

# THE AUSTRIAN-CANADIAN COUNCIL 1995-2005: A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

## 1994: The Austrian-Canadian Council is established

The Austrian-Canadian Council (ACC) was established in the summer of 1994 as an umbrella organization of the more than twenty Austrian clubs and societies across Canada. Its mandate is to inform Canadians about Austrian culture and learning, giving them an appreciation of Austrian studies, Austrian graphic and performing arts and Austrian intellectual life and literature. It also acts as a sponsor of Austrian scholarly and cultural activities in Canada.



March 17, 1996: Austrian Society Ottawa, book launch of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary *Festschrift* at St. Albertus Church. Left to right: Hans Körner, Dieter Kiesevalter, and Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador) receiving the first book of the Society from ASO President Roland K. Pirker. (The production of this book in 1994 initiated the establishment of the Austrian-Canadian Council.)

The initiative for establishing this organization came from Dr. Walther Lichem, then Austrian Ambassador to Canada. In September 1994, he approached the President of the Austrian Society Ottawa, Roland K. Pirker, with the proposal to organize such a national organization.

In the course of the following months Mr. Pirker contacted almost all presidents of Austrian clubs and societies across Canada about this suggestion and received such a favourable response that a few months later all necessary legal preparations could be made by the law firm of Lang Michener in Toronto to establish the ACC as a charitable organization. Mr. Frank Stronach covered the legal fees for the incorporation of the new group and served as the first Honorary Chairman of the Council

from 1994 to 1998. The first four members of the Board of Directors to sign the incorporation documents were Roland K. Pirker (President, Austrian Society Ottawa), Gerhard (Garry) Bonner (President, Austrian International Club Kingston), Hans (John) Raschke (President, Austrian-Canadian Society Toronto) and Otto Heberlein (Vice-President, Austrian Society Ottawa).



February 14, 1995: Austrian-Canadian Council inaugural meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto. Left to right: David W. Pamentor, Dr. Gerhard Selzer, Dr. Franz Vranitzky (Federal Chancellor of Austria), Gerhard Bonner (ACC President) and Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador).

On February 14, 1995 the Austrian-Canadian Council held its inaugural meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto. During this meeting Garry Bonner was elected to act as the first president. The Austrian Federal Chancellor, Dr. Franz Vranitzky, who was on a state visit to Canada at that time, opened the meeting. Many presidents and representatives of Austrian clubs and societies from



February 14, 1995: Austrian-Canadian Council inaugural meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto. Left to right: Karl Fiala, Frank Stronach and Edmund and Hilde Harzan.

across the country attended and took part in writing a new chapter in the history of the Austrian community in Canada.

As a national representative of the Austrian community in Canada, the Austrian-Canadian Council sees itself as a partner of the Austrian Embassy in Ottawa, and collaborates with it in a variety of educational and cultural projects of interest to our two countries. The Council is a



February 14, 1995: Austrian-Canadian Council inaugural meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto. Left to right: Franz Prokop (Maple Ridge, B.C.), Walter Schachenhofer (Edmonton), Margot Wirth (Secretary, Steirer Club Toronto), Karl Vogel (President, Steirer Club Toronto), Joe Waldner, Karl Gyaki, Joe Plessl (President, Edelweiss Club Regina), Josef Helbich (President, Austria Club Windsor) and Franz Gutschl (Vice-President, Austria Club Windsor).



February 14, 1995: Austrian-Canadian Council inaugural meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto. Left to right: 1st row: Roland K. Pirker (Secretary, ACC and President, Austrian Society Ottawa), Jeo Waldner, H. E. Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador), Gerhard (Garry) Bonner (President, ACC and President, Kingston International Club), Franz Prokop and Heidi Rust (Montreal). 2nd row: Walter Schachenhofer, Josef Helbich, Dr. Hans-Günther Abromeit (Consul of Austria), Franz Gutschl and Joe Plessl. Third row: Arno Risse (President, Continental Austrian Club Burlington), Hans Raschke (Vice President, ACC and President, Canadian-Austrian Society Toronto), Otto Heberlein (Treasurer, ACC and Vice President, Austrian Society Ottawa), Alois Dunninger (President, Trodat Canada), Michael Gazza and Karl Fiala.



February 14, 1995: Austrian-Canadian Council inaugural meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto. Left to right, foreground: Otto Heberlein (Treasurer), Garry Bonner (President), David W. Pamentor, Dr. Gerhard Selzer; background: Hans Kroisenbrunner sen. (Past President, Kitchener-Waterloo, Der Alpen Club), Sonja Kroisenbrunner-Biselli (Cultural Director, K-W Alpine Club), Dietmar Biselli, Karl Fiala, Hilde Harzan, Edmund Harzan (President, Friends of Austria Winnipeg), Frank Posch (Past President, Austrian Vancouver Club), Helga Posch and Arno Risse (President, Continental Austrian Club-Burlington).

charitable non-political organization, staffed only by volunteers. Though Dr. Lichem and the Austrian Embassy secured a one-time grant from the Austrian Federal Government for the funding of its first few projects, for the first four years of the Council's operation Directors of the Board paid the expenses usually associated with running a national office out of their own pockets. To this day, all travel expenses as well as other expenditures are borne by the officers and directors themselves.

### **1995: International Symposium on "Austrian Immigration to Canada" held at Carleton University**

Concurrent with the initiative to establish the Austrian-Canadian Council, Ambassador Lichem also conceived of a major research project to study Austrian immigration to Canada, with the intent that an appropriate volume could be published in time for the Austrian millennium celebrations of 1996. Dr. Franz Szabo, then professor of Austrian history at Carleton University, agreed to oversee the project, and an international research team was put in place to conduct the study. As a preliminary to the publication of the projected volume, a major symposium was held at Carleton University in Ottawa on May 19–21, 1995.

The ACC played a significant role in sponsoring this conference, together with Carleton University, the Austrian Embassy and Heritage Canada. Papers were pre-



May 19-21, 1995: International Symposium "Austrian Immigration to Canada" at Carleton University in Ottawa. Left to right: Mark Curford-Mollington (Heritage Canada), Garry Bonner (President, ACC and President, Kingston International Austrian Club), Roland K. Pirker (ACC Secretary and President, Austrian Society of Ottawa), Prof. Dr. Fraser Taylor (Carleton University), Prof. Dr. Frederick Engelmann (University of Alberta), H. E. Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador), Dr. Robin Farquar (President, Carleton University), Prof. Dr. Franz A. J. Szabo (Carleton University, ACC Executive Director, Foundation Programme and Symposium organizer).

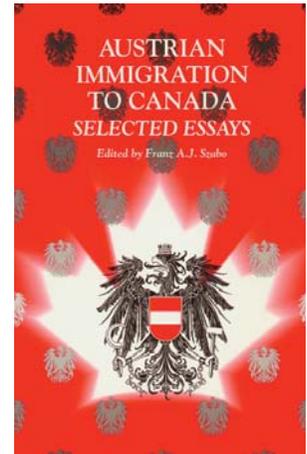
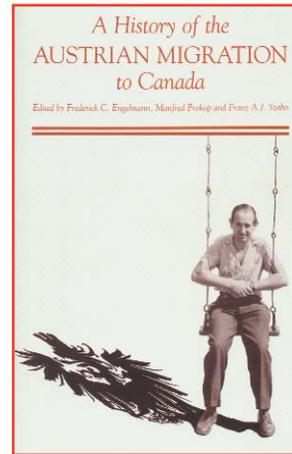


Left to right: Roland K. Pirker and speaker Prof. Dr. Franz A. J. Szabo



Farewell dinner. Left to right: At the head table: Roland K. Pirker, Prof. Dr. Franz A. Szabo, Dr. Maria-Teresa Lichem, Prof. Dr. Frederick Engelmann, H. E. Dr. Walther Lichem, Catherine Szabo and Garry Bonner. In front of the head table: Mag. Anna Maria Pichler, Mrs. Canisius and Ulrike Billard (Austrian Consul General)

sented at the Symposium by both Austrian and Canadian scholars, and the proceedings were subsequently published by Carleton University Press in 1996. More than 150 persons from across the country attended the Symposium. The occasion was also used for an ACC meeting with many presidents and representatives from Austrian clubs and societies taking part.



