



THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 61

JUNE 2024



MALTA FEST, RUNNYMEDE PARK, TORONTO, SATURDAY, JUNE 22nd

See pages 16-19.

**The Maltese Presence
in North America**

**Issue No. 61 June
2024**

Editor

Dan Brock

Proofreader

Mona Vella-Nicholas

Copy Editors

Mark Caruana

Maria Pia Gauci

Contributors to This Issue

CANADA

Ontario

Carl Azzopardi

Consulate General of Malta in
Toronto

Giselle Sherri-Magloire

Kevin Mallia

Mary Ann Piscopo

Malta Band Club

H.E. Mark Pace

Peter Pace

Richard S. Cumbo

Fr. Roy Farrell

USA

California

Evelyn and Dennis Simmons

Michigan

Marty Micallef

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The month of June saw the first visit to Toronto of His Excellency Mark Pace, Malta's first resident high commissioner to Canada. (See pages 16,19, 20-22.)

Toronto was also the venue for MaltaFest 2024 on Saturday, June 22nd. (See pages 1, 15, 16-19, 21, 23.) Nor was MaltaFest the only Imnarja-related event in Toronto. The Melita Soccer Club held an Imnarja dinner party on Saturday, June 29th (page 25).

At least three car shows were held at North American Maltese Clubs during May-June. The Malta Band Club was the site of two of these on Sunday, May 26th (pages 9-12) and on Sunday June 23rd.

The Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn held its car show on Saturday, June 8th. (See pages 12-14,28.)

Having watched Joe Sherri's two interviews with Kevin Mallia on the *Lehen Malti* TV program some weeks ago, I was inspired by what Kevin has achieved in the 25 years since his kidney transplant and the goal he has set for himself to celebrate those 25 years. More importantly, I was deeply moved by the fact that the donor of Kevin's new kidney was none other than his mother, Josie Cefai-Service. (See page 8.)

The Maltese Canadian community in the London area still tries to meet on a monthly basis. Its last luncheon was held on Thursday, May 30th (page 7) and another is planned for Tuesday, July 30th. The group got together for a picnic in London's Springbank Park on Friday, June 28th (page 23-24).

I'm delighted to post a photograph from the mid-1950s of the children of Maltese emigrants then living in London, Ontario, and wish to thank Kim Bell, the daughter of one of those children, for permitting me to share this photo with you. (See page 5.)

It's a pleasure receiving the weekly bulletins from St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Toronto and seeing the effort made, in this parish of different ethnicities, to preserve and promote the Maltese identity.

If you have ideas to share, wish to be put on the free, bcc electronic mailing lists, or would like to learn the newsletter's advertising rates, etc., contact me at danbrock62@gmail.com.

The various Maltese organizations and associations in North America are encouraged to use this e-newsletter to promote themselves and their activities.

Owing to the kindness and efforts of Evelyn and Dennis Simmons of California, all issues and the latest "Table of Contents" are posted on the web page of the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco at <http://maltese-americanscsf.org/home.aspx>. [Click on to "News & Resources."](#)

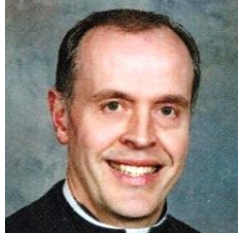
Arrangements have been made with Bernadette Bennie Blanco, the administrator of "Malta to Motown" on Facebook, to post this newsletter on its website as well.

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ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH, TORONTO, CANADA

From our Pastor's Desk...



Fr. Roy Farrell, a diocesan priest within the Archdiocese of Toronto, is pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Toronto, the only Maltese parish outside Malta worldwide.

Parish Bulletin for June 1st-2nd

I am filled with immense gratitude as I reflect on the incredible success of our recent events—the pancake breakfast, bake sale, and baked Maltese pasta. Your unwavering support and generosity have far exceeded our expectations, and together, we've achieved something truly remarkable. We raised an additional \$1,200 for ShareLife. To date we have collected a total of \$6,250.

I want to express heartfelt thanks to all the **volunteers** who dedicated their time and effort to make these events possible. Your selflessness and hard work have made a significant impact. Additionally, I extend my gratitude to everyone who donated delicious baked goods. It warms my heart to witness so many parishioners working side by side, building a strong community that extends beyond our church walls.

For those who may not be familiar, **ShareLife** was founded in 1978 with a mission deeply rooted in living the Gospel. As an intermediary organization, ShareLife funds over 40 different agencies that serve the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized, their commitment to the dignity of every individual and the right to life resonates with our parish values, and through their work they extend Christ's hands to those in need.

