

# IL POSTINO

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## Associazione Rapinese Festa di Maria SS di Carpineto Sabato 29 Marzo | Montréal, Canada



*What A Celebration!*

IL POSTINO • OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA

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## Letters to the Editor



LA MUSICA, CULTURA E TRADIZIONI  
ESPRESSE DAI GIOVANI.

Investire nella gioventù e nella cultura porta sempre buoni frutti, ce ne ha dato l'esempio il giovane Rapinese Alfonso Coccaglia. Invitato dalle Associazioni Rapinesi di Ottawa e Montreal Alfonso ha lasciato tutti, tanto entusiasti per il bel spettacolo musicale che ci ha offerto in Ottawa il 20 marzo.

Di Luciano Pradal

L'Associazione Rapinesi di Ottawa è riconosciuta per la Festa della Madonna di Carpineto che si tiene ogni anno l'8 maggio, durante questa tradizionale ricorrenza si nota la presenza di molti giovani bambini e bambine vestiti nei loro costumi tradizionali.

Molte volte queste feste non finiscono così, molti giovani trovano l'ideale della loro vita in queste feste tradizionali ove si fondono insieme musica, canti, balli, aromi, cibi, amicizie...Le più belle espressioni della cultura che si festeggia.

Un bell'esempio di questo fatto, ci è dato da Alfonso Coccaglia che, sin dall'età di 5 anni seguiva il padre che era musicista della Banda di Rapino, a quella tenera età la musica e la gioia che essa portava affascina Alfonso che, ancora giovanissimo, dimostra il suo interesse per la musica cosa che il padre ed il nonno di Alfonso assecondano, lo mandano a scuola per imparare a suonare, comporre ed improvvisare con l'organetto a due tasti "L'Organetto due botte" comunemente chiamato. I successi per Alfonso non tardano a venire, ancora giovane Alfonso vince i Campionati d'Italia dell'organetto a due botte e poi vince altri Festivals ed i Campionati a livello Europeo di questa che sta diventando sempre di più una specialità delle musiche tradizionali.

Ora, appena diciannovenne, oltre che agli impegni della scuola, Alfonso trova il tempo di produrre cd's, l'ultimo "Il meglio di Alfonso Coccaglia: Fisa organetto e voce" raccoglie musiche e canzoni cantate da Alfonso che si accompagna con l'organetto. Un disco che porta molta gioia ed allegria a chi lo ascolta.

Alfonso ha preso due settimane d'assenza dalla scuola, è venuto in Canada, Ottawa e Montreal per portarci un po' di questa bella musica tradizionale e ovunque ha suonato è stata molto apprezzato.

Le Associazioni Rapinesi hanno invitato Alfonso di ritornare l'anno prossimo per la festa della Madonna di Carpineto, invitiamo i nostri lettori ed i loro bambini di prendere nota e far sicuro di non mancare questo importante appuntamento, non si sa mai dall'incontro con Alfonso, la sua musica ed il suo organetto forse nasceranno altri artisti!

## See Pictures on Cover and Back!

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

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# Italian-Canadian News

## “Massima libertà ai candidati”: l’Ambasciatore d’Italia ad Ottawa nega un cambio di politica

Dal “Corriere Canadese”

OTTAWA - Una polemica scoppiata tra i rappresentanti di alcuni partiti politici impegnati nelle elezioni in Italia ha provocato una precisazione dell’ambasciatore d’Italia Gabriele Sardo, che riportiamo di seguito:



«Mi è giunta recentemente eco di notizia diffusa a Toronto secondo cui le autorità canadesi avrebbero ormai consentito massima libertà ai candidati alle elezioni italiane del 13 e 14 aprile, con radicale inversione di marcia rispetto alle condizioni poste all'inizio al governo italiano. Poiché vengo citato tra le fonti della notizia, sento la necessità di precisare che nessuna comunicazione ufficiale è mai arrivata all'ambasciata circa tale cambio di politica e che indicazioni attendibili ma informali in tal senso sono sembrate riferirsi solo alla modalità della pubblicità elettorale sui media, in origine vietata esplicitamente. Ho ritenuto di precisare quanto sopra anche perché la pratica interpretazione di tale più benevolo orientamento resta comunque prerogativa del governo canadese». (Corriere Canadese/Inform)

## Memories of Ottawa Italian Canadians Committee and the City of Ottawa Archives

The Memories of Ottawa Italian Canadians Committee is developing a partnership with the City of Ottawa Archives to preserve the heritage and history of Ottawa’s Italian community. This community can trace its presence in Ottawa back to the 1800’s, years before the founding of St. Anthony de Padua Church parish in 1913. Its story is told in diaries, letters, photographs, business papers, church records, artwork and artefacts preserved preciously as family heirlooms.

**Our Local History Matters**  
As part of its mandate, the City Archives also collects community-generated records and papers created by individuals and organizations that enhance our understanding of the history and evolution of Ottawa.

The MOICC’s mission is to capture that heritage before it disappears. Treasures of information and memorabilia are sometimes lost when custodians of documents and objects overlook the historical significance of such items. The committee has identified gaps in the documentary history of Ottawa’s Italian community. Overtures have been made to the City of Ottawa Archives to assist the committee in its efforts to capture that heritage, either as an advisor to the committee and the community on how to preserve its heritage or as a repository for the historical materials.

As part of its mandate, the City Archives also collects community-generated records and papers created by individuals and organizations that enhance our understanding of the history and evolution of Ottawa. The goal is to preserve community records of enduring value; encourage local organizations and corporations to create and preserve institutional archives where appropriate; and encourage individuals to donate their personal records to local archives. The documents donated to the City of Ottawa Archives will be appraised, catalogued, repaired when necessary, and made available to the general public for consultation.

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# Ottawa's History

## The History of Ottawa's Settimana Italiana-Italian Week Inc.

2007-2008 Board of Directors: Nello Bortolotti, Gino Bufone, Giovanni Mazzotta, Frank D'Onghia, Domenic Iannelli, Angelo Durbano, Claudio Pagani, Giovanni Maiorino, Pat Adamo, Joe Cama, Tony Mariani



Below is the official registered document of the original founders of Settimana Italia - Italian Week Inc from 1977. The Founders names in this original document are: Luigi Mion Angelo Filoso, Dino Venier, Sebastiano Pagano, Antonino Cuffaro, Saro Panuccio, Angiola Lombardi, Mariano DeMarinis, Frank Piscopo, Gloria Zuana, Romano Battel.

Dated July 15, A.D.1977

Province of  
ONTARIO

Letters  
Patent  
Incorporating

SETTIMANA ITALIANA -  
ITALIAN WEEK INC.

Recorded this 26<sup>th</sup>  
day of JULY A.D. 1977  
as Number 357591

### SETTIMANA ITALIANA - ITALIAN WEEK INC.

Dino Venier, of the Township of Nepean, in The Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, in the Province of Ontario, Executive; Mariano De Marinis, Angelo Filoso, Saro Panuccio and Luigi Mion, Executives, Sebastiano Pagano, Priest, Angiola Lombardi, Married Woman, Frank Piscopo, Public Servant, Antonino Cuffaro, Supervisor, and Gloria Zuana, Secretary, all of the City of Ottawa, in the said The Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton; and Romano Battel, of the village of Touraine, in the County of Gatineau, in the Province of Quebec, Executive; constituting them and any others who become members of the Corporation hereby created a corporation without share capital under the name of for the following objects, that is to say:

(a) TO instill and inculcate in Italian Canadians principles of Canadian citizenship through sponsoring and organizing social, cultural and recreational events of an Italian nature; and

# Arts and Entertainment

## Francis Ford Coppola Relishes New Start in Italian-Infused

Yahoo News From The Associated Press By Bill Cormier

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina** - In the trendy heart of Argentina's Italian community, Francis Ford Coppola says he has been set free.

Free at last to make movies - one a year, he hopes - with full financial and artistic control, taking advantage of Argentina's relatively low production costs and the creative inspiration he finds on the streets of its capital.

"After a while I realized that I was getting further and further away from what my original intentions had been," the 68-year-old filmmaker said in an interview with The Associated Press. "So at this age I decided, 'Well, why don't I make the kinds of films I wanted to do when I was 18? I'll just do it later in life.'"

