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Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor



Opera Lyra reports major progress at Annual General Meeting

OTTAWA- December 20, 2013- Opera Lyra, the professional opera company of Canada's capital region, has reported major improvements in its results for 2012-13, at its recent annual meeting.

"In my 18 months with the company, I have been thrilled to see our growing successes," said John Peter (Jeep) Jeffries, Opera Lyra's General Director. Jeffries reported on the artistic and commercial outcomes from productions of Bohème, La Traviata and the recent sold-out shows of Carmen. Together with careful administrative measures, these productions have bolstered local audiences and overall operations.

"In total, we have had over 19,000 people paying solid ticket prices to attend these operas", said Jeffries. "That's a wonderful total, a strong measure of local interest. And another 6,000 students also had the chance to see Opera Lyra's youth-oriented operatic production, which is designed to engage young audiences and imaginations."

The company had met a series of setbacks several years ago that had negative impacts on costs and revenues. Beginning in late 2011, however, a turnaround plan was put into place. Most accumulated debts have now been paid off, and attention has turned to the heart of the Opera Lyra mandate – the music, passion and adventure of opera.

During 2013, Opera Lyra expanded its popular outreach production aimed at families and young people. It also continued its training program for emerging artists, offering them performance opportunities in community-based recitals.

Looking ahead to the new year, Jeep Jeffries said he is confident that the productions of Madama Butterfly in April 2014, and the exciting production that will launch Opera Lyra's 30th season in the fall of 2014, will draw excellent audiences. "In both Ottawa and Gatineau I sense there is a real interest in seeing first class opera", said Jeffries. "We intend to expand our offerings with new artistic and educational initiatives. Our staff and Board are eager to do this."

"We have many reasons to be proud of our achievements during the past two years, but we aren't completely out of the woods," said Victor Rabinovitch, Chairman of the Opera Lyra Board. Rabinovitch stressed the importance of public support received from all levels of government and from private donors. "Ticket sales have been fantastic, but like every opera company in North America we need other financial supporters to enable us to better serve our communities."

Four new Directors join the Board and bring a wealth of experience in business development, cultural leadership, international and national relations, and public service. The new Directors are: Hélène Giroux, Cathérine Lemieux, Margaret Skok, and Rob Wright. They join eight previously elected Directors who continue to serve on the Board. (further details available at: www.operalyra.ca).

Opera Lyra's 29th Season:

Opera Lyra is dedicated to the music, the passion and the adventure that is opera, committed to nurturing and showcasing Canadian talent and to educating young audiences and instilling in them the love of opera and the arts.

On March 15th, Opera Lyra Ottawa announced the return of two fully-staged productions. Georges Bizet's most popular opera Carmen, Giacomo Puccini's beloved masterpiece Madama Butterfly and Opera Lyra's annual opera for families – an adaptation of Gilbert & Sullivan's witty The Pirates of Penzance.

On April 19, 21, 23, 26 2014 Opera Lyra will present on of the most famous and beautiful operas – Madama Butterfly . This haunting tale is set in Japan in the late 1880's. Southam Hall, National Arts Centre. Tickets – NAC Box Office – 613-947-7000, x. 620.

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Michael O'Byrne reading Il Postino at the Village Reunion

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LOCAL

Interview with Bambino Silvaroli



Saint Anthony's church is silent in the way that only a church can be. Sunlight filters in through exquisite stained glass windows, spilling over the long pews and giving the spacious room a muted glow. A statue no bigger than a child stands in an alcove off to the side of the altar; a woman wearing a flowing dress with crosses around her heart known as the Madonna of Sorrows, Mother Mary.

The Madonna of Sorrows used to be seen outside the church, but over time, rain, snow, and ice took its toll on the statue, leaving her badly damaged and in a sorry state. This is where Bambino Silvaroli comes in. An Italian immigrant, Silvaroli is an electrician by trade but an artist at heart. He volunteered to take the concrete statue from Saint Anthony's Church and restore it; it took him a week to completely repair all the damage. This is not the first statue he had worked on either, an enormous statue in the Italian nursing home Villa Marconi is courtesy of his hard work and passion.

Silvaroli is originally from the town of Oratino in the region of Molise in the province of Campobosse, Italy. He moved to Canada in 1960 to follow his fiancée, who had followed her sister to the country a year before. Silvaroli arrived on May 9th of 1960 and married his fiancée on the 22nd of October of that same year in Saint Anthony's Church. He was an electrician in Italy and worked as a laborer in his first few months in Canada until he was able to be tested and certified as an electrician here. After his certification, Silvaroli was fortunate to find many jobs; he worked mostly for the government, doing electrical work at Rideau Hall, the National Library, 24 Sussex Drive while Mulroneu was Prime Minister, and even had a three year contract with the National Defence Department. "My life is made of hard work and I'm still doing it, I'll never stop, I hope," he says.

On November 3rd of 2013, the restored Madonna of Sorrows was unveiled at Saint Anthony's Church in front of the community and Silvaroli was there to present his hard work for everyone to see. After the ceremony, the statue now sits inside the church where it will be protected from the elements. It will be a lasting reminder of the value of benevolence, how helping someone else, even with something small, can make a huge difference. Silvaroli believes that this is very important, because even though he's retired he says that if someone calls him, he'd offer his help for free.

As an Italian-Canadian, Silvaroli balances his love of Italy and Canada in his life; he volunteers his time and expertise for the Italian community in Ottawa for festivals like Italian Week and at the Villa Marconi, but he also travels back to Italy once every year to a house he built himself using materials only from Canada. But even when he's out of Canada, he's still working; restoring and building statues for churches in Italy. "I have a passion for churches and I help," he admits with a smile. It's clear that the church and his work are both very important to him, and no surprise that he spends a lot of time and money on each.



Bambino with Pasquale Salute at Villa Marconi



LOCAL

Antonio Renon: Itinerant Chair Maker from Agordo, Italy

By Ariella DalFarra Hostetter

When 25 year old Antonio Renon and three buddies from Gosaldo, Northern Italy stepped off the S.S. Atlantic in Halifax harbour in 1951 it was just one more step in a journey in search of work and adventure that had started when he was a mere boy of ten.



In 1951 Canada was entering its post-war boom. Italy, however, with its large population to be fed, was still in the depths of depression and reeling from the devastation of the Second World War. By the early 1950s, employment for Italy's young men often meant emigration. Canada was an option. After the war, it had finally opened its borders to Italians and recruitment to fill labour shortages in Canada's north and on its farms had begun in earnest.

Canada was far away, in all respects, from Gosaldo where Antonio was born. Located close to the Austrian border, Gosaldo had been on the route taken by German soldiers as they attempted to retreat over the Brenner Pass at the end of the war. This small mountain town had suffered its share of devastation. Its male population, conditioned by generations of men, who used their skills as miners and seasonal itinerant chair makers, continued to seek work

in other parts of Italy, Europe, the Americas and Africa.

In 1948 Italy had entered into an agreement with Belgium whereby Italy would provide labourers for Belgian coal mines, thereby securing, in exchange, a much needed flow of coal to Italy. The program, called 'men for coal', swapped work visas for coal. Italy agreed to send 50,000 men to Belgium. In the end 77,000 left.

