

January 8	20:00	1st Saturday of the Month Dance (postponed from January 1st)
January 11	19:30	Extended Board Meeting
January 25	19:30	Membership Meeting

VORSCHAU - PREVIEW

February 5	20:00	1st Saturday of the Month Dance
February 13	11:00	Valentine's Brunch
February 26		All Choir Night
March 5	19:30	1st Saturday of the Month Dance
March 13		Ladies Auxiliary Stiftungsfest
March 27	10:00	Annual General Meeting

Next meeting is Annual General Meeting ...March 27, at 10:00 am.
 Nächste Versammlung ist die Jahreshauptversammlung ...
 Am 27. März um 10:00 Uhr

Skat Saturday in the Rathskeller starting at 12:30 p.m.
 Germania Choirs rehearsal Thursday at 7:30pm



GERMANIA POST

GERMANIA CLUB OF HAMILTON, 863 King St. E. Hamilton, Ont. L8M 1B5

BÜROZEITEN/OFFICE HOURS

Editor & layout: David S & Christina A

DEADLINE
 for submissions
10th of each
 month

Germania Club of Hamilton
 863 King Street East
 Hamilton, ON
 L8M 1B5
 E-mail: info@germaniaclub.ca

www.germaniaclub.ca

Office Hours
 Beginning in September
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
 6:00pm-8:00pm

CLUB TELEPHONE NUMBER
 905-549-0513

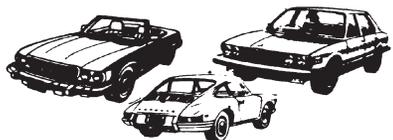
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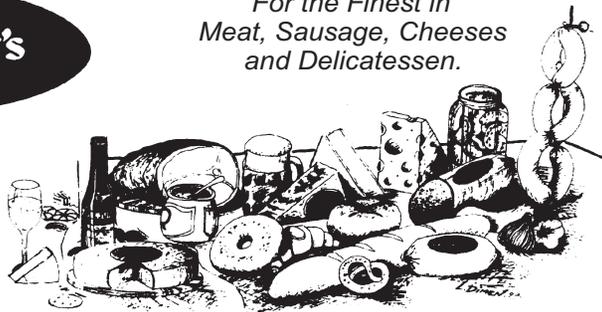
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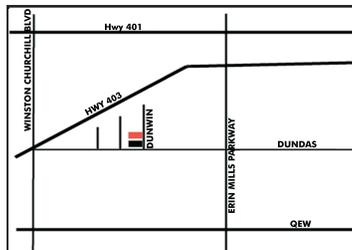
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Germania Club of Hamilton

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Family Name: _____ First Name: _____

Street: _____ Apt. No.: _____

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Tel: _____ Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Type of Membership: Single ; Family

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Date of Birth of Spouse: _____

Name of Child: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name of Child: _____ Date of Birth: _____

(If more than two children please list on reverse side of this form.)

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.

- | | | | |
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| Fisher and Hunters..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mardi Gras Society Narrhalla 58..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Comments: _____

The President's Corner



As another year comes to a close this time to reflect on what happened during that year. For me personally as most of you know my year has been filled with ups and downs. Most of you who know me know me as a pretty positive person, and not really fond of negative talk or ways. I was brought up in a family that if you thought you could do it, you really could do it. And that is how I go through life, course it's harder when the road is bumpy, and around here there seems to be a lot of bumpy road. There's a lot in saying be positive and think positive, a positive attitude usually leads to a positive outcome.

I think there is a lot to think positive about the Germania Club; we have vibrant subgroups in Germania club. We don't always see each person that every function, but each subgroup participates in their realm. For example the choir participates in many events throughout the year. They go on bus trips and sing at venues all around. The fishers and hunters are another example they hold functions of the park and enjoy fishing at the cottage at Lake Dalrymple. When needed the sub groups have really supported the Germania club this year at all its functions. I consider this positive.

