



Serving the community since 1971

Summer 2010

ANNI  
40  
YEARS

# villa charities newsletter



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## June 10, 1940 . . . 70 years ago

The Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, recently approved Columbus Centre's proposal to the Community Historical Recognition Program, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Canada to commemorate and educate about the internments that occurred in 1940.

"Seventy years ago this past June, Canadians of Italian origin were interned as potential enemies of Canada," states Columbus Centre Chair Nick Sgro. "This important project will study and promote understanding of our history and knowledge about impacts on individuals, families and communities."

The contribution of \$916,000 from Citizenship and Multiculturalism Canada will be supplemented by \$160,000 from Columbus

Centre/Villa Charities.

A comprehensive inventory of relevant print, audio, visual and electronic resources will be collected and catalogued. In addition, personal memories of the period will be preserved as a resource database of video/oral histories.

Partnerships with the Multicultural History Society of Ontario and universities and institutions across Canada will provide a national perspective. The histories, any photos and artefacts collected, will form an exhibit area at Columbus Centre. This significant project will be the first stage in development of the Italian Canadian History Museum at Columbus Centre.

Families of internees, students and the general public will be able to access and come to know this part

of the social history of Canada both at Columbus Centre and on user-friendly multi-media on-line sites as education tools accessible by anyone in the world.

Share your family story – contact



Lucy Di Pietro, Project Director, at 416-789-7011.

## In my own words...

It's one of the few dates I will never forget: June 10, 1940.

I was working at my job sorting mail at the Front Street post office, when two RCMP officers came towards me, asked me my name, told me to pack my things and go with them to their office to get finger printed.

I asked why, and they simply told me that from that day on, I, Antonietta Bassano, was officially considered an enemy alien.

I was one of thousands of Italian Canadians slapped

with that status. In my case, I was considered an enemy of the state because I had volunteered at Casa Italia in the kitchen.

I understood that some Italians in Canada could face problems once Canada declared war on Fascist Italy, but how was I a threat to national security?



Toni Ciccarelli, circa 1940

I came to Canada from Italy when I was six years old, and one of my brothers was enlisted in the Canadian service.

My widowed mother was rather religious and assured me that things would turn out as "come Dio vuole" (as God wants), but at the time, it was difficult seeing the boys living on Claremont Street being taken from their homes and brought down to the CNE holding grounds.

I remember one of my friends, Mrs. Orlando, telling me to hurry down to the CNE and bring some clothing to her two sons, and their rosary beads. [\(Continued on Pg. 10\)](#)

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## AERF Tax Receipts

Thank you - grazie to everyone who donated to the Abruzzo Earthquake Relief Fund. Official receipts for tax purposes have been processed and mailed. If you have made a donation but have not received your tax receipt, please call us at 416-789-7011.

## 40 years – 40 anni

Help us celebrate the 40th anniversary of Villa Charities! Next year we will mark this incredible milestone and we want you to be there with us.

“As we celebrate our achievements over the past 40 years, we are also looking to the future to ensure that the entire Villa Charities family continues to grow and share our passion with the community,” states Nick Torchetti, chair, Villa Charities. “I am pleased to announce that Villa Charities board member Nina Perfetto will chair the 40th anniversary celebration committee. Nina and the committee are already hard at work preparing events and projects to commemorate, celebrate and push us to do more into the next generation.”

Stay tuned for all the details on Villa Charities anniversary celebration – get ready to commemorate, celebrate and donate!

## AERF Update

It has been over a year since the earthquake struck L’Aquila, leaving hundreds dead and thousands of buildings destroyed or damaged. After active fundraising efforts by the Abruzzo Earthquake Relief Fund over the past year, and numerous visits to the effected areas in Italy, the board of trustees is reviewing projects and proposals.

An announcement on the approved project(s) will be made in the coming months.

“We thank the entire community for their support of our project over the past year and a half,” states Senator Con Di Nino, chair, Abruzzo Earthquake Relief Fund. “It is our duty to ensure these funds are allocated to a project that meets the needs and requirements of the CRA and the board. Our volunteers are working diligently in order to make this happen.”

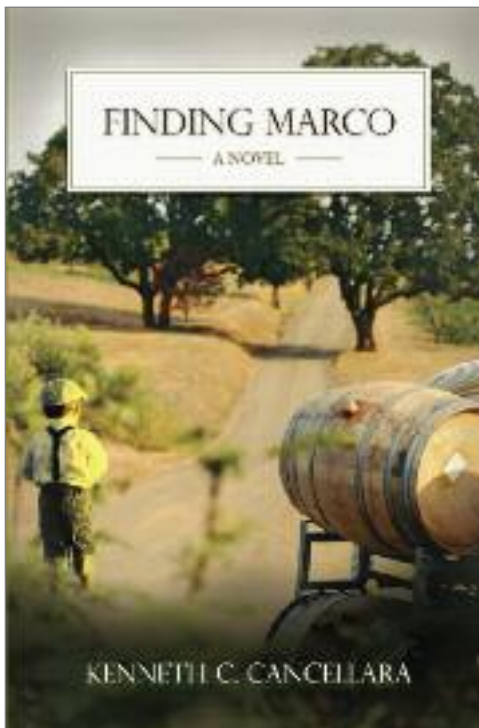
## Ken Cancellara: Lawyer to author

On June 15, 2010, over 100 people gathered at Columbus Centre for the Canadian book launch of Ken Cancellara’s newest novel Finding Marco.

In Finding Marco, a successful CEO of an auto manufacturing company is caught in a boardroom battle of right versus wrong. Unwilling to compromise the ethics instilled in him by his Italian family, he returns to his roots in Italy for a reevaluation of his life.

Cancellara was born in Acerenza, an idyllic town in southern Italy. He immigrated to Canada with his family at a young age and, armed with an innate ambition, followed a distinguished academic path. Cancellara received a juris doctorate degree from the University of Toronto Law School and holds a master’s in business law from York University and is the recipient of numerous honours.

