

*The Plattler Report - 1998*  
– by **Bernd Kallenbach and Frank Friesacher**

### **Past Year Activities**

Best of the season once again to all friends and past members of the group! Our busy Schuhplattler season started with Heimatabend '98. Highlights of the evening included the Irish Schuhplattler version of Lord of the Dance, (renamed Lord of the Plattler), the men's premier cow bell performance, and excellent dance music by Premium Akkord.

On September 13th, we held our annual barbecue at **Rainer & Anne Hartl's** Alpine Farm. As usual, there was great food, cold beer and good times. Several past members joined in the celebrations.

This past summer, several group members participated in a parade celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations.

For the Oktoberfest season, we performed at the German Canadian Cultural Centre [Edmonton], Evansburg, Forest Heights School, Rideau Park School, Wetaskiwin [Elks Lodge and Peace River Lodge], and the luxurious Jasper Park Lodge as our finale.

Our season ended with the ladies (plus Frank!) playing the cow bells at the German Club Christmas concert.

Thanks to Loretta for writing new bell music!

### **Group Membership**

We've had a few members leave this past year. **Marion Fritz** has decided to hang up her Dirndl after 15+ years of dedication to the group. Thanks for all your hard work, Marion!. **Ralph Garneau** (our accordionist) is on leave for medical reasons

**Marvin Schaaf** returned in January after recovering from his basketball knee injury (Schuhplattling, especially hopping and stomping, is recommended by 9 out of 10 Bavarian doctors as an excellent form of knee therapy). **Joe Niederleitner**, a past member and accordion player, is returning to give the group live music once again! Joe has attended several practices in November.

Our present membership includes: **Brandi Day, Jason Edwards, Frank and Loretta Friesacher, Ronny Fritz, André and Jessica Hüllstrung, Bernd Kallenbach, Sylvia Kiel** [a.k.a. *Special K*], **James and Karin Konkin, Marta Laube, George Lauf, Marvin Schaaf, Melissa Scheuerer, Russell Schmidt, Eric Seneka** and **Sylvia Unterieser** [a.k.a. *Elmo*].

Frank apologizes profusely for the negligent omission of **Marta Laube's** name last year in the membership list. Bernd is completely innocent of this crime, and Frank will be slapped for his misdeeds!

### **Special Events**

**Jessica Houle** and **André Hüllstrung** were married on July 25th, 1998. After the ceremony, the pair sawed a log in half on the church steps, their first act of cooperation as man and wife. The Schuhplattlers performed at the reception, as did a French Canadian group that Jessica also belongs to. One of our members, **Sylvia Kiel**, caught the bouquet, and was already eyeing a young man that evening. All the best to André and Jessica!

Other members took active steps to avert the decline in female group members. **Marvin Schaaf** and his wife Janina had a baby girl, Melina, on July 30th. **James and Karin Konkin** also had a girl, Stephanie Nicole, on October 21st. Both infants are expected to be performing within the next year. Congratulations to our young parents.

That's it for another year. Keep in touch; each one of you remains a part of this group, no matter how long you've been away. Until this time next year, tschuss and keep schuhplattling!