

**I.A. Vannini Award Celebration**

**Thursday, June 28**

**[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]**

Good evening everyone. It is my honour to be here and to bring greetings on behalf of City Council.

I would like to recognize the Honourable Justice I.A. Vannini Award of Merit committee members for all of their hard work in selecting tonight's recipients and organizing tonight's dinner.

Thank you to all of the sponsors for their support, and to the Marconi Club for hosting us, and providing what I am sure will be a fantastic meal.

We are here today to celebrate two well-deserving recipients of the Honourable Justice I.A. Vannini Award of Merit, Lou Nanne and Gene Ubriaco.

Lou Nanne and Gene Ubriaco are household names in Sault Ste. Marie, both kids from the west end, who we know went on to achieve much professional success, both on and off the ice.

I do not want to spend my few moments reviewing their impressive careers and accomplishments. I expect if I do I will be sorely eating into someone else's speech and mine will become much longer than it is supposed to be.

I simply want to speak to the significance of their accomplishments, what they mean to our community and why it is importance that we come together to reflect on them.

We cannot understate the role Italian immigrants have played in this community. Their hard work and sacrifice helped shape the Sault Ste. Marie we see today, and made life that much easier for the generations that followed.

As we all well know, many of the original Italian immigrants came to work in the steel plant and many of us come ultimately from those steel workers.

My paternal grandfather was a steel worker. My maternal grandfather a baker.

I have a special affinity for the art at Ubriaco's and I often spend most of my time, when I am picking up a dinner for two, looking at it sentimentally and feeling very proud of the small images of Blue Bird Bakery.

Knowing that my grandfather and my grandmother did that and that my mother lived in that bakery and that I am connected to that history of the west end. That I am from it.

As we also all well know, as Justice Vannini, Lou Nanne and Gene Ubriaco demonstrate, many of our Italian immigrants, or the children of, or the grandchildren of, found their way to other opportunities and much success.

In doing so, each time someone did so, they showed those of us who followed how to do the same. They showed us the values one needs to meet their goal and what can be accomplished when they do.

Values that are at the heart of the Italian community as I know it and, I am sure, the west end that Lou and Gene grew up in: friendship, kindness, commitment, courage.

Success and achievement are not subtractive. The accomplishment of one does not take away from that of another.

Success and achievement are additive. The more that is accomplished, the more likely accomplishment becomes. We can learn from each other's; we can build upon each other's.

In this spirit, I commend Lou and Gene for their accomplishments, for representing our community as well as they have and, mostly, for their very fine example.

It is an example we are proud of, that we can learn from and that we can build upon.

You are both worthy recipients of this evenings recognition and I am honoured to be here to share it with you as the Mayor of our community.

Thank you.