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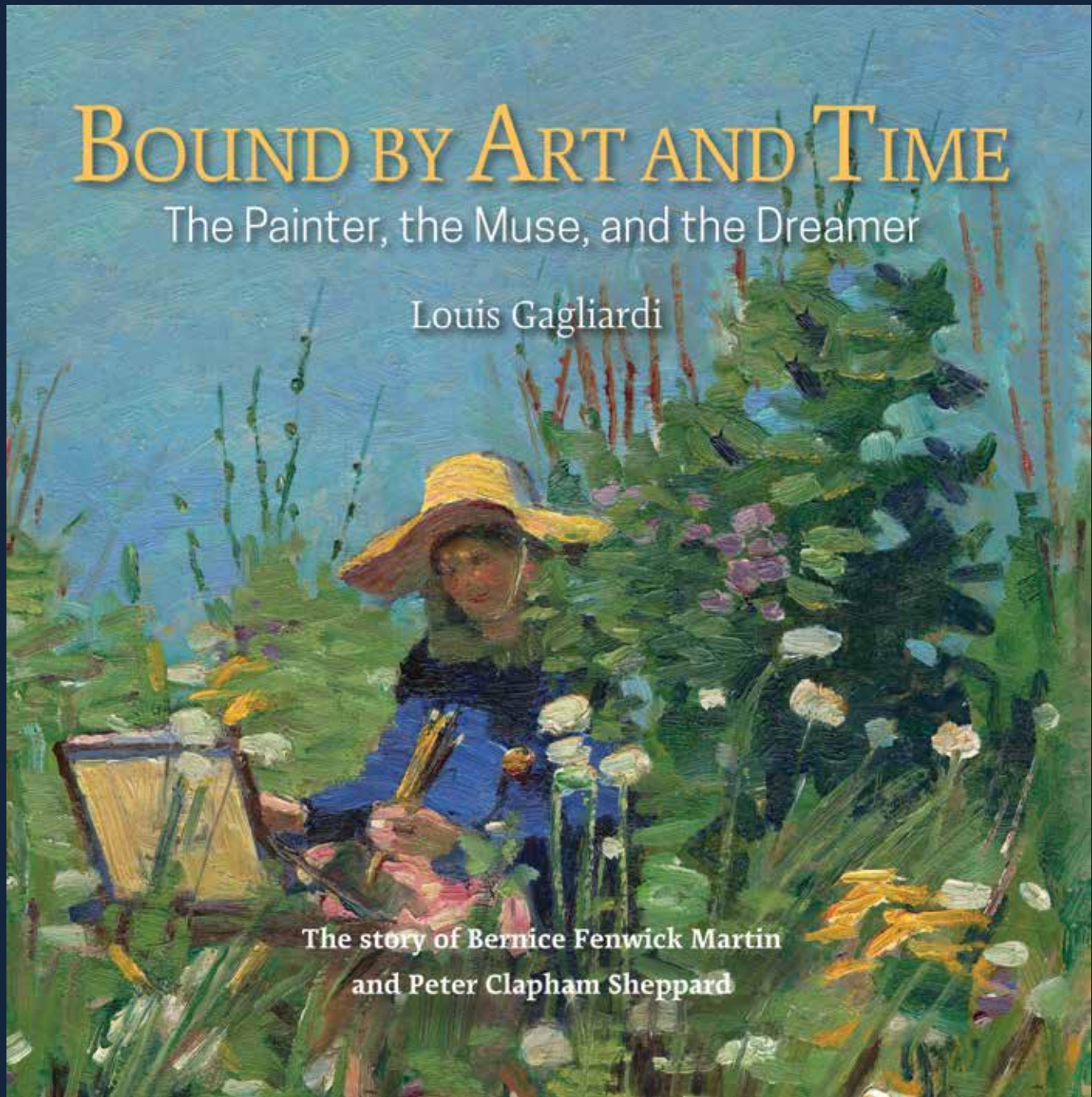


September / October 2026
Volume 7 - Issue 5
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Grounded in Tradition, Rising in Leadership
the Angela Saggese Story

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Letter from the Editor



As we welcome a new season, the changing colours of the leaves remind us that fall is a time of renewal and new possibilities. The cooler days and familiar traditions invite us to reflect on what has passed and look ahead with optimism.

As students of all ages return to their studies this September, they will be adjusting to new requirements that place greater emphasis on time spent in the classroom. We wish every student - whether beginning a new school year, returning to

university or continuing their education - much success, confidence and determination. May the year ahead bring meaningful learning, personal growth and rewarding opportunities.

This edition's cover story was a personal choice. Through attending community events, I had the opportunity to observe our featured individual and came to recognize her genuine commitment, willingness to become involved and dedication to the work she undertakes. True leadership is demonstrated through action, consistency, accountability and being present when people need you - qualities that are especially important in those who choose to serve their community.

As we approach the municipal elections this October, I warmly welcome those stepping forward as candidates for the first time. Entering public service takes courage, conviction and a sincere willingness to accept responsibility. I commend those who have chosen to bring forward fresh ideas and offer their time and energy in service to the community. I also recognize those returning as candidates.

As our communities evolve, residents want to know that their concerns are being heard and addressed. Positive change begins with representatives who are prepared to listen, become involved and work diligently on behalf of the people they serve. Our cover feature has chosen to put her name forward as a candidate for Councillor, and I wish her every success. I also extend my sincere best wishes to all candidates committed to serving their communities.

