

MESSAGGERO DELLA MONTAGNA –LA MONTAGNA VEDE-SENTE- RICORDA
Alpini Gruppo Autonomo Vaughan (Canada) - 2020 Spring/Summer vaughan@ana.it



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“Keeping the
Alpini Spirit Alive!”

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPOGRUPPO DANILO CAL & COUNCIL

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

We find ourselves in uncertain times due to this dreaded virus that keeps us in constant apprehension about our security. This pandemic has forced our group to cancel our annual events: “Festa delle Penne Nere” dinner dance, our picnic, grandparents’ day luncheon, and all other events and meetings that required our physical presence.

We have implemented these choices to protect ourselves, our guests and to comply with the prevention rules prescribed by the authorities. Taking risks for a party does not make sense. We cannot kid around with this virus. This is demonstrated by the statistics and deaths of this pandemic that has hit both here in Canada, in Italy and in the rest of the world and it is not known when it will end.

Our Council tried to overcome the restrictions regarding the events with virtual ceremonies, as illustrated in the articles “Republic Day” and “Giuseppe Bordignon Ceremony”.

At the end of January we were able to have our general assembly membership meeting, and we had a good turnout. (see article below). Those who have not paid their membership dues are asked to please send the amount of \$ 50.00 to Danilo (to the group address) as soon as you can.

Daniella Barillari, granddaughter of Rino Lazzer, is this year’s recipient of the Franco Bertagnolli Scholarship of \$1,000.00. Congratulations to Daniella!

Unfortunately, we also have sad news to report. One of our dear members has passed on, second capogruppo Giuseppe (Joe) Bordignon. He was a great Alpino and a great man. He will be missed.

We added an article concerning a note of merit for Tony Pigat’s participation in the annual Alpine National Assembly Conferences. (From all of the ANA members in North America, he has attended the most Adunate that have been held in Italy each May.”

Our last thought is for members and family members of members who are not in good health; we wish them our best.

We end with the hope of meeting again soon, and in a wish of health and serenity to all of you.

**JANUARY 26, 2020 - GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING, HOLY MASS,
MEMORY OF NIKOLAJEWKA, AND FAMILY LUNCHEON**

The day began with the Canadian and Italian national anthems. Capogruppo, Danilo Cal remembers the 77th Anniversary of the Battle of Nikolajewka, (Russia) emphasizing the desperate, but never indomitable, heroic attacks by the Alpine troops to return to the “Hub”(their homes), and the high price of lives left on that frozen terrain. During the song “Il silenzio” you could see on our Alpini members faces the sadness of this tragedy as they thought about the pain and despair families suffered for loved ones who never returned.

During the Holy Mass, in the homily, the military chaplain Don Vitaliano Papais, mentioning the battle of Nikolajewka, pointing out that the Alpini today are mostly a body for the protection of peace. He added that the National Alpine Association, among the multitudes of voluntary works and as a sign of peace, had the “Friendship Alpini Bridge” built in Liventa, Nikolajewka. With the same train of thought, during the offertory the celebrant pours water into the flowers placed in an artillery shell, a gesture to symbolize the passage “from the horrors of the war to the value of life”, commenting on the work of the Alpine troops with the building of “Smile Kindergarten School” in Rossosch.

During the general assembly meeting, the members approved the formation of the “Vaughan Alpine Choir”. The choir will be directed by the Alpino musician Bruno Zuccato, who led the congregation in song during the Holy Mass and after lunch with traditional songs, inviting everyone to join in to create a beautiful and cheerful atmosphere.

We thank the Riviera Event Space for their professionalism and accommodating our needs and providing a wonderful lunch for us to enjoy with our families. (photo next page)

January 26, 2020 General Assembly For 2020 our group has 67 registered members (45 Alpini and 22 aggregates or Friends of the Alpini) The General Assembly meeting was followed by the Holy Mass celebrated by Don Vitaliano Papais. Followed by an exquisite lunch served by the staff of Riviera Event Space to 85 family members in a cheerful atmosphere. We thank our ladies for their work in preparing the delicious sweets.



**A.N.A. GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VAUGHAN AUTONOMOUS GROUP (CANADA)**



**JUNE 2, 2020 "THE REPUBLIC DAY - FLAG RAISING"
 WITH THE ALPINES OF NORTH AMERICA
 VIRTUAL EVENT ORGANIZED BY
 THE A.N.A. GRUPPO AUTONOMO VAUGHAN (CANADA)**



If interested in being part of the Vaughan Alpine Choir call the master Bruno Zuccato (We hope to start again after Covid-19)

The North American Alpini Virtually Celebrate Republic Day with a Video Conference. The video conference included: the video message from the National President Sebastiano Favero; the introduction of the North American ANA sections and groups with their respective presidents and group leaders; the intervention of the presidents and group leaders connected on the theme "Republic Day", focusing on the value of the flag-raising for us Alpini; the flag-raising video filmed during the 2017 Piave meeting in Treviso; the interventions of the authorities (the mayor of the City of Vaughan Honorable Maurizio Bevilacqua, the Deputy Mayor of Vaughan Mario Ferri, Marilyn Iafrate Councilor Vaughan, Francesco Sorbara Federal Parliamentary, Michael Tibollo, Provincial Parliamentary, Silvana Tibollo President of the National Congress of Italian-Canadians, the Honorable Francesca La Marca member of the Chamber of Deputies for the Central and North American, and the military chaplain Don Vitaliano Papais.

