

# The Bavarian Schuhplattlers of Edmonton



Wishing you all the best in 2002 from our families to yours.



## The Bavarian Schuhplattlers

2001  
The Year  
in Review

### The Plattler Report

by Frank Friesacher

Better late than never, it's the sixth annual newsletter of the Bavarian Schuhplattlers of Edmonton, reporting on activity in the group during 2001!

#### Events

Heimatabend 2001 was once again a great success, as we continued our efforts to do the new and unusual! The special theme this year was "Heimatabend 2001: A Schuhplattler Odyssey",

where we reenacted the "birth" of schuhplattling in the cavemen-era, had some fun with that popular TV show "Who Wants to be a Schuhplattler?" hosted by Regis Vielbier, and finally "The Bavarian Rant", our take on the Molson Canadian commercial. As



The Bavarian Schuhplattlers of Edmonton have been in existence since 1971. Our organization preserves the German tradition of folk-dancing and also provides an atmosphere of fun and Gemütlichkeit for its members.

## LETTERS TO THE SCHUHPLATTLERS

**Former member Heidi**

**Boesenberg writes:** Dear Schuhplattlers !!!! Was happy to find

you in the internet !!!! Also found my name listed. Membership was from 1981 to 1984, musician (guitar) in your group, playing with Otto and Christel. Will be moving from Nürnberg / Franken to Rosenheim /Oberbayern next month and will mail my new address. Also planning to visit Canada and Edmonton this year and will contact you beforehand. Would be great to get together with you. Bernd and I are musicians here in Bavaria and never go anywhere without our instruments (accordion and guitar). Dann werden wir gerne einmal einen aufspielen wenn Ihr dazu tanzen tut ???. Wir spielen ausschließlich Oberkrainer-, Alpenländische- und Volkstümliche Stücke. Es würde uns große Freude bereiten einen bei Euch aufzuspielen und Euch wiederzusehen !!!!!

**Herzliche Grüße, Heidi**

always, the fun was mixed with dancing and bell-playing, and new entertainment from our children's group, the Alpenspatzen (more on them below)!

For Oktoberfest season we performed at the GCCA (4 nights) and at Forest Heights elementary school. Unfortunately, one of the

regular (and most enjoyable) performances for the group for the last 25 years, the Wetaskiwin Oktoberfest, has (at least for now) folded up their tent. We hope that this is only temporary! For the second year running, we have been at the Lloydminster Oktoberfest; in 2000, only one couple and an accordion player made it to the event. They raved



**Oktoberfest 2001**  
The girls in their new dirndls

## The Bavarian Schuhplattlers present... Heimatabend 2002



at the German-Canadian  
Cultural Centre  
Saturday, April 20, 2002  
for tickets call Ronny & Marion Fritz  
at 438-5425

The Sound of  
PLATTLING

with  
Premium  
Akkord

having a fundraising event on February 16, 2002; see our ad on this page, and bring the family!

### Upcoming Events

Heimatabend 2001 is already booked for April 20, 2002; we daresay it may be the best one yet! We look forward to seeing you all there. We didn't make it to the 2001 Gaufest in New York state, but continue to track the activities of that organization, and are setting our sights on a possible trip to Philadelphia in 2003.

That wraps it up for the 2001 (and a little 2002) report of the Bavarian Schuhplattlers. As always, we welcome hearing from you about how you are now, and even better, seeing you at our practices or at our performances.

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g!

Website: [schuhplattler.edmonton.ab.ca](http://schuhplattler.edmonton.ab.ca)  
Email: [mail@schuhplattler.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:mail@schuhplattler.edmonton.ab.ca)  
Mailing Address:  
8310 Roper Road (51 Avenue)  
Edmonton AB T6E 6E3

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*Treu dem guten alten Brauch*

managed to convert some of our cassette tape music to CD, for use when our accordionist Joe Niederleitner is unavailable.

