

HEFT Summer 2020 - JAHRGANG 58

Germania Post



**Athletes competing in the ‘Germania Olympics’
at last year’s Picnic”**

Obituaries

Karl Heinz Gross

March 14, 1924 – May 26, 2020

Karl Heinz was a member of the Germania Club for over 65 years. He is predeceased by his wife Louise and daughter Monika. We extend our sincere condolences to his family in Germany and his friends.

Katherine W. Wahrlich

May 8, 1930 – June 1, 2020

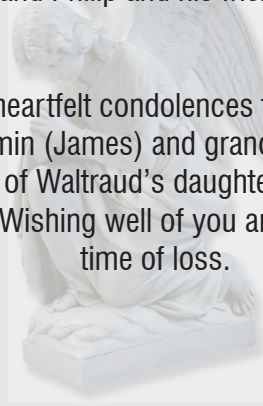
Katherine Wahrlich was a member of the Germania Club for 15 year. We extend our deepest condolences to Waldemar Herling, family and friends. Katherine and Waldemar were the familiar smiling faces at the club held Social dances for many years.

Otto Kohlschmidt

November 20, 1929 – June 11, 2020

Otto was a Life Long member of the Germania Club. We extend our sincere condolences to his partner Friedel Meinert; his nephew Uwe Kohlschmidt of Germany; stepchildren David and Rita Meinert; grandchildren Heather and Philip and his friends.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Waltraud Schork, daughter Jasmin (James) and grandson Liam, on the recent passing of Waltraud's daughter Sunsar Avens on June 17, 2020. Wishing well of you and your family in this time of loss.



The President's Corner



Well, once again, I find that I must put pen to paper (so to speak) and write July's message.

This has been a very trying time for the Germania Club but we are managing to struggle through. Hopefully the Provincial Government will list further restrictions and put our area and club into stage 3 where we can once again have the use of our facilities and meet again. Some good news is that the filming that had begun just before the pandemic hit, will now proceed mid-July for one week in the large hall.

With the help of Hedda and Arthur Wagenblast, our Chef Ray and Dave Blosser, they have been cleaning up the parking lot at the club, a difficult job but they are persevering with it.

All has not been idle as we have been busy at the Park. Starting of course with the demolition of the Park House. We have been lucky to have a dedicated group of volunteers

who have stepped up to help with all the work that must be done to keep the Park as good looking as it is. Along with Albert Kergl there has been our chief beaver Ken Foebel, our master of all trades Joe Feduszczak, David Blosser who has returned to help us, Bill McMenemy our head goat and his wife Nancy who have cut and trimmed the grass in the park, Kevin Perl who has helped with water testing and Carlos Andermarchi who remediated the storeroom in the Pavilion from the mould which had been growing there-in. I would be totally remiss if I did not mention the young crew of campers who assisted us in putting the swimming dock together and also helped us to construct a new fishing platform.

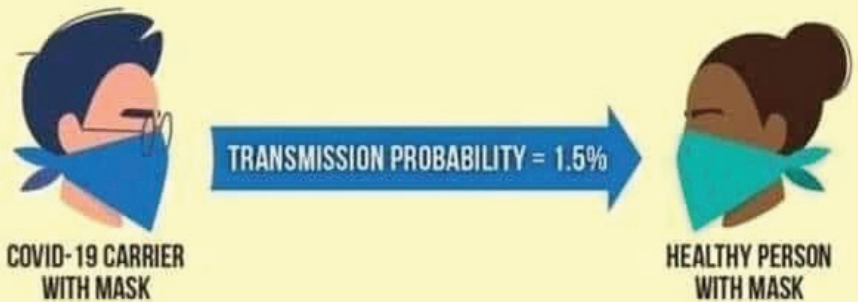
I would encourage members who are able to come out to the park on a Saturday or Sunday and have a look around. But unfortunately, I have to point out that there are no washroom facilities and also the need to remember the social distancing of 6 ft between all parties.

Hopefully all of this will be over and behind us before we know it. Enjoy your summer and above all, stay safe.