In our bustling world, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the countless needs around us. But remember, every small act of kindness matters, whether it's offering a ride to someone who wishes to attend Mass or simply being there for one another, we can make a difference.

Parish Bulletin for June 15th-16th

Being a father involves a multitude of responsibilities, including providing for the family, being a role model, and nurturing the emotional and physical well-being of their children.

It requires a delicate balance of discipline and love, guidance, and support. Fathers often face difficult decisions and challenges whether it's balancing work and family life, teaching important life lessons, or being there to support their children through ups and downs. It takes dedication, patience, and selflessness to be a great dad and I admire all the fathers who strive to be the best they can be for their children....

If fathers strive to please God with their behavior and values in their homes, it would have a profound impact on the overall atmosphere and dynamics within the household.

Firstly, fathers would prioritize love, kindness, and forgiveness, creating a nurturing and supportive environment for their family members. They would actively seek to promote moral values, integrity, and honesty, instilling these principles in their children through their own actions and teaching.

Fathers would prioritize spending quality time with their family, engaging in meaningful conversations and fostering open communication. They would prioritize serving others and practising empathy, teaching their children the importance of compassion and selflessness.

Additionally, fathers would prioritize spiritual growth, encouraging their family members to seek a personal relationship with God and fostering an environment of faith and prayer. By making pleasing God the controlling force in their homes, fathers would create a space where love, respect, and righteousness thrive, ultimately shaping individuals who contribute positively to society.

Parish Bulletin for June 22nd-23rd

It filled my heart with joy to witness the confirmation of our young parishioners this past Friday evening [June 14th]. Their commitment to our faith is a beacon of hope for our community's future. It is essential that we, as a parish, continue to nurture this flame by encouraging our youth to attend Mass every Sunday and to seek deeper involvement within our parish life.

I am also delighted to welcome the many new faces joining our St. Paul's family. As fellow parishioners, it is our joyful duty to extend a warm embrace to all newcomers, fostering a spirit of unity and fellowship.

In the hustle of our daily lives, we may sometimes overlook the call of our baptism—to be witnesses of our faith and to offer support to those whose faith may waver. Let us just remember that our presence at Mass, even amidst the allure of summer's warmth, remains a cornerstone of our spiritual journey....

Serving as your pastor is an honour and a privilege.

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

CALIFORNIA

Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

A **Father's Day Luncheon** was held on Sunday, June 16th.

The **Member's Annual Picnic** is scheduled for Sunday, July 21st.

GOZO

Maltese Canadian Association (Gozo)

The Association celebrated **Canada Day** on Monday, July 1st with a **flag-raising ceremony** in the morning and a **dinner** in the evening.

MICHIGAN

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc.

A **Luau and Pig Roast** will take place at the Club on the evening of Sunday July 14th.



Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

The Society's annual **Show and Shine** event was held on Saturday, June 8th. (See pages 12-14, 28.)

NEW YORK CITY

Maltese Center: Astoria

The annual **Majjalata** was held on the evening of Saturday, June 22nd.

ONTARIO

Greater Toronto Area

Republic of Malta Consulate in Toronto

On Thursday, June 20th, the new **High Commissioner for Malta to Canada, H.E. Mark A. Pace**, and **Consul General, Ms Denise Demicoli**, attended the annual **Gala for Agents' Choice Awards** hosted by Baxter Media in Toronto. (See page 19.)

H.E. Mark Pace participated in an exchange with "key stakeholders" at the Consulate on Friday, June 21st. (See page 21.)

Lehen Malti

LEHEN MALTI (Maltese Voice)

OMNI 1 – Ontario
Saturdays 8:30 a.m.
Tuesdays 11:30 a.m.
Thursdays 8:30 a.m.

OMNI BC
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

OMNI Alberta
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

Malta Band Club

A **Show & Shine Car Show** in conjunction with the **Maltese Canadian Cruisers** was held on Sunday May 26th. (See pages 9-12.)

The **St. George's Festa Dinner and Dance** took place on the evening of Saturday, June 8th.

Another **Show & Shine Car Show** was held on Sunday, June 23rd.

A **Special Luncheon and Social** took place on Wednesday, July 3rd, starting at 12:00 noon and was in part funded through the generosity of one of the members. The **Regular Friday Night Dinner** on July 5th consisted of fish and chips.

A **Barbeque** will take place on Saturday, July 13th. The next **Car Show** will be held on Sunday, July 21st.

Sunday, July 28th is the date set for the **Semi-Annual General Meeting**.

Melita Soccer Club, Inc.

A **Bus Trip to Fallsview Casino** took place on Saturday, June 22nd.

An **Imnarja Dinner Party** was held on Saturday, June 29th. (See page 25.)

