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FORUM

Famee Furlane Toronto
www.fameefurlane.com

Friuli Benevolent Corporation
www.fameefurlane.com

Villa Leonardo Gambin Charity
www.villagambin.com

POFFABRO'S "MAGIA DI NATALE"

Long before the Christmas Tree as we know it today came to be, *il presepi* was the common Christmas symbol. The Christian practice of setting up the *presipi* is often credited to St. Francis of Assisi who in 1223, wanting people to better understand or visualize the birth of Christ, set out the first nativity scene.

Poffabro, a little hamlet (*borgo*) in Pordenone, is famous not only for its charm, medieval architecture and breathtaking mountain backdrop, but also its annual display of *presepi*. Often dubbed as an open-air museum, it is magically transformed each winter season into a world of unique and imaginative nativity scenes, with their creativity only limited by imagination.

Bon Nadâl e Bon An!





**Famèe Furlane Toronto
2024 – 2025
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Vice Chair

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MARA MIAN
Core Events

ALFIE MANIAS
New Events

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OUR CHAIR’S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

What an amazing year it has been! The visions and aspirations of your board are no longer just hopes and dreams. With hard work and determination, coupled with the support of tireless volunteers, realization for a brighter future is materializing. New membership has been steadily climbing and membership events are flourishing. Our plans are to continue to do what membership deserves, and we are optimistic that with the trust you have placed in your Board, it will be able to continue down the road to fruition.

Elections held at the Annual General Meeting, saw changes to our board structure. Term end or otherwise, both Melissa Zamparo and Mara Mian, are returning members for another three-year term. With the departure of Ivana Pontisso and the increase in the board number, I'd like to extend hearty welcomes three new board members, Karen Manarin, Alfie Manias and David Furlano. While no longer on the board, Ivana's support continues as Officer of Community Outreach. Dedication is not a foreign component of FFT boards, whether current or former, and with that said, wish you all bon lavor! I am proud to be your leader and look forward to working with each and every one of you for the benefit of our membership.

As we continue to strive to achieve our dreams, on behalf of myself and my FFT board, I'd like to wish you all a Christmas season filled with family love, friendships and blessed with the joys of the season.

Joseph A. Zamparo
Chair – Famèe Furlane Toronto



We truly are a family!

*From all of us
to you and yours –*

Bon Nadâl e Bon An!

*Famèe Furlane Toronto
Board of Directors*

2024 ELECTIONS

At the elections that took place at the September 24th Annual General Meeting, the Famèe Furlane Toronto Board welcomed both new and returning members to accommodate the board’s increase from seven to nine members, as well as filling the vacancies created by end of terms or resignation.

Terms for board members Melissa Zamparo and Ivana Pontisso came to end and Mara Mian had submitted her resignation. As Ivana Pontisso did not wish to stand for re-election, elections were called to fill five vacancies. Incumbents Melissa Zamparo and Mara Mian accepted nominations, followed by nominations for Alfie Manias, David Furlano and Karen Manarin. All nominees accepted, and as no others were forthcoming, all five were acclaimed as board members for the next three-year term.

Elections are for directors only, and as is required by the by-laws, appointments were made at the first board meeting which took place following the elections. Your new board now is comprised of:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Joe Zamparo: Chairman | Steven Sedran: Director of Culture |
| Karen Manarin: Vice–Chair | Alfie Manias: Director of New Activities |
| Melissa Zamparo: Secretary | Flavia Muraca: Director of Marketing & Communications |
| Roberto Clocchiatti: Treasurer | David Furlano: Director of Operations |
| Mara Mian: Director of Core Activities | |

Together let’s welcome and familiarize ourselves a bit with both new and returning board members.

ALFIE MANIAS, a recent Consumers/Enbridge Gas engineering retiree, in his new career he is FFT Director of New Activities. Alfie is truly proud of his heritage and with the fortitude Furlans had in coming to this country after the war. Alfie’s parents were FFT lifetime members, Aldo and Rita (nee Cusin) hailing from Fagnigola and Chions respectively. Alfie’s motivation for joining the board is to help build the FFT into a sustainable club for years to come.



DAVID FURLANO is excited to be part of the Famèe Furlane Toronto Board. In his role as Director of Operations, his responsibilities revolve around the day-to-day management of our space and the overseeing of repairs or renovations as may be needed. David’s roots have footprints in both *di là de l’aghe* and *di cà de l’aghe* – Mom from Meduno, Pordenone and Dad from Fagagna, Udine. David loves all things Furlan, especially the traditional foods and is looking forward to contributing his talents to the FFT.

New Vice Chair KAREN MARANIN has been a lawyer for over 30 years. Karen’s expertise with non-for-profit organizations is extensive, as she has volunteered as a board member for various organizations for over 25 years. Karen’s parents were both lifetime members of the Famee since the 1970s and she participated and supported the FFT on many occasions. Karen joined the board as she wants to contribute to the future of the Famee and ensure that it can continue to celebrate the culture and traditions of Friuli and Italy in Canada.



While growing up the FFT was MELISSA ZAMPARO’s second home from Balarin, to bocce, to member of the Youth Group, then working in the office and now second term member of the Board in the role of Secretary. Melissa notes “The FFT and its members are resilient and have proven over the past few years that nothing can stop when Furlans want to get together!” She enjoys being a part of the various club events, both past and present, as they offer much nostalgia. But the role she is most proud of is that of **Mrs. Claus**, a role previously held by her beloved mom.

No stranger to the Famèe Furlane and its membership, MARA MIAN is very happy to be back on the FFT board once again. As Director of Core Activities, Mara’s responsibilities include the Annual Member’s Banquet and Picnic, Festa Della Classe and Breakfast with Santa. However, as most members know, Mara is always quick to lend a helping hand wherever needed with the old adage that nothing is ever too big or too small to tackle.



Ivana Pontisso

I MIÒR AUGURIS AI NONOS

On Sunday, September 8, the Famèe Furlane Toronto hosted its very first Grandparents' Day Celebration—a small gathering filled with warmth and joy. Families came together to honor their cherished *nonos* in a relaxed setting, where everyone felt the comfort and community spirit that defines our club.

The atmosphere buzzed with creativity! Young artists eagerly painted personalized aprons for their beloved *nonos*, pouring their hearts into each design to celebrate the special bond they share.

Meanwhile, the older generation engaged in a lively competition to see who knew their *nonos* best, answering trivia questions and sharing delightful stories and memories that sparked laughter and nostalgia. The day was filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories as generations came together to honour the unique connection that makes family so special.



A special thank you to Ilena Vuaran for her invaluable support and assistance in making the day a success as well as sponsors, Dolomite Ski Club and Family and Friends Golf. Thank you to all those who participated. We look forward to growing this special occasion.

Flavia Muraca



JOE AVATI LIVE!



A group from the Famèe Furlane Toronto attended the *Joe Avati night* on October 24th at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga. *Avati* is an Australian Italian comic and even though he is Calabrese, we Furlans can relate. It was a great night LOL about 'Growing Up Italian'! Who else can say it best??? After the show & photos, we hung out at Moxies and continued laughing about Baci chocolates, yellow & orange pants, the '*Boh*' expression... Don't miss the next event so you can relate to these inside jokes!

Sonia Pittis



IPAD CLASSES FOR SENIORS Bridging the Digital Divide at the FFT

In a world where technology evolves at lightning speed, for some, staying connected digitally can be a daunting task. Seniors especially feel left behind in the rapid shift to online communication. The **iPad for Seniors** program offered by the Alpini Vaughan at the Famèe Furlane Toronto, is bridging this gap with culturally sensitive and accessible technical training specifically designed for Italian-speaking seniors.



This season's iPad program, which ran from September through October 2024, offered Italian seniors (55 and up) intermediate-level lessons on how to use an iPad, surf the internet, and stay in touch with family and friends. Led by Danilo Cal, Capo Gruppo of Alpini Vaughan, and assisted by Loretta Cal and Vicky Romanin, the program is supported in part by the New Horizons for Seniors Grant, successfully applied for by Alpini Vaughan. This grant allowed Alpini Vaughan to provide a valuable resource to older adults in the community. One of the most remarkable aspects of the program is that it is the only one of its kind in the area that offers classes taught in Italian. For many seniors, learning complex technical skills in English is intimidating, especially when the language and cultural content don't align with their daily life. By offering lessons in Italian, the program ensures seniors learn comfortably, without the language or cultural disconnects that often arise.