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9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bars• Big concerts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sports stadiums
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gyms• Amusement parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Churches• Buffets
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Playing basketball• Public pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Casinos• Restaurants – indoor• Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hair salons, barbershops• Pontoon boat rides• Movie theaters
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home dinner parties• Airplanes• Backyard barbecues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Malls• Beaches• Bowling
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dentist offices• Walking in busy downtown• Offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doctor waiting rooms• Restaurants – outdoor
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grocery stores• Camping• Hotels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Golfing• Libraries, museums
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walk, run, or bike with others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get car gasoline
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restaurants – takeout	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tennis

Dr Matthew Sims, Dr Dennis Cunningham, Dr Mimi Emig, Dr Nasir Husain. Based on risk factors including **inside/outside, nearness to others, exposure time, compliance likelihood, and personal risk.**





Fischer & Jäger

Moin Dear Fisher and Hunter, I truly hope everyone is Healthy, free of the virus., and able to step out side and enjoy Summer. The Fisher and Hunters are going to try this by having our JR Prize Fishing on July 18-19 2020 and our Family Weekend on Aug. 22-

23 2020. at Moon River. Call Rick Grobauer Please, if you are at all interested. Nothing else is knew so everyone keep healthy and hope to see you soon.

Tschuess Maggi



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CAMPER'S KORNER



We are happy that the Camping Season is well under way at last & most are finally able to enjoy time spent at their trailers. Of course, as we all know, delays are due to COVID 19 & Ontario Government rules & regulations for public safety. Some of those rules must be pointed out again....the Pavilion & wash-rooms are still closed. There is no one way to keep them sanitized between users. The Park is looking beautiful & that is due to the many hard-working volunteers. I feel the need to thank everyone for their time & labour... Garry Bulmer, Albert Kergl, Ken Foebel, Joe Feduszczak, David Blosser, Bill & Nancy McMenemy, Rosi Kramolowsky & Carlos Andermarchi. They have not only cut grass, but also dead trees, done the required water testing & Rosi planted flowers at the Memorial Garden, as well as waters them, which is not an easy task because the water

tap is missing. In addition, they have built and installed an impressive new fishing dock, which leaves the other dock available for swimmers to use. There were also some trailers moved. Some of the volunteers are no long Campers, so their work is especially appreciated.

Now that everyone is enjoying time at their trailers, a little reminder that we all must watch our speed limit. There are many children running around, or even some of the adults walking. Also, be mindful of your fellow Campers & maintain the quiet times after 11:00 p.m. & before 8:00 a.m.

With social distancing, children's use of the playground would be at parent's discretion.

There will be no Social Activities planned by the Committee this year since the Pavilion is closed.

Let's all have a safe & enjoyable Summer!

Submitted by Jeannie Hope
on behalf of Albert Kergl



THE GERMANIA CLUB OF HAMILTON

A Brief History

By Hans Bastel

On May 11th, 1915 the Hamilton Spectator published the following article: In view of this strong anti-German feeling throughout the city, intensified by the sinking of the Lusitania, the Officers of the Germania Club on Main Street East, at a meeting last night, decided to close the place up. This announcement was made by George Schnabel of the Spring Brewery Company, who is president of the Germania Club, to the Spectator reporter this morning.

Fortunately, the Club was allowed to close its doors “voluntarily”, after all, both Hamilton’s Mayor and the Chief of Police were Club members. It also meant that the Club retained its charter.

[In the above Spectator article, it refers to “the strong anti-German feeling throughout the city”]. It is no secret that the government-led, anti-German and anti-Kaiser propaganda was much more pronounced in Canada than it was in the USA, where no German clubs were closed. The reason for these strong propaganda campaigns was that relatively large segments of Canada’s population, especially French and Irish Canadians, were opposed to going to war in support of Britain. Ireland, at the time, was still fighting for its independence from Britain and the French-Canadians had not forgotten how the British had expelled the French-speaking Acadians from Eastern Canada.

