

●●● VERANSTALTUNGEN ● SOCIAL ACTIVITIES ●●●

December 4	18:00	Fisher and Hunter Christmas
December 4	20:00	1st Saturday of the Month Dance
December 5	14:00	Germania Choirs Christmas Concert at First-United Pilgrim Church
December 11	17:00	Narrhalla Christmas Party
December 12	13:00	Club Christmas Party
December 14		Extended Board Meeting Cancelled
December 18	17:30	Choir Christmas Party
December 31	18:30	New Year's Eve Gala

The Rathskeller will be closed December 25th & January 1st.
Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Messages will be checked frequently.

VORSCHAU - PREVIEW

January 8	20:00	1st Saturday of the Month Dance (Postponed from January 1st)
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Next monthly membership meeting ...January 25, at 7:30 p.m.

Nächste monatliche Versammlung ... Am 25. Januar um 19:30 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

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

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

www.germaniaclub.ca

HEFT NR: 600 - Dezember 2010 - JAHRGANG 48

Germania Post

Come and celebrate
NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

at the **Germania Club**

- Delicious Dinner Buffet
- Dessert Buffet
- Party Favours
- Midnight Toasting Champagne
- Midnight Buffet

Dance to the Music of the Europa Band
Friday, December 31st, 2010
Doors open 6:30pm Dinner at 7:00pm

Germania Club
"One of Canada's Oldest German Clubs"
863 King Street East, Hamilton
www.germaniaclub.ca
Tickets: \$80.00 members \$90.00 guests
Tickets on sale until December 27, 2010

Advance tickets only by calling 905-549-0513
or visiting the club office
Tuesday - Wednesday or Thursday 6:00 - 8:00pm



Helmut Bader
 May 7, 1929 - October 30, 2010

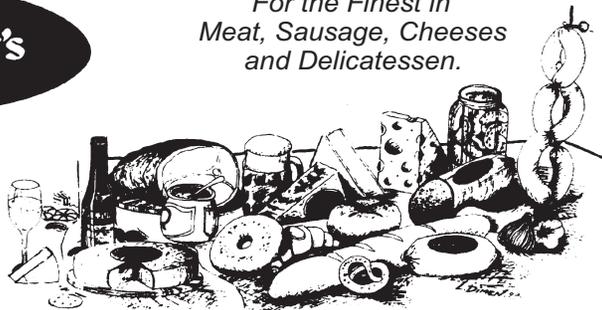
It is with such sorrow to report Helmut Bader has passed away. Helmut was an active member of the Club for 45 years. Our deepest sympathies to the Bader family and friends. He will be sadly missed.

- May your memories give you strength.



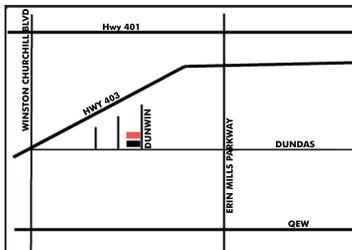
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Donations

Alex and Erika Wegner \$200

Park and Memorial Fund

Priscillia Wilson \$100
 in memory of husband
 Desmond Wilson
 Eva Heidt and Family \$300
 in memory of husband and
 father Karl Heidt
 Eva Heidt \$200
 in memory of Helmut Bader
 Franz & Julie Weinhandl \$100
 in memory of Karl Heidt
 Hans Kreuzer \$300
 in memory of wife Anna

*The Germania Club
 Welcomes New Members*

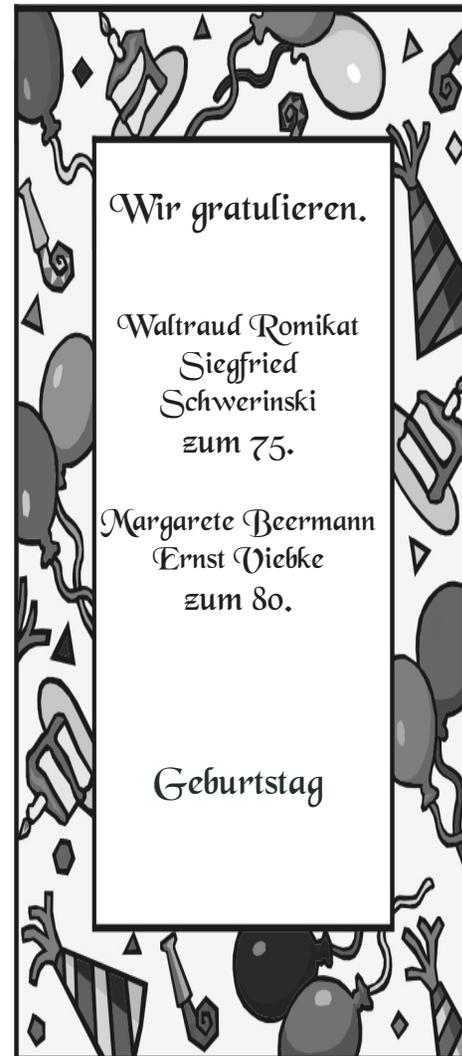
*Mike Bohner
 Manfred & Roswitha Pierlorz
 Waltraud Schork*

