

## Tour #1

Caetani Cultural Centre Tour Script  
Bronwyn Evans (July 2014)

Meet on pathway (just off of parking lot) that leads to the front entrance of the house.

“Hello everyone and welcome to the Caetani Cultural Centre. My name is [insert name here] and I am a [insert job title] at the Caetani Cultural Centre. Today I will be taking you on a tour of the property, which is about an acre and a half in size. Unfortunately, we will not be able to go inside the house, as it is not open to the public at the present time. The house was divided into four, self-contained apartments in the 1960s and all of these suites are currently occupied by tenants. The Caetani Cultural Centre is in the process of reducing the number of private residences in the house in order to create a public space on the main floor of the building.

Before we start our tour, I would like to tell you about the Caetani Cultural Centre. The house standing before you is the former home of a local artist, mentor, and teacher, Sveva Caetani. Sveva passed away in 1994 and left her historic home and garden to the City of Vernon with the expressed desire of having it serve as an artist-in-residence facility for both local and international artists.

After her death, the Caetani House was managed by the Vernon Art Gallery. In 2008, the Caetani Cultural Centre, or C3, was established in order to better carry out Sveva’s vision. The C3 artist-in-residence program, AiR for short, provides artists with accommodation, while also supplying artists with a creative work environment and opportunities to interact with members of the arts community here in the North Okanagan. At the moment, the centre only has one suite reserved for the artist-in-residence program. The entrance to the suite is located on the south side of the house. Our current artist-in-residence, [insert name here], is from [insert place]. [Insert name] arrived on [date] and will be staying at the centre until [insert date]. [insert name] is a [insert type of artist] and he/she will be holding an exhibition of . . .

The tour should take about [insert time here]. Please feel free to take pictures and ask questions. If you would now follow me, we can start the tour.”

Move out onto front lawn and stand so that people will be facing the house.

“The house is believed to have been built in 1895 for Samuel Sommerville, a city clerk, assessor, alderman, and singer. The 6,000-square-foot house is in keeping with the late Victorian Vernacular Revival style, which was very popular at the time. The front entrance of the house leads to the Caetani Centre’s office and to a private residence. The current tenant, Sandra deVries created all of these metal sculptures around the front entrance. She also created this “yarn bomb” [point to trees]. Sandra has a studio out in the back. In 1903, a large wing was added to the back of the building. In 1913, the house was sold to the owner of the Coldstream Hotel, a man named Henry G. Muller. It was then purchased by the Caetani family in 1921.

I will now tell you a little about the Caetani family. The Caetani family is one of the oldest noble families in Italy. The family name can be traced back to 750 BC. Sveva Caetani’s father, Leone Caetani, was both a prince and a duke. He was born in 1869. Leone’s father and grandfather were members of the Italian parliament. Leone’s father was also a renowned archaeologist and president of the Italian Geographical Society. Leone’s mother was an English noble woman named Ada Booth Wilbraham. Leone was raised at the Palazzo Caetani, the family’s ancestral home in Rome. The castle also served as a gathering place for intellectuals from around the world. It is, therefore, not surprising that Leone and his five siblings all developed an interest in scholarly pursuits. Leone became a respected scholar of Islamic history. His 19-volume Annals of Islam is still considered to be a foundational text for Islamic

studies. Leone was also a very accomplished linguist. He was actually fluent in eleven languages. Leone's siblings also made a name for themselves. One of his four brothers, Roffredo Caetani, studied with the famous Hungarian pianist and composer, Franz Liszt (pronounced: List). In 2014, the Caetani Centre hosted Italian pianist Alessandra Ammara. She produced a CD of piano music all written by Roffredo Caetani and she performed several of his pieces at a concert that was held here at the Performing Arts Centre (August 2014).

Leone was also an avid traveller. He travelled extensively in the Middle East and in Asia. In 1891, Leone left for hunting trip in Canada with a member of the Prussian nobility. Leone was particularly interested in exploring the southern slopes of the Selkirk mountain range, in the Kootenay Lake area of B.C. This trip had a profound impact on his life and would ultimately draw him back to B.C.

