

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Questions	Interviewee
Date of Interview	25 October 2023
Name of Interviewee	Mr. John Ostetto
1. What age group/generation are you from?	I'm from the 1940-50's generation, and I came to Canada when I was 20 years old, so I fall into the 1960-70's immigration wave.
2. What first brought you to Canada?	<p>In '62-63, there was a bit of quiet in Italy when I was working, we all got laid off.</p> <p>At the same time, I was in touch with my current wife; I was 17, she was 16. We met in Italy and she came to Canada first, and then I came in 1965. We kept in touch for those three years.</p> <p>So finding work was one issue, I didn't have job security in Italy. I was the oldest of five kids, my mother became a widow when she was 34-35. I felt that I wanted to provide for my three sisters and little brother.</p> <p>I think we were the last to immigrate at that time. Because in 1965, when I came, things were really opening up in Italy. Industry opened up, and everybody could get a job outside of your normal farming and all that.</p> <p>For me, coming to Canada I think was a good choice. Another four or five years after that, immigration gradually started dying completely. In 1970, there was not many people coming in. So we consider ourselves the last of the immigration flux that started in 1954; that was the peak of, I would say, Northern Italians and Southern Italians coming into Canada.</p>
3. Did you know anybody other than your wife when you arrived in Canada? Did you have any other family here?	Yes, I had an uncle, my mother's brother, and he came here in 1962 or '63. So I had someone waiting for me. I was a little afraid at that time. I was a little nervous about travelling to a different country, but someone was here.

<p>4. How did you get to Canada?</p>	<p>We travelled from Treviso to Milan by car, then we flew straight to Montreal, then Toronto.</p> <p>During the trip, I could see that there were a lot of people who were travelling for the first time. I was travelling with a guy from Abruzzo, I remember.</p>
<p>5. What was the journey to Canada like?</p>	<p>The journey to Canada was eight and a half hours, but it was very good. For me it was something new, I had never been in a plane. Your mind is all confused because you're going to a different country that you don't know. I was a little bit nervous, but I was ready for anything that might come.</p>
<p>6. What was your first impression of Canada?</p>	<p>My impression of Canada was good just travelling through Toronto from the airport, mind you it must have been 12:30 at night. When I woke up in the morning and I saw the road, and the houses, and the people, I didn't know which way to look.</p> <p>The impression was positive. My mind was made up, so I saw everything positive, everything good and very nice.</p>
<p>[Maria] What time of year did you come?</p>	<p>I came on the 27th of May, and really everybody's been saying that we're lucky we didn't see any snow, and this and that. They had about 3 feet, which is close to a meter. When he said 3 meters, I looked at my feet said 'What are you talking about?' but then I understood right away. But it was good weather when we came here, there was about three or four weeks where we were up to about 24-27 degrees, so it was good.</p>
<p>7. Did you encounter any obstacles or barriers as a new immigrant to Canada?</p>	<p>One, for sure, and everybody did; that was language. Language was a problem. It puts you in a state, sometimes, of not asking too many questions or waiting for somebody to ask a stupid question, which I still get the benefit from.</p> <p>I think within about a month or so, we enrolled ourselves in English as a Second Language at John F. Ross School. Mrs. Graham, she was very, very nice to us, like a mother embracing all these adults. The main thing was to learn English.</p>

	<p>Me and my wife also, at the time we were seeing each other, she was pushing me to learn. But that said, I like to go to school. I would have liked to go to school, even back in home Italy, but I couldn't. I just finished grade 7, we'll call it, over there and that's it. Then I had to go to work because I had family and all these other things.</p>
8. Did you bring any important items with you when you came to Canada?	<p>I think the most important item was just my values; I took my values from over there and brought them over here, and to be able to implement as much as I can but also to adapt to a new country.</p> <p>But our values are one thing that keeps you going, especially when you get to a new country. But at the same time, you have to be able to embrace wherever you're going to, and for me, English was the first thing. If I can communicate, then I can go wherever I want to go.</p>
9. Did you exchange letters with relatives in Italy?	<p>Oh yes, my mother for sure. I can remember those letters. She needed some letters because she was always waiting for them. That's what a mother does. Because I would see other mothers in Italy when I would go and visit my friends, and they say 'Oh, my son or my daughter wrote to me!' and I could see the state of those parents.</p> <p>When I was sending a letter to my mother, I would get a tear in my eye because I knew that she was getting triple the tears. And yeah, we wrote a lot. The last two years, I also wrote with my wife too. Once you're here, you keep in contact.</p> <p>I remember in 1965-66, we had a tape recorder with tapes, and we used to exchange voice recordings from here to my mother, and my mother would do the same thing. She would get another tape with my grandma, and the tapes are still there. So there is communication, there has always been.</p>
10. Can you describe your experience as a new parent and a recent immigrant to Canada?	<p>There are two main reasons I immigrated to Canada; today, I would say the most important thing was to meet with my wife, who I met five years before. The other thing was to get something better, something new; to be able to learn, be able to explore, to share things with people from our culture or to learn their culture.</p>

