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Columbus Centre 18

ANNI
40
YEARS



Serving the community since 1971

villa charities newsletter

Spring 2011

A Tribute to 40 Years of Community Service, Leadership and Goodwill

LOOKING BACK

The story of Villa Charities is about volunteers, community development and the fulfillment of aspirations by both settled and new immigrants from all walks of life. From 1971 to today, thousands of people became involved in the largest group of projects initiated by Canadians of Italian origin in Canada.

The Italian Canadian Benevolent Corporation (known as Villa Charities Inc. since 1995) was created in 1971 initially to build a home for the aged.

Villa Colombo became a reality in 1976, with support from people across Ontario and from all levels of government. The second project, Columbus Centre, opened in 1980; together with the Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery, which opened in 1987, they provide cultural, educational,



athletic and social activities serving people of all ages and backgrounds.

From its humble beginnings, the Villa Charities family of projects grew to include: VITA Community Living Services and Mens Sana Families for Mental Health, with group homes and day programs for adults with mental disabilities and mental illness; Caboto Terrace, Casa Del Zotto and Centro Abruzzo apartment buildings for independent seniors; day care centres for children; a broad range of social services; day programs for seniors; and Villa Colombo Vaughan Di Poce Centre, a second long term care facility. Each endeavor enriches lives with a culturally sensitive interpretation to serve society today and in the future.

(Continued on Pg. 4)

Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens: Memories of WWII

The family left behind...an internment story

Libero Sauro was the minister of St. Paul's Italian United Church (Toronto), a devoted father of nine and a leader at the local Order Sons of Italy. On August 30, 1940, Sauro was interned due to his affiliation with the fraternal society. At the same time, his five sons fought in the Canadian services.

The 1940 internments greatly affected his children, as they were without their father and suffered discrimination from their peers and schoolmates. Even at the tender age of eight, Elvino Sauro remembers the day his father was arrested. "He was not at home when the RCMP arrived to search our home. My mother told me who they were when they arrived and something about why they were



Materials donated by the family of Libero and Clementina Sauro

there. I feared they would take away the few children's books my mother owned to help us learn to speak Italian, so I went and got them and hid them under my mother's pillow. When my father got home, the RCMP went out on the sidewalk in front of our house to meet him where their car was

waiting, as did my mother and I. [My father] took out his wallet and gave it to my mother and said something that I don't remember, and then the RCMP took him away. They did not use handcuffs."

Sylvia Sauro Lowry, who was nine years old at the time, was riding her two-wheel bike when she saw a shiny black car pull up at the curb. She was told by her mother to stay outside; puzzled,

Sylvia rode around a very long block and back. "By that time the car was gone and so was my father. My mother was upset because I couldn't be found when my father had to leave and he had wanted to say goodbye to me."

(Continued on Pg. 19)

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Higher Education

It is always a great educational moment when different generations and cultures unite to share their experiences. On November 16, 2011, an Italian language class from St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School in Aurora took a day trip to the Villa Charities campus at Lawrence and Dufferin. The students, along with instructor Paula Murray, took a tour of Villa Colombo, Casa Del Zotto and the Columbus Centre, experiencing the people of these centres and learning the history of Villa

Charities while doing so. Highlights of their day included their interactions with the seniors from the day program at Villa Colombo and their walk through the art gallery and library at the Columbus Centre. The students left the campus with a greater appreciation for Italian culture and for the services provided by Villa Charities. More trips like these are needed to continue to bridge the gap between the generations and cultures.



Baci e Abbracci for FIAT

Valentine's Day, chocolate and baci are synonymous, and never has this been truer than this past February 14, when Baci Perugina held a contest at the Columbus Centre. The premise of the contest, which ran from September 2010 to February 1, 2011, was that contestants had to guess how many individual Baci chocolates could fit into a 2010 FIAT 500. (The contest coincided with FIAT's return to Canada.) The top 100 qualifiers, who entered via Baci's website and Facebook, were invited to the Columbus Centre for the random draw. Over 14,000 entries were received and DJ Mocha from KISS 92.5 FM presented the keys to a 2011 FIAT 500 to lucky winner Linda, from Oakville.



Food for Thought

We're pleased to announce that both Ristorante Boccaccio and Columbus Event Centre have new websites, with exciting, updated features. While you are on the Boccaccio site, be sure to check out the restaurant's just-launched seasonal menu. New, delicious meals will be offered every three months!



www.boccaccioristorante.com

www.columbuseventcentre.com

Furlan Icon ...Italian Canadian Hero

1909 - 2010

Gilindo Marcocchio

He wasn't sick a day in his life, and friends called him unstoppable. Even at 101 he was dancing the jitterbug.

GILINDO MARCOCCCHIO WAS born on Dec. 10, 1909, in the small Italian town of Castions di Zoppola, near what was then the Austro-Hungarian border. His father, Antonio, was a cook for a wealthy family who offered to adopt Gilindo. But his parents refused to give him up. By the time Gilindo was 12, though, he was orphaned: his mother Maria died of the flu, and Antonio of a heart attack. After that, Gilindo's three brothers left Italy in search of work in Canada and Mexico, and the young boy was left to be raised by two sisters, in a modest house they shared with chickens and pigs.

During the First World War, Gilindo had to flee his town and move inland, away from the border area, which was under siege. Just after he crossed a bridge near his home one day, it was bombed by the Germans. Gilindo watched in horror as horses and carriages were tossed into the air, and people he knew perished instantly.

By 16, having survived the devastation that characterized wartime Italy, he joined his brother Isadoro in Winnipeg. Since Gilindo never attended school, and didn't know how to read or write at the time, he learned a trade: bricklaying. After five years, when jobs dried up with the Depression, he headed east. In Toronto, during the 1930s, Gilindo worked as a tradesman, and soon became known as Lindy. He helped build Maple Leaf Gardens, and in 1931, attended the first-ever hockey game played there (the Leafs lost to Chicago, 2-1).

In 1935, he met Elda Di Fonzo, a neighbour in the adjoining house where he was boarding with his *paesans*. She was 16, and a hairdresser. "He had the longest eyelashes I had ever seen," she recalls. They wanted to marry, but Elda had to wait until her older sister wed first. Three years later, they drove to see the Dionne quintuplets in North Bay, Ont., for their honeymoon.

Elda and Lindy had three children: Sandra, Rob, and Kathy. He often worked six days a week, but always tried to make it home for lunch at noon, when Elda cooked northern Italian fare—polenta, risotto and rich pastas, served with wine. Lindy always washed the dishes after every meal, and at 12:30 pm, he'd take a 30-minute nap before returning to work. "He was never sick a day in his life, never

got illnesses, never entered a hospital, never had an operation," says his daughter Kathy. Later in life, when asked about the secret to good health, Lindy replied, "My wife's cooking."

By the 1940s, Lindy went from being a tradesman to hiring trades for his own projects. In 1947, he bought a piece of land in Etobicoke, Ont., then a Toronto suburb, and developed an apartment building. It would be the first of seven. Ten years later, his business, G. Marcocchio Ltd., was flourishing: 36 apartment units grew to 250.