As residents, we also have an important role. I encourage our readers to ensure their names are on the voters list, become informed, ask questions and go out to vote. Strong communities are built when residents participate and when their representatives are prepared to listen, lead and act. As we look toward October, let us consider both the change we hope to see and the community we want to build for the future.

As the season continues, we look forward to the beauty of the harvest and the traditions of Thanksgiving - a time to gather, enjoy the foods of the season and appreciate the people and blessings that enrich our lives. May this new season bring renewed hope, gratitude and a stronger sense of community. Warm regards,


Josie Alonzi



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Whose Anxiety Is This Anyway? Rethinking the Back-to-School Transition

by Dr. Mary Marano | *Psychotherapist
Relationship & Wellness Strategist*

Every August, the conversation begins. “Back-to-school anxiety.” “First-day anxiety.” “Separation anxiety.” “University anxiety.” And while anxiety is very real, and for some children and young adults can be significant enough to require professional support—I wonder if we have become a little too quick to use the word anxiety to describe every uncomfortable feeling that comes with change. Sometimes nervous is just nervous. Sometimes uncertainty is simply part of doing something new. Sometimes missing home means you love where you came from. And sometimes a transition feels uncomfortable because growth is uncomfortable. We need to remember something important—the brain listens to the story we repeatedly tell it. If we continually tell a child, “You must be so anxious about school,” they may begin looking for evidence that something is wrong. **Instead, imagine saying:** “You might feel a little nervous. That makes sense. You’ve never done this before—and I know you can handle it.” That is a very different message. One creates alarm. The other creates confidence.

Before We Ask About Their Anxiety, Ask: Whose Anxiety Is This? Children learn emotional regulation long before they understand the words emotional regulation. They watch us. They feel us. They notice our faces, our tone, our hesitation and our nervous energy. A parent may say, “I’m so excited for you!” while their body is communicating, “I’m terrified to let you go.” Children are incredibly sensitive to the emotional environment around them. This doesn’t mean parents are responsible for every emotion their child experiences. But it does mean we need to become aware of what we may unintentionally be transferring. If you struggled at school, were bullied, hated Grade 9, felt lonely at university or had difficulty leaving home, it is understandable that those memories may surface when your child reaches the same milestone. But your experience does not have to become their experience. Your job is not to eliminate every uncomfortable emotion for your child. Your job is to help them believe they can move through it.

For Our Younger Children: Make School Feel Normal For a child beginning kindergarten, changing schools or returning after summer, predictability helps. Talk about school simply and positively. Instead of repeatedly asking, “Are you nervous?” **Try:** “What are you looking forward to?” “I wonder who you’ll meet this year.” “You’ll learn where everything is. Nobody knows everything on the first day.” Most importantly, communicate confidence when you say goodbye. Long, emotional departures can unintentionally tell a child, “Maybe Mom or Dad doesn’t think I’m safe without them.” **Try:** “I love you. You’re safe. Your teacher is here to help you. I’ll see you after school.” Then go. Children often borrow our confidence before they develop their own.

High School: Let Them Be New Starting high school can feel enormous. New building. New teachers. New expectations. New social groups. And yet thousands of teenagers navigate this developmental

milestone every year. That is worth reminding them. Instead of catastrophizing every possibility, normalize the adjustment period. “You’re not supposed to know where everything is yet.” “It may take a few weeks to find your people.” “You don’t have to have your whole high-school life figured out in September.” Teenagers don’t always need us to solve their discomfort. Sometimes they simply need someone beside them who isn’t frightened by it. If they come home after a difficult day, resist immediately calling the school, fixing the friendship or questioning every detail. **Try asking:** “Do you want me to listen, help you problem-solve, or give you some space?” That question builds autonomy while reminding them they are not alone. Then comes one of the biggest transitions of all: university, college or leaving home. And this is where I often ask parents the question directly:

Whose anxiety is this anyway?

Your child may be nervous about roommates, classes, finding friends, managing money or living independently. Meanwhile, you may be wondering: Will they eat properly? Will they make good decisions? Will they call me? Will they need me anymore? The separation is real for both of you. But parents have a responsibility to manage their own grief, fear and uncertainty so their children do not feel responsible for carrying it. Imagine a student preparing to leave home while also feeling they need to take care of Mom because she is devastated. That is too much emotional responsibility to place on a young adult who is trying to launch.

Instead of: “I don’t know what I’m going to do without you.” **Try:** “I’m going to miss you like crazy, and I am so excited to watch you build your life.” Both statements contain love. Only one gives permission to grow. Healthy transitions are not about pretending everything is easy. They are about teaching our children that they can experience difficult emotions without becoming afraid of those emotions. And perhaps one of the most powerful messages: “**There is nothing wrong with you because this feels uncomfortable.**” School transitions are developmental milestones. Kindergarten. High school. University. Leaving home. They are supposed to stretch us. So as September approaches, perhaps the goal shouldn’t be to remove every ounce of nervousness from our children. Maybe the goal is to stop teaching them that nervousness means something is wrong. Let them see a calm nervous system. Let them borrow your confidence. Let them struggle a little. Let them figure some things out. And when you find yourself worrying about whether they are ready, ask yourself one important question:

Whose anxiety is this anyway?

Because sometimes the greatest gift we can give our children is not making the road easier. It is letting them know, with absolute confidence, “I believe you can walk it.”



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This state-of-the-art surgical tower will transform patient care in Canada

The 15-storey surgical tower at UHN’s Toronto Western Hospital will include 11 storeys for patient care and support.

It’s still three years from completion, but Dr. Thomas Forbes already has a clear idea of what it will be like when UHN’s state-of-the-art surgical tower opens in 2028.

