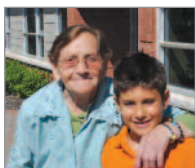




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ANNI
40
YEARS



Serving the community since 1971
villa charities newsletter

Fall / Winter
2011-12

Buon
Natale

The 2011 Venetian Ball – Songs of Hope

This past year marked 40 years of Villa Charities providing culturally sensitive care and services to the community. The year was full of special events and activities to celebrate this milestone, so it was only fitting that the organization's signature event – The Venetian Ball – was also a part of the celebration in addition to commemorating the 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy.

While it may seem like a daunting task to try to top an event that BizBash magazine ranked 6th for the second year in a row for benefits in its listing for Toronto's Top 100 Events in 2010, this year's co-chairs of The Venetian Ball were more than up to the job. Both Rudolph P. Bratty and Tony Gagliano ensured that the gala, held on October 29, was unlike any other. For the first time ever, the event was held at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, and included an unforgettable showcase of Italian and Canadian music.

As soon as guests entered the Four Seasons Centre, they were surrounded by the spirit and feel of Venice's Carnevale. Gourmet hors d'oeuvres and drinks

were passed around as the distinguished crowd mingled in the main foyer. Shortly after, the nearly 1,500 guests were ushered into the theatre and treated to a spectacular 75-minute performance. The concert featured memorable performances by musical talents such as Rufus Wainwright, Measha Brueggergosman and Dragonette's Martina Sorbara, as well as a surprise



The 2011 Venetian Ball Co-Chairs Tony Gagliano and Rudolph P. Bratty with Lina Gagliano, Catherine Bratty and the Canadian Tenors.

performance by the Canadian Tenors. To end the show, the co-chairs, lead sponsors and musical guests led the audience in a rousing rendition of Giuseppe Verdi's "Va Pensiero". "The annual Venetian Ball is an extraordinary evening celebrating the passion of Italian culture and community," says Bratty. "This year's

gala, from the outstanding performances, new venue and culinary originality, sets the bar for the future of this event. I am thankful for the support of our sponsors and guests for making the 2011 Venetian Ball a smashing success."

Post performance, guests were free to explore the centre and partake in the wide array of food stations from some of the city's top restaurants and suppliers, including 10tation Catering, Lago, Niagara Food

Specialties, Phipps Desserts, Ristorante Boccaccio, Sotto Sotto Ristorante, The Country Kitchen, The Culinary Studio, The Terrace, We Bake in Heels, Alfa Cappuccino Imports, Caliber Fine Wines and Spirits Inc. and Noble Estates Wines and Spirits Inc.

After the reception, the Four Seasons stage was transformed for

more than 600 people into a deluxe dining experience – with the gourmet meal provided by Chef Mark McEwan's North 44 Caterers – followed by an evening of dancing and celebration. During the meal, the Canadian Tenors treated the diners to an encore performance.

For more coverage of the Venetian Ball please see Report to Donors.



Lucas Sorbara, musical guest Martina Sorbara and Dan Kurtz

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It Happened in Italy...

From November 1 to 9, the 31st Annual Holocaust Education Week was held throughout the GTA. This year's event focused on the theme of accountability, and commemorated the 50th anniversary of the trial of Adolf Eichmann and the 65th anniversary of the Nuremberg trials. The week's offerings included exhibits, lectures, performances, film screenings and book readings. One such reading, of "It Happened in Italy: Untold Stories of How the People of Italy Defied the Horrors of the Holocaust", was conducted by Italian American author Elizabeth Bettina at Villa Colombo on November 3. During the event, Bettina discussed with her audience of over 150 people her discovery of her grandparents' village in Campagna,



Salerno, in the heart of southern Italy, which was home to an internment camp for Jews during WWII. In order to gain a better perspective of what truly occurred during the war, Bettina travelled to Italy five different times with internees, bringing them back to the villages in which they had been interned. By doing so, she was able to reconnect the survivors with the individuals who assisted in saving their lives. Bettina's book shares stories of survival and faith in the midst of sadness and terror. It is an inspirational work that brings readers back to a period of horror and uncertainty and illustrates the discovery and journey of the untold stories of what happened in Italy during the Second World War.

Cambridge Food & Wine Society

On Friday, October 21, the Cambridge Food & Wine Society held its "2011 Cambridge Awards of Excellence Series" at the Columbus Centre. At the event, Senator Pamela Wallin received a Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding contribution to multiculturalism in Canada. In 1992, Senator Wallin was the first Canadian woman to co-anchor Prime Time News, the nightly CBC national newscast. She was appointed to the Senate of Canada in 2009. Last year's Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Ted Kotcheff, the producer of Law & Order: Special Victims Unit, was on hand to present the award to Senator Wallin. At the same event, Pal Di Iulio received the Remy Martin Award.



The Cambridge Food & Wine Society was co-founded in 1988 by Professor Chef Leo Chan and J.P. Michelini of the George Brown College Hospitality Centre. The members meet regularly for gourmet food and wine tasting and other educational and philanthropic

activities. The Society has a library of books and periodicals on hospitality and conducts beer and wine tours. It also provides annual scholarship funds to accomplished high school, university and community college students.



On October 13, the chefs and staff members at Ristorante Boccaccio had the welcome surprise of serving dinner for Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his guests. While at Boccaccio, the PM remarked on how much he enjoyed his visit and meal – no reservation needed!



On September 23, Toni Ciccarelli celebrated her 96th birthday with family and friends at the Columbus Centre. Toni has been a volunteer with Villa Charities for 35 years and a great supporter to many causes. Grazie, Toni! Happy birthday and all the best for many more years to come!

Toronto Arts Foundation Awards

Congratulations to Roberto Martella, who was nominated as one of fifteen finalists for the 2011 Toronto Arts Foundation Awards, which celebrate those individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to Toronto's vibrant artistic and cultural life. Martella is a longtime supporter of Villa Charities and a current governor on the Columbus Centre Board. He has owned and operated grano restaurant for the past 25 years with his wife Lucia, and welcomes all manner of socio-cultural organizations to use the location to stage events and fundraisers. Martella was nominated for the Toronto Arts and Business Award along with The Drake Hotel and TD Bank Group. The award celebrates a local business that has made an important contribution to the arts in Toronto through innovative, transformative and entrepreneurial partnerships. Auguri, Roberto!



Terroni!

On November 13, "Operazione Terronica! Conference on the 1861 'Unification' of Italy: The Untold Story" took place at Villa Colombo. The event was held in response to a discussion which began in June during celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy.

Nearly 100 people attended the daylong event to hear the guest speakers share their revisionist views on the subject. Those on the panel were: Pino Aprile, Italian journalist and author of *Terroni* and *Giu' Al Sud*; Antonio Ciano, Italian author of *Il Massacro del Sud*; and Rocco Galati, Canadian constitutional lawyer. (Lorenzo Del Boca, Italian journalist and author of *Maledetti Savoia* and *Polentoni: Come e Perché il Nord è Stato Tradito*, was originally scheduled to attend but was unable to make it.) The discussion was moderated by Antonio Nicaso, a Canadian journalist and the author of *Bloodlines* and *Io e la Mafia*.