In 1901, Leone married Vittoria Colonna, a member of a rival noble family. This marriage produced one child, a son, who suffered from mental and physical disabilities. Their marriage was a loveless union. In 1916, Leone began an affair with Ofelia Fabiani, the daughter of a wealthy Italian engineer. At this point in time, Leone was essentially estranged from his wife. However, due to Italian law, he was unable to file for a divorce. Ofelia gave birth to a daughter named Sveva on August 6, 1917. The birth was extremely difficult for Ofelia as she was a very delicate woman.

After his father's death, Leone inherited all of his family's lands. However, Leone's inheritance was threatened by disgruntled farmers who lay claim to the estates. Leone also lost a significant portion of his family's estates as a result of some very poor investments. Devastated by the loss of his land and fearful of the fascist politics of post-World-War-1 Italy, Leone relinquished his noble titles, uprooted Sveva and Ofelia, and moved his family to Vernon, B.C.

Why he chose Vernon in particular is not entirely known, but according to Sveva Caetani, her father wanted to escape to someplace where he could raise his family in peace. The rugged landscape of B.C. appealed to his adventurous nature. Vernon also had strong British-ties, which suited Leone perfectly as his mother was an English noblewoman. The family arrived in Vernon in the summer of 1921 and purchased this house. Sveva was four years old. If you would now follow me, we can move onto our next stop on the tour."

Walk on the lawn around the forest bed to the playhouse.

"This building here is called the Wendy House, which is the European name for a playhouse. Leone built this for Sveva to play in. It later served as a potting shed. By all accounts, Sveva's early childhood was a lonely one. She was cut off from other children her age and educated at home by a series of English governesses. Sveva was educated in broad range of subjects, everything from geography to French, to piano and drawing. Sveva showed a talent for art from a very young age. While on holiday in Monte Carlo, Sveva took lessons from a well-known artist, Andre Petroff. These lessons included painting from nude models and sketching her many pets. Her father also encouraged her love of reading and ordered books from around the world for Sveva to read. Back home in Vernon, Sveva would accompany Leone on his trips to the orchard and woodlot, which he maintained as a hobby.

The slower pace of life in Vernon suited Leone well; however, Ofelia found her new environment to be a very isolating one. She was unwilling to learn English and, therefore, was unable to make friends in the community. In order to placate Ofelia, the family would regularly travel back to Europe to visit family and shop. Despite her reclusive lifestyle, Ofelia was very fashionable and on these shopping trips, she would purchase expensive clothing made by designers such as Coco Chanel. Sveva was not as thrilled by these trips as her mother. She described these shopping excursions as a "crushing bore."

When Sveva was twelve, the trips to Europe stopped when the family lost much of its fortune in the stock market crash of 1929. Sveva's governess was let go and Sveva was sent to Crofton House, a boarding school in Vancouver, in September of 1930. Sveva excelled academically at Crofton House,

where she was able to interact with children her own age for the first time in her life. She made many friends and spent her weekends going to the opera and to the theatre. After roughly a year and a half at Crofton House, Sveva came down with measles and she was sent back home to Vernon to recover. She never returned to Crofton House.

In 1934, Leone Caetani was diagnosed with throat cancer. Leone underwent several painful operations at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Unfortunately, these operations had little effect. On Christmas Day 1935, Leone died, leaving both Sveva and Ofelia heart-broken. If you will follow me, we can now continue on to the rose garden.”

Walk over to the rose garden.

“The Caetani Centre has [insert number] varieties of roses. The cedar hedge here was planted by Sveva Caetani in the 1970s. Tragically, Sveva was not able to enjoy these beautiful gardens after her father died. For two years after her father’s death, 18-year-old Sveva was imprisoned inside the house by Ofelia. She was not even allowed to go into the yard. Ofelia controlled Sveva by telling her that she would have a heart attack and die if Sveva ever left her side. Sveva’s days were filled with dusting, cleaning, and arranging the furniture. Their only other companion was Ofelia’s Dutch servant, Miss Jüül. Eventually, when Sveva was on the verge of a mental breakdown, Ofelia let Sveva venture into the yard and accompany Miss Jüül on shopping trips into town.

When Sveva was not cleaning, her mother allowed her to continue reading. However, Sveva’s passion for writing and art threatened Ofelia as the two hobbies allowed Sveva to escape into a world of her own. Sveva was forced to give up her art for fifteen years in order to keep the peace between her mother and herself. However, Sveva was able to resist her mother in some ways. She kept a secret journal in which she would write down notes and ideas for paintings. After years of poor health, during which Sveva was more like her mother’s nurse than daughter, Ofelia died on New Year’s Eve, 1960.

