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TRIESTE LODGE | HAMILTON

President's Message

DECEMBER 2023



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
The last couple of months have been an extremely busy time for the Order, and as we head towards Christmas, it is always nice to reflect on the many things we have accomplished over the year.

Recently, we held our November general meeting that brought out over 180 individuals, with 18 new members slated for initiation! It was a wonderful evening, as we continue to surpass our monthly meeting capacity!

The Housing Corporation and Charitable Corporation (Villa Italia) recently had their Annual General Meetings. At the conclusion of the Housing AGM, all board members joined at our lodge for an excellent dinner prepared by Br. Joe Mongiardi and his staff. During dinner, I was able to showcase the wonderful efforts of the lodge, in conjunction with the beautiful all three boards have been collectively working on to spear head efforts in the creation of the Cultural Centre. We would like to congratulate and thank Br. Rob Skaljin for graciously hosting the executives that evening, as well as the countless community partners who are always impressed the by the good work of our Order. We look forward to the continued success of these boards, as we progress into the future of our Order.

For those that have yet to RSVP to the Christmas meeting, I would remind you to do so as soon you receive this bulletin! Br. Joe Mongiardi has confirmed that the Tuesday December 13th evening is **SOLD OUT!** We have limited space available for Wednesday December 14th at our hall. Please respond with your name as well as the name of your guest. For those that will not be able to send the cutoff in the bulletin, please contact Br. Joe Mongiardi directly. Doors open at 6pm as per usual, with the meal being served at 7pm. Members are free, and the guest price is **\$35 per person**. Members are only able to guest 1 person, as seating is limited.

Just a reminder that the Children's Christmas Party is on Sunday December 10th at 12:00 pm in our hall. We will be serving lunch, have arts and crafts, and of course enjoy a visit from our friend from the North Pole Santa Claus who will be handing out gifts to the children.

For those that were able to attend the last meeting, will be aware that as of **January 2024**, we will be increasing our dinner prices to **\$30 for members and \$35 for non-members**. As discussed, this change is the result of our food costs rising. We are simply adjusting with the times. Starting in January, we will be implementing a new system to better track the number of dinners being purchased, to what is being sent out by the kitchen. We will have meal cards at the front desk, which will be given to each individual once they have paid. This meal ticket will then be given to the wait staff when dinner is about to be served. This will aid the kitchen team immensely, as they continue to plan for these dinners. We thank you for your cooperation in advance.

In closing, I would like to wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable Christmas season, and all the best for a safe and prosperous 2024.

Fraternally Yours,
Lucas Costanzo
President, Trieste Lodge #4

Members Christmas Dinner

Reserve your attendance by
Friday, December 8th.

Call Joe Mongiardi
(289)-925-1557

CHRISTMAS DINNER: Tuesday, December 12th and Wednesday December 13th



MESSAGGIO DEL PRESIDENTE



Cari fratelli e sorelle,
Gli ultimi due mesi sono stati un periodo veramente impegnativo per l'Ordine e, mentre ci accingiamo al Natale, è sempre bello riflettere sulle tante cose che abbiamo realizzato durante l'anno.

Recentemente, abbiamo tenuto la nostra assemblea generale di Novembre che ha riunito oltre 180 persone, con 18 nuovi membri in programma per l'iniziazione! È stata una serata meravigliosa, poiché continuiamo a superare il nostro record per presenze ai nostri meeting mensili.

La Housing Corporation e la Charitable Corporation (Villa Italia) hanno recentemente tenuto le loro assemblee generali annuali. Al termine dell'Assemblea generale, tutti i membri del consiglio si sono riuniti presso la nostra loggia per un'eccellente cena preparata da fr. Joe Mongiardi e il suo staff. Durante la cena, ho potuto mostrare i meravigliosi sforzi della loggia, insieme agli splendidi lavori su cui tutti e tre i consigli hanno lavorato collettivamente per guidare gli sforzi nella creazione del Centro Culturale. Desideriamo congratularci e ringraziare fr. Rob Skaljin per aver gentilmente ospitato i dirigenti quella sera, così come gli innumerevoli partner della comunità che sono sempre colpiti dall'ottimo lavoro del nostro Ordine. Attendiamo con ansia il continuo successo di questi consigli, mentre progrediamo nel futuro del nostro Ordine.