“Learning in Italian makes all the difference for our participants.” explains Danilo Cal. *“It’s not just about teaching technology—it’s about helping our seniors stay connected in a way that respects their background, interests, and culture.”*

The 7-week course covers a wide range of digital skills:

- ✓ Using Email: Sending and receiving emails to maintain contact with family, friends, and community.
- ✓ Navigating Zoom: Learning how to connect virtually for social calls, and family gatherings.
- ✓ Exploring YouTube and Surfing the Web: Accessing music, news, health information, and favorite Italian recipes.
- ✓ Using Apps on the iPad: Downloading and managing apps to support everything from wellness to entertainment.



With each lesson, participants gain more confidence in using their iPads. Each session focused on practical ways technology can improve daily lives, helping participants stay informed, entertained, and mentally active.

IPAD – INTERNET CLASSES FOR SENIORS
WINTER 2025 - FREE TO PARTICIPANTS
 CLASSES START JANUARY 2025
 9:30 – 11:30 am
FAMEE FURLANE TORONTO – CANADA ROOM



Interested seniors or family members eager to register their loved ones for the next session can reach out directly to Danilo or Loretta Cal at 905-851-3731 or 416-829-3831 or send an email to danilocal@sympatico.ca for more information.

CELEBRÂ LA CLASSE DEL '4'

On November 3, 2024, families and friends gathered at The Royalton to celebrate those whose birth year ended in a "4".

This year the celebration was a luncheon rather than a dinner and we are pleased our attempt at change was received with such enthusiasm. After enjoying a wonderful meal, the birthday celebrants were escorted into the hall by a traditionally attired troupe of FFT balarins. The formal celebration continued with plenty of photo opportunities and finally nicely tied up with yummy birthday cake, dessert, coffee and topped off with a big bow!

It was very heart warming to see everyone enjoying a great time with friends and family. That's what celebrations are all about, spending a few hours in the company of loved ones. Everyone enjoyed the delicious table wine, thanks to the Famee Furlane Toronto.

Thank you to the team of volunteers: Lida and Ilena Vuaran, Sonia Pittis, Alida Pighin, Daniela Gridel, Grace Caprara and George Rodaro who all together ensured the success of the event. Special thanks to Carol Scaini who put the slide presentation together.

The 50/50 draw proceeds netted \$412 for the York Regional Police/Salvation Army Food and Toy Drive with the remaining \$412 in the pot going to winner Ilva Riccielli. Congratulations!

We look forward to celebrating the group belonging to the classe del "5" at next year's birthday celebration.

Mara Mian





LE NESTRI STELUTIS IN BIEL VEDÈ

On Tuesday, November 12, new and seasoned artists gathered once again for another Paint & Sip event. This time, the evening was dedicated to painting the iconic *Stele Alpine (Edelweiss)*, symbol of alpine beauty and resilience, closely tied to Friuli's rich heritage.

Guided by talented artist Olivia, from the Woodbridge Art School, participants were led through the steps to bring their canvas to life. Olivia's engaging instruction made the process enjoyable for everyone, whether they were picking up a brush for the first time or refining their artistic skills. Each *artist* created a unique version of the mountains and *stèle*, showcasing their personal interpretation.



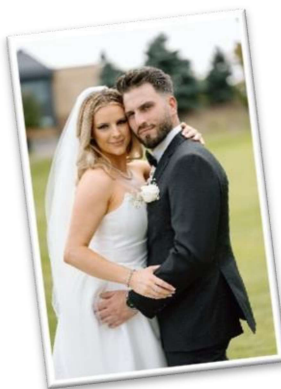
The evening was topped with a taste of tradition. Guests were treated to a spread of Friulian treats, including crostoli, gubana, and polenta cookies, paired with tasty sangria. Special thanks to Claudia Pol Bodetto for the surprise Ferrero Rocher chocolates. Stay tuned for more fun in the new year.

Flavia Muraca



LIFE'S BLESSINGS

October was a very exciting month for the Marchese family!



Mom and Dad extend congratulations to their son Alexander and his bride Kiana on their October 4, 2024, wedding. The day could not have been more perfect.



On October 18, 2024, they were blessed with the birth of their adorable grandson, Jaxon Cruz Marchese to proud parents Alexandra and Matthew and loving big sister Abigail.

Love, proud parents and grandparents
Naz and Marylane

FFWA – RAKING IN THE GOOD TIMES!

The trees are bare, and the skies are grey, but the spirit of the Famèe Furlane Women's Auxiliary remains bright and full.

Auxiliary members have been busy this season, raking in bundles of new experiences and adventures; from hands on CPR and other emergency measures introduction by firefighter, Marco Sacilotto; to a bountiful trip to St Jacob's Farmers Market, Magnotta Winery, and a run to Fallsview Casino, the group has been active!

Much fun was had with fall pumpkin painting and decorating. Who knew we had such creativity amongst us? A group of our members donated their time and energy preparing children's crafts for the FFT's Annual Breakfast with Santa. In November we all participated in a most unique and relaxing evening with the sound bath meditation experience presented by JellySky Yoga & Sound Baths.

The serious business of elections also took place at the November meeting. The positions of activity and communication directors needed to be filled, given the term end for both Elemanna Sacilotto and Ughetta De Piero. Warm welcomes and hearty congratulations are extended to Verna Zanardo and Mary Cosentino who have assumed these positions by acclamation. At the same time, a multitude of gratitude and heartfelt thanks go out to Elemanna and Ughetta for their dedication, hard work and enthusiasm throughout their terms. Ladies enjoy your much deserved retirement, for now at least...

Amongst plans for the new year which includes chair yoga, tarot card reading, International Woman's Day celebrations and more Casino runs, there will also be a few novel surprises along the way as well as cultural and traditional activities.

You, along with your smiles and ideas, are encouraged to join our group or come to our meetings as a guest. All are welcome.

At this time, we at the Famèe Furlane Women's Auxiliary, both executive and membership, wish to extend our warmest wishes to all for a Merry and Blessed Christmas, and a New Year filled with happiness and good health.

Bon Nadàl e Bon An!

Ughetta DePiero



FFT BOCCIOFILA GROUP

Greetings from the long-established FFT Bocciofila Group who continue to perfect their skills while having fun with the time-honoured Famèe Furlane Toronto tradition.

From all of us at the FFT Bocciofila to all of YOU, we are sending the gifts of love, peace and happiness, surrounded by a sprinkling of Christmas spirit. Bon Nadal e Bon An!

Famèe Furlane Toronto Bocciofila



ADDING FUN TO LIFE!



After settling into our space last year, Decimo Valent took on the responsibility to lead the Briscola games in the Saletta of the Famèe Furlane Toronto on Friday nights. It has slowly become a regular game night with up to 15 people attending regularly. Wine and beer along with snacks and nibbles are available; all thanks to Decimo's organizational skills. The fun starts at 7:30 pm and goes until Midnight.



The group welcomes more players. Briscola is not a prerequisite by any means. Feel free to bring a partner or partners and enjoy a game of your choosing – either card or board game. It's a fun way to spend

a Friday night, enjoying a favourite game with friends. Ladies this is a call out to you as well - start a new trend and enjoy a girl's game night at the FFT!

For more information, please leave your name and telephone number with the office (905-851-1166) during regular office hours Tuesday to Thursday. Decimo will be happy to return your call.

Mara Mian



GRUPPO ETÀ D'ORO

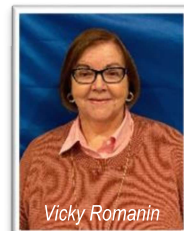
The Gruppo Età D'Oro continues to meet and be strong thanks to the participation of our devoted members. Once again, we are coming to our year end and the election of new members to the executive committee. We congratulate and welcome Vicky Romanin as our new President and Loris Ragazzon as our new Secretary. I would like to thank Nino Blasutta and Elena Moretti for all their hard work during their tenure as executive members. I am very happy that Elena will continue to help me in the selling of our bingo cards, collection of money and other duties as necessary during our bingo games. I would also like to thank all our volunteers who give it their all each week. Know that your work is very much appreciated.

As we come closer to Christmas, the Età D'Oro once again celebrated with a Christmas Luncheon on December 18, and we were happy to see all our members in attendance.