The five-time Oscar winner, best known for "The Godfather" trilogy about the Corleone Mafia family, is preparing to shoot a film about a much different, but equally dysfunctional, Italian-immigrant clan.

"*Tetro*," for which Coppola wrote an original screenplay, follows two sons of a great but monstrously self-absorbed orchestra conductor in contemporary Argentina.

Much of the film will be shot in La Boca, a neighbourhood marked by the legacy of poor Italian immigrants who arrived by the shiploads in the early 20th century. Researching his tale, Coppola discovered many parallels between Buenos Aires and the New York he grew up in.

"Italian families emigrated to Argentina and the United States, and very often brothers in the same family would go two different directions," Coppola explains, relaxing in the courtyard of his new home and studio, which comes complete with the steel barbecue grill no self-respecting Argentine would do without.

Coppola, who splits his time now between the San Francisco Bay area and Argentina, says he felt immediately at home in this most-European of South American capitals.

He has been photographed walking alone among the shops and markets in chic neighbourhoods, a black beret pulled down over his greying hair.

"Buenos Aires is a big city like New York; it's full of life and it gave me a chance to put these characters in a slightly exotic setting where I would be free to work and pursue this more personal type of filmmaking."

Coppola has even discovered Argentina's biggest craze: attending soccer matches of the world-famous Boca Juniors team.

His stay hasn't all been pleasant - his studio was burglarized in September by thieves who stole computers and even his backup data system. Coppola made an unsuccessful public appeal for their return, but said his script for "*Tetro*" was never stolen, contrary to local press reports.

"They never stole the original script," he says. "They took the computers and the backup, but they only took photographs, only for the last year-and-a-half."

After a decade devoted to paying off creditors by focusing on less personal films, Coppola says he finally has the financial freedom to pursue his own projects with proceeds from his other businesses - including his California vineyard, an organic pasta business, and three luxury resorts in Belize and Guatemala.

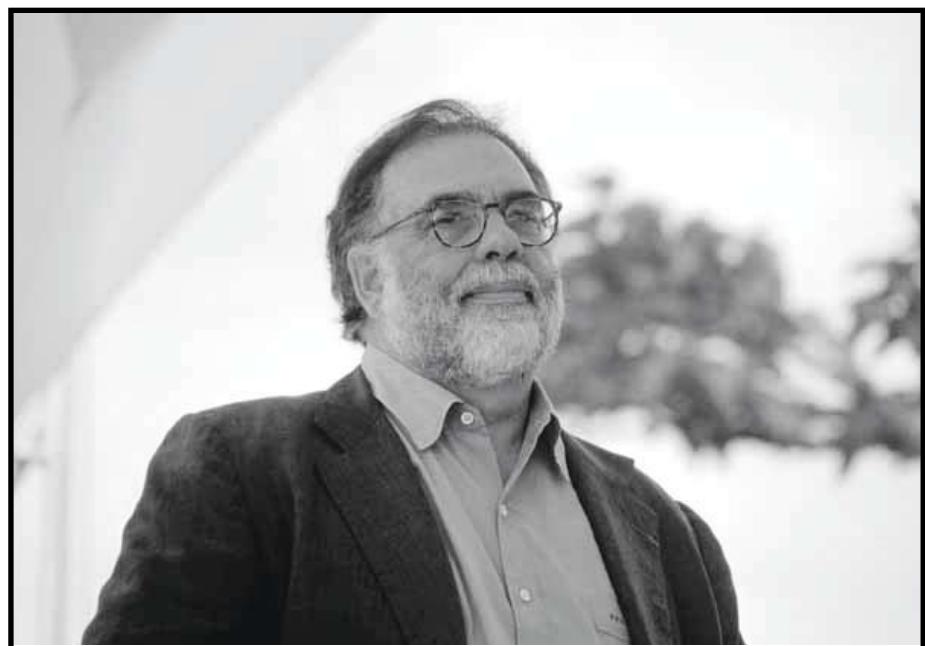
And he continues to cast well known actors from outside the studio system.

Vincent Gallo of "Buffalo 66" and "The Brown Bunny" is the lead character in "*Tetro*," backed by Spanish actress Maribel Verdu of "Pan's Labyrinth" and Oscar winner Javier Bardem of "No Country For Old Men."

Newcomer Alden Ehrenreich, 18, will play a young man searching for the estranged older brother Tetro - a "tragic poet figure" who broke all family ties and moved in amid the Bohemian theatre, dance and artistic community of Buenos Aires.

Coppola said he is not unlike millions of tourists who rediscovered budget Argentina after the 2002 economic crisis.

"People are coming here, not unlike myself, because the dollar is less compromised than even in Europe or Brazil," he said.



Coppola Francis Ford at Cannes in 2001.

### Il Postino Background Spotlight Francis Ford Coppola

Francis Ford Coppola (born April 7, 1939) is a five-time Academy Award winning American film director, producer, and screenwriter. Coppola is also a vintner, magazine publisher, and hotelier. He is a graduate of Hofstra University where he studied theatre. He earned an M.F.A. in film directing from the UCLA Film School. He is most renowned for directing the highly regarded Godfather trilogy, *The Conversation*, and the Vietnam War epic *Apocalypse Now*.

Francis Ford Coppola was born to Carmine Coppola (who, at the time, was the first flautist for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra) and his wife, Italia Coppola, in Detroit, Michigan, on April 7, 1939. He was the second of three children (his sister is actress Talia Shire). Two years later, Carmine became the first flautist for the NBC Symphony Orchestra and the family moved to New York City, finding a home in Woodside, Queens, where Francis spent the remainder of his childhood.

Coppola had poliomyelitis, or polio, as a boy, leaving him bedridden for large periods of his childhood, and allowing him to indulge his imagination with homemade puppet theater productions. Using his father's 8mm movie camera, he began making movies when he was 10. He studied theatre at Hofstra University and graduated from the University in 1960, prior to earning a Master of Fine Arts degree in film direction from UCLA Film School. There, he made numerous short films. While in UCLA's Film Department, Francis met Jim Morrison, whose music was used later in *Apocalypse Now*.

- wikipedia.org

Coppola has made fortunes on gambles like "*Apocalypse Now*," and lost them on commercial flops like "*One from the Heart*." Now he says he can finance his own movies, like "*Tetro*," for under \$15 million.

He has even gained a decent command of Spanish, breaking into basic sentences with a clear voice.

"I feel people who come to the U.S. should definitely speak English, but I love the idea of the United States becoming a bilingual country," he explains.

At the same time, he says U.S. English speakers could benefit from learning more about Latin America's rich literary traditions.

With his 2007 film "*Youth Without Youth*," Coppola returned to directing after a hiatus of several years. He calls "*Tetro*" the "second film of my new career, so I'm just learning."

His focus now is on making beautiful, enduring films.

"I'm not really trying to make a lot of money off the movie business," Coppola said. "I want personally for people to say, 'God, that was beautiful!'"

# General Interest

## The Films We Miss And Why

The Red Pepper

There are some really interesting Italian films coming out – probably Hungarian, French and Polish ones too – but you'd never know it. We are still suffering the results of post-war agreements that gave the US film industry the power to dominate our culture as if films were like motor cars. The Italian champion of cultural rights, Luciana Castellina, describes what we miss and updates us on the global efforts to defend cultural diversity

Following years of stagnation, Italian cinema is making a remarkable comeback with the emergence of new and talented film directors, as well as the reappearance of a generation of notorious directors who are now in their forties. Statistics reflect this trend. Italian films had become an insignificant niche within Italy's film industry. Now, in 2007, they have conquered 30 per cent of the market, returning to a level of popularity that was last witnessed in 1987.

These figures are not simply the result of the regular 'Christmas films' – awful productions designed for the family, which are regularly box office hits. We have seen a series of quality films emerging from an intermediate generation, like Tornatore's *La Sconosciuta* (*The Stranger*) or *Giorni e Nuvole* (*Days and Clouds*) by Soldini, as well as, most significantly, a wave of productions by young directors aimed at a young audience. 'Italian-style comedies' are being revived, and although they may not be comparable to those of the 1960s and 1970s (by Monicelli, Risi, De Sica, Scola, and many others who belong to that golden age), they are not at all bad. I am referring to films including *Mio Fratello è Figlio Unico* (*My Brother is an Only Child*) by Lucchetti, *La Notte Prima Degli Esami* by Brizzi, Zanasi's *Non ci Pensare* and *L'Orchestra di Piazza Vittorio*.

