

IL POSTINO

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

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Local SnapShots

Vendemmia-Grape Stomp in Little Italy Sept 20th 2009



Yolanda and Domenic barbequeing



The Il Postino Paparazzi Team



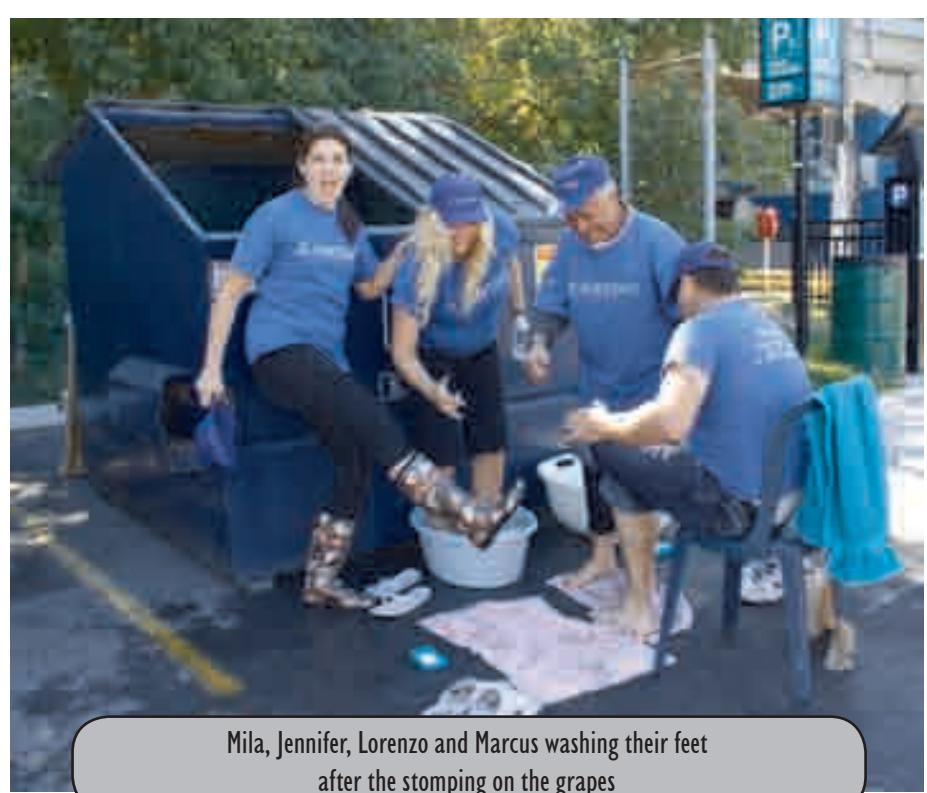
Jim Watson, Trina Powell, Giovanni Maiorini, Angelo Filoso



Painting murals on Preston Street



Jennifer and Marcus Filoso making home made pasta



Mila, Jennifer, Lorenzo and Marcus washing their feet
after the stomping on the grapes

General Interest

No offence, but Thanksgiving is not an Official Italian Holiday

By Dosi Cotronero

It all started around 35 years ago. Not the first Thanksgiving of course, but actually the first Thanksgiving dinner at my house not too far from Little Italy's Preston Street. Ma had no knowledge of this special day on the Canadian and American calendars so for the first few years of our life in Canada, Thanksgiving came and went without much notice and even less hullabaloo. That is until my eldest sister informed my parents that we just had to conform to the ways of our new found land and cook up a big turkey, hence the hopes of beginning a new tradition in our newly Canadianised family.

My father, like his father before him, was an avid hunter and decided to do the manly thing and go out and shoot a turkey. Living in Ottawa's little Italy, however, finding a suitable bird in the Preston Street area would prove to be no easy task. Ma convinced him to put away his rifle and head down to the Byward Market instead. In those days, fresh – or rather live poultry and rabbits were for sale to the general public. I'll never forget that long and crowded bus ride home with that live turkey in tow. Fearing the worst for that bird, I headed straight to the playground while my parents and sister did all of the preparations for this new, mysterious feast.



My mother's culinary skills were second to none, that is as long as pasta and tomato sauce were on the menu. Having never cooked up a bird before and not owning a large roasting pan, Ma decided to toss the whole thing in the oven and let it cook directly on the racks. A few hours later, the fire department left and we decided to clean up the mess and give thanks for another great dinner of Ma's spaghetti and meatballs.

Not much has changed since. Oh sure, my sister's and I have perfected cranberry sauce, stuffing and pumpkin pies, but my Ma has never attempted to cook another bird. This Thanksgiving, I was thankful to have my entire family together once again, and we all made a contribution to the feast. The sister that started it all baked the bird and made the stuffing. Sister number two prepared all of the traditional side dishes, and I baked all of the pies – pumpkin, apple and cherry. Ma showed up with one of her all-time favorites – eggplant parmigiana. It's comforting to know that some things never change.

Father Saverio New Pastor at St. Anthony

ENGLISH: Father Javier Rammirez known as Father Saverio in our Italian Canadian Community brings youth and new ideas to the St. Anthony's Church Community. Father Saverio has been appointed pastor of St. Anthony's Church for three years. He has taken over the reins of Father Paul McKeown who has been appointed vice rector of the Notre Dame Cathedral on Sussex Street Ottawa, Canada.

Father Saverio was born in Antioquia Colombia on the 8th of May 1972. His calling came in 1990 when he joined the order of the Servants of Mary. After studying philosophy at the University of Saint Thomas run by the Dominican order he went to Rome in 1995 and studied Theology at the Jesuit College of Teologica Marianum. Father Saverio returned to Mexico to begin his spiritual life.

He was ordained as a priest in 2001 and became assistant pastor at the Servi di Santa Maria in Bogota until 2002.

Promoting Vocations from 2002 until 2007, assistant pastor at Santa Maria Dei Servi in Cali from 2005 to 2007 he finally came to Canada as an assistant Pastor in the middle of the winter in 2008.

In 2009 he returned to Columbia and Mexico for three months after which time he returned to St. Anthony's Church as Pastor. Father Saverio has been appointed Pastor for three years at St. Anthony's Church Ottawa by the Archbishop Prendergast.

Il Postino wishes him good luck in his newly appointed position.



ITALIANO: Padre Javier Ramirezz, forse meglio conosciuto dalla nostra comunità come Padre Saverio, si presenta come un piacevole e sorridente sacerdote che, nonostante la sua giovane età, porta con sé un bagaglio culturale nonché un'esperienza spirituale di un certo rilievo.

Nato a Rionegro Antioquia in Colombia l'8 Maggio del 1972, Padre Javier e' entrato a far parte dell'Ordine dei Servi di Maria nel 1990. Dopo aver ottenuto unalicensia in filosofia presso l'Universita' di San Tommaso dei Padri Domenicani ed aver studiato teologia presso i Gesuiti alla Facolta' Teologica Marianum in Romanel 1995, si e' recato in Messico per il noviziato.

Ordinato prete l'11 Novembre 2001, e' stato assistente presso I Servi di SantaMaria di Bogota' fino al 2002.

Promotore delle Vocationi dal 2002 al 2007, assistente presso Santa Maria Dei Servi a Cali dal 2005 al 2007, e' finalmente giunto in Canada durante il freddo Febbraio del 2008 in qualita' di Assistente Parrocchiale.