He served as managing partner and chairman of



Cassels Brock, LLP, chief legal officer of Biovail Corporation and executive chairman of the Veridien Corporation, positions that Cancellara translated expertly into his protagonist’s experience in his first novel, Finding Marco.

When not working on his next novel, Cancellara is actively involved in a number of professional organizations, including the Law Society of Upper Canada, Advocates’ Society and the Canadian Bar Association. He is also a governor on the Villa Charities board of directors.

Proceeds from book sales will be donated to Villa Charities. To get your copy, visit Columbus Centre or call 416-789-7011.

## Among fans at Café 500

Excitement for the 2010 FIFA World Cup spread fast through Columbus Centre! Hundreds of soccer fans representing numerous countries watched the highs and lows of one of the most popular tournaments in the world.

Even after Italy's disappointing elimination, fans kept coming back to Café 500 to continue sharing in the excitement and passion that only soccer can deliver. The entire Villa Charities family got

involved – including residents at Villa Colombo and children from



the Columbus Centre daycare. There was even a soccer pool organized by Villa Charities –

with half of the proceeds going to the Foundation.

Congratulations to NAME for having the best picks and most points!

Plans are already in the works to support and follow Canada for the FIFA World Cup 2014 in Brazil.

Thank you, grazie, to everyone who joined us, cheered with us and shared our passion.



### In Memoriam: Carlo Varone

The Villa Charities family remembers with fondness Carlo Varone who passed away this past May. Mr Varone's son, Toni Varone, currently sits on the Villa Foundation board and was a past chair of Villa Charities Inc.

The entire Varone family has been great supporters of Villa Charities over the past 40 years.

In his eulogy at his father's funeral, Toni shared these fond words:

"It was the events of the war (World War II) that shaped my father's character. Having suffered the tragic loss of family, he vowed to make his immediate family the essence of his being. He was devoted to his parents Antonio and Antonetta, and to his sisters Elvira, Maria, Carmelina, Anita and Letizia. He was especially fond of his only brother Peirino. Through his life, this devotion to family was never diminished."



### From Venice with love

Columbus Centre is the place to be for foreign friends looking for work experience and to meet people in Toronto. This past June, Lara Pasquali from Cà Foscari University in Venice volunteered at Villa Charities/Columbus Centre in various ways – helping in the art gallery, assisting with the Foundation's special events – all while learning about the organization and the vibrant Italian-Canadian community in Toronto. Lara has returned to Venice with lots of fond memories of her time spent in our *piazza*. Lara will also be in Venie volunteering when our Team Villa runs the 2010 Venice Marathon in October.

Grazie Lara!

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## Staying Active



The seniors from the Elderly Persons' Centre (EPC) at Villa Colombo enjoyed two wonderful weeks in Punta Cana from February 12 to February 26, 2010 escorted by the EPC coordinator Mirella Ialongo.

"The seniors had a lot of fun. It is always a joy to be able to witness seniors having new experiences and to be able to add quality to their lives. The appreciation was visible in their eyes because they know that there may not be another opportunity to go away on vacation with friends," states Mirella.

The Elderly Persons' Centre at Villa Colombo is designed to reach out to seniors over 55 years of age living in the community. For an annual fee, seniors are invited to participate in programs and services offered in the Day Program, which include special outings, spiritual programs and general recreational activities.

This year marked the 18th year that the EPC went on vacation in February. The next vacation will be one week in Wasaga Beach in August.

## Celebrating our seniors with family and friends

June is Seniors' Month – a special designation recognized by the Government of Ontario – and each year the Activation Department at Villa Colombo works together to put on fabulous events for the residents and their families to enjoy.

This year was no exception, and the staff worked hard to host three special events, the first being

Tombola Night. On the evening of June 9th, residents gathered to play a special game of Tombola, enjoy refreshing watermelon and good company. Each participant received a special prize: summer hats, potted plants, and resident-decorated ceramics among others.

The second event took place on the evening of June 14th - Varietà. During this special event, residents



Family and friends and smiles

danced, and sang to the beautiful music provided by renowned local accordionist Claudio Santaluce, and enjoyed everyone's favourite summer treat – ice cream! Residents and their families also had a great laugh, as the Caring Clowns wandered the crowd, telling jokes, poking fun, and making everyone smile.

Finally, on June 29th, everyone in the Villa Colombo family gathered for the 5th Annual Porchetta and Beer Night. During this event, residents and their families gathered together to share a beautiful Italian meal, great company, music, and dancing. The party lasted well into the evening, and everyone is already talking about next year's event.

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## VCLA

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

### New Board, New President

On Thursday, June 17, 2010, the Villa Colombo Ladies' Auxiliary held its Annual General Meeting and Election. A new board was elected, and officer positions and directors installed.

Please welcome our new board for 2010-12: Frances Gratta, president; Luisa Dobilas, first vice-president; Marisa Celenza, second vice-president; Rose Greco, general secretary; Connie Vella-Mackay, membership secretary; Rita



Rotundo, treasurer; Gabe Tino, past-president; and directors, Mara Busca, Toni Ciccarelli, Josie Cuda, Olivia DeMiglio, Jan Grossi, Maria LaMarca, Ornella Malatesta, Denise Padovani, Carmela Rotolo, Maria Silva, Mary Venditti, Lucy Zampiero and Melina Zeppieri.

We would like to extend a huge heartfelt thank you to our outgoing board. Their hard work and dedication has continued the VCLA on a path of success, and the new board looks forward to continuing that work.

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](http://www.villacharities.com).

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## VCLA Golf Tournament 2010

The VCLA 21st Annual Golf Tournament, held at Glen Eagle Golf Club on May 28, 2010 was blessed with another glorious day. Over 100 golfers joined us for this event. Helen Huh, President of MediSystem, led the way with a bright red 1957 Chevy golf cart to an 18-hole game. Many thanks are extended to all the corporate sponsors and to the dedicated golf committee led by co-chairs, Frances Gratta and Marisa Celenza.



"We raised over \$43,000. Congratulations to all of the committee members and volunteers for their passion and drive to make the 21st Annual Golf Tournament a milestone year. These funds will purchase 17 additional new electric beds for the seniors at Villa Colombo," states Frances Gratta, co-chair. The VCLA fundraising events in the last two years have purchased 65 beds for our seniors, surpassing the goal of \$100,000.