An word? Game-changer.

“It will be an exciting, futuristic vision of what patient care can be – and more importantly, should be – for Ontarians,” says Dr. Forbes, surgeon-in-chief of UHN’s Sprott Department of Surgery. “It will be a patient- and family-centric holistic environment that also provides the most advanced care [in the country].”

Practically speaking, the 15-storey surgical tower will be an important addition to Toronto Western Hospital, an institution with a rich history that means so much to the surrounding community and a crown jewel in the Canadian health-care system.

The tower will have 20 state-of-the-art operating rooms and 82 private patient rooms. The facility is being designed with the idea of “bringing the outside in,” meaning modern spaces with lots of natural light to enhance the wellbeing of patients and staff alike. Operating rooms will be equipped with technology at the forefront of innovation, such as surgical robots, real-time imaging and artificial intelligence tools, helping surgeons and leading to better patient outcomes.

“At the end of the day, a surgeon gets the most job satisfaction at an individual patient level when they feel they have the tools to provide the best therapies they can,” says Dr. Forbes. “This tower is going to provide those tools.”

An enhanced ‘patient-centric’ experience

As Canada’s largest surgical program, the world-class team of surgeons at UHN’s Sprott Department of Surgery are called upon to tackle some of the most complex medical cases in the country, including neurosurgery and orthopedic surgery.

In an era of increased pressure on the health-care system and mounting demand for more surgeries and more beds, the surgical tower will increase UHN’s surgical capacity by 20 to 50 per cent in the next decade.

It will also feature a new intensive care unit (ICU) with 16 new critical care beds and advanced monitoring that can provide earlier identification of situations where someone might need more care.

“It’s going to be transformative, and very different from what patients are used to seeing,” says Dr. Forbes. “It will not necessarily look like a traditional hospital, and I think it will really accelerate their recovery.”

He notes that the care journey in the tower was designed in partnership

with patients, resulting in a “patient-centric” experience that puts their needs, and the needs of their families, at the forefront. Each room will have a private bathroom and large windows that maximize natural light. In-room tablets, large-format monitors and smart features will give patients more control during their recovery, from selecting meals to contacting their family members. As well, the monitors will display the name and credentials of the doctor who just visited them.

Families will be able to spend time in a 4,000-square-foot outdoor terrace and a comfortable, wood-panelled waiting lounge with kitchen space. Real-time tracking technology will keep caregivers and family members updated while their loved one is in surgery.

“They won’t have to wait for someone to come and tell them what happened hours later,” Dr. Forbes adds. “They will have that information at their fingertips.”

Improving care at home and abroad

In addition to driving better outcomes – shorter surgeries, faster recovery times, quicker healing – and better patient experience, the new surgical tower will help UHN continue its legacy of research and education, says Dr. Allan Okrainec, one of UHN’s tower leads and director, Temerty Advanced Surgical Education and Simulation Centre. A leading-edge surgical training and simulation centre in the Michener Institute of Education at UHN will be virtually connected and integrated with the tower to train the next generation of surgical leaders.

“Medical professionals here for specialized training will be able to observe and learn from our highly specialized surgeons in the operating room,” he says. “That can include surgeons coming to the simulation centre to practice complex surgeries on a simulator, as well as surgeons in other cities or countries who are participating in courses and can observe virtually.”

The new surgical tower and simulation centre will improve patient care at home and abroad, he says.

“It’s a great way to push the boundaries beyond our walls and give individuals access to new procedures and technology that we’re very fortunate to have access to,” says Dr. Okrainec. He adds that the tower will also help UHN continue to recruit and retain the very best doctors and surgeons in the world.

“There are amazing spaces designed for staff, to rest between cases or to share a coffee,” he says. “It’s the little things that help to create personal connections.”

‘A chance to be a part of something cutting-edge’

The surgical tower is UHN’s largest capital project ever, costing more than \$1-billion to build. While they have already secured a portion of the funding from the province of Ontario, UHN needs to fundraise \$300-million in order to bring this ambitious vision to fruition.

Laura Dottori-Attanasio has already answered the call to support the project. An accomplished business leader, Ms. Dottori-Attanasio is CEO of Element Fleet Management and was named The Globe and Mail’s 2024 Newcomer CEO of the Year. She is also co-chair of UHN Foundation’s surgical tower campaign cabinet, which is composed of business leaders and philanthropists who are bringing the city’s business and philanthropic communities together to get behind this transformative campaign. These board members are a crucial part of UHN’s fundraising efforts; their guidance, expertise and passion for advancing health care will be instrumental in helping UHN Foundation reach its goals over the next four years.

As someone who has been a patient at UHN in the past and a caregiver for her parents who were treated there, Ms. Dottori-Attanasio understands how profoundly the tower will enhance care in Ontario.

“I love the purpose of the project, which is about improving patient care and patient outcomes. I know the people that work [at UHN] truly care, having seen it first-hand.”

As co-chair of the tower campaign, Ms. Dottori-Attanasio has had the opportunity to see some of the plans and says she’s been “blown away” by the technological advancements, such as robotic arms that surgeons will use to operate remotely for maximum precision and accuracy. “They are not just thinking about it like, ‘Let’s get all this cool equipment,’” she says. “They have thought through all the spaces and how they can foster innovation and collaboration.”

In a world where we all face competing demands for our resources, Ms. Dottori-Attanasio says her commitment to this campaign has been inspired by UHN’s greater purpose of caring for people. “It’s not just about increasing surgical capacity, it’s about how they are going to look after the whole individual and improve lives.”

