

# Germania Club Pembroke

1955 - 2005





Mitchell Sharp, seated at piano above, acting Prime Minister while Prime Minister Trudeau was in Munich, Germany, was guest speaker at the Germania Club's 20th anniversary. Standing from left: club president Fred Krause, Gus McFarlane, MP for Hamilton Mountain; Lois Hopkins, Erna Krause, MP Len Hopkins, club vice-president Manfred Kirschling, and Eva Kirschling. Mr. Sharp played several German folk selections and everyone joined in for a sing-song. At left, the club's first president, Martin Bauernschmitt, shows off an elaborate gingerbread house. Mr. Bauernschmitt, a baker by trade, is believed to have created the house.

At right, for the club's 20th anniversary, these distinguished people gathered.  
 From left: MPP Sean Conway, unknown, MP Len Hopkins, club president Fred Krause, unknown, and Pembroke Mayor Henry Brown.





# *Germania Club, Pembroke*

## *Presidents: 1955-2005*

A half-century of honouring German culture and heritage in the Ottawa Valley,  
and of service to the wider community



**Martin Bauernschmitt**

1955 – 1959



**Werner Schutt**

1959 – 1960



**Fred Krause**

1960 – 1962  
1966 – 1982  
1984 – 1986  
1988 – 1989



**Hans Ebrecht**

1962 – 1966  
1982 – 1984  
1986 – 1988  
1988 – 1991



**Albert Jansen**

1991 – 1992



**Karl Jaeger**

1992 – 1993



**Erwin Beck**

1993 – 1995  
1999 – 2004



**Albert Dermann**

1995 – 1999



**Heidemarie Galazka**

2004 – 2005



# Program

50th Anniversary Gala  
Germania Hall  
15 Bennett Street, Pembroke

- 6:00 p.m. .... Reception for Dignitaries
- 6:30 p.m. .... Media Interviews
- 7:00 p.m. .... Alphorn Introduction of Dignitaries  
National Anthems of Canada and the  
Federal Republic of Germany
- 7:10 p.m. .... Introduction of Dignitaries – Mr. Bob Pilot  
Dignitaries to make brief presentations
- 7:20 p.m. .... Banquet – Blessing: Rev. Fred Haak  
Music by the Tiffany Trio
- 8:30 p.m. .... Welcome Address and Awards  
President of Germania Club – Heidemarie Galazka  
Guest Speaker – His Excellency, Christian Pauls,  
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Unveiling of Presidents’ Tribute
- 9:15 p.m. .... 50th Anniversary Ball  
Music by The Continentals, Peterborough



# *Federal Republic of Germany*

## National Anthem

The text of the song was written in 1841 by the German poet August Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben (1798-1844). At that time Germany was still split up in more than 30 small states which were loosely united since 1815 in the “Deutscher Bund” (German Federation). Hoffmann von Fallersleben who was a poet, linguist and historian of literature wrote also a number of other well-known songs.

In 1922 the first President of the German Republic, the Social Democrat Friedrich Ebert, officially introduced the “Deutschland-Lied” as the National Anthem.

In May 1952 the third stanza of the “Deutschland-Lied” was proclaimed the official anthem of the Federal Republic of Germany by Federal President Theodor Heuss.

The melody of the “Deutschland-Lied” was composed by Joseph Haydn (1732-1809), the famous composer of many symphonies, operas and oratorios. The melody is that of the old Austrian Kaiserhymn (Imperial Anthem) which was played for the first time on February 12, 1797. The German text and the English translation follow below:

Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit  
Für das deutsche Vaterland –  
Danach lasst uns alle streben,  
Brüderlich mit Herz und Hand.  
Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit  
Sind des Glückes Unterpfand –  
Blüh' im Glanze dieses Glückes,  
Blühe, deutsches Vaterland.

Unity and right and freedom  
For the German Fatherland,  
For this let us all fraternally  
Strive each with heart and hand.  
Unity and right and freedom  
Are the pledge of happiness.  
Bloom in the splendor of this happiness,  
Germany, our Fatherland.

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## O Canada

O Canada!  
Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all thy sons command.

With glowing hearts we see thee rise,  
The True North strong and free!

From far and wide,  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

God keep our land glorious and free!  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.



# *Greetings from the Governor General*



As the Germania Club Pembroke celebrates its 50th anniversary, I am pleased to join the community in recognizing this important milestone.

The role of ethno-cultural groups in Canadian society has changed greatly during the 50 years your branch has operated. Through all these changes, your members, who share common roots in Germanic Europe, have been able to count on your club to preserve, promote and nurture their cultural heritage.

I wish the Germania Club Pembroke a happy 50th anniversary. May your organization enjoy many more years of success.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrienne Clarkson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Adrienne Clarkson  
Governor General



# *Greetings from the Prime Minister*



It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings to the members of the Germania Club Pembroke, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

This special celebration provides you with an opportunity to reflect upon the many and varied contributions made by Canadians of German descent over the course of their history in Canada. Our country is immeasurably enriched by the diversity of its people and by the special gifts of heritage and culture that each of us carries within. Since its inception, your organization has worked to promote a greater understanding of the unique character of your community, thereby encouraging our society to grow and flourish.