<p>[Maria] How did you share your culture with your kids?</p>	<p>There are certain values, I think, that you're never going to forget. So as a parent, as my kids are growing up, we followed the system that's over here a little bit, but sitting at the table when we're having supper, that's the main thing. As you know, in Italian families, the kitchen table is where everything is shared; all the bad and good, then we all disappear. But the kitchen table is sacred. It's there that you can teach your kids and you can listen to them, and you're together.</p> <p>We were married three years already since we came here, then the kids came along. The experience wasn't difficult, really, until they reached a certain age. When they become 12, 14, it's different, but as kids, no problems. We are Roman Catholic, so there's another thing, and schooling and whatever, so we were supportive. And it was our duty to be, as parents, you can't get away from that.</p>
<p>[Maria] Did you teach them the language? At home, did you speak to them in your dialect or Italiano?</p>	<p>Because language was one of the primary things when I went to work, and at the job that I had, I spoke a lot of English. And when we came down here also, I spoke a lot of English in the house. But my wife, she always maintained the dialect or the little bit of Italian we know, because there's dialect, and then there's Italiano.</p> <p>We had some times where my wife would correct me, she'd say 'Why don't you tell them that in Italian so they will carry it.' And it is true, by doing that our oldest daughter, Michelle, she can talk in Italian, not dialect. She understands the dialect, but she will answer in Italian because she also took Italian classes. But at home, my wife and I try to do as much as possible, but she's a lot better at speaking Italian.</p> <p>[Maria] And your kids understood. Maybe they didn't speak it all the time, but they would understand. Even when I taught them, if I said something to them in dialect, they would understand.</p> <p>[Mr. Ostetto] If my wife is talking in dialect to them, they'll answer in English to her, or maybe in Italian, but they get it, they understand. It's just that they're afraid to make mistakes, and it's the same thing with us. We try to speak English, but sometimes we just go quiet because we don't want to say the wrong things.</p>
<p>11. Did becoming a parent in Canada make you feel more Canadian?</p>	<p>The three years before we got married, I didn't see any difference between then and that. It depends on when you enter, how you embrace it. No, I didn't see any difference since I arrived and we got married with a family coming, we were ready for that.</p>

<p>Did having kids in Canada make you feel more connected to Canada in any way?</p>	<p>No, it wasn't any different. Even if I were to be single, or with kids, it's the same experience.</p>
<p>12. Where is home for you and why?</p>	<p>I mean, I was 20 years old when I left home, and that's something you don't forget, but home is here now. It's always here. I mean, I spent 55 years here, so I think this is our home for sure.</p> <p>We never forgot our roots, but we put a lot more emphasis on here. You can talk about the old country, and where you come from and all that, but that's it. It's very nice to reminisce about that, but this is home. We changed about two or three homes.</p> <p>[Mrs. Ostetto] We always sit at the table when we are together, talking about Italy and Canada, we always say 'We are lucky to be born in Italy, but I'm proud to be Canadian.' That's what we always say to the kids. Don't forget where your roots come from. I'm very proud, also.</p> <p>[Mr. Ostetto] The kids know that. I mean, it's something that you have to remind them of a few things. When you're talking, you have to put the emphasis on here, you know, you don't want to give them the wrong message, that 'My mother and my father think that way and that's it.' Here is the primary thing, but at the same time you have to filter the other stuff in, which is your values, your culture, and so on, because you've got to be proud of where you come from.</p>
<p>13. Looking back on your experiences, is there anything you would have done differently?</p>	<p>I've never had that question, but no. I had a duty to do at home until a certain age, then my wife and I met, and the economic situation in Italy was bad. No, I wouldn't have done anything different.</p> <p>There are other people who would say 'I wish I had never left, I wish I would have gone here, I wish I would have gone to Australia' and that's it. So I'll ask the question 'How long have you been here?', they'll say '30 years', and I say 'Why do you say you want to be Australia? You should have left Canada 28 years ago.'</p> <p>So no, I wouldn't have done anything different. I'm happy with our journey here.</p>

