

*St Vincent and the Grenadines
Association of Toronto Inc*

Independence Banquet

One People, One Team, One Goal

Renaissance Parqe Banquet Hall

Saturday, November 4, 2006

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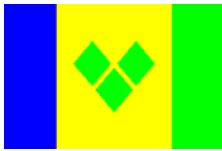
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NATIONAL ANTHEMS



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True patriot love in all thy sons command.
With growing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North, strong and free!
From far and wide, O Canada,
We stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee!



St. Vincent Land so beautiful
With joyful hearts we pledge to thee
Our loyalty and love and vow
To keep you ever free.

*Whate'er the future brings
Our faith will see us through.
May peace reign from shore to shore
And God bless and keep us true.*

Hairoun! Our fair and blessed Isle
Your mountains high, so clear and green;
Are home to me though I may stray;
A haven calm serene.

Our little sister islands are
Those gems the lovely Grenadines,
Upon their seas and golden sands
The sunshine ever beams.

OUR APPRECIATION

The Organizing Committee, on behalf of the Executive and membership of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. herewith express sincere thanks to all those who in one way or the other assisted in making the celebrations of our activities to commemorate the 27th anniversary of the independence of our country possible.

We thank our many sponsors and advertisers in this Souvenir Brochure; those who donated in kind and coin for the other events, those artistes who donated their time; those who assisted in the sale of tickets and encouraging others to attend our events.

Special thanks to Justice Adrian Saunders who has traveled from Trinidad & Tobago to celebrate with us and to be our Guest Speaker.

Finally, we thank all those who were able to attend our events. We trust that as we embrace the future as One People, One Team with One Goal, we as Vincentians will strenuously strive to advance the development of our beloved country, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

We congratulate the students who have been awarded the scholarships this year and wish them all the best in their futures.

*Members of the Organizing Committee, 2006
Independence Anniversary Celebrations*



PRIME MINISTER - PREMIER MINISTRE



Hon. Stephen Harper

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings to everyone marking the 27th anniversary of the independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

This special milestone offers a wonderful opportunity to highlight the significant role your members have played in the community. As Canadians, we are fortunate to be living in a country that embraces the many cultures of the world. Our success as a nation is based on the social, cultural and economic contributions of Canadians of all backgrounds working together.

I know that this year's festivities – with the theme "One People, One Team, One Goal" – will be a remarkable reflection of your rich cultural heritage. I would like to commend the members and volunteers of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. for their effort in bringing this much-anticipated celebration to the community.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I wish you all an enjoyable and memorable anniversary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Harper".

OTTAWA
2006



THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO
LE LIEUTENANT GOUVERNEUR DE L'ONTARIO

4 November 2006

I am pleased to extend sincere greetings to everyone attending the 27th Anniversary of Independence banquet organized by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto.

Over the years, your organization has been committed to education, care for senior citizens, recreation and emergency relief. As well, you have established a scholarship program for two students annually to assist with their post-secondary education. I would like to add my congratulations to the two young recipients being recognized this evening, and to wish you both great success, as you embark on your college or university education.

As The Queen's representative in Ontario, please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable evening.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James K. Bartleman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J'.

James K. Bartleman

Message from the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

UPLIFT THE SPIRIT

by

Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves
Prime Minister



Our nation celebrates its 27th anniversary of independence on October 27, 2006. Over the past 27 years there has been much material progress and social development. Incomes have risen; the physical infrastructure has improved; advances in education, health, housing, and social services have been made; the quality of governance has been enhanced; poverty has been reduced; the people's cultural awareness has been lifted; accomplishments in sports have been recorded; and generally the quality of people's lives has seen marked improvements. Particularly in the last five years, social and material achievements at the individual and national levels have been impressive.

These advances, however, appear not to have been accompanied by a parallel lifting of that which feeds the spirit and the soul. To be sure, there are more churches than ever and more people seem to be professing publicly their Christianity than before. And they are undoubtedly sincere in all this. Yet, in this small nation of ours vices multiply; man's inhumanity to man roars in some quarters; indescribable violent crimes occur with greater frequency than ever; good neighbourliness is diminishing; falsehoods routinely become the currency in which too many who appose the Government, traffic; the lowest common denominator is paraded as the ideal standard on much of talk-show radio; public discourse is conducted with an unacceptable coarseness by many who seek power; crass individualism devoid of social responsibility is rampant; a dog-eat-dog attitude is growing; criminality and vagabondry are accorded a veneer of respectability in some sections of our society; treasured civility is dismissed as old-fashioned; the worst features of ghetto life in American cities are being emulated as worthy; and a tawdry imitateness is paraded as creativity.

