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**Soccer Club**



*Wall of Fame*

**5th Annual Induction Ceremony**  
**2024**

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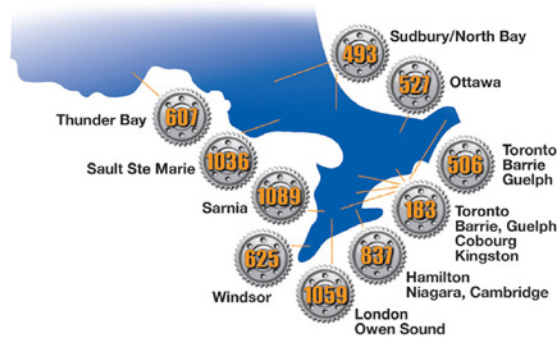
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TORONTO AZZURRI WALL OF FAME



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CHAIR

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for your participation in this 5th Annual Toronto Azzurri Soccer Wall of Fame Gala.

Twenty five years ago...in 1999, the NEW Toronto Azzurri Soccer Club was established. Our mission was to create, sustain and grow educational, cultural and sport programming aimed at our interCity youth. It was a unique strategic position decided upon by the Toronto Azzurri members led by Gus Mandarino. Together with Councillor Peter LiPreti, Toronto Azzurri laid out a Proposal to the City of Toronto.

Our passion for the game of soccer and our personal experiences as youth players in one of the GTA's most successful youth soccer clubs, the Westwood Young Generation, carried a powerful message. However, it would be the commitment the Club pledged to reach out to the InterCity families and their children in a multi-dimentional way that would be the key selling point of the City's final decision to grant Toronto Azzurri SC a 20 year lease on five acres of prime park land on the Keele St. Reservoir site. Today we are currently preparing a new and updated proposal to renew our current lease with The City of Toronto supported by our two Councillors James Pasternak and Anthony Perruzza.

The Toronto Azzurri SC is proud to have organized many special programs and projects which have benefited and energized the participation and education of our Community youth. Programs like 'Engage 416' targeting intercity teens and supported by the Toronto Police Service and our year long soccer programming with our Special Needs Team, The Toronto Tornadoes. We stage educational seminars during the year featuring career planning (hosted by Liuna 183/506) and proper handling of Sport injuries(Concussions/first responders behavior/injury recovery).

In 2017, the Toronto Azzurri SC launched the Soccer Wall of Fame which is located at the LIUNA Clubhouse at the Toronto Azzurri Youth Sport Village, 4995 Keele St. (#1 Carmen Principato Way). Every year, worthy individuals who have directly contributed to the growth and development of the game of soccer in the GTA over the past 75 years are honoured.

Congratulations to each inductee and their families who provided them with the support, encouragement and sacrifice that allowed them to achieve.



Robert Iarusci, Chairman  
Toronto Azzurri Soccer Club  
Est. 1968



Ralph Ciccia, President  
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Fortunato Febbraro



# PREVIOUS INDUCTEES HONoured IN TORONTO AZZURRI SOCCER WALL OF FAME

## BUILDERS/PIONEERS

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Sam Ciccolini	2017	Joe D'Urso	2019
Johnny Lombardi	2017	Basil Policaro	2019
Gino Ventresca	2017	Alberto DiGiovanni	2023
Ted Laraia	2018	Pasquale Fioccola	2023
Mario Di Bartolomeo	2018	Tony Fontana	2024
Joseph J. Piccininni	2018	Carmen Principato	2024

## COACHES/MANAGERS

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Carlo Delmonte	2017	Alberto DeRosa	2019
Gus Mandarino	2017	Mario Perruzza	2019
Aldo Principe	2017	Peter Pinizzotto	2023
Fiorigi Pagliuso	2018	Adamo Pagliaroli	2024
Hector Marinaro Sr.	2018	Richard Morandini	2024
Domenic Matera	2018		
Orazio DeCiantis	2018		

## PLAYERS

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Robert Iarusci	2017	Paul D'Agostino	2019
Tony Lecce	2017	Frank Riga	2023
Pasquale Pietrantonio	2017	Carmelo Barbieri	2023
Giorgio Piotti	2018	Joe Pellegrino	2024
Carmine Marcantonio	2018	Sandy Scamurra	2024
Paul Stalteri	2019		