"On behalf of the VCLA, I am very thankful to our many sponsors that contributed towards the success of this tournament for the benefit of our seniors," states Gabiella Tino, VCLA President.

A special thank you to Wieslawa Stepkowska, Assistant Executive Director, Villa Colombo for

securing many of the sponsors, thus ensuring a successful fund-raiser. Thank you to our Title Sponsors, (Arvan Rehab Group, Futuremed Healthcare Products, Medisystem Pharmacy, Shoppers Home Health Care, and Scotiabank), our Lunch Sponsor (DeMansou Construction Ltd.), our Bed Sponsors (Commercial Bakeries Corp. and Mary Montanari) and our Reception Sponsors (Complete Purchasing, M.C. Healthcare and Sysco Food Services of Toronto.)

Most of the sponsors were present to recognize our winning foursomes with trophies, sponsored by Award Ribbons & Rosettes. At the event, Senator Con DiNino spoke about the history and tradition of Villa Colombo and how proud he is to have been involved since the beginning. In fact, he acknowledged some of the founding members of the VCLA, who were in the audience, Mrs. Enza Fusco and Mrs. Jackie Rosati. They both joined the luncheon activities, helping to distribute some of the wonderful raffle prizes.

Thank you to all of the participants - see you next year!

## Faith, Spiritual Celebrations and Gratitude

At Villa Colombo Vaughan, residents continue to have the opportunity to practice their faith by participating in one of daily scheduled group prayers or for individual meditation. Residents' spiritual needs are supported through a variety of spiritual programs - one to one visits are provided weekly, along with Rosary, Communion and Mass.

In the month of May, in honour of Mother Mary, a group of very dedicated volunteers re-enacted the Rosary and a special procession was held in Piazza DeGasperis, generating a lot of discussions amongst our residents on the traditions of "la processione" (procession) held in their hometowns.

In June 2009 Pope Benedict XVI declared the Year

of the Priest until June 2010. In honour of this special commemoration during the month of June the residents had the opportunity to express their appreciation to all the priests supporting Villa Colombo Vaughan by joining in a special thank you celebration for Father Gregory Ace, Father John Borean, Father Raffaele Bruzzone, Father Claudio Moser and Father Donald White.



"On behalf of the residents and Board of Directors of Villa Colombo Vaughan, we would like to thank you for your continued support, time and friendship" was the message provided by Sam Ciccolini, Chairman of the Board of Villa Colombo Vaughan in a commemorative card presented to all the priests.



## World Cup Fever at Villa Colombo Vaughan

Villa Colombo Vaughan residents and staff get into the World Cup spirit and cheer on the Azzurri with sonaglie and vuvuzelas.



Sam Ciccolini, Chair, thanking the humble heroes of health at Villa Colombo Vaughan.

## Grazie EMS

Every year, the staff and residents at Villa Colombo Vaughan invite police officers, fire fighters and paramedics who assist the home throughout the year for a special celebration to say thank you.

This year's EMS Appreciation BBQ took place on Friday, July 9, 2010. Over 50

EMS workers attended and enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by staff and volunteers at Villa. After a scoop of gelato and a quick espresso, the dedicated men and women returned to work, making sure the Vaughan community continues to be safe and healthy.

"This annual event is a way to say thank

you to the EMS workers who respond to Villa Colombo Vaughan's calls and also a way to welcome community members to our home, to meet our residents, staff and volunteers, and make them feel like a part of our extended family," states Sam Ciccolini, chair, Villa Colombo Vaughan who attended the event.

## Friends, Family, Fundraising

On June 2, 2010, the family and friends fundraising party was held at Desserts Plus. Over \$93,000 was raised and split between Villa Colombo Vaughan and York Central Hospital Foundation.

"Despite uncertain economic times, it is evident that when a great cause, along with a dedicated committee are united, it is possible to raise record amounts of funds," states Joseph Gulizia, Chair, Villa Colombo Vaughan Fundraising and Special Events Committee.

Events such as this one allow Villa Colombo Vaughan to enhance the care and services provided to the residents. Due to past events, Villa has been able to purchase a bus, offer coffee in Piazza DeGasperis, provide wine at meal time, and recognize staff/physicians through the Maria DiSalvo Compassionate Care Award.

Sam Ciccolini, Chairman of the board



Valeria de Simone aided by Amalia Aiello and Rina Tiberini hold the proceeds of Garden Party under the watchful eye of "new" volunteer Joseph Gulizia and grateful Sam Ciccolini and staff.

expressed his gratitude for this hard working committee for all of their efforts, commitment and fabulous results. A particular thank you is

extended to Teresa Piselli, Antonietta De Simone and the staff of Desserts Plus Ristorante for donating the food and services.

## Columbus Centre Dancers Put Their Best Feet Forward

Sabrina Chieffallo, principal of the Columbus Centre Dance Program, describes the Year End Recital held on June 12 as “one of our most memorable and best performances yet!”

One hundred and eighty dancers took to the stage at Toronto’s elegant St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, putting their graceful talents on display for the sold-out audience of 500 friends and family.

“It was a victorious season,” exclaims the gifted Ms. Chieffallo with enthusiasm. Her dedication as a teacher and choreographer brought about success in

several important dance competitions. The CCS Dance Company and the CCS Competitive Dance Team took part in senior and junior level contests in the 2009-2010 season, winning first and second prizes, special awards, and dance scholarships. (See the list on this page)

Such recognition reflects well on the strength of the dance programs offered at Columbus Centre. The boost in confidence for each of the dancers is both thrilling and rewarding since they spend long hours in classes and practice sessions every week.

Bravissime!



