### VERANSTALTUNGEN ● SOCIAL ACTIVITIES ●●●

July 1-5 It's Your Festival at Gage Park

1st Saturday of the month dance July 4 20:00

Germania Club Picnic July 12

July 18 and 19 Youth Fishing at Lake Dalrymple~Fisher

Hunters

### **VORSCHAU - PREVIEW**

1st Saturday of the month dance August 1 20:00

**Campers Picnic** August 8

September 4 Restaurant Re-opens Friday and Saturdays

September 5 20:00 1st Saturday of the month dance

September 12 Fisher and Hunter Corn Roast at the Park

September 19 Club Oktoberfest

September 26, 27 Senior Prize Fishing at Lake Dalrymple~

Fisher and Hunters

Restaurant closed until September 11 Skat Saturday in the Rathskeller starting at 12:30 p.m.

Next monthly membership meeting ... Cancelled Nächste monatliche Versammlung ... Kein Monatversammlung im Juli Any members meeting or function cancellation will be on the club's voice mail.



of each

1 () th month

### GERMANIA POST

GERMANIA CLUB OF HAMILTON, 863 King St. E. Hamilton, Ont. L8M 1B5 BÜROZEITEN/OFFICE HOURS

Editor & layout: David S & Christina A

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Office Summer Hours Tuesdays only ~ Messages checked daily 6:00pm-8:00pm

> CLUB TELEPHONE NUMBER 905-549-0513 Club E-mail: info@germaniaclub.ca



### Katharina Bastel

July 27, 1917 ~ May 17, 2009

Life long member of the Ladies Auxiliary
The Germania Club Excecutive and Board Members extend their sincere
sympathies to Hans and Crika Bastel and their family; Beate and
Wolfgang Trantmann and their family on the passing of their Mother,
Grandmother and Great-Grandmother.



Austrian recording star Petra Böck is coming to The Germania Club

One night only November 1, 2009 also dancing to Matt Lebar dinner available by reservation.

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## THE CLUB THANKS YOU FOR ALL DONATIONS

Donations to the Carpet Fund

Dieter Woehrle \$55 Werner & Magdalene \$10 Weller

### Donations to the Club

Michael Lochner \$55 Johann Breitner \$10 Hildegard Hoffmann \$30 in memory of her husband Hans

The Germania Club welcomes new members

Sigrid Bachmann Miles Bies Armin & Erika Eigen Robert Hamilton

Know someone who wants to join? Fill out the membership application found in this issue.

# Wir gratulieren Klaus Kastlunger Eva Kolwes Brigitte Muessner zum 70. Heinz Mildenberger Gertrud Press Hannelore Simon zum 75.

Magdalene Rulff zum 80.

Geburtstag

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### **Choral Notes Continued**

Edelweiss Chor (Toronto), and the Concordia Choirs (Kitchener). Our own choirs, of course, also participated in the celebration. The program was rich in variety, and the quality of singing was very good. The program concluded with a mass mixed choir presentation of 'Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe', in which Christine Eastwood sang the high solo part, and a men's mass choir singing 'Jacob's Ladder', 'Heimat', and 'Morgenrot'. As behooves mass choirs, their sound was full and powerful. If the founders of the Männergesangverein were present in spirit, they too must have been proud of their and our achievement!

There are many people to whom we are thankful for doing 'the work behind the scenes', including the volunteers who decorated the hall and set up the risers, kept track of the accounts, printed the programs, and welcomed the guests. Special thanks go to our Chef Jennifer and her staff, who prepared a fine meal and served it efficiently and to our Business Manager Carol Albrecht. Last, but not least, we thank Hedda Wagenblast for the organization of the event and doing work far beyond the expected tasks of a choir president!

Among the choristers, we thank especially: Christine Eastwood, for her solo; Linus Press, our indefatigable conductor, for persevering even when the choristers' energy fades; Gertrud Press for helping out in directing the ladies' and men's sections on many occasions;

Larissa Gulenco, our peppy pianist; and David Simon, our amicable mc!

With our picnic on June 20<sup>th</sup>, a very busy season is coming to an end. Some of our songbirds have already flown to their chosen destinations. and others are looking forward to follow their own dreams. July is a month when quite a number of our choristers are celebrating their birthdays: Heinz Mildenberger, Brigitte Müssner, Hannelore Simon, Eva Kolwes, Harald Simon, Lore Schäfer, and Gertrud Press. I hope, you all have dreams, and may the good ones come true! Happy Birthday to you all!!!! Two special events this summer are Susan and Erich Butz's Golden Wedding Anniversary and Christa and Eckhard Kries's annual BBQ, so there will be opportunities to stay in touch.