Miners from Italy's northernmost province of Belluno, including Gosaldo, were highly sought after. Their families had toiled for hundreds of years in the local mines of the Val Imperina. These mines had produced tin and copper since Roman times and had supplied the mighty Venetian Republic as far back as the 16th century. The metallurgical institute in the nearby town of Sospirolo was known for its advanced technical expertise which it exported to other parts of Europe and the Americas.

After struggling to earn a living in Italy, that included a stint as an ice-cream maker, in 1948 he set off to work in Belgium's mines with the promise of employment under the work Belgium-Italy work program. Tunnelling and blasting work underground was not a first choice. From an early age, Antonio skills had been honed to work with wood.

His choice of trade, had in fact, been made for him. In Gosaldo, decisions were made by families on a "mestier" (trade) for their sons, often by the time the child reached the age of 10. It was a simple choice: become a miner or an itinerant "seggioiaio" chair maker. Antonio's father and his father before him were "seggioiai". By age 12, under his father's skilled guidance, Antonio was traveling as an apprentice chair maker west to Lombardy, south to the Po Valley and on to Tuscany and Emilia Romagna.

As was the custom, groups of men and boys set off on foot at the end of the growing season each October, carrying with them only their minimal hand tools and few clothes. They would return around Easter of the following spring.

Women and children were left to weather the snowy winter; give birth; sew; knit and mend; care for livestock and do the spring planting. This was the way of life in Gosaldo the 1930s when the permanent population stood at 2,700. By 2001 it had fallen by two thirds to 884.

In the 1950s emigration from the area was spurred by a drop in demand for the services of the "seggioiai", as manufactured goods became more readily available. In rural areas, chairs made by "seggioiai" had been a convenient and affordable alternative to chairs made by cabinetmakers. For a fee and lodging (sometimes in barns) they would make chairs out of green wood harvested from the purchaser's property.

These iconic chairs with their gently curving legs, ladder backs and straw rush seats continue to be made on an artisanal basis and today command high prices.

The first skill needed in making a chair was spotting "the" tree which Antonio could do even as a young teenager. It would be cut down and split into chair components. Working the wood green, without aging, was done to avoid the need for glued joints. Chair stringers were the only part made from seasoned wood. Only two small nails were hammered into the top back ladder at either end to keep the

back from splaying apart. All measurements were done by "eye" and the size of the chair depended largely on the size of the tree from which it was being made. Markings on the wood were made with a knife.

At farmsteads, the "seggioiai" not only made chairs but also repaired those that had broken down since their last visit. And the work was plentiful since some large farm households consisted of as many as 40 people living in farmhouse buildings. The flat, fertile lands they farmed produced Italy's rice and vegetable crops. Winter was the time to thrash rice, preserve produce, mend tools and furniture and prepare for the growing season.

Being a "seggioiaio" was a way of life, a way of learning the craft and exploring the world around them, creating stability and being self-sufficient. Some "seggioiai" ranged as far as Southern France. Over time these groups of men and boys developed a unique vocabulary that allowed them to converse among themselves so that their customers could not understand them while they set prices. At times, this involved much haggling over prices: so much for making a stool, so much for one type of repair and so much for another. Traditionally, the work of the "seggioiai" was an important part of the economy of the area around Agordo, Gosaldo, Rivamonte, Voltago, LaValle, Taibon and Cencenighe.

This was the disappearing way of life that Antonio left in when he began to work as a miner in Belgium. Mining was work known for its ability to cut short the lives of men. Antonio's mental and physical health suffered and he returned to Agordo where a doctor suggested that he might do better finding other kinds employment. There was nothing wrong with his mind but he did suffer from "low oxygen intake". Several months later he was back to normal and ready to work again.

Before going to Belgium to work as a miner he had joined his brother-in-law in an ice cream business in Brescia. That had not worked out well for him either.

At that point, after these experiences, working outside as a farm labourer in Canada seemed somehow more enticing. Standing at close to 6 ft tall, Canadian immigration officers knew that he could pull his weight, and more.

Antonio and his buddies' trip from Halifax included taking a bus from Montreal to Pickering then on to Toronto's rail station where they bought a train ticket. There they met a Canadian military officer, who spoke Italian, who took them to the train headed for Lake Erie.

With his friends from Agordo, Antonio went to work in the tobacco fields of Southern Ontario's Essex county which were functioning at full capacity after the Second World War. Although it was good work and paid relatively well, Antonio headed to Northern Ontario to work in the lumber industry. There he met and worked along side Italian and Japanese men who had been interned in Canada during the Second World War.

With steady work, and some money in the bank, Antonio returned to Italy to marry. He was 34 and his bride Angelica Renon was 31. Their wedding took place in Monza in April 1959. Together they had three children: Roberto, Flavia and Angelo. Angelica passed away in 1987 leaving a terrible void in their family. Antonio said that she had been the heart of the family.

Reminiscing, he spoke about his years in Ottawa where he worked in maintenance for the Department of National Defense and later doing much the same type of work for 17 years at the Anglican / United Church of the Resurrection.

Throughout all this experience, Antonio never lost his interest in chair making. Purchasing a wood lot on Highway 31 near Vernon, Ontario, he spent weekends trying to replicate the results he had achieved with wood in Italy. There he had made chairs with cherry, chestnut, mulberry, acacia and soft maple. Pine was never used.

Despite his hard work, Antonio felt that his "Canadian" chairs did not measure up. The wood did not split properly, the rush could not be twisted as he liked. But chair making was literally in his blood and that of generations before him.

His quest for making the perfect chair, that he had learned to make as a boy in Italy, may have been an attempt to use the high level skills that he had developed. They were skills he could not use to make a living in Canada. This was and is the reality for many immigrants who came with skills that lay unused.

The beautiful hand made chairs that Antonio considered to be not "quite up to snuff" are works of art that must be treasured not only for their beauty but also as a testament to Italian tradition and the Italian immigrant experience.

Antonio Renon passed away at the age of 88 on September 9, 2013. He was well known in the Ottawa Italian community for his positive attitude to life, love of participating in community events and for his fierce independence. None of us were ever able to give him a ride home. Even on the coldest winter days he insisted on taking the bus.

I was among one of those privileged people who were invited to his home to see the chairs and his workshop. To the end he continued his quest to make the best chair possible.



ITALIAN

L'ITALIAN QUALITY, UNA BUONA IDEA PER TUTELARE E RAFFORZARE IL MADE IN ITALY

Francesca La Marca

“Una buona idea per rafforzare la promozione dei prodotti italiani all'estero e tutelarli da possibili e purtroppo frequenti contraffazioni è venuta la scorsa settimana nel corso dell'incontro, al quale ho partecipato, avvenuto in Senato per la presentazione del disegno di legge sull'istituzione del marchio «Italian Quality», il cui primo firmatario è il V. Presidente del Senato Valeria Fedeli.

