



28th

Dinner and Social Night

VILLAGE REUNION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13th, 2006

Ottawa St. Anthony
Italia Soccer Club Hall
523 St. Anthony Avenue
Ottawa

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

ON BEHALF OF THE 2006 VILLAGE REUNION COMMITTEE, I WISH TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO YOU AS WE GATHER FOR THE 28th REUNION EVENING.

FROM OUR BEGINNING IN 1979, ON WHICH WE MET ON TWO OCCASIONS, THE REUNION EVENING HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR EVENTS ON THE CALENDAR OF MANY VILLAGERS, FORMER VILLAGERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.

WE ARE ESPECIALLY APPRECIATIVE OF THOSE WHO HAVE TRAVELLED SOME DISTANCE TO BE HERE TONIGHT.

WE ARE ALSO DELIGHTED TO HAVE PINKY MITCHELL AS OUR GUEST SPEAKER THIS EVENING. PINKY IS MAKING A COMEBACK AFTER MANY YEARS TO REGALE US WITH HIS STORIES.

THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE OTTAWA-NEPEAN CANADIANS SPORTS CLUB, IN ASSISTING US WITH OUR MAILING COSTS, IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED AGAIN.

WE ARE ALSO VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE TONY DISIPIO AND HIS STAFF AT THE PRESCOTT HOTEL AS FRIENDS OF THE REUNION.

BOB TIPPINS, MANAGER OF GRAPHIC SERVICES AT CARLETON UNIVERSITY, HAS STEPPED FORWARD TO ASSIST US WITH OUR PROGRAMME COSTS FOR WHICH WE ARE VERY THANKFUL

ALSO, OUR GRATITUDE TO JOE IERULLO AND THE STAFF OF THE OTTAWA ST. ANTHONY ITALIA SOCCER CLUB FOR THE HOSPITALITY SHOWN TO US THE PAST 21 YEARS.

I HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR EVENING AS YOU RENEW ACQUAINTANCES FROM THE PAST AS WELL AS MEETING NEW FRIENDS TONIGHT.

SINCERELY,

Frank

FRANK LICARI

**2006 VILLAGE REUNION
COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

FRANK LICARI
(Chairman)

SONNY CALAGOURE
(Past Chairman)

KARL CALAGOURE

RICHARD CALAGOURE

STU CAMERON

ROYDEN COSTANTINI

WRAY KING

JIM MC AULEY

MIKE ZITO

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NICK COSTANTINI
(Treasurer)

KEN CREPPIN

TONY IERULLO

CLEM KEALEY

LEO RIOPELLE

GERRY TREMBLAY
(Chairman)

2005 Reunion



2005 Reunion



2005 Reunion



2005 Reunion



ON THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE(D)
(With the help of friends and the City Directory)

1949

Norman Street
North Side, Rochester to Preston
51 Domestic Laundry
53 Mutchmore
55 Medaglia
57-1 Courtonio/Lamoureux
57-2 Morgan
61 Meilleur
65 Borchewski
67 Boyer
69 Hyland
69-1/2 Cosenza
71 Pugliese
73 Disipio/Green
75 Disipio
77 Disipio
79 Pantalone

1950

Norman Street
North Side, Rochester to Preston
51 Domestic Laundry
53 Mutchmore
55 Medaglia
57-1 Courtonio/Lamoureux
57-2 Morgan
61 Parson
65 Borchewski
67 Boyer
69 Hyland
69-1/2 Amey
71 Pugliese
73 Disipio/Green
75 Disipio
77 Disipio
79 Pantalone

1952

Gladstone
North Side, Booth to Rochester
807 Landry
811 Cybulski
813 Burrows
817 Traversy/Barnes
821 Mulligan
827 Pappas
829 Nicholls

1949

Norman Street
South Side, Rochester to Preston
54 Riopelle
60 Turney
66 Lasalle/Harris
68 Timpson
70 V. Cuccaro & Co./Cuccaro
74 Ciavaglia
76 Whalen

