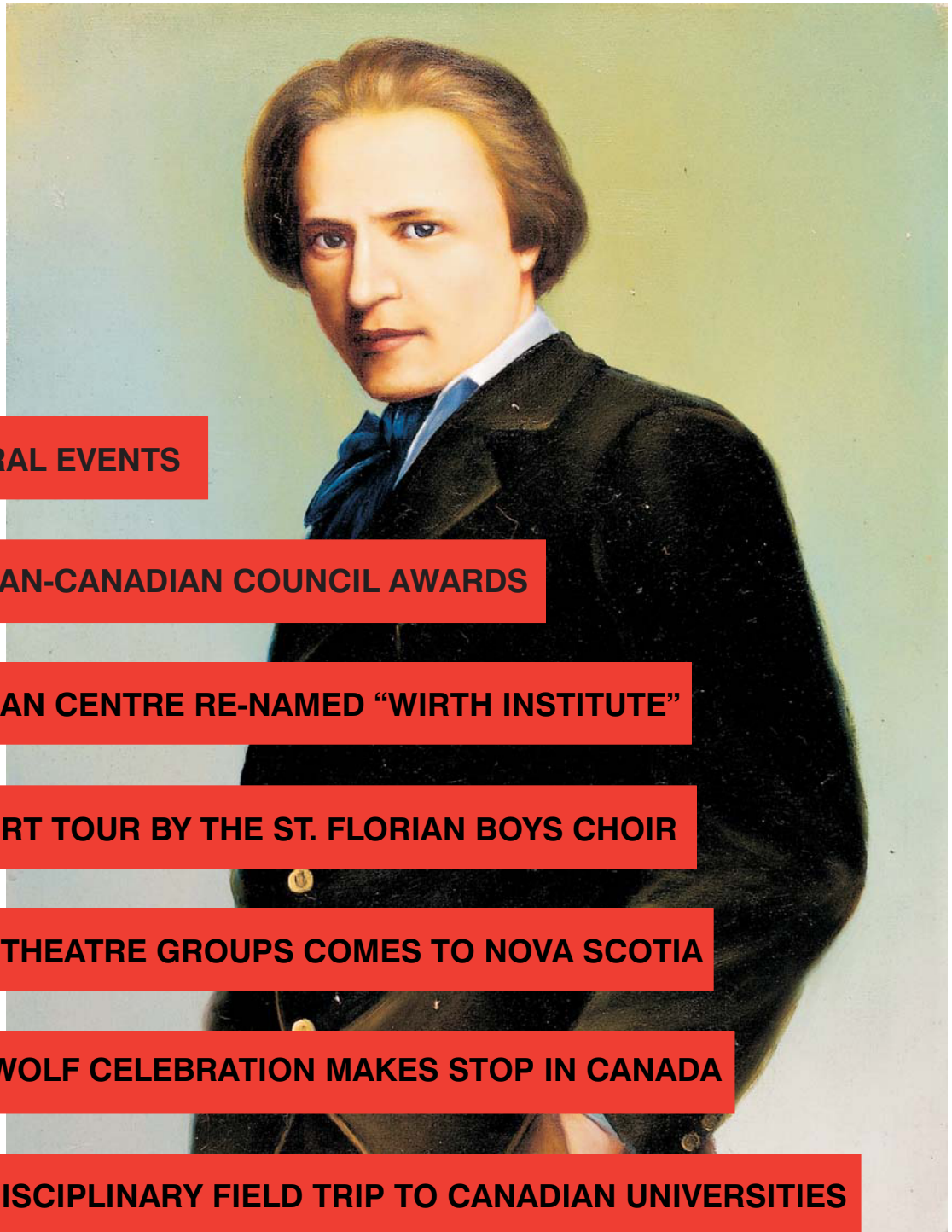


# *De* CULTURE

No 1/2004

AUSTRIA • CANADA • CULTURE • AUTRICHE



**CULTURAL EVENTS**

**AUSTRIAN-CANADIAN COUNCIL AWARDS**

**AUSTRIAN CENTRE RE-NAMED "WIRTH INSTITUTE"**

**CONCERT TOUR BY THE ST. FLORIAN BOYS CHOIR**

**IMAGO THEATRE GROUPS COMES TO NOVA SCOTIA**

**HUGO WOLF CELEBRATION MAKES STOP IN CANADA**

**INTERDISCIPLINARY FIELD TRIP TO CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES**

## CONTENTS//SOMMAIRE

- 3 Austrian Centre re-named "Wirth Institute"
- 5 International Hugo Wolf Celebration makes stop in Canada
- 7 Cross-Canada concert tour by the St. Florian Boys Choir
- 8 Inga Michalek elected ACC President
- 9 Patron funds Assistant Director position at Austrian Centre
- 10 IMAGO Theatre group comes to Nova Scotia for 2003 World Theatre Congress
- 11 A letter from the new Austrian ambassador, Dr. Otto Ditz
- 12 Roland Pirker: Documenting the "10th province"
- 13 Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund meeting in Graz, Styria
- 14 Austrian-Canadian Council Awards: Austria Club of Windsor. Austrian Alpine Singers and Steirer Klub Toronto
- 15 Austrian Society Ottawa
- 16 Ambassador Etmayer leaves posting in Canada. Prime Minister of Canada attends Ottawa's Viennese Winter Ball
- 17 Interdisciplinary field trip to Canadian universities
- 18 50 years Alpine Club Kitchener
- 19 Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary
- 20 Cultural events


### Members of the Austrian-Canadian Council's Executive


Honorary Chairperson:	Agnes Grossmann
President:	Inga Michalek
Vice-President:	Hans (John) Raschke
Secretary:	Caroline Purkhart
Treasurer:	Ingrid Feil
Awards Chairman:	Roland K. Pirker
Legal Advisor:	Heidemarie K. Kelly
Directors:	Roland K. Pirker, Gerhard (Garry) Bonner, Hans (John) Raschke, Otto Heberlein
Ex officio:	Dr. Franz Szabo, Director of the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies
Ex officio:	Dr. Otto Ditz, Austrian Ambassador

### Web sites on Austrian-Canadian affairs

Austrian-Canadian Council: <http://www.austrian-canadian-council.ca/>  
 Austrian Embassy, Ottawa: <http://www.austro.org/>  
 Cultural events in the Austrian-Canadian community: <http://www.austro.org/> then click on "English" / "Austria in Canada" / "Cultural Events Calendar"  
 Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies: <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/wi/>  
 Austrian Trade Commission, Toronto: <http://www.austriantrade.org>  
 Canadian Embassy, Vienna: [http://www.kanada.at/canadian\\_emb-menu-e.html](http://www.kanada.at/canadian_emb-menu-e.html)  
*Biographical Dictionary of Austrians in Canada*: <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/CCAUCES/dictionary/start.htm>  
 OeCulture On-line: <http://www.oeculture.ca>

## Austria... Österreich... Autriche

 CULTURE is published twice a year by the Austrian-Canadian Council, 1391 Cavendish Road, Ottawa, K1H 6B8 (Tel.: 613/521-3603)

 CULTURE est publié deux fois par an par le Conseil austro-canadien

Editor/Editeur: Manfred Prokop  
 Modern Languages and Cultural Studies  
 University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2E6, Tel./Fax: 780/467-6273

Design/Maquette: HTL-Linz, Linz, Austria

© Copyright 2004. All rights reserved. Contributed articles do not necessarily reflect the official view of the Austrian government or of the editor. / © Copyright 2004. Tous droits réservés. Les articles publiés ne reflètent pas nécessairement le point de vue du gouvernement autrichien ou de l'éditeur.

## Austrian Centre re-named “Wirth Institute”

After five years of operation, the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies (CCAUCES) formally changed its name to the *Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies*. Thanks to past generous gifts to the Centre by Dr. Manfred Wirth, who passed away last March, and a current commitment by his son, Mr. Alfred Wirth, for an additional \$7.5 million dollars over the next few years, the total Wirth family endowment fund of the Institute should reach \$10 million by 2006. In recognition of Dr. Manfred and Mr. Alfred Wirth's contributions, the University of Alberta decided to change the name of the Centre.

