

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

# **SVG Independence Gala**

Saturday, October 24, 2015

Educate

Inspire

Transform

**The Woodbine Banquet and Convention Centre**



## 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.

## St. Vincent and the Grenadines TORONTO CONSULATE OFFICE

55 Town Centre Court, Suite 624  
Toronto, Ontario, M1P 4X4  
(next to the Scarborough Town Centre)

**Mr. Fitzgerald Huggins, Consul General**

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

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

## *Our Appreciation*

The Independence Planning Committee (IPC) on behalf of the Executive and membership of the St. Vincent and 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 36th anniversary of the independence of our country possible. We thank our sponsors.

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2015 Independence Anniversary Celebrations*



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## *National Anthems*



O Canada! Our home and native land  
True patriot love in all thy sons command  
With glowing 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.



# *Programme*

## *Cocktails*

### *Welcome and Introduction of Emcees*

Mr. E. Bernard John & Ms. Zakiya Hutchinson

Ms. Sandra Bobb- Co-chair Independence Committee

### *Anthems* - Ms. Margaret Williams

National Anthem of Canada

National Anthem of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

### *Invocation* - Ms. Charmaine Williams

## *Dinner*

### *Musical Interlude*

### *Special Entertainment*

Ms. Margaret Williams

Mr. Gideon James

### *President's Remarks & Scholarship Presentations*

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

### *Council of Caribbean Associations Canada Presentations*

Ms. Claudia Davis Ewan, President - Council of Caribbean Associations Canada

### *Greetings from SVG*

Mr. Fitzgerald Huggins - Consul General, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

### *Keynote Address*

Ms. Lavinia Latham – Barrister/Solicitor

### *Special Award Presentations & Toast to the Nation* - Consul General

### *Special Entertainment* - Gideon James

### *Vote of Thanks* - Mrs Prudence Morton - Public Relations Officer

*Dance to the sounds of Julian McIntosh & the Thunderbolts D.J. Fusion and Victorious*



# Menu

## Cocktails

*Cocktail Samosa, Cheese Tray  
Spring Rolls, Chicken Fingers*

## Soup

*Cream of Asparagus*

## Salad

*Garden Salad - Combination of Romaine & Boston Bib Lettuce, Endive & Radicchio blended with  
Julienne Bell Peppers, Cucumbers & Tomatoes in a Roasted Red Pepper Vinaigrette Dressing*

## Main Course

*Chicken Florentine*

*6oz Chicken Breast stuffed with Spinach and Ricotta Cheese*

*Grilled Fresh Salmon - Pink Salmon served with White Wine Dill Sauce*

*Seasoned Toasted Potatoes and Vegetable Medley with Asparagus*

## Dessert

*Raspberry Mirror Gateaux with fresh berries*

*Fresh Fruit Salad*

*Coffee, Tea, Espresso*



## Our Guest Speaker

**Lavinia Latham**  
**B.A., J.D.**

**Barrister/Solicitor**



Ms Lavinia Latham is a multi-talented young woman. She is a litigation lawyer who was called to the bar this past January. Ms

Latham is a sole practitioner having founded her own law firm in August of this year, the Law Office of Lavinia Latham. Aside from running her own legal practice, Miss Latham is a social activist, professional public speaker, and an up and coming actress and talk show host.

Prior to becoming such a dynamic, multi-talented professional, Ms. Latham attended Carleton University where she achieved her undergraduate degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice. After receiving her degree, Miss Latham went on to achieve her Juris Doctor degree in English Common Law from the University of Ottawa.

While a student at Carlton University, Ms. Latham worked diligently towards eradicating racism within the legal profession. As National President of the Black Law Students' Association of Canada, she raised over \$80,000 in sponsorship funds towards alleviating systemic discrimination and racism within the legal profession. Her tireless efforts during her presidency allowed the Black Law Students Association of Canada to wipe out the organization's historical deficit.

Receiving her law degree and operating her very own law firm were Ms. Latham's life-long dreams. Today, she continues to operate the Law Office of Lavinia Latham Law while also pursuing her new dream of having her very own talk show.

## Our MCs

**E. B. John**

Born in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, he attended the Belair, Richmond Hill and Kingstown Preparatory primary schools, then entered the St. Vincent Boys' Grammar School.

