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Lest We Forget



*memoriam eorum retinerimus*

*Nous nous souviendrons*



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865 Gladstone Avenue, Suite 101 • Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7T4  
 (613) 567-4532 • [info@ilpostinocanada.com](mailto:info@ilpostinocanada.com)  
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## LA DINAMICA DELL' EVOLUZIONE

Di Luciano Pradal

Chi non conosce Joe Camia?

Imprenditore, uomo d'affari di successo, persona molto attiva nella comunità italo-Canadese di Ottawa, esperto e promotore entusiasta del gioco del calcio ma soprattutto Joe Camia ha la capacità di creare un'amicizia istantanea, schietta e sincera. Joe Camia è nato a Cefalù, Reggio Calabria. All'età di 12 anni è rimasto orfano del padre e, per provvedere ai bisogni della famiglia, ha dovuto lasciare la scuola, via la nave ed imparare il mestiere di tornitore meccanico.

Nel Novembre 1966 viene in visita in Canada, sbarca a Halifax, continua verso Toronto, si innamora del Canada, decide di restare e si stabilisce a Toronto. La nuova esperienza non è facile!



Dopo due anni si trasferisce in Ottawa, di giorno va a scuola o lavora alla sera. Dopo sei mesi che si trova in Ottawa si mette in proprio, così la Rome Flooring è diventata una entità nella scena dell'edilizia e del servizio alla clientela in Ottawa.

Da semplice artigiano Joe Camia è riuscito a far evolvere la sua attività professionale in una attività industriale che oggi ha alle sue dipendenze ben 22 operai. I successi più recenti di questa evoluzione imprenditoriale sono dovuti al fatto che con Joe Camia, a dirigere la Rome Flooring ci sono i figli di Joe; Michael, che ha una formazione Collegiale si occupa delle relazioni con i clienti, la stesura dei contratti, ecc. Vincent che ha una Formazione Universitaria, si occupa della Divisione e delle Relazioni Pubbliche dell'Azienda. Mark, 23 anni, il più giovane, afferma con umiltà, che sta ancora imparando il mestiere che a lui piace tanto.

Così questo personale altamente qualificato l'altro artigiano Joe Camia ha saputo fondare un'industria che offre al cliente una



gamma di lavori altamente specializzati, possono ben dire che al di fuori dei pavimenti in legno posati dalla Rome Flooring sono dei veri capolavori, basta andare a visitare la loro sala d'esposizioni per rendersi conto di quello che la Rome Flooring offre ai suoi clienti. E anche molto interessante notare come l'azienda è gestita in diretta, tutti i lavori prima delle 8 del mattino alla sede della Rome Flooring c'è una certa frenesia nell'aria, Vincent dirige le squadre di operai in maniera pratica ed efficace, i compiti e i lavori della giornata sono loro assegnati e spiegati in maniera chiara e semplice, poco più tardi arriva Joe... se ce' qualche "problema" Joe, con calma, trova la soluzione.

Questa è un po' la dimensione dell'evoluzione e del successo dell'artista di Joe Camia che è passato dall'artigianato all'industria, ma, come abbiamo già scritto, Joe è stato ed è molto attivo nella comunità e per questo i riconoscimenti ai suoi doveri dai vari enti sportivi, d'affari, comunitari, commerciali sono innumerevoli, la lista è troppo lunga per elencarli tutti, sono tutt'altro importanti e non bisognerebbe ometterne nessuno. Questa è un po' la storia di Joe Camia, una persona da conoscere ed apprezzare per le sue grandi doti, un illitropo che ha dato molto e che da tutt'ora.

The photo: Vincent, Mark e Michael di fronte all'insegna dei 10 Comandamenti della Ditta Rome Flooring.

Joe Camia, tra tutte le sue passioni ed attività trova il tempo per un espresso

## DIVA ONORATA

di Luciano Pradal

"Diva in Ottawa riceve onori italiani"

Questo titolo degna di un Ottawa del 4 ottobre 2007, l'indomani del conferimento del "Cavaliere dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana" a Maria Pellegrini, soprano di fama internazionale. I prestigiosi inviti alla cerimonia, che rappresentavano la musica e la cultura in Ottawa, sono d'accordo che questa onorificenza è stata molto bene meritata dalla nostra Diva. Maria Pellegrini Presentando l'Alta Onorificenza S.E. Gabriele Sardo, Ambasciatore d'Italia in Canada, ha detto: "...È tempo che la riserva ed è anche ben dovuto perché Maria Pellegrini ha sempre contribuito il nome dell'Italia nel mondo e la Patria lo guarda come un grande Artista..."

Maria Pellegrini è nata a Pescara, è vissuta in Canada con la famiglia, all'età di 15 anni. Vice Ambasciatrice dell'Opera, Maria Pellegrini ha cantato nei Teatri d'Opera più famosi del mondo inclusa la Royal Opera House dove ha cantato con Luciano Pavarotti. Sopra è un'intervista dedicata all'Opera Maria Pellegrini ora insegnante in Ottawa, all'Università McGill in Montreal ed ha fondato la Pellegrini Opera Company. Questo riconoscimento si aggiunge ai molti altri che Maria Pellegrini ha ricevuto durante la sua attività ed eccellenza cantante, riconoscimento che non sarà certamente l'ultimo. Vivere congratulazioni Maria e tantissimi auguri.

Le foto: Maria Pellegrini Cavaliere al Merito della Repubblica Italiana con S.E. Gabriele Sardo (foto Ugo Davis)

Maria Pellegrini con il Dott. Giulio Alaimo Consigliere presso l'Ambasciata d'Italia in Canada (foto Ugo Davis)

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# History

## Just one person can make a difference

All children dream.

Poor children dream too. Many - just like your children - want to climb to their highest possible level, be successful, and give back to the world. They should not be held back by lack of funds. We are the Village - and we can ensure they have equal opportunities. That's the motivation for initiating scholarships for Wards of the Crown - the children of the Children's Aid Societies.

Just One Person is the vehicle we use to raise those funds. Just One Person allows us to honour someone from the Village who has demonstrated the Power of One to make a difference in the life of the community.

Sal Iacono - quietly and with dignity - has done that in dozens of ways for hundreds of families. Sal is a senior executive in Bell where he has held a variety of leadership positions within the company for 20 years. As a current Senior Vice-President within Bell's Enterprise Group, Sal's days are extremely busy. But he always makes the time to make a difference in our community. Sal is this year's Deputy Chair of the United Way Centraide Ottawa Campaign and this year's member of the Campaign Cabinet as Chair of the Business Division. Last year, Sal led the Division in raising over \$3M, a record setting result. Sal also works tirelessly with Bell's Employee Giving team, encouraging employees to support the United Way or a charity of their choice while also serving as the Executive Champion for Bell's workplace campaign in Ottawa. He also participates in and supports many other initiatives in our community.

Sal has been vital in his support of the Bell-Jones Skate for Kids, helping to raise money for Easter Seals. Over the course of the event's 10-year history, Sal's determination has helped raise over \$1M for kids with special needs. He has tremendous compassion for people in need. In 2003, Sal was profiled in an Ottawa Citizen article about his fundraising efforts to help a family hit by a tragic fire and their healthcare costs because they were new residents in Canada. Sal was invited to be a member of the Ottawa Employer Cupped Champions' Fire Immigrants, Ottawa" initiative. And as a testament to his leadership skills, Sal is already acting as a mentor for one of Canada's Olympic hopefuls, whitewater kayaker, Sarah Boulden. Through this event we hope to raise \$30,000 which will be matched by the University of Ottawa and by the province. Combined with last year's achievement of \$30,000 (\$90,000 once matched), the endowment fund will reach its first peak of \$180,000 and will allow the first scholarship dollars to be offered for the 2008-09 academic year. This will be a tremendous lift for these less fortunate children to help them in their climb to their highest possible heights. I promise you an emotionally rewarding event, followed by an exciting game of hockey between your Stanley Cup-bound Ottawa Senators and Washington Capitals. Please consider being part of it and the Village



## Italy's Veltroni Elected New Centre-Left Party's Leader: Projections

ROME (AFP) — Rome Mayor Walter Veltroni appears headed to a landslide victory in a vote to elect the leader of Italy's new centre-left Democratic Party, according to fast projections from poll organisers.

Veltroni, 52, polled 74.6 percent of the vote Sunday according to a sampling of 100 ballot papers from each of 1,000 polling stations chosen. The official result is expected on Monday. After polling stations closed at 1800 GMT, organisers predicted an "extraordinary" three million strong turnout. The strength of the predicted victory and the high turnout could set Veltroni up as the likely heir apparent to Prime Minister Romano Prodi.

The ballot — open to any official resident of Italy over the age of 16 who made a one-euro donation — was organised to elect the first leader of the new Democratic Party, born of a merger of the former Democrats of the Left (DS) and the Daisy party of progressive Christian Democrats. The same projections put Families Minister Rosy Bindi in second place with 14.1 percent and Enrico Letta, undersecretary in the prime minister's office, in third with 11 percent. The other two candidates received 0.1 percent each. Casting his vote after supervising a wedding ceremony in Rome's town hall, Veltroni said: "It's a historic day for Italian democracy. We have in these primaries chosen to create a new party — a choice absolutely unique and unprecedented in European politics." Prodi, who heads a shaky 12-party centre-left coalition which has already narrowly survived one vote of confidence, said that left-wing leaders across Europe were "very interested in the Italian experience: how to move forward traditional parties without repudiating their principles."

The Democratic Party is seeking to become Italy's largest political grouping. Former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi's right-wing Forza Italia is currently Italy's largest single party. Votes in Sunday's party poll picked both the DP's leader as well as regional secretaries and 2,400 delegates to national and regional constituent assemblies from among 30,000 candidates. Veltroni has insisted throughout his campaign that he would not undermine the 68-year-old Prodi's party but bring stability to the executive. "This evening, we confirm our full support for the Prodi government to guide and transform the country," Veltroni said after the first projections were announced. Prodi echoed those sentiments: "We started together and we have grown together." But Italian commentators doubted whether that cordial spirit would last.

Il Sole-24 Ore financial newspaper wrote: "It is hard to see how Veltroni's ambition — to become head of the government — can sit comfortably alongside the demands of Prodi — the actual head of the government." Rome's daily *Il Messaggero* said on Sunday that many politicians "see the 'new-born party' as the natural hitman for a 'sluggish government', the victim of Prodi's unpopular choices which have seen it crash in the polls." Veltroni is a former communist-turned-social democrat. He has long dreamed of a large US-style party that would at last give Italy's centre-left a stable majority. Reform-minded elements in the old Christian Democrat party take a similar view.

## Drown Your Pasta in Sauce: The New Fad?

New York Times

By Mark Bittman

LET me propose that you start cooking pasta in a way that might make you the laughingstock of your foodie friends: make more sauce, and serve it on top of less pasta. Do exactly what you've learned not to do. Instead of a pound of pasta for two to four people, make a half, or even a third of a pound. Instead of a cup or two of sauce, make it four cups, or more. Turn the proportions around.

What does this wind up with? Pasta more or less overwhelmed by sauce, which you can view as a cardinal sin or as a moist, flavorful one-dish meal of vegetables with the distinctive, lovely chewiness of pasta. (There is, of course, a tradition of this kind of pasta dish in Italy, but it falls more under the category of *miasore*, which is closer to soup.) It's also an easy way to significantly increase your intake of vegetables without adding too many refined carbohydrates, and mag. If you've abandoned it, get you back into pasta again.

Obviously this won't work with every sauce — you don't want to pull this trick with creamy or cheesy ones, or those based on meat — but it works with just about every vegetable you can think of, and with many fish preparations as well. To understand why this may get you branded as a heretic, think back to the 1970s, when Americans needed even more help cooking than we do now. Thanks to Marcella Hazan, Gailene Baglioni and others, we discovered how to cook Italian food at home. And for the first time, many of us were venturing to Italy in search not only of Renaissance art and medieval villas but of the incredible cuisine.

What we found was exactly what Ms. Hazan had been telling us. Americans, even Italian-Americans, drowned their pasta. We poured on ladles of thick tomato sauce and tossed two or three quarter-pound meatballs on top for good measure. We made the pasta itself irrelevant. We also learned we overcooked it, undersalted the water and often used the wrong shape. But as much as I love Ms. Hazan and her peers, for the first 20 years that I cooked pasta, I always felt as if I was about to be arrested for violating some canonical laws.