Please accept my best wishes for a most enjoyable and memorable anniversary celebration and for every success in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul Martin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Paul Martin  
Prime Minister



# *Greetings from the Lieutenant Governor*



I am happy to extend sincere greetings to everyone associated with the Germania Club of Pembroke as it celebrates its Golden Jubilee. Congratulations on reaching this happy milestone.

From modest beginnings as a social club for German immigrants and members of Pembroke's German speaking ethnic groups, the Germania Club has prospered and is now one of the Ottawa Valley's most active and welcoming gathering places. With a variety of social events – including the ever-popular Oktoberfest and Beergarden dances – Club members are keeping the traditions of the old country alive while bringing them into the mosaic of our shared Canadian citizenship.

In the name of the Queen of Canada and on behalf of the people of Ontario, I wish the Germania Club and all its members a memorable and happy anniversary year as well as five more decades of service to your community.

Gratulation!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James K. Bartleman".

James K. Bartleman  
Lieutenant Governor





# *Greetings from the Premier of Ontario*



On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to the readers of this commemorative booklet and to everyone observing the 50th anniversary of the Germania Club Pembroke.

German roots in our country and our province are profound. Since the first recorded German presence in Canada some 350 years ago, waves of immigration have brought German speakers, often fleeing strife, famine and persecution, to our shores and to every part of Canada. The history of German settlement in Ontario begins with German-speaking United Empire Loyalists. More waves arrived in the 19th century and after the two World Wars, and particularly the period between 1950 and 1961, when the Germania Club Pembroke was founded.

German Canadians have made, and continue to make, vital contributions to the life of our province. Ontario's prosperity owes much to the industry and skills of generations of Germans – farmers and artisans, tradesmen and entrepreneurs. Their contributions to the arts are legendary. Their involvement in public life has left an indelible mark on our nation.

This year you mark an important milestone: the golden jubilee of the Germania Club Pembroke. This is truly something to celebrate! For half a century, the club has promoted the richness and diversity of German culture and preserved the German heritage which is such an important part of our province's cultural tapestry. I offer hearty congratulations to all the members of the Germania Club Pembroke, past and present, and my sincere best wishes for a memorable anniversary year and much ongoing success.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dalton McGuinty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dalton McGuinty  
Premier





Greetings to all those celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Germania Club Pembroke.

Canada has always been a diverse country, and its demographic landscape is constantly changing. Clubs like the Germania Club Pembroke play an important role in helping Canadians of German descent to preserve their linguistic, cultural and historical heritage. These cultural clubs also provide places to nurture communication between generations, to build bridges with other multicultural communities, and to encourage civic participation.

As Minister of State (Multiculturalism), I congratulate the Germania Club Pembroke on its 50th anniversary, and for the work it does to maintain the German language and culture in our multicultural society.

Happy 50th Anniversary!

The Honourable Raymond Chan, P.C., MP



On behalf of Ministry of Culture, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Pembroke Germania Club's Anniversary Gala.

This event also recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Pembroke Germania Club. This club is unique not only in its dedication to promoting and celebrating German culture in the Pembroke region, but also in its commitment to advocating for education in the German language. In doing so, the Germania Club set a fine example for all cultural groups operating in today's society.

My ministry greatly values the contribution made by organizations such as the Germania Club to the appreciation of the diverse nature of arts and heritage in our province. I am sure that the reception will be memorable and that the keynote address by His Excellency Christian Pauls, Ambassador of Germany, is sure to delight and inspire the audience.

Congratulations to the members, families and friends involved in this commemorative evening. Your support for this special organization over the past fifty years is appreciated and valued.

Zu Ihrem 50ten Jahrestag möchte ich Ihnen meine herzlichsten Glückwünsche aussprechen.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Meilleur  
Minister



Liebe Mitglieder des Germania Club,



Anlässlich des 50-jährigen Bestehens des Germania Club Pembroke möchte ich Ihnen meine herzlichen Glückwünsche übermitteln.

Ich möchte die unermüdlichen Anstrengungen des Germania Club Pembroke hervorheben, die deutsche Sprache und das deutsche Kulturgut zu pflegen. Mein Dank gilt allen Mitgliedern, die durch ihr aktives Engagement helfen, ein positives Deutschlandbild zu vermitteln und die deutsch-kanadische Freundschaft zu fördern.

Ich freue mich, mit meiner Frau an den Festlichkeiten in Pembroke teilnehmen zu können und wünsche allen einen schönen Abend und alles Gute für die nächsten 50 Jahre.

*Christian Friedemann Pauls*

Christian Friedemann Pauls  
Botschafter der  
Bundesrepublik Deutschland

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Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren!

Liebe Landsleute!