The principal volume, *A History of the Austrian Migration to Canada*, edited by Frederick C. Engelmann, Manfred Prokop and Franz A. J. Szabo was the first systematic study of Austrian immigration to Canada in any language. A companion volume, *Austrian Immigration to Canada: Selected Essays*, edited by Franz A.J. Szabo, published the remaining presentations from the 1995 conference.

### 1996: The Austrian-Canadian Council establishes a charitable foundation

The one-time grant from the Austrian Federal Government for funding the initial projects of the ACC marked the beginning of the Council's financial resource base for sponsoring Austria-related activities in Canada. On May 22, 1996 the ACC Executive decided to appoint Professor Franz Szabo, Executive Director of its Foundation Programme, and charged him with drawing up plans and guidelines for ACC sponsorships.

The Foundation had a rocky beginning, as a professional fundraiser hired by the Austrian-Canadian Council unable to produce the results desired. As a consequence, in April 1998, the matter was taken in hand by Roland K. Pirker, who— together with his wife Burgie and his children Rebecca and Rolando and members of the Friends of Austria, Angie and Julie Lacombe—began to organize charitable bingo fund-raisers at the Overbrook

Bingo Palace in Ottawa.

Since 1998 these volunteers have organized more than 380 events and have raised a total of some \$200,000. This undertaking has become the most successful fund-raising activity of the ACC, and the proceeds have been the backbone of the ACC's sponsorship programme ever since. With the proceeds the ACC was able to finance the *OeCulture* magazine on an ongoing basis and to support, in part, many other educational projects such as the Klimt exhibition in Ottawa, the Albertina exhibition in Toronto, the Hugo Wolf Symposium in Ottawa, just to name a few.

### 1996: The ACC establishes thesis and dissertation prizes in Austrian Studies

Among the first initiatives of the ACC's Foundation Programme was the creation of a series of dissertation prizes to encourage scholarly work in the field of Austrian Studies at Canadian universities. These included the sponsorship of a Ph.D. thesis prize of \$1,000 or M.A. thesis prizes of \$500 (up to a total of \$1,500) in the field of Austrian literature, or comparative literature with an Austrian dimension, and a Ph.D. thesis prize of \$1,000 or M.A. thesis prizes of \$500 (up to a total of \$1,500) in the field of "Austrian Studies" (that is, all social sciences, humanities and related fields). An academic adjudication committee consisting of three eminent senior Canadian professors of Austrian Studies was established to assess the applicants.



January 9, 1997: The first Dissertation Prize was awarded at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador. Left to right: Garry Bonner (President, ACC), Prof. Dr. Franz A. Szabo (Executive Director, Foundation Programme) and Dr. Jürgen Heizman (recipient)

The first winner of the Austrian-Canadian Council Dissertation Prize for Austrian Literature (1996) was Dr. Jürgen Heizmann. He was awarded the Prize by ACC President Garry Bonner at a ceremony held at the Austrian Embassy Residence in January 1997 for his dissertation "Antike und Moderne in Hermann Brochs *Tod des Vergil: Über Dichtung und Wissenschaft, Utopie und Ideologie*," which was completed at the University of Montreal.

In the following year, the second winner of the Austrian-Canadian Council Dissertation Prize for Austrian Literature was Ms. Brigitte Gerdes. She was



March 12, 1999: The third Dissertation Prize was awarded at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador. Left to right: Roland K. Pirker (President, ACC), Dr. Franz A. Szabo (Executive Director, Foundation Programme), Dr. Jill Scott (recipient) and Dr. Walther Lichem.

awarded the Prize by Ambassador Dr. Lichem at a ceremony conducted at the Austria Vancouver Club in October 1998 for her thesis "Johann Nestroy's *Der Talisman: An English Performance Translation*," written at the University of Alberta.

In 1998, the Prize went to Dr. Jill Scott. She accepted the award from ACC President Roland K. Pirker at a ceremony at the Residence of the Austrian Ambassador on March 12, 1999 for her thesis "Electra after Freud: Death, Hysteria and Mourning." Dr. Scott received her degree from the University of Toronto.

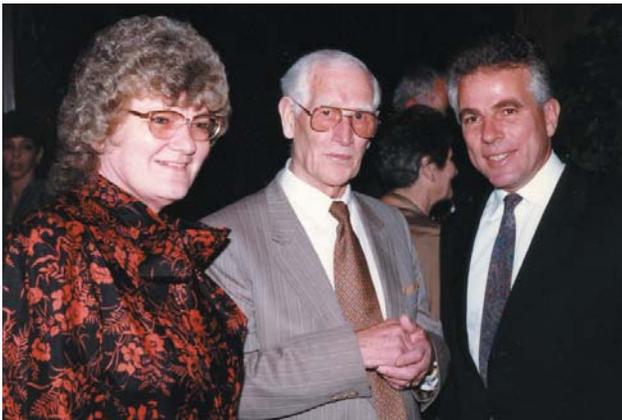
The fourth holder of the Dissertation Prize was Dr. Alexandra Heberger. Dr. Heberger was awarded the prize on January 21, 2003 by the Regional Representative of the ACC, Mr. Peter Strausz (President, The Friends of Austria Inc.-Manitoba) at a ceremony in the office of the Dean of Arts at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Heberger's dissertation, "Der Mythos Mann in ausgewählten Prosawerken von Elfriede Jelinek," was completed at the University of Waterloo.

## 1996: The ACC assists in the mounting of the North American premiere of an opera

The ACC was proud to be one of the co-sponsors of the North American premiere of the opera "The Emperor of Atlantis" by Viktor Ullmann, performed at the National Art Centre in Ottawa. This play was also made possible by ARBOS (a theatre and music company based in Klagenfurt and Salzburg, Austria), the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Austrian Embassy, the Embassy of Israel and B'nai Brith of Canada.



October 22, 1996: North American premiere of the opera "The Emperor of Atlantis" at the National Arts Centre. Left to right: The Hon. Hedy Fry (Secretary of State for the Status of Women and Multicultural Affairs), H. E. Dr. Walther Lichem and H. E. David Sultan (Ambassador of Israel).



Left to right: Burgie Pirker, John MacMillan and Dr. Michael Ausserwinkler (Deputy Premier of Carinthia).

Viktor Ullmann (1898–1944) was a promising Austrian composer, a pupil of Arnold Schönberg and an orchestra leader under Alexander Zemlinsky. He worked in Vienna and Prague, but was murdered by the Nazis at Auschwitz in October 1944. He wrote the opera while interned in the Theresienstadt concentration camp. The manuscript miraculously survived, and the work received its world premiere in Amsterdam in 1975.

## 1997: The ACC plays a major role in establishing a Centre for Austrian Studies in Canada

Another important milestone in the history of the ACC came in 1996. That year a large delegation of Austrian university presidents was touring Canada, and during a debriefing session with Ambassador Lichem and Professor Szabo in Montreal prior to their return to Austria, the proposal was made that a Centre for Austrian Studies be established at some university in Canada. Discussions also centered on the nature of the incentive package that the Republic of Austria could offer a Canadian university to establish such a centre, and on the question which Canadian universities should be canvassed for possible interest in the project. Professor Szabo was asked to undertake an assessment study of the major Canadian universities, with the aim of develop-



September 7, 1998: Celebrating the opening of the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta, Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton. Left to right: Joe Niederleitner (President, Club Austria Edmonton), The Hon. Dr. Casper Einem (Austrian Minister of Science and Transportation) and Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador).



