

**NAME OF PROJECT:** *Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens: Memories of WWII*

**DATE OF INTERVIEW:** August 11, 2011

**LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:** Hamilton, Ontario

**NAME OF INTERVIEWEE:** Antoinette Olivieri

**NAME OF INTERVIEWER:** Vikki Cecchetto

**NAME OF VIDEOGRAPHER:** Nadia Mior

**TRANSCRIBED BY:** Krystle Copeland

**DATE TRANSCRIBED:** November 7, 2011

**ACCESSION No.:** ICEA2011.0020.0002

**PROJECT NOTE:**

**Please note that all interviews have been transcribed verbatim. The language in this transcript is as it was provided by the transcriptionist noted above. The project staff has not edited this transcript for errors.**

**KEYWORDS/TAGS**

EnemyAlien, Internee, Internees, Interned, Internment, Discrimination, ItalianCanadian, ItalianCanadians, Montréal, Italy, Women, Mother, School, WWII, EnemyAliens, French, English, EnglishCanadians, EnglishCanadian, Immigrant, Hamilton, Hotel, MonthlyReports, SteelPlant, Businessman, CasaDItalia

**ABSTRACT**

Antoinette Olivieri was born on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1929 in Hamilton, Ontario to Ralph and Louise Di Filippo. Her parents were both born in Italy, but raised in Montréal, Quebec, before moving to Hamilton to begin their life together. Antoinette is the daughter-in-law of internee Donato Olivieri — a hardworking businessman and hotel owner in Hamilton. She recounts her experiences growing up in the city, including living in a predominantly Irish and Scottish neighbourhood, attending St. Patrick's elementary school, and the underlying sense of discrimination that was directed towards Italians in the community. Antoinette explains that her parents spoke both of the official languages in addition to Italian, however they were only

able to speak English in Hamilton due to this sense of hostility; Italian and French were only spoken while visiting relatives in Montréal. Her parents were both business owners (her dad was a barber and her mother a hair stylist) in the community, and speaking only English was one way to ensure support from patrons in the community. Antoinette discusses the sense of support from other Italian-Canadians in Hamilton during her father's medical emergency, as well as her experience taking Italian classes at Casa d'Italia. She concludes her interview by saying that Canada is a good country and that while internees had to re-build their lives, she still identifies herself as Canadian-Italian rather than Italian-Canadian, although her family roots will always be with Italy.

#### **INTERVIEW**

**AO: Antoinette Olivieri, interviewee**

**VC: Vikki Cecchetto, interviewer**

[Title screen]

[Fades in at 00:00:10]

VC: Alright, we're here again with Antoinette. And we're continuing her story...of uh growing up in Hamilton. Uh, during the uh, the time just before and just after the Second World War. Um, now, I, I believe you were born in Hamilton, were you?

AO: Yes I was—[born in Hamilton]

VC: And when?

AO: 1929. [Says with a smile]

VC: Oh! [laughs]

AO: April the 14th.

VC: Okay. [laughing]

AO: Down off of Clinton Street off of [Sherman] Avenue. In the Italian district.

VC: Okay, so that was a, a little Italy down there.

AO: Oh, definitely. Definitely—

VC: Oh, and that was the—

AO: Ruth Street, Clinton Street...

VC: Yeah.

AO: Sure, right down to well, the start in Barton. Barton Street down to uh, Burlington.

VC: Oh, wow. Good Lord. [says quietly]

AO: Yeah. And all those streets they were all Italian—and Polish.

VC: Uh huh.

AO: Ukrainian. But uh...mostly Italian families.

VC: And where would most of those um, uh men be working? Would they be working?

AO: Well, the majority of them was the steel plant. Burlington Steel. Because that's where the action was. That's where jobs were. That's where they could make their—close to their homes—

VC: Yeah.

AO: That's why they lived in that area. Raised their families. The children that were born and raised there all went to St. Anne's school...

