



IL POSTINO

VOL. 3 NO. 7 APRIL 2003 / APRILE 2003 \$2.00



Happy Easter Buona Pasqua Joyeux Pâques



CUSTOMER NUMBER: 04564405
PUBLICATION AGREEMENT NUMBER: I835041

IL POSTINO • OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA



IL POSTINO

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 7

865 Gladstone Avenue, Suite 101 • Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7T4
Tel.: (613) 567-4532 • Fax: (613) 567-0726
information@ilpostinocanada.com
www.ilpostinocanada.com

Publisher
Preston Street Community Foundation
Italian Canadian Community Centre
of the National Capital Region Inc.

Executive Editor
Angelo Filoso

Managing Editor
Oliviana Mingarelli

Associate Editors
Jennifer Filoso & Tessa Derksen

Advertising Director
Oliviana Mingarelli

Layout & Design
Tessa Derksen & Oliviana Mingarelli

Web Site Manager
Wen-Yi Que

Printing
Winchester Print & Stationary

Contributors for this issue
(in alphabetical order)

Tessa Derksen, Cecilia DiFelice, Angelo Filoso, Marcus Filoso, Ariella Hostetter, Italian Embassy, Ermanno La Riccia, Antonio Maglio, Luciano Pradal, Nicole Valentinuzzi, Danilo Velasquez, Krista Walsh

Submissions

We welcome submissions, letters, articles, story ideas and photos. All materials for editorial consideration must be double spaced, include a word count, and your full name, address and phone number. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, clarity and style.

Next Deadline

April 20, 2003

Il Postino is publication supported by its advertisers and sale of the issues. It is published monthly. The opinions and ideas expressed in the articles are not necessarily those held by *Il Postino*.

Subscription rates

In Canada \$20.00 (includes GST) per year.
Foreign \$38 per year.

©Copyright 2003 *Il Postino*.

All rights reserved. Any reproduction of the contents is strictly prohibited without written permission from *Il Postino*.

SUBSCRIPTION / ABBONAMENTO

- Yes, I want to subscribe to twelve issues of *Il Postino*
Si, vorrei abbonarmi a Il Postino per 12 numeri
- \$20.00 Subscription Canada / Abbonamento Canada
- \$38.00 Subscription Overseas / Abbonamento Estero

Name and Surname: / Nome e cognome:

Street: / Via: _____ Postal Code: / Cp.: _____ City: / Città: _____ Province: / Provincia: _____

Tel.: _____ Fax: _____ Date: _____

to / intestato a: Preston Street Community Foundation Inc., Suite 101 Gladstone Avenue 865, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7T4

Page 2

I L P O S T I N O

April 2003

Culture / Cultura

From the Shamrock to the Celtic Cross: Who is St. Patrick?

By Krista Walsh

Rarely are historical figures seen clearly. They are always shrouded by mysteries, rumors and myths. St. Patrick is one among this numerous group. St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, was in fact not even born on the Emerald Isle. However, this is not so important since it is accepted that not all patron saints are from the country they watch over. (For example, St. Anthony of Padua was actually born in Portugal.) Yet, it still begs the questions: where did this man come from? No matter how much research you do or how many theories are put forward, no verifiable answer may ever be found.

There are accounts that St. Patrick was born in Wales, but there are also sources that argue he was born in Roman-Britain. Is it possible that this Irish saint may have come from an Italian background?

Considering his father and his mother were of Roman background and that Patrick's name was originally changed to the Romanized Patricius (born Maewyn Succat), the world could lead to believe that indeed, St. Patrick may have been Italian.

Maewyn grew up not believing in the Christian God, his family not being a very religious family, but at 16 years



of age he was kidnapped by Irish Raiders and sold into slavery in Ireland. During his time in the Green Country he worked as a shepherd and became closer to God. Six years later he managed to escape and he headed to Gaul. There he changed his name to Patrick (a decidedly more Christian name) and spent the next 15 years of his life speaking the word of God. He eventually returned to Ireland and began to speak of the Christian God to anyone there who was willing to listen and learn. St. Patrick used the shamrock to represent the Christian's Holy Trinity and also used methods of preaching that would allow the Irish to accept the new ideas more easily. He used fire to celebrate the Easter holiday, as the Irish usually worshipped their own gods the same way. As well, he mixed the Christian cross with the sun, a strong Irish symbol, and thus created what is now considered to be the Celtic Cross. In this way, he converted many to Christianity before he died on. It is believed he died on March 17, which is why we celebrate his memory and his accomplishments on this day.

Whether Italian, Welsh or British this was the man who drove the snakes out of Ireland and brought Christianity to the Emerald Isle, thereby deserving the title of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland.

DIRECTORY / INDIRIZZI E TELEFONI UTILI

Embassy of Italy

Ambasciata d'Italia

Floor 21- 275 Slater Street
232- 2401 • 232- 2403 •
(fax) 233- 1484

Italian Telephone Directory

/Elenco telefonico italiano:

738-0003

EMERGENCY CALLS / CHIAMATE D'EMERGENZA

Fire / Fuoco: 911
Police / Polizia: 911
Ambulance / Ambulanza: 911
Other emergencies / Altre emergenze: 230-6211

CHURCHES / CHIESE

St. Anthony's Church / Chiesa di
Sant'Antonio:
427 Booth Street • 236- 2304
Parrocchia Madonna della
Risurrezione:
1621 Fisher Avenue • 723- 4657

HOSPITALS / OSPEDALI

Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario:

401 Smyth Road • 737- 7600

Ottawa Hospital - Civic Campus:

1053 Carling Avenue • 761- 4000

Ottawa Hospital - General Campus:

501 Smyth Road • 737- 7777

Ottawa Hospital - Riverside Campus:

1967 Riverside Road • 738-7100

SCHOOLS / SCUOLE

St. Rita's Italian School:

1 Inverness Avenue, Ottawa • 224-0509

TRAVEL / VIAGGI

Via Rail Canada (informazioni-prenotazioni): 244- 8289

Voyageur Colonial:

265 Catherine Street • 238- 5900

ALITALIA: Ufficio prenotazioni:

(numero verde) 1 800 361- 8336

Informazioni su arrivi e partenze:

1 800 625- 4825

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS / ALTRI NUMERI DA RICORDARE

Italian- Canadian Community Centre of the National Capital Region / Centro Comunitario Italiano-Canadese della Capitale Nazionale:
865 Gladstone Avenue, Suite 101
567- 4532 • (fax) 567- 0726

Italian Cultural Centre of Eastern Ontario Inc. Centro Culturale Italiano dell'Ontario dell'Est:
865 Gladstone Avenue, Suite 101
567-4532

OC Transpo: 741- 4390

Postal Code Information: 1 900 565- 2633

Villa Marconi Long Term Care Centre:
1026 Baseline Road

727- 6201 • (fax) 727- 9352

Add your listing to our directory for only \$10.00, and get 2 lines for 2 months. Call 567-4532 for details

A Touch of Class Fashions

15% off prom/wedding dresses/wedding party/ mothers of bride or groom and formal evening wear.



Get a head start on your graduation or wedding

46 Murray Street (Time Square Building)
Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 5M4 (613) 244-0044

IL POSTINO • OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA



Memories / Ricordi

The Della Valle Family Carrying on Traditions

By Ariella Hostetter

The tomatoes and pole beans that used to reach up to the second-story windows no longer grow in the small yard of the house at the corner of Preston and Norman.

Marisa (Della Valle) Butko remembers her mother's broad smile when gathering the huge red tomatoes that she planted every year. Holding them in her hands, Laura Della Valle would ask, "See how beautiful they are?"

The Della Valle family lived on Preston Street for over 30 years. Laura and Lorenzo raised four children: three daughters, Valerie, Rossana and Marisa, and a son, Tony. The family has since moved to other parts of Ottawa and Ontario, but their memories remain of the family home on Preston Street.

While Laura Della Valle devoted herself to taking care of their home and children, Lorenzo worked as a finishing carpenter for large residential construction companies, such as Campeau and Minto. Lorenzo specialized in kitchen cabinets and in installing molding and finishing details.

During his spare time, Lorenzo would retreat to his garage where he had set-up a woodworking shop. His talented hands turned out furniture for each of his three daughters, as well as trays, pen holders and trivets. Even at the age of 85, Lorenzo could still be found making finely inlaid trays.

In Rapino, in the Abruzzo region of Italy, Lorenzo was the only one of his brothers to become an apprentice and be formally trained as a cabinetmaker. Just as Lorenzo finished his military service, the Second World War arrived and like many others he was re-drafted into the Italian Army. He served another six years, two of which were spent in a prisoner of war camp in Germany. He was thirty years old by the time the war was over. After establishing himself with a small shop, Lorenzo married Laura, who was two years his junior. The two had known each other since childhood.

Laura was the oldest child of a well-to-do meat wholesaler. As she was the eldest daughter with several younger brothers, she had to take on the task of helping her mother with household chores. There was always something to do: washing, ironing, cleaning, cooking, canning, making cheese, and sewing. When Laura was old enough she was taught to weave. She wove, sewed and embroidered a trunk full of handmade textiles: sets of sheets, nightgowns, pillow cases, table cloths and special cloth for swaddling babies. Everything was made out of hand-woven hemp and embroidered in classic Italian cut work, with white thread on white cloth.

As was customary, Laura had to have a proper collection for her trousseau; she would then bring this "hope chest" with her when she got married. The trousseau often reflected the wealth of the bride's family and as the daughter of a fairly well-off family Laura's trousseau consisted of a full steamer trunk.

This steamer trunk travelled with Laura across the seas from Italy when she journeyed to Canada in 1955. She had to travel alone with her three young daughters, as Lorenzo had immigrated earlier. At the time, it was common for men to immigrate first and then send for

their families once they were established. Laura and the three girls landed in Halifax and then endured a long train ride to Ottawa. The trunk remained unopened in the dining room of the Della Valle home for over 30 years. None of the children remember their mother explaining what it contained. The trunk was opened only after Laura went to live in Villa Marconi.

