

IL POSTINO

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IL POSTINO

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Letters to the Editor

The Order of Ottawa

In 2012 I launched the Order of Ottawa to celebrate the extraordinary work and commitment of up to 15 distinguished Ottawa residents each year who help to make our city a bet-
ter place in which to live.

This prestigious civic award recognizes exceptional citizen contributions in the many areas of city life including arts and culture, business, philanthropy, health care, education, public service, labour, communications and media, science, sports, entertainment or other fields of endeavour that benefit the citizens of Ottawa.

I believe that it is important that we take the time to recognize those who do outstanding work in our City. By showing them that their dedication and hard work in being noticed, they are emboldened to continue to push

harder and reach greater heights. The group chosen each year are role mod-
els to those inside and outside their
chosen field and inspire others to
work to make Ottawa a better place
in which to live.

The great thing about the Order of Ottawa is that it shows how highly-
achieving Ottawa's residents are across
a wide range of endeavours. From Pin-
chas Zuckerman of the National Arts
Centre Orchestra, to Moe Atallah of
the Newport Restaurant, to Diane
Morrison of the Ottawa Mission, and
many more, we have people achiev-
ing great heights in every field and
the Order of Ottawa lets us recognize
these people for it.

In 2012, together with 2013, we
inducted 30 extraordinary people into
the Order and registration is now for

2014. I encourage you to put forward
a nomination for somebody who you
think would be deserving inductee.
Nominations are reviewed by a selec-
tion panel after September 12 when
the nomination process closes.*

For more information on the Order
of Ottawa please see the flyers avail-
able at your local library branch,
community centre, or any Client
Service Centre. Or you can find out
more online at Ottawa.ca.

*Nominations by immediate fam-
ily members, self-nominations, and
posthumous nominations will not be
accepted. Municipal, provincial and
federal officials are not eligible to be
considered for this award while they
are in office.

By Mayor Jim Watson

New Book! Conspicuous Accents: Accenti Magazine's Finest Stories of the First Ten Years

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Supporters!

We are delighted to announce the publication of Conspicuous Accents: Accenti Magazine's Finest Stories of the First Ten Years, edited by Licia Canton. As the title indicates, we have compiled in book form the best stories published in Accenti since the launch of the Magazine.

Conspicuous Accents is the culmination of the ef-
forts of 35 authors, whose stories have appeared in
Accenti Magazine in the course of the past ten years.
Some are established authors; others have made a name
for themselves since first being published in Accenti;
others, still, remain lesser known to the general public,
but their work is no less worthy of gracing these pages:
Nico Bignami, Elizabeth Cinello, Kim Clarke, Nuala
Ní Chonchúir, Andrew de Angelis, Giulia De Gasperi,
Delia De Santis, Gaetano di Falco, Loretta Di Vita,
Caren Durante, Ken Elkes, Eufemia Fantetti, Terri
Favro, Laura Fee, Edward Fiorelli, Sylvia Fiorita Smith,
Andrew Foster, Maria Francesca LoDico, Tony France-
schini, Paul French, Len Gasparini, Dorothea Helms,

Ernesto Livorni, Angela Long, Darlene Madott, Mi-
chael Mirolla, Federico Moramarco, Gilda Morina
Syverson, Linda Morra, Susan Musgrave, Susan Saf-
ford, Sigal Samuel, Ivano Stocco, Shereen Tadros, Shei-
la Wright – a must-have volume for anyone who loves
to read short fiction!

Mark your calendar: Conspicuous Accents will be
launched in Montreal on May 2 and in Toronto on May
14, 2014... Invitation and details to come.

Please Support our Publishing Efforts

Make a donation of \$100 and receive 2 books, and
have your name appear in the Acknowledgements page.

Make a donation of \$200 and receive 5 books, and
have your name appear in the Acknowledgements page.

Please confirm your participation by March 27 by send-
ing an email to lcanton@accenti.ca or accenti@accenti.ca

Feel free to pass this along to anyone who may be
interested.

Many thanks for your support.

Domenic Cusmano, Publisher

Il Postino is looking for writers...

- write about your community,
memories, opinions or tell us a story
- write in English, Italian or French
- send your articles and ideas to

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**PER L'EMANCIPAZIONE DELLE DONNE
OGNI GIORNO E' QUELLO GIUSTO**

La Festa dell'otto marzo è stata un'occasione per fare con sincerità e convinzione gli auguri a tutte le donne, in particolare a quelle che vivono nel mondo dell'emigrazione, che è anche il mio ambiente di nascita e di vita.

Il mio saluto alle donne nasce dalla profonda consapevolezza di quanto impegno e sforzi ogni donna debba affrontare per poter conquistare il suo spazio e il suo ruolo in famiglia, nel cerchio delle conoscenze, sul lavoro e nella società civile. La donna, infatti, è sempre soggetta a un dovere in più, è sempre impegnata a guadagnarsi uno spazio che in partenza non le è dato, come invece per gli uomini, è sempre in tensione per rincorrere un riconoscimento e una condizione di autonomia che sono quasi sempre il frutto della loro determinazione e della loro fatica.

Il mio saluto, in secondo luogo, viene dalla mia stessa dimensione di vita, che è quella di essere figlia di emigrati. So dal vivo della mia esperienza quanto importante sia il ruolo che la

donna in emigrazione ha avuto. Su un duplice piano. Quello del mantenimento delle tradizioni d'origine e dei legami familiari, a iniziare dal cibo e dalla religione. Sono convinta che se l'Italia ha potuto proporre e affermare nel mondo un suo stile di vita, molto lo si debba a questa quotidianità gestita dalle donne, fatta di affetti, sapori, profumi, cordialità, moralità. Un secondo aspetto, non meno importante, è quello ancora dell'apertura e dell'integrazione nelle realtà d'insediamento. La donna è stata anche colei che ha iscritto e accompagnato i figli a scuola perché imparassero la lingua del posto, che ha spinto i ragazzi a socializzare con gli altri, che ha creato le condizioni di ospitalità quando un figlio ha sposato uno straniero, che si è caricata dell'onere del lavoro esterno per pagare il mutuo di casa e per accrescere il benessere di tutti, che ha intrapreso un cammino cadenzato per svolgere ruoli sociali sempre più elevati, che ha ascoltato e tradotto in fatti, insomma, quella voce profonda di emancipazione che ella ha portato dai luoghi di origine.

Il mio saluto alle donne, infine, da parlamentare italiana. Ho da pochi giorni potuto votare la fiducia al Governo Renzi per la prima volta composto per metà da donne. Ma il cammino è ancora lungo: per le donne il lavoro manca, è mal pagato, i diritti non sono riconosciuti, i tempi di lavoro di fatto sono incompatibili con quelli di vita e di cura. E non è il peggio, perché il peggio per troppe donne è fatto ancora di violenza, sia della violenza che arriva sui giornali, spesso in forma di femminicidio, che della violenza inconfessata che passa per piccoli e grandi episodi della vita quotidiana. In Europa ogni giorno sette donne muoiono per mano dei loro partner. In Parlamento abbiamo fatto una buona cosa ratificando la convenzione di Istanbul per la prevenzione e la lotta alla violenza contro le donne e approvando il decreto del Governo per un piano di soccorso immediato alle vittime di tali episodi. Molto ancora, comunque, c'è da fare, in particolare per la conciliazione dei tempi di vita e di lavoro, per incrementare l'imprenditoria femminile, per il riconoscimento del lavoro di

cura dei familiari, per la prevenzione degli infortuni domestici, per la promozione della medicina di genere, e altro ancora. Per quanto riguarda le donne in emigrazione, continua a gridare vendetta il mancato riconoscimento in via amministrativa della possibilità di trasmettere la cittadinanza italiana ai propri discendenti quando l'hanno perduta per matrimonio con uno straniero. La prima legge che ho presentato è stata su questo e non mi darò pace finché non venga a cessare questa intollerabile discriminazione di genere.