Every day, he'd go and check on his buildings, and with a small, ubiquitous pad of paper, sketch ideas for how he could improve them. Lindy never retired. Even two years ago, he told a friend, Jerry Bratty, that he had mapped a plan for an addition on one of his units. Jerry said, "Lindy, you're 100 years old." But Lindy was unstoppable. "The money will go to my grandkids one day," he said. "It's a good idea."

In December 2009, when Lindy turned 100, he went to a Maple Leafs game, where he was honoured with standing ovations and jersey No. 100. There was indeed cause for celebration: Lindy was in perfect health. One of the longest-serving members of Toronto's Bayview Golf and Country Club—he joined in 1956—Gilindo golfed until he was 97 (he quit only because all his buddies had predeceased him). He still went to his cottage in Wasaga Beach, Ont., and his condo in Hallandale, Fla. When he'd land in the U.S., he'd get a wheelchair for Elda, and push her through the gate. He could also drive. When

stopped for speeding in 2009, the policeman marvelled at his age—he had never encountered a centenarian behind the wheel.

At 101, Lindy danced waltzes and the jitterbug at his granddaughter's wedding in Chicago. He also flew to Mexico to visit family last year, and then to his hometown where his parents were buried nearly a century ago. The Icelandic ash cloud almost grounded him in Venice, but when he heard he could get a flight out of Rome, he took an overnight taxi for six hours to the Italian capital.

In late November, he went to Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital for a minor day surgery. But during his short stay, he contracted C. difficile. He died at the hospital on Dec. 30, 2010. He was 101. **JULIA BELLUZ**

Reprinted courtesy of Maclean's, January 31, 2011.



In Memoriam

We are saddened to report the loss of our dear friend Antonio Tiberini, who passed away on December 22, 2010. Tiberini was known almost as well for his ever-present cowboy hat as for his friendly personality and generous spirit. He was invaluable from the start and contributed greatly to the Italian Canadian community. He will be missed by many. Our deepest condolences to the Tiberini family, the members of which continue to be involved with Villa Charities in a leadership capacity.

Villa Charities
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www.villacharities.com



Ontario Celebrates Italian Heritage



Programs and Activities

May 31	<i>CIBPA Windsor 2011 Civic Night featuring Sergio Marchionne</i>	June 17-19	Taste of Little Italy on College
June 2	Festa della Repubblica at Queens Park Piazza Italia at Dundas Square	June 18	Argos Game and Alfa Romeo arrival at Rogers Centre
June 3	Centro Scuola e Cultura Italiana Awards Presentations Opening of Firenze Art Exhibit at Columbus Centre	June 19	Father's Day Walk for Prostate Cancer with Finelli's Aces at Toronto waterfront Gala Dinner hosted by Mario Cortellucci and Universal Youth Foundation
June 3-5	<i>Carassauga Festival Mississauga</i>	June 20	I Cameristi della Scala di Milano at Sony Centre
June 5	Weekend celebrations at Columbus Centre	June 24-26	Villa Charities 40th Anniversary Celebration at Columbus Centre
June 8	<i>CIBPA Windsor 2011 Golf Classic at Kingsville Golf & Country Club</i>	June 25	Luciano Volpe "Inspire 2011" speaker series at La Rotunda, Columbus Centre
June 9	Visit to the Islamic Centre	June 30	Press Conference closing ceremony at Columbus Centre
June 10	Internment lectures at Columbus Centre La Calandria by Bernardo Dovizi da Bibbiena, U of T Theatre Group		
June 11	<i>l'Opera e l'Unita d'Italia</i> by Centro Scuola at La Rotunda, Columbus Centre		
June 12	Italian Day at Blue Jays Sognando Lui featuring Michiko Hayashi (La Fenice di Venezia) and Coro San Marco		
June 15	Villa Charities Foundation Father's Day Golf Classic and Dinner Celebration		
June 17	<i>Opening of Caravaggio exhibit at the National Gallery of Canada</i>		

Event details are subject to change.

- For more information, please visit www.italianheritagecanada.ca.
- For event information, contact events@italianheritagecanada.ca; for general information, contact info@italianheritagecanada.ca.
- Events in italics are not organized by the Italian Heritage Month committee. Please look for additional information on those events separately.

(40th Anniversary - Cont'd from Page 1)

STEPPING FORWARD

One could say that the ambitions and vision that the founders of Villa Charities had at its inception have exceptionally exceeded their own expectations. Years of endless volunteer work, leadership and personal dedication made their dreams possible. With little experience in developing such a family, one of the most successful organizations in Canada was built.

With the knowledge and experience acquired and documented over the years, it is now time to hand it over to the younger generation – to keep Villa Charities living and expanding into the next generation. The objective is to encourage today's youth to participate towards achieving a new mission of its own.

In addition to the renowned annual events which have been carried out by Villa Charities since its formation – in particular its successful special events, art exhibits and The Venetian Ball – the 40th anniversary celebrations will kick off on April 17, 2011 and will continue for the remainder of the year.

FESTEGGIAMO INSIEME!

Planned Programs and Activities

- Commemorative flags/banners/posters to decorate Villa Charities campuses
- OMNI to air a documentary detailing the Story of Villa Charities
- Villa Charities to host numerous events for Italian Heritage Month and ITALIA 150
- Villa Charities to hold a youth-oriented

event at Columbus Centre

- Carrier gallery to host a Federico Fellini photography exhibit, along with the Toronto International Film Festival's own exhibit and in collaboration with a Fellini-themed restaurant promotion throughout Toronto
- Villa Charities to host an architectural exhibit in which promising architects will encourage their future visions of the campus at Lawrence and Dufferin
- An archival web site to be created, to share stories and images celebrating Villa Charities within the Italian Canadian community

For more information please visit www.villacharities.com

Tafelmusik's Galileo Project

Centro Scuola e Cultura Italiana/Columbus Centre sponsored the March 4, 2011 performance of "The Galileo Project: Music of the Spheres," put on by the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir. The famed show returned to Toronto by popular demand, after having its debut in the city two years ago. The sponsorship continues a tradition of support for this exquisite orchestra, a jewel of Toronto's cultural scene. Baroque music forms a large part of the Italian cultural heritage.

This production was created to pay homage to the great Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei

(1564-1642). His father and his brother were lute players and composers, so the program includes examples of their music among other selections. Tafelmusik's own bass player, Alison MacKay, researched the period and wrote the script, using quotes from letters and poetry of the time. The spectacular staging uses projected images from the Hubble space telescope as background for the musicians, creating a sense that this is truly "music of the



Stefano Montanari

spheres." The orchestra spent time with the astronomers at the Banff Centre in Alberta to produce a show that combines science and the arts, evocative of the genius of Galileo and the Renaissance.