On behalf of the Gruppo Età D'Oro I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2025.

Edi Antonini, Treasurer

Gruppo Età D'Oro, Famèe Furlane Toronto



ĠOVENTÛT FURLANE

Friuli, a small region where the sea and mountains are separated by only 100 km. During the year, there are many events that are traditionally repeated annually and spread throughout the region.

The distances are not as great as here in Canada, and by car you can easily move and reach any place in Friuli in a day. It seems, therefore, that every year all Friulians move together according to the events taking place - from Christmas markets in the center of Udine, to the largest *Pignarùl*¹ in Friuli with a torchlight procession in Tarcento, or the frozen Fusine lakes in February, and bars in the city center on winter weekends to enjoy hot chocolate (because outside, with 3 or 4 °C, it is already too cold for us Friulians, and at home the *spolèrt*² has been lit for a while). The first warm days of March everyone longs to return to the sea, arriving in July and August when Lignano and Grado are crowded, and then to Friuli DOC in Udine and Gusti di Frontiera in Gorizia to taste local products from all over the region.



Iced Fusine Lakes, Friuli Venezia Giulia



Christmas in Piazza San Giacomo, Udine, Friuli Venezia Giulia

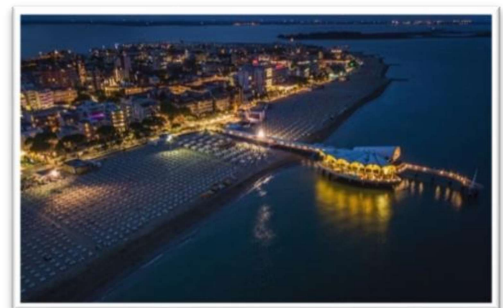
But what about the young people in Friuli? Young Friulians are traditionalists, and generation after generation they almost all go through the same phases, depending on age.

In high school they must study with free time is dedicated a lot to sports. Obviously, football is very popular. At this stage, the kids live with their parents and take part in the annual events – as mentioned above – that the region organizes. The cities and towns are small in Friuli, and therefore they can easily meet new people through other friends.

The graduation party, at the end of the fifth year of high school, is highly anticipated, in which all the schools in Friuli organize a final class dinner in a renowned restaurant of their choice, to then continue the evening in a disco. A traditional destination is Lignano's "Mr. Charlie"- perhaps the most famous disco in Friuli. This event has marked the end of adolescence and the beginning of adulthood for all Friulians for many years now! The young people then continue with their studies at university, or take over the family business, whether it is agricultural, vineyard or a company in the mechanical or a tertiary sector.

It is here that many young people leave Friuli - some to study outside the region, some to go abroad. Those not travelling outside the region, prefer to go out with a few good friends - for an aperitif and dinner in a good typical Friulian restaurant, especially on weekends, after a week of studying or working. As we say in Friuli, *Vin e amîs, un paradîs!*³

Young Friulians are hardworking. They want to have stability and be independent right away. At the end of their studies, they want to leave home and get a job. However, many difficulties arise, because the unjustified low salaries that almost all jobs offer do not guarantee that they will be able to become completely independent in the short term. The prices of houses for sale are high and often not adequate and the quality poor. The costs of renovating houses have skyrocketed, gasoline has always been expensive and supermarket prices have become equally high.



Summer night in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Friuli Venezia Giulia

The average salary for young people is around 1400 euros monthly with the lucky ones getting 1700. Unfortunately having a high-level degree does not change much in the way of salary range.

Those who rent, in a year spend all they have earned, and therefore to buy a house young people need the help of their parents. For many years, therefore, many young Friulians have been trying to go abroad, where salaries are more in keeping with the cost of living. This, unfortunately, does not happen only in Friuli. It is common throughout Italy. For us Friulians, even going "*di là de l'aghe*⁴" means being abroad, let alone actually going to another country!

But even from afar, Friuli makes itself felt, even after years when you are no longer young, and this is why then, far from home, when two Friulians meet there is an understanding right from the start because they grew up in the same land, lived through the same stages, with the same language, the same values and the same traditions.

...*Se il cûr ti dûl, torne in Friûl!*⁵

Luca Pascolo



Aperitif with prosciutto di San Daniele

1. **Pignarûl** - With the arrival of the new year and the approach of Epiphany, among the different and most ancient Friulian rites, the Pignarûl is a ritual that would seem to be linked to the worship of Belanu, proto-Celtic deity of light. Worshipped by the Celts, this deity was known for its influence on sunlight and consequently also on seasonality, temperature and all those human activities also derived from the seasons such as agriculture and livestock farming. In ancient times, the cult of Belanu was known to the religiosity of the Carni; a cult particularly felt also in Aquileia where there was a temple dedicated to him.



Pignarûl in Sedillis, near Tarcento

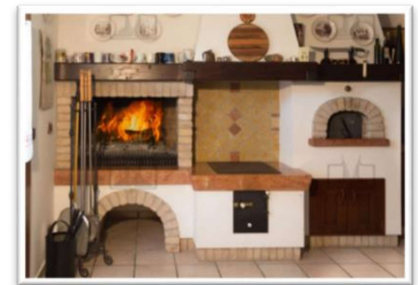
The tradition of lighting fires on the occasion of festivities related to equinoxes and solstices is linked to the worship of Belanu. The meaning of the Friulian fires is therefore to be found in the ancient Celtic propitiatory and purification rites. In many cases the ashes were then scattered in the fields to ward off curses and ensure abundant harvests. Fire was considered a symbol of purification and rebirth to a new life. Despite Christianization, this custom was not lost, indeed it persisted through the centuries, reaching the present day.

The Pignarûl ritual is in fact still felt, in particular in Tarcento, where on the evening of January 6th, the “Pignarûl Grant” is lit near the remains of the medieval castle, and since it is located high up and is visible from far away, it in turn starts the lighting of all the Pignarûi of the Tarcento valley. The Pignarûl is a tall pile of wood, hay and everything that can be burned that is usually lit on the evening of January 6th.

The direction the smoke takes has a particular meaning. An ancient Friulian proverb says: “*Se il fum al va a soreli a mont, cjape il sac e va pal mont; se il fum al va de bande di soreli jevât, cjape il sac e va al marcjât*”. Thus translated: if the smoke goes west, take the bag and go around the world; if the smoke goes east, take the bag and go to the market. The direction of the smoke, therefore, is an indication of a good or bad year.

2. **Spolèrt**

The wood-fired spolèrt is the Friulian name for a type of economical wood-fired kitchen built into a masonry finish usually made of brick or stone with exposed workmanship, smooth stone, rough stone, etc. It is almost always combined with a fireplace for grilling meat or fish and, sometimes, a wood-fired oven. Its true place is inside taverns, kitchens or rustic country living rooms.



Grill (on the left), spolèrt (at the center), fireplace (on the right)

3. **Vin e amîs, un paradîs!**

Wine and friends, a paradise!

4. **Di là de l'aghe**

E je dite “di là de l'aghe” la provincie di Pordenon, parceché e si cjate a sinistre dal Tilimint. Cun “di cà de l'aghe” s'intind la procincie di Udin. Il Tilimint al segne dunque il confin tra chestis dos provinciis. The province of Pordenone is called “di là de l'aghe” because it is located to the left of the Tagliamento, on the other side of the river from the heart of Friuli (Udine). “di cà de l'aghe” means the province of Udine, where Friulian is spoken. The Tagliamento therefore marks the border between these two provinces. “di là de l'aghe” people speak more Venetian dialect than Friulian.

5. **Se il cûr ti dûl, torne in Friûl!**

If your heart hurts, come back to Friuli!

GOOD TIMES WITH THE 20-SOMETHINGS



Some of our original group members back together at Nove Restaurant

During this advent season, we reminisce about the importance of friends and family and the spirit of togetherness. Our 20-Somethings family looks forward each year to our popular Very Merry Furlan Christmas gathering in December to celebrate just this, our strong bond of furlanitât over a family meal. We also have some exciting winter events planned for the New Year including a winter skate and the annual social night in the city. This past Fall, many of us gathered for good eats and laughs at Nove Restaurant in Woodbridge and had a wonderful time as always together. Our group ranges in age from 20s-40s and our common heritage is what unites us. We continue to welcome new faces to join our free membership. Stay tuned in our next Forum's edition for another

in-depth look into our group and how you can get more involved. For more information on upcoming events or on how to participate, kindly email Vanessa directly at 20somethings.famee@gmail.com.

