

St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
Association of Toronto Inc.



# *Independence Anniversary Banquet*

**CELEBRATING 33 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE**

*Honouring our Past • Celebrating our Present • Building our Future*



*Argyle International Airport Under Construction  
(Aerial View)*

**Renaissance Parque Banquet & Convention Centre  
2800 Hwy 7, Woodbridge, Ontario**

**Saturday October 27, 2012**

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

## *Cocktail Hour*

### *Welcome & Introduction of Emcees:*

Mr. Jim Lewis & Ms. Elisabeth Vanloo  
Mrs. Shelley John – Chair Independence Committee

### *Anthems*

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

### *Invocation*

Mrs. Hulda DeFreitas

### *Remarks & Presentations to Scholarship Recipients*

Mrs. Marcia Stephens Farrell – President  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

## *Dinner*

### *Musical Interlude*

### *Special Entertainment*

Dance Presentation by Chanice Morris & Tamara Ford

### *Greetings*

Mrs. Jose Bonadie – Honorary Consul  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines Consulate General of Toronto

### *Keynote Address*

**Dr. Rudolph C. Matthias**  
Chairman, Argyle International Airport Development Agency  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines

### *Special Entertainment*

Dance Presentation by Chanice Morris & Tamara Ford

### *Vote of Thanks*

Ms. Cornetta Mason – Public Relations Officer  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

### *Prizes & Give Aways*



Dance to the sounds of **Julian McIntosh & the Caribbean Thunderbolts**  
as well as **DJ Fusion**



# Menu

## *Assorted Hors D'oeuvres*

### *Cocktails*

Including Wine, SVG Rum Punch, Fruit Punch

### *Bread & Rolls*

### *Appetizer*

Vegetarian Spring Roll on a bed of greens topped with  
Sliced Mango and Mango Chutney  
Greek Salad  
Butternut Squash & Ginger Soup

### *Main Course*

Breaded Chicken stuffed with Mozzarella &  
Sundried Tomatoes  
Grilled Salmon in a Mediterranean Sauce Mini Red Roasted Potatoes  
Mixed Seasonal Vegetables  
Mini red roasted Potatoes  
Basmati Rice platter with saffron

### *Dessert*

Ice cream Crepes with a fresh strawberry on the side  
Pastry platter

### *Coffee, Tea, Espresso*



#### **AGENTS IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

##### [BARROUALLIE COOPERATIVE CREDIT](#)

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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.

## **OUR APPRECIATION**

The Organizing Committee, on behalf of the Executive and membership of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. herewith express sincere thanks to all those who in one way or the other assisted in making the celebrations of our activities to commemorate the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the independence of our country possible.

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

We also thank all those who attended and are able to attend our other events. We trust that as we celebrate yesterday's and today's accomplishments we are encouraged to use them as foundations for building our future with the hope that God will guide us to be a nation of blessed people.

Special thanks to the management and staff of Riviera Parque Banquet Hall and Convention Centre and staff for their hospitality.

We join all St. Vincent and the Grenadines nationals at home and in the Diaspora in celebrating this anniversary.

*Members of the Organizing Committee,  
2012 Independence Anniversary Celebrations*

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY TO ALL NATIONALS OF  
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO GUIDE AND BLESS US!





PRIME MINISTER - PREMIER MINISTRE



**Hon. Stephen Harper**

*I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to the members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. on the occasion of the 33rd 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. Tonight's celebration offers you a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon St. Vincent and the Grenadines' vibrant past, to celebrate its many achievements over the last 33 years, and to look to the future with confidence.*

*I would like to commend all those involved with the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. for their commitment to fostering fellowship amongst members of the Vincentian Canadian community and for advancing the warm friendship enjoyed by our two nations.*

*Please accept my best wishes for a memorable celebration.*

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

OTTAWA  
2012



## St. Vincent and the Grenadines West Indies

September 21, 2012

***Message from Prime Minister, Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves  
In Celebration of the Thirty Third Anniversary of Independence of  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines***

It is with great pride and happiness that I send anniversary greetings to the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto, Inc. in celebration of our nation's Thirty Third Anniversary of National Independence. Independence is indeed symbolic because it reminds us of the magnificence of our sovereignty and the freedom which we enjoy in a constitutionally-grounded democratic society.

Our founding fathers have delivered and the legacy of our ancestors has enriched and ennobled generations of Vincentians.

My dear friends, the policies of the government embody the dreams and aspirations of our founding fathers, and, our nation's comprehensive development plan embraces reforms in all spheres and prioritises the enhancement of the human condition. Indeed, the transformation of the national economy touches every facet of life and production.

The unbridled enthusiasm of our citizens at home and in the Diaspora, the creative potential of our youth, the numerous opportunities created for our people through the education revolution, the advances in science and information technology in the production and social apparatus, the confidence in the national and citizen security initiatives, the excitement shown in the thrust to provide world class competitive air and maritime transport systems, all serve to encourage us to continue to fashion St. Vincent and the Grenadines into a nation in which its citizenry will have boundless pride.

As we reach another great historic milestone, let us continue to be inspired by those who have used little to achieve much, and in these challenging global economic times, let us all be our 'brothers' keepers'.