That’s why Ms. Dottori-Attanasio is encouraging others who have the means to make their own contribution to this campaign.

“I’ve seen first-hand how UHN saves lives. Health care involves all of us. As business leaders, we need to answer the call to come together for this campaign to ensure our children and children’s children have even better care,” she says. “Now is the time to invest.”

Fifty Years Later, the Legacy Still Inspires

by The Honourable Senator Tony Loffreda

July 2026 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Montréal Olympic Games—one of the most defining moments in the history of my hometown and a milestone for Canada itself. For seventeen unforgettable days in the summer of 1976, Montréal welcomed the world. The Games showcased Canada’s confidence, ambition, and capacity to host an event of global significance. They also inspired generations of athletes, volunteers, and community leaders.

I was a teenager when Montréal became the centre of the sporting world. Like so many Canadians, I still remember the excitement that swept across the country. Fifty years later, Nadia Comăneci’s historic perfect 10 remains etched in our collective memory, but the true legacy of those Games extends far beyond medals and record books.

The 1976 Olympics elevated Canada’s international profile, accelerated urban development, strengthened our expertise in hosting world-class events, and demonstrated the unifying power of sport. Montréal remains one of the few cities in the world to have hosted both a World’s Fair (Expo 67) and the Summer Olympic Games—milestones that continue to shape our economy, culture and civic pride.

Remembering that legacy also reminds me of an opportunity that Montréal missed.

Before my appointment to the Senate, I had the privilege of chairing Montréal’s FIFA World Cup organizing committee. I stepped down upon my appointment to the Senate, but that experience reinforced my belief that major sporting events are about far more than competition. They attract investment, create jobs, support local businesses, promote tourism, build infrastructure, and inspire young people to dream bigger.

Imagine nearly 60,000 fans filling the Olympic Stadium as Canada faced Morocco in a Round of 16 match. Imagine children witnessing their first World Cup game in person and dreaming that one day they, too, could represent Canada. Those moments inspire future athletes, coaches, volunteers, and leaders. Their value cannot be measured on a balance sheet. Instead, that match was played in Houston.

Our World Cup planning demonstrated that strategic investments could have modernized the Olympic Stadium while leveraging international attention and private-sector participation. The lesson is simple: delaying necessary investments rarely saves money. More often, it means paying more later while missing opportunities today.

Fortunately, governments have now recognized the importance of restoring the Olympic Stadium as a premier sports and entertainment destination. Once complete, the Big O will again attract major sporting events, concerts and international gatherings that generate economic activity while strengthening Montréal’s global reputation.

The economic potential is not theoretical. Consider the impact of Taylor Swift’s six concerts in Toronto in 2024, which generated an estimated \$282 million in economic activity. Imagine the

possibilities if Montréal’s renewed Olympic Stadium becomes a destination for global artists and events. Wouldn’t it be fitting if Céline Dion inaugurated the venue in 2028 with a North American residency?

The benefits extend far beyond ticket sales. Hotels fill, restaurants thrive, retailers prosper, transportation networks benefit, and thousands of workers share in the economic ripple effects.

Too often, governments view investments in sport and entertainment infrastructure as expenses rather than long-term economic and social assets, too often influenced by election cycles.

Sport also leaves another enduring legacy: volunteers. Major events bring thousands of people together in service of something larger than themselves. They develop leadership skills, strengthen community ties and foster civic pride. Long after the athletes depart, those bonds remain.

Sport contributes billions of dollars annually to Canada’s economy while supporting jobs across tourism, hospitality, construction, broadcasting and retail. Earlier this year, the Future of Sport in Canada Commission reported that sport contributed \$7.6 billion to Canada’s GDP in 2023 while highlighting how major sporting events stimulate tourism, create jobs, drive infrastructure development, and leave lasting community benefits. Those findings reinforce an important truth: investments in sport are investments in people.

The federal government’s recent commitment of \$755 million over five years to attract world-class sporting events, support high-performance athletes and strengthen national sport organizations—combined with Québec’s investment in modernizing the Olympic Stadium—reflects a growing recognition that sport should be part of our long-term economic strategy.

At a time when Canada faces sluggish productivity growth, rising health care costs and increasing social isolation, investments in sport are not simply recreational spending—they are investments in a healthier, more productive, and more connected nation. Yet perhaps the greatest return on these investments can never be fully quantified.

Some investments are measured on financial statements. You cannot measure the pride of seeing your country host the world. You cannot calculate the confidence a young athlete gains after watching Olympic champions compete in person or assign a dollar value to healthier communities, stronger volunteerism, greater social inclusion, and the sense of belonging that comes from cheering alongside thousands of fellow Canadians. These are the legacies that endure long after the closing ceremonies and medals are awarded.

Fifty years after Montréal 1976, we know that the greatest returns often cannot be counted—only experienced. And that is precisely what makes them priceless.



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WHO IS MARIO FERRI?



FAMILY & COMMUNITY

Mario Ferri and Vickie, his wife of 54 years, are 43 year residents of Vaughan. Ferri is a proud father of three children and the loving grandfather of 6 grandchildren all of whom give his life purpose.



EDUCATION

Ferri received a Master's Degree and a Bachelor Degree from York University as well as a college diploma from Centennial College.



PUBLIC SERVICE

Ferri served on City Council for 24 years as a Local Councillor (6 years) a Regional Councillor (18 years) a Deputy Mayor (10 years), and was a school board trustee for 4.



CAREER & SERVICE

Ferri began his career assisting under privileged children, youth, seniors and families as the Executive Director of 3 charitable organizations for 27 years.

