

# Villa Colombo Toronto Family Newsletter

## Introduction & Organizational Update

Cari Familiari e Amici,

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our bi-monthly newsletter! We hope this season brings joy, warmth, and cherished moments with your loved ones. Buon Natale! This is a special time of year, and we're thrilled to share updates, celebrations, and exciting plans with you.

A few important notes:

- The Family Survey link has been sent to you. Our staff is assisting residents in completing the survey online. We'll share the results in the New Year.
- By mid-January, we will be launching a Family Portal through Evoke Health's "Engage" system, which will provide access to resident care plans. Families with power of attorney for care or those who have received explicit consent from the resident will be sent login instructions. Further details will be provided soon.

Warm Regards,

Lisa Alcia  
Executive Director



## Team Announcements

We are delighted to welcome Sheenam Aggarwal as the Assistant Director, Resident Services. Sheenam, a key senior leader, will work closely with Nikki Mann and lead our Quality-of-Care portfolio. Shirley Viaje, who previously served as the Interim Manager, Nursing Unit, 4th Floor, has returned to her role as Quality & Digital Health Specialist. Amanda Melanson has joined our team as the new Manager, Nursing Unit, 4th Floor. We are also pleased to welcome back Elliot Campbell as Resident and Family Relations & Experience Lead. Elliot's primary focus will be to build relationships with families and residents and serve as a valuable resource to families and residents. Additionally, we are excited to welcome Clyde Duran as the Nursing and Clinical Education Specialist. Clyde's primary focus will be to provide education and training in IPAC to all stakeholders, as well as clinical training and education for nursing staff on a variety of topics and best practice initiatives. Finally, Victoria Franco, Nursing Unit, 3rd Floor, will soon begin pregnancy/parental leave, and her replacement is currently being recruited.

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## Resident Programs

The festive season at Villa Colombo Toronto is brimming with excitement and joy! We're thrilled to kick off the celebrations with our Christmas Open Houses, offering a chance for families and residents to gather and share in the holiday spirit.

### Join us on:

- December 2nd for the 1st & 2nd floors
- December 3rd for the 5th floor
- December 4th for the 3rd floor
- December 5th for the 4th floor

These festive gatherings are sure to create cherished memories.

In keeping with the season's excitement, we are delighted to welcome the North York Community Band for an enchanting concert on December 9th at 6:30pm in Sala Caboto, with another festive performance on December 11th at 6:30pm. Get ready for more fun as our highly anticipated Christmas Bingo takes place on December 18th at 1:30pm, a beloved tradition everyone looks forward to!

### Holiday Roman Catholic Mass Schedule:

- December 24th at 3:00pm
- December 25th at 10:20am
- December 31st at 3:00pm
- January 1st at 10:30am (ushering in a peaceful closure to 2024 and a hopeful beginning to 2025)

Please stop by and visit our "La Vita e Bella" wall, a vibrant new addition to our community! This inspiring display, designed and created by some of our Recreation Aides, features a world map where staff, residents and visitors can mark their countries of origin and share warm greetings in their native languages. It's a beautiful representation of the diverse cultures and histories that come together at Villa Colombo Toronto.

Let's make this holiday season one of joy, connection, and celebration—here's to creating unforgettable memories together! We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

## Villa Colombo Toronto Auxiliary News

The Villa Colombo Toronto Auxiliary (VCTA) continues its legacy of supporting our residents.

### This year, their efforts funded:

- 2 Portable Sensory Carts
- 2 Tovertafel Magic Tables & Blackout Blinds for Sunrooms
- Renovation of Fidani Wing Family Kitchenettes (construction to begin shortly)
- Christmas Gifts for all Residents

On November 5, 2024, VCTA elected a new President, Pinella Buongiorno. VCTA Board Members: Anna Figliano-Bellissimo, Maria Filice, Rose Greco, Angela Hammond, Toni Rasile, Elena Ricci, and Paola Tiatto. Past President: Anna D'Aquila and Office Administrator: Rita Rotundo.

Contact VCTA at:

vcla@villacolombo.on.ca or at ext. 2260.

Congratulations to our entire Auxiliary Board for their hard work, dedication and significant accomplishments!

Throughout December, the Fusco Family Gift Shop (Tuck Shop) will be filled with a wonderful selection of resident-made crafts, including stunning jewelry and heartfelt holiday cards, showcasing the incredible talent and creativity of our residents—perfect gifts for loved ones. Be sure to also explore our assortment of panettone, torrone, chocolates, ornaments, and more, and don't miss the Pre-Boxing Day Sale (the week before Christmas) and Boxing Day Sale for great deals!