The Della Valle's first home was at the corner of Preston and St. Anthony (later Arlington Ave.), where the Fish Market now is. In the 1950's what is now a major highway – the Queensway – was then a railway line. This railway line ran past the house. The Della Valle girls remember spending winter days climbing up the slope leading to the railway and sliding down.

Some time later the family moved to a new home on Preston Street, on the corner of Norman Street, where they were surrounded by many relatives, friends and local businesses. The sisters could go next door to visit friends, but were forbidden to enter the Prescott Hotel, located two doors down. The hotel, with its dubious male lodgers lurking around, was no place for girls (or women for that matter). Yet every once in a while the sisters would go to the back door with their friend (the owner's granddaughter) where they would be given a treat of French fries.

The Della Valle sisters had to work at home just like their mother before them. Domestic work was carried out the old-fashioned way. Laundry was done by hand in the basement laundry tubs and clothes were scrubbed on a wooden laundry board made by Lorenzo. There was a precise order in which the laundry was to be washed: sheets first, then pillowcases, followed by tea towels. The washing was then hung out to dry on an outdoor laundry line. The girls celebrated when a wringer washer finally appeared in the home.

The sisters and Laura weren't the only ones who worked around the home. There was plenty of work for everybody. In the fall, it was winemaking time. Using Lorenzo's homemade grape stomping vat and his wine press, every family member (including the youngest Tony) would take a turn donning clean black galoshes to stomp the grapes prior to fermentation. This activity would appeal to any child for a few minutes, but it was not looked upon with eagerness by the Della Valle children when they discovered that the grapes had to be crushed for twenty minutes at a time. And besides, they wouldn't be allowed to enjoy the fruits of their labour!

Throughout the year, Laura made fresh pasta for her family. From her skilled hands flowed thin precise cut noodles, ravioli and lasagne, topped with fresh tomato sauce. The Della Valle family rarely ate dried store-bought pasta or white bakery bread. Laura set a high standard of quality for the family's day-to-day life.

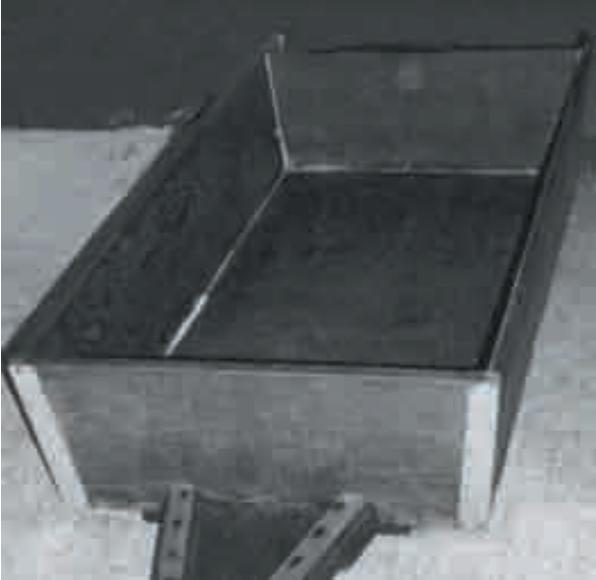
Growing up in the Preston Street village in the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's was rich in experience and familial warmth. The house at 411 Preston Street is now home to a new generation of people and the Della Valle children, now long grown-up, return to a place of warm happy memories.

Photo courtesy of the Della Valle family



TOP: Della Valle family, left to right: Antonio (with Tony), Valerie, Rossana and Laura (with Marisa).

MIDDLE: The family used this grape stomping vat, another household tool fashioned by Lorenzo, to make their own wine.

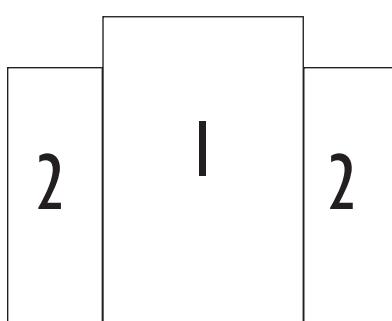


Photos: Ariella Hostetter



Homeland, Marisa (Della Valle) Butko's pastel painting of the family farm in Italy.

From the cover



Both of these photos were taken by Roger Nincheri, grandson to the creator of the featured stained-glass windows, Guido Nincheri.

The windows, depicting the Resurrection, are from St. Leo of Westmount in Montreal. They are based upon a fresco that Guido Nincheri did in St. Amélie de Baie Comeau in Quebec. This church has 1500 square metres of frescoes, possibly one of the largest single fresco surfaces ever painted by a single man.



Community / Comunità

Assemblea generale dei soci dell'Età d'Oro di Villa Marconi

Del Comitato

Domenica 9 Febbraio scorso ha avuto luogo la riunione generale annuale dei soci dell'Età d'Oro di Villa Marconi che, nel 2002, ha visto crescere i suoi iscritti a ben 341.

Lo scopo principale della riunione era quello di ascoltare e approvare i resoconti delle varie attività svolte da ciascun comitato durante l'anno passato. Erano presenti numerosi soci e il Sig. Domenico Ricci, Direttore Esecutivo di Villa Marconi ha presieduto la riunione coadiuvato dalla S.ra Olita Schultz, Segretaria del Comitato Età d'Oro.

Dai vari resoconti, sia verbali che scritti, è stato possibile dedurre che i soci hanno partecipato in numero sempre più ampio alle moltissime iniziative tra cui quelle tradizionali del gioco delle carte, del bingo, della ginnastica, delle bocce e dei festeggiamenti mensili dei compleanni. Molto attive sono state le vendite dei dolci fatti in casa e molto popolari le gite, non solo al casinò, ma anche a luoghi di

preghiera con vari pellegrinaggi organizzati durante tutto l'anno.

La tesoriere, S.ra Carmela Scapillati, ha quindi dato ai Soci presenti all'Assemblea il Resoconto Finanziario per l'anno 2002. Il ricavato delle varie attività dello scorso anno ha superato quello degli anni precedenti raggiungendo la cifra netta di \$ 44,659.32

I Soci hanno anche approvato la decisione di partecipare alla Campagna Brick by Brick di Villa Marconi e di fare raccolte speciali di fondi per riservare tre "mattoni" in tre anni su cui apparirà il nome dell'Età d'Oro.

Dopo i vari resoconti, si è passato alla selezione dei Capi di ogni singolo Comitato e sono state scelte le persone che trascriviamo qui appresso in ordine alfabetico:

Appolloni Lucio: Pubblicità
Barbera Nunziata: Bocce (donne)
Colombi Anita: Carte/controllo e vendita biglietti

D'Angelo Anna: Gite
Della Valle Guido: Bocce (uomini)
Forza Licia: Preparazione sala/ vendita dolci

Parisi Rita: Cucina
Ricci Lidonio: Ginnastica
Risi Rosa: Cappella
Granata Eugenio: Carte
Scapillati Carmela: Finanze
Schultz Olita: Segreteria
Urbani Domenico: Bingo
Zinni Matilde: Festeggiamenti compleanni

Congratulazioni a tutti i prescelti e un augurio di buon lavoro per l'anno in corso, nella speranza che esso veda un sempre maggior numero di attività e una sempre maggiore partecipazione dei Soci. Il Comitato vuole anche esprimere la propria riconoscenza e un

ringraziamento ai vari Sacerdoti che si alternano mensilmente durante l'anno per la celebrazione della Santa Messa.

Il Direttivo di Villa Marconi è veramente grato a questo gruppo di "giovani" individui che mantengono alto lo spirito comunitario, che dimostrano attivamente la loro "gioia di vivere" e che danno un bell'esempio alle generazioni successive.



Notevole partecipazione dal Canada al convegno degli scienziati italiani all'estero

Ambasciata d'Italia a Ottawa Ufficio dell'Addetto Scientifico

Dal 10 al 12 marzo si è svolto a Roma presso il Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, sotto l'Alto patronato del Presidente della Repubblica Italiana, il Primo Convegno degli Scienziati Italiani all'Estero.

Il Vice-Presidente del Consiglio On. Giorgio Fini e sette Ministri del Governo Italiano sono intervenuti insieme a oltre cento scienziati provenienti da ogni parte del globo, fra i quali i Premi Nobel Rita Levi Montalcini e Carlo Rubbia, per dar vita ad un dibattito franco ed animato.

L'elenco dei partecipanti includeva la Professoressa Silvia Bacchetti, Professor Emeritus di Patologia e Medicina Molecolare dell'Università McMaster di Hamilton, il Prof. Francesco Braga, Direttore del Residential MBA in Agribusiness dell'Università di Guelph, il Prof. John Capobianco, Vice Preside della Facoltà di Scienze dell'Università Concordia di Montreal, il Dott. Gerardo Dutto, Direttore della Divisione di Ciclotrone dei Laboratori Triumf di Vancouver, il Prof. Franco Gaspari, Professore di Elettricità e Magnetismo presso l'Università di Toronto nonché Presidente del Comites di Toronto, il Prof. Emilio Panarella, studioso di fusione nucleare del National Research Council e fondatore della ditta ALFT di Ottawa specializzata nella progettazione e produzione di macchine basate su un suo brevetto nella fisica dei plasmi, il Prof. Fabio Rossi, esperto di cellule staminali e Canada Chair for Innovation presso l'Università della British Columbia.

Il gruppo degli studiosi provenienti dal Canada, tutti di alto profilo scientifico, era dunque uno dei più folti del convegno, nonostante qualche forzata cancellazione all'ultimo momento.

