

# IL POSTINO

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor



Regarding the Issue of Internment

Adottata la legge Pacetti C-302: una grande vittoria per la comunità Italo-canadese...Il presidente del Congresso Nazionale Michael Stante e l'Avvocato Antonio Sciascia Presidente del Congresso (Regione Quebec) uniti ai rispettivi consigli amministrativi, hanno dichiarato di essere soddisfatti a proposito del risultato del voto a favore del progetto di legge C-302 presentato ieri alla Camera dei deputati del Parlamento canadese, dall'onorevole Massimo Pacetti.

Il progetto di legge prevede le scuse ufficiali dalla parte del governo canadese per l'internamento di italo-canadesi durante la seconda guerra mondiale e la creazione di una fondazione educativa che sarà gestita da organismi italo-canadesi che rappresentano la Comunità, con l'obiettivo di promuovere l'armonia culturale in tutto il Canada.

“Oggi é un giorno storico per la nostra comunità, possiamo finalmente onorare coloro che sono stati vittime delle ingiustizie fatte dal governo canadese durante la seconda guerra mondiale. Nel giugno del 1940 oltre 17,000 uomini donne e bambini italiani, dei quali oltre il 90 per cento erano o nati in Canada o divenuti cittadini canadesi, furono designati come “popolo nemico”. Infatti, ben 6,000 furono arrestati; circa 700 finirono in prigione e internati da uno a cinque anni e questo, senza mai essere stati accusati di reati.” ha affermato il presidente della regione Québec, Antonio Sciascia.

“Ci vogliamo ugualmente auspicare che il progetto di legge venga approvato al piu presto dal Senato. Questo ci permetterà di compiere dei passi in avanti per procedere con le prossime tappe”. Ha detto il presidente del Nazionale, Michael Stante.

Il Congresso Nazionale degli Italo-canadesi ha sempre ribadito l'importanza fondamentale di un'azione chiara da parte del Parlamento canadese nei riguardi della nostra comunità, per quanto riguarda questo capitolo negativo dell'immigrazione italiana in Canada.

Per questa ragione, il Congresso Nazionale, insieme ad altri organismi quali L'Ordine Figli d'Italia, La CIPBA, la Fondazione Comunitaria Italo-canadese, quali rappresentanti della comunità consapevole della sua missione, seguiranno con molta attenzione le prossime tappe per assicurarne il suo adempimento secondo quanto proposto dalla legge.

L'approvazione del progetto di legge C-302 è un passo avanti verso il giusto e legittimo risarcimento che spetta alla comunità italo-canadese.

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McNaughton, Gaelen  
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Dover, Aaron  
Wynands, Colin  
Torrey, Melysa  
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to / *intestato a:* Preston Street Community Foundation Inc., Suite 101 Gladstone Avenue 865, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7T4



# Guests of the Exchange Program go to the Senators Hockey game



Paul, Mauro, Sindaco Adamo, Jim Watson, Angelo and Rina, Daniela



Lena with Grandchildren



Gino, Daniela, Mauro, and Sindaco



MP Massimo Pacetti with Minister John Baird and Guests at Parliament Hill



# Out of Interest

## MTV’s Jersey Shore. Is This the Worst TV Show Ever?

By The Sydney Morning Herald; Lorelei Vashti;

‘Detestable’...The cast of MTV reality series Jersey Shore.

JERSEY Shore (Tuesdays, 9.30pm on MTV) is the most life-changing show on television. Everyone should watch it. It will work a miracle on your soul. Inspire you to be a better person. Make you appreciate your life. Encourage you to cherish things you’ve always overlooked.

Jersey Shore accomplishes this impressive feat by being so unspeakably bad it makes everything that isn’t Jersey Shore look wonderful, like green pastures filled with gangly newborn lambs and gurgling brooks and sunshine.

I’m serious. This show makes vomit look good. It makes Twi-mums look good. It makes the music of Justin Bieber sound good. It even makes Charlie Sheen look good. In fact, if my life after Jersey Shore consists solely of a horde of Twi-mums singing barbershop quartet renditions of Justin Bieber songs while Charlie Sheen vomits all over me, I will be genuinely delighted. Rapt. Relieved.

I will never take anything for granted again.

Where to start? Jersey Shore is really just another reality TV show where we are forced to hang out with outgoing twentysomethings while they get drunk and try to have sex with each other. But there’s one supposedly crucial difference — the outgoing twentysomethings in this case are Italian-Americans, or Guidos and Guidettes, as they call themselves. We’re supposed to have a sort of anthropological curiosity about them, hence all the focus on Guido grooming rituals, including massive amounts of time spent in tanning salons, hairdressers and at gyms.

The housemates are both the best and worst thing about the show. There is Nicole “Snooki”, whose beautiful, naturally olive skin tone has been artificially ramped up to the kalamata end of the spectrum. Mike, whose ripped abs are so significant they have a name of their own: “the situation”. Sammi and Ronnie, who hooked up almost immediately, presumably in order to have someone to cheat on later in the series. Jenni “JWoww”, who displays both the most brains and the most boobs of the show. Pauly D and Vinny bring us to seven. And there used to be the abhorrent Angelina, who has already been banished from the house for refusing to go to work but I suspect we’ll see her again later on in the series if only we can make it that far.

They all look the same at first so it’s helpful that their names are flashed up on screen regularly. As it turns out, this is the only thoughtful and considerate favour the producers are willing to do for us. The rest of the series has been designed deliberately to crush our spirits by way of the competitive trashbaggery of its stars and the stubborn refusal of its plot to go anywhere.



The housemates narrate the program in the now-familiar reality TV style where you’re meant to believe they are omnipresent. The boys are pumped with protein shakes and adrenalin and the girls seethe at each contrived new drama with what can only be described as hysterical poutrage.

My confusing confession is this: I really liked these people at first. They’re crazy and eccentric and if you can hear any actual dialogue through all the bleeps, they occasionally come out with something brilliant. Snooki in particular melted my heart early on in the series, when she implored the housemates to get along by saying: “C’mon! We’re all frickin’ family!” (Snooki, I believe, is getting her own spin-off series.)

But the show is frustrating because if anyone starts to exhibit more than one dimension of their personality, they immediately feel compelled to start behaving like a knob again as penance. So then someone will start a bar fight, or call a group of girls “ugly bitches”, or come out with something particularly atrocious, such

as Angelina, who said: “If a girl’s a slut, she should be abused.” It’s unfortunate but true: on Jersey Shore, the hot tub is the only thing with any real depth.

If the series was at least constructed shoddily it would be so much more enjoyable. After all, there’s nothing more hilarious than watching a badly made TV show. But that’s exactly what’s so troubling. The production is rock-solid. MTV knows what it’s doing. The show is cut in the pattern of one of JWoww’s ridiculous tops that she designed herself — it may appear flimsy and riddled with holes but it’s so carefully manufactured that it will never, no matter how long you watch, actually reveal anything.

So on the series goes, with each episode whirling aimlessly round and round, like the Jersey Shore ferris wheel we frequently cut to: see how high you feel now and how you’ve been positioned so you’re looking down on them. That’s what makes Jersey Shore so detestable. Sad to say, it’s probably also what makes the series successful.

lvashti@fairfaxmedia.com.au

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## CAMPAGNA REDDITUALE ALL’ESTERO PER IL 2009, DOPO TANTE CRITICHE UN APPREZZAMENTO ALL’INPS

By Gino Bucchino

Ho più volte criticato l’Inps per ritardi, inadempienze e addirittura evidenti violazioni di legge, come ad esempio l’inammissibile ostinazione, nonostante le chiare disposizioni legislative, a non erogare all’estero l’importo aggiuntivo alla 13ma mensilità di 154 euro introdotto dalla legge finanziaria per il 2001 e l’incremento alla maggiorazione sociale per i pensionati italiani residenti all’estero introdotto dalla legge finanziaria per il 2003. Una vera e propria “sottrazione illegale” sorprendentemente ignorata dal mondo dell’emigrazione (forse perché più preoccupato della difesa autoreferenziale di voto, Cgie e Comites) e indecentemente tollerata anche dagli istituti preposti alla tutela dei diritti dei pensionati.

Quest’anno però l’Istituto previdenziale italiano mi ha sorpreso (finalmente!) con il tempestivo avvio dell’operazione – fino ad oggi molto sporadica nel tempo – di accertamento dei redditi dei pensionati residenti all’estero relativi all’anno 2009. La buona notizia è che la campagna di verifica reddituale all’estero, secondo i dirigenti delle Convenzioni Internazionali, dovrebbe a partire da quest’anno assumere una cadenza annuale.