In the old country, the sauce was used to barely moisten and flavor the pasta. There are a couple of possible explanations for this. One is that Italians were meat. "For centuries, most people ate pasta with their hands," said Kevin Wells, who translated and annotated the 1570 cookbook "Opera dell'arte del cucinare" by Bartolomeo Scappi. Little or no sauce, he said, was "a matter of decorum." Another is that there were not always other options. "Poor people dressed pasta with little or nothing," said Andrea Graziosi, a University of Naples professor. "The legend says they used to hang a hen, and each member of the family would rub his or her slice of bread on it to get flavor."

When some of those Italians immigrated to the United States they found a continent that was producing food like no continent before. And, said Mr. Graziosi, "they overused what they found

both because they felt richer and could not use what they had at home." "The consequences are the incredible distortions — to the Italian eye — of Italian-American cuisine," he said. You want meat sauce, with meat on top? You've got it, in spades.

As the years went by, though, a kind of "if it's Italian, it must be good" mentality developed here, and home cooks began enjoying pasta with a minimum of sauce. (We also began undercooking it, just to show that we could take a bite or two.) But today, barely moistened pasta often doesn't make sense. Even setting aside the extreme recommendations of the Atkins diet, it's widely agreed that high-refined grains — a group that includes the semolina flour from which the best-tasting dry pasta is made — do us little nutritional

good. From the point of view of the body, there's little difference between pasta and white bread (and, for that matter, biscuits); neither has much in the way of protein, vitamins, micronutrients or fiber, and all are digested quickly and may ultimately be stored as fat. I am not suggesting that we return to overmoistened baked ziti with sausages, marinara-laden lasagna or spaghetti under three handful-size meatballs. Rather, I'm recommending that we exploit our astonishing supply of vegetables (still evident at this time of year), augmented if you like with a bit of meat for seasoning.

There are recipes here, but many people won't need them. The other day I arrived at a friend's house in time to cook lunch. We had chickpeas, broccoli rabe and garden tomatoes. I parboiled the broccoli rabe, just until it became bright green; I then chopped and sautéed it in olive oil with garlic, dried chili flakes and a couple of cups of chickpeas. I added two or three chopped tomatoes. Meanwhile, I had cooked about a third of a box of farfalle (undoubtedly a more legitimate cook would tell me I was using the "wrong" shape) in the water I had used for the greens. When the tomatoes broke down and the broccoli rabe was tender, I dumped it in the drained pasta, after saving some cooking water. I added a little of the liquid and simmered the mixture until the pasta was done. I garnished it with basil and a little more olive oil. Although it was not soupy, we used spoons because the broth was so good. Total working time was about half an hour, and a better one-dish lunch I could not imagine.

I've been playing with this style of pasta for months: a load of briefly sautéed spinach with garlic, raisins, pine nuts and a bit of stock; well-roasted mixed vegetables, mashed or puréed, with lots of olive oil; braised endive and onion; bok choy with black beans and soy sauce (with fresh Chinese egg noodles, naturally). The list is long. Give it a shot. There is no downside — except maybe a bit of mockery from the pasta police (who I'm sure will arrive, in my case, later this morning).

## Looking Back

# I 50 ANNI DELL' ORDINE ITALO-CANADESE BREVE STORIA DI UNA GLORIOSA ORGANIZZAZIONE

Nell'autunno del 1926, a Montréal, nella provincia del Québec, l'Ordine Figli d'Italia d'America tenne un convegno. Per ragioni politi che in questa occasione, una parte delle Logie si staccarono, nacque così l'Ordine Indipendente dei Figli d'Italia. Nel 1927, questa nuova associazione incominciò a funzionare con le sue 12 Logie. Nonostante i dissensi

politici che in quel periodo esistevano, l'Ordine Indipendente dei Figli d'Italia e le sue Logie si stavano formando di essere un'associazione nazionale.

L'Ordine continuò il suo cammino per 9 anni. Nell'autunno del 1934 si riunì a Montréal l'Assemblea generale. In questa occasione fu proposto di chiedere alla autorità federale un atto di incorporazione nazionale che fosse valido per tutto il Canada. Dopo due lunghi anni di dibattiti fra senatori e ministri del Parlamento, l'Ordine Indipendente Figli d'Italia ottenne la "Charte". Nel 1938 un gruppo rappresentante l'Ordine con a capo il socio A. Spada firmò tale atto. Da cui nacque l'Ordine Italo-Canadese. Prima però che il dipartimento federale delle assicurazioni riconoscesse detta Charta all'Ordine, come associazione fraterna e con i diritti di una compagnia di

assicurazione, l'Atto di garantire un fondo finanziario per coprire tutti i certificati dei soci associati all'Ordine. Per questa garanzia si dovette ricorrere ad un prestito in Banca. In aggiunta al mutuo contratto con la Banca, fu necessario fare un appello a tutti gli iscritti all'Ordine di versare \$4.00 per venire in conto a detto fondo di garanzia. Nonostante la crisi finanziaria di quei tempi ed i molti disaccordi, l'Ordine fu in grado di sconfiggere ogni scoglio. Il socio che fosse discusso o avesse riscosso la polizia ed avesse contribuito al prestito, veniva ricompensato ricevendo la somma di \$5.00. Dopo questa passione finanziaria (imposta dalla licenza) l'esecutivo nominò un comitato organizzatore con il compito di esplorare in tutte le città del Canada per raggiungere gli italiani viventi con l'intento di formare delle Logie. Il socio Puccio Carlo capitolò il Nord Ontario e si portò fino a Vancouver, Spada Palermo e Bortolotti organizzarono il Sud Ontario, portandosi ad Hamilton, Niagara Falls, Fort Erie, St. Catharines and Windsor. Oltre ad organizzare delle Logie in tutte queste località fu necessario provvedere alle sale per gli incontri e per le varie attività creative, sportive e culturali. A questo punto l'Ordine aveva quasi raggiunto lo scopo che si era prefissato secondo le sue leggi, raggruppava tutti gli italiani in una sola famiglia sotto l'emblema dell'Ordine. Alla vigilia della seconda guerra mondiale gli iscritti alla nostra Associazione erano circa 3200. Nel 1939, la crisi internazionale si fece più acuta e di conseguenza anche il Canada ne risentì gli effetti. A questo punto gli italiani erano divisi in due gruppi, fascisti ed antifascisti. Purtroppo i primi dovevano soccombere con l'armistizio e molti subirono il campo di concentramento. Furono di nuovo successo. L'Ordine Italo-Canadese essendo neutrale non fu soggetto ad una investigazione e continuò la sua opera anche da non il periodo della guerra.

La nostra Associazione è pago con la perdita di molti membri questo privilegio e con l'eliminazione di alcune Logie perché l'Ordine venne accusato ingiustamente di aver contribuito

all'arresto di molte persone.

In risposta a questa l'Ordine decise di dimostrare, in un modo tangibile, leali al Canada. Si fece una petizione raccolgendo le firme di migliaia di italiani. Oltre a questa furono raccolti fondi per donare un'autotelaia alla Croce Rossa Canadese. La risposta degli italiani fu unanime ed il denaro raccolto fu non solo sufficiente per l'acquisto di una autotelaia ma ben più che completamente equipaggiata. Quando queste furono consegnate alle autorità governative fu consegnato anche il libro contenente le firme degli italiani dimostrandone così l'adesione e lealità al Canada. L'Ordine continuò con la sua strada:

ed ogni convegno (tornato ogni due anni con il consenso del dipartimento federale) propose nuove norme per il benessere dei suoi membri. All'inizio l'Ordine aveva solo due programmi di assicurazioni, ora è in possesso di ben sette dando ad ogni membro la possibilità di una scelta.

La fine della guerra, sostanziosamente nel 1945 vide di nuovo l'Ordine al lavoro. Fu lanciata una campagna per la raccolta di fondi per acquistare i medicinali da inviare mediante la Croce Rossa Canadese, alla Croce Rossa Italiana. Il risultato non fu un vero successo, solo 80.000 furono raccolti. L'Ordine Italo-Canadese non si diede per vinto. Nel 1946-47 fece di nuovo appello a tutte le Associazioni Italiane per la raccolta di medicinali. Venne costituito un comitato nazionale. La risposta fu molto più soddisfacente.

La Croce Rossa Italiana inviò la Croce Rossa Canadese ricevuta la somma di \$105.000 in medicinali. L'Ordine, con le sue leggi aderì a tutte le iniziative filantropiche. Purtroppo il nostro paese di origine è stato colpito parecchie volte da calamità naturali. L'autunno del '63 vide l'intero paese di Longarone e vicinanze distrutto con la sciagura del Vajont. Nel 1966 il Po entrò portando distruzione e desolazione in molte località. Il 6 Maggio 1976, il Friuli fu colpito duramente dal terremoto. Ad ognuna di queste tristi circostanze l'Ordine Italo-Canadese diede il suo aiuto e la sua cooperazione.

Leggendo questa breve storia il lettore può vedere come l'Ordine ha sempre avuto uno scopo ben preciso: andar incontro ai suoi membri ed agli italiani per aiutarli nel momento della necessità. Se solo ci si offra un'isola a quel ormai lontano 1934, quando i primi organizzatori stipularono un prestito prendendosi ogni responsabilità e danno uno sguardo alla presente situazione finanziaria del l'Ordine, dobbiamo sentirci orgogliosi di appartenere a tale Associazione. Dopo solo cinquant'anni la situazione finanziaria del nostro Ordine è più che stabile e lo sono \$400.000.00. Questa cifra un po' astronomica è il frutto di lavoro di tante persone che hanno lavorato volontariamente per il successo del nostro Ordine e perché tutti gli italiani ottengono quei diritti e quella dignità che una società come la nostra, basata sull'onestà ed il lavoro, si merita.

L'Ordine Italo-Canadese non è solamente un'assicurazione fraterna ma si estende ad altre attività, culturali, sportive, ed educative ed invita tutti gli italiani a far parte a questa famiglia. Anselmo Bortolotti.



Anselmo  
Bortolotti



B. Bortolotti

## An Italian in Ottawa October 1973

originally published in the Ottawa Citizen

No pot of gold but a happy ending

From rags to riches. The best of all immigration story - the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Well, not quite a pot of gold and not quite riches. But it's comfortably middle-class for Sergio Baggio, one of the 10,000 Italian immigrants to come to Canada after the Second World War. He's now living in a large house with his wife and four children, in the west end of the city.

Magic touch

His story is probably typical of thousands of immigrants, but he tells it with magic that makes it a wonder for anyone who hears. Mr. Baggio and his brother arrived in Montreal 18 years ago, as a couple of poor immigrants. They had come to make money to help their father's wine business back home. Mr. Baggio planned to return in three years. "I can still remember the first night we spent here. We were put in a jail outside Montreal and nobody knew us. There were grown men crying because they were so frightened." "The next morning we were sent to Ottawa by train and we arrived at Union Station."

Father Jerome

"We didn't know what to do so we started walking west along Wellington. We were carrying heavy bags and a taxi stopped. When the driver found out we were Italian immigrants he took us straight to Father Jerome Ferraro at St. Anthony's Church." Father Jerome gave Mr. Baggio and his brother their first meal in Ottawa and it turned out to be spaghetti. Mr. Baggio and his brother didn't realize it at the time, but they had arrived at the heart of the Italian community here.

Father Jerome became a legendary figure among Italian immigrants and he became the first person they turned to in time of need. When he died this year [1973], hundreds of his people

attended the funeral and mourned his death. Father Jerome made several telephone calls that first week, to find jobs for Mr. Baggio and his brother. He was successful - Mr. Baggio's first job was digging ditches. "Then came November and we were out of a job, but we soon found one clearing snow from the railway tracks."

Swept tracks

Mr. Baggio swept the tracks clean without gloves or boots, wearing the only two pairs of pants he owned, in an attempt to keep warm. He was laid off a month later. Then came a job with a bread company. Like most of the jobs Mr. Baggio had when he first came to Canada, this one offered low pay and Mr. Baggio can remember having to go without food one night because he burned the potatoes he had rationed for that evening's meal. It was about a year and a half before he could speak English fluently. He recalls going to English merchants other than nearby Italian stores, so he could practice the language of his new country. But it sometimes caused trouble in spite of the fact he carried a little dictionary with him everywhere he went. He remembers one day when he had problems buying rice. He looked up "rice" in his dictionary and found that the translation listed first was "smile".

No smile

The clerk was trying to tell him that a smile was not for sale and it was only when he looked at his dictionary again that he realized he was using the wrong translation. Mr. Baggio later opened a dry goods store on Preston Street, where he sold workmen's clothing. He eventually closed that and went to work for Simpsons-Sears here he has been for the last six years. He says that at first he was homesick, but now he has no intention of going back to Italy. "The longer you stay the less chance you have of going back. I'm settled here now."

