

# IL POSTINO

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## Buon Natale!

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# City-Wide

## Italian-Canadian writer showcases culture and romance in her writing

*Ida Plassay has one book published, one book in the editing process and another just being written.*

by Matthew Perry

Love of a Lifetime is a book that came to fruition from one author's inability to abandon her own love of a lifetime – a love of writing.

Ida Plassay published Love of a Lifetime in November of 2004 and has since signed another contract with PublishAmerica to publish a second book titled Abandoned Love and has begun writing a third.

"This is something I always dreamed of doing," says Plassay. "However, with children and family and working . . . it wasn't possible for me to find the time or the money that it takes to write a novel."

"I love the years I spent raising my family and I wouldn't trade it in for anything, but it didn't leave me with any time to work on my writing, she continued," she continued. "So when I retired I began writing and it has led me here."

However, she admits that throughout the years the characters grew inside her mind to the point where they almost feel like family members themselves.

"It really amazes me how much the characters have come to life," she adds. "They have their own way of thinking and acting and it all comes very natural to me."

Love of a Lifetime is a story of one woman's romantic endeavors with her "true love" only weeks before she is set to marry another man. It is a descriptive and passionate novel and includes many steamy romance scenes.

"My children were a little surprised, about the love scenes," she laughs. "I think they were surprised to read something like that written by their mother, and it wasn't an easy thing for me to write, but I knew it was what the story needed. . . I may be retired, but my imagination is not old."

Being an Italian-Canadian is something Plassay, her maiden name is Pasqua, says shines brightly through all of her work.

"Well, the story takes place in Ottawa, and I think that gives it a unique feature in itself . . . I haven't read too many books set in Ottawa," the author explains. "However, it also incorporates a lot of the customs and intentions of the Italian-Canadian community."

"Although the story is completely fictional I know these traditions, I grew up with them and I have seen them."

Most of the characters in the book are of Italian descent, Plassay adds, and that her cultural experiences and ideals add to the book's

wealth of symbolism, especially regarding the main character Rita Sterling and her purity.

"Sterling is meant to be a pure girl and I believe that a white dress is a symbol of purity and that purity comes from respect

for ones own self," she says. "I think that not enough girls today respect themselves enough and that is one of the points I was trying to make in the book."

"My main message was that they should believe that there is special love for everyone and you shouldn't sell yourself short."

It turns out that the author almost sold herself short before she even got started.

"I had always, always wanted to write a romance novel," she says. "So when I retired I just decided that I would do that. . . even if it was just for myself."

This is where one of her closest friends came into play. After reading most manuscript Tracey Belanger noticed something special about Plassay's work.

"I found myself coming back week after week to see what Ida had written," says Belanger. "When she was close to finishing I just had to insist she do something with such a great read, so I told her I would help her get it published."

One problem was that Plassay had written the novel out three times, but all in longhand so her niece Natalina Destro offered to transcribe her work onto a computer and her friend Belanger started looking for publishers.

"Ida has since learned how to use the computer and is writing on it, which also speaks of her passion for writing," says Belanger. "But, it is just great to have a wonderfully written book and one that expresses such solid virtues that many books, movies and TV shows today don't have."

However, Plassay admits she isn't trying to preach when she writes and that she in fact has only one goal.

"I wanted to write a great romance story that I thought people would identify with and enjoy," she says proudly. "It is really an honour just to be published and to know there are people out there reading my work."

"I just wrote about what I knew and believed in myself," she concluded.



Ida Plassay

## RAPPORTO DA OTTAWA

a cura di Carletto Caccia

Sembra quasi inconcepibile che, malgrado il grande progresso tecnologico che ha portato l'uomo sulla luna, che ha consentito operazioni chirurgiche come il trapianto del cuore, che ha permesso l'uso del computer e la trasformazione dei raggi solari in energia elettrica, non si possa assicurare ai villaggi indiani dell'acqua potabile senza dover ricorrere all'acqua bollita. A quanto dicono, in una cinquantina di villaggi la popolazione deve ancora far bollire l'acqua prima di poter berla.

La lezione imparata a Walkerton nel non lontano 2000 che risultò con la morte di sette persone e diverse dozzine di persone in ospedale a causa dell'avvelenamento dell'acqua, è ancora fresca nella memoria. Ciò nonostante è capitato un grosso guaio nel villaggio di Kashechewan, regione di James Bay, dove centinaia di persone sono state evacuate perché l'acqua inquinata ha causato serie malattie intestinali e della pelle, specialmente tra i bambini. A questi, trasferiti in quattro località nell'Ontario centrale come dei 'rifugiati', viene data ora l'assistenza medica necessaria per curarli contro le malattie contratte dall'acqua inquinata. Occorre notare che non sono mancati gli avvertimenti. Ad esempio, nel gennaio del 2003 un certo John Graham scrisse un rapporto sulle condizioni dell'acqua nelle riserve indiane descrivendole 'a sorry mess', una condizione ben pietosa. Graham indicò che la responsabilità del problema veniva trascurata dai governi federale, provinciali e dalle bande indiane. Il capo della riserva indiana di Kashechewan ha ora ottenuto la promessa dal governo federale di ricostruire un nuovo villaggio in una località che dovrebbe garantire accesso a dell'acqua veramente potabile. Resta ora a vedere se risolvere il problema dell'acqua possa risolvere un punto interrogativo molto più grande, e cioè il tenore di vita nelle riserve indiane dove la disoccupazione ha a volte raggiunto l'87%. In Canada ci sono oltre 680 tribù indiane. Storicamente parlando, è al governo federale che spetta la responsabilità di curare e proteggere una popolazione che al momento dell'arrivo dell'uomo bianco occupava il territorio che oggi occupiamo noi. L'acqua di Kashechewan ha messo a dura prova questa responsabilità.

## La Terza Via Alle Elezioni Politiche

Avv. John Adamo\*

Fra pochi mesi, verso la meta di marzo, noi cittadini italiani residenti all'estero riceveremo per posta le schede elettorali con cui potremo, per la prima volta, eleggere i nostri propri rappresentanti al Parlamento Italiano. In Nord America voteremo per un senatore e due deputati. Con l'avvicinarsi delle elezioni politiche ci conviene esaminare non tanto per chi votare (i candidati devono farsi conoscere) quanto come eserciteremo il nostro sacrosanto diritto di voto.

I partiti politici ci propongono di votare i loro candidati. Ci dicono che i nostri rappresentanti dovranno legiferare non solo per gli italiani all'estero ma anche per chi vive in Patria. Secondo loro, questo si potrà fare solo schierandosi a sinistra o a destra.

I partiti politici vorrebbero che noi dimenticassimo la più elementare regola della democrazia rappresentativa e cioè, come ci insegna il proverbio: "Ognuno porta l'acqua al suo mulino."

Chi si candida, ad esempio, per la Camera dei Deputati da Trieste rappresenta le esigenze di chi abita in quella città, proponendo soluzioni alle problematiche del suo elettorato. La stessa regola di rappresentanza vale anche per noi. Sarà il dovere dei nostri rappresentanti promuovere le nostre istanze e proporre soluzioni alle nostre problematiche.

Se si impegnano con serietà e professionalità i nostri parlamentari potranno lavorare insieme con le istituzioni per migliorare i servizi consolari, garantire l'assistenza sanitaria per gli italiani all'estero che rientrano in Patria, promuovere l'insegnamento della lingua italiana affinché i nostri giovani possano meglio apprezzare il nostro patrimonio storico e culturale, e tante altre cose che ci interessano direttamente.

Questi sono problemi reali che non sanno né di destra né di sinistra. Sono semplicemente delle cose pratiche da fare.

L'interesse dei partiti politici è quello di dividerci in due schieramenti – sinistra e destra – e ricreare all'estero lo stesso sistema politico che hanno in Italia. Noi non dobbiamo cadere in questo tranello. Invece di fare il loro gioco, è nostro compito votare saggiamente per chi saprà agire negli interessi della nostra comunità, portando l'acqua al nostro mulino.