Di questi tempi avere buone idee, innovative ed efficaci, è l'unico modo di crescere, sia pure virtualmente, le risorse disponibili che, come si sa, sono poche e tutte già destinate. È tanto più vero in questo caso, trattandosi prevalentemente dell'esportazione del «Made in Italy» nel mondo, una delle voci costantemente attive in un quadro economico che da anni è in sofferenza ed è segnato da pesanti arretramenti in molti comparti. Il contributo delle esportazioni alla formazione del prodotto interno lordo, infatti, ha superato il 30%. Nel 1911, mentre i consumi sono diminuiti dello 0,1% e gli investimenti dell'1,3%, le esportazioni sono aumentate del 6,7%. Nel 1912, i consumi sono arretrati del 3,3% e gli investimenti addirittura del 9,1%, le esportazioni sono cresciute del 2%. Insomma, siamo in uno dei pochi campi nel quale le speranze di produrre di più e di ampliare qualche spazio di lavoro possono mettere concretamente radici.

I prodotti del «Made in Italy», tuttavia, da un bel po' di tempo sono sotto il tiro di sempre più estese contraffazioni provenienti da paesi che producono a costi nettamente inferiori. Talvolta, la mistificazione assume forme addirittura legali, poiché la normative commerciali in vigore consentono che un prodotto possa dirsi

«italiano» anche se ha subito in Italia solo l'ultima lavorazione. Il «Made in Italy», dunque, rischia di perdere una parte del suo prestigio e del suo richiamo se non si interviene con un'attribuzione che certifichi l'originarietà e la qualità del prodotto italiano, apprezzate in tutto il mondo. E questo non solo a tutela dei consumatori stranieri, ma anche di quelli italiani, ai quali rischia di non bastare più la tradizionale denominazione di prodotto italiano.

Questa proposta di legge, che tiene conto anche del lavoro fatto nella precedente legislatura su queste questioni e che è molto accorta a evitare i filtri delle disposizioni comunitarie in materia di libera circolazione, integra la marcatura d'origine del «Made in Italy» con una certificazione di eccellenza del prodotto, espressa appunto come «Italian Quality». Essa viene concessa dallo Stato a chi ne fa richiesta solo dopo avere accertato che il prodotto sia il frutto di un'impresa italiana che agisce sul territorio italiano e che abbia subito non solo l'ultima lavorazione in Italia, ma almeno un'altra. Una garanzia di eccellenza, insomma.

Insistere su una linea di qualità è il modo migliore per tutelare veramente il «Made in Italy» e per consentire che possa sprigionare tutto il suo potenziale attrattivo. È l'opinione che ho espresso direttamente alla Senatrice Fedeli e al Vice Ministro Carlo Calenda, ai quali ho dato la mia completa disponibilità ad assecondare per l'area dalla quale provengo un progetto così significativo e necessario. Mi auguro che il disegno di legge proceda al Senato con celerità e, intanto, ogni passo fatto in questa direzione non può che far bene all'Italia in questo particolare momento”.

LA MARCA AL CGIE VALORIZZA IL RUOLO DEL CONSIGLIO E SOSTIENE L'ESIGENZA DI LAVORARE CON I PARLAMENTARI ELETTI ALL'ESTERO

L'On. Francesca La Marca è intervenuta all'Assemblea Plenaria del CGIE rimarcando l'importanza degli incontri che si sono svolti in questi giorni tra i rappresentanti del Consiglio e con istituzioni, politica e Governo.

La deputata eletta nella ripartizione del centro e nord America ha manifestato il suo apprezzamento per il ruolo che sta svolgendo il CGIE nella tutela dei diritti e degli interessi delle nostre collettività residenti all'estero. La Marca ha espresso la sua convinzione che solo un'attività sinergica e coesa dei parlamentari e dei rappresentanti di Comites e CGIE, ancorché articolata in diversi livelli, potrà produrre gli effetti e i risultati auspicati. Secondo la parlamentare nord americana è necessario contrastare insieme l'attacco generalizzato che si è sviluppato contro la rappresentanza politica e parlamentare degli italiani all'estero. “La nostra maggiore unità e la nostra maggiore forza – ha sottolineato La Marca - dobbiamo responsabilmente usarle non per tutelare noi stessi, ma per difendere il vincolo di solidarietà tra le comunità emigrate e l'Italia”.

È l'opinione della parlamentare che su un punto bisognerà continuare ad insistere: quello della priorità dei diritti di cittadinanza, che significa uguaglianza politica tra tutti i cittadini per la pienezza del voto degli italiani all'estero e l'effettività dell'esercizio dei loro diritti. La Marca ha inoltre voluto rilevare che il superamento del voto per corrispondenza per il rinnovo dei COMITES, senza un numero di seggi adeguato per far votare chiunque intenda farlo, significa di fatto svuotare un diritto riconosciuto dalla legge. Anche la mancanza di eletti nella circoscrizione Estero nella Camera in un sistema monocamerale significa distinguere tra cittadini di serie

A, che possono concorrere a formare il Governo attraverso una maggioranza parlamentare, e cittadini di serie B, che possono interloquire, se pure succederà, solo con i rappresentanti delle Regioni nella Camera delle autonomie. Cosa certamente importante e utile, ma parziale e discriminante.

Secondo La Marca abolire la circoscrizione Estero non è grave perché vengono a cadere la presenza e il ruolo degli eletti, ma perché si distrugge una delle condizioni di base dell'effettività del voto dei cittadini all'estero. Pensare di far ricadere il voto sulle circoscrizioni italiane, oltre a dire cose che non troverebbero alcun riscontro pratico e organizzativo, significa mettere in discussione la particolarità della nostra condizione di italiani che vivono in contesti diversi. Su questo è necessario fare una grande opera di convinzione in Parlamento, ma anche nella pubblica opinione, in Italia e tra le nostre stesse comunità all'estero. La parlamentare ha garantito che il suo impegno sarà quello di cogliere ogni occasione in Parlamento, in stretto collegamento con gli altri eletti all'estero, di qualunque orientamento politico, per rivendicare i diritti di cittadinanza e di utilizzare ogni contatto con gli elettori della sua ripartizione per sviluppare tra tutti i cittadini italiani che vivono lontani dal Paese la solidarietà dei diritti.

IMPEGNO PER LO SVILUPPO DEI RAPPORTI TRA ITALIA E QUEBEC

La parlamentare italo-canadese ha incontrato alla Camera il Ministro per le relazioni internazionali del Québec Jean-François Lisée, in visita ufficiale in Italia.

L'on. Francesca La Marca, nella sua duplice veste di parlamentare nata in Canada e di Presidente della sezione di amicizia Italia-Canada, ha incontrato presso la Camera dei Deputati il Ministro per le relazioni internazionali, la francofonia e il commercio estero del Québec, Jean-François Lisée, in visita in Italia.

Nel corso del cordiale e diffuso scambio di vedute sullo stato dei rapporti tra Italia e Canada, con particolare riguardo alle tematiche relative al Québec, sono stati affrontati diversi problemi di interesse comune, a partire dall'interscambio tra Italia e Québec. L'interscambio tra le due realtà, infatti, si aggira sui due miliardi di dollari, rispetto ai sette miliardi di dollari tra l'intero Canada e il nostro Paese, per una percentuale di circa il 30% del totale. Il saldo dell'interscambio Italia-Québec è stato storicamente attivo a vantaggio dell'Italia.

