

IL POSTINO

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Merry Christmas!



Buon Natale!



Joyeux Noël



IL POSTINO

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Submissions

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

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Letters to the Editor

Monthly Column – Thank You

On October 27th I was given the great honour of serving as your Mayor for 4 more years.

Today, I am writing to say thank you.

The support I have received from Ottawa's residents over the past year has been nothing short of extraordinary. As a candidate for Mayor this year,

I canvassed in all 23 wards, participated in more than a half-dozen debates, worked hard to put forward a platform that would move our city forward while living within our means, and all while continuing on with my usual Mayoral duties.

What made campaigning so rewarding for me was the chance to speak with Ottawa's residents 1-on-1 at their doors day after day.

My job as Mayor puts me in touch with tens of thousands of residents each year through different events and programs but it doesn't leave me much time to visit residents at their doorstep to hear their ideas and concerns firsthand. Doing so during the campaign reminded me again how compassionate and diverse our city's residents are and the support I received at the door was what kept me working hard every day.

The campaign, in combination with my job as Mayor, made for some very long days for me and for my campaign team.

Despite the positive response we received from the outset, we took nothing for granted and made sure that come election night we could look back and honestly say that we gave it everything we had.

As the results came in on election night I felt truly honoured to have received the largest percentage of the votes cast and the highest number of total votes in Ottawa's amalgamated history.

This is a mandate for progress in our city and as I set out to lead this new term of Council I promise not to forget this support.

I have been hard at work since the morning after the election finishing this first term while planning the coming four years. These years will see us open the first phase of our LRT system, clean up the Ottawa River, make the key investments in our city's future while being fiscally responsible in the present, and celebrate Canada's 150th birthday in 2017.

I look forward to working collaboratively with my council colleagues to push our great city to new heights.

I am forever grateful to be your Mayor and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support.

By Mayor Jim Watson

Il Postino is looking for writers...



- write about your community, memories, opinions or tell us a story

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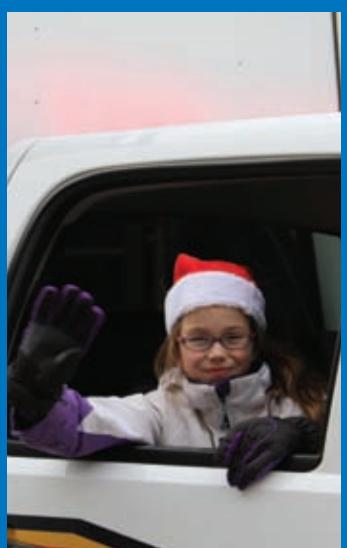
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La TITANUS Mette Le Mani Su Lady Mafia: Presto La Fiction!

A otto mesi dalla sua prima uscita, la mini saga noir a fumetti diventa una serie tv targata TITANUS.

Veni. Quando lo scorso febbraio Lady Mafia viene distribuita per la prima volta su scala nazionale, dopo la breve ma incoraggiante parentesi regionale, l'Italia è sconvolta. Presentata da chi già la conosceva come "La Lisbeth a fumetti" e come "il Diabolik in gonnella", la mini serie noir della Cuore Noir Edizioni, con protagonista un'antieroina tormentata e vendicativa, incassa l'immediata ostruzione di Libera di Don Ciotti e della Commissione Antimafia, che basandosi esclusivamente sul titolo del fumetto, lo bollano come diseducativo e offensivo. Lady Mafia è così sulla bocca di tutti, non solo degli addetti ai lavori: ne parlano i tg Rai e tutti i quotidiani, spopola sul web e sui blog. C'è chi la definisce la nuova frontiera del noir italiano, e chi un temporale estivo, destinato a durare poco. In ogni caso, Lady Mafia mostra una forza magnetica, quasi magica, irresistibile. Tant'è che anche la stampa francese e inglese si accorgono di lei.

Vidi. Comunque sia, che la si ami o che la si odi, è innegabile che Lady Mafia e la Cuore Noir Edizioni hanno cambiato il modo di fare fumetti in Italia. D'altra parte, diversamente non avrebbero potuto sopravvivere al cospetto di colossi editoriali che hanno fatto la storia del fumetto nel nostro Paese; per non parlare di un settore, l'editoria, che è oramai da anni in crisi profonda. Controcorrente è lo stile della narrazione scelto dall'autore Pietro Favorito: volutamente generoso e quasi prosaico, è assai lontano dagli standard del fumetto tradizionale. Altrettanto particolare è la scelta del disegno. Le tavole di Domenico Nagliero, a metà strada



tra il manga e il realismo classico italiano, sono quanto mai votati all'essenzialità e alla funzionalità. Ma la vera scommessa, vinta, dalla Cuore Noir Edizioni e da Lady Mafia è stata quella di voler veicolare messaggi sociali importanti in

ogni suo episodio, e di coinvolgere volti noti dello spettacolo per amplificare l'impatto emotivo. Nasce così la rubrica Lady Mafia Extra, un fumetto nel fumetto, che ha visto come testimonial d'eccezione Anna Falchi, Enzo Iacchetti, i Sud Sound

System e le due gieffine Sarah Nile e Veronica Ciardi.

Vici. Probabilmente proprio il coraggio un po' folle e lo spirito d'innovazione della casa editrice hanno acceso la curiosità di un colosso storico come la Titanus. Lo "Scudo nobile del Cinema Italiano", vera colonna portante della pellicola nostrana, ha infatti recentemente acquisito i diritti televisivi e cinematografici del fumetto per il mondo intero per la produzione di una serie per il piccolo schermo ispirata alla mini saga a fumetti. Coraggio, innovazione e scommesse vinte sembrano essere così un punto di contatto tra la Cuore Noir e la Titanus. La lungimiranza della famiglia Lombardo ha ad esempio regalato già in passato la notorietà agli allora sconosciuti Totò e Sofia Loren, e ha fatto dei giovani protagonisti di "Poveri ma belli" gli attori più richiesti del tempo. La capacità di cogliere i mutamenti generazionali e di reinventarsi ha permesso alla Titanus di sfornare successi dopo successi, a livello di produzione sia popolare, che d'autore. Così come per uno slancio di entusiasmo è quasi scomparsa per inseguire un sogno, poi divenuto realtà, chiamato Gattopardo, film elegante, poetico e oramai immortale, come il walzer della coppia Cardinale e Lancaster.

Per il momento, invece, nessuna indiscrezione o anticipazione relative alla fiction, per le quali molto probabilmente si dovrà attendere l'inizio delle riprese. Ma con simili premesse non è difficile intuire che si tratterà di una serie che farà molto scalpore, ricca di colpi di scena, di scariche di adrenalina e perché no anche di grande passione.



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Minister Kenney Talks Skills Training And Jobs With The Canadian Electricity Association

The Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Employment and Social Development, delivered a keynote speech today at the Canadian Electricity Association's Annual Occupational Health and Safety Awards.