After the war, the Club had a hard time getting going again. Most minute books for that period were either not kept or have vanished. The anti-German war propaganda had understandably taken its toll and had discouraged and dispirited most Club members. But some of them, mostly led by the Ladies Auxiliary, did try!

There is evidence that in a building on 192 Main St East, near Ferguson, socials and dances were held. There is a mention of this in a Hamilton Spectator article of October 21st 1925. It reads as follows:

An innovation will be introduced into the Germania Club on Friday evening when, for a short time, the members will drop their cards and quit their dancing, to listen to the issues of the federal election discussions. Election candidates have been especially invited by the President, Mrs. J. Hitzroth.



[We know that Mrs. Hitzroth couldn't have been President of the Germania Club as women were not allowed to serve on the Board of Directors or to vote in the Club until much, much later, in 1979! She was, however, the President of the Club's Ladies Auxiliary.]

Things started to change in the late 1920s. Beginning in 1928, large numbers of German-speaking immigrants started arriving from Europe. Most of them came from regions which had been part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire prior to World War 1. These new arrivals wanted to join a club for German-speakers. They got in touch with the remaining directors of the "old" Germania Club. But these, by now, elderly gentlemen were not interested in welcoming these "newbies" into their ranks and politely advised them to form their own club and try to prove that they were able to run a German social club in Hamilton. And this is exactly what happened!

In 1929, the "newbies" established a brand-new organization and named it "Verein Deutsches Heim, Hamilton", the Hamilton "German Home". They proceeded to rent a building on James Street North, close to the old City Hall. There they started a choir, a theater group, a German language school and organized ballroom dances. The theatre group must have been quite something, it performed entire operettas!

These successful activities impressed the directors of the "old" Germania Club to no end and, in 1935, they agreed to amalgamate the two organizations under the umbrella of the original 1884 Charter and the original name Germania Club of Hamilton Limited. The "old" Germania Club passed on a bank account containing exactly \$648.25!

This, of course, leads to an interesting question: What happened to the \$52,500 left over when the former clubhouse on 17 Main St East was sold, 18 years earlier? The answer is: The money went to the original shareholders, the "Aktieninhaber". [By the way, this cannot happen with today's Club - should it ever decide to disband. Back in 1970, the Club's charter was amended. Today's Club is no longer a corporation with share-capital, it is a corporation without share-capital. Any leftover funds would go to one or more charitable organizations. That is what it says in our current by-laws.]

But back in 1935, the newly amalgamated Club didn't have much time to fully develop because four years later, in 1939, World War II started, again with Germany being the enemy. Again, the Club was allowed to "voluntarily" stop all public events.

It should also be noted that the 1930s were very difficult times for everyone!



In North America, the Great Depression lasted from 1930 until 1939! Most breadwinners had lost their jobs in the manufacturing and construction industries. To survive economically, Club members did one of two things: They either started their own small businesses or they started farming in the Niagara Peninsula or in Norfolk County. Many Club members moved to the Delhi area where they either owned, or worked on, tobacco farms.

And guess what? These ex-Hamiltonians started the “Delhi German Home”, the “Deutsches Heim Delhi” and more or less copied Hamilton’s 1884 charter. The Delhi Club still exists today – you can check it out on the internet.

Back in Hamilton, other than once-a-year Board meetings, and the occasional trip to the German Club in Buffalo, Club-life was dormant during the war years. But this time around it didn’t take long to get things rolling again after the war had ended in 1945.

Already in 1946, the Club started up with dances at the old Fischer’s Hotel on York Street. These pre-World War II immigrants had things well in hand when the first German-speaking newcomers started arriving in large numbers after 1949.

to be continued...



The Germania Club as it was in 1955, with the newly built large hall on the left





Aus unserem Frauenverein

The last few months have certainly changed our lives forever. I never realized how much we rely on social interaction as part of our lives. We all miss being with the people we hold most dear to our hearts.

At the beginning of this pandemic I had set out to be an ambassador of positivity to people I know; I had planned to complete many projects that had been delayed or postponed, but as the time progressed, my positivity started to slowly fade and my projects were all being completed.