Anche sul piano delle relazioni culturali, i rapporti con la Provincia francofona sono fluidi e intensi, anche per la presenza di circa duecentomila persone di origine italiana, di cui 38.000 iscritti all'AIRE. È stata costituita, infatti, una commissione mista per l'applicazione della reciprocità nel riconoscimento dei titoli di studio e non è da trascurare l'apertura di una cattedra d'italiano presso la prestigiosa università Mc Gill di Montreal.

L'on. La Marca, su richiesta del Ministro Lisée, ha avuto modo di illustrare le sue iniziative parlamentari in merito all'accordo di sicurezza sociale tra Italia e Canada, che dopo l'approvazione del Parlamento canadese deve essere ratificato da quello italiano; alla crisi del Corriere canadese, in via di superamento; alla convenzione contro le doppie imposizioni fiscali e ai negoziati per un accordo di reciprocità sulla conversione delle patenti di guida.

A conclusione del cordiale incontro, l'on. La Marca ha dichiarato: “Si è trattato di un utile e ragionato scambio di vedute, che mi ha consentito di verificare quali siano i punti di maggiore sensibilità dei governanti del Québec nei confronti dell'Italia. Il Québec nel contesto canadese è una realtà di grande peso per la ricchezza delle sue dotazioni energetiche, la modernità delle sue produzioni aerospaziali e la consistenza della comunità italiana in essa insediata. Il mio impegno, in qualità di presidente appena eletta della sezione di amicizia interparlamentare Italia-Canada, sarà quello di dare impulso all'impegno di migliore conoscenza tra i parlamentari dei due Paesi e, in tale contesto, di avere una particolare attenzione per i rapporti con il Québec in considerazione dell'importanza reciproca di uno sviluppo dei rapporti tra le due realtà”.

SENATORI ELETTI ALL'ESTERO PRESENTANO MOZIONE SU RETE CONSOLARE

È stata depositata questa mattina, a prima firma dei senatori eletti nella Circoscrizione estero Claudio Micheloni (PD), Aldo Di Biagio (SCPl), Francesco Giacobbe (PD), Fausto Longo (Psi), Renato Turano (PD) e Claudio Zin (Maie), una mozione che impegna il governo all'immediata sospensione di tutte le decisioni fin qui prese per il riorientamento della rete consolare così come progettato dal Ministero degli affari esteri. Un piano di chiusure deciso dal MAE in modo autonomo e senza seguire le linee dalla Commissione sulla Spending review insediata dal precedente governo e - soprattutto - senza aver tenuto in considerazione le necessità dei nostri connazionali residenti all'estero. La mozione, inoltre, impegna il governo a presentare alle commissioni parlamentari competenti un piano di riorientamento della rete e dei servizi diplomatici consolari seguendo le direttive contenute nella legge sulla revisione della spesa in invarianza dei servizi, del rapporto della Commissione spending review del Ministero degli affari esteri nel 2012 e delle linee indicate dal programma di lavoro del Commissario Straordinario per la revisione della Spesa Pubblica Carlo Cottarelli.

“La nostra priorità inderogabile è rimettere al centro dell'attenzione governativa il futuro dei servizi ai connazionali e le potenzialità del ruolo dell'Italia oltre confine, gravemente compromessi da scelte organizzative poco strategiche e scarsamente lungimiranti”, hanno spiegato i parlamentari.

info@stanthonyschurch.org

LOCAL

Un Bicchiere di Vino con IL Postino....

by Domenico Cellucci

Italy in both modern and ancient times played a pivotal role in the development of viticulture. In the last 2 centuries, her sons and daughters have immigrated to every single corner of the world due to many reasons such as war, famine, economics, etc.. The diaspora lead to the spreading of winemaking talent from Italy to many diverse countries.

As I have touched upon in previous articles, Italians have played a major role in the winemaking countries that they immigrated to. We need to look no further than places close to home such as the Niagara region to see the role Italian-Canadians have played in developing that area's wine industry. An even bigger role was witnessed last year, when *Il Postino* travelled to California.

In this month's column, I would like to touch upon those men and women of Italian origin that were fundamental to the development of viticulture in their new countries. This month I would like to touch upon the Catena family from Argentina.

Nicola Catena emigrated from the Marche region in 1898 and settled in the winemaking area of Argentina called Mendoza. He did not plant Italian varieties but the red variety known as Malbec. The Malbec grape is also an "immigrant". It was brought to Argentina from its French ancestral home in Bordeaux. (Today, in France, little Malbec is grown in Bordeaux and mostly only in Cahors.) The Catena vineyard under the management of Nicola's son Domingo Catena, did very well in the production of Malbec. In time, the family became significant vineyard holders in Mendoza.

Today, Bodegas Catena Zapata, is Argentina's most famous winemaking family. Nicola's grandson Nicolás Catena Zapata is credited with putting both Argentina and the Malbec grape on the wine map. A highly educated man, he is a graduate of the Universidad de Cuyo in Argentina and Berkeley in California. While in California in the 1980's he witnessed the wine growing practices in use at the time. He returned home and modernized the family winery. He began to use French oak barrels, drip irrigation and low yield cuttings. He brought Malbec clones from Cahors, France. Today, winemakers around the world are fascinated by the potential of Argentina's high altitude vineyards: consistent daily sunshine during the day and cool summer nights leading to extremely complex wines. This man was a pioneer in planting Malbec vines at higher and higher elevations.

Today, the Bodegas Catena is run by his daughter Laura Catena, who holds the title of president. Like her father, she is highly educated with degrees from both Harvard and Stanford Universities. She has written about Argentina's wine industry, describing how the country went from producing mostly jug wine to today's best

Malbecs in the world. She has continued her father's experiments with the planting of Malbec at higher elevations.

The company has many offerings at the LCBO under three lines at different price points: Catena, Catena Alta and Catena Zapata. Also available in late November at the LCBO is the Catena Zapata Nicasia Malbec grown at an elevation of 3593 feet above sea level. While the company produces wine with different grape varieties such as Pinot Grigio, Chardonnay, and Pinot Noir, it is their Malbec wines that are highly sought after.

When I am having BBQ in the summer, one of my go to wines is Malbec. At the LCBO, I look for the affordable Catena Malbec at \$19.95. (LCBO 478727). Good Malbec such as this one is medium to full-bodied, dry and dominated by black fruit such as blackberry and black cherry and also plums. These features give the wine a bit of a jammy note. It is mouth coating and has the same effect as dark chocolate on the palate. Malbec tends to have higher levels of acidity than most new world red wines. Making it a wonderful food wine.

A step up is the Catena Alta Malbec at \$49.95 (LCBO 982355). This wine is deep red in colour, almost bordering on opaque. On the nose, you notice right away the complexity of this wine versus the 1st. White and black pepper with some tobacco notes. It is a blockbuster of a wine in the mouth. Full-bodied with tannins that go on forever. The blackberry fruit is even more pronounced on the palate. The wine while spectacular, is well balanced, with a fine amount of acidity. This is what makes Malbec an excellent partner to grilled meats. The tannins and the acidity present in good Malbec stands up to the grilled flavours. For those of you who don't BBQ much in the winter, Malbec is excellent with stews.