"Con questo convegno - ha spiegato il Ministro per gli Italiani nel Mondo, On. Mirko Tremaglia, il quale è stato il principale promotore del convegno ed ha personalmente seguito tutte le fasi dei lavori - abbiamo

inteso rendere omaggio ad una categoria di italiani eccellenti e gettare le basi di una collaborazione fra gli scienziati italiani all'estero ed i colleghi in Italia. Sono certo che anche questo convegno farà nascere intese, sinergie e contatti importantissimi."

Si è inoltre parlato di concrete iniziative da attivare a breve termine, fra le quali l'istituzione di un'anagrafe telematica degli studiosi italiani all'estero che permetta di avere un quadro aggiornato della loro consistenza e distribuzione: si chiamerà DA VINCI ed è già in avanzata fase di realizzazione presso il Ministero degli Affari Esteri. L'obiettivo di tali iniziative è una maggiore integrazione da realizzarsi attraverso la mobilità individuale dei singoli studiosi ed anche attraverso forme di promozione e di incentivazione della loro partecipazione a distanza ai programmi di ricerca effettuati nelle istituzioni italiane.

Il Ministro dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca Letizia Moratti, che non ha potuto essere presente ma ha inviato un suo intervento scritto, ha annunciato che è pronto un decreto con il quale si dispongono contributi ministeriali alle università italiane per contratti a studiosi stranieri e italiani residenti all'estero, con preferenza per i candidati più giovani. Il decreto rende in pratica permanente un'iniziativa sperimentata lo scorso anno, grazie alla quale oltre centosessanta studiosi sono stati "reclutati" a lavorare in Italia per un periodo compreso fra sei mesi e tre anni. Le domande andranno presentate dalle

università a due scadenze fisse: 31 gennaio e 31 luglio di ogni anno. Agli studiosi canadesi e italiani residenti in Canada che siano interessati a lavorare in Italia attraverso questo programma si raccomanda di prestare attenzione al sito del Ministero e di iniziare a prendere contatti con università italiane.

Al termine dei lavori i convegnisti sono stati ricevuti al Quirinale dal Presidente Carlo Azeglio Ciampi. Vi era fra loro chi non riusciva a nascondere una grandissima emozione.



Da sinistra: i professori John Capobianco, Silvia Bacchetti, Giuseppe Martini (Addetto Scientifico dell'Ambasciata d'Italia a Ottawa), Franco Gaspari, il Ministro Mirko Tremaglia, i professori Fabio Rossi, Gerardo Dutto, Francesco Braga.



Interview / Intervista

A Man of Independent Spirit

A profile of Vito Ciliberto

By Tessa Derksen



In April of 1957, Vito Ciliberto arrived in Canada with nothing. The 21-year-old Italian had little training in any one particular profession, no job, and spoke no English. Soon after arriving he got a job as a general labourer and in a short time had saved enough money to send for his wife. The two had been engaged before he left Italy and had gotten married "through letters."

Vito and Victoria Ciliberto have since enjoyed 45 years of marriage.

Mr. Ciliberto continued his hard work and in 1963 purchased a variety store, Preston Food Market, on Preston Street. When I remark that it was quite an amazing feat for him to go from having no money to owning a business in just six short years, Mr. Ciliberto simply shrugs.

"I worked hard," he says matter-of-factly.

"And he worked seven days a week in the store," points out his wife Victoria. "It was open seven to eleven every day."

Vito Ciliberto's hard work paid off. He and Victoria successfully ran the store on 71 Preston Street for 22 years. For five years they lived on 67 Preston Street, which was across the street from the store.

"We raised our kids in the store," says Mrs. Ciliberto, referring to their three children: Ivana, Greg and Frank. "You know, there were relatives to look after them but sometimes we had to bring them to work with us."

Vito Ciliberto's journey to become a successful Canadian businessman began in the small Italian town of Jacurso where he and Victoria grew up. Vito left the farming community and journeyed to Switzerland, where he immediately got work as a farm labourer and began building a life similar to what his ancestors had sought in Italy. He dreamed of some day owning land of his own and running his own farm. Then, suddenly, Vito changed his mind.

"I wanted some adventure," he explains. "I wanted something different."

Not knowing where he would begin his new life, just that he had to follow his adventurous spirit, Vito began walking down the street in Switzerland in search of an embassy.

"The first embassy he got to was the Canadian one," explains Victoria Ciliberto.

Vito Ciliberto entered the embassy and explained to the official there that he was hard-working, would never be a burden to the Canadian government, and could make his own way. A short while later he was granted a visa.

Mr. Ciliberto admits that when he walked into the Canadian embassy, he knew nothing about Canada and

had in fact been contemplating immigrating to Australia.

"But I never regretted my decision, not once," he says emphatically. "From the time I arrived in Canada, I have been a Canadian citizen."

Not even the bitter cold winters of Ottawa bother him.

"He likes the cold!" cries Victoria Ciliberto. "He does better in the cold than heat."

But Mr. Ciliberto may yet brave the heat of Australia – it's the next country on the couple's list of "to visit." The Cilibertos have travelled to Europe (including of course Italy), South America and Alaska.

Mr. Ciliberto has been retired now for 11 years, but he still remembers with fondness the customers he served over the years. The family run store catered to families of different nationalities within the community.

"I wanted some adventure," he explains. "I wanted something different."

"There was a mix: Italians, of course, but also French-Canadian, Polish. And I got along with everybody," he says. "There was one family who had 21 children!"

The Ciliberto family is modest in comparison. They had

three children and now have three grandchildren. All of their children still live in Ottawa and every Sunday the family gathers for dinner.

"Yes, family is very important," agrees Mr. Ciliberto.

Once Vito and Victoria had settled in Ottawa, they sponsored their families to come and join them.

"We brought everybody over," says Mr. Ciliberto. "My 93-year-old father is just upstairs," he says, in reference to Gladstone Terrace, a seniors housing complex.

Now that he's no longer busy with running a business, Mr. Ciliberto fills much of his days with family and bingo. He works several evenings a week helping to run St. Anthony's bingo nights.

"I guess you could call bingo my hobby now," he says. "Some people they paint for a hobby. For me, it's working at bingo."

Mr. Ciliberto says he enjoys bingo because he likes being around people. It was interacting with different people that also made running his store enjoyable.

"You have to meet different people, talk to different people because this is how you learn things," he explains.

It was this adventurous and independent spirit that drove Vito Ciliberto to seek his fortune in Canada. And, like other Italian immigrants before him and after, he worked hard to achieve the life he wanted for himself and his family.



RIGHT: Vito Ciliberto in front of the store he successfully ran for 22 years. The store is still there and is now managed by the father of the young man pictured with Vito.

LEFT: Victoria with two of their three children: Ivana and Greg.



Photos courtesy of Vito Ciliberto



Culture / Cultura

New Italiase for New Generation

The former language of immigrants transformed expressively and correctly

By Antonio Maglio

Originally published in *Tandem News*

In the beginning there was Italiase, the speech of early Italian immigrants, who dialectalized or Italianized English terms and expressions. *Silingo*, for instance, for ceiling (Italian: soffitto) and *basamento* for basement (seminterrato).

Professor Gianrenzo Clivio called it a "language of survival," turned it into a subject of study at the University of Toronto and has been working for a while towards an Italiase-Italian vocabulary.

Now there is an Italiase for second- and third-generation Italian-Canadians. When they have a difficult time getting an idea across in Italian, they borrow terms and idioms from English. However, they do not Italianize them like their parents or grandparents did: those terms and figures of speech are used correctly. For example, one might say "Arrivederci e take care" or "Ho portato la macchina dal car wash."

Some of them even insert whole sentences in English within their Italian conversation. This can be due to affectation or to a real need for better expression and in this case generates a strange language, simultaneously Italian and English, with each expression showing syntax and grammar appropriate to the corresponding origin. In summary, the two tongues proceed side-by-side and support each other. The best aspect of this strange language, which we could call new Italiase, lies in its immediate comprehensibility.

"Here, like in every country with a strong Italian immigrant community, happened what happens in Italy when a dialect intermixes with Italian," says Gianrenzo Clivio, who teaches Italian Linguistics and Philology at the University of Toronto and is the author of numerous publications on the history and morphology of dialects.

"Technically this is called code-switching, which means passing easily from one language to the other and back. This happens with second- and third-generation people and is a step ahead from Italiase, so we can rightly talk of new Italiase. We should also add though that this phenomenon mainly concerns Italian communities abroad."

What happens in other communities?

"In many of them second-generation immigrants only speak English. Take Jews for instance: their children do not speak Yiddish, the language of their parents, except for a few scattered words. In Italian communities, on the other hand, you can even find some fourth-generation people understanding Italian, even if they cannot speak it. So the new Italiase is also a form of conservation of the Italian language abroad."

Why is this happening mainly within the Italian community?

"Because in general an important part of the family, the parents, never

learnt enough English, and addressed their children in Italian or in a dialect. Their children are aware that the language they heard at home was not Italian so they only use structures they feel sure about, switching to English for single words or whole sentences in order to speak with clarity."

This holds true for young people who learned Italian, even if dialectalized, in the family. For them, code-switching can be explained. But this also happens with people who attend Italian classes in school or at university. What is the reason for this?

"There are several. First of all, attending language classes abroad does not mean learning it perfectly. It is a kind of 'laboratory' learning because there is no way to practice the language in everyday life. This means that there are holes in its usage and in our case English is used to fill them. Another reason is the need to highlight a concept or eliciting a given effect from an interlocutor, and this mostly concerns speakers of a more advanced Italian than can be learned in school. Finally, we should not forget that English is spreading."

I think you are referring to linguistic loans.

"Yes, that's how English sneaked into every language, including Italian. Nobody says 'elaboratore elettronico', but computer; 'fine settimana' has been replaced by weekend; even the old 'pausa pranzo' in offices and factories is now called lunch break."

English is the language of globalization.