## MEDIA

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Tino Baxa	2017	Alf DeBlasis	2019
Paolo Canciani	2017	Tony Pavia	2023
Nicola Sparano	2017	John Iaboni	2024

## SPECIAL TORONTO AZZURRI RECOGNITION AWARD

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Carmen & Bruno DeNino	2018	Joe Mancuso	2023
Tony Cipriani	2019	Ralph Ciccia	2023
Lucky Raso	2019	Fortunato Febbraro	2024





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It is an honour to be part of the event  
recognizing the worthy 2024 inductees to be  
inducted into  
*The Toronto Azzurri Soccer Wall of Fame.*

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## Congratulations on celebrating Toronto Azzurri's Soccer Club's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Induction Gala!

Dear Toronto Azzurri Soccer Club,

As a city councillor and a proud supporter of our local sports community, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the honorees at the 5th Annual Induction Gala.

To the coaches, managers, players, and media representatives, your dedication and achievements have brought immense pride to the Toronto Azzurri Soccer Club. Your commitment to excellence serves as an inspiration to our community.


A special congratulations is also in order for Fortunato Febbraro on receiving the Toronto Azzurri Lifetime Achievement Award. Your contributions to the club over the years are truly commendable and deserving of this honour.


I would also like to thank the event sponsors for their generous support. Your commitment to the Toronto Azzurri Soccer Club is greatly appreciated and vital to the success of events like these.

Once again, congratulations to all the honorees. Your hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed, and I wish you continued success in all your future endeavours.

Best Regards,


City Councillor Anthony Perruzza  
Humber-River Black Creek


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Congratulations to all the  
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## TONY FONTANA

### BUILDERS/PIONEERS

Antonio (Tony) Fontana was President and Owner of the North York Rockets in the Canadian Professional League (CPL) from 1990-1995. He left an indelible mark on the growth of soccer locally. Tony was born in the town of Scigliano (CO) Calabria in 1942. His family immigrated to Toronto, Canada in 1958.

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Tony quickly understood life in Canada and the definition of success... "Work hard, learn well, and your opportunity will come". He began working as a finishing carpenter and then moved to Forming Construction. In 1965/66, Tony began to better understand the construction business under two shrewd owners, Tony Sabato and Italo Cerone and in 1967 with the DiLorenzo Group. In 1974, Tony finally set out on his own, creating TF Forming, a business which still sees him as President today!

Tony was always a soccer fanatic, propelled by his love for Juventus. In 1989, Joe D'Urso and Basil Policaro sold the majority ownership of the North York Rockets to Tony. Tony focused on a roster dominated by local players. He was so proud of driving professional soccer in the GTA. In 1991, the Rockets reached the Finals of the CSL Playoffs after beating the Nova Scotia Clippers in the semis, but fell short against the Blizzard in the finals. Under legendary coach Fiorigi Pagliuso, Tony built a formidable team comprised of strong local talent... Berdusco, Sarantopoulos, Ceccarelli, Commisso, Cubellis, Ionadi, Marinaro Jr. and the late Peter Zezel. Pagliuso also brought in an U16 super talented Tomasz Radzinski to the roster. Tomasz went on to become a major offensive weapon for Canada's Men's National Team and a career in European League soccer.

Reluctantly, with the slow decline of the CPL, Tony tried to keep things going by competing in the United States League (UPL). He was lured by the League commissioner who promised a big soccer explosion post '94 US World Cup, but he became disheartened about the small home crowds and the rising travel costs, so he was forced to fold the team. Tony would like to acknowledge his North York Rockets support team starting with: Coach Fiorigi Pagliuso, his General Manager, the late Hector Marinaro Sr., and Susan Fazari, his trusted Office Administrator.



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## CARMEN PRINCIPATO

### BUILDERS/PIONEERS

Carmen Principato is the Business Manager for Labourer's International Union of North America ( Liuna Local 506 ) Carmen was elected into the position in 1986 and still holds it today, 38 years later.

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In addition, Carmen is currently Vice President of LIUNA OPDC and Vice Chair of the Labourer's Pension Fund of Eastern Canada. In total, Carmen represents close to 200,000 members. Carmen is responsible for establishing a Scholarship Fund for member's children, allowing them to attend post-secondary education. Carmen has been bestowed with many honours over the years. In 1992, he received a Commemorative medal from the Governor General of Canada for the 125th celebration of Canada in recognition of his contributions to compatriots, community and Canada.

