verbreitet. Unabhängig davon gab

und gibt es in unterschiedlichen Regionen und Zeiten andere Daten, und darüber hinaus wurden in denselben geographischen Gebieten mitunter verschiedene Neujahrstermine gleichzeitig verwendet.

### ***Allgemein:***

Das Neujahr beginnt in vielen Gross-Städten mit Silvesterfeuerwerk. In der Schweiz ist jeweils das grösste Feuerwerk in Zürich. Ebenso wünscht man sich Glück und Gesundheit fürs neue Jahr.

Aus dem Internet...





## PAST EVENTS

### *Guest Performance of the Swiss Choir*



The Vancouver Swiss Choir attended the Fall Concert of the Lyra Men's Choir on November 3rd with 26 singers. The repertoire included various songs in Swiss German, German and Romansch. A video of the song 'Lingua Materna' is available on the website [www.swiss-society.org/swiss-choir](http://www.swiss-society.org/swiss-choir). Dorli Meier, Anna-Marie Spaeti and Andrea Flukiger, our so-called 'Valley Girls' sang two new yodel songs and once more fascinated the audience with their presentation. They are an inherent part of our performances now together with the yodel group taught by Hong Chul Kim.



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Pacific Arbour Retirement Communities has crafted a solid reputation for building exceptional retirement residences where we can serve long standing members of the community.

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15<sup>th</sup> & Lonsdale | North Vancouver  
604.980.6525 | [thesummerhill.ca](http://thesummerhill.ca)



Seymour | North Vancouver  
604.986.3633 | [cedarspringsresidence.ca](http://cedarspringsresidence.ca)

Where good things come together.





# THE 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...*

## ***Fall/Winter Schedule 2012***

Our very busy rehearsal season has started well and many performances have been scheduled:

- Nov 29th (7:00-9:00 pm), at the Vancouver Christmas Market; Queen Elisabeth Plaza Downtown
- Dec 1st, at the yearly Senior's Lunch at the Holiday Inn in North Vancouver
- Dec 2nd (2:00 pm), Annual Benefit Concert of the German Canadian Benevolent Society of BC
- Dec 9th, SWISS NATION DAY at the Vancouver Christmas Market (see page 9 for more info)
- Dec 13 (7:00 pm), Swiss choir performs at the Festival of Lights, VanDusen Botanical Garden
- Dec 15 (4:30 to 6:30 pm), Swiss Choir performs at the Vancouver Christmas Market
- Jan 6, Swiss Choir Christmas dinner - Newlands Golf & Country Club Langley

## ***The Swiss Choir Welcomes You!***

January, Advanced Yodel Class evening session, to secure a spot call 604 536-6382 (exact date will be confirmed later)

February, a class of Schwyzeroergeli playing will be offered. We have 5 people interested to learn but only 3 Oergeli. If you have a Schwyzer Oergeli you no longer use, please let us know. We would be willing to lease or rent.

We are looking at setting up a Yodel Club, meeting twice a month. If you are interested give us a call. Information about spring activities of the Vancouver Swiss choir will be published in the next Herald.

We are very proud that one of our singers, Rolf Brulhart has been nominated for the prestigious Nesika Award in the individual category 2012 for his involvement in multiculturalism in BC. The Award evening is a public event taking place on Friday, November 23rd at 6:30pm at the Bonsor Recreation Complex, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby, BC.

Rolf is a delegate to the Organization of Swiss Abroad and has been involved in the European Festival for years fostering increased understanding of our cultural mosaic and President of the Swiss Society of Vancouver as well as the Swiss-Canadian Chamber of Commerce(BC) Inc.

This award was first proclaimed in 2008 by the Province of BC's Multicultural Advisory Council to honour and celebrate British Columbia's cultural diversity.

