



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

SPRING ISSUE

April 2024

GREETINGS FROM NEW PRESIDENT



Dear Members,

With deep gratitude and humility, I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your unwavering confidence and support in re-electing me for a second consecutive term as President. Serving this vibrant community is a privilege and an honour, and I am committed to continuing our journey of growth, progress, and service together.

As we embark on 2024, I am enthusiastic and optimistic about what lies ahead. Our association has achieved remarkable milestones in the past, and I am confident that with our collective dedication and efforts, we will surpass even greater heights.

Regrettably, we had to say goodbye to four esteemed board members whose immense contributions significantly fueled the success of our association throughout 2023. I wish to express sincere gratitude to Prudence Morton, Dennis Bucchan, Jimmy Lewis, and Kenneth Farrell for their invaluable dedication and service.

One of our primary goals for this year is to update our association's by-laws to ensure they reflect our community's evolving needs and aspirations. Transparent and effective governance is essential for the smooth functioning of any organization, and I am committed to fostering transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in our decision-making processes.

Additionally, nurturing and developing board talent is paramount for our association's long-term sustainability and effectiveness. By providing opportunities for training, mentorship, and

leadership development, we can empower our members to contribute meaningfully to our shared vision and objectives.

Reflecting on the accomplishments of the past year fills me with immense pride. In 2023, through our Adopt-A-Child program, we increased the number of primary school students sponsored in St. Vincent and the Grenadines from 6 to 15, providing them with access to education and opportunities for a brighter future.

Furthermore, our commitment to supporting education continued with awarding four bursaries of \$1000 each to post-secondary students in Ontario. These bursaries alleviate financial burdens and inspire and empower the next generation of leaders within our community.

During the holiday season, we extended a helping hand to families in need by distributing eight food hampers in Toronto. It is during times of adversity that our community's true strength and compassion shine brightest, and I am grateful for your generosity and solidarity.

Finally, I'm pleased to announce that we have disbursed the final payment from our Volcano Relief Fund to a family in Ovia. This payment will assist them in repairing their home, which suffered damage during the eruption of La Soufriere in April 2021. Your contributions directly impacted the lives of those affected, demonstrating our steadfast commitment to supporting our community in times of crisis.

As we embark on this new chapter, let us reaffirm our dedication to serving our community with compassion, integrity, and resilience.

Thank you once again for your trust and support. I look forward to working closely with each of you in the coming year as we write the next chapter of our association's remarkable journey.

Warm regards, Cordel Telfer

Corporation News

CHANGES TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Corporation held elections on January 28, 2024 at which time the members voted to reduce the number of directors from nine (9) to seven (7). A number of directors from the previous term, Prudence Morton, Dennis Bucchan, Kenneth Farrell and Jim Lewis decided not to make themselves available for another term. Five (5) of the nine including Cordel Telfer, Delcina Jardine-Reckley, Erline Granderson, Francine Burke and Gideon Exeter had remaining time, so only two (2) vacancies were to be filled at the meeting. June Ellis was elected to fill one position while the other position was left for the new board to appoint. Since then, Cheyenne Samuel has been appointed as the seventh board member.

The new board has since held two meetings and elected officers as directed in the Corporation's by-laws as follows:

President: Cordel Telfer (647-717-9731)
Vice President: Francine Burke (647-772-3683)
Secretary: Cheyenne Samuel (647-989-4235)
Treasurer: Delcina Jardine-Reckley (647-464-3355)
P.R.O: Gideon Exeter (416-992-4253)
Director: Erline Granderson (416-788-5163)
Director: June Ellis (647-867-7930)

Due to Easter Day falling on the last Sunday of March which should be the Members Monthly Meeting, there was no meeting.

A NOTE OF THANKS

The Board of Directors on behalf of the membership hereby express sincere thanks to Dennis Bucchan, Prudence Morton, Jim Lewis and Kenneth Farrell for the tremendous contribution they made to the SVGAT on the term on the past board and their overall service to the Corporation and community.

The Corporation continues to hold meetings and other presentations virtually on Zoom unless otherwise indicated.