LIUNA's mandate is "WE HELP BUILD COMMUNITIES". In 1999, the Toronto Azzurri Soccer Club went to Carmen and proposed LIUNA 506 to be a major sponsor for it's project to receive a 5-acre parcel of land at 4995 Keele Street (Keele Street Reservoir). Carmen shared our vision to provide youth programming at The Toronto Azzurri Youth Sport Village. Thanks to Carmen and the great people at LIUNA 506, Liuna 183, and LIUNA OPDC, on April 29, 2014, we were able to open the 6,000 sq. foot LIUNA Clubhouse at #1 Carmen Principato Way!

Carmen was also honoured with the prestigious CIPBA Community Leader Award for his outstanding contributions to life in Canada. Carmen has led by example, and has been an inspiration to Italian Canadians.



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*Congrats!*

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## ADAM PAGLIAROLI

### COACHES/MANAGERS

Adam has coached high performance teams in the GTA for the past 46 straight years! Born May 1st in Veroli (Fr) Italy, his family immigrated to Toronto in 1965. He began playing in the T & D youth leagues at age 13 with CS Italia and then over the next 10 years played with Sidernese/Termitana/Santanofrese/SanFili/Fossacessia and SunJet.

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Unfortunately, Adam suffered some serious ankle injuries which forced him to start considering coaching. In 1978 Adam became Assistant Coach to Tony Ciamarra with Pasquale Fioccola's Toronto Jets U18 team. The following year, with Guy Fracassa at his side, Adamo became the Jets' Head Coach. For the next 10 years, Adam built the Jets into perhaps Toronto's strongest youth Club, focusing on U16-U19 age groups.

The '80's decade also saw Adam lead York jets, Woodbridge Strikers and the York Shooters under Tony Biselglie. Adam was offered a pro coaching job with Rende (Serie D) and to attend Coverciano (Italy's Coaching Academy) but had to turn the offer down for fear of losing his job in Toronto. Adamo was honoured to coach Toronto Italia with the legendary Croatian coach, Djalma Markovic, in 1990. He credits Markovic for teaching him the important subtleties of the art of coaching. Adamo then enjoyed coaching in Alberto DiGiovanni's Centro Scuola's powerful young teams that dominated the OSA's youth leagues. Adamo also reunited with Joe D'Urso in the mid '90's in the Petro Canada League and then coaching excellent teams in the Canadian Indoor League played at Humber College.

Adam was always keen to travel internationally to expose his youth players to strong competition that was so important in their development. He took his Toronto Jets team with Joe D'Urso to Calabria in 1985 and his York Jets team to Brazil with Mike DeLillo in 1990. Adam's U19 won the Robbie Tournament and then lost in the finals of the Minnesota Cup vs Sweden. His greatest satisfaction was leading his CS Azzurri U16 team to a group round victory vs Juventus (3-1) in the prestigious Youth Tournament in Forli Italy. Adam was named Technical Director and Head Coach of the Weston Wolves starting in 2002. Over 18 years, Adam lead a vibrant program at Weston which featured an Ontario Cup final in 2011 and then taking two strong youth teams to Frosinone in 2014. Adam's last three years have been with the Toronto Azzurri SC. In 2023, he led his U17 to an undefeated season, finished second in League play and won the League Cup. Adam would like to thank Guy Fracassa for being by his side throughout his illustrious coaching career starting in 1978.

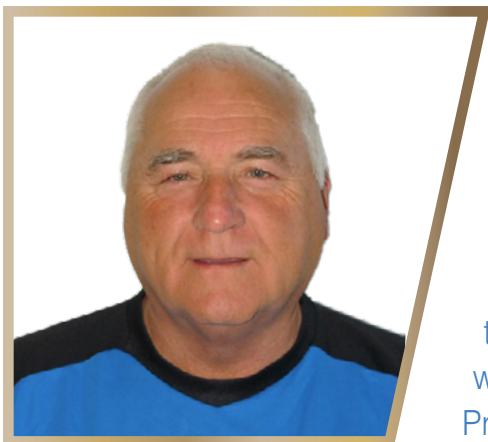


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## RICHARD MORANDINI

### COACHES/MANAGERS

A local high school star athlete who excelled in football, baseball, basketball and soccer, Richard also broke Toronto track and field records. Richard was born in Udine, Italy in 1950 and immigrated to Toronto with his family in 1956. He started playing rep soccer with the Westwood Young Generation and played for coach Aldo Principe (founder of the Club).