Non regge il ragionamento dei partiti politici che anche i nostri rappresentanti devono schierarsi con loro. Certo, i nostri parlamentari dovranno anche legiferare per chi vive, per esempio in Puglia e Campania. In questo non c'è niente di insolito. Lo fanno adesso i deputati di Torino e Milano, votando su questioni che non riguardano i loro elettorati direttamente ma, si spera, sempre nell'interesse comune della Nazione.

Chi ci rappresenta deve rappresentarci tutti. Deve essere in grado di promuovere i nostri interessi davanti a tutto il Parlamento e non solo fra gli amici del partito che l'ha appoggiato alle elezioni. Qualora venisse eletto il rappresentante di un partito si troverebbe annullato nel calderone del partito stesso. Così isolato, non potrà fare nulla per noi e ci ritroveremo con l'aver votato un rappresentante inutile.

A noi conviene prendere la terza via, evitando le vecchie ideologie e gli interessi dei partiti. Solo il candidato non vincolato da interessi partitici può offrirci una reale alternativa indipendente. Questa sarà il rappresentante in grado di offrire un contributo vero alle nostre comunità in America. Questo candidato sarà in grado di avvalersi del nostro patrimonio culturale e sociale ricco di esperienze fatte dagli emigranti e dai loro figli. Queste elezioni sono troppo importanti per mettere a rischio il nostro futuro e quello dei nostri figli.

\*L'avv. John Adamo è Segretario del COM.IT.ES per la circoscrizione consolare di San Francisco. Scrive strettamente a titolo personale.

*Love of a Lifetime is available through [www.PublishAmerica.com](http://www.PublishAmerica.com), or on the shelves of the Chapters on Rideau street. It can also be ordered from any major book retailer online.*

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



# Community

## Too Little, Too Late

Comments of Italian Canadians and Canadians  
For Consideration of the Canadian Government To Resolve  
the Internment of Italian Canadians and Canadians during World War II



By Lawrence Greenspon

The federal government's recent acknowledgment of the internment of Italian Canadians during World War II was far too little and inexplicably late.

As Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said in the House of Commons at the time of the apology to Japanese Canadians "There is a world of difference between regret and a formal apology." The reason offered for an acknowledgment instead of an apology is possible legal implications. In other words, admitting our historical mistakes may have an economic impact. This pitiful explanation hardly suffices.

The Italian Canadian announcement comes 60 years after the internments and pales in comparison with the settlement reached with the Japanese Canadians reached more than 17 years ago. The Japanese Canadian \$300 million dollar settlement included a program of accepting Canadian citizenship applications, name clearing of those convicted

under the War Measures Act, the establishment of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and the payment of substantial monies to be used for education across Canada.

Hundreds of Italian men were taken from their families and homes and held prisoner for up to four years in internment camps without being charged. The descendants of these Italian men are now promised symbolic yet very modest (\$2.5 million dollars) monies, insufficient to affect any real change. There is talk of a plaque in Petawawa, site of one of the former camps. These measures are wholly inadequate. The Federal Government should set aside sufficient funds to be distributed to the Provinces in order to establish an educational module to be taught to all grade 10 or 11 History or Civics students in Canada. It could cover the internment of Italian and Japanese Canadians, the Canadian post World War II refugee policy regarding Jews and the 1970 imposition of the War Measures Act as historical examples of widespread suspension of rights in Canada.

As part of the settlement, the Federal Government should ensure that both the Canadian War Museum and the Human Rights Museums in Winnipeg have designated areas where the internment of Italian Canadians is addressed. In order to take these steps there will need to be a much greater financial commitment than the one announced. Our government must be able to fairly face errors of the past so that as citizens, we do not permit their repetition. On a daily basis, racial profiling, security certificates and names like Arar and Harkat raise questions about whether there has been real progress in the way we respect individuals' human rights.

We can not expect to learn from our mistakes if we do not have the courage to admit them. Our government must then act convincingly to ensure that these violations will not be repeated.

## PERCHE' NO?

di Luciano Pradal

Nel bellissimo ambiente di Villa Marconi, "Il Postino" sempre interessato alla promozione culturale della comunità Italo-Canadese di Ottawa, ha organizzato sabato 29 ottobre, la presentazione del libro "Perche' no?" dello scrittore Dino Fruchi.

Angelo Filoso, Presidente Esecutivo de Il Postino e' stato molto felice e determinante nell' organizzare questo evento culturale che si e' tenuto nell' ambito della Settimana della Lingua Italiana nel Mondo, in collaborazione con l' Ambasciata d' Italia in Canada, il Ministero degli Affari Esteri, l' Accademia della Crusca\* ed il Ministero per gli Italiani nel Mondo.

Quale momento piu' appropriato! perche' il Fruchi scrive infatti "...In una prosa limpida, elegante....Fruchi scrive in un italiano classico...in un italiano molto bello che deve essere apprezzato e diffuso".

Come introduzione all' evento, due allievi della Scuola d' Italiano S. Rita, Mya Milito e Andrew Coan, hanno letto due brani in Italiano, questo e' stato un bel tocco al programma e ci rende fiduciosi che la nostra lingua sia parlata dalle generazioni future. Erano presenti, i genitori, la Presidente della Scuola Ivana Baldelli, alcune insegnanti e tutti erano molto fieri di come si e' svolta questa parte del programma.

Luciano Pradal ha poi introdotto il Sig. Dino Fruchi e si e' detto privilegiato ed orgoglioso di presentare l' autore.

Augusto Capitani ha presentato il libro, la storia in esso raccontata, la storia di una figlia di emigranti italiani Augusto Capitani ha anche elencato le opere che il Fruchi aveva gia' scritto.

Il Sig. Fruchi ha congratulato i due bambini per aver letto cosi' bene i brani in italiano, ha poi detto di essere molto felice di essere in Ottawa, abita ad Oka, ha ringraziato il pubblico presente, Il Postino, il Ministro Cortese dell'

Ambasciata d' Italia, Tele 30 e tutti quelli che hanno collaborato al successo dell' evento, ha parlato un' po' di se stesso, del suo passato letterario e delle sue pubblicazioni passate, c' e' poi stato un dialogo con i presenti e si e' proceduto alla firma delle copie che molti dei presenti si sono affrettati di comperare si e' stabilito cosi' un sincero legame amichevole tra l' autore ed i presenti, Una amicizia che ha stimolato l' autore ad offrire una copia del nuovo libro e le copie dei libri da lui precedentemente scritte, ad Augusto Capitani che assieme alla Proff. Panico e Giovanni Saracino formano il Comitato per la Creazione della Biblioteca Italiana di Villa Marconi.

I presenti hanno avuto l' occasione per socializzare mentre assaporavano il rinfresco offerto da Il Postino. Prima di ripartire per Oka, il Sig. Fruchi ha visitato la Piccola Italia e la Citta' di Ottawa, alcuni giorni dopo ha inviato una lettera di ringraziamento a tutti quelli che hanno collaborato a farli passare una cosi bella giornata.

Chi desiderasse comperare una copia del libro "Perche' No?" Che si vende molto bene, e' pregato di telefonare a Luciano Pradal al 729-3080 che si fara' piacere farlielo pervenire.

*\*L'Accademia della Crusca fu fondata a Firenze nel 1582 con lo scopo di pubblicare un grande vocabolario della lingua italiana purgandolo da ogni impurita' e parole straniere.*

*I fondatori, per rendere comprensibile lo scopo e la missione dell' Accademia, come emblema presero il frullone, (il setaccio) come motto scelsero la frase: "Il piu' bel fiore coglie" (Il piu' bel fior della farina, s' intende)*

*La prima edizione del vocabolario comparve nel 1612, la seconda nel 1628, la terza nel 1691. Le susseguenti edizioni sono dipese dal denaro ricavato dalle sottoscrizioni.*

*La sede dell' Accademia della Crusca si trova nella biblioteca Riccardiana di Firenze. (Fonte: Dino Fruchi)*

# War Measures Act imposed on Italian Canadians

by Matthew Perry

A passionate debate regarding the recognition of the implementation of the War Measures Act imposed on Italian Canadians took place on November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Villa Marconi.