TENTATIVE 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 31 – EASTER DAY, No Meeting
Wednesday, April 17 – Board Meeting
Sunday, Apr. 28 – Membership Appreciation Event
Wednesday, May 15 – Board Meeting
Sunday, May 26 - Monthly Members General Meet
Sunday, June 16 – Joint Fathers' Day Boat Cruise

Wednesday, June 19 – Board Meeting
Sunday, June 30 – Special Presentation - TBD
Sunday, July 7 – Caribbean Community Picnic
Wednesday, July 17 – Board Meeting
Saturday, July 20 - SVG Unity Picnic Crysler Park,
Sunday, July 28 - Monthly Members Meeting
Friday, Aug. 9 - Toronto Harbour Boat Cruise
Wednesday, August 21 – Board Meeting
Sunday, Aug. 25 – Special Presentation - TBD
Wednesday, September 18 – Board Meeting
Sunday, Sept. 29 - Monthly Members Meeting
Wednesday, October 16 – Board Meeting
Sunday, Oct. 20 - Independence Church Service
Saturday, Oct. 26 - Independence Gala
Sunday, Oct. 27 - Special Presentation – TBD
Wednesday, Nov. 20 – Board Meeting
Sunday, Nov. 24 - Monthly Members Meeting
Wednesday, December 18 – Board Meeting
December 21 to 24 - Christmas Hamper Handout
Sunday, December 29 – NO MEETING
Wednesday, January 15, 2024 – Board Meeting
Sunday, January 26 – Annual General Meeting



The Board of Directors and Members of the St. Vincent and Grenadines of Toronto Inc. herewith offer sincere condolences to all those members of our community who have lost their loved ones. We wish you God's blessings during your period of grief.

May the souls of the departed Rest In Eternal Peace.

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 2024: Sandra Bobb
Scholarship Planning: Needs chair & volunteers
Unity Picnic Reps: J. Lewis, C. Telfer, S. Joe
Unity Picnic Bus Coordinator: C. Telfer
Social Engagement: F. Burke
Seniors Outreach: Needs chair & volunteers
Public Relations: G. Exeter, D. Bucchan, C. Telfer
Adopt-A-Child: G. Exeter, C. Samuel
Boat Cruises: C. Telfer, G. Exeter, F. Burke, U. Stephens

ADOPT-A-CHILD PROGRAM

The Adopt-A-Child Program began in 2008 to assist some less fortunate students in primary schools in St. Vincent and the Grenadines financially in their desire for a good foundation in their early years. The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that students from fifteen (15) primary schools are being sponsored, three (3) for one year and twelve (12) for 5 years. The students from the following schools are sponsored for 5 years - Barrouallie Anglican, Belmont Government, Bequia Anglican Primary, Evesham Methodist, Fitz Hughes Government, Georgetown Government, Lowmans Windward Anglican, Mary Hutchinson Primary – Union Island, Owia Government, Rose Hall Government, School for Children with Special Needs – Kingstown. These three schools have students from the previous cycle who had another year to complete their primary education – Buccament Government, Lodge Village Government and Lauders Primary.

The assistance is CDN\$720.00 per year for 5 years and begins from their second year in school. To learn more about the program, please visit [St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto - Adopt A Child \(vineytoronto.com\)](http://St.Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto - Adopt A Child (vineytoronto.com)). If you are interested in sponsoring a student, please contact any member of the board of directors.

Our heartfelt thanks to all sponsors – Allan John & Family, Caroline Layne & Family, Cordel Telfer & Family, Delcina Jardine-Reckley & Family, Erline Granderson & The Yellow Hat Ladies, Gideon Exeter & Sons, Jasmine & Gordon Davis, Drs. Sabrina Coombs & Stephanie Sadler, The Toronto SVG Support Group, and the SVGAT.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING US

The Board of Directors on behalf of the membership hereby express sincere thanks to all advertisers and sponsors of programs that keep the Corporation in existence. We ask that you support the advertisers when and where possible.