The re-naming ceremony, which was held at the University of Alberta's Faculty Club on October 29, 2003, was attended by Mr. Wirth and his partner, Ms. Alison Dyer, by senior University of Alberta administrators, including the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr. Jim Edwards, the President of the University, Dr. Roderick D. Fraser, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Dr. Daniel Woolf, and by many members both of the university community and the community at large. Also present was a special delegation that had come from Austria expressly for this occasion. It included Dr. Hans Moser, former *Rektor* of the University of Innsbruck, Dr. Friedrich Zimmermann, *Vizerektor* of the University of Graz, and Dr. Ursula Mathis-Moser, Director of the Centre for Canadian Studies at the University of Innsbruck. The Austrian government was represented by the First Secretary of the Austrian Embassy in Ottawa, Minister Counselor Jan Kickert.

Two years after his initial donation to CCAUCES, Dr. Manfred Wirth contacted Centre Director Franz Szabo to say that he was extremely happy with the work of the Centre. He



Alfred G. Wirth

indicated that it was his intent to make additional major annual contributions to the Centre's endowment fund over a period of several years. The first of these donations in the spring of 2002 made the mounting of the ambitious but costly Carl Czerny Music Festival and International Symposium in June of that year possible. This past winter Dr. Wirth was in the process of making arrangements for further donations to the endowment fund when he passed away on March 21, just a few months short of his 90th birthday.

In a memorial service held for Dr. Wirth on May 26 in Montreal, the Austrian Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency, Dr. Wendelin Ettmayer, praised the successful steel magnate's strong commitment to his Austrian roots, marked above all by

his support for the Canadian Austrian Centre. Dr. Ettmayer affirmed once again how the late Dr. Wirth's philanthropic vision gave concrete form to this commitment for generations to come. Dr. Wirth's son, Mr. Alfred Wirth, shares this vision, and accordingly did not hesitate to reaffirm a similar ongoing commitment to the University of Alberta on his own behalf and in memory of his late parents. "It is a privilege to be able to support something you believe in," he said. "It's tremendously satisfying to give a gift that you think you've got right and is appreciated."

Alfred G. Wirth was born in Vienna in 1941 and attended primary school there before the family joined their father in Canadian emigration in 1952. Subsequently educated in Canada, where he studied economics, political science and business administration at McGill University in Montreal, he became a successful investment and portfolio manager. He served with various firms, rising to Senior Vice-President and Chief Investment Officer of Crown Life Insurance before founding his own investment firm, Wirth Associates Inc., of which he is currently President and Director. Mr. Wirth is also a serious oenophile, and is both a *Commandeur de Bordeaux* in Montreal and a *Chevalier du Tastevin* in Toronto. He has written widely on economics, investments and wines.

Mr. Wirth retains a vibrant connection with Austria, travelling there frequently and being an active member of the Austrian Society for Financial Analysis and Investment Management in Vienna. He notes that his childhood memories of Austria are

still very vibrant, and that his interest in central European culture remains active and vital, so that his return visits to his country of birth are invariably congenial and familiar. Above all, however, Wirth wants to preserve awareness within Canada of the contributions made by Austrians to



Left to right: President Roderick D. Fraser, Faculty of Arts Dean Daniel Woolf, Mr. Alfred G. Wirth, Ms. Alison Dyer, Dr. Franz Szabo.

this country's culture and society. "Because immigration from Austria is now minimal, there is a danger that the Austrian component of Canada's multi-cultural mosaic will tend to be overlooked," he explained. "It is my hope that an academic institute devoted to Austrian and Central European Studies will raise its profile and keep the transatlantic links with that part of the world alive."

University of Alberta president Dr. Fraser seconded these sentiments, calling the Institute "a unique institution within Canada and a key component of the University of Alberta's mission to play a vital role within an emerging global family." He affirmed that Austrian and Central European Studies were clearly identified within the university as a "focal point and institutional priority," and went on to say that "preserving our common heritage and fostering new partnerships is vital to both Canada and the countries and citizens of Central Europe."

With the support of the Wirth Endowment and as a mark of the

university's commitment to Central European Studies, both the physical facilities and personnel of the Institute have been dramatically expanded. The Institute also continues to build on the University of Alberta main library collection, which contains one of the most significant *Austriaca* collections in North America and includes such treasures as the *Priesterseminar* library of the Archbishop of Salzburg and the library of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Viennese *Juridisch-Politisch-Leseverein*.

Institute Director Franz Szabo commented: "The Wirth Endowment has been the life's blood of our Institute for several years now, and the additional commitments of Alfred Wirth gives us the kind of stability that makes the planning of major long-term projects possible." One such project, Szabo noted, has just been negotiated this past summer with the Central European University in Budapest. The Institute and the CEU have agreed to co-sponsor a multi-year research project involving conferences in and scholars from all six countries currently supporting the Institute (Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) as well as North America. The tentative title of the project is "Challenging the National Narrative." Over the course of the next eight to ten years a series of significant publications rethinking pivotal aspects of Central European history should result.

In addition, the Wirth Endowment will help finance a series of internships at the Institute for advanced graduate students from Central Europe as well as providing the financial basis for other student scholarship and exchange programmes. The Institute is also

planning a major publication series in cooperation with University of Alberta Press. Beyond that it will continue to provide financial support for the ongoing activities of the Institute, including conferences, guest lectures and round-table discussions, exhibitions, concerts and other scholarly and cultural activities relating to Central Europe.



Left to right: Faculty of Arts Dean Daniel Woolf, Dr. Franz Szabo, Mr. Alfred G. Wirth, and President Roderick D. Fraser.

While the Institute's activities are primarily focused on the University of Alberta, the Wirth Endowment allows it to exercise a national mandate by co-sponsoring Central European activities with other universities in Canada. Last March it co-sponsored a conference on Franz Schubert with the Centre for Research in the Fine Arts at the University of Calgary. This November a similar conference was mounted on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hugo Wolf's death in co-operation with Carleton University and the University of Ottawa. The well-established pattern of cooperation with the American Center for Austrian Studies at the University of Minnesota, which has already seen the co-sponsorship of two major conferences (including, most recently, this year's "*Embodiments of Power: Building Baroque Cities in Austria and Europe*") is also expected to continue in the years ahead.

Franz A.J. zabo

## International Hugo Wolf Celebration makes stop in Canada

To commemorate the centenary of the death of one of the most famous 19th century Austrian composers, Hugo Wolf (1860-1903), a major international "Hugo Wolf Celebration" was organized in four different countries during November 2003. While significant portions of the celebration took place in Austria, Slovenia and the United States, a substantial segment of it also took place in Canada. The celebration featured a major academic symposium spread over four cities, and concerts and recitals in six cities

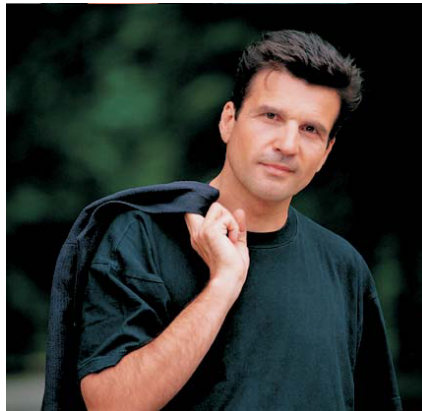


Hugo Wolf

featuring some of the greatest singers of the day. Its goal was to present Hugo Wolf in the musical, cultural and historical context of his time.

