

Speaking Notes – Elettra Marconi Society Awards Dinner

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good evening. I'm very glad to have been invited to join you here tonight for the 83<sup>rd</sup> annual banquet.

I find it's always easy to accept an invitation to an event being held at the Marconi Club because I know that the food is going to be top-notch. I also know that when I come here I will see a lot of friendly faces in the crowd. That's not always the case when you are the Mayor; even if you are a new Mayor who hasn't had much time to offend lots of people yet. In all seriousness though, I am pleased to be a part of the celebration here tonight. Thank you for welcoming me and my fiancée Kyleigh to share in this evening with you.

The Elettra Marconi Society has a long and distinguished history of service in Sault Ste. Marie. Today, with more than 400 members, it is clear that the society is still going strong and that we can expect its good work in the community to continue long into the future.

The society is dedicated to promoting Italian culture within Sault Ste. Marie and to ensuring that its members have a place to gather and support each other.

Society members are also active in charitable and volunteer activities. They lend their time and energy to important causes such as the Soup Kitchen, Davey Home and Women in Crisis. The club has also endowed a scholarship that is given each year to a local graduating secondary school student.

It is that ongoing legacy of service that we honour at this banquet tonight. As part of that, we are gathered here to recognize the 2015 recipients of two important awards: the Anna Bernardi award and also the Attilio Orazietti award.

Anna Bernardi was both the President and the founder of the Elettra Marconi Society all the way back in 1932. Similarly, Attilio Orazietti was the founder of the G. Marconi society. The awards that bear their names recognize their leadership and the important contributions that they made.

So to the recipients who will be named later tonight, please accept my congratulations in advance and my thanks for your contributions, both to the club and to our community.

But I also want to take a moment to acknowledge everyone who has been active in the society over the past year. It is in part through your efforts that Sault Ste. Marie continues to be a caring and giving community.

I think there is no question that the pace of live in our current day and age is much different than in the past. And as the pace of life accelerates, I think it is fair to say that it is becoming more of a challenge for people to find the time for community service, for volunteering, and for assisting with charitable causes.

That's why it is so important today to have service clubs such as the Elettra Marconi Society active in our community. And that is why it is heartening for me to be able to stand here and see so many of you, and know that we do have many people who are still willing to give of themselves, who are committed to being active and engaged in civic life, and who continue to make those efforts year after year. And that's why it is important to have evenings like this, to recognize and celebrate those efforts

As I said at the outset, I want to you thank you again for the invitation to tonight's celebration and also for all the work that you and your club have done over the past year. Kyleigh and I are glad to be here and we are looking forward to sharing an enjoyable evening with all of you.

Thank you.