The event discussed the counter-story to the Risorgimento – the belief that the unification of Italy actually resulted in the invasion and massacre of southern Italy and mass emigration by millions to North and South America. It allowed the guest speakers and audience members to engage in a lively debate and an informative Q&A session on the subject. Rocco Galati and writers/thespians Tony Nardi and Nick Mancuso organized the conference.

For more information, visit the Facebook page at <http://goo.gl/FOT7O>.

Theatre.IV.Mimmo: The Beginning of a Dream

This past September, Rose Napoli was able to see the beginnings of a dream realized. A young actress new to the city, Napoli had a very specific goal in mind: to start a theatre company in the name of her late father. When Napoli was in her first years of university, Domenico "Mimmo" Napoli was tragically killed in an automobile accident at the age of forty-five. Now, eight years later, she honours the memory of Mimmo, the man who first inspired her to dream the unimaginable.

On September 14 and 15, in the Rotonda of the Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery at the Columbus Centre, Theatre.IV.Mimmo presented a workshop production of the classic Arthur Miller play, "A View from the Bridge". The production starred Napoli, Anita LaSelva, Adrian Griffin, Stefano DiMatteo, Ryan Tilley, Marc Bondy, David Gingerich and Frank Ruffo. Set on the docks of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1955, the play is a story about Eddie Carbone, his wife Beatrice and adopted niece Catherine. When Marco and Rodolpho, two "greenhorns" from Sicily, come to live with the Carbone family, tragedy ensues.

The audience enjoyed the play immensely, and gave the theatre company a standing ovation for its production.

Napoli plans to officially launch Theatre.IV.Mimmo in January 2012. For more details on this initiative, visit www.theatreivmimmo.com.



Villa Charities
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I do... I do... I do!

On July 26, 12 couples in residence at Villa Colombo took part in a wedding vow renewal ceremony. (Originally, 15 couples were slated to participate, but three had to bow out due to health matters.) The couples range in age from 79 to 101 years – and collectively, have been married for over 800 years! The touching ceremony, organized by Father Celestino, began with the couples parading together into Sala Caboto. Each couple then received a special blessing as well as a certificate commemorating this remarkable milestone in their lives. The hall was full to standing room only, as relatives and friends of the couples joined in the celebration, watching in awe at the incredible display of love and commitment.



Songs from Home

Early this fall, the residents at Villa Colombo had the pleasure of enjoying the musical talents of two choirs from Italy. On September 19, Coro di Sulmona performed at the centre, and on September 27, Gruppo Agogica (from Veneto) did the same. The two groups – each from a different region in Italy – brought their own unique flavour to original and well-known classics, providing wonderful entertainment for the residents. Having groups such as these travel from Italy to perform in Canada is an incredibly powerful way to help bring the spirit of Italy – and the sense of “home” – to the residents here. The seniors always look forward to such performances, as well as the interaction with the choir members.

A Happy Halloween

On October 31, staff, volunteers and residents at Villa Colombo gathered together – in costume! – to celebrate Halloween. Residents enjoyed music and dancing and a special Halloween treat – orange sherbet with black sprinkles. Each year, everyone at Villa Colombo eagerly anticipates this event. Now that this year’s festivities have passed, it’s time to start thinking of costume ideas for the 2012 celebration!



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VCLA

The VCLA promotes Family, Food, Fun, Faith and Fundraising for the ultimate benefit of the residents of Villa Colombo.

Sunday Mass & Family Brunch

On October 30, the VCLA and guests enjoyed the group's first event of the season – the Sunday Mass & Family Brunch. Father James Wells celebrated a beautiful mass in the Villa Colombo chapel. His homily, "Practise What You Preach", was inspiring. Father James suggested that leading by example is the most effective way to motivate family members, volunteers and employees. He touched on the importance of auxiliaries and volunteerism in organizations, which hit home to a lot of the people in attendance. He said many organizations, such as hospitals and even Villa Colombo, could not function without the work of the auxiliaries. This message of acknowledgement certainly made all of the board members and volunteers present feel valued and appreciated. What the VCLA accomplishes with the work it does makes the efforts worthwhile, and Father James confirmed that the community served by the VCLA notices these efforts. The gift of prayer that Father James presented was very special to many of us.

Following the Mass, we gathered in Sala



Caboto for a delicious luncheon. Melina Zeppieri, chair of the Sunday Mass & Family Brunch committee, started the meal with a beautiful prayer of thanks for our many blessings. As VCLA President Frances Gratta said, "We always follow our celebrations with food." Thus the VCLA mandate of Faith, Family, Food and Fundraising was achieved. Although the focus of this event is Faith and Family, attendees were able to participate in a small fundraiser to win the beautiful calla lily centrepieces. Mr. Anthony Fusco entertained the crowd with numerous humorous stories. Congratulations and thank you once again to Melina and her committee members Luisa Dobilas, Rita Rotundo, Connie Vella and Rose Greco for creating a beautiful ambiance and a wonderful celebration.



VCLA Board Completes Three-Year Project

Under the leadership of past president Gabriella Tino, the VCLA board took on the project of buying new electric beds for residents in the Fusco Wing of Villa Colombo. The project continued with current president, Frances Gratta. We are very pleased to report that halfway through the current board's term we have completed the project. At our Annual General Meeting in June the final instalment of \$100,000 was presented to the Villa Colombo Board of Governors. (The VCLA presented a total of \$225,000 to the Board over three years.) Each resident in the Fusco Wing now has a new electric bed. These beds have provided more comfort and safety for both the residents and their caregivers. Thank you to everyone who supported us in our fundraising efforts; we look forward to your ongoing support of our new projects.

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Join the Villa Colombo Ladies' Auxiliary and be part of a dynamic group of dedicated volunteers who share their time and love, fundraising for Villa Colombo.

Please call our office at (416) 789-2113 ext. 2260, or visit us at www.villacharities.com.

Emergency Response Services Recognition BBQ



Villa Colombo Vaughan hosted its 5th annual Emergency Response Week.

The event gives the Board, staff and residents of the centre an opportunity to thank the men and women from the EMS, police and fire departments for their work and support in providing emergency services to the home and the community at large.

This year, the residents and guests were honoured to have the Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, Mayor of Vaughan, join them during the recognition week. The mayor had the opportunity to meet some of the residents and reminisce about the past.

This celebration and recognition was supported by Villa Colombo's volunteers and dietary staff.

A new chapter at Villa Colombo Vaughan

Early this summer, the Board of Villa Colombo Vaughan, along with other members of Villa Charities, initiated a competitive bidding process for the management of the long term care centre in Kleinburg, Ontario.

Following rigorous procurement procedures, the contract was awarded to UniversalCare Canada Inc. While the name of the company may be unfamiliar, you will recognize and know the name of its president – Joseph Gulizia.

Gulizia and his team have had a positive and longstanding association with Villa Colombo Vaughan. Over the past several years, they have been instrumental in ensuring that the centre's residents live in a warm, safe and comfortable home.

Gulizia is joined by Karen Reid, Director of Financial Services, Maria Cherbel, Director of Clinical Services, and Linda Long, Director of Redevelopment and Environmental Services.