1949

Preston Street
West Side, Beech to Norman
418 Mullen/Thompson/McClusky
420 Preston Meat Market/Zito
422 Mulligan
422-1/2Pantalone/Bissinger
424 Barbaro
424 rearPantalone
426 Armstrong
428 Pantalone -Grocer/Post Office/Pantalone

1949

Preston Street
East Side, Beech to Norman
379-381-383 Prescott Hotel
409 Charbonneau
411 Giroux

1949

Louisa Street
North Side, Lebreton to Booth
45 Thomson
45A Last
47 Warren
47A Banchini
49 Nellis
53 Mangione
55 Burns
57 Feltham
49 Killeen
67 Seed

1949

Plymouth Street
North Side, Bell to Lebreton
 1 Paprocki
 3-1 Griffin
 3-2 Summers
 5 Smith
 5-1/2 Stoddart
 7 Connelly
 9 Higgins
 9-1/2 Gravelle
 11 Lennon
 13 Sheehan/Collins
 17 McAuley
 19 Sheehan
 21 Burns
 23 Kennedy/Scullion

1949

Plymouth Street
South Side, Bell to Lebreton
 4 Finan/O'Connor
 6 Halpin
 8 Brown
 10 McNaughton
 12 Argue
 14-1 Parent
 14-2 Handyside

1953

Louisa Street
North Side, Preston to Tracks
 179-1 Pantalone
 179-2 Buccino
 179-3 Gray
 181 Smith
 183 Gerritsen
 185 Michaud
 185-1/2-
 187 Raymond
 189 Belair
 191 Baker/McKinley
 197 Gregoire
 197-1/2 Lorrain/Larry's Transfer
 203 Trepanier
 203-1/2 Gervais

1949

Louisa Street
South Side, Lebreton to Booth
 44-1 Charron
 44-2 Blais
 46 LeBlanc/Bellefeuille
 48 Robinson
 48-1/2 Fipke
 54 Paul
 60 Pilon/Trafford
 66 Turner
 68 Plunkett

1954

Rochester Street
West Side, Norman to Pamilla
 510-1 Sheehan
 510-2 Corkery
 512-1 Riopelle
 512-2 Buckland
 514 MacMillan
 516 Hodgkin/Ray
 516A Calagoure
 516-1/2 Kingsbury
 518 Pugliese
 530 Lalande
 532 Pilon/Halden

1953

Louisa Street
South Side, Preston to Tracks
 182 Lalonde
 182A Belanger
 182B Boulet
 184 Stimpson
 188 Lesage
 194 Carriere
 196 Casagrande
 198 Casagrande
 202 Strelbisky

1953

Rochester Street
East Side, Arlington to Kenny
345-1/2 Gagne
347 Lavergne
349 Willmott
351 Bobinsky
353 Coma
355 Baker
357 Halina
359 Legault
361 Jorezek ??
361A Moytka

1954

Arlington Avenue
South Side, Booth to Rochester
450 Couvrette
452 Larocque
458 Kincaid
458-1 O'Neil
458-2 Pilon
458-3 Arena
460 McGrath
464 Wellington

1954

Adeline Street
North Side, Rochester to Preston
31 Therien
35 Petitclerc
37 Bellefeuille/Woloshyn
43 Pantelimon
45 Lobbe
45 rear Lobbe
47 Lemieux
47A Dicks
49 Meilleur
51 Deavy
53 Crozier
53 rear Andrusak
55 Ambrose
57 Jodoin
49 Mann
61 Morgan
63 Scissons
65-1 Blais
65-2 -
67-1 Maharry
67-2 Gagnon
69 Durand

1953

Rochester Street
West Side, Arlington to CNR Crossing
360-1 Larkin
360-2 Sugrue
360-3 Watson
360-4 Wright
360-5 Mole
360-6 Laplante
362 Chapman
364 Antochi
386 French Lumber Ltd.