Per coloro che devono ancora rispondere all'incontro di Natale, vi ricordo di farlo non appena riceverete questo bollettino! Fratello Joe Mongiardi ha confermato che la serata di Martedì 13 Dicembre è SOLD OUT! Abbiamo posti limitati a disposizione per Mercoledì 14 Dicembre presso la nostra sala. Per favore rispondete con il vostro nome e quello del vostro ospite. Per coloro che non potranno inviare il tagliando nel bollettino, si prega di contattare fr. Joe Mongiardi direttamente. Le porte aprono come di consueto alle 18:00, il pasto viene

servito alle 19:00. I membri sono gratuiti e il prezzo per gli ospiti è di **\$ 35 a persona**. I membri possono ospitare solo 1 persona, poiché i posti sono limitati. Vi ricordiamo che Domenica 10 Dicembre alle ore 12:00 nella nostra sala si terrà la Festa di Natale dei Bambini. Serviremo il pranzo, faremo lavoretti e, naturalmente, godremo della visita del nostro amico del Polo Nord, Babbo Natale, che distribuirà regali ai bambini.

Coloro che hanno potuto partecipare all'ultimo incontro sapranno che a partire da **Gennaio 2024** aumenteremo i prezzi della cena a **\$ 30 per i membri e \$ 35 per i non membri**. Come discusso, questo cambiamento è il risultato dell'aumento dei costi alimentari. Ci stiamo semplicemente adeguando ai tempi. A partire da Gennaio implementeremo un nuovo sistema per tracciare meglio il numero di cene acquistate e quanto viene spedito dalla cucina. Presso la reception avremo i buoni pasto, che verranno consegnati a ciascun individuo una volta effettuato il pagamento. Tale buono pasto verrà poi consegnato al personale di sala al momento del servizio della cena. Ciò aiuterà immensamente il team della cucina, mentre continuano a pianificare queste cene. Vi ringraziamo in anticipo per la collaborazione.

In conclusione, vorrei augurare a voi e alle vostre famiglie un periodo natalizio di benessere e svago, e tutto il meglio per un 2024 sicuro e prospero.

Fraternamente Vostro,
Lucas Costanzo
Presidente

Mark your Calendar

Children's Christmas Party	Sun, December 10, 2023
Members Christmas Dinner	Tues, Dec. 12th & 13th, 2023
Christmas Bowling Dinner Dance	Fri, December 15th, 2023
January General Meeting	Tues, January 9, 2024
Briscola Card Night	Fri, January 26th, 2024

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COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

We are one month away from taking possession of the Guido De Bres property starting on January 5, 2024. The team of individuals assembled has been busy getting ready to transform the facility into the Hamilton Italian Centre. We have some exciting plans for the Centre and will be able to share more in the New Year as various initiatives and community partners are confirmed. Please stay tuned for more announcements through the lodge's mailing list.

If you are interested in partnership opportunities or renting out space for community events or meetings please do reach out to me at 416-419-0764.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank the SDI Community Group Board, the Committee Chairs and their committee members (40+ volunteers) for the work they have put in over the last 10 months to get us to this milestone. We have a lot of work still in front of us. But I am confident that with the team assembled and the opportunity to bring the Hamilton Italian Community closer together we will meet the challenge and create something truly fantastic for the community as a whole.

Warms regards,
Rob Skaljin
President SDI Community Group



Chair of Guido De Bres High School Mr. Bert Knol presenting Rob Skaljin with a painting of the High School as it currently stands today (November 28th, 2023 – SDI Housing Annual General Meeting)

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NEW MEMBER INITIATION



Please join me in welcoming the following new members.

- Adam Merolli
- Lesli Savelli
- Natasha Goreil
- Mary Yachetti
- Gianfranco Mostacci
- Mindy Tweedle
- Luigi Ferrara
- John Sozio
- Robert Ricci
- Pasquale Almonte
- Nick Pellegrino
- Julia Carpineti
- Alessandro Malvestiti
- Peter Bollella
- Enzo Rillo
- Frank Pignataro
- Tony DePasquale
- Mike Bozzo

Members Christmas Dinner

We will be holding our annual member Christmas dinner this year over two evenings, Tuesday December 12th and Wednesday December 13th. Doors open at 6pm as per usual, with the meal being served at 7pm.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2023 - FULL/SOLD OUT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, 2023

Member Name: _____

Guest Name:(1 ONLY) _____

This registration form MUST be submitted by Friday, December 8th for all members wishing to attend this event. Members are free, and the guest price is \$35 per person. Please return this form via mail 499 King St. E, L8N 1E1, or hand it to Br. Joe Mongiardi directly no later than Friday December 8th.

No walk-ins at the door on the day of the event.

Cancer Assistance PROGRAM

During this time of year we often reminisce about family members and time spent with loved ones who have passed. Those living with cancer and their caregivers understand just how precious those special moments with family are, and how important it is to prioritize them.

Nobody perhaps understands the importance of family more than **Lucas Costanzo**, an absolute Cancer Assistance Program (CAP) champion; caregiver, cancer survivor, and donor we had the pleasure of speaking with earlier this month.

Lucas watched his beloved grandmother Maria live with breast cancer when he was a young boy. He admired her strength of will, determination, and steadfast loyalty to continue to care for, and look after her family, no matter how she felt. She loved cooking, took Lucas and his brothers to the park, and would always put makeup and jewelry on before heading out the door in her wig, wanting to look her absolute best – even when she was feeling her worst.

