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**NAME OF INTERVIEWEE:** Paul Cozzi & Karen Orlando

**NAME OF INTERVIEWER:** Melina De Guglielmo

**NAME OF VIDEOGRAPHER:** Krystle Copeland

**TRANSCRIBED BY:** Melinda Richter

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**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 have not edited this transcript for errors.**

**ABSTRACT**

This interview is with cousins Paul Cozzi (born September 11, 1942 in Canada) and Karen Orlando (born June 24, 1954 in Canada). Paul and Karen's grandparents were Eliseo and Maria Orlando. The Orlandos moved to Canada in 1920, with their seven-year-old daughter, Lydia (Paul's mom). Lydia's two brothers were both born in Toronto — Italo and Roy (Karen's dad). Eliseo and Maria worked as tailors in a clothing shop in Toronto. When Italy declared war on Great Britain in 1940, Eliseo, Italo, and Roy, were all arrested by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP); Italo and Roy were arrested at Melbourne Collegiate where they were students at the time. All three were held at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) grounds before being taken to Petawawa. Roy is on record as being the youngest person held at Petawawa. He was 17 at the time of his arrest. The family has a number of pieces of wooden furniture that Eliseo carved during his time at Petawawa. Paul and Karen talk about the importance of learning about their roots. Both, at the time of the video, were in the process of receiving their Italian citizenships.

**INTERVIEW**

**PC: Paul Cozzi, interviewee**

**KO: Karen Orlando, interviewee**

**MDG: Melina De Guglielmo, interviewer**

**KC: Krystle Copeland, videographer**

[Title screen]

[Fades in at 00:00:11]

MDG: So this is Melina De Guglielmo on December the 14, 2011 at the Columbus Centre in Toronto. And I'll first ask, um, your full birth names. So maybe we can start, uh, with Paul and then we'll move to Karen.

PC: Full birth name Paul, baptism name Cozzi.

MDG: Okay.

PC: Yeah.

MDG: And what day were you born?

PC: September 11, 1942.

MDG: Okay. And Karen?

KO: I'm Karen Ann Orlando and I was born June 24, 1954.

MDG: Great. Okay. So maybe we can start off, um, with Paul and talk about, a bit about, uh, your family, so your parents. Uh, maybe if you know anything about their immigration story or if they were born here or, uh, anything about their early history that you could share with us.

PC: Well, my mother was born in Italy. Uh, she came to Canada when she was, uh, I'm pretty sure, seven years of age, uh, with her mother, um, our mutual grandmother. [KO nods] Uh, our mutual grandfather, uh, was already in Canada at that time. And, um, they, uh, they came in 1919 or 1920 because my mother was born in 1913.

MDG: And your mom's name?

PC: Uh, my mother's name as Lydia. Um, the, the, the—This is an interesting bit of history. The baptism name that she was given at birth was Tripolitania. And—

KO: [laughs]

PC: —she dropped that. [laughs]

KO: I wonder why.

PC: She dropped that and became known as Maria. And for decades, I was aware of this middle name and I couldn't figure out where this Tripolitania came from. Finally I Googled it and what it is, uh, what the orig, the origin of it is that her father, our mutual grandfather, Eliseo Orlando, named my mother Tripolitania after an Italian victory in 1910 near Tripoli, that's where Tripolitania comes from, against the Ottoman Empire. And I, I only pieced that together by

Googling Tripolitania and I got this little piece of history. So, that's why my mother had the middle name Tripolitania.

MDG: That's great.

PC: And, of course, Orlando was, uh, that was her, uh—

MDG: Last name.

PC: —surname birth name.

MDG: Yeah.

PC: A little bit of, little bit of history—

MDG: Sure

PC: —probably indicative of, um, I guess, my grandfather's, um, my grandfather's approach to things at that time.

MDG: That's pretty neat. And, uh, so your mom came here when she was—

PC: Seven years of age.

MDG: —seven years old. And did she ever speak to you, I, I know it's been a very long time, but did she ever speak to you about what life was like sort of, uh, um, coming to, to Canada or in, in sort of, experiencing the newness of, of this very different country or anything like that?

PC: You know, um, I can't recall that she ever did.

MDG: Yeah.

PC: Just one little bit of history: when, when because I was able to discern this, actually through documents that Karen got—

KO: Mmmhmm.

PC: Uh, when my mother arrived at the age of seven, my, my grandmother was aged nine— sorry, I could figure out that my grandmother was aged, uh, um, either 18 or 19, was 18 or 19 years of age when my mother was born. So just another little bit of history to—

MDG: Hmm.

PC: —indicate, you know, at what, what age our grandparents got married back in Italy, which of course was probably standard at the time. So to go back to your question, no. My—I don't recall my mother ever talking about that.

MDG: Yeah.

PC: Um, she probably didn't have, you know, she was seven years of age, may not have, may not have had much of a memory of that.

MDG: Yeah. So your grandparents, and I just want to get this sort of, uh, sort of tie you two together. [laughs]

KO: [laughs]

MDG: Uh, so your grandparents were Eliseo Orlando.

PC: Eliseo.

MDG: Eliseo.

KO: Yeah.

MDG: And Maria.

KO: Maria.

MDG: Orlando. And they were married in Italy as you, as you mentioned.

KO: Yeah. [looks at PC]

MDG: Um, and was Lydia the first, uh, uh, child of theirs?

PC: Yes.

MDG: Yeah.

PC: Yes.

MDG: And this was followed by...

KO: Italo.

MDG: Italo.

KO: And then my father, Roy.

MDG: Who's Roy.

KO: Yeah.

MDG: Yeah. Okay. And so, um, so any, uh, wh, where in Canada, I guess we can start from a settling place, did the, uh, Orlando family, so Marie, Eliseo and, uh, Lydia, settle when they, uh, migrated to Canada?

KO: [looks at PC] Queen Street?

PC: Yeah, well, there's, um, on the documents that Karen got there's an indication that our, our grandfather, Eliseo, uh, was, um, went to see his brother, Guido, on Chestnut Street. And that thread has been completely lost. We should try to pick that up and try to, try to track that down somehow because I wasn't aware that he had a brother or that the brother was here. But that's on the records that Karen got. Um, the best recollection that, um, or the best information that Karen and I have from the information that we've been able to pull together is that, as Karen says, uh, they, when my grandmother got here, when Maria got here, she and Eliseo and my mother lived in an apartment at a building on Queen Street.

KO: [nods]

MDG: Okay.

PC: Which happens still, by the way, to still be in the family.

KO: We still own it.

MDG: Wow.

