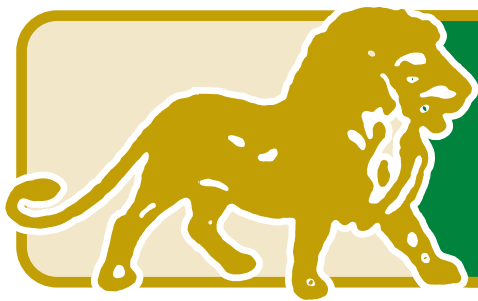




ORDER SONS OF ITALY

TRIESTE LODGE | HAMILTON

President's Message

JANUARY 2018



Dear brothers and sisters,
On behalf of the executive and my family I wish you all a Happy New Year! I hope you were able to spend time with family and friends to celebrate a Buon Natale. Winter is now well upon us and I remind everyone to take their time and drive safely.

Looking back at 2017 the Order Sons of Italy Trieste Lodge has much to be proud of. Our strong tradition of charity continues with over \$10,000.00 being donated to local charities and hospitals. Attendance at our general meetings and social events is up. On December 13th, 2017 our annual Christmas tradition of delivering a small gift to the seniors in our community continued through a delivery of poinsettias to the 130+ residents of Villa Italia. Thank you to brother Livio DiNello and his group of volunteer's for taking this on and for delivering the plants to the Villa.

Our Annual Children's Christmas Party was held on Sunday December 10th. The event was a great success with gifts for over 60 Children handed out. Thank you to Br. Lewis Merolli for organizing this year's event and his committee. Special thank you to everyone you helped out that day and the days prior shopping and wrapping gifts. It truly was a family & team effort.

On December 12th, we celebrated our annual members Christmas Dinner. I was pleased to hear our hall full, and our members enjoying great food, drinks and fraternity. As mentioned in our last newsletter, please keep in mind that Sopressata night and corresponding Elimination Draw is now the primary annual charity budget fund raising event. Please include the making of Sopressata in your plans this winter for inclusion in our Sopressata contest to be held on April 19th. I look forward to seeing you all at our next general meeting on Tuesday January 9th , 2018. Reminder it is bring a friend meeting. I urge all members to bring someone who is interested in joining our lodge.

I wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.
Felice Anno Nuovo!

Fraternally Yours,

Loris Pilot
President
Liberty, Equality, Fraternity

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, January 9, 2018

LIBERTY

EQUALITY

FRATERNITY



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Italian Canadian Citizen of the Year 2017

The Order Sons of Italy Trieste Lodge was proud to recognize Dr. Nicholas Rizzo, an extremely worthy and humble recipient of this year's Italian-Canadian Citizen of the Year Award on November 18 at Liuna Gardens. Dr. Rizzo was a dedicated physician for over 50 years in the Italian community, and he has volunteered his time as Medical Director of St. Joseph's Hospital, as President of Medical Staff at St. Joseph's Hospital, and as professor at McMaster University. A standing ovation goes to Dr. Nicholas Rizzo! Photos below taken by the wonderful Shelly Cameron.



Charles Criminisi, Carmine Filice, Lucas Costanzo, Andrew Monachino, Jessica Petrunti, Lewis Merolli, David Morganti, Loris Pilot, Frank Merolli, Robert Skaljin, Marita Zaffiro, Nicholas Zaffiro, Lou Filice, Frank Raso, Margaret Rizzo & Dr. Nicholas Rizzo



Margaret & Dr. Nicholas Rizzo
(Italian Canadian Citizen of the Year 2017)



Frank Raso, Charles & Joanne Criminisi and Anthony Macaluso



Bishop Tonnos, John O'Brien (Episcopal Delegate for Cemeteries & Insurance), Margaret & Dr. Nicholas Rizzo and Father Galea



Lucas, Jessica & Loris (SOI Trieste Lodge Hamilton)

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Congratulations to our Newest Members!