1950

Preston Street
West Side, Aberdeen to Beech
402 Benoit's Auto Service Garage
406 Defalco
408 Garneau
410 Marcoux
410-1/2 Williams
412 Lebrun
414 Trudeau
416 Delle Palme

1954

Adeline Street
South Side, Rochester to Norfolk
34 Riopelle
36 Ladouceur
40 Paquette
42 Wladyslaw
44 Raymond
46 Kent
48 Vacant
52 Jodoin
54 Thompson
56 Deslauriers

1954

Adeline Street
South Side, Norfolk to Preston
60 Corkery
62 McConnery
64 Rockburn
66 Brisbois
68 Lalande

1956

Gladstone Avenue

North Side, Rochester to Preston

837 Potter
841 Graziano
845 Thomas Transfer Cartage/Thomas
847 Pronkosky
853 Burke
855 Ontario Building Cleaning Co. Ltd.
859 Kelly
865 Cayer
869 Belanger
871 Mimichele
873 Mastrangelo
877 Lavergne
879 Nolan
883 Falsetto
883-1/2Franco

1956

Gladstone Avenue

South Side, Rochester to Preston

832 Nicholls
834 Forrest
836 Bradley
838 Prest/Turpin
840 Hill
842 Gervais
844 Bent
848 Pregley/Valenic/Lotz
850 Demers/Campsarcone
852 Sgabellone
854 Eramo/Staron ??
860 Touchette
862 Carvish
864 Oakley
866 Huard
868 Maloney
870 Pirie
872 Maitland
876 Murray
880 Crupi/Tegano
884 Lavergne
888 Whalen

1956

Beech Street

South Side, Preston to CNR Crossing

82 Arnone/Arnone
84 Lapenna
86 Dugmore/Halpen
88 Costantini
90 Lalonde/McAuley
92 Mattiol
94 Sabetta/Aristide
96 Philippe
100 Scharf
102 Wright
104 Ladouceur

1946

Beech Street

Preston to CNR Tracks

6 Arnone & Son - Grocer/Arnone
8 Lapenna
10 Cecchini
12 Costantini
14 Nezan
16 Hryhorchuk
18 Sabetta
20 Philippe
22 Scharfe
22-1/2 Scullion
24 Ladouceur

1956

Pamilla Street

North Side, Rochester to Preston

- 59 Angelo/Jarvis
- 61 Angelo
- 65 Girotte
- 67 Renaud
- 69 Renaud
- 71 Trudeau/Bergeron
- 73 Read
- 75 Aggano
- 79 Landry/Landry/Lupiano
- 85 Potter/Kostenuk
- 87 Champagne

1956

Preston Street

East Side, Gladstone to Louisa

- 257 Michael J. Whalen, Gift and Variety Store
- 259 Whalen
- 261 Brandonio/Arnone
- 265 Paquette
- 267 Olivier/Jacques
- 271 Cotroneo/Langill
- 273 Sauro/Robson
- 275 Chiarelli - Butcher and Grocer
- 275A Sergori
- 277 Morgan - Barber

1946

Rochester Street

East Side, Norman to Pamilla

- 513 MacMillan
- 515 Rowan/Nelson
- 515-1/2 Lafleur
- 517 Boyer
- 517-1/2 Sirianni
- 517B Emery
- 521 Guennette
- 523 Renaud
- 525 Angelo
- 525-1/2 Proksack
- 527 Chiarelli
- 529 Chiarelli & Sons, Grocer

1956

Pamilla Street

South Side, Rochester to Preston

- 52 Baril
- 56 Dinardo
- 58 Gene's Confectionery/Dupuis
- 60 Donaldson
- 62 Rach/Danielowitsch
- 64 Brown
- 66 DeFalco
- 68 Durand
- 70 Faye
- 72 Berrigan/Carty
- 74 Zito
- 76 Boyer

1956

Preston Street

West Side, Gladstone to Louisa

- 256 Landreville
- 258-1 Kelly
- 258-2 Reid
- 260 Paquette
- 262 Philippe
- 266 Blais/Giovanni
- 268 Ferrone/Giovenito
- 270 Locatelli/Seguin
- 270A Zimmer
- 274 Tiezzi Groceteria/Post Office/Tiezzi
- 276 Phyl's Beauty Parlour
- 280 Vacant