The Honourable Raymond Chan, Minister of State (Multiculturalism) and members of the Italian community met to discuss the Government of Canada's Acknowledgement, Commemoration, and Education (ACE) Program and what it means for the Italian-Canadian Community. Marlene Catterall, Member of Parliament for Ottawa West-Nepean, also participated.

Just four days earlier Prime Minister Paul Martin announced the ACE program during a press conference in Montreal. The program is a three-year program worth \$25 million dollars that was first announced in the February 2005 budget. The agreement announced in Montreal was for the amount of \$2.5 million dollars going to the Italian Canadian Community.

Part of the mandate of the ACE program is to include fund eligible proposals that acknowledge the historical experiences of ethnocultural communities that were impacted by wartime measures, such as the internment and immigration restrictions that impacted communities such as the Italian Canadian one.

To start the discussion Chan spoke of his role with the ACE program and about his experiences in working with Canadians to create the program.

"World War II affected all Canadians, including Italian Canadians," he said. "It is important to revisit the history of those events, especially in respect to what we have seen happen around the world with regards to 9-11 and terrorism."

He continued to say that he has always been impressed with the way that Canada has so many different cultures living in harmony together and that we must work hard in order to keep our unique sense of equality.

"In trips to the United States I see that we both have a different approach and perception of equality," Chan said. "They seem to truly believe in the equality of people and not the equality of ethnic groups."

During his work on this program he said he learned a lot about Canadian history and human rights.

## To Resolve the Internment of Italian Canadians and Canadians during the Second World War in Canada

1. The Congress which body only represents its members does not represent all Italian Canadians because the executive has not been elected by all Italian Canadians. The Congress of Italian Canadians does not have the mandate to represent all Italian Canadians and the Government should have more public forums to discuss and consider recommendations from Italian Canadians throughout Canada in order to resolve this matter.

2. The interned individuals have had no input on this agreement accepted by the Congress of Italians representing only its members.

3. An Audit Review committee of the funds to be given to the Congress must be formed of individuals interned or their representatives, so that, the funds are spent according to the agreement.

4. No individuals having a conflict of interest on this matter should voice an opinion or represent the Community members without indicating that the individual has a conflict of interest, that is, work for the government.

5. Canadian Citizenship for Italians should be made easier and fast tracked similar to the Japanese Agreement.

6. A plaque of all the interned names and Italian Canadian Soldiers who fought for Canada during the Second World War should be erected at the National War Museum in Ottawa.

7. The Government of Canada should and must apologize formally in the House of Commons and deal with the mistake it made during the internment of Italian Canadians and Canadians during the Second World War regardless of the legal implications, so that history does not repeat itself and learn from our mistakes.

8. Names of Italian Canadians interned during the Second World War must be cleared in the official records of the Canadian Government and Archives of the national Library in order to make the wrong right.

"The idea of "Human Rights" is still a new concept, maybe 60 years old and we are still working at it," he said. "However, in working with ACE I had the chance to learn about a lot of the different discrimination that people face today and can imagine what it was like during the WWII."

Chan explained that with his Chinese backgrounds he had already known of the struggles of the Chinese in Canadian history, but that he finally got to have a view of the other ethnic groups in Canada.

"I found that I was not alone here as the Chinese don't know what happened to the Ukrainians and the Ukrainians don't know what happened to the Italians," he said. "This is why awareness is one of the most important keys in the ACE program."

He said ACE will involve acknowledging some of the actions taken against ethnic groups such as Italians, but cited current legal cases and repercussions as the reason the Government of Canada can't offer an apology at this time.

It was this notion along with some people's belief that the ACE program was simply the Liberals way of buying votes that caused tempers to rise.

"My father would be insulted that this program for recognition of these actions comes so close to an election and 60 years too late," exclaimed one community member at the meeting. "He would be insulted and so am I because \$2.5 million dollars doesn't buy you our forgiveness."

The main thrust of the concerns coming from the floor included more cross Canada forums to understand the concerns of the descendants of those detained at war camps during the Second World War. Also, the minister was reminded that Italians want the names of those interned to be recognized at the Canadian War Museum along with the names of Italians that fought.

Also, one attendee said that part of the program should include actions to ease the current immigration policies for Italians wishing to come to Canada.



# Community

## LA BOTTEGA

*Celebrate the 10 anniversary!*

by Santino Filoso

When you first walk into the store, you are struck by its authentic Italian feel. The shelves are lined with fine Italian food, and the store is packed with all kinds of people. Whether it is the CEO of a company grabbing a quick sandwich before a meeting, students getting a tasty meal, or the Italian grandmother picking up the necessary ingredients for her sauce, there is always a line at La Bottega. The atmosphere is vibrant and youthful, and the main contributor to this is the young, helpful staff. In this case the service starts from the top, and that the staff just project the treatment they get from their employer. He greets them when they get there early in the morning, and he takes the time to say goodbye when they leave at night. They work hard, and he treats them well. Not many bosses can name all their employees or take the time to chat with them. But this man knows that what you give is what you get. The more effort you put into something the better it will be. The man responsible for this great business success is the owner Pat Nicastro. As a child and teenager, he grew up helping out in his father's store. As soon as he was done school, Pat decided to open his own store, and live out a childhood dream, and in the short years since it's opening, it has become a well renowned place in the Byward Market. La Bottega has not just caught on with the locals though; it was recognized as one of the must see places in Ottawa. As the Ottawa Citizen said, you have not been in Ottawa unless you see Parliament Hill, skate on the Canal, and eat a sandwich from La Bottega. The store reminds you of your nonna's pantry, full of the things needed to make her tasty food. All the Italian products the store carries are products of Italy, and their quality is excellent. La Bottega is a land mark in the Byward market, and this year is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and for Pat it has been 10 year of success! Just by looking at the store you can tell that Pat cares and takes pride in his work, and whether it's just for a bite to eat, or some fresh pasta sauce, I strongly recommend that you go and experience a taste of Italy yourself.



Top: LA BOTTEGA: A landmark in the Byward Market

Below: The owner of La Bottega, Pat Nicastro showcases with pride the “Nicastro line” of products imported directly from Italy.

Right: Pat Nicastro with our reporter Santino Filoso.



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# General Interest

## BERLUSCONI UNAMUSED BY TV SATIRE MOCKING HIM

By Peter Popham in Rome

Silvio Berlusconi has launched an impassioned attack on comedians who mock him on Italian television, after the launch last week of a satirical programme called RockPolitik. “It’s only the latest attack of a system of communication, of television and the press,” he said, “that since 2001 has systematically attacked the government and the Prime Minister.” He then read out a list of seven Italian television personalities who he claimed were guilty of such attacks.

The last time Mr Berlusconi read out such a list, the comedienne and two television journalists named were quickly barred from the airwaves. It has yet to be seen whether the same fate awaits his seven new enemies. The new show, hosted by ageing rocker Adriano Celentano, won huge ratings - peaking at 14.2 million, or 47 per cent of Italian viewers - for the appearance of Michele Santoro, one of the three sidelined three years ago by Mr Berlusconi, on his comeback to the Italian airwaves.

To the outside world there is something bizarre about a media mogul worth more than \$6 billion complaining of being victimised. His company owns Italy’s three national commercial television stations and he has political control of the state-owned Rai channels.

Romano Prodi, leader of the centre-left opposition, said: “They are launching a new list of proscriptions. The problem is not what Celentano said, but what the TV news programmes say or do not say every day.”

Opposition politicians frequently accuse the television news programmes on Rai Uno, the equivalent of BBC1, with partiality and distortion.

“Celentano spoke freely on his show,” Mr Prodi went on, “and it amazes me that people become enraged just because he spoke freely. It would be better if the same liberty was assured on a daily basis on television.”

At the root of Mr Berlusconi’s lament is the fact that the three main Rai channels have long been parcelled out among Italy’s political parties. While the Prime Minister can be sure of being treated gently on Rai Due, Rai Tre, controlled by the left, is consistently hostile. Meanwhile, Rai Uno, the most important channel, is supposedly centrist but, in fact, is bitterly fought over.

Last week, Mr Prodi said he wanted to abolish the system by which control of the national broadcaster is in the hands of the political parties, replacing it with a more neutral arrangement as in Britain or Spain.