AIR CANADA NON-STOP FLIGHTS TO AIA



SUNDAYS: April 7 through to October 20, 2024

SVG TORONTO CONSULATE OFFICE

Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
55 Town Centre Court, Suite 403
Toronto, Ontario, M1P 4X4

Mr. Fitzgerald Huggins

Consul General

Tel: (416) 398-4277 Fax (416) 398-4199

Email: consulategeneral@rogers.com



NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

CARI-ON

Conducting Active Relief Impacting Our Nation

CARI-ON SVG Disaster Preparedness

CARI-ON SVG Disaster Preparedness, the Toronto-based organization that was charged with coordinating the volcano eruption relief efforts in Toronto has made changes to its leadership team at a recent meeting of the organization. Hayden Jones was returned for another term as Chair, Andrea Jones as Vice Chair, Aleesa Gibson as Secretary, Claudia Sutherland as Treasurer and Gideon Exeter as PRO.

To commemorate the 5th year of its operations, the group has decided to collaborate with other SVG organizations in the Diaspora to raise funds for the YOULOU Radio Movement in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to purchase equipment for their Ham Radio system.

More details are to be provided on this initiative soon.



The SVGAO Tropical Fusion eagerly invites the community to its vibrant and impactful second edition in support of mental health programs in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the West Indian Youth Association of Ottawa Junior Kiddies Carnival.

Saturday, 8 June 2024
5:00pm - 12:00 midnight

Richelieu Vanier Community Centre
300 des Peres-Blancs Ave., Ottawa ON

Tickets include complimentary cocktails

LIMITED ADV. \$60.00 - April 1-20, 2024

GENERAL \$65.00 - April 21-June 4, 2024

Special Feature:
A Raffle & Silent Auction of Must-have Items.

Immerse yourself in a vivid display of Afro-Caribbean culture, with a spotlight on Ragga Soca, the Indigenous music of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The event is not just an evening of entertainment but a celebration of art, unity and the inspiring philosophy of our community.

Join us on June 08! We promise an array of fine art, delectable cuisine, dynamic interactive experiences, and enthralling musical and artistic performances.

Contact:
svgottawaassociation@gmail.com

When is the 2024 Vincy Mas?

Vincy Mas 2024, will take place in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines from Friday, June 28 to Friday, July 12. Monday, July 1 and Tuesday, July 2 will be public holidays during the festival.



MEMBERS APPRECIATION & RECRUITMENT

A Social Evening of SVGAT Members & Friends

JKson's Restaurant & Bar

2811 Weston Road, Toronto

Sunday, April 28, 2024 - 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Includes Caribbean Styled Meal, Dessert & Drink

Admission: Financial Members – NO CHARGE

Potential Members & Friends - \$25.00

(Partly towards your 2024 Membership Fee)

SAVE THE DATE Friday, August 9, 2024

Toronto Harbour Boat Cruise

Aboard the Enterprise 2000



coordinated by

*The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. & The Toronto SVG Support Group
More details to follow.*



into the historical narrative that unfolds, as the narrator provides a concise overview of St. Vincent's history, specifically addressing the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the resistance of the indigenous Garifuna people.

One of the documentary's strengths lies in its detailed examination of the plantation economy, highlighting the challenges faced by the French and British in establishing their colonies and the subsequent rise of St. Vincent as the second-largest producer of sugar by 1828. The setbacks, such as the volcanic eruption of 1812 and the devastating hurricane in 1831, are discussed, providing a comprehensive understanding of the difficulties faced by both planters and the general population.

The evolution of the Campden Park Estate and the contributions of Thomas Phillips to the University of Wales add depth to the narrative, illustrating the intertwined nature of St. Vincent's history with larger global events.

The documentary also sheds light on the aftermath of slavery, addressing issues such as the allocation of land, the origins of surnames, and the challenges faced by the formerly enslaved individuals. It skillfully brings attention to the social and economic repercussions, revealing how large land sales hindered the peasants' ability to become landowners.

Furthermore, *Sugar Lands* discusses the long-lasting effects of historical events, such as the 1862 riots and the 1935 riots, providing a nuanced perspective on the island's development. The filmmaker concludes that the British presence in St. Vincent was primarily driven by the extraction of wealth, with minimal investments in human resources, capital, or infrastructure. The transition from agriculture to tourism is scrutinized for its exploitation of cheap labor in the service industry.

