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A symbol of pride for the Italian community

New journalism award named in honour of Antonio Maglio

By Mariella Policheni

Antonio Maglio was a non-conformist who was curious about life, never superficial, had an innate sense of humour, and a boundless love of people and diverse cultures. He was always eager to explore, rather than judge.

Maglio was a renowned journalist and professional who is fondly remembered by those who had the good fortune of knowing him. He came to Canada with his wife Luisella in 1997 to work at Corriere Canadese as associate editor and director of planning and development. He passed away on Jan. 13, 2007, in Newcastle, England, due to a terminal illness.

His presence in Toronto has left its mark, and this year an award bearing his name has been instated. The first annual Antonio Maglio Prize for Journalism. Presenting the award on Jan. 22 at the AMICI Museum in Maple will be the Italian Chamber of Commerce of Toronto. Support for this project is provided by Corriere Canadese, the Italian Cultural Institute, and by other Italian-language media.

"From Corriere Canadese to Omni Television, from Ciao Radio to Lo Specchio, many organizations have gladly accepted the idea of celebrating Italian-Canadian journalism," says Corrado Paina of the Italian Chamber of Commerce of Toronto.

"This year's winner will be a journalist of Italian origin who works in Italian Canadian media with great professionalism, and by doing so, promotes the Italian language – a language that should be protected."

That the award is named after Antonio Maglio is cause for great pride and prestige: "Maglio was first and foremost someone who made a difference both at the human and the professional level, and who made a huge contribution as a journalist to Corriere Canadese," says Paina. "There are those who, like Maglio, have worked the trenches of information since the start, the first being [Dan Iannuzzi, who founded Corriere Canadese and Tandem] but once gone they are forgotten by the community."

The evening's guest of honour will be Lori Abittan, President and CEO of Multimedia Nova Corporation, who will discuss the state of the media. MPP Laura Albanese and Corrado Paina will be the event's Masters of Ceremony.

"The winner will receive a sculpture by acclaimed artist Julie Campagna," says Paina. "The evening of Jan. 22 will be an important one – an evening to celebrate journalists and our Italian language."

The First Annual Antonio Maglio Prize for Journalism will be held Jan. 22 at AMICI Museum, located at 10190 Keele St. Cocktails will be served at 7 p.m. Prizes will be awarded at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 (with a portion going to AMICI Museum). For tickets call 416-789-7169 ext. 23, or e-mail scioscia@italchambers.ca.

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From *Corriere Canadese* to Omni



Above: the late journalist Antonio Maglio with his wife Luisella.

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