I urge you to continue the excellent work you are doing in Canada, and I wish you abundant success in your planned activities.

May God bless you all!

**Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves  
Prime Minister**



## Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario



October 27, 2012

### A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone celebrating the 33rd anniversary of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Ontario is a proud collection of different ancestries, histories, languages and beliefs. Together, through the hard work and co-operation of the many groups that call this province home, we have built a quality of life that is second to none. Today's reception is an ideal opportunity to celebrate the culture of St. Vincent and the Grenadines — and to pay tribute to the invaluable contributions that Vincentian Canadians have made to our province and our country.

The citizens of this great province are pleased to join all Vincentian Canadians in commemorating this important occasion. May this day be a time of joyous celebration of the history, heritage and traditions from which you draw strength, pride and inspiration.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable anniversary celebration.

**Dalton McGuinty**

A handwritten signature of Dalton McGuinty in black ink.

**Premier**

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
101 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2



CITY OF  
TORONTO



### **A Message from the Mayor**

It is with great pleasure that I extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending Independence Day celebrations organized by The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Incorporated.

The Independence Day for any nation is an opportunity to acknowledge the history and culture of your country and reflect upon the values we all share and treasure – peace, freedom and democracy. As you gather with friends, family and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines community, you can take pride in your heritage and the achievements of your nation over the past 33 years.

One of our city's greatest strengths is the multiculturalism. People from around the world call Toronto home and create a rich blend of customs and traditions that we can all share. We join you in celebrating this milestone anniversary and thank you for contributing to the diversity and vibrancy that makes our city so unique.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for a memorable celebration and successful event.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Ford".

Mayor Rob Ford  
City of Toronto



**Laura Albanese, MPP**  
York South - Weston



As the Member of Provincial Parliament for York South-Weston, I am pleased to bring greetings to everyone attending the 33rd St. Vincent & Grenadines Independence Day.

Vincentians have a strong, vibrant and hospitable culture which greatly contributes to our city and Province's diversity. Multiculturalism in our City and Province is what attracts people from all over the world to come and settle here because we celebrate each community's unique heritage.

I join you in celebrating St. Vincent & The Grenadines 33<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day and the great accomplishments of your country's history, culture and society and thank you for contributing to our city and Province's rich heritage.

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

Sincerely,

Laura Albanese  
MPP – York South-Weston



## CONSULATE GENERAL OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

55 Town Centre Court, Suite 624, Toronto, Ontario, M1P 4X4

Tel: 416-398-4277 Fax: 647-438-5312

E-mail: [consulategeneral@rogers.com](mailto:consulategeneral@rogers.com)



### INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE BY CONSUL GENERAL STEVE O. PHILLIPS

Relatively, St. Vincent and the Grenadines is still young as an Independent nation. Only 33 years ago, we took our first stride towards nationhood. But our people, led by various governments, have not seen a more challenging yet better time than the present.

Never before have we had to deal with the kinds of challenges now confronting us; challenges which are largely the result of the changes taking place globally in the financial industry, the socio-economic environment and climatic conditions. Along with these we face the combined effects of globalization, trade liberalization and marginalization. These are factors over which we have little or no control.

However, we are blessed to have a government of experienced leadership whose optimism, resilience and relentless determination to build a better nation are not daunted by these current circumstances. Our government continues to boldly focus on stabilizing and growing the nation's economy, building the infrastructure including the very ambitious and now far advanced Argyle International Airport Development project, advancing the education and health revolutions, providing middle, low and no income homes for our people, enhancing social services and poverty alleviation programs and maintaining good governance.

Our people have been empowered as they share the vision and spirit of the government to improve the lot of every citizen and household and build a developing nation that has the respect of the international community. We continue to be appreciative not only of our natural geographic and historical features but also of a people who are ambitious achievers, hospitable, diligent and courteous; a nation that has not sacrificed its God fearing morals and ethical values that make our communities safe and peaceful for all.

Notwithstanding today's challenges, with such emphases, collaboration and our fundamental beliefs in a God who cares, we can certainly look forward with confidence to brighter days ahead.

As we celebrate with gratitude and joyous hope, may God bless St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Vincentians everywhere. Happy 33<sup>rd</sup> Independence Anniversary.

### **CONSULATE OFFICE RELOCATION**

Please be informed that as of October 1, 2012, the office of the **Consulate General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines**,

Toronto, has been relocated to:

55 Town Centre Court, Suite 624

Toronto, Ontario, M1P 4X4

(next to the Scarborough Town Centre)

Tel: 416-398-4277 Fax: 647-438-5312

website: [www.svgconsulate.org](http://www.svgconsulate.org)

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

**St. Vincent and the Grenadines'**

***National Pledge***

**Land of my birth I pledge to thee**

**My loyalty and devotion,**

**In all I do and think and say.**

# Message from the President

**MRS. MARCIA STEPHENS FARRELL**

**ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.**

## ***Building to where ...***

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto, extends congratulations to the Government and people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on our 33rd Anniversary of Independence from Great Britain in the year 1979. As we celebrate this milestone together, let us pause to remember our fellow countrymen and countrywomen who gave of their time and service generously to build St. Vincent and the Grenadines 33 years ago and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto 44 years ago.