In her will, Ofelia left her meager fortune to Miss Jüül and her properties in Rome to the Roman Catholic Church. At the age of forty-three and after twenty-five years of imprisonment, Sveva was forced to find work in order to support herself and Miss Jüül. She taught school for a few years at St. James Elementary School here in Vernon before eventually moving to Victoria to earn a teaching certificate from the University of Victoria. Despite living a very secluded life for forty-three years, Sveva was very successfully integrated into the community. She joined various clubs, such as the Canadian Women’s Club and the Naturalist Club, and made life-long friends. Sveva also learned to drive and her love of speed earned her a large number of speeding tickets.

Sveva returned to Vernon in 1972 and began teaching at Charles Bloom Secondary School in Lumby. Although Sveva never had children of her own, she did develop close bonds with some of her students and many of them continued to visit her and keep in touch after graduation. In 1978, Sveva began work on a project that would demand much of her attention for the next fourteen years. She wanted to create an autobiographical series of watercolour paintings, which she titled Recapitulation. In 1983, Sveva was forced to retire from her teaching job due to problems with diabetes and arthritis. For the next seven years, Sveva worked at producing the fifty-six paintings for Recapitulation. This work was only stopped when she was nearly blind in both eyes due to cataracts. Luckily, Sveva was able to undergo a successful cataract surgery, which restored her sight and allowed her to continue painting. In 1989, Sveva completed the final painting in the series. Recapitulation is currently housed by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts in Edmonton.

Sveva’s artwork was shown in many exhibitions and her fame grew to the point where she was receiving numerous requests for interviews, including a request from Vicki Gabereau of the CBC in 1991. On April

28, 1994, Sveva passed away peacefully in her sleep. If you would follow me, I can tell you about the other buildings on the property.”

Walk over to Dance Studio.

“This building is called the Dance Studio because, in later years, Sveva and her friends used to practice ballroom dancing in it, despite its small size. Before that, the Dance Studio housed a Japanese gardener who was employed by the Caetanis. The Dance Studio is currently rented by music teacher Devon Muhler. If we continue up this path, you can see a tulip tree on your left. Tulip trees get their name from their large blossoms, which resemble tulips. There are two species of tulip trees. This tree here is native to eastern North America and it has yellow, tulip-like flowers. This path carries on to the courtyard and water feature.”

Walk into courtyard.

“The courtyard was built in 2005. This area here used to contain a dog run for the large Pyrenees dogs owned by the Caetanis. This building here is the Ninfa studio. It was opened in 2008 and it is currently used by participants in the artist-in-residence programs. The Ninfa studio stands on the spot where the Caetanis once kept their dogs’ shed. This building used to be a carport [point to Sandra’s studio]. This area is being used by one of the residents, Sandra deVries. She uses this space as a metalwork studio. The building at the back here has two studios and a washroom. The studio on the left is being used by [insert info]. The studio on the right is being used by [insert info]. The building over there, which is partially obscured by trees, is called the straw bale shed. This toolshed is made out of actual straw bales. The bales were laid on top of the foundation and then adobe, which is a mixture of sand, clay, and water, was applied over top of the straw. The shed has a wooden roof frame. Turf has been laid over top of the wooden frame to create a green roof. Straw bales are sustainable and eco-friendly building materials as they take less energy to make and to transport than traditional materials.

We have come to the end of our tour. One of the key resources that was used for this tour is a book called *Caetani di Sermoneta: An Italian Family in Vernon, 1921-1994*, which was edited by Catherine Harding and which contains essays by Karen Avery, Melissa Larkin, Sarah Milligan, and Carla Yarish. The Vernon Museum and Archives was also a great help, as they provided access to digitized versions of the Vernon News. Some of the information in this tour was taken directly from Sveva Caetani’s 1991 interview with Vicki Gabereau on the CBC.