Historical films are also worth mentioning. Foremost, due to its political resonance, is *I Vicerè* by Roberto Faenza, based on a famous 17th-century novel describing Sicily on the eve of Garibaldi's arrival on the island. What strikes the audience is the analogy between the Italian ruling class at this historical moment and at the present time.

Moreover, it is interesting to note the increased focus in contemporary film on the sphere of work. This trend is led by women directors. In both Wilma Labate's fiction, *Signorina F* (*F* stands for Fiat), and in Francesca Comencini's documentary, *In Fabbrica*, factories and workers – which had become invisible in recent decades – come to the fore. These films also reflect workers' consciousness and needs and their expression in terms of trade unionism. This is a sign of a revived form of communication between cinema and society, after several years of reciprocal neglect.

### Who will watch them?

But why should one hope for an English release of these films? Who will watch them? There is a very low likelihood that a German, French, Pole, Swede or any other European ever will. European movies hardly reach beyond their own country, where already only a low proportion of domestic films are watched, in comparison with American films. Audiences for non-national European movies barely reach 10 per cent of the market – and the UK's 3 per cent is by far the worst.

The truth is that Europeans have a shared knowledge on the basis of American culture, with most people recognising US actors and images to a far greater extent than those from their own continent. Indeed, it can be said that Europeans communicate with each other through the American culture.

So although newly developed communication technologies have the potential of guaranteeing an extraordinary enrichment through cultural exchanges, we have become the victims of massive monoculturalism, whereby the multiplication of means of communication has gone hand in hand with a drastic reduction of sources from which content is generated. In Europe, for example, the whole of African, Asian and Latin American cinema is filtered through a hole as tiny as 1 per cent of the total market.

To make matters worse, 95 per cent of US movies are produced domestically in the US, with the result that my young nephew is likely to know more about Texas than about France. Meanwhile, an American kid his same age may not even be aware that Europe exists. One of the saddest images of the early days of the Iraq War was that of a young Yankee soldier, holding a gun and looking utterly lost upon his arrival in the ancient city of Babylon during the first days of the invasion.

### Hollywood's dominance

This is an old and painful story that has its roots in deeply entrenched structures. European cinema stopped being the leader in this field following the first world war, when the region was devastated by conflict and famous studios, including the French Pathé, were converted into weapons' factories. In the post-war era, Europe witnessed a massive invasion of foreign films, increasingly popular with the advent of sound, while European productions weakened due to language differences.

From this moment onwards, Hollywood began to dominate the market. A lack of language barriers guaranteed domestic success, and films were distributed abroad only once production costs had been at least partially covered. As a result, distribution margins grew and with massive marketing capacities, thousands of copies were being circulated compared to a meagre number of local films.



### Il Postino Background Spotlight Cinema of Italy

The history of Italian cinema began just a few months after the Lumière brothers had discovered the medium, when Pope Leo XIII was filmed for a few seconds in the act of blessing the camera.

- wikipedia.org

To this day, the fractured European market cannot stand the competition. To make matters worse, Americans dub their movies to have a better chance at infiltrating the European market, but then refuse to dub European films, claiming their audience at home is too sophisticated to accept this method. Hence the use of subtitles becomes necessary but this fatally reduces audience numbers.

US dominance of the film industry has always been underpinned by strong government support. It is indicative, for example, that in the first mission sent by Washington to Europe immediately after the end of the second world war the Motion Pictures Association of America already had a notable presence; and that, subsequently, when it came to signing the Marshall Plan, the White House imposed a condition that countries would not receive aid unless their film industries granted complete access to American movies. These issues of the market versus the defence of cultural diversity re-emerged in the course of the GATS negotiations (General Agreement on Trade and Services) and are still open today.

### Hegemony, 'protectionism' and diversity

The positions taken by some European countries towards their domestic film industries has often been disdainfully labelled 'protectionist'. Such an accusation is ridiculous, when the figures reveal that American cinema dominates approximately 80 per cent of the worldwide audio-visual market, and benefits massively from the hegemonic influence that the United States exerts as a global superpower.

It is true that this cultural hegemony is the hegemony of a major cinematographic industry, Hollywood, which enjoys a form of extraterritoriality as the 'fatherland of cinema', or the 'Detroit of feelings'. But the question is whether this attraction has purely cultural roots, or as a well-known New York Times columnist, Thomas Friedman, once maliciously wrote: 'McDonald's cannot flourish without McDonnell Douglas.'

Even if we were ready to accept market notions such as competition encouraging innovation and the related principle of 'comparative advantage' – meaning that it is more efficient to produce where levels of productivity are highest – in many spheres, these formulae cannot be applied to cultural products. A fridge or a car made in Los Angeles is more or less similar to a fridge and a car made in Beijing, Rome or Buenos Aires, but the same cannot be said for the movie industry. Films are about shared memories, the dreams, values and traditions of people within the culture into which they are born. They nourish our sense of social identity. To treat the film industry like any other industry would be passively to shrug off a terrible loss of cultural richness.

Following decades of struggle to assert the importance of a fair and varied film industry, these basic values have finally been introduced in Unesco's recent Convention on the Defence of Cultural Diversity. They were approved unanimously, expect for two votes: those of the United States and Israel.

Unfortunately, unlike the WTO, UN institutions have no power to impose such reforms. The difficulty lies in making the convention prevail over the GATS agreements, which push towards a potentially devastating liberalisation even in the audio-visual sector. But if we want a chance to watch an Italian film (or a French or a Hungarian one, for that matter), we have to overcome this hurdle. It would be an illusion to think that now, thanks to the internet, we are able to watch whatever we wish. That freedom only exists if we are in the position to choose, both technically and culturally. This would require the net to remain truly free, which is an increasingly unlikely prospect.

# Your Business Finances

## Voto estero, Buccino: "la legge vigente sulla diffusione della cultura italiana va rifatta"

Gino Buccino (PD) prosegue la sua campagna elettorale nel Nord America

News ITALIA PRESS

"Bisogna sostenere gli indigenti, continuare a pensare a loro, questo ritengo sia un dovere dello Stato italiano. Bisogna dare un sostegno economico ed una risposta chiara in tema di pensioni".

Gino Buccino ha passato una vita in giro per il mondo. Originario di Firenze, il suo lavoro di medico l'ha spinto prima in Africa, poi in Venezuela e infine in Canada. Nel 2006 è entrato alla Camera dei Deputati, eletto per la XV Legislatura nella Circoscrizione Estero per l'America Settentrionale e Centrale nelle file dell'Unione. In questi giorni Buccino è ancora in giro, impegnato nel nord America in una campagna elettorale che ha avuto tra alcuni dei temi più importanti quelli legati alla indigenza di molti italiani all'estero e alle loro condizioni socio-economiche, temi che Buccino, proprio per la sua professione, conosce bene.

News ITALIA PRESS l'ha intervistato proprio in merito a queste tematiche.

**On, Buccino, quali ritiene siano le emergenze socio-economiche degli elettori della sua ripartizione?**

"Innanzi tutto bisogna dire che da questo punto di vista gli Italiani che sono emigrati in Nord America possono ritenersi piuttosto fortunati. Si può dire che si sono imbarcati sulla nave giusta, rispetto invece a coloro che sono andati nella parte meridionale del Continente trovandosi in un contesto molto più povero. Nonostante ciò e nonostante il fatto che gli emigrati abbiano lavorato duramente per riuscire ad ottenere quel riscatto sociale tanto desiderato, anche qui vi sono casi di insuccesso, sacche di povertà che non vanno assolutamente dimenticate. Bisogna sostenere queste persone, continuare a pensare a loro, questo ritengo sia un dovere dello Stato italiano. Bisogna dare un sostegno economico ed una risposta chiara in tema di pensioni oltre ad aumentare l'efficienza degli uffici che devono prestare assistenza agli Italiani all'estero. Questi sono loro diritti, non è assistenza, ma una risposta a delle richieste legittime".