## IPAC and Holiday Celebrations

At Villa Colombo Toronto (VCT), we remain committed to prioritizing the health and well-being of our residents, clients, staff and visitors. Following infection prevention and control (IPAC) practices is always essential, particularly during the holiday season, which also coincides with flu season.

### Key IPAC Practices:

- **Continuous Risk Assessment:** We will closely monitor trends in respiratory illnesses and adjust our IPAC practices as needed.
- **Mask Policy:** A mask policy will be implemented as required to help reduce the spread of respiratory infections.
- **Vaccination:** We encourage all residents, families, and staff to stay up to date with vaccinations, including the flu shot and COVID-19 vaccinations.
- **Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection:** Rigorous cleaning and disinfection protocols will continue throughout the facility.

### Your Role in Keeping Our Community Safe:

- **Self-Screening:** Please self-screen daily for symptoms of cold, flu, or stomach illnesses. If you are unwell, we kindly ask that you postpone your visit until you are feeling better.
- **Hand Hygiene:** Frequent handwashing with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer is essential.
- **Masking:** VCT is a mask-friendly environment, and masks are available at the entrance and nursing units.
- **Visitor Guidelines:** We kindly ask that visitors refrain from visiting if they are experiencing any symptoms of illness.
- **Open Communication:** Please notify staff immediately if you or a resident develop any signs of illness.

By working together, we can minimize the risk of infection and ensure a safe environment for everyone to enjoy the holiday season. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

## Labelling New Clothing During the Holiday Season

With the holiday season upon us, many residents receive thoughtful gifts and personal items from family and friends, which bring so much joy to our community!

To ensure that your loved ones' new clothing items are properly labelled, we kindly ask that all items brought in are clean. Please complete a laundry labelling request/inventory form, available at the reception desk. The receptionist receiving the items for labelling will provide you with a photocopy of the completed form for your records.

Please note that from December 23 to December 29, there may be delays in labelling due to holiday scheduling and high demand for labeling. If you would like specific items prepared for your loved ones to wear on Christmas Day or New Year's Day, please request a special form at reception so we can prioritize these items for labelling.

Thank you for your cooperation and for sharing the spirit of the season with our community.

## Taking Loved Ones Home for the Holidays

If you plan to bring your loved one home during the holidays, please notify the nursing unit by December 19, 2024. This helps us prepare medications and plan for their care.

## A Heartfelt Thank You: Family Gift-Giving to Staff

As the holiday season draws near, we would like to take a moment to thank you for the kindness and generosity you show to our staff throughout the year. We truly understand the desire to express appreciation through gifts, and we deeply value your thoughtfulness.

However, we would like to gently remind families that, to ensure fairness and avoid any potential conflicts of interest, our staff members are unable to accept individual gifts or monetary gratuities. This policy is in place year-round to create a consistent and supportive environment for all.

If you would like to share your appreciation over the holidays, we encourage families to consider contributing gifts that can be enjoyed by the entire team. If you wish to bring a shareable gift, please reach out to the Manager of the respective unit or department, and they will ensure it is shared appropriately among all staff members.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. Your care and consideration help make Villa Colombo Toronto a wonderful place for both our residents and team members.

### Our Mission

We serve our Italian community, residents and elderly clients by providing the care they need to enjoy life to the fullest with dignity and independence in a safe, secure and home like environment.

**Villa Colombo Homes for the Aged Inc.**  
40 Playfair Avenue, Toronto, ON M6B 2P9 416-789-2113  
[villacolombo.com](http://villacolombo.com)

## Merry Christmas, Holidays Holidays and Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Leadership Team at Villa Colombo Toronto, we would like to wish you all Happy Holidays, Buone Feste, and a Happy New Year!

As we look ahead to the New Year, we are filled with gratitude for the strength and resilience of our community. Together, we continue to create a warm, safe, and supportive environment for our residents and families. We look forward to working alongside each of you in the coming year to further enhance the quality of care and your overall experience at Villa Colombo Toronto. May the New Year bring health, happiness, and success to you and your loved ones.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Here's to a bright and fulfilling 2025!



Back Row (L to R): Yudith Rodriguez, Teresa Cribari, Chad Furtado, Amanda Melanson, Patricia Parente, Sima Mosto, Daniela Gigliotti Rivas.  
Front Row (L to R): Maria Lourenco, Nikki Mann, Christine Jose, Lisa Alcia, Victoria Franco, Marisa Pronesti, Sheenam Aggarwal, Teresa Manserra.  
Missing: Nives Bosco

### Our Vision

Our community's trusted provider of exceptional care.