As is our custom, this past November we initiated 11 new members at our general meeting. The executive wishes to congratulate the new members that were initiated, and ask our membership to give them a warm Sons of Italy welcome.

Robert ARPINO
Ed COSTANZO
Philip CUMBO
Joe CURTO
Calista DEL FIACCO
Louie DEL FIACCO
John DELUCA
Dave DISHER
Carm MAURO
Harry MULVALE
Gary NUSCA



Annual Children's Christmas Party

As always our annual Children's Christmas Party was held on December 10th and was a great success with gifts for over 60 children handed out. Thank you to Br. Lewis Merolli and his committee for organizing this year's event. Special thank you to everyone who helped out that day and the days prior shopping and wrapping gifts. It truly was a family & team effort.



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Ode Alla Generazione Dei Valori

Mi sembra ieri di essere salito su quel primo aereo di non ritorno dalla mia vita in Italia, in realta' ormai sono passati circa 10 anni da quando ho preso la difficile ma consapevole decisione di lasciare casa e famiglia in Italia e puntare a nuovi orizzonti, stimoli ed opportunita' in Canada, dimora dei miei Nonni materni Italiani emigrati in questo paese oltre 50 anni fa. Entrambi lasciarono tutto e tutti da un paesino di 2000 abitanti che si trovava nelle colline in provincia di Ascoli Piceno nelle Marche, al confine con l'Abruzzo. Come tanti dalla Sicilia, Calabria, Puglia, Molise, Lazio, Campania, Abruzzo, Marche, Veneto e Friuli e altre regioni decisero di partire e scappare da una crisi economica Italiana cominciata nel dopoguerra che duro' fino agli anni 60-70.

Vissero anni difficili e duri, con lavori precari ed umili. Quando la paga era bassa bisognava lavorare di straordinari, con la conseguenza di un orario di lavoro che si estendeva inesorabilmente fino al fine settimana o alle feste. Un sacrificio dietro l'altro, solo per fare in modo che la propria famiglia avesse le stesse possibilita' di ogni altro cittadino Canadese, che avesse un futuro migliore rispetto al loro passato. Gli ostacoli erano enormi considerando che agli inizi riuscivano a malapena a comunicare in Inglese, e per questo talvolta venivano maltrattati dagli altri cittadini. Nonostante cio', la loro debolezza divenne strumento di forza nel creare nuove "famiglie", non sempre di sangue ma di scelta, fatte di compaesani ed altri emigrati Italiani che si trovavano nella loro

medesima situazione. Condividevano gli stessi ideali e valori, in particolar modo l'amore per la propria famiglia, considerata sempre al primo posto.

Anno dopo anno migliaia di persone da tutta Italia han cominciato a migrare in Canada, e col tempo non sono solo diventate parte del paese, ma ne hanno contribuito alla sua crescita. Intanto, a meta' degli anni '80, destino volle che mia madre (nata in Canada dopo l'emigrazione dei Nonni) s'innamorasse di mio padre, venuto dall'Italia per visitare dei parenti Veneti anch'essi emigrati e amici di famiglia dei Nonni. Il loro matrimonio porto' al trasferimento di mia madre in Italia, che fu un brutto colpo per mia Nonna. Chi l'avrebbe mai detto che 20 anni dopo sarei tornato io.

Per quanto le motivazioni dietro cui i miei nonni han deciso di imbarcarsi nell'avventura Canadese siano state profondamente diverse dalle mie, mi rendo conto di quanto sia stata coraggiosa e ammirevole la loro decisione di tentare di costruire una vita in un paese a loro completamente sconosciuto.

Ed e' proprio questo sentimento di rispetto, ammirazione e determinazione che provo nei loro confronti cosi' unico e raro in questa societa' di oggi che mi spinge a scrivere questo articolo seppur dubito possa davvero dar giusto valore ai miei sentimenti.