UniversalCare has proven to have the experience and specialized expertise to manage the home. They will no doubt maintain the compassion and high quality cultural sensitive care standards everyone has come to expect from the residence.

After a five year arrangement with Extendicare, the Board of Villa Colombo Vaughan extends its gratitude to the company for its leadership and professional management approach provided to the centre's residents.



Joseph Gulizia, President



Karen Reid, Director of Financial Services



Maria Cherbel, Director of Clinical Services



Linda Long, Director of Redevelopment and Environmental Services

Giornata dei Nonni

On September 11, hundreds of family members joined the staff and volunteers at Villa Colombo Vaughan in celebration of Grandparents Day.

Nipoti of all ages had an opportunity to be with their nonni, giving them the greatest gift of all – their time and their hugs. As the grandparents at the centre took pleasure in the company of their loved ones, the younger grandchildren enjoyed the magician, crafts and treats on offer to them.

This special day fits well with the centre's Italian heritage, as it encourages us all to enjoy la famiglia – binding individuals of all generations in a pleasurable, cheerful and compassionate place that 160 people call home.



Help – With Heart!



At Villa Colombo Vaughan, volunteers are the heart and soul of the home. These helpful people do it all – whether it's assisting residents with their meals, praying with them or baking traditional cookies. It is for this reason that on September 19, the management team and the dietary staff prepared and served a five-course meal for the amazing volunteers.

To commemorate the passion and compassion that the volunteers have for the centre's seniors, each individual received a limited-edition framed print of Villa Colombo Vaughan painted by Teresa DeGasperis, a long time volunteer and supporter of Villa Charities.

Special thanks to Josie Sanguedolce, volunteer coordinator, for all of her planning and hard work. She helped make this tribute dinner for our volunteers extremely special.

Rina Tiberini, Chair of Villa Colombo Vaughan, addressed the attendees to thank them for their commitment and service to our seniors. "Without your dedication and sacrifice, Villa Colombo Vaughan would not be as special as it is," she said. "You play an important and vital role and the community and our residents are better for it."

For volunteer opportunities please contact Josie Sanguedolce at (289) 202-2222 ext. 333.

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“From Toronto to Tuscany, From Tybee to Twillingate” by Andrew Donato

In this unique show, Andrew (Andy) Donato expressed his newest style of art, entitled “bent realism”. The show, which ran from October 5 to November 1, included paintings of neighborhoods in Toronto and other locations the artist has visited, including various towns in Italy. This was Donato’s third exhibit at the Carrier Gallery. Donato was born in 1937 in Scarborough, Ontario. He has worked at the Toronto Sun since 1974, acting as the paper’s editorial cartoonist and art director until he was named Corporate Art Director in 1993. He currently works as a freelance cartoonist for the paper. Donato has received many awards for his work, including the National Newspaper Award in 1976; he was the President of the Association of Canadian Cartoonists from 2000 to 2001. “Mission Accomplished, Heading Home”, one of the paintings featured in the exhibit at the Carrier Gallery, will be reproduced on Canadian stamps, with the funds going towards a camp for children who have lost a parent in the war in Afghanistan. Former Premier William Davis and Justice Roy McMurtry were on hand at the exhibit’s opening reception to congratulate Donato.



“Still Lifes” by Bruno Capolongo

This exhibit, which ran from October 3 to November 1, marked Capolongo’s third time showcasing his work in the Carrier Gallery. The artist chose to display pieces that achieve a fine balance between historic and contemporary works of art. Capolongo, a Hamilton, Ontario native of Italian descent, currently lives in the Niagara region, where he spends time in his studio creating encaustic and realistic works. (“Encaustic” refers to a paint mixed with beeswax that is fixed with heat after its application.) “Still Lifes” displayed this medium, and along with Capolongo’s realistic approach to his works, resulted in paintings that appeared to be photographs.

“Into the Abyss” by Eunah Cho and “Preservation” by Brett Davis

This one-of-a-kind exhibit was a joint effort by Cho and Davis. “Into the Abyss” alludes to human nature while striving for ‘absolute value’, through observing a deep, delicate, and fundamental being; unlike mankind, which foresees shallow and material needs. Cho’s artwork uses a dry mixed media method, which she places on “Hanji”, a traditional, Korean handmade-paper. Davis’ “Preservation” was a collection of works which evoke a modernistic approach to classical sculpture. His work encompasses archaeology, conservation, bronze casting techniques and the replication of the patinas found on actual bronze artifacts recovered from areas of the Mediterranean. The Cho and Davis exhibit was held at the Carrier Gallery from October 5 to November 1, 2011.



“The Discovery Series” by Tom Miller

Miller was born in Detroit in 1943 but is now a Canadian citizen and resides in Oakville, Ontario. “The Discovery Series” demonstrated one of the ways in which Miller expresses his delight when he encounters a painting by one of his favorite artists. For this collection, he chose objects, books and ceramics as his subjects; they have special meaning for him because they represent history and culture, two of his interests. Miller takes these inspirations and repaints them in a unique way – he shows his subjects being unwrapped (like gifts) to encompass the idea of “discovery.” The exhibit offered a different approach to viewing art, making the experience that much more intriguing to guests at the show. The exhibit ran from November 3 to December 1, 2011.



Upcoming Exhibits

December 2011 to January 2012

“Inspired by Spoleto”

December 5, 2011 to January 23, 2012
Lower Gallery

“Pompeii” by Jeff Jackson

December 5, 2011 to January 23, 2012
Atrium B

Teo Dragonieri

December 5, 2011 to January 23, 2012
Upper Gallery

“Icons” by Giancarlo Piccin

December 5, 2011 to January 23, 2012
Atrium A

For more information on upcoming or past exhibits or to purchase any works, please contact Rosa Graci, Carrier Gallery, (416) 789-7011 ext. 300 or rgraci@villacharities.com.



“Ma Shiu-Yu: A Retrospective of Her Watercolours”

During the month of November the Carrier Gallery was home to this exhibit, which commemorated the life and works of artist Ma Shiu-Yu. Shiu-Yu was born in 1921 in Guangdong, China. Her career in art began in the 1940s, when she was tutored in Chinese painting by Masters Zhao Xiao-ang and Li Fung-gong. Her artwork displays nature, beauty and gracefulness through the use of watercolors and calligraphy, compelling the viewer to enter a state of tranquility and splendor. Shortly after Shiu-Yu and her family immigrated to Canada in 1966 she began her teaching career, leading art classes as well as acting as an “Inner City Angel” supply teacher in the Toronto school system. Shiu-Yu has shown her watercolours in numerous art galleries, museums and educational institutions, and has sold many of her paintings to international art collectors, such as the former Governor of Hong Kong and the famed actor Vincent Price.

