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### IL POSTINO

# Messagio della chiesa di Sant' Antonio

### Message from St. Anthony's Church

Ufficio: Dal 1º settembre l'ufficio parrocchiale sarà chiuso il sabato e la domenica. In caso di emergenza telefonare al 236-2304.

*Gita alla Madonna Della Difesa*: Domenica 2 settembre gita alla Madonna della Difesa con messa in italiano. Visita al nuovo giardino a Montreal. Telefonare al 236-2304.

Scuola Sant'Antonio: La scuola inizierà il 4 settembre e le registrazioni il 27 agosto.

*Villa Marconi*: Banchetto per il 6° anniversario di Villa Marconi sabato 8 settembre 2001 alle ore 6:00pm. Per ulteriori informazioni telefonare al numero 726-6201.

*Messa di Guarigione*: Sabato 15 settembre alle ore 7:00pm una messa di guarigione sarà celebrata da padre Salvatore (sacerdote della chiesa Madonna di Pompei, Montreal) nella nostra chiesa. Tutti invitati.

*San Pellegrino*: Dal 28 settembre 2001 verra celebrata ogni venerdì novena e preghiera in onore a San Pellegrino dalle 5:00pm alle 6:00pm.

Gita al Santuario Di Beauvoir: Domenica 7 ottobre gita al santuario di Beauvoir con messa. Telefonare al 236-2304.

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- 1. 16, 23 e 30 ottobre + 6 e 13 novembre
- 2. 15, 22 e 29 gennaio + 5 e 12 febbraio 2002
- 3. 26 febbraio + 5, 12, 19 e 26 marzo 2002
- 4. 7, 14, 21 e 28 maggio + 4 giugno 2002

*Corso di Preparazione al Matrimonio (Fine Settimana)*: Venerdì 26 aprile dalle 6:30 alle 9:30 pm e sabato 27 sabato 27 aprile 2002 dalle 9:00 am alle 4:00 pm.

#### St. Rocco's Celebration:

Fr. Paul, Superior of the Servite Fathers and Parish Priest extends special thanks to all organizations parishioners and friends for having made this feast a great celebration.

In particular we send our thanks to the Ottawa Police Chief, the Deputy of the Ottawa Firefighters, the Roccomontepiano Association, Msgr. Renato Volante, Charge d'Affaires and Parish Choir under the direction of Damaso Colasante. *Festa di San Rocco*:

Padre Paolo, Parroco e superiore dei Padri Servi di Maria ed i padri della chiesa vogliono ringraziare tutti le organizzazioni, parrocchiani ed amici per avere reso la festa di San Rocco una celebrazione indimenticabile.

In particolare modo vi vogliono ringraziare il Capo della Polizia di Ottawa. Il Capo dei Vigili del Fuoco, l'Associazione di Roccomontepiano, Monsignore Renato Volante, Charge d'Affaires e la Corale Parrocchiale sulla direzione di Damaso Colasante per aver collaborato a rendere questa festa un grande successo.



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The Ottawa Firefighters Band poses in front of St. Anthony's Church for photos before the feast of Saint Rocco. A few days after they were off to perform for audiences in Roccomontepiano, Italy.

Il Postino is looking for writers...

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PHOTO: LAURA D'AMELIO

#### POSTINO IL

### Ceremony at the Canadian "canadese" al cemetery of Ortona

#### A very moving and suggestive ceremony took place on Friday, August 17 at the Canadian cemetery of San Donato, a village near Ortona, Italy. The Ottawa Firefighters Band, in Italy on the invitation of the town of Roccamontepiano, paid tribute to the 1494 Canadian soldiers who lost their life in December 1943 during the battle for the liberation of Ortona.

Significantly, the number of fallen liberators is the same as the number of the citizens of Ortona killed for the same cause in the same battle. 350 Canadian civilians who were in the Abruzzo region on private visits also attended the event.

Participating in the ceremony together with the Ottawa Firefighters' Band were representatives of Italian veteran associations, the Canadian military attaché to Italy, Colonel Jamer, the mayors of Ortona, Pretoro, Guardiagrele and Roccamontepiano, the president of the Rapinese Association of Ottawa, Lorenzo Micucci, the president of the Italian Cultural Centre of Eastern Ontario, Gino Buffone, the president of the Italian Canadian Community Centre of the National Capital Region, Angelo Filoso, Ortona's city councillor responsible for culture, Remo Di Martino, the captain of the carabinieri, Rodolfo Sansovito, the coordinator in Ortona, Dr. Angela Arnone.

After the ceremony, the participants proceeded on to Ortona, to the Porta Cardari section, from where the Firefighters' Band and the Ortona band marched along Corso Vittorio Emanuele to render homage to the monument in honour of the fallen Canadian soldiers erected a few years back in Piazza Plebiscito.

In courtyard of the Sant'Anna complex, the bands took turns in performing their music. When the commemoration was over, the guests went on to view an exhibition entitled "Awaiting the Museum", a collection of iconographic and bibliographic documents bearing witness to the most relevant events that occurred in the Ortona area during WWII.

# Cerimonia cimitero di Ortona

Suggestiva e commovente cerimonia, quella svoltasi venerdì il 17 agosto al cimitero canadese di località San Donato di Ortona.

La banda dei Vigili del fuoco di Ottawa, ospite del comune di Roccamontepiano, ha reso omaggio ai 1944 giovani canadesi immolatisi nel dicembre 1943 per la liberazione di Ortona.

Significativo è che il numero dei caduti da parte dei liberatori eguagli quello dei cittadini ortonesi caduti durante la stessa battaglia. Nel sacrario di San Donato, per la circostanza, oltre ai componenti della banda di Ottawa, sono convenuti oltre 350 cittadini canadesi presenti a vario titolo in questo periodo in Abruzzo.

Alla cerimonia hanno partecipato i rappresentativi delle varie associazioni combattentistiche e d'arma, l'addetto militare canadese in Italia, Colonel Jamer, i sindaci di Ortona, Pretoro, Guardiagrele e Roccamontepiano, il presidente dell' Associazione Rapinese di Ottawa Lorenzo Micucci, il presidente della Italian Cultural Centre of Eastern Ontario Gino Buffone, il Presidente dell'Italian Canadian Community Centre of the National Capital Region Inc.Angelo Filoso, l'assessore ortonese alla cultura Remo Di Martino, il capitano dei carabinieri Rodolfo Santovito, la coordinatrice in Ortona dottoressa Angela Arnone..