But Lucia Annunziata, a left-wing journalist who had a torrid spell as president of Rai under Mr Berlusconi, told The Independent: “It’s impossible to get rid of the system: they can talk about it but they won’t do it. Rai is the main cash cow of Italian politics, and for all the political parties it’s a free publicity machine.”

She added: “It’s a deeply ideologised information network - and it’s always been like this. That’s not Berlusconi’s fault, it’s the fault of the Christian Democrats.” Post-war Italy was rule by the “democristiani” until the early Nineties.

“Mr Berlusconi’s outburst was a typical manoeuvre - he let the show go on and then attacked it days afterwards.” The Prime Minister has a bill going through parliament to allow him to run campaign commercials on television before the election, which are banned at present. “This is how he puts pressure on his coalition allies to back the bill,” she said.

Freedom House, the US monitoring organisation, ranks Italy 74th in the world for media freedom, due to the “unprecedented concen-

tration of media ownership”.

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Opposition politicians frequently accuse the television news programmes on Rai Uno, the equivalent of BBC1, with partiality and distortion.

“Celentano spoke freely on his show,” Mr Prodi went on, “and it amazes me that people become enraged just because he spoke freely. It would be better if the same liberty was assured on a daily basis on television.”

At the root of Mr Berlusconi’s lament is the fact that the three main Rai channels have long been parcelled out among Italy’s political parties. While the Prime Minister can be sure of being treated gently on Rai Due, Rai Tre, controlled by the left, is consistently hostile. Meanwhile, Rai Uno, the most important channel, is supposedly centrist but, in fact, is bitterly fought over.

Last week, Mr Prodi said he wanted to abolish the system by which control of the national broadcaster is in the hands of the political parties, replacing it with a more neutral arrangement as in Britain or Spain.

But Lucia Annunziata, a left-wing journalist who had a torrid spell as president of Rai under Mr Berlusconi, told world newspaper leader (especially in Europe) The Independent: “It’s impossible to get rid of the system: they can talk about it but they won’t do it. Rai is the main cash cow of Italian politics, and for all the political parties it’s a free publicity machine.”

She added: “It’s a deeply ideologised information network - and it’s always been like this. That’s not Berlusconi’s fault, it’s the fault of the Christian Democrats.” Post-war Italy was rule by the “democristiani” until the early Nineties.

“Mr Berlusconi’s outburst was a typical manoeuvre - he let the show go on and then attacked it days afterwards.” The Prime Minister has a bill going through parliament to allow him to run campaign commercials on television before the election, which are banned at present. “This is how he puts pressure on his coalition allies to back the bill,” she said.

## Prada Pope Causes “Cassock War”

With his penchant for designer eyewear and Italian shoes, Pope Benedict XVI is becoming an unlikely style icon. A man who knows what he likes, he has now caused a stir by apparently switching tailors.

Pope Benedict XVI would come pretty far down on many people’s list of ‘most fashionable icons’ despite his penchant for Prada shoes and designer sunglasses. But the German-born pontiff is currently at the center of one of the Vatican’s more bizarre controversies, one which revolves around the fiber of his fabric.

The stylish Benedict has angered many in the holy city by allegedly switching allegiances from the company which has made papal robes for over 200 years to a tailor who has only been in business for a tenth of that time.


In what is being called the “cassock wars,” both tailors are said to be squaring up for a dispute over the papal contract in a bid to win the pope’s favor. Annibale Gammarelli, of the eponymous firm of outfitters who have been making papal cassocks since 1792, is locked in a struggle with Mancinelli, a small shop that has been operating for a mere 20 years.

It was also suggested in the Vatican newspaper, *The Tablet*, that Benedict was forced to wear one of three “stock” cassocks supplied by Gammarelli for the eventual winner of the Conclave. Unfortunately, none fitted properly and the cassock, which hovered above the pope’s ankles, caused some amusement,” the paper wrote. “Is it possible that Papa Ratzinger did not find it very funny?”

Gammarelli has angrily denied that his services were no longer being used. “This is an ungracious falsehood,” he said. “We are always in contact with the apartment of the Holy Father. Perhaps there was only an occasional gift by some friend of the Pontiff.”


However, a conflicting report in the *Corriere della Sera* newspaper muddled the waters further by claiming that Benedict had abandoned both Gammarelli and Mancinelli in favor of a return to Alessandro Cattaneo, a tailor whom the pope used when he was Cardinal Ratzinger.


Whichever tailor the pope has now switched to, it is widely seen as a betrayal of hundreds of years of tradition, a claim that has been vehemently denied by Vatican sources which also claimed that Gammarelli remained the official supplier of attire to the Holy Father.



### The staff at Il Postino would like to wish our readers all the best this Christmas season and a happy New Year!

Thank you for your patronage and support!





# Looking Back

## An Immigrant’s Story - Rina and Tarcisio Caron

by Rina Elisa Caron

Recently my daughter Stephanie and her husband Chris Gillard went to Halifax to take their son Micheal to start his first year at Dalhousie University, so they took advantage of this occasion to drive around and admire and discover the beauty of Halifax. They also visited Pier 21. When my daughter heard that her parents also landed there (my husband Tarcisio March 17, 1956; Rina, December 17, 1957) she was very happy and excited and asked me to write my story. So I will mentally go back to those days so many years ago.

We both came from Vicenza (Veneto) an urban city rich in traditions; unique museum theatres; and villas bearing the signature of Andrea Palladio the noble genius of antique architectures. It is also the important center where gold jewelry is manufactured. The gold fair attracts visitors from around the world to purchase precious objects from the golden art.

I left Vicenza in the early morning of December 6, 1957 boarded a bus along with ten other girls - all brides to be. And one boy, a groom to be. We arrived at the seaport of Genoa in the evening, soon after we started our adventure on board the beautiful and huge ship the Homeric. The Homeric was of Greek construction equipped with a first class passenger lounge, a dining room where they served good meals, and a theatre where we could watch a movie every night. Our cabin had two double bunk beds

and a bath; we were very comfortable, until we reached the high seas.

The water had been calm and flat as a

sheet of glass, however threatening waves sprang to life. The wind was so strong during the night you could hear the splash of water

beating furiously against the side of the ship. When we walked to or from the cabins it was like climbing a mountain or sliding like a bowling ball!

It was quite an experience crossing the ocean through a winter storm. Finally after 12 days we arrived safely, eureka!

All the passengers went up to the deck jubilantly jumping with joy congratulating each other under a crystal clear blue sky. On our left we had our first glimpse of Canada, ‘the promised land’. The landscape was very pretty; its sheer loveliness greeted us. After a couple of days of travel by train I arrived in Ottawa. Here we have lived ever since arriving at Pier 21. My husband worked as a baker (now retired) and I had a job as a seamstress until our children were born; two boys and a girl. After they were born I stayed at home to care for them. Now they are grown up and settled doing well for themselves with children of their own. We are the proud grandparents or four boys, all very happy and proud of their Italian origin.

We would like to applaud, and express gratitude to, the team of men and women who accomplished this project, as the Pier 21 museum which now stands as a permanent memorial for the immigrants who chose Canada as their adopted country. Immigrants helped shape Canada’s social and cultural history. It really is a great country. We are happy to live here.

**What is Pier 21?**  
**From the twenties to the seventies, Pier 21 was Canada's 'front door' to over a million immigrants, wartime evacuees, refugees, troops, war brides and their children. This enriched our social and cultural landscape and uplifted the very soul of a nation forever.**

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**Part of Canada's past and what continues to shape our future began at Pier 21. You will find photographs and the names of passengers and ships. Also, you will see actual passports, immigration papers and even ships' menus from this time.**

**For more information visit: [www.pier21.ca](http://www.pier21.ca)**

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On November 15th Masters Insurance Limited opened their new Ottawa Office at 196 Bronson Avenue. Many community leaders and business people attended to show their support including Mayor Bob Chiarelli.



## ESPRESSIONI DI FEDE

di Luciano Pradal

Domenica 20 novembre alla Chiesa S. Antonio e' stata benedetta la statua del S. Padre Pio. La S. Messa e' stata celebrata da padre Ermas Gebre dell' Ordine dei Frati Cappuccini, lo stesso ordine di Padre Pio, che era venuto apposta da Toronto. Ha concelebrato padre Paolo, il Parroco.