If anyone would like to use a washroom, there is one here and another one located across the courtyard. There is also a table set up with some information about our upcoming events and a membership form. Our members contribute to the Caetani Cultural Centre’s initiative for building opportunities for artists in the North Okanagan. By becoming a member, you help to support public programming, educational opportunities, artist residencies, and the preservation of this designated heritage facility. I would like to also draw your attention to the donation jar. The Caetani Centre is a registered non-profit and we rely heavily on donations in order to operate. Anything that you are able to contribute is greatly appreciated. Thank you all for coming and I hope to see you again.”

## Tour #2

Verbal:

Before tour begins: Meet on pathway just off of parking lot which leads to house.

“Hello everyone and welcome to the Caetani House. Tonight I’ll be taking you through a tour of the grounds, which are about an acre and a half in size and explaining the history behind the grounds and the Caetani family.”

-Samuel Sommerville had house built in 1896

-was a dance instructor who became city tax collector and alderman

Originally designed as late Victorian Vernacular Revival building. Which emphasized solidity and comfort over design

Called house Glen Doone

1903 a large wing was added

1913 sold to H.G Mueller owner of Coldstream Hotel

Caetani Family bought it in 1921

Several additions have been added over the years

Gardens evoke feeling of an early estate on east hill

Sveva left the house and grounds to the city of Vernon in her will to establish and maintain a centre for the arts for the benefit of the residents of Vernon and area in all artistic pursuits.

I will go into much greater detail about Sveva and her parents later in the tour, however, the Caetani family had much history behind it before coming to Vernon.

### Caetani Family History Notes

-Name can be traced back as far as 750 B.C.E (originally Gaetani) fought with the Saracens for control of Italian towns along the coast

Most all Caetani held political office. But there were also scientists, cardinals, and literary figures among other things

Came to Vernon in 1921

Many trips to Europe after move to Canada so Ofelia could feel less homesick

### Walk #1 through gravel area to beside Wendy House

Alright everyone we’re going to stop here so I can tell you a little bit more of the Caetani family history. Right now I’ll tell you about Leone Caetani who was the father of Sveva and husband of Ofelia and the main reason for the family’s emigration from Italy.

-Leone Caetani

-Born in 1869

Held office in Italy with the Radical Socialist Party even though father and grandfather were enlightened conservatives

Move to Vernon

Leone’s father died in 1917 which led to Leone inheriting the family estates

Soon after, social changes in post-war Italy brought about a series of conflicts regarding these estates

Many farmers made claims on his lands

These tensions and some unfortunate investments led to Leone losing a large part of his family’s land

Leone was overwhelmed with the loss  
Relinquished titles to his brother and moved himself and his family to Vernon B.C in 1921  
Other motivation for the move was the fact that due to old traditions and law in Italy, Leone was unable to marry Ofelia  
Sveva also named growing fascist political trends as a reason for the move to Canada  
Leone invested in an orchard and woodlot in BC region  
Leone diagnosed with throat cancer in 1934  
Went to Minnesota to seek treatment  
Underwent a series of painful operations from 34-35  
Treatment was abandoned in October 1935 and he was transferred to Vancouver General Hospital  
Sveva, Ofelia, and Miss Juul came down to be at his bedside  
Passed away on Christmas day 1935  
Buried in Vernon Cemetery

Right here on you're right you will see the Wendy house.

#### Wendy House

European name for play house  
Served as Sveva's playhouse and later a potting shed  
Has undergone some painting and renovations but more are planned. Perhaps turning it into a potter's studio.

Walk #2 to up to native gardens and dance studio

Ok everyone now I'd like to talk a little about Sveva's mother, Ofelia

#### Ofelia Fabiani

Born in 1896  
Daughter of wealthy Roman engineer  
Very delicate constitution and temperament which caused much difficulty during Sveva's birth  
Gave birth to Sveva in 1917  
Ofelia almost lost her life and spent period of intense recovery under care of wet-nurse  
Ofelia's transition to life in Canada was not as smooth as Leone's  
Her elite status and fashion centered ideals were of little use in Vernon  
Resisted learning English which furthered her family's isolation  
Frequent trips to Europe were needed to keep Ofelia content  
Separation from mother caused a rift that never healed  
After Leone passed she hung on to Sveva unmercifully  
Used heartbreak to guilt Sveva into staying by her side otherwise she would have a heart attack  
Ofelia's death  
New Year's Eve 1960  
Buried in Vernon Cemetery  
Taken from St. James' Roman Catholic Church to cemetery by horse drawn sleigh which was the first time in 27 years such a method had been used  
Dance studio –  
Used by previous tenants to practice ballroom dancing  
More recently served as an art studio for summer months

Upgraded in 2008 to serve as year round studio

Extension of courtyard and Native Gardens

Also added during 2008 renovations

Native because all the plants are native to the area

Walk Number three to middle of courtyard

Alright everyone this will be our longest stop on the tour as I will now be talking to you about the person who made these tours and the Caetani family possible, Sveva Caetani.