"The Galileo Project" premiered in the orchestra's 2008-2009 season. It has proven so popular that it has been taken across Canada, and was included on the orchestra's recent tour of China and Kuala Lumpur. It will also be performed on the tour to Australia in 2012.

The Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir continues its 2011 season with the return of the brilliant Italian violinist Stefano Montanari, in a program entitled "Virtuoso Violin." The show will run in Toronto from May 11 to 15, 2011, at the Trinity-St. Paul's Centre (427 Bloor Street West). The same program will be presented at the George Weston Recital Hall in the Toronto Centre for the Arts (5040 Yonge Street). For more information visit www.Tafelmusik.org.

Summer Credit Courses

Centro Scuola e Cultura Italiana works in partnership with the Toronto Catholic District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board to organize and administer summer school courses in Italian language, Classical History and Art. Classes

begin with one week in Toronto or York Region locations the first week of July. Students follow curriculum guidelines for Ontario secondary school credits, in classes taught by Ontario certified teachers. After the first week, students and teachers fly to locations in Abruzzo and Calabria in Italy, where they continue to take three hours of class every day during the week. While there, they stay in residential hotels under adult supervision. On the weekends, Centro Scuola staff members take the students on excursions to major historic sites in Rome, Florence, Ferrara and Venice in the north, or to Pompei, the Amalfi Coast and Taormina in the south. The courses are appropriate for secondary school students in grades 10 and 11.

For more information about the 2011 Summer Credit Courses in Italy, please contact the Centro Scuola office at (416) 789-4970 or visit the website at www.centroscuola.ca.



Giuseppe Tornatore Film Festival

Once again, Centro Scuola and the Istituto Italiano di Cultura collaborated to present a weekly series of films – and during the coldest weeks of the year! From January 27 to March 3, 2011, the Lower Gallery of the Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery became the auditorium for a retrospective dedicated to the films of Italian director Giuseppe Tornatore. The selections included: "Nuovo Cinema Paradiso," "Stanno Tutti Bene," "L'Uomo Delle Stelle," "Malena," "La Sconosciuta" and "Baaria." All viewings were free and open to the public. This is the fifth consecutive year for this popular series, providing visitors to the Columbus Centre with some indoor wintertime entertainment.

The Centenarian Club



Mrs. Angela Bugin

In recent months, Villa Colombo was lucky enough to celebrate two 100th birthdays.

On November 15, 2010, surrounded by family and friends, Villa Colombo resident Angela Bugin celebrated her entrance into the home's Centenarian Club.

Bugin was born on November 11, 1910, in Crocetta de Montello in Treviso, Italy. In 1944, Bugin married a man named Giovanni; two years later they welcomed a daughter, Emanuela. In 1968, the Bugins moved to Canada to be close to Emanuela, who had moved here the year before. In 1984, Giovanni passed away. Bugin continued to live on her own until 2001, when she decided to move to Villa Colombo. She had lost 90 per cent of her vision and knew that at Villa Colombo she would receive the



Mr. Michele Pulsinelli

proper care and attention that she required. Bugin has flourished at Villa Colombo and is still an active member of the centre.

On January 5, 2011, Michele Pulsinelli joined Bugin in the Centenarian Club. And on January 10, he celebrated this fact with family and friends at a wonderful party in Sala Caboto. Pulsinelli was born January 5, 1911, in Frosinone, Italy; he was one of five children. He married his wife Regina in 1934, and later had a son named Giovanni. Pulsinelli served in the Italian army, and after immigrating to Toronto in 1965, he worked as a bricklayer. Pulsinelli believes that his strong dedication to the Catholic faith is what has allowed him to live such a long life.

Auguri to you both and best wishes for your 100th year!

Best Medicine... Laugh!

Villa Colombo residents may agree with the saying "laughter is the best medicine" after participating in their second laughter yoga session with Certified Laughter Yoga Teacher, Lillian Saggiorato, RN COHN(C). Participants engaged in active breathing, stretching, and most importantly, laughter. Saggiorato says, "Laughter yoga is a single exercise that deals with physical, mental and emotional stress simultaneously. I enjoy facilitating laughter yoga sessions at Villa Colombo because I know it is beneficial for the residents and I can see their moods change. As the session progresses they become more aware and start to participate." When the class finished, many residents agreed that the exercises were likely going to help them sleep better that evening. Some participants even approached Saggiorato, asking her to come back soon to share another laugh.



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EPC Winter Vacation 2011

Once again, members of the Elderly Persons Centre (EPC) day program at Villa Colombo enjoyed a two-week vacation in Jamaica from February 12-26, 2011, accompanied by their supervisor, Mirella Ialongo. (Travelers who are able to partake in the trip pay their own fares.) Not only did the seniors have fun but they also had the pleasure of seeing Dunns River Falls, in Ocho Rios. Even though they were not able to climb the falls, the seniors were fascinated watching others do so.



The EPC is a program for independent seniors and has an annual membership of approximately 200 people. The majority of members participate

two to three times per week; a variety of programs are offered Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The seniors also have the opportunity to participate in the diner's club program. In 2010, 3,251 people received Italian style meals; 9,871 people participated in the daily exercise program specially designated for the seniors; 3,562 seniors participated in spiritual services; and many more have participated in other programs.

VCLA

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

VCLA Annual Christmas Dinner Dance

The Christmas season kicked off with our annual dinner and dance held on November 25, 2010. The evening began with our martini and punch bar orchestrated and designed by Melina Zeppieri and her helpers. Sala Caboto was full of love and the spirit of Christmas as 205 guests arrived and mingled with old and new friends.

The room sparkled thanks to the beautiful centerpieces provided by Gatto Flowers. The wine on the tables was graciously donated by Vinoteca Winery. The evening was full of laughter, good food and music – the latter provided by “l’italiano,” Fortunato Grattà, and his special guest Rob, an Elvis impersonator.

The VCLA invited its own special guests – eight residents from Villa Colombo – whom all had a marvellous time at the party. Giacomo, one of the oldest residents at 106 years young, serenaded everyone with his rendition of “Un Mazzolino di Fiori.”

As the evening progressed, the CIBPA Ladies’ Auxiliary presented us with an early



Christmas gift and generously donated \$5,000 for the purchase of two electric beds. Thank you to Cesira Caruso, chair of the CIBPA Ladies’ Auxiliary, and her board for their continued support of the VCLA.

Connie Vella-MacKay and Maria LaMarca co-chaired this event that raised over \$10,000. Along with the wonderful members of their committee, they worked as a cohesive team to make the evening come together beautifully. Thank you to all of our guests and participants who contributed to the success of the evening.



Regali di Natale

Each year the VCLA distributes gift certificates as Christmas presents to all of the residents at Villa Colombo. These gift certificates can be redeemed at the residence’s gift store or for services in the Ciccarelli Salon. This is always a highlight of the holiday season, and the volunteers who distribute the gifts are greeted with enthusiasm and gratitude by the residents.

