



SWISS HERALD

July/August 2014

New Address: Swiss Society of Vancouver
P.O.Box 32021 Walnut Grove
Langley, BC V1M 2M3



Farewell, Hanspeter & Riccarda

We all will miss you very much!

Photos: Top right: Christina Lips, all the other ones Alfred Eigenmann



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Window plants in Summer 2009 in Zurich; photo Christina Lips



Swiss National Day Celebration

This year's National Day Celebration will be held on **Saturday, July 26th**, at the Chalet of the SCMRA in Coquitlam. Admission is \$8 and festivities start at 4pm located at 4141 Quarry Rd Coquitlam, BC



Map of the location is on page 6.

There will be traditional food available and drinks at reasonable cost.

The Vancouver Dorfmusik will play from 7-8pm. A Lampion Parade during the official ceremony (starting at 9pm) will be guided by a Swiss Herald, a drummer and live music by the

Dorfmusik. Some Swiss Choir Members will perform a few songs.

The Chalet of the SCMRA is a fantastic location for this celebration and also offers lots of space for tents and RVs to stay overnight. Hook ups for water and electricity are available. A breakfast will be served by the SCMRA for a small fee. The surrounding Minnekhada Regional Park offers various trails for hiking or exploring the next morning. Please contact Frank Suter Jr. for details at frankjr@shaw.ca

Many volunteers are needed on that day to sell admission ribbons, food vouchers and help at the grill. Please contact Jacques Goldschmidt to schedule your 2-hour shift at: 604- 596 – 6253

Or email: Goldschmidt.jaques@gmail.com

Volunteers will receive FREE admission.

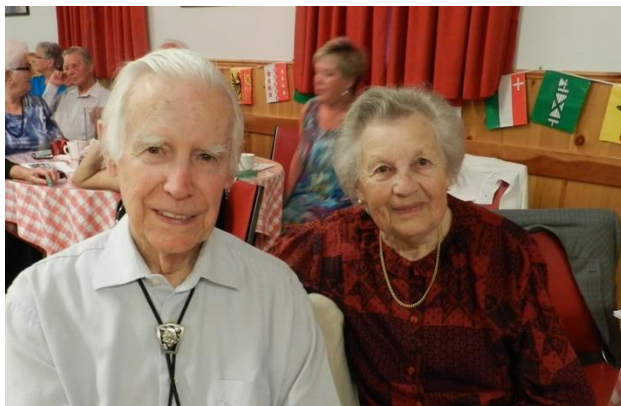


Senior's Section

©Ron Leishman * illustrationsOf.com/1048236

The seniors have a summer-break from their Filmnachmittagen.

While you all can enjoy a lazy summer outside, Werner and Blanche Rutishauser will have to watch about 50 different movies to make the perfect choice for your future Movie-afternoons.



At the recent Choir-Concert Werner was celebrated as **the oldest attendant**: almost 95 years of age and still going strong! On the picture with his lovely wife Blanche.

Photo: Christina Lips

“Warum schreist du so?” fragt der Elektriker seinen kleinen Sohn. “Ich habe eine Biene angefasst und die war nicht isoliert!”

Zwei Gaertner in der Kneipe. Sagt der eine: “Du, heute waren es 40 Grad im Schatten!” Sagt der andere: “Warum gehst du auch in den Schatten?”

Ein Autofahrer ueberfaehrt ein Huhn. Pflichtbewusst traegt er das tote Huhn zum Bauernhof, sagt: “Entschuldigung, ich habe gerade eines ihrer Huehner ueberfahren.”
Der Bauer sieht sich das Huhn genau an und sagt: “Das ist keines von uns. Unsere sind nicht so flach.”

In Memory of Maria Logan



Maria passed a year ago on June 14th. We would like to make note of this anniversary in remembrance of Maria from the family of Rudy Kuettel, who shared the same birthplace in Gersau, Switzerland. Maria was always a lady in the truest sense, who inspired us and we miss her very much.

I (Eileen) had the honour of accompanying Maria to Governor House in Victoria, where she accepted the Lieutenant Governor award for her volunteer work, shortly after her beloved husband Clement passed away. She received another prestigious award at the Vancouver Convention Centre in 2012.

