



SWISS HERALD

September/October 2025 Edition

Swiss Society of Vancouver

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Rupert Park Photo Ch. Lips

A MESSAGE FROM THE SWISS CONSULATE

The Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver regularly publishes an [Event + Culture Newsletter](#) that informs readers about events with a Swiss connection in Western Canada.

Our newsletter covers events focusing on official Swiss languages, arts and culture, history, science, innovation, and Swiss-Canadian relations.

If you wish to receive the Event + Culture Newsletter, sign up [here](#).

Click below

[Newsletter - Western Canada](#)

OBITUARY



Erwin Doebeli

May 10, 1938 - June 29, 2025

It is with profound sadness that Josette, Erwin (Jacqueline) and Philippe (Chantal) announce the passing of Erwin Doebeli Sr. on June 29, a dear husband, father, brother-in-law, uncle and friend who will also be missed by the many people whose lives he touched as a host, restaurateur, mentor and philanthropist.

Born in 1938 in Winterthur, Switzerland, Erwin came to Canada in 1962 with nothing but ambition and a commitment to service excellence. Accompanied by his new bride, Josette, he opened The William Tell restaurant with two Swiss partners in 1964 and fine dining officially arrived in Vancouver.

Erwin was the consummate host, and his success was recognized in numerous awards, including being inducted into the Vancouver Restaurant Hall of Fame in 2005, the same year that October 18 was proclaimed "Erwin Doebeli Day" by the City of Vancouver. Most significantly, however, he helped generations of Vancouverites and visitors build special life-long memories of graduations, retirements, birthdays and anniversaries over delicious meals and flaming café diablo (a table-side spectacle that is rumoured to have set some Christmas decorations afire one year).

Erwin will be remembered for his mentorship of many of the city's up-and-coming chefs and owners. He propelled others to success and continues to do so through a long-standing endowment that supports students in Vancouver Community College's culinary arts programs. He was also a man of great energy. His many passions included curling, cycling and crossbow. He put that energy to great use by cycling thousands of kilometres over 21 years to raise money for Rotary Ride for Hearing.

After The William Tell celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2004, Erwin and Josette handed the restaurant reins over to their son, Philippe, so that they could explore Europe, the US and Canada by motorcycle in their retirement and spend more time with their much-loved dogs. His was truly a life well lived and savoured.

In memory of Erwin's commitment to giving back to his community, please consider a donation to either the BCSPCA or the Alzheimer Society of BC.

A TRIBUTE TO ERWIN DOEBELI

It is with great sadness that the Swiss Society of Vancouver received the news of the passing of Erwin Doebeli. Erwin and his wife, Josette, were members of the Society for many years and contributors to the well-being of our Society.

Erwin was also a member of the Crossbow Association, a sub-group of the Swiss Society, over the course of many shooting seasons. He was an accurate and dedicated shooter which showed in the many awards he received, both in shooting competitions locally and international shoots in Switzerland.

In the earlier years, Erwin provided space at his restaurant for Swiss Society Board Meetings and Executive Dinners.

Over the years, many of us chose The William Tell Restaurant to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and other milestones, in the beginning on Richards Street and later at the Beatty Street location. Although many of us did not eat out as often as we do today, we



would save our money to experience our special occasion at the William Tell where we knew we would be able to enjoy Vancouver's ultimate fine dining, excellent wines and a host who made each of his guests feel special.

A go to event for many years, was the New Year's Brunch that Erwin Doebeli hosted for the Swiss Society at his William Tell Restaurant. This was a coveted dining experience and you had to be sure to reserve in time if you wanted to join in this afternoon of fine culinary offerings. Erwin, together with his staff, would provide a 5-course lunch to their guests, which started off with a toast to the coming year. The cuisine at this brunch was always innovative and delicious, the service impeccable and the cost to the Society members was minimal.

Thank you, Erwin, for the many fine memories that the members of the Swiss Society of Vancouver were able to experience with you at The William Tell Restaurant, at the Crossbow Range and various events put on by the Society from time to time.

The Swiss Society of Vancouver

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION



Before this big event can start, it needs a lot of preparation over months. The Saturday before the celebration hard work was involved in cleaning and setting up the tables and benches, decorating the chalet etc. Volunteers from the SCMRA and the SSV were there all day. More preparations happened on the big day itself, before festivities started.



All set to go.



From the website of the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association

What an incredible celebration! A heartfelt thank you to all the amazing volunteers, dedicated organizers, and enthusiastic attendees who made this year's Swiss National Day truly shine. You turned it into more than just an event—it was a joyful gathering that brought the Swiss community and the public together in the spirit of celebration and togetherness. From children's games and thrilling helitours to the lively tunes of Dorfmusik, choir performances, live music, camping and food/ drinks—there was something to make every heart smile.