Durante questi 10 anni, ed in particolar modo negli ultimi cinque, ho avuto l'onore ed il piacere di conoscere tantissimi Italo-Canadesi. Persone

cont'd next page



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Ode to the Generation of Values

It feels like yesterday when I hopped on my first one-way ticket flight of my life. Indeed, it's now been 10 years since I took that hard but conscious decision to leave my home, family and friends in Italy in search of better opportunities and new horizons in Canada, home to my maternal Nonni that emigrated here over 50 years back. Both left everything and everyone from a small town of just over 2000 people in the hills of the province of Ascoli Piceno, in the region of Marche on the border with Abruzzo. Like many others from Sicily, Calabria, Puglia, Molise, Lazio, Campania, Abruzzo, Veneto and Friuli, they decided to flee their home at the time in Economic crises and recession affecting most of Italy in particular after WWII that lasted until the 60s and 70s.

Those first few years in that cold country were harsh and tough. Many times with

humbling and occasional work. And when the pay was very low, that meant that you would have to work overtime, with longer and longer hours that spread to weekends and holidays. Anything to ensure that the family would have the same opportunities as any other Canadian citizen, that their kids would have a much brighter future than their own. Their limitations were considerable keeping in mind that at the beginning they could barely communicate in English and for that reason at times mistreated poorly in comparison to the local people. Yet, their weakness become an instrument of strength in building new "families", not necessarily by blood but made of "paesani" and fellow Italian immigrants that found themselves in the exact same position. They shared the same ideals and values and their love for the family always holding first place in their hearts.

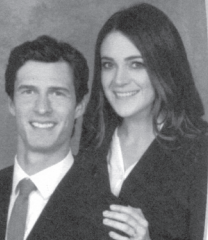
Year after year thousands of immigrants from all over Italy came to Canada and slowly became, not only a part but a major contributor to the growth and building of the Canadian country as we know it. Their families not only had similar opportunities but in many cases found themselves better off than the average citizen. Yet, destiny had it that my mother, born in Canada after my Nonni emigrated, met my father from Italy who came to visit some of his relatives from Veneto who were family friends of my maternal Nonni. Their marriage lead to my mother moving to Italy in Como and it was a very tough hit for my Nonna. Yet who would have imagined that her grandson would eventually turn up on her doorsteps twenty years later.

As much as my decision to immigrate to Canada compared to that of my Nonni is impossible and not remotely relatable it allows me to appreciate and understand even more the authentic gesture made by my Nonni and the rest of the Italian immigrants.

It is exactly this sentiment of utmost respect, admiration and price so unique and rare in today's society that forces and pushes me to write this article though I doubt it could truly give value to what those feelings are.

During these ten years and in particular in the last five, I have had the honour and the pleasure of meeting many Italian Canadians. Truly special people that immediately demonstrated unbiased sympathy, friendship and support in my regards. I will never forget the countless number of invitations I have received

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Ode Alla Generazione Dei Valori cont'd

davvero speciali che hanno sin da subito mostrato amicizia e supporto nei miei confronti. A fatica posso ricordare il numero degli inviti che ho ricevuto per una cena, una festa o per passare la domenica insieme. Il tutto da persone conosciute da pochi giorni o settimane prima, ed immancabilmente non sono me ne sono mai andato senza ricevere una bottiglia di vino o degli avanzi della cena.

Questi sentimenti di affetto, umiltà e generosità genuina sono ossigeno in questo mondo troppe volte inquinato da un eccesso di benessere che porta a dimenticare quanto i beni materiali siano sempre inferiori rispetto a quelli spirituali e ai sentimenti. Loro questa scelta tra beni materiali o spirituali non hanno avuto il lusso di farla e questo modo frugale e semplice di vivere la vita è un denominatore comune in cui ogni l'emigrante Italiano si rispecchia.