September 7, 1998: Austrian-Canadian Council afternoon meeting at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. Clockwise: Gerhard (Garry) Bonner, Hans Raschke, Frank Friesacher, Joe Niederleitner, Peter Jaras, Josef Helbich, Frank Meixner, Elfriede Foidl, Trudy Duller, Gertrud and Otmar Laehrm, August Engelbrecht, Peter Strausz, Oskar Tankovitz, Christine Meyer and Franz Zaunscherb.



September 7, 1998: "Austria Week" in Alberta, Edmonton. Left to right, front row: Frank Meixner, Oskar Tankovitz, Helmut Jandrisits, Roland K. Pirker, Gerhard (Garry) Bonner, Harry Metz, Franz Zaunscherb, Peter Strausz, Hans Raschke and Franz Raschke. Second row standing: Josef Helbich, Elfriede Foidl, Burgie Pirker, Josef and Elisabeth Steinlechner, Valerie Schirmaier, Prof. Dr. Franz Szabo, Theresa Szabo, Dr. Walther Lichem, Karl and Linda Mayer, Joe Niederleitner, Dr. Joseph Kandler, Maria Metz, Maria Strausz, Barbara Guenther, Franz Pirker, a guest, Gertrud Laehrm, Freda Niederleitner, Otmar Laehrm, Christine Meyer, August Engelbrecht, Edith Brezina, Emmi Straschek and Trudy Duller.



September 7, 1998: Austrian-Canadian Council morning meeting at the City Hall of Edmonton. Left to right: Dr. Manfred Prokop (addressing the participants), Arnim Joop (Editor, *The Albertaner*), Dr. Joseph Kandler, Josef Helbich, Joe Niederleitner, Michael Phair (City Councillor), Gerhard Bonner, Dr. Franz Szabo and Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador), Mrs. Schwarz and Dr. Harold A. Schwarz.

ing a short list of institutions to be contacted.

Upon the completion of the assessment study, the ACC was asked to become involved as intermediary in the process in January 1997. ACC President Garry Bonner agreed to do so on behalf of the Council and commissioned Professor Szabo to undertake the appropriate correspondence with the universities selected under the ACC banner. Four universities—the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, Carleton University and McMaster University—were the finalists, and the ACC's



September 8, 1998: Opening ceremony. Left to right: Dr. Franz Szabo (Director, CCAuCES), Dr. Patricia Clements (Dean, Faculty of Arts). Dr. Roderick D. Fraser (Vice-Chancellor University of Alberta) receives the Austrian flag from The Hon. Dr. Casper Einem (Austrian Minister of Science and Transportation).

assessment of their proposals was subsequently considered by an inter-ministerial meeting of relevant Austrian officials in Vienna in July 1997. The proposal of the University of Alberta was accepted as being the best, and in March 1998 an appropriate Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the University and the Austrian government to establish a new "Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies"

(CCAuCES). At the same time, Professor Szabo was appointed Director of the new Centre. In April 1998 the Embassies of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia also joined in supporting this new Centre.

The Centre was formally opened on September 8, 1998 by the Austrian Federal Minister of Science and Transportation, Dr. Casper Einem, and his Canadian counterpart, The Honourable Ronald Duhamel, Secretary of State for Science, Research and Development, The Honourable Clint Dunford, Minister of Advanced Education and Career Development in the Government of Alberta, Dr. Roderick D. Fraser, President of the University of Alberta, and Dr. Patricia Clements, Dean of the University's Faculty of Arts.

Many members of the Austrian-Canadian Council from across the country traveled to Edmonton to attend this ceremony. The ACC also used this occasion for another national meeting of the Council. ACC Secretary Roland K. Pirker served as the master of ceremonies during an initial ACC meeting held on September 6, 1998 at Edmonton's new City Hall. During that ceremony ACC President Garry Bonner received the official document from a member of City Council that proclaimed September 6-12, 1998 as "Austria Week" in Edmonton. A subsequent meeting of the Council held at the University of Alberta sketched out guidelines and policy directions for future ACC activities.

### 1997: The Viennese Winter Ball Ottawa is established

The Austrian-Canadian Council wanted to establish a quintessential Austrian event that would bring Austrian culture to Ottawa, but would also serve as a major fundraiser for charitable causes.

In 1996 Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem, Roland K. Pirker, Garry Bonner and Otto Heberlein tried to organize a Viennese Ball in Ottawa. Unfortunately, due to budgetary restraints in the ACC, this attempt failed. However, two leading Ottawa citizens—Mrs. Penny Scott and Mr. Dave Wallace—came through and launched the most glamorous event of the year, "The Viennese Winter Ball Ottawa," held under the patronage of the Austrian Ambassador to Canada. Since 1999 the Austrian Society Ottawa under the leadership of its President, Roland K. Pirker, has been part of the organizing committee, and

the Austrian Society's Schrammel Quartet consisting of Edmund Wyslouzil, Hans Wyslouzil, Hermann Griesseier and Alois Platzer has entertained the Ball's participants since its inception in 1997. This cultural event has raised \$400,000 to date. The proceeds have been benefitting two Ottawa charities, "The Junior Thirteen String Orchestra" and "The Champions for Children Foundation." Former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and his wife Aline, many ministers and other high-ranking officials in the Ottawa-Gatineau region have enjoyed the wonderful ambience of this showy and much-sought-after event, which is held every February during Winterlude at the National Gallery of Canada.



February 6, 1999: Third Viennese *Winterball* Ottawa at the National Art Gallery of Canada. Left to right: Dr. Maria-Teresa Lichem, Dr. Walther Lichem and David Wallace (Chair, VWBO).



October 27, 2002: Austrian-Canadian Council awards ceremony at St. Albertus Church. Left to right: For his contributions to the Austrian community of Canada, Dave Wallace receives the Gold Medal of Merit of the ACC from Roland K. Pirker (President, ACC).

## 1998: OeCulture magazine launched

The *OeCulture* magazine began as another initiative of the Austrian Embassy in the spring of 1996. Conceived by Ambassador Lichem and then First Secretary, Mag. Hermine Poppeller, the ACC was quick to offer its co-sponsorship of the project. Dr. Manfred Prokop, Professor of German at the University of Alberta, was appointed editor shortly thereafter, and the first issue of the magazine appeared in the spring of 1998.

The publication of the magazine remained a joint project of the ACC and the Austrian Embassy during 1998 and 1999, but beginning in the year 2000 the ACC, under the leadership of Roland Pirker, assumed full responsibility for its publication. The magazine is currently printed once or twice a year in Ottawa. To date, 14 issues have appeared in the period from 1998 to 2004.



January 20, 2003: Offices at Rollframe Productions. Friends of Austria Ottawa volunteers mail *OeCulture* magazines. Left to right: Angie Lacombe, Don Daniels, Burgie Pirker and Stacy White.



Left to right, front: Inga Michalek (President, ACC) and Rene Wolfram. Back: Don Daniels, Angie Lacombe and Stacy White.

*OeCulture* has found great resonance among its readers. Financial support for its publication comes not only from the Austrian clubs and individual memberships, but also from the Austrian Society Ottawa and the Friends of Austria Ottawa. The Austrian Embassy continues to be active in the magazine's distribution and contributes the mailing costs for each issue. It is distributed throughout Canada, the U.S., Austria and elsewhere in Europe. The magazine features articles on cultural and



March 12, 2005: *OeCulture* magazine editor Dr. Manfred Prokop (left) receives the *Silberne Verdienstzeichen der Republik Österreich* from H. E. Dr. Otto Ditz, Austrian Ambassador.

scholarly matters pertaining to Austria-related activities in Canada, but also carries stories on individual Austrian immigrants who came to Canada after World Wars I and II. Many of these Austrian immigrants not only made great contributions to Canada's economic development, but also to the social and cultural fabric of Canada. Through this magazine the historical contributions of these people have received recognition in both the Austrian and the broader Canadian communities.

