



## Association of Italian Canadian Writers

### Executive

President Maria Cristina Seccia

Vice-President Domenic A. Beneventi

Secretary Cristina Pepe

Treasurer Delia De Santis

### Editorial Board

Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli

Anna Ciampolini Foschi

Rene Pappone

Giulia Verticchio

### Newsletter Committee

Anna Ciampolini Foschi

Francesca Foschi Mitchell (editor)

Rene Pappone

Cristina Pepe

## A Celebration of our Association's Long and Fruitful Journey

By Anna Ciampolini Foschi



Delia De Santis. Photo by Brooke Giresi

About 100 contributors celebrate Italian Canadian writing in the 500 pages of the forthcoming anthology by the working title: *Moving Forward: The First Thirty Years of Italian-Canadian Writing*.

Co-editors Delia De Santis, Giulia De Gasperi and Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni have worked on this massive endeavour for the past two years. The anthology showcases works by AICW members, new and past members and other Italian Canadian writers. It honours the 30<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary of the Association of Italian Canadian Writers, founded in 1986 during the First National Conference of Italian Canadian Writers held in Vancouver.

Started by a small, enthusiastic and idealistic group of authors, our Association has since flourished and proven to be a vital presence on the Canadian literary scene. As Dr. Joseph Pivato writes in his notes about the *History of Italian Canadian Writing*: "... the writing has received critical recognition both inside and outside the Italian community; the writing has been anthologized in several collections; the writing is being studied in schools and universities; and the writing is used as an example by other ethnic minority writers." ([http://engl.athabasca.ca/faculty/jpivato/itcan\\_writing.php](http://engl.athabasca.ca/faculty/jpivato/itcan_writing.php))

This anthology is a seminal work, a must-read for anyone interested in the literary voices that make up the tassels of the Canadian mosaic. The book is also representative of the universal journey of



Giulia De Gasperi, photo by Lara Bello

### AICW on Facebook and Twitter

Follow the AICW on Twitter [@AICWCanada](https://twitter.com/AICWCanada)

If you are on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AICWCanada), please take the time to LIKE our page and to post information about your new publications and events



Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni

immigration as well as many other relevant themes of contemporary society. The co-editors, who are respected experts in the field and successful writers, dedicate their work to

Venera Fazio, the multi-talented writer/editor/poet and quilting artist who has given such an outstanding contribution to Italian Canadian literature and to the development of our Association.

The book will be published by Longbridge Books in the spring of 2018 and will be available online for pre-orders through the [Accenti Bookstore](http://www.accentibookstore.com)

## Longbridge Books Launches New Website

Founded in 2008, Longbridge Books is dedicated to the publication and promotion of works of fiction and non-fiction that convey Canada's multicultural character. A member of the English Language Publishers of Quebec (AELAQ), Longbridge Books has published works by Delia De Santis, D.C. Iannuzzi, Darlene Madott, Licia Canton, Marisa De Franceschi, Venera Fazio, Rosetta Rosati and Pietro Vitelli, among others. Recent titles include Rosetta Rosati's *Maples and Chestnuts*, Marisa De Franceschi's *Waiting for Chrynsathemums* and Licia



D.C. Iannuzzi and Domenic Cusmano. Photo by Decio Cusmano



D.C. Iannuzzi and Licia Canton.

Photo by Decio Cusmano

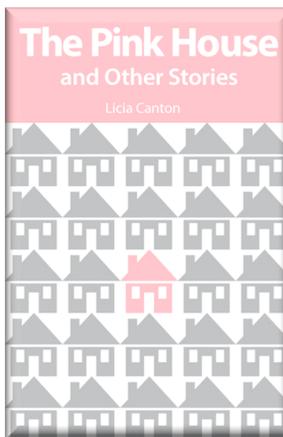
Canton's *The Pink House and Other Stories*. To browse the catalogue and to order books go to

<http://longbridgebooks.com/> To see photos of recent activities go to [www.facebook.com/longbridgebooks/](https://www.facebook.com/longbridgebooks/)

Longbridge Books authors Licia Canton and D.C. Iannuzzi were featured at the Holiday Pop-Up Book Fair in Montreal, Nov. 25-26, 2017. The two-day fair was hosted by the Quebec Writers's Federation (QWF) and the AELAQ.