VCLA Golf Tournament

Mark your calendars and get ready to kick off the golf season with the VCLA’s 22nd annual golf tournament on Wednesday, May 25. This year’s tournament will take place at Carrying Place Golf and Country Club in Kettleby. We are very pleased to announce that Joyce Frustaglio is the honorary chair of the tournament this year. Invite your friends

to join us for an excellent day of golf! The tournament is our largest fundraiser of the year and we encourage you to participate and support our efforts to benefit the residents of Villa Colombo Toronto. Please call the VCLA office at (416) 789-2113 ext. 2260 for further information.

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.

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Minister Fantino on Caring for Seniors

On January 5, 2011, the Honourable Julian Fantino, MP for Vaughan, was appointed by Prime Minister Harper as Canada's Minister of State for Seniors. It was an obvious choice, as Minister Fantino has long been involved with that sector of the population. He was part of the board for Villa Leonardo Gambin and he and many of his family members volunteer and fundraise at Villa Colombo Vaughan, where his father-in-law was a resident until his recent passing.

A few weeks after his appointment, a community meeting led by Minister Fantino was held at Villa Colombo Vaughan. The purpose of the meeting was for the Minister to meet with—and provide updates to—the community regarding all seniors' issues. There was a large representation of seniors, social clubs and professionals working in senior living settings (such as long term care homes, retirement homes and senior supportive



housing.) The Minister expressed his appreciation for the many ideas and concerns shared with him and said he is looking forward to working with Canada's seniors to address their needs. "There are many seniors who are well able to look after themselves or have family or other support systems and can afford to have all that in place," he says. "What concerns me are those who do not; those who are less advantaged, have no support system whatsoever and who feel frustrated and helpless and hate losing their independence."

Minister Fantino is a firm believer in the type of culturally sensitive care provided by Villa Charities. "When you look at the care provided to most seniors, cultural sensitivity is either diminished or completely absent," he says. "This creates isolation, vulnerability and disenfranchisement. When you focus on familiar food and language, it becomes about them having a quality of life at a time when they are the most vulnerable components of our society."

When asked about the future of care for seniors, Minister Fantino is focused and optimistic. "Demographics show that seniors' issues are going to be very significant, so our ability to look after their needs is going to be very important," he says. "But on the other hand, they are also the most active group in volunteering. So there is a great opportunity to learn from seniors and maintain our connection to them and engage with them."

Christmas Celebrations



Throughout the month of December, Villa Colombo Vaughan organized Christmas gatherings for families, staff and volunteers – all of whom are very special support systems for the residents. The fourth annual Family Christmas Gathering, held on December 8, 2010, was very special; folklore group Coro Italia, well known to the home, sang Christmas carols and acted out the nativity story. All guests

enjoyed a warm meal, roasted chestnuts and panettone. The annual Staff Christmas Party, held at Montecassino, was an evening for staff to dress up, come together and share in some fun. Everyone

had a great time and danced the night away with entertainment provided by Classic DJ. Volunteers at Villa Colombo Vaughan continue to be a committed and loving group of individuals who support the residents daily. The Volunteer Christmas Gathering at the home was an opportunity for the residents to give their best wishes to the volunteers and their families for the holidays.

Learning Opportunities for Students

For a number of years, Villa Colombo Vaughan has provided opportunities to students to complete the practicum component of their specific programs. Our involvements with community colleges and local high schools and universities have made this a great opportunity for both our centre and the students involved. Over the past three years, placement students have completed a total of 3,550 volunteer hours. The home has hosted students in different programs including Social Services, Nursing and Physiotherapy. For placement opportunities at the Villa contact Maria Morra, Program Manager, at (289) 202-2222 ext. 316 or mmorra@extendicare.com.

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Santa Day

On Sunday, November 28, 2010, Villa Colombo Vaughan residents and their families came together to celebrate the fourth annual Santa Day in the Piazza DeGasperis. The festivities included arts and crafts, hot chocolate and biscotti di Natale for the children while the adults enjoyed panettone and espresso. The best part of the festivities was having the families come together to take their family photo with Santa. (Each family received a framed photo as a keepsake.) It was a successful event as the numerous generations of many families came together to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season. The

Esposito family was one of many that participated in this special event; the day was made even more special for resident Teresa Esposito as she was also celebrating her birthday with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In total, 40 relatives joined in the festivities with her! A very special thank you goes out to volunteer John Curalli, who has been "helping" Santa for the past four years. You should join our volunteer team, too! For opportunities kindly contact Daniella Gentile, Volunteer Coordinator, at (289) 202-2222 ext. 333 or dgentile@extendicare.com.

Meals for Two

In February, the month to celebrate Valentine's Day, Villa Colombo Vaughan organized a special Couples Lunch for all residents and their spouses. The lunch took place in the Salone Baldassarra. All couples that attended the lunch enjoyed a home cooked meal prepared "con il cuore" by the kitchen staff, and were serenaded by accordion player Neil Pupulin. Throughout the year, the home organizes such lunches for the residents and their spouses; it is an opportunity for them to enjoy an extra-special meal together as some of the spouses are not residents.



Intergenerational Programming

Children are very special to us; they fill the hearts of Villa Colombo Vaughan residents with much happiness and joy. The home has made and maintains strong relationships with local schools, daycares and other organizations that support intergenerational programming. In December, children from the neighbouring Montessori private school in Kleinburg visited our centre and sang their hearts out for the residents in the Piazza DeGasperis. They performed classic Christmas carols such as "Jingle Bells" and "O Holy Night," and also did a beautiful rendition in Italian of "Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle." The week of Christmas, residents enjoyed a special nativity play acted out by the children of the Calabrese Gagliato Social Club along with residents' grandchildren and the children of various staff members. A special thank you goes out to Rina Tiberini, Vice Chair of the Villa Colombo Vaughan Board of Governors, as well as Rose Colalillo and Sue Sgro, organizers from the social club, for this touching gift for the residents. The children involved in the event represented the true meaning of Christmas.





Welcome!

We're pleased to announce that Anne Simone has been named the new Executive Director of Villa Charities Foundation.



Ms. Simone brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in fundraising, customer service, donor relations and special events. She has held several progressive positions both with the private and public sectors, including her most recent position as Senior Director, Major Gifts with the Ontario Liberal Fund. She is a member of the Association of Professional Fundraising, Toronto Chapter.

Please join us in welcoming Anne to the Villa Charities family!

The road to success - Rome, Venice... and Modena!

In 2010, a group of 22 individuals came together, trained for nine months, travelled and supported each other as part of Team Villa and participated in the 25th Venice Marathon. To date, they have raised \$115, 000! Grazie to 2010 Committee Co-Chairs Frank Ciccolini Jr. and Tony Gentilucci, all sponsors, Team Villa members and donors who made 2010 such a success!

Since its inception, Team Villa has travelled to Rome and Venice – with the next destination confirmed as Maranello, Modena, Italy!

Villa Charities Foundation is proud to

announce that Team Villa will be participating in the Maratona d'Italia Memorial Enzo Ferrari on October 9, 2011 and will be introducing the half marathon in addition to the full marathon.