Padre Javier, quest'estate dopo un'assenza di tre mesi dalla Chiesa di Sant' Antonio, mesi durante i quali ha servito presso le Comunità in Colombia e

Messico, e' definitivamente tornato ad Ottawa per un iniziale mandato di tre anni in qualita' di Parroco della Chiesa di Sant' Antonio da Padova.

Caro padre Javier Bentomato e tanti auguri per il tuo nuovo incarico religioso!

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General Interest

Canada's Italian Walk of Fame Unveiled on College Street in Toronto



JOHN LOMBARDI, 1914-2003
MILITARY, CANADIAN SOLDIER, GROCER,
IMPRESSARIO, AND BROADCASTER

Lombardi was born to Italian immigrant parents in Toronto on December 10, 1914. As a teenager he learned to play trumpet, and later became a popular dance band leader. After serving in the Canadian Army during WWII, Lombardi returned to Toronto and opened Lombardi's Supermarket at 637 College Street in 1949, in the area which was soon dubbed "Little Italy."

Lombardi began Italian radio programming in the early 50's as CHUM and CKFM, became an impresario of Italian shows, and in 1966, he realized his dream of creating Canada's first full-time, multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-language radio station, when he won his license for CHTN Radio AM1540, and later, CHTN FM100.7.

Lombardi gave a voice to millions through his CHTN Radio stations, and was recognized for his achievements and public service with awards that included Member of the Order of Canada, Member of the Order of Ontario, and Order of Merit from the National Congress of Italian Canadians.

Lombardi helped shape and refine a vision of Canada that openly embraced different cultures and different languages. As Johnny said, "I hope we will all help preserve the vibrancy of multiculturalism in the city, a blend of traditions, language and cultures. It is this diversity that makes a community strong."



CONNIE FRANCIS
Connie Francis (Conceita Rose Maria Fiacconi) was born in Newark, New Jersey. Her debut as a teenager on the widely popular American Bandstand, performing her recording of "Who's Sorry Now" catapulted Francis to international stardom. By the mid-1960s, she had sold more than 25 million records worldwide, with 35 U.S. Top 40 hits, and three number one singles including, "Everybody's Somebody's Fool," "My Heart Has a Mind of Its Own," and "Don't Break the Heart That Loves You."

Francis recorded many of her singles in over 12 languages. Several ethnic albums followed including, an Italian album which became her biggest selling LP, with the single "Marco," reaching Top 10 in the U.S. and No. 1 in Europe.

In the 1960's, Francis appeared in a string of successful motion pictures, including a starring role in one of the most popular teenage films of all time, *Where the Boys Are*, with the title song reaching No. 1 in 15 countries.

Through the years, Francis has donated much of her free time to charitable benefits and often performs for various religious and civic organizations. She continues to perform to sell-out crowds throughout the United States and abroad.



Appointed Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police on October 30, 2006, Julian Fantino accepted responsibility for one of North America's largest deployed police services—a police service consisting of approximately 6,000 uniformed members, 2,600 civilian employees and 850 Auxiliary members, who provide services to the province and 534 municipalities.

Previously, Commissioner Fantino was the Commissioner for Emergency Management, and was responsible for providing leadership in all facets of Ontario's emergency management programs.

He has previously served as Chief of the London Police Service, Chief of the York Regional Police, and Chief of the Waterloo Police Service.

Commissioner Fantino started his policing career with the Metropolitan Toronto Police, and served in many areas, including uniform patrol, undercover drug enforcement Detective Branch, Criminal Intelligence, Homicide Squad and as a Division Commander.

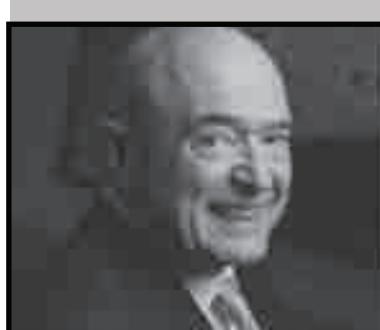
Commissioner Fantino continues to lead a number of progressive changes and initiatives to ensure optimal, efficient and public safety through new or enhanced law, resources and training. He is one of the most recognized and respected members of the police community.



PHIL ESPOSITO
Phil Esposito, an Honoured Member of the Hockey Hall of Fame is considered to be one of the best in the National Hockey League. His long-standing scoring record of 76 goals in the 1970-71 season was only surpassed by another hockey legend, Wayne Gretzky. Esposito won the Art Ross Trophy five times, the Hart Trophy twice, the Lester B. Pearson Award twice and the Lester Patrick Trophy. He represented Canada in the 1972 Summit Series, the 1976 Canada Cup and the 1977 World Championship. In his 76-goal season, he recorded a remarkable 76 assists for a record of 152 points at that time.

Esposito grew up in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, with his younger brother Tony, one of the game's greatest goalies. He played for the St. Louis Blues in the Central Hockey League from 1962-1964. Called up by the Chicago Black Hawks, he scored 23, 27 and 21 goals in his first three seasons. Traded to the Boston Bruins for the 1967-68 season, he joined the great Bobby Orr and went on to win his Stanley Cup championship in three years.

Esposito was traded to the New York Rangers before retiring in 1981. He has served in administrative positions within the NHL and was President and General Manager of the Tampa Bay Lightning for several years in the 1990s. He currently hosts a call-in show on XM Satellite Radio and has appeared on the FX network's *Rescue Me*.



RUDOLPH PETER BRATTY

Rudolph Peter Bratty was born in Toronto, the son of Italian immigrants Donato and Costanza, who insisted he obtain an education. Bratty holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Law Degree from Osgoode Hall Law School. He was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1957 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1970.

Bratty co-founded the law firm of Gambin & Bratty in 1957 and in 1985, he created Bratty and Partners, LLP, specializing in real estate and land development law, planning and municipal law, and corporate and commercial law. Bratty is also a real estate developer and Chairman & CEO of The Remington Group Inc., one of his several companies. The Remington Group Inc. is privately-held and specializes in land development, commercial and residential building construction, property management and related business.

He has been involved in a wide range of areas, including business, sports, entertainment, publishing, construction, finance and countless charitable causes. Bratty has served as a director on boards of numerous public corporations and hospitals.

He has been married for forty-four years to Catherine Anne-Sinclair Bratty and they have four sons, one daughter and eight grandchildren. He remains active in all aspects of his life, working and living in the Greater Toronto Area.



GIANCARLO GIANNINI
Oscar-nominated Italian actor and director was born in La Spezia, Italy. At 18, he studied at the Academy of Dramatic Art D'Annunzio in Rome. In 1965, Giannini made his big-screen debut in *Liberi*. His successful collaboration with the legendary Italian director Lina Wertmüller resulted in several award-winning films with Giannini as the male lead. His many appearances include, *Foto d'amore e d'amico* (1969), *Amatoriale 20 in via dei Fiori nella notte nera di Giovanni* (1973), *Sogni di un cuore osé* (1974), *Il pugnale della signora* (1974), *Il pugnale della signora* (1975), *Il pugnale della signora* (1976), *Il pugnale della signora* (1977), *Il pugnale della signora* (1978), *Il pugnale della signora* (1979), *Il pugnale della signora* (1980), *Il pugnale della signora* (1981).

Giannini is well known for his doubling of international stars. His fluency in English and mastery of accents have brought him a number of supporting roles in Hollywood, including, *A Walk in the Clouds* (1995), *Hemisfere* (2001), *Barbershop* (2002) and *Man on Fire* (2004). He appeared in *Casino Royale* (2006), and in the sequel, *Quantum of Solace* (2008).