The Club Thanks

the following for gifts received at the 2010 Stiftungsfest

*Ladies Auxiliary
 Over 60 Group
 Campers
 Fisher and Hunters*

*Germania Choir
 Alex Ewinger
 Jackie Schnitzer
 Erwin and Uschi Schien*



Wir gratulieren.

*Waltraud Romikat
 Siegfried
 Schwerinski
 zum 75.*

*Margarete Beermann
 Ernst Diebke
 zum 80.*

Geburtstag

The Campers' Report



Hello Campers

We recently attended the 146th Germania Club Stiftungsfest and it was good to see some of our campers who had reached milestones for their years at the Club. Eddy Keller 45 years, Stefan Kun and Desi Szabo 10 years. Hats off to them.

We also attended the memorial service on November 7th. It was a time to reflect on the memories of our past loved ones. David Simon said a few words in memory of Karl Heidt and all the things he had done for the Park and the Club. I only wish I would have had the opportunity to have known him better.

This year is the Park's 50th anniversary so we can look forward to some sort of celebration coming up soon.

The camper's would also like to thank Richard Lutz for his donation of \$1500.00 for the maintenance and upkeep of the Park.

We now have our new camper's fees for 2011 in place; \$425.00 + the dreaded HST of 13% which equals in the amount of \$480.25. The hydro will be \$27.00 + the dreaded HST which equals in the amount of \$30.51.

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Your Chairman
Kevin Pyett

Leaves painted crimson, trees dipped in gold, skies brushed with violet and fuchsia
Autumn journals its wonder in colour.

We Apologize
The previous Germania Post was delayed due to an error at the Post Office

The President's Corner



November 6 was our memorial in the park to honour and remember those members who have passed on before us. Many members and friends were in attendance making the day very special. We started off with Erich Puppa playing the Zapfenstreich on his harmonica. Thank you to the choir under the leadership of Linus Press for singing three songs that set the tone for a somber celebration of the lives of our members. The day could not have been better, with beautiful sunshine, and a nice atmosphere amongst friends. Thank you to Richard Lutz, George Kiss, Dietrich Eckert, Susan Butz, Erika Wegner, Hannelore Simon, Annemarie Kiss, Eva Kolwes, Carol Albrecht and Janette Pascall for looking after the refreshments and snacks after the memorial. I think we have such a wonderful tradition in remembering the members who have passed before us by holding the annual memorial and by having a beautiful memorial stone and garden. It is such a peaceful place that can be visited any time in the year.

On October 30th, Heinz Ollesch sponsored a dance in the club by paying for the Walter Ostanek band and entertainment and distributing free tickets for the event. Many dancers attended and had a wonderful time. Thank you Heinz for your continuous generous

support of the Germania Club and dancers.

The Germania Club Christmas Party will be held on December 12th beginning at 1:00pm (doors open at noon). Last year the crafts were such a hit that Susan Butz and her group of elves will be having the fun crafts for the children, and singing once again. The highlight of course is the Jolly old elf himself, Santa Claus who will be coming to distribute the give gifts to the children. Be sure to register your children or grandchildren with the club secretary by December 10th.

The New Years Eve Gala tickets are available in the club office, in fact they are selling already. For the party we will have our now famous lavish dinner buffet, party hats and noise makers, and dancing to the Europa Band. Included in the \$80 member/\$90 guest entrance is the toasting Champagne at midnight and a midnight buffet. New Year's Eve is a special time of the year, why not come and enjoy the night with friends in the Germania Club?

