

ACCENTI *i*

The Magazine with an Italian Accent

Issue 24, Winter 2012

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Accenti Photo & Writing Contests
Deadline: February 7, 2012

Publication Mail: 40731052

ACCENTI \$5.99



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work and play for his students in the classroom. Soon, he left teaching to pursue his dream.

Still, he thanks his parents for inspiring him with their love of music and the arts in general. They passed away over twenty years ago, but they lived long enough to enjoy their son's success.

As a writer, musician and filmmaker, DiVerdis is at ease in several roles – something he relishes and for which he will not compromise, despite the financial challenges.

Community CIBPA Awards Bursaries

by *Domenic Cusmano*

Last November 25 saw the awarding of 50 scholarships and bursaries, to 50 meritorious students of Italian descent, by the Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association (CIBPA) in Montreal. The gala event, held at the Plaza Volare Crowne Plaza, saw over 400 attendees, with among them, recipients, family, friends, donors and guests.

The 50 awards corresponded to the number of years the CIBPA Bursary Program has been in existence. In all 150,000 dollars were awarded, with the top amount of 4000 dollars awarded to doctoral students. Over the last 50 years more than 3.1 million dollars has been awarded by the business group to 1750 students. Among the guest speakers was notary Raffaele Esposito, the last survivor of the founders of the CIBPA bursary program, who expressed both pride and satisfaction that 50 years after its humble beginnings – in 1961 the CIBPA awarded four bursaries totalling \$1000 – the CIBPA bursary program had helped so many young people. "I was privileged to go to university and I always thought it was unfair that many talented and equally ambitious young people might not have the same opportunity."



Gian Carlo Biferali, president of the CIBPA Bursary Program, holds up a bursary plaque with Rocco Caruso, CIBPA president ex-officio.

"Achievement in school is the basis for being successful in life, something we all aspire to," said CIBPA president Giovanni Chieffalo. "Helping the up-and-coming generations to succeed in school and contribute to cultivate their passion, curiosity, creativity and social responsibility should be a common goal for all of us who came before."

The 50th anniversary gala over, preparations and fundraising efforts are underway for next year's CIBPA bursaries.

Happenings A Question of Loyalty

When the Second World War broke out, 4500 Italian Canadians were living relatively normal lives in Vancouver. On June 10, 1940, when Fascist Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini joined forces with Nazi Germany, Italy was suddenly at war with Canada. Any sense of normalcy in this community vanished. Lives were forever changed.

Canada's federal government of the day invoked the War Measures Act, which led to the detainment and internment of 44 Italian Canadian men residing in Vancouver. These heads of households were taken to camps away from their families. Around 2,000 more were designated as "Enemy Aliens." While not interned, they had to report to the RCMP every month. The developments had profound psychological and financial effects on these individuals and their families.

Vancouver's Italian Cultural Centre (ICC) has been awarded federal funding for three major projects, collectively called *A Question of Loyalty*, including a book, a play and a museum exhibition, to explore and examine this little-known but significant part of



From the play *Fresco* by Lucia Frangione. Left to right: Stefano Giulianetti, Sabine Freschi, Susan Bertoia.