It wasn't just the music, laughter, or food—it was us. We came together, shared, connected, and made memories that will last well beyond the day.





The Vancouver Dorfmusik, the Vancouver Swiss Choir and the Silverstar group entertained a big crowd.





Where the money comes in.



The Speakers:



Consul General
Thomas Schneider



SCMRA President Rene Zollinger



Swiss Society President
Peter Schaele



SENIORS' CORNER



The next **Filmnachmittag** will take place on

Sunday, October 19th, 2025; November 16th, 2025
1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Location: **Martin Luther Church**

Address: **505 East 46th Ave, Vancouver**

Please register by calling

Elisabeth Schupbach 604-584-3742 by the Monday before.

If you want to donate some baking, please let **Ursi Graf** know at **604-322-5434**.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

who visit seniors who turn 90, 95 or 100, bring them some flowers and a card on their Birthdays and spend time to chat.

It would be great if we had a few volunteers in all the different cities or districts of the Lower Mainland.

Please let **Susanne Wilson** know if you're interested:

membership@swiss-society.org

778-908-5906



VANCOUVER SWISS CHOIR NEWS

Thank you to all who sang and yodelled with us at the Erste August Celebration on July 26th at the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range in Port Coquitlam. We rehearsed a few times over the summer to prepare our repertoire and had a lot of fun with our smaller group rehearsing and socializing afterwards. We look forward to doing so again next year. Thank you to the band for accompanying us and providing much needed rhythm and tone!

Rehearsals have started!

The Vancouver Swiss Choir rehearsals started Sep 5 at All Saints Anglican Church on Royal Oak in Burnaby. Very easy access by skytrain and parking available for all our singers. If you wish to reconnect with your Swiss heritage, hear the wonderful sounds of Swiss Folksong, speak Schwizertuetsch, French, Italian or even some Romansch. Plus, you get awesome singing instruction from our seasoned professional conductor Dubravko Pajalic!

Whether you are Swiss born, descendant of Swiss or just keen on Swiss culture please call Theresa Weltzin at 604-574-9069 for details and to join. You can also look on the website: <https://www.swiss-society.org> and click on Clubs > Swiss Choir for more details.

Save the Date: Nov 22, 2025 Saturday

Our Fall Christmas themed concert will be at All Saints Anglican Church, 7405 Royal Oak Ave., Burnaby. 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon. Light refreshments, coffee and tea will be served after.

Do you want the Vancouver Swiss Choir to sing at your retirement home, Christmas function? We enjoy sharing our songs with you. Please reach out to Theresa (604 574 9069) to discuss your interest.

Theresa Weltzin
tweltzin@telus.net
604 788 4973



AS LONG AS WE LIVE THERE
IS NEVER ENOUGH SINGING

MARTIN LUTHER

From Melissa, a fan of the choir

Do you like to sing?

VANCOUVER SWISS CHOIR

All nationalities welcome! We sing multilingual traditional Swiss Folk music. Beginners are encouraged to join this mixed choir of all ages and voices. We practice Fridays from 10:00AM to 12 noon at All Saints Church, 7405 Royal Oak, Burnaby. We perform Spring, Fall and Christmas concerts annually along with other special events.



Conductor: Dubravko Pajalic

Contact Theresa: 604.574.9069 or
Rolf: rbrulhart@hotmail.com

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

JASSEN AUS FREUDE AM SPIELEN

Sunday, November 9, 2025



The Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association and the Swiss Society of Vancouver invite everyone to a **Jass-Tournament**

Sunday, November 9, 2025 at the SCMRA Chalet at 4141 Quarry Road, Coquitlam.

Sign-in is at 12:00 pm and the games begin at 1:00 pm sharp.
Donations for prizes are welcome.

Costs are first round Handjass \$10.00 and second round Schieber \$10.00 –
(We are working on shortening each round a little so that it does not become so late and more players can stay for the Schieber)

Kitchen & Bar will be open at the Chalet and a reasonably-priced dinner will be served around 4:00 p.m. before we do the Schieber.

Please make your reservation with either:

Theresa Weltzin at (604) 574-9069 (you can leave a message) or tweltzin@telus.net

OR: Elisabeth Rechsteiner at (604) 420-5661 (you can leave message) or

elisabethrechsteiner54@gmail.com

Kindly reserve before October 31, 2025 and help us purchase the right amount of food by letting us know whether or not you will be staying for dinner.