Als Vertreter Österreichs in Kanada ist es meine Aufgabe und Ehre, unsere Landsleute, wo immer sie sich aufhalten, zu unterstützen. Wir alle schätzen sehr, dass Sie sich bemühen, die Verbindung zur alten Heimat aufrecht zu erhalten, das überlieferte österreichische Kulturgut zu pflegen und die deutsche Sprache in der Fremde zu erhalten.

Obwohl Österreich ein kleines Land ist, hat es ein Übermaß an Kultur, Geschichte und Lebensweisheit zu bieten. Das Jahr 2005 ist für uns Österreicher ein großes Jubiläumsjahr:

50 Jahre Staatsvertrag  
150 Jahre Diplomatische Beziehungen mit Kanada  
10 Jahre Österreich in der EU  
10 Jahre Austrian Canadian Council

Es freut mich ganz besonders, dass Ihr Club sein 50-jähriges Bestehen gerade in diesen für Österreich wichtigem Jubiläumsjahr feiert.

Wir wünschen Ihnen für Ihr weiteres Wirken viel Erfolg, viele neue Mitglieder und erfolgreiche Jubiläumsveranstaltung. Möge Ihr Club auch in den nächsten 50 Jahren ein dynamisches Zentrum der deutschsprachigen Gemeinde im Herzen des Ottawa Valley sein.

Dr. Otto Ditz





Congratulations to President Heidemarie Galazka, and all members of the Germania Club on the celebration of your 50th Anniversary on April 16, 2005.

Each of you are to be commended for your many contributions and efforts to promote the wonderful heritage of our German Ancestors. Each year, the Germania Hall of Pembroke is transformed into a place of beauty, where people can enjoy many rich and breathtaking displays. Your efforts are truly appreciated and well known throughout Renfrew County.

As you celebrate this significant milestone, I extend to each of you my best wishes on your 50th anniversary celebration, and encourage you to be proud of your heritage.

Cheryl Gallant, MP  
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

Dear Members of the Germania Club:



As MPP for the provincial riding of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke I am honoured to acknowledge and congratulate the Germania Club Pembroke in the celebration of its 50th anniversary.

Since 1955 the Germania Club has welcomed and served the needs of German speaking ethnic groups in the upper Ottawa Valley. Today, after years of commitment, dedication, and hard work by its volunteers and members, it thrives as a centre of great activity and is a gathering place for all who wish to enjoy the numerous social events, fairs and exceptional entertainment that it brings to our community. My wife Vicky and I have had the good fortune of attending many events at the Germania Club and each time we return we are welcomed with the same warmth, kindness, and generous hospitality we experienced on our first visit.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who devote their time and energy to the Germania Club and recognize those who founded it so many years ago. Originally organized as a club that would maintain and promote German cultural heritage, the Germania Club has become, for many in our community, a home away from home.

We are indeed very fortunate that the Germania Club found its roots here in beautiful Pembroke and we look forward to its continued growth in the years to come. Thank you for this opportunity and again, congratulations on this notable milestone.

Sincerely,

John Yakabuski, MPP  
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke





On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Renfrew and the residents of the County of Renfrew, I congratulate the Germania Club Pembroke for 50 years of enhancing the German culture and heritage in Pembroke and area. The German ancestors have had the opportunity to strengthen their culture while the Canadian-born residents of the area have had the opportunity to learn and appreciate the German culture.

Congratulations and best wishes for many more successful years in Pembroke.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Sweet".

Robert Sweet  
Warden  
County of Renfrew



It is indeed a pleasure to recognize the Germania Club of Pembroke on the celebration of their 50th Anniversary. It is also my extreme honour and pleasure to welcome the German Ambassador to Pembroke, the Honourable Christian Pauls, as he shares in this most momentous and historic occasion.

The Germania Club is a celebration of the hard work, ethics and cultural diversity of the German people. I would like to recognize the President of the Germania Club, Heidemarie Galazka, and her hard working executives for their efforts.

They have brought to our community many facets of their culture that they have been willing to share with us. Their involvement in the community is apparent by the cultural exhibitions that they host in the Germania Club Hall. The excitement of Oktoberfest in Pembroke has been building and it is because of the Germania Club's efforts to see it grow into a success story. The Christkindlmarkt celebration draws individuals to our community from a hundred mile radius and prepares people for the festivities of the Christmas season. Recently the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce held their business appreciation awards at the Germania Club. It was a resounding success.

We thank you for being a part of the rich cultural mosaic that makes up Canada. You make Pembroke a more cohesive community.

It is the wish of the Council of the City of Pembroke that the Germania Club continues to grow and prosper as they celebrate the interaction with all the other cultural groups that make Canada such a diverse and sought after place to live in the world. After all, we are a multi-cultural society but, most importantly, we are all proud to be Canadian.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Jacyno".

Ed Jacyno  
Mayor of Pembroke





On behalf of Laurentian Valley Council and residents, I wish to bring greetings on the occasion of the Germania Club's 50th Anniversary. Many of Laurentian Valley's citizens come from German ancestry. These people have contributed greatly to the life of the community.