When we think about building, different thoughts enter our minds, such as, cost, labour, location, and continuation. I know that there are other factors we need to bear in mind, but the time will not permit us to have a dialogue about the advantages and disadvantages of building. Categorically, I would focus outside the regular construction terminology for building and talk about the founding patriots, members and supporters, and executive and committee members regarding three critical components required to maintain a strong association.

Firstly, the founding patriots began with an idea to bring the Vincentian community together whereby they would “provide a forum for the discussion of matters – social, cultural, recreational, and in general, any topics of general interest to its members” (SVGAT Constitution pg 1). Thus, in 1968, the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto was born, a strong, stable, and lasting legacy in the Greater Toronto Area.

Secondly, the Association would not have survived this long had it not been for the steadfastness, commitment and resilience of our Members and Supporters and as it continues to grow to include collaboration with other community groups and government agencies to supply information to our community. Government agencies include the Toronto Public Health (TPH) which has trained members of the Association as Peer Leaders (September and October 2012) to provide information and workshops in our community on Type 2 Diabetes Prevention to commenced November 2012 and end March 2013.

Thirdly, the Executive and Committee members’ role are to protect and show habitability. Habitability in the context of visibility in Canada as an agent for change, educating and informing our community about life outside of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and also, highlighting the transitional changes one has to undergo in order to balance social, academic, cultural and recreational life, therefore maximizing our potential and opportunities so as to not sell ourselves short. Thus, the aforementioned analogies with the founding patriots, members and supporters, Executive and committee members put into perspective the importance of our rich heritage and resources available to us to obtain a physical building to house the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto and other National bodies.

In Toronto there are over 5 different groups representing St. Vincent and the Grenadines nationals, nothing is wrong with having different groups, it demonstrates diverse resources. However, in spite of our different focuses we can combine our resources, which would allow us to acquire a building for our community. This would afford us the opportunity to achieve our goals and objectives and serve the community more effectively in the Greater Toronto Area.

On this premise, the Associations would have a stronger presence in the Greater Toronto Area as agents of change for our community and other communities. In addition, we would able to provide our community with enough space to expand through workshops, social gatherings, and resources to access and navigate the various legal and social systems within the Greater Toronto Area. This would enable us to continue to honour our past, celebrate our present and build our future.

On another note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive, Independence Committee, Unity Picnic Committee representatives, Local Unity Picnic Committee, organizers of the Children’s Christmas Party and Christmas hampers for their commitment and dedication which create a stronger bond in our community.



## **SVGAT EXECUTIVE**

Here is a list of the executive members just in case you would like to contact any of them:

**President** – Marcia Stephens Farrell

Tel: 647-716-0181 E-mail: [president@vincytoronto.com](mailto:president@vincytoronto.com)

**Vice President** – Prudence Morton

Tel: 905-787-1009 E-mail: [vicepres@vincytoronto.com](mailto:vicepres@vincytoronto.com)

**Executive Secretary** – Garnet Samuel Harry

Tel: 647-774-1205 E-mail: [execsec@vincytoronto.com](mailto:execsec@vincytoronto.com)

**General Secretary** – Petra Hutchinson

Tel: 416-840-7346 E-mail: [gensecretary@vincytoronto.com](mailto:gensecretary@vincytoronto.com)

**Treasurer** – Claudius Samuel

Tel: 416-726-2841 E-mail: [Treasurer@vincytoronto.com](mailto:Treasurer@vincytoronto.com)

**Assistant Treasurer** – Kinda Keizer

Tel: 647-868-2667 E-mail: [AssistTreas@vincytoronto.com](mailto:AssistTreas@vincytoronto.com)

**Public Relations Officer** – Cornetta Mason

Tel: 647-829-8155 E-mail: [pro@vincytoronto.com](mailto:pro@vincytoronto.com)

Ass'n General Email address: [svga@vincytoronto.com](mailto:svga@vincytoronto.com)

Website: [www.vincytoronto.com](http://www.vincytoronto.com)

## **ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.**

### **CHRISTMAS HAMPER OUTREACH**



HELP US ASSIST THOSE MEMBERS OF OUR  
COMMUNITY WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE

RECOMMEND A FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL

### **MAKE A DONATION**

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Cordel Telfer - 647-717-9731

## **ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.**

### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**



**(For children 12 years and under)**

Saturday December 8, 2012

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Northwood Community Centre

15 Clubhouse Court

*Gift for each child  
Games*

*Entertainment  
Refreshments*

**To register, please contact:**

Prudence Morton - 905-787-1009

Petra Ryan Phillips - 416-840-7346

Cornetta Mason - 647-829-8155

Lateshia Mason

## **ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.**

### **INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY COMMUNITY FORUM**

*Sunday, October 28, 3:00 p.m.*

*York Civic Centre*

*2700 Eglinton Avenue West at Keele*

#### **Topic:**

SVG's Argyle International Airport

#### **Special Guests:**

Dr. Rudolph Matthias, Chairman IADCL

Mr. Jeffrey Cato, Engineer

**Refreshments Served**

### **BECOME A MEMBER!**

Membership in the St. Vincent and the  
Grenadines Association of Toronto is  
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\$20.00 membership fee)*

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BECOME A FINANCIAL MEMBER NOW!*

## *Guest Speaker*

**DR. RUDOLPH MATTHIAS**



Dr. Rudolph C. Matthias is a national of St. Vincent and the Grenadines by birth. He obtained his doctorate in Financial Economics from the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom in 1999. His tertiary education began at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies and continued at Western Illinois University, Illinois, USA where he obtained an MBA in Finance and an MA in Economics before moving to Cambridge.

