

AN AUSTRIAN CELEBRATION



Ottawa, Canada, May 16-23, 2005



AUSTRIAN CELEBRATION, 2005

Presented by the

Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, University of Alberta

Austrian-Canadian Council

Friends of Austria Ottawa

Austrian Society Ottawa

Austrian Embassy (Ottawa)



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE



It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the cultural event and symposium hosted by the Austrian Society Ottawa and the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc.

Over the years, your members have worked hard to preserve and promote your culture while celebrating the ties of friendship that exist between Canada and Austria. As you commemorate 150 years of diplomatic relations between our two countries, I am certain that each of you will take advantage of this opportunity for discussion and interaction with others who share your heritage.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the members of the Austrian Society Ottawa on the occasion of its 40th anniversary. I would also like to offer my best wishes to everyone gathered this weekend as you recognize several other important anniversaries, including the 10th anniversary of the Austrian Canadian Council.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and enlightening convention, and for every success in the years ahead.

OTTAWA
2005



Premier of Ontario – Premier ministre de l'Ontario

May 20 – 22, 2005



A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am pleased to extend warm greetings to the Austrian Society Ottawa and Friends of Austria Ottawa as they mark several significant milestones: 150 years of Austrian-Canadian diplomatic relations, the 40th anniversary of the Austrian Society Ottawa and the 10th anniversary of the Austrian Canadian Council. Congratulations to the Austrian Canadian community on these important achievements!

These celebrations take place amid eight days of events in the Ottawa region aimed at recognizing the countless contributions of the Austrian community to life in Canada. From traditional brass-band concerts to an in-depth symposium on Austro-Canadian relations, this week-long tribute to the many facets of *die Republik Österreich* is sure to stir pride in Austrian Canadians and delight aficionados of its rich culture and history.

It takes a great deal of hard work and determination to organize festivities of this scope and calibre. I offer my sincere thanks to the dedicated members and volunteers with the Austrian Society Ottawa and Friends of Austria Ottawa for making this special event possible.

Please accept my personal best wishes for memorable and enjoyable celebrations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dalton McGuinty".

Dalton McGuinty
Premier



Bob Chiarelli
Mayor / Maire



On behalf of Members of Council and the 800,000 residents of the City of Ottawa, it gives me great pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to all those participating in the symposium and cultural events, to mark 150 years of Austro-Canadian relations, the 40th anniversary of the Austrian Society Ottawa as well as the 10th anniversary of the Austrian Canadian Council, and taking place at the University of Ottawa in the nation's capital from **May 16th to 23rd 2005**.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Austrian Society Ottawa, Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc., volunteers, sponsors as well as the delegates from across Canada, the United States and Austria, who have committed their time, energy and talents to the successful organization of this important meeting and related cultural activities.

As Mayor of the host city and in celebration of Ottawa's 150th anniversary, I invite visitors to explore the numerous civic as well as national treasures and historic sites, which Canada's capital has to offer.

Allow me to wish you all a most pleasant stay.
Ich wünsche Ihnen ein wundervollen Besuch in unserer Hauptstadt.

Au nom des membres du Conseil municipal et des 800 000 résidents d'Ottawa, c'est avec grand plaisir que je souhaite chaleureusement la bienvenue aux participants du symposium et des événements culturels qui soulignent 150 années de relations austro-canadiennes, le 40^e anniversaire de la fondation de la Austrian Society Ottawa ainsi que le 10^e anniversaire de l'établissement du Austrian Canadian Council et qui auront lieu dans la capitale nationale, plus particulièrement à l'Université d'Ottawa, **du 16 au 23 mai 2005**.

Je tiens également à féliciter la Austrian Society Ottawa, les Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc., les bénévoles, les commanditaires ainsi que les délégués de partout au Canada, des États-Unis et de l'Autriche, qui ont consacré temps, énergie et compétences à l'organisation réussie de cette réunion importante et des activités culturelles connexes.

En tant que maire de la ville hôte et en célébration du 150^e anniversaire d'Ottawa, j'invite les visiteurs à découvrir les nombreux trésors municipaux et nationaux ainsi que les nombreux lieux historiques qu'abrite la capitale nationale.

Permettez-moi de vous souhaiter à tous un séjour des plus agréables.

Bob Chiarelli

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Chiarelli". The signature is written in a cursive style.

THE AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR

Ms. Inga Michalek, President
Austrian Canadian Council
Mr. Roland K. Pirker, President
Austrian Society Ottawa
and the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc.
1391 Cavendish Road
Ottawa, ON, K1H 6B8



Ottawa, 22 March 2005

Dear Mrs. President,
Dear Mr. President,

2005 is an important year for us Austrians. We celebrate 60 years of Second Republic, 50 years of State Treaty, 10 years E.U. membership and last not least 150 years Austro-Canadian relations.

I wish to congratulate you to having taken the initiative to celebrate these anniversaries in a dignified way. You have put together a most interesting and wide-ranging symposium of Austrian topics, ranging from history to culture, from science to Austro-Canadian relations. The quality of the speakers and the scientific direction by Prof. Szabo will ensure a high-quality content and stimulating discussions. At this point I wish to acknowledge the financial support that the Wirth Institute has given to the symposium. My thanks also go to the Organizing Committee, so competently chaired by you: Heidi Temelie, Elisabeth Wilson, Hans Wyslouzil, Dr. Helmut Zobl and Otto Heberlein.

We are pleased that Austria will be present with a pavilion at this year's Tulip Festival. Our theme is to high-light how the tulip came from Istanbul to Vienna and then to the Netherlands and finally to Canada. No Austrian Festival is complete without music and dance. We are delighted that the "Köflacher Brass Band", the "Männerquintett Klagenfurt" and the "Alpine Club Dancers" from Kitchener-Waterloo are coming to Ottawa to entertain us. The "Ottawa Schrammel Quartet" will not only perform but also celebrate its 30th anniversary. We will honour them with a special tribute.

Last not least, it is a great pleasure to congratulate you to the Austrian Society's 40th and the Austrian Canadian Council's 10th anniversary.

Looking forward to a great and memorable Austria event in Canada's capital I remain,

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'O Ditz'. The signature is stylized and written over a white background.

Otto Ditz



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies

Arts Building, Suite 300 • University of Alberta • Edmonton • Canada • T6G 2E6
Telephone: (780) 492-9408 • Fax: (780) 492-4340
e-mail: wirth.institute@ualberta.ca
website: <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/wi>



May 2005

Dear Friends of Austria,

On behalf of the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies I would like to welcome you to our "Austrian celebration, 2005." Our Institute is pleased to act as co-sponsor and co-organizer of this event. We wish you a pleasant time in Ottawa over this weekend and we hope that you will enjoy all the diverse activities that have been organized for this celebration.

The Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies of the University of Alberta is proud to be the one university institute in Canada specifically devoted to the study of Austria. Canadians of Austrian origin have helped define our national mosaic and have made important contributions to their adopted home. But we have not forgotten the land and culture from which we came, and the purpose of our Institute is to keep the vital link with Austria alive as well as to raise the profile of all things Austrian in this country.

This event celebrates not only Austrian anniversaries, but Austrian-Canadian ones as well. We are proud to present our cultural heritage in this way to all Canadians, and we thank you for joining us on this auspicious occasion.

With warmest best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Franz Szabo".

Franz A.J. Szabo
Professor and Director



**AUSLANDSÖSTERREICHER-WELTBUND
A Ö W B**

Wien / Ottawa, im Mai 2005

Liebe Mitglieder der Österreichischen Gesellschaft Ottawa!

Vier Jahrzehnte oder nahezu zwei Generationen lang seinen Mitgliedern Heimatverbundenheit, Rückhalt und Hilfe zu bieten, ist eine Leistung, auf die alle, die innerhalb eines Vereines dazu beigetragen haben, mit besonderem Stolz zurückblicken können. Die Österreichische Gesellschaft Ottawa hat 40 Jahre lang in verantwortungsvoller Tradition diese soziale und kulturelle Aufgabe erfüllt und durch ihr abwechslungsreiches Veranstaltungsprogramm und ihr soziales Engagement immer dafür gesorgt, dass ihre Mitglieder sich wohl fühlten. Dass das damit verbundene Jubiläumstreffen auch noch in ein Jahr fällt, in dem Österreich 60 Jahre Kriegsende, 50 Jahre Staatsvertrag und 10 Jahre EU-Mitgliedschaft feiert, ist eine glückliche Fügung und gibt dem Anlass damit noch eine besondere Note.

Da jedoch immer der Mensch im Mittelpunkt steht, sollte bei dieser Gelegenheit auch an die tausenden Stunden ehrenamtlicher Arbeit jener Funktionäre des Vereins erinnert werden, die Jahrzehnte hindurch mit ihrer Tätigkeit dies alles erst ermöglicht haben. Ihnen möchte ich im Namen des Weltbundes an dieser Stelle meine besondere Anerkennung und den aufrichtigen Dank für diesen ehrenamtlichen Einsatz aussprechen.

Eine der Aufgaben des Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbundes ist auch, die Österreichische Gesellschaft Ottawa bei ihren Zukunftsprojekten zu unterstützen, wo immer dies gewünscht und möglich ist. Als Dachverband der Österreich-Vereine in aller Welt stellt er ein maßgebliches Bindeglied zur Heimat dar, erfüllt eine Reihe wesentlicher Koordinationsaufgaben und Servicefunktionen und vertritt ganz allgemein die Interessen seiner Mitglieder und damit auch aller Österreicher im Ausland. Sie sollten sich dessen bewusst sein: Der Weltbund ist immer für Sie da!

Allen Teilnehmern an diesem Jubiläumstreffen wünsche ich erlebnisreiche Tage in Ottawa und freue mich, mit Ihnen allen in dieser wunderschönen Stadt zusammen zu treffen.

Mit herzlichen Grüßen

Gustav Chlestil
Präsident des Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbundes



AUSTRIAN CANADIAN COUNCIL

1391 Cavendish Road
Ottawa, Ontario
K1H 6B8
Tel. 613-521-3603 Fax 613-521-7602

April 15, 2005

Dear Friends and Participants,

A wholehearted welcome to Ottawa, Canada's Capital! A city with an international flair but still with smaller town values presents itself to you at a wonderful time of the year.

Many Austrians made their home in Canada and in particular in Ottawa. The Austrian Canadian Council was started 10 years ago to provide a voice representing Austrians in Canada and Austria alike. The emphasis is on cultural and academic events, such as this present venue. We are also encouraging academic endeavors by offering dissertation prizes for students pursuing secondary education in Austrian Studies, or, managing Foundation funds, such as the original donation by Dr. Manfred Wirth that was set up to support the Center of Austrian Studies at the University of Alberta.

Along with other sponsors we are providing financial support to the Austrian Symposium to be held here in Ottawa. I personally would like to thank the Austrian Society Ottawa and its president Roland K. Pirker; the Wirth Institute under the guidance of Dr. Franz Szabo; the Austrian Embassy, in particular the Ambassador Dr. Ditz and its staff; the BMO Harris Private Banking our good friend Dave Wallace; the AÖWB and its President Chlestil; and last but not least Dr. Manfred Prokop and Eugen Kedl for their generous support.

I sincerely hope that the celebrations of all the "milestones", such as the 40th anniversary of the Austrian Society Ottawa, 10th anniversary of the Austrian Canadian Council, 150th Birthday of the City of Ottawa and others, will remain as an outstanding event in your memories. This would not be possible without all the help of our wonderful volunteers who are eager to make sure that you enjoy not only the Austrian Symposium but all the festivities offered by this great City!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Inga Michalek'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light-colored background.

Inga Michalek
President



Austrian Society Ottawa
and the
Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc.

1391 Cavendish Road
Ottawa, Ontario
K1H 6B8

Dear friends and participants:

April 13, 2005

Let me welcome you in our beautiful City of Ottawa which this year also celebrates its 150th birthday. This Nation's Capital not only gave us a new home after we left our native Austria, but also has the quality of a village environment where raising our families has been a marvelous experience. The city can also pride itself of many great museums, the National Art Centre, the superb sports facilities, the many hospitals as well as the many care facilities for our elderly. The people of Ottawa have a heart of gold, one can see it when fundraising for good causes.

Many members of our Society have left the job market long ago and now enjoy life at a slower pace. Friendships, sharing special moments, like musical evenings and afternoon, speaking their own native tongues have been an important source of strength for many of them. Our get-togethers always have been inspirational because they brought on memories of our childhood days. These get-togethers have become for many the only connection to our homeland, since many no longer have a chance to visit due to their advanced age. Therefore our Society has become an important part of their lives, and we have made it our goal, to hold as many homeland evenings as possible. This weekend is no exception, because we have a chance to honour both our countries. Whether celebrating or commemorating certain events, we enjoy it because it gives us a reason for getting together and exchange information about health, friends and family and news from the homeland. We are extremely happy that so many dear friends have come to visit us here in Ottawa from as far away as Rome, Stockholm, Vienna, Boston, Malibu, Victoria, and Windsor just to name a few cities, and help us share in the celebration of the many anniversaries which we are celebrating this week.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank H.E. Dr. Otto Ditz, the Austrian Ambassador, his staff, many of our volunteers and all my colleagues who have helped to make this weeks celebrations possible. I would like to thank all our guest speakers in particular Prof. Dr. Franz Szabo, Director of the "Wirth Institute," for his financial support to the Symposium. Many thanks to President Gustav Chlestil of AÖWB, Dave Wallace of BMO Harris Private Banking and Eugen Kedl for their support, also I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Manfred Prokop for putting together this Austrian celebrations' booklet. We hope this booklet will serve as an overview of this weekend, with historical facts about our ten-year work of the Austrian Canadian Council and the last forty years of our Austrian Society Ottawa. Hopefully you will feel energized after returning home to your cities, filled with great memories of this Austrian Celebrations Week in Ottawa.

Sincerely
Roland K. Pirker, President



Austrian Celebration and Symposium May 16-23, 2005

PRE-SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME Monday - Wednesday, May 16 to 18, 2005

Tulip explosion. Canada's Floral Rendez-vous at the Hilton Lac Leamy (3, boul. du Casino, Gatineau (Québec). "Vienna Musik" - a symphony of 1000 tulips ... created by Viennese florists Lorenz Pridt and Franz Ratzka.

Internationally experienced engineers of horticultural and floral design with the City of Vienna will create a floral masterpiece themed to combine the historic relationship between the tulip and the cultural and musical significance of Austria and Vienna. Sponsored by the Sheraton Ottawa Hotel, the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc. and the Austrian-Canadian Council.

Austrian celebrations. The following anniversaries will be celebrated during the week of May 16 - 23, 2005:

- 150 years diplomatic relations between Canada and Austria
- 50 years Austrian State Treaty
- 60 years 2nd Republic of Austria
- 10 years Austrian membership in the European Union
- 150 years City of Ottawa
- 40 years Austrian Society of Ottawa
- 30 years Ottawa Schrammel Quartet
- 10 years Austrian-Canadian Council.

Thursday, May 19, 2005

18:00 Austrian Night at the Races. Rideau-Carleton Raceway. Sponsored by the Austrian Embassy, the Consulate General of Austria, Commercial Section, the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc. and companies and institutions with an Austrian connection.

Entertainment at the Reception by Ottawa's Schrammel Quartet.

Friday, May 20th, 2005

11:30-13:30 Opening Ceremonies of the Tulip Festival at Major's Hill Park. Austrian Pavilion: Special VIP's and speakers will be the Ambassador of Austria, the Ambassador of Turkey and the Ambassador of the Netherlands.

Entertainment: Männerquintett Klagenfurt Ponfeld (Carinthia) and the Köflacher Brass Band (Styria).

17:00 Evening Reception with the Austrian Ambassador (admission restricted to guests registered at the Symposium, Reception and Evening events). In attendance will be the Ambassador of the United States of America, the High Commissioner of Great Britain, the Ambassador of France, and the Ambassador of Russia.

Entertainment: Männerquintett Klagenfurt Ponfeld (Carinthia) and the Köflacher Brass Band (Styria).

SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, 21 May 2005

Alumni Auditorium, 85 University Street
University of Ottawa

8:45 AM Welcomes

Franz A.J. Szabo

Director, Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies
University of Alberta

Roland K. Pirker

President
Austrian Society of Ottawa and Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc.

Inga Michalek

President
Austrian-Canadian Council

Otto Ditz

Austrian Ambassador to Canada

9:00 AM Session I: Austrian Anniversaries

Chair: Franz A.J. Szabo, University of Alberta

"1945: Sixty Years Second Austrian Republic"

Thomas Albrich

Institut für Zeitgeschichte
University of Innsbruck

"1955: Fifty Years Austrian State Treaty"

Guenter Bischof

Director, Centre Austria
University of New Orleans

"1995: Ten Years Austrian EU Membership"

Kurt Herndl

Former Austrian Ambassador to Canada (1989-1993)

Discussion

10:30 AM Coffee Break

10:45 AM Session II: Austrian-Canadian Connections

Chair: Agatha Schwartz, University of Ottawa

"Getting to know one another: The Role of the Oe Culture magazine and the Biographical Dictionary of Austrians in Canada"

Manfred Prokop

Professor Emeritus
University of Alberta

"Building Bridges: Transatlantic Exchanges between Austrian and Canadian Universities"

Ursula Moser

Director, Zentrum für Kanadastudien
University of Innsbruck

"The Austrian Institute in Canada: Retrospect and Prospect"

Franz A.J. Szabo

Director, Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies
University of Alberta

Discussion

12:15 PM **Lunch** at the Cafeteria of the University, 85 University Street, University of Ottawa

2:00 PM **Session III: Austro-Canadian Diplomatic Relations**

Chair: Franz A.J. Szabo, University of Alberta

"150 Years of Austro-Canadian Relations"

Robert Keyserlingk

Professor Emeritus
University of Ottawa

"Austria-Canada Bilateral Relations: The Economic Dimension"

Peter Walker

Former Canadian Ambassador to Austria (1993-1997)

"Austria, Canada and the Challenge of Globalization"

Walther G. Lichem

Former Austrian Ambassador to Canada (1993-2000)

Discussion

3:30 PM **Coffee Break**

3:45 PM **Session IV: The Embassy of Music**

Chair: Agatha Schwartz, University of Ottawa

"Austria's Musical Heritage in Canada"

Agnes Grossmann

Honourary Chair
Austrian Canadian Council

"Canada's Connection to Vienna's Musical Institutions"

Raffi Armenian

Director of Orchestral Studies
University of Toronto

Discussion

4:45 PM **End of Symposium**

POST-SYMPIOSIUM PROGRAMME

18:00 **Dinner at the University of Ottawa**, Tabaret Hall (Room 112), 550 Cumberland Street. Music prior to dinner provided by the Ottawa Schrammel Quartet.

Dinner speaker: Mr. Gustav Chlestil, President, *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund* (Vienna)

20:00 **Cultural Evening** at the Alumni Auditorium on 85 University Street, University of Ottawa. Free for registered participants. For Tulip Festival visitors, the admission to the Cultural Evening is \$8 per person.

Entertainment by the Köflacher Brass Band (Styria), the Männerquintett Klagenfurt Ponfeld (Carinthia), and the Alpine Club Dancers (Kitchener-Waterloo).

Sunday, May 22, 2005

7:00 **Ecumenical Service** at Notre Dame Basilica with Archbishop Marcel Gervais, Pater Ernst Schönhammer and Pastor Christoph Ernst, accompanied by the Männerquintett Klagenfurt- Ponfeld and the Ottawa Alpentrio

10:00 **Visit to the Parliament** (organized tour). **Welcome** by Senator Jim Munson
Visiting the Tulips or the **National Gallery of Canada** (optional)

12:30 **Lunch** at the Sheraton Hotel, 150 Albert Street

18:00 **Reception** at the Ottawa Congress Centre, 55 Colonel By Drive

19:00 **Dinner** at the Ottawa Congress Centre, Salons A and E

20:00 **Celebrations**

40th anniversary of the Austrian Society Ottawa
30th anniversary of the Ottawa Schrammel Quartet and the
10th anniversary of the Austrian-Canadian Council
150th anniversary of the City of Ottawa

Monday, May 23, 2005

Morning: The **Eastern and Western Canada Travel Tours** begin, organized by Special Travel International (Gery Valtiner), Vancouver, B.C.

Speaker Profiles

Dr. Thomas Albrich is Associate Professor at the Institute of Contemporary History at the University of Innsbruck, where he specializes in Jewish history, the Nazi Era, World War II, and the Cold War. Born in 1956 in Dornbirn, Vorarlberg, he studied history and English language and literature at Innsbruck, and has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Alberta (2003); first Chairholder of the Marshall Plan Anniversary Chair at the University of New Orleans (2001); Visiting Scholar at Columbia University, Tel Aviv University, the YIVO-Institute for Jewish Research, New York, and the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati/Ohio; Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna (IWM). His publications include *Exodus durch Österreich. Die jüdischen Flüchtlinge 1945–1948* (1987) and *Im Bombenkrieg. Tirol und Vorarlberg 1943–1945* (1992).

