

2011

VILLAGE REUNION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

RICHARD CALAGOURE (CHAIRMAN)

ROYDEN COSTANTINI

TONY DISIPIO

WRAY KING

JIM MC AULEY

MIKE ZITO (TREASURER)

RICHARD ZITO

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

KARL CALAGOURE

SONNY CALAGOURE

STU CAMERON

NICK COSTANTINI (PAST-TREASURER)

KEN CREPPIN

TONY IERULLO

CLEM KEALEY

FRANK LICARI (PAST CHAIRMAN)

LEO RIOPELLE

GERRY TREMBLAY

IN RESPONSE TO THE POSSIBLE NAMING OF PART OF BANK STREET, TO US, THERE HAS ONLY BEEN ONE "VILLAGE." ALL OTHERS COME AFTER US. FORMER MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OTTAWA, BOB CHIARELLI, AGREES AS STATED IN HIS VILLAGE REUNION DAY PROCLAMATION OF OCTOBER 17, 2003.



**Bob Chiarelli**

Mayor      Maire  
City of Ottawa      Ville d'Ottawa

*Village Reunion Day*

*October 17, 2003*

*Journée des retrouvailles au*

*« Village »*

*Le 17 octobre 2003*

**WHEREAS**, the "Village" is a neighbourhood rich in the history and heritage of Ottawa; and

**WHEREAS**, "The Village", known also as "Little Italy", was home to many Italian families, as well as Francophones, Anglophones and families with origins in many countries; and

**WHEREAS**, "The Village" endowed itself with a culture of mutual support, family values, sports activities and community leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, 25 years ago, with vision and foresight, a voluntary ad hoc committee of Villagers initiated the first "Village Reunion" dinner and social evening to celebrate "The Village" experience and to annually recognize the accomplishments of Villagers; and

**WHEREAS**, each "Village Reunion" has been an occasion of fun, celebration, good humour, good jokes, bad jokes, unprintable jokes, and tall tales.

**THEREFORE**, I, Bob Chiarelli, Mayor of the City of Ottawa, do hereby proclaim **October 17, 2003 as Village Reunion Day** in the City of Ottawa.

**ATTENDU QUE** le « Village » est un quartier d'Ottawa à l'histoire et au patrimoine très riches;

**ATTENDU QUE** le « Village », aussi appelé « Petite Italie », a été habité par un grand nombre de familles italiennes ainsi que par des Francophones, des Anglophones et des familles originaires de nombreux pays;

**ATTENDU QUE** le « Village » possède une culture fondée sur l'entraide, les valeurs familiales, les activités sportives et le leadership communautaire;

**ATTENDU QUE**, il y a 25 ans, un comité spécial formé de bénévoles animés d'un esprit visionnaire organisait la première soirée des « retrouvailles », afin de célébrer le « Village » et de reconnaître chaque année les réalisations des « villageois »;

**ATTENDU QUE** les retrouvailles sont chaque année l'occasion de réjouissances où les plaisanteries, les farces plus ou moins réussies ou encore censurées et les légendes sont à l'honneur.

**PAR CONSÉQUENT** je, Bob Chiarelli, maire de la Ville d'Ottawa, proclame par la présente le **17 octobre 2003 Journée des retrouvailles au «Village» d'Ottawa.**

Bob Chiarelli  
Mayor / Maire

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## ANTHONY IERULLO

IERULLO, Anthony (Tony). Proprietor of Joe Ierullo and Son's Barber Shop and founding member of Village Reunion Committee. After a 28-year courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease, in the arms of his loving and devoted wife Gail, surrounded by his family, we are saddened to announce the passing of Anthony Ierullo on Monday, January 31, 2011 in his 77<sup>th</sup> year. Anthony was the beloved and devoted husband of Gail (Ouellette). Loving father to Gina (late Pat Borrelli), Joseph (Sylvie Rochon) and Jason (Maria Paluzzi). Cherished grandfather to and loved brother of Theresa (late Natale Crupi), Rosa (late Steno Rossanese) and Silvia Ierullo. Brother in-law to Marena Pugliese, Doreen Larocque and Ronald Miller. He will be sadly missed by many close and loving nieces and nephews. Anthony will also be greatly missed by many extended family members and many dear friends who were touched by his love, generosity and kindness. A special thank you to Linda Haley and the nursing staff of both the second and fourth floors of the Elisabeth Bruyere-St. Vincent Campus for their exceptional care and compassion. Friends may pay respects at the Kelly Funeral Home, 585 Somerset Street West (Centretown), Thursday, February 3, 2011 from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral Friday, February 4, 2011 at St. Anthony's Church for Mass of Christian Funeral at 1:30 p.m. Interment at Notre Dame Cemetery. In Memorial, donations to the Elisabeth Bruyere-St. Vincent Campus or the Parkinson's Society, Ottawa Chapter is appreciated by family. "The days will pass and fade away, but our love for you never will. We will miss you and think of you always. Love, Your Family."



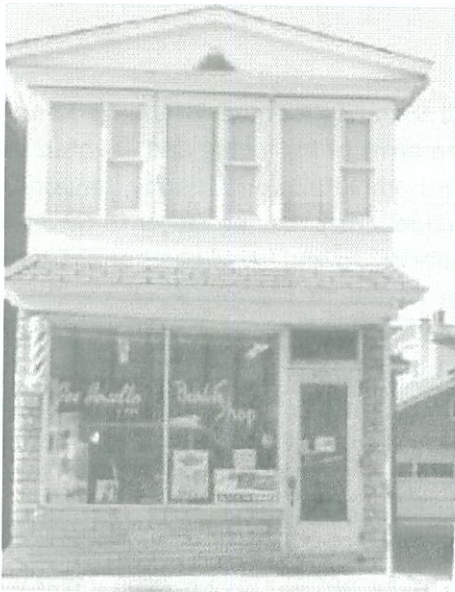
TONY GETTING A CLIPPING FROM CLINT

*Tony was an original member of the Village Reunion Committee. The first organizational meeting took place in Tony's basement under the barbershop. Tonight we sit down to our 33<sup>rd</sup> consecutive Annual Dinner and Social Night. We are indebted to Tony and the other members of the Village Reunion Committee over these many years for their dedication to this affair. It is ironic that our host tonight is Tony's son, Joe, here at the Ottawa St. Anthony Italia Soccer Club Hall.*

Taken from [www.ottawaitalians.com](http://www.ottawaitalians.com)

Written by Oliviana Mingarelli

## THE STORY OF JOE AND TONY IERULLO: “Helping People Make a Connection”



The Ierullo family is one of Preston Street’s oldest and most loved families.

Joe Ierullo was the first member of his family to immigrate to Canada from Vallalunga, Calabria in 1928. Upon arriving in Canada, Joe was sent to work in the mines in Timmins, Ontario. However, he soon found himself joining a crew of workers to help build Canada’s railroad. When he arrived in Ottawa with his crew, Joe came to an important decision: he would quit the

railroad and stay here. Though he remained in construction for some time, his decision allowed him to meet his future wife Vittoria Maviglia.

“The story of Joe and Vittoria was a wonderful love affair,” says his sister-in-law Marie.