The documentary's climax centers around the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and the demand for reparations by the British government and the Royal Family. The call for reparatory justice, a formal apology, and payment for the many years of unpaid labour become a powerful rallying cry for addressing historical injustices.

Film & Culture Night in Honour of Black History Month showcasing Vincy Excellence

Featured Film is *Sugar Lands* by Akley Olton, Vincentian Film Director

Hosted by the SVG Associations of Montreal & Ottawa Inc.

Sugar Lands, directed by Akley Olton and featuring Dr. Adrian Fraser, is a compelling documentary that delves into the complex history of St. Vincent, exploring the profound impact of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the establishment of the plantation economy on the island.

The documentary begins with a poignant moment, capturing Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, visiting St. Vincent, and laying a wreath at the cenotaph in Kingstown. This serves as a powerful entry point

In summary, *Sugar Lands* is a thought-provoking documentary that skillfully weaves together historical events, personal narratives, and socio-economic analyses. Through a well-crafted narrative and compelling interviews, the film effectively highlights the lasting impact of colonialism, slavery, and the struggles for justice in St. Vincent.

ACKNOWLEDGING KEN L. CHITOLIE



Ken L. Chitolie is the founder and owner of KLC / Eastern Caribbean Freight Lines Limited, an Ontario registered company that operates weekly freight forwarding services to Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad & Tobago as

well as full-container loads to several other Caribbean and Latin America destinations.

Ken, as he is fondly referred to, founded the company in 1982 to provide an affordable service to Toronto residents to send goods to their loved ones in the Caribbean destinations mentioned earlier. In 2009, the company began offering services out of Montreal, Quebec.

Throughout its operations, Mr. Chitolie proudly states that he ensures that nationals of both St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines are employed as they know and can relate to many of the customers that use the services of KLC.

Mr. Chitolie, a St. Lucian by birth, is a familiar face in the St. Lucian and SVG communities and support the various organizations and consulates, not only by offering them discounted rates, but sponsors events organized by them. Over the years, KLC's name has been associated with most of the fundraising activities organized by the St. Lucia Toronto Association and other groups from St. Lucia as well as the events organized by the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto, the Toronto SVG Support Group, CARI-ON SVG Disaster Preparedness and other groups within the SVG community.

Containers of cargo destined to the St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines governments are either shipped at no cost or at substantially reduced costs to the shipping organizations. When both St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines were affected by the trough in December 2013, KLC shipped all containers to the respective governments at no cost.

In April 2021, when La Soufriere Volcano erupted on mainland St. Vincent, KLC shipped five (5) of the 14 containers shipped by the SVG Consulate in Toronto and CARI-ON SVG Disaster Preparedness at no cost, while allowing specially reduced pricing on the others. KLC also shipped goods from other nationals at reduced costs since they were destined to persons and organizations affected by the eruptions.

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc., on behalf of the SVG community here in Toronto and in our birthland can always count on Ken and KLC for their support and take this opportunity to specially thank them for their support over the years. We cannot thank Ken too much for his kindness to us.

CCAC Thanks Arbor Memorial



Representatives of the Council of Caribbean Associations-Canada (CCAC) along with a number of Family Services Directors of Arbor Memorial who actively promote the Arbor Alliance Program (AAP) met with representatives of Arbor Memorial and presented a plaque on March 1, 2024 to acknowledge the contribution that Arbor makes to the CCAC and the wider Caribbean Community.

President of the CCAC, Gideon Exeter took time out to show how the Arbor Alliance Program benefits the CCAC, families that use the services of Arbor Memorial, students who benefit from bursaries through the partnership with Arbor and the large number of affiliates of the CCAC that use the services of Arbor.

The AAP is a unique program designed by Arbor where members and affiliates of partnering organizations, churches and employees and their immediate family members are eligible for savings of between 4% to 10% when they use the services of Arbor for their final arrangements. The CCAC enrolled in the program in 2010 and since then persons who use Arbor's services as a result of the program have saved thousands of dollars. A number of persons who benefit from the savings make contributions to the CCAC's scholarship program.

Additionally, Arbor supports the CCAC by making contributions to its scholarship program.