# General Interest

## Anselmo (Sam) Bortolotti: An Early Leader in the Italo Canadian Community

By Anna Gora, Margot Felix, Paula Tisot, Elda Allen and Jennifer Allen

Some new immigrants take time to adjust to their new environments. Others such as Anselmo "Sam" Bortolotti do not. Even as a newcomer to Canada, he wasted no time becoming involved with the local Italian community. His commitment to helping Italian Canadians kept him active even at challenging times, such as during the Second World War.

Anselmo was born in Matano, Udine, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy, on September 18, 1897 to Domenico Bortolotti and Luisa Riva. His father died when he was only five years old, leaving his mother to raise him and his brother Pietro and sister Ansilia. There was no school in the family's community. A teacher would travel between the regional villages and educate those who could afford to pay for schooling. His mother, with some difficulty, always managed to pay the tuition. He received minimal education as teachers had large territories to cover and travel was difficult, making visits infrequent and sporadic. Because of this, he highly valued education. His passion for learning continued throughout his life and never stopped until the day he died in February 1990. He was a life-long learner and read extensively, including the Bible and books about politics, history, science and philosophy. He loved to discuss and debate any subject, any time with anyone. He also loved classical music, especially Italian opera.

At the age of nine, Anselmo left home to work in Austria-Hungary, where one of his uncles served as mayor of a town and also owned the local brickyard. This enabled him to learn the art of brick work at an early age and this skill continued to serve him well in his adult life. From 1914 to 1918, he served in the First World War, in the Quirino Gennaro Minzoli - an engineering corps of the Royal Italian Army. In October 1920, he immigrated to Ottawa to join his sister and her husband. Upon arriving, he found there was little work available. His first job was shoveling snow for twenty cents an hour. Soon after, Anselmo found a seasonal job with Merkley's brickyard near the site of Billings Bridge Shopping Centre. An interesting anecdote that he liked to tell revealed the working conditions of that time. During the winter, when it was bitterly cold, the men would arrive at the brickyard early in the morning, at 6:00 am, only to be told "Sorry boys, no work today. It's too cold for the horses" who pulled the sleigh loaded with bricks. In those times no work, no pay!

In 1925, he married Giuseppina Pizzi, whom he had met during World War I in his village in Belluno and had carried on a long-distance courtship. Anselmo's lack of formal education left him to learn many things on his own. He became keenly interested in developing and sustaining the cultural interests of the Italian community in Canada. He co-founded the Società Educativa di Ottawa for that purpose on December 5, 1926. This society held conferences, lectures, and various cultural and educational activities including language and music lessons for both children and adults in the Italian community.

This same spirit also inspired him to open with Francesco Cosenza, a small tile company, Canadian Tile and Terrazzo. Unfortunately, the economic crisis during the 1930s forced the company, like so many others at the time, to close. It was a very difficult time with a wife and three children to support. Yet, he refused to accept social welfare. He put his skills to work and found odd jobs, such as repairing sidewalks and chimneys. Luckily, he managed to secure a contract installing tiles at the Chateau Laurier, a Canadian National (CN) Railway Hotel. This income enabled him to pay off his debts as well as buy a house and a car. All this during the Great Depression. In 1932 he was hired as a permanent employee. He worked as a tile-setter for CN Hotels travelling from the Maritimes to the western provinces until his retirement in 1962. The Depression Era also saw tensions grow between the Italian community in Ottawa and local clergy who disapproved of Italians sending their children to public schools as Sam's did. Soon articles were published discrediting the aims of the Società Educativa di Ottawa.

In the conflict between fascists and anti-fascists in Ottawa, Anselmo, a passionate anti-fascist, was a central figure. Together with 29 other local Italian veterans of the First World War, he organized "L'Associazione Ex-combattenti di Ottawa", of which he was president for a number of years. He opposed orders from Rome that War Veterans' Associations be dominated by fascists.

even though there was no great movement of fascism in Ottawa or even in other parts of Canada, Italian Canadians were proud of their heritage but even prouder to be Canadians.

His concern for the welfare of Italian immigrants directed him to help found the Order of Italo-Canadians, a fraternal benefit insurance society in the Province of Ontario, where he served as Secretary, Official Agent and General Organizer. In 2008, the Order celebrates its 80th Anniversary. The Order of Italo-Canadians provided many services and was active in helping the Italian community, including the provision of baskets of food and gifts for the children at Christmas and during hard times.

The arrival of the Second World War presented great challenges, especially among the Italian Canadian community. With increasing political unrest, the community soon became divided. Anselmo was falsely accused of being a member of the Communist Party because of his strong anti-fascist stand. Given the times and prevailing views, Anselmo, and by extension, his family, experienced serious and lasting repercussions because of his political beliefs. One daughter was forced to leave her job in a law office, while many years later, his other daughter was denied the opportunity to teach on a Canadian Forces base in Europe.

Despite these difficulties, he remained active in the Italian-Canadian community, providing assistance to those in need. During World War II, as an active member of the Order of Italo-Canadians, Anselmo was instrumental in working with others to raise funds to purchase two ambulances which were sent to Italy. In 1946-47, he assisted in the organization of the "Canadian Aid to Italy" fund, which raised money to purchase medical supplies for Italian children. He also worked along with other members of the Italian community to obtain the release of those Italians unjustly sent to Canadian concentration camps.

During the first post-war wave of immigration, Anselmo sponsored and helped many immigrants to settle in Canada's homeland. These new Canadians, many whom he mentored, became and remained life-long friends. He also actively participated on committees which were organized to collect funds for disasters in Italy, such as the Vajont Dam disaster in the Italian Alps and the south Italy and Friuli earthquakes.

In 1954 he became President of The Canadian Brotherhood of Railways Workers Union - Local 1271, holding this position for consecutive years. He remained active in the union until his retirement. In 1967, he was awarded the Centennial Medal by the Canadian Government "in recognition of his valuable service to the nation". In 1969, he was a driving force in founding the Ottawa Chapter of the Popular Front of Ottawa. With Ross and Gino Testi, he founded the Ottawa Senior Citizens Group, (Gruppo Anziani di Ottawa), taking his turn as President and remaining an active and contributing participant.

In 1986, he was awarded Cavaliere dell'Ordine Al Merito della Repubblica Italiana. The same year, he was also selected as Person of Year by the Italian Canadian Business and Professional Association of Ottawa. During his life he travelled extensively, visiting much of North America, Europe and Africa. He visited Italy many times over the years, but said he would never return there permanently because Canada was his home. Anselmo and Giuseppina Bortolotti had four children: Alma, Nello Leo and Elda, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He was a socialist with his vision rooted in protecting the poor, working class members of society. He joined the CCF at its inception, which became the NDP and was an active member of the party until his death. Anselmo remained true to himself and dedicated to social justice and human rights issues throughout his long life.

Interviewed by Professor Filippo Salatore of Concordia University for the book entitled: Fascism and the Italians of Montreal An Oral History: 1922-1945, Anselmo was asked this question: "What is the quality you admire the most in an individual, and what principle should a young person be faithful to?" he replied: "Honesty is the best quality a human being can have. I have always respected that, even among our fascist opponents. If a person switches sides and betrays one time, he can and will betray another time. So my advice to people is: be morally honest, and everybody will respect you. That is the principle that has always guided my actions. Once I was convinced of the validity of the ideals of socialism, I always believed in them, in spite of verbal and physical threats and the moral blackmail I was exposed to."

Cec Anselmo Bortolotti, 1897-1990

**New Year's Eve Gala**  
**Monday December 31<sup>st</sup> from 6 pm to 2 am**  
**Cleo Banquet & Convention Centre**  
**156 Cleopatra Drive.**

**\$100 (ask for your Early Bird Special!)**  
**9 course meal prepared by**  
**Executive Chef Giovanni Russo**  
**Entertainment by SWAY Orchestra**  
**Tickets are limited. Please call 613-225-2255**

# General Interest

## BOLOGNA RICORDA ONDINA VALLA, AD UN ANNO DALLA SCOMPARSA

Celebrazioni nella città natale dell'atleta, prima donna italiana a vincere l'oro alle Olimpiadi di Berlino

di Goffredo Palmerini

L'AQUILA — Il 16 ottobre 2006, all'età di 90 anni, si spegneva all'Aquila Trebisonda Valla, comunemente chiamata Ondina, medaglia d'oro ai Giochi Olimpici di Berlino. Bologna, sua città natale, ad un anno dalla scomparsa la ricorda con una serie di eventi promossi dal Comune e dal Cnsi, in collaborazione con l'Amministrazione Provinciale e con la Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio. Atleta straordinaria, Ondina era diventata un'icona dello sport per aver dato all'Italia la prima medaglia d'oro olimpica femminile, vintissima nel 1936 a Berlino gli 80 metri ostacoli. Era nata a Bologna il 20 maggio 1916. Il nome Trebisonda, scelto dal padre in ricordo dell'omonima città turca, fu nella quotidianità cambiato dalla sua maestra elementare, la signora Zanetti, che l'aveva dapprima accreditato in "Onda" e quindi nel più familiare e grazioso diminutivo di Ondina, che l'avrebbe poi accompagnata per tutta la vita. Ondina Valla sarà fatta notare sin da giovanissima per la grinta e le sue doti atletiche.

Al campionato studentesco bolognese trionfò con la concittadina Claudia Testoni, che sarebbe stata la sua antagonista per tutta la carriera sportiva, sebbene con un bilancio conclusivo nettamente a favore della Valla. A tredici anni Ondina era già considerata una delle grandi protagoniste dell'atletica leggera italiana. Nel 1930 vinse i campionati italiani e fu convocata in nazionale e divenne presto una delle bestemmie del pubblico italiano. La stampa la definì "la Nuda in un sorriso".



Da allora fu un crescendo di risultati e di vittorie. Vedi la maglia della nazionale per sedicivoli, fino a conquistare all'Italia, prima donna in assoluto, la medaglia d'oro alle Olimpiadi. Venne ad edificare in molte discipline dell'atletica leggera, guerreggiò per 15 anni sempre ad alzarsi il livello, vincendo ben 15 titoli



Italians sia nelle gare di velocità che nella corsa ad ostacoli, ed eccelle pure nel salto in alto e nei pentathlon. Vennero sarebbero stati, alla fine della carriera, i record mondiali compiuti. Ai Giochi olimpici di Berlino, in semifinale, concesse gli 80 ostacoli in 11,6, tempo omologato come primato mondiale. Il giorno successivo, il 10 agosto 1936, toccò l'apice della carriera ed entrò nella storia dello sport italiano, diventando a vent'anni la prima donna a vincere l'oro olimpico. Il suo primato di salto in alto (1,57), realizzato nel '37, avrebbe resistito 18 anni, battuto solo nel 1955 da Paola Paternoster. Dopo le Olimpiadi di Berlino, Ondina ebbe seri problemi alla schiena, continuando tuttavia a gareggiare fino ai primi anni Quaranta.

Nel 1943 sposò Guglielmo De Luechi, famoso ortopedico, che undici anni dopo scelse L'Aquila come città d'adozione per la bella famiglia, allestita dall'antico del figlio Luigi. Rimasta vedova, Ondina ha vissuto in famiglia con Luigi fino al giorno della sua scomparsa. Il 16 ottobre dell'anno scorso L'Aquila partecipò in massa a rendere l'estremo omaggio ad Ondina,

leggendarie, che ha rappresentato per oltre mezzo secolo un fulgido esempio di eleganza atletica e di affascinante allo sport, cui diverse generazioni si sono ispirate. La sua vittoria ai Giochi Olimpici di Berlino aprì per lo sport italiano un'era nuova.