Wishing you and your families a blessed Christmas. Bon Nadâl e Bon An,

Vanessa Lovisa-Gambin, 20-Somethings President



SPECIAL GREETINGS FROM THE BALARINS

The Balarins would like to wish everyone a Bon Nadâl and Bon An.

We are looking forward to the coming year as we have some exciting things in store. As this year comes to a close, we think back to all the wonderful cultural initiatives we have participated at. The group welcomed all the birthday celebrants at the Festa dal 4 on November 3rd. We also participated in the annual memorial mass at St Roch's Parish on November 26th and Babo Natale on December 1st. There is nothing more beautiful than having cultural aspects present at special milestones and moments such as these.

We are always searching for new members to join the Balarins. It is free to join, and all ages are welcome, including adults! If you are interested in participating, please email: balarinsfameefurlane@gmail.com

Melissa & Mary Lovisa

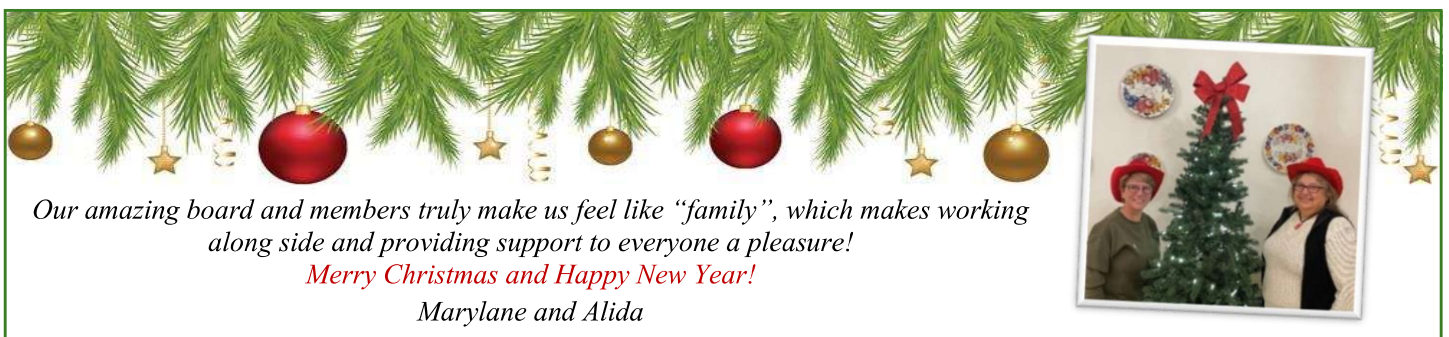


The Balarins wish all the Festa Dal 4 Celebrants a very Happy Birthday!



DOLomite SKI CLUB With the Dolomite Annual excursion to Mt. Tremblant being sold out earlier than expected, our season of fun does not end there! Be on the lookout for information and details on other 2025 Dolomite 50th Anniversary Celebrations.

Your Dolomite Committee, Carla, Giamba, Ivana, Mara and Mara



Our amazing board and members truly make us feel like "family", which makes working along side and providing support to everyone a pleasure!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Marylane and Alida



ATOR LA TAULE



Deer (Venison) Stew

I have always enjoyed cooking, and I was told that I make the best deer and polenta in the world. My nephew in Sault Ste Marie, Nirvano Graffi, goes deer and moose hunting every year and keeps me well supplied with "selvaggina". I have three children, and they all love polenta and deer. This is the dish they request when we celebrate special occasions in our family. I would like to share this recipe with you and hope that you enjoy it as much as our family does.

Edda Picco



INGREDIENTS

- ❖ 2 lbs of deer meat
- ❖ 2 tbsp. of olive oil and some butter
- ❖ 2 - 3 pcs. of garlic
- ❖ 1 small onion – chopped
- ❖ 1 tbsp. of tomato paste in a cup of water
- ❖ "Bouquet garni" made up of sprigs of rosemary, sage leaves, clove and bay leaf
- ❖ Salt and pepper to taste
- ❖ Chicken broth as needed
- ❖ white wine as needed

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut the deer in bite size pieces and soak overnight in milk
2. Rinse well and dry the deer meat
3. In a saucepan sear the deer in oil and butter
4. Remove the deer from pan and add the garlic and onion. Fry for about 10 minutes and add a bit of broth if it gets too dry.
5. Add meat and fry for several minutes
6. Add the tomato paste and water.
7. Simmer for approximately 10 minutes
8. Add – the bouquet garni made up of the rosemary, sage, clove and bay leaf all tied up securely in a piece of cheesecloth.
9. Continue adding the broth and wine alternately for 2 - 2 1/2 hours or until the deer is tender.
10. When ready, remove the bouquet garni before plating. Enjoy with plenty of polenta or fresh crusty bread

FRIÛL INFATS – QUESTIONS

1. Where was the famous *tiramisu* dessert invented?
2. What mid-December, Christmas-themed train tour connects the towns of Gemona, Poffabro, Polcenigo, Maniago and Sacile?
3. What province in Friuli Venezia Giulia has the highest population density?
4. What documentary film festival in Trieste celebrates humanity's prehistoric past?
5. What ancient communal Friulan rite of fire is celebrated in early January, and thought to have originated from the worship of the Celtic god, Belanu?
6. How much of Friuli Venezia Giulia's surface area is covered by mountains?
7. What Christmas devil is celebrated with Saint Nicholas at an annual Tarvisio fire festival in early December?
8. Did Udinese ever play in a Coppa Italia final?
9. What is the top red grape variety produced in Friuli?
10. What museum is housed in the 16th century Palazzo Amalteo in Pordenone?



MUSEUMS OF FRIULI

Mostly, we visit Friuli to see family and enjoy the culture – the food, the customs, the *osterie*, and to feel at home. So much has happened over the four provinces that make up Friuli Venezia Giulia. Walk around any city or village and you'll see a monument to a person or to a significant event. How fascinating to imagine what happened here and who passed by on this very spot. Along with this living history are the many museums housing examples of the amazing story of Friuli. A sample of a few large and small ...

Miramare Castle

A beautiful building in an impossibly beautiful setting on the Gulf of Trieste, Miramare Castle, built in 1856, was the home of Austrian Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian and his wife Charlotte. Today visitors can learn about their lives in the Information Room, then continue to view the rooms they occupied and the apartments of Duke Amedeo of Aosta. The splendid throne room has recently been restored to its original style. While there, the 54 acres of the Miramare Gardens are also worth a visit. <https://miramare.cultura.gov.it>



The beautiful Miramare Castle, overlooking the Gulf of Trieste

Castello di Udine

The Castello di Udine is a central landmark of the city. Built upon a hill in the historical centre, it was once the seat of the Patriarch of Aquileia and the Venetian Lieutenant of the Patria del Friuli.

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the unification of Friuli with Italy on July 26, 1906, the castle became a museum. The ground floor of the castle is home to two museums: the Museo del Risorgimento and the Museo Archeologico. Planned and curated with fine attention to detail, both are equipped with innovative multimedia aids. Extending along the entire length of the main floor, the Galleria d'Arte Antica houses valuable works of art from the 1300s to the 1800s, including paintings by Carpaccio, Caravaggio and Tiepolo. The third floor hosts the impressive Museo della Fotografia which showcases the work of some of the most important photographers working in Udine during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries such as Pignat, Bujatti and Brisighelli. <https://www.civicimuseiudine.it>

Museo della Civiltà Contadina nel Friuli Imperiale

The Friulian Farming Culture Museum of Aiello del Friuli is located in the historic centre of a restored farm complex. More than 20,000 original objects have been brought together to tell the story of farming culture in the territory over the period from 1500 to 1918, from transport (farm carts, tools, ploughs, wheelbarrows, etc.) to wine, grappa, trades and women's work.



Old-style farming equipment from the Museo della Civiltà Contadina nel Friuli Imperiale

In the courtyard are 16 sundials which document the different techniques used to measure time, making Aiello del Friuli known as the sundial town. Visit via F. Petrarca 1, Aiello 45 Km NW of Trieste, 25 Km SE of Udine. Cultural Association Formentini Museums of Rural Life www.museiformentini.it



Archaeological site at Zuglio

Museo Civico Archeologico Iulium Carnicum in Zuglio

The town of Zuglio, in Carnia, was built above the remains of the ancient Roman city Iulium Carnicum. Excavations of the area began early in the 19th century. In 1995, the museum was established in Palazzo Leschiutta, near the archaeological site of the "roman forum".