CAP provided vital support for Lucas' grandmother Maria and her family during this time.

"We didn't have a lot of family here at that time, they were all in Italy. And my grandmother needed to get to her appointments. My mother was a stay-at-home mom raising young children (my brothers and I), so it was tough for her to leave the house with three young kids in tow. During those times, CAP stepped in and provided my grandmother with rides to and from her appointments. I have so much respect for the organization for how they helped my family at a time when we had little support here."

Lucas was a direct witness to the help that CAP provided for his family. His grandmother used the drive program, and accessed equipment she needed; a wheelchair, a rollator, and was even fitted for some wigs. Maria lived with cancer for 8 long years before passing away 3 months after losing her husband to a massive heart attack. The family remembers Maria's determination and willpower and notes, ***"It wasn't the cancer that got her, but a broken heart."***

In 2019, at the young age of only 25, the unthinkable happened. Lucas would come to learn some life altering news, that he, like his grandmother Maria, would be diagnosed with cancer; testicular cancer. With cancer prevalent in Lucas' family, it was a worrisome diagnosis indeed.



Maria and Grandsons



The happy couple



Victorian, Lucas & Rosalind



Beautiful Rosalind



“The last 5 years have been very emotional. Cancer is something you don’t expect to be dealing with at 25. I remember I was in the shower when I first discovered the lump. My heart just dropped. Knowing my family history with cancer, I immediately went to the doctor, got an ultrasound, and was called in the next day. So I knew it wasn’t good news. The doctor confirmed, it was in fact a cancerous mass, and within a week I was scheduled for surgery. And that was only the beginning of my long journey.”

Lucas was lucky to have his parents by his side during this time in his life. He also had a loving and supportive girlfriend named Victoria, who he wanted to marry and start a family with. She would rush home after work every day to be with him. He remembers the heartache of being told by his doctor to not get his hopes up about having children. Family was so important to him, Lucas couldn’t imagine not having children. It was devastating news.

After treatment Lucas returned to work, but couldn’t shake the paralyzing fear he had about the cancer returning. He was in remission and was told that he was fine to resume life “as normal”, but he felt an impending sense of doom and panic. He couldn’t stop thinking that something was wrong, and that the cancer was still there. He decided to push the doctors to give him more tests, and in fact he was right, the cancer had spread. Lucas faced a second battle with cancer and went through radiation treatment. Thankfully, the treatment was a success, and Lucas recovered again. Shortly thereafter Lucas was able to get married to the love of his life and amazingly they got pregnant and had a beautiful baby girl named Rosalia (born in 2022).

Lucas is now 30 years old and is a happily married man, proud father and an avid supporter of CAP. He understands intimately the unique challenges that cancer presents to patients and their families, perhaps more than most. Through Lucas' learned experiences he has become a true CAP Champion and donor.

Like Lucas, many of us have experience with cancer in our families and understand how difficult and overwhelming cancer can be on everybody from caregivers to children, extended family and spouses. In addition to the emotional support that patients rely on their family for, the practical services needed can be long-term and demanding.

Cancer is a family illness. Nobody can do it alone.

Today, you can make that experience a little bit easier for a family in your community impacted by cancer, by donating to CAP. All our services are FREE and greatly improve the lives of cancer patients and their families.

Here at the Cancer Assistance Program our goal is to maximize the time those with a cancer diagnosis get to spend with their families and loved ones, by providing FREE services with practical items, like providing clients with rides to and from cancer appointments, offering parking spots near Juravinski Cancer Center and providing essential in-home equipment.

This holiday season, we ask YOU to please remember those families experiencing cancer by donating a gift to help CAP continue to provide the services that helped Lucas and his grandmother Maria. YOU will be directly helping families who need help the most.

ONE-TIME DONATION: Yes, I want to make a gift to ensure cancer patients and their families get the help they need.

\$100 \$150 \$200 \$250 Other \$ _____

Please make cheque payable to Cancer Assistance Program. To make your gift online please go to **www.cancerassist.ca**. Charitable Registration Number 14026 2759 RR0001



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cancerassist.ca

- I have enclosed my cheque made payable to **Cancer Assistance Program**.
- I authorize CAP to charge my credit card in the amount indicated at left.
- Please sign me up for electronic communications from CAP (be sure to include your email address).

Visa Mastercard

Card # _____

Expiry _____ CVV _____

Name on Card _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Thank You

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SOI FC AWARDS NIGHT



Tombolata di Natale

We are excited to announce that the first SDOI Christmas Tombola will take place on December 12 and December 13 after the delicious dinner. For the people interested to play, every card will cost \$5 and this will give you the chance to win a grand prize...
Tomboliamo insieme...



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