VC: Uh huh, uh huh.

AO: And the church. And then eventually when Father [Mascari] came into the picture, uh, he was at that time was at uh All Souls but the group got together and uh he became the pastor of St. Anthony's Church.

VC: Uhh!

AO: So that was the Italian church.

VC: And where was St. Anthony's uh, where was the church originally? [unclear as AO begins to speak]

AO: The church...the little church was down on Clinton Street closer to [Lawtridge]—

VC: Okay.

AO: On a little side street there. And that's where all the weddings took place. The baptisms.  
And uh, showers.

VC: [laughs]

AO: ...and that's yeah.

VC: And I hear that that's where the Sons of Italy also had their meetings uh...

AO: Now that I'm not, uh wouldn't uh, but all we know was showers were there. In the  
basement.

VC: Yeah.

AO: And there was the originating [light fades out of the screen for a moment] of bingo.

VC: Ohh!

AO: Father [Muscari] was instrumental.

VC: In getting bingo.

AO: And, and, and doing bingo. [says while raising her eyebrows] And at that time it wasn't money...

VC: Oh.

AO: It was presents like— gifts. They would win blankets...uh toasters or, or whatever, that was— and that's how money was raised.

VC: Okay.

AO: And, and that's how it started when they built the new church on Barton Street...

VC: Uhhh...

AO: Many, many years later.

VC: Okay. Now were your parents also uh, from Hamilton, or...

AO: No. My mother and father were both— well both born in Italy but raised in Montréal. Italian—

VC: What was your father's name?

AO: [Di Filippo]. Ralph, Ralph [Di Filippo.] And my mother was a [Chicinni].

VC: Oh, alright.

AO: Yeah, and she had a sister here.

VC: And her name was...her first name?

AO: Louise.

VC: Louise.

AO: Louise. [smiles] And her Italian name was [Bidga] [laughs].

VC: Oh, [Bidga] how nice!

AO: So everybody knew her by [Bidga]. You know but—

VC: Okay.

AO: Actually, her name was Louise. [nods] Louise. And they came because um...my mother was 17 and my father was 20 and my [room gets dark] grandmother, my mother's mother was not too pleased with this man that my mother said she loved and wanted to marry. Because she was [Marcione] and he was Bruzzese. [Laughs]

VC: Hmmm!

AO: But anyways, so uh, she, my mother had a sister here so the two of them eloped and came to Hamilton.

VC: [Laughs] They eloped?

AO: They eloped and uh, my father made uh his life here. And I was born three years after they were here— but she came and they lived with a sister. On Cannon Street, Cannon and Gibson. And at that time that was all brand new.

VC: Oh.

AO: And there was families...in fact even Benny Ferri's uh wife was— lived in that two streets down. So there was some Italian families in that area. But that was all new at that time.

[5:08.2]

VC: Uh hmm, uh hmm. And what was Benny Ferri's uh wife's name?

AO: [Maritsio].

VC: Okay.

AO: It was a Maritsio family.

VC: [unlcear]?

AO: Yeah, yeah.

VC: And what was her first name?

AO: Uh, Claire.

VC: Claire. Claire [Maritsio] oh very good.

AO: Yeah.

VC: So, your parents came to Hamilton and um, where eventually did they, did they always live with um, with um...

AO: No. Then they uh...I guess I must have been two years old and they rented a house on Barton.

VC: Oh, okay.

AO: Barton and [Kinraid.] At the bottom of...and my father was a barber. He had a—got a job on Ottawa Street on a little barber shop. And my mother used to do hair in [her] kitchen.

VC: Oh. Oh!

AO: That's how it started. [laughs] And then eventually my father bought property on King and Stirton and that's where I was raised was up on King Street. And that area, at that time was very Irish and uh Scotch. It was a real...so it was a little difficult. My father opened a barber shop and my mother opened a beauty shop. And we lived at the back. We had an apartment. And there was three units there and that's how my father paid the mortgage.