Additionally, he received training in Financial Programming & Policies, Balance of Payments Accounting and Internal Auditing Procedures.

In 1986, he began his professional career as a Junior Clerk at the Inland Revenue Department, Kingstown, St. Vincent then moved up to become the Accounting Supervisor and later Internal Auditor with the Central Water Authority. After graduating in the United Kingdom, he took up a post as an Economist with Dun & Bradstreet, UK and then moved to the Caribbean, at the Central Bank of Trinidad & Tobago, as a Senior Economist.

On return to his homeland in 2002, he began undertaking major projects as a Consultant to the Government and Director on several boards. Some of the projects in which he was involved include, but are not limited to, Advisor, International Financial Services Authority (Offshore finance); Director, St. Vincent Marketing Corporation (Supermarket business); Director, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Development Bank (Banking); Director, Recovery Company Limited (Bad Loan Recovery Agency); Chairman and then Advisor, St. Vincent Postal Corporation (Official Postal Service); Director/Advisor, National Properties Ltd (Property Management and Development).

During 1987 to 2006, Dr. Matthias lectured and tutored at several colleges and universities; he has also written numerous columns, articles and policy papers in journals, periodicals and books. He has also been a regular presenter at seminars both in his native St. Vincent and the Grenadines as well as in other Caribbean countries.

Currently, Dr. Matthias performs the role of Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the wholly owned government company, the International Airport Development Company Limited, which has the mandate to arrange for the financing and construction of the Argyle International Airport, and thereafter to put effective management structures in place for the operational phase of the new airport.

The Argyle International Airport project is by far the most ambitious venture undertaken by the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and it speaks well of the Government to appoint a national of our country to spearhead this project. Dr. Matthias' credentials make him an appropriate candidate for this position.

Apart from work and studies, Dr. Matthias enjoys playing football, cricket and lawn tennis and is a budding amateur/professional photographer. He serves as a director on the Board of the National Broadcasting Corporation's Medical Fund, which raises money to assist persons seeking medical attention overseas for various ailments.

Dr. Matthias and his wife, Celene have a 14 year old daughter, Kyra.

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. on behalf of the SVG community here in Toronto congratulates Dr. Matthias on his achievements, welcomes him to Toronto to be our guest at this 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary celebration of our nation's independence and wishes him every good for the future. In addition to being the guest speaker at this event, Dr. Matthias will lead the Community Discussions tomorrow at York Civic Centre, 2700 Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto where he and his team will provide all necessary information to the public and entertain their questions.



# *The Airport*

## ARGYLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Argyle International Airport is seen by the ULP administration, led by Dr. the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves, as an important infrastructure for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to address the air access difficulties that have hindered the growth of the Tourism sector and the country on a whole. The new Argyle airport, which is now under construction, is expected to become operational in early 2014.

The decision to build a new international airport at Argyle was taken after considering an extension to the existing runway at E.T. Joshua Airport to allow for commercial jet operation. However, the technical advice received indicated that the development of the E.T. Joshua Airport was severely constrained, as it would not be possible to eliminate all of the natural obstacles to aircraft operation at that location. These studies also suggested two other sites on mainland, which are suitable for constructing a new international airport. Government chose Argyle, which was the more cost effective of the two sites.

The Argyle International Airport is being built at a cost of US \$250 million. To realise this long-held-dream of having an international airport on mainland, Government had to put together a creative package of financing, which called for significant amounts of grant and soft loan financing from friendly countries and the sale of Crown lands to raise the government's contribution to the project. This pragmatic, yet creative, financing plan was crafted to avoid borrowing large amounts of money, which could choke the country and leave it with little or no capacity to raise funds for other socially desirable projects. With determination to proceed, Prime Minister Gonsalves succeeded in getting several countries to become part of what he dubbed the Coalition-of-the-Willing, and these countries made sizeable contributions in cash and kind to the project. The Coalition-of-the-willing includes, Cuba, Venezuela, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, Libya, Iran, Mexico, Austria and a regional development fund, the Caricom Development Fund.

When completed, the Argyle International Airport will have a paved runway of 9,000 feet in length and 150 feet in width consuming 275 acres of land. The passenger terminal building, illustrated on the cover, will have both domestic and an international terminals. The building will have three floors with 140-thousand square feet of floor space, and is designed to handle about one and a half million passengers annually. The airport will accommodate jets as large as the Boeing 747-400s and will allow for direct flights to St. Vincent and the Grenadines from USA, Canada, Europe and Central and South America.

