

CULTURAL EVENTS

AUSTRIAN KNOW-HOW ADVANCES RESEARCH

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN CONSULATE IN VANCOUVER

THE VON TRAPP FAMILY SANG AT BALL IN CALGARY

LE TRES CONNU JOHANN STRAUSS, LE TROP CONNU ...?

THE ACC AND THE AUSLANDSÖSTERREICHER-WELTBUND

TOTEM POLE CONNECTS CANADA AND AUSTRIA IN FRIENDSHIP



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Biographical Dictionary of Austrians in Canada: <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/CCAuCES/dictionary/start.htm>

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

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Design/Maquette: HTL-Linz, Linz, Austria

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Totem Pole Connects Canada and Austria in Friendship

In June 2002, the Austrian Consulate General in Vancouver was informed by Mr. Peter Baird, President of Conexus Resource Inc., a Vancouver-based consulting firm, that a major commemorative event was about to take place in Austria. The world's oldest zoo, the Schönbrunn Zoo, which celebrated its 250th anniversary on July 31, 2002, constructed a US \$20 million Rainforest House in celebration of this event, and a Canadian totem pole, standing 14 meters in height, was slated to occupy a prominent space on the grounds nearby.



The totem pole at its final location at the Zoo in Schönbrunn. Photo: Karl Maru.

Nishga'a master carver Alver Tait who hails from New Aiyansh, British Columbia, was commissioned to create this outstanding work of art. The totem poles he has carved can be found in various locations in the Nass Valley in northern British Columbia as well as in prominent museums all over North America. Al-

though a project of this magnitude would have normally taken months to complete, Mr. Tait and a team of apprentice carvers completed the pole within weeks.



Nishga'a Master Carver Alver Tait. Photo: Rev. Robert Miles.

The totem pole is indeed a magnificent sight. *Vancouver Sun* reporter Hayley Mick, in her article "Nishga'a carver's totem pole heads for new home at Austrian zoo," commented that the totem pole, made from a 500-year old red cedar, is so wide in diameter that a grown man would not be able to wrap his arms around it.

Looking at the pole, one can see an eagle in flight, with its wings spread wide, at the top of the pole. The other figures carved into the pole are a wolf, a killer whale and a raven, which together represent the four major crests of the Nishga'a people. Sub-crests, such as a beaver, an owl, a frog and a bear, were also incorporated into the design, as



Pole blessing ceremony in New Aiyansh. Photo: Rev. Robert Miles.

mentioned in an article written by Jennifer Lang, "To Europe with Love."

As many as 300 well-wishers gathered in New Aiyansh on June 1 to say good-bye to the roughly carved pole. About fifty people were needed to hoist the massive pole off the blocks on which it had been lying, and to carry it through the streets towards a flatbed truck which would take it to Prince Rupert. From there the pole was carried to Vancouver by ocean barge, arriving on



Bon voyage ceremony in Vancouver. Left to right: Graham Clarke (Consul General of Austria for British Columbia), Peter Baird (project manager for the pole delivery), and Dr. Joseph Gosnell (President of the Nishga'a Nation). Photo: Trudy Duller.

June 13. Here another bon voyage ceremony took place attended by the President of the Nishga'a Nation, Dr. Joseph Gosnell; the Austrian Consul General, Graham Clarke; the Mayor of the District of North Vancouver, Don Bell; Conductor Clyde Mitchell, and members of the Austrian community.

The journey continued by train to Montreal where the totem pole was transferred to a container vessel en route to Germany's port of Bremerhaven, and from there it was taken to Vienna by train.

Mr. Tait finished the final carving

in Vienna. Many of the zoo's visitors had the opportunity to meet him and his charming wife Lillian. It was my pleasure to be there as well, and I enjoyed talking with many fellow Austrians as I shared with enthusiasm the culture of my adopted homeland.



Pole arrival in Schönbrunn. Left to right: Mag. Roswitha Fritscher (Canadian Embassy, Vienna), Alver Tait, H. E. Ingrid Hall (Canadian Ambassador to Austria), Dr. Helmut Pechlaner (Director, Vienna Zoo Schönbrunn). Photo: Trudy Duller.

The arrival of Nishga'a President Dr. Joseph Gosnell, and Chief Executive Officer Edward Allen, as well as pole-raising experts Cherry Robinson and Paul Arthur Mercer, signalled that the pole-raising event was only three days away. The unusually hot summer days—although much appreciated by the tourists—were difficult to handle by the carver. But unforeseen problems always got solved quickly with the help of Peter Baird, Karl Maru, and the friendly staff of the Schönbrunn Zoo. Austrian engineers built the stainless



Last touch-up. Peter Baird, Alver Tait, and Karl Maru. Photo: Mag. Anna Streissler.

steel support for the first Canadian-made totem pole to be raised in Austria.

On July 30, our day started at 5:00 a.m. When we arrived at the site where the totem pole was to be raised, we were greeted by the sight of a large group of Austrian and foreign media representatives as well as thousands of spectators. A team comprised of members of the Austrian Army and the Vienna Fire and



Pole-naming ceremony. Left to right: Edward Allen (CEO, Nishga'a Nation) and Dr. Joseph Gosnell (President, Nishga'a Nation). Photo: Trudy Duller.

Police Department was in position to raise the pole. As the Canadian Ambassador, Ingrid Hall, and other dignitaries looked on, the carver performed the traditional 'Breath of Life

Dance' and blessing rituals for this impressive artwork. With many spectators following the event on giant video screens, the Austrian team grabbed the rope and pulled the 3,000 kg totem pole into place.

Nishga'a President Dr. Joseph Gosnell led the pole-naming ceremony in the presence of the following dignitaries: Canadian Ambassador Ingrid Hall, Zoo Director Dr. Helmut Pechlaner, Mag. Heinz Gerstenbach (*Bezirksobmann* of the 13th District of Vienna), and Peter Baird. The pole was named in the Nishga'a language 'NISHGA'A HLI LUUGADIN' KALIIAKSIM LISIMS', which means 'people of the Nass River'. While this ceremony was taking



Participants in the pole-naming ceremony. Left to right: Alver Tait, Dr. Joseph Gosnell, Peter Baird, H. E. Ingrid Hall, Dr. Helmut Pechlaner, and Mr. Heinz Gerstenbach. Photo: Trudy Duller.

place, the Austrian national flag was raised in front of the Nishga'a Lisims Government Building in New Aiyansh, British Columbia.

This totem pole is intended to be more than a one-time native art event. It will stand as a lasting symbol of the friendship between Canada and Austria and will be visible to millions of Austrians and foreign zoo visitors in the years to come.

The raising of the Nishga'a totem pole is also of particular significance from an environmental perspective. The Schönbrunn Zoo hosts many animals native to Canada, such as Rocky Mountain goats,

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Austro-Hungarian Emigration to British Columbia and the I. & R. Austro-Hungarian Consulate Vancouver

Rudolf Agstner

OeCulture No. 2/2000 carried an article on "The establishment of Imperial Austrian Consulates in Canada, 1850-1914." The following examines the history of the shortest-lived Austro-Hungarian consulate ever, the Imperial and Royal Honorary Consulate in Vancouver, which existed for barely five months in 1914.