La chiesa era piena come nelle grandi festività e questo testimonia la devozione che i fedeli della parrocchia S. Antonio hanno per Padre Pio che, come ha detto padre Ermas, e' il santo piu' pregato nel XX secolo.

La cerimonia della benedizione della statua e' stata semplice ma solenne! I fedeli hanno seguito e partecipato con molta fede alla celebrazione eucaristica alla fine della quale padre Ermas ha detto: "Sono molto felice di essere oggi qui con voi, ringrazio padre Paolo di avermi invitato; in sei anni che sono a Toronto non ho mai celebrato una messa cosi' bella! Qui' da voi sembra di essere nella Cappella Sistina\*, avete una bellissima chiesa, tutto e' bello! Congratulazioni per la vostra partecipazione e per quella del coro..." A questo punto padre Ermas si e' girato verso il coro ed ha applaudito, tutti i fedeli hanno allora applaudito nella gioia della fede.

Molti fedeli sono rimasti dopo la messa per rendere omaggio a questo nostro santo che arricchisce cosi' la nostra splendida chiesa.

La bellissima statua di Padre Pio, di grandezza naturale e' stata offerta alla parrocchia da Italo Tiezzi, un devoto di Padre Pio che l' ha fatta venire apposta dall' Italia in modo che tutti i fedeli possano a loro modo venerare questo grande Santo. Italo Tiezzi ha avuto il privilegio di conoscere personalmente Padre Pio.

L' esempio del dono di Italo Tiezzi, le espressioni di fede cosi' ben dimostrate dai fedeli, i commenti di padre Ermas testimoniano ancora una volta la ricchezza artistica, culturale e spirituale della nostra bella parrocchia, questo e' motivo d' orgoglio per tutti noi Italo-Canadesi di Ottawa.





# The 2005 Santa Claus Parade



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# Christmas Greetings



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# General Interest

## Personal Happiness is Possible

By Renato Rizzuti

Personal happiness can be achieved once you stop basing your happiness on external factors such as material goods, personal appearance and the behavioural patterns of other people. There is also a mistaken myth that some Italians buy into that needs to be dismissed. This is the “nella vita si deve soffrire” myth which translates as “in life there must be suffering.” I am at the point in my life where I can say that I am truly happy. I am married to a lovely woman named Maria, we have a precious daughter and we live in a nice place. On top of all that, I am able to indulge myself in my two passions: acting and writing. However, in order to maintain this state of happiness, I must constantly remind myself that the external factors are just not that important. Only a certain minimum amount and quality of material goods are essential for survival.

Let us start with your residence. Is it true that the bigger the house, the bigger the happiness will be inside the house? The answer is a dramatic NO! Once you start saying if only we had a bigger place then we would be happier, when do you stop? Some people are constantly moving or renovating in order to attain that “perfect place.” In reality, we spend most of our time “living inside our heads.” Our mental state is vastly more important than our real estate. Stop making excuses that your residence is stopping you from doing certain things. You can always find the essence of what you need in your present place. Do you say that if only you had a home office you could write that novel you always wanted to write? You can do it now by simply getting some paper and a pencil and start writing on your kitchen table. You can then stick your home computer in a corner of your living room or bedroom. Better still, get a laptop that you can use in a minimal space. I do not have an official” home office but I have not let it stop me from producing vast amounts of writing.

Cars have always been looked upon as a sort of status symbol. Personally, I am more concerned with the reliability of the car instead of the actual retail value of the car. My first car was a 1966 Pontiac. I now drive a much newer car than that one so I consider myself ahead of the car game. People that cannot really afford an expensive car but get one anyway end

up developing what I like to call “auto phobia.” This is a fear that their car will either be stolen or damaged. You see the “phobia” at work in parking lots where expensive cars take up two parking spaces to avoid getting any dents or scratches from the other cars. How can this “paranoia” make you happy?

Finally, we can close the discussion about material goods by exploring the notion of, “If only I won the lottery, I would be truly happy.” Research has shown that people that win huge amounts of lottery money do not necessarily end up deliriously happy. I saw a TV interview with Chris Gudgeon who wrote the book *Luck of the Draw: True-Life Tales of Lottery Winners and Losers*. He said that many of lottery winners were miserable and did not foresee the problems that winning the lottery would bring them. One interesting thing he stated was that the winners end up losing friends and become alienated from some family members. The reason for this is simple. If you win twenty million dollars, how much money would you give to your family and friends? If you do not give them enough or none at all they get angry and sever ties with you. Big winners are advertised in the media which leaves you open to all sorts of solicitors or criminals that go after you for a chunk of your money. Some people are just not equipped to win big. Mania develops that leads to wild shopping sprees, drug use, excessive drinking and infidelity. A win can solve some money problems but it can also bring up new problems and an even bigger set of money problems. The end result may be more misery than happiness.

Some people are simply not happy with their personal appearance. This explains the popularity of cosmetic surgery. You can make simple changes to your appearance by using simple things like make up, hair dye and skin creams. If you want to make a drastic change through surgical methods then you better explore deeply the real reasons you are not happy with your nose or whatever. Is it really your nose or your lack of confidence that is holding you back in life? Surgery is not going to cure a serious psychological problem that you have with self love. Sometimes it is much easier to accept things about your appearance. There are factors that are impossible to change. I am not that tall but I have accepted my unchangeable height.

When I was comparing heights with my six foot colleague, he was surprised to learn that I was not the exact same height as him. I do not go around thinking that I am too short so this carried over to my colleague’s perception of my height. I have also come to terms with my baldness and absolutely refuse to wear a toupee or get hair transplants! So there you have it, make some changes only if they will make you truly happy. Learn to accept the things that you cannot change and be happy with them.

I have been a student of human behaviour for as long as I can remember. I have come to the conclusion that you most definitely cannot and should not base your happiness on the behavioural patterns of other people. The majority of the time, people will not behave the way you expected or wanted them to. There will be people that will not return your calls, respond to your emails, remember your birthday, send you a thank you card for your gift and on and on it goes. Sometimes it is nothing personal and there are hidden reasons for their behaviour. When it is personal like when a friend constantly belittles you and insults you, then perhaps it is time to confront or to get rid of such a “great friend.” When choosing a life partner, it is more important that your life philosophies agree rather than expecting perfect behaviour from that partner. The occasional flatulence in bed can be excused. Keep positive people close to you and perhaps you can flush some negative people from your life. Personal happiness is a “personal” thing so do not base your happiness on the behaviour of other people.

Let’s explore the “nella vita si deve soffrire” or “in life there must be suffering” myth. Of course life cannot possibly be totally free of some hard work or discomfort. The notion that suffering in life must be compulsory is a bunch of “baloney!” You can live life through joy and optimism instead of pain and pessimism. Your mental attitude effects the amount of joy that you can get out of your life. Celebrate each day and live life to the fullest!

In conclusion, you can see how personal happiness can be achieved on a practical level. You have the divine right to be happy. I wish you all health and happiness!

## Italian company trys to design an “Ultimate Dream Car”

*Pininfarina Design Director to Speak at LA Auto Show’s Design Los Angeles Conference*

Ken Okuyama, design director for Turin, Italy-based Pininfarina, the world’s oldest established automotive styling house, will provide a first-hand look into reinterpreting an automotive icon — the Maserati Birdcage — as a guest speaker at the Design Los Angeles automobile designers’ conference. The conference is held concurrently with the LA Auto Show’s second media day on January 5, 2006.

All conference participants and media days’ attendees — including journalists and automobile industry personnel — are welcome to attend Ken Okuyama’s presentation, as well as BMW Group AG’s Chief of Design Chris Bangle’s opening address in the morning.

The Maserati Birdcage 75th was created

to celebrate Pininfarina’s 75th anniversary and is based on the road racing chassis of the Maserati MC 12.

The car pays homage to the storied tradition of extreme sports prototypes highlighted in the Italian renaissance of car design from the fifties through the early seventies.