KO: My brother and I now own it. Yeah.

MDG: Oh my goodness.

KO: Yeah.

MDG: Yeah. So, so when you were born then, which was, uh, a bit later, do you remember that, that, um—

KO: No.

MDG: —apartment on—

KO: No. Queen Street?

MDG: —Queen Street at all?

KO: I only remember where they moved after that, probably twice after that because I think they were on Balsam Avenue.



MDG: Uh huh.

KO: And then after that they moved to 27 Pine Crescent.

MDG: Okay.

KO: That's, that's my recollection of Grandma and, like Nonna and Nonno. I don't know anything Nonno but Nonna.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: It's 27 Pine Crescent. Yeah.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: But we still have the Queen Street place and there's a store down at the bottom and on top there's about three, uh, sets of living quarters. Yeah.

MDG: Wow. That's nice.

KO: Yeah.

MDG: And, um, so I guess now we can flip it to—

PC: Can I, can I just interject a bit? I was told an interesting story—

MDG: Yeah!

PC: —by Karen's mother.

MDG: Yeah. Yeah.

PC: Um, when our grandparents, when our grandparents and, and, and my mother, uh, lived at that place, they rented that building on Queen Street, they rented an apartment. And I was told by Karen's mother because there was some history obviously in the family still with that, um, that building. That, um, it was, it was a one bedroom apartment, by the way. And they didn't, they did not own the building at that time. I was told that the, our grandparents slept in the, the bedroom, that they cordoned off a little area with blankets for my mother to have some privacy. And then apparently, um, the two Italo and Karen's father, Roy, came along and they slept in the living room. And that's, I was told—

KO: Wow.

PC: [looks at KO] You didn't know that?

KO: [shakes her head]

PC: I was told, I was told that by your mother.

KO: I don't know that story.

PC: When your mother had to clean out that apartment after, at one point in time—

KO: Oh.

PC: —we were they doing, cleaning it out together—

KO: Yeah.

PC: —and your mother told me that story. I have no other—

KO: Huh.

PC: —authentication for that story but that's what I was told was, uh—So that's how they lived at that time.

MDG: That's how they started.

PC: Yeah.

MDG: Yeah. And in terms of work, uh, what, what's, what jobs did they have, uh, Maria and Eliseo, if you...?

KO: Eliseo was a tailor. So, I don't, I don't really know—I think that she helped him because she was an incredible sewer herself. So, but I don't really know much about—Did he work somewhere? [looks at PC] I don't know. Did he work at a store or something?

PC: They, the earliest recollection I have of that is he and, Eliseo and Maria, um, uh, worked as tailors on a little shop up on Kingston Road which is very close to where they were living at the time, which was run by an Italian. And—

KO: Oh.

PC: —I've forgotten the gentleman's name. It was in a, it was in a tailor shop. It was a clothing shop.

MDG: Yeah.

PC: He ran a clothing shop and he had a little tailor operation in the back and that's where, um, that's where Eliseo and Maria worked.

MDG: Yeah. And, and—

KO: I have a vague recollection of that—

PC: That's—

KO: —that's vague, yeah.

MDG: Yeah. So tell me what you also what—Well, tell me also a bit about your dad, Roy, and your mom.

KO: Um, well, uh, Dad and Mom, they, they met a wedding and it was kind of a bit of a set up, from what I gathered, um, where they were, uh, I guess, uh, uh, part of the bridal party. But apparently Dad at the time, if he was going out with someone or engaged to someone, but they really wanted my mother and Dad to be together. So somehow the Italians wingle-wangled something. And so they ended up having Mom and Dad in the bridal party and, uh, they hit it off and I guess the other woman went down the tubes and, uh [laughs]. But, you know, that's the history I know—

MDG: Yeah.

KO: —um, of them getting together. And, and Nona, Grandma Maria, looks like she was very active in, in, um, after they got married, very active in, in Mom's life and helping bring us up because I, I, she was around all the time. She always would help mom with sewing of our clothes. Like we have—There are three of us in the family – myself, my sister's three years younger, my brother's another year under that. So my sister and I, I remember this vividly, we always wore the same thing.

PC: [laughs]

KO: So we'd get dressed up, same dresses, same—[looks at PC] Do you remember this?

PC: [laughs] I didn't—

KO: We had the same clothes. Same colours. Same everything.

PC: [laughs]

KO: Peas in a pod running around. And Grandma would help Mom sew all these, these outfits, um, so I know she was an incredible sewer. Just, I remember all that.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: She would fix things. And even later on in her life I had things that needed to be fixed. She would fix stuff a lot. So—

[00:10:05]

MDG: And your mom's name? I don't think we got it.

KO: Oh. My mom's name is, uh, Beatrice Olympia. She never liked that name, but anyways, Olympia. Uh, Boretti was her surname. And, and her parents were, uh, Giuseppe Guillermo Boretti and, uh, Maria Gracia Boretti. And they both came from Vicenza.

MDG: Vicenza.

KO: Yes.

MDG: Yeah, so your grandparents on your mom's side came from Vicenza.

KO: Right.

MDG: But your mom—Was your mom born here?

KO: Yeah. Mom was born here. Yeah. 19, uh, 44.

MDG: Okay. [PC opens a zippered briefcase] And so what do you remember about growing up with, uh, with your parents and, and your family?

KO: Uh—

MDG: Or maybe some early childhood memories.

KO: Yeah. I, I just remember, uh, when we were, um, on Evergreen Gardens I, I, I do remember a vague recollection of, of, uh, uh, Dad was, uh, an architect, so—And his name was Roy Eliseo. So he took on my grandfather's second name. And, uh, he worked very hard. And I remember he was, um, he always would come home late because he was working late and, and he built or he designed, um, all the houses that we moved into. And they weren't always ready on time so I remember at one point, I don't remember how long, but we stayed in, uh, Nona Orlando's house on Pine Crescent. We stayed down in her, um, downstairs part because our house, um, on Banstock wasn't ready yet. And so we spent, uh, I remember we spent a Christmas there because I, I'm one of those very curious ones, and I, I found a hockey goalie net hiding in a kind of a closet. I knew that was my brother's present. [laughs] For some reason I remember that.

PC: [laughs]

KO: [laughs] But we did, we did stay down there for a bit because the house wasn't ready, so—.

MDG: Oh neat. And so your dad's, your dad's occupation was really unique, especially for the time that he—

KO: Yeah.

MDG: —he went to school for so many years that, and to become an architect, so—

KO: And so was my mother's. The two of them were very educated considering that time—

MDG: That generation.