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In 1969, Richard played with the original Toronto Azzurri team coached by Fiorigi Pagliuso and his team launched Westwood's player development strategy which eventually led to playing with Toronto Italia of the National Soccer League. Richard's technical and tactical progress was like a valuable fine wine, improving year by year. Richard became a prolific scorer and, in 1976, was selected to Canada's National Team under coach Frank Pike.

Richard's appreciation for athletic achievement at a high competitive level lured him into coaching. Through his son Adam and daughter Alana, he became driven in the understanding of coaching young players. This inspired him to enter the National Coaching Stream, and over a few short years acquired the National "A" Coaching license he holds today. Richard began coaching at the Community College level with George Brown, Sheridan and Georgian Colleges. He progressed into Youth Club soccer with Malton, York Jets, Oakville, Barrie Oakridges, Newmarket, as well as the Grand Bahamas S.C. Richard's passion for managing and coaching has taken him into his current professional career, becoming a Technical Director with Toronto and Scarborough Soccer Associations. He has also held Technical Director positions with Oakville SC, Barrie SC and Newmarket SC over the years.

Over the past 30 years, Richard has proudly contributed as a Coaching Facilitator and Master Coach Developer with Ontario Soccer, directly helping the mentorship of provincial coaches, grassroots and licensed courses.

Richard acknowledges his wife Yolanda for her love and support over their 53-year marriage. He continues to coach and support his four grandchildren, Richard Jr., Benjamin, Samantha, and Hadley.



We would like to congratulate  
all eight inductees into the  
Toronto Azzurri Wall of Fame



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# JOE PELEGRINO

## PLAYERS

One of the toughest and most effective defenders ever to play in the GTA's highest competitive leagues. Joe was born in Acerenza (Basilicata) and immigrated to Toronto in 1965. He began playing organized soccer with the Hawks of the Westwood Young Generation SC under coach Joe Grande in 1971.

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That year, they won the Ontario Cup and the Eastern Canadian Cup, but lost in the Canadian Finals vs Calgary on penalty kicks. Joe moved on for the next three years to the Mio Majors under Eddie Zilli ('72-74). Joe then played center back for San Fili in the T & D's Premier League from 1976-78, and helped his team capture the Consol and Metro Cups. In 1979, Joe began his season with Delia (T & D First Div.) coached by John Paolis, but later that year was called up to play with Toronto Italia in the NSL. From that moment, Joe never looked back.

In 1980, under Fiorigi Pagliuso, Joe anchored Toronto Italia as Center Back. From 1981-1984, Joe became team Captain. In 1982, under coach Carlo Delmonte, Joe's Toronto Italia went undefeated that year and won the NSL's triple crown (League Champs/NSL Cup and League Playoffs). Toronto Italia beat Glasgow Celtic that summer in exhibition play 4-1 at York Stadium. In 1983, under the coaching duo of two Argentinian legends, Nester Rossi and Omar Sivori, Joe's Toronto Italia had another successful season and won the NSL Cup.

Joe's final year with Toronto was 1984 under another legend Hector Marinaro Sr. Unfortunately, because of injuries and personal reasons, Joe stopped playing soccer for 6 years. In the fall of '83, Joe was called to Canada's National Team training camp in Kitchener, and it was late in the sessions when he suffered an Achillies ankle strain.

In 1990, Joe joined his Toronto Azzurri teammates and resumed his center back role surrounded by a formidable cast...D'Agostino, Iarusci, Di Girolamo, Marcantonio, Plessas, Febbraro, Raso, Morandini, J. Schiraldi. The group played outdoor and indoor together for over 20 years, winning many League titles. That team also won the Open Cup in Oneanta NY (US Soccer Hall of Fame) twice.

Joe is strongly supported by his wife Flora of 39 years and his son Michael and daughter Bianca.