## 1999: ACC sets up Manfred Wirth Endowment for the benefit of the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies

In December 1998, Ambassador Dr. Lichem, on behalf of the ACC, solicited financial support for the Council in numerous letters addressed to Canadian companies with an Austrian connection. Soon an Austrian immigrant by the name of Dr. Manfred Wirth came forward after having received this letter and having read in the *OeCulture* magazine about the establishment of the Canadian Centre for Central and East European Studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Dr. Wirth,

President of M.F. Wirth Rail Corporation in Montreal, contacted ACC president Roland K. Pirker on October 25, 1999 and told him that he was prepared to make a large donation to this Centre through the ACC. Mr Pirker, who



December 20, 1999: Receiving \$1.3 million endowment from Dr. Manfred Wirth. Ceremony and luncheon at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador. Left to right: Dr. Maria-Teresa Lichem, Dr. Christina Cameron (Heritage Canada), Lucien Fauteux, Elisabeth Wirth-Fauteux, Hugh Winsor (*Globe and Mail*), Christine Welling (Secretary, ACC), Heidemarie Kelly (Legal Advisor, ACC), Dave Wallace (Senior Manager, Bank of Montreal), Franz Plangger (Chair, ACBC), Frank Marth (Treasurer, ACC), Barbara Hörmann (Austrian Embassy) and Gerd Braune (*Die Presse*, Vienna).

was on a film assignment at that time, passed the information on to Austrian Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem. Independently, Dr. Wirth related to the Ambassador that he was delighted to see the establishment of the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies in Edmonton because it reminded him of the multicultural society which characterized Austria when he was growing up there.

Dr. Wirth proposed to establish an endowment fund for the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies by donating 8,900 Nortel shares to the ACC, worth \$1,000,000 at that time. By the time Mr. Pirker returned from his assignment and called a special meeting of the Council to examine ways and means to set up the endowment fund, the value of the donation had already grown to \$1.3 million. During a meeting in Ottawa held at the Bank of Montreal on January 10, 2000, in which many ACC representatives from across the country took part, Mr. Dave Wallace and Mr. Robert Fallensbuchl from BMO Harris Private Banking in Ottawa volunteered their expertise to help set up an investment plan benefitting the new Centre at the University of Alberta.

In February 2002 Dr. Manfred Wirth contributed an additional \$1.1 million for the benefit of the Centre directly to the University of Alberta, which therefore set up

a Wirth Endowment of its own. In February and March 2003 Dr. Wirth was in the process of making a further, even larger donation to this endowment when he passed away. Shortly thereafter, his son, Mr. Alfred G. Wirth, President and Director of Wirth Associates of Toronto, in accordance with his father's original intentions, pledged an additional \$7.5 million to the University of Alberta's Wirth Endowment, with the targeted sum to be fulfilled by the end of 2006. The ACC-administered fund will be transferred to the University of Alberta in 2009, so that the total value of the Wirth Endowment will at that point be approximately \$10 million. To acknowledge this tremendous contribution, the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies was formally renamed "Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies" by the University of Alberta on October 29, 2003. Several



Left to right: Roland K. Pirker (President, ACC), Prof. Dr. Franz A.J. Szabo (Director, CCAuCES), Dr. Manfred Wirth (donor), Elisabeth Wirth-Fauteux and Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador).

other prominent Austrian immigrants—among them Mr. Joseph Kuchar and Dr. Joseph and Mrs. Melitta Kandler—have donated additional funds to the Institute, assuring the long-time existence of this important Canadian institute of learning.

### 1999: The Austrian Councils of North America are established

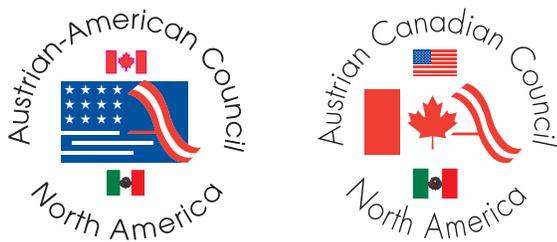
The ACC is registered in Canada as a charitable organization and is totally independent of its counterparts in the U.S. and Mexico, the Austrian-American Council (AAC) and the Austrian-Mexican Council (AMC). In 1999, the three organizations—under the leadership of ACC presidents Garry Bonner and Roland K. Pirker, AAC president Juliana Belcsak and AMC president Aurel Zoepnek-Twardowski—formed a loose association, the Austrian Councils of North America.

Almost every year since then, Juliana Belcsak has organized a conference in the U.S. where representatives from the three countries have not only exchanged ideas, but have also discussed pressing issues which have arisen in North America's Austrian communities. Among the topics discussed were fund-raising and social issues. In view of the rapidly aging membership in our Austrian clubs and the low levels of immigration from Austria to North America, the national presidents have been searching for ways in which the Austrian cultural identity can be passed on to the next generation of Austrians on this continent.



November 7, 1999: Austrian Councils of North America meeting in Albuquerque, N.M. Left to right: Roland K. Pirker (President, ACC), Gerhard Bonner (Past President, ACC), Juliana Belcsak (President, Austrian-American Council) and Gustav Chlestil (President, *Weltbund*).

In 2001 the Austrian-Canadian Council developed its own logo, incorporating all three partners of the Austrian Councils of North America in the design.



Canadian representatives attended the following conferences:

- September 1996 (New York City): Garry Bonner and John Raschke
- October 31–November 3, 1996 (Los Angeles): Garry Bonner
- June 1997 (Washington, D.C.): Garry Bonner
- September 26–27, 1997 (Washington, D.C.): Garry Bonner
- October 16–18, 1998 (Chicago): Garry Bonner
- November 4–7, 1999 (Albuquerque, N. M.): Roland K. Pirker and Garry Bonner

- October 13–15, 2000 (East Rutherford, N.J.): Roland K. Pirker
- April 26–28, 2002 (Washington, D.C.): Roland and Walburga (Burgie) Pirker
- November 2003 (New York City): Inga Michalek



April 28, 2002: Austrian Councils of North America meeting in Washington D. C. at the Austrian Ambassador's residence. The ACC recognized two outstanding individuals (Juliana Belcsak and Fritz Molden) for their commitment to the Austrian communities in North America. Left to right: Roland K. Pirker (President, ACC), Juliana Belcsak (President, Austrian-American Council), Dr. Peter Moser (Austrian Ambassador to the U.S.), Hannerl Molden and Fritz Molden (President, *Auslands österreichischer-Werk*, Vienna) and Burgie Pirker (ACC).

## 2001: The Austrian-Canadian Council establishes an Awards Program

In January 2001 Roland K. Pirker and Garry Bonner set up criteria for the establishment of an ACC awards program as a means of giving recognition to persons either within and outside the Austrian-Canadian Council's members for outstanding contributions in promoting the work of a club or society and in furthering the aims and purposes of the Council. The ACC also wanted to acknowledge and honour members of Austrian clubs across the country for their individual outstanding contributions, for having worked tirelessly and silently in the background, without ever having received much recognition. The Awards Program became an instant success due to the overwhelming demand for it expressed by Austrian clubs across Canada.

Once a nomination from either a president or a director of a club has been received by the ACC, the awards chairman and a jury assess how the nominees fit the ACC criteria and, award either a gold, a silver or a bronze medal.

Between 2001 and 2004 altogether 36 Gold, 72 Silver and 10 Bronze Medals were awarded.

