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# FORUM

Famee Furlane Toronto

| Friuli Benevolent Corporation

| Villa Leonardo Gambin Charity

SPECIAL EDITION

1976 - 2026

# FRIÛL

## Ricuards, Forze e Comunitât





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2025 – 2026  
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**FORUM**

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## Our Chair's Message



Dear Members,

*After a long and difficult winter, it feels especially good to welcome spring. Even as winter seems determined to linger, it must eventually accept its inevitable departure and make room for the brighter days ahead.*

*Through even the wickedest months, our community continued to thrive. Membership is growing, our activities remain vibrant and well attended, and the resilience that defines us continues to shine. That resilience—woven through who we are and the spirit each of you brings—creates the sense of togetherness that makes our Famèe Furlane Toronto so special.*

*This year brings a unique opportunity to gather and celebrate: the Federation's Congresso in Friuli, taking place from July 21 to 26. Attendees will visit historic towns and villages, take in the beautiful vistas of our beloved Friùl, and enjoy days filled with learning, laughter, and the creation of new memories with family and friends. Most importantly, as we mark the 50th anniversary of Friuli's devastating 1976 earthquake, participants will take part in commemorative ceremonies and learn more about the vital contributions Canada made to Friuli's rebirth. Witnessing firsthand the results of our people's hard work and resilience will only deepen our pride and strengthen our connection—however far away—to our homeland.*

*Closer to home, as the good weather approaches, we look forward to many more opportunities to gather, enjoy each other's company and make the most of the months ahead. There is something planned for every age group and interest. Work is well underway to form a new and vibrant youth group. Whether it's banquets, the picnic, card games and tournaments, theatre outings, cooking and wine tastings, language or culture classes, informal dinners, or traditional celebrations, there is much in store. Sports enthusiasts can join the Dolomite Ski Group or Bocciofila. And mark your calendars: September 18 is this year's Legends on the Green Golf Tournament. If last year was any indication, prepare for another extraordinary day of good times, all in support of a worthy cause.*

*I also encourage you to get to know the Eta d'Oro or Women's Auxiliary, each offering a meaningful sense of belonging to different sectors of our community. Whatever you choose, your presence enriches our Famèe.*

*Wishing you and your loved ones a wonderful Easter and a beautiful spring season.*

*Buine pasche,*

Joseph A. Zamparo



## A STORY OF RESILIENCE

The *taramot* arrived at 9 p.m. on Thursday, May 6, 1976. It lasted one minute. Further tremors followed on September 11 and 15 of that same year. The first destroyed homes; the second shook the spirit. It was a wound that would forever change the lives of thousands, yet it also became the catalyst that revealed the true character of its people—resilience.

Despite the devastation, the aftermath of the quake propelled both men and women, under the guidance of leaders, administrators, and government, to organize, rebuild, and reconstruct. It was not easy, but recovery became a time of unity and solidarity. That collective strength created the efficiencies and productivity the region needed to stay focused. The road to rebuilding and reclaiming life was steep and filled with unimaginable challenges. Life as it had been was forever fractured, yet recovery and reconstruction slowly brought comfort through familiarity.

The creation of the *Solidarity Fund for Friuli* received considerable financial support. It became the Region's responsibility to allocate these resources wisely, while the Federal Government ensured that Friuli's restoration remained a national priority and stayed on schedule.

After initial confusion and delays—largely due to a shortage of qualified technical experts—plans for the monumental task of rebuilding began to take shape. Enormous coordination was required across every sector, public and private. Each step demanded prioritization and brought its own challenges. Pooling resources for logistics, housing (both provisional and permanent), infrastructure restoration, economic recovery, and the preservation of local heritage and community identity required extraordinary cooperation.

Financial and material aid arrived from everywhere. Contributions from community, government, and private sectors were joined by voluntary associations, including Fogolar that collected donations from the Friulian diaspora in Canada, Australia, and the United States. Organizations such as Caritas Italiana, Croce Rossa Italiana, and Associazione Nazionale Alpini coordinated volunteers and financial assistance.

Throughout the challenges, difficulties, and setbacks, the world witnessed a people defined by resilience and courage. Friulians, with their extraordinary capacity to overcome, to heal, and to rebuild after the most devastating of blows, quickly became a model for other nations. Known as the *Friuli Model*, it continues to guide global approaches to reconstruction and restoration.

**Resilience — the capacity to withstand or recover quickly from difficulties, toughness.**

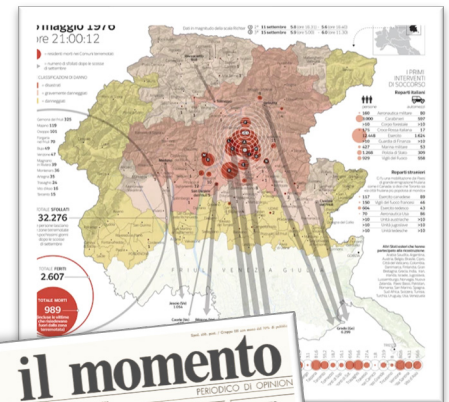
From the rubble and through **resilience**, the Friulian people rebuilt their lives with pride and dignity, giving strength to a shared beloved Furlan heritage.

*Ivana Pontisso*



## IN PURSUIT OF TRIVIA

1. With the epicenter located approximately 3 km southwest of Prato Carnico near Gemona, in all, the **Terremoto** affected 77 villages across most of northern Italy and felt as far south as the outskirts of Rome.
2. It was also felt in several other countries, including former Yugoslavia, Austria, France, Czechoslovakia, Germany and Belgium.
3. Between November 1975 and February 1976, four foreshocks with magnitudes from 2.5 to 3.5 were recorded and felt by local residents in the vicinity of Latisana along the Adriatic coast, south of the epicenter area.
4. Most of Gemona was destroyed. So were the nearby towns of **Buia, Colloredo, Forgaria, Maiano, Osoppo, Trasaghis and Venzone**.
5. The most destructive earthquakes are shallow, as the energy they release is close to the surface. It was estimated this one ruptured less than 20 kilometers from the surface, making it very shallow.
6. Some 157,000 people were left homeless by the devastation and by the end of 1976, 15,000 people were still living in camping trailers and train freight cars, 1,000 in tents and 25,000 in evacuation centres.
7. Despite efforts to the contrary, many local inhabitants continued to live in Government supplied trailers and train freight cars for many years while homes were rebuilt.
8. Rescue operations, debris clearing, restart of services and the establishment of temporary shelters and field kitchens, was made easier by the strong military presence in Friuli.
9. Over 30,000 people were out of work as a result of damaged factories, but within a few short months many were reabsorbed into production as “Factories First” was prioritized by the state and the region.
10. Town and city mayors and citizens played a vital role in the rebuilding of Friuli’s urban and social structure.
11. Some 1,500 firefighters immediately responded to the 77 affected municipalities. Overall, 18,407 Italians helped emergency actions with the help of 3,238 emergency vehicles.



The parish church of Osoppo after the May 6 earthquake. The Bell tower collapsed in the September 15 earthquake.



Over 500 aftershocks were recorded in the ensuing six months with the major shocks, triggering their own smaller shocks.



## MAY 6, 1976 – IERI E OGGI



Civici Musei, Udine



Hundreds were killed in the small town of Majano



With the cost of the reconstruction amounting to some 18.5 billion Euros as of 2010, in just over 15 years Friuli was reborn.