Il loro coraggio ed orgoglio non solo e' stato tramandato di generazione in generazione, ma ha influenzato anche il resto della nostra società. Il club 'Fratelli d'Italia' ne e' un esempio concreto. Gli ideali di "Libertà, Uguaglianza e Fratellanza" sono forti richiami ai sentimenti che ognuno dei membri aveva in cuor suo quando decisero di fondare e far parte di questo club. Un modo per staccar la spina dalla vita, ai tempi piena di ostacoli, sacrifici e sofferenze, e vivere dei momenti di felicità con persone a cui si voleva bene e con cui ci si aiutava e sosteneva. Il tutto ovviamente contornato da prelibatezze tipiche di ciascuna regione, buon vino, ma anche musica, balli e tante risate.

In molti eventi a cui ho partecipato capita riecheggi il nome di una delle feste più amate dagli Italo-Canadesi di Hamilton: "Vino e Amore". Migliaia di persone unite in festa dagli stessi valori ed animi, dai bambini ai genitori e talvolta Nonni. Purtroppo "Vino e Amore" oggi non c'è più e la stessa Festitalia e la maggior parte dei club, seppur tengono ancora duro, vedono piano piano perdere membri e partecipanti anziani senza saperli sostituire con i giovani. Oltretutto, avendo vissuto in Italia la maggior parte della mia vita, ho potuto constatare di persona quanto quei valori che un tempo appartenevano alla generazione dei miei Nonni si siano a poco a poco amalgamati con le mode ed esigenze del momento soprattutto dopo il boom economico Italiano degli anni 80 e 90.

Ed è per questo che questo sentimento di cui ho parlato poc'anzi diventa ancora più forte. Il tempo è canaglia e mentre sempre più persone ormai sono solo ricordi, è fondamentale non dimenticare da dove siamo venuti e tutti gli insegnamenti che ci sono stati tramandati.

Far parte dei "Fratelli d'Italia" e di tutti gli altri club regionali vuol dire continuare su quella strada che i nostri predecessori hanno creato per noi, sudando e sputando sangue, affinché questo mondo non debba vivere delle stesse sofferenze che per anni sono state loro.

Per me e' un onore ed una vittoria personale avere l'opportunità di parlare, conoscere ed ammirare le gesta e storie di tutti gli Italiani che come i miei Nonni

hanno creato dal niente un futuro radioso per i propri figli, costruito su valori che danno supporto e forza ai propri cari.

Dunque, rivolgo un appello anche ai giovani Italo-Canadesi affinché vedano con occhi nuovi quanto sia speciale ciò che li circonda e di assicurarsi che la propria storia familiare e ciò che ne ha costruito, non cadi nell'oblio come tutta la generazione dei nostri predecessori. Voi Nonni, genitori, zii, zie, cugine, comunicate con i vostri figli, nipoti nel vostro dialetto e lingua madre Italiana perché siete voi il modo migliore affinché la nostra bellissima lingua non ci abbandoni.

Per questo voglio ringraziare tutti voi giunti in questo paese, per aver dimostrato quanto nulla sia impossibile quando si hanno un cuore grande e coraggioso. Le foto che ho condiviso che mostrano i miei Nonni sulla nave che li porto' in Canada, il loro primo lavoro nel lavorare nei campi e le feste che avevano con la loro famiglia estesa Italiana in Canada sono momenti che sono sicuro tutti coloro che stanno leggendo possano relazionarsi. Ciò dimostra quanto vera e coerente. Il mondo ha bisogno di esempi di vita come voi, da seguire nei momenti più duri e difficili per trovare speranza e fiducia.

Grazie di cuore. Tutto ciò mi rende davvero fiero....fiero di essere un Italo-Canadese.

Br. Steven Zecchin


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Ode to the Generation of Values cont'd

to their homes, for dinner, on a Sunday, during the holidays-- people I had only met weeks prior and of course always leaving their home with the classic care package of food or even wine.

