

41 RIVER ROAD EAST, UNIT B, KITCHENER, ON N2B 2G3 Tel: (519) 744-1191 E-mail: transylvaniaclub@outlook.com

Nr. 524



Oct./Nov. 2024

Check www.transylvaniaclub.com

to read your Nachrichtenblatt online.

Visit our website and select the Photo Gallery to view pictures of our Transylvania Club Events.

SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR VERANSTALTUNGSKALENDER

Oct. 11, 12, 18 & 19	Oktoberfest at Habsburg Haus	
Oct. 14	Family Day	
Oct. 15	German Pioneer's Day - Concordia Club	17:00
Oct. 16	So You Think You Can Tanz	18:00
Nov. 2	Aylmer TrachtenballSaxonia Hall, Aylmer12:00 to	17:00
	Landsmannschaft AGM	10:00
Nov. 16	Saxontreffen	16:30
Nov. 17	Volkstrauertag – Woodland Cemetery Followed by coffee & cake at the Schwaben Club	14:30
Dec. 5	Frauenverein Christmas Dinner	18:00
Dec. 22	Weihnachtsfeier/Christmas Pageant	14:00
Jan. 18	Kameradschaftsabend – hosted by TCK	
Feb. 1	Frauenball	

Note: All our events will be held at the Alpine Club unless otherwise indicated in the event schedule. Please order and purchase your tickets at the office or call in to pay by credit card or etransfer at least two weeks prior to the event.

The office is open on Fridays from 09:00 to 12:00. It may be easiest and most efficient to call and leave a message. Our office phone number is 519-744-1191 and our email address is transylvaniaclub@outlook.com. Thanks.

TRANSYLVANIA CLUB NACHRICHTEN





Greetings and hello to all our members and Friends!

I hope that everyone has enjoyed the remainder of the summer, with its last days coming upon us. I have noticed the gradual change, especially in the morning, as it remains darker longer, and the days are getting

shorter. But alas, Fall is almost here!

After the busy summer that the Club has had, it was great to have a small break before the busy Fall season hits us. Personally, it was a great summer, as Andrea and I celebrated a wedding in our family. Our family has gotten a little bit bigger, and we officially welcomed our new daughter-in-law, Makayla to the Emrich family.

The Club has also been a hive of activity as we transition into the Fall Season. Many of the Club's Untergruppen are starting to resume practicing. The Youth Dance Group and the Hofbrau Band are busy rehearsing for performances at Oktoberfest. The Band will be performing for several shows at the Downtown Willkomen Platz, as well as at numerous Senior's homes in the area during the next few months. The Dance Group represents the Club during Oktoberfest with performances all over the KW area. Both of these groups are always well-received, wherever they perform! We are also getting ready to welcome Oktoberfest patrons at the Habsburg Haus, our joint venture with the Alpine Club. We are very lucky to have several leaders within the Club that allow us to be a destination of choice for patrons at Oktoberfest. That being said, we are actively looking for volunteers to work before, during, and after Oktoberfest. Duties include setting up for the Festival, cooking and preparing meals for the festival, working and helping out during the festival, as well as clean-up and tear down after the Festival has finished. The Club benefits financially from participating in the Festival, so any help is appreciated. If you are interested in volunteering some of your time for the benefit of the TCK, please contact Lori Moore, Margit Fritsch, Rick or Krista Hesch, or any member of your Board of Directors. We can connect you with the people in charge! Liebe Landsleute und Freunde,

Schnell is der Sommer vergangen aber die gute Erinnerungen an den Heimattag im Transylvania Klub und das Jugendlager mit den Teilnehmer aus Deutschland, Österreich, Romanien, den USA und Kanada werden uns und ihnen das ganze Leben lang bleiben. Thank you to all that helped with the organization of the Jugendlager and Heimattag and all those that attended.

We look forward to our fall season with the start-up of Kindergruppe, youth group, choir and band practices. New members for all groups are welcome. The fall event calendar starts with Oktoberfest, the Oktoberfest parade, Oktoberfest Family Day and German Pioneers Day. Young and old, all are welcome to attend.