Joe did not wish to spend his life within construction. So, with the help of some good friends, he mastered the art of barbering. In 1936 he bought a house on Preston Street and converted the front into a barbershop and the back into a home for his quickly growing family. His first and only son, Tony, was born in 1934, followed by three sisters (Theresa, Rosa and Silvia) all only one year apart.

Little did Joe know what an impact his barbershop would have on the Italian community. The barbershop, which remains one of Ottawa’s oldest businesses, became (and still is) a hub for gathering and interesting conversation.

“We could always see people coming and going,” says his eldest daughter Theresa. “I remember as a child, when sitting around the supper table, my father would recount many stories dealing with health, politics, history or whatever else he felt was good for us to know. It made me feel proud to see how knowledgeable he was.”

Silvia, the youngest of the family, recalls busy Saturdays and how her mother used to make zambaglione with cognac and how she, having the least amount of housework, would stay behind the shop door holding the food until her father had a minute to gulp it down.

The existence of a place like the barbershop was very important to the community.

“It was a form of communication,” explains Theresa. “This took the form of *Il Postino*, *the Ottawa Citizen* and CJOH for an earlier time. In the winter, people would come by simply to talk, nothing else.”

However, even though business was an important part of his life, Joe never worked on Sundays and would often bring his family to Constance Bay where they would enjoy an afternoon of fishing and swimming. The Ierullo house acted on Sundays much as the barbershop did during the week.

“Sunday was a day to receive friends and family,” says Theresa. “My dad always had to have his music so, after our family lunch, people would drop by throughout the day. My dad loved to dance.”

Being a very proud and family-centred man, Joe wanted his son Tony to follow in his footsteps and work at the barbershop, with the intention of eventually leaving Tony the business. Though Tony struggled with this for a few years (preferring to go into construction or following his leather-working hobby), he did eventually agree to pursue the barbering trade.

“Legacy is very important to Italian families,” says Silvia. Tony following in his father’s footsteps meant the world to Joe. Joe and Tony became a true father and son team, both bringing unique qualities to their trade. Tony grew to love his trade as much as or perhaps more than his father.

His wife Gail explains: “People would come in to talk about anything, sports, children, etc. At 5:30, one of his friends used to come in after work, get his haircut and sit there and chat and chat with Tony. I would have to go to the door and knock to say ‘dinner’s on the table dear,’ but he still wouldn’t leave. He would say ‘just a minute, just a minute.’ He couldn’t turn anyone away.”

Tony really loved not only his job, but the people as well. He took pride in his work and believed that as an entrepreneur he also had a responsibility to the community. Therefore, like his father before him, he attempted to give to the community as much as it had given him. Joe wanted other people to be able to come to Canada, establish themselves and then send for their families (much as he had). Joe and Vittoria helped many people find jobs, houses, whatever they needed. This tradition was passed on to their son Tony. Tony’s daughter Gina remembers that he would sometimes pull out money, without any expectation of ever seeing it again, and give it to a friend or person in need. He knew how hard life could be and was thankful to have been able to do so well for himself.

“Joe and Tony helped people make a connection,” says Joe’s sister-in-law Marie.

The barbershop on Preston Street was a place where everyone knew your name. People felt like family and this created a bond that is stronger than any brick and will therefore exist forever. Gail says that the family has no intention of selling the business any time soon. For now, due to Tony’s declining health, his children are looking after the business. However, even if one day they do sell the barbershop, the connections they made in the community within those walls will never fade. The respect this family has earned for their prominent role within the Italian community will live on from one generation to the next.

**Joe Ierullo & Son**

**Barber Shop**

**Has Closed**

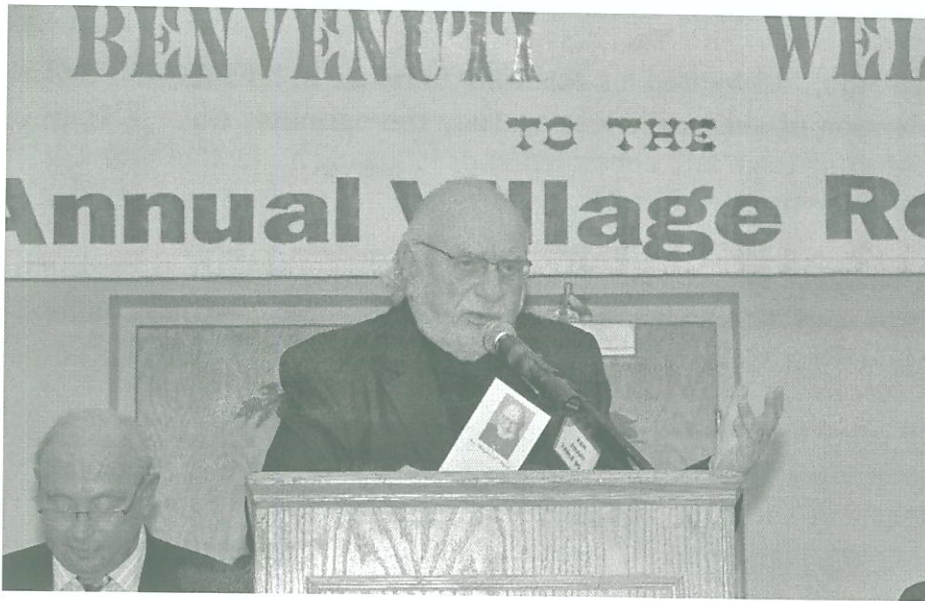
**To all of our Loyal Customers of many years**

