

# *De* CULTURE

No. 1/2006

A U S T R I A • C A N A D A • C U L T U R E • A U T R I C H E



**CULTURAL EVENTS**

**THE AUSTRIAN EU PRESIDENCY 2006**

**OTTAWA'S ANNUAL VIENNESE WINTER BALL**

**KATAJJAK - INUIT THROAT SINGING IN AUSTRIA**

**ATLANTIC BALLET THEATRE PERFORMS AMADEUS**

**WIRTH INSTITUTE CELEBRATES MOZART YEAR, 2006**

## CONTENTS/SOMMAIRE

- 3 Wirth Institute celebrates Mozart Year, 2006
- 4 Austrian cinema: A history
- 5 Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada performs AMADEUS
- 6 SOS Children's Villages Canada launches Ghana film
- 7 Oskar Stubits: A most successful *Burgenländer*
- 8 The expatriate Austrian community meets in Klagenfurt
- 9 Katajjak - Inuit throat singing performances in Austria
- 10 Cultural exchanges between high schools in Vancouver and Vienna and Innsbruck
- 11 The Kaiser-Ball in Winnipeg
- 12 MALCA comes to Canada
- 15 Annual General Meeting of the Austrian-Canadian Council
- 17 The Austrian EU Presidency 2006
- 18 Ottawa's annual Viennese Winter Ball
- 19 Novel treatment for male incontinence created by two doctors from the University of Innsbruck now available in Canada
- 21 Hans Gmoser: Austrian-Canadian mountain pioneer
- 22 "One Hand on the ladder." An Austrian comes home to Canada
- 24 Cultural events

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

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Honorary Chairperson: | Dr. Alfred Wirth  |
| President:            | Roland K. Pirker  |
| Past President:       | Inga Michalek   |
| Vice-President:       | Hans (John) Raschke   |
| Secretary:            | Gabriele (Gabi) Kaindl  |
| Treasurer:            | Ingrid Feil   |
| Awards & Membership   |   |
| Chairman:             | Gerhard (Garry) Bonner  |
| Legal Advisor:        | Heidemarie K. Kelly   |
| Directors:            | Roland K. Pirker, Gerhard (Garry) Bonner, Hans Raschke, Otto Heberlein, Inga Michalek, Franz Plangger |
| Ex officio:           | Prof. Dr. Franz Szabo, Director of the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies      |
| Ex officio:           | Dr. Otto Ditz, Austrian Ambassador  |

### Web sites on Austrian-Canadian affairs

Austrian-Canadian Council: <http://www.austrian-canadian-council.ca/>  
 Austrian Embassy, Ottawa: <http://www.austro.org/>  
 Cultural events in the Austrian-Canadian community: [http://www.austro.org/Culture/Culture\\_calendar.html](http://www.austro.org/Culture/Culture_calendar.html)  
 Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies: <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/wi/>  
 Austrian Trade Commission, Toronto: <http://www.austriantrade.org>  
 Canadian Embassy, Vienna: [http://www.kanada.at/canadian\\_emb-Menu-e.html](http://www.kanada.at/canadian_emb-Menu-e.html)  
*What's on: Canadian events in Austria:* [http://geo.international.gc.ca/canada-Europa/austria/embassy/Canadian\\_Events-en.asp](http://geo.international.gc.ca/canada-Europa/austria/embassy/Canadian_Events-en.asp)  
 OeCulture On-line: <http://www.oeculture.ca>

## Austria... *Oesterreich*... Autriche

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

 CULTURE est publié annuellement par le Conseil austro-canadien

Editor/Editeur: Manfred Prokop  
 209 Tucker Boulevard  
 Okotoks, AB, T1S 2K1  
 Tel./Fax: 403/995-0321  
 E-mail: [Manfred.Prokop@Ualberta.ca](mailto:Manfred.Prokop@Ualberta.ca)

Design/Maquette: HTL-Linz, Linz, Austria

© Copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Contributed articles do not necessarily reflect the official view of the Austrian government or of the editor. / © Copyright 2006. Tous droits réservés. Les articles publiés ne reflètent pas nécessairement le point de vue du gouvernement autrichien ou de l'éditeur.

## Wirth Institute celebrates Mozart Year, 2006

As the world celebrated the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 2006, the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta also devoted much of its 2006 programme to honour the composer. Under the banner "The Year of Mozart, 2006" the Institute organized or sponsored a dozen different Mozart concerts and recitals. Working with various musical organizations in Edmonton, the Institute was able to present a wide range of the works of Mozart including symphonies, concertos, masses, comic canons, wind serenades and two operas: *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Don Giovanni*. Its partners included the University's Symphony Orchestra, the University's Opera Workshop Programme, the Alberta Baroque Ensemble, Pro Coro Canada, the Richard Eaton Singers, the Eclectica Ensemble of Edmonton and Edmonton Opera. Antonín Kubálek, the well-known Czech-Canadian pianist was also engaged by the Institute to perform piano sonatas of Mozart over two evenings.

The Mozart celebrations began on January 15 with a concert entitled "A Birthday Party for Mozart" with performances by students of the University of Alberta, including the University of Alberta Symphony Orchestra, the University of Alberta Madrigal Singers, the University of Alberta Madrigal Strings, and members of the University of Alberta Opera Workshop Programme. The mixed programme included *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*, the Overture to *Bastien und Bastienne*, a number of sacred choral pieces, including *Ave Verum Corpus*, and a

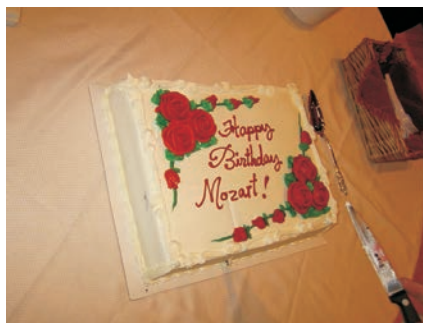
chamber version of the Piano Concerto, K. 414.

A week later, on January 22, the Institute organized a special concert with Pro Coro Canada, featuring



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Detail from the painting by Barbara Kraft © ANTO/Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde

among other things some of the comic scurrilous canons of Mozart as well as his Flute and Harp Concerto and his "Coronation Mass." Earlier that same day another concert entitled "A Taste of Mozart" had been



Mozart's birthday cake served at the "Pro Coro Happy Birthday, Mozart!" concert.

arranged with the Alberta Baroque Ensemble. That concert included the Symphonies No. 1 and 10, Three Church Sonatas and the Violin Concerto in B Flat Major with Martin Risely as soloist.

At the beginning of February the Institute cooperated with the University's Opera Workshop Programme in a student production of *The Marriage of Figaro*, and this was followed by the sponsorship of a concert by the Richard Eaton Singers of Edmonton conducted by Leonard Ratzlaff. The latter concert featured Mozart's *Vesperae solennes de confessore*, K. 339. On February 19 and 22 Antonín Kubálek performed piano sonatas of Mozart at the University's Convocation Hall.

The Institute was particularly proud to help launch a whole new musical ensemble in Edmonton. The group is known as the Eclectica Ensemble of Edmonton, and was created to present performances of large-scale chamber works and features explanatory introductions about each piece on the programme before its actual performance. These introductions include musical examples designed to establish and enhance a direct relation and understanding of the music that is to follow. For the Mozart Year the Institute commissioned the Ensemble to perform two famous wind serenades of Mozart - the "Nacht Musique," K. 388 and the "Gran Partita," K. 361.

Finally, the Institute has worked with Edmonton Opera to honour Mozart in 2006. As a result of this collaboration the Edmonton Opera kicked off its 2006-2007 season with performances of *Don Giovanni* on November 4, 7 and 9. The cast included Gregory Dahl as Don Giovanni, Amy Hansen as Donna Anna, Wendy Nielsen as Donna Elvira, Brian Downen as Don Ottavio, Dean Elzinga as Leporello, Angela Welch as Zerlina, Phillip Addis as

Masetto and Scott Tomlinson as the Commendatore. The Edmonton Sym-

## Austrian cinema: A history

Austria has been the birthplace of many artistic concepts. Just as late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Austria gave influential modernism to the world in the fields of medicine, urban planning, architecture, design, literature, music, and theatre, so its film industry created a significant national cinema that seeded talents and concepts internationally. Nevertheless, the value of Austrian cinema to international film has long been obscured. Austria's important bond with American film is also underappreciated because of the lack of accessible English language scholarship on the early careers of Austrian artists in Hollywood and on influential developments in Austrian film history.