The celebrations ended in the Alpini way with the cin-cin to Italy and the Alpini, and singing "Sul Cappello" accompanied by Alpino Bruno Zuccato and his accordion.

The following members of the Vaughan group were connected with the video conference: Vittorio De Buglio, Renato Pighin, Egidio De Luca, Lorenzo Saccon, Saverio Gardin, Joe Dussin and Danny Montesano. (video visible on U-tube)

THE ALPINI VAUGHAN CHIOR

Choir Master Bruno Zuccato, with choir members Mario Montagner, Mario Boni, Gino De Zotti, Tony Pigat, Danilo Cal, Vittorio De Buglio, Diego Zanatta, Dante Di Giuseppe, Teodoro Spinosa and Franco Minatel



← 2019 FRANCO BERTAGNOLLI SCHOLARSHIPS awarded to Daniela Bartillari granddaughter of Rino Lazzer here in the photo with the Executive of Gruppo Autonomo Vaughan

TONY (ANTONIO) PIGAT E THE NATIONAL ADUNATA OF

ALPINI CONFERENCE The annual alpini conference that was to take place in Rimini this year was postponed to May 2021, and consequently that of Udine will take place in May 2022. "For the Rimini conference I would have made a great effort and it would have been my last." Said Tony Pigat, "I was attracted to this new location, I wouldn't have done it for Udine where I had already been. At my age, it has become difficult to keep up the pace of the parade with the Canadian sign, which I have been entrusting for years. I started to participate in the National gatherings in 1992 in Milan, unfortunately I will end them with that of the centenary in Milan in 2019. Everything has a beginning and an end, I will miss the ceremonies and celebrations of the gatherings. The meeting is the best for an Alpino. However, I will always keep the good memories of the 26 conferences I attended, including 22 in a row, unfortunately missing those of L'Aquila and Asti for a hip operation." Tony Pigat, born in Chions of Pordenone, in 1938. Served in the Julia in Tolmezzo and then Ugovizza. He was part of the 11th Alpini group and at the time of completion of his service left with the rank of major corporal. He immigrated in the same year 1966 first to Switzerland and then to Canada. He has been a member of the ANA since 1990 and is now a director of the Vaughan Autonomous Group, but has always been involved in initiatives with the Toronto Alpine groups. Proud of his participation in the National gatherings, Tony is serious and punctual at the ceremonies. Perhaps there should be some type of recognition, at our national conferences for Alpine residents, living outside Europe who have attended the most Conferences.



R.I.P. GIUSEPPE BORDIGNON Vice Capogruppo Alpini Autonomo

Vaughan Technology was used to overcome the restrictions caused by the virus. Our group could not peacefully accept that we could not give an honorable farewell, and convey the necessary condolences to the family of one of our dear Alpine members, Giuseppe Bordignon, who recently passed away. It was not possible to meet in person because of COVID-19, so we tried to find an alternative method. Our group leader Danilo Cal, with the help of Alpine Bruno Zuccato, organized a meeting via video conference on Sunday May 3, 2020. More than forty people connected to this video ceremony, including Alpine and group sympathizers and Alpine from various sections both in Italy and in North America. Giuseppe's family members were also connected and were deeply moved. After the ceremony condolences were passed on to the family by not only the Gruppo Autonomo Vaughan members but also by the president of the Section of Alpini of Montreal Bruno Bertoldi, the National Alpini coordinator for the Alpini Sections abroad Marco Barmasse, Valerio Perin of the ANA Pianzano group – Alpini Section of Conegliano and the military chaplain Don Vitaliano Papais. Other condolence messages were received by e-mail from the ANA Section President Bassano del Grappa Giuseppe Rugolo, from Giorgio Menegon, group leader of the Autonomous Group of Sudbury, and from the National President Sebastiano Favero. I add the message of Joseph's eldest son on behalf of the family. "Dear Danilo, Thanks again for the wonderful tribute to our father. I can only imagine how much planning and work it took to make this possible, adapting everything to an online format. We are so happy to have had the opportunity to honour his service as an Alpine, of which he was so proud. We were deeply moved by the presentation, prayers and testimony of many of his Alpine brothers. Thanks also for sharing the e-mail messages, especially from the ANA National President Sebastiano Favero. My heart swells with pride for my father for these messages, which I shared with my mother." Technology, in these times of restrictions, has given us the opportunity to honor our dear alpino brother Giuseppe, taking advantage of video initiatives that, to us Alpine who live abroad, would allow us to establish direct links with Alpini, groups and ANA sections in Italy and worldwide. (Ceremony visible on the U-Tube)



GIUSEPPE BORDIGNON! PRESENTE!



Below: Part of the article "The Mountain Remembers" Sent to the newspaper L'Alpine to remember the Alpines Gone Forward during COVID-19

To the recently missing Alpine grandparents. Helplessly, torn from a cowardly enemy, alone, without any loved ones by their side, on a sad journey without honors. For your immense love you will always be in our hearts, to your memory we dedicate the dearest "Stella Alpina" flower.