VC: Okay.

AO: With the rental property. And uh, but that was all, that was all Irish and Scotch.

VC: Right.

AO: And during this time, of when Italy declared war, it was a little bit difficult for us in that area.

VC: Uh huh. What kinds of things were happening?

AO: Well...because we were Italian. We were Italian, and both my mother and father, both spoke English fluently.

VC: Uh hmm.

AO: French fluently, 'cause they came from Montréal, and Italian fluently.

VC: Right.

AO: But you couldn't speak.

VC: Oh okay.

AO: You had to speak English.

VC: Yeah. [softly]

AO: Of course, my father in the business...

VC: Yeah.

AO: So, most of our clients were from that area.

VC: Okay.

AO: So I was raised and I didn't go to St. Anne's School...I went to St. Patrick's School, which was Irish.

VC: Yes. Yes.

AO: And just I think maybe three of us of Italians were in, but otherwise I was raised...[nods]

VC: Yeah, and did you um, when, when you were at school...did you have any...

AO: Well, um [nods] you know...there was. There was.

VC: Uh hmm. Name calling? That kind of thing?

AO: Well...or [scrunching up face to say no] I actually to be honest—in fact it was funny because the principal at St. Patrick's school, her name was Sister Antoinette. [laughs]

VC: [laughs] Oh dear!

AO: So, I think I had a little in with her. [laughs]

VC: [unclear while speaking with a laugh.]

AO: [laughs] And her family...they're were McBrides. And they lived on the street over and, and she was a client of ours. To do her hair. So, no, I can honestly say—there was, you sensed it...

VC: Uh hmm.

AO: But you dealt with it. You dealt with it. It was just so sad because my mother and father both spoke the three languages and couldn't speak that, you had to speak English all the time.  
[nods]

VC: You had to speak English.

AO: Yeah.

VC: All the time?

AO: Yeah.

VC: So that meant that uh...did you as a child learn Italian?

AO: No.

VC: Growing up?

AO: No.

VC: So you just learned the English.

AO: [Nods].

VC: Did they teach you French? Did your parents teach you French?

AO: No. 'Cause we spoke English. [nods]

VC: Just the, just the—

AO: Yeah. My mother and father spoke French and Italian when they went back to Montréal.

VC: I see.

AO: Yeah, yeah.

VC: Okay.

AO: 'Cause all my relatives over there spoke...they spoke Italian. [nods] It was all Italian. But we couldn't. Like, in Hamilton it was um...[nodding in a serious manner]

VC: So your grandmother got over the uh...

AO: Oh yes. Oh yes.

VC: [laughing]

AO: Yes, yes. And that marriage was made in heaven.

VC: Oh good.

AO: It's just a shame because my father died too young. He was 46.

VC: Wow.

AO: When he died. And my mother was left a widow at 43. But she carried on. The business and her and I worked, together for 40 years.

VC: Wow.

AO: In hairdressing.

VC: Wow. So when did you first start working with your mum, as a hairdresser?

AO: I was 17. I went to Loretto Academy for high school. Went to high school also with my two sister in laws who became my sister in laws later in life. [nods] And we all in fact um, all the cousins went. Like Chester's uh sister went to Loretto.

VC: That's Chester Capone?

AO: Capone, yes. So...

VC: And what were your sister in laws names?

AO: [Elda]—

VC: Your future!

AO: Yeah, yeah, at that time. [laughs]

VC: Not at that time.

[10:24.9]

AO: You know, it's so funny 'cause my grandchildren at this point, when they see pictures of Auntie Elda and Auntie [unclear] and..."you were bridesmaids but you weren't married to grandpa at that time." But we were friends. See families...and especially going through when the men were internment...uh my mother and father were very supportive with whatever, could—with...if there was any help or. But my mother and father had to be fingerprinted.

VC: Oh did they?

AO: Yes.

VC: They...they were indicated as, as enemy aliens?