He is a graduate of the University of the West Indies and is a Diplomate in Mass Communication obtained at the Mona Campus, and a Master in Business Administration attained at the Cave Hill Campus. He also received training as a broadcaster at the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

For most of his working life, he was attached to Radio St. Vincent and the Grenadines, beginning as an announcer and retiring twenty-five years later as General Manager – a position he held for ten years.

His other public service activities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines include: Chairman of the National Broadcasting Corporation, Commandant of the Cadet Corps, Commandant of the Auxiliary Police Force, Public Relations Officer of both the Football and Squash Associations, President of the Lions' Club South and Lions' Zone Chairman – being responsible for the clubs in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada.

From 2002 to 2006, he served as St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Consul General to Canada, based in Toronto, and is now the Liaison Officer for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in Toronto.



**Zakiya Hutchinson**

A young lady with poise, sophistication and class, Zakiya, among other endeavours, writes poetry. She has, on many occasions, shared her poems at events held by the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto (SVGAT). The daughter of Bernadette (Petra) and Kuwassi Hutchinson, long-standing members and supporters of the SVGAT, and the sister of the also very talented Munirah Hutchinson, one of this year's Scholarship recipients, Zakiya knows what it means to volunteer for the Association. It means taking on responsibilities such as helping out with the Independence Church Service, planning, buying and wrapping presents for the Children's Christmas Party and always ready to lend a helping hand wherever assistance is needed. As one of the hosts of this Gala, we thank Zakiya for all of her assistance in and appreciate her willingness to be an MC at this event.

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

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**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES  
WEST INDIES**



**MESSAGE FROM DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH E. GONSALVES, PRIME MINISTER,  
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES TO MARK THE THIRTY-SIXTH (36TH) ANNIVERSARY  
OF INDEPENDENCE**

As we celebrate the thirty-sixth (36th) anniversary of our Nation's independence in various locations and commemorative activities that mirror our diversity, I take this opportunity to extend warm greetings and congratulations to all Vincentians, whether residing at home or abroad.

I want to greet in a special way the Board of Directors, Executive, members and friends of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Incorporated (SVGAT). I am heartened by your efforts to join with Vincentians around the world in commemorating our country's Independence, and note that you are doing so under the theme "Inspire, Educate, Transform." I acknowledge and commend all your efforts to celebrate our Vincentian identity and culture in your annual activities and programmes.

As a Nation, we have achieved a tremendous milestone, and have done so while remaining true to our belief in the supremacy of Almighty God, true to our shared ideals of Nationhood and Independence, true to our sense of self and identity, and committed to each other's welfare and well-being, our own advancement and to the overall development of our tiny Nation.

We have been confronted by many adversities over the years. In every instance, we have been able to overcome and succeed despite the odds, despite our small size, and despite our vulnerability and limited resources. We have in the process been inspired by each other's love, strength and selflessness.

Together, we continue to work to achieve our goal of transforming and improving the social and economic landscape of this Nation. In all that we do, our people remain at the centre of our vision. We remain committed to providing quality education and health care for all Vincentians. We continue to make substantial investments in the social safety nets designed to meet the needs of our poor, elderly and disabled while respecting their individuality and dignity. We continue to create, source and otherwise provide opportunities that will enable all to realise their potential, and, in so doing, participate fully and excel in their chosen fields of endeavour.

I have every confidence that the strength and grace that have brought us to victory time and again in the past and which continue to sustain us in the present, will guarantee our continued triumph in the future, always with the grace of Almighty God.

Again I extend best wishes to all. *Happy Thirty-sixth (36th) Anniversary of Independence!*

May Almighty God continue to bless and keep us all.

Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves  
Prime Minister





Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario



October 27, 2015

### **A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER**

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to members of the Vincentian community as you mark the 36th anniversary of the independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines .

I stand with you as you celebrate the journey that culminated in the country's independence.

Canada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines enjoy close bilateral relations based on our Commonwealth heritage, trade and investment links, tourism, and ties of family and friendship.

Our province is proud to be home to a dynamic community of Vincentians. This community has strengthened the links between our two jurisdictions and helped build the multicultural success story that is Ontario.

Our government will continue to work with our diverse communities to develop our people's talents, strengthen our links within the business community and provide opportunity for everyone to grow and be the best they can be.

Have a joyous celebration!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Wynne".

