

# *Association of Italian-Canadian Writers Newsletter*

*Bulletin de l'Association des écrivain(e)s italo-canadien(n)es*

*Bolletino dell'Associazione scrittori/scrittrici italo-canadesi*

Summer / été / estate 2003

Numero 45



Photo:  
Antonio D'Alfonso thanks  
many writers across the country  
for their support over 25 years.

## **Guernica Celebrates**

### **25 Years**

On Sunday June 8, 2003 about 100 writers and friends gathered at The Italian Cultural Institute in Toronto to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this unique publishing house. The event was organized by AICW members: Venera Fazio, Isabella Colalillo-Katz and Gianna Patriarca who was the MC. Many writers read or spoke about Antonio D'Alfonso, the Guernica founder, including Len Gasparini, Joseph Maviglia, Marisa De Franceschi, Licia Canton and Joe Pivato.

The happy writers at  
The Guernica Editions  
25<sup>th</sup> anniversary are  
Emma Pivato  
Marisa De Franceschi  
Connie Guzzo McParland  
and Licia Canton.



AICW contacts: Delia De Santis, 2961 Delia Crescent, Bright's Grove, Ontario, CANADA N0N 1C0  
or President, Anna Foschi Ciampolini, #30-710 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, North Vancouver, B.C. V7M 3K6

## Messaggio del Presidente

Cari amici,

Per l'associazione, il ritmo di lavoro non è rallentato neppure con l'arrivo dell'estate. Infatti sono in programma molte iniziative impegnative: solo qui a Vancouver, sto organizzando quattro importanti avvenimenti letterari fra settembre e ottobre. Inoltre, in novembre mi recherò in Italia su invito del Comune di Loro Ciuffenna e della Regione Toscana in occasione di "Emigramerica", il ciclo di celebrazioni in onore di Amerigo Vespucci. Abbiamo in programma di partecipare anche al Blue Metropolis Festival, e certamente intensificheremo la nostra presenza nei maggiori avvenimenti culturali nazionali.



Uno dei progetti che mi stanno a cuore è la compilazione di un *Who's Who* dei nostri soci, sia *on line* che in forma di opuscolo da distribuire, così da permettere maggiore diffusione delle informazioni ad un più vasto strato di pubblico; è un progetto che richiede molto tempo, e devo confessare che pur avendo iniziato un abbozzo di catalogo, son ben lontana dall'averlo completato e adesso le mie speranze son riposte nella possibilità di ottenere l'aiuto di uno stagista (*intern student*); infatti la McGill University ci ha contattato e la nostra associazione figura ora fra i possibili sponsor per gli studenti. Sapremo a settembre se potremo contare su questo aiuto per la lista degli autori e per espandere la nostra webpage.

Anche quest'anno abbiamo bandito il concorso letterario ed i vincitori sono già stati scelti; per questa iniziativa, oltre al nostro Comitato organizzatore guidato da Venera Fazio, ringrazio anche tutti i giudici e selezionatori che hanno collaborato. L'attività dei nostri comitati locali continua a produrre iniziative di qualità grazie alla dedizione dei nostri soci organizzatori, la campagna reclutamento nuovi soci continua e devo dire di essere abbastanza ottimista per il futuro della nostra associazione.

Questo messaggio è probabilmente un pò frettoloso e incompleto, quindi spero di non aver omesso nessuno nell'esprimere la mia gratitudine, ma devo confessare di non essere in piena forma, recentemente ho dovuto attraversare un momento molto difficile e sto ancora cercando di superarlo.

A tutti voi i miei più cari auguri di buon lavoro.

Anna Foschi Ciampolini  
Presidente

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 PRESENZA: A New Look at Italian Canadian Heritage

Report by Connie Guzzo McParland

The exhibit, *Presenza: A New Look at Italian Canadian Heritage*, which opened at the Canadian Museum of Civilization on June 12, has elicited a variety of reactions from AICW members who attended its official opening. The scope of the exhibit, as described in the press releases from the Museum and on their web site, [www.Civilization.com](http://www.Civilization.com), is to explore "the traditions, values and skills that immigrants brought with them to the new country, and shows how relevant they are for new generations of Canadians." The group of immigrants that *Presenza* focuses on is the wave from 1880 to the 1970's. The exhibit showcases 300 original artifacts gathered from across Canada, mainly personal objects loaned by individuals. Videotaped interviews and pictures are used to dramatize the contribution that these early Italian immigrants brought along with their peasant customs, and traditions.