KO: —of life, that generation, Dad being an architect and my mother was a pharmacist. And, and she, uh, worked, um, I guess until I was born and then when the kids came she took a hiatus from work and, and the interesting thing was, when she went to go back, she had to relearn everything because now we're in the computer ages. And so she had to relearn stuff. So she would go to, um, Shoppers Drug Mart or one of her, um, um, classmates was, um, is the managers of one of the stores. She would hang around him and learn the process, she'd relearn the whole process and she went back to work again. It was quite amazing. I find that story kind of interesting.

MDG: Yeah. Yeah.

KO: Um, and Dad was, uh—He, he built or he designed, uh, he was into churches—

MDG: Mmmhmm.

KO: —uh, and schools. So he, he built, uh, uh, Canadian, sorry, Roman Catholic schools and churches. I know he did one, uh, church that was, um, French, it was a French Church that he changed and he renovated. And I remember because we had, uh, my niece's graduation, or not graduation, her communion in that church.

MDG: Wow.

KO: And so I'm standing in this church looking around, “Dad did this church.” [laughs]

MDG: That's amazing.

KO: Yeah.



MDG: That really is amazing.

KO: Um, on, uh, Don Mills. Don Mills around, um, York Mills, somewhere around there, I remember this church.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: Yeah.

MDG: That's neat.

KO: Yeah.

MDG: And so, how, how did your grandparents, or I'm not sure if you know this, the answer to this question, but did your grandparents really support him becoming an architect or—

KO: Uh—

MDG: —going to school for so long.

PC: [laughs]

KO: How did, how did that work? I'm just trying to think of what Toni said. Didn't she say, [looks at PC] did she say something—

PC: The, the—

KO: —in her story?

PC: The Orlando—

MDG: Yeah.

PC: The, the—Eliseo, um, in particular and I'm sure Maria as well, um, were achievers. [laughs]

KO: Yes.

PC: And they set high—They had personalities where they set high standards for themselves and they set high standards for the children. And I think it was as simple as that. Um, you know, it's no surprise that Karen's father became an architect or that their brother became an air and nautical engineer.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: Yes.

PC: He worked for Boeing. Or that my mother was a nurse and she took a degree, university, a four year university degree to become a nurse which, same as Karen's mother, was sort of unusual for women at the time. That was just what was expected of them and they had the ability and the parents want, expected them to do that and they did it. And that's all there was to it.

MDG: Yeah.

PC: As simple as that. Hmm.

MDG: And so maybe Paul we can talk a little about your dad as well, um, and then we'll get into sort of the more World War Two, any recollections or any family stories from that period? But about your dad and maybe when your parents, uh, got married or any early family history.

PC: You know, that's sort of interesting because my father, my father was born in Canada in 1910. His father came to Canada. I have the records, um, I got the records from the Ellis Island, uh, website, and I've just forgotten. The year was, uh, 1908 or 1909, something like that. He arrived in the United States. He worked there for a while then came up to Canada and, uh, and settled in Toronto. He brought his wife over and my father was born, as far as I can tell, about 9 months and one day after [laughing] after my grand—That's a bit of a joke but not too much of an exaggeration. [laughs] Uh, so my father was born in, in, in Canada in 1910 and I have a picture of him, I think on his baptismal day, surrounded by a bunch of Italians, obviously, from the same town that, uh, that, uh, um, my grandparents came from. So he was born here and just—

MDG: Oh, your dad's name.

PC: Oh, ma, uh, um, that's very interesting because, and you know this, uh, his first name, uh, was, uh, Americo because he was named after America because he was the first one in the family to have been born in America. So he was called Americo. That was shortened to Ami. He didn't use that too much. [laughs] He used John. Although people who really knew him from his younger years called him Ami. Um, so, he's, um, his family, I think, worked hard here. They were more of a working class family. Um, my grandfather on that side worked for Canadian National Railways or CP Railways, which actually served them quite well during the Depression because, you know, things were tough as you know, during the Depression. And there's no,

there were no social safety nets like there are today. Um, so he managed to, to get through the Depression with a family of five at the time. Um, my father had a job at the post office. He tells story of how he would get up early in the morning. He would go downstairs and shovel coal into the furnace to because they, they owned a house. They had to heat the house to get the house warm in the morning. Then he would go off, work at his part time job at the post office. [looks at KO] True story. According to my dad it is, anyway—

KO: Yeah.

PC: I'm sure it is. And Toni says the same thing. Um, he'd go off and work at the post office, come back home, then go to school and, and then, and then come back and do whatever chores had to be down around the house. And of course any money that he earned at the post office, uh, went straight into the family. He didn't keep a penny of it because the family needed all that money during the Depression. So he did that, um, when war, it's interesting, when war broke out—

MDG: Mmmhmm.

PC: —uh, World War Two broke out he volunteered for the Canadian army. He was turned down, um, because he had an Italian, Italian grandparents, Italian parents, I guess, even though he was born in Canada. Probably not a bad thing because I'm a war baby. I was born in 1942. [laughs] My parents got b—were married in 1941 so as far as I can tell, piecing together the history: he's turned down by the Canadian army, he gets married some time later and I'm born about a year later. So that's, uh—

MDG: Wow. Yeah.

KO: [laughs]

PC: Yeah.

MDG: And so, and where, um, after your parents got married in '41, where did they settle in Toronto?

PC: They, well there's a story there, but let me just finish off—

MDG: Yeah. Go.

PC: —on, on, on my father. So, when conscription came, during the war and the Canadian army had to take everybody because everybody was drafted, they had to take my father but they wouldn't send him overseas. They gave him a desk job somewhere in Canada and he always complained about having had only a desk job in Canada. [laughs] So that—

MDG: Yeah.

PC: So that—So—

MDG: Did he ever talk about how he felt maybe, um, having been turned down for being Italian or having that—?

PC: I think he was disappointed because he definitely regarding himself as, uh, he definitely regarded himself as Canadian.

MDG: Yeah.

PC: Um, definitely regarded himself as Canadian. And and where did they settle? It was interesting. Karen was talking about 27 Pine Crescent which is where she said her family stayed for a while. Her father, I'm sure she knows, designed that house as well.

KO: Oh, I didn't know that.

PC: Yes. Oh yeah. Very definitely.

KO: Dad designed that.

PC: He definitely. He designed that house—

KO: Oh.

PC: —for his parents.

KO: I didn't know that.

PC: He designed that house for his parents. Um, and one other thing about my father, just to maybe ties in—

MDG: Sure.