1954

Railway Street

West Side, Young to Beech

- 2 Harper
- 4 O'Brien
- 6 Fishuk
- 8 O'Brien
- 12 Mulligan
- 14 Wojturich
- 18 Banville
- 26 Mann
- 26-1/2 Shea
- 28 Disipio
- 30 Burden
- 32 Provost
- 34 Lachance
- 36 Gervais
- 38 Provost
- 40 Provost

1954

Balsam Street
South Side, Preston to CNR Tracks
122 Fugol/Barbeau
124-1 Gauthier
124-2 Pelosse
126 Licari
130 Gelowski/Creto
132 Gerrard
134 Evans
136 Kelly
138 Denis
140 Palmerio
152 Minnille/Minnille/Hills

1942

Louisa Street
North Side, Rochester to Day
Galla's Bakery
Mailman
Paul Ventura
Gord Ventura
Dominic Rocco
Tony Licari
Bert Goyette
Bill O'Hara

1942

Louisa Street
North Side, Day to Preston
Sam Lithwick
Ford
Bill Cain
Roger Parent
Shirley Milner
The Barber

1950

Lawrence Street
South Side, Preston to CNR Tracks
24 Brisco
28 Menchini
28A Hariski
28B Damiano
28-1/2 Damiano/White
30 Hrehorah
32 Nikeforest, Shoe Repair
36 Pantalone
40 Ward
42 Korince

1954

Preston Street
West Side, Norman to Pamilla
430 Properine/Jen-Lou Shoppe
430A Nasso
430B Nasso
432-1 Ramsden
432-2 Lecompte
432-1/2lerullo Barber Shop/lerullo
434 Bianco
434-1/2Caccamo
436 Palef
Chinkiwsky Bros., Butchers & Grocers/Chinkiwsky

1942

Louisa Street
South Side, Rochester to Day
Belair's Grocery Store
Annie Petula
Walter Glaus
Frank O'Hare
Kelly
Manfredi
Carl Pulsiani
Carpentier (Frank Rizzo)

1942

Louisa Street
South Side, Day to Preston
Len, Norm, Stan Ventura
Alex the Barber
Lavergne
Alex Larocque
Grocery Store

1953

Pamilla Street
North Side, Rochester to Preston
59 Menchini
61 Martin
65 Girotti
67 Julien
69 Renaud
71-1 Trudeau 71-2 Asquini
73 Read
75 Azzano
79-1 Landry 79-2 Landry
85-1 Wilde 85-2 Muszka
87 Champagne

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

VILLAGER AWARD

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

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

SPORTSMAN AWARD

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

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

ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

SPECIAL PRESENTATION AWARD

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

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

VILLAGE ATHLETIC AWARD

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

1982	Edgar Blondin	1991	Harvey Creppin	1999	Ed Nicholson
1983	Nooky Pilon	1992	Rudy Costantini	2000	Hubie Garneau
1983	Toby Dinardo	1993	Paul Ventura	2001	Gord Ventura
1985	Andy Nezan	1994	Wally Swords	2002	Pinky Mitchell
1986	Fred Hughes	1995	Gordie Pantalone	2003	Wayne Hughes
1987	Joe Asquini	1996	Santo Imbesi	2004	Bobby Ransom
1988	Leo Blondin	1997	Royden Kealey	2005	Joe Licari
1989	Les Pilon	1998	Art Dinardo	2006	
1990	John Kozak				

WE REMEMBER THEM

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

Jimmy Zito (Zito Family), Special Presentation Award recipient in 1988, passed away on January 19, 2006.

Ed Champagne, Community Contribution Award recipient in 2004, passed away on August 2, 2006.

Pat Chiarelli (Chiarelli Brothers), Special Presentation Award recipient in 1986, passed away on August 9, 2006.