Minister Kenney used this opportunity to speak to members of the Canadian Electricity Association about the Government of Canada's ongoing commitment to creating jobs, economic growth and ensuring the long-term prosperity of the Canadian economy. He discussed the Government of Canada's plan to give Canadians the skills they need for in demand jobs, our Skills Agenda, and highlighted the Government's initiatives and investments related to skills training.

The Minister addressed the fact that Canada's electrical infrastructure is

undergoing a major overhaul over the next 20 years and recognized that this will require a significant influx of skilled workers. Minister Kenney outlined several Government of Canada initiatives that will support the Canadian electricity industry in its efforts to get the skilled workforce it will need in the years to come.

The Minister emphasized the need for collaboration between all key players, including the provinces and territories, the private sector and post-secondary institutions to ensure that Canadians in all sectors are able to fully benefit from economic opportunities now and in the future.

Quick Facts

- A 2012 Conference Board of Canada Report indicates that

investment in electricity infrastructure in Canada will result in an average of 156,000 direct and indirect jobs per year, until 2030.

Quote

"The Government of Canada's top priorities are creating jobs, economic growth and long-term prosperity for Canadians. Through measures like the Canada Job Grant, the Canada Apprentice Loan, and apprenticeships grants, the Government of Canada is helping Canadians get well-paying jobs and helping employers get the skilled workforce they need. By ensuring Canadians have the skills employers are looking for, we can fix the paradox of too many Canadians without jobs in an economy of too many jobs without people."

The Honourable Jason Kenney,
Minister of Employment and
Social Development

OCDSB Commemorates Remembrance Day Tuesday, November 11, 2014 In Schools & Work Sites



From A. Y Jackson Secondary School to Westwind Public School, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board students and staff will come together on Tuesday, November 11 – Remembrance Day to honour Canada's past and present members of the Canadian armed forces (soldiers, sailors and airmen).

Ceremonies will include assemblies, choir and glee club presentations, reading of poems and dramatic productions. Students have spent many weeks researching the importance of celebrating the day that marks the date and time when armies stopped fighting in World War I. on November 11th at 11am in 1918 (the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month). Some 100,000 Canadian soldiers died in the First and Second World Wars.

John McCrae Secondary School students and staff are renowned for their commitment to honouring veterans in our community, our province, our country and throughout the world. Earlier this month school administrators received a request from Genevieve Cimon, the Director of Music Education and Community Engagement of the NAC, to create a memorial to accompany the orchestra on their trip to Great Britain. The NAC is presently engaged

in a series of workshops and performances in Great Britain as part of Great Britain's 100th Anniversary memorial of WW1

It was determined that a wreath would be designed under the direction of Art teacher, Micheal Goodson, the wreath, (see attached photo), incorporates artistic and memorial characteristics of the students at John McCrae Secondary School. Mr. Goodson along with students Zarina Chekh, Talan Hasan, Kiera Hullett, and Kayla Dougan, created the design of the wreath which incorporates a transition of the old to the new as the experience of WW1 transformed Canada from a colony to a Nation. The wreath will be placed in Hyde Park at the Canadian Memorial.

During their Royal performance in London the NAC will be performing "Flanders Fields." The wreath will be presented on behalf of John McCrae Secondary School students.

to officials in London. The veteran's names and locations on the wreath come from the memorial trips that 150 John McCrae Secondary students have participated in over the past 8 years. These trips organized by History teacher Brent Howard have allowed the students the opportunity to research these veterans and then be present at their WWI and WWII grave sites in Europe.

The poem "Flanders Field" is in the middle of the wreath to honour the school's namesake and to honour their commitment to "Lest we Forget".

Many educators believe that ultimately, it's important to understand that generations of veterans have served our country and have made sacrifices and contributions that ensure we live in a free and peaceful country. Once students understand this, they can understand the importance of thanking them and remembering their contributions.

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ERCOLE SPADA BECAME A LEGEND AT 23

Ercole Spada (1937-) is yet another automobile designer to come out of Italy, a country known for its great love of the arts and style. Still working today, Spada was born in Busto Arsizio, near Milano, the son of a

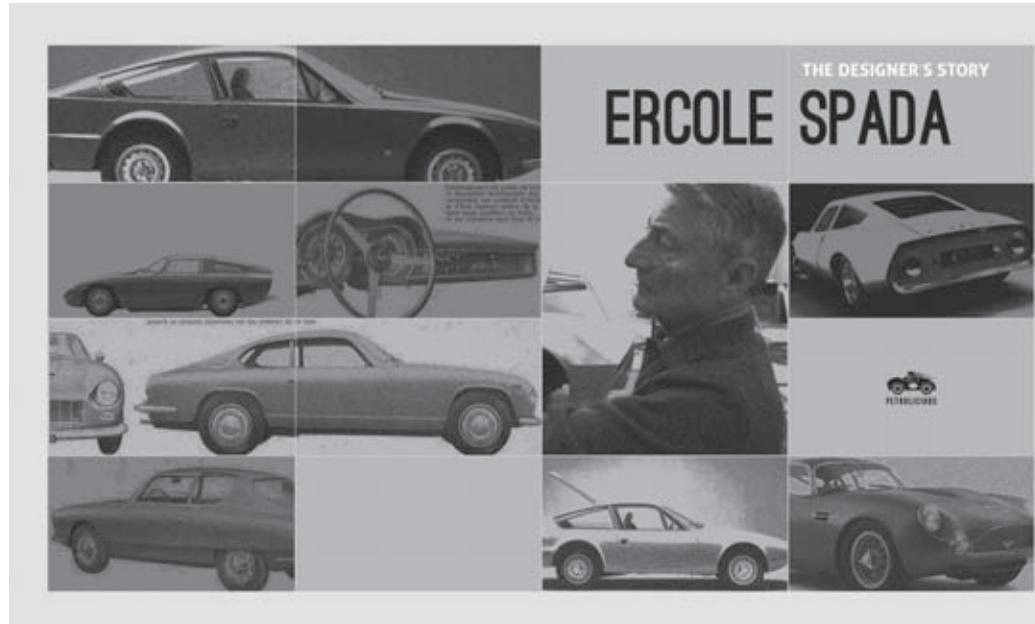
wanted to have a top-flight contender in the GT category. Where possible, Spada removed non-essential elements, such as the bumpers. Steel components were switched out for even lighter ones made from alumi-

For almost a decade, Spada developed designs for Zagato, including the Lancia Flavia and Fulvia Zagato, as well as the Lamborghini 3500 GTZ. In 1969 he built his own version of a Fiat 500 beach car (sometimes called

a "Jolly") called the Zanzara. It didn't go into production, but did allow Spada to think of life outside Zagato. The Alfa Romeo Junior Zagato would be the last Spada-designed Zagato to see production before he left the firm. Spada would join Ford in 1970 to become chief designer at their Italian design house, Ghia. This led to the creation of the Ford GT70, which did not go into production, and a Ford Mustang concept, which did in 1980, although five years after

Institute of Development in Automotive Engineering) where he was responsible for a series of compact and luxury cars for Fiat—the Tipo (1988) which would be very important to the company's fortunes. It featured ingenious packaging that allowed an uncommonly cavernous cabin inside a very compact form, and one that would win the 1989 European Car of the Year award given out by prominent auto journalists. Other projects included work amongst the brands that comprise the Fiat conglomerate, such as the Fiat Tempra (1990), Alfa Romeo 155 (1992), and Lancia Delta (1993). Other non-Italian work included the Nissan Terrano SUV (1993) and Daihatsu Move subcompact (1995).