On behalf of the board of directors I wish all members and friends of the Germania Club a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the Christmas season. May your holiday season be blessed with peace, love and joy.

David Simon

The Club Thanks You!
Thank you Heinz Ollesch for holding a dance on October 30th.
How beautiful a day can be
When your kindness touches it!





A loyal member of the Germania Club
For 50 Years
Oskar Baeuerle

Oskar Baeuerle was born on April 25, 1923 in Gniedau. When Gniedau was founded at that time it belonged to Poland. They built their own schools and churches so that they could stay in a German community and speak the German language.

Oskar was a baker by trade because his brother-in-law owned a bakery.

In 1944, he went to Segelflugzeug school to learn how to fly a plane. In January 1945, he was drafted and was put on the east front to defend his country. Soon after that he became a prisoner of war. In October 1945, Oskar risked his life and deserted. He was lucky and got to West Germany for Christmas.

In 1951, Oskar met Ella Erna and she became his wife a year later. They immigrated to Canada in 1952 and they have one son, Werner.

Oskar worked at a Steel company from 1955 until he retired in 1984.

In 1960, Oskar joined the Germania Club. He became a member of the

Fisher and Hunter Group. He loved to go hunting and earned many trophies.

Oskar loves living in Canada. He had a cottage in Muskoka and also 87 acres of land. He sold it all and now lives in Hamilton.

Every Saturday, Oskar visits the Rathskeller and has a drink there.

Oskar is now 87. 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.



The Board of Directors would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Cont'd from page 12

problems. But the majority finally prevailed and the house was bought. The rationale was as follows: 1) if the Club did not purchase the place there was a continuing danger of "unfriendly" neighbours who would complain about the traffic and noise during special events, such as picnics and other festivals, and 2) if, for whatever reason, the Club had to suddenly vacate its King Street East premises, the house could always be used as a temporary Headquarter.

The same issue as to what to do with this house arose again in the early 1980's when a fire virtually gutted the house's interior. The insurance company offered the Club about \$23,000 in return for demolishing the building. The Board of Directors at that time decided otherwise and renovated the place. Their rationale for doing so was essentially the same as when the property was initially purchased.)

After all of these property transactions were completed, the Park area amounted to 48 acres, subdivided into 3 parcels of land, all separately deeded. Parcel 1: the rental house, Parcel 2: 10 acres located on the north side of the property adjacent to Trinity Church Road, and Parcel 3: the remaining 37 acres.

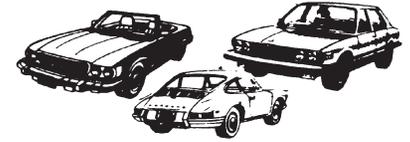
****More to come in the next issue****



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cont'd from page 11

"seeking a picnic property within a 20-mile radius of downtown Hamilton, ideally containing a wooded lot and a small creek suitable for fishing". To Karl Kopriva's surprise dozens of offers rolled in from places such as Smithville, Waterdown, Stoney Creek, Campbellville and Copetown. But Karl convinced the Board of Directors and the membership to acquire a 55-acre farm property on the Binbrook/Glanford Townline. The purchase was executed in 1960 and the facility was immediately named "Germania Park".

The purchase price was \$9,500. The Club made a down payment of \$3,500 and committed to paying off the remaining \$6,000 by 1967. After a fair bit of clean-up and road access work was done, the first Club Picnic was held there in 1965.

It was also in 1965 when the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) notified the Club that it was planning the construction of a major dam in the vicinity of the Park. The dam was designed to create a 3.5 mile long, 430-acre lake. Besides its major function of storing water to augment summer water flow into the Welland River, the lake was to have recreational uses ranging from fishing and swimming to camping and hunting.

For the Germania Park, this project was to have a major impact. The quiet little creek which meandered through the middle of the park was to

become part of this large lake, cutting off road access to the southern section of the property. The NPCA assured the Club that it would be willing to negotiate a settlement to compensate the Club for this loss of access and the loss of the land which would be put under water.

In 1967 an agreement was reached. The NPCA purchased a 16-acre parcel of land from the Club and paid \$9,415 for it. A few years later in 1971, the NPCA bought another 2 acres of Park property. As compensation for that sale the Club received \$3,000 in cash plus 8 acres of land. This land was located on the west side of the park, adjacent to the lake. These transactions provided the Park with lake-frontage of more than 2,000 feet and \$12,415 in cash. Not a bad return on an initial investment of \$9,500!