PC: —with the World War Two stories, he told me once that he was, I think he was at university, he was, he said, I don't want to use the word, 'picked up.' Picked up may be strong but, um, some RCMP officers, um, um, spoke to him and advised him not to join a certain Italian club at the University of Toronto.

MDG: Hmm.

PC: And because probably even at that time, I don't know when that took place, but probably even at that time there was concern over what's happening and build up towards the Second World War.

MDG: Yeah.

PC: So anyway, that's just one little story that he told me—

MDG: So—

PC: —in one point in time.

MDG: —they advised him not to join and, and did your father listen—

PC: I—

MDG: —actually?

PC: I don't know. I think he didn't. I think he did not join that club. I think he stayed away from that club. And he was interesting, he was able to keep his job at the post office during the Second World War whereas people like Toni Ciccarelli—

MDG: Mmmhmm.

[00:20:00]

PC: —who were born in Italy were told they could not work at the post office when the, when the Second World War broke out.

MDG: Yeah. Yeah.

PC: I mean, to go on and answer your, your, your other question, um, they were married in 19, 1941. Uh, they lived on Northcliffe, which you know is in the Corso Italia. Um, and, um, after the war, um, Eliseo, who had returned from the internment camp—

MDG: Mmmhmm.

PC: —um, helped them build a house. Once again, I'm sure that was designed by your father. [looking at KO] On Dodge Road.

KO: Oh really?

PC: Yeah. You didn't know that either?

KO: No.

PC: It's a good thing we're having this interview, otherwise all these family stories would be lost.

KO: Really?

PC: So—



KO: He designed that one too?

PC: He designed that one—

KO: Your parents' place?

PC: Yeah—in, in—So I'm told, anyway—in 19—my, in 1948, they, or 1949. They moved into this house which was then in Scarborough, still is in Scarborough, uh, but it was in a very non-Italian area, uh, which was very interesting. So, I grew up in a non-Italian area.

MDG: I see.

PC: And, and also Balsam, Balsam Road and Pine Crescent which is, which is where our grand, our mutual grandparents lived—

KO: Mmmhmm.

PC: —was also a non-Italian area.

MDG: Non-Italian area.

PC: Yeah, very, um, yeah.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: Hmm.

MDG: And, um, so now that we're on the topic of, of World War Two—

PC: Mmmhmm.

MDG: —I know that, um, for you this [laughs]—

KO: [laughs]

MDG: —this time period was very much, uh, I guess sort of a theme within your family, a bit of silence round this whole, this whole time period. So I guess, maybe we could start with any stories that you do know about if, if there's anything you'd like to share about the internment camp, um, either your uncle or your father or your grandfather that, that—

KO: Mmmhmm.

MDG: —uh, were interned. Anything from that time period that you, that you know about.

PC: Go.

KO: I'm blanked but Paul—

PC: No, go—

KO: —had a story that you, every time you talked to my father he would [hand motion] like hell. That's the only thing I—

PC: Yeah.

KO: That's the only thing that you told me.

PC: Well there's what we were told by Toni, maybe we could start with that. Remember Toni was telling us what happened when, um, Mussolini and Ital, Italy declared war.

KO: Okay.

PC: When they—

KO: Go ahead. Start with that.

PC: Do, do you want to do that?

KO: No.

MDG: [laughs]

PC: Okay.

KO: You do it.

PC: Alright.

MDG: Sure.

PC: Um, this was obviously very difficult experience for the family when, when Italy declared war, when Mussolini declared war, um, that very day or the next day, uh, the, the RCMP or the

police forces at the time picked up Eliseo, our grandfather, uh, and his two sons, uh, um, Karen's father Roy and, uh, his brother Italo, picked up the two sons right out of Melbourne Collegiate which is where they were studying at the time, they were high school students, and pick up, uh, our grandfather, took them down to the Canadian National Exhibition site. Toni Ciccarelli's told the story where the Italians were bring held. Um, the, the two sons, uh, Roy and Italo, were released a couple weeks later and our grandfather, Eliseo was held in Petawawa for five years during the course of the war. And this, of course, was a great shock to the, to the family, um, our poor grandmother was left with my mother, I guess, who would, um, who was, I guess, a young adult at the time was able to help out, but her husband was, was taken away, her two sons were taken away. She was very distraught, Toni, uh, Ciccarelli, told me, which was, you know, quite natural.

KO: Yeah. Yeah.

PC: Yeah. Yeah, um, the, the force, the police forces came to the house. They were living on a house on, on Balsam Avenue at the time in the Beaches area and they owned that house. The police forces came to that house. They put the car up on blocks, took the wheels, drained the gasoline and the car sat there for balance of the, of the war. [looks at KO, KO shakes her head] And, and then I found out later, um, this is another—Do you want me to go into the desk story? Okay.

MDG: Yeah, sure.

PC: There was, Karen's going to talk about what our grandfather did in Petawawa during the war but one of the items he made was a desk a beautiful desk with an engraved head of Christ on the top and decorations around the side and so on, that I still have. And I used to go down and write cheques for my grandmother to pay her Eatons bills and her Simpsons bills because

she would take the [with an accent] street car downtown to go shopping at Eatons and Simpsons and she would come back on the [with an accent] street car and the bills would come in and she would ask me to write the cheques when the bills came in. So I would do that and I would get a great, yet another great Italian meal out of that. Anyway, I was writing cheques one day and I was looking, I think I was looking for an envelope and I went through one of the drawers and I found a deed from the Canadian government back to, uh, our grandparents' of the property in Balsam.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

PC: And in looking at the, the, the wording of the deed, uh, it was clear that what had happened was that during the war the government had expropriated the property under The War Measures Act, taken title away from our grandparents, so obviously to prevent them from selling it and using the money for subversive purposes. And after the war the property was returned to them. And, and that was the first indication that I'd ever come across that anything—'Cause I was only t, I was three years old at the end of the war—first indication that I'd run across that anything had happened to the Orlando family, uh, during the Second World War. And one day I, I mentioned this to her 'cause I was curious about it. I mentioned this to, to Karen's father and he he spoke about one sentence and he just stopped. It was clear that he didn't want to talk about it. Uh, it was, whatever, too painful, whatever, of him. He didn't want to go there, to use the expression. And I understood that so I never asked anybody anything anymore and that was, that was it.

MDG: And that was it. And how about you, Karen, did you ever come across or, or try to ask about this time period?