I partecipanti alla cerimonia si sono poi recati in Ortona, a Porta Caldari, da dove le bande di Ottawa e di Ortona hanno sfilato lungo corso Vittorio Emanuele per rendere a omaggio al monumento ai caduti canadesi, che sorge da pochi anni in piazza Plebiscito.

Nel cortile del complesso monumentale di Sant'Anna, le bande si sono quindi alternate nell'esecuzione di vari motivi.

Al termine gli ospiti hanno visitato la mostra "Aspettando il museo", raccolta iconografica e bibliografica delle principali testimonianze degli eventi bellici ortonesi.



Above: The Moro River Cemetary in Ortona is the resting place of over 1,200 Canadian soldiers. Below: Visitors carry Canadian flags during a ceremony for Canadian soldiers buried in Ortona, Italy.

PHOTO: ANGELO FILOSO





The Ottawa Firefighter's Band lead the way in a ceremony to honour fallen Canadian soldiers

From the Cover

IL POSTINO

### Summer in Italy

- 1. The beach and clear waters at Mondelo, Palermo
- 2. A scenic road in Chieti invites visitors to discover this beautiful region
- 3. Sunbathers on the rocks in Mondelo, Palermo
- 4.. Messina Army Cemetary
- 5. Duomo Messina

- 6. The Vatican in Rome is a classic Italian landmark
- 7. Abruzzo back roads lead to small settlements, including this scenic town
- 8. A main waterway in Venice, a popular tourist destination
- 9. Napoli
- 10. Fontana di Messina

Photos: Angelo Filoso



#### POSTINO IL

### La banda canadese rende The Ottawa Firefighters' gli onori ai vigili del fuoco di Chieti

# Band in Italy: Visit to Abruzzo

A testa alta, con fierezza, per niente emozionati, i musicisti della banda dei vigili del fuoco di Ottawa hanno suonato inni canadesi e italiani, dando ampio rilievo al sottile filo che lega le tradizioni dei due paesi, pur tanto diverse.

Dopo aver commemorato i caduti della battaglia di Ortona, avvenuta a cavallo tra il 1943 e il'44, il gruppo era giunto a Chietiil pomeriggio del 17 agosto. In questa città, capoluogo di provincia, i vigili del fuoco canadese sono stati ospiti dei loro "cugini" del luogo.

Nella loro caserma hanno riproposto il loro repertorio, alternando le note dell'inno di Mameli a quelle di canti canadesi.Una cerimonia particolare, che ha chiuso ufficialmente la visita della banda canadese in Abbruzzo.

Chieti è stato l'ultima tappa di un viaggio in Abruzzo iniziato il 14 agosto su invito dell'avvocato Giovanni Legnini, sindaco del comune di Roccamontepiano. Durante il loro soggiorno in Italia, i ventotto musicisti della banda di Ottawa, hanno visitato Ortona, Pretoro, Guardiagrele, Rapino, Roccamontepiano, Tollo, Chieti, Aquila, Terramo e Toricella.

"Ad Ottawa esiste una folta comunità italiana, e varie associazioni di emigranti" ha spiegato l'avvocato Giovanni Legnini. "Era da tempo che pensavamo a un gemellaggio e quest'anno abbiamo mantenuto la promessa. È stato uno scambio culturale importante."

Al termine della cerimonia, presieduta dal vice comandante Pietro Di Risio, i vigili del fuoco canadesi hanno potuto ammirare le strutture della caserma di Chieti, che è una della sedi provinciali dell'Abruzzo.



PHOTO: ANGELO FILOSO

recieve a gift from Ottawa's Band



Head high and proud, the members of the Ottawa Firefighters Band played Italian and Canadian pieces, underscoring the thread that unites the traditions of the two countries, so different in other ways.

The band had arrived in Chieti the afternoon of August 17, after paying tribute to the soldiers who had fallen at the battle of Ortona, during the months at the end of 1943 and the beginning of 1944. In Chieti, a major centre in the Abbruzzi region of Italy, the Ottawa firefighters were the guests of their local counterparts.

At the latter's main station, they performed their repertory once again, alternating the notes of the Italian national anthem and Canadian marches. It was a very special ceremony, a worthy closing to the Italian visit of the Ottawa band in Abruzzo.

Chieti was the last leg in Abruzzo of a voyage that began on August 14, thanks to the invitation of Giovanni Legnini, mayor of Roccamontepiano. In their Italian tour, the twenty-eight member of the Firefighters' Band visited Ortona, Rapino, Pretoro, Guardiagrele, Roccamontepiano, Tollo, Chieti, Aquila, Terramo and Toricella.

"In Ottawa there is a significant Italian community and various immigrant associations," explained Legnini. "We had been thinking for some time about establishing closer links and we kept our promise. The visit of the Firefighters' Band is an important cultural exchange."

Paul Casagrande, bandmaster for Ottawa, presents Cheiti's band with various gifts

#### Community / Communità

# Soccer and Steno: A Perfect Match

#### by Laura D'Amelio and Fiona Story

The Italian village and the soccer community lost a founder, supporter and friend in August

Steno Rossanese, 68, passed away on August 9 at the Civic Hospital of pancreatic cancer, surrounded by family and friends. His wake was held at St. Anthony's Soccer Club as requested by Rossanese

#### the movies."

After their service was done, the friends went their separate ways until Sacchetti tried to track down Rossanese, only to find he had left for Canada. Sacchetti wrote a letter to Rossanese who soon came back to see his old friend. Since then, the friends had met intermittantly to catch up.

cer is in the community today, not only locally but internationally too," says his cousin Angela lerullo.

Rossanese attended almost every World Cup soccer game since 1970, according to his nephew Stefano Canesso.

Rossanese is remembered for his love of the game, including his donations to local soc cer teams and sponsoring players from around the world to come play in Ottawa, including the much anticipated Marco Luchetta.



Friends and family gathered at the club to pay their respects to Rossanese, co-founder of St. Anthony's Soccer Club, described as a "lover of life".

Rossanese's family were not the least bit surprised at the over 800 people that came to say goodbye.