12. 137 towns were impacted, 98 in the Province of Udine, 36 in the Province of Pordenone and 3 in the Province of Gorizia.
13. Approximately 2,400 to 2,800 injuries were recorded, primarily from falling debris, structural failures, and other consequences like landslides during the aftershocks.
14. Mostly caused by the collapse of unreinforced masonry structures, May 6 and subsequent major aftershocks including September 15, resulted in **989** fatalities.
15. With the area of devastation spanning approximately 1,800 km, more than 17,000 houses were ruined, along with numerous schools, churches, town halls, and factories. In all some 45 municipalities were officially declared "destroyed" and 41 others "damaged."
16. Under **Operation DOLOMITE**, Canada deployed military personnel from May 7 to June 12, 1976, providing engineering and medical support, as well as assisting earthquake survivors in search, rescue and temporary housing.
17. Foreign assistance was also sent in and provided by French Fire Brigade, German Army and American Aeronautics
18. Some Twenty years after the event, the per capita GDP in the affected Friuli Venezia Giulia region grew 23% higher than affected Italian regions with similar pre-earthquake characteristics. This is in part attributed to strong local governance and efficient allocation of resources.
19. This horrific tragedy also served as a catalyst for significant improvements and advancements in Italy's earthquake preparedness and building regulations.
20. The establishment of the National Civil Protection Department is but one significant development resulting from this tragedy. Formed in 1982, it is responsible for coordinating emergency responses and disaster management efforts throughout Italy. It plays a crucial role in Monitoring seismic activity, issuing warnings, and coordinating relief efforts in the event of earthquakes is central to its role.
21. The "Friuli Model" established in all 137 of the affected municipalities and today known the world over, was the name given to the project that set an example of the participation of people and institutions for efficient reconstruction, In part it states that homes and factories must be rebuilt "where they were, as they were".

## BECAUSE EVERY STORY DESERVES TO BE HEARD

Most immigrants from Friuli will always remember the moment they learned that an earthquake of 6.5 and a maximum EMS intensity of X (very destructive) had hit the region on May 6, 1976, at 21:00:13 local time.

I was driving with my mother in our burgundy Oldsmobile, in the area of Eglinton and Dufferin. She was practicing her driving skills ahead of her test. Chin Radio interrupted the music with a special announcement. We nervously pulled into a driveway and tried to absorb the details. My mother began to cry, thinking of her parents in Meduno, and of my paternal grandfather, who was fragile.

At home, the phone began to buzz. No one had died in the village of Meduno. However, tragedy had struck Gemona del Friuli, and other areas. My father, Mario De Stefano, made the decision to fly to Friuli to provide reinforcements. I'm not sure how he managed to bring at least 100 sleeping bags and flashlights.



He arrived to see young and old, sleeping on the road, still in shock. Friends and family gathered together to support each other, as the tremors continued to create fear. My grandmother Pierina, who was a natural storyteller, kept everyone entertained with her tales of ancestors and wars.

As the tremors subsided, the physical damage to homes, barns and other structures became evident. Our ancient family courtyard, with its surrounding buildings and barn, were completely demolished beyond repair. It is reported 157,000 were left homeless. Some villages managed to rebuild the older homes in their traditional style, while others built new structures.

While the region has grown and prospered in the last 50 years, the fear of another catastrophic earthquake has lingered in the air. Mother Nature is powerful—even stronger than the will of the people of Friuli. We can only pray for her grace and remember those who lost their precious lives.

*Loretta De Stefano*



I was in my hometown of Meduno, Pordenone, celebrating my cousin's wedding just one month before the earthquake hit. My father Aldo Mian and his brother-in-law Mario DeStefano were able to go back to Italy shortly after the earthquake to check on family and homes. Air Canada was offering free airfare to one family member born where the earthquake hit. I will never forget worrying about my family who woke up to the house shaking and the aftershocks that sent them outside to sleep during the nights. Eventually, when Canada sent prefabricated homes to Friuli, my family was one of the lucky ones to get one of these homes. My grandparents, aunt, uncle and three children along with my dad slept in there until it was safe to go back into the house. One of my cousin's entire family ended up getting a bus they converted to their sleeping quarters. Both the home and bus were there for many years as a reminder of the horrible and deadly night. Our town was one of the lucky ones to not have had a loss of life. As a testament to the event, one of the prefabricated homes has since been restored and renovated into a little cottage. If memory serves me correctly, one of our paesani lived there close to 100 years before her passing. It still stands there today.... Even though I was not there that day, it's not a day easily forgotten.



*Mom's family home deemed "uninhabitable" from the earthquake*

*Mara Mian*



The day the earthquake hit Friuli, I was in high school. I don't remember how we found out since it was time before cell phones and social media. However, in an all-girls Catholic High School, the word spread quickly and we all lined up at the pay phone outside of the school cafeteria to call home to see if our relatives were safe. As we waited patiently for our turn at the phone, we eagerly listened for any snippets of information that were provided by those before us. Fortunately for me my relatives were unharmed by the earthquake or so we initially thought. We later learned that my Dad's Aunt Tonina and family who lived in a little town called Zompitta lost their home. When the Famèe Furlane Toronto began their fund-raising efforts, I decided to help out when I wasn't in school. Most of the time I took the bus from Dufferin and Lawrence to the Famèe and a few times Father Bulfon drove me home. During that time, the club was abuzz with activity day and night with people on phones raising funds to send back to Friuli. I remember thinking it looked like a Telethon without the tv coverage. It was a true example of why the Famèe Furlane Toronto was first formed. I was in awe of all those that had organized these efforts and grateful to have been involved in a very tiny way.

*Mara Querin*

Villa Colombo was doing their Mother's Day telethon to raise money for their long-term care facility. As the earthquake hit in Friuli, the money raised from the telethon was shared to assist in rebuilding the Friuli region hit by the earthquake.

On Sunday, May 9, 1976, I went with my parents to the Famèe Furlane Toronto. People were packed in the foyer, as this was where families gathered seeking information on their loved ones back home. I recall two tables with volunteers that were collecting funds for the earthquake. People were very generous in donating for this cause.

Two weeks later I received a call from the Famèe Furlane Toronto asking if I would be interested in helping with the phones. There was quite a few of us, and I volunteered for 2 weeks from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. It is there were I met a wonderful lady who no longer is with us, Mariucci Sartor, and we became friends from then on. I also remember meeting Rosanna Cannella, and we easily struck up a lasting friendship.

Our tasks included opening envelopes addressed to Villa Columbo but containing cheques made payable to the Famèe Furlane Toronto. My job was to call to confirm the correct payee. We had to look up phone numbers in phone books from multiple municipalities...there was no Google to assist at the time. Mariucci, the famous cook of the Famèe Furlane, would graciously make the volunteers a big pot of pasta, and served along with fresh bread and cheese, making for delicious and much appreciated lunches.

*Oretta Avoledo*



...continued on page 8

It was the summer of '78. My mom had taken my sister and I out of school a couple of weeks early for a trip to Italy. We arrived in her hometown of Codroipo and stayed with my Nonni. It felt like a typical summer vacation, but I had no idea that this trip would leave me with memories that still stay with me almost fifty years later.

One weekend, we were invited to a relative's cabin in the mountains. My mother asked our cousin to take us to some of the *terremoto* areas since we would be nearby. He agreed, of course. After feeding us well at his cabin in a peaceful mountain valley, we began driving through winding roads to witness the devastation left by the earthquake.

Our first stop was a town called Trasaghis. My mother wanted to go there because it was my Santola's hometown. We didn't actually drive into the town; instead, we viewed it from a vantage point on the road above it. The only structure still standing was the *campanile*, the church's bell tower. The rest of the town lay in ruins. I got out of the car hoping to take a picture, but every photo came out blurry. Later, I learned that even two years after the earthquake, the ground was still trembling with small aftershocks.



After Trasaghis, we continued on. We had planned to visit Gemona, but we were advised not to—too many roads were still impassable. Instead, we went to Venzone.

Venzone, a beautiful fortified medieval town known for its mummies, was our next stop. The mummies were housed in a temporary shelter, their eerie presence setting the tone for what we were about to see. Inside the town's ancient walls, the town itself lay completely destroyed. Following a "how it was, where it was" restoration philosophy, every stone, every rock, every piece of rubble was left exactly where it had fallen on the day of the earthquake. That sight is forever engraved in my memory.

To this day, I am haunted by what the residents of this beautiful town must have endured. Looking out over the destruction, I could almost hear their screams of terror from that fateful night. Fifty years later, the town has been rebuilt to its former glory, but I know that I will never forget my visit there, neither will the people of Venzone, Trasaghis, Gemona—or any Friulian ever forget what happened that day.