Thus, while we are chalking up successes in reducing material poverty, there is a discernible poverty of the spirit. Similarly, the quest by too many in our society for material success is unmatched by a bounty of ideas for overall upliftment of the person and the nation's soul. Material consumption accompanied by spiritual scarcity and a paucity of creative ideas would prove to be our nation's undoing, if we are not most careful.

It does appear that the very modernization which we rightly espouse brings in its train many unwholesome dimensions. There are 70,000 (seventy thousand) cell phones in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and we are all talking more than ever; but, we losing the art of talking properly to each other. The air waves are saturated with talk-shows, yet very little that is uplifting emerges therefrom. Radio stations have mushroomed aplenty but a daily diet of debilitation sameness, is increasing. Education, information and knowledge are down-played; crude partisan propaganda is promoted day and night. It all benumbs the public, makes them more cynical, elevates foolishness, and corrupts the political process. It sickens right-thinking persons. Freedom of speech becomes freedom to abuse, freedom to distort, freedom to utter falsehoods without personal consequences. Those who sow the wind are likely to reap the whirlwind. The purveyors of this subverting of the people's spirit must be resisted. They who parade problems but offer no solutions must be isolated. Those who embrace pessimism must be rejected. They are in love with problems, not their solution.

Leadership is for serious, honest people with a clear people-centred vision, a finely-articulated philosophy, a comprehensive package of policies, and practical programmes for implementation. These challenging times demand innovation, creativity of ideas, connectedness with the people, and a nobility of spirit grounded in tried and tested values of our Caribbean civilization. The on-going challenges of modern globalization and a society-in-change require such a leadership in communion with the people. This is what my government continues to offer, despite human weaknesses and limitations.

Over the next year, two critical events conjoin in memorable unison: First, Cricket World Cup 2007 will bring to the Caribbean, including St. Vincent and the Grenadines the largest ever single voluntary movement of people over a short period of time. Secondly, we will commemorate, in March 2007, the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade, which trade saw the largest involuntary and enforced movement of people to our region. Both events are of real significance and we must continue to prepare well for them.

Meanwhile, my government continues to implement the policies and programmes upon which it was elected less than one year ago. The mandate which we have been given will be carried out. Defeated policies will not be initiated. We will focus on what the people elected us to do.

I wish all our people, at home and abroad a reflective and celebratory Independence Day 2006. Let us together uplift the spirit for our individual selves and our nation!

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HIGH COMMISSION FOR ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

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High Commissioner

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.

Sunday, Nov. 5	Town Hall Discussions	York Civic Centre, 2700 Keele Street
Sunday, Nov. 26	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Friday, Dec. 1	Reception for 2007 Cricket World Cup SVG Local Organizing Committee	
Saturday, Dec. 9	Children's Christmas Party	15 Clubhouse Court, North York
Saturday, Dec. 16	SVG Cricket Club Dance	CAW Union Hall, 15 Tangiers Rd,
Sunday, Dec. 17	Vincy Day at Air Canada Centre	Toronto Raptors versus Golden State
Friday, Dec. 22	Christmas Hamper Outreach	
Sunday, January 28	Annual General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre 5 Clubhouse Court, North York



The Premier of Ontario - Le Premier ministre de l'Ontario

October 27, 2006

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone commemorating the 27th anniversary of the independence of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Ontario's strength comes from its diversity. We are a proud collection of different ancestries, histories, languages and beliefs. The Vincentian Canadian community is part of our province's strong and vibrant multicultural fabric. As members of that community, you continue to make Ontario — and Canada as a whole — an even better place to live.

As you gather with family and friends to celebrate the aspirations and achievements of the past 27 years, take this opportunity to reflect on the past and look, with hope and optimism, to the promise of the future.

Please accept my best wishes for a festive celebration and for much ongoing success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dalton McGuinty".

Dalton McGuinty
Premier



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM
HER EXCELLENCY LORRAINE B. WILLIAMS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE
COUNTRIES OF THE
ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

October 2006

When we celebrate Independence, we celebrate so much more than the actual historic moment when Independence was attained. Indeed, as a people who share a common history, culture and destiny, we celebrate everything that Independence represents. We celebrate our sovereignty, we celebrate our achievements as a people united through our common pursuits and reaffirm our desire and commitment to progress and democracy; we celebrate our emancipation from the shackles of colonialism.