We shared many happy family times with Maria since meeting her in 1990 at the Senior's Christmas Party at the Shaughnessy Golf Club where she was dressed in the traditional dress of her Canton. Her life after retirement was devoted to good causes but we remember Maria as a good friend and had the benefit of her sense of fun, spirit of adventure and companionship. She was a godmother to our grand-daughter, Taylor whom she adored, she told many stories to her and her sister, Isabella. One favourite was reminisces of Christmas in Switzerland and the visit by Samichlaus and Schwartz Peter. Maria enjoyed watching the girls' figure skating shows. All of us listened to her stories of ship life when she sailed to all the northern communities of BC and her achievements as a Red Cross nurse. She was of the generation of our parents and she shared stories of the past life and families of Gersau which was great fun.

Her devotion to the Swiss was undeniable but she was a proud Canadian as well. Because of Maria we participated in many Swiss concerts as well as celebrations at the chalet, Seymour mountain Christmas hikes, citizenship courts at Canada Place and walks in Vandusen Gardens where she has a May blooming tree along the Laburnum walk and another tall Dragon eye pine nearby, dedicated to Clem.

Maria lived a good life and followed her dreams.

In fond memory, Rudy and Eileen Kuettel, Shannon and Matthew, Taylor and Isabella



Passing of Alois Decurtins

Hallo friends,

with regrets, I have to inform you that **Alois Decurtins (91)** passed away. He lived many decades in Burnaby and was a strong supporter of the Swiss Community.

May he rest in peace. With my regards. Joe Mueller

Here a message from his daughter Cecilia Decurtins:

This to let you know that dad passed away peacefully at 14:10 on [26 June 2014](#).

Dad had prostate cancer for many years but it was always under control. However, just before Easter he started having back pains, which got so bad he had to be hospitalized. It turned out that this was because the cancer had metastasized into his spine and had also spread into his bladder; the cancer growth on the spine was pushing on the nerve column causing a lot of pain. We don't know how this happened so fast without anyone knowing as he had always gone regularly to be checked.

He was transferred from the hospital here in Thusis into the big Kantonal hospital in Chur (check google maps) where they did 5 directed radiation treatments on the spine at the site of the cancerous growth. He spent just over 3 weeks in the hospital, including his 91st birthday. While he was there he seemed comfortable but lacking in much energy or motivation. He did talk about how he planned to take a couple of trips to see some of his grade school buddies that are still around; he seemed like he was really looking forward to getting out of the hospital and going home.

Once he arrived home (26 May) he started to go downhill bit by bit each day. First it was his hunger, which disappeared, and then he mostly just wanted to sleep. Shortly after getting home he decided he didn't want to take the cancer medication they were giving him so that was stopped. Two weeks ago he also pretty much stopped eating so he was getting weaker by the day. [Last Friday](#) he was no longer able to get out of bed and on [Wednesday](#) they brought in a hospital bed into the apartment so it would be easier to take care of him.

He didn't want to go to the old folk's home next door so all the services came to the apartment. Like with mom, the home care he received here was truly excellent; the people who looked after him really cared and during the times I couldn't be here in Thusis with him, I knew he was in good hands. I had also signed him up for something called Seniors helping Seniors so there were two ladies, who he knew, that came in numerous times throughout the day and evening just to sit and visit with him in addition to making sure Honda (the cat) had food water and a clean kitty litter. One of the ladies stayed with him [Wednesday](#) night so he wouldn't be alone. They were with him when he passed and they said that he went very peacefully. Marcus and I were notified of his condition [Thursday](#) morning and tried to get here before he was gone but neither of us made it time.

During the time I was with him after he came out of the hospital I saw one major change. He was no longer grouchy and was happy when anyone came to visit plus you could see he really appreciated the care he was getting. He also said that he had had enough and was waiting to be able to join mom.

Marcus and I were relieved that he did not suffer for a long period of time since we knew the cancer would continue to grow and that he would have to suffer through the pain. [Today](#) we will give instructions to have him cremated. He will be put in the same "niche" as mom on [Saturday](#), 5 July at 11:00.

Thank you for all the warm and kind thoughts throughout his illness.

Cecilia

Turning 65? Please let Susanne Wilson know. She will add your name to the Seniors' List. You will be entitled to a reduced membership fee in the Swiss Society.