**E' vero che in Nord America gli italiani si vergognano di denunciare la propria indigenza?**

"Purtroppo sì, è un comportamento di difesa normale che assumono le persone in difficoltà. Ecco perché si dobbiamo agire facendo capire a queste persone che quello che si fa per loro non è un gesto di carità, ma un atto dovuto. Questo dovere dell'Italia deriva innanzi tutto dalla storia, sono molti infatti quelli che affermano che senza le rimesse degli emigrati l'Italia non sarebbe riuscita a superare così agevolmente il dopoguerra. Inoltre bisogna ricordare l'importanza che questi emigranti hanno avuto nella creazione del 'made in Italy'. E' sciocco pensare che si tratti di una creazione recente dovuta ai successi di qualche industria di spicco nel settore della moda o dei motori, sicuramente la Ferrari, Armani ed altri hanno contribuito a creare e diffondere questo brand, ma in realtà sono stati gli emigranti a diffonderlo nel mondo, ad essere i primi e veri ambasciatori, basti pensare alla gastronomia, chi se non loro l'hanno esportata all'estero?"

**Come si rapporta all'Assegno di Solidarietà?**

"Anche questo penso che sia un atto dovuto. Sono molte le proposte in questo senso e, se non fosse stato per la brevità della legislatura penso che si sarebbe riusciti ad approvare quanto chiedevamo, anche perché la spesa complessiva a carico del Governo italiano sarebbe stata di circa 60 o 70 milioni di euro, quindi del tutto abbordabile".

**Per quanto riguarda la tassazione degli italiani all'estero quali sono le sue proposte?**

"Credo che gli Italiani all'estero debbano avere diritti così come doveri e quindi è giusto che paghino le tasse. C'è però il problema della doppia tassazione, ad esempio sulle pensioni che giungono all'estero dopo essere già state tassate, spesso all'insaputa degli stessi beneficiari, dal Governo italiano. A questa prima imposizione fiscale si aggiunge quella dello Stato di residenza che ovviamente tassa il reddito. Stiamo studiando una proposta per cercare di evitare ciò".

**Nello specifico per quanto attiene alla casa, lei cosa intende fare?**

"Per la casa direi che ho già fatto molto. Ho ottenuto che, in materia di ICI, i residenti all'estero ottengessero i medesimi diritti di coloro che sono in Italia. Inoltre, e su questo posso dire di essere il protagonista principale, ho portato un emendamento che è stato accettato in toto dal Governo e che ha dato vita ad una circolare per la detrazione di 200 euro dall'ICI per i residenti all'estero. Bisogna dire che molte delle politiche sulla casa riguardano le Regioni e devo dire che molte si sono dotate di una legislazione favorevole per gli Italiani all'estero. Quello che vorremmo realizzare è una normativa quadro armonizza le pratiche delle varie Regioni, basandola ovviamente su quelle più virtuose, in modo che non debbano esserci delle discriminazioni per i residenti all'estero in base alla zona di provenienza".

**E' favorevole all'iscrizione di tutti gli italiani residenti all'estero -iscritti all'AIRE-all'anagrafe sanitaria italiana?**

"No, questo no. Non è realizzabile che tutti gli Italiani all'estero vengano iscritti all'anagrafe sanitaria italiana. Serve una tutela per coloro che decidono di tornare in Italia, si è riusciti ad ottenere la tutela di 3 mesi in regime di pronto soccorso e bisogna lavorare per cercare di stipulare accordi bilaterali con gli altri Stati che siano il più vantaggioso possibile, ma pensare di accogliere tutti coloro che hanno la cittadinanza italiana sotto l'ombrello della sanità di Roma significherebbe far collassare il sistema sanitario nazionale".

**Per quanto attiene alla scuola per gli Italiani all'estero ed alla diffusione della cultura italiana, Lei cosa propone?**

"In questo campo è tutto da rifare. La legge vigente sulla diffusione della cultura italiana, la 153, è obsoleta, risale infatti al 1971. E' stata fatta una proposta dall'On. Narducci, tenendo conto delle indicazioni dateci dai Com.It.Es e dal CGIE che ritengo valida e spero possa essere approvata nel corso della prossima legislatura. Bisogna capire che il contesto è radicalmente cambiato, non si può più pensare come nel tempo della prima emigrazione di dare ai figli degli emigrati qualche nozione base di Italiano in modo che questi decidevano di ritornare in patria non avessero eccessive difficoltà. Ora all'estero vivono figli di immigrati di terza generazione e oltre, ormai completamente integrati nello Stato di accoglienza. L'Italiano per loro è una lingua ed una cultura praticamente nuova. Dobbiamo incentivare ad apprenderlo e ad amarlo, deve essere un valore aggiunto da dare loro ed a tutti gli amanti dell'Italia. Scuole

### Il Postino Background Spotlight Dr. Gino Buccino



**From the CBC April-2006:** A Canadian has won a seat in Italy's parliament, representing Italians living in a riding that stretches from the Arctic to Panama.

Dr. Gino Buccino will represent 400,000 Italian citizens living in a riding that encompasses 16 countries. Gino Buccino, a Toronto doctor, won one of two Chamber of Deputies seats for the North and Central America district. He ran as a candidate for Italy's centre-left Union coalition, led by Romani Prodi.

"I'm scared," said Buccino, 58. "It's a lot of responsibility but I'm also proud to be a Canadian going to Rome sitting in the Italian parliament."

- cbc.ca archives

aperte anche agli stranieri e che tengano conto delle diversità territoriali ecco i punti chiave".

**Ristrutturazione della rete consolare. Quali le sue proposte?**

"Più che proposte io ho un atto di accusa da fare. Purtroppo la rete consolare funziona veramente male e necessita di un processo di riforma veramente radicale, che la renda capace di funzionare in modo per lo meno dignitoso. L'Italia deve capire che non può gestire tutto in modo centralizzato, inviando tutto il personale da Roma. Pensi che spesso addirittura gli autisti vengono dall'Italia con costi elevati ed una efficienza ovviamente inferiore. Bisogna basarsi sui contrattisti in loco, dall'Italia devono arrivare solamente 3 o 4 persone per Consolato, i responsabili, ma il restante personale deve essere assunto nel Paese dove si è stabilito il Consolato. Ovviamente si deve andare contro a molti interessi, specie perché andare all'estero viene visto come l'unico modo per avere uno stipendio consistente dai dipendenti del Ministero degli Affari Esteri. Bisogna quindi far sì che anche coloro che rimangono in Italia abbiano una remunerazione sufficiente ed evitare che vadano in troppi all'estero facendo crescere inutilmente le spese. Questo permetterebbe inoltre di aprire nuove sedi, penso infatti che ovunque vi siano comunità italiane di rilievo o importanti aziende ed interessi economici sarebbe bene avere una sede consolare."

**E' stata avanzata la privatizzazione di alcune aree quali per esempio i servizi consolari e la promozione del turismo italiano all'estero. Lei è favorevole o contrario?**

"Favorevole direi. Bisogna operare in chiave moderna, se è vantaggioso perché non attuarlo".

**La promozione del Made in Italy all'estero secondo Lei come dovrebbe essere ristrutturata per rispondere alle moderne esigenze dei mercati?**

"Il Made in Italy ha un valore così grande che è come giocare in casa. Secondo me basterebbe mettere in rete tutte le potenzialità, far sì che il sistema camerale, l'ICE e tutti gli organismi di questo genere comunichino fra loro, a questo punto non dovrebbero esserci problemi".

**Internet è le nuove tecnologie: quali le sue proposte per sfruttare le nuove potenzialità di questi strumenti per un verso in favore della partecipazione alla vita democratica italiana da parte degli italiani all'estero e dall'altra per promuovere l'economia italiana nel mondo?**

"Per questo basta lasciare fare ai giovani, loro sicuramente sanno come fare".