A **Bus Trip to Casino Rama** is planned for Saturday, July 27th.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

Bishop Ivan Camilleri, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Toronto, administered the **Sacrament of Confirmation** to seven young persons at the Church on the evening of Friday, June 14th.

His Excellency **Mark Pace**, the **High Commissioner of Malta to Canada**, attended the 10:30 a.m. Maltese Mass on Sunday, June 23rd. (See pages 21-22.)

Maltese-Canadian Cultural Association

This year's **MaltaFest** took place at Runnymede Park, in Toronto, on Saturday, June 22nd. (See pages 1, 15-19.)

London

A **Monthly Luncheon** took place on Thursday, May 30th, at the **Mandarin Restaurant** on Wellington Road South. (See page 7.)

The **Annual Picnic** was held at **Springbank Park**, Site K, on Friday, June 28th, between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (See page 23-24.)

The next **Monthly Luncheon** will be held at the **Swiss Chalet** on Wonderland Road South on Tuesday, July 30th, at 12:30 p.m.

Windsor

Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

An **All-You-Can-Eat Pasta Dinner** will take place at the Club at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 6th.



**READER COMMENTS
IN FORUM MELITENSE**

Editor Note: The following appeared in Vol. 5 Nos. 3 & 4 (Autumn-Winter 1979) on page 9 of Forum Melitense, edited and published by C.A. Caruana in Toronto, Ontario.

ATTENTION: Mr. C.S. Bugeja et al

On behalf of the Executive Committee (myself included) & of the members of the Malta Band Club Inc. we sincerely wish to congratulate you on a job well done.

FORUM MELITENSE is filling a void; that of establishing and preserving open communication with many Maltese communities in North America and beyond the oceans.

In the last issue of FORUM MELITENSE (Vol. 5- Nos. 1 & 2) * Mr. C.S. Bugeja (and perhaps many others) complained of not hearing ahead of time about the various events which, take place in the Maltese Community. We can very well appreciate your problems in this respect owing to the publication dates of FORUM MELITENSE.

As a public service, would you please mention in FORUM that we, at the Malta Band will be more than glad to send both to this gentleman and to other interested parties our NEWSLETTER regularly, were they to write us a line giving name and address and mailing it to:

Malta Band
P.O. Box 35, Station "D"
Toronto, Ont., M6P 3K1

We shall be very happy to oblige at all times.

As far as my articles are concerned, whether published in our Newsletter, in the "Villager", or elsewhere in the press, you have my permission to reproduce any or all of them in FORUM MELITENSE as long as the main theme and/or subject matter is not changed. Please note that all write-ups above my signature express my own personal opinion only and in no way that of the Malta Band Club.

Enclosed kindly find a little donation from our Club's meagre funds to help you out a little in meeting the heavy expenses involved in the publication of FORUM MELITENSE.

G. Mallia Secretary
Malta Band Club Inc.

* *Unfortunately, I don't have access to this particular issue.*

QUALITY AND STANDARD

May I compliment you for your FORUM MELITENSE: the quality and standard of the writeups and its composition are a proof of your dedication. May I wish you the best in your venture, and if I may say so try and take it easy.

Fr. Lawrence Bonavia
(Parish Priest – Ontario)



THE PAVIA CHILDREN

These are the children of John and Emily Pavia who were living at 1029½ Pine Street, in London, Ontario at the time this photograph was taken in 1956.



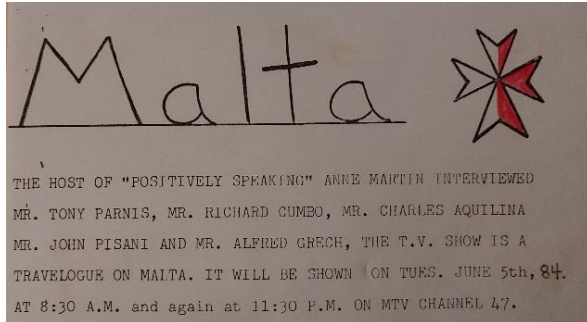
Fina, Jack, Tony (back), and Mary Pavia, 1956

Courtesy of Kim Bell,
daughter of Mary (Pavia) Murray,
eldest child of John and Emily Pavia

A MEMORY FROM THE PAST

Richard S. Cumbo

This appeared in a Sunday bulletin for St. Pius X Parish, Bloor Street, Toronto.



READERS' COMMENTS RELATING TO THE MAY ISSUE

Another amazing issue of The Maltese Presence in North America! So interesting! Each and every article delves into the soul of the Maltese community. As always, you make me land right in the midst of this fantastic Malta in North America with every article! A huge well-done! An enormous thank you!