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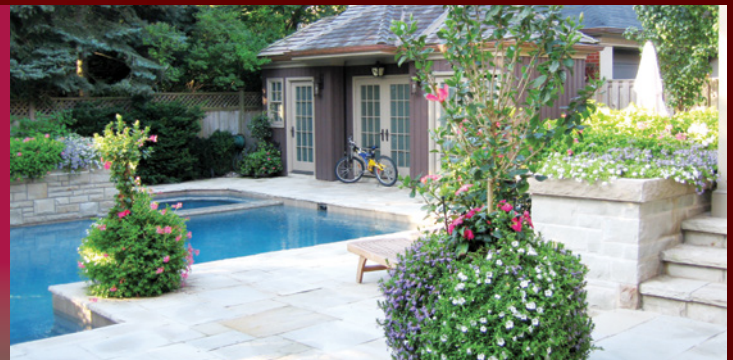
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## SANDY SCAMURRA

### PLAYERS

Sandy was born in Mississauga, Ontario on December 15, 1964 to parents from Sante Iona, Abbruzzo Italy. He started playing organized soccer with the Mississauga Soccer Club in 1973, and a year later was selected to play with their U10 Rep team.

Sandy developed into an excellent defender and, in 1980, he helped his U16 team reach the Ontario Cup finals. In 1982, Sandy enjoyed the perfect dream season. He moved to Toronto Italia's U18 team and captained a team that set new records in the National Soccer League (NSL). That year, the team went undefeated, scoring the most goals for, least goals against. That team went on to become Eastern Canadian and Canadian Champs. Playing on that team...Hector Marinaro, Jr., Cosi Commisso, Trevor McCallum, Claudio Piotti, the late Peter Zezel, Gino Ferrin and Domenic Macina. Sandy was also named co-captain of the Ontario Provincial U19 team and, in 1982, he played on the Canadian National Youth Team in the CONCACAF Tournament played in Guatemala.

Sandy continued to anchor the Ontario Selects U21 team in 1983. That year, Sandy was also promoted to Toronto Italia's First team which went on to win the prestigious Triple Crown in the NSL (League Champions/NSL Cup and Canadian Championship). Sandy is very proud to have played for two Argentinian legends in 1983, namely Nestor Rossi and Omar Sivori. That year they won the NSL Cup.

Sandy continued to play competitive soccer until 1989. He remained in the game by coaching high performance youth teams for both boys and girls. He is currently partnered with his former teammate and childhood best friend, Hector Marinaro, Jr. in a Sports Agency that helps young and aspiring boys and girls with special skills and character to university and/or professional opportunities.



# Daniela Ciccia

## Sales Representative

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## JOHN IABONI

### MEDIA

Longtime respected sports journalist, Giovanni (John) Iaboni was born in Toronto, April 8, 1951. It was John's grandfather Giacomo who paved the way for his family to a new life in Canada, immigrating from Veroli (Fr) Italy in 1924. As a boy, John aspired to become the goalie for his beloved Toronto Maple Leafs and, along with his father, religiously watched them play every week on TV.

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John started to acquire a passion for journalism while attending Oakwood Collegiate. He began devouring the daily sports accounts and articles in Toronto's local newspapers and practicing writing his own phantom imaginary stories about the stars he followed. He began to report about the scores and articles of the Oakwood sport scene and this impressed the Toronto Telegram newspaper. John was hired to cover local high school, university and minor hockey sports. He received his first byline at the Telegram when he was 18 years old.

John is one of the 62 original members of the Toronto Sun which launched on November 1st, 1971. He was one of the original 5 members of the Sun's Sports Department. This was a full-time position John held while studying for his BA at the University of Toronto. As hard as it is to believe, John was travelling with the Maple Leafs and getting home in time to attend his classes the next day. When he graduated in May, 1973, his boss, George Gross and longtime friend Brian Williams, were present. While at the Sun, John covered all sports, including the 1972 Canada vs Russia Summit Series. He covered the National Soccer League (NSL) and then, in 1976, George Gross assigned him to cover the Toronto Metros-Croatia and their 3-0 victory at NASL Soccer Bowl at Seattle's Kingdome. John was privileged to have interviewed the world's soccer greats such as Pele, Eusebio, Sir Stanley Matthews, Bobby Moore and Paolo Rossi. He was also proud to have followed and covered our local stars such as Bobby Iarusci, Carmine Marcantonio, Paul D'Agostino, Tony Lecce and Joe Schiraldi.