Location and date of presentation	Presenter
1. Winnipeg, April 22, 2001	Dr. Wendelin Ettmayer, Ambassador of Austria
2. Ottawa (Sheraton Hotel), May 19, 2001	Roland K. Pirker, ACC President, and Dr. Wera Zelenka, Cultural Counsellor (Austrian Embassy)
3. Ottawa (Sheraton Hotel), May 19, 2001	Roland K. Pirker and Otto Heberlein, Board of Directors of the ACC
4. Edmonton, May 9, 2001	Prof. Dr. Franz Szabo, ACC Executive Director of the Foundation Programme
5. Victoria, May 2001	Prof. Dr. Franz Szabo
6. Ottawa (Sheraton Hotel), January 13, 2002	Roland K. Pirker and Inga Michalek, ACC Secretary
7. Kingston, December 9, 2001	Garry Bonner, ACC Past President and Awards Chairman
8. Calgary (Austrian-Canadian Society), March 25, 2002	Roland K. Pirker and Nick Demianschuk, Austrian Consul in Alberta
9. Ottawa (St. Albertus Church), April 21, 2002	Roland K. Pirker, Consul Gottfried Haffner and Otto Heberlein (Board of Directors of the ACC)
10. Washington, D.C. (at the residence of Dr. Peter Moser, the Austrian Ambassador in the U.S.), April 26, 2002	Roland K. Pirker, ACC President, Walburga Pirker
11. Ottawa (St. Albertus Church), May 25, 2002	Roland K. Pirker and Hans Wyslouzil, Cultural Director, Austrian Society Ottawa
12. Ottawa (St. Albertus Church), October 20, 2002	Roland K. Pirker and Michael Benzinger, President of the Austria Club Windsor
13. Ottawa (St. Albertus Church), October 27, 2002	Roland K. Pirker, ACC President
14. Windsor (Teutonia Club), November 16, 2002	Roland K. Pirker and Garry Bonner, ACC Awards Chairman
15. Ottawa (Sheraton Hotel), May 2004, 2003	Roland K. Pirker, ACC Past-President and Awards Chairman, and Otto Heberlein
16. Calgary (Austrian Club), May 30, 2003	Roland K. Pirker, and Frank Meixner, President, Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary

### Recipients of the Gold Medal:

Friends of Austria-Manitoba, in Winnipeg, April 22, 2001

Dr. Eduard Schluderman  
Steffi Kratschmar  
Edmund Harzan  
Erwine Prevalnig  
Michael Heitmann

Austrian International Club Kingston, in Ottawa, January 13, 2002

Garry (Gerhard) Bonner

Austrian Society Ottawa, in Ottawa, January 13, 2002

Otto Heberlein

Austrian Society Ottawa, in Ottawa, May 19, 2001

Josef (Pepi) Frühwirth  
Franz Kapeller  
Heidi-C. Temelie

Austrian International Club Kingston, December 9, 2001

Ferdinand Prohaska

Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary, in Calgary, March 25, 2002

Herwig Lavicka

Frank Meixner

Johann Strauss Foundation Victoria, in Edmonton, May, 2001

Dr. Joseph R. Kandler

Austrian Society Ottawa, Schrammel Quartet, in Ottawa, April 21, 2002

Hans Wyslouzil

Edmund Wyslouzil

Hermann Griesseier

Alois Platzer

Johann Strauss Foundation Edmonton, in Edmonton, May 9, 2001

Walter Leeb  
Anni Leeb

Austrian Society Ottawa, Alpentrio, in Ottawa, April 21, 2002

Gretl Wyslouzil

Maria Wyslouzil

Karin Laframboise

Leo Hammerschmid

Austrian-American Council, residence of Austrian  
Ambassador in the U.S., April 26, 2002

Juliana Belcsak

*Auslandsösterreicherwerk*-Vienna, residence of Austrian  
Ambassador in the U.S., April 26, 2002

Fritz Molden

Quebec City, in Ottawa, May 25, 2002

Eugene Kedl

Gretl Kedl

Austrian Society Ottawa, in Ottawa, May 25, 2002

Melitta van Cleeff

BMO Harris Private Banking, Viennese Ball, in Ottawa,  
October 27, 2002

Dave Wallace

Austria Club Windsor, at the Teutonia Club in Windsor,  
November 16, 2002

Josef Helbich

Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary, in Graz, Styria, March 1,  
2003

Hans Unterhuber, cultural promoter

Austrian Alpine Singers, in Ottawa, May 24, 2003

Willi Platzer

Steirer Klub Toronto, in Ottawa, May 24, 2003

Karl Vogel

Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary, in Calgary, May 30, 2003

Hans Ockermüller, Austrian Honorary Consul in

Alberta

### **Recipients of the Silver Medal:**

Friends of Austria-Manitoba, in Winnipeg, April 22, 2001

Elfriede Berger

Darlene Berger

Austrian Society Ottawa, in Ottawa, May 19, 2001

Sylvia Bänziger

Ingrid Feil

Liane Rant

Johann Strauss Foundation Edmonton, in Edmonton, May  
2001

Stephan Harstall

Austrian International Club Kingston, in Kingston, December  
9, 2001

Walburga Hetzl

"Kanada Kurier", in Ottawa, January 13, 2002

Edith Kuntz, journalist

"Deutsches Panorama" - German TV Program, in Ottawa,  
January 13, 2002

Mathilde Jerabek, host and producer

Franz Jerabek

Austrian-Canadian Council, in Ottawa, January 3, 2002

Heidemarie Kelly, legal advisor to the ACC

Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary, in Calgary, March 25,  
2002

Eva Angerle

Steve Charchuk

Edna Charchuk

Otto Demetz

Olga Eberhardt

Elfriede Foidl

Gisa Hammel

Albert Hammerling

Elfriede Hammerling

Ulrich "York" Rogi

Max Rieberer

Martha Sattler

Hans Schustereder

Günther Stranzinger

Klaus Stumpf

Berta Takacs

Ludwig Takacs

Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary, March 25, 2002

Gery Valtiner, cultural promoter

"Aus Ottawa" - German Radio Program, in Ottawa, May 25,  
2002

„Hank Dee“ Heinz Deppner, host

Austria Club Windsor, in Ottawa, October 20, 2002

Christian Albert, posthumously to his son Henry

Austria Club Windsor, at the Teutonia Club in Windsor,  
November 16, 2002

Maria Christ

Simon Christ

Helga Domitter

Frank Gutschi

Hanna Helbich

Emil Kuptyik

Erich Rost

Otto Schwalm

Frank Sieberer

Trude Wolf

Rudolf Geier, posthumously to Mrs. Geier

Alfred Weiss, posthumously to Mrs. Weiss

Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary, in Calgary, May 30, 2003

Tina Brandstätter

Otto Doll

Heinz Franke

Theresia Franke

Libert Goritschnig

Brigitte Graf

Anna Haecker  
Dieter Haecker  
Ernesta Haslauer  
Leo Haslauer  
Dr. Rudolf Hofmann  
Edith Jakob  
Josefine Janschitz  
Karl Janusek  
Johanna Jilek  
Katharina Maier  
Mara Michor  
Paul Michor  
Mathilda Mick  
Rupert Mrakawa  
Fritz Painsi  
Ewald Partl  
Karl Puffer  
Olga Rogi  
Joe Ruckenthaler  
Rosemarie Stumpf  
George Sticksl  
Romana Windsteig

Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary, in Calgary, February 7, 2004  
Zacharias Geib

#### Recipients of the Bronze Medal:

Friends of Austria, Inc.-Manitoba, in Winnipeg, April 22, 2001

Magdalena Leitgeb

Austrian Society Ottawa, in Ottawa, May 19, 2001

Barbara Sauter

Trautl Griesseier

Cecilia Schirgi

Austrian Society Ottawa, in Ottawa, May 25, 2002

Hermann Franke

Austria Club Windsor, at the Teutonia Club in Windsor, November 16, 2002

Werner Beck

Manfred Domitter

Marian Lackovic

Trude Lackovic

Rudolf Schmitz

## 2002: Meetings of the *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund*

The *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund* (AÖWB) meetings were held in Vienna on September 1–4, 2002. For the first time, the Austrian-Canadian Council was also present at this event. Roland K. Pirker, the ACC president, had been invited by President Fritz Molden and President Gustav Chlestil to participate in the merger of the *Auslandsösterreicherwerk* and the *Weltbund*, respectively. In one of these meetings, he gave a report outlining the work of the ACC as well as the efforts undertaken by the approximately twenty Austrian clubs and societies in Canada. The activities reported met with great admiration and respect by all delegates and



September 4, 2002: *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund*. Audience with the Federal Chancellor of Austria Dr. Wolfgang Schüssel. Left to right: Waltraut Kindler-Goertzen, Roland K. Pirker, Robert Friedl, Dr. Wolfgang Schüssel and Fritz Molden (President, AÖWB).



