



9th Annual Italian Heritage Awards of Distinction

Presented Thursday, June 4, 2020

Michelangelo Banquet Centre, 1550 Upper Ottawa Street, Hamilton, Ontario

Festitalia contributes to the economic development and cultural diversity of Hamilton and surrounding areas through a strong volunteer driven organization that collaborates with other community groups in celebrating, sharing and promoting Italian culture and heritage with the community at large.

The Festitalia Italian Heritage Awards of Distinction recognizes the leadership of men, women and youth of Italian ancestry or Italian affiliation who contribute to the development and well-being of others and the overall improvement of the community. While the promotion of Italian Heritage is not necessarily a deciding factor in the awarding of this distinction, the contributions made by award recipients bring honour and recognition to individuals of Italian ancestry who, as a whole, have made significant contributions to the betterment of the community at large.

Criteria:

An award recipient will have made a significant difference in the community at large by showing leadership, vision, determination and creativity. He/she may have:

- Been a role model for leadership and/or has made an impact in his/her chosen field of endeavor;
- Been an agent for change that would enhance the quality of life of others;
- Assisted, inspired and encouraged others to be successful in shaping the future of their own lives and their communities;
- Been innovative in the way that he/she approaches challenges facing Hamiltonians of Italian descent and the wider community;
- Engaged partnerships with other community groups in promoting and sharing Italian culture and heritage with others;
- Been involved in the integration of persons of Italian birth and/or ancestry, as well as other diverse individuals and groups within the community.

Who is eligible to receive a Festitalia Italian Heritage Award of Distinction?

- Nominees must be an individual of Italian or non-Italian descent who has made a contribution in the promotion of Italian Culture and Heritage or has been involved in initiatives advocating integration and inclusion of Italian immigrants and their families within the City of Hamilton;
- Nominees must be an individual who lives, or has lived within the City of Hamilton, who meets the identified selection criteria in any of the award categories;
- Nominees could be an individual or a group;
- Members of the current Festitalia Board and current members of the Italian Heritage Awards Committee are not eligible to be nominated.

Italian Heritage Award of Distinction Categories

Nominees will be recognized in the following categories:

1. Arts, Culture and Entertainment

This individual promotes the value of arts, culture and entertainment as integral to the life of the community as expressed through visual, literary, multi-media, architectural, Canadian and/or Italian cultural heritage or performing arts.

2. Health and Well Being

This individual is dedicated to the advancement of health through technology, science, discovery, wellness/active living or discovery. He/she has contributed in a variety of ways to the promotion and improvement of health, healthy living and/or physical activity in his/her profession, practice and community. He/she has made significant contributions to the health sciences, including pure and applied sciences, biological, physical or social sciences, medicine, life sciences, or engineering. This individual takes a holistic approach in his/her work, understanding the determinants of health and recognizing the interconnection between physical, social, emotional and spiritual well-being. His/her work may involve research or clinical practice in settings such as hospitals, community healthcare or wellness clinics or street outreach teams.

3. Sports

This individual has made a major contribution in the field of sports through his or her athletic achievements, management and/or organization of sporting events/sporting initiatives or through his/her involvement in sports that has allowed others to excel to their potential.

4. Labour

This individual has earned a reputation as a hard working labourer in a traditional blue collar role i.e. manufacturing, labour, farming, construction, trades, para-medical, etc. or has made a positive impact in the labour community/labour movement, working toward improved working conditions. The individual may or may not be a member of a trade union but has excelled in his or her field of work.

5. Community Development and Social Inclusion

This individual builds community strength and capacity either at the local or global level. He/she advocates and makes changes to improve and enrich the lives of those in the community or those living beyond our national borders. His/her work is in the area of intercultural relations, social justice, community relations, community and social services or peace.

6. Education and Mentorship

This individual has devoted his/her life to teaching and learning and has excelled in meeting the special needs of learners, and/or building a strong rapport with students, parents, colleagues and the community at large in the field of education and mentorship. This person through their chosen field, has been a positive role model for others.