Raffi Armenian is Professor and Director of Orchestral Activities in the Faculty of Music of the University of Toronto. He studied piano performance at the Academy of Music in Vienna, but then turned to a degree in Metallurgy from the University of London before returning to music and completing his studies at the Vienna Academy in Orchestral Conducting (under Hans Swarowsky, 1968), Choral Conducting (under Rheinhold Schmid, 1969) and Composition (under Alfred Uhl, 1969). He also took private voice lessons with Ferdinand Grossmann. In 1969 he emigrated to Canada, where he became Artistic Director of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony (1971–1993). The Raffi Armenian Theatre in Kitchener, which he helped to design, is considered one of the best performance spaces in North America, both for its acoustics and its design features. In 1974, as Music Director of the Stratford Festival, he founded the Canadian Chamber Ensemble which achieved international recognition with tours in North and South America, and Europe. Mr. Armenian's work has received countless honors including the Canadian Grand Prix du Disque for Serenades, one of 28 CDs he has recorded, and an Emmy Award Nomination for the TV performance of Menotti's "Medium" starring Maureen Forrester. He holds honorary doctorates from the University of Waterloo and from Wilfried Laurier University, and is a member of the Order of Canada.

Dr. Guenter J. Bischof is Professor of History and Director of the Center for Austrian Culture and Commerce at the University of New Orleans. After studying in Innsbruck and New Orleans, he received his doctorate from Harvard University in 1989. He is co-editor of the "Contemporary Austrian Studies" series, which is sponsored jointly by the Universities of Innsbruck and New Orleans, as well as the Eisenhower Center Studies of War and Peace and has been the co-editor of over 30 books. Dr. Bischof is one of North America's leading specialists on the Cold War in general and the history of the Second Austrian Republic in particular. He is the author of *Austria in the First Cold War, 1945–55: The Leverage of the Weak* (1999) and *Beziehungsgeschichten. Österreich/Europa—USA* (2005).

Gustav Chlestil received an engineering degree from the University of Salzburg and a degree in business administration from Vienna's University of Economics and Business Administration, which led to a long and successful career in the international oil industry. During his 33 years of service for Aral he worked in Salzburg, Klagenfurt, Innsbruck, Bochum (Germany) and in Vienna. From 1977 on he was Chairman of the Board responsible for the Benelux countries and since then has lived in Antwerp, Belgium. After his arrival in Belgium he became a member of the Austrian Society of Belgium which he later served as its president for ten years. Subsequently he became Member of the Board of the *Weltbund für Österreicher im Ausland*. He was elected president of the organization during its world congress held in Klagenfurt in September 1977 and remained in this position until the merger of the *WBÖA* and the *Auslandsösterreicherwerk*. Gustav Chlestil was one of the strongest advocates of this merger and has been the president of the *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund* since 2004, now the only organization representing Austrians living abroad. Gustav Chlestil was awarded the *Goldene Ehrenzeichen der Republik Österreich* in 1975. In 1988 he received the decoration *Ridder in de Leopoldsorde* from the King of Belgium. In 2002 he was awarded the *Bundesehrenzeichen der Republik Österreich*, and in 2004 he was decorated with the *Goldene Verdienstzeichen des Landes Oberösterreich*.

Agnes Grossmann has been, in the twenty-five year span of her conducting career, Artistic Director of several illustrious organizations: the Wiener Singakademie (1983–1986), the Chamber Players of Toronto (1984–1990), the Montreal Metropolitan Orchestra and Choir (1986–1995), Pro Coro Canada of Edmonton, Alberta (1995–1997), the Vienna Choir Boys (1996–1998) and the Orford Arts Centre (1989–1995 and 1999–2004), and has guest-conducted orchestras and choirs in Canada, Asia and Europe. She has received many honors, including the Silver Cross for Outstanding Achievements in the Arts from the Austrian Government (1992), and the Golden Cross of the City of Vienna (1995), an Honorary Doctorate from Mount St. Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia (1994), from the University of Ottawa (2004), and the *Chevalier de la Pléiade*, conferred by the Quebec Government (2003). In 2005 she was appointed Artistic Director of the newly founded Toronto International Summer Academy and Festival, which includes an Opera Studio that she will conduct. Critics have been unanimous in praising the musical power of her interpretations as well as the remarkable building process she achieved in all the organizations she directed, bringing them to new heights musically, technically and stylistically. Her versatility was also reflected in her imaginative programming and audience building. She will be leading numerous performances in Japan and Taiwan in the 2005–2006 season.

Dr. Kurt Herndl was born in 1932 and served as Austrian Ambassador to Canada from 1989 to 1993. Before his posting to Canada he held important positions in the Austrian Diplomatic Service and in the Secretariat of the United Nations (Director, Security Council, 1969–1975; Director, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, 1975–1977; Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, 1982–1987). Upon his return from Canada he was appointed Judge in the EFTA-Court (European Economic Area) and subsequently Member of the European Commission for Human Rights in Strasbourg (1995–1999). Currently he is President of the Administrative Tribunal of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg) and Elected Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Geneva).

Dr. Robert H. Keyserlingk is Professor Emeritus of History, formerly at the University of Ottawa. Upon graduation from Loyola College in Montreal, he worked at Pax Romana, the international Catholic student organization based in Freiburg, Switzerland. Thereafter he undertook graduate studies at Fribourg University, Bonn, Goettingen and Munich, before returning to the University of Toronto to complete an M.A. in history. He entered the Canadian Foreign Service for five years, stationed in Bonn and London, but retired to do a Ph.D. in modern German history at London University. He began his scholarly career in the History Department of the University of Ottawa in 1964 where he published numerous articles and several books on German and Austrian history, including the well-known *Austria in World War II: An Anglo-American Dilemma* (1988). He was also active in professional, union, federal political, and international affairs. Dr. Keyserlingk retired in 1993.

Dr. Walther G. Lichem was Austrian Ambassador to Canada from 1993 to 2000 and is currently Director for International Organizations and United Nations Affairs in the Austrian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Educated in Austria (Ph.D., University of Graz) and the United States (M.A., University of North Carolina) in law, economics and political science, Dr. Lichem began his career as the Austrian delegate to the UN Secretariat's Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport. He has devoted a considerable portion of his professional life to various developmental aid initiatives. He was part of the UN Advisory Missions to Ethiopia and Senegal on water administration and was Project Manager for the UN's National Institute for Water Economics, Law and Administration project in Argentina. Dr. Lichem later served as Deputy Director responsible for Austria's participation in international peacekeeping operations and as Chairman of the Council of Europe's European Campaign on North/South Interdependence and Solidarity. Subsequently, Dr. Lichem served as Consul General of Austria in Slovenia (1976–80) and as Ambassador of Austria to Chile (1980–84). During his tenure as Austrian Ambassador to Canada, Dr. Lichem was responsible for numerous initiatives enhancing Austrian-Canadian relations, including the establishment of the Austrian-Canadian Council, the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies and the magazine *Oe Culture*.

Dr. Ursula Mathis-Moser is Professor for Romance Languages and Literature and Director of the Center for Canadian Studies at the University of Innsbruck. She was president of the Society for Canadian Studies in German-speaking countries from 1995 to 1997, and Visiting Professor at the Université de Montréal in 2002. In 2003 she was elected Chair of the Austrian-Canadian Liaison Group, which coordinates the Austrian contacts of the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies. Her research interests focus on French and Spanish literature and media studies, and she has been honoured by numerous awards, including the *Theodor-Koerner-Preis* (1982) and the *Lichten-steinpreis* (1985). In 1996 she was made an *Officier de l'Order des Palmes Académiques*. In addition to numerous articles on Stendhal, the French chanson, French-Canadian literature, and topics such as the influence of migration on language and literature she has published *Wirklichkeitssicht und Stil in "Le Rouge et le Noir". Zur Stendhalschen Technik des "analyser" und "estomper"* (1978), *Existentialismus und französisches Chanson* (1984), and most recently *Dany Laferrière. La dérive américaine* (2003), which was awarded the *Prix Jean-Éthier-Blais* by the Government of Québec in 2004.

Dr. Manfred Prokop was Professor of German in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton until his retirement in 1998. He has published articles and books on second-language learning strategies, the history of the German-speaking communities across Canada and the maintenance of German as a mother tongue and home language in Canada. Among his publications are *The Biographical Dictionary of Austrians in Canada* (Edmonton, 2002). He is also editor of *Oe Culture*, a magazine on Canadian-Austrian cultural relations. Both publications are available on the Internet at <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/CCAUCES/dictionary/start.htm> and <http://www.oeculture.ca/>, respectively. In March 2005 Dr. Prokop was awarded the Austrian Silver Order of Merit for Services to the Republic of Austria.

Dr. Franz A.J. Szabo is Professor of Austrian and Habsburg History and Director of the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. He had previously taught at various other Canadian universities, including McGill University, the University of Toronto, Dalhousie University and Carleton University. He has published widely over the past 25 years in Europe and in North America on the subject of Habsburg enlightened absolutism, and is the author of the award-winning *Kaunitz and Enlightened Absolutism, 1753–1780* published by Cambridge University Press in 1994. From 1994 to 1996 he was Director of the Austrian Immigration to Canada Research Project, through which he brought out the two volumes *A History of the Austrian Migration to Canada* and *Austrian Immigration to Canada: Selected Essays* with Carleton University Press in 1996. He has also given numerous public lectures on central European art and music, including at the National Gallery of Canada, the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal. His special interests include the high culture of the Austrian Enlightenment and of fin-de-siècle Vienna. He was the winner of the Carleton University Faculty of Arts Teaching Award in 1997, and was awarded the Austrian Cross of Merit for the Arts and Sciences in 1999.

Peter Walker is a graduate of Queen's University (B.A. Honours). He served as a Foreign Service Officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ottawa, until 2001 including an assignment at Acadia University as Diplomat-in-Residence from 2000 to 2001. Prior to coming to Acadia, he was posted in Delhi from 1997 to 2000 as Canadian High Commissioner to India and Ambassador to Nepal. From 1993–1997 he served in Vienna as Ambassador to Austria, to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). His other postings included the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris), the USSR and Indonesia. In Ottawa, he had a number of assignments including Assistant Deputy Minister (Personnel) and Director General for Western Europe and for the USSR and Eastern Europe. He is currently Coordinator for the Peace Operations Summer Institute (POSI) at Acadia University and has lectured at the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre. He is also a member of the Canadian Pugwash Group and the Canadian Advisory Council of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. He lives in Wolfville with his wife, Janet Burns-Walker.

Visitors from Austria participating in the entertainment programme

The Viennese Florists

Lorenz Pridt is an Engineer of Horticulture and private florist. Contact: blumen-pridt@aon.at. Franz Ratzka is an Engineer of Horticulture as well. He has been working for the Municipal Department for Public Parks of Vienna since 1977 and has extensive experience in international flower shows. Contact: rat@m42.magwien.gv.at.

The Köflacher Brass Band

The current members of the brass band are Mag. Heinz Cescutti, Köflach (trumpet), Björn Kollegger, Köflach (baritone), Mag. Karl Heinz Zapfl, Köflach (trumpet), Werner Gogg, Seiersberg (clarinet), Albert Hillbrand, Bad Aussee (guitar), Dipl. Ing. Karl Singer, Bad Aussee (accordion) and Marianne Cescutti, Köflach (advertising).

Band leader Heinz Cescutti has been deeply involved in music for 40 years. More than 25 years ago, he and his band came to Canada for the first time to play at the famous Kitchener-Waterloo *Oktoberfest*, and since then the Köflachers have visited Kitchener-Waterloo five more times. During one of these occasions the Köflachers introduced the *Vogeltanz* ("Bird dance"), which has become the most popular piece and is played at every *Oktoberfest*, even by other musical groups. Recently Heinz Cescutti has entered into a partnership with the Kaiserwälder Musketiere, a group which was formed twenty years ago and played professionally until 2000.

The Alpine Dancers of the Alpine Club Kitchener

The group was founded in 1979 and has performed Austrian and German folk dances and *Schuhplattler* throughout Ontario as well as the U. S. One of the most memorable experiences was the European trip in 1992 which included performances in Austria and Germany. The Alpine Dancers continue to entertain audiences throughout the year, including the nine-day Kitchener-Waterloo *Oktoberfest*, Gottscheer re-unions in Canada and the U.S., live TV programs, seminars, conventions, private parties, outdoor events and weddings.

The Alpine Dancers were honoured to be asked by the German-Canadian Congress to represent the German-speaking community at Ontario's celebration of the 50th jubilee of Her Majesty's reign. Approximately 8,000 invited guests crowded the Trade Centre in Toronto on Wednesday, October 9, 2002 to take part in this very special celebration. The Alpine Dancers, along with the other guests, lined the red-carpeted walkabout. Both Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and His Royal Highness Prince Philip and stopped and chatted briefly with some of our members, including Lore Kump (then President of the Alpine Dancers), Anne Kroisenbrunner, Margit Klein and John Mahler. "Ein Abend im Alpenland" (An Evening in the Alps), the group's only fund-raiser, is held annually in May at the Alpine Club. *Tracht* (costumes), equipment and supplies are purchased with those funds.

The Männerquintett Klagenfurt Ponfeld, Carinthia

The members of this quintet are Thomas Mühleisen (first tenor and president), Gerold Krassnig (soloist, second tenor), Gottfried Scharf (first bass), Erich Krassnitzer (quintvoice and musical director) and Karl Hlavacek (second bass). In the fall of 1979, five singers of the mixed choir Singgemeinschaft Ponfeld got together to add another dimension to their art by having a male quintet perform typical Carinthian folk songs. Their musical addition to the large choir was such a hit that they expanded their repertoire and started to perform on their own. Naturally this led to the separation from the larger mixed choir. Over the years the Männerquintett Klagenfurt Ponfeld has become such a success that they have often been featured on radio and television programs and given performances all over Austria and Germany.

In spite of many invitations from outside their home region, the Männerquintett Ponfeld wants to stay loyal to their village of Ponfeld, the City of Klagenfurt and the famous tourist area of Carinthia, the Wörthersee. They are always ready when called upon to perform locally. The concerts and other *gemütliche* events organized by the Männerquintett have attracted new listeners and therefore they have always performed to full houses.

In 2004 the quintet celebrated its 25th anniversary and received invitations to perform in Graz and Vienna. They also travelled to the Burgenland and to Grado, Italy, to perform. For the anniversary they recorded their fourth CD, "Frisch gesungen." In the theatre production of Ibsen's *Der Volksfeind* at the Stadttheater Klagenfurt, the assemble of the Männerquintett Ponfeld reached a new milestone with their performance.

For more information about the Männerquintett Klagenfurt-Ponfeld please visit their website at <http://www.quintett.at>.

AUSTRIAN CANADIEN

CANADA OST
 23. bis 30. Mai 2005 (7 Tage)

23. Mai Mon: OTTAWA – TROIS-RIVIERES – QUEBEC CITY
Am Morgen Fahrt an Montreal vorbei entlang des Nordufers des St.Lorenz Stromes nach Quebec City – Besuch von Trois-Rivieres, Zentrum der Kanadischen Papiererzeugung – am späten Nachmittag einchecken in Quebec City und frei
24. Mai Die: QUEBEC CITY
Stadtbesichtigung der historischen Stadt und Hauptstadt der Provinz – dem bekannten Hotel Chateau Frontenac und der Altstadt um die Rue Champlain, eine Erinnerung an Dörfer in der Normandie ... dann kurze Fahrt zu den Montmorency Wasserfällen und nach Ste.Anne de Beaupre, dem größten Wallfahrtsort Canadas – zurück nach Quebec City und gemeinsames Abendessen (B,D)
25. Mai Mitt: QUEBEC CITY – MONTREAL
Fahrt in die größte Stadt der Provinz Quebec – am Nachmittag Stadtbesichtigung der bekannten Sehenswürdigkeiten – mit der Notre Dame Kathedrale, dem Mont Royal und Place Cartier – dann einchecken und frei (B)
26. Mai Donn: MONTREAL – MORRISBURG – KINGSTON
Am Morgen noch Zeit in Montreal – dann Fahrt entlang des St.Lorenz Stromes und Besuch von Upper Canada Village, des wunderbaren Freilichtmuseums bei Morrisburg – Weiterfahrt und Übernachtung in Kingston (B)
27. Mai Frei: KINGSTON – TORONTO
Am Morgen kurzer Besuch von Fort Henry – danach Bootsfahrt in der Gegend der ‚Thousand Islands‘ und am Nachmittag Fahrt nach Toronto – einchecken und danach Abendessen im Restaurant des CN Towers (553 m hoch, Restaurant 346 m) mit einem großartigen Ausblick auf Canadas größte Stadt (B,D)
28. Mai Sam: TORONTO
Halbtägige Stadtbesichtigung mit allen wichtigen Sehenswürdigkeiten – am Nachmittag etwas Zeit zur freien Verfügung ... (B)
29. Mai Sonn: TORONTO – NIAGARA FÄLLE – TORONTO
Am Morgen Fahrt zu den bekannten Niagara Fällen und Fahrt mit der „Maid of the Mist“ bis nahe an die Fälle – danach vielleicht Möglichkeit zu einem Hubschrauberrundflug und dann Rückfahrt durch das Weinanbaugebiet der Niagara Halbinsel zurück nach Toronto und Heimflug am Abend (z.B. nach Europa). (B) P.S.: Sollten Sie nach Ottawa zurückkehren wollen, wird das per Bus möglich sein.

PAKETPREIS : in € (Richtpreis) pro Person
 Im Zweibett: 850,-, Im Dreibett: 780,-, Im Einzel: 1100,-

Empfehlung für ihre Flugbuchung:

19. Mai 2005 Donnerstag: ‚Ihr Abflugort‘ nach OTTAWA (meist über Toronto)
 29. Mai Sonntag: TORONTO nach ‚Ihrem Heimatflughafen‘ (der Abflug aus Toronto sollte ab frühem Abend sein)

Für beide Reisen (Canada Ost und Canada West) gilt folgendes: *Inkludiert:* Gute Touristenhotels / Frühstück täglich (B), Lunch (L) und Abendessen (D) wie angegeben / Bus und deutschsprachiger Reiseleiter / Eintritte / Trinkgelder Fahrer und Reiseleiter.
Nicht inkludiert: An- und Abreise nach / von Ottawa bzw. Toronto oder Vancouver / Flug Ottawa – Calgary – Viktoria (C. West Reise) / Storno- oder Krankenversicherung / Flughafensteuern / Extraausflüge und persönliche Ausgaben.

FÜR ALLE REISETECHNISCHEN FRAGEN UND BUCHUNGEN FÜR DIE CANADA OST oder WEST REISE WENDEN SIE SICH BITTE DIREKT AN:

Gery Valtiner, Special Travel International sti@intergate.ca

3503 East Hastings St., Vancouver, B.C. V5K 2A8, CANADA

Tel: (604) 291-1332 Fax: (604) 291-1378 E-Mail: sti@intergate.ca Web Site: www.sticanada.com

CANADA WEST
 23. bis 31. Mai 2005 (8 Tage)

23. Mai Mon: OTTAWA – CALGARY – LAKE LOUISE – BANFF
Morgenflug nach Calgary und dann Fahrt nach Lake Louise in den Rocky Mountains – dann nach Banff, etwas Zeit in der Stadt und am Abend gemeinsames Steak Dinner (D)
24. Mai Die: BANFF – CALGARY
Fahrt zurück und in der Nähe von Torrington Besuch einer Hutterer Kolonie mit Mittagessen, dann zurück durch die Prärie und kurze Orientierungstour durch Calgary und am Nachmittag und Abend frei in der Stadt (B, L)
25. Mai Mitt: CALGARY – VICTORIA
Am Morgen Besuch des Heritage Museums in Calgary und dann am Nachmittag Flug nach Victoria – dort Ankunft und dann Fahrt in die Stadt, einchecken im Hotel und am Abend Zeit, es sich in einem der Pubs der Stadt gemütlich zu machen (B)
26. Mai Donn: VICTORIA
Nach dem Frühstück Besuch des Royal British Columbia Museums – dann Orientierungstour mit Oak Bay, Beacon Hill Park und the Uplands – der Nachmittag ist zur freien Verfügung in der Hauptstadt der Provinz – oder es gibt die Möglichkeit zum Whale Watching oder eines Wasserflugzeugrundfluges (B)
27. Mai Frei: VICTORIA – DUNCAN – NANAIMO – VANCOUVER
Wir verlassen Victoria und fahren nach Duncan und besuchen das Native Heritage Centre wo wir auch ein Lachs Barbecue des einheimischen Cowichan Stammes genießen – dann geht es weiter über Chemainus mit seinen Wandmalereien nach Nanaimo und von dort mit der Fähre aufs Festland und in die Stadt Vancouver – einchecken und frei (B, L)
28. Mai Sam: VANCOUVER
Stadtbesichtigung mit Stanley Park, Aquarium, Chinatown, Gastown und dann Besuch des Capilano Hängebrücke in North Vancouver – dann zurück in die Stadt und kurze Freizeit – am Abend gemeinsames Essen (B, D)
29. Mai Sonn: VANCOUVER
Ein freier Tag zum Besuch von Granville Island und zum Genießen der Stadt (vielleicht Zeit für eine Fahrrad Tour um den Stanley Park ?) – oder Ausflug nach Whistler Mountain etc (B)
30. Mai Mon: VANCOUVER – EUROPA
Transfer zum Flughafen für Heimflug (B)

PAKETPREIS : in € (Richtpreis) pro Person (mind: 25 Teilnehmer)
 Im Zweibett: 940,-, Im Dreibett: 870,-, Im Einzel: 1220,-

Empfehlung für ihre Roundtrip-Buchung:

19. Mai 2005 Donnerstag: ‚Ihr Abflugort‘ nach OTTAWA
 23. Mai Montag: OTTAWA – CALGARY (Flug um ca. 09.00)
 25. Mai Mittwoch: CALGARY – VICTORIA (Flug um ca. 13.00/14.00)
 30. Mai Montag: VANCOUVER nach ‚Ihrem Heimatflughafen‘



Waren Sie schon einmal in Canada?