Spada returned to Zagato in 1992 and would create the Ferrari FZ93 (1993), based on Ferrari Testarossa 512 TR mechanicals, and the Osca Dromos (1998), a car Spada stated "most reflects his personality". Inter-



textile factory engineer. The younger Spada grew up particularly enamored by cars, and spent much of his youth drawing them. After graduating high school, Spada enrolled at Milano's Instituto Technica Feltrinelli to study industrial engineering, and it was during this time that he realized that he might be able to combine his dual love of cars and engineering through a career at one of Italy's carrozzerias. After fulfilling his mandatory two-year military service obligation, Spada wrote three letters of application—to Abarth, Alfa, and another to Zagato—seeking employment. Zagato was intrigued, and Elio Zagato, the son of the firm's founder, Ugo, answered Spada's letter, hiring him after a short interview. Thus commenced Spada's design career, and not coincidentally a very fertile, and productive period in the Zagato firm's history.

Spada's first work for the company was on a variant of the Bristol 406S. A scant six were built, but Spada's contribution and work on the project gave his bosses at Zagato the confidence to turn him loose on his next assignment, the Aston Martin DB4 GTZ, also known as the Aston Martin DB4 GT Zagato, which was the next design by the still-young Spada. David Brown, Aston Martin's owner,

num. The wheelbase and body were also shortened. The net effect was that the then-twenty-three-year-old Spada took the DB4, already a good looking car, and transformed it into what many consider one of the marque's most beautiful and desirable examples. The DB4 GT Zagato debuted at the 1960 London Motor Show to an adoring reception. The DB4 GT Zagato was only one of three Spada designs destined to captivate audiences that year. His OSCA 1600 GTZ concept car was displayed at the Torino Auto Show, while his Alfa Romeo Giulietta SZ debuted at the Geneva Motors Show that March. The SZ project would become an important one for Spada as it was his first design for Alfa Romeo, and would eventually lead to the Alfa 2600 SZ, the first car to feature the cut or "Kamm" tail as named after Swiss aerodynamicist Wunibald Kamm. Remembering the Kamm streamlining experiments of the 1930s, Spada realized that the tail was "...always smooth in one way or another" so the craftsmen at Zagato cut the tail as if they had a gigantic knife. The result was increased stability, and an increased top speed, and one that would become a calling card for many subsequent Spada designs.

This Garage Aids Londoners Who Seek the Beauty of Classic Cars



Spada left the firm. From there, Spada had a short stint at Audi. It would be a very brief and a fairly unfruitful one as by 1976 he had moved on after being hired on by BMW as their chief stylist. During his tenure with BMW, Spada would create two important, and classic designs for the company, the BMW E32 7-series (1986–1994), and the BMW E34 5-series (1988–1996). Both designs are still remembered very fondly today, and contributed to BMW's success at the time. In 1983 Spada left BMW, landing at the I.D.E.A Institute (standing for

national politics and bureaucracy, however, caused Spada's departure, this time to work with his designer son, Paulo. Together they created a new design house, Spadaconcept, and one where the elder Spada continues keeping busy at the ripe age of 77.

by Benjamin Shabrabani

*Photography by Afshin Behnia and Amy Shore
article courtesy of www.petrolicious.com*

Fall Flavors – Pappardelle

Palombara Sabina, Lazio
No autumn is complete without at least one trip to the countryside north of Rome to catch some fresh air, go for a walk, and take in the local flavors. And no dish represents the flavors of the Sabine Hills better than Pappardelle al Cinghiale. Best eaten on one of those blistering cold Tramontana days, a northern wind that clears away all the clouds and gives a special quality to the light, these wide fresh egg noodles (Pappardelle) with wild boar (cinghiale) sauce are simply divine. Of course, while you are at any of



the local restaurants, you might as well try the other offerings as well... out of fairness of course. Clockwise from the top are delicious local sausages, sautéed wild



mushrooms, and sautéed local mixed greens. This particular restaurant was a bit fancier... it had cloth tablecloths, a little sprinkle of shaved carrot around

the sausages, and it was expensive by Sabine Hill standards, about 30 euro per head with wine. If you are willing to forgo the carrot sprinkles and aren't turned off by paper settings you can dine just as well for under 20 euro per person. (The art and science of trattoria – local restaurant – selection will be covered in a future note, we promise!)

*By GB Bernardini
courtesy of Italian Notebook
<http://www.italiannotebook.com/>*

Un Bicchiere di Vino con IL Postino....

Crushing and Pressing Grapes



In my last column we talked about the harvest, as being the first step in the wine process in the fall. Obviously, if vines are not planted then no wine will be produced. Once the grapes are picked by hand or machine, they need to be crushed. Crushing is not to be confused with pressing. When grape berries are crushed, the aim is to break the skin and allow the juice and all the contents to escape. While pressing involves separating the juice from skins, seeds, and stems. One technique which combines both crushing and pressing, was used by our nonni in the good old days..... stomping the grapes!

When grapes are crushed, the decision whether to de-stem or

not, takes place. Basically, you are separating the grape from its stem. De-stemming will take place at the harvest if machine harvesting is used, or at the winery with a machine that combines both, called a crusher-destemmer. (See photo) The grapes are first crushed by this machine than destemmed. Most red wines today are de-stemmed. Leaving the stems with the grapes during fermentation will introduce green and herbaceous flavours to the finished wine. The stems contain compounds which will lead to bitterness. Even some winemakers in regions which are very traditional, such as Burgundy in France, have been de-stemming since the 1980's. Burgundy's principal grape pinot noir, has less tannins than other red grapes. However, many winemakers in Burgundy know that the use of stems during fermentation would increase the tannins in their wines.

Like most things in winemaking, it's a question of tradition versus modernity.

We know that red wine gets its colour from fermentation with the skins. Whites on the other hand are separated from their skins and pressed before fermentation. This is to avoid any tannins from the stems, skins or seeds. Therefore it is not necessary to de-stem whites since the juice will be separated from all other materials before fermentation. Reds on the

other hand undergo primary fermentation with the grape skins, seeds and juice before being pressed.