Come è noto i redditi prodotti all’estero e in Italia sono rilevanti per l’accertamento dei requisiti reddituali previsti per l’accesso a tutta una serie di prestazioni previdenziali e assistenziali (trattamento minimo, maggiorazioni sociali, assegni familiari, pensioni ai superstiti e di invalidità, etc.).

La campagna reddituale avviata in questi giorni dall’Inps riguarda i redditi relativi all’anno 2009 (è appena terminata quella relativa agli anni 2006, 2007 e 2008) dovrebbe concludersi prima dell’estate. L’Inps per ridurre il numero delle comunicazioni inviate ai pensionati e semplificare l’assolvimento dei vari adempimenti burocratici da parte dei beneficiari delle prestazioni, a partire da quest’anno, analogamente a quanto

avviene per i pensionati residenti in Italia, sta inviando il modello RED/EST 2010 in un’unica busta insieme al modello CUD e ai modelli da utilizzare per l’eventuale richiesta di detrazioni d’imposta. Nelle informazioni contenute nella busta ci sono le istruzioni essenziali alle quali il pensionato si deve attenere nella produzione della certificazione e nella compilazione dei moduli. Gli interessati devono indicare tutti redditi percepiti nell’anno 2009 pensionistici e non pensionistici, all’estero e in Italia.

E’ ovvio che per la compilazione del modello RED/EST 2010 i pensionati potranno avvalersi dell’assistenza degli Enti di patronato riconosciuti dalla legge che operano all’estero.

I modelli compilati devono essere restituiti entro il 30 giugno 2010 agli Enti di patronato o ai Consolati italiani che provvederanno ad inoltrarli per via telematica all’Inps. In alternativa i pensionati possono spedire entro il 30 giugno i modelli compilati e sottoscritti, con allegata la documentazione richiesta e una fotocopia di un documento valido di riconoscimento, alla sede Inps che ha in carico la pensione.

Se l’Inps dovesse, come tutti auspichiamo, riformare e sistematizzare con cadenza annuale le procedure relative alla rilevazione dei redditi dei pensionati residenti all’estero, potrebbe finalmente essere eliminata alla fonte la causa dell’insorgere delle situazioni debitorie che per anni hanno tormentato decine di migliaia di connazionali.

On. Gino Bucchino | Camera dei Deputati | Via della Missione 8 - 00186 Roma



# Local Community Stories

## Fur Ball raises \$175,000 for the Ottawa Humane Society !

Article / Photos Giovanni

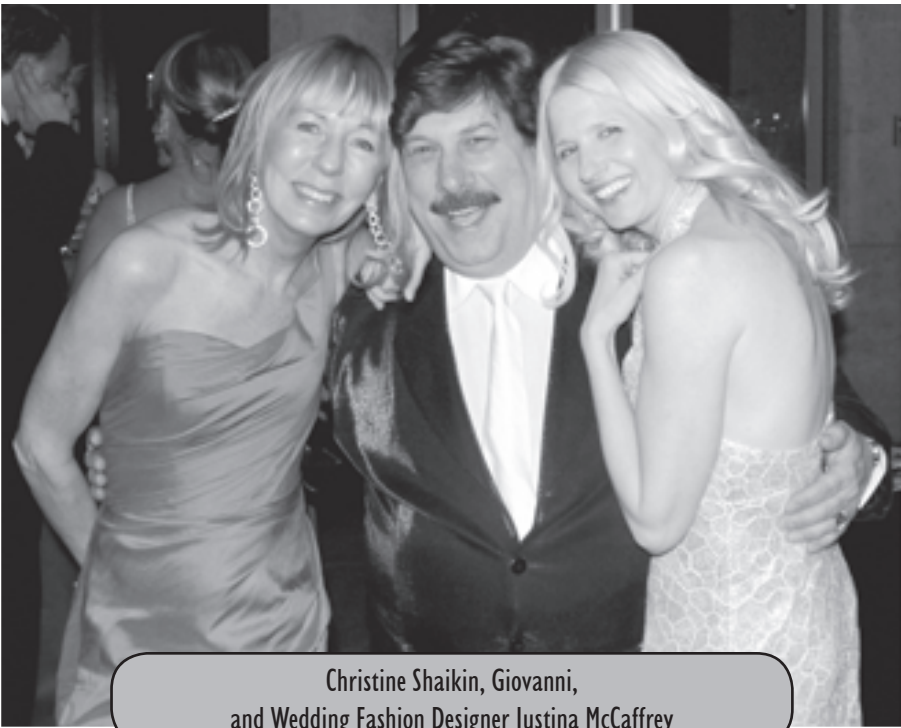
The Ottawa Humane Society 6th annual Fur Ball held at the the National Gallery of Canada. A sold out crowd, who dined, and danced to this year’s Dynasty themed fundraiser, that raised \$175,000, which surpassed last year’s goal, and will help over 11,000 animals at the Humane Society. Guests mingled with each other, during the evening as they enjoyed their cocktails named after the characters from the famous television series Dynasty. As you looked around the room, women took you back in time for a moment showing off their big hair, and big shoulder pads.

“We’re so grateful for the support of our Fur Ball guests,” said Bruce Roney, executive director of the Ottawa Humane Society (OHS). “The animals in our community will have a much brighter future thanks to their generosity.”

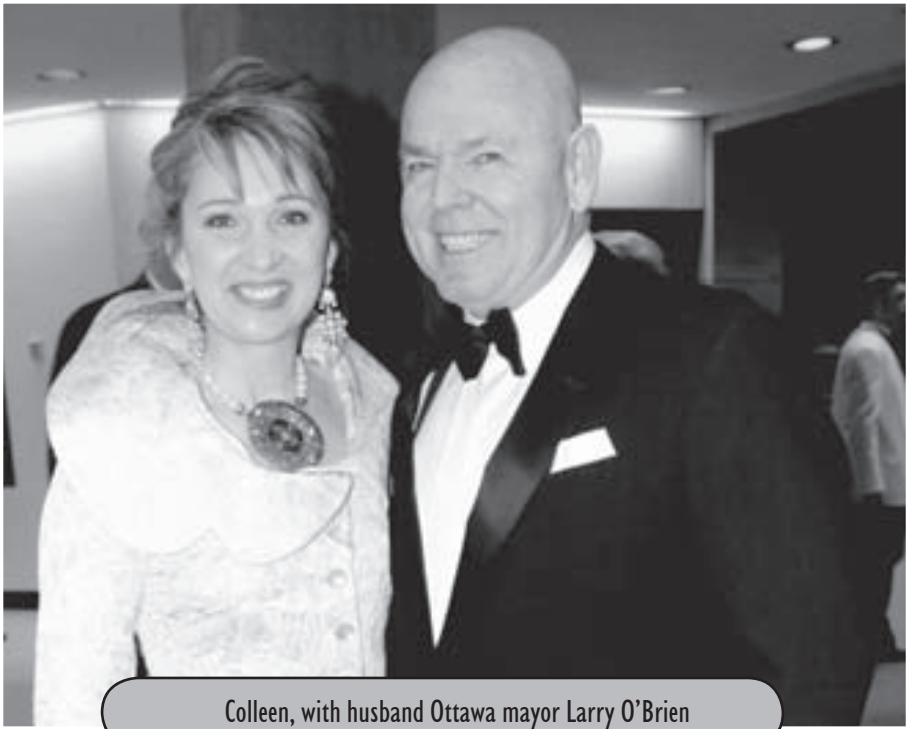
The food was prepared by KW Catering , and the guests danced all night to the voice of lead singer Deborah Davis & Segue. Auctioneer Jim Watson got some help by

Sandy Sharky, who kept reminding the guests to open their wallets for the animals. Paintings donated by Ottawa artist Philip Craig, a five-day trip to St.Croix, and the highest auction package, a private invite only fashion show, and dinner pulled together by hairstylist Kenneth Malone for Christine Shaikin, and Wedding Designer Justine McCaffrey, business partners of Justina & Justine, which will be held at the Greek embassy for 30 people only, food will be catered by Moji, the package raised \$6,500 dollars. The celebrity pet bowls silent auction featured customized bowls decorated by Sarah McLachlan, Elizabeth Manley, and Hilary Swank, among others. Minister John Baird painted a bowl in memory of his late cat, while honorary chair, Mrs. Laureen Harper, donated a photograph she took of trees in Gatineau Park for the evening’s silent auction.