*Angee Moro Verre*

## DAL ORCOLAT ALLA RINASSITE

**Par ricuardâ il Terremot dal Friûl  
dal 6 di Mai 1976**

AIÛT	CORAGGIO	MAJANO	RINASSITE
ARTEGNA	DÔL	MEMORIE	SOLIDARIETÂT
BORG	FAMIGLIE	ORCOLAT	SPERANCE
BUJA	FORCE	OSOPPO	TARCENTO
CARNIA	FRIÛL	PAÏS	TERREMOT
CJAMPANILI	FRIULANS	PAÛRE	UNITÂT
CJASE	GEMONA	RICOSTRUZION	VENZONE
COMUNITÂT	GLÉSIE	RICUART	VOLONTARIS

S F A M I G L I E O E S O P  
P Q O H Y X A M Z H R Q O L  
E C O M U N I T A T A C U Q  
R Q D I O V W Q P M E M O R  
A B N M J R I C U A R T O L  
N T E N V L O T N E C R A T  
C G P V S K C O R A G G I O  
E R H Q O N A J A M J E H G  
E J C J A M P A N I L I J I  
G T R I C O S T R U Z I O N  
Z L I C D L C S E R U A P T  
A P E S M E Q N V E N Z O N  
N A Q S S F T A T I N U E B  
G I Q A I A E L M I V H N B

## UNA COMMUNITA UNITA

### Sìs di Mai

*Tancj aigns e son passats  
Di che sere sdramassats.  
No capivin ce che al jere  
El disastri di che sere.*

*Te buinore o vin viodût  
Ce che al jere succidût.  
Lis cjasis jû sdrumadis  
E lis animis disperadis.*

*I Furlans e lis Furlanis  
E an tiradis sù lis manis,  
E cul aiût dai cûrs di fûr  
E an dreçât dut el Friûl.*

*Une volte al an ogni tòr  
Ingropât al sune in còr,  
Par chei che nus an judâts  
E par chei che nus an lassâts.*

Teto Patùs



### Perchè Nessun Uomo è un isola

*Tremò la terra  
Quella sera di Maggio,  
E le fessure del suolo  
Inghiottirono I vivi,  
Restituendo invece, riluttanti,  
Resti di morti antichi*

*Alla furia del sisma,  
La magione amica denudava  
Le sue scarne ferie di calce,  
Mentre la cima del monte  
Rovinava a valle,,,*

*Taceva la campana spodestata.  
Gocce di paura,  
Pesante come il piombo,  
Concimavana la zolle del Friuli  
Ed il la,emto di Aquileia,  
Colplita a morte,  
Varcò il Grande Mara.*

*Perchè nessun uomo è un 'isola!  
Ricostruendo sull macerie  
Tutti e due trovamma un Tesoro:*

*non vi dimenticheremo mai! –  
disse il Friuli,  
Asciugandosi una perla sudore.*

*eanche noi...–  
Ripose il Canada,  
Lasciando scorrere sul viso  
Una lacrima d'amore.*

Gianni Angel Grohavaz

## VOICES OF GRATITUDE

Each month at Friulicious we give back to our community through the generous support given to our draws and raffles by guests. We are most pleased to share heartfelt messages we've received from those who have benefited from our *Share the Love* campaign throughout the past year. Their words reflect the real impact that support can have—bringing happiness, comfort and hope where it's needed most.



The Team at Hospice

*"On behalf of everyone at Hospice Vaughan, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude of your generous donation of \$840.00. We are grateful for your generosity. Your support plays a crucial role in our vital work, allowing us to care for our residents and their families during an average stay of 15 days.*

*Your contribution ensures that high-quality palliative and end-of-life care remains available in our community for future generations. Your investment enhances compassionate support that alleviates suffering and improves the quality of living and dying."*

*"Thank you for your thoughtful and generous donation. .... in the amount of \$1340 in support of the Autism Beyond 21 Centre. Your contribution helps make a difference in the lives of our learners and we are grateful for your support."*



Joseph Trozzo  
President, Board of Directors



Sunder Singh,  
Executive Director

*"On behalf of the Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women (ehcw), we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Famee Furlane Toronto for your generous donation of \$1,310 in support of our work in the community.*

*At a time when many households are facing financial challenges, your kindness and generosity make a meaningful difference. Contributions like yours allow us to continue supporting individuals and families and help ensure they have access to the food and support they need."*

*"I want to thank you and your team for the amazing donation. We are truly grateful for all the support and for choosing Million Dollar Smiles as your charity.*

*Thank you so much for making a difference and we look forward to working together in the future."*



Anna Lopes,  
Million Dollar Smiles



*“We are deeply grateful to Famee Furlane Toronto for their generous donation of \$1,340, raised through the support of their Friulicious Dinner and presented with care by Flavia Muraca.*

*It was a pleasure to personally welcome Flavia to the Sara Elizabeth Centre, where we shared meaningful moments during our Circle of Friends. Her visit was truly special, and her presence reminded us of the power of community, connection, and kindness.*

*This thoughtful donation, signed by Chair Joseph Zamparo, helps us continue our mission and bring creativity, joy, and inclusion to the lives of our participants.”*

Cris Smith,  
Blue Veil Charity  
Sara Elizabeth Centre

These notes are quotes coming directly from recipients who wish to express their sincere thanks. Their gratitude is a reminder of how our commitment of giving back to the community matters and how meaningful generosity can be.

Friulicious continues monthly with the next one planned for April 24.

*Famèe Furlane Toronto Board of Directors*

## GIVING AND GROWING TOGETHER

Once again, the Famèe Furlane Toronto participated in the York Region Food and Toy Drive. Thanks to the generosity of all the members of the Famèe, we had a record contribution of toys and food. This is the second year the Famèe supports the “Holiday Heroes Toy and Food Drive”, a drive put on York Regional Police. A lot of the donations were collected from attendance at members’ meetings, and from our Eta D’Oro, Dolomite Ski Club, the Women’s Auxiliary and Bocciofila Group. We also used monies raised from our 50/50 draws to augment food and toys for all age groups.



A huge thanks goes to all the members of the Famèe for supporting this wonderful event in our neighbourhood! Included is a photo of Oretta Avoledo and myself dropping off the generosity gifted by the FFT at the York Region Police station in Vaughan.

*Mara Mian*



## UN GRAZIE DAL CÛR!

The month of December also had us celebrating our wonderful and dedicated volunteers that have contributed to the success of our club throughout the year. A big thank you to this hardworking crew! We couldn’t do it all without you!

*Famèe Furlane Toronto Board of Directors*

ARRIVA LA BEFANA



The Famèe Furlane Toronto, together with the Women’s Auxiliary, and the Alpini Sezione di Vaughan, hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Epiphany celebration with our “La Befana” event on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The event opened with the traditional *falò* and blessing by Fr. Eugenio, which was followed by fun crafts for the children organized by the Women’s Auxiliary. Adults gathered for some refreshments and videos about the historical traditions of the *falò* from various parts of Friuli, while the children were

enjoying the crafts. Craft fun was followed by traditional foods, such as polenta and salsicce provided by the Alpini, as well as pizza and homemade desserts. After the children



the la Befana, to their amazement she arrived! Videos of this event can be found on the YouTube channel “ExtraTV Official,” and photos can be found on the Famèe Furlane Toronto Facebook page. The Famèe Furlane would like to thank Ivana Pontisso and the Women’s Auxiliary for the crafts, Danilo and Loretta Cal and the Alpini for the *falò*, the salsicce and polenta. Thanks are also extended to all the volunteers who made this event possible and also to all the members of our community who came out in the cold weather to participate in this event and help keep our traditions alive. See you again next year!

