



IL CENTRO ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

F.G. BRESSANI LITERARY PRIZE

2016 EDITION

Goals

The main objectives of the **F. G. Bressani Literary Prize** are to inspire and recognize the literary production of works by Canadian authors of Italian origin or ancestry. We seek to add to the richness of the Italian immigrant experience in Canada by celebrating its literary expression and to honour and reflect aspects of Italian heritage and culture within an ethnically and culturally diverse society.

Submission Guidelines

- a) The Bressani literary Prize is awarded every two years to the Italian-Canadian author of the best eligible literary work. Eligible works are first-edition full-length novels, collections of short stories or poetry.
- b) Submissions are accepted from Canadian citizens and permanent residents who have reached the age of consent and are of Italian ancestry (at least one parent, grandparent or great-grandparent), as well as to holders of dual citizenship (Canadian and Italian).
- c) Submitted works must be written in Italian, English or French (translations are not eligible), and published between January 1, 2014 and February 29, 2016. Self-published works are not eligible.
- d) Each submission must be accompanied by the Application Form, which can be found in this document.
- e) The entry fee for each submission is \$25.00 to cover administrative costs. A personal cheque payable to "Il Centro Italian Cultural Centre" must be included with the application.
- f) Each submission must include 4 copies of the book. Submitted works will not be returned.
- g) An author can submit only one work.
- h) Each submission must be the work of a single author, no co-authored books.
- i) Submissions must be sent or delivered in a sealed package along with the application form and payment to the following address, and must be received no later than March 11, 2016:

IL CENTRO Italian Cultural Centre
Bressani Literary Prize
3075 Slocan Street
Vancouver, BC V5M 3E4

Selection and Adjudication

- a) There is only one prize of \$5,000.
- b) Submissions are processed by a two-tiered system of readers and judges. The entries are screened by qualified readers, who will determine the finalists. The winner will be chosen by a judge or a jury, whose decision will be final.
- c) The names of the judges will be released when the finalists will be announced.
- d) The judges will not be responsible for issues arising from any alleged plagiarism that might be found in the winning works.
- e) In case of insufficient or inadequate entries, the prize can be left unassigned. The decision of the judges in this respect is final.
- f) All the participants are invited to attend the awarding ceremony in Vancouver, BC. The winner is asked to be present or to delegate a person of their choice to represent them and accept the prize.
- g) The award ceremony will be held in the second half of 2016; the exact date and place will be released when the finalists will be announced. Neither subsidy nor reimbursement is available for travel or accommodation expenses.

Background and History

The Italian Cultural Centre Society established the biennial **F. G. Bressani Literary Prize** in 1986. The creation of the Bressani Prize coincided with City's Centennial celebrations and the launch of the First National Conference of Italian Canadian Writers held in Vancouver.

The literary prize honours and promotes the work of Canadian writers of Italian origin or Italian descent. Named in memory of Jesuit Fr. Francesco Giuseppe Bressani, an Italian missionary, born in Rome in 1612, the Prize has operated for over 25 years.

Bressani winners include: Nino Ricci, Michal Ondaatje, Pasquale Verdicchio, Michael Mirolla, and George Amabile (see Appendix 1: *Bressani Biography & Winners*).



IL CENTRO ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

F.G. BRESSANI LITERARY PRIZE

2016 EDITION ~ APPLICATION FORM

Author (first and last name):

Address:

City: Province: Postal Code:

Phone: Email:

Work Submitted (title):

Publisher: Publication Date (mm, yyyy):

Certification

I, (print name clearly), certify
that (choose one):

- I am an Italian citizen.
- my parent / grandparent / great-grandparent was born in Italy.

I hereby authorize the Italian Cultural Centre, and any of their directors, officers, or affiliates, to make such inquiries and investigations as they deem necessary to verify the information I have provided in this application. I understand that any information contained in this application that is determined by the Italian Cultural Centre to be untrue may invalidate my application and disqualify me from the F.G. Bressani Literary Prize.