L'emancipazione è, comunque, anche potere. In queste ore, noi donne parlamentari stiamo lottando perché la nuova legge elettorale recepisca il principio della parità di genere nella nuova legge elettorale. Anche in questo modo si onorano le donne, non solo nella ricorrenza della loro festa ma nella realtà di ogni giorno.

Francesca La Marca

ITALIAN-CANADIAN ARCHIVES PROJECT (ICAP) SUMMARY

The Italian-Canadian Archives Project "ICAP" is a not-for-profit organization, incorporated to promote and organize a national strategy to gather, preserve and make accessible material about the Italian-Canadian experience across the country. To this end ICAP is creating a Canada-wide network of established and emerging researchers in the field of Italian-Canadian studies to collaborate, partner and connect with other individuals, groups, organizations, and institutions across Canada who are interested in the Italian-Canadian experience.

Through this network the ICAP works to encourage and support activities to preserve and provide access to materials on the Italian-Canadian experience. Since its creation ICAP's outreach has grown significantly across Canada and internationally. Some of its supporting or affiliated organizations and members include: the Ontario Historical Society, Toronto; Mauro Peressini, Curator, Canadian Museum of History, Gatineau; The Mariano A. Elia Chair in Italian-Canadian Studies, York University; Italian Cultural Centre, Vancouver; Istituto Italiano

di Cultura, Montreal; Casa d'Italia Montreal; Famee Furlane, Toronto; Canadian Society of Italian Studies; Institute for Italian Studies – Lakehead University, Thunder Bay; The Advanced Institute for Globalization and Culture, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay; Italo-Canadian Cultural Club, Sarnia; Pier 21, Halifax; Canadian-Italian Professional and Business Association, Thunder Bay. Annual national working conferences held to date include : Italian-Canadian Lives: Past, Present, Future, 1-3 October, 2010, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario; Towards a

National Italian-Canadian Archive, 2-4 February, 2012, York University, Toronto, Ontario; From Concept to Incorporation: Implementing Projects and Plans, 1-2 March 2013, Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Montreal, Quebec; Reaching Across, 9-10 May 2014, Canadian Museum of History, Gatineau, Quebec.

The ICAP initiative has been created to ensure a national strategy is in place to gather, preserve, and make accessible the Italian-Canadian experience within the Canadian story.

4th ANNUAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS PROCESION

Good Friday, April 18th 2014 10:00 a.m. Via Crucis

Procession of the Stations of the Cross starts from St. Anthony's Church, down to Preston and Up Gladstone. There will be all the stations of the cross along the way.



We encourage everyone to join us at this 4th Annual Stations of the Cross Procession.

INFO: 613.236.2304 or 613.567.4532 Or www.staanthonyschurch.org

Local Ottawa Artist - Saracino Collection



Maria Saracino is an award winning figurative artist. Born and raised in Ottawa, Ontario in Canada.

Working as a graphic artist for 18 years, she honed her skills creating watercolour, acrylic and multi-media paintings as well as experimenting with textiles and sculpture.

Maria discovered polymer clay in the mid 1990's and the creative possibilities of figurative sculptures. Maria's one-of-a-kind sculptures have been recognized by leading international publications. Her work has won several awards as well as being included

in special exhibits at museums and galleries across Canada and the United States. During this time she has also developed a gift line that includes her limited edition Elves and Fairies as well as other unique seasonal items.

- First Prize Winner in Figureworks 2013
- Winner of the 1997 One-of-a-Kind Classic
- Winner of 2001 Industry's Choice DOTY
- Nominee in the 2000-2001 Awards of Excellence
- Canadian Doll Artists 2005 Honour Award
- 2013 Most Attractive Display Award, The Ottawa Doll Show
- Winner of the 2014 Easter Seals Art Competition

Publications and Exhibits

- Reverie Publishing Company announces Joan Muysken Pursley's Christmas Dolls. A collection of contemporary dolls, this beautiful book will bring out the Christmas spirit in all who open its pages. More than 200 color photos of dolls by today's top international artists and manufacturers including Canadian artist Maria Saracino, bring to life every aspect of this beloved

holiday. 96 pages \$29.95. Hard cover with dust jacket.

- Life size Sculpture on display in the seasonal Christmas Exhibit at the CN Tower, Toronto, ON
- Life size sculpture on display in the seasonal Children's Victorian Christmas Exhibit at the Museum of Civilization, Hull, Quebec
- Hopeless Romantic, 20" sculpture on display in the 3 year Timeless Treasures Exhibit at the Museum of Civilization, Hull, Quebec

- Christmas 2001 display at the Godrich Museum, Godrich, ON
- Broadway Bears, New York Broadway Fundraiser for Aids Research. Design of "Scarecrow" bear from the Wiz, signed by actress Stephanie Mills.
- Presenza Exhibit, Museum of Civilization, 2003-2004
- Current member of the National Capital Network of Sculptors



Baird Speaks with Turkish and Italian counterparts on the situation in Ukraine

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird today spoke with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, and Italian Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini about the current situation in Ukraine.

Baird briefed the two ministers separately on his trip to Kyiv, and discussions he held with Ukrainian leaders last week.

Baird spoke with Minister Davutoğlu about the dangerous situation in

Crimea, and both Minister's agreed that Moscow must respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. They also spoke about how the situation in Crimea could risk destabilizing the region.

Ministers Baird and Davutoğlu concluded their discussion by reiterating both countries' concern for the protection of the rights of minority groups on the Crimean peninsula, including Crimean Tatars and reaf-

firmed their commitment to peace and stability in Ukraine.

On the call with his Italian counterpart, Baird congratulated Mogherini on her recent appointment as foreign minister.

Minister Mogherini briefed Baird on the EU Special Council Session discussions on Ukraine, as well as recent talks in Paris on the margins of the Conference on Lebanon.

Both shared their views that a peaceful, political solution must be found to ease tensions, and that both Canada and Italy cannot accept a foreign military presence in Crimea.

Baird and Mogherini committed to stay in touch over the coming days as the situation continues to develop, and looked forward to meeting in person in the near future.



Fireworks 10 Dinner and Auction

May 3, 2014 at 6:00pm

Hampton Inn, 200 Coventry Road, Ottawa

Tickets: \$65 (Full course dinner with wine and music by The Divas)

For tickets, please call Peter Ryan at 613-692-7625 or Ken Langille at 613-521-4864 or email us at bytownfb@gmail.com. Donations are also very welcome.

12 Tax Tips

for individual taxpayers 2013 returns

Tax Tip 1: Leaving Canada comes with a tax bill

If you're considering going to work or even retiring in another country, be sure to consider the tax implications of your decision before you pack.

"In Canada, taxes are based on residency, which is determined by common-law principles, like where your house is located and where your children go to school," says Jason Safar, CPA, CA, National Private Company Services Tax Leader at PwC in Toronto.