What puzzles me some times is that some people try to estimate how long the club will last. Some estimate five years some even give us 20 years. I always answer the same way; I say we have to look towards our sister clubs in the United States. They have gotten over the German language as being the most important part of our heritage. Sure their choirs still might sing German but if you speak to them one-on-one most of the members don't speak German. Their parents or their grandparents came from Germany and didn't teach the German language. Sound familiar? Maybe it was that the kids didn't want to learn German but the end effect is still the same they can't speak it. That doesn't mean that they are going to let down their German heritage anytime soon. They still celebrate all things German; Oktoberfest, Maifest, Schützenfest, Karneval, and so on. They proudly fly the German flag right beside the American flag. You know come to think of it maybe it's because of losing the German language that they feel supporting the German heritage is important to them. After all that is how this club started some 146 years ago, wasn't it?

I think we are moving in that direction already. This Germania club has withstood the test of time,

(cont'd from pg 3)

and I think it will withstand the future. All we have to do is think positive, be positive, and act positive.

I wish you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

David Simon

Please remember!!

All articles and pictures are due by the 10th of the month!!



Fischer & Jäger

Well, hello all and welcome to 2011. It feels like just a short time ago we were welcoming 2010. It has been a very eventful year. Before we get carried away, on behalf of the Vorstand, we all hope you enjoyed your New Year's Eve.

I would like to take this time and wish everyone that had a birthday in 2010, Happy Birthday. As one year comes to a close, another will begin. Our sons, daughters and grandchildren are our life-line to the future. Saying this is also a time to remember and respect our founders. These are the ones that built the foundation on which we are now building upon. Folks, we are all the same but also different. It is these differences that make us strong. 2010 brought us challenges that we as a whole were able to overcome. The morale is that we are a family and it is the best in the world.

Happy New Year everyone!
See you soon.

Petri Heil
Richard Kramolowsky

Our Deepest Sympathies to Oskar Bauerle who recently lost his wife Ella. We are thinking of you during this difficult time,



A loyal member of the Germania Club
For 50 Years
Kurt Meissner

Kurt Meissner was born on September 28, 1922, in the town of Gladbeck in Westfahlen, Germany. At the age of 33 he decided to immigrate to Canada and arrived in Hamilton in October 1955.

Kurt was a painter and got a job at Steel Car right away. There at Steel Car, he met Erich Doelle, also a painter they became partners. Erich was a member of the Germania Club and was the President of the Club at one time. Sadly he passed away in 1993. Kurt and Erich were known as "Doelle and Meissner Painting".

Kurt became a member of the Germania Club in 1960.

In 1956, Kurt got married. He and his wife had 2 daughters, Margie and Adrian. They are now the proud grandparents of 5 grandchildren.

Kurt retired when he was 65 but continued to work. As I remember he did all the paint jobs at the

Germania Club.

At one time, there was a Folkdance Group at the Germania Club and Kurt belonged to that group and enjoyed dancing there. Now he enjoys being a member of the Benevolent Society.

Kurt is now 88 years old, in good health and is still driving his car and that is amazing.

So mein lieber Kurt, we wish you all the best for the future and we hope that you stay with our Club for many more years.

Prepared and read by Uschi Schien at the Stiftungsfest.

„Das Echo“ –

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Choral Notes

December 5th was a beautiful day and our concert was very well received. The church was full and the people enjoyed the songs we offered, particularly Mozart's 'Gloria in excelsis' and Handel's 'Halleluja'. Our ladies outdid themselves with several trios presented by Netty DeWitt, Betty Boerkamp, Gertrud Press, Christine Eastwood, Brigitte Muessner, and Hedda Wagenblast. Christine Eastwood and Gertrud Press also sang the solos in 'Panis angelicus' and in 'Oh Holy Night'. The Men's Choir and the Ladies' Choir made their traditional contributions. Ingrid Oppermann's Little Angels Erika, Monika, Julianna, and Jessica were fortified this year by the new cherub Lukas, who is only two years old! Their presentation of Christmas songs and poems was a highlight for many.

We learned two new songs for this concert, 'Christrose' and 'Panis angelicus'. You might wonder why we would sing in Latin, considering that even the Italians have abandoned that language long ago. The arguments in favour of singing in Latin are simple. First of all, the composer – in this case Caesar Franck – chose the text with great care to make a statement that reflected his thoughts. Second, the available translation into English fit the music but deviated from the

original text terribly. So Latin was the best choice. I was surprised when I found out at another concert that Latin is still in use by modern composers who try to make a special statement. There must be something in that language that makes it particularly suitable for such music!