Contact Giovanni for up coming events at [giovannipublicist@yahoo.ca](mailto:giovannipublicist@yahoo.ca)



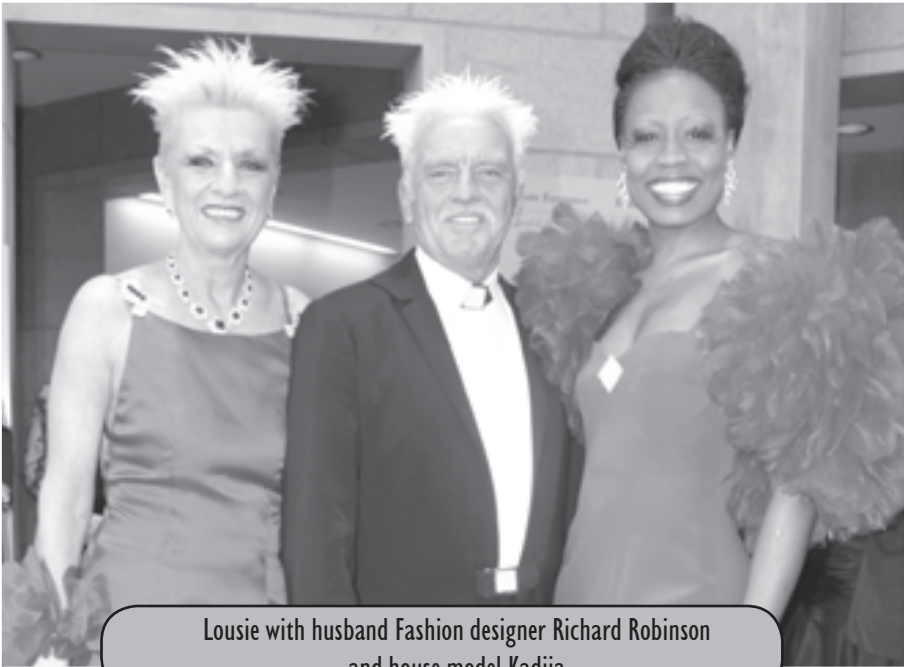
Christine Shaikin, Giovanni,  
and Wedding Fashion Designer Justina McCaffrey



Colleen, with husband Ottawa mayor Larry O'Brien



John Baird and Prime Minister wife Laureen Harper



Lousie with husband Fashion designer Richard Robinson  
and house model Kadija



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# Dosi's Corner

## Mother's Day Shmother's Day is what I say

By Dosi Cotroneo

I smell Sunday brunches, glossy Hallmark cards, hand lotions and spa gift certificates. I'm afraid to admit it but another Mother's Day is fast approaching and this year, I am determined to spend Mother's Day my way.

Webster's defines mother as a woman in authority, to care for or protect, maternal tenderness or affection. I define mother as the worker bee, the tie that binds, the hand that rocks the cradle, the person who replaces empty milk bags and toilet paper rolls.

The children define mother as the tired-looking woman who walks aimlessly throughout the house playing the roles of cook, chamber maid, laundress, cab driver, tutor, loans officer, note writer – and all, because “it’s her job.”

As a young mother, I had visions of Mother's Days to come and how my young brood would gleefully race into my bedroom waving home made cards and gifts, followed by a man resembling the husband carrying a silver tray loaded with a lovely breakfast – fresh brewed decaf, pancakes, strawberries, and a rose or two in a silver bud vase. The day would be full of fun and activities as the family bombarded love and affection towards this woman they adored.

Sadly, that vision has faded and reality set in. Years have passed since those foolish, naïve daydreams. Now a hardened, weathered mother, both reality and my spirit have sunk in. The truth of the matter - the young brood has grown to double digits and although they may appear independent, they still rely on mother for clean underwear, home cooked meals and spare change. That said, then why do they still have no clue what to do for mother on Mother's Day?

It all changed the year they stopped making Mother's Day crafts at school - those lovingly handmade construction paper and pipecleaner cards – I shall cherish them forever. Why the children used to be so proud and excited, they could barely contain themselves and often broke down and presented their mother with her cards and gifts a day ahead. My, how life has changed.



A mother really doesn't ask for much – a card, a simple card with a few words of love and gratitude, that's all it would take to make Mother's Day special. No need for pomp and ceremony is what I say. Really, I'm not that fussy. All I ask is that for one day, just one day out of the year, I can walk into the kitchen and not replace an empty milk bag. I can walk into the bathroom and not replace an empty toilet paper holder. I can walk into the laundry room and not find overflowing hampers of jeans, hockey jerseys, and dirty underwear, that somebody needs laundered immediately because, “I have nothing to wear!”

I still cringe when I think back to Mother's Day 2009. After hours of solitary confinement in the laundry room, young son took note of mother's uncontrollable sobs. This prompted the family to finally turn down the volume on the remote control and come to the startling conclusion that yes, it was in fact, Mother's Day.

The two teenagers decided to leave the house at 4:00 p.m. only to return ten minutes later with a potted plant, which I fear they removed from a neighbor's porch.

Determined to not have history repeat itself, I am making myself scarce this Mother's Day. Simply put – a day with the girlfriends that will include absolutely no Sunday brunches, no glossy Hallmark cards and no sign of hand lotions or spa gift certificates.

Yes this Mother's Day, Mother and her posse will be nowhere to be found, except perhaps sipping a vodka martini on a lovely patio taking in the sights and sounds of the Byward Market. The cellphone will be buried in the potted plant the children presented me with last year, and hopefully come nightfall, they will have noticed that their mother is not in the laundry room afterall.

HEY!

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Dear Reader,

If you have picked up this book accidentally, or just because the delicious bubble-gum-pink stiletto on the front cover captured your eye, then may I warn you, this book is not for the faint of heart.

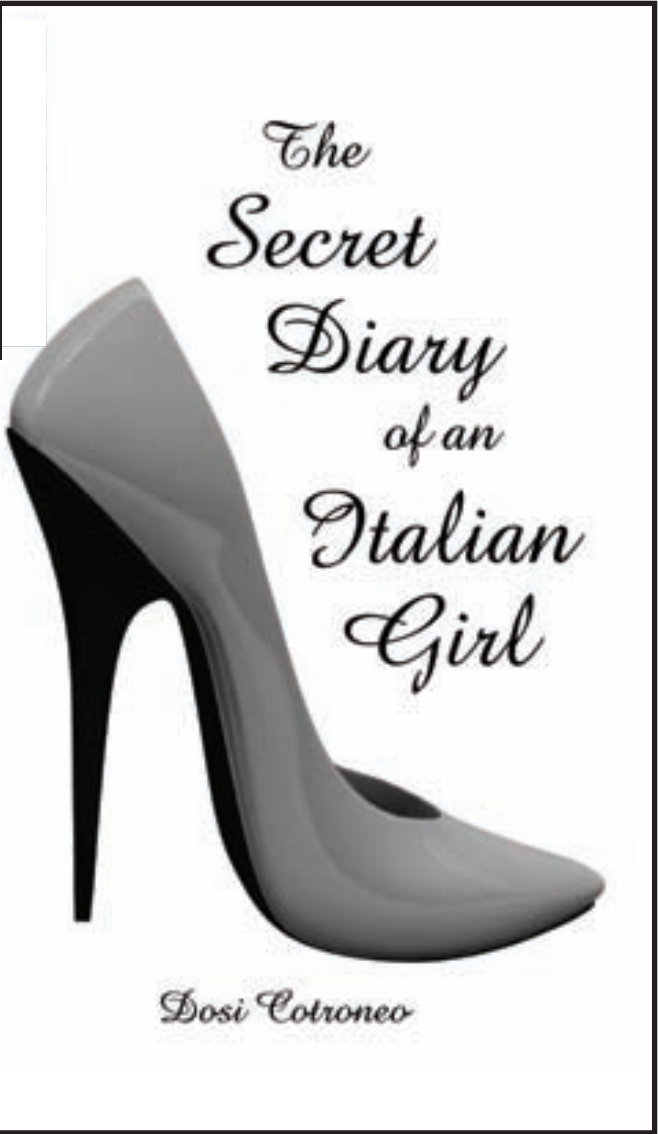
If you are a fan of mystery, intrigue, and international espionage, please put this book down immediately and walk three aisles over to the Mystery, Intrigue and International Espionage section.

If you find yourself trapped in the roles of career woman and traditional wife and mother all at the same time, then please, do read on.

If you find yourself trapped in the conflicting role of mother to your mother, or if your daughter is acting like she is your mother, or if your husband is acting like a wife, or if your son is acting like your daughter, then by all means, do not hesitate a second longer. This book will help you regain your sanity.