Licia Canton is the author of two short story collections, *The Pink House* (2018) and *Almond Wine and Fertility* (2008). She is also co-editor of nine anthologies of creative and critical writing, including two volumes on the internment of Italian Canadians (2012). Her stories, poems, essays and creative nonfiction have been anthologized internationally, notably in French, Italian, Venetian and Chinese. Her immigration history is archived at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, Halifax. She is also a literary translator and critic, and founding editor-in-chief of *Accenti Magazine*. She has served on the board of the Quebec Writers' Federation (2007-2010) and is past-president of the Association of Italian Canadian Writers (2010-2014). She holds a Ph.D. from Université de Montréal and an M.A. from McGill.

D.C. Iannuzzi is a Montreal writer and an incorrigible news and history junkie. He burst onto the literary scene in 2008 with his first novel, *City of Sinners*, a tale of home-grown terrorism that turns Quebec's language debate on its head. He followed up with *Penance Is for the Weak* 2011, a tale of corrosive greed, blind ambition and ruthless retribution. Iannuzzi is a graduate of Concordia University and, when not contemplating the darkness that lurks in men's souls, earns his living as an investment advisor and portfolio manager. He



lives in the former Ville d'Anjou on the island of Montreal with his wife and two daughters.

*The Pink House*, Licia Canton's much anticipated second collection of short fiction, like her first, *Almond Wine and Fertility*, delves into the lives of ordinary people who must contend with extraordinary situations: an elderly man is determined to renew his motorcycle licence, a woman is immobilized on a cold sidewalk after an accident, a recent immigrant finds love on a blind date, a middle-aged woman remembers her first love affair, a suburban mom takes a break from her hectic schedule. Licia Canton's carefully crafted narratives take the reader to a variety of settings: a vineyard in Italy, a quiet street in Vienna, a university library, a shopping centre, a crowded street corner late at night, a restaurant in Little Italy. As in her first collection, Licia Canton powerfully conveys the emotions that drive the characters to action and, in the process, compels readers to contemplate life and the challenges we must all face. To order Licia Canton's *The Pink House and Other Stories*, visit <http://longbridgebooks.com/>



Licia Canton, Rosetta Rosati and Domenic Cusmano at the Montreal launch of *Maples and Chestnuts* in September 2017.  
Photo by Sergio Marrone

## Accenti Magazine Invitation

Accenti Magazine invites you to read recent articles at [www.accenti.ca](http://www.accenti.ca).

Poppy Crackers by Marguerite Dakin

<http://www.accenti.ca/online-features/excerpts/poppy-crackers-by-marguerite-dakin>

Loss of Teenage Dreams by Delia De Santis

<http://www.accenti.ca/online-features/loss-of-teenage-dreams-by-delia-de-santis>

Canadian Problems by Rondi Adamson

<http://www.accenti.ca/canadian-problems-by-rondi-adamson>

Zia by Elegie LoCascio

<http://www.accenti.ca/zia-by-elegie-locascio>

Pasta con Piselli by Christina Sforza

<http://www.accenti.ca/online-archive/diet/pasta-con-piselli-by-christina-sforza>

Autumn Bounty by Delia De Santis

<http://www.accenti.ca/autumn-bounty-by-delia-de-santis>

## Seasons Greetings



*Porgiamo a tutti i soci e alle persone a loro care i nostri migliori auguri per le Feste Natalizie e il Nuovo Anno.*

We wish to extend our best wishes to all members and their families for the Christmas holidays and the New Year.

*À nos membres et leurs familles, nos meilleurs vœux pour le temps des fêtes et une bonne et heureuse année.*

*Il Comitato Editoriale per il Bollettino:*

*The Newsletter Committee:*

*Le Comité de rédaction*

*Anna, Cristina, Rene e Francesca*



## Call for Papers/Proposals

### ***Roots, Routes and Recognition: Italian Canadians in Literature and the Arts***

17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Association of Italian Canadian Writers (AICW)

**WINNIPEG, SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2018**

The Association of Italian Canadian Writers (AICW), in collaboration with Italian Studies in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at the University of Winnipeg, is accepting proposals for its 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference to be held at the University of Winnipeg, Manitoba, **September 27-29, 2018**. The conference invites academic papers, literary readings (poetry, prose or plays) and artistic works in Italian-Canadian literature and culture that engage with themes of heritage, passages and appreciation.

Writers and artists, academics and researchers from all disciplines are encouraged to submit proposals to present new (or posthumous) creative or critical works in Italian, English or French. Graduate students and emerging writers are encouraged to participate. Possible topics include the following:

- Engaging with tradition in contemporary texts
- Writing and transmitting cultural memory
- Representations of place, space, and (dis)location
- Italian diaspora and globalization
- Cinema and the visual arts
- Culinary culture and literature
- Science and technology
- Translation and self-translation
- Representations of queerness

**Other topics not mentioned above will also be taken into consideration.**

For academic papers (20 minutes), please send 200-word abstract and biographical information (60 words). For panels of two or three papers (20 minutes each), send 200-word abstract for each paper as well as bio (60 words) for each presenter and contact information for all panelists.