"I'm excited that we're launching our third Italy marathon in Maranello, Italy," says Tony Gentilucci, Committee Chair for 2011. "I have no doubt this will be our best one yet!"

For information on becoming a Team Villa member or to become a sponsor, please contact Tracie Napoli at (416) 789-7011 ext 242.

Amore for our Volunteers!

Villa Charities Foundation had a wonderful year in 2010 with the success of its five fundraising events: An Afternoon Affair, GIRO T.O., Father's Day Golf Classic & Dinner Celebration, The Venetian Ball and Team Villa – The 25th Venice Marathon.

There are many people to thank, but in particular, the cornerstone of any not-for-profit organization is the strength, commitment and dedication of its volunteers. Without individuals who donate their time and talents, no charity can meet its fundraising goals.

On Wednesday, January 26, 2011, the first annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception was held to honour, thank and celebrate those individuals who volunteered their time for Villa Charities Foundation during the previous year.

The guests of honour were committee and event day volunteers –

people who assisted with the planning and execution of special events, who hosted rest stops for golf, assisted with registration and drove sweep cars for GIRO T.O. and for those who were greeters and raffle ticket sellers for The Venetian Ball. These are just some of the roles that volunteers filled and without them we would not have been able to do what we do well!

It was an evening filled with fun, food, prizes and thanks as Villa Charities Foundation Board Chair, Rudolph P. Bratty, was present to pay tribute to these individuals and to address the importance of volunteerism in our community.

If you would like more information on volunteer opportunities with Villa Charities Foundation please contact the Foundation office at (416) 789-7011 ext 302.



L-R: Angela Martella, Vilma Casola and Lucy Vanelli



L-R: Josephine Napoli, Felicia Averso, Robert Napoli and Michael Vumbaca



L-R: Camille Mainelli, Jan Grossi and Josie Cuda

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Lady York: Food and Family

Family and community. That is the foundation that Villa Charities has been built on for 40 years. We're lucky that other organizations in our community, such as our neighbour, Lady York Foods on Dufferin Street, exude that same set of values.

The late Giuseppe Torchetti founded the store with his family in 1959 and for over 50 years they have been constant in their commitment to quality and Old World service. Continuing the legacy that Giuseppe built are his wife Lucia, son Gabriele, daughter Maria and brother-in-law Frank De Rose, who along with many others truly believe in giving back to their clients and the Italo-Canadian community they cater to.

In the fall of 2010 Gabriele Torchetti approached Villa Charities Foundation with the idea of doing a fundraiser. "We were thinking about getting involved in something more concrete, in the community," he says. "We always donate prizes or products to different charities or events throughout the year, but we wanted to affiliate ourselves with something more community based, that helped out several things within the area, since we are a part of the community." The end result, which launched in January 2011, is a grocery promotion whereby a select number of products each month are advertised at a savings, with 10 per cent of the proceeds being donated to Villa Charities Foundation.

Torchetti approached his suppliers to support this initiative and the response was overwhelming! "I thought about doing only one product per month, but that was not going to be as effective," he says.

"If we did only one product, it would have been only a couple of hundred dollars that we could donate a month; this way, we can donate more."

Immediately out of the gate, the campaign was a success, with a combined total of \$6,400 from January and February alone being donated to the foundation! Suppliers such as Emma Foods, De Cecco, Aurora and San Benedetto – to just name a few – partnered with Lady York Foods to make this fundraiser so profitable. "I asked for their assistance in giving me a lower cost so that we could lower our price as well," says Torchetti. "So the customer is getting a saving on the product as well as that feel-good sensation that they are helping – that they are donating money to a cause."



Gabriele Torchetti

Torchetti and Lady York Foods have made this commitment for the coming months. It involves more than cutting a cheque and requires the cooperation and coordination of others. "I think Villa Charities does great work and I appreciate the

fact that they service the community from all different ages – from children to the elderly," he says. "That's the main thing to me – that they help out all different age groups, that they are Italian based and that they are within the immediate community. As we were growing up our father taught us that business is almost secondary to talking to people and developing not just a



Staff member Maria Grasso

customer base but a friendship with those people."

For a listing of monthly products supporting Villa Charities Foundation check the local Lady York Foods flyer or visit www.ladyorkfoods.com.

Thank you - Grazie to our Donors

A heartfelt thank you to the following individuals and corporations that have made a donation of \$100 or more to Villa Charities Foundation during the period November 1, 2010 to February 28, 2011.

\$100,000 - \$249,999.99

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In Memory

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 Ardizzi, Lorenzo

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 Di Girolamo, Angela
 Frisina, Alfonso E.
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 Tiberini, Antonio
 Tomassi, Paolo
 Tuzi, Gio
 Varlese, Pasquale

Tree of Life

De Vuono, Zaccaria
 Marcocchio, Gilindo
 Micheli, Edward

The Trees of Life stand tall in Piazza Bartolini at Villa Colombo. They are magnificent bronze and brass sculptures and are a way to pay tribute to beloved family members and friends while supporting Villa Charities Foundation.

Please note, all efforts are made to ensure proper acknowledgement of each donor at time of printing. If we have omitted your name or incorrectly spelled your name, please accept our apologies and contact the Foundation office at (416) 789-7011, ext. 307.



Kevin Travers, a partner with KPMG, presents Pal Di Iulio with a \$13,000 cheque. KPMG is the auditor for Villa Charities and has been hosting golf tournaments and other events benefitting Villa Charities for 10 years.



**Villa Charities Foundation
 Father's Day Golf Classic
 and Dinner Celebration**

FORE! Join us as we celebrate what truly makes la famiglia Italiana so special! Spend a fun-filled day golfing with one of the most important people in your life – your father! Top off your day by joining other families for a celebratory dinner all about dad!

Wednesday, June 15, 2011
 The Country Club
 Shotgun Start 1:30 pm

Father's Day Golf Classic (includes Dinner Celebration)
 Corporate Foursome: \$2,000
 Individual Golfer: \$500 each

Father's Day Dinner Celebration: \$125 per person

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To register a foursome, purchase tickets for dinner or for more information, contact 416-789-7011 ext. 242 www.villacharities.com

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Peer Support at Mens Sana

Recovery is one of the focuses at the Mens Sana Day Program. Members are encouraged to be self-determined and to support the day to day operation of the program. One of the ways to enhance self-determination is to have members take control of their own treatment. Peer support is slowly gaining recognition in the field of mental health.

A peer support worker provides support through listening, building relationships and inspiring. In general, peer support workers display better empathetic listening skills; this comes from their own personal experience of dealing with a mental health diagnosis, learning to cope with symptoms and interacting with various support services or medical interventions. Peer support workers can connect and relate better with the members hence they are able to support members through their recovery journey.

The Peer Support Training Program teaches participants a variety of skills, from how to promote peer support relationships and engage individuals to mentoring and collaborating with service providers. Jim Fergus recently joined the program and is working on his internship in the Day



Program. He has led a few discussion groups and provided peer counselling with other members.