<p>14. Is there anything else you would like to share?</p>	<p>So many things, but that would take about a day and a half.</p> <p>Between the beginning, the end, now, or halfway through our journey, I wouldn't complain. I think we've been happy.</p>
<p>[Maria] Do you think that because you came in 1965 that there were more Italians in Guelph and it helped you assimilate better?</p>	<p>I would say that we were the luckiest people that came here in 1960 onwards. Even on my wife's side, there were two brothers and a sister here waiting for their family of ten. I came here in 1965, I had somebody already here, so I wouldn't have done anything different than that. I would say that it made it easier for the people who came from 1960 onwards. What I feel bad about is the people who came here 1951-54, who had nobody. But that's one part of immigration after the war.</p> <p>The people who had the toughest time were the ones who came in 1922-24; they'll be going up north, they don't know where they are going, communication was stopped and everything. When the representative of Canada back in 1925-27 was sent to explore Canada from Italy, the report they sent back to Italy was of a cold country with high snow, saying you can't live there, it's like Siberia, and so on. So not too many people came, but we have met people here when I came, like [Mrs. Ostetto's] uncle, Jack, they were here in about 1920-22. He never went home, he didn't even know where he was until the immigrants from 1954 met him. He never got back. So really, those are the people that had the tough time at the turn of the century.</p> <p>People didn't move after the war, in 1945-1950. Everybody thought everything was okay, now we are a republic, no more dictatorial government, and so on. So things got a little bit better. But then, when everybody is looking at their own family and what to do, what work is available, in the factory, so on, they said 'Wait a minute', in dialect it's 'Mi tocca nervia', meaning 'We must leave.'</p> <p>[Maria] That was my dad's generation. Then they had to have a sponsor when they came because of the war, so my dad's cousin sponsored my Nonno, so my Nonno came for three years and worked for the house and everything, then called my dad, who was 18, and said 'Hurry up or else I'm going. The borders are open in Australia' and I think he said Morrocco, but it could have been somewhere else.</p>

<p>[Maria] What about work? I would like you to share your story, what you apprenticed in, because you're an entrepreneur, you have your own business, so what was that journey like coming here?</p>	<p>I was 20 years old. When you reach 18, you become a qualified machinist or a specialized machinist. I had my specialization because I went to school at night, and when I was 14, I was able to do my full apprenticeship at a nice school to become a full machinist. So I had my education or my training, not much on books and school, but on a trade. And that was a lot for us, once you got a trade.</p> <p>In January of 1965, I went to a little town called Castelfranco Veneto where there was a posting for metal mechanics, shoemaking, and textiles. When we applied, within about four months, we were already in Milan to have our physical and then we were down here. So there was really a demand at that time from Canada.</p> <p>And I came here to start working for a company called [Buseracci?] for five years. Somebody provided me the job, I didn't have to apply. I went there, I started working, and I started doing a little bit, my boss wanted to see what I can do, and that's it. We were able to work with no problem because you have a specialized machine, and once you understand the blueprint, you can make whatever the blueprint calls for. [Andrew?] Demasco, John Armellini, we all got in during the same year there.</p> <p>Then from there we worked for a big company called Linamar Machines. I used to be part-time while I was working my first five years here. And then in 1970, when they closed [Buseracci?] and went back to the States, the five of us got laid off. We went on unemployment insurance, and they said, 'Monday morning, you should start at Linamar Machines. 7:30 in the morning, you have a job there.' I said, 'What? We're supposed to get a little bit of benefits on unemployment.' They said, 'Oh, in Canada they pay you even if you stay home.' At that time, he was thinking that way.</p> <p>So anyway, we went to Linamar and I stayed with Linamar for 24 years. Linamar started in a basement, I was one of the guys that worked in the basement. Working from there, we got a small shop, and that's it. So I grew up with Mr. Hasenfratz, and Margaret, and Cuboso there.</p> <p>And then in 1994, I started my own business. And we've been in business almost twenty years now next year.</p> <p>[Maria] And it's called?</p> <p>[Mr. Ostetto] It's called Fostet. When we opened up, we didn't know that to call it, so my oldest daughter, Michelle, and I came up with it. I come from a village called Fossalunga, Fos-, and my last name is Ostetto, -ostet. So Fossalunga-Ostetto, that's how the name came to be.</p>
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[Maria] How did you promote your Italian culture in the community? Because you were very involved with that as well.