For literary readings of 15 minutes, please send a 200-word excerpt of the text to be read (prose or play) or four poems (max. 40 lines) along with biographical information (60 words). Preference will be given to readings and performances of new works.

**The deadline for all proposals is March 31, 2018.** Please note that once a proposal has been accepted, a conference registration fee (\$100.00) will be requested for presenters who are not full members of the AICW in good standing. Please send all submissions and queries to:

**Sante Viselli (s.viselli@uwinnipeg.ca) / (204) 786-9987 and  
Rosaria Moretti-Lawrie (r.moretti-lawrie@uwinnipeg.ca)**

Visit <http://aicw.ca/> to find out more about the Association of Italian Canadian Writers (AICW).



## Italians in Canada 150+Years

By Cristina Pepe

In September, the AICW and the Italian Studies Program at Laurentian University in Sudbury hosted the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary conference 'Italians in Canada 150+ Years'.



Panel: Delia DeSantis, Domenic Cusmano, Frank Giorno, and Marisa De Franceschi, moderator Laura Stradiotto. *Photo by Cristina Pepe*

Over the two days, 34 speakers presented book readings, poetry, literary essays, a photographic presentation of Good Friday in Toronto, a documentation of Italian Canadian grocery stores in Ontario, a graphic novel in progress, and excerpts from two plays in *'Italiense'*. Diana Luele-Colilli and Christine Sansalone had me doubled over laughing as I relived the same situation when Papà was teaching me how to drive!

I was especially delighted to see several presentations by younger AICW members on subjects such as the internment of Italian Canadians, wage discrimination faced by Italian Canadians, *pseudoitalianismi*, and the creative impulse and *Italianità*. There were also many students in the Italian Studies Program volunteering at the event.



Licia Canton and Christine Sansalone at the Verdicchio Ristorante. *Photo by Cristina Pepe*

The first day of the conference was held at the Società Caruso Club



Sudbury Conference dinner at the Verdicchio Ristorante. *Photo by Vincenzo Pietropaolo*

[www.carusoclub.ca](http://www.carusoclub.ca), which is home to nine Italian Canadian groups. They also catered our delicious lunches and dinner. The second day was held at the Italian Studies Department at Laurentian University. Papers and readings from the



A windy group photo on the roof of the Parker Building, Laurentian University. *Photo by Cristina Pepe*

conference will be published in a special edition of the journal *Italian Canadiana*, edited by Diana Luele-Colilli and Christine Sansalone.



Pat Marcuccio presenting on wage discrimination faced by Italian Canadians. *Photo by Cristina Pepe*



*Complimenti e mille grazie* to our hosts and organizing committee Paul Colilli, Diana Luele-Colilli, Christine Sansalone, Nic Battigelli, Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli and Licia Canton. I have been to many conferences, and this was one of the most organized ever! I found it especially inspirational to see the involvement of the Italian Studies Faculty in the Italian community in Sudbury. This is not the case where I live. It seemed like in Sudbury every person was at least a little bit Italian!



Nic Battigelli reading about his Nonna and her crisis of religion with the Beatles. *Photo by Cristina Pepe*

## Joe Pivato's Interventions

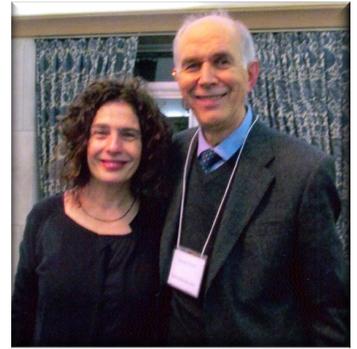
Joe Pivato presented a paper in October, which argued for inclusion of Italian Canadian Literature in curriculums of Italian Studies programs.

His intervention took place at the conference: Offstream: Minority & Popular Cultures, Italian Studies Department, University of Toronto, October 13-15. Joe pointed out, for example, that the Italian Studies Department has produced 136 Ph.D. theses and has 17 theses in progress for a total of 153. Of these, only one deals Italian Canadian literature, and that single thesis was by Monica Stellin in 1998. By contrast, English and French departments have produced many M.A. and Ph.D. dissertations on Italian Canadian writers. Some have been published.