"I don't even know ninety per cent of the people here," said Rossanese's nephew Stefano Canesso, as he looked around the room. The pictures that lined the walls of the club attest to the the many lives Rossanese touched.

Among those who paid their respects yesterday were two of Rossanese's friends from his years of military service as a young adult in Italy.

"Our friendship was very obvious from the beginning," said Erio Sacchetti, who took an emergency flight from Italy to be here. "On our first encounter, we had passes to go out that night but his company was better than going to

Bomelli Eraldo, who also served with Rossanese remembered his friend as being very approachable and upfront in a "nice way".

Rossanese emigrated to Canada in 1956 from Castelfranco-Veneto, near Venice. He set up a hair salon in Ottawa and in 1959, became a founding member of the St. Anthony's Soccer Club after Father Jerome Ferraro from St. Anthony's church initiated the club.

Rossanese was one of 17 founders that fostered the Soccer Club and brought it to new heights. It moved from its small house quarters on Arlington to a larger facility in 1971.

Since then, the Soccer Club has run soccer teams and programs, including supporting the Ottawa Intrepid team, and runs a successful banquet hall facility.

After 35 years of service to the club, members and friends held a dinner in his honour in 1994 for his dedication.

"Steno has made a difference in how soc-

In 1989, Luchetta was quoted in the Ottawa Citizen as saying "I score for Steno."

Under his management, the soccer club played host to numerous charity dinners and fundraisers. Rossanese was the first person to bring chefs from various regions of Italy to Ottawa to cook their specialities at the club.

"He loved Canada. He loved his Italian culture but he loved it in Canada," said Mr. Canesso.

"I spent 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with him," stated his nephew, Joe Ierullo, his selfdescribed right-hand man. "Everyday was a new memory. We didn't have a normal relationship. We had a father-son relationship, a best friend relationship."

Rossanese is survived by his wife Rosa, daughter Roberta, three grandchildren and many nephews and nieces.

Steno Rossanese, in a recent photo above, and below in 1963



Interview / Intervista

# The city's Italian advisor Ed Aquilina

#### **By Fiona Story**

The black phone sitting on the corner of the desk is ringing. Again.

"Ed Aquilina speaking" is the solid answer each time. Holding the receiver in one hand and shuffling through several brown folders with the other, the man with a neatly trimmed white beard searches for a pen.

"Some days...," he mutters to himself, hanging up the phone and turning to his computer. He flips through some papers mumbling about how his partial vacation just isn't working out.

Partial vacation means he is only in the office two days a week throughout August. Those two days seem to come with the workload of two weeks.

As senior policy adviser to Bob Chiarelli, mayor of Ottawa, Aquilina's working day is a flurry of paperwork, meetings and phone calls. An odd life for a 70-year-old man who originally retired from the public service over 10 years ago.

Former House of Commons MP and cabinet minister, Jean-Jacques Blais met Aquilina when both were serving in federal politics some 20 years ago.

"The thing that strikes me the most is how, notwithstanding that he's a retired civil servant and financially comfortable, [Mr. Aquilina] has chosen to come back and serve in public life," said Blais, who attributed the decision to Aquilina's sense of public duty.

During his time as MPP for Ottawa West in the late 1980s, Chiarelli became familiar with Aquilina, who was then involved in federal politics. When he decided to run for regional chair, Chiarelli asked then-retired Aquilina to be his co-president of campaign and policy. After Chiarelli's victory, Aquilina became a senior policy advisor.

"It was supposed to be a relatively short stay," Aquilina

says, sipping some apple juice. "Years later, I'm still here," he chuckles.

"Mr. Aquilina likes to work," says Roger Poulin, who first met Aquilina during a federal election and now works as a consultant for Delsec Inc. "He's in high demand, he's highlyknowledgeable."

Sporting a CV which is six pages long condensed, a list of career highlights which span two pages, and a knowledge of seven languages, Aquilina might well be considered an asset to any organization.

His career has been con-

Office of the Comptroller General.

Aquilina retired from work at the federal level in 1989 after which he went into management consulting and worked as an adviser on public administrative reform and public financial administration in countries such as Lebanon, Ethiopia, Benin and Haiti.

He has also been involved administratively in numerous community-based organisations like the board of Catholic Family Services, the executive of the committee of the Association for Bright Children, the board of the Ottawa-Carleton Learning Foundation, and the Carlingwood Action Committee. In addition, he was president of the Glabar Park Community Association, the Federation of Citizens' Association of Ottawa-Carleton and the advisory committee for the promotion of scientific studies at Charlebois High School.

In 1994, he chaired the citizens' review panel on the salaries of regional councillors. He became senior policy adviser to Bob Chiarelli in 1997.

Aquilina admits it was quite a shift from smoother federal politics to the more chaotic municipal level. "You're getting the problems head-on, they haven't gone through all those other levels of government yet."

However, his track record suggests he's up for the challenge.

"He's yet another example of the contribution an immigrant can make to this country," says Claire Marshall, director of the Institute of Governance of which Aquilina is an associate member.

L to R: Aqualina with daughter-in-law Nathalie, wife Thérèse, son Martin and grand-daughter Florence





Ed Aquilina, where you can usually find him: at work.

to North America. That was the dream," he remembers. "I had the opportunity, so I took it."

Aquilina left Egypt by boat, departing from Alexandria and making a short tour of Europe, stopping off in Venice and Austria.

"It was 1950 and a lot of Germany was still bombed," he remembers. "They didn't have much money. The best way to get anything done was with cigarettes instead of money."

Aquilina also made stops in France, England, New York City and Cape Cod before arriving in Minnesota by bus in September of 1950.

"I still remember the first snow," he laughs. "I'd never seen snow in my life, in Egypt you don't see snow. It was kind of funny to see all this white stuff and you want to touch it and find out it's like water."

During his first winter in North America, Aquilina contracted pneumonia. He was hospitalised for three weeks and was put on antibiotics which got him through the illness.

In addition to having to adjust to the climate, Aquilina also notes that one of the hardest adaptations he had to make was to North American food.

"Some food was great and others were unusual. I mean, peanut butter is not something that we ever ate [in Egypt]. I had a difficult time adjusting to that sort of thing."