Want to join the Swiss Choir? Give us a call, check us out or join us for a trial period with no obligations. (604 536-6382)

Marie-Louise Hanna  
Choir Coordinator/Manager

Marie-Louise Hanna (604 536-6382)





# SENIORS SECTION

Werner Rutishauser: 604 929-6923 or [seniors@swiss-society.org](mailto:seniors@swiss-society.org)

Membership: Susanne Wilson: 604 888-6949 or [membership@swiss-society.ca](mailto:membership@swiss-society.ca)

*For Swiss members who are 55+*

## *Filmnachmittage und Luncheon for 2013!*

### **Filmnachmittage fuer Senioren**

#### **im Deutschen Haus**

4875 Victoria Drive (Ecke 33rd Ave),  
Vancouver, BC

Kosten: Kaffee und Kuchen

27. Januar, 2013 von 2 bis 5 Uhr

24. Februar, 2013 von 2 bis 5 Uhr

24. Maerz, 2013 von 2 bis 5 Uhr

28. April, 2013 von 2 bis 5 Uhr

6. Oktober, 2013 von 2 bis 5 Uhr

3. November, 2013 von 2 bis 5 Uhr

#### **7. Dezember, 2013 Seniors Luncheon!**

Anmeldungen bei:

1. **Werner Rutishauser:** 604-929-6923

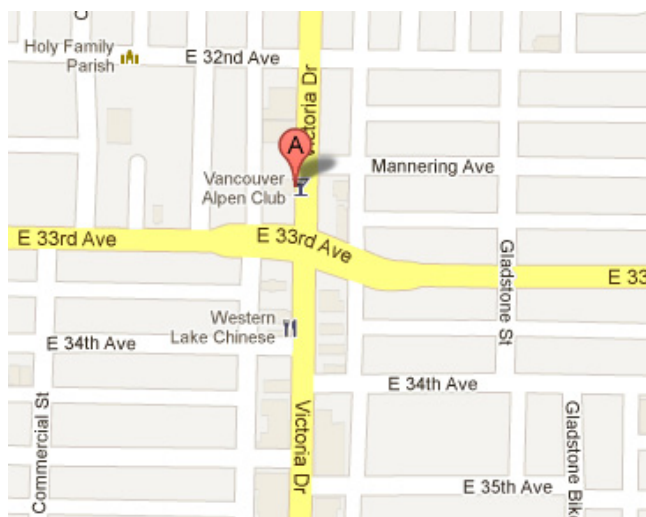
2. **Vreni Huser:** 604-731-4300

### **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 does not register 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!!



# OUTDOORS CLUB PROGRAM

President: Jacques Goldschmidt - 604 996-6253 or [outdoor@swiss-society.org](mailto:outdoor@swiss-society.org)  
Membership: Susanne Wilson: 604 888-6949 or [membership@swiss-society.org](mailto:membership@swiss-society.org)  
*We believe in "friendship, fitness and fun!"*

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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

December 16th, 2012:  
Waldweihnacht at Mt. Seymour

December 29th-Jan 1st, 2012:  
Ski weekend/New Year's Eve Party at the Cabin

January 19th-20th, 2013:  
Ski Weekend at Glaciar Springs Chalet

January 31st, 2013  
AGM of the Swiss Outdoors Club

Feb 4th-6th, 2013:  
Tyrol Ski Lodge, Whistler  
Reserved for 20 people.

Feb 16th-17th, 2013:  
Ski Weekend at Glaciar Springs Chalet

**All dates are proposals & will need to be confirmed.**



Jacques at the 2011 Waldweihnacht - Picture by Elke

### The Outdoors club of the Swiss Society of Vancouver

Invites you to our annual

## Waldweihnacht

**Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012, 6 p.m.**

**Mt. Seymour Provincial Park, North Vancouver**

**All Swiss Society members and friends are invited.**

### Note:

Refreshments and goodies will be served  
Bring warm clothing and good winter boots.  
The trail might be covered in snow and ice or mud.  
Ski poles and flashlights are useful.  
If all are good, Santa may bring some goodies for our children.

A few members of the Swiss Choir will lead the singing.







