

ARIDO MEMBERS SELECT VARIETY VILLAGE FOR FULLY DONATED RENO

The Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario (ARIDO) has selected Variety Village as the recipient of its annual, fully donated renovation project — and its largest to date. Since 2013, the ROI (Renew-Originate-Implement) initiative has seen ARIDO's members lend their time and resources to one worthwhile community-based organization each year.

"We always focus on space that requires an improvement to the interiors that will also in turn support important initiatives," said Sharon Portelli, executive director and registrar for ARIDO. "Essentially their [Variety Village's] largest goal is to help improve the quality of life of all people regardless of their abilities, and a lot of the times, they are dealing with people that have physical barriers."

Variety Village's board of directors

recently signed off on the design committee's proposal for a main lobby facelift that will increase the fitness, recreation and life skills facility's accessibility and help staff better serve the community. The first phase of the project will deliver new paint, lighting, a barrier-free reception desk, café and lounge seating as well as branding and wayfinding. All of this work will be completed before the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games this summer, as Variety Village's facility is one of the pre-games training sites.

"The challenge with renovating an existing main entrance and café is maintaining ease of traffic into the building without disrupting barrier-free access during construction," said Portelli. "The ARIDO ROI team worked closely with Variety Village to develop an effective

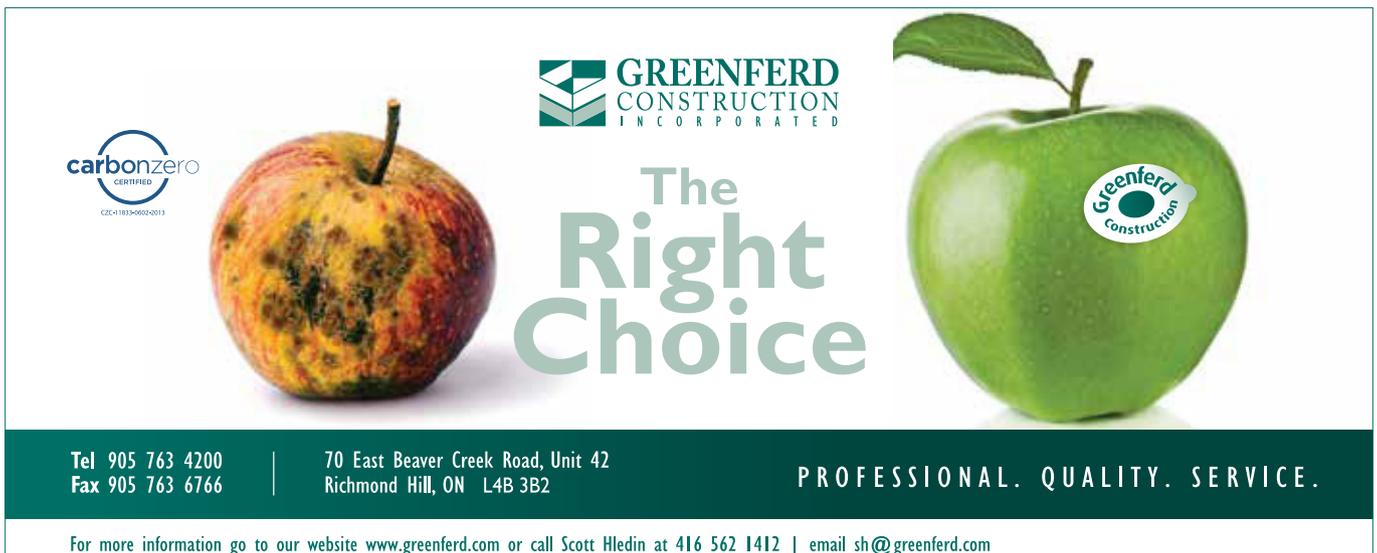
strategy involving a temporary reception located at the back entrance and the installation of new security devices."

The next step is for the planning committee to go out to the interior design industry to source everything that is needed to complete the renovation.

"We secure anything from product and materials to financial donations to services," said Portelli, "and all three of those types of donations combined help to make the project fulfilled and come to life."

Already, Armstrong and Division 9 have donated Armstrong vinyl sheet product suited to the high-traffic environment to replace the facility's existing aging and worn flooring.

For more information on ARIDO's ROI initiative, or to get involved, visit <http://www.arido.ca/english/community/roi-initiative.html>.



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