WELCOME



to our New Members of the Swiss Society:

Marianne Cardiff

Afsaneh Kalali

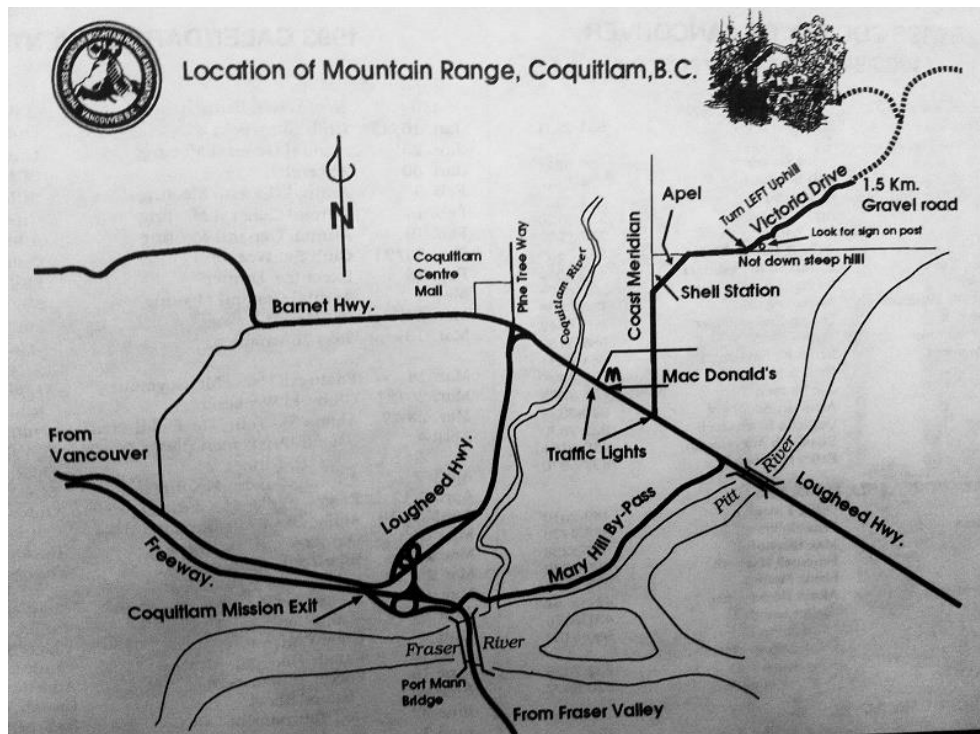
Aileen Stalker & Tony Keen

Romy Hoeppli

Nurtaj Mostofa

Daniel Joehl

Adil Zaidi



Swiss Choir Section: European Festival



What a beautiful sunny day it was, you couldn't ask for more. It was very well organized in every detail, thanks to the European Festival President Mirjam Mai. Therefore we say, congratulations Mirjam. Well, I first had the honour to be part of the flag parade, as you can see at the attached pictures. I was very impressed with the flag parade to see all the beautiful European flags and

the nice speeches. Then at 5:30pm it was us, the Swiss Choir performing with the support of our two excellent Alphorn players Kimi and Beat. Alfred Eigenmann



Photos: Top left: Alfred Eigenmann, all others Christina Lips

Annual Swiss Choir Spring Concert

Saturday June 7th, 2014 I celebrated my 13th spring concert with our Vancouver Swiss Choir. And wow, what a performance it was at the Austrian Club in Richmond BC.

It started at 3:30 pm with many volunteers helping Andrea Stolte setting up tables, decorations, hanging up all the flags, risers for the choir and greeting the members and guests. Many of us enjoyed a good dinner together before the beginning of the concert. The program started punctually at 7pm with Kimi and Beat playing the their Alphorns. Andrea, our choir president welcomed everyone. Then it was Brain Skogland leading us to the stage with his Bag Pipe in order for us to start singing. The concert began with the choir singing many well known songs in the four Swiss languages. The Austrian Melody Choir also performed some beautiful songs. Our Yodeler trio from the Valley, Andrea Flükiger, Anna-Marie Spaet and Dorothy Meier presented a beautiful Swiss yodel. Last but not least, Gundi Minato entertained us with her Alpenglöckchen (different sizes of bells). She played a few very nice well-known songs for the appreciative audience. The concert was over in two hours, incl. 15 minutes of intermission.



Photos: Top right: Ted Nodwell; others Christina Lips



Photo: Ted Nodwell



Photos: Christina Lips

Now it was time to have a drink together. Kimi , our Swiss Korean musician, entertained us with his Schwyzer-Örgeli, and many of us supported him with singing and yodeling. Then Andrea called all the winners of the tombola, and presented some with flowers for their volunteer work.