**Kathleen Wynne**  
**Premier**



## Consulate General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

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### **SVGAT 36th Independence Message from Consul General Huggins**

Fellow Vincentians

On behalf of the Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Staff of the Consulate General of St Vincent and the Grenadines and my family, I extend warmest greetings and congratulations of the All Vincentians on the celebration of our 36th Independence anniversary.

This year we celebrate our Independence under the theme “Working Together to Enhance National Pride”.

Working Together means that the Diaspora must be considered not only as a group of persons who remit money and help out in times of disaster, but as an extended constituency whose ideas and involvement must play a significant role in our development. Our partisan political divide is real and the call to work together must be met with the will by ALL to do so. People are looking for effective and meaningful leadership from our leaders. They must lead the way and practically exercise that will to unite ALL of our people so we can work together. With the development in technology, absentee voting cannot only be seen as an aspiration but a reality so that one day our Diaspora community will be practically involved in our democracy.

On reflection over those 36 years since Independence, our country’s national status has improved exponentially. Vincentians at home and abroad are extremely proud to fly our national flag and wear our national colours. National Pride can only be enhanced by the way we treat our national symbols and the positive messages that we communicate about our beloved country. Our foreign policy has extended beyond our traditional friends, United States, Britain and Canada. We are friends of all and enemies of none. St Vincent and the Grenadines has become one of the most recognisable and respected nation in the hemisphere and we should be proud of that fact.

Thirty six (36) years as an Independent nation has not been a walk in the park. The removal of protection for our bananas to Britain, eruption of our La Soufriere volcano, rising oil prices, threats from communicable diseases like AIDS, EBOLA and Chikungunya in the Caribbean, the effects of Global Warming and Climate Change, recent December floods that destroyed 17% of our GDP were all significant setbacks to our economy. Our home grown Foreign policy has brought us significant gains and our country is on a steady path of development. Our economy is on a transformational path with the introduction of Green Energy through the discovery of Geothermal potential, the Argyle International Airport, the Education Revolution, diversification of the Agricultural sector, the modernization of the Health sector and care for the poor and vulnerable.

Your theme for this year’s celebrations is “Inspire Educate Transform”. Inspiration comes through setting the right examples in how we live practically with people in our community. Education is the tool used to fight poverty and contribute to the growth of many communities and nations. As a community we are still too divided. I challenge ALL our group leaders to lead by example and let’s work together to inspire and educate our people so that we can achieve that goal of transforming our people to enhance national pride.

Our job at the Consulate is to offer quality service to the Canadian Diaspora community. As Consul General, I assure you that we will deliver quality service. You deserve it.

I want to convey congratulations and best wishes to the SVGAT for this your 47th anniversary of the founding of the Association and God’s richest blessings on your organisation.





### **Message from the Mayor**

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 36<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebration hosted by the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

The independence of a country is a momentous occasion and a wonderful time to reflect on the culture, values and history of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. As you gather with family, friends and the community to celebrate this occasion, you can be extremely proud of your rich culture and traditions and reflect upon the values we all share and treasure - peace, freedom and democracy.

We join you in celebrating this special anniversary and thank you for contributing to the diversity and vibrancy of our city.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, I thank everyone involved in organizing this event and extend my best wishes for a memorable Independence Day celebration.

Yours truly,

**Mayor John Tory**  
City of Toronto



**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES  
ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.**

***MRS MARCIA FARRELL***

Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives great pleasure to welcome you here tonight to celebrate St. Vincent and the Grenadines's 36th Anniversary of Independence. As we meet, greet and rekindle friendships, let us remind ourselves that whatever we do it must be done in a way that will inspire, educate, and transform lives positively.

Almost four years ago, the Association embarked on a journey to redefine its goals and objectives; to bring cohesive social services as an element of continuation of our founding fathers. This did not materialize as planned because of unforeseen circumstances which had us re-examine our activities' goals and objectives, availability of human resources, supervisory roles, monitoring and conducting projects, setting-up volunteer screening and reviewing security mechanisms. Suffice to say, the need for youths to get involved is now. Therefore, I am using this forum to encourage youths and young adults present or reading this article to volunteer with the Association at Board, Executive, and or Committee levels for the good of other youths and young adults. We as community organizations need to extend ourselves to youths by supporting and providing programs that will inspire, educate and transform lives and rebuild dreams so youths can believe again.

We need to believe again in an organization that allows youths to lead unsupervised, think unsupervised, act unsupervised and strengthen each other unsupervised. This is the dream that I envision for our youths to rise up and reclaim their rightful position in partnership with adults and seniors building youth-oriented platforms for themselves with skills acquired from the schools, colleges, universities, Training Schools and recreation environment.