As early as 1898, Maximilian P. Morris was "approached by various sides and especially by Austrian citizens living in British Columbia to submit his candidature for the post of Imperial Austrian consul ... in Vancouver. All over the province of British Columbia Austrian citizens are dispersed, who are employed in the interior of the country as miners, and on the coast mainly as sailors, fishermen and ships' crews. On various occasions they have turned to me as strangers in a foreign land to obtain advice and assistance, and I have never denied them my assistance. Furthermore, Austrian ships sometimes arrive in British Columbia, as e.g. the 'Burmah' this week." Morris was German, 35 years old, and honorary consul general of Chile; he spoke German and Italian, "which is important, as most of the Austrian citizens residing here are from the southern parts of the Empire, where this language is spoken."¹

Vienna did not see any need for action and the file was closed, until in September 1903 a certain Elliott A. Haswell² turned up at the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Ministry in Vienna, submitting his candidacy for the post of Austro-Hungarian honorary consul in Vancouver. Elliott Haswell underlined the importance of Vancouver as an "important and rapidly growing commercial center, and as the most important port of the

Pacific Ocean north of San Francisco, having regular steamer connection to all continents and being the terminus of two transcontinental railways; for these reasons, Austria



ernments, and should try to gain an important share of the vivid commerce presently going on with other European states, and to establish a comprehensive and important trade with Austrian products ..."³

Austro-Hungarian Consul Freyesleben in Montreal, looking into the question of Austro-Hungarian representation in Vancouver in 1904, concluded "that trade relations between the Province of British Columbia and the Monarchy are of rather limited scope; nevertheless they can be expanded and indeed have been growing in the last years, so that the appointment of an honorary consul in Vancouver, who would take upon himself to promote Austro-Hungarian exports, would be welcome from the commercial point of view." According to Freyesleben, only one or

two national ships a year called at the ports of British Columbia, Austro-Hungarian navigation thus being of no significant importance as yet.

"However, the need to establish a consulate is much more apparent when considering the need for consular protection of those Austrian and Hungarian citizens who have recently settled in greater numbers in British Columbia—a protection they are presently lacking due to the great distance from their place of residence to this I. & R. office [in Montreal]. Emigration from the Monarchy to Canada has in the last years increased considerably and is still growing. The figure of Austrian and Hungarian citizens in British Columbia, who are all belonging to the poorest strata of peasants and are mainly working in coal and other mines, where they earn some 60 to 80 dollars monthly, can be estimated at roughly 6,500. Only a small part of these immigrants stay permanently in this province, and mostly they return home after a few years with their savings. The biggest colonies are in Vancouver, Fernie, Michel, Nelson, Revelstoke and Frank. Unable to speak English, not familiar with the local circumstances, and without a consular representation within reach where they could turn for advice and eventually for intervention, our emigrants are exposed to all sorts of cheating and often find themselves in predicament

ments, which makes them feel the lack of a consular protection."⁴ Freyesleben thus strongly supported the establishment of an I. & R. honorary consulate in Vancouver and the appointment of Mr. Haswell to head the new office.

Yet, nothing of the sort had happened when in 1911 Albert I. Goodstone alias Isidor Gutstein, and H.A.M. de Beck submitted their candidatures for the post of Austro-Hungarian consul in Vancouver. Consul Juristowsky in Winnipeg, who had just arrived there, soon noted that "British Columbia, with its flourishing industry, its vast mines, the favourable quality of its soil due to the mild climate, today is so-to-speak the most fashionable area of settlement in Canada. The greatest flow of immigrants is pouring into British Columbia. It would not surprise me if immigrants from our Monarchy, namely miners and railway workers, would follow this common trend... The great distance from Vancouver to the office [in Winnipeg] of roughly 1,400 miles—meaning a raftway trip of two days and three nights by express train—is sometimes hampering interventions of this consulate in protecting the interests of citizens of the Monarchy in British Columbia."⁵

When, also in 1911, a certain D. von Cramer applied for the post of Austro-Hungarian consul in Vancouver, Consul General Hann von Hanenheim in the summer of 1912 travelled from Montreal to British Columbia in order to check "the conditions and circumstances of Austrian and Hungarian citizens living in British Columbia and how they make their living". Hann travelled to all those places "where our nationals live in greater numbers, i.e. not only to

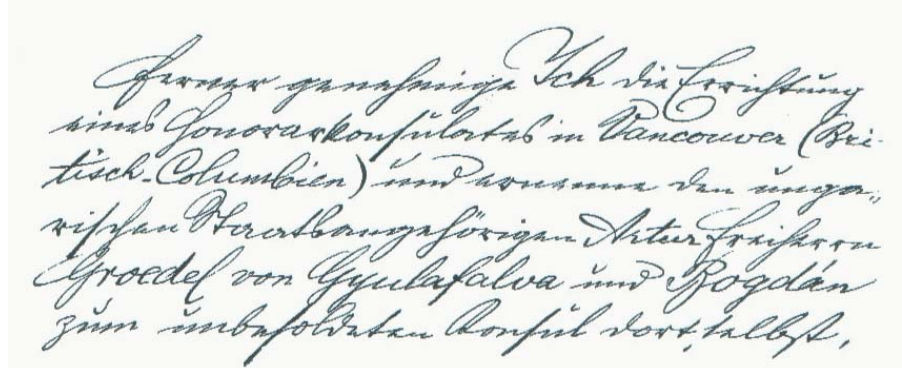
Vancouver, but to Victoria, Prince Rupert, and the small mining towns of the mining district in the South East of British Columbia, where on the one hand metal and silver mining is taking place in the districts of Yale and West Kootenay, while in the district of East Kootenay a great number of smaller and bigger works are engaged in coal mining, both having witnessed in the last years an important boom..."

Hann soon realized that important changes had taken place since Consul Freyesleben had visited the area in 1904, as "the number of Austrian and Hungarian citizens living in British Columbia had increased considerably and continues to do so rapidly, this being related to the rapidly progressing development of natural resources of this probably most promising of all Canadian provinces... [T]he estimate that presently at least 10,000 and probably significantly more Austrians and Hungarians are living in British Columbia is in no way exaggerated... Expecting a general boom of the whole prov-

and Hungarian workers..."

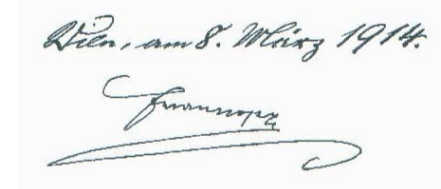
Hann expected that "the increase in job opportunities would attract a stream of immigrants to the province, among them not a few of our nationals," which led him to predict that already a few years from then (1912) "the question to transform the honorary consulate to be established in Vancouver into a regular one will arise."

In Victoria, capital and seat of government of British Columbia, Hann called on Mr. McLeod, deputy of the attorney-general, and came to the conclusion that "members of the Government devote the necessary attention to the conditions of the Austrians and Hungarians living under their administration. They are anxious as far as possible to prevent workers' rights being violated in cases of conflict of interests between the Austrian and Hungarian workers and their employers... Mr. McLeod would appreciate if an Austro-Hungarian consular office would be established soon in Vancouver or Victoria, as this would speed up and



lumbia) and appoint the Hungarian citizen Artur Freiherr Groedel von Gyuafalva and Bogdan to the post of unremunerated consul there. Vienna, March 8, 1914. Franz Joseph]

ince, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has started to build a second track from Calgary through the Rocky Mountains to Vancouver at a cost of roughly \$60 million—a project which will most probably offer jobs to thousands of Austrian



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Le très connu Johann Strauss, le trop connu Johann Strauss?