There is one more event for the Swiss Choir to go to. It will be in Tacoma USA: The 28th Pacific Coast Singing & Yodeling Festival July 10 to 13, 2014. More information : www.swiss-sangerfest-tacoma-2014.org

After that, we will have a well deserved break to spend time with our families and friends. We shall resume practice singing again in September 2014.

Until next time yours, Alfred Eigenmann

Outdoors Club

Cabin Clean-Up on June 14th, 2014

On a drizzly Saturday , [June 14, 2014](#), thirteen volunteers of the Swiss Outdoors Club met at our Cabin in Glacier Springs, WA, to thoroughly wash, vacuum and dust the interior of the cabin , to power wash the roof , to mow the lawn, to prune the surrounding bushes , and to burn the waste wood. By evening the job was done. We rewarded ourselves with a tasty dinner (Bratwuerste, Kalbswuerste, Salads and Nussgipfel as desert). We invited three neighbours for dinner and had the pleasure of getting to know them better.

The attached pictures tell the story.

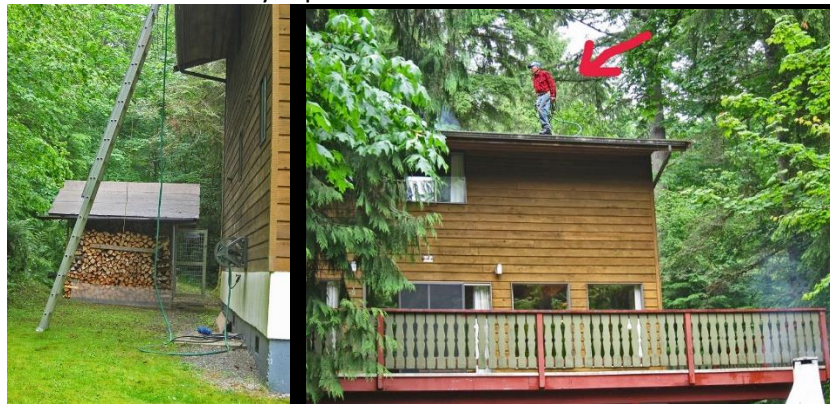
Three point need to be made:

1. Our volunteers are remarkable!!

We must thank them for their dedication and efforts over all these years. Out of the 13 volunteers, five (5) were in their 80ies; four (4) were in their 70ies; the youngest was 32 years of age. Many of them have been volunteering at this cabin over the past 30 years! Where are the strong volunteers of middle age who will relieve our aged crew and eventually inherit our cabin?

2. Cleaning the roof.

Cleaning roofs is a dangerous job. Our building is three stories high and can only be accessed by a long ladder. Guess what! Our *oldest* volunteer (85) cleaned the roof and has been doing this over the last thirty years ! Who will volunteer to eventually replace him?



3. The art of burning wet wood.

The clean-up of our property on a wet June day always produces a heap of moist branches, old wood and lots of brambles. Burning such waste requires skills. Fortunately some of our volunteers are well trained in wilderness survival and know how to kindle a fire under wet conditions. This makes waste disposal easy.





Well, our cabin is again in prime shape. We look forward to the visits of our many friends in the Swiss Society, the Tyrolean Ski & Mountain Club, the Pathfinders and our Swiss Community at large.

The Outdoors Executive.

Swiss Outdoors Club!!! Cabin price reduction!!! Up to \$ 50.00

Per night for week-nights' stay (Sunday to Thursday)

First hike of the season: **Skyline I Trail and Lightning Lake Loop option**
http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/ecmanning/south_west.pdf



Rating: strenuous (hiking boots recommended)

Length: 20.4 km or 9 km

Elevation Change: 775m

Time: 6-7 hours or 2-3 hrs.

