

AUSTRIAN-CANADIANS FROM COAST TO COAST/ LES AUSTRO-CANADIENS D'UN L'OcéAN À L'AUTRE

Fifth Anniversary of the ACC: Special Supplement to CULTURE

Dear members of the Austrian-Canadian Council,
dear friends in the Austrian clubs across Canada,

It may seem like yesterday, but it was the spring of 1994 when His Excellency Dr. Walther Lichem asked me if I would help him start a national organization called the Austrian-Canadian Council. After having contacted the presidents of all Austrian clubs and societies in Canada I was delighted with the overwhelming response in favor of forming such an organization.

Looking back at these first five years of the existence of the Council, all those who have contributed can be truly proud of our many achievements. The last one was, of course, a triumphant reward for our efforts:

Dr. Manfred Wirth happened to read an article about the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies in whose establishment at the University of Alberta the ACC played a significant role in *Oe Culture* magazine, the voice of the ACC. Since the Centre's objectives and policies reflected his personal beliefs and ideals he felt moved to support this endeavor with a \$1.3 million donation. Of course, all of us were delighted about this generous act! A trust fund was subsequently established which will strengthen the ACC and the Centre for many years to come. This donation has also created a challenge for all of us to work even harder towards our common goal.

A pictorial walk through the Austrian-Canadian Council's history should bring pride to everyone who has contributed. It should also give the Austrian immigrants to Canada and the friends of Austria an idea of how much we, working together, have already achieved. For others, this pictorial history might trigger the thought to join our organization and to help further its plans and ideals.

I would like to thank all those listed below who have made the great accomplishments of these last five years possible.

Roland K. Pirker
President, ACC

Founding members (Summer 1994)

H. E. Dr. Walther Lichem	# 1
Roland K. Pirker	# 2
Gerhard (Gary) Bonner	# 3
Otto Heberlein	# 4
Hans (John) Raschke	# 5

Board of Directors (Inaugural meeting, February 14, 1995)

Gerhard (Gary) Bonner, Kingston	1995 to present
Otto Heberlein, Ottawa	1995 to present
Roland K. Pirker, Ottawa	1995 to present
Hans (John) Raschke, Toronto	1995 to present

ACC Regional Representation

Region: Western British Columbia (Victoria)	Dr. Joseph R. Kandler, Salt Spring Island
Region: Central British Columbia (Vancouver)	Trudy Duller, North Vancouver August Engelbrecht, Vernon Otmar Lähm, Delta
Region: Alberta	Joe Niederleitner, Edmonton Frank Friesacher, Edmonton Frank Meixner, Calgary
Region: Central Canada	Peter Strausz, Winnipeg Vernon Engelbrecht, Winnipeg
Region: Eastern Ontario	Ing. Oskar Tankovitz, Toronto Hans Raschke, Toronto
Region: Western Ontario	Franz Zaunscherb, Burlington Helmut Jandrisits, Toronto Josef Helbich, Windsor

Honorary National Chairman

Frank Stronach, Aurora, ON	1995-1998
Agnes Grossmann, Montreal	1999-present

President

Gerhard Bonner, Kingston	1995-1998
Roland K. Pirker, Ottawa	1998-present

Past President

Gerhard Bonner, Kingston	1998-present
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Vice-President

Hans Raschke, Eastern Canada	1995-present
Edmund Harzan, Central Canada	1995-1996
Franz Prokop, Western Canada	1995-1996

Secretary

Roland K. Pirker, Ottawa 1995-1998
Christine Welling, Ottawa 1998-present

Treasurer

Otto Heberlein, Ottawa 1995-1997
Andrée Zeritsch, Ottawa 1997-1998
Frank Marth, Ottawa 1998-present