Sveva Caetani

Born august 6th, 1917

Usually taught by English governesses (Juul studio is named after one) which meant that she had little to no interaction with other girls her age

1930 trip to Monte Carlo Leone hired Andre Petroof to instruct Sveva in drawing and painting marking first artistic lessons she received

Sveva was sent to a boarding house in Vancouver after stock market crash marking first time she was surrounded by girls her age.

Crofton House

Letters to parents show father as disciplinarian in the family and mother as tender and loving

Very athletic

Talented musician and actress

Art was shipped to exhibition in Italy which pleased father

Blossomed socially at the school

Came down with measles in 1932.

Returned home to recover but never returned to school.

After father's death, her mother kept her housebound and restricted her art for many years

Got a job as an office assistant but then moved on to teach at St. James despite have no formal training

In 1969 Sveva moved to Victoria and got her high school degree and her B.C. Teacher's certificate

Leaving the Caetani house

Sveva rented out house and she and Miss Juul moved to Victoria

Finished high school at Adult Institute (Camosun College)

Enrolled at UVIC

Return to Vernon

Summer 1972 returned to Vernon with Miss Juul

Got a job teaching at Charles Bloom

Sveva rented out Vernon home and bought a house in Lumby to be closer to the school

Miss Juul passed away March of 73 also buried in family plot in Vernon cemetery

Sveva sold Lumby house and bought one closer to Vernon on Coldstream Creek Road

Got idea for recapitulation, her life story in the form of paintings, in 1975

Returned to Caetani house in 1976  
Finished written version of recapitulation in 78 and began painting soon after  
Joan Heriot moved in with Sveva in 1985 to provide support  
Completed Recapitulation in 1989  
Housed in Alberta Art Foundation in Edmonton  
Sveva had gained much notoriety by exhibiting her work in many exhibitions  
Many requests for interviews including CBC  
Sveva passed on morning of April 28th 1994

Joan Heriot Studio and Juul

Named after Sveva's good friend Joan Herriot and Miss Juul, Ofelia's good friend and one of Sveva's governesses.  
Studio originally used to house a Japanese gardener  
Renovated in 2005 into two artist studios and a washroom  
This renovation also led to the transformation of the area in front of the studios, which served as a dog run for the Pyrenees dogs owned by Caetani's, into a courtyard

Ninfa studio across from fountain

Where Caetani dogs used to sleep

Upgraded in 2008 along with dance studio into a fourth artist studio and wheelchair accessible washroom

Walk #4 to edge of parking lot to discuss straw bale building and who is living in the house now.

This will be the last stop on the tour. Discuss straw bale building, intentions for green roof. Let tourists know residents are living in the house.

Studios

Straw Bale Building

Could last for centuries

Is eco-friendly and shows the Caetani society's commitment to environment

Planning on adding a "green roof"

To be used on visual aid

Family History:

Shortly after coming to Vernon the Caetani's began a decade of traveling back and forth to Europe to visit family estates in Italy.

They also spent time in London, Monte Carlo, Paris and Rome, sometimes spending up to a year at any given point

These trips were more for Ofelia than anyone else as she was able to indulge in the "high life" that she enjoyed and shop for world class designer clothing

Leone

Born into family of political leaders and nobility

Oldest of five siblings

Fluent in eleven languages

Married twice

First wife Vittoria Colonna, member of one of the most distinguished Roman families  
Had one son with her who was physically and mentally disabled  
The marriage is believed to have failed because of her lack of interest in his scholarly pursuits as well as the stress of taking care of their disabled son  
Served in WWI from 1915-1919(end of the war)  
Known as Count Caetani locally  
Actually Duke of Sermoneta and Prince of Teano  
Member of Italian Chamber of Deputies  
Distinguished authority on Islamic history  
Had idea of becoming “gentleman” farmer but soon grew tired of work in the Orchard  
Preferred working as a logger in his woodlot