KO: No. To be honest with you, I wasn't even aware of it. I mean, I really wasn't. And then I guess once the, the tables, we started, uh, when my grandmother passed away she, uh, we disseminated all the stuff that Grandpa had made, um, when he was in the internment camp. Then I started understanding a little bit about what happened. To tell you the truth, this whole process that we've been going through is really making me understand everything a whole lot better.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: 'Cause I honestly, I wasn't too aware of it.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

KO: Um, I remember being at Grandma's on 27 Pine Crescent and this beautiful coffee table that I ended up getting, uh, and I understand why she wanted me to have it is because as a little girl, I was four at the time, maybe three or four, and I stood there and I could count the grapes on this table because it's, the way it's, um, designed—

MDG: Yeah.

KO: —or the way he's, he's carved this.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

KO: So, so basically my grandfather was there, carved these beautiful tables and, um, the desk, I know you have and, and I've got this coffee table. My brother has another piece and my sister, who is in B.C., um, we shipped her one that was at Mom and Dad's place and after Mom passed

away we, um, shipped it to her and it was tricky because it was a beautiful table. [shows with her hands] Really very, not very wide, maybe, um, two feet, uh, in diameter and it had these very thin but beautiful, um, spiralled legs, three spiralled legs that came off this table and this beautiful woman would sit, uh, this china woman would sit on it with a doily under it. And the doilies, like Grandma made all the doilies and this, this woman would sit on the table. So we had to get that whole table with the contents and everything—

MDG: Wow.

KO: —out to Janine because she really wanted to have that table as it was at, at my parents' place.

MDG: Sure.

KO: But when it got there, even though it was supposedly shipped very well, all the legs were broken.

MDG: Oh my goodness.

KO: So her husband is a carpenter sort so he put this whole thing together and got it, uh, looking basically the same. I guess he's pretty magical in the way he does carpentry. So now when I was over there actually in, in July, I was out West and, uh, the table looks incredible.

MDG: Great.

KO: It looks exactly the way it was at Mom and Dad's. So, um, you know, we've all got memories of, you know, our, our Grandpa, Eliseo, with these tables

MDG: Yeah.

KO: It's pretty...

MDG: So it's just so fascinating to me because, you now, here's this sort of silence around this period of time but then you're surrounded by all these pieces that were created in the camp by your grandfather at Petawawa so—

KO: Yeah, I don't even understand how he would get these back. Like how did he get these pieces back?

MDG: Yeah.

KO: I don't really get it.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: The desk for sure. Like, you know, my, the table I have maybe, um, the top he made and the bottom he maybe made in Toronto but I don't really get that. [laugh]

MDG: Yeah.

KO: How these came back.

MDG: Yeah. I mean they would have been shipped most likely by train.

KO: Mmmhmm.



MDG: Um, whether they came home with them, according to Toni Ciccarelli, she remembers your grandfather coming home with one of the tables.

KO: Okay.

MDG: Um, but that's never been, you know, documented or, or, you know, supported by any other, uh, interviews, so we're not really sure but that is—

KO: Yeah.

MDG: —that's a possibility.

KO: Yeah.

MDG: Um, but an interesting, uh, fact, I told you that I would try and get, um, the release dates for your dad to see where he was—

KO: Yes.

MDG: He was actually at Petawawa.

KO: He was?

MDG: He was arrested June 10, 1940 and he was released October 22 of 1940.

KO: Oh my God.

PC: SO he was there for three months.

KO: He was there—

PC: Not just two weeks as I thought.

KO: Oh my God.

PC: Okay.

MDG: He was there. Yeah.

KO: And with, with his brother too, with Italo?

MDG: His brother was released the 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

PC: Wow.

MDG: So he was there a little bit longer.

KO: Oh my God.

MDG: Yeah. 15<sup>th</sup> of November, 1940.

KO: I wondered that—How—That would have been, um, I think, I think—Well, 1940. He was born in, um, 1923. So 1923. so he was about 17—

[00:30:08]

MDG: Yeah.

PC: Your dad.

KO: He was 17.

PC: Your dad—Yeah.

KO: In Petawawa, yeah. Wow.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: Oh my god.

MDG: And, uh, Eliseo was released the 12<sup>th</sup> of February, 1943.

PC: February 12, 1943?

MDG: Yeah.

KO: Oh, so he, he wasn't there 'til '45.

MDG: No. '43.

KO: He was only there for three years then.

MDG: Yeah.

PC: That's actually what I was told first. I was surprised when I heard five years—

MDG: Yeah.

PC: —because I was told that it was only three years.

MDG: It was, it was less.

PC: Yeah.

MDG: Yeah. When Italy, uh, around 194—

KO: [coughs]

MDG: —in 1943 Italy surrendered so some people were released and if they were, um, what the RCMP would deem as really, you know, suspicious or, or, you know, they would sort of hang on to them longer? But your grandfather was released.

PC: So he was there less than three years.

MDG: Yeah.

PC: So he would have come out a little after my, uh, when I was about 6 months old.

MDG: Yeah.

PC: Yeah. Okay.

KO: How did you get this information?

MDG: Uh, from the different documents we, we, uh, got from the RCMP files at, uh, Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa. Yeah.

KO: So you had to go tot Ottawa to chase this stuff.

MDG: Yeah. Yeah.

KO: Wow.

MDG: And there's, uh—

KO: Fantastic.

MDG: —many different lists that we've been fleshing through—.

KO: Yeah.

MDG: A lot of names are misspelled and going through and making sure they're the right people and—

KO: Hmm.

MDG: But, uh, yeah. So that, that was really interesting and your dad is still on record as being the youngest—

KO: My dad was the youngest one one at the camp.

MDG: Yeah.

PC: Youngest person in the camp—

KO: Yes.

MDG: Yeah.

PC: —altogether? Wow.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: That's what I heard.

MDG: Yeah. So—

KO: How much older was Italo? Do we know that? Do I know that?

MDG: Uh, I'm, I'm not sure in terms of the birthdate.

KO: Do you know? [looks at PC]

MDG: No I don't, I don't. No.

KO: I don't know.

[kids laughing in the background]

MDG: We can probably try and figure that out. Um, so Italo, then, because we haven't really talked about, um, him very much but, um, so from our understanding, he went to California—

KO: [nods] Right.

MDG: Was this shortly after the war? D, do you know at all?

KO: [shakes her head]

PC: I, I don't know.

MDG: Yeah.

PC: Honestly I, I don't know.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: No idea.

MDG: It was rumoured from, you know, Toni Ciccarelli that he left because he was so, uh, upset with what had happened to him and he had no longer wanted to, to be Canadian.

KO: Oh really?

MDG: But—

KO: That's interesting.