“Blurred Visions” by Michael Semak

The photography exhibit “Blurred Visions” will be displayed at the Carrier Art Gallery from November 9 to December 28, 2011. Semak has been a professional photographer for over four decades and was the first photographer to receive the Canada Council Grant. He is currently a professor in Visual Arts at York University and does freelance work for companies and newspapers such as the Globe and Mail and the Toronto Star. His upcoming show at the Carrier Gallery displays his unique way of depicting an object and leaving its interpretation and understanding up to the viewer. According to Semak, a blurred picture cannot be duplicated, no matter how many additional pictures a photographer takes or makes. When you look at Semak’s works of art you have to understand and accept that each blurred picture you see is totally and forever unique.



A Journey of Discovery Together



Toronto Catholic District School Board students in front of the Duomo in Florence

From October 21 to October 30, 2011, a group of parents from the Toronto area joined their sons and daughters in Italy for a week of touring in Rome, Assisi, Florence, Verona and Abruzzo. The parents were new to the Italian landscape; their children were already familiar with their beautiful surroundings and the routines of life in the Italian culture. This role-reversal, as well as the family reunions after two months apart, made for a real journey of discovery together.

“What a life-changing experience this is for the students!”

exclaimed one of the parents who took the opportunity to spend the week with the Fall Semester Program organized by Centro Scuola and the Toronto Catholic District School Board. This secondary school program is located in Atri, Abruzzo, at the Hotel Du Parc. There is an identical arrangement with the York Catholic District School Board taking place in Spoleto, Umbria. Both programs involve 20 girls and boys who must complete four credit courses towards their Ontario graduation diploma while they are abroad. The school boards supply the teachers and administrative personnel, while Centro Scuola is responsible for the accommodations, transportation and excursions during their stay.

Under the capable guidance of Annamaria Di Giovanni from Centro Scuola, the Atri group toured the Villa d’Este in Tivoli on the day they arrived in Italy, followed the next day by a tour of Rome. The third day was spent in Assisi, the city of St. Francis. On Tuesday, the visit to Florence included viewing High Renaissance masterpieces and the Duomo as well as some fine shopping in the stores and the Porcellino market. Wednesday the rain and high water in Venice meant a rapid change of plans; instead of rides in a gondola, the students and parents explored the Arena in Verona, the Piazza delle Erbe, and of course, Juliet’s house (from “Romeo and Juliet”). By Thursday, the students were happy to show their

parents around Atri, the town they have made their home for the Fall Semester.

That Friday, Alberto Di Giovanni, Director of Centro Scuola, brought the entourage up the steep road to Roccamorice, his hometown in Maiella. It is an example of a typical mountain town that once had a population of 4,000 but now has less than 1,000 year-round inhabitants. Here, with the help of the municipal council and Don Gilberto, the local pastor, Alberto has created a gem of a small museum – Il Centro d’Arte e Cultura: Alberto Di

Giovanni. Inside a renovated chapel originally built in 1706, visitors can view paintings with religious themes plus a number of exquisite facsimiles of rare books such as the Leicester Codex of Leonardo Da Vinci. Some Canadian pieces of art are on display as well, given to the museum by artists who toured Italy last year with Centro Scuola. The day trip included a sumptuous meal in the local osteria, remarkable for the fresh ricotta, pasta, and, especially, roast lamb.

The Atri group had time for a bit more shopping in the Adriatic coastal city of Pescara before one final lunch together, followed by tearful

goodbyes. The students have another two months of classes, assignments and exams before heading home in time for Christmas. The parents had to return to work as usual on Monday morning, with memories of their trip as well as closer acquaintance with their children’s friends, teachers and surroundings. While the Atri group settles back into its routine, the students and parents from Spoleto are spending their week together on a similar itinerary. The Di Giovanni team from Centro Scuola have built a good reputation for these sorts of trips; it is likely due to its shared passion for Italian history and culture, and its satisfaction in sharing this passion with its Canadian partners.



Paige, a student, and her mother Michelle Smith with Alberto and Caroline Di Giovanni at the Centro d’Arte e Cultura in Roccamorice



Welcome!

We are delighted to send you the first issue of our Friends of Villa Charities newsletter. We have designed it to be both helpful to you and as a way to say *grazie* to our friends and supporters. We hope that we will continue to build our relationships with the members of our community that use and benefit from Villa Charities.

One of the great strengths of our charity is the wonderful community that is part of everything we do. It is because of the support and generosity of you and our community that we are able to provide services and programs. Without that help we could not be the important and vibrant organization that many people count on each and every day.

Grazie,
Anne Simone
Executive Director

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Tony Del Ciello Leaving a Gift of Thanks

Tony Del Ciello loved the dances he would attend at Villa Colombo when he first moved to Canada over 30 years ago from the Abruzzo region of Italy. For a single man making his way in a new country, it was a way to meet others who had also moved from Italy. It was these dances that led to a lifelong involvement with Villa Charities.

For years, Del Ciello volunteered at Villa Colombo. It was his way to give back to a place that had provided him so much during his life. Although he was too busy with his family and in his job as a tool and die maker to spend a lot of time at Villa Colombo, once Del Ciello retired, he again became involved as a volunteer.

"Tony was always involved but especially after he retired," says Otello Titti, who was a close friend of Del Ciello. Mr. Titti used to join Del Ciello at the dances all those years ago.

Their friendship continued and they both became volunteers at Villa Colombo. "He would volunteer to drive older people to appointments. He would even buy them things that they needed if they didn't have the money themselves. Tony was a very generous man."



It was this generosity that led Del Ciello to create a bequest gift in his will to support Villa Charities. This type of gift is easy to make and provides the estate of the donor with a charitable receipt which will lower the amount of taxes owed to the government.

Anyone can make a bequest gift of this kind. And each gift, no matter the size, helps Villa Charities as it provides programs and services to meet the needs of the Italian community in Toronto.

This type of gift is also a way to leave a lasting legacy by creating a gift many people feel they cannot make while they are living.

"Tony wanted to leave something of himself in the community after he passed away," says Mr. Titti. "This was a way for him to say 'thank you' for the things he received from the Villa Charities family over the years."

Del Ciello's gift is recognized on the Villa Charities Tree of Life wall. His name is inscribed on a rock as part of the display. It was his wish to be part of this giving program. As with many others in the community, Del Ciello wanted to give back to a place that meant so much to him during his lifetime.

Things to remember...

...when creating your Estate Plan:

- ✓ *include a completed will*
- ✓ *designate power of attorney*
- ✓ *include life and disability insurance*
- ✓ *attempt to minimize "probate" fees*
- ✓ *attempt to minimize or defer taxes*

...when creating your will:

- ✓ *make sure you use your will to pass your assets to your family and other heirs in the easiest way that tries to reduce or avoid taxes*
- ✓ *consider all of those who you care about and are important to you so that you can use your will to leave a legacy to those who have meant something to you*
- ✓ *take the steps to protect your family and other heirs*
- ✓ *create a will that gives you peace of mind*

Giving out of your lifetime savings

People have many different ideas when it comes to how they want to spend their money and the subject of planning a will is no different.

There are individuals who believe in careful spending. They like to watch their money grow for a rainy day, to ensure the security of their loved ones or simply because they like to see success, even in their investments. If this group applies these principles to creating and updating their will it is likely that they will be the ones that lose the least amount of money to probate fees.