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MPP for King—Vaughan



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Dear Neighbours,

Ward 4 is more than a place to live, it's home. My wife and I raised our family here, and I am proud to represent the community that has given us so much.

Together, we've worked to make our neighbourhoods safer, support local families and seniors, improve parks, and ensure residents have a strong voice at City Hall.

I've always believed that the best results come when residents, community groups, and local leaders work together. Listening, collaborating, and advocating for our shared priorities will continue to guide my work every day.

There is still more to do, and I am committed to building on what we've accomplished together.

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Chris Ainsworth

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Grounded in Tradition, Rising in Leadership the Angela Saggese Story

By Antonio Rosa

In a home shaped by resilience, tradition, and unwavering values, Angela Saggese's story began with a profound inner strength and an enduring sense of purpose. Raised in Toronto by a humble Italian immigrant family, Angela was taught from an early age the values of hard work, faith, compassion, and service to others. Adopted as a young child by loving parents, she grew up in a household where family, education, respect, and commitment to others were cherished above all else. These guiding principles became the foundation of her character, shaping not only the person she would become, but also inspiring a lifelong journey of leadership, service, and dedication to her community. The lessons Angela learned at home would remain constant, providing the moral compass that guided every stage of her personal and professional life for decades to come.

At the age of eight, Angela learned about her adoption and by the age of fifteen, she fully embraced her story. Rather than defining her, this experience strengthened her resilience, deepened her empathy, and clearly shaped the compassionate woman and community leader she has become today. Throughout her childhood, Angela was encouraged to pursue excellence in everything she did. She embraced those expectations with determination, by developing a genuine love of learning that ultimately led her to a career in education.

As an Educator, Angela became known not only for her knowledge and professionalism but also for her ability to inspire, encourage, and support every child who entered her classroom. Guided by the values on which she was raised, she viewed teaching as far more than a profession; it was a calling that she embraced. Her unwavering commitment to serving others earned her the admiration and respect of both students and their families, many of whom continue to speak of the everlasting impact she had on their lives. Students remembered Mrs. Saggese not simply for what she

taught, but for how she made them feel - supported, encouraged, and capable of achieving far more than they imagined.

LEAVING A MARK BEHIND

“Angela Saggese was my Grade 8 teacher and she truly embodied everything that makes an exceptional educator—kind, compassionate, patient, dedicated, inspiring, supportive, and genuinely invested in the success of every student. She became my mentor, and more than 25 years later we remain in touch. Her unwavering belief in me and the impact she had on my life are the very reasons I chose to become an educator myself, hoping to make the same difference in the lives of my own students.”

- Former Student Melissa Miccoli

“Angela Saggese was my Grade 8 teacher at Blessed Trinity Catholic Elementary School in Vaughan during the 1999–2000 school year. She was much more than a teacher. She went beyond classroom expectations, ensuring every student learned not only academic lessons but also Catholic values, school spirit, and life skills. She inspired me to become a Catholic educator and mentor. Her honesty, compassion, and unwavering commitment to her students have remained with me throughout my own career. One lesson she often shared continues to guide me today: ‘If you don’t challenge yourself, you will never provide yourself opportunities.’”

- Former Student Connie Gianfrancesco

Angela's life experiences shaped the compassionate educator she became. She believed every student deserved to feel valued, respected, and accepted. Angela worked tirelessly to create classrooms where every learner felt safe, welcomed, and encouraged to reach their full potential. As a senior Philosophy teacher, Angela challenged students to think deeply about their purpose, their faith, and their responsibility to serve others. She encouraged them to recognize their unique gifts and inspired countless young people to become thoughtful, compassionate, and engaged members of their communities.

BALANCING FAMILY AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Angela is married to her devoted husband, Pasquale. Together, they are the proud parents of three children - Gianluca, Domenico, and Cristina, who continue to bring immeasurable joy, purpose, and meaning to their lives. Gianluca is married to Raquel, and they are the proud parents of Angela and Pasquale's cherished granddaughter, Lucia Angelina. Their home is also shared with Leo, their beloved Black Labrador, and Mica, the family cat, whose loyal companionship has added warmth, comfort, and countless happy moments to their lives.



My family, together celebrating every moment in life.

Angela and Pasquale have successfully balanced the demands of career and family while remaining grounded in the values that define them. Angela describes Pasquale as a man deeply committed to his community and is admired by people of all ages. Well known in the entertainment industry, for both his talent and his genuine connection with others. Pasquale shares Angela's belief that family should always come first. Looking back, Angela is grateful for the strong foundation her parents provided. Their guidance, faith, and unwavering support gave her the strength to navigate life's many challenges. Those same values continue to define the loving home she has built, where family remains the greatest source of strength, purpose, and happiness.

Angela became a mother at a young age but never allowed life's challenges to deter her from achieving her dreams. While raising a young family, she completed a double major in Italian and French at York University before earning her teaching qualifications in Ontario. Her two-year-old son proudly attended her convocation ceremony. While many graduates posed for photographs, Angela was chasing her son through the ballroom in her graduation gown—a moment that perfectly symbolized her ability to balance family and education with determination, grace, and humour. Throughout her career, Angela became not only a devoted mother to her own children, but also a trusted mentor and role model to hundreds of students whose lives she touched.

