



INSIGHT

THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. (SVGAT)

P. O. Box 80066 – Don Valley Village P. O., Toronto, ON, M2J 0A1 Email: svgat@vincytoronto.com

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED THROUGH COMMUNICATION

Quarterly Newsletter

SUMMER ISSUE

July 2023

The President's Greetings

Dear Community Members,

I hope you are doing well. Despite the constant changes brought about by the pandemic, I would like to share the amazing progress our community has achieved in the past three months. Our members have shown great dedication and enthusiasm, embodying the Vincentian spirit.

During our alternate meeting months, we've had valuable discussions that have been beneficial not only to our members but also to the larger community. These sessions have given us a chance to share pertinent information, which have helped us grow together and make a positive impact on Toronto. I'm excited to showcase some of the thought-provoking conversations we've had so far.

We started with a valuable discussion on Fraud and Cybersecurity, emphasizing the significance of protecting ourselves in a world where we are constantly connected. This session equipped us with knowledge on how to safeguard ourselves and our loved ones from possible threats, ultimately promoting our overall safety and security.

In our subsequent session about managing money, we discussed effective strategies for achieving financial success and security. By sharing practical insights and proven techniques, we have provided our members with the necessary tools to make informed decisions about their personal finances. Through this type of knowledge-sharing, we can strengthen our community's financial resilience.

During our recent discussion on retirement, the participants provided valuable insights and advice. They emphasized the importance of staying active, cultivating relationships outside of work, setting achievable daily goals, pursuing lifelong learning, and creating a solid financial plan that supports

one's desired lifestyle. These suggestions are crucial for a fulfilling and satisfying retirement.

I want to thank everyone who took part in these discussions. Your thoughtful input has greatly strengthened our community. Through sharing our experiences and having meaningful conversations, we create an environment that promotes growth and mutual support.

As we begin the next quarter, let's stay true to the values that bring us together. We can work together to create a more robust and resilient community that values compassion, knowledge, and camaraderie.

I am confident in the exceptional accomplishments that lie ahead and look forward to working with you and the other board members to achieve them.

With warm regards,

Cordel Telfer
President, SVGAT

Corporation News

MEMBERS APPLAUD MEETING CHANGES

The concerns raised by certain members about the former board of directors' decision to reduce the number of monthly business meetings and instead hold business meetings on alternate months are no longer a matter of concern. Rather, members who have attended the sessions in February, April and June express satisfaction about how the sessions were so informative that the SVGAT should have been doing so before.

In February, the session was focussed on Fraud Prevention and Cyber Security. In April there was a presentation on Money Management and in June, those who attended participated in discussion various aspects of retirement and retirement living.

Regular business meetings are held in January, March, May, July, September and November.

Members are encouraged to suggest topics that they would like to be presented and discussed.

Meetings and other presentations are being held virtually on Zoom unless otherwise indicated.

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, July 15 - SVG Unity Picnic Crysler Park,
Sunday, July 30 - Monthly Members Meeting
Friday, Aug. 11 - Toronto Harbour Boat Cruise
Sunday, Aug. 27 – Special Presentation - TBD
Sunday, Sept. 24 - Monthly Members Meeting
Sunday, Oct. 22 - Independence Church Service
Saturday, Oct. 28 - Independence Gala
Sunday, Oct. 29 - Special Presentation - TBD
Sunday, Nov. 26 - Monthly Members Meeting
December 17 to 23 Christmas Hamper Distribution

Air Canada Non-stop Flights between Toronto & St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Air Canada
Thrice weekly – Monday, Thursday & Friday from October 30, 2023 and Four times weekly including Tuesdays from Dec. 11.

BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEES

Current Board of Directors and Officers include:

President & Director: Cordel Telfer (647-717-9731)
VP & Director: Dennis Bucchan (416-402-1978)
Secretary & Director: Prudence Morton (416-254-3774)
Treas. & Dir: Delcina Jardine-Reckley (647-464-3355)
P.R.O & Director: Gideon Exeter (416-992-4253)
Director: Erline Granderson (416-788-5163)
Director: Kenneth Farrell (416-822-3601)
Director: Francine Burke (647-772-3683)
Director: Jim Lewis (416-459-2462)

Committees to Assist the Board of Directors

In order to effectively provide the services of the Corporation a number of committees are being established and volunteers are required to serve. The following are so far proposed:

Fundraising: D. Jardine-Reckley, G. Exeter
Independence Planning 2023: Natalie Watson
Scholarship Planning: F. Williams, S. Lewis and A. Ashton

By-Laws Review: E. Gabriel, W. Cole, Ed Bernard
Unity Picnic Reps: J. Lewis, C. Garraway, A. Lavia
Unity Picnic Bus Coordinator: C. Telfer
Social Engagement: F. Burke
Seniors Outreach: Needs chair & volunteers
Public Relations: G. Exeter, D. Bucchan, C. Telfer

INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES

The following events and activities are planned for this year's celebrations:

Sunday, October 22 – **Thanksgiving Church Service** – Venue to be determined
Friday, October 27 – **Flag Raising** at Toronto City Hall – Time to be determined
Saturday, October 28 – **Independence Gala**, Estate Banquet & Convention Centre, 430 Nugget Avenue, Scarborough (McLevin & Markham Road)
Sunday, October 29 – **Community Discussions** – Venue to be determined

More information to follow on the above.