There was one more property transaction to come as far as the Park is concerned. In 1976 the Club bought the farm house and the associated land of approximately 1 acre located next to the entrance gate of the Park. (An interesting aside regarding this purchase: members with a long memory will recall that this transaction caused quite a bit of controversy amongst the then Board of Directors and the membership at large. One fraction felt quite strongly that the Club should not touch this old, somewhat dilapidated house with a ten-foot pole, because its use as a rental property would only cause

cont'd on page 13

**THE
OVER SIXTY
GROUP**



**Fischer
& Jäger**

On Wednesday December 15th we will be celebrating our Christmas Party. We should be at the Club anytime after 12 o'clock and our lunch will start at 1 PM. It would be great if we could all bring a present or two for our raffle.

For Liesellotte Heuck, who is now in a home, we wish you a very Happy Birthday on December 31st. She will be 79 years young.

To everyone, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours Linda Wanner

Hello all and on behalf of the Vorstand may we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It is at this time that there really is not much going on other than planning for next year, and trust me we have lots to do.

Our Christmas Party is happening on December 4th, and I also suspect many others are going on as well. Try to remember that this is a joyous season, not so much of giving...I still like black, just kidding. It is the season to share your love with others, so give a handshake or a wave and enjoy this time.

As a friendly reminder folks, please be careful when the roads are slippery. We must all take care when we are out and about.

Very short this month, but remember that all of you are in our thoughts. Merry Christmas all.

Petri Heil
Richard

I am kind of lazy this month so I borrowed this but I feel it is fitting; "Anytime you do something from the heart, people just know it"

Take care all, stay safe and well. Until we meet again.

**Sunday
December 12th, 2010**

**Santa is coming to
The Germania Club**



**Doors open at noon
Don't forget to register**



Aus unserem Frauenverein

It was wonderful to see so many members attending. It is always a pleasure to see all the Ladies. Right now we are preparing for our Christmas Bazaar. A lot of work always goes in it. Our Ladies are busy baking for it. Rosi Kramolowsky asked members to bake a cake for Memorial Day, if it is possible.

On December 1, 2010 we are holding our Christmas Party since the Ladies were good for the whole year. We hope Santa can make it to surprise the Ladies.

December Birthday Ladies

Erna Melloh Dec. 2
Hilde Platz Dec. 8
Margurite Platz Dec. 20
Lieselotte Heuck Dec. 31

Congratulations to all the Ladies.

That's all for now

Stay healthy and keep smiling
Yours Helga Laqua

Here is my Christmas prayer for you...

I said a Christmas prayer for you because the season's near.

I didn't ask for riches
but for gifts so much more dear.
I asked for joyful gatherings
with your family all around.
And for Carol's to inspire you
with their old familiar sound.
I asked for quiet moments
in your heart on Christmas morn.
For a special time to celebrate
the saviour who was born.

I asked for friends to send their best
that you might know they care.
I ask for Peace and Love and Hope
and I know God heard my prayer.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous, healthy and Happy New Year.



Seven days without laughter makes one weak.

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50 YEARS GERMANIA PARK

By Hans Bastel

And if I knew
that tomorrow the world would
come to an end -
I would still plant a tree today
F.C. Laukhardt

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the purchase of the Germania Park by our Club. It is an occasion worth celebrating. As we shall see later, this acquisition was one of the best investments the Club ever made.

In order to understand what led to this purchase, one has to reflect back to the 1950's: a time of large-scale immigration into the Hamilton area of German-speaking people from all over Europe.

In 1952 the fledgling Germania Club had purchased the, still existing, duplex at 863 King Street East. After it was totally renovated and a liquor license was obtained (!) The building was found to be much too small to accommodate the ever increasing number of new members, interest groups and social events. Therefore, shortly afterwards in 1955 the large hall was added. Also, by this time the newly arrived immigrants had started to own cars and demanded a place to park when they visited the Club, the parking lot was purchased. But by 1959 the Club was too small again and the Board of Directors explored the feasibility of selling 863 King Street East and purchasing a large parcel of farm land in Stoney Creek with plenty of frontage onto Lake

Ontario. This land was to contain a large clubhouse, one or more soccer fields and a picnic area. The concept of locating German Clubs away from city centres in developing suburbs was not a new one; it had been pioneered by Clubs throughout the USA and by neighbouring Clubs in St. Catharines, Port Colborne, Guelph and Kitchener. However, a majority of members did not support the idea of moving "out of town", to start building all over again and to acquire new debt. This resulted in the decision to add more space to the existing facility by building the upstairs hall, the Rathskeller, the hallway to the large hall as well as two small offices and the coat checkroom.