**Österreichische Gesellschaft Ottawa
Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc.
und
Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund**

laden ein zum festlichen Jubiläumstreffen

**Austrian Canadian Get-together & Symposium
20. bis 22. Mai 2005 in Ottawa**

40 Jahre Österreichische Gesellschaft Ottawa, 50 Jahre österreichischer Staatsvertrag, 150 Jahre österreichisch-kanadische diplomatische Beziehungen und einige weitere Anlässe bilden den Hintergrund für diese Festveranstaltung in der Hauptstadt Canadas. Unter der Schirmherrschaft der österreichischen Botschaft in Canada, des Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbundes, des Austrian Canadian Councils und der Österreichischen Gesellschaft Ottawa sieht dieses Wochenende ein Symposium, Gastvorträge von Diplomaten und Wissenschaftlern zu politischen, historischen und kulturellen Begebenheiten in der Universität Ottawa, den Besuch des kanadischen Parlaments und diverse unterhaltende Veranstaltungen vor. An diesem Wochenende findet auch das alljährliche Tulpenfestival in Ottawa statt. Die Hauptveranstaltungen sind für alle Mitglieder des Weltbundes übrigens frei! Günstige Übernachtungsmöglichkeiten auf dem Gelände der Universität.

Dazu – nach Wunsch – noch ein attraktives
Anschlussprogramm (siehe linke Seite)

KOSTENÜBERBLICK:

Pro Person ist zu den diversen Empfängen und Essen ein Beitrag von € 49.- zu leisten. Bei Übernachtung mit Frühstück in einer Suite der Universität (4 Nächte) ist beispielsweise für 2 Personen mit einem Betrag von insgesamt € 340.- zu rechnen.

Anreiseorganisation bzw. Flugbuchungen auf eigene Veranlassung

Weitere Informationen bzw. Anmeldeformulare per E-Mail: Roland K. Pirker unter: roland@rollframe.ca oder Sekretariat des AÖWB unter: office.wien@weltbund.at oder The Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc. 1391 Cavendish Road, Ottawa, ON, K1H 6B8, Canada, Tel. +1-613-521-3603, Fax: +1-613-521-7602

GET-TOGETHER

PROGRAMM

FREITAG, 20. MAI 2005

Eröffnungsfeier zum Tulpenfest – Major's Hill Park (mittags)

Ehrengäste und Sprecher im „Special tent“:

Der österreichische Botschafter
Der niederländische Botschafter
Der türkische Botschafter

Für Unterhaltung sorgen:

Köflacher Blaskapelle Steiermark –
Alpineclub Dancers Kitchener-Waterloo –
Männerquintett Klagenfurt Kärnten

Abendempfang des österreichischen Botschafters:

Ehrengäste:

Der amerikanische Botschafter
Der Hochkommissär von Großbritannien
Der französische Botschafter
Der russische Botschafter

SAMSTAG, 21. MAI 2005

Symposium an der Universität Ottawa

Bekannte Diplomaten, Wissenschaftler und Historiker diskutieren mit dem Auditorium über aktuelle politische, historische und kulturelle Themen und Begebenheiten.

Begrüßung: Dr. Otto Ditz / Präsident ACC & ASO

Diskussionsleitung: Agnes Grossmann und Raffi Areneman

Vormittag: Panel Session I und II Nachmittag: Panel Session III und IV

Dinner in der Universität mit anschließendem kulturellem
Abendprogramm im Auditorium

Ansprache: Gustav Chlestil,

Präsident des Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbundes

Für Unterhaltung sorgen: Ottawa Schrammel Quartett, Köflacher Blaskapelle Steiermark, Alpineclub Dancers Kitchener-Waterloo, Männerquintett Klagenfurt Kärnten

SONNTAG, 22. MAI 2005

Vormittag: Ökumenische Messe in der Notre Dame Basilica

Besuch des kanadischen Parlaments

Nachmittag: Besuch des Tulpenfestes

Abend: Festliches Abschluss-Dinner im Ottawa Congress Centre zu Ehren:

40 Jahre Austrian Society Ottawa

10 Jahre Austrian Canadian Council

30 Jahre Ottawa Schrammel Quartet

MONTAG, 23. MAI 2005

Vormittag: Heimreise oder Beginn des Touristikprogrammes
Canada Ost oder Canada West

THE AUSTRIAN-CANADIAN COUNCIL 1995-2005: A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

1994: The Austrian-Canadian Council is established

The Austrian-Canadian Council (ACC) was established in the summer of 1994 as an umbrella organization of the more than twenty Austrian clubs and societies across Canada. Its mandate is to inform Canadians about Austrian culture and learning, giving them an appreciation of Austrian studies, Austrian graphic and performing arts and Austrian intellectual life and literature. It also acts as a sponsor of Austrian scholarly and cultural activities in Canada.



March 17, 1996: Austrian Society Ottawa, book launch of the 30th anniversary *Festschrift* at St. Albertus Church. Left to right: Hans Körner, Dieter Kiesevalter, and Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador) receiving the first book of the Society from ASO President Roland K. Pirker. (The production of this book in 1994 initiated the establishment of the Austrian-Canadian Council.)

The initiative for establishing this organization came from Dr. Walther Lichem, then Austrian Ambassador to Canada. In September 1994, he approached the President of the Austrian Society Ottawa, Roland K. Pirker, with the proposal to organize such a national organization.

In the course of the following months Mr. Pirker contacted almost all presidents of Austrian clubs and societies across Canada about this suggestion and received such a favourable response that a few months later all necessary legal preparations could be made by the law firm of Lang Michener in Toronto to establish the ACC as a charitable organization. Mr. Frank Stronach covered the legal fees for the incorporation of the new group and served as the first Honorary Chairman of the Council

from 1994 to 1998. The first four members of the Board of Directors to sign the incorporation documents were Roland K. Pirker (President, Austrian Society Ottawa), Gerhard (Garry) Bonner (President, Austrian International Club Kingston), Hans (John) Raschke (President, Austrian-Canadian Society Toronto) and Otto Heberlein (Vice-President, Austrian Society Ottawa).



February 14, 1995: Austrian-Canadian Council inaugural meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto. Left to right: David W. Pamentner, Dr. Gerhard Selzer, Dr. Franz Vranitzky (Federal Chancellor of Austria), Gerhard Bonner (ACC President) and Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador).

On February 14, 1995 the Austrian-Canadian Council held its inaugural meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto. During this meeting Garry Bonner was elected to act as the first president. The Austrian Federal Chancellor, Dr. Franz Vranitzky, who was on a state visit to Canada at that time, opened the meeting. Many presidents and representatives of Austrian clubs and societies from



February 14, 1995: Austrian-Canadian Council inaugural meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto. Left to right: Karl Fiala, Frank Stronach and Edmund and Hilde Harzan.

across the country attended and took part in writing a new chapter in the history of the Austrian community in Canada.

As a national representative of the Austrian community in Canada, the Austrian-Canadian Council sees itself as a partner of the Austrian Embassy in Ottawa, and collaborates with it in a variety of educational and cultural projects of interest to our two countries. The Council is a



February 14, 1995: Austrian-Canadian Council inaugural meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto. Left to right: Franz Prokop (Maple Ridge, B.C.), Walter Schachenhofer (Edmonton), Margot Wirth (Secretary, Steirer Club Toronto), Karl Vogel (President, Steirer Club Toronto), Joe Waldner, Karl Gyaki, Joe Plessl (President, Edelweiss Club Regina), Josef Helbich (President, Austria Club Windsor) and Franz Gutschl (Vice-President, Austria Club Windsor).



February 14, 1995: Austrian-Canadian Council inaugural meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto. Left to right: 1st row: Roland K. Pirker (Secretary, ACC and President, Austrian Society Ottawa), Jero Waldner, H. E. Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador), Gerhard (Garry) Bonner (President, ACC and President, Kingston International Club), Franz Prokop and Heidi Rust (Montreal). 2nd row: Walter Schachenhofer, Josef Helbich, Dr. Hans-Günther Abromeit (Consul of Austria), Franz Gutschl and Joe Plessl. Third row: Arno Risse (President, Continental Austrian Club Burlington), Hans Raschke (Vice President, ACC and President, Canadian-Austrian Society Toronto), Otto Heberlein (Treasurer, ACC and Vice President, Austrian Society Ottawa), Alois Dunninger (President, Trodat Canada), Michael Gazza and Karl Fiala.



February 14, 1995: Austrian-Canadian Council inaugural meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto. Left to right, foreground: Otto Heberlein (Treasurer), Garry Bonner (President), David W. Pamentler, Dr. Gerhard Selzer; background: Hans Kroisenbrunner sen. (Past President, Kitchener-Waterloo, Der Alpen Club), Sonja Kroisenbrunner-Biselli (Cultural Director, K-W Alpine Club), Dietmar Biselli, Karl Fiala, Hilde Harzan, Edmund Harzan (President, Friends of Austria Winnipeg), Frank Posch (Past President, Austrian Vancouver Club), Helga Posch and Arno Risse (President, Continental Austrian Club-Burlington).

charitable non-political organization, staffed only by volunteers. Though Dr. Lichem and the Austrian Embassy secured a one-time grant from the Austrian Federal Government for the funding of its first few projects, for the first four years of the Council's operation Directors of the Board paid the expenses usually associated with running a national office out of their own pockets. To this day, all travel expenses as well as other expenditures are borne by the officers and directors themselves.

1995: International Symposium on "Austrian Immigration to Canada" held at Carleton University

Concurrent with the initiative to establish the Austrian-Canadian Council, Ambassador Lichem also conceived of a major research project to study Austrian immigration to Canada, with the intent that an appropriate volume could be published in time for the Austrian millennium celebrations of 1996. Dr. Franz Szabo, then professor of Austrian history at Carleton University, agreed to oversee the project, and an international research team was put in place to conduct the study. As a preliminary to the publication of the projected volume, a major symposium was held at Carleton University in Ottawa on May 19–21, 1995.

The ACC played a significant role in sponsoring this conference, together with Carleton University, the Austrian Embassy and Heritage Canada. Papers were pre-



May 19-21, 1995: International Symposium "Austrian Immigration to Canada" at Carleton University in Ottawa. Left to right: Mark Curford-Mollington (Heritage Canada), Garry Bonner (President, ACC and President, Kingston International Austrian Club), Roland K. Pirker (ACC Secretary and President, Austrian Society of Ottawa), Prof. Dr. Fraser Taylor (Carleton University), Prof. Dr. Frederick Engelmann (University of Alberta), H. E. Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador), Dr. Robin Farquar (President, Carleton University), Prof. Dr. Franz A. J. Szabo (Carleton University, ACC Executive Director, Foundation Programme and Symposium organizer).

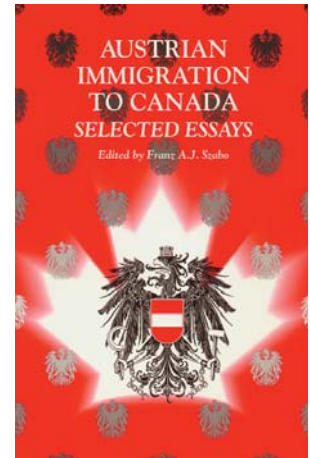
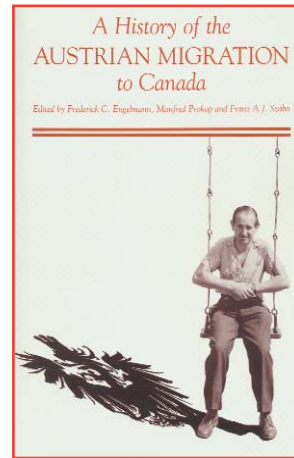


Left to right: Roland K. Pirker and speaker Prof. Dr. Franz A. J. Szabo



Farewell dinner. Left to right: At the head table: Roland K. Pirker, Prof. Dr. Franz A. Szabo, Dr. Maria-Teresa Lichem, Prof. Dr. Frederick Engelmann, H. E. Dr. Walther Lichem, Catherine Szabo and Garry Bonner. In front of the head table: Mag. Anna Maria Pichler, Mrs. Canisius and Ulrike Billard (Austrian Consul General)

sented at the Symposium by both Austrian and Canadian scholars, and the proceedings were subsequently published by Carleton University Press in 1996. More than 150 persons from across the country attended the Symposium. The occasion was also used for an ACC meeting with many presidents and representatives from Austrian clubs and societies taking part.



The principal volume, *A History of the Austrian Migration to Canada*, edited by Frederick C. Engelmann, Manfred Prokop and Franz A. J. Szabo was the first systematic study of Austrian immigration to Canada in any language. A companion volume, *Austrian Immigration to Canada: Selected Essays*, edited by Franz A.J. Szabo, published the remaining presentations from the 1995 conference.

1996: The Austrian-Canadian Council establishes a charitable foundation

The one-time grant from the Austrian Federal Government for funding the initial projects of the ACC marked the beginning of the Council's financial resource base for sponsoring Austria-related activities in Canada. On May 22, 1996 the ACC Executive decided to appoint Professor Franz Szabo, Executive Director of its Foundation Programme, and charged him with drawing up plans and guidelines for ACC sponsorships.

The Foundation had a rocky beginning, as a professional fundraiser hired by the Austrian-Canadian Council unable to produce the results desired. As a consequence, in April 1998, the matter was taken in hand by Roland K. Pirker, who— together with his wife Burgie and his children Rebecca and Rolando and members of the Friends of Austria, Angie and Julie Lacombe—began to organize charitable bingo fund-raisers at the Overbrook

Bingo Palace in Ottawa.

Since 1998 these volunteers have organized more than 380 events and have raised a total of some \$200,000. This undertaking has become the most successful fund-raising activity of the ACC, and the proceeds have been the backbone of the ACC's sponsorship programme ever since. With the proceeds the ACC was able to finance the *OeCulture* magazine on an ongoing basis and to support, in part, many other educational projects such as the Klimt exhibition in Ottawa, the Albertina exhibition in Toronto, the Hugo Wolf Symposium in Ottawa, just to name a few.

1996: The ACC establishes thesis and dissertation prizes in Austrian Studies

Among the first initiatives of the ACC's Foundation Programme was the creation of a series of dissertation prizes to encourage scholarly work in the field of Austrian Studies at Canadian universities. These included the sponsorship of a Ph.D. thesis prize of \$1,000 or M.A. thesis prizes of \$500 (up to a total of \$1,500) in the field of Austrian literature, or comparative literature with an Austrian dimension, and a Ph.D. thesis prize of \$1,000 or M.A. thesis prizes of \$500 (up to a total of \$1,500) in the field of "Austrian Studies" (that is, all social sciences, humanities and related fields). An academic adjudication committee consisting of three eminent senior Canadian professors of Austrian Studies was established to assess the applicants.



January 9, 1997: The first Dissertation Prize was awarded at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador. Left to right: Garry Bonner (President, ACC), Prof. Dr. Franz A. Szabo (Executive Director, Foundation Programme) and Dr. Jürgen Heizman (recipient)

The first winner of the Austrian-Canadian Council Dissertation Prize for Austrian Literature (1996) was Dr. Jürgen Heizmann. He was awarded the Prize by ACC President Garry Bonner at a ceremony held at the Austrian Embassy Residence in January 1997 for his dissertation "Antike und Moderne in Hermann Brochs *Tod des Vergil: Über Dichtung und Wissenschaft, Utopie und Ideologie*," which was completed at the University of Montreal.

In the following year, the second winner of the Austrian-Canadian Council Dissertation Prize for Austrian Literature was Ms. Brigitte Gerdes. She was



March 12, 1999: The third Dissertation Prize was awarded at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador. Left to right: Roland K. Pirker (President, ACC), Dr. Franz A. Szabo (Executive Director, Foundation Programme), Dr. Jill Scott (recipient) and Dr. Walther Lichem.

awarded the Prize by Ambassador Dr. Lichem at a ceremony conducted at the Austria Vancouver Club in October 1998 for her thesis "Johann Nestroy's *Der Talisman: An English Performance Translation*," written at the University of Alberta.

In 1998, the Prize went to Dr. Jill Scott. She accepted the award from ACC President Roland K. Pirker at a ceremony at the Residence of the Austrian Ambassador on March 12, 1999 for her thesis "Electra after Freud: Death, Hysteria and Mourning." Dr. Scott received her degree from the University of Toronto.

The fourth holder of the Dissertation Prize was Dr. Alexandra Heberger. Dr. Heberger was awarded the prize on January 21, 2003 by the Regional Representative of the ACC, Mr. Peter Strausz (President, The Friends of Austria Inc.-Manitoba) at a ceremony in the office of the Dean of Arts at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Heberger's dissertation, "Der Mythos Mann in ausgewählten Prosawerken von Elfriede Jelinek," was completed at the University of Waterloo.

1996: The ACC assists in the mounting of the North American premiere of an opera

The ACC was proud to be one of the co-sponsors of the North American premiere of the opera "The Emperor of Atlantis" by Viktor Ullmann, performed at the National Art Centre in Ottawa. This play was also made possible by ARBOS (a theatre and music company based in Klagenfurt and Salzburg, Austria), the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Austrian Embassy, the Embassy of Israel and B'nai Brith of Canada.



October 22, 1996: North American premiere of the opera "The Emperor of Atlantis" at the National Arts Centre. Left to right: The Hon. Hedy Fry (Secretary of State for the Status of Women and Multicultural Affairs), H. E. Dr. Walther Lichem and H. E. David Sultan (Ambassador of Israel).



Left to right: Burgie Pirker, John MacMillan and Dr. Michael Ausserwinkler (Deputy Premier of Carinthia).

Viktor Ullmann (1898–1944) was a promising Austrian composer, a pupil of Arnold Schönberg and an orchestra leader under Alexander Zemlinsky. He worked in Vienna and Prague, but was murdered by the Nazis at Auschwitz in October 1944. He wrote the opera while interned in the Theresienstadt concentration camp. The manuscript miraculously survived, and the work received its world premiere in Amsterdam in 1975.

1997: The ACC plays a major role in establishing a Centre for Austrian Studies in Canada

Another important milestone in the history of the ACC came in 1996. That year a large delegation of Austrian university presidents was touring Canada, and during a debriefing session with Ambassador Lichem and Professor Szabo in Montreal prior to their return to Austria, the proposal was made that a Centre for Austrian Studies be established at some university in Canada. Discussions also centered on the nature of the incentive package that the Republic of Austria could offer a Canadian university to establish such a centre, and on the question which Canadian universities should be canvassed for possible interest in the project. Professor Szabo was asked to undertake an assessment study of the major Canadian universities, with the aim of develop-



September 7, 1998: Celebrating the opening of the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta, Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton. Left to right: Joe Niederleitner (President, Club Austria Edmonton), The Hon. Dr. Casper Einem (Austrian Minister of Science and Transportation) and Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador).



September 7, 1998: Austrian-Canadian Council afternoon meeting at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. Clockwise: Gerhard (Garry) Bonner, Hans Raschke, Frank Friesacher, Joe Niederleitner, Peter Jaras, Josef Helbich, Frank Meixner, Elfriede Foidl, Trudy Duller, Gertrud and Otmar Laehrm, August Engelbrecht, Peter Strausz, Oskar Tankovitz, Christine Meyer and Franz Zaunscherb.



September 7, 1998: "Austria Week" in Alberta, Edmonton. Left to right, front row: Frank Meixner, Oskar Tankovitz, Helmut Jandrisits, Roland K. Pirker, Gerhard (Garry) Bonner, Harry Metz, Franz Zaunscherb, Peter Strausz, Hans Raschke and Franz Raschke. Second row standing: Josef Helbich, Elfriede Foidl, Burgie Pirker, Josef and Elisabeth Steinlechner, Valerie Schirmaier, Prof. Dr. Franz Szabo, Theresa Szabo, Dr. Walther Lichem, Karl and Linda Mayer, Joe Niederleitner, Dr. Joseph Kandler, Maria Metz, Maria Strausz, Barbara Guenther, Franz Pirker, a guest, Gertrud Laehrm, Freda Niederleitner, Otmar Laehrm, Christine Meyer, August Engelbrecht, Edith Brezina, Emmi Straschek and Trudy Duller.



