



October 30, 2018
Volume III Issue I

News and Muse

Message from the President



As we move closer to the holiday season and our faith takes up a little extra space in our minds and hearts, I am deeply disturbed by the tragic, deadly events taking place south of our border. Many of us have family in the States, myself included, and we have historically viewed the border simply as a nuisance when crossing to visit our family and not as something that identifies us as being very different from them.

I am spending American Thanksgiving in Boston and as the time draws near, that border has taken on greater meaning for me. I love my cousins but I have grown to see their country in a different light. For what will they be thankful at that dinner? And who will be the person to say, "We live in the best country in the world." My answer, "Tell me why."

I worry that the hatred, anger and polarization may not be entirely stopped by a simple border. And so, at that dinner, I will pray that the border is more than just an imaginary line. I will pray for my American family and its country, and I will give thanks, then and when I cross the border to return home, for living in **the best country in the world.**

Be well,
Maria

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CANCELLED

Memorial Mass
November 11, 2018

Major road closures have been announced from November 9 through 13. Highway 15 northbound and Highway 20 in both directions will be closed. Flow of traffic in the area will be extremely difficult and slow. The situation promises to be uniquely troublesome. With the thought of many members having to negotiate these conditions, the Board has decided, for the benefit of all, to cancel the mass on November 11.

We apologize for this change in plans. Many of us have come to look forward to this event when we remember our members and their loved ones who have passed away.

At its meeting of November 5, the Board will explore the possibility of holding the mass on another date during the month of November. We'll provide information to you after the meeting.

Beautiful young people are accidents of nature but beautiful older people are works of art. Eleanor Roosevelt

ACRA AGM

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Our Annual General Meeting was held on September 20th, 2018 at Casa Grecque, in Lasalle. There were 49 members in attendance. In the absence of our Past President, Al Fitzgerald, Mario Tirelli, our Vice-president, chaired the meeting.

Maria Di Perna presented the *President's Report*.

- Two members have passed away in the past year - Mary McDonald and Alain Picard. They are in our prayers along with members' loved ones who have passed away. They will be remembered at ACRA's Memorial Mass on November 11.
- ACRA's *News and Muse* will again issue four copies this year. The first issue will be sent to members at the end of October. The editorial board appreciates all positive comments and constructive criticism.
- ACRA registration process is underway. Our objective is to maintain our membership at 200 members and associate members. Directories will be distributed in December.
- A review was given of ACRA's charitable donations. **Thank You** was expressed to all the individual members who have raised additional charitable amounts in the name of ACRA in the past year.
- Because of family considerations, Jerry Dunn is unable to organize the collection of food from the schools for the St. Gabe's Food Bank. A call was put out to members for a volunteer to take over this responsibility for the coming year. (Please see additional information on the subject included further in this newsletter.)
- A special thank you to the directors who served on the Board, volunteering their time and efforts for the betterment of our Association.

Tony Di Lallo addressed the Association's finances.

- The *Financial Report* for the year ending July 31, 2018 was presented and approved unanimously.
- The *Auditor's Report* prepared by Richard Kusiak stated that the financial statement of the association, as well as its operations, were in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.
- The *Proposed Budget* for 2018-2019 was presented and approved.
- Point of discussion:
 - o As a result of several unforeseen increases in income and careful spending by the Board, ACRA accumulated a surplus of \$3000 this past year. The Board proposed, and the members approved, that this amount be added to the standing amount of \$3000 that ACRA donates to charities each year. A total of \$6000 will be donated this year.



(cont'd)



Mario Tirelli presented the *Nominating Committee's Report*.

- A Nominating Committee was not struck this year since the four members who were up for re-election agreed to continue for another two-year mandate. Since no other names were submitted by the members, Pat Moffa, Andy Nardoza, Norma Passaretti, and Mario Tirelli were elected by acclamation.

Following the meeting, the members enjoyed lunch and catching up with each other. Frank Baldassare led those present in saying grace before our meal. He also asked everyone to pray for members and friends who have passed away in the last year.

At the end of the luncheon, a draw was held for cooler bags leftover from our Golf Tournament.

It was another successful AGM and Luncheon.





