



**St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
Association of Toronto**



**Celebrates**

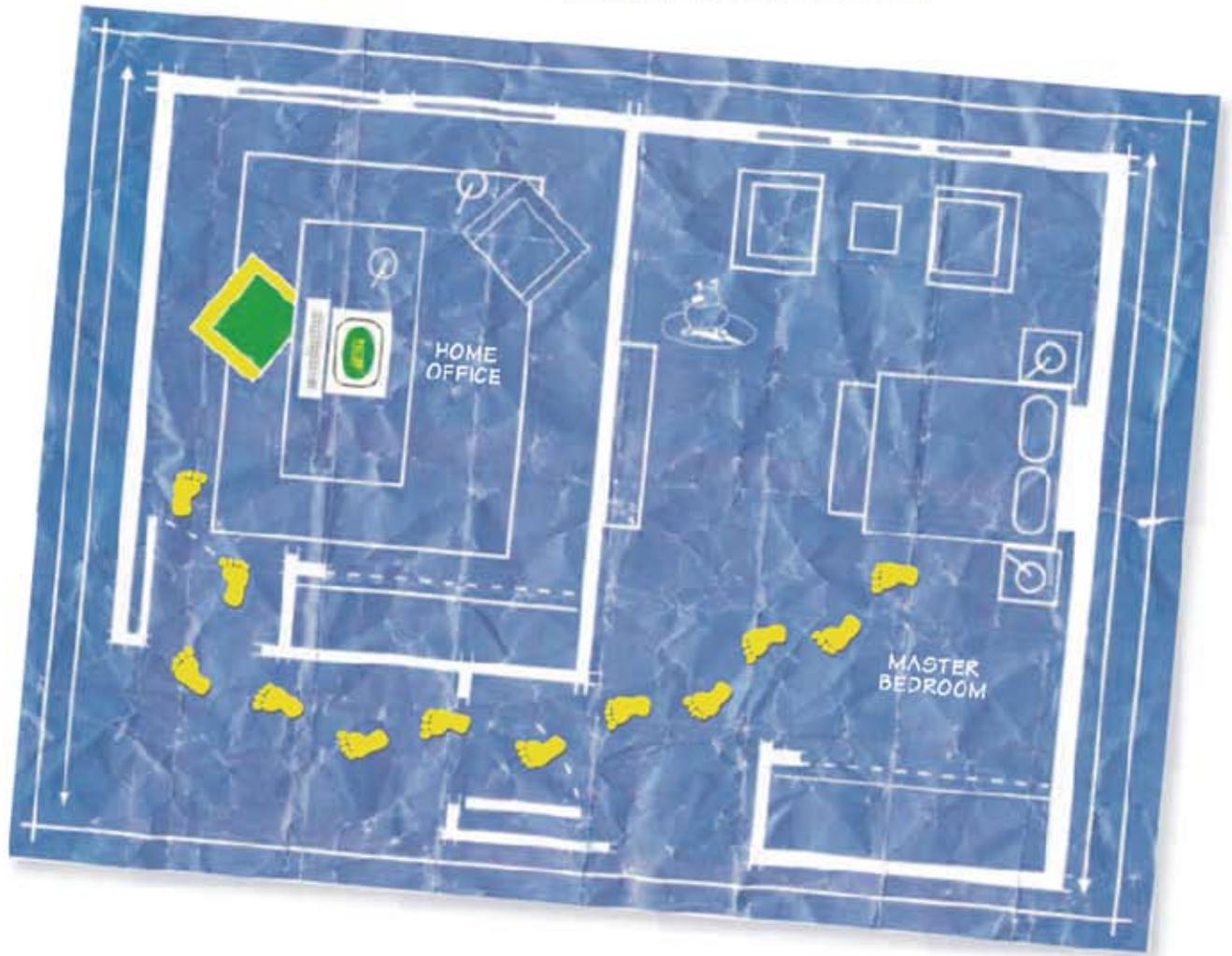
**29th Independence Anniversary**

**Country, State & Nation**



The Coat of arms of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is surmounted by a cotton plant and bears the text "Peace and Justice" in Latin. The centerpiece is based on the colonial badge in use from 1907 to 1979 and features two women in classical Roman dress. The one on the heraldic right stands holding a palm branch, and the one on the left holds scales of justice and kneels before a gold altar situated between them.

# BANKING...



## ANYTIME, ANYWHERE Introducing NCB ONLINE

Pay bills, loans, credit cards; check balances or transfer funds from anywhere in the world with the click of a mouse.

- No more traffic
- No more lines
- No more closing hours

NCB... at your fingertips.

[www.svgncb.com](http://www.svgncb.com)



NATIONAL COMMERCIAL  
BANK (SVG) LTD

My Bank, Your Bank, the Nation's Bank  
Tel: 784-457-1844  
Email: [nalbank@svgncb.com](mailto:nalbank@svgncb.com)  
Website: [www.svgncb.com](http://www.svgncb.com)

## *Mistress of Ceremonies*



### *Nneka Elliott*

If you ask Nneka when she knew she wanted to be a broadcaster, she would say, “I’ve always known”.

24-year old Nneka Elliott is no stranger to the world of Broadcasting. Canadian born and Vincentian raised, Nneka had her first foray with the industry when she became the co-host of a weekend radio program with HITZ FM in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

From there Nneka headed back to Canada to complete studies in Radio and Television at Ryerson University in Toronto. By the time she had graduated, Nneka held such positions as Anchor, Reporter and Audio Editor at CFRB NEWSTALK 1010 AM.

In 2006 Nneka turned her attention to Television as a weather broadcaster with Canada’s national weather station, The Weather Network. While there, Nneka continued to brush up her reporting skills as a part-time reporter for the lifestyle Television show, “Toronto Living” on Rogers.

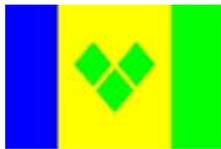
These days you can find Nneka on Toronto’s only 24-hour news station CP24, helping Torontonians plan their day, as their Traffic/Weather Specialist.

