



The Late Carmine Marzaro

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD



Born and raised in Salerno, Italy, Carmine Marzaro believed in doing something that he was passionate about. His vision brought him to Canada, which presented him with some difficult obstacles to overcome. However, no challenge was ever too great for Carmine as his outlook on life was very simple; for every problem, there must be a solution.

Carmine first arrived in Canada in 1959, and he noticed that there were remarkably few ethnic cheeses on grocery shelves. He realized an opportunity to share his art with others. His goal was to expand the Canadian dairy landscape by introducing an array of Italian cheeses. He also wanted to bring a piece of his old heritage to his new home. He was a true entrepreneur, and his hard work and dedication were met with success.

Carmine was admired for his honesty and integrity. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to those in the community. He garnered respect because he treated everyone with fairness and generosity. He was a true professional, and no matter how difficult the task, he performed it with a smile on his face.

It is every entrepreneur's ambition to be successful, and it is every father's dream to provide a better way of life for his family. Carmine was able to bring these two worlds together to leave a legacy that continues to thrive through the generations who follow him.

Brad Perco, CPA, CA

OGGI UNDER 40 PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD



Brad is the Assurance Partner for Brownlow Partners and is responsible for providing high quality value added assurance engagements for privately held companies and Not-for-Profit organizations. He works together with private business owners to improve their business processes and profits and develop corporate and personal tax planning strategies. Brad is experienced in a full range of industries and business

services utilizing his experience to work with companies and organizations in managing growth and development to ensure their current and future needs are met every step of the way.

Brad attended Cardinal Newman High School, received a Bachelor of Accounting degree at Brock University in 1999 and obtained his Chartered Accountant designation in 2001. He joined Brownlow Partners in 1998 and became a partner on January 1, 2009.

Brad focuses on giving back to the community by volunteering and contributing to many local charities and organizations such as the Hamilton out of the Cold Program since 2002 and coaches his son's T-Ball team. Brad is the past President of the Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce, where he served as a Board member for over ten years, he assisted the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish building committee and was a Board member of the Hamilton C.A. Association for 7 years where he organized a yearly golf tournament that raised over \$60,000 for the McMaster Children's Hospital and organized free tax clinics for over 1,000 low income individuals and families in the Hamilton area.

In January 2013, Brad helped organize an inaugural baseball team trip to the Dominican Republic where they brought over 250 pounds of donated clothing and sports equipment. They handed out these donations to over 400 poor children in the area during the 7 charity softball games that they played against local Dominican teams. They are going back in January 2014 and planning to bring 800 pounds of donations with them.

He spends his time away from the office with his wife, son and newborn baby girl, and enjoys participating in many sporting activities including softball, hockey, golf and taking his family to Tiger Cat, Bulldog and Blue Jay games.



PJ Mercanti

OGGI UNDER 40 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD



PJ Mercanti is the CEO of The Carmen's Group, a name synonymous in Southern Ontario with celebrity events, weddings, catering and dinner theatre. PJ and his family also own and operate the Best Western Premier C Hotel, Baci Ristorante, The Lakeview at Confederation Park and the Hamilton Convention Centre.

A University of Notre Dame business graduate, PJ worked as an associate producer for ESPN on the television show "The Season" before venturing back to Hamilton and he has kept himself busy ever since. He is the founder of GenNext United Way, is the current co-chair for the Charity of Hope, and has been involved with many community organizations such as The Good Shepherd, City Kidz, Hamilton Health Sciences, Hamilton Community Foundation, and Theatre Aquarius.

Over the past few years PJ has organized high-profile fundraising events featuring Academy Award Winners and Hollywood icons Al Pacino, Michael Douglas, James Woods and Sylvester Stallone, US Vice-Presidential Candidate Sarah Palin and Grammy Award Winners Chicago the band and Olivia Newton-John. These specific events have raised over \$500,000 for Hamilton based charitable organizations.

He is one of Hamilton-Niagara's Top 40 Under 40 (The Business Link), was a nominee for the Hive X Young Professional of the Year, and was awarded the Outstanding Corporate Partner Award by the Canadian Diabetes Association. He is also a contributing author in the book "Defyneuers: An inspired movement of Entrepreneurs". PJ is also involved with many other exciting development, entertainment and hospitality ventures in the Southern Ontario area.

PJ and his wife, Diana, live happily in the Ancaster area. His hobbies include: running, Notre Dame Football, Route 66, movies, reading biographies, and spending down time with family and friends.

Dr. Bernardo Trigatti, B.Sc, Ph.D.

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD



Dr. Bernardo Trigatti, more familiarly known as Dino Trigatti, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences at McMaster University. He is also a member of the Thrombosis and Atherosclerosis Research Institute, affiliated with McMaster University and Hamilton Health Sciences.