The AICW members who attended the opening ceremony were: from Montreal, Licia Canton, Domenic Cusmano, Filomena Alati, Emilio Francescucci and myself; from Sarnia, Delia De Santis. Over one thousand other invited guests gathered in the Great Hall of the Museum for the opening. From overheard conversations, it was clear that many of the attendees were friends and family members of those that had donated items on display, and seemed genuinely enthusiastic about being there. Light refreshments consisted of trays of cheeses offered by Saputo, which sponsored the event, and wine, available through a cash bar. A stage show started with firemen's band that played the national anthems followed by comedian Charly Chiarelli who spoke in English and dialect and poked fun at his Sicilian parents. Surprisingly, he didn't get too many laughs; his English monologue and humor probably was lost on the mainly older, Italian-speaking audience. This was followed by formal speeches from Dr. Victor Rabinovitch, president of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Curator, Dr. Mauro Perissini, and broadcaster and member of the board of Trustees of the Museum, Marianna Simeone. The speeches were very inspiring, emphasizing the timely importance of showing the *contributions* that the Italian *presence* has made in this country. This, undoubtedly, raised the level of expectations of the crowd that eagerly crowded the labyrinth-like corridors of the exhibits. According to a fact sheet from the web site, this layout represents a central piazza around which seven zones dramatize the main themes of food, work, social life and spiritual life. The exhibit concludes with contemporary photographs and a selection of Italian proverbs.

Together with Licia and Domenic, I followed the crowd, but we only got a quick overview and told ourselves that we would come back during the summer and go through it at a more leisurely pace. We left with a favorable impression of the proceedings, though, I must confess that I didn't get the feel of speciousness of being in a piazza, and I felt a little disappointed that the exhibit seemed to reinforce a quaint folksy image of Italian Canadians.

AICW member Filomena Alati Scapari was very disappointed by *Presenza*. In a telephone interview, she stated that she was baffled by the discrepancy between the exhibit's title and what it actually shows. She said that she saw no difference between *Presenza* and the type of exhibits put up countless of times at various ethnic manifestations. She had expected much more from an event presented at such a prestigious venue as the Museum of Civilization. Filomena summoned up her view of the event as "*una presa in giro*". She said, "*Abbiamo lasciato sfuggire un' occasione per mostrare al resto del paese quel che abbiamo fatto.*" She also felt that the vast

contributions that Italians have made in the field of art, construction, restauration, business etc. is nowhere evident in this show. She was particularly offended by Charly Chiarelli's humor. Her opinion is that the organizers should analyze the theme of *Presenza* and ask themselves whether the outcome did respond to what it set out to do.

Emilio Francescucci also found the exhibits very familiar, but it didn't bother him. He feels that it is the role of museums to represent things that give us an idea of what the past was like. The exhibit shows "*la cultura del popolo*", the patrimony from the past, and we should not be ashamed of our humble beginnings. It gives a space to a page of "*Italianita*" and we should be appreciative that this was done. There are other means and places, he stated, to speak about the contributions Italians have made to Canadian society in all the different fields of endeavor.

Delia de Santis was pleased by how well Sarnia was represented, whereas Windsor was not. This, she said shows the power of people who get involved. The exhibit is more or less what she had expected; and shows things she already knew. To her, the artifacts do represent the resourcefulness of our immigrant parents, their good work ethic. However, she also commented that their success and that of their children is understated. On the other hand, she feels that the second generation doesn't need such an exhibit, "since we are walking proof of what that generation has produced". Delia also believes that the title of the exhibit may be misleading for some.

Licia Canton reiterated that, though a specific era was targeted, there is a certain disappointment in seeing only the old represented. She questions the process of gathering artifacts by committees. How were they accepted? For her, the show has merit in that there is value in being there, but that maybe it does not present a total picture, but part of a whole. And she asked other pointed questions: "Are we being too critical of ourselves? Do we expect too much from one exhibit, or its intended scope?"