But the idea of owing some green space "out of town" had taken hold of a small but influential group of members and interest groups, especially the Fishers and Hunters as well as the Soccer and Field Handball teams who had visions of rifle ranges, fishing ponds and sports fields they could call their own. Even the Germania Club itself got tired of paying substantial rental fees to outsiders whenever it wanted to hold picnics and summer festivals.

In the end it was Karl Kopriva, a pre-world war 2 immigrant from Slovenia and the "Eminence Gris" of the Club, who took on the formidable challenge of finding an appropriate "Picknick Platz" and to find a way to finance it! He started by placing an

Cont'd on page 12

Memorial 2010

Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.

- Anonymous



Special thank you to the Choir. Richard Lutz and Susan Butz for preparing the hall. George Kiss for cooking. Annemarie Kiss and Janette Pascall for looking after the ticket sales. Hannelore Simon, Erika Wegner, Eva Kofwes and Susan Butz for looking after the cakes. David Simon for giving such a heart warming service. Dieter Eckert for the pictures and tending bar.



Choral Notes

With the last golden leaves tumbling to the ground and Halloween just behind us, it is hard to think about Christmas, and yet, by the time you receive this issue of the Germania Post, it will be just a few days before our Christmas Concert. Our concert will be held in First-Pilgrim United Church on 200 Main Street East on December 5th at 2 p.m., and it will be an afternoon well spent if you all come out! Those of you who have come out in the past know that there is also a social time with coffee and cookies after the concert; so it really is a heart-warming event! Please, remember, there is no charge for the concert, but we really do appreciate your donations after the concert. Any money collected pays for the use of the church and other expenditures of the Choir.

For several years the Choir has taken the opportunity to spread a little Christmas cheer, and on December 9th and 17th we will sing at the Macassa Lodge and the Sonnenhof in Brantford, respectively. On the 18th we'll have our own party, and with it another fabulous season will come to its end.

On November 7th we remembered the members who have died in the last and previous years. The Choir participated in the service, and its songs were appreciated. I am

surprised that so many members come out for this event; it obviously strikes a chord with the members. The weather was sunny and almost warm, and the food and drinks were appreciated by all. A thank-you to all participants!

Who are the birthday celebrants in December? Methinks it is Christine Eastwood, Armin Eigen, Eckhard Kries, and Kurt Schaible. May you have a great day!

In closing, do come out to our Christmas Concert and have a Merry Christmas!

George Fischer

Germania Choir Annual Christmas Concert

Sunday December 5, 2010
at 2 pm

First-Pilgrim United
Church

200 Main St. East,
Hamilton



-joining us are the
5 singing angels

Stiftungsfest



10 Year Members
Desi Szabo, Hilde Albrecht
and Stefan Kun



25 Year Member
Helga Laqua



30 Year Member
Dorothea Melms



Alex Wegner
David Simon



Hedda Wagenblast
David Simon



Gary Albrecht
David Simon



35 Year Members
Werner Grauf,
Franz Bittner
and Karl Uschold



40 Year Members
Thomas Rausch,
Alois Knecht



45 Year Members
Willi Schaefer,
Eduard Keller
and Waldemar Herling



Rosi Kramolowsky
David Simon



Uschi Schien



Kevin Pyett
David Simon



50 Year Members
Karl Mueller, Oskar Bauerle
and Alois Reissler



Martin Karl
60 Year Member

Special Thank you to all

Susan Butz for donating the flowers, Eckhard Kries, Arthur Wagenblast, Richard and Lori Kramolowsky for helping setting up the hall. Uschi Schien for all her hard work in putting together the 50 year biographies. Eckhard Kries for all the photos. The Germania Choir for another great performance. Ted Dodds for making the Urkunden. David Simon for doing a fabulous job as emcee.