Best Time to Go: Mid-June to Mid-September

Start of Trail: Spruce Bay parking lot

Date: Saturday, July 12, 2014

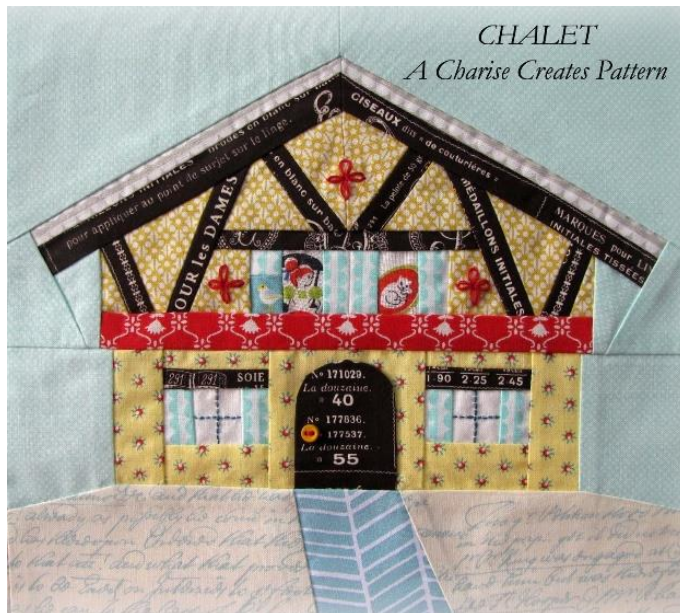
Time: Be there at 09:00hrs, we will leave at 09:15hrs.

Skyline I is a good, sturdy full day hike for most hikers. It encompasses a variety of terrains and environmental zones, and on a clear day it offers stunning panoramas. The trail is often done as a loop with cars left at both ends, but the additional 3.8 km between the two trailheads can be readily walked, either along the road or along the north section of the Gibson Loop Trail. Bring your own water on this hike as there is no water between the burn and the descent to Lightning Lake, 8-9 km away.

- Although this trail description covered the start from Strawberry Flats, it is as enjoyable (and preferred by many) to start from Spruce Bay parking lot. The initial elevation gain is more strenuous but the views offered by this route are exceptional and well worth the effort.

- There will be an alternate hike around Lightning Lake Loop of 2-3 hrs. if there are enough people interested. Please let me know your preference, thanks. Hans-Peter Hauser

Family Picnic Weekend at the Cabin



When: 09 – 10 August 2014

Where: At the cabin in Glacier Springs WA.

7552 Canyon View drive
Glacier Springs, WA.

Come Saturday morning and
enjoy a day of camaraderie,
fun and a hike followed on
Sunday.

Please register with: Jacques Goldschmidt at: 604- 596 – 6253

Or email: Goldschmidt.jaques@gmail.com

Vancouver Dorfmusik

Ladner Bandfest

For the last few years the Dorfmusik participated in the annual Ladner Bandfest.

This year it was held June 7 and 8th and 23 Bands participated. The weather was fantastic when Dorfmusik played Saturday at 12 noon and it was well liked by the audience, especially the alphorn player. Its music is quite different than the one from Canadian Bands and it is almost a bit "exotic" for some of the listeners.



Next concerts

- Once again we will be playing at the **Swiss National Day Celebration** Saturday, July 26th from 7 to 8pm and during the Ceremony from 9pm on.
- **Kitsilano Showboat** at 2300 Cornwall (at Kitsilano Beach): August 1st at 7pm. Come and enjoy a relaxing evening right near the beach.

Upcoming Events

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| July 10-13 th , 2014 | Pacific Singing-and Yodeling Festival in Tacoma | Choir |
| July 12 th , 2014 | Hike Manning Park | Outdoors Club |
| July 26 th , 2014 From 4pm on | Swiss National Day Celebration at the Mountain Range | Swiss Canadian Mountain Range; Swiss Society; Vancouver Dorfmusik |
| Aug. 1 st , 2014; 8pm | Concert at the Showboat in Kitsilano | Vancouver Dorfmusik |
| Aug. 9-10 th , 2014 | Annual Cabin Picnic and Sunday hike | Outdoors Club |
| Aug. 18 th , 2014 7pm | Executive Meeting | Swiss Society Board |
| Sept. 6 th , 2014 | Skyline Trail: Quarry Lookout to Capilano Lake | Outdoors Club |
| Sept. 27-28 th , 2014 | Fall Cabin Weekend and Hike to Ptarmigan Ridge | Outdoors Club |
| Oct. 5th , 2014 2-5pm | Filmmachmittag | Seniors |
| Oct. 11 th , 2014 | Eagle Ridge Hike | Outdoors Club |
| Oct. 20 th , 2014 | Executive Meeting | Swiss Society Board |
| Oct. 26 th , 2014 | Mennekahda Hike and Metzgete | Outdoors Club |
| Nov. 2 nd , 2014 | Jass Tournament | Outdoors Club |
| Nov. 9 th , 2014 | Filmmachmittag | Seniors |
| Nov. 17 th , 2014 | Executive Meeting | Outdoors Club |
| Dec. 14 th , 2014 | Waldweihnacht at Mount Seymour | Swiss Society |
| Dec. 30 to Jan.1 st , 2015 | New Years at the Cabin | Outdoors Club |
| Jan. 10-11 th , 2015 | Ski Weekend at Glacier Cabin | Outdoors Club |