I've been busy until 1994, and then when I started my own business, I had more freedom.

When you come here, you've got family and so on, then you build a house, mine was built in 1978. We came here [to Guelph] and did that. Then for some reason, during that journey of 20 years, I was only involved in working. I'll be seeing people, some newcomers that came in the 1970's, but I've seen the kids growing up, some kids that were already born before our kids, losing the Italian language. You talk to them and the parents speak Italian, but the kids do not. So I started getting into a group called Trevisani. La Treviso is a small province in a region called Veneto, close to Venice, its only ¾ of an hour away. I joined the group, and that's it. At that time, there were about 400 members. And then Pio Decimo came, which is from Reise Pio Decimo in the same province. So we got involved and that's it.

And then I realized that I lost my Italian. I've been busy for 25-30 years, and I've been speaking English. And the young lady, [Mrs. Ostetto], has been getting upset, saying, 'Why don't you speak Italian at home?' And the kids hear me speaking English and they answer in English, no problem. And then I realized that I'm missing something. So I shifted a little bit, I lost some time here and there, but I went on to join those organizations.

And after that, in 2002-2003, I finally joined the Italian-Canadian Club, which the young lady, [Maria's], husband has been very active in too.

[Mrs. Ostetto] You've been an Italian-Canadian Club member since you came over.

[Maria] So you've been a member of the ICC since you came here, but then in 2003 you became an Executive?

[Mr. Ostetto] I became an Executive in 2001, I came in from Trevisani, and then I became President between 2006 and 2010 or 2011. And I've been involved in the community.

[Maria] An integral part of the community.

[Mr. Ostetto] I just wanted to get involved with many things. What I wanted to do was to see if we could have a link, especially after the turn of the 21st century, to have an affiliated connection with Italy, like a twinning between Guelph, which is 120,000 people, to Castelfranco region, which is very industrial, and has universities, and so on. We promoted all that, but then the Chamber of Commerce changed, the Mayor was different.

	<p>So we did a lot of work, we've been involved with our community raising funds for things that happened with the earthquake in Italy. I've been involved, but on the lower scale, not the very high scale.</p>
<p>[Maria] Can you explain what Pio Decimo is a little bit?</p>	<p>Pio Decimo was started by a gentleman that came from a little town called Riese, he came around. Back in 1971 or 1972, he started an event called Pio Decimo, involving Pope Pius X. [Pope Pius X] was proclaimed a saint about 20 years ago.</p> <p>[Maria] Was it 20 years ago? I thought they did his hundredth anniversary – a hundred years after he died – in 2016. Because I was there, I remember it.</p> <p>[Mr. Ostetto] So [the gentleman] started this event and they used to have the Italian-Canadian Club there, they hosted it in Guelph. It was a 700-person event, and everyone would go. Within about 6 or 7 years, he was the President; his name was Mr. Beni Monaco. And then from there, he started the Trevisani nel Mondo, which is Monsignor Don Canuto [Toso?], he was the founder of Treviso.</p> <p>The Trevisani del Mondo is all over the world. They have chapters everywhere; Australia, Brazil. Argentina, Holland, all over the place. And we had one of them, here in Guelph. This past Sunday, we did Autunno Trevisano, which is the Fall Trevisano in lieu of Pio Decimo, so we joined together. And Beni Monaco was a guest of that event.</p> <p>[Maria] Wasn't there awards given out at the Pio Decimo events? Because I remember my Nonna going for something.</p> <p>[Mr. Ostetto] They must have been done quite a bit. We used to give a lot of scrolls, but also there were some presents at that time. But then things started dying a bit these last 15 years. We have a problem bringing in youths, and that's it. So the elderly get to a point and go one way, while the youths are going their own direction. Born here, they're more Canadianized. At the same time, you're born in the Old Country, your roots are still strong, and you carry them.</p> <p>We did an event Monday, there were 110 people with the Trevisani. But when I take a look at the ages, I'm seeing about 70- to 85-year-olds, and there were only 5 kids, they were under 17 to 20. There was Mr. Mason, who brought his kids, Rob had his son.</p> <p>We've been involved a long time and what we want to do is maintain that. But there was a time between 2010 and 2020 where we had kids involved, we had pictures and so on with kids that were involved in the Italian-</p>