"As long as you're a resident of Canada—and are away for maybe just a few months—you have to pay Canadian income taxes on your worldwide income," he explains.

But if you're going to Australia and have no real plans to return, you may have effectively severed residence here. That can mean a hefty price tag when it comes to taxes.

"The government says that, with certain exceptions, you're deemed to have disposed of all your assets at fair market value on the way out," says Safar. "If that translates into financial gains that you haven't yet paid taxes on, you'll have to pay those taxes when you leave."

Canada has tax treaties with many other countries that set out ground rules for who gets dibs on your money and under what circumstances. In places that are "tax havens", there are no such deals.

Tax Tip 2: Maximize your TFSA contribution in 2014

When the Government of Canada introduced Tax Free Savings Accounts effectively beginning in 2009, it set the contribution limit at \$5,000 per year. The plan was designed to allow for increases to the annual contribution limit to keep pace with inflation, but with a stipulation: the contribution limit would rise only in \$500 increments. So indexation from several prior years had to be added together to make up \$500 (when rounded) for the increase to take effect.

"2013 was the first instance of indexation resulting in an increase in the TFSA contribution limit," says Richard C. Weber, CPA, CA, a tax specialist in Oakville. "Starting in 2013, Canadian residents 18 years or older could contribute up to \$5,500 to a TFSA. The limit for 2014 is also \$5,500. Plus, they can add in any unused contribution room from previous years, and any amounts withdrawn from a TFSA may be added to the contribution room for the following year."

"TFSA contributions are not tax-deductible. Nor is the interest expense incurred on any funds you borrow to put in one," says Weber. "But the benefit of a TFSA—and it's a big one—is that any income generated on the funds you contribute is tax-free. Also, since contributions made to a TFSA are not tax-deductible, amounts withdrawn aren't taxable."

The types of investments one can make in TFSAs are generally the same as those in RRSPs. Cash, mutual funds, bonds, guaranteed investment certificates and securities listed on a designated stock exchange are all eligible.

Tax Tip 3: Share your investments, cut your tax bill

It's all in the family. At least, that's the way the Government of Canada seems to see it when it comes divvying up taxes on investment income between spouses or partners.

"If someone earning income from their non-RRSP investments is in a higher marginal tax bracket than their spouse or partner, they might consider transferring the underlying investments or lending the funds to invest to the other," says Richard C. Weber, CPA, CA, a tax specialist in Oakville. "This way, the couple will reduce their

tax burden on that investment income by effectively accessing the lower marginal tax rates of the lower-income spouse."

There are, however, adverse tax-attribution rules that don't allow property to simply be transferred between spouses for income-splitting purposes. The one who receives the benefit must pay fair market value consideration.

"But you can lend your lower-income spouse the funds to invest, and charge them the same applicable interest rate that the Canada Revenue Agency prescribes—which is 1 per cent annually as of January 1, 2014—on the amount of the loan," Weber explains. "If those investments should yield, for example, a 5 per cent annual return, the spouse would repay the 1 per cent annual interest on the loan, and then include the net 4 per cent annual return as part of their taxable income. That 4 per cent would then be taxed at their lower marginal rate."

But be careful. The loan must be structured in a particular way. "An equivalent-value promissory note must be exchanged that bears interest at that applicable rate prescribed by the CRA," says Weber.

There are other considerations and requirements that must be diligently met, such as ensuring that the interest is actually paid each year or by January 30 of the following year at the latest.

Different types of investments produce different types of income for tax purposes and these are subject to different tax rates. So consult a Chartered Professional Accountant in your community to help you find the most effective tax-saving strategy for you and your family.

Tax Tip 4: The Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit

This gift from the Government of Ontario is designed to help with the cost of making homes safer and more accessible, so certain family members who have seniors living with them may also be eligible to claim it. The best part? The HHRTC is now a permanent refundable tax credit that can provide you with a tax refund when you file your tax return. It doesn't just reduce taxes the way the more common non-refundable tax credits do.

"Similar to the home renovation tax credit offered in 2009, those who qualify can claim up to \$10,000 worth of eligible home improvements on their tax returns," advises Dan Dickinson, CPA, CA, of Wilkinson & Company LLP in Belleville. "Calculated at 15 per cent, this makes the maximum refundable tax credit worth up to \$1,500 per household. To claim it, you must be 65 years of age at December 31, 2013, or live with a family member who is a senior."

Not all renovations qualify, however. The work or upgrades must have been billed for in the year in question and be ones that make a home more accessible or safer for a senior, like installing grab bars or walk-in bath tubs; widening doors; adding ramps, lifts or automatic garage door openers; and many, many more.

"Seniors or people with seniors in their home should review the types of expenses that qualify or consult their accountants if they are unsure," says Dickinson. "Individuals who are eligible for a Disability Tax Credit Certificate may also be able to treat some of the eligible expenditures as medical expenses. This is especially true if the upgrades aren't expected to increase the value of the home, and were incurred to enable a family member to gain access to the home, or to be mobile or more functional in it."

To claim the credit, complete Schedule ON(S12) of your tax return and enter the

amount spent on eligible renovations next to box 6311 on form ON479. You don't have to submit your receipts with your tax return, but hold on to them in case the Canada Revenue Agency asks to verify your claim.

Tax Tip 5: When can you expect your refund?

The Canada Revenue Agency, which handled about 27 million tax filers last year, has been streamlining and speeding up its processing with electronic tools. It encourages us to do the same.

"The way you file your return is one of the most important considerations in determining how quickly you get your refund," says Geoff Fisher, CPA, CA, a partner with KPMG LLP in Sudbury.

Last year, 75 per cent of tax returns were submitted electronically. The CRA says that many Canadians who filed online, either by themselves or with the help of a professional, received their refund in as little as seven days.

This year the CRA is encouraging Canadians to submit their returns electronically by not mailing out tax packages unless they are specifically requested. Paper tax packages can also be picked up at your local post office or Service Canada office. However, if you have your taxes completed by a tax preparation service, they are required to file electronically.

"Tax software packages that accommodate electronic or NETFILE-ing do the calculations accurately and prompt you to check for deductions and tax credits you might miss otherwise," Fisher explains. "The CRA doesn't have to key-in information for us. Our returns have fewer errors and can be processed more quickly."

Of course, more complicated returns may still need some finessing to prepare and they may also have to be reviewed manually by the CRA. But for individual returns, especially, those are the exceptions, Fisher says.

Tax Tip 6: File a tax return, even if you don't pay income taxes

Think it's a waste of time and energy to file a tax return because you didn't earn enough to pay taxes last year? Don't you believe it!

"Many credits, benefits and qualifiers depend on it. So most people of working age and those who have retired, too, should complete a tax return and file it with the Canada Revenue Agency each year," says Geoff Fisher, CPA, CA, partner, KPMG LLP in Sudbury. "Things like the HST credit, Ontario tax credits, and the child tax benefit are just a few examples of things that can help put literally hundreds of dollars back in your pocket."

Students may have other reasons to file their tax returns, even if they didn't owe taxes in a particular year.

"Tax credits for tuition fees, education amounts and textbooks are offered as non-refundable credits, and the amounts can be significant," Fisher explains. "Eligible tuition fees can create a combined federal and Ontario non-refundable tax credit of just over 20 per cent. Education amounts and what the federal government offers for textbooks are calculated monthly and are eligible for a combined tax credit of more than 20 per cent, too."