**Thank you for your patronage**

**The Ierullo Family**

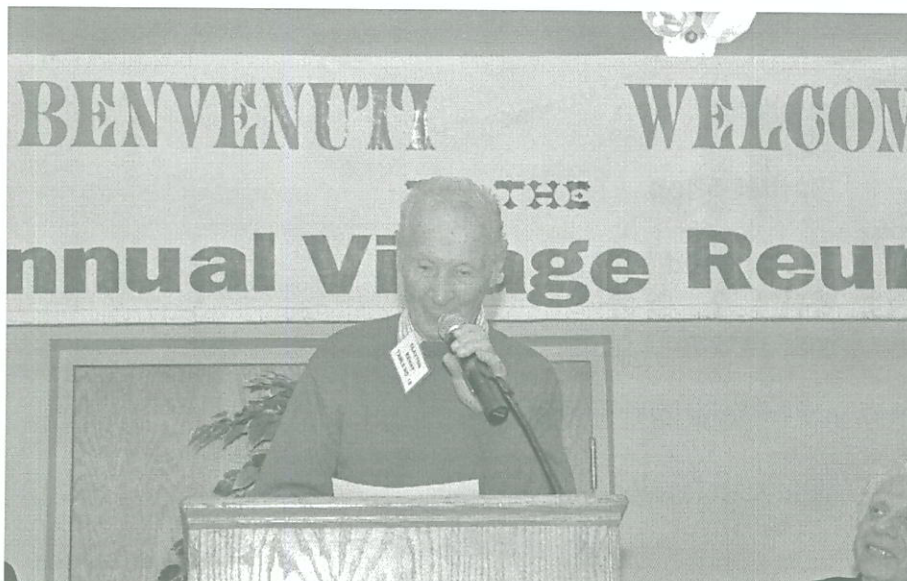
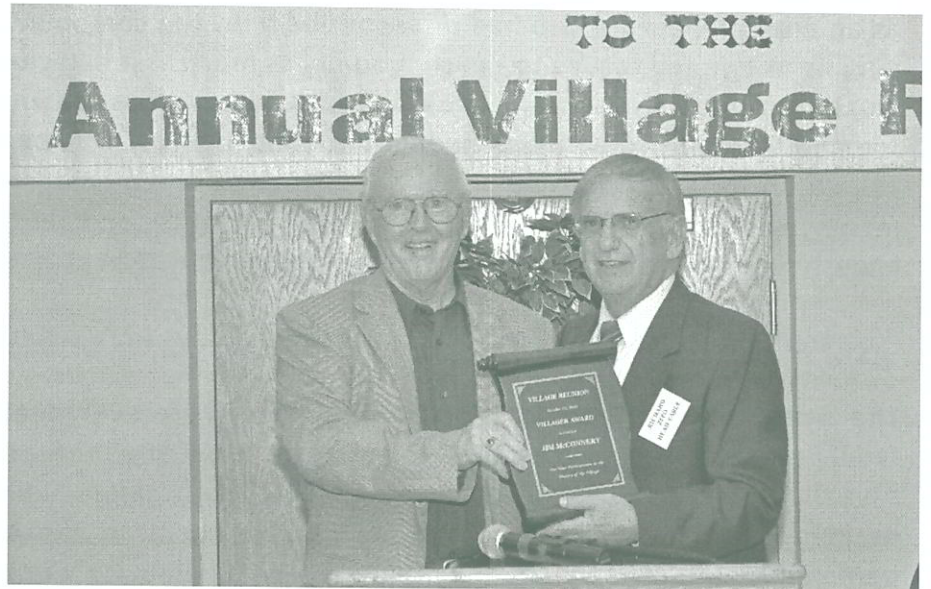
**April 6, 2006**

# 2010 AWARD WINNERS



Community Contribution Award  
**KEN GRANT**

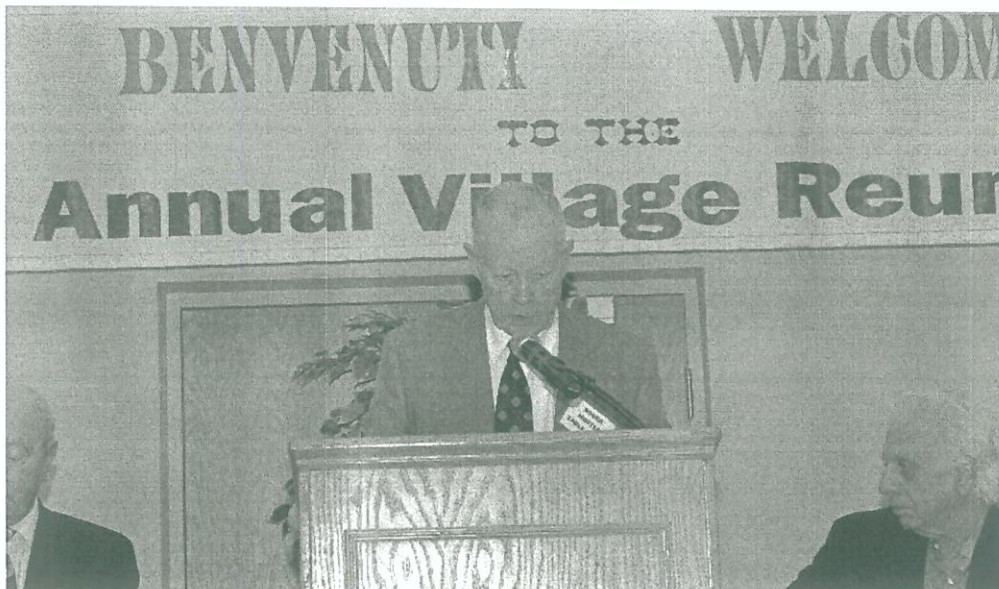
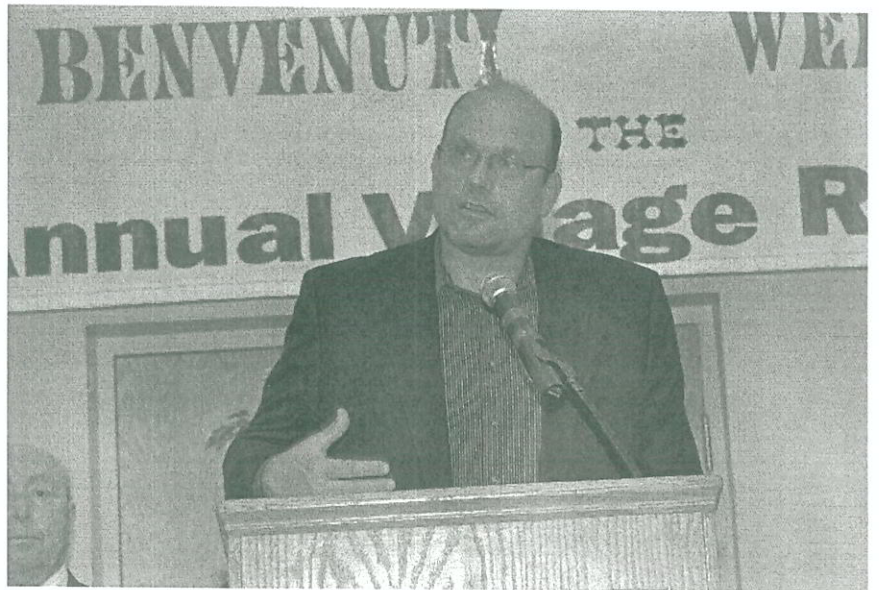
Villager Award  
**JIM MC CONNERY**  
(Presented by Richard Zito)