AO: Exactly, yes. Yeah. [nods] And they had to have a special picture with their...yeah.

VC: And did they have to report?

AO: Yes, yes. Yes, they had to report—

VC: How often?

AO: I can't remember if it was every month or...but uh, yeah, that was, and of course that was known in that area. If you're Italian that you know...

VC: Yeah.

AO: Yeah, because they were the enemies...

VC: Yeah, and did, did your father suffer any consequences of having been uh...designated as an enemy alien?

AO: No, no. [shaking head no.]

VC: Okay.

AO: No, or my mother no, no. And myself also it was—because as I said it wasn't, I wasn't in that area of...we lived up, so there was St. Clair Boulevard. Uh, Proctor Boulevard, uh, Holton Street, like they were all, as I said, Engl—, Irish, Scotch...English. And that was all our clients were too.

VC: Oh, alright.

AO: Yeah.

VC: Okay, so you would have been about 11...maybe 10?

AO: Yeah.

VC: 11 at that time?

AO: 11 yeah, I was at St. Pat's school at the time. Yeah, yeah.

VC: Okay, and um, uh I know that in um, when we talked before you were talking about uh telephone calls that your dad would get. And...

AO: Oh yeah.

VC: Go ahead.

AO: Well, at that time because everybody expected if you were Italian you were going to get picked up. Because everybody was getting picked up, like—

VC: Right.

AO: And that's why the phone was ringing you know. [motions holding the phone up to ear and looking around with fear] "Oh, he got picked up today." And everybody's in, in trauma. Because...but we didn't see uh, a lot of homes they went into and were searched and uh, but I never experienced that.

VC: Okay.

AO: It was just the fear. 'Cause when you're young and you're hearing all these poor you know...all your, that age group and your father's been taken away.

VC: Right. Had you, um...did he also get um uh called when some of his friends, like your cousins uh when they were taken away, did he receive the news by phone?

AO: Oh phone! Phone, that's how. Yeah.

VC: So, he must have been uh, your family must have been one of the more um, uh...affluent let's say at the time because you had a phone at the time.

AO: Oh yeah. Yeah. And a business. And a business. Yeah. [smiles]

VC: Were there a lot of people who had phones in those days...or amongst the Italians?

AO: Not too many...not too many. Not too many but uh...[nods] yeah.

VC: So uh, when as soon as, as soon as—

AO: Oh yeah. [pretends to pick up the phone] Everybody was [unclear] on the hot wire.

VC: [laughs]

AO: [laughs]

VC: And did your father ever um, uh...was he part of any of the Italian organizations?

AO: Not really, not really. No. But my father later on became a Knights of Columbus.

VC: Okay.

AO: He was fourth degree and uh, uh, but I guess we were just too busy working. But we never lost our heritage. We were always; yeah...we were Canadian Italians.

VC: Okay. Okay.

AO: I wouldn't say Italian Canadian.

VC:[unclear]

AO: Okay, because my mother and father had a business and they were earning and they were contributing. Paying income tax. Well, income tax just started to come in then. And they wanted to uh...be part of, of the culture or the city. And here you're earning a living here, you want to...this is your home so...and you, you got to— my father had ambition. He just, it's sad that he died so young.

[15:06.1]

VC: Yeah, when did he— what year did he die then?

AO: Uh, we were married—uh 1953. January 10th...[unclear] and I were married uh, September 1952, my father died in 1953.

VC: Okay.

AO: Four, four months after we were married my mother was left a widow. And my mother had this business and I, at that time I was working...

VC: With her?

AO: Oh, definitely. In the shop—

VC: Okay, you continued.

AO: We continued. [nods] My mother continued to have that property and have the business until she died. And when she died then—I still own the property.

VC: Oh, wow.

AO: I still own that, on King and Stirton . [nods]

VC: [unclear]

AO: My family [unclear]. Yeah, the business, I still, still own that property.

VC: Oh wow.

