

# IL POSTINO

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## Merry Christmas, Buon Natale, Joyeux Noël



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## Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor



### An e mail from Rocco Cocciaglia ,the Mayor of Rapino, Chieti Italia to Giuseppina Iezzi

From Rocco Cocciaglia

**From Rocco Cocciaglia**  
 come va? Spero bene per tutti voi. Comincia a far freddino ad Ottawa? Comunque per me rimane una delle piu' belle citta visitate. Ti chiedo di farti portatrice di un caloroso abbraccio da parte mia e di tutti i miei collaboratori, per tutti i rapinesi di Ottawa, ma soprattutto ai fratelli Micucci, ed alle loro famiglie, che non mi stanchero' mai di ringraziare per la generosa ed eccellente accoglienza che ci avete riservato. Siete tutti, uomini e donne, persone eccezionali, il meglio che la nostra comunita' ha potuto generare e di cui io sono orgoglioso. Vi auguro ogni bene e tanta salute.



**Reply by Giuseppina Iezzi**  
 Qui tutto O.K. - Fin'ora siamo stati fortunati che il clima e' ancora abbastanza mite con belle giornate soleggiate, soltanto un pochino freddo la sera. E' sempre un piacere sentirti. Sabado, 19 Ottobre avremo la consueta cena-ballo dei membri dell'associazione rapinese a senz'altro quella sera riferiro' il tuo saluto e bel messaggio ai rapinesi di Ottawa.

A nome mio personale e da TUTTI della famiglia Micucci, e rapinesi di Ottawa, vi siamo riconoscenti della bellissima accoglienza durante l'estate scorsa. Speriamo di rivedervi TUTTI presto. Un salutone a te, la tua famiglia e ai tuoi collaboratori. Ciao, Ciao a presto.

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Michael O'Byrne reading Il Postino at the Village Reunion

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# Rapinese Christmas Party



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## CULTURE

### The Befana Drama's The Ideal Book For Epiphany And The One The World's About To Discover

The perfect book for Epiphany 2014, and Italian families across the USA, is that of an English author who has already had children across Britain befriend her character Bef after completing a 51-stop tour of the UK.

'The Befana Drama' is a children's book for those aged 8+ which makes the eyes of those with Italian heritage light up once they realise its lead character is based upon their traditional present bringer, who has filled their stockings on January 5th for centuries, bringing coal to naughty children and candy to the good boys and girls.

The book soon wins other children over too, once the fantastic plot is revealed and it has gone down a storm in British schools at which the author has presented it. The author in question is Gianna Hartwright, who has given up providing an upper age limit for the book, as adults across Britain have agreed that it's a book they simply have to read.

The great news for all of these fans is that Befana Drama 2 is following hot on the heels of the first book and due for launch at The Bologna Children's Book Fair, in Italy (March 24-27). Both books are likely to take the exhibition by storm, as it will be the first time that Italy has seen the Befana Drama series. The fact that Gianna Hartwright is a PR professional with over 30 years experience and over 20 awards under her belt, including an award for being 'Best Freelance PR Practitioner' in Britain, certainly helps.

In Gianna Hartwright's book Italian tradition is under threat as children demand computer games, gadgets and gizmos and a rather short-sighted mayor tells The Befana that he is boarding up her postbox, downsizing her festival and letting Santa take over as from next year. This starts a global adventure by broomstick again drawing upon Italian tradition.

In Italy, it is believed that The Befana helped the Three Wise Men find the Baby Jesus. In Gianna Hartwright's book, she calls in a favour centuries old and finds their descendants, so as to gain access to their gold and stockpile enough coal and candy to take over Santa's run before he takes over hers. She discovers that they are a boyband in Dubai called 'The Three Kings'!

So as to not upset Italian traditionalists, Gianna Hartwright rejuvenated and changed the Befana by sending her off to Old Father Time. This stroke of genius has given her a compelling story line for Befana Drama 2, but also some interesting comments from Italian families that she has met during her tour. In Bedford, England, where one in five people are of Italian descent,

a 'nonna' agreed that the cover image was not that of the traditional Befana. As she said: "The Befana does not wear lipstick!"

As Gianna Hartwright says: "Some of the best experiences I have had on tour have involved seeing the eyes of Italian families light up when they realise that this book is about their tradition and that the world will be discovering their Befana. The reaction is just amazing,"

The plot of The Befana Drama has already enthralled many British kids from other cultural backgrounds, however. They have had the opportunity to buy the book since October 2013 and many have met the author face to face. She has put in an awful lot of work within the education sector, creating an education pack linked to the book and visiting schools across Britain. The feedback has been fantastic and Befana Drama 2 promises to be even more gripping. As children, teachers, parents and journalists say, the Befana Drama is really crying out to be made into a movie.

