



St. Vincent and Grenadines
Association of Toronto Inc.
Celebrates



Independence **31** Anniversary

Loyalty and love embrace the welfare



of our children's future

Saturday, October 30, 2010

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

Dante Marshall

Master of Ceremonies



Hi, my name is Dante Marshall. I am a grade 11 student at J Clarke Richardson Collegiate. I am a 3rd degree Black Belt in Taekwondo. I train and work at Ryouko Martial Arts. I enjoy music such as hip hop and R & B. I also play the alto saxophone. Another thing I like to do is stand up comedy. I have been performing since I was 8 years of age.

Cultural Symposium & Social



**Sunday, October 31 at York Civic Centre,
2700 Eglinton Avenue West from 2:30 p.m.**

Feature Keynote Speaker

Sophia Young

Professional WNBA basketball player
with the San Antonio Silver Stars

Sophia is one of only two Vincentian women ever to play in the WNBA. She also recently played for the European championship club Galatasaray of Turkey. In 2005 Sophia helped the Baylor University Lady Bears win their first NCAA National Championship. She is one of only four women in NCAA history to score 2,000 points, grab 1,000 rebounds, collect 300 steals, as well as dish out 300 assists. Off the court Sophia's passion is to help children and teens that have been abused and/ or neglected in one form or another. She has adopted a charity named Roy Maas Alternative Inc. This is a charity that is committed to helping kids to have a better life. While at Baylor she began sponsoring a pre-teen boy in Rwanda. She continues that sponsorship today – writing the boy letters and sending him regular financial gifts. After she retires, Sophia wants to open a shelter for abused girls.

ATHEMS



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 .

INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE

Chair - *Elma Gabriel*
Audrey Lewis
Alfred Compton
Edna Hunt
Fred Prescod
Grace Brown
Grafton Bibby
Jennifer Morgan
Kuwassi Hutchinson
Thelma Charles
Yvette Liverpool

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Elma Gabriel

.....

CULTURAL SYMPOSIUM

Coordinator - *Fred Prescod*
Carmen Parsons
Yvette Liverpool

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

Embracing the Future through Loyalty

The Executive Committee of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. took seriously your comments and recommendations from previous years. Our committee this year comprises members of various SVG organizations and whose main focus was to provide to you the high caliber that you so deserve for the celebrations of your 31st Independence. We extend much appreciation to all of you and to our contributors, newspapers, advertisers, Webmaster and Association members.

We share with you some excerpts of comments from last years celebrations:

- This was my first time at the service and I was pleased to witness the participation of many persons of SVG heritage. Congratulations to you and your committee for the hard work put into planning the recent SVG Thanksgiving Service. It was a blessing and the presence of the Lord was felt amongst us. To God be the glory great things He has done.
- The Banquet was of a high caliber, with the presence of the Governor-General adding some class to the event.
- The fashion show was quite unique and enjoyable but needed a stage.
- The dinner was excellent. A guest who is in the hospitality and food business was heard to remark, "my goodness, charging only \$75 - \$85, I wonder how the Association could make any money with such a high class dinner at an upscale venue, and with an open bar to boot!"
- The Cultural Symposium was especially enjoyable with audience participation. The theme carried over very well from the previous evening and Rosita's charm enhanced the program.
- Overall I think you should encourage more young people on the actual program, they were conspicuously absent from all the events.

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

Special Thanks To:

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Guest Speaker

The Right Honourable Dr. Alvin Curling

As the member of Provincial Parliament for the Ontario riding of Scarborough-Rouge River, Jamaican-born Curling has won five consecutive elections, making him one of the most long-standing members of the Legislature of Ontario. He has spent his time in office as a strong advocate for minority voices by upholding the principles of inclusiveness, public service, and human rights in his dedication to the “preservation of democracy”.

First elected to Ontario Legislature general election 1985; re-elected general election 1987, 1990, 1995, 1999; minister of housing, 1985-87; minister of skills development, 1987-89; parliamentary assistant to the minister of intergovernmental affairs until 1990; former deputy whip for the official opposition; appointed: official opposition critic for housing, 1995; official opposition critic for urban affairs and official opposition critic for youth, 1999; official opposition critic for training and skills development and Speaker of the Legislature.