AO: Yeah. [nods]

VC: Now, at one point to you talked to us about a donated property. Uh, do you remember, uh, do you remember about the— a property that had been donated or is that the, the...were you talking about the Casa d'Italia at that time. That someone donated the land for the Casa d'Italia.

AO: Uh, I, I that I have...I can't...no. [shaking head while looking confused about what is being referenced.]

VC: That's alright.

AO: No, I don't—

VC: Yeah. I can't, I can't remember.

AO: 'Cause I, I don't see offhand um, I don't know if my father was actually a member because [did] people have cards at that time?

VC: I don't know, I don't know.

AO: See now...maybe somebody else might be able to help you with that.

VC: Yeah.

AO: But as what I remember...I remember going for Italian lessons. My mother—

VC: Oh, at the Casa d'Italia?

AO: At the, yes.

VC: Wow.

AO: I remember just beginning to go, because who was teaching at that time was an uncle of my husbands—

VC: Oh, what [was his name?]

AO: Guido del [Allesandro.] Was very educated. Came over he, he had a family here. He came over as an orphan because his parents died in an earthquake.

VC: Ohhh.

AO: And then he had an aunt on Clinton Street. Del [Assandro] family. And he came here to live. But he was an educated man who came—

VC: Okay.

AO: To Hamilton and at that time was teaching the kids. To speak Italian. Of course my mother and father wanted me to learn to speak Italian.

VC: Sure. So when would these classes be held?

AO: Well, I guess...Saturdays.

VC: Oh, Saturday—

AO: Maybe? Or after school. Something like that. I've...cause that was just beginning and then before you know it, it was over eh?

VC: It was over. Yeah. Do you remember any other of the activities that were going on at the Casa d'Italia?

AO: Not...no. Not, 'cause I think I was a little bit too young.

VC: Too young. Yeah. So I mean you don't remember your mom and dad maybe going to dances?

AO: Oh, maybe. [nods]

VC: Okay.

AO: Maybe. But as my mother in law and father in law were more active.

VC: Okay so what uh, do you remember about uh, hearing about what they were doing at this time uh, uh, at the Casa d'Italia?

AO: Well I just...see and then I don't know whether his— at one point before the war, they and per— maybe somebody has addressed this, but there was a group 'cause I know my sister in law was one of the young ones. And Dr. [Mansini]. The dentist. They went over to Italy.

VC: Oh, so—

AO: All these kids...

VC: Which one of your sister in laws went over to Italy?

AO: Gloria. The oldest one.

VC: Gloria...ohhh.

AO: Yeah, so she was in that group when they all went over and that was like, you know how today teachers take groups. Over and I remember my mother saying "well the next group you're going to go."

VC: Oh really! Okay.

AO: That I remember. And—'cause I was only. And I guess [unclear] Gloria at that time she's, she would have been 15—

VC: This is Gloria...

AO: Oliveri. Yeah. And Dr. [Mansini] and I for— there was a group and I guess [unclear]. Did they ever mention that?

VC: They did mention [unclear], yeah—

AO: Did somebody mention going? Over—

VC: Yes they did.

AO: And they all went over as, as, as childr—like as students.

VC: Yeah.

AO: Students to learn their heritage about uh, uh, and, and...

VC: Do you remember how long they stayed in Italy?

AO: I don't think it was—maybe...well in those days they took them on a boat. [laughs]

[20:02.0]

VC: [laughs]

AO: [laughs] Probably take them a week to go, a week to come back. So it must have been a month. [laughs] But such, when you look back now, what an opportunity for them. See, our, our children, my grandchildren have done all this. From school.

VC: Yeah, yeah.

AO: We didn't—

VC: But at that time it wasn't something uh, that was something that was unheard of.

AO: My—yeah. See 'cause both my mother and father never went back to Italy.

VC: Oh, never?