To the people who have worked so tirelessly to organize and keep this Germania Club active these 50 years, I salute you for a job well done. I wish you continued success in keeping the German culture and heritage alive.

Congratulations on 50 years!

Reeve Jack Wilson  
Laurentian Valley



Liebe Mitglieder des Germania Clubs Pembroke, Ontario, zu Ihrem diesjährigen 50. Klubjubiläum übersenden wir Ihnen unsere allerherzlichste Gradulation.

Durch Ihre Mitgliedschaft in unserer deutschkanadischen Dachorganisation haben wir zusammen viele Erfolge Ihrer reichen und vielfältigen Klubgeschichte erlebt.

Seit Gründung Ihres Klubs haben Sie unter der Führung der verschiedenen Vorstände Einmaliges für die deutschkanadische Gemeinde und damit für Kanada geleistet. Dadurch haben Sie sich in diesen 50 Jahren große Verdienste erworben. Wir wünschen Ihnen für die Zukunft weiterhin viel Freude und viele Erfolge in Ihrer so notwendigen Klubarbeit.

In Verbundenheit und mit freundlichen Grüßen  
16. April 2005  
Erhard Matthaes  
Präsident





Wir gratulieren zu Eurem 50 Jaehrigen Bestehen  
Und wuenschen Euch fuer die naechsten  
50 Jahre

Alles Gute und viel Erfolg

Der Vorstand des Maple Leaf Almrausch Club  
Rainer Triebe  
Praesident



Dear Madam President and members of the Germania Club Pembroke,

On behalf of the German-Canadian Congress Ontario, I am pleased to extend warm greetings to all on the 50th anniversary of the Germania Club Pembroke. I want to recognize all the efforts and the hard work you and all the members have brought forward over the years to build the Club and preserve German Heritage and Culture.

Es ist mir eine Freude Ihnen zum 50jaehrigen Jubiläum des Germania Club Pembroke zu gratulieren. 50 Jahre, ein halbes Jahrhundert ist eine lange Zeit und doch ist sie viel zu schnell vergangen.

Im Namen unserer großen deutschkanadischen Gemeinde danke ich Ihnen für alles was Sie zur Erhaltung unserer Kultur und Sprache in den vergangenen 50 Jahren getan und für die Opfer die Sie gebracht haben.

Für viele Menschen haben Sie einen Platz geschaffen an dem sie sich zuhause fühlten, wo sie ihre Kultur pflegen, erhalten und an ihre Kinder weitergeben konnten. Ich bin überzeugt dass dieses auch in der Zukunft geschehen wird und dazu wünsche ich Ihnen alles Gute, viel Kraft bei dieser Arbeit und Gottes Segen.

Ernst Friedel, President  
German-Canadian Congress, Ontario



# *Greeting from the President*



Anniversaries are a time to look back, and to look ahead.

Looking back, I think of the challenges our Germania Club Pembroke has faced and the successes we have enjoyed during my time on the executive. I think of the construction of this beautiful hall, the many occasions celebrated and the community work carried out here; I think of welcoming the community to our Oktoberfests, Christkindlmarkts, and other cultural events.

I recall the learning and the fun of our German classes, and of how our Germania Singers have enriched the lives of many within the club and in the wider community.

I also anticipate the challenges of the future as we work to find a way to honour our heritage and maintain the integrity of our culture in a society where those who speak the German language dwindle in numbers.

There will also be the challenge of maintaining the spirit of volunteerism that established this club and enabled it to fill its role in the community over the past 50 years.

As president of the club during this, its golden anniversary year, I remember with a great sense of gratitude all those who have paved the way for this moment in our history. Based on the club's record of meeting challenges, I have every confidence that 50 years from now another group of people will be celebrating our heritage and culture, and the privilege of sharing it with others in this great country of Canada, much as we are today.

*Heidemarie Galazka*

Heidemarie Galazka  
Germania Club Pembroke President





# Germania Club Pembroke:

## 50 Years in the Heart of the Upper Ottawa Valley

by Heidemarie Galazka

In January 1955, a meeting organized by recent German immigrants took place at the Union Hall Pembroke (Miller Street) and resulted in the decision to form a social club, which would serve the needs of German speaking ethnic groups. This meeting was chaired by Martin Bauernschmitt, and a board of directors was elected with the mandate to officially establish an organization. The “Germania Club Pembroke” was born. Local people of German descent and recent immigrants came together and proclaimed to maintain and further the German cultural heritage in the area.

It must be recognized that the City of Pembroke, past and present mayors and politicians lent much support to the club throughout the past 50 years.

The new club began to hold its functions at the Sunset Hall (now the Red Bargain Barn), and moved later to the Pembroke Legion Hall, Armouries, and “Thee Place”. Ever popular with club members and the population at large were the many dances sponsored by the club (ie. New Year’s, Mardi Gras, Oktoberfest, Beergarden) – many girls received formal marriage proposals at these occasions. Club members enjoyed picnics at Lake Dore, card and chess games, target shooting, and table tennis. A library stocked with many German books was added. Older club members still love to reminisce about the “old days”, when police presence at functions was required by law – that is, until the third dance, when the somewhat inebriated policeman had to be escorted out by his colleagues. Times have certainly changed – often, a police car would serve as escort to members who had trouble navigating the roads back home, just to ensure their safe arrival.

