



# Germania Post



## Germania Club GET TOGETHER *in the Park*

*September 6, 2020  
starts at 1:00pm*

Due to the Covid restrictions, we will be limited to the number of people we can entertain; therefore, we would kindly ask you to call and reserve, if you are planning to attend.

Admission will be limited to members only, at \$3.00 per person.

We will be serving Sausages on a bun & coffee and cake.  
The bar will be open.

Please call;  
Lori at the office at (905)549-0513  
or myself at (905) 730-6447  
OR e-mail me at [bparzen@cogeco.ca](mailto:bparzen@cogeco.ca)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## *August Birthdays*

Hildegard Bittner  
Eva Fori  
Ilse Kastrau  
Horst Kaufeld  
Werner Liste  
Andrew Litvinau

Bob Mulhall  
Theo Nermerich  
Anna Schaible  
Barbara Schuster

## *September Birthdays*

David Blosser  
Wesley Clifton  
Otto Dingfeld  
Dietrich Eckert  
Jurgen Eggers  
Gabriele Frank  
Henry Germann  
Hank Hope  
Jurgen Janke  
Albert A. Kergl

Ute Perl  
Ellen Pezzetta  
Linus Press  
Erika Renz  
Luba Rotman  
Adriana (Jeanet) Schaefer  
Sylvia Schien  
Heinz Schrader  
Herbert Vater  
Arthur Wagenblast



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## The President's Corner



Dear members,  
Once again I must sit and try and write some words of wisdom. Unfortunately, I happen to be short on wisdom. This pandemic has left us all a lot shorter, having been cooped up since March. I was hoping that we would be well on our way but it is still hanging on. Thankfully our children are all grown but our grandchildren are stuck with going back to school in September. After much deliberation our youngest son and his wife have decided to home school their children until at least October to see how things are going.

We have the same problems with the Club and how far and fast we should be re-instituting activities. I myself would rather error on the side of caution and hold off on some events rather than jumping into things and it backfiring on us. Especially considering the ages of most of our members.

As we struggle along I hope there is an end in sight and we can return to normal. Stay safe and enjoy the remainder of your summer.  
Garry Bulmer, President



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# Fischer & Jäger

Moin F+H Members + Friends,

We are back again. I hope everyone has kept healthy and well, and avoided so far, the virus. The summer so far has been absolutely beautiful. First I must apologize for forgetting Jr. Prize fishing. Diane and I totally forgot to mark it on our calendar! Oh how could we, sorry Brigitte for making you stay up so late waiting for us. You told me that the fishing was good and James was sad that we missed

it.

We hope to have a regular meeting on Sept 17th and our annual meeting on Sept 26th. Sorry to say I have no Birthdays this month but if anyone has a milestone coming up, congratulations and keep well.

Be kind to one another, here is a chuckle for you:

**I was so surprised at my birth, I couldn't talk for a year and a half.**

Until next time, take care and we'll see you at our meetings.


Tschuess Maggie  
highwayhoney44@gmail.com




New dock in the Park. Thanks everyone!



Old Park house being torn down



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Meat, Sausage, Cheeses  
and Delicatessen.



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## Aus unserem Frauenverein

The fall is coming, and we are still struggling to get back to some sort of normalcy in our lives.

However, since we have progressed to Stage III of re-opening, we are preparing to hold our first Frauenverein meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020 beginning at 7:30 P.M.

Please wear your masks, ladies (except, of course, when it's time to indulge!).

It will be so nice seeing everyone and exchanging our experiences from the last few months.

In October, we are tentatively planning to have another Epicurean Cooking Demonstration by Ellen Pezzetta. All prizes to go towards our tentative Christmas Bazaar.

On a sad note, we want to express our sincere condolences to our dear friend, Waltraud Schork, at

the loss of her beloved daughter. May you rest in peace, Suleima! Until September, I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our meeting.

Your Frauenverein Connection,  
Brigitte Parzen

## BREAKING NEWS

Wearing a mask  
in your home is  
highly recommended.  
Not to stop the spread of  
the Corona Virus  
but to stop eating.