Another challenge for Aquilina was learning to look after himself. "I never did anything when I was young. We had servants to clean our shoes. I never did anything. All of a sudden I had to do all of that. Clean my shoes and wash my clothes and if I wanted something to eat I had to go and get it."

Although his beginnings in the Western world were in the States, Aquilina always wanted to visit Canada. While still a boy in Egypt, he met a French-Canadian priest from Quebec City who enthralled him with tales of Canada and Quebec.

After finishing his studies at Carleton College, just before his departure for Columbia University, Aquilina made a trip to Canada. He passed through London, Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec City.

centrated mainly in the public sector with his fields of expertise lying in areas such as administrative reform, policy formulation and human resources planning and management.

Beginning in 1961, he served prominently in the federal bureaucracy holding positions such as policy officer and assistant to policy secretariat to the Prime Minister's Office. He was assistant secretary to the Privy Council Office, assistant deputy minister of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and chaired the Task Force on Decentralization of the Treasury Board. From 1977-81, Aquilina was general manager of the National Capital Commission and played an instrumental role in introducing notable programs like Winterlude and the Festival of Spring.

"The idea was to change the focus of the NCC from building roadways and parks to adding a more cultural component," he says of the programs' beginnings.

In 1981 he re-entered the federal bureaucracy and became deputy secretary of the official languages branch of the Treasury Board Secretariat. He would later become assistant deputy minister of the administrative branches of the Treasury Board Secretariat, the Department of Finance and the Label Charles Aquilina was born in Cairo, Egypt, the eldest of two children. He describes himself as Maltese but of Italian origin. His ancestors were part of the Italian house of the Knights of Malta, a military order which defended crusader territory in the Holy Lands. After Napoleon splintered the order in 1798, Aquilina's ancestors were among those who chose to follow the conqueror to Egypt.

Aquilina's father was the first civilian in his lineage and worked for the Shell Oil Company during the Second World War. He contributed to the war effort by building highways and roads in and around the Middle East and northeast Africa. Young Edwin didn't get to know his father until he was 15years-old and the war had ended.

At the age of 18, Aquilina decided to leave Egypt to pursue studies in the United States. He was accepted as a scholarship student to Carleton College in Minnesota. There, he completed a B.A. in International Affairs and Economics before pursuing an M.A. in Political Science and Economics at Columbia University.

"Everybody's dream at that time, I remember, was to go

"I just loved it," he states. "I really liked the country."

Aquilina decided to stay. Being Egyptian, he was a British subject and in those days, Canadian citizenship was readily available to British subjects if they had \$500 in their pocket, which he did.

Aquilina moved to Montreal which felt the most like home out of all the cities he'd been in.

"I was used to Cairo, where I lived, it was a very multicultural place. There were Egyptians, Italians, Greeks and French. There were all kinds of nationalities. Montreal, at that time, was more cosmopolitan. They spoke french and english and so on."

His younger sister, Therese, and their parents would eventually follow him to Canada and settle in Montreal where they still live today.

Aquilina is married with three sons and has no plans to expand on his career in politics.

"Next time around, it's retirement," he says with a smile, as his phone begins to ring.

### IL POSTINO

#### Community / Communità



# Feast of Saint Rocco Ottawa, Canada

PHOTO: LUCIANO PRADA

The story of a French man who made a pilgrimage to Rome and cured many of disease along the way through religious acts, draws many to churches every August to celebrate his life. Saint Rocco, as he would later be proclaimed, succumbed to the same diseases and went on to perform miracles

On August 12, the Italian community in Ottawa gathered at St. Anthony's Church to celebrate the Feast of St. Rocco. Though the sweltering summer heat challenged the stamina of those who attended, St. Anthony's Church was filled beyond capacity for this religious and cultural tradition.

After a mass, the Ottawa Firefighters Band led a procession through the surrounding area of the church which included a march down Booth Street, Willow Street, down Preston Street and following Gladstone Avenue back to the church. The Band was accompanied by local women and children dress in traditional Italian outfits and carrying flower arrangements. A statue of St. Rocco, carried by four local men, was followed by a procession of people singing and praying in honour of the Saint.

This Sunday scene is typical of St. Rocco Feast, and for that matter every Saint's Feast Day. While the event may seem predictable, it is steeped in the past of the Italian community not only in Ottawa, but across the country and around the world. On August 16 the city of Roccamontepiano in Chieti, Italy celebrated the feast of St. Rocco with the same fanfare and traditions as Ottawa. The Ottawa Firefighters Band had the honour at performing at this feast as well and Canadian visitors got a chance to experience the feast day in a town that honours St. Rocco as their patron Saint.

Located on a wooded foothill on the eastern side of the Maiella, near the Alento River, the town of Roccamontepiano has a population of around 2,000 inhabitants. The town dates back to the Middle Ages when people were attracted to settle there because of the abundance of water.

Each year on August 16th, people flock to the town to drink water from a spring which is part of St. Rocco's sanctuary, the location of a miracle performed by the Saint.

The festivities in Roccamontepiano also began with a religious ceremony and led to a procession much like that seen in Ottawa. Women in traditional dress and a statue of the Saint proceeded through the city followed by a large crowd. Later, food and fun were served up to complete the celebration.

Though thousands of miles apart the similar festivities convincingly prove the connection Italians maintain with their culture and traditions. The inclusion of young Italians in the festivities guarantees the continuance of these events.



On Aug. 12 the community celebrated the feast of St. Rocco

PHOTO: LAURA D'AMELIO



PHOTO: LAURA D'AMELIO

# Festa di San Rocco Roccamontepiano, Italy









In Roccomontepiano St. Rocco festivities resembled those in Ottawa. Top Left: The Ottawa Firefighter's Band tried out the local Italian traditions. Bottom Left: Roccamontepiano officials pose with Canadian visitors



Interview / Intervista

# Poking fun at the Italian experience John Bono is all your relatives rolled into one comedic sketch

#### By Laura D'Amelio

Though faced with a crowd of thousands last July in Toronto, John Bono knew his time on stage would go well. No matter how far the distance between Toronto and Melbourne, Australia, Bono knows that Italians are Italians.

Bono, a comedian since 1980, performed at the CHIN International Picnic Canada Day weekend and was pleased with the response from the crowd. Pleased enough to schedule shows in Toronto and Ottawa for this October.