There's another reason young people should file tax returns. "It's never too early to start accumulating RRSP-contribution room," says Fisher. "This may not seem compelling when you're still in school or just starting to work, but you'll thank yourself later when you're earning more and able to take better advantage of tax-deferred savings."

Tax Tip 7: How the Government of Canada helps us give back

Canadians are among the most ardent givers in the world. According to Statistics Canada, our total financial donations to charitable or non-profit organizations were about \$10.6 billion in 2010.

"You can claim a federal tax credit of 15 per cent of the donation amount on the first \$200 you give," says Geoff Fisher, CPA, CA, a partner with KPMG LLP in Sudbury. "This is worth a little over 20 per cent when the Ontario provincial tax credit is factored in. For any amounts over \$200, the federal tax credit increases to 29 per cent. And when the Ontario provincial tax credit is considered too, the combined amount can be anywhere from about 40 to nearly 47 per cent."

There's more. The 2013 federal budget introduced a new, temporary charitable donation super credit of 25 per cent to supplement the existing donation credit. Taken together with the federal credits described above, a first-time donor would be entitled to a one-time 40-per-cent federal credit for money donations of \$200 or less, and a 54-per-cent federal credit for donations between \$200 and \$1,000. You're considered to be a "first-time" donor if you or your spouse has not claimed a charitable donation credit (regular or super) in any tax year after 2007. This new super credit is only available for donations made after March 20, 2013.

In a single year, the maximum amount of charitable donations you can claim is limited to 75 per cent of your net income. But any unclaimed amount can be carried forward for up to five years.

You can also make charitable gifts of certified cultural property or ecologically sensitive land, in which case the amounts you may claim are not limited by a certain percentage of your net income.

"And, special beneficial tax rules also exist if you donate publicly traded shares," Fisher adds. "But it can be complicated. So if you're considering this strategy, consult with your tax advisor."

You need official receipts to claim the tax credits on your income tax return. Be sure to request them, as some charitable organizations don't provide them automatically unless your donation exceeds a certain amount.

Tax Tip 8: Move closer to work and save on taxes, too

Is the two-hour commute keeping you from accepting that job offer with a new company? Would you consider moving closer if you knew that many of the costs of relocating may be tax-deductible?

"Providing you move at least 40 kilometres closer to start a new job or go to school, some of the biggest costs of relocating can be deducted for income tax purposes," explains Edward J. Barker, CPA, CA, in Owen Sound.

"The realtor's commission, legal fees, mortgage fees, temporary living quarters and even the cost of hooking up your utilities in the new place are all valid deductions that many people overlook," says Barker. "What you can't deduct are the expenses you incurred to get the old house ready for sale, like a new roof or windows. Nor can you deduct the upgrades you must leave behind, like draperies or a tool shed."

But if you have to leave the old house vacant for a period of time while you're trying to sell it, the maintenance costs—from heat and insurance to clearing the driveway or cutting the lawn—are all tax-deductible.

It's a little different if you received a reimbursement or an allowance from your employer for your eligible moving expenses. Then, you can only claim moving expenses on your tax return if you include the amount they gave you in your income, or if you reduce the moving expenses you claim by the amount already received from them.

"Much of the same applies to students moving for school," Barker says. "Deductions must be at least \$100, and can be applied to those parts of scholarships, bursaries and grants that are taxable.

Or, use them to reduce other kinds of income, such as that from part-time employment. You can even deduct the costs of moving back home for a summer job."

If you don't have enough scholarship or work-related income to claim the expenses in the current year, you can carry them forward to a future year when you do have enough taxable income to make claiming them worthwhile.

Tax Tip 9: Tax credits can help pay your transit fees

Do you regularly use public transit to get to work or school? If yes, consider buying your transit passes on a weekly or monthly basis and be sure to get receipts. Then get ready to save on your income taxes.

"If you commute to work or school on buses, streetcars, subways, commuter trains or even ferries, you can claim the non-refundable federal tax credit for eligible public transit costs," advises Edward J. Barker, CPA, CA in Owen Sound. "You can also claim the costs incurred by your spouse, common-law partner or children."

The credit applies to monthly passes, but ones of shorter duration are eligible, under certain conditions: each pass must entitle you to unlimited travel for at least five days, and you must buy enough of them to be able to travel for at least 20 days in any 28-day period. Certain electronic payment cards, like the PRESTOTM system in use in the Greater Toronto Area and Ottawa, also qualify for the credit. But the passes must be used regularly and consistently—at least 32 one-way trips during a maximum-31-day period—and be issued by a public transit authority that records and provides a receipt for the cost and usage.

"You'll get a federal tax credit of about 15 per cent of the amount you paid for transit," says Barker. "So if you paid \$1,200 over the year, you'll have over \$180 to offset any income taxes that you owe. Remember that it's non-refundable, so if you haven't paid any taxes you won't be able to claim any money back. And be sure to keep your receipts and old passes to back up your claim."

Tax Tip 10: Need a hand preparing your tax return?

If, like many of us, you're numbers-challenged or intimidated by anything resembling a tax form, getting help to prepare your return from a knowledgeable and reputable tax professional can be the answer to your prayers.

"Many communities work with the Canada Revenue Agency and the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario to hold tax preparation clinics, mainly between February and April. Accounting students, professionals and other trained tax-preparers volunteer their time and help," says Edward J. Barker, CPA, CA, in Owen Sound. "The CRA recommends the service be offered to people with low incomes, students, seniors, newcomers to Canada and those receiving social assistance. But the community groups that organize the clinics can determine who qualifies."

Local groups recruit volunteers to manage the clinics and arrange the time and place, usually in a convenient location, like a church or community building. The CRA supplies materials, training for the preparers and software for filing tax returns. The Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario organizes volunteers from its members and students.

Tax Tip 11: Claim tax deductions if you've ended a relationship

Breaking up is hard—and often expensive—to do. But you can sometimes ease the financial pain a little by claiming any tax deductions to which you're entitled.

"Paying spousal support to an ex is really difficult for most people. But what eases the emotional and financial pain is that the spouse who pays may be able to claim the amounts as a full

deduction from any income they've earned," says Mary Krauel, CPA, CA, MBA, CDEA. Krauel is the owner and senior negotiator of Fairway Divorce Solutions® in Mississauga, an organization that specializes in helping couples determine spousal and child support payments.

The payer can sometimes claim deductions for spousal support, but not for child support paid after 1997. Conversely, the amounts deducted by the payer are then taxable in the hands of the recipient spouse.

"To be an eligible deduction for the payer, certain conditions apply, such as the recipient having discretion as to how the spousal payments are spent," says Krauel. "The payments must be in the form of an allowance that's paid periodically; lump-sum amounts don't qualify. And, they must be specifically for the maintenance or 'benefit' of the recipient, the recipient's children, or both."

The payments must be made while you are living apart from your former spouse or common-law partner as a result of a breakdown of the relationship. They must be legally documented or decreed—made as the result of a court order or written agreement. Simply deciding together what those payments will be is not sufficient.

To be sure you take advantage of all the tax deductions you can when a marriage or common-law relationship ends, consult a Chartered Professional Accountant in your own community.

Tax Tip 12: When marriages end, fees for help and advice may be tax-deductible

It's been estimated that more than 40 per cent of marriages in Canada will end in divorce. Sometimes, there can be tax savings to help offset some of the legal costs involved—not for the actual divorce decree itself, but for some of the associated issues and dealings that invariably arise.