The Catena family was important in making Malbec, Argentina's signature grape. With decades of work and experimentation, they have pushed the limits of high elevation wine making. For those of you that have never tried Malbec, I urge you to try some this holiday season.

Grazie e salute!

If you have any questions or suggestions for future columns, please contact me at vinumbonumest@yahoo.com.

Domenico Cellucci is a wine consultant and educator and is a graduate of Algonquin College's Sommelier Program. He puts on food and wine matching events in the national capital area. He has visited wineries and vineyards in Italy, France, British Columbia, Ontario and the United States.



What do Italy, Australia and Finland have in common with Canada?

The answer lies at the Italian Embassy in Ottawa with Dr. Giorgio Taborri. The recently instated Dr. Taborri is the new Counsellor of Social and Emigration Affairs. In a recent interview, he said that he was thrilled to be in Canada and very excited to start working with Canadians to strengthen ties between Canada and Italy.

Dr. Giorgio Taborri is married to a German woman named Stephanie and has two young daughters named Alessandra and Francesca. He has a degree in law from the University of Rome and used to be lawyer before he became a diplomat, working at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs prior to his diplomatic posting. Most recently, Taborri was stationed in Rome for two years, before that, he spent from 2007 to 2011 as the Councillor Italy in Perth, Australia and was also stationed in Finland at one point in his diplomatic career. Very hands-on and passionate about his work, Taborri participated in many events and had a huge impact on the Italian community in every country he was stationed in over the years.

Though Taborri has been all over the world, he said that he has always wanted to come to Canada. After he completed his minimum two year posting time in Rome, he found that he was very fortunate in receiving a posting in Canada, which was at the top of his list. "I've always been fascinated with Canada; the people, the history,



the economy and its' nature," he admits. In addition, as an Italian, Taborri has an interest in the prominent Italian-Canadian community that flourishes in the Ottawa region and hopes to work closely with the community during his time in the country.

As the Counsellor of Social and Emigration Affairs, Dr. Taborri will be responsible for Italian/Canadian relations in respect to Italian citizens who wish to move from Italy to Canada as well as social concerns that arise regarding emigration and life in Canada for Italian-Canadians. As a member of the Italian Embassy in Ottawa, Taborri will be working closely with both Canadians and Italians to promote a cultural exchange that benefits all groups to create a richer society in Ottawa and in Canada as a whole. He plans to stay four years in Canada and already has many projects that he's hoping to work on during his time in the country. Since he is only at the beginning of his tour in Canada, Taborri can't give

any specifics about what he hopes to accomplish, but he already has many ideas that he is very excited to roll out over the coming years. These projects will involve Canadian and Italian cultural programs that he will be co-ordinating with Canadians in order to strengthen cultural ties between the two countries and promote a positive, long lasting relationship between Italians and Canadians.

Historical banjo hits a high note for the Canadian War Museum

Ottawa, Ontario, December 17, 2013 — The Canadian War Museum's latest acquisition is, literally, music to the ears of military historians: it's a banjo signed by 28 members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1917 while they were serving in France during the First World War.

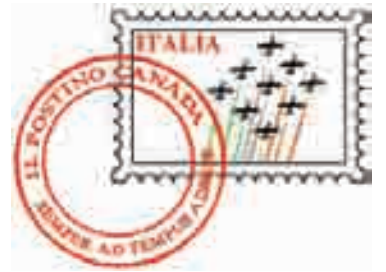
"We are pleased to add the banjo to the National Collection because it is such an unusual, fascinating and historically meaningful artifact," said James Whitham, Director General of the Canadian War Museum. "The instrument represents a cross-section of Canadians who served during the First World War and reveals, through their personal stories, the camaraderie that sustained them on the battlefield and in the aftermath of the war."

The donor, Alec Somerville, is an Irish banjo player, former resident of Canada and amateur historical researcher who, upon discovering the instrument's significance, decided it belonged in the Canadian War Museum. Somerville found the battered old banjo for sale in England and couldn't resist buying the instrument

when he saw it was covered in signatures and the names of Canadian towns. After noticing "Paris, Aug 24th, 1917," written twice on the reverse of the banjo head, he speculated that a group of Canadian soldiers had left their mark on the instrument while serving overseas during the First World War.

That theory inspired a quest to find out as much as possible about the banjo and the men who inscribed it with their names and hometowns. Somerville, himself an armed forces veteran and retired police officer, began his sleuthing by deciphering the signatures, many of which were faint and smudged.

Through his research and conversations with descendants, Somerville uncovered many of the soldiers' personal stories: where they came from and, in many cases, their fates after the war. The servicemen who signed the instrument came from almost every province. About half were born in Canada, and the rest were immigrants from England, Wales, Jamaica and Belgium. One came from the Six Nations of the Grand River near Brantford, Ontario and another was the uncle of Roland Michener, who served as Governor General of Canada from 1967 to 1974.



Autumn Evening for Autism 2013



Our 4th Annual Autumn Evening for Autism raised \$24,000 for Ottawa area children with autism! The funds raised will go to support our new “KickStart” program which provides individualized programs for each child and includes a multi-disciplinary team of autism experts. The program is for children up to 30 months of age. The cost per child is \$4,000 - which QuickStart fully funds for the family. The funds raised will also go to provide our free workshops for parents, our ReFresh ReStart parental respite program, and the “Getting Started Services & Wee Start Clinics” operated through the Ottawa Children’s Treatment Centre. In five years we have given almost \$500,000 to help support families and provide free early intervention programs - thanks to all our wonderful supporters!



Happy 75th Birthday Tony D’Angelo





Unveiling of the Centennial Madonna

at St. Anthony's Church, Ottawa



Angelo Filoso, Filippo DiMaria, Tony D'Angelo and Father Jacques



ITALIAN

FRENCH BUGATTI WORKSHOP HAS SEEN THREE GENERATIONS OF OWNERS

by Petrolicious Productions <http://www.petrolicious.com/>

Photography by David Marvier for Petrolicious



Henry Novo of France began working on Bugattis in 1929 when he was 14. Henry worked very hard so that he could become a racing mechanic—he worked each day beginning first thing in the morning and went late into the evening. Bugatti owners seemed the same then even as now; they were generally rich and well educated. Henri understood this, so he adapted to the part. He learned as much as he could to be able to fit in with his clientele, to make them feel comfortable leaving their cars in his hands. He read books and newspapers avidly and was careful not to use curse words or vulgar language. Due to all his hard work and dedicated time in the '20s and '30s, Henry gained customers from all over Europe and was able improved his craft. When ladies came by to visit the cars, they were impressed with Henry, because he dressed himself carefully and nicely compared to the other workers in the shop. During World War II, life was difficult. After the war, Henry decided to go to work for himself, which was difficult, because cars weren't yet valuable and their owners weren't quite ready to spend a lot of money. Nevertheless, he bought a garage very close to Paris, and in the middle of the 1960s, the value of cars increased and life for Henry became a bit easier. At this time he bought the current garage in Marolles en Hurepoix, France (about 40 km south of Paris), which many people today refer to as "Garage Novo", and which a customer helped Henry convert from a farm. He continued working up to the 1980s, when the very first vintage car addicts started coming around. Henry's son, Jean, initially worked in the airplane industry, but he

switched career paths in 1981 to work with his father. His son, Frédéric, joined the family business in 1992, making it three generations working together under one workshop roof. Before his passing in 2002, Henry taught Frédéric many tricks of the trade and all he knew, and although Jean has technically been retired since the year 2000, he still spends every day in the shop, even at age 74.