Another group feels they should enjoy using their money while they can. People who enjoy spending to such a degree often don't save as much as they could, but also sometimes buy into the myth that they don't have to make a will because they don't have "enough to make it worthwhile". Unfortunately, if individuals fail to make a will, those they would want to be their beneficiaries may end up receiving nothing or much less than was intended.

Those who try to achieve a balance between saving and spending usually are much faster to recognize the benefits of leaving money to a charity through their will. The reason being that their minds are open to the idea that this arrangement has tax advantages which can reduce the probate fees charged to their estate and in so doing, help to reduce a burden with which loved

ones are otherwise left.

A will divides your lifetime savings. Everything from your car, furniture and real estate, to your stocks, RRSPs and life insurance policy, are given a dollar figure and added together with your income in the year of death to calculate the value of your estate. Your will is a statement of who or what is important to you. Through it, you can provide for your loved ones and invest in organizations that you want to see supported in the future.

Often people shy away from leaving a gift to an organization like Villa Charities that has been a meaningful part of their life because they fear that their family will not be adequately provided for or that such a gift would reduce the amount their family receives. This does not have to happen. Naming a charity in your will can entitle you to income tax savings that may in fact increase the amount you will be able to leave your heirs.

Many people also believe that only individuals who can create large gifts through their estate should consider a planned gift. This is far from the truth. As with the vast majority of charitable gifts, it is the sentiment behind the act of giving and not the amount that matters. When a person leaves a gift to Villa Charities, he or she is ensuring that the services provided through our organization to the community will continue to thrive well into the future.

Why a Bequest?

Each year, thousands of people give a portion of their assets through a bequest to support charitable organizations. Gifts by will are becoming an increasingly important part of the Canadian philanthropic tradition. It is also an important way for organizations such as Villa Charities to help secure their financial future.

A bequest to Villa Charities can be a tangible expression of appreciation for the services and programs that the organization has provided to you, a loved one or the community. This type of gift might be financially impossible during your working or retirement years.

A bequest in your will may be the most feasible way for you to make a significant gift. After providing for your loved ones, you may choose to include Villa Charities as a beneficiary of your will.

It is easy to make a bequest gift. Here are some examples of bequests:

General Bequest, in which Villa Charities would receive a specific amount of a certain kind of asset, usually a sum of cash.

Specific Bequest, in which Villa Charities would receive a specific piece of property, such as artwork or shares in a company .

Residual Bequest, in which Villa Charities would receive all or a percentage of the remainder of your estate after other special provisions have been fulfilled.

Contingent Bequest, in which Villa Charities would receive all or a share of your estate only in the event of the prior death of certain other beneficiaries.

Unless directed otherwise by the donor, Villa Charities places the entire amount of the planned gift into our general endowment and spends only the earnings. This ensures that the bequest becomes a true legacy for Villa Charities Foundation.

If you have made – or are considering – a bequest in your will, we encourage you to inform us so that your generosity may be recognized through our Tree of Life. The Tree of Life honours the commitment of donors who have made a planned gift of support to Villa Charities through deferred gifts of bequests, insurance and trust arrangements.

We would be pleased to speak confidentially with you and your legal or financial advisor. We can help to establish and confirm the purpose for which your bequest is to be used, to explain tax benefits for your estate, and to arrange for an appropriate memorial name for your bequest, if you wish.

Tax Benefits

Gifts made by will are deemed to have been made in the year of death. Therefore the charitable tax credit is received by the estate and can offset any tax owing from deemed dispositions which are also realized in the year of death, i.e. capital gains and/or recapture of depreciation.

The limit of gifts including bequests or legacies is 100 per cent of the individual's net income in the year of death. This means that gifts made in the year of death can offset up to 100 per cent of that year's income. Because you are deemed to have disposed of all of your assets in the year of death, the reportable income for that year can be high. By giving a bequest, you are entitled to sizeable tax savings. If there are any tax savings left over from your bequest, it can be carried back to offset up to 100 per cent of income for the year immediately preceding.

**Why you
need a**

Will

Reasons to create this important document

For many people, estate planning is not an exciting issue. That being the case, most of us may have neglected this vital component of our financial plan. Therefore, the wealth you have worked so hard to build may be in jeopardy. In short, no matter what your age, it is vitally important that you have a solid estate plan that includes a properly drafted will.

An estate plan is simply any plan for disposition of your estate assets with a bias to minimize expenses and taxes. The core of any estate plan is the will. An important legal document, it primarily provides for a smooth distribution of your assets to selected beneficiaries after your demise. It allows you to organize your affairs so your responsibilities are taken care of after your death.

Should you pass away without a will, the courts decide, according to provincial legislation, how your assets will be distributed. In most cases, your wishes and intentions will be met. With a will, however, you decide what and how your assets will be distributed to beneficiaries of your choice. A well-planned will gives

instructions for the distribution to be carried out so as to keep taxes at a minimum.

In addition, your estate will be settled more quickly and efficiently, with minimal burden to your family. For example, arrangements can be made to have money available to pay taxes, debts, and other expenses. You can include in your will the name(s) of an individual(s) to care for your children in case of a common disaster befalling you and your spouse. The guardian selected is your choice, not the government's.

You can also name an executor or estate trustee (depending on the jurisdiction) of your estate, rather than having the court appoint an administrator in the absence of a will. Your executor acts as your "personal representative", resolving all financial aspects of your estate.

You should have your will prepared by a lawyer or through a trust company with a lawyer's assistance. To ensure its effectiveness review your will. The costs are minimal, and the benefits great.

For more information contact:

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Fund Development Officer

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Readers are advised to consult their own professional advisors to determine the applicability of the information and opinions in this newsletter in any particular circumstances. This newsletter is provided with the understanding that it does not render legal, accounting, or other professional advice.



I Am a Machine!

Congratulations to the members of Team Villa for their success at the Maratona d'Italia Memorial Enzo Ferrari on October 9, 2011. Team members, along with loved ones, travelled to Italy to participate in the half (21 km) or full (42 km) marathon.

As their families and friends were at home in Canada celebrating Thanksgiving, all of the runners were gathered at the marathon start line focused on the task at hand after months of training and fundraising. It was truly inspiring to see first time marathon runners compete in the half marathon ending in Modena, while seasoned competitors crossed the finish line in Carpi.

As a member of Team Villa, individuals make a huge commitment with their time to train and fundraise over a span of months; at times, the preparation is a challenging experience. It was all worth it, though, as the sense of accomplishment felt by the runners as they crossed the finish line – with huge smiles on their faces and proudly waving the Canadian flag – was palpable!

It was not all hard work and training, though. While in Italy, the team enjoyed delicious local cuisine, as well as trips to Florence, a Parmigiano Reggiano factory, an *acetaia*



where balsamic vinegar is produced, and a tour of the Ferrari museum.

Every team member brought something special to the group – experience, motivation, coaching, mentoring, inspiration and friendship. It was a truly amazing team! At the Celebration Dinner following the marathon, Bill Arvanitis was named Team Captain for his leadership, dedication and commitment to Team Villa year after year. Paolo Fiorino was named Team Villa MVP for his time spent training and

mentoring Team Villa members throughout the year. Congratulations to them both! Also, special thanks to the wives, husbands and boyfriends who accompanied the team and provided support!