SVGAT'S ADOPT-A-CHILD PROGRAM REALIZING ITS GOAL

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. (SVGAT) has received news that two students from the current group were successful in the recently completed CPEA and takes this opportunity to congratulate them. The students, Imari Pauls of the Calliaqua Anglican School and Nicklon John of the Marriaqua Primary School started in the in program in 2018 while in Grade 2. Three other students whose sponsorship began the same year while they were in Grade 1, have another year before they become eligible to write the exams. The sixth student is privately sponsored through the program has completed his primary education and is already attending high school.

Based on the success of the program, the board of directors of the Association has agreed to continue the program by soliciting interested persons to contribute to sponsoring another group of students for a five-year period starting from the next school year. Individuals can choose to sponsor a student for the full amount of CDN\$600.00 per year or join with others if they are unable to fund the full amount. Interested persons are encouraged to contact the Secretary either by email to secretary@vincytoronto.com or by writing to The Secretary, St. Vincent and Grenadines Association

of Toronto Inc., P. O. Box 80066 – Don Valley Village P. O., Toronto, ON, M2J 0A1.

The Adopt-A-Child program launched by the Association in 2008 has as its mantra, *A young mind is a terrible thing to waste*. The program is geared to provide financial assistance to less fortunate children in their early years of primary school in order for them not to fall through the cracks but rather have a solid foundation so as to complete their primary school education.

Students are sponsored in the program for 5 years starting from Grade 1 or Grade 2 which should see them through primary school. Since the program started, three groups of students have been assisted, 2 in 2008, 2 in 2013 and 6 in 2018. Over the years, the program realized its goal with the sponsored children successfully moving on to secondary schools.



NICKLON JOHN

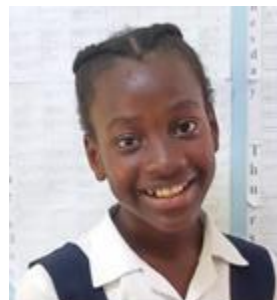
Nicklon attended the Marriaqua Primary School and just completed Grade 6 where he wrote the CPEA but began in the program when was in Grade 2. He is described as an average student but one who could do better

with constant supervision to keep him focused. He was successful in writing the CPEA and has been assigned to the St. Clair Dacon Secondary School in Carapan. His ambition is to be a graphic designer. Nicklon had different sponsors over the years and in his final years was jointly sponsored by Dr. Andrea Providence, Marsha Baynes and Morice Jack. Reports from his school principal, Mrs.

Denise Joseph, Nicklon had a good attendance record and behaves well in school. He lives with his mother, Ms. Shanice John.

CLAYRICE BRUCE

Clayrice attends Lauders Primary School and started in the program when she was in Grade 1. In 2023 she was in Grade 5 which means that she has another year before she would write the CPEA and finish her primary school education. She lives with her parents and attends school regularly.



Clayrice was identified as a child that need the assistance in order to help her through school due to the financial situation of her parents. She is sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Allan John. Since this is the final year of her sponsorship, Clayrice

will need further financial assistance to see her through primary school.

WINSTON SAUNDERS



Winston attends the Lodge Village Government School where he is in Grade 5. His sponsorship is the only in the program financed solely by the SVGAT. Since his involvement in the Adopt-A-Child Program he has

changed school several times due to a number of unfortunate circumstances.

Winston's sponsorship ends this year but will be in primary school for another year.

ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2023

The Association is this year offering three (3) bursaries of \$1,000.00 each in its scholarship program to students who either they or their parents, grandparents or guardians are of St. Vincent and the Grenadines descent; be enrolled at a recognized university, college or trade school in Canada or the United States. Applicants must be Canadian citizens, permanent residents or the holder of a valid student visa issued to the applicant by Citizen and Immigration Canada. For full details, please check [St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto - SVGAT Scholarship Program \(vincytoronto.com\)](http://vincytoronto.com)

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Mr. Fitzgerald Huggins
Consul General
Tel: (416) 398-4277 Fax (416) 398-4199
Email: consulategeneral@rogers.com

SVGAT MEMBERS MEETING SUNDAY, JULY 30 @ 4:00 P.M. ON ZOOM

Seneca POLYTECHNIC OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP TO CARIBBEAN STUDENTS

Seneca Polytechnic, formerly known as Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology is teaming up with the Council of Caribbean Associations-Canada (CCAC) to offer an annual scholarship to students of Caribbean descent.