Steven Sedran



## GOOD TIMES & LEARNING

### Sound of Music



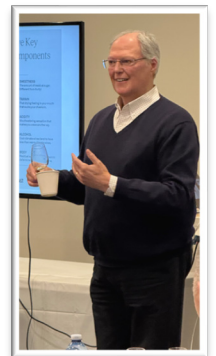
On Thursday December 17th, sixteen guests of the Famèe Furlane Toronto enjoyed the Sound of Music at the Princess of Wales Theatre. The group were entertained by a phenomenal cast that included Christiane Noll as Mother Abbess and Cayleigh Capaldi as Maria Rainer. Many may not have known that Cayleigh comes from Music Royalty with parents Leigh Zimmerman (actress, singer, dancer) and Domenick Allen (musician, actor) with the musical group Foreigner.



### Uncork Friuli Whites



On Tuesday February 3rd, the Famèe Furlane Toronto hosted *Uncork Friuli Whites*, the second in a series led again by expert sommelier extraordinaire Bruno Meneguzzi. In this second of the series, Bruno walked an even luckier group of attendees through the "key factors affecting wine style". His focus was the grape varietal, growth environment including climate, annual weather impacts, soil and



landscape characteristics, explaining how these factors combined with the winemaker's process create the final result we smell and taste. This analysis and discussion complemented the evening's focus - white wines from Friuli-Venezia-Giulia. He also provided guests with names of the region's top winemakers, their best whites and some must visit wineries to target.

Guests were treated to an extra special evening comparing different price point Pinot Grigio and the resulting differences on the palate. Three varietals of the same year from Jermann - Pinot Grigio, Chardonnay and Ribolla Gialla - showcased the winemaker's Legend Status for white wines. Finally, we concluded the tasting with a private agent sourced Friulano topping a stellar evening. Bruno's excitement for white wines from this region drove the evening and anticipation for our next offering in the series - Sparkling Wines.

### Desserts Anyone?



Chef Gianni Ceschia went over the top and pulled out all the stops for our final session of this cooking series... Desserts alla Friulana!!! On Thursday March 12th, Famèe Furlane Toronto members focused on the traditional Friulan "sweet tooth" delicacies including Crostoli as well as two different versions of Pinza - Friulana and Veneta. Members Elda Maraldo and Liliana Pol Bodetto both contributed their recipes for Castagnole! The final sweet that was enjoyed by all was Torta di Pere e Noci. The overwhelming consensus from all attendees – delicious!



Stay tuned as we will continue our cooking series with Gianni, planned for this fall and winter.

*Alfie Manias*



Celebrate Friuli's birthday with us

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026 - 2:00pm**

FAMEE FURLANE TORONTO – CANADA ROOM  
7065 ISLINGTON AVENUE, WOODBRIDGE, ON

Tradition continues with the awarding of the  
**"2026 BON FURLANS"**

FREE EVENT – CASH BAR

Space is limited. Must call to reserve your seat.

Deadline: Tuesday, April 7, 2026

email: [reception@fameefurlane.com](mailto:reception@fameefurlane.com) or call 905.851.1166

## FURLAN CLASSES

My sister, Marylane Marchese and I are taking the intermediate Furlan classes. Our dad, Meni D'Agnolo used to teach the Furlan classes and one of his faithful students was George Rodaro. Our dad would be very proud of George, as he now is our instructor. He teaches the class with passion. He is very knowledgeable and engaging and also brings humour to our lessons. We have taken two courses and have learned so much. The courses have strengthened our knowledge and given us a better foundation of the Furlan language.



*Mestri di scuele, George Rodaro con dôs students - Carmen e Marylane*

*Carmen Franceschetti*

## MEMBERSHIP

What a great start to the new year with the addition of 18 new members to our family!

*Laura Accettola, Adrian Battiston, Rosann Bertacco, Eni Candaras, Patricia Carniel, Jim Copetti, Michele Copetti, Madalena Cabral Copetti, Bianca Furtado, Brianna Furtado, Giovanna Maieron, Andreina Manarin, Iolanda Masotti, Denny Masotti, Laura Meneguzzi, Claudia Perut, Luca Petrei, Louis Raffaghello, Ivano Sovran, Enza Vaccher, Marc Vatri, and Ed Zamparo*

If you have a family member, friend or know of someone who would like to become a member of this vibrant community, email [membership@fameefurlane.com](mailto:membership@fameefurlane.com) for an application, or drop by the office during regular business hours.

*Alida Re*



# 2026 Members' Luncheon

**SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026**

**Paramount Banquet Hall, Woodbridge**

*Stay tuned for more details.*

**THE NEIL DIAMOND MUSICAL**  
**A BEAUTIFUL NOISE**

*A BEAUTIFUL NOISE, created with Neil Diamond, brings the true story of a Brooklyn kid turned rock icon to life — packed with legendary hits like “Sweet Caroline” and electrifying Broadway energy.*



**THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026**  
 PRINCESS OF WALES THEATRE – 300 KING STREET WEST, TORONTO  
**DOORS OPEN 7:00 PM – SHOW STARTS 7:30 PM**  
 FFT Member - \$115    Non-Member - \$120  
**DEADLINE TO PURCHASE TICKETS: APRIL 30**

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**BRUNO MENEGUZZI**  
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 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm  
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**Famee Furlane Toronto**  
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**MEMBERS - \$50    NON-MEMBERS - \$70**

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## GRUPPO ETÀ D'ORO

As we begin a new year, il Gruppo Età D'Oro Committee would like to wish all our members, family and friends the very best for the year 2026.

Our Christmas lunch held on December 17, was a great success. We want to thank all those who attended, without you we would not be able to move forward –Thank-you.



Unfortunately, because of the winter weather and our concern for the safety of members we had to close our weekly Wednesday bingo/card day on three different occasions. With spring approaching the worry about snow and ice is no longer and we have started again.

On a sad note, we extend our deepest condolences from our committee and all our members to the families of our beloved past president of many years, Luigi Tedesco who was so proud of our Gruppo Età D'Oro and to our gracious past secretary and volunteer, Elena Moretti who was always there to give a helping hand.

*Gruppo Età D'Oro Committee*

## FAMÈE FURLANE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY Springing Forward After the Thaw!!

Thank goodness we are speaking about the Spring Forum! It's been a long and stereotypical Canadian winter.



January saw us once again co-hosting La Befana along with the Famèe Furlane Toronto and the Alpini Sezione di Vaughan. The children were excited with the special Befana crafts laid out for them to enjoy and sponsored by the FFWA. Of course, as always, their finished creation disappeared only to reappear later in the evening delivered by La Befana herself and filled with yummy treats. As in the past, this traditional event was family fun filled, with terrific refreshments, lots of laughter and excitement with the arrival of La Befana!



Moving along, despite the indecent amount of snow we witnessed, shoveled, were delayed because of etc., the Women's Auxiliary decided to participate in an hour of tai chi at our January meeting. Wayne of Heluo Wushu Academy of Barrie braved the snow that evening himself and guided us through a very intense session. While we were resting, he entertained us with a professional – quite theatrical – personal performance of his own. Inspirational!



The snow just kept on giving into February where we found ourselves having to be flexible with our meeting date. We are Furlan women after all and we landed, eventually. Even though we were not a fulsome crowd, we did enjoy the opportunity to have an impromptu discussion or two including amusing tales of wild turkey experiences! This is one of those 'you had to be there' situations. We are experts in making the best of things when the best laid plans don't work.



What did work extremely well, however, was our International Women's Day/20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in March. Elda Maraldo is our OG, our Founder, and visionary of the Women's Auxiliary. This was a day to celebrate her accomplishments as much as it was all of ours. Everyone was in fine form to



celebrate in the traditionally decorated Canada Room, our home. Joe Zamparo, FFT Chair, was our guest to honour Elda for her dedication to the FFWA and the Furlan community as a whole. In keeping with community spirit, this year's celebration was in support of *York Region Food for Learning*, helping students with their nutritional needs. We had a great meal provided by Culinary Studio 2000, lots of raffle prizes, a 50/50 draw, and music by Giordano Cattonar. Some ladies danced and sang too.