On the first floor are relics of the Roman forum, from the baths and private buildings, found during the excavations carried out in Zuglio in the 19th century. The top floor of the museum is dedicated to the history of Zuglio, from Roman times to the Middle Ages and Renaissance. This institute, which showcases ancient city culture, is part of the Museum Network of the Province of

Udine and Carnia Museums. via Giulio Cesare 19, 33020 Zuglio, Udine. www.carniamusei.org

And there are so many more. Wherever you travel in Friuli, in almost every town, there is a building or 'museum' that displays and describes what happened here. Whether your interests are in archaeology, great historical events or how people lived in Friuli in the past, you'll find your preference, probably near the *osteria*!

Reference: www.civicimuseiudine.it; www.visititaly.com; www.turismofvg.it

MILESTONES, TRANSITIONS, LEGACY FOGOLÂRS FEDERATION of CANADA 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK



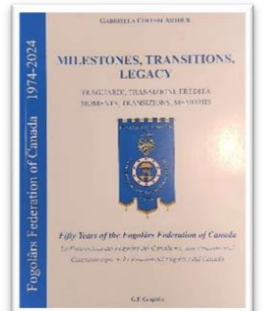
As part of the Fogolârs Federation of Canada's 50th anniversary celebrations in 2024, the Federation commissioned Prof Gabriella Colussi Arthur to gather and document the activities of the Fogolârs Federation in a volume that will forever be memorialized as a testament to the efforts of Furlan Canadians across this great country of Canada.

Colussi Arthur's book focuses on the past 25 years of the Federation activities and continues the work of Monica Stellin's, *From Sea to Sea: An Illustrated History of the Fogolârs Federation of Canada*, published in 1999.

On October 4th, the Fogolârs Federation of Canada, launched *Milestones, Transitions, Legacy* at the Palazzo della Regione in Udine. Prof. Colussi Arthur presented her work to an audience of friends and family which included Federation president Giuseppe Toso, Consiglio Regionale Friuli Venezia Giulia President Mauro Bordin and representatives from Friuli nel Mondo, the Comune di Udine, Societat Filologjiche Furlane and many more. It was a wonderful opportunity to show the work of the Furlan community in Canada.



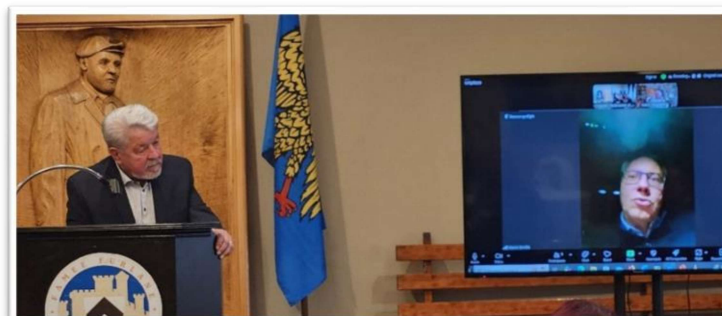
The Canadian book launch was held at the Famèe Furlane Toronto on November 24. Friends of the Federation invited guests and members of the Famèe Furlane and Societa Femminile Friulana gathered in the Canada Room to receive first hand, a description of Colussi Arthur's work. Wonderful words of praise for the Furlan communities across Canada were spoken by President Toso, and the Hon. Michael Tibollo. President Bordin extending his praise via ZOOM, and Friuli nel Mondo President Franco Iacop, via his recorded message.



The reception following the book launch had Prof. Colussi Arthur busy signings copies of her work and guests sharing their stories of the Federation and the recent congress held in Windsor. A wonderful afternoon was had by everyone which bodes well for the FOGOLÂRS 2026 in Friuli! Copies of Prof. Colussi Arthur's book are available for purchase through the Famèe Furlane Toronto office at a cost of \$20.

Many thanks go out to all the Fogolârs Federation friends near and far for the continued support over the first 50 years. Here's to the next 50 years ahead!

Renzo Rigutto



LA VOCE DEI MEMBRI



ANGEE MORO-VERRE

Full Name and nick name	<i>ANGEE MORO-VERRE</i>
Your or your family's Furlan roots	<i>Father - Mario Moro - from Valvasone, Pordenone Mother- Olimpia Moro- from Codriopo, Udine</i>
Most Proud Life's Accomplishment	<i>Raising 2 amazing kids and running my own business for 23 years.</i>
One bucket list adventure you would like to try but haven't yet	<i>I would love to go to Machu Picchu</i>
Biggest reason for joining the Famee Furlane Toronto	<i>The most important reason for joining the FFT is to maintain my connections with my roots. As both my parents are no longer with us it makes me feel closer to them and what they valued so deeply.</i>
A favorite hobby or interest	<i>Yoga & Meditation - these activities ground me and give me much needed peace and serenity</i>
One particular Famee Furlane related memory	<i>My father climbing up the Cucagna at the Famee Furlane picnics. As a child, It was always so exciting for me to watch my Dad compete and I must say - usually win!</i>
What do you like best about your Furlanitat	<i>What I like best about my Furlanitat is it gives me a heritage. I have a heritage of strong, proud, hardworking people. It is my pride to be one of these people.</i>
A Favorite Furlan saying or filestroche	<i>Non sta fa mi ridi</i>
What have you gained from being a Famee Furlane member	<i>I've gained a sense of community with all the wonderful people who I met at the FFT. I've also gained a better understanding of the Furlan people, the language and the traditions.</i>
A Furlan Trait or Tradition that continues to be shared	<i>As both my parents have been gone for a long time our family has lost most of the traditions we used to have. In the last couple of years, I've tried to re-introduce traditions mostly centered around food such as making castagne at Christmas & New Year, making polenta and trying to make crostoli and my mom's crostata recipe.</i>





GEORGE RODARO

Full Name and nick name	<i>English – GEORGE JACK RODARO Italian - Giorgio Giacomo Rodaro or par Furlan - Zorç Jacum Rodaro I go by all three.</i>
Your or your family's Furlan roots	<i>My mother, Caterina Di Gianantonio and father, Aldo Rodaro, are both from Avasinis (Vasinas), comune di Trasaghis (Trasagas), provincia di Udine (Udin).</i>
Most Proud Life's Accomplishment	<i>A while back, my financial advisor called me one day, and just said "Okay, you're good, you can retire anytime you want." Sweet words to hear as one of my life goals was to achieve relative financial security for retirement and those golden years will start in just over 7 months from now.</i>
One bucket list adventure you would like to try but haven't yet	<i>Mont Cuar, at 1478m, is the highest mountain in Friuli where the Friulian plain meets the mountains. I have been told that on a clear day, from the summit, you can see across the whole plain of Friuli, as far as the Adriatic Sea and Venice. I would like to try climbing it one day.</i>
Biggest reason for joining the Famee Furlane Toronto	<i>I came to the club one day back in 2005 to ask about Furlan classes. I met Meni D'Agnolo, one of the teachers of the classes and signed up. What he and two other teachers, Bruno Blasutta and Bruno Cosolo taught about our language & history inspired me to continue to learn as much as I could. I joined the Famee for these reasons.</i>
A favorite hobby or interest	<i>I enjoy vegetable gardening. There is nothing better than eating a fresh tomato grown from kilometer 0 away.</i>
One particular Famee Furlane related memory	<i>When I went to my first members meeting, Gigi Gambin was president. When introduced as a new member, Gigi asked if I was related to a Peter Rodaro. I said I had a great uncle Peter. Gigi smiled, welcomed me to the club and let me know that I was the great-nephew to one of the founding members of the Famee. That was something I did not know and a pleasant surprise to learn about my family history.</i>
What do you like best about your Furlanitat	<i>For me, without a doubt is our marilenghe, Furlan.</i>
A Favorite Furlan saying or filestroche	<i>Tàs e mangjà! (Shut up and eat!) That's what you're told when you try to complain that you were served too much food anywhere in Friuli!</i>
What have you gained from being a Famee Furlane member	<i>About 25 lbs that I happily gained from all the great events and wonderful dinners that I attended over the years at the Famee.</i>
A Furlan Trait or Tradition that continues to be shared	<i>In every Furlan kitchen, you should find a round wooden board with a protruding handle that has a string wrapped around it. This is where you plop your freshly made polenta, unwrap the string from the handle and use it to cut that still warm polenta into slices. Of course, the first slice is a vertical one across the middle of the polenta, the second, a horizontal one, making the sign of the cross. This is our way of giving thanks to the meal we are about to have.</i>



ANOTHER RISE IN MEMBERSHIP BLUE CHIP STOCK!