Robert von Dassanowsky's immensely readable *Austrian Cinema: A history* is the first comprehensive English survey of Austrian film. It introduces more than a century of cinema, following the development of the industry chronologically throughout the nation's various transformations since 1895. In seven chapters and on more than 300 pages the author highlights important industry movements, genres and films with sociopolitical, cultural and aesthetic details.

Austrian cinema has seldom been understood as *Austrian* in the English language world when it has been discussed at all. And when it has been a subject of discourse, it has too often been labelled as or folded into German cinema. This labelling may be due to a lack of recognition caused by the underrepresentation of the cinema abroad between the 1960s and 1990s, or because of the complex relationship between Austrian and German cin-

ema, or because it has been categorised as a *German-language* film, which is too easily misunderstood as German rather than Germanophone. The relationship between the two cinemas and their German-speaking talents is strong and has been variously beneficial and detrimental to the Austrian film industry at different times in history. But for all their similarities and reflections they are as different as, say, Canadian and American film.

The survey considers the directors, actors, producers, writers, cinematographers, editors, composers and other film artists who have been essential to the development and influence of Austrian cinema. The reader will encounter all the well-known names such as Willi Forst, Paula Wessely, Paul Hörbiger, Hans Moser, Hilde Krahl, Rudolf Prack, Ewald Balser, Johanna Matz, Franz Antel, the *Heimatfilme*, as well as Christiane Hörbiger, Stefan Ruzowitzky's new *Heimatfilme*, Reinhard Schwabenitzky, and Götz Spielmann. There is also Michael Haneke's tremendously successful adaptation of "Die Klavierspielerin" for the screen. The closing chapter anticipates new faces of the Austrian film industry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Robert von Dassanowsky is Associate Professor and Chair of Languages and Cultures and director of film studies at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. He is vice-president of the Austrian-American Film Association and an independent producer. *Austrian Cinema: A history* was published by McFarland and Company in 2005.

M.P.



Professor Ernst Wangermann

## The Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada performs AMADEUS

AMADEUS is the fourth original production of Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada and was conceived and choreographed by Company Founding Artistic Director and Choreographer Igor Dobrovolskiy. The bal-

llet is demanding in terms of artistry, technique and athleticism and highlight the talent of the dancers who step into these characters. In fact, Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada has become known for the outstanding perfor-

begin with the music," explains Igor Dobrovolskiy. "The music will give me my characters, their stories and their motivations. When I choose a piece of music, I can see the story taking shape," he continues.

Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada has made a rapid rise to the top ranks of Canadian Dance. Mounting its first production in May 2002, the Company has created an original full-length ballet every year and has a growing repertoire of short pieces. It has performed across the country



Kostyantyn Voynov as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Photo: Marty Melanson

let was performed in Halifax on March 25, 2006 at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium in the Dalhousie Arts Centre.

A reception was held before the performance in the Sculpture Court at the Dalhousie Arts Centre. Cathy Beaman, Executive Assistant to Michael Novac, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Austria in Halifax, represented the Honorary Consul. The Consulate donated *Mozartkugeln* for the reception, and *Kugeln* were also given to the dancers of the company after the performance and were definitely a hit.

AMADEUS is a powerful theatrical work which tells the story of a brilliant artist who, despite his extraordinary success as a musician and composer, finds little acceptance in the world of wealth and privilege where he remains an outsider. The two central roles of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri are hugely

manages of its eleven dancers who have joined the Company from around the world.

Also showcased in the production is the music of Mozart and Salieri. "My choreography must always



Kostyantyn Voynov as Mozart and Laura d'Onofrio as his wife. Photo: Louise Leblanc

and now, in its fifth season, mounts two international tours, taking



Kostyantyn Voynov as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Photo: Mary Melanson

Sheila Duggan  
Communications and Touring  
Atlantic Ballet

# SOS Children's Villages Canada launches Ghana film

SOS Children's Villages Canada marked the broadcast of the film "Making Children Matter" on January 27, 2006 with a launch held at St. Lawrence Hall in Ottawa.



Ambassador Otto Ditz and John Boahen, Consul General, Republic of Ghana

The event was hosted jointly by the organization and Otto Ditz, Austrian Ambassador to Canada and Honorary Patron of SOS Children's Villages Canada. Special guests included John Boahen, Consul General for the Republic of Ghana, Dawn and Steve Deme, the filmmakers, and Laura Thompson, the film's narrator.

Laura Thompson and her friend, SOS Children's Villages scholarship student Samuel Fuakye, are two of the young people profiled in a new television documentary series which follows the first-time experiences of young Canadians who want to learn more about how they can effect change in the developing world.

"Making Children Matter", the story of Samuel and Laura's visit to his SOS Village in Tema, Ghana, is one of the original pilot episodes for "World Class: Young people who can change the world" which debuted on Canadian Learning Television on March 9, 2006 and continued for six weeks through to April 13, 2006.

Samuel and Laura met while they were both students at York University

in Toronto. Laura, a native of Orillia, Ontario, has recently graduated and is keenly interested in learning more about the developing world. "I want to make a difference," she explained. "When Samuel and SOS Children's Villages offered me the chance to visit his SOS home in Ghana, I knew it was the chance of a lifetime," she said.

The two friends travelled to Ghana with series director Steve Deme in August 2005. Laura and Samuel stayed with his SOS family in Tema



Laura Thompson and Sam Fuakye. Photo: Villagers Media Productions

Village which gave Laura an on-the-spot opportunity to learn much about

Since its founding in 1972, SOS Children's Village Tema has been constantly enlarged. Today it has 15 family houses and numerous ancillary facilities, mostly schools and training quarters.



*Sheila Duggan  
Communications Director  
SOS Children's Villages Canada*

## Oskar Stubits: A most successful *Burgenländer*

Oskar Stubits stands for all those *Burgenländer* who have achieved considerable success in their career in America, yet have remained *Burgenländer* in all their modesty. When his grandfather Franz Novakovits emi-



Oskar Stubits at high school graduation, 1953

grated from Güttenbach to Pittsburgh in 1890 (it could have been 1888), he was probably the first emigrant from his village. In 1901 or 1902 he went home to Güttenbach, but returned "into" the States before the outbreak of the First World War and came "out" after the war again. That's what migration was called at that time.

Five of his six children emigrated to America; Mathilde, Oskar's mother, was the only one to stay back home. She got married to Johann Stubits at Güttenbach and became mother of seven children. One of them is Fritz Stubits who was the mayor of Güttenbach for 34 years. Of these seven children only two have emigrated, Rosa and Oskar.

Oskar Stubits, born on August 14, 1932, was the first child in his family to have the opportunity to attend a secondary school. Immediately after the end of the war, in the fall of 1945, he entered the Schottengymnasium,

a renowned high school in Vienna. In 1947 Oskar switched to the high school in Mattersburg where he graduated in 1953. At that time, Austria was still occupied by the Allies. Oskar enrolled with the rural police and was accepted in the task force of the B-rural police which was the basis of the Austrian Federal Army after the withdrawal of the occupation forces in 1955. Oskar came to the Tyrol and was stationed at St. Anton. There the athletically gifted young man soon started his first career. The flat-country inhabitant developed into an excellent skier just as easily as he, originally a Croat, had learned German, and later English. At the Cockscomb Race in Kitzbühel he was even one of the forerunners in the downhill race. For many years, he still felt some of the fear that struck him when he raced down the steep slope called "mousetrap."

Capable Oskar had caught the eyes of his superiors, and he was offered the opportunity to attend an officer candidates school. He wanted to emigrate to America, however. Two weeks after the Austrian State Treaty had been signed, he left Europe at Sherbourg (France) on board the ship "SS Homeric" on May 30, 1955. His aunt Hermine in Winnipeg supported him in the beginning. His first job was at a telephone company, the specialty of work in which he remained all his professional life. He developed his experience in many training and advanced training courses and launched himself on a great career.

