



SWISS HERALD

July/August 2020 Edition
Swiss Society of Vancouver
P.O.Box 32021 Walnut Grove
Langley, BC V1M 2M3

Table of Contents

Obituaries	
A Message from the SSV President	4
Seniors Section	5
Choir Report	6
Membership Report	7/8
Farewell to the Mount Baker Cabin	9
Tyrol Lodge update	11
Swiss Herald Report	12
Don't get caught in Spain	13
Fees for Advertisement & Ads	14
Jokes	15
Board of Directors	16



Dear Members,

In this Newsletter you will find reports that should have been presented at our AGM this Spring. Because of Covid19 it had to be postponed to next year.

All SSV activities had to be cancelled and no one knows, if or when events can be held again.

Unfortunately our Seniors Christmas Luncheon 2020 will not be happening either.

IN MEMORY OF IRMA KARSENBARG-HORLACHER



During the world's worst pandemic in modern times, Irmgard Karsenbarg, nee Horlacher, passed away in the new South Surrey hospice of T-cell Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma. It took the medical profession over 4 months and 2 Lymph node biopsies to find out what ailed her.

Irma was born in Katharinenfeld, USSR on October 31, 1933. Catherine the Great had designated an area south of Tiflis as a prime region for new vineyards and invited the vintners from the Rhineland to come to Russia to develop that region of the Caucasus. Many Swiss followed the exodus and sought to support the new villages by starting to develop the surrounding land for farming.

An enterprising Horlacher reached the area in the late 1800s and built a power plant.

When in 1917 the system of government changed in Russia, the region was neglected and doomed to failure through the installation of an incapable management system. Many Volksdeutscher and Swiss left the area for the greener pastures in Europe. The Horlacher family left Russia in 1937 as the last of the Horlachers to leave, and settled in Rapperswil, AG.

Some of the Horlachers had moved to Canada before WW2, and started farming in Alberta.

In 1952 Ida, Hugo, Irma, Ralph and Marlene also moved to Alberta and commenced farming.

In 1954 Irma met Don, moved to Whitehorse Yukon and married Don in 1954.

In 1957, after a 9-month delayed honeymoon in Europe, the pair settled in Vancouver where their two children Marlene (Kent) and Lloyd were born. Sadly, brother Ralph passed away too soon but not before raising 3 children.

Sister Marlene raised 2 children in Chilliwack and Irma and Don became grandparents to Shannon (Kyle) and Sandra (Evan), and great-grandparents to Grayson, Teagan and Cassia. Forever the caretaker, Irma made sure that the finances of Don's business were up to date so that son Lloyd could step in and continue on a well-paved path.

Her time in retirement was spent as a volunteer and staff member of the White Rock Hospice Society and Thrift store. Her presence at the weekly family dinners was a treat for many and her love for gardening brightened many back yard of her family. Besides family, Irma loved the Swiss choir as a member and had great fun at the many international Singing and Yodeling festivals.

We will miss Irma as a great humanitarian, a kind and generous person and the best wife a person can have. To honour her she would like you to support your local hospice as a volunteer and/or financially.

We love you Irma,
Don.

REMEMBERING ERNIE



Ernie Weingand was born in Cham, Switzerland March 25, 1928 – the third of three boys. Growing up he was active in the gymnastics club, playing soccer, downhill and cross-country skiing and some gymnastics. He played the accordion, which accompanied him on every outing. On completion of school, he did his apprenticeship as electrical mechanic in the Papierfabrik Cham. In Spring 1950 he left Cham for what was to be a 2- year visit to Canada, starting on his uncle's farm in Saskatchewan. He grew up believing Canada must be a wonderful country – his cousins there went to school with horse and buggy – he had to walk.

The ship he was on was met at the mouth of St. Lawrence River by an ice breaker – in Montreal he boarded the train for Saskatchewan. Across Manitoba he travelled many miles through flooded fields and when he met his uncle in Regina he told him it was a good thing he didn't come the day before – it had rained and the roads were impassible. Ernie began to wonder about this wonderful country. After ten months (during which he experienced a prairie winter), he decided to cut his adventure short. He first visited a friend in Idaho, then his uncle in Portland and finally a cousin in Vancouver. Seeing the mountains surrounding Vancouver made him feel at home – here he decided to stay.