The Jahreshauptversammlung of the Landsmannschaft will take place on Saturday November 2nd at 10:00 a.m. at the German Canadian Club in Aylmer. The annual Aylmer Trachtenball takes place the same afternoon with a meal starting at 12:00 noon. Please call the Saxonia Hall @ 519-773-5271 to order tickets. All Landsleute are invited to participate at the Jahreshauptversammlung and attend the lunch and Trachtenball. The Transylvania Club youth group, choir and Hofbräu Band will be attending.

Wir wünschen allen Landsleuten ein schönes Erntedankfest.

I wish everyone a safe and happy transition into Fall. We look forward to seeing you back at the Club at any of these upcoming events and practices! *Dave Emrich, President* TRANSYLVANIA CLUB NACHRICHTEN

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SUMMER PICNIC



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SUMMER PICNIC





Dear Members and Friends,

Fall is here and that means all our groups are starting up again with practices and performances. All groups would welcome new members who have an interest in playing music, singing, folk dancing or participating in our Saxon culture. Our Children's group invites children 4 years of age and older to come out and have fun, dance, do crafts and sing. It is a great way to get your children involved with their culture and to meet new friends. Information about these groups is in their reports and if you need contact information you are welcome to contact the club office.

Both the Hofbrau band and the TCK choir will be practicing Tuesday evening, led by Andrea Emrich. Kindergruppe will be starting on Wed., October 30th at 6:30 p.m. and will be led again by Rick and Krista Hesch, Heidimarie Hesch and Bengt Nyman. The dance group is practicing on Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. led by Amanda Mooser. There will not be a Ballroom class this year, but we hope to have another group of young people want to learn next fall.

I would like to thank everyone who donated entire Trachts and or parts of the Tracht for our dance group and Kindergruppe to use. They are very much appreciated and will be used for years to come. We all know how precious these handmade heirlooms are but I always think it is better to have them being used and shown than hanging in a closet where no one will see them.

Dates and times for Oktoberfest at the Habsburg Haus have been posted. Note that "So you think you can Tanz" will be held on Wednesday night October 16, 2024 this year and our dance group will be competing. I hope to see many of you out enjoying the music and the food that will be a combined menu of Alpine and TCK specialties. It would also be nice to see those members that are able, marching in the parade. All ages are welcome to take part whether in Tracht or Dirndl and Lederhosen. Walkers will get a sausage on a bun for participating, but have to pay admission if they are coming to the family day event. Members whose membership is fully paid will be given a \$5.00 food voucher to be used on that day when they pay their admission. Please note that you have to reserve your tickets for family day at info@alpineclub.ca. When you see the TCK dance group performing throughout the festival representing the Transylvania Club, make sure to cheer them on.

It would be nice to see our members at German Pioneer Day at the Concordia Club on October 15th, to show support for the Hofbrau band, and this year's honorees, who are being recognized for their contribution to culture and business in the Waterloo Region. This day is to promote German influence in our region, so come out and show that the German representation is strong in our community.

Please note that the Saxonia Hall's Trachtenball will be Saturday Nov 2nd from noon – 5 p.m. The Landsmannschaft meeting will take place at 10:00 a.m. the same day before Trachtenball. Lunch is at 12:30 p.m. and the program starts at 2:00 p.m. Come out and support our fellow Saxons in Aylmer and also see our cultural groups perform. Tickets will be available on line.

Lastly, I ask you to mark your calendars for Saxontreffen 3.0 "Get your Saxon On" on Nov. 16th. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. with lots of fun for all ages, music for dancing, games and prizes, face painting and Saxon food. Last year's event was so much fun and everyone said they could not wait for the next one. It is a casual, fun event not to be

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missed. So, tell your family and friends and come out for a great time. Make sure you call or email the office to reserve/ purchase your tickets. Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members and include a sausage, Palukas (mamaliga), soup and other delicious Saxon fare to be determined. Hope to see you all there! As we start this fall season of events, remember that we need you to participate, support and help us celebrate our Saxon roots!