Qui ne connaît pas Johann Strauss, le nom du moins, sa musique peut-être. Mais un instant! Quel Johann Strauss? Il y eut trois Johann Strauss dans la même dynastie de compositeurs. Johann Strauss père (1804-1849) qui, en compagnie de son collègue Josef Lanner (1801-1843) proposa les premiers développements majeurs de la valse viennoise, issue des modestes danses campagnardes autrichiennes. La postérité ne se souvient malheureusement de lui que par sa célèbre «Marche de Radetzky». Son fils Johann II (1825-1899) est le compositeur du «An der schönen blauen Donau» (Le beau Danube bleu) qui sert maintenant de «jingle» aux publicités de voitures ou autres, qui fit danser les stations spatiales dans le film «2001 Odyssée de l'espace» et qui doit être joué en rappel à chaque concert du nouvel an de l'Orchestre philharmonique de Vienne. Enfin, Johann Strauss III (1866-1939), fils d'Eduard Strauss (frère cadet de Johann II) qui travailla surtout à Berlin comme compositeur d'opérettes.

Nous parlons donc ici de Johann II parce que c'est lui qui est maintenant reconnu comme étant LE Johann Strauss, LE Strauss. Qui était-il à part le créateur de l'œuvre «Le beau Danube bleu» dont Brahms aurait bien aimé être le compositeur. D'abord un homme qui dû trimmer dur au point d'y altérer considérablement sa santé, pour conquérir la précieuse place laissée par son père adoré des viennois. Ensuite un génie qui fut reconnu mondialement de son vivant à travers la planète et cela à une époque

où le disque compact et internet représentaient les moyens de communication d'un futur fort éloigné. Il ne figure maintenant au programme des différents orchestres symphoniques que dans le cadre de bals ou de concerts bénévoles. Un bien triste sort, pour un compositeur



Johann Strauss, Jr. Source: <http://www.straussfestival.com/bio.html>

qui était admiré par les maîtres de son époque comme Brahms, Wagner, Mahler et plus tard Ravel, que de n'avoir accès qu'à la court de récréation. Surtout que ce même Strauss incluait lors de ses concerts, les œuvres de ces différents maîtres. Il fut le premier à oser jouer Richard Wagner à Vienne. N'oublions pas que ces compositeurs proposaient la musique contemporaine d'alors et Strauss s'en faisait le champion. L'Orchestre de la dynastie Strauss fut longtemps le seul orchestre professionnel de qualité à Vienne, sans lui les compositeurs cités plus haut n'auraient pas eu audience dans la capitale de la musique. Mérite-t-il le statut d'a-

museur public auquel le relèguent maintenant bien des mélomanes, musiciens et musicologues.

Laissez-moi émettre une impression personnelle: Strauss ne serait-il pas victime aujourd'hui de sa trop grande popularité. Mais a-t-il toujours été si populaire. À Vienne même, après sa mort et après la dissolution de l'Orchestre Strauss en 1902 par Eduard qui en était le dernier directeur, l'œuvre de Strauss ne figurait peu ou pas au programme de l'orchestre Philharmonique de Vienne. Il fallut un chef aussi réputé que Clement Kraus pour commencer à convaincre que Strauss méritait de figurer répertoire de cet orchestre et encore, dans le cadre ponctuel des concerts du nouvel an. Puis vint l'époque des concerts et orchestres «pop».

Bien! On jouait Strauss. Le problème est que soit par ignorance ou par un désir de plaire à tout prix, ces concerts et orchestres «pop» ne tapaient constamment que sur la même douzaine de clous (sur environ cinq cents œuvres). Des clous d'or diront certains, mais cette situation a fait de cet artiste, un «prit pour acquis».

Pour l'homme de la rue, l'œuvre de Strauss correspond à douze œuvres point final, le mélomane chevronné lui préfère ignorer cette musique commerciale (je parle toujours des douzes clous). Sur le plan de l'interprétation ensuite, peu de chefs ont compris que Strauss ne résiste pas à une simple lecture. Comme c'est le cas pour le Jazz et la musique baroque, la partition n'est qu'un canevas. Une compréhension du style dit «de la vieille

Vienne» s'avère indispensable à une interprétation honnête. Nicolas Harnoncourt a récemment surpris lorsque qu'il demanda une révision à la hausse du nombre d'heures de répétitions qu'on lui avait accordé pour préparer un concert du nouvel an en Hollande. Mais c'est peut-être la face non populaire de l'œuvre de Strauss qui mériterait le plus l'allégeance des mélomanes, la suave valse «Seid umschlungen, Millionen» (dédiée à Brahms), la touchante polka-mazur «Lob der Frauen», l'énergie brute de la valse «Accélération» ...



Qui joue ces oeuvres en 2003? Le génie de Johann Strauss ne réside-il pas dans le fait qu'il a su, emprisonné (pour des raisons de survie économique) dans le cadre de formes de danses plus ou moins rustiques, insuffler à ces simples danses, une expression d'une rare profondeur dans l'histoire de la musique occidentale (toujours mon opinion personnelle), mais à propos, dites-moi ... connaissez-vous Josef Strauss?

Jean Deschênes, Société de Musique Viennoise du Québec, Ste-Thérèse, QC.

Alexis Hauser Appointed Music Director at McGill

The new Music Director of McGill Symphony Orchestra, Montreal is Vienna-born conductor Alexis Hauser. Winner of the Koussevitzky Conducting Prize of the Boston Symphony Orchestra at the Tanglewood Music Festival in 1974, Alexis



Hauser has established an international conducting career with numerous appearances in Europe, the Americas, and the Far East.

A native of Vienna, Hauser studied conducting with Hans Swarowsky at the *Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst* in Vienna where he graduated with distinction in 1970. His other teachers included Frieda Valenzi (piano), Nikolaus Hübner (violin), Reinhold Schmid (choral direction), and Friedrich Cerha (contemporary music practice). Other conducting studies were with Franco Ferrara at the 1969 Accademia Chigiana (Siena, Italy), and with Herbert von Karajan at the 1970 Summer Academy Mozarteum, Salzburg. In 1977 he was the winner of the First International Hans Swarowsky Conducting Competition in Vienna. (See Cultural Events for a performance with the maestro.)

Prof. Cristina Bota

Austrian Know-How Advances Research

Two Austrian physicists, Dr. Thomas Brabec and Dr. Markus Walser, have recently arrived in Ottawa. Dr. Brabec has been



awarded a Canada Research Chair in Physics at the University of Ottawa, and Dr. Walser will start as a research assistant at the National Research Council and at the University of Ottawa.

The scientists will collaborate on a number of projects, for example, on the physics of strong electromagnetic fields (laser fields). In contrast to an electric light bulb, a laser produces a very high-quality light that can be focused to high intensities. The first part of this project deals with the interaction of atoms and electrons with relativistic laser pulses. The influence of such fields on complex matter (molecules, solid states, plasmas) is investigated in the second part of the project.

This research will strengthen the already existing expertise in strong-field physics at the U of Ottawa.

Manfred Prokop with M. W.

Austrian a cappella group Bauchklang a big hit in Quebec

Summer in Quebec is a very exciting time for music. For 23 years, Montreal has had its International Jazz Festival, and for 35 years, Quebec City has celebrated its Summer Festival. This year a very special event took place at each of these two festivals: the appearance of the Austrian vocal ensemble Bauchklang. To quote the *Montréal Gazette*, "Austrian a cappella group Bauchklang conjures a worldly mix of electronica, reggae, pop and rap. It has to be seen to be believed, because on CD it sounds too close to the studio-produced music it mimics and moves beyond." Other critics wrote of being unable to believe their eyes and ears: all the variety of sounds filling the air were being made by just these six men. Through their voices and breathing, they evoked the sounds of a whole orchestra. Carl Schrupf created the effect of drums and percussion, while Alex Boec's mastery of bass tones let him imitate the slides of an electric bass. The particularly supple voice of lead vocalist Andreas Fraenzl excelled in reggae. Their performances were rewarded with huge ovations.