Direttamente delle iniziative in onore di Ondina Valla a Bologna. Intanto proprio il 16 ottobre, anniversario della scomparsa, la città intitola all'atleta una Via nel quartiere di San Donato. Il giorno successivo, presso la Cappella Farnese, prende il via il Convegno "Ondina Valla, la vita di un sorriso", alla presenza del figlio Luigi e di molti campionissimi bolognesi, tra cui Donata Covani, I Lovi, aperti dal sindaco Sergio Cofferati, dall'Assessore allo sport Anna Patrucco e dal presidente del CONI di Bologna Renato Rizzoli, presentano le relazioni "Ondina Valla e il suo tempo" di Gustavo Pellegrini, segretario della Società Italiana di Storia dello sport; "Sport femminile della seconda metà del '900: dalla ricostruzione alla crisi del mare" di Sergio Giuntoli, docente all'Università Statale di Milano; "Primo cecoslovacco della ginnastica e dello sport femminile" di Giorgio Bernardi, docente di Storia dello sport all'Università di Bologna, con moderatore Alberto Bartolotti, vice presidente dell'Unione Stampa Sportiva Italiana. Le celebrazioni, a partire dal 13 ottobre, sono precedute da una bella Mostra autobiografica di Ondina Valla, allestita presso la Galleria "Il punto", in via San Felice, e curata da Stefano Stagni e Cristina Martini. Si tratta di una ricca esposizione di cimeli, tra cui spicca il pettorale 343 con cui Ondina vinse l'oro a Berlino nel 1936, quadri, fotografie, filmati, libri, ritagli di giornali e fotografie inediti risalenti agli anni dei suoi successi sportivi. Insomma, un ricordo a tutto tondo reso possibile dalla feconda collaborazione del figlio Luigi De Luechi che con grande disponibilità ha messo a disposizione l'Archivio familiare, per rendere degno onore ad Ondina Valla, una delle più amate, significative e simboliche personalità dello sport italiano.



## Unearthing Rome's King

Sanctuary of Rome's Second King Found, Numa Pompilius, Successor of Romulus, Dates to 715-673 BC

London Times

Richard Owen

Italian archeologists have uncovered the ruins of a 2,700 year old sanctuary which they say provides the first physical evidence of Rome at the time of Numa Pompilius, Rome's legendary second king, in the 8th century BC.

Numa Pompilius, a member of the Sabine tribe, was elected at the age of forty to succeed Romulus, the founder of Rome. He reigned from 715-673 BC, and is said by Plutarch to have been a reluctant monarch who ushered in a 40-year period of peace and stability. He was celebrated for his wisdom, personal austerity and piety.

Clementina Panella, the archaeologist from Rome's Sapienza University who is leading the dig, said Numa Pompilius was also known to have established religious practices and observance in the emerging city-state, instituting the office of priest or pontifex and founding the cult of the Vestal Virgins. She said the temple or sanctuary her team had uncovered lay between the Palatine and Velian hills, close to the Colosseum, the Arch of Titus and Via Sacra, and had probably been dedicated to the Goddess of Fortune.

The dig began a year ago, with the help of 130 students and volunteers. The walls of the temple were found seven metres below the surface, together with a street and pavement and two wells, one round and one rectangular. Both wells were "full of thousands of votive offerings and cult objects", including the bones of birds and animals and cosmic bowls and caps.

Dr Panella said there was no doubt that the objects dated from the period of Numa Pompilius. However there were no statues or figures because Numa forbade images of the gods in his temples, arguing that it was "impious to represent things divine by what is perishable".



Numa Pompilius is also credited with dividing Rome into administrative districts, and according to Plutarch organised the city's first occupational guilds, "forming companies of musicians, goldsmiths, carpenters, dyers, skinmakers, skinners, bakers, and potters".

Corriere della Sera said the unearthing of the temple proved there were still "remarkable discoveries" to be made in the Forum and Palatine Hill areas. Last year Andrea Canandrea, Professor of Archaeology at La Sapienza, announced that he had discovered the remains of a royal palace dating to the time of Romulus.

He said the palace, built around a courtyard, had a monumental entrance and ornate furniture and tiles, and was ten times the size of ordinary homes of the period.

Also last year Dr Panella, who has been excavating in the Forum for twenty years, discovered a sceptre which belonged to Emperor Maxentius, who ruled for six years until 312AD — towards the end of the Roman state.

Maxentius drowned in the Tiber during the battle on the Milvian bridge against his brother-in-law, Constantine, who attributed his victory over Maxentius to divine intervention and converted the Roman empire to Christianity.

Maxentius' supporters are thought to have hidden the sceptre after the defeat. It was found wrapped in silk and linen in a wooden box together with battle standards and lance heads.

## Local

# Are Vaccines Killing Our Children?

**Deaths Associated with HPV Vaccine Start Rolling In; Over 3500 Adverse Effects Reported**

By John-Henry Westen LifeSiteNews.com

As Canada, in large part due to aggressive behind-the-scenes lobbying, rolls out the not-comprehensively-tested Merck HPV vaccine for girls as young as nine, a look at developments on the vaccine south of the border should cause Canadian serious concern.

In the United States a similar lobby campaign by the same company launched the mass HPV vaccination of girls beginning in June last year. In just a little over a year, the HPV vaccine has been associated with at least five deaths, not to mention thousands of reports of adverse effects, hundreds deemed serious, and many that required hospitalization.

Judicial Watch, a US government watchdog, became noting large donations to key politicians originating from Merck. A freedom of information request from the group in May of this year discovered that during the period from June 8, 2006 - when the vaccines received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - to May 2007, there were 1,637 reports of adverse reactions to the HPV vaccine reported to the FDA. Three deaths were related to the vaccine, including one of a 12-year-old.

One physician's assistant reported that a female patient "died of blood clot three hours after getting the Gardasil vaccine". Two other reports, on girls 12 and 19, reported deaths relating to heart problems and/or blood clotting.

As of May 11, 2007, the 1,637 adverse vaccination reactions reported to the FDA via the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) included 371 serious reactions. Of the 42 women who received the vaccine while pregnant, 10 experienced side effects ranging from spontaneous abortion to fetal abnormalities.

Side effects published by Merck & Co. warn the public about potential pain, fever, nausea, dizziness and itching after receiving the vaccine. Indeed, 77% of the adverse reactions reported are typical side effects to vaccinations. But other more serious side effects reported include paralysis, Bell's Palsy, Guillain-Barré Syndrome, and seizures.

Judicial Watch informed LifeSiteNews.com that a subsequent request for information on adverse reactions to the HPV vaccine, covering the period from May 2007 to September 2007, found that an additional 1,800 adverse reactions have been reported, including more deaths. Exactly how many more deaths will be released in the coming days, Judicial Watch's Dee



Grothe informed LifeSiteNews.com.

The LifeSiteNews.com report on the moneyed lobbying efforts of Merck in the US was reported in February. (See <http://www.lifesitenet.org/2007/feb/07020294.html>) <blocked><http://www.lifesitenet.org/2007/feb/07020294.html>

However, the Canadian lobby effort by Merck's Canadian affiliate, Merck Frost Canada, has been underway, using powerful lobbyists with close connections to the politicians who have signed off on massive government-funded vaccination programs.

Star recently reported that Merck Frost Canada Ltd.

hired public relations giant Hill & Knowlton to push the immunization strategies using some well-connected lobbyists: Ken Boessenkool, a former senior policy adviser to Prime Minister Stephen Harper; Bob Lopinski, formerly with Premier Dalton McGuinty's office; and Jason Grier, former chief of staff to Health Minister George Smitherman.

Harper's Conservative Government approved Merck's HPV vaccine Gardasil in July and later announced a \$300 million program to give the vaccine to girls from ages 9-13. That of course is only the beginning of what Merck likely hopes will be a much larger vaccination of all potentially sexually active women in Canada.

In August, McGuinty's Ontario Liberals, on the advice of his Health Minister, George Smitherman, announced that all Grade 8 girls will have free access to Gardasil.

One of the major complaints by physicians is that the HPV vaccination program has been implemented before adequate testing has been completed. Long-term effects of the vaccine remain unknown. Many are asking why the huge, seemingly reckless rush?

At least one answer to that question comes from the fact that Merck currently is the sole provider of an HPV vaccine with its Gardasil product. A competing HPV vaccine, Glaxo Smith Kline's Cervarix, is set to hit the market in January 2008. As more children are vaccinated with Gardasil, fewer will be able to later receive the necessary repeat boosters of a competing, incompatible vaccine.

Merck is in a race to capture as much of the market as it can, consuming many millions of government tax dollars. US sales of Gardasil are expected to reach \$1 billion in the first year of its availability.

## Ontario bishops message on HPV inoculation in Catholic schools

In August 2007, the Government of Ontario announced the introduction of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine into the publicly funded immunization program. This means that female students in all grade 8 classrooms in our school system will be offered the vaccine over the course of this year. This is a voluntary program and parents have the final decision on whether their daughters will be vaccinated.

The Bishops affirm that parents have the right and responsibility to decide whether their daughters should be vaccinated. We encourage parents to keep in mind some important considerations.

First, infection with HPV or other sexually transmitted diseases can occur only through sexual activity, which carries with it profound risks to a young person's spiritual, emotional, moral, and physical health. The Bishops note that, at best, a vaccine can only be potentially effective against one of these risks, that to physical health, and may have other unintended and unwanted consequences. Sexuality is a great and powerful gift. Sexual activity is appropriate only within marriage. Outside of marriage, abstinence is not only clearly the choice that leads to spiritual and moral well-being, but it is obviously the best protection against risks of disease.

Second, there is no consensus among those involved in public health in Canada that HPV vaccination is the most prudent strategy in terms of allocating health care resources to address the goal of preventing deaths resulting from cervical cancer. Further research is required. The Bishops of Ontario encourage parents to learn the medical facts concerning this vaccination. Although the HPV vaccination program properly leaves the choice of participation to parents, the Bishops of Ontario regret its introduction without further opportunity for thorough study of all of the effects of this program. The best interests of children demands that parents and guardians be fully informed before granting consent. Parents and educators want to prepare children well for their future in all aspects of their lives. A proper education in chastity helps young people to embrace their sexuality with confidence and joy.

We ask that Catholic school boards include this message in the information package that parents receive concerning the program.

Yours in Christ  
Most Reverend James Wingle,  
Bishop of St. Catharines  
President  
Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops

## Ray Zahab

Motivational Speaker attending 3rd Annual Special Olympics Breakfast Challenge. Distance. Discovery.



This is what motivates our keynote speaker Ray Zahab. Starting his athletic career as a professional marathon competitor, it was not until the late nineties that Ray competed in his first adventure race and immediately started rock and ice climbing. "That was the beginning of something new for me," says Ray. "I discovered my passion for progressive

challenge. You learn things about yourself when alone for hours - pushing yourself to new limits whether it be a long trek or adventure race. As a personal trainer, Ray believes that there is a strong mind body connection to fitness and well being. He continues his pursuit of discovery and challenge by entering events that are progressively more difficult and exotic - for example, an epic expedition to cross the Sahara Desert by foot. Ray applies lessons he learned in the desert to everyday life in order to motivate people to win at life. Pictures of this event are on page 8.

# Maharaja's Ball



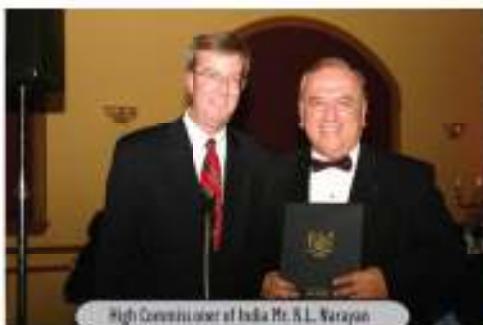
## 3rd Annual Special Olympics Festival Breakfast October 11th, 2007



## Moe Atallah's 60th Birthday and 16th Blacktie Beanfest Fundraiser



Italy Tezzi with Elvis Presley



High Commissioner of India Mr. S.L. Narayan



Moe Atallah

Saturday October 13th 2007 - Ottawa Philanthropist Moe Atallah was honoured at this year's Black Tie Beanfest. Moe Atallah a constant presence in fundraising organizations was also celebrating his 60th birthday.

Two-hundred people attended the 16th annual event.

Beans were on the menu, as they were the King of Rock and Roll's favorite food. Scott Anderson from the Ottawa Chippewas was the Honorary Chair of the event and Michael O'Brien did a great job as the Master of Ceremonies.

On the stage was Bruce and The Burgers entertaining the crowd all night long and Elvis come back and wowed the crowd.

The source raised money for Ottawa children's charities. This year's goal is to raise \$50,000 for the Somerset West Community Health Centre.



Mike Giunta and Guests



## Festa della Associazione Rapinese



Executive Committee



Rapinesi



Benny Colacicco, Lorraine Ferrante, Rosa D'Amato and Carmine Miceli

# Il Terrazzo dalle sue origini

di Paolo Brun del Re

Uso del nascente Terrazzo, come una diversificazione del mosaico di marmo, ha creato un nuovo assetto di mestierani specializzati, che andavano dallo "stesso" mosaicista, con compiti di preparare bordure e motivi centro-sala, agli "stessi" posatori del mosaico, ai "nuovi" tempiari, pur rimanendo intatti i manovali. I spacciatori (vedere foto #4) e i levigatori. Questo assetto è rimasto inalterato fin quasi alla fine dell'ottocento. I "mangiatori" però, meritano un paragone a parte.