On July 21, 1956 he married Maria with whom he had attended the elementary school in Güttenbach and who in the meantime had also emigrated. Their efficiency, diligence and ambition were also transferred to the next generation. Each of Oskar and

Maria's six children attended high school. As a matter of course, multi-



Maria and Oskar Stubits' 45th wedding anniversary, 2005

*Continued on p. 12*

## The expatriate Austrian community meets in Klagenfurt, Carinthia

Members of Austrian clubs from all over the world once again came together for the annual *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund* meeting. This year the event was held in Klagenfurt from Thursday, September 7 to Sunday, September 10, 2006.

Seventeen participants from Austrian clubs across Canada came to this meeting: from the Continental Austrian Club Inc. Burlington (Monika and Josef Hoedl), Austrian Society

among the participants, from Montreal, were the Austrian Honorary Consul General, Ulrike Billard, and her husband Bernard.

The guests were invited to stroll through the old part of Austria's most southerly city, the city of Klagenfurt, and the day after they took part in a boat cruise on one of Austria's best-known lakes, the Wörthersee. A cultural evening with dinner, fashion show and Carinthian folk songs was

was opened by the President of Austria, Dr. Heinz Fischer, in April 2006. Among the volumes was the *Biographical Dictionary of Austrians in Canada*, compiled by Dr. Manfred Prokop. The publication of this book was made possible by grants from the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Austrian Federal Chancellery, and the Austrian-Canadian Council.

On the last day of the meetings, several members of Austrian clubs were honored for their long-term support of their respective clubs, and the president of the AÖWB, Dkfm. Ing. Gustav Chlestil presented each with a Certificate and a Pin of Merit. Among the recipients were three Canadians: Dr. Sepp Fröschl from the Austrian Society Montreal (Gold), Mag. Robert Jüthner-Krtschan, President of the Johann Strauss Foundation, Edmonton (Gold), and Heidi-C. Temelie, Treasurer of the Austrian Society Ottawa and the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc. (Silver).

### Dr. Sepp Fröschl

Dr Fröschl's achievements and awards are many; here are only a few: In 1957 Sepp Fröschl became the founder of Austrian Airlines (AUA), and from September 30, 1957 until 1960 he served as its first president. He studied at the University of Vienna and received his Ph.D. in 1960. In 1965 he emigrated to Montreal and served as the president of the Austrian Society Montreal from 1984 to 1988.

Dr. Fröschl was instrumental in taking the Aviation MBA from Con-

*Continued on p. 13*



AÖWB Award recipients in Klagenfurt 2006. Left to right: seated: Dr. Sepp Fröschl - Montreal (Gold), Heidi-C. Temelie - Ottawa (Silver), Monika Löscher - Zurich (Silver), Karin Kralupper - Perth, Australia (Silver) and Robert Jüthner-Krtschan - Edmonton (Gold). Standing: Rowena Habeck - Antwerp, Belgium (Gold), Dr. Ekkehard Mannigel - Berlin (Silver), Friedrich Trügler - Berlin (Silver), Rainer Karafiat - Frankfurt/Main (Gold), Ernst Schmidt - Perth, Australia (Silver), AÖWB President Gustav Chlestil and Alfred Brandweiner - Zug, Switzerland (Gold). Photo: Fotoatelier Tollinger, Klagenfurt.

Montreal (Dr. Sepp Fröschl), Club Austria Edmonton (Franz Friesacher and Walter Schachenhofer), Johann Strauss Foundation, Edmonton (Dr. Erika and Mag. Robert Jüthner-Krtschan), Austrian Society Ottawa and the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc. (Josef and Baldur Bogensberger, Josef Fruehwirth, Heidi-C. Temelie, Sylvia Tobien, Burgie and Roland K. Pirker, and Barbara Sauter). Also

hosted by the Provincial Premier, Dr. Jörg Haider, in Pörtschach. On Satur-



## Katajjak: Inuit throat singing performances in Austria

In April 2006, the Inuit artists Sylvia Cloutier from Iqaluit/Nunavut and Akinisie Sivuarapik from Montréal/Québec were invited to Austria to participate in the Easter Festival "Imago Dei" at Klangraum Krems ([www.klangraum.at](http://www.klangraum.at)). The performance at the Minoritenkirche - mixing Katajjak with the sounds of two Txalaparta players, Txalaparta being an ancient Basque instrument that used to be employed by peasants for conveying messages - resulted in a truly unique experience for both the audience and the four musicians, who had met for the very first time in this combination of techniques. Festival organizer Joe Aichinger and the musicians agreed that it would be interesting to do a similar project again sometime in the future, provided that sufficient funding can be secured for the relatively high travel costs.

Following the Krems event, Marianne Herwig of the Vienna-based Gallery M - Arctic Fine Arts ([www.Arcticfinearts-austria.com](http://www.Arcticfinearts-austria.com)) invited the two Canadian throat singers to Vienna for two additional performances, one in the Rotunda at the Vienna International Centre, attended mainly by the international community working at Vienna's UN site, and another one at Gallery M located at Strozsigasse 47 in Vienna's 8th district, targetting the general Austrian public. At both events, the individual musical pieces were complemented by explanations regarding the Katajjak techniques and insights into Inuit culture and way of life, including the traditional seal hunt and the necessity of using the available natural resources for food, shelter, clothing, lighting, etc. The two

Inuit artists fascinated and triggered the curiosity of the audiences composed of all age groups.

Sylvia Cloutier explained the throat singing technique as a unique combination of rhythm and breathing



Left to right: Sylvia Cloutier and Akinisie Sivuarapik singing and drumming. Photo: Mag. Roswitha Fritscher



Left to right: Sylvia Cloutier singing and drumming. Photo: Mag. Roswitha Fritscher

technique that has been practised by women of the North for centuries. "While men were out hunting, women stayed home to maintain their home and raise the children. In the Iglu and Qamak (summer houses made from animal skins), mothers sang to their children, girls followed the women,

and they would all sing to their friends for entertainment. They would generally imitate the sounds of nature." Women sang together in friendly competition, imitating sounds of animals such as geese, seagulls and dogs, and produced other creative sounds, e.g., the saw, qamutik (sled) runners, the wind, boiling seal meat, small waves - anything around them. Their imagination runs free as they create sounds that reflect their Inuit way of life - the sounds of the land.

Katajjak performances are a rare and special experience: more than 12 years have passed since the throat singers Annie Kasudluak Alaku und Sarah Sivuaraapik from northern Québec participated in the Innsbruck festival "Voices" and gave a presentation at the Vienna Museum of Ethnology in May 1994 that was recorded on video for future museum visitors to see. Since then, Vienna has been enriched by an Inukshuk sculpture made from stones imported from Nunavut by the late Inuit artist Samuel Pitsiulak. Located in front of the Canadian Studies Centre at the University of Vienna it was unveiled by then Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in 1999, the year when Nunavut was founded. In 2004, the Premier of Nunavut, the Honourable Paul Okalik, visited Vienna and Innsbruck where he opened a lecture series on "The Canadian North" with a presentation entitled 'Five Years of Nunavut.' The Northern Dimension has thus always been firmly embedded in Canada's public diplomatic activities.

*Mag. Roswitha Fritscher  
Public Affairs Officer  
Embassy of Canada in Austria*

## Cultural exchanges between high schools in Vancouver, and Vienna and Innsbruck

In 2004 an exchange program between Point Grey Secondary School in Vancouver and the *Akademische Gymnasium* in Innsbruck was established. A year later, Riverside Secondary School in Port Coquitlam near Vancouver and the *Bundesrealgymnasium Wien 3* also joined the exchange. In each case, the students travel to their respective hosts and stay with the families for seven to ten days, attending school, visiting the area and learning about each other's life styles. A sightseeing program of their choice is also part of the tour



Students from the *Akademisches Gymnasium* Innsbruck, 2004. Photo: Gery Valtiner

during which the students visit localities like Toronto, Niagara Falls, Victoria and Vancouver Island in Canada, and Berlin, Prague, Budapest and Salzburg on the return visit.