### SHINE DANCE COMPETITION KITCHNER '10 RESULTS

JUDGES CHOICE AWARD (Best Choreography)  
*Musicbox*  
OVERALL CHOREOGRAPHY AWARD – *Musicbox*  
SPECIAL AWARDS  
Two of a kind – *Leave (Duet)*  
Eyes have it – *Eternal Tango (Solo)*  
Fully Connected – *Gravity (Solo)*

### KICK IT UP DANCE COMPETITION NIAGARA FALLS '10 RESULTS

1ST OVERALL BALLET POINTE SOLO  
*The Gift*  
1ST OVERALL BALLET GROUP  
*Harmony*  
2ND OVERALL SOLO  
*Gravity*  
2ND OVERALL SMALL GROUP  
*Alive*

### 3RD OVERALL SMALL GROUP

*Goodbye*  
SPECIAL AWARDS  
*Perfect Precision – Goodbye (Small Group)*  
*Graceful Arms – Harmony (Small Group)*

### STARCATCHERS DANCE COMPETITION HAMILTON '10 RESULTS

1ST OVERALL GROUP  
*Musicbox*  
OVERALL BEST CHOREOGRAPHY – *Goodbye*  
SPECIAL AWARDS  
*Dynamic Duo – Leave*  
*The Swan Lake Award – The Gift*  
*Deliciously Creative – Musicbox*  
\$1000 Scholarship (New York Workshop) –  
*Francesca Pedace*  
Congratulations to the Junior Competitive Team for receiving 1st place and High Gold in their category!!

## Centro Scuola supports the AICW Conference in Italy

From June 10 to 13, 2010, the Association of Italian Canadian Writers held their 13th biennial conference in the Hotel Du Parc, Atri, Abruzzo. That’s the location where Centro Scuola partners with two GTA school boards for Summer Credit Courses and the Fall Semester for Ontario students.

The AICW conference theme was “Writing our Way Home.” Twenty Canadian writers and three Americans were joined by ten academics from Italian universities that offer Canadian Studies. Officials from the sponsoring institutions also took part, including the Canadian Embassy in Rome, the Abruzzo Regional Council, and the City of Atri. Centro Scuola e Cultural Italiana-Columbus Centre had assisted in registering the conference participants, and in designing and printing the program, as well as other support.

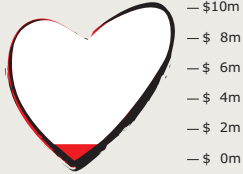
For three days, under the leadership of Vice President Jim Zucchero and Executive Member Licia Canton, AICW members and scholarly guests presented papers on topics such as the translation and publication of texts; Canadian writers in Italy; emigration and family roots; and personal reflections. At the end of each day’s sessions, the poets and story writers read from their current works. The bright Italian sun, the mountain air, and the excellent meals created a warm and congenial atmosphere for this creative conference.

Alberto Di Giovanni, Director of Centro Scuola, co-hosted the final session and closing lunch with the President of the Council of the Region of Abruzzo. This took place high in the Maiella, in Roccamorice, Mr. Di Giovanni’s hometown. The conference delegates agreed that this year’s meeting was truly a memorable experience.

It is expected that the conference papers will be published by 2011.



# villa foundation report to donors



## The Living Family Campaign

With our 40th anniversary fast approaching in 2011, it's time to celebrate the promise of a bright future while paying tribute to our heritage. But we need your help to do so...

As we prepare for the next 40 years of relevant service to our community, we hope to be blessed with your continued support. Your support of the Living Family Campaign today will help us to continue to provide our culturally sensitive programs and services for tomorrow.

**Living with passion. Today and tomorrow. Now and forever.**

**Come share our passion.**

## Venice is coming to Toronto

Some surprises are worth the wait – and guests at this year's Venetian Ball will be glad they did! An exclusive performance by a world-renowned musician has just been confirmed. Want to know who our mystery performer is? You'll have to attend the 2010 Venetian Ball on **Saturday, October 16, 2010** at the **Metro Toronto Convention Centre** to find out.

Co-chairs of the 17th annual gala, James Di Luca and Steven Muzzo have been hard at work with their volunteer committee, securing sponsors and ensuring that the much anticipated Venetian Ball will dazzle guests with celebrity sightings, magnificent masks, delectable cuisine, a spectacular live auction and show stopping entertainment that guests won't soon forget.

"With the help of our committee, this year's Ball is shaping up to be the biggest and best yet," state Steven and James. "We are pleased to announce that, in addition to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, FIAT S.p.A.,

Morgan Stanley and TRIDEL have also committed to be presenting sponsors of the 2010 Venetian Ball. These companies, as well as numerous others, have demonstrated their commitment to the Venetian Ball and Villa Foundation – and for that, we are extremely grateful as the proceeds raised will help to ensure another 40 years of culturally sensitive care for our community."

The staging of the Venetian Ball is no easy feat - months of planning go into this blockbuster event. Westbury National Show Solutions and Forget Me Not Flowers will again lend their expertise to ensure the Ball goes off without a hitch, with the perfect amount of glitz and glamour.

Many of Toronto's top restaurants have already confirmed their participation in the antipasto and dessert receptions with samplings created especially for the Ball, and Eligio Paties and Chef Domenico Di Gesù from Trattoria Do'Forni in Venice (Cont'd on last page of Report to Donors)



## Team Villa: Training and fundraising for Villa Foundation

The dedicated members of Team Villa have been hard at work training for the Venice Marathon while fundraising for Villa Foundation. From monthly training sessions with Team Villa Coach Michael Brennan to running clinics with coaches Serena Granzotto (Toronto) and Paolo Fiorino (Vaughan), the team is passionate about their journey to Venice.

On April 25, 2010, members of Team Villa participated in the Mercedes Benz 10K in Oakville. This sub-program encouraged members of Team Villa to kick-start their training and it also allowed runners, like Nick Schiralli and Barbara Pannese, who were not part of the Team to participate in the 10K and learn more about the Team Villa program.

"At first when we saw what a miserable day it was we were almost going to bail, but we persevered and ended up running one of our best times," states Nick. "We also had the privilege of meeting some fellow runners and



Columbus Centre members, so all in all it turned out to be a very inspirational day for a very worthwhile cause," states Barb.