Other speakers included writer Antonia Arslan, University of Padova, Eugenio Bolongaro, McGill

University, and Marco Arnaudo, Indiana University, U.S.A.

The Italian film, *The Lark Farm* (La Masseria delle Allodole) was screened at the conference. The film is based on Antonia Arslan's novel, *La Masseria delle Allodole*, which deals with the Armenian genocide during the First World War, and is directed by Paolo and Vittorio Taviani.



Arsinée Khanjian and Joe Pivato.

One of the stars in this film is Canadian actor Arsinée Khanjian who participated in a question-and-answer session along with Antonia Arslan who explained that her Armenian grandparents escaped the genocide by going to Venice. She was born in Padova where she lives and continues to write.

Arsinée, a supporter of Italian Canadian writing, took a photo with Joe Pivato (see accompanying snapshot) and accepted a copy of his book, *Contrasts: Comparative Essays on Italian-Canadian Writing*. During Joe's presentation, AICW member and writer, Silvia Falsaperla was present as a supporter. Poet Gianna Patriarca was present at another session of the Offstream conference.

In other news . . . On August 29, 2017 Joe Pivato was interviewed about Italian Canadian writing by a RAI-TV team from Rome. They also interviewed Caterina Edwards and other artists in Edmonton later that week.



Joe Pivato, Emma Pivato and family members went white-water rafting on the Athabasca River, Jasper, Alberta, in August as a break from writing and editing and more writing. After six novels, Emma Pivato is now working on a book of non-fiction. *Photo courtesy of Joe Pivato*



## Liana Cusmano Recites Poetry at QWF Gala

Poetry in Voice alumni Liana Cusmano recited one of Erin Robinsong's poems at the Quebec Writers' Federation Gala on November 21, 2017.

Robinsong's collection *Rag Cosmology* won the A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry.

To see the video of Liana's recitation, go to <https://www.facebook.com/pivlvp/>



Liana Cusmano Recites Erin Robinsong's Poem. *Photo courtesy of Poetry in Voice/Les voix de la poésie*



Erin Robinsong and Liana Cusmano. *Photo courtesy of Poetry in Voice/Les voix de la poésie*

## 'Italian spoken between Rome and Naples'

On Saturday October 21, 2017, on the occasion of the XVII Settimana della lingua Italiana nel mondo, the Italian Cultural Institute of Montreal, in collaboration with the Association of Italian Canadian Writers presented Italian spoken between Rome and Naples.

The event featured presentations by Fabrizio Intravaia, Giulia Verticchio, Francesco Palmieri and Alessandro Chetta.



Giulia Verdicchio. *Photo by Francesco D'Arelli*





## A Sentimental Journey

By Rosetta Rosati

Reading from my book, *Maples and Chestnuts*, at the AICW's 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary conference at Laurentian University was an exciting experience for me.

Following the conference, I was ready to experience great emotions. It was Sunday morning, my last day in Sudbury. I participated in a breakfast reading at Salute Coffee Shop, hosted by the Calabria Social Club. A warm atmosphere surrounded me and my fellow readers Licia, Rosanna and Nic. Soon I would say goodbye to some of my AICW friends. My trip to Canada was coming to an end, but I had one last desire to fulfill! I would visit the childhood home of my mother. At one point during the reading that morning, I could not hold back my tears. This happened every time I read my story *My Soo Roots*.

*"A gust of wind came out of nowhere and made the maple tree sway low towards me. It was a sign. My mother approved."*

These were the last lines I read. I could feel my mother's presence and I imagined her face, nodding at me in approval.

My Soo roots! The house I had dreamed of so many times. The house where my mother was born was just a three-hour drive from Sudbury. My friends Rosanna and Nic had generously offered to drive me to Sault Ste. Marie after our morning readings. My sentimental journey was about to begin.

Along the highway, every town, tree, lake and highway sign became a familiar landmark. They became mine. Never before had I felt such a closeness to this country. As we entered Sault Ste. Marie, heavy rain started coming down. The address of the house was well stored in my mind as the street search started.

There it was: Shafer Avenue. The street I had viewed over and over again on Google maps. The HOUSE

where my mother's Canadian adventure had started more than one hundred years ago. I felt like I was in a scene from a movie. All of the things my mother had told me about her childhood in this house came to life. The small pine tree, planted in the back garden in 1916 was now a gigantic tree, clearly visible over the roof top of the house.

*Emozioni, un continuo riaffiorare di emozioni!*

The present owner of the house is Italian, and it is rented by two families. A young girl and her dog live on the top floor. She answered the doorbell, but I was only able to see the stairs that led to the upper rooms. She did not have time to show us the house. On the ground floor lived another family, but they were not home.