Later in her career, Angela completed her Specialist qualifications in Religious Studies, preparing her to become the Head and Curriculum Leader of the Religion Department at St. Jean de Brébeuf Catholic Secondary School in Vaughan. Inspired by the words of St. Augustine - “God loves each of us as though there were only one of us”, Angela commissioned an abstract stained-glass mural depicting Christ with outstretched arms for the school. The artwork continues to welcome students each day, serving as a lasting reminder that every individual is valued, loved, and part of a caring faith community. Created through the collective efforts of students, staff, and community members, the mural remains one of her most enduring legacies.

Today, Angela is a retired educator who continues to dedicate herself to serving her community with the same passion and commitment that defined her teaching career. During nearly four decades in education, she served within the York Catholic District School Board in numerous leadership roles, including membership on a Ministry of Education writing team and serving as Chair of Religion Departments. Having taught in both elementary and secondary schools, Angela brings a broad, balanced perspective and a deep understanding of the educational system.

ANSWERING THE CALL OF SERVICE

After retiring from the teaching profession, Angela chose to run for School Board Trustee in 2022 due to her unwavering commitment to students, families, and Catholic Education. She believed that families deserved a Trustee with firsthand experience inside the education system and someone who understood both the classroom and the responsibilities of governance. Her goal was simple: to ensure every decision placed her students, their families, and faith at the forefront. A strong advocate for inclusion, Angela believes every individual deserves dignity, respect, and acceptance regardless of race, culture, religion, or gender. She has consistently worked to ensure the Catholic doctrine is faithfully delivered in schools while promoting safe, welcoming, and supportive learning environments for every student.

One of Angela Saggese's most significant accomplishments came in July 2025, when the York Catholic District School Board recognized her leadership in securing substantial funding from the Italian Government to sustain and expand the International



Languages and Cultural Programs. Working in close partnership with Maria Iafrate, Fausto Mammoliti, Domenico Mazzotta, and the late Luca Buiani, Angela helped lead a collaborative effort that required months of dedicated advocacy, comprehensive reporting across 21 schools, and strategic coordination with local, provincial, national, and international partners. Through their shared vision, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to cultural education, the team secured a vital investment that will continue to enrich students' educational experiences, strengthen connections to language, heritage, and cultural identity for many years to come.

MAKING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Angela's commitment to serving others extended well beyond the classroom. In 2005, while teaching at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School, she became involved with Best Buddies Canada, a national registered charity that promotes inclusion by creating lasting one-to-one friendships between individuals living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Later, at St. Jean de Brébeuf Catholic High School, she helped establish one of the largest Best Buddies chapters in the Greater Toronto Area. She also championed the creation of the City of Vaughan's Best Buddies chapter, helping to foster friendships and meaningful connections for individuals with special needs and their families.

THE NEXT CHAPTER

Angela believes every person can write and navigate their own story. Reflecting on nearly 38 years of service as a teacher, department head, curriculum leader, and School Board Trustee, she is deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve and positively impact thousands of students, families, and colleagues. Each of her experiences has strengthened her leadership abilities, broadened her perspective, and reinforced her commitment to serving the community.

Angela is now ready to begin the next chapter of her lifelong commitment to public service. After a career dedicated to education, community leadership, and bringing people together, she officially filed her candidacy for Ward 1 City Councillor in the upcoming municipal election. Seeking to represent the communities of Kleinburg and Maple on Vaughan City Council, Angela is committed to being a strong, accessible, and dedicated voice for residents and business owners. Throughout her life, she has demonstrated a genuine passion for serving others, building meaningful relationships, and strengthening the communities she calls home.

Angela will bring to Vaughan City Council the same values that have guided her throughout her life - faith, family, integrity, service, and an unwavering commitment to making a positive difference. With a proven record of leadership, compassion, and community involvement, she is ready to serve the residents of Ward 1 with dedication, vision, and a deep sense of responsibility. She looks forward to shaping the next chapter in her call to service.

Angela's story is not simply one of personal achievement, it is a story of service. It is about believing in the potential of every child, embracing the strength of every family, celebrating the richness of every culture, and building communities where everyone feels respected, included, and valued. As Angela begins the next chapter of public service, she carries with her a lifetime of experience and proven leadership. She understands that strong and vibrant communities are built through collaboration, trust, and a shared commitment to improving quality of life for future generations.

Angela Saggese continues to lead with purpose, guided by the belief that true leadership is not measured by titles or accomplishments, but by the lives we touch, the opportunities we create, the relationships we build, and the lasting difference we make in our communities while inspiring hope for future generations. As she looks to the future, Angela is ready to continue her lifelong journey of service - from home to the classroom, to the boardroom, and now to Vaughan City Council. Angela is committed to bringing the same unwavering dedication to making a meaningful difference in the lives of the community she is proud to call home.



Inspiring speech at -woman's day event



Promoting Heritage Calabria ILC Association



Presenting awards for academic excellence



Advocating for families to improve their childrens' educational experiences.



Was asked to speak at the Interfaith Symposium.



Co-founder of Italialinguacultura. Helping to support funding for the extended day international language and culture program.



Lecturer at weekly mass within community parishes



Support from Kleinburg residents



Angela was introduced at a government press conference to inform the public about her success in securing funding from the Minister of Education to help fund the international extended day program.



Navigating AGCO: What Every Restaurant Owner Needs to Know

By *VENTI Legal Services*

A restaurant can pass every health inspection, run a clean kitchen, and still lose its liquor licence over a paperwork gap it never knew existed. That is the reality of operating under the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO). A licence is not a formality. It is a core operating asset, and AGCO treats it that way. When a Notice of Proposal arrives threatening suspension or revocation, the response window is fifteen days, not fifteen weeks. Operators who wait to understand the process until they are already in it are the ones who lose licences that could have been saved.