General Interests

Planet Italia

By Renato Rizzuti

Star date 3,142. Captain's Log: My name is Captain Claudio Cosmo, Commander of the space ship S.S.S. Capicolo otherwise known as the "Cap." The S.S.S. stands for "Special Space Ship." I have traveled across the newly expanded universe. It is newly expanded since space exploration has reached unlimitless possibilities and the discovery of many new worlds.

You see, my ancestors back on the Planet Earth in the year 2009 were not doing a great job of harmoniously living with many different races and cultures on the same planet. As new inhabitable planets were discovered over the course of time, various ethnic groups left earth to start their own worlds.

Since I am a member of the Intergalactic Brotherhood of Space Explorers or the I.B.S.E. and have gone through intense psychological testing at the Academy of Universal Love, I have been a welcome visitor on many of these planets. I have been on quite a few of these planets where the ethnic group flourishes with communal harmony.

Given my Italian name, I chose to explore my own supposed ethnic background which is rather questionable since I was born in the laboratory of the I.B.S.E. of genetics unknown to me. We are born that way because we are known as "Children of Love" and have a universal love for all inhabitants of all worlds across the universe. We have no official known biological ties to any ethnic group which makes us free of any favouritism and also free of any prejudice.

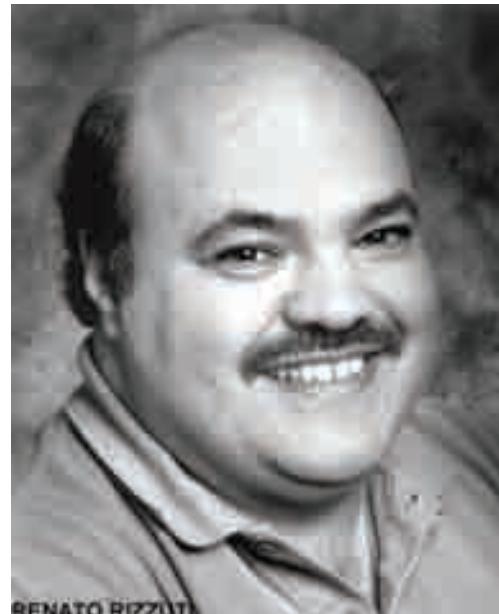
I had heard about Planet Italia on UCN which stands for "Universal Cosmic Network." Apparently, the first person to land on what was to become known as Planet Italia was Salvatore Semolina and his extended family. Salvatore was a very rich pasta manufacturer on the Planet Earth. He produced the wildly popular "Never Say Basta Pasta" brand which means "Never Say Enough to Pasta." Salvatore was later joined by his many friends and relatives who with the aid of some good Italian wine had enough new "bambinis" or "children" to start a new population of Italians on Planet Italia.

I set my UPS for the coordinates to Planet Italia. UPS stands for "Universe Positioning System." I set the ship's speed to warp speed and was well on my way before you could say "pasta e fagioli" which means "pasta and green beans." The next thing I knew, I was landing on the Planet Italia Pizza Pie Landing Pad at the spaceport. A spaceport is a modern version of what you used to call an airport back on Planet Earth.

I did not have to worry about communicating in Italian even though I spoke only English. You see, I had a tiny instantaneous translation device implanted in my brain. The TITD as it was called was connected to my ears and vocal chords. So if they spoke Italian to me, I would hear it in English. If I spoke English to them, it would be audible in Italian thanks to the device. So basically I could communicate in any language which was in keeping with my "Citizen of the Universe" status.

As I got off my spaceship, the ambassador of Planet Italia was there to greet me with a warm welcome consisting of a kiss on both cheeks and a nice hug. His name was Pietro Pepperoni but since he bore a strong resemblance to the late great Italian singer Luciano Pavarotti, he nickname was Pav short for Pavarotti. We then stepped into his hybrid limousine which ran on oxygen particles from the planet's air. Talk about environmentally friendly! Our short trip led us to Ristorante Mangi Bene which means "restaurant where you eat well." We took our time looking at the extensive menu.

Apparently, Italian food scientists had processed all Italian food so that it was nutrient enriched and vitamin enriched. They had also removed all the caloric content of the food. Therefore, you could eat all the Italian food you wanted and not gain a pound. This was my idea of heaven! We chowed down on a delicious meal of Antipasto Misto all'Italiana, Rigatoni alla Contadina, Calamari alla Griglia, Scaloppina al Marsala con Funghi, Sorbetto al limone, with a bottle of Chianti Classico. We continued our chat over some espresso coffee.



RENATO RIZZUTI

The next place we went to was the Flying Ferrari factory. This is where they made small flying vehicles with Ferrari engines of course. People could use these to fly at warp speed across the planet. The vehicle came in a sporty two seater model or the popular SUFV model. SUFV stands for Sport Utility Flying Vehicle. The magnificent machines looked great and were very practical for fast travel across the planet. We were given the latest model to use for the rest of our tour of Planet Italia.

We then flew to the Bella cosmetics company's factory. Cosmetic scientists had developed beauty products made from a combination of olive oil and grape extracts. The beauty cream that was produced gave every woman who used it flawless and radiant skin. The cream was so effective even some men were sneaking some of it from their wives' supply to use on their own skin. The company's slogan was, "Bella ti fa bella." This translates as "Beautiful will make you beautiful."

Pav then took me to watch a soccer game. It looked like a real old time game as we were watching it but that was not the case. You see, even though the players looked and acted normally, they were actually robots made by the RSP Company. RSP stands for Robotic Soccer Players. They were so realistic that they actually were sweating like real human players would. Their behaviour was normal in that they argued and swore at the referees. Even though they were built so that they were virtually indestructible, they fell to the ground faking injuries just to stop the play! That's a real realistic touch!

Then in blink of an eye or warp speed we landed at the Salute Vino compound. First we went into the fields to view the amazing Vino trees. After many years of grape research and development, they had actually produced a Vino tree that grew grapes that could be eaten as fruit while the sap from the trees was extracted as fermented grape juice or completely drinkable wine! White wine came from the white Vino trees and red wine came from the red Vino trees. They even developed a hybrid red and white Vino tree that produced rose wine. We sat and sampled the refreshing wine into the early evening. Pav suggested I come for dinner at his residence and then spend the night there.

Pav's place was a magnificent home befitting the Ambassador to Planet Italia. All the floors were a space age ceramic that never wore out or required cleaning. All the ceilings were what were known as "Michelangelo" ceilings with beautiful art work reminiscent of the great Michelangelo's work. There was a wireless, speaker free, sound system that played classic instrumental Italian songs in the background. I then met Pav's family. Pav's wife was a stunning Sophia Loren type with incredible charm and poise. Pav's daughter Maria was an amazingly beautiful younger Sophia Loren type with glorious raven coloured hair and porcelain skin.

That night I dreamed of falling in love with Maria and raising a family on Planet Italia. I awoke in the middle of the night to realize that I was married to my Intergalactic Mission although it certainly was a pleasant dream! I decided at that moment to stay on Planet Italia for a few more days to explore all the wonderful sights. It sure looked like the people on Planet Italia were enjoying life to the fullest! Thus ends my preliminary log entry about Planet Italia. Good night, or as they say here, "Buona notte." Captain's Log over and out!



Yasir Naqvi, MPP
Ottawa Centre

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General Interests

Relationship With Self, Others and Food

By Maria Rizzuti

I have never professed to be a trained scientist in Psychology but I have always been fascinated with the study of the human mind. The observation of human behaviour and why people say and do the things they do has always intrigued me.