Delia De Santis suggested I speak to Toni Ambrose, a retired history teacher from Sarnia who worked actively on the project as a research collaborator, and loved the result. Toni was very pleased to share her excitement about *Presenza* and gives examples of the methods used to represent the values of the early immigrants. For example, showcasing an old scythe to which was added a handle from a used 2X2 piece of lumber, a piece of broom handle, and piping with an elbow, demonstrates the resourcefulness and ingenuity to fashion in an inexpensive way important tools needed. In the skills of homemaking, the videos show the pride and the hard work required to maintain the foods and cooking as fresh as possible. Toni said that she was on a high walking through the exhibits and listening to comments, especially from her daughter and other youngsters who exclaimed, when watching the food video, "my *nonna* makes the pasta like that". An elderly gentleman heard their comments and said "Italy has the mother of all *nonnas* who taught them". These comments impressed upon her that what the *nonnas* made is pretty special and that perhaps the young people will not take these things for granted. Toni believes that the exhibitions reflects well the values of spirituality, hard work, determination, resourcefulness, integrity, and family which have been passed on from one generation to another by examples, and as a result transmitted to the greater community at large. This is the *contribution* made to Canadian society, and it is also shown how by extension Canadian society has shaped the Italian immigrant. Near the entrance of the exhibition are displayed the business cards of many of today's professionals and businesses who have prospered, as well as music and books by Italian Canadian writers.

The one constant observation from the people interviewed is the familiarity of the mundane items that are exhibited, and the focus on the humble peasant beginnings. It is precisely this

question that Dr. Mauro Perissini tackles in "A word from the Curator" on the web site. Dr. Perissini states that the *contribution* that the exhibition examines is "a contribution that is both less tangible and less often valued at its true worth". The "fresh look" taken is at the cultural traditions and values of the peasant societies, which "generally appears to us as a set of customs belonging to an outdated past, and not as a rich source that has shaped our modern society." He wants to show how these values are relevant to the concerns, questions and aspirations of Canadians today.

Many of us went to this exhibit expecting to get a full picture of the extent of the presence of the Italian community as it exists today, whereas *Presenza* highlights the presence from a humbler past that has, nevertheless, inspired the present.

That many of us failed to see this subtlety, though, may indicate that the idea is perhaps understated. The views expressed here are from a very small sample of people. The exhibit runs till September 2004, so it is worth a trip to Gatineau to try and see familiar objects and scenes with less jaded eyes and as the title suggests a "New Look".

### **Call for Papers in Ottawa**

The Mariano A. Elia Chair in Italian Canadian Studies at York University, The Frank Iacobucci Centre in Italian Canadian Studies, University of Toronto, and the College of the Humanities, Carleton University are inviting contributions for a major conference: **"From Emigrante to Canadese: The Italian-Canadian Project"**.

The conference will take place in Ottawa on 7-9 May, 2004 in conjunction with the Museum of Civilization's exhibit, **"Presenza: A New Look at Italian Canadian Heritage."**

The conference is an effort to take stock of the Italian-Canadian experience, its history, its present condition, and future prospects. Sessions for the conference therefore will welcome the widest possible representation from and participation of the Italian-Canadian community. Topics include: Writing the Italian-Canadian Experience,

Language and Ethno-cultural Identity.

The position of Italian in a Bilingual Nation. Italians and the Mass Media, Politics, and the Law Anglophone and Francophone Italian Canadians - Parallel Histories?

The Relationship Between Italian-Canadian and Italian Culture.

The implications of the dual Italian-Canadian citizenship.

Italian-Canadian identity across generations. Italian Food, Fashion and Folklore.

Organizers ask that proposals be **submitted no later than 15 September 2003**. Please submit your proposal (max. 150 words) together with a short curriculum vitae (most recent publications, teaching, research interests etc.) The organizing committee will review all proposals and retains the right to determine whether they will be included for the conference.

Send proposals to Professor Elio Costa, Director, Mariano A. Elia Chair in Italian Canadian Studies, 135 Founders College, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3, **or to** Professor Luca Somigli, Director, The Frank Iacobucci Centre for Italian Studies, Department of Italian Studies, University of Toronto, 100 St. Joseph Street, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1J4

## **We are looking for a new editor for this Newsletter**

Is there a volunteer among our AICW members who would like the challenge of producing this newsletter? If so contact the present editor, Joe Pivato at [pivato@athabascau.ca](mailto:pivato@athabascau.ca)  
 The candidate must have fluency in at least two of the ACW languages: English, French and Italian. He or she must also have computer literacy and the time to do the work.  
 The AICW Newsletter is produced at least 3 times each year and sometimes 4 times a year.