Maintaining and furthering the German cultural heritage was and is still a major goal of the club. In the past, deserving students of the German language were sponsored by the club, and language classes were held at a local public school for children of club members. This practice was discontinued in later years, however, since 2002, language classes have been revived, giving descendants of German immigrants a possibility to rediscover their heritage.

In 1978, members expressed a desire to obtain their own club premises. With the help of hard-working, dedicated volunteers, the job of remodelling and renovation of a purchased building was soon brought to

a successful conclusion. Mr. Manfred Kirschling, appointed Project Manager, was a major force behind this undertaking. In the spring of 1979, the official opening of the Germania Club – Multicultural Centre took place, made also possible through the generous assistance by the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation and its Wintario Grant. As in previous years, the club offered many social events, ie. “Fasching” dances, Oktoberfests, and other get-togethers. Hans Hagenah looked after club business capably and with the utmost dedication, therefore earning the title of “Mr. Germania Club”. The Germania Hall was popular with many service clubs for their fundraising bingos, and became an integral part of the community. Therefore, it was not surprising to hear a great outcry when the sale of the club building was considered in 1992, necessitated by upcoming major repairs to the building, lack of a proper water source, and the need for a new sewage system. Although many members had mixed feelings, the majority voted for the sale and the search for a new location in 1993. The land was severed and the building was sold to a bingo enterprise. Through great negotiation skills by members of the executive, foremost Mr. Hans Ebrecht, a good sale price resulted. After considering some other options, the club found an industrial site and building on Bennett Street. Thanks to the vision of Mr. Albert Dermann, the new club slowly began to take shape. Many hours and hard labour finally produced the new club building, which not only houses a wonderful main hall with large dance floor and cathedral ceiling, but also an upstairs club room, office, storage room and library.

In August 1997, the official opening of the new premises took place, attended by many dignitaries and the membership. Since then, Germania Club Pembroke has become known to offer “the best hall between Ottawa and North Bay”. Many social events have taken place in the form of dances, entertainment from the “old countries” (ie. Germany, Austria and Switzerland), Oktoberfests and Christmas craft fairs – the now well-known “Christkindlmarkt” so named by past president Erwin Beck.

From its start as a modest social club, the Germania Club Pembroke has evolved to a well-known gathering place of the people of the Upper Ottawa Valley and looks forward to serving the community for many years to come.



# When Getting There was Half the Fun

by Marie Zettler

The Germania Club of Pembroke played an important part in my formative years, and continues to do so.

I'm a fourth-generation Canadian of German descent. We were proud Canadians and loyal British subjects, singing "God Save the Queen" (or King, whichever was the case at the time) and "The Maple Leaf Forever" with the best of them.

However, my parents, especially my father, were adamant that we should honour and preserve our German heritage to the best of our ability. This was sometimes a challenge in the post-war Canadian climate, although made easier because we lived on the west side of Highway 41 at Rankin, in an area populated at that time almost entirely by people who shared our heritage. Furthermore, our British-heritage neighbours were too level-headed and fair-minded to let something that was happening half a world away destroy relationships that had spanned generations.

My ancestors were part of a wave of immigration from Germany which started in the late 1850s, when Renfrew County asked the Canadian government for more immigrants. As a result, about 12,000 German immigrants came to the Upper Ottawa Valley within the next 30 years. Today about 20 per cent of Renfrew County's people are descendants of these settlers, with smaller concentrations in other communities on both sides of the Ottawa River.

Until the '40s, German was spoken in most of the homes of these people, and worship services in German communities were conducted mainly in the German language. However, by about 1950 this was starting to wane. Post-war sentiments in the country rubbed off, especially on the younger folks, who sensed that it was no longer "cool" to be German.

My parents were never into "cool," and told us repeatedly that a language was a very light burden to carry and you never know when you would need it.

Admittedly, while our German vocabulary was still pretty good, our grammar had taken a serious beating

over four generations. However, we were still very well able to interact and communicate with the next big wave of German immigration: that which began about 1951.

Our parents' interest in the culture prompted them to seek out new arrivals and lend whatever support they could: in terms of rides to church for people who didn't yet own cars, invitations to Sunday and Christmas dinners and even whole weekends for folks who didn't have extended families; job search assistance, and in general lots of little things that today would fall under the heading, "networking."

It was natural that, when the word got around that a German club had been formed in Pembroke, our family would join. My parents, William and Olga Reiche, were not charter members; nor were they ever in the executive, as were some of the other Canadians of German descent. Robert Eggert, with his wife, Anna, and Werner Schutt, with his wife, Dora, come to mind. Other "old" Canadians involved in the club in the early days were the Bob Verch, John Gould, and Emil Scheuneman families, to name just a few.