Canadian Club. We also had people that came in from Vittorio Veneto, students that would come here for a week, and then our students would go there. It was an exchange of cultures, not for school.

[Maria] Is that the choir that came to the church one time?

No, the choir that came to the church was... I forget now, but we had all sorts of folkloristic groups, but also groups who played [music] come down. We had quite a bit, we were able to maintain very strong [connections?] over here [in Guelph], even stronger than Toronto. We had people from Toronto come to see them. We had people that came from Villalago put on a play right here at the River Run Centre. We had two plays from them. It was fabulous, it was good.

But we still remain [connected]; this is our country, but we always want to keep that link.

[Mrs. Ostetto] You didn't say that you travelled back home to Fossalunga with immigrants from Toronto and Windsor.

[Mr. Ostetto] Oh yeah, I've been involved in a lot of exchange trips. The people from Fossalunga, a small village, we went back once. And once we went there, we went to Villalago, and Villalago said, 'We would like to give you an invitation,' so they came down here and we had a good turnout. We organized that with [Maria's] dad, we had all kinds of stuff. But then, we had an exchange trip go back there, and that was the big one. We had three buses, and that's about 180 people, from here who travelled there. We had people from all over Canada going, and some people from Brazil coming too.

So those are the other things that I've organized. But the other good planner that worked with us was Sandra [Bottega?]. She's an expert on travel.

[Maria] She was an excellent link. She was a good lady.

[Mr. Ostetto] That's right. That's why we paid tribute to Sandra this Sunday also. Because Trevisani nel Mondo [involvement] kept dropping, then there was a pause of nothing there, I was elected back in a couple of months ago. So I took her place and linked with Treviso again, and we made our first little party a meeting together on a smaller scale, about 100. We're supposed to be 300 people, with all the families and children, but we were 110 at the beginning, but when I take a look at this year with how many died within our community here in Guelph...

[Maria] Sandra unfortunately passed away.

	<p>[Mr. Ostetto] She's one of those that passed too.</p> <p>So yeah, we've been involved. There's about 90% of people who maintain their roots, but as they age and so on... We're climbing that way too, ourselves.</p>
	<p>[Maria] John and Yola are very modest because they did pass on quite a bit of their culture onto their kids, Michelle, Wayne, and Shannon.</p> <p>[Mr. Ostetto] She would know them because she was their teacher.</p> <p>[Maria] Beautiful people, and a wonderful family. They have maintained their heritage, and I'm sure they've passed it on to your grandkids too. How many grandkids now?</p> <p>[Mr. Ostetto] We have four. The oldest, 22, is at Brock University studying art, and her brother, Wayne's son, is 18 or 19 and wants to pick up a trade as an electrician. Now on Michelle's side, we have one who is taking Engineering right here in Toronto, and the young lady's got another two years to go [of highschool].</p> <p>[Mrs. Ostetto] Her school is going to Italy, but they didn't pick her a few months ago and she was so sad. But you know, when we see the price of travel and things like that, she was so sad. I said, 'Give it a chance, maybe you will go.' And then she called to say, 'Nonna, if somebody doesn't go, they'll pick my name.'</p> <p>[Mr. Ostetto] Yeah, she wanted to go very much because she wanted to learn and go to Puglia, which is very nice.</p> <p>We've been involved, but we don't brag a lot. We like to do it.</p> <p>[Maria] No they don't [brag]. But they're very much involved in promoting their heritage and the link with Canada.</p> <p>[Mr. Ostetto] I mean, to become Canadian it took me... what?</p> <p>[Mrs. Ostetto] Ten years.</p> <p>[Mr. Ostetto] Maybe more, I think so. Because in 1974, I came here in 1965, that's about 9 years. I went back home, Yola and I with two kids, and I always wanted something for myself and I saw a nice machine shop in my village there. And I was so close to purchasing it, and [Mrs. Ostetto] said, 'Yes, you can purchase it and stay, but I'm going back.' And that was it. I didn't lose my sleep over it, I said, 'Yeah, I'm going back too.'</p>