## **Winners of the 2nd Annual AICW Literary Contest :** by Venera Fazio

### **Short Stories** Tied For 1st Place

Ed Fiorelli: "How an Emperor Helped Lorenzo da Ponte Get to America"

Maria Spina: "Don Antonio, la Paglieri et moi "

### Honourary Mention

Lisa Carducci: "La Forestiera"

### **Non-fiction** Tied For 1st Place

Maria Spina: "La parfum de ma mère-l'amour de la femme"

Gilda Morina Syverson: "Between My Father And Me"

### Honourary Mention

Maria A Lisella: "Southern Exposure"

### **Poetry** 1st Prize

Gilda Morina Syverson: "One All Souls' Day"

### Honouray Mention

Salvatore Amico M. Buttaci: "Acquaviva in the Morning"

Contest organizers, Delia De Santis and Venera Fazio, wish to thank the readers of the entries: Marisa De Franceschi (short stories), Kenneth Scambray (non-fiction), Carmelo Militano and Gianna Patriarca (poetry), Carmen Ziolkowski (Italian entries), and Ingrid Kyser Goldberg (French entries). A special thanks goes to the contest trilingual judges Caterina Soteriadis and Filippo Salvatore.

## Emilio Francescucci Wins Italian Poetry Prize

At the Settimana Italiana di Ottawa (6 June) Emilio was awarded first prize for this poem.

### La luce del silenzio

ho cercato la luce nei miei pensieri  
il sole è fuggito nella notte

ho letto libri di saggezza  
le parole sono rimaste un mistero

ho ascoltato discorsi intelligenti  
la loro chiarezza non ha illuminato la mia ignoranza

ho chiesto udienza alle stelle  
mi hanno ricevuto mentre dormivo

ho acceso un fuoco per veder la verità  
il vento ha portato via la fiamma

ho mendicato una torcia a chi è vicino al cielo  
ma il mio cammino è rimasto oscuro

ho dato appuntamento alla luce  
le tenebre han cancellato l'indirizzo

ho gridato : perchè?  
le nuvole hanno sommerso il mio grido

mi sono allora rivolto al mio cuore  
che mi ha aperto la porta

ho fatto silenzio  
e la mia anima si è illuminata

è allora che ho capito  
che non avevo niente da capire

ma soltanto da ascoltare  
vivere la vita al di là della mia vita

nel silenzio dei miei pensieri  
nella bellezza del giorno che nasce...

## Lumière du silence

J'ai cherché la lumière dans mes pensées  
Le soleil s'est enfui dans la nuit

J'ai écouté de savants discours  
Leur clarté n'a pas éclairé mon ignorance

J'ai lu des livres de sagesse  
Les mots sont restés couverts de mystère

J'ai mendié un flambeau aux êtres proches du ciel  
Mon chemin est resté obscur

J'ai demandé audience aux étoiles  
Elles m'ont reçu durant mon sommeil

J'ai donné rendez-vous à la lumière  
Les ténèbres ont effacé mon adresse

J'ai allumé un feu pour voir la vérité  
Le vent a balayé mes flammes

J'ai crié pourquoi?  
Les nuages ont noyé mon écho

Je me suis alors tourné vers mon cœur  
Il m'a ouvert la porte

J'ai fait silence  
Et mon âme s'est illuminée

C'est alors que j'ai compris  
Que je n'avais rien à comprendre

Mais seulement à écouter  
Vivre la vie au-delà de ma vie

Dans le silence de mes pensées  
Dans la beauté du jour naissant...

Emilio Francescucci



7  
**Emilio Francescucci** è nato a Guardiagrele, Chieti, Italia). Ha emigrato in tenera età in Belgio, poi in Canada. Dopo aver conseguito una laurea in pedagogia presso l'Università di Montréal e poi del Wisconsin ha operato un laboratorio di diagnostica di problemi d'apprendimento. Ha insegnato la pedagogia all'Università del Québec e svolto delle attività di consulenza presso il Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione del Québec. Ha fondato un'associazione di poeti di lingua francese (*Carrefour de poésie de Lanaudière*) e ne assume la presidenza. Ha pubblicato delle raccolte di poesie in francese *Échos du Silence*, e in dialetto abruzzese *Serenate a Guardia di Grèle*. Ha ricevuto il primo premio di creazione e d'interpretazione letteraria (*Grand Prix Desjardins*) del Consiglio della Cultura de Lanaudière (Québec) nel settembre. 2002. E fa parte del AICW nel Québec.