On their web site (www.bauchklang.at), the group writes:

"not without a minor feeling of doubt concerning our jazzfestival-compatibility, we flew to montreal—



Source: http://www.bauchklang.at/home_e_flash.html. December 2, 2002.

to another continent for the first time... but doubts dissolve as we go to work in open humid summer air—it works. the festival crowd shows open ears, bodies ready to dance and voices keen to scream, which, at our second gig on the same stage, leaves us with a mass of people hammering the stage with their fists and yelling and chanting for another encore. an overwhelming welcome at a substantial and stylish festival. we say goodbye to montreal by performing a short concert at the club metropolis as guests of canadian soulman remy shand. appealingly hot, too.

next station is quebec and its summer festival. not open air but at a former theatre called the periscope, with bluesman kelly joe phelps—but yet the quebecois too let themselves be moved by us; to such an extent that not all of them fit into the venue. those who make it, though, are cool-spirited and leave their (unnecessary) chairs to get down with us. to be welcomed in that way on the other side of an ocean, feels good."

All the more satisfying, given that the trip almost did not take place. The associated costs, including air fare, food and accommodation, almost caused it to be called off. Fortunately, through the forceful intervention of Dr. Wendelin Ettmayer, Austrian Ambassador to Canada, and generous financial assistance from the Austrian Cultural Forum, the tour went ahead as planned and became a resounding success. In its four performances at the two festivals, the group was heard by about 15,000 people and might just have achieved its breakthrough in North America!

*Dr. Artur Bablok
Austrian Embassy, Ottawa*

Danube Cruise on the MS Amadeus

Friends of Austria are invited to join Roland K. Pirker, President of the ACC, as he hosts a boat cruise from May 7-19, 2003 with the MS Amadeus from Nürnberg, Germany down the Rhine, Main and Danube with stopovers in Passau, Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava, etc. and side trips to the cit-



Source: <http://www.bluedanubeholidays.com/>

ies of Salzburg, Innsbruck and others.

If you are interested, please contact Roland K. Pirker, or Gery Valtiner at Special Travel International, 3503 Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5K 2A8. Call toll free at 1-800-665-0998. E-mail: sti@intergate.ca.

Arnold Schoenberg Choir Performs at Toronto Festival

Austrian-Canadian impresario Nicholas Goldschmidt was once again hard at work: In organizing the Third Toronto International Choral Festival this past June, he was able to combine the best of the Austrian and Canadian musical worlds.

The three-week festival presented more than forty concerts by choirs from around the world. The gala closing concert at Massey Hall in Toronto featured the second Canadian performance of "The Book With Seven Seals" by the Austrian composer Franz Schmidt. The first Canadian performance had taken place just two days earlier in Kitchener, with the same musicians: Howard Dyck conducting the Kitchener-Waterloo Philharmonic Choir, Consort Caritatis, the Menno Singers and Vienna's Arnold Schoenberg Choir; and soloists tenor Ben Heppner, soprano Measha Brueggergosman, mezzo-

soprano Susan Platts, tenor Ben Butterfield, bass-baritone Gary Relyea, and bass Robert Pomakov.



Source: <http://www.asc.at/e/>. December 3, 2003.

One critic wrote, "The massed choirs were absolutely amazing for their style, poise, blend, tuning and overall accuracy in interpreting Schmidt's vast ranges of expression."

In addition to its participation in "The Book With Seven Seals", the choir gave a solo performance in the George Weston Recital Hall. Of that recital, Robert Harris wrote in the *Globe and Mail*, "The Toronto Inter-

national Choral Festival has brought us many exotic choral groups from around the world during its highly successful month-long run. But the Schoenberg Choir was something else—an example of one of the deepest strands in our conventional musical tradition, the marrying of spiritual and musical excellence and beauty. In its dedication and virtuosity, the choir reminded us how powerful that tradition can be."

This was the first visit to Canada of the Schoenberg Choir; it was made possible by the generous support of the Austrian Cultural Forum and Austrian Airlines. The Austrian Ambassador to Canada, Dr. Wendelin Ettmayer, attended the sold-out concert in Toronto to welcome this outstanding Austrian choir to Canada.

*Dr. Artur Bablok
Austrian Embassy, Ottawa*

TOTEM POLE CONNECTS

Continued from p. 4.

bisons, prairie dogs, and polar bears. As mentioned in an article by Roswitha Fritscher, Public Affairs Officer of the Canadian Embassy, the Schönbrunn Zoo's director, Dr. Pechlaner, is widely recognized as an environmental and animal protection activist. He is also the president of the World Wildlife Fund Austria.

The public festivities at the Zoo came to an end on July 31. In the presence of a large audience, Dr. Joseph Gosnell presented the Nishga'a Nation's flag to Austria's First



Austria's First Lady, Margot Klestil-Löffler. Photo: Trudy Duller.

Lady, Mrs. Margot Klestil-Loeffler.

To conclude this anniversary event and as a symbol of peace among nations and people, 250 doves were released. I reached to the ground to collect a few feathers, and as I handed one of the feathers to Dr. Gosnell, he smiled and with a soft voice replied that a similar tradition of peace is practiced among the Nishga'a people.

*Trudy Duller
Cultural Representative
Austrian Consulate General, Vancouver*

Eugen Kedl Receives the Order of Canada

The Austrian immigrant Eugen Kedl moved to Quebec City from his native Burgenland in the early 1950's. There he became famous for his superb photography and for the many outstanding publications and books on Canada that he has published. Married to Gretl, an Austrian from the same province, they have raised four children, with two of them following in their footsteps by working in their company Les photographes Kedl Ltée. Mr. Kedl's success is not only the result of his hard work and trying to deliver quality at all times, but also comes from the marvellous relationship that he has built with his wife and children. Gretl Kedl has been his biggest supporter and the driving force in her husband's career.

The Kedls' achievements are enormous; despite their heavy daily

schedules they found time for humanitarian and charity work for which they were recently honoured by the Austrian-Canadian Council.



Left to right: Hans Wyslouzil (Cultural Director, Austrian Society Ottawa), Eugen and Gretl Kedl with Medals of Merit in Gold awarded by the Austrian-Canadian Council, and Roland K. Pirker (President). Photo: Les photographes Kedl Ltée.

On May 25, 2002, Eugen and Gretl Kedl were awarded the Medal of Merit in Gold by the Austrian-Canadian Council at a function of the Austrian Society Ottawa.

In July 2002, Mr. Kedl was in-

formed by Rideau Hall in Ottawa that he had been chosen to receive the Order of Canada, and in October he was also the recipient of the 50th Golden Jubilee Medal of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. On November 30, 2002, Mr. Kedl received the Order of Canada from Governor General Adrienne Clarkson at a ceremony in Winnipeg



Mr. Kedel receives Order of Canada from Governor General Adrienne Clarkson. Photo: Rideau Hall Sgt. Joanne Stoeckl.

Roland K. Pirker

New Austrian Club, the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc., established

The inaugural get-together of the newly founded club "Friends of Austria Ottawa, Inc." was held on Saturday, June 29, 2002 in Vincent Massey Park in Ottawa.

It was a huge success. To the delight of the organizing Board members, Roland Pirker and Elisabeth Wilson, more than twenty "Friends of Austria" joined in the activities for people who are "young" or "young at heart".