The Funeral Services Association of Canada and the CCAC are encouraging the public at large to draw to the attention of our elected officials that the amount paid to families on the death of their loved one through the Canada Pension Plan has been frozen since 1986 whereas the costs of funeral and burial services have escalated, so the Government of Canada needs to take a look at it and help families to deal with the cost of saying goodbye to their loved ones. The CPP Death Benefit is currently \$2,500.00 but was \$3,850.00 prior to the reduction in 1998. This benefit is also taxable to the person receiving it.

The SVGAT is a founding member of the CCAC, an umbrella organization of 14 national organizations in the Caribbean Community in the GTA.

Changes To CCAC'S Scholarship Program

Since 2012, the CCAC has provided over 36 students with bursaries of \$1,000.00 to assist them with their education expenses. Starting this year, the assistance would be changed to up to \$3,000.00 paid over 3 years depending on the program at the college or university that the student is enrolled in. The bursaries are open to students of Caribbean descent. Please check the website, www.caribbeancouncilcanada.org for details.

Teaming Up With Walnut Foundation

The CCAC in conjunction with the Walnut Foundation will be hosting a virtual presentation on Prostrate Cancer in June. Please check the website, www.caribbeancouncilcanada.org for further information.

IMMIGRATION MATTERS

IMMIGRATION MATTERS: FREE SERVICES FOR NEWCOMERS TO CANADA
Contributed: Sandra Sutherland, RCIC-IRB

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) does their due diligence in providing information about free pre-arrival and newcomer

services to help immigrants prepare for and adjust to their new life in Canada. Our community needs to be cognizant of such services and utilize them accordingly. The list of pre-arrival services can be viewed at <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/new-immigrants/new-life-canada/pre-arrival-services.html>. Information about newcomer services can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/campaigns/newcomers.html>.

Newcomers sometimes have a hard time seeking adequate employment because, they are told, they lack Canadian experience. The government of Canada recently opened the Federal Internship Newcomers (FIN) Program which offers eligible newcomers an opportunity to gain valuable temporary work experience and training opportunities with Canadian federal, provincial and municipal organizations. **Note:** Applicants must first register with an immigrant-serving organization by **mid-April** and submit their application between May 9 to May 12, 2024. Full information on this FIN program is available at <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/new-immigrants/prepare-life-canada/prepare-work/federal-internship.html>. Newcomers may also benefit from job search, sector-specific skill training programs, internships and various workshops which are offered by many organizations within Canada. The City of Toronto's website (<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/employment-social-support/employment-support/newcomer-employment-seekers/>) provides information about support and employment-related services that are available to newcomers.

Within Toronto Region, organizations such as **ACCES Employment** (<https://accesemployment.ca/programs/employment-services/employment-services>), **Career Edge** (<https://www.careeredge.ca/for-job-seekers/>), and **Tropicana Community Services** (<https://tropicanacommunity.org/tec/>) offer employment related and other resourceful supports.

Various organizations and Settlement Services Agencies offer employment and entrepreneurship support services as well as other services related to housing, health care, finances, transportation, taxation, counselling, education, etc.

The **Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI)** offers free settlement services <https://ocasi.org/settlementorg> or <https://settlement.org/ontario/immigration-citizenship/landing-and-leaving/living-in-ontario/what-are-settlement-services/>.

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Tel: 416-431-2829 Fax 416-431-4036
ssutherland@southernimmigration.com

COSTI offers Individual and group counselling sessions to orient newcomers to our society and assist them in accessing basic services. To learn more about their newcomer settlement services visit https://www.costi.org/programs/program_details.php?sid=42&pid=9&id=171 or https://www.costi.org/programs/program_services.php.

The Centre for Immigrant and Community Services (CICS) has a Newcomer Resource Guide which lists the many services they offer (https://app.cicscanada.com/newcomer_resource_guide/newcomer_resource_guide_eng.html).

Woodgreen offers settlement services for immigrants and refugees (<https://www.woodgreen.org/services/newcomers>) and declares that they have been meeting the unmet needs of Toronto residents for over 85 years.