Team Villa came to be in 2008 when two very proud Italo-Canadians, Pino Correale and Frank Ciccolini Jr. – both seasoned marathoners, walked into Villa Foundation's office and said they would like to do something different to help raise funds for Villa Foundation. Team Villa's inaugural voyage to the 2009 Rome Marathon was a huge success.

Today, Team Villa has almost doubled in size and has become an annual destination sporting event where runners participate in a different marathon across Italy each year. The 2010 Team Villa, under the direction of co-chairs Frank Ciccolini and Tony Gentilucci, will again have two goals: to participate in the 25th anniversary of the Venice Marathon on October 24, 2010 and to raise much needed support for Villa Foundation.

Every member of Team Villa has an online fundraising page – visit [www.villacharities.com](http://www.villacharities.com) to pledge our runners as they work hard to raise funds for essential Villa Charities services.

**Follow us on Facebook!**



**Read the Team Villa Blog -**  
<http://teamvilla2010.blogspot.com/>

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## The 2010 Giro T.O. - cycling Italian style

On May 30, 2010, approximately 100 cycling enthusiasts came out for the first ride of the season and shared our Italian passion by participating in the 5th annual Giro T.O.

During breakfast, registration and lots of espresso at Columbus Centre, Toronto mayoral candidates Rocco Rossi and Sarah Thompson greeted riders and wished them well on their journey through the streets of Toronto and Vaughan. After the opening ceremonies, bike enthusiasts, family members and corporate teams tackled the city streets in one of three routes: the long route (100km), the short route (60km) or the family route (15km).

Girini cycled the city streets in a route that mimicked the shape of the Italian boot, visiting the noted Italian areas in Toronto and Vaughan. And what would an Italian ride be without rest stops along the way serving delicious and refreshing Italian fare! Mayoral candidate Joe Pantalone cheered on the riders at the College Street rest stop, and the popular polenta and sausage rest stop at Fameo Furlane fuelled riders at the half-way point.

All participants successfully completed Giro T.O. and enjoyed a delicious BBQ with post-ride

festivities, complete with the traditional bowl of pasta fagioli at the Columbus Centre.

Congratulations to Arrigo Rossi who was awarded the Maglia Rosa for collecting the most pledges for the 2010 Giro T.O. And a special shout out to Joe Raimondo for being the first girino back at the Columbus Centre.

With the generous help of riders and corporate sponsors, approximately \$32,000 was raised to help the Villa Charities family of organizations

continue their 40-year history of providing culturally sensitive care and making a difference in the quality of life for the seniors in our community.

This year's edition of Giro T.O. had an extra special meaning – it was dedicated to John LiVolsi, a long-time member at Columbus Centre who passed away earlier in the year. John's family was in attendance and announced a special donation in his memory.

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped to make the 5th annual Giro a fun-filled day. *Grazie* to all our 2010 sponsors – for a complete list of sponsor acknowledgements, please see the next page of Report to Donors.



## An Afternoon Affair to remember

The 3rd annual An Afternoon Affair – a celebration of women, exclusively for women in support of Villa Foundation, took place on June 13, 2010.

Event chair Gina Scola welcomed over 200 women to the Park Hyatt Toronto, to enjoy traditional afternoon tea while listening to special presentations by Bryce Wylde, Dr. Lisa Kellet, Gina Mollicone-Long and Debbie Van Kiekelbelt, on the theme of the event - outer beauty and inner strength, moderated by broadcaster Laura Di Battista.

Guests were also treated to an exclusive look at the newest Ports 1961 collection; a sneak peak of Rita Tesolin's newest jewellery creations and one luck lady won a \$1000 shopping spree at Bandiera Jewellers.

Approximately \$35,000 was raised to benefit Villa Charities' newest daycare located in Centro Abruzzo which opened in October 2008. This

much-needed third daycare will continue the tradition of the Columbus Centre Daycare – a unique brand of childcare that blends together programs that ensure proper early childhood development while celebrating Italian passion through culture and traditions.

*Grazie* - thank you to everyone who made An

Afternoon Affair an elegant and successful event! For a complete list of sponsor acknowledgements, please see the next page of Report to Donors.



L-R; Vivian Catricala, Lisa Alfieri-Sladen, Gina Scola - Chair, Julie Rusciollelli and Teresa Chong

# Villa Foundation Father's Day Golf Classic and Father & Son Dinner

On June 22, 2010, over 200 guests celebrated la famiglia italiana at the Villa Foundation Father's Day Golf Classic and Father & Son Dinner Celebration, a day that blended together a glorious afternoon on the golf course (Italian-style, of course!) with an elegant dinner all about dad. Rainy weather didn't put a damper on the over 128 golfers who hit the green at Eagles Nest Golf Course. In fact, golfers were kept busy at the porchetta station, the Miss Martini sampling tent and the espresso stop, giving their swings a little extra kick.

In the evening, another 120 guests joined other families for the annual Father Son dinner, where NHL legend Andy Bathgate shared his insights on our national obsession (hockey, of course!) and his life experiences as a world renowned sports star and family man. Guests were kept busy with a live auction, raffle and 50/50 cash

draw. Fausto Gaudio of IC Savings won the 50/50 draw and generously donated his winnings to Villa Foundation.



L-R; Chair Joe Fusco with his son and nephew.

Approximately \$70,000 was raised to help Villa Charities continue its 40 year history of providing culturally sensitive care and sharing the Italian passion that makes a

difference in the community.

During the evening festivities, a surprise announcement was made by Rudolph Bratty and Anthony Fusco Sr. – who have been instrumental in the growth of Villa Charities over the past 40 years and continue to be involved today – pledged their financial support to start off the Living Family Campaign - Villa Foundation's newest capital campaign being undertaken to meet the unprecedented level of demand for our programs, services and facilities as our community continues to grow and to help us prepare for the next 40 years of service to the community.

*Mille grazie* to all our generous sponsors and in-kind donors. For a complete list of sponsor acknowledgements, please see the page below.

## Grazie - thank you to all our special event sponsors!

Your support is key to the success of our events! For a complete listing of all of our event sponsors, please visit [www.villacharities.com](http://www.villacharities.com) and click on Special Events.

