

For Immediate Release
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COLLINSVILLE LAUNCHES ITALY 150 EXHIBIT

(COLLINSVILLE, IL) With its rich Italian heritage, Collinsville is joining with cities and countries around the world to celebrate Italy's 150th anniversary. (It was only 150 years ago that Italy became a unified nation.)

A special commemorative exhibition *ITALY 150: Exploring the Piedmont* is open for public viewing now through Oct. 22 at the Collinsville Library, 408 West Main, Collinsville. This multi-faceted exhibit includes a one-of-a-kind graphic presentation of Italy's fascinating road to unity -- then focuses specifically on the Piedmont Region in Italy. This region played an important role in Italy's unification AND is also the region from which many Collinsville-area Italians emigrated long ago.

The display's most unique feature is a collection of pieces gathered from local descendants with ties to the Piedmont. Visitors can see many items, some passed down through generations -- such as family photos, handmade pieces, special gifts, area traditions, souvenirs, and data on regional foods.

Visitors can also see pieces sent from Italy -- from the Comitato Italia 150 (Italy's Committee of Italia 150) -- showing what the region is like today and data from Italy's 150th anniversary celebration.

Organizers of the anniversary exhibit are Annette Graebe and Sharon McAley. The exhibit is sponsored by the Italian Film Festival of St. Louis and the Collinsville Library.

Exhibit hours are Mon. -- Thurs. (9-8 p.m.), Friday & Sat. (9-5 p.m.), Sun. (1-5 p.m.). Admission is free.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For more information, please contact Annette Graebe at gindustirs@aol.com or (618) 344-7143.