

# Bradford author follows in the father's footsteps

*My Father Came From Italy preserves memories of dad's past*

BY ROY GREEN  
Staff Writer

"My father left his village in Italy in 1927 and never wanted to go back — until he was 81," laughs Maria Coletta McLean from her Bradford home. "I decided to accompany him, but I never knew there was a book in this story."

McLean and her father spent 10 days in the little village of Supino — "Take the road from Rome to Naples and when you're halfway there, turn to the right," she says. But a few years later, McLean realized there was a story waiting to be

told and she set out to tell it. The result is *My Father Came From Italy*, recently published by Raincoast Books of Vancouver.

"Like everything else in my life, the book came about purely by circumstance," McLean says.

"My teacher at a summer writing course told me I had a flare for creative writing and I decided to tell the stories my father told me."

The book was launched Oct. 1 at a special party at a church hall in Weston, where the family was raised. "There were 300 friends and family members, feasting on traditional Italian cookies and biscuits and Chianti."

Since the publication date, McLean has been busy at book signings at stores, including Chapters in Newmarket and Barrie. But she hasn't let it divert her from her next project — a novel.

"I'm glad this second book is almost finished," she said. "You always wonder after the first book if it was just a fluke, but I'm well on the way to finishing the novel."

# Not surprisingly, Bachman comes off better than he should in biography

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most part this mix works well, especially as Einarson had interviews with BTO bassist Fred Turner, Guess Who drummer Gary Peterson and Bachman's pop star son Tal to augment his text.

But not surprisingly, the subject comes off in a better light than he should. Einarson makes it clear he wasn't able to obtain an interview with Bachman's first wife, so the entire subject of their divorce is one-sided. All we read is how Bachman, a devout Mormon who has spent the majority of his adult life on the road, can't figure out what the heck turned his wife against him.

This leads directly to the difficult — and apparently unasked — question of why a guy who was so rarely at home was having nine children? This

created untold number of hardships for his first wife and their offspring.

Hmm...could that be the reason she divorced you, Randy?

*...why does this guy have difficult relationships with so many people?*

Einarson also didn't (or couldn't) sit down with Cummings or BTO drummer Rob Bachman, who's feuding with Randy. And that's another point this book doesn't examine — why does this guy have difficult relationships with so many people?

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