Overall, the get-together proved that the "next generation" in Ottawa also shows interest in

Austria and Austrian culture, with the possibility of new friendships grow-



Left to right (kneeling): Mihu Rucareanu, Simone Oberacher, Claudia Scheerer, Susanne Rombach-Walser with son Maximilian Walser, Elisabeth Wilson and Ross Wilson. Standing: Roland K. Pirker, Rolando Pirker, Burgie Pirker, Alisa Golden, Elisabeth Lavoie, Dr. Christian Scheerer, Karin Otto, Gottfried Haffner, Dr. Markus Walser, Jim Burgess, Inga Michalek, Barbara Hörmann with daughter Teresa, and René Wolfram. Photo: Rollframe Productions Ltd.

ing out of it. Since its founding, the Friends of Austria Ottawa club has doubled in size, and it is hoped that Austrian-Canadians will establish similar organizations in other cities across Canada in the future.

Elisabeth Wilson

ACC Awards Handed out to Members of the Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary

On March 25, 2002—two days after the Grand Ball event—Frank Meixner, the President of the Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary,

welcomed 200 people attending a performance of a choir from Fürstenfeld in Styria as they toured Western Canada. The choir gave its

first performance at the Austrian Club in Calgary before going on to Vancouver. After the performance, the Austrian Consul, Mr. Nick Demiantschuk, and I had the pleasure to thank and decorate 20 participants from western Canada for their long, unselfish service to the Austrian community in Canada. The recipients in alphabetical order were:

Gold: Herwig Lavicka and Frank Meixner. **Silver:** 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, and Gery Valtiner.

*Roland K. Pirker
President, ACC*



Left to right (seated): Ludwig Takacs, Berta Takacs, Gisa Hammel, Elfriede Foidl, Olga Eberhardt Otto Demetz and Ulrich “York” Rogi. 1st row (standing): Roland K. Pirker, Hans Ockermueller (retired Honorary Consul General for Austria), Martha Sattler, Elfriede Hammerling, Max Rieberer, Hans Schustereder, Guenther Stranzinger, Eva Angerle, Edna Charchuk and Frank Meixner. 2nd row: Herwig Lavicka, Albert Hammerling, Klaus Stumpf, Steve Charchuk, Gery Valtiner, and Nick Demiantschuk (Consul for Austria). Photo: Herwig Lavicka.

The Fourth Generation of the Von Trapp Family Sang at the Grand Ball “Night in Vienna”

Mr. Frank Meixner, the President of the Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary, invited Stefan and Annie von Trapp's children to sing at the 35th Viennese Ball in Calgary on March 23, 2002. The event was dedicated to the memory of Maria von Trapp, who died in 1987 but had been twice the guest of honour at the Grand Ball. Stefan is the son of Werner von Trapp, one of the original von Trapp singers; he now lives with his wife Annie and their children Sofie (13), Melanie (11), Amanda

(10), and Justin (7) in Kalispell, Mo.

These children are the descendants of the famous singing family whose story captivated the world in the movie “The Sound of Music.” Like their great-grandfather Captain von Trapp and grandfather Werner, who had spent a good portion of their lives touring the world with his brothers and sisters in concert halls large and small, they will bring joy to thousands of listeners in the future. They have inherited the family's exceptional musical gift and their love

of singing and performing.

Not only did I have the pleasure to meet them at the rehearsal in the afternoon, but also to witness the beautiful event in the evening from the head table. Hearing these beautiful, sweet young voices was a touching and memorable event—especially little Justin's who stole the show. In attendance and sitting at the head table were many dignitaries: Mrs. Alana Delong, member of the Alberta Provincial Legislature, Mr. Jack Beaton, Police Chief of

Calgary, and his wife Brenda, Mrs. Madeline King, the Deputy Major of Calgary, and her husband Ross, President Frank Meixner and his partner, Mrs. Helga Hecker. Herwig Lavicka, the Club's Vice-President, was the master of ceremonies.

Approximately 380 people attended and enjoyed the evening by dancing to the music of Strauss and



Left to right: Melanie, Sofie, Amanda, and Justin. Photo: Skyline Music.

others, under the direction of its conductor Felix Possak. The evening was a big success thanks to the many volunteers who, under the guidance of President Meixner, staged a remarkably beautiful event. Many thanks and congratulations from all of us!

Roland K. Pirker

PLEASE INFORM US OF A CHANGE OF ADDRESS, AND PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2003!

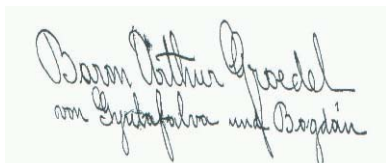
AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN CONSULATE

Continued from p. 6.

facilitate the numerous administrative matters. Most of the European Great Powers already maintain consular offices in Vancouver, and the Central Government in Ottawa has its own solicitor there, who takes charge of the numerous administrative matters, such as requests coming from the I. & R. consulate in Winnipeg...¹⁶

Yet, establishing an Austro-Hungarian consulate in Vancouver would take nearly two more years. On January 17, 1914, Baron Arthur Groedel von Gyulafalva und Bodgán, born in Marmaros-Szigeth (Hungary), applied for the post of I. & R. Honorary Consul in Vancouver. Since the Austrian and Hungarian trade ministries had by now approved the establishment of a consulate in Vancouver, the Emperor was approached by Foreign Minister Count Berchtold to recommend appropriate action. On March 8, 1914 Emperor Franz Joseph appointed Baron Groedel his honorary consul in Vancouver, and at the end

of April, the newly made seal and consular sign of the new office were despatched to the I. & R. Consulate General in Montreal.



[Baron Arthur Groedel von Gyulafalva und Bodgán]

Baron Groedel, the only Austro-Hungarian honorary consul in Vancouver, handed over caretakership of the office on July 4, 1914 to his cousin Egon Ulrich and left for Europe. On August 12, 1914 Great Britain declared war on Austria-Hungary; the following day the Austro-Hungarian consulate in Vancouver ceased its activities, and the protection of Austro-Hungarian affairs was entrusted to the U.S. Consul General. Groedel, a lieutenant in an I. & R. artillery regiment, was killed in action in July 1917 near Troy in Turkey.

The history of the present Austrian honorary consulate general in Vancouver began when on June 2, 1953 the Austrian Council of Minis-

ters approved the establishment of an honorary consulate and appointed John Hecht honorary consul of Austria. It was upgraded to honorary consulate general on September 5, 1995.

Notes

1 HHStA, AR, Dept. 8, box 249, letter Morris, January 3, 1898, Foreign Ministry 3582/10 of January 22, 1898.

2 John Haswell, b. Lancefield near Glasgow on March 20, 1812, d. Vienna on June 8, 1897. Haswell was the grandson of Scotsman John Haswell who had settled in Vienna in 1834 and built Austria's first locomotives; he played a leading role in what became the railway linking Vienna with Trieste.

3 *Idem*, letter Haswell to Foreign Ministry, Vienna, November 14, 1903.

4 *Idem*, Consulate General Montreal Nr. 1867 of November 16, 1904 to Embassy London.

5 *Idem*, Consulate Winnipeg No. CXVI of October 27, 1911.

6 *Idem*, Consulate General Montreal LXXV administrative of August 12, 1912.

Dr. Rudolf Agstner is currently Minister Plenipotentiary in the Political Division of the Austrian Foreign Ministry. He is the author of ten books and over 100 articles on the Austrian (Austro-Hungarian) foreign service and of its consulates and diplomatic missions.