The Team Villa participants who ran the race on October 9 did so to raise funds for Villa Charities Foundation. The marathon is a grueling event which takes months of preparation; we are extremely grateful to the Team Villa members for all of their hard work, commitment and passion for the cause. Special thanks also go out to the team's co-chairs Tony Gentilucci and Tom Clark and to our sponsors Athlete's Care Sports Medicine Centres, Masters Financial, Alice Fazooli's Vaughan, TLN, G&L Group, Capo Sgro LLP, Rosanna Caldarone - Dominion Lending Centres, M.A.M. Group Inc, Roy Foss and all those who made pledges to our runners!

Planning is underway for 2012. For more information on Team Villa and to become a participant or sponsor, please contact Cinzia Del Zotto at cdelzotto@villacharities.com or 416-789-7011 ext 306.

For a complete listing of sponsors please see next page.

Venetian Ball Hits a High Note

Thanks to the generosity of all the sponsors, the 18th annual Venetian Ball raised \$1.25 million (net) for Villa Charities – ensuring that the organization can continue to provide its superior level of care to seniors and individuals with intellectual disabilities and mental health issues and can increase its cultural programming that enriches the lives of thousands annually. "The Venetian Ball is one of the city's foremost social events and the success of this year's ball is an example of that," says Gagliano. "Rudy and I are thrilled with the unprecedented support from the community for Villa Charities."

Heartfelt thanks are extended to all of our corporate sponsors and guests; Villa Charities could not continue to provide its special brand



Elisabeth and Sandy Bartzis at the pre-performance reception.

of culturally sensitive care without this commitment. Special mention must be made for the Honorary Chairs and Leading Sponsors for the 2011 Venetian Ball: Rudolph P. Bratty & Family; Mario Cortellucci, Nick Cortellucci & Family; Alfredo De Gasperis, Angelo De Gasperis and Antonio De Gasperis; Senator Linda Frum, Howard Sokolowski & Metropia; Greenpark Group of Companies; IBEW 353; Alex & Marc Muzzo; Orlando Corporation; OZZ Electric Inc.; St. Joseph Communications; and The Sorbara Family, as well as CIBC, the Entertainment Sponsor. On behalf of Co-Chairs Rudolph P. Bratty and Tony Gagliano, **thank you! Grazie!**

For a complete list of sponsors please see pg. 13

VILLA CHARITIES FOUNDATION

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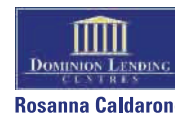
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Cugini d'Italia

They say it's a small world, and this point was proven last year when the 2010 Team Villa crew travelled to Italy to take part in the 25th Venice Marathon. After the race, a gentleman by the name of Antonio Villa approached the team simply to point out that Villa Charities Foundation shared his surname. Villa, who is 56 years old and a marathon runner himself, lives just south of Rome in a quaint town called Isola del Liri. He began running at the age of 18 and participated in the Prague Marathon in 2011 and the Venice Marathon in 2010. Upon the team's return to Canada, and after numerous conversations between Villa and Tracie Napoli in the Villa Charities Foundation office, it came to be known that both the team and Villa share more than just a name and a passion for



running. Villa has relatives in Canada and the United States; his cousin Walter, aunt Giulia and uncle Livio all reside in Toronto – and are very familiar with Villa Colombo and the services provided by Villa Charities.

Giulia has been a weekly volunteer at the long term care centre for over 10 years, participating in the yearly trips to Cuba and Punta Cana. At the same time, Livio has been an active member of the Villa Colombo day programs. Both Giulia and Livio enjoy the freedom and sense of accomplishment

they get from volunteering at Villa Colombo. Earlier this summer, Villa travelled to Canada and visited Villa Colombo with his relatives. Seeing the great services provided by Villa Charities made Villa even prouder to share his name!

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Simply the Best Pizza and Pasta in Vaughan

With the order of any of our pizzas or pasta dishes between November 18, 2011 and January 31, 2012 Benvenuti will donate **\$1.00** to

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Mention this ad when in restaurant

Open 5 days for lunch and 7 days for dinner. Dine in only.

70 Interchange Way, Vaughan Highway 400 & 7 in the AMC Plaza

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From L-R: Musical guest Rufus Wainwright; guests mingling during the post-performance reception; Klodia Spahiu gets into the spirit of Venice's *Carnevale*; dinner on stage against a replica Caravaggio backdrop.

Honorary Chairs and Leading Sponsors

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Community Partners

Lady York Foods – More Than a Grocery Store

Walking into Lady York Foods, you are struck by the friendly and familiar atmosphere and instantly feel at home. You are surrounded by young families and nonni with their grandkids doing their weekly shopping, and happy employees going about their work, ready to assist anyone in need. Lady York is everything that a community grocery store should be. In the fall of 2010, Gabriele Torchetti approached Villa Charities Foundation with the idea of doing an ongoing fundraiser. The grocery promotion, which launched in January 2011, offers a select number of products each month at a discounted price, with 10 per cent of the proceeds being donated to Villa Charities Foundation. To date, the store has raised over \$20,000 for the organization.



like the family feeling,” she says. “You come in and you know the neighborhood, you know the people. It’s like you’re at home with your family.” Rosso, who is 23 years old and has been working for Lady York for seven years, says that no matter your age or how many years you’ve worked with the company, you’re always made to feel like you play a critical role. “It’s not like a big company where you come in and you’re just another employee,” he says. “You’re important and involved here.” Rosso also appreciates the work that Lady York does for his neighbourhood. “They’re not just making money for themselves,” he says. “They’re also providing money to a charity, which is great because it shows leadership within the community.”

It’s true – between Lady York’s remarkable fundraising initiatives and its warm atmosphere and great service, what more could you ask for?

To get your company or organization as a Community Partner involved in raising funds for Villa Charities, please contact Cinzia Del Zotto, Event Coordinator and Support, at (416) 789-7011 ext. 306.

La Befana Brunch



Sunday January 8, 2012

10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Adults \$50 • Children 2-10 \$15 • Children Under 2 FREE

Sala Caboto, Villa Colombo
40 Playfair Avenue, Toronto

Crafts • Face Painting • Entertainment • Photos
• La storia della Befana

TICKETS: 416 789 7011 X 240 • www.villacharities.com

Proceeds from this event go towards enriching Columbus Centre Children's Programs



alice **fazooli's**

Grazie to Alice Fazooli's Vaughan
for its great pasta promotion in
support of Team Villa



Villa Charities Foundation is updating our records to serve you better in the future. Please take a few minutes to complete this form and answer four short questions. Your responses will be held in strict confidence. *Thank you! Grazie!*

PERSONAL INFORMATION (Please Print)

(Mr./Mrs./Ms.) First Name Middle Name or Initial Last Name

Street Address Suite or Apartment Number

City Province Postal Code

Home Phone Number Work Phone Number Email (for future communications)

1. Which of the following would you like to receive to be kept informed about our work and activities? (Please check all that apply)

- ☐ Annual Report ☐ Email **ONLY**
☐ Villa Charities Newsletter (three times a year) ☐ Mail **OR** ☐ Email