Many of the above-mentioned and other organizations provide services that are also available to other immigrants and Canadian citizens. **The Housing**

Help Centre (THHC) helps people to access and maintain affordable housing (www.shhc.ca). **The Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program** provides free routine dental services to low-income seniors over the of age 65 (www.ontario.ca/seniorDental).

Whether you or someone you know needs information or assistance in adapting to our society or obtaining assistance there are many agencies or organizations in Canada that can provide leads to a service provider.

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, citizenship and refugee matters and is licensed with the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants (CICC) as a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant and counsel at the 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.

News From SVG

Tony Browne donates to RSVGPF Computers

Annsvg.com



The Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGPF) has received a boost in its equipment to combat crime and serve the citizens of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

On Friday 15th March 2024, Mr. Tony Browne, a 36-year veteran of the York Regional Police Department in Canada, donated five (5) desktop computers, three (3) laptops, one (1) projector, and notebooks to the RSVGPF. The brief handover ceremony was held at the Police Headquarters, Kingstown.

Mr. Browne, a native of Coulls Hill, was very excited to hand over the pieces of equipment to the Commissioner of Police (Ag), Mr. Enville Williams.

SANDALS RESORTS opened its newest location in Buccament Bay, St. Vincent and the Grenadines on March 27. The All-Inclusive resort was officially opened to the first set of tourists following a couple years of construction.



At the opening ceremony, Executive Vice President of Sales and Industry Relations, Mr. Gary Sadler stated “Our team will drive demand in the international market place and the partnerships that would grow out of that includes increased flights to the country by American Airlines coming to SVG six times a week from November with plans for daily flights in the near future. Jet Blue and United Airlines are also set to service SVG and there are British Airway and Air Canada which currently provides service”.

Since construction began, hundreds of Vincentians have been employed by Sandals with some of them being hired and sent to other Sandals locations for training prior to the opening in order to maintain the standards that the company is proud of.

SVGFF Has New Executive

On March 21, membership of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Football Federation elected a new executive and ousted its former president. The new executive includes Otashie Spring as President, Domonique Stowe as First Vice President, Yosiah Dascent as Second Vice President, Dwight Roberts as Third Vice President with Dwight Baptiste, Yoland London, Deptor Culzac, Iyakie Daniel and Koyana Horne serving as Committee Members.

Five persons including outgoing president, Carl Dickson contested for the office of president. The new executive serves for four years.



MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS REWARDS

Arbor Memorial Inc.

is a proud sponsor of the

Council of Caribbean Associations-Canada
(CCAC) and its member affiliates including
St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of
Toronto Inc. (SVGAT)



Through **Alliances By Arbor Memorial**, members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines community in Ontario who are members of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. who choose to use the services of Arbor Memorial at any of its cemeteries or funeral homes are entitled to special discounts off products and services.

Through **Arbor Foundation**, the CCAC and its affiliates receive special funding for its programs and activities.

For further information, please visit any of the websites listed below or contact Gideon Exeter at 416-992-4253 or by email at gexeter@arbormemorial.com



Critical Review of Sir Lenny Henry's Three Little Birds

In Sir Lenny Henry's cinematic masterpiece, "Three Little Birds," the resilient tales of three courageous Jamaican women unfurl against the backdrop of 1950s England. Drawing inspiration from his mother's remarkable journey, Henry encapsulates an era that resonates with the untold narratives of innumerable young women across British West

Indian territories. The film catapults us into a transformative epoch, where West Indian youth, fueled by the enthusiasm of a burgeoning awakening, set sail for an uncertain destiny in the cherished "Mother Land."

These three protagonists embody the collective spirit of an entire generation, encapsulating the shared experiences etched into the fabric of Caribbean households. Their narratives transcend the screen, weaving a tapestry of suffering and triumph that has moulded our existence. Sir Lenny Henry's storytelling prowess elevates their struggles into a timeless cinematic odyssey, inviting audiences to witness the indomitable spirit of those who dared to forge a new life amid the unknown currents of history. "Three Little Birds" isn't just a film; it's an immersive exploration of our shared heritage, a poignant reminder that we are the living legacies of their extraordinary journey. For many Canadians of Caribbean heritage, parallels can be drawn between the experiences of these three protagonists and the experiences of the countless young women who ventured to Canada through the Domestic Workers' Scheme and the unintentional multicultural society they helped shape. This series is a beautiful tribute to the brave pioneers.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO SVGAT MEMBERS

Please note that according to the by-laws of the Corporation, persons who paid their annual dues in 2023 were deemed financial up to March 31, 2024 by way of a **Grace Period**. For persons who did not renew their membership prior to March 31 their membership automatically lapsed and they now therefore need to re-apply for membership by completing the appropriate form.

