

Michele (Mike) Antonio Del Grande b. 1953 Toronto



*Joe and Lucy, my parents*

Son of Giuseppe (Monteleone d 2000) and Lucia LoboZZo (Bovino b. 1932). I trace my documented roots to Monteleone with Nicola 1718 and Anna Visconti 1723. I share the same family Immigrant stories with other families, of poor education, poverty, hard work, sacrifices and success. I remember my parent's devotion to faith and the festivals held at Mount Carmel Church in Toronto. My parent's sacrifices allowed me to study. I went to school not being able to speak English even though I was born in this City. I received a Bachelor of Commerce, Chartered Accountancy, and Masters in Theological Studies and finally a Bachelor of Education in 2002. My professional Career was spent with Shoppers Drug Mart.

Because of strong values for family, I was attracted to make changes in our City. I ran and was defeated for the position of Metropolitan School Trustee in 1991, Toronto Catholic District School Board.

In 2003 I took on a Liberal City Councillor of 15 years and won by 401 votes. I remained in Office till 2014. I was the Budget Chair under the Rob Ford Administration for 2 years. I removed the Car Registration Tax and spent 80 hour a week immersing myself into City Finances. As a believer in term limits, I left. Only my name was placed on the ballot to go back to the TCDSB. I won every poll in four City Wards in 2014 and became the Chair of the Board that year focusing on accounting errors that put the Board in a significant deficit position.

I have been a Director for Tourism Toronto, Scarborough Hospital, Toronto and Regional Conservation, Toronto Police Services. My work in building St. Aidan Catholic Church on Finch Ave E. is marked with a plaque for that effort. I have been the ongoing vice chair of the Silver Springs Community Association for over 30 years.

In 1997 I was diagnosed with a rare form of Brain Tumour whose treatment was not covered by OHIP. I took on OHIP in a seven day tribunal awaiting a decision one year later. I opened up the best out of province treatment for patients at the time. Along with Dr. Tator, I assisted to get a Gamma Knife at Toronto Western Hospital. In 2013, I suffered a Heart Attack and reprioritized my outlook on life.

I am fortunate to be married to Beverly, a former pharmacist and manga cake turned Italian for 39 years. We are blessed with wonderful children and spouses, John (who became my replacement at TCDSB) and Cheryl Lopez and children Melina and Marcus, David and Kate Dupuis with little Adelaide and Catherine and Bryceson Dodge.

I am proud of my heritage and my ancestral relatives who sponsored so many people from Apulia. Today's Monteleonese are not aware that there is a Del Grande and or LoboZZo were part of the original chain who got many of your families to Toronto. Part of a forgotten past.

My wife and I have spent time and travel to follow up on our genealogical family trees and met forgotten family members from the lineage. I thank the organizers for this opportunity to share with you one Monteleone Story.