### **Serata Letteraria a Montreal**

Report by Licia Canton

Associazione Scrittori/Scrittrici Italo-Canadesi (ASIC)

Il Comitato di Montreal dell'Associazione Scrittori/Scrittrici Italo-Canadesi (ASIC), composto da Elettra Bedon, Licia Canton e Connie Guzzo-McParland, ha organizzato una serata letteraria e artistica alla Casa d'Italia il 13 agosto scorso in occasione della Settimana Italiana di Montreal.

La lettura (di poesia e prosa) di Nico Bignami, Filomena Alati Sclapari, Gaetano Di Falco e Caterina Buetti Sotiriadis di Winnipeg, è stata seguita da una presentazione di Anna Carlevaris della Concordia University di opere di arte figurativa di giovani italo-canadesi. Marianna Simeone, presentatrice di '7 Giorni' su Global CH, ha intervistato gli scrittori Elettra Bedon, Rita Amabili-Rivet ed Ermanno La Riccia. Si ringrazia vivamente il Congresso Nazionale degli Italo-Canadesi (Regione Quebec) ed in particolare Josie Verillo, Joe Fratino della Casa D'Italia, come pure gli sponsor Boutique Espresso Mali e Accenti Magazine.

#### **Appuntamento per 22 ottobre**

L'Associazione Scrittori/Scrittrici Italo-Canadesi dà appuntamento alla comunità italiana il 22 ottobre alle ore 18,30 al Centro Leonardo da Vinci in occasione di una serata organizzata con l'Istituto Italiano di Cultura per celebrare la settimana della lingua italiana.

Nella foto di Mary Pausy i partecipanti alla serata del 13 agosto:

(sedute) Il comitato ASIC di Montreal: Connie Guzzo-McParland, Licia Canton, Elettra Bedon (in piedi) Rita Amabili-Rivet, Gaetano Di Falco, Nico Bignami, Luigi Spadari, Ermanno La Riccia, Marianna Simeone, Caterina Buetti Sotiriadis, Filomena Alati Sclapari, Anna Carlevaris.

See photos on last page.

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**ACCENTI: The Canadian Magazine with an Italian accent** is looking for contributions from writers across Canada. Contact the editor: Licia Canton at [editor@accenti.ca](mailto:editor@accenti.ca)  
For subscriptions, advertising and other business contact Domenic Cusmano, fax 514 329-4085  
ACCENTI Magazine, 6275 Jarry E. Montreal, Quebec, CANADA H1P 1W1

## HALIFAX: L'ALTRA PORTA D'AMERICA di Pietro Corsi

Sabato 9 agosto alle ore 18:00, presso il locale Teatro Comunale di Casacalenda, e con la presenza di Loreta Giannetti, consigliere culturale dell'Ambasciata Canadese di Roma, e stata la presentazione dell'ultimo libro di Pietro Corsi dal suggestivo titolo *Halifax: l'altra porta d'America*. I relatori erano Norberto Lombardi, direttore della collana "Quaderni sull'emigrazione" dell'editore Cosmo Iannone di Isernia, e il Prof. Filippo Salvatore della Concordia University di Montreal.

Presentato in anteprima al Salone del Libro di Torino nel maggio scorso presso il Padiglione Canadese (il Canada è stato, quest'anno, il paese ospite della Fiera), il libro dello scrittore molisano residente in California vuole essere un tributo a tutti gli italiani che un giorno lontano nel tempo, a volte per motivi ben precisi, spesso anche senza una precisa motivazione, hanno deciso di intraprendere l'epico viaggio attraverso l'Atlantico che li vide approdare al Molo 21 di Halifax. Il Porto di Halifax infatti, sulla costa orientale di quello che il Corsi ama definire il grande paese, è stato per lungo tempo la seconda porta d'ingresso per il Nord America (dopo quella di New York, Ellis Island).

Quest'ultimo lavoro di Pietro Corsi (autore, tra altre opere, di *La Giobba* - in inglese *Winter in Montreal* - e *Omicidio in un paese di cacciatori*), può essere considerato un documento storico sull'emigrazione anche e proprio perché scritto da chi, come lui, la storia dell'emigrazione l'ha vissuta in prima persona. Sono poche le testimonianze dirette degli emigranti italiani, definiti dallo scrittore italo-canadese Marco Micone "La gente del silenzio" perché non sapevano far sentire la loro voce: si adeguavano, e basta. Tutto questo sta cambiando, come dimostrato dalla presenza di numerosi scrittori italo-canadesi alla Fiera del Libro di Torino, tra i quali, a parte Pietro Corsi con questo suo ultimo libro e con *La Giobba*, anche gli oriundi molisani Nino Ricci, Joe Fiorito, e Carole Fioremore-David con i loro rispettivi ultimi lavori.