If you have a penchant for fashion - the pencil skirt, the tapered blouse, the form-fitting T-shirt, the waist-cinching skinny belt, the classic stiletto pump, the essential clutch purse, and fine Italian leathers - I urge you to, please, read on.

Or if you are just a poor, lost soul, roaming forlornly through your day in search of a lift, a smile,





# General Interests

## The Congress of Italian Canadians Foundation President Joe Macaluso Honours the Giovanni Caboto Award Recipients

Six students have been granted “Giovanni Caboto Awards” for the academic year 2009-2010. These awards (bursaries) were established in 1997, 100 years after Giovanni Caboto discovered Canada – the first of many contributions that Italians/Italian Canadians have made to Canada. Five awards have been granted at Carleton University and one at the University of Ottawa. The six recipients of the awards this year are:

### Carleton University

#### Damiano Alloggia

Damiano Alloggia is in his final semester of mechanical engineering at Carleton University. In August, he completed a 16-month internship at the National Research Council Institute for Aerospace Research where he was working with companies such as Bombardier Aerospace and Bell Helicopter. Apart from the Giovanni Caboto Award, he has also won the H.I.H. Saravanamuttoo Scholarship in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering named after one of the pioneers of the gas turbine engine who was part of the cancelled Avro Arrow program. Last week, Damiano was selected with a group of other students by Carleton’s Dean of Engineering to attend the 3-day Canadian Nuclear Association conference in Ottawa. Damiano is a member of Carleton University’s Formula Student Race team that is building an open-wheel racecar that will compete at the annual Formula Student competition held in Michigan in May that attracts over 120 engineering schools from around the world.

Outside of school, Damiano is a member of AGIO, an Italo-Canadian Youth Group, and in the past years, he has been involved with the Centro Abruzzese. Like many Italo-Canadians, he attended Italian school every Saturday from kindergarten until the end of high school. He also speaks French and enjoys playing soccer.

#### Lisa Bianco

Lisa Bianco, is a third year undergraduate student studying Public Affairs with a Major in Law and a Minor in History. She chose Carleton because of its unique undergraduate law program, a good place for continuing on to law school. Her interests are international relations and human rights and she has always been fascinated by change in the world through diplomacy and law. At Carleton she acquired a love for history, as it gives a good perspective on the world, and thus decided to minor in it. This led her to want to explore her own culture more deeply. She chose to study the Italian language as one of her electives because she felt as though something was missing from her Italian-Canadian identity. Growing up in Canada, it has been difficult for her family to teach her the Italian language. Her parents were both born here in Canada, her grand-parents having immigrated in the 1950s.

#### Arianna Labocchetta

Arianna Labocchetta, is a second year student at Carleton University taking a Bachelor of Public Affairs and Policy Management. As a hard working and dedicated student, her post-secondary education is of crucial importance and similar to most her peers, school and work schedule keep them continuously on the go.

Coming from a tight-knit family of Italian origin, she is a strong believer in Italian core values and culture and has every intention to maintain them throughout the course of career. Being fluent in the Italian language, as well as in French, English and Spanish also allows her to participate on a volunteer basis in various activities, such as serving in a local Italian community parish as a waitress for fundraising dinner-dances.

When she is not on the go, she enjoys reading, listening to music, keeping up with daily news, spending time with family and friends, as well as taking part in swimming and various dance classes. In a world where there is so much to do all the time, time for herself and to pause from her busy schedule is also necessary. She a firm believer in work, study and family balance.

Her future plans involve completing a master’s degree in International Relations, traveling and beginning a career on the international arena all while meeting and interacting with people on a day-to-day basis.

#### Gemma Mattioli

Gemma Mattioli is attending her first year at Carleton University. She is in the Bachelor of Arts Honours program and is doing a major in Psychology. Gemma enjoys studying languages and plans on completing a minor in French and possibly studying Italian. Her immediate goal is to pursue her studies with good grades. Gemma’s future goal is to get a good degree and then proceed to Teacher’s College.

“Since I will not be present at the ceremony, I just want to say that it is a great honor for me to accept this award. Please convey my sincere thanks and appreciation to the National Congress of Italian-Canadians Foundation”..

#### Annamaria Ruscito

Annamaria is a second year student in Honours Biochemistry at Carleton University and greatly enjoys science as it contributes much to everyday life. This year, she has won an NSERC scholarship which gives the opportunity to do research in Biochemistry and Biophysics at Carleton over the summer. She is currently working as a receptionist at a retirement residence and is working towards her grade 6 piano exam with the Royal Conservatory of Music. In all,she is interested in science and is working towards a career which will allow her to contribute to society.

### University of Ottawa

#### Antonio DiRienzo

Antonio is in the third year of the Performance Program at the university of Ottawa, School of Music. He studies with Professor Ingemar Korjus. Antonio has sung in two operas with the University of Ottawa Opera Company. He will be singing with Opera Lyra Ottawa in their production of Turandot in September and The Magic Flute next January. He enjoys gardening, growing vegetables and has enjoyed studying Italian cinema this semester at school. He sings at St Patrick’s Basilica and works at Loblaws in Nepean in the plant department and makes funeral arrangements for customers.







## Italian Canadian Community Centre Sponsors Students from Roccamontepiano, Abruzzo, Italy on a Cultural Exchange Program



Students at St. Anthony's Church



Sindaco Adamo  
with President Nello Scipioni of the Centro Abruzzese



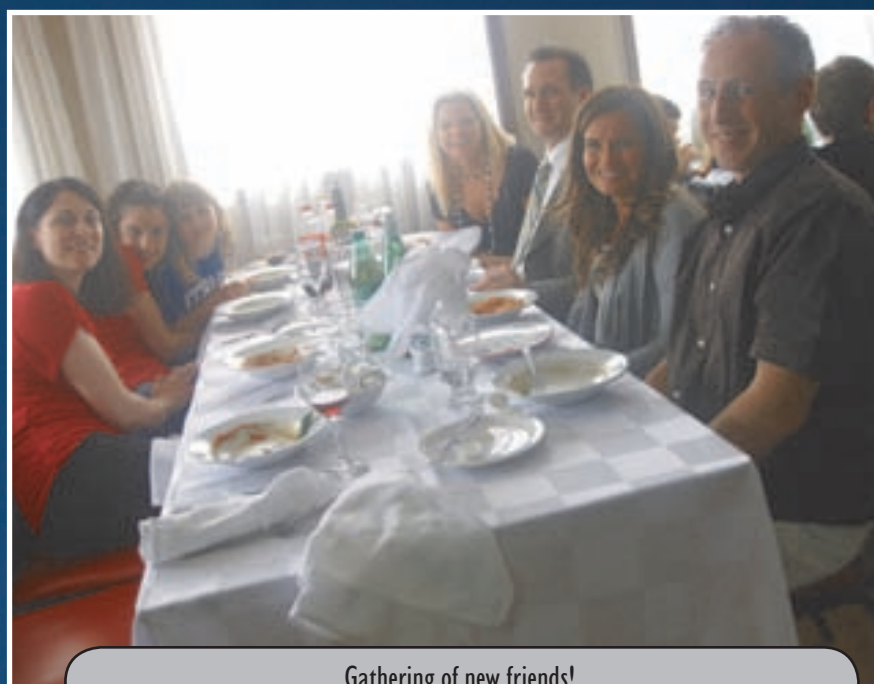
Paul Casagrande with Firefighters at reception of Mayor Adamo