Elisabeth Rechsteiner

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Fees for Advertisement in the Swiss Herald

Fees for design:

To make minor adjustments: Free

To make major changes to an ad: \$ 25

To create a new ad: \$ 50 - 100

Deadlines for sending in ads or articles:

20th of August, October, December,
February, April and June.

Fees for advertisement:

| Ad Size | One Issue | Six Issues |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| One full page | \$ 150 | \$ 825 |
| ½ Page | \$ 90 | \$ 495 |
| 1/3 Page | \$ 60 | \$ 330 |
| ¼ Page | \$ 40 | \$ 220 |
| Business Card (5 Lines) | \$ 20 | \$ 110 |



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Photo Alfred Eigenmann

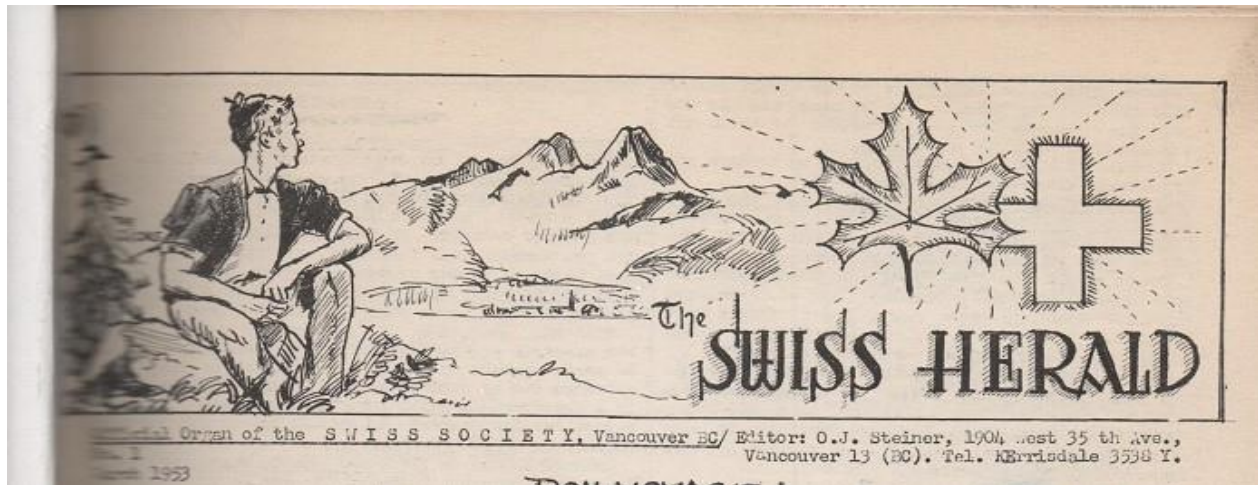


Photo Christina Lips

Two more pictures of Hanspeter and Riccarda Willi's Farewell Party.

61 Years of “Swiss Herald” Newsletter

Written by the Editor Christina Lips



Before Nick Schwabe left town, he handed over the entire collection of every single “Swiss Herald” to Jacques Goldschmidt. They are nicely bound into several books.

Jacques moved them into the Swiss Society’s storage locker where they are safe and sound.

He handed the first book out to me. It includes all the issues from March 1953 until July 5 1961.

The top picture is a scanning from the very first “Organ of the Swiss Society, Vancouver BC”.

The format of the original Newspaper is 17 x 25 cm with very small letters.



Here is an enlargement, so you can read it without a magnifying glass.

What an activity calendar!
The dances were one of the main income.

From now on I will include in every Swiss Herald some quotes from the old Heralds.

The Swiss currency. On March 20th 1953 it took 23.09 Canadian Cents to buy one Swiss Franc or 4.33 Swiss Francs to buy one Canadian Dollar.

I wish it still was that way! I’d go back to Switzerland at least twice a year!

I hope you will enjoy these nostalgic copies as much as I do.

Board of Directors 2014

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