

For Immediate Release

## **The Drama Unfolds at Variety Village**

(TORONTO – Wednesday, September 7, 2011) – Variety Village will unveil the brand new Barall Performance Centre on Thursday, September 8 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. with some very special performances by the Variety Village Drama Club, Raymond Barall (Baritone), Takako-Yanagida-Lordly (Soprano) and Megumi Okamoto (Accompanist).

The Barall Performance Centre has been made possible through a very generous gift from Mrs. Hiroko Barall. With a seating capacity for 60 people, the new theatre will be the permanent home to the Variety Village Drama Club – a club that champions actors, singers and musicians with special needs. Mrs. Barall's son Raymond has been a member of Variety Village for 30 years and sings and acts with the drama club.

“We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Barall as a long-time supporter of Variety Village. Variety Village relies on the generous support of individuals and corporations to provide funding for our facilities and programs so we are very grateful to Mrs. Barall for her leadership,” said Donna Richardson, Director of Development at Variety Village. “Thanks to her support, the newly designed multi-purpose space will enable the drama club to rehearse and perform in its own theatre.”

At Variety Village, drama is a very important program as it, along with sports, education and fitness programs, fosters creativity, strength of character and confidence in participants of all abilities. With a broad focus on young people with physical and intellectual disabilities, Variety is dedicated to promoting inclusion and integration while striving to make people of all abilities fully accepted everywhere. “This generous gift from Mrs. Barall will allow young people with disabilities the opportunity to experience play, drama and sport in an inclusive and welcoming environment,” said John Willson, CEO of Variety Village.

### About Variety Village

Variety Village promotes appreciation, interaction, empowerment and inclusion. We facilitate the achievement of life goals for people with disabilities through sports, fitness, wellness; awareness; education; training and skills development. Sharing our expertise expands opportunities for people with disabilities throughout the province to participate safely, confidently and actively in fitness, sports, and physical recreational activities.

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