I am not surprised these days when I hear about road rage, air rage, drive thru rage, and or any other kind of rage there is out there. Are our lives that stressed that we cannot wait in a long lineup for our morning coffee? You ask yourself if I should bud in the drive thru so I can get to work on time with my jolt of java in hand. Is it human nature to act and think this way? Do we as normal human beings have this in common? Is this a logical characteristic to have?

Our parents have indeed determined our genetics. This genetic make up and the inherited characteristics from one generation to the next, evolution and your own personal developmental history have had a strong influence on your behavioural characteristics. Whether we like it or not you are stuck with yourself. Human behaviour comes from the human brain, your brain. How you choose to carry yourself is ultimately up to you.

I have a personal philosophy that I live by everyday. I write my own horoscope because the write ups in the daily papers are just conjecture. I set goals for myself. I believe that you can create your own destiny, but a bit of fate does make it easier. Your life comes together for a reason at that particular time in ones life. I always strive to do the right thing. I live for today and going forward. I stay positive. I express love and gratitude to those around me and for what I have already received. I respect others and expect the same in return. I enjoy life and have fun whenever possible!

What is your philosophy? That philosophy could provide the very basis for your personal behaviour, and it establishes the value of you as an individual and will clearly affect others around you. We have all had a bond and or an association, or an emotional involvement between a number of people throughout our lives. We have all had different types of relationships and or link between persons. As children, we relied on our parents, family members and teachers to appropriately instill a basis for a suitable moral and ethical value system. It is that value system that gets us through our formidable years to come in the real world called "life".

I am sure you have all heard the term "dysfunctional family," is there a correlation to dysfunctional eating? Can we improve our relationship with food by understanding more about how food is grown and produced? Yes, I think so. Developing a more positive connection with food can be the solution to accomplishing and retaining a healthy weight. The study of human genetics can be useful as it can answer questions about human nature, understanding the power and the enigma of food can determine your decisions about what you eat, when to eat and where to eat this foodstuff.

For many people food is a little more than just nourishment. Many people use it to fight stress or ward off the blahs. What is missing is the absolute pleasure and comfort of sitting down with your family and discovering the extraordinary tastes, textures and the real essence of good food. In Italian life and culture food plays an important part. Italians have a strong healthy relationship with food which is exemplified by the "celebratory" nature of the food. All Italian celebrations include food as nourishment for the body and nourishment for the celebratory spirit. Italian cooking emphasizes using fresh ingredients and wholesome non processed food.

Italians would rather can their own tomatoes instead of buying canned tomatoes with unnatural preservatives. Other preserved Italian foods such as eggplant are preserved using all natural ingredients like salt and vinegar. The Italian diet is basically the "Mediterranean Diet" which is currently being heralded as super healthy by doctors and nutritionists. Quando gli Italiani mangiano, mangiano bene. Translation is when Italians eat; they eat well, for their health of course!

You may ask yourself, how can we improve our relationship with food? The answer to that is the awareness about how our food is grown and produced and how it ultimately ends up on our plates. I enjoy watching the show called "How'd that Get on My Plate?" on the Food Network. This show gives us an inside look at the methods used to plant, nurture, harvest, transport, heat, cool, slice, dice, mix, package and otherwise process raw ingredients in the foods we eat. This program

will give you an appreciation of how cutting-edge technology can take simple raw ingredients and transform them into the foods we consume everyday.

I am not a great fan of some processed food out there but knowing how they came to being will help me decide my daily food choices. Research has shown that the average person makes more than two hundred food decisions every day, chances are that you will either choose to eat well or just fill up on junk food. That's a lot of power when you think about it. Whether choosing certain foods consciously or unconsciously this will ultimately determine your well-being.

We have all heard the term "locally grown" most people think of fruits and vegetables, but local can incorporate so much more. It can also include meat, poultry, eggs, milk cheese, maple syrup, honey and breads. The more effort you make to buying local gives you a closer connection to what you eat and can also mean eating more nutritiously. Local produce is picked at its peak of ripeness and peak nutritional value. So broaden your concept of local food, make a connection with Farmers' Markets out there. Farmers' Markets usually run from May to October. Take the kids to a fair or festival in your area and buy some produce while you are there and boost your health while improving your relationship with food.

Check out Foodland Ontario's website at <http://www.foodland.gov.on.ca/> for recipes, availability of vegetables, food facts and about Foodland Ontario, news and events and much more.

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San Gabriele Celebration in Ottawa at St. Anthony's Church September 13th 2009



President Nello Scipioni with Members



Ottawa Police Pipe Band leads the procession



San Gabriele procession



Alfredo Carozzi, Joe Cama, Grace Mariani, Maria and Fred DiNardo



Winner of the Vespa, Mario Frangioni accepted by his brother Vito



Giovanni Casalese leading the cooks of St. Anthony's Club, Maximilian and Giovanni Coco

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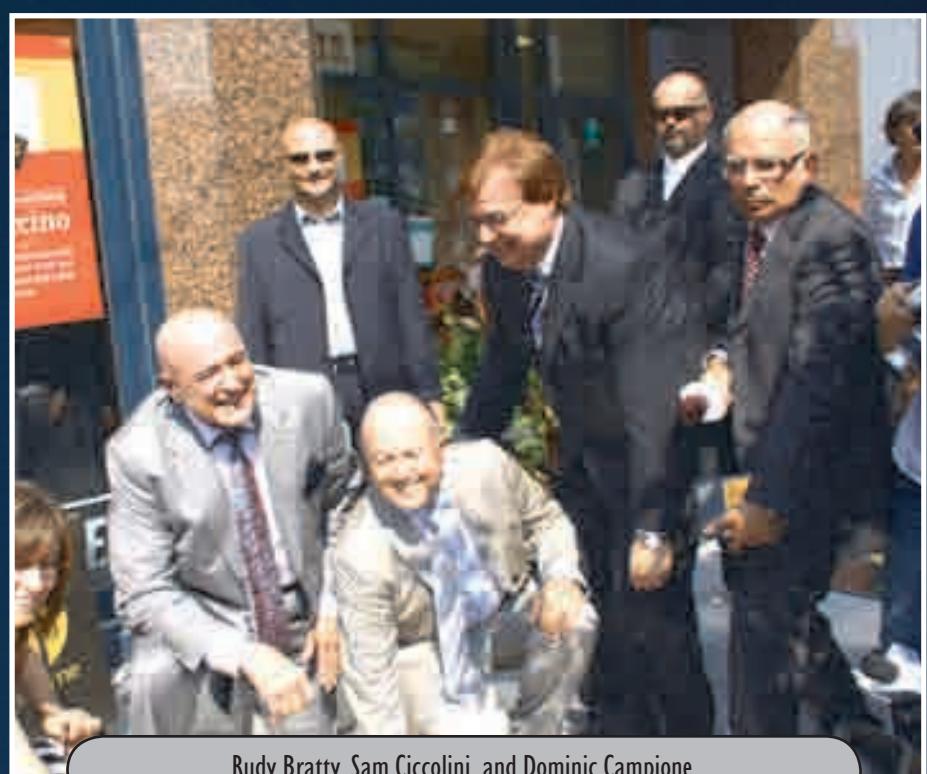
Canada's Italian Walk of Fame September 7.2009