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benjaminlaw.ca



Press Release

The 2024 Vincy Unity Picnic has been relocated to Crysler Park Beach & Marina

For Immediate Release

Date March 28, 2024

The **Vincy Unity Picnic**, organized by the SVG Associations of Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto is changing its venue. Historically the picnic took place at Brown's Bay Park, however, due to extensive reconstruction work at Brown's Bay Park it was temporarily relocated to Crysler Park Beach over the past two years. After consulting with the officials at the St. Lawrence Parks Commission at Brown's Bay Park, the organizing committee has now decided to return to Crysler Park Beach for the upcoming event in 2024.

The primary reason for this decision is the recent reconstructive work undertaken at Brown's Bay Park which has reduced the number of parking spaces and significantly increased costs, which would inevitably impact ticket prices.

By returning to Crysler Park, the committee aims to maintain its tradition of providing memorable experiences for attendees. The event date and time remain unchanged: **Saturday, July 20, 2024, from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm EST.**

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Our commitment to serving our patrons remains unwavering, and we will continue to work diligently in your best interest. Thank you for your understanding.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for further announcements on the official website and social media channels. For inquiries, please contact Sandra Bobb, Chair, by calling 613 864-4175 or by email at vincyunitypicnic@gmail.com

Let's celebrate Vincentian culture together!

CARIBBEAN AIRLINES FLIGHTS TO AIA



The only direct flights that Caribbean Airlines provides from North America to Argyle International Airport, SVG are from New York on Wednesdays and Saturdays. All other flights to AIA go through the airline's hub in Port of Spain.

For information on Caribbean Airlines flights to SVG, please check the airline's website, www.caribbean-airlines.com or your travel agent.

VINCY FATHERS' DAY BOAT CRUISE

**CELEBRATE FATHERS' DAY
SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024 - NOON TO 5:00 PM
ABOARD THE STELLA BOREALIS**

Organized by:
**CARI-ON SVG DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
THE TORONTO SVG SUPPORT GROUP
THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES
ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO.**

**EARLY BIRD: \$55.00 UNTIL MAY 15
REGULAR AFTER MAY 15 - \$65.00
JUNIORS UNDER 13 - \$40.00**

**Call: Cordel: 647-717-9731; Sandra: 613-864-4175;
Hayden: 416-889-3293**

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CORPORATION BY-LAWS

On February 2, 2013, The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. enacted the Ontario Non-Profit Corporation By-Law 1 which replaced the constitution by which the Association was governed. Please visit the Corporation's website www.vincytoronto.com and click on the About Us page or click on the link [St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto - By-Laws \(vincytoronto.com\)](http://www.vincytoronto.com) to take you directly to read the by-law and acquaint yourself.

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"



Rhonda Metelsky
B.A (Hons) LL.B

Metelsky Law is a boutique law firm serving the Greater Toronto Area and specializes in criminal law, family law, wills and estate administration. We continue to provide community service by providing legal services to various community organizations and mentor high school, college and university students interested in pursuing a career in law. We understand that corporate involvement isn't just an activity: we are genuinely committed to improving our communities, investing our time and expertise to facilitate those improvements throughout the year.

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The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

Membership Registration Form



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: (Street) _____

(City/Town): _____ (Province): _____ Postal Code: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

CURRENT MEMBER FOR RENEWAL, OR NEW MEMBER: _____

NEW MEMBER OR RENEWAL: (\$20:00 annual subscription); (Student: \$10.00) When application is approved, please e-transfer the amount to "treasurer@vincytoronto.com" or make cheque payable to THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. and mail payment to:

THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.
P. O. Box 80066 – Don Valley Village P. O., Toronto, ON, M2J 0A1 Email: svgat@vincytoronto.com