Newsletter

MARCH 2011

THE GERMAN-CANADIAN CLUB LONDON
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President's Corner

Dear Members

As you read in our February issue under "Manager's Report", our Job Creation Partners (JCP) took charge of their jobs. Here I must add that a large amount of this success is due to the impetus and leadership of Chris Wesley, who has been active in the club since July 2010 and from the outset was the leading individual in the JCP program. Meantime, he has become completely familiar with the duties and challenges and is a co-worker whom I would not like to be without.

The remaining four employees, Juan Caicedo (Maintenance), Wanda Howe (Multimedia), Jody Curtis (Events & Marketing) and Steven Meincke (Sustainability) work intensively on collective, as well as individual projects, which to date have already netted us a new website and numerous hall bookings. The JCP program terminates on June 28, 2011. At that point in time, we are hopeful that we will be in a financial position that will allow us to retain one or two of these valuable employees at our own expense.

The renovations of the outbuilding are progressing rapidly. This project is being financed by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Mechanical installations and wall- and floor-coverings are being completed with the enthusiastic help of our volunteers, and we await the completion of this project with great anticipation.

Also within the club proper, some beautifications were undertaken. The beverage room as well as the foyer to the choir room received new epoxy floor coverings.

Please visit your club often and convince yourself of the improvements, and experience our well-known *Gemütlichkeit*.

Bob Walters

Don't forget our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
on Sunday, February 27 at 1:30 pm!

MARCH EVENTS		
Thursday March 3	Handywork	1 pm
Thursday March 3	Carnival club (Funken) meeting	7 pm
Friday March 4	Skat Card Play	8 pm
Saturday March 5	Costume Ball Music Carousel	7 pm 8-12 pm
Sunday March 6	Seniors' Kaffeeklatsch	2 pm
Sunday March 6	Children's Masquerade	2 pm
Thursday March17	Handywork	1 pm
Sunday March 20	Special Event Kaffeeklatsch	2 pm
Wed. March 23	Seniors' Bingo	1 pm
Thurs. March 31	Handywork	1 pm

- **Everyone is welcome to all Seniors' events**
- **Every Monday at 8 pm: Lyra Choir Practice**
- **Every Friday at 8 pm: dancing with DJ. John**

EDITOR'S CORNER

Dear Members and Friends of the German Club London

As everyone knows, March is the beginning of spring. But this morning I had to remove snow from my driveway again. So we have to wait for spring a little longer, I guess.

I hope this Newspaper will reach you before the 27th of February, so that you will have time to plan to come to the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, February 27.

You may be interested to read the "infomercial" by former Lyra choir member Dagmar Wendt, on the last page of this month's newsletter.

We all know what is going on in the Middle Eastern world. By coincidence, there is an article in this newsletter by a young Egyptian woman who is a trainee teacher at the German Language school. I think I am speaking for all of us when I hope that her loved ones are all safe in Egypt, and we wish for her home country a peaceful transition into a democratic future.

Burkhard Spangenberg

The **Special Event Group** is asking for **book shelves** for the club. They will pick up whatever you donate.

PLEASE REMEMBER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, February 27, 1:30 pm

Please pay your membership dues. You must have paid your dues for this year in order to vote at the General Annual Meeting.

APRIL EVENTS		
Friday April 1	Skat Card game	7 pm
Sunday April 3	Seniors' Kaffeeklatsch	2 pm
Sunday April 10	DAY OF SONG	2 pm
Wednesday April 20	Seniors' Bingo	2 pm

- Everyone is welcome to all Seniors' events
- Every Monday at 8 pm: Lyra Choir Practice
- Every Friday at 8 pm: Dancing with DJ John

IMPORTANT NEWS!

Costume Ball on March 5th

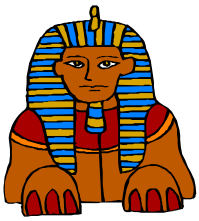
Opening	7 pm
Music	8-12 pm
Band	Carousel
Entrance fee	$10.00

Prizes for best Costumes

MARWA FROM EGYPT

Trainee in the German Language School, London

Where I Learned German and How



I was five years old when I traveled with my family to Germany, because my father wanted to finish his PhD thesis there. We lived in Karlsruhe, Baden-Württemberg for two years; during this time I went to kindergarten. There I gradually learned the German language. At the end of the two years I was able to attend school for two months, as I was already 7 years old. At that time I did speak relatively good German for a child.

When we got back to our country I attended the only German international school in my hometown Alexandria. My school is run by the German Embassy in Egypt, our school books were sent from Baden-Württemberg, and our teachers, except those who taught us Arabic, religion and local history, were all German.

During elementary and senior public school we were taught German as a first foreign language, while all the other subjects were also taught in German. Arabic, English and French were also languages we studied in school.

During high-school, we started to study German for German-speaking students, and not as a foreign language. We read several German novels, dramas and poems, that belonged to different epochs. This was always something very interesting to me.

After 12 years, which I consider among the best years of my life, I graduated from this school in June 2005, with an average credit of 1.9 points. After finishing school I studied civil engineering at the University of Alexandria. Because the subjects in the Faculty of Engineering were all taught in English, and because I couldn't live without the German language, I started helping primary-school students from my old school with their homework.

I got engaged during the third year of my studies at University, and got married after I finished my degree. In September 2010 I moved to Canada to live with my husband who is a PhD student at the University of Western Ontario.

Because I still can't live without the German language, I am working as an assistant in the German Language School in London. I really like it not only because of the fact that I can speak German there, but also because of the nice people I meet there.

Every month, this newsletter is read by more than 300 people who have an interest in things German.

WHY NOT ADVERTISE WITH US?