The full-tuition paid scholarship has a value of up to \$6,000.00 per year and is up to 4 years depending on the choice of course taken by the successful applicant. The scholarship is non-transferable and begins in the 2023 academic year. The successful applicant will apply through the CCAC's scholarship/bursary program and be guided by the same qualifying principles of the annual bursaries.

The CCAC is also offering twelve bursaries of \$1,000.00 each for Canadian students of Caribbean descent who are attending college or enrolled in Ontario based colleges, universities or trade schools. These bursaries are sponsored by various entities. For more information and the application form please visit the CCAC's website at "www.caribbeancouncilcanada.org/current-scholarship". The closing date for submitting application for both the scholarship and bursaries is August 31, 2023.



CARICOM Celebrates 50 Years

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is a grouping of twenty countries: fifteen Member States and five Associate Members. CARICOM came into existence with the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas on 4 July 1973. It is home to approximately sixteen million citizens, 60% of whom are under the age of 30, and from the main ethnic groups of Indigenous Peoples, Africans, Indians, Europeans, Chinese, Portuguese and Javanese. The Community is multi-lingual; with English as the major language complemented by French and Dutch and variations of these, as well as African and Asian expressions.

Stretching from The Bahamas in the north to Suriname and Guyana in South America, CARICOM comprises states that are considered developing countries, and except for Belize, in Central America and Guyana and Suriname in South America, all Members and Associate Members are island states. The Member States are Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad &

Tobago. The Associate States are Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Turks & Caicos Islands.

The Founding Fathers who signed the Treaty on that date were: Prime Ministers Errol Barrow of Barbados, Forbes Burnham of Guyana, Michael Manley of Jamaica, and Eric Williams of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Community celebrated its golden jubilee under the theme '50 Years Strong: A Solid Foundation to Build on'. The hub of activities on 4 July was in the Community's birthplace, Trinidad and Tobago, where a celebratory event was held in Chaguaramas. The 45th Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government was held 3-5 July.

While these states are all relatively small, both in terms of population and size, there is also great diversity with regards to geography and population as well as the levels of economic and social development.

For more information, please visit CARICOM-Caribbean Community - CARICOM

Wendel Cole Graduates Law School



There is an old adage that goes like this, *in order to succeed in the environment in which you live one has to understand it.* I will further add that not only a thorough understanding of the environment is necessary but one has to

be an over comer to navigate the hurdles which it imposes on the individual. The Canadian legal system is elitist and highly restrictive in terms of any student who has the ability and desire to study law on a part time basis to enter the legal profession. Among the many hurdles, one has to achieve an acceptable score on the Law Society Admission Test (LSAT). Many countries in the Western World have eliminated entirely the requirements of the LSAT as being an unnecessary worthless screening device to enroll in law school or to become an excellent student of the law.

Having obtained my Bachelor of Commerce degree from Concordia University in Montreal and later pursued my higher certification as a CPA in the USA, I embarked upon my legal journey in obtaining my LLB or JD (Juris Doctor) in the Convocation ceremony held at Arden University in June 2023. Arden University offers an excellent honors' program in law which is among the best in the world in terms of effectiveness and methods of delivery. Recently Arden has won the highest award in the UK for its innovation in this regard. Arden is also one of the top emerging universities worldwide and has a student population of over 50,000 from 168 countries.

The topic featured for my dissertation/thesis was "Canadian Youth Criminal Justice System which needs to be amended to ensure natural justice and procedural fairness".

In order to fulfill the requirements of being a Tax Lawyer, for which I am already working in the profession, I will soon be sitting the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA) exams which is necessary to obtain the license to practice law and is administered by the law Society of Upper Canada. The successful completion in depth Tax course is one of the necessary requirements of any tax lawyer.

As a graduate of Arden, I am considered as not only alumni but also an ambassador of the university. I am a member of the SVGAT and have been so since 2005 and have held the position as Treasurer on several occasions.

The Board of Directors of the SVGAT congratulates Wendel on his accomplishment and wish him every good in the future.

IMMIGRATION MATTERS

VISA-FREE TRAVEL TO CANADA

Contributed: Sandra Sutherland, RCIC-IRB

On June 6, 2023 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) announced that "eligible travellers from 13 more countries now qualify for visa-free travel to Canada." The key words in this statement are "eligible travellers" and

"visa-free." Judging from the comments on social media some people seem to be confused as to what this really means. To be succinct "eligible travellers" refer to persons who meet certain criteria and "visa-free" means that a visitor visa (a travel document) is not required but another mean of travel document that is not a visa shall be required. Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago were included in the list of 13 countries. Prior to June 6, 2023 citizens/passport holders from these countries were required to have a valid visa in order to travel to Canada. Now, depending on certain conditions, some may still need a visitor visa or an electronic travel authorization (eTA).

