



Austrian Society Ottawa
Friends Of Austria Ottawa Inc.



1391 Cavendish Road
Ottawa, Ontario, K1H 6B8
www.austrian-canadian-council.ca

**Celebrations at
Biagio's Kitchen-Restaurant
1394 Richmond Road, Ottawa, 11:30 am**

Programme

- Roland K. Pirker welcomes & greets the attending guests
- Opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Andreas Rendl
- Opening remarks by MPP John Fraser
- Lunch is served
- The music of Johann Strauss (II) provided by "Cocktail"
under the direction of Pierre Lachance, managed by
Louise Lavigne
- ACC Awards Ceremony
- Music resumes
- Celebrations end approximately 15:00



Dear Members of the Austrian Society Ottawa,

Dear friends of Austria,

It is a sincere pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to the Austrian Society Ottawa on the occasion of its 60th anniversary.

Since its inception in April 1965, the Society has served as a cornerstone for Austrians in Canada, offering a vibrant platform for cultural exchange and mutual understanding. What you have built over the past six decades is a shining example of creating a “home away from home”, a place where traditions are celebrated and friendships flourish.

Having only recently arrived in Canada, I am already very impressed by the many activities that bring the community together — from cultural initiatives and social gatherings to opportunities for dialogue and mutual support.

Your continued engagement enriches the multicultural fabric of Canada and represents a valuable contribution to our diplomatic mission.

I would particularly like to express my gratitude to the current President Roland Pirker whose dedication and vision have brought the Society to where it is today.

May the Austrian Society Ottawa continue to thrive and inspire for many more years and generations to come. I look forward to collaboration and to developing meaningful initiatives together.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andreas Rendl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Andreas Rendl
Ambassador



JOHN FRASER, MPP/DÉPUTÉ

Ottawa South / Ottawa-sud

April 2, 2025

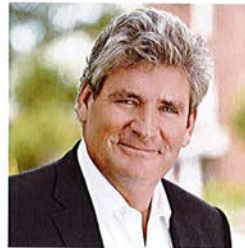
*As the Member of Provincial Parliament for Ottawa South
at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario,
I offer my sincere congratulations and best wishes on your*

60th Anniversary

*I extend my appreciation for your contributions to the community. Over the years,
the Austrian Society Ottawa has provided wonderful resources and assistance to
seniors in and around the City of Ottawa.*

Your mission to support better communities is commendable.

John Fraser
MPP Ottawa South



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Mark Sutcliffe
Mayor | Maire

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April 26th 2025

On behalf of Members of Ottawa City Council, it is my distinct pleasure to extend congratulations to Roland K. Pirker, President, and the other members of the Board of Directors, along with the members of the Austrian Society of Ottawa in recognition of their 60th anniversary in the community.

Over the course of six decades, the Austrian Society of Ottawa has been instrumental in organizing monthly luncheons for seniors in addition to promoting and preserving Austrian culture through their get-togethers.

The leadership and members of the Austrian Society of Ottawa also merit accolades for reducing social isolation for senior adults as well as for their valuable contribution to the rich cultural mosaic of Canada's capital.

As Head of Council, allow me to offer my best wishes to the Austrian Society of Ottawa for a most memorable 60th anniversary year.

Sincerely,

Le 26 avril 2025

J'ai l'immense plaisir de féliciter, au nom des membres du Conseil municipal d'Ottawa, Roland K. Pirker, président, et les autres membres du conseil d'administration, ainsi que les membres de la Austrian Society of Ottawa, à l'occasion du 60^e anniversaire de l'organisme au sein de la communauté.

Au cours de ces six dernières décennies, la Austrian Society of Ottawa a joué un grand rôle dans l'organisation de dîners mensuels pour les personnes âgées, ainsi que dans la promotion et la préservation de la culture autrichienne par le biais de ses rencontres.

Les dirigeants et les membres de la Austrian Society of Ottawa méritent également des éloges pour avoir réduit l'isolement social des personnes âgées et pour leur précieuse contribution à la riche mosaïque culturelle de la capitale du Canada.

En tant que chef du Conseil, permettez-moi d'offrir mes meilleurs vœux à la Austrian Society of Ottawa pour un 60^e anniversaire des plus mémorables.

Cordialement,

Mark Sutcliffe, Mayor/Maire

AUSTRIAN SOCIETY OTTAWA

1391 Cavendish Road
Ottawa, Ontario, K1H 6B8

Dear Members, participants and guests!

Today the Austrian Society Ottawa celebrates its 60th Anniversary, we not only want to look back at the many great events we had, but we also want to remember all those members who are no longer with us. For more than half a century the Austrian Society Ottawa has enjoyed great get-togethers, to speak their own language, but also had many events which connected us with our birthplace.