We are thrilled to report on the continuing momentum we are experiencing with the addition of 70 new members to the Famèe Furlane Toronto family in 2024. The Board of Directors and volunteers work tirelessly to bring about activities and events that attract all sectors of our “family” - regardless of the age. While always on the look out for something new and interesting, membership too is encouraged to share their ideas. We encourage all to stay informed through regular membership email communications, the monthly Mandi newsletter, the Forum and regular membership meetings.

Congratulations to the following new roster of members:

Maria Brussolo	Celso Del Rizzo	Lilian Saggiorato
Mirella Camerlengo	Olinda Del Rizzo	Roland Saggiorato
Cesare Chiarotto	Michael Lippi	Julia Zamparo
Vanda Chiarotto	Michael Ridolfo-Melchior	Matthew Zamparo
Lorena Chioran	Michael Romanin	Liliana Zanutel
Amelia De Biasio	Vicky Romanin	



From L to R - Proud new members Fabio Brussolo, Paolo Molinari, Joe Zamparo (Chair) and Elver Pippo

We must be doing something right.....

If you know of anyone that is interested in becoming a Famèe Furlane Toronto member, please contact the office at membership@fameefurlane.com for an application form. The \$200.00 initiation fee continues to be waived.

Alida Re
Membership Administrator



From L to R - Proud new members Cesare Chiarotto, Vanda Chiarotto, Julia Zamparo, Matthew Zamparo, Joe Zamparo (Chair) Celso Del Rizzo, Olinda Del Rizzo, Michael Romanin

FFT NEW GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

The new Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 (ONCA) required all not-for-profit corporations, including the Famèe Furlane Toronto, to make changes to its governing documents to bring them into conformity with ONCA. If the FFT could not finalize the updating of its governing documents by the deadline of October 18, 2024, the bylaws and articles of amendment would have been deemed to be amended to conform to ONCA, the new legislation that was passed by the Ontario government.

ONCA provided Ontario not-for-profit corporations with a modern legal framework and set out how not-for-profit corporations are created, governed and dissolved. Most of the changes made to the Bylaws were compulsory. ONCA also contained optional provisions brought forward for membership consideration.

On September 24, 2024, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), the membership of the Famèe Furlane Toronto voted on the updated Bylaws and Articles of Amendment. A copy of the draft Bylaws and Articles were distributed on September 12, 2024, during the Information Session that was hosted by the Famèe Furlane Toronto to inform its members of both the government legislated required changes and those put forth by the board. The membership reviewed and discussed drafts of the documents both at the Information Session and at the AGM. Membership ultimately voted to approve both the New By-laws and Articles of Amendment taking into consideration the changes proposed by membership. These changes then were ultimately further discussed and voted on at the Special Meeting which took place on October 29th, thereby officially creating Amendment Number 1 to the September 24th by-law. We are most pleased that Famèe Furlane Toronto is in full compliance with ONCA.

Karen Manarin

AND THAT'S A WRAP!

What a year it's been for *Friulicious* at the Famèe Furlane Toronto! With a full house at each of the six Friulicious events held this year, it is quickly becoming the talk of our community. We are overwhelmed by the support exhibited and thrilled to see so many return guests, as well as new faces, joining the fun.

A huge Furlan *graciis* to Gianni Ceschia and his talented team at Culinary Studio for serving up an array of luscious foods with an authentic Furlan flair. Partnered with a causal "family night" atmosphere, Gianni's incredible dishes are the focus each time, along with the ever present traditional *crostoli* adding that special touch.

To everyone who enjoyed each Friulicious dinner —thank you! Your enthusiasm and support keeps the spirit of Friuli alive and thriving. Mark your calendars for the next *Friulicious* being held on Friday, January 24, 2025!

Bon Nadâl e Bon An Gnuf! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! See you in January!

Flavia Muraca





LA SANTE MESSE, VIN E CJASTIGNIS



IN MEMORIAM

ALFREDO CAPRINI

April 27, 2023
Lifetime Member

LUCIANO PASUT

November 4, 2023
Lifetime Member

DANILO PASUT

September 18, 2024
Lifetime Member

PIO FRANCESCUTTI

September 24, 2024

Uncle to Members Mary Francescutti,
Ivana Manera and brother-in-law to
Lifetime Members
Rina Francescutti and Rino Santarossa

LUIGINA COLLEDAN

September 25, 2024

Member of Voce del Friuli and
Member of Eta D'Oro

MARILYN BERTOSSI

October 5, 2024

Member of Famèe Furlane Toronto
Bocciofila Group

MARILENA SANTAROSSA-RONCALI

October 7, 2024

Wife of Member Fred Roncali

JOANNE VERRE

October 18, 2024

Sister-in-law of Member Angee Moro-Verre

ANITA SAMBUCCO

November 12, 2024

Past President of Societa Femminile Friulana

ARIEDO CLOCCHIATTI

November 12, 2024

Lifetime Member and father to
Board Member Roberto Clocchiatti and
Members Morena & Frank Nalli

FRANK ANTONINI

November 11, 2024

Brother to Members Edi Antonini
and Loris Ragazzon

ANTONIO PETRACCO

November 13, 2024

Member and husband of
Member Vickey Petracco



In the Catholic tradition, November is traditionally the month we remember, and honour loved ones who have passed. On Tuesday, November 26, Famèe Furlane

Toronto members, friends and family joined together at St. Roch's Church to honour loved ones and fellow members who are no longer with us. The mass was attended by many and was enriched by the voices of the Coro Alpini Vaughan, led by Bruno Zuccato. Melissa, Sienna, and Vaida Basso, with Marianna Cariati, dressed in traditional Furlan costumes, brought smiles to the congregation when they brought the Gifts to the altar.

After the final Ave Maria, sung beautifully by a young member of the Choir, and the choir's rendition of "Signore delle Cime", all gathered again at the Famèe Furlane for traditional "vin e cjastingnis", but not until after a very short general meeting, where 7 new members were welcomed. A most encouraging sign that the Club remains a vibrant and growing organization. The room was filled with lively conversation, made even more festive with the spontaneous singing by the choir (of course joined by the rest of the room), sprinkled with the occasional "barzalete par furlan", resulting in bursts of laughter. Many thanks to Oretta Avoledo for her work in coordinating the Mass details and to our faithful volunteers Lida Vuaran, Vickie Guerra, Edda Picco, and Carlo Pecile who prepared 50lbs of castagnis. Altogether, a memorable evening spent in friendship, good wine, and *allegria*, while remembering friends and family who are no longer with us.

Rosemary Maraldo



FRIÛL INFATS - ANSWERS

1. Al Vetturino restaurant in Pieris, Gorizia (since 1938)
2. Treno dei Presepi e dei Mercatini di Natale
3. Udine (1,800 people per square kilometre)
4. Palæomovies Film Fest
5. Pignarûl
6. 42.5%
7. Krampus
8. Yes (1-0 loss to Vado in 1922)
9. Merlot
10. Museo Civico di Storia Naturale Silvia Zenari



Friuli Terrace



LIFE AT THE TERRACE



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Director

Carol Scaini
Director

Armand Scaini†

Address:

60 Friuli Court
Woodbridge ON L4L 8G8
905-856-4922

Friuli Terrace Christmas 2024 - "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas" and the lobby at Friuli Terrace is no exception! Once again, our superintendent Paola used her creativity to transform the Terrace for Christmas. Friuli Terrace is fortunate to have a beautiful Nativity that adorns the lobby, for all residents and visitors to enjoy.