Reflecting on St. Vincent and the Grenadines' journey since October 27, 1979 to today, one is overwhelmed with pride of all the achievements of this small island-nation and her sons and daughters. The road has been long, and fraught with challenges and hardships. But with determination, commitment and resilience, and by pooling the resourcefulness of its most valuable resource, the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the country today is progressive, peaceful, safe, and peace loving.

Let us remind ourselves that although small in landmass, St. Vincent and the Grenadines' contribution to the world are great. Your beautiful Mother Country has bred world-class strong and visionary civic and political leaders, renowned cultural artistes, respected professionals in any field, and hardworking men and women of integrity, like yourselves in the Diaspora, who contribute to building great societies in your adopted country. This is St. Vincent and the Grenadines' legacy to humanity; we ought to recognize it and celebrate it.

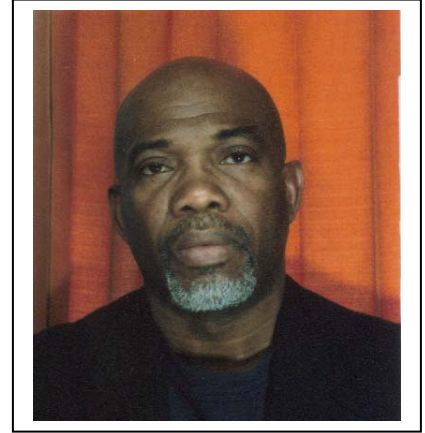
As High Commissioner for the Countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States in Canada, it gives me great pleasure to extend warmest congratulations to the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto, all nationals of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Canada, on the occasion of your 27th Anniversary of Independence.

I commend our past achievements and your diligence in assuming your roles in keeping alive and fostering in the Toronto community such pride of being Vincentians. Such patriotism compels every one of you to stand up and be counted as proud sons and daughters of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, whenever the occasion arises and wherever you may be. I wish you every success in the activities planned to mark this year's anniversary, I wish the Almighty's choicest blessings for the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and I look forward to enhanced collaboration between the Association and the High Commission.

Lorraine B. Williams
HIGH COMMISSIONER

Message from President of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

Mr. Kenneth Farrell



One People, One Team, One Goal!

For the past twenty six (26) years Vincentians and friends in the Toronto area have been celebrating our nation's independence with activities which include a Church Service, a dinner and dance and Town Hall meeting.

This year we continue the tradition as we celebrate twenty-seven (27) years of independence. The theme this year, "One People, One Team, One Goal" is self-explanatory but I need to ask some questions, questions that will motivate and move us closer to achieving that desired goal.

Have we embraced the fact that we are one people? Do we work together as a team? Are we aiming towards one goal? Please let us think seriously of this year's theme and the questions that are being asked, because we need to seriously consider the Association's reason for existence and our accomplishments thus far.

Using our theme let me call on members of our Association, members of the wider Vincentian community here in the Toronto to bond to try to acquire buildings that would be used as permanent meeting places and venues to hold our various events as opposed to be continually renting and spending vast sums of money outside of our community. Hopefully we can convince other Caribbean associations to take up this challenge and let us work together to achieve this.

I encourage members of our Association to start a building fund to which members can from time to time make contributions on a voluntary basis. This will definitely show that we are serious in achieving our goal.

Some of you are aware that I assumed the role of president at the end of May when our then president, Mr. Jason Jones resigned. Since then I tried to steer the Association along the path that I met in place. I would like to thank the executive members, committee members and the public on a whole for their cooperation so far and I look forward to your further support as we try to move the Association forward.

As we celebrate our independence let us do so with much pride and togetherness. Be active! Help in the development of your association so that our community can grow stronger and stronger as we leave a strong legacy for our children.

Happy 27th Anniversary.

KENNETH FARRELL

Interim President

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. P.O. Box 392, Station F, Toronto, ON, M4Y 2L8

Program

Cocktail Hour

Piano entertainment by Ricky McIntosh

Introduction and seating of Head Table Guests

Master of Ceremonies

Ken DeLecia

National Anthem of Canada

National Anthem of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Blessing of the Meal

DINNER

Musical Interlude

Presentation to Scholarship Recipients

Welcome Remarks

President, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

Mr. Kenneth Farrell

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Mr. E. Bernard John

Consul General, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Greetings – High Commissioner for the countries of the OECS