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# FISH & CHIPS

## FRIDAYS

Your choice of:

Traditional Fish & Chips with coleslaw or  
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Weekly Chef's Special

**\$11.95** incl. HST

**5:00pm to 7:00pm in the Club**

Sep 11, 2020

Sep 18, 2020

Sep 25, 2020 special Liver & Onions

**Limited Seating RESERVATIONS needed**

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Germania Club of Hamilton

863 King Street East, Hamilton

Tel: 905-549-0513 [www.germaniaclub.ca](http://www.germaniaclub.ca)







## Choral Notes

After a long "intermission", during which our voices have become quite rusty, David Simon has arranged several happy virtual choir meetings with some choir members, our pianist Clement Ng, and even some supporting members. It was wonderful to have Sigrid Bachmann, Uschi Schien, and even Netty DeWit from Utrecht join us on screen.

Unfortunately, during this pandemic and the ensuing social distancing, we could not observe the birthdays of several choristers and supporting members: Waltraud Schork (March 5th), Erika Eigen (March 15th), Netty DeWit (March 18th), Paul Jäckle (March 18th), Inge Leitner (March 25th), Rosy Kramolowsky (April 13th),

Hans Renz (April 13th), Franz Bittner (April 18th), Richard Lutz (April 20th), Hedda Wagenblast (May 17th), Alex Wegner (June 6th), Karl Uschold (June 17th), Brigitte Muessner (July 1st), Heinz Mildenberger (July 1st), Josef Strassguertl (July 23rd), Eva Kolwes (July 9th), Lore Schaefer (July 28th), Gertrud Press (July 30th), Hildegard Bittner (August 27th) and Clement Ng (August 27th). We wish you "Viel Glück, viel Segen, und vor allem Gesundheit auf all Euren Wegen!"

Since provincial guidelines will now permit limited social gatherings, we will finally be able to hold our annual Choir Picnic at the Germania Park on September 12th at 3:00 p.m. I do hope that we will see you all there!

Mit frohem Sangergruss! Gudrun

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## Note from the Secretary

For some reason, my report was left out of the last Germania Post. First of all, I want to let you know that, due to Waltraud's daughter's passing, I have agreed to take over her position temporarily. Waltraud decided to step down for a short time; she will be back in action in September.

We want to express our deepest sympathy to her for the loss of her beloved daughter, Suleima.

Your Board of Directors has been very busy via Zoom meetings, arranged and initiated for us by David Simon. Let me tell you, that man has an immense amount of patience! Thank you so much, David!

Since we have now progressed to Stage III of re-opening, we will proceed to prepare for opening after Labour Day.

Our first social gathering will take place at the park.

Klaus is also preparing two movie afternoons in September; and most important of all, we have re-scheduled our Annual General Meeting to take place on Saturday, September 26, 2020, beginning at 10 A.M. A letter of invitation with further

details will go out to all members. If you're still in possession of your February 2020 issue of the Germania Post, please look it over, since all proposed Amendments to the Constitution are listed in there. We're really looking forward to seeing many of our members again!

We have also re-scheduled our Annual Stiftungsfest to October 18, 2020; so keep this date in mind as well.

Due to Covid restrictions, we will, of course, be limited to the number of guests, therefore reservations will be required. The wearing of masks will also be important whenever possible.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and please plan to join us for all events beginning in September.

Brigitte Parzen,  
Acting Board Secretary.

**“Do what you can,  
with what you have,  
where you are.”**

*-Theodore Roosevelt*







**Saturday,**  
**September 19th**  
**8 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.**  
*Germania Club of Hamilton*  
863 King Street East, Hamilton

We welcome donations of items for our Sale.  
Please bring them to the Club by  
7:30 a.m. on the day of the sale.



Continuation of;

## A Brief History of the Germania Club by Hans Bastel

It was the profit from the Fischer Hotel dances, combined with low interest debenture loans from Club members, that provided the funds for the many property acquisitions after 1950. Many of you are likely aware of these purchases and expansion projects.

In 1952: The original duplex on 863 King Street East was purchased.

In 1955: The large hall was constructed. Also, in 1955, the parking lot in the back of the building

was purchased from a Lawn Bowling Club.

In 1960: The 48-acre Germania Park was acquired.

In 1961: The cottage property up north was purchased.