September 7, 1998: Austrian-Canadian Council morning meeting at the City Hall of Edmonton. Left to right: Dr. Manfred Prokop (addressing the participants), Arnim Joop (Editor, *The Albertaner*), Dr. Joseph Kandler, Josef Helbich, Joe Niederleitner, Michael Phair (City Councillor), Gerhard Bonner, Dr. Franz Szabo and Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador), Mrs. Schwarz and Dr. Harold A. Schwarz.

ing a short list of institutions to be contacted.

Upon the completion of the assessment study, the ACC was asked to become involved as intermediary in the process in January 1997. ACC President Garry Bonner agreed to do so on behalf of the Council and commissioned Professor Szabo to undertake the appropriate correspondence with the universities selected under the ACC banner. Four universities—the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, Carleton University and McMaster University—were the finalists, and the ACC's



September 8, 1998: Opening ceremony. Left to right: Dr. Franz Szabo (Director, CCAuCES), Dr. Patricia Clements (Dean, Faculty of Arts). Dr. Roderick D. Fraser (Vice-Chancellor University of Alberta) receives the Austrian flag from The Hon. Dr. Casper Einem (Austrian Minister of Science and Transportation).

assessment of their proposals was subsequently considered by an inter-ministerial meeting of relevant Austrian officials in Vienna in July 1997. The proposal of the University of Alberta was accepted as being the best, and in March 1998 an appropriate Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the University and the Austrian government to establish a new "Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies"

(CCAuCES). At the same time, Professor Szabo was appointed Director of the new Centre. In April 1998 the Embassies of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia also joined in supporting this new Centre.

The Centre was formally opened on September 8, 1998 by the Austrian Federal Minister of Science and Transportation, Dr. Casper Einem, and his Canadian counterpart, The Honourable Ronald Duhamel, Secretary of State for Science, Research and Development, The Honourable Clint Dunford, Minister of Advanced Education and Career Development in the Government of Alberta, Dr. Roderick D. Fraser, President of the University of Alberta, and Dr. Patricia Clements, Dean of the University's Faculty of Arts.

Many members of the Austrian-Canadian Council from across the country traveled to Edmonton to attend this ceremony. The ACC also used this occasion for another national meeting of the Council. ACC Secretary Roland K. Pirker served as the master of ceremonies during an initial ACC meeting held on September 6, 1998 at Edmonton's new City Hall. During that ceremony ACC President Garry Bonner received the official document from a member of City Council that proclaimed September 6-12, 1998 as "Austria Week" in Edmonton. A subsequent meeting of the Council held at the University of Alberta sketched out guidelines and policy directions for future ACC activities.

1997: The Viennese Winter Ball Ottawa is established

The Austrian-Canadian Council wanted to establish a quintessential Austrian event that would bring Austrian culture to Ottawa, but would also serve as a major fundraiser for charitable causes.

In 1996 Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem, Roland K. Pirker, Garry Bonner and Otto Heberlein tried to organize a Viennese Ball in Ottawa. Unfortunately, due to budgetary restraints in the ACC, this attempt failed. However, two leading Ottawa citizens—Mrs. Penny Scott and Mr. Dave Wallace—came through and launched the most glamorous event of the year, "The Viennese Winter Ball Ottawa," held under the patronage of the Austrian Ambassador to Canada. Since 1999 the Austrian Society Ottawa under the leadership of its President, Roland K. Pirker, has been part of the organizing committee, and

the Austrian Society's Schrammel Quartet consisting of Edmund Wyslouzil, Hans Wyslouzil, Hermann Griesseier and Alois Platzer has entertained the Ball's participants since its inception in 1997. This cultural event has raised \$400,000 to date. The proceeds have been benefitting two Ottawa charities, "The Junior Thirteen String Orchestra" and "The Champions for Children Foundation." Former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and his wife Aline, many ministers and other high-ranking officials in the Ottawa-Gatineau region have enjoyed the wonderful ambience of this showy and much-sought-after event, which is held every February during Winterlude at the National Gallery of Canada.



February 6, 1999: Third Viennese *Winterball* Ottawa at the National Art Gallery of Canada. Left to right: Dr. Maria-Teresa Lichem, Dr. Walther Lichem and David Wallace (Chair, VWBO).



October 27, 2002: Austrian-Canadian Council awards ceremony at St. Albertus Church. Left to right: For his contributions to the Austrian community of Canada, Dave Wallace receives the Gold Medal of Merit of the ACC from Roland K. Pirker (President, ACC).

1998: OeCulture magazine launched

The *OeCulture* magazine began as another initiative of the Austrian Embassy in the spring of 1996. Conceived by Ambassador Lichem and then First Secretary, Mag. Hermine Poppeller, the ACC was quick to offer its co-sponsorship of the project. Dr. Manfred Prokop, Professor of German at the University of Alberta, was appointed editor shortly thereafter, and the first issue of the magazine appeared in the spring of 1998.

The publication of the magazine remained a joint project of the ACC and the Austrian Embassy during 1998 and 1999, but beginning in the year 2000 the ACC, under the leadership of Roland Pirker, assumed full responsibility for its publication. The magazine is currently printed once or twice a year in Ottawa. To date, 14 issues have appeared in the period from 1998 to 2004.



January 20, 2003: Offices at Rollframe Productions. Friends of Austria Ottawa volunteers mail *OeCulture* magazines. Left to right: Angie Lacombe, Don Daniels, Burgie Pirker and Stacy White.



Left to right, front: Inga Michalek (President, ACC) and Rene Wolfram. Back: Don Daniels, Angie Lacombe and Stacy White.

OeCulture has found great resonance among its readers. Financial support for its publication comes not only from the Austrian clubs and individual memberships, but also from the Austrian Society Ottawa and the Friends of Austria Ottawa. The Austrian Embassy continues to be active in the magazine's distribution and contributes the mailing costs for each issue. It is distributed throughout Canada, the U.S., Austria and elsewhere in Europe. The magazine features articles on cultural and



March 12, 2005: *OeCulture* magazine editor Dr. Manfred Prokop (left) receives the *Silberne Verdienstzeichen der Republik Österreich* from H. E. Dr. Otto Ditz, Austrian Ambassador.

scholarly matters pertaining to Austria-related activities in Canada, but also carries stories on individual Austrian immigrants who came to Canada after World Wars I and II. Many of these Austrian immigrants not only made great contributions to Canada's economic development, but also to the social and cultural fabric of Canada. Through this magazine the historical contributions of these people have received recognition in both the Austrian and the broader Canadian communities.

1999: ACC sets up Manfred Wirth Endowment for the benefit of the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies

In December 1998, Ambassador Dr. Lichem, on behalf of the ACC, solicited financial support for the Council in numerous letters addressed to Canadian companies with an Austrian connection. Soon an Austrian immigrant by the name of Dr. Manfred Wirth came forward after having received this letter and having read in the *OeCulture* magazine about the establishment of the Canadian Centre for Central and East European Studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Dr. Wirth,

President of M.F. Wirth Rail Corporation in Montreal, contacted ACC president Roland K. Pirker on October 25, 1999 and told him that he was prepared to make a large donation to this Centre through the ACC. Mr Pirker, who



December 20, 1999: Receiving \$1.3 million endowment from Dr. Manfred Wirth. Ceremony and luncheon at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador. Left to right: Dr. Maria-Teresa Lichem, Dr. Christina Cameron (Heritage Canada), Lucien Fauteux, Elisabeth Wirth-Fauteux, Hugh Winsor (*Globe and Mail*), Christine Welling (Secretary, ACC), Heidemarie Kelly (Legal Advisor, ACC), Dave Wallace (Senior Manager, Bank of Montreal), Franz Plangger (Chair, ACBC), Frank Marth (Treasurer, ACC), Barbara Hörmann (Austrian Embassy) and Gerd Braune (*Die Presse*, Vienna).

was on a film assignment at that time, passed the information on to Austrian Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem. Independently, Dr. Wirth related to the Ambassador that he was delighted to see the establishment of the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies in Edmonton because it reminded him of the multicultural society which characterized Austria when he was growing up there.

Dr. Wirth proposed to establish an endowment fund for the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies by donating 8,900 Nortel shares to the ACC, worth \$1,000,000 at that time. By the time Mr. Pirker returned from his assignment and called a special meeting of the Council to examine ways and means to set up the endowment fund, the value of the donation had already grown to \$1.3 million. During a meeting in Ottawa held at the Bank of Montreal on January 10, 2000, in which many ACC representatives from across the country took part, Mr. Dave Wallace and Mr. Robert Fallensbuchl from BMO Harris Private Banking in Ottawa volunteered their expertise to help set up an investment plan benefitting the new Centre at the University of Alberta.

In February 2002 Dr. Manfred Wirth contributed an additional \$1.1 million for the benefit of the Centre directly to the University of Alberta, which therefore set up

a Wirth Endowment of its own. In February and March 2003 Dr. Wirth was in the process of making a further, even larger donation to this endowment when he passed away. Shortly thereafter, his son, Mr. Alfred G. Wirth, President and Director of Wirth Associates of Toronto, in accordance with his father's original intentions, pledged an additional \$7.5 million to the University of Alberta's Wirth Endowment, with the targeted sum to be fulfilled by the end of 2006. The ACC-administered fund will be transferred to the University of Alberta in 2009, so that the total value of the Wirth Endowment will at that point be approximately \$10 million. To acknowledge this tremendous contribution, the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies was formally renamed "Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies" by the University of Alberta on October 29, 2003. Several



Left to right: Roland K. Pirker (President, ACC), Prof. Dr. Franz A.J. Szabo (Director, CCAuCES), Dr. Manfred Wirth (donor), Elisabeth Wirth-Fauteux and Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador).

other prominent Austrian immigrants—among them Mr. Joseph Kuchar and Dr. Joseph and Mrs. Melitta Kandler—have donated additional funds to the Institute, assuring the long-time existence of this important Canadian institute of learning.

1999: The Austrian Councils of North America are established

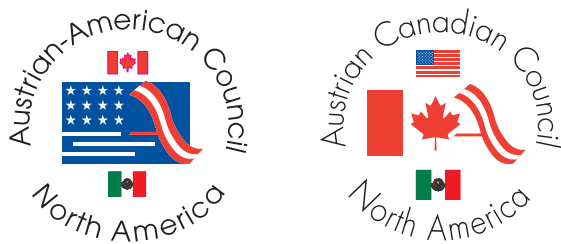
The ACC is registered in Canada as a charitable organization and is totally independent of its counterparts in the U.S. and Mexico, the Austrian-American Council (AAC) and the Austrian-Mexican Council (AMC). In 1999, the three organizations—under the leadership of ACC presidents Garry Bonner and Roland K. Pirker, AAC president Juliana Belcsak and AMC president Aurel Zoepnek-Twardowski—formed a loose association, the Austrian Councils of North America.

Almost every year since then, Juliana Belcsak has organized a conference in the U.S. where representatives from the three countries have not only exchanged ideas, but have also discussed pressing issues which have arisen in North America's Austrian communities. Among the topics discussed were fund-raising and social issues. In view of the rapidly aging membership in our Austrian clubs and the low levels of immigration from Austria to North America, the national presidents have been searching for ways in which the Austrian cultural identity can be passed on to the next generation of Austrians on this continent.



November 7, 1999: Austrian Councils of North America meeting in Albuquerque, N.M. Left to right: Roland K. Pirker (President, ACC), Gerhard Bonner (Past President, ACC), Juliana Belcsak (President, Austrian-American Council) and Gustav Chlestil (President, *Weltbund*).

In 2001 the Austrian-Canadian Council developed its own logo, incorporating all three partners of the Austrian Councils of North America in the design.



Canadian representatives attended the following conferences:

- September 1996 (New York City): Garry Bonner and John Raschke
- October 31–November 3, 1996 (Los Angeles): Garry Bonner
- June 1997 (Washington, D.C.): Garry Bonner
- September 26–27, 1997 (Washington, D.C.): Garry Bonner
- October 16–18, 1998 (Chicago): Garry Bonner
- November 4–7, 1999 (Albuquerque, N. M.): Roland K. Pirker and Garry Bonner

- October 13–15, 2000 (East Rutherford, N.J.): Roland K. Pirker
- April 26–28, 2002 (Washington, D.C.): Roland and Walburga (Burgie) Pirker
- November 2003 (New York City): Inga Michalek



April 28, 2002: Austrian Councils of North America meeting in Washington D. C. at the Austrian Ambassador's residence. The ACC recognized two outstanding individuals (Juliana Belcsak and Fritz Molden) for their commitment to the Austrian communities in North America. Left to right: Roland K. Pirker (President, ACC), Juliana Belcsak (President, Austrian-American Council), Dr. Peter Moser (Austrian Ambassador to the U.S.), Hannerl Molden and Fritz Molden (President, *Auslands österreichischer-Werk*, Vienna) and Burgie Pirker (ACC).

2001: The Austrian-Canadian Council establishes an Awards Program

In January 2001 Roland K. Pirker and Garry Bonner set up criteria for the establishment of an ACC awards program as a means of giving recognition to persons either within and outside the Austrian-Canadian Council's members for outstanding contributions in promoting the work of a club or society and in furthering the aims and purposes of the Council. The ACC also wanted to acknowledge and honour members of Austrian clubs across the country for their individual outstanding contributions, for having worked tirelessly and silently in the background, without ever having received much recognition. The Awards Program became an instant success due to the overwhelming demand for it expressed by Austrian clubs across Canada.

Once a nomination from either a president or a director of a club has been received by the ACC, the awards chairman and a jury assess how the nominees fit the ACC criteria and, award either a gold, a silver or a bronze medal.

Between 2001 and 2004 altogether 36 Gold, 72 Silver and 10 Bronze Medals were awarded.

Location and date of presentation	Presenter
1. Winnipeg, April 22, 2001	Dr. Wendelin Ettmayer, Ambassador of Austria
2. Ottawa (Sheraton Hotel), May 19, 2001	Roland K. Pirker, ACC President, and Dr. Wera Zelenka, Cultural Counsellor (Austrian Embassy)
3. Ottawa (Sheraton Hotel), May 19, 2001	Roland K. Pirker and Otto Heberlein, Board of Directors of the ACC
4. Edmonton, May 9, 2001	Prof. Dr. Franz Szabo, ACC Executive Director of the Foundation Programme
5. Victoria, May 2001	Prof. Dr. Franz Szabo
6. Ottawa (Sheraton Hotel), January 13, 2002	Roland K. Pirker and Inga Michalek, ACC Secretary
7. Kingston, December 9, 2001	Garry Bonner, ACC Past President and Awards Chairman
8. Calgary (Austrian-Canadian Society), March 25, 2002	Roland K. Pirker and Nick Demianschuk, Austrian Consul in Alberta
9. Ottawa (St. Albertus Church), April 21, 2002	Roland K. Pirker, Consul Gottfried Haffner and Otto Heberlein (Board of Directors of the ACC)
10. Washington, D.C. (at the residence of Dr. Peter Moser, the Austrian Ambassador in the U.S.), April 26, 2002	Roland K. Pirker, ACC President, Walburga Pirker
11. Ottawa (St. Albertus Church), May 25, 2002	Roland K. Pirker and Hans Wyslouzil, Cultural Director, Austrian Society Ottawa
12. Ottawa (St. Albertus Church), October 20, 2002	Roland K. Pirker and Michael Benzinger, President of the Austria Club Windsor
13. Ottawa (St. Albertus Church), October 27, 2002	Roland K. Pirker, ACC President
14. Windsor (Teutonia Club), November 16, 2002	Roland K. Pirker and Garry Bonner, ACC Awards Chairman
15. Ottawa (Sheraton Hotel), May 2004, 2003	Roland K. Pirker, ACC Past-President and Awards Chairman, and Otto Heberlein
16. Calgary (Austrian Club), May 30, 2003	Roland K. Pirker, and Frank Meixner, President, Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary

Recipients of the Gold Medal:

Friends of Austria-Manitoba, in Winnipeg, April 22, 2001

Dr. Eduard Schluderman
Steffi Kratschmar
Edmund Harzan
Erwine Prevalnig
Michael Heitmann

Austrian International Club Kingston, in Ottawa, January 13, 2002

Garry (Gerhard) Bonner

Austrian Society Ottawa, in Ottawa, January 13, 2002

Otto Heberlein

Austrian Society Ottawa, in Ottawa, May 19, 2001

Josef (Pepi) Frühwirth
Franz Kapeller
Heidi-C. Temelie

Austrian International Club Kingston, December 9, 2001

Ferdinand Prohaska

Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary, in Calgary, March 25, 2002

Herwig Lavicka

Frank Meixner

Johann Strauss Foundation Victoria, in Edmonton, May, 2001

Dr. Joseph R. Kandler

Austrian Society Ottawa, Schrammel Quartet, in Ottawa, April 21, 2002

Hans Wyslouzil

Edmund Wyslouzil

Hermann Griesseier

Alois Platzer

Johann Strauss Foundation Edmonton, in Edmonton, May 9, 2001

Walter Leeb
Anni Leeb

Austrian Society Ottawa, Alpentrio, in Ottawa, April 21, 2002

Gretl Wyslouzil

Maria Wyslouzil

Karin Laframboise

Leo Hammerschmid

Austrian-American Council, residence of Austrian
Ambassador in the U.S., April 26, 2002

Juliana Belcsak

Auslandsösterreicherwerk-Vienna, residence of Austrian
Ambassador in the U.S., April 26, 2002

Fritz Molden

Quebec City, in Ottawa, May 25, 2002

Eugene Kedl

Gretl Kedl

Austrian Society Ottawa, in Ottawa, May 25, 2002

Melitta van Cleeff

BMO Harris Private Banking, Viennese Ball, in Ottawa,
October 27, 2002

Dave Wallace

Austria Club Windsor, at the Teutonia Club in Windsor,
November 16, 2002

Josef Helbich

Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary, in Graz, Styria, March 1,
2003

Hans Unterhuber, cultural promoter

Austrian Alpine Singers, in Ottawa, May 24, 2003

Willi Platzer

Steirer Klub Toronto, in Ottawa, May 24, 2003

Karl Vogel

Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary, in Calgary, May 30, 2003

Hans Ockermüller, Austrian Honorary Consul in

Alberta

Recipients of the Silver Medal:

Friends of Austria-Manitoba, in Winnipeg, April 22, 2001

Elfriede Berger

Darlene Berger

Austrian Society Ottawa, in Ottawa, May 19, 2001

Sylvia Bänziger

Ingrid Feil

Liane Rant

Johann Strauss Foundation Edmonton, in Edmonton, May
2001

Stephan Harstall

Austrian International Club Kingston, in Kingston, December
9, 2001

Walburga Hetzl

"Kanada Kurier", in Ottawa, January 13, 2002

Edith Kuntz, journalist

"Deutsches Panorama" - German TV Program, in Ottawa,
January 13, 2002

Mathilde Jerabek, host and producer

Franz Jerabek

Austrian-Canadian Council, in Ottawa, January 3, 2002

Heidemarie Kelly, legal advisor to the ACC

Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary, in Calgary, March 25,
2002

Eva Angerle

Steve Charchuk

Edna Charchuk

Otto Demetz

Olga Eberhardt

Elfriede Foidl

Gisa Hammel

Albert Hammerling

Elfriede Hammerling

Ulrich "York" Rogi

Max Rieberer

Martha Sattler

Hans Schustereder

Günther Stranzinger

Klaus Stumpf

Berta Takacs

Ludwig Takacs

Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary, March 25, 2002

Gery Valtiner, cultural promoter

"Aus Ottawa" - German Radio Program, in Ottawa, May 25,
2002

„Hank Dee“ Heinz Deppner, host

Austria Club Windsor, in Ottawa, October 20, 2002

Christian Albert, posthumously to his son Henry

Austria Club Windsor, at the Teutonia Club in Windsor,
November 16, 2002

Maria Christ

Simon Christ

Helga Domitter

Frank Gutsch

Hanna Helbich

Emil Kuptyik

Erich Rost

Otto Schwalm

Frank Sieberer

Trude Wolf

Rudolf Geier, posthumously to Mrs. Geier

Alfred Weiss, posthumously to Mrs. Weiss

Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary, in Calgary, May 30, 2003

Tina Brandstätter

Otto Doll

Heinz Franke

Theresia Franke

Libert Goritschnig

Brigitte Graf

Anna Haecker
Dieter Haecker
Ernesta Haslauer
Leo Haslauer
Dr. Rudolf Hofmann
Edith Jakob
Josefine Janschitz
Karl Janusek
Johanna Jilek
Katharina Maier
Mara Michor
Paul Michor
Mathilda Mick
Rupert Mrakawa
Fritz Painsi
Ewald Partl
Karl Puffer
Olga Rogi
Joe Ruckenthaler
Rosemarie Stumpf
George Sticksi
Romana Windsteig

Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary, in Calgary, February 7, 2004
Zacharias Geib

Recipients of the Bronze Medal:

Friends of Austria, Inc.-Manitoba, in Winnipeg, April 22, 2001

Magdalena Leitgeb

Austrian Society Ottawa, in Ottawa, May 19, 2001

Barbara Sauter

Trautl Griesseier

Cecilia Schirgi

Austrian Society Ottawa, in Ottawa, May 25, 2002

Hermann Franke

Austria Club Windsor, at the Teutonia Club in Windsor, November 16, 2002

Werner Beck

Manfred Domitter

Marian Lackovic

Trude Lackovic

Rudolf Schmitz

2002: Meetings of the *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund*

The *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund* (AÖWB) meetings were held in Vienna on September 1–4, 2002. For the first time, the Austrian-Canadian Council was also present at this event. Roland K. Pirker, the ACC president, had been invited by President Fritz Molden and President Gustav Chlestil to participate in the merger of the *Auslandsösterreicherwerk* and the *Weltbund*, respectively. In one of these meetings, he gave a report outlining the work of the ACC as well as the efforts undertaken by the approximately twenty Austrian clubs and societies in Canada. The activities reported met with great admiration and respect by all delegates and



September 4, 2002: *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund*. Audience with the Federal Chancellor of Austria Dr. Wolfgang Schüssel. Left to right: Waltraut Kindler-Goertzen, Roland K. Pirker, Robert Friedl, Dr. Wolfgang Schüssel and Fritz Molden (President, AÖWB).