A sincere thank you goes out to the generosity of our donors who contributed to its huge success – Angela Battiston, Cataldi Fresh Market, Culinary Studio 2000, Dolomite Ski Group, Eddystone Meats, Ferraro Canada, Famèe Furlane Toronto, Jesse Tree Fine Foods, Salon 301, Suzy’s Cake Angels and FFWA, as well as all of those who attended and assisted in so many ways. If your schedule didn’t permit you to join us this year, see you at the 2027 International Women’s Day celebration.

You don’t have to wait for the luncheon though, come see us every second Wednesday at 7:00pm. We love the company.

Verna Zanardo



## FROM THE HEART

On Sunday March 8, at the FFWA’s celebration of International Women’s Day a special tribute was made to its founder, Elda Maraldo acknowledging and thanking her for her vision 20 long years ago, a vision that over the years evolved into a community that is vibrant, meaningful, generous and culturally enriching.

Below we are sharing Elda’s gracious and humble note of thanks and gratitude to her committee.

*Domenica ero preparata per festeggiare International Women’s Day, il giorno della donna. Qualle donna? Non imaginando chi fosse una donna in particolare, quando confusamente realizzai che quella donna ero io, sentii la stanza a tremare, pensando fosse il terremoto. Quando senti tutti i meriti che hanno dato alla mia semplice idea mi sono sentita confusa, avevo solo espresso l’idea di unirci una volta al mese per scambiarci idee, di sapere cosa succedeva nel mondo e nella nostra società friulana, confidenze e tenere la mente attiva sui fatti della vita. Mai più pensavo di avere tutti i meriti retribuitami. Al dir il vero, è stata una sorpresa anche a me sapere d’aver tutti quei meriti. Grazie d’avermi aggiudicata, ma i meriti sono più i vostri, che avete saputo dare uno scopo d’attività e cultura. Grazie!*

Elda Colussi Maraldo

As a side note, on hand to assist with the tribute to Elda was FFT Chair, Joe Zamparo and his son, Matthew. To Elda’s delight, it was Matthew who had the “very important” responsibility of presenting her with a floral bouquet and a plaque commemorating her vision of long ago. The plaque has now found its home in the credenza located in the Canada Room.

As Joe commented in his tribute – “Elda this community is your legacy – and we are profoundly grateful.”

Ivana Pontisso

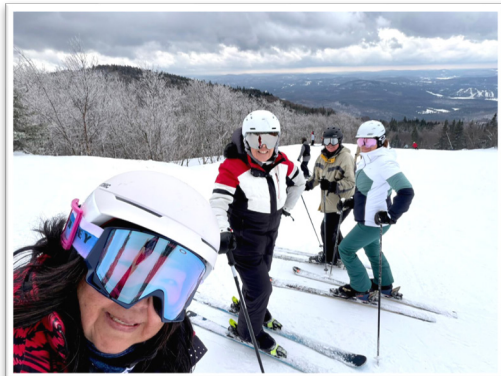


## DOLOMITE SKI CLUB Mt. Tremblant 2026

Once again, we headed off to Mt. Tremblant; this year from February 25 through to March 1, 2026. Either by bus or car, we had 63 anxious winter enthusiasts. You don't even have to ski to enjoy all the fun. There are other winter sports such as snow shoeing, X-country skiing, fat-biking in the snow or simply enjoying the hot tub at the hotel and "chillin". We have been heading up to Tremblant for over 40 years and there are no signs of stopping. The 2027 excursion already has people signed up! Each year we draw more and more "newbies" who enjoyed the trip so much with friends or family, they can't wait to sign up for the next year. It's hard to explain unless you have been on the trip to know how wonderful and memorable the 4-day trip is for all ages. This tradition that the club started 51 years ago, has drawn young and old whether you ski or not. Ask anyone that has been, it's about the laughter, the sharing of food, enjoying a special evening of music and the traditional "potluck" dinner. Who else travels with a renowned chef Gianni Ceschia and their own musicians Henry and Mitch! Special thanks go to Domenic Angaran, President of the Veneto Centre for allowing us to use their parking lot during the trip. If anyone is interested in joining the group, please contact the office and leave a message with your name and contact information.



*Dolomite Ski Committee – Carla, Giamba, Henry, Ivana, Mara Q and Mara M*



In closing we are sharing with you, lyrics written by a fellow skier, Al Ferland to “I Will Survive” by Gloria Gaynor.

*At first, I was afraid, I was petrified  
As I read Mara’s email, and all it specified  
Time to confirm details, for the Dolomite ski trip  
Lift tickets, room type, and bus, and who I’m sleeping with*

*12:30 departure, is what we’ll do  
So don’t you be a minute late, we will leave without you  
I never could have imagined, what was in store for us  
A seven-course meal, and skydiving on a bus*

*3 days of skiing, to look forward to  
There’s a hot tub in our hotel, there’s just so much to do  
But I found out the hard way, there’s one place I shouldn’t go  
After making a donation, to the Tremblant Casino*

*You know that I, I will survive  
I’ve wiped out so many times; those goggles sure can fly  
My new nickname is “yardsale”, but I am still alive  
I will survive; I will survive hey hey*

*Big snowy mountain, for me to explore  
It was suddenly so clear, I’m not in Toronto anymore  
The hills look so damn steep, my fists were tightly clenched  
And I’m not sure which way to go, and all the signs are French*

*Friday evening, was the very best thing  
An amazing potluck dinner, that was fit for a king  
With musical entertainment, we all could sing along  
I hope that Mitch and Henry, have learned a few new songs*

*You know that I, I will survive  
Drinking shots from a ski, it’s the best time of my life  
I still have some fear, but I’m coming back next year  
I will survive; I will survive hey hey*

Al entertained us all with his live performance!



## MORE PEOPLE ARE SAYING "LET'S VISIT FRIULI!"

When *Furlans* living outside of Italy go back to Friuli, they see family and friends, check out what's new when the *marcjat* is in town and visit nearby towns and sites.

More and more non-Friulians and non-Italians are discovering the benefits and joys of seeing Friuli. And there are many reasons why.

The choice of some 100 ski and winter sports resorts across the Carnic and Dolomite Alps are a huge pull for many. In summer, the beaches of Lignano and Grado have been attracting sun worshippers since the 1930s. There's plenty for architecture admirers to be amazed in centuries-old churches and castles. For those wishing to look further back, there are archaeological digs unearthing ancient sites and cities. Many outstanding examples of Renaissance art and sculpture can be found in the region's many galleries and churches.

After a day's activity, visitors can enjoy delicious Friulian cuisine and carafes of excellent house wines. Accommodation choices are many, ranging from simple B & Bs to 5-star hotels to the many agroturismos which offer a stay and a chance to participate in rural life. One can't go home without buying at least a few pieces of ceramics with the unique *Furlan* floral design.

From [www.intrieste.it](http://www.intrieste.it): "According to data released by regional authorities in collaboration with PromoturismoFvg, Friuli Venezia Giulia welcomed a staggering 10,062,000 tourists in 2023 alone. This marks a notable 6.9% increase compared to the previous year and a remarkable 10.6% surge compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2019.

*Tourist arrivals rose 5.4 percent in 2024 while overnight stays increased 2.9 percent. The gains were driven primarily by foreign visitors, whose arrivals climbed 8.2 percent compared with modest growth among domestic travelers.*

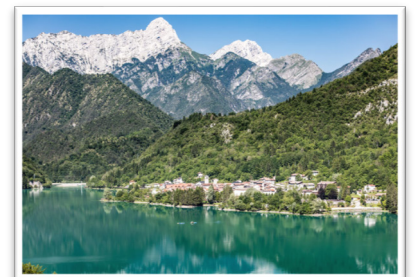
*Cities performed strongly, particularly Trieste, where arrivals increased sharply among both Italian and foreign visitors. Officials say part of the growth reflects a long-term effort to expand beyond traditional summer beach tourism and winter skiing.*

*International guests now account for most tourism activity, with roughly 1.8 million of the region's 3.1 million arrivals coming from abroad. The largest groups came from Austria, Germany and Hungary.*

*The upward trend continued into 2025, when the region recorded about 11 million overnight stays — up 6.5 percent from the previous year and more than 21 percent above pre-pandemic levels."*

Of great interest are the cities named Unesco World Heritage Sites. In Friuli these are Palmanova for its historic and intact old city centre, Aquileia and Cividale del Friuli for their long history and examples of ancient mosaic-covered floors. Noted for food excellence are San Daniele for its prosciutto and Montasio for its cheese.