Sportman Award  
**CLAYTON KENNY**

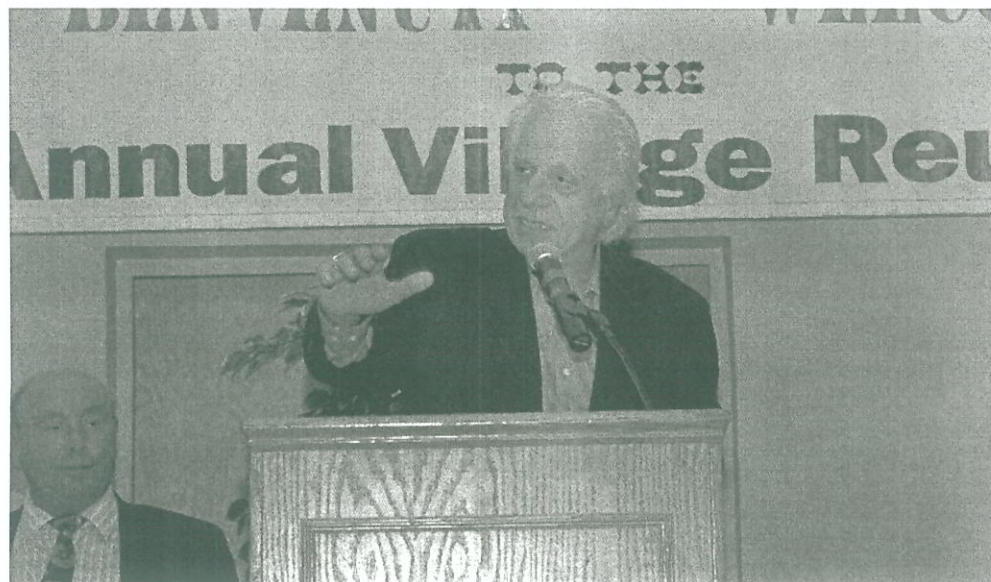
# 2010 AWARD WINNERS

Special Presentation Award  
**PETER CHIARELLI**



Village Athletic Award  
**ROGER HUNTER**

2011 GUEST SPEAKER  
**GARY MICHAELS**



# 2010 REUNION





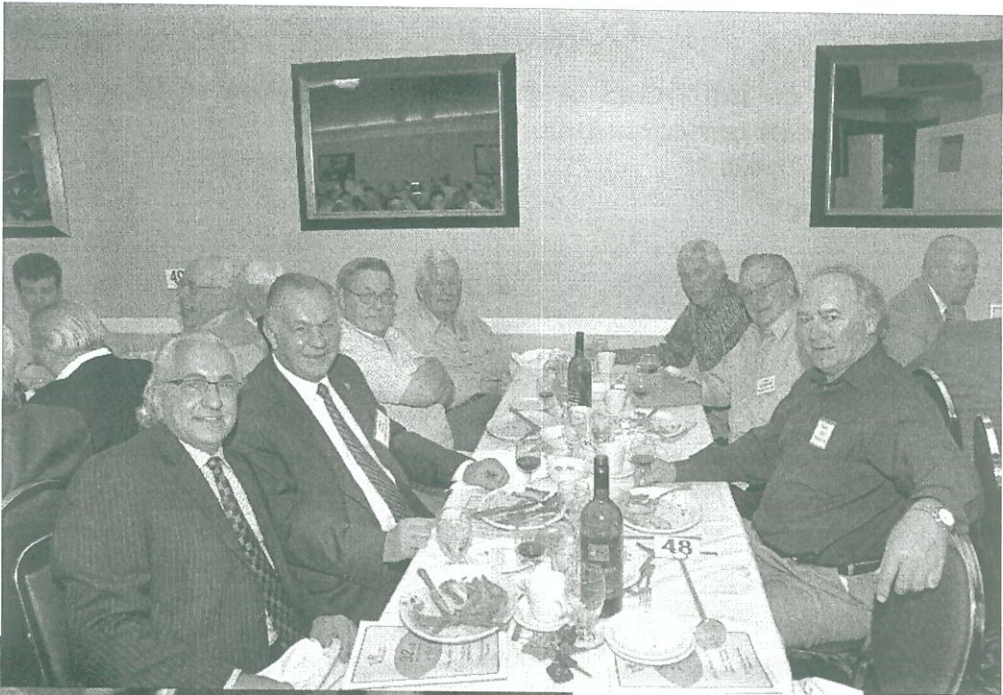
# 2010 REUNION



# 2010 REUNION



# 2010 REUNION



# ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

## COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Awarded to an individual or group in recognition of his/their dedication to the growth and development of our community.

1979	Hugh Riopelle Sr.	1988	George Maxwell	1999	George Drummond
1979	Sam Macli	1989	Joe Sandulo	2000	Ottawa St. Anthony Italia Soccer Club
1980	Charles Ladas	1990	Roy Lafleur	2001	Garry Guzzo
1980	Walter Strelbisky	1991	Jim McAuley	2002	Nello Bortolotti
1981	Ed Daugherty	1992	Ottawa-Nepean Canadians Sports Club	2003	Max Keeping
1981	Ev Tremblay	1993	John Denofrio	2004	Ed Champagne
1982	Les Newman	1994	Chris Finnerty	2005	Al Albania
1984	Ernie Leighton	1995	Howard Darwin	2006	Glen Richardson
1986	Tom Coughlan	1996	Keith Brown	2007	Tom Cavanagh
1986	Jack Snow	1997	Italo Tiezzi	2008	Dave Smith
1987	John Mangione	1998	Jim Durrell	2009	Joe Cama
				2010	Ken Grant

## VILLAGER AWARD

Awarded to an individual in recognition of his participation in the history of The Village.

1979	Sam Palef	1988	Chappie Carmanico	1999	John Licari
1980	Aggie Lafleur	1989	Alex Cameron	2000	Don Romani
1981	Frank Concordia	1990	Joe Pilon	2001	Oliver Medaglia
1982	Bill Chinkiwsky	1991	Andy Lombardo	2002	Joe Guzzo
1982	Skipper Disipio	1992	Peter Andrusek	2003	Ron Gervais
1983	Jimmy MacMillan	1993	Joe Pugliese	2004	Ken Burrows
1984	Mike Andrusek	1994	Alex Lafleur	2005	John Mastrangelo
1984	Ralph Cameron	1995	Joe Adamo	2006	Dominic Delle Palme
1985	Alex Sauv�	1996	Spike Girotte	2007	Saro Panuccio
1986	Len Concordia	1997	Red Gorman	2008	Sam Pugliese
1987	Frank Costantini	1998	Red Wellington	2009	Joe Bozzi
				2010	Jim McConnery

## SPORTSMAN AWARD

Awarded to an individual in recognition of his outstanding athletic excellence.

1981	Patsy Guzzo	1992	Bob Simpson	2001	Don Holtby
1984	Tony Licari	1993	Billy Watson	2002	Darcy Boucher
1986	Bill Cowley	1994	Jake Dunlap	2003	Bobby Copp
1987	Howard Riopelle	1995	Ed Hatoum	2004	Billy Russell
1988	Conny Brown	1996	Larry Regan	2005	Cliff Neill
1989	Bill Dineen	1997	Eddie MacCabe	2006	John Fripp
1990	Lorne Watters	1998	Hugh Riopelle Jr.	2007	Marcel Legris
1990	Frank Chiarelli	1999	Lude Check	2008	Greg Fagan
1991	Lally Lalonde	2000	Ab Renaud	2009	Brian Kilrea
				2010	Clayton Kenny

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION AWARD

**Awarded to an individual, or group, in recognition of his/their achievements and leadership.**

1979	Ierullo Family	1990	Joe Imbesi	2001	Martin Defalco
1981	Fred (Pinky) Mitchell	1991	Earl Stinson	2002	Bob Chiarelli
1982	Gale Kerwin	1992	Licari Family	2003	Mike Leclair
1983	Prescott Hotel	1993	Gervais Family	2004	Ron Barbaro
1984	Clint Jourdain	1994	Patafie Family	2005	Luigi Mion
1984	St. Anthony's Church	1995	Timpson Family	2006	Johnson (Welding) Family
1985	Provost Family	1996	Sal Pantalone	2007	Galla Family
1986	Chiarelli Brothers	1997	Leclair Family	2008	Bill Tomlinson
1987	Purcell Brothers	1998	Phil Murray	2009	Paul Casagrande
1988	Zito Family	1999	Mangione Family	2010	Peter Chiarelli
1989	Charles Strang	2000	Lorne Kelly		