Il libro di Pietro Corsi è stato pensato e scritto per entrare nelle case di tutti gli emigranti, dei loro figli e dei figli dei loro figli, per celebrare e ricordare la loro storia d'emigrazione che, nel bene e nel male, ha cambiato il loro destino e quello del paese che li ha accolti. Molto suggestiva, come capitolo d'apertura, la descrizione del viaggio dell'autore sul transatlantico "Olympia", che è stato poi il viaggio, su una nave o sull'altra, di chiunque ha raggiunto l'altra sponda dell'Atlantico.

*Italian Lives: Cape Breton Memories* edited by Evo Di Pietro and Sam Migliore

Published in 1999 by University College of Cape Breton Press, Sydney, Nova Scotia, this book is a contemporary as well as an historical study of Italians living in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, from the 1870s to the present. Contact the UCCB Press at this e-mail address  
[uccb\\_press@uccb.ca](mailto:uccb_press@uccb.ca)

## Vancouver BC – AICW Cultural Events Calendar by Anna Foschi Ciampolini

Pasquale Verdicchio gave a lecture on "Tina Modotti: Una vita tra mitologia e attivismo culturale e politico" at the Italian Cultural Centre. During the same day, Verdicchio met the students at UBC's Department of Italian Studies for a talk on the theme of translations, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. See photo on last page.

On Sept. 11, at 7:30 pm, in the Alice McKay Room at the VPL Main Branch, the Vancouver Public Library's Authors' Readings Series will host a reading featuring three local AICW members: Ralph Alfonso, Joseph Ranallo and Robert Pepper-Smith.

Three local AICW members will be reading at the Words On The Street Festival at the Vancouver Public Library/VanCity International Voices Tent. Robert Pepper-Smith, Anna Foschi Ciampolini and Nick Ciavarella will read in Italian and English on September 28, from 1 to 2pm. The event is being organized with the assistance of the Italian Cultural Institute in Vancouver to celebrate the Italian Presidency of the European Union.

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Italian Cultural Centre, our association will present "An European Literary Festival": a series of prose and poetry readings, with musical interludes, featuring local authors of European origin and AICW members. This event too is being organized with the assistance of the Italian Cultural Institute in Vancouver to celebrate the Italian Presidency of the European Union.

### And In Italy...

In November Anna Foschi will be in Italy to celebrate "Emigramerica" to honour Renaissance cartographer, Amerigo Vespucci. She was invited by il Comune di Loro Ciuffenna and the Regione di Toscana.

Pasquale Verdicchio is organizing a small "convegno" in Lanciano, Italy for November 2004. The theme is "Ritorno alle Radici" and will feature literature and film. Members of AICW are invited to this conference. Pasquale plans to send us more information for the next issue of the newsletter.

### And From Italy...

Fondazione Cassamarca comes to Montreal.

Sen. Dino De Poli, the president of the Fondazione Cassamarca held a meeting in Montreal for university teachers of Italian in Canada and for Italian cultural associations. The goal of Cassamarca is to promote Italian language and culture wherever Italians have settled. It has funded a university chair for Italian in Australia, and an Italian cultural centre in Montreal as well as language programs in many locations.

AICW members who participated in the Montreal meeting either as professors or as writers included: Giovanni Costa from Quebec City, Licia Canton, Connie Guzzo McParland, Domenic Cusmano, Joe Pivato, and Marisa De Franceschi.

### Rosanna Battigelli in Sudbury

Rosanna is an AICW member who lives in Sudbury where she is a teacher and writer.

Her recent publications include:

"Cycles" and "Daddy's Girl," two short stories in the *Wordscape 8 Anthology*. Toronto: Canadian Authors Association, 2003.

"Exploring My Italian Heritage Through Writing," in *The Harvest of a New Life*. Ed. Diana Iuele-Colilli. Welland, Ont.: Editions Soleil Publishing, 2002.