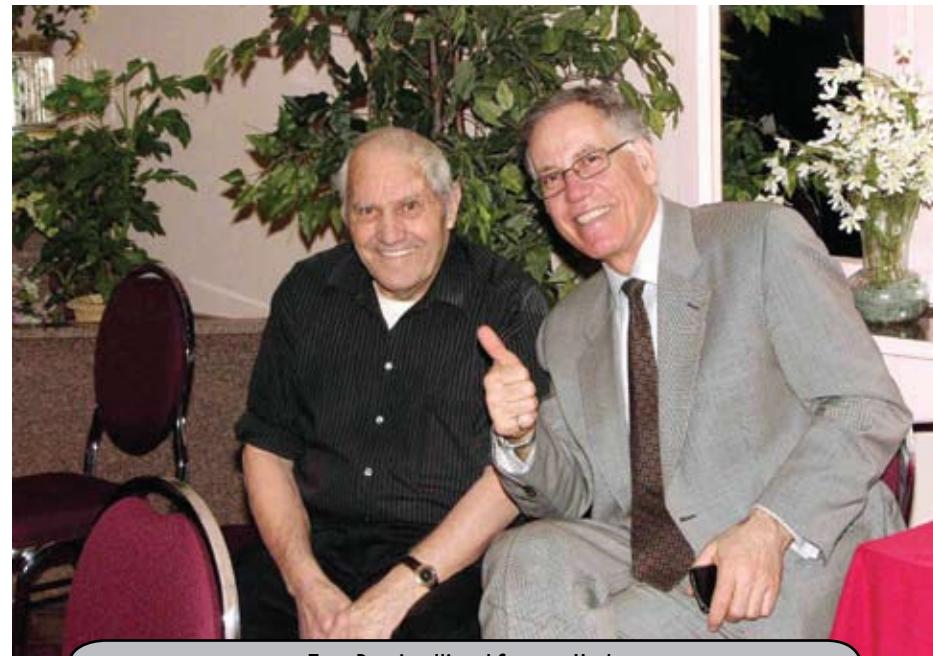
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# Community SnapShots

## Cabotto Awards Pictures :: March.2008



Jessica Valenti and Marisa Rossi



Tony Bucciarelli and Senator Harb



Bortolotti, Silvana Ferraco, and Dean John Osborne



Silvana Feraco, Whitney Gattesco, Middlé Lemoine, Jessica Valenti, Marisa Rossi



Dean Andre Ialonde Marisa Rossi and J. Palumbo



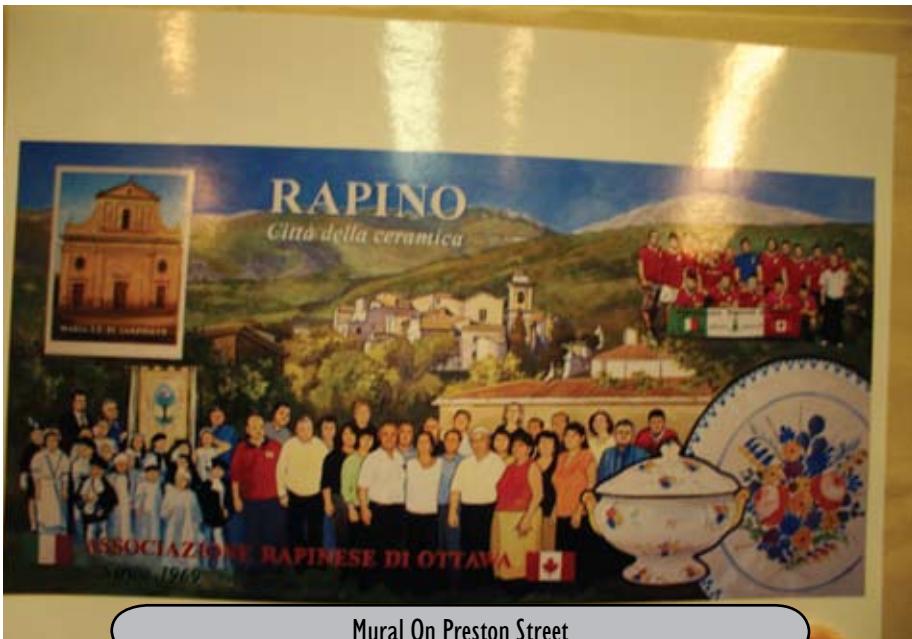
Paul Dewar MP Ottawa Centre



Committee with Recipients and Guests

# Community SnapShots

## Association Rapinese di Ottawa at St. Anthony's Soccer Club



Mural On Preston Street



Alfonso Cocciglia



Rocco Micucci, Lorenzo and Alfonso



Gino Buffone, Rosa DeMarinis with friends



Executive Committee



Ladies Committee



Gino Dinardis, Lorenzo and Alfonso



Chin hostess L. Buglione, Carmel, Gino, Lorenzo and Alfonso

# General Interest

## Spinach Risotto Alla Rizzuti

By Maria Rizzuti

When I was a child, I used to watch Popeye the Sailor. Popeye was one of America's greatest pop culture icons. I am not sure why I was so enthralled with this character and why he squeezed and ate that spinach of a can? Growing up in a Calabrese home, I do not remember my mother ever cooking this vegetable called spinach.

Popeye and Brutus, his great adversary dedicated their lives to winning the affection of Olive Oyl. She was my favorite character. I remember Olive Oyl being so smitten with her chivalrous sailor. I also recall her having such big feet. Apparently Olive Oyl's shoe size was a 14, no wonder her feet looked so huge!

Today Spinach is a widely known vegetable because of this famous character Popeye the Sailor. This cartoon was the idea for young generations to inspire eating this vegetable and the popularity of Popeye helped boost the sales of spinach.

Does spinach really make people strong and healthy just like Popeye? Spinach is probably one of the best healthy leafy vegetables. It contains high level of iron compared to other vegetables. Spinach is a "good for your health" vegetable for people of all ages. It is an excellent source of Vitamin A, C, D and K. It makes your bones and muscles strong and cleanses your blood. It is also an herb medicine for anemia. Spinach makes your brain healthy with wisdom and it grows anywhere globally in almost any season.

Perhaps my family did not eat this leafy green because the taste of spinach is not favorable to all. Spinach has a slight bitter taste. Olive Oil can make the spinach sweeter and for the sake of everybody and especially for young generations this vegetable can now be eaten liberally.

As an adult I have incorporated spinach in many of my recipes. Today I will pay homage to Popeye and Olive Oyl and share with you my recipe for Spinach Risotto Alla Rizzuti.

### Have any Recipes you want to share?

Send them to Il Postino to get published. We love food!

**email:** info@ilpostinocanada.com  
**mail:** 865 Gladstone Avenue, Suite 101  
 Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7T4

#### Ingredients:

6 small potatoes - cut into small cubes the size of dice  
 1 box frozen spinach- 300 gram-thaw, squeeze out water and chop into smaller pieces  
 Arborio rice- 2 cups  
 Extra virgin olive oil- ½ cup  
 Garlic- 2 large cloves cut into thin slices  
 Chicken stock- 5 cups  
 Salt and pepper to taste

#### Preparation:

In a large non stick Dutch pot- fill with water and salt the water and bring to a rolling boil. Add rice and diced potatoes. Cook for approximately 15 minutes. Drain the rice and potato mixture, return to pot and add the spinach and chicken stock and continue to cook on medium to high heat. In a small frying pan cook the thin slices of garlic in the extra virgin olive oil until slightly brown and then discard the garlic. Pour this garlic infused olive oil into the risotto. Continue to cook risotto on medium heat, add salt and pepper. Keep stirring the risotto until the liquid has diminished and the mixture is a creamy texture. This should take approximately 10 more minutes or until al dente. Serve with freshly grated pecorino or parmesano-reggiano cheese.

As Popeye the Sailor would say, "I yam what I yam because I eat my spinach."  
 Enjoy this satisfying Spinach Risotto alla Rizzuti, my family does!



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# General Interest

## Butt out!

By Renato Rizzuti

Okay I know you have a strong addiction to cigarettes, I've been there and done that. As a reformed ex-smoker, I feel that I have the well earned right to say a few words about quitting smoking.

There is the physiological addiction and damage to consider. There is also the psychological addiction to consider. The issue of second hand smoke needs to be addressed in order to dispel the myth that smoking only hurts the smoker and is only the smoker's business.

Let's start with the psychological factors. There is enough medical evidence nowadays to convince anyone about the life threatening effects of smoking. Even in the foolish days of my youth we used to refer to cigarettes as "coffin nails." Modern medical research has proven the term to be very accurate. I will now cite some research which may not have any effect on hard core smokers but may make somebody think about "butting out." A February 7, 2008 report by the World Health Organization states that smoking will kill an estimated one billion people by the year 2100. Those types of enormous figures may not have an impact because smoking is a very strong physiological addition. Your body craves that nicotine fix. You can always try nicotine gum while you are trying to quit. That way you will get your fix but not cause any damage to your lungs. Cosmetic damage is caused by smoking. The smoking dries out the skin, causes wrinkles and prematurely ages the skin. Women and men both want to look younger not older.