# SWISS NATION DAY

Sunday, December 9th, from 2 pm to 6:30 pm

<http://vancouverchristmasmarket.com/music-entertainment.php>

The Vancouver (German) Christmas Market

## *Tentative Schedule*

- 11:45 Bells with Joch and Flag bearers to announce  
SWISS NATION DAY
- 12:00 Alphorn players on stage: Beat & Kimi
- 12:15 Vancouver Swiss Choir
- 12:40 Yodel Trio from the valley
- 12:50 Three songs from Yodelclass group
- 12:55 Alphorn Beat & Kimi
- 1:00 Schwyzzeroergeli and sing along
- 1:20 Accordion with Roesli & friends
- 1:30 Alphorn David Gsponer & friend
- 2:00 Vancouver Dorfmusik
- 3:00 Vancouver Swiss Choir
- 3:20 John Watkins demonstrates the HUNG drum
- 3:35 Alphorn David Gsponer & friend
- 3:40 Small group or duett of Yodel class Yodlers
- 3:50 Accordion with Roesli & friends
- 4:00 Vancouver Swiss Choir
- 4:20 Swiss CD BREAK (Bells)
- 4:40 Bells
- 4:50 John Watkins with Hung drum

Newly Introduced:

## *VCM Nation Days 2012*

The Vancouver Christmas Market 'Nation Days' are special days dedicated to European communities and cultures. This year, for the first time, Vancouver's European community groups will bring a piece of home and their culture right to the Vancouver Christmas Market.

Visitors will be given the opportunity to immerse themselves in different European cultures by watching traditional performances on stage and will have a chance to get to know more about these European community groups at our VCM info-booth. Performances will range from Alphorn players, Yodel and Ukrainian tsymbaly performances to traditional folklore, and choral performances.

## *Swiss Nation Day December 9th!*

- The Vancouver Christmas Market, located on the Plaza at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, is guaranteed to get you in the festive mood! Stroll through the festively decorated outdoor Christmas village and be treated to row upon row of illuminated wooden huts offering handmade gifts and tempting treats. Listen to the sounds of bells, trumpeters and carolers. As day becomes night, thousands of Christmas lights sparkle and delicious aromas of mulled wine and spicy gingerbread waft through the air.

## *Call Peter to Participate!*

the Swiss Choir sings with other Swiss performers at this unique event. Queen Elisabeth Plaza - Downtown Vancouver 12:00- 6:00 pm - volunteers needed - call event coordinator Peter Schälle 604 439-7338. If you know of any Swiss performer who would like to contribute to this special day it is not too late to contact Peter Schälle.





# TYROL WHISTLER INVESTMENT

Tyrol Lodge  
5302 Alta Lake Road  
Whistler, BC V0N 1B5  
<http://www.tyrollodgewhistler.com/>

## Membership Card Soon Available



The Tyrol Lodge is available for members of the Swiss Society now!  
*\*Please note that only members of the Swiss Society (members with paid memberships) can get reduced room rates and priority booking of the rooms. This means we can book the rooms ahead of time while guests/friends can only book from Tuesday for the coming weekend. Of course, you can bring guests and friends with you but they have to pay the guest price. We kindly ask you to respect this procedure. The Board is working on one membership card for the Swiss Society to make the whole process easier and more transparent.*

## You Can Book the Lodge Now!

To book the lodge, please contact the Lodge Managers **Sean Burke & Nina Moore** at: [tyrolbookings@shaw.ca](mailto:tyrolbookings@shaw.ca) or use the inquiry form on the [www.tyrollodgewhistler.com](http://www.tyrollodgewhistler.com)

You may also call the Tyrol Lodge landline during business hours (9am-6pm) at:  
+1 (604) 932-5588 and the managers will get back to you within 48 hours.

Bookings are subject to room availability.

\* Members of the Tyrol Ski & Mountain Club (and the Swiss Society) will always have first priority for bookings.