A lot of work went into the preparation for the concert. The patience and never-flagging energy of both Linus and Gertrud Press and of our choristers are commendable, as is the work-behind-the-scene of Ingrid Oppermann with the Little Angels. We appreciate the work of our accompanists Krista Rhodes and Christopher Hunt; we could not do what we did without their support. Our ladies and several of our men must also be thanked for setting up the tables and chairs and serving a reception after the concert. The compliments for the concert and the treats abounded during this fine social time. Following the concert, we enjoyed a fine meal at the Club. Thanks to all organizers, cooks, and service people for giving us a nice relaxed time with fine Christmas music in the background!

Just yesterday, on December 9th, we brought a little Christmas cheer to the residents of Macassa Lodge,

(cont'd on pg 7)

(Cont'd from pg 10)

*Behold the turtle,
He makes progress only when he
sticks his neck out!*

Shakespeare in his "Julius Caesar" had Brutus say the same thing, but with more poetic flair:

*There is a tide in the affairs of
men.*

*Which, taken at the flood, leads
on to fortune;*

*Omitted, all the voyage of their
life*

*Is bound in shallows and in
miseries.*

*On such a full sea are we now
afloat,*

*And we must take the current
when it serves,*

Or lose our ventures!

Special Thank you to
Hans Bastel
for preparing this article.

December 7th, 2010

Thanks for a great day yesterday. Our SAM clients & family members really enjoyed the Christmas party and meal. We hope to host future events at your wonderful facility. I will recommend the Germania Club to other Adult Day Programs I meet with.

Thanks again,

Trish Balardo
Executive Director
SAM Program

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for an evening of dancing
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*"You never know,
You might have fun"*



A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

~Author Unknown

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**Mardi Gras
Society
"NARRHALLA
58"**

Dear Karnevalists,

I am a little behind in reporting in the Germania post. Earlier on in the year we had elections for a new board for the Narrhalla. Our new board is as follows Ted Dodds is President, Albert Kergl is Elferrat President, Eric Melms is Vice President and Sieglinde Seiler is Treasurer, I am secretary and Peter Werheid is Minister of Economics, Dorthea Melms is the phone committee.

We thank outgoing president Hugh Turner for many years of leadership. He took over as president in year 2000 and had continued ever since. Hugh thought it was time to hand over the reins to someone new. We wish Ted Dodds much luck in his new position.

Since the start of the Mardi Gras season we have visited Narragonia in Brantford at their small opening. It was good to see all of the old Karnevalists out in action. Our next event was the 4x11 celebrations of the Narrenzunft concordia in Kitchener. As you probably know the number 11 is important in Karneval and the celebration of any multiplier of 11 is a big event. The Narrenzunft

did it up in big style in their large hall which was filled to capacity with eager Mardi Gras goers. They had lots of entertainment and great band and all the guests enjoyed themselves. We saw Karnevalists that we hadn't seen in ten years at this function, that's how special it was.

The next function was our own Kappensitzung in the large hall. Somehow the atmosphere is not the same as in the small hall where it is cozy, so next year we will hold it in the small hall. The Kappensitzung last year and this year were both held in the afternoon with the reason being that many people do not like to drive in the dark anymore. So we thought holding it in the afternoon would bring more people out who have told us that they don't drive in the dark. No such luck. But the fun did continue with had a great dance group from Oshawa and one from Kitchener for our entertainment. And the jokes were as likely as normal. So if you like the cozy atmosphere of upstairs plan on coming out next year will be in the afternoon upstairs in the small hall, Kappensitzung.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

David Simon
Secretary



**Aus unserem
Frauenverein**

Another year came and passed away, before you knew it. We had our last meeting for this year. Presidentin Rosi Kramolowsky thanked all the Ladies who baked and donated cake and cookies, prizes for the tombola and their help to make the bazaar a success. A thank you also to Linda and Eberhard Wanner for setting up and putting back tables and chairs. A big thank you also to Richard Lutz for the kind donation to the Ladies Auxiliary at the Christmas Bazaar.