PLANS! Other plans include a renovation to our practice area, and adding some new dances to our repertoire.

## Die Alpenspatzen

Since starting in 2000, our junior schuhplattler group, Die Alpenspatzen have been doing better and better. We now have 7 girls and 4 boys, and the kids can do several of our dances. You may have seen them recently on Global television, during an Oktoberfest morning feature at the German club; they have also performed

A Youth Dance Party!

# Dance Daze

German Canadian Cultural Centre  
8310 Roper Road (51 AVE)  
February 16, 7:00PM – 11:00ISH

Tickets At the Door!  
\$10.00/Family (incl: 2 Adults & 3 Children)  
or \$3.00/Person



- > Prizes
- > Entertainment
- > Great Dance Music
- > D.J.

Sponsored by the Alpenspatzen!  
For Information: Bernie Kallenbach: 929-8325

at our Heimatabend, the German Club Oktoberfests, and the GCCA's children's Christmas party, all to rave reviews. Bernd Kallenbach continues to instruct and manage the kids, and we have now outfitted them in entirely new dirndls and lederhosen so that they match the adult group!

The Alpenspatzen are



## The Alpenspatzen Boys (with a little help)

about it so much that in 2001, we went with four couples and an accordion player! The crowd is excited, the food delicious, and the organization under Lloydminster German club president Richard Starke is outstanding!

Other activities this year included the German Ladies Group social in April, a nursing home and the Dutch-Canadian Club's spring market in May, Club Austria's Grand Heurigen wine tasting in November, as well as their members' gathering in March, German Days in June,

Heritage Days in August, the GCAA seniors' afternoon and at a "Kelsey's restaurant" staff party in October, and finally an AIESEC University of Alberta event in December, as well as bell-playing at the German club Adventskonzert.

## People

2001 saw our sixth president begin his term; Bernd Kallenbach, longtime member, took over the reins from Ronny Fritz as our new fearless leader.

Robert & Lisa Friedl, still probationary members last newsletter, are now full members, and a welcome and vibrant addition to the group. A new face is Ole Berger, who practices with us regularly (when he's not travelling in exotic places such as South Africa!), and who we hope will be on stage with us shortly.

The good news is that no members have left this year; although a few of our busy members are unable to come to all or most practices and performances, they can often be counted on in a pinch. James and Karin Konkin had their second

child (another girl!) in 2001; Marvin Schaaf and wife Janina also had their second child this year. Both James and Marvin dance periodically with the group, as does our resident radiologist George Lauf; we hope to see more of them in the coming year!

Marta Laube remains on leave as she continues her studies in the USA; we caught a brief glimpse of her this summer before she hit the books again!

We had an ex-member return to our group for a few practices; Wendy Nikolaj came back for a refresher to dance at

Millhaven Elementary School, and our Bernd danced with her.

**Our present active membership of 16 is: Kathryn Calder, Robert & Lisa Friedl, Frank & Loretta Friesacher, Ronny Fritz, Bernd Kallenbach, Sylvia Kiel, James Konkin, George Lauf, Joe Niederleitner, Brandi Pagee, Marvin Schaaf, Charlene Schmidt, Eric Seneka and Sylvia Unterieser.**

### Other Stuff

ALAAF UND HELAU! Some of our members continue to cross-dress as soldiers for the Blauen Funken Mardi Gras group; several of us performed in January 2001 when the Edmonton group hosted Mardi Gras partyers from all across Western Canada; many then went to Winnipeg to return the favour in January 2002. We are happy to help out other groups, and learn from them. (and party!).



NEW DIRNDLS! After 12 years, our girls have new dresses, ordered from Chiemseer Tracht and Dirndl in Bavaria. We continue to look into formal "Tracht" for our girls and guys, to add to our culture.

TECHNOLOGY! Frank Friesacher has finally



NEW GIRLS FOR THE GROUP????  
Having fun at Heimatabend

**Practices:  
Thursdays  
@ 7:30 pm**