\* Whole Lodge & Group bookings may be limited in the peak winter months & long weekends.

Please have the following information ready when you book:

- \* Your name, phone number and email.
- \* The dates and the number of nights you want to stay.
- \* The number of people in your group, their names (and ages, if under 18).
- \* The purpose of your stay.
- \* How did you hear about the Tyrol Lodge?

If you have any questions concerning the use or booking of the Lodge please contact Karin Kapp or Mirjam Mai.



## Directions from Vancouver!

As you approach Whistler, heading north on Highway 99

1. From the first set of lights at Function Junction, drive north approximately 2.5km and look for Alta Lake Road on the left - turn left here.
2. From the Highway, follow Alta Lake Road 2.5km (across the train tracks and up the long hill), and look for the Tyrol Lodge sign on the right hand side.
3. In WINTER, vehicle access is limited to the upper parking lot ONLY. You may walk down the hill to the lodge, and use the sleds provided for your gear.
4. In SUMMER, you can drive down the hill on the dirt road, turn right at the first corner onto the "Private Road," stay left on the hairpin corner (follow the 'Tyrol Lodge' sign). 4-wheel drive is highly recommended, but not essential.

Update Tyrol Investment: Almost all outstanding payments have been received so far so that the total amount raised is \$920,000. Tyrol Investment GP Inc. will go ahead and purchase the property in the very near future. We have been informed that units can still be purchased and that the money in the trusted fund earns less than 1% interest. We will keep you posted about all further progress.



# EUROPEAN FESTIVAL

<http://www.eurofestbcsociety.ca>  
[info@eurofestbcsociety.ca](mailto:info@eurofestbcsociety.ca)

## ***Some Changes From Last Year!***

1. ***They are considering moving to a 2 or 3-day Festival in 2013***
  - a. Friday evening could be a concert with separate ticketing event from 8 pm to 11 pm.
  - b. Saturday move the opening time from 11 am to midnight and hold all cultural performances that day.
  - c. Sunday hours would be from 11 am to 6 pm with contemporary European performances
  - d. All volunteers would have to commit to 2 days.
  - e. Having a 2 or 3 -day festival would get more people from the European Community involved and increase the exposure for the Festival.
2. All countries must pay the minimum amount of \$50 to join the Festival by December 31st, 2012.
3. Individuals can now join the Society as members for only \$25 to support the Festival.
4. Members are requested to join the Facebook Fan Page, as well as the Facebook Group, so they can support the Festival and share their communities events.
5. Europe Day May 9th 2013: used to be a potluck with the clubs that participate in the European Festival; according to the plans of Rolf Bruehlhart it will be a panel discussion this time with renowned persons out at UBC (Triumf Centre or Institute for European Studies) with either scientific or economic focus. The target groups will be students, professors and European alumni and of course all members of the different cultural societies.



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**SWANGARD STADIUM, BURNABY**  
**(KINGSWAY AVE & BOUNDARY RD)**

***MORE DETAILS TO COME...***





## CLASSIFIEDS

If there are any other organizations that Swiss Society Members would like to know about, please forward them to me at [kitsilanogerman@hotmail.com](mailto:kitsilanogerman@hotmail.com)

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

### Internet Connections To/ Within Switzerland for All

· [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch) - The Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OAS) represents over 750 Swiss expatriates' associations interests in Switzerland. It informs Swiss living abroad about what is happening in Switzerland and provides them with a wide selection of services.

· [SwissCommunity.org](http://SwissCommunity.org) - With the website SwissCommunity, you can easily find almost 330 of these organizations (referred is to the 750 Swiss expatriates' associations mentioned above) on our on-line platform and contact them directly. By carrying out a simple search by region, you can easily find the association that meets your requirements.

