



## A LASTING TESTAMENT

### PALETTA FAMILY SALUTES PATRIARCH THROUGH SUPPORT OF MUSEUM EXPANSION

The Joseph Brant Museum Burlington Builders Gallery, featuring the history of families who have made significant contributions to Burlington, appealed to the Paletta family who wanted to create a lasting testament to the generous contributions of family patriarch Pasquale (Pat) Paletta.

"My father came to Canada and started his meat processing business in Hamilton with one animal," says Angelo Paletta, who today heads up the family's Burlington-based real estate empire that includes shopping centres, office buildings and residential developments. The family also owns Princess Gates Entertainment which finances films, television and stage productions.

"He moved the business to Burlington in 1964 at the corner of Appleby Line and the

QEW, and grew that to more than 100,000 square feet and 165 employees before selling it to what was then Canada Packers. From there he began investing in real estate and that is where our primary focus is today."

The spirit of philanthropy was part of the business from its beginnings, a tradition that continues today with the family's \$50,000 contribution to the Joseph Brant Museum expansion.

Angelo says it's important for the community to rally behind the museum expansion, and urges other businesses to follow his lead. "Get involved, put your money where your mouth is ... show the community that you're willing to give back, and have your story kept alive for generations to come."

See Angelo's interview online at [burlingtonmuseumsfoundation.ca](http://burlingtonmuseumsfoundation.ca).



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*Angelo Paletta, President, Paletta International Corporation, says his father built an empire through his dedication to employees and the community.*

## TAKING SHAPE

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT NEEDED AHEAD OF EXPANSION OPENING THIS SUMMER

Our 'new' Joseph Brant Museum is taking shape with construction on schedule for opening this summer, says John Doyle, Chair, Burlington Museums Foundation.

"It's exciting to see it coming together, with the spectacular glass wall facing the waterfront now in place," says John, adding the fundraising campaign to meet the community's \$2.5-million commitment toward the \$11.4-million expansion is also moving forward.

"We are hoping to complete our

fundraising commitment well ahead of the Museum opening," John adds, noting the fundraising team continues to meet with prospective donors, service clubs and philanthropists throughout the community.

"We are very pleased that the Paletta family has agreed to join other prominent Burlington families in our Burlington Builders Gallery as a founding family by contributing \$50,000 toward the project."

In a construction update on January 24, the City reported continuing work on exterior retaining walls, including the installation of stone veneer. Interior work is well underway, including the elevator link that will connect the Joseph Brant house with the newly expanded facility at ground level.

"Workers will begin installing the structural steel canopy over the entrance in February as well, so watch for that if you're in the area."



BURLINGTON MUSEUMS FOUNDATION

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OUR NEW MUSEUM

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Aerial photograph of the Brant Inn when it dominated the Burlington waterfront, attracting a range of entertainers including Clyde 'Stumpy' Brown (Inset)



## ROCKING THE WATERFRONT

### COSTUME GALLERY TO BRING 'BIG BAND' ERA TO LIFE

By Barbara Teatero, Director of Museums

*I am so excited to share with you the plans for the Costume Gallery in the 'new' Joseph Brant Museum.*

In the '40s, '50s, and '60s the Brant Inn, was the place to be. If you wanted to dance the night away to famous big bands, you dressed up in your most glamorous clothes, headed to Burlington and joined the party.

This was a time when some of the biggest stars from Canada and the United States played at the Brant Inn. Stars such as Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Lena Horne, Sarah Vaughan, Liberace, and Clyde (Stumpy) Brown (trombonist and manager of the then popular Band of Renown), to name a few. Hugely popular American big bands such as Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller attracted crowds.

Our 'runway' will feature costume and accessories from this glamour time set against the backdrop of the famous Brant Inn. Of course, a well-dressed woman would accessorize her outfit with matching shoes, a clutch bag and her finest jewellery. Men would wear their very best silk bowtie.

While the Brant Inn was in its heyday, Burlington along with the rest of the country was experiencing profound social,

technological and economic change.

The 1940s unfolded with Canada embroiled in World War II, and many Burlingtonians joined the Canadian forces. Peace ushered in economic prosperity and the baby boom. By the 1950s, suburban life flourished in Burlington. All of which led to explosive growth which fuelled ambitious development.

The Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital opened in 1961, serving Burlington and the region. In 1965, Burlington City Hall opened. We celebrated Canada's Centennial Year in 1967 with extensive redevelopment of Spencer Smith Park. In the same year, GO services launched.

The next year, Burlington Mall opened, built on the site of Fisher Farms. Rounding out the decade, 1969 was the inaugural year for the Burlington International Games (BIG), held every year on the waterfront where the illustrious Brant Inn once stood.

As you explore the Costume Gallery you will learn all about what was happening in Burlington in the '40s, '50s and '60s, and maybe even enjoy a little music. We often say that history repeats itself. Will you be able to see any parallels to our Burlington of today?