Hugo Wolf was born in what was then the town of Windischgraetz in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and what is now Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia, on March 13, 1860. He studied briefly at the Vienna Conservatory, but did not warm to disciplined study and had thenceforth to rely on friends and benefactors for support. His subse-

quent career was marked by a pattern of cyclic mood swings and sporadic creativity. He wrote some chamber and orchestral music that have become standards of the repertoire, including *Penthesilea*, the String Quartet in D Minor and the famous *Italian Serenade*, and one relatively seldom performed opera, *Der Corre-*

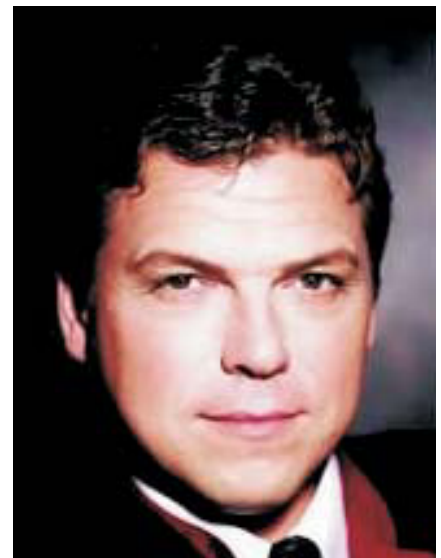


Wolfgang Holzmaier

*gidor*. Inspired by poets such as Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Eduard Mörike and Joseph von Eichendorff, however, Wolf channeled most of his creative energy into the German Lied. His prodigious output in this genre, combining expressive techniques in the piano part with an independent vocal line, and using an array of rhythmic and harmonic devices to depict textual imagery and illustrate mood and create musical structure, continued and extended the Lied tradition of Schubert and Schumann. In 1897 he composed the last of his 242 songs and had the mental breakdown that led to his terminal illness. He died in Vienna on February 22, 1903.

The 2003 Hugo Wolf Celebration began in Graz, Austria, on November 3-4, moved on to Slovenj Gradec on November 6-7 and to Vienna on

November 9. The North American portion began in Edmonton on November 23, was anchored in Ottawa on November 23-26 and ended in New York on November 26. Canadian events were organized by the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies of the University of Alberta, Carleton University, and the University of Ottawa, in association with the National Arts Centre and the Office of the Governor General. A broad range of additional sponsors included the Austrian-Canadian Council, the



Michael Schade

Austrian Cultural Forum (both in Ottawa and in New York), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and Frequentis, an Austrian communication and information systems company.

At the heart of the celebrations was a series of recitals by world-class artists. Leading the stellar roll-call was Austria's foremost Lieder singer, Wolfgang Holzmaier, accompanied by the renowned British pianist, Imogen Cooper. The Holzmaier-Cooper recital

of Wolf's Mörike Lieder was featured in Graz, Edmonton, Ottawa and New York to great critical acclaim. Holzmair, whose mother resides in Toronto, is a frequent and enthusiastic visitor to Canada and has already performed on several occasions in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal. His recital at the University of Alberta's



Imogen Cooper

Convocation Hall was his first in Edmonton, but, he assured Edmontonians, certainly not his last. Holzmair and Cooper have recorded extensively for Philips, including Schumann's *Dichterliebe* and the three major Schubert cycles, *Die Schöne Müllerin*, *Winterreise* and *Schwanengesang*.

A second highlight of the Hugo Wolf Celebration was a recital by Canada's own Michael Schade, accompanied by Michael Ralls, in Rideau Hall in the presence of the Governor General, the Austrian ambassador and many other dignitaries. This recital featured some of Wolf's Eichendorff Lieder and excerpts from the *Spanisches Liederbuch*, as well as other songs by Beethoven, Schubert and Richard Strauss. Schade sings frequently in

Austria and is one of Canada's most beloved musical ambassadors abroad, though, as he pointed out, he always likes to come home to sing. Young Canadian artists also featured in a related University of Ottawa student recital were Joyce El-Khoury, David Lankenau, Maghan Stewart and Jean Desmarais.

The American baritone Thomas Hampson, accompanied by Wolfram Rieger, performed in Graz and was to have appeared at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa as well. Though the latter recital had to be re-scheduled to



Thomas Hampson

February, due to illness of the artist, this delayed concert will be broadcast by the CBC along with the other recitals in a major Hugo Wolf special planned for the spring of this year. Other artists participating in the European part of the Celebration were Marco Fink and Andreja Zakonjzsek in Slovenj Gradec and Marjana Lipovsek and Ildiko Raimondi in Vienna.

On the scholarly side, the Hugo Wolf Celebration featured a major international symposium spread over several venues. The conference was a joint project of three Canadian and three Austrian universities: the University of Alberta, Carleton University,

the University of Ottawa, the Universities of Music and Dramatic Arts in Graz and Vienna, and the University of Graz. A number of other public institutions and private enterprises in Canada, Austria and Slovenia also supported the enterprise, including the Austrian and Slovenian Societies of Musical Sciences. The symposium saw 40 of the world's leading Hugo Wolf scholars from seven countries (Austria, Canada, Germany, Slovenia, Switzerland, the U.K. and the U.S.) present papers on various aspects of the art, life and times of the composer.

The initial European sessions of the conference were spread among Graz, Slovenj Gradec and Vienna, while the North American sessions were held in the University of Ottawa's Freiman Hall. Spread over three days (November 23-26) the Canadian conference was entitled *Vixen Muse: Hugo Wolf's Musical World*. Among the Canadian scholars who participated were Lori Burns (Ottawa), Anna Boyden (Western), James Deaville (McMaster), Harald Krebs (Victoria), Don McLean (Mc Gill), Paul Merkley (Ottawa) and Jean Jacques van Vlaselaer (Carleton). This broad international polycentric conference will result in an important new book on Hugo Wolf, which will be published in Austria shortly.

Franz A.J. Szabo

### Oe culture Online

Oe Culture will soon be available to readers all over the world on the Internet. Please visit us at <http://www.OeCulture.ca>, and tell a friend.

The website will be maintained by Jim Burgess (Ottawa).

## Cross-Canada concert tour by the St. Florian Boys Choir

On August 29, 2003, thirty-one choirboys from St. Florian, Upper Austria, accompanied by Professor Franz Farnberger, Mag. Christa Steinkellner, Anneliese Schuber and Paul Wirleitner, left Linz to fly to Toronto for their second North American concert tour. They were received at the airport by Hans and Liesel Schade, parents of the world-famous tenor Michael Schade, and were taken to Toronto's suburb Oakville in a real yellow school bus to their host families.

Following a great deal of sightseeing in Toronto the next day, the choir boys were invited to sing at a mass in St. Andrew's Church. Among other works, Michael Haydn's *St. Leopold Mass* and Schenk's comic opera *Der Dorfbarbier*, sung in English, were on the program.

On August 31, Frank Stronach—probably the best-known Austrian-Canadian—took the group on a trip to Niagara Falls and along Lake Ontario to fascinating Fort George.

Two days later, the choir flew to Vancouver and then went on to Victoria by ferry. After almost two days of sightseeing in town and at the harbour front and a visit to the Royal B.C. Museum—where the boys were captivated by the dinosaur exhibit—the choir participated in a soccer tournament which took place in the park in front of Christ Church Cathedral. An evening concert in the same church featuring the choir's wonderful voices turned out to be a resounding success with the audience.

On September 5, the choir returned to Vancouver where they were received by a representative from the Austrian Consulate, Mrs.

Trude Duller. They immediately embarked on an extended bus tour to Stanley Park and Grouse Mountain from where they had a wonderful view of the city.



The choir in front of Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria

The following day also offered some sightseeing and shopping time until a rehearsal in the afternoon. The adults accompanying the choir greatly enjoyed a lunch with the well-



Experiencing Niagara Falls

known Austrian-Canadian interior architect Hermann Inzinger and the film music composer Michael Conway-Baker. Later, before 600 spectators in Vancouver's Centennial Theatre the choir shone again with their musical and acting talent and was given a standing ovation for the presentation of the *Dorfbabier*. They also entertained the audience with songs by Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Robert Schumann, Franz Schubert, and delighted them with the *Kaiserwalzer* and the *Radetzkymarsch*.

The concert was given an additional dimension because it served as a fund-raising event in support of the B.C. Interior Forest Fire Fund. In attendance were Mayor Barbara Sharp, Mayor Don Bell, Mayor Ron Wood, and Austrian Consul General Graham Clarke. Fire chiefs Reid Douglas, Doug Trussler, and Gary Calder—who welcomed the children—were also present. The choir dedicated Schubert's *Ave Maria* to the firefighters. The concert raised \$6,400 which was handed over to the Canadian Red Cross during the Austrian National Day celebrations.

The next stop on the tour was Montreal where the boys were warmly welcomed by the parents of a local choir, Les Petit Chanteurs du Mont-Royal, with whom they would stay for the next little while. On the following day, the choir participated in a mass in St. Joseph's Oratory and gave another successful performance in the Église Saint-Marc in Rosemont with works by Vivaldi, Haydn, Mozart, Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Schubert, Franck, Schumann and Brahms, several folk songs, finishing with the *Kaiserwalzer*.