· [www.revue.ch](http://www.revue.ch) - The magazine for the Swiss Abroad published by the Organisation of Swiss Abroad; in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish

· [www.Swissinfo.ch](http://www.Swissinfo.ch) - swiss news and information platform about Switzerland, business, culture, sport, weather. swissinfo covers Switzerland from every angle



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**[www.prime-travel.com](http://www.prime-travel.com)**

**BC Registration 3656**





# JOB DESCRIPTIONS

## *We Need More on the Board!*

### **Secretary, Swiss Society of Vancouver**

You are a good listener, have excellent English and German language skills, extensive experience with computers (text processing software, emailing) and modern communication devices and want to be an active part of our productive Board of Directors? Then you should apply for the position of the Secretary of the Swiss Society of Vancouver. Your duties include writing the detailed minutes of the monthly Board Meetings, the Annual General Meeting and other extraordinary meetings as well as sending out invitations and reminders for meetings to the Board of Directors and other involved individuals. A close cooperation with the other Board Members and the Webmaster is required. Please send an application indicating your interest and experience to the Board of Directors.

### **Treasurer, Swiss Society of Vancouver**

You know your math, have experience with accounting, like dealing with other people and want to be an active member of the Swiss Society? Then you are the right person for the Treasurer's post on the Board of the Swiss Society of Vancouver. Your tasks would include the accounting, budgeting for the club, dealing with insurances and the bank, receiving and writing invoices and cheques after consulting the Board of Directors. You would be part of a productive, intergenerational team of thinkers and doers that welcomes you in its midst. Please send an application indicating your experience to the Board of Directors.

### **Youth Club Leader, Swiss Society of Vancouver**

You are ambitious, young or young-at-heart, sputtering with ideas, a hands-on person, and good at dealing with young people as well as grown-ups, reliable and able to make responsible decisions? Then you should become one of the leaders of our Youth Club. Your tasks would include the organization and execution of events for our young members (sports or social events, regular meetings.. ) in cooperation with the other youth leaders and the support of the Board of Directors. Please send an application indicating your interest and experience to the Board of Directors.

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**Letter from the Editor:** There have been some changes to the Herald, the main one being that we are now requesting articles, pictures, event invitations etc. to be in 2-weeks before the issue is meant to be distributed. The dates can be found on the front page of the Herald. Otherwise, I hope you are having a wonderful holiday season and that Santa is good to you! Our Christmas plans include relaxing with the



family and enjoying some special events that Vancouver offers at this time of year. We also need to plan for all the events coming up in 2013, especially Europe Day and the European Festival! I would also like to point out that in 2013, there will be a special 60-Year Anniversary of the Swiss Herald! One more reason to celebrate... Frohe Weihnachten und einen guten Rutsch ins Neue Jahr! By Elke Porter



# AUSLANDSCHWEIZER

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## Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

### **ASO – Brief re Natural Disaster and the Swiss Abroad**

by Rolf A. Brülhart, ASO-Delegate



**CBC news: Wednesday, November 7th, 2012:** A magnitude 6.3 earthquake has struck off the west coast of Vancouver Island, the U.S. Geological Survey reports. The quake hit at 6:01 p.m. PT, the agency says, 182 kilometers southwest of Port Hardy, B.C. There is no word yet on injuries, damage or if a tsunami alert will be issued.

**A much more powerful 7.7 quake** struck off the coast of Haida Gwaii on Oct. 27, a few hundred kilometers north of Wednesday evening's tremor.

As many of you probably did, you talked at work as well at home about the possibility of the big one and asked yourselves about **your personal** preparedness and possible immediate consequences for your Families and how we would recover. We all know that it is primarily our responsibility to be prepared.

However, I also asked myself what the role of our **Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver** would be. It took very little time to get a very satisfying answer. They provided the Board of Directors of the SSV at its meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 with a one page summary "Important Information in Case of an Emergency", dated November 2012 which exists also in German and French and will be already posted on the website of the Swiss Society of Vancouver [www.swiss-society.org](http://www.swiss-society.org) when you read this ASO-brief. The one-pager urges in it's Introduction: "...to take individual precautionary measures to prepare themselves and their families for such emergency situations, and to adhere to the guidance and recommendations of their local authorities." Under 2. Precaution Measures, it lists five relevant websites provided by Provincial and Canadian authorities. Under 3. Conduct after an emergency it lists four points: keep informed via TV, radio, or internet; contact relatives in Switzerland if possible, and inform them of our status; inform your Consulate of your condition and situation, particularly if you cannot contact our relatives in Switzerland; follow the instructions from local authorities without any hesitation or delay.