The process of crushing the grapes will release most of the liquid from the grape. However, to get the last few remaining drops of liquid, pressing the grapes is also necessary. Presses act by positioning the grape skins or whole grape clusters between a rigid surface and a moveable surface and slowly decrease the volume between the two surfaces. Today, winemakers can control the amount of pressure when pressing the grapes. There are 2 wine presses that are used today: batch and continuous. With the batch press, the grapes are loaded into presses which can be hand operated or presses which use computerized membranes. Once the juice is released, the leftover material, called the "cake" or pomace, (skins, seeds and stems) is removed from the press (Sometimes, the cake is broken up and pressure reapplied before it is removed. Many of our fathers in home winemaking do this, including mine.) Then, another "batch" of grapes is loaded into the press and the process is repeated. A type of batch press we are all familiar with is the basket press. (See photo) This is the one that most of our fathers use. It consists of a pressing plate on top of 2 flat wooden half-moon blocks within a "basket" consisting of vertical wooden slats. These slats in turn are on top of a metal base and draining pan. The vertical slats allow the juice to escape while trapping the pomace. Within the "basket" you have a stationary threaded shaft with a ratcheting head which presses the half-moon blocks over the plates which presses the grapes. The advantage to these types of presses is

the gentle treatment of the grapes. The disadvantage is time. The loading and pressing of the grapes and the removal of the pomace is time consuming. Many of you know what I am talking about. You will recall the long hours pressing the grapes with your dad. That click clack sound of the press is something I am sure we are all familiar with!

With continuous presses, "a helical screw (such as an auger) or belt that transports the grapes from a feed in across a cylindrical screen or between air pressured filled pads that presses the grapes, compacts the cakes and then removes the cake through an output all in one continuous operation." (R. Boulton, V. Singleton, L. Bisson, R. Kunkee Principles and Practices of Winemaking pgs 91-95)

The first juice that is released after the crush is called the free-run juice. Given the volume of liquid that is released this juice tends to have more complex properties than the juice obtained after the grapes are pressed called the press juice. Because of this, wine can be made using only the free-run juice. In fact many white wines are made today using free-run juice. Obviously most winemakers use both juices to increase the amount of final wine. Typically press juice adds 20% to the volume of total wine made. This October, I made 2 small batches of red wine. One using the free-run juice only and the second batch using both free-run juice and press juice. I will let you know the differences in a few months!

Grazie e salute!

By Domenico Cellucci

Il Postino Celebrates 15 Years in Ottawa's Italian Community



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Father Daughter Annual Ball for Make-a-Wish Foundation!



Photos by GioVanni

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The Pratola Peligna Association organizes la Festa dell'Uva

It was founded in 1992 by the late Mario Tofano this is the 21st year in existence which is something to be proud of for a small association like ours. Pratola Peligna is a small town in Abruzzo provincia L'Aquila with a population of approximately 8,000 habitants.

The Festa dell'Uva is an yearly tradition that is also celebrated in our home town in September celebrating la vendemia.

Current Committee members: Rocco Petrella (President), Leonardo Notarandrea (Vice-President), Larry Pagliarello (Treasurer), Angelina Pagliarello (Secretary), and Carmela Tofano (Public Relations)

Advisors: Rina Ceccato, Loreta DiPelino, Rocco Santilli, Rosa Presutti, Franca Santilli, and Silvana Vigliotti



Photos by GioVanni

Christmas Concert

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"Canadian Soldiers Brought Me Back To Life"

Mr. Farnetti-Bragaglia officially recognizes Operation HUSKY soldiers that saved his life

In 1944 in a quarry outside the Italian town of Torrice, Canadian soldiers Paul Hagen and Ike Klassen investigated the sounds of what they believed to be a dog in distress. Instead, the two men stumbled across an almost-naked little boy near the battle ruins from a deadly encounter between Canadian and German armoured units. The five year old child was covered in filth, cowering in the middle of the wreckage and rubble of the quarry and so malnourished his belly was distended.

This is the story of Mr. Gino Farnetti-Bragaglia, now 76 years old. It is also the story of the brave and compassionate soldiers of C Platoon who tended to the boy's wounds and fed him. The men managed to decipher that the boy's name was Gino and his father had been killed in the rampaging war, while his mother had wandered off into the woods and could not be found.

In June of this year, Mr. Gino Farnetti-Bragaglia travelled from his native home in Italy to Canada to honour four Canadian soldiers from WWII Italian Campaign who touched his life when they rescued him from the ravages of war more than 70 years ago. Paul Hagen, Merton Massey, Doug Walker, and Lloyd 'Red' Oliver survived the war, but have since passed. Gino met with family members of his rescuers and reunited with members of his own extended family that he only recently learned reside in Canada.

"I often go back to those days during the war. This was an incident that changed my life completely," explained Gino through an interpreter during an evening affair held at the Canadian War

Museum on June 18, 2014. Of the time prior to being rescued, Mr. Farnetti-Bragaglia recalled, "My most important concern before I was found was about food. When I could find food, I could satisfy my needs."

The Italian Campaign codenamed "Operation HUSKY" began in July 1943 with Canadian and allied troops landing in Sicily, a southern Italian island. The region was extremely dangerous and troops had to maintain a continuous stream of transport and supplies to the allied partners under the cover of darkness and the noses of the enemy.

By 1944 the battle for Sicily was won. In a fortunate twist of fate, June 1944 would see Canadian troops north of Frosinone, and in particular, C Platoon soldiers, who would go on to play a pivotal role in the life of an orphaned Italian boy. Deciding they could not leave him alone, the soldiers returned to base with Gino who spent his first night with the platoon, in a tent with Paul Hagen and Ike Klassen. His presence was only reported to the Platoon Commander, Lieutenant Smith the following morning.

"What I remember most is the care and love the men immediately had for me as soon as they found me," recounted Mr. Farnetti-Bragaglia.

Lt Smith quickly located Gino's village and people who knew him. The soldiers were told there were no known relatives. Due to the war, most of the villagers were destitute and few of them could feed their own, let alone an additional orphaned child. It was decided Gino would stay with C Platoon as they were better positioned to care for him.

Gino moved into the larger tent belonging to Lloyd 'Red' Oliver and Merton Massey, and the two Canadian soldiers became surrogate father figures, mentoring and tutoring him. The little orphan quickly won over the hearts of all his rescuers. He was taught English, numbers and the Bible passages by Red Oliver, was promoted to Corporal and became jokingly the mascot for C Platoon. He was often seen riding a bicycle around the base, doing his duty for the war effort as a dispatch rider.

"The soldiers were good to me. They had fun with me. They brought me back to life," he recalled with tears welling in his eyes.

When the platoon moved locations, he moved with them, but Gino, who had no official documentation, could not leave the country. When it came time for the soldiers to leave Italy, Red Oliver, who had developed a particularly strong bond with Gino, received special permission to travel with Gino to Viserba, Italy.

On arrival, Oliver made arrangements with the town mayor and the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) unit under the leadership of Tony Monti to care for the boy. An Italian partisan who was also part of the OSS unit adopted Gino and welcomed him into their family. It wasn't until 10 years later that the courts would allow Gino to use the family name Farnetti.