The organization is exploring going in different directions where youths can express and utilize their skills and gifts in every walk of life without being criticised, or marginalized. The time is NOW for us to make a stand to make a difference. Let us do it! Educators stand up! Entrepreneurs stand up! Legal professionals stand up! Mothers stand up! Fathers stand up! Brothers stand up! Sisters stand up! It does not matter your placement in life, the most important aspect in life is to know that we can mentor one youth at a time as I prepare to embark on another journey, the journey of Academic studies at Schulich School of Business, York University in January 2016, after four terms in office with the Association.

Let me take this opportunity to thank my family for their patience since January 2012 while I volunteer with the Association as President and Chair, The Board and Executive for working together to make our community better, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Associations/ organizations in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa for their loyalty to all things Vincentian and supporting me as President since 2012. The strong men and women I greatly admired: Kenneth Farrell, Drucina Stephens Laidlow, Fred Williams, Pearl Woods, Eldine Barnwell, Monty Providence, Claudius Samuel, Elroy Joseph, Kinda Keizer, B Petra Ryan-Phillips, Maxine Adams, Sandra Bobb, Charmaine Williams, Grace Stephens, Hulda Defreitas, Prudence Morton, Peter Morton, Erline Granderson, Kinda Edwards-Keizer, Alfred Compton, Raymond England, Helena Williams, and Fitzgerald Huggins. And, most importantly, God, who loves me with an everlasting love, thanks to him for strength and shelter during the year 2015.

Let us continue supporting The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto and build for a brighter future for our youths. Remember we are all responsible to inspire, educate, and transform lives entrusted in our care.

Happy 36th Independence and May God bless us all richly.







October 2015

Dear Nationals of St Vincent and the Grenadines:

Greetings and congratulations on your 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence! The Council of Caribbean Associations (Canada) is delighted to celebrate this special occasion with you.

As a founding member of CCAC, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto has been and continues to be a strong partner with our organization. We admire and respect the work you have done for your SVG community here and at home. We are proud to have you as a team member and look forward to our continued partnership.

As a Caribbean community, we must continue to use our associations to showcase our culture with and for each other so our next generation can learn and be proud of what we hold so dear. We must use our collective strengths to be a positive and reliable resource to uplift our Caribbean community as we encourage and support each other. After all, when spider webs unite, they can indeed tie up a lion.

Through strong inspiration and education of ourselves and individuals in our community, we **can** no doubt experience positive transformation within our wider Caribbean community. So let us **inspire**, **educate** and **transform** together to build a strong "One Caribbean community."

Best wishes for a fun and successful celebration!

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Ewan".

Claudia Davis Ewan  
President

*Have patience with all things but first with yourself. Never confuse your mistakes with your value as a human being. You are a perfectly valuable, creative, worthwhile person simply because you exist. And no amount of triumphs and tribulations can ever change that. Unconditional self-acceptance is the core of a peaceful mind.*  
*Saint Francis de Sales*

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When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion!



# Scholarship Award Recipients



## MUNIRAH HUTCHINSON

A first year student at Guelph University, Munirah is pursuing a major in Anthropology and aims to study the people and culture of the Caribbean with a focus on St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Munirah is a young lady who stands out - academically, musically and athletically. This high achiever graduated high school as an Ontario Scholar. Munirah received the Avid Reader Award and is a proficient player of the French Horn. She also plays the violin, the trombone and the saxophone and reads music.

Munirah is a force to be reckoned with when it comes to sports. She's received numerous awards for excelling in this area. Munirah is the recipient of the YMCI Senior Female Athlete of the Year award, the YMCI Athletic Honour Plaque and the YMCI's Senior Letter and the YMCI's Junior Letter. She plays Rugby, Cricket and Field Hockey. She received the School's Girls Varsity Rugby MVP award for the 2013-2014 season in Cricket and received the CIMA Mayor's Tournament Female MVP of 2014; was ranked Third Best Batter in Toronto in the 2013-2014 Mayor's Tournament, and was awarded the All Rounder award for 2015. In Field Hockey, Munirah was promoted to co-captain and was awarded the Girls Varsity Field Hockey MVP for the 2014-2015 season.