September 2, 2002. Round tables and presidents meeting at the *Haus der Industrie*, Schwarzenbergplatz, Vienna. Right to left, back row: Wolfdieter Maurer, Gustav Chlestil, Dr. Thomas Buchsbaum, Fritz Molden, Franz Maier, Gerhard Kaes, Robert Friedl, Dr. Walter Dujmovits, Prof. Grete Pifat-Mrzljak. Front row: Dr. Jürgen Em, Hofrat Franz Bauer and Dr. Laszlo Schmid.

government representatives. Roland K. Pirker was invited to represent Canada at future meetings of the AÖWB in Austria.



September 7, 2003: *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund* meeting in Graz, Styria, the Canadian delegation. Left to right, front row: Burgie Pirker, Henny Schuster, Dr. Erika Jüthner-Krtschan, Helga Hecker, Maria Havelka. Back row: Roland K. Pirker (Austrian Society Ottawa and Friends of Austria Ottawa), Walter Schachenhofer (Club Austria Edmonton), Robert Jüthner-Krtschan (Johann Strauss Foundation Edmonton), Frank Meixner (Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary) and Anton Havelka.

Credit for the ACC's achievement at this *Weltbund* meeting must also be given to Dr. Sepp Fröschl from Montreal. He had been part of the board of directors of the *Weltbund* for many years, and his hard and diligent work prepared a smoother entrance by the ACC into the larger organization.



May 1, 2003. Presidents' meeting in the Palais Auersberg, Vienna. Left to right: Fritz Molden (1st President), Gustav Chlestil (2nd President) and Dr. Jürgen Em (Vice-President).

The ACC was present at the AÖWB Presidents' Conference in Vienna on May 1–2, 2003. During that meeting ACC delegate Roland K. Pirker became officially an AÖWB Board member representing the twenty Austrian clubs and societies in Canada.

The following ACC members attended additional meetings of the *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund*:

September 5–7, 2003 in Graz:

- Roland and Walburga (Burgie) Pirker
- Walter Schachenhofer (Club Austria Edmonton)
- Robert Jüthner-Krtschan (Johann Strauss Foundation Edmonton)
- Franx Meixner (Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary)

May 1–2, 2004, in Vienna:

- Roland K. Pirker

May 14–15, 2005, in Vienna:

- Roland K. Pirker

Events supported by the Austrian-Canadian Council

Concerts sponsored by the ACC

The ACC co-sponsored the benefit concert "Spring in Vienna" together with the Austrian Embassy. It was hosted by Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem on May 2, 1997 at his residence. The proceeds of this recital of Schubert piano duets by the Chinook Duo of Canada were in support of the SOS Children's Villages Canada.

Together with the National Arts Centre, the ACC co-sponsored the concert "A Gala Night of Vienna" honouring Dr. Walther Lichem for his support and contributions to the arts in Canada. The event took place at the



November 14, 1999. The Austrian Society Ottawa holds a *Schrammel-Nachmittag* at St. Albertus Church; the ACC supports the SOS Children's Villages Canada. Left to right: Frank (Franz) Marth (Treasurer, ACC), Roland K. Pirker (President, ACC) hands a cheque to Maria Virjee (President, SOS Children's Villages Canada).

National Arts Centre in Ottawa on November 23, 1998.

The ACC co-sponsored a concert celebrating the 50th anniversary of SOS Children's Villages International

together with SOS Children's Villages Canada, the Austrian Embassy, the Austrian Society Ottawa and the Austrian Alpine Singers. The performance of the Austrian Alpine Singers under its conductor Willi Platzer took place on June 23, 1999 on Parliament Hill and at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador, Dr. Walther Lichem.



November 23, 1998, National Arts Centre of Ottawa. Garry Bonner (President, ACC) honors Austrian Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem for his support and contributions to the arts in Canada.



November 23, 1998, National Arts Centre of Ottawa. Honoring Austrian Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem for his support and contributions to the arts in Canada. Left to right: Dr. Maria-Teresa Lichem, H. E. Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador), Donna Brown (Singer, NAC), Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaar (Carleton University), Marie-Louise Higham and Robin Higham (Ambassador).

Together with Radio Canada, the National Gallery of Canada and the Austrian Embassy, the ACC co-sponsored the "Viennese salons - Salonkonzerte" which focused on Karl Kraus and Ludwig Wittgenstein. The concerts were performed by the Amber Trio Vienna on September 21, 2000 at the National Gallery of Canada and on the 26th at the Eglise St. Paul in Aylmer, Quebec.

The Ottawa portion of International Hugo Wolf celebrations of 2003, "Vixen Muse: Hugo Wolf's Musical World," (which included a symposium and several concerts in Ottawa) was co-sponsored with the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, Carleton University, the University of Ottawa, and the National Arts Centre. The events organized by Professor Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaar of Carleton University, were held on November 23-26, and included concerts at the University of Ottawa, the National Arts Centre and at Rideau Hall, with H.E. The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, hosting the latter event.

Educational projects supported by the ACC

The ACC also co-sponsored

- "Austrian Immigration to Canada," held at Carleton University in Ottawa on May 19 to 21, 1995. The conference was organized by Franz Szabo, and its proceedings were published by Carleton University Press.
- "A Hundred-Year Retrospective of Austrian Literature," held at Concordia University, Montreal, September 27-28, 1996.
- "Sigmund Freud," held on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the publication of Freud's "Civilization and its Discontents," at McMaster University, Hamilton, September 23-25, 1999;
- "Writing the Austrian Traditions: The Relation between Austrian Philosophy and Literature," held on May 12-14, 2000 at the University of Toronto. The conference was organized by Mark-Oliver Schuster and Wolfgang Huemer, and its proceedings have been published by the Wirth Institute.

The Austrian-Canadian Council co-sponsored and helped organize the following guest lectures by prominent speakers at Canadian universities:

- "Viktor Ullmann's 'Kaiser von Atlantis'" by Herbert Gantschacher, Director of the performing group ARBOS, held at various locations in Montreal during November 1996;
- "Why Bosnia? Ethnic Conflict in Central Europe" by the editor of the *Austrian History Yearbook*, Professor Charles Ingrao, of Purdue University in Indiana, held at Carleton University on October 12, 1997;

- “Changing Perspectives on Art Patronage in the Austrian Enlightenment” by Franz A.J. Szabo, Director of the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies, held at the Art Gallery of Ontario on January 23, 2000.
- “Developments in Europe and the European Process from an Austrian Perspective” by Dr. Heinz Fischer, President of the Austrian Parliament, held at Carleton University on October 5, 2000. Co-sponsors were the Austrian Embassy and Carleton University.

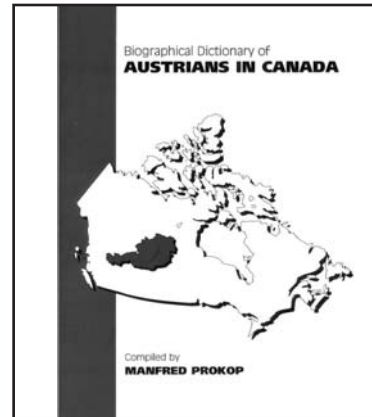


October 5, 2000, Dr. Heinz Fischer (President of the Austrian Parliament) lectures at Carleton University on “Development in Europe and the European Integration Process from an Austrian Perspective.”



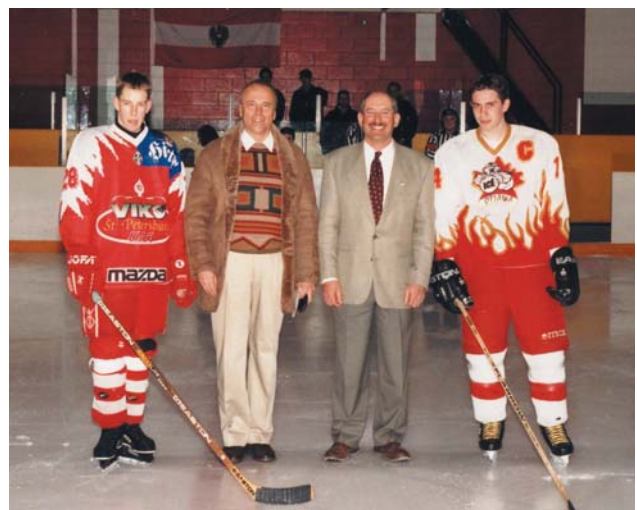
October 7, 2000. SOS Children’s Villages Canada - Fundraising Gala “Rhapsody in Gold” at the Ottawa Congress Centre. Left to right: Margit Fischer, Dr. Heinz Fischer and Anna Elisabeth Hasselbach, First Vice President of the Austrian Federal Council (*Bundesrat*).

Through the ACC’s Foundation Programme, the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Federal Chancellery and the ACC jointly financed the book *A Biographical Dictionary of Austrians in Canada*, compiled and edited by Dr. Manfred Prokop, and published privately in 2002.



Cultural and other projects supported by the ACC

On November 28, 1998 the ACC established the Austrian Canadian Business Club (ACBC) to assist fifty graduate students from universities in Canada to work for four months up to one year in Austria, and fifty graduate students from Austria to work in Canada. Franz Plangger, from Gatineau, Quebec, became the first Chairman of the ACBC, with Trude Duller, Vancouver, the Vice-Chair. In 1999, a few months before the state visit to Austria by Prime Minister Chretien, the ACC, President Roland K. Pirker and ACBC Chair, Franz Plangger had many meetings with Canadian Foreign Affairs officials to initiate and lay down the ground rules for this endeavor, explaining that the ACBC will only be staffed by volunteers. After placing five young Austrian graduate students across the country, the placement program was transferred to the Austrian Embassy in 2001.



March 25-April 5, 1999. The KAC bantam ice hockey team (15- and 16-year-olds) from Klagenfurt visits Canada and the U.S. Before the game in Ottawa, Ontario. Left to right: Patrik Brabant (KAC), Dr. Walther Lichem, Allan Higdon (Ottawa City Councillor) and Bruno Polito.



March 25-April 5, 1999. The KAC bantam ice hockey team (15- and 16-year olds) from Klagenfurt (Austria) visits Canada and the U.S. After the game in Dundas, Ontario. Left to right: Josef Ferrara (Assistant Coach, KAC), Lisa Lemon, Hans Sulzer (Coach, KAC), Petty Lemon, Tom Lemon (former Canadian hockey-great who played in Klagenfurt between 1959 and 1963), Harry Lange (Manager, KAC) and Roland K. Pirker (President, ACC, and official tour guide for the team).

From March 25 to April 5, 1999 the ACC supported an Austrian youth ice-hockey team, the KAC bantam team from Klagenfurt. Roland K. Pirker took it upon himself not only to be a tour guide for the duration of their eleven days travels through the provinces of Ontario and Quebec and to New York State, but also initiated many hockey games along their travel route. The former Canadian hockey star Tom Lemon (KAC 1959-1963) and friend of Austria was part of the Canadian tour.

In June 1999, the ACC's Roland K. Pirker and Oskar Tankovitz undertook a collection and letter writing campaign for support from Austria's parliamentarians to allow Austrian immigrants to Canada to retain their Austrian citizenship, which yielded thousands of signatures. At the ACC Executive meeting in September 1999 Austrian Ambassador Dr. W. Lichem reported that the campaign was recognized in the Austrian Parliament.

On June 2, 1999 the ACC supported the Ottawa-Hull premiere of "Inukshuk" (Stoneman) at the Museum of Civilization, a joint Canadian-European project about the arts and cultures of the Arctic as a process of the dialog between cultures. The music by Wolfgang Bottenberg was performed by the ARBOS-Company of Music and Theatre (Austria).

The ACC was the sole sponsor of the first Austrian Music Workshop for Youth program and master classes on Austrian *Schrammel* music for 11 students from Ontario and Quebec at the University of Ottawa from June 24 to 27, 1999. Roland K. Pirker organized the weekend-long seminar. The members of the Ottawa Schrammel Quartet, Hans Wyslouzil, Edmund Wyslouzil, Hermann Griesseier, Alois Platzer as well as Willi Platzer, Anne Lauzon and Jean Dechenes were the teachers.



June 27, 1999. The ACC and the Austrian Society Ottawa organized the First Austrian Music Workshop for Youth on Schrammel Music; the final concert took place at Freeman Hall at the University of Ottawa. Left to right, front row: Annie Scully, Rachel Seilern, Rebecca Szauter, Alisha Szauter, Anouk Deschenes, Holli Richards, Megan Adams, Natasha Szauter, Timothy Seilern, Mathias Seilern and Samuel Scully. Back row: Edmund Wyslouzil (teacher), Hans Wyslouzil (teacher), Willi Platzer (Choirmaster), Anne Lauzon (teacher), Roland K. Pirker (President and workshop organizer), Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador), Jean Deschenes (teacher), Hermann Griesseier (teacher) and Alois Platzer (teacher).



June 24-27, 1999. Left to right: Edmund Wyslouzil (teacher), Mathias Seilern, Annie Scully, Rachel Seilern, Rebecca Szauter and Jean Deschenes (teacher).

On November 20, 1999 the ACC—together with the Austrian Society Ottawa—supported a fundraiser for SOS Children's Villages Canada at the Chateau Laurier Hotel.

The ACC and the Austrian Society Ottawa co-sponsored three documentaries on two world-famous Austrian musicians and on an Austrian musical institution with CBC Radio Two. Jill LaForty produced the three two-hour shows for coast-to-coast radio audiences. "Johann Strauss" was broadcast on November 24, 1999, "The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra" on March 29, 2000, and "Robert Stolz" on June 21, 2000.

The ACC co-sponsored the exhibition of "Great Masters Drawings from the Albertina" at the Art Gallery of Ontario with the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Embassy of Austria. The exhibition ran from January 22 to March 26, 2000.

Through the Austrian Embassy, the ACC was invited to support financially the production of the “Quilt of Belonging,” an immense textile artwork reflective of Canada’s cultural fabric and history. The ceremony took place on Parliament Hill at the Hall of Honour on May 18, 2000.

The ACC supported two young Austrians (Lothar Bodingbauer and Mike Pollan) who were doing their *Gedenkdienst* (memorial service) with the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre in June 2000.

On behalf of the ACC, the Austrian Society Ottawa contributed funds to the Heritage Garden Foundation to construct the symbolic “Milestone in the History of a People.” On the occasion of the 125th anniversary of Confederation in 1992, the then Governor General, H. E. Ray Hnatyshyn, and his wife Mrs. Gerda Hnatyshyn requested the design of a heritage rose garden on the grounds of Rideau Hall. The Heritage Garden Foundation was opened officially by H. E. The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, on June 9, 2000.



June 9, 2000. The ACC supported the Rideau Hall opening ceremony of the Rose Garden, The Canadian Heritage Garden Foundation, a project initiated by Gerda Hnatyshyn. Right to left: Former Governor General of Canada, Ray Hnatyshyn, Gerda Hnatyshyn, The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, and four members of the Board of Directors of the TCHGF.

The ACC purchased a video projector for the monthly film screenings of the Austrian Society Ottawa. The projection system was installed at the Lindenhof Restaurant on June 9, 2000. In October 2004 the ACC purchased another video projection system and had it installed at the Martin Luther German Church where it will be used on a weekly basis by the Friends of Austria Ottawa, the Austrian Society Ottawa, and the “Frohe Runde,” a senior citizens group consisting of Austrian and German immigrants.

On July 4, 2000, the ACC—with the Canadian Museum of Civilization of Canada and the Austrian Embassy—co-sponsored a book launch and photo exhibit. Eugen and Gretl Kedl, Austrian immigrants from Burgenland now living in Quebec City, presented their book *Canada in a Thousand Pictures* (1999) and exhibited photos from that book at the Museum of Civilization in Hull/Gatineau, Quebec.



July 4, 2000. Photo exhibition of the Kedl Collection and their book launch of *Canada in a Thousand Pictures* at the Museum of Civilization. Left to right: Gretl and Eugen Kedl and The Hon. Mac Herb, MP.



July 4, 2000. Photo exhibition of the Kedl Collection and their book launch of *Canada in a Thousand Pictures* at the Museum of Civilization. Dr. Wendelin Eitmayer (Austrian Ambassador) opens the exhibition.

With a grant from the Canadian Crown, the ACC co-sponsored the design of the Coat of Arms for the Friends of Austria Inc.-Manitoba under its President, Peter Strausz on July 20, 2000. The warrant for the Coat of Arms was granted for the organization’s community contribution and commitment to enhance the quality of multiculturalism in Canada over the past thirty years.

In November 2000 the ACC, together with the Austrian Society Ottawa, sponsored the production of a music CD recorded by the Ottawa Stubenmusi and Alpentrio (Karin Laframboise-soprano, Maria Wyslouzil-second soprano and Gretl Wyslouzil-alto).

In 2000 the ACC and the Austrian Society Ottawa co-sponsored the German radio program "Aus Ottawa" with host Oswin Lohe, and the "Deutsches Panorama," a TV program in Ottawa hosted and produced by Tilly and Franz Jerabek.

The Austrian Embassy (Ambassador Dr. Wendelin Ettmayer) and the ACC co-sponsored a seminar at the Sheraton Hotel in Ottawa on May 7-8, 2001. The theme of the seminar was "Austria-Canada: Common Challenges and Common Goals."

The ACC co-sponsored a fund-raising event for SOS Children's Villages Canada. The evening called "Rhapsody in Gold" was held on November 10, 2001 at the Ottawa Congress Centre; in attendance were the Austrian Parliament's President Dr. Heinz Fischer and his wife and several other government officials.

In November 2001, several members of the Austrian Society Ottawa took a train ride to Halifax to take part in the unveiling of a plaque at Pier 21, sponsored by the Austrian-Canadian Council, which commemorates 50 years of post-war Austrian migration to Canada.

World news in August 2002 brought reports of tragedy and devastation in Austria due to severe and widespread floods in most parts of the country. President Christine Meyer of the Canadian-Austrian Society of Toronto mounted a fund-raiser in support of the victims. The ACC financially supported this endeavour which raised a total of \$55,000.

The ACC supported "A Night in Vienna" at Queen's University's School of Music, a fund-raiser for the Grand Piano Fund of the university in Kingston, on February 13 and 14, 2003.

The ACC and the Austrian Society Ottawa sponsored the fund-raising benefit concert "Dichterliebe and other works by Schuman and Liszt" for the Ottawa Heart Institute at Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa on October 5, 2003, featuring Fraser Rubens (tenor) and Marc Ruel (piano).

At the Ottawa Heart Institute's TV Telethon Fundraiser on February 7, 2004, Dr. Wilbert Keon, CEO of the University of Ottawa's Heart Institute received a donation of \$6,102 from Roland K. Pirker, the President of the Austrian Society Ottawa and the Friends of Austria Inc. on behalf of the Austrian-Canadian Council.

The ACC's website was set up in March 1998 by Karl Mayer, who has since updated it on an annual basis. In the spring of 2003 the *OeCulture* magazine became

available on the Internet as a result of the efforts of its editor, Manfred Prokop, and Jim Burgess. In 1993 Jim Burgess and Roland K. Pirker added two more websites for "The Viennese Winterball Ottawa" and the newly established "Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc." Both web sites are regularly updated by Jim Burgess and Hans Plangger.