Remember to SAXON UP!!

Erika Schmidt

Kulturgruppe Leiterin / Cultural Group President





The ladies auxiliary is ramping up for Oktoberfest. Our group spent 4 days in September preparing food such as our famous pigtails, cabbage rolls, and Sauerkraut which we'll be serving at Habsburg Haus. Many thanks to everyone that participated! We could still use some volunteers, 1 however. If you are available, please contact Lori Crouse (loricrouse@hotmail.com) and she can let you know dates and times.

Our ladies Christmas dinner will be held on Thursday, December 5 this year. We would love to have you join us. Please save the date!

Margit Fritsch/Heidi Lowrick Ladies Auxiliary Co-Presidents



I hope everyone had a great summer!!!! As we move into fall, I just wanted to provide you with an update and to save some important dates in your calendar. Kindergruppe will be starting back up again for our winter session on Wednesday, October 30th and it will run weekly until Wednesday, December 18th at the Alpine Club from 6:30pm to 7:45pm. The Weihnachtsfeier (Christmas) performance will be held on Sunday, December 22nd in the afternoon. We are hoping to see you all back and some new faces this fall. If you know any one who may be interested in joining, please pass along our contact information below.

We are also looking for some youth and adult volunteers who may be interesting in helping with and/or leading Kindergruppe this fall. If you are interested, please let us know. For more information or to join, please contact Krista or Rick Hesch at hesch@rogers.com or 519-662-4364.

Look forward to seeing you all in October!! Have a great start to the school year.

Krista & Rick Hesch, Heidi Hesch & Bengt Nyman Kindergruppe Instructors



Liebe Landsleute und Freunde,

Schnell is der Sommer vergangen aber die gute Erinnerungen an den Heimattag im Transylvania Klub und das Jugendlager mit den Teilnehmer aus Deutschland, Österreich, Romanien, den USA und Kanada werden uns und ihnen das ganze Leben lang bleiben. Thank you to all that helped with the organization of the Jugendlager and Heimattag and all those that attended.

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Wir wünschen allen Landsleute ein schönes Erntedankfest.

John Werner Bundesvorsitzender

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POLICY DISPATCH: DOING THE TIME WARP IN THE REAL TRANSYLVANIA

Most of us, at some point in our lives, take an avid interest in our roots: who our ancestors were, where they came from, how they lived. As a child of refugees and a first-generation Canadian, I am no exception.

My roots are with the Saxons of Transylvania, now part of Romania, who emigrated in the Middle Ages from what today is Luxembourg and the Mosel area of Germany, lured by free settlement land offered by King Géza of Hungary, formalized in the Diploma Andreanum of 1224. Transylvanian Saxons are a people of mostly German ethnicity, who speak a German dialect known as Siweberjesch Såksesch or just Såksesch.

While Canada's Transylvanian Saxon minority may not have the high profile or cultural footprint of our Italian, Chinese or Afro-Caribbean counterparts — the Transylvanian-Saxon diaspora, for instance, does not have the political clout of the Irish or Indian diasporas, and there's no category for Transylvanian restaurants in the Michelin Guide Canada — we do represent a language and culture with a deep, fascinating, and often misunderstood story. Bram Stoker's Dracula and The Rocky Horror Picture Show are, each in their own way, masterpieces, but the misconceptions they've fed about Transylvania can be hard to dislodge, to say nothing of the countless vampire and transvestite jokes I've heard — some funnier than others — at parties and in G7 meetings over the years.

I know about the real Transylvania because, like so many Canadian children, I had that "old country" history, its customs, language and more drilled into me by my parents, who, while embracing their new Canadian identities following the chaos and horrors of the Second World War that caused them to flee with their families (they met in Canada), spoke of their ancient homeland with much affection and vivid memory. Indeed, I am still a member of the Transylvania Club of Kitchener-Waterloo.

