

1MM 1000 (REV. 1-8-95)

TUR M n SATURNIA
ITALIAN LINE
NAPOLI - HALIFAX

878 APR 29 1957

FOR USE OF CARRIER

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION IDENTIFICATION CARD
(To be shown to Examining Officer at port of arrival)

SURNAME: SANTAMARIA SOSSO

GIVEN NAMES: Emilio

SIGNATURE OF PASSENGER: *Santamaria Sossio Emilio*

STATUS: IMMIGRANT "LANDED"
IMMIGRANT "REGUL"

PORT STAMP: CANADA IMMIGRATION
APR 29 1957
HALIFAX

FOLD HERE

DULY STAMPED BY AN IMMIGRATION OFFICER, THIS CARD IS EVIDENCE OF YOUR STATUS IN CANADA. IT IS REQUIRED FOR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE AND WILL ALSO PROVE USEFUL FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
RETAIN IT CAREFULLY

C.N.R.Y.S. 5
APR 29 1957
HALIFAX, N.S.
STEAMSHIP

FRANÇAIS AU VERSO

dining room. He enjoyed the food and especially the service ... he loved how they would prepare his breakfast eggs any way he wanted them.

His arrival in Halifax at Pier 21 was most memorable; he recalls the fog and cool weather but warm reception from the Canadians at the harbour. Most of the Italians were headed to Toronto or Montréal, few were going to Ottawa. As the journey continued and despite the language barrier, my father was grateful for the Canadians' hospitality – they were always nearby to guide him along his way.

Finally, he arrived in the capital city and stepped off the train only to feel huge disappointment... Ottawa was so small and sparse! Nothing like he expected. He was greeted by his brother and cousin and hopped on his first streetcar to his new home. He soon realized a trail of oil was following him and his beloved olive oil was leaking from his trunk.

Thankfully some was

cherished and he was able to enjoy this last connection to home with his relatives.

Three days later, my father had a job as a bricklayer's assistant. Not easy work but he was among many new immigrants all working together to build the Natural Resources government buildings on Booth Street. He worked five days a week and took English classes and chef training weeknights. Almost all weekends were spent at the Experimental farms, relaxing with friends and marveling at the beauty of the oak and willow trees. Ottawa had become a beautiful city in his eyes... so much greenery everywhere.



In 1963, his life changed. While working as a chef manager at a restaurant, he met a young, beautiful Italian woman, Maria Barrucco, applying for the vacant waitress position. They married a year later and I was born followed by my brother, Antonio.

Our parents continued to work hard to provide us with choices they did not have. More importantly, they gave us strong family values and work ethics.

50 years later, my parents boarded the Pier 21 anniversary cruise to re-visit where it all began. It was an emotional day at the Pier 21 museum in Halifax. They were deeply moved by the stories, the photos and especially the film. My father could not believe how much time had gone by and how he was able to make that journey on his own. Seeing all the names on the brick wall was profound. This was a very special day for him and will forever be in his heart.

My father says he loves Canada “no regrets ever”. He is enjoying his life now- visiting family in Italia, planting his summer garden every year and insisting a fig tree can grow in Canada! (We’re still waiting for proof).

We are proud of our parents and the journey my father took to this country, our home.

Joanna Santamaria Zito



