



CAETANI CENTRE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caetani Centre Splashes into Summer with Revamped Fundraiser

Celebrate the start of summer when the Caetani Centre holds its newly revamped live fundraising event, the Caetani Splash Viva d'Arte, June 25.

VERNON — The gardens are getting spruced up while colourful works of art are being delivered in time for the Caetani Centre's annual fundraiser.

Formerly known as the Splash of Red, this year's event has been renamed the *Caetani Splash Viva d'Arte* to better reflect the Caetani Centre's Italian roots. The event has also been moved to an earlier date and time, **Saturday, June 25 from 4 to 8 p.m.**, in order to celebrate the summer solstice with a colourful garden party and art auction during daylight hours.

"We are looking forward to having a live event again after holding an online art auction the past two years during Covid," said Susan Brandoli, Caetani Centre executive director.

"Our volunteer gardening crew has been working diligently through all kinds of weather to make our 1.3 acre property safer and more conducive to holding large events. We couldn't have done this without our volunteers as well as a donation we received from Home Hardware. We are also appreciative to our sponsors MQN Architects, Bannister GM, and realtor Don Kassa, with Re/Max Vernon, for their generosity in helping us stage this year's event."

Several artists have donated colourful artworks for this year's live art auction, which will be presided over by auctioneer Kevin Rothwell.

"We have 29 original paintings on the block that have been made using a variety of styles, colours and mediums that will make a wonderful addition to any art connoisseur's collection," said Kristin Froneman, Caetani Centre staff member and Splash artist liaison. "We are also excited to have Kevin as our auctioneer. He is a well-known media personality and community supporter who will add to the fun with his lively banter."

Those who wish to view the artwork before the event can visit the Caetani Centre gallery from June 22 to 24 between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. An appointment is not required.

Sticking to the Italian theme, the event will also offer up scrumptious charcuterie, appetizers and desserts created by Uprooted Kitchen and Catering, accompanied with prosecco, wine and limoncello.

“As this is a summer solstice garden party, we encourage everyone to show up wearing their most festive garden hat. Think flowery, colourful, and fun. Flat shoes are also encouraged due to the new turf we have installed in our gardens,” said Kathy Parton, Splash committee chair.

Patrons are also encouraged to bring cash in order to purchase draw tickets for specially curated gift baskets, featuring golf packages, food and other donated items.

“Parking will also not be available on site. People who have mobility challenges will be able to be dropped off at the house. However, we ask that people park on surrounding streets and to please be respectful of our neighbours,” said Parton.

Tickets for the newly revamped *Caetani Splash Viva d’Arte* fundraiser are selling quickly. Single tickets and tables of eight are available at the Ticket Seller. Call 250-549-7469 or order online at www.ticketseller.ca.

Also now on sale at the Ticket Seller are tickets for the Caetani Summer Music Festival on **Saturday, July 23, 1-9:30 pm.**, featuring headliner Shred Kelly, as well as the summer guided tours of the Mysterious Caetani House, featuring the second installment of Sveva Caetani’s stunning Recapitulation painting series. Visit www.caetani.org for more information.

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Link to images, poster, event announcement and news release:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Lzh1dMyru2-CdkYK9rwMertotKr-ZHge?usp=sharing>

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Black and white: Caetani Centre

Captions: (colour photos): The Caetani Centre opens its gardens for its newly revamped fundraiser, the Caetani Splash Vive d’Arte garden party and art auction, June 25.

(Black and white): The Caetani family —Leone (father), Ofelia (mother), and Sveva (daughter) enjoy the original gardens at the historic Caetani house in Vernon. The home is now a museum and is hosting its newly revamped fundraiser, the Caetani Splash Vive d’Arte garden party and art auction, on June 25.

About the Caetani Centre:

Duke of Sermoneta Leone Caetani, his partner Ofelia and his daughter Sveva Caetani arrived in Vernon, British Columbia in 1921. They lived a life of wealth, privilege, travel, and luxury throughout the Roaring Twenties until the economic crash of 1929 decimated their fortunes.

Following the death of Leone in 1935, Ofelia and Sveva went into self-imposed exile. During this time, mother and daughter rarely left the house, and Sveva was not allowed to pursue her love of art. It was not until her mother's death in 1960 that Sveva, now in her early 40s, started painting again.

Her economic circumstances dictated that she find work for the first time in her life. She took on teaching positions at St. James Elementary and Charles Bloom Secondary. Around this time, Sveva began work on her Recapitulation series, featuring 47 large-scale vibrant watercolour paintings, documenting her story and journey through life.

In the mid-1980s, due to several mitigating circumstances, Sveva donated the complete Recapitulation series to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA). The works left the province of British Columbia for 35 years. The AFA provided access to the collection through exhibition loans and an online database.

Now, after more than 30 years since the first painting travelled to Edmonton, Sveva's Recapitulation has returned home to Vernon permanently and is now part of an extensive collection held by the Caetani Cultural Centre Society and on display at Sveva's former home, which is now the Caetani Centre museum in Vernon, BC.