



## Inspiring Italian-Canadian youth

"Success is what happens when preparation meets opportunity." Seneca's words were echoed by Michael Tibollo, President of the National Congress of Italian Canadians – Toronto District on June 25, 2011 during the opening speech of Inspire 2011.

The first of its kind in Ontario's inaugural Italian Heritage Month, the goal of the event was to inspire young adults, through similar Italian-Canadian success stories, that dreams can be transformed into concrete realities.

The organizing committee composed of young Italian-Canadian entrepreneurs, including Luciano Volpe, Gianni Creta, Rino Spano, Robert Grossi, and Lawrence LaPianta, invited well known guests speakers to a Q&A and to share enjoyable moments from their upbringing: Rick Campanelli (Reporter for ET Canada), Enrico Colantoni (actor on the hit show Flashpoint), Nick Di Donato (President and CEO of Liberty Entertainment Group), Anthony Lacavera (Chairman of Wind Mobile and CEO of Globalive



Rick Campanelli addressing Enrico Colantoni

Communications), and Ivana Santilli (Juno award winning singer/songwriter).

Their common denominator is not only success, but a common Italian heritage. The guests spoke of their experiences of overcoming adversity, just like their parents who came to Canada as immigrants. Enrico Colantoni shocked his relatives when he decided to forego university studies for an acting career. It was the fear of disappointing his parents that motivated him to work hard and to succeed as an actor. Nick Di Donato shared a similar story about his decision to leave a promising career at Imperial Oil after graduating with an engineering degree from the University of Toronto to pursue a career in the hospitality industry. Rick Campanelli, accompanied by his family, stressed the perseverance he needed to make his way into the television world. His father was visibly emotional when listening to his son's long road to success.

An audience of over 150 people was exposed to the different paths of success in which education, preparation, family, hard work, and a vision played a key role. Young adults are the future and Inspire 2011 was the best conclusion to this first Italian Heritage Month in Ontario. ❖ (Daniele Bozzelli)



Rick Campanelli, Cristina Lio & John DiGiacomo



Liberty Group CEO, Nick DiDonato

## Youth Day and Family Day



Keeping with the celebrations of Italian Heritage Month, June 25th and 26th proved to be an entertaining weekend for the entire family with festivities by Villa Charities on the grounds of the Columbus Centre. "The Best of Youth" on June 25th aimed at celebrating Italian culture for young adults in the community. The day consisted of beach soccer tournaments, performances by artists such as the Doo Wops, and a fashion show in the evening by various designers. Participants were also treated with a sampling of food from Camarra Pizzeria, Ristorante Boccaccio and Vincentina Meats. Family Day on June 26th had events and entertainment for the entire family as well as food and ice cream by Sicilian Ice Cream to keep everyone energized and refreshed. Live entertainment was provided by Stars Academy Company Dancers with Myles Erlick, the current star of Billy Elliot the Musical, as well as comedian Antonio Cardulli and Nostalgia Trio. ❖ (Laura Nesci)

## UTICA celebrates another Italian-Canadian milestone in 2011



In conjunction with Italian Heritage Month and the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy, another important milestone is about to take place with the University of Toronto Italian-Canadian Association (UTICA) celebrating its 65th Anniversary.

Since 1946, the University of Toronto Italian-Canadian Association has been the largest cultural club on the Toronto campus. Its mission: to celebrate, promote and maintain Italian culture, language and history within the University of Toronto, and the Italian-Canadian community at large. Organizing both cultural and social events and programs, UTICA aims to enrich campus-life by providing students with a piazza under the backdrop of Italian culture.

Preliminary planning for the 65th Anniversary Gala is underway while other plans include: a donation of Italian literature to John M. Kelly library, Italian tutoring, cooking classes and an exciting party. The 2011/12 scholastic year will see an addition of five events/programs to UTICA's already packed schedule representing another key milestone for Italian-Canadians in 2011. ❖ (Dante Di Iulio)

**If you would like to support, sponsor or get involved with UTICA and the 65th Anniversary celebrations, please contact:**

Joseph Frascà, President  
(647) 625 7566 or joseph.frasca@live.ca  
Victor Dri, Treasurer  
(416) 318 4225 or victor.dri@utoronto.ca

## Yonge and Dundas Square Turns Into Piazza Italia for the day



On June 2, 2011, Italy celebrated the Festa della Repubblica and so did the people of Toronto. For one day, Yonge and Dundas Square in the heart of downtown Toronto was transformed and aptly renamed Piazza Italia. The concept, designed by the Italian Chamber of Commerce of Ontario (ICCO) in collaboration with the Consulate General of Italy, was to allow a gathering point through which a celebration could take place. As ICCO explains, "In any Italian city the piazza is the hub of life for the community, the place where everyone meets to share a gelato, play a hearty game of briscola and generally enjoy a bit of la dolce vita." While what la dolce vita really is may be up for interpretation, the event represented a contemporary approach to the idea of an Italian public square in an urban environment surrounded by shopping centres, skyscrapers and illuminated billboards. Food, entertainment, and special attractions celebrated Italian culture and innovation. This first-time event differed from the traditional formal celebrations in the confines of the gardens of the Italian Consulate. The hope is that this sense of community gathering around the urban Piazza Italia, even for only one day, continues for years to come. ❖ (Daniele Bozzelli)