.....
SIGNATURE

.....
DATE

IL CENTRO ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

F.G. BRESSANI LITERARY PRIZE

2016 EDITION ~ APPENDIX 1: BRESSANI BIOGRAPHY & WINNERS

Fr. Francesco Giuseppe Bressani's Biography

Father Bressani, born in Rome on May 6, 1612, entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus on August 15, 1626 and studied in Rome and Clermont, teaching before his ordination at Sezza, Tivoli, and Paris.

On his arrival in America he was assigned to the spiritual care of the French in Québec, but the following year he was sent to the Algonquins at Trois-Rivières. In April, 1644, on the way to the Huron Mission, he was captured and cruelly tortured by the Iroquois for over two months.

He was finally ransomed by the Dutch at Fort Orange, and sent to France, where he arrived in November, 1644. The following year he was again in Canada and laboured zealously on the Huron Mission until its destruction by the Iroquois four years later. He continued, however, to minister to the scattered and fugitive Hurons. He was also stationed for a time in Québec, where he occasionally officiated mass.

In November 1650, Bressani's failing health and the meagre resources of the mission obliged him to return to Italy, where he spent many years as a preacher and missionary, dying in Florence on September 9, 1672.

Bressani, who wrote the *Breve Relatione d'alcune Missioni nella Nuova Francia* (Macerata, 1653), can be considered the precursor of Italian-Canadian writing.

[Source: http://www.catholicity.com/encyclopedia/b/bressani,francesco_giuseppe.html]

F. G. Bressani Literary Prize Winners

2014

Michael Mirolla, *The House on 14th Avenue* (poetry)

Darlene Madott, *Stations of the Heart* (fiction)

Eufemia Fantetti, *Sweets* (short fiction)

David Macfarlane, *The Figures of Beauty* (Italian theme)

2012

George Amabile, *Dancing, with Mirrors* (poetry)

Vince Agro, *The Good Doctor* (fiction)

George Amabile, *Small Change* (short fiction)

Lynne Bowen, *Whoever Gives Us Bread* (creative non-fiction)

2010

Pasquale Verdicchio, *This Nothing's Place* (poetry)

Michael Mirolla, *Berlin* (fiction)

Michelle Alfano, *Made Up of Arias* (short fiction)

Caterina Edwards, *Finding Rosa* (emigration from Italy)

2008

Elana Wolff, *You Speak to Me in Trees* (poetry)
Victoria Miles, *Magnifico* (novel)
Darlene Madott, *Making Olives* (short fiction)
Donna Caruso, *The Clothesline* (creative non-fiction)

2006

Carmine Starnino, *With English Subtitles* (poetry)
Mena Martini, *Cristallo* (novel)
Fabrizio Napoleone, *Leftovers* (short fiction)
Dave Bidini, *Baseballissimo* (creative non-fiction)

2004

Carmelo Militano, *Ariadne's Thread* (poetry)
Frank G. Paci, *Italian Shoes* (novel)

2002

Fulvio Caccia, *Selected Poems* (poetry)
Pietro Corsi, *Winter in Montreal* (novel)
Antonio D'Alfonso, *Fabrizio's Passion* (novel)
Penny Petrone, *Breaking the Mould* (short fiction)

2000

Concetta Principe, *Interference* (poetry)
Peter Oliva, *The City of Yes* (novel)
Joe Fiorito, *The Closer We Are to Dying* (short fiction)

1994

Olive Senior, *Gardening in the Tropics* (poetry)
M.G. Vassanji, *The Book of Secrets* (prose)

1992

Liliane Welch, *Life in Another Language* (poetry)
Ven Begamudre, *A Planet of Eccentrics* (prose)

1990

Len Gasparini, *Ink from an Octopus* (poetry)
Nino Ricci, *The Lives of the Saints* (prose)

1988

John Terpstra, *Forty Days and Forty Nights* (poetry in English)
Michael Ondaatje, *In the Skin of a Lion* (prose in English)
Silvano Zumaro, *Autostrada per la Luna* (poetry in Italian)

1986

Robert F. Harney, *From the Frontier to the Little Italies: The Italians in Canada 1800-1941*