MDG: —whether that's, that's accurate or that's a story, you know, that's not confirmed by—

KO: I got the impression that it was more job related.

MDG: Okay.

KO: He had a really good job offers.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: That was chasing down in the States.

MDG: So that—

PC: Yeah because he was in air and nautical engineering—

KO: Sure.

PC: —he got a job offer to work for Boeing which would have been the equivalent of working for NASA today.



KO: Yeah, no. I think jobs pushed him down in the States. But—

MDG: You never know.

KO: It could be, it could be, you know, how he felt after that. Yeah, it must have been horrible. We don't, we don't really know how they lived. We don't know, right?

MDG: Yeah. Well, in the camp itself they weren't, uh, from the documents that we have, they weren't treated terribly. Um, in fact, many of them who were interviewed after the fact about their experience, uh, recall, uh, that they were more preoccupied with what was going on at home and felt really bad for, for the women and, you know, children that were left back at home with often no money. You know, the relief was, was usually cut off. Uh, their assets were sort of, bank accounts were frozen. So really worried about what was going on at home. Uh, in comparison, you know, they were fed. They were, you know, their jobs in the camp. Um, some of them were even paid for, for the work that they did in the camp—

KO: Mmm.

MDG: —uh, with, you know, vouchers for food or vouchers for tobacco and things like that.

KO: Hmm.

MDG: So often times it was more about that worry about what was going on at home.

KO: Hmm. That makes sense.

PC: What's interesting is that somebody made available to our grandfather the materials and the tools—

MDG: Yeah.

PC: —and the time and the workshop—

MDG: To—

PC: —to do what he did.

MDG: —take all these projects on.

PC: Yeah. Under, and understood that he had, uh, uh, an artistic ability which he certainly did.

KO: Yes.

PC: Uh, creative ability and he was allowed to, to, to use that creative ability in the camp.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: Yeah. That's very true.

PC: Yeah.

MDG: Interesting. Yeah. So are there any other, any other stories that you'd like to add to sort of the World War Two segment that you can, um, recall or—

KO: No, 'cause—

MDG: If not that's—

KO: —it's before I was born—

MDG: Yeah.

KO: So I'm not a good one to talk to about that and I really didn't know much and Dad never talked about it, so—

MDG: Yeah.

KO: I really, uh, I'm blanked on it.

PC: And Italo, Italo never, I don't recall Italo ever talking about it either.

KO: No—

PC: Although—

KO: —but he, he wasn't really—I didn't feel he was part of our life that much.

PC: No he was, he was off in Ca, he'd been in California—

KO: Yeah.

PC: —for several periods of time—

KO: Yeah.

PC: —by the time I really started to have a relationship with him.

KO: Hmm.

PC: He would come back once a year, at least once a year at Christmas—

KO: Right.

PC: —to visit, uh, Grandma Orlando—

KO: Yes.

PC: —his mother.

KO: That's right. He'd come home at Christmas—

PC: Yeah.

KO: We'd see him. He knew good food.

MDG: Yeah?

PC: [laughs]

KO: [laughing] Everyone knows Grandma's good food.

PC: Yeah.

MDG: Brings you back.

KO: Yeah. So—

MDG: Um, and did he have, uh, wind up marrying or having a family in, in California?

PC: He did not have a family.

KO: No.

PC: He did—not have a family.

KO: There was someone he lived with who's name I'm just having—Esther. I remember that name.

PC: Good memory.

KO: Yeah right. Esther, and in fact, I met them down there. That's why it's a little bit not so good the memory just 'cause I met them 'cause I was in Los Angeles for something or other. It could have been post Olympics in '84. I would—Would he, was he still alive in '84? [looks at PC] John?

PC: I'm going to say yes.

KO: Don't think so.

PC: No, you don't think so?

KO: No, because, um, Dad brought home his urn of, um, his ashes, uh, to Banstock and, uh, in 1984 they moved form Banstock.

PC: Oh. Okay.

KO: So we had to have died. Italo died before 1984.

MDG: Hmm.

KO: Um, but—So then that's not when I met—So I must have met up with Italo, well, we call, I call him John, and his girlfriend, Esther, prior to that date and I don't remember when.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: He was in Los Angeles.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: And, and we, we had a good time. I mean, we went for lunch or something. But he really was a bit far removed from the family.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

KO: Far removed brother, you know—

MDG: Yeah.

KO: —uncle that we didn't really know much about.

MDG: Know much about. Yeah. And just to clarify, he went by John—

KO: Yes.

MDG: And not Italo.

KO: That's right.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: Everyone seemed to get the word, the name John if they— [laughs]

MDG: [laughs]

KO: —didn't like it or whatever. Did they just—

PC: Americo was lost, Tripolitania was lost. [laughs]

KO: [laughs]

MDG: [laughs]

PC: Italo was lost.

KO: “Oh, I think I'll take John”.

MDG: Yeah. That's hilarious. But, okay, so maybe we'll—

PC: Oh, let me—

MDG: —go more into—Yeah. Go ahead.

PC: Let me just one thing that I just remembered, uh, my family, I'm sure a lot of Italians try to integrate as much as possible during, during the Second World War and one thing I ran across when I was applying for my Italian citizenship was, uh, on my birth certificate my mother stated that she was born in Canada although she knew full well that she was born in Italy. There was no doubt. And then when my brothers were born after the war she went back to saying that she was born in Italy. So I think it was just, um—

KO: That wouldn't have helped you.

PC: It wasn't—[laughs] Who knows what people were thinking at the time—

KO: Yeah. Yeah.

PC: —you know. Because her, you know, her father was in a con—when I was born, was in a concentration camp.

KO: Yeah.



PC: Her two brothers had been picked up for months now—

KO: Yeah.

PC: —I thought it was a shorter period of time.

KO: She went completely—

PC: Her poor mother was struggling. The house was expropriated.

KO: Yeah.

PC: The car was on blocks and, uh, she was doing her best.

KO: Yeah. Yeah. Makes sense.

PC: Yeah.

MDG: That's fascinating. Wow. And so, um, after the war, now I guess you probably wouldn't remember too much. I mean, you were pretty young.

PC: I was pretty young.

MDG: In '45. Yeah. [laughs] So when the war was officially over. Um, but so how did, how did the family sort of, uh, get back to normal and I know that there was, there was a tragedy in your family. I mean, your mom passed away pretty young.

KO: [nods]

MDG: Um—

PC: In the '60s, actually, '67.

MDG: Yeah. So, so how did the family, uh, emerge from this time period and, and get along?

Um. in terms of work, do you, do you know anything about that?

KO: You can handle this one.