In the meantime, keep on singing and enjoy the summer!

George Fischer

Membership Fees for 2009

\$12.00 For Students \$65.00 For Regular \$110.00 For Family \$45.00 For Seniors

# The President's Corner



We just finished a busy month of May and June is looking good too. The highlights for me in the month of May would have to be the Mothers Day dinner in the large hall and of course the choir's 145th anniversary dinner and concert. I have already made my comments about the Mothers day last month, and I am sure George Fischer will write a splendid article for this month's choir report.

It is impossible to celebrate 145 years without thinking about what it must have been like in the 1860s Hamilton, and the difficulty of beginning such a group as the choir and Germania Club. We take for granted, and don't give a thought to the telephone. Imagine in 1864, and you want to get ten people together to start a choir? You can't just pick up the phone and call them as it will be another 13 years before Alexander Bell makes his invention. Probably like nowadays, a group of people were gathered together at the end of a hard day and decided they needed to save their language and pass it on to their children, and what better way than to sing? Presto the Germania Male Choir was formed.

Those days like I said were not easy days. The commitment to the "club" must have been tremendous. Take just for example music. You couldn't just drive down to the music store and pick up copies of a song you would like to sing. You couldn't just search the World Wide Web, or phone someone from a choir in Germany. You would have to rely on the mail service to get you music. In our case the first songs are all hand written in the choir note books that we still have. Not just one song written once, but several songs hand written in several books, so that the male choir could practice and sing.

The Hamilton newspaper reported on a German choir festival that was held by the Germania Choir in Hamilton's Victoria Park Crystal Palace. The reporter said that choirs came from as far as California. Not bad if you take a plane, probably only about 5 hours or so. In the late 1860s, you most likely would travel by stagecoach stopping at inns in little towns and major cities along the way. That bumpy stagecoach ride would take about 35 long and exhausting days in good weather. Who could afford to be on the road for 70 days, paying for the stage ride, inns and food? Maybe they travelled in a caravan of private coaches camping on the side of the road?

### President's Report

Continued from page 3

The first trans-continent train travel wasn't until 1869 so that wasn't available yet. What it all boils down to is a great commitment to the German Culture through song.

Fast forward 145 years to present time, and ask yourself is that great commitment to the club is still there? In some ways I would have to say yes it is. We care enough to hold the largest function we can in the large hall to celebrate those 145 years of commitment to the German Culture of song. The members of our club are getting older and with that comes problems with mobility and the ability to come to the club and enjoy events. I have been thinking about this concern for a long time, and it finally prompted me to say at the last members meeting that it is time to sell our clubhouse and move somewhere else. Many suggest building a new clubhouse out in the Germania Park. Some say buy or rent a house or storefront in Hamilton. A couple of years back we held brainstorming sessions and from that it was clear that any future clubhouse we need to be on one level. A member came up to me on the 145 anniversary and said we need to install an elevator and is willing to donate \$1,000. towards the cost. Is this something we want to pursue?

Whatever the future holds for the

club, I'm sure the commitment to the German Culture will be a centre point in any decision. The rich German Culture, whether in language, or food, in song or dance will lead us to bright future. A building just serves to hold us together, and to allow us to come together in friendship. Bricks and mortar, and the vessel of many memories.

# I wish you the best for the summer. David Simon

You can clutch the past so tightly to your chest that it leaves you too full to embrace the present.

Jan Glidewell



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145 years ago, when the Männergesangverein - the founding group of the Germania Choirs - was formed. Hamilton was in dire straits: there was unemployment, the population had declined from over 25 000 to less than 20 000 people, and the City had declared bankruptcy, so that all its movable goods. including fire-fighting equipment and furniture, had to be auctioned off. Shadows of such events pass over Hamilton occasionally, but if vou were at the Germania Choirs' celebration on May 30th, there were no signs of the economic recession we are in today again! The hall was beautifully decorated, capacityfilled with choristers and quests, all festively dressed. There was the festive entry of the flags to the march from Wagner's 'Tannhäuser', led by the flag of the DKSB and followed by the flags of the attending choirs as well as representatives from the Loreley Singers Oshawa, the Teutonia Chor Stratford, and the Deutscher Chor Montreal. After singing the national anthems of Canada, Austria, and Germany, Mr. Holger Raasch, the Consul General of the Republic of Germany, congratulated the choirs on their anniversary for their many years of accomplishments. He pointed out that the Germania Choirs had earned the Zelter Award at their hundred-year anniversary and that they had good reason to be proud of their achievements. Following the speech, we settled down and enjoyed a fine meal, well presented!