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So, when participating this month as a member of the Canadian delegation at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Bucharest, it seemed only natural to add on a trip to Transylvania. I had been there before: once with my parents as young teenager in 1969; with a bunch of friends coming out of Austria in a camper van in 1976; and with my family while serving in Berlin as ambassador in 2010. Every experience was unique, emotional and difficult to describe.

Professionally, I visited Romania on my early assignment as a desk officer in what was then the Soviet and Eastern European Division of the Department of External Affairs. My specific file was nuclear cooperation, and our CANDU reactors in Romania are still producing electricity today, with a major refurbishment and expansion project just inked between our countries.

On this trip, Bucharest impressed me. The Romanian economy is doing well and there is a sense of confidence in the air, despite the war to the north in Ukraine. Such an assessment would have been unthinkable during my time all those years ago on the Romania desk.

Following the OSCE conference, my spouse, Julia, and I rented a small SUV and drove north through the heat and sometime thunderstorms, through the Carpathian Mountains, past fortresses, castles and through sweeping vistas to the small Saxon village of Viscri (Deutsch Weisskirch), famous for being a traditional farming village with a 13th century fortified church. There are more than 150 such unique fortified churches in Transylvania, built to withstand invasions and raids by the Ottomans, Wallachians and assorted Central European groups so many centuries ago that they reinforce that sense of time warp you feel in a place where so many things have remained unchanged.

Viscri's more recent claim to fame is as the Transylvanian village that then-Prince Charles fell in love with when he visited in 2006, prompting him to purchase a rambling farmhouse as a nature retreat. That property has since been converted into a guest house and training centre for traditional crafts and rural skills, under the auspices of the Prince Charles Foundation Romania, established in 2015.

The royal connection remains strong. Indeed, Charles' second foreign visit as king in 2023 right after addressing the German Bundestag — was to Romania, and he visited Viscri yet again.

For our visit, we stayed in a converted farmhouse, explored the village, watched the cattle and goats come home from the fields at the end of the day (they all knew where they lived) and explored the church and its battlements.

My mother's home village of Draas (Drauaeni on tourist maps) was some twenty kilometres away over the hills. Its own fortified church has UNESCO designation but is in need of repair; with only one elderly Saxon woman, Ella Kosa, remaining in the village, the church no longer serves its religious purpose; its uniquely painted pulpit, altar and baroque organ having been moved to other churches in Transylvania, its reliquary items to museums. Walls were exposed as part of the renovation, exposing frescoes dating from Catholic times.

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These had not been seen for centuries, since they were plastered over during the Reformation, but not before the fervent villagers used their hammers on the saints' faces.

Ella Kosa produced an authoritative history of the village — one that I already knew, from the local history Draas Through Time, written by my maternal grandfather Michael Markus, and his brother Johann. My grandfather had been Draas's trilingual (German, Hungarian, Romanian) mayor. (Growing up, I once asked my grandfather why, with the many languages he knew, he preferred to swear in Hungarian. He said it was the "juiciest" language for that purpose). We also visited the village cemetery: the Saxon part where my maternal ancestors were buried is in a state of complete neglect, overgrown, with headstones broken and sunken into the ground.

Transylvania is a popular home for storks. Their impressive nests rest on light standards, chimneys and rooftops. When we visited, the large juveniles were making their first efforts to fly and would emit beak-clacking symphonies when they sensed their parents were arriving with food. Soon they will all be off to Africa.

We continued our travels to Sighisoara (Schässburg), a perfectly walled and preserved

medieval town that still has a small Saxon community and impressive churches and cemetery. It is very much a tourist draw, including for Romanians who continue to discover their own multilingual and multi-ethnic country, an opportunity denied them until the revolution of 1989.

Sighisoara is also the purported birthplace, in 1431, of the notorious Vlad the Impaler, the brutal military governor of Walachia said to be the inspiration for Stoker's Dracula. And yes, its many attractions also include a "Transylvania Escape Room" (what better location?), which we chose not to try.