Munirah's love of sports also included Soccer, Track and Field, Basketball and Softball which she played in her earlier years. As busy as she was with schoolwork and sports, Munirah found time to volunteer with the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto (SVGAT). She was always ready to help when asked to by other community Associations such as the Union Island Cultural Association and the Council of Caribbean Associations Canada. Volunteering in the SVGAT is a family affair in Munirah's household. Her parents, Kuwassi Hutchinson and Bernadette Ryan-Phillips were members of the SVGAT even before Munirah was born. They have contributed to the Association in many ways over the years and more recently, her Mom, Bernadette, better known as Petra in the SVGAT, is the family's main supporter of the Association. Munirah puts it this way, "I was born into the Association ... and I hold my heritage very dear. I consider my Vincentian heritage to be a central part of my identity even though I was not fortunate enough to be born on the island".

One of Munirah's teachers had this to say about her, "Munirah has excellent analytical skills and is able to adopt multiple perspectives on various issues...most important she is interested in learning for its own sake not just for grades. This is a rare quality among high school students these days".

We congratulate Munirah on all her accomplishments and wish her all the best as she continues her quest for knowledge.



## LAMAR FOYLE

A third year student at the university of Toronto majoring in African studies with a double minor in Mathematics and Philosophy. Lamar's goal is to become a high school teacher/guidance counsellor. He believes that children are the future and would like to help young students succeed.

Lamar is of Vincentian-Canadian parentage and has led a very active life, outside of his academic studies, in sports and community work. While at high school, Lamar was elected vice president of his school's student council, was the captain of the football team for three years, won several honours and awards for outstanding work. On graduation, Lamar won both the Spirit Award and the Jack Quigley Memorial Award for demonstrating both athletic and community involvement. He played rep football for the Toronto Argonauts for two years and is currently an assistant defensive coach for the Junior Varsity Team.

Lamar has been volunteering at Urban Promise for the last four years. Urban Promise is a non-profit Christian-based organization that aims to reach children in Toronto Community Housing and help them to become leaders. Lamar has worked both as a street leader and as a summer program director where he was responsible for overseeing Urban Promise's entire summer program.

Mr. Chris Jong, site supervisor at Urban Promise, has this to say about Lamar, "Lamar is a positive role model for our kids and is someone who we truly believe will restore and renew our community...he is not afraid to take on new challenges, overcome adversities and learn with humility. He shows integrity and character in his daily living and has a natural gift for leading others and connecting with various types of people and personalities".

Lamar's achieving streak may be a "chip off the family' block". His cousin, Adonal Foyle, is a retired professional basketball player who spent 13 successful years playing for three different teams in the NBA. He was inducted into the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame in 2001 and founded "Democracy Matters", a non-partisan student organization, as an effort to counteract political apathy on college campuses. In 2005, Adonal founded the "Kerosene Lamp Foundation" which serves children in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to empower their growth into healthy and well-educated leaders.

Congratulations Lamar! We wish you the best in all your undertakings!