## VILLAGE ATHLETIC AWARD

**Awarded to an individual from The Village in recognition of his athletic achievement and high Village ideals.**

1982	Edgar Blondin	1992	Rudy Costantini	2002	Fred (Pinky) Mitchell
1983	Nooky Pilon	1993	Paul Ventura	2003	Wayne Hughes
1983	Toby Dinardo	1994	Wally Swords	2004	Bobby Ransom
1985	Andy Nezan	1995	Gordie Pantalone	2005	Joe (JoJo) Licari
1986	Fred Hughes	1996	Santo Imbesi	2006	Dom Disipio
1987	Joe Asquini	1997	Roydon Kealey	2007	Eddie Rose
1988	Leo Blondin	1998	Art Dinardo	2008	George House
1989	Les Pilon	1999	Ed Nicholson	2009	Conrad Kozak
1990	John Kozak	2000	Hubie Garneau	2010	Roger Hunter
1991	Harvey Creppin	2001	Gord Ventura		

## **WE REMEMBER THEM**

**The following gentlemen, who have been honoured by our reunion, passed away since our last meeting:**

**Jake Dunlap, our 1994 Sportsman Award winner, passed away on October 17, 2010.**

**Gord Pantalone, our 1995 Village Athletic Award winner, passed away on November 26, 2010.**

**Tony Ierullo, an original member of the Village Union Committee, passed away on January 31, 2011.**

**We also recall with fondness others who have attended our function and are no longer with us. Rest in peace, fellas.**

## A LOOK AT THE VILLAGE'S PAST

The Ottawa Citizen headline of Saturday, September 21, 1957

### Faulty Wiring Blamed

### **\$350,000 FIRE DESTROYS HUGE TRANSPORT GARAGE**

#### **Gasoline Blasts Highlight Battle Against Flames**

Flames billowing out of control punctuated by gasoline explosions highlighted a \$350,000 fire at Motorways Ltd. on Preston Street last night. No one was injured.

Thousands of Ottawans lined the CNR tracks near the Preston Street overpass and gazed down on the blaze that gutted a huge garage filled with late model trucks belonging to the Canada-wide trucking firm.

Firemen and apparatus from seven stations battled the flames for more than two hours and managed to save a large warehouse containing costly electrical appliances. At the height of the fire the latter building seemed destined to destruction but firemen under Acting Chief Armand Page erected a "vapor curtain" with streams of water and contained the flames.

From The Evening Citizen, Saturday, September 24, 1949

DEAR UNCLE RAY: I would like to join your Club. I am 7 years old. My birthday is July 13.

I would like a Club pin. I live below Iris Collins who is a member of your Club. JERRY PEREL, 455 Preston Street, Ottawa.

It's nice to have Iris' neighbor in our Club. Do you play together? How do you like school? I have entered your birthday in the big Birthday Book and I hope you won't forget to look for your name next July. It's still a little far off, isn't it? There is plenty of snow and cold weather between now and your birthday. Do write again, Jerry, and tell us about your hobbies. You have some, I am sure. UNCLE RAY.

From The Citizen, Tuesday, July 22, 1986

**ICE CREAM.** The Product's Basically Unchanged, But The Marketing Has A New Face. ....Yet all these shifting strategies haven't even started to lick the popularity of Pasticceria Gelateria Italiana on Preston Street. This small independent has a loyal and growing clientele. Ice cream connoisseurs know well the small gelateria and pastry shop owned by brothers Joe and Andy Calabro at 200 Preston St. at the corner of Larch Street. The shop sells between 300 and 500 litres of ice cream a week.

Joe Calabro describes their gelato, made fresh daily in the shop, as half-way between ice milk and ice cream with a consistency that's smoother and softer than regular North American ice cream.

The ice cream is light (about four to six per cent butter fat content compared to the 10 per cent or more in most ice cream) and it bursts with the natural flavor of fresh fruit and nuts.

There are 21 flavors, including pistachio, Curacao and amaretto. The coffee flavor is unrivalled. A four-ounce cone is \$1.18 and spoonful samples are freely passed out—the Calabros are proud of their ice cream and with good reason.

From The Citizen, Thursday, January 6, 1983

**Married 70 Years And Still In Love.**

**By Hugh Adami, Citizen Staff Writer**

At 90, Domenica Imbesi sometimes considers herself a snooker widow.

So, what, says husband Giuseppe, who at 92, admits a passion for pool and poker.

After all, if their marriage hasn't soured after 70 years shooting a little pool with the boys from time to time certainly isn't going to hurt.

Maybe, says Domenica. But waiting up for him until 9 p.m. with only the TV for entertainment can get pretty boring.

The mischievous look on her face gives the tiny woman away. Yes, she admits, she loves her husband just as much now as she did Jan. 20, 1913, the day they were married in the "little Italian church" on Murray Street.

With their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary just a couple of weeks away, Giuseppe and Domenica say God is probably the magic formula that has kept them going this long and in relatively good health.

Their lifestyle, they say, is a simple one.

"I don't smoke and none of my children have ever smoked," Giuseppe says proudly. "They do like their father."

Giuseppe admits his love for wine, however, and tends to his wine-making each fall.

"I like wine," he says. "I made 15 gallons this year."

With six of their seven children still living in the Ottawa area and 27 grandchildren and great-grandchildren coming around to visit, there's rarely a lonely time.

Domenica spends her mornings keeping their home in the Preston Street area of Little Italy spotless. She makes sure afternoons are free for soap operas.

Giuseppe emigrated to Ottawa in 1911, leaving his southern Italian hometown of Reggio, Calabria, for a "better life."

"In Italy I was making 10 cents a day carrying stones," he recalls. "Here (working for the Grand Trunk Railroad—later the C.N.R.) I was making \$1 a day."

In 1916, three years after marrying Domenica, he was hired as a laborer with the city of Ottawa. He remained with the city until his retirement in 1955.

Domenica, whom Giuseppe knew from his childhood days, arrived in Ottawa in 1912. Giuseppe boarded at the home of Domenica's father until they married a year later.

From The Evening Citizen, Wednesday, December 8, 1948

**Documentary Film On Pupils And Teachers**

A particularly fine National Film Board documentary on parent-teacher-child problems in which the settings are laid in Ottawa schools and roles enacted by Ottawans and their children may be seen currently at the Regent.

An especially able performance as a harassed Polish youngster is turned in by 13-year-old Mike Zito, of 420 Preston Street. Barbara Ferguson, 730 Albert Street, appears in a face-slapping episode.

Supporting children in the various scenes are from the High School of Commerce, Mutchmor, Elmdale, Glashan, Devonshire and York street schools. School interiors and exteriors are those of the High School of Commerce, Mutchmor and Elmdale.

From The Citizen, Monday, February 28, 1983.

### **Taverns Fear Running Dry As Lockout Shuts Breweries**

Ontario beer stores were expected to be closed today as 4,000 brewery workers remain locked out of their jobs by the province's major breweries.

In the weeks leading up to the strike, most drinking establishments attempted to stock up, only to discover limits had been placed on their orders.

