



103 Columbus Ave.
Vaughan, ON L4L 7H1
Canada
416-829-3731

“Keeping the
Alpini Spirit Alive!”

**CONSIGLIO
DIRETTIVO**

CAPOGRUPPO
Danilo Cal
905-851-3731

VICE CAPOGRUPPO
Vittorio De Buglio
416-242-3567

SEGRETARIO
Gianandrea Biancotto
647-784-4474

TESORIERE
Robero Buttazzoni
416-743-4009

CONSIGLIERI:
Gerry D'Aquilante
416-741-9301

Giuseppe Menegon
416-653-8666

Tony Pigat
905-856-7458

Giovanni Bottos
905-883-9406

Sergio Bottos
905-605-4657

Rino Lazzer
416-789-9338

Bruno Zuccato
416-400-2916

A MESSAGE FROM CAPOGRUPPO DANILO CAL AND YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dear members, DNA Alpini, Friends and Families, we hope to find all of you and your families in good health.

Unfortunately, we are still prisoners at home due to COVID-19 and we must continue to follow all the necessary precautions to stay healthy. It is our hope that the much-promised vaccine will free us from this situation, but it seems that it will take some time before we resume our normal traditional association activities.

The executive Council has however tried to keep in touch with our members and the Alpini members of North America, by coming up with virtual activities; as illustrated in the articles of San Maurizio and the celebrations of 4th and 11th of November. Members are encouraged, perhaps with the help of their children or grandchildren, to use the internet so that at least they can see each other. This hopefully will lift their spirits.

Due to the ongoing restrictions and uncertain future, we cannot plan the annual General Assembly and membership meeting with the usual family luncheon in January 2021. We will see how things go next year for 2021 is our election year for a new executive council.

The executive committee has decided that the membership fee for 2021 will only be \$20.00; since we do not have any added expenses this amount will cover our membership to the association ANA in Milano. To pay your membership please send a cheque made out to ANA Alpini Gruppo Autonomo Vaughan to the above mailing address; or you can send an e-transfer to danicocal@sympatico.ca

Unfortunately, we also have some sad news. Our dear executive member Renato Pighin, a dedicated alpino has passed on. We will miss him very much. Others that have passed on this year, which many of you may know are Capogruppo of the North York Toronto group Adolfo D'Intino and the Alpino Albano Sbrizzi of the Toronto Centro Group. We extend our Condolences to their families.

Our final thought is for members and family members who are not in good health; we wish them a quick recovery.

We end with the hope of meeting or seeing each other soon, with the wish of health and serenity to all of you.

Our Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to you all.

**THE ALPINI OF NORTH AMERICA
CELEBRATE SAN MAURIZIO
PATRON SAINT OF THE ALPINI**

On Tuesday, September 22, 2020, the North American Alpini celebrates their patron saint with a video conference organized by the Alpini Vaughan Group. The Holy Rosary and prayers are recited to implore protection, comfort, and consolation to our families.

The video presentation began with the national anthems of the USA and Canada, and the reading of the story of St. Maurice, Patron and Protector of the Alpini (Danilo). It continues with the singing to the Madonna and the Holy Rosary led by the military chaplain Don Vitaliano Papais, to ask for St. Maurice's intercession in protecting all ANA members and their families from



Membership Fee
2021 - \$20.00

Covid-19.

The presentation continues with prayers to implore comfort in San Maurizio for the sick Alpini, sick family members and consolation for family member of those who have passed on. The conference ends with the reading of the Alpine Prayer (Vittorio De Buglio), the song "Signore Delle Cime", and the trumpet sound of "Il silenzio".

The following Alpini Sections and members participated: New York - President Luigi Covati; Montreal – President Bruno Bertoli and Capogruppo Bruno Negrello; Windsor

President Vittorino Morasset; Toronto Mississauga – Capogruppo Carmine Stornelli; Mississauga; Hamilton Guelph – Cappogruppo Angelo Cremasco and member Gianni Armelini; Capogruppo Giorgio Menegon from the Sudbury Autonomous Group; and from the Vaughan Autonomous Group: Danilo Cal, Vittorio De Buglio, Roberto Buttazzoni, Giuseppe Menegon, Tony Pigat Renato Pighin, Sergio Bottos, Gianni Bottos, Rino Lazzer, Bruno Zuccato, Nino Pera, Orazio Moret, Graziano Pasquali, Egisto De Luca, Saverio Gardin, Diego Zanatta, Don Vitaliano Papais. (Photo) It was a beautiful way to manifest our Christian beliefs during this time of isolation. I thank the Alpine, friends of the Alpine, wives and family members who participated.