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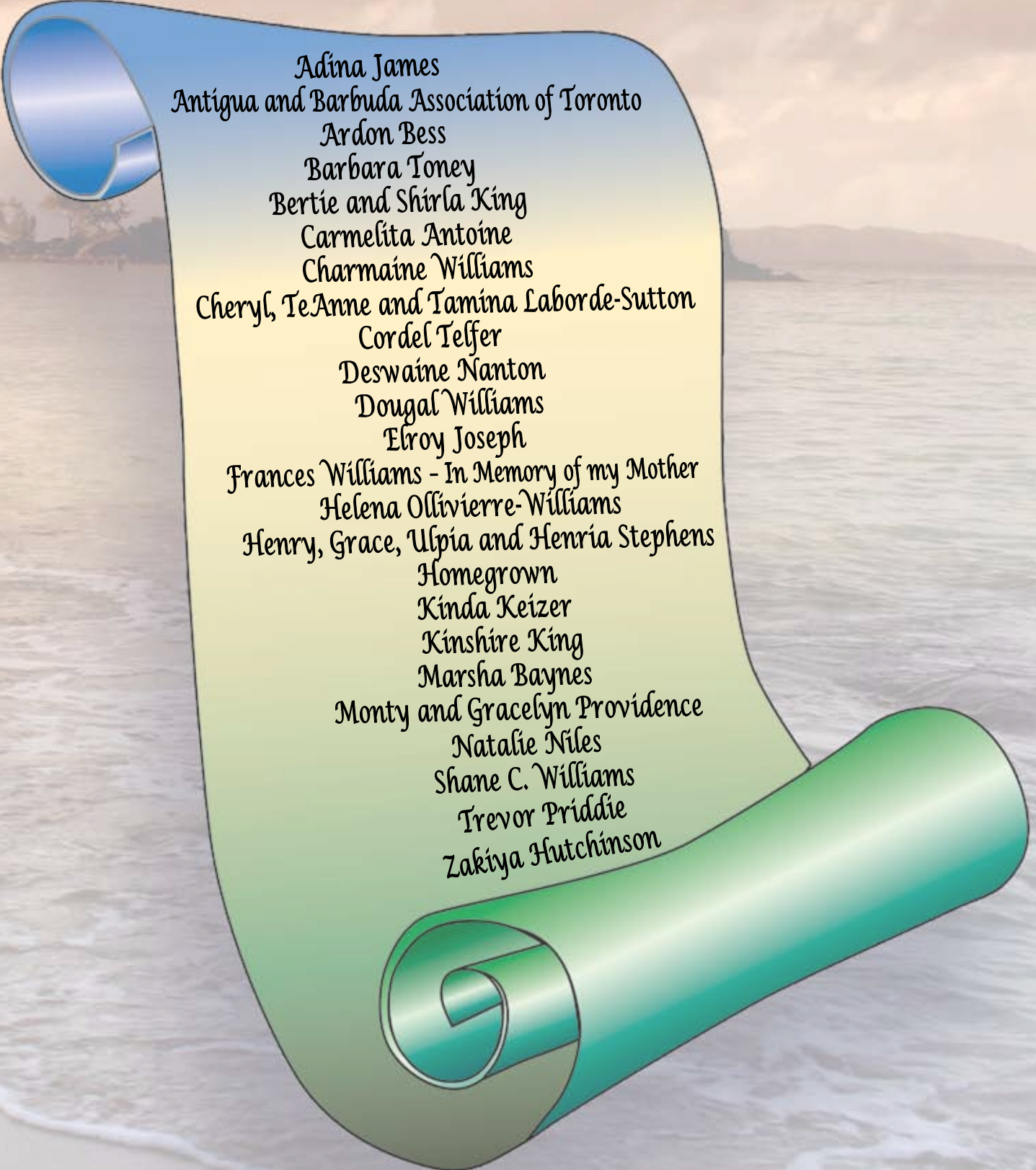
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# *Congratulations on the 36th Anniversary of SVG Independence*



Adina James  
Antigua and Barbuda Association of Toronto  
Ardon Bess  
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Charmaine Williams  
Cheryl, TeAnne and Tamina Laborde-Sutton  
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Elroy Joseph  
Frances Williams - In Memory of my Mother  
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## Honouring an SVG Music Icon Frankie McIntosh



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Frankie McIntosh is being honoured with a Sunshine Award. The view from many in the Caribbean music industry is that an award for this well-loved and universally respected musician is long overdue. Frankie McIntosh was honoured by his country, St Vincent and the Grenadines with a postal stamp.

Among this year's honorees for Sunshine Awards Hall of Fame, which will be held on October 3 in Manhattan, is the legendary soca music arranger and keyboardist Frankie McIntosh.

Since the mid-1970s, McIntosh has arranged over 2,500 songs and led recording sessions with almost every important calypsonian and soca artist in the Caribbean. He is a member of the elite pantheon of arrangers, including Ed Watson, Leston Paul, Clive Bradley, and Pelham Goddard, who helped forge the revolutionary soca style in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

For many McIntosh's award is long overdue. St Vincent and the Grenadines leader Dr Ralph Gonsalves noted, "He is a Caribbean music icon who has rendered exceptional service as a musician, arranger, and producer. He has unselfishly contributed his talents to mold and help develop younger Caribbean artists." His country has already given McIntosh the rare honour of putting him on a stamp.

Dr Hollis Liverpool, the calypsonian Chalkdust, who worked with McIntosh on numerous recordings reflected: "Frankie is one of those Caribbean geniuses whom we often take for granted. As a Calypsonian on the stage, if I happen to glimpse him as a musician in the band, I know my calypso performance will reach close to perfection."

Frankie McIntosh was born in Kingstown, St Vincent in 1946. His father, Arthur McIntosh, led a popular dance orchestra, the Melotones. The band played primarily instrumental dance orchestrations of calypso, Latin, and American standards, but members gathered at the McIntosh home on Sunday afternoons for jazz jam sessions.