2. Which area of our work is the most important to you? (Please check one)

- ☐ Senior Care ☐ Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and/or Mental Health Issues ☐ Culture, Education, Arts and Recreation

3. Everyone can leave a gift in their Will to Villa Charities Foundation. Would you like to learn how?

- ☐ Yes, please mail me some information **OR** ☐ Yes, please contact me at _____ ☐ Days ☐ Evenings
☐ I have already included Villa Charities Foundation in my Will

4. Would you like information about the different ways you can make an estate gift to Villa Charities Foundation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

Villa Charities Foundation, a member of the Villa Charities family of organizations, respects your privacy. The information you provide will only be used to keep you informed of the activities of Villa Charities. If you'd like to be removed from our mailing list, please:

Check this box ☐ and mail this form **OR**

Call our Privacy Officer at 416-789-7011 ext. 321 **OR**

Email us at jjarvis@villacharities.com

May we have your permission to publish your name in our Annual Report to recognize your donation to Villa Charities Foundation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

SHARE YOUR STORY

We'd love to hear how Villa Charities has touched your life or the life of a loved one. Share your story by including it on the back of this survey **OR** email us at jjarvis@villacharities.com **OR** return it in the pre-addressed, postage paid envelope provided.

Thank you! Grazie! for taking the time to complete this survey. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Jarvis, Fund Development Officer, Corporate Giving, at (416) 789-7011 ext. 321 or jjarvis@villacharities.com.

YOUR STORY

(please print)

Thank you!



Grazie!

Since 1971, Villa Charities has provided culturally sensitive care and services for an elderly Italian Canadian population in our community. Today, our work includes support for individuals with intellectual disabilities and mental illness and/or mental health issues. Building on its rich Italian Canadian heritage, and by living life with Italian passion, our family of organizations has grown to include:

Villa Charities (1971) Villa Colombo Services for Seniors (1976) Villa Colombo Ladies' Auxiliary (1976)
Columbus Centre (1980) Caboto Terrace (1984) VITA Community Living Services (1986) Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery (1987)
Villa Charities Foundation (1990) Casa DelZotto (1991) Casa Abruzzo (2004) Mens Sana (2005) Villa Colombo Vaughan Di Poce Centre (2006)

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Three Pathways to Partnership

Creativity. Activity. Productivity. These words work best when used in partnership with each other. Likewise, VITA/Mens Sana has increasingly been working in partnership with others – locally, nationally and internationally – towards the creation of new and exciting resources. The following four stories are illustrative of the myriad opportunities that can exist when people work together towards a common goal.

Creativity - A phone call several months ago to VITA requesting information on abuse and abuse prevention in French led to a realization that there are no easily accessible resources in that language tailored either to staff or to individuals with disabilities. In fact, there was no template for this information to be translated into any other language. The conversation switched from “How do we find resources?” to “How can we create resources?” Manuela Dalla Nora, VITA’s late Executive Director, along with Dave Hingsburger, VITA’s Director of Clinical and Educational Supports, worked with members of the Hamilton Developmental Service Agencies to produce two pamphlets (one for staff and one for people with disabilities) on abuse, abuse reporting and abuse prevention. The goal was to have a resource that reflected the new legislation in Ontario and provided clear guidelines, ideas and solutions. Further, the goal was to have the material presented in a manner that made the information instantly understandable and usable; the idea being that this pamphlet, written in English, would be appropriate to translate into any language, beginning with a French version for the Hamilton agencies. The pamphlet was written and is currently being translated. VITA will be reaching out to other linguistic minorities in Ontario to make the template available for translation into as many languages as needed. All this was done in a spirit of friendly cooperation; both VITA and the Hamilton Developmental Service Agencies were enriched by the opportunity.

Activity - Recently, a unique opportunity presented itself to VITA and York Simcoe Behaviour Management Services (YSBMS). Dr. Bill Lindsay, a world-renowned psychologist from Dundee, Scotland, was visiting Ontario to provide a course for Brock University. Dr. Lindsay has previous connections with both VITA and YSBMS and had one day available on which he could offer training on the difficult issue of serving people with disabilities who engage in criminal behaviour. The two agencies jumped at the chance to put together a daylong training session at the Columbus Center. Working as a team, they planned the seminar, advertised it – and then promptly sold out of tickets. People flew in specifically to hear Dr. Lindsay speak. His presentation provided new insight and gave participants new tools to use when working with a

population that can be difficult to serve. One conference attendee said, “I came because I’m working with someone who has such difficulty with anger and aggression, we’d almost lost hope. By noon, I had several ideas and I’m going back understanding more about what we can do to help.” The idea behind such training is to better the lives of people with disabilities by increasing the skill level and confidence of the staff serving them. Dr. Lindsay refused payment for his services, giving the fee back to VITA and YSBMS to be used in their work with people with disabilities.

Productivity - VITA is becoming recognized as a worldwide leading expert in the area of abuse prevention in human services agencies. Policies developed at VITA have been requested by agencies in various provinces in Canada and by several countries around the globe. A recent report in the New York Times regarding abuse in agencies in that state has led to a request for VITA to partner with YAI in New York City in the creation of a training procedure for the entire state on best practice approaches to abuse prevention. This exciting opportunity will mean the creation of a video training series accompanied by written materials which would introduce changes – piloted at VITA and which became legislation in Ontario – to the state of New York. The idea is to make safety the foremost mission of all agencies that serve those with disabilities. The process is just now beginning and the new cross-border partnership is exciting to all involved, as it will lead to entire system changes.

Mens Sana: Patterns of Partnership

Mens Sana, both a part of VITA and in partnership with VITA, is also working to develop partnerships in the creation of new resources. Activity, creativity and productivity are certainly evident as Mens Sana partners with CAMH to open a new home to serve those with serious mental health needs. Housing for those with mental health issues is a vital and life-saving need. Keeping people safe by giving supportive shelter is meeting the most basic and primary of needs. This new home will provide that essential shelter. Mens Sana has been working for years to create warm and welcoming places in which people can learn to manage symptoms of mental illness and learn new ways of coping. By working in close partnership with CAMH, Mens Sana continues to learn and grow. Resources shared between such agencies become approaches that promote understanding and health.

VITA/Mens Sana, together as partners, will continue to reach out to other agencies of like mind and purpose to actively and productively create what’s needed in the fields of mental health and intellectual disability.

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The Columbus Centre Board is also responsible for the Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery

Update – Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens: Memories of World War II

We continue our work to commemorate the Italian Canadian World War II experience and educate the community about the internments, the “Enemy Alien” designations and their repercussions. We have completed 74 video interviews from Montreal, Thunder Bay, Ottawa, Vancouver, Sudbury, Timmins, Toronto, the Prairies and Nova Scotia. These personal stories, along with letters, documents, photographs and objects, will be available for viewing through a permanent exhibit and a user-friendly website.

The permanent exhibit will combine historical facts and firsthand accounts using video monitors, interactive kiosks, display cases, banners and interpretive panels. A memorial wall will also commemorate the approximately 650 Italian Canadian men and four women who were interned between 1940 and 1945 at Camp Petawawa (ON), Camp Kananaskis (AB), Camp Ripples (NB) and Kingston Penitentiary (ON).