For information about advertising, contact the Editor (519-657-1776)
Email: drbspangenberg&gmail.com

Membership

We welcome Dr. Kate Partridge as a new member to our club.

Congratulations to everyone who was born in March.

Spring is coming!

The Last Word

Every mistake appears to be incredibly stupid – as long as it's made by others

G.C.Lichenberg

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Email: drbspangenberg@gmail.com

Advertisement

Under the Volcano: A restaurant success story

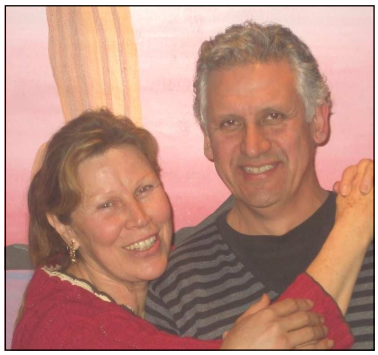
Former Lyra choir member ***Dagmar Wendt****, the owner of Under the Volcano, was born in Stuttgart. She came to Canada as a teenager and went on to complete her B.A. in Canadian Studies at York University. Dagmar moved to London in 1977 and in 1978, she bought the* Hamilton Road Delicatessen, *a shop that many older club members will remember. When her marriage to Frank Wendt ended, Dagmar worked in real estate for a year, and it was through this job that she discovered that Under the Volcano was for sale.*

Dagmar has two children. Her daughter Melanie Wendt works with her at Under the Volcano**.** *Her son Patrick is a fire fighter in Cambridge. She sang in our Lyra Choir for a number of years until her busy restaurant business took her away from those pleasures.*

Under the Volcano was started in 1974 by a young Canadian woman, Carolyne Tennent, and her imported Mexican boyfriend. *Under the Volcano* was one of the first restaurants to be different in the vast waspy eating scene of the little South Western Ontario town called London. Those were the days of "meat and potatoes", of "hot turkey sandwiches". Eating exotic food meant having a Greek salad with, can you believe it, olives and a spice that was not salt and pepper!

All that changed when *Under the Volcano* appeared in London in an old Victorian house at Colborne Street just south of York. The restaurant served up tasty, spicy, delicious, truly exotic food. Even though it was far from the university, "We used to go there when we were students at Western" is one quote we hear a lot at *Under the Volcano*, says Dagmar. The young people found the hot spot (excuse the pun), they introduced their parents to it, and a new era of restauranting began in London. From tacos to enchiladas to burritos, the flavourful food was embraced with gusto by the locals.

In the late 1980's, London was experiencing an influx of Spanish-speaking refugees, driven by war and civil unrest in Latin America. This proved to be a wonderful and culturally enriching experience for London. In 1988,



Dagmar Wendt & Ruben Vega, owners of *Under the Volcano*

Dagmar took over the reins of *Under the Volcano*, and she made sure that live Latin music became a mainstay. It was through these musicians that Dagmar met her present husband Ruben Vega, a refugee from Chile.

In 2003 the Vega-Wendt team succumbed to the entrepreneurial itch and moved to their present location at the
south west corner of Richmond and Piccadilly Streets. The new premises have twice the number of seats of old house. "Every move is risky" says Dagmar, "but it proved to be a good decision. We now get many more young people because we are closer to Western. And our older clientele has largely followed us. Even though every once in a while I still hear some of them grumbling that they liked the old house better."

So what gives this restaurant its staying power? "I believe it comes from embracing change while being true to your roots. Good service will always be good service. Good food will always be good food. The success comes from adapting to the changing environment and people's expectations, and giving your guests what they want" believes Dagmar.

She adds: "A restaurant is only as good as its staff, and we have been lucky with that". And to make this point, in March 2011 *Under the Volcano* is celebrating the retirement party of Diane Harris, who has been at the restaurant since 1989. (Many other staff members have been there much longer than is industry standard - it's obviously a good place to work.)

So the future looks bright for *Under the Volcano.* The private dining room and areas are booked out most weekends. A young guitarist, Alejandro, sings your favourite Spanish love song on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. And the staff and food are both wonderful. "Our motto is: *Where every meal is a vacation*" laughs Dagmar, "so if you need a mini-vacation pop on in and we'll get you there. It's a promise!"

MEXICAN RESTAURANT
UNDER THE VOLCANO

***Under the Volcano*, 717 Richmond St. (SW corner of Richmond at Piccadilly), 519-435-1197. To see the menu, go to: www.iloveunderthevolcano.com**

LONDONER FUNKEN ROT-WEISS

ANNUAL COSTUME BALL

SAT. MARCH 05, 2011

GERMAN-CANADIAN CLUB

1 COVE ROAD, LONDON

MUSIC BY CAROUSEL

DOORS OPEN
7:00
MUSIC STARTS 8:00
$10.00 each

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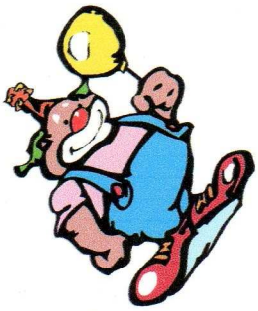

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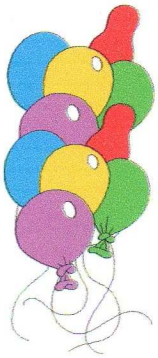
MASQUARADE PARTY



GERMAN-CANADIAN CLUB

1 COVE RD.

SUN. MARCH 06, 2011

1:30 - 4:00 AGES 0 - 15

PRIZES FOR ALL CHILDREN

FAMOUS BALLOON DROP

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

FOR MORE INFO CALL

AUDREY 519-520-2476

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