Frankie took piano lessons as a youngster starting at age nine, then joined his father's band at age ten and formed his own band by age 14. After graduating high school and teaching in Antigua for three years,

Frankie McIntosh migrated to New York and began studying music at Brooklyn College in 1968.

While earning a bachelor's degree in music at Brooklyn College and an MA in music at New York University, he played keyboards with several Caribbean and American R&B groups, and he jammed with leading New York jazz musicians. He trained under many leading musicians including John Lewis of the Modern Jazz Quartet and Chopin expert Zenon Fishbein.

McIntosh's first foray into calypso came in the summer of 1976 when Becket, a St Vincent calypsonian who had recently relocated to New York, approached him about tightening up several of his calypso arrangements for an upcoming Manhattan boat-ride engagement.

The two hit it off, and shortly after McIntosh arranged his first calypso recordings for Becket's 1977 Disco Calypso album, which included Becket's most popular song, Coming High. Today the piece is considered classic early soca, and is widely admired for McIntosh's ingenious use of advanced harmonies, sophisticated jazz solos, and rhythmic break/groove sections.

Granville Straker, Brooklyn's premiere record producer at the time, was highly impressed with the Becket recordings, and in 1978 approached McIntosh about arranging for his label. The two Vincentians would go on to forge a musical alliance that would last for decades.

McIntosh became musical director for Straker's Records, organising the house recording band and arranging for dozens of Straker's calypsonians including Chalkdust, Shadow, Calypso Rose, Winston Soso, Poser, Lord Nelson, Singing Francine, Duke, King Wellington, and others. He would eventually go on to arrange for Brooklyn's other major calypso/soca labels, Charlie's Records and B's Records.

As the music moved into the 1980s McIntosh emerged at the forefront of the new soca style, with arrangements famous for their innovative horn lines, catchy synthesiser figures, and sophisticated harmonic settings.

Though McIntosh maintained his permanent residence in Brooklyn, his influence was felt throughout the Caribbean. Classic calypsos that won the Trinidad Calypso Monarch for Chalk Dust in 1981 (Things That Worry Me) and 1989 (Chauffer Wanted), and the Road March for Sparrow in 1984 (Doh Back Back) and for Duke in 1987 (Thunder) featured McIntosh arrangements.

McIntosh is held in the highest esteem by musicians and singers alike. Calypso King of the World Mighty Sparrow commented: "Frankie's unique style and approach for the task at hand puts him ahead of his time. His depth is unfathomable and he is a gifted musician."

Soca giant Explainer recalled, "The greatest arrangement I ever had on any song was Frankie McIntosh's work on 'Lorraine.' I met him in Brooklyn around 1980 and gave him the basic melody and the lyrics. What he gave me back was the whole song—he did the bass line, the horns, the chords, everything. Back then I wasn't even sure if we should even record it, but Frankie said 'trust me.' And it turned out to be my biggest song ever."

McIntosh brought a genuinely flexible, jazz-influenced sensibility to the recording studio. Chalkdust and other artists recall McIntosh being much freer than older arrangers, allowing musicians and singers more input, modifying arrangements on the spot during sessions, and in general leaving room for modest embellishments and improvisation.

As McIntosh put it: "Oh yes, even when I go to a full score, it's never like this is written in stone and we must stick to this. From the first date, if we are playing the rhythm section and I don't think a chord works I will change them. Or I would change the horn line or the bass line in a flash...I was always open to ideas, as long as they worked."

These days McIntosh continues to arrange and perform in New York, occasionally touring back to the Caribbean. He has been the head of the music department at PS 270, The DeKalb School in Brooklyn.



# *The SVG Consulate Office of Toronto Honours Outstanding Members of the Toronto SVG Diaspora.*

**Mr. Fitzgerald Huggins, Consul General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, conducted a poll with several members of the SVG community for names of Outstanding Community Members who have made a mark in the community over the years in the areas of Community Development, Business and Culture and Arts. The Consul General stated that many names were submitted, and he knows there are many members of our community who deserve to be honoured and appreciated but the following individuals were chosen by the poll.**

## **Community Development: Pearl McIntosh-Woods**

Pearl McIntosh-Woods was born in Brighton, St. Vincent, adopted by her grandmother, and grew up in