Dr. Trigatti and his team use a combination of biochemical and genetic approaches in laboratory mice to tease out the genes that are responsible for development or hardening of the arteries, particularly focusing on how HDL (the good cholesterol) can both protect against, and in fact reverse this disease. The information provided by this research will lead to new understanding and development of new therapeutic approaches for cardiovascular disease in people. Dr. Trigatti's research group is probing the mechanisms that underlie development of atherosclerosis, or "hardening of the arteries", the disease that causes narrowing of the arteries and is the leading cause of heart attacks and strokes.

Dino Trigatti was born and raised in Hamilton. He attended St. Jean de Brebeuf and St. Thomas Moore Secondary schools, and received both his undergraduate (B.Sc.) and graduate (Ph.D.) degrees from McMaster University in the field of Biochemistry. He completed postdoctoral training from 1995-2000 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA, USA. He returned to Hamilton in 2000 to take up a faculty position at McMaster University in the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences at the Assistant Professor level. He became an Associate Professor with tenure in 2007 and joined the Thrombosis and Atherosclerosis Research Institute in 2010.

Dr. Trigatti also teaches in both the undergraduate and graduate programs in Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences as well as the graduate program in Medical Sciences at McMaster University. He has mentored a number of young scientists at the undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral levels. Dr. Trigatti reviews grant applications for National and International research funding agencies, currently as a member of grant study panels for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, and the American Heart Association. Dr. Trigatti is also a member of the editorial board of the journal, *Biochemistry Research International*, and is a Section Editor of the journal, *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta-Molecular and Cell Biology of Lipids*.

Dr. Trigatti has received numerous awards and acknowledgements. Such accomplishments include, Fellowships from the Medical Research Council of Canada and the William T. McEachern Foundation, a New Investigator Award from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, and a Young Investigator Award from Pfizer Canada as well as the Canadian Lipoprotein Conference. Lastly, he has received a McMaster University Alumni Association Arch Award.

Dr. Trigatti is married to Gabriella Cadeddu and has three children. Their names are Alessandro, Marco, and Luca.



Angelo Paletta

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD



Angelo describes himself as a hands-on, hard-working, driven, no nonsense individual who is performance-based. While his basic education is from school, the majority of his skills have been developed by watching, listening and learning from his father Pat, since he was 7 years old. Angelo has taken his experience and knowledge of the meat packing business and has applied it to all the businesses that he is involved in.

Angelo began working in the land development division in 1983. He has been actively involved in all aspects of land development from planning communities to all the municipal requirements to the actual servicing of the lands for residential lots, industrial parcels and retail parcels. Angelo negotiates all contracts for the servicing and construction of all works, such as construction of retail and industrial buildings. Angelo managed the leasing of all properties and conducted all sales and acquisition of all properties.

In the mid 1980s, he commenced the media and communication division of the company whereby the company leases lands for communication, mobile and media towers. Customers include Telus, Rogers, Pattison and Viacom. Angelo was also one of the co-founders of the Gold Book and 701.com. Additionally, Angelo started the company's Entertainment division in 2006 with the acquisition of major motion pictures. Princess Gates Entertainment was formed to handle these projects. The company does acquisitions, and different levels of financing for major motion pictures, TV series, animations, and DVD projects. Projects include: Night at the Museum, Live Free Die Hard, Day the Earth Stood Still, Casino Jack, and many others.

Angelo holds a number of key leadership roles. In 2000, Angelo became President of Paletta International Corporation and the Burlington Centennial Developments. In 2006 he became the President/Executive Producer of Princess Gates Entertainment Inc. and also President of Penta Properties. Lastly, Angelo is involved with Tender Choice Foods as Vice President and involved with the macro aspects of the business – Financing, Insurance, Corporate Affairs, Union contract negotiations, Legals and Public Relations.

Angelo graduated with honours from Appleby College in 1981. He attained his Real Estate Sales Person Licence in 1983 and his Real Estate Broker's Licence in 1984. He has been deemed Commissioner for taking Affidavits from 1987-Present, was knighted as a Knight of Malta in 2007 and was awarded the Queens Diamond Jubilee Metal in 2012. Angelo fondly describes his most significant education as attending the University of Pat Paletta from 1981 to the present day.

Angelo believes in giving back to the communities. He has assisted, The North Glanbrook Industrial Committee, the North West Toronto Industrial Committee (the only non-Torontonian to sit on the committee), and the Hamilton Home Builders Association Board of Directors. Angelo sits on the board of the Carpenter Hospice since 2008, was vice Chair in 2011 and currently sits as Chair of the Board for 2012-2014. Moreover, he is the Honorary Chair for this year's 2013 Burlington Masquerade Ball.

Angelo was born on Nov 21, 1962 in Hamilton, Ontario. His wife's name is Darlene, and he has 3 children named Vittorio 23, Pietro 21, and Angela Christina 19. Angelo also has 3 brothers named, Remi, Paul, and Michael.