Andrea Trentadue and Ali Bidabadi



Giancarlo Giannini



Rudy Bratty, Sam Ciccolini, and Dominic Campione



Michael Inneo with Connie Francis



Tony Ieluzzi, Tony and Pina Alonzi, Phil Esposito, Michael Inneo
Background: Nello Bortolotti, Fred Dinardo



Phil Esposito, Lenny Lombardi, Julio Fantino, Rudy Bratty, Giancarlo Giannini

International

CON IL G8, PER TRE GIORNI L'AQUILA CAPITALE DEL MONDO Nella città distrutta dal sisma i Capi di Stato adottano i monumenti simbolo da ricostruire

di Goffredo Palmerini

L'AQUILA – Quasi incredibile, ma per tre giorni è proprio **L'Aquila** la capitale del mondo, la città martoriata dal terremoto nelle sue splendide architetture comprese nell'antica cinta muraria. Diventata sede del G8 in vece della **Maddalena**, è stata attrezzata all'occorrenza in meno di tre mesi con un quarto della spesa prevista per l'isola sarda. Non che la città non avesse avuto nel corso degli otto secoli della sua storia eventi di respiro universale, anzi. Solo per darne qualche esempio, li ebbe sin dai prodromi della sua fondazione, con l'interesse che l'imperatore **Federico II di Svevia** dedicò al progetto della nuova città federata, ripreso poi nel decreto di **Corrado IV**, il figlio succeduto alla morte dello *Stupor mundi*, che dell'Aquila sancì la nascita. Come ancora nel 1294, in quello storico 29 agosto, con l'incoronazione a Collemaggio di **Papa Celestino V**, alla presenza di due sovrani - **Carlo II d'Angiò** e **Carlo Martello** - e di duecentomila pellegrini giunti da tutta Europa; e con il dono del Pontefice alla città della **Perdonanza**, il primo giubileo della cristianità. Come pure a cavallo tra il 1423 e l'anno successivo quando, nella guerra costata alla città un assedio durato tredici mesi, dove l'eterno conflitto tra **Angioini** ed **Aragonesi** avrebbe potuto mutare il corso della storia. Si risolse, invece, il 2 giugno 1424 nella piana di Bazzano, ad oriente della città, in un teatro che vide schierate sui due fronti le truppe dei migliori capitani di ventura, con una proditoria azione campale degli Aquilani condotti da **Antonuccio Camponeschi** che affrontarono l'esercito nemico al comando di **Fortebrauccio da Montone**, ferito a morte, e lo sconfissero. Altri fatti seguirono nei secoli seguenti. Mai però in circostanze drammatiche per la città, come ora, quando **L'Aquila** è diventata agli occhi del mondo il simbolo stesso della catastrofe, per un sisma che della pregevole città d'arte ha distrutto o gravemente compromesso l'intero patrimonio, d'un capoluogo di regione dove tutte le sedi e i simboli della rappresentanza istituzionale e statuale sono feriti ed inagibili, dove i servizi soffrono una grave impraticabilità, dove ogni azione che segna la civiltà urbana è diventata di colpo complicata se non impossibile. E tuttavia, proprio perché tutto il mondo s'era commosso davanti alla dignità ed alla compostezza dei suoi abitanti, **L'Aquila** ferita dal sisma diventa scenario per il **Vertice dei Grandi del mondo**, al quale partecipano ben 29 capi di Stato.

Dall'8 al 10 luglio, dunque, i lavori del summit tra le grandi potenze. Già da giorni la città è blindata per garantire la sicurezza dei capi di Stato, delle loro delegazioni, di migliaia di osservatori internazionali e corrispondenti delle più importanti testate giornalistiche e televisive del pianeta. **L'Aquila**, città della Pace per eccellenza, erede del messaggio di riconciliazione universale di **Papa Celestino V** con la **Bolla della Perdonanza**, espone un'immagine stridente per la presenza d'un imponente schieramento di forze dell'ordine e truppe speciali in assetto di guerra, poste a presidio della cittadella murata della **Guardia di Finanza**, diventata una fortezza. Lì alloggiano i Grandi della Terra e si tengono i lavori sui temi più scottanti dell'umanità. Il cielo solitamente azzurro e terso della conca aquilana viene controllato dagli aerei radar Awacs, sorvegliato da ogni possibile insidia con aerei senza pilota Predator e con caccia sempre in volo, mentre in punti strategici delle altezze batterie missilistiche terra-aria sono pronte ad intervenire contro ogni minaccia. Grandi elicotteri militari e possenti Ch47 da trasporto a doppia pala stazionano negli hangar dell'adiacente aeroporto di Preturo. Una zona rossa di tre chilometri di raggio circonda la cittadella, rigorosamente inavvicinabile da persone comuni, mezzi e finanche animali. Posti di blocco ovunque. Militari armati nell'area di rispetto intorno alla sede del Vertice, ogni angolo è sotto controllo, ogni anfratto viene ispezionato, persino le caditoie dei chiusini delle strade sono state saldate.

Nelle scorse settimane, senza un attimo di sosta, in quella che fino a poco tempo fa era solo una **Scuola per Ispettori della Guardia di Finanza** ora diventata un bunker, si è lavorato per approntare le residenze degli illustri ospiti e le sedi degli incontri, mentre in soli due mesi l'**Aeroporto dei Parchi**, finora base di volo sportivo, è stato potenziato nelle strutture di scalo e dotato d'ogni sistema di sicurezza strumentale per ricevere il traffico aereo, mentre una strada nuova di zecca lo collega direttamente alla sede del summit internazionale. La trentennale aspirazione della città di dotarsi d'un aeroporto turistico e commerciale, grazie al G8, è stata risolta nel giro di poche settimane, con risorse e progetti messi in cantiere

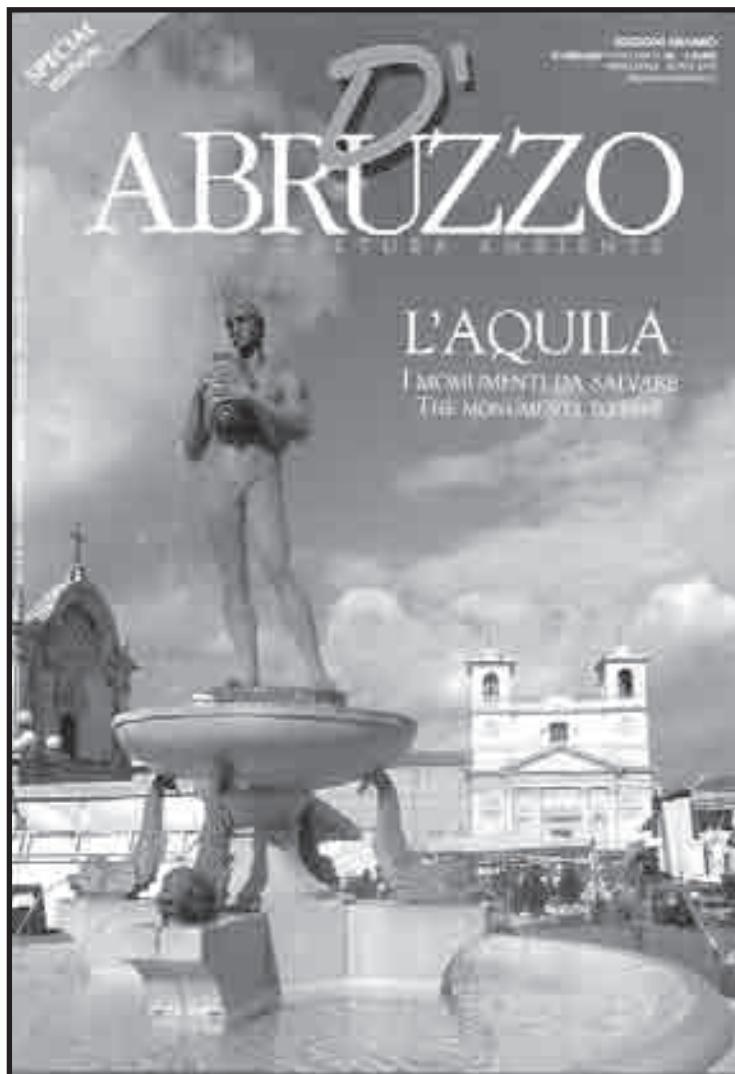
dal **Ministero dei Trasporti** e dalla **Protezione Civile**, coordinati dal commissario **Guido Bertolaso**. Non dimostra all'apparenza alcun segno d'apprensione, il dr. **Bertolaso**. Uomo a prova d'ogni emergenza. È tranquillo, almeno così pare. Anche nella malaugurata eventualità d'una recrudescenza dello sciame sismico, che stenta ad attenuarsi anche al cospetto d'un evento epocale, davvero senza riguardo per personaggi nelle cui mani sono ampiamente riposti i destini del mondo. Tutto

