

## La Brezza & Friends:

### In Support of The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project

April 7, 2008 – Calgary restaurateur Marco Abdi is thrilled to be lending his support to a unique heritage project.

On the evening of Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008, a fundraiser dinner will be held at La Brezza Ristorante for The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project, a project dedicated to bringing one of the last surviving, historic, prairie synagogues to Calgary's Heritage Park Historical Village. The synagogue will add to the Park's already extensive collection by creating another historical educational opportunity to build bridges of understanding among people of all cultures and religions.

This fundraiser dinner has come about thanks to the cooperation of Marco Abdi who came to Calgary in 1980 as an immigrant from Ethiopia and has worked hard to establish La Brezza Ristorante as one of city's finest dining establishments. He believes that giving back to the community has been a key ingredient behind his success, "I want to give back to the community because Calgary has been so good to me. The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project is a very special heritage project. There is nothing of its kind anywhere in the city. I suppose that's where we draw our similarities with this project, La Brezza is also very unique."

La Brezza is certainly unique. The restaurant celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, no small accomplishment in the city's highly competitive restaurant industry. As well, the restaurant is known for supporting the community with previous La Brezza & Friends fundraisers held in support of the Alberta Children's Hospital and Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter.

"We are extremely grateful to Marco Abdi for opening up his restaurant for this fundraiser," said Irena Karshenbaum, president of the society, who also came to Canada as an immigrant in 1979 from the former Soviet Union. "The Little Synagogue will open at Heritage Park some time in 2009 and will tell a story about the rich history of diversity and harmony we have on the prairies. And that is something we can all celebrate."

#### Media inquiries:

Marco Abdi Owner La Brezza Ristorante 990 – 1 Avenue N.E., Calgary, T2E 4J9 <a href="http://www.labrezza.ca">http://www.labrezza.ca</a> (403) 262-6230	Irena Karshenbaum President The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society Elbow River R.P.O. 94016, Calgary, T2S 0S4 <a href="http://www.littlesynagogue.ca">http://www.littlesynagogue.ca</a> (403) 669-1687
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*The Little Synagogue On The Prairie Project Society*