Curling resigned his seat in the Legislative Assembly on August 19, 2005 to accept a diplomatic posting as Canada’s ambassador to the Dominican Republic. He was recalled from this position in 2006.

Curling is now a Senior Fellow at CIGI (International Economic Governance) in Waterloo Ontario and Co-Chair of the Premier’s Task Force on the Review of the Roots of Youth Violence. In the mid-2000s, Curling was honoured by the government of Jamaica with a Rank of Distinction. He holds the title of Commander.



PRIME MINISTER . PREMIER MINISTRE

It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to everyone marking the 31st anniversary of the independence of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Canada has enjoyed close diplomatic relations with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines since the country gained independence in 1979. Our relationship continues to flourish based on our Commonwealth heritage, trade and investment links, and ties of family and friendship.

I would like to commend the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto for organizing a celebration of the rich culture and achievements of your homeland. This year's Independence Banquet, under the distinguished patronage of Consul General Mr. Steve O. Philips, will feature the Right Honourable Dr. Alvin Curling as guest speaker. I am certain that his remarks, and the event's theme: "Loyalty and love embraces the welfare of our children's future," will prove inspiring to everyone taking part.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable anniversary and celebration.

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

OTTAWA
2010



Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario

October 30, 2010

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone marking the 31st anniversary of the independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In Ontario, we celebrate diversity and each community's unique heritage. It is within our strong and inclusive communities that, as Ontarians, we find and build our individual strengths.

This special milestone is a time to rejoice in 31 years of progress and accomplishment marked by St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It is also an ideal occasion to recognize, and take pride in, the contributions Vincentian Canadians have made — and continue to make — to Ontario's social, cultural and economic life.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable and inspirational celebration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dalton McGuinty". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dalton McGuinty
Premier



Mayor
DAVID MILLER

A Message from the Mayor

It is my pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Independence Day celebrations hosted by the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines independence is a day to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements, pride, traditions and culture of your great nation. Today, as you gather with family and friends to celebrate this significant anniversary, it provides an opportunity to appreciate the values we all treasure – peace, freedom and democracy.

One of the strengths that sets Toronto apart is its multicultural make-up. People from around the world have made our city their home and have created a mosaic of rich customs and traditions that we all proudly share. Today, we join you in celebrating one of the most important days in your nation's history.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, I congratulate and thank everyone involved in making this event possible and offer my best wishes for a memorable celebration.

Yours truly,

Mayor David Miller



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October 30, 2010

A Message from the Chief of Police

I am pleased to extend sincere greetings to everyone in attendance at the celebration of the 31st anniversary of Independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Over the past 31 years, the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. has made significant contributions to the multicultural mosaic of Canada.



I would like to commend and thank the citizens of St. Vincent and the Grenadines that have chosen Canada and York Region as their home. Your perseverance in pursuit of making a positive difference in our community is something to be celebrated. You have worked hard and you have distinguished yourselves as positive role models and leaders and an inspiration to future generations. Your strong commitment to building an inclusive Canada reminds me of our police motto of "Deeds Speak".

On behalf of all of us at York Regional Police, I would like to extend to all members of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. our best wishes for a most enjoyable evening. We look forward to many more years of friendship and collaboration.

Yours truly,

Armand P. La Barge, O.O.M.
Chief of Police

"Deeds Speak"



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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 31 years of political independence of our beloved country, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

As you celebrate your nation's independence under the theme, *"Loyalty and Love embraces the welfare of our Children's Future."* Your theme is very timely and apt since it contains two important ingredients – *"Loyalty"* and *"Love"*. How do we judge this little nation of ours after 31 years? In our reflection we may ask several relevant questions: *How well have we managed our affairs? Are we much better off now? How does the outside world see us? How do we see ourselves?*

To be sure the country has made steady progress in the areas of *Health and Education*. Major infrastructural works are to come on stream. The recent economic melt down which was not of our making has tested our resilience and the many strategic interventions have served us well. Luckily the economic recession has not left us in a state of paralysis, though we felt its impact.