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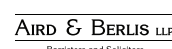
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 The Trees of Life stand tall in Piazza Bartolini at Villa Colombo. They are magnificent bronze and brass sculptures and are a way to pay tribute to beloved family members and friends while supporting Villa Foundation.

(Venetian Ball - Cont'd from Pg.1) will be returning to help create an authentic menu for guests to enjoy, which may include something from the menu Chef Domenico prepared when he was chosen to be the personal chef for Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt during their recent stay in Venice.

With master impressionist Rich Little set to introduce the 2010 surprise performer and Simply Grand keeping guests dancing – you

know to anticipate a once-in-a-lifetime experience. From the first walk down the red carpet to the last spin on the dance floor, the 2010 Venetian Ball will entertain and delight guests all night long!

*Don't miss this incredible opportunity to support Villa Foundation - reserve your corporate table today! For more information on the Venetian Ball, contact the Foundation office at 416-789-7011 ext. 242 or [www.villacharities.com](http://www.villacharities.com)*

Grazie to the Presenting Sponsors of the 2010 Venetian Ball



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## The VITA Method

“The VITA Method” is what they call it in Pennsylvania. For several years now, VITA Community Living Services has been working on developing approaches, practices and protocols with the aim of providing safe home and work environments for people with disabilities. VITA’s work has garnered notice from a variety of organizations and policies developed at VITA are often requested for review.

Milestones, a cross state agency in Pennsylvania, took the request a step further. After learning a bit about VITA’s approach, a team from Milestones came up to Toronto to visit with Manuela Dalla Nora, VITA’s Executive Director and Dave Hingsbsurger, VITA’s Director of Clinical and Educational Services.

The Milestones staff - Barb Conniff, CEO, Mary Nau, Director and Natalie Symons, Clinical Services Co-ordinator - spent a day on site at VITA talking about the challenges and opportunities in implementing ‘The VITA Method.’

“Like VITA, Milestones is aware that there needs to be a strong set of policies and a purposeful over-riding directive that targets the reduction of the possibility and the occurrence of abuse,” states Manuela Dalla Nora. “VITA Community Living Services was the first organization in the world to put the provision of a safe environment up front in our mission statement.”

During the meeting, the Milestones team reviewed all aspects of ‘The VITA Method’ from member training, to staff training, to the development of a culture of safety. They left with a renewed commitment to use VITA as a model for their work in Pennsylvania.

In September, Manuela and Dave will travel to Pittsburgh to present to their state wide board of directors on ‘The VITA Method’ and will serve as consultants and cheering squad as Milestones sets safety front and center in their approach to services.

## VITA Takes A Day

VITA staff were gifted with a beautiful day for the third annual staff retreat which took place in the large conference room at the Pladium in Mississauga. Every year, VITA brings its staff together to celebrate past achievements and to envision future goals.

“It’s an important event as Vita’s services are spread over two regions and one large city,” states Manuela Dalla Nora, Executive Director, VITA. “For many of VITA’s staff the retreat is the only opportunity they have to be part of the larger team.”

The day began with Dalla Nora giving a presentation that emphasized the need for teamwork and for mutual support. Staff was encouraged to continue to grow in their jobs, to support each other in pursuit of excellence and to ensure, always, quality care of members.



The Personal Development Committee, which provides a variety of training opportunities for members, presented a game show based on Deal or No Deal that involved the entire organization. This committee is made up from all parts of the agency and reflected in a very real way how individual parts of the organization can come together to create unique opportunities for people with disabilities.

Throughout the day there were opportunities for team building exercises that were both fun and competitive. The tug of war was a sight to behold. It was wonderful to see small clusters of staff together chatting and sharing time together. People came as individuals but left as a team!



## It Didn't Rain on Our Parade

Like many great things in life, it began with a parade. VITA held its 2nd annual Fun Day at the Tycos Day Programme on June 25, 2010. For three months, the members at VITA worked to create a spectacular event. They painted, they planned, they made decorations, all with a mind to celebrate the summer.

"It's one of the few opportunities that VITA members and staff have to be together and to simply have fun!" states Larry Kobos, a Tycos staff member and founder of the event.

And have fun they did. It began with members and staff parading onto the grounds waving flags of different countries, celebrating the diversity within VITA. On the building hung a huge mural, created by VITA members, that featured flags from around the world. The BBQ started early and the smells of hamburgers and sausages filled the air. Again this year many companies donated food, refreshments,



and even briquettes and fuel for the BBQ. Special thanks to Lady York, Boardwalk Construction, Open Window Bakery and Home Hardware for their generosity. Their giving spirit made the day even more special.

Phyllis, a VITA member, said that she liked the BBQ and the games but that she really liked the opportunity to meet so many people and see old friends. Althea Purrier, a VITA staff agreed that it was wonderful to get to meet people and 'see all of VITA together.'

Desmond Bailey was the MC for the day and had people

dancing and kept the day moving to a joyous beat. Donna Escott, Programme Director, volunteered to be 'dunked' in the dunk tank and a VITA member quickly sent her splashing into very cold water!

It was a grand day and continues another wonderful VITA tradition.

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## “Evangelina” by Sabelis

A special exhibit by artist Sabelis continues until the end of the summer at the Carrier Gallery.

For the last two years, Sabelis has been working on this series of 40 acrylic paintings, all which have a special meaning. They are a tribute to his wife, Evangelina, with whom he has shared the last 40 years.

“Through these works, I have expressed what I can’t in words – my love, devotion and thanks for her love and companionship through these past 40 years, with hopefully many more to follow,” states Sabelis.

Sabelis was born in The Netherlands in 1942 of Dutch and

Indonesian heritage. In 1963, he moved to Toronto where he began to blend the two distinct cultures of his homeland with Canada to develop a very distinctive style.

Sabelis first solo exhibit took place in London, Ontario in 1967, and since then he has exhibited all over the world. His artwork can be found in private, corporate and public collections in The Netherlands, France, Germany, Vatican City, Sweden, Switzerland, The Phillipines, Japan, Singapore, Israel, Mexico, Columbia, Australia, and United States.

