

CHRP PROJECT LIST

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Community Historical Recognition Program (CHRP)

“On June 22, 2006, the Government of Canada announced the Community Historical Recognition Program (CHRP) and the National Historical Recognition Program to commemorate and educate Canadians about the historical experiences and contributions of ethno-cultural communities affected by wartime measures and immigration restrictions that were applied in Canada.

CHRP has funded community-based commemorative and educational projects that provide recognition of the experiences of ethno-cultural communities affected by historical wartime measures and/or immigration restrictions applied in Canada, and that promote these communities’ contributions to building Canada.

Italian-Canadian Projects

In May 2008, the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund was established with funding from the CHRP to support projects which commemorate and recognize the experiences of ethno-cultural communities affected by First World War internment.

The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko-a multilateral committee consisting of affected communities responsible for decisions on projects to be funded manages the fund.

Recipient: Association of Italian Canadian Writers. Stouffville, ON

Title of Project: A Multi-phased, Multi-disciplinary Examination of The Second World War Internment of Italian Canadians

Summary:

The AICW will produce two anthologies and two sets of magazine articles of new works on the internment of Italian Canadians during the Second World War. One book and one set of magazine articles will have an academic orientation: a collection of new, scholarly writings that focus on critical analysis of this event from various disciplinary perspectives. The second book and second set of magazine articles will have a creative focus. Works may include short fiction, memoirs, poetry, drama, and visual arts projects including photography, painting, sculpture, and multimedia. The publications will be made available and distributed widely in two formats: traditional print media and electronic media (web site, e-books, Facebook, YouTube).

This project will raise awareness about the complex issues surrounding the internment of Italian-Canadians during the Second World War by examining the internment and its aftermath from a wide range of perspectives.

<http://www.aicw.ca/>

Recipient: Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association of Toronto. Toronto, ON

Title of Project: Piazza Petawawa: Capturing Traces of the Italian Canadian Internment During the Second World War

Summary:

The Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association of Toronto (CIBPA) will create a travelling exhibit about the internment of Italian Canadians during the Second World War. The exhibit will be comprised of 20 photographs mixing landscape shots of the internment camps with portraits of the internees, as they appeared then and as they appear today. Biographies and testimonies telling their compelling stories will accompany the portraits. Text describing the history of the internment will be provided to both commemorate the internees and educate others. The exhibit will be trilingual, in English, French, and Italian.

<http://toronto.cibpa.com/>

Recipient: Columbus Centre. Toronto, ON

Title of Project: Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens: Memories of World War II

Summary:

In partnership with the Multicultural History Society of Ontario (MHSO), the Centro Scuola e Cultura Italiana, the Joseph D. Carrier Gallery, and several universities and community groups across Canada, the Columbus Centre of Toronto will undertake a project to recognize and commemorate the internment of Italian Canadians during the Second World War, and to increase the knowledge of Canadians, particularly youth, about these events. The project’s products (recording testimonials from individuals affected by the internment across Canada; a comprehensive online inventory; a permanent exhibit on the internment at Columbus Centre; a commemorative wall featuring a complete list of the names of internees; and publication of an academic paper) will be widely promoted to the Italian Canadian community, school boards, and the general public through a major media campaign.

<http://www.villacharities.com/main.asp?View=Columbus>

Recipient: Italian Canadian Community Centre of the National Capital Region Inc. Ottawa, ON

Title of Project: Community, Internment and War

Summary:

The project aims to increase the knowledge and understanding of the impact of the internment during the Second World War on the Italian-Canadian community and of their contributions to building a strong Canada during the Post War period, and contribute to healing and reconciliation amongst internee descendants. The ICC will conduct research on the internment,

install a commemorative wall display in Ottawa's Dante Park, and publish a booklet to be distributed at the official unveiling of the wall. Information collected throughout the project will be posted on the ICCC website. The ICCC will install a time capsule containing text, photographs, personal documents, and other memorabilia to be uncovered at some point in the future, at a meaningful date to be determined during the project. The booklet will provide historical facts and interpretation for the plaque and time capsule, with a particular focus on the National Capital Region, to ensure that their purpose is known and well understood. Material to be posted on the website will include the information included in the booklet and provide more in depth information by featuring links to other related sites such as Library and Archives Canada.