Our Birthday Ladies for January 2011 are:

Rose Strinich	Jan. 6
Liesel Gräser	Jan. 10
Ina Reile	Jan. 17
Trudel Müller	Jan. 29

Congratulations to all the wonderful Ladies.

Now our Christmas Party was on the way. You should have seen the table with the delicious sandwiches and cakes. We could have fed an army. Even Santa Claus found his way to celebrate with us, to give out presents and a big hug to all the Ladies who needed a good hug. Thank you Santa a.k.a. Gary Albrecht for your wonderful performance.

Now we go into hibernation for two months. Our next meeting will be in March 2011.

That's all for this year.
Stay healthy and keep smiling and

think about this.

What life is worth will all depend, upon the life you live, my friend. Defeated lives need never be, life's made to end in victory. It's planned so all may someday see, life is worth living.

The greatest of the joys abound, is lives where kindness is found. When self is lost to others needs, when kindness soothes the heart that bleeds. When hands work daily in good deeds, life is worth living.

-Donald Laverne Walker

Here is also a little tidbit which is worth thinking about;

The tongue can be a blessing, and the tongue can be a curse; Say, Friend, how are you using yours; for better or for worse?

-Anon

Yours truly
Helga Laqua

Have a special announcement you would like to make? Let us know. If there is room we will put it in the Germania Post for free. You can call the club at 905-549-0513 or email the editor at info@germaniaclub.ca

(Cont'd from pg 9)

- Soccerfield
- Golf driving range
- Summer vegetable and flower gardens
- Picnic areas
- Clubhouse
- Trap shooting facility
- Rifle range and hall
- Memorial Garden
- Parking lots
- Campground and service centre
- Rental house for a Groundskeeper

It was clearly the Committee's intention to present the Germania Park as an eventual alternative location to the Club's Headquarter facilities on King Street East. It was keenly aware of the changing demographics of the Club's membership. Frank Bernt, in particular, felt that the desires and needs of those newly arrived immigrants from post-world war 2 Europe were quite different than those of well-established immigrants and their Canadian-born descendants. In his opinion, the former were looking for German-language based cultural and social interaction activities and services while the latter desired English-language based social interaction activities of a recreational and leisure nature. The 1984 master plan attempted to build a bridge for the Club's transition from one generation to the next.

Twenty-six years have passed since the Germania Park's master

plan was submitted to - and endorsed by - the membership. Quite a few of its recommendations have been successfully addressed:

- A nature trail was created
- A modern campground was created, spawning a large and active Campers group
- Picnic areas were established
- A campground service centre and pavilion were constructed
- A Memorial Garden, par excellence, was created and continues to be lovingly maintained
- The rifle range hall has been well maintained and improved
- A lakeside dock has been built
- There is plenty of room for parking.

Close to 100% of the work has been done, free-of-charge, by member-volunteers under the leadership of dedicated Park managers and camping enthusiasts.

However, much remains to be done if the Club wishes to fully implement the provisions of the master plan. One of the many challenges in completing this task is the availability of resources, both financial and personnel. In the context of the Park's 50th anniversary we should remind ourselves that things were not any easier 50 years ago - and yet the Club at that time had the foresight and courage to launch the original Park project!

A former Club President, Albert Perl, once quoted the following lines: (cont'd on pg 11)

(cont'd from pg 6)

and on the 17th we will sing once again in the Sonnenhof in Brantford. We have a good season of singing behind us and will soon begin with preparations for the next major event: the All Choirs' Night on February 26th. It will be a great event! Get ready and be there!

The birthday celebrants in January are Ingrid Oppermann, Willy Schaefer, Susan Butz, David Simon, Christel Strassguertl, Karl Leitner, and George Fischer. A Happy Birthday to all of us!

Wishing you all good health and good party times, have a Happy New Year!

George Fischer



Germania Choir at
The First-United Pilgrim Church
December 5, 2010



Indications of a New Year Hangover

You get it into your head that chirping birds are the Devil's pets.

Trying to gain control of the situation, you continue to tell your room to "Stay still."

Looking at yourself in the mirror induces the same reaction as drinking a glass of fresh paint.