VENTI Legal Services is a regulatory defence and licensing practice built around exactly this problem. We have guide restaurant and hospitality clients through licence applications, renewals, inspections, and contested hearings, and kept them compliant and operating while doing it. Below are the AGCO issues we see most often, and what we do about each one.

LICENCE APPLICATIONS AND RENEWALS

New restaurant licences and lounge licences require accurate corporate structure disclosure, municipal information forms, and floor plans that match actual use. An incorrect legal name, an outdated unit number, or an unclear occupancy plan routinely causes processing delays of months. Renewals carry the same risk if ownership, management, or premises have changed since the last filing and were never reported. We review every filing against the current state of the business before it goes to AGCO, so it does not come back.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL (NOPS)

When AGCO believes a licensee has breached the Liquor Licence and Control Act, the Registrar can issue a Notice of Proposal to refuse, suspend, or revoke a licence. Common triggers include overservice complaints, sales to minors, unpaid fines, undisclosed changes in ownership, or a pattern of Provincial Offences charges tied to the premises. A NOP carries a right to a hearing before the Licence Appeal Tribunal (LAT), but that right must be exercised within fifteen days of service. Miss it, and the Registrar carries out the proposal as issued. There is no second window.

LAT APPEALS

The Licence Appeal Tribunal is where most contested AGCO matters are resolved. A successful appeal requires more than disputing the facts. It requires a compliance plan, evidence of remediation, and direct negotiation with AGCO's legal services division before the hearing date. Operators who attempt this without representation frequently accept harsher conditions than a negotiated resolution would have required, simply because they did not know a better outcome was on the table.

OWNERSHIP AND CORPORATE CHANGES

Restaurants change hands, add investors, or restructure more often than their licensing paperwork reflects. AGCO requires disclosure of material changes in ownership or control. Undisclosed changes are one of the most common and most avoidable sources of enforcement action, particularly when a licence is later flagged during a renewal or an unrelated inspection years after the change occurred.

MUNICIPAL AND ZONING CONFLICTS

A liquor licence does not override municipal by law requirements around noise, patio use, or hours of operation. Conflicts between a municipality and AGCO conditions can stall an application indefinitely if not addressed early and directly with both bodies at once.

HOW VENTI LEGAL SERVICES HELPS

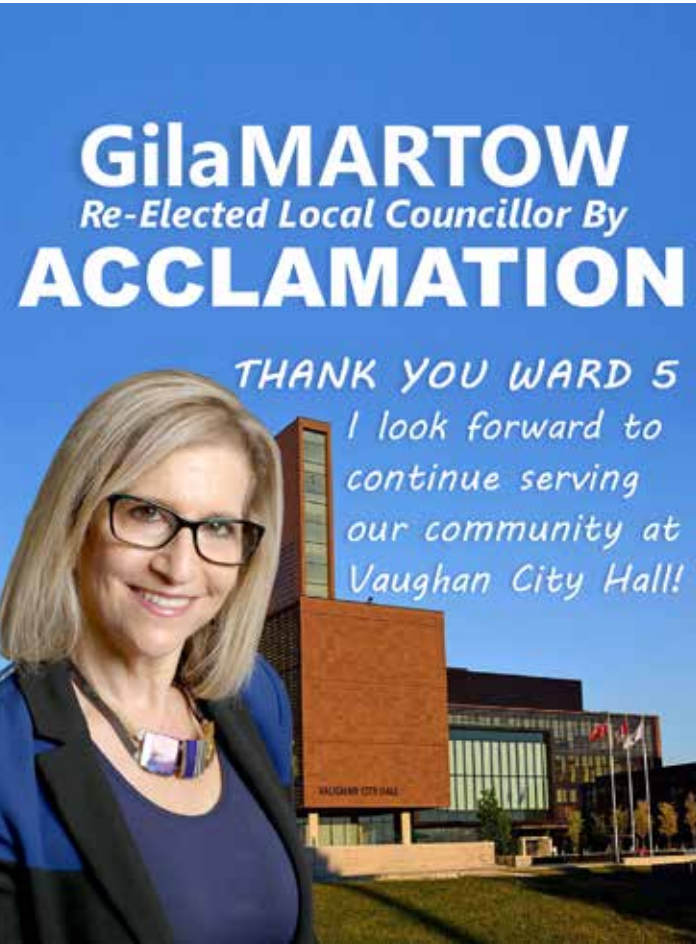
We act for restaurant and hospitality operators at every stage of the AGCO relationship: new applications, renewals, Notices of Proposal, LAT appeals, and ongoing compliance review. Our approach is preventative first, because the fastest way to win a licensing fight is to never have one. When enforcement action does arrive, we move immediately. We calculate the deadline the day the notice is received, build the compliance record, and negotiate directly with AGCO's legal services division before a hearing is ever needed.

We have done this for operators across Ontario, and every one of them stayed licensed and stayed open. If your restaurant has received a Notice of Proposal, is facing a delayed renewal, or needs a compliance review before problems start, contact VENTI Legal Services today. Fifteen days moves faster than most owners expect.



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A New Era in Buffalo: The of something new?

by Anthony Macchia

There is a different feeling surrounding the NFL as the 2026 season approaches. Every August brings the usual optimism, predictions and debates, but this year seems to carry an added sense of anticipation. Across the league, championship contenders have reshaped their rosters, star players have changed teams and several franchises believe they have the pieces necessary to make a run at the Lombardi Trophy. In Buffalo, however, the excitement may be greater than anywhere else.