With larger-than-life characters such as 'The Most Fearsome Feller in Folklore', an exiled-to-Siberia tailor, the best reindeer whisperer the world has ever seen and Rocky Candymeister, the owner of an American candy factory, the action is absorbing from first to last. Once Bef arrives in Lapland, with her coal and candy purchases on board, true magic emerges, as her resolve to take over from Santa wanes, but her dislike of the vain, shopaholic wife of Santa, Capriccia Claus, knows no limits.

With the best reindeer whisperer in the world controlling the minds of the elves in Santa's Post Office, including that of the Head Elf, resulting in Bef getting a job there, the young reader may believe that Bef's mission is complete. Gianna Hartwright's clever introduction of the one elf that cannot be controlled - who happens to be the only elf who likes Capriccia - adds another dimension to the story, leaving everyone wondering what will happen right up to the last page.

It is in the Lapland scenes where the true message of The Befana Drama is communicated. This is the message that the most important gifts in life come with no price tags, as they are qualities such as kindness and selflessness, rather than commercialised presents. This is a compelling part of the book and one of the author's favourite passages.

Befana Drama 1 and 2 (the latter entitled Capriccia's Conundrum) are likely to take not just Italy by storm in Bologna, but the whole world. The books will be showcased on the stand of the UK's Publisher's Association, giving them added kudos and profile.



# Annual Fund Raising Dinner

Saint Anthony's Church  
Saturday February 1, 2014

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## LIFE

## Kelly Egan: A Dutch woman keeps Canadian soldiers' stories alive

BY KELLY EGAN, OTTAWA CITIZEN

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Kelly+Egan+Dutch+woman+keeps+Canadian+soldiers+stories+alive/9149380/story.html>

OTTAWA — Memory may be what you hold, but remembrance is what you do — the past dusted clean, made to breathe again.

It is a Dutch woman, blond, soft-eyed, visiting the cemetery where her parents are buried in western Holland and seeing a single headstone for a Canadian soldier, strangely separated from the military graveyard, and wondering: Who and how? And not just wondering, but asking, acting, warming the story on a cold headstone.

In 2002, this launched Alice van Bekkum on a mission. She, indeed, found out who the soldier was, this Harold Magnusson, even visited his family in New Brunswick in 2011. She also dove into the story of eight other members of his unit, the 23rd Field Company of the Royal Canadian Engineers, who had died close to where she lived, almost all on the same night.

They perished in September 1944 in the aftermath of Operation Market Garden, a failed effort that forced a frantic evacuation of Allied soldiers caught behind German lines. She had even met a pair of local men who, as 11-year-olds, had hauled Magnusson's body out of the river. But one name, one mystery from the 23rd FC, stood out. Lance Cpl. Antonio Barbaro, only 22, who died in February 1945, months later than his fallen mates. Why? How? She just had to know. "If we never mention their names," she wrote this week, "they have died in vain. We'll remember them here. I hope you'll remember him in his hometown." She enlisted a Canadian accomplice or two. Soon, she had Lance Cpl. Barbaro's military records, pulled from archives. There was an appeal to the Citizen. The pieces began to come together.



Forgotten, he is not. He has a niece and nephew in town and the odd Village old-timer remembers the Barbaro family, which included brother Dominic, or "Lefty", a once famous southpaw on the city's ball diamonds.

Antonio Barbaro, who wanted to be called Tony or Anthony, was the youngest of eight children, born in July 1923. His father, Pasquale, was a street-sweeper for the city, mother Catherine was short and stout, and ran the roost, a boxy house on Norman Street, only steps off Preston, with a giant kitchen. She barely spoke a word of English. They were, of course, Roman Catholic.

Anthony attended about three years of high school at Ottawa Tech, enlisted when he was 19. He played trumpet in a youth band that practised at St. Anthony's, liked to draw and paint, often had a smile on his round face. He had trained to be a draftsman.

According to his war records, he was not a big man: 5-7, about 155 pounds at sign-up, with brown hair and eyes. He had 20/20 vision, was in good health, was missing his tonsils. When he died, he owned a wrist watch, a Ronson lighter, a few other effects. He never married.

He was among a group of Canadians who helped evacuate about 2,500 British paratroopers by ferrying them across the Rhine River, near Arnhem, under heavy shelling. Some of the rescuers made up to 15 trips in the dark, during a night of

terrible weather, in so-called storm boats equipped with 50-horsepower motors.

He was mentioned in dispatches. "Also outstanding in this operation were Tony Barbaro of Ottawa and Sapper Raymond Lebouthillier of Ste. Bernadette, Que.," reads a 1944 story from The Canadian Press correspondent travelling with the army in Holland.

It was dangerous work, some of the boats being blown right out of the water.