Students at Centro Abruzzese



Tony Ieluzzi, Sindaco Adamo and Gino Buffone

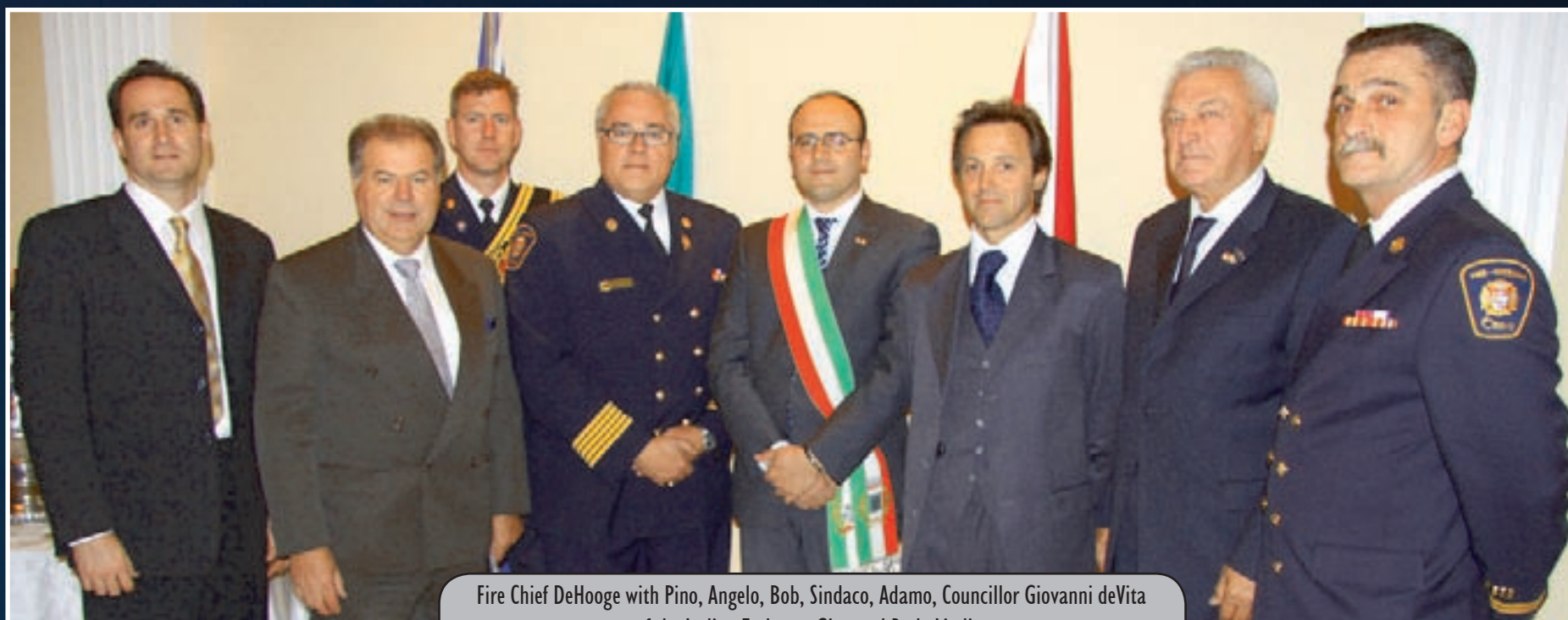


Gathering of new friends!





## Italian Canadian Community Centre Sponsors Students from Roccamontepiano, Abruzzo, Italy on a Cultural Exchange Program



Fire Chief DeHooge with Pino, Angelo, Bob, Sindaco, Adamo, Councillor Giovanni deVita of the Italian Embassy, Gino and Rudy Lindia.



Teachers of Greenbank Middle School with Mayor



Italian Canadian students with Mayor Adamo at Greenbank Middle School



# A Thought

## Gli Canadesi

### The Rise of an Italian National Identity in North America

By Domenico Vito Mancini

#### Introduction

The 2006 Census counts approximately 1.4 million Canadian citizens, making up 4.5% of the total population, who identify as being of Italian origin (Statistics Canada, 2006). To put this into context, this is several hundred thousand more than those who identify themselves as being of Aboriginal origin in Canada. Furthermore, Italians make up the most first-generation immigrants from Europe in Canada today, making them Canada’s sixth largest ethnic group (after Canadians, English, French, Scottish, Irish and Germans), empirically confirming their strong presence in Canadian society (Statistics Canada, 2006). Canada is not the only country wherein large communities of Italians can be found. For example, in the United States there are approximately 17.8 million individuals who consider themselves to be of Italian origin, which is approximately 6% of the total population in the United States (U.S. Census Bureau, 2006).

Needless to say, there has been a strong presence of Italians in North America for many years and, like many other notable ethnic groups, Italians have undoubtedly played a major role in the shaping of the North American landscape and it’s culture. Simultaneously, North America’s social landscapes have homogenously given rise to what can be considered an Italian national identity, which to this day, continues to evolve in various regional and generational contexts.

The following pages will explore the ways in which an Italian identity was established in North America, particularly in Canada, and the effects that this socially constructed identity has had on second and third generation Italian immigrants over the course of this past century.

#### Italian Diaspora in the New World

Close to 27 million Italians left Italy within a two-century period beginning in the late 1700s and early 1800s. This mass migration is considered the largest diaspora of the modern world (Rosoli, 1976). According to migration experts, the majority of these people settled in South America, particularly in Argentina and Brazil where approximately 50% of their respective populations (approximately 40 million people) are of Italian origin (Gabaccia, 2005).

The first major wave of Italian diaspora who arrived in North America during the mid 1800s and early 1900s, began to settle in New York and along the eastern seaboard. Eventually, Italians began to settle in various cities and rural settlements across Canada, although a greater concentration of them established roots in Ontario and Quebec (Serfilippi, 2004). Although many of these migrants came with the intent to earn money and return to their families in Italy, small Italian colonies began emerging across the country, the fastest growing of which were in Canada’s two largest cities, Montreal and Toronto (Iacovetta, 1992).

The Italian invasion of postwar Toronto, as some observers dubbed it, was part of a larger diaspora that saw seven million Italians emigrate from Italy. Many of these second wave immigrants could point to an earlier generation of compatriots who settled in Toronto before 1930 (Iacovetta, 1992). Franca Iacovetta argues that quickly Toronto emerged as the single most important Canadian target for immigrants from Italy prior to WWII and, by 1961, “had replaced Montreal as the home of the largest Italian population in a Canadian city” (Iacovetta, 1992, Pg 21).

The second and third waves of Italian immigrants would engulf the Italian communities, which were already well established in Canada at that time. While the earlier immigrants tended to be northerners, they were soon joined, and then outnumbered, by central and southern Italians. Among those who headed for North America, were thousands of young migrant men on temporary work permits, labeled as the “sweatbacks of Europe”(Iacovetta, 1992). The majority of those who arrived in this second wave which immediately followed WWII, were male migrants who filled seasonal jobs as railway workers, miners, and construction workers. The vast majority of Italian men were laborors, while their wives, for the most part, remained within their homes and took on traditional domestic roles. According to Patricia Wood, “despite the strong class consciousness indicated by the laborism of the time, for Italians, ethnicity was the identity around which they constructed their social life” (Wood, 2002, Pg 37).

The societies that formed were therefore explicitly Italian, but not explicitly working class. Before long the Italian community began to develop a group of elites who would play a significant role in shaping the Italian national identity in Canada. The elite, composed mostly of labour agents, immigrant bankers, shopkeepers, mutual-aid society officials, and professionals, created an elaborate array of social and political associations (Iacovetta, 1992). These social and political associations soon transcended the class structures within the Italian community, which played a significant role in giving rise to the Italian national identity. This was manifested in the expansion of the existing Little Italies which had been established by the first influx of Italians to Canada at the turn of the century (Zucchi, 1988).

It is important to mention that these immigrants were not well received upon arrival, and developed confrontational relations with other immigrant groups

such as the Irish who had already established a strong presence in Canada prior to the major influx of Italians. For the most part, as in this Irish example, religion was the major attributor to the cause of these confrontational relationships. Although the Roman Catholic Church had long been the established church of Italy, many Italians began to oppose its powers, as it became a political entity that transcended faith and spirituality at the expense of the well being of the Italian people. This lead to an anti-clericalist attitude amongst many Italians, which was not well received by the Irish, with whom many Italian immigrants interacted with on a daily basis at work, school, and on the streets of Canada’s major cities. The Irish considered the Italians to be “bad Catholics” and often voiced their opinions openly (Heritage Community Foundation, 2002). This in part led to a moral panic fueled by racist sentiment which left Canadians weary of the Italian presence in North America’s major cities.

Nonetheless, the Church played a major role in unifying the Italian communities in Canada. In the early 19th Century the Roman Catholic Church recognized the need to assist Italians abroad with their spiritual needs resulting in the establishment of the Scalabrini order, a missionary group that tended to Italian communities, particularly in Alberta and the British Columbia (Congresso Nazionale Degli Italo-Canadesi, 2000). Aside from tending to the spiritual needs of this community, these missionaries also acted as social workers by assisting immigrants in finding work and translating for those who did not understand English (Congresso Nazionale Degli Italo-Canadesi, 2000). Several authors such as Perin, Iacovetta and Zucchi, note the importance of the Catholic Church in the establishment of the Italian national identity in North America, and highlight the role of the church’s ability to maintain a strong Italian community amidst a people that had been traditionally divided by their regional and local identities (Zucchi, 1988).