The imposed limit usually allowing a bar to order only 10 per cent more than usual—upset the management of the Prescott Hotel on Preston Street.

The hotel manager, who asked his name not be used, said a long strike could cripple his business.

"I've ordered at the limit and my fridge is full, but it won't last," he said, estimating the 800 cases he has will last no more than five days.

"We really don't know what we're going to do. If we run out we'd certainly have to close the doors—and I have 40 people on staff."

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## 2010 REUNION





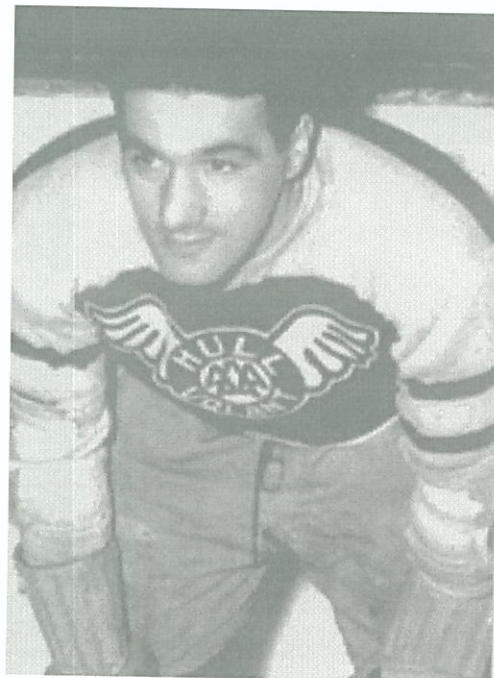
# 2010 REUNION



## GORD PANTALONE

Passed Away, Friday, November 26, 2010 at age 94

- 1933-34 ST. FRANCOIS, OUTDOOR DIVISION, OTTAWA CITY JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE
- 1935-36 UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA, JUNIOR CITY HOCKEY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS AND OTTAWA AND DISTRICT HOCKEY ASSOCIATION FINALISTS
- 1935-36 THE CITIZEN, INDUSTRIAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
- 1936-37 LA SALLE, OTTAWA CITY SENIOR AMATEUR HOCKEY LEAGUE SEMI-FINALISTS
- 1940-41 HULL VOLANTS, OTTAWA CITY SENIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS
- 1941-42 HULL VOLANTS, OTTAWA CITY SENIOR CITY HOCKEY LEAGUE FINALISTS
- 1942 ROYAL CANADIAN ENGINEERS, NATIONAL DEFENCE SOFTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS
- 1942-43 HULL VOLANTS, OTTAWA CITY SENIOR CITY HOCKEY LEAGUE
- 1942-43 ROYAL CANADIAN ENGINEERS, NATIONAL DEFENCE HOCKEY LEAGUE
- 1943 GALLA'S, MERCANTILE SOFTBALL LEAGUE
- 1943 D.W.C. MAIN OFFICE, ROYAL CANADIAN ENGINEERS SOFTBALL LEAGUE
- 1943-44 MONTAGNARDS, OTTAWA SENIOR CITY HOCKEY LEAGUE
- 1943-44 REFEREE, NATIONAL DEFENCE HOCKEY LEAGUE
- 1943-44 COACH AND CAPTAIN, ROYAL CANADIAN ENGINEERS, NATIONAL DEFENCE HOCKEY LEAGUE FINALISTS
- 1944-45 STAFF CLERKS-ENGINEERS, OTTAWA AREA INTER-SERVICE HOCKEY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS
- 1944 GALLA'S MERCANTILE SOFTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS
- 1945 GALLA'S, EASTERN ONTARIO SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONS
- 1945 GALLA'S, OTTAWA SENIOR CITY BASEBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS AND OTTAWA DISTRICT BASEBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONS
- 1945-46 QUARTER MASTER GENERAL, INTER-SERVICE HOCKEY LEAGUE
- 1947-48 ARMY HQ, OTTAWA SENIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE



An article from *The Ottawa Journal*, Saturday, November 4, 1972

Story by Susan Riley

## FATHER JEROME

'More than a friend, so much more.'

"No one can replace him."

Johnny Crea spoke for thousands of St. Anthony's parishioners last week when he made this remark about the late Rev. Jerome Ferraro.

Father Jerome was buried last week from the church he served for 40 years, in one of the largest funerals the church or city has seen.

Thousands filed by the coffin and two funeral masses filled the large church at Booth and Gladstone to capacity.

He will be missed by Ottawa's Italian community who regard St. Anthony's as their national church, for Father Ferraro helped thousands of them get a start in their new country.

But all of his parishioners—English, Greek, French or Polish—have at one time or another witnessed the priest's remarkable generosity.

"Father Jerome always had time for everyone. He never once turned anyone away," said a life-long friend, Father Patrick Pharand who is acting pastor at the church.

Johnny Crea is one of the thousands of Italian immigrants Father Jerome helped in the early 1950s. The priest became known at that time as something of a "con artist" because of the way he sliced through red tape on behalf of the new arrivals.

Now the owner of two barber shops downtown, Mr. Crea didn't speak much English when he arrived here in 1952.

"The first thing everyone told me to do was to see Father Jerome. He'll help, they said."

Father Jerome took Mr. Crea—almost by the hand—and found him a job in a barber shop. He didn't believe in leaving new arrivals to fend for themselves in a somewhat indifferent country.

Soon Mr. Crea became well-established, but he never ended his close friendship with Father Jerome.

"He was more than a friend. He was like a brother and a father to me. Any time I needed help I'd go to him." There were times when new arrivals bedded down in the rectory attached to the church. Father Jerome would be up at six the next morning driving some of them to construction jobs.

"He'd even pack lunches for some of them," recalls one old friend.

Shortly before his death Father Jerome's favourite soccer team—St. Anthony's—won a league championship and Mr. Crea rushed to the hospital with the news.

"He was very sick at that time, but the first thing he asked was: 'How did we do?'" says Mr. Crea.

"I told him we won and he said: 'Good, we showed them!'"

Father Jerome "loved the game" and was also loved by the players.

The love people felt for Father Jerome was much reciprocated, according to Peter Scott who worked as his assistant for years.

"Someone would admire a coat or a vest he had on and Father Jerome would give it to them. Just like that. He never thought twice about giving away everything he had," says Mr. Scott.

Mrs. Angelena Cuccaro, head of the parish's ladies aid group, agrees.

"You could never give Father Jerome a \$5 bill as a gift. Before you knew it, he'd given it away."

Mrs. Cuccaro remembers Father Jerome not only for his generosity but also for his sense of fun.

"He was a great joker. And we played jokes on him too. Once when he'd had his teeth fixed we sent him a hard apple and some chewing gum. He told us he'd get us back and he did," she said.



**1946-47**

**St. Anthony's**

**Ottawa and District Intermediate Hockey Champions**

**Seated: Art Ciavaglia, Paul Provost, Joe Ferrone, Mickey Whalen and Joe Pugliese.**

**Standing: Carl Pulciani, Val Larabie, Norm Ventura, Father Jerome M. Ferraro, O.S.M., Tony Pugliese, Sam Delle Palme and Frank Ciavaglia.**

Father Jerome was a supporter and sponsor of many sports teams. You did not have to attend his parish to participate on a St. Anthony's team. (See other sponsored teams in the pages following.)