Hopefully there are some signs now of things changing slowly, as we all look forward to getting together again in whatever setting that may be.

In the meantime, my friends, use your excellent creative skills to prepare for our Bazaar in November(?). I know you all have some hidden talents!

Getting a little more familiar

with the advanced technology surrounding us, can also be very helpful to our lives right now.

On a sad note, I want you to keep our new member, Waltraud Schorck and her daughter Suleima, in your hearts and prayers. Suleima is very ill and suffering greatly right now.

An old previous member, Eva Kuehlem, lost her husband, Willi, recently. May Willi rest in peace; and Eva, may you cherish all your shared memories and find solace in them. Perhaps you would like to rejoin our lovely, cozy group at the Frauenverein again. We would welcome you with open arms.

In closing I wish you all a wonderful summer; stay healthy and happy until we can again gather in friendship.

Your Frauenverein
Connection,
Brigitte Parzen



Choral Notes

When we started practising this cheerful Swedish spring greeting in preparation for our first spring concert - which was to take place with Transylvania Kitchener as hosts - little did we know that the season and its outdoor delights would be restricted to our homes and backyards. And to this day, the beginning of summer, we really don't know how long this self-isolation will have to last. Like all choirs in the DKSB (Deutsch-Kanadischer Saenger Bund), we had several spring concerts lined up, and we were looking forward to meeting up with old friends and joining them with good food, good cheer, and, of course, lots of singing at the various venues.

At our last DKSB virtual meeting in May, we were told that choir practices are the most likely places for transmitting this horrid virus. In projecting our voices, we exhale strongly, thereby projecting with our breath pathogens, should we be carriers. Naturally, these can be inhaled by the people around us. As choristers,

we are taught to make good use of our lungs in order to transmit a strong, clear sound.

Beverley Gottvald of Kitchener related a particularly sad story about a choir in Washington State at the beginning of the current pandemic in early March: During a 2 1/2 hour choir practice, one of the 61 choristers (average age 69) arrived with mild cold symptoms. Following this one rehearsal, 53 members became ill with COVID-19, and two died.

After learning of this horror story, Concordia Kitchener does not expect to be resuming choir practices until 2001...

In the meantime, in the Germania Choir, we do stay in touch by phoning the individual members, and now, that it is permitted, we meet in small groups in our backyards, strictly adhering to the social distancing rules. We are hoping and praying that perhaps in the fall we may have a BBQ at the beautiful Germania Park, where it will be easier to spread out and stand (sit) a fair distance apart.. It would be wonderful if such an event could include all members of the Germania Club. Time will tell.

Mit frohem Sangergru!
Gudrun Boehm-Johnson



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Bernie Bieber
Elisabeth Boerkamp
Erich Butz
Evelyn Crawford
Adolf Ernst
John R. Fischl
Karla Fletcher
Terrance Geissler
Werner Grote

Julia Khayutin
Alois Knecht
Christa Kries
Roswitha Pierlorz
Heinz Punko
Gertrude Taunton
Karl Uschold
Alexander (Alex) Wegner
Dieter Woehrle

July Birthdays

Hilde Albrecht
Jutta Anton
Nina Fischer
Richard Frank
Mike Goldenberg
Martin Hack
Klaus Kastlunger
Eduard Keller
Eva Kolwes

Philip Kummel
Heinz Mildenberger
Brigitte Muessner
Lisa Nimz
Gertrud Press
Eleonore Schaefer
Alexandru Truta
Franz Weinhandl



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Coming Events

Dear members and friends; below are the tentative dates and times for our events. Please check with the club office or our website for confirmation that an event is proceeding. Until we see you, please stay safe, wear your mask and wash your hands.

August 9	11am	Germania Club Picnic
September 9	2-4pm	Culture Circle
September 26	3pm	Steel City Oktoberfest
October 3		Germania Choir Weinfest
October 4	1:30pm	Stiftungsfest
November 8	1pm	Memorial in the Park
November 15	11am-3pm	Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar
November 21		Schlachtfest
December 15		Germania Club Christmas Party



GERMANIA POST

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