The roles of Italy and Italians in North America during World War II also had interesting implications for the acceptance of Italian immigrants in North America. Approximately 1.3 million persons of Italian origin in the US today are recognized as civilian veterans of the US army (U.S. Census Bureau, 2006). The vast majority of these veterans served during WWII, and likewise, a large number of Italians in Canada served on the front lines for the Canadian army as well. However, at the very same time, thousands Italian immigrants in North America during that period were considered “enemy aliens”, “enemy sympathizers” and potential “fifth columnists”, a term coined during the Spanish revolution to refer to “a clandestine group or faction of subversive agents who attempt to undermine a nation’s solidarity from within” (Encyclopedia Britanica, 2009).

Italy entered the war on June 10th, 1940 and almost instantaneously all Italians in Canada were seen as Fascist supporters of Mussolini, eventually leading to the internment of approximately 700 Italian in Canada.

“The minister of justice has authorized that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police take steps to intern all residents of Italian origin whose activities have given ground for the belief or reasonable suspicion that they might in time of war endanger the safety of the state” (Zavaglia 1997).

– Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada on June 11th, 1940

The reality however, was that very few members of the Italian-Canadian community associated themselves with the Fascist movement in Italy or Mussolini, and those who did, did so openly with no intention of harming Canada. According to several accounts of those interned, even the small group of Italian-Canadians who did consider themselves Fascisti were proud to be Canadian and remained so even after their internment (Iacovetta, Perin and Principe, 2000).

Approximately 33,000 Italians in Canada were listed as “enemy aliens” including women and children (Iacovetta, Perin and Principe, 2000). Afterwards, approximately 17,000 were fingerprinted, photographed and ordered to report every month to the RCMP. Another 6,000 Italian immigrants were arrested, the majority of which resided in Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton, but also included Italians from British Columbia, Alberta, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan (Iacovetta, Perin and Principe, 2000). The majority of the 700 Italians were interned at Camp Petawawa for up to three years during the war. Although this number may be shocking, it falls far short of the 22,000 Japanese who were interned in Canada during this time, for the very same reasons.

According to Francis McCollum, these internment camps isolated those listed as “others” in order to assimilate them once and for all (McCollum, 1999). However, it is quite interesting that several personal accounts, both from camp guards and internees themselves suggest that morale was kept high in the internment camps, especially among the Italian internees. Many of these men would have chosen to face internment over conscription, which could have entailed risking their lives, potentially on the Italian front and in the faces of their own people (Zavaglia, 1997).

World War II was not the only instance where Italians faced discrimination at the hand of the Canadian government. One of the first documented instances of such discrimination occurred in 1889 when a railcar of Italian laborers coming Gli Canadesi



# A Thought

## The Rise of an Italian National Identity in North America

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from New York were sent away by the late Clifford Stifton, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, in accordance with the strongly worded Alien Labour Act that had been passed one year previous to this instance (Knowles, 1997). Another instance of this type of discrimination occurred much later in 1959, during the third major wave of Italians to Canada. On March 19th 1959, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration “embarked on a brave attempt to control the escalating sponsorship movement, made up largely of unskilled Italian relatives from southern Italy” (Knowles, 1997, Pg 181). The Canadian government specifically targeted Italian immigrants, especially those from the southern provinces, while forming discriminatory immigration policies that would dramatically halt the influx of Italians to Canada. From these experiences Italian immigrants become Canadians as members of an “ethnic group, deemed socially and culturally distinct from both natives and from immigrants of other backgrounds” (Gabaccia, 2005, Pg 148). This social distinction of Italians in Canada also entailed implications to the development of an Italian national identity in Canada and remains a theme for debate today.

Undoubtedly, the settlement experiences of the Italian diaspora played enormous roles in the development of the Italian national identity in Canada (Zucchi, 1988). However, in analyzing the rise of this identity, it quickly becomes clear that its origins are extremely complex and often debated by historians, ethnologists and Italian immigrants alike.

## The Rise of An Italian National Identity

As put by Nicholas DeMaria Harney, to understand the heterogeneity of the Italian-Canadian identity, it is necessary to first understand the historical conditions that brought several hundred thousand Italians to Canada in the first place (Harney, 1998). While some came in search of a new home and work, many searched only for temporary employment and intended to return to Italy after having earned enough to provide for their families in Italy. Furthermore, John Zucchi argues that settlement, work, religion, politics and worship all contributed to the formation of an Italian national identity among these immigrants (Zucchi, 1988). Simultaneously, they themselves struggled to find a Canadian identity, and to be accepted in their new homeland. Patricia Wood argues that Italians encountered three major external obstacles to the development of their Canadian identities which included nativist attitudes towards new immigrants (particularly in the west), restrictive immigration policies, and internment during WWII (Wood, 2002).

Newcomers to Canada, particularly Italian immigrants prior to WWII, often remained loyal to their regional Italian identities and maintained close ties to their villages or “paese” in Italy. They did not integrate immediately into the organizational community life established by the early migrants, and made an effort to maintain their strong regional identities (Graziella, 2005). However, almost naturally, these immigrants put aside their regional differences and accepted the national Italian identity. This new identity had been established more so by North Americans, than by the immigrants themselves who were not concerned with establishing a national Italian identity. This type of identity had not previously existed, even in Italy.

As these immigrants worked towards accepting their new home, and establishing themselves as Canadians, an Italian national identity was being created for them by their neighbours. Their Canadian identity was no more monolithic than their Italian identity. “Just as their ethnic identity was factored by regional allegiances, so too did Italians distinguish their attachments to Canada with sympathy for their province or region” (Wood, 2002, Pg 129). Depending on where these Italians settled in Canada, they may have been viewed differently within their communities, leading to various interpretations of what it was to be Italian in the eyes of Canadians and other immigrants at that time. However, in all instances, regardless of where they settled, they were always lumped into one group and considered exclusively Italian, without focus on their regional identities (i.e. their provinces and localities in Italy), which these immigrants would usually emphasize amongst themselves, both in Italy and in Canada to this day (Harney, 1998). In fact, several authors such as Zucchi and Harney, argue that this national Italian identity established in North America, was never preceded for Italians on the national level, even in Italy. This fact is quite interesting given that through Canadian ignorance of Italy’s regional cultural differences, an Italian national identity was born.

This attachment to a local place and national identity coexisted for Italians in Canada. Given the complex, long-term, and varied history of migrations out of Italy, it is not surprising that very different identities have developed in the many nations where Italy’s migrants found work and where they ultimately made new, more permanent homes. “Ultimately, only a few of Italy’s many diasporas survived over extended periods of time”, and this is definitely the case for those who settled in Canada (Gabaccia, 2005, Pg 145). In Canada, it was the act of establishing a national Italian identity, which helped these communities to unite, allowing them to preserve their regional cultures and resist assimilation, even if it was unintentional. Connections between the Italian ethnic community and the province of residence acknowledges the mutually supportive nature of these immigrants’ Italian and Canadian identities. “The interwoven nature of the identities thus regionalizes ethnicity, even though it appears determined by its Old World origins. The roots of

their Canadian identity were and are in the migration experience – their own of their families – and it was impossible for Italians to divorce one from the other” (Wood, 2002, Page 131).

However, according to Zucchi, this process of acquiring a sense of nationality should not be viewed as a struggle between national and local allegiances, but rather as one of expanding loyalties. “The immigrant’s identification with the Italian nation, therefore, can be viewed as an expansion of horizons rather than a forsaking of hometown ties” (Zucchi, 1988, Pg 8). These immigrants have maintained the sentimental connections to the regions and localities in Italy, while developing a political loyalty to Canada that they had never for Italy on the national scale (Zucchi, 1988). This has occurred despite the fact that Italians in Italy regarded emigrants to Canada as “i nuovi canadesi” or “the new Canadians” which insinuates they had abandoned their roots (Zucchi, 1988). This too played a psychological effect on these immigrants to openly accept the Canadian identity while maintaining their European roots (Resnick, 2005). Robert Harney describes these “two planes of loyalty” using the term “chiaroscuro”; local and national loyalties are analogous to the light and dark contrasts in painting (Zucchi, 1988, Pg 24).

Since their arrival in North America, the manner in which Italians could be racially categorized in terms of their physical features, particularly their skin colour, has been a question for debate. This too has impacted Italian identities, particularly in the United States where racial categorization tends to be emphasized slightly more in terms of its importance, in comparison to Canada. Italians stand apart from most other “white” ethnics, such as the Irish and Germans and are also more likely than other “white” North Americans to manifest their ethnic origins by eating ethnic foods, talking with others about their ethnicity, or teaching their children ethnic traditions (LaGumina, 2000). Also, the fact that Italians are not as easily identifiable as caucasian, white, or non-white, because of their darker complexion makes them unique in the sense that they cannot be classified as anything else other than Italian. This has also played a role for the majority of Italians who have maintained the Italian national identity developed in North America.