"Coming to Canada to do my shows is something I've had on my mind for about 15 years," says Bono. When he first came a few years ago, Bono says he was struck by the similarities between the two countries.

"Migration patterns where the same for Canada and Australia," says Bono, "There are many Italians from southern Italy and there are many similar experiences. The material is very easily identified with."

In July the opportunity came up to perform at the CHIN International Picnic.

"I was very well received," says Bono about his show.

Born in Melbourne to Italian immigrant parents, Bono knows first hand about the Italian experience of trying to grow up in a world with two very different cultures. He followed his Italian roots and went through school but found that comedy was his calling.

"A long, long time ago..." Bono jokes as he explains how he got started in this field, "I came out of university and I became involved in the Italian community and festivals."

Bono was originally studying economics and accounting at university. He says that it's typical for many in the comedy or theatre scene to come from traditional educational backgrounds before turning to theatre.

"Not that my parents will happy with my choice," says Bono, "Theatre just doesn't seem too secure but it's been consistent for me over a long period of time."

At the time there was a lot of Italian scripts and shows that were brought into these festivals that did not connect with the Italian community in Melbourne.

"I was asked by the organizers to do a little local input," Bono remembers, "It was well received, there was an interest in it and it just kept rolling from there."

Bono's comedy includes sketches and characters based on his own family life. The characters he often plays, in full costume, remind many of their relatives and friends in the Italian community.

Being based on his life, Bono understands that the Italian immigrant experience was a unique one but was also encountered by many Italians around the world who settled in various countries

"It's based on the whole idea that there's pain in



International Picnic in July.

funny because it's true, but it was also painful."

"It was pretty traumatic for us growing up in Australia, particularly my generation. We caught the brunt of the feeling of antagonism towards us and the sense of being displaced. We were forced back on ourselves and maintained our tradition because we didn't belong to the rest of society."

Bono takes that pain and finds the humour in it, allowing people to laugh at the hardship and experience.

Bono also hosted a morning radio show called Come Nesci Nesci on Melbourne's 3AK radio. It was an Italian comedy breakfast show that ran for about a year with great success.

"That was the first full-time Italian commercial radio sta-

tion," says Bono, "It was quite a big deal." Unlike Canada, Australia took longer to establish ethnic media outlets and minority groups there now enjoy programming and content produced specifically

> for them. In addition, Bono set up a company called Broccoli Productions that, besides supporting his own

standup shows, allows him to produce shows. Bono also does some general ethnic comedy, not geared only at Italians.

PHOTO: ANGELO FILOSO

"I'll write the script and find actors in the community and put together a stage show," Bono explains. Some of these shows include Tutto A Posto, Mannaggia La Miseria, The Wedding and the latest show, The Italian Connection.

The Wedding was chosen "pick of the 1998 Melbourne International Comedy Festival" from a field of more than 150 local and international acts.

"It's all Italian-Australian text," says Bono, "It's looking at the Italian-Australian, much like the Italian-Canadian experience, in a comical way. It's an observational thing." He uses dialects or "Italese" to reflect the language of the community.

Bono is also involved in Theatre in Education, a program aimed at teaching Italian in schools. It produces activities, language teaching resources for teachers and students and has a show that tours local schools. His latest creation for this program was Le Maschere di Carnevale, a commedia dell'arte mask show.

"This is proper Italian," says Bono, "In Victoria there is about 80,000 students who take some Italian lessons at the primary school level. It's the top foreign language at the elementary level to be taught." The Italian-community is the largest non-Anglo/Celtic community in Australia according to Bono.

"Italy is very fashionable here in Australia now. There are a lot of restaurants and interest in the language recently," explains Bono.

Now Bono is fashionable in Italian communities in

comedy," says Bono about his material, "You know, it's Canada. On the September long weekend Bono performed at the Super Italiano Weekend at Wonderland in Vaughn. He'll be in Ottawa for a performance on October 31 at Centrepointe Theatre. His new CD will be traveling with him as well, entitled "John Bono The Italian Connection."

> Bono has also recently launched his website at www.johnbono.net. The site has samples of Bono's routines, information about the comedian and an opportunity to order Bono's CD.

For more information about John Bono visit www.johnbono.net

#### Arts / Arti

# Verdi's Requiem honoured by Symphony

#### by Valery Navarrete

On October 1 the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra and the Embassy of Italy and The Italian Canadian Community Centre Ottawa will mark the centennial of famed Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi with an evening celebrating his significance to Italian culture.

The OSO will be performing Verdi's Requiem at the NAC accompanied by singers from the Ottawa Choral Society and featuring upcoming Canadian soloists Measha Brueggergosman, Sandra Graham, Philippe Castagner and Gary Relyea.

David Currie, music director of the OSO, will be conducting the performance and calls Requiem an "awe inspiring" work during which "all hell breaks loose" on stage.

"Most requiems are about 'requiem' (rest)," says Currie. "This requiem is about the day of judgment. It isn't a pretty thing."



The evening will begin at seven with a free pre-concert lecture by Professor Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaer in the NAC saloon who will talk about the history behind the work. Seating for the lecture will be available on a first come first serve basis.

Verdi was born in 1813 in the Duchy of Parma, then part of Napoleon's Kingdom of Italy, and died in 1901 in Milan. He composed Requiem to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the death of the celebrated Italian poet Manzoni in 1874.

Requiem was first performed under Verdi's direction in St. Marks Church, Milan, and church authorities at the time thought ecclesiastical property had been outraged due to the overwhelming power of the piece.

"It is a very dramatic piece," says Currie.

According to Currie, who has studied conducting in Italy, Requiem is Verdi's only major orchestral piece. "It is probably his most monumental work," says Currie, adding that most of Verdi's other pieces are in fact not orchestral.

Verdi is commonly known as one of the greatest opera composers of all time, according to Patricia Bucciero of the Embassy of Italy. "He made a huge contribution to Italian culture," she says. "He has written some of the most major

operas in the world."

Some of Verdi's most famous operas include Aida, Otello and Falstaff, however he is most well known for his Requiem.

After the performance the Embassy will be hosting Viva Verdi, a post-concert reception featuring the products of Emelia Romagna, the area of Italy that Verdi came from.

"It is going to make a wonderful evening," says Bucciero, adding that all of the proceeds from the reception will go to the OSO.