Nneka is passionate about serving her community as a role model, mentor and speaker.

# National Anthems



O Canada! Our home and native land!  
 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.



From the "PR Committee"

## To "U" In Appreciation

The Public Relations Committee of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto, extend to the Ontario Diaspora and beyond our undivided love and best wishes for our 29<sup>th</sup> Independence Celebration. To our contributors, newspapers, ad subscribers and patrons, we applaud your generous commitment to the survival of *INSIGHT* and our *SVGAT WEBSITE*. To our dedicated Webmaster, hats off to you for your priceless work and patience. To the SVGAT devoted members, we urge you to focus towards a positive future for our Association.

Peace, Love & Community Unity.

*"Very little is needed to make a happy life. It is all within yourself, in your way of thinking."  
 (M. Aurelius)*

### INDEPENDENCE BANQUET COMMITTEE

*Shelley John  
 Yolande Lewis  
 Francelia George  
 Fred Williams  
 Monty Providence  
 Raymond England*

\*\*\*\*\*

### INDEPENDENCE THANKSGIVING CHURCH SERVICE COMMITTEE

*Eldine Barnwell  
 Pearl Woods  
 Gracelyn Providence*

\*\*\*\*\*

### 2008 INDEPENDENCE TOWN HALL MEETING

**Coordinator**  
*Michelle Doyle*

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



## *Permanent Representative to the UN*



*Camillo M. Gonsalves*

*Guest Speaker*

In November 2007 Camillo M. Gonsalves, presented his credentials to the UN Secretary-General as the new Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations.

Prior to his UN appointment, Mr. Gonsalves served as Senior Crown Counsel in the Attorney General's Chambers. In that position, he participated in an advisory capacity on behalf of his Government in a variety of negotiations and discussions with various foreign Governments, and in the diplomatic sphere he was a member of multiple delegations discussing a wide range of matters. He also represented his Government in several high-level bodies of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), including at the Heads of Government Conference, the Subcommittee on the Harmonisation of Laws, the Legal Affairs Committee, and the Council for Finance and Planning.

From May 1999 to September 2004, Mr. Gonsalves served as an Associate in several law firms, and as a Legal Adviser to the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Starting in October 2004, he worked in private practice at a Kingstown law firm.

Mr. Gonsalves founded Reggaematic Magazine in October 1997, and has been its publisher and editor-in-chief since then. It is an informational magazine produced by the Government's Agency for Public Information. Among his other posts, Mr. Gonsalves has been the on-air host of a weekly live three-hour radio programme called "Reggae Blast". He was also art director, writer and copy editor (March 1995 to August 1996) of The Philadelphia Tribune.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and his Juris Doctor degree from the George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C. He received his Legal Education Certificate from the Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 12 June 1972, Mr. Gonsalves is not married.



Mayor  
**DAVID MILLER**

**A Message from the Mayor**

**It is with pleasure that I extend congratulations and warm wishes to everyone celebrating the 29<sup>th</sup> Independence anniversary of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.**

**St. Vincent and the Grenadines' independence was a very significant event and recognizing this time in history provides an opportunity for us to increase our understanding and appreciation of the values we all treasure – peace, freedom and democracy.**

**Toronto is said to be a city of the world. People from all over the globe now call it home and bring with them their culture and traditions that add to the rich fabric of our city. I thank our St. Vincent and the Grenadines community for the important part they play in the success and vibrancy of our city.**

**On behalf of Toronto City Council, I extend best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable celebration.**

**Yours truly,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Mayor David Miller**



City Hall • 100 Queen Street West • 2nd Floor • Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2  
Telephone: 416-397-CITY • Fax: 416-696-3687 • E-mail: [mayor\\_miller@toronto.ca](mailto:mayor_miller@toronto.ca)



*Commonwealth of  
Dominica*



*Grenada*



*Montserrat*



*St. Kitts-Nevis*



*St. Lucia*



*Antigua and Barbuda*

## *High Commissioner for the Countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States*



*St. Vincent  
and the Grenadines*



**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM  
HIS EXCELLENCY BRENDON C. BROWNE  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE  
COUNTRIES OF THE  
ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES**

On October 27, our beloved Saint Vincent and the Grenadines celebrates its 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as an independent nation. Over the years, our progress has been steady. As a country of slender human and financial resources we are always mindful of our limitations. We first sought to consolidate relations with our traditional allies - Britain, Canada, France, the United States, and the Caribbean - and then, established relations with countries with which we share the same democratic ideals while at the same time recognizing ideological pluralism. We joined regional organizations and contributed to their continuing growth. At the outset, we laid a strong foundation by crafting a pragmatic foreign policy and fashioned a relevant, prudent domestic policy.

As we commemorate this 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence, we can feel proud that our country is on the move. The education revolution has taken the country by storm. We have more Vincentian students enrolled in universities than anytime in our country's history. Advances have been made in Health, Housing and Social Services. Poverty has been significantly reduced. We have gained international recognition in sports and music. Vincentians are much better off today than they were 10 years ago. Our national pride and image have been enhanced.

We wish to express our appreciation to the Diaspora for its contribution to the development of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and their adopted country. It is with great pride that we note that you have never lost the love for your country. To highlight your importance, a Diaspora Unit was established in the Prime Minister's Office in October 2007. "Its general responsibility is to coordinate relations between Vincentians at home and in the Diaspora". Currently it is working on a project to encourage as many Vincentians as possible to return home in 2009 to celebrate the Thirtieth Anniversary of Independence.

As High Commissioner for the Countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States in Canada, it gives me great pleasure to extend warmest congratulations to the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto and all nationals of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in Canada, on the occasion of your country's 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence.

I commend your past achievements, hard work and display of patriotic spirit. Such patriotism compels every one of you to stand up and be counted as proud sons and daughters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, whenever the occasion arises. I wish you every success in the activities planned to mark this year's anniversary.

I also wish the Almighty's blessings for the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and I look forward to enhanced collaboration between the Association and the High Commission.

**Brendon C. Browne  
HIGH COMMISSIONER**



*A message from the*

## **ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES CONSUL GENERAL TO TORONTO**



*STEVE O. PHILLIPS*

Anniversaries are usually a time for thanksgiving and celebration. As we celebrate we are often driven into retrospection and simultaneously, anticipation of a fulfilling future. We recall what have been accomplished and in so doing feel a sense of satisfaction or, in some cases disappointment.

As we celebrate the 29th anniversary of our nation's independence we cannot help but acknowledge God's unfailing lovingkindness and unfathomable mercies toward us. At home and in the diaspora, our people have much for which to celebrate and be thankful. We possess a sense of pride in being nationals of a notable developing nation in the Western Hemisphere where godly values still permeate the society and democracy prevails.

Another year has elapsed and we have not suffered the ravages of national disasters as have been the experience of so many countries around the world. Another year and our standards of living have improved rather than deteriorate despite the global economic downturn. Another year and we still experience freedom and peace despite the presence of few criminal and other antisocial elements in the societies in which we live. Indeed, another year when we can say thanks to God for his providential leadings, provisions and protection.

At home, our government continues to work assiduously to eradicate illiteracy and poverty, to provide better health care, housing and other social services, to build and enhance needed infrastructure, in effect, to raise the standard of living and create sustainable growth and development for all Vincentians. Admittedly, our nation is on a good progressive path into the future.

In looking ahead therefore, we must continue to be resolved to pursue the dream of building ourselves and a country where fraternity, equal opportunity, peace and prosperity abound; we must vigorously pursue the goal of recapturing, maintaining and broadening the traditional wholesome values on which our forerunners laid our nation's foundation and built. We must be determined to make St. Vincent and the Grenadines worthy of the name Hairoun for all of us and our children.

Finally, as the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto celebrates yet another anniversary and convenes events here to mark this 29th anniversary of our nations independence, acknowledgement must again be made of its significant role in helping to build our community through various initiatives, and contributing to the enrichment of the society in which we live. Congratulations.

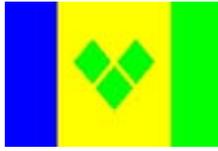
May God bless us all as we do our part to build and leave behind an honourable legacy.

Steve O. Phillips  
Consul General

Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
333 Wilson Avenue, Suite 601  
Toronto, Ontario, M3H 1T2

website: [www.svgconsulate.org](http://www.svgconsulate.org)  
Email: [consulategeneral@rogers.com](mailto:consulategeneral@rogers.com)

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



*A message from the*  
***President***



*of the*

***St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto***

In my reflection over the past 29 years, I am amazed at the changes our nation has gone through since we gained independence from Great Britain in 1979. I think that we have made considerable strides in our efforts to achieve levels of growth, peace and prosperity of which every National, at home and abroad, can be truly proud.

As we reflect, evaluate and celebrate, let us re-dedicate ourselves to continued progress, let us be mindful that the quest for excellence begins with the quality of our thoughts. Let us continue to work together as our forefathers did many years ago, as we lay a foundation for our children and grand children.

We have experienced great relationships and achievements of our sports teams, scholars and SVG Ambassadors. As a National of SVG, I am extremely proud to call St. Vincent and the Grenadines home and I am positive that all Nationals share the same sentiments.

My prayer for this Nation is for it to remain one in purpose and for Nationals to continue to work together in ways that will enhance our goal and eternal destiny.

I am pleased to extend congratulations on behalf of the Executive Committee and Membership of The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. to our beloved homeland St. Vincent and the Grenadines, as we celebrate the 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our nation's Independence.

May God continue to bless our Nation!

Francelia George  
President

***St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto***  
***P.O. Box 392, Station F,***  
***Toronto, ON, M4Y 2L8***  
***E-mail: [svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com](mailto:svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com)***

## *Defining an Independent Country*

By Matt Rosenberg

While the terms country, state, and nation are often used interchangeably, there is a difference.

A State (note the capital “S”) is a self-governing political entity. The term State can be used interchangeably with country. A nation, however, is a tightly-knit group of people which share a common culture. A nation-state is a nation which has the same borders as a State.

### States and Independent Countries

Let’s start with what defines a State or an independent country. An independent State:

- Has space or territory which has internationally recognized boundaries (boundary disputes are OK).
- Has people who live there on an ongoing basis.
- Has economic activity and an organized economy. A country regulates foreign and domestic trade and issues money.
- Has the power of social engineering, such as education.
- Has a transportation system for moving goods and people.
- Has a government which provides public services and police power.
- Has sovereignty. No other State should have power over the country’s territory.
- Has external recognition. A country has been “voted into the club” by other countries.

There are currently 195 independent countries or States around the world. Territories of countries or individual parts of a country are not countries in their own right.

Examples of entities that are not countries include: Hong Kong, Bermuda, Greenland, Puerto Rico, and most notably the constituent parts of the United Kingdom. (Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland, and England are not countries.)

A “state” (with a lower-case “s”) is usually a division of a federal State (such as the states of the United States of America).

### Nations and Nation-States

Nations are culturally homogeneous groups of people, larger than a single tribe or community, which share a common language, institutions, religion, and historical experience.

When a nation of people have a State or country of their own, it is called a nation-state. Places like France, Egypt, Germany, Japan, and New Zealand are excellent examples of nation-states. There are some States which have two nations, such as Canada and Belgium. Even with its multicultural society, the United States is also referred to as a nation-state because of the shared American “culture.”

There are nations without States. For example, the Kurds are stateless people.

### *A Note of Thanks*

*The Executive Members of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto herewith express thanks to all those who participated in and contributed in one way or the other to the Independence Thanksgiving Church Service on Sunday, October 21 at Rosewood Church of the Nazarene, Scarborough.*

### **ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS & EVENTS TO SVG NATIONALS IN THE DIASPORA**

Our sincere thanks to those who have made contributions to this publication, to *INSIGHT* (our quarterly newsletter) and to the upkeep of our website, [www.vincytoronto.com](http://www.vincytoronto.com).

To place your Ad, please email us at [svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com](mailto:svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com) or contact any member of the Executive.

**KLC / EASTERN CARIBBEAN FREIGHT  
LINES**



**Your Gateway to the Caribbean since  
1982**

Direct weekly service to



*St. Vincent and the Grenadines*



*St. Lucia Trinidad Barbados*

We provide complete packaging and shipping of personal and household effects, barrels, vehicles, crates and full container loads.

For further information and rates, please contact us at:

Office – (416) 759-2736 or Warehouse (416) 291-6733

Email: [klcfreight@rogers.com](mailto:klcfreight@rogers.com)

50 Tiffield Road, Unit 15

(Middlefield & Finch)

Scarborough, Ontario, M1V 5B7

**CallCarib.com**

The cheapest way to call the Caribbean ever!  
You can call from any phone, *Cell* or *Land*

*No contract No monthly fee*

	<i>Land</i>	<i>Cell</i>
Trinidad & Tobago	8.9 cents	14.9 cents
Jamaica	Digicel 6.9 cents C & W B Mobile 6.9 cents	17.9 cents 20.9 cent
Guyana	31.9 cents	31.9 cents
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	15.9 cents	26.9 cents
St. Lucia	15.9 cents	29.9 cents
Antigua & Barbuda	15.9 cents	15.9 cents
Barbados	11.9 cents	28.9 cents
Commonwealth of Dominica	16.9 cents	27.9 cents

Contact us at:

[www.callcarib.com](http://www.callcarib.com)

Tel: 1-888-609-1116

**GARRAWAY MECHANICAL SERVICES  
INC.**

**Automotive & Truck Repairs  
Gas & Diesel**

**ARCHIE GARRAWAY**  
Automotive Service Technician  
Truck & Coach Technician

234 MacKenzie Ave, Unit 1  
Ajax, Ontario, L1S 2E8

Tel: (905) 619-6980  
Fax: (905) 619-1837

**2008 Independence Anniversary  
Celebrations**



***Future Planning Workshop***

**Sunday, November 2, 2008**

**3:30 p.m**

*The location for this workshop will be  
announced at prior events*



# Programme

*Cocktails*

*Welcome & Introduction of the Emcee Ms. Nneka Elliott*

*Monty Providence*

*National Anthem of Canada*

*National Anthem of St. Vincent and the Grenadines*

*Invocation*

*Introduction of the Head Table*

*Appetizer*

*Remarks*

*Ms. Francelia George, President*

*St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto*

*Presentation to the Scholarship Recipients*

*Main Course*

*Greetings from the Consul General of St. Vincent & the Grenadines*

*& Introduction of Keynote Speaker*

*Honorary Consul Mrs. Jose Bonadie*

*Keynote Speaker*

*His Excellency Mr. Camillo Gonsalves*

*St. Vincent & the Grenadines Ambassador &  
Permanent Representative to the United Nations*

*Dessert*

*Vote of Thanks*

*Ms. Elma Gabriel- Public Relations Officer*

*St. Vincent & the Grenadines Association of Toronto*

*DANCING*



## *Menu*

### *Hors D'ouvres*

### *Bread & Rolls*

### *Appetizer*

*Squash & Ginger Soup*

### *Salad*

*Romaine with Roasted Almonds*

### *Main Course*

*Beef Tenderloin in a Cognac & Mushroom Sauce*

*Grilled Salmon in a Teriyaki Sauce*

*Mini Red Roasted Potatoes*

*Stir fried vegetables*

*Platter of Risotto with Peas and Carrots*

### *Dessert*

*Crème Brûlée with Berries*

*Coffee, Tea, Espresso*

### *Pastry Platter*

*The St. Vincent & the Grenadines Association of Toronto looks forward to your participation in our 40th anniversary activities in 2009*

# St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Scholarship Program

## 2008 Scholarship Recipient of SVGAT Bursary



*Nadia Kenisha Lewis Bynoe*

The recipient, Nadia Kenisha Lewis Bynoe, currently a student at the University of Windsor, completing her Bachelor of Education, in the program of Urban Education and Native Beginning Time Teach, has dedicated herself to the field of education. Recently, a graduate from Wilfrid Laurier University, Ms. Bynoe has obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, in conjunction with a minor in Women's Studies.

Heavily active in her community, Nadia has committed her spare time to extra-curricular activity, as an executive member of the Association of Black Students (A.B.S.) for 3 years, she assisted in organizing an annual Beating the Odds Conference; a symposium specifically designed to address the disproportionate dropout rate of African diasporic students within the Waterloo-Kitchener region. Furthermore, she has organized a panel discussion debating the controversial issues of black-focused schooling.

In addition to this, Kenisha's leadership skills were exercised through a non-profit organization, Global Youth Network; volunteering internationally in Cambodia, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil, working in a multitude of social services including: HIV/AIDS orphanages, educational projects, and assisting impoverished locals in rural villages.

Nadia Kenisha Lewis Bynoe aspires to empower herself and the Vincentian community through the attainment of higher education. She hopes to continue her community outreach and teaching in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



**WEBSTER JOCELYN**   
Sales Representative

BUSINESS: (905) 796-8888  
FAX: (905) 796-8899  
EMAIL: webster-jocelyn@coldwellbanker.ca  
WEBSITE: www.innovatorsrealty.com



INNOVATORS REALTY  
Real Estate Brokerage  
17 Worthington Avenue  
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

Direct Tel: 416-903-4300

### VGAT Independence Brochure Production

*Coordinator/Producer*

**Elma Gabriel**

*Editor*

**Fred Prescod**

*Artist*

**Afro Media**

*Printer*

**VJ Graphics**

**"Always remember to forget the troubles that passed away, but never forget to remember the blessings that comes each day"**

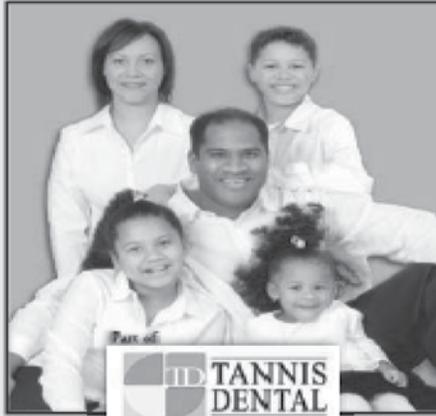


# Thornhill Dental Centre

Evening and weekend hours  
in a gentle, caring, relaxed,  
state of the art office.

Implants, braces, cosmetic  
(veneers, in office bleaching)  
& root canals.

Crowns, bridges and white  
fillings in addition to your  
regular check ups.



*Your Complete Family  
Dental Centre*

Please join us and  
Welcome Dr. Ward  
to our Practice.



Call today to schedule an appointment  
**905-882-8280**

Thornhill Dental Centre  
1054 Centre Street, Unit #3  
Thornhill, ON L4J3M8

## golden banana Plantain Chips

Made from specially selected Plantains  
(a cousin of the banana) and lightly sea-salted.

A delicious and nutritious  
alternative to the "other" chips.



VEGETRON INC.

For more information contact: Ronald Crichton  
VEGETRON INC. 3400 14th Avenue, Unit 12, Markham, Ontario, L3R  
0H7

Phone: (905) - 479 - 3548 - FAX: (905) - 479 - 3414



**SVGAT**

### Christmas Food Hamper

The Christmas Food Hamper project is another important project of the SVGAT. Through this program we provide assistance to Vincentian families in need at Christmas time. Last year we provided hampers to five families in need. This year we are planning to do the same. If you would like to donate to this worthwhile project, please contact us and also if you know of anyone who might be in need of receiving a Christmas Hamper, please send us an email at [relief@vincytoronto.ca](mailto:relief@vincytoronto.ca) Thank you to all who donated to the project last year.

# *St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Scholarship Program*

## *2008 Scholarship Recipient of SVGAT Bursary*



*Alyson Sandy*

My name is Alyson Sandy and I am a first year student at the University of Toronto. I am currently pursuing studies in Life Sciences, which I hope will lead to a career in Medicine. My hobbies are reading, basketball, listening to music, working on computers, and movies.

In June 2008, I graduated from Central Commerce Collegiate in Toronto as an honor roll student, and I received the prestigious Governor General Award for academic excellence (Bronze Medal). I also received the Mary G. Noylander Science Award, the H. Marie Smibert Award for University English, the Biology Award and the Chemistry Award. In 2004, I received the Doreen Friedman Award for excellence in French Language.

During the academic years from 2004 to 2008, I consistently maintained an average of 90%. I also earned three medals and three honor certificates for achieving the highest marks in Applied Canadian Geography, Academic Science and Academic French for the 2006 year.

I previously worked as a Volunteer with the Nadal Jewish Community Centre in the After School program and with the 2nd Annual Jerk & Jazz Festival, raising funds for Visions of Science Network for Learning and Camp Jumoke.

### **ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The Association began its Scholarship Program in 2005 with the issuance of one bursary for \$500.00. In 2006 it was increased to two bursaries of \$1,000.00 each. This year's bursaries are sponsored by Western Union Financial Services and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Sports Club (Toronto).

We thank all those who applied this year and congratulate the two individuals who have been selected. We urge those who were not successful this time around to try again in the future.

Our sincere thanks to the members of the Selection Committee for their work in going through the information in order to make the selections.

Respectfully,

Franklyn Ash & Gideon Exeter  
Co-Chairs  
SVGAT Scholarship Committee

PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS



**SOKOLOFF CONTE**

Barristers & Solicitors

99 Scollard Street, Toronto, ON M5R 1G4

[www.sokoloff.ca](http://www.sokoloff.ca)

*Congratulates the St. Vincent & the Grenadines  
Association of Toronto Inc. on its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
and your beautiful nation's 29 years of Independence.*

*We are honoured to celebrate with you at your  
Independence Banquet. "Hairoun St. Vincent!"*

**OUR TEAM:**

WENDY SOKOLOFF, B.A., LL.B. ♦ JANE CONTE, B.A., LL.B.  
SHARON RAMSDEN, B.A., LL.B. ♦ DOUG WRIGHT, B.A., LL.B.  
ERIC ZELDIN, B.A., LL.B. ♦ GEORGE PRONAY, B.A., LL.B.  
& TRACY AUSTIN, B.C.L., LL.B

**SPECIALIZES IN:**

- ♦ Brain Injuries
- ♦ Spinal Cord Injuries
- ♦ Fatalities
- ♦ Long Term Disability
- ♦ Motor Vehicle Accidents
- ♦ Slip and Falls
- ♦ CPP Denials
- ♦ & all other insurance claims

Contact us for your Free Consultation

Tel: 416-966-4878 ♦ TF: 1-866-912-4878  
Fax: 416-966-8865 ♦ E-mail: [info@sokoloff.ca](mailto:info@sokoloff.ca)

**We don't get paid until you do!**  
*Nous parlons français*

# SVG *Political Overview*

## *PROFILE: From the 1950's into the 21st Century*

The People's Political Party (PPP), founded in 1952 by Ebenezer Joshua, was the first major political party in St. Vincent. The PPP had its roots in the labor movement and was in the forefront of national policy prior to independence, winning elections from 1957 through 1966. With the development of a more conservative black middle class, however, the party began to lose support steadily, until it collapsed after a rout in the 1979 elections. The party dissolved itself in 1984.

Founded in 1955, the St. Vincent Labour Party (SVLP), under R. Milton Cato, gained the support of the middle class. With a conservative law-and-order message and a pro-Western foreign policy, the SVLP dominated politics from the mid-1960s until the mid-1980s. Following victories in the 1967 and 1974 elections, the SVLP led the island to independence, winning the first post-independence election in 1979. Expecting an easy victory for the SVLP in 1984, Cato called early elections. The results were surprising: with a record 89% voter turnout, James F. Mitchell's New Democratic Party (NDP) won nine seats in the House of Assembly.

Bolstered by a resurgent economy in the mid-1980s, Mitchell led his party to an unprecedented sweep of all 15 House of Assembly seats in the 1989 elections. The opposition emerged from the election weakened and fragmented but was able to win three seats during the February 1994 elections under a "unity" coalition. In 1998, Prime Minister Mitchell and the NDP were returned to power for an unprecedented fourth term but only with a slim margin of 8 seats to 7 seats for the Unity Labour Party (ULP). The NDP was able to accomplish a return to power while receiving a lesser share of the popular vote, approximately 45% to the ULP's 55%. In March 2001, the ULP, led by Ralph Gonsalves, assumed power after winning 12 of the 15 seats in Parliament. In the December 2005 parliamentary elections, Prime Minister Gonsalves and the ULP retained their 12-3 majority over the NDP.

# Hairoun

## B A K E R Y

*Specializing in Bread  
Cakes  
Currant Rolls  
Snacks  
&  
Take-Out Foods*

---

WE ALSO CATER TO SPECIAL EVENTS

*Call Now*  
**416.754.3854**

**Gene & Nola Smith**

2256 BIRCHMOUNT RD. SCARBOROUGH ON M1P 2M2 • Fax 416.754.2179



**JIM LEWIS**  
416-459-2462

Mondays – 4:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.  
Conscious Vibes  
(Jim Lewis and Kevin Padmore)

Tuesdays – 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
News

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays – 3:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.  
Urban Griots

CHRY 105.5 FM  
<http://www.yorku.ca/chry/>  
Request Line Tel: 416-736-5656  
Office Tel: 416-736-5293  
Fax: 416-650-8052

**ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES  
BECAME AN INDEPENDENT NATION ON  
OCTOBER 27, 1979.**

**"Build Your Country; Support Local Industry."**

*Our Industry; we hope that it will be --  
Recognized by you and me,  
And by your generosity--  
Our country can be strong and free.*

*With gifted hands we craft our thoughts--  
And write with love upon the chart.  
We ask that you will look across--  
And support this country with its task.*

*Our produce strive on natural soil,  
Our local labourers toil and toil,  
As children of this fertile soil--  
We count on you as we toil.*

*Your health is what we focus on--  
So, make sure that you understand.  
Your gifts and thoughts are in the sand--  
That bore the fruit that's in this can.*

*So Let us count on your support,  
To build this country as we go forth.  
No matter where on earth you rest,  
This country's produce is the best.*

*Elma Gabriel ©*

**OUR SINCERE THANKS AND GRATITUDE TO  
ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE  
SUCCESS OF THIS YEAR'S INDEPENDENCE  
EVENTS**

**Special Thanks To**

Eagle Press, Burlington, Ontario  
Rosewood Church of the Nazarene  
SVG Consulate, Toronto  
VJ Graphics  
The City of Toronto  
Western Union Financial Services  
St. Vincent & Grenadines Sports Club  
All Performers  
All Ticket Sellers (Individuals & `  
Outlets)  
All Patrons  
All of our Advertisers

**ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

(New Western Union Agent)

**KP Communications Inc.**

Baynes Brothers Building  
Granby Street, Kingstown  
(Near to Old Public Library)  
Tel: 784-457-1690

Other locations where full service is available include

<b>Barrouallie</b> Barrouallie Cooperative Credit Union	784-458-7943
<b>Bequia</b> Admiralty Transport Company, Port Elizabeth	784-458-3348
<b>Marriaqua</b> Marriaqua Cooperative Credit Union	784-458-1958 784-458-5269
<b>Union Island</b> Eagles Travel, Clifton	784-458-8179



For information call **1-800-325-6000**,

or visit [www.westernunion.com](http://www.westernunion.com)



# *Immigration and Marriage*

By: Sandra Sutherland

When immigration officials assess a spousal or common-law relationship all they really have to go on is the contents of the application package. There in black and white lies the fate of the applicant's future residency.

Years ago couples would be spied on so as to determine if they cohabit together and if their relationship was genuine. A few months ago it was reported that the Conservative government was deploying teams overseas to investigate how bogus relationships are being crafted in efforts to defraud the immigration system. It is not yet known which regions these "fraud squads" would target.

When a spouse, common-law or conjugal partner sponsorship application is being processed, immigration officials first assess the sponsor's application. Once the sponsorship application is approved, the application for permanent residency is processed in determining whether the applicant's relationship with the sponsor is genuine and not entered into for the purposes of immigrating to Canada. If the applicant passes this stage he/she must then pass both medical and security checks prior to obtaining approval for permanent residency. One other factor that is also considered relates to whether or not the applicant may pose a burden on our social system after immigrating to Canada.

While marital relationships comprise a huge portion of the sponsorship applications, common-law and conjugal relationships are quite common. For immigration purposes, a relationship is considered common-law, if the couple cohabits for a minimum period of 12 consecutive months. A conjugal relationship exists whereby the partners are unable to become spouses or to live together continuously for one year - this is not the same as being a fiancé. Common-law and conjugal relationships are harder to prove, receive more scrutiny and are thus easier to deny.

The immigration officer has the sole authority to determine whether a relationship may be considered genuine or not. Many genuine relationships are refused just because of credibility issues that arise during the interview process. When applications are refused it is expected that the sponsor will appeal the officer's decision if indeed the relationship was and still is genuine. The appeal process is rather costly (in terms of time and funds).

There appears to be an increase in the number of applicants that are being refused under the guise that the relationship is not genuine and was entered into for the purpose of acquiring status or privilege. Changes to immigration policy may be underway to replace the "and" to an "or". Therefore, if an officer deems that relationship to be genuine but feels that it may be entered into for immigration purposes, he/she may refuse the applicant. It is anticipated that, if this policy change is implemented, we will see a much larger volume of refusals and an increase in applications for appeals.

There is a tendency for overseas applicants to fall prey to more scrutiny than those residing in Canada. It should be noted that an application for permanent resident status may be made by foreign nationals who reside in Canada with or without status.

If marriage or common-law union is on your mind and a sponsorship application is necessary, take heed of these notations lest your or your spouse's application comes under tight scrutiny and permanent residency is subsequently denied. It is critical to ensure that the application package contains sufficient information and documentation to convince the officer that the relationship is genuine and not entered into for immigration purposes.

Sandra Sutherland is a Certified Canadian Immigration Consultant (CCIC) in good standing with the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants (CSIC). Ms. Sutherland may be contacted at (416) 431-2829, at her office address, via e-mail at [ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com](mailto:ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com) or visit her company's website at [www.suthernimmigration.com](http://www.suthernimmigration.com).



## The Professional Travel Place Inc.

Worldwide Travel Arrangements

105-23 Lesmill Road, Toronto  
Ontario, Canada, M3B 3P6

www.professionaltravel.ca holidays@professionaltravel.ca

# 416-391-1410

Christmas Specials!

St. Vincent – Toronto (return, 3weeks)

Prices from CAD **\$559** + 221taxes

Toronto to St. Vincent (return, 2weeks)

Prices from CAD **\$1099** + 269taxes

Low season fares Toronto to St. Vincent (return)

From CAD **\$610** + 192taxes

---

Cruises, Vacation Packages & More!

Funeral Travel Arranged

Book online at

[WWW.CLICK2LEAVE.COM](http://WWW.CLICK2LEAVE.COM)

## SUTHERN IMMIGRATION & PARALEGAL SERVICES INC.

*Interested in Success?*

*Talk to someone who is success oriented and who cares!*

*Call for a Free Consultation.*

**We handle a variety of Immigration Matters including:**

Sponsorship Applications      Appeals to the I.A.D.  
Work & Study Permits      Detention Reviews  
Refugee Claims      Skilled Workers Applications  
Humanitarian & Compassionate Cases  
And more...Plus Small Claims Court matters

**Sandra Sutherland, CCIC**

Immigration Law Practitioner (Honors Certification)  
Full Member, Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants (CSIC)

2175 Sheppard Ave. E, Suite 224

Tel: (416) 431-2829

Toll Free: 1-877-230-9451

Fax: (416) 431-4036

Website: [suthernimmpar@bellnet.ca](mailto:suthernimmpar@bellnet.ca)

Email: [ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com](mailto:ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com)

[suthernimmpar@bellnet.ca](mailto:suthernimmpar@bellnet.ca)

## ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO



### *Adopt-A-Child Program*

The Relief Committee of the SVGAT is pleased to announce that the Adopt-a-Child Program in St. Vincent and the Grenadines is progressing very well. Through this unique program the SVGAT is currently providing assistance to two students - Ms. Kadesha Nichols from the Cane End Secondary School in Mesopotamia and Donlee Sutherland from the Spring Village Methodist School (Leeward). The principals of these schools have provided us with school reports and updates on these students. To date they are progressing very well academically with the assistance provided by our program.

We started out with the sponsorship of one child and a community member was so impressed by the importance of this program, donated funds to help us sponsor the second child. As a result of its benevolent efforts we are now able to sponsor two children in SVG. We say a hearty thank you to that sponsor and we hope that more members of our community would come forward and donate to this worthwhile project. By offering to support these young students, we are collectively investing in the future of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

If you are impressed by our Adopt-a-Child Program and would like to sponsor a child or would like to make a one time financial donation to this project, please contact us as soon as possible. Please contact the Relief Committee Chair at 416-537-3269 or [relief@vincitytoronto.com](mailto:relief@vincitytoronto.com) or any member of the executive of the SVGAT.

**Thanks to all who have donated to the Relief Committee**

## EXETER BEAUTY SUPPLY

We Carry a Variety of Ethnic Products from Various Manufacturers

Wigs, Pony Tails, Human and Synthetic Hair, Accessories,  
Membership Discount Cards

### Visit Us At:

**Unit 16a – 1725 Kingston Road, Pickering  
(Brock & Kingston Road in Mandarin Plaza)**

**Tel: (905) 426-8293**

**Email: [exeterbeauty@rogers.com](mailto:exeterbeauty@rogers.com)**

### Hours:

**Sun: 12 Noon – 5:00 p.m.**

**Mon - Thurs: 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Fri: 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**Sat: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

Agent for

**flextel**  
communications

A Complete Home Telephone Service with Unlimited Calling  
to the USA, Canada, UK\*, the Caribbean\*  
website: [www.flextelcommunications.com](http://www.flextelcommunications.com)

**Tel: 1-866-978-9990**

## SVGAT EXECUTIVE

Here is a list of the executive members and their contact information:

**President** – Francelia George; Tel: 647-244-6642

[president@vincytoronto.com](mailto:president@vincytoronto.com);

**Vice President** – Kuwassi Hutchinson; Tel: 416-652-5207

[vicepres@vincytoronto.com](mailto:vicepres@vincytoronto.com)

**Executive Secretary** – Franklyn Ash; Tel: 905-970-1063

[execsec@vincytoronto.com](mailto:execsec@vincytoronto.com)

**General Secretary** – Vacant;

[gensecretary@vincytoronto.com](mailto:gensecretary@vincytoronto.com)

**Treasurer** – Kenneth Farrell; Tel: 416-822-3601

[Treasurer@vincytoronto.com](mailto:Treasurer@vincytoronto.com)

**Assistant Treasurer** – Yolande Lewis; Tel: 416-809-9820

[assisttreas@vincytoronto.com](mailto:assisttreas@vincytoronto.com)

**Public Relations Officer** – Elma Gabriel;

Tel: 416-282-4557

[pro@vincytoronto.com](mailto:pro@vincytoronto.com)

**Immediate Past President** – Gideon Exeter;

Tel: 905-831-1814

[gexeter@yahoo.com](mailto:gexeter@yahoo.com)

### *Nominated members:*

Monty Providence – Tel: 905-416-9625

[montyprovidence@rogers.com](mailto:montyprovidence@rogers.com)

Emergene Sam – Tel: 416-456-6563

[relief@vincytoronto.com](mailto:relief@vincytoronto.com)

**Association's General Email address** –

[svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com](mailto:svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## FOR

## ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO

Sunday, November 2

Town Hall Discussions

TBA

Sunday, November 23

Monthly General Meeting

<sup>1</sup>Northwood Community Centre

Sunday, December 14

Children's Christmas Party

TBA

Saturday, December 21

Christmas Hamper

Community Outreach

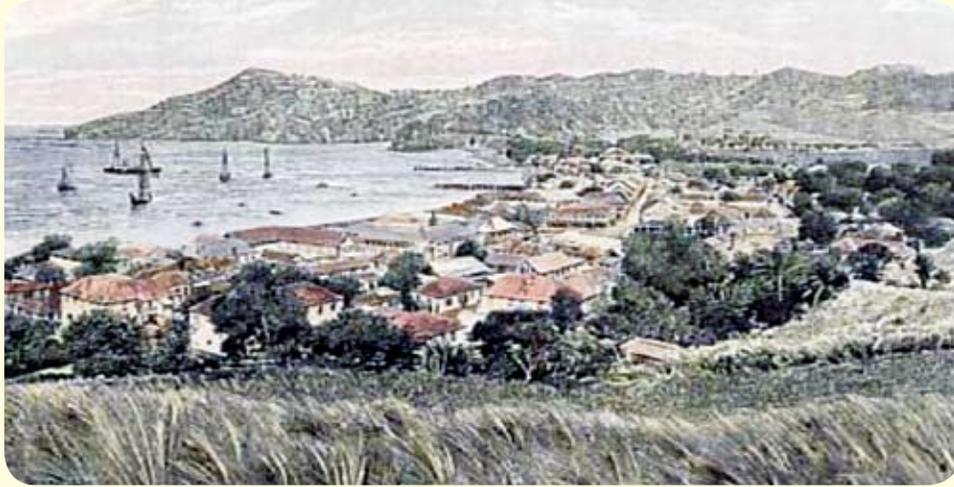
Sunday, January 25

Annual General Meeting

<sup>1</sup>Northwood Community Centre

[<sup>1</sup>Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, (off Arleta between Keele & Jane Streets)]

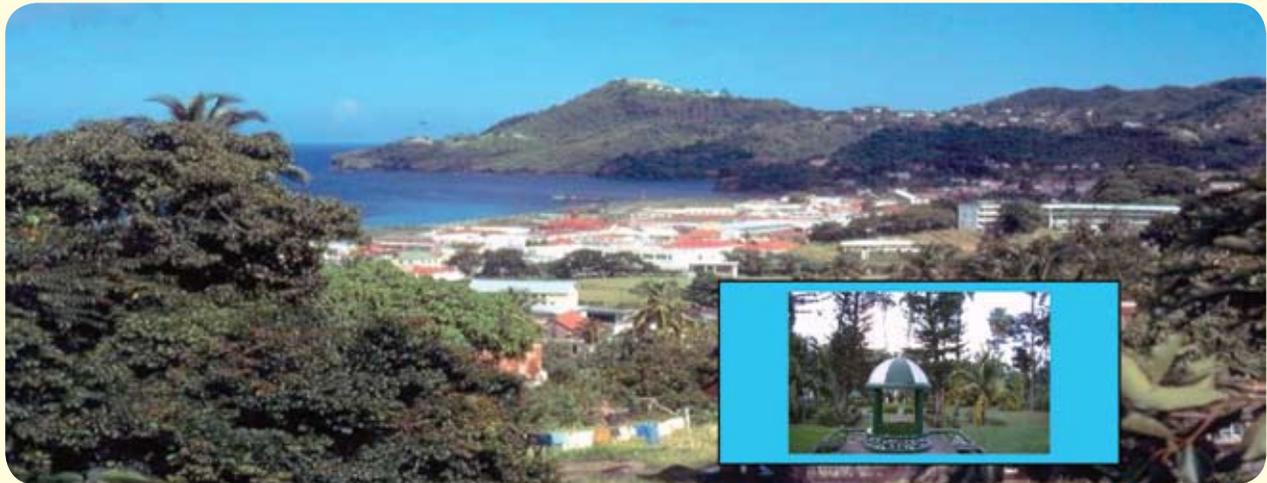
## *Kingstown, St. Vincent Then*



**Ships in Kingstown harbor, Fort Charlotte in the distance. Sketch by Billinghurst & Jukes, 1800.**

St. Vincent & the Grenadines is rich with history which dates back thousands of years. Many scholars believe that the first known inhabitants on St. Vincent were Amerindians. The first tribe was the Ciboney, followed by the Arawak, then the Caribs, who took over the island around 1300. Long before Christopher Columbus spotted this island during his third voyage in 1498, the Caribs had called it Hairoun. Columbus named the island St. Vincent, since it was “discovered” on 22 January, the feast day of the Spanish patron saint, St. Vincent.

## *Kingstown, St. Vincent Now*



Kingstown, the capital of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, is a major port city for the Caribbean island chain. The city features a series of surviving 19th century buildings, including St George’s Cathedral, known for its beautiful stained glass, and the Romanesque Cathedral of the Assumption. In the wharf area, visitors can see structures built from the tile and red brick that was used as ballast on trading ships from Britain, or head up to Fort Charlotte for a stunning view of the city.

**[Inset: St. Vincent Botanic Gardens located in Kingstown  
– oldest botanical gardens in the Western World]**



Jamaica National Overseas (Canada) Ltd.

# *Our* **LOW FEES** *Just Got Lower*

## **SEND UP TO**

**\$0 - \$100**

**\$101 - \$400**

**\$401 - \$500**

**\$501 - \$1,000**

**\$1001 - \$1,500**

**\$1,501 - \$2,000**

**\$2,001 - \$2,500**

**\$2,501 and over**

## **FEES\***

**\$5**

**\$9**

**\$10**

**\$15**

**\$25**

**\$30**

**\$40**

**\$45**

**Rates are effective  
July 1, 2008**

At JN Money Transfer we guarantee the same low fees to send money from anywhere in Canada.

**416-784-2075**

1672 Eglinton Ave. W.  
Toronto, ON M6E 2H2

**Tel: 1-866-735-6002 • [www.jnmoneytransfer.com](http://www.jnmoneytransfer.com)**

USA, CANADA, UK, GRAND CAYMAN, ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES, JAMAICA