We missed few club events, including the dances that were held every second Saturday. For my father, the club provided an affirmation for so much of what he was about, something that he to his sorrow was



Marie Reiche, above, far left, at the first Germania Club picnic at Grife's cottage at Lake Dore. Right, Marie Zettler in 2005.



missing among so many of his Canadian friends and neighbours. I was 12 when the club was formed, and the connections we formed through it broadened my horizons immensely.

Fast forward to 1958. One of our new friends told us a friend of his would like to come to Canada, but he needed a job and a place to stay until he got established. We really didn't need a hired hand on our farm, but characteristically my father said "yes," and in May of that year a young fellow named Bernhard Zettler showed up at our place. Shortly afterward, Papa enthusiastically connected him with the Pembroke Germania Club.

However, in his willingness to help, Papa hadn't factored in Cupid. Fifteen-year-old girls weren't supposed to be thinking along those lines, at least not HIS daughters. My folks were quite relieved when Bernhard moved to Pembroke and got a job on construction.

However, Cupid did not go away, and Bernhard would come to visit every Saturday evening. On dance nights, we would all go there. In the first place, my parents wanted to go, and in the second place, you couldn't let a now 16-year-old girl out unchaperoned, could you?

Like the good fellow he was, Bernhard offered to supply the transportation. His first vehicle was a Volkswagen pickup truck. What it economized in length with its flat nose it expended in width. The cab must have been designed for a very large driver. When Bernhard, who at 5 foot 8 weighed about 140 pounds wringing wet, sat behind the wheel, there was still about a foot of the long bench seat vacant on his left. So, while my parents sat on his right, where passengers were supposed to sit, I sat between him and the driver

door. The fact that I had to operate the headlight dimmer switch in the floor, which was too far away for Bernhard to reach when I was sitting there, and even the clutch when he had to shift gears, was a small price to pay. We very much wanted to be together alone, but since this wasn't possible, together with my parents on the other end of the bench seat was a good second-best. Had seatbelts been law then, we would have been sunk. For that matter, if there hadn't been a Germania dance, Bernhard and I would have played a lot of chess at the kitchen table on Saturday nights.

We were married in 1963, and the rest is history. We have kept up our club membership over the years, although we were less involved here during the years we were raising our own children. But in 1997, when the beautiful new hall was begging for creative ways to use it, I was part of a group of members kicking around the idea of a Christkindlmarkt, or German Christmas market. I volunteered for the committee for the first one, held in 1998, and have been on the committee for each one that has been held the last weekend of November since then. It has become a true celebration — not only of Christmas, but of team spirit and of the German heritage. I am also in my second year on the club's executive.

As I carry out various volunteer duties, I not only feel a tremendous sense of fulfillment on my own behalf, but think of how happy my father would be to see how the club has evolved with our Oktoberfests and Christkindlmarkts, our German classes, and our occasional singing group. And so, Papa, one of the toasts I drink as we celebrate the club's 50th anniversary will be for you, and for all the others who began this work which I am now privileged to carry on.

Ein Prosit!

## 1960 — *Impressions of a New Immigrant* by Alfred Beck

Inspired by my childhood friend, Willie Walker, I decided to emigrate to Canada in 1960, only six weeks after marrying my wife, Inge, who arrived here one year later.

During my first year in Pembroke, I roomed and boarded with Willie and his wife, Gisela (although they never charged me a cent) and they also took me along to Germania Club dances, where they both volunteered.

One month after my arrival, I found work in my trade as a machinist. Wages were low — \$1.50 an hour — but

somehow I made do. Perhaps it's worth mentioning that after my wife's arrival, our weekly grocery bill was \$18, which included a carton of cigarettes.

Being raised in a city with a population of approximately 300,000, where some bars closed when the sun began rising over the rooftops, Pembroke presented many challenges to a 25-year-old man.

I was fortunate in having good English skills (I could read English newspapers), however, as an immigrant one is shy and prefers to communicate in one's mother tongue, in my case, German.



What then appeared strange to me was, that numerous local people whose grandparents had come to Canada in the 1800s and who spoke flawless German, were reluctant to do so in public.

This was part of my culture shock. Yet there were many other strange impressions.

There was the jungle of hydro and telephone lines strung between poles with both hydro and telephone

wires attached plus three transformers, and further down a “No Parking” sign and an advertisement poster. Sometimes there was even a mailbox attached to the same pole. Where I came from, all such wires were buried underground.

The distances between settlements and towns impressed me immensely. By comparison with distances in Germany, on a stretch from Pembroke to Mattawa there would likely be eight or ten small towns, instead of just three.

Most impressive were the Ontario liquor laws of the day. Until the early 1970s it was unthinkable to see wine and spirit bottles in an LCBO store, let alone even thinking of sitting in a street cafe nursing a glass of wine or beer in open public view.

To buy wine and spirits required the purchase of an annual liquor licence at \$2. At the LCBO store, there were long stand-up desks with charts on which the brands of wine and spirits were listed with a number attached. On one of the numerous pre-printed writing pads, one recorded the number of one’s desired beverage plus the unit price, not forgetting one’s name, address, and phone number.