Happy Thanksgiving! - On October 18, a belated Thanksgiving meal was hosted at the Terrace by the Board of Friuli Terrace. The meal was prepared by Culinary Studios. The Friuli Terrace board and staff and the staff of APM Management served the food to residents. The menu included pasta, turkey, green beans, and potatoes and for dessert, carrot cake. While they enjoyed their meal, residents were entertained by one of the tenants who sang some traditional Italian songs. We are always thankful to be able to host these gatherings for our tenants who always enjoy good food and each other's company.

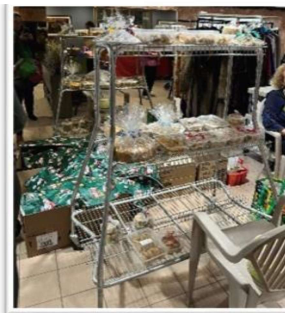


Friuli Terrace

Memorial Mass - A memorial mass was held on November 4 in the multi-purpose room in the basement. The priest was assisted by one of our residents, Angela who turned 101 in October. Superintendent Paola was also present to do a reading. The mass also included music by Antonella, who the residents enjoy singing with.



Christmas Bazaar - On November 16, the Club Del'Amicizia held a bazaar. On sale, there were hand knit items such as baby clothes, kitchen hand towels, gently used jewelry, household items, clothing and baked goods. The baked goods were a popular stop keeping Sylvia S. busy. Cookies, cakes, crostata and crostoli were lovingly made by the residents and enjoyed by those who purchased them.



Construction at Friuli Terrace - Since the Friuli Terrace building is now 35 years old, it has required some large maintenance projects. This past year the roof was completely replaced, and our next major project is the replacement of the windows. The tenants will be able to see and try out a sample of the windows being installed prior to the work starting in the next couple of months. We thank the residents in advance for their flexibility, as we continue to improve the Terrace.

As another year comes to an end and we await the beginning of a new year,
we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2025.

We hope this holiday season brings health and happiness to all.

Bon Nadâl



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Executive Director, Charity Office

Cinzia Del Zotto, B.A.,
CFRE

Administrator

Sonia Roul

Address

40 Friuli Court
Woodbridge, ON L4L 9T3
Tel: (905) 856-3939

www.villagambin.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



Dear Friends,

This October, we celebrated a monumental milestone - 20 years of dedicated service to VLG's residents and families. This would not have been possible without the unwavering support of this wonderful community.

Whether you are a resident, a family member, a team member, a donor, or a volunteer, you have played a vital role in our journey. It is because of you that we have been able to provide care for over 1,000 individuals over the past two decades. Your trust, commitment, and generosity inspire us every day to strive for excellence and deliver the best care possible to our deserving residents.

We take immense pride in the service we provide and remain dedicated to being a leader in long-term care. As we look to the future, we promise to continue upholding the highest standards, nurturing our community, and making a meaningful difference in the lives we touch.

Thank you for being part of this incredible adventure with us. We are deeply grateful for your support and are excited to continue this journey together. From all of us at VLG, we wish you a joyous holiday season filled with peace and happiness.

Happy holidays and thank you for being part of our legacy.

Mandi,

Andrew Iacobelli

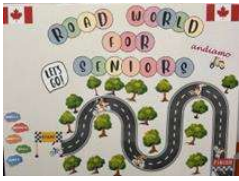


VOLUNTEER WITH VLG!

Become a long-term care volunteer and enrich your life and the lives of those who call VLG home.

If you are interested or know anyone that is, contact Maria Stirpe at 905-856-3939 or email m.stirpe@villagambin.com

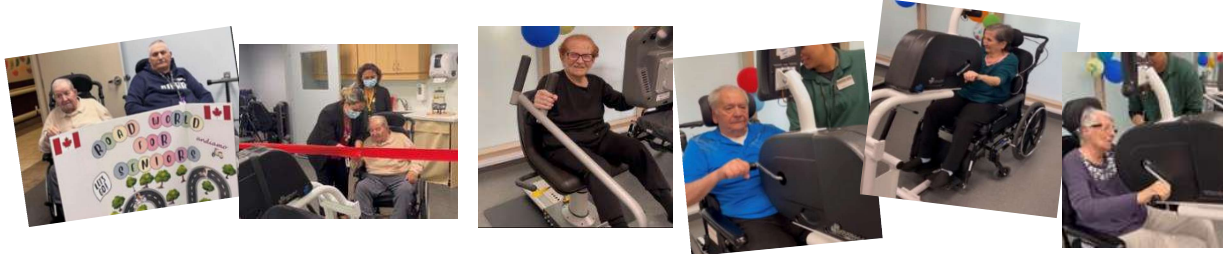
VILLA GAMBIN'S MOTIVIEW PROGRAM



We are truly fortunate here at Villa Leonardo Gambin to have the Motiview program, which offers incredible benefits to our residents by supporting their range of motion and movement in both upper and lower extremities. This valuable program was generously supported by money raised through our Oak Leaf Gala.



Road World for Seniors, which is a unique component of the Motiview program, offers an engaging experience where residents from around the world compete with one another from a distance. Through this innovative program, participants can engage in exercise while interacting with a screen simulation that takes them on virtual rides through streets and places they may have visited in the past. This immersive experience not only helps improve movement, but also stimulates memory and creates a sense of connection with familiar places, enhancing the overall well-being of our residents. We are thrilled to offer this exciting opportunity, which brings both physical and emotional benefits to those who take part!



FERRAGOSTO AT VLG



Ferragosto, celebrated on August 15th, here at Villa Leonardo Gambin marks the peak of summer in Italy as well. It is a time when locals take a break from the hustle and bustle to relax and enjoy the warmth of the season. Traditionally, the best way to celebrate Ferragosto is by escaping to the beach or retreating to the countryside (in the campagna) for family barbecues. On this day, it's common to see a mix of festivities - barbecues, excursions, bonfires, and village celebrations, all accompanied by fireworks lighting up the evening sky.



The entire country comes alive with a variety of events, from open-air concerts to art exhibits, offering plenty of opportunities to explore. While some shops and businesses may close for the holiday, you will still find many places open and ready to welcome visitors. Whether you are soaking in the festivities or enjoying a quiet moment in nature, Ferragosto offers something for everyone.



GRANDPARENTS' DAY

Villa Leonardo Gambin had the utmost pleasure celebrating Grandparents' Day on September 8th, 2024, with our residents, families, and staff. It was a wonderful day filled with music, barbecued sausages, and plenty of fun activities. A highlight of the event was our dunk tank, and we are especially grateful to the volunteers who generously donated their time to take the plunge. Vince DeRosa provided lively music, creating a joyful atmosphere for everyone. We are already looking forward to another memorable celebration next year.



BUTTERFLY TEA A Joyful Reunion and a Celebration of Togetherness

On September 15th, we had the pleasure of hosting our **first Butterfly Tea since COVID**, and it was a truly spectacular event. Held at Villa Leonardo Gambin for the first time, the tea brought together about 100 women from across our community for an afternoon filled with laughter, connection, and generosity.

The event was beautifully emceed by **Rita Tesolin and Gabrielle Tesolin**, whose energy and charm set the perfect tone for the day. A highlight of the gathering was a captivating talk on fashion by our special guest, **Tania Tonello**, whose insights left everyone inspired and engaged.

Guests enjoyed live music that created a warm and festive atmosphere, along with an array of prizes and thoughtful gifts. Tea and delicious food were shared as old friendships were rekindled and new ones blossomed. It was a wonderful opportunity for women to come together, celebrate, and create cherished memories.

This event would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of the **Butterfly Tea Committee Members: Oretta Avoledo, Maria D'Angelo, Cinzia Del Zotto, Marisa Francescut, Mara Mian, Ivana Pontisso, Gabrielle Tesolin, Rita Tesolin, Sonia Roul, and Melissa Zamparo**. Their hard work and creativity brought this event to life, and we are deeply grateful for their commitment and passion.

We also want to thank the Villa Leonardo Gambin Team Members, the Dietary Team, and our Director of Dietary Services, Kliton Ceku, for their outstanding efforts. Kliton and his team put together a delicious and beautifully presented menu that elevated the event and truly made it special. Their work behind the scenes ensured everything was perfect.



Villa Leonardo Gambin

Additionally, we are incredibly grateful to the volunteers who contributed their time and energy to make the Butterfly Tea a success. From setting up to assisting throughout the day, their support was instrumental in creating a smooth, memorable experience for everyone.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to the individuals and businesses who donated products for our silent auction, as well as to our vendors and sponsors, whose generosity played a crucial role in the event's success.