The final destination was Ottawa where the choir was welcomed by Dr. Artur Bablok from the Austrian Embassy and Otto Heberlein, Chair of the Ottawa Tourism and Convention Authority. Although sightseeing took up much of the next day, the St. Florian Choir performed in a memorial service for the events of September 11, 2001 in the Notre Dame Basilica.

The last concert on the tour took place at the University of Ottawa in front of an expert audience who rewarded the boys' performance with

enthusiastic applause—an acknowledgement of the high quality of the choir's performance.

The choir left Ottawa on September 13 after having given a small performance for representatives of the Austrian Embassy, and returned to Vienna and then to St. Florian.



The choir in Ottawa

A biographical note on the St. Florian Boys Choir: Because in the past women did not commonly sing at masses in Catholic churches, young boys usually performed the soprano parts. The existence of a boys choir in St. Florian Monastery near Linz can be traced back to 1071, with Anton Bruckner probably being the choir's most famous member. In recent years, the St. Florian Boys Choir has recorded a number of CDs, has participated in operatic performances, and has toured the world.

The St. Florianer Sängerknaben have a website at <http://www.bachcantatas.com/Bio/SFSK.htm>.

*Mag. Wolfgang Gruber*  
*St. Florianer Sängerknaben*

## Inga Michalek elected ACC President

Inga Michalek was elected president of the Austrian-Canadian Council on November 29, 2002, succeeding Roland K. Pirker.

Mrs. Michalek was born in Vienna, Austria, where she went to high school, the *Höhere Bundeslehranstalt für Wirtschaftliche Frauenberufe*. A part of this school's curriculum provided for training in hotel management, including practical training between the school years. After having completed a three-month training period in the hotel business in Switzerland, Mrs. Michalek later returned to Switzerland to continue with her studies in French and to expand her skills in the hotel business. After having spent some time in Vienna, she obtained a working permit for Canada, again to expand her knowledge of languages and to gain more experience in the hotel business.

In January 1970, Inga Michalek immigrated to Canada and arrived in Toronto with the intention to work for a family, but through luck and determination she ended up finding employment in an insurance brokerage, thus embarking on a new profession.

After two more stays in Vienna, Mrs. Michalek made Toronto her permanent home. She went back to university, first to York University to work on a B. A. degree, but then also took courses to obtain her insurance credentials and eventually her

designation in Risk Management. In 1998, she graduated from Alberta's Athabasca University with a Master's in the Executive MBA Program.

During her years in Toronto, Inga Michalek was employed with various companies in the insurance field. Eventually she was hired by Canada Post to head their Risk Management



Department in the Ottawa head office. After ten years with Canada Post she was hired by Nav Canada to lead their newly established Risk Management Department. She also became the Director of Real Estate, Environmental Compliance and

Corporate Security. Currently, Mrs. Michalek has her own company providing business advisory services with an emphasis on risk management solutions.

Inga Michalek is married to a Canadian, and they now make their home in Ottawa.

Since her arrival in Canada, Mrs. Michalek has worked hard to promote Austria. As president of the Austrian-Canadian Council she considers her main objectives to build and expand the existing communications plan connecting Austrian societies and clubs in Canada, and by expanding the role and mandate of the ACC to include Austrian-Canadian cultural endeavors.

*René Wolfrain*



## Patron funds Assistant Director position at Austrian Centre

The staff at the former Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies and recently re-named Wirth Institute expanded in September 2003, thanks in part to a Montreal-based philanthropist of central European origin. Joseph Kuchar, President and CEO of Recochem, Inc., Canada's leading producer of naphthalene, has



Joseph Kuchar

provided the funding for a new position at the Institute: a one-to-three year combination post-doctoral fellowship and internship, whose recipient will act as Assistant Director of the Institute. The fellowship is named "The Joseph Kuchar Post-Doctoral Fellowship."

Irrepressibly energetic and fit at the age of 88, Joseph Kuchar is the quintessential Central European. Born in still imperial Vienna and raised in inter-war Czechoslovakia, he is not only fluent in both Czech and German, but in ten other languages all of which, as his daughter points out, he speaks "with a middle-European accent." Finding himself in

Austria in 1938, he fled to Czechoslovakia after the Anschluss and served briefly in the Czech army. After the Nazi seizure of Bohemia and Moravia, he went underground until 1945. Shortly thereafter, his life took another dramatic turn when he fled Czechoslovakia after the Communist takeover, escaping back to Austria where he founded a textile import-export company. In 1950 Kuchar migrated to Canada, where he purchased a small mothball and deodorizer packaging firm, which he built into a giant Canadian-owned, family-held, multi-national chemical empire in the subsequent decades. Recochem Inc. now has five branches in Canada, as well as subsidiaries in the United States, Australia and Belgium, dealing in a broad range of chemical products.

But "Hurricane Joe," as he is affectionately known, is more than a shrewd and successful businessman, he is also an environmentalist, horse breeder and art patron. In 1983 he established a sprawling experimental farm in Quebec's Laurentian Mountains, which rejoices in the aptly bilingual name of "Waldeck U Lesa" (*OeCulture* featured the farm in its 2/2001 issue). The farm not only raises the usual array of farm animals and agricultural produce (including, of course, maple syrup), it is both an herbalist's dream and the leading Canadian centre for the breeding and development of Tyrol's famous Haflinger horses. At the heart of this estate sits the Kuchar home—one of the most magnificent examples of Alpine architecture in Canada, built

with materials and artisans brought from Austria. Kuchar also supports Austrian events such as Austrian balls and the recent exhibit of "Master Drawings from the Albertina" at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

The world-wide competition for the Joseph Kuchar Post-Doctoral Fellowship was held in the spring and summer of 2003, and was open to candidates in all disciplines in the social sciences, humanities or fine arts with a specialization in Austrian and Central European subjects. The



Kristof Jacek Kozak

competition was won by a young Slovenian scholar from Ljubljana, Dr. Kristof Jacek Kozak, who only the year before had received his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Alberta. Beside his native Slovenian, Dr. Kozak is fluent in English, German, Italian, Polish, Serbo-Croat and French. In addition to conducting and continuing his own research activity on contemporary drama, Dr. Kozak participates and assists in the organization of all the activities of the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies.

Franz A.J. Szabo

## From Austria to the Atlantic Coast: IMAGO comes to Nova Scotia for 2003 World Theatre Congress and Festival

From July 10 to 19, 2003, Halifax, Nova Scotia proudly hosted the 2003 World Theatre Congress and Festival (WTCF) which brought performers from 17 countries—including Austria—to the Atlantic coastal city to showcase their talents. Halifax won the right to host this prestigious biennial international event in 2001, giving it the distinction of being only the second Canadian host city after Calgary in the Festival's 46-year history. In addition to the Festival events, the Congress brings together delegates from over 90 countries to discuss a multitude of views from their several theatre communities.

As part of this year's Festival, Halifax welcomed the IMAGO Welsler Theatre and Puppet Theatre Group from Wels, Austria. IMAGO was formed in the summer of 2001 as the result of two workshops held by Mr. Christian Suchy, now the group's director. It is comprised of professional and amateur players from various Austrian provinces who specialize in puppet theatre, dance, and drama. The troupe performed *Potatello* which is based on Shakespeare's *Othello*. It was developed by Christian Suchy in association with the ensemble in a series of workshops centred on the theme of Boundary-Breaking and Interactions during the 11<sup>th</sup> International Puppet Theatre Festival in Wels.

IMAGO's Nova Scotia journey began with a short tour along the south and southwest shores of the province where they performed *Potatello* in Annapolis Royal, Yarmouth, and Liverpool. They toured with Tiempos Nuevos Teatro, a

theatre group from El Salvador which also participated in the Festival.

On Sunday, July 13, 2003, the 13 members of IMAGO returned to Halifax to participate in the official opening ceremonies and to give their first of two Halifax performances of



IMAGO: Opening ceremonies

*Potatello* at Neptune Theatre. Their second performance was held on Monday, July 14. In addition to their performances, the actors also participated in several workshops on topics, such as physical theatre, costume, and stage combat, and in various social gatherings.