"Let's be clear about it: poor English is the language of globalization. Nowadays, after so many lexical and grammatical loans coming and going, that's not very different from the old Italiase spoken by a lady who helped us clean our home, who once told me 'Professore, non ci sono più le beghe per la respirapolvere'."

How can Italian survive in a world where English, even poor English, is spoken everywhere?

"While so many languages are dying out because children do not learn them anymore, Italian is in excellent health because it can rely on a high number of speakers and we see no symptom of weakening in Italy. In Canada, on the other hand, I don't think it will survive as a first language as new generations are increasingly Anglophone even in the family. However, Italian is too precious to disappear. In Canada, as in many other countries, it will remain as a language of culture, and this is no passing fad."

Is there a future for the new Italiase?

"Yes there is. This new language, where Italian and English complete one another, represents the immediate future of the Italian community in Canada."

What do you mean by "immediate future" in terms of generations?

"I mean that it will be used for efficient communication for two generations or more. I feel quite confident about this."

Will it disappear after that?

"Not if scholars keep it alive. This is a very interesting phase in the linguistic evolution of our community, which should be recorded and analyzed. The new Italiase, from the scientific standpoint, has relevant theoretical aspects that can be applicable to other languages, as well as to the dynamics of human language as a whole."

Pierluigi Roi, 43, from Milan, is the news manager and senior editor of Omni TV (formerly CFMT), where he manages Italian-language programming. He says: "When my TV station realized how important code-switching was in communicating clearly, they lost no time in introducing it in newscasts."

How was that done?

"The idea came to Dan Iannuzzi, the founder of the station, as well as of *Corriere Canadese*," says Pierluigi Roi. "It was Angelo Persichilli, then in charge of newscasts, who put it in practice. The idea was simple. If using Italian and English at the same time makes things clearer in casual conversation, let's do likewise with the news. Read it in Italian, but if the person interviewed speaks English, so be it. The idea worked. It was refined and adapted to new needs and new members of the audience, but the start was an attempt to broadcast information that everyone could understand."

This can lead to greater clarity and understanding of information, however this language is not Italian anymore. The new Italiase may be correct, but it's something else.

"I am a pragmatist, and if I have to choose between someone's poor Italian and good English I prefer that that person speaks English. My purpose is to inform. As to the new Italiase, I could agree that it is something else and not Italian, but I have had another idea in my mind for a while."

What is it?

"The new Italiase is not something limited to Canada, but it can be found in every Anglophone country with a strong Italian presence. If it is true that there are 60 million Italians living out of Italy, in specific areas the new Italiase will be the language of choice alongside English. I don't see this as unlikely."

The Italian language is going through a period of great popularity abroad. Italian is among the world's top five most studied languages. According to data analyzed by Tullio De Mauro, Italian is not only the language of high culture, but also a language of use, offering job opportunities and boosting social relations. In your opinion, Mr. Roi, are these the



Professor Gianrenzo Clivio and Pierluigi Roi explain the significance of Italiase.

only reasons for an increased interest in the Italian language in Canada or are there other reasons as well?

"These reasons are the hardcore of this increased interest but I think that there are other factors. First of all there is an excellent teaching job in universities, high school and primary school. Education cutbacks, which penalized the study of languages, are undermining that job and I hope that our politicians will stop this insanity. But Canada remains the foreign country where Italian is most consistently studied. In this already receptive reality, the initiatives of the past five years were a boon."

What are you referring to?

"To the arrival of *La Repubblica*, for instance. I deem this an event of great cultural significance. *Corriere Canadese* itself, far from being a mere vehicle for its diffusion, is almost its interface on this side of the ocean, having further elevated its own quality. New Italian radio stations sprout continuously. We have almost doubled our airtime in Italian, adding new spaces for videomusic and current events. This couldn't have happened if the soil hadn't been fertile. There was a demand that got satisfied. Go find any other country in the world where such a sharp escalation of interest towards Italian and Italy took place."

But globalization speaks English...

"I say that sooner or later this globalization word will have to be clarified. Nowadays there are some people who adore it and some others who would burn it at the stake. In my opinion there is globalization McDonald-style or Nestlé-style just to make two examples, that should be revised and corrected and at the very least rationalized. But the globalization of culture must be followed with attention, as it widens our horizon without disputing our cultural identities."

I agree that it widens our horizon; I have more than a few doubts about it preserving our cultural identities...

"Follow my reasoning. We are living in the era of high technology, which allows us to be constantly linked with the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14...



Community / Comunità

Community web site coming soon to a computer near you!

By Tessa Derksen

Five or six years ago, Luciano Pradal, Augusto Capitani and other members of the community were volunteers involved in trying to set up a museum about the Preston Village. The museum unfortunately did not come to fruition because of lack of funds, however, by that time the idea had taken hold.

"They had been gathering information, interviewing people and people were interested in the idea of a museum," says Hostetter. "They didn't want to just let it go."

"The question became: why collect all this information if we can't use it?" explains Hostetter.

Through a series of coincidences, the idea to produce a "virtual" museum was born.

"I was steered over to Canada's Digital Collections program," says Hostetter, "and saw that they were looking for proposals. So we submitted a proposal and it was accepted."

Canada's Digital Collections program (digitalcollections.ca) is one of the largest single sources for Canadian content on the internet. This award-winning web site brings together a collection of over 400 web sites. The sites are about Canada, ranging from Canadian science and technology to Canadian arts and culture, and are all produced by young Canadians. Many of the sites focus on the different ethnic communities living in Canada, but a web site focussing on Italian-Canadians does not exist, yet.

"We fit all of the criteria," says Hostetter, "but most importantly we were offering something that hadn't been done before. We are going to be the first Italian heritage web site in the collection."

One of the most important criteria was that the web site be produced by youth because Canada's Digital Collections is funded through Industry Canada's Youth Employment Strategy.



Come check out the new Italian heritage web site on April 13th between 10-12 in St. Anthony's Church basement. And keep an eye out for the final web address coming in May.

ployment Strategy.

The Youth Employment Strategy's objective is to take educated, under-employed youth and provide them employment, while simultaneously involving them in a project in which they can gain valuable information and communication technology skills.

Three youth were hired to produce the web site: Peter Maguire, project leader, Wen-Yi Que, graphic designer and web site specialist, and Tessa Derksen, writer/editor. Ariella Hostetter and Angelo Filoso supervise the team, while Marcus Filoso provides technical support.

Although the three youth hired live within the Preston Street Area, none are of Italian origin. Therefore, they are not only gaining marketable job skills, but also a knowledge and understanding of the culture and history of their community. And, as the proposal submitted to Industry Canada says, "by documenting the ma-

terial the youth will gain an appreciation of how solid communities are built and immigrant groups flourish."

The source for much of the material is *Il Postino*. Articles have been taken from old issues, dating back three years, and have been updated and added to. Some new articles have been written as well.

The web site, called "Our Little Italy," is divided into six categories: People, Neighbours, Community, Traditions, Heritage and Future. The "People" section profiles people in the local Italian community. The "Neighbours" section focuses on the different ethnic groups that have helped to create a mosaic of cultures. The "Community" section includes important places of the community such as St. Anthony's Church. The "Traditions" section highlights some of the cultural events and local traditions that make this area a vibrant and dynamic community. The "Heritage" section looks to the past, while the "Future" section looks at what is in store for the community in the years to come.

"The reason we had to put this virtual museum together now," says Hostetter, "is that many people who can relate the history of the area are growing older and we need to capture their knowledge before it's too late."

The web site will hopefully serve a dual purpose: to record the history of the Italian community in Ottawa and to introduce its rich cultural history to the world via the internet. The web site should draw attention to the Preston Street area, get people interested in its fascinating development, and ultimately encourage them to learn about Italian-Canadian culture, or better yet come and visit.

The web site is currently under construction with a launch date expected in May. Stay tuned to find out what the web address will be.

Conoscere il passato per un miglior futuro

Di Luciano Pradal

Ha favorevolmente impressionato tutti quelli che l'hanno conosciuta!

Marina Maccari (Mari), che insegna italiano e storia alla University of Kansas negli Stati Uniti, ha passato due settimane delle più fredde di questi ultimi anni (a volte -40 C) a Ottawa.

Mari era in Canada dall'inizio di gennaio per far ricerche ed interviste per la sua tesi di Dottorato sull'emigrazione Italiana nel secondo dopoguerra, che si concentra in particolare sull'emigrazione dal Veneto negli anni 1945-60. Mari non solo ha impressionato, ma è rimasta impressionata anche e soprattutto dall'efficienza e disponibilità del personale degli Archivi Nazionali Canadesi che sono aperti per lunghe ore, sino alle 10 di sera, 5 giorni alla settimana, e sino alle 6pm il sabato e la domenica.

Durante il suo soggiorno a Ottawa, Mari ha avuto modo di scambiare opinioni e conoscere i Veneti che hanno collaborato alla sua ricerca. Mari ha anche intervistato dal vivo i protagonisti

di questa importante fase migratoria degli anni 45-60, durante i quali i Veneti hanno costituito il 14% degli emigranti Italiani nel mondo.

Durante alcune interviste Mari è stata colta dalla più grande commozione, sino al pianto, ascoltando le testimonianze di alcuni di questi emigranti: questa infatti è la personalità di questa giovane:

sensibile, socievole, sociale e determinata poiché, per la sua ricerca, ha viaggiato in Argentina, Europa, Canada e negli U.S.A.

Mari sarà senz'altro stata sensibilizzata anche dall'esperienza del padre, anche lui "emigrante" che dalla provincia di Treviso dove è nato (a Visnà), è andato a "trovar fortuna" in

Lombardia. Per noi protagonisti di questa pagina dell'emigrazione Italiana è molto incoraggiante vedere che una giovane della prima generazione d'emigranti si interessa alla nostra storia, questa "Diaspora Veneta" che è ora presente in molti paesi del mondo e li arricchisce con la propria cultura e le proprie tradizioni.