Now, armored with that small order form torn off the pad, money in hand, one approached the cashier, who took one’s money and handed that order sheet to another clerk, who in turn disappeared into the stockroom from which he brought one’s order inside a tightly-wrapped brown paper bag. No one was allowed to see any wine or spirit bottle displayed beforehand, as if the viewing of a bottle, full or empty, was dangerous to one’s health.

Purchasing beer at the Beer Store, one followed the same procedures, except that one received the beer case with the brand name visible.

Stranger yet were gender segregations at hotels, bars, and taverns. These locales bore illuminated signs over



Above, Herta Ebrecht and Ralf Hahn got into the spirit of the season at a Karneval dance. The ladies got into the competition in the tug’o’war, right. At the extreme left is Annie Eggert. We don’t know the two in the middle, and at the right is Anni Trautrim Peter.



their entrances: either “Men’s” or “Ladies and Escorts.” No male without a female companion was allowed to be seated in the “Ladies and Escorts” section.

At social functions, like the then bi-weekly Germania Club dances at the Legion Hall, the organizers had to secure a paid policeman in full regalia who positioned himself near the entrance all night as a chaperone.

Any advertising of alcoholic beverages was totally banned in Ontario. The only advertisements visible to Ontario residents were at Niagara Falls, where the neon signs of all major breweries illuminated the sky day and night from their rooftop mounts atop highrises in Buffalo across the river.

Following the regulations under The Lord’s Day Act, on Sundays no recreational activities were allowed, eg. soccer, baseball, hockey, or football etc. All cinemas and theatres remained closed; hotels, bars, and taverns had to keep their doors shut, and only “unlicensed” restaurants were allowed to open Sundays. This made for a lot of coffee drinking on Sundays for most singles.

For the city slicker that I was before coming to Pembroke, there were many challenges and

adjustments. Yet nothing has since drawn me back to big city lifestyles. However, during occasional visits to my son in Toronto, the urge to go fine dining or venturing into a jazz club has not totally disappeared.

But, back in the Ottawa Valley, instead of the many big city attractions, I have embraced the beauty of Ontario’s great outdoors with which the Pembroke area is so blessed. My acquired passions include hunting and fishing, and I enjoy volunteering my time for the Germania Club Pembroke, the Pembroke Outdoor Sportsman’s Club, and the Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters.

I also find time for looking after my several tanks of tropical fish, my cactus collection, and my flower beds, as well as writing a bi-weekly column on outdoor issues for the Pembroke Observer. Obviously, I managed to make the transition from city slicker to small-town resident. I have been very content living in my small house just outside Pembroke, which I shared with my wife, Inge, who died much too soon a few years ago. Together we raised our wonderful son, Harald, who I am expecting to be celebrating with us tonight along with my good friends, the Walkers.

## *Memories of the Early Days*

By Marty Markus

I have fond memories of Germania Club dances when they were held at Thee Place and at the Pembroke Armouries in the 1970s. I had won a trip to Germany, but couldn’t go because I was having surgery.

Another recollection is of a New Year’s Party at the former Germania Hall when a goose, a piglet, and a rabbit (all live) were some of the prizes.

Then there was Mr. Germania Club (Hans Hagenah, officially club treasurer, but who also fulfilled many other duties.) He never kept records, but he always knew if your membership was paid or not.



Receiving recognition certificates from club president Erwin Beck are club members Arnold Kruschenske, Alfred Beck and Marty Markus.



# Recollections of the Germania Club 1955-2005

by Martha Kodrzyński

My husband, Rudi, and I met at Zion Lutheran Church after a German church service in August 1951, two weeks after he arrived in Canada as a landed immigrant from Germany.

Following its founding, the Germania Club held dances at Sunset Hall on Highway 17 west of Pembroke. They always had live music, and that is where Rudi and I learned to dance together.

The general public sort of disrespected this hall and called it the "Monkey Ranch." It was, however, large enough to accommodate the German immigrants and their Canadian friends of German descent.

As attendance grew, it became necessary to rent the Pembroke Legion Hall and Thee Place.

When we married in 1956, the club presented us with a beautiful table lamp. The base was several shades of violet, and the shade had silver stars all over.

After many years, we founded the Germania Singers. Founding members were Manfred and Eva Kirschling, Rose Schaefer, Inge Beck, Gerda Gangl, Christa Reitlingshoefer, Margaret Kiendl, and Rudi and I. Members came and went, but we stayed together for about 25 years, expressing our joy in song at the club's annual Christmas party. In later years we sang on TV for the Kiwanis Easter Seal telethon, and at the waterfront in summertime, where we were accompanied by Marie Zettler on the accordion. We also sang at senior citizens' homes under the direction of, and accompanied by Horst Thuemen and later by Joe Calverly. Because of lack of members, for the last two years we sing only at the German "Weihnachtsfeier" (Christmas celebration.)

