



Διάλογοι

Hellenic Canadian Academic Association of Ontario (HCAAO)

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Ελληνο-Καναδική Ένωση Πανεπιστημιακών του Οντάριο

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From the President's Desk

On Saturday, February 7, 2004, HCAAO organized its sixth Get-together-dinner at the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club. After the dinner, Constantine Caravassilis (piano) and Maria Aimoniotis (voice) presented a preview of their first CD "Melodie Hellenique". They presented samples from 6 cycles of songs: demotica/nisiotika, and representative songs of Hatzidakis, Theodorakis, Ravel, Xarchakos and Constantine himself.

This year, the seventh Get-together-dinner is scheduled for Saturday February 5, 2005 at the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club. There will be a Greek movie show at 5:30pm and dinner will be served around 7:30pm. Check your email for further details.

HCAAO supports scholarships for Greek-Canadian student

Following an established now tradition HCAAO donated again \$500 towards the scholarship program of the Hellenic-Canadian Federation of Ontario. This program offers scholarships and bursaries to Greek-Canadian students in Ontario Universities. HCAAO not only sponsors a scholarship of \$500 but our members have also served on the selection committee.

2004 – The Year of Greece and the Return of the Games (By Nota Klentrou)

For all of us who were in Greece during this nothing but glorious 2004 summer, the intense moments we have lived made us feel alive, proud and very much Greek. The green *Κότινος* on the athletes' heads, the touristic sound of *Ζορμπάς* blended with the sophisticated lyrics of *Ας Κρατήσουν οι Χοροί* by Dionisis Savopoulos, and this sweet light of Athenian night sky as beautiful as never before reflected all our hopes and dreams. Of course I am biased. I had the honor to serve on the Athens 2004 Organizing Committee as the Result Supervisor of the four Gymnastics events: Women's Artistic Gymnastics, Men's Artistic Gymnastics, Rhythmic Gymnastics,

and Trampoline. As former member of the Greek Rhythmic Gymnastics National Team, a judge, and a sport scientist I welcomed the challenge of organizing one of the most complicated sport events fully aware of its potential headaches. And I was not disappointed; for the three months that I was in Athens the gymnastics team had lots of headaches: the trouble of having to run four events in two different venues, the horror of construction, the late arrival of the equipment, the ignorance about sport of the venue administration, the arrogance of media (mainly NBC), the judging controversy, the whining of taxi drivers. Oh yes! We had it all in Olympic dimensions! But, it was all balanced by the bright sky of Athens, the determination of the staff, the hearts of our volunteers, the sharp Greek minds, the fresh Greek humor, and the bad tasting but refreshing frappe. All combined with an unbeatable civic pride. A pride fired by the unforgettable moments of Euro 2004 and intensified by a delighted Opening Ceremony.

Our family had the best summer of our lives. Both my husband, HCAAO member Vladimiros Papangelakis and our 12 year old daughter, Elli, served as results volunteers in Gymnastics. Vladimiros was responsible for the scoring system in men's floor exercises and Elli was the assistant to the Line Judge in Rhythmic Gymnastics. Of course we all did more than what we were called upon; and we were happy for it!

Renew your membership today!

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And then, with a warm closing ceremony so Greek and cheerful, so full of life and emotions, Athens bade its final farewell to the athletes and its guests. I was on a chair singing, cheering and waving. Soon my enthusiasm was joined by that of some foreign judges seating next to us. They were even cheering after the official end of the ceremony when the thousands of Greeks in the stadium were singing *Ελλάς Ολέ-ολέ*, from Euro 2004. Anyway, the Games were closed with *Φωτεινή*, a little girl from the Village SOS, blowing the flame bringing tears in our eyes and warming our hearts; and as the president of International Paralympic Committee Phil Craven said "I don't think there are bigger hearts around the world than Greek hearts".