Researchers who stumbled across his story three years ago were so intrigued they traced Gino and two of the Canadian soldiers, Paul Hagen and Red Oliver, and Gino's adopted mother Rina Farnetti. The missing pieces to Gino's life before his rescue were solved when a researcher

found a christening certificate for Gino Bragaglia, son of Giuseppe and Filomena. With this vital piece of information they were finally able to trace the family roots.

In October 2013, Mr. Farnetti-Bragaglia travelled to Torrice, Italy for the first time since leaving in 1944. He met with his nieces and nephew and visited the cemetery where his parents and a brother are buried. He was given honorary citizenship of the town in December 2013 and has finally come full circle, filling in the missing pieces of his heritage.

Former Canadian Defence Attaché to Italy, Tony Battista, was instrumental in the coordination of Mr. Farnetti-Bragaglia's visit to Canada. He worked with The Peace Through Valour Committee, which raised funds for a permanent monument to Canadian soldiers who helped liberate Italy, and organizers of Operation HUSKY 2013, an initiative that retraced the route that Canadian soldiers took during the Italian Campaign, to ensure the success of Mr. Farnetti-Bragaglia's visit.

Many Canadians are unaware of the great contributions made by our soldiers during the Italian Campaign and even fewer are aware of stories like Gino's. Like all Canadians who have fought in wars before or since the rescue, Paul Hagen, Merton Massey, Doug Walker, and Lloyd Oliver demonstrated compassion and selflessness. It is the mission of all Canadians to ensure that stories like this are remembered and shared, so we never forget the sacrifices, often hard won in the fight for freedom and the rights of all peoples.

*By Helen Bobat
Army Public Affairs*

The Italian Canadian Historical Society Presents....a History The First Raising of The Roof 2004 Honouring Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci

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- Cathy Clarke
- Rina Filoso
- Lisa Micucci
- Lousie Carota
- Lucio Appolloni

See pictures on Page 14

Striscia la Notizia e Unicef Insieme Per La Sicurezza Dei Bambini Sui Motorini!

È firmato da Pietro Favorito il mini episodio a fumetti con protagonista Luca Abete e Ciccioriccio!



Da oggi è disponibile in formato digitale il fumetto "Se casco senza

casco... sono caschi miei!" pensato per LAB Production da Pietro Favorito e disegnato da Domenico Nagliero. Si tratta di una mini storia di quattro tavole tutte a colori con protagonista l'inviatore più inviato del momento di "Striscia la Notizia", Luca Abete, e il simpaticissimo Ciccioriccio. Il fine è quello di sensibilizzare l'opinione pubblica e gli stessi bambini, sull'importanza della sicurezza dei più giovani a bordo dei motorini, ribadendo non solo l'obbligatorietà (oltre che la sensatezza!) dell'uso del casco, ma anche l'età minima stabilita dalla legge per i piccoli passeggeri, che è di 5 anni.

Il problema è noto, e non solo a chi abita a Napoli. Chiunque segua "Striscia la Notizia" e in particolare i servizi di Luca Abete, lo ha visto inseguire e

ammonire con partecipazione gente che scorrazza tranquillamente per le vie del capoluogo partenopeo in scooter senza casco e con più di un passeggero a bordo. Spesso si tratta di genitori irresponsabili all'uscita delle scuole dei propri figli, che ricambiano le civili osservazioni dell'imparado inviato con atteggiamenti e risposte non altrettanto educate e costruttive. E il ruolo del genitore "fuorilegge" è toccato proprio ad uno dei personaggi più riusciti della miniserie Lady Mafia, ovvero Nicola Giaccherini, che vediamo sulla copertina di "Se casco senza casco... sono caschi miei", in sella a un motorino mentre porta in giro la moglie e i figli!

Dunque, con il prezioso sostegno di "Striscia la Notizia" e "Unicef", e con il patrocinio del "Ministero

dell'Istruzione, dell'Università, e della Ricerca", il fumetto ricostruisce tutto l'impegno di Luca Abete, senza tralasciare nulla. E poi si spinge oltre. Del mini episodio, i ragazzi sono infatti non solo i protagonisti, ma anche e soprattutto i destinatari del messaggio. Partendo da presupposti assurdi, surreali ma tristemente documentati, in cui i genitori sono incapaci di riconoscere un pericolo reale e concreto, paradossalmente si fa appello al giudizio dei piccoli, chiamati a insegnare ai grandi, dicendo "NO!" alla guida senza casco e gridando "Basta!" alla inosservanza delle regole più in generale. Indovinata, infine, la trovata di inserire nella vicenda il personaggio "Ciccioriccio", un simpatico riccio umanizzato atto a rendere la lettura più accattivante e allo stesso tempo più leggera.

CONCORSI della RIVISTA ACCENTI Primo Premio \$1000 e pubblicazione

ACCENTI

The Magazine with an Italian Accent

MONTREAL – Accenti, la rivista canadese 'dall'accento italiano' ricorda la decima edizione del concorso letterario e la ottava edizione del concorso fotografico (con scadenza il 31 dicembre 2014). I due concorsi sono aperti a tutti, scrittori e fotografi, affermati ed emergenti, indistintamente dal luogo di residenza (per il testo integrale dei regolamenti visitate il sito <http://www.accenti.ca>). Il primo premio sarà pari a 1000 dol-

lari, il secondo a 250 e il terzo a 100, tutti con prevista pubblicazione dell'opera su Accenti.

Il Concorso Fotografico è aperto a fotografi di tutto il mondo, professionisti, amatori e studenti. Le opere devono "catturare un momento italiano" ovunque nel mondo. Le foto devono essere inedite, originali, in alta risoluzione.

Una giuria selezionerà testi e foto vincenti: la presentazione delle opere si terrà ad aprile 2015 alla manifestazione "Accenti Magazine Awards", durante il festival internazionale "Blue Metropolis" di Montreal.

Il concorso letterario è aperto ad opere di prosa (fiction, non-fiction, creative non-fiction) per un massimo di 2000 parole. Tra i vincitori del concorso letterario delle edizioni passate ricordiamo: Terri Favro (2014), Andrew Foster (2013), Susan Musgrave (2012), Elizabeth Cinello (2011), Loretta Di Vita (2010), Ivano Stocco (2009), Paul French (2008), Maria Francesca LoDico (2007) e Sheila Wright (2006). Tutti i testi vincenti sono stati pubblicati nel volume *Conspicuous Accents* (2014), curato da Licia Canton: <http://www.accenti.ca/store/Books/>

Vincitori del concorso fotografico negli anni scorsi: Giorgio Tinelli (2014), Federico Bonfanti (2013),

Mark Bednarczyk (2012), Marcel van Balken (2011), Amy Occhipinti (2010), Robert T. Norton (2009) e Nick Colarusso (2008).