Austrian-Canadian Council participates in Meetings of the *Auslandsösterreicherwerk* and the *Weltbund*

Roundtable meetings. The president of the *Auslandsösterreicherwerk*, Fritz Molden, hosted roundtable discussions for representatives from eastern and southeastern Europe at the Haus der Industrie from September 1 to 4, 2002 in Vienna. The purpose was to allow the participants to "reconnect" with Austria. Some of them were emigrants or businessmen, but most were distant descendants of Austrians—in other words, *Herzensösterreicher* who wanted to follow their heart and bring a little bit of Austria back home to their eastern European countries, such as Bulgaria and Poland. The history of these roundtables can be found in the fact that very few Austrians lived behind the former Iron Curtain, and therefore no fully fledged Austrian clubs were ever formed, Mr. Molden became the driving force behind establishing roundtables in Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Slovakia. These groups were able to meet on a regular basis to learn of the most recent events happening in Austria in diverse fields, such as the economy and culture. Many times, these roundtables also became the contact partners for Austrian delegations visiting their country. Due to the financial difficulties in these regions, the *Auslandsösterreicherwerk* had in the past financially supported many of these roundtables in order for them to stay operational.

Roland K. Pirker, the president of the Austrian-Canadian Council, participated in the roundtable discussions as the representative of

twenty Austrian clubs and societies in Canada. In one of those meetings, he gave a report outlining not only the work of the ACC, but also the work of the Austrian clubs and



Left to right (front): Hofrat Franz Bauer, Dr. Jürgen Em. Second row: Prof. Grete Pifat-Mrzljak, Dr. Walter Dujmovits, Robert Friedl, Gerhard Kaes, Franz Maier, Fritz Molden, Dr. Thomas Buchsbaum, Gustav Chlestil and Wolfdieter Maurer. Photo: Rollframe Productions, Roland K. Pirker.

societies in Canada. The work done by the ACC and the clubs in Canada met with great admiration and respect by all delegates and government representatives.

In another of these roundtable sessions, Ms. Inge Dalma, Secretary General and Chief Editor of the "Rot-Weiss-Rot" magazine, gave an overview of the work carried out behind the scenes at the magazine. "Rot-Weiss-Rot" receives financial support from the Austrian government, and most Austrian emigrés receive this very informative magazine. Dr. Thomas Buchsbaum, director of the department dealing with Austrians living abroad which is located in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, participated in every meeting and reflected on the hard work his colleagues and staff have been doing for the Austrians around the world. He offered his personal support to supply information on the many important issues concerning emigrants.

At the conclusion of the *Auslandsösterreicherwerk* meetings, all participants were invited to an audience by Cardinal Christian Schönborn and later by the Federal Chancellor of Austria, Dr. Wolfgang Schüssel. The Chancellor welcomed the participants, gave an overview of the present political situation in Austria, and then spoke about the catastrophic floods that had hit Austria this year. He underscored the great human sacrifices and humanitarian work which had come from the thousands of volunteers, as well as the financial help which the victims had received from the many Austrians at home and around the world, which in a time of need he greatly appreciated.



Burgie and Roland Pirker with Federal Chancellor Dr. Wolfgang Schüssel. Photo: *Auslandsösterreicherwerk*, Margarete Agis.

Weltbund meeting. Several representatives from Canada, Dr. Sepp Fröschl from the Austrian Society Montreal, Hans Wyslouzil from the Austrian Society Ottawa, Burgie Pirker from the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc., and Roland K. Pirker from the Austrian-Canadian Council participated in the *Weltbund* meeting from September 5 to 8. Nine hundred *Auslandsösterreicher* from 28

countries attended the 50th meeting of the *Weltbund* at the Börse Building in Vienna. Due to the anniversary of half a century of *Auslandsösterreichertreffen*, many more visitors arrived in Vienna than had at last year's meeting in Eisenstadt, Burgenland, where only 450 had attended. This year there was also the issue of the much-anticipated proposed merger between the *Auslandsösterreicherverk* and the *Weltbund*. Both organizations had been financially supported to a large extent by the Austrian government. Many politicians and bureaucrats in the Austrian government had been seeking and supporting a merger in order to have a single viable and strong organization. Therefore many visitors came not only to participate and vote for the merger, but also to ensure that both organizations would be equally represented.

Symposium: Chances and Challenges of the EU-Enlargement. On the first day of the meeting, the *Weltbund* held a symposium on the "Chances and Challenges of the EU-Enlargement." Under the guidance of Roland Adrowitzer, panel participants Ursula Stenzel, Dr. Heiner Luschin, Dkfm. Wolfgang Pfarl, Dr. Mathias Kunsch, Dr. Heinz Irrgeher, and Dr. Johannes Kyrle presented interesting views and ideas. Some of these views were difficult to accept—even by the panel speakers themselves, not to speak of the attending public. Topics such as agriculture, closing atomic reactors in neighbouring countries, energy, mobility of citizens within the EU, the costs of the enlargement, and question of a single EU language were all very sensitive issues. Dr. Thomas Buchsbaum summed up the meeting best in response to a question

from the audience by commenting that all these problems will have to be worked out; after all, there are no alternatives to proceeding with the expansion of the EU. During the afternoon meeting, the *Weltbund's* awards were handed out to many participants, among them Hans Wyslouzil from the Austrian Society Ottawa, who received a silver medal for having given thirty-five years' support to his organization.



Hans Wyslouzil (Austrian Society Ottawa) receives the Silver Medal from Gustav Chlestil (President of the *Weltbund*). Photo: Rollframe Productions, Roland K. Pirker.

Press conference and ceremony at the Vienna Rathaus. At the press conference at the Börse, Maximilian Schell, the famous Hollywood actor, was introduced as the "*Auslandsösterreich* of the Year 2002." Also in attendance was the designer of the Commemorative Stamp of the *Weltbund* Meeting 2002, architect and artist Prof. Ernst Fuchs. On the following day, Mr. Schell was honoured at a ceremony held in the Festsaal of the Vienna Rathaus. President Gustav Chlestil of the *Weltbund* opened the ceremony by welcoming all special guests and participants, especially the Austrian Councils of North America. Mr. Chlestil presented his vision for the future of this new organization and explained that the time was right for a merger of the *Auslandsösterreicherverk* and the *Weltbund*. One of the reasons he gave was the

potential which the Austrian emigrants around the world have for establishing and maintaining links between their respective countries and Austria. He emphasized that they are unofficial ambassadors of Austria; if their efforts are not continuously brought into the public's eye in Austria and if their work at home is not recognized, their efforts are virtually in vain. Then he reiterated the requests made by the several clubs that the new organization should stay democratic and non-political. If the merger is accepted, he said, the work performed previously by both organizations should continue to receive the financial support from the various government institutions.

The next speaker, Renate Brauner, a member of the City Council of Vienna, gave a fitting description of what constitutes an Austrian emigrant: "An emigré is the one who during our final ceremony at our ball, when the first note of a waltz is played, is seen with tears in his eyes. Then I know that this is an Austrian emigrant".