Operation Market Garden was a daring idea, and the failure and rescue were dramatic enough to be adapted for screen in the movie *A Bridge Too Far*. It was a boat, ironically, and a river that led to Barbaro's demise.

In February 1945, he and two other members of the 23rd field company launched a small boat into the Maas River near a strategic bridge in Mook, in mid-eastern Holland. As they attempted to attach a rope to a boom that needed work, the bow of the boat struck something sharp on the boom, slicing the hull open.

There were only two life-jackets. Barbaro insisted the two non-swimmers take them and he would fend for himself. At least 60 yards

from shore and dealing with a heavy current, he tried to swim. One can only imagine the temperature of the water in February and the weight of his boots and uniform. A witness saw him sink; the other two were rescued.

There followed a touching letter to his mother from the unit's padre. "You see, dear Madame," he wrote to Catherine, "you have many reasons to be proud of your son. He sacrificed his life to give to his companions a better chance to live."

Anthony, he added, had been to mass and confession the Sunday before he died. "The war seems to take the best among us ... I dare say that he was one of the best of my flock."

Sad, too, that the war was nearly over. Barbaro would not see his 23rd birthday. He is buried in the Canadian Military Cemetery just outside Nijmegen in Holland.

All of Anthony's siblings are dead, but he has a nephew, named for him, a Tony Barbaro, now 65, who lives in Richmond, retired after a 31-year career in the RCMP. (His father, Sam, also served in the forces.)

He spent many hours at his grandparents' house on Norman and remembers big, raucous meals with 30 at the table. But the subject of Anthony, the baby of the family who left at 19 and never came home, was off limits.

"They didn't talk about it," he said this week. "If you brought it up with my Dad, he'd walk out of the room."

His grandparents were very big on their children becoming wholly Canadian, not hyphenated ones with one foot in the home country, he said. So Antonio became Tony, Salvatore became Sam, Pasquale was Pat.

He has not been to his uncle's grave but is touched to know that someone like Alice is doing her best to keep the story alive.

"I think it's wonderful," he said. "It's nice to know that they appreciate it. Because it was a big deal for my family. You have to know them, and if you knew them, you'd know why."

(The family has so little information about Anthony, in fact, that they couldn't track down a photo. But the irrepressible Sal Pantalone, an amateur historian close to 90, was able to find one in his files. He remembers the Barbaros fondly and was a band-mate of Anthony's in the 1930s.)

Anthony Barbaro's name is etched in granite in a little square below St. Anthony's Church, among six Italian Canadians from Ottawa who died in service during the Second World War. Next to it are six names of local Italians who were interned, for suspicion of treason — these were complicated times.

Van Bekkum, meanwhile, attends Remembrance Day ceremonies every year. She has placed a New Brunswick flag and a painted stone at Magnusson's grave. She would like, possibly, to lay a wreath from Ottawa in Barbaro's name at the 70th anniversary of Operation Market Garden, subsequent Operation Berlin, in 2014.

"Young Allied soldiers did not 'give' their lives, like so many say," she wrote. "But, far away from home and family, it was taken from them by the enemy."

Yes, Alice van Bekkum, faraway stranger, it was.

The rest falls to us, the lucky ones, to make real this thing called "honour" — by what we say, but mostly by what we do.

To contact Kelly Egan, please call 613-726-5896, or email [kegan@ottawacitizen.com](mailto:kegan@ottawacitizen.com) >[kegan@ottawacitizen.com](mailto:kegan@ottawacitizen.com) [twitter.com/kellyegancolumn](https://twitter.com/kellyegancolumn)

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# CULTURE

## MICHEAL CASTALDO—ST. LUCY'S CHURCH, NEWARK, NJ

By: Rosaria Caporrimo, Ph.D.

I have been a Micheal Castaldo fan for years but I'm always amazed at the uniqueness and personal touch he brings to each performance. On December 13th, I was privileged to attend his Christmas concert at St. Lucy's Church in Newark, N.J. This concert was particularly memorable not only because, as always, Castaldo's voice was in excellent form, but because of his graciousness and humility, as well as the amazing venue at which the concert took place.

December 13th is the feast day of St. Lucy, Santa Lucia in Italian, one of the virgin martyrs and patron saints of Sicily, though the feast day is celebrated in Scandinavia as well as Italy. The Church of St. Lucy in Newark is a beautiful tribute to the saint and to the founders of the church as well as its faithful. Built in 1891,



it reminds one of the cathedrals of Italy—huge marble columns and high vaulted ceilings with paintings, a semi-circular altar also in marble, and several side altars. The lighting, the candles, and the Christmas decorations and greenery all added to an amazing ambiance in which Castaldo performed songs from his Extravirgine Christmas CD.

