



## **Sutton REALTOR® Recognized for over 60 years of Community Service**



**Sault Ste. Marie, ON** – Joe Orazietti, a REALTOR® with Sutton Group - Sault Ste. Marie Realty Inc.\*, was just 7-years-old when he first displayed his knack for selling. He began by helping his father sell tickets for various Rotary Club fundraising drives. Since that day more than 60 years ago, Joe's ideas and efforts have helped to raise well over **\$3 million** for the Sault Area Hospital Foundation, the Rotary Club, the Conservation Authority Foundation and the Marconi Club. An enthusiastic champion of his community, Joe is pleased that he and his family will receive the *Honourable Justice I.A. Vannini Award of Merit* from the Marconi Club on April 18, 2009 at the Marconi Hall in Sault Ste. Marie.

"It means a lot because it's a very prestigious award in this city," says Joe. "Vannini was a respected lawyer and judge, so this is a great honour." Also accepting the Marconi Club award will be his sister Adelia, brother Robert and their extended family.

The Marconi Club was established by Italian immigrants in the early 1900's. It became a popular centre for social events, weddings, and meetings as well as English classes and more. Joe joined the Marconi Club as soon as he was old enough—the day he turned 21. His father had passed away by this time and the membership was a way to honour his memory. By the 1980's, the Club had become so popular that they needed to expand. Joe helped with fundraising to build the \$3 million expansion.

Joe has also dedicated much of his energy to the Rotary Club. He joined in 1977 and, just five years later, he was elected President. One of Joe's favourite projects for the Rotary Club was the *Community Day Car Draws*. He estimates that he sold \$140,000 worth of service club tickets for this event.

During seven years as a volunteer member of the Sault Area Hospital Foundation Board, Joe proposed a unique fundraiser: a five car draw. "When you have just one car, there's just one draw and someone is always disappointed with the style. My idea was to have a mix of five sports cars, family vehicles, pick-up trucks and SUVs." Joe selects the vehicles, organizes the sellers and promotes the draw. Although Joe is no longer on the Board, he has continued as Chairman for the draw. Now in its 19th year, the *Annual Five Car Draw* typically nets \$190,000. This money is vital to purchase hospital operating equipment that is not funded by the provincial government.

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