Among the special guests were: Councillor Bob Bratina, representing the Mayor of Hamilton, Hans Sandker representing the President of the DKSB, Sybille Forster-Rentmeister and her husband from Echo Germanica. Tom Leddin and Steffen Hebig from Blaue Seiten, Helmut Gschösser from the German radio program, and Arno Risso, President of the Continental Austrian Club. We also received congratulatory messages from Hans Förstel, the President of the DKSB. and from Katharina Paulini. the President of the Transylvania Choir. Rosi Kramolowsky, President of the Ladies' Auxiliaries, presented the Germania Choirs with a commemorative plaque, and Christel Strassquertl presented the ladies of the Germania Choirs with beautiful corsages prior to the concert. Among the numerous congratulatory speeches made was a short heart-warming speech by Marianne Schauer, the conductor of 'Die singenden Schwaben'. This choir from Germany was on tour of some North American sites and fortuitously was able to join our celebration.

In addition to 'Die singenden Schwaben', we were pleased to host the following choirs: Männerchor Harfentöne (Toronto), Lyra Chor (London), Hansa Chor (Brampton),

Cont'd on page 14



It is always a pleasure to see so many members attending. After a minute of silence for our longtime member Kathe Bastel who passed away was held, Presidentin Rosi Kramolowsky went right to our Gage Park, the business. Germania Club Picnic and our special get away at Lake Dalyrymple. She also mentioned the Choirs 145th anniversary which she attended to bring our congratulations and best wishes. She also gave rave reviews about the food and singing. After all the business was completed, we enjoyed a game, refreshment and company.

Our birthday ladies for July are:

July 3 Brigitte Roediger

July 4 Edeltraud Cihlar

July 10 Hilde Albrecht

July 10 Emmy Waldecker (96 years young)

July 12 Charlotte Voronoff

July 13 Erika Wegner

July 23 Irmgard Roediger

July 28 Elfriede Wojcik

Congratulations to all of you. Our next meeting will be July 8, 2009.

Here's my little saying:

Worry doesn't help tomorrow's troubles.

But it does ruin todays happiness.

Stay healthy and keep smiling.



June 13th, 2009

Pictures from the tribute to Elvis Presley. It was a packed house. A great time was had by all. Thank you Dan Copeland for the pictures. Bruce, you put on a wonderful show.



Dear Friends:

It is with great sadness to report that Ted Rogane, original founder and first owner of Black Forest Inn in Hamilton, passed away June 11, 2009 in Eugene, Oregon.



Hello Friends of the Karnvalisten!

Well, it looks like summer has finally arrived. As was reported in last month's Germania Post our annual "Fun in the Sun" Picnic was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. The members of Narrhalla are now on vacation for the summer. We look forward to seeing everyone at Gage Park for "It's Your Festival" and of course at the Germania Club Picnic.

We wish you and your families a summer filled with fun and laughter.

See you in September

Lori Kramolowsky Secretary



### THE **OVER SIXTY GROUP**

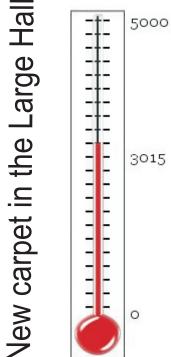


To our Alex Wegner, we wish you a belated Happy Birthday on June 6th. Also a very Happy Birthday to Erika Wegner who celebrates her birthday on July 13<sup>th</sup> and to Irmaard Roediger who celebrates her birthday on July 23rd. The best of wishes to the three of you.

No meetings in July and August. We will see you all in September.

Yours Linda Wanner

# Fundraising Ha H



Yours Helga Laqua -12A Brief Look at the Hamilton Germania Gymnastics Club

(written for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gymnastics Ontario)

By Hardy Fink – May 2008

The Hamilton Germania Gymnastics Club ceased operation 20 years ago in 1988 after almost exactly 30 years of operation, so it may seem strange to write anything about this club which closed before most of today's tens-of-thousands of Ontario gymnasts were even born. But it is exactly this club and a very few others like it but much shorter lived (Toronto Harmonie Club, Toronto Sokol Club, etc.) that speak to our history and to the history of aymnastics in general and to what it meant to love gymnastics.