Even before the start of the concert, there was a hushed sense of anticipation, doubtless attributable to both the featured artist and the serene environment of St. Lucy's. Guests spoke in lowered voices about Castaldo's voice, his demeanor, and CDs they already owned. It was clear that this artist is not only admired for his musical genius but also for his kind soul, generosity, and ability to impact fans beyond his unique voice talent. The filled-to-capacity church was a testimony to his ever-increasing fan base and to the spirit of the Christmas season.

Castaldo's Extravirgine CD has become a treasured part of the Christmas season for me, with its Eastern Mediterranean roots and unique approaches to several traditional tunes as well as Castaldo's own composition, Tutto e Bianco nel Cuor'. Extravirgine itself is a musical masterpiece. The only two songs that had already been translated into the Italian language are O Santa Notte (Oh, Holy Night) and Astro Del Ciel (Silent Night). Micheal is the first person to have written Italian lyrics for the remainder of the songs on the CD. In fact, Piccolo Gesù is a traditional Polish Christmas hymn that Castaldo translated into his native Italian.

It is difficult to put into words the transformative aura of the event—from the first song to the encore, for a brief two hours the audience was simply transfixed, removed from the worries and anxieties of the world and the hectic pace of the season and whisked away to a peaceful, spiritual space of true "comfort and joy."

Gioia Nel Mondo was an inspired introduction to the concert that followed and to the pure enchantment of the Christmas season. Each song that followed highlighted the diversity of the artist's voice—from the powerful rendering of Adeste Fideles (Oh Come all Ye Faithful) and Puoi Sentire Quel' Che Sento Io? (Do You Hear What I Hear?) to the innocence and quiet beauty of Piccolo Gesù and O Santa Notte. Many in the audience had never heard Castaldo's version of Little Drummer Boy—Batte nel Cuore, Suona Natale, nor Piccolo Gesù, a truly numinous work of art. Micheal's composition, Tutto e Bianco nel Cuor' (Everything's White) is a moving piece that is destined to become a traditional Christmas tune and a holiday favorite. And then there is Castaldo's brilliant combination medley of Gloria, in Excelsis Deo and Day-O (the Banna Boat Song) one of my personal favorites. Everyone, and I mean everyone

was singing along with Micheal when the Day-O part of the chorus was sung. It was an awesome moment hearing 400+ people sing along. This performance, as well as several others during the concert, brought the audience to its feet well before the final standing ovation.

Castaldo's celebrated generosity and humility were demonstrated several times during the concert. He featured four talented young musicians from the John J. Cali School of Music Strings, leaving the stage and allowing them to take "center stage" performing a moving Angels From the Realms of Glory and God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen. Before performing Piccolo Gesù, he "introduced" the audience to his wife, Bozena, and credited her with the translation of this lovely hymn from her



native Polish into English, affording him the opportunity to translate and perform it in his Italian version. Another highlight of the evening was during the performance of the beloved traditional Italian Christmas song, Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle, when Castaldo invited one of the priests from the parish, Father Luigi Zanotto to sing along with him at the microphone. Soon after, Father Luigi, still excited from performing with Micheal rushed back to the sacristy to get his harmonica and played a moving instrumental version of Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle to a rousing applause. Throughout the concert Micheal invited the audience to sing along-- it was clear that the audience appreciated his graciousness.

Castaldo performed two songs that do not appear on Extravirgine CD-- the classic Ave Maria by Schubert and his Italian translation of the Leonard Cohen masterpiece, Hallelujah, (both songs are from his Aceto CD) which Micheal performed as an encore with the soul and spirit with which this artist has become associated. The audience reaction was clear; they were truly moved and many were brought to tears by his performance of both pieces.

For me, this concert will remain a vibrant memory of Castaldo's talent and commitment to his craft and supporters. With each performance he brings the spirit of a poet and the soul of an angel. His performance at St. Lucy's warmed both the heart and animas. I witnessed several post-concert conversations -- it was clear that his performance touched those in attendance and started their Christmas season with joy, hope, and a sense of tranquility. The standing ovation at the end of the concert was a testament to his effect on the audience. Afterwards I attended the "post-concert" festivities when people snacked on Italian pastries and chatted with one another and the artist himself, as he graciously autographed the many copies of Extravirgine and other CDs that were sold that evening. The concert left me with a sense of pure felicità (happiness),

and a sense of peace and spirituality, which I welcomed in what has become a too-commercialized time of year and not one of insight and gratitude. Amen!

The following organizations partnered with Micheal Castaldo to help promote the Italian culture and heritage at this Italian Christmas concert: The Italian Tribune, Coccia Foundation, UNICO, Sempre Avanti, Federation of Italian American Societies of NJ, Comitato Italiano di Santa Brigida, Investors Bank and Brown Paper Tickets. Post concert refreshments were generously donated by Palazzone 1960 of Wayne, NJ, and Hot Bagels'N'More of Verona, NJ.