His last 25 years of work he was employed by Honeywell Controls – working mostly in new construction of hospitals and schools throughout B.C. He took most pride in the job as foreman of the team that installed the controls which raised the original roof of B.C. Place Stadium.

Ernie was very active in the Swiss Society for many years taking part in all aspects of the Society. As he liked to sing, he most enjoyed participation in the Choir. In retirement he took up golf, curling, gardening, was ready for a card game anytime, and took great pleasure in activities with family and friends.

At age 85, Ernie was officially diagnosed with Dementia. He was cared for at home until December 2019. He passed away February 25, 2020. Ernie was predeceased by parents, brothers, son Mark and daughter-in-law Kati. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Edvige, son John, daughter Janet (Chuck), daughter-in-law Debbie, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



A MESSAGE FROM THE SSV PRESIDENT

Gruezi mitenand, hello and good day,

I hope this finds you well, or as well as can be...

The past few months have proven to be very challenging in navigating all aspects of life.

My place of work was shut down by the Covid19 pandemic in March 2020. Staying at home has not always been easy; my son required me to be his mom, cook, cleaner and also his teacher. I am very glad that the Summer Holidays are here.

Covid19 has changed us all, how we work, how we socialize, how we travel and how we shop and many more things.

In April and May I thought that we would be able to have our AGM, but as the time went on the Board of Directors decided that we would not be having an AGM this year. We do however, hold monthly meetings via Zoom to keep up with paying bills and making decisions.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported and/or helped the Swiss Society of Vancouver in any which way!

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for volunteering their time to keep the society all together. This Swiss Herald is hopefully able to provide information that we would otherwise have covered at our AGM.

The selling of the Mount Baker Cabin back in December 2019

I cannot thank the Board of Directors enough for their help, especially I would like to thank Aio Haberli and Pascal Vogel for their time that they put into the selling of the Mount Baker Cabin. It could not have been done without them. Thank you so much Aio and Pascal!

At the last AGM I announced that 2019 would be my last year serving as President.

I will continue to be a part of the Swiss Society in the future, for sure! I have accepted a position with my professional regulatory body. I am splitting my working time between working at the Massage Clinic and also at the Massage College which I have always wanted to do!

Everyone on the Board of Directors has agreed to stay on for another year, including myself.

Warm regards,
Karin Kapp,
President Swiss Society of Vancouver



Karin and her son James

SENIORS' SECTION REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019

In 2019 Werner Rutishauser was not able to attend as many of the Swiss Society events as he would have liked to. However, he is still in charge of the Seniors' Section, despite having passed the milestone of his 100th birthday and being practically blind. He is active behind the scenes and also continues to attend the board meetings.

Our Sunday afternoon movie presentations at the German House, seven times per year, were started in 2002 by Werner and Blanche Rutishauser and have never stopped. Werner's experience and vast knowledge of Swiss films is very valuable in deciding what to show. Elisabeth Schüpbach and I take care of the administrative tasks that Blanche used to perform. In 2019 we saw several Swiss films, mostly comedies, and also documentaries about Swiss historic figures or landscapes and lifestyles of the present time. The attendance fluctuated between a low of 21 and a high of 38. There is ample space, and not only seniors, but any members and their families and friends, young and old, are welcome to join us.

For many years, Werner also used to organize our traditional and largest event, the Christmas Luncheon, but some six years ago, due to his reduced mobility and eyesight, he could no longer do it. That is when Christina Lips offered to take over, and she has done a great job all these years, checking out suitable venues, selecting menus, negotiating prices, organizing the entertainment. There is also our faithful Edvige Weingand, who has been giving her time for more years than we can remember. She always sends out the invitations, takes the registrations, prepares the name tags and collects the money at the door.

On December 7th, 2019, the luncheon took place for a second time at the Executive Plaza Hotel in Coquitlam. 95 seniors and guests showed up, including Consul General Andreas Rufer.

We were first treated to music and later to an excellent meal. Elisabeth Rechsteiner was the MC. Beat Heeb immediately created the Swiss ambiance with his Alphorn and brought the horn out again between the courses and at the end. The Swiss Choir's performance was beautiful. They sang old and new Christmas carols, supplemented with some yodelling by Dorli Meier and Andrea Flukiger. Everyone received a much appreciated bag of cookies to take home. By organizing a large group of volunteer bakers, Barbara Wirsching had made sure that this tradition would continue.