Furthermore, Viola Roseboro’s “Italians in New York” illustrates the possibility of “dual citizenship” by representing the Italians as both “picturesque foreigners” and as good potential “citizens” (Roseboro, 1888). They are, ironically, both foreign to and compatible with North American democratic values (Bramen, 2000). For this reason it can be said that there has been a certain level of tolerance for the open cultural displays of the Italian community, that may not have been as welcomed or well accepted should they have been members of another ethnic group, especially if that group would have been resistant to the Canadian way of life. That being said, Italian culture has been well received in Canada, especially since the 1970s, as Canadians of various ethnic backgrounds indulge in Italian foods, wines, coffees, and various luxury items from jewelry to exotic cars. And, as previously mentioned, the formation of elite labour agents, bankers, wholesale grocers, mutual aid society officials, and professionals was also instrumental in promoting an Italian identity among these immigrants (Zucchi, 1988). This group of elites also had significant influence to the emergence of several Italian-Canadian media sources such as the infamous CHIN network in Toronto, as well as various newspapers, radio station, and television programs that are accessible throughout North America, which make up another crucial part of the Italian identity.

As discussed by Gualtieri, “quite often the preservation of a positive Italian national identity is accomplished in North America by stressing the historic importance of Columbus, Cabotto, Mazzini and Garibaldi” (Gualtieri 1991, Pg 60). A need to reinforce this positive Italian national identity has risen from the negative stereotypes of Italians that have and continue to plague all forms of media, particularly movies and television. Of course, this is in reference to the typical stereotype of the Italian as Mafioso, portrayed in movies such as The Godfather, Goodfellas and Casino, and more recently in the television series The Sopranos. As an Italian-Canadian myself, I can attest to the fact that roughly two thirds of the people I meet openly ask, usually in a comical manner, whether I am connected to the Mafia, due to the fact that I have an Italian name. Based on discussions that I have had with other Canadians of Italian origin, this seems to be almost a normal component to most introductions for Italian-Canadians. The interesting aspect of this observation is that in today’s politically correct world, many Canadians are not as hesitant to ask this question to a person of Italian origin as they would be to ask, for example, an Islamist whether or not they are members of Al-Qaeda. On that note, although both of these should be considered offensive questions, the first question seems to be more acceptable in Canadian society. For this reason, more research is required to determine if this is a North American phenomenon, and why it exists.

Generally speaking, there is a wide variety of factors that have led to the rise of an Italian national identities, as well as Italian-Canadian identities that exist in Canada today. While these identities continue to evolve in various regional and generational contexts, it can be said that the image of the proud, stalwart (loyal, reliable, hardworking) Italian may have transcended the generations as the most positive aspect of these identities. Of course one cannot neglect the traditional, and Canadian-made traditional Italian dishes that can be found at most restaurants throughout North America.

- continued on next page



# A Thought

## The Rise of an Italian National Identity in North America - continued from previous page...

### Generational Differences Among Italians in Canada

According to LaGumina, “nearly three-quarters of individuals of Italian ancestry identify, at least to some extent, with their Italian origins” (LaGumina, 2000, Pg 59). As previously mentioned, Italians stand apart from most other “white” ethnic groups (such as the Irish and Germans) as they are more likely than other “white” North Americans to manifest their ethnic origins by eating foods, talking with others about their ethnicity, or teach their children ethnic tradition. However, LaGumina raises the point that ethnic identity has its own unavoidable dynamics. “The greater intensity of Italians’ ethnic identity is linked to their demographic distinctiveness as a group, a distinctiveness that is being eroded by rising intermarriage, educational and residential mobility, and generational change” (LaGumina, 2000, Pg 59). Whether or not this is a multigenerational assimilation process, as discussed by LaGumina is up for debate. However there exists clear empirical evidence that there is an absence of third generation (as well as later generations) Italians in Canada today. For example, while there is an abundance of first and second generation Italians in Canada relative to other European countries, there are relatively far fewer Canadians who identify as being third generation Italians (Statistics Canada, 2006). This suggests that perhaps, although the Italian presence in Canada remains strong, persons of Italian origin often disassociate themselves from the Italian identity by the third generation. At the same time, there is a profusion of qualitative evidence that may suggest otherwise, leaving this quantitative analysis nothing more than what Iacovetta would describe as the work of “policy experts, economists, and scholars of mobility, who pay only perfunctory attention to the actual experiences of the generations” (Iacovetta, 1992).

For example, when Italy won the 2006 World Cup of soccer, an estimated 10,000 supporters poured into the streets of downtown Toronto. Similar celebrations occurred in Montreal, and Hamilton which now has the largest Italian population in Canada per square kilometre(Statistics Canada, 2006). Furthermore, the Little Italies of Canada’s major cities flourish with Italian festivals and visitors every year. The Italian calendar in Canada year is overflows with feast days, saint days and heritage days that unite Italians from all parts of Italy in Canada’s cities. Large social clubs such as the Sons of Italy remain powerful influences in cities with strong Italian presence, and smaller regional clubs such as the Venetian Club and Racalmutese clubs of Hamilton also draw significant support from various generations within their respective communities. The Racalmutese Club for example, caters to the Italian population of Hamilton who trace their origins to Ralcamuto, a small village in Sicily with a smaller population than the Racalmutese in Hamilton today. Italians and non-Italians alike continue to gravitate to particular neighborhoods of the city and support the extensive network of Italian ethnic stores, services, and voluntary organizations (Zucchi, 1988).

Furthermore, in contrast to the hyphenated “Italian-American” and “Italo-Canadian” identities, second and third generation Italian immigrants in France, Argentina, and Brazil, while aware of their cultural origins, do not make ethnicity a central component to their identities and consider themselves simply as French, Argentine or Brazilian nationals or citizens (Gabaccia, 1998).

### Conclusion

Clearly the individual experiences play the most important role in establishing immigrant’s identities. However, Canada has undoubtedly witnessed the rise on an Italian national identity that sets aside regional differences that had previously been emphasized amongst these immigrants. In addition, Italians in Canada most definitely share a joint identity, holding sentimental ties to their villages and regions in Italy and political loyalty to Canada. Regardless of the discrimination these immigrants might have faced, they continue to be the picturesque immigrants, that they were described as, in 1888. Undoubtedly Italian-Canadians are well represented in Canadian society and can be expected to for years to come.

## Sam Ciccolini honoured by the Congress of Italian Canadians Toronto District

Mr. Sam Ciccolini was honoured a reception and dinner held at the Montecassino Place in Woodbridge on Friday, April 16, 2010, where the recipient was presented with the organization’s distinguished service award, the Ordine al Merito for his accomplishments and contributions to the community.

The Congress is very pleased to honour Mr. Sam Ciccolini for his contributions to the Italian Canadian community and our Canadian society at large,” said Domenico Barbieri, Chair of the 2010 Organizing Committee. “The annual presentation of the Ordine al Merito and the Young Achievement Awards is an opportunity for our community to unite in recognition of the achievements of our fellow Italian Canadians. The Toronto District is proud to honour these two outstanding Italian Canadians and to celebrate our community.”

Mr. Sam Ciccolini is a leading business man in the Vaughan region. His work with many charitable foundations has been invaluable. His passion and commitment to the community is surpassed by no other. He has worked tirelessly with many organizations and is in some way involved in over one hundred community events a year. Some of the most notable foundations that Mr. Ciccolini is involved in are: The Hospital for Sick Children, Villa Charities, Villa Colombo Vaughan Long Term Care, Vaughan Health Care Foundation, Sisters of the Sacred Heart and the Church Council of Saint Margaret Mary. The Charity closest to his heart is the Christina Ciccolini Bone Marrow Foundation. Sam, now at the age of retirement, lives life omitting the word no from his vocabulary. This is because of his belief that anything can be achieved as long as one is determined enough to persevere.





# Local City

Gemellaggio Italia-Canada, gli studenti e il Sindaco di Roccamontepiano Adamo Carulli celebrano gli italiani in Canada con il Vice Primo Ministro John Baird e il Sindaco di Ottawa Larry O’Brien.