#### Ofelia

Ofelia hit very hard because of stock market crash she no longer had the amenities of Europe at her fingertips like she was used too  
Left Sveva financially strapped as there was no money in the will for her  
Was considered to be much more loving and tender with Sveva than Leone was  
Ofelia reportedly still recovering from child birth six years afterwards

#### Sveva

Sveva originally placed in “lower form of class” when she arrived at Crofton House because she had not yet adapted to rigorous academic climate but was excelling by end of first year  
It is unknown why she didn’t return to Crofton House after recovering from the measles  
Drew from Dante’s Divine Comedy as model for recapitulation  
Recapitulation is a total of 56 paintings  
Sveva was forced to retire from teaching in 1983 due to poor health brought on from arthritis and diabetes  
Nearly blind in both eyes from cataracts but had them removed and new lenses put in  
Sveva agreed to publish a book on recapitulation but never saw it published

### Tour #3

- Front of the building – Vernon’s Italian Renaissance
  - o Hello and welcome to the Caetani House. Today we will travel the grounds and the history behind it that is mostly unknown or forgotten amongst Vernonites. History is an amazing thing. It sparks debates, brings enlightenment, and reveals mystery. Here on the Caetani grounds we will uncover mystery and inspiration.
  - o The reclusive nature of the Caetani House has been well known amongst the community. Stories from people reflecting on their childhood recollected that the house and the family inside kept their distance from the rest of the city and were quite mysterious.
  - o The Caetani house is 6000 sq ft and the property is an acre and a half.
  - o Front section of the grounds – This installation is a “yarn bomb”. The artist who made this yarn bomb is one of the Caetani residents, Sandra De Vries. On the other side of the house is her studio, which we will be able to see later on.
  
- (move onto towards Salon studio window and allow visitor to “peak”)
  - o To begin with we shall go through the basic beginnings of the Caetani House.
  - o The house was built in 1896 by Samuel Sommerville, a historical monument in itself. Picture this: over a hundred years ago this house was carved out of a lush forest, isolated from the rest of the main settlement. If you know the Vernon area well you would think that downtown wasn’t far from here. But back then, even in the early years of the Caetani ownership, there was a forest in between the house and civilization.
  - o And this is how Leone Caetani liked it. Leone loved nature, loved English society, and loved democracy. It’s no wonder he chose to move out here.
  - o Born in Italy to a very prestigious family in 1869 whose past was filled with religious figures, scholars diplomats, scientists, writers, and, for those who know their Catholic history, includes popes Gelasius II and Boniface VIII back in the 12th and 13th century, respectively.
  - o With his long background, Leone didn’t disappoint. He was a devout scholar, politically wise, and a proud Italian.
  - o Leone’s intellectual passion was with Arabic culture and language, as well as Islam. He actually became fluent in eleven languages. His Annals of Islam were recognized internationally for their depth and today are still considered as part of the foundation of modern Islamic studies.
  - o Leone was a radical socialist, working as an opposition member to reform the Italian social system and improve the working class rights.

Leone main reason for immigrating to Canada was because of the rise of fascism in Italy under Mussolini in 1922.

  - o Leone was in a loveless arranged marriage to a woman from another prestigious family. Soon he met Ofelia Fabiani and fell in love.
  - o Ofelia, born 1896 to a wealthy Roman engineer, met Leone around 1916 and their daughter, Sveva Ersilia Giovanella Maria Caetani, was born on August 6, 1917.
  - o When Leone, Ofelia, and Sveva moved to Canada, fleeing fascism and social disputes, Leone had British Columbia set on his mind. From a previous hunting trip in 1891, along with his love of British tradition and democracy, Vernon seemed like the perfect place to begin a new life.

- In garden/gravel courtyard next to the Sveva Studio
- o It's appropriate to start Sveva's story in front of the Sveva studio. This studio was built for her during the later years of her life by separating a section of the veranda. This is where the majority of her life's work, recapitulation, would be made.
- o Sveva's early life was very full and very enriching. In her early upbringing she was educated by many English governesses until she was 16.
- o She, like her father, became a very cultured person even in her early years.

