



FOOD MATTERS

RESEARCH CLUSTER PRESENTS:

**CULTIVATING IDENTITY: ITALIAN-CANADIAN SUBSISTENCE
GARDENS IN TORONTO, 1960-2000**

BY ROSARIA MORETTI (YORK U)

DAY	TIME	VENUE
MAR, 3RD	3:00 PM	409 TIER

**Please address questions and accessibility needs
which we will do our best to meet to:**

umih@umanitoba.ca



Subsistence gardening has become popular in many urban and suburban homes. While gardening supplies, exotic seeds, and plants flood today's markets, such luxuries were unheard of half a century ago. For many Italian Canadian immigrants in Toronto in the 1960s, gardening was a way to connect to their new habitat via the memories of the land they had left behind. The garden served as an inexpensive way to acquire fresh produce that was preserved and enjoyed throughout many harsh and lean Canadian winters. Italian Canadian gardeners found innovative and frugal ways to create gardens which became an extension of the kitchen and served as an additional gathering space. Through oral interviews with subsistence gardeners and photographs by Vincenzo Pietropaolo, this talk will show the many ways Italian Canadians were cultivating identity in their gardens.