The program of the AG Innsbruck is especially valuable as it incorporates a special project in which the students do a comparative study between Innsbruck and Vancouver. One year the topic was "water supplies in a city," the next year the topic was "funeral and burial rites" (where in Canada the focus was on Native traditions), and in 2006 the program examined "waste management." By completing these studies the Innsbruck students receive sponsorship monies from the *Inns-*

*brucker Kommunalbetriebe* (public utilities) which are applied towards their travel expenses. The city has been extremely supportive of the students' efforts. Upon completion of the project the students make a special presentation that takes place



Presenting at Innsbruck's City Hall, 2004. Photo: Gery Valtiner

at Innsbruck's City Hall and is attended by the Mayor, the president of the *Kommunalbetriebe*, the students, parents, teachers and other dignitaries from Innsbruck's social and political scene.



The program is a great experience for the Innsbruck students who are part of a bilingual language project at their school (Geography and Biology are taught in English). This type of project gives students solid hands-on experience, which is being looked upon favourably by industry and educational institutions alike.

Gery Valtiner from Special Travel

International in Vancouver has been involved in setting up these exchanges with local teachers in Innsbruck and Vienna, and he has served as liaison between the schools in Canada and Austria.

Everyone involved is eager to keep the exchanges going: the upcoming Olympics in Vancouver in 2010 will add another special link between Innsbruck - which has hosted the games twice before in



Left to right: Accompanying teachers Karl Heinz Pircher, David Braun, Petra Lenzi and Szusanna Ehn, 2006. Photo: Gery Valtiner.

1964 and 1978 - and the future Olympic City of Vancouver!

Gery Valtiner

The following is an account by an Innsbruck student of the group's stay in Vancouver in 2004.

In October our class flew to Canada for a student exchange in Vancouver. Of course, we visited some other places, too. On our flight to Vancouver we stopped in Toronto to see some of the great sights there and after our stay in Vancouver we travelled on to Vancouver Island. Basically you have to know that our class has been taught Biology and Geography in English since grade 5. You could say we have 4

additional English lessons in a week. So we are very used to English and most of us had no problems communicating with the Canadians.

Though we didn't talk much with the people in Toronto (because we stayed in our group) we were overwhelmed by the English language in Vancouver. The first two days we spent with our host families. They showed us Vancouver, took us to some parties of their friends and so on. In fact, we really had fun that weekend. On Monday we attended school at Point Grey School and were introduced to the Canadian school system. But we only had two lessons and afterwards we visited some sights of Vancouver like the art museum, Chinatown and Gastown. The next day



Vienna students getting ready to go on a whale watching trip, 2006. Photo: Gery Valtiner

we also attended school in the morning. In the afternoon we could do what we wanted to; so most of us went shopping. Actually this was our last day we attended Point Grey. On Wednesday we rented bikes and drove around Stanley Park and to the Aquarium in the morning. After we had some lunch we

went to the Storyeum where we could learn about the history of British Columbia. Thursday was quite an interesting day: it was the day when we drove to Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve to learn about Vancouver's water supply. This took us the whole day because we drove around quite a bit.

On Friday all Austrian and Canadian students met in the morning to go dragon boating. That was really awesome and we had lots of fun. After that we could spend the weekend with our host families. Some went to parties, went downtown and some drove to Mount Whistler. All of us were quite sad to have to leave on Monday morning.

*Alexander Wietek*

## The Kaiser-Ball in Winnipeg

In an effort to re-establish the century-old ties among central European cultures in Winnipeg, The Friends of Austria Inc., together with the Canadian Czech and Slovak Benevolent Association (CCBA), the Czech and Slovak Association of Canada, the Slovenian Canadian Association of Manitoba, the Hungarian Canadian Cultural Society of Manitoba, the Consulate of the Slovak Republic and the Hungarian Kapisztrán Folk Ensemble of Winnipeg, presented a co-operative effort for a Gala Evening of traditional music and dance for all the participating ethnic communities. This evening was Winnipeg's first *Kaiser-Ball*. The Gala event was enveloped in the ambience reminiscent of traditional balls held during the time of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and was intended to celebrate the unifica-

tion of cultures and countries that is currently occurring in Europe.

In order to re-create a truly European atmosphere, the Crystal Ballroom in the historic Hotel Fort Garry was selected for the venue. The evening featured a special guest performance by dramatic soprano soloist, Helena Holl, a regular performer for the "Salute to Vienna" concert series since 2001. In accompaniment, members of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra provided the musical entertainment for the evening, based on well-known classical composers of the cultural regions (i.e., Bedrich Smetana, Antonin Dvorak, Joseph Haydn, Johann Strauss, to name a few). In addition, members of Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School provided a classical performance in the style of a Viennese Ball.

This special event has been a

very important evening for these ethnic communities of Winnipeg. The evening celebrated the unity among the above-mentioned communities as a symbolic gesture of the celebration of the European Union. As a result, a better understanding of our cultures, separately and together, is expected. This better understanding will allow for the development of acceptance and improved inter-ethnic communication. Rather than viewing each other as separate entities, our communities in Winnipeg could begin to view each other as a whole, striving towards the same goals.

*Dr. Katrin Stedronsky  
Kaiser Ball Committee Chairperson  
Active Member of:  
The Canadian Czech and Slovak Benevolent Association (CCBA), and  
The Friends of Austria Inc.*

## MALCA comes to Canada

The North American "Modern Austrian Literature and Culture Association" (MALCA) is about to hold its annual conference in Canada for the first time in its history. The conference will take place at the University of Alberta under the auspices of the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies on April 12-15, 2007. The theme of the conference is "Sexuality, Eroticism, and Gender in Austrian Literature and Culture." The planned conference intends to offer a varied selection and analysis of the themes and problems of sexuality, eroticism, and gender in Austrian literature and culture, providing a view of crosscurrents and interconnecting traditions. Interdisciplinary approaches to literature as well as submissions from related fields such as (Art) History, Philosophy, Sociology, Media, Theatre, Film and Cultural Studies are also invited. The keynote speaker will be Stefan Koja, curator of the Austrian National Gallery, Belvedere's nineteenth-century section. Koja's theme will be "Gustav Klimt and eroticism in fin-de-siècle Vienna."

In the early 20th century, Austria and her metropolis Vienna were a major hub of artistic and cultural activity in Central Europe, where a diversity

of influential discourses on sexuality, eroticism and gender also contended and flourished. This is evident in the portrayal of problematic sexual relationships in early Austrian modernism, e.g., in the literary works of Arthur Schnitzler and Peter Altenberg, Karl Kraus's *Sittlichkeit und Kriminalität* or Otto Weininger's *Geschlecht und Charakter*, in the popular novel of the time (Josefine Mutzenbacher; Hugo Bettauer), in the beginnings of academic sexology (Sigmund Freud, Friedrich Salomon Krauss, and others), in the activities of Rosa Mayreder and the early women's movement, in the eroticism of the art works of Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele, and Alfred Kubin, or in photography. Early stages of this interest in sexuality as a cultural topic are already noticeable in the second half of the 19th century, for example, in the works of Leopold von Sacher-Masoch or Hans Makart and, indeed, even found antecedents in the erotic culture of late 18th century Josephinism.

After the historical disruptions of 1934-45 the themes of sexuality, eroticism, and gender resurfaced in the literature and culture of the Second Republic: e.g., in the "happenings" of Viennese *Aktionismus*, the *Orgien*

*Mysterien Theater* of Hermann Nitsch, and the video works of Valie Export, in Austrian film (directors such as Franz Novotny, Kitty Kino, Michael Haneke, or Ulrich Seidl); within Austrian literature, e.g., in the eroticism of Heimito von Doderer und Albert Drach, in the feminist discourse from Ingeborg Bachmann to Marlen Haushofer, Elisabeth Reichardt, and Elfriede Jelinek, in the beginnings of an autobiographically based queer writing (e.g., Josef Winkler), and in the *Fäkalien-dramen* of Werner Schwab.

While the call for conference papers is still open, a full programme should be finalized by February 2007. Anyone interested in further details is encouraged to consult the Wirth Institute website at [www.arts.Ualberta.ca/wi](http://www.arts.Ualberta.ca/wi). The planned conference will be open to the general public, and a special conference hotel rate is available for out-of-town guests.