Officers of the Austrian-Canadian Council between 1994 and 2005

Founders	Dr. Walther Lichem (1994) Roland K. Pirker (1994)
Board of Directors	Roland K. Pirker (1995–1998) Garry Bonner (1995–) Hans Raschke (1995–) Otto Heberlein (1995–)
Presidents	Garry (Gerhard) Bonner (1995–) Roland K. Pirker (1998–2002) Inga Michalek (2002–)
Honorary Chairpersons	Frank Stronach (1995–1998) Agnes Grossmann (1998–)
Secretaries	Roland K. Pirker (1995–1998) Christine Welling (1998–2001) Elizabeth Lavoie (2001–2002) Carolyn Purkhart (2003–2004) Elizabeth Lavoie (2004–)
Treasurers	Otto Heberlein (1995–1997) André Zeritsch (1997–1998) Frank (Franz) Marth (1998–2002) Ingrid Feil (2002–)
Vice-President	Hans Raschke (1995–)
Awards Chairpersons	Garry Bonner (1998–2002) Roland K. Pirker (2002–)
<i>OeCulture</i> Editor	Dr. Manfred Prokop (1998–)
Legal Advisor	Heidemarie Kelly (1998–)
Website coordinators	Ing. Karl Mayer (1998–) Jim Burgess (2003–)
Executive Director of the Foundation Programme	Dr. Franz Szabo (1996–2001)
Bingo fundraisers at the Overbrook Bingo Palace in Ottawa (1998–present):	Walburga (Burgie) Pirker, Rebecca Pirker, Roland K. Pirker sen., Rolando Pirker, Don Daniels, Julie Lacombe and Angie Lacombe.



November 28, 1998. Austrian-Canadian Council AGM and election of officers at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador. Left to right: Franz Plangger (ACBC Chairman), Frank Marth (Treasurer), Christine Welling (Secretary), Gerhard Bonner (Past President), Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador), Roland K. Pirker (newly elected ACC President), Prof. Dr. Franz Szabo (Executive Director, ACC Foundation Programme), Hans Raschke (Vice President) and Heidemarie Kelly (ACC, Legal Advisor).



September 11, 1999. ACC Executive meeting at the offices of CML Technologies in Hull, Quebec. Left to right: Roland K. Pirker (President), Dr. Kurt Fuerst, Franz Plangger (ACBC Chairman), Christine Meyer, Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador), Hans Raschke (Vice President), Frank Marth (Treasurer), Christine Welling (Secretary), Gerhard Bonner (Past President) and Prof. Dr. Franz Szabo (Executive Director, ACC Foundation Programme).



September 3, 2000. ACC AGM and meeting at the Sheraton Ottawa. Left to right: Christine Meyer, Dr. Wera Zelenka (Cultural Director, Austrian Embassy), Franz Plangger (Chair, ACBC), Peter and Maria Strausz, speaker Robert Fallenbuehl (BMO Harris Private Banking). Second row, facing: Heidi Kelly (ACC Legal Advisor), Frank Marth (Treasurer), Maureen Tobien, Prof. Dr. Franz Szabo (Executive Director, Foundation Programme), Christine Welling (Secretary), Gerhard Bonner (Past President) and Hans Raschke (Vice-President).



September 3, 2000. ACC AGM and meeting at the Sheraton Ottawa. Left to right: Josef Helbich, Christine Meyer, Dr. Wolfgang Spadinger (Deputy Ambassador, Austrian Embassy), Franz Plangger (Chair, ACBC), Peter and Maria Strausz. Second row, facing: Wera Zelenka (Cultural Director, Austrian Embassy), Heidemarie Kelly (ACC, Legal Advisor), Maureen Tobien, Prof. Dr. Franz Szabo (Executive Director, Foundation Programme), Roland K. Pirker (President), Christine Welling (Secretary), Gerhard Bonner (Past President) and Hans Raschke (Vice President).



November 29, 2002. ACC AGM and election of officers at the offices of Rollframe Productions at 1391 Cavendish Road in Ottawa. Left to right: Frank Marth (Treasurer), Hans Raschke (Vice President), Otto Heberlein, Inga Michalek (the newly elected ACC President), Heidi Kelly (ACC Legal Advisor), Gerhard Bonner and Roland K. Pirker (Awards Chairman).



November 22, 2003. ACC Executive meeting at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Gatineau, Quebec. Left to right: Gerhard Bonner, Hans Raschke (Vice-President), Caroline Purkhart (Secretary), Heidemarie Kelly (ACC Legal Advisor), Inga Michalek (President), Ingrid Feil (Treasurer), Otto Heberlein and Roland K. Pirker (Past President and Awards Chairman).

AUSTRIAN CANADIAN COUNCIL

1391 Cavendish Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1H 6B8
Roland1@austrian-canadian-council.ca
Tel. 613/521-3603 Fax 613/521-7602

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS 2005

AUSLANDSÖSTERREICHER-WELTBUND

Dkfm Ing. Gustav Chlestil, Präsident
Postgasse 6
A-1010 Wien, Österreich
Tel: 01143-1-533-52-24 (O)
Fax: 01143-1-533 52 249
Dr. Irmgard Helperstorfer, Generalsekretärin

AUSTRIAN-AMERICAN COUNCIL

Mrs. Juliana G. Belcsak, National Chairperson
25 Underwood Drive
West Orange, NJ, 07052-1309
Tel: 973/731-1837 (H)
973/731-7502 (O)
Fax: 973/731-7503
IE-mail: nfo@rundtsintelligence.com
E-mail: jbelcsak@rundtsintelligence.com

AUSTRIAN-MEXICAN COUNCIL

Centro Austriaco
Mr. Aurel Zoepnek-Twardowski, Presidente
Monte Hermón 105
Col. Lomas de Chapultepec
11000 México D.F.
Tel: 0052-5555-04 82 22
Fax: 0052-5555-40 59 46
E-mail: zoepnek@prodigy.net.mx

AUSTRIAN-CANADIAN CLUBS AND SOCIETIES 2005

AUSTRIAN ALPINE SINGERS

Wilhelm F. Platzer, President and Choirmaster
605110 River Road
Hornings Mills, ON, L0N 1J0
Tel: 519/925-6886 (H)
E-mail: Wplatzer@hurontario.net

AUSTRIAN-CANADIAN EDELWEISS CLUB OF REGINA INC.

John Jost, President
320 Maxwell Crescent
Regina, SK, S4N 5Y1
Tel.: 306/721-6388 (O)
306/924-1512 (H)
Fax: 306/721-9980

AUSTRIAN-CANADIAN SOCIETY CALGARY

Frank Meixner, President
3112-11 Street N.E.
Calgary, AB, T2E 7J1
Tel: 403/250-9126 (O)
403/246-5070 (H)
403/250-7342 (Lounge)
Fax: 403/250-9128
E-mail: acscalgary@sprint.ca

AUSTRO-CANADIAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF B.C.

Wilfried Geppert, President
1120 Queens Avenue
West Vancouver, BC, V7S 2K2
Tel: 604/922-7345 (H and O)
E-mail: wageppert@shaw.ca

AUSTRIAN INTERNATIONAL CLUB KINGSTON

Gerhard (Garry) Bonner, President
355 Lakeview Ave
Kingston, ON, K7M 3V9
Tel: 613/389-1559 (H)

AUSTRIAN SOCIETY MONTREAL

Elisabeth Wirth, President
5710 Upper Lachine Road
Montreal, QC, H4A 2B2
Tel: 514/484-4545 (O)
514/488-9782 (H)
514/949-4909 (cell)
Fax: liz@wirth.ca

AUSTRIAN SOCIETY OTTAWA

Roland K. Pirker, President
1391 Cavendish Road
Ottawa, ON, K1H 6B8
Tel: 613/521-3603 (H)
613/737-1984 (O)
Fax: 613/521-7602
Website: www.austrian-canadian-council.ca
E-mail: Roland1@austrian-canadian-council.ca
Roland@rollframe.ca

AUSTRIA VANCOUVER CLUB

Andy Zlok, President
5851 Westminster Highway
Richmond, BC, V7C 1C3
Tel: 604/321-3424 (H)
778/862-2463 (cell)
604/273-4725 (Club)

AUSTRIA CLUB OF WINDSOR

Michael Benzinger, President
P.O. BOX # 1312, Station "A"
Windsor, ON, N9A 6R3
Tel: 519/948-8756 (H)
E-mail: Michael_benzinger@wecdsb.on.ca

BURGENLAENDER CLUB (TORONTO) INC.

Otto Novakovics, President
Tel: 416/249-0224 (H)
Oskar Stubits, Treasurer-Secretary
Tel: 905/823-2217 (H)
2222 Malden Court
Mississauga, ON, L5K 1W5
E-mail: ostubits@allstream.net

CLUB AUSTRIA EDMONTON

Walter Schachenhofer, President
P.O. Box 14 Main Station
Edmonton, AB, T5J 2G9
Tel: 780/484-0297 (H)
Valerie Schirmaier, Vice-President
Tel: 780/465-2552 (H)
Fax: 780/469-6809

CONTINENTAL AUSTRIAN CLUB INC.

Maria Baxant, President
664 Spring Garden Road
Burlington, ON, L7T 1J3
Tel: 905/388-9252 (H)
E-mail: baxant@cogeco.net

JOHANN STRAUSS FOUNDATION - EDMONTON

Robert Jüthner-Krtschan, President
14103 Buena Vista Road NW
Edmonton, AB, T5R 5S2
Tel: 780/483-5124 (H)
Fax: 403/486-4512
E-mail: praga@compusmart.ab.ca

JOHANN STRAUSS FOUNDATION - SALT SPRING ISLAND

Dr. Joseph R. Kandler, President
352 Langs Road
Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 1N3
Tel. and fax: 250/537-2559 (H)
E-mail: johannstrausovic@uniserve.com

MIXED CHOIR EDELWEISS

Helmut Gschoesser, President
4428 Palisades Lane
Mississauga, ON, L4W 3W3
Tel: 905/625-7496 (H)
Fax: 905/625-6793

STEIRER KLUB INC. TORONTO

Karl Vogel, President
56 Hagerville Court
Etobicoke, ON, M9C 4A3
Tel.: 416/621-4384 (H and O)
Fax: 905/238-6122 (fax)
Margo Wirth, Secretary
Tel.: 416/407-1492 (cell)
905/875-3861 (H)
905/881-3535 (O)
E-mail: mwirth@uniglobeintriguetravel.com

THE ALPINE CLUB OF KITCHENER-WATERLOO INC.

Bill Poje, President
464 Maple Ave.
Kitchener, ON, N2H 4X5
Tel: 519/744-1521
E-mail: jkroisenbrunner@hotmail.com

THE CANADIAN-AUSTRIAN SOCIETY OF TORONTO

Christine Meyer, President
55 Erskine Ave, Apt. 1702
Toronto, ON, M4P 1Y7
Tel.: 416/487-7047 (H)
416/928-1400, Ext. 228 (O)
416/805-8121 (cell)
Fax: 416/963-8786
E-mail: cmeyer@frastack.com

THE FRIENDS OF AUSTRIA INC.-MANITOBA

Peter Strausz, President
64 Miramar Road
Winnipeg, MB, R3R 1E3
Tel.: 204/992-2577 (CO)
204/831-6036 (H)
204/989-6671 (W)
204/992-2577 (CO and fax)
E-mail: FoAMB@mts.net

THE FRIENDS OF AUSTRIA OTTAWA INC.

Roland K. Pirker, President
1391 Cavendish Road
Ottawa, ON, K1H 6B8
Tel.: 613/521-3603 (H)
613/737-1984 (O)
Fax: 613/521-7602 (fax)
E-mail: Roland1@austrian-canadian-council.ca
Roland@rollframe.ca

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUSTRIAN SOCIETY OTTAWA

I. THE FOUNDING OF THE SOCIETY

The Austrian Society Ottawa was established forty years ago, in March 1965. The founding meeting was presided over by Fred Striessnig, Leo Janecka, Dr. Raoul Sylt, Frank Marth and Elfriede Welkert. The then Austrian Ambassador, Dr. Franz Leitner, who played a central role in the creation of the Ottawa Society and other Austrian societies in Canada, and members of the Embassy staff were present as well. It was decided that German would be the language used for all events and business of the Society.

The following is an excerpt from the statutes (translated into English):

- (1) The Society shall bear the name "Austrian Society Ottawa" (*Österreichische Gesellschaft Ottawa*)
- (2) The seat of the Society is the city of Ottawa, Canada
- (3) The aims of the Society are: to cultivate companionship (*Geselligkeit*) and the Austrian cultural heritage, as well as to promote this cultural heritage and increase awareness of it in Canada, and to support charitable causes.
- (4) The Society may, at any time, define additional goals for itself, provided that these are not of a political or a confessional nature and are desired by the membership.

Shortly thereafter, in April, the first public meeting of the Society took place at the R.A. Centre. A membership in the Society cost \$10 for singles and \$12 for a family.

II. THE PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY

In its forty-year history, the Society has been guided by eight presidents and their executives.

Wilhelm Nassau (1965-1966)

Willi Nassau was a cameraman with CJOH-TV in Ottawa until 1967 and was also one of the camera operators for the scenes shot in the Russian sector of Vienna in Carol Reid's film "The Third Man." Willi was a professor in the

Audio-Visual Department of Sir Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo. The Museum of Science and Technology in



Ottawa is the beneficiary of his impressive collection of cameras. For the past 13 years, Willi has assisted in the establishment of the Austrian Glass Museum in Bärnbach, Styria, and has produced the official videos for special exhibitions at that museum. On June 1, 1991 Willi received an

Honorary Doctorate of Law from Sir Wilfred Laurier University for his contributions to making museums more user-friendly.

Board of Directors: Frank Marth, Karl Kadish, Rudi Mikowetz, Dr. Möbius, Kurt Ortner, H. Paümann, Josef (Joe) Seidl, Fred Striessnig, Dr. Raoul Sylt, Dr. Dorothea Wyand and Elfriede Welkert.

Hermann Griesseier (1967)

After his arrival in Canada in 1951, Hermann Griesseier worked for Spartan Air Service and the Department of Transport as aircraft maintenance engineer and flight engineer. Until his retirement in 1988 he was Chief of



Overhaul of Government Aircraft. During his presidency, a children's dance group was formed. Among many other events, it performed before a large audience on the occasion of a state visit by the then Austrian President Dr. Franz Jonas. Hermann

Griesseier is still a member of the Society, and he is also a member of the Schrammel Quartet.

Board of Directors: Leo Janecka, A. Kollmann, Frank Marth, Hans Rant, Maria Rauter, Rudi Schwarz, Kurt Stöckl, Fred Striessnig, Dr. R. Sylt and Elfriede Welkert.

Dr. Raoul Sylt (1968)

Dr. Raoul Sylt was civil servant in the Federal Government. As a dedicated fencer he instructed students at



Carleton University in the art of fencing. The Society had 60 members at that time. The children's dance group performed in Montreal, with Mayor Jean Drapeau in attendance. Dr. Sylt died in 1975.

Board of Directors: Dieter Donhoffer, Othmar Hörbinger, Leo Janecka, Arthur

Kollmann, Frank Marth, Franz Palizek, Hans Rant, Maria Rauter, Rudi Schwarz, Kurt Stöckl and Fred Striessnig.

Franz (Frank) Marth (1969)

Frank Marth worked for Transport Canada as Chief Estimate and Budget officer for 25 years. Frank was also treasurer of the Austrian-Canadian Council from 1998-2002, and he is still a member of the Society today.



Board of Directors: Karl Havelcik, O. Hörbinger, Leo Janecka, Arthur Kollmann, H. Lauter, Hans Rant, Maria Rauter, R. Staszewicz, Fred Striessnig, Dr. Raoul Sylt and Elfriede Welkert.

Leopold (Leo) Janecka (1970-1973)

Leo came to Canada on September 15, 1953 and worked for two years as the personal driver to Minister C. D. Howe at the Department of Trade and Commerce. Then he was employed by the Austrian Embassy from 1955 to 1959. For several years he owned his own variety store on Bank Street in Ottawa. From 1961 to 1967 he worked for the New Zealand High Commission, and from 1967 to 1977 for the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa. Under his presidency, the Austrian Society adopted its current emblem and initiated many of the annual events still taking place today (see Section III). He was born in 1912,

and he still enjoys every event as the oldest member of our Society.

Board of Directors:

Konrad Barisitz, Josef Fruehwirth, Karl Havelcik, Arthur Kollmann, P. Lustig, Franz (Frank) Marth, Louis Mrak, Helen Pelcis, Alois Platzer, Hans Rant, Maria Rauter, Franz Seier, Dr. Raoul Sylt, Horst Tobien and Elfriede Welkert.



Hans Rant (1974-1984)

After immigrating to Canada, Hans Rant spent almost his entire career (1959-1989) as a technologist with Mecron Engineering. This company produces high-quality power installations for Canada's DEW (Distant Early Warning) line for National Defense. He spent almost 12 years in Canada's High Arctic, participating in the instal-



lation of three DEW lines. Hans Rant traveled to Africa and China several times for his company, and was involved in the automation process of every lighthouse in Canada. His presidency is aptly referred to as the "musical presidency," since the creation of the Schrammel Quartet, the Alpentrio and the Stuben-

musi occurred during his period of office.

Board of Directors: Eva Anzengruber, Konrad Barisitz, Ingrid Feil, Josef Fruehwirth, Franz Kapeller, Dr. Ted Kletter, Hans Körner, Fred Krasny, Louis Mrak, Pepi Müller, Helen Pelcis, Alois Platzer, Heinz Pundleider, Hans Purkhart, Dr. Raoul Sylt, Horst Tobien, Melitta van Cleeff, Hans Wyslouzil and Maria Wyslouzil.

Melitta van Cleeff (1985-1993)

After immigrating to Canada, Melitta and her husband Danny first settled in Winnipeg. Later she, her husband and son Danny Jr. moved to Ottawa, and soon thereafter

she became a member of the Austrian Society and worked as membership chair. She and her husband are still active members of the Society today. Her presidency



saw the introduction of the Homeland Evenings (*Heimatabende*) and the creation of honorary memberships. The 20th and 25th anniversaries of the founding of the Society were celebrated during her tenure.

Board of Directors: Dr. Hans Baenziger, Sylvia Baenziger, Dr. Barbara Brintnell, Ingrid Feil, Josef Fruehwirth, Franz Kapeller, Dr. Ted Kletter, Roland K. Pirker, Alois Platzter, Otfried Rimmel, Heidi-C. Temelie, Horst Tobien and Hans Wyslouzil.



April 23, 1995: The Schrammel Quartet's 20th anniversary celebration at the German Club. Left to right: Hermann Griesseier, Alois Platzter, Edmund Wyslouzil and Hans Wyslouzil.

Roland Klaus Pirker (1994-)

Roland Pirker is now the longest-serving president of the Austrian Society Ottawa. He was instrumental in the creation of the Austrian-Canadian Council in 1994, which acts as the umbrella organization for Austrian societies and clubs in Canada. In 2001 he founded the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc., an organization for younger people of Austrian descent and the second-generation of Austrians; it pursues goals similar to those of the Society. Under his stewardship the Society has held two important symposia (1995 and 2005) and produced the *Festschrift* celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Society. He established the Overbrook Bingo events for the Austrian-Canadian Council and the Friends of Austria

Ottawa Inc. Roland's, his wife's and their children's untiring work on behalf of the Society have succeeded in lending a solid financial base to its operations that has enabled it to keep membership fees low and to sponsor or co-sponsor important cultural events.



Roland came to Canada in 1967 and went to Conestoga College in Kitchener for three years to study film. After his graduation he worked for two years for the CBC in Toronto and then for seven years for the National Museums of Canada in

Ottawa. Since 1981 he has operated his own film and video production company, Rollframe Productions Ltd.



The newly elected Board of Directors of the Austrian Society Ottawa at the Annual General Meeting on January 12, 2003 at the Sheraton Hotel. Left to right, seated: Elisabeth Wilson (Director), Heidi-C. Temelie (Treasurer), Dr. Barbara Brintnell (Secretary); standing: Otto Heberlein (Vice-President), Tibor Horbasz (Director), Roland K. Pirker (President), Hans Wyslouzil (Cultural Director), Hermann Franke (Public Relations). Absent: Josef (Pepi) Fruehwirth (Director of Beverages), Sylvia Baenziger (Director) and Dr. Helmut Zobl (Director).

The logo of the Austrian Society Ottawa



III. ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Since its early days, the Austrian Society has been defined by a very active social calendar. There are a number of recurring events throughout the year. Of the original events, four have disappeared in recent years because the membership has aged and their children have grown up. They include society dances and the *Nikolofest*.

The Society used to organize three dances throughout the year, e.g., the *Weinlesefest* (Grape Harvest Dance), the *Maifest* (May dance) and the *Glühwein-*(mulled wine) Party. The *Nikolofest*, celebrated on the 5th of December when St. Nicholas brings gifts for children, was recently replaced by the annual *Adventsfeier*, the celebration of Advent.



April 25, 1998: Stubenmusi at the St. Albertus Church, *Heimatabend* Salzburg. Left to right: Alois Platzer, Edmund Wyslouzil, Hermann Griesseier and Hans Wyslouzil.



February 24, 2001: *Heimatabend* Kärnten at the St. Albertus Church. Left to right: Herman Griesseier, Burgie Pirker (speaker), Pepi Fruehwirth, Barbara Sauter, a guest, Martha Dölle, Pauline Kuchli, Franz Foerster, Rhea Rodlberger, Walter Ott, Erika Kapeller, Traudl Vogel, Bruni Willroider and Barbara Brintnell.