Si possono vedere i video "Accenti Magazine Awards": [Youtube: http://www.youtube.com/user/videos4accents](http://www.youtube.com/user/videos4accents)

Fondata a Montreal da Domenic Cusmano e diretta dal 2003 da Licia Canton, Accenti fa da ponte tra le comunità italiane all'estero e tra l'Italia e il Canada. Per saperne di più visitate: <http://www.accenti.ca>

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MESSAGGIO DI AUGURI DELL'AMBASCIATORE GIAN LORENZO CORNADO ALLA COMUNITÀ ITALIANA



Carissimi Connazionali,
sono felice di rivolgervi nuovamente a voi per augurare a tutti ed a ciascuno di voi, alle vostre famiglie ed ai vostri amici un sereno Natale ed un Felice Anno Nuovo colmo di successi e di soddisfazioni.

L'anno appena trascorso è stato un anno importante per l'Italia e per la nostra comunità. Un anno di novità (la Festa della Repubblica è divenuta in Canada una festa popolare aperta a tutta la comunità), un anno di grandi cambiamenti in Italia, un anno in cui abbiamo vissuto momenti difficili (gli attacchi terroristici di Ottawa e di Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu), ma un anno che si conclude guardando al futuro con rinnovata fiducia.

Come sapete l'Italia ha dal febbraio di quest'anno un nuovo Governo, guidato dal Presidente del Consiglio Matteo Renzi, leader politico vicino ai cittadini ed in piena sintonia con il Paese, che gode del più ampio sostegno dell'opinione pubblica italiana. Nel maggio di quest'anno, alle elezioni per il rinnovo del Parlamento Europeo, egli ha ottenuto una percentuale record di consensi, il 40,8% dei voti, grazie ai quali ha avuto ragione dei movimenti populisti ed antieuropesi facendo diventare il suo partito, il Partito Democratico, il primo partito d'Europa. Il Presidente del Consiglio Renzi è affiancato da una compagnia di Ministri assieme ai quali ha avviato un ambizioso programma di riforme per favorire la ripresa economica, restituire fiducia agli Italiani e riavvicinarli alle loro Istituzioni.

L'Italia che abbiamo davanti a noi è quindi un'Italia che si sta rinnovando, un'Italia che crede in sé stessa e nelle sue capacità, un'Italia che vuole riscattarsi, che punta ai risultati, un'Italia determinata che aspira a cambiare l'Europa. Se il nostro Paese, fino allo scorso anno, era fonte di preoccupazione per l'Europa, oggi l'Italia, grazie all'azione del nuovo Governo, è tornata ad essere il motore dell'Europa ed ha tutte le carte in regola per divenire un Paese guida dell'Europa. L'importante, come ha ricordato il Presidente Renzi, è che gli Italiani siano consapevoli delle loro capacità, non cedano alla rassegnazione e si rimettano in gioco, animati dalla voglia di vincere.

Potete essere orgogliosi, dovete essere orgogliosi di essere italiani o di origine italiana. L'Italia è infatti la sesta più importante economia del mondo, la più grande potenza culturale ed un Paese influente ed ascoltato in tutti i consensi internazionali dove è attivamente impegnata a promuovere valori come la pace, la sicurezza, la democrazia, i diritti umani e lo sviluppo.

L'Italia ha dato, d'altra parte, eccellente prova della sua leadership durante il semestre di Presidenza del Consiglio dell'Unione Europea, di cui ha fissato l'agenda e coordinato i lavori, favorendo il processo decisionale e

promuovendo le iniziative politiche per far fronte alle crisi internazionali che si sono susseguite in questi mesi.

I successi dell'Italia sul piano europeo non si contano. A titolo di esempio ne vorrei ricordare quattro, molto significativi: 1) la nomina dell'ex Ministro degli Esteri Federica Mogherini ad Alto Rappresentante per gli Affari Esteri e la Politica di Sicurezza dell'Unione Europea; 2) il coinvolgimento dell'Unione Europea nella gestione dell'emergenza immigrazione; 3) l'avvallo, da parte dell'Unione Europea, della Legge di Stabilità del 2015; 4) il varo da parte dell'Unione Europea di un piano di investimenti per favorire la crescita e l'occupazione.

Sono questi i risultati che ci inducono a guardare al 2015 con ottimismo. Il prossimo anno sarà un anno di riforme in Italia che sono attualmente all'esame del Parlamento, da quella sulla legge elettorale, atta a favorire la formazione di maggioranze certe e stabili, a quella del Senato che porterà al superamento del bicameralismo, ad una riduzione dei costi della politica, ad una semplificazione dell'iter di approvazione delle leggi ed a una conseguente riduzione dei tempi decisionali. Grazie a queste riforme, proposte dal Presidente del Consiglio Renzi e dalle forze politiche che compongono la sua coalizione, l'Italia si dovrà di istituzioni e di regole che le consentiranno di affrontare le sfide del 21^o secolo e di venire incontro, grazie a un più efficiente apparato amministrativo, alle esigenze dei cittadini.

Ma il 2015 sarà anche l'anno dell'Esposizione Universale Expo 2015, che avrà luogo a Milano dal 1^o maggio al 31 ottobre ed alla quale parteciperanno più di 140 Paesi e oltre 20 milioni di visitatori. Il tema prescelto per l'Expo sarà "Nutrire il pianeta. Energia per la vita" con l'obiettivo di fornire risposte credibili a sfide globali quali l'accesso universale alla nutrizione e alla sicurezza alimentare, il miglioramento della qualità della vita, i rapporti tra colture tradizionali e biotecnologie, la valorizzazione dei territori e la sostenibilità energetica e ambientale. Expo 2015 sarà un grande successo per l'Italia e un evento straordinario da non mancare. Per questo vi invito a programmare sin d'ora un viaggio a Milano anche per scoprire una delle più belle, eleganti, moderne e dinamiche città d'Italia che, come sapete, è la capitale economica del nostro Paese.

Il prossimo sarà poi un anno molto importante per i rapporti tra il Canada e l'Europa: verranno infatti finalizzate le procedure per l'entrata in vigore, a partire dal 2016, del Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). Si tratta di un accordo di libero scambio che offrirà, grazie all'abbattimento del 99% delle barriere tariffarie, grandi opportunità alle aziende italiane sia nei settori tradizionali dei beni di consumo (agroalimentare, alta moda, arredamento), sia nei settori più innovativi e ad alto contenuto tecnologico (infrastrutture, costruzione, ingegneria, oil and gas, energie alternative) e contribuirà alla creazione di migliaia di posti di lavoro in Canada e in Europa. Al tempo stesso, tramite il CETA sarà più facile per le aziende canadesi accedere al mercato italiano

ed investire in Italia nei settori del turismo, delle infrastrutture e delle alte tecnologie.