The below scenarios indicate which type of travel document travelers from the 13 countries need to have in order to travel to Canada:

- a) If a traveler has a valid Canadian Visa and is travelling via any mode of transportation – continue to use this visa;
- b) If a traveler has a valid US Visa and is travelling by air – apply for eTA;
- c) If a traveler has a valid US Visa and is travelling via other mode of transportation other than air – apply for Visa;
- d) If you do not have a valid US Visa and did not have a valid Canadian Visa with the last 10 years and wish to travel via any mode of transportation – apply for Visa;
- e) If you had a valid Canadian Visa within the last 10 years and wish to travel by air – apply for eTA
- f) If you do not have a valid US Visa and did not have a valid Canadian Visa within the last 10 years and wish to travel via any mode of transportation – apply for Visa;
- g) If you had a valid Canadian Visa within the last 10 years and wish to travel via other mode of transportation other than by air – apply for Visa

If a traveler holds a Canadian or U.S visa that will be expiring soon it is wise to apply for the eTA before the visa expires. Alternately, the traveler could reapply for another visa and if approved, the new visa shall serve to qualify the traveler to apply for an eTA.

Application for the eTA must be made online. The processing fee is only \$7.00CAD. Most straightforward applications take a few minutes or a few days to process. If approved, an eTA will be issued with a validity date of up to 5 years. The validity date of the eTA and the time the traveler may be allowed to stay in Canada as a visitor is not the same. A five-year eTA allows the traveler to travel to Canada more than once within that 5-year period. When a traveler arrives at a Canadian port of entry the Canada Border Service Agency (CBSA) officer have the authority to inform the traveler as to how long s/he is authorized to stay in Canada. If not informed the traveler may stay up to 6 months. I have provided the following links to the government of Canada's website regarding information about the eTA and how to apply for one.

Online Application Help Guide

<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/ircc/migration/ircc/english/pdf/eta/english.pdf>

Online eTA Application

<https://onlineservices-servicesenligne.cic.gc.ca/eta/welcome?lang=en>

Should further clarifications be needed feel free to contact me at the telephone number or email stated below.

Sandra Sutherland is a competent authorized immigration representative and counsel who can represent clients at all divisions of the Immigration and Refugee Board. She specializes strictly in immigration and refugee matters and is licensed with the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants (CICC) as a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant-IRB (RCIC-IRB). She can be reached at (416) 431-2829 or via e-mail at ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com. View her advertisement under Suthern Immigration & Paralegal Services Inc. in this publication for more information.

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News From SVG

St. Vincent Government Commissions MRI Machine at Modern Medical Centre (Courtesy SVG Times)

A Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) device has been installed at the Modern Medical Centre in Georgetown. Speaking at the official ceremony, Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves stated that the Modern Medical Center in Georgetown has health infrastructure worth more than \$120 million.

By the end of July 2023, the machine—which costs over \$10 million—should be ready for use.

The Maria Holder Trust, based in Barbados, helped make the MRI available to St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Caribbean Airlines Adding New Flights to St. Vincent Starting July 24 (Courtesy St. Vincent Times)

Caribbean Airlines unveils its exciting expansion into the Eastern Caribbean. Starting July 24, the airline will add new non-stop services between Barbados and St. Vincent, as well as St. Lucia.

Instructions to Apply for eTA

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eta/final-instructions-apply-eta.html>

How to Apply

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eta/apply.html>

Additionally, there will be increased capacity to Dominica and Grenada, strengthening the carrier's commitment to the region's connectivity.

The Barbados to St. Vincent route has been increased to 7 weekly services, in addition to 4 new weekly flights between Barbados and St. Lucia. Direct St. Lucia to St. Vincent return flights will operate on Thursdays, making island-hopping a breeze.

The airline's ATR-72 fleet, comprising nine aircraft, will operate these routes. There will also be additional flights from Trinidad to St. Vincent and Grenada, enhancing connectivity across the region.

All flights are open for sale and customers can visit www.caribbean-airlines.com for more details on the schedule, the latest updates and to complete bookings.

Vincentian Miles Bascombe Is West Indies New Director of Cricket (Courtesy of St. Vincent Times)

Miles Bascombe has been named as the new Director of Cricket for Cricket West Indies (CWI) on a three-year term. Bascombe will succeed Jimmy Adams, who has held the position for the past six years.

Bascombe, 37, played one T20 International for the West Indies in 2011 and first-class cricket for both the Windward Islands and the Combined Campuses and Colleges between 2007 and 2017. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of the West Indies and is a trained coach.