After relocating most of the 134 houses that fell within the airport zone, earthworks on the project began on August 13<sup>th</sup> 2008 and are programmed to be completed by September 2013. The laying of base material in preparation for the start of pavement works is expected to begin towards the end of October 2012, while actual pavement works on the runway, aprons and taxiways are scheduled to begin in early 2013 and completed by December 2013. The passenger terminal and other buildings were designed by a Taiwanese firm, CECI Engineering Consultants Inc. Another Taiwanese firm, Overseas Engineering and Construction Company Ltd. won the contract to construct the Passenger Terminal Building, work on which started in August 2011 and is scheduled to be completed by December 2013. The other smaller buildings (Control Tower, Cargo Terminal, and Fire and Rescue Station) are also programmed to be finished by December 2013.

The entity which has responsibility for coordinating all matters pertaining to the financing and construction of the airport and arranging for the effective management of the airport upon completion is the International Airport Development Company Limited (IADCL). This company was incorporated in 2004 under the Companies Act and has a Board of Directors and a Chief Executive Officer.

**International Airport Development Co Ltd.**

**P. O. Box 2817, Argyle, St. Vincent**

**Telephone: 784-458-0333**

**Website: [www.svgiadc.com](http://www.svgiadc.com)**



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

*The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. started its scholarship program in 2005 with the awarding of one bursary in the amount of \$500.00. Each year since then two or three bursaries in the amount of \$1,000.00 each has been available to students with SVG heritage.*

*To date, 14 students have benefitted from the program and shared a total worth \$13,500.00 in bursaries.*

***Congratulations to this year's successful applicants!***

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## ***SVGAT'S ADOPT-A-CHILD PROGRAM***



The Adopt-A-Child Program which was launched in 2007 is intended to assist children in primary schools in St. Vincent and the Grenadines with the necessities to build a good foundation at that stage of their education so that they can enhance it through secondary and tertiary schooling. In Phase 1, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. adopted two children – Donlee Sutherland from the Spring Village Methodist School and Kadesha Nicholls of the Cane End Government School were adopted and in 2012 they both succeeded at the Common Entrance Examinations and have gone on to secondary schools.

Our sincere congratulations to Donlee and Kadesha.

Mr. & Mrs. Allan John who sponsored Kadesha through primary school have agreed to continue their support to her through secondary school. Thanks to Mr. & Mrs. John for their thoughtfulness.

Sponsors are required to assist other children. Sponsorship can be done in the full amount by one person or in combination with others. If you would like to assist a child in St. Vincent and the Grenadines please contact a member of the executive of the Association or send an email to [svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com](mailto:svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com).

## Scholarship Program

### 2012 SVGAT BURSARY RECIPIENT

#### Jasmine Mercedes Homer



Jasmine Homer is a second year student at the University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. She was also accepted into the eminent Trinity College at the University, where many of Canada's political leaders are amongst its alumni. Jasmine is pursuing studies in a double major – Political Science and Ethics, Law and Society. She is an aspiring Attorney and hopes to practice Law in the area of Human Rights. As Jasmine puts it "There are too many things wrong with the world – I want to fix as many of them as I can".

Jasmine has been involved in school and community work from a young age. Through-out High School, where she graduated with the distinction of Ontario Scholar, she was thoroughly involved with school activities, assisting with Parent-Teachers' meetings, fundraising for "Feed the Children" organization, co-coordinating events for Black History Month and Red Cross blood donor days. Most of Jasmine's community work however, has been with the Community Association for Riding for the Disabled (CARD). Over the past several years, Jasmine has volunteered with CARD helping autistic children learn to ride a horse. Jasmine says, "Research has shown that horse-back riding can help improve the lives of children living with autism. Both horse and rider develop an affinity whereby the horse responds to the child and for many children, who are severely handicapped with autism, it is usually the first time the child feels in control because he/she can now communicate. I am happy to help special needs children".

Jasmine recently celebrated her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday and has also recently been involved with the SVGAT helping with the mass mailing of invitations and the food preparation for the Association's recent Membership Drive as well as generally helping with general preparation for this year's Mother's Day event. Jasmine continues to develop her leadership skills through several other extra-curricular activities. At the beginning of the current school year, she took on the responsibility of being a Frosh Leader at U of T and assisted first-year students to become familiar with their new surroundings as well as helping to provide "need to know" information. She is a member of the "Because I'm a Girl" international organization and in her spare time, Jasmine helps her dad teach a physical fitness class to children and adults. This busy young lady says, "My parents are divorced and I live with my dad and brother. As a single parent family, there is only one income so the bursary will help tremendously with my school finances. My dad and I sincerely thank the Association for this scholarship and also the Committee for selecting me."



### 2012 WESTERN UNION / GRACE KENNEDY REMITTANCE RECIPIENT

#### Letisha Mason

I would like to start off by appreciating and thanking the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association for reviewing and accepting my application for this scholarship. Being a young woman coming from a hardworking home I have learned the values and strength of being an independent, self-motivated and respected woman through my mother. Throughout the years I have taken it upon myself to volunteer for numerous children oriented programs and events within Toronto.

These programs include being a section leader in the York Lion Steel Pan Band for three years, working with T.D.S.B. Focus On Youth program and tutoring children in English, reading and math along with many other subjects with The Bowen Academy for Higher Learning.