Christina Lips, who is also the editor of the Herald, is very active in our Society and always ready to volunteer. After six years of organizing the Christmas luncheon, she is stepping down and will devote more time to our other events.

If we want to continue offering this Christmas event to our seniors, we need a new person, or several, to come forward, right now, and start planning for next December. Christina will share her experiences with you and show you the ropes. The recruitment of volunteers will come up a little later in today's Agenda. Thank you.

Veronika Sans, Advisor

PS: Early in 2020 we held two movie afternoons before the pandemic forced us to cancel March, April and May. The remaining movie dates at the Alpenclub would be October 18 and November 15. We will let you know in the Fall whether they can go ahead or not. The Christmas luncheon will definitely NOT take place.

CHOIR REPORT FOR THE LAST FEW MONTHS

Good afternoon,

For those who do not know me, I am Andrea Flukiger from Agassiz. I joined the choir in 2010 and took over the presidency from Silvia Kinvig when she stepped down after running the show for the last 5 years. Thank you Silvia for your leadership.

To be honest, when I voluntold, I mean volunteered for the position, I had no clue what it all involves. This report included. Good thing I have my Saenger-Kameraden and Board members for help and support.

You might wonder what the choir was up to since the last AGM in March 2019.

We had regular practices once a week for 2 hours, followed by coffee and goodies where we not only socialized but also conducted business matters.

April : Practice retreat combined with a pot luck lunch, hosted by Dorli in Abbotsford .

May : Rehearsal of our Spring Concert program at the Rideau Retirement Home in Burnaby.

At that time long time choir member Heidi Legere was a resident there.

June : We finished our year with our Spring Concert , it was well attended.

July / August : Officially on summer break , we did squeeze in some practices to be prepared for the Swiss National Day Celebration at the Rifle Range and to be the guest choir at the Mandolin Orchestra Friendship Concert at the Alpen Club.

Our summer choir picknick was in Coquitlam, hosted by Christel & Alfred .

September : We were back to our weekly practices, focusing on the Christmas program and the song-book for the Swiss Singing- and Yodeling Festival in California June 2020.

November : Our Christmas Concert with members of the Vancouver Dorfmusik as guest-performers. We happily experienced an almost sold-out house. A big success for us!

December : We sang at the Senior's Luncheon where we also met our new Consul General Mr. Andreas Rufer .

We also had the pleasure to sing at the Lynn Valley Sunrise Retirement Home in honor of Werner Rutishauser's 100th Birthday.

January : The year started with some unexpected news: Sergio Pires who conducted us for 2 years informed us of his decision to resign.

February : Choir's socializing Fondue at the home of Theresa in South Surrey.

On Feb. 20th, we welcomed a delegation from California with key persons in the upcoming festival in Pasadena. During that special rehearsal, led by the Mass Choir conductor Rodger Whitten, we got plenty of tips, information and also compliments. Rodger summarized indirectly the accomplishments of Sergio, when he congratulated our choir for the listening-and vocal skills and the color and timbre of our singing voices.

Our former long-time conductor Dubravko Pajalic offered his help and took over from Sergio on February 27th.

March till June : Due to Covid 19 the following events had to be cancelled:

- Preparation for our upcoming Spring Concert with the Melodious Mandolins as guest performer on May 30 at the All Saints Anglican Church , Burnaby.
- Festival in Pasadena in June
- Possible participation at the European Festival on May 31 at the Alpen club
- A rehearsal this Spring at a retirement home : TBA
- We were asked if we'd be interested in planning an evening with a visiting Jodelclub from Emmental in October .

At the moment we have 14 choir members. Plenty of room for new-comers.

A heartfelt thank-you to all of you. Your support of our choir is well appreciated .

