

THE FAMILY TREASURE that I have chosen is the traditional espresso cups. The espresso cups being a traditional heirloom that has been passed on from generation to generation. Let me explain how it has been passed on. My great grand grandmother named Chiarina started off the tradition in the early 19 hundreds.

Living in Italy, drinking espresso is the culture for Italians. The cups and saucers are smoky glass as it is a transition of brown and yellow. Comparing from the 20th century to the 21st century, there is a big difference in the quality and the style of the cups! The cups are not very large, as the saucer is much bigger when the cup is sitting on it. The cups have a very unique handle with a fixed dent that can be picked up with the thumb and the forefinger. Whereas today's cups, they have a hole in the handle.

I believe that is a very important family tradition. It is normally passed on in the family when the girl gets married. Therefore, it all started when my great grandmother got married. Chiarina's mother passed on these cups to her on her wedding day as a gift. After this, my maternal grandmother got married and Chiarina respected the tradition to pass the cups on to her daughter Elena. My grandmother Elena brought the cups to Canada. She kept them for over 25 years and then passed it on to my mother Sandra on her wedding day.

The feeling of having this family tradition is that it has come from a long way. One day we can look back and tell our children the history behind these espresso cups. Another reason would be that the tradition began in Italy and is now continuing in Canada. Also, knowing that these cups are older than some people, it is very impressive as well as fascinating. These fascinating pieces of treasure are also big reminders of my family in the future. It will also be a reminder for the children in the future. It is very amazing that over 100 years the cups are still in perfect condition: surprisingly not even one of them has a little chip in it or cracked. While my great grandmother had these cups, it was World War 1 and 2, these cups survived it. As you can see, over 100 plus long years, these cups were not tossed aside as they were very well taken care of. Hopefully, the future will do the same by taking care of these espresso cups so that they will remember their very old and first ancestors.

Alessio Caporusso
Secondary II, Beurling Academy