[Mrs. Ostetto] John knew he had a dream of owning a business. Michelle was more on the studying side. Wayne studied too, but he was more of a trades guy, we wanted to work with his hands. And Shannon's like her father, she's more into business and never gets tired. I said, 'Don't get your father's fever because you'll get old faster.'

[Mr. Ostetto] We have a 25-person operation in precision machining, we have a lot of CNC equipment that's all computerized. We do not do a lot of series of parts, which is the same part for 4 years, we do all prototypes for General Motors, or mining, or any industry. But our order quantity is about four or five pieces, we buy the materials, the customer gives us the drawing, and we do the machining. But it does require special training. So my daughter is running the business now.

[Maria] This is Shannon, she's the baby.

[Mr. Ostetto] She's the one who took over. I go there in the mornings sometimes, have a couple of arguments, and that's it. Because we have different visions, so I have to sympathize with that. And whatever she's been doing, she's been correct.

[Maria] And is Wayne in the business too?

[Mr. Ostetto] No, Wayne works for [Blundt?] Canada, he's a maintenance mechanic, and he does troubleshooting on CNC equipment too. So he had to go and do more college, at Fanshawe, and all that.

[Mrs. Ostetto] And by the way, my son was always busy with his friends, but Maria had him go on to become a valedictorian.

[Maria] He was the valedictorian of his class in highschool, yes.

[Mrs. Ostetto] And when we got to the church, we said 'Where is he going?' He said nothing to us.

[Maria] I didn't know that. He didn't tell you?

[Mr. Ostetto] It was a surprise. He had long hair. I said, 'You used to walk and the Principal couldn't catch you because you were on the roof of the school smoking.' And then I see him go on to become a valedictorian. He did say, 'Mom, I was picked,' but we didn't believe him because he was always joking around.

[Maria] Wayne was voted for valedictorian by his class, and he wanted to put a little bit of jokes [in his speech]. And I said, 'No, you can't put a little bit of jokes, it's a formal speech. You can joke a little bit, but it has to be in

a certain way.' And he wrote from his heart, and I'm the English teacher so I had to clean it up a little bit but not a lot and then he did a fantastic job. I think he shocked a lot of people.

[Mr. Ostetto] We were astonished by it.

[Maria] And like, shocked in a good way because nobody really saw that side of Wayne until he went up there.

[Mr. Ostetto] Oh yeah, it's true.

[Mrs. Ostetto] One thing – You know Jeff Reinhardt, he was [Wayne's] friend. Did you know that last year Jeff Reinhardt [went to?] BC. They stayed in touch.

[Maria] That's really nice. I haven't seen Wayne, Michelle, or Shannon [in a while].

[Mrs. Ostetto] In those days, everybody had long hair. Jeff had the long hair, and Mr. [Candiotte?] was losing his hair. And [Wayne] said to Mr. [Candiotte?], 'If you want some hair, go to Jeff.'

[Maria] It was a line in his speech. And Michelle's a speech pathologist. And is she still working for the school board?

[Mr. Ostetto] Yeah.

[Maria] Excellent. Yeah, so the dream to do more for your children carries on.

[Mr. Ostetto] Yes. I mean, you try to give them the best that you can, and even themselves, they're very modest. You've got to think about family up to a point, and then you can have some fun and you're supposed to do whatever you like too.