"It may not be specifically cited by the Canada Revenue Agency, but some of the amounts you pay an accountant or a mediator—not just a lawyer—to help work out some of the financial details associated with ending your marriage or common-law relationship may be tax-deductible," says Mary Krauel, CPA, CA, MBA, CDEA, the owner and senior negotiator of Fairway Divorce Solutions® in Mississauga, a company that specializes in providing exactly those kinds of services.

"The services must be given to help the recipient spouse determine support," Krauel explains. "The advisor must keep track of the portion of their fee that pertains to those eligible child and spousal-support issues, and provide their client with a breakdown."

"Examples are legal fees incurred to enforce and collect late support payments, either for child and/or spousal support, as the result of a court order or an agreement. Also, those paid to establish the amount of support payments and to obtain those payments from a former spouse or common-law partner."

Similarly, if the issue involves trying to establish the amount of support from a child's legal parent (who is not the current or former spouse or common-law partner) where the support is payable under the terms of a court order, the legal fees are usually deductible, too.

"What you pay a lawyer to try to increase the amount of support being paid to you is also deductible," Krauel says. "So are the legal fees you pay to either defend or resist the payer's attempt to reduce support obligations."

Legal fees paid by the person who pays child and spousal support, however, are not deductible under any circumstances.

Krauel cautions that this is a complex and highly specific area of tax law. She recommends that individuals consult a Chartered Professional Accountant in their own community for advice that applies to their specific situation.

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12th Annual Filò Gala Celebrating Women in Health



St. Anthony's Feast Weekend

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12th Annual Filò Gala Celebrating Women in Health

“Quando muore il corpo sopravvive quello che hai fatto, il messaggio che hai dato”. These are words said by Rita Levi-Montalcino, neurologist, Senator and winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1986. This message rings true especially on March 8th day dedicated to the accomplishments, success and dedication of women all around the world. This year, on March 6th, the 12th Annual Filò Gala took place, an evening devoted entirely to the inspiring achievements of women in the Italian Community in Ottawa. Women young and old, Italian and non-Italian, gathered together at the Centurion Conference and Event Center for a night of fun, good food and most of all, solidarity.

The night kicked off with a warm and welcoming reception sponsored by Delaney’s Law Firm where friends and family met, laughed, and chatted together. The main hall was stunning in an elegant array of pink and bling decorated and embellished by the members of the decorating committee, student volunteers and the Filò committee. The beautiful stage backdrop was provided by Laviolette Flowers and Wedding Décor. The guests were serenaded by two talented musicians graciously provided by Pat Adamo, long-time supporter and

past recipient, as they made their way to their tables, watching the presentation of slides that displayed this year’s theme of Women in Health and admiring the beautiful centerpieces offered by Enza Baiamonte and Lucia Frangione of Suite Dreams Home Emporium who also provided flowers and décor for the reception. Introducing the evening was the lovely and charming Pierangela Pica who began by singing a beautiful song she dedicated to the Filò, written and composed by her, and which talked about the strong, enduring thread that connects one generation of women to the other:

Riunite siamo accanto al fuoco
Il fuoco della nostra vita
Una vita di sogni e di ricordi
Di un tempo fa che vola via

Quei momenti non si possono scordare
Le stagioni del nostro passato
Quei momenti vogliamo regalare
Ai giovani, nostro futuro

Questo è il filo, è nostro filo
Un legame di onore e di fiertà
Questo è il filo, è nostro filo

Il filo siamo io e te!
She then proceeded by introducing the MC’s for the night, Lisa Gallin-

aro, new Chair of the Filò committee, and Fabiana Alloggia. Lisa began by thanking the 300 plus guests in attendance, including honoured guests Martine Cornado, wife of our Italian Ambassador, Gian Lorenzo Cornado and their daughter. She also honoured the guests in the Health Care sector, some of which who have been in the field for over 40 years. For the rest of the evening, the two kept the guests on their toes with great raffle extractions throughout the exquisite dinner consisting of stuffed fazzoletti pasta and chicken stuffed with brie and apricots. Once finished the first course, Irene Martin, one of the dear members of the Filò Committee and a long-time contributor in the health sector with her business Retire-At-Home Services, announced the guest speaker of the evening; Carmelina Cimaglia, a Social Worker at the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group. She engaged the audience with stories of her childhood growing up in an Italian family and what inspired her to enter her line of work. The time came to announce the most anticipated moment of the evening, the recipients of the 3 awards; the Rosa Tiezzi award, the Jenny Prosperine award and the Maria Ierullo award. They were awarded to Jose-

phine Palumbo, Milva Perri-Kennedy, and Anita Alloggia. These three women exemplify the hard work, dedication and passion it takes to support a community.

The evening wrapped up with a live auction, a new addition to the Filò. All in all the evening was delightful and lively, none of which would have been possible without the hard work and enthusiasm of the fantastic ladies of the Filò Committee who dedicated countless hours to planning the event. These ladies are Lisa Gallinaro, Enza Baiamonte, Irene D’Onofrio-Martin, Natalina L’Orfano, Bonnie Favilla, Julianna Ferri, Isa Truglia and Fabiana Alloggia. The committee especially thanks the Platinum Sponsors for their continued support. Finally, they thank the entire community for their generous contributions in rendering the silent auction another successful event and all the guests who attended.

The Filò committee invites everyone to the 13th Annual Filò Gala which will be held on March 5th, 2015 at the Centurion Conference and Event.

See you all next year. Alla prossima!

Photos: Page 9

Victoria Day Festival May 9th to 19th, 2014



Victoriadayfestival.com

Dialettii

a language on the verge of distinction.

The Mayans, Atlantis, the Roman Empire...where are they today? I have expressed these concerns in the past, and I will continue to express them in the future. The language of our Italian ancestors, our forefathers, our grandparents, and of course, our Italian immigrant parents may very well soon become extinct. Frightening? Yes. Disappointing? Yes. Impossible to save? No. My father scolds me time and again as to why his grandchildren are not fluent in Italian. Worse than that, he waves his fists when he is trying, once again, to communicate with my young brood in his Cosenzentino dialect, feeling misunderstood, isolated, agitated, and of course, disappointed with his daughters.

Where have we, the children of Italian immigrants gone wrong? As a new mother, I started off speaking Italian with my newborns. I was determined that my children would carry on the traditional language of my parents, forefathers, ancestors, etc. Somewhere along the way, the husband and I decided reverted from Italian to English, and before we knew it, our children were starting school with English as their first language. The rest, as they say is history. Short of understanding basic dialect focusing on food shared over Sunday dinners with my parents, for example, pane, latte, carne and aqua, my children, now young adults, resent the fact that their Italian parents greatly failed them in passing along this sacred tongue.



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My father shouts, (fists pounding on the dinner table), “Too a latey!” At this point husband and I begin arguing over who was responsible for not enrolling the children in Saturday morning Italian school classes. I blame him for enrolling the boys in hockey and he blames me for enrolling the girl in dance. As the family peacekeeper, I offer to purchase the children Rosetta Stone Italian lessons. The side of the package says they should be fluent within a few short weeks. My parents chime in that they may not live that long! What is the child of Italian immigrant parents to do? Sadly, it is a lose-lose situation. The children angry on one side of the table, the parents, on the phone with their Italian lawyer, preparing to write their three disappointing daughters out of the will.