September 2, 2002. Round tables and presidents meeting at the *Haus der Industrie*, Schwarzenbergplatz, Vienna. Right to left, back row: Wolfdieter Maurer, Gustav Chlestil, Dr. Thomas Buchsbaum, Fritz Molden, Franz Maier, Gerhard Kaes, Robert Friedl, Dr. Walter Dujmovits, Prof. Grete Pifat-Mrzljak. Front row: Dr. Jürgen Em, Hofrat Franz Bauer and Dr. Laszlo Schmid.

government representatives. Roland K. Pirker was invited to represent Canada at future meetings of the AÖWB in Austria.



September 7, 2003: *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund* meeting in Graz, Styria, the Canadian delegation. Left to right, front row: Burgie Pirker, Henny Schuster, Dr. Erika Jüthner-Krtschan, Helga Hecker, Maria Havelka. Back row: Roland K. Pirker (Austrian Society Ottawa and Friends of Austria Ottawa), Walter Schachenhofer (Club Austria Edmonton), Robert Jüthner-Krtschan (Johann Strauss Foundation Edmonton), Frank Meixner (Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary) and Anton Havelka.

Credit for the ACC's achievement at this *Weltbund* meeting must also be given to Dr. Sepp Fröschl from Montreal. He had been part of the board of directors of the *Weltbund* for many years, and his hard and diligent work prepared a smoother entrance by the ACC into the larger organization.



May 1, 2003. Presidents' meeting in the Palais Auersberg, Vienna. Left to right: Fritz Molden (1st President), Gustav Chlestil (2nd President) and Dr. Jürgen Em (Vice-President).

The ACC was present at the AÖWB Presidents' Conference in Vienna on May 1–2, 2003. During that meeting ACC delegate Roland K. Pirker became officially an AÖWB Board member representing the twenty Austrian clubs and societies in Canada.

The following ACC members attended additional meetings of the *Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund*:

September 5–7, 2003 in Graz:

- Roland and Walburga (Burgie) Pirker
- Walter Schachenhofer (Club Austria Edmonton)
- Robert Jüthner-Krtschan (Johann Strauss Foundation Edmonton)
- Franx Meixner (Austrian-Canadian Society Calgary)

May 1–2, 2004, in Vienna:

- Roland K. Pirker

May 14–15, 2005, in Vienna:

- Roland K. Pirker

## Events supported by the Austrian-Canadian Council

### Concerts sponsored by the ACC

The ACC co-sponsored the benefit concert "Spring in Vienna" together with the Austrian Embassy. It was hosted by Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem on May 2, 1997 at his residence. The proceeds of this recital of Schubert piano duets by the Chinook Duo of Canada were in support of the SOS Children's Villages Canada.

Together with the National Arts Centre, the ACC co-sponsored the concert "A Gala Night of Vienna" honouring Dr. Walther Lichem for his support and contributions to the arts in Canada. The event took place at the



November 14, 1999. The Austrian Society Ottawa holds a *Schrammel-Nachmittag* at St. Albertus Church; the ACC supports the SOS Children's Villages Canada. Left to right: Frank (Franz) Marth (Treasurer, ACC), Roland K. Pirker (President, ACC) hands a cheque to Maria Virjee (President, SOS Children's Villages Canada).

National Arts Centre in Ottawa on November 23, 1998.

The ACC co-sponsored a concert celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SOS Children's Villages International

together with SOS Children's Villages Canada, the Austrian Embassy, the Austrian Society Ottawa and the Austrian Alpine Singers. The performance of the Austrian Alpine Singers under its conductor Willi Platzer took place on June 23, 1999 on Parliament Hill and at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador, Dr. Walther Lichem.



November 23, 1998, National Arts Centre of Ottawa. Garry Bonner (President, ACC) honors Austrian Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem for his support and contributions to the arts in Canada.



November 23, 1998, National Arts Centre of Ottawa. Honoring Austrian Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem for his support and contributions to the arts in Canada. Left to right: Dr. Maria-Teresa Lichem, H. E. Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador), Donna Brown (Singer, NAC), Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaar (Carleton University), Marie-Louise Higham and Robin Higham (Ambassador).

Together with Radio Canada, the National Gallery of Canada and the Austrian Embassy, the ACC co-sponsored the "Viennese salons - Salonkonzerte" which focused on Karl Kraus and Ludwig Wittgenstein. The concerts were performed by the Amber Trio Vienna on September 21, 2000 at the National Gallery of Canada and on the 26th at the Eglise St. Paul in Aylmer, Quebec.

The Ottawa portion of International Hugo Wolf celebrations of 2003, "Vixen Muse: Hugo Wolf's Musical World," (which included a symposium and several concerts in Ottawa) was co-sponsored with the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, Carleton University, the University of Ottawa, and the National Arts Centre. The events organized by Professor Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaar of Carleton University, were held on November 23-26, and included concerts at the University of Ottawa, the National Arts Centre and at Rideau Hall, with H.E. The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, hosting the latter event.

### Educational projects supported by the ACC

The ACC also co-sponsored

- "Austrian Immigration to Canada," held at Carleton University in Ottawa on May 19 to 21, 1995. The conference was organized by Franz Szabo, and its proceedings were published by Carleton University Press.
- "A Hundred-Year Retrospective of Austrian Literature," held at Concordia University, Montreal, September 27-28, 1996.
- "Sigmund Freud," held on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the publication of Freud's "Civilization and its Discontents," at McMaster University, Hamilton, September 23-25, 1999;
- "Writing the Austrian Traditions: The Relation between Austrian Philosophy and Literature," held on May 12-14, 2000 at the University of Toronto. The conference was organized by Mark-Oliver Schuster and Wolfgang Huemer, and its proceedings have been published by the Wirth Institute.

The Austrian-Canadian Council co-sponsored and helped organize the following guest lectures by prominent speakers at Canadian universities:

- "Viktor Ullmann's 'Kaiser von Atlantis'" by Herbert Gantschacher, Director of the performing group ARBOS, held at various locations in Montreal during November 1996;
- "Why Bosnia? Ethnic Conflict in Central Europe" by the editor of the *Austrian History Yearbook*, Professor Charles Ingrao, of Purdue University in Indiana, held at Carleton University on October 12, 1997;

- “Changing Perspectives on Art Patronage in the Austrian Enlightenment” by Franz A.J. Szabo, Director of the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies, held at the Art Gallery of Ontario on January 23, 2000.
- “Developments in Europe and the European Process from an Austrian Perspective” by Dr. Heinz Fischer, President of the Austrian Parliament, held at Carleton University on October 5, 2000. Co-sponsors were the Austrian Embassy and Carleton University.

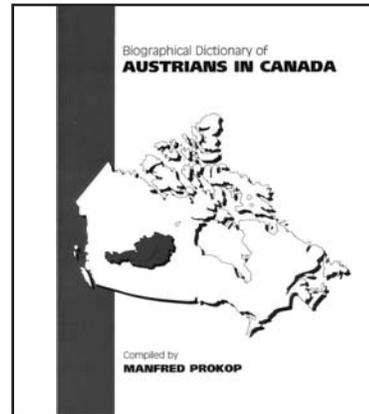


October 5, 2000, Dr. Heinz Fischer (President of the Austrian Parliament) lectures at Carleton University on “Development in Europe and the European Integration Process from an Austrian Perspective.”