“With the Maserati Birdcage 75th, Okuyama and his team have created a spectacular concept car that is the embodiment of every auto enthusiast’s dream,” said Chuck Pelly conference director for Design Los Angeles. “We are elated to have him at our conference; his insight and passion for auto design is sure to inspire our audience.”

The Birdcage 75th combines Pininfarina styling with Motorola technology in an effort to address the increasing demand for immediate access to information.

The car is equipped to function as a mobile office complete with access to state of the art mobile phone and personal data systems technology. It also contains a navigation system that can be tailored to personal needs, infrared tech-

nology to enhance the driving experience at night and numerous cameras strategically positioned to allow the driver to share their experience.

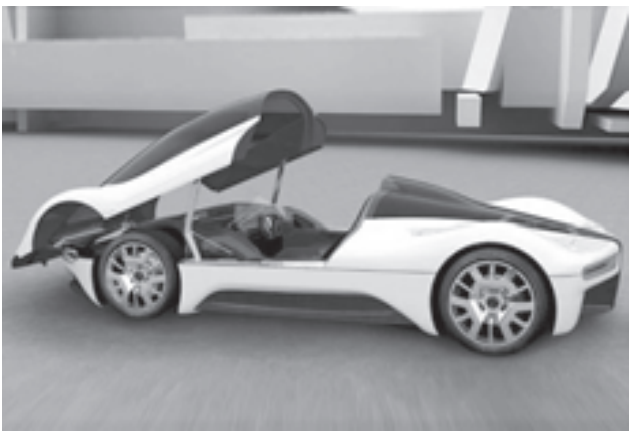
“We wanted to do something very special,” Okuyama said of the design for the Birdcage 75th. “We wanted to give a future vision to a younger generation, to people outside the auto industry and to those who have aspirations of becoming the car designers of the future.”

The Maserati Birdcage 75th will be on display in the Maserati exhibit throughout media and public days. Okuyama worked as designer for Pininfarina from 1995 - 2000.

During that period, he created highly praised designs for production cars such as the Ferrari Enzo, the Ferrari 612 Scaglietti, the Maserati Quattroporte and successful prototype cars that included the Peugeot Nautilus and the Ferrari Rossa.

He also supervised production projects for Alfa Romeo, Honda, Mitsubishi and Peugeot.

After a four-year tenure as chair of the transportation design department at Art Center College of Design, Okuyama returned to the pres-



The car is equipped to function as a mobile office complete with access to state of the art mobile phone and personal data systems technology.



Turin’s, the Italy-based Pininfarina, attempt at reinterpreting an automotive icon — the Maserati Birdcage.

tigious firm in 2004 as creative director and since July 1, 2005 holds the position of design director.

In its second year, Design Los Angeles continues to evolve into an important component of the LA Auto Show.

With 14 automobile manufacturer design studios located throughout Southern California, the conference connects designers’ interest by providing them with workshops, speakers and the opportunity to address widespread issues in their field.

It is distinctive in that automobile designers play an essential role in its continuing development.



# Features

## UN SIGNIFICATIVO RICONOSCIMENTO

di Luciano Pradal

Mentre viaggiavo, di buona mattina il 16 ottobre scorso, per andare a Montreal per assistere all' scoprimento della lapide che designava la chiesa Nostra Signora della Difesa Monumento Nazionale Canadese, ammiravo, con meraviglia e piacere, i molteplici e splendidi colori autunnali che il paesaggio agreste mi offriva in abbondanza, questi bei colori erano per me uno stimolo al desiderio di vedere i famosi affreschi della chiesa che da poco erano stati restaurati dal Prof. Pierlucio Pellissier.



La facciata della Chiesa nostra Signora della Difesa ora Monumento Nazionale Canadese.

Al mio arrivo alla Madonna della Difesa, nel cuore della "Piccola Italia " di Montreal, non sono stato deluso! gli affreschi, la chiesa tutta e' uno spettacolo di vera magnificenza!

Aiutato da un buon binocolo ho avuto modo di apprezzare i vividi colori, i dettagli e le espressioni dei personaggi immortalati nello straordinario affresco del grande artista toscano, Guido Nincheri.

Prima della cerimonia ufficiale e' stata celebrata la S. Messa; quale segno precursore al significato della cerimonia, il Vangelo parlava della frase di Gesu: "Date a Dio quel che e' di Dio ed a Cesare quel che e' di Cesare!" Durante tutti discorsi

della cerimonia ufficiale che ne e' seguita, si e' si riconosciuto l' incomparabile lavoro di Guido Nincheri, ma nello stesso tempo e' stato riconosciuto che **"La Chiesa Madonna della Difesa e' il Monumento che testimonia concretamente i piu' grandi valori della Comunita' Italo-Canadese"**. Infatti la Chiesa e' un monumento al saper fare, alla buona volonta' alla tenacia, al lavoro ed alla cultura degli Italiani.

Erano presenti a questa importante cerimonia:

Il Parroco della Chiesa padre Luca Brancolini

Il Cav. Loris Palma, Presidente della Societa' per la Diffusione del Patrimonio Artistico e Culturale degli Italo-Canadesi ed e' anche il Presidente del Comitato per la restaurazione della Chiesa.

Il Sig. Franco Zampino Presidente del Comitato Esecutivo della Citta' di Montreal.

L' Ambasciatore Marco Colombo dell' Ambasciata d' Italia in Canada e la sua Gentile Signora.

L' Onorevole Senatrice Marisa Ferreti Barth.

L' Onorevole Stephan Dion, Ministro dell' Ambiente e Ministro responsabile per Parks Canada.

Particolarmente significativo e' stato il discorso del Ministro Dion che detto tra l' altro: *"Non desidero essere ringraziato per la lapide che avro' l' onore di scoprire in qualita di Ministro responsabile per i luoghi storici nazionali del Canada. No, sono io piuttosto che vi devo ringraziare , voi la comunita' italiana do Montreal, per aver dato al Canada una tale testimonianza storica, un capolavoro artistico...Si, dapertutto, in questa chiesa si respira la dolcezza e la pace e d' amore della vita."*

Subito dopo i discorsi ufficiali le Personalita' hanno svelato la lapide ove si puo' leggere:

### CHIESA MADONNA DELLA DIFESA

Fin dalla sua costruzione nel 1918-1919, questa chiesa e' stata associata alla piu' antica comunita italiana del Canada, stabilitasi a Montreal intorno al 1860.

L' architettura e le decorazioni interne sono opera dell' artista Guido Nincheri, con affreschi su pareti e volte che si ispirano all' arte del Rinascimento Italiano. La volta dell' abside, eseguita tra il 1927 e il 1933, e' realizzata in colori vivaci e presenta una ricca iconografia in cui figurano anche personaggi canadesi e italiani di quel periodo. E' proprio l' insieme di queste caratteristiche che rendono questa chiesa l' espressione piu' eloquente e particolare della presenza italiana in Canada.

Un monumento, una tesimonianza di cui tutti noi, indistintamente dobbiamo esserne fieri.



Le Personalita' presenti applaudono dopo le svelamento della lapide.

## THE KING OF HARP

### WHO PLAYED WITH TOSCANINI

by Alberto Mazzuca from *Il Giornale*

Vittorio Salvi is an 85 year old Italian-American, born (1920) in Chicago of Italians emigrated to the USA in 1909. Music was a built-in feature in the Salvi family. His father Rodolfo, a maker of pianos, was from Venezia; his mother Apollonia from Viggiano, a small town in Basilicata, almost all inhabitants of which worked at harp-making. Vittorio, still a child, was introduced to the study of the harp by the most loving possible teacher, his sister Aida; his brother Alberto, senior to him by 20 years, has also been a harpist of talent and renown. Vittorio has played the instrument in American symphony orchestras, including the NBC's directed by Arturo Toscanini, who selected and appointed him as "first harp". [He's quoted in musical encyclopedias as an excellent player, G.I.].

He made his own first prototype of the instrument in New York, in 1954.

To be closer to the European market, in 1955 he moved to London where he established a laboratory and a shop. The following year he came to Italy, to live near Rapallo and to work in Genova. "A harp" - he used to tell his collaborators - "must have a sound as sweet as a murmur, but also the power and the nuances of a full orchestra".