Guests at the reception will be able to meet David Currie and the guest soloists, and enjoy a selection of fine Italian foods and wine.

"It will showcase products from (Emelia Romagna) such as prosciutto di Parma, tortellini, fine Italian wine and other delights," says Bucciero.

Tickets are available through the OSO box office before September 15 and at the NAC box office after that. Tickets for the concert are from \$20 to \$50 and a limited number of tickets to both the concert and Viva Verdi are available for \$75 each.

"People should try and make an effort to get out," says Bucciero, adding that they should get their tickets early because they are going to be a hot item.



Photos: Stephen Fenn Photography

#### **Opinions** / **Opinione**

# When can we call ourselves Italian?

#### By Oliviana Mingarelli

The 21st century has seen countries such as Canada and the United States become 'melting pots' for various cultures. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of people living within these countries that cannot be defined simply as Canadian or American. For the purpose of this article, I shall only concentrate on the effect of a foreign culture on Canada or more specifically, the effect of Canada on a foreign culture. Due to a steady increase in immigration, there are a lot of people who refuse to be labeled as simply Canadian. They pride themselves on their roots and in the maintenance of their religions and beliefs. One of Canada's predominant foreign cultures is that of the Italians. In the past 50 years the Italian culture has become very fashionable. This has caused just as many problems as benefits. There has been the canning of a preservative-based tomato sauce and labeling it authentic or as it is more commonly known 'Chef Boyardee'. Then there was the addition of many Italian words into the English language: such as 'ciao' or 'arrivederci' to a point were they are used as commonly as the 'hello' or 'goodbye'. These are just a few examples of how the Italian culture has affected many Canadians and people worldwide. Not to mention the huge increase in the popularity of Italian designs, such as Dolce & Gabbana, Armani, or Fendi just to name a few. All of these companies have themselves created newer, younger and more accessible lines of their collections in order to benefit from this growing popularity. Is their increasing success good or bad though? Of course it is nice to see Italians succeed however, in their attempts to control the fashion empire, have they lost their ability to call themselves and their fashions strictly Italian?

swer the question as to whether it is the ground we walk on that determines our cultural self-identity or whether it is the way in which we are raised. I believe it to be the latter. I believe that we can be just as Italian, living in Canada, as anyone born and raised in Italy. However, this achieving of "Italianism" is not gained in wearing the clothes or eating the food. Rather, it is about knowing your history and understanding your family's roots. It is not only about eating a red sauce but rather eating the red sauce made from a recipe that has been in your family for generations; listening to and telling stories about your great-great grandfather or grandmother. It does not matter whether you speak perfect Italian; the lack of Italian speaking Italo-Canadians is a product of their upbringing in a country that speaks almost only English. It is not a sign of one's loss of their culture. I do admit that language is a very important aspect of a culture, however, far too much emphasis is placed on the perfect knowledge of it. Millions of people speak Italian however, that does not mean that they can all consider themselves so. Language is a fraction of what constitutes a culture. Therefore, if you want to call yourself Italian do not go out and buy yourself a Gucci bag or Armani suit, instead try to remember where exactly you came from. Read a book on Lorenzo de Medici or call your relatives and just talk. Always remember to do and celebrate those small things that you remember from your childhood and pass them on to your children so that they may also call themselves Italian.

#### Page 8

With such an overwhelming accessibility to designer cloth-

"We can be just as Italian, living in Canada,

as anyone born and raised in Italy"

ing, it is to be expected that it is no longer only Italians wearing the clothing of these national treasures. Anyone can walk in off the street and pick up a BCBG t-shirt for \$50. Here comes the problem. In a country, such as Canada, that is not entirely our own, how do we maintain our roots without looking like we are not trying too hard?

Many younger Italo-Canadians try to connect with their Italian heritage by wearing popular Italian labels such as Diesel, D&G, A/X (Armani Exchange), Kappa or BCBG however they are labeled 'Gino's' or 'Gina's'. If we drink chinotto and twirl pasta with a spoon or listen to Eros Ramazzotti and Andrea Boccelli, does that make us Italian? If someone has olive colored skin and a dark complexion does that make his or her lineage more authentic than someone else's? If we don't live in Italy can we even consider ourselves to be Italian? We must an-

### Make volatility your friend with dollar-cost averaging

#### by Franco Caminiti

Severe swings in financial markets recently may have left you confused about buying and selling your investments. When should you invest in stocks? When should you stand your ground? When should you sell?

These are difficult issues even for professional investors, especially when markets are very volatile. That's why, instead of trying to "time" the market, you should consider another approach: dollar-cost averaging.

Dollar-cost averaging is a strategy of investing at regular intervals—regardless of market conditions. It can lower the average cost of investments and contribute to higher longterm returns. It's especially useful for mutual fund investors, because of the flexibility mutual funds offer. Here's how it works:

*Invest regularly* You invest a fixed amount of money at regular intervals. For example, you might invest \$500 on the first day of each month, or \$1,500 every three months. When you do this, the average cost of investing over time will always be lower than the highest price you pay during your investment time horizon.

Let's say you invest \$500 a month in an equity mutual fund. When the fund units are priced at \$25 each, your monthly purchase will buy 20 units. But, if falling stock market prices push the fund's unit value down to \$20 the following month, your \$500 purchase will get you 25 units. Your average cost over the two months will be \$22.22. Notice that the average cost is not the average of the two purchase prices, but lower, because you were able to buy more units for your money when the price was lower. Because the unit prices of mutual funds tend to fluctuate, dollar-cost averaging will give you the benefit of buying some fund units at lower prices.

Avoid timing the market Dollar-cost averaging helps ease the stress brought on by volatile or declining markets. What was once seen as a setback can now be viewed as an attractive investment opportunity. And if you're committed to regular investing, you won't have to scramble for large amounts of cash when it's time to buy. For most people, investing in smaller amounts is easier on the pocketbook.

*Stay invested* Dollar-cost averaging also lessens the chances of falling into a common trap—selling investments near their lowest prices when markets stumble and missing out on profits when markets bounce back. If you aren't invested when prices rise, you can't profit from the upturn that inevitably follows the decline.

*Keep investing* For dollar-cost averaging to work, you must be consistent. If you abandon your strategy when markets are volatile, the purpose of dollar-cost averaging is defeated. That's why this strategy is best for investors with a long-term time horizon and the discipline to avoid temptation during market extremes.