Another unique area is the town of Raveo, 50Km north of Udine. Raveo has been named the 'Authentic Village of Friuli' for the beauty of its surroundings and the preservation of local traditions. Situated at the foot of Mt. Sorantri, at an altitude of 896 metres, the views must be amazing.



*Raveo, town of 442, 50 K. north of Udine, is called 'The Authentic Village of Friuli' for the beauty of its location and the preservations of local traditions.*

Over the years, many visitors have headed north to the town of Gemona, site of the terrible earthquake of 1976. A photo display shows the devastation to the town and surrounding area, and the extensive rebuilding that followed. This reconstruction continued for many years, with the bell tower of the church of Osoppo completed only some 12 years ago. Today most of the town has been rebuilt.

Those joining Congresso 2026 in Friuli this July will see these areas and many more as they visit some 15 cities and areas, including Palmanova, Fagagna, Reghina, Tolmezzo, Venzone, Cormons and Gorizia. How wonderful to see the similarities and uniqueness of each stop.

Preparations are underway for Pordenone’s big year of 2027, as it has been named Italy’s Capital of Culture for that year. A large photo exhibit will be among the many presentations and activities.

Even more visitors are expected with more cruise ships stopping at Trieste and Monfalcone. Ryanair now flies into Trieste. Italians and those from outside the country are learning what we already know, that Friuli is a beautiful, interesting, and an exciting place to visit.

*Doreen Vanini*

[www.intrieste.it](http://www.intrieste.it), [www.terredamare.com/Raveo](http://www.terredamare.com/Raveo), [www.turismofvg.it](http://www.turismofvg.it)



*Io Sono Friuli Venezia Giulia, the trademark promoting sustainability in the agri-food sector, can be found on tote bags and t-shirts.*

## DON'T MISS OUT ON A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE!



### Experience FRIULI with the Fogolârs Federation of Canada this summer!

A beautifully created program from July 21 to July 26 that will visit many areas across Friuli.

Delegates will see charming villages, historic castles and towns, and beautiful natural scenery under the guidance of tour guides, along with artisanal and educational presentations that will give participants new insight and understanding of our ancestral homeland. Ceremonies and stops to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the

1976 earthquakes that devastated Friuli and acknowledge the great relief efforts of the

Friulian and Canadian communities of Canada will also highlight this year’s congress in Friuli.

Further information regarding the congress including registration pricing, hotels and transportation can be found at [fogolarsfederation.com](http://fogolarsfederation.com) or email us at [info@fogolarsfederation.com](mailto:info@fogolarsfederation.com)



**NANAIMO BARS****Ingredients:****Base:**

2 Bakers Semi Sweet Chocolate Squares (2 oz)  
 ½ Cup Softened Unsalted Butter  
 2 Tbsp White Sugar  
 1 Tbsp Vanilla  
 1 Egg (Beaten)  
 2 Cups Ground Graham Crackers  
 1 Cup Coconut- Angel flaked or shredded  
 ½ Cup Chopped Walnuts

**Filling:**

2 Tbsp Birds Custard Powder  
 3 Tbsp Whole Milk  
 ¼ Cup Softened Unsalted Butter  
 2 Cups Icing Sugar

**Topping:**

4 Bakers Semi Sweet Chocolate Squares (4 oz)  
 1 Tbsp Softened Unsalted Butter

**Method:****Base:**

1. Melt chocolate over hot water and combine it with the butter and sugar.
2. Add vanilla and egg and mix well.
3. Add the graham crackers, coconut and walnuts. Mix well until all is incorporated.
4. Press evenly into 9" greased square pan or lined with parchment paper.
5. Chill for at least 15 to 30 minutes.

**Custard Filling:**

1. Mix the custard powder with the milk,
2. Add in the softened or melted butter.
3. Beat in or mix by hand the icing sugar until smooth.
4. Spread filling over the base. Chill to set for 15 minutes or longer. (Filling must be cold before adding the melted chocolate topping.)

**Topping:**

1. Over hot water, melt the chocolate with butter.
2. Stir until completely melted and smooth.
3. Quickly spread over the custard layer and chill for minimum of 1 hour.



*NOTE: Score through the chocolate before it has set or at room temperature. If cutting chocolate when hard, it tends to crack.*

This recipe I'm sharing with you is from Rosemary Maraldo's mother-in-law, Betty Lacroix. Rosemary's husband David had this recipe folded up in his wallet and shared it with me. Since then, it is my "go to" during the Christmas season or for that matter, anytime. I'm sharing now with all of you in memory of Betty! You can't get any more Canadian than with "Nanaimo Bars"!!! ENJOY!

*Mara Mian*



## FRIÛL INFATS - QUESTIONS

1. Which post-earthquake reconstruction approach developed in Friuli after 1976 became internationally studied for restoring towns “*com’era, dov’era*”?
2. Which medieval Friulian town was rebuilt stone-by-stone after the 1976 earthquake and is widely regarded as a model of historic restoration?
3. Which Friulian city suffered some of the heaviest damage in the 1976 earthquake and became a central hub of the region’s reconstruction?
4. Which second major earthquake struck Friuli, months after the May 1976 disaster, causing further destruction during reconstruction?
5. Which square in Trieste is the largest seafront square in Europe?
6. Which historic Trieste tramway, opened in 1902, climbs about 329 metres over roughly 5 km and reaches a maximum incline of about 26%?
7. Which square is shared by Italy and Slovenia and has become a symbol of cross-border cooperation between the two countries?
8. In which Friuli basilica can you see the largest mosaic floor in the Western Roman world, covering about 750–760 square metres?
9. Which town in western Friuli has been famous for knife-making since 1453, when water from the Colvera stream powered blade-making workshops?
10. Which traditional smoked meatballs from the valleys north of Pordenone hold European Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status?

*Jason Moretto*

*Answers on page 26*

## YOU ARE NEEDED

As this edition of the Forum is focusing on the earthquake of 1976, we hope to continue the series on membership youth in the next edition. If you have short anecdotes you’d like to share about your children or grandchildren, we welcome all input – whether reflecting on accomplishments, special talents, experiences, hopes and dreams, struggles or otherwise, nonni or parents don’t be shy. Its all about sharing and perhaps inspiring.

*This series relies on your input.*



**RINO DELLA MORA**

December 15, 2025  
Lifetime Member

**DANILO FALCOMER**

December 19, 2025  
Lifetime member

**BERTINA ALFANO**

December 23, 2025  
Sister to member Mario Piasentin

**CORRADO PATULLO**

December 27, 2025  
Brother-in-law to member Linda Patullo  
uncle to member Angela Bosa-Slokar

**RINO BAGNAROL**

December 30, 2025  
Lifetime Member

**ELENA MORETTI**

December 31, 2025  
Member of the Gruppo Età d'Oro

**PAOLO INFANTI**

January 5, 2026  
Member

**IDA MIOR**

January 10, 2026  
Mother to member Grace Caprara

**ELSA COLUSSI**

January 10, 2026  
Wife of Lifetime Member Firmino Colussi

**MARIA MORELLO**

January 17, 2026  
Wife of past lifetime member Sante Morello

**LUIGI TEDESCO**

January 21, 2026  
Lifetime member, Past President of Gruppo Eta' D'Oro

**VINCE RIDOLFO**

January 25, 2026  
Member  
Father to member Michael Melchior-Ridolfo  
and father-in-law to member Karen Melchior-Ridolfo,  
brother to members Mary Cosentino, Carla Ridolfo  
and Adrian Ridolfo, Brother-in-law to members  
Diane Ridolfo and Joe Grece

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Luigi Tedesco**

March 08, 1922 - January 21, 2026



Luigi died peacefully at Mackenzie Health on January 21, 2026, at the age of 103.