In den letzten Jahren hatte unsere Society sich total verändert, wir freuen uns riesig in unserer Mitte 7 Nationalitäten begrüßen zu können. Keine Einwanderung aus Österreich und Verlust und deutschsprachigen Vereine in Ottawa wurde zur Realität. Aber durch den Beitritt vieler Deutschsprachiger Mitglieder sowie Mitglieder von anderen Staaten Europas, ist unsere Austrian Society Ottawa wieder aufgeblüht.

The modern tools, cell phones, emails, twitter and so on, have made today's interactions with one another very complicated, especially for seniors. They experience a void and feel left out due to the fact IT savy. Therefore our Society can be proud of helping our members to bridge these voids. Our harmonious club life has become a well thought after commodity with great social interaction. The ASO includes over 7 different nationalities in our membership. We are so proud to be Canadian...!

I am also very happy to claim that this will be my 31st year as President of the Austrian Society Ottawa and I am very honoured to have been given the chance to serve you and be involved with this wonderful Society for several more years to come. However, every club and Society needs a good team in order to facilitate the needs of such a group and these are, of course, our Board of Directors.

Aber wir haben vorgesorgt, seit 2001 ist unsere Austrian Society Ottawa auch unter dem Namen "the Friends of Austria Ottawa" bekannt, die City of Ottawa erlaubte uns, solange eine deutschsprachige Person in unserer Mitte zu finden ist, bis zu diesem Zeitpunkt kann die Austrian Society Ottawa ihren Namen beibehalten, aber nachher sind wir als Friends of Austria Ottawa bekannt.

Sincerely yours,

Roland K. Pirker
President,
Austrian Society Ottawa and Friends of Austria Ottawa



March, 20, 2025

The Austrian Society Ottawa
(Österreichische Gesellschaft Ottawa)
Since 2001 also known as – The Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc.

In March 1965, the Austrian Society Ottawa was established. The inaugural meeting was presided over by Fred Striessnig, Leo Janecka, Dr. Raoul Sylt, Frank Marth and Elfriede Welkert. Dr. Franz Leitner, the Austrian Ambassador, who played a central role in the creation of the Österreichische Gesellschaft Ottawa (Austrian Society Ottawa) and other Austrian societies across Canada, was present. It was decided that German would be the language used for all events and the business of the Society.

In April 1965, the first meeting was held at the RA Centre in Ottawa. The aim was, and still is, to bring Austrian culture to our new homeland and nurture it for future generations. Music is an integral part of our society and is to this day one of the best tools. In bringing together our members, it brings with it Gemütlichkeit and human interaction. The programs that we have presented to our members over all these years have proved that we have been on the right track as a society by having put charity, humanity and friendship first.

Our membership has flourished, right up to today. In our Austrian Society, we can happily say that we are a tiny spin-off of today's European Union because we count 7 nationalities in our midst.

Over the years, we have enriched, touched and brought happiness to so many hearts. Events were often held outside the club, in a totally Canadian environment, hopefully enriching others in our multicultural Canadian society.

Since its inception in 1965, the Society has met monthly at the St. Albertus Church on Parkdale Avenue in Ottawa. As our membership aged and many members needed an elevator, which the church did not have, the Society was forced to relocate its meetings in 2017 to the Biagio's Restaurant at 1394 Richmond Road in Ottawa.

In April 1998, to pay for our newly established OeCulture magazine and make other cultural events possible, the Austrian Canadian Council (ACC), began its fundraising campaign by participating in the weekly Bingo events at the Overbrook Bingo Hall in Ottawa-Vanier. The ACC shared the Bingo profits with 33 other charities. In 2001, Revenue Canada insisted that the ACC, a national charity, stop the Bingo fundraising and pass on the fundraiser to another local not-for-profit association. The ASO took on that role, and to respect City of Ottawa requirements for Bingo fundraising, the Austrian Society Ottawa (ASO) had

to register with the Government of Ontario. This was also a good moment to rename the club to keep it sustainable and inclusive of German and non-German speakers. Dr. Walther Lichem, the former Austrian Ambassador, was instrumental in renaming the ASO to the Friends of Austria Ottawa. In 2001, Solicitor Heidi Kelly and President Roland Pirker drew up the corporation papers. One important part was written into the bylaws: “as long as there are German-speaking members in the Austrian Society Ottawa, the name will remain,” afterwards it will be known as the Friends of Austria Ottawa (FoAO). Now, 25 years later, the Austrian Society, under the name of FoAO is still part of Bingo fundraising and supports many other local charities and the senior members of the ASO.