Want to know more? Join our Facebook group and fan page “Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens: Memories of WWII”; follow us on Twitter @ItCanWWII; and view our YouTube Channel “ItalianCanadiansWWII”.



Contact Information:

To share any materials related to the experience of Italian Canadians during WWII, please contact Stefanie Petrilli at (416) 789-7011 ext. 333 or spetrilli@villacharities.com.

To receive information regarding the official opening of the exhibit, please contact Louanne Aspillaga at laspillaga@villacharities.com.

This project is funded by the Community Historical Recognition Program (CHRP), Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Ernest Hemingway Comes to Life... in T.O.

On September 16, the Villa Charities community was invited to the Columbus Centre for a sneak peek of “The World of Ernest Hemingway” – one of the movies being shown at the Toronto International Film Festival – and a Q&A session with its writer/director, Giuseppe Recchia.

The docu-film incorporates a cast of over 40 actors from 12 different nations (Italy, France, Spain, Poland, Cuba, Germany, Finland, Denmark, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and Canada), with Italy, France, Spain and Poland providing the movie’s spectacular settings. The two principal personas, Ernest Hemingway and his wife, Mary Welsh, are played by six actors. (Each role is played by three different actors.) Some of the actors featured in the film are: Kenneth Branagh, Katrine Bach, Minna

Aaltonen, Monica Cruz, Nerea Camacho, Delphine Chaneac, Yuriria Del Valle, Margot Abascal and Marcus Harris.



Writer/Director Giuseppe Recchia

The movie touches upon the most important moments in Hemingway’s life, and includes personalities from the worlds of cinema, literature and show business; from Marlene Dietrich to Luis Miguel Dominguin, and from Fidel Castro to Ava Gardner, the film takes the audience

through the intricacies of the CIA and the KGB. It also reveals some of Hemingway’s personal secrets and closes with the mystery surrounding his infamous suicide.

Recchia is also the author of the novel “Hemingway for Cuba”.

Columbus Centre Concert Band

On October 18, the Columbus Centre Concert Band, under the direction of Maestro Livio Leonardelli, performed its inaugural concert at the Columbus Centre. Approximately 300 people attended the event, which was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Fusco Sr.

It was a dream come true for Mr. Fusco, who for a long time envisioned the Columbus Centre having a concert band that would perform at various community events. Maestro Leonardelli and the thirty band members were extremely proud of their inaugural performance, having worked very hard for almost one year rehearsing and building a brand new wind ensemble.

The Columbus Centre Concert Band is an ensemble of accomplished amateur and non-professional musicians of all ages. The band rehearses every Tuesday from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Columbus Centre. The ensemble is inviting all interested brass, woodwind and percussion musicians to join; no auditions or membership fees are required.



If you are interested in learning more about the Columbus Centre Concert Band, please contact Daniela Agostino-Cugini at dagostino@villacharities.com or (416) 789-7011 ext. 250, or Fred Cassano, the band's coordinator and manager, at fredcassano@rogers.com or (416) 828-3733.

Fit for Life

For Lorraine Simpson, living a healthy lifestyle, being an active member of the Columbus Centre gym and taking part in classes like trainer Gabriella Lalli's spinning session on Tuesday mornings, are all top priorities. Simpson, 74 years young, has been a member at the centre for over nine years now, and a part of the spinning class for five months. Not only does she take part in the weekly spinning session, but Simpson also attends the muscle conditioning class each week, as well. "I have always been active," she says. "I love all the high-energy classes." Combining her enthusiasm for staying fit with her love for the Columbus Centre and its welcoming atmosphere, these classes have become that much more enjoyable for her. As long as there is great music, an amazing group of people and a skilled trainer involved, there is nothing Lorraine Simpson won't attempt to take on at the gym. As she believes, all it takes is a little determination and heart and you're able to do anything you set your mind to.



Exciting new programs at the Columbus Centre Athletic Centre!

Girls Only

Public health officials are concerned by research showing that girls become much less physically active during their teen years; many don't exercise at all by the time they reach 18 or 19 years of age. Columbus Centre has a fantastic new fitness and nutrition program aimed at young women who want to lose weight and get fit in a healthy, safe and effective way.

Called Girls Only, this 90-minute class consists of one hour of combined cardiovascular activity, muscle conditioning and flexibility, followed by 30 minutes of nutrition and group discussion. With the help of the instructor, Jennie Atzmuehler, the girls in this class will assist each other to reach their goals through teamwork and moral support. This is unlike any other fitness program you may have been in; it is almost like getting together with your best friends for some fun.



Yogalates

This class combines the practice of yoga with Pilates, applying the principles of core stability from the latter to common Yoga postures. Yoga is an Eastern Indian discipline that focuses on strength, flexibility and spirituality. Pilates focuses on building strength in the deep muscles of the abdominal region – the body's core. Both practices involve attaining specific postures, and emphasize correct breathing and meditative mindfulness.

The class, instructed by Ioana Cruceanu, is designed to tone and strengthen the entire body, as well as to reduce stress while improving mental focus. Due to the nature of the exercise, circulation in the body and energy is increased – among other benefits. The result is an increase in calories burned and a decrease in body fat.



May 27, 2012 GIRO

Villa Charities Foundation's salute to Italy's Giro d'Italia is coming back for 2012, better than ever! Join us for this fun-filled bike tour route that rides through Vaughan and surrounding areas. Packed with Italian-themed rest stops and a new start/finish line, GIRO 2012 will be the most exciting yet!

The Early Bird deadline for individual registration is January 31, 2012

For more information and registration details, contact
(416) 789-7011 ext. 306 or visit
www.villacharities.com

**RISTORANTE
BOCCACCIO**
2011 THEME NIGHTS

SICILIA

FRI., JAN. 27, 2012

VENETO

FRI., MAR., 2012

LAZIO

FRI., JUNE 1, 2012

For more information or
to make reservations, please call
(416) 789-5555

We have many more exciting events scheduled for 2012 that you won't want to miss! Stay tuned to www.villacharities.com and future issues of the newsletter for more details.

DONATE NOW using the accompanying form or ***ONLINE*** at villacharities.com



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City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

YES!

I would like to support the Villa Charities Foundation. Enclosed is my gift of: ☐ \$40 ☐ \$140 ☐ \$400 ☐ OTHER _____

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☐ Culture, Education, Arts and Recreation

Please check one: ☐ I wish my name to be listed in the Annual Report ☐ I wish to remain anonymous (Gifts over \$100)

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Support the Villa Charities Trees of Life

The Trees of Life, magnificent bronze and brass sculptures, stand tall in the lobby of Villa Colombo Toronto, allowing individuals to pay tribute to family members and friends. For a gift of \$1,000, a leaf will be inscribed; for a gift of \$3,000, a star will be inscribed; or with a gift of \$5,000, the name will be inscribed on a rock.

Official tax receipts issued for donations over \$20.

For more information, contact the Villa Charities Foundation office at (416) 789-7011 ext. 307.

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