"Crossroads" an excerpt from a novel, in *Italian Faces: Images of the Italian Community in Sudbury/ Volti italiani: immagini della comunità italiana di Sudbury*. Ed. Diana Iuele-Colilli. Welland, Ont.: Editions Soleil Publishing, 2000.

"Francesca's Way," in *The Anthology of Italian-Canadian Writing*. Ed. J. Pivato. Toronto: Guernica Editions, 1998.

### Strangers in Italy: Immigration, Italy, and Fortress Europe

By Elvira Truglia

"Strangers in Italy: Immigration, Italy, and Fortress Europe" a 29-minute documentary on "Making Contact", an international radio program was broadcast August 6, 2003

Broadcast on radio stations throughout the U.S. and Canada and some stations in South Africa, Costa Rica and Japan. Download the audio file @ [www.radioproject.org](http://www.radioproject.org)

Immigration in Italy has become a hot-button issue as demographics shift and the right-wing government of Silvio Berlusconi takes a hard-line on immigrants. The restrictive Bossi-Fini legislation is the latest immigration law that has sparked controversy throughout the Italian peninsula. On this edition of Making Contact, we go to Rome where correspondent Elvira Truglia takes a look at immigration trends and speaks with migrants, Italian nationals, and government officials.

Featuring: Cristobal Munoz, Associazione di Promozione Sociale (ARCI); Franco Pittau, Caritas Dioceses of Rome; Karolina Peric, Suamox Intercultural Productions; Rolando Ricaurte, musician, teacher, and ethnomusicologist; Rosa Mendes, Associazione No.Di. "I Nostri Diritti;" "Giovanni", street vendor, Piazza dei Mirti market.

For more information, visit [www.radioproject.org](http://www.radioproject.org) or contact Elvira Truglia, Producer  
e [truiglia@sympatico.ca](mailto:truiglia@sympatico.ca) See also Elvira's article in ACCENTI 1,3.

**Reminder Udine: 'Beyond History' - 10th Biennial AICW Conference,  
Udine, Italy May 20-22, 2004**

The deadline for proposals is quickly approaching . . . **September 15, 2003.**

Contact Licia with proposals: Licia Canton, Ph.D., Canadian Liaison for Udine 2004  
Conference

Association of Italian Canadian Writers [cantonli@cusmano.com](mailto:cantonli@cusmano.com)

**Oltre la Storia - Beyond History - Au delà de l'histoire**

The Centre for Canadian Culture of the University of Udine and the Association of Italian-Canadian Writers (AICW) are organizing the 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the AICW entitled *Oltre la Storia /Beyond History/Au delà de l'histoire* which will be held in Udine (Italy) from May 20-22, 2004. This will be an international interdisciplinary and multi-artistic conference which will focus on Italian Canadiana from a literary, linguistic, historical, artistic and cinematographic point of view.

Attention will focus on the multiple transformations that Italian-Canadian culture has undergone over the last few decades and which demand that not only Italian-Canadians but also critics, historians and artists go beyond a mere documentary study of the immigrant experience.

Being no longer the victims of history, the sons and daughters of immigrants are, in fact, the real protagonists of the contemporary Canadian scene which they enrich and change with their work.

Given the academic orientation adopted by the Centre for Canadian Culture of the hosting Friulian university, an entire session will be dedicated to the Friulian- Canadian experience.

The official languages of the conference are Italian, English and French.

Papers must not exceed 20 minutes. Proposals for papers (title and brief abstract) should be submitted to the following addresses by September 15, 2003.

[annapia.deluca@dllgr.uniud.it](mailto:annapia.deluca@dllgr.uniud.it)

Prof. Anna Pia de Luca

[alessandra.ferraro@dllgr.uniud.it](mailto:alessandra.ferraro@dllgr.uniud.it)

[deborah.saidero@tin.it](mailto:deborah.saidero@tin.it)

Centro di Cultura Canadese  
Università degli Studi di Udine  
Via Mantica, 3  
33100 Udine – Italia

**Art Photography Show in Montreal Sept. 18**

AICW members Benedetta Pignataro and Michael Lance Kainz are exhibiting art photos in the Restorante Le Commensal du Musée Côte des Neiges at the corner of Queen Mary, Montreal. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Eye Photo Club theme is "Water" and "Anticonventional Pictures".