The Foreign Minister of Austria, Dr. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, began her speech by pointing out that "the Austrian government officially declared 2002 as the "Year of the *Auslandsösterreich*" and thanked all Austrian emigrants for their valuable work and support they have given to Austria in their respective homelands. She also thanked the many Austrian organizations outside Austria for their contributions to the victims of that horrible flood in Austria. She continued by speaking of the Special Fund for the many flood victims on both sides of the Austrian border that she and her German colleague had initiated in the EU. She

spoke proudly of the fact that the EU approved this Special Fund within fourteen days, therefore symbolically strengthening European solidarity—and this just before another expansion of the EU. The Foreign Minister then elaborated on the opportunities and challenges which an enlargement of the EU would entail, especially for Austria. Due to Austria's geographical position, it would be affected most by the expansion of the European Union to the East. She addressed problems, such as agriculture and the restructuring of the EU, and stressed the inescapable fact that "now there are 15 countries in the EU, then all of a sudden there will be 25." Therefore she had initiated "a co-operation of Danube State Partners" in which Austria helps and advises the southeast European countries on economic issues which could benefit the region before their integration into the EU takes effect. Then Dr. Ferrero-Waldner found a linking bridge back to our own meetings by explaining that a merger of the two organizations was inevitable because "if you want to survive in these days of globalisation, you have to restructure in order to become strong."

A visit to the President of Austria. On September 6th, thirty-five persons from the 900 participants were chosen by the *Weltbund* Board of Directors to accompany them to an invitation from the President of Austria, Dr. Thomas Klestil.



President Thomas Klestil welcomes Roland K. Pirker. Photo: Foto Sulzer - Cox.

The official visit took place at the President's offices at the Hofburg. The Austrian-Canadian Council and 20 Austrian clubs in Canada were represented by Roland Klaus Pirker. During both the *Auslandsösterreicherwerk* and *Weltbund* events, the ACC received great recognition. It was the first time that Canada was represented in Austria with such a large number of clubs and societies. However, much credit for the ACC's achievement at this *Weltbund* meeting should be given to Canada's first representative, Dr. Sepp Fröschl from Montreal. He had been part of the board of directors of the *Welt-*

bund for many years, and his hard and diligent work prepared the ACC for a smoother entrance into the *Weltbund*. At the end of the meetings, the Austrian-Canadian Council was invited to sit on the new organization's board of directors.

The Annual General Meeting and merger vote. Naturally, as is the case at every Annual General Meeting, many questions from the membership had to be answered and discussed, which sometimes took attention away from the more important issues. However, thanks to the well-oiled machinery behind the scenes all went smoothly, even the long-awaited vote. When it was all over, 82% were in favour of a merger, with only a few votes cast against the merger; the rest abstained. President Chlestil's remark after the vote: "Nicht nur vereint marschieren, sondern vor allem vereint amtieren." The result is that the first president of the newly formed *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund* will be Fritz Molden. He will lead the new organization until 2004; then Gustav Chlestil will take over and head the organization until 2006.

Roland K. Pirker

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: _____

Austrian Minister of the Interior Visits Canada

During the summer of 2002, one of the highest political contacts between Austria and Canada in recent years took place: The Austrian Minister of the Interior, Ernst Strasser, visited his Canadian counterparts.

The Austrian Ministry of the Interior is responsible for internal security, for the planning and coordination of the police forces deployed in the cities and for the *Gendarmerie* deployed in municipalities and rural areas. At the same time, the Ministry of the Interior is in charge of the police and the coordination with Interpol. In Austria, questions of asylum and immigration lie also within the jurisdiction of this ministry. As Austria is not only a member of the European Union, but also of the Schengen Group, many of those questions are a matter of European co-ordination.

Around 400,000 applications, submitted in 22 European countries, are made for asylum annually.

In recent years, altogether 62% of the applications have been made to Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, but Austria, with almost five per cent of all applications, already comes in sixth place. 20,000 persons submit applications for asylum to Austria every year, almost one third of them by citizens of the former Yugoslavia.

The crisis on the Balkans has had great repercussions on Austria. From Bosnia alone 90,000 asylum seekers found refuge in Austria. During the Kosovo crisis, 5,123 Kosovo Albanians were brought to Austria from Macedonia and given temporary residence permits. Between 7,500 and 8,000 refugees from Kosovo were accommodated in Austria, but by the end of 1999 as many as 1,630 Kosovo Albanians were still being cared for by the Austrian Federal Government. In addition, an "Austrian Camp" for 5,000 refugees was established in Albania.

Minister Ernst Strasser had fruit-

ful discussions with his counterparts at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Solicitor General's Office, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the Department of Justice, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada. A luncheon was hosted in his honour by Assistant Deputy Minister Paul Dubois of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

There was time to visit the Algonquin First Nations, which was of particular interest to the Minister. Ambassador Wendelin Ettmayer hosted a barbecue which was attended by prominent personalities, among them Peter Showler, President of the Immigration and Refugee Board, and Lawrence T. Dickenson of the Privy Council Office.

This important visit helped to increase our mutual understanding of important questions concerning security and immigration and to deepen our bilateral relations.

Artur Bablok, Austrian Embassy

Christine Meyer Initiates Successful Fundraiser for Austrian Flood Relief

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. Nobody remained untouched by this terrible disaster. While the Canadian media reported the news, no official body stepped forward to help.

It took the personal initiative of the President of the Canadian-Austrian Society of Toronto, Ms. Christine Meyer, to mount a relief effort that would galvanize into action not only the members of that

Society, but also many other Austrian clubs and associations across Canada, as well as other friends of Austria and the business community. In co-operation with the Canadian Red Cross Society, Ms. Meyer organized the Austrian Flood Relief Fund which would result not only in a remarkable financial success, but would ultimately prove that the Austrian community in Canada retains strong emotional ties to the "Old Country."

Credit goes to Ms. Meyer for her initiative, resolve and untiring devo-

tion to this cause, which has resulted in raising a total of \$55,000. Congratulations and thanks must go to the Austrian community in Canada and all friends of Austria who gave from the heart whatever they could afford; whether big or small, every donation helped to achieve this remarkable success. Let us not forget that many of these donors are living on fixed incomes, and yet they found that extra bit to give to their countrymen back home. The simple response of one of the donors is deeply touching: "I just thought it

Dear members of the ACC:

My four-year term as President of the Austrian-Canadian Council came to an end in November 2002. I therefore would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who have not only supported the ACC, but also those who helped make my workload enjoyable—even though I often wished I had more hours in a day in order to be able to do this office justice. I would like to thank all the presidents of the Austrian clubs and societies throughout Canada for their financial support and their much-appreciated caring phone calls, pointing and guiding our organization in the right direction.

Especially, I would like to mention three persons who were outstanding partners in my endeavour to build the ACC into a strong cultural and educational organization, and my sincere thanks go to them.

Firstly, I would like to mention a man who is not only responsible for the ACC's existence, but deserves our gratitude for lending his continued support and effort to help promote our organization. This person

is none other than former Austrian Ambassador to Canada (1994-1999) H. E. Dr. Walther Lichem. He continuously promoted and catered to the needs of the ACC and the Austrian community, often making personal financial commitments and contributions to such events as the Viennese Winter Ball Ottawa—for instance, paying for the events' wines for four years, even after he had already returned to Vienna. Dr. Lichem was also the founder of and driving force behind the scenes for many important cultural events, such as the many Winter Balls and the New Year's Day concerts throughout Canada. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

The second person I would like to thank is Dr. Manfred Prokop, the *OeCulture* magazine's editor, who has donated his time and expertise since the beginning of 1998 to make our magazine the envy of many other ethnic groups in Canada. Dr. Prokop's achievements and contributions for the Austrian community in Canada did not stop there. He also compiled the *Biographical Dictionary of Austrians in Canada*, the 2002 vol-

ume in the series on Austrian migration to Canada. My gratitude and thanks go to him for his professional and tireless efforts and his kindness in working with me.