Anyone interested in attending should contact the Wirth Institute (by regular post at Suite 300, Arts Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2E6 or by e-mail at [wirth.institute@ualberta.ca](mailto:wirth.institute@ualberta.ca)).

*Franz A.J. Szabo*

---

### Oskar Stubits

*Continued from p. 7*

*Dr. Walter Dujmovits*

### Expatriate Austrian community

*Continued from p. 8*

cordia University in Montreal to the *Donau-Universität* in Krems, Lower Austria. For three years he served as the vice-president of the *Weltbund*.

In April 1976 Dr. Fröschl was awarded "The Medal of Merit in Gold" by the Austrian Aero Club. In 1988 he received the *Goldene Ehrenzeichen* from the Republic of Austria, and in 1996 he was decorated with the



Left to right: Dr. Sepp Fröschl (Montreal) receives Gold Pin Award from HCG Ulrike Billard and AÖWB President Gustav Chlestil. Photo: Roland K. Pirker

*Große Ehrenzeichen* for his outstanding work for Austria. In August 1995 the City of Krems bestowed on Dr. Fröschl the *Wappenplakette in Gold*. In 2001 Dr. Fröschl was awarded the Full Professor title by Thomas Klestil, the then President of Austria. In May 2004 he received the *Ritterkreuz der österreichischen Offiziersgesellschaft*.

### Robert Jüthner-Krtschan

Robert Jüthner-Krtschan emigrated to Canada in 1954 with his wife Erika and son Michael. Since his arrival Mr. Jüthner-Krtschan worked tirelessly to represent his native Austria. He joined the Club Austria in Edmonton in 1957 and the Johann Strauss Foundation in 1975.

Since 1998 Mr. Jüthner-Krtschan has served as President of the Johann Strauss Foundation, Edmonton. The Foundation's aim has been to support young musicians in Alberta by providing funding to further their musical talents through education and exposure to musicians in Austria.



Left to right: Robert Jüthner-Krtschan (President, Johann Strauss Foundation Edmonton) receives Gold Pin award from AÖWB president Gustav Chlestil. Photo: Roland K. Pirker

His organization is therefore not a social club, but rather a charitable entity which organizes events such as music recitals. At these recitals, the young Albertans returning from their studies in Austria are given the opportunity to demonstrate their talents as singers or instrumentalists.

To sponsor these students, the Foundation holds an annual Johann Strauss Ball, not only to raise funds but also to introduce Canadians, especially from Edmonton, to the Viennese charm and atmosphere.

Since 1947 Mr. Jüthner-Krtschan has been a member of the *Schlaraffia Prima* (an Austrian men's organization with a pledge of friendship, art and humour). He was president of the Canadian chapter "Schlaraffia Prima *Canadensis*" from 1957 to 1968 and from 1974 to 1982. Since 1982 Mr. Jüthner-Krtschan has also served as a "Knight of Grace" with the charitable

organization of the Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem (a member of the Grand Priory of Canada).

### Heidi-C. Temelie (née Stollwerck)

Since 1977 Mrs. Temelie has been a member of the Austrian Society Ottawa and a member of its Board of Directors from 1983 until 1993. From 1993 to the present she has served as treasurer of the Austrian Society Ottawa. In 2001 Mrs. Temelie participated in the establishment of the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc. where she became one of the four founding directors, and since 2001 she also has served as its treasurer.

Every year the Austrian Society Ottawa holds approximately 25 events for its members, and Mrs. Temelie plays a major role as the treasurer of the organization. Mrs. Temelie



Left to right: Heidi-C. Temelie (Ottawa) receives Silver Pin award from AÖWB president Gustav Chlestil. Photo: Fotoatelier Tollinger, Klagenfurt

also took part in two major national and International events. In 1975 she participated in the "Austrian Immigration to Canada Symposium" at Carleton University with 200 registered participants. In 2005 she worked on the organizing committee

## Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund-Treffen, Klagenfurt, 2006



Sunday lunch with the Foreign Ministry. Left to right: Austrian Foreign Minister Dr. Ursula Plassnik and the "AÖWB Expatriate Member of the Year 2006", Friedrich von Thun



AÖWB *Auslandsösterreicher* Exhibition at the Carinthian Archive in Klagenfurt: Books about Austrian emigrants on display.

Photos: Roland K. Pirker



Sunday lunch with the Foreign Ministry. Left to right: Dr. Plassnik and the Austrian Honourary Consul General, Ulrike Billard (Montreal)



Cultural Evening in Pörschach. Left to right: Franz Friesacher (Edmonton), Heide Huber (Switzerland) and Walter Schachenhofer (Past President, Club Austria, Edmonton)



of the “Austrian Celebration: Symposium and Cultural Events” held at the University of Ottawa, in which 300 registered participants from Europe and North America took part.

At the weekly bingo event organized by the Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc., Mrs. Temelie looks after its accounting. On May 19, 2001 the Austrian-Canadian Council bestowed on Mrs. Temelie the “Medal of Merit in Gold” for her contributions to the Austrian community in Ottawa.



Meeting of Austrian-Canadians at AÖWB. Left to right: Burgie and Roland Pirker, Pauline Kuchli (long-time member of the Austrian Society Ottawa who now lives with her daughter in Klagenfurt), Waltraud Kuchli-Dvorak, and Heidi Temelie.

Roland K. Pirker

## Annual General Meeting of the Austrian-Canadian Council

On November 4, 2006 the Austrian-Canadian Council held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the

members in good standing, participated, either by sending their proxies or voting directly. Heidemarie Kelly, the

have been awarded to members and non-members of Austrian clubs in Canada as well as to several international members. (Medals are usually requested from the ACC Awards Chairman by a club president; then a mutually acceptable date is selected for the awards presentation.)

Roland Pirker, in his capacity as the Canadian representative, and 26 members of various Austrian clubs had attended the *Auslandsösterreich-Weltbund* (AÖWB) meeting that was held in Klagenfurt in September. At that AGM, Pirker spoke about the importance of continuously honouring the outstanding work of individuals and Austrian-Canadian clubs. He informed the Executive that this year three Canadians had been



Left to right: Heidemarie K. Kelly, Gabriele Kaindl, Hans Raschke, Gerhard Bonner, Otto Heberlein, Ingrid Feil, Inga Michalek, Consul Robert Sinnhuber, Heidi-C. Temelie, and Roland Pirker. Photo: Burgie Pirker

ACC's head office in Ottawa and elected its Executive for another four-year term. The Austrian Embassy was represented by Consul Robert Sinnhuber who recently arrived in Ottawa to take up his new posting. Seventy percent of the Austrian clubs from across the country which are mem-

ACC's solicitor, oversaw the electoral process.

During the AGM several issues were discussed. Garry Bonner reflected on the success of the ACC's Awards Program implemented in 2001. Since its inception a total of 43 gold, 99 silver and 20 bronze medals



Left to right: Ingrid Feil, Heidemarie K. Kelly, and Inga Michalek. Photo: Roland K. Pirker

nominated by the ACC to be recognized by the AÖWB. Dr. Sepp Fröschl, Mag. Robert Jüthner-Krtschan and Heidi Temelie have done outstanding work for their respective clubs, and were accordingly honoured by the AÖWB and its president, Gustav Chlestil.



Gabriele Kaindl. Photo: Roland K. Pirker

Vice-President Hans Raschke discussed different fundraising possibilities. Rather than bringing gifts for his and his wife's 75th birthday party, he suggested that his friends make contributions to the ACC, which are tax deductible. Thanks to Mr. Raschke's idea the ACC has received several thousand dollars in donations.

Treasurer Ingrid Feil suggested that members who wish to contribute to the ACC can do so by directing their United Way contribution to the Austrian-Canadian Council.

Raschke reviewed the "Wirth Endowment Fund" status report received from BMO Harris Private Banking which manages the Fund. The Fund has reached the \$1.4 million level. The Austrian-Canadian Council has overseen the manage-

ment of the Fund since 1999. In 2009, when the ACC's ten-year mandate to manage the Fund expires, it will be transferred to the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta.