Both of IMAGO's performances in Halifax were greeted by very receptive audiences who enjoyed this very original and imaginative interpretation of *Othello*. *Potatello* combines elements of movement, mime, sound, puppets, music, comedy, and physical theatre which melt into a cavalcade of visual and auditory experiences that cause your eyes and your mind to be in constant motion during the entire 60-minute performance. The use of many objects including a potato—an ordinary table potato—as puppets delighted the crowd and gave the audience a glimpse of Austria's rich puppetry tradition.

On July 16, 2003, Mr. Michael M. Novac, Honourary Austrian Consul for the Atlantic Provinces, hosted a table at the Masquerade Gala at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax. Guests in attendance included the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, Mrs. Myra Freeman, and Mr. Larry Freeman. Consul and Mrs. Nelly Novac were pleased to host at the consulate table three members of the IMAGO group, Ms. Gerti Tröbinger, Ms. Natasha Gundacker, and Mrs. Christina Förster. Later in the evening, Ms. Gundacker and Ms. Förster performed at the sold-out event. They awed all those present with their interpretation of a traditional



Consul and Mrs. Novac with Gerti Tröbinger, Christina Förster, and Natascha Gundacker

Austrian folk song as well as a very humorous rendition of the Peggy Lee classic *Fever*.

On July 18, Consul and Mrs. Novac hosted a barbecue at their residence in Halifax for the group, which offered the theatre group an opportunity to socialize and relax as well as to enjoy traditional Maritime food and drink. Later in the evening, IMAGO brought out their instruments and delighted everyone with traditional Austrian folk songs. At the end of the night, Nelly Novac, affection-

## A letter from the new Austrian ambassador, Dr. Otto Ditz

Dear friends of Austria,

Going to Canada is like coming home for me. I served in Ottawa between 1986 and 1989. My wife is from Toronto, and two of our children were born in Ottawa and go to school or university in Canada.

Do I therefore know Canada? By no means. Canada is more than a hundred times larger than Austria. There are almost four times as many Canadians as Austrians, and Canada's gross domestic product is three times larger than Austria's GDP.

However, as far as per capita income is concerned, both Austrians and Canadians belong to the top league, and it seems a matter of debate whether Vienna or Vancouver is the city with the highest quality of life on the planet. Democracy, Rule of Law, Human Rights, Federalism and Civil Society are values uniting us. Yes, we are different but we have very many things in common.

When I served in Ottawa in the late 80s, Austria was an outpost of the West and a bridge towards the East. The Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall still stood firm, and a united

Europe seemed a distant *fata morgana*.

Today, Austria is at the heart of a dynamic and expanding European Union where 450 million people live and work together.



These developments have brought a new impetus and new possibilities to our relationship with Canada. Building upon our past achievements, we can realise new progress in such areas as automotive industries, biochemistry, and the creative and the snow industries.

Magna International, founded and managed by Austrian-Canadians, is already a leading supplier of automotive parts. Professor Josef Penninger, who had an outstanding career in Toronto, has been appointed to establish the new Institute of Molecular Biotechnology in Vienna. The Winter Olympics in Vancouver in 2010 should offer new opportunities for our snow and creative industries.

But many global challenges still lie ahead, and we can only overcome them together. Environmental degradation, global warming, SARS, and other pandemics, racial and religious discrimination and intolerance as well as terrorism will test our determination and endurance. Austria and Canada are fully committed to the multilateral approach, with the United Nations at the centre, in tackling these issues. Together, we shall overcome and turn these challenges into opportunities.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with you.

Ambassador Dr. Otto Ditz

ately referred to as 'Frau Consul,' inducted the group into the Order of Good Time, a Nova Scotia social order dating back to the time of Samuel de Champlain, and presented each person with a membership certificate. The troupe was delighted to have this small memento of Nova Scotia to take back to remind them of their first, but hopefully not their last, visit to Canada.

On July 19, the People's Choice Awards for the Festival were presented, and Christine Förster of IMAGO was honoured with the Best Supporting Actress Award for her portrayal of Astrid in *Potatello*.

For many IMAGO troupe members, this was their first visit to Canada. Everyone remarked what a wonderful time they had had and expressed a desire to return and

perhaps perform in other parts of Canada.

Conversely, IMAGO's participation in the World Theatre Congress and Festival gave Canadians (for many of them for the very first time) an opportunity to experience modern Austrian theatre.

Kathy Beaman  
Consulate of Austria, Halifax

## Roland Pirker: Documenting the “10th Province”

As a documentary filmmaker, Roland Pirker has some 700 productions to his credit. Still, he says, people are often surprised to hear that he has a vocation outside his volunteer role as president of the Austrian-Canadian Council (ACC).

When his four-year term came to an end in 2002, Mr. Pirker reflected upon this time period and found that the two roles had a great deal in common: satisfying an instinct to record people and events. “I’m a person that always likes to write things down. For me, if it’s not written down, it doesn’t have a meaning. That’s why I got into filmmaking: because I wanted to document my grandfather and my grandmother—the way they were. I knew that one day they’d be gone and I’d have nothing to look back on.”

Appropriately, it was the process of documenting that led to the creation of the ACC. In 1994, Mr. Pirker was already president of the Austrian Society of Ottawa, which had just completed a book to mark the 30th anniversary of the post-Second World War immigration of Austrians to Canada. This caught the attention of then Austrian Ambassador Dr. Walter Lichem, who suggested a similar group on a national level. “At that time I was very busy,” Mr. Pirker recalls. “But I said, ‘I will help you get it off the ground.’ So I started to call people, and they got into it and said ‘Yeah. We wouldn’t mind having something on a national basis.’ So we founded the Austrian-Canadian Council.’ We specifically said it had to be a cultural, educational organization that stresses and works on contributions that Austrians have made to Canadian society.” But the end of his

presidential term has certainly not marked the end of his work in this area, says Mr. Pirker.

On the horizon was a new group, the Friends of Austria-Ottawa Inc., which focuses on passing the torch to



Roland K. Pirker on film location in Bangladesh in 1997 with daughter Rebecca. Photo: Roll-frame Productions, Abu Taher.

the children of the first wave of Austrian-Canadians. “Clubs and societies where only German is spoken are going to be a thing of the past. With [the new group], we sort of tie into the Austrian way of life, Austrian culture and education. We go back to the same thing, but with the second and third generations. I feel, when you have children it’s important to make them proud of their heritage; you have to emphasize the contribution that your own nationals have made to this country. I think this gives you an even bigger need to document those achievements.”

The ACC legacy soon spread onto the international stage as well. As a member of the Austrian North-

American Council, Mr. Pirker says he hopes to bring presidents from across the continent to Ottawa for an anniversary meeting in 2005. “The other Austrian clubs have gotten wind of how much we have achieved in Canada. They want to learn how to do the same thing.”

When asked for his thoughts on what he has achieved as ACC president, Mr. Pirker says simply: “I haven’t done enough.” Still, he expresses pride in the ACC’s Awards Program, which honours Austrian-Canadians for their achievements and their unselfish support of the Austrian community in Canada, and the Dissertation Prize, which is given each year to the best Canadian MA or PhD thesis on Austrian Studies. Mr. Pirker’s term also saw the founding of the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies (now the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies) at the University of Alberta. The ACC administers the Manfred Wirth Endowment of \$1.3 million and dispenses five percent annually to the Institute.

Seven Viennese Balls supported by the ACC and the Austrian Society Ottawa have netted \$350,000, a part of which has been distributed to organizations such as the Champions for Children Foundation and Ottawa’s Thirteen Strings Chamber Music Ensemble. Giving back to the community is a tradition that was passed on from generation to generation in his family, Mr. Pirker recalls. “I remember, as a boy in ‘53 or ‘54, my mother and grandmother sent my father and me with the horse-drawn sled into town to give little gifts and parcels to people who lived in the

old folks' home. Helping my elders was always a big thing in my family. We were raised to help the elderly, the needy—those that can't help themselves.”

In addition to his work in the ACC, Mr. Pirker has volunteered his film-making skills to various groups working on social issues, such as the SOS Children's Villages and MATCH International.