By Sindaco Adamo Carulli

Gemellaggio Italia-Canada, gli studenti e il Sindaco di Roccamontepiano Adamo Carulli celebrano gli italiani in Canada con il Vice Primo Ministro John Baird e il Sindaco di Ottawa Larry O’Brien.

Continua il gemellaggio con la città di Ottawa, capitale canadese e la piccola comunita’ di Roccamontepiano.

Venerdi’ scorso, 23 aprile 2010, il Sindaco e gli studenti di Roccamontepiano, dopo essere stati ricevuti dal Vice Primo Ministro John Baird in Parlamento, hanno partecipatro ad una serata di gala organizzata dagli italiani e abruzzesi della capitale canadese.

A questo grande appuntamento e’ intervenuto nuovamente il Vice Primo Ministro John Baird, il Sindaco di Ottawa Larry O’Brien con sua moglie, il responsabile dell’Ambasciata d’Italia in Canada e tantissime autorita’ politiche e militari.

Lo scambio culturale, voluto dal Comune e dalla Scuola Media dell’Istituto didattico di Fara Filiorum Petri e’ piaciuto moltissimo in Canada.

Un metodo nuovo che ha visto una delegazione di 12 studenti della Media “I. Silone” di Roccamontepiano ospite dell’istituto Greenbank Middle School.L’ospitalità dei ragazzi e degli accompagnatori e’ stata garantita dalle famiglie canadesi.

L’On. John Baird Ministro dei Trasporti e delle Infrastrutture, nel corso della serata ha sottolineato l’importanza e la laboriosita’ degli italiani in Canada ed ha annunciato una sua vista privata in Italia.

Sia il Ministro che il Dott. Larry O’Brien Sindaco di Ottawa hanno donato ai ragazzi roccolani alcuni ricordi della citta’ e del Canada.

Alla serata sono intervenuti anche il Prof. Costantine Ioannou Direttore di Ottawa International Center, la Dott.ssa Nadia Towaij-White Direttrice del Greenbank Middle School, Nello Scipioni Presidente del Centro Abruzzese Canadese e Michael Inneo del Centro Culturale St. Catherines.

Il viaggio istituzionale si inserisce di un rapporto, ormai consolidato negli anni, tra la comunità roccolana e quella dei nostri concittadini in Canada garantita da Gino e Pino Buffone.

Già in passato il Comune di Roccamontepiano aveva ospitato in Abruzzo la “banda dei vigili del fuoco di Ottawa” e altri illustri personaggi.

Adesso la fitta collaborazione tra emigranti, Comune, famiglie e scuole hanno consentito la concretizzazione di questo sogno.

I giovani roccolani stanno frequentando una scuola canadese per apprendere, conoscere e relazionarsi con una delle nazioni più importanti del Nord America.

L’incontro tra gli studenti italiani e i ragazzi canadesi consolida una collaborazione tra i due Paesi che avviene per opera dei connazionali partiti da emigranti e che in Canada hanno lavorato, impiantato le loro famiglie e i personali successi nella società canadese.

Insomma Roccamontepiano e i suoi figli riallacciano i legami pensando alle comuni radici ma guardando con fiducia e speranza al futuro.

Riporto di seguito il discorso tenuto nella Sala San Marco di Little Italy di Ottawa durante la cerimonia del 23 aprile scorso.

Buonasera e benvenuti a tutti!

Signore e signori, prendere la parola in questa sala e’ una grande emozione che cerchero’ comunque di trattenere.

Quello che sicuramente non voglio nascondervi e’ il grande orgoglio e l’onore che provo nel condividere con tutti voui questa serata di festa.

Saluto e do il benvenuto all’Onorevole Jhon Baird, Ministro dei Trasporti e delle Infrastrutture del Canada che pochi giorni fa ci ha ricevuti durante una visita al Parlamentio canadese.

Le ragazze e i ragazzi italiani, studenti di Roccamontepiano, hanno avuto il privilegio di conoscere e salutare il Ministro di uno dei Paesi piu’ importanti del mondo, il Canada appunto.

Una grande nazione, ospitale e cordiale dove tanti nostri connazionali hanno trovato lavoro e si sono costruiti una famiglia e hanno trovato le proprie soddisfazioni.

Ringrazio l’On. Baird per ringraziare anche questo Paese che prioprio in Abruzzo, durante la Seconda Guerra Mondiale, ha contribuito in maniera decisiva a liberare il nostro territorio dal nazismo.

Tantissimi giovani, poco piu’ che adolescenti, sacrificarono la propria vita per dare all’Italia e agli italiani la liberta’, la pace e la democrazia.

Saluto e ringrazio il Sindaco di Ottawa Larry O’Brien.

Questi giorni abbiamo conosciuto la capitale del Canada, i suoi spazi, il suo centro, i palazzi delle sue massime istituzioni, i musei, le scuole, l’ospedale, la casa di cura degli italiani Villa Marconi e l’immenso patrimonio ambientale.

Ho avuto modo di apprezzare la sua complessita’ ma anche l’organizzazione puntuale dei suoi servizi.

La serena convivenza e la tranquillita’ della sua comunita’ e’ un vero modello per tutti noi.

Grazie di vero cuore per l’ospitalita’ che io e i nostri ragazzi sto e stiamo ricevendo in questi splendidi giorni.

Da Sindaco di un piccolo paese d’Italia so quanto impegnativo e complesso puo’ essere questo incarico e di quanti incontri puo’ avere un primo cittadino di una citta’ di un milione di abitanti.

AverLa tra noi in questo incontro e’ un vero onore.

Un saluto va al Consigliere Comunale di origini italiane Rich Chiarelli per la sua amicizia.

Non posso dimenticare tra i ringraziamenti il mio Vicesindaco Maria Luciana Addario, la vera artefice e organizzatrice di questo gemellaggio italocanadese.

Lei e’ restata in Italia a sostituirmi nel lavoro del Comune durante la mia assenza.

Grazie a lei e ai suoi amici e parenti: Gino e Lena Buffone, Pino e Cherol Buffone, che abbiamo pensato e organizzato questo scambio culturale per gli studenti.

Ringrazio l’Associazione di Roccamontepiano ad Ottawa nella persona del Presidente Romeo Donatucci e del pass Presidente Erminio Buffone, per tutte le iniziative che organizzano qui per mantenere vive le tradizioni e l’identita’ del nostro paese.

A voi tutti mando il saluto del Senatore Giovanni Legnini, gia’ Sindaco di Roccamontepiano, che non e’ presente oggi con noi per impegni di lavoro in Parlamento a Roma ma mi ha pregato di rivolgere a tutti un suo caloroso abbraccio.

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Un abbraccio affettuosissimo al cantante Tony Ieluzzi per la sua generosa presenza come quella della Direttrice della Greenbank Middle School Nadia Towaj White, del Prof. Costantine Ionnau, Angelo Filoso del Centro Comunitario Italiano e Nello Scipioni di Casabruzzo.

Abbiamo questa sera con noi anche Lorenzo Micucci dell’Associazione dei rapinesi, di Mario D’Angelo dell’associazione pretorese e del responsabile dell’Ambasciata d’Italia in Canada.

Infine ringrazio tutti voi per la gradita presenza e per l’aiuto che ci state dando peer questo progetto.

Come gia’ sapete gli studenti di Roccamontepiano sono venuti qui per apprendere la lingua inglese.

Assieme a questo progetto, voluto con la Scuola Media e il Preside Prof. Bruno Della Pelle, rappresentato dal Prof. Mauro Sciubba, hanno avuto la possibilita’ di conoscere di persona tutti voi: roccolani, rapinesi, pretoresi, abruzzesi e italiani in generale che a me e agli accompagnatori hanno aperto le loro case, il loro cuore e la loro amicizia.

Ci hanno mostrato con passione e orgoglio cio’ che hanno costruito in Canada.

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# IL POSTINO

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## Cheque Presentation to the Ottawa Firefighters Community Foundation aboard the Celebrity Equinox



Official presentation at reception for Firefighters and Friends (Carmen from House of Travel, Brian Conway, Dave Smith, Bob & Carole Larochelle)



Photo Presentation (Brian Conway, Dave Stephenson, Bob & Carole Larochelle, Dave Smith)

## Happy Birthday to Pina Alonzi Celebrating with Friends at the Fiamma Restaurant in Toronto!



AND A BIG HAPPY 3rd BIRTHDAY TO  
GABRIEL BERNAL!!



Happy Birthday to Gino Buffone





# Community Calendar & Businesses



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Ottawa**

**Friday June 18 - Sunday June 20**  
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**Yasir Naqvi, MPP**  
Ottawa Centre

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The Il Postino Table



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