In 1929 the Stock Market Crash led to Leone's fortune and investments disappearing.

- o This was a huge blow to Ofelia, who never attempted to transition to the country lifestyle of Vernon from her aristocratic life. With a Parisian wardrobe and no one remotely close to her level of upper class citizenry, Ofelia would stay mostly at home, resisting to learn English and integrate into the Vernon community. Now with no way of returning to Europe, Ofelia started her reclusive ways.

- Move to Rose Garden
- o Leone's part of our story now comes to a tragic end when in 1934 he was diagnosed with throat cancer. He passed away on Christmas day.

- Plant Garden
- o Now we shall move onto the era of Ofelia, which lead to both the repression and inspiration of Sveva's art.
- o After Leone died, Sveva was left to care for her mother and was confined to the house. Sveva needed Ofelia's permission to wander the grounds, let alone go into town.
- o For 25 years Sveva lived like this. She even gave into her mother's pressure and gave up art to focus more attention on Ofelia.
- o On New Year's Eve 1960 Ofelia's time had also ended. With her devout following of the Catholic Church and of tradition she had her coffin transported from St. James Church to the family plot at the Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

- Brick path to courtyard
- Life after her mother's death wasn't easy at all. In Ofelia's will a large portion went to the Catholic Church, leaving Sveva nothing but the house.

With her new found freedom Sveva learned to drive, but her new joy led to quite the tally of speeding tickets.

- o At the age of 43, no inheritance, and no work experience, Sveva's employment options were limited. But with luck and with the help of friends Sveva began teaching grade 5 level social studies, French, and art at St. James School.
- o It was with her love of teaching that led to the rekindling of her love of art. In 1969 Sveva went to UVic to complete her high school education and get her BC teacher's certificate.
- o Sveva returned to teaching by going to Charles Bloom Secondary in 1972.
- o She would preach to her students: "Life is above all a journey of the soul, and that journey is the one that must be pursued at all costs...". Powerful words that reflect her struggle for independence and both physical and artistic freedom.
- o Sveva's life long governess, Miss Juul died shortly after their return to the Okanagan in March 1973. At age 88 she remained by Sveva's side years after her job as her governess had ended, reflecting her devotion as a mentor and a friend to Sveva.

- o After Miss Juul's death Sveva's art began to take off. Her first exhibition was in 1974 at the Burnaby Art Gallery titled "Okanagan Energy".
  - o Her biggest project, the one she is most well-known for, came to her while driving to work one morning in 1975. "Recapitulation" would be based on her life's experiences and feelings, incorporating many pieces to her relations with her father. It is also influenced by Dante's Divine Comedy, which lists life moments in various stages. In 1978 Sveva produced a written version of the series before starting on her 56-painting project.
  - o Though poor health from diabetes, arthritis, and cataracts forced her to retire from teaching in 1983, she continued on "Recapitulation". In 1985 her friend Joan Heriot moved in with her, aiding Sveva on her many paintings. Joan has recently passed away at the age of 101. Her support is now remembered with the Heriot Studio.
  - o Finally in 1989 her final "Recapitulation" painting was completed and the collection was put up in the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. Other pieces remained with the Vernon Public Art Gallery as well as distributed amongst her friends as gifts.
  - o As mentioned before Sveva's art reflected her life. From things that inspired her to things that held her back, they were all laid out on the canvas for everyone to see. Common themes in Sveva's work included envy and cruelty.
  - o Sveva's story now comes to an end when on the morning of April 28th, 1994 she passed away.
- Courtyard/Parking Lot
    - o I now end our time together with a reflection of Sveva's legacy. Her struggles and determination serves as a beacon for aspiring artists in a world where fine art can be lost amongst the masses. Sveva's determination to never give up on her art allowed the world to view her works as well as her life, the struggles, and the inspiration. The Caetani Centre and its grounds reflects Sveva's secluded life yet her dream to spread art to all who would journey out to find it.
    - o We have the Joan Heriot and Juul studios on top, and the Ninfa studios, where Sveva's family would keep the dogs, here on the bottom. Built and renovated between 2006 and 2008 these buildings were made to allow for quiet, secluded areas for artists to practice their craft. We also have our Dance Studio beside the native garden.