

The National Congress of Italian-Canadians Foundation (Eastern Ontario and Outaouais District) and *The National Congress of Italian-Canadians* (National Capital District), in partnership with the University of Ottawa and Carleton University, held an awards ceremony to mark the Giovanni Caboto Scholarship Awards for 2016-2017. This annual ceremony and reception took place on Thursday, April 6, 2017 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Italian Canadian Historical Centre.

The Giovanni Caboto award recipients for the academic year 2016-2017 were Vincenzo Battista, Giorgio Giannetti, Martin Laborde and Daniel Marano representing Carleton University and, from the University of Ottawa, Marie-Pier Séguin.

The ceremony opened with the Canadian and Italian National Anthems. The Past President of the National Congress of Italian-Canadians (National Capital District) Avoc. Josephine Palumbo provided opening remarks and a brief history of the Giovanni Caboto Scholarships to the guests present. Dr. Maria Assunta Cuffaro, as the Master of Ceremonies and the Chair of the National Congress of Italian-Canadians Foundation (Eastern Ontario and Outaouais District), officially opened the awards ceremony. Trina Costantini-Powell, President of the National Congress of Italian-Canadians, welcomed the students, parents, families, community members and dignitaries to the Italian Canadian Historical Centre. The Embassy of Italy was represented by Consigliere Giorgio Taborri who congratulated the recipients for their achievements and extended gratitude to the Congress for their work in supporting education in our community. Federal Member of Parliament Deb Schulte, MP, King-Vaughan and Councillor Keith Egli, Knoxdale-Merivale Ward, both addressed the guests present and acknowledged the efforts of the Congress to assist and encourage students to continue with their education. His Worship Mayor Jim Watson conveyed a message of pride and encouragement to the students. Ms. Schulte also spoke briefly of her Private Members Motion, M-64, that will have the month of June recognized nationwide as Italian Heritage Month.

Cristina Trevisiani from Carleton University facilitated the presentation of the scholarship certificates in conjunction with other members of the Congress and the Foundation. A representative from the University of Ottawa was unable to attend but extended best wishes to those present for the evening. Following the distribution of awards, Mr. Nello Bortolotti, toasted the students and all the guests enjoyed a glass of spumante. Closing remarks highlighted the significant contribution of Congress and Foundation members, and in particular the hosts and sponsors for the evening which included the National Congress of Italian Canadians Foundation (Eastern Ontario and Outaouais District), The National Congress of Italian-Canadians (NCR), Embassy of Italy, Royden Costantini- BMO Nesbitt Burns, Joe Nicastro of Nicastro Fine Foods, Società Sicula, Villa Marconi, Antonio Cellucci, Paolo Siraco, CHIN Radio, L'Ora di Ottawa, Tele-30 and Giovanni Photographer.

The evening then proceeded to the guests enjoying refreshments provided by the sponsors and many Congress and community members who wished to remain anonymous. Tele-30 interviewed the recipients of the scholarship awards. The ceremony was an opportunity for the community at large to enjoy a social evening celebrating our youth. The Congress wishes to express their sincere expression of gratitude to all who made this evening a success.

Furthermore, we wish all the youth in the community success in their pursuits for the future.
Dr. Maria Assunta Cuffaro, PhD