AGM Membership Chair report for 2019

In 2019 we had:

Swiss National members

Type	Memberships 2019	x2	Members 2019	MS 2018	Members 2018
Family	15	x2	30	(24)	(48)
Senior with Spouse	39	x2	78	(46)	(92)
Individual	14		14	(18)	(18)
Single Senior	38		38	(42)	(42)
Total	106		160	(130)	(200)
Honorary Family	13	x2	26	(13)	(26)
Honorary Single	9		9	(9)	(9)
Total	22		35	(22)	(35)

Non-Swiss National Members:

Type	Memberships 2019	x2	Members 2019	MS 2018	Members 2018
Family	7	x2	14	(7)	(14)
Senior with Spouse	0	x2	0	(6)	(12)
Individual	2		2	(4)	(4)
Single Senior	4		4	(3)	(3)
Total	13		20	(20)	(33)

Total of membership: 141 (172)

Total of members: 215 (268)

Non Swiss memberships make a total of 9.2% (11.7%) of the total Memberships

10(16) of them were new memberships

3 (12) memberships skipped one or more years and paid 2019 again

43(29) memberships were not renewed for 2019

I would like to **welcome in 2019:**

Craig & Tiffany Drew; Gisela Escher & Russell Watt; Tobias Hemmi; Dieter Karpf; Bernhard & Natalia Kiechl; Catherine Maledy; Karl & Monique Schimann; James Sings; Melanie & Justin Stiksm; Steve Vogel

2020 new members:

Joseph & Stephanie Alexis; Alexander & Monica Dällenbach; Annemarie Locher;

15 are **Choir members** (15)

Sadly we had to say goodbye to:

Honorary Member: Vreni Huser (Aug. 13. 2019)

Honorary Member: Ilse Staeubli (Sep. 1. 2019)

Honorary Member: Ernie Weingand (Feb. 27. 2020)

Dominik Fassler (Apr. 10. 2019)

Alois Schurmann (Sep. 4 2019)

Hermann Imhof (Jan. 12. 2020)

Rosmarie Pump (Feb. 3. 2020)

Martin Russenberger (Mar. 10. 2019)

Frida Kaufmann (Mar. 19. 2020)

Irma Karsenbarg (May 20. 2020)

Please let me know if I missed anybody or made any mistakes.

If you renewed or signed up in 2019, you are able to pay for all your 2020 memberships with one cheque , made out to SSV, or e-transfer, whether it is just for the SSV or the Choir too. No new form is required if you'd paid before Mar. 31, 2020.

If you missed the 2019 membership, I would have to ask you to fill out the form again.

You can ask me for your status.

Sean & Nina from the Tyrol Lodge Whistler also reported that there were:

In 2019 :231 (2018 : 152; 2017 : 527; 2016 : 378) bed-nights from Swiss Society members and their guests.

The 231 figure is the total of beds booked. This includes multiple stays by several members. If a couple stayed for two nights, it is included in the figure as four people. A family of four staying for one night is counted as four people.

The Whistler cabin will need a copy from your confirmation e-mail together with your bookings or the membership card, given to members without e-mail address. (I can also forward a confirmation e-mail for members without e-mail)

I'm also distributing the Herald to the members who don't have an e-mail address. Let me know if you need a paper copy.

If you have an e-mail address and also request the Herald in a paper copy , I like to make a suggestion of making a \$ 20.00 donation to cover the expenses for printing and mailing.

Thank you.

Susanne Wilson

Membership Chair from SSV and Choir

FAREWELL TO THE MT. BAKER CABIN

As many of you know the SSV has sold its Mt. Baker cabin in December 2019. Since the 2020 AGM was canceled due to Covid19, the Board of Directors would like to send our members a brief summary of the cabin sale process. Note that all background documents pertaining to the sale are available upon request and will be presented at the 2021 AGM.

For many of our members the sale of the cabin was a bittersweet moment. Many were regular guests and have fond memories of summer hiking trips, winter skiing or family getaways on weekends. While it was easy to cross the border in the early days of the cabin, it has in recent years become more onerous to venture South. As a result stays at the cabin have dwindled. Following dissolution of the Outdoors Club the members of the SSV ultimately decided during the 2019 AGM to sell the cabin. The Board of Directors acted on that mandate and engaged realtors to complete the sale.

Thanks to the amazing and hard working caretakers, that have looked after the cabin over the decades, the cabin was in great shape when preparations for the listing went underway. There were a few things that needed to be done, however, to prepare the cabin for the sale. The Board authorized the following work prior to listing the cabin.