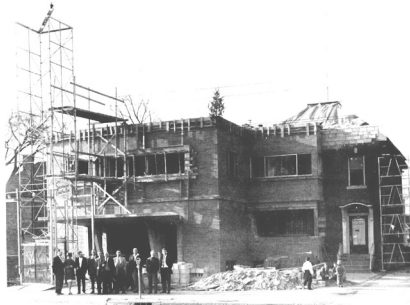
In 1962: This building was greatly expanded in the front and on the 2nd floor.

Finally, in 1976: The Germania Park house was acquired.

The total cost of all these purchases amounted to around \$300,000. Not a bad invest-

ment when one considers the following:

- When the cottage property was sold last year, it yielded \$385,000!
- For tax purposes, the Germania Park is assessed at \$250,000. It is worth considerably more.
- Again, for tax purposes, this building on King Street East is assessed at around \$700,000. Depending on what happens with the LRT project, it too, could be worth an awful lot more!



The above numbers describe the post- World War II material facts. What they don't tell, are the stories and efforts of hundreds of Club members who have invested thousands of unpaid hours of work in the Club. They have worked, and are still working, their proverbial butts off to make this place a "home away from home" for its members and guests – and to make it a Hamilton focal point for German culture and traditions.

One of the best ways to illustrate this accomplishment, is to list – in no particular order – the large number of interest and activity groups which have existed in our Club since the 1950's:

- The German Language School, led by Gerhard Spieler, Herbert Schmidt, Ursula Kopp and Fred Neumann, among others.
- The Mixed Choir
- The Children's Choir
- The Chess Club
- The Skat Group
- The Stamp Collectors Group
- The Stammtisch
- The Germania Musikanten
- Our House Band
- Our Camping Group
- The Soccer Teams
- The Field Handball Teams (which brought me into the Club)
- The Gymnastics Group
- The Judo Academy
- 9 -• The "Over 60" Group
- The Ballroom Dancers

- The Fishers and Hunters
- The Mardi-Gras Society Narrhalla
- The Children's Ballet
- The Ladies Auxiliary
- The Folk Dance Group
- The Culture Circle
- The Schuhplattler Alpenland
- The Club of Sudeten Germans
- The Ein Prosit Television show on CHCH TV

# Ein Prosit

## Der Gemütlichkeit

A toast  
and a cheer to happiness

Quite a page full! At times, this place was operating from morning to night, seven days a week.

It is worth mentioning that many interest groups had their own sub-groups. For example, the Fishers and Hunters did not only fish and hunt, they also had a target shooting group operating out of the Germania



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Park. The Gymnastics Club had sub-groups for children, youth, men, women and elite athletes. One of its members, Steve Mitruk, made it into Canada's Olympic team, while others won Canadian and Ontario championships.

All of the above cost money, lots of money. The interest groups needed budget funds, Club operations required funds, construction projects and building maintenance needed, and still need, to be financed. Where did all that money come from? Essentially, from four sources:

1. Membership fees
2. Club dance admission fees
3. Banquet Centre profits, and
4. Low interest, member-held debenture loans.

But things have changed considerably during the past 30 to 40 years!

- Immigration from German-speakers in Europe has virtually stopped.
- There have also been major societal changes: The gen-

erations of our children and grand-children have largely lost interest in joining volunteer driven social and cultural organizations. This does not only affect us and other ethnic groups. It is a general trend. Just look at the shrinking memberships of Rotary Clubs, the Shriners, Lions Clubs, churches and choirs. This is happening not only here in Canada, but seemingly throughout the western world.

My remarks today were intended to deal with the history of the Germania Club, not about its present or its future. But before finishing, allow me to make a personal observation. This observation is based on a discussion I had many years ago with two elders of our Club, past Presidents George Martini and August Fischl, both of whom had joined the Club before World War II.

The two of them pointed out, that when one looks at the history of the Club - right back to 1864, one will notice a common



theme, they used the German expression “roter Faden”. This common theme, this “roter Faden”, is the close linkage between the Club as a whole and its choir. As long as there is going to be a choir, there is going to be a Germania Club, they stressed.

The fate of our choir is a bell-weather, an indicator, for the fate of the Club as a whole. Other clubs may have other bell-weathers, but for us, it is our choir!