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

2005 Award Recipients



COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION AWARD

**AL ALBANIA
(right) with Stu Cameron**

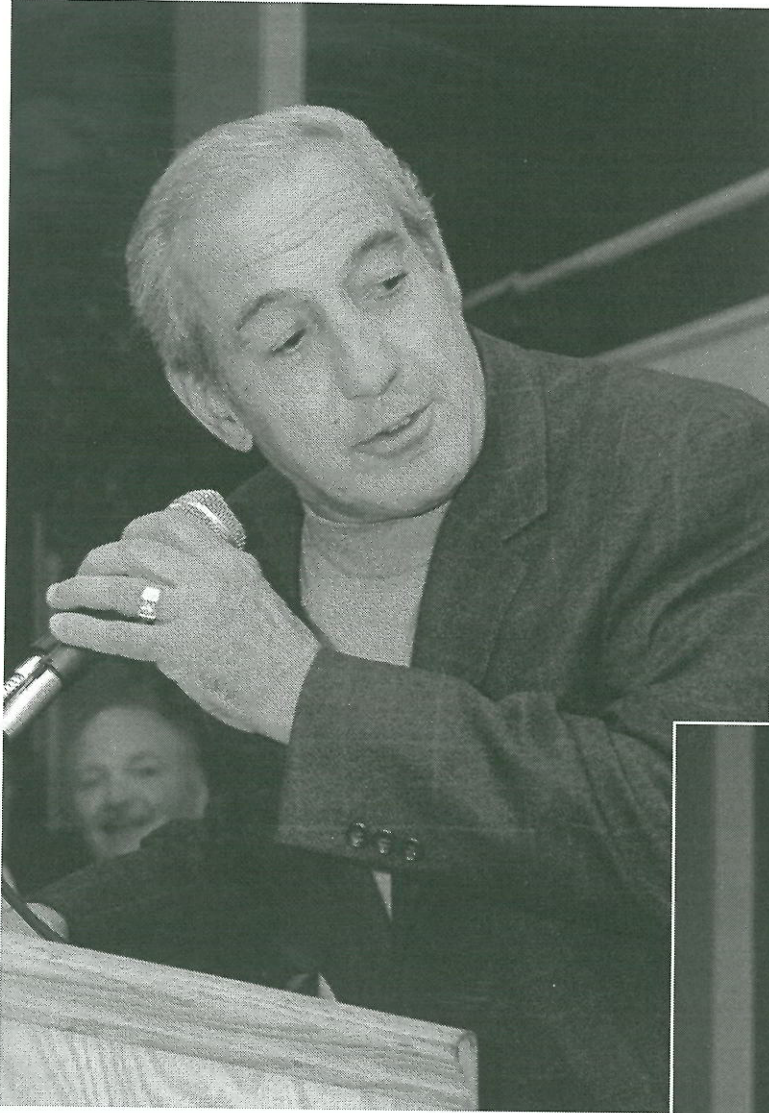


SPORTSMAN AWARD

CLIFF NEILL



2005 Award Recipients



VILLAGE ATHLETIC AWARD

JOE LICARI



VILLAGER AWARD

JOHN MASTRANGELO



2005 Award Recipient and Guest Speaker



***SPECIAL
PRESENTATION
AWARD***

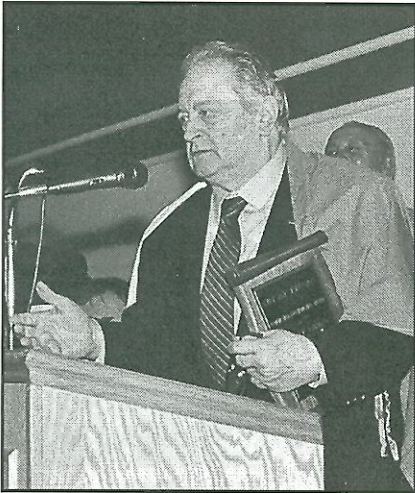
LUIGI MION



GUEST SPEAKER

J.J. CLARKE





OTTAWA ST. ANTHONY ITALIA SOCCER CLUB CLUB HISTORY

(Reprinted from club's 1993 Yearbook)

Most of the soccer clubs in the Ottawa-Carleton area have existed for only a very brief time, but the Ottawa St. Anthony Italia Soccer Club was founded in 1952 and has perpetuated its existence thanks to its devoted members, in particular Mr. Steno Rossanese, President of the Club.

