



St.Vincent and Grenadines
Association of Toronto Inc.



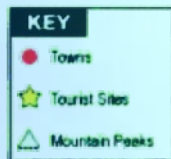
Celebrates

Independence **30** Anniversary

A Journey to be Proud of - A Future to look Forward to



Saint Vincent



The Grenadines



Saturday, October 31, 2009

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

Web: <http://www.vincytoronto.com/>



Mistress of Ceremonies

Corsita Lewis Garraway was born on beautiful Canouan Island, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and grew up in Toronto Canada. She would tell you that she always knew she wanted to be in a helping profession, having been surrounded by nurses and teachers from an early age.

General Secretary, Executive Secretary, and Chair of the Education Committee are some past positions that Corsita has held within the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. Commitment to community is an attribute that makes Corsita proud, and her children Jamile (SVGAT/Western Union Scholarship Winner 2006), Shomari, and Ngozi of whom she is extremely proud, exude this in their daily lives.

Corsita has been Nursing for over twenty-two years, and her passion for helping and dedication to her profession has resulted in a Master of Science degree in Nursing, specializing as a Nurse Practitioner in Oncology and Palliative Care. A mentor to many, Corsita can often be heard saying: "If you think you can, you are correct; and if you think you can't, you are also correct. You choose."

St. Vincent & Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

"A Journey to be Proud of ~ A Future to look Forward to"

Cultural Symposium

TOPIC OF THE EVENING

"SVG NATIONALS AND OUR GARIFUNA ANCESTRY"

Special Guest of Honor

SVG Governor General, Sir Frederick Ballantyne



Sunday, November 1, 2009

2:30pm - 6:00pm

York Civic Centre

2700 Eglinton Ave. West

@ Keele Street

Light Refreshments will be Served after the Meeting



Highlight of the Evening

CULTURAL RETRIEVAL FACILITATOR

Miss Rosita Baltazar

Celebrity Dancer and Co-founder of "Garifuna Heritage Foundation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines"; Choreographer of Garinagu language and cultural dances - punta, hungu hungu, gungei, paranda etc.

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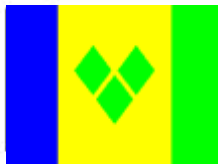
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National Anthems



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 Executive Committee'

We cannot spell Success without "U"

The Executive Committee of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc., extend much appreciation to our patrons and to the community at large for their support of all our initiatives this year. To our contributors, newspapers, advertisers and subscribers, we celebrate your charitable commitment to the continued existence of *INSIGHT* and our *SVGAT WEBSITE*. To Christopher Chong Production Inc., we applaud your dedication, prompt service and obligation to efficient maintenance and timely updates.

And to the SVGAT membership, in harmony and as patriots, let's seize every possible opportunity to maintain the volunteering spirit of our pioneers in the building of our Ontario Association.

"To be able to look back upon one's past life with satisfaction is to live twice"

INDEPENDENCE BANQUET COMMITTEE

Audrey Lewis
Alfred Compton
Cordel Telfer
Elma Gabriel
Fred Prescod
Gideon Exeter
Grace Brown
Sandra Sutherland
Thelma Charles
Wendel Cole

INDEPENDENCE THANKSGIVING CHURCH SERVICE COMMITTEE

Thelma Charles
Grace Brown
Elma Gabriel

CULTURAL SYMPOSIUM

Coordinator
Fred Prescod

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



Governor-General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines



His Excellency Sir Frederick Nathaniel Ballantyne, G.C.M.G., MD

Guest Speaker

His Excellency Sir Frederick Nathaniel Ballantyne is the Governor-General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Born in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on July 5, 1936, he attended the St. Vincent Boys Grammar School, after which he pursued post secondary and graduate studies at various Universities in the USA where he acquired several degrees. He later returned to SVG as a Medical Doctor.

Between 1985 and 1995, he served in many capacities in the medical field. Among his many posts, he served as Consultant in Internal Medicine, Coordinator of Visiting Specialist Programs, Chief Medical Officer and Assistant Dean of Clinical Studies at St. George's University Medical School, Chief of Medicine and Medical Director at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital. Other Government appointments that he undertook included Chairman of the St. Vincent Medical Board, Overseeing licensing of Physicians in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Member of the St. Vincent Government Mercy Committee.

As an entrepreneur he became the Chairman and Co-owner of Young Island Resorts, and Chairman of Ballantyne Enterprises Limited. He was also involved in Marina Operations as well as Yacht Chartering and Portfolio Investments. He was President of Dimethaid International Inc. and a Former President of the St. Vincent Co-operative Bank.

Sir Frederick has been in the Office of the Governor-General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines since September 2, 2002, and was knighted in November of that year.

As the Governor-General, though the Queen's representative, in the exercise of his executive powers he is required to act on the advice of the Prime Minister. He, however, holds office at Her Majesty's pleasure. While the Governor-General is seen as part of Parliament, his presence is only there when he is invited, though he is always informed of what takes place. Nevertheless, in order that any law may be regarded as such it must receive the assent of the Governor-General. He must also sign the Writs for the proroguing, dissolution or commencement of a new session of Parliament. The Governor-General also appoints all officials of the House of Assembly.



PRIME MINISTER . PREMIER MINISTRE

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone taking part in the banquet marking the 30th anniversary of the Independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

On October 27, 1979, after a national referendum, St. Vincent and the Grenadines gained full independence from Great Britain. This celebration, with the theme “A Journey to be proud of — A future to look forward to,” offers you a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon St. Vincent and the Grenadines’s vibrant past, to celebrate its many achievements over the last three decades, and to look to the future with confidence.

I would like to commend the event organizers — the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. — for their efforts to unite members of Greater Toronto’s Vincentian community, and for their commitment to preserving and promoting their cultural heritage in Canada.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, please accept my best wishes for a memorable evening.

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.

OTTAWA
2009



**Prime Minister
St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

**2009 MESSAGE TO VINCENTIANS IN CANADA
BY DR. THE HON. RALPH E. GONSALVES
PRIME MINISTER OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

Thirty years ago our Nation achieved its formal, constitutional independence. It was a most challenging year: The volcano at La Soufriere erupted in April 1979 and on Independence Day, October 27th, thousands of our fellow citizens were still living in “camps”, displaced from their homes. Still, the joy of independence, the sense of a national rebirth, and our optimism of a better future, grounded in our Faith, in God, sustained us. Our Constitution proclaimed in the opening lines of its Preamble the majestic, beautiful words: “We, as Vincentians, affirm that our Nation is founded on the belief in the supremacy of God and the freedom and dignity of man”. It was so beautiful! Our National Anthem captured our mood and strength; Kenneth “Vibrating Scares” Alleyne celebrated the event in a calypso of enduring quality; and our Founding Father, Robert Milton Cato, hoisted our National Flag. Our Nation was born!

Thirty years later, our Nation is much better off materially but awesome challenges have come upon us from outside in the form of a veritable international economic tsunami. Still, we are coping and advancing admirably in our quest to build a modern, competitive post-colonial economy. This economic construction has to be accompanied by a more uplifting spirit not lodged merely in economic prosperity. The Education Revolution, our reaching for an authentic cultural reclamation which at the same time embraces enduring core universal values, the Constitutional Reform Project, and Vincy Homecoming are all part and parcel of this drive to ennoble further our Caribbean civilisation and its magnificent Vincentian component.

This year as we celebrate thirty years of independence, we proclaim “A Journey to be proud of – a future to look forward to”. In so doing, we draw inspiration from our history, the heroic work of our forbears, and the heavenly promise of our young people in this our sacred landscape and seascape called St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In this Homecoming” venture, as in every other aspect of public policy, our diaspora, including our wonderful nationals residing in Canada, is always with us at home. Our Nation is whole and ought never to be fractured.

I love you most sincerely. All the best for Independence 2009!

Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves
Prime Minister



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

31 October 2009

I am pleased to extend greetings to the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc., as you host your celebrations, marking the 30th Anniversary of Independence, *A Journey to be proud – A future to look forward to*”.

Throughout your history, you have been a centre for cultural, recreational and social events to be shared by all wishing to celebrate your rich culture. Your membership supports a variety of organizations and causes in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Ontario. You also provide opportunities for networking between members, host events that are of special interest, and sponsor two scholarships annually for students pursuing post secondary education.

As The Queen’s representative in Ontario, I congratulate this evening’s scholarship recipients, and this worthy organization, for all that you have achieved. Please accept my best wishes for a most enjoyable evening.

David C. Onley



Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario

October 31, 2009

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to the members of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto and all those marking the 30th anniversary of the independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

October 27, 1979, was an immensely proud day in the long history of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. After many years, these enchanting islands took their rightful place among the sovereign nations of the world. Canadians with roots in St. Vincent and the Grenadines have brought with them their energy and passion for success, and they have made, and continue to make, an important contribution to the social, cultural and economic life of our province.

I would like to thank the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto for its hard work in organizing this event — and for the vital role it plays in supporting its members.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable anniversary celebration.



Dalton McGuinty
Premier



Mayor
DAVID MILLER

A Message from the Mayor

It is with pleasure that I extend congratulations and warm wishes to everyone celebrating the 30th Independence anniversary of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

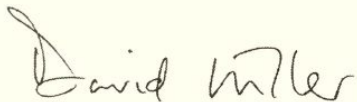
This celebration is a tribute to the indomitable spirit and courage of those who sought freedom and presents an opportunity for all of us to acknowledge their struggles and pay tribute to their heroism.

It is also a time for us to increase our understanding and appreciation of the values we all treasure – peace, freedom and democracy.

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,



Mayor David Miller



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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

I bring greetings from the other eight states of the OECS as you celebrate 30 years of political independence under the theme, *"A Journey to be Proud of – A future to look forward to."*

The state of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has taken its place among the world's family of nations and has earned the respect of the international community. Over the period, as a result of the efforts of successive governments, the welfare of the citizens has increased more than moderately and Vincentians today wear this patriotism as a badge of honour.

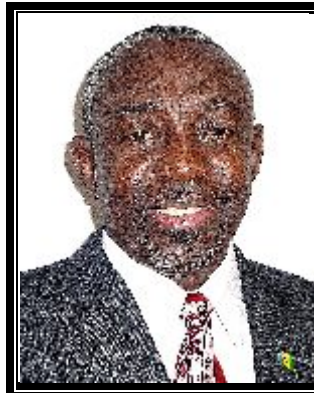
As we commemorate the 30th Anniversary of Independence, there is a national sense that our little country is on the move: *our progress in education, health, infrastructural development and tourism* are evident to domestic and international observers who seize every opportunity to comment approvingly on what is seen.

To you in the Diaspora, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to you as you participate in Vincy Homecoming – your contribution to national developments will never go unnoticed! The establishment of a Department for Diaspora Affairs in the Prime Ministers Office speaks for itself.

As High Commissioner for the Countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States in Canada, I wish to extend warmest congratulations to the hard working St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto and all nationals of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Canada on this historic occasion. I do look forward to the further deepening of collaboration between the Association and the High Commission.

Your hard work, achievements and display of patriotic spirit are commendable. Such patriotism compels every one of you to stand up and be counted as proud sons and daughters of your homeland. I am sure that with this spirit, we can face the next thirty years with confidence.

Brendon C. Browne
HIGH COMMISSIONER

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

Thirty years ago St. Vincent and the Grenadines severed its colonial bond with Great Britain and became a politically independent nation. This action was boldly taken amidst the expressions of apprehension, wild speculations, questionings and doubting. However since then, our nation has not known stagnation or had occasion to wallow in regret.

Accordingly, these years in review reveal that considerable sustainable development has taken place under successive governments. There has been continuous growth in the development of our infrastructure. The availability of electric power, pipe borne water, motor able paved roads and telecommunication service now enhance the quality of life most of our citizens enjoy. Vincentian professionals are found in every vocation in many parts of the world. The current education revolution emphasis is empowering our population and seating our students in several universities overseas. Additionally, the construction of the cross country road, the development of numerous geographic and historic features and the anticipated completion of the Argyle International Airport in 2012 will certainly affect positively our standing in the developing world.

Our history shows that despite challenges we as a people can accomplish much when we work harmoniously in the spirit of patriotism. We must not fail to acknowledge and appreciate the contribution of others. Each of us is an integral part of nation building and plays a significant role in the process. Let us not focus on negatives. As nationals of this small multi island state we are not divided by water, political partisanship, religion, race or social class; we belong to a close knit community where respect, peace, togetherness, Godliness, and high moral and ethical values always prevail.

As we share in celebrations to mark the 30th Anniversary of our nation's independence, let us do so with grateful hearts and recommit ourselves to build on the foundations laid by others. We must build so that our sons and daughters can be proud of our workmanship. Let us build so that those who come after us can look back and have nothing to fear for their future. As we look ahead, let us be resolved to build a nation for which our children with pride in our accomplishments and looking forward with courage and confidence to the future, can rise up in thanks to God for his blessings and call us blessed.

Congratulations and happy anniversary.

Steve O. Phillips
Consul General

**The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc*****President's Message***

Ms. Elma L. Gabriel

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. sees this 30th year of SVG Independence as “a journey to be proud of - a future to look forward to”. It has been a year in which we have experienced the beginning and completion of some of the most promising infrastructures in the history of our beloved Island; newly implemented initiatives that not only enhance the opportunity for international business within our boundaries, but which stimulate promising prospects for our children, the future of SVG with much emphasis on the advantages to Homecoming.

Many of us have spent most of our years outside of SVG, but as patriots we have time and again proven that distance and time will never replace that special unexplainable connection which binds one's soul to his or her land of birth; and that is the reason why events such as the annual Independence Celebration will continue to take place, as did previous celebrations during the period of Statehood, remembering Christopher Columbus and the era of Chatoyer our National Hero from our Garifuna ancestry. This gives some significance to the purpose of the topic “SVG Nationals and our Garifuna Ancestry”, tabled for our November 1st cultural symposium here in Toronto.

As a people we must continue to advocate global unity and restoration amongst our people, keeping the bond that once secured the origin of what we are made of – that core which releases the real meaning to affinity, a trait which existed, and still does, and which with persistence we will attain together. “As one people in many lands, we will shape our nation with many hands”.

On behalf of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc., we celebrate this 30th year with much positive anticipation for the success of our Homeland.

St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

*P.O. Box 392, Station F,
Toronto, ON, M4Y 2L8*

E-mail: svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com

Programme

Cocktails

*Welcome & Introduction of the Emcee Ms. Corsita Garraway
Ms. Audrey Lewis*

*National Anthem of Canada
National Anthem of St. Vincent and the Grenadines*

*Invocation
Rev. Dr. Chester Searles*

Introduction of the Head Table

Appetizers

Entertainment

Main Course

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

*Presentation to the Scholarship Recipients
Ms. Audrey Lewis*

*Greeting from the Organization of East Caribbean States
& Introduction of Keynote Speaker
His Excellency Brendon C. Browne*

*Keynote Speaker
His Excellency Sir Frederick Ballantyne
Governor General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines*

Dessert

*Closing Remarks
Ms. Elma Gabriel- President
St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.*

DANCING

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St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.
Scholarship Program
2009 Scholarship Recipient of SVGAT Bursary



Hasani Vendryes

I am 22 years old, born in North York, Ontario, and raised in Mississauga. My mother is from St. Vincent and the Grenadines and my father is from Jamaica. I graduated from T.L Kennedy Secondary School in 2005 and commenced my studies at the University of Toronto Mississauga in the fall of the same year. This is currently my 5th year of studies at the university and I am working towards my Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History. The last five years have taught me a great deal, not only in regard to intellectual pursuits, but it has also given me a more realistic perspective on life in general.

Being of Caribbean decent and a person of color has always been a central part of my life. Confronted with racism at a young age, I had a desire to know where these racial notions and stereotypes came from, and since being in university; I've learned a lot about this. University has been a unique experience in general and I feel privileged to be here, as it is not something everyone gets to do, and I plan to make the absolute best of it. I would like to thank everyone at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Scholarship Program committee who saw it fit to select me for this award, as I truly believe that I have been working very hard over the past 5 years to keep my GPA as high as possible, while gaining the greatest value out of my education; while also maintaining a part-time job.

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THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. **CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2009**

Sunday, October 25
 Saturday, October 31
 Sunday, November 1
 Sunday November 29
 Saturday, December 20
 Christmas Week
 Sunday, January 31, 2010

Thanksgiving Church Service
 Independence Banquet
 Cultural Symposium
 Monthly General Meeting
 Children's Christmas Party
 Christmas Hamper Project
 Annual General Meeting

Rosewood Church of the Nazarene
 Riviera Banquet & Convention Centre
 York Civic Centre
 Northwood Community Centre
 Northwood Community Centre
 Community Project
 Northwood Community Centre

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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.

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

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 several 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; also if you know of anyone who might be in need of receiving a Christmas Hamper, please send us an email at svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com

Thank you to all who donated to the project last year.

**St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.
Scholarship Program
2009 Scholarship Recipient of SVGAT Bursary**



Victor Bibby

I have a dedicated love for sports and community volunteering. While in high school I was on the Junior and Senior Boys basketball team and had the opportunity to be the captain of the team all 4 years I was there. In addition to being captain I was voted MVP player of the team 3 years in a row, 1 year on the junior team and 2 years on the senior team. I was also part of the football team. My first year on the team, I was voted most improved player. The next three years I was nominated MVP on the team and also was the winner of the Best Defensive Back of the year. The last year of my football career I was given the opportunity to be the first ever winner of the Hamilton Tiger- Cats Athletic Scholarship, a recognition for my success in athletics and dedication in the community. I was also part of the track and field team where I participated in hurdles and long jump and I recently hold the 110m seniors boys hurdle record for my high school.

In addition to sports I have helped out in the community. For three years I have coached under-11-year-old boys basketball and 2 out of those three years I was able to take them to the championships. I also refereed house league for the Grimsby basketball association for three years. I was also able to help coach the newly formed football team Niagara Storm's Peeewe team.

Currently, I am assisting in coaching my high school football team. At my high school I was able to become a peer educator for a group we started called "What's with Weed" where younger students were being educated about alcohol and other drugs such as marijuana. From this I was able to go with the top leader to a health convention in Niagara Falls and talk about the program at a conference of health professionals. In my last year of high school I was able to direct and lead the assembly that we gave to the younger students.



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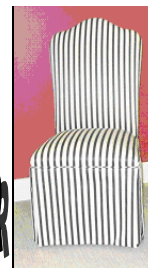
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St. Vincent & Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

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TICKET IS REQUIRED TO CLAIM PRIZE

Tickets: 1 for \$3.00; 3 for \$5.00

Draw will take place on Sat. October 31st, 2009 at the
Independence Banquet

Winner is responsible to pick up item.

Chair donated by: Mr. Alfred Compton

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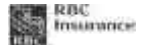
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SVGAT EXECUTIVE

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 Thelma Charles: Tel: 905-571-4766
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 Wendell Cole: Tel: 905-792-1248
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 Alfred Compton: Tel: 416-495-0858
Youth & Recreation Chair youth@vincytoronto.com
 Anslem Keizer: Tel: 647-836-6800
Building Chair building@vincytoronto.com
 Kwuassi Hutchinson: Tel: 416-652-5207
Immediate Past President amazing_grace@hotmail.com
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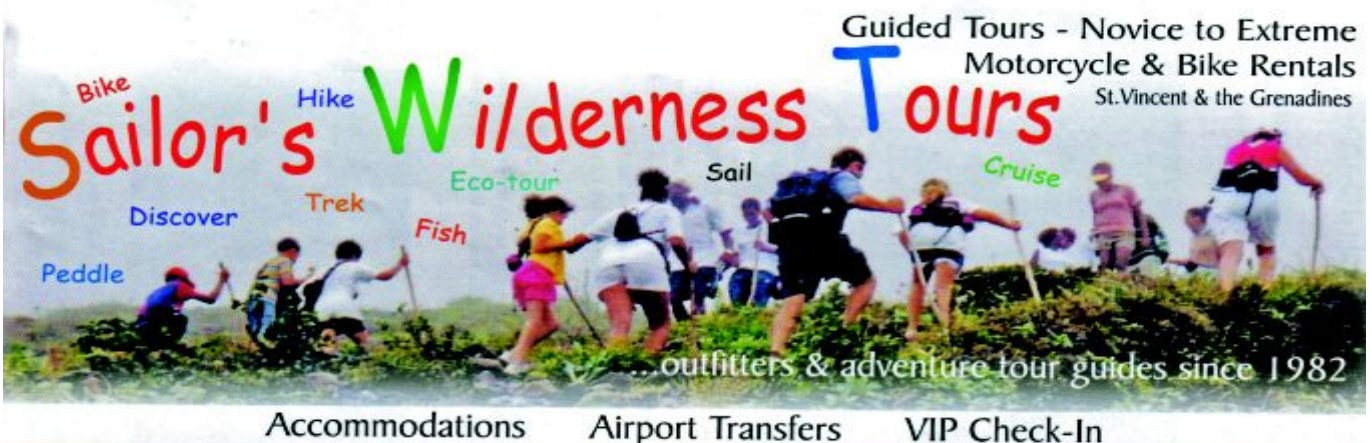
General Email address: svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com

COORDINATORS

Mothers Day:- Edna Hunt
SVG Unity Picnic:- Kenneth Farrell
SVG National Unity Picnic Rep:- Cordel Telfer
Independence Dinner:- Audrey Lewis
Constitution Review - Rosie Mc Intosh

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto (SVGAT) Inc. is a benevolent organization serving residents of Toronto and surrounding communities since 1968. During this period it has been involved in community activities such as youth development, education, promoting well-being among senior citizens, sports, recreation, and emergency relief. To assist the organization in circulating information regarding its events and activities throughout the community, the Association produces a quarterly newsletter, INSIGHT, and also maintains a website, www.vincytoronto.com.



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