For more information, about Micheal Castaldo, go to <http://www.michealCASTALDO.com>, contact Majestic Castle Music at 877-642-7271 or send an email to [majesticcastlemusic@yahoo.com](mailto:majesticcastlemusic@yahoo.com)



# LOCAL

## Un Bicchiere di Vino con Il Postino... The Casella Family

by Domenico Cellucci

This month's column continues with wine personalities that have spread the appreciation of wine around the world. These are individuals who left Italy for a better life and through hard work, determination and a vision achieved great success.

This month we celebrate the successes of the Casella family. This family is responsible for the greatest success in the branding and marketing of a wine in the last 15 years in my humble opinion. In 2000 they were a small winery in Australia. In 2010, their wine brand, according to Power 100 consultancy out of the UK, was the 5th most powerful. In 2010, 10% of the grapes crushed in Australia was by Casella wines. I won't just yet give you the name of their hugely popular wine. Let's just say the wine world was taken by storm when they entered the US market in 2001.

The voyage of the Casella's from Sicily to Australia is the classic rags to riches stories many immigrants have enjoyed. The story begins in Sicily in 1820 when the Casella's planted their first vineyards in Sicily on the slopes of Mount Etna. Fast

The year 1999 marks a turning point in the history of the winery. Casella Wines enters the US market securing a partnership with American wine distributor William J Deutsch. The wine brand offered in the US would be owned equally by the 2 parties. When this brand hit US shores in 2001, sales hit 60 000 cases. In a short 2 years this brand was the bestselling red wine in the US. By 2008 sales were 8 million cases!!! Today this wine is the bestselling Australian wine in the US, Canada, Italy, Japan and in the world. A quarter of all wines exported from Australia to Germany are due to this brand. In a little over 50 years the Casella family has gone from poverty in Sicily to being Australia's biggest wine exporter. What is the name of the wine brand that made the Casella family's winery, Australia's greatest wine story? Yellow Tail.

What is it about Yellow Tail that makes it so successful? In my opinion, what's on the bottle is just as important as what is in the bottle. The yellow tail on the

label refers to the yellow-tail rock-wallaby, a member of the marsupial family related to the kangaroo. This was the first in what was called "critter" wines. In time the market would see an avalanche of competitors using bottles coloured with different animals.

For Yellow Tail, it was a stroke of marketing genius. It captured the essence of Australia. As well, the label continued with the new world usage of having the grape variety displayed. All labels have a different colour according to grape variety. Today Yellow Tail is produced with the following grape varieties: Moscato, Riesling, Semillon, Sauvignon blanc, Pinot gris, Chardonnay, Pinot noir, Merlot, Grenache, Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon. It also comes in a sparkling wine. (which I will review later) The other side of the equation is the wine inside the bottle. It is very affordable at under \$10 and is easy to drink. By that it avoids the harsh tannins and elevated acidity more complex wines tend to have. The emphasis is on the fruit, finish and body. It is a hit especially with new wine drinkers.

What are the realities facing the Casella's third generation of winemakers? The global recession has cut into all sales of wine globally. Especially concerning in 2013 was the appreciation of the Australian dollar making Australian wines more expensive. As well, Casella Wines is looking to tap into the Asian market where only 8% of their wines are sold. The potential is huge!

I know many of you have tried Yellow Tail Shiraz and Chardonnay. So I won't review them. One wine that I think will become a big seller for the LCBO is the Yellow Tail Bubbles Sparkling Rosé. At \$13.95 a bottle it's quite affordable and an excellent value. It is a blend of Semillon, Traminer Shiraz and Frontignac grapes. As the title suggests, it has a pinkish hue. The mousse or bubbles didn't last long and was quick to fizzle. However, on the nose, what jumped out for me were strawberry notes. On the palate, it is medium in sweetness, not as sweet as the Asti Spumante we all are familiar with. The strawberry notes continue on the palate at first followed by lemon notes. It is light in body and very fruity. I was impressed with the long, crisp finish it had, given the price point. Try it as an aperitif during the holidays. Buon Anno!!

Grazie e salute!

If you have any questions or suggestions for future columns, please contact me at [vinumbonumest@yahoo.com](mailto:vinumbonumest@yahoo.com).



forward to 1951 when Filippo Casella after 6 years as a prisoner of war in India leaves the poverty of post-war Sicily for Australia cutting sugar cane in Northern Australia. In 1954 Filippo returns to Sicily and realizes that with no economic prospects in Sicily, that Australia would be his future. In 1955 he returned to Australia and with his savings, he decides to bring his wife Maria and children Rosa and Joe to Australia (their other 2 children John and Marcello would be born in Australia). After a 4 week journey, the family arrives in Australia in 1957.