Bascombe, who served as a CWI Men's Selector from 2019 to 2021, has been the Windward Islands Cricket Board's Technical Director for the past two years. Under his technical direction, male and female cricket fortunes have improved dramatically at all levels, including an unbeaten first-class season in 2023.

"West Indies Cricket is at a critical stage with an urgent need to improve performances," remarked Miles Bascombe. I am excited to work as a member of the CWI senior leadership team Graeme West, CWI High Performance Manager, will serve as

interim Director of Cricket until Bascombe takes over on August 1, 2023.

Over 600 Graduate From The St Vincent Community College - (St. Vincent Times)

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College (SVGCC) held its 14th Annual Graduation on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at Victoria Park, Kingstown, St. Vincent. Six hundred and eighty-three (683) students graduated after completing various programmes at the College.

The number of graduands from each Division is as follows:

- Division of Teacher Education – 43 graduands
- Division of Technical and Vocational Education – 221 graduands
- Division of Arts, Sciences and General Studies – 419 graduands

The Theme for the Graduation was: Behind you, your memories Before you, your dreams Within you, All you need Be You!

CPEA: Celebrating Excellence and Perseverance in St Vincent

By Eddy Smith, SVG Times

The preliminary results of the 2023 Caribbean Primary Exit Assessment (CPEA) have filled us with immense pride and optimism for the future. The results indicate that the proportion of students in SVG who met the prescribed standard was 1442 (85.17%), a slight increase over last year's 83.87%. This number includes 666 (79.19%) males and 776 (91.08%) females. There are 47 out of 66 schools that recorded a pass rate in excess of 80%.

To all the phenomenal students who excelled in the CPEA exams, particularly the boys from Windsor Primary School, St. Mary's Roman Catholic, Fair Hall Primary School, Kingstown Preparatory School, and Sugar Mill Academy, we celebrate your accomplishments. You have demonstrated the power of discipline, resilience, and aspiration. As

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you approach secondary school, carry forward the flame of excellence that has ignited your academic journey so far. Bear in mind the words of the great Albert Einstein, “Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.”

But let us not overlook those who might be feeling disappointed with their results. A crucial message to you: don’t be discouraged. This is merely a stepping stone on your journey, let this be a catalyst for reflection and perseverance. It is merely a moment in time and should not discourage your future efforts. Consider the profound words of Napoleon Hill, “Effort only fully releases its reward after a person refuses to quit.” Every stumble is a stepping stone, every setback a setup for a comeback.

To the esteemed educators the architects of knowledge, your influence reaches far beyond the classroom walls. The valuable work you do, the lessons you impart, and the wisdom you share cultivate the minds of our young ones. And this task is no small feat, it is a noble calling, fortified by passion and purpose.

You are not simply teaching subjects, but rather, you are fueling curiosity, fostering critical thinking, and promoting lifelong learning.

Let us not forget that our children’s journey towards greatness is significantly shaped by your diligent efforts. You provide them with the tools to think, to question, and to understand the world around them. We look to you, now more than ever, as pillars of this essential task.

As such, let this serve as both a heartfelt appreciation for your efforts and a gentle reminder of the important role you play. A reminder to maintain your dedication, to strive for excellence, and to consistently uplift and inspire our students. Your profession isn’t just about teaching—it’s about changing lives. And we trust in your ability to do this, one student at a time.

As we all traverse this journey of growth and learning, let us keep sight of the long game. Excellence is not an end, but a process. It calls for courage, determination, and a steadfast spirit. As the wise Winston Churchill once said, “Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.”

Embrace this journey, let greatness be your destination, and always remember – the best is yet to come!

The Public Relations Committee that is responsible for producing Insight on behalf of the Corporation is inviting interested persons to submit articles and stories that they feel would be of interest to our readers. Please send by email to “pro@vincytoronto.com”

Air Canada to Increase Flights to SVG’s AIA

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tourism Authority (SVGTA) has issued important updates to the destination in advance of the busy fall and winter seasons.

The SVGTA said that on October 30, Air Canada will resume nonstop service to the location three times each week on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Additionally, starting on December 11, the Air Canada service will increase to four times each week, with Tuesdays being added to the timetable through the end of the winter season.

Tropical Storm Bret Passes: Damage Assessment On The Way

The relevant authorities moved quickly over the weekend to assess damage caused by the passage of Tropical Storm Bret (TS Bret), last week Thursday, June 22, and Friday, June 23.

Heavy showers, isolated thunderstorms and storm forced winds wrought damage to housing stock and agricultural cultivation (especially to tree crops, bananas and plantain) in Spring Village, Rose Bank, Rose Hall, Chateaubelair and Fitz Hughes on the Leeward side, and in Chester Cottage, Colonaire, Park Hill, Georgetown and Owia on the Windward side.