The lessons of his childhood were not forgotten when Mr. Pirker came to Canada in 1967. While studying film at Conestoga College in Kitchener, Ontario, he directed a narrative feature film called “Reprisal” that garnered a great deal of critical acclaim and two international festival

prizes. Thus, Mr. Pirker found himself at something of a crossroads: to make films for entertainment or as a platform for exploring poverty, the environment, and other social issues.

“Greed is such a disastrous thing,



Austrian Foreign Minister Dr. Benita Ferrero-Waldner decorating Roland K. Pirker. Photo: Hopi-Media, Vienna.

I think, the more you wonder about it, the more you want to do things in a non-violent way, by simply documenting and showing problems.”

As both a hockey fan and a believer in social governance, Mr. Pirker says he has always felt an affinity to Canada—a feeling that seems to be shared in his native Austria. “They call the Austrians who have left their home country the ‘tenth province.’”

On November 20, 2002 Roland K. Pirker was honoured with the Medal of Merit for his thirty years of charitable-volunteer work in Canada by the Austrian Foreign Minister, Dr. Benita Ferrero-Waldner.

Steven Fouchard

## Auslandsösterreicher Weltbund meeting in Graz, Styria

This year's *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund* meeting was held in Graz, Styria from September 4 to 7, 2003. Seven hundred delegates from around the world took part, among them four presidents of Austrian clubs in Canada.

During 2003 Graz held the title of *Kulturstadt Europas* (Cultural Capital of Europe), and it was fitting that the meeting was held there. The delegates were invited not only to see the city on foot, to inspect from the outside the daring new design of the new *Kulturhalle*, and to walk onto the man-made island in the Mur river, but they were also taken on a bus tour along the famous wine route in the Styrian region bordering



Front row (left to right): Burgie Pirker, Henny Schuster, Dr. Erika Jüthner-Krtschan, Helga Hecker, Maria Havelka. Second row (left to right): Roland K. Pirker (Austrian Society Ottawa and Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc.), Walter Schachenhofer (Club Austria Edmonton), Robert Jüthner-Krtschan (Johann Strauss Foundation Edmonton), Frank Meixner (Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary), Anton Havelka. Photo: Foto Schmickl, Graz.

Slovenia, and were treated afterwards to a typical, delicious Styrian meal.

The first and only female governor of any of Austria's provinces, Styria's Waltraud Klasnic, held an incredibly memorable reception for the participants in a candle-lit ballroom at Castle Eggenberg near Vorchdorf.

During the final days of the get-together, Frank Meixner, the President of the Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary, was honoured with a gold medal for his work in the Calgary community.

Roland K. Pirker

## AUSTRIAN-CANADIAN COUNCIL AWARDS: Austria Club of Windsor

On November 18, 2002, ACC Awards Chairman Garry Bonner and ACC President Roland K. Pirker attended a festive evening celebration of the Austria Club Windsor at the Teutonia Club where they presented medals and certificates to 21 mem-

bers of the Austria Club Windsor. President Michael Benzinger addressed the more than 200 people in attendance: "Tonight we would like to celebrate not only the glorious past of our club and recognize members for long-time support and contribu-

tions, but also want to recognize posthumously three members who have recently passed away for their contributions."

The following persons were honoured:

**Gold:** Josef Leopold Helbich. **Silver:** Maria Christ, Simon Christ, Helga Domitter, Frank Gutsch, Hanna Helbich, Emil Kuptyk, Erich Rost, Frank Sieberer, Otto Schwalm, Philipp Wolf, and Trude Wolf. **Bronze:** Werner Beck, Manfred Domitter, Trude Lackovic, Marian Lackovic, John Puh, and Rudolf Schmitz.

**Posthumously (Silver):** Christian Albert, Rudolf Geier, and Alfred Weiss.

*Roland K. Pirker*



Front row (left to right): Trude Lackovic, Marian Lackovic, Josef L. Helbich, Hanna Helbich, Frank Gutsch, Manfred Domitter, Helga Domitter and Werner Beck. Back row (left to right): Roland K. Pirker (ACC President), Michael Benzinger, Lisa Weiss (on behalf of her deceased husband), Rudi Geier, Johanna Geier (on behalf of her deceased husband), Frank Sieberer, Rudolf Schmitz, Otto Schwalm, Erich Rost, John Puh, and Garry Bonner (ACC Awards Chairman). Not present: Maria Christ, Simon Christ, Emil Kuptyk, Philipp Wolf, and Trude Wolf. Photo: Roland K. Pirker, Rollframe.

**PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY ADDRESS CHANGE, AND RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2004**

### Austrian Alpine Singers and Steirer Klub Toronto

At a recent cultural get-together by the Austrian Society Ottawa and their visitors from Toronto, the Steirer Klub, the evening started with a lavish dinner, lots of music and an awards ceremony, all to the delight of 150 people in attendance. The event was held at the Ottawa Sheraton Hotel on May 24, 2003.

Roland K. Pirker, President of the



Left to right: Roland K. Pirker, Willi Platzer (President, Austrian Alpine Singers), Karl Vogel (President, Steirer Klub Toronto), Otto Heberlein (Manager, Sheraton Ottawa). Photo: Eugen Kedl for Rollframe.

Austrian Society of Ottawa and Awards Chairman of the Austrian-Canadian Council, surprised the presidents, Willi Platzer of the Austrian Alpine Singers and Karl Vogel of the Steirer Klub Toronto, with Medals of Merit in Gold from the ACC for their long-term service and achievements in their organizations.

*Roland K. Pirker*

## Austrian Society Ottawa

During a cultural get-together by the Austrian Society at the St. Albertus Church in Ottawa on April 21, 2002, the Schrammel Quartet, the Alpentrio, and Leo Hammerschmid received the highest ACC award, the Medal of Merit in Gold, from Roland K. Pirker, President of the ACC.

**Ottawa Schrammel Quartet** (Eduard Wyslouzil, Hans Wyslouzil, Hermann Griesseier, and Alois Platzer). All four gentlemen became members of the Austrian Society

has entertained Austrians and Canadians from all walks of life. They appeared on several television shows, produced a CD, and sang in the U.S., always performing traditional Austrian folk songs. In November 2000, the Alpentrio received the Medal of Merit in Silver of the Republic of Austria.

**Leo Hammerschmid.** For over 20 years, Leo Hammerschmid has been a great cultural contributor to the Austrian Society in Ottawa and in

Managing Director of BMO Harris Private Banking, was honoured with the Medal of Merit in Gold from the ACC. Mr. Wallace is a tireless champion of the underprivileged and has played a leadership role in several organizations.



Left to right: Dave Wallace being honoured by Roland K. Pirker, President of the ACC. Photo: Karl Mayer - Rollframe.



Left to right: Leo Hammerschmid, Eduard Wyslouzil, Otto Heberlein, Karin Laframboise, Hermann Griesseier, Maria Wyslouzil, Consul Gotfried Haffner, Alois Platzer, Roland K. Pirker, and Hans Wyslouzil (who accepted the award for his deceased wife Grete). Photo: Karl Mayer, Rollframe.

Ottawa during its inception in 1965; in 1974 the group founded the Schrammel Quartet. For almost 30 years they have played on a voluntary basis for the Austrian Society, the German-speaking community and at many Austrian-Canadian events, including every Viennese Winter Ball. They also played in Austria and the U.S., and promoted the Austrian community of Ottawa. In March 1996, they received the Medal of Merit in Silver from the City of Vienna.

**Alpentrio** (Karin Laframboise, Maria Wyslouzil, and Grete Wyslouzil posthumously). The Alpentrio was formed in 1976. Since then the Trio

Montreal. First, he organized—together with Professor Bonnenberg—musical afternoons, such as a Mozart Matinée or a Schubertiade; then he organized slide shows on Austria's Emperor Franz-Josef and Empress Maria Theresia. Later came the Austrian Diary TV Program in Montreal, and finally he wrote the book *Zita von Habsburg: Austria's last Monarch*. In 1994, Leo Hammerschmid received the Medal of Merit in Gold of the Republic of Austria.