- Septic system inspection and report to the local health department
- Pumping of the septic tank
- Repairs of stairs and replacement of railing
- Pressure washing of vinyl deck, walkway pavers, fire pit, and other areas
- Mow grass around perimeter of the house
- Removing picture frames and other small personal items such as the guest book from the cabin

A comparative market analysis was done by the realtors to determine the sales price. Prior to listing the cabin on the market to the general public, the Board notified our members twice to provide SSV members the opportunity to exercising their first right to buy the cabin. Since no members voiced interest for the purchase the cabin was listed online on Monday, October 7, 2019. We promptly received two competitive offers, one at listing price and one slightly below. The Board entered into a sales agreement with the party that submitted the higher offer. The deal fell apart following the house inspection and the Board then signed a sales agreement with the second party, which resulted in the sale of the cabin.

The Board would like to thank all our members who have visited and appreciated the cabin. We look forward to honouring and thanking the builders and caretakes at the 2021 AGM. We will also be presenting picture frames, the guest book, the Outdoors Club flag to our members at the 2021 AGM.

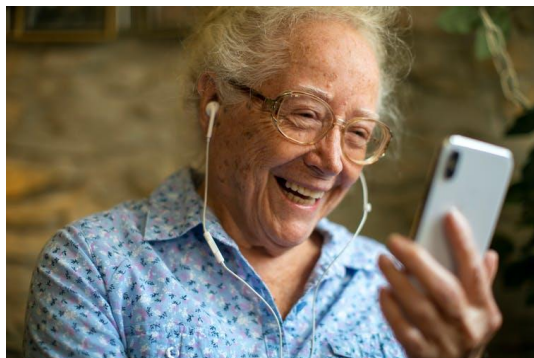


Photos from the listing of the cabin



Aio Haeberli, Vice-President

We Are Here for You!



Are you stuck at home on your own and would like to talk to someone of the Swiss Society Vancouver?

Here are a few members who would love to hear from you:

Thomas Alkalbassi, Cloverdale:	604-576-6119
Christina Lips, North Vancouver:	604-984-9036
Dorli Meier, Abbotsford:	604-853-0890
Anne-Marie Spaeti, Agassiz:	604-796-0357

TYROL-LODGE UPDATE



As many of you are aware, the Swiss Society of Vancouver owns some shares in the property held by the Tyrol Ski and Mountain Club in Whistler. This investment is held as shares in an Investment group called Tyrol Investments GP which holds a 2/5 share in this property in Whistler.

The Tyrol Ski and Mountain Club has been trying to raise enough money to buy out Tyrol Investments GP's share in the property to once again become the sole owner of the entire Whistler property. This was formalized last year in an agreement between the Tyrol Ski and Mountain Club and Tyrol Investments GP. This agreement was to give the Tyrol Ski and Mountain Club one year to raise the necessary funds.

At last year's Swiss Society of Vancouver AGM (2019), the membership voted to accept the Tyrol Ski and Mountain Club's proposal to work for one year to raise enough funds to buy out the Tyrol Investment GP's shares and return the Swiss Society's principal investment. During this time the Swiss Society's members would be able to continue to book the Tyrol Lodge at member rates as per the agreement that has been in place for a number of years.

The one year anniversary of the agreement between the Tyrol Ski and Mountain Club and Tyrol Investments GP was on June 30, 2020 and the Tyrol Ski and Mountain Club was not able to raise enough money to buy out the outstanding shares held by Tyrol Investments GP. As a result the Tyrol Ski and Mountain Club has asked for additional time to find a resolution. The existing contract between the Tyrol Ski and Mountain Club and Tyrol Investments GP is in effect until June 30, 2022 and they have asked for an extension until that date.

It is the opinion of the Swiss Society Board of Directors that the Swiss Society use its vote (as a shareholder in Tyrol Investments GP) to grant the requested extension. This will provide the best opportunity for the Swiss Society to recoup its investment and our membership to still be able to support and enjoy the Tyrol Lodge in the meantime. The Board will continue to monitor the situation and will act in the best interest of the SSV to safeguard our investment.

Pascal Vogel
Advisor

REPORT ABOUT THE SWISS HERALD 2019

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who wrote articles & sent photos for publishing and help with editing and distributing to the membership, especially the Board of the SSV and Alfred Eigenmann.

Once again we had 6 editions throughout the year.

The majority of the members received it by email, and about 40 members by regular mail.