Maria Pia Gauci, Malta

As always, a very big thank you for a great newsletter full of smiling faces and with interesting news from that side of the globe. Take care.

George Stagno Navarra, Malta

Another great issue.

Richard S. Cumbo, Ontario and Malta

Prosit Dan!! Great Job!!!

Mike Cutajar, Michigan

Thank you for sharing my dad's eulogy with your wonderful readers. Sharing my dad and my stories and memories has been healing, allowing me to relive the moments but also invite others into them. And as I say in the eulogy, Dad never liked to be the centre of attention, never spoke in a loud voice about his many accomplishments. But we, his family, we will speak of our dad the way he deserved. Thank you for providing me a platform to do so.

Marthese "Mar" Fenech, Ontario

Thank you very much for your interesting e-newsletter, especially page 11.

Christian Launer, Germany

I have been following your newsletter for a number of years and have great respect for your efforts, commitment and dedication to keeping the Maltese communities in North America connected with each other and also with their country of origin.

Mark Pace,
High Commissioner of the Republic of Malta to Canada

Thank you for sharing once again the May newsletter with us.

Stephanie Schembri, Archives Assistant,
National Archives of Malta – Head Office

Thanks for putting all the pics from our club in your Newsletter. I always enjoy reading it. I especially enjoyed the eulogy that was written and at times I felt she was describing my dad.

If you are ever in the Bay Area, please let us know.

Mary Borg, Assistant Secretary,
Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

I enjoyed the last newsletter. Thank you again. *Times of Malta* picked up my story. A young journalist called and interviewed me. I'm so excited.

Rena Xuereb, Michigan



DEBBIE SCERRI ENTERTAINS THE DINNER CROWD AT THE MALTA BAND CLUB

Malta Band Club

Debbie Scerri, born in Toronto on March 25, 1969, is a Maltese television presenter and singer who represented Malta in the European Union, Malta and Cyprus Song Festival which was held in Thessaloniki, Greece in 1994. She also represented Malta in the 1997 Eurovision Song Contest which was held in Dublin, Ireland in 1997.



Debbie visited our club on the evening of Friday, May 31st with her family and was kind enough to entertain the dinner crowd with her beautiful voice.

**MEET MARK ANTHONY PACE
MALTA'S FIRST RESIDENT
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CANADA**

**Office of the High Commissioner
of the Republic of Malta to Canada**



Ambassador Mark A. Pace presented his credentials as the first resident High Commissioner of the Republic of Malta to Canada to Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary J. May Simon, on 30 April 2024.

Ambassador Pace joined the Maltese diplomatic service in 1995 following the completion of a law degree at the University of Malta. He furthered his studies at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from where he received a Master of Arts in the Social Sciences in 1998.

Prior to his posting in Ottawa, Ambassador Pace served as the Ambassador of Malta to the Netherlands (2020-2024), Tunisia (2016-2020) and as the Head of the Representative Office of Malta in Ramallah (2012-2015). During his diplomatic career he has also been posted to Moscow (2000-2003), Washington D.C. (2003-2006), the Permanent Representation of Malta to the Council of Europe (2008-2011) and the Permanent Representation of Malta to the European Union (2011-2012).

During different tours of duty at the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Ambassador Pace held the posts of Head of Unit for Latin America and the Caribbean (2015-2016), Deputy Director of Protocol (2006-2008) and other positions within the multilateral and bilateral divisions.

Ambassador Pace speaks Maltese, English and Italian and has a good working knowledge of Dutch, French, Russian and Spanish.

Ambassador Pace was born on 28 January 1971, in Pietà, Malta. He is married to Mr. Rick Bijkerk.



LUNCH AT THE MANDARIN RESTAURANT

Dan Brock

Our **Monthly Luncheon** in May took place on Thursday the 30th, at the **Mandarin Restaurant** on Wellington Road South. We were a smaller group than usual with just over 20 present.

First-timers to our monthly luncheon were Miriam and Ron McLean



Connie Heslop, Janet Peckham, Loretta Brock, Terry Rogers (hidden), Carol Hilton, Ted Gauci, Jim McDonald (hidden) and Miriam & Ron McLean



Joyce Vella, Lu & Vincent Mifsud, Gerry & Joe Borg, Frank & Marlene Mifsud, Monica & Manny Micallef, and Melrose Paquet

Our next get together was the **Annual Picnic** held at **Springbank Park**, Site K, on Friday, June 28th. (See page 23.)

PROJECT CHIMBORAZO, THE CLIMB TO INSPIRE

Kevin Mallia

I was born on Monday, March 17, 1980, in Toronto, Ontario.