His first factory was established near Alessandria (Piemonte), a second one in Switzerland but, in 1974, he closed both and established his factory in Piasco, near Saluzzo, in an area the inhabitants of which are famous for the quality of their work on wood, a very common and favourite trade among its. The factory (called "NSM", for "Nuovi Strumenti Musicali" [New Musical Instruments]).uses many kinds of wood, from the white maple of upper Michigan to the red

deal of the Valle di Fiemme, the same one used by Stradivari for his violins; for the inlay work, valuable woods, from ebony to rosewood, walnut and olive tree: "We'll never use synthetic materials", says Marco Ghibaudo, the firm's present CEO..

Salvi's firm, during its development, has taken over a historical American harp-producing firm, Lyon & Healy of Chicago, .

About 1,000 harps are produced each year; ninety percent of them for export. Seventy percent of professional harp players, and all great orchestras (the Scala Theater in Milano; Metropolitan in New York, Covent Garden in London, Opéra in Paris and Bolshoi in Moscow), use them.

Vittorio Salvi has retired from the activity and lives now on the French Cote d'Azur, between Cannes and Grasse; and has delegated the manage-

ment of the firm (to Marco Ghibaudo, 37 year old). A recording label, Egan Records, and a publishing house, Salvi Publications, have been established in London. Both of them deal mainly with music for harp.

There is ten stores all over the world; the one most recently opened is in Los Angeles. Three of Vittorio Salvi's children already work for the firm and the fourth one, now studying in New York, will probably do so, too. Vittorio's wife, Colombian-born Ana, is the president of the Vittorio Salvi Foundation.

In the last years, Vittorio Salvi has collected seventy old harps (mostly from the '700's and '800's) from all over the world, has had them restored at his factory and has now opened a Museum of the Harp. This is a beautiful way for a son of immigrants to give tribute to the "Made in Italy" expression.

The harp is one of the oldest musical instruments in the world, dating from as early as 3000 B.C, developed from the hunting bow, and range from perhaps about 10 strings to 25, 34, and 47 string versions, and many in between.



Clementina Cantoni, la giovane volontaria italiana rapita in Afghanistan dai Talebani è stata a Ottawa, su invito di Care Canada, l'organizzazione umanitaria per la quale lavorava, per una serie di incontri destinati a raccogliere fondi per il programma di assistenza alle donne afgane, di cui aveva la responsabilità a Kabul. In quest'occasione ha incontrato anche l'Ambasciatore d'Italia in Canada, Marco Colombo, al quale era toccata un'analoga disavventura nel 1990, quando venne trattenuto ostaggio per quattro mesi in Kuwait City e a Baghdad, a seguito dell'invasione del piccolo Emirato dove egli rappresentava l'Italia, da parte dell'Irak. Clementina Cantoni si è mostrata tuttora particolarmente impegnata nell'affrontare i problemi che ha vissuto in prima persona in Afghanistan, paese al quale è rimasta legata e a favore del quale intende continuare ad adoperarsi, anche se da lontano.



# Arts and Entertainment

## UPCLOSE & PERSONAL with Giovanni

Councillor Maria McRae was elected in 2003 to represent River Ward on Ottawa City Council. River Ward includes over 49,000 residents living in Carleton Heights, Carlington, Central Park, Hunt Club, Quinterra/Riverwood, Ridgemont, Riverside Park and Uplands on the Rideau.

Birth Place: **Sudbury, Ontario**  
Parent's Roots:  
**Dad's Family - Italian**  
**Mom's Family - Finnish**  
Horoscope sign and Birth date  
**Sagittarius; December 10, 1965**  
How many brothers and sisters do you have? **One outstanding sister named Lisa.**  
Do you have a nickname? **Moxie McRae**  
The ultimate concert attended?  
**U2 in Toronto 3rd row from the stage. We could read the set list.**  
What is your favourite movie?  
**Sound of Music, Shakespeare in Love**  
Favourite Reality TV show?  
**City Council on Rogers 22 (just kidding)**  
Favourite childhood TV show? **Mr. Dressup**  
Favourite car? **Red Ferrari**  
Favourite sports show?  
**Anything NFL, CFL, NCAA, NHL, etc. As you can see, I love sports.**  
Favourite Designers?  
**Gucci & Kate Spade – great shoes and purses.**  
What articles of clothing do you like to see on the opposite sex? **None.**  
Favourite cocktail?  
**Champagne and orange juice when on vacation (mimosa).**  
Favorite Colour  
**Blue with purple as a close second.**  
If you could travel to anywhere in the world, where would it be?  
**Italy and Finland to meet more of my European relatives and to trace my family's heritage.**  
How would you spend a typical day off?  
**With family and friends - low key with a good homemade meal, great bottle of wine and great talk.**



Maria McRae and Giovanni. Photo Paul MacRae

What is a recent fad that you admit to trying? **Low carb diet**  
Favourite male actor? **Jack Lemmon**  
Favourite female actress?  
**Geena Davis - the Commander In Chief.**  
Favourite male singer? **Frank Sinatra**  
Favourite female singer? **Shania Twain**  
Favourite music group? **U2**  
If you could only keep one household appliance, what would it be?  
**Coffee maker for obvious reasons...**  
Something the world would be surprised to know about myself?  
**Detailing vehicles is a passion of mine - I love a clean car!**  
Favourite books?  
**I LOVE to read anything! Some favourites are Biography's/Business or Leadership (just finished the Disney Wars)/Shakespeare/John Grisham (hey - I'm a lawyer after all).**  
Favourite food?  
**Chocolate and steak, but not at the same time!**

Least favourite food? **Canned peas or Jello.**  
Favourite item of clothing?  
**Old University of Western Ontario sweatshirt and Hermes scarf (but not at the same time).**  
Do you enjoy cooking?  
**Yes – when I have time. My husband Paul & I have a Sunday dinner tradition – we cook a roast or have a BBQ and invite our friends to join us.**  
Your greatest achievement?  
**Happily married to my university sweet-heart and best friend Paul - he is my Rock.**  
Your best quality? **Honesty.**  
Your pet peeve?  
**I don't suffer fools or liars well.**  
Your biggest regret?  
**None, except speaking sometimes in haste.**  
If you could live anywhere, where would it be?  
**You have to ask? Ottawa. It is simply the best.**  
Greatest love? **My family and my husband.**

Qualities you like the most in your mate?  
**Patience, honesty and hard work ethic.**  
What title you would use for your biography?  
**Full Steam Ahead.**  
The best words or the shortest phrase to describe yourself. **Energy, integrity.**  
If you are to become one of the characters in a TV show for a month, who would it be?  
**The female president on Commander In Chief.**  
Noise that annoys you the most?  
**Shrill voices.**  
If you could go back in society, what would you change? **Ending violence.**  
Favourite place to shop?  
**Anywhere from the Costco to Holt Renfrew.**  
f you had ONE wish, what would it be?  
**A lifetime of good health and happiness for my family and friends.**  
What would make you see "RED"?  
**Injustice and people being treated with disrespect.**  
What magical powers you would like to have?  
**All of Superman's powers - especially flight.**  
Most important lessons learned with your career?  
**Always tell the truth. This works for all careers...**  
What advice would you give others, starting out in your industry?  
**Be honest, work hard, keep your promises and never forget your constituents.**  
Do you play any musical instruments? If any, what are they? **Drums**  
Do you collect any memorabilia items? If so, what kind?  
**Sports memorabilia, jerseys, footballs, pucks, signatures.**

## Generation Motown experience the musical!

Photos Giovanni



After enjoying instantaneous success at Québec City's *Théâtre du Capitole*, Motown Generation will be presented for the second time in the region!

Berry Gordy, Jr., established Motown Records and it has been cited as one of the most important independent labels in the early '60s. Assembling an industrious staff of songwriters, producers, and musicians, Motown Records built one of the most impressive rosters of artist in the history of pop music and became the largest and most successful independent record company in the United States by 1964.