Please see our website: www.austrian-canadian-council.ca

1965-2025 Presidents of the Austrian Society Ottawa – since 2001 also known as the Friends of Austria Ottawa

8)	Roland Klaus Pirker	1994-present	(*12.November 1945, Klagenfurt)
7)	Melitta van Cleeff	1985-1994	(†27.May 2011, Ottawa, ON)
6)	Hans Rant	1974-1984	(†11.June 2012, Vienna, Austria)
5)	Leo Janecka	1970-1973	(†3.October 2007, Ottawa, ON)
4)	Franz (Frank) Marth	1969	(†)
3)	Dr. Raoul Sylt	1968	(†)
2)	Hermann Griesseier	1967	(†16.September 2006, Ottawa, ON)
1)	Dr. Wilhelm (Willi) A. Nassau	1965-1966	(†6.February 2022, Waterloo, ON)

Current ASO Board of Directors

Fred Eder, Herbert Gangl, Heidi Kelly (legal advisor), Burgie Pirker, Roland K. Pirker, Karin Streit, Elis Strobl, Silvia Tobien and Barbara Till and Jim Burges (webmaster)

Past Board of Directors

Eva Anzengruber, Sylvia Bänziger, Dr. Hans Bänziger, S. Barisitz, Dr. Barbara Brintnell, D. Donnhoffer, Ingrid Feil, Pepi Früwirth, Otto Heberlein, O. Hörbinger, Hermann Franke, Tibor Horbasz, Leo Janecka, K. Havelcik, H. Kardisch, Fred Krasney, A. Kollmann, Dr. Ted Kletter, Franz Kapeller, E. Kosabek, Hans Körner, Gunther Laub, P. Lustig, Luis Mrak, Kurt Ortner, Franz Marth, P. Müller, Dr. Möbius, E. Palisek, H. Paulmann, Alois Platzer, Helen Pelcis, Regina Parato, Roland K. Pirker, Hans Purkhart, Hans Rant, Maria Rauter, Joe Seidl, Otmar Rimmel, F. Seier, R. Schwarz, Gunther Sulek, Fred Striessnig, Kurt Stöckl, Heidi Temelie, Horst Tobien, Hans Unterganschnig, Melitta van Cleeff, Uwe Voss, Helga Weber, Dr. Wayand, E. Welkert, Hans Wyslouzil, Maria Wyslouzil, Elisabeth Wilson-Zelenka, Dr. Helmut Zobl.

Bingo Volunteers to date and number of events: Therese Ayotte (to date 101), Lise Boulerice (7), Helen Cyr (15), Solange Dubuis (291), Sylvia Cousineau (7), Lilian Carriere (24), Linda Charboneau (5), Sandra Clarke (12), Angel Ellens (44), Donny Ellens (34), Roger Grenon (6), Andrea Langhammer (15), Mirelle Lacouciere (23), Julie Lacombe (426), Angie Lacombe (302), Maggy Lynch (719), Pam McKenzie (1), Burgie Pirker (1049), Rebecca Pirker-Colfe (309), Rolando Karl Pirker (512), Roland Klaus Pirker (953), Tim Potvin (7), Bob Pherand (29), Colleen Simard (6), Erich Spatzierer (1), Barbara Till (15), Jose Valente (2), Joanne Vermette (4) and Donna Watson (2) and many more.

2025 ASO Members

Front row L to R: Edda Brown, Karin (Karen) Streit, Heidemarie (Heidi) Kelly, Fritz (Fred) Eder, Greta Piccioni, Elfrieda (Elfie) Schleich and Gerda Gangl.

2nd row: Roland-Klaus Pirker, Joanne Legault, Ingrid Seltenreich, Machteld Peeters, Barbara (Barb) Till, Karin Pitts, Ingrid Daume, Heidi Schaettgen, Barbara (Barb) Ellspermann, Waltraud Mayr, Madlen Wadsworth, Silvia Tobien, Renate Klose, Alois (Lui) Wiedemann, Christian Maresch and Kathy Schryer.

3rd row: Franz Plangger, Franz Gaugl, Josef (Pepi) Fruehwirth, Herbert Gangl, Walburga (Burgie) Pirker, Anne Fruehwirth, Vinzenz Schleich and David Schmid

Missing from Picture: Karl-Heinz Armbruster, Dieter Bach, Dr. Alexandra Berndl, Ingrid Feil, Lisa Gladis, Linda Kiesewalter, Rosanna Maresch, John Mueller, Olga Penit, Alois & Hannelore Platzer, Gertrude & Hermann Samhaber, Helga Shipman, Elisabeth (Elis) Strobl, Elke Taudien, Traudie Taudien and Dr. Helmut Zobl.