The National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) reported that during the height of the passage of TS Bret, some 36 emergency shelters (of a nationwide total of 141) were activated to accommodate 136 displaced persons.

Reports are that one house was totally destroyed during the passage of TS Bret. An undisclosed number of houses was damaged. At least one small

craft was reported to have been washed away in Owia whose coastline and coastal residences sustained a barrage by storm forced seas, for an extended period.

Some fifty percent of households across mainland St. Vincent was said to have suffered (electrical) power outages during the period concerned. Once the all clear was given, power was returned within what some people describe as record time. Kudos to the workers of VINLEC.

The Tobago Cays



Aerial view courtesy of Iain Grant

The Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP), located in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, houses a series of globally significant habitats including coral reefs, sea turtle nesting sites and feeding areas, and small systems of mangroves. The marine portion of the park surrounds five uninhabited cays, the populated island of Mayreau, and three islets. The four-kilometer-long Horseshoe Reef, the longest of the four main reef systems in the TCMP, encloses four of the cays (Petit Bateau, Petit Rameau, Baradal, and Jamesby) with the fifth cay (Petit Tabac) lying just outside the reef to the east.

The Tobago Cays are now the key element of the Tobago Cays Marine Park, run and owned by the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines government.

The islands of Mayreau and the Tobago Cays were under private ownership from at least the 16th century up until 12 April 1999, when the cays were purchased after long negotiations by the state of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Mooring Fee - Tobago Cays Marine Park – XCD 60.00 (per 24 hours). Mooring Balls are provided at selected locations so that boats do not anchor in coral or sea grass beds, this is important for the protection of the biodiversity at the TCMP.

While regular maintenance is conducted on all moorings, the TCMP is not liable for any damages caused during the use of these moorings.

There is now a new Anchoring Fee, this fee is for boats visiting the Park that cannot or do not utilize the mooring buoys.

Park Entry Fee - All visitors to the Tobago Cays Marine Park are required to pay an Entry Fee of XCD 15 (per person) allowing a stay of up to 24 hours. The entry fee only applies for access to the 'protection zone', visitors to Mayreau, Salt Whistle Bay are not be required to pay the entry fees.

Park Entry Fees are used in the management, maintenance and improvement of the Tobago Cays Marine Park.

The Tobago Cays Marine Park assumes no responsibility or liability for any encounter through the use of our services.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OUR READERS? IF SO, PLEASE SEND TO: PRO@VINCYTORONTO.COM.

Happenings in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Courtesy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tourism

July: Bequia Annual Fisherman's Day Competition - 8th July

Contact: Bequia Tourism Association:
Tel: 784- 458-3286 or
email:bequiatourism@vincysurf.com

Vincy Mas Celebrations

Carnival Monday/J'ouvert - 10th July - An early morning street jump-up.

T-shirt bands participate in a great street jump-up in the afternoon and into the evening.

Carnival Tuesday - 11th July

Mardi Gras Mas Bands parade on stage at Carnival City (Victoria Park) competing for the

Band of the Year Award and then on to the streets of Kingstown.

Canouan Carnival-22nd July to 1st August.

Visit discoversvg.com

Youlou Arts Foundation - Annual visual arts programme for children titled "Growing Young SVG Artists" in Kingstown, Georgetown, Tourama, Buccament and Spring Village - dates to be announced.

Contact: (784) 457-4493 or email youlouartcentre@gmail.com

August: Emancipation Day Festivities –

Events to commemorate the abolition of slavery.

Seafood Fest- Bequia - 5th & 6th

Keegan's Beachside, Lower Bay, Bequia.
Tel: (784) 458-3530 or (784) 434-5339

Youlou Arts Foundation - Annual visual arts programme for children titled "Growing Young SVG Artists" in Kingstown, Georgetown, Tourama, Buccament and Spring Village - dates to be announced. Opening of the art show titled the "Blue Show" – listen out for dates

For more info call (784) 457-4493 or email: youlouartcentre@gmail.com

Breadfruit Festival - Includes various food fair presentations in different parts of the country, showcasing a variety of breadfruit dishes. There are also mini exhibitions which explain the potential uses of the plant, from lumber and function as toys, to medicinal use.

Contact the Ministry of Culture at Tel: (784) 451-2180 or email: culturesvg@gmail.com

September: Lobster Season Opens - 1st

KCCU National Dance Festival - This festival takes place every 2 years, therefore there will be a showcase on the 23rd September, 2023. Performance events of a competitive format.

Contact the Ministry of Culture at Tel: (784) 451-2180 or email culturesvg@gmail.com

Youlou Arts Foundation - The "Blue Show" continues.