October 7, 2000. SOS Children’s Villages Canada - Fundraising Gala “Rhapsody in Gold” at the Ottawa Congress Centre. Left to right: Margit Fischer, Dr. Heinz Fischer and Anna Elisabeth Hasselbach, First Vice President of the Austrian Federal Council (*Bundesrat*).

Through the ACC’s Foundation Programme, the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Federal Chancellery and the ACC jointly financed the book *A Biographical Dictionary of Austrians in Canada*, compiled and edited by Dr. Manfred Prokop, and published privately in 2002.



### Cultural and other projects supported by the ACC

On November 28, 1998 the ACC established the Austrian Canadian Business Club (ACBC) to assist fifty graduate students from universities in Canada to work for four months up to one year in Austria, and fifty graduate students from Austria to work in Canada. Franz Plangger, from Gatineau, Quebec, became the first Chairman of the ACBC, with Trude Duller, Vancouver, the Vice-Chair. In 1999, a few months before the state visit to Austria by Prime Minister Chretien, the ACC, President Roland K. Pirker and ACBC Chair, Franz Plangger had many meetings with Canadian Foreign Affairs officials to initiate and lay down the ground rules for this endeavor, explaining that the ACBC will only be staffed by volunteers. After placing five young Austrian graduate students across the country, the placement program was transferred to the Austrian Embassy in 2001.



March 25-April 5, 1999. The KAC bantam ice hockey team (15- and 16-year-olds) from Klagenfurt visits Canada and the U.S. Before the game in Ottawa, Ontario. Left to right: Patrik Brabant (KAC), Dr. Walther Lichem, Allan Higdon (Ottawa City Councillor) and Bruno Polito.



March 25-April 5, 1999. The KAC bantam ice hockey team (15- and 16-year olds) from Klagenfurt (Austria) visits Canada and the U.S. After the game in Dundas, Ontario. Left to right: Josef Ferrara (Assistant Coach, KAC), Lisa Lemon, Hans Sulzer (Coach, KAC), Petty Lemon, Tom Lemon (former Canadian hockey-great who played in Klagenfurt between 1959 and 1963), Harry Lange (Manager, KAC) and Roland K. Pirker (President, ACC, and official tour guide for the team).

From March 25 to April 5, 1999 the ACC supported an Austrian youth ice-hockey team, the KAC bantam team from Klagenfurt. Roland K. Pirker took it upon himself not only to be a tour guide for the duration of their eleven days travels through the provinces of Ontario and Quebec and to New York State, but also initiated many hockey games along their travel route. The former Canadian hockey star Tom Lemon (KAC 1959-1963) and friend of Austria was part of the Canadian tour.

In June 1999, the ACC's Roland K. Pirker and Oskar Tankovitz undertook a collection and letter writing campaign for support from Austria's parliamentarians to allow Austrian immigrants to Canada to retain their Austrian citizenship, which yielded thousands of signatures. At the ACC Executive meeting in September 1999 Austrian Ambassador Dr. W. Lichem reported that the campaign was recognized in the Austrian Parliament.

On June 2, 1999 the ACC supported the Ottawa-Hull premiere of "Inukshuk" (Stoneman) at the Museum of Civilization, a joint Canadian-European project about the arts and cultures of the Arctic as a process of the dialog between cultures. The music by Wolfgang Bottenberg was performed by the ARBOS-Company of Music and Theatre (Austria).

The ACC was the sole sponsor of the first Austrian Music Workshop for Youth program and master classes on Austrian *Schrammel* music for 11 students from Ontario and Quebec at the University of Ottawa from June 24 to 27, 1999. Roland K. Pirker organized the weekend-long seminar. The members of the Ottawa Schrammel Quartet, Hans Wyslouzil, Edmund Wyslouzil, Hermann Griesseier, Alois Platzer as well as Willi Platzer, Anne Lauzon and Jean Dechenes were the teachers.



June 27, 1999. The ACC and the Austrian Society Ottawa organized the First Austrian Music Workshop for Youth on Schrammel Music; the final concert took place at Freeman Hall at the University of Ottawa. Left to right, front row: Annie Scully, Rachel Seilern, Rebecca Szauter, Alisha Szauter, Anouk Deschenes, Holli Richards, Megan Adams, Natasha Szauter, Timothy Seilern, Mathias Seilern and Samuel Scully. Back row: Edmund Wyslouzil (teacher), Hans Wyslouzil (teacher), Willi Platzer (Choirmaster), Anne Lauzon (teacher), Roland K. Pirker (President and workshop organizer), Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador), Jean Deschenes (teacher), Hermann Griesseier (teacher) and Alois Platzer (teacher).



June 24-27, 1999. Left to right: Edmund Wyslouzil (teacher), Mathias Seilern, Annie Scully, Rachel Seilern, Rebecca Szauter and Jean Deschenes (teacher).

On November 20, 1999 the ACC—together with the Austrian Society Ottawa—supported a fundraiser for SOS Children's Villages Canada at the Chateau Laurier Hotel.

The ACC and the Austrian Society Ottawa co-sponsored three documentaries on two world-famous Austrian musicians and on an Austrian musical institution with CBC Radio Two. Jill LaForty produced the three two-hour shows for coast-to-coast radio audiences. "Johann Strauss" was broadcast on November 24, 1999, "The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra" on March 29, 2000, and "Robert Stolz" on June 21, 2000.

The ACC co-sponsored the exhibition of "Great Masters Drawings from the Albertina" at the Art Gallery of Ontario with the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Embassy of Austria. The exhibition ran from January 22 to March 26, 2000.

Through the Austrian Embassy, the ACC was invited to support financially the production of the “Quilt of Belonging,” an immense textile artwork reflective of Canada’s cultural fabric and history. The ceremony took place on Parliament Hill at the Hall of Honour on May 18, 2000.

The ACC supported two young Austrians (Lothar Bodingbauer and Mike Pollan) who were doing their *Gedenkdienst* (memorial service) with the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre in June 2000.

On behalf of the ACC, the Austrian Society Ottawa contributed funds to the Heritage Garden Foundation to construct the symbolic “Milestone in the History of a People.” On the occasion of the 125th anniversary of Confederation in 1992, the then Governor General, H. E. Ray Hnatyshyn, and his wife Mrs. Gerda Hnatyshyn requested the design of a heritage rose garden on the grounds of Rideau Hall. The Heritage Garden Foundation was opened officially by H. E. The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, on June 9, 2000.



June 9, 2000. The ACC supported the Rideau Hall opening ceremony of the Rose Garden, The Canadian Heritage Garden Foundation, a project initiated by Gerda Hnatyshyn. Right to left: Former Governor General of Canada, Ray Hnatyshyn, Gerda Hnatyshyn, The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, and four members of the Board of Directors of the TCHGF.

The ACC purchased a video projector for the monthly film screenings of the Austrian Society Ottawa. The projection system was installed at the Lindenhof Restaurant on June 9, 2000. In October 2004 the ACC purchased another video projection system and had it installed at the Martin Luther German Church where it will be used on a weekly basis by the Friends of Austria Ottawa, the Austrian Society Ottawa, and the “Frohe Runde,” a senior citizens group consisting of Austrian and German immigrants.

On July 4, 2000, the ACC—with the Canadian Museum of Civilization of Canada and the Austrian Embassy—co-sponsored a book launch and photo exhibit. Eugen and Gretl Kedl, Austrian immigrants from Burgenland now living in Quebec City, presented their book *Canada in a Thousand Pictures* (1999) and exhibited photos from that book at the Museum of Civilization in Hull/Gatineau, Quebec.



July 4, 2000. Photo exhibition of the Kedl Collection and their book launch of *Canada in a Thousand Pictures* at the Museum of Civilization. Left to right: Gretl and Eugen Kedl and The Hon. Mac Herb, MP.



July 4, 2000. Photo exhibition of the Kedl Collection and their book launch of *Canada in a Thousand Pictures* at the Museum of Civilization. Dr. Wendelin Eitmayer (Austrian Ambassador) opens the exhibition.