Recipient: Italian Cultural Centre Society. Vancouver, BC

Title of Project: Italian Cultural Centre (Vancouver) Italian Internment Commemoration

Summary:

The Vancouver Italian Cultural Centre (ICC) will recognize and commemorate the experiences of those affected by the internment of Italian Canadians during the Second World War by undertaking a project entitled Italian Cultural Centre (Vancouver) Italian Internment Commemoration. The project will include a play dramatizing the Italian-Canadian experience of internment, a book entitled, Vancouver Italians Interned During World War II, to be written by the renowned Italian-Canadian author, Raymond Culos, and an exhibition in the ICC's museum exploring the Italian-Canadian wartime experience.

This project will promote the contributions of the Italian-Canadian community to shaping Canadian society and, in particular, acknowledge the contributions of Italian Canadians to the Canadian war effort.

<http://italianculturalcentre.ca/cultural-centre/a-question-of-loyalty/>

Recipient: Media Monkey Productions, Inc. Cobourg, ON

Title of Project: Italian Canadian Internment Project

Summary:

The Italian Canadian Internment (ICI) project includes a documentary film (Italian, English, and French languages) and an online virtual history archive that explores and contextualizes the issues surrounding the internment of Italian Canadians during WWII and their struggles to regain their place as valuable members of Canadian society. The documentary will be available in a 90-minute film version and a 46-minute television version. The online archive will include a centralized resource base, links to articles and other materials, and testimonials of survivors and their families.

The ability of these individuals to overcome the stigma of being interned as "enemy aliens" and contribute to the creation of multiculturalism in Canada, offers important insights for all Canadians, and especially for students. Therefore, this project will include support material to assist teachers and students in studying this important element in Canada's history.

<http://www.mediamonkey.ca/>

Recipient: National Congress of Italian Canadians (National Capital District). Ottawa, ON

Title of Project: The Internment of Italian Canadians: Learning from our Past and Recognizing our Contributions

Summary:

In partnership with Villa Marconi, the National Congress of Italian Canadians (NCIC) (Ottawa District) will undertake a community-based project entitled, The Internment of Italian Canadians: Learning from our Past and Recognizing our Contributions, to recognize and commemorate the internment of Italian Canadians during the Second World War. Villa Marconi, a long-term care facility, will designate space for an archival/exhibit room to be known as the "Italian Canadian Historical Centre: A Centre for Learning." The Centre will house material and artifacts about internment experiences and Italian migration to Canada such as artifacts, photos, books, film, microfilm, and documents in print.

Recipient: Shadowpath Theatre Productions. Richmond Hill, ON

Title of Project: Paradise by the River

Summary:

Shadowpath Theatre Productions will use the stage to increase awareness of the internment of Italian Canadians during the Second World War. Paradise By The River, written and composed by Italian Canadian playwright Vittorio Rossi, tells the story of an Italian immigrant who is arrested without charge in his home in Montreal and held at a prisoner of war camp in Petawawa, Ontario, leaving his frightened, pregnant wife behind. The personalized story of the internment will help audiences of all ages, backgrounds, and cultures understand the internment and how it affected an entire community.

Shadowpath is particularly interested in exposing students and young Italian Canadians to the stories of the internment era, not only to inform audiences, but also to recognize and honour the internees and their families.

<http://www.shadowpaththeatre.ca/shows.html>

Recipient: York University – Mariano A. Elia Chair in Italian-Canadian Studies. Toronto, ON

Title of Project: Faces and Memories of Internment: An Italian-Canadian Tragedy

Summary:

The project will draw attention to the use of the War Measures Act and its impact on the civil rights of minority groups,

specifically Italians in Canada during WW II. The three components of the project – an education curriculum package, a website, and a docu-drama film – will be trilingual, produced in Italian, English, and French. The project's objectives include: to investigate the Italian-Canadian experience of internment through a variety of sources, including archival materials, artifacts held in personal and other collections, interviews conducted with internees or their descendants, and interviews with other Canadians (such as government agents) who had experience with these events; to synthesize and analyze the information gathered and then present it in multiple forms to help audiences understand the events and their impact on and consequences for those involved; and to encourage those immediately involved in the internment and their descendants and also government officials and Canadians in general to reflect on issues such as immigrant and ethnic accommodation, the duty of government to defend democracy in times of perceived threats and similar fundamental concerns
<http://www.yorku.ca/maeitcdn/>