Perhaps the psychological addiction is much stronger than the physiological addiction. It is coffee break time at work and you need to relax. Smokers feel that they need the cigarettes to relax them. On the contrary, smoking excites your body by increasing your pulse rate and gives your lungs a beating as they are fighting for oxygen. How then is that relaxing? Besides you probably have to go outside in the freezing cold to have a smoke. Why not just literally "take a breather?" Your body wants to breathe deeply when you smoke so why not just try breathing deeply without the smoke. I guarantee you will find that more relaxing. As far as the "oral gratification" that smoking provides I recommend using carrot sticks as a substitute. Cut the carrots into cigarette size pieces and use a plastic soap container to store them in. That way you will reach for the pack of carrot sticks instead of the pack of smokes. Just stick a carrot stick in your mouth and hold the carrot the same way you would hold a cigarette.

You can also use a form of self hypnosis to overcome the psychological addiction. This is a type of aversion therapy that I used to stop smoking. You need to write out an aversion statement about smoking. It could be something like, "Smoking is a bad habit and I am ruining my health because of it." Repeat this statement in your mind or out loud three times as soon as you wake up in the morning. Each time you get a craving for a smoke during the day, repeat the statement three times. Just before you fall asleep, repeat the statement another three times. Continue repeating the statement for several days. The thought of having a cigarette eventually becomes implanted in your brain as a negative thought. This creates an aversion to smoking.

Smokers often use the argument that they are only hurting themselves while smoking. That is true if the smoking is done "in private between consenting adults." However, the issue of second hand smoke needs to be addressed. There are people in close proximity of the smoker who are also being affected. A report on second hand smoke by Health Canada states, "Breathing in second-hand smoke causes at least 800 deaths in Canadian non-smokers from lung cancer and heart disease every year. The best way to protect your family from the health effects of second-hand smoke is to make your home and car 100% smoke-free." If you are the only smoker in your family, do you really want to put your other family members at risk because of your smoking? When the office worker comes inside from smoking, the smoke sticks to them and causes other people in an elevator to start choking. Smoking

in cars is particularly harmful to non smokers. A California 2005 study found that smoke toxins in cars are sixty times higher than those found in smoke free homes. Premier Dalton McGuinty is going to be passing a law that would ban smoking in cars with children under 16. Potential fines for the offence would be \$200 to \$1,000 for the driver of the car who allows it. Rather than going to a lot of trouble to find a spot where your second hand smoke does not bother anybody, simply quit smoking for your sake and for the sake of those around you. There is an Italian quotation about smoking, "Il fumo della sigaretta viaggia sempre nella direzione di chi non



**Il Postino Background Spotlight  
Two Smoking Facts**

1. Tobacco kills about 45,000 Canadians a year. That's more than the total number of deaths from AIDS, car accidents, suicide, murder, fires and accidental poisonings **combined**.
2. There are over 4,000 dangerous chemicals in cigarettes, cigars and pipes smoke. Many of these chemicals are cancer-causing (carcinogen).

- Canadian Lung Association

fuma." The translation is, "Cigarette smoke always travels in the direction of the non-smoker." The point is to keep your smoke to yourself!

Heart attacks have decreased in Italy after Italy placed a smoking ban in public places. Francesco Forastiere, M.D., Ph.D., co-author of the smoking study and head of the Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology Unit, Department of Epidemiology, Rome E. Health Authority, Italy said, "Smoking bans in all public and workplaces result in an important reduction of acute coronary events," He goes on to say, "The smoking ban in Italy is working and having a real protective effect on population health." It just goes to show you that Italian law has changed with the health conscious times. It is no longer possible to sit in a café drinking espresso and puffing on cigarettes!

The human cost of tobacco is the greatest price you pay for smoking and we pay as a society. You already know it's a bad habit. You already know it is bad for your health and those around you. Your health is your responsibility. It is now time to do something about it. Do yourself a favour and butt out!



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# City Wide

## QUANDO IL SOGNO AMERICANO DIVENTA REALTA': IL CASO PATTI PALMER

**La cantante, figlia d'una emigrata abruzzese negli States, divenne famosa e moglie di Jerry Lewis**

di Emanuela Medoro - emedoro@yahoo.it

Quando il sogno americano diventa realtà. Un caso è quello di Patti Palmer, cantante americana molto nota nel dopoguerra e fino agli anni Sessanta, splendida vocalist nell'era delle Big Bands. Moglie di Jerry Lewis. Perché ce ne occupiamo? Per rispondere a questa domanda dobbiamo fare un salto indietro nel tempo e risalire al 1919 quando Maria Rotellini di Paganica, diciannove anni, a servizio presso una famiglia facoltosa che la trattava a suon di botte, cosa allora ritenuta normale, trovò la via di uscita dall'infelice situazione esistenziale emigrando in America, con un matrimonio per procura, sistema che allora permetteva alle donne di superare tutte le difficoltà burocratiche per entrare negli USA. Il fratello di Maria, Franco, che era emigrato precedentemente e lavorava in una miniera del Wyoming, trovò un suo amico, tale Antonio Calonico, egli pure minatore emigrato, disposto a sposarla. Si combinò il matrimonio e così Maria fece il gran balzo da Paganica, grazioso paese a pochi chilometri dall'Aquila sulla strada che porta al Gran Sasso, ad un villaggio nei pressi della miniera nel Wyoming.

Dal matrimonio nacquero due figli, Pasqualina e Giuseppe. Dell'infanzia di Pasqualina (Patti) si sa quello che lei racconta nella sua autobiografia "I laffed till I cried", pubblicata nel 1993 negli States. E' evidente che le percosse ricevute da giovane avevano segnato in modo indelebile il comportamento della madre Maria, che usava la stessa violenza domestica da lei subita nei confronti della figlia. Nella sua autobiografia Pasqualina racconta: "L'amore non è mai stato un elemento dominante della mia vita, prima d'incontrare Jerry. Mia madre mi difese una volta soltanto in vita sua e me lo ricordo benissimo. Quando si dirigeva verso di me, di solito mi tiravo indietro perché pensavo volesse picchiarmi. In genere avevo ragione io, ma se aggrottavo le ciglia, mi dava uno schiaffo e quando le chiedevo che cosa avessi fatto per meritarmelo, lei rispondeva freddamente: "Non mi piace il modo come mi guardi".... Molto presto imparai a pulire i pavimenti, ed a pulirli ogni volta fino a quando non raggiungevo la perfezione che voleva mia madre... Piangevo quando ero inginocchiata a pulire il pavimento con una spazzola ed un secchio d'acqua. Le mie mani venivano costantemente schiaffeggiate se tenevo l'uncinetto in modo sbagliato, mentre imparavo ad usarlo. Se sbagliavo o non mi concentravo abbastanza, la mamma mi sgridava ed io piangevo...". Ed ancora: "Mio padre picchiava spesso la mamma, ed un giorno, dopo l'ennesima violenta lite, papà se ne andò via da casa per sempre...". Un inferno, dunque, questa famiglia americana di recente origine italiana. Ma ben presto le cose cambiarono per la nostra Pasqualina, perché a causa del divorzio dei genitori, sia lei che il fratello vennero assegnati a due diverse famiglie benestanti per il loro sostentamento, avendo il giudice affidato lei alla madre ed il fratello al padre.