Some of my academic achievements include graduating from high school with honours in Biology and making it on George Brown's Deans List for both of my semesters by acquiring and maintaining a 3.6 GPA. By awarding me with this scholarship you would help me to further my studies in Event Planning and Management at George Brown College thus enabling me to put on events for various youth groups throughout the city in the years to come.



# Honorary Life Member

*The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association confers the title of Honorary Life Membership on a member who by his or her efforts over a minimum period of ten (10) years significantly contributed directly or indirectly to the work and advancement of the Association. An honorary life member shall be entitled to all the privileges of a financial member. An Honorary Life Member does not pay an annual membership fee.*

*At the Association's monthly general meeting held on September 27, 2012 the membership voted in favour of a motion to name Mr. Gideon Exeter to join the list of its members to become an Honorary Life Member.*

## **GIDEON LAMONT EXETER**

Gideon Exeter came to Canada in the early 1980's and joined the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association in 1984. He was elected Treasurer at the first Annual General Meeting he attended in January 1985. Since then, Gideon has served on the Executive for numerous years in various capacities including two times, 2003 and 2007 as President.

Over the years Gideon has chaired several Ad Hoc and Standing Committees, and has made quite an impact with his contributions to the Relief Committee, Independence Committee, Public Relations Committee and the Constitution Committee. I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Gideon for several years on both the Relief Committee and the Constitutional Review Committee. In discussion, debate and decision making, his contributions were always well thought out, direct and fair. Gideon is generous with his time, talent and money without measure. I don't need to tell you how Vincentians here in Toronto, and at home, have benefited from his generosity.



The Scholarship Program of which we are so very proud, the Adopt-A-Child Program and the Christmas Hamper Project all bear his mark. In fact, it was Gideon's personal sponsorship of a child in St. Vincent that gave us (the SVGAT) the blueprint and impetus to run with sponsorship on our own. He was instrumental in the formation of the Past President's Council, the Scholarship Program and the Adopt-A-Child Program.

Gideon is recognized as one of the outstanding fundraisers for the Association. Through his relationship with businesses and his networking capabilities he has enabled the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association to receive sponsorships in products and cash for many of its activities, including the much needed Christmas Hamper Outreach Program.

Aside from his direct contributions to the life of the Association, Gideon has been a representative or had close working relationships on outside committees such as CCECA, National Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Associations in Canada, the Unity Picnic Committee and the Council of Caribbean Associations - Canada. Whenever one is asked by Gideon to assist our community and especially the SVGAT in anyway, it is very difficult to refuse. As a result of his efforts, many Vincentians in Toronto have moved from the margins to the mainstreams of our Organization.

In order to do as much as he did for the Association and our community Gideon has been ably assisted by his family who may from time to time have felt they were being neglected. He however enjoys a healthy family life.

Gideon has three adult sons – Lamont, Lance and Jamaal from his first marriage. He is currently married to Nichole and has a step-daughter, Alia. He is employed as a Pre-Planning Director & Family Counsellor with Arbor Memorial Services Inc.

*Submitted by Grace Stephen*





***Olive Rose Steele***

Motivational Speaker

Author of:

***And When We Pray***

Suggestions and Prayers for Living in Spirit

***Great is Thy Faithfulness***

Insights for Seekers of Self

***Cry Tough***

A Novel

St. Vincent and the Grenadines attained Independence from Great Britain on October 27, 1979.

Happy Independence Anniversary Greetings to all St. Vincent and the Grenadines Nationals at home and in the Diaspora. May God truly bless our country, its leaders and people.

**INDEPENDENCE  
BANQUET COMMITTEE**

*Shelley John, Chairperson*

*Monique Alexander*

*Elisabeth Vanloo*

*Claudius Samuel*

*Fred Williams*

*Marcia Farrell*

*Gideon Exeter*

\*\*\*\*\*

**INDEPENDENCE THANKSGIVING CHURCH  
SERVICE COMMITTEE**

*Monique Alexander, Coordinator*

*Fred Williams*

\*\*\*\*\*

**2012 INDEPENDENCE TOWN HALL  
MEETING COMMITTEE**

*Shelley John Elisabeth Vanloo*

*Co-Chairs*

\*\*\*\*\*

**BROCHURE COORDINATOR**

*Gideon Exeter*

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS TO SVG  
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Our sincere thanks to those companies and individuals that provided assistance to this publication, to *Insight* (the quarterly newsletter of the Association) and to the upkeep of our website, [www.vincytoronto.com](http://www.vincytoronto.com). Please support these companies when and where possible.

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

***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 St. Luke's Anglican Church, Toronto.

## ***IMMIGRATION MATTERS: CANADA IMPOSES VISA UPON VINCENTIANS AND ST. LUCIANS***

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Namibia, Botswana and Swaziland had their 911 alarm bells ringing on September 11<sup>th</sup> when Jason Kenney, the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism of Canada, announced that nationals from these countries will now require a visa to travel to Canada. This new requirement took effect at 12:01 am on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada's September 11<sup>th</sup> news release "A key reason why the Government has imposed visa requirements on St. Lucia and St. Vincent is unreliable travel documents." In essence, the concern appears to be the ease at which persons, particularly criminals and persons who had been removed from Canada, can gain entry into Canada via the acquisition of a new passport. Over the years stories had also been circulating within our communities about nationals of other countries who may have difficulty in obtaining a visa from their country to travel to Canada has been using St. Vincent and St. Lucia as a gateway by obtaining the passport and travelling to Canada under the guise of being a Vincentian or St. Lucian citizen. Once a passport has been obtained, these individuals can then travel with ease to Canada because no visa was required.