The Hamilton Germania club was not the first club in Hamilton. A German Turnverein was established in 1857; the first gymnastics competition in Canada was hosted there in 1863. E.M. Orlick, Canada's most important post-War gymnastics leader trained in Hamilton in the 1930's. Nor is the Hamilton Germania Club the last gymnastics club in Hamilton. In fact it died a gradual death when professional clubs with world class facilities and paid coaches began to establish themselves in the Hamilton area in the late 1970's and early 1980's. But in the decade of 1963-1973 it

was a powerhouse.

No club like it could be successful today. The 1950's and 1960's truly was a different gymnastics era which was "maintained" in the Germania Club until 1988. Most of the gymnasts started well into their teens - impossible today. The training possibilities were Monday & Wednesday evenings and Sunday morning for two hours each time. There was no fixed apparatus because the facility was a 27' X 60' (8.2 m x 18.3m) dance hall. That meant that the eager gymnasts among us would come early to set up and stay late to tear down and store the variety of bought and home-made apparatus on which we trained. There were no fees and no paid coaching staff - in fact, there was no coach in the sense that we know it today. The founders of the club were German immigrants Adolf and Hans Bastel. Dieter Weichert and Dieter Woehrle who also served as our mentor and nominal leader because initially he was the best gymnast in Hamilton. The gymnasts trained together and more-or-less coached each other and eagerly searched for any morsel of information that would help.

But this club produced Ontario and Canadian Champions and an Olympian. More importantly it produced, a seemingly endless group of enthusiasts that would Cont'd on page 7

### Camper's Report

Continued

it to the Germania Park.

So let's go out and enjoy the park, invite our friends and family (I know I will) and have a jolly, good time.

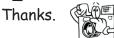
For Karl Heidt (our full time chairman and part time cook)
And Ute Perl (part time painter and full time second chairperson),
Egon Roesslein (camper).



Please take pictures at all of your events! And send them to my e-mail to go into the Germania Post.

Christina.a\_@hotmail.com





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# The Campers' Report

I will call this, "The Great Whitewash"...... Pavilion, that is.

Not only, did the campers donate some of the money for the paint out of their social fund, they also supplied all the labour.

Under the leadership of our ever present, Richard Lutz, it was Doris and Owen Buchan. Ute Perl and Rolf Fisher who covered the walls, the ceiling and parts of themselves with a couple coats of white paint. Additional encouragement was given by Judy and Eddie Keller by serving the lunch and Karl and Eva bringing other snacks. A productive, but good time, was had by all. I know, because our trailer is situated very close to the pavilion and especially after lunch I could hear a lot of raucous laughter. Maybe, Mr. Dujardin and Mrs. Blue Light also helped a bit. As I am writing this, Richard is shopping for some new lights for this hall, which Desmond Wilson offered to donate. Thank you Desmond and Priscilla.

We are fast approaching our annual Campers' Picnic. So one more time, here is all you need to know:

This year's theme is "Las Vegas Night". So you gals can dress up like show girls, with a garter, net stockings and stiletto heels (just

kidding) and we guys just need a fistful of money (now I'm really kidding). We will have a live band and plenty of food: roast pork, mashed potatoes, red cabbage and sauerkraut. You may wash this down with whatever you bring in your cooler. Coffee and cake are included, so are plates and cutlery. This all happens on Saturday, August 8th at 5:00 PM. The tickets are per person **\$ 12.50 each** and can be purchased from Karl Heidt. 905 664-2969, or Harry Rischke, 905 389-8950. Please order before August 1st, to give our chief cook and bottle washer time to shop and prepare.

One more thing I noticed: We surely are a fickle group of campers. Whenever I try to update our campers' list, I find some campers, for some reason, have moved from one spot to another. Others move out (some after only one season) and new campers are moving in (always welcome). This makes it somewhat difficult for me to keep a current list of campers. I'll try my best and if you wish to have a copy, just ask me. Usually, I have them handy.