Heimatabende (Homeland evenings)

The Society holds two *Heimatabende* annually, each one highlighting one of the nine provinces of the Austrian Federal Republic. These evenings consist of presenting a video about the province, its music, its people and its landscape. Members from the province concerned contribute stories or anecdotes. The dinner menu always features a dish that is a specialty of that province.



February 24, 2001: *Heimatabend* Kärnten at the St. Albertus Church. Left to right: Linda Mayer (speaker), Pepi Fruehwirth, Barbara Sauter, guest, Martha Dölle, two guests, Pauline Kuchli, Iris Jurek, Franz Foerster, Ivan Steppa, Rhea Rodlberger and Walter Ott.

Schrammelnachmittage (Schrammel afternoons)

In 1975, the Schrammel Quartet came into being, its members being Hermann Griesseier (guitar), Alois Platzer (violin), Hans Wyslouzil (violin) and Edi (Edmund) Wyslouzil (accordion). This quartet plays a special kind of Viennese folk music popularized by the Brothers Schrammel in the middle of the 19th century - the kind you would likely hear when you enter a Viennese wine cellar or a wine garden (*Heurigen*). Surprisingly, although the music is Viennese in origin, our musicians are from Styria and Tirol.



April 17, 1994: *Schrammel-Nachmittag* at the German Club. Left to right: Herman Griesseier, Edmund Wyslouzil, Alois Platzer and Hans Wyslouzil.

Veranstaltungskalender

der Österreichischen Gesellschaft Ottawa für das Jahr 2005

16. Januar (Sonntag)

Generalversammlung

11.30 Uhr im Sheraton Hotel (O'Connor Room)

22. Januar (Samstag)

Video : "Gewitter im Mai" (nach einem Ganghofer Roman)

18.30 Uhr Martin Luther Kirche

5. Februar (Samstag)

Video: Charleys Tante mit Heinz Rühmann

18.30 Uhr Martin Luther Kirche

13. Februar (Sonntag)

Operette: "Gräfin Mariza"

Aufzeichnung der Mörbischer Seefestspiele

14.00 Uhr. St. Albertus Kirche

17. Februar (Donnerstag)

Musischer Zirkel

Dr. Helmut Zobl

19.00 Uhr Martin Luther Kirche

20. Februar (Sonntag)

Schrammelnachmittag "Verklungenes Wien"

14.30 Uhr St. Albertus Kirche

5. März (Samstag)

Video : Die schöne Lügnerin mit Romy Schneider

18.30 Uhr Martin Luther Kirche

10. März (Donnerstag)

Musischer Zirkel

Barbara Brintnell—Aquarell Malerei

19.00 Uhr Martin Luther Kirche

2. April (Samstag)

Heimatabend Salzburg

17.00 Uhr St. Albertus Kirche

9. April (Samstag)

Video: Mariandl mit Waltraud Haas, Hans Moser, R. Prack

18.30 Uhr Martin Luther Kirche

10. April (Sonntag)

Operette: Vogelhändler

Aufzeichnung der Mörbischer Seefestspiele

14.00 Uhr St. Albertus Kirche

7. Mai (Samstag)

Video: Mariandl's Heimkehr. mit W. Haas, H. Moser, R. Prack

18.30 Uhr Martin Luther Kirche

20.-22. Mai (Langes Wochenende)

Symposium anlässlich 50 Jahre Staatsvertrag,

40 Jahre Österr. Gesellschaft Ottawa.

Die Feier der Gesellschaft ist am Sonntag, 22. Mai.,

4. Juni (Samstag)

Video Der eiserne Gustaf mit Heinz Rühmann

18.30 Uhr Martin Luther Kirche

18. Juni (Samstag)

Sonnwendfeier

Einzelheiten werden später bekannt gegeben

13. Juli (Mittwoch)

Fahrt ins Blaue

Einzelheiten werden später bekannt gegeben

4. September (Sonntag)

Quer durch Österreich in Bild und Musik

14.30 Uhr St. Albertus Kirche

10. September (Samstag)

Video: Tanz auf dem Vulkan mit Gustav Gründgens

18.30 Uhr Martin Luther Kirche

15. September (Donnerstag)

Musischer Zirkel

19.00 Uhr, M.L. Kirche

1. Oktober (Samstag)

Video : Solange noch die Rosen blühen mit Herta Feiler,

W. Fritsch

18.30 Uhr Martin Luther Kirche

23. Oktober (Sonntag)

Bunter Nachmittag

14.30 Uhr St. Albertus Kirche

5. November (Samstag)

Video : Kasiserjäger mit Oscar Sima

18.30 Uhr Martin Luther Kirche

6. November (Sonntag)

Operette (Land des Lächelns ?)

14.00 Uhr St. Albertus Kirche

26. November (Samstag)

Heimatabend Kärnten

17.00 Uhr St. Albertus Kirche

11. oder 18. Dezember (Sonntag)

Adventfeier

Die Video Abende finden in der Martin Luther Kirche, Ecke Carling und Preston Streets um 18.30 Uhr statt.
Wie immer bitten wir, dass Ihr Euch für die verschiedenen Veranstaltungen anmeldet.:

Heidi Temelie 739-7315,
Hans Wyslouzil 733-0164

The *Schrammelnachmittag* also feature songs by the Alpentrio, a group made up of three female members, Karin Laframboise (soprano), Maria Wyslouzil (second soprano) and Gretl Wyslouzil (alto), who perform authentic Austrian folk songs.



October 23, 2004: *Schrammel-Nachmittag* at the St. Albertus Church. Left to right: Erich Spatzierer, Karl Mayer, Gertraud Mueller and Linda Mayer.



Left to right, front table: Hannelore Platzer, Heidi Temelie, and Sylvia Tobien. Back: Olof Kueng, Adele Louttit, Cecilia Schirgi, Margaret Upton, Dr. Adolf Anzengruber, Cecilia Birke, Irene and Hans Purkhart.



Left to right: Franz and Maria Hatz, Rolf and Marlen Schaude, Emanuel Koehl, Irmgard Glaus, Gisela Koehl and Hanni Schmid.



October 23, 2004: *Schrammel-Nachmittag* at St. Albertus Church. Left to right: Dr. Walter Hubert Ott, Josefine and Walter Ott and Rhea Rodlberger.



October 23, 2004: *Schrammel-Nachmittag* at St. Albertus Church. Left to right, standing: Iris Jurek (table), Walter and Christa Jachan, Mathilde Pertout, Ingrid Mielke, a guest, Irmgard Stegner, Dr. Helmut Zobl, Dr. Walter Ott and Rhea Rodlberger



October 23, 2004: *Schrammel-Nachmittag* at St. Albertus Church. Our volunteer cake makers are receiving a gift. Left to right: Hans Wyslouzil, Barbara Brintnell, Barbara Sauter, Lucy Horbasz, Kathy Schryer, Trauti Griesseier, Sylvia Baenziger and Gisela Koehl.



October 23, 2004: *Schrammel-Nachmittag* at St. Albertus Church. Left to right, front table: Heidi Temelie, Sylvia Tobien, Dr. Kurt Teutsch, Ingrid Feil, Greta Piccioni, Annie Sheddler (in back) and Hans Purkhart.



October 23, 2004: *Schrammel-Nachmittag* at St. Albertus Church. Left to right: Helga Tawia, Joe Brintnell, Helmut Seeman, Jim Burgess, Carolyne Knight, Barbara Brintnell and Thorsten Pacher.



October 23, 2004: *Schrammel-Nachmittag* at St. Albertus Church. Left to right: Erika and Reinhold Herr, Theresia and Max Ferner, Wera Raucher and Leo and Lorraine Janecka.



October 23, 2004: *Schrammel-Nachmittag* at St. Albertus Church. Left to right: Thorsten Pacher, Matthias Radosztics (Cultural Attaché, Austrian Embassy), Josefina Ratcheff, Rudolf Jetzelsperger, Ralph Ratcheff, Inge Jetzelsperger, Nicole Pacher and Dr. Sigurd Pacher (Deputy Austrian Ambassador).

Fahrt ins Blaue (Mystery tour)

This event has been a mainstay of the Society from its beginnings. In the summer, a bus tour is organized to a destination within a two- or three-hour drive from Ottawa. Locations in the Laurentian Mountains, for example Mt. Tremblant, have been favorite destinations. Seats for this event are always sold out well in advance.

Sonnwendfeier (Summer solstice celebration)

Around the 21st of June summer solstice is celebrated. The event begins in the afternoon with games and a barbecue picnic. Once it is dark, a bonfire is lit and there is music and dancing around the bonfire.

Adventsfeier (Celebration of Advent)

The last cultural event of the year is the celebration of Advent at the beginning of December. Led by the musicians from the Schrammel Quartet and the Alpentrio, everyone participates in the singing of German Christmas songs. The highlight of the evening is the appearance of St. Nicholas who, though he now no longer rewards good children, does reward single senior members of the Society as well as members noted for their volunteer work with a gift. At this time, we wish to divulge the identities of the last few St. Nicholases: Horst Tobien, Pepi (Josef) Fruehwirth and Hans Wyslouzil.

Video/Film Evenings

Almost since its founding, the Society has organized film evenings, which have recently become video evenings. These evenings feature older films with film stars from the forties and fifties, recordings of well-known oper-

ettas or music festivals in Austria, and films about Austria, its regions and its musical traditions. For many years these evenings were held at the Lindenhof Restaurant, and the Society wishes to thank its owner Thomas Kröger for making the banquet room (*die Schenke*) available for this purpose. In the fall of 2004 the Lindenhof Restaurant relocated. As there was no room at the new location, the film evenings were moved to the Martin-Luther Church on Preston Street.

Hans Wyslouzil deserves the Society's special appreciation for the wonderful program of films he has put together for the entertainment of the members. We also presented a film series on the Habsburg Dynasty, and videos from the Mörbischer Seefestspiele (operettas) at the St. Albertus Church.



July 7, 2002: Film showing of "Berg in Flammen" at the Lindenhof Restaurant. Left to right: Joe and Barbara Brintnell, Jim Burgess, Helmut Seemann, near projector Heidi Temelie and Hans Wyslouzil. On the right, three rows back to front: Iris Jurek, Lucy and Tibor Horbasz, Linda Mayer, Christa and Walter Jachan and a guest.

Spiele and Musischer Zirkel (Games and artistic circle)

In 2000 and 2005 the Board of Directors decided to add several new programs which included board and card games as well as discussion groups of a literary and artistic nature.



February 9, 2000: *Spielnachmittag* (game afternoon) at the Lindenhof Restaurant. Society members are hard at work. Left to right, standing in the back: Thomas Kröger and Tibor Horbasz.

III. THE SOCIETY'S CHARITABLE WORK AND CONTRIBUTIONS

As mentioned above, one of the aims of the Society is to support charitable causes. The generosity of the Society during its forty-year history deserves special note. Among others, the following organizations have been beneficiaries of its philanthropic spirit:

- It has supported the magazine *OeCulture* - a magazine with national and international distribution focussing on Austrian achievements in Canada - since its first publication in 1998.
- In 2002, it made a significant donation to the flood relief fund in Austria.
- It has supported the local German language school, the German language newspapers, and has made donations to the two German-language churches in Ottawa to help with larger purchases (an organ) and to help retire a mortgage.
- It has contributed to the SOS Children's Villages Canada, a charitable organization for orphaned children. Donations are also regularly made to the annual United Way campaign, the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and the Ottawa University Heart Institute.



February 3, 2000: The SOS Children's Villages Canada receive a TV as a gift from the Austrian Society Ottawa. Left to right: Roland K. Pirker, David Greiner (SOS), Hans and Paula Dutz, Linda Mayer, Michael von Herff (SOS), Maria Virjee (SOS-President), Marianne Wilkinson (SOS), Hans Wyslouzil, Barbara Sauter, Gretl Wyslouzil, Pepi Fruehwirth, Edmund Wyslouzil, Traudl and Hermann Griesseier, Maria Wyslouzil and Herma Pundleider.

- It has also sponsored several musical events, such as evenings of Schubert songs and Mozart and Haydn evenings, of which many were broadcast on the local German radio program. Furthermore, the Austrian Society Ottawa together with the Austrian

Canadian Council have supported several musical events, among them the fund-raising event for the Ottawa Heart Institute at Christ Church Cathedral.



October 5, 2003: Benefit Concert for the Ottawa Heart Institute at the Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa. The two heart surgeons' music not only touched every heart in the audience -, these doctors also repaired the hearts of some of the members of our Society. Left to right: Cardiologists Dr. Marc Ruel (piano) and Dr. Fraser Rubens (tenor).



October 5, 2003: Benefit Concert for the Ottawa Heart Institute at Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa. Left to right: Dr. Marc Ruel, Roland K. Pirker and Dr. Fraser Rubens.

February 7, 2004: TV Telethon in Kanata. Roland K. Pirker presents a cheque for \$ 6,102 to Dr. Wilbert Keon, CEO, Ottawa Heart Institute, on behalf of the Austrian Society Ottawa, the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc. and the Austrian-Canadian Council.



Edmund Wyslouzil, Hans Wyslouzil, Hermann Griesseier and Alois Platzer has entertained the Ball's participants since its inception in 1997. Over the past nine years \$400,000 in proceeds have gone to the Champions for Children Foundation and the Thirteen Strings Junior Orchestra.



October 27, 2002: Schrammel-Nachmittag at St. Albertus Church. BMO Harris Private Banking, Dave Wallace (Managing Director, Eastern and Northern Ontario) thanked the Schrammel Quartet for their six-year support in playing at the Viennese Ball and presented each of them with a Viennese Winter Ball Clock. Left to right: Hermann Griesseier, Edmund Wyslouzil, Alois Platzer, Hans Wyslouzil and Dave Wallace (Chair, Viennese Winter Ball).



February 8, 2003: At the National Gallery of Canada, the Schrammel Quartet plays at the 7th Viennese Winter Ball. Left to right: Hermann Griesseier, Edmund Wyslouzil, Hans Wyslouzil and Alois Platzer.

In recent years, the Society has played an important role in supporting the annual Viennese Winter Ball Ottawa. Two leading Ottawa citizens - Mrs. Penny Scott and Mr. Dave Wallace - together with the Austrian Ambassador, Dr. Walther Lichem, launched this most glamorous event. Since 1999 the Austrian Society Ottawa under the leadership of its president, Roland K. Pirker, has been part of the organizing committee, and the Austrian Society's Schrammel Quartet consisting of

IV. MUSICAL GROUPS

The Schrammel Quartet

For many of its members, the heart of the Society beats in its three musical groups, the Schrammel Quartet, the Stubenmusi and the Alpentrio. The composition of the first two groups has remained stable since their inception. Its members are Hermann Griesseier (contra gui-

tar), Alois Platzer and Hans Wyslouzil (violin), and Edmund Wyslouzil (accordion). The same individuals also make up the Stubenmusi, although for this purpose the instruments include a zither, a contra-guitar, a *hackbrett* (hammered dulcimer) and a bass.

Alpentrio

The Alpentrio, founded in 1976, has also been a mainstay of the musical life of the Society. Its original members were Karin Laframboise and Gretl and Maria Wyslouzil. In November 2000 the Alpentrio and the Stubenmusi, supported by the Austrian-Canadian Council, produced a CD featuring Karin Laframboise (soprano), Maria Wyslouzil (second soprano) and Gretl Wyslouzil (alto). The Alpentrio was honored in April 2000 on the occasion



April 17, 1994, at the German Club: The Alpentrio sings at the *Schrammel-Nachmittag*. Left to right: Maria Wyslouzil, Karin Laframboise and Gretl Wyslouzil.



June 1-3, 2002: The Austrian Society Ottawa visits the Austrian American Association of Boston. The Alpentrio performs at the Annual General Meeting. Left to right: Maria Wyslouzil, Karin Laframboise and Linda Mayer.

of their 25th anniversary at the Sheraton Hotel. Four years ago Linda Mayer became a member of the group for one year, and she has been followed by Andrea Langhammer.



October 23, 2004: At St. Albertus Church the Alpentrio sings at the *Schrammel-Nachmittag*. Left to right: Leo Janecka, Maria Wyslouzil, Burgie Pirker, Karin Laframboise and Andrea Langhammer.



April 30, 2000: The Alpentrio is honoured at the Sheraton Hotel in Ottawa. Left to right: Maria Wyslouzil, Karin Laframboise, Gretl Wyslouzil and Roland K. Pirker.

The Schrammel Quartet and the Alpentrio have performed at various locations in Canada and the U.S. as well as in Austria, and have received numerous awards and medals of distinction. The Schrammel Quartet received the Gold Medal of Merit of the Austrian-Canadian Council and the Silver Medal of Merit of the City of Vienna. The Gold Medal of Merit from the President of Austria will be awarded to the Schrammel Quartet by Austrian Ambassador H. E. Dr. Otto Ditz during our Austria Week Celebrations at the Ottawa Congress Centre on May 22, 2005.

The members of the Alpentrio have been awarded the Gold Medal of Merit of the Austrian-Canadian Council and the Silver Medal of Merit of the Republic of Austria.



April 21, 2002: At St. Albertus Church, members of the Austrian Society Ottawa were awarded Austrian-Canadian Council *medals for their long-term achievements. Left to right: *Leo Hammerschmid, *Edmund Wyslouzil, Otto Heberlein, *Karin Laframboise, *Hermann Griesseier, *Maria Wyslouzil, Consul Gottfried Haffner, *Alois Platzer, Roland K. Pirker and *Hans Wyslouzil.



November 15, 2000: The Alpentrio was decorated with the Silver Medal of Merit of Austria at the Residence of the Austrian Ambassador. Left to right: Karin Laframboise, Maria Wyslouzil, Gretl Wyslouzil, Austrian Ambassador Dr. Wendelin Etmayer and Roland K. Pirker.



October 19, 1996: The Schrammel Quartet was decorated with Vienna's Silver Medal of Merit at the Residence of the Austrian Ambassador. Left to right: Edmund Wyslouzil, Hans Wyslouzil, Austrian Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem, Hermann Griesseier and Alois Platzer.

The Schrammel Quartet was invited to perform at the annual congress of the Austrian World Council (1978),

and took part in the Austrian Music Workshop for *Schrammelmusik* held at the University of Ottawa which was organized by the ACC's Roland Pirker in 1999. They regularly perform at numerous functions locally, such as receptions at the Austrian Embassy and at the annual Viennese Winter Ball. In 2005 the Schrammel Quartet celebrates its 30th and the Alpentrio its 29th anniversary.

V. MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

It should come as no surprise that in its forty-year existence the Society has been the host to many visitors from Austria.

The president of Austria, Dr. Franz Jonas, and the Chancellor of Austria, Franz Vranitzky, were welcomed here in 1967 and in 1995, respectively. The Minister for External Affairs of Austria, Dr. Willibald Pahr, was welcomed to Ottawa by members of the Society, as was the Vice-Chancellor Hubert Gorbach in 2004. The granddaughter of the Viennese composer Johann Strauss, Elfriede Strauss, was hosted in 1975 as were the Vienna Choir Boys in 1977 and in 2001.

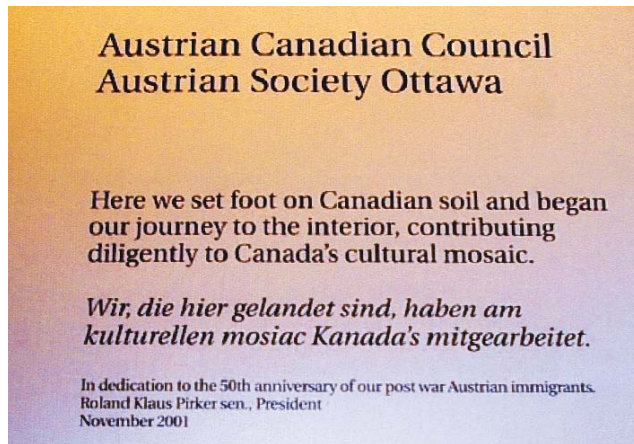
Other visitors who have been welcomed by the Society include the Austrian stage actress Brigitte Antonius, who was in Ottawa in 1979 to perform a one-act play at the University of Ottawa.

In 1980 Professor Henry Bonnenberg gave a lecture entitled "Franz Schubert and his music", and the visiting Austrian poet Karl Skala offered a recitation of his poetry in 1982. He dedicated a poem, *Dem Wörtchen "Heimat" ein Lob zu sagen* to the Society on the occasion of its 30th anniversary in 1995; it appears in the 30th Anniversary *Festschrift*.

Lastly, in 1990 the Viennese cabaret artist Joe Harriet entertained the German-speaking community with folk songs and humorous stories about Austria.

The Society co-sponsored a symposium on Austrian immigration in 1995, attended by over 150 persons.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Austrian immigration to Canada after World War II, the Austrian-Canadian Council dedicated a plaque in Halifax at Pier 21 in honour of those immigrants who landed in Halifax. A group of members from the Society traveled to Halifax on November 13, 2001 and assisted in the unveiling of this plaque. (For more information see the article in the *OeCulture magazine*, 1/2002)



On November 13, 2001 a plaque was dedicated by the Austrian-Canadian Council and the Austrian Society Ottawa at the Museum of Pier 21 in Halifax to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the arrival of post-war Austrian immigrants in Canada.