Minister Kenney was also quoted as saying "these visa requirements will give us a greater ability to manage the flow of people into Canada." Well, it certainly will limit the volume of persons with Vincentian or St. Lucian passports that will be embarking from international flights into Canada's major airports.

### **Visa Application Process**

In order to be granted a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) commonly known as a visa, to come to Canada, applicants will have to satisfy the visa officer that they have strong enough ties, such as a job, house, other assets, and family, that will serve as a good incentive for them to return home; that they will leave Canada at the end of their visit; and that they have enough money for the duration of their stay and based on the nature and circumstances of their visit.

These tasks may seem simple and straight forward but it can be difficult to convince an officer based on the information stated in black and white on the application forms. Some cases may warrant an interview and so the applicant will need to be able to afford the costs of travel and likely overnight stay in Port of Spain to attend at the interview.

A good source of information regarding how to apply for a TRV is to visit the Port of Spain website at [trinidadandtobago.gc.ca](http://trinidadandtobago.gc.ca). Go to the visas and immigration section, scroll to the section entitled "Our Services" and click on the link that says "visit". Via this link one will learn that inclusive of the three points I've mentioned above one also need to be in possession of a valid passport, be in good health and not have any admissibility issues. There are two types of visas, single entry and multiple entry to chose from. If the intent is to travel to Canada two or more time within the next five years it is advisable to apply for the multiple entry visa. The current processing fees for these two visa are CAD\$75 and CAD\$150 respectively. There is also a family rate of CAD\$400.

The application forms, information guide, and a document checklist can also be downloaded and completed via this website. The document checklist lists a series of supporting documents that may be submitted along with the completed application forms (i.e: proof of employment, proof of earnings, proof of ownership of assets, etc.). This checklist serves as a guideline and provides general information only and so I strongly recommend that applicants provide as much relevant supporting documents that could be deemed necessary to support their unique situation and circumstances. At present, applicants must submit their complete application package via mail (preferably courier) or in person to the Port of Spain visa office.

Residents of Canada who wish to invite family, relatives and/or friends to visit should provide a strong invitation letter stating your name, address, date of birth, the relationship you have the person whom you are inviting, the nature and duration of the applicant's visit, accommodations to be provided, etc. Supporting documents such as proof of income, proof of status in Canada, etc., should also be provided.

It is important to note that the acquisition of a visa does not necessarily guarantee entrance into Canada. Being the holder of a valid visa only permits the foreign national to come to the port of entry (POE) and seek entrance into Canada. It is the discretionary decision of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) officer at the POE to confirm that the foreign national meet the requirements for admission to Canada and thus decide if the foreign national may be allowed entry and for how long. Foreign nationals may be subjected to examinations (interviews and searches) prior to being granted entry into Canada.

While this whole entire visa and entry process may seem too complicated to Vincentians and St. Lucians, take heart in knowing that the majority of the Caribbean countries have been undergoing this process for a number of years now. There is only a few remaining Caribbean countries who do not require a visa to enter Canada.

***Sandra Sutherland is a Certified Canadian Immigration Consultant (CCIC). She can be reached at (416) 431-2829 or via e-mail at [ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com](mailto:ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com). View her advertisement on page 22.***

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## Membership Has Its Rewards



Through the Arbor Alliance Program offered by Memorial Gardens Canada, **financial members** of St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. (SVGAT) and their families are eligible for preferential pricing on cemetery and funeral services and products.

**Financial members** and their immediate family are eligible for a 10% discount on products and services when pre-purchased, and a 5% discount when purchased at the time of need at any of the company's funeral homes or cemeteries.

Planning ahead allows you to enhance your family's security, spare them unnecessary emotional strain, and potentially save hundreds, even thousands of dollars.

To find out more about the Arbor Alliance Program and the benefits allowed to members please visit [www.arboralliances.ca](http://www.arboralliances.ca) or contact **Gideon Exeter** of Pine Ridge Memorial Gardens by email at [gexeter@arbormemorial.com](mailto:gexeter@arbormemorial.com) or phone 416-992-4253.

## golden banana

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The Executive Committee on behalf of the members of the Association herewith expresses condolences to those in our community who have recently lost a loved one. May they rest in peace. 20

## SCENES FROM 2012 SVG UNITY PICNIC 1000 ISLANDS, ONTARIO

One of the largest gatherings of SVG nationals outside of SVG



This greeting says it all



Unity Picnic Committee & Park Representatives



What is a picnic without a beach?



One of the many vendors



Section of the thousands that gather each year



Is The Price Right?

*(Photographs courtesy of Alfred "Jack" Dear, SVGAM President & SVGUPC Member)*

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This program cannot replace diabetes education classes. To get more information on diabetes and how to manage it, there may be other programs in your community.