Suddenly, my memory is jarred and I remind my parents about how they have failed their three daughters by never speaking “proper Italian” to us. In a bold move, I toss dialect words in their faces that they deny ever speaking, and try to cover up their shame with the “proper or real Italian synonym”. For example, I remind pop of the time he took me to the family doctor as I had a devil of a sore throat. The doctor, always inquisitive about learning a new Italian word or two, asked me, “how does one say the word throat in Italian?” As a young child of only seven or eight, I replied, (much to the horror of my father) “cannarotsa”, followed by, “how does one say swallow in Italian?” and I replied, “colarre”. It continued – much like a gameshow called Cosentino Password. “Rain – chiove. Hot – cavuru. Cold – fridu. And the kicker – “knee – ninnochiu.”

The sea was angry that day my friends. My father turned as red as chili pepper, and I had never noticed how the vein in his right temple protruded when it trembled. Stammering to the doctor that I was a foolish child and those words were incorrect. The proper words were quite foreign to me actually – “gola, inghioitire, pioggia, caldo, freddo, ginochio”. I

asked myself, “WTF?” As my father dragged me home by the arm (firm grip I recall), he scolded me as to where those “shtupido” words came from. “Tuni e mamma mam paratu!” I cried. “Pa, te se riscodato quando hai domandatu, Dosi, te fa malla gola. Po colare. Yiamo arru medicu?” It was at that point that pop

me. “She’s a very a smarty eh?” The moment was not to last, well, more than a moment, as my teacher replied, “well, actually, she answered with, “Teacher, io u sachu, i e na seja!” Pop went silent for a minute, or two or three. Fortunately, his color came back after a shot or two of Sambuca. I think the call ended with, “Can you



muttered some words to himself that I had never heard before. In fact, when I tried to repeat them at the dinner table that night, my mother bit the side of her trembling hand and my sisters fell off their chairs laughing.

The embarrassment for my parents was not to end there, as one afternoon, a phone call home from my high school Italian teacher went something like this: “Mr. Feraco, what language do you speak to your children at home?” Pop replied, “Italiano. Perche?” “Well, when I asked the class, “does anybody know how to say chair in Italian, your daughter quickly raised her hand.” For one brief, shining moment, Pop felt a twinge of pride for

please try to speak “proper” Italian at home Mr. Feraco, since my class is now confused and finds this Cosentino dialect much more fun and interesting than “the real Italian”. As this column prepares to go to press, I will not give up on my mission of preserving this ancient tongue. I am preparing a Cosentino dialect dictionary that will be handed down from my children to theirs, for generations to come, much like the Bible I am hoping. Maybe, just maybe, mom and pop will finally, for one brief shining moment, be proud of me....”Beh, speriammu!”

By Dosi Cotroneo

Victoria Day Festival

May 9th to 19th, 2014

Victoriadayfestival.com

Tax Tips for 2013

for entrepreneurs, business owners and the self-employed

Tax Tip 1: The 2014 Tax Calendar

The Canada Revenue Agency can be a stickler when it comes to doing things right and on time. Failure to comply can mean costly fees and penalties, so it's worth making an effort to know exactly what's due, and by when.

Here, Gary Katz, CPA, CA, of Logan Katz LLP Chartered Accountants in Ottawa, shares a calendar of some of the more common must-know dates and deadlines for businesses, the self-employed and other taxpayers. So fire up your iCal or log on to Outlook. Plug these dates in, and don't forget to set those reminders.

February 28	Filing deadline for T4s (RL1), T4A, T5 (RL3)
March 3	Deadline for 2013 RRSP contributions
March 17	First personal income tax instalment for 2014
March 31	General trust return deadline, including T3 slips and summary
March 31	NR4 filing information for amounts paid or credited to non-residents of Canada
March 31	T5013 - Partnership information return due (where partners are individuals)
April 15	U.S. tax filing deadline for American citizens and others residing in the U.S. Also, deadline for paying the balance of tax for citizens and residents living and working outside the U.S.
April 30	Deadline for paying the balance of taxes and filing income tax returns, unless eligible to file by June 15
June 16	Filing deadline for self-employed individuals and their spouses or partners
June 16	Second personal income tax instalment for 2014
June 16	U.S. income tax return filing deadline for citizens and residents living and working outside the U.S.

Tax Tip 2: Save enough to pay your taxes, and a little more

If you're self-employed or running a business, it's important to stay in the black with the Canada Revenue Agency. But how do you determine how much you'll need to pay your taxes each year?

All things being equal, Stephen McCulloch, CPA, CA, in Pembroke, says certain key pieces of information can give you a reasonable estimate of what you're likely to owe.

"What you've paid in previous years is a better indicator than no indicator at all," he says. "If your personal circumstances or your business's performance hasn't changed substantially, chances are the amount you'll owe will be roughly similar."

"For self-employed businesspeople, there are many variables, but your overall revenue is a good indicator. I recommend owners save an amount roughly equal to the HST they've collected during the period in question, plus a reasonable estimate of what they'll owe for personal income taxes."

Still, McCulloch believes in erring on the side of caution. "Unless there are good reasons not to, I encourage people to save a little more than they may actually need. They're less likely to get caught short that way, and they may even get a little cash back from the CRA. I like seeing people leave my office with smiles on their faces."

For advice about your own particular circumstances, contact a Chartered Professional Accountant in your community.

Tax Tip 3: Deduct the cost of tools you need for work

Are you a tradesperson who needs specific and sometimes expensive tools to make a living? If yes, be sure you're getting all the tax savings the Government of Canada offers when you file your tax return.

"If you're an electrician, mechanic, bricklayer or other tradesperson who must buy their own tools for work, in most cases you can claim the lesser of either \$500 or the following calculation," says Lorraine Ebbers, CPA, CA, managing partner with Welch LLP in Belleville. "The total cost of eligible tools you bought in the calendar year in question, minus \$1,117; or, your income as a tradesperson less \$1,117—whichever is less."

The income you use in your calculation must include any amounts you received under the Apprenticeship Incentive Grant and/or the Apprenticeship Completion Grant programs. And, you must deduct from your income any Apprenticeship Incentive Grant and/or Apprenticeship Completion Grant overpayments that you had to repay for the year in question.

"Self-employed tradespersons who purchase tools costing over \$500 can claim depreciation of ten per cent the first year, and then claim 20 per cent in following years until the total cost is written off," Ebbers adds. "Tools costing less than \$500 are depreciated at a 100-per-cent write-off in the year they're purchased."

Apprentices who may claim under the Apprentice Mechanics Tools Deduction Program are a special case.

"Apprentice mechanics may also be able to deduct part of the cost of eligible tools bought to earn employment income, including any HST that was paid," says Ebbers. "This is an extra deductible expense that's available to apprentice mechanics and it's only for tool expenses that are over-and-above the tradesperson's tool expense deduction. Get Form T2200 from your employer, specifying that these tools are a condition of employment and stating the amount of the expense. Enter the amount on Line 9131 (Line 1770 is the line number for the tradesperson tool expense) on Form T777, Statement of Employment Expenses."

Don't worry if you can't claim all that you had to spend. Any amounts not claimed in the Apprentice Mechanics Tool Deduction can be carried forward to help offset taxes in future years.

Be sure to check the Canada Revenue Agency website for more information about what tools are eligible, or consult a Chartered Professional Accountant in your community for advice.

Tax Tip 4: Who can deduct driving expenses?