Now Frédéric runs the shop, where 80% of the cars that come through Bugatti. They also work on 1500 Delage (the most fantastic car of the world, in Frédéric's opinion) and racing Delahaye.

Frédéric's new mechanic, Willfrid, is crazy for Porsche, so now the shop also works on 356s and early 911s, and every now and again, even a Gordini or Ferrari rolls through. Between Frédéric's customers and those that Henry collected over the years, there has been a lot of change in the clientele. Originally they were born into money, and now they are lawyers, business managers, and even airplane pilots.

The shop is small; aside from Frédéric's father, there are only two people working there. Frédéric tells us that they try to do the very best job possible and pay very close attention to the original details. Frédéric is very strong with patina and can make a new car look just like a barn find. Jean is very strong with machining and makes many parts himself. The car Frédéric is most proud to have worked on is the GP Delage 1500 cc with 200 horsepower, 54 roller bearings, and about 20 gears in the engine. It's so intricate that it looks like a Swiss watch, and the sound is unbelievable.



ITALY

Oratino, Italy

Oratino is a comune (municipality) in the Province of Campobasso in the Italian region Molise, located about 7 km west of Campobasso. As of 31 December 2004, it had a population of 1,326 and an area of 18.0 km². Oratino borders the following municipalities: Busso, Campobasso, Castropignano, Ripalimosani.

Established in Lombard times, its first recorded feudal lord was fu Eustachio D'Ardicourt in 1268. When the Anjou took possession of Southern Italy, in 1326 king Robert gave the fiefdom to his wife Sancia. Then other families followed: the D'Evoli, Gambatesa, Sforza, Di Capua. A very special tradition is repeated on the night of December 24, when the "Faglia", a giant column made of canes, 7 feet wide



and 40 feet high, is lit in the square before the parish church.

The History of Oratino

Present day Oratino, located at the summit of the high hill, must have sprung up during the Barbarian era, when the Roman empire was destroyed. In order to defend themselves

from aggressors, the inhabitants looked for high, naturally fortified places. The place where the Mother Church is located at present was probably a bare precipice, rising in isolation at the top of the hill. Clinging to that rock, the small village of Oratino arose, around the present Church of St. Nicola, which was the oldest one.

Tradition holds, and this is partially confirmed by the ruins and reasonable deductions, that the church of St. Nicola was the oldest church and the first center of Oratino. A short distance away, and perhaps also called Oratino, since it was part of the same world, so to speak, was a certainly more populated center farther



down the hill which is today called "La Rocca" (The Fortress).

This settlement is perhaps more ancient. Located above the only stone bridge which spanned the Biferno River, it was probably on the Roman road linking the Frentani and Pentri families' estates.

The ruins of the bridge, called the bridge of the "turrets", have not been carefully examined. But the words "of the Turrets" in the name suggest that they derive from the remains of pilasters in the shape of towers, which was a characteristic of Roman architecture.

At the top of the great rock formation called "La Rocca" there arose a large fortress, perhaps from the pre-Roman epoch, as could be argued from the megalithic walls, the remains of which can still be seen.

The Benedictine Monastery of St. Giovanni Ottobonis was then built there. The land on which the settlement arose is marshy, and the earthquakes must have created continuous problems, the last one being known as St. Antonino's earthquake because he left a complete description of it and the complete ruin that it caused.

The settlement was almost swallowed up by disasters, the beautiful monastery with the church disappeared, and the few remaining inhabitants took refuge where

the present day Oratino is located; a safer place almost immune to the numerous enemies in the form of earthly natural forces and mankind.

With the commune enlarged by the inhabitants of the destroyed settlement of "La Rocca" and of the village called Casale, in the region of the same name, the population felt the need to build up or enlarge the new church. So the precipice rising straight up at the top of the hill was leveled off with tremendous effort. The present archpriest's church was built there, awkwardly situated as it is because of uneven terrain, with the bell tower located on some of the rock which was not completely leveled off.

The church of St. Maria of Loreto was built at the same time, and the ancient Byzantine statue of St. Maria, as well as that of St. Giovanni, was taken there from the destroyed Benedictine Monastery of St. Giovanni Ottobonis.

The earthquake which administered the coup de grace to the church of



St. Maria of Loreto struck at 11PM between Saturday and Sunday, December 5th, 1456. St. Antonino, in the detailed description he made of the earthquake, lists among the towns destroyed "Lo Ratino". The ancient "Lo Ratino" was composed of three inhabited centers, one in the "La Rocca" area, which was certainly the most important and perhaps of pre-Roman origin. The name referring to the monastery remained in use until the eighteenth century, mostly among the clergy of Oratino. The second center was where Oratino is today. The third and least important was in the Casale area.

LA ROCCA - THE FORTRESS

On the slopes of the massive stone formation, below Oratino and above the Biferno river, lay the second town. Nothing remains of its walls, just an enormous quantity of broken bricks, which are also found further down the hillside. Among the ruins of the church there can still be seen the door posts, a fountain for holy water, and at the top of the rock, the ruins of a large tower, which was part of a fortress that was built there. The tower was probably the central structure, with the door of the fortress about halfway up the massive rock, as can be judged by the ruins. A staircase cut into the rock can still be seen.

At the top are ruins of pre-Roman walls, with 25 blocks of stone remaining, the largest being 1.7 meters long. No date is carved on the tower, which certainly was rebuilt during medieval times. On the door can be seen a sort of coat of arms carved into the stone. A figure in the shape of a half moon or a sickle is carved inside a circle, with other details that defy explanation.

Some people said the tower had been built for signaling purposes. This is unlikely, since towers of this kind were built in a series, one visible to the other; and since they were built in descending fashion, on a narrow horizon, there was no one with whom to communicate. A legend told in all the surrounding towns speaks of treasure hidden in the rock, a she goat with seven gold kids. Many have believed this story, and holes have been made at several points in the tower. No excavations have been systematically performed to find objects of antiquity and treasure. On the facing promontory, the statue of Minerva, now admired in the Imperial museum of Vienna, was found. It is possible that antiquities of great value can also be found here.

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LOCAL

MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR GIAN LORENZO CORNADO

Dear friends of the Italian community,

I am very happy to address you for the first time as Italian Ambassador to Canada, to make each and every one of you, the most ardent and affectionate wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Christmas around us creates a more serene, a pause in life every day, a special occasion to dedicate ourselves to our families, to our friends and our loved ones. In an address a cordial greeting to you and your loved ones, I would remind the great moments we experienced during 2013, the year just spent was in fact very important for Italy and the Community Italian and for relations between Italy and Canada.