Questi "manovali specializzati" con pietre abrasive, il più delle volte trovate nei greti dei nostri torrenti della Dora Tagliamento, squadrate a piacimento e assicurate ad una garanzia di ferro (certamente fatta a Maniago su ordinazione), assicurata ad un manico di fessino e l'insieme chiamato "orso" (vedere foto #5), arrivavano a levigare quattro metri quadrati al giorno circa, ma tutto dipendeva dalla grossezza dei sassi del terrazzo o alla bontà del pavimento.

Alla fine della stagione lavorativa a causa delle mani callose e rivedute dal levigatore, il manico di fessino alla sommità dove il pollice o l'indice affogavano più che in altre parti, lasciavano non solo un'insolita cicatrice nel manico, ma anche una parte a parte. Questa benservente categoria, veniva di molto alleviata con l'apparizione delle macchine levigatrici, ma queste s'annunciarono nel tempo. Era "pacchiana" così? È il resto lungo della levigazione del terrazzo che ogni buon imprenditore di Terrazzo fa fatica a diffidarsene, perché non sempre è accettata nella discarica pubblica! Non ho detto per provare la logica esposta fin'ora, se non l'auguramento. Ma vediamo alcuni esempi di cambiamenti che qualcosa è cambiato durante il periodo esposto. Bien alcuni esempi, perché una ricerca vera e propria è di fuori di quello che mi sono proposta di fare.

## Basilica di "Santa Maria in Syle" di Sesto al Reghena:

Questa Basilica che faenza parte della Abbazia di Sesto fin dalla sua costruzione nell'VIII secolo, fu rifatta, guarda caso, nel XII e XIII secolo e ampliata di tre navate qualche tempo dopo. Il pavimento, mentre sotto i banchi e un bianco e nero, mischiato, per praticità e minimo costo, il centro è stato fatto con quadrati alternati il bianco e rosso (vedere foto #6), un poco più elaborato e gli qui si dividevano i colori con graniglia e non mosaico. Questo significa che il mosaico si poteva anche eliminare, o senz'altro per salvare il costo, dopo tutto qui l'uso era solo per la popolazione locale.

## Closa Thermesabile di Fiume:

Quando nel 1525, a già di lì, la pieve di Cuccaro Novo e Fiume furono divise separando i due paesi fino ad allora uniti, la chiesa abbaziale di Fiume, che faceva parte dell'Abbazia dei Benedettini di Pomposa, venne ampliata per l'uso della nuova parrocchia. Ampliata al principio del XIV secolo (1,800). I pavimenti ripetono i motivi della Chiesa di Sesto al Reghena, cioè graniglia mischiata bianca e nera sotto i banchi, ma i corridoi, controfacciata, è molto più elaborato, perché i quadri sono diventati cubi con tre colori: bianco, nero e rosso, che danno all'occhio una terza dimensione (vedere foto #7).

Potavano permettersi di fumare un pavimento molto più elaborato e non a Sesto al Reghena? Certamente, poiché sono state le mani d'opera provenienti da questa zona della Dora Tagliamento che aveva lavorato a Venezia. Merite a Sesto questa era di certo a pagamento, a Fiume la mano d'opera è stata sicuramente donata dai paesani alla loro nuova Chiesa e potevano permettersi un terzo colore, che aggiungeva di molto il lavoro manuale, e nulla il costo del materiale!

## Villa Marin:

I pavimenti di Villa Marin a Passafiume, vicino a Codiglio, sono tutti fatti con bordure e centro sala in mosaico di marmo, molto elaborati e fioriti. Il resto è stato riempito con graniglia, naturalmente posata a mano, con sassi della misura fino al numero cinque (da dieci a quattro centimetri circa), misura tipica dei pavimenti "alla Veneziana". Come sia, Villa Marin venne costruita nel XVII secolo (1700) per i Marin, dai quali Lodovico Marin divenne Doge di Venezia. Le bordure e i centri sono stati fatti in mosaico di marmo alquanto elaborati, perché questa Villa era stata fatta per la nobiltà! Dopo questa lunga presentazione, passiamo ai tempi più moderni e vediamo l'espansione del Terrazzo.

## Espansione del Terrazzo in Europa:

L'espansione del Terrazzo in Europa è senz'altro stata portata nella prima parte del 1800 da italiani, non ultimi gli Odorico da Sequals i quali avevano stabilito delle filiali in ogni città di una certa importanza, nelle varie nazioni europee, consegnate a dei managers, i quali ingaggiavano operai friulani. Questi normalmente partivano in primavera e ritornavano nel tardo autunno. L'inverno non si poteva lavorare il terrazzo se non in ambienti chiusi e riscaldati e questo non solo per gli operai, ma per proteggere il cemento fresco dal gelo.

Allora si costruivano chiese, ospedali, scuole e simili, ed il tutto lavorato a mano, dalla spaccatura della pietra per fare la graniglia, alla posa e alla levigatura. Sebbene il lavoro finito fosse più svelto del mosaico, richiedeva ancora molta mano d'opera. Non ci voleva molto per arrivare ad una proliferazione di piccole ditte con alcuni operai solitari, perché non occorreva molto capitale per stabilire un'esercizio con padre e figlio, ché oltre al terrazzo c'era molta gente che sapeva ancora fare del mosaico, oltre a lavori pre-fabbricati per spazzate cucine, vasche per lavanderie, e simili, tutti in terrazzo. Le zone che davano operai per i terrazzi d'Europa, era la Dora Tagliamento, ovvero la zona a nord di Pordenone, dove l'agricoltura era particolarmente povera.

Anche dalla Sistina Tagliamento emigravano già allora, ma per lo più verso la Germania

nelle fabbriche di motori, o verso l'Austria a lavorare sul "Lainpon" (Eisenbahn). A quei tempi avevano anche degli operai francesi che lavoravano in Crimea (Isola), a San Pietroburgo e a Mosca in qualità di stuccatori nelle residenze degli Zar, eccetera. Bisogna riconoscere che i mosaici e i terrazzi di una volta, imponevano il mestiere al completo e lo sapevano fare in tutti i suoi risvolti possibili. Ci sono tanti pavimenti che lo comprovano in tutti i paesi della Pedemontana Pordenonese, tutti magari d'inverno nelle loro case, e con graniglia naturale presa dai nostri torrenti! Nel resto dell'Italia non mi succita che nell'ottocento il terrazzo sia stato usato molto.

## Espansione e Evoluzione del Terrazzo in Europa:

l'espansione del Terrazzo in Europa nella seconda parte dell'Ottocento, è stata sostanzialmente rapida nella conoscenza di questo nuovo materiale, ma non in maniera quantitativa, almeno fin quando la graniglia era posta a mano e trasportata sul posto con carri e casse, a volte tirati a mano. Pur tuttavia ha avuto il suo massimo splendore verso la fine dell'ottocento fino all'inizio della prima guerra mondiale. Non che dopo la prima guerra non sia stato più usato, anzi! Ormai gli aggregati venivano posti a macchina nelle cave di marmo e trasportati in camion fino al posto della messa in opera.

Per le stazioni della ferrovia Sacile-Pisano, ad esempio, costruite nel 1930 circa, son stati fatti i pavimenti dell'entrata col sistema di bordure decorative e il centro sala con una ruota di treno su rotelle e due ali fatte in mosaico di marmo, e il resto in graniglia. Bisogna anche aggiungere che le due guerre erano in pieno uso le levigatrici meccaniche a motore a scoppio o ad elettrico, che han dato la possibilità di un aumento ragguardevole alla produzione. Dopo la seconda guerra mondiale, in Europa e in Italia, il Terrazzo è arrivato ad una svolta con l'avvento delle piastrelle in terra cotta, in gres, in terrazzo profilato, ecc. facilitandone la posa. Bisogna anche dire che in Italia, specialmente, il Terrazzo profilato, o le mattonette di marmo, a differenza di quello che avveniva in America, ad esempio, veniva levigato a fondo e lucidato a fondo dopo la posa.

## Il Terrazzo negli Stati Uniti:

Non si può dire con precisione quando il Mosaico e il Terrazzo abbiano messo piede in America, ma si può azzardare l'idea che questo sia avvenuto nella seconda parte dell'ottocento, quando ebbe inizio l'emigrazione nelle Americhe della nostra gente, ma senza altro si sa di sicuro che verso la fine di detto secolo c'erano già dei nostri paesani che lavoravano in questo mestiere. Ma lo sviluppo iniziò con i granigli già incocciati in sacchi di juta dal peso di 50kg, divisi per colore e misura, che si potevano importare dall'Italia e macchine levigatrici a motore per la levigazione, avevano solo alla fine dell'ottocento o al principio del novecento con lo sviluppo massimo fra le due guerre mondiali. Alla fine dell'ottocento a New York, si trovano già i Mion coppieggiati già verso la fine dell'ottocento dal signor Luigi Mion (detto poi miciono), che insegnò i suoi stabilimenti anche in Cuba. Questi sono i tempi che il terrazzo prese piede rapidamente negli Stati Uniti, dove troviamo i De Marco a Omaha e a Detroit, i Zanetti a Battle Creek, Mion Costante ad Atlanta, i De Sisti a Buffalo, tanto per nominare alcuni.

Così tempo queste compagnie associate formarono la "National Mosaic & Terrazzo Association", associazione che ha servito molto bene l'industria, lomeno ai membri associati e a tutti gli architetti, informazioni di alto valore, portando il terrazzo ad un livello tecnico mai raggiunto fino ad allora. Essere ammessi quali membri a questa Associazione, era sinonimo di integrità, onestà e qualifica, con garanzia di avere le capacità per fare un ottimo lavoro.

## Il Terrazzo in Canada:

Il Mosaico e il Terrazzo in Canada, sono arrivati dagli Stati Uniti d'America. Ottawa, fino ad una decina di anni prima della sua scelta a Capitale della Confederazione del Canada, non aveva che costruzioni in legno, il più delle volte rivestite in mantelli, alle al massimo tre e raramente quattro piani (gli overcoker non erano ancora in uso). Queste costruzioni non richiedevano lavori in mosaico o terrazzo. Nel 1857, quando la regina Vittoria d'Inghilterra, prescelse Ottawa a Capitale della nuova Federazione, dando una decina di anni per prepararvi questa città di commercianti del legno dal nome di By Town, in onore del colonnello By che aveva fatto il canale con le chiuse per alzare le barche militari dall'fiume Ottawa al fiume Rideau e metterle in comunicazione con il L. Lorenzo per ragioni strategiche, Ottawa si preparava a diventare la capitale con la costruzione del Parlamento. La Basilica Cattolica di Ottawa è pure di questo tempo, come il Museo delle Scienze Naturali, e altre costruzioni.

Il materiale usato per la muratura interna ed esterna del Parlamento, è una pietra arenaria di ottimo effetto, proveniente dalle praterie canadesi. Per la pavimentazione venne usata una pietra (molto simile alla pietra di Meduno), fornita dalle cave di Mississauga nel Quebec, e dello stesso prese il nome appunto di "Mississauga". Oltre ad una varietà grigio blua, c'era una varietà verdestra ed una anche nera. Anche questa pietra, oltre ad avere il vantaggio di essere una pietra di provenienza locale, aveva una certa solidezza ed austera eleganza ed anche molto durata, essendo assai impermeabile a deperimenti dovuti al tempo, al clima e al traffico. I marmisti, provenienti dalla Scuola, furono utilizzati per l'impresa nella costruzione di Chiese in Inghilterra, qualche tempo prima. La Cava di Mississauga venne chiusa dopo alcuni decenni, ma non prima di avere fornito, guarda caso, molto grigio Mississauga all'Industria del terrazzo nel 1950 e '60, nei numeri 1 e 2. La Basilica di "Notre Dame", sede del Vescovo cattolico per la Diocesi di Ottawa, appena possibile, è costituita contemporaneamente al Parlamento, ha tutte le colonne in finta marmo, l'altare maggiore e tutte le pareti del presbiterio sono decorati di guglie e con un centinaio di statue lignee decorative in oro, lavorate fatto con maestria da scultori del Quebec, usando un'arte probabilmente portata dalla Francia dagli uni pionieri.

Del resto questa Basilica, non ha nulla dei nostri materiali, se non un pavimento in piastrelle fatte in tempi più recenti e così pure scale laterali in ferro con riempimento di terrazzo pure dei tempi moderni. Con questo non voglio dire che non volga la pena di fare una visita a questa Cattedrale, anzi! Per il "Museo di Scienze Naturali", costruito verso la fine dell'ottocento e aperto al pubblico agli inizi del novecento, si sono usati gli stessi materiali dell'appena terminato Parlamento, eccetto la pavimentazione dell'fontana principale, per la quale è stato usato un mosaico a cubetti di marmo, decorati nelle bordure e nel lavoro centrale che rappresenta un'alce (animale specifico della fauna canadese), in grandezza quasi naturale. Il resto del pavimento o in cubetti di marmo bianco.