Il 2015 sarà anche l'anno della lingua italiana, che è una delle più diffuse in Canada e la quarta più studiata nel mondo. Proseguirà, infatti, la campagna di sensibilizzazione per l'inserimento di corsi di lingua italiana nelle scuole pubbliche affinché i Canadesi possano apprendere o perfezionare la nostra lingua e gli Italo-canadesi possano coltivarla e trasmetterla alle generazioni future. La conoscenza dell'italiano consentirà di accedere più facilmente ad un mercato di 60 milioni di abitanti che grazie all'accordo di libero scambio offrirà, come abbiam visto, grandi opportunità agli operatori canadesi. Tra qualche mese, poi, il 18 aprile, i cittadini italiani saranno chiamati a votare per il rinnovo dei Comitati degli Italiani eletti all'estero (Comites) che sono gli organi rappresentativi della comunità italiana. Le votazioni, inizialmente previste per il 19 dicembre, sono state rinviate al 17 aprile dal Ministro degli Esteri Gentiloni

per favorire la partecipazione del più alto numero possibile di connazionali. Ricordo che per poter votare i cittadini italiani dovranno compilare e restituire al Consolato l'apposito formulario di richiesta di ammissione al voto che è stato inviato per posta il mese scorso. Invito pertanto tutti coloro che non vi avessero provveduto, a compilare il predetto formulario ed a restituirlo al più presto al Consolato, inviandolo per posta, via fax, via mail o consegnandolo a mano, assieme alla copia di un documento di identità munito di firma, come il passaporto italiano, il passaporto canadese, la patente di guida, la Health Card o la Carte Soleil.

Chi non avesse ricevuto o avesse smarrito il formulario potrà utilizzare quelli disponibili sul sito web dei Consolati, presso i Comites, i Patronati, le Federazioni e le Associazioni nonché quelli pubblicati sui giornali italo-canadesi.

L'appuntamento di aprile è un appuntamento assolutamente da non mancare. Per questo a febbraio, organizzeremo dei nuovi incontri con la comunità italiana di Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal e Vancouver, cui prenderò parte assieme alle Onorevoli Francesca La Marca e Fucsia Nissoli, per parlare di queste elezioni, di come si vota e di perché è importante votare.

Carissimi connazionali, in occasione delle festività di fine anno vorrei rivolgere un pensiero affettuoso a coloro che soffrono la malattia, la solitudine, la separazione o la perdita di una persona cara. A tutti coloro che attraversano un momento difficile, desidero esprimere la mia vicinanza, la mia solidarietà ed il mio incoraggiamento ad andare avanti con fiducia, con l'aiuto dei vostri familiari o dei vostri amici.

Ed il mio pensiero va, in questo momento, anche alle famiglie dei militari canadesi Nathan Cirillo e Patrice Vincent rimasti vittime degli odiosi attacchi terroristici del 20 e del 22 ottobre. Nutro una grande ammirazione per loro, per le forze armate, per il popolo e le autorità canadesi che hanno dato prova di straordinaria calma e compostezza in uno dei momenti più drammatici

della storia di questo grande Paese. Mai potrò dimenticare la solennità della seduta che si è tenuta in Parlamento all'indomani dei tragici eventi, quando tutti i deputati si sono alzati in piedi ed hanno intonato assieme, con orgoglio, l'inno nazionale canadese dando prova di straordinarie unità e risolutezza di fronte al Paese e al mondo. Come ha ricordato il Presidente del Consiglio Renzi nella sua lettera al Primo Ministro Harper, l'Italia è vicina al Canada al quale è legata da profondi vincoli di amicizia e comunanza di valori ed assieme al Canada non cederà mai né al ricatto né all'intimidazione di fronte a questi vili attacchi.

Nel concludere questo mio messaggio, vorrei rinnovare a tutti voi l'espressione della mia più viva riconoscenza per l'accoglienza che mi avete riservato in occasione dei nostri incontri e porgere, in particolare, un caloroso saluto ai connazionali arrivati recentemente in questo Paese, tra cui i ricercatori che lavorano presso le Università e i centri di ricerca canadesi ed i tecnici che operano nel settore petrolifero in Alberta.

Desidero inoltre ringraziare, per il loro sostegno ed i loro preziosi consigli, i rappresentanti eletti della comunità italiana in Canada: il Senatore Renato Turano e le Onorevoli Francesca La Marca e Fucsia Nissoli, nonché i membri del CGIE Carlo Consiglio, Alberto Di Giovanni, Rocco Di Trolio, Domenico Marozzi e Giovanni Rapanà ed i Presidenti dei Comites Ezio Bortolussi, Gino Cucchi, Tony Cuffaro e Giovanna Giordano.

Un sentito grazie anche agli organi di informazione italo-canadesi, CFMB, CHIN Radio/TV, il Cittadino Canadese, il Corriere Canadese, il Corriere Italiano, il Postino, il Rintocco, L'Orna di Ottawa, La Voce, Lo Specchio, Marco Polo, OMNI TV e Tele 30 per l'ampio spazio che hanno dedicato durante tutto l'anno alle campagne informative dell'Ambasciata e dei Consolati, prime fra tutte quella per le elezioni dei Comites e per la promozione della lingua italiana nelle scuole.

Vorrei poi esprimere un pensiero grato e devoto ai nostri parroci, da sempre insostituibili punti di riferimento della nostra comunità ed attivi sostenitori della lingua italiana.

Sappiate che è un immenso onore per me rappresentare l'Italia in Canada ed un grande privilegio poter svolgere le mie funzioni con il sostegno della straordinaria comunità italo-canadese. Grazie a voi, che siete i nostri migliori ambasciatori, l'Italia è un Paese molto amato e rispettato. Grazie a voi, che siete grandi importatori e promotori di Made in Italy, non vi è angolo in Canada dove non siano presenti i prodotti del nostro Paese, la moda, la cucina o il design italiani e non si senta parlare la nostra lingua.

In attesa di rivedervi presto a Ottawa o nelle vostre città, rinnovo a voi ed alle vostre famiglie, anche a nome dei miei collaboratori, i più fervidi e cordiali auguri di Buon Natale e Buon Anno nell'auspicio che il 2015 vi porti tutto ciò che desiderate.

Viva l'Italia, viva il Canada, viva la comunità italiana!

*Gian Lorenzo Cornado
Ambasciatore d'Italia in Canada*

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Trip of a Lifetime – 2 Golds, 1 Silver in Ravenna, Followed by a Truly Amazing Trip To Fiumara, Reggio Calabria!



Ottawa Premier Galley Girls on the Podium winning Gold in Ravenna, Italy



From left to right: Emilio (Longo), Francesco (Belle), Christina (Licari), Everett (Ethier), Shella (Belle), Angelina (Longo (Licari)) Vincenzo (Belle)



Father Angelo (Licari), Christina (Licari), Everett (Ethier), Emilio (longo), Fortunata-Tita (Licari), Daughter of Tita



Everett & Christine, Cristina, Angelina and Emilio Longo.

