



IL CENTRO ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

F.G. BRESSANI LITERARY PRIZE

2014 EDITION

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*).

Goals

The **F. G. Bressani Literary Prize** has three objectives:

- To stimulate and enhance the literary production of works by Canadian authors of Italian origin or ancestry.
- To add to the richness of the Italian immigrant experience in Canada by celebrating its literary expression.
- To honour and reflect aspects of Italian heritage and culture within an ethno-culturally diverse society.

Submission Guidelines

a) Submissions are accepted in any of the following categories:

- i. **POETRY:** Collections of at least 20 poems, published between January 1, 2012 and March 31, 2014.
- ii. **FICTION:** Novels published between January 1, 2012 and March 31, 2014.
- iii. **SHORT FICTION:** Short stories and novellas (of at least 2,000 words) published between January 1, 2012 and March 31, 2014. Single entries only: collections and essays will not be accepted.
- iv. **ITALIAN THEME:** Literary works (poetry, fiction, short fiction, theatre) on themes strongly related to Italy or the Italian heritage in Canada, published between January 1, 2012 and March 31, 2014. Single entries only: collections and essays will not be accepted.



- b) Submissions for POETRY, FICTION and SHORT FICTION are accepted from Canadian citizens or permanent residents, 16 years of age and older, who are also Italian citizens or who have at least one parent, grandparent or great-grandparent who was born in Italy.
- c) Submissions for the ITALIAN THEME category are accepted from Canadian citizens or permanent residents, 16 years of age and older, of any background and ethnicity.
- d) Authors can submit works written in Italian, English or French (translations are not eligible).
- e) Each entry must be accompanied by the Application Form, which can be found in this document.
- f) Entries must be submitted in 4 copies. Submitted works will not be returned.
- g) Each author cannot submit more than one work for each category.
- h) There can only be one author per entry.
- i) Submissions must be sent or delivered in a sealed package with their application form to the following address, and must be received no later than April 2, 2014:

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

Selection and Adjudication

- a) 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 in each category will be chosen among the runner-ups by a judge or a jury, whose decision will be final.
- b) The names of the judges will be released when the finalists will be announced.
- c) The judges reserve the right to reassign to another category an entry that doesn't fit properly in the category indicated in the application form. Entries which do not qualify for any of the categories will be disqualified.
- d) The judges will not be responsible for issues arising from any alleged plagiarism that might be found in the winning works.
- e) There is only one prize of \$1,000 per each category.
- f) In case of insufficient or inadequate entries, the prize can be left unassigned. The decision of the judges in this respect is final.
- g) All the participants are invited to attend the Awarding Ceremony at the Italian Cultural Centre in Vancouver, BC. The winners are asked to be present or to delegate a person of their choice to represent them and accept the prize.
- h) The award ceremony will be held in the fall of 2014. Unfortunately, neither subsidy nor reimbursement is available for travel or accommodation expenses.



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2014 EDITION ~ APPLICATION FROM

Author (*first and last name*):

Address:

City: Province: Postal Code:

Phone: Email:

Work Submitted (*title*):

Publisher: Publication Date (*mm, yyyy*):

Bressani Category (*circle one*): POETRY FICTION SHORT FICTION ITALIAN THEME

Certification (*only for authors applying for POETRY, FICTION, and SHORT FICTION*)

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

2014 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

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

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