Gli operai della compagnia del già nominato Luigi Mion di New York, prepararono le bordure, l'alce e tutto il resto incollati al rovescio su carta, un gruppetto di specialisti nel 1906 vennero dallo stesso New York ad Ottawa (forse qui non vi era gente qualificata), per la posa

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# Community Events

...Continua da pagina 10

sul posto. Ed era una nota ormai storica su questo mosaico, o meglio, su l'afce. Negli anni intorno al 1950, dopo aver ricevuto delle telefonate da parte di gente scandalizzata per quel poco che l'animale lasciava intravedere di essere un... maschio, i curatori del Museo pensavano di coprire tutto il mosaico con un tappeto rosso. Perfettamente, questo tappeto, è stato levato verso il 1990, ripristinando poi il mosaico al suo originale splendore, apparentemente senza più scandalizzare nessuno!

Un mosaico di un certo valore artistico, anche se di concezione un po' moderna, è quello per il soffitto nell'entrata del già Metropolitan Life Bldg, che si trova quasi di fronte al "West Block" del Parlamento, e che porta la data del 1927. È stato eseguito da una compagnia di New York, come mostra una scritta, in mosaico, in un angolo del lavoro stesso. Ma riammori al "Tessaz in Canada". Verso il 1925, l'appalto per la posa dei pavimenti, zoccoli e scale in Tessaz per il nuovo "Civic Hospital" di Ottawa, fu vinto dalla "Italian Mosaic & Marble Co.", con sede a Buffalo, N.Y., dai fratelli De Spin. In seguito, con gli eventi di Mussolini in Italia, il nome di "Italian" non era più ben accetto, il nome di detta compagnia venne cambiato in "De Spin Mosaic & Marble Co.".

I fratelli De Spin formarono una prima filiale a Toronto ed in seguito al contesto del Ospedale Civile del 1925, uno ad Ottawa, lasciando poi un manager a controllarla. Enrico De Spin stabilì una compagnia a Montreal, ed in seguito una a Quebec City diretta dal cognato di Enrico, Signor Cava, il quale ne divenne il principale cambiando il nome in "Cava Mosaic & Marble Co.". La filiale di Ottawa nel 1940 venne gestita da Arnello Durie, diventandone il titolare nel 1948, cambiando il nome in "Duse Mosaic & Marble Co.". Con questa esposizione non è mia intenzione fare una lista di compagnie nelle varie città americane e canadesi, ma tra esse, in grandi linee, l'espansione del tessaz nel tempo, come già detto al principio. Per raggiungere una nota, anche in Canada la proliferazione delle ditte più o meno specializzate in Tessaz e Piastra (Tiles), con più o meno cognizione di Mosaico e Marmo, si moltiplicarono, specialmente con l'influsso dell'immigrazione dall'Italia in Canada, nelsubito dopo guerra, con conseguenze non sempre buone per l'industria.

Ben presto pure in Canada è stata fondata una Associazione simile alla americana, che prese il nome di "Tessaz, Tile and Marble Association of Canada", che ha dato credito all'industria del "Tessaz, Marmo e Piastra" attraverso i soci membri. Inoltre ha fornito, attingendo dall'esperienza americana, tutti gli uffici di architetti, costruttori maggiori e uffici governativi interessati, con informazioni altamente tecniche, fornendo pure una lista delle ditte associate, con garanzia di serietà e cognizione tecnica del mestiere. L'uso del tessaz in Nord America e Canada, perlomeno a quello già detto per l'Europa, ha avuto un forte incremento di produttività, con l'avvento delle macchine levigatrici, soprattutto fra le due guerre mondiali. Queste levigatrici sono andate via via evolvendosi dal motore a benzina al motore elettrico, da un disco a quattro e più dischi, portando la produzione dell'levigato da quattro metri quadrati al giorno al tempo dello "oro" a mano, ai cento metri quadrati e più per macchina al giorno!

Non parliamo poi del sistema di posa, sia negli Stati Uniti che in Canada, dove la produzione giornaliera si confina a decine di centimetri di metri quadrati al giorno, con un gruppo di cinque sei operai. L'espansione massima del Tessaz quale sistema di pavimentazione nel Nord America, è avvenuta senz'altro dopo l'ultima guerra mondiale. Qui in Canada, ad esempio, con le costruzioni dei grandi magazzini (shopping centres), di scuole sia elementari che superiori, ospedali uffici pubblici, e via di seguito, l'uso del Tessaz si può misurare in chilometri quadrati! Piuttosto, la qualità del prodotto finito, non sempre ha dato lustro all'industria del Tessaz e poche compagnie hanno cercato di mantenere un alto livello qualitativo, oltre che quantitativo...

Quando si parla di Tessaz a chilometri quadrati, certamente non si parla più di un Tessaz con bordure elaborate e fioriti e centri sulla decorazione a mosaico, ma si parla di un'estensione monocolor, (come quasi dire monotonocolor), fatta più per praticità e basso costo (e scopo degli operai e dei datori di lavoro stessa) che altro!

## Il tramonto del Tessaz:

Da quanto capito sopra, ho cercato di fare una concisa presentazione del Tessaz, dal suo inizio, al suo massimo splendore e, dopo essere stati gli esportatori di questo tipo di pavimentazione per tutto il mondo, dobbiamo ora constatare il suo tramonto. Variate ragioni hanno portato il Tessaz al suo massimo splendore e varie ragioni lo hanno portato ora al tramonto. La prima in assoluto, il suo peso, che è di circa 2.1/2 quintali al metro quadrato per quattro cm. di spessore, che include il sottobordo di sabbia e cemento e la superficie di graniglia di marmo e cemento, peso che le costruzioni moderne non possono più giustificare. Poi c'è da considerare il tempo richiesto per il lavoro finito, non solo per l'indurimento del cemento, ma tra la posa della soletta preliminare, la posa del Tessaz vero e proprio, la levigatura e succia e la levigatura finale, comporta non meno di due settimane di lavoro.

È vero che ci sono dei prodotti che permettono di gettare il tessaz direttamente sul cemento armato, ma anche questi comportano altri problemi. Ultimo problema per il Tessaz, è che non si trova più la mano d'opera qualificata per farlo! Non si può dare la colpa ad alcuno per questo, perché il lavoro del Tessaz è un lavoro duro e non sempre remunerato adeguatamente. Non per colpa delle Compagnie, necessariamente, ma dei prezzi bassi al massimo per poter prendere un lavoro e sopravvivere.

Con questo non voglio dire che le Compagnie stesse abbiano ammazzato il Tessaz, ma certamente hanno dato il colpo di grazia quando era già molto fondo! Purtroppo però, si può ben dire forte, il Tessaz è stato rimpiazzato da tappeti (moquette), con tutti suoi problemi, non ultimo quello dello "chewing gum"; è stato rimpiazzato da piazzette di vinile, ma prego ancora da marmette con resina epoxidica, il più delle volte importate dall'Italia pre-finita, ovvero già lucidate. La posa avviene con materiali adesivi direttamente sul cemento strutturale di fondo, non sempre finito adeguatamente. Dopo una rapida stuccatura delle giunte fra marmette, il pavimento viene lasciato così, senza levigatura alcuna sul posto, alla mercé del traffico del sale e del freddo canadese, specialmente vicino alle entrate, ma pure con l'effetto del sale nel resto del pavimento! Il risultato lo lascio alla vostra immaginazione! Con questo credo

## Loren Cries at Rome Ceremony

Arcadian Press



ROME (AP)—Sophia Loren broke into tears at an awards ceremony Saturday as she recalled her climb to fame from the gritty Neapolitan suburb where she grew up.

"Lady Luck was generous to me from Pozzuoli, and I thank her together with all of you," Loren said, her voice breaking with sobs, at the award ceremony in Rome's City Hall.

The city honored Loren with the Campidoglio (City Hall) prize, describing her as "not only an icon of cinema, but a synonym of Italy, of that Italy made up of elegance, passion, genius, humanity and beauty."

Loren, 73, wore a low-cut, tailored outfit to the ceremony in the Italian capital, which is hosting an international film festival.

The actress also cited two years ago when she received honorary citizenship from Pozzuoli, a seaside town outside Naples where as a youth she would watch Hollywood movies in the town's single theater.



AMBASCIATA D'ITALIA

OTTAWA

## COMUNICATO STAMPA

L'Ambasciata d'Italia ad Ottawa ha seguito fin dall'inizio manutenzione e con preoccupazione l'episodio di cui è rimasta vittima a Quebec City il cittadino italiano Claudio Castagnetta. Già le primissime notizie al riguardo facevano pensare ad una sequenza di circostanze non chiara e probabilmente a responsabilità per quanto attiene alla valutazione delle condizioni fisiche del Castagnetta fin dal momento dell'arresto e del suo comportamento durante la detenzione.

Per tali ragioni, mentre il Consolato Generale a Montréal e il Consolato onorario a Québec prestavano assistenza sul posto ai familiari del connazionale deceduto giorni nel frattempo d'Italia, l'Ambasciata aveva subito fatto un passaggio il Governo del Québec manifestandogli la necessità che l'inchiesta sull'episodio si sviluppasse nei tempi più brevi. Contatti al più alto livello provinciale hanno avuto luogo nei giorni successivi.

Le varie testimonianze riprese più recentemente dalla stampa in merito al comportamento del Castagnetta in carcere e da ultimo sulle circostanze dell'arresto la notte del 18 settembre u.s. confermano l'esigenza che le indagini in corso, preliminari ad una eventuale inchiesta pubblica, siano concluse con urgenza.

L'Ambasciata ha piena fiducia nell'operato delle Autorità del Québec. Non può tuttavia non esprimere il forte auspicio che i tempi delle indagini così, pur quanto tecnicamente giustificati, siano accorciati al massimo per consentire alla famiglia del Castagnetta e all'opinione pubblica sia italiana che canadese di valutare l'accaduto senza le ombre che oggi ancora lo accompagnano.

## ADDIO MAESTRO

di Luciano Pradal

Sabato 6 ottobre.

Sono già passati 30 giorni dalla scomparsa del grande tenore Luciano Pavarotti, in quel giorno Modena era piena di manifesti con sole due parole "Addio Maestro". Luciano Pavarotti ha portato l'Opera Lirica a dieci livelli che forse nessun'altra persona avrà mai portato, per questo tutto il mondo l'ha conosciuto e gli ha reso il dovuto omaggio. L'Associazione Emiliani di Ottawa ha voluto rendere onore a questa grande personalità con una Messa in Memoriam celebrata alla chiesa S. Antonio sabato 6 ottobre.

Il Vangelo parla della Regie, il celebrante ha raccontato una storia vera di una maestra che credeva nella capacità di una sua studente allora bambina e suo malgrado, sfavoriva. La maestra l'ha incoraggiata, ha avuto fiducia in lei, la bambina e' poi diventata una grande maestra specializzata nell'insegnamento ai bambini.

Luciano Pavarotti credeva nelle capacità dei giovani che si lanciavano nella non facile carriera di cantanti d'Opera, non solo credeva in loro ma li aiutava a conseguire il loro traguardi, anche per questo, Luciano Pavarotti era considerato "Maestro". L'Associazione Emiliani di Ottawa ha voluto rendere omaggio al Grande Maestro, con una Messa in sua memoria, una Messa non ancora più solenne poiché animata dai cari di giovani e bravissimi cantanti di musica. Erika, Gerard Souzanne, Nadia Villani e Adam Miceli, erano accompagnati all'organo da Michael Horstener.

L'Associazione Emiliani ha anche messo a disposizione de "l'aggiornamento" un album per raccogliere le firme di quelle persone che desideravano partecipare al grande rito. Sembrò a questo gesto dalla parte dell'Associazione Emiliani molti fedeli hanno partecipato alla S. Messa in Memoriam di Luciano Pavarotti.