Her Excellency Lorraine Williams

Keynote Address

The Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders

Judge, Caribbean Court of Justice

Vote of Thanks

Audrey Lewis – Chair, Independence Committee

Dancing to the music of DJ Fusion & The Caribbean Thunderbolts

Menu

Hors d'oeuvres

Bread & Rolls

Appetizer

Green Mixed Salad with Balsamic Vinagrette

Pasta

Risotto with Mushrooms & Asparagus

Main Course

Chicken filled with Spinach & Mozzarella Cheese

Veal Scaloppini in a Cognac & Mushroom Sauce

Served with Mini Red Roasted Potatoes, and Stir Fry Vegetables

Dessert

Mango, Raspberry and Pistachio topped with Berries

Coffee / Tea / Espresso

A Fruit Platter will be served to each table later in the evening.



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Our Keynote Speaker

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ADRIAN SAUNDERS



The Honourable Mr. Justice Adrian Dudley Saunders was born in St. Vincent on 4th January 1954, the last of five children of the late Thomas Saunders and Theo Saunders. Mr. Justice Saunders attended St. Mary's Primary School and later St. Vincent Grammar School in St. Vincent where he was the Head Boy during the 1971-1972 academic year.

After secondary school, Mr. Justice Saunders took the Bachelor of Laws (Honors) degree from the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill) in 1975. He followed this with the Legal Education Certificate of the Hugh

Wooding Law School in Trinidad & Tobago in 1977, and was called to the Bar of St. Vincent & the Grenadines in that same year.

Mr. Justice Saunders remained in private practice as barrister and solicitor from 1977 until 1996. From 1985 to 1994, he served as a member of the Bar Council of the Eastern Caribbean Bar Association, while occupying the post of Secretary of the St. Vincent Bar Association during that same period. In 1996, he was appointed to act as a Judge of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSJ). At the time of his appointment, he was the Senior Partner in the firm of Saunders & Huggins. In January 1997 he was confirmed as a High Court Judge, being first assigned to the dependent territories of Montserrat and Anguilla and then in 2001 to St. Lucia.

On 1st May, 2003, Mr. Justice Saunders was appointed Justice of Appeal of the ECSJ and in June 2004, was appointed to act as Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court in the absence of Sir Dennis Byron who is on leave, having taken up a United Nations appointment in Arusha until 2007. Mr. Justice Saunders took the oath of office as a Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice at the Court's Inauguration Ceremony, on Saturday 16 April 2005.

Since being appointed a Judge of the ECSC, Mr. Justice Saunders has been deeply involved in judicial reform in the Eastern Caribbean. He has been a faculty member of the Halifax-based Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute since 1998, and as such has regularly participated in judicial education programmes for Judges from throughout the Commonwealth. Mr. Justice Saunders served as Chairman of the Judicial Education Institute of the ECSC from 2001 to 2004. From 2000 to 2004, he sat as Chairman of the Ethics Committee of the ECSC, presiding over the development of a code of ethics for Judges of the Eastern Caribbean.

Off the Bench, Mr. Justice Saunders was President of the National Youth Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. He represented his country at table tennis on a number of occasions and for many years he was a member of the Executive of the St. Vincent & the Grenadines Table Tennis Association. He also served as Chairman of the St. Vincent Save the Children and as President of the St. Vincent Guild of Graduates. In December 2004, with the concurrence of the affected parties, Mr. Justice Saunders was appointed by a Caribbean Community (Caricom) Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on Cricket to act as Judge-Advocate and deliver a binding ruling on a heated dispute between the West Indies Cricket Board and the West Indies Players' Association.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Saunders is married to Marilyn Angela née Joslyn and has two sons.



St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Scholarship Program

2006 Scholarship Recipient of SVGAT Bursary

Self promotion has never been one of Jamile Garraway's strengths but at times it seems necessary to inconvenience him with the embarrassment of acknowledgement. A dedicated student, Jamile recently graduated with high honours from Seneca College's General Arts and Sciences Program; maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout. This garnered a place on Seneca College's President's Honours List. He was also presented the Bruce A. Mickleburgh Award in 2005 while attending the college.

An aspiring teacher, Jamile has been very active with young people in the community. In the past year he was an integral part of Seneca College's "After School Tutoring Project" which operated out of the Seneca@York Campus. This project was designed to provide free tutoring to elementary and high school students in the Jane & Finch community. While participating in this project, he also served as a peer tutor at Seneca College; tutoring colleagues in English, History, Philosophy and Logic. Jamile spent the summer as a proud team member for Knowledge Is Power (KIP) as well. KIP is a company founded and managed by a young black York University student and its mandate is to facilitate the learning process and provide mentoring for elementary and high school students in Toronto. It is his strong belief that education should begin in the community and only be further enhanced in the classroom.