Ask yur financial advisor about dollar-cost averaging. He or she can show you how to structure a plan, and offer tips for maintaining the discipline you need. If you're a mutual fund investor, you'll find dollar-cost averaging easy. Most fund organizations offer regular investment plans that deduct money automaticlly from a banking account at regular intervals and invest it in the funds you want.

Franco Caminiti is a Financial Consultant with Investors group providing complete Financial Planning advice to his clients in the Ottawa area. Franco works with a network of highly qualified professionals including accountants, lawyers, mortgage and insurance specialists.

This column is provided by Franco Caminiti of Investors Group, as a general source of information only and is not intended as a solicitation to buy or sell investments, nor is it intended to provide legal advice. For more information on this topic or on any other investment or financial matters, please contact your financial advisor. Franco may be contacted at 742-8018 or by email: franco.caminiti@investorsgroup.com. You may also visit his web site at: www.investorsgroup.com/consult/franco.caminiti

#### Community / Communità



The Order of Italo-Canadians presents the former Italian Ambassador with a souvenier book entitled "Italians in Canada" as a remembrance of his stay in Canada. The presentation took place during the summer.

From left to right: Dr. Aurelio Siriani, Nello Portolotti (President ordine), Ambassador Roberto Nigido, Tony Toscano, Proffessor Sbrocchi and Anello Castrucci.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 4, Tuesday Official Opening of 64 Bed Extension Villa Marconi Call 727-6201 for details

September 7, Friday Golf Tournament Held by Villa Marconi Call 727-6201 for information

September 8, Saturday *Dinner Gala* Held at Villa Marconi, 1026 Baseline Rd. Call 727-6201 for information

September 16, Sunday, 2:00pm Villa Marconi Annual General Meeting Held at Villa Marconi, 1026 Baseline Rd. Call 727-6201 for information

September 16, Sunday Ribbon Cutting - Opening of new 64 bed extension Villa Marconi, 1026 Baseline Rd. Call 727-6201 for information

# Marco Colombo

ROMA - Marco Colombo è il nuovo Ambasciatore d'Italia a Ottawa. Lo ha reso noto, sabato 19 maggio, il Ministero degli Affari esteri in seguito alla deliberazione del Consiglio dei Ministri ed al successivo gradimento del Governo interessato.

Marco Colombo, nato a Lussemburgo il 3 dicembre 1938, si è laureato in Scienze Sociali e Politiche presso l'Università "Cesare Alfieri" di Firenze nel 1964, intraprendendo cosi la carriera diplomatica nel 1965. Tra gli incarichi ricoperti nel corso della sua carriera, dopo aver prestato servizio presso la Direzione Generale per le Relazioni Culturali, dal 1968 al 1975 ha ricoperto il ruolo di Primo Segretario a Santiago del Cile, Console a Saarbrucken, e Primo Segretario a Berlino Est. (R.D.T.).

Rientrato al Ministero, dal 1976 al 1978 ha prestato servizio presso la Direzione Generale degli Affari Politici. Mentre Dal '79 al 1987 è stato Consigliere e Primo Consigliere a Bonn, e poi Primo consigliere e Ministro Consigliere a Belgrado. Rientrato nuovamente a Roma nel 1987 è stato Capo dell'Ufficio Ricerca Studi e Programmazione della Direzione Generale dell'Emigrazione e Affari Sociali fino all'88.

Nel 1988 viene nominato Ministro Plenipotenziario di 2a classe. Dal 1990 al 1993 è Ambasciatore ad Al Kuwait, accreditato con credenziali di Ambasciatore anche a Manama e Doha, e poi a La Valletta. Nel 1990 viene nominato Ministro Plenipotenziario di 1a classe.

Rientrato al Ministero, tra il 1998 e il 1999 è alle dirette dipendenze del Direttore Generale degli Affari Politici, e, all'agosto 1999 e Ispettore Generale del Ministero e degli Uffici all'Estero.

### nuovo ambasciatore d'Italia a

Ottawa

This article originally appeared in Il Cittadino Canadese

#### Community / Communità

# The Preston Street Business Improvement Association Business Area Projects

#### La Vendemmia

Taking place September 21, 22 and 23, this traditional celebration of the end of the grape season highlights quality wines and foods along Corso Italia - the heart of Ottawa's Little Italy. Grapestomping, winemaking, harvest food and wines are all part of the festivities.

#### **Portal Archway**

A new Ottawa landmark is soon to be installed at the corner of Carling Ave. and Preston Street. The Corso Italia Portal Archway will serve as a welcome entranceway to the Preston Street area and is the first of its kind in Ottawa. It is completely funded by the merchants of the Preston Street Business Improvement Area.

The archway will consist of four granite columns - two located on each side of Preston Street with a steel truss arch placed over the street. The total cost will be \$175,000. To date the bases have been installed that serves as reinforcement anchors for the archway. It is expected that the project will be completed by the spring of 2002.

#### **Mural Project**

Plans are also underway for the establishment of wall murals under the Queensway underpass on Preston Street. The murals will depict the heritage of the Italian community. Approval has be obtained by the Ontario Ministry of Transport.

The mural paintings will be conducted as 4x8 individual pieces of art and will be installed on special steel tracks to create an outdoor gallery. The Queensway underpass will serve as a means of protection from the elements of weather so the murals are expected to last up to 20 years. The paints will cost approximately \$1000 each plus installation and can be sponsored by businesses or individuals. All designs must be approved by the Preston Street BIA.

#### Sakto Corporation Development Project

The property development company of Sakto Corporation - the owners of the Xerox Building at Aberdeen and the Queensway-is embarking on an ambitious new development project that will change the Preston Street area.

The project calls for the construction of a new office complex for Phase Two of the current building at 333 Preston Street; over 20 townhouses along Aberdeen between Rochester and Preston and new retail stores on Preston Street Beside the Queensway.

The project has been approved by Ottawa City Council and has the full endorsement of the Preston Street BIA. The impact of the project will change the image created by the cur-



PHOTO: FLEISHER PHOTOGRAPHY

rent parking lots situated along Preston Street in this area; and will bring residents to the neighbourhood and more pedestrians to Corso Italia.

