

**For Immediate Release:
April 2, 2012**

Columbus Centre's project, *Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens: Memories of World War II*, launches its new book and website on the internment of Italian Canadians.

On Saturday, March 31, 2012, *Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens: Memories of World War II* launched its website, www.ItalianCanadianww2.ca, and book, *Beyond Barbed Wire: Essays on the Internment of Italian Canadians*. The public event, held in the Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery in Columbus Centre, acted as a precursor for the big launch — the official opening of the permanent exhibit, scheduled for May 31, 2012.

Over 200 guests attended, including families of enemy aliens, representing stories from Toronto, Montreal, North Bay, Timmins, Sudbury, Hamilton, and Sydney (NS). Others present included members of the Italian Canadian community, university professors and high school teachers, students, and local media.

The night began with welcoming remarks by Lucy Di Pietro, Project Director, followed by an address by Karen Manarin, Chair of Columbus Centre Board of Governors. The Honourable Joe Oliver, MP, spoke on behalf of the Honourable Jason Kenney, MP, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism.

Beyond Barbed Wire: Essays on the Internment of Italian Canadians (co-published with Association of Italian Canadian Writers (AICW), Guernica, and Accenti) was presented, with readings from contributors Professor Vittorina Cecchetto and Joyce Pillarella. The second volume (published by AICW, in partnership with Guernica and Accenti), *Behind Barbed Wire: Creative Works on the Internment of Italian Canadians*, was also showcased, with readings by Domenico Capilongo, Michael Mirolla, Gary Clairman, and Jim Zucchero.

The event also included the soft launch of the website www.ItalianCanadianww2.ca. This user-friendly, multifaceted website features 86 interviews of those directly affected by the internment experience; a comprehensive digital archive of more than 800 photos, documents, and objects; and a resource centre for teachers, students, and researchers. Two computer stations were available and audience members were encouraged to sit down and browse through the website.

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Project Update

The staff continues to upload content to the new website, as well as begins preparations for the next event, the official opening of the permanent exhibit to be housed onsite.

More information to follow in May 2012.

Contact Info

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