The second question I asked myself has to do with the role of the Federal Government of Switzerland, should a larger number of the over 700,000 Swiss-Abroad all over the world endure a major natural disaster such as a powerful earthquake? I sent this question to the Secretariat of the Organisation of Swiss Abroad (Auslandschweizer-Organisation ASO) in Bern and got the following positive answer: "*Betreffend Krisen-/Katastrophendispositiv: der ASO-Vorstand hat an diesem Wochenende(Nov.9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>, 2012) beschlossen, das Thema auf die Tagesordnung der nächsten Ratssitzung am 15. März 2013 zu setzen und dazu den Verantwortlichen für Krisenprävention und Krisenbewältigung, Botschafter Ralf Heckner, einzuladen, damit er uns über die Dispositive orientiert und Fragen beantwortet. Der Vorstand setzt sich ferner dafür ein, dass den ASR-Mitgliedern eine spezifische Rolle im Krisenmanagement zugewiesen wird. Danke also dafür, dass ihr den entscheidenden Impuls gegeben habt!*"





# PAST EVENTS

## *721st National Day Celebration at the Mountain Range Chalet in Coquitlam*



Together with the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association (SCMRA), the Swiss Society of Vancouver organized the yearly National Day Celebration at the Mountain Range Chalet on July 28th, 2012. The doors opened at 3.30pm and shortly thereafter the parking lot started to fill up with members of both clubs, Swiss friends and invited guests. Among them the Consul General Urs Strausak and his wife Martina Feil, representatives of the Eurofest BC society, organizers of the Vancouver Christmas Market, members of the Swiss German Language Meet-Up Group, the company Stromer with their electronic bikes, event sponsors and a camera team from Ahorn TV. (<http://www.ahorntv.com>)

The program included a concert by the Vancouver Dorfmusik, a performance of the Vancouver Swiss Choir, the official ceremony with speeches from the Consul General and the club presidents Karin Kapp (SSV) and Rene Zollinger (SCMRA), as well as the eagerly anticipated lampion parade for the children. For the first time this year sponsors could be won to lower the admission from \$8 to \$6. Many thanks to Josefina & Rolf Brühlhart and Garaventa Lift who sponsored the admission ribbons and the musical entertainment, respectively. Also a big thank-you to Maria Logan who, despite of her absence due to a trip to Switzerland, sponsored the ice cream for the children.

Codrutsa Rotaru, president of the Eurofest BC Society, brought a birthday cake for the 721st National Day Celebration and the Consulate General generously distributed Swiss wine for this occasion. St. Gallerer Bratwurst, potato salad, almond crescents and Cremeschnitten completed the culinary experience of this event.



In defiance of the mosquitos, some hard-bitten Swiss held out until the end of the celebration and camped on the property of the SCMRA. They were rewarded with a

delicious breakfast prepared by Alain Muehlebach: Eggs Benedict with coffee.



A video clip of this National Day Celebration with interviews of the dignitaries and special guests as well as the musical program will be available on the website of Ahorn TV shortly.



Pictures by Bernardo: 1. Official Ceremony 2. Dorfmusik 3. Children's Lampion Parade...

The last picture shows the 2011 National Day Celebration on AhornTV: [http://youtu.be/OqRd3\\_3gcEs](http://youtu.be/OqRd3_3gcEs)



# DIRECTORY OF SWISS SOCIETY

*Karin Kapp & Mirjam Mai are the new team running the Swiss Society*

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**The Tyrol Lodge** by Mirjam Mai