FEES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS 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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CALENDER OF EVENTS

Date	What kind of event	Where
October 19 th , 2025	Filmnachmittag	Martin Luther Church Vancouver
November 9 th , 2025	Jass-Tournament	Chalet of the Mountain Range Association
November 16 th , 2025	Filmnachmittag	Martin Luther Church Vancouver
November 22 nd , 2025	Choir Christmas Concert 2 – 4:30 pm	All Saints Anglican Church Burnaby
Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025	Seniors' Christmas Luncheon 10:30 – 2 pm	Holiday Inn North Vancouver
	Waldweihnacht	

MISSING: TRADITIONAL SWISS COSTUME



The Swiss Society Vancouver used to own this traditional Swiss costume.

Nick Schwabe used to wear it many years to represent Switzerland at different occasions. Other people were using it after Nick retired. The costume is made out of velvet and it might be stored somewhere and it hasn't been seen for quite some time. We really would like to have it back, no questions asked. Please let one of the board-members know if it's at your place and we will come and pick it up!

ZUERCHER KNABENSCHIESSEN

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



1925 certificate of participation (recording 26 out of the maximum 35 points reached). The rifles depicted are Schmidt–Rubin, in service from 1889 to 1953.

Knabenschiessen is a traditional target shooting competition in Zürich, first officially held in 1889 and dating back to the 17th century.

The competition is open to 13- to 17-year-olds living, studying, or completing apprenticeships in the canton of Zurich. Originally limited to boys who were completing a marksmanship course for defence

purposes, the event began allowing girls to participate in 1991, coinciding with Switzerland's 700th anniversary. Knabenschiessen takes place each September and is marked by a local public holiday on Monday, along with a three-day festival featuring food and market stalls, live music, and a fun fair. Although popular in recent decades, the event has experienced occasional cancellations due to war or economic hardship.

The event has occasionally drawn public debate. In 1990, some called for replacing the shooting competition with a broader youth festival. The proposal was narrowly rejected in a 1992 vote, and the traditional format was retained.

Schützenkönig 2025

Vom Tages-Anzeiger



Jean-Marc Nia

Publiziert: 15.09.2025, 16:17

Gekuerzt von Ch.Lips



«Ich muss erst mal drauf klar kommen»

Der Richterswiler Cla Meier holt sich nach zwei Ausstichen den ersten Platz in der Schiessanlage Albisgüetli. Nervös sei er gewesen. Davon haben Umstehende aber nichts gemerkt. Nicht einmal seine Instrukturin.

In Kürze:

Beim Zürcher Knabenschiessen setzte sich Cla Meier gegen 3363 Teilnehmende durch, davon 33 Prozent Maedchen. Alle Schuetzen benutzten die Sturmgewehre 90, mit welchem die Teenager fünf Mal auf das 300 Meter entfernte Ziel schiessen mussten. Das Laden übernahmen die Instruierenden. Die Hoechstzahl Punkte ist 35.



Der 16-jährige Richterswiler musste im Ausstich gegen Eva Kolmer antreten, die beide 35 Punkte schossen im ersten Durchgang.

Mit ruhiger Hand erzielte der Hobbysportler im finalen Durchgang 31 Punkte, seine Konkurentin 26.

Foto: Clara Neugebauer

Am Nachmittag findet die Siegerehrung statt.

Der Saal klatscht und der junge Mann, der in seiner Freizeit gerne boxt und mit Freunden ausgeht, wird sogleich von allen Seiten fotografiert. Auch Mario Fehr (parteilos), Vorsteher der Sicherheitsdirektion des Kantons Zürich, und Stadtrat Michael Baumer (FDP) wollen sich mit ihm ablichten lassen und kommen auf das Siegerfoto – wie auch der letztjährige Schützenkönig Fabio Meier.

Und dann prasseln die Fragen der Journalistinnen und Journalisten auf Cla Meier ein. Als Erstes will man sofort wissen, wie er sich als frischer Schützenkönig fühlt: «Ich muss erst mal drauf klar kommen.» Was er mit dem Gewinn von 5000 Franken anstellen werde? «Ich möchte mit Freunden und Familie gerne fein essen gehen», antwortet er ruhig. Und er spare für ein Auto. Er wisse noch nicht, was für eins. Und nein, er sei in keinem Schützenverein. Doch, er habe schon einmal hier teilgenommen. Nein, er habe sich nicht speziell auf das Schiessen heute vorbereitet und ja, darum sei er auch sehr erstaunt, gewonnen zu haben.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Title	Name	Email address	Number
President	Peter Schaele	president@swiss-society.org	604-435-6159
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Advisor	Christina Lips	ch.lips@live.com	604-928-9097
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Treasurer	Andrea Flukiger	andreaflukiger@gmail.com	
Choir	Theresa Weltzin	swisschoir@swiss-society.org	
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