

The Mariano A. Elia Chair in Italian Canadian Studies at York University *presents*

Project Vaughan: Towards an Understanding of the Italian Canadian Experience Beyond “Little Italy”

Conference Co-Chairs: Professor Elio Costa, Professor Gabriele Scardellato, Councillor Tony Carella

Metropolitan Toronto was the first point of settlement for more than 250,000 Italian immigrants after the Second World War. Many of these later settled in the City of Vaughan, where 44% of the population is of Italian heritage, according to the 2001 census. In Woodbridge, one part of Vaughan, that figure rises to 71%. This resettlement has become a unique immigrant and post-immigrant reality, sometimes satirized, often criticized and misunderstood. Is it also a metaphor for the Italian-Canadian experience at the beginning of the twenty-first century? To explore this phenomenon, the Elia Chair has convened a conference to take place September 28/29, 2007, at the Vellore Village Joint Complex (composed of Vellore Village Community Centre and St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School), on the west side of Weston Road, between Davos Road and Villa Royale Avenue---north of Rutherford Road and south of Major Mackenzie Drive, in Woodbridge. The public is welcome. Admission is free.

Conference Schedule

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

7.00 pm: **Welcome:** Professor Jana Vizmuller-Zocco, Associate Professor of Italian Language & Linguistics, and Program Director, The Mariano A. Elia Chair in Italian Canadian Studies, York University

7.10 pm: **Introduction of Keynote Speaker** by Professor Gabriele Scardellato

7.15 pm: **Keynote Address:** Professor Bruno Ramirez, University of Montreal “From Little Italy to the Shopping Mall: Competing Narratives of the Italian Canadian Experience, Past and Present.”

8.00 pm: **Comment/Response:** Professor Jordan Stanger-Ross, University of Victoria, introduced by Professor Scardellato

8.45 pm: **Reception**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2007

8.30 am: **Breakfast**

9.00 am: **Introduction of Special Guests** by Professor Jana Vizmuller-Zocco: Mamdouh Shoukri, President, York University, and Linda Jackson, Mayor, City of Vaughan

9.30 am: **Concurrent Sessions I:**

A. Post-Immigrant Patterns of Social Organization
Chair: Professor Bruno Ramirez
Presenters: Emma Posca, Professor G. Scardellato, Francesca Schembri

B. Post-Immigrant Arts & Culture
Chair: Professor Jana Vizmuller-Zocco
Presenters: Martin Stiglio, Director, Italian Cultural Institute, Toronto; Rocco Pannese, Principal, Kipling Gallery; Scott McDonald, Director of Education, McMichael Canadian Art Collection

C. Vaughan & the Media

Chair: Professor Gabriella Colussi-Arthur

Presenters: Ralph Capocci, Danjus Consulting Group; Paul Leavoy, Editor, *Vaughan Weekly*; Sergio Tagliavini, Editor, *Lo Specchio*

11.00 am: Break

11.15 am:

Concurrent Sessions II:

D. Vaughan's Next Generation

Chair: Professor David Dewitt

Presenters: Professor Steven Muzzatti, Ryerson University; Natalie Villani, Chair, Vaughan Youth Cabinet; Rom Villani, Principal, St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School; Sabrina Di Marco, Partner, C.A.C. International

E. The Development Industry

Chair: Professor Brenda Spotten

Presenters: **Corrado Paina;** Edward Sorbara, Principal, The Sorbara Group; John Zipay, Commissioner of Planning, City of Vaughan; **Emilia Valentini**, Director of Economic Development, City of Vaughan

12.45 pm:

Lunch

1.45 pm:

Concurrent Sessions III:

F. The Political Scene

Chair: Professor Livy Visano

Presenters: Maurizio Bevilacqua, PC, MP, Vaughan; Tony Carella, Councillor, City of Vaughan; Steven Del Duca, Director, Public Affairs, Carpenters' Union, Central Ontario Regional Council

G. Film Studies

Chair: Professor Mauro Buccheri

Ricordati di noi (Saluti dall'Italia/MTL-TV Télé-Italia); *Woodbridge: Not Just A Home For Italians...Well Sorta* (Yatom Dor /Group 4); **TBA** from Rocco Pannese

H. Views from beyond the City Limits

Chair: Professor Elio Costa

Presenters: Licia Canton, Editor-in-Chief, *Accenti Magazine*; Caroline Di Giovanni, Editor, *Italian Canadian Voices*; Darlene Madott, writer and barrister

3.15 pm:

Break

3.30 pm:

Concluding Plenary Session

7.00 pm:

Dinner* at Da Vinci Banquet Hall, 5732 Highway 7, Woodbridge

***Tickets for this limited-seating, four-course dinner (with cash bar), are \$40.00 and must be reserved by September 21, by calling Becky Guiney at 905-832-8585, ext. 8741**

***Special thanks to:* City of Vaughan, Da Vinci Banquet Hall, St. Phillip's Bakery**