



German Canadian Club

1 Cove Road, London, Ontario N6J 1H7 Tel: (519) 433-2901 E-mail: germanclub1@rogers.com www.germancanadianclublondon.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear members,

Many thanks to everyone who has been helping at the club over the last couple of months, our rentals and events over this winter have been far more than in recent years and and all your help is very much appreciated. We couldn't do all of the things we do without your support. Not only are our events and rentals up, we also have had several new members join in December and January! This is is very exciting for the board as it shows the club is doing well and new people want to be a part of and take part in it's growth. And to keep this growth going your board has already met and discussed this year's Oktoberfest to ensure our Oktoberfest is the best in Ontario (Walter Ostanek already says it is) and we are also working and planning for the bier garten which will be held on Fridays this summer as well as other duties we will get in later. Recently the special events group brought back the Kaffeeklatch which put a smile on a lot of faces and some great kaffe and kuchen in all who attended. If you would like to attend one of these kaffeklatch events in the future, watch for the dates in the calendar and get ready for a relaxing afternoon eating real German cakes and pastries baked by members of the special events group. It doesn't get much more German than sipping coffee and eating cake on a Sunday afternoon. The club is also very excited that we have become the Great Lakes Blues Society's venue for all of their future concerts. In January the club hosted the Society's first concert of the year which brought in a blues performer Lil Ed from Chicago to play for a full hall. Lil Ed put on a great show and the Great Lakes Blues Society and the German club look forward to many more sell out crowds. Our choir and seniors groups are also working on their own events and plan to attend our fundraising presidents dinner with hand made spaetzle, the Good Friday fish dinner, and Easter Egg Hunt on Easter weekend.

On a more serious note, the club AGM for April 14th is quickly approaching and we would appreciate all who can attend. We will address the past year, future plans and our application to the Trillium fund, who we hope will be funding a lot of major work at the club this year, including repairs to washrooms, roof, heating and cooling and many more of those items that are in need of attention.

Once again on behalf of the Club I would like to thank everyone who has been helping the club though their volunteering. The club cannot hold all of these events and rentals without your help and if you are thinking about helping the club please let us know, we would appreciate any time you can lend and we promise we won't take too much of it as no one seems to have a lot of it anymore.

Prost!

Friedhelm Hoffmann

thankyou volunteers

Events in March		
Sundays	Nice Church	10 am
Mondays	Lyra Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm
Wednesdays	Barbershop Chorus	7 pm
Friday 8	Stammtisch	7:30 pm
Friday 9	President's Choice Dinner	5 pm
Sunday 10	Seniors Kaffeeklatsch	2 pm
Thursday 14	GCC Oktoberfest meeting	7 pm
Wednesday 27	Seniors Bingo	2 pm
Wednesday 27	GCC Board of Dtectors meeting	7 pm
Thursday 28	Accordion Club	7 pm
Friday 29	Good Friday Fish Fry	5 pm
Saturday 30	Easter Egg Hunt	2 pm 3 pm
Events in April		
Sundays	Nice Church	10 am
Mondays	Lyra Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm
Wednesdays	Barbershop Chorus	7 pm
Saturday 6	President's Choice Dinner	5 pm
Sunday 7	Seniors Kaffeeklatsch	2 pm
Sunday 7	Great Lakes Blues Society	2 pm
Friday 12	Stammtisch	7:30 pm
Sunday 14	Annual General Meeting	2 pm
Wednesday 24	Seniors Bingo	2 pm
Thursday 25	Accordion Club	7 pm
Sunday 28	Speial Events Kaffeeklatsch	2 pm

In Memoriam

We wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Fritz Wambera

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday

9am-12pm
(519) 433-2901
germanclub1@rogers.com

Catering available:
Anna Turkiewicz (519) 495-7753

Club President Friedhelm Hoffmann

1-519-312-6842 friedhelm1899@gmail.com

Seniors Group (Ingeborg Schirmer) 519-472-1498 or (Evelyn Striegl) 519-685-6693

Events take place all year round.

Choir (Kathy Wodrich)

Every Monday 7:30pm-9:30pm kwodrich@gmail.com www.lyrachoir.com

Tennis (HJ Rosell)
519-852-9933
hjrtennis@gmail.com

May to September
Everyday 8 am - 8pm

Soccer (Mark Ellyatt)

For field bookings &

519-520-2681 ellyatt.family@outlook.com training schedule visit:

<u>Special Events Group</u> (Marlene Hoche-Davidson) (519) 872-3338 <u>larrydavidson516@yahoo.ca</u>

Hall Rental

For information on our hall rental rates for members and non-members, please contact:

Carlene Hitchens

(519) 433-2901 germanclub1@rogers.com

Please send any submissions for our newsletter by the 20th of the month to germanclub1@rogers.com or call the office at 519-433-2901.