Incominciò così una nuova vita, a Detroit. E qui fu la musica, la voce a dare uno scopo alla vita di Pasqualina. Prese subito il nome d'arte Patti Palmer, cantando con piccoli gruppi musicali in giro per la città. La sua era una vera passione, con un talento naturale che le dava gioia. Perfezionò con gli studi il canto e gli strumenti. Ebbe presto un'attività artistica intensa che la portò a scritture sempre più importanti, fino a diventare la cantante del gruppo di Jimmy Dorsey e ad esibirsi a Broadway. Risale a questo periodo l'incontro fondamentale della sua vita con Jerry Lewis, anch'egli giovanissimo comico alle prime esperienze, destinato poi ad uno straordinario successo ad Hollywood come attore. Si sposarono nel 1944, Patti e Jerry, risolvendo pacificamente tutti i problemi derivanti dalla differenza di religione, lui famiglia d'origine ebraica, lei cattolica. Intanto di Jerry Lewis cresceva la fama, specie quando nel 1946 conobbe Dean Martin, abruzzese d'origine come sua moglie, e costituì con lui una formidabile coppia di spettacolo nei night club e poi nel cinema. Dal matrimonio, durato trentasei anni, Jerry e Patti hanno avuto cinque figli maschi (Gary, Scott, Chris, Anthony e Joseph), più uno adottato (Ron). Dunque una famiglia numerosa, con genitori super impegnati in attività artistiche fuori casa.

Ed ecco il fantastico salto sociale della nostra Maria Rotellini, la mamma di Patti, che da una specie di capanna in un villaggio di minatori del Wyoming, passando per Detroit, si ritrova a fare la nonna in un'immensa villa lussuosa di Bel Air, a Los Angeles, trentacinque stanze e rubinetti d'oro, che era stata di Louis B. Mayer, uno dei fondatori di Hollywood. Mi piace pensare che in quell'ambiente, distante anni luce dalle sue origini non solo per ricchezza, ma anche per cultura, la nostra Maria abbia per sempre dimenticato la violenza domestica e l'uso delle mani come strumento di educazione. Questo miracolo darebbe più significato al sogno americano del benessere e della ricchezza, diventato realtà. Questa bella storia con un lieto fine così clamoroso, finora nota solo a pochi, è raccontata in un libro di Raffaele Alloggia "Patti Palmer e Jerry Lewis, due stelle a Paganica" (L'Aquila, 2004). L'autore, di Paganica come Maria, ha avuto la costanza di ricercare per anni fotografie e documenti necessari per scrivere questa storia. Tutto cominciò quando l'autore, appassionato di foto d'epoca, per puro caso ebbe sotto gli occhi alcune immagini con Patti e Jerry custodite da una zia di lei, scattate a Paganica durante una breve visita della coppia di artisti per conoscere i parenti di Patti, nel lontano 1953. Il volume che racconta questa storia di sogno americano realizzato, riporta anche alcuni capitoli dell'autobiografia di Patti Palmer tradotti dall'inglese. Della cantante d'origine abruzzese, felicemente vivente, ha seguito le orme musicali il primo dei suoi figli, Gary. Con la sua Band "Gary Lewis and the Playboys", otto Dischi d'oro, miete tuttora grandi successi ed ha venduto 45 milioni di dischi in tutto il mondo.

### Il Postino Background Spotlight Jerry Lewis Highlight Reel

1926: Born Joseph Levitch on March 26 in Newark, the only child of vaudevillian Danny and wife Rea.

1946: Teams with singer Dean Martin for the first time on July 25 at Atlantic City's 500 Club, becoming an overnight sensation in the second show after bombing in the first.

1949: Martin and Lewis become contract players at Paramount Pictures, leading to 16 phenomenally successful movies.

1963: Jekyll-and-Hyde high jinks in *The Nutty Professor*, universally regarded as Lewis' best movie, which opens in June.

1965: Falls during a performance in March, injuring his spinal cord and leading to "37 years of pain."

1977: Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work with muscular dystrophy. - USATODAY.com



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# Broadcast Notice

## JOHNNY LOMBARDI: The Great Communicator

Canadian Documentary Premiere on OMNI.1

Italian Language Version - Saturday, April 5th at 10PM ET on OMNI.1, Encore Saturday, April 12th at 5PM

March 27, 2008 - Toronto, ON - Rogers OMNI Television is proud to present the world television premiere of Johnny Lombardi: The Great Communicator as part of the OMNI Television Documentary Special series. The 60 minute documentary launches to Italian language audiences on OMNI.1, Saturday, April 5th at 10:00 p.m. with an encore presentation the following week, Saturday, April 12th at 5:00 p.m.

A labour of love for the entire production crew – especially Grace Fusillo-Lombardi of Fuel Productions, Writer/Director/Producer of Johnny Lombardi: The Great Communicator and Lenny Lombardi, Executive Producer -- their heartfelt portrait details Johnny Lombardi's rise from poverty, the son of poor immigrants from Italy, to successful businessman, entrepreneur and key contributor to the development of multicultural broadcasting in Canada.

"My father's dream of broadcasting was to be far reaching, touching the lives of millions of people across Canada," says Lenny Lombardi. "His CHIN Radio station was first to provide new immigrants with a voice; he played a major role in helping shape and define a vision of Canada that openly embraced different cultures and different languages."

But while Johnny Lombardi and multicultural broadcasting in Canada are now closely linked, when CHIN was first established, multiculturalism was in its early stages of evolution.

"At one time broadcasting in non-official languages was actually illegal; our society was not always as multicultural as it has now become," echoes Grace Fusillo-Lombardi, wife of Lenny Lombardi and daughter-in-law of the late, great communicator. "Johnny Lombardi had to overcome many struggles to realize his dreams, and we are grateful to Rogers OMNI Television for their support in helping us to inspire others with his story."

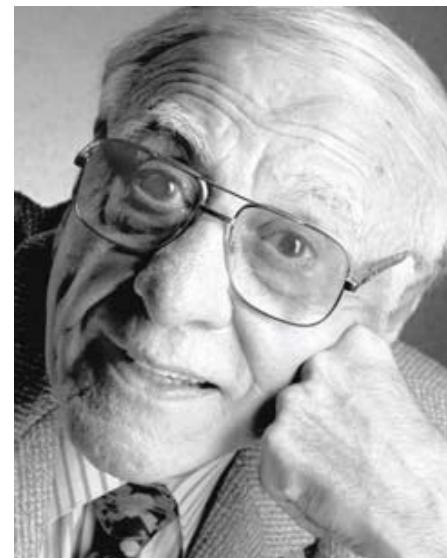
The documentary features over 35 industry leaders, politicians, friends and family members sharing their fond memories of Johnny Lombardi: The Great Communicator, among them:

- The Rt. Hon. Jean Chrétien; former Prime Minister of Canada;
- Charles Dalfen, former Chair, CRTC;
- Ted Rogers, President and CEO, Rogers Communications Inc.;

"Of the hundreds of documentaries generated by OMNI's Independent Producers Initiative, Johnny Lombardi: The Great Communicator is a re-affirmation of Canadian ethnocultural identity," says Madeline Ziniak, National Vice President of the OMNI Stations. "Moreover, the partnership between OMNI and CHIN on this project underlines our mutual strengths as diversity broadcasters who both build bridges by reaching out to our respective audiences in their language of comfort."

The English language version of Johnny Lombardi: The Great Communicator debuted on OMNI.1 in December, 2007, shortly after what would've been Lombardi's 90th birthday.

Johnny Lombardi: The Great Communicator was exclusively funded through OMNI's Independent Producers Initiative, a \$32.5 million independent production fund that to date has supported over 200 new documentary programmes. Interested producers can access funding criteria at OMNI Television's web site <http://www.omnitv.ca/ontario/info/funds>.



## Parte il voto per 3 milioni di italiani

## Entra nel vivo la corsa dei candidati per 6 seggi al Senato e 12 alla Camera

TORONTO - Mentre in Italia si è ancora alle prese con le alchimie dei sondaggi, sono già scattate le operazioni di voto per i quasi tre milioni di connazionali residenti all'estero. Entro mercoledì infatti, tutti gli aventi diritto (2.950.000, su un totale di 3.649.377) dovrebbero aver ricevuto dai rispettivi consolati i plichi contenenti certificati elettorali, liste dei candidati della propria ripartizione di residenza e schede. Che da ieri possono compilare e rispedire. Le quattro ripartizioni in cui è suddivisa la Circoscrizione Estero eleggeranno in tutto 12 deputati e 6 senatori, con questi ultimi che - come già accaduto nel 2006 - potrebbero risultare decisivi per gli equilibri di Palazzo Madama.