San Maurizio Patrono Degli Alpini – Video Conferenza



4 E 11 November – Video Conferenza

NORTH AMERICAN ALPINE REMEMBER THE 4TH AND 11TH NOVEMBER – LEST WE FORGET

Video conference organized by Gruppo Alpini Autonomo Vaughan

This presentation began with the reading of a letter from the National President Sebastiano Favero, which reiterated that November 4 is the day of the celebration of National Unity, for it was for Italy the date that the World War ended. He addressed recognition for those who have sacrificed themselves for national unity.



The presentation continued with the reading of the Preghiera del Alpino (Vittorio Di Buglio), with film clips from the Great War, with images of the many Italian Monuments honouring our fallen Alpini soldiers, as Danilo read the Prayer for the Fallen Soldiers. The original video of the ceremony of the Unknown Soldier on November 4, 1921 at the altar of the Fatherland was shown, followed by a video ceremony of the November 4, festivities of the Italian Armed Forces at the Altar of the Patria in Rome with the National President Sergio Mattarella.

The focus was then turned to the commemoration of November 11, Remembrance Day for Canada, with the reading of the famous poem Flanders Fields (Video.) We remembered soldiers of fallen allied nations, fighting our allies in the First World War, in particular a young Canadian pilot shot down in the Montello area on January 1917. A video of a ceremony conducted by the Alpini of Giavera, Veneto in the British Cemetery of Giavera was also presented.

The video conference continued with the reading of the Prayer for the Alpini Solders Who Passed On (Vittorio), prayers from the military chaplain Don Vitaliano Papais and the trumpet sound and a minute of silence

The final comments focused on the COVID-19 restrictions imposed on use, thus forcing everyone to limit participation and even for some organization to cancel the traditional ceremonies of November 4 and 11.

The Following Sections and Alpini members participated in this presentation: New York -President Luigi Covati; Montreal - President Bruno Bertoldi and Capogruppo Bruno Negrello, Windsor - Vice President Giuseppe Pracilio, Toronto - Capogruppo Carmine Stornelli Mississauga; and Gianpiero Longo councillor of the Treviso Section Italy. From the Gruppo Autonomo Vaughan: Danilo Cal, Vittorio De Buglio, Roberto Buttazzoni, Giuseppe Menegon, Renato Pighin, Gianni Bottos, Rino Lazzer, Bruno Zuccato, Nino Pera, Graziano Pasquali, Egisto De Luca, and Don Vitaliano Papais.

Alpini Gruppo Autonomo Vaughan THE NINETY YEAR OLD MEMBERS OF THE SECOND NAJA

This name is used for Alpini immigrants abroad; referring to their life spent amalgamating with a culture other than that of origin.

The celebration of the Alpine Grandparents Day was cancelled due to the Covid-19 restrictions, and so the executive council (photo - top two rows) organized a meeting in Piazza Tagliavini in Woodbridge to celebrate the new 90-year-old Alpine members. In front of the Fallen Italian Worker's Memorial, we met to hear the stories of these Alpino pioneers who emigrated in the 1950s. Stories of their life here in Canada made up of difficulties, sacrifices, prejudices, and dangers.



The oldest of the 90 year olds, Alpino Luigi Bassi, born in 1926, welcomed the newer 90 year olds born in 1930: Gino De Zotti, Giuseppe Menegon and Renzo Tesolin. (Photo first row) We have 8 in our group who are in their 90s. Other members who turned 90 this year that could not make the photo shoot are: Pietro Gasparotto, Olivo Pasquali, Luigi Turrin, and Alpini sympathizer Antonio Pigat (who now lives in Port Colburne).