pronto per una rapida evacuazione. Nel caso qualche scossa di terremoto superi i 4 gradi della scala Richter - livelli, beninteso, ai quali tutti gli aquilani si sono purtroppo abituati - il Vertice si trasferirebbe in elicottero a **Roma**, in una struttura della Polizia, nel quartiere Flaminio. Gli Aquilani, in fondo, si aspetterebbero un'efficienza almeno pari nella ricostruzione della città. Ma su questo diremo fra poco.

Intanto **Benedetto XVI**, in vista del G8, ha inviato una lettera al presidente del Consiglio, **Silvio Berlusconi**, felicitandosi per la scelta dell'Aquila quale sede del summit, a testimonianza della "generosa solidarietà del popolo italiano e di altre nazioni, di Organismi nazionali ed internazionali verso le popolazioni abruzzesi colpite dal sisma". Un messaggio d'augurio e di speranza nel quale il **Papa** richiama nella cooperazione internazionale la centralità del tema dell'accesso all'educazione. "L'educazione – ha scritto **Benedetto XVI** – è condizione indispensabile per il funzionamento della democrazia, per la lotta contro la corruzione, per l'esercizio dei diritti politici, economici e sociali e per la ripresa effettiva di tutti gli Stati, poveri e ricchi". Ha quindi auspicato la creazione di posti di lavoro per tutti e la riforma della finanza mondiale affinché la ricchezza possa arrivare anche ai Paesi poveri. Nella sua lettera il Papa sottolinea che i provvedimenti contro la crisi economica avranno efficacia solo se fondati

su una forte valenza etica e ricorda al presidente del Consiglio di dare ascolto alla voce dell'**Africa** e dei Paesi meno sviluppati, augurandosi che i Paesi più ricchi impieghino ogni energia per rispettare gli impegni assunti durante il vertice delle Nazioni Unite per l'eliminazione della povertà estrema entro il 2015. Secondo il **Pontefice** la mobilitazione solidale dimostrata nel condividere la scelta dell'Aquila come sede del vertice "potrebbe costituire un invito per i membri del G8, per i Governi e i Popoli del mondo ad affrontare uniti le attuali sfide che pongono improrogabilmente l'umanità di fronte a scelte decisive per il destino dell'uomo, intimamente connesso con quello del creato". Dunque, dal Papa ancora segno di vicinanza e solidarietà verso le popolazioni colpite dal sisma, con un messaggio di speranza per l'intera umanità nella lotta contro la povertà, che anticipa i temi della sua encyclical sociale "Caritas in veritate".

Difficile, però, di questi tempi coltivare la speranza all'Aquila. E non solo per il terremoto che non accenna a placarsi, con ripetuti colpi che altri danni aggiungono, insieme al maltempo, al patrimonio devastato dalle scosse del 6 aprile e seguenti. Hanno i nervi a fior di pelle gli Aquilani - "forti e gentili, ma fessi no", si scrive sugli striscioni – a motivo dell'incertezza generale sul loro futuro, sulla mancanza di fondi per la ricostruzione, sull'ambiguità delle norme dopo la conversione in legge del decreto del Governo che, negata ogni modifica richiesta dai **Sindaci**, tante proteste ha sollevato. Si scontano, poi, pesanti ritardi nella messa in sicurezza dei centri storici dell'Aquila e dei borghi colpiti dal sisma, con conseguente rinvio *sine die* della ripresa della vita, almeno quella appena possibile, nel cuore della città. Se da un lato è soddisfacente il risultato delle misure sui monumenti, talvolta con soluzioni ardite e suggestive, si è invece in ritardo nella messa in sicurezza degli edifici privati, specie lungo le arterie principali della città. A parte quindi un breve tratto d'accesso a Piazza Duomo, l'unico riaperto, ripetutamente mostrato nelle immagini che ripassano sulle reti televisive, la maggior parte del vasto centro storico dell'Aquila resta interdetto ai suoi abitanti. A tre mesi esatti dalla tragedia, nella notte tra il 5 e 6 luglio, quasi quattromila aquilani hanno sfilato in silenzio dalla **Fontana Luminosa** a **Piazza Duomo** con le fiaccole in mano, in una città spettrale, per ricordare le **307 vittime**. Un silenzio doloroso per i morti che, alle 3 e 32 della notte, è diventato quasi un grido, una richiesta forte pressante a riaprire il cuore della città agli Aquilani, una rimozione rabbiosa alla lentezza,



International

contro ogni apparenza, una denuncia netta delle promesse mancate dal **Governo** e dal **Parlamento** rispetto alla gravità del dramma, alla disparità del trattamento assicurato in altri casi, come il terremoto in **Umbria** e l'alluvione in **Piemonte** d'un decennio fa. Inquietanti, al riguardo, le disposizioni sul recupero integrale in 24 mesi delle esenzioni fiscali concesse, già a partire dal prossimo gennaio.