[www.ilpostinocanada.com](http://www.ilpostinocanada.com)

## Lifestyles

# The Italian Political Scene 2007

By Marcello D'Amico Labour Activist, Artist, Writer, Musician, Actor



To describe Italy's political situation at present is not an easy assignment and one has to have an insight into its intricacies and mechanisms. But one word describes it best: Instability and yearly change of government. It may sound like a page from a sci-fi book, but facts and statistics confirm this statement. And can also safely say that the Italian political scene can be compared to a work of art, almost a living legend. The first government of unified Italy was elected on 23 March 1861, and count Camillo Benso di Cavour was its first premier. At the time Italy was a monarchy ruled by the Savoy family, but on 2 June 1946, after the abdication of King Emmanuel II, the Italian people went to the poll to choose between the Monarchy and a Republic. The result was unexpected as 50% decided to change the course of Italian history opting for a Republic. On the following June 28th, Enrico De Nicola was elected by parliament as first president of the Italian Republic. All this took place 2000 years and only a few metres away, from where the senators of the last Roman Republic met. The Republic had finally returned to the Roman Hills. At the same time elections were held to elect a new government and for the first time Italian women were allowed to vote.

Italy was still recovering from 22 years of Benito Mussolini's fascist regime. As expected, the Christian Democrats held a majority over the left-wing alliance of communists, lead by Togliatti, the most influential left wing politician outside Russia, and socialists. Aldo De Gasperi was elected the first Head of Government of the new Italy. One must consider that after Camillo Benso's first government, Italy had 58 different governments in the following 61 years, most of them formed by the same politicians. One would assume that after the Second World War things would change in Italy, at least in the political sense, but then it would have meant breaking away from tradition. So in fifty years from 1946 to 1996, we saw another 50 different governments, incredible, but true. However, very little new blood was infused and party leaders survived by changing alliances and portfolios. In fact, this has been Italy's only political stability: same faces with new party names and change of ideology mid-stream. As an example, Giulio Andreotti was appointed by the Christian Democrats Minister for Defence in 1959. In 1972 he became Head of Government and held Italy's highest political post on and off seven times till 1992. One would assume that under normal circumstances this would be a long tenure, but we are talking about the Italian political scene. A few months ago the same politician, now a life senator, saved the present government with his vote at the tender age of 87, and next year he may even be presented with a gold watch celebrating 50 years of service to Italian politics. And this brings to the surface another anomaly. The Italian parliament is constituted by 630 deputies (House of Deputies) and 315 senators (Senate), including 18 members elected by Italians living abroad and 710 senators nominated by the President of the Republic. In 2005, the Italian Parliament made another constitutional change to the voting system by adopting the Proportional Electoral Law, and the Majority Plus government, goes to the Coalition charting a plurality. Confusing? As Tim Shaw would say on midnight TV, "there is more".

For the Deputies this law applies at a national level, and for the senators at a regional level. To add to this complex system in 2005 Italians living abroad were given the right to elect their own representatives, 12 deputies and 6 senators. In fact, these 6 senators finished by having the balance of power. And it gets better. In 2001 when Silvio Berlusconi rose from political oblivion after a brief stint as premier in 1994, his party Forza Italia (Italy Forward) was allocated more seats than candidates fielded. The same politician, one of Italy's richest man and founder of the rightwing Forza Italia party, has now the distinction of being the only Italian leader to govern for five consecutive years, from 2001 to 2006. De Gasperi had been head of government from 13th July 1946 to 2nd August 1953, but with five different ones, and only one in his own right with the Christian Democrats, the other four with coalition contra partis. As an aside, while the USA can boast a real life actor as its past President, a wrestler and an Austrian born body builder actor, as Governor; but who else can proudly claim that a pomo star, Cicciolina, born in Hungary, was once elected to the Italian parliament. Her campaign slogan was to show in public her bare left breast to the delight of male voters!

What's today's political situation? On 29 April 2006 Italians went to the polls and the centre-left coalition lead by Romano Prodi, former President of the European Commission, was elected by the slenderest majority, and on 17 May the President of the Italian Republic gave Prodi the mandate to govern with his coalition. But it has not been plain sailing, and in 18 months the government has been on the brink of being toppled over a few times, as some deputies of the alliance have jumped ship. As mentioned above, Prodi has to thank the aging Andreotti for his survival. But one thing is certain: the present government will not run its full five years mandate.

It would be easy to describe the Italian electorate as gullible, but in the past 60 years, in spite of what was described as a financial boom in 60s and 70s, in real terms very little has been done to create a balanced society. At times politicians and governments seem intent to fight for their political survival instead of serving the people, as indicated by their theatrics and antics during their pre-election eloquent speeches. Italian politicians are great master with their verbal delivery.

In many ways Italians are victims of a system that cannot offer stability. "Bad governments are to be blamed" is the standard excuse, and this is a universal malady, but in fact we are talking about the same politicians! In 2001 when Berlusconi was booted out the Italian people had hoped that the new left wing coalition, decimated in 2001 and rebuilt in a short time, would be the answer to all their woes. But after the first Finanziaria (Budget) was presented in parliament, it was obvious that in reality nothing had changed. Again, politicians switched alliances and ideology and the government just managed to survive, at times by a single vote, and it still does with Berlusconi's seven hanging over his head. What a way to govern a nation when political survival is the priority. Following the last elections, Romano Prodi, representing the independent Olive (Independent Olive), is leader of the Government with Massimo D'Alema and Francesco Rutelli as his two deputies. Nine par-

fies are represented in the ministry. There are 26 ministers, 10 deputy ministers and 66 undersecretaries. Parliament is divided into Coalitions, Major Parties, Minor Parties, Micro Parties and Regional Parties. Parties are then grouped in coalitions.

The two major coalitions are: House of Freedom Casa della Libertà and Unione- Union; 7 Major Parties, including Forza Italia-Italy Forward, with at least 30 members each and 4% of the votes; 11 Minor Parties with at least 5 members each and from 0.5% to 4% of the votes; 16 Micro Parties with less than 5 members each and less than 0.5% of the votes; Regional, 18 members. I have omitted, on purpose, mentioning the extremely complex election of Parliamentarians representing Italians living abroad, as it deserves its own special chapter. And now for the pièce de résistance. These are some of the names of the parties and alliances that govern Italy: Ulivo (Olive) lead by premier Romano Prodi, Forza Italia (Italy forward), Alleanza Nazionale (National Alliance), Rifondazione Comunista (Communist Foundation), UDC, Lega Nord (Northern League), Sinistra Democratica (Democratic Left), Italia dei Valori (Italy of Values), Rosa nel Pugno (Rose in the Fist), Comunisti Italiani (Italian Communists), Verdi Italiani (Italian Greens), Popolare UDEUR (Popular UDEUR), DCA Nuovo PSI (New DCA PSI), Gruppo Misti (Mixed Group), Verdi comunisti italiani (Italian Green Communists), Per l'Autonomia (For Freedoms). We won't mention all other minor parties: at the last elections 74 parties fielded candidates for both houses!

The new voting system adopted in 2005 is supposed to encourage coalitions as it would be impossible for a single party or even smaller alliances to form a government. But this system can also have some strange results. The present Minister of Justice Clemente Mastella was elected to the senate in two different seats, so he opted to represent the Calabria Region. Another candidate of his party was awarded the seat in the Campania Region. Female representation in the Italian parliament is certainly not great, in fact with 11%, it is in 62nd place in the world. Australia is in 17th place with approx 20%. Scandinavian women are by far the best represented in their parliaments. Swedish women hold 43% of the seats, followed by Finnish with 37%, Dutch and Norwegians with 36%, and Icelanders with 35%.

So what's the future of Italian politics? One can safely say that the tradition started in 1861 will continue for a long time, in fact it's almost assured an eternal life. Governments will be formed with some strange coalitions and/or alliances and the Italian people will continue to live with an electoral system can only deliver political instability. Italians, politicians included have learned the art of living, of progressing and surviving, but at the same time will not stop in their quest to preserve their dignity, fight for their human rights and live in peace. All considered Italy is still one of the world's wonders and a paradise for tourists. Natural beauty and its people are Italy's treasures as they have been over the millennia. And we should remember that Italy was first unified by Garibaldi in 1860 and in its present state in 1946. In fact, notwithstanding its glorious past, Italy as a single state is only 60 years old.

## The Italian Notebook

A daily dose of Italian culture straight to your email

### Antipasti

I recently discovered this wonderful website all about the little things I miss about Italy, and now I can bring back the memories daily straight to my mailbox. A free, subscriber-based, content-driven daily email that caters and explores the beauty, cuisine, taste, and memories of Italy to the reader via news and related photos/artwork. The emails are short, take all of 10 seconds to read, and are about just one topic (thing place/person/building/words/dish/etc). Therefore to give those who love Italy but don't live here the chance to experience it, to transport them to Italy five times a week. On the right is an example of what you should expect from this site. So go sign up and experience la dolce vita!

[www.italiannotebook.com](http://www.italiannotebook.com)

*Antipasti - Antipasto is a word (not to be confused with pasta which simply means "dough"). It therefore follows that an antipasto ... is the meal that Italians eat right before a meal? Not too far from the truth, actually! Technically, only *antipasti* are appetizers, but the variety (and occasionally quantity) is enormous and will please any kind of hungry gourmet - vegitarian or meat lover - looking to "prep" the stomach for the meal to follow.*

*Usually in the fancier restaurants the waiter will bring a plate with tasty tidbits such as *farro allo spinaci* (spinach baked in farro dough), sliced peperoni and *zucchini fritti* (pronounced "frit-ti-peperoni", not "frit-ti-zucchini"), wild boar sausage, and *bresaola* (thinly sliced cured beef) with arugula. The antipasto buffet like the one above set up in a garden of Veneto by chef Antoni (below) is a delight to behold as well as to devour. The standard loaded plates such as this one taken from an open-air antipasto buffet in a local restaurant will often include *bruschetta*, *prosciutto*, *dagoll (beans)*, *salsiccia* (deep-fried rice balls), *farinata*, *zucchini fritta* (deep-fried eggplant), *roasted peppers*, and *parmesano*. Buon appetito!*

- contributed by Mary Jane (see bio in Contributor's section), author and founder of Elegant Italian, [www.elegantitalian.com](http://www.elegantitalian.com) a window on life in central Italy.

# Entertainment & Food

## My Philosophy of Acting

By Imano Kirzati



It all began modestly on stage at St. Anthony's School in Ottawa. I was in grade two and played the part of a spring flower, aging from a seed into full bloom. I was hooked! I have been acting during a great deal of my life. I have gone on to work professionally as an actor with credits in theatre, film, TV and commercials.

In theatre I have had supporting roles like Mr. Paravicini in "The Mousetrap" to lead roles such as Mr. Rich in "Calibration." My film roles include parts in "Boss of Bosses" and "Getting Goff." I have had principal roles in TV series such as "Degrassi" and "Doc." I have done over forty TV commercials. The Kellogg's Special K commercial I did won "Best Commercial" for that year. I traveled to Romania to do a Miracle Whip commercial in which I played an old-time prisoner. Basically, I have played a wide variety of roles ranging from menacing mobster to gentle teddy bear.

Over the years, I have developed my own philosophy of acting that I put into practice when performing my craft. My philosophy is that true high level acting requires intense concentration, emotional creation and control, extensive preparation, self-knowledge and a deep understanding of human psychology.

It really irritates me when actors say that acting is not "brain surgery." It actually is a metaphorical form of "brain surgery." In order to play a role you must control and create certain mental processes in your brain. This is where the intense mental concentration comes in. Some occupations allow for a considerable amount of extraneous thoughts to enter the mind while performing the job. A guy collecting eggs in a hen house can afford to fantasize about his voluptuous wife while still performing his job efficiently. An excellent actor will not allow any "wray" thoughts to enter his mind during a scene. An actor must have an expressive face that reveals what thought is in his head. Therefore the thinking process must be controlled to reflect the appropriate facial expression. To further complicate things, sometimes the thought that is required in the mind must be different than the expression on the face. When playing Hamlet it is best not to think of the fact that you have to buy toilet paper on the way home! Intense concentration is easy to describe but difficult to achieve. This is especially true if you are not able to concentrate enough to do something like a crossword puzzle on the bus.

Most people have a hard time with emotional creation and control in their daily lives. Some people cannot even cry at the saddest occasions because they lack emotional expressiveness. Our modern day "road rage" phenomena proves that some people have definite emotional control issues! An actor has to create emotions and control emotions under "artificial" circumstances. You have to actually cry in a scene because your pet goldfish died. This is achieved in one of two ways. You can use "emotional recall" to access the emotion. Simply put, you "recall" the same emotion that you felt sometime in your past and use that as a basis for the present required emotion. You could use your intense concentration and simply "believe" in the circumstances of the present scene so that you use a mental trigger to access the required emotion. Again, it seems deceptively simple but is quite complex. Once the emotion is accessed it must be controlled in relation to the character's level of expressiveness. Some characters would only shed a few tears in a sad scene while others might "cry you a river." There are many shades to the anger emotion. You might have to "rant and rave" or you might have to quietly seethe with intense anger.