Peter Scott recalls another incident which illustrates Father Jerome's sense of humour.

He was hearing confessions one night and opened the door to speak to a shadowy figure in Italian. No response. He tried again in English. Still no response. Finally, Father Jerome tried French.

"By this time he was afraid the person might be dead and he came out to investigate.

It turned out the shadowy figure was a statue of St. Anthony some workers had placed in the confessional while they were fixing up the church.

"When he found out, he laughed a long time over that one," says Mr. Scott.

Jimmy Legari who has lived in the parish almost all his life remembers Father Jerome phoning in a big rush to get to the airport.

"If I couldn't drive him my son would. It would always be a rush. But we never minded. We'll miss not hearing his calls anymore," said Mr. Legari.

Mr. Legari headed the St. Anthony's guard at the church, a group of men who officiate at special ceremonies and take part in the annual St. Anthony's Day procession in June.

"This was one of Father Jerome's ideas along with the credit union," said Mr. Legari who served as president of the financial association.

Father Jerome also assisted the older parishioners and always accompanied them on annual pilgrimages.

Mrs. Betty Wilson, 78, a life-long friend, went with Father Jerome and others on his last pilgrimage to the Gaspé area where the Servite Fathers have two shrines.

"He was very cheerful on the trip, always singing and happy. But he couldn't finish Mass a couple of times and complained of a pain in his leg," recalls Mrs. Wilson.

Mrs. Wilson, like many others who were close to Father Jerome, worried about his health in recent years. But she remembers he always worked very hard, as a student and a young priest.

It was a lifetime habit started when Father Jerome took over as pastor of the large parish at the age of 27.

Since then he worked ceaselessly.

"I'd tell him to slow down but he would say to me: 'These are my people,'" said Father Pharand.

Years ago when St. Anthony's was being re-decorated, he did all the plastering himself and he handled a lot of the work behind the new hall across Gladstone from the church.

The hall became a great worry to Father Jerome in his later years, said Father Pharand.

"When I went to give him the last rites he asked me to do something. It sounded like 'Pay the hall,'" said Father Pharand.

So some of the thousands of dollars pouring in to the Father Ferraro memorial fund will probably be used to pay off the debts on the hall.

Some \$4,000 has already been donated.

Though Father Jerome's practical acts of charity took up much of his time, his religious life never flagged.

"Even though he was very ill, he'd be up at 5 a.m. saying his rosaries," said Mr. Scott.

"He had great devotion to Our Lady of Sorrow.

There was something very dynamic about the man. His love was so great. It was an inspiration just to see him. He never carried a grudge."

St. Anthony's parish has lost more than just a parish priest.

They have lost a financial and personal advisor, a "one-man immigration bureau," a sports enthusiast, a social convener and a friend.

"We are so sad to think we will never have him here again," said one old friend. "It is so hard to believe his is gone."

He spoke for the entire parish.

## SOME OF FATHER JEROME'S BOYS

1945-46

St. Anthony's

CYO Hockey League Finalists

Joe Brill, Ken Burrows, Art Ciavaglia, Frank Ciavaglia, Toby Defalco, Sam Delle Palme, Kenny Duncan, Ron Halpin, Santo Imbesi, Gord Pantalone, Pie Provost, Carl Pulciani, Norm Ventura, Stan Ventura, Pete Zebchuck, Joe Zito and Tony Zito.

1949

St. Anthony's

City Midget Baseball League Champions

Alex Cameron (Coach), Frank Domenico, Rev. Jerome Ferraro (Manager), Tony Galla, Hubie Garneau, Herb Gilchrist, Gord Harrison, Jack Hurdman, Bill O'Connell, Tippy Philippe, Pat Riopelle (Bat Boy), Rip Riopelle, Louis St. Germain, Bob Ventura and Jerry Williams.

1949

St. Anthony's

Senior City Baseball League Champions

Bob Blanchfield, Edgar Blondin, Alex Cameron (Bat Boy), Frank Chiarelli, Bud Corkran, Rudy Costantini, Rev. Jerome Ferraro (Sponsor), John Goddard, Roy James, John Kozak, Porky Laskoski, Phil Maloney, John McDonald, Gerry (Red) Menchini, Bob Quilty, Ken Sargent, Al Small, Jack Strelbisky, Mike Strelbisky, Walter Strelbisky (Manager), Ross Tyrell and Paul Ventura.

1949-50

St. Anthony's

Separate School Junior Hockey Champions

Joe Bozzi, Gerry Delaney, Denzil Gervais, Anthony (Spike) Girotti (Coach), George Lavergne, Bobby Levac, Gerry Levac, Joe Licari, John Licari, Alex Lunny (Manager), Wayne Pilon, Joe Pugliese and Jack Quinn.

1949-50

St. Anthony's

Central Jr. B. Hockey Champions

Ron Brazeau, John D'Amico, Mack Dunlop, Rev. Fr. Jerome Ferraro, O.S.M. (Sponsor), Cliff Jenkins, Des Lee, Martin Lee (Coach), Mike Mayo, Eddie Moyneur, Billy Nicholson, Ed Nicholson, Cecil Oakley, Frank Quinn, Kenny Stewart, Roger Stimpson, Billy Watters, Charlie Wicker, Jackie Young and Frank Zito.

1950

St. Anthony's

Senior City Lacrosse Champions, Eastern Ontario Lacrosse Association

Nello Bortolotti, Bob Brisebois, Vince Capogreco, Pete Charron, Bill Cooke, Roy Duplex, Yves Garand, Hubie Garneau, Rocky Garneau, Bobby Gowan, Don Johnson, Dave Journeaux, Ken King, Bernie Lalonde, Bert Lalonde, Larry Lebrun, Bill Milks (Captain), George Morell, Nicholson, Gib Seguin, Bill Walker and Wilson.

1950

St. Anthony's Servites Hockey Team

Jim Cesare, Gerry Cleary, Nick Costantini, Ron Gervais, Jack Hurdman, Jack Mattice, George Maxwell, Bernie Murray, Clive Swords, Stan Swords (Coach), Doug Thompson and Paul Ventura.

1952

St. Anthony's

Interprovincial Junior Football League Champions

Brian Armstrong, Tony Assim (Coach), Frank Bonacci, Lorne Brophy, Karl Calagoure, Nick Costantini, Ken Creppin, Dominic Delle Palme, Gord Dennison, Gerry Dexter, Frenchie Gallien, Ron Gervais, Cliff Jenkins, Ken Kiewan (Equipment), Greg Konkol, John Kozak (Coach), Jack Lalonde, Bob Larkin, Greg Maloney, Joe Mangione (Water Boy), Jack Mattice, George Maxwell, Bill McCadden, Ed McCooeye, Mel McCooeye, Don McGuinness, Cec Oakley, Norm Rennick and Garry Tremblay.

1952-53

St. Anthony's

Playground Bantam Hockey Champions

Nelson Blondin, Joe Bozzi, Pat Chiarelli, Brian Cole, Jim Curran, John Finlay, Marcel Lachapelle, Joe Legari, Joe Licari, Bob Misericordia, Bob O'Leary and Wayne Pilon.