AO: Never, no. And even my grandparents in Montréal. No. [shakes head no.] Uh, later, later, later, later well in my adult— I remember some of my cousins going over with their husbands...to Italy when they first started to go back for trips. But...

VC: Right, right, right, right. Okay. And how do you think all, all of this experience that you had growing up in the, in the environment that you were growing up in and the times that you were growing up in...how do you think that has affected your, your life? And how do you think that has—

AO: I have pleasant memories. Sad ones because it was stressful at one point. But going back was happy times.

VC: Uh hmm.

AO: Everybody—you know that if you had a problem you were going to get support. And at one point my, my father, they had just come over and maybe they were here a year. Maybe a year and a half. And they were living with this aunt on um Cannon Street.

VC: What was her name?

AO: [Sperensini's]. They were [Sperensini's] yeah.

VC: And what was her first name?

AO: My aunt's first name was [Venusta.]

VC: [unclear]—

AO: And my uncle was uncle Tony. And they had uh, three children.

VC: Uh hmm.

AO: Well educated.

VC: Uh hmm.

AO: One went to University— two went to university so.

VC: And what were their names?

AO: Sperensini, Nello and Betty and Ugo.

VC: Oh, alright.

AO: Yeah. And anyway, my father had a nose bleed.

VC: Oh!

AO: And at that time he couldn't stop the bleeding. Couldn't and was hemorrhaging. And they had, people...cars, whoever had a car, was going up and down Clinton and Ruth Street, Sherman Avenue, picking up people, bringing them to the hospital to donate blood for my father.

VC: Oh wow. Oh wow.

AO: Okay. [nods] And my father came out of it.

VC: Wow.

AO: They were able, the doctor came...apparently the doctor at that time he was at a party and this is the...I'm a kid and I'm hearing all this eh? And I'm thinking oh, my God. And he was at a party and he came to the house and packed it, and packed it, and was able to stop that bleeding. But otherwise my father would have...but they had cars. Whoever had a car was going up and down to donate blood and that's the kind of...[motions hands together and a look of fond remembrance on her face.] Yeah.

VC: That's the kind of [community] yeah.

AO: So you knew and I, I grew up with that. Knowing, knowing that everybody—if anybody had a problem there was somebody there. Everybody got together.

VC: Yeah.

AO: And this was very prevalent. [nods] And the Oliveri, [Mustasi] family with all the brothers, my mother in laws' family...[Mustasi] family. When there's well, they had their misunderstandings...ten kids, 12 kids, you know. [laughs] Whatever. And, but a wedding oh yeah...oh boy, everybody's in there cooking, baking, [laughs] and everybody's together. A funeral. Same thing, same thing. Who's cooking, who's this, who's that, who's doing that...[pointing around the room]. That's what I grew up with. That's what I grew up with and not having that many relatives in Hamilton and I have always that at the back of my head. That it was...

VC: Now going back to the weddings...I, I guess there weren't any catering companies?

AO: [Gasps] Oh, catering? People...[laughs] the mothers. The nonna's were cooking...baking. And when you look back. Those people...a little stove, a little oven. No freezers.

VC: No.

AO: And how they did all that baking and cooking. But it wasn't, you know uh...sandwiches maybe or buns or panini's. That you know, call them panini's now but they were buns in those days. [laughs] Uh, and they were in the homes. Yeah, later one, later on at St. Anthony's church. Uh, when they had the basement. Then they'd have weddings. And then whoever, yeah, whoever played in a band and that was, uh, Benny Ferri or uh Frank Ferri or whatever, the [Salsi] brothers, they all played and that, that's when the weddings began.

VC: Oh alright.

AO: But before that...[shrugs]

[25:31.7]

VC: And this kind of community...also, also was evident I guess during the time of the internment when uh—

AO: Oh, definitely, because the men were gone.

VC: Yes.

AO: Women were— and women didn't work in those days. But they survived.

VC: Yeah. [So I guess...]