The Buffalo Bills are entering a season filled with expectations, and for good reason. The franchise is beginning a new chapter with the opening of its new stadium, giving Bills Mafia a state-of-the-art home to call its own. A new stadium alone would be enough to create excitement, but Buffalo has also made significant changes to a roster that already features one of the NFL's most dynamic quarterbacks in Josh Allen.

Perhaps the biggest addition is wide receiver D.J. Moore, who was acquired from the Chicago Bears during the offseason. Moore brings experience, speed and the ability to make explosive plays down the field. He also reunites with Bills head coach Joe Brady, who previously worked with Moore in Carolina. The connection between Moore and Brady, combined with the opportunity to catch passes from Allen, gives Buffalo another dangerous weapon on an offense that already has plenty of firepower.

For Bills fans, the hope is that these additions can finally help the team take the next step. Buffalo has been one of the AFC's most consistent teams in recent years, but the ultimate goal remains the same: winning a Super Bowl. With Allen at quarterback, a talented supporting cast and a brand-new stadium roaring with Bills fans, expectations will be enormous.

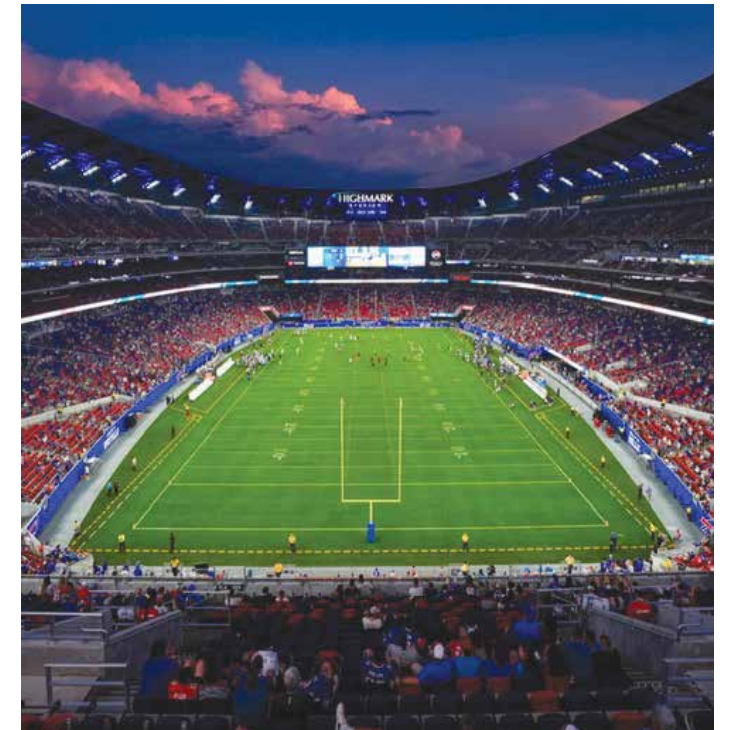
But Buffalo will have plenty of competition.

The Los Angeles Rams have emerged as one of the most intriguing teams heading into the new season. Los Angeles has already added significant talent to a roster that was considered one of the league's best last season, including superstar defensive end Myles Garrett. The Rams have also added talent in the secondary, making an already impressive defense even more dangerous.

Then there is the Aaron Donald storyline.

Donald, one of the greatest defensive players in NFL history, retired following the 2023 season. This offseason, however, the three-time Defensive Player of the Year has been working out with the Rams and considering a potential comeback. As of mid-August, Donald had not made a final decision, but head coach Sean McVay has indicated that the possibility remains very real. The thought of Donald returning to a defense that already features Myles Garrett is enough to make opposing offenses nervous.

Kansas City is another team that cannot be overlooked. The Chiefs have dominated the AFC for much of the Patrick Mahomes era, and despite the challenges they face entering 2026, they remain a perennial championship contender. The addition of running back Kenneth Walker gives Mahomes and the Chiefs offense another explosive weapon and adds another dimension to their attack.



Meanwhile, the New England Patriots have made one of the biggest moves of the offseason by acquiring wide receiver A.J. Brown from the Philadelphia Eagles. Brown gives young quarterback Drake Maye a legitimate No. 1 target and immediately raises the ceiling of a Patriots offense that is looking to establish itself among the AFC's elite. Brown is coming off a 2025 season in which he recorded 78 receptions for 1,003 yards and seven touchdowns, giving New England a proven playmaker capable of changing games.

That is what makes the upcoming NFL season so fascinating. The league is filled with teams that believe they have improved, but only a handful will still be standing when the playoffs arrive.

For Buffalo, the stakes may be higher than ever. The opening of a new stadium represents more than just a new building; it symbolizes a new chapter for a franchise and a fan base that has waited patiently for its moment. With Josh Allen leading the way and D.J. Moore joining an increasingly talented group of offensive weapons, the Bills have reason to believe this could finally be their year.

Of course, football rarely follows the script. Injuries, unexpected breakout players and one-score games can completely change the course of a season. That uncertainty is part of what makes the NFL so compelling.

One thing is certain: when the 2026 season kicks off, there will be no shortage of storylines. Buffalo will have a new home and renewed championship aspirations. Los Angeles could have one of the most frightening defenses in football if Aaron Donald returns. Kansas City will once again chase another deep playoff run, while New England hopes A.J. Brown can help turn a promising young team into a legitimate contender.

The offseason has created the excitement. Now, the games will determine who truly has what it takes to reach the top.

For Bills Mafia, the wait is almost over. A new stadium, a revamped roster and a quarterback who has already established himself as one of the league's best have Buffalo dreaming bigger than ever.

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