GINO DE ZOTTI was born in Vittorio Veneto, Treviso, on 7 August 1930. He did his military service in 1950, in the 3rd Mountain Artillery Regiment in the Julia Pio Spaccamela barracks in Udine. Gino immigrated to Canada in 1954 and for the first few years he did various jobs. From 1962 to retirement he worked as a Carpenter. In front of the monument he recalled friends who had fallen from scaffolding, including someone who died. Immediately after his arrival, he too suffered a fracture in his arm falling from a poorly constructed ladder, and got married with his arm in a plaster cast. After several years, he took a second fall from a scaffold, fracturing his hip and knee.

GIUSEPPE MENEGON was born in Vittorio Veneto, Treviso, on 7 January 1930. He served in the 8th Regiment of Julia in Cividale del Friuli and immigrated to Canada in 1959. Giuseppe remember the first years in which Italians were discriminated against, insulted by Canadians for being Italian. The police always kept an eye on them. They would receive a fine if they were seen drinking beer on their front porches or balconies and they were not allowed to walk in groups of 3 or more. When Giuseppe and his wife moved into their first house, the neighbour, a Canadian, learned that they were Italians and seeing them unload a demijohn of wine and other tools unknown to them from a van, began to insult them. After several years, they became great friends, drinking a glass of wine together produced from those unknown items.

RENZO TESOLIN was born in Fiume Veneto, Pordenone, in March 1930. He did his military service as an Alpine Julia in Udine in the Pio Spaccamela barracks. He immigrated to Canada in 1952. Renzo was a welder in Italy, but when he came to Canada his profession was not recognized, and the economy at the time in Canada was not doing well. The work was little and at first a friend from his hometown gave him work putting down fresh sod on lawns of new houses. When not even this friend had work for him, Renzo cried wanting to return back home to Italy but didn't have the money to do so. His father encouraged him to stay, telling him to try to raise more than a thousand dollars so that once he returned to Italy he could buy a house. Eventually, after years and several jobs, he obtained a welder's license and worked in his field. He was well liked by his Canadian employer and he was able to buy a house and raise a family here in Canada. Renzo also suffered an accident at work, falling from an iron beam that he was preparing to weld from a height of 5 meters. Luckily he ended up on a pile of scrap lumber receiving only minor bruises.

It has been a long hard fought journey from those years of hard coexistence in a foreign land, where the "Anglo Canadian" population would frown upon our cultural foods and our Italians gathering. Today through our hard work and perseverance we have gained the respect of our fellow Canadians of all cultures. Our Italian Heritage is displayed all over the city, linked to many of our culture centers, streets, and monuments in public places. Our heritage, culture, and contribution to the building of Canada have been acknowledged both provincially and federally which dedicate the month of June as Italian Heritage month. Proudly in that month we salute the tricolor placed in Canadian public buildings. We also recognize the merit of these our Alpine pioneers of the second Naja who, as good citizens of sound principles and with the classic Alpine way of doing things (Quietly moving forward), have contributed to the progress of this great nation and to arouse respect for Canadians Italian people and their culture.

11 NOVEMBER, REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY
 Organized by the Canadian Legion of Woodbridge

This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the organizers of the ceremony allowed the participation of only one person from our group. The ceremony took place in front of the Canadian Legion headquarters in Woodbridge. In the ceremony they remembered the sacrifice of Canadian men and women of all wars and the 75th Anniversary of the "VE DAY" (Victory in Europe Day - May 8, 1945 – which was the end of the war in Europe)



A DEAR BROTHER HAS LEFT US

Our executive committee member, Renato Pighin left us suddenly on November 25th

Renato, born in Muris on January 25, 1939, immigrated to Canada in 1963; married Olga in 1967 and they had two children: Rick and David.

Renato had served in the military in the 3rd Regiment of Julia and was a member of the National Alpine Association for a long time, first with the Toronto Centro Section and lately with the Vaughan Autonomous Group.

Renato distinguished himself with the Alpine troops for he was always ready to support and help in our groups' initiatives. He participated in all our activities along with his wife Olga and children Rick and David, his daughters-in-law, Lori and Janet, and his grandchildren Logan, Alessio, and Eva.

Renato we will miss you. Rest in Peace.
 Our sincere condolences go out to the family.



RENATO PIGHIN PRESENTE!