Extensive preparation is required in your work as an actor. You cannot go on stage, a film set or an audition room unprepared. First and foremost, you must memorize your lines. I like to tape my lines when I am preparing for a large role or big audition. I do not stop studying them until they are locked in to my memory banks. You should also practice saying your lines out loud

to stimulate the performance in addition to situation. Basically, you cannot do a proper job of performing your role until you are free of looking at the script and your lines come out sounding natural. It also helps if you get a scene partner and you go over your part. This way you can learn to pick up on your cue lines. It is also necessary to do some work with the script in order to understand the character you are playing. A character analysis can be done by studying evidence from the script. When playing a character from real life either living or passed on, it is essential to do extensive research on the character. Read all you can about the character and study photographs of and film on the character. Only a well prepared actor can give a dynamic performance!

Self-knowledge is very important when portraying different fictional characters. You must first know yourself before you can play other characters. Analyze how the character you are playing is both similar to your own character and how the character is different from your own character. It is vitally important to separate the fictional character from your own character. You should not be afraid to play a bad guy simply because you are not a bad guy. Do not look on it as a reflection of your own personality. After all, you must remember that you are being paid to pretend that you are a character not at all like yourself. Learn to differentiate between fact and fiction!

An intensely deep understanding of human psychology is required to be a top level actor. How many people can say that they truly understand human psychology based on their interactions with other people in their daily lives? It is not as simple as looking at what people do and say when trying to understand their characters. A friend may call you a "moron" and it may actually mean many different things. It may be used to express anger at you and is meant to be derogatory. It could also be used in a joking way to show affection. The problem is that in both cases, the word "moron" can be spoken in the same type of verbal delivery. In reality, you can ask for clarification by asking, "Why did you say that?" This might clue you in if you get a straight answer. Quite often you may get a response like, "I don't know why I said that." An actor's job is to clarify this type of "psychological confusion" in relation to fictional characters. Fictional characters do reveal things about themselves by what they say and do. We may also learn about them by what other characters have to say about them. Add to that, the way in which a character says something and you get a whole lot of figuring out to do. Fictional characters are like real life characters in that they do not always say what they mean or mean what they say. The true thoughts behind the words must be uncovered. This certainly requires a deep understanding of human psychology.

Strong optimism is also required to be an actor. You have to be emotionally and physically strong enough to handle the highs and lows that come with the profession. A professional fisherman always goes out with the thought of catching a fish. He may not catch a fish every time but he still goes out with an optimistic attitude. A professional actor has to have the same attitude. It takes emotional stamina to keep casting yourself into the river of life!

In conclusion, my philosophy of acting is that acting requires considerable personal resources from the actor. It is a highly mental exercise that must be performed for public viewing. The more interesting you are as a person reflects how interesting you will be as an actor. A great actor like Marlon Brando was also a very complex and interesting man. All your rich life experiences combined make for a fascinating actor. It is vitally important to study at a professional level acting school. In addition to that you must constantly continue to grow as a person. You must continue a life long study in "The School of Life."

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## Announcements

# CAYFO TURNS 10

by Max Keeping, Honorary Chair of CAYFO



On one of those perfect spring days in Ottawa, in 1997, a handful of young people and concerned community leaders, without the internet, email or cell phones, traded ideas and visions, and created what is now known as Child & Youth Friendly Ottawa. Armed mostly with hopes and dreams they set upon their journey to make Ottawa a better place for its children and youth.

A decade is a significant passage of time in the life of any non-profit organization. During the ten years since Mel O'Neil and I founded Child & Youth Friendly Ottawa, it has matured and created a profusion of programs and initiatives that have made a tremendous difference in the lives of young people in our community.

Child & Youth Friendly Ottawa envisions a community where all children and youth are engaged, involved, informed, inspired and celebrated. This vision is based on the firm belief that young people have capacities, gifts and strengths and that if given the opportunity to participate in projects and activities within our community, we all benefit. We believe we've influenced the Ontario government and the civic government to consider the impact on children & youth when they make decisions. Some private industry have also followed our call to recognize that kids are not just as tomorrow's leaders - they're here today, and need to be partners now!

Child & Youth Friendly Ottawa has been providing youth across Ottawa with the resources, training and support to build the skills, confidence and strategies necessary to be successful and build a better community for themselves, their peers and for the rest of us since 1997. Ottawa is now the template for communities across the country to involve and empower youth.

That's building a better Nation!

At this important time in CAYFO's history, we are poised to make an even greater impact on the lives of children and young people. On behalf of the Board and CAYFO staff I thank you for your support and for all, we look forward to continuing to work with you.

### PAUL DEWAR

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Ottawa Centre

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Tel/Tél.: (613) 946-8682  
[dewarp@parl.gc.ca](mailto:dewarp@parl.gc.ca)

[www.pauldewar.ca](http://www.pauldewar.ca)

# Italian Week Elections

Thursday November 29th 2007

7:00pm

Villa Marconi

1026 Baseline Rd.

For more information  
call 613-224-4388

# Trio Loyko

The Stars of St. Petersburg (Russia) Concert Series

The legendary Russian Gypsy ensemble Loyko will perform in Ottawa on Sunday, November 25, at 7:30 PM at Dominion-Chalmers United Church, 355 Cooper Street.

Advanced tickets - adults \$35, seniors and students \$25. Available at: TicketWeb online [www.ticketweb.ca](http://www.ticketweb.ca) or by phone: 888-222-0008; Ticket outlets: Ottawa Folklore Centre (tel: 613-730-2887), CD Warehouse (3 locations), Loading Note, Russian deli stores: Stolichni, Lekomka.

Tickets at the door (30 minutes before the show): adults \$40, seniors and students \$30. For information and reservations call 613-731-0476 or e-mail [info@mkdevents.com](mailto:info@mkdevents.com) or visit [www.mkdevents.com](http://www.mkdevents.com)

Trio Loyko - two fiddles and a guitar - was established by Sergey Erdenko in 1990 in London. Impressed by the Irish thriving traditional and contemporary music scene, they moved to Ireland and took Dublin by storm. Trio Loyko was based in Dublin for ten years until Sergey's return home to Russia in 2000.

With sharp-witted irony, Loyko interpret the musical treasures of Eastern Europe which have developed into an independent genre in Russia and have influenced Russian music. In addition to the instrumental music, Loyko demonstrates the vocal tradition of Russian Gypsies. Their repertoire ranges from old and modern Gypsy songs, ballads and romances to new compositions. The combination of two fiddles and guitar, together with three-part vocals, gives their music great depth and flexibility.

The new variant of Loyko, in which Sergey Erdenko, Vladimir Bessonov and Michael Satchev take part, is a result of a long evolution of the band. For over almost 18 years of Loyko existence each member of the group helped to develop the unique style of Loyko. Loyko played and recorded with such musicians as Gidon Kremer, Andrei Heldor, Yehudi Menuhin, Stephane Grappelli, Ravi Shankar, Ron Wood, Calman Baloc, Mstislav Rostropovich, etc. They performed on the most prestigious stages of Europe and America and appeared on various radio and TV shows all over Europe and were heard across Canada on CBC Radio Two in Roots & Wings world roots music program. Loyko released 10 solo albums and the DVD album "Return of Gypsy Maestro", which was recorded live on the stage of Tchaikovsky concert hall in Moscow.

Loyko belong to the elite of the world instrumental music. Loyko website: [www.loyko.net](http://www.loyko.net). Contact Adele Grossman Mirad Event Productions Phone: 613-731-0476 [info@mkdevents.com](mailto:info@mkdevents.com) [www.mkdevents.com](http://www.mkdevents.com)

# La Nostra Voce

# Chin 97.9 fm

#### Notice to the Community

Applications for the Giovanni Caboto Awards of Carleton University and of the University of Ottawa

This is to remind and encourage students at Carleton University and at the University of Ottawa who may qualify for these awards to apply as soon as possible. Applications will be accepted through to the 30th of November 2007. This is the ninth time that these prizes are being awarded and their value will vary from \$700.00 to \$1,250.00 each depending on the amount of endowed funds permit.

The prizes are to be awarded to students of subjects related to the study of Italian And Italian-Canadian language, culture, history and studies in related subject areas.

At Carleton University, students of Italian origin, irrespective of courses of study, can apply for these awards. At the University of Ottawa, special consideration will be given to students of Italian origin and students who have been active in the Italian community.

These awards are awarded annually, at both universities, and are restricted to full-time undergraduate students, who are in good academic standing and in need of financial assistance. Students who meet these criteria are encouraged to apply at their respective student awards/assistance offices.

To apply - contact:

At Carleton University Financial Aid and Awards, Room 202, Robertson Hall (528-3600)  
At the University of Ottawa The Undergraduate Awards Office, 85 University, Room 23 (613-562-5734 or 613-562-5819)

General Information can be obtained by phoning Joseph Macaluso, at 745-8916 or Nella Bertoldi 726-0620.

These awards were established by the National Congress of Italian Canadians Foundation (Eastern Ontario and Outaouais District) and by The National Congress of Italian Canadians (National Capital District), we hope other associations and individuals will contribute to these funds, making this endeavour more effective in meeting its objectives. The objectives are to encourage Italian Canadians to pursue higher education and to encourage more widespread study of Italian and of Italian-Canadian culture and related studies. In closing, we urge students to apply as soon as possible.

# Community Calendar/Eventi Comunitari

## Notice of Public Meetings for School Accommodation Reviews

On September 26, 2007, the Ottawa Catholic School Board approved the initiation of two School Accommodation Reviews:

- for a Review Area comprised of St. Anthony, St. George, and St. Mary (Ottawa) Schools:  
Public Meeting # 1 will be held Monday, November 26, 2007 at 7:00 pm at Notre Dame High School, 710 Broadview Avenue, Ottawa.
- for a Review Area comprised of St. Thomas and Our Lady of Peace Schools:  
Public Meeting # 1 will be held Monday, December 3, 2007 at 7:00 pm at Our Lady of Peace School, 3877 Richmond Road, Nepean.

The public is invited to attend the Public Meetings of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC). Four public meetings are to be held for each Accommodation Review between November 2007 and March 2008.

For further general information on the policy and process, please visit the "School Accommodation Review" link on the Board's website at [www.ottawacatholicschools.ca](http://www.ottawacatholicschools.ca).

Background information pertaining to the Public Meetings will be posted to our website, one week prior to the meetings.



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NATIONAL CONGRESS OF ITALIAN-CANADIANS  
CONGRESSO NAZIONALE DEGLI ITALO-CANADESI

CONGRÈS NATIONAL DES ITALO-CANADIENS

October 15, 2007

### Via Facsimile (1-416-646-0017) & Mail

The Honourable Jacques P. Dupuis  
Minister of Justice / Ministre de la Justice  
Émilie-Lise Philpott-Pigeon  
1200, route de l'Église  
9e étage  
Québec Québec  
G1V 4M3

Dear Hon. Jacques P. Dupuis,

RE: The Death of Claudio Castagnetti

I enclose a copy of your letter addressed to Mr. Antonio Sciarra, President of the National Congress of Italian-Canadians – Quebec Region.

The National Congress of Italian-Canadians (NCIC) is a nationwide umbrella organization whose objects are, inter alia, to promote, defend and safeguard the cause of the 1.3 million Canadians of Italian origin & descendants.

The circumstances surrounding the tragic death of Mr. Claudio Castagnetti has raised the concerns and sentiments of all Canadians from coast to coast in particular our Community across Canada.

Almost a month after Mr. Castagnetti's tragic death there are still many questions remaining no doubt that not only our Community requires their immediate answer especially the Castagnetti family.

Although it appears your position to allow the necessary time for the "Sûreté du Québec" and the Coroner to complete their respective investigations, nonetheless we call you to launch a full and independent public inquiry into all aspects of this matter including the role and responsibility of the police and provisions of medical attention.

It is vital that the full facts of this tragic event and the circumstances leading to Mr. Castagnetti's death are fully investigated and the findings made known to the public.

The Castagnetti family, our Community and all Canadians have a right to know.

We sincerely await your immediate response.

Yours very truly  
NATIONAL CONGRESS OF ITALIAN CANADIANS

DOMINIC CAMPIONE  
President

# IL POSTINO

VOL. 8 NO. 2

NOVEMBER 2007/NOVEMBRE 2007

\$2.00



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Bill Chisholm, Gary McDonald and friend



Tony Cuccaro with friends.



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Ralph Ucan



Lorne Kelly, Pat Santini and Larry Kelly



Village Reunion Committee Honours Caughnagh Contractors