

Local News

The presentation brought all in attendance closer together as we travelled some 6000km away with two amazing and knowledgeable neighbours as our guides to a place they consider their second "home."

Switzerland: Secrets and Surprises – Swiss documentary in Potton



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

On Friday evening, Oct. 17, the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) Senior Services program welcomed guests to an amazing presentation at the Feather in The Wind Centre in Mansonville for a Swiss Documentary entitled, Switzerland: Secrets and Surprises, prepared and animated by volunteers, Lucie and Rolf Maurer. This was an unprecedented presentation by two passionate Swiss!

Upon entering the presentation I was greeted at the door by Lucie Maurer who smiled brightly and said, "Griezi," explaining that this is how friends greet each other in Switzerland. This welcome and the ambiance in the room from the decor to the vibe of those present as we gathered made me feel that the evening was going to be a special one. I was right.

Some thirty people were in attendance for the English presentation with a second scheduled to take place in French on Nov. 14 at the same location. A \$20 donation to the CABMN seniors programs was the price of admission to a phenomenal presentation more than 200 volunteer hours in the making. Attendees brought their own wine or beverages and were encouraged to also bring a snack to enjoy throughout the presentation.

"I have wanted to do this for so long," said Lucie Maurer, who put the presentation together. "Tonight seeing the final product and sharing our hard work, passion and labour of love feels like giving birth," she stated.

Those in attendance marvelled at the content, flow and obvious enthusiasm behind the presentation. An interactive question and answer evening with information and experiences that could only be shared in such a personal way by a true Swiss native and his part-time transplanted Swiss Miss. The couple spend a few weeks in Switzerland every year. Attendees discovered history, hidden treasures, little known stories and had a geography lesson complete with fun quizzes and inspirational facts. The size of Switzerland, the bordering countries, languages, transportation, education, industry...the long list of learning made fun and abundant seemed endless.



Attendees enjoyed the atmosphere made even more special by flags donated by the Swiss Consulate in Montreal in support of the event



PHOTOS COURTESY

Rolf and Lucie Maurer did an amazing tribute to Switzerland

While Lucie Maurer projected the visual presentation and ran the laptop, husband Rolf did the commentary. The ease, enthusiasm and pride emanating from the duo was infectious. Rolf Maurer spoke from personal experiences and was seen in many of the video clips used and this added to the unique presentation. The two had received items including beautiful decorative flags from the Swiss Consulate in Montreal in support of their presentation.

The presentation brought all in attendance closer together as we travelled some 6000km away with two amazing and knowledgeable neighbours as our guides to a place they consider their second "home." At evening's end as the two-hour presentation finished, applause, thanks and admiration for the amazing efforts put forth by Rolf and Lucie Maurer. As we all said, "Auf wiedersehen," to neighbours and friends, we look forward to our next trip together.

EXTRA EXTRA \$

Write all about it

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