President Inga Michalek urged that the close relations with the Austrian Embassy be continued. It is also imperative that the clubs across the country be informed of the ACC's



Left to right: Heidemarie K. Kelly and Inga Michalek. Photo: Roland K. Pirker

mandate and the outstanding work that is continuously being done on their behalf. She continued that it was also important for the Austrian community in Canada to have a strong voice in the AÖWB. The ACC has in the past provided strong representation of all Austrian clubs in Canada at

the AÖWB, and will continue to do so in the future.

To ensure that the needs of the Austrians living abroad are properly met and represented we need to establish good communication links between the ACC and the clubs. To reach this objective, the ACC has established a web site and has always encouraged representatives of Austrian clubs to attend the AGM's.

After the election, President Pirker nominated Dr. Alfred Wirth to become the ACC's next Honorary Chairperson. Dr. Wirth, after having been contacted by e-mail by Roland Pirker, graciously accepted the nomination.

The next AGM of the Austrian-Canadian Council is planned for Saturday October 27, 2007, at a place yet to be announced. The ACC would like to extend an invitation to club representatives to attend the meeting. It will coincide with the Austrian National Day Celebrations, which are usually held at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador.

*Roland K. Pirker*



Left to right: Heidi-C. Temelie, Consul Robert Sinnhuber and Roland K. Pirker. Photo: Roland K. Pirker



## The Austrian EU Presidency 2006

For the first half of 2006, Austria was the voice and ace of Europe. It was a demanding and at the same time exhilarating task to speak and act for 450 million Europeans.

After the failed referenda in France and in the Netherlands we set out to give the European Union new momentum and optimism. We devoted a good deal of energy to dialogue with the European public and with the European citizen. "Europe is listening," was one of our projects. We highlighted the European way of life, our cultural diversity, and achievements.

New topics like energy, Islam, and migration showed up blinking red on the EU radar screen, and we had to deal with them. We managed crises such as the cut-off of the gas supplies by Gazprom on January 1, 2006, the Danish "cartoon controversy," and the Iranian nuclear program.

We agreed with the European Parliament on a sound financial framework for the European Union and set EU employment and growth



Right to left: The Irish Ambassador to Canada, Martin Burke, Austrian Ambassador Otto Ditz, and French Ambassador Daniel Jouanneau

goals. We highlighted research and development as the engine for future economic prosperity and a budgetary priority.

The number of meetings and conferences we had to handle was staggering. There were the Summit Meetings with the U.S., Russia, Japan and the whole of Latin America and the Caribbean. There were more than 27 Foreign Ministers' Meetings, two Accession Conferences with Croatia and Turkey, and many more conferences at ministerial and other levels.

One cannot change the world in six months, but we did improve the state of the Union and of the international environment. We managed the crises confronting us, we re-energized the internal EU dialogue, re-affirmed the EU future for the Balkans, and set realistic employment and growth goals for the Union. Finally, we laid out a choreography for the future of European integration and the European Constitution.

*Dr. Otto Ditz  
Austrian Ambassador to Canada*

**PLEASE INFORM US OF A CHANGE OF ADDRESS, AND PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2007!**

## Air Transat designated to introduce air service to Austria

Canada's Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, announced the designation of Air Transat to operate scheduled air services between Canada and Austria.

"Canada's government is committed to expanding access to foreign destinations for Canadian carriers," said Minister Cannon. "I am pleased that Air Transat's designation will pro-

vide additional airline choices for Canadians travelling between Canada and Austria."

Air Transat plans to introduce scheduled air service to Austria starting in May 2007. The carrier initially intends to offer this service seasonally and eventually convert to year-round service based on market demand.

Under the provisions of Canada's international air transportation policy,

all Canadian air carriers may apply to the Minister for designation to operate scheduled international air services. This designation has been made possible through an existing air transport agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of Austria.

*Source: Transport Canada, No. H144/06*

## Ottawa's 10th annual Viennese Winter Ball

When the 10th annual Viennese Winter Ball came together with all the magic and flair of its predecessors, it also marked the beginning of a period of transition. The Ball's chairman and main cheerleader, David Wallace, was making the 10th his last year at the helm.

The co-founder of Ottawa's most swish social event, Mr. Wallace has also been custodian of its major sponsorship in his role as a vice-president with BMO Harris Nesbitt Burns.

That night, as he took in all the sights, sounds and tastes and Austrian elegance the Winter Ball had to offer, Mr. Wallace was nostalgic about the event's impact.

"Today, I've been thinking about the success that this thing has become over 10 years," Mr. Wallace said when asked at a private reception hosted by Austrian Ambassador Otto Ditz before the Ball. "And after watching it progress, the thing I keep coming back to is the contribution it makes to youth."

Mr. Wallace had been in Austria earlier this year and met a former debutante of the Ottawa ball.

"She has extraordinarily fond memories," he said. "Being a debutante helped build her character, leadership skills - all the things we look for in the development of leaders."

The youth in question, a group of 30 enthusiastic and charming high school students from across the city who audition and are selected to be the evening's debutantes and cavaliers, must take rigorous lessons to learn to waltz. They kick off the Ball by dancing the Polonaise and then they fan out among the guests to pick up new partners.

But there are other young people

who benefit: The Ball raises \$50,000, which is split between the Champions for Children Foundation (the fundraising arm of the Children's Aid Society) and the Thirteen Strings Junior Orchestra. The Thirteen Strings Orchestra always plays at the ball.



David Wallace. Photo: Roland K. Pirker

And it's all thanks, ultimately, to Mr. Wallace and his co-founder Penny Scott who came up with the concept in 1995. Asked about his contribution, Austrian Ambassador Otto Ditz applauded Mr. Wallace's accomplishments.

"I'll miss him," said Mr. Ditz, who, with his wife Maureen, serves as the Winter Ball's honorary patron. "He has been the heart and soul and the financial muscle of this thing. Without him, we wouldn't be here tonight."

Ottawa's Viennese Winter Ball, which sells out months in advance, is one of only five officially sanctioned international Viennese balls. And it's one of the most sought-after tickets in town. Maybe that's thanks to the

sheer scale of the event which attracts 375 guests every year.

An analysis of the Ball "by the numbers" discovered that the main course involved some 210 pounds of veal and 661 ounces of foie gras. There were 220 ounces of chocolate for the bonbons served at midnight; 600 ounces of vodka stocking the chocolate martini bar, 511 bottles of red and 225 bottles of white wine, along with 129 bottles of champagne. Gift bags, which the guests took home at the end of the evening, included gifts valued at \$310 while the set-up took 357 hours. 300 feet of red carpet were installed - and all this with 11 committee members and 31 additional volunteers.

The event always includes a succulent meal and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition did not disappoint. For appetizers, guests feasted on lobster medallions, cod *brandade*, Dungeness crab salad, Peking duck *crêpes* and lamb medallions. The main course featured a veal tenderloin medallion with pan-fried duck *foie gras* and a cognac black truffle sauce. Dessert included fruit and a vanilla miniature cake, and *creme brûlée* topped with fresh berries.

In addition, guests are always invited to have their pictures taken and to enjoy the music of the Ottawa Schrammel Quartet in a separate part of the Gallery.

Asked about the future of the Winter Ball without him at the helm, Mr. Wallace said he was leaving it in the capable hands of an excellent organizing committee.

"And I'll be around to consult," he said with his trademark grin.

*Jennifer Campbell*

## Novel treatment for male incontinence created by two doctors from the University of Innsbruck now available in Canada

Due to a new treatment method for mild male urinary incontinence, the situation of more than two million men worldwide may soon be drastically improved. A frequent result of the surgical removal of the prostate in cancer patients, mild stress urinary incontinence leaves those affected dependent on pads for the remainder of their lives. So far, treatment methods for this kind of male incontinence have been few and have not always had the desired effects.

Now a new treatment created by Drs. Christian Gozzi and Peter Rehder, both urologists at the medical clinic of the University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria, gives hope to men suffering from incontinence. A minimally invasive surgical procedure, their novel approach is designed to help the body help itself by supporting or even restoring the ordinary functioning of the urethra and its surrounding sphincter muscle.

When the prostate is removed, the sphincter muscle, which surrounds the urethra and is responsible for regulating one's urinary flow, becomes lax on its posterior side, causing both the sphincter muscle and the urethra to sink slightly. As a result, urine passes through the urethra unobstructed, leaving the patient unable to control his urinary flow.