At the age of 16, while a student at St. Joseph Secondary School in Mississauga, Ontario, a blood test revealed my kidneys were failing and I was eventually diagnosed with Juvenile Nephronophthisis. By the age of 18 my kidney function was down to two percent.

I was in my first year at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario, and I chose to do peritoneal dialysis from December 1998 until April 1999 so that I could continue a “normal life” and finish my first year, which I did on Friday, April 23, 1999. Three days later, on Monday, April 26th, I received a kidney transplant at Toronto General Hospital at the age of 19 years old. Fortunately, I was a match with my mother, Josie Cefai-Service, who gave me my second chance at life.

Since then, I have been trying to live life to the fullest and travel as much as possible with my beautiful wife, Paulina Jimenez. I do a lot of unconventional things such as snowboarding to camping, scuba diving, sky diving, and more.



Having celebrated my twenty-fifth anniversary with my mother’s kidney on April 26, 2024, my next challenge, on September 26th of this year, is to summit Mount Chimborazo in Ecuador, which is 6 280 metres above sea level.

This experience is not only one of intense training, but intense fundraising! My goal is to raise \$25,000 - \$1,000 for every year I've had my new kidney – for The Kidney Foundation by the time of my climb. Already, 73 percent towards that goal has been reached.



I'm doing all this to raise awareness that it's not a death sentence to have kidney disease. You can still have aspirations and a goal after a transplant. I chose The Kidney Foundation as my charitable recipient because it helps a lot of people who are going through what I went through.

If you would like to help, check out my personal fundraising page and donate at:

<https://kidney.akaraisin.com/.../ProjectChimborazoTheClim...>



THE JOLLY MAGICIAN

Richard S. Cumbo, O.S.J.

Frank Saviour Ellul was born in 1926 in the village of Zurrieq, in the Republic of Malta. He immigrated to Canada in 1950.

As in the case of the late magician Johnny Giordmaine, Frank was also influenced by viewing a magician at an early age. At the age of 10 he had become adapt in the art of magic.

Upon arrival in Toronto Frank met the famous magician, John Giordmaine, at the old St. Paul the Apostle Church.

He assisted Chev. John Giordmaine in some of his tricks, and soon became a student of the well-known magician. Mr. Ellul had become so good in this field that it was not long before he started his own shows.

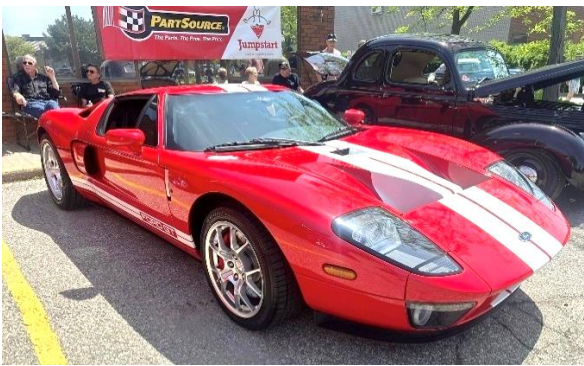
Today, Ellul is in great demand for parties, hospitals, and institutions. He has been a member of the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto for over 20 years.

* Adapted from *Forum Melitense*, vol. 4, no. 1 (Winter 1977-1978), 7. Francis Saviour Ellul had arrived in New York Harbor, on board the *Roma*, on June 12, 1950.

PARTICIPATING AT THE MAY SHOW & SHINE

Kevin Mallia

Thank you to the Maltese Canadian Cruisers and Malta Band Club Mississauga for letting me participate in the car show event on the afternoon of Sunday, May 26th.





I am happy to say we raised a lot of money for The Kidney Foundation of Canada-Ontario Branch with our bake sale. I want to first off thank my mom Josie Cefai-Service, Martess Bianco, and her aunt Doris for baking all the cookies. I appreciated the help selling the cookies from Martess Bianco, my Nanna Sylvia Cefai and my wife Paulina Jimenez.



Paulina Jimenez and Sylvia Cefai



With my dad, Charles Mallia



With my nanna Sylvia Cefai



With my aunt Maria Mallia



With my mom, Josie Cefai-Service



Kevin Mallia & Paulina Jimenez, Sylvia Cefai, Martess Bianco

I am humbled by all the generosity and kindness people showed me and The Kidney Foundation on May 26th by your donations.

Thank you to everyone for helping me get one step closer to the fundraising goal. Let's continue to show kindness and help each other by inspiring others.



Kevin Mallia and Paulina Jimenez training for their climb. We hiked the Presidential Mountains in New Hampshire, June 21-23, 2024

* Editor's note: The Maltese-Canadian Cruisers and the Malta Band Club alone each donated \$500 to the Kidney Foundation via Project Chimborazo, The Climb to Inspire.