Our *"Cultural Ambassadors"* have certainly enhanced the image of our country; we are firmly on the international stage. We are proud people who have moved forward. However, as we move on with our slender resources into the future, we must realize that our country needs all of its citizens, regardless of race, creed or political stripes. The nation is bigger than all of its citizens and we must not cease to be country-focused and remember to wear our patriotism like a badge of honour.

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 Executive Members of the 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.

Let us bind together and face the future with confidence!


Brendon C. Browne
HIGH COMMISSIONER



Steve O. Phillips

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES CONSUL GENERAL, TORONTO

For the last 30 years, the month of October has been one marked by a celebratory mood for Vincentians at home and in the Diaspora as we commemorate our nation's political independence. This October we maintain the tradition of celebration as we observe our 31st Independence Anniversary.

Our people will once more reflect with much appreciation on the development that we have experienced as a small Caribbean nation. Despite the gross economic challenges confronting the world in recent years and the consequent crumbling of many economies, St Vincent and the Grenadines has been making steady progress. Work on several big infrastructure projects, including the Argyle International Airport is on-going. Poverty alleviation programs have been strengthened. The education revolution in forging ahead and government with the co-operation of the private sector, has been doing remarkably well in keeping the unemployment rate down.

Fortunately, we have not suffered any national disaster in recent times. Thanks to God Almighty for his loving kindness, mercy and goodness. Our God-fearing people continue to be good natured, optimistic, positive and diligent.

We are building a new St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and it behoves each of us to play an integral part in the construction process. We are building a nation where our people are more resourceful, patriotic and dignified; a nation where the standard of living is comparable to that of the world's most developed countries; a nation that is the envy of many and of which every Vincentian will be proud. May God abundantly bless us as we celebrate and as we look ahead to the future. Let us celebrate with a profound sense of gratitude to God and to all who have done and are doing their part to help realise our dream of a new St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Congratulations and happy anniversary.

Steve O. Phillips
Consul General

TORONTO CONSULATE OFFICE

Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

333 Wilson Avenue, Suite 601, Toronto, Ontario, M3H 1T2

Mr. Steve O. Phillips

Consul General

Tel: (416) 398-4277 Fax (416) 398-4199 - Email: consulategeneral@rogers.com



President The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

On October 27, 1979, Prime Minister Milton Cato led us on a path of a newfound freedom, the re-birth of a nation. We have taken strides as a nation towards establishing our foothold on the world platform.

The 21st century will be the century where we will invest in our children's education, not only so that they can flourish in a world that demands technological literacy, but so that we can harness their creativity in building our nation.

Our investments in education and technology will be our legacy to our children. They are investments that will bring the best out of the next generation of Vincentians and enable us to reach our potential as individuals, as communities, and as a nation.

We invest in education because it will enable us to build a better St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Our children will be the beneficiaries tomorrow of the collective decisions that we adults make today. When we invest in our children, we will find that our collective standard of living will grow, too.

The real leaders of SVG are ordinary people, but they must display their efforts with the extraordinary determination and foresight to invest in our children's education.

We must remember that our common interests - in our nation, and in our children - outweigh our differences. We are greater than the sum of the fears that have kept us divided in the past as a people.

As we pause to celebrate our nation's 31st birthday, please take time to remember that many Vincentian Nationals who celebrated our nation's first birthday are no longer among us. We honor their memory and legacy by showing our love for our family and friends, our respect for each other, and reaffirming our oneness as a people.

You owe it to our founding fathers and mothers, and to all Vincentian Nationals, to declare that wherever flags are flying, no one is more determined than you in ensuring that the SVG flag flutters high above those of many nations.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a work in progress and a country with enormous potential, as we SVG people have an unstoppable determination, internal fortitude and indomitable spirit. This gives me hope for the future.

I greet all Vincentian Nationals with love and respect, and extend to you my best wishes for a joyous Independence Day 2010.

Audrey Lewis
President

"Endeavour to be patient in bearing the defect and infirmities of others, of what sort so-ever they be; for thou thyself also hast many failings which must be borne with by others".