1953

St. Anthony's

Interprovincial Junior Football League Champions

Brian Armstrong, Tony Assim (Coach), Perley Black, Selwyn Black, Frank Bonacci, Karl Calagoure, Jim Chugg, Tom Clark, Ron Cole, Joe Costantini, Nick Costantini, Gary Craig, Tom Curley, Moe Gravelle (Trainer), Dom Delle Palme, Kerry Dynes, Bill Frieday, Ron Gervais, Doug Good (Coach), Bruce Hamilton, Jim Hunter, Fr. G. Joannis, O.S.M. (Chaplain), Terry Kearney, Greg Konkol, John Kozak, Bobby Larkin (Trainer), Jack Mattice, Ray McAllister, Don McCarthy, Bruce Nordquist, Jack Provost (Equipment), Roger Provost, Guy Rochon, Abbie Spencer, Don Torney (Assistant Manager) and Garry Tremblay.

1953

St. Anthony's

City Softball Champions

Bev Atkins, Stu Cameron, John Chiarelli, Joe Costantini, Joe Doherty (Manager), Bernie Lynch, Kevin Maloney, Jack Mattice, Mike O'Grady (Manager), Tippy Phillips, Louis Revine (Equipment Manager), Eddie Rose, Trevor Shouldice, Ken Watters and Moe Watters.

1954

St. Anthony's

Ottawa District Football Association

Campasarcone, Ciardella, Cruppi, Fracassi, J. Genovese, Saul Genovese, Giacone, Maviglia, Mori, Pepping, Phelan, Raymond, Rooyakkeer, Roulin, Schiffo, Santoro, Alfie Staron.

1955

St. Anthony's

Senior City Baseball League

Bob Abelson, Orm Addy, Ted Card, Frank Chiarelli, Nobby Clarke, Rudy Costantini, John Denofrio (Playing Manager), Dave Drew, Brian Kilrea, Ray McAllister, John McDonald, Chuck Paul, Chuck Presley, Pat Presley, Hal Rowat, Bill Skuce, Nelson Skuce, Emile Smiley, Gord Ventura and Paul Ventura.

1955

St. Anthony's Juvenile Baseball Team

John Bennett, Irvine Cockwell, Garnet Cowan, Dave Cummings, John Finlay, Pete Garneau (Manager), Ted Hutchins, Rev. G.M. Joannis (Organizing Director), Marcel Lachapelle, John Licari, Ron Menchetti, Bob Misericordia, Lack Ross, Glen Seely (Coach), Nelson Skuce and Gord Ventura.

1955

St. Anthony's

Eastern Ontario Baseball Association Bantam Champions

Henry Aldrich, Vic Burns, Noel Clarke, Fr. Camille Desroches (Chaplain), Oral Girotti, Richard Jodoin, Gary Lalonde (Bat Boy), Garry Littlefield, Jim McAuley, Dewey Midkiff, Mike Prytula, Don Romani, Bernie Schryburt, Brian Smith, Gord Ventura (Manager) and Richard Zito.

1956

St. Anthony's

Junior Interprovincial Football League Champions

Bill Addy, Jean Aubrey, Richard Aubrey (Water Boy), Denis Band (Assistant Manager), Jim Band, Perley Black, Terry Boehmer, Bob Breton, Rudy Capogreco (Manager), Vince Capogreco (Head Coach), Mickey Craig, Don Cummings, D'Arcy Davis, Bill Frieday (Assistant Coach), Ron Gauthier, Denzil Gervais, Don Gibson, Jack Gosson, Bruce Hamilton (Captain), Don Holtby, Pete Jones, Ron Kaufman, Ron Lacelle, Don Ladurantaye, Jim Maxwell, Garry McEvoy, Jack McGregor, Bob McVeity, Ron Menchetti, Danny Monk, Basil Nichols, Terry O'Connell, Junior Ouellette, Doug Pratt, Don Scott (Water Boy), Len Shaw (Assistant Coach), George Spence, Brian Sullivan, Bill Tobin, Gary Tremblay (Assistant Coach), Gord Ventura, Walker and Woods.

1956

St. Anthony's Joliette

Quebec Senior A Baseball League Finalists

Frank Chiarelli, Nobby Clarke, Gary Craig, Joe Denofrio (Bat Boy), John Denofrio (Playing Manager), Gerry Devanney, Gerry Dionne, Paul Goulet, Brian Kilrea, Roger Lanthier, Moe Larose, Pat (Junior) Presley, Yvon (Rocky) Robitaille, Pete Rochon, Lachlan Ross, Neil Sauve, Nelson Skuce, Ray Stewart, Gord Ventura, Paul Ventura and Mark Vienberg.

1958

Ottawa St. Anthony's Rough Riders

Big Four Amateur Football League

Joe Barbaro (General Manager), Jacques Begin, Fred Belaire, Roger Benard, Terry Boehmer, Bruce, Pierre Caron, Buddy Diffin, Jack Donaghy, Frank Dunnigan, Stan Fraser, Bob Garbig, Whitey Gauthier, Bruce Hamilton, Joe Harris (Coach), Bruce Hillary, Don Holtby, Rick Hughes, Pete Jones, Jack Kuiack, Don Ladurantaye, Punchy Lapointe, Vic Mallett, Tommy Mann, Ian McDonald, John McEvoy, Danny Monk, Chris Nowakowski, Charley Oxborough, Doug Pratt, Moe Racine, Norm Rennick, Bob Richardson, Matt Robillard, Gib St. Martin, Len Skinner and Stu Smith.

1959-60

St. Anthony's

Senior Interprovincial Hockey League

Henry Aldrich, Lloyd Buchanan, Gerry Capello, Dick Chiarelli, John Denofrio (Playing Coach), Andre Despard, Joe Drader, Frank Dunnigan, Bob Fennessey, Chris Finnerty, Lee Fournier, Roydon Kealey, Johnny Kent, Des Keon, Corky Lahey, Gord Lomer, Paul McManus, Alf Menchini, Brian Moore, Mel Mousseau, Frank Oatway, Puggy O'Brien, Ted Pasch, Chuck Paul, Ross Peterkin, Harry Robinson, Tommy Savage and Moe Watters.

1960-61

St. Anthony's

Senior Interprovincial Hockey League

Henry Aldrich, Pete Babcock (Manager), Guy Beauregard, Gerry Capello (Playing Director), Frank Chiarelli, Vince Crete, John Denofrio (President), Sam Denofrio (Director), Frank Dunnigan, Bob Fennessey, Fr. Jerome Ferraro (President), Chris Finnerty, Roger Fortin, Hubie Garneau, Fritz Gendron, Slim Kean (Executive), Ivan Kelly (Trainer), Des Keon, Dick Lafontaine, Claude Leblanc (Executive), Gord Lomer, Bill Mahoney, John Maisseuneuve, Kilby McDonald (Coach), Alf Menchini, Montreuil, Brian Moore, Norm Mosley (Advertising and Publicity), Frank Oatway, Glen Richardson, Harry Robinson (Playing Secretary-Treasurer), Rolly Sarault, Emile Seguin and Paul Seguin.