If you get the Newsletter by regular mail or if you'd like to receive it that way, please consider a donation of \$ 20 per year.

If we found more advertisers, we could **balance the budget** for our Newsletter.

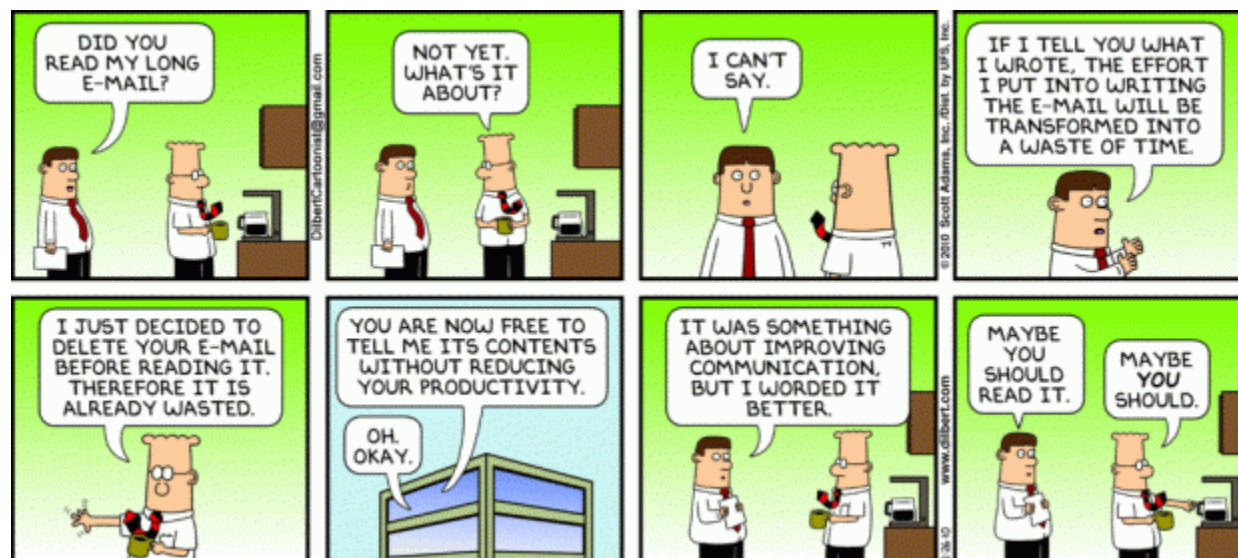
I would appreciate some help in finding more of those and I would like to ask the members to find names of companies or individuals who would be willing to put an advertisement into the Swiss Herald. The prices are very reasonable and have been the same for years!

My email is ch.lips@live.com.

Thank you!

Christina Lips

Editor of the Swiss Herald



These fines are given in Spain:

From a British Newspaper. Many retired British people move to Spain.

Dont get caught for a divvy fine this year chaps 🇪🇸🇪🇸🇪🇸

These are the most typical summer fines

- Driving in flip flops. € 80
- Drive barefoot or without a shirt. € 80
- Drink water while driving. € 100
- Remove the hand, elbow or arm out of the window. € 80
- Drive with a hat / cap to cover the ears. € 80
- Eat an ice cream while driving. € 100
- Drive with objects in the rear tray without fastening. € 200
- Wash your vehicle on public roads. 30 - 3,000 €
- Co-pilot with the feet on the dashboard. € 100
- Throw a cigarette out the window. € 200 + 4 points
- Do not carry a driver's license. € 10
- Carry 6 or 7 people in the car € 80 😎😎😎.



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 Lines)	\$ 20	\$ 110(5

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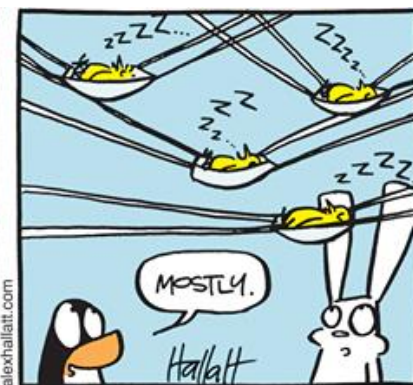
....helping you with what matters....

Member

- Real Estate Transactions including Purchases, Sales and Mortgages
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Treasurer	vacant		
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Youth Club	vacant		

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