AO: They survived. The only, like actually my— the family who really...was my father in law who lost his...the hotel. You know because at that time it was on Sherman Avenue, the army barracks was there and when my mother in law couldn't...and the soldiers were coming in and you know, and so that was [nods] and a lot of men lost well their jobs.

VC: Yes. So—

AO: You couldn't get a job if you were Italian they wouldn't hire you.

VC: Yeah. What happened to the hotel then? Uh...

AO: Well, my mother in law had to sell it. And then when my father in law came back, he had to start from scratch again to start to come back. Yeah. Yeah. [nods] But, funny how they pulled up their boots.

VC: Yeah.

AO: Never, my father in law never ever complained my mother in law never complained. Never spoke about it. Too busy. Had to hurry up to make up the time that was lost.

VC: And did he have to go back into the—

AO: Oh yeah, yeah. Went back—

VC: He did?

AO: Yeah went back bought anoth— yeah, eventually then he bought uh a hotel. On, on James Street.

VC: Hmm. What was it called?

AO: The [Cecil House].

VC: The [Cecil House] okay. And what was the—

AO: He was always in business, my father in law never uh, that was his life...was the hotel. He didn't that...he was too busy with the hotel. And that's how uh, my like my two sister in laws went to University. Like they became—my husband went to uh, to university. The main thing was to educate their kids.

VC: Yeah.

AO: And live—good citizens. Give back.

VC: Yeah.

AO: Okay, like give, become something. Get involved uh, because at that time if you were Italian you couldn't be a police man, you couldn't be a fireman. You couldn't get a job. You couldn't—okay. So, that was the push. To become—and Father [Muscari] was yeah. That was his...yeah.

VC: [unclear]

AO: All, oh yeah. His boys had to go to university and he was pushing it all the time.

VC: Good.

AO: Yeah, yeah. And the first ones, the first ones, he would oh...go there to the university. Bring them food, encourage them. Yeah, yeah. And to this day if you talk to [Nikki] and the boys who are still alive, who experienced that says that he was their, yeah.

VC: Instrumental.

AO: Yeah. Instrumental.

VC: Instrumental in getting them...

AO: To go to university. Become somebody. And they did.

VC: Yeah. I know that [unclear]—

AO: They did. [nods]

VC: Uh...he also helped many of the families during the internment.

AO: Oh! [nods] As much as he could.

VC: Yeah.

AO: As much as he could. Whoever...because there was a lot of, well—can you imagine. When you think of it now...you take like my father in law...you take a man away from his— three years. Out of his earning, like you could see how young these kids. [points across the room] You know.

VC: Yeah, yeah.

AO: Yeah. They all made good citizens.

VC: Yeah, they certainly did.

AO: All made good citizens. And uh, and we, [we're] still doing it. [laughs]

VC: Yeah. Absolutely.

AO: But he's, but we have to remember, we're not Italian. This...my generation, and my children and my grandchildren. We're Canadian Italians. [nods]

VC: Yeah.

AO: But...right now, I've got my granddaughter, who's in Italy. Okay, and my son..and daughter in law are leaving on Sunday, going to a wedding.

VC: Oh nice.

AO: Yeah, a relative's getting married. And uh...

VC: So there's still connections.

AO: Yeah, oh yeah.

VC: [Still the connections]

AO: And you know you can't forget. You're still...eh. You're, we're, we're and um...you don't forget. [shakes head]

VC: No.

AO: No, you don't forget. But we're giving back aren't we?

VC: Absolutely.

AO: We're giving back and we're, and we want our children to grow and to be good citizens. And to...yeah. [nods] It's been a good country.

VC: Yes.

AO: It's a good country, Canada. [laughs] But we still got our homeland. [laughs]

VC: Absolutely. The roots are still there.

AO: [Give thumbs up and laughs]



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VC: The roots are still there. The tree may be in Canada but the roots...

AO: Roots...[laughs]

VC: They go far don't they.

[camera fades out at 30:58.9]

**[End of Interview]**