

TRANSCRIPT
SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Questions	Interviewee 1
Date of Interview	February 13, 2023
Name of Interviewee	Caterina D'Ambrogio
1. What age group/generation are you in?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baby Boomers Generation - 50s
2. Where were you born?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I was born In Toronto, Canada
3. At what age did you move to Italy after being born in Toronto?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At 9 years old - I did grades 1, 2 and 3 in Canada
4. How did you travel to Italy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I traveled on a ship, it was the Leonard da Vinci - A huge ocean liner
5. What is your home town in Italy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cittanova - In the province of Reggio Calabria - Italy
6. Who went to Italy with you?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - My whole family - My mother and father - As well as my 4 brothers and 1 sister - Sister Josie, brothers Tranquillo, Francesco, Giovanni and Tony

<p>7. How many years did you live in Italy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14 years before returning back to Canada - Attended University in Italy - L'università di Bologna for medicina e chirurgia (medicine and surgery) but after 3 years I changed my study plans and began pursuing radio as my true passion
<p>8. Why did you come back to Canada after living in Italy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It wasn't my choice, my husband was curious to know this country
<p>9. What was your first impression of Canada once coming back?</p> <p>Follow up:</p> <p>a. Were you used to sunny weather In Calabria?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cold, snowy winter - It was 1982 and the winter was shockingly cold - I was dressed fancy but my mother told us we had to buy winter boots and jackets - I lost my fashion sense due to the weather - Constantly cloudy days, one day after another - I felt the anxiety from being closed in without sunshine - It was physically and psychologically affecting me <p>a. Yes, down south we were not exposed to much snow, it was rare. Nothing like the cold in Canada.</p>
<p>10. What was the reason for going back to Italy when you were young?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - My dad didn't like staying in Canada - His vision for us kids growing up was in Italy - He wanted us to grow up immersed in the Italian culture and living - He felt alienated in Canada - His family had businesses in Italy, so that was another pressure to go back and be involved with it
<p>11. Did you encounter any obstacles/ barriers coming back to Canada?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not exactly obstacles, but I had to get used to the different lifestyle

<p>12. Did you bring any items of importance with you when you came to Canada? (i.e. photographs, family heirlooms, mementos).</p> <p>Follow up:</p> <p>a. Would you be willing to share some of them with us?</p> <p>b. Would you be willing to allow them to be studied and made available to the wider community?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, many, many pictures and schoolbooks that I still have with me. My grade 6,7 and 8 books of Italian literature. I also brought a doll given to me by a dear friend. These to me were very important a. Yes b. Yes
<p>13. Did you exchange letters with relatives in Italy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No

<p>What was school like for you in Canada?</p> <p>Follow up:</p> <p>a. As you said, you didn't feel like you belonged in Canada at school. Do you think it was the language barrier or was it cultural differences?</p> <p>b. You also said that it felt different going back to Italy as well. Was it because you didn't feel like you belonged after being in Canada for so long?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I did grades 1,2 and 3 in Canada - I did not feel included in school here - There were many kids named Kevin or Jane and I was Caterina - I felt isolated as the Italian - I didn't feel apart of the group and not given the attention I needed - I loved the arts and loved to dance but I wasn't allowed to go to dance school - My friend was doing dance lessons so I would copy her and wanted to show my class at show and tell that I could dance but they told me no - I felt discriminated against, I was little Caterina, the Italian girl who did not blend in - I wanted to wear running shoes like my friends, but my parents wanted me to wear leather shoes only - I secretly wore the running shoes in my school pictures and my parents were so upset - But I was so happy because I put on the shoes and I was a Canadian like everybody else - But still the teacher didn't make absolutely no effort to make me feel apart of the class - I have no memory of what I learned in school - The only thing I remember is the smell of the paper - I would leave at recess and I would go home and not come back because I didn't like it and I had anxiety going there <p>a. I think it was a culture difference. It was a public school and majority were Canadian, at least in my class</p> <p>b. I did feel like an alien going back there, I felt this several times. I went to a private school in a small town and the first feeling arriving was weird. People in town would always say oh look the Americans have arrived! At school especially, I was singled out. I remember the teachers kept something I wrote in English and all the teachers laughed and shared it around the school because I was writing in English. At first my peers were unsure of me but eventually I learned ways to gain friends. I tried to walk like a popular girl in my class and I taught people my American nursery rhyme on the playground. Now everyone wanted to be my friend and we conquered the challenge.</p>
<p>14. Where is "home" for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That is a really good question, because it's hard - You feel a connection with Italy and a connection with Canada

