

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MARCH 3, 2008

SPONSORSHIP OF PROJECT VAUGHAN 2

Recommendation

Councillor Tony Carella recommends that the City of Vaughan repeat its sponsorship of the conference *Project Vaughan: Towards an Understanding of the Italian Canadian Experience Beyond 'Little Italy'* by approving the sponsorship of the next conference in a series of three, entitled *Project Vaughan 2: Connecting Communities*, to permit the use of certain yet-to-be-specified city facilities rent-free, subject to established program requirements.

Economic Impact

The total of rental fees to be foregone as a result of the approval of this recommendation has yet to be determined, but should be nominal.

Communication Plan

The Corporate Communications Department will prepare an announcement that the City of Vaughan is once again sponsoring a conference, in association with the Mariano A. Elia Chair in Italian Canadian Studies.

Purpose

To demonstrate support for a conference focusing on the experience of the Italian Canadian community in Vaughan, as it compares and contrasts with the experience of other ethnocultural groups in the municipality.

Background - Analysis and Options

In September of 2007, the Mariano A. Elia Chair in Italian Canadian Studies at York University convened—at the Vellore Village Community Centre / St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School—a conference entitled *Project Vaughan: Towards an Understanding of the Italian Canadian Experience Beyond 'Little Italy'*. The program for the conference is attached, and indicates the broad range of topics which were covered: patterns of post-immigrant social organization, arts and culture, the print media, the next generation, the local economy, and the political scene—as well as the view of Vaughan as portrayed in film and video, and as seen by non-residents. The conference's Friday evening (September 28) session lead off with a keynote speaker and respondent, while the new president of York University, Dr. Mamdouh Shoukri, and Mayor Linda Jackson were the special guests at the beginning of the Saturday (September 29) session.

The Elia Chair is currently organizing a second conference, entitled *Project Vaughan 2: Connecting Communities*, which will focus on the commonalities and differences between Italian Canadians and other immigrant groups in the post-modern context of Vaughan. (A third conference, tentatively titled *Project Vaughan 3: Towards Cosmopolis*, is being discussed for the fall of 2009, to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of York University.)

To facilitate the operation of this year's conference, which will extend over two or three days, sessions are being planned to take place at York University and at some venue or venues in Vaughan. With that in mind, the organizers are requesting that if city-owned facilities are identified as the best site or sites for the Vaughan portions of the conference, that they be let to the Elia Chair, at no charge.

Regional Implications

None

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

The City of Vaughan will assist in the sponsorship of the conference *Project Vaughan 2: Connecting Communities*, by permitting the use of city-owned facilities not otherwise required for programming purposes during conference hours.

Attachments

Program for *Project Vaughan: Towards an Understanding of the Italian Canadian Experience Beyond 'Little Italy'*

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Carella
Councillor – Ward 2

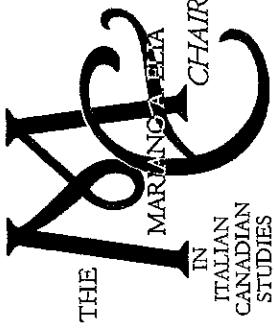
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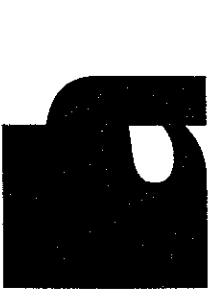
faculty of arts

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



faculty of arts



The City Above Toronto

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 21st century?

To explore this phenomenon, the Elia Chair has convened a conference to take place Friday, September 28 and Saturday, September 29, 2007 at the Vellore Village Joint Complex (composed of Vellore Village Community Centre and St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School) in Woodbridge. Parking is available in the school lot, off Davos Rd, which runs west from Weston Rd, midway between Rutherford Rd and Major Mackenzie Dr.

The public is welcome. Admission is free.

Vaughan
The City Above Toronto

YORK
UNIVERSITY

Conference Program

11:15am: Concurrent Sessions II:

D. The Next Generation
Chair: Professor David Dewitt

Presenters: Sabrina Di Marco, Partner, C.A.C. International; Vittoria La Neve, Co-Founder/Advisor, Vaughan Youth Cabinet; Professor Steven Muzzatti, Ryerson University; Natalie Villani, Chair, Vaughan Youth Cabinet; Romolo Villani, Principal, St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School

7:10pm: Introduction of Keynote Speaker by Professor Gabriele Scardellato

7:15pm: Keynote Address by Professor Bruno Ramirez, University of Montreal; "From Little Italy to the Shopping Mall: Competing Narratives of the Italian Canadian Experience, Past and Present."

8pm: Comments/Response by Professor Jordan Stanger-Ross, University of Victoria, introduced by Professor G. Scardellato

8:45pm: Reception

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007
(School Theatre)

7pm: Welcome by Professor Jana Vizmuller-Zocco, Associate Professor of Italian Language & Linguistics and Program Director, The Mariano A. Elia Chair in Italian Canadian Studies

7:15pm: Introduction of Keynote Speaker by Professor Gabriele Scardellato

7:15pm: Keynote Address by Professor Bruno Ramirez, University of Montreal; "From Little Italy to the Shopping Mall: Competing Narratives of the Italian Canadian Experience, Past and Present."

8pm: Comments/Response by Professor Jordan Stanger-Ross, University of Victoria, introduced by Professor G. Scardellato

12:45pm: Lunch (School Theatre)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2007

8:30am: Breakfast (School Theatre)

9am: Introduction of Special Guests by Professor Jana Vizmuller-Zocco; Dr. Mamdouh Shoukri, President, York University and Linda Jackson, Mayor, City of Vaughan

9:30am: Concurrent Sessions I:

A. Post-Immigrant Patterns of Social Organization

Chair: Professor Bruno Ramirez

Presenters: Emma Posca, Researcher/Writer; Professor Jordan Sanger-Ross; Professor Gabriele Scardellato; Francesca Schembri, Researcher/Writer

B. Post-Immigrant Arts & Culture

Chair: Professor Jana Vizmuller-Zocco

Presenters: Rocco Pannese, Principal, Kipling Gallery; Scott McDonald, Director of Education, McMichael Canadian Art Collection; Martin Stiglio, Director, Italian Cultural Institute, Toronto

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*

11am: Break (School Theatre)

E. The Local Economy

Chair: Professor Brenda Spotton-Visano

Presenters: Corrado Paina, Executive Director, Italian Chamber of Commerce of Toronto; Edward Sorbara, Principal, The Sorbara Group; Emilia Valentini, Director of Economic Development, City of Vaughan; John Zipay, Commissioner of Planning, City of Vaughan

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 Buccieri

- Ricordati di noi (Saluti dall'Italia/MTL-TV Télé-Italia)
- Woodbridge: Not Just A Home For Italians...Well Sorta (Yatom Dor /Group 4)
- Gli Italiani in Canada (Government of Italy)

H. Views from beyond the City Limits

Chair: Professor Elio Costa

Presenters: Licia Canton, Editor-in-Chief, *Accent Magazine*; Caroline Di Giovanni, Editor, *Italian Canadian Voices*; Darlene Madott, Writer/Barrister

3:15pm: Break (School Theatre)

3:30pm: Concluding Plenary Session (School Theatre)

7pm: Dinner* (Da Vinci Banquet Hall, 5732 Highway 7, west of Martin Grove Rd., Woodbridge)

* The public is welcome. Tickets for this five-course dinner (with host bar) are \$45.00 per person, and must be reserved no later than September 21. Contact Lucy Cardile at 905-832-8585, ext. 8741, or lucy.cardile@vaughan.ca

Program subject to change without guarantee of notice.