A differenza di quelli che voteranno in Patria, gli elettori italiani all'estero potranno esprimere fino ad un massimo di due preferenze, scrivendo il cognome del candidato nell'apposita riga posta accanto al contrassegno votato. I candidati nella circoscrizione Estero sono in tutto 269, distribuiti in 13 liste: dei 18 parlamentari eletti nel 2006, 17 ci riproveranno anche in questa tornata elettorale. L'unico a non essere stato riconfermato è l'ex di Forza Italia Salvatore Ferrigno, che ha nel frattempo aderito all'Udc di Pierferdinando Casini. Dopo l'introduzione della legge 459/2001, è la seconda volta, infatti, che i connazionali all'estero sono chiamati ad eleggere loro rappresentanti alle Camere.

Per evitare il ripetersi di situazioni "critiche" che hanno caratterizzato l'esperienza del 2006, il Parlamento ha convertito di recente in via d'urgenza il decreto legge che prevede alcune "limitate ma significative modifiche" al procedimento elettorale: utilizzo preferenziale della posta raccomandata da parte degli uffici consolari per l'invio del materiale elettorale a ciascun cittadino italiano avente diritto iscritto all'AIRE (Anagrafe Italiani Residenti Estero), aumento del numero dei seggi di scrutinio, con il rapporto seggi-elettori che si riduce da 1/5000 a 1/2000 (al massimo 1/3000) per evitare la bolgia di due anni fa a Castelnuovo di Porto (a pochi chilometri da Roma, dove sono concentrati i seggi per lo spoglio delle schede). Oltre a questo, l'aumento da 5 a 6 dei membri di ciascun seggio, nonché scelta diretta del segretario del seggio da parte del presidente dello stesso.

La legge 30/2008 consente inoltre l'esercizio del diritto di voto per corrispondenza a tre categorie di cittadini italiani, residenti in Italia, che si trovino temporaneamente all'estero per motivi di servizio: tutti i militari e i poliziotti impegnati in missioni internazionali, i dipendenti statali e professori e ricercatori universitari che lavorano all'estero. (Corriere canadese, 28 marzo/Inform)

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# Your Finances

## You May Have a Tax Time Bomb Ticking and Not Even Know It Protect your estate from taxes and fees

Domenico Cellucci, CFP - Financial Consultant

Are you aware of the fact that taxes and probate fees\* could reduce the value of your estate by up to half? While Canada does not impose death or inheritance taxes, generally your capital assets are considered to have been sold upon your death unless you leave these assets to a surviving spouse on a "rollover basis".

The income tax implications of this deemed disposition can be severe, and depending on your beneficiary designations and the province in which you reside, probate fees may be assessed on your estate to further erode your legacy.

Life insurance, often viewed solely to provide for dependants in the event of an untimely death, can provide an effective way of preserving your wealth for the benefit of your heirs.

### Just what is taxable upon death?

Virtually any asset upon which taxes have been deferred will be subject to tax upon your death. This includes the full value of your Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) or Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF), as well as half of the gain on any non-registered assets, including recreational property.

The tax implications on these deemed dispositions can be significant. For example, if the cottage you purchased 30 years ago for \$50,000 has appreciated in value to \$250,000, upon your death, your estate could face a tax bill of approximately \$45,000 on the cottage alone. An RRSP or RRIF containing \$300,000 of assets would also be taken entirely into income. The result? It too could be cut almost in half once it's taxed.

In jurisdictions with relatively high probate fees, such as Ontario, Nova Scotia and British Columbia, these fees can further reduce your estate by thousands of dollars.

### Delaying the inevitable

Canadians can bequeath capital property directly to their spouse or common-law partner - with no immediate tax consequences. The proceeds of registered plans can also be 'rolled over' to a surviving spouse or common-law partner and remain sheltered from tax. As a result, many tax liabilities can be deferred until the death of the surviving spouse or common-law partner.

### Example of a typical situation....

\*Assumes 50% of Capital Gain is taxable at a personal rate of 45%

\*\*Assumes marginal tax rate of 45%

| Asset Type                  | Current market value | Original cost | Capital gain over 20 years | Tax payable |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Non-registered mutual funds | \$300,000            | \$120,000     | \$180,000                  | \$40,500*   |
| Vacation property           | \$360,000            | \$100,000     | \$260,000                  | \$58,500*   |
| RRSPs/RRIFs                 | \$400,000            | \$N/A         | \$N/A                      | \$180,000*  |
| Totals                      | \$1,060,000          |               |                            | \$279,000   |

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Unless the surviving spouse or common-law partner enters into a new relationship, the tax deferral ordinarily comes to an end upon his or her death. In these circumstances, estate assets may have to be sold in order to pay long-deferred taxes.

While selling assets to pay taxes is an option, it may not always be an ideal solution. Unfavourable market conditions could force the sale of assets at depressed prices, limiting the proceeds available to your estate. Transaction costs incurred upon these sales could further reduce these proceeds.

Finally, some assets cannot easily be sold. For example, it is not feasible to sell off only a portion of your cottage to cover taxes. This could put someone in the unenviable position of having to raise large amounts of cash if they hope to retain the property they inherit.

### Another option

Rather than selling assets or borrowing cash to pay fees and taxes, consider purchasing a joint second-to-die life insurance policy to preserve your estate.

These policies insure the lives of both spouses, with proceeds payable upon the death of the surviving spouse. The proceeds can then be applied to cover your estate's tax liabilities and other debts, thereby leaving your legacy intact for distribution to your heirs.

For a more thorough understanding of what lies ahead for your estate, talk with us today.

\*Probate fees are often not applicable in Quebec. And when they are, the fee isn't based on the value of the Estate.

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**Investors Group**

# Community Calendar/Eventi Comunitari

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Lisa Micucci and  
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on your  
beautiful wedding!

*Engagement Notice*



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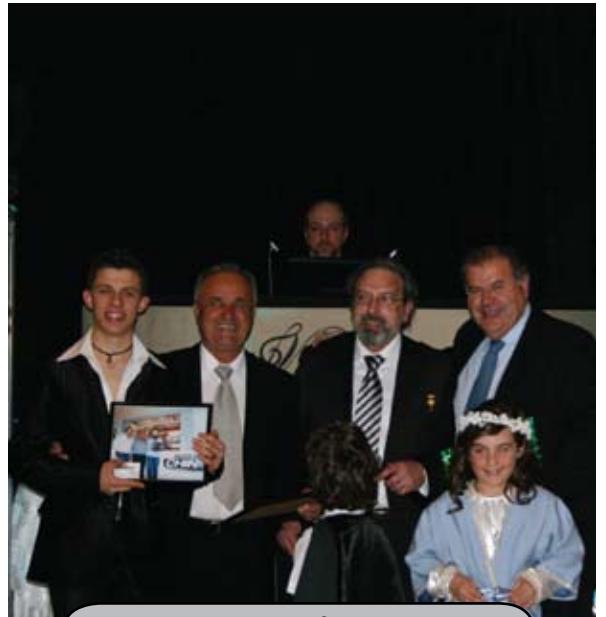
## Ottawa Italians Visit Montreal Celebration of the Madonna di Carpineto



Signorina Dinardis with Angelo Filoso



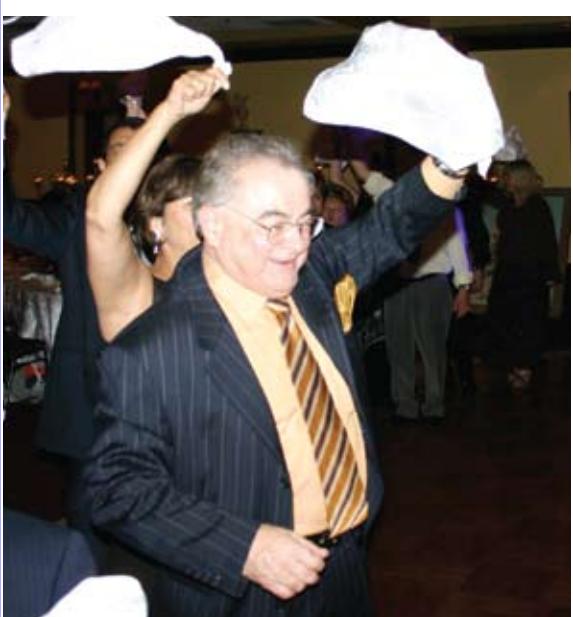
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Lorenzo Antonietta, and Denise



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Thank you to everyone who made  
this event a success!