The Ottawa St. Anthony Italia Soccer Club is a non-profit organization founded for the purpose of promoting cultural and recreational activities in the Italo-Canadian community. Its founders included Father Ferraro, deceased Pastor of

St. Anthony Parish on Booth Street, Messrs. Panuccio, Ciardella and Cantucci. The Club is the only soccer association that can boast its own social centre situated on St. Anthony St. (previously Arlington Avenue) just west of Preston Street across from the High School of Commerce. Although identified as an Italian Club, soccer teams of St. Anthony have had players of many nationalities. Looking at the 1993 roster, they truly reflect the multi-cultural fabric of Canada.

Father Ferraro and Father Fiore formed the first senior men soccer team in 1952 which participated in the local league and little is known about the team's first season.

In 1959, Mr. Steno Rossanese and Mr. Luigi Fasan became president and treasurer of the Club respectively. Immediately Steno went to work in an effort to form a more competitive soccer team. The St. Anthony's team was consolidated with another local team named "Italia" to form the new Ottawa St. Anthony Italia Senior Men Soccer Team.

The senior team won consistently in the Ottawa league and in 1965, it was entered in the more competitive Quebec National Soccer League. The senior team was a five-time winner of the Quebec National Soccer League, but their participation at the national level was denied due to the fact that an Ontario team could not represent Quebec.

During the 70's, bantam and junior youth teams were entered by St. Anthony in the Ottawa Carleton Soccer League. However, the lack of volunteers in the youth organization did not warrant the continuation of this programme.

With the move towards integration of adult and youth soccer and to provide replacements for senior men players and the promotion of junior players, Mr. Steno Rossanese brought junior soccer back to St. Anthony with the help of Mr. Mike Akai, Director of Operations and coach of the Premier team.

St. Anthony has won many championships and many trophies in their 41 years of existence in the Ottawa Carleton area. St. Anthony is not merely a soccer club, **ST. ANTHONY IS SOCCER.**

