



villa charities

# REIMAGINE

HERITAGE. CULTURE.  
COMMUNITY.

COLUMBUS CENTRE  
2020

**Together, we are reimagining the Columbus Centre.**

- ... As a hub for Italian heritage, culture and community
- ... As a state-of-the-art facility with access to more programs and services
- ... As a place for all generations, today and in the future

***... As a community centre for all of us!***



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# WHO WE ARE

*Villa Charities is pleased to share information about an exciting new project in your community.*

## **Villa Charities**

- Villa Charities was established in 1971 as the Italian-Canadian Benevolent Corporation. It cultivates, promotes and celebrates Italian Culture and Heritage.
- For almost 50 years, Villa Charities has developed and supported:
  - ✓ Villa Colombo Toronto
  - ✓ Villa Colombo Vaughan
  - ✓ Columbus Centre (Athletics, Dance, Music, Art)
  - ✓ Caboto Terrace
  - ✓ Casa Del Zotto
  - ✓ Casa Abruzzo
  - ✓ The Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery
  - ✓ 3 daycare centres
  - ✓ Ristorante Boccaccio & Caffè Cinquecento
- Key campus partners include: Centro Scuola, Multicultural History Society of Ontario, VITA Community Living Services Day Program, National Congress of Italian Canadians – Toronto District, PACE Independent Living Support Office, Villa Colombo Community Services/Centro Anziani, Association of Italian Chefs of Canada and the Canadian Italian Business Professional Association (CIBPA).

## **Mission Statement**

To Celebrate and Promote the Italian Heritage, Culture, Language, Arts, Food, and Family Values.

## **Vision Statement**

To be the voice of the Italian-Canadian community.

## **Columbus Centre**

- For almost 40 years, the Columbus Centre has served and been an important resource for Toronto's Italian community and our local community.
- Today, people of all ages and ethnicities visit the Centre to:
  - ✓ Participate in dance, visual arts, music and culinary programs
  - ✓ View art exhibits
  - ✓ Participate in athletic, aquatics and wellness programs
  - ✓ Enjoy Italian cuisine
  - ✓ Celebrate family occasions
  - ✓ Utilize our meeting and catering facilities



*Officiating the opening ceremonies of Columbus Centre were: (left to right) North York Mayor Mel Lastman, Senator Peter Bosa, ICBC President Tony Fusco, Ontario Premier William G. Davis, acting ICBC President Joe Chiappetta, Italian Ambassador Paolo Fulci, and ICBC chair Joe Carrier. (October 1980)*

# WHAT WE ARE DOING

## **The New Columbus Centre: A State-of-the-Art Facility for Everyone!**

- World-class dance, art and music studios
- A “senior-friendly” indoor swimming pool
- Indoor and outdoor running tracks
- An advanced fitness facility with improved amenities
- A 435-seat performing arts theatre
- An art gallery and heritage museum
- A multi-station, international culinary teaching kitchen
- A community learning centre/library
- An expanded variety of Italian food and cultural products
- Advanced technology to improve communication locally, nationally and internationally
- Improved resources for our valued community partners
- Environmentally “friendly” building design
- Lower operating and construction costs
- More opportunities to develop stronger ties, both culturally and generationally
- A 21st century educational environment
- Greater opportunities for collaboration
- A premier destination for the community and all Italian-Canadians in the GTA
- A nationally recognized community hub and partnership model



## **An Intergenerational Centre**

- Continues a long tradition of programs that bring together youth and seniors
- Mixing youth and seniors delivers research-proven benefits, including:
  - ✓ For youth: the reinforcement of patience, tolerance and empathy, along with the development of social skills
  - ✓ For seniors: improved self-esteem and increased mental and physical activity

# WHY WE ARE DEVELOPING THE COLUMBUS CENTRE

## Why Rebuild the Columbus Centre?

- Much of it was originally built approximately 70 years ago as a correctional institute for girls.
- Ongoing repairs to maintain the building are expensive and lead to frequent service downtime.
- In conjunction with the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), we have a unique opportunity to create a new and better Columbus Centre.
- A Centre that will continue to honour, preserve and share Italian heritage, language, culture and provides more:
  - ✓ Cultural programming
  - ✓ Art and museum heritage displays
  - ✓ State-of-the-art equipment
  - ✓ Access to increased and improved facilities
  - ✓ Resources to attract more 2nd and 3rd generation Italian-Canadians and others from our local community

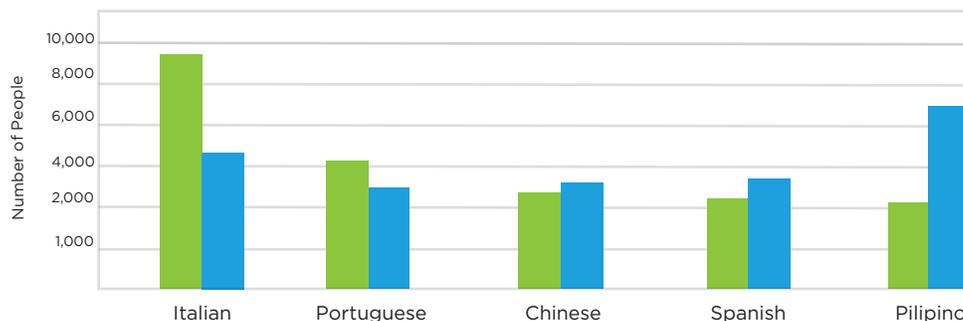
## Why a Partnership with the TCDSB?