Jamile is described by one of his teachers as one his best students in the 2004/5 General Arts and Science program. His intellectual integrity was visible through many discussions, his time management skills were impressive and he is noted as extremely committed to his work ethic, school and community.

Jamile is currently attending D'Youville College in Buffalo, NY, pursuing a baccalaureate in History and his Master's of Education. This concurrent program will allow him to teach in both Canada and the United States as a high school or college professor. Amongst his interests he cites literature, sports, music, poetry, and people.



**St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto
Scholarship Program
2006 Scholarship Recipient of Western Union Bursary**

My name is Taisha Lewis, an 18-year-old International Baccalaureate Graduate from Pope John Paul II Catholic Secondary School. I believe it is important to make a personal commitment of time and effort to improve the quality of life of others. I have been involved in numerous community activities, from very early years, giving back to a community that has contributed greatly to my life.

For the past three years, I have been involved with the Sickle Cell Association of Ontario where I participated in fundraising walkathons assisted as a gift wrapper and Christmas party host for children with Sickle Cell Anaemia at The Hospital for Sick Children. It brought me great joy to help send over 40 children to Camp Jumoke.

Church and faith are very important aspects of my life. I took on the responsibility of being the Youth, General and Electoral Synod Representatives. These synods are annual general meetings of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Toronto where some 300 parishes and missions convene to review the finances and policies of the church and improve its budget. As Youth Service Coordinator, I organized the monthly services at my church. I now believe that our youth have acquired a revived voice in the Church.

As a member of the YMCA Youth Leadership Corps program since 2003, I served as Council Secretary, Communications and Promotions Representative, 2004 Wellness Fair Youth Representative and 2006 Council Representative.

My passion for French compelled me to get involved in my school's French newspaper: « *La Plume Française* » as the Editor, Illustrator and Writer. I later developed and delivered « *Plongez-vous dans lefrançais!* » a grade 9 after school program, to help students comfortably express themselves in French, and explore French culture through various media. The program later expanded to grade 10 students, and I believe that they became more confident with the language, allowing them to succeed in their courses. I now know that I can inspire others to be successful.

My love for the Arts led me to become a member of my school's Hip-Hop Dance Squad. As a member of the 2004/2005 squad, I represented the Malvern Community Centre at the City of Toronto's STOMP Urban Dance Competition, where we earned 3rd place at the Advanced/Professional Level. Last summer I taught dance at the Shad Valley 2005 Program at the University of Waterloo. My passion for the Arts also compelled me to compete in the Canadian Legion Remembrance Day Poster Contest and New Conservatory of Music Festivals. I have won numerous awards for my pieces and performances, and have recently completed Grade 8 RCM Piano.

Student government provides students with a means of communicating their desires for a better school experience. As Secretary, Vice-President Publicity and Black History Month Coordinator, I organized events, promoted school spirit and fundraised for charitable causes. Last year as the Ex-Officio Officer of the Council, I oversaw the workings of the council and helped organize social events.

I am proud of the accomplishments I have made thus far on my academic and personal journeys. Last summer, I had the privilege of participating in the Shad Valley International Program, and feel very honoured to be a Shad Valley International 2005 Alumna. I was a John Brooks Scholarship Recipient in grades 8, 9 and 10. Throughout my high school years, I was on the Honour Roll. I have also received the French, English Career Studies, Civics, History and Geography Awards. Involvement in extra-curricular activities allowed me to compete in York University's Science and Engineering Olympics and in Destination Imagination, Canada's largest creative competition. In our first year as a team, we earned 3rd place in Ontario.

My high school experience presented me with a multitude of opportunities and enriching experiences. I can only hope that my future years will be just as rewarding, as I continue pursuing academic excellence at McMaster University. I hope to inspire others to get involved in their community and to make a difference in the lives of others.



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Our sincere thanks to all members of the Committee for the contribution of their time, talent and efforts.



HELP SOMEONE OUT THIS UPCOMING CHRISTMAS SEASON

Each year the Association through the Relief Committee tries to assist some less fortunate members of our community by providing them with a food hamper at Christmas time.

If you know of someone who needs this assistance or you are able to make a contribution to this effort please contact Ms Veronica Timm, chairperson of the Relief Committee by emailing her at relief@vincytoronto.com

The names of recipients of this assistance are kept in confidence.

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