

**Marconi Club - 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet**

**Saturday November 26, 2016 6:00 P.M.**

**[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]**

Good evening, it's great to be joining you for the Marconi Society of Sault Ste. Marie's 104<sup>th</sup> annual banquet. My wife Kyleigh and I are both pleased to be here and as always I'm very glad to bring you greetings on behalf of the Office of Mayor and Sault Ste. Marie City Council.

As I like to say, it's never that hard to say "yes" to an appearance at the Marconi Club, because you always know you're going to get a top-notch meal out of the bargain. But in all seriousness, I'm happy to be here tonight to celebrate the successes of the society and to reflect on the year that's gone by.

As mentioned at the outset, we're here tonight for the 104<sup>th</sup> annual banquet and also to commemorate the 104<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the G. Marconi Society. Over the years, I'm sure it hasn't escaped notice that the society was established in 1912—the same year that Sault Ste. Marie was incorporated as a City.

I find I really appreciate the naturalness of that symmetry. The society has been a part of our City for as long as it has been a City, and throughout that span it has been contributing to the public good of our community in many significant ways.

The society was established for several reasons, among them preserving and promoting Italian culture and heritage in the community, encouraging and supporting youth participation in sports and recreational activities, and creating programs and activities for members and their families.

This year in 2016, the Society once again held its annual Italian Festival in July and Golf Tournament in September. And this venue—the Marconi Club— continued to serve as a favourite community gathering place for all manner of events and celebrations.

So before I depart the stage, I'd like to offer my thanks to all of the society's members for their continued service and commitment over the past year.

Your efforts in 2016 have helped to advance the society's ideals, support many good works, and better our community in a variety of ways.

Congratulations again on all of your achievements in 2016, best wishes for more great things in the year ahead, and thank you for inviting Kyleigh and I to join in your celebration with you this evening.