Dunque, neanche a parlare della ripresa di qualche brandello d'attività in centro, in queste condizioni. A rendere il clima ancora più teso si aggiungano le ambasce sulla scarsa entità delle risorse per la ricostruzione e sull'incerta copertura finanziaria. Né si vede vicina, per chi ha casa crollata o fortemente danneggiata, la possibilità di lasciare presto le tende o di rientrare dagli alberghi della costa nelle strutture antisismiche di temporanea accoglienza promesse per settembre. Agli italiani vengono mostrate le immagini dell'unico cantiere veramente in attività, a **Bazzano**, quello sul quale il **presidente del Consiglio** si reca, dichiarando poi soddisfatto che è in anticipo di tre giorni sulla tabella di marcia. Purtroppo resta, con soli altri due cantieri appena avviati, una minima realtà rispetto al programma d'interventi, ancora al palo sulle altre diciassette aree scelte per costruire 13.500 appartamenti per gli sfollati. Peraltro, le ultime previsioni hanno visto di molto crescere il fabbisogno stimato. Sicché sui media spesso appare una realtà virtuale e agli italiani sfugge l'enorme dimensione del dramma: un capoluogo di regione, città d'arte come poche altre, con un patrimonio monumentale pubblico e privato censito in 1900 pregevoli beni, un unicum architettonico urbano di grande valore, in gran parte devastato dal sisma. Senza paragonabili riscontri nei secoli precedenti, se non - come ha affermato **Errico Centofanti** con dovizia d'argomentazioni - con il terremoto di **Lisbona** del 1755. Per il solo patrimonio monumentale in **Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali** stima in tremila miliardi di euro le esigenze finanziarie per il restauro. Opportunamente lo stesso Ministero, di fronte ad offerte d'aiuto di Paesi stranieri e di organizzazioni internazionali, nell'aprile scorso stilò una lista di **44 monumenti** simbolo colpiti dal sisma (all'Aquila, per citare qualche caso, le basiliche di Collemaggio e San Bernardino, Cattedrale di San Massimo, Forte Spagnolo, le chiese di Santa Maria Paganica, Santa Maria del Suffragio, San Marco, San Pietro, San Marciano, San Silvestro, Monastero della Beata Antonia, Palazzo Margherita d'Austria e Torre civica, Teatro Comunale e alcuni palazzi storici. Quindi Amiternum, Torre Medicea di Santo Stefano di Sessanio, Santa Giusta di Bazzano, Santa Maria ad Cryptas a Fossa, ed altre emergenze di grande valore artistico in città e nell'hinterland). Ad oggi sono ancora poche le adozioni dei monumenti da restaurare (**Germania**, **Francia** e **Spagna** hanno assunto già precisi impegni), mentre altre promesse sono in via di definizione. Si spera che la visita alla città martoriata dei leader delle maggiori potenze possa portare altri Paesi a sposare la causa della rinascita monumentale dell'Aquila, a recupero di gioielli architettonici ed artistici sempre più **patrimonio**

dell'umanità, come l'intera città dovrebbe diventare alla fine della sua ricostruzione. Alcune opere d'arte del notevole scrigno aquilano, talvolta salvate indenni dalle macerie, del **Museo Nazionale** al Forte spagnolo e dall'**Abruzzo**, faranno parte dell'esposizione allestita all'interno della sede del Vertice per gli illustri ospiti e per le delegazioni internazionali. Tra esse spiccherà il **Guerriero di Capestrano**, statua lapidea risalente al VI secolo a.C. diventata un po' il simbolo della regione. Nel corso del summit è annunciato l'arrivo anche di altre personalità per dimostrare solidarietà all'Aquila, tra le quali il Nobel per la Pace **Michail Gorbaciov** e l'attore **George Clooney**, nella sua veste di ambasciatore di pace nominato dall'**Onu**.

Riguardo i monumenti da salvare, va segnalata una preziosa iniziativa della rivista **D'Abruzzo** (www.dabruzzo.it), uscita con un numero speciale proprio sulle 44 emergenze elencate dal Ministero. Con testi in italiano e inglese, i monumenti vengono presentati nella loro bellezza, non feriti dal terremoto, con immagini stupende ed appropriate annotazioni. La monografia è stata presentata il 4 luglio scorso all'Aquila dal fondatore della rivista, **Gaetano Basti**, con gli interventi di **Maria Concetta Nicolai**, **Franco Farinelli**, **Antonio Bini** e **Sergio Basti**. Un'iniziativa davvero meritevole, un sussidio importante anche verso le delegazioni internazionali presenti al Vertice per accompagnare una scelta meditata nell'adozione dei monumenti da salvare e sulle loro più significative caratteristiche d'arte. Parlando del terremoto dell'Aquila, in un articolo di Michael Kimmelman dell'11 aprile scorso, l'autorevole New York Times così titolava : **"Dove la cultura è un'altra vittima"**. E questo è stato l'incipit anche del testo approntato per la rivista da **Antonio Bini**, dirigente della Regione Abruzzo ed esperto in marketing per la comunicazione turistica, nel quale ha fatto un'accurata disamina del notevole interesse mostrato della stampa estera verso il patrimonio culturale ed artistico danneggiato dal sisma, in particolar modo dell'Aquila, annotando quanto talvolta l'Abruzzo riservi inimmaginabili scoperte per i turisti stranieri. Si cita, a conferma, un'annotazione comparsa sul quotidiano Tagesspiegel in un articolo a firma di Paul Kreiner, che tra l'altro si sofferma molto su Celestino V: **"L'Abruzzo non è una regione dalle opere d'arte spettacolari come magari la Toscana. Ma nelle montagne ci sono borghi, monasteri, castelli mozzafiato e valli quasi inaccessibili: una terra romanica, dal basso medioevo terra dei frati benedettini?"**. Una terra scoperta nei secoli scorsi da illustri visitatori, scrittori artisti e poeti, tra i quali il pittore danese **Kristian Zahrtmann** che, nel 1883, aveva scoperto il borgo morsicano di **Civita d'Antino** e vi aveva fondato una scuola per artisti scandinavi, le cui opere sui paesaggi e gli ambienti abruzzesi impreziosiscono i principali musei d'Europa. Dell'avventura in Abruzzo degli artisti di quella scuola **Antonio Bini** è diventato uno dei massimi cultori ed esegeti, coltivandone degnamente la preziosa memoria.

gopalmer@hotmail.com

Announcement!

Italian Week Election Meeting

Sunday, October 18.2009, 2pm

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Local City

Father Paul McKeown and Sergeant Jean Lamothe are Honoured by the Italian Canadian Community Centre of the National Capital Region with The Community Service Medal at the Nuncio's Residence

Carissimo Padre Paolo.

Ed ecco che dopo 9 anni passati con noi alla Parrocchia S. Antonio in Ottawa, un' altra pagina del « libro della vita » viene girata ed altri doveri Lo aspettano ; questa nuova missione rappresentera' altri compiti che Lei sapra' adempire molto bene come quelli che Lei ha saputo cosi' bene riempire durante la Sua vita di Padre Spirituale amico ed amministratore.

Le scrivo questa mia facendomi anche portavoce di altri parrocchiani e membri della comunità Italo-Canadese di Ottawa per ringraziarLa sentitamente per aver restaurato le finestre della nostra chiesa, queste finestre che, come gli affreschi, sono un patrimonio culturale di inestimabile valore, Lei, come Padre ha capito che oltre ai valori spirituali ci sono anche i valori culturali che rendono la comunità piu' unitae, di conseguenza piu' forte.

Le auguriamo ogni bene nella sua nuova missione e ci creda Padre Paolo che ci sentiamo a nostro agio se qualche volta desideriamo di visitar La

Tanti auguri di

Buon Apostolato
Luciano Pradal e tanti, tanti altri suoi amici
per sempre riconoscenti



Sergeant Jean Lamothe receiving
Certificate of Appreciation and Community Service Medal
from Angelo Filoso, President of Italian Canadian Community Centre



Father Paul McKeown receiving
Certificate of Appreciation and Community Service Medal
from Angelo Filoso, President of Italian Canadian Community Centre



Constable Jay Conogham, Paul Casagrande, Nello Scipioni, Cavaliere Italo Tiezzi, Constable Andrew Milton, Staff Sergeant Roger Giasson, President Angelo Filoso, Father Thomas Cassidy,
Sergeant Jean Lamothe, Father Paul McKeown, Monsignor Luca LaRusso

International

Abruzzo Onna Supplied with Pre-Fabricated Houses Partly Funded by \$900,000 Raised by the Italian Canadian Community of Quebec

2009 ABRUZZO EARTHQUAKE

Project for the Construction of Temporary Housing in the Village of Onna



PROVIDE HOPE

Canadian Red Cross
Quinton Division

Onna, a Village at the Epicentre of the Quake



Located approximately ten kilometres from L'Aquila, Onna has become a symbol of the devastation brought by the earthquake:

- Relatively speaking, Onna has paid the heaviest price in terms of human lives: 41 of its 350 inhabitants have died
- The village has been wiped off the map, most of its buildings have been destroyed and the houses that are left are nearly all unfit for habitation

Needs that Must be Met

- During the recovery phase, the Italian Red Cross is helping the population return to normal life:
 - Transition housing, food, basic necessities
 - Community organization
 - Psychosocial support, social activities, support for schooling
 - Professional training and placement programs
- The population is currently living in tents in the Onna camp and the construction of permanent houses is expected to take some time.
- The Italian government's Civil Protection Agency has called upon the Italian Red Cross to oversee the project to build temporary dwellings in the village of Onna.