In February this year he was elected the new Italian Parliament and is the formation of a new government that has put in place a plan for reform modernizing institutions, boost the economy of the country, to encourage the growth and create jobs. Through the "Destination Italy", announced by the Prime Minister Enrico Letta in September last year, will now be introduced new measures in the field of taxation, labor and civil justice in order to attract foreign investment and promote competitiveness of Italian firms. Shortly after my arrival in Canada, in June, took place Instead, Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver Day celebrations of the Republic with the participation of thousands of countrymen and many Canadian and Italian personality. Among these I would like to thank, in Specifically, the President of the Senate Noël Kinsella, Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird, Minister Julian Fantino, the members of Canadian Parliament, the Government and the Provincial Assemblies as well as the Ladies Francesca La Marca and Fuchsia Nissoli for having honored us with their presence in this important event. As previously announced, the next year Republic Day will be in effect the feast of the Italian community, an "Italian Day" which will be jointly organized by the Consulates and representative bodies of our community. But the big event for Italy to Canada in 2013 was no doubt that the official visit of the President of the Council Letta performed in Toronto and Ottawa on 22 and 23 September at the invitation Prime Minister Harper's visit which was a huge success and that will be remembered as one of the most important and most successful of the history of relations between Italy and Canada.

During his short stay on Canadian soil, the President Letta was received by Governor General Johnston and Prime Minister Harper met the Ministers Jockey, Fast and Oliver, and took part a magnificent gala dinner organized in his honor by Congress National Italo-Canadians. Even on this occasion, Prime Minister Harper has sung the praises of the our community, emphasizing the decisive contribution that it has given to construction of modern Canada. I would like to recall, in this regard, beautiful words that he uttered September 22 evening in front of the Chairman of the Board Letta, a number of Ministers and Parliamentarians and over a thousand compatriots:

"The first generation of immigrants to Canada has built the palaces, the second, she became the owner. But the Italo-Canadians have not only built palaces, also founded families and communities. And with the values that led to - family, faith and work - have built a Canada best for all of us."

The history of relations between Italy and Canada has had and still has in fact a great protagonist of the Italian-Canadian community, a bridge between the two countries and the engine of their economies. And it is precisely on the Italian community resting overtime constraints of friendship and cooperation that unite Italy and Canada. Also for This Italy is proud of the hundreds of thousands of its citizens who crossed the ocean and with great sacrifice and admirable tenacity have earned positions of great responsibility and by the Italian community one of the most dynamic, more integrated and more capable of the country, a community that has made a fundamental contribution to growth of Canada and its affirmation among the most advanced countries of the world.

The visit of the President of the Council Letta has further strengthened the excellent political relations, economic and trade relations between Italy and the Canada and has even closer the two countries. On the other hand the Prime Minister Harper and members of his government have always shown sincere friendship with Italy and the Italians. Just think of the generous spirit of solidarity in favor of populations affected by L'Aquila earthquake, which the Federal Government and the Italian-Canadian community were received substantial aid and more recently convinced and decisive support of the admission of Italy as Ottawa State observer in the Arctic Council. Not to mention that the partnership between Rome Ottawa and know another important leap forward in the next years with the entry into force of the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the European Union, whose negotiations were in their final phase. And it is this immense future Free Trade Area of



euro-Canadian the Deputy Minister of Economic Development Calenda spoke with the Fast Minister of International Trade during a meeting held in Ottawa on Oct. 15. The Agreement CETA, of historical and even more ambitious NAFTA Agreement, eliminate, in fact, almost all tariff barriers, facilitate the exchange, investment and creation of jobs in Canada and Europe. The Deputy Minister Calenda, who was accompanied by representatives of 41 companies could appreciate, in this perspective, the great power of attraction and the potential that the Canadian market will offer Italian companies in areas of infrastructure, construction, engineering, the oil and gas and alternative energy.

The year that is about to begin will be an important year for Italy, for the Canada and for the Italian community. It will focus on the promotion CETA agreement in the two countries to ensure that public opinions Italian and Canadian are fully aware of the extraordinary opportunities it will create in terms of investment, trade and employment. Will start also across Canada an awareness campaign educational institutions so that the Italian is entered as the third language in schools where there are students Italo-Canadians. The Italian currently the fourth most spoken language in Canada, but to defend this Actually, it will be necessary for parents to ask "school boards" to introduce Italian as a teaching subject. Only in this way the Italian community will be able to preserve their culture and identity and to transmit to future generations, while the Italian-Canadian youth will closer and closer to their country of origin and establish contacts with the young Italian.

Then 2014 will be the year of the renewal Comites. Italian citizens residents of Canada will in fact be invited in the coming months to elect their representatives. The Comites, or the Committee of the Italian Residing Abroad is, as noted, the representative body of the citizens Italians in Canada, the spokesman of our community against Embassy and Consulates and represents, together with the CGIE, a point of reference for me and the Consuls General of Italy in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. 2014 will therefore be the year of the Italian community in Canada. A community vital, dynamic, united, which is a common heritage for Canada and Italy. As the Prime Minister said Letta in During his visit to Toronto "You are the best ambassadors Italy and have best represented, in recent years a country that struggled to represent its institutions in a complex political and unstable."

For this we must always look to the future with confidence and optimism, with the awareness of being part of a great people who comes from a large Country, Italy, appreciated, respected and listened to all over the world. Looking forward to meet you soon, I wish to renew to you all the expression of my gratitude, combined with that of my collaborators, for your support, your encouragement and your precious advice. I wish to thank also the media Italian-Canadians for the space they have given me, for the attention that I and have turned to the possibility that they offered me to join the homes of our countrymen. Know that it is a great honor for me represent Italy in Canada and live with you, here in this beautiful country, where they found hospitality and opportunities million People from all over the world who have brought here the best of world, creating a cultural mosaic and a model of society perfectly succeeded where different communities live in harmony. With many affectionate greetings, on behalf of my wife Martine, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year full of success and satisfaction in each and every one of you.

Gian Lorenzo Cornado
Ambassador of Italy to Canada

LOCAL

Windmill Development Group Signs Agreement to Purchase Domtar Gatineau and Ottawa Lands

Ottawa, December 4, 2013 - After months of due diligence, Ottawa's Windmill Development Group and Domtar have signed a definitive Agreement of Purchase and Sale (Agreement) for Domtar's property on Ottawa's Albert and Chaudière Islands and downtown Gatineau.

"Our vision is to create Canada's most sustainable mixed-used community right here in the nation's capital," said Jonathan Westeinde, co-founder of the Windmill Development Group. "We plan to bring new life and energy to this once bustling heart of industry, and give the people of Ottawa and Gatineau a new way to experience and appreciate one of the great rivers of the world, the Ottawa."

Through historically and environmentally sensitive redevelopment, Windmill, one of Canada's greenest developers, plans to reinvent the area into a vibrant, world-class, sustainable, pedestrian-oriented mixed-use community.

The Agreement with Domtar commits Windmill to purchasing the property, with the only remaining condition being rezoning of the property for a mixed-use community-scale development. Windmill plans to present its planning application to Ottawa and Gatineau city councils in the spring. The financial terms of the Agreement are not being released at this stage.