Program

Welcome & Introduction of the Head Table – **Ms. Carmen Parsons**
Emcee – **Mr. Dante Marshall**

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

Invocation – **Mr. Adrian Dennie**

Appetizers
Entertainment
Main Course

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

Presentations to the Scholarship Recipients

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

Keynote Speaker
The Hon. Dr. Alvin Curling

Dessert
Closing Remarks
Ms. Audrey Lewis, President
St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

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

Saturday, October 30	Independence Banquet, Riviera Banquet & Convention Centre
Sunday, October 31	Cultural Symposium, York Civic Centre
Sunday, November 28	Monthly General Meeting, Northwood Community Centre
Sunday, December 5	Children's Christmas Party, Northwood Community Centre
Christmas Week	Christmas Hamper Community Project
Sunday, January 30, 2011	Annual General Meeting, Northwood Community Centre

SVGAT CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPER

The Christmas Food Hamper project is another important project of SVGAT. Through this program and with your donations, we provide assistance to Vincentian families in need at Christmas time.

Last year we provided hampers to nine 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.



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Malik Kai Morgan-John
Scholarship Recipient
Western Union

My name is Malik Kai Morgan-John. I was born in Calgary, Alberta. I graduated from Heart Lake Secondary School and I'm currently enrolled in the Chemical Engineering Coop program at Ryerson University. My goal is to develop products that will benefit society and help them in their everyday lives. I have taken part at numerous volunteer activities in the community such as Peel Long Term Care Centre, Peel Children's Water Festival, the Emil Kolb Hootenanny to support various children's charities, and Coast to Coast for Cancer Foundation. While taking part in all these activities I was able to keep up my marks and graduate from high school with Honours and as an Ontario Scholar.

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Samantha Lewis

Scholarship Recipient

Hermus S. Liverpool Memorial Scholarship

Hi, my name is Samantha Lewis. Currently I am a second year student studying at Carleton University, studying honors Biochemistry.

When I complete my undergraduate studies I plan

on attending medical school, where in the future I will be an obstetrician. In my spare time I enjoy reading books and traveling around the world developing a better sense of the world around me. I am also a firm believer in community involvement and have been active in my community throughout my life.

Throughout high school I volunteered with the Brampton Battalion Hockey Organization as well as with CHRY 105.5 fm, York University's community radio station. I have also been an active member of my school participating on the track and field team as well as being a member of athletic council as well as numerous other events. Every one of my past experiences through community and school involvement has made me a better student throughout university.

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achieving our
goals.***

Mission Statement
The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. (SVGAT) is a non-profit community-based Association. We are committed to providing assistance and support to groups and institutions in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Ontario, and wherever the Association deems fit. We are also committed to provide an anti bias forum for Cultural, Educational, Social and Recreational enrichment and to maintain a network of communication through information and referral.



Andrea Providence
Scholarship Recipient
SVGAT

My name is Andrea Providence and I would first like to say thank you; receiving this award is such an amazing honor.

I am the last child to Monty and Gracelyn Providence and I owe most of my success thus far to both my parents for all their support, both mentally and

financially. I have just recently graduated Cum Laude from Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama with a bachelor's degree in Biology. I will be attending Ross University School of Medicine in January to continue my goal towards becoming a physician. I am driven by my love for medicine and healing the sick and I am truly determined and driven to be the best physician that I can possibly be. I plan to enter Medical school to learn, become a critical thinker and depart to pursue my dream of improving the quality and length of life through service. This scholarship is important to me because it helps give me the tools I need to succeed. Again I would like to stress what an amazing honor it is to receive this award, and to know that my hard work has been recognized. I'd like to thank God for his blessings this far, and I pray that he continues to bless me as I embark on this academic journey.

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Your donation to any of the following can help the Association meet its objectives: the Emergency Fund, the Scholarship Fund, the Adopt-a-Child Program the Children's Christmas Party, and the Christmas Hamper to those less fortunate and/or to General Operating Funds.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

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High Commissioner

His Excellency

Mr. Brendon C. Browne

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