Perhaps one of the main benefits of having a peer support worker is the resources he or she brings to the team. At the Mens Sana Day Program, Jim is highly regarded and is treated as a great resource in terms of his knowledge of mental health symptoms and the services provided in the field of mental health.

Change Comes to Ontario

Providing Safety, Practicing Respect, Promoting Community. These six words sum up the primary goals of VITA Community Living Services. Nearly five years ago, VITA set out to create strategies to keep people with disabilities safe within a respectful community service. Over that time, the policies and procedures put into place at VITA have become internationally known as both cutting edge and best practice. In fact, when drafting the new Quality Assurance legislation, the Ministry of Community and Social Services consulted with VITA and incorporated many aspects of its abuse prevention policy into the new legislation.

Once the legislation was passed there was a need to educate all agencies in the province on the new Quality Assurance regulations, which covered a variety of topics from developing behavioural approaches and abuse prevention training to structural requirements in group homes. The government undertook a provincial call for proposals to seek an organization that would provide training to over 400 service providers funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. VITA pulled together a team of people, including those from York

Support Services Network, York Simcoe Behaviour Management Services and Ancaster Pope Communications, to devise a model and to discuss content.

The timeline was tight but the proposal was submitted with at least 15 minutes to spare! After a tense waiting period, VITA's proposal was selected. Manuela Dalla Nora, VITA's executive director who was the chief author of the training, coordinated the writing, the Ministry review of the materials and worked with the technical people to create the curriculum for the province. Thanks to the significant contribution by Ancaster Pope in technical and graphic development, a new web site, training video, and e-learning format were created and launched all within seemingly impossible timelines.

Toward the end of last year, the training began. Using video conferencing, webcasting and live presentations, Dalla Nora provided training over four days to agencies and staff that serve virtually every person with a disability in service in Ontario. Training was provided in English, French and ASL (American Sign Language). Questions provided opportunity for lively

discussion and the website containing the training is accessed regularly by people requiring information. The new web site (www.qamtraining.net) contains copies of the video, new legislation and helpful documents so that agencies from across the province can ensure that the regulations are equally understood and applied whether you are in Toronto or Red Lake.

At VITA's Christmas party, Dalla Nora announced that the years spent in trial and error and in establishing new approaches to service delivery had finally paid off. She wanted every staff member to be proud of not only providing respectful care but of changing the lives of people with disabilities throughout the province. Though the official training is done, VITA is still contacted to provide additional training sessions on abuse prevention for people with disabilities, one of the requirements in the regulations.

Providing Safety, Practicing Respect, Promoting Community... a mission statement that started out as an ideal and became a reality – in both law and practice.

Northern Lights: VITA Takes to the Airwaves

VITA's Rights Group, which is made up of members with disabilities, is getting well known for providing education to organizations and self advocate groups about how to set up and run similarly effective and successful groups. But recently, the group was asked to do something very new and different. Executive directors and self advocates from across northern Ontario asked if the Rights Group would do a video conference to multiple sites throughout the North. It may be the first time that this technology was used for a presentation by self advocates.

Two presentations were set up; one for executive directors and senior management, and one for self advocates and facilitators. Ryan Zanette, past president of the Rights Group, presented to the executive directors. Matt Caratazzollo and Andrew Lewis,

president and vice president of the Rights Group, respectively, presented to the self advocates. In both sessions the presenters fielded questions about the overall purpose and benefits of the group as well as the administration and organizing involved in setting up such a group.

Self advocacy and the issue of rights for people with disabilities are very current topics, what with recent changes in legislation. VITA, having an established rights group, is well ahead of the curve and is now able to provide leadership to other organizations. It was decided early on that these presentations would be written and delivered by people with disabilities, and not by staff or management personnel. As such, there is an authenticity to the presentations that comes from the passion the members bring to the topic and to the group in

general. Speaking about this opportunity, Lewis says, "It made me feel good, and passionate about my job as vice president. It made me feel bright." Clearly self esteem comes from the opportunity to shine!

VITA has worked very hard to ensure that its members have a forum to develop all the skills of leadership. This video conference opportunity shows that the skills of putting on such a presentation – the organizing, writing and planning – are paying off both for the members and for the larger community. Ann LeBlanc, a facilitator of the group says, "What a great day! It was very cool to watch it all happen. Two presentations later, I think everyone walked away with a bit of knowledge and feeling pretty good about the future of self advocacy."

It's Time to Dance!

VITA members have made it clear that they want more opportunities to socialize and have fun. Donna Escott, programme director at VITA, created a group responsible for setting up dances for the organization. The first dance, held in January, went wonderfully. "It was awesome to see the members thoroughly enjoying themselves at the event," says Kris Dowling, an instructor at the Day Program in Maple. "They mingled, they had snacks and they shared some laughs. But above all they really danced! The highlight for me took place five minutes into the snack break, when one of the members said, 'Enough of this break – it's time to dance!'"

Keeping the event participants focused was high on the agenda, and the music seemed to do the trick. The DJ, Parker, is a former member of VITA who has since begun his own disc jockey business. Escott says, "Parker was

very excited to hear from us to request his services for the dance and he did a fantastic job."

The dance committee, which includes VITA member Michael Goldberg, has big plans. "Although this dance was incredible, we would like to add to it by making the next dances more interactive," says Goldberg.

"For example, we are inviting our members to participate in creating their own decorations consistent with the dance's theme for the night." Goldberg was pleased with the dance, saying, "It was all good. Everything went perfectly to plan."

After listening to VITA's members express a need for more social opportunities, the goal became to create a fun and safe venue for people to socialize and make new friends... and, of course, to dance their socks off!



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“5 Palettes: Artisti ed Amici”

This exhibit, which ran from December 2010 to February 2011, presented the work of a group of artists connected by a love of art: Robert Amirault, Tony Bianco, Sam Paonessa, Giuseppe Pivetta and Gerald Sevier. Over the years, they have worked, shown and traveled together. During this time, they have taught and been taught by one another, growing as a result of each others' work. In the process, they became friends. Though they each approach painting differently, and have traveled their own unique journeys in search of subjects, theirs is a common bond of a passion for the

expression of wonder, beauty and truth. Amirault, a self-taught artist, favors landscapes, seascapes, faces and figures. He has shown his work in Canada, Italy and Mexico and is a co-founder of Plein Air Canada. Bianco has taught in schools across Ontario and is the recipient of numerous awards. He has designed 11 coins for the Royal Canadian Mint, including two 2010 Vancouver winter Olympic designs. For many years, Paonessa has traveled and painted plein air landscapes in North America and Italy. He is a co-founder of Plein Air Canada and is a member of the Ontario Society of

Artists. Pivetta has been exhibiting since 1972; his work can be found in collections in Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia. He has taught his artistic methods in workshops and has lectured for numerous organizations. Since 1976, Sevier has been an elected member of the Royal Canadian Academy and was recently awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto. He taught at the Ontario College of Art and has illustrated for North American and European magazines.