In recent years the high points for us are the Oktoberfest and Christkindlmarkt. We enjoy working and celebrating with all the folks who are members and with their friends. With them we have spent many hours of hard work made lighter by many hands, and hours of Gemuetlichkeit.

Rudi has never been bored since his retirement 10 years ago, because there is always lots of volunteer work to do at the hall.

Our first event in the new hall was our "Weihnachtsfeier" in 1996. The walls had only drywall on them, but the large pillars were ready enough, so Gerda Gangl, Rudi, and I decorated a Christmas tree and wrapped tinsel around the pillars. It was a very humble setting, sort of like the first Christmas. Immediately after the Feier was over, we had to remove all the decorations, so that on Monday morning Albert

Dermann could get on with the construction. This was an opportunity for the impatient club members to see how the work was evolving.

Chris Thuemen was the architect, and Albert Dermann was the chief carpenter, to whom we are all indebted. He had some paid and some volunteer help, and we were all disappointed that Hans Hagenah, who died unexpectedly while construction was underway, was not there to see the new hall when it was completed.

Fritz Hoffman hand-crafted and installed the railing on the balcony. The new Germania Hall is fantastic!

The Germania Club, over these 50 years, has greatly enriched and expanded the German culture in our community to the point where many folks who are not of German descent wish they were!

From time to time, classes to teach the German language have been held, with good attendance.

The most flamboyant president we ever had was Freddie Krause, now deceased. He was also the Santa Claus at the Weihnachtsfeier, and the joyful? moans and groans which he exuded when he entered always reminded me of pregnant women in labour (I was an obstetrical nurse), but he never delivered anything but bags of candy.

In our wildest dreams, we never thought that we would be given an opportunity to celebrate an occasion of our own in the Germania Hall. In 2001, our beloved children and their spouses gave the most wonderful surprise 45th wedding anniversary party in our honour, which made us very happy!

God willing, we hope to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2006 in this hall as well.

The hall is in great demand for weddings, charitable organizational fundraising, blood donor clinics, etc.

Congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Germania Club! May it remain a part of our future for many years to come!



Martha Kodrzyński.





At left, keeping fit with the sack races at the first Germania Club picnic at Grife's Cottage at Lake Dore are, from left: Walter Reiche, unknown, Mike Smaye, unknown, Walter Michel, unknown, and William Reiche. Everyone enjoyed the Club's picnics, below, even the dog.



Above left, Karneval revellers from left: Siegfried Haenke, Herta Ebrecht, Renate Fiedler, and Hans Ebrecht. In the early years, there was an active ladies' circle in the club. Above right is a photo of the Germania Club's ladies' circle.

Clockwise from top left: Frau Bernd, Herta Ebrecht, Lillian Haas, Barbara Rasewych, Frau Verch, Frau Dermann, Hella Bakautzki, Gisela Walker, Barbara Halstenbach, and Helga Brodde.



These musicians, right, supplied music at Germania Club dances in the early years. Musicians from left: Walter Michel, unknown, Klaus Roehrig, Fritz Lemke. Drummer and pianist – names unknown. At extreme right club executive member Jule Baier; at right the club's first president, Martin Bauernschmitt. Below are some of Santa's friends who visited him at the Christkindlmarkt.



Peter Grosze takes his turn at the Oktoberfest barbecue. To the left is another photo of the Germania Ladies' Circle. Clockwise from top left: Inge Beck, Hella Bakautzki, Barbara Rasewych, Doris von Gernet, Hanni Wurzler, Herta Ebrecht, Trude Hahn, Lillian Roehrig, and Renate Fiedler.





Above, Heidi Galazka, unknown, Elisabeth Dermann, and Donna Lance, awaiting the start of the Oktoberfest parade. Oktoberfest can be hard work, as seen below. Len Waito and Peter Berenbeck man the crosscut saw to the amusement of referee and log-holder Joe Habraken.



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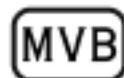
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Above are the Germania Singers on the set of the Easter Seal telethon. Front row, from left: Heidi Ibendahl, Andrea Burde, Gerda Gangl, Margaret Kiendl, Theresia Beck. Back row: Gordon Brandstadt, Rudi Kodrzyński, Erwin Beck, Martha Kodrzyński, Margaret Thuemen, Elisabeth Dermann. Accompanist: Marie Zettler. Right, Mayor Les Scott and Germania president Erwin Beck sample the first draught of beer to open Oktoberfest.



Above, the bell ringers from the Maple Leaf Almrausch Club were colourful additions to the Oktoberfest. To the right is the popular Christkindlmarkt at the Pembroke Germania Club.





This is the 2005 executive of the Germania Club, Pembroke. Front row, from left: Marie Zettler, recording secretary; Petra Pond, assistant treasurer and membership; Heidemarie Galazka, president; Elisabeth Dermann, treasurer; Margaret Kiendl, director. Back row: Rudolf Kodrzynski, director; Alfred Beck, corresponding secretary; Willi Schmidt, director, and Albert Dermann, vice-president.



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