Photos courtesy of Luciano Pradal



Affettuosamente: Marina Maccari con Maria Zanette e con Rizzieri Bellai





Community / Comunità

A Filò: Honouring Italian-Canadian Women

By Nicole Valentinuzzi

A filò, as many Italians know, is an opportunity for people to tell stories and to share. This filò was organized by Ariella Hostetter and Anna Chiappa to "hold an event to acknowledge Italian-Canadian contributions to Canada."

When you think about the guests of honour – like the Honourable Maria Minna, Maria Ierullo and Jennie Prosperine – you expect a formal event with a planned itinerary followed to the letter, in order to properly commemorate their contributions to the Italian-Canadian community. Then you factor in that there are over a hundred women, mostly Italian but many other nationalities as well, and you realize any itinerary might as well be thrown out the window.

As Chiappa said, "It started out as a small evening, but mushroomed into a wonderful event."

The scene was crowded and bustling, as you can imagine it would be with that many women in one room. People were coming in off the street looking for any available extra seats, just to be a part of the action, which simply added to the casual and fun atmosphere. Chiappa's only order was that everyone must "have fun."

Lucy Zilio from Omni 1 Television took the stand as the mistress of ceremonies and expressed how delighted she was to be included in the event as an, "honorary member of the village." She hosted the evening with jokes, laughter and light-hearted entertainment.

There was loud, boisterous singing of traditional Italian songs like *Casetta in Canada*, thanks to choir mistress Vittoria Bucciarelli. Of course, once the food came everyone's attention shifted to the meal and that attention was only broken by bouts of song.

Ivana Baldelli presented two awards to Maria Ierullo and Jennie Prosperine who she called, "Beautiful women...[who] plowed the road for all Italians."

The audience sat in quiet reverence as Baldelli said, "We could have three evenings to honour Maria Ierullo." As Ierullo stood so did every woman (and the three men) in attendance. Ierullo has had a long-standing reputation for excellence in the Ottawa Italian-Canadian community. She was the first woman to earn a real estate broker's license in the mid-1950's.

"The community is blessed by God and our Holy Family, the same way we've been brought up on the knees of our fathers," Ierullo said with tears in her eyes. She spoke of the village and togetherness of family and

friends. She praised everyone's charity, hopes and dreams for the future of Italian-Canadians. When she finished, the clapping continued long after she took her seat.

Next, Jennie Prosperine was announced and received the same standing ovation response. She owned a store on Preston Street for five years, after which she too entered the real estate business. Prosperine now volunteers with the St. Anthony's Church Ladies Aid and many other organizations.

Prosperine spoke of the importance of the Italian community in Canada as well.

"I feel deeply honoured to accept this award...my work I've always considered a labour of love," she said eloquently.

Ierullo presented the last award to the Hon. Maria Minna. Minna was the first Italian woman in federal cabinet and is a role model for every young Italian-Canadian woman today.

In her speech, Minna gushed, "The warmth here is fantastic...this award is something I will always treasure."

Minna posed a poignant question when she asked, "Where would this country be if not for immigrants...without us, where would Canada be today?" She talked about the problems that early Italian immigrants faced in Canada, but what we all ultimately have accomplished now.

"We've built a country...the Canada of tomorrow will be what we collectively make it because we believe we are this country," Minna said.

She ended her speech by exclaiming, "Forza Canada!" and everyone stood and cheered. Her speech brought

tears to the eyes of many women in the audience and warmth to the hearts of all who had also experienced what she had in their early years in Canada.

Finally, Lee Farnsworth thanked Minna for her attendance and everyone stood and cheered.

It was a night of fun, celebration and women. Older women shared their stories and younger women relived the events and listened with reverence. By the end of the night the feeling in the room was electric. Most of all, every woman felt at home and in the presence of a loving community.



Photos: Fred Hostetter



Photos: Angela Ierullo

Mamma Mia: A Filò

By Cecilia DiFelice

It's tough being a middle-aged Italian woman in this country. For one thing, we are trapped between our mothers with their old ways, old values and old attitudes and our kids with their new "I'm too smart to listen to you" ideas. Another problem we face is that we're not really Italian and not really Canadian. So we can't really claim the culture of either without somehow shortchanging both.

Sometimes it's so frustrating that I forget I have much to gain from all these divergent yet informative forces. This was recently made clear to me when my mother dragged me to "A Filò: Celebrating Italian Canadian Women of the Village." This dinner and gathering was intended, I am told, to serve many purposes: to honour Maria Minna, P.C., M.P., who is the first Italian Canadian woman to hold a federal cabinet post, to celebrate the lives and work of two prominent local Italian women, Jenny Prosperine and Maria Ierullo, for their contributions to our community, and finally to get together for a ladies' night during the long dark winter to eat well, sing and have a good time.

I must say that I was very impressed that evening by things I saw and heard. The food was great, the stories and speeches were inspiring and the singing heartfelt. But what I found the most interesting was what I actually learned about the women who were there, myself included.

When I first heard that there would be a dinner celebrating women and that a cabinet minister would be the speaker, I assumed that the talk would pertain to the important political, social and economic issues that concern our lives. Goodness knows these are serious and apply to our day-to-day world. I was right. There was a lot of talk about struggles with unfair pay, working conditions, stereotyping, social programs and lack of representation – not just for Italian-Canadians but for all minorities.

Each woman there had stories of hardship, suffering and loss. I look at my mother and it's hard to see her at this age (73) with a blue belt in tae kwon do, flying home to Italy each year for five months to look after her 90-year-old parents, and simultaneously remember when she worked ten-hour shifts in a sweat shop sewing bras for almost no money. I'm sure at the time my mother wasn't thinking about politics, sociology or economics. She was not concerned with issues of stereotyping or fair-trade practices. She was concerned with bringing home enough money to feed the family and pay the mortgage. That was the great immigrant dream, to own a piece of land in the new country and raise a successful family.

So that's what I learned about all the fine Italian-Canadian women at the dinner that night. We're political; we're interested in social and economic issues; and, we fight for important causes. We help our community and hold our culture together in this new country, but not for any "ideal" or theoretical concerns, although these certainly reflect our values. We work hard for very pragmatic reasons because we can and because we love our families and community. So here I am now looking back at that dinner and thinking that while I am in the middle of generational change and the middle of cultural diversity, I am also in a very good place to learn much from the people around me...if I keep my eyes and ears open.



Community / Comunità

Montessori School Celebrates Diversity

By Krista Walsh

On Friday, February 21, 2003, an International Fair took place in the gymnasium at the Montessori School in Ottawa. After attending the fair I became very interested in the founder of the school, Maria Montessori, and decided to do some research. What I found was very impressive.

When Montessori was born in the year 1870, who would have believed she would become the first female doctor in Italy, create an entire new way of educating underprivileged children and be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize?

Maria Montessori first began her training to become a physician in Italy. She graduated in 1896 and began her practice. In 1901, Montessori returned to university to study philosophy, psychology and anthropology, now interested in the human mind and not only the body. She became a university anthropology professor in 1904.

1906 brought on another change of occupation for Maria Montessori. She gave up her place at the university and began a school for sixty working-class children. She called this school *Casa dei Bambini* or "Children's House". Montessori based every lesson and every activity on her belief that children responded naturally to



the objects in their surroundings and teach themselves without any aid from an adult. In this way Maria Montessori introduced a method of teaching that would come to be known as "Montessori Education."

Montessori traveled to the United States for the first time in 1913 and in 1915 she intrigued everyone with her "glass house schoolroom exhibit" at the San Francisco International Exhibition.

In 1917, the Spanish government invited her to open up her own research facility. Two years later, she began training teachers in London. Due to her opposing beliefs towards Mussolini's control, she was ordered to leave her native Italy in 1934. Montessori eventually arrived in Laren, Netherlands, where she opened up

the Montessori Training Centre in 1938 and began a series of training courses for other prospective teachers in India a year after that. When Maria Montessori returned to London she founded the Montessori Centre in 1947.

During her life, Maria Montessori was nominated three times in three consecutive years (1949, 1950 and 1951) for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Montessori died in 1953 at the age of 82, in Holland, but her work still continues on today. 4,000 schools are found in the United States and Canada alone, with thousands more around the world, each practicing her unique style of education that has helped children so much over the past fifty years, and will continue to do so for at least fifty more.

In memory of this remarkable lady, the Ottawa branch decided to celebrate by hosting an International Festival. The idea for the fair came from the principal, Sherie deMel. Since the school consists of students from 41 different countries and they were in the middle of celebrating Montessori Week, she thought it would be great to "end it with International Day." The rest of the staff were interested with the idea and seconded the proposal.

Students spread the word by sending out flyers throughout the community.

Featured exhibits at the fair included ones from Italy, Canada, China, England and more. The day began at two o'clock with the lighting of the traditional lamp, a Sri Lankan custom uniting all the countries present at the fair. One representative from each country went up to light the lamp.

Throughout the day a Japanese tea ceremony was performed, as well as dances from different countries and traditional music from India, Spain, China, Iraq and Sri Lanka.

The event was one to remember and we hope it will be repeated next year.

Heritage Day 2003 at St. Rita's Italian School



On this important day, age boundaries disappear as everyone celebrates the pleasures of the Italian culture. Remembering your roots is very important and Heritage Day reminds us of this.



During this year's Heritage Day at St. Rita's, grandparents spoke to children about their school days in Italy and about their various experiences. Students were lucky enough to see some memorabilia, such as old books, report cards, inkwells and toys, provided by the various speakers.



Photos courtesy of Ivana Baldelli

For an interview with Maria Minna go online to www.ilpostinocanada.ca



Community / Comunità

Festa della Madonna di Carpineto

Maggio il mese delle rose, mese dedicato alla Madonna. Tra tutte le feste primaverili, quelle dedicate alla Madre di Gesù e Madre nostra, sono le più sentite.