John dedicates this tremendous recognition to his wife of 47 years, Ada, their son Matthew, daughter-in-law Lisa and grandchildren Gianluca, Vanessa and Alessia.



Congratulations to the Toronto Azzurri Association! We extend our best wishes for your ongoing efforts in nurturing and developing young athletes.



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## FORTUNATO FEBBRARO

### TORONTO AZZURRI LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

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Fortunato was born in Santo Onofrio (VV) Calabria, Italy on July 21, 1950. He was an excellent youth soccer player and represented the region of Calabria in competitions such as the Italian Amateur Cup playing against other strong Regional teams such as Puglia, Sicilia and Campagna.

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Fortunato won two important summer Olympic tournaments that showcased Youth talent in Southern Calabria. In 1972, Fortunato decided to permanently immigrate to Toronto, Canada and quickly found himself playing high performance soccer, joining top contender San Fili in the T & D First Division. He found himself alongside local stars like Diodadi, Lio, Raso, Cesario, Barone and Maggiacomo. For the next 10 years, Fortunato continued to play competitive soccer with the following strong teams...Santanofrese, San Bruno, Sidernese and the Toronto Sparks. In 1979, Fortunato joined the Toronto Azzurri group that played Sunday mornings at Lamport Stadium. He forged a friendship with the core members of that team that has lasted a lifetime...Plessas, Morandini, Raso, Marcantonio, Iarosci, Pietrantonio, DiGirolamo.

In 1985, Fortunato was on the Toronto Rockets Professional Team Advisory Board in the CPL. In 1998, along with 50 members, Fortunato helped create the new Toronto Azzurri Soccer Club and became an original Founding Father Member and a Board Member (consecutive 25 years). Fortunato is proud to have participated in many exciting and unique Toronto Azzurri international soccer projects starting with the Caritas International Cup and other Charity matches featuring former Italian National Stars such as Bettega, Ancelotti, Baresi, Claudio Sala, Benetti, Altafini, D'Amico, Franco Colomba and Tonino Cerezo. Fortunato via his San Cal Travel Agency worked on bringing Reggina Calcio in 2000 and organizing the arrival of the Juventus U17 Team that participated twice (2017/2018) in Toronto Azzurri's International U17 Tournament. A sincere thank you to the special people that have supported me through this magnificent journey with their unwavering support;

Mary, Francesco, Alessandro and Marco, Julia, Danielle, Alessandra Audrey and John

E la mia famiglia in Italia che mi ha sostenuto durante la mia crescita ed a coloro che non sono piu' in mezzo a noi ma che continuano a guidarmi dal cielo stellato!!



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**Best wishes,  
Sam, Donna, Michael, Rita,  
Eric, Cristina and  
Jacqueline Ciccolini**



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# È nato il primo club Reggina



*April 26, 2024*

## **Congratulations Toronto Azzurri Soccer Club Wall of Fame Inductees!**

As a Member of Provincial Parliament and long-time friend of the Toronto Azzurri Soccer Club, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate this year's outstanding group of inductees to the organization's prestigious Wall of Fame.

The Toronto Azzurri has produced some of Canada's greatest soccer players, and these remarkable athletes have built a bond that has lasted more than a generation. United in their love of the 'beautiful game', the Toronto Azzurri vision to spread soccer excellence has given the next generation the tremendous opportunity for personal development in athletics, leadership, discipline and much more.

Being a part of the Toronto Azzurri's Wall of Fame is a deep honour and a tremendous recognition. Congratulations to this year's impressive inductees in the various categories: Carmen Principato, Tony Fontana, Adam Pagliaroli, Richard Morandini, Joe Pellegrino, Sandy Scamurra, John Iaboni and Fortunato Febraro.

I wish all the best to those sharing in tonight's celebration of this year's inductees.

Sincerely,



Tom Rakocevic

Member of Provincial Parliament for Humber River—Black Creek



**Tom Rakocevic**  
MPP HUMBER RIVER—BLACK CREEK

Unit 38, 2300 Finch Ave. W, North York

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Congratulations to all 2024 Toronto Azzurri Wall of Fame inductees and thank you for your contribution to the game of Soccer.





*Players and Directors of Toronto Italia during the year-end banquet proudly displaying trophies.*





**Toronto Azzurri Soccer Club**  
**5th Annual Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony**  
**2024**