AH, TO BE YOUNG AGAIN



KEN



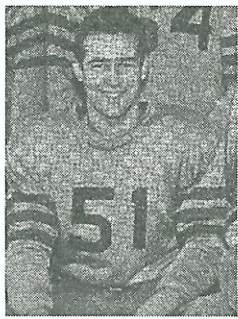
JIM



JOE



JOHN



SKIP



GARRY



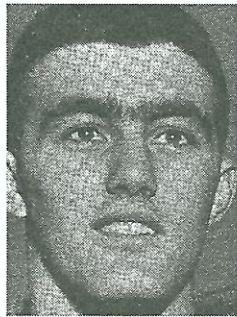
ERIC



RALPH



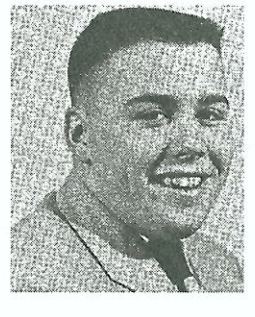
ROYDEN



GORD



DES



GUTS



BILL



RICH



DOODLES



JOHN

AH, TO BE YOUNG AGAIN



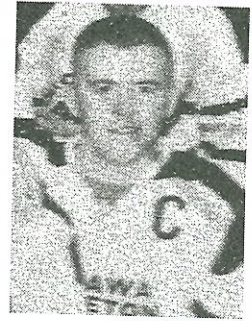
AB



WAYNE



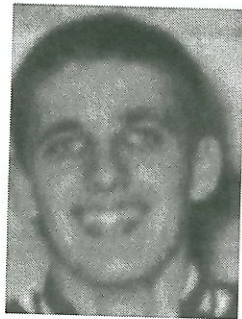
GLENN



GUY



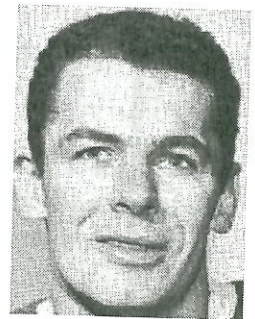
CHARLIE



DICK



LEN



LARRY



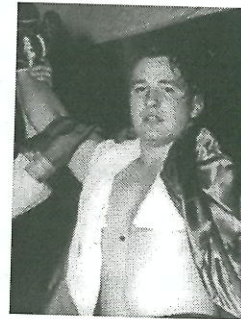
MIKE



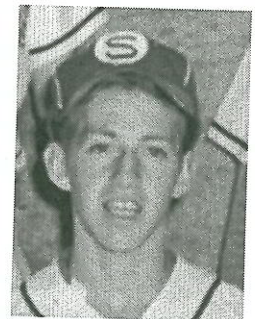
MOE



BOB



PINKY



ORAL



ED NICHOLSON, ROGER STIMPSON,
DON PHILLIPE, WALTER SWORDS.



ROGER STIMPSON, CARMEN DEFALCO,
ED NICHOLSON, MIKE MAYO.

ST. LOUIS' DAM

*When I recall my childhood
all the magic and the joy
seem just as real to me today
as when I was a boy*

*When school at last was over
with our fishing poles in hand
we would make our way, like little men
to old St. Louis' Dam*

*From the first bright rays of morning
until evening settled in
we would gather at the water
where we'd fish and laugh and swim*

*The daily catch would vary
but more often times than not
our evening meal would hold the scent
of all the fish we'd caught*

*I still can hear the laughter
and I still can taste the tears
that hold the hearts of every boy
as he journeys through the years*

*I still can feel the summer sun
and the grass beneath my feet
and time can never rob me
of my memories bittersweet*

*Though decades now have passed me
and changed me to a man
when I close my eyes, I'm still a boy
at Old St. Louis' Dam*

*Elaine Purcell
Father's Day, 1986*

FROM A CELLAR

(The History of the Village Reunion)

Just like the Ottawa Senators.

You may have read where a group of guys was sitting around the Lions Arena's change room after a friendly game of hockey one night when the idea of approaching the National Hockey League about a franchise for the nation's capital took its roots. You know the rest of the story. After an 80-year wait, could this be the season when the Senators hockey club brings the Stanley Cup back to our community?

The beginnings of the Village Reunion were not dissimilar. The Reunion, however, became an immediate success.

In 1979, longtime friends, namely, Karl, Richard and Sonny Calagoure, Nick Costantini, Ken Creppin, Tony Ierullo, Leo Riopelle and Gerry Tremblay, gathered in the basement of Tony's barber shop to hash over the possibility of getting together with as many pals as they could find from their earlier days in The Village.

The gentlemen made their way to the back of the Ierullo property (still there at 432-1/2 Preston Street), found their way down the basement steps to a 5'-6" high dugout, and put their plans in motion for the first gathering. Such humble beginnings for one of the most prestigious annual events in our community.

Gerry had some experience with forming a reunion as he had been part of an organization from Centre Town, which gathered to recall good times from those in the McNabb Park area. He took on the job of co-ordinating the reunion in its early days. Other members of the Committee had a very successful run with the Village Sports Club a number of years earlier.

The group was very loosely organized with no chairman, no vice chairman, no secretary, no directors, etc. Except for Treasurer, a position held by Nick Costantini until his passing on December 30, 2004. Nick's Treasurer's Report was one of the highlights of each gathering.

A mailing list was created and the RA Centre on Riverside Drive was booked for the initial gathering in 1979.

The committee's efforts were rewarded when over 200 people paid \$12 to attend the first reunion. As Sonny Calagoure recalls, "Most of them came because they thought there was going to be a crap game there that night."

In addition to the "reunion" portion of the evening, the committee wanted to honour some of the more recognizable individuals or families who resided in their community.

Hugh Riopelle, Sr. was the first recipient of the Community Contribution Award, given to the individual who gave of himself for the betterment of the Village. Mr. Rip, of course, was the guiding light for many years of the very successful Montagnard Club that provided many opportunities to youth in the area.

Sam Palef was the Villager Award winner, given to a well-known personality or character of The Village. Who had not been in the Palef store on Preston between Norman and Pamilla to buy a Coke or try to "take advantage" of a napping Mr. or Mrs. Palef.