A Rapino piccolo centro alle falde della Maiella Madre, si racconta che l'8 maggio del 1200, la Madonna apparve su una pianta di carpino ad un pastorello, il fanciullo corse ad avvisare il parroco dell'accaduto. Poco dopo, giunti il parroco, il pastorello e tanti fedeli sul posto dell'apparizione, trovarono sull'albero una statua raffigurante la Madonna. Dopo tanta meraviglia, la presero e la portarono presso la chiesa di San Lorenzo.

La mattina successiva non trovando la statua in chiesa, pensarono che fosse stata rubata, non era così, la statua era tornata sulla pianta di carpino dove era apparsa, da questo prese il nome della Madonna di Carpineto. A questo punto il parroco insieme al popolo decisero di costruire lì una cappellina, perché era lì che la Madonna voleva restare.

Ogni anno in onore della Madonna di Carpineto, Rapino è in festa. La mattina di buon'ora si vestono le Verginelle e gli Angioletti, che andranno a ritrovarsi presso la chiesa di San Lorenzo. Bambine e ragazze vengono ornate di oro, questo a rappresentare un dono simbolico alla Madonna.

Questa usanza è entrata in uso dopo la guerra. Prima invece si partecipava alla processione portando intorno al capo una corona di spine come quella che cinge la testa a Gesù. Le corone procuravano molte ferite, e si soffriva molto, ed era questo dolore che veniva offerto alla Madonna. Dopo che anche la statua della Madonna è stata preparata, ci si comincia ad avviare in processione verso il luogo dell'apparizione, dove si erge attualmente il Santuario dedicato alla Madonna di Carpineto.



Nel 1794, incombeva una grande siccità e il popolo di Rapino era molto preoccupato, se non fosse piovuto i raccolti sarebbero andati distrutti, presi dalla disperazione pensarono di chiedere aiuto alla Madonna pregandola ininterrottamente. La Madonna accolse le preghiere e piove abbondantemente sul territorio di Rapino e così i raccolti furono salvi.

A più di 200 anni da questo miracolo, i fedeli la invocano ancora per far sì che nulla di male incomba sul paese, e chiedono tutti i giorni protezione. La processione prosegue attraversando tutto il paese, migliaia di fedeli arrivati anche da molti paesi limitrofi partecipano con molta devozione e percorrono il lungo tragitto pregando e intonando inni alla Madonna.

La Madre di Gesù degli uomini è apparsa nei modi più diversi e a tanti suoi figli. Essa ha cercato sempre di portare verso una fede cristiana autentica, una fede dove le ipocrisie e la malvagità delle persone non trovino posto. Ogni grandezza cristiana è grandezza di amore. Non solo Maria nel suo amore è vicina a ciascuno di noi, è presente alla chiesa peregrinante nel mondo, ma vuole rendersi visibile e vicina. Sembra non sappia sopportare che gli uomini la credano indifferente ai loro mali o la possano pensare lontana. La pochezza della fede rende ciechi gli uomini alla sua presenza, ma nei momenti più gravi e più bui, Dio permette che si aprano i loro occhi e la vedano.

Come potrebbe essere Madre se sopportasse di rimanere lontana? Ma noi non abbiamo occhi per poterla abitualmente vedere. Il suo cielo e il suo figlio, e nel suo figlio, anche noi. Ella appare. Le apparizioni non aggiungono, non cambiano nulla alla Vergine; vogliono invece aiutare la nostra fede, ravivarla nel pericolo e darci fiducia.

Association Rapinese Festa della Madonna di Carpinetto

Sabato, Maggio 10, 2003

Chiesa di Sant Antonio

427 Booth Street Ottawa, ON

PROGRAM

Event	Time
Children assemble in church basement/Firefighters Band assemble outside	5:30 p.m.
Procession in church with children, Firefighters Band and members of the Rapinese Association	6:00 p.m.
Celebration of Mass	6:10 p.m.
Music in church with singer and organist	6:35 p.m.
Blessing of bread and final blessing	6:50
Closing of streets and procession to Sala San Marco	7:15
Sala San Marco reception/band National Anthems	

For more information contact President Lorenzo Micacci at 737-3805.

L'ultima battaglia per Rai International

Di Ermanno La Riccia
pubblicato nel *Corriere Italiano*

La manifestazione di domenica scorsa, svoltasi al Centro Leonardo Da Vinci di Montreal, ha visto la comunità intera muoversi per esprimere il suo accordo e la sua soddisfazione per quello che il Comites di Montreal, sta facendo per sbloccare lo spinoso problema della venuta in Canada di Rai International. Ma era venuta anche per ascoltare il discorso del Direttore di Rai International, Massimo Magliaro, il quale, i suoi incontri avvenuti a Toronto e Ottawa è giunto a Montreal per metterci al corrente di come stanno andando i negoziati che riguardano la venuta in Canada dei programmi in lingua italiana, 24 ore su 24.

Erano presenti alla manifestazione il presidente del Comites, Giovanni Rapanà; il Console Generale d'Italia a Montreal, Gian Lorenzo Cornado; il Presidente della Fondazione Canadese-Italiana, Mario Galella; il Presidente del Centro Leonardo Da Vinci, Solvio De Rose ed i membri al completo del consiglio d'amministrazione del Comites, tra cui Tony Vespa, nonché i presidenti delle varie Federazioni ed associazioni.

Dopo una breve introduzione di Giovanni Rapanà che ha dato il benvenuto all'illustre ospite, ha parlato brevemente il Console dott. Cornado il quale ha sottolineato l'importanza della manifestazione invitando la comunità a continuare la battaglia per l'ottenimento

di un diritto che fa giustizia di anni di frustrazioni ed incomprensioni. Poi è stata data la parola a Massimo Magliaro.

« Guardando la mappa delle nostre trasmissioni, egli ha detto, dobbiamo constatare che i programmi di Rai International, 24 ore su 24, arrivano nei paesi dell'intero pianeta ad eccezione del Canada e nelle Isole di Capo Verde. Ora mentre nelle isole di Capo Verde non arrivano per ragioni tecniche indipendenti dalla nostra volontà, in Canada non arrivano perché da anni si sta protraendo una situazione a dir poco incomprensibile e deplorevole.»

E questa situazione noi la conosciamo bene perché da anni da noi arrivano alcuni programmi Rai, circa 8 ore al giorno, trasmessi dall'emittente Telelatino che trasmette anche in lingua spagnola. E con gli anni abbiamo visto che i pochi programmi Rai che arrivano da noi, sono manomessi e mutilati in una maniera che non risponde non solo al desiderio degli utenti ma nemmeno a quello della Rai. Ed a tal proposito ricordiamo che una petizione è stata firmata, un paio di anni fa, da circa 38 mila italo-canadesi per protestare e per chiedere la venuta, con un canale separato da Telelatino, di Rai International 24 ore su 24.

Ed il dottor Magliaro ci ha esposto qual è la situazione attuale.

« L'insieme di questo problema lo

possiamo dividere in due tempi. Un primo tempo si è svolto in seno alla Rai. Abbiamo dovuto far fronte ad incomprensioni, paure, incertezze, una specie di muro di gennaio che non riusciva a far decollare il nostro progetto. Non c'era la consapevolezza della gravità della situazione finché non abbiamo potuto dimostrare lo scempio che ne facevano dei nostri programmi.

Era inconcepibile che una comunità come quella italiana del Canada, con oltre un milione e duecentomila persone, sia trattata in questa maniera. Noi dicevamo che una cosa è il servizio che noi offriamo ed un'altra cosa è una Tv che ha fini esclusivamente commerciali. E oggi vi posso annunciare che questo primo tempo lo abbiamo vinto.»

Poi è giunto a parlare del secondo tempo. Dopo il fallimento delle trattative con Telelatino Rai International ha deciso di creare un canale per conto proprio e, se ben ricordiamo, questa decisione Massimo Magliaro l'aveva annunciata nel corso della seconda conferenza sull'emigrazione svolta a Toronto lo scorso mese di novembre. Da novembre

ad oggi gli organismi Rai preposti hanno lavorato per giungere ad un traguardo. E Magliaro ce lo spiega:

« Tra qualche giorno, egli ha detto, tramite il nostro avvocato Peter Grant e il nostro sponsor che è Rogers, presenteremo la domanda alla CRTC per avere una licenza per poter operare in Canada. Ed è a questo punto che abbiamo bisogno di voi, di tutta la comunità.»

Nel mese di maggio inizieranno le audizioni di fronte alla CRTC ed è in quel momento che, se volete Rai International 24 ore su 24, dovete muovervi sotto qualsiasi forma per far conoscere ai responsabili dell'ente governativo che è la comunità che lo vuole. Aggiungo anche che l'Ambasciata d'Italia e i parlamentari italiani che siedono al parlamento ed al senato di Ottawa sono con noi.»

Ora spetta ai Comites ed alle associazioni o federazioni delle associazioni esistenti nelle varie città canadesi mettersi insieme per muoversi con una sola voce per convincere la CRTC che è la comunità italiana del Canada che lo vuole.



Opinion / Opinione

È la paura la causa della guerra

Di Ermanno La Riccia
pubblicato nel *Corriere Italiano*

Amici miei, la paura è una brutta bestia e lo provano tantissimi fatti e misfatti accaduti a tanti di noi. La paura è un sentimento al negativo, una reazione psicologica che avviene quando qualche cosa di molesto, di anormale o ritenuto tale, si impadronisce di noi e ci porta a pensare, ed a volte a reagire, in un modo inusuale e scomposto asseconda dei casi che a volte può essere anche violento. Ci sono molti tipi di paure: c'è la paura passeggera di breve durata che può finire anche con una risata ma c'è anche quella che ci perseguita per un certo periodo di tempo oppure ci rimane appiccicata addosso per tutta la vita. Ci sono paure che assalgono singole persone, oppure dei gruppi o addirittura paure collettive. Ed è quella che dall'11 settembre del 2001 ha assalito il popolo americano.