Thanks to Drs. Gozzi and Rehder's new method, this type of male incontinence can now be effectively treated. During a minimally invasive outpatient procedure, a small sling is implanted and tensioned, lifting both the urethra and its surrounding sphincter muscle back into position. Ideally, the sphincter muscle is then

able to function normally again, as it did before the patient's prostate was removed. While conventional treatment methods have relied on compressing or obstructing the urethra, the sling in fact helps to restore male continence by supporting the body's ordinary functioning.



Left to right: Dr. Peter Rehder and Dr. Christian Gozzi. Photo: Conference of the Société Internationale de Urologie, Capetown, South Africa. November 17, 2006

Oddly, the idea for this new treatment originated in 1997, when Italian-born Dr. Christian Gozzi was treating a woman suffering from incontinence with a similar sling technique. It occurred to him that the basic principle behind this treatment could perhaps be adapted for the treatment of male incontinent patients.

Contrary to the already existing methods for treating male incontinence resulting from prostatectomy, Gozzi's approach promised to be less invasive and surprisingly simple. After accepting a position at the University of Innsbruck from which he had earned his medical degree nearly two decades earlier Gozzi teamed up with his colleague, Dr. Peter Rehder, in order to further develop his idea for treating male incontinence. A small pilot study utilising a prototype device offered promising results: All patients

who had been implanted with a prototype sling reported a decreased need for the use of pads, and one-third were able to discontinue their use altogether.

Encouraged by the positive results of their study, Gozzi and Rehder joined forces with American Medical Systems (AMS), a company which specialises in producing devices for the treatment of various pelvic disorders. This alliance has enabled them to optimise the sling itself and the devices needed during the surgical procedure.

Further studies and dramatically improved surgical devices have rendered their revolutionary treatment for male incontinence fit for worldwide use. Marketed by AMS under the brand name AdVance™, Gozzi and Rehder's male sling system for treating male incontinence is now also available across Canada.

American Medical Systems is organising a training conference for its global sales force in Vancouver in January 2007.

Thanks to this innovative technique created by doctors from the University of Innsbruck, men suffering from incontinence across Canada as well as in many other countries around the globe may soon be able to live more carefree lives.

*Mag. Margarethe Karl-Goodwin*

Web page of Reconstructive Urology at the Department of Urology, University of Innsbruck, Annichstrasse 35, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria:  
[http://www.uro-innsbruck.at/rekonstruktive\\_urologie/index.htm](http://www.uro-innsbruck.at/rekonstruktive_urologie/index.htm)

On a personal note, Roland Pirker added the following:

On August 22, 2006 I was operated for prostate cancer in Innsbruck, and thanks to the great surgeon Dr. Christian Gozzi I now feel fine. I had the good fortune to be at the right place at the right time because Dr. Gozzi used and tested his new method, AdVance™, on me during my operation.

I hope that many other Canadian men who find themselves in a similar position will be able to look forward to a positive outcome from a prostate operation when they are treated with this newly invented technique.



Dr. Christian Gozzi. Photo: Roland K. Pirker

I took Dr. Gozzi's picture four days after the operation from my hospital bed during one of Dr. Gozzi's many daily visits to his patients. I found him to be charming, warm, easily approachable, and easy to talk to. Most important of all is the fact that this gifted physician has a great heart and we will hear from him a lot of in the future.

Roland K. Pirker

## Cable Liner shuttle system opened at Toronto's Pearson International Airport

In 2003, DCC Doppelmayr Car Ltd., a Canadian subsidiary of the Austrian Doppelmayr group, was awarded the contract to build a 1,473 meter-long "people mover" at Toronto's Pearson International Airport. Construction began in 2004, and the Cable Liner Shuttle was officially opened in July 2006.

Designed to be a fully automated operation, the shuttle does not require drivers or on-board attendants. A central control room monitors passenger safety and all system functions, such as door opening and closing, start-up, acceleration, train position and speed.

The Cable Liner Shuttle concept is based on proven "rope-way" technology. A fixed-grip assembly forms the mechanical connection between the train and the cable, which is accelerated, decelerated and stopped by a stationary machine drive system. The undercarriage of each vehicle includes components such as grips, two pairs of air-filled rubber tires for vertical suspension, and two sets of four horizontal guide wheels, which are locked into the upper I-beams of the guide-way. The self-supporting guide-way does not require a bulky concrete substructure, which enables the track to appear almost transparent.

The shuttle connects Terminal 1 with Terminal 3 and has a capacity of moving 2,150 persons per hour in each direction. It is ideal for the variable weather conditions at Toronto Pearson. As the trains are propelled and stopped by cable, they do not rely on friction between tires and guide-way for traction and can thus

operate continuously during snow-falls and freezing rain

Two trains will run side-by-side on two tracks, each with its own haul rope and drive machinery for completely independent operation

Each car is a 'monocoque' structure, much like an aircraft, in which the skin absorbs all or most of the stresses to which the body is subjected. The aluminum box sections are made of high-grade, corrosion-resistant alloy which practically eliminates any fire risk. Each vehicle is fitted with large windows and double sliding doors on one side.

The relatively light trains have rubber tires and a very smooth metal running surface, resulting in an extremely low-noise system. This feature is of particular significance at Toronto Pearson as part of the system's guide-way runs close to the Sheraton Hotel next to Terminal 3.

The project cost 35 million euros and is part of a multibillion expansion plan of the airport.

The name Doppelmayr is synonymous worldwide with reliable ropeway technology. With subsidiaries and branches in over 30 countries, the Austrian-based Doppelmayr Group can boast an unequalled record of more than 14,000 ropeways in 77 countries.

The company's extensive portfolio of transportation systems extends from funiculars, aerial tramways, gondolas and ropeway systems, to warehouse equipment and automated parking systems.

Sources: Focus Canada, No. 4, 2006; <http://www.dcc.at/>

## Hans Gmoser: Austrian-Canadian mountain pioneer

Austrian-Canadian mountain legend Hans Gmoser died on July 5, 2006, two days after he had broken his back in a biking accident near Lake Louise. He pioneered rock, alpine and expedition climbing, popularized ski mountaineering, and was largely responsible for creating the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides. Through his films and later through helicopter skiing he made the Canadian mountains world famous.

Gmoser was born in Braunau, Upper Austria in 1932. He went to school in Traun and completed an apprenticeship as an electrician with VOEST Linz. In 1951 he emigrated to Canada, and after holding various jobs in Edmonton and Calgary moved to Banff in 1953 where began his career as a mountain guide at Mt. Assiniboine. He formed his company, Canadian Mountain Holidays Ltd., in 1957. From 1957 to 1967 he filmed and produced ten feature-length films on mountain climbing and skiing in Western Canada which he showed and narrated personally throughout North America and Europe.

Over 20 years of active guiding in the mountains of Western Canada, in summer and winter, he made many first ascents and devised new routes, for example: the first ascent of Mt. Blackburn (5,030 m) in Alaska in

May/June 1958; he led the first Canadian ascent up the East Ridge of Mt. Logan (6,030 m) in the Yukon (May/June 1959) and led the first ascent of the north face of Wickersham Wall of Mt. McKinley (6,190 m) in Alaska (May/June 1963).



Hans Gmoser. Photo: Canadian Mountain Holidays

Hans Gmoser initiated helicopter skiing in the Bugaboo Mountains of southeastern British Columbia in April 1965. This was the first such operation in the world, and it has since become a destination sought out by skiers from all over the world. He opened Bugaboo Lodge, the first remote mountain lodge built exclusively for heli-skiing in February 1968, and started heli-hiking from B.C.'s

Cariboo Lodge in June 1978, the first such operation in the world. He was a founding member of the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides and wrote its first training manual for future guides.

Gmoser was president and chairman of Canadian Mountain Holidays Inc. until 1991 and sold the company in 1995. Today the company owns 12 heli-skiing areas and nine remote mountain lodges. It employs more than 500 people and hosts over 7,000 skiers and 3,000 hikers from all over the world annually.

He received many honours, among them the Order of Canada in 1987 and an honorary doctorate from Thompson Rivers University in 2004. He was also elected to the U.S. Ski Hall of Fame and its Canadian equivalent.