Romanians love driving fast, especially on mountain roads. While they are waiting to pass, they are so close that you sense their presence in your back seat. On the serpentine mountain roads it is no surprise to find a large truck barrelling around a corner towards you in your lane. Even though I'm a bit of an aggressive driver myself, we drove the quieter back roads, stopping at a few more of Transylvania's fortified churches before reaching Sibiu (Hermannstadt), the impressive former Saxon capital.

Part of the city's walled fortifications and bastions remain, its two old city plazas attest to a



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storied past, although one featured a beach volleyball tournament with sand and raised seating for fans. Sibiu is known as the city "with eyes" as its attic dormer windows have that appearance. Romania's president, Klaus Iohannis (of Saxon heritage) was a popular mayor here. I remember speaking with him in the Transylvanian Saxon dialect at a nuclear security summit in Washington in 2016. We received some strange looks, especially when former European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker joined us, speaking compatible Luxembourgish. Not bad after nine centuries.

In reflecting on one's roots and ancestry, it is easy to overthink, to be emotional, if not maudlin. Is this really where my ancestors are from? What ties me to them other than my parents? What were they like? There are only some 12,000 Transylvanian Saxons remaining in Romania, a dramatic decline from more than 200,000 at the beginning of the 20th century. Many departed after the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1919, seeking their fortune in the United States, Europe and Canada. More fled in September of 1944 as the Soviet army advanced through Romania. Many of those who remained were taken to Russian labour camps; not all returned. Others were part of a deal made in the late 1960s by dictator Nicolae Ceausescu that permitted emigration through convertible currency payment (chiefly from Germany).

Many of the last generation saw their opportunity to go west when the communist regime collapsed completely in 1989. Some have returned. They were farmers, craftsmen, artisans and scholars, rigid in their ambition to maintain their language, religion and largely rural way of life. Their fortified churches remain as testimony, ironic in a sense in that these people were drawn to Transylvania to establish a strategic bulwark at the eastern end of an empire. Etched into the stonework of many of the churches is Martin Luther's axiom: "Eine feste Burg ist unser Gott" ("a mighty fortress is our God"). So it was.

I look forward to telling my mother all our stories from Transylvania when we celebrate her 96th birthday later this month.

Sen. Peter M. Boehm,

a regular contributor to Policy magazine, is a former senior diplomat and current chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade.



VOLKSTRAUERTAG

The Consulate-General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Toronto and the German-Canadian Remembrance Society wish to announce:

VOLKSTRAUERTAG German Remembrance Day Service

Sunday, November 17, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.

Woodland Cemetery,

119 Arlington Blvd., Kitchener

Reception to follow at the Schwaben Club - 50 Scheifele Place, Breslau

The German-Canadian Community is invited to attend the above event.

Please feel free to forward this notice on to all interested individuals.

MISSING BOOK

On Saturday at the Heimattag, Mrs. Regina Karschti had brought along a book titled "Nord und Süd Transylvania" written in German and Romanian. After showing the book around to a number of people, the book has gone missing. Should anyone know the whereabouts of the book, or have mistakenly taken it with them, please contact

Regina Karschti directly at 519-886-7483.

SIEBENBUERGER ZEITUNG

Die Bezieher der Siebenbuerger Zeitung werden ersucht die Bezugsgebuehr fuer das Jahr 2025 von \$64.00 vor dem 31. Dezember 2024 zu bezahlen. Den Scheck bitte ich auf "Alliance of Transylvania Saxons" auszustellen und an Trudy Schneider, 1520 Mannheim Rd., Petersburg NOB 2H0 abzusenden.

Herzlichen Dank,

Trudy Schneider, Schatzmeisterin, Landsmannschaft der Siebenbuerger Sachsen

NEW MEMBERS - NEUE MITGLIEDER

A warm Transylvanian welcome goes out to:

Gertrude Graef-Ings and husband Terry Ings

TRANSYLVANIA CLUB SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Pictured here are Harry Drung, representing the German-Canadian Education Fund, and Owen Crouse, university level scholarship winner. Harry is presenting a cheque in the amount of \$1,500 to Owen for his successful submission on "Why My Exposure to the German Language and Culture Is Important to Me." Owen is going into his fourth year at Wilfrid Laurier University majoring in Computer Science. Owen's mother is Lori Moore and father is Todd Crouse.