The Athens Olympic Games combined history, culture and peace with sports and Olympism. The people of Greece along with Greeks from all over the world are proud to have hosted unique Games inspiring the world to celebrate Olympic values. With a unique demonstration of *H□□□* they have projected the real meaning of what the Games are about: education, appreciation, participation, celebration, pride, achievement, culture; and all the scandals of doping and judging can never offset all these.

As a parent who wants my Canadian born children to feel proud for their heritage, I felt relieved and comfortable among Greeks who felt no guilt or shame of not being enough western, enough of something that others say they are not. And with this confidence they successfully organized the biggest gathering of the humanity, treated their guests well and showed to the world that: we can sing and dance together without speaking the same language; we can pray together without having the same religion, we can make things happen together without having the same opinion; we can be ourselves together. The ATHENS 2004 Olympic Games will leave a legacy to Athens, to Greece and to the world that will remain for generations to come. Because after all, **there's no place like home!**



Developments in Hellenic Studies at York University

Following the establishment of the Hellenic Heritage Foundation Chair at York University, the Hellenic Studies program is expanding by offering degree programs in Hellenic Studies at all levels, namely B.A. Honours Major, Honours Double Major, Honours Major/Minor, Honours Minor and B.A. (Ordinary). The details of course offerings and degree requirements have been finalized. Eight courses in Modern Greek History, Language and Literature, in addition to at least twenty courses in Ancient History, Language, Literature, Culture, Art and Philosophy are available for the students in the Faculties of Arts, Environmental Studies, Fine Arts, and Pure and Applied Science. These developments are complemented by the establishment of doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships on Modern Greece, as well as the development of exchange agreements between York and various universities in Greece, with the help of which faculty members from Greece may take up visiting appointments at York. Further, York has inaugurated a close relationship with the Canadian Archeological Institute in Athens (CAIA). Last but not least, the recently established Canadian Hellenic Historical Society (CHHS) is actively expanding its membership across Canada.

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**The 1918 anti-Greek riot in Toronto:
A lecture by Professor Thomas Gallant**

On Friday, October 22, 2004, as part of the Dimitria celebrations (organized by the Thessalonikeans Society), Professor Thomas Gallant offered a lecture on one of the darkest and most violent episodes in Toronto's history. The episode involved on one side thousands of Torontonians headed by the war veterans, and on the other side the tiny (at that time) Greek community of Toronto. As Professor Gallant vividly described in detail, several circumstances, including the poverty and unemployment of war veterans, as well as the delayed participation of Greece in World War I, led to the eruption of violence and public unrest against Greek-Canadians that resulted in the destruction of several Greek shops in the downtown area. Professor Gallant described the incidents and the historical, social and economic context in which they happened, using detailed reports by newspapers and other sources of that time.

As the 1918 anti-Greek riot shows, while we celebrate Toronto's diversity, tolerance and multiculturalism, we need to appreciate that ethnic relations in the past were often far from amicable and that cultural acceptance of minorities into mainstream Canadian

society came with a price. In this year in which we have celebrated all things Greek, the episode reminds us of how far we have come.

This work was the collaboration of Professors Gallant and Vitopoulos of York University, with independent scholar George Treheles. Professor Gallant is preparing a book publication, and plans to develop a television documentary on this subject.

HCAAO 2004 Annual General Meeting

The General Meeting this year is scheduled for Sunday December 5, 2004 at 4:30pm in the Thessalonikian Educational Resource Centre on 55 Danforth Avenue. Following regular business an interactive presentation/discussion on the Athens 2004 Olympic Games will conclude this year's meeting.

The agenda includes:

- 16:30 Approval of minutes of the 2003 AGM
- 16:40 President's report
- 17:00 Treasurer's report
- 17:15 New items
- 17:30 Reflections from the 28th Olympiad

Summary of upcoming events (details by email reminders)

HCAAO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	Sunday December 5, 2004
Thessalonikian Educational Resource Centre	16:30 – 18:30pm
55 Danforth Avenue	
 GET-TOGETHER-DINNER	 Saturday February 5, 2005
Toronto Lawn Tennis Club	5:30 – 10:30pm