ASO's Outstanding Members

Schrammel Quartett members:

(John) Hans Wyslouzil	(†6. March 2022, Ottawa, ON) (*22. March 1922, Kitzbühel, Austria)
(Edi) Edmund Wyslouzil	(†30. June 2014, Ottawa, ON) (*13. May 1924, Kitzbühel, Tirol)
Herman Griesseier	(†16. September 2006, Ottawa, ON) (*11. October 1928, Feldbach, Steiermark)
Alois Platzer	(*18. October 1934, Steiermark, (in 2024, celebrated his 90th birthday in Ottawa)

Alpentrio members:

Maria Wyslouzil (nee Ausserladscheider)	(†12. September 2020, Ottawa, ON) (*4. September 1927, Stumm, Zillertal, Tirol)
(Gretl) Magarethe Wyslouzil (nee Spieler)	(†2. December 2000, Ottawa, ON) (*9. February 1928, Tebliz Schönau, Sudetenland)
Karin Laframboise	(*24. November 1939, Berchtesgaden) (After the death of Gretl Wyslouzil Andrea joined the Alpentrio)
Andrea Langhammer	(*28. May 1960, Hamilton Ontario)

VIP Members of the ASO

“Schrammelquartett”- Hermann Griesseier, Alois Platzer, (John) Hans and (Edi) Edmund Wyslouzil -- these four musicians became the pillars of our Society
[OeCulture #2, 1999, pages C, D, E & F](#); [OeCulture #2, 2000 page # F](#);
[OeCulture #1, 2005, page 40 & 41](#); [2005 Austrian Celebrations pages #41,42 & 43](#);
[1994- 30th Anniversary book Austrian Society Ottawa](#)

“Alpentrio”- Karin Laframboise, Gretl Wyslouzil, Mara Wyslouzil and later, after the death of Gretl, Andrea Langhammer continued with the music of our homeland.
[OeCulture #1, 2004, pages #14 & 15](#); [2005 Austrian Celebrations page # 42 & 43](#) and
[30th Anniversary book Austrian Society Ottawa 1994](#)

Karl-Franz Hafner, engineer and Carleton University Professor -- in 1970 he created Carleton University’s own Foucault Pendulum, proof that the earth indeed spins on its own axis as well as rotating around the sun
[OeCulture #2, 2000, page 11-E](#)

Leo Hammerschmid, writer of “Zita, the last Empress Austria”, which came to fruition through his friendship with Archduke of Rudolf von Habsburg while the Habsburg family lived in Quebec City during WWII. [30th Anniversary book Austrian Society Ottawa 1994](#)

Dr. (Willi) William Nassau, 1st ASO President, cameraman and filmmaker, worked on “The Third Man”, the classic 1949 feature film made in Vienna
[OeCulture 2009/10, pages 12, 13, 14 & 15](#)

Walter Ott, Master Engraver and Director at the Royal Canadian Mint, Designer of “Canada’s Gold Maple Leaf Coin” [OeCulture #2, 2000, pages: 7-A & B](#)

Heinz Pundleider, internationally renowned painter
[30th Anniversary book Austrian Society Ottawa 1994](#)

Wilfrid Schwarzkogler, who carved the Speaker’s Chair in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill
[Biographical Dictionary Austrians in Canada 2002 page# 185 & 186](#)

Helmut Seeman, was a musician & composer, known best for his Clarinet Concerto, performed by the 13 Strings of Ottawa

*For more ASO History please see our books produced in 1995 and 2025.
“30 Jahre Österreichische Gesellschaft Ottawa” and “Celebrate Austria - May 2015”*

Austrian Society Ottawa

1391 Cavendish Road
Ottawa, Ontario
K1H 6B8

2025 Veranstaltungskalender Biagio's Kitchen-Restaurant 1394 Richmond Road Ottawa, 11:30 am

4.Jänner, 2025 (Samstag)
Gemütlicher Nachmittag

28.Juni, 2025 (Samstag)
Gemütlicher Nachmittag

22.März, 2025 (Samstag)
Gemütlicher Nachmittag

20.Sept. 2025 (Samstag)
Gemütlicher Nachmittag

26.April, 2025 (Samstag)
ASO 60th & FoAO 24 years

11.Oktober, 2025 (Samstag)
Gemütlicher Nachmittag

17.Mai, 2025 (Samstag)
Gemütlicher Nachmittag

15.Nov. 2025 (Samstag)
Gemütlicher Nachmittag

14.June, 2025 (Saturday)
ACC's 30th Anniversary
9 Crescent Rd., Rockcliffe
(by invitation only!)

13.Dez., 2025 (Samstag)
Nikolo & Krampus
(for members only)

Bitte um Anmeldung!
(613) 521-3603
Roland K. Pirker
Präsident, ASO & FoAO
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