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The Italian Canadian Historical Society Presents.... a History The First Raising of The Roof 2004 Honouring Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci



Justice Minister Cotler with Guests



Luigi Mion, Lawrence Greenspon, Pat Santini with Justice Iacobucci



Committee Members



Mario Giannetti with Preston Hardware Group

Article on page 11

Trip of a Lifetime – 2 Golds, 1 Silver in Ravenna, Followed by a Truly Amazing Trip To Fiumara, Reggio Calabria!

It was in 2011 that my excitement began to rise with the news that the 2014 Club Crew World Championships for Dragon Boating would take place in Ravenna, Italy. Our team, the Ottawa Premier Women "Galley Girls", wanted to compete at the World Championships in Italy. That meant a ton of training... We qualified in Victoria, BC, and continued to work very hard for the next year with the goal of reaching the podium in Italy. Time flew by and, before I knew it, I was in Ravenna. What a surreal experience! Competing in Italy, the country where my roots are firmly planted. Where my nonno, Raphaele Licari, and bisnonni, Giuseppe & Domenica Imbessi, immigrated from. The team performed amazingly. Not only did we reach our goal, we did so in all 3 of the events in which we competed! By competition's end, we had earned a silver medal in the 200m and gold medals in the 2000m and in the much coveted 500m marquee event.

Words cannot express how incredible an experience this was. And for it to happen in Italy! Dad and Mom would be so proud.

Little did I know that was only the beginning...

With the competition over, my husband and I started our 4 week journey through Italy - starting from Venice and working our way down. We saw amazing landscapes, picturesque villages, historic sites and met wonderful people. Still, for me, the most exciting part would be when we would try to find where my nonno had come from - the little village of Fiumara in Reggio Calabria. I had never been that far south. Once in Reggio, we began our search. My father, Frank J. Licari, and my Zio Raphaele Licari had given us information to help find Fiumara and, we eventually did - I was ecstatic! There I was, seeing the sites nonno would have seen so many years ago - the

sea, the beautiful river valley lined by steep hills, the countless fruit trees!

For me, the trip simply could not have gotten any better. And then, along came Rocco (Battista) a resident of Fiumara, who started speaking to us. Ironically, he had been born in Ottawa and offered to help. You can imagine our surprise when he said, "I know a Licari here. Want to meet her?" He generously hopped into his car and led us through the hills to Angelina's home. Within seconds of being introduced, there were cries of joy, hugs, tears, and we were quickly ushered into her home. Food was brought out, phone calls were made and more family arrived, including son Emilio and daughter Cristina. A feast ensued with much laughter and I realized my family had grown. We were informed a hotel was not an option so we settled in with Angelina's generous hospitality. We extended our time in Fiumara to learn more about the area

and get to know the family we had met. So many wonderful people gave of themselves and their time to make our stay so special. People like Father Angelo Licari and his sister Tita and Francesco Belle, the village historian, along with wife Shella and son Vincenzo. All of whom welcomed us into their homes and allowed us to share wonderful meals with them - all the while helping me learn about my family and our genealogy tree. We have never experienced such warmth and generosity, nor have we eaten so much fantastic food.

Dragon boating brought me to Italy. But the Golds we won in Ravenna are easily matched by the Gold I found in Fiumara!

I have truly been blessed by this gift, this once in a lifetime experience that I will always cherish.

Photos Page 14.

Real Estate tips on trying to sell your home over the winter....

While spring is traditionally the best time to sell your home that does not mean that you must write off the opportunity to sell your home in the fall or even the winter. It is still possible to sell your property by the end of the year; however, you will need to be creative and realistic in your approach.

Many home sellers make the mistake of thinking the market becomes completely stagnant during the fall and especially during the holiday season. This is not completely true. Many markets actually experience a surge during fall as prospective buyers return from their vacations refreshed and invigorated. Even during the holiday season there are usually at least some home buyers out there looking for a good deal. In fact, some buyers are even more highly motivated during the holiday season than any other time of the year. The advantage of catering to these home buyers is that they are usually not just lookers; they are serious buyers.

There is also another advantage to preparing your home for sale during the fall and winter. You will likely face less competition because quite simply the inventory of available homes tends to drop during this time of the year. If you have experienced a wealth of For Sale signs in your local market the rest of the year, the fall and winter could be an ideal time to sell your house.

When selling your home in the fall and winter; however, it is important to recognize that the value of your home does not depend on the season. Many home sellers make the mistake of adjusting the price of their home during what they consider to be an off season. The price of your home is completely separate from the current season. Factors which affect the value of your home include local employment trends as well as local supply and demand.

Sellers should also recognize that buyers today are far more savvy and sophisticated than in the past. Thanks to the Internet, buyers are now quite able to spend a month and even more surfing the net, investigating the local market, before they even speak to a real estate agent. It is a

huge mistake to believe that you can land a buyer who is willing to pay a price that is above the prevailing market average.

To encourage showings of your home during the fall and winter make sure the path to your home is always cleared; particularly if you live in an area with frequent snowfall. Since there is usually less light during the fall and winter, take steps to let in as much light as possible. Pull up the blinds and pull back the drapes. Turn on all the lights in the home and consider placing spotlights behind the furniture.

While the holidays are the perfect time to set a mood in your home, make sure you do not overdo it. Decorate for the holidays if you would normally do so, but do not put out so many decorations that your home appears to be crowded. This rule is especially true when it comes to Christmas trees.

Take advantage of the opportunity to make your home appear warm, inviting and romantic. Tossing afghans across the back of a sofa, setting out fresh winter flowers, dressing your dining table for an intimate dinner and playing soft music are all great examples of ways in which you can set the perfect mood in your home for showings during the fall and winter.

Do remember; however, to exercise

caution when using scents during the winter. While many home sellers try to invoke the spirit of the season by burning scented candles this could backfire if buyers are allergic to certain scents. Rather than linger in your home they will be more likely to look for the quickest exit.

Serving snacks during an open house is an excellent idea but do try to tailor the foods you serve to the season. Fall and winter is the perfect time to set out hot soups as well as cocoa and hot apple cider.

Above all else, make sure that your home is in excellent condition. Fall and winter is not the time to let maintenance issues slide. Make sure your home is well maintained as well as sparkling clean.

Finally, you can utilize technology to its full advantage when selling your home during the fall and winter. Indoor lamps can be put on a timer so that they automatically come on while buyers are viewing the home. You can also utilize motion sensor to light up your home during the darker months of fall and winter.

Need real estate info? I'd love to help!

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Raising the Roof at Villa Marconi Celebrating 10 Years Honouring The Lombardi Family



The Preston Hardware Group



Mayor Jim Watson with Villa Marconi Group



Cyril Leeder & Angelo Filoso with the CIBC table



Leo Erasmo and Guests



The Foustanelas Family and Argo's Carpet Staff



Theresa and Lenny Lombardi



The Kelly Santini Table



Mr & Mrs Giuseppe Pasian, Mr & Mrs Bruno Giamaria and Guest



CHIN Table with Mayor Jim Watson



Villa Marconi Chefs

Photos by GioVanni