Born in Camino al Tagliamento, Udine, he was predeceased by his dearly beloved wife of 71 years, Leonida, loving father to Robert (Brenda) and cherished Nonno to Clarke (Ildikó) and Alanna (Tim). He also was bisnonno to Julia, Maya, Leo and Sienna.

Upon the death of his father at a young age, Luigi began apprenticing as a tailor at 11 and left school to become the sole family provider when he was only 14 years old.

At 19, he was conscripted into the army where he trained and served as a "Marconista." He survived several close calls during WW2 including torpedoes that just skimmed under his small transport boat in the Tyrrhenian Sea and, back on the mainland, threats from Italian partisans. "Lucky to be here" he often said.

In the difficult economic years following WW2, Luigi left his family to seek a better life in Canada, arriving at Pier 21 in Halifax in March, 1951 and then in Toronto on March 29. He interviewed at Eaton's the next day and immediately began work as a tailor until he retired in 1987.

Blessed with the solid values and a strong work ethic ingrained in so many who emigrated from Friuli, Luigi and his equally committed partner, Leonida, overcame the initial inevitable hardships that faced newcomers and built a wonderful life for their family in Canada.

After retirement, he joined the Famèe Furlane Toronto where he served as President of the "Gruppo Età d'Oro" for over 20 years. For those who emigrated to Canada from the Friuli Region, the Famèe Furlane Toronto provided a lively, hospitable community in which to socialize and share stories born from common experiences. It was essential to the well-being of its members and a mainstay of Luigi's post-retirement life right to the very end.

*Robert Tedesco*

# Friuli Terrace

## SPRING AT THE TERRACES



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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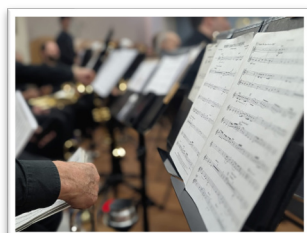
**Armand Scaini†**

### Address:

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

It has been a long, cold and snow filled winter, and the Residents, Board and Staff of Friuli Terrace are looking forward to welcoming spring and all that it brings. We look forward to the snowbanks disappearing and being replaced by green grass and flowers blooming. We wait with anticipation when the gardens can be planted and we can sit outside and enjoy some sunshine. Life at the Terrace has been busy with residents attending exercise classes, the monthly masses, birthday parties and sing a-longs with Antonella. A new addition to these regular activities is a Reading Club where the residents gather to read short stories and discuss them.

## And the Band Played On...



In December, the Columbus Center Band returned to Friuli Terrace to entertain residents and their families. As in the past, the event was very



well attended and everyone in attendance were not disappointed. The skillful musicians' repertoire included not only Christmas songs but also popular songs in both English and Italian. After the performance attendees were served coffee and cookies by Board Members and APM staff.

## Friuli Terrace Cinema

As part of the basement renovations, the Terrace was fortunate to obtain a grant for partial funding of a movie theatre for the residents. The movie theatre is now complete, and the first movie shown was the classic Christmas film – *It's a Wonderful Life*. During the Olympics the movie theatre was well utilized as the comfortable chairs, big screen and of course, the company of their friends and neighbours was the perfect venue to watch the games. Movies are scheduled twice a week and offer a nice variety including *Mambo Italiano*, *Cinema Paradiso*, *The Vow* and *Joe Avati VIVO*.



## January Post Christmas Luncheon

In January, the Board of Friuli Terrace hosted a luncheon for the residents in the multi-Purpose Room. The residents dressed up for the occasion with many wearing red. They were treated to a meal of roast veal, vegetables and carrot cake for dessert. The meal was prepared by Culinary Studio and the 'wait staff' was made up of Board, APM and CHATS staff members. Resident musician Antonio and his friend sang and played music which inspired residents to dance and sing a-long.



## Elevators That Talk!

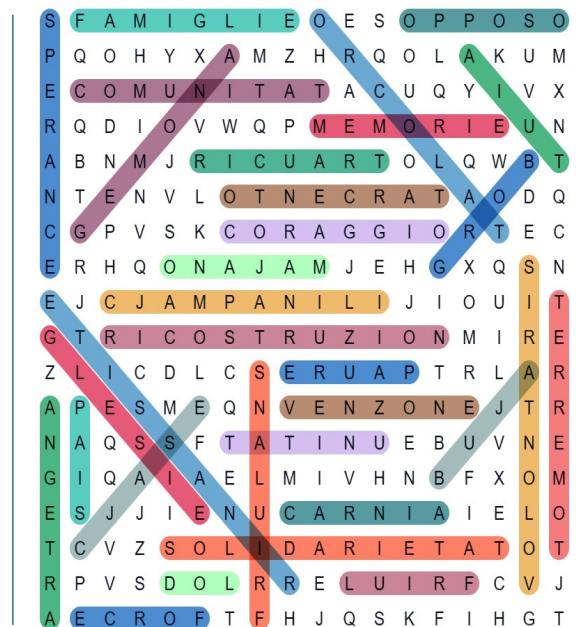
Since the Elevators in the building were originals, they were in much need of an upgrade. The first elevator renovations has been completed. The new elevators are bright, modern and they announce the floors so that residents know when they have reached their stop. The feedback has been very positive. We appreciate the patience of the residents, families and staff as this project is being completed with only one elevator operational at a time. The second elevator is currently being installed, and the work is expected to be completed by the beginning of April. We are thankful for the grant we received to cover a portion of the elevator renovations.



Mara Querin

## FRIÛL INFATS – ANSWERS

1. *The "Friuli reconstruction model" after the 1976 Friuli earthquake*
2. *Venzona, UD*
3. *Gemona del Friuli, UD*
4. *The September 15, 1976 Friuli earthquake aftershock, magnitude ~6.0*
5. *Piazza Unità d'Italia, Trieste, TS*
6. *Opicina Tram, Trieste, TS*
7. *Piazza Transalpina, Gorizia, GO & Nova Gorica, Slovenia)*
8. *Basilica of Aquileia, Aquileia, UD*
9. *Maniago, PN*
10. *Pitina*





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## **Address**

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

[www.villagambin.com](http://www.villagambin.com)

## Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,

*As the winter months give way to the promise of spring, I am reminded once again of the warmth that defines our community at Villa Leonardo Gambin (VLG). Even during the colder season, our home continues to be filled with moments of celebration, tradition, and connection.*

*December brought with it the joy and spirit of Christmas. The home was beautifully decorated for the season, creating a festive atmosphere for our residents and their families. Our Christmas celebrations were filled with music, laughter, and plenty of holiday treats. Most importantly, they provided an opportunity for residents, families, staff, and volunteers to come together and share meaningful moments that will be cherished long after the decorations are packed away.*

*During the holiday season we also held our annual Light the Night year-end campaign. I would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed. In particular, we are deeply grateful to The Ralph and Rose Chiodo Family Foundation for generously matching donations up to \$15,000, and to Sienna Senior Living for serving as our Lead Sponsor. Your support helps ensure that we can continue enhancing comfort, care, and quality of life for our residents.*

*In early January, our residents were delighted by a visit from La Befana, who arrived with traditional clementines and roasted chestnuts for all to share. Celebrations like these are a wonderful reminder of the rich Italian heritage that helped shape our home. They allow us not only to honour long-standing traditions, but also to share them with residents, families, and staff who may be experiencing them for the first time.*

*Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome our community back for the Annual Butterfly Tea on April 26, 2026, here at VLG. This cherished event offers a wonderful opportunity to gather with friends and supporters while raising funds for programs that enrich the lives of our residents.*

*Please also save the date for our Annual Oak Leaf Gala, taking place on October 16, 2026, once again at the Bellagio Boutique Event Centre. We look forward to another memorable evening in support of our home and the community that surrounds it.*

*As always, thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to VLG. Your support allows us to nurture a home where compassion, culture, and community continue to thrive.*

*With heartfelt gratitude,*

Andrew Iacobelli



## Light the Night: A Celebration of Community and Giving

At the end of November, our home came together with residents, families, and members of the community to celebrate our annual **Light the Night** gathering and officially launch our year-end campaign. The evening was filled with warmth, reflection, and the joyful lighting of our home, symbolizing hope, generosity, and the spirit of the season.

We were proud to have **Sienna Senior Living** as our lead sponsor, and we are especially grateful for the generous **matching gift from The Ralph and Rose Chiodo Family Foundation**, which brought us closer to reaching our year-end goals.



Thanks to the incredible support of our community, this year's **Light the Night year-end campaign raised over \$30,000** in support of the home's greatest needs. These contributions help us continue to provide a beautiful environment and best-in-class care for our residents.

We were also deeply touched by those who chose to give in memory of loved ones. During the ceremony, the names of these loved ones were read aloud in tribute, honoring their memory and the meaningful gifts made in their name.

To everyone who attended, donated, and supported this campaign, thank you. It is because of the generosity, belief, and continued investment of our community that we can create a home filled with care, dignity, and compassion for those we serve.

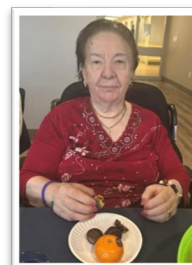
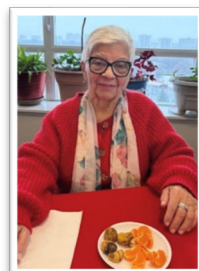
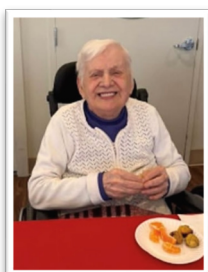
## La Befana Visits VLG!



On Friday, January 6th, La Befana paid a special visit to VLG, bringing sweet clementines and roasted chestnuts for all our residents, families, and staff to enjoy.

But who is La Befana? In Italian folklore, La Befana is a friendly witch who delivers gifts to children throughout Italy on Epiphany Eve, the night of January 5th. Much like Santa Claus, she travels from home to home, filling stockings with treats and surprises.

We are proud to keep this cherished tradition alive. Celebrating La Befana allows us to honour our Italian heritage while sharing delicious roasted chestnuts and tangerines, creating warm memories and meaningful moments within our community.

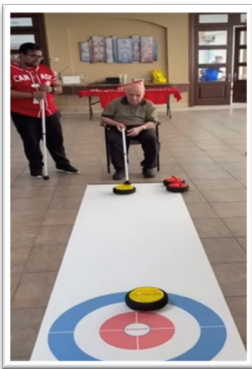


## Olympic Spirit Shines at VLG



While Team Canada competed at the 2026 Winter Olympics, the residents of VLG decided to host their very own Olympic Games! From curling and snowball toss to bean bag hockey and lightning-fast reaction challenges, everyone competed, everyone laughed, and everyone won.

Residents were proudly awarded medals for their efforts, and the day was made even more special with the incredible involvement of families and staff. Our home was filled with cheers, encouragement, and an abundance of fun and friendly competition. It was truly a celebration of community, teamwork, and Olympic spirit.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



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**  
**905-856-3939 [m.stirpe@villagambin.com](mailto:m.stirpe@villagambin.com)**



THE BUTTERFLY TEA

IN SUPPORT OF  
VILLA LEONARDO GAMBIN

*Event Details:*

**Villa Leonardo Gambin Long Term Care**  
Multi-purpose Room  
40 Friuli Court, Woodbridge, ON

**Sunday, April 26, 2026**  
12:30 pm -4:00 pm

**\$90 per person**  
**Tickets are Limited**

Enjoy a thoughtfully curated swag bag, an Italian-inspired grazing table with desserts, assorted specialty teas, welcome drinks, and a marketplace featuring beauty, fashion, and jewelry vendors. Be inspired by our special guest speaker, Dr. Fabio Di Stefano, CEO of ProMedX Innovations Inc., take part in our Fancy Hat Competition to win fabulous prizes, and experience so much more.

For more information or to purchase tickets and sponsorships  
Visit [villagambin.com](http://villagambin.com) or call 905.265.6115.



All proceeds support the residents of Villa Leonardo Gambin Long Term Care.  
Charitable Registration Number: 88301 4118 RR0001





# FAMEE FURLANE TORONTO

## *Legends on the Green*

### 2026 GOLF TOURNAMENT

## FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

*In support of*

*Villa Leonardo Gambin Long Term Care & Our Community*

### **NOBLETON LAKES GOLF COURSE**

125 NOBLETON LAKES DRIVE, NOBLETON, ON

**8:30 am**  
Registration  
and  
Continental  
Breakfast

**10:00 am**  
Shotgun  
Start

- GOURMET FOOD STATIONS AND COMPLIMENTARY BEVERAGE CARTS ON COURSE ALL DAY
- POST PLAY COCKTAIL RECEPTION WITH WINNERS' AWARDS AND CHEQUE PRESENTATION

#### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Deadline: July 31

#### **FOOD-BEVERAGE SPONSOR – \$4,000**

(Gourmet Food • Beverage Cart • Breakfast • Cocktail)

- Includes one foursome
- Recognition across all print materials & social media

#### **HOLE SPONSOR – \$500**

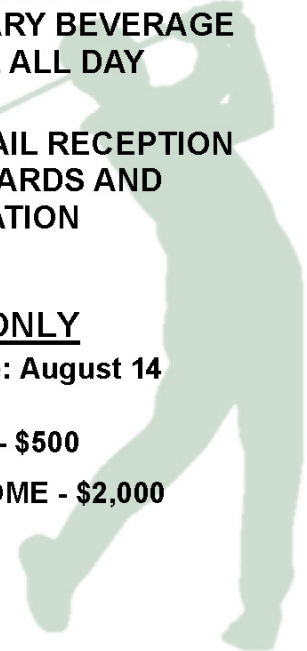
- Recognition across all print materials & social media

#### GOLF ONLY

Deadline: August 14

**SINGLE - \$500**

**FOURSOME - \$2,000**



**FOR REGISTRATION AND SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION**

Contact Famee Furlane Toronto at 905.851.1166 or [reception@fameefurlane.com](mailto:reception@fameefurlane.com)

7065 Islington Avenue, Woodbridge, ON L4L 1V9

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

*If you're interested in learning more about our club our associated groups, please reach out to the main contact below, specifying the group you're interested in.*



**Famee Furlane Toronto**  
**905.851.1166 or**  
**[reception@fameefurlane.com](mailto:reception@fameefurlane.com)**

Gruppo Eta D'Oro  
*Attention: Vicky Romanin*

Women's Auxiliary  
*Attention: Ivana Pontisso*

Dolomite Ski Club  
*Attention: Mara Mian*

FFT Bocciofila Group  
*Attention: Mario Piasentin*

Wednesdays	Gruppo Eta D'Oro – Bingo and Cards
Wednesday, April 8	FFWA General Meeting
Sunday, April 12	Festa della Patrie
Sunday, April 19	FFWA - Casino Niagara
Friday, April 24	Friulicious
Tuesday, April 28	FFT Members' Meeting - Canada Room
Thursday, May 7	Mirvish Production - The Neil Diamond Musical
Tuesday, May 12	Sommelier Night - Sparkling Wines
Wednesday, May 13	FFWA General Meeting
Sunday, May 31	FFT Members' Luncheon Paramount Banquet Hall
Wednesday, June 10	FFWA - General Meeting
Sunday, June 21	FFWA - Casino Niagara
Friday, June 26	Friulicious

*~ Please note that event dates may change.*



**HAPPY EASTER**  
**BUONA PASQUA**  
**BUINE PASQUE**



*Famèe Furlane Toronto*  
*Board of Directors*

**Famèe Furlane Toronto**  
 7065 Islington Ave Woodbridge, ON, L4L 1V9  
**T: 905.851.1166 E. [reception@fameefurlane.com](mailto:reception@fameefurlane.com)**