**Dave Wallace.** On October 27, 2002, at another function of the Austrian Society Ottawa, Mr. Dave Wallace, Regional Vice-President and

In 1996, Dave Wallace was approached, by the then Austrian Ambassador, Dr. Walther Lichem, and the Austrian community of Ottawa, to start a Viennese Ball. He was immediately in favour of this idea, and together with others established Ottawa's Viennese Winter Ball in 1997, for which he has since served as chairman. In 1999 Dave Wallace was responsible for helping to set up the \$1.3 million Wirth Endowment Fund of the ACC for the benefit of the Wirth Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta. Mr. Wallace has been a great and faithful supporter of the Austrian community in Ottawa where, among other activities, he helped sponsor annual charitable garden parties at the Austria ambassador's residence in Rockcliffe. In 2002, Mr. Wallace received the Medal of Merit in Silver of the Republic of Austria from the Austrian president.

*Roland K. Pirker*

## Ambassador Ettmayer leaves posting in Canada

Austrian Ambassador Dr. Wendelin Ettmayer left his posting in Ottawa on December 21, 2003 after having represented Austria in Canada for four years. Dr. and Mrs. Ettmayer came to Canada on January 12, 2000 during a difficult period for Austria - the time of the formation of the first coalition government between the Austrian People's Party and the Freedom Party.

The Ambassador can look back on greatly improved relations between our two countries. In a letter of August 8, 2003, Dr. Ettmayer wrote

me as the president of the Austrian Society Ottawa:

"As far as the bilateral Austro-Canadian relations are concerned, we should be quite satisfied: When Jean Chrétien paid a visit to the Austrian Embassy to attend the Viennese Winter Ball (see photograph below) it was the first time that a Canadian Prime Minister took such a symbolic step. Shortly after-wards, House Speaker Peter Milliken visited Austria, the first Speaker of the House of Commons to do so. At the same time, Foreign Minister Bill Graham

participated in a Human Security Network Conference in Graz, Austria. I can also mention that Austrian exports to Canada have, for the first time, reached the one-billion dollar mark."

The members of the Austrian-Canadian Council would like to thank Dr. Ettmayer for his work in Canada and extend to him and his wife Gerhild their very best wishes for the future upon their return to Austria.

*Roland K. Pirker*

### Prime Minister of Canada attends Ottawa's Viennese Winter Ball

On February 8, 2003, the 7<sup>th</sup> Viennese Winter Ball was held at the National Gallery in Ottawa during the Winterlude festivities. Approximately 400 people attended the glamorous evening, including Canada's Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, and his wife Aline. Debutantes opened the ball with a polonaise and later invited the honorary patrons, Austrian Ambassador Dr. Wendelin Ettmayer and Mrs. Gerhild Ettmayer, to join in a waltz.

For the evening, three orchestras—the Thirteen Strings, Stevens and Kennedy, and the Schrammel Quartet of the Austrian Society Ottawa—looked after the entertain-

ment, with Dr. Fraser Rubens (tenor) and Kathleen Radke (soprano) appearing as special guests.

The organizers of the Winter Ball, chair David Wallace, and the



Left to right: David Wallace, Janice Wallace, Ambassador Dr. Wendelin Ettmayer, Aline Chrétien, Gerhild Ettmayer, and the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien. Photo: Jacqueline Turpin.

Viennese Steering Committee (Renée C. Bates, Brian Barrett, Sylvia Gazsi-Gill, Zoe McKenzie, Emily Tolot, Roland K. Pirker and Bonnie Wager) were not only delighted that their event was again named Ottawa's most glamorous event, but also because it netted sixty thousand dollars.

During the evening, two Ottawa charities—the Champions for Children Foundation and the Thirteen Strings Youth Orchestra—received a cheque of 30,000 dollars each.

*Roland K. Pirker*



## Interdisciplinary field trip to Canadian universities

The Center for Canadian Studies at the University of Vienna, which was founded in 1997 and which has organized several interdisciplinary conferences on intercultural and transcultural research, conducted an interdisciplinary field trip to eastern Canada from September 8 to 25, 2003.

Five academics from Vienna and Salzburg and 20 advanced and graduate students participated in an intensive program involving workshops or mini-symposia at eight universities in Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal, Québec City, Moncton, Wolfville, and Halifax. Both the Austrian participants and their Canadian hosts gave short lectures and provided the basis for intensive discussions focusing on the general theme of the field trip, "Collective Identity in Canada: Nation, Region, and the Transatlantic Heritage."

The group hired a bus, which proved invaluable as the time travelling could be used for the preparation of the participants for various aspects of Canadian society, its economy, history, and culture in general.

While Canadian colleagues in Toronto and at McGill University in Montréal spoke on contemporary authors and explained recent trends in the Canadian cultural scene, the Austrian participants reported on the activities of Vienna's Canadian Studies Center and discussed topics such as the history of Mennonite and Ukrainian settlements from the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in Canada, or the representation of Canada in school textbooks in Austria. Similarly, at francophone

universities our Canadian hosts reported on questions such as language and identity in Québécois literature, surveyed research projects like the new literary history of the province of Québec, and examined the development of poetry and the chanson in Québec. In an extended workshop at the University of Moncton, Austrian participants were given a comprehensive survey and representation of Acadia, including sociological and media studies, and readings from Acadian fiction.



The lively and inspiring interaction in so many universities was a remarkable experience for the Austrian teachers and students alike. In addition to these academic activities the participants got insights into the architectural, economic and political structures of cities like Toronto or Montréal. They gained a vivid sense of the multicultural mosaic of these metropolitan areas, and learned much about the dynamism of contemporary Canada, its history and heritage. They visited memorable sites, such as the Museum of Civilization, the National Gallery and, later on their tour, Pier 21 in Halifax, the port of access for more than a million immigrants from Europe.

Early in the field trip the group encountered spokesmen of the Mennonite community near Waterloo and gained a deep understanding of

this marginalized group which has tried to preserve its specific collective identity, preserving also its variant of the German language. Another highlight of the field trip was the visit to Kahnawake, the Mohawk territory on the outskirts of Montréal. The participants met several chiefs of this ethnic community, among them Grand Chief Joseph Tokwirot Norton, and got an insight into the problems that this nation is facing when trying to preserve and regain its collective identity centered on its indigenous language. Towards the end of the trip the participants also visited the recently opened center of documentation at Grand Pré and Port Royal, the nucleus of Nouvelle France, and learned a great deal about the beginnings of the settlement in Canada and the problems involving the Founding Nations.

In the course of the field trip the representatives of the University of Vienna were able to win important collaborators at the universities visited and to initiate joint projects for further cooperation. Canadian scholars were convinced of the potential for interdisciplinary research at Austrian universities and extended invitations to plan similar ventures in the future.

The organizers of the field trip, the directors of the Center for Canadian Studies, Waldemar Zacharasiewicz and Peter Kirsch, are grateful to the Canadian and Austrian governments for contributing significantly to the success of this challenging academic venture from which further benefits will undoubtedly be reaped in the future.

*Waldemar Zacharasiewicz*

## 50 Years Alpine Club Kitchener

On Saturday, May 24, 2003 members and invited guests filled the Alpine Club in Kitchener to celebrate the 50th Anniversary Gala. Politicians, presidents of other German and Gottscheer Clubs from Canada and the U.S. enjoyed a festive dinner and



Left to right: Bill Boje (President), Anne Kroisenbrunner, Julia Boje (Miss Alpine Club 2003), and Hans Kroisenbrunner Sr. (Vice President, Chair of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee). Photo: Hans Kroisenbrunner Jr.

dance performances by the Alpine Junior Dancers and the Alpine Dancers. Social dancing followed the official program of speeches and presentations. A commemorative 50th Anniversary book had been produced; it was released that evening.

The Alpine Club was founded in 1953 by the following Gottscheers: Wilhelm Hoegler, the original founder; Walter Mausser, August Goestel, Cyril Hribar, Frank Hutter, Bert Kresse, Josef Mausser, Anton Pleschinger,

Josef Primosch, and Josef Sigmund. The club house was built in 1958 with the financial assistance and active involvement by the members at that time under the leadership of President Richard Mausser. Expansions were added in 1961 and 1970 to what is the today's club house. The club has been led since its inception by the following presidents: Wilhelm Hoegler, Hugo Eppich, Richard Mausser, Josef Mausser, Anton Pleschinger,



Left to right: Anne Kroisenbrunner, Hugo Eppich (President, 1954-1955), and Frieda Mausser. Photo: Hans Kroisenbrunner Sr.