THE WEATHER COOPERATED FOR OUR SHINE AND SHOW

Marty Micallef

Mother nature was good to us on the afternoon of Saturday, June 8th for the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn's Shine and Show.

There was a good turnout of cars!







Sam Zammit won the 50/50 but, unfortunately, we didn't get a pic of him and his winnings.



The car owners' choice award was tough for the owners to choose the winner! Doug Marlow was the winner with his beautiful 1959 El Camino!! (See page 28)

We also had two winners of the detail buckets.



Thanks to the board members who helped make the day a success. And a special thanks to those who brought their toys for show and tell!



JUNE 22ND, 2024

Imnarja - MaltaFest

A Festival for all



The 42nd Annual Imnarja - MaltaFest took place on June 22, 2024. Although there was a tornado warning in the Durham region and torrential downpour in the Mississauga area, The MaltaFest grounds remained untouched with over 1100 individuals in attendance.

Gracing the stage were some talented musicians from across the city, all with a Maltese flair. From the talents of Steve Farrugia and Peter Mifsud, Deacon Ray and Karen Zahra to the comedic genius of Dan Galea, as well as Elvis and our Forever Fairest entertainers who kept the kids entertained. MaltaFest had something for everyone and DJ Maltease kept the party going all night long.

The event had something for everyone with many of our guests excited about what possibilities are in store next year. Present this year were Malta's Finest and Nannu's Pastizzi as well as Hot Pork.TO and the St Pauls Mission Group BBQ. Many of the vendors had a hard time keeping up, as the demand for our favorite Maltese delicacies was often and constant



info@themcca.ca

The Promise of More...

The Maltese Canadian Cultural Association comprised of Carl Azzopardi, Jason Mercieca, Brandon Azzopardi, Victoria Celestini, Magdalena Falzon, and Teresa Bugeli are a young and energetic group and have promised to carry on this tradition for years to come. They have openly challenged the Maltese community to step up and contribute to our ideals and cultures, and have demonstrated a commitment to continue on with the Imnarja - MaltaFest for years to come. Get involved and be a part of your culture and be a part of the growing initiative of the Maltese community

Courtesy of Carl Azzopardi

MALTA FEST 2024

Carl Azzopardi and Giselle Sherri-Magloire

This year's Innarja MaltaFest was held at Runnymede Park in Toronto on Saturday, June 22nd. Here are some of the highlights.



With Consul General Ms. Denise Demicoli



With High Commissioner Mark Pace





non-stop fun...

- 02:00PM DJ MALTEASE
- 02:30PM RAY FREUDO
- 03:00PM GROOVE DEFINITION
- 04:00PM SPIDERMAN & ARIEL
- 04:45PM THE MALTA BAND
- 05:30PM DAN GALEA
- 06:15PM ELVIS PRESLEY
- 07:15PM COUSIN FRANKIE
- 07:45PM DJ MALTEASE

enjoyment for all ages







ANNUAL GALA FOR AGENTS' CHOICE AWARDS

Consulate General of Malta in Toronto

On Thursday, June 20th, High Commissioner for Malta to Canada, H.E. Mark A. Pace, and Consul General, Ms Denise Demicoli, had the pleasure to attend the annual Gala for Agents' Choice Awards hosted by Baxter Media in Toronto, on behalf of Malta Tourism Authority and held at The Carlu, 444 Yonge Street, in Toronto.

The sheer volume of work that goes on in the industry is essential to fostering networks, collaboration and exploring new opportunities in the present and future of travel.

A special thanks to Ms Buttigieg, MTA representative in North America, and colleagues from MTA for their tireless initiatives year-round.



H.E. Mark Pace and Ms. Denise Demicoli

MY FIRST VISIT TO THE MALTESE COMMUNITY IN TORONTO

**Mark Pace
High Commissioner
of the Republic of Malta to Canada**

I had a great first visit to the Maltese Community in Toronto between Thursday, June 20th and Sunday, June 23rd.

There was a very interesting exchange with key stakeholders at the office of Consulate General.



**With Ms Denise Demicoli,
Consul General of Malta in Toronto**

Being interviewed by Joe Sherri for *Lehen Malti*





With Karen Zahra, Mary Rose Aquilina, and Joe Sherri of the *Lehen Malti* TV programme

There was a visit to the amazing Maltese-Canadian Museum in the hall connected with St Paul the Apostle "Maltese" Church in Toronto.



On Saturday, June 22nd there was the wonderful gathering of the community at the Innarja celebration in Toronto's Runnymede Park.



