



Backgrounder:

Thursday, April 27, 2011

HERITAGE AND HISTORY

The Trieste Lodge of the Order Son's of Italy of Canada (SOI) is a fraternal and service organization located in Hamilton, Ontario. Current President, Robert Skaljin, is the first non-Italian to hold this position since its inception 90 years ago.

The Order Son's of Italy started in New York City in 1905 with its first Canadian lodge opening in Sault Ste Marie, ON in 1915. It began as a Mutual Benefit society helping and protecting new Italian immigrants. Today, its mandate has grown - positioning itself as a major player in the Hamilton charitable community donating funds to a number of local charities.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND CHARITY

The Trieste Lodge has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the community through key fundraisers such as their:

- Annual Golf Tournament
- Spaghetti Supper
- Turkey Roll
- Citizen of the year
- Card Night
- Past-Presidents Roast

The Sons of Italy, Trieste Lodge also operates the *Sons of Italy Housing Corporation* which supports 5 subsidized housing projects and a number of single family homes throughout the Greater Hamilton area benefiting low income families.

In addition, the *Sons of Italy Charitable Corporation* operates Villa Italia Retirement Community on the Hamilton Mountain. Villa Italia supports itself financial via fundraisers, like its largest called "La Passegiatta" (Stroll under the Stars) event held annually in August.

Lastly, the *Sons of Italy Choir* plays an integral part in generating funds for the lodge as well as providing added-value at fundraising events. It is made-up of volunteer singers and musicians who lend their voices and talents to various charitable events.

A brief list of charities the Sons of Italy have donated to and continue to donate to:

- City Kidz
- Juravinski Cancer Centre
- St Joseph's Home for Boys in Haiti
- Thalassaemia Foundation
- McMaster Children's Hospital
- The Josephine Lavey Memorial Scholarship
- Camp Trillium
- And various other charities that submit written requests throughout the year

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to men and women of Italian decent or those married to someone of Italian decent. Non-Italians may join as social members without voting rights. It encourages the active participation of its members in political, social and economic life. Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 499 King Street east and guests are always welcome.

CONTACT

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