Everyone is welcome at all events.

Membership Reminder

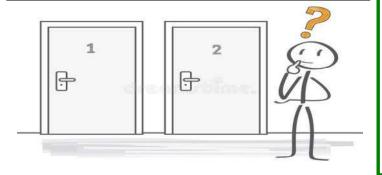
It's the beginning of the new year and we would like to remind all members that memberships for 2024 are due. The fee for Full membership remains at \$100. The fee for Associate Membership is \$75. Full membership offers you voting rights at our Annual General Meeting, reduced fees to Oktoberfest and/or free entrance to various events! Full members also benefit with reduced fees on Hall rentals or the Biergarten/Patio.

The fee can be paid by cheque, mailed to German Canadian Club, 1 Cove Rd., London ON, N6J 1H7 or by etransfer, sent to germanclub1@rogers.com.

On behalf of the Membership Committee, we would like to thank everyone for their support of the German Canadian Club and promoting German culture and traditions in London.

Attention all Full Members

Please come out on Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m. to the German Canadian Club's Annual General Meeting. It is important that members attend and be involved in making the important decisions for the next year for the Club.



Seniors News

We wish a speedy recovery to Evelyn Striegl from her surgery.

Upcoming Events

Bingo

Wednesday, March 27 Wednesday, April 24

Kaffeeklatsch Sunday, March 10 Sunday, April 7

All events begin at 2 p.m.

All are welcome.



Soccer News

The days are getting longer and our thoughts are returning to outdoor activities.

We had a successful AGM that was well attended. I would like to welcome back all the board members and I look forward to another busy soccer season.

If you have any questions regarding soccer, please contact admin@gcfclondon.com.

I can't wait to see the soccer field busy with activities again.

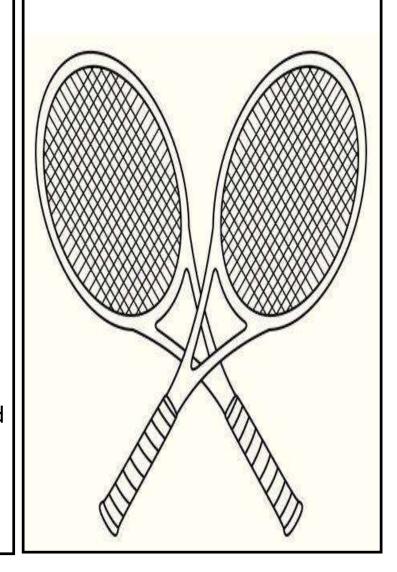
Mark Ellyatt, President GCFC

Tennis Update

Spring is around the corner! Opening day at the tennis courts this season will be Monday, May 6, weather permitting. Watch for updates on the GCC website coming at the end of March.

See you all soon.

Joe Rosell



The Presidents Choice Dinner

Our President and team will be making and serving a unique traditional German dinner

All are welcome/Pre-sale reservations are appreciated

Saturday March 9, 2024 5 - 7 pm

Menu

Hausmacher Kasespatzle mit Grunem Salat

(Handmade Cheese egg noodles)

Als Nachtisch Eis mit Waffel

(Ice cream with waffle)

\$17 + tax/person

Next Dinner April 6, 2024 Sauerbraten (Sour Roast) **Pre-sale Reservation Required**





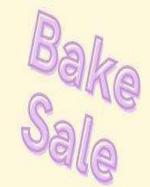


EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY MARCH 30TH

TIME 2PM & 3PM

Advance Tickets Only!



Tickets at www.onstagedirect.com

















Reflections of an Exchange Student

My name is Pareena and I am currently a grade eight student at Old North Public School. I have been attending the German school in London since I was four or five years old, starting with Frau Bomba in her Kindergarten class.

My German exchange was at St. Leonhard Gymnasium in Aachen in the west of Germany, close to the borders of Belgium and the Netherlands. Aachen is a beautiful city, with its historic Dom, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the oldest and most significant (and magnificent) cathedrals in Europe, constructed during the reign of Emperor Charlemagne in the early ninth century. In fact, my school was not very far from the Dom, and I often ate ice-cream nearby with friends from school.



Some statues in Aachen with the Dom in the background

I decided to do my exchange in Aachen because I was familiar with the city. I had spent a year there in 2015-16 with my family, and my father's work took me there every spring for six weeks, when I attended school. Unfortunately, the trips ended in 2020 due to the pandemic, and I only went back in 2023, when I did my exchange. Since I decided to do the exchange very last minute, it was easier to arrange it in Aachen, where we already knew some families, rather than trying to find a host family in Freiburg, where such exchanges with the German Language School typically take place.