7. Young Person of Distinction (Under 30)

This is an individual under the age of 30 who has inspired others through community engagement in his/her school, community and/or workplace. This individual has demonstrated leadership, maturity, and compassion and has demonstrated the potential to continue to make a difference in the lives of others and the community through initiative, hard work and positive role modeling.

8. Justice and Law

Many members of our community work tirelessly and beyond the call of duty to help others. The recipient of this award may be a member of the legal community, a law enforcement officer, a paralegal, or a member outside of these professions who has demonstrated extraordinary efforts and outstanding achievements in helping disadvantaged people achieve justice.

9. Emergency Services

This award recognizes individuals who put their lives at risk to ensure public safety and/or those who have devoted their energies to community awareness and prevention programs to help the public avoid, detect, and report emergencies effectively. The recipient of this award may be a member of the police service, fire department, paramedical response team or any other organization that responds to, or aims to, prevent emergency situations.

10. The Emilio Mascia Media and Communications Award of Distinction

Emilio Mascia is an internationally known Italian-language television commentator, performer, impresario and television personality who produced Italian-language radio and television programs. In 1984 his outstanding work in communications earned him a license to create, produce, and operate a specialty, national television channel known as TELELATINO. This award of distinction will be presented to an individual who has demonstrated achievement in public relations, media, and/or communications. This could be through service/career in journalism, print or on-line media, public relations, broadcasting, social media marketing, communications innovation and/or public affairs.

11. Regional Distinction Award (Regional Clubs/Associations) – Nominations for these awards are submitted from within the individual Club/Association membership in accordance with guidelines determined by the individual clubs/Associations utilizing the same selection criteria as other Italian Heritage Awards.

This award will recognize individuals from Italian Regional/Social Clubs operating in the City of Hamilton. Recipients may be a current or past club member who has worked tirelessly to assist other members to integrate in the City of Hamilton and/or a non-club member who has brought recognition to the Italian Region through their work in the community. Clubs must be pre-registered with Festitalia with a long-standing history within the City of Hamilton and relationship with Festitalia.

12. The Johnny Lombardi Italian Heritage Award of Distinction

Johnny Lombardi is considered to be the legendary pioneer and champion of multiculturalism. Established in 2014, the Johnny Lombardi Italian Heritage Award of Distinction is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution in assisting Italian Immigrants and their families to integrate and to feel welcome in Canadian Society and/or has made a significant contribution in promoting multiculturalism and respect for the diversity of others.

13. Festitalia Award of Distinction – Up to three Awards will be presented to individuals deemed by the Selection Committee to fit any of the selection criteria.

Contributions by these Award Recipients may or may not fall within the existing award categories. Individuals will be recognized for their outstanding contribution to the broader Hamilton community, the Italian Canadian community and/or the promotion of Italian heritage and culture.

Award of Distinction Nomination Submissions

Nomination Packages must consist of the following documents:

1. Completed Nomination Form.
2. Statement of Nomination - describe the nominee's significant contributions and impact in the award category that best fits the nominee (maximum 3 pages).
3. Provide a short profile of the nominee (**maximum of 140 words**), which features the highlights of the Statement of Nomination (following review and editing, profiles will be made available to the media and published in the Awards Dinner Program).
4. Letters of support (minimum 2, maximum 4).
5. Signature of nominee on nomination form.

Note: Packages will not be returned. Please do not include personal items, videos, CDs or original material.

Selection Process:

1. Nominations will be evaluated only on the merit of the submissions received.
2. As a nominator, it is your responsibility to reflect the achievements of the nominee to the Selection Committee, to draw out his/her exceptional contribution.
3. Be thorough and factual.
4. The Nomination Package for each nominee will be reviewed for completeness. Nominators may be contacted for clarification or for consultation should it be believed that an alternate category more accurately reflects a nominee's background and achievements.
5. Late and/or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.
6. Completed Nomination Packages will be forwarded to the Selection Committee.
7. The decisions of the Selection Committee are final and will be announced at a designated date in advance of the Awards Dinner.

The nominator will receive acknowledgement upon submission of nomination package.

For more information, please contact info@festitalia.ca