Original committee members can recall Sam tearfully accepting his award. Through blurry eyes, Sam related that he had never received anything like that in his life. Such was the sincere gratefulness of many recipients over the years.

The Special Presentation Award was presented to the Ierullo Family, who were one of the mainstays of the community and a gathering place for many from The Village.

In 1981, the committee added another award—the Sportsman Award—in recognition of an individual who excelled in sports. Patsy Guzzo was the original winner. The following year, the Village Athletic Award was initiated with the honour going to an individual from The Village who excelled in sports. Edgar Blondin was well deserving of that award the first time.

In addition to the awards, the Committee issued bursaries ranging from \$100 to \$200 to two Italian students who required funding to continue their education. That practice continued for a number of years with the bursaries increasing in value to a high of \$1000.

The first few reunions were held at the RA Centre. However, since 1986, the gathering has been staged in The Village at the Ottawa St. Anthony Italia Soccer Club on St. Anthony Street, perhaps the site where many crap games took place when the railway tracks crossed over Preston Street in years gone by.

In 1984, tears welled up in the eyes of many in the audience when Peter Andrusek accompanied his brother, Mike, for his award.

In 1987, John Mangione gave his recollections of a visit to Yankee Stadium. John so loved his experience that he had trouble curtailing his stories and had the audience shifting in their seats for some time.

That same evening, Howard Riopelle, showed us the spiritual side of his life after being presented with the Sportsman Award.

In 1990, Frank Chiarelli gave an accounting of everyone who lived on his block on Rochester between Pamilla and Norman.

In 1997, Eddie MacCabe delivered one of the more stirring speeches as he accepted his

Sportsman Award. He saluted the committee for organizing the event year after year and hoped that they would continue with the similar format for years to come. He strongly emphasized the need for such a gathering to give people a sense of belonging to a community.

In 1998, former Mayor Jim Durrell appealed to the committee to continue with this important event and added, "Don't change anything."

In 2000, Lome Kelly drew comparisons of his family's upbringing with those of the Italian immigrants coming to a strange land "in search of a better life and a more promising plan for our families' future." He related how his family would drive to the market in Ottawa in their old Model "T" Ford filled with potatoes, carrots, turnips, parsnips, cabbages, etc. gathered from his family's large garden along the Rideau near Manotick. As he stated, "When the day ended on the market, my Dad had some 'very special friends' with whom he would exchange his vegetables in return for canned goods, articles of clothing, etc. Yes, those special friends were the Italians of Rochester and Preston Streets, most often Mom and Dad operations, who would welcome "Mr. Kell" with warmth and compassion and they would carry out the exchange of vegetables for the items we needed."

Each year the event grew to where the committee brought on board Stu Cameron, also from the Centre Town group, and Clem Kealey. In years following, Wray King, Frank Licari, Mike Zito, and Jim McAuley were added to the group. This year, Royden Costantini, one of Nick's boys, has been added to the group.

In addition to the awards being issued, part of the format of each meeting is a guest speaker coming forward to entertain the group. Over the years we've been blessed with side-splitting entertainers such as Gord Bunke, Jake Dunlap, Carry Guzzo, La My Lalonde, Fred (Pinky) Mitchell, Hughie Riopelle, Royden Kealey, and last year's very amusing, J.J. Clarke. Pinky is the veteran of this articulate group, having addressed us a dozen times. Tonight Pinky is back.

So we salute those who have organized this event through the years. We thank you, gentlemen, and hope you will continue to be leaders in the future. Congratulations also to those who have returned year after year to maintain the enthusiasm for this gathering. We are only 650 people, but we mean so much to each other.

So from small beginnings in the cellar of a barber shop to tonight's eloquent setting at the St. Anthony Italia Soccer Club banquet hall, the Village Reunion has come a long way. Let's hope the event continues for many years to come.

**The committee is always eager to hear
your complaints or disappointments.
Please let us have your comments.**

**If you have had a change of address,
or are new to our gathering,
please let a committee member know of your
new location or address.**

SEE YOU ONE YEAR FROM NOW ON

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2007

**Programme created by
JIM MC AULEY**