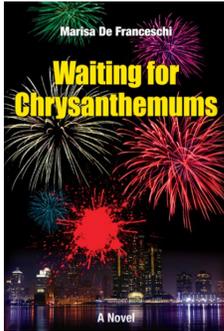
Once the rain had stopped, I was able to walk around the house and admire the pine tree. I stood there and breathed it all in. For an instant, I closed my eyes and I could visualize a young eight-year-old with long brown braids dangling behind her as she ran around the house, trying to catch her brothers. This was my mother's favourite game.



Rosetta and the house on Shafer Avenue, *photo credit Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli*



## Update on Marisa De Franceschi's Latest Novel



Marisa De Franceschi would like to let AICW members know where to find her latest novel, *Waiting for Chrysanthemums* (Longbridge Books).

Online or at Chapters, Indigo and Coles Bookstores.

The Windsor Public Library System and the Essex County Public Library System (this means inter-library loans are available).

Juniper Books, Ottawa Street, Windsor.

Biblioasis Bookstore, Wyandotte Street, Windsor.

For further information contact Marisa at: [marisadefranceschi@hotmail.ca](mailto:marisadefranceschi@hotmail.ca)

## Story by Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli Appears in Literary Review

Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli's story, *The Hawk*, appears in a special upcoming issue of *VIA: Voices In Italian Americana*, a literary review dedicated to the culture of Italians in North America. This issue, edited by Nick DiChario, is dedicated to contemporary Italian folktales. <http://www.bordigherapress.org/VIA.html>

Deborah Starewich has designed a beautiful cover for this special edition of *VIA*. It is a stunning piece of art by the Italian painter Alessandro Andreuccetti. [http://nickdichario.com/.../italian-folktale-cover-design-re...](http://nickdichario.com/.../italian-folktale-cover-design-re.../)

Rosanna has also been offered a two-book contract from Harlequin UK, one of the world's leading publishers of books for women and the global leader in series romance. Harlequin publishes a wide range of books from romance and thrillers to fantasy and inspirational fiction.



## Membership Renewal Reminder

Please remember to renew your AICW membership before it expires at the end of 2017, to support our Association and to continue to enjoy the members' privileges.



**BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!  
DEVENEZ MEMBRE AUJOURD'HUI!  
DIVENTA SOCIO OGGI!**

**CONTACT INFO / COORDONNÉES / DATI PERSONALI:**

First Name/Prénom/Nome:		Middle Name/ Deuxième prénom/ Secondo nome	
Last Name/ Nom de famille/ Cognome		Salutation/ Titre/ Titolo	
Street / Adresse / Via e numero civico			
City / Ville/ Città		Province/State / Province/ État / Provincia	
Country / Pays / Stato		Postal Code / Zip Code/ Code postal / CAP	
Telephone/ Telefono (home / maison/ casa)		Telephone/ Telefono (work / travail / ufficio)	
Email		Website / Site Web / Sito Internet	
Areas of Interest / Champ d'intérêts/ Interessi			
Biography/ Biographie / Biografia (475 characters max)			

**New or Returning Member:**  New/ Nouveau / Nuovo  Renewal / Renouvellement / Rinnovo

**Choose One**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$100.00 CAD</b> —Voting member/ Membre votant / Socio con diritto di voto (1 year/an/anno)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$175.00 CAD</b> —Voting member/ Membre votant / Socio con diritto di voto (2 years/ans/anni)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$100.00 CAD</b> —Associate member / Membre associé/ Socio Ordinario (1 year/an/anno)
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$175.00 CAD</b> — Associate member / Membre associé/ Socio Ordinario (2 years/ans/anni)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$25.00 CAD</b> —Student member/ Membre étudiant / Socio student (1 year/an/anno)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$100.00 CAD</b> —Supporter / Sostenitore

*Please make all cheques payable to the Association / Les chèques doivent être faits au nom de l'association/ Gli assegni debbono essere intestati all'associazione*

**Please mail the completed form accompanied by a cheque or money order to:**

*S'il vous plaît envoyer le formulaire complété accompagné d'un chèque ou un mandat à:*

*Si prega di inviare per posta il modulo completato, accompagnato da un assegno o un vaglia a:*

**International: please send money orders.** *À l'étranger: il est préférable d'envoyer des mandats. Estero: si prega di inviare vaglia.*

**Association of Italian Canadian Writers  
2742 East Georgia Street  
Vancouver, BC V5K 2K2 Canada**