If you use your vehicle to earn a living, many of the costs of owning and operating it can be deducted when you file your tax return. This applies to the self-employed, and to certain employees who have to pay their own motor vehicle expenses, but don't receive a non-taxable allowance from their employer to cover them.

The Canada Revenue Agency has strict guidelines about what constitutes business mileage. You can't, for instance, count the cost of driving from home to the office and back. But it's a pretty safe bet that what you spend travelling to see clients, driving to work-related conferences or making deliveries will be valid deductions.

"When you use what the Canada Revenue Agency calls a 'passenger vehicle' for business, you should keep a log book and record the number of kilometres you drive," explains Keith Shantz, CPA, CA, CFP, a partner with Welch LLP in Belleville. "Then a portion of your gas, insurance, repairs and maintenance, and even your registration

sticker, can all be deducted from the vehicle's total expenses, when you consider the kilometres driven for business use as part of the total number of kilometres driven."

If you have more than one vehicle, Shantz recommends you limit your business use to just one, as the record-keeping is much simpler.

Purchasing a vehicle for work can also save on taxes. You can claim a capital cost allowance to deduct a portion of the purchase amount and the interest on the loan you took to buy it, or a good part of the lease amount.

"You cannot claim more than \$30,000 for a vehicle," says Shantz. "If you're considering a used car that you've previously purchased for non-business use, have it appraised so you'll know its actual value at the time you begin using it for work. Commissioned salespeople, particularly, might consider leasing a vehicle. Many of the limitations the CRA applies to purchasing vehicles don't extend to leasing, so the savings can be even greater."

Certain kinds of pick-up trucks and other similar vehicles are not considered passenger vehicles. They aren't subject to these limitations, and may be eligible for additional savings or deductions, Shantz says.

So consider the merits of each option, or consult a Chartered Professional Accountant in your community to help you determine the best vehicle for your purposes and the one that offers the greatest tax savings.

Tax Tip 5: Legal fees for business are tax-deductible...sometimes

If you're in business, chances are you'll need the services of a lawyer at some time, for some reason. But don't assume those fees may always be deducted when it comes time to file your tax return.

"The Canada Revenue Agency is questioning things like this more than ever before," says Stephen McCulloch, CPA, CA, in Pembroke. "Legal fees relating to operating a business must be considered on a situation-by-situation basis."

Generally, legal fees that relate to the normal activities, transactions or contracts needed to earn income from a business are allowable deductions. So what a lawyer charges to do things like prepare a lease or contract, collect debts or make annual corporate filings are likely to be allowed, in full or in part.

"But policies are constantly changing, and the CRA is asking for substantiating information and documentation much more frequently," McCulloch says.

To play it safe, consult a Chartered Professional Accountant in your community about your specific circumstances.

Brought to you by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario

Tax Tip 6: Don't be late making your tax instalments

If you don't have an employer who deducts income taxes from your pay cheque and remits them directly, you may have to make regular tax instalments to the Canada Revenue Agency yourself. Failing to do so on time can be costly, so be sure to put aside enough money to cover whatever amount you're likely to owe.

"If you paid \$3,000 or more in taxes with the last tax return you filed or the one prior to that, and you expect that you'll have to pay \$3,000 or more in the current tax year, you may be required to make instalments this year," says Lorraine Ebbers, CPA, CA, managing partner with Welch LLP in Belleville. "Notifications come out in August or September for your first two instalment payments, and in February for instalments due in March and June. If you owe money and don't make your instalments set out in the CRA notices, you'll be charged interest when you file your tax return the following year."

Generally, those who must pay instalments are the self-employed and people who have income from multiple sources. This includes many retirees, who may be drawing on their savings, getting income from investments or registered retirement income funds and collecting pensions and/or Old Age Security payments.

Consider getting advice from a Chartered Professional Accountant if this is your first time paying instalments, or if your income is very different from previous years and you're not sure how much you're likely to owe.

"The CRA charges interest at the prescribed rate—currently 5 per cent—on any instalments that aren't made, and the interest paid is not tax-deductible," says Ebbers. "Nor do they pay you interest on any overpayments you make. So it's

important that the estimates of your earnings and the amount of taxes you must pay be as accurate as possible."

Tax Tip 7: Leasing equipment can mean tax savings for employees

If you're an employee who's looking for cost-effective ways to get some of the basic equipment and tools you need to work, consider leasing instead of buying.

With the exception of automobiles, musical instruments and airplanes, employees are not generally allowed to claim capital cost allowance for assets they purchase to use for work. This limits the deductions they can make for some of the more costly pieces of equipment that they may need and can't directly write off as an expense.

But with leasing, it's a different story.

"The Canada Revenue Agency doesn't allow

you to deduct the cost of that computer that you need as a commissioned salesperson" says Keith Shantz, CPA, CA, CFP, a partner with Welch LLP in Belleville. "But if you lease the computer from a supplier—or perhaps even if your spouse buys it and you lease it from them—the cost of the lease could be written off." To claim it on your tax return, make sure your employer completes and provides you with a signed form T2200.

Shantz says it's important that the lease agreement be properly documented on paper, and that the terms of the agreement make sense.

"You can't buy a \$2,000 computer, and then lease it for \$300 a month," he says. "But providing the amounts are reasonable and extend over an appropriate period of time, you can often deduct close to 100 percent of the value of the equipment or tool that you lease."

Italian Easter Bread

Easter is a very significant and important holiday in Italy and through-out the world. It's a great time of year that ushers in not only the celebration of Jesus' resurrection but it's a time of rejuvenation. Spring is in the air, the weather starts getting warmer and of course, the trees and flowers begin to bloom. Easter is also a food lover's dream! So many dishes to appreciate and to enjoy surrounded by family and friends.

In Italy, Easter is celebrated on Good Friday and Easter Sunday but on Monday they also celebrate La Pasquetta (little Easter). Traditionally, family and friends re-unite at someone's house to enjoy good conversation over some great food. Sometimes, the Italians pack a picnic and enjoy the day outdoors. This is what we often did. We'd bring some baked pasta or lasagna, some panini, salad and of course some Italian Easter bread and head to a park. Such a fantastic treat!

To me making traditional Italian recipes is a way to remember the meals of my youth and to enjoy the memories of time spent with my sisters and my parents. There's a great many stories I could share about sitting around the dinner table and enjoying each other's company and telling stories but for the purpose of this article I'll be sharing our recipe for traditional Easter Bread.

This recipe can be made with or without the inclusion of the eggs. I always liked the eggs because it made the dish look more festive but it's not necessary. Hope you enjoy! Buona Pasqua a tutti! Makes 6 individual loaves



Ingredients:

- 1 package Rapid Rise yeast
- 1 ¼ cups scalded milk, cooled to room temperature
- pinch of salt
- 1/3 cup butter, softened
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3.5 cups flour
- 1 egg, beaten with 1 teaspoon of water
- 6 dyed Easter eggs
- Sprinkles

In a large mixer bowl, combine yeast, warm (not hot) milk, salt, butter, eggs and sugar. Add about half the flour and beat until smooth with dough hook. Slowly add the remaining flour to form a stiff dough. Keep adding until the dough is no longer sticky.

Knead until smooth with either dough hook attachment or turn out on floured board and knead. Place in a greased bowl, cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about an hour.

Punch dough down, divide into 12 pieces. Roll each piece to form a 1 inch thick rope about 14 inches long and, taking two pieces, twist to form a "braid", pinching the ends, and loop into a circle.

