There are three main Maltese ethnic communities of some significance in cities in Canada. These are in Toronto, Windsor and London, all in the province of Ontario, where their folkloristic and other activities are manifested through their social groups and clubs in ethnic presentations to other communities in their respective cities. They participate with other ethnic groups and communities in Canada, thus they represent and present in no small way, our Maltese folklore, folk life and way of life of our Maltese communities of Canadian cities; indeed they are very much to the fore in such activities and they deserve our acclaim, admiration and encouragement in all their endeavour, and we wish them all our very best and more success in the future.

From time to time, through this annual journal of L-IMNARA of the Malta Folklore Society, we have commented about and reviewed various types of Maltese folklore events and activities we have known about, and to have happened beyond our islands' shores.

The Maltese Ethnic Community of London (Ontario) has for some years, now, been very enthusiastic and active with a strong Maltese folk-dance group. They have been invited to perform Maltese folk dances in many cities throughout Ontario during many festivals. Perhaps one could pass a comment about this group's so-called "Maltese National" dress, which is in design fancifully ornamented, and influenced perhaps, or rather an odd resemblance to some central European ethnic folk dress. We Maltese are used to our "Zapp and Grez" country folk type dress, which is rather austere, plain, simple, devoid of any fancy colours and ornaments or frills; the range of colours in the Maltese folk costume is very short. However, the Ontario London group presents Maltese folk dances in Canada, in a very professional way, and seem to be very popular. They perform very often to many ethnic communities from various countries; immigrants who have settled in that very vast country. The Maltese folk dance group of London (Ontario) deserve our praise and admiration, and we wish them more success.

The Maltese Canadian Society of Windsor (Ontario) holds from time to time, "Ghana" folk song evenings. The NAMRU STATION group of Detroit, Michigan, just across the river and Border, are often invited to entertain the Maltese community of Windsor, and other followers from across the Border. Such evenings are spent by many Maltese immigrants and their families, enjoying this type of folk entertainment, while enjoying too, typical and traditional Maltese food served during such
performances.

About the middle of August, the Windsor Clubs participate and co-ordinate with their counterpart Maltese Clubs in Michigan, U.S.A. in organising the annual "Xalata ta' Santa Marija", a picnic to Bob-Lo Island on the Detroit River. From early morning, the day is spent by hundreds of Maltese immigrant families from both sides of the Border, in entertainment. It is very impressive to meet families, sometimes three or even four generations of Maltese in this annual picnic. They do the trip down river by ship, coming back home later at night. A day is spent on Bob-Lo Island in entertainment, and enjoying traditional Maltese foods. No Santa Marija picnic is ever complete without an "Ghana" session, in some quiet spot on the island by the Detroit River. There are some really strong addicts to this type of folk entertainment in Detroit! And this has been an annual event since the very early 1920's.

On the Windsor scene, again, Johnnie Catania is always found to the fore in many a folk type of entertainment, still enthusiastic and energetic in organising such events. We recall how during the Centennial Celebrations of 1967 he organised, in his unique approach, the children of Maltese immigrants in Windsor, and patiently instructed them to perform our national dances, the "sword dance" and "il-Maltija". These dances were performed publicly and with great success during the City's Centennial Celebrations. However, we also recall that Mr. Catania has presented the Maltese folk dress as the traditional "Zepp and Grez" national dress without elaborate design. Each child had his or her folk dress made by their parents, in a simple way, as it rather should be, without fancy ornaments or flashy colours; it reflects our true national character in folk taste and presentation, without any "karnivalati" and flashiness.

From Toronto-Ontario we have the latest news regarding folklore activities among the Maltese Ethnic community and their groups in that city. The Maltese ethnic community in Toronto is quite numerous; it is very active and energetic and has quite a few clubs and groups that represent Maltese ethnic life in activities and festivals. We may quote liberally Mr. Victor Formosa of Toronto, who writes regularly in the weekly newspaper "Il-Gens"; his information in his "Ittra mill-Kanada" (Letter from Canada) of the 27th July 1990 has been most valuable.

During the annual festival called "Caravan", which is held in Toronto in June, many ethnic communities of that city take part through their social clubs or ethnic groups or folk-dance groups. As in previous years, this year, the very popular and strong Maltese Band of the Maltese Band Club of Toronto was called again to play and entertain the many thousands of people who attend to and during that festival. So it was in a Mal-
Maltese folk way and typical Maltese Folk Festival that this band led the way to keep the people happy and in good cheer. Our Band Clubs in our cities and villages here, in these islands, form an important and an integral part of our festa and city or village life of our community; and so are bands in our Maltese folk way of life, as so they have been in our typical folkloristic scene a means of entertainment throughout the year.

According to "Il-Gen" correspondent Mr. Victor Formosa, at the Malta Pavilion, at the Caravan Festival at Toronto, there was a considerable aspect shown about Maltese folk life and folklore. Lace samples, folk dress, fishing traps, fishing gear and tackle, as shown by Maltese fishermen, was shown, which must have kindled a lot of interest in those who saw the exhibits. Folk dances were performed by groups from the Band Club, also by folk groups of the Malta Soccer Club; there were exhibits from the London-Ontario Maltese Club too, present for the occasion. Maltese Folklore surely was not lacking during this year's Toronto Festival. Miss Ruth Polidano wearing a typical Maltese folk dress conducted people around the exhibits at the Pavilion. We have also come to know that a Lady Mayor was elected for the occasion! Our forefathers would have surely mused at the idea to have had a Lady Mayor ("sindka") at their village. Well, times change, and we change with the times, as an old Latin saying goes.

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