PC: Okay. As, as best I can remember, um, they just, they, whatever difficulties they'd had during the war and because of the interment and whatever else, um, they were able to, to, I don't know how they handled it personally, it must have been a shock to all of them, but, they were able to handle it. They were able to put it behind themselves and they put their lives back together. They put the family back together. And they carried on, um, you know, Roy became an architect. Italo became an air and nautical engineer. My mother was a nurse. Uh, Roy married and had children. My mother married and had children. Um, they brought up their families. Uh, they helped Italians who came over to Canada after the Second World War.

KO: [nods]

PC: Yeah.

KO: Very much so.

PC: Karen, Karen should, will tell some—

MDG: Sure.

PC: She should tell some of those stories.

KO: Um, well I just remember, um, is that my mother just passed away earlier this year and one of the stories that came out was, um, uh, Grandma Orlando was, uh, her husband but her husband wasn't—I guess he died prior to 1954. That's all I know. [looks at PC] 'Cause, um—

PC: After 1950 and prior to 1954.

KO: Correct.

PC: And we could probably get the exact—I probably have the, the, the date—

KO: Yeah.

PC: —here.

KO: Yeah, you know, and I probably—

PC: Yeah.

KO: Well, I would know it from the stone, from the stone. But anyways, um, the story that came out was, uh, my, I don't know if I call them cousins or long lost relatives. Who knows? They came to Canada and they apparently didn't have, uh, a bed and so they, I guess, Grandma just said, "Here, take this." And, and gave her this, um, [looks at PC] what do you call it? Um, you know, a mattress.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

[00:40:17]

KO: So they put it on a street car on Queen Street [PC quietly laughs] and took the mattress home. I'm going, "What?"

MDG: That's hilarious.

KO: To me that was just bizarre. I, I couldn't imagine a mattress—

MDG: On a street car.

KO: —on a street car—

MDG: [laughs]

KO: —you know, nowadays. But that's what they did in those days.

MDG: Wow.

KO: Um, that was one story. Is there another one you're thinking of? I'm not—

PC: No, they were just very generous to all It—And they helped all Italians come over and settle. There was, there was one person. I remember he came over and, uh, he stayed at our house, uh, the house that I was talking about, uh, Karen's father designed for my parents in Scarborough. And this gentleman lived at our house for, I guess, a couple months or whatever.

KO: Really?

PC: Until—Benny—

KO: Who was it?

PC: Benny.

KO: Oh, Benny!

PC: Benny. Yeah.

KO: Yeah. Yeah.

PC: Until he was able to find a job and, uh, get some money and, uh, get his own place. So but this is just typical of what the, what the Orlando family did.

KO: Mmmhmm.

PC: So they carried on and, you know, I think there's a point to be made here, um, which is that they carried on, they contributed to Canadian life. They contributed to society, um, they became, whatever professionals, whatever. They worked hard, um, they did a lot for their families, they did a lot for other, for other people a lot for community Italians, especially. So that, the lesson I take from all of this, I was thinking about this actually, um, it, it's good that we have the record of what happened during the Second World War and we have record of what happened in the interment camps and, and, and I guess the hardships that these people had to face. But to me the lesson is that they put that all behind them and make significant

contributions to Canada and, and be Canadians and carry on and not let that bother them and not obsess about it or, or, or become preoccupied by it, but carry on with their lives and be constructive, creative members of society after that. That, to me, is a real lesson. When I think about this—I've only realized this now having, having learned more about what happened during that period of time. So I congratulate the—They're not around, unfortunately for me to thank them and to congratulate them but if they were I definitely would and thank them for that lesson and thank them for what they did.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: Mmmhmm.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: The story I think that, uh, Toni told him and I guess maybe it is on tape, but, um, when her husband passed away, um—

MDG: Her father passed away.

KO: Oh, it was her father.

MDG: Her father passed away.

KO: Okay. Sorry. When Toni Ciccarelli's father passed away my grandfather, Eliseo, I guess had just made this new suit made for himself and, um, because they were very poor obviously and didn't have anything to bury him in in the coffin. So my grandfather gave him this new suit that he had just made, um, to her father and she said, Toni said she'll never forget that. For some

reason that was like a huge, um, you can just tell. Toni could not stop talking about that piece of information—

MDG: Yeah.

KO: —how Grandpa, you know, Eliseo, was so kind to do that. And that was pretty touching—

MDG: Yeah.

KO: —especially when coming from her.

MDG: Yeah.

KO: It was, it was touching what she said. Yeah.

MDG: Sure. She never forgot. And, and yeah, I mean, just putting yourself in those shoes, you know, you're new in this country and, and your dad just dies and, you know, you have all these siblings and your mom can't speak English and is older and so what a blessing that, that must have been—

KO: Yeah.

MDG: —to them. So that's really—

KO: Obviously—I'm sure there's lots more because even on my mother's side, you know, the same thing happened, you know, people'd come over and they'd stay at Boretts and they made

sure they found them a place to live and, and got them settled in. It seems to me it was kind of a trade on both sides of my family anyways and, um, I'm sure with yours too. [gestures to PC]

PC: Every, every Sunday at the Orlandos there was sort of an open house for all the Italians.

KO: Yes.

PC: Yeah.

MDG: Yeah, so do you remember these—

PC: Oh yeah, they would all—I'd go there as a young boy and, and all the Italians from that area — [Unknown].... and other places, were being helped out by my grandparents or that they knew, you know, Remo and his brothers, [KO coughs] everybody. They were all there. It was just open house. They all came. They all had a big meal.

KO: To, to Pine, uh, Crescent?

PC: 27 Pine Crescent.

KO: Yeah.

PC: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

KO: Yeah. Big, big meals. I remember the table being full of pasta. I mean, you know, much like, you know, what I did to help my mother. We'd eat pasta all over the table and, you know, Grandma, you know, would boil it up and have a feast.



MDG: Yeah.

KO: You know, I remember she always used to make croquet potatoes.

PC: Oh yes. I loved those.

KO: Croquet potatoes.

PC: Yeah.

KO: I don't know where she got them. That's—Is that an Italian thing?

MDG: Yes.

KO: It must be. And, and, um, uh, what do you call it? That, uh, bacon. Back bacon.

PC: Yes. She liked that.

KO: She always used to cook—

PC: She liked that.

KO: —bacon and croquet potatoes.

PC: She liked that.

KO: We'd have it all the time.

MDG: That's great.