“Inspired by Canada”

For one night only, at the Carrier Gallery, lucky art enthusiasts experienced a stunning exhibition featuring iconic works from the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, along with works by some of Canada's finest contemporary artists of Italian heritage. On March 29, 2011, an exhibit and cocktail reception were held for this unique intercultural celebration that explored various works by the Group of Seven and others who found inspiration in our nation's rugged landscape, as well as artists including: Tracy Thomson (Colero), the great-grandniece of Tom Thomson, the late Albert Chiarandini, who painted with members of the Group, Salvatore Gallo, Sam Paonessa, Giuseppe Pivetta, Germinio Politi, Tony Bianco and Joseph Catalano. “To know Canada better I have found it so important to understand how the



Group defined how we look at the country itself in a particular brash Canadian way,” says Multi Media Nova's Lori Abittan, a co-chair of the event. “Many were themselves immigrants and wanted to break away from restrictive European painting traditions and create a distinctly Canadian school or art. Their story is therefore the story of all of us who came here, and their amazing works give us a new appreciation of the land we adopted.” The collection featured was the largest group of paintings ever to be shown outside of the McMichael's home in Kleinburg, Ontario. The exhibit was a joint fundraising event, with the net proceeds to be shared between the

Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery/Columbus Centre and the McMichael Canadian Art Collection.

“Through the Eyes: Israel & Jordan”

In May of 2010, graduating students and alumni of the Creative Photography program at Humber College trekked through the state of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. On their journey from the shores of Galilee to the sands of Wadi Rum (a protected area of desert in the south of Jordan), the travelers took photographs of the world around them. From early February to mid-March of this year, the Carrier Gallery held an exhibit of these works. The stunning vistas and examples of cultural phenomena allowed viewers to experience these distant lands through the photographers’ eyes. For more information on the exhibit, visit www.villacharities.com.



“Pastoral” by Ivan Mastagarkov

Ivan Mastagarkov graduated with a Master of Arts from the National Academy of Fine Arts in Sofia, Bulgaria, after completing a five-year program of woodcarving and sculpture. His works—mainly solid wood relieves and sculptures—are all handmade and custom made, and have been featured in exhibitions in Bulgaria and Canada. “Wood is my medium, my friend and my guide,” says Mastagarkov.



“It helps me to crystallize my inspirations into ideas and supports me in my effort to go beyond the boundary and limitations of material shapes and volumes.” Mastagarkov has been an active member of the Bulgarian Artists Association since 1997 and was appointed to its Board of Directors in 1999. For more information on this exhibit, visit www.villacharities.com.

Upcoming Exhibits at Carrier Gallery

“Spirits of the Earth: Art & the Art of Giving”

April 7, 2011 to May 4, 2011
Upper and Lower Galleries, Atrium A/B

Opening Reception: April 7, 2011,
6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

May 2011

“Haruni”

May 6, 2011 to June 1, 2011
Upper Gallery

“Aquavision 2011: Toronto Watercolour Society”

May 6, 2011 to June 1, 2011
Atrium A/B

June 2011

“Praxis Beauty and Truth,”

Academy of Realist Art
June 3, 2011 to July 4, 2011
Upper Gallery

“Firenze Art”

presented by Viva Vitalita Italiana
in celebration of
Italian Heritage Month
June 3, 2011 to July 4, 2011
Lower Gallery

“Fellini: The Invention of Fame,”

TIFF/Columbus Centre
June 29, 2011 to
September 19, 2011

July 2011

Teo Dragonieri Exhibit

Upper Gallery, Atrium A/B

Luciano Tocci Exhibit

Lower Gallery

August 2011

Teo Dragonieri Exhibit

Upper Gallery, Atrium A/B

Luciano Tocci Exhibit

Lower Gallery

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.

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

RISTORANTE BOCCACCIO 2011 THEME NIGHTS

Fixed price menus of authentic regional wines and cuisine

EBRAICA
JEWISH ITALIAN FOOD
June 2, 2011

ABRUZZO
September 30, 2011

UMBRIA
October 21, 2011

TUSCANY
November 25, 2011

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

Fit for Long Life

Izak Eisenberg knows the secret to a long, healthy life – keeping active!

Having celebrated his 98th birthday in early January, Eisenberg is the oldest member of the Columbus Centre athletic facility. Every year, for his birthday, he brings a cake and healthy snacks to the gym and shares his birthday festivities with the Columbus Centre staff and other gym goers. He joined the gym five years ago, after mentioning to his daughter Helene that he was looking for a facility in which he could indulge his love of swimming. Helene has been a member of the Columbus Centre for 25 years and had nothing but praise for the facility and its staff and clientele.



Eisenberg took a tour of the gym and has been hooked ever since. "I love everything about this centre!" he says. "The swimming, the exercising... but the most important part is that the people are very friendly." Eisenberg tries to visit the centre five times a week; because he is visually impaired, Helene always accompanies him. His exercise routines vary but are astounding nonetheless; he normally swims for an hour or walks a mile on the indoor track and has a 13-station program on the resistance machines. "He's been active his whole life," says Helene. "But this centre has been the most welcoming and best that he's ever belonged to." Auguri, Izak!

The Boxer

Phil Lo Greco is the World Boxing Council International welterweight champion. Although his parents both hail from Sicily, Italy, Lo Greco was born in Toronto. He and his family returned to Sicily when he was two. Then, when Lo Greco was nine, he and his parents moved back to Toronto; he attended elementary school in the Lawrence and Dufferin neighbourhood. It was at this point that he took up boxing, and his first coach was Erico Mancini, the Columbus Centre's boxing and kickboxing instructor.

Lo Greco fell in love with the sport and early on showed a natural talent for it. Nicknamed "Phil the Thrill" by his fans, Lo Greco is 20-0, with 11 KOs. He

has fought in Quebec and throughout Europe, but never in Toronto—a fact he is soon hoping



to change. In 2009, Lo Greco moved back to Corleone, Sicily, but returns to Toronto

whenever he can. He has never forgotten his Canadian hometown, or those, like Mancini, who helped kick-start his career.

Mancini, an aficionado of Olympic style boxing and kickboxing, has 30 years of experience in the sports, having worked as a provincial and national team coach. He is currently completing both his NCCP Levels Four and Five – the highest formal levels of qualification and recognition in coaching.

For more information on Mancini's boxing and kickboxing classes, visit the Columbus Centre membership office or call (416) 789-7011.

Join us at Sala Caboto, Villa Colombo for our popular Italian Style Luncheons

Easter Brunch
Sunday, April 24th, 2011

Mother's Day Brunch
Sunday, May 8th, 2011

Adults - \$ 40.00 • Children - \$ 28.00

For more information, please call Agostino or Michael at Columbus Event Centre at (416) 789-2113 ext. 6000

Come On, Get Healthy!