Housing to Overcome Urgent Needs



On June 17, 2009, an agreement was signed between the government appointed Commissioner, the Autonomous Province of Trento and the Italian Red Cross for the urgent construction of temporary housing in disaster-stricken areas of Abruzzo.

The Italian Red Cross has agreed to carry out this project in the village of Onna in conjunction with the Province of Trento.

A Construction Project



- Construction of 94 temporary dwellings and a community center
- Project cost: 6 million Euros including:
 - 5M from the Red Cross (contributions from the Austrian, American and British Red Cross Societies)
 - 1M from the City of Rome

A Committed Local Population

A committee organized by the citizens of Onna has taken part in the configuration of plans for the houses and the village.



Houses Adapted to the Needs of Families Affected by the Disaster



- Houses will vary in size: 45, 57 or 74 square meters
- Intended for families with 1-2, 3-4 or 5-6 members
- Work is expected to be completed by mid-September 2009

Fundraising Campaign



- The Italian Red Cross is counting on the contribution of major donors and National Societies within the Movement to finance the project.

- All of the donations collected by the Canadian Red Cross are earmarked for the construction of temporary housing in the village of Onna.

IL POSTINO

VOL. 9 NO.10

AUGUST 2009 :: OTTOBRE 2009

\$2.00



Villa Marconi Golf Tournament



Augie Preira and Angelo Fiore



Lorenzo Greenspan, and Maureen and Paul Casagrande



John and Rudy and Carlo Mion



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Chair Nello Bortolotti with Winners



Nello Bortolotti with the Winners

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- Any snow fall that is less than two inches is the responsibility of the homeowners.
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Walk for Abruzzo a Great Success September.20.2009



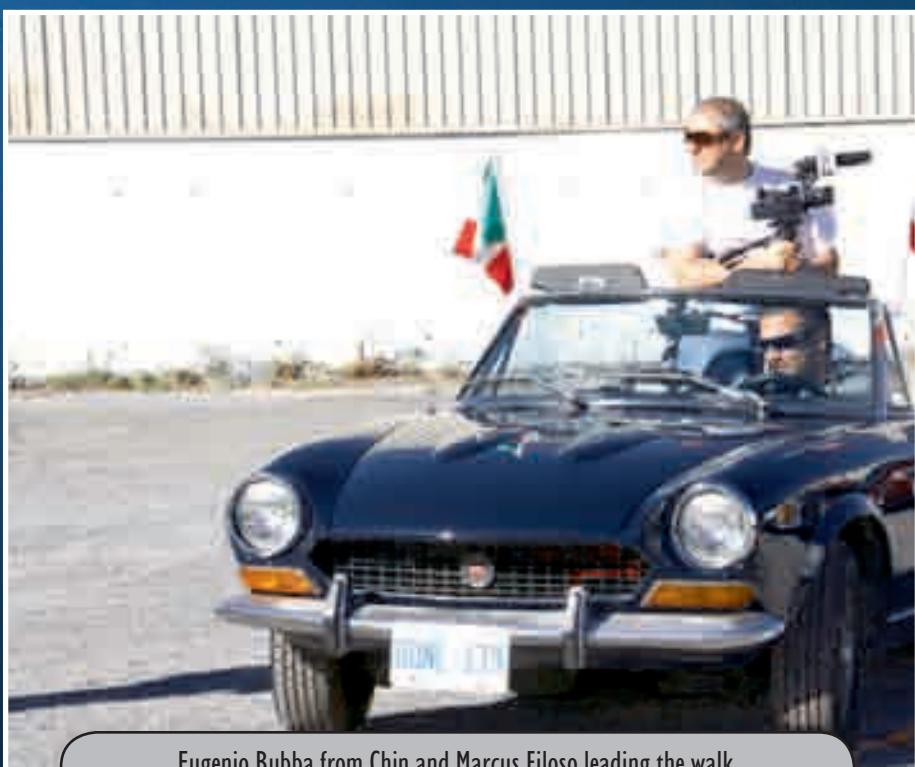
M.P. Mauril Belanger signing up for walk



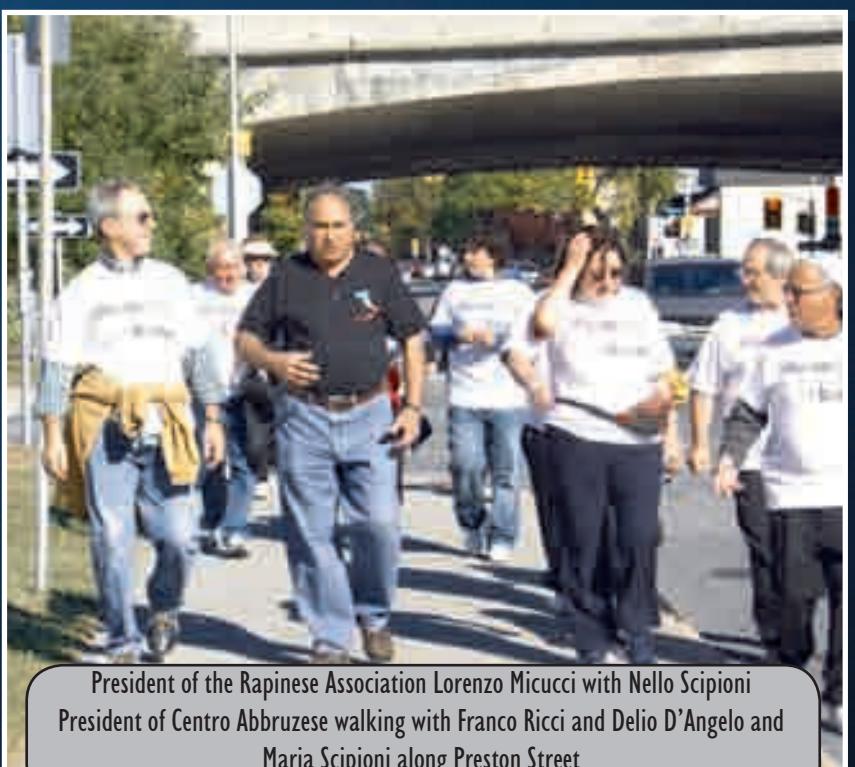
Yasir Naqvi M.P.P., Councillor McRae and Jim Watson, M.P.P.



Chair Angelo Filoso with Participants



Eugenio Bubba from Chin and Marcus Filoso leading the walk



President of the Rapinese Association Lorenzo Micucci with Nello Scipioni
President of Centro Abruzese walking with Franco Ricci and Delio D'Angelo and
Maria Scipioni along Preston Street