Gmoser was a private man who lived in the same modest bungalow near Canmore since 1966 although he could easily have afforded a dream home. While various injuries slowed him down late in his life, he cross-country skied daily in winter and cycled regularly.

Hans Gmoser is survived by his wife, Margaret, and his sons, Conrad and Robson.

*M.P.*

## Imperial goes Canada

On May 9, 2006, Vienna's top-ranked Hotel Imperial once more entered into a creative liaison with choice Canadian products. Because of the terrific success of last year's event, Chef Siegfried Kröpfl - who him-

self had cooked and tasted Canadian cuisine for some time - invited the public to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Gala Dinner in the Restaurant Imperial.

Of course, wild salmon, bison and lobster were on the menu,

together with excellent Canadian wines. The gala evening was opened by the Canadian Ambassador, Marie Gervais-Vidricaire.

*Source: Focus Canada, No. 4, 2006*

## “One Hand on the Ladder.” An Austrian comes home to Canada

EUREKA, NWT - October 1962

*As the Royal Canadian Air Force C-119 touches down at the Eureka weather station, the temperature is -35 C and falling. The Flying Boxcar is the last plane to land this year. There won't be another aircraft until March. Until then our only contact with the outside world will be via radio-telegraphy to Resolute Bay, four hundred miles to the south.*

*October 22 is also the last day on which the sun briefly rises above the horizon. The next time it will appear is four month later.*

*After a year at Prince Rupert Marine Radio, an interest in the polar region, and twice the salary of southern postings, have brought me to the Arctic.*

*But first I had to see a psychologist. At isolated stations men with a tendency toward mental instability aren't welcome. After I describe a Rorschach ink-blot as two pregnant women sitting on a park bench, the doctor feels that I have a dirty mind but that I will fit in all right. He doesn't say whether that is because, or in spite of, my lascivious bent.*

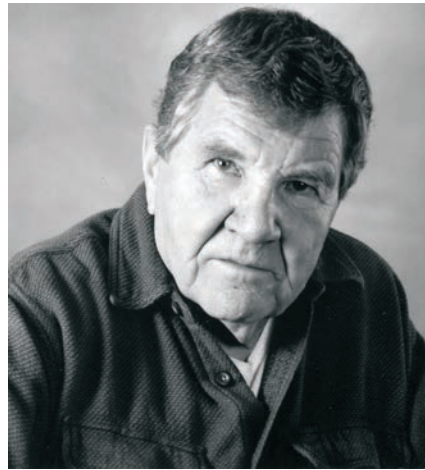
That is the beginning of the chapter “The High Arctic.”

But what is an Austrian immigrant doing 600 NM from the North Pole anyway? The title says it all: *One hand on the ladder*. This is a metaphor for the

insecurity that bedevils nearly every newcomer to Canada.

The book chronicles my journey from precarious beginnings 55 years ago, to my retirement 40 years later.

Since I find it awkward to blow my own horn, I let the publisher speak on my behalf:



Walter Hromatka

“Immigration is a journey that can continue for many years after an immigrant's feet have landed on the soil of their adopted home. So it was with Walter Hromatka, a young Austrian who sought a fresh start after spending his youth first in the German Navy and then in a prisoner-of-war camp. A stint in the Austrian Police Force followed as the country struggled to meet its reparation obligations. When the Canadian immigration office in Salzburg offered the young husband and father a job in Canada, he was ready for the challenge.

It was the first of many challenges Hromatka would face as he adjusted to a new country, enormous in scale, which was accompanied by new expectations from others and from himself. His personal journey would see him embark on several new careers as circumstance and situation dictated, before finally settling back into a role he had first undertaken during the war - that of a radio operator.

This job would take him far from his family - first to the High Arctic in Canada's most northerly outposts, and later many miles from shore on a weathership operated by the Canadian Coast Guard.

Each new situation would require evaluation, accommodation, compromise. Yet over the years this young European gradually found himself identifying with his adopted country in a way that completed the immigration journey begun so many years before.”

Walter Hromatka's *One Hand on the Ladder* is available in hardcover at \$26.95 and in softcover at \$19.95 from:

Interior Stationary & Books  
 P.O. BOX 2500  
 Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0  
 Phone: 250/847-9712  
 Fax: 250/847-5791  
 E-mail: books@speedee.ca

### Canadian treats in Vienna

On September 30, 2006 the first-ever Canada Week at the Meinel specialty food store in downtown Vienna came to a successful conclusion. For six weeks, shoppers could become familiar with

and choose from a large variety of Canadian food products, ranging from wild rice to honey, mushrooms, dried fruit, syrups, dressings, and maple cream cookies. Among the beverages available were cranberry and blueberry juices as well as Canadian whisky.

From now on, Viennese gourmets will be able to pick up numerous tasty Canadian treats at this Meinel store, among them dried cranberries, cranberry juice, Molson Canadian Lager, Hawk Still Water, and several kinds of Clodhoppers.

## CULTURAL EVENTS/MANIFESTATIONS CULTURELLES

February 11, 2007, 3 p.m.

*Concert*

Ensemble Transatlantique Schrammel,  
conductor Jean Deschenes

*La Monarchie et la musique Schrammel*

Butte St. Jacques

April 14, 2007, 8 p.m.

*Concert*

March 5-6, 2007

Concerts at Montreal Festival of New  
Music,

Conductor Maestro Alexis Hauser,

Artistic Director Faculty of Music McGill

Schulich School of Music

March 1-18, 2007

25<sup>e</sup> Festival du Nouveau Cinéma

Including Austrian films

Centre Ex-Centris

March 27, 30-31; April 2,4, 2007, 8 p.m.

Opéra comique de Joseph Haydn, //

*Mondo della Luna*

Atelier Lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal

Conducted by Jean-Marie Zeitouni

Théâtre du Monument National

**PLEASE INFORM US OF A CHANGE OF ADDRESS, AND PLEASE  
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2007!**

### Membership application and donation form

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

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

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

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

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

**CULTURAL EVENTS/MANIFESTATIONS CULTURELLES**

Please consult the Austrian Embassy's Cultural Events Calendar page at [http://www.austro.org/Culture/Culture\\_calendar.html](http://www.austro.org/Culture/Culture_calendar.html) for a Canada-wide listing of cultural events and entertainment at Austrian clubs.

**ALBERTA**

**Edmonton**

January 21, 2007, 6 p.m.

*Recital*

A musical recital by the winners of last year's Johann Strauss Foundation scholarships. Timms Centre for the Arts, University of Alberta

March 3, 2007, 8 p.m.

*Concert*

The Vienna Piano Trio  
The renowned Austrian ensemble presents works by Beethoven, Schubert and Schönberg. Convocation Hall  
University of Alberta

March 18, 2007, 3 p.m.

*Concert*

A Mozart/Haydn concert presented by

the Alberta Baroque Ensemble, featuring early Haydn symphonies and Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 2.  
Robertson-Wesley United Church  
10209-123 Street

April 12-15, 2007

*International conference*

Annual meeting of the North American "Modern Austrian Literature and Culture Association." Conference Theme: "Eroticism, Sexuality and Gender in Austrian Literature and Culture"  
University of Alberta.

**ONTARIO**

**Ottawa**

*Formal ball*

February 3, 2007

11th Ottawa Viennese Ball  
National Gallery of Canada

**QUEBEC**

**Montreal**

January 14, 2007, 2:30 p.m.

*Concert du Nouvel An*

Ensemble Strauss-Lanner de Montréal, conductor Jean Deschenes  
Ecole de Musique Vincent d'Indy

January 23-24, 2007, 8 p.m.

*Concert*

Gustav Mahler, Symphony No. 7  
Montreal Symphony Orchestra, conductor Kurt Nagano  
Place des Arts

February 9, 2007

*Concert* of music by Austrian composers  
FACE Symphony Orchestra, FACE School Auditorium, 3449 University St.  
Sponsored by the Austrian Society of Montreal

*Continued on p. 23*

**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 a une contribution financière de la part de Austrian Society Ottawa et des Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc.**



CULTURE

AUSTRIA • CANADA • CULTURE

**Austrian-Canadian Council**  
**1391 Cavendish Road**  
**Ottawa, K1H 6B8**