*“Evangelina” by Sabelis runs to August 26, 2010 in the Upper Gallery.*

## “Facce” by Rino Noto

This October, acclaimed Italian-Canadian photographer Rino Noto will exhibit a unique show at the Carrier Gallery.

According to his web site:

Discovering photography at an early age and experiencing his fascination of the world through his viewfinder would change Noto’s life forever. He grew a hunger for knowledge and derived his greatest inspiration from the most fundamental detriment of the photographic process – light in the darkness.

“With the use of light I strive to evoke a craving for closeness, and once drawn in the depth of the shadow provides a pool for

the subconscious. With this, I hope to continue creating an ever evolving emergence of the subject.”

Noto is the recipient of many prestigious international awards and showcased his work in both Europe and North America. After a successful exhibit at the De Luca Gallery in 2009, Noto is presently working on two gallery exhibitions and a video installation for 2011.

*“Facce” by Rino Noto runs from October 1 to November 1, 2010 in the Lower Gallery*



## “Birches” by Tracy Thompson

Toronto-based artist Tracy Thompson brings her acrylic paintings to the Carrier Gallery this Fall. Thompson’s depictions of Canadian landscapes are sure to inspire visitors to the gallery.

Thompson’s paintings explore dualities: common and precious, ephemeral and everlasting, isolation and belonging and our internal and external relationships with the world.

She responds to the connections between past, present, shared experience and the impact of our actions, though we are temporary to this place and time. Thompson is fascinated by the connection between the artist and the art and the art and the viewer.

Thompson’s work was nominated for the People’s Choice Award at this year’s Riverdale Art Walk.

“Birches” by Tracy Thompson runs from October 1 to November 6, 2010 in the Atrium.

## Artisti Canadesi in Spoleto

Every year, artists from Italy visit Columbus Centre’s Carrier Gallery to share their work with their Canadian fans. This year, artists from Canada will return the favour.

From August 28 to September 11, 2010, nine Canadian artists will travel to Spoleto, Umbria to showcase their work to their Italian fans.

The idea is the brainchild of Rosa Graci, the curator of the Carrier Gallery.

“We want our artists to make connections and share their talent with a whole new audience,” states Graci.

The artists who will be participating in this exciting venture include: Anthony Batten, Kim Atkins, Val Russell, Ana Jurpik, Heidi Burgle, Johanna Meheng, Gerry Conway, John Cutruzzola, Janos Gardonyi, Jeff Jackson, Rosemary Mihalyi and Giancarlo Piccin – all of whom have exhibited at the Carrier Gallery.

Check the next issue of the Villa Charities Newsletter for a full recap and photos from the trip.

## Upcoming Exhibits at the Carrier

### August 2010

**“Evangelina” by Sabelis**  
Runs to August 23, 2010  
Upper Gallery

**Pat La Croix Photography**  
Runs to August 26, 2010  
Reception Wall B – Lobby

**Rosemarie Luza - Peruvian Art**  
Runs to August 24, 2010  
Lower Gallery

### September 2010

**Salvador Grimaldi**  
September 1 to 29, 2010  
Upper Gallery

**Columbian Exhibit by Christina Martin**  
September 1 to 29, 2010  
Lower Gallery

**Watercolours by Chelo Sebastian**  
September 1 to 29, 2010  
Atrium

### October 2010

**“Athletes” by Jeff Jackson**  
October 1 to November 9, 2010  
Upper Gallery

**“Facce” by Rino Noto**  
October 1 to November 1, 2010  
Lower Gallery

**“Birches” by Tracy Thompson**  
October 1 to November 6, 2010  
Atrium

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

## AVANTI - 25 years at Columbus Centre

Most people dread Mondays. But for the men and women of the AVANTI group, they live for them!

For 25 years, visually impaired Italian Canadians have been gathering every Monday at Columbus Centre to socialize, exercise and enrich their lives through the AVANTI program.

The group was started in 1985 by volunteer extraordinaire Georgina Madott. In fact, it was Mrs. Madott who organized two successful fundraisers with international superstar Luciano Pavarotti in the early 80s. The funds raised were instrumental in starting the group, which has grown and evolved since then into a vital service offered at the Centre.

At the beginning of each week, 15 men and women meet at Columbus Centre – some make use of the courtesy taxi service, others are dropped off by family members. They start their day with a coffee and biscotti, which are oftentimes homemade by volunteers. After catching up, the members start their day – some play bocce, others engage in lively card games.

“It’s like a family here,” states Mario Ferrari, who has been attending the program since 1985. “When I first joined, I would sink like a rock in the pool. Now, I swim over 20 lengths at least twice a week at Columbus Centre – I feel like a whole man again.”

The members of AVANTI make full use of the Centre’s amenities, including the athletic facilities such as the pool and sauna. Lunch is sometimes a special treat – members of the

group will often take turns bringing panini or pizza for everyone.

Umberto Mora began at AVANTI as a volunteer the same day Mario started. But after a workplace accident left him visually impaired, the group took on a new meaning for him.



“There is no other place where I could go to be with my friends – friends who knew what I was going through. After 25 years together, we are like a family”

The success of the program also lies in the dedication of the volunteers who assist the members with the

activities. For many years, Alessandro Busato was the volunteer leader of the group. Today, Lou Santonato had picked up that baton. Tony and Antoinetta Renna are a married couple who began volunteering with AVANTI 5 years ago.

“There used to be more women in the group, so a friend of ours who volunteers with AVANTI asked me to come to make them feel more comfortable – my husband and I have been coming ever since,” explains Antoinetta.

The couple lives in Caboto Terrace, apartment building for independent seniors, and sometimes volunteers at Villa Colombo.

“We enjoy coming here and doing something special with all our heart,” states Tony. “This is a family – people who come together, eat together and laugh together.”

AVANTI member Gina Federico feels passionately about the group: “I thank God that I found this group. If it wasn’t for AVANTI, I would be at home during the day, alone. Here, I am not alone.”