The bathroom reminds you of the fairground cry, "Step right up and give it whirl!"

You'd rather chew tacks than be exposed to sunlight.

You set aside an entire afternoon to spend some quality time with your toilet.

You replace the traditional praying on your knees with the more feasible praying in a fetal position.

Your #1 catch phrase is, "Never again."

Your new response to "Good morning," is "Be quiet!"

Please take pictures at all of your events! And send them to info@germaniaclub.ca



Thanks.



The Campers' Report



Hello Campers

By now the holiday season is behind us. Hope Santa was good to everyone and everyone was able to spend some time with family and friends.

We are now into a new year; a time to reflect where we have been and where we are going. I want to thank all the campers who attended our general meeting in November. We had a better turn out. We do seem to have some issues we need to work on. I am quite sure with us working together we can get this accomplished. We have some campers who have purchase new trailers so we are looking forward to seeing them in the spring.

Karen and I adopted a yellow lab. His name is Buddy. We are looking forward to him meeting everybody in the spring. I must admit I have forgotten how much energy a puppy has, so we are being kept very busy right now.

If anyone has anything they would like us to put in the camper's report please get in touch with us.

Hope everyone is doing well and we will talk to you soon.

Your Chairman
Kevin Pyett

Yesterday is just a memory, tomorrow is the future, today is a gift that is why it is called the present.



This is a picture taken by Richard Lutz of damages to the tree from a beaver. Wonder how long it took to bite into this tree?

Special Announcement

On December 12 we had our Club Christmas party for the kids. Good old Santa Claus came and brought gifts for 32 children. Everyone was happy to see him again. We sang Christmas Carols with the 5 Angels. The Alpentrio Band played lots of nice Christmas music. The children did lots of crafts and enjoyed their hotdogs, drinks and cookies. When the balloons came down, it was time to say "good-bye" to Santa for another year.

Special thanks to Santa Claus and all his helpers.

Best Regards
Susan Butz

The following is a continuation of last month's article of the Park's 50th Anniversary. Enjoy!

Now let's return to 1972: after the dam had been completed and the lake had filled up with water, an awful lot of work was done by a large number of member-volunteers. First off the mark was Karl Kopriva who arranged for the planting of close to 7,000 tree seedlings. This project was heavily subsidized by the Province so the cost to the Club was minimal: \$60 - that is sixty dollars!! Next came the Fishers and Hunters who constructed a state-of-the-art rifle range as well as a large hall with a kitchen, bar and wash-room facilities. They paid for this major project out of their own group's treasury - well, not totally: the Club's Treasurer paid for the water well and some washrooms. Other individuals and groups built wooden picnic service sheds, planted more trees, created a swimmable beach, built parking areas and did general maintenance work. And, again, it was Karl Kopriva who in 1979 arranged and paid for the planting of an oak tree, "eine deutsche Eiche", in memory of the founding members of the "Verein Deutsches Heim 1929", a club of German-speaking immigrants who amalgamated with the Germania Club in 1935.

A few years later in 1982 a plaque inscribed with the names of 34 members of the "Deutsches Heim" was placed near the oak tree in a moving and memorable service. This service was the actual beginning of the annual November

memorial service during which we remember and pray for those Club members who have passed away in the previous year.

Also in 1982 a major milestone was reached as far as the Park is concerned. Eddie Keller proposed the creation of a campground for the Park and wanted to know where to put it. In response, the Board of Directors appointed a Germania Park Planning Committee with the mandate of creating a comprehensive master plan. The six person Committee was chaired by Frank Bernt, a senior Club member and a trained Botanist (University of Guelph) who in his day-time job was the Landscaping Manager in the City of Hamilton Parks Department.

After issuing a number of interim reports, the Committee submitted its final report in the spring of 1984. This report still stands out as one of the best planning documents ever produced in the Club. (A landscape layout drawing and a summary of this report can be found in the May 1984 edition of the Germania Post.)

The main features and recommendations of the report included the creation and/or improvement of a substantial number of facilities:

- Nature trail
- Fitness trail
- Tennis courts
- Children's playground
- Swimming pool
- Lakeside dock and sandy beach

(Cont'd on pg 10)