**To register for more information, please call:**  
**Marcia Farrell – 647-716-0181 or**  
**Prudence Morton – 905-787-1009.**

**An invitation is extended to members and other  
interested persons to attend the**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.**

**Sunday, January 27, 2013 @ 5:00 p.m.**

**Northwood Community Centre  
15 Clubhouse Court (Keele & Arleta), Downsview**

**The agenda will include:**

**Review of the activities for the previous year**  
**Reports from committees**  
**Input from members**  
**Election of officers for the new term**

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or one of the supporting committees to help in  
building the organization and your community.**

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## ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC CALENDAR OF EVENTS October 2012 – February 2013

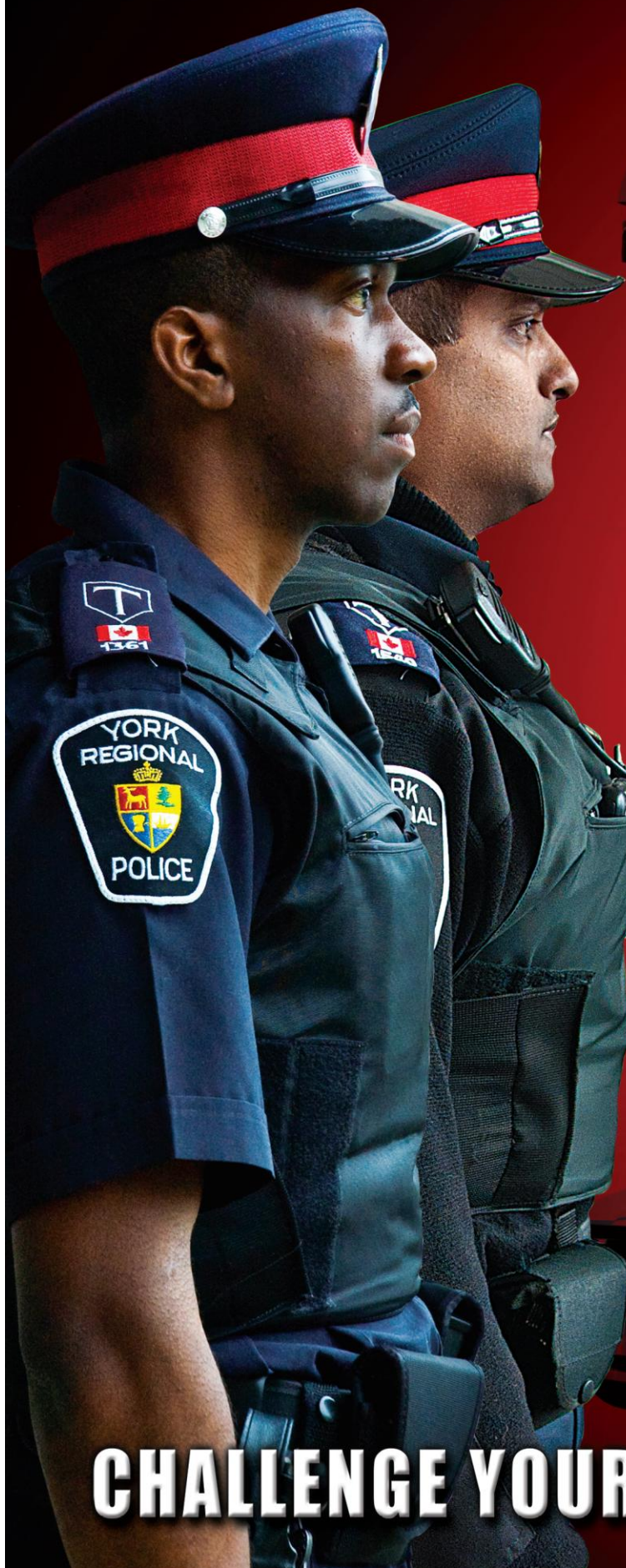
Sunday, October 28	Community Forum	York Civic Centre, 2700 Eglinton Ave. W
Saturday, November 3,10,17,24	Prevention Diabetes – Workshop	Northwood Community Centre *
Sunday, November 25	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Saturday, December 8	Children's Christmas Party	Northwood Community Centre
Saturday, December 22	Christmas Hamper Outreach	Community Event
Sunday, January 27	Annual General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Saturday, February 2, 9, 16, 23	Prevention Diabetes – Workshop	Northwood Community Centre *

**\* To register or for more information please call: Marcia Farrell - 647-716-0181, Or  
 Prudence Morton – 905-787-1009**

### Addresses & Directions:

**Northwood Community Centre**, 15 Clubhouse Court, (off Arleta between Keele & Jane Streets)  
**St. Luke's Anglican Church** – 904 Coxwell Avenue, East York (Coxwell & Cosburn)  
**Riviera Parque Banquet & Conference Centre**, 2800 Hwy7 West at Jane Street, Concord  
**York Civic Centre**, 2700 Eglinton Ave West at Keele, Toronto

*The island of St. Vincent was formerly known as Hairouna before Christopher Columbus and his crew visited there in 1498. At independence in 1979, along with its 31 islands and cays the country became known as St. Vincent and the Grenadines.*



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