



April 2008

Cari Amici,

It is with great pride and excitement that I announce that Gloria DiGiovanni has graciously accepted the honour of serving as Chair of the 15th anniversary of the Venetian Ball.

On **Friday, October 10, 2008**, the elegant and world-renowned **Fairmont Royal York** will play host as Toronto's Italian-Canadian community embraces the spirit of Venice's Carnevale in a dazzling evening of beautiful masks, glamorous ball gowns and extraordinary entertainment. An authentic Italian celebration, the Venetian Ball will feature exquisite food, famous faces, priceless auction items and live entertainment.

As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, we wish to honour our past legacy while at the same time ushering in and inspiring a new generation of Italian-Canadians to support Villa Charities. As a fitting tribute, Sandra Belvedere and Marlene DelZotto have agreed to join our dynamic Venetian Ball committee members. In recognition of their leadership from last year, Lina DeGasperis and Anna Eliopoulos will act as the 2008 Honourary Chairs. Thanks to the combined efforts of numerous volunteers who have worked tirelessly from the first Venetian Ball held at Sala Caboto 14 years ago, the Ball has become Toronto's largest and most elegant Italian-themed charitable gala, raising millions of dollars for Villa Charities Foundation.

The future of this charity's survival and relevancy is in the hands of our young Italian leaders to help pave the way to the next 15 years and beyond. I invite everyone in the community, including past, present and future supporters of Villa Charities, to commemorate this very special Venetian Ball. Together, we can look forward to celebrating the next 15 years in true *Carnevale* style!

See you at the Ball!

Rudolph P. Bratty
Patron Chair, Venetian Ball
Chair, Villa Charities Foundation