Board of Directors

2018 - 2019



President	Maria Di Perna
Vice-President	Mario Tirelli
Treasurer	Antonio Di Lallo
Secretary	Pat Moffa/Andy Nardoza
Social Convener	Joe Jaroslowski
Social Convener Assistant	Norma Passaretti
Member Welfare	Peter Yaworski
Past President	Al Fitzgerald



Briefs from the Board

- ◆ A brief meeting of the new Board was held following the AGM lunch.
- ◆ The Board positions for the directors were determined.
- ◆ Details of the Halloween luncheon and the ACRA Memorial Mass were finalized. Information on each event will be sent to the members.
- ◆ Discussion continued on the subject of St. Gabe's Food Bank. (Additional information on the subject is found on the following page.)
- ◆ Next meeting of the board: November 5, 2018

ST. Gabe's Food Bank

At the AGM, the Board brought to the members' attention that a volunteer was needed for this year to coordinate the collection of food from schools to be donated to St. Gabriel's Food Bank. We have, unfortunately, not been able to find anyone to take on this project. Consequently, ACRA will not be collecting food from schools this year. The Board of Directors presented a "back-up" plan to the members at the AGM. The plan and the required funds were approved in case the plan was needed.

ACRA will donate last year's surplus of \$3000 to three food banks in our communities; St. Gabriel's will be one of the three. The exact amount given to each food bank will be decided at the Board's November meeting. (This surplus is in addition to ACRA's annual donation of \$3000 to worthwhile charitable organizations.) In deciding with Sr. Dianna what is most convenient, ACRA will either purchase food for the food bank or provide direct funding. It is ACRA's hope that this donation will offset the food normally collected from the schools.

The date has been established in December for the delivery of food baskets from the food bank to the homes – **Saturday, December 22**. The Board will organize volunteers able to assist with the process. An email will be sent to all members after the November Board of Directors meeting.

All other ACRA activities undertaken to provide support for St. Gabriel's Food Bank will remain unchanged.





ACRA Halloween Luncheon

More than 50 people came together at *Meridiana* in Laval on October 25 to celebrate Halloween and Autumn. Our witch blew into the restaurant and this she did magically without a broom! She barely managed to hold onto her hat.

Carol Tynan began the gathering with a prayer before the meal, reminding us all of the countless blessings bestowed on us – our health, the company of good friends, the magnificent country in which we live. We also remembered the family and friends that are no longer sitting around our table.

It certainly was the year of the cat! Two of our members, Carol Tynan and Nicole Tabet, were rewarded with a bottle of wine for their purrrfect costumes. People were in a playful mood but their shenanigans will NOT be reported in this newsletter! All in all, a great time.

And now, onward to our next celebration – Christmas!



BOO!

Mario's Musings

"Life does not follow the continuous flow of logical argument, and one often has to risk moving beyond the limits of the rational in order to live life to the fullest."

"Time is a wild child, one that can neither be controlled nor disciplined, it simply slips away from your hand while you grapple trying to hold it back."

"Excitement and joy should be present in all you do. Cherish the people in your life who bring you laughter, pleasure, and make you the best you can be."

(Pssst! Our Editor is missing in action. What have these people done with him and why do they look so smug??)



If the pictures give you any hint, let us know. We want him back!



And for the rest of you also running away from the cold to find a golf course or two.....

Russ Buttacovoli, an 80-year-old Italian goes to the doctor for a check-up.

The doctor is amazed at what good shape the guy is in and asks, 'how do you stay in such great physical condition?'

'I'm Italian and I am a golfer,' says Russ, 'and that's why I'm in such good shape. I'm up well before daylight and out golfing up and down the fairways.

I have a glass of vino, and all is well.'

"Well' says the doctor, 'I'm sure that helps, but there's got to be more to it. How old was your Father when he died?'

"Who said he was dead?'

The doctor is amazed. 'You mean you're 80 years old and your Father's still alive. How old is he?'

'He's 100 years old,' says Russ. 'In fact he golfed with me this morning, and then we went to the topless beach for a walk and had a little vino and that's why he's still alive. He's Italian and he's a golfer, too.'

'Well,' the doctor says, 'that's great, but I'm sure there's more to it than that. How about your Father's Father? How old was he when he died?'

'Who said my Nonno's dead?'

Stunned, the doctor asks, 'You mean you're 80 years old and your grandfather's still living! Incredible, how old is he?'

'He's 118 years old,' says the Old Italian golfer.

The doctor is getting frustrated at this point, 'So, I guess he went golfing with you this morning too?'

'No, Nonno couldn't go this morning because he's getting married today.'

At this point the doctor is close to losing it. 'Getting married? Why would a 118 year- old guy want to get married?'

'Who said he wanted to?'