- Villa Charities and TCDSB have a long-standing working relationship
- By joining together, each organization can:
  - ✓ Offer their stakeholders a greater variety of services
  - ✓ Invest savings from lower operating costs in programming and facilities
  - ✓ Share resources and expertise
  - ✓ Encourage intergenerational activities and learnings

## A Changing Community, a Columbus Centre for Everyone!

- Columbus Centre patrons represent all age groups (under 40 the largest group)
- Recognize and respond to diverse and changing community needs
- Preserve, enhance and share Italian culture with a wider audience

Top 5 Mother-Tongue Languages in the Eglinton-Lawrence Area\*



\*Census Profile Stats Canada 1996 2016

# TRUTH NOT LIES

1. **Are condominiums part of the Redevelopment plan?**

**NO.** There are no plans for a condominium development.

2. **Are you tearing down Villa Colombo Toronto?**

**NO.** The next major project for Villa Charities is improving Villa Colombo Toronto in response to the Ministry of Health's mandate to upgrade long-term care beds throughout Ontario.

3. **Are you tearing down Caboto Terrace and Casa Del Zotto?**

**NO.** Both buildings provide affordable housing to our community and are very important to our mission and how we will always support our community.

4. **Are you tearing down or moving St. Charles Borromeo Church?**

**NO.** Any decision about the future of the Church is a matter for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto. (Please see the letter below from Reverend James M. Reposkey, Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church to his parishioners on Sunday, October 1, 2017)

My Dear Parishioners,

I have been in contact with the Archdiocese of Toronto concerning the redevelopment of Dufferin Street & Lawrence Avenue West. For the foreseeable future, there is no movement in any way toward relocating the Church to another site. The Archdiocese has informed me that there is nothing on the table of any kind of future plans for the Church. Because of these developments, I will continue to upgrade the buildings as necessary. There are still a few things that I feel must be done in order to take care of YOUR CHURCH and make it a Church that you can be proud of. To do this takes funds I hope the good people of St. Charles will see the improvements that have been made and will want to participate financially in the improvements yet to come. I will continue to keep you updated.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. James M. Reposkey, C.P.P.S., Pastor

5. **Will the Italian Fallen Workers Memorial be removed?**

**NO.** The Memorial will be part of the campus forever. Villa Charities is honoured to be the home of such an important part of the history of Italians who paid the ultimate sacrifice to make this country great.

6. **Will you still be a senior-friendly facility?**

**YES.** Serving seniors is the reason our organization was started in the first place, and it remains at the core of our existence today. Last year, Villa Colombo Toronto and Villa Colombo Vaughan cared for 679 long-term care residents. Villa Charities also provides affordable seniors' housing to over 700 residents on a daily basis.

7. **Will there be services during the construction phase?**

**YES.** We are in the process of securing local interim facilities so that services (athletics, music, dance, art, food) are not interrupted.

# WHEN WILL THE CHANGES HAPPEN?

## Community Consultations

The next key stage in our project plan is the commencement of a community-wide consultation process, jointly led by independent experts Maximum City and Dillon Consulting. Help us develop and deliver a new Columbus Centre, which remains true to its traditions and is responsive to future generations.

## Share Your Views

- We encourage everyone in the community to take part in the upcoming community consultation process
- Watch for information on how you can participate

## Project Timeline

- The Columbus Centre and all services will remain open into the summer/fall of 2018
- Once construction starts it will take approximately 2 years to complete
- The new facility is expected to open in fall 2020

## Interim Facilities

- Work is underway to secure interim facilities during the construction period
- The objective is to maintain service continuity and provide facilities for all patrons and partners during this period
- Details will be provided when confirmed

## Show your Support and Share Your Excitement

- Wear a REIMAGINE campaign button
- Post a REIMAGINE lawn sign
- Everything you need is at the Columbus Centre front desk: drop by anytime or give us a call at 416-789-7011 ext. 325

## STAY INFORMED!

Visit the Redevelopment web section for comprehensive information including FAQs, project updates, features and highlights, press releases and more.

Sign up to receive our newsletter.

[villacharities.com/redevelopment](http://villacharities.com/redevelopment)

#ReimagineCC2020

