

**THE CANADIAN-AUSTRIAN SOCIETY
OF TORONTO**

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PATRON:
The Ambassador of Austria

28 April 2009

Dear Members and Friends:

The Bi-Annual Membership Meeting was held on Sunday, April 19, 2009 and all business was conducted in accordance with the Society's by-laws. The election of a new Board of Directors was one of the foremost issues and, no new nominations for directors were forthcoming from the floor, the former Board was re-elected unanimously. We enclose a roster of Directors and their positions as Officers for the next two years. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors I wish to express our appreciation of your confidence in our abilities to guide the Society through the next two years. With everybody's help and support we will make these two years as interesting and eventful as our means will allow. Minutes of the meeting will be distributed to all members as soon as available. Again, we look forward to serving you and our common cause and goals for a further two years!

**VIDEO EVENING
MARIA THERESIA, EINE FRAU TRÄGT DIE KRONE**

DATE: May 7, 2009 - 6:45 p.m.
PLACE: The Musket Dining Lounge
40 Advance Road, Etobicoke - Tel. (416) 231-6488

TICKETS: \$5.00 per person administrative contribution, no booking necessary.
Our host will provide us again with a special for dinner. Austrian wines are available. If you intend to dine prior to the movie please come early so that we can begin the feature film punctually at 8:00 p.m.

We will present a "Vorspann" as usually, but will have to think about which one. If any of you have a DVD or Video on a particular part of Austria that you might want to show by all means please let us know and we will be happy to present it to your fellow-guests at some evening in the future. It is getting more and more difficult to find Klingendes Österreich presentations by Sepp Forcher, he is limiting his filming to special holiday episodes.

The movie is a classical period piece, featuring Paula Wessely, Wolf Albach-Retty and a young Adrian Hoven, to name only the most important actors.

We all know about Maria Theresia, Austrian Empress of the Holy Roman Empire, Queen of Hungary, Croatia-Slavonia, Bohemia; Archduchess of Austria; Grand Dutchess of Tuscany.

Please turn over for P.2

Maria Theresia was immensely advanced for her time, not only as a woman but more importantly as a monarch, initiating financial and educational reforms, opening public libraries accessible to everyone, promoting commerce and the development of agriculture, and reorganizing Austria's army, establishing the Theresian Military Academy in 1752, the first of its kind worldwide. Her influence on medicine resulted in some of the most important reforms in the world to this day. In later years Maria Theresia focused on reform laws, including the "Robot Patent" in 1771, a reform that regulated serfs' labor payments in her lands, outlawing witch-burning and torture, and for the first time in Austrian history, taking capital punishment off the penal code, replacing it with forced labor. The latter was later re-introduced but the progressive nature of these reforms remains noted to-date.

Mandatory education was introduced in 1774, the goal being the formation of an educated class from which civil servants would be recruited. All of her reforms and innovations served to strengthened Austria's resources, and remain as an indication of her progressive thinking and her rule.

Maria Theresia was the oldest daughter of Charles VI, whose sole male heir, Leopold Johann, died as an infant in 1716. However, already in 1713 Charles issued the Pragmatic Sanction which guaranteed his eldest daughter the right to succeed to the influential Austrian throne, inheriting one of the most influential empires of all times. She was then and still is considered one of the key figures in the power politics of 18th century Europe.


There is so much and so many important achievements to list, having outlined just the bare bones of her biography, the movie will be presenting Maria Theresia's more personal side, giving some insight into the trials and tribulations a monarch of her stature had to face both from an official and public side, as well as of her more intimate life. She was deeply in love with her husband, Francis I ("Franz I"), a "mere" Duke of Lorraine when she married him, but whom she elevated to the status Holy Roman Emperor in 1765, and with whom she had 16 children!

As a woman wearing the crown of one of the most powerful nation in the world she had to face opposition from many sides, however, we all know that she was able to execute her duties in a most effective way. She was an "Imperial Power" facing the heavy burden of duty and war, but she was also a woman and this movie shows also her personal sacrifices and dilemmas as a mother, and a woman fighting her own demons.

FUTURE EVENT

We are preparing for our Spring Outing on May 30, 2009 to the Niagara Peninsula with lunch and visits to a number of wineries. We will give the details shortly.

Sincerely yours



Christine Meyer
President

CANADIAN AUSTRIAN SOCIETY OF TORONTO

**BI-ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
APRIL 19, 2009**

NEW DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Position</u>
Christine Meyer	yes	President
John R. Raschke	yes	Treasurer/Past President
Ernst Kroiss	yes	Vice-President
Helmut Piller	yes	Vice-President
Inge Bibersteiner	yes	Vice-President
Herbert Wolf	yes	Vice-President
Dita Vadron	yes	Secretary
Dr. Manfred Straka	yes	Vice-President
Herta Goodyear	no	Membership Chair