

Bursary in Honour of Maria Santissima Del Monte Cultural Bursary Award (2026)



Comunità Racalmutese Maria SS Del Monte Inc.

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Bursary in Honour of Maria Santissima Del Monte

The Comunità Racalmutese Maria SS Del Monte Inc. is proud to offer **two \$500 bursaries** in honour of Maria Santissima Del Monte to support the academic and cultural growth of young members of the Italian-Canadian and Hispanic-Canadian communities.

Eligibility Criteria

To qualify, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a member of the Canadian Italian or Hispanic Community;
- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident;
- Be a Grade 12 student in Hamilton (enrolled at HWCDSB or HWDSB secondary schools);
- Be enrolled full-time in an accredited post-secondary institution for the 2026-2027 academic year (proof of acceptance required before the award ceremony);
- Submit a completed application by the deadline.

Evaluation Process

Step 1: Evaluation Criteria

Applicants will be assessed based on the following:

- Academic Achievement
- Community Contribution & Cultural Involvement
- Personal Reflection
- Financial Need
- Letters of Recommendation

Step 2: Selection & Notification

A panel of educators and festival committee members will review applications and select recipients. All applicants will be notified of the final decision via email.

Step 3: Bursary Awards Ceremony

The awards will be presented on Sunday, June 21, 2026, at the annual festival on James Street North. Recipients and their families are invited to attend a special presentation. Attendance is encouraged but not required to receive the bursary.

Application Requirements

Section A: Personal Profile

Last Name/Family Name: _____

First Name: _____

Date of Birth (YYYY/MM/DD): _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Address: _____

Citizenship Status: _____

Family Region of Italy: _____

Section B: School/Program/Career Profile

Current Secondary School: _____

School Contact Person: _____

Post-Secondary Plans (School and Program): _____

Section C: Academic Achievement and School Letter of Reference

Attach the following:

1. Recent **transcript** (Credit Counselling Report, Grade 12 Semester 1 final and Semester 2 midterm marks).
2. **Letter of Recommendation** from a **teacher, guidance counsellor, principal, or vice-principal** familiar with your academic accomplishments and school involvement. This letter should have an official letterhead.

Section D: Community Letter of Recommendation

Attach a letter **written by someone outside your school** but within your **community**.

This person may be an employer, volunteer coordinator, faith leader, Italian or Hispanic community leader or a leader of an organization to which you belong. Ideally, this person should know you well enough to highlight and verify your community contribution. This letter should have an official letterhead.

Section E: Personal Reflection

In a one-page, typed submission, please respond to the following prompts. Your reflection should be personal, well-structured, and highlight your connection to the Italian-Canadian or Hispanic-Canadian community and the values of Maria Santissima Del Monte.

- **Cultural Identity:** How has your Italian/Hispanic heritage shaped you? Share a meaningful tradition, value, or experience.
- **Community Impact:** Describe a time you made a difference through community service or cultural involvement. What inspired you, and what did you learn?
- **Preserving Tradition:** Why is it important to preserve Italian/Hispanic culture? How do you contribute now, and how will you in the future?
- **Bursary Impact:** How would this bursary support your education and community involvement?

Your reflection should be honest, thoughtful, and personal. Judges will be looking for depth, clarity, and a strong connection to culture and community.

Section F: Photo

Provide a **headshot** for inclusion in the Festival Program and social media recognition.

Section G: Application Submission

Deadline: April 24, 2026, by 4:00 PM

Email: racalmutesecommunityhamilton@gmail.com

Subject Line: "Submission for Festa Bursary 2026"

**Only fully completed applications submitted by the deadline will be considered.*

Good luck to all candidates!

For more details and an online application form, visit www.racalmutesecommunityhamilton.com.