Attendance at St. Paul the Apostle Church took place on Sunday, June 23rd, followed by a reception in the hall.





Last but definitely not least there were visits to the iconic Melita Soccer Club and the Malta Band Club.



A visit to the Malta Bake Shop followed.



Did I mention savouring some of the best *pastizzi* and *qassatat* I ever tasted in between engagements? I also managed to squeeze in some family bonding with cousin Chris Portelli. Thank you Consul General Den Demicoli and the rest of the team at Consulate General of Malta in Toronto for all the hard work you do on a daily basis and for the impeccable organisation of this visit. Thank you also Affarijiet Barranin, The Maltese Canadian Cultural Association, Maltese Canadian Business Network Association Group, Maltese-Canadian Museum, Ian Borg, and *Lefen Malti*.

**A BREW
WITH A UNIQUELY MALTESE NAME**

Dan Brock

In the March 2024 issue of this newsletter, page 18, it was noted that the Grove Brewing Company of Kingsville, Ontario had produced an amber ale, Hair of the Dog. The ale has “notes of mandarin oranges and star anise” to mimic Kinnie and thereby pay tribute to the Gaffin family who arrived from Malta in 1948 and later established the Apex Barbershop in Kingsville.

In like manner, Mascot Brewery of Etobicoke in the GTA (Greater Toronto Area) teamed up with the Maltese Canadian Cultural Association and The Imnarja-MaltaFest Planning Committee to produce a special IPA (Indian Pale Ale) of 5.5% alcohol content made for MaltaFest 2024 (June 22, 2024) in particular. The name selected by the Association and Planning Committee for this specially crafted beer was Luzzu, Malta’s traditional fishing boat.



**ANNUAL PICNIC
HELD AT SPRINGBANK PARK**

Dan Brock

London, Ontario’s Maltese community and friends held their annual picnic at Springbank Park on Friday, June 28th.



The weather was a little cooler than last year and the numbers in attendance somewhat less but that didn’t prevent us from having an enjoyable time among friends. Among those who came to the picnic were a couple first-timers.

Melrose Paquet, who again had made the arrangements for this picnic, also provided “door prizes.”

Most had arrived by noon in time for lunch.



**Janet Peckham, Janice Vella, Mary Testa,
Rose Mizzi, Charles Vella, and Loretta Brock**

Following lunch, Melrose surprised her brother Mannie Micallef with a birthday cake.



Tony Galea, Mannie Micallef, Bernadette Gall (standing), Monica Micallef, and Charles Micallef (on right)

Unlike previous years, there was no opportunity to play *boċċi*. Instead, several gathered outside to converse.



**Left: Tony Galea, Joyce Vella, and Tony Vella
Right: Joe Mallia, Charles Micallef, Deo Catania, and Ted Gauci
Far right: Connie Zammit**



The majority, however, remained in the pavilion to play bingo. Melrose Paquet was the caller. She was assisted by others who collected the money, called out the winning numbers, and rewarded the winners. A lucky few were the main winners.



Lizzie Culbert, Gloria Heffler, Lynda Galea, Miranda Catania, and Bernadette Gall

While several contributed to this year's successful picnic, again, the main credit must go to Melrose Paquet. Indeed, it's safe to say that without her there probably wouldn't have been a picnic.

OUR IMNARJA DINNER PARTY

Mary Ann Piscopo

On Saturday, June 29th, the Melita Soccer Club had a great Imnarja *fenkata* (rabbit with spaghetti) dinner.



Fun was had by all.

MALTESE ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

Festa San Gejtanu Association

c/o 5745 Coopers Avenue, Mississauga, ON
L4Z 1R9
647-232-8845

Festa San Gorg Association of Toronto

c/o 36 Sequoia Road, Vaughan, ON L4H 1W6
905-216-8432/416-277-2291

Gozo Club Toronto

c/o 1205 Royal York Road, Toronto, ON M9A 4B5
416-231-9710
gozoclub@gmail.com

Inanna on Stage

www.joannedancer.com
c/o 356 Pacific Avenue, Toronto, ON M6P 2R1
416-707-2355
desertdancer007@yahoo.ca

Knights of Columbus - Canada – Council # 12782

c/o St Patrick's Church, 921 Flagship Drive,
Mississauga, ON, L4Y 2J6
905-270-2301 (Church)
stpatricksmi@archtoronto.org
Grand Knight Amadeo Cuschieri

Legion of Mary – “Our Lady of the Migrant”

c/o St. Paul The Apostle Parish
3224 Dundas St. W., Toronto M6P 2A3
Tel: 416-767-7054
www.saint-paul-Maltese.com
stpaulmssp@gmail.com
President: Mary Vella