The date is Thursday, September 18 at 7:00 PM

### AICW Executive Members for 2002-2004

President: Anna Foschi Ciampolini  
 Vice-President: Venera Fazio  
 Treasurer: Delia De Santis  
 Secretary: Connie Guzzo McParland  
 Newsletter Editor: (Acting) Joe Pivato  
 Editorial Board: Marisa De Franceschi,  
 Luigi Spadari, Kenneth Scambry, J. Pivato

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For information about the AICW contact the following:

Anna Foschi Ciampolini  
 #30 – 710 West 15th Street  
 North Vancouver, B.C. V7M 3K6

OR

Delia De Santis  
 2961 Delia Crescent  
 Bright's Grove, Ont.  
 N0N 1C0

E-mail: [larthia@direct.ca](mailto:larthia@direct.ca)

Telephone: (519) 869-6852  
[deliadesantis@yahoo.com](mailto:deliadesantis@yahoo.com)

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#### Membership Dues

The AICW is a voluntary, not-for-profit, association which depends for its existence on the dues of its members. If members have not yet paid their \$ 50. dues we hope they will do so soon. We often enclose a membership form with each newsletter as an added reminder.

Please mail your dues to **Delia De Santis at the address given above.**

#### The Newsletter

This newsletter depends on the support of its members and friends to send in information. We publish items in English, in Italian and in French.

The newsletter appears 3 times each calendar year and on occasion 4 times in a year.

The next deadline for newsletter number 46 will be November 30, 2003.

You can send items as attached files to e-mail to the editor, Joe Pivato at [pivato@athabascau.ca](mailto:pivato@athabascau.ca)

#### The AICW Website

We are looking for a web master for our website.

The time commitment is on a needs required basis.

For more information contact Venera Fazio at [veneraf@ebtech.net](mailto:veneraf@ebtech.net)



**Serata Letteraria a Montreal photo di Mary Pausy**

Sedute: Connie Guzzo-McParland, Licia Canton, Elettra Bedon

In piedi: Rita Amabili-Rivet, Gaetano Di Falco, Nico Bignami, Luigi Spadari,  
Ermanno La Riccia, Marianna Simeone, Caterina Bueti Sotiriadis (Winnipeg),  
Filomena Alati Sclapari, Anna Carlevaris.

**Pasquale Verdicchio**

**In Vancouver**

This photo Pasquale and  
Anna Foschi, AICW president



## Recent Publications of Interest

- Corsi, Pietro. *Halifax: L'altra porta d'America*. Isernia: Cosomo Iannone Editore, 2003.
- Culos, Raymond. *Vancouver's Society of Italians Vol II*. Vancouver, 2003.
- De Francheschi, Marisa. *Family Matters*. Toronto: Guernica Editions, 2001.
- Di Cicco, Pier Giorgio. *Living In Paradise*. Toronto: Mansfield Press, 2001.
- Di Cicco, Pier Giorgio. *The Honeymoon Wilderness*. Toronto: Mansfield Press, 2002.
- Di Falco, Sam. *What Happens at Canals*. Toronto: Mansfield Press, 2003.
- Di Pietro, Evo & Sam Migliore, eds. *Italian Lives: Cape Breton Memories*. Sydney: University College of Cape Breton Press, 1999.
- Gasparini, Len. *A Demon in My View*. Toronto: Guernica Editions, 2003.
- La Riccia, Ermanno. *La Padrona*. Romano, Italia, 2002.
- Moyes, Lianne, Domenic Benvenuti & Licia Canton, eds. *Adjacencies: Minority Writing In Canada*. Toronto: Guernica, 2003.
- Paci, F.G. *Italian Shoes*. Toronto: Guernica, 2002.
- Paina, Corrado. *Horse Legend*. Poetry. Toronto: Mansfield Press, 2003.
- Pivato, Joseph, ed. *F. G. Paci: Essays on His Works*. Toronto: Guernica, 2003.
- Scambray, Kenneth. *Surface Roots*. Toronto: Guernica, 2003.
- Accenti*, 1, 3, July-August 2003. See fiction by Elettra Bedon, poetry by Carmelo Militano, an essay by Ken Scambray, and a review of Di Cicco's poetry by Isabella Colalillo Katz.

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### Mississauga, Ontario, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Mississauga Canadian Italian Association hosted a talk and reading by Isabella Colalillo Katz on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. Isabella's topic was "Writing and the Poetics of Creativity". Her recent collection of poems, *Tasting Fire*, was published by Guernica Editions.

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Thanks to Athabasca University for supporting the production of this newsletter.