#### **Beech Street Lofts**

The former Centretown Lumber Supply store has been converted into trendy two-storey lofts that have been very well-received in the current real estate market. This has also increased the number of residents and pedestrians in the area as well as creating a new style of housing for downtown Ottawa.

#### Hummingbird Corporation

The high-technology firm of Hummingbird Corporation which is based in Toronto has relocated their Carling Ave. offices to the former warehouse on Aberdeen Street which was also part of the Centretown Lumber Supply complex. The Preston Street area was the preferred choice of location by the employees.

#### **Plant Pool**

The Preston Street BIA also supports the reconstruction of the Plant Pool - an Ottawa landmark for generations- situated at the corner of Somerset and Preston Street. Ottawa City Council has approved this project and design plans are now The Preston Street BIA Standing:Tony Rota (Vice-Chair) of Nikktinna's Deli, Monika Fleischer or Fleischer Wedding Photography and Brian Murray of Sakto Development Sitting: Angelo Licari of Licari Holdings, Jim Mousseau (Treasurer) of Grant Electric, MarioGiannetti (Chairman) of Preston Hardware, Joe Cotroneo of Pub Italia and Maria Paplia of La Roma.

underway. The pool will be accompanied by a community centre and parking lot. The soccer field, basketball courts and children's playground will remain. Completion is expected by 2003.

#### **Banner Programme**

You will notice that there are always lots of colourful banners on the hydro posts on Preston Street. The merchants have the most extensive banner programme in the City of Ottawa - five changes per year that depict the different seasons and celebrations. The designs were created by graphic artist Dario Catena - a member of the BIA.

#### Italian Week

The Preston Street BIA continues to be the largest sponsor of Italian Week for a number of years. The BIA contributes funding, goods and services worth \$15,000 plus its members contribute up to another \$5000. The BIA also assists the Italian Week volunteer board to obtain grants from the City of Ottawa and to organize the merchants along Corso Italia. The BIA members are very proud of the Italian Heritage and deliberately promote the use of the phrase "Corso Italia." The merchants recognize their role in preserving the Italian culture for our future generations and to attract tourists to the Capital of Canada.

### La Vendemmia 2001 - Schedule

Thursday Sept. 20

8:00pm Theatre and Dinner Package for *The Forest* 

2:00pm

3:00pm

8:00pm

Pay-What-You-Can-Matinee for *The Forest* at The Great Canadian Theatre Co., 910

The Wine Doctor: Bring a sample (2-4oz.) of your wine for a analysis by Ontario Wine Judges Commission. Accounting for Taste: Michael Botner's Wine Tasting Seminar Cooking With...: Cooking demonstrations by Preston Street Chefs with Ron Eade and Gay Cook of The Ottawa Citizen. Opimian, The Wine Society of Canada: An entry and a Road Map to the World of Wine. Chateau Bourget: Meet the operators of Eastern Ontario's newest winery.

at the Great Canadian Theatre Company 910 Gladstone Ave., 236-5196 or www.gctc.ca

# Friday Sept. 21Ongoing:The Winemaking Process at Preston<br/>Hardware Grape Warehouse, 248 Preston St.6:00pmBacchus - the god of wines - visits Corso<br/>Italia at Pub Italia 434 ½ Preston St.,<br/>232-23268:00pmEastern Ontario Amateur Wine Awards<br/>Banquet Cost: \$35.00 Sala San Marco, 215<br/>Preston St. Info: 231-2815 or

eoawc@home.com

#### Saturday, Sept. 22

Ongoing:The Winemaking Process at Preston<br/>Hardware Grape Warehouse, 248 Preston2:00pm'Little Italy' Gardens, Grapevines and<br/>Winemaking Tour. Cost: \$5.00. Starts at<br/>Piazza Dante (corner of Gladstone and<br/>Booth). Info: 231-2815.

Gladstone Ave. Info: 236-5196, www.gctc.ca, 50% of proceeds to the Ottawa Botanical Gardens.

La Vendemmia Grape-Stomping Competition at Trattoria Caffe Italia, 254 Preston St. at Gladstone Ave. Info: 231-2815. Theatre and Dinner package for *The Forest* at The Great Canadian Theatre Co., 910 Gladsonte Ave. Info: 236-5196 or www.gctc.ca.

#### Sunday, Sept. 23

Ongoing: The Winemaking Process at Preston Hardware Grape Warehouse, 248 Preston St. La Vendemmia Finale: Sala San Marco Banquest Hall, 215 Preston St., 1:30-5:00pm. Cost: \$15.00, proceeds to the Ottawa Botanical Gardens. Delicious foods by Preston Street chefs and La Vendemmia Wines. Everything you need to know about grapes, grapevines, wines and winemaking. Also featuring:

#### La Vendemmia Wine Competition

Amateur winemakers are invited to submit Red or White wines in the following classes: Young wines (made after 1999) and Older wines (made before 1999). Judging by the Ontario Wine Judges Commission. Please submit wines to Sala San Marco Banquet Hall, 215 Preston St., between Sept 10 and 14, from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Winners to be awarded at the La Vendemmia Finale at Sala San Marco Sunday Sept. 23.

INFO: 231-2815 www.prestonstreet.com



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"Invitiamo calorosamente i nostri parrocchiani ad unirsi a noi nell'appoggiare le opere di Villa Marconi."

"We would like to invite all parishionners to join us to support Villa Marconi"

Father Paul McKeown St. Anthony's Church

### Grazie! Thank You!

The following donors are being recognized for their donations towards Villa Marconi's "Brick by Brick" Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to help raise money for Villa Marconi, so we can help senior citizens and those in the community. By choosing to donate towards this campaign, you can have your name permanently engraved on a brick that you can choose. But act quickly, as the bricks are going quickly and you may miss out on an opportunity to help out with Villa Marconi. If you notice that your name is missing or there is an error with your name, please contact the Reception Desk at 727-6201.

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"Noi crediamo che i residenti di Villa Marconi dovrebbero usufruire

di tutti i vantaggi che una casa offre, e non dovrebbero rinunciare a vivere intensamente la vita."

"We believe that the people In Villa Marconi should have all the benefits of a home, and they should not have to give up their quality of life."

> Marylyn Legari St. Anthony's Ladies Aid



Salvarane & Araq.

### Per informazioni e formulari - For information and for request forms contact

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