Lehen Malti

<https://www.omnitv.ca › shows › lehen-malti>
c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue., Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
Contact Person: Joe Sherri
416-571-3944
email lehenmalti@hotmail.com

Malta Band Club

5745 Coopers Ave., Mississauga, ON L4Z 1K9
905-890-8507
www.maltabandclub.com
maltabandclub@bellnet.ca

Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

2520 Seminole St., Windsor, ON N8Y1X4
519-974-6719
maltaunitedsociety.windsor@gmail.com
Opening hours: Saturday 6:30 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

Malta Village Association (Est. 1995)

c/o 3256 Dundas Street West, Toronto M6P 2A3
Tel: 416-769-2174
Fax: 416-769-2174
maltabakeshopltd@gmail.com
att: Antonia Buttigieg

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc.

1832 Michigan Ave. Detroit, MI 48216
313-961-8393
<http://detroitmaltese.com>
Opening hours:
Sunday 12:00 noon
Thursday, Friday 5:00 p.m.

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

5221 Oakman Blvd, Dearborn, MI 48126
313-846-7077
info@malteseamericanclub.org
Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday & Saturday
10:00 am. – 1:00 p.m.
Dinners served:
Friday evenings 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Before and after 7:00 p.m. first Friday Mass

Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

924 El Camino Real, South San Francisco, CA
94080
650-871-4611
contact-us@Maltese-AmericanSCSF.org
Opening hours: Tuesday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
(every 2nd Tuesday of the month only)
Thursday 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Friday 5:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.
Sunday 9:00 am.- 5:00 p.m.

Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton (MCACH)

c/o 381 Fairview Drive, Brantford ON N3R 2X7
mcach1964@gmail.com

Maltese Canadian Association (Gozo)

c/o Trillium, Sqaq Nru 1, Triq it-Tigrija, ix-Xagħra
 Tel: 011 356 21560656
mcagozo@hotmail.com

Maltese Canadian Business Network Association (MCBNA), (Toronto)

c/o 2387 Chilsworthy Avenue, Mississauga, ON L5B 2R4
 416-980-1975
mcbna2018@gmail.com

Maltese-Canadian Cruisers

c/o 5745 Coopers Avenue, Mississauga, ON L4Z 1R9
 416-524-2573
 att: Gianni Borg

Maltese-Canadian Cultural Association

416-909-7357
info@themcca.ca

Maltese-Canadian Museum

St. Paul the Apostle Church Complex
 3224 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON M6P 2A3
 416-767-7054

Maltese Canucks

c/o 3336 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON, M6P 2A4
 416-909-7357/414-670-2662
carl@isgtransport.com/b_azzo18@yahoo.com

Maltese Center, NYC

27-20 Hoyt Ave. S. Astoria, NY 11102
 718-728-9893
info@themaltesecenter.com

Opening hours:

Wednesday and Friday 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
 Saturday and Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Maltese Cross Foundation of California

PO Box 698, San Carlos, CA 94070

Maltese Culture Club of Durham

c/o 124 Ribbledale Drive, Whitby, ON L1N 7C8
 289-939-8377
mmmpastizzigmail.com

Maltese Heritage Association San Francisco Bay Area

maltesheritageassociation@gmail.com

Maltese Heritage Program (Toronto)

c/o 59A Terry Drive, Toronto, ON, M6N 4Y8
 Coordinator: Carmen Galea
 416-766-5830
qormija@sympatico.ca

Maltese Historical Society (San Francisco)

c/o leprofess@aol.com

Melita Soccer Club Inc.

3336 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON M6P 2A4
 416-763-5317
clubmelita@gmail.com

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

3224 Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON M6P 2A3
 416-767-7054
www.saint-paul-maltese.com
stpaulthepostle@archtoronto.org

St. Paul the Apostle Parish Mission Group

c/o 281 Gilmour Ave., Toronto, ON M6P 3B6
 416-708-8627
www.facebook.com/john.vella.1044186
giovanvel@sympatico.ca

St. Paul the Apostle Youth Group (Toronto)

3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON M6P 2A3
 647-524-1115
jason.borg@hotmail.ca/sborg@rogers.com

St. Paul's Maltese Choir

c/o St Paul the Apostle Parish
 3224 Dundas St. W., Toronto M6P 2A3
 416-767-7054
www.saint-paul-maltese.com
stpaulthepostle@archtoronto.org
 President: Lino Debono

THE MALTESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLUB OF DEARBORN'S SHINE AND SHOW, SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH



The gang's all here



Doug Marlow, winner of the car owners' choice award, with his 1959 El Camino

See pages 12-14