Hans Kroisenbrunner Sr., Helmut Herold, Frank Spoenlein, Alois Stalzer, Hansi Kroisenbrunner, and the current president, Bill Poje.

The Alpine Club has about 230 members and several subgroups, namely the Ladies Auxiliary Edelweiss, the Alpine Dancers, the Alpine Junior Dance Group, the Alpine Mixed Bowling League, and the Card

Players. The Alpine Dancers performed at Ontario's celebration of H.M. Queen Elizabeth's 50th anniversary of her reign. They have also had numerous live performances on national television.

Among the special events in the club calendar currently are: Farmer's Ball, Card Party, Anniversary Banquet, Miss Alpine Club, Friendship Dance, Picnic, Gottscheer Reunion, Oktoberfest, Evening in the Alps, Children's Christmas Party, and the New Year's Eve Dance. Our biggest party is the annual Oktoberfest - nine days of *Gemütlichkeit* with live music, dancing, entertainment by our own Alpine Dancers and guest groups, and, of course, our excellent food. Our ladies in the club kitchen have been able to make their *Apfelstrudel* famous far and wide.

The first Gottscheer Reunion was held at the Alpine Club in 1963 and has been hosted annually in alternation by Gottscheer clubs in Cleveland, Milwaukee, New York, Toronto, and Kitchener.

The Alpine Club is affiliated with the Austrian-Canadian Council. Hans Kroisenbrunner is Senior Past President and Honourary Member.

*Hans Kroisenbrunner Sr.*

*Continued from p 20*

*on the current state of sport supply in contemporary Japan*  
Wolfram Manzenreiter  
East Asian Studies, University of Vienna  
University of British Columbia

### ONTARIO

#### Ottawa

February 7, 2004, 7 p.m.  
8th Viennese Winter Ball Ottawa

National Gallery of Canada

April 4, 2004  
*In beata spe: Sacred Music for Holy Week*  
Gerald Wirth (guest conductor and workshop leader) with the Cantata Singers of Ottawa  
Christ Church Cathedral

#### Toronto

January 3-10, 2004

*Project Bless: Art retrospective - Installation*  
Fashion artist Desiree Heiss  
Art Metropole  
788 King Street West

June 2004  
Three concerts with contemporary Austrian music  
The Duo Nota Bene  
Eva Steinschaden (violin) and Alexander Vavtar (piano)  
Location and detailed programme: TBA

## Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary

On May 30, 2003, two hundred and forty people attended the awards ceremony in Calgary as ACC Awards Chairman Roland K. Pirker presented medals and certificates to 29 members of the Austrian-Canadian Club in Calgary in recognition of their long-term service in the Calgary community. To commemorate and enrich these achievements with music, President Frank Meixner had invited for the evening the "Liederkrantz Dagersheim," a choir from Germany, as well as Calgary's own Austrian choir "Heimat Echo."

**Gold:** Hans Ockermueller.

**Silver:** Tina Brandstaetter, Otto Doll, Heinz Franke, Theresia Franke, Libert Goritschnig, Brigitte Graf, Anna Haecker, Dieter Haecker, Ernesta Haslauer, Leo Haslauer, Dr. Rudolf Hofmann, Edith Jakob, Josefina Janschitz, Karl Janusek, Johanna Jilek,

Katharina Maier, Mara Michor, Paul Michor, Mathilda Mick, Rupert Mrakawa, Fritz Painsi, Ewald Partl, Karl Puffer, Olga Rogi, Joe Rucken-

thaler, Rosemarie Stumpf, George Sticksel, and Romana Windsteig.

*Roland K. Pirker*



Seated front (left to right): Maureen Brandstaetter (on behalf of her mother Tina), Mathilda Mick, Theresia Franke, Brigitte Graf, Libert Goritschnig, Edith Jakob, Josefina Janschitz, Anna Haecker, Dieter Haecker, Katharina Maier, and Dr. Rudolf Hofmann. Standing (left to right): Heinz Franke, Karl Janousek, Fritz Painsi, Olga Rogi, Ewald Partl, Leo Haslauer, Karl Puffer, Hans Ockermueller, Joe Ruckenthaler, George Sticksel, Roland K. Pirker, Rosemarie Stumpf, Romana Windsteig, and Frank Meixner. Not present: Otto Doll, Ernesta Haslauer, Johanna Jilek, Mara Michor, Paul Michor, and Rupert Mrakawa. Photo: Herwig Lavicka for Rollframe.

Photo credits: Cover: Hugo Wolf ([web02.hnh.com/composerPaintings/](http://web02.hnh.com/composerPaintings/)). Page 5: Hugo Wolf: [www.karadar.com/Jpg/Wolf\\_image\\_01.jpg](http://www.karadar.com/Jpg/Wolf_image_01.jpg), Michael Schade ([www.theater-duisburg.de/sp2003/konzerte/7kammer.htm](http://www.theater-duisburg.de/sp2003/konzerte/7kammer.htm)). Page 6: Imogen Cooper ([www.dmu.ac.uk/Events/Concerts/19\\_april.htm](http://www.dmu.ac.uk/Events/Concerts/19_april.htm)), Thomas Hampson ([www.sr.se/p2/opera/images/sxp2euge.jpg](http://www.sr.se/p2/opera/images/sxp2euge.jpg)).

### Membership application and donation form

I enclose a cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (ACC membership \$ 25.00; donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ) payable to the Austrian-Canadian Council, 1391 Cavendish Road, Ottawa, ON, K1H 6B8

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City and Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## CULTURAL EVENTS/MANIFESTATIONS CULTURELLES

### ALBERTA

#### Edmonton

January 4, 2004, 3.30 p.m.

*Silent Night: A Central European Christmas Celebration*

Christmas music and carols from Central Europe with the Polonia Choir of Edmonton, the Austrian Heimatcho Choir of Calgary, the Slovak and Czech Folk Singers of Edmonton, the Hungarian Christmas Singers of Edmonton, and the Slovenian Canadian Association Choir of Edmonton

Convocation Hall  
Arts Building  
University of Alberta

January 24, 2004, 8 p.m.

A concert of Central European chamber music with the Gryphon Trio, Jamie Parker (piano), Annalee Patipatanakoon (violin), and Roman Borys (cello)

Convocation Hall  
Arts Building  
University of Alberta

January 28, 2004, 7.30 p.m.

*Czech Patriots and Habsburg Empire*

*Loyalists: Bohemian Composers from Enlightenment to late Romanticism*  
Public lecture by Franz A.J. Szabo, Professor of History and Director of the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies  
Faculty Club  
University of Alberta

February 14, 2004

29th Johann Strauss Ball  
Westin Hotel  
Edmonton

February 26-28, 2004

*INTER / NATIONALISM*

*Franz Grillparzer (1791-1872)*

An international symposium with Grillparzer experts from around the world  
Senate Chamber  
Arts Building  
University of Alberta

February 27, 2004, 8 p.m.

A recital of Central European piano music with Boris Krajny  
Convocation Hall  
Arts Building  
University of Alberta

March 2004

*The Landscapes of Gustav Klimt* with Stephan Koja, Curator of the Austrian National Gallery, Belvedere  
Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies  
Time and place: TBA  
University of Alberta

March 25, 2004

*The Changing Face of Europe: Opportunities for Canada*  
An international conference on the enlargement of the EU  
Stollery Centre  
University of Alberta

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### Vancouver

February 12, 2004

*The Emergence of a National Sport Culture: A historical comparison of Imperial Austria and Japan*

February 13, 2004

*How to Sell a Public Good. Case studies*

*Continued on page 18*

**The publication of this issue has been made possible by a grant from the Austrian Society Ottawa and the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc — La publication de ce numéro est rendue possible grâce à une contribution financière de la part de Austrian Society Ottawa et des Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc**



AUSTRIA • CANADA • CULTURE

**Austrian Embassy  
445 Wilbrod Street  
Ottawa, ON K1H 6B8  
Tel. (613) 789-1444  
Fax. (613) 789-3431**