For more info call (784) 457-4493 or email youlouartcentre@gmail.com

SVG Bible Festival (TBA)

The SVG Bible Festival was started in 2009, and is comprised of Impromptu Speech, where participants speak on a topical social or religious issue; Bible Drama, where a character or event from the Bible is dramatized; and in Bible Boxing, in which the churches face off against each other quoting scripture verses. There are six rounds of Bible quizzes. Visit discoversvg.com

October:

44th Anniversary of Independence Celebrations

Various shows, rallies and other celebrations occur across the country.

Youlou Arts Foundation - Sun. 8th Sip & Paint 3-6pm

The "Blue Show" continues. For more info call: (784) 457-4493 or email: voulouartcentre@gmail.com

Independence Cycling competition (SVG) - Visit discoversva.com

Miss St. Vincent & The Grenadines Pageant

Invest SVG - Everything Vincy Expo

Union Island Model Boat Regatta

November:

National Tourism Month

Youlou Arts Foundation

The "Blue Show" continues - dates to be announced.

For more info call (784) 457-1493 or email youlouartcentre@gmail.com

Theatre Arts Festival - 3rd to 26th - This is an opportunity for community groups and schools to present dramatic work within a festival programme.

Contact the Ministry of Culture at Tel: (784) 451-2180 or email culturesvg@gmail.com

December:

National Christmas Festival Launch - 1st
Youlou Arts Foundation

The "Blue Show" continues - dates to be announced. For more info call (784) 457-4493 or email youlouartcentre@gmail.com

Steel Expressions - Steel Expressions features some of St. Vincent and the Grenadine's top entertainers along with some young upcoming performers.

Nine nights of lights at the Botanical Gardens - 15th to 23rd

National Nine Mornings Festival - 16th to 24th - A unique Vincentian tradition celebrated annually during the nine mornings before Christmas. Vincentians awake in the early hours and take part in various activities including concerts, dances, bicycle riding and sea baths. In the rural areas, the final morning usually ends with a steel band jump-up'.

Contact the Ministry of Culture at Tel: (784) 451-2180 or email culturesvg@gmail.com
New Year's Eve Celebrations - Sun. 31st -
 Midnight fireworks display over the Harbour in Port Elizabeth, Bequia and Britannia Bay, Mustique.

SVGAT RESUMES INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY BANQUET/GALA

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. announces the resumption of its annual activities to commemorate the anniversary of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' independence from Great Britain. Activities were curtailed due to COVID but now that things are coming back to normal a committee headed by Ms. Natalie Watson is organizing this year's activities with the following events.

- Sunday, October 22 - Thanksgiving Church Service (Venue to be announced)
- Friday, October 27 - Flag Raising Ceremony at Toronto City Hall, Queens Street, Toronto
- Saturday, October 28 - Gala at Estate Banquet & Events Centre, 430 Milner Avenue, Scarborough
- Sunday, October 29 - Community Discussions - (Details to follow)

Dr. Richard (Richie) Robertson, the Volcanologist that spearheaded the monitoring the monitoring of the eruptions of La Soufriere in 2021 and advised the SVG Government on the evacuation of persons out of the danger zones will be the guest speaker at the Gala on Saturday, October 28. Tickets will be available soon with early birds ones at \$100.00 up to September 30 and \$110.00 thereafter. This event will offer a four-course dinner with entertainment and a variety of prizes.

JOIN US FOR THE LARGEST GATHERING OF VINCIANS AND FRIENDS IN NORTH AMERICA

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2023

BUS TICKET INFO
 Adults: \$60 per seat
 Children 12 years of age & under: \$40

FOR TICKETS CONTACT:
 Cordel: (647) 717- 9731
 Erline: (416) 788- 5163

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BEFORE JUNE 30, 2023!

BUSES DEPART
 Toronto at 7 am
 Pick Up Points:
 JANE AND FINCH MALL (Next to McDonalds Restaurant)
 Scarborough Town Centre (Outside YMCA)

BUSES DEPARTS CRYSLER PARK MARINA AT 6 PM

SVGAT

Parking Information:

Regular Priced Tickets from Toronto ONLY
 By July 14 - \$45.00
Same Day Purchase - \$60.00
 Contact Cordel @ 647-717-9731

TRAVELLING BY BUS FROM TORONTO!

The SVGAT is operating a bus service from Toronto leaving at 7:00 a.m. Tickets are **\$60.00 for Adults; \$40.00 for children 12 years and younger**. Bus leaves Jane & Finch Mall and Scarborough Town Centre.

Tickets available from:

Cordel – 416-771-7931; Erline – 416-788-5163

✦ **What to Expect at Vincy Unity Picnic** ✦

🎉 **Fun for All Ages:** The Vincy Unity Picnic is a day where people of all ages can come together and enjoy a wide range of exciting activities. From thrilling games to entertaining performances, there's something for everyone to revel in.