In the Pavilion, we normally have several chest freezers which are used only on special occasions. Both of them bit the dust (kaputtgegangen), so if you have an older freezer in working condition standing around, perhaps you would like to donate

### Cont'd from page 6

become gymnastics coaches and judges and leaders for the next 40 years. Among these top gymnasts and future coaches and leaders were Steve Mitruk, Linda Bartolini, Marc Epprecht, Mike Toke, Len Heatherington, Dave Copeland, Martin Purvis, Ole Pedersen, Carlo Pacella, Don Marinaci and Hardy Fink. Most of that group went on to found clubs or become head coaches of clubs and place gymnasts on Canada's national teams. Six of us from this tiny club became FIG judges: Peter Meszaros, Paul Pichler, Jerry Kasper, Eberhard Bauer, Dave Copeland and Hardy Fink. No club of that kind could be successful today, but then today no club of any kind generates that lifetime commitment to gymnastics and the commitment to continue to contribute freely. Too many want nothing to do with gymnastics ever again once they stop training at an age when we began. The reason as I have come to understand it is that the Hamilton Germania Club became the social environment for each of us: the Facebook of 1960. We did everything together. On summer weekends we would load a trailer with the apparatus and set it up at nearby beaches (most frequently at Sherkston Beach quarry on Lake Erie near Port Colbourne) where we would camp, and party and train. An annual social event

that became Ontario wide was a weekend at the (Jennifer) Diachun Farm north-east of Toronto. We travelled together, held dances together, did displays together and more often than not married each other – Steve and Brigitte Mitruk, Dieter and Eleanor Woehrle, Rick and Fran Adams, Carlo and Carol Pacella, Ole and Ellie Pedersen, Mike and Elizabeth Toke to name but a few.

It is a time that cannot come back and reasons for participating in gymnastics that are long lost as today's model of a gymnastics club – predominantly very young gymnasts and no place for adults, perfectly shiny equipment, huge gymnasia, dozens of training hours, well-paid coaching and administrative staff, high training fees, provincial and national overregulation – began to become the norm by 1980.

This somewhat nostalgic look at the Hamilton Germania Gymnastics Club also provides a glimpse of the era in which the Ontario Gymnastics Federation was founded. It was a simpler time for gymnastics and for gymnasts; but then it was a time when the accomplishments of today's gymnasts could not even be dreamt.

~Thank you Hardy Fink~



# Fischer & Jäger

Hello Folks and Welcome to Summer!

Let's all hope we are enjoying it and playing safe. Short note this month as not much is going on.

The cottage is doing well. Keep in mind, if you would like to take part of some time at the Fisher & Hunter Resort, located on the sometimes sunny shores of Lake Dalrymple, you need to contact Willi or Rosi to make a reservation.

On the topic of the cottage, for you out there that fish, please remember the police are watching so be very careful. Make sure your licenses are up to date and if you catch something out of season or not on your license, please for your sake return it to the water as soon as possible. Invest in a disposable camera as you know a picture is worth a thousand words, caught with an illegal fish will cost you thousands.

July brings our annual Junior Prize fishing, please call Richard Kramolowsky 905-549-7004 or Gary Albrecht 905-525-5614 for reservations. It will be a great time for our kids and grandkids. "It's Your Festival" is coming up, if you have time to participate or are able to come and visit, we as the Fisher & Hunter are all volunteering on

Saturday, July 4 so call Gary or Rob for more details.

On a sad note, on behalf of the Fisher & Hunters we extend our sincere sympathies to Mike Creechan and his family on the recent passing of his mother Annie.

That is about it, enjoy the summer and until we see each other,

Petri Heil Richard Kramolowsky

The thought for the month

Happiness comes from within and if you cannot find it you are not at our functions, so come on out and be happy.



Pictures submitted by Hardy Fink





# Germania Club of Hamilton

863 King Street East, Hamilton, Ontario, L8M 1B5 Tel: (905)549-0513

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Family Name:	First Name:	
Street:	Apt. No.: _	
City/Town:	Province: Posta	l Code
Tel:	Email Address:	
Date of Birth:	Type of Membership:	Single □; Family □
For Family: Name of Spouse:		
Date of Birth of Spouse:		
Name of Child:		
Name of Child:		
(If more than two children please lis		
Nominated by:	Seconded by:	
Signature(s) of Applicant(s):		
Annual Membership Dues \$ payable with application. Please add \$5 for first time processing costs and attach full payment to this form.  Which Subgroup or special interest Group would you like to join? Please note some subgroups have their own additional application forms and fees.  Fisher and Hunters		
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Membership Card Number:	Amount Paid:	
Date of Application:		
Comments:		