November 13, 2002: Nineteen Austrian Society Ottawa members in front of Pier 21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

In 2005, the Austrian Society Ottawa, the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc. and the Austrian-Canadian Council are the organizers and sponsors of this major symposium marking 150 years of diplomatic relations between Canada and Austria, the 60th anniversary of the establish-

ment of the Second Republic, the 50th anniversary of the State Treaty ending the post-World War II occupation of Austria, the 10th anniversary of Austria's entry into the European Union and the 150th anniversary of the City of Ottawa. Over 200 participants at this Austrian Celebration from Canada, United States and Europe are expected to attend. The Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta (Prof. Franz Szabo, Director), the *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund* (Gustav Chlestil, President), BMO Harris Private Banking (Dave Wallace, Director), the Austrian Embassy (Dr. Otto Ditz, Ambassador) and the Austrian Cultural Forum are co-sponsors of this four-day event.

VI. THE SOCIETY, THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY, THE AUSTRIAN-CANADIAN COUNCIL AND THE FRIENDS OF AUSTRIA OTTAWA INC.

Since its inception, the Austrian Society Ottawa has maintained the closest of ties to the Austrian Embassy and the two have collaborated in numerous ways.



October 26, 1989: National Day celebrations at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador. Left to right: Ambassador Dr. Kurt Herndl and Dr. Erika Herndl. Seated: Hermann Griesseier, Edmund Wyslouzil, Alois Platzer and Hans Wyslouzil.

As mentioned earlier, Ambassador Dr. Franz Leitner was instrumental in the formation of the Society in 1965. During the ambassadorship of Dr. Walther Lichem, the annual Viennese Winter Ball and the New Year's Concerts were introduced. Dr. Lichem was also instrumental in creating the Austrian-Canadian Council in 1994.

The Society's 40-year Anniversary Symposium in May 2005 is a further example of the close co-operation existing between the Embassy and the Society. Dr. Otto

Ditz, the Austrian Ambassador acts as patron of the event; the co-chairs are Inga Michalek (President, Austrian-Canadian Council) and Roland K. Pirker (President, Austrian Society Ottawa and the Friends of Austria



January 8, 2000: Farewell dinner for Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem at the Sheraton Hotel. Dr. Lichem was made a "Senator." Left to right: Dr. Franz Szabo, Christine Welling, Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem, Roland K. Pirker, and conductor Agnes Grossmann (Honorary Chair of the ACC).



February 21, 2004: *Heimatabend* Niederösterreich at St. Albertus Church. Austrian Ambassador Dr. Otto Ditz pays his first visit to the Austrian Society Ottawa after his arrival in Canada. Right to left: H. E. Dr. Otto Ditz and Roland K. Pirker.

Ottawa Inc.). Members of the organizing committee are Otto Heberlein (Vice-President, Austrian Society Ottawa and member of the Board of Directors of the ACC), Matthias Radosztics (Cultural Attaché at the Austrian Embassy), Heidi-C. Temelie (Treasurer, Austrian Society Ottawa and the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc.), Elisabeth Wilson (member of Board of Directors, Austrian Society Ottawa, Vice-President and Event Co-ordinator of the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc.), Hans Wyslouzil (Cultural Director, Austrian Society Ottawa and the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc.) and Dr. Helmut Zobl (member of Board of Directors of the Austrian Society Ottawa).

Special thanks from our Society goes to Otto

Heberlein, who as the General Manager of the Sheraton Hotel Ottawa hosts and supports many functions of the Austrian Society Ottawa and the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc.

It should be mentioned that on numerous occasions the Embassy has acknowledged and expressed its gratitude to the Austrian Society Ottawa for the role it plays in bringing Austrian cultural traditions and achievements to the attention of the Ottawa public.

VII. THE SOCIETY, THE GERMAN LANGUAGE CHURCHES OF OTTAWA AND OTHER GROUPS AND INSTITUTIONS

As one of the groups in the German-language community of Ottawa, the Society is playing an active role in helping, supporting and promoting this community, either financially or in other ways. As mentioned previously, donations have been made over the years to German-language institutions such as the Catholic and Lutheran churches, the *Frohe Runde*, the Benevolent Society Ottawa, the language schools, and the German-language newspapers, television and radio programs.

Both churches have made their halls available for the several events that take place throughout the year, in particular St. Albertus Church, where the Schrammel-afternoons, Homeland Evenings and the Advent celebrations have been held. Since 2004, the Martin-Luther Church has hosted the video evenings. The Ottawa Sheraton Hotel welcomes members for the annual general meeting and for other special events.

"Aus Ottawa" (radio program) and "Deutsches Panorama" (TV program)

Some years ago, radio host Hank Dee broadcast events for the Society. For the last ten years Oswin Lohe, host of the German-language radio program "Aus Ottawa" has been supporting the Society by announcing cultural events every Sunday on his radio program. For many years one of the biggest supporters of the Austrian Society Ottawa has been Tilly Jerabek (host), as well as her husband Franz Jerabek (producer) with their monthly German Television Program broadcasts "Deutsches Panorama." The Jerabeks have featured many of the Society's events on an annual basis on their TV program.



January 13, 2002: Austrian Society Ottawa members as well as other important community supporters receive Austrian-Canadian Council *awards at a ceremony at the Sheraton Hotel in Ottawa. Left to right: Inga Michalek, *Franz Jerabek, (producer of the "Deutsches Panorama" TV program), *Edith Kuntz (journalist with the *Kanada Kurier*), Roland K. Pirker, *Heidemarie Kelly (ACC Legal Advisor), Otto Heberlein, *Mathilde Jerabek (host of the "Deutsches Panorama") and *Garry Bonner (Past President, ACC).

VIII. NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SOCIETY'S MEMBERS

Karl-Franz Hafner

Karl-Franz Hafner, in the early stages of his career, was an employee of the National Research Council. Later he moved to Carleton University where he jointly developed an internationally acclaimed course for physics students, Physics Laboratory Techniques. A few years later he became involved in the design of the Physics Department Building (now the Herzberg Laboratory of Physics).



October 1980: Karl-Franz Hafner in front of his Foucault Pendulum at the Physics Department at Carleton University. Similar to the one at the U. N. building in New York City, this was his own design. The 12-inch diameter bronze ball swings at the end of a 55-foot long cable suspended from the Physics Building foyer, moving through 10 degrees and 40 minutes of arc every hour. Foucault had offered this motion as proof that the earth spins around its own axis and rotates around the sun as well. (For more information see article in *OeCulture*, 2/2000)



Leo Hammerschmid

Leo Hammerschmid's contributions to the Society are numerous. As mentioned previously, although having received no formal musical training, he gave a Schubert recital at the Austrian Ambassador's residence in 1983



July 30, 1994: National Arts Centre in Ottawa. Leo Hammerschmid is invested with the Decoration of Merit in Gold of the Republic of Austria by H. E. Dr. Walther Lichem, Austrian Ambassador.

and Mozart recitals in 1986 in the Martin-Luther Church. He also turned his considerable talents to writing. Fascinated by the life of the last Austrian Empress, Zita, he set to work and after three years of research and personal interviews with Archduke Rudolf von Habsburg and the Empress herself, his book *Zita, the last Empress of Austria* was published in 1990. His cottage in Quebec has served as a destination for outings of the Society's members.

Eugen Kedl

Eugen Kedl, a photographer, is author of the book *Canada in a Thousand Pictures*. He and his wife Gretl have co-authored more than ten books on the subject of Canada. They have also been instrumental in establishing the Viennese Ball in Quebec City. The Kedls received the Medal of Merit in Gold from the Austrian-Canadian Council. Mr. Eugen Kedl was also the recipient of the 50th Golden Jubilee Medal of her Majesty Queen Elisabeth II, and he received the Order of Canada. (For more informa-



November 30, 2002: Eugen Kedl receives the Order of Canada from Governor General of Canada, Her Excellency Adrienne Clarkson.

tion see the articles in the *OeCulture* magazine, 1/2000, 2/2000 and 2/2001)



May 25, 2002: St. Albertus Church, *Heimatabend* Steiermark. The Kedls received an Austrian-Canadian Council award for their contributions to the Austrian community in Canada. Left to right: Hans Wyslouzil, Eugene Kedl, Gretl Kedl and Roland K. Pirker.

Roland Klaus Pirker

Roland K. Pirker has been president of the Austrian Society Ottawa since 1994 and the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc. since 2001. He was a founding member of the Austrian-Canadian Council and served as its president from 1998 to 2002. In 1993 he became president of the Overbrook Charity Bingo Association, which represents thirty bingo associations in Ottawa. Since 1969 he has been a member of the Canadian Society of Cinematographers where he served as the Chairman of the Ottawa Chapter from 1975 to 1989.



Vienna, November 20, 2002: Austrian Foreign Minister Dr. Benita Ferrero-Waldner presents Roland K. Pirker with the *Bundes-Ehrenzeichen*. In the background is Dr. Felix Mikl.

For his commitment he was awarded a Life Membership from the Canadian Society of Cinematographers. For his 35 years of charity and volunteer work within the Austrian and Canadian community Roland K. Pirker has received several Austrian decorations. Besides these many duties and activities, he is also a well-known film-maker who has traveled all over the world. His films have received 23 national and international awards. (For more information see articles in the *OeCulture* magazine, 1/1999 and 1/2004).



June 11, 2004: Austrian Ambassador Dr. Otto Ditz presents Roland K. Pirker with the *Goldene Ehrenzeichen für Verdienste um die Republik Österreich*. Waltraud Brauneder assists in the presentation.

Heinz Pundleider

Heinz Pundleider was an artist known for his oil paintings as well as his ink drawings. His paintings were frequently exhibited in Ottawa galleries. He generously made his artistic talents available for the benefit of the Society and the German-speaking community. In the early 1970's, when the community intended to build a home for its



Left to right: Heinz Pundleider, H. E. Edward Schreyer, Governor General of Canada, Herma Pundleider and Austrian Ambassador Dr. August Tarter.

senior members, he painted a set of Christmas cards depicting winter scenes in Ottawa. Once printed, the cards were sold to raise funds for the planned construction. The building of the home unfortunately did not materialize, and the funds collected were donated to the German language schools. Sadly, Heinz Pundleider passed away in 1982 in his late fifties, but his legacy as a painter remains.

Walter Ott

Walter Ott was chief engraver and director at the Royal Canadian Mint. He has modeled many celebrities, including the Prince and Princess of Wales from a photograph supplied by Buckingham Palace, the Pope and Governor General Ed Schreyer. Ott's favorite creation is the annually issued Gold Maple Leaf which he designed from a maple leaf that he found in Gatineau Park. For this design he received the award "Most Artistic - Best Gold Coin" from the *World Coin News*. (For more information see articles in the *OeCulture* magazine 2/2000, 1/2003)



May 21, 1995: Austrian Immigration to Canada Symposium. Left to right: Walter Ott, Josefine Ott and Prof. Dr. Walter Helmut Ott.

Wilfrid Schwarzkogler

Wilfrid Schwarzkogler came to Canada in December 1953 and worked until 1960 at the University of Ottawa and was responsible for setting up the *Werkstätte* (work shop). Wilfrid Schwarzkogler was a very gifted sculptor in stone and wood, and his works are found throughout Canada. Once word spread about the talents of this Austrian immigrant, government institutions, churches and embassies hired him not only as a carver but also as a gilder. His wood sculptures adorn several churches in Ottawa and surrounding areas as well as in Labrador

City. In 1956 he designed and built the sanctuary at St. Augustine Church in Ottawa, using 15 tons of gray



Wimberg marble from Hallein, Austria. In 1967 Roland Michener, the then Governor General of Canada, hired him to carve the names and time period served on a plaque located below the pictures of the previous governor-generals in the Rideau Hall Library. In 1970 he was hired by the

House of Commons to carve a plaque below the Speaker's Chair - given as a gift to Canada by the British Parliament - detailing the chair's history. He was also hired to do the name plaques of all historic buildings and bridges in Canada for the Historical Society of Canada.



Wilfrid Schwarzkogler at work.

Wilfrid Schwarzkogler was married to Anna and had one daughter Christiana. Unfortunately the Austrian-Canadian community lost a very talented person in 1990.

Helmut Seemann



Helmut Seemann studied music in Germany. After his arrival in Canada he played for three years as first flutist in the Ottawa Philharmonic Orchestra until its collapse. Subsequently he studied electrical engineering and then taught electronics for twenty years at Algonquin College. In

2003 the Ottawa Chamber Music festival dedicated a complete concert to the premieres of Helmut Seemann's compositions. This performance was recorded by CBC Radio and was twice broadcast nationally.

IX. WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT THE SOCIETY?

The forty-year retrospective contained in this *Festschrift* leaves little doubt that the Austrian Society Ottawa has indeed fulfilled the goals and aims set out in its statutes. It has played an invaluable role in maintaining and promoting the Austrian cultural heritage in the Ottawa area and in bringing it to the awareness of the



May 19, 2001: *Bunter Abend* and visit by the Austro-American Association of Boston at the Sheraton Hotel Ottawa. Left to right: Christiane Haffner, Burgie Pirker, Consul Gottfried Haffner (Austrian Embassy), Martha Stasa (Vice-President, AAAB), David Acker (AAAB), Traude Acker (President, AAAB) and Franz Jerabek.



May 19, 2001: *Bunter Abend* and visit from the Austro-American Association of Boston at the Sheraton Hotel Ottawa. Left to right: Alois and Hannelore Platzer, Hermann Griesseier, Helga Reinisch (AAAB), Traute Griesseier, Maria Wyslouzil, Renate Yasigin (AAAB) and Edmund Wyslouzil (standing).

Canadian public. It has served as a place of recollection, solidarity, friendship and support for those who arrived in Ottawa as immigrants, mainly in the fifties and sixties. Its active social life has made it a magnet for people of diverse backgrounds. Its membership comprises fourteen nationalities; besides Austrians, there are native-born Canadians, as well as individuals from Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Italy, Holland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Ukraine. It has succeeded in forming a sister association with the Austrian-American Association of Boston, and mutual visits have taken place.



May 19-22, 2000: The Austrian Society Ottawa visits the Austro-American Association of Boston. Left to right, front row: Maria Wyslouzil, Renate Yasigin, Dr. Didi Harrington, Renate Pammer, Traute Griesseier and Hannelore Platzer. Back row: Edmund Wyslouzil, Alois Platzer, Hans Wyslouzil, Hermann Griesseier, Dr. Jan Hermann, Roland K. Pirker and Karin Laframboise.



June 1-3, 2002: The Austrian Society Ottawa visits the Austro-American Association of Boston. The Schrammel Quartet plays at their Annual General Meeting. Left to right: Hermann Griesseier, Edmund Wyslouzil, Hans Wyslouzil and Alois Platzer.



October 22, 1995: 30th Anniversary of the Austrian Society Ottawa at the Sheraton Hotel. Left to right: Sylvia Tobien, Edmund and Maria Wyslouzil, Horst Tobien, Heli Heberlein, Hans Rant, Leo Janecka, Roland K. Pirker, Anna Schwarzkogler, Liane Rant, Theresa Palizek, Hedwig Stepa, Pepi Fruehwirth, Trautl and Hermann Griesseier, Emily Riedl, Hans Körner, Maria Seidl, Josefina Ott, Lotte Kletter, Kenneth Upton, Walter Ott, Franz Marth (hidden), Joe Seidl and Herma Pundleider.

October 22, 1995: 30th Anniversary of the Austrian Society Ottawa at the Sheraton Hotel. Left to right: Roland K. Pirker with the previous presidents: Hermann Griesseier, Franz (Frank) Marth, Melitta van Cleeff, Hans Rant, Leo Janecka and Joe Seidl (on behalf of Willi Nassau). In the foreground: Dr. Walther Lichem.



May 19, 2001: *Bunter Abend* at the Sheraton Hotel in Ottawa. The Austrian-Canadian Council honors members of the Austrian Society Ottawa with *medals for their work. Left to right, seated: Hermann Griesseier, Hans Wyslouzil, *Cecilia Schirgi, *Liane Rant, *Dr. Wera Zelenka (Cultural Director, Austrian Embassy). Second row, standing: *Heidi-C. Temelie, *Traute Griesseier and *Franz Kapeller. Last row, standing: *Sylvia Baenziger, *Pepi (Josef) Fruehwirth, *Barbara Sauter and Roland K. Pirker (President, ACC).

The Society continues to fulfill these roles, maintaining its very active charity work and providing comfort to members who are sick or ailing. In this, its 40th anniversary year, it has a membership of 125 families. Many of its members have received awards from the Austrian-Canadian Council for their contributions to the Austrian community and their charitable work. Several members were also honored at the *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund* meetings in Austria.



September 4, 2002: Vienna, *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund* meeting. Left to right: President Gustav Chlestil presents Hans Wyslouzil with the Silver Medal of the *Weltbund* for his work as Cultural Director in the Austrian Society Ottawa.

The three musical groups have made an immense contribution to the life of the Society and have also enhanced the Society's image in Ottawa, the U.S. and Austria. The numerous honors and awards that they have received attest to the high level of their contributions.

The Society is also unique in that it has succeeded in maintaining the German language for its social events and business meetings - a considerable achievement when one considers that many other societies have adopted English as their customary language of communication.

Like other ethnically-based organization whose membership is drawn largely from the post-World War II wave of immigrants, the Society's membership - though still numerous - is aging, and one can see a time approaching when in the absence of younger people it will cease to exist. Its current president, Roland K. Pirker, has shown initiative and foresight in setting up the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc., an organization sharing the objective of promoting awareness of Austria, but whose membership is more varied in age and where English is the chief vehicle of communication. Under the direction of Vice-President Elisabeth Wilson, responsible

for programming and organization, this group takes part in numerous events throughout the year, such as hiking, picnics, skating and cross-country-skiing.



June 29, 2002: Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc. are getting together for a picnic at Vincent Massey Park. Left to right, kneeling: Mihu Rucareanu, Simone Oberacher, Claudia Scheerer, Suzanne Walser and son Maxi Walser, Elisabeth and Ross Wilson. Standing: Roland K. Pirker, Rolando Pirker, Burgje Pirker, Alisa Golden, Elisabeth Lavoie, Dr. Christian Scheerer, Karin Otto, Consul Gottfried Haffner, Dr. Markus Walser, Jim Burgess, Inga Michalek, Barbara Hörmann and daughter Teresa and Rene Wolfram.



October 20, 2002: Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc. On a nature outing in Gatineau Park. Left to right, front row: Roland K. Pirker, Maxi Walser (in baby carriage), Jie Pan, Elisabeth Wilson and Mihu Rucareanu. Second row: Klements Kaindl, Erich Kaindl, Pia Kaindl, Christiane Haffner, Lea Kaindl, Gabi Kaindl, Suzanne Walser, Christine Lord, Dr. Christian Scheerer, Dr. Julio Oliveira and Simone Oberacher. Back row: Consul Gottfried Haffner, Oliver Haffner, Dr. Markus Walser, Claudia Scheerer, Claudia Oliveira and Ross Wilson.

Credits

Event organizing committee

Chairs: Inga Michalek (President, Austrian-Canadian Council)
Roland K.Pirker (President, Austrian Society Ottawa and the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc.)
Members: Otto Heberlein, Matthias Radosztics, Heidi-C. Temelie, Elisabeth Wilson, Hans Wyslouzil and Dr. Helmut Zobl

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Bob Chiarelli

Mayor Maire
City of Ottawa Ville d'Ottawa

AUSTRIAN WEEK

May 16 - 23, 2005

WHEREAS, there is a large and active Austrian community living in the National Capital Region; and

WHEREAS, this community is an integral part of our cultural mosaic, having done much to make Ottawa a truly cosmopolitan city; and

WHEREAS, our city is stronger because of the contributions made by the Austrian community, to business, the arts and charitable organizations.

THEREFORE, I, Bob Chiarelli, Mayor of the City of Ottawa, do hereby proclaim **May 16 - 23, 2005 as Austrian Week** in the City of Ottawa and urge all citizens to join with members of this community in the celebration of their heritage.

SEMAINE AUTRICHIENNE

Du 16 au 23 mai 2005

ATTENDU QU'il existe une grande et active communauté autrichienne dans la Région de la capitale nationale;

ATTENDU QUE cette communauté fait partie intégrante de notre mosaïque culturelle et qu'elle a beaucoup fait pour rendre Ottawa une ville vraiment cosmopolite;

ATTENDU QUE notre ville est plus forte en raison des contributions apportées par la communauté autrichienne au milieu des affaires, au monde artistique et aux organismes de bienfaisance;

IL EST RÉSOLU QUE, je, Bob Chiarelli, maire de la Ville d'Ottawa, proclame par la présente la semaine **du 16 au 23 mai 2005 Semaine autrichienne** dans la Ville d'Ottawa et encourage fortement tous les citoyens à se joindre aux membres de cette communauté pour la célébration de leur patrimoine.

Bob Chiarelli
Mayor / Maire

AUSTRIAN CELEBRATION, 2005

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