Through its fitness and nutrition program, MobilizeYouth, located at the Columbus Centre since 2007, addresses many of the complex issues—such as low self-confidence, physical inactivity and poor diet—that face overweight children. All participants are put through a rigorous fitness and sports skills development program, along with a practical nutrition program adapted for each family.

MobilizeYouth has many success stories. For instance, Lisa, 16, has lost more than 45 pounds since joining the program in February 2010, proving that commitment to class can pay off big time!

Michael, 17, comes to classes on his own all the way from Scarborough. He first came to the MobilizeYouth Boot Camp

last summer, and coaches have since seen Michael's confidence level rise along with his fitness abilities.



Lisa, 16



Michael, 17

Andrea, 15, has been attending MobilizeYouth for three years! Thanks to her parents' support and her own determination to be fit, Andrea is truly dedicated to her weight loss program.

Josh, 12, has worked with MobilizeYouth for a year now, and recently made his high school volleyball team! Through our program, he has learned that a positive attitude will enable him to get through all of life's obstacles.

For Gregory, 12, MobilizeYouth is about being as fit as possible. He's the fastest runner in the program and we're relying on him to lead the way at the Cardiac Health Foundation's 5 km Walk/Run in May!

We applaud all MobilizeYouth members and their parents for their dedication to the program and commitment to a healthy lifestyle.

For more information on MobilizeYouth, contact Dina Lieberman at (416) 294-4356 or visit www.mobilizechange.com.

[\(Internment, continued from front cover\)](#)

Financial Hardship

During the time of Libero's internment, the family barely had enough to survive. As was the case for many Italian Canadian families, the children worked and took up extra duties around the home. "I remember my mother sending me out with bouquets of flowers [grown in the family's backyard] to sell to our neighbours because there wasn't enough money coming in," Elvino recalls. "I found it embarrassing."

"Dirty Wop"

It was not only home life that was uprooted; often, these young children faced discrimination in the school yard because of their Italian origin.

Fortunately for Silvio Sauro, another of Libero's sons, hardly any of his classmates alienated him, but he admits that there were friends and playmates on their street who became nasty, calling him and his siblings "dirty wops." Cinna Sauro Faveri, Silvio's sister, who was five years old at the time, also recalls this slur used against her. In one incident, Elvino was beat up by two neighbourhood kids – one of them a former playmate. "I have never forgotten that because the reason they did it was solely because of my origin."

A Devoted Wife

Silvio notes, "My overwhelming recollection was how my mother took charge of things." One of Libero's duties at the Order Sons of Italy was to sign cheques paid out to members upon their death. While Sauro was interned, his wife Clementina looked after this, mailing the cheques out to Petawawa for his signatures.

Clementina was diligent in her mission to have Sauro released. She wrote to M.J. Coldwell, a Social Democratic politician and a fellow clergyman. Coldwell raised the issue of Libero's internment in the House of Commons, pointing out that Sauro's sons were in the Canadian services. Sauro was eventually

released on December 23, 1940.

Sauro's Legacy

Sauro is remembered by his children as a man always willing to help others. He was well known in the Italian community because of his role at the Order Sons of Italy. Before his own internment in August of 1940, many wives of those interned came to Sauro for guidance, including the wife of James Franceschini, a very wealthy businessman. After his own release in December, Sauro continued to help other Italian Canadian internees and their families.

It is important to collect stories, like those of the Sauro family, and materials so as to educate the public on the events that occurred during the internment period, and on a larger scope, the Italian Canadian WWII experience.

The Sauro family has kindly donated materials to the project. The collection includes correspondence from Sauro while interned, POW postcards, affidavits, correspondence from other internees and a newspaper clipping. This will contribute greatly to the project's archival collection which will be on display starting March 31, 2012.

About the Project

Funded by the Community Historical Recognition Program (CHRP), Citizenship and Immigration Canada fund, this project will collect the personal memories of surviving Italian internees in Canada, their family members and others that were also affected by the internment. These video histories will form a national archive, along with related print, photographic and other resources. The resulting archive will be shared with the Italian community and general public through a permanent exhibit housed at the Columbus Centre, as well as through an online archive, virtual exhibit and a publication.

Contact Info

For more information on the project, please contact Exhibit/Collections Coordinator, Stefanie Petrilli, at (416) 789-7011 ext. 333 or spetrilli@villacharities.com.

Support Villa Charities

Villa Charities provides much more than the basics to the people we care for. We make a real difference in the quality of life for our seniors and in the confidence level of adults with intellectual disabilities who learn new job and life skills. But to continue to be a resource of culturally sensitive care, we need your support – for today and tomorrow.

How can you make a difference?

Dedication Gifts

The knowledge that someone's life has been touched by a donation made in honour or in memory of someone will bring joy and comfort. Acknowledgement cards are sent to inform the recipient of your thoughtfulness.

Outright Gifts

A gift of cash is the easiest way to make a gift, but you may find it more advantageous to make a gift of appreciated securities or personal property. Let us work with you to plan your gift in the most tax-advantaged way.

Bequests

Create a personal legacy of caring, regardless of your financial situation, by including Villa Charities Foundation in your will. It gives you an estate tax deduction for the value of your bequest and also gives you flexibility in providing for family needs first.

Life Insurance Policies

Should you desire to give a larger gift to Villa Charities Foundation than you are currently able to make, purchase a life insurance policy or gift an old policy and make a significant gift with little expenditure. Premiums are tax deductible, as is the cash surrender value of the policy.

Retirement Plans

If a non-spouse is the beneficiary of a retirement plan, these assets may be subject to estate and income taxes. Your retirement dollars may be exposed to generation skipping transfer taxes before reaching the non-spousal beneficiary. Such taxes also apply if you are unmarried. Avoid this by donating from your retirement plan which preserves the plan's value and allows you to leave heirs less costly bequests.

Tree 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. 242.

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Save the Date



Father's Day Golf Classic and Dinner Celebration - June 15, 2011

Fore! Join us as we celebrate what truly makes la famiglia Italiana so special; the bond you share with one another. What better way to honour your history than by spending a special day golfing with one of the most important people in your life—your father! Top off your day by joining other families for a special celebratory dinner all about dad!



Team Villa - October 9, 2011

How would you like to spend Thanksgiving in Maranello, Italy? Team Villa is heading to the Maratona d'Italia Memorial Enzo Ferrari on October 9, 2011 to participate in the full or half marathon. Whether you are a serious marathon runner looking for a new challenge or someone looking to conquer a new goal in life, Team Villa is a great opportunity to get your heart racing AND raise funds for Villa Charities Foundation! Spaces limited. REGISTER TODAY.

For more information on Villa Charities Foundation fundraising events, visit www.villacharities.com, or contact Tracie Napoli at (416) 789-7011 ext. 242 or tnapoli@villacharities.com

Join Team Villa for the full or half marathon at the Maratona d'Italia Memorial Enzo Ferrari in Maranello, Italy.

OCTOBER 9, 2011

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Team villa Marathon Club Maranello 2011

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