"We are pleased to be transferring the stewardship and revitalization of this important redevelopment opportunity to Windmill. Windmill's commitment to sustainability aligns with Domtar's corporate mission and we are confident will result in a world-class development that will enhance the Nation's Capital" said Stewart Marcoux, Vice President Asset Redeployment for Domtar.

As part of its due diligence process, Windmill consulted with a wide-range of groups, including the City of Gatineau and Ottawa, Energy Ottawa, the Government of Canada, the Algonquins of Ontario, the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg band of Algonquins, the National Capital Commission, the Ottawa Riverkeeper, Destination Gatineau, Ecology Ottawa, Heritage Canada Foundation and many others.

"The encouragement we've received from the National Capital Commission, the two cities, the Algonquin people, and the environmental community has been overwhelming. People are extremely enthusiastic to have something great happen at this location," says Windmill partner Rodney Wilts.

Windmill will hold its first public consultation December 11th, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. The public will have an opportunity to comment on Windmill's development principles for the property. Registration for the event, and a preview of the development principles can be found at www.the-isles.ca or www.les-iles.ca.

Media availability

Windmill Development Group will not be granting interviews at this time.

Media are invited to attend the December 11 public consultation at the Canadian

Museum of Civilization. Windmill will be giving two presentations in French and English, one at 6:00 p.m. and again at 7:30 p.m.

Quotes

"I'm delighted to see that there is a plan being developed to revitalize an important piece of our local and national history. We need to find ways for this land to reach its full potential, and offer residents and visitors greater access to the Ottawa River, a national treasure. This is an opportunity to create a complete community that represents the Canada we dream of for the future: dynamic, livable and sustainable. We look forward to giving the plan careful consideration when it is presented to the City." Jim Watson, Mayor of Ottawa

"The successful realization of the full potential and urban revitalization of downtown Gatineau depends on the sustained commitment and involvement of all players. This land has been central to the region's history, as a seat of Aboriginal culture, the birthplace of our first industries, and a place visited by every one of the great explorers. Carrying out such a project would help make the downtown the pride of all Gatineau residents." Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin, Mayor of Gatineau.

"Windmill's plan to celebrate Chaudière Island's historical significance and to bring new life and energy to the waterfront is completely aligned with our aspirations for that space and the region." - Jean-François Trépanier, Chief Executive Officer, National Capital Commission

About Windmill

Windmill is a visionary company dedicated to transforming conventional development practices by ensuring that strong ecological, social and financial returns are achieved in all their projects. Every Windmill development is conceived, designed and constructed to protect and enhance the local community and its ecosystems. Windmill is the only developer in North America that has achieved LEED Platinum on all its mixed-use projects. The company's founders have held prominent positions in the Canadian design, construction, brownfield and green real estate industry for more than 30 years, resulting in an unmatched value proposition when it comes to responsible urban infill and property revitalization. Sample completed projects include The Currents, a performing arts centre and modern condominium tower in Ottawa's Wellington West neighborhood, Acqua & Vento, two mixed-use buildings in Calgary and Dockside Green, a 1.5 million square foot planned model sustainable community in Victoria that was named one of 16 Clinton Climate Initiative Climate Positive developments.

Windmill currently has two additional LEED Platinum target projects under construction in Ottawa: Cathedral Hill, a 140 unit mixed-use project located on the west end of Sparks Street in Ottawa and the Eddy, a 53-unit mixed-use project located in Hintonburg in Ottawa.



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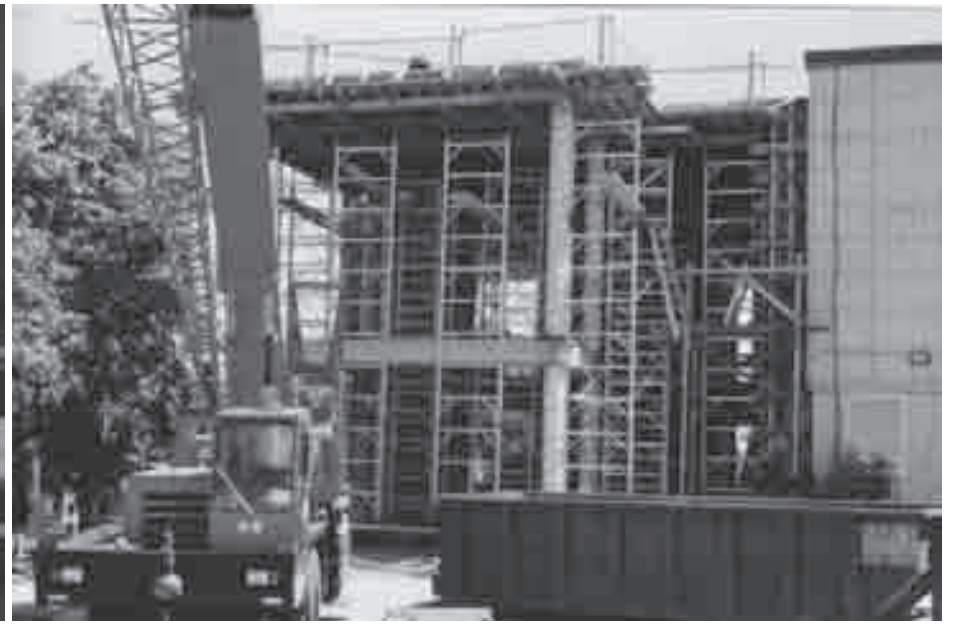
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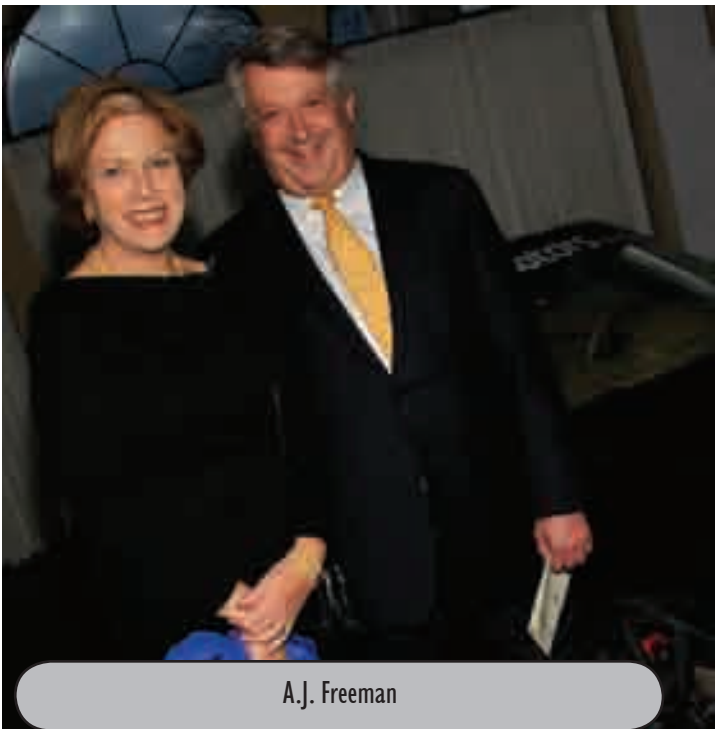
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