

Peel Biog Bk. Sept. 26-93 MN

## Poet shares his love of literacy at Toronto street festival today

Lakeview poet Mario Pietrantoni will read several of his works at today's fourth annual The Word On The Street festival in Toronto.

Born in Italy, Pietranton

i knew no English when he immigrated to Canada at age 12. He attended vocational school, but was unable to learn to read and write. At age 29 he enrolled in literacy programs, and at 38 he's still taking English classes to improve his skills.

In 1991, he published his first book of poetry, *From the Heart*, and has written another book, *Look At the World*, which hasn't been published as yet. He will read selections from both works at the festival on Queen St. between McCaul St. and Avenue Rd.

Pietranton

i will be at the Canada Post Author's Tent at Queen and Soho Sts. from 1:30-1:40 p.m. Admission is free.

He says the festival is "an opportunity for me to express my poems and to send out a message. I feel everyone has a right to read and write."