With a grant from the Canadian Crown, the ACC co-sponsored the design of the Coat of Arms for the Friends of Austria Inc.-Manitoba under its President, Peter Strausz on July 20, 2000. The warrant for the Coat of Arms was granted for the organization’s community contribution and commitment to enhance the quality of multiculturalism in Canada over the past thirty years.

In November 2000 the ACC, together with the Austrian Society Ottawa, sponsored the production of a music CD recorded by the Ottawa Stubenmusi and Alpentrio (Karin Laframboise-soprano, Maria Wyslouzil-second soprano and Gretl Wyslouzil-alto).

In 2000 the ACC and the Austrian Society Ottawa co-sponsored the German radio program "Aus Ottawa" with host Oswin Lohe, and the "Deutsches Panorama," a TV program in Ottawa hosted and produced by Tilly and Franz Jerabek.

The Austrian Embassy (Ambassador Dr. Wendelin Ettmayer) and the ACC co-sponsored a seminar at the Sheraton Hotel in Ottawa on May 7-8, 2001. The theme of the seminar was "Austria-Canada: Common Challenges and Common Goals."

The ACC co-sponsored a fund-raising event for SOS Children's Villages Canada. The evening called "Rhapsody in Gold" was held on November 10, 2001 at the Ottawa Congress Centre; in attendance were the Austrian Parliament's President Dr. Heinz Fischer and his wife and several other government officials.

In November 2001, several members of the Austrian Society Ottawa took a train ride to Halifax to take part in the unveiling of a plaque at Pier 21, sponsored by the Austrian-Canadian Council, which commemorates 50 years of post-war Austrian migration to Canada.

World news in August 2002 brought reports of tragedy and devastation in Austria due to severe and widespread floods in most parts of the country. President Christine Meyer of the Canadian-Austrian Society of Toronto mounted a fund-raiser in support of the victims. The ACC financially supported this endeavour which raised a total of \$55,000.

The ACC supported "A Night in Vienna" at Queen's University's School of Music, a fund-raiser for the Grand Piano Fund of the university in Kingston, on February 13 and 14, 2003.

The ACC and the Austrian Society Ottawa sponsored the fund-raising benefit concert "Dichterliebe and other works by Schuman and Liszt" for the Ottawa Heart Institute at Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa on October 5, 2003, featuring Fraser Rubens (tenor) and Marc Ruel (piano).

At the Ottawa Heart Institute's TV Telethon Fundraiser on February 7, 2004, Dr. Wilbert Keon, CEO of the University of Ottawa's Heart Institute received a donation of \$6,102 from Roland K. Pirker, the President of the Austrian Society Ottawa and the Friends of Austria Inc. on behalf of the Austrian-Canadian Council.

The ACC's website was set up in March 1998 by Karl Mayer, who has since updated it on an annual basis. In the spring of 2003 the *OeCulture* magazine became

available on the Internet as a result of the efforts of its editor, Manfred Prokop, and Jim Burgess. In 1993 Jim Burgess and Roland K. Pirker added two more websites for "The Viennese Winterball Ottawa" and the newly established "Friends of Austria Ottawa Inc." Both web sites are regularly updated by Jim Burgess and Hans Plangger.

### Officers of the Austrian-Canadian Council between 1994 and 2005

Founders	Dr. Walther Lichem (1994) Roland K. Pirker (1994)
Board of Directors	Roland K. Pirker (1995–1998) Garry Bonner (1995–) Hans Raschke (1995–) Otto Heberlein (1995–)
Presidents	Garry (Gerhard) Bonner (1995–) Roland K. Pirker (1998–2002) Inga Michalek (2002–)
Honorary Chairpersons	Frank Stronach (1995–1998) Agnes Grossmann (1998–)
Secretaries	Roland K. Pirker (1995–1998) Christine Welling (1998–2001) Elizabeth Lavoie (2001–2002) Carolyn Purkhart (2003–2004) Elizabeth Lavoie (2004–)
Treasurers	Otto Heberlein (1995–1997) André Zeritsch (1997–1998) Frank (Franz) Marth (1998–2002) Ingrid Feil (2002–)
Vice-President	Hans Raschke (1995–)
Awards Chairpersons	Garry Bonner (1998–2002) Roland K. Pirker (2002–)
<i>OeCulture</i> Editor	Dr. Manfred Prokop (1998–)
Legal Advisor	Heidemarie Kelly (1998–)
Website coordinators	Ing. Karl Mayer (1998–) Jim Burgess (2003–)
Executive Director of the Foundation Programme	Dr. Franz Szabo (1996–2001)
Bingo fundraisers at the Overbrook Bingo Palace in Ottawa (1998–present):	Walburga (Burgie) Pirker, Rebecca Pirker, Roland K. Pirker sen., Rolando Pirker, Don Daniels, Julie Lacombe and Angie Lacombe.



November 28, 1998. Austrian-Canadian Council AGM and election of officers at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador. Left to right: Franz Plangger (ACBC Chairman), Frank Marth (Treasurer), Christine Welling (Secretary), Gerhard Bonner (Past President), Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador), Roland K.Pirker (newly elected ACC President), Prof. Dr. Franz Szabo (Executive Director, ACC Foundation Programme), Hans Raschke (Vice President) and Heidemarie Kelly (ACC, Legal Advisor).



September 11, 1999. ACC Executive meeting at the offices of CML Technologies in Hull, Quebec. Left to right: Roland K. Pirker (President), Dr. Kurt Fuerst, Franz Plangger (ACBC Chairman), Christine Meyer, Dr. Walther Lichem (Austrian Ambassador), Hans Raschke (Vice President), Frank Marth (Treasurer), Christine Welling (Secretary), Gerhard Bonner (Past President) and Prof. Dr. Franz Szabo (Executive Director, ACC Foundation Programme).



September 3, 2000. ACC AGM and meeting at the Sheraton Ottawa. Left to right: Christine Meyer, Dr. Wera Zelenka (Cultural Director, Austrian Embassy), Franz Plangger (Chair, ACBC), Peter and Maria Strausz, speaker Robert Fallenbuehl (BMO Harris Private Banking). Second row, facing: Heidi Kelly (ACC Legal Advisor), Frank Marth (Treasurer), Maureen Tobien, Prof. Dr. Franz Szabo (Executive Director, Foundation Programme), Christine Welling (Secretary), Gerhard Bonner (Past President) and Hans Raschke (Vice-President).



September 3, 2000. ACC AGM and meeting at the Sheraton Ottawa. Left to right: Josef Helbich, Christine Meyer, Dr. Wolfgang Spadinger (Deputy Ambassador, Austrian Embassy), Franz Plangger (Chair, ACBC), Peter and Maria Strausz. Second row, facing: Wera Zelenka (Cultural Director, Austrian Embassy), Heidemarie Kelly (ACC, Legal Advisor), Maureen Tobien, Prof. Dr. Franz Szabo (Executive Director, Foundation Programme), Roland K. Pirker (President), Christine Welling (Secretary), Gerhard Bonner (Past President) and Hans Raschke (Vice President).



November 29, 2002. ACC AGM and election of officers at the offices of Rollframe Productions at 1391 Cavendish Road in Ottawa. Left to right: Frank Marth (Treasurer), Hans Raschke (Vice President), Otto Heberlein, Inga Michalek (the newly elected ACC President), Heidi Kelly (ACC Legal Advisor), Gerhard Bonner and Roland K. Pirker (Awards Chairman).



November 22, 2003. ACC Executive meeting at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Gatineau, Quebec. Left to right: Gerhard Bonner, Hans Raschke (Vice-President), Caroline Purkhart (Secretary), Heidemarie Kelly (ACC Legal Advisor), Inga Michalek (President), Ingrid Feil (Treasurer), Otto Heberlein and Roland K. Pirker (Past President and Awards Chairman).

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## AUSTRIAN-CANADIAN CLUBS AND SOCIETIES 2005

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