The Butterfly Tea also served as a meaningful way to support our home, raising funds that will help us continue our mission. The success of this event was truly a team effort, and it could not have been achieved without the enthusiasm and support of everyone who attended.

As we look to the future, we are excited to make the Butterfly Tea a cherished tradition once again. We hope to see even more of you at our next gathering, where we can continue to celebrate friendship, connection, and the strength of our community.

Thank you for making our return to the Butterfly Tea such a wonderful success. We can't wait to welcome you back for the next one!




The Butterfly Tea


Thank you to our Supporters!

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In-Kind Donations

Allegro Meats, Culinary Studio, Emma Skin Care, Ferrero Canada, Lakeside Garden Gallery, Living Lux Magazine, Linda Patullo, Rogers, Shop up a Notch, Tersilia Tesolin, Rita Tesolin, Trade Secrets, Oreana & Alessa Vadori, Melissa Zamparo

Thank you to our special guest speaker
Tania Tonello and the Famee Furlane Women's Auxiliary
for their support!



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CARING A Spectacular Evening at the Bellagio Boutique

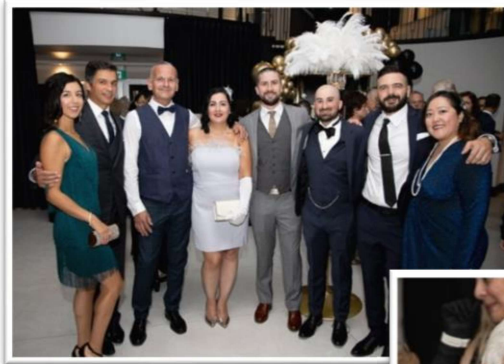
On October 4th, we marked a significant milestone—our 20th anniversary—at the elegant Bellagio Event Center, surrounded by a vibrant community of over 270 attendees. The evening, steeped in the glamour and allure of the 1920s, was an unforgettable celebration of dedication, care, and community spirit.

The event was expertly emceed by the charismatic Romina Monaco. Attendees embraced the roaring '20s theme, arriving adorned in dazzling feathers, vintage attire, and period-inspired glamour, creating an enchanting atmosphere. The venue was transformed into a scene strait out of the Jazz Age, with opulent gold and black décor, large feather centerpieces, and glamorous touches that brought the era to life.

Together we achieved an extraordinary feat, raising over \$100,000 to support our mission. This included a \$5,000 donation from the Mayor's Spirit of Generosity initiative which was presented at the gala. We were so grateful for this gift. This incredible success would not have been possible without the generosity and support of our community. Every guest played a vital role in making the evening a resounding success, underscoring the collective power of unity and shared purpose.



Villa Leonardo Gambin



As we reflect on 20 remarkable years of providing exceptional long-term care, we are filled with gratitude for everyone who contributed to this journey. Your support is a testament to the strength of our community and its commitment to making a positive impact.

Looking ahead, we hope to see you at next year's Oak Leaf Gala as we continue this incredible journey together, raising the bar for long-term care standards.

Thank you for celebrating with us and making our 20th anniversary gala a night to remember. Here's to the future—let's keep building a legacy of care, compassion, and community for many more years to come!



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Celebrating 20 Years of Villa Leonardo Gambin!

On October 29th, we proudly hosted our 20th anniversary celebration, a heartwarming gathering of residents, family, and community members. The event was a joyous occasion, filled with reflections, connections, and gratitude.

We were honoured to have Sonia Roul, Andrew Iacobelli, Matthew Melchior, and Father William as our speakers. Matthew Melchior delivered an especially moving speech about our roots and the beginnings of our incredible organization, reflecting on the journey that brought us to this 20-year milestone. His words were passionate and heartfelt, reminding us of the vision and dedication that built Villa Leonardo Gambin.

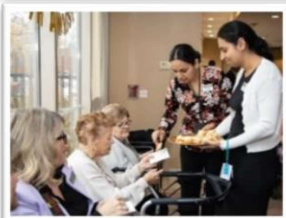


The celebration was elevated by live music generously donated by the talented musician Dario, whose performance added a vibrant and joyful energy to the day.



A special thank you goes to Maria and the Recreation Team for their outstanding work in the setup and décor, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere for the celebration, and to Kliton Ceku and his team for their exceptional food presentation. We also extend our gratitude to Rossana Di Zio Magnotta and Magnotta Wines for their generous donation of sparkling wine for the event.

To all the team members and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this event a success, and to everyone who attended, thank you for making this anniversary celebration such a memorable experience. Here's to 20 wonderful years—and many more to come!



Light the Night

Villa Leonardo Gambin Holiday Celebration



Help support Villa Leonardo Gambin's 3rd Annual Light the Night End-of-Year Campaign. Your donation, no matter the size, will help us raise funds to support resources such as new technology for the residence, new equipment for resident rooms, enhanced programming and upgrades to our home.

The Ralph and Rose Chiodo Family Foundation

This year, we are fortunate to have the Ralph and Rose Chiodo Family Foundation generously matching every donation, dollar for dollar, up to \$15,000. Your gift of \$300 or more also provides the option to add a personalized angel wings ornament to our holiday trees, honoring your support in a special way. By sponsoring our Light the Night Fundraiser, you're not just contributing to a brighter season—you're creating a lasting impact on the lives of our residents.

OFFICIAL SPONSORS



To make a donation, visit www.villagambin.com or call 905-856-7619.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesdays	Gruppo Eta D'Oro - Bingo and Cards
Sunday, January 5	La Befana hosted by FFT, Alpini Vaughan & Women's Auxiliary
Thursdays January 9 - February 13	Furlan Classes - Part 2
Wednesday, January 15	Women's Auxiliary General Meeting & Chair Yoga
Thursdays January 16 - February 27	iPad Classes for Seniors
Friday, January 24	Friulicious
Tuesday, January 28	FFT Member's Meeting
Wednesday, February 12	Women's Auxiliary General Meeting & Guest Performer
Friday, February 21	Friulicious
Sunday, February 23	Women's Auxiliary Fallsview Casino
February 26 - March 2	Dolomite Ski Trip - Mt. Tremblant SOLD OUT
Sunday, March 9	Women's Auxiliary International Women's Day Celebration
Wednesday, March 19	Cooking with Gianni Ceschia (tentative)
Friday, March 21	Friulicious
Tuesday, March 25	FFT Member's Meeting



Vìlia di Nadâl

(Versi di Luciano Bosio)

*Da lis monz, frede e lizere,
'e ven jùs pe vai la buere,
Svole intor e po' 'e busine
In tè nape de cusine.*

*La buteghe dal pancr
La si nase, pai odôr
Di gubanis ben quinzadis
Che sis large pa lis stradis.*

*Tes vetrinis: ciâr, polèz,
Vin, zuiâtui, golosèz.
Ce che t'ùs, di dût al è
E di dût un alc e sè.*

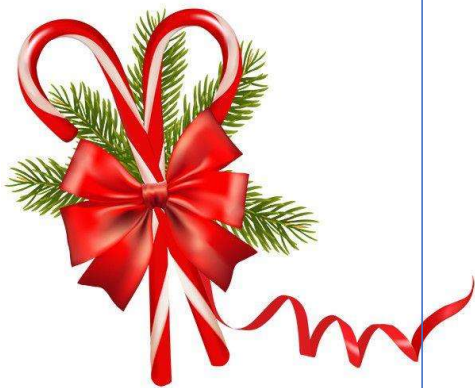
*Il sartôr cu la gusiele
Fin a gnòt al cus la tele,
Speseant, parcè a Nadâl
Sree parfin il basoâl.*

*La parone 'e a un se fà,
Jè si strussie pai gustà,
E sul fuc a cuei 'e mèt
La bruade cui musèt.*

*In tè ciase il fogolâr
Al slontane fûr l'unviâr,
E dal zoc lùs e calôr
Che si spandin dût intôr.*

*Cu la stale e il frut e' al nàs
Il presepio al done pàs,
E in tal cil, come un ferâl,
Jè la stele di Nadâl.*

*Mieznòt! Duc al madins,
Sorestans e contadins;
e po' dopo, in ostarie,
tripis, vin.... tante ligrie.*



*Merry Christmas
Buon Natale
Bon Nadâl*



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