Place on a greased baking sheet or line your baking sheet with parchment paper. Cover and let rise until double, about an hour again. Brush each bread with beaten egg wash. Put on the sprinkles.

In the middle of each bread ring, gently place an Easter egg, making an indentation with the egg.

Bake at 350 degrees until golden - about 20 - 25 minutes. Cool on rack.

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Italian Superstar Zucchero Returns to Ottawa for One Night Only!



Italian Superstar Zucchero Returns to Ottawa for One Night Only!



Adelmo Fornaciari, better known to the world as Zucchero (a nickname given to him by one of his school teachers), has achieved worldwide acclaim since winning the Italian Castrocaro Festival in 1981. Zucchero has performed in front of millions the world over. The sensitivity in his lyrics and emotion in his music is international it has no boundaries.

His 1987 album, Blue's, with Corrado Rustici, David Sancious, and Clarence Clemons with the Memphis Horns, sold in excess of 1.3 million copies, the highest total ever achieved by a rock album in Italy. Since then, Zucchero has gone on to sell over fifty million albums worldwide.

His duets are legendary... from Eric Clapton's unmistakable guitar on Wonderful World, to the international hit Senza Una Donna (Without a Woman) with Paul Young... from the Italian version of Mad About You, (Muoi per te) on Sting's The Soul Cages album to Miserere with The Maestro, Luciano Pavarotti.

In Havana, during the summer of 2012, Zucchero recorded La sesión cubana, an album that features collaborations with some of Cuba's most prominent musicians. The album was produced by Zucchero and Don Was, and mixed by Michael Brauer.

Zucchero describes his latest album in his own words: "My music, as everybody knows, comes from blues, from soul, from gospel. This project is a trip from New Orleans to Cuba via Mexicali. Latin, Cuban, tex-mex sounds and rhythms melt together dancing. "Hasta l'asta siempre".

Zucchero is as generous with his time as he is with his talent. With Luciano Pavarotti, he created the annual Pavarotti & Friends Charity Gala, and he continues to support Nelson Mandela's 46664 campaign with concerts throughout the world.

Zucchero went to Da Santino after his Ottawa concert for something to eat before leaving for North Bay for a concert the next day. Zucchero, and his associate Laura ate Grilled shrimp, fried smelts, Calamari, arancini and took a family size Margharita pizza to go for the crew to enjoy on the bus. Zucchero drank pinot Grigio with dinner and finished with coffee and a grappa. Tony Zacconi and his friends had a lot of good laughs with Zucchero during his visit at Da Santino. Tony Zacconi says "Zucchero is super guy who is down to earth and a very interesting person to talk to". They spoke a lot about traditional Tuscan cuisine, as Zucchero lives in the region on a what is basically a farm. Zucchero told Tony that he grows his own fruits, vegetables, raises his own livestock etc. They also spoke of his experiences travelling abroad!

by Giovanni

L'ON. LA MARCA E' INTERVENUTA ALLA TAVOLA ROTONDA PRESSO IL CIRCOLO PD DI NEW YORK IN OCCASIONE DEL CONGRESSO PER L'ELEZIONE DEL NUOVO SEGRETARIO

Nello scorso fine settimana l'on. Francesca La Marca ha incontrato a Manhattan i componenti del circolo del PD di New York a conclusione del congresso di circolo, che ha eletto il nuovo segretario, Andrea Mattiello, in sostituzione della dott.ssa Lucina Di Meco, trasferitasi per ragioni di lavoro a Vienna. A conclusione del congresso, in presenza di alcune decine di iscritti e simpatizzanti, tra i quali il già segretario Enrico Zanon, il Presidente della Federazione delle associazioni campane degli USA Nicola Trombetta e vari docenti universitari, si è svolta una tavola rotonda alla quale l'on. La Marca ha portato il suo contributo.

Nel corso del suo intervento, la parlamentare eletta nella ripartizione nordamericana ha toccato diversi temi dell'attualità politica, a partire dalla forte evoluzione che sta caratterizzando l'attuale legislatura politico-parlamentare a seguito del forte impulso all'agenda delle riforme e agli interventi per la ripresa economico-sociale impresso dal Governo Renzi, nelle prime settimane della sua attività.

La legge elettorale, appena licenziata dalla Camera, continuerà ad essere al Senato oggetto di un teso confronto,

soprattutto per gli aspetti riguardanti le quote di genere, l'eventuale introduzione delle preferenze e il delicato intreccio con la riforma del Senato, che continua ad essere un punto di estrema sensibilità. In questo quadro dinamico e tuttavia di grande complessità, si collocano i riferimenti alla rappresentanza degli italiani all'estero. "Sembra prevalere il buon senso - ha affermato l'on. La Marca - per quanto riguarda il mantenimento degli eletti all'estero nell'unica Camera che dovrebbe votare la fiducia al Governo e approvare le leggi fondamentali dello Stato, mentre non altrettanto positive sembrano le prospettive riguardanti il Senato riformato, dove comunque il legame delle comunità con le Regioni dovrebbe essere assicurato". La Marca ha poi dichiarato di condividere il fatto di aspettare l'esito delle riforme costituzionali prima di mettere mano alla riforma degli istituti di rappresentanza, quali i COMITES e il CGIE, che intanto vanno immediatamente ricostituiti passando per le elezioni troppo a lungo rinviate.

L'on. La Marca ha informato poi i presenti dell'emendamento da lei presentato e accolto relativamente

al coinvolgimento delle comunità italiane all'estero nelle politiche di internazionalizzazione del Sistema Italia. Su questo aspetto, si sono soffermati altri interventi ed è proseguito con interesse il dibattito tra i presenti.

A conclusione del suo intervento, la parlamentare ha toccato alcuni punti di sensibilità delle nostre comunità, quali la cittadinanza, lo sviluppo dei programmi di promozione linguistica e culturale e, soprattutto, la chiusura dei consoli, con particolare riguardo a quella di Newark, che resta una ferita non sanata né scontata per il futuro. L'on. La Marca, infine, ha richiamato la sua pressante iniziativa, che si è tradotta in un'interrogazione e un incontro con il Direttore generale del Ministero della Sanità, per una completa copertura sanitaria per i figli nati all'estero di italiani che si trovino temporaneamente nel nostro Paese.

Prima della tavola rotonda, l'on. La Marca ha rilasciato un'intervista a La Voce di New York, che ha toccato alcuni temi sviluppati poi nell'incontro.

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Serata Italiana Gala Night In Support of Kidney Foundation Research

The Gala was held on Saturday March 1, 2014 at Sala San Marco in Little Italy. There were over 420 guests in attendance celebrating the thirtieth anniversary. This Fund Raising Event was started by the late Agostino Monteduro with the help of Mario Frangione of Preston Hardware in 1984. As part of the evening program Mario was recognized for his over 25 years of service to the event by the Kidney Foundation. Every year the Gala has raised funds for the local Kidney foundation and to date over one million dollars have been raised for Kidney research. Mr. Monteduro who was a kidney recipient and passed away three years ago was given a moment of silence in his memory at the event. During the evening Research Funds were presented to Doctors researching the prevention of Kidney disease. The Research Funds were given to Doctor Tayze Antunes and to Doctor Ramzi Hassounch . There were many auction items offered by many sponsors. In all the evening was a great success and raised over forty five thousand dollars thanks to the organizing committee, volunteers, sponsors and everyone in attendance.