These feelings of genuine affection, humility and generosity are oxygen to this world many times polluted by an excess of wealth that pushes us to forget how much material goods are always inferior to those spiritual ones. They never had the luxury to choose between those goods and their simple and frugal way to live life is a common denominator each Italian emigrant embodies itself.

Their courage and pride have not only influenced their families but spread vastly to the rest of our society. The club of the "Sons of Italy", is a true example. Its ideals of "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity" strongly demonstrate the sentiments that each and every member has held in their hearts since the club was founded over 100 years ago. It was their way to unplug from the difficult challenging life they found themselves in initially. Here, they live and share moments of joy with those they love and genuinely care for and support. Needless to say, this is all surrounded by the typical regional delicacies, good wine and also music, dancing and many laughs.

In the many Italian events I have taken part of recently, it just so happens that a certain "Festa" echoes around the tables, --one of the most loved ones by the Italian Canadians in Hamilton "Vino e Amore". Thousands of people united by the same values and likes, from kids to parents and even grandparents. Something that we no longer have around with Festitalia and many other Italian clubs that are yes still

alive but that are seeing their numbers slowly but certainly shrinking, with the loss of their elderly members unable to be replaced by young people. Furthermore, having lived in Italy most of my life I have witnessed in person the shift from the old generation's values dissipate into the new more modern ones in particular after the Italian economic boom in the 80s and 90s.

And it is for this reason that my feelings grow even stronger and my goals clearer.... time unavoidably continues to flee from our hold as more and more of those beloved family members or friends become memories. It is imperative we never forget where we come from and continue to hold on to many of the teachings of those immigrants, their wisdom and traditions they so lovingly tried to pass on and instilled in our hearts and minds.

To be part of the "Sons of Italy" and any of the other regional clubs we are bonded to means to continue on the same path our predecessors built for us, sweating and slaving away to ensure the future would not be living through the same hardship and suffering they have for many years of their life.

To me it is an honour and a personal victory to have the opportunity to speak to, learn from and admire the many courageous acts of all of those Italians that, like my Nonni, with nothing in their pockets built a strong and bright future for their kids made with the right ideals and able to give the right support to those we love. For this reason I have a special plea to the younger Italian Canadians so that they can see with open eyes how truly special and lucky they are and to act fast to ensure their own history and what has allowed them to be where

and who they are does not fall into oblivion as our first generation will inevitably cease to be part of our living world.

I came to discover that Hamilton's highest percentage of Immigration is that of Italians (over 10%...yes 1 out of 10) and I know we will all be guilty should those sacrifices and memories will be neglected or even worse forgotten.

To the younger generation I make an appeal to you, if you are reading this take a moment to ask you Nonni, parents, Zio, Zia, cousins who moved here to share some of their stories and more importantly to keep the Italian language alive in your homes. 5-10 years from now you'll look back at this moment and be thankful you had such an opportunity.

This is a heartfelt thanks for those who came to this country that have taken their life and that of their family on their shoulders demonstrating to everyone how nothing is impossible when you have a big and courageous heart and when you give the right value to what is around us. The pictures I shared about my Nonni, when they first took the boat to Canada, their first job working in the fields and the love and fun they had with their extended Canadian-Italian family is something everyone who will read this can relate to and how consistent our Italian culture is. This world needs true examples to follow in the hardest times and you by far one of the best our society has to offer.

Grazie di cuore. This truly makes me proud...proud to be an Italian Canadian.

Br. Steven Zecchin

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EVENT CALENDAR

Mark your Calendar

For those wishing to help with the following events, please see your Executive.

Upcoming General Meeting - Bring a Friend Night	Tuesday, January 9, 2018
General Meeting - Parent/Child Night	Tuesday, February 13, 2018
General Meeting - Wine Tasting	Tuesday, March 13, 2018
Soppressata Dinner	Thursday, April 19, 2018
Spaghetti Supper	Wednesday, May 16, 2018

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