In this context, and before closing my remarks, I would like to read a very short German poem by Hans Mueller, a long-ago choir conductor in South-west Africa:

***Was uns eint im fremden Land,***

***Was uns hält, ein festes Band,  
Heilig durch die Seele zieht,  
Das ist unser deutsches Lied!***

Thank you for your attention - and for your patience.

Credits/Sources

Hamilton Spectator – Newspaper

Hamilton Herald – Newspaper

Der Nordwesten – Newspaper

Eugen Rapp, Arthur Krebs, W.

Debor– Germania Post Centen-

nial Editions

Hans Breschke – Germania Club Minute Book Research

Hans Bastel – Interviews with Eberhard Scheufele, Karl Kopriva, George Martini, John Hepperle, August Fischl, Albert Uetz, George Braun, Jackie Schnitzer, Albert Perl, Erwin Schien and Gerhard Spieler

*We thank Hans Bastel for his dedication to recounting the history of our club. Years of work in research, interviews and great participation as a member and former President of the club affords him the ability to teach us the importance of that history, and give us the courage to forge on. Bravo!! ds*

Photos:

*1962 fronting of building, and adding the small hall, offices, Rathskeller and cloakroom.*

*Below: The flag given to the Choir by the Ladies Auxiliary in 1874, one of the club's many artifacts.*



# 156th STIFTUNGSFEST, OCTOBER 18th, 2020

*The following is a list of members who will be honoured at the Germania Club's 156th Anniversary on October 18, 2020. Please check this list carefully. If there are any errors or omissions please call Lori at the office or Jeanet Schaefer at 905-385-2317*

## NEW MEMBERS

Julie Andronico  
Amanda Asbury  
Carlos Cardozo  
Wesley Clifton  
Sheri Crawford  
Philip Kummel  
Marcela Oliveira  
Juliana Valente  
Andre Valerio

## 10 YEAR MEMBERS – Silver Pin

Roswitha Pielorz  
Waltraud Schork

## 20 YEAR MEMBERS

Anna Atkinson  
Stefan Kun

## 25 YEAR MEMBER – Gold Pin

Gordon Schien

## 35 YEAR MEMBER

Helga Laqua

## 40 YEAR MEMBERS

Gunther Burger  
Hans Knoedler  
Dorothea Melms

## 45 YEAR MEMBERS

Franz Bittner  
Karl Uschold  
Jurgen Wellnitz

## 50 YEAR MEMBERS

Alois Knecht  
Thomas Rausch

## 55 YEAR MEMBERS

Waldemar Herling  
Erwin Hiller  
Eduard Keller  
Heinz Punko  
Willy Schaefer







**Sunday September 13 - Starts 2:00pm - English Language**

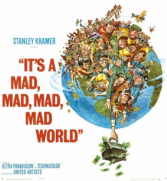
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English Language Film

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**Sunday September 27 - Starts 2:00pm—German Movie -**

Hauptfilm -

**"Ostfriesisch für Anfänger"**

Filmkomödie von 2014 mit Dieter Hallervorden

Vorfilm - **"Berlin-Brandenburg von oben"**



Free admission—coffee and cake available



## VERANGSTALTUNGEN - SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Sep 2	7:00pm	Ladies Auxiliary meeting
Sep 6	1:00pm	Germania Club Get together in the Park
Sep 9	2-4:00pm	Germania Culture Circle
Sep 11	5-7pm	Fish & Chip Fridays
Sep 12	3:00pm	Germania Choir Picnic
Sep 13	2:00pm	Film Afternoon <i>“It’s a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World”</i>
Sep 17	8:00pm	Fisher & Hunter meeting
Sep 18	5-7:00pm	Fish & Chip Fridays
Sep 19	8am-1pm	Sidewalk garage Sale
Sep 25	5-7:00pm	Fish & Chip Fridays
Sep 26	10:00am	Annual General Meeting
Sep 27	2:00pm	Filmnachmittag <i>“Ostfriesisch für Anfänger”</i>

### *Please Note:*

*All Social activities have a Limited Number of spaces available. You need to reserve by calling the office so that we can place single people, couples and families with proper social distancing. Masks need to be worn as per City by-law 2-155.*



### GERMANIA POST

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Editor & Layout; David Simon  
Deadlines for submissions to  
the Germania Post, 10th of  
each Month

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