Grandparents are Martin and Ingrid Hesch.

Congratulations Owen!



FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS - FAMILIENNACHRICHTEN

Members that would like to announce an anniversary/birthday or other special event are asked to contact: Mitglieder die ein Jubiläum oder einen Geburtstag bekannt geben wollen, sollen sich bei den folgenden anmelden:

Helgard Werner Heidi Löwrick

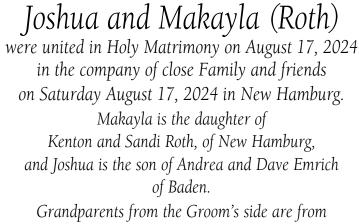
helgardrwerner@gmail.com hlowrick@gmail.com 519-884-7725 519-589-8122

ANNIVERSARIES - JUBILÄUM



Jonny and Stephanie Vigneux (Klaehn)

were married on April 27. 2024. Parents of the bride are Shawn and Rosemarie Klaehn.



Grandparents from the Groom's side are from Waltersdorf, (Tekendorf, Passbusch - Urgrosseltern), and Traun/Linz, Völklabruck, Austria.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS - FAMILIENNACHRICHTEN

DEATHS - TODESFAELLE



Margaret Fritsch

passed away on August 26, 2024

at the age of 91.

She was born in Hespler, Ontario on February 6, 1933.

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS - FAMILIENNACHRICHTEN

MONTHLY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

We wish to extend best wishes to the following members who are celebrating a birthday in the months of October and November. If you have a birthday in this month and your name does not appear in the list, please call our office with the correct information in order that we can update our membership records and database.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

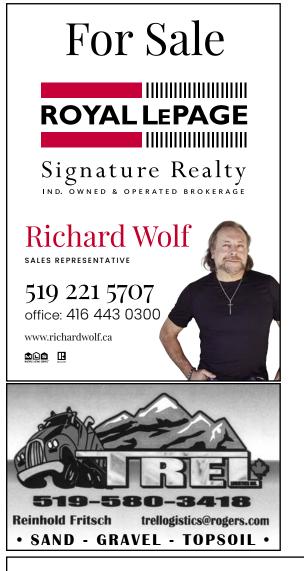
Ingrid Kremer Pieternella Scholtes Walter Marzinko Guenther Breckner Ray Williams Stephanie Green Wilhelmine Koestel Christine Lang David Spaetzel

Mackenzie Rich Mikaila Emrich David Merkle Rose Frim Sylvia Hartig Kimberly Dreger Phil Voll Luke Carter Michael Werner Josh Emrich Terry Ings Robert Schertzer Clifford Strassburger Branko Radisic Trudy Tschoepe Katharina Hartig Bengt Nyman William Vetter

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Katharina Jung Ruth Friedel Michael Fritsch John Belez Michael P. Werner Wiltrud Jenkins Katharina Mann Danielle Fritsch Linda Fritsch Katharina Emrich Waldemar Scholtes Heidi Schumann Kurt Emrich Katharina Baumann Rosemary Frim

Jane Penteker Elizabeth Egi Manfred Gabber Thomas Emrich Reinhard Schmidt Paul Arsenault





The following members donate their time to bring you this informative and entertaining newsletter.

Folgende Mitglieder treffen sich für freiwillige Stunden um für Sie das Monatsblatt vorzubereiten.

Helgard Werner, John Werner

Herausgeber/Editor: Heidi Löwrick.

ATTENTION!

Articles for the next bulletin must be submitted by:

November 10th



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TRANSYLVANIA CLUB KITCHENER 2024-25 Board of Directors - 2024-25 Vorstand

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