🌄 **Scenic Beauty:** Nestled on the banks of the picturesque St. Lawrence River, Crysler Park provides a breathtaking backdrop for our festivities. Immerse yourself in nature's splendor and feel the tranquility of the surroundings.

🏠 **Bring Your Own Set-Up:** Make yourself at home by bringing your tents, tables, chairs, and coolers. Create a cozy space for your family and friends to relax and enjoy the day's events comfortably.

We're Back!!

A Splash of Blue or White

Vincy Boat Cruise!

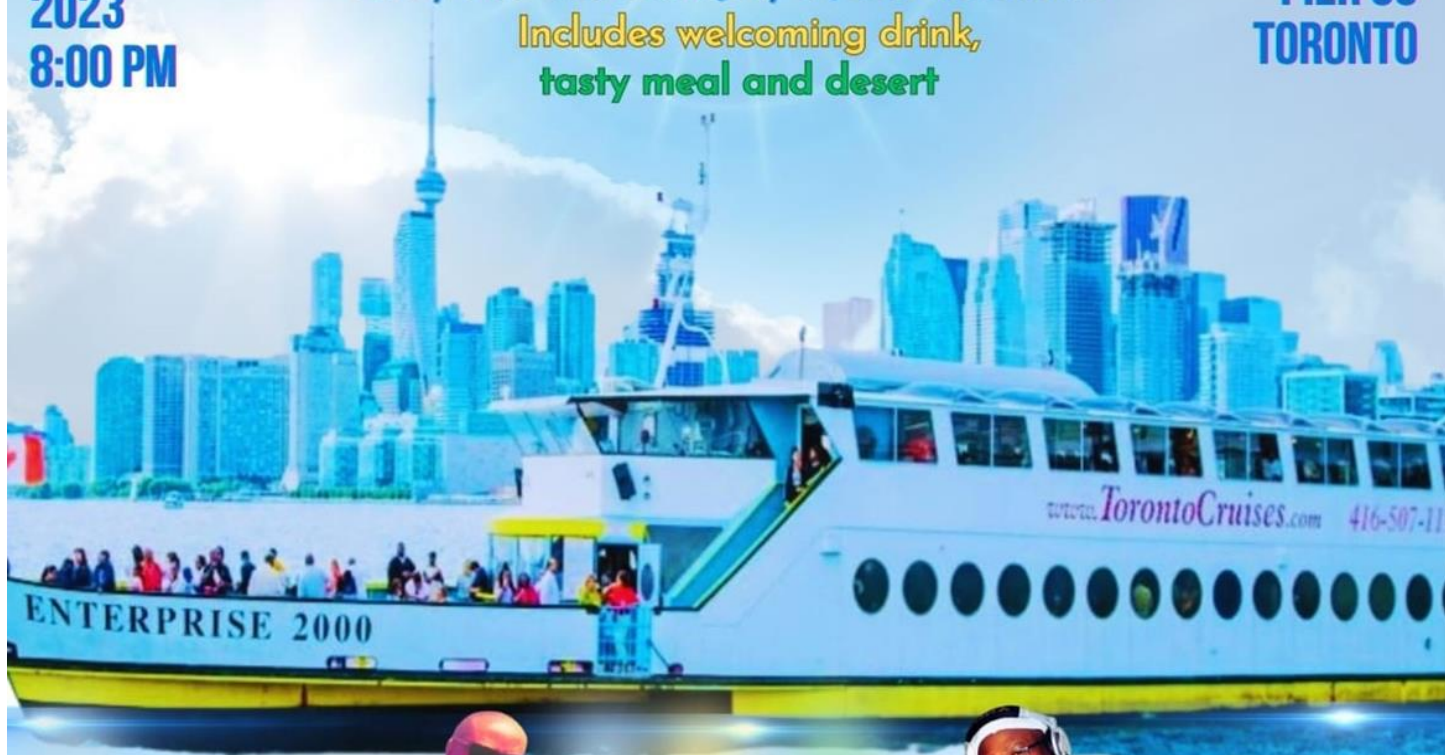


**FRIDAY
AUGUST 11
2023
8:00 PM**



Early Bird \$65 until July 15, \$75 thereafter
Includes welcoming drink,
tasty meal and desert

**176
CHERRY ST
PIER 35
TORONTO**



**D'ULTIMATE DJ
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Gideon 416-992-4253
Stuart 416-707-0125
Dennis 416-402-1978
Youlanda 416-919-3433
Prudence 416-254-3774
Cynthia 647-213-5638



The Toronto SVG Support Group

Part proceeds go towards a charitable cause in SVG



Barristers, Solicitors,
Notaries Public

Rhonda A. Metelsky

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Senior Lawyer with over 15 years
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Wills and Estate Administration.

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