At first the family sold their grapes to local wineries in the Yenda Township area in the Riverina Region of New South Wales. He was successful and in 1965 purchased a 40 acre farm in the area growing grapes, peaches and prunes. In 1969 Filippo Casella decided to open up his own winery. That first year he sold 20 barrels of wine. By 1971 over 50 tonnes of grapes were crushed. Success continues and in 1975 a stainless steel tank is acquired. In 1978 the Casella winery released its first commercial wine: Yendalla Spumante Wine. By 1980, technology in the form of refrigeration units are installed at the winery. In 1981, the winery continues to grow with production hitting 110 tonnes of grapes. In 1994 with the winery expanding a laboratory is built at the winery. Total crush by now is 2000 tonnes. In 1996, the winery releases in Australia, the Cottler's Bridge range of Chardonnay and Shiraz wines.

[www.ottawaitalians.com](http://www.ottawaitalians.com)



## St. Anthony's Church Centennial Lunch Raises \$4,100



Luigi and Angela Filoso with Teresa and Vito Melia



Martine Cornado with Angela, Marie Cristine and Michele



The Mariani Table



Father Marcel with Rosemary Perry and guests



Gino Buffone and Guests



Italo Tiezzi and friends



Tony D'Angelo and friends



Angelo Filoso, His excellency Gian Lorenzo Cornado and Signer Tony Ieluzzi

Flowers donated in memory of Mary IERULLO  
by Laviolette Flowers and Wedding Decor





## St. Anthony's Church Centennial Lunch Raises \$4,100



**Thank You to The centennial Lunch committee and all the volunteers Gino and Lena Buffone, Angela Ierullo , Tony D'Angelo, Rosemary Perry and Rina Filoso.**

# OTTAWA HISTORY OF THE ITALIAN CANADIAN COMMUNITY



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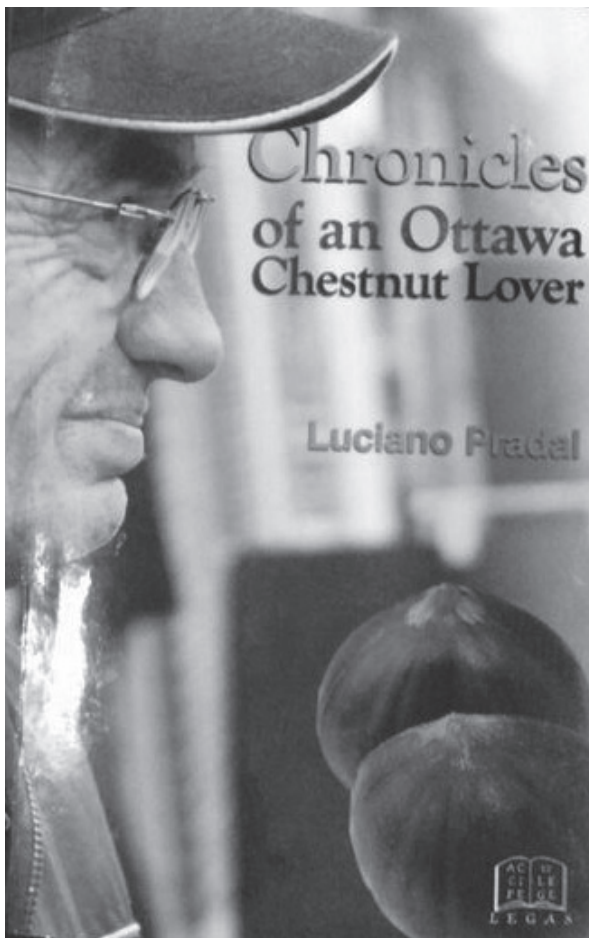
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# ITALIAN

## Book Review: Chronicles of an Ottawa Chestnut Lover

By: Dana Stephenson



Chronicles of an Ottawa Chestnut Lover features an endearing look into the lives of the people who walk through Ottawa's Byward Market expressed by its unique writing style that is almost as unique as the man who wrote it. These chronicles capture the fleeting day to day experiences of Luciano Pradal and reminds us all to slow down and savour the chestnuts. Full of opinions, musings and a lot of facts about a particular brown nut, Pradal shares a truly human experience in English, French and Italian. The beautiful pictures and recipes for various chestnut inspired dishes are a surprising bonus that set this whimsical story apart.

Excerpt: Everybody Likes Them

"Eugene is a disabled person. His body is racked with pain. We can't touch him or he will scream in

pain. He came to see me in his wheelchair that he controls with his head. He calls from across George Street:

"Luziano! Luziano! Castagne!"

I prepare and wrap up 5-6 chestnuts for him and I place them in front of the dash of his wheelchair. He thanks me and he goes into the Rideau Mall where someone will peel them and put them in his mouth.