50,000 spectators agree that this show captures the essence and spirit of the Motown era. Twenty performers are united on a single stage, including the talented vocalist Sylvie Desgroseilliers, Gardy Fury



and Dorian Sherwood. Motown Generation brings together the biggest names of the Motown record label, who left their mark on the music of the 50s throughout the 80s. Two hours of non-stop hits include Stevie Wonder "I Just Called to Say I Love You," Diana Ross & The Supremes "Upside Down," The Temptations "My Girl," The Commodores "Night Shift,"

Lionel Richie "All Night Long", and many, many more. Also, consider starting off the New Year to the sound of Motown with our December 31 Motown 2005 Celebration Package. Packages start at \$150 per person including taxes and service.

Mo town is showing at the **Casino Lac Lemay** from **November 23 to December 31, 2005.**

Tickets are available at [www.admission.com](http://www.admission.com) or by calling 1-800-361-4595.





# Food and Dining

## COCKTAILS, AMICI?

There's a delicious new ritual of savory bites and light drinks the Italians call aperitivo. Let's join them.

By Regina Schrambling of the Los Angeles Times

Order a glass of wine in Italy and you never drink alone. A little something to eat always turns up on the bar or cafe table.

In the past, what the waiter brought was usually bizarrely un-Italian, whether potato chips or peanuts, but on this trip it bordered on a smorgasbord. From the first bar on, every drink was accompanied by a heaping plate of savory sensations: puff pastries filled with pesto or sausage; focaccia laced with olives or anchovies; grissini wrapped in prosciutto or soppressata; crisp squares of risotto with sage or frittata with peppers; olives and chunks of cheese and slices of salami. Always, the only charge was for the wine.

Italians call the concept aperitivo, which is simply translated as "aperitif." But these days it is much more than a drink, almost like tapas. As a euro-generation resident of Turin said, a word that used to mean "let's go have a drink before dinner, to perk up our appetites" now means "let's go drink and eat and maybe skip dinner altogether."

Sociologists can debate whether the new expanded aperitivo is good or bad in a country where meals have always started with antipasto and ended five courses later, and whether it is an outgrowth of more work and less money (not to mention marriage) among the young. All I know is that every encounter made me rethink what to serve before dinner, or even instead of dinner, back

home.

My friend Diego Orlando, a photographer who lives east of here in Veneto, put it best: "With aperitivo, every region, house, bar, town, year has something to serve you. Could be salami, could be cheese, could be something more complicated, but the idea is, 'You're drinking with me, I'll find something in my house to eat, but I don't know what I have, we'll see.' So everything easy to eat is used to serve with wine before lunch or dinner."

Easy to eat also means easy to fix. With the right food on hand — salami, cheese, olives, bread — aperitivo is just a slice away.

My new inspirations came constantly. At a cafe on a piazza in Asti, a town about an hour southeast of Turin, a single glass of wine arrived with four tiny panini, each filled with a different cured meat (prosciutto, two different salami, sausage), the little pile crowned with a slice of hard-cooked egg drizzled with olive oil and dusted with oregano. On another rainy night, two glasses of wine at a coffee bar and pasticceria here were served with six tramezzini — triangular mini-sandwiches on white bread with red caviar, prosciutto, egg and more — and a second plate of tiny puff pastry savories with anchovies and pesto. And on our last night we decided we didn't need dinner after sharing what a wine bar called Rosso Rubino Enoteca served with our two glasses: a small plate piled high with meat



Across Italy aperitivos are popping up everywhere.

wrapped around grissini, different olives, mozzarella, Parmigiano-Reggiano, salami and little squares of frittata.

Always, the food was meant to absorb alcohol, very delicately. Most of it is straight out of the Italian larder: cured meats, cheeses, olives, breadsticks. But just as often it is whipped up in the kitchen, with savory tidbits such as leftover risotto fried into crisp squares or roasted peppers stuffed with tuna mousse.

Occasionally aperitivo resembles a good old-fashioned American happy hour with unlimited buffet, which opens up more main-course possibilities. At Free Volo, a sidewalk cafe here, we heaped plates with bocconcini, prosciutto, salami, olives, grissini, even pasta salad with tomatoes and basil (yes, in Italy, and no, no more exciting than it ever is).

And cheese may be the most surprising, and satisfying, solid food for aperitivo. Traditionally eaten at the end of a meal, it almost works better with alcohol before dinner.

A tangy Fontina or pungent Parmigiano-Reggiano or especially a salty-wet mozzarella is the best appetite stimulant with wine for a cocktail hour that extends so far into dinner it can supplant it.

Americans, of course, have thought this for years.

Beyond memories, what I took away from aperitivo was new inspiration for hors d'oeuvres. It had never occurred to me to serve tonnato sauce, the creamy tuna-anchovy-caper spread traditionally stunged over poached veal, with drinks. But after watching so many young Italians scoop it up on grissini and spread it onto bread, I think it will be a staple in my wine go-with file.

Similarly, I had never thought of deep-frying an olive, but after encountering one stuffed with meat in a crunchy breading, I came home with a new reason to improve on perfection.

Instead of braised pork and veal enriched with prosciutto, this version just uses soppressata minced with Fontina.

And I had never thought of turning risotto into cocktail food, but it makes sense considering the real thing is always so much better fried up the next day.

(Somehow, making it just to turn it into something else guarantees you will produce the best risotto you ever attempted.) The little crispy squares go well with any wine or with other drinks.

I also associate puff pastry more with France and normally avoid it at all costs, having been humiliated by it in restaurant school. But it seemed to be as essential as salumi in Italy and, luckily, is now available from good commercial producers in this country and absurdly easy to use for aperitivo. You can fold it over anything savory: pesto, anchoiade, plain anchovies, tomatoes, roasted mushrooms.

Then there is the grissini factor. These anorectic breadsticks are known as the pride of Turin, but they are heavily exported and work even better as a vehicle for aperitivo snacks than they do as an alternative to bread. Bars in Italy wrap prosciutto or soppressata.



Antipasto has long been a staple of magnificent Italian meals that have been known to start with this dish and to end up to five courses later.

## You are invited to the 4th Annual Ottawa Italian Women's Filò



## Celebrating Italian Women

Presentation of the Rosa Tiezzi and Maria Ierullo Awards

Thursday March 2, 2006

Reception: 6:30 pm Dinner: 7 pm

St. Anthony's Italia Soccer Club

523 St. Anthony St., corner of Preston St.

Tickets: \$35

Tickets can be pre-purchased on Thursday, February 9, 2006 from 6-9PM at St. Anthony's Italia Soccer Club

A Filò: In rural villages of Italy during the long winter months, families and friends used to gather in the warmest place in the house or barn to weave, sew, knit, repair and make tools, and to have a good time. Story telling and singing formed a large part of the evening. In some parts of Italy, women got together alone for evenings where they had a meal with special delicacies, told jokes and sang. Join us for our 4th Annual Ottawa Women's Filò.

**For information:** contact Ariella Hostetter at 613-237-6303  
or Trina Costantini-Powell at 613-526-4315



# Community Calendar/Eventi Comunitari

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Pat Adamo - 10:00 venerdì

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**Bob Chiarelli,  
Mayor**

**At your service!**

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# IL POSTINO

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Nel corso di un ricevimento per la sua partenza, al quale hanno partecipato numerose Autorità, l'Ambasciatore d'Italia in Canada Marco Colombo, a nome del Presidente della Repubblica Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, ha insignito con alte onorificenze a loro concesse due tra gli italiani che hanno avuto maggiore successo in Canada.

Il Comandante della Royal Canadian Mounted Police, le famose Giubbe Rosse, Giuliano Zaccardelli, immigrato da giovane, è stato nominato Grand' Ufficiale dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica.

Tom d'Aquino, uno dei principali economisti, che riveste una posizione di alto prestigio essendo Presidente dell'organizzazione che raggruppa i 150 maggiori imprenditori del Canada, è stato nominato Commendatore dell'Ordine al Merito.

Nel loro ringraziamento, svolto alla presenza di numerosi ospiti, Giuliano Zaccardelli e Tommaso d'Aquino hanno ripercorso con commozione le tappe della loro vita professionale e ricordato con affetto e partecipazione i loro legami familiari ed affettivi con l'Italia, esprimendo vivo apprezzamento per l'importante riconoscimento del quale sono stati insigniti.