In questi ultimi mesi si è tanto parlato e discusso se l'America avrebbe dovuto fare la guerra contro l'Iraq oppure no. Si sono mosse le diplomazie di moltissimi paesi che nel Consiglio di Sicurezza delle Nazioni Unite contano per cercare di mettersi d'accordo sulla necessità di adottare una linea comune senza riuscirvi. Molti si sono trincerati dicendo che avrebbero dato il loro appoggio all'America solo se ci sarebbe stata una seconda dichiarazione delle Nazioni Unite che deliberava che l'attacco era inevitabile. E l'America fece subito sapere che se le cose sarebbero andate per le lunghe, sarebbe intervenuta anche senza una delibera dell'ONU. Può darsi che questa fu una mossa sbagliata da parte di Bush ma, secondo i più agguerriti fautori di un intervento armato, delle buone ragioni c'erano.

Sappiamo tutti che dopo la guerra del Golfo di 10 anni fa Saddam Hussein ebbe la peggio, perdette, e gli Stati Uniti e l'Inghilterra che quella guerra avevano guidato imposero, in cambio della pace, al Rais dell'Iraq, un totale disarmamento: distruggere tutte le armi per la distruzione di massa.

Quando l'ONU mandò i suoi ispettori per constatare se aveva obbedito, questi ultimi trovarono molte di quelle armi, tra cui quelle chimiche e batteriologiche, che non aveva distrutto e stavano camuffate in vari posti. Gli ispettori denunciarono il fatto alle Nazioni Unite e come risposta Hussein cacciò gli ispettori. Passarono quattro anni di tira e molla e Hussein andava dichiarando che quelle armi le aveva tutte distrutte e, invece, gli americani, sapevano che

mentiva.

Intanto nel 2001 accadde il drammatico assalto dei terroristi islamici, guidati da Ben Laden, che buttarono giù le due torri gemelle di New York e una parte del Pentagono di Washington provocando circa 3 mila morti e l'America fu colpita come da una specie di frustata in piena faccia. Aveva scoperto che i covi dei terroristi erano l'Afghanistan, l'Iraq e l'Iran. Allora subentrò la paura, una paura collettiva che colpì tutto il popolo americano.

L'ONU con la delibera 1441 impose a Saddam Hussein di voler riprendere le ispezioni ed in caso di rifiuto avrebbero preso gravi provvedimenti. Hussein, dopo tante tergiversazioni, accettò di nuovo gli ispettori che lavorarono in Iraq gli ultimi tre mesi e mezzo senza trovare nulla di notevole. L'America cercò di dimostrare che Hussein le armi di distruzione di masse continuava ad averle nascoste e fu a questo punto che chiese all'ONU di emanare una nuova delibera alla quale si opposero Francia, Germania

sicuramente non avevano intenzione di tornare indietro. E Hussein, caparbio continuava a rimanere al suo posto e si rifiutò di accettare l'ultimatum di Bush che gli dava 48 per lasciare il potere ed andarsene senza spargimento di sangue.

E così il 19 marzo scorso, ore 22 e 15 Bush, senza attendere una seconda delibera del Consiglio di Sicurezza dell'ONU, che si prospettava negativa per se e la sua coalizione, dette ordine unilateralmente alle sue truppe di incominciare a sparare e quindi scoppia anche questa seconda guerra che coinvolse solo alcuni paesi d'Europa datosi che Francia, Germania, Belgio e Russia si rifiutarono di parteciparvi.

Anche il Canada, tradizionalmente «amico degli Stati Uniti», ha rifiutato di mandare le sue truppe, trincerandosi dietro la seconda delibera dell'ONU che non arrivò mai. E qui vi è un altro paradosso: nelle acque del golfo ci sono tre navi da guerra canadesi con circa 1000 soldati che, secondo il primo ministro Chretien, vanno alla caccia di terroristi. E voi ci credete?

Purtroppo la paura degli americani che temono altri gravi atti terroristici ha avuto la meglio sulle grida di pace che non cessano ancora da elevarsi in tutto il mondo ed è scoppiata la guerra. Ed eccoci, quindi, di fronte ad un grosso paradosso: mentre in tutto il mondo, inclusi gli Stati Uniti e l'Inghilterra si grida per la pace, Bush e Blair fanno la guerra. E la guerra, da qualunque parte essa avvenga e per qualunque ragione è deplorabile ed inaccettabile perché rappresenta un delitto contro l'umanità.

Nessuno vuole la guerra ma, purtroppo, dobbiamo tornare coi piedi per terra e constatare che la guerra c'è, già si stanno contando i primi morti da ambi le parti, le forze della coalizione sono arrivate alle porte di Bagdad e non sappiamo quando il tiranno Hussein sarà spodestato dal suo trono che gronda sangue da tanti anni, per ridare la pace ad un popolo oppresso e, togliere un po' di paura d'addosso agli americani

Gorge W. Bush, eletto da poco nuovo presidente degli Stati Uniti, si trovò ad avere in mano la patata bollente del terrorismo, un vero e proprio pericolo, mostruoso, che bisognava assolutamente combattere per evitare altre sorprese. E questa è la ragione principale per la quale decise che bisognava andare a smantellare le basi operative del terrorismo che si trovavano nell'Afghanistan. E così creò una grande coalizione di stati e mandò i suoi soldati e quelli degli alleati nell'Afghanistan e Al Qaeda fu smantellata e sconfitta anche se il suo capo, Ben Laden, è ancora latitante.

e Russia. E fu qui che nacque il grave conflitto tra America-Inghilterra e Spagna che volevano abbattere Hussein con le armi e Francia, Germania e Russia che chiesero di dare altro tempo agli ispettori per cercare altre armi.

Intanto in tutto il mondo milioni di pacifisti facevano dimostrazioni contro la guerra. Il Papa inviò due dei suoi cardinali, uno a Washington e l'Altro a Bagdad per convincere i due contendenti a non fare la guerra. Ma, ormai, la guerra era diventata inevitabile. Bush e Blair avevano ammazzato nel Golfo Persico circa 300 mila soldati armati di tutto punto e

Da questo conflitto già possiamo additare i grandi perdenti: Le Nazioni Unite che rimangono sbriciolate dal dissidio interno e la Nato che ha portato delle gravi divisioni tra i paesi europei.

Ma i maggiori perdenti siamo noi condannati a guardare senza poter far niente per salvare tante vite umane che sicuramente rimarranno vittime di questa sporca guerra.

Check us out at

www.ilpostinocanada.com

and tell us what you think!



Mother's Day Lunch

Come and join us in celebrating our wonderful mothers at Villa Marconi's annual Sunday lunch.



Where? 1026 Baseline Rd.

When? 1-4pm Sunday May 11th

Price? \$20 Children under 12 - \$10

Please contact 727-6201 for more information or to purchase tickets

EVENTI COMMUNITARI

April 12

Italian Week Fundraising Dinner

Villa Marconi

Doors open 6 p.m.

\$35.00 / ticket

See ad for more details

April 14

Italian Language Meetup

Go to their web site for more details

italian.meetup.com

April 26

Festa di Primavera

Villa Marconi

See ad for more details

May 4

Villa Marconi General Meeting

Call 727-6201

May 10

Festa della Madonna di Carpineto

See page 10

May 10

Association Rapinese Dinner

Sala San Marco

Call 731-3805

May 11

Mother's Day Lunch

\$20 / ticket

See ad for more details

If you have an event you would like to publish, please call us at 567-4532 and we will include it in our next issue. Remember, our next deadline is April 20th.

Festa di Primavera

April 26th, 2003

Saturday 6pm-1am

Villa Marconi

\$35.00 per person

Live music by Ritmo



Call 727-6201 for more information or to purchase tickets



If you lived at...

ACQUERELLO AT DOW'S LAKE

You could...

- Live close to bistros, cafés and really great restaurants
- Walk to Dow's Lake, the Arboretum, the Rideau Canal and the Experimental Farm
- Enjoy a resort lifestyle – jogging, sailing, in-line skating
- Be on the O-train in 3 minutes

Wow! THIS is Living!

ALL OF THIS FROM ONLY

\$155,900

Call Today for Priority Registration

274-7913

QUINTERRA
INVESTMENT CORPORATION

DC

Daoust Construction

Features include: 9 foot ceilings, open concept designs, 1 bedroom, 1 bedroom plus den or 2 bedroom, large private terraces, underground parking, virtual concierge, fitness centre, vineyard room, golf simulator & much more.

FALL
2004



125 Hickory St.

www.acquerello.ca



Italian Week Easter Fundraising Dinner / Dance

Saturday April 12th, 2003



Villa Marconi
Doors open at 6:00pm
Dinner at 7:00pm

Door Prizes / Raffle!



Music by Melodia



Ticket Price \$35.00 per person

Tickets must be purchased one week in advance

Tickets can be obtained from:

Patrizia Marinelli - 739-7098
Orazio Rizzi - 526-2430
Nello Bortolotti - 726-0920
Rafaella Plastino - 224-4388





VILLA MARCONI LONG TERM CARE CENTRE

We are seeking dynamic individuals to join our LTC team for the following positions:

CHARGE NURSE

Current Registered Nurse designation from Ontario College of Nurses required.

MEDICATION AND TREATMENT NURSES

Current Registered Practical Nurse designation from Ontario College of Nurses required.

PERSONAL CARE AIDES

Current Health Care Aide or Personal Support Worker Certificate required.

COOK AND DIETARY AIDES

Current Cook's designation or equivalent experience required. Dietary Aides required.

PART-TIME MAINTENANCE

Multi-task, general maintenance person with an understanding of HVAC and preventative maintenance program. Ideal for semi-retired person.