He loves them! He doesn't miss one day when I am in the Market."

Luciano Pradal was born in Vittorio Veneto, north of Venice, Italy. In 1966 he immigrated to Ottawa, where he worked as a "Stationary Engineer" for many years. Upon retirement he became a guide for the Italian tourists that visit Ottawa.

He co-founded the "Associazione Trevisani di Ottawa" and, as President, he promoted many cultural activities in the Italian community. He was also very active with the Boy Scouts of Ottawa, participating in bicycling treks to Washington, the Georgian Bay Region and to L'Île de la Tortue in Haiti, where they established a bicycle repair shop. For this he was awarded twice the Annapurna Badge by the Governor General of Canada.

Pradal has collaborated in the setting up of the exhibit "Presenza" at the Canadian Museum of Civilizations, as well as with the local Italian Newspapers, L'Orà di Ottawa and Il Postino, where many of his articles on Italian Canadian artists and craftsmen have appeared.

During the winter months, on weekends, you can now see Luciano Pradal in the Byward Market where he is known as the "Chestnut Roaster Guy" of Ottawa.

Excerpt: The Italian Community of Ottawa

"I love the Italian community of Ottawa. I love being part of it and at every occasion that presents itself to me I make myself available to promote the culture and the values of our community.

It occurs very often that there are social and cultural activities in which I participate with pleasure and contribute in the best way I possibly can.

On November 4th we celebrate the Italian National Unity and the Italian Armed Forces.

Organized by Angelo Filoso, President of the Italian Community Center, there was a beautiful ceremony on November 4th with a solemn mass, parade of flags of the different Associations, the Police and the Firefighters band of Ottawa. Also present were H. E. Meloni the Italian Ambassador in Canada, and a very large crowd. It was cold but the people stayed until the end of the ceremony during which they played the Canadian and the Italian National Anthems, and they laid the wreaths at the monument of the fallen soldiers in Piazza Dante, in front of Saint Anthony's Church.

A few days earlier, Angelo Filoso asked me if I was available to serve some roasted chestnuts to the people present at the celebration. I accepted without hesitation and on November 4th I was there, in Piazza Dante, early in the morning getting ready to roast chestnuts.

Once the ceremony ended, Rina Filoso and Lena Buffone came beside the fornella to begin distributing the freshly roasted chestnuts, three to each person.

We surprised everyone. Caldarroste? Roasted chestnuts? Incredible! They couldn't believe it!

Rina e Lena, sometimes were very popular during the distribution of the chestnuts... Naturally there were those who wanted more... Naturally! They were so good!

Once everyone had his/her share, there were a lot of chestnuts left over. Rina and Lena hurried to take them to the church basement where everybody gathered for coffee and cookies. Needless to say the chestnuts were the favourite besides everything else that was also on the tables!"



## AUGURI E SOSTEGNO AI PUGLIESI NEL MONDO

Francesca La Marca

Vorrei raccogliere e rilanciare l'augurio per un anno di serenità e di progresso inviato dall'assessore Elena Gentile ai Pugliesi nel mondo e dire, come pugliese d'origine, quanto mi senta orgogliosa e partecipe dello sforzo che la Puglia sta facendo per contrastare le difficoltà di questi anni e rilanciare un suo profilo di terra accogliente e operosa.

I colpi della crisi sono stati pesanti ovunque, ma il governo regionale è riuscito a limitarne le conseguenze. Nello stesso tempo si è impegnato per risanare i conti pubblici, soprattutto nel settore della sanità, senza far mancare una concreta solidarietà ai più deboli e a coloro che hanno più bisogno di aiuto.

Il saluto della Regione ai Pugliesi nel mondo non ha, né deve avere, nulla di rituale, non dev'essere un atto di cortesia destinato a spegnersi con il passare delle feste. In questi momenti di difficoltà non solo la Puglia, ma tutto il Paese deve avere la capacità di vedere nella sua emigrazione vecchia e nuova una fondamentale leva per la sua ripresa e per una sua indispensabile e rinnovata internazionalizzazione. Il persistente successo del Made in Italy, nonostante gli attacchi e i tentativi di contraffazione che subisce nel mercato globale, lo dimostra efficacemente.

In più, ogni regione italiana ha un tesoro di beni culturali e paesaggistici, di

produzioni di tradizione e di attività innovative, di prodotti alimentari e di modelli gastronomici e di accoglienza che ne fanno un unicum, non solo in ambito nazionale, ma europeo. Per la valorizzazione di queste risorse e per il loro inserimento in un circuito virtuoso e dinamico i corregionali all'estero rappresentano interlocutori sui quali si può e si deve contare. Del resto, è da decenni che attraverso le associazioni regionali e locali questo sta avvenendo, per puro spirito di volontariato e per amore delle proprie origini.