<p>you and why?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It's like you lived half of your life there and half of your life here - So you have roots kind of everywhere - I went to school in Italy and I love the culture and history - But in Canada, I was born there and I am tied to it because of my son - My son was born there - Through him and his experience I got to live Canada - So I'm torn, my roots are together but my branches are spread, but it's part of the same tree
<p>15. When you say you were able to transmit the Italian culture and life to your son, do you mean through teaching the language and such at home or elsewhere?</p> <p>Follow up:</p> <p>a. Was Italian his first language or English and Italian at the same time?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In my family we always spoke Italian and we still do - So my son grew up in an environment where he got the best of language - We used to take him to Italy every single year to experience a life in Italy, he says they are his best memories - When he started learning history he was fascinated with Italian history, I say it's in the blood <p>a. Yes, Italian was his first language. But it was a smooth transition to English as well</p>
<p>16. How often do you get the chance to go back to Italy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I used to go for 3 years in a row but then I stopped because I missed my home here in Canada - But usually every other year or every two years
<p>17. Is there anything else</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I was a bit worried when I decided to become a mother

<p>you would like to add to your story related to family life and living in Italy versus in Canada?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I was worried that my son would have not gotten the same education that I did in Italy - I had trouble following him here since I have come from a different school system - My son was bringing schoolwork from home and it was a struggle - I wish I was more familiar with the Canadian school system to be able to help more - But it was different here in Canada - I had to accept the difference and understand he would still learn a lot
<p>Interview Pt. 2 Career-Related questions begin now...</p>	
<p>1. How did you land at CHIN Radio and what was it like being a woman in radio? Are you considered a pioneer?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - My passion for radio began in Italy - I was still in university, and they would call me to the radio station when I was on my school breaks - Wasn't making money, it was just a passion and I learned a lot for the technical system - It began with my passion for music, I had knowledge of music prior to radio - I started singing from a young age and I won 13 trophies, starting at the age of 15 years old - My first job was in a factory first in Canada for 2 months, it was a hard time in my life - It was always school and books and singing and radio until this - But then, since I knew Italian, I was called at this optical place - It didn't last long since I ended up checking out a radio position and not long after Johnny Lombardi wanted to meet me - He knew I was singing and he wanted to hear me and then he wanted me to go on TV - There was one female announcer but then I took that place, the rest were male - At CHIN is where I expressed all my creativity - I was on every single Sunday - I didn't rehearse, experience kicked in, and the passion too of course - I loved my time at CHIN
<p>2. How would you describe being on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I had it down to a science

<p>radio? Did you always improvise?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I just needed the topics, and I could tie it together no problem - I always had to find a logical line from one thing to the next - That was my forte - If I had a script, I would go off of it and still connect everything to satisfy the needs - I'm not a perfectionist, I just loved what I was doing - Passion is the first ingredient
<p>3. Could you select your working hours or were you given a set schedule to follow?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You have to stick to the Sunday program - It started at 11am-2pm - I could never make my schedule - I could choose some days off but mostly predetermined - My contract said I was to be present, especially for PR - Johnny Lombardi wanted the announcers for shows so everyone could see the staff
<p>4. From your perspective, in which ways have you seen radio evolve?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is mostly just music - Less information or segments of panels of experts or things like that - When I did radio, we had interviews, shows or experts come to talk and then music mixed in, it wasn't just music - They cut all of the rest to promote music now - When I went back to CHIN, 5 years ago I would incorporate information at my discretion - Perhaps it's because younger generations just want the music but I think there are other people who would still want the extra content - There are still people at home and want to listen to people talk, I think it is important - I call it poor radio - I think it's important that if you serve a community, why not give them a voice
<p>5. Did you want to discuss some of your other endeavours such as the Passion Play and teaching?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I've been teaching for 25 years - I did not just stop at teaching Italian - I wanted to stimulate the students using music, the arts, plays and dance - I always use that as my medium to reach the students - I also ask the students to tell me about their Italian life at home, such as what they do at home and the dialects or other things they want to discuss in class further

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- This allowed them to come home, do research and then come to school and tell us what they learned- I wanted to students to appreciate the culture and that to me is being rich- I also conducted a choir for a number of years- Then I asked a colleague to help me with a project, called the Passion play- So I brought it to the students and they loved it- They asked me every year to do it- They were devastated during covid when it had to be cancelled- It was terrible because the kids really wanted to do it |
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