I like to be involved and that, but maybe this is because we are in Canada, and this is our country; that's what we wanted, we chose it, and that's where we're serving and we are attached. But your roots are always [in Italy], especially if that's where you were born and you stay until your 20's. I was 20, Yola was 14 when she came here, but still she's got [her roots] there. But there are some people who came here when they were 5 or 10 years old, and it's a little bit different. Especially when you spend all your youth there.

[Mrs. Ostetto] I think for us, coming here young around 20 years old, living in a poor village – think one car, one TV in the village, you watch TV once a week. And then you come over here, you see these beautiful houses,

streets – before we had fields and land, not streets like over here. We were by the bell of the church. It is something like a new life here. [In Italy] who had TVs in their house? Who had chairs with cushions? Maybe I'm old fashioned this way, but I grew up like in Little House on the Prairie.

When I arrived in Guelph, we were a big family, 10 people. I had to go to the bathroom, and I said to my sister, 'Can I go to the bathroom?' And she said, 'Come with me.' Can you imagine? She brought me upstairs to the toilet! I came downstairs, there were 20 people there, I said, 'Guess what? We got the bathroom inside the house!'

[Maria] Yeah, because it used to be outside. It's a big thing.

[Mr. Ostetto] It's a lot of learning. You come here a little bit young, you learn, and you also prepare yourself for having a family, marriage, and so on. A lot of people who came here, a lot of ladies, they used to arrange marriage by letters. They come here, they meet someone, and most of them are still married, they have families. Very few didn't get married and went on their own, not too many. You wanted to go to a different place and have some future, and a lot of immigrants took that chance one way or the other. I would say that we are the luckiest ones after 1965, the people before had it tough. We already made a choice, not too many of us went back. I would say out of 100, maybe 5 or 6 went back, that's it. There must be a statistic to tell you, but here is a good country. I mean, you can see right now, look at our meeting. I look at my shop now, we used to be all [Italian] – I'm not racist at all, I work with all kinds of people. But now Shannon and I, we were looking and I said, 'If we count over here, we are only 4. We are the minority.' We get a lot of people from India, the Philippines, and Vietnam. The reason we have this, if you're looking at the trade that they're doing, we do need trained people for our business. But at the same time, we are getting people who are 23-24, who already have three years of engineering because they come from India, and being a British colony for the past 150 years, they speak English and they have an education, so we are hiring these kids.

Our kids are going more in a different direction. They're more into computers and this and that. Very few are going into the trades. I have one of them, which is our grandson, Wayne's son. Look at how many immigrants are coming in now. You might say, 'Well that's Canada, that's the way it is.' Is it the right thing to have so many or not? Are we ready for them? I don't think we are ready because when we came, we had a place to sleep. But the people who are coming in now, they don't have a place to sleep.

[Maria] Yeah, there's not enough housing for them.

[Mr. Ostetto] So I don't know how but... It's a different government. At that time, you had a tough time if you don't have your papers and things, you won't come in here. How, look at how the world is in shambles now. We have refugees, people that are at war. And there is an evolution of people, if we go back 200 or 300 years ago, even back to the Roman Empire, it was the same thing. There was conquest, and then within the nations, people started moving around, they're going back and forth. We're doing the same thing now. Look at how many people we're getting from one country, we never thought we'd get people from the east side coming into Canada. Before there were only two kinds of people coming here: the British and the French. And then gradually, immigration opened up.

But anyways, going back to myself... Would I change? Maybe I gave you an answer, but no. I would stay where we are. It's okay, it's been a good choice to come this way and Canada is a great country. And we can tell you today, everybody, you see people coming in, it is a great country. This is our country now, right?

[Mrs. Ostetto] Mm-hmm.

[Mr. Ostetto] Roots? Roots. That's okay. I mean, we have roots of Ostetto in Brazil from 1861, they left Italy and they went to Brazil. And we have connections, my daughter Michelle was able to find out. And they are my great-grandfather's brothers. And we're talking over 150 years ago, almost 170.

[Maria] And do you still have your sisters in Italy? And your brother?

[Mr. Ostetto] Yeah, I do. I have a sister here, Maria, and then I have Linda and [Abina?], who are there [in Italy]. And a brother. We're still connecting, but there's a distance growing, we talk a little bit less, but that's the way it is.