Sono orgogliosa - ripeto - di appartenere per discendenza materna a questa grande e bella famiglia dei Pugliesi nel mondo e mi sento impegnata, come ho ripetuto nei miei recenti incontri nel mio paese d'origine, Sannicandro di Bari, a fare tutto quello che è nelle mie possibilità e nelle mie forze per sostenerne il successo e il prestigio.

Spero di poter incontrare e conoscere personalmente l'assessore Elena Gentile e gli altri componenti del governo regionale per potere concretizzare questa mia disponibilità e concorrere per quanto possibile al bene comune dei Pugliesi, ovunque si trovino".

# LOCAL



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## Il Postino Christmas Party



# OTTAWA HISTORY OF THE ITALIAN CANADIAN COMMUNITY

## Dow's Lake at Carling and Preston 71 years ago

Pictures from Andrew Elliott

Much activity is occurring these days on the edge of the Glebe, and particularly in the area known as the Glebe Annex, which is a small area defined by Bronson, Carling, Energy Mines and Resources complex, and the Queensway. Just to the west of the Glebe Annex and down the hill is an area that was once known as the Rideau Canal Ordnance Lands, which was land set aside by the British Ordnance Department in the 19th century to protect the waters of the canal. By the 1920s, this land was no longer considered to be of much use, mostly because it was low lying and swampy, and so was gradually sold off by the Canadian government. This is how we get the beautiful park that was created by the Ottawa Improvement Commission known as Central Park East and West.



The area near Dows Lake would have been of great interest to the Ottawa Improvement Commission, but land ownership here was much more complicated, with ownership divided up between the Booth Lumber Company, various railways, and other industry such as the "quarry"



22-2-b(100) [unclear] of quarry on Carling Ave. looking east from Preston St., photos lettered North to South.

Or another image further east and further up the hill at the Cambridge Street intersection. Here you get a clear view of the FDC headquarters, how "improved" the landscape is compared to photos from the first part of this post, as well as a clear idea of how narrow Carling is:



At the top of the hill there is a small street named Maclean Street that goes one block from Cambridge to Bell street, and on old maps dating to the 1920s, this little street was named Ordnance Street.

I'll have more photos from this Ordnance Land photo collection in a future post, but it is worth the changes to the landscape in this general vicinity some 20 years later, with this image of the Carling and Rochester intersection, which shows the Federal District Commission headquarters just at the far left of the photo in almost the exact spot as the quarry.



# Annual Fund Raising Dinner

## Saint Anthony's Church

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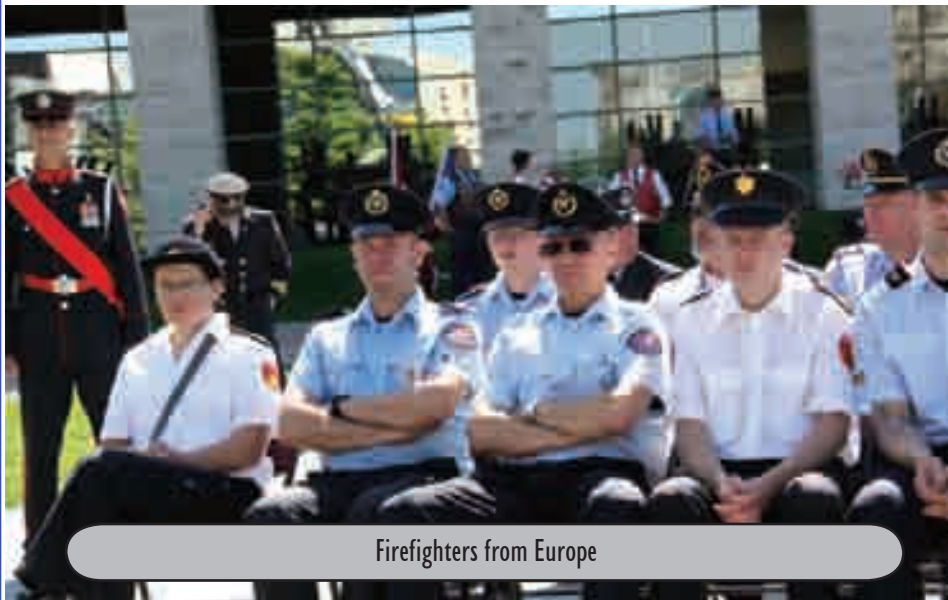
## FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL SERVICE 2013



Ottawa Police Honour guard



Max Keeping saying a few words to honour the fallen firefighters



Firefighters from Europe



Honouring the Fallen firefighters



Ottawa Chief of Police Charles Bordeleau with colleagues



Inspector Chris Rheame with colleagues



Ottawa Firefighters Executive