

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.