I attended St. Leonhard Gymnasium from 21 May to 23 June 2023. I joined the seventh class there as they were wrapping up their school year. The school days were different from Canada. School started very early (8:00am), but it also ended early, often before lunch time and we

would go home to eat. They don't have yellow school buses in Germany, so I got a monthly bus ticket and used city buses to go to school and home again. It was nice to go at the end of the school year. I did not miss much here in Canada (other than some fun year-end trips) and did not have too much stress with school-related work in Germany. It was still great way to learn the language and culture. While I was there my class went on a school trip (Klassenfahrt) for three days and two nights. We went to a campsite in the woods on a hill near the city. We went there with a city bus and had to bring our own tents and food. We had to cook for ourselves, and we had to plan and buy the groceries beforehand. We had to work out the budget, too. I was part of the group who went to a grocery store near the school to buy our supplies. The bags were very heavy. At the school trip we had a lot of fun; we went for hikes, played basketball and played games. On one day I had more than 41,000 steps, which was a personal record. We did not sleep much.

On one day my school had a 'sports day', where the students competed in many different events. It was a very hot day and once it was over my friends and I took the bus to go to a nice outdoor pool and had some ice cream. I ate a lot of ice cream while I was in Germany and spent most of my pocket money on ice cream because it was so delicious.

I also went on some outings with my host family. We went to the grandparents' family farm, and we also visited the Netherlands (the city of Maastricht, a beach at the North Sea, and the Barefoot park). One weekend we went to a music festival.



Marlene and I at a music festival

My exchange friend, Marlene, attended Old North Public School from 6 September to 22 September 2023, but she arrived in Canada on 25 August and we spent the time before school started to do some travelling, since this was Marlene's first time in Canada (and first time out of Europe). She really enjoyed her time in London and stayed until 23 September. She found that the teachers here were more nurturing, and her classmates were very welcoming. I, on the other hand, enjoyed learning about the more hands-off approach of the teachers in Germany

and I really liked my independence. I was allowed to do a lot more on my own (taking the bus around Aachen, travel to/from school, using money to buy snacks after school, arranging gettogethers with friends). Marlene really liked how friendly everyone was in Canada. I am used to the more reserved behaviour of people in Germany and it did not surprise me, and I liked it because it's different from Canada.



Marlene and I at the Museum of Illusions in Maastricht, Netherlands

I spoke German the whole time I was there, and it was sometimes exhausting, but I learned a lot. In school Math and English were my favorite topics because it was the easiest for me and required less concentration. Some of the children tried practicing their English with me, but it was easier for us to communicate in German, and it was always possible to communicate, even if it was tiring. I had a very nice time and would recommend a student exchange for everyone who likes adventures.

With many thanks to Pareena for sharing her wonderful experiences as an exchange student in Germany.





Karnival in the KG of the German Language School.



Beer For A Year Winner: From left to right, Michael Marienwald, Rick Doyle, Friedhelm Hoffmann, John Jekl (winner) and Hume Hope



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Classes for Adults, Elementary and High School Students Every Saturday Morning from 9:00 – 12:00 September to June

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Language Proficiency Examinations
Reciprocal Student Exchange with Germany
Opportunity for Community Service Hours

2024/2025

Classes start:

Saturday Sept 14, 2024 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at Montcalm High School 1350 Highbury Ave N, London, ON N5Y 1B5

*Continuous Enrollment

Beginning:

Saturday Sept 14, 2024 09:00 - 10:00 am at Montcalm High School 1350 Highbury Ave N, London, ON N5Y 1B5

Tuition Fees

Elementary Students (JK-3): \$300, Elementary Students (4-8): \$340; High School Students: \$400; Adults: \$525

Interested? For further information, please contact:

Eva Hodgson: hodgsone79@gmail.com 519-495-6826

Ilse Spangenberg: 519-769-2338

Isolde Petite (evenings): 519-685-0294

or visit us at www.germanschoollondon.ca





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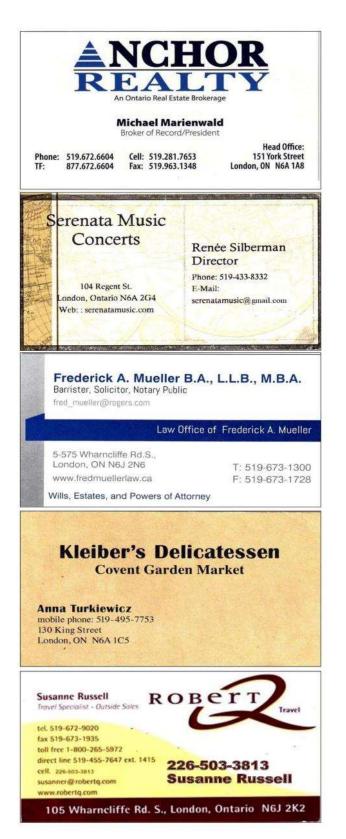








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