For all positions, preference will be given to those who are fluent in Italian, or have previous experience in LTC but these are not essential to apply.

EDUCATIONAL/QUALITYCOORDINATOR

We are searching for a dynamic person for the position of educational / quality coordinator. Applicants must possess a degree in nursing, excellent interpersonal and organizational skills. Minimum three years experience.

We offer competitive wage and benefits packages.

APPLY IN WRITING TO:

Human Resources
Villa Marconi Long Term Care Centre
1026 Baseline Rd
Ottawa, Ont
K2C 0A6

We thank all interested candidates for applying, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. No telephone inquiries or faxes please.

VILLA MARCONI CASA DI CURA A LUNGA DEGENZA

Cerchiamo persone dinamiche per le seguenti posizioni:

INFERMIERA/E "MANAGERS"

Infermiere/i con diploma di "R.N" ed iscritti all' "Ontario College of Nurses".

INFERMIERE/I

Infermiere/i co certificato di "R.PN" ed iscritti all' "Ontario College of Nurses".

ASSISTENTI-INFERMIERE/I

Assistenti infermiere/i con qualifica di "Health Care Aid" o "Personal Support Worker".

CUOCA/O E ASSISTENTI IN CUCINA

Cuoca/o con qualifica di "Red Seal". Assistenti in cucina con certificato di "Food Safety".

COORDINATORE/COORDINATRICE

Villa Marconi Long Term Care, cerca una persona dinamica per la posizione di Coordinatore/Coordinatrice per i programmi educativi e il continuo miglioramento della qualità dei servizi. Deve essere in possesso della Laurea in Scienze Infermieristiche (BScN), eccellenti capacità interpersonali e organizzative. Minimo di 3 anni di esperienza in Geriatria. Si prega di inviare il resume a: J. Wensink - Amministratrice Fax#: (613) 727-9352

Per tutte le posizioni si darà preferenza ai candidati che hanno conoscenza dell'italiano ed esperienza in cure a lunga degenza, tuttavia anche le candidature senza queste qualifiche saranno prese in considerazione.

INDIRIZZARE LE DOMANDE PER ISCRITTO A:

Human Resources
Villa Marconi Long Term Care Centre
1026 Baseline Rd
Ottawa, Ontario
K2C 0A6

Ringraziamo tutti coloro che inoltreranno domanda, tuttavia ci limiteremo a contattare soltanto le persone selezionate per un'intervista.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

"NEW ITALESE FOR NEW GENERATION"

rest of the world via TV and the Internet. You live in Toronto but beyond your screen lies Rome, Paris, Singapore. With your TV set you can establish contacts and exchanges in real time with these cities. And yet you keep living in Toronto with your own identity. I don't see this kind of globalization as a threat. English is its lingua franca, for sure, but by preserving cultural identities it allows languages like Italian to survive and expand alongside English. One only needs to walk in Toronto's streets..."

What will we find?

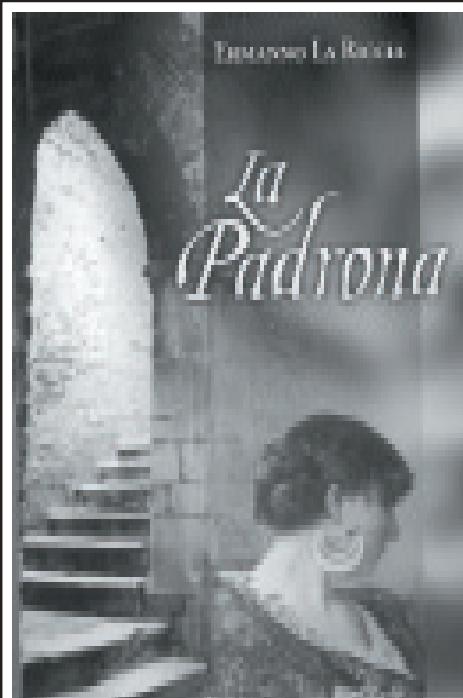
"A myriad of communities that maintain strong ties with their countries of origin and the rest of the world thanks to these new technologies. Toronto is the metaphor, or a scale model if you prefer, of cultural globalization.

Tell me, did our communities lose their identities?"

No, they haven't. On the contrary, they defend it stubbornly. They chat with their countries of origin and the rest of the world but have a difficult time talking with one another. They coexist peacefully, of course, but little more than that. What do you foresee? Will our communities keep communicating like this or will they finally be able to achieve a strong and constant dialogue?

"The problem you pose is being studied by a lot of eggheads. No easy answer exists. I think that multiculturalism as we have in Toronto, despite still falling short of true interculturalism, would be unthinkable in many other countries. This is a very good result in itself. Toronto today resembles one of those TV stations with the screen split in four parts: news, weather, stocks and sports. Those are four distinct and separate issues but all together represent information. Complete and simultaneous information.

I mean to say that the different ethnic groups living together in this city, regardless of their differences, are the soul of this metropolis. Let time tell whether a strong and constant dialogue will arise. At present, even though the Chinese remain inside Chinatown and the Italians have entrenched in Woodbridge, the fact remains that their presence and that of so many other communities is a patrimony that guarantees very high cultural dividends."



Un Nuovo Libro di Ermanno La Riccia *La Padrona*

"La Padrona" un libro appassionante, ove si raccolta una bella storia d'amore e la lotta di due giovani per conquistarsi la libertà di volersi bene.

Dopo i successi dei due libri di racconti "Terra Mia" e "Viaggio in Paradiso", Ermanno La Riccia torna nelle librerie con un romanzo, "La Padrona", una drammatica storia d'amore, piena di colpi di scena, scritta con un linguaggio semplice che si legge tutta di un fiato.

Si possono acquistare copie de "La Padrona" nella redazione del Postino oppure chiamate 567-4532



ELISABETH ARNOLD

City Councillor / Conseillère municipale
Quartier Somerset Ward
www.ElisabethArnold.ca
www.city.ottawa.on.ca

Serving the Community Al Servizio della Comunità

Tel / tél.: 580-2484 fax / téléc.: 580-2524
Elisabeth.Arnold@city.ottawa.on.ca
Elisabeth.Arnold@ville.ottawa.on.ca
110, av. Laurier Ave. O/W, Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1
City 24 Hour Call Centre / Centre d'appel 580-2400

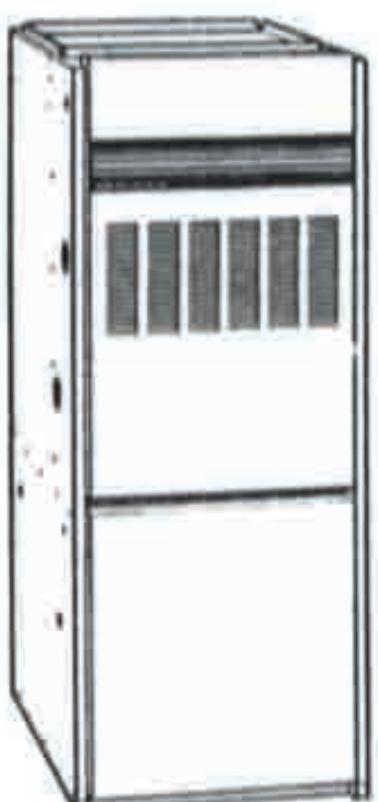
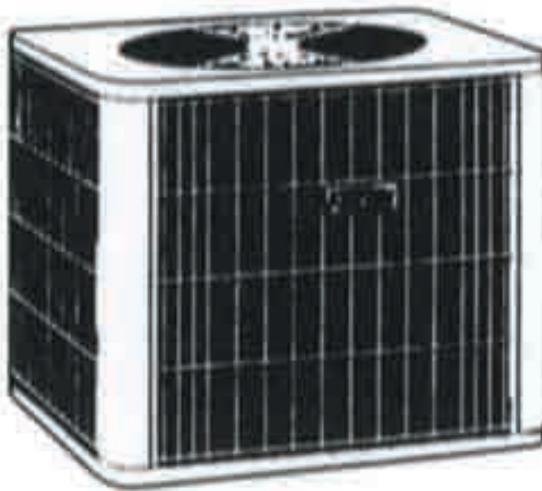




Keep Warm, Keep Cool KeepRite All Year

Quiet, Economical Central Air Conditioning

- Low operating costs rated for energy efficiencies of 10 S.E.E.R and above
- Two speed condenser fan motor
- Automatic low temperature protection
- Compressor sound jacket
- Scroll compressor
- Quiet operation performs at or provincial 7.6 BEL guideline
- 5 year limited warranty on all parts



High Efficiency Heating

- Saves up to 68% compared to electric heating
- Limited Lifetime heat exchanger warranty
- Stainless Steel heat exchanger
- Insulated blower for quiet operation

**KEEPRITE**

Exceptional Quality at Reasonable Prices

Airmetrics Energy Systems Inc.
“Service is our business”

60 Beech Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1S 3J6
(613) 235-8732, 1(877)894-9556

E-mail: airmetrics@hotmail.com
www.airmetricscanada.com



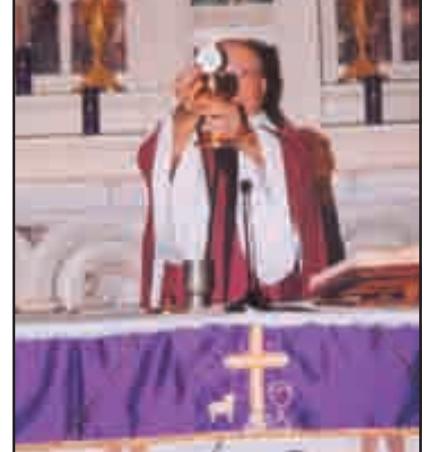
Festa di San Giuseppe



Photos of dinner: Angelo Filoso



Photos inside church and of procession: Danilo Velasquez



IL POSTINO • OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA