



## Connecting With and Celebrating Friulan Culture

From November 7 to 9, Efasce Canada had the distinguished honour of welcoming an official delegation from Ente Friulano Assistenza Sociale Culturale Emigranti - Pordenonesi Nel Mondo (Efasce). We welcomed President Angioletto Tubaro, Vice-President Luisa Forte, and Vescovo Giuseppe Pellegrini of Concordia-Pordenone. Their meaningful visit was a reminder of the deep cultural, historical, and spiritual ties that unite Friulians in Italy with their extended community in Canada. It also highlighted the longstanding dedication and hospitality of the Famee Furlane Toronto (FFT), who continues to play a central role in preserving and promoting Friulian heritage across generations in the greater Toronto area.



*November 7 – Where Roots and Friendship Meet!* The visit began with a warm and heartfelt welcome at the FFT. Community leaders, youth members, and long-standing supporters gathered for an evening to honour the shared mission of Efasce Italy and Efasce Canada. Opening remarks reflected on the enduring relationship between the two organizations and the continued commitment to safeguarding Friulian traditions abroad.



President Tubaro and Vice President Forte addressed attendees with gratitude, acknowledging the strength, unity, and continuity of the Friulian community in Toronto. Vescovo Pellegrini offered spiritual words of encouragement, emphasizing the importance of faith, family, and cultural identity in nurturing community life outside one's homeland. The atmosphere throughout the evening was one of warmth, welcome, and genuine connection.



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Famèe Furlane Toronto  
2025 – 2026  
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## Our Chair's Message

Dear Members,

*As another year draws to a close, I am amazed at how quickly time has passed. The work and planning our Board discussed and put into motion seems to be having a positive effect. We continue to see membership numbers increase and events selling out consistently. The popularity of our Friulicious monthly dinners has made us add a second Friulicious dinner date in selected months in 2026.*

*As I sit back and witness this resurgence of life within our club, I ask the simple question - why? In part, the plan was always to go back to basics of who and what we always were, a community of Furlans united in spirit, culture, food and love for our roots. I am a proponent of looking past squabbles and instead looking forward in celebration of all we are. With arms stretched out and an open heart, the message is spreading; we are here, we are growing and we are thriving! I could not have navigated these waters without the amazing support of my fellow Board members and officers. And to all of you, our cherished and beloved members, vi ringrazio dal mio cuore!! You supported us with difficult decisions and when the path wasn't so easy. I cannot thank you all enough.*

*Recently, at the Villa Leonardo Gambin Gala, I was asked to say a few words and the most important words I spoke that evening where "when you change the way you see the world, the world you see changes". When we stop concentrating on what divides us and look to what unites us, we continue to build the community we have become so proud of! Change is the only constant in life, and we will continue to work and give so that we can embrace the Famee Furlane Toronto we all so love.*

*I would like to wish each and every one of you a peaceful and Merry Christmas and may 2026 be filled with continued health and blessings.*

Joseph A. Zamparo



Celebrating the spirit of giving with gratitude for your ongoing support. May your Christmas be filled with family togetherness and love.

**Bon Nadâl e Bon An**

Famee Furlane Toronto Board of Directors

## A BRIDGE TO NEW HORIZONS



Over its history one constant that has helped sustain and grow the FFT is the unwritten motto “*new times, new needs, new ideas*”, which in some instances was met with resistance. However, inevitably through grit and determination, along with a few “*parolacce*” perhaps, coupled with strong opinions, the pathway to a new tomorrow was paved and fresh perspectives appreciated.



From the early days of our forefathers, every chapter in the life of the FFT, that has left legacies benefiting our future, has been led by individuals with the confidence to face resistance and the courage to confront challenges. Through ups and downs, the constant has been change and accepting that nothing is ever permanent. It was the bold and inspiring moves of yesterday that continue to give birth to new “*today's*” of the FFT.

Such a move took place on Sunday November 9, 2025, when the Famee Furlane Toronto and EFASCE Canada, two distinct and vibrant social organizations chose to embark on collaboration. While honouring and maintaining their individual identities, through fresh perspectives, they are coming together to host joint events, celebrate cultural milestones and foster meaningful friendships across the two communities.

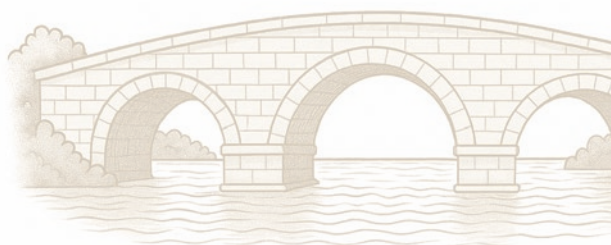
This collaboration is not without its challenges, and may stir resistance, but progress begins with courage. Communication and understanding builds strong bridges. Let’s not be bound to past mindsets, but rather embrace relationships that offer new possibilities, continued growth and learning opportunities, as well as the celebration of shared values and diversity.

Both the FFT and EFASCE continue to be governed independently, preserve their uniqueness and be defined by their existing alliances and connections, whether at home or abroad. However, the opening of these doors will enrich the culture of both of our communities, create new friendships, deepen understanding and strengthen the common goal of preserving Furlan heritage.

Part of the FFT’s “*rinascimento*” has been its ability to transcend the issues of yesterday and to forge new paths. The attitudes, friction and arguments that have entrenched themselves in the past, have no place in our journey forward. Our approach is concentrating on that which binds and brings us together, instead of viewing what separates. Our new approach has allowed us to collaborate with the Veneto Centre in working towards a new home for our beloved club. We invite and regularly have the Alpini join and celebrate events together. We celebrate a long and vibrant relationship with Ente Friuli Nel Mondo and look forward to next year’s Congress in Friuli as well as new and vibrant initiatives.

These are just a few of the changes boldly embraced by your leadership. All of which have and will continue to contribute to a growing and healthy FFT. In servitude to our members, we must integrate plans for our younger generations to enable our club to thrive, because it is in togetherness that we are strengthened and united in our goals.

*Joseph A. Zamparo*  
Chair, Famee Furlane Toronto



*Efasce Canada Co-Ordinator, Robert Gregoris with FFT Chair, Joe Zamparo*

## GOOD TIMES & LEARNING

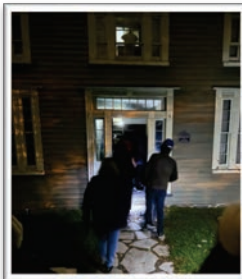
### Off to the Races

September 28 was a beautiful fall day, perfect for an afternoon at the races hosted by Famee Furlane Toronto. Sixteen fun loving individuals met at Woodbine Racetrack for the \$400,000 Breeders Stakes. Guests were able to enjoy a close up of the horses and jockeys track side. Though the winnings were small, compared to the purse, fun was had by cheering for their horses, enjoying the atmosphere, and creating memorable experiences.



### Halloween Haunt

It was a dark and chilly night on October 27, when fourteen brave souls, believing in ghosts and all things paranormal, ventured to The Village at Black Creek for the Haunted Walk Tour. Hoping for a ghost sighting, both members and their children, equipped with a flashlight and a lantern bearing guide, enjoyed a private tour of the village. Participants learned the history of the 1800's settlement including its original owners, cemetery inhabitants and which buildings were relocated from the neighboring



towns of Woodbridge, Richmond Hill and Pickering. With the guide pointing out the locations of ghost sightings by original occupants, it made for an eerie and somewhat spooky experience.



### Uncork Friuli Reds

On November 4th a lucky group attended Uncork Friuli Reds, the first in a series. The event was led by sommelier extraordinaire Bruno Meneguzzi, one of approximately 500 DipWSET, IWS and WJC sommelier's and one of a very limited number accredited to teach the course. Bruno walked attendees through the "systematic approach to tasting wine" focusing on appearance, nose, palate and quality conclusion fundamentals. The evening's focus were reds from Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, including what makes this region special and the varieties only available here. He also included some must visit wineries! Guests tasted recent offerings of Pinot Nero, Refosco, and a 6-yr old Pignolo. The 7-yr old Migale Rosso, a blend of Refosco, Schioppettino and Tazzelenghe was stellar. As a bonus, guests were greeted with Prosecco donated Bruno. The evening was concluded with Bruno sharing his excitement for this series, especially for the white wines from this region.





### Let's Cook Meat!

No strangers to Gianni Ceschia, a fun group of Famee Furlane members attended one in a series of his cooking classes held on November 6. This session focused on the preparation of a variety of meats. The evening's menu highlighted Rabbit in White Wine, Veal Spezzatino, Pork Shank Roast and Trotta San Daniele, all plated, served and accompanied by classic polenta.



Stay tuned for the next session in the classic series... Desserts!

Stay informed as the fun will continue in the new year, with new and interesting experiences.

*Alfie Manias*

## GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS...

*(Confirm availability before sending payment for all events.)*



## SOULPEPPER - DETROIT

MUSIC OF THE MOTOR CITY

**EARLY BIRD SALE**

January 13 – 19, 2026  
Members: \$85  
Non-Members: \$90

**REGULAR TICKET**

January 20 - February 26, 2026  
Members: \$90  
Non-Members: \$100

Ticket price is for show only.  
LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE.  
FOR TICKETS:  
905.851.1166  
reception@fameefurlane.com  
E-transfer code: detroit26

MAR 29, 2026

POST PARTY – 3 PM – SPIRIT HOUSE SPEAKEASY  
DISTILLERY DISTRICT 430-36 DISTILLERY LANE, TORONTO



## Desserts alla Friulana

with Chef Gianni Ceschia

Learn how to make Crostoli, Castagnole, Pinza, e Torte cu lis piris  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026**

Culinary Studio – 91 Friuli Court, Woodbridge

Doors open: 6:00 pm

Class begins 6:30 pm sharp

**MEMBERS: \$75 NON-MEMBERS: \$85**



Limited Spots Available  
905.851.1166 or reception@fameefurlane.com  
Deadline to purchase tickets: February 26, 2026  
E-transfer code: dessert26

## FURLAN CLASSES A Non-Furlan Beginner's Perspective

How does a non-Friulan, Italo-Canadian from the opposite end of the boot find himself at the Famee Furlane Toronto, trying to learn Friulan. Simple enough, it all started 31 years ago when I married my lovely wife. She had grown up travelling to Friuli and spoke highly of her time in Latisana, her father's hometown, and Pescincanna, where her mother was born. She also spoke fondly of her summers in Lignano, the year she spent at the University of Udine, and the friends she made while she was there.

As we return more frequently to Friuli, I have become strongly aware of the Friulan language spoken there. I have learned a few words over the years (*clafs, sidon, piron, curtis*), but, as someone who enjoys languages, I wanted to better understand and speak the language.

Fast forward to today, where I'm in my second session of the Friulan classes – beginner section. I cannot say that I can speak Friulan well but have begun to string a few basic sentences together and I feel I am making progress in the short time I have been attending these courses.

The classes are a great forum where we can learn, collaborate and practice together. It has also become an entertaining social gathering. We move from English to Italian to Friulan learning verbs, words and forming sentences, to sharing and translating personal, and often funny stories of hidden money, pruning fig trees or making pasta. Learning the history and culture of how Friuli was shaped has also been very interesting, especially how history has shaped the people, the different cities, the landmarks, and most importantly the food and wine!

The fact that the Famee Furlane Toronto offers these classes is unique and remarkable. I am thrilled to be able to take advantage the opportunity to learn a new language. I love the camaraderie that has developed over the past few years, and I am grateful to instructors Andrew, George, Oretta and Rosemary, who volunteer their time.

*Peter Guido*



### Impare il Furlan con noi!

**MONDAY EVENINGS: 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm**

**JANUARY 12 – MARCH 2, 2026**

**FEE: \$20 for 8 classes - Limited to 30 participants**

**Registration: 905.851.1166 or email at [reception@fameefurlane.com](mailto:reception@fameefurlane.com)**



## SPIRIT OF ONTARIO AWARD

On Friday, November 14, 2025 members of your board and guests attended the National Congress of Italian-Canadians Gala Award Dinner where our Chair, Joe Zamparo, proudly accepted the Spirit of Ontario Award presented to the Famee Furlane Toronto in recognition of the value it has contributed to the community in its promotion of culture, language and heritage. In a land where multiculturalism is embraced as one of its strengths, it is also honour for members to have its beloved Famee Furlane Toronto be recognized for all its accomplishments and ongoing commitment to the Furlan/Italian/Canadian community overall. With leadership at the undisputed forefront of this much deserved recognition, congratulations are extended to our Chair and his board for all their hard work and dedication.

*Ivana Pontisso*



*Continued from cover page*

November 8 – Cultural Exchange, and the Bannia Dinner Gala - The day was devoted to planning, discussion, and cultural enrichment. In the evening, the delegation joined the community for the bi-annual Bannia Dinner Gala; an event deeply cherished for its celebration of Bannia and the broader Friulian heritage. The gala brought together families and friends for a memorable night of traditional food, music, and fellowship. It served as a powerful expression of unity and pride, reinforcing the emotional and cultural bonds that tie Friulians in Canada to their roots.

November 9 – The Friulian Way - The final day focused on charting the future of collaboration between Efasce Italy and Efasce Canada. It began with a memorial Mass at St. Clair of Assisi Parish in honour of Don Vitaliano Papais, presided over by Bishop Pellegrini, Monsignor John Borean, and RevFF. Fr. Mose Gasperini. This touching celebration fostered spiritual connection and collective remembrance.

Subsequent discussions emphasized priorities such as enhancing youth exchanges, developing joint cultural projects, and strengthening connections among Friulian organizations worldwide. A farewell luncheon concluded the visit, offering time for reflection and gratitude. After the luncheon we enjoyed with a presentation from Frank Perissinotti (Vice President of the Fogolaris in Windsor and retired professor of Architectural Technology) on the history of Architecture in Friuli.

The delegation expressed deep appreciation for the exceptional hospitality and organizational efforts of the FFT and its executive. This meaningful visit reaffirmed the vitality of the Friulian community in Toronto and deepened the bonds between Efasce Italy and Efasce Canada. With renewed commitment and shared vision, both organizations look forward to continuing their collaboration and preserving Friuli's rich cultural legacy for generations to come.

*Robert Gregoris, Efasce Canada*



**A HOLE IN ONE!**

After a long hiatus, fall brought with it the revival of the FFT annual golf tournament. Although sporting a new and different moniker – *Legends on the Green* – it kept alive the tradition of supporting Villa Leonardo Gambin and community. Held at one of Ontario’s premier golf clubs, Nobleton Lakes; the tournament was a tremendous success from every possible angle. Higher powers were shining down on the 120 golf aficionados enjoying the spectacular weather, the wonderful course and the seven food truck stations sprinkled throughout. The “*fine dining*” stations included such delicacies as oysters, spieducci, porchetta, shrimp, souvlaki and even espresso with grappa, to name but a few. Along with a terrific time and wonderful foods, participants and organizers were also rewarded with the satisfaction of raising \$25,000 for Villa Leonardo Gambin, long term care facility. Reviews were so positive, *Legends on the Green* will be returning and is set for September 18, 2026. Sincere gratitude and thanks are expressed to everyone involved in bringing back and supporting this much-loved event – our most generous sponsors, organizing committee, volunteers and participants along with the intervention from afar for the perfect weather.

A very special shout out is given to Tournament Chairs Michael Romanin and Daniel Battiston whose leadership and guidance was no small role in the day’s success. While all involved with the event were winners, congratulations are extended to:

First Place Team: Marco Isabella, Eric Franzolini, Nick Damiano and Bill Bouza

Closest to the Pin: Jerry Borean and Joe Zamparo

Men’s Longest Drive: Ryan Plant

Ladies’ Longest Drive: Phillipa Welch

In addition to the proceeds generated from this golf tournament, VLG was also the recipient of \$5,000, from Famèe Furlane Toronto Family and Friends Golf from a previous year.

*Ivana Pontisso*





**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR  
LEGENDS ON THE GREEN  
SPONSORS**

**TOURNAMENT SPONSORS**



**HOLE SPONSORS**



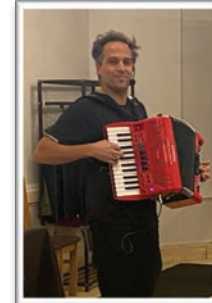
## FROM SOLD-OUT DINNERS TO SHARED GENEROSITY

After a summer holiday, Friulicious dinners returned in September, greeted with enthusiasm from the moment tickets went on sale. Momentum carried straight into October, as Friulicious transformed into an Oktoberfest celebration filled with pretzels, beer, bratwurst, homemade sauerkraut, strudel, and a live performance by Carmen Spada and his accordion, bringing everyone to their feet with cheerful polkas and other tunes.



November continued this incredible energy as demand grew with tickets selling out in record time.

Seating in the Canada Room and Saletta was at full capacity. An assortment of donated gift baskets was included in this month's raffle draw. A heartfelt thank-you is extended to all donors, especially Frank and Tania Rizzardo from Il Tagliere Meats for the beautiful salumi basket. It was amazing to see "zovins" decked out in our furlan merchandise, and helping wherever they could from selling tickets to calling out lucky winners.



This fall also brought a heartwarming milestone for our *Share the Love* campaign. Thanks to the generosity of Friulicious participants, an additional \$3,840.00 was raised for local charities, bringing the grand total since January to an inspiring \$9,970.00 in nine dinners. It's a beautiful reflection of who we are—a community that gathers with joy, celebrates with tradition, and gives with an open heart.

Recognizing the overwhelming success of these dinners, the Board of Directors is committed to introducing four additional Friulicious dinners in 2026. Be on the lookout for further details.

Flavia Muraca



Cheque presentation to Valerio Girardi, from Autism Beyond 21 (June charity recipient)

## ALOHA FESTA DEL "5"



On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, the Famee Furlane Toronto hosted its annual birthday celebration at the Veneto Centre, where members of the Famee whose birth year ended in "5" were celebrated.



Our theme was "Hawaii" and by all accounts, everyone loved the photo opportunities and decorations. The centerpiece was a fresh pineapple and won by one lucky person at each table.

We had 107 people in attendance with 20 celebrants which included two who just turned one, Mila Santarossa-Wakaruk and Luca Wlodarczyk.



Lunch was served by Chef Sam and his staff at the Veneto Centre along with wonderful birthday cake, and wine thanks to the sponsorship of the Famee Furlane Toronto.

Congratulations to the winner of the 50/50 cash draw Holly Pontisso, and winner of the best Hawaiian Costume Claudio Sacilotto. Proceeds from the 50/50 draw were used in support of the Famee Furlane Toronto Food and Toy Drive.

Next Year, for those celebrating their birth year ending with "6", we are returning to a Saturday night event with music and dancing! Lots of time to shine up the dancing shoes.

*Mara Mian*





## GORIZIA AND NOVA GORIZIA: European Capital of Culture 2025

The cities of Gorizia, on Friuli’s eastern border, and Nova Gorica in Slovenia have been named the European Capital of Culture 2025. The organization giving this honour, GO2025, called the alliance ‘the first European capital of borderless culture’. GO! Borderless has a mission: to give voice to the combined heritage of a modernist city and a thousand-year-old city.

GO2025 organized many events over the year on both sides of the border. These included presentations and exhibitions on food, art, history, fashion and music. Many events carry on into early 2026. One such presentation, called ‘The Smuggling Tour’ explained the ways and risks people took smuggling items across the newly created border after WWII.

Gorizia has an ancient history. As a border city, residents spoke Friulian and Slovene. Its castle, built before the year 1000, overlooks the Isonzo River. Today tourists can find their way around the castle and climb to the turrets, giving a wonderful view of the countryside.

The end of WWII brought many disputes over borders, and Gorizia was included in that. The city was divided. Part remained in Italy; part in Yugoslavia. Many buildings, like the Kostanjevica Monastery (Convento di Castagnevizza), Kromberk Castle (Castello Coronini), the Sveta Gora (Monte Santo) pilgrimage site, the old Jewish cemetery, and the northern railway station became part of the Yugoslav side of the border, along with over 20% of the town’s population. The current population is 33,666.

In 1948, the authorities of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia (with President Josip Broz, Tito's special support) started building a new town called Nova Gorica on its side of the border. Building continued for some 25 years, incorporating many small towns. Today, Nova Gorica, with a population of 13,000, boasts a university and theatre and it is open to tourism. [www.go2025.eu](http://www.go2025.eu); [nova-gorica.si](http://nova-gorica.si); [commune.gorizia.it](http://commune.gorizia.it)

*Doreen Vanini*



### A Day with the Dante Alighieri Society

The Institutional and Cultural Initiative organized by The Dante Alighieri Society – Toronto Committee, held on Wednesday November 19 was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Invited participants were representatives from a number of Italian social clubs throughout the GTA. The morning was spent at Queen’s Park courtesy of Rudy Cuzzetto, MPP for Mississauga-Lakeshore where participants enjoyed a most lively session of Question Period and the passing of the controversial Bill 33. Following a light lunch, general discussions with MPP Cuzzetto touched the importance of maintaining ties to our homeland, the need to encourage youth interest and curiosity in cultural endeavours as well as accessibility to language and other like programs. Whether the tip of the northern Alps, or the heel of our boot, similar challenges appear prevalent throughout.

From Queen’s Park, a short walk led participants to Dante’s Garden at St. Michael’s College in the University of Toronto; a beautiful homage to Dante Aleghieri. The garden houses a bronze statue of Dante surrounded by 100 bronze plaques, each one depicting a “canto” or a poetic chapter in his epic poem, The Divine Comedy. The day’s initiative ended with a presentation by Prof. Paolo Granata, wherein a bit of our roots shone bright as he talked about The Guarneriana Library in San Daniele del Friuli. This library houses the oldest copy of Dante’s Inferno, created with methods and materials from Dante’s era. A facsimile of this beautiful volume was presented to St. Michael’s College 2021 and is in the John M. Kelly Library. It was a most enjoyable day filled with new experiences and enlightenment.



*Ivana Pontisso*

## MEMORIAL BENCH FOR OLGA PUGLIESE, PhD., Professor, Administrator, Proud *Furlane*

On September 28, 2025 some 100 people gathered on the Victoria College Quadrangle, at the University of Toronto to officially unveil a bench in honour of Dr. Olga Zorzi Pugliese, who passed away on March 23 of this year.

On the bench is a plaque honouring Olga, with the words, ‘*Canadian, Italian, Friulian*’, three equal parts of Olga’s makeup and proud links. It’s a simple bench, in a good position close to the University of Victoria building and overlooking the quadrangle. As Dr. Konrad Eisenbichler, the event’s host, explained, the donations for the bench were easily raised.

Olga gained her PhD in Italian Renaissance literature and became a full-time member of U of T’s Department of Italian Studies in 1967. She taught there for 45 years and served as its chair from 1997 to 2002. In 2008, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Canadian Society for Renaissance Studies.

Dr. Eisenbichler, colleague and friend of Olga’s for over 50 years, and Friulian, (born in the region of Giuliano-Dalmati, before its being ceded to Yugoslavia after WWII), introduced the speakers who included dignitaries from the university, the Italian Consul General, former colleagues and students. Rochelle Zorzi spoke of her memories of how her aunt Olga encouraged her learning and reading and curiosity.

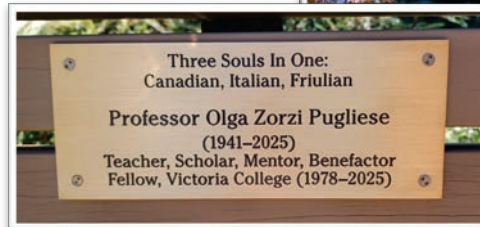
FFT Chair Joe Zamparo spoke of Olga’s connection to the Famee over many years. She helped Armand Scaini and Alberto DeRosa set up the Salvador Scholarship 20 years ago, and she was very supportive in promoting the works of *Furlan* painter Aldo Chiarandini.

She fought for years to get the proper recognition for the artisans from Friuli who created the amazing mosaic ceiling over the east entrance to the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). And she did get it, with a talk and presentation at the ROM in June 2024. Her article, entitled ‘*The Magnificent ROM Mosaic Ceiling*’, on the creation of the ceiling can be found on the ROM website.

The tributes left a description of a very caring lady, an educator and a successful fighter for causes she felt needed attention.

All are invited to visit the quadrangle and sit on Olga Pugliese’s bench.

*Doreen Vanini*



*Olga's bench, located in the quadrangle of Victoria University, U of T.*



## FAMEE FURLANE BOCCIOFILA The Legacy Continues

Bocciofila's 2025 winter tournament has come to an end. At the year-end Christmas Dinner, held on Friday November 22, we congratulated all of the players and first place winners Anna Danelon, Sergio Sacilotto and Gianni Salvador. A special thanks went to Anna Filipuzzi for her weekly contribution throughout the tournament in keeping everyone energized with her baked goods. Mike at Vicentina Meats also deservedly received thanks for donating the delicious porchetta enjoyed by everyone and Lida Midenia for the lovely table centre pieces. Taking time from his busy schedule, it was a nice surprise to have Famee Furlane Toronto Chair, Joe Zamparo, join us for dinner.



The league is looking forward to everyone returning for the spring tournament.

At this time, we wish you and all your families a joyous Christmas filled with love, happiness and prosperity! Bon Nadâl a ducj!

*Famee Furlane Bocciofila*



## GRUPPO ETÀ D'ORO - Friendship and Smiles

On October 15, the Età D'Oro celebrated Thanksgiving with a delicious lunch. We thank all those who attended and made this a great success. This Thanksgiving celebration was made extra special by the generosity of all members who contributed with their delicious baking skills.

Our Christmas Lunch which took place on December 17, hosted members, their family and friends and enjoyed a joyous traditional Christmas celebration.

Our regular Wednesday social gatherings for bingo and cards are now closed for the holidays and will restart on Wednesday, January 7, 2026. The below pictures show committee members busily setting for the weekly social afternoon.

At this time we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year.

*Vicky Romanin, President of the Gruppo Età D'Oro and Committee*



## FAMEE FURLANE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY Recapturing Good Times

We hope your summer was fun filled and great memories were made. Here we are in a new season and a new beginning to the FFWA 2025/2026 year. It's hard to move forward without understanding our past and how we came to be.



*FFWA Founder Elda Maraldo*

Twenty years ago Elda Maraldo had an idea. She put pen to paper, wrote and submitted her proposal to the FFT Board for creating a women's auxiliary. Her proposal was met with resounding approval and our story began. It was only fitting that Elda share her proposal with membership at our first meeting of the fiscal year leading into our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Many of her original visions have been realized. Some of the original members shared early memories of past happenings. We will be revisiting many more stories throughout our 20<sup>th</sup> year celebrations on a monthly basis.



*FFWA Founder Elda Maraldo, along with original committee – Elemanna, Ivana and Carla*

Congratulations and a heartfelt thank you to our Founder, Elda Maraldo. We wouldn't be here without you.

In October it was incredible to witness such creativity from our members. Within an hour, magic happened - pumpkins were decorated with an array of whimsy and fantasy. Personally, I was in awe of how these varied themes came to be with limited materials to work with. Well done ladies. Take a look at some of the artwork we captured.



Namaste November – we took time during our meeting to pause and meditate. Whether absorbing the serenity on floor mats or in a chair, the entire experience, courtesy of Kallie and Jerrod or Jellysky Yoga, truly bathed us all in tranquility. This is the calm before the storm of Christmas gatherings, cooking, baking and hopefully lots of laughter and good cheer.

On behalf of the FFWA, we wish all of you and your family the best of the season and talk to you in the new year.



Mandi, e Bon Nadal  
Verna Zanardo



The year is winding up on a high note as we welcome twenty new members who have joined since September!

Lucie Presot  
Michael Picco  
Susy Brusadin Picco  
Gina Tramonte  
Karen Ridolfo-Melchior  
Ryan Hogan  
Lydia Maria Tonelli  
James Kennedy Jamieson  
Daniel Battiston



Paola Franceschetti  
Paolo Lenuzza  
Fabio Lenuzza  
Dionisio De Bortoli  
Robert Francescutto  
Doranne Busche  
Bruna Abatecola  
Gerardo Vecchiato  
Ersilia Vecchiato

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in becoming a member, email: [membership@fameefulane.com](mailto:membership@fameefulane.com) for an application form, or drop by the office during regular business hours.

Membership renewal invoices have been sent out to all members by email or regular post. If you have not received yours, please call the office at 905-851-1166. Remember your payment is due before January 1, 2026.

*Alida Re*

## FRIÛL INFATS - QUESTIONS

1. In what town do several Christmas devils, the Krampus, emerge from an old mine to frighten onlookers in a fire parade on the first Sunday of December?
2. What painting did Pope Leo XIII declare to the “*Queen and protectress of Tagliamento and its inhabitants*”?
3. What Friulian traditional “ugly” masks closely tied to pre-Christian winter rites, found in villages like Resia, resemble ancient Alpine rituals like Krampus?
4. What regional wine, made with dried grapes, is considered one of Italy’s greatest dessert wines?
5. What is the name of the famous wind that can reach hurricane strength in Trieste?
6. When was the Castello di Udine built?
7. Who inaugurated the Redipuglia War Memorial, Gorizia in 1938?
8. What fortified hilltop town near the Collio wine region is encircled by medieval walls and known as one of Italy’s prettiest borghi?
9. What city houses the *Museo del Duomo* with the *Pala d’Oro*, a masterpiece of medieval goldsmithing?
10. In what Ontario city can the Udine Friulan Fountain be found?



*Answers on page:21*

## ATOR LA TAULE



### BACALA IN UMIDO

#### Ingredients:

- 1 kilo salt cod
- 3 bay leaves
- ½ onion, chopped
- 1 garlic clove
- 2 tablespoons parsley, chopped
- 1 tablespoon tomato passata or paste
- 4 oz white wine
- 3 anchovies, chopped
- Milk – enough to cover the cod
- Salt and Pepper to Taste

#### Method:

1. Place cod in a cold water filled bowl, ensuring the cod completely covered and refrigerate it for 3 or 4 days, changing the water twice daily. This both tenderizes and desalts the cod.
2. Once desalted place the cod in pot filled with cold water and add 2 bay leaves. Turn the heat on high and once the water starts to boil, remove the cod and sift through it carefully, removing any bone fragments or skin.
3. Cut cleaned cod into pieces and set aside.
4. In a clean pot heat olive oil and make a “soffrito” with the chopped onion, the whole garlic clove, parsley and tomato passata or paste.
5. Sauté until the onion has softened nicely.
6. Remove the garlic clove.
7. Add the wine and remaining bay leaf to the pot. Sauté until the wine is evaporated.
8. Add anchovies and cod to the pot. Stir together and add milk enough to cover all the cod.
9. Cook the cod on low temperature for about 3 to 4 hours, seasoning with salt and pepper to taste.
10. Serve with plenty of crusty bread or polenta. Enjoy!

This recipe was given to me by my good friend, Iva Muzzin. She inherited it from her mother-in-law, Maria Marson. This dish has become a much-enjoyed family staple in my household for both our Christmas Eve and Good Friday dinners.

*Anna Filipuzzi*



## TREKKING THROUGH PEAKS IN NEPAL The Alessandro Furlano Story

Since childhood, Alessandro Furlano has set his own goals, from playing goalie in hockey, to studying to be accepted into St. Michaels College School, or traveling to India; Alessandro's passion for adventure and new discoveries started at a very young age. Alessandro recently graduated from the Co-op Electrical Engineering program at the University of Ottawa, after successfully navigating the challenges that Covid presented in his first year. He always had intention of seeing a small part of the world prior to entering the working world.

Initially, the thought was to do a tour of Europe, including visiting various relatives in Italy, but being a student with a limited budget, he quickly determined that this was not financially feasible at this time. The next plan was Southeast Asia. While doing research, he came across the idea of trekking in Nepal. In his research he determined that Nepal is the perfect place to go long distance trekking. Not only does it give access to some of the most breathtaking landscapes on earth, being "home" to over half of the World's 8000m+ peaks and over 1300 6000m+ peaks (*Denali Peak in Alaska, is the only peak in North America over 6000m*). It also has teahouses (small family run lodges) which make it much easier to plan, as they provide food and accommodations. Although, not luxurious, it means that you do not need to carry a tent or any food which saves weight and planning.



So off to Nepal he went, doing 3 separate treks, Langtang Valley trek, Annapurna Circuit, and the Three Passes trek. Alessandro completed the Langtang Valley trek which is an out and back trail through the Langtang Valley, followed by Annapurna Circuit starting in Besishahar and ending in Ghorepani after doing sunrise at Poon hill. His final trek was the Three Passes trek which took him all over Sagarmatha National Park, home of Mount Everest.



To prepare for the trip he started doing workouts specifically focusing on mobility and flexibility knowing they would be key to not hurting, after long days on the trail. Because he was not using porters or guides, which meant he had to carry all gear, he spent time getting used to carrying 30 lbs on his back. The goal of the trip was to complete all 3 treks, while managing the challenges of hiking in altitude. Both the Annapurna Circuit and the Three Passes trek would also be more physically demanding than anything he had ever done, each involving more than 2 weeks on the trail. The trip overall provided him with a better understanding of Nepal and the Himalayas in general. The Nepali people were some of the kindest and most warm people he has ever met. They were always willing to lend a hand and made him feel welcomed as soon as he arrived. When in the presence of Everest or the other 8000m peaks it was easy to understand why they are revered spiritually. There is something about them that truly makes you wonder how something like that could ever exist. The alpine glaciers provide the resources necessary to support life in a landlocked and isolated nation.

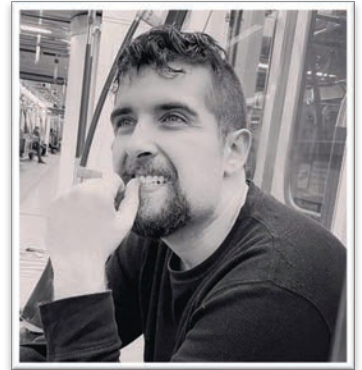
His future includes going to Bhutan for the Snowman trail, the Balkans (Montenegro, Kosovo, and Albania specifically) to do the Peaks of the Balkans trail, plus there are also several treks in Kyrgyzstan that interest him. He is also interested in doing glacier training and other mountaineering training with an eye on potentially climbing some 4000 to 6000m peaks in the future.

*Nonna Sylvia Furlano & Nonna Mariolina Franceschetti*

## CHALLENGES & JOYS

### LOVE THAT NEVER ENDS The Robert Muraca Story

Nothing truly prepares a parent for the moment they hear the words that will alter the course of their life. For our family, learning that our first-born son, Robert, had Autism was that moment. In an instant, our expectations shifted, our roles changed, and the future we once imagined moved in directions we never anticipated. What remained constant was our devotion to him: we would fight for him with everything we had.



We tried everything we could to reach Robert, searching for any way to better understand his world. Slowly, small signs began to surface—a soft sound, a calm moment, the faintest spark of connection. These glimpses, rare but meaningful, kept us moving forward and pushed us to leave no stone unturned in finding what he needed.

Early on, we were told that Robert might never speak. I learned to live with that possibility, even though it broke my heart a little each day. And then, when he was around five years old, it happened. In a moment so tender and profound, he looked at me with his beautiful blue eyes, and softly said in a clear voice, “*Mommy.*”

Robert’s teenage years brought new layers of difficulty. His behaviours became too intense for any program or medication to contain. The days were heavy—filled with fear, exhaustion, and the frustration of pleading into a system that too often refused to hear us. There were times when I questioned whether I could keep going. But I did, because Robert needed me.

Everything changed when Robert moved into a supportive home where caregivers saw him, the person—not just his diagnosis. With structure, patience, and kindness, he began to stabilize. Slowly, his smile returned. He thrived within routine—gardening, helping around the home, going for long walks—and took pride in every accomplishment.

Today, Robert is 29 years old—energetic, intelligent, curious, and full of life. Autism does not define him. He is my son, my teacher, and one of my greatest gifts. He is someone with passions and joys, with a spirit that shines when he is surrounded by patience, compassion, and understanding. No one can predict the future, but in this moment, I am deeply proud to be his mom.

Being his mother has been the hardest thing I have ever done. There have been sleepless nights, tears I feared would never end, and moments when the weight of it all felt unbearable. But there has also been love—more love than I ever imagined a heart could hold. That love carried me through the darkest moments. It is what has, and keeps me fighting when I am exhausted, searching for light when everything seems lost, and believing in a way forward even when the world says otherwise. It was love that gifted me with the resilience to strive through compassionate advocacy and ensured that each step mattered.

Robert continues to teach me every day—about strength, resilience, and the quiet courage to continue. Our journey has been challenging, but deeply meaningful, and every small step has led us toward a future shaped not by fear, but by love and the extraordinary spirit of a young man who shows me, again and again, what hope truly looks like.

*Mom -  
Flavia Muraca*



## HO HO HO – A BELOVED CHRISTMAS TRADITION

On November 30, 2025, the Famee Furlane Toronto held its much loved annual Breakfast With Santa at the Veneto Centre. Nothing brings joy than seeing a large gathering of children with parents, “nonni” and other family members. Attendance was at maximum capacity with close to 190 adults and 62 children. We were very cozy in the Rialto Room at the Veneto, but plenty of space was left for the kids to greet Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The children’s excitement was kept in line while awaiting Santa’s arrival by a terrific assortment of fun crafts provided and sponsored by The Women’s Auxiliary. A special shout out to the Auxiliary’s Elemanna Sacilotto and her team of elves for the terrific crafts. It was rewarding to see the youngsters having hands on fun, giving their chosen craft full attention and ultimately their beaming smiles as they proudly displayed their original creations. By all accounts, the craft area was a huge success overall.

However, interest in crafts was quickly lost as Santa’s pending arrival was announced. Their eyes sparkled and were glued to the door in excitement as Mrs. Claus handed out candy canes while Santa and his booming “HO HO HO” arrived.





Many comments have been received by the club and myself personally, thanking the Famee and the team for such a wonderful event. Here's to next year!!

Huge thanks go to all the volunteers involved whose commitment and hard work made the event such a successful and memorable event for everyone.

Special thanks are extended to all the sponsors including Anna Candaras, Arsenal Constructors, Bocciofila, Elvio and Leo Del Zotto, Ferrero Canada, Gruppo Eta D'Oro, Jan K. Overweel, Mara Mian, Melissa Zamparo, Oretta Avoledo, Societa Femminile, The Famee Furlane Women's Auxiliary and Famee Furlane Toronto.

Winners of the Candy Contest were Alessa Vadori and William Rhoden. Winner of the 50/50 Draw was Matthew Zamparo. Congratulations to everyone. Proceeds from the 50/50 Draw will be used to purchase food items for the Food/Toy Drive in support of the York Region Heroes Food and Toy Drive.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2026.  
Mara Mian



## FRIÛL INFATS - ANSWERS

1. Cave del Predil, UD
2. "Madonna di Rosa" in San Vito al Tagliamento, PD
3. Babacin
4. Picolit
5. La Bora
6. 1517
7. Benito Mussolini
8. Venzona, UD
9. Cividale del Friuli, UD
10. Windsor, ON, Canada

Jason Moretto





**The wait is over!**  
*Vôs dal Cûr*

**NOW ON SALE**  
**\$20**

**Pick yours up at the club today!**



IN MEMORIAM



**Eddy Del Medico**

*October 26, 1933 to  
November 4, 2025*

Famee Furlane Toronto President  
1970 to 1978, Lifetime Member

Eddy Del Medico was a man of strength, generosity, unwavering dedication, integrity and wisdom. During his years of leadership, Eddy guided our community with vision and courage. It was during his presidency that the building of 7065 Islington Avenue was both started and completed. His determination and guidance led the FFT through the innumerable and difficult construction obstacles including land rezoning, building permits, financing the rising construction costs, all the while with the wisdom to harmonize the wishes and ideas of membership. Eddy's leadership and his deep faith in the future, culminated with the grand opening of the new "home" on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1075.

Tragically, the heartbreaking earthquake on May 7, 1976 brought with it unexpected leadership challenges. Despite the initial trickle of devastating news from Friuli, an immediate course of action to provide assistance to beloved Friuli was formulated. This initial mobilization, lead by a committee of five FFT members, evolved into the "Friuli Emergency Fund", a massive national drive started with the FFT.

Eddy's legacy is remembered not only for his accomplishments, but for his kindness and for the spirit of overall unity he brought to the FFT throughout his tenure. His commitment to preserving traditions helped to enrich membership.

Let us continue to honor his memory, by celebrating our heritage and building bridges for future generations.

*Ivana Pontisso*



*Eddy & Premier Bill Davis at the grand opening of  
7065 Islington Ave.*



**Lisa Teresa Valent**

*December 12, 1978 to  
December 1, 2025*

Daughter to member Decimo Valent  
Dolomite Ski Group Member

Lisa Valent, our champion female downhill skier of the Dolomite Ski Group passed away after an 11 year-long battle with cancer. A fierce competitor both on and off the slopes, Lisa took on every challenge that life presented her, with a positive and optimistic attitude. A true Canadian she enjoyed the winters skiing, figure skating, sledding and just some fun playing in the snow. Her summers were also filled with activities, sailing, swimming and many outdoor sports. She was also an avid world traveller with a desire to explore the many cultures and sites our world has to offer.

Lisa was also an exceptional artist, very creative both as a painter and musician. She loved to sing, play cards and games, as well as work on puzzles with family and friends. Above all she valued and loved her family and friends, and her most precious of all, her darling Mia and her husband and best friend, Kevin Blusiewicz.

She will always be remembered for her good-natured qualities, her radiant smile and cheerful laughter. Lisa is an example for all of us, to be strong and go the extra mile.

Lisa you will always be "*Forever in our Hearts*".

*Zia Julie Pauletig*



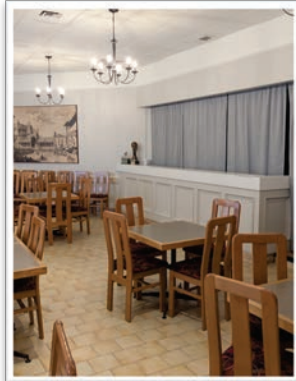
*Lisa with daughter Mia and husband Kevin  
at Mt. Tremblant*

## REVITALIZATION OF THE CANADA ROOM & SALETTA

With the understanding that we will be at our current location for an extended period of time, the decision was made by the board that the Canada Room and the Saletta needed refreshing. Both the Canada Room and Saletta ceilings and walls were brightened with new colours. In the Canada Room, the bar sink was replaced with a new commercial sink and the floor received new carpeting. The old bar equipment in the Saletta was removed and the area converted into storage space. New curtains were also added.

The exterior double glass doors were replaced, for added security, as the old would not properly lock. The roof top heating and air conditioning units were serviced to ensure optimal performance and although not visible, there was extensive cleanup of the back storage rooms and mezzanine. Furthermore, the office computer system underwent a much-needed update.

*David Furlano*  
*Director of Operations*



## EXPERIENCE FRIULI at FOGOLÂRS 2026 in FRIÛL



The Fogolârs Federation of Canada has created a programme from July 21 to July 26 that will bring congresso participants to many areas across Friuli. We will visit charming villages, historic castles and towns and see beautiful natural scenery. Throughout, tour guides will give participants new insights and understanding of our ancestral homeland. We will also join in ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1976 earthquake. We will travel in comfortable, air-conditioned coaches. The coaches will pick up and drop off at both hotels. Provisional visits include Cividale, Gemona, Gorizia, Palmanova, Sappada, Sesto al Reghena, Tolmezzo, Valvasone and more. Hotel accommodations start at €75 /night.



Join us and experience Friuli in a way you have never done before.

For complete details, please visit [fogolarsfederation.com](http://fogolarsfederation.com) or contact us at [info@fogolarsfederation.com](mailto:info@fogolarsfederation.com)





## DOLOMITE SKI GROUP 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEMORIES

In 1975, a group of Furlans who enjoyed winter sports, decided to form a ski group under the umbrella of the Famee Furlane Toronto. The founding members were Adriano Decillia, Sante Fasan, Arrigo and Carla Rossi, Lou Roman and Daniela Scaini. Thanks to them, the ski club thrived and grew from families with small children to grown adults and friends.

Silvana Franzolini and her husband, Adelchi were a big part of the Dolomite Ski Club from its very early days, with Silvana being the first woman to join in the fun. After many years of absence, following her husband's passing, this year she attended our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and agreed to share a few of her memories.



*"I was very happy to attend the 50th Anniversary of the Dolomites Ski Club luncheon at the Famee in October.*

*It brought back wonderful memories of the times and out of town trips spent skiing with fellow members. I recall a few members casually meeting to ski together at Snow Valley in Barrie back in the early 1970's. We started very small. There were about 6 to 8 of us, but I really remember that I was the only woman in the group for several years! By word of mouth, our cozy group grew as more people took up the sport.*

*We started racing amongst each other but occasionally entered races with other Ski Clubs from the Barrie area. A great day of Downhill and Cross-Country skiing eventually led to a great "wrap up final run" where we would all pile into the Chalet to enjoy food and of course plenty of bottles of wine! The owners of Snow Valley kindly let us use their kitchen ovens to warm prepared foods like Lasagna and Stew, but we were most content with everyone contributing cheese, deli meats and bread. Again, always with lots of wine and grappa. Our away trips by bus had more food packed than ski gear, as everyone looked forward to evenings eating, socializing, and playing cards after a day on the slopes.*



*I do not recall when or how the name Dolomite Ski Club was first introduced, but it is most fitting.*

*I hope it continues to attract new members. Skiing is a wonderful way to meet new people, socialize and stay healthy!"*



As Silvana mentions, our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated on October 19, 2025 at the Famee Furlane Toronto. The Saletta displayed various memorable and current photos, even one of Pierre Trudeau with some of our members. We also had a display of vintage ski clothing, equipment including downhill and cross-country skis along with ski boots, waxes and other "relics". Thank you to those that supplied us with the memories!





We had over 60 people in attendance in the Canada Room. There we reminisced with members we hadn't seen in many years. Silvana Franzolini was so happy to be in attendance and share her stories with so many of us. It was extra special to have her there.

We feasted on a wonderful buffet lunch served by Chef Gianni and staff at Culinary Studio. A special treat was Gianni Ceschia's infamous "muset and brovada" and being Furlans, no meal is complete without "polenta e formai"! We ended with the celebratory cake and home-made goodies donated by members.

Congratulations and Happy Anniversary to all members past and present. So many memories have been made over the years, of the fun and laughter accompanying bus trips to Blue Mountain and weekend trips to Mt. Tremblant. Anyone joining our bus to Tremblant is guaranteed an unforgettable trip!! See you at Mt. Tremblant, Quebec from February 25 to March 1, 2026. The bus is full, however there are still a few accommodation spots still available for 2026. For information, please leave a message with the office, 905-851-1166.



*Happy Holidays from your chair – Mara Mian and committee: Carla Bomben, Ivana Pontisso, Mara Querin and Giamba Toniolo.*

## MT. TREMPLANT, QUEBEC

**FEBRUARY 25 – MARCH 1, 2026**

Accommodations still available.



# Friuli Terrace



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**Armand Scaini†**

### Address:

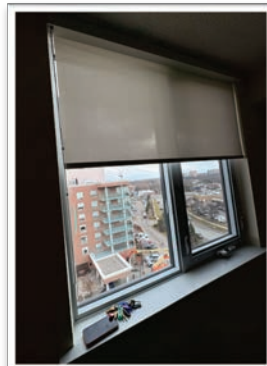
60 Friuli Court  
Woodbridge ON L4L 8G8  
905-856-4922



## WINTER 2025

As the cold weather is upon us, Friuli Terrace is preparing for the Christmas Season. Soon the lobby will be adorned by the Nativity Scene and Christmas Décor. Residents have begun to decorate their apartments.

## Home Improvements



2025 has been a year of renew and refresh at Friuli Terrace with much work underway to improve the condition of our building.

As everyone in the vicinity of Friuli Terrace has been aware, this year's major project was the replacement of the windows. We are pleased that the new windows are now in place and the residents couldn't be happier. They like the look, are easy to open and have reduced the outside noise. We look forward to the energy efficiency the windows will provide to the Terrace. As part of this project, it was determined that the 35-year-old blinds also needed to be replaced. The goal is to have the blinds in place by Christmas.

The Elevator replacement project is our next large project. Site preparation work began December 1<sup>st</sup>, and our residents will once again be using one elevator while the new elevator equipment and elevator car is installed. The first elevator will be completed the first week of February and the second elevator by the end of April. We are thankful for the government grant we received for the replacement of one elevator.

The Basement of Friuli Terrace has needed repair and a fresh face lift for several years. The priority for the work in the basement was first to take care of issues which were necessary to maintain the integrity of the building. The area formerly occupied by the gym which was previously a swimming pool, bocce courts and two squash courts were cleaned out and painted. The previous roof leak combined with the water that was used to maintain the bocce court surface, had us deal with some mildew issues. The changerooms as well as the bar area in the bocce court were dismantled. Although much discussion has been made over the use of this space, bringing these ideas to fruition is dependent on securing the necessary funding.

The first transformation of what was previously a squash court into a movie theatre is almost complete. We are thankful for a grant which allowed us to purchase an 85" television with surround sound, along with 15 theatre chairs. This room was launched in early December allowing residents to enjoy Christmas movies together.

## Fall Bazaar

The Fall Bazaar was held on November 8 by the Club D'Amicia. On sale were handcrafted items made by residents, previously loved items and delicious baked goods. Of course, the most popular item for sale were the Crostoli which were sold out in an hour. The money raised will be used to fund Club activities including the Christmas dinner.



## Halloween/Birthday Party

Although the Birthday Party is a regular monthly event, October's Birthday Party was extra special. The Birthday Party doubled as a Halloween Party. Residents and staff came to the party dressed in their costumes and enjoyed some cake and treats. Special Birthday wishes were for one of the Terrace's original residents Angela who celebrated her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday that month! Auguri Angela – many thanks for your inspiration to all at Friuli Terrace.



## Go Jays Go! Gone Jays Gone!

Although the Blue Jays World Series loss was a disappointment to all fans across the country, their run at the World Series was a perfect excuse for a group of friends to gather in the conservatory to watch every game and cheer on their team. Game 7 results were disappointing but what better way to digest the disappointing loss than with friends. Now we turn our attention to our Winter Boys in Blue, the Toronto Maple Leafs.



## Monthly Core Activities



Each month the calendar at Friuli Terrace is booked with activities for the residents to enjoy. Gentle Exercise, socializing and Rosary are some of the main activities that keep our residents occupied. Each month a mass is held in the activity room and is always well attended. Another favourite, other than the monthly birthday celebration, is the Sing a long with Antonella.

## CHATS Information Sessions

Earlier this year CHATS (Community Home Assistance to Seniors Home) included Friuli Terrace in a series of presentations and discussions geared toward providing information to seniors to ensure their safety and well being. The topics discussed most recently were:

September – Nutrition and Health

October – Fall Prevention

November – Seniors Safety

## December Events Included ...

December 11 – CHATS Presentation - Fraud Prevention

December 17- Christmas Carols with Antonella

December 23 – Christmas Lunch and Birthday Party

We want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy holiday season. We hope that your celebration of the Christmas season and the welcoming of a New Year is filled with much joy. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all at Friuli Terrace.

Bon Nadal e Bon An!

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!



Mara Querin

## PASSATEMPO

### TRADITIONS, FLAVOURS & WINTER LEGENDS

The winter season in Friuli is filled with warmth and heritage. Villages glow with lûs, families gather around the fogolâr, and the aromas of gubane, paneton, and roasted castagne fill the air. The magic of Nadâl comes alive through timeless customs, festive flavours, and beloved figures like La Befane and the legendary Krampus. See how many friulian words you can find in this wordsearch.



|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| CULTURE   | BEFANE    |
| CASTAGNIS | LUS       |
| CJANT     | MESSE     |
| FAMEE     | NADAL     |
| FOGOLAR   | PANETON   |
| FRIULI    | PRESEPI   |
| FURLANS   | STELIS    |
| GUBANE    | TRADIZION |
| KRAMPUS   | VIN BRULE |

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T G A U A U I U S I E I E R A T C C
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Answers on page 36

## Message from the Chair



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### Address

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

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



*Dear Friends,*

*As we come to the close of another meaningful year at Villa Leonardo Gambin, I am reminded once again of the strength, generosity, and compassion that define our community. Each season brought moments of joy, connection, and celebration for our residents, families, staff, volunteers, and supporters.*

*This fall, our residents enjoyed two cherished traditions, Grandparents Day and Halloween, each filled with laughter, creativity, and heartwarming intergenerational moments. These gatherings speak to the spirit of home we work to nurture every day.*

*We are deeply grateful for the incredible support shown through our signature event, this year's Oak Leaf Gala was an unforgettable success, raising over \$100,000 in support of our residents and the programs that enrich their daily lives. We extend our sincere thanks to our sponsors, donors, and attendees for their continued commitment.*

*We were also delighted with the tremendous success of the inaugural Famèe Furlane Legends of the Green Golf Tournament, held on October 9th at Nobleton Lakes Golf Club. It was a perfect day and, sincerely, one of the best-run tournaments I've ever attended, complete with exceptional food, great friends, and fun at every turn. The event raised an impressive \$25,000 for VLG, along with an additional \$5,000 contributed from prior years' Famee Furlane Family Golf Tournament, for which we are deeply grateful. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the organizers, sponsors, and participants who made this wonderful event possible.*

*On November 27th, we gathered for our annual Light the Night celebration, inviting families and our community to join us as we lit up the home with beautiful holiday lights, a shining symbol of joy, hope, and comfort that brings warmth and brightness to VLG each holiday season. We extend heartfelt thanks to our sponsor, Sienna, for their ongoing partnership, and to The Ralph and Rose Chiodo Family Foundation for generously matching donations up to \$15,000. Your support ensures we can continue offering the dignity, comfort, and quality of life our residents deserve.*

*As we reflect on the past year, with all its milestones, celebrations, and shared accomplishments, please know how deeply we appreciate your trust and support. It is your kindness that allows us to fulfill our mission, improve our home, and enhance every resident's experience.*

*From all of us at VLG, I wish you a peaceful, joyful holiday season surrounded by those you hold dear. Thank you for being an essential part of our community and our ongoing story.*

*With heartfelt gratitude,*

Andrew Iacobelli



## VLG Celebrates Grandparents' Day!



On September 7th, Villa Leonardo Gambin celebrated Grandparents Day with a wonderful turnout! It was truly heartwarming to see the amazing support from our community, especially from our incredible residents and their families. Their love, energy, and generosity made the event truly unforgettable.

We were so grateful for the generous donations of treats and warm beverages from Tim Hortons, and a special thank you to Big Cannoli, a Vaughan bakery, for their kind donation of countless delicious cream- and ricotta-filled cannoli.



A big thank-you also goes out to Councillor Mario Racco, Member of Parliament Michael Guglielmin, and our Vaughan Firefighters. Your presence and ongoing support in our home and community are always deeply appreciated.

On this special day and every day, we celebrate the wisdom, love, and legacy of our cherished grandparents.



**168 NEW BETTER BEDS GOAL ACHIEVED!**

THANKS TO YOU, WE REACHED OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL IN SUPPORT OF 168 NEW ELECTRICAL BEDS!  
YOUR GENEROSITY IS CHANGING LIVES, ONE BED, ONE RESIDENT, ONE ACT OF KINDNESS AT A TIME.

## Oak Leaf Gala - Celebrating the magic of Il Canto dei Fiori



On October 24<sup>th</sup>, we proudly hosted our signature fundraiser, the Oak Leaf Gala, at the Bellagio Boutique Event Centre. This year's theme, Il Canto dei Fiori – The Song of Flowers, brought a sense of elegance, colour, and renewal to every detail of the evening. With more than 250 guests in attendance, we are thrilled to share that together we raised over \$100,000 in support of our community.

Our emcee, Frankie “Flowers” Ferragine, guided the night with warmth and charisma. We were honoured to welcome Mayor Steven Del Duca, Deputy Mayor Linda Jackson, and MP Michael Guglielmin, whose presence added to the celebration. A special thank you goes to the Mayor’s Spirit of Generosity, who presented us with a \$5,000 contribution, helping us surpass our fundraising goal.

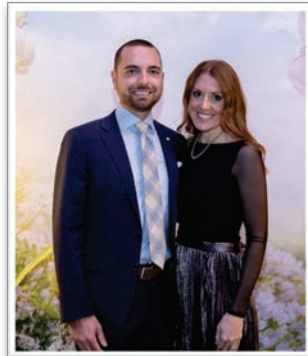


The entertainment truly echoed our theme, beautiful, vibrant, and full of life. Christopher Dallo opened the evening with a stunning vocal performance, followed by the electrifying sound of Cella, our electric cello duo. Our dancers from Diamond Dancers added movement and grace, and Ascension Groove once again closed the night with an unforgettable, high-energy finale.

## Villa Leonardo Gambin

Even with the World Series underway, excitement only grew, especially when the Blue Jays won, giving guests one more reason to celebrate.

Thank you to all our sponsors, supporters, donors, and attendees who helped bring Il Canto dei Fiore to life and made this year's gala bloom with joy and generosity. We look forward to welcoming you back next year on October 16 for another unforgettable evening.



## Petals of Appreciation for our Sponsors!

Presenting  
Sponsor



Entertainment  
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### Major Sponsors



Joanne Francescutti



### Circle of Friends Sponsors



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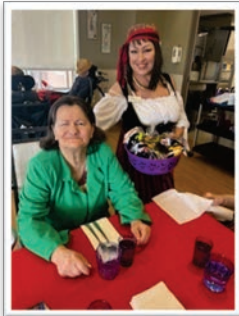


In-kind Donations



# Halloween 2025

Halloween Celebration at VLG. Our VLG team, residents, staff, and families came together for an unforgettable Halloween celebration filled with creativity, laughter, and community spirit. In the days leading up to the event, residents took great joy in carving pumpkins and decorating their home areas and the multipurpose room in preparation for the festivities. This year, we combined our Halloween celebration with our Monthly Birthday Party, making it an extra special occasion for everyone.



We were treated to delicious cupcakes generously donated by one of our wonderful family members Wanda whose mother was once a resident of our home. The afternoon was made even more festive with lively music from Ozzie, as residents danced and sang along to a mix of traditional favorites and spooky Halloween tunes. It was a heartwarming

day filled with smiles, music, and a strong sense of togetherness a true reflection of the vibrant community spirit here at VLG.



**Light the Night** ❄️

Villa Leonardo Gambin Holiday Celebration

**Support VLG's End-of-Year Campaign**

Your donation, no matter the size, will help us raise funds to support resources such as new equipment and technology, enhanced programming and upgrades for our home.

**The Ralph and Rose Chiodo Family Foundation**

This year, we are fortunate to have The Ralph and Rose Chiodo Family Foundation matching every donation 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 Campaign, you're not just contributing to a brighter season—you're creating a lasting impact on the lives of those who call VLG home.

OFFICIAL SPONSOR  
**Sienna**  
Senior Living

For more information about the ceremony or donations, you can visit [villagambin.com](http://villagambin.com) or call 905-265-6115.

**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)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Wednesdays                                 | Gruppo Eta D'Oro – Bingo and Cards - Canada Room & Saletta              |
| Sunday, January 4                          | La Befana - Canada Room   |
| Friday, January 9                          | Friulicious - Canada Room & Saletta                                     |
| Mondays January 12 to<br>March 2           | Furlan Classes - Winter Session - Canada Room & Saletta                 |
| Wednesday January 14                       | FFWA Meeting and intro to Tai Chi - Canada Room                         |
| Friday, January 23                         | Friulicious - Canada Room & Saletta                                     |
| Tuesday January 27                         | FFT Members' Meeting - Canada Room                                      |
| Wednesday February 11                      | FFWA Meeting with guest speaker: Boost your Immune System - Canada Room |
| Friday, February 20                        | Friulicious - Canada Room & Saletta                                     |
| Sunday February 22                         | Day at Niagara and Fallsview Casino - Niagara Falls                     |
| Tuesday February 24                        | FFT Members' Meeting - Canada Room                                      |
| Wednesday February 25 to<br>Sunday March 1 | Dolomite Ski Group Trip - Mt. Tremblant, Quebec                         |
| Friday, March 6                            | Friulicious - Canada Room & Saletta                                     |
| Sunday March 8                             | FFWA International Women's Day Celebration - Canada Room                |
| Thursday March 12                          | Cooking Class with Chef Gianni - Desserts Culinary Studio               |
| Friday March 27                            | Friulicious - Canada Room & Saletta                                     |
| Sunday March 29                            | Detroit: Music of Motown - Soulpepper Theatre                           |
| Tuesday March 31                           | FFT Members' Meeting - Canada Room                                      |

As outlined in our events calendar, the exciting lineup of upcoming events continues to grow, and they promise something for everyone. Please note that dates may change. Check out our monthly Mandi for updates on our website.

## In The Bleak Midwinter

(capturing the essence of Christmas in poetry)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
 Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
 Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;  
 Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.  
 In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
 The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,  
 Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;  
 Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,  
 The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
 Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
 But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
 Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
 If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
 Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

*Christina Rossetti*



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