KO: And, and on 27 Pine Crescent there was, um, uh, now I know now my dad designed this, there's this incredible terrace that looked out of the street. It was a beautiful terrace. And at the back of the terrace was this, um, uh, well we, we used it as a sandbox. So all the kids, there'd be all kinds of sand inside and sort of this ledge, um, and I know that all we'd do is we'd have at that time probably just plastic containers that we were playing with. And we'd make these plastic containers of sand and we'd plonk them on top of this platform and then we'd call out Grandma and my parents and we'd sell them a cake.

PC: [laughs]

KO: So we pretended it was a bakery. We'd make all these and we'd decorate them with stones these cakes. Did you ever do that? [looks at PC]

PC: You know that—

KO: For some reason—

PC: —that area—

KO: —I remember that.

PC: That sandbox area was intended to be a fountain.

KO: Oh that was supposed to be a fountain!

PC: But they could—because remember there was—

KO: Oh.

PC: If you remember there was a fountain at the back of—

KO: Yes.

PC: —the Balsam property—

KO: Yes. Oh.

PC: —that probably our grandfather did. And he wanted to have a fountain there but he could never get the, the water hooked up properly.

KO: Oh my gosh.

PC: But that was, that was to be a fountain with a little statue in the middle of it.

KO: I had no idea.

PC: And the gardens surrounding on each side.

KO: Right. Right.

PC: Yeah. That, that was the, uh, idea, the design.

KO: Oh.

MDG: That's fantastic.

[fades out at 00:46:11]

[fades in at 00:46:12]

PC: Well, I, I mentioned earlier that, that Eliseo and Maria had high expectations for their children. And I think, um, that mindset was carried on to, to their children who are our parents. You know, my mother and my father certainly had high expectations of me and I'm sure that, uh, Karen will, [laughing] will vindicate this.

KO: [nods]

PC: Her father and her mother had and her grandparents had high expectations of her. Um, so you were allowed, you, you were allowed to, to live up to your abilities and your talents, uh, but more than that you were strongly motivated—

MDG: Yeah.

PC: —if you catch my drift.

MDG: Yeah.

PC: Because we grew up in a disciplinary family, uh, Italian family, we were strongly motivated to live up to our abilities. Um, we didn't really have any choice. We had to.

MDG: Yeah.

PC: So that was, you know, that was helpful in shaping my life and, and Karen, I don't know. Is that the same thing with you?

KO: Toni, Toni, you know, she, she put the nail on the head. She said, uh, I said—I asked her a question which was like, “What did, um, you know, Nono Orlando and Eliseo, what did they do with you when you were together with them for fun?” I just wanted to know, did they do anything fun. The first thing she says, “They were work horses. They were work horses.” And I'm going, “Uh huh.”

PC: [laughs]

KO: And I just look at Paul because I feel like, you know, I was driven too. I got that, that funny little driven bug as did Paul and we kind of joke about it the odd time. He goes, “Ah! We're such an Orlando,” because we'll, you know, there'll be something that we're doing and, you know, you can just tell. We have to get stuff done and , and we're driven and you know—

MDG: Yeah.

KO: —we're working with a means to an end, sort of thing. And, you know, I have to say my, my brother and sister are very similar.

MDG: Mmm.

KO: But I, I, I think in general that, you know, the, the way that the families were intertwined and, and, and, and whatnot, it kind of tells you, it sort of showed me how important family life

was and how important your family was. And, um, [emotionally] I'm trying to carry that through now because I'm, um, a thread now for the next generation we have to carry through. So about a week ago we had a dinner where we had all the cousins together. So we had, it was at Paul's brother's place, Peter. And, um, we pulled all the cousins together and their kids came so it was kind of—And, uh, I made, uh, homemade lasagna with my other cousin and, uh, we had a really neat meal.

MDG: That's wonderful.

KO: And, uh, I had someone put together the DVD of my parents' wedding of which, um, uh, Paul's father was the best man. Obviously Paul's mother was in the video and as well as, um, one of the other aunts that had passed away. So it was a pretty, uh, touching, uh—

PC: It was an excellent video. Excellent job.

KO: Yeah.

PC: And Karen did this and arranged it and it was really great.

KO: So it was kind of—I feel we need to take this now the next generation because I don't want to lose the thread of all the intertwining of all the cousins.

MDG: Of course. Yeah. Yeah. Well this, this'll be great for you then because you have now all these stories on, on tape. So—[laughs]

KO: [looks at PC and laughs] Paul's going to get Toni's, uh—We'd tried to tape Toni and we're going to try and trans—How do you say it?

MDG: Transcribe it?

PC: Transcribe it, yeah.

MDG: Yeah. Yeah. Like I said, we also have—

KO: You're got it all.

MDG: —a lot of those stories on video and they're going to be released in, in March.

PC: Oh good. Oh good.

MDG: So, um, you'll be able—She signed up for the online portion as well so you'll be able to just download or, or view it online at least.

KO: Yeah.

MDG: Including the transcript. We transcribed them all.

PC: Oh great. Good. Good.

KO: Fantastic.

MDG: Yeah. But I just wanted to say thank you so much for joining us today and for sharing these very intimate and, and, and close, you know, to your heart, these stories that are—

PC: Let me add—There's a sequel to this.

KO: [laughs]

MDG: Yeah!

PC: And the sequel is, um, I mentioned I was brought up in Scarborough and it was, was not an Italian area but I, I discovered my Italian roots, so as to speak, because genetically I'm 100% Italian as is, as is Karen. And, uh, I was able, um, with some work and effort, I guess the, the Orlando spirit was driving me, I was able to obtain my Italian citizenship so I now have dual citizenship, Canadian and Italian, uh, which I consider sort of a personal badge of honour—

KO: Yeah.

PC: —um, is the only way of putting it. It was a lot of effort. It was a lot of work but, but I really consider it's worthwhile and Karen is now doing the same thing.

KO: Yeah.

PC: So—

KO: Yeah. I'm doing the same thing with Paul's help—

PC: Yeah.

KO: —and some help from a cousin in, in Vicenza because I have to actually get the citizenship from my, my mother's side.

MDG: Yes.



KO: So it's, it is definitely not an easy process. Uh, I had Paul by my side the last time we had to get together with the consulate but we're getting there.

MDG: Good, good. I'm glad. That's wonderful.

PC: So this to me is something. It's rediscovering our, our Italian—

MDG: Yeah. Your past.

KO: Totally.

PC: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

MDG: And your roots.

PC: Italian roots.

MDG: That's wonderful. Great. Okay.

PC: Okay. Thank you.

KO: We're good.

MDG: Thank you.

[fades out at 00:51:11]



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**[End of interview]**