(Continued from pg. 1)

I also remember hearing that the man I had worked for as a teenager, Mr. Magi, the owner of a fancy Florentine lamp shop, had been shipped to the internment camp in Petawawa.

Even our priest from St. Agnes Church, was arrested.

Most of the boys and men from Toronto’s Little Italy that had been arrested eventually came home, but for me, being called a wop and other names, left its scars. The stigma of having to report to the RCMP every month and having to tell them if I was leaving town left me bitter.

It’s been 70 years and the memories have not faded, despite my 95 years. I know too well what it feels like to be stripped of ones dignity, freedom and livelihood.

It took months, but I eventually found another job, sewing army

uniforms for a kind Jewish shop owner who took pity on us Italians (“I know what you’re going through,” he told me), but it took years to regain the dignity.

I told Prime Minister Brian Mulroney back in 1990 that I wanted my finger prints back, and he told me that if they were still around, I could have them. But I’ve changed my mind.

What I do want is for someone to acknowledge what happened to thousands of Italian-Canadians back in 1940.

I, Antoinetta Ciccarelli, believe it’s important that future generations know about the internment camps in Petawawa, and I hope, that this moment in history becomes part of the Canadian school curriculum.

Toni Ciccarelli

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

## Internment of Italian-Canadians during WW II

**Hon. Consiglio Di Nino:** Honourable senators, I will start by reading a portion of a letter marked “secret,” dated Ottawa, June 10, 1940:

Dear Superintendent Bavin,

I wish to confirm instructions telephoned to your Forces at 1:45 p.m. to-day to take immediately the necessary steps to arrest persons of Italian nationality and/or origin whose apprehension has been approved by the Minister of Justice at 1:30 p.m. to-day.

That secret letter was the beginning of a nightmare for several hundred people — mostly men, and mostly Canadian citizens — whose only crime was to be of Italian heritage. These people were sent to an internment camp. No one was ever charged. Some were interned for as long as three years.

The indignity suffered by these men and women was probably easier to bear than the suffering, pain and shame felt by their spouses and children, their mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, and their friends. The lives of these internees and the lives of their families were stolen from them, as were their assets — no habeas corpus, no due process. They were forever branded “enemy aliens.”

Honourable senators, war is madness — unavoidable at times, but still madness, when even

perfectly sane people behave inhumanely. This is but one tragic example. The impact on the lives of each of those affected is lifelong and severe; the scars never heal. Yet, even in the midst of this darkness, sanity and balance are kept alive by courageous and principled individuals. I want to



quote a comment made by a Liberal member of Parliament from Parry Sound from that time, Arthur Slaght:

The great majority of these people are loyal, law-abiding folk; . . . In their hearts, the great majority have nothing but mistrust, fear and hatred for the two dictators, Mussolini and Hitler. . . . we should show tolerance and even kindness and sympathy for the position in which they find themselves to-day. . . . show unmistakably our

friendship and sympathy in their difficult situation. . . . the teachers in the public schools and the parents of our scholars should see to it that our Anglo-Saxon boys and girls do not taunt or ostracize these boys and girls of foreign origin. . . . By doing so we will warm these people to the land of their adoption. . . .

So be it.

Debates of the Senate (Hansard)  
 3rd Session, 40th Parliament  
 Volume 147, Issue 36  
 Wednesday, June 9, 2010

### RISTORANTE BOCCACCIO 2010 THEME NIGHTS

The tour of Italy continues as Ristorante Boccaccio plans another series of authentic regional dinner tours. The fixed price menu includes regional wines:

**SICILIA**  
 September 24, 2010

**GIRO D’ITALIA**  
 October 29, 2010

**SERVAGGINA**  
 November 26, 2010

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

## Join Concert Symphonic Band

Columbus Centre is in the process of forming a community concert symphonic band. Musicians, both amateur and professional, male and female, are invited.

It is hoped that by the end of the summer, a great number of interested musicians will have applied. At the beginning of September, the applicants will be invited to attend a meeting and at that time, more detailed information will be given. Following the meeting, a selection committee will work diligently to form a well balanced ensemble.

Interested artists are asked to complete the following questions:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument played \_\_\_\_\_ Do you own an instrument Yes/No Years of experience \_\_\_\_\_

Please return form to: Columbus Centre  
 901 Lawrence Avenue West  
 Toronto, ON M6A 1C3  
**Attention:** Columbus Centre Community Symphonic Band

## 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 Foundation Office at (416) 789-7011 ext. 292. Charitable Registration No. 89337-0767-RR0001

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## Upcoming Events 2010



**The Venetian Ball – Saturday, October 16, 2010**  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre - North Building


Ranked as one of Toronto's most exquisite benefits, the much anticipated 17th annual Venetian Ball will dazzle guests with celebrity sightings, magnificent masks, delectable cuisine, a spectacular live auction and show stopping entertainment featuring master impressionist Rich Little and a surprise world-renowned act that will be sure to leave you wanting more!



**Team Villa – Sunday, October 24, 2010**

All year Villa Foundation brings a little bit of Italy to Toronto. On October 24, 2010, we will bring Toronto to Venice! The picturesque route of canals and bridges is the perfect backdrop for Villa Foundation supporters to be a tourist and athlete in the beautiful city of Venice. Whether you are a serious marathon runner looking for a new challenge or a recreational walker who would love to explore Venice in this unique way, Team Villa is a great opportunity to get your heart racing AND raise funds for Villa Foundation!


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



**Mass at Villa Colombo**

Celebrated by  
**Thomas Collins-Archbishop of Toronto**  
in English and Italian

**Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**  
**10:30 a.m.**

  
villa charities

Villa Colombo • 40 Playfair Ave. • Toronto For more information please call 416 789 7011 ext 240

I would like to make a donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ towards:

- Villa Charities Foundation, to be used where it's needed most  
or A Villa Charities priority service area:  Senior care  Individuals with intellectual disabilities  
 Culture, education, arts and recreation

Cheque enclosed I prefer to use my credit card:  Visa  MC  Amex

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_



[www.villacharities.com](http://www.villacharities.com) Char. Reg. No. 89337-0767-RR0001

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