Ex officio member

Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem 1995-1/2000

Executive Director, Foundation Programme

Dr. Franz Szabo, Edmonton 1996-present

Legal Advisor

Heidemarie Kelly, Ottawa 1998-present

Austrian-Canadian Business Club (ACBC)**Chairman**

Franz Plangger, Hull, P.Q. 1998-present

Vice-Chairman

Trudy Duller, Vancouver 1999-present

Directors

Udo Stundner, Montreal
Sinclair Volk, Ottawa
Gerhard Zmatlo, Edmonton

Editor, Oe Culture Magazine

Dr. Manfred Prokop, Edmonton 1998-present

Contributing Editor, Special Supplement to Oe Culture

Dr. Kurt Fürst, Aylmer, P.Q. 1999-present

Website and computer specialist

Ing. Karl Mayer, Ottawa 1998-present

Citizenship

Ing. Oskar Tankovitz, Toronto 1997-present

Assistant to Director, Foundation Programme

Juliane Schaible, Winnipeg 1998-present

Austrian Embassy, Ottawa

Dr. W. Spadinger, ACBC liaison 1999-present
Dr. W. Zelenka, ACC culture liaison 1997-present
Barbara Hörmann, ACC liaison 1997-present
Martin Reitbauer, OeC distribution 1998-present
Rudolf Schwarz, OeC distribution 1998-present
Mag. Hermine Poppeller, ACC liaison 1995-1996

Coordinator for ACC incorporation

Dr. Jutta Szep Kroath, Consul 1994-1995

Bingo fundraisers, Ottawa (events have been held every Sunday since April 1998): Kim Bradley (70 weeks), Rebecca Pirker (66), Roland K. Pirker (61), Burgie Pirker (60), Roch Brazeau (58), Dan Ivey (40), Emilie Fyke (19), Erich Spatzierer (9), George Fyke (8), Frank Marth (4), Helga Tawia (4), Andrée Zeritsch (1) and Ingrid Feil (1).

Preparations for the "Austrian Immigration to Canada" research project, Ottawa, May 20-21, 1994

In May 1994 preparations began to launch a major study of Austrian immigration to Canada. A number of prominent Austrians from different parts of Canada met with the Austrian ambassador and with the academics who had been recruited to lead the research team at Carleton University in Ottawa. The meetings were devoted to mapping out the parameters of the project, which found its successful conclusion in April 1996 with the publication of two volumes on Austrian immigration by Carleton University Press.



Planning meeting and dinner at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador on May 21, 1994. Left to right: Karl Gyaki (Toronto), Dr. Oliver Rathkolb (University of Vienna), Roland K. Pirker, Dr. Frederick Engelmann (University of Alberta), Mag. Anita-Maria Pichler (Austrian State Broadcasting, ORF), Dr. Gabrielle Tyrnauer (McGill University), His Excellency Dr. Walther Lichem, Mag. Maria-Teresa Lichem (Hostess), Dr. Franz Szabo (Carleton University), Dr. Jutta Szep-Kroath (Honorary Consul of Austria, Toronto), Friedrich Istl (Honorary Consul of Austria, Toronto, ret.), Dr. Karin MacHardy (University of Waterloo), Prof. Dr. Peter Suschnigg (Laurentian University), Ms. Ulrike Billard-Florian (Honorary Consul General of Austria, Montreal), and Dr. Ernst Waengler (Toronto). Photo credits: Rollframe, R. Pirker.



Planning meeting for the "Austrian Immigration to Canada" research project at Carleton University, Ottawa, May 20, 1994. Left to right: Mr. Friedrich Istl (Honorary Consul General of Austria, Toronto, ret.), Dr. Ernst Waengler (Toronto), Mag. Anita-Maria Pichler (Austrian State Broadcasting) and Ms. Ulrike Billard-Florian (Honorary Consul General of Austria, Montreal). Photo credits: Rollframe, R. Pirker.



Planning meeting, May 20, 1994. Left to right: Dr. Jutta Szep-Kroath (Honorary Consul of Austria, Toronto), Dr. Frederick Engelmann (University of Alberta) and Dr. Franz Szabo (Carleton University). Photo credits: Rollframe, R. Pirker.



Planning meeting, May 20, 1994. Left to right: Roland K. Pirker, Dr. Karin MacHardy (University of Waterloo) and His Excellency Dr. Walther Lichem, Ambassador of Austria. Photo credits: Rollframe, R. Pirker.

The international symposium on “Austrian Immigration to Canada” at Carleton University in Ottawa, May 19-21, 1995



Opening ceremony on May 19, 1995. Left to right: Mr. Mark Curfoot-Mollington (Heritage Canada), Mr. Gary Bonner, Mr. Roland K. Pirker, Dr. Fraser Taylor (Carleton University), Dr. Frederick Engelmann (University of Alberta), H. E. Dr. Walther Lichem (Ambassador of Austria), Dr. Robin Farquar (President, Carleton University), Dr. Franz A. J. Szabo (Project leader and organizer of the Symposium). Photo credits: Mr. Karl-Franz Hafner.



Opening ceremony on May 19, 1995. Left to right: Mark Curfoot-Mollington (Heritage Canada), H. E. Dr. Walther Lichem, Dr. Robin Farquar (President, Carleton University, Ottawa), Dr. Fraser Taylor (Carleton University), Gary Bonner, Roland K. Pirker, and speaker Dr. Frederick Engelmann (University of Alberta). Photo credits: Mr. Karl-Franz Hafner.



Keynote address by Dr. F Szabo at the conference banquet, May 20, 1995. Photo credits: Rollframe, R. Pirker.



Opening ceremony on May 19, 1995. Left to right: Burgle Pirker, Ing. Karl Mayer, Gerlinde Mayer and Edith Kuntz (journalist for the *Kanada Kurier*). Behind: Herma Hasibeder, Hermann Franke, Mr. von Decker and Marina von Decker-Paumann. Photo credits: Rollframe, R. Pirker.

Inaugural meeting of the Austrian-Canadian Council at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto, February 14, 1995



Morning session. Left to right: Mr. Hans Ockermüller (Consul General of Austria, Calgary), John M. Dykstra, Dr. Gerhard Selzer, Q.C., David W. Pamerter (Lang Michener Barristers & Solicitors, Toronto), Gerhard Bonner (President, ACC and President, Kingston International Club) and Otto Heberlein (Treasurer, ACC and Vice-President, Austrian Society Ottawa). Photocredits: Rollframe, R. Pirker.



Morning session. Left to right: Franz Prokop (Maple Ridge, B.C.), Walter Schachenhofer (Edmonton), Margot Wirth (Secretary, Steirer Club), Karl Vogel (President, Steirer Club), Joe Waldner (Toronto), Karl Gyaki Toronto), Joe Plessl (President, Edelweiss Club Regina), Josef Helbich (President, Austria Club Windsor) and Franz Gutschi (Vice President, Austria Club Windsor). Photocredits: Rollframe, R. Pirker.



Morning session. Left to right: Hans (John) Kroisenbrunner (Past President, Der Alpen Klub, Kitchener-Waterloo), Sonja Kroisenbrunner-Biselli (Cultural Director, Der Alpen Klub), Dietmar Biselli (Kitchener), Karl Fiala, Hilde Harzan, Edmund Harzan (Vice-President, ACC Region Manitoba and President, Friends of Austria, Winnipeg), Franz Posch (Past President, Austria Vancouver Club), Helga Posch, Arno Risse (President, Continental Austrian Club Burlington), Dr. Gerhard Selzer, Q.C., David W. Pamerter (Lang Michener Barristers & Solicitors, Toronto), Gerhard Bonner (President, ACC and President, Kingston International Club, Kingston) and Otto Heberlein (Treasurer, ACC and Vice-President, Austrian Society Ottawa). Photo credits: Rollframe, R. Pirker.



Morning session. Left to right: Karl Fiala, Frank Stronach, Edmund Harzan (Vice-President, ACC-Region Manitoba and President, Friends of Austria, Winnipeg) and Hilde Harzan. Photo credits: Rollframe, B. Pirker.

Morning session. Left to right: David W. Pamerter, Dr. Gerhard Selzer, Q.C., (Lang Michener Barristers & Solicitors, Toronto), Dr. Franz Vranitzky (Federal Chancellor of Austria), Gerhard Bonner (President, ACC and President, Kingston International Club), and H. E. Dr. Walther Lichem (Ambassador of Austria). Photo credits: Rollframe, B. Pirker.