Next are my wife Burgie Pirker together with three other volunteers who have helped raise much-needed funds since 1998. Burgie has been my very important partner in running 225 consecutive events, for which she has spent an average of 4.5 hours each Sunday in the Overbrook Bingo Palace, raising \$116,000 to date for the ACC and the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc.—all in order to support important cultural and educational programmes, such as the printing of our *OeCulture*. My thanks and gratitude for her unwavering support!

Last, but not least, many thanks to the officers and the members of the Board of Directors of the ACC for their support, and to the many donors who have sent contributions to the Council. Your support was a sign of appreciation for my humble efforts.

Roland Pirker

was time to give something back to the homeland." This surely makes it all worthwhile.

Ms. Meyer, as the initiator of this effort, has now presented all cheques to the Canadian Red Cross because the stellar reputation of the Red Cross—especially in the realm of disaster relief—is unsurpassed. It will ultimately be the Austrian Red Cross which will administer the Relief Fund and which will ensure that all contributions will reach those most in need of assistance.



Dennis Fair (Regional Director, Canadian Red Cross, Toronto Region) receives cheque for \$55,000 from Christine Meyer. Photo: CRC.

Sincere thanks go to all who responded so generously and from their heart to this call for help. We are happy that in a small way we are able to help out our fellow Austrians in this terrible time, and to show support and compassion when it is most needed.

*The Board of Directors
Canadian-Austrian Society of Toronto*

"Lovers of Music Tour' was thrill of a lifetime"

May 2002: Barbara Butler and a group of Canadians traveled to Munich, Vienna, Salzburg, Cesky Krumlov, and Bayreuth. They were given the highlights as well as ample time for pursuing independent interests in the 16-day schedule.

"The tour was so well thought out. Everyone got a great thrill out of it. The food was wonderful. All our accommodations were lovely—the 500-year-old hotel in Krumlov, very special!"

Among castles, theatres, museums, guided bus and walking tours, and a boat trip, what impressed

Barbara most? "Bruckner's 8th (Vienna). "Ariodante" (Munich). The musical "Ludwig"! The four harpsichords in Gordon Murray's apartment in Vienna were fascinating. I'm an organist, so hearing the organ at St. Florian was a thrill. The Hofbräuhaus: sensational. And the range: from Bruckner to the chicken dance!"

Tour-host Adrian Hoffman's extensive knowledge of the area and its musicians tied together the extraordinary culture and ambiance. "I looked at your survey and wanted to check "Excellent! Excellent! Excel-

lent!" all the way down.

"I drive a ten-year old car. I'd rather spend money on travel and seeing the world. Keep me on the list, I'd like to do this again!"

For more information about this year's tour on May 29-June 14, 2003, please check our website at www.ihmathers.com or contact Tour Agent Michelle MacKenzie, IH Mathers Tours and Travel Ltd. Tel: (902) 429-5680. E-mail: michelle@ihmatherstourstravel.com, 1525 Birmingham St., Halifax, NS, B3J 2J6.

*Kathy Beaman
Honourary Consulate of Austria, Halifax*

CULTURAL EVENTS/MANIFESTATIONS CULTURELLES

Continued from p. 20

Glenn Gould Studio
Canadian Broadcasting Centre

May 2, 2003, 8 p.m.
Via Salzburg Chamber Series: Tenor,
Horn and Strings
Glenn Gould Studio
Canadian Broadcasting Centre

MONTREAL

12 janvier, 2003, 14h30
"Concert du Nouvel An"
Ensemble Strauss-Lanner
Bouquet de valse de Johann & Josef
Strauss et C.M. Ziehrer
Ecole de musique Vincent d'Indy

January 29-31 and February 1, 2003,
7:30 p.m.
Opera McGill presents
W. A. Mozart's "Don Giovanni"
Conducted by Alexis Hauser
Pollack Hall, McGill University

February 13, 2003, 7:30 pm
Concert with music by Hugo Wolf
(100th anniversary of his death)
with Artistic Director Nicolas

Goldschmidt, soprano Donna Brown
and a string quartet
Pollack Hall, McGill University

16 février 2003, 14h30
Ensemble Strauss-Lanner
Concert de la St. Valentin
Musique viennoise Schrammel, Johann
et Josef Schrammel, Alois Strohmayer
Ecole de musique Vincent d'Indy

6 mars 2003
Ensemble Klangforum Wien
Montréal/Nouvelles Musiques (Festival
et conférence de musique
contemporaine)
Salle Pierre Mercure
Centre Pierre Péladeau

1-11 mars 2003
Oeuvres de G.F. Haas, J.M. Staud et
autres

13-23 mars 2003
21^e Festival International du Film sur l'art
Contributions autrichiennes attendues

March 24, 2003, 8 p.m.
Pianist Alfred Brendel in recital
Société Pro Musica

Pollack Hall
McGill University

30 mars 2003, 14h30
Musique viennoise Schrammel
Ensemble Johann Schrammel
Centre culturel Ste. Thérèse de Blainville
Ste. Thérèse

27 avril 2003, 14h30
"Printemps Viennois"
Ensemble Strauss-Lanner
Oeuvres oubliées de Johann Strauss
père et fils, Josef et August Lanner
Ecole de musique Vincent d'Indy

May 2003
"European Security and Defense Policy"
Lecture in preparation
Professor Hans-Peter Neuhold
Head of Department, International Law
and International Relations
University of Vienna

QUEBEC CITY

12 avril 2003
Le Grand Bal Viennois
Hotel Château Frontenac

CULTURAL EVENTS/MANIFESTATIONS CULTURELLES

ALBERTA

EDMONTON

March 4, 2003, 8 p.m.
"A Recital of Central European Piano Music"
Magdalena Adamek, piano
Convocation Hall
University of Alberta

CALGARY

March 7-8, 2003
International conference
"Franz Schubert's Sonatas and Songs"
Keynote lecture by the renowned
Austrian pianist Paul Badura-Skoda
Mounted in cooperation with the Centre
for Research in the Fine Arts,
University of Calgary
Location and detailed programme TBA

ONTARIO

OTTAWA

January 10, 2003, 8 p.m.
The Thirteen Strings present a concert of

Austrian music
St. Andrew's Church

February 8, 2003, 7 p.m.
Viennese Winter Ball
National Gallery of Canada

February 10, 2003, 3 p.m.
"Economic Needs and Education in an
Enlarged Europe"
Lecture by Claus Raidl, CEO of Böhler
Uddeholm
Carleton University, 2017 Dunton Tower

May 7, 2003, 2:30 p.m.
"European Security and Defence Policy"
Lecture by Hanspeter Neuhold,
Professor and Head of the Department
of International Law and International
Relations, University of Vienna
Carleton University, 2017 Dunton

TORONTO

January 26, 2003, 2^h30 p.m.
"Anacreon's Rest," presented by the
Aldeburgh Connection. The first of three
concerts commemorating the centenary
of the death of Austrian composer Hugo
Wolf

Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building
University of Toronto

February 7, 2003
Via Salzburg Chamber Series: "Strings
Attached"
Concert with Mayumi Seiler
Glenn Gould Studio
Canadian Broadcasting Centre

February 22, 2003, 2-4 p.m.
"Hugo Wolf and his poets"
A Young Artists Recital presented by the
Aldeburgh Connection
Walter Hall, University of Toronto

February 23, 2003, 2 p.m.
Off-Centre's 8th Annual "Schubertiad"
Glenn Gould Studio
Canadian Broadcasting Centre

March 1, 2003
Austrian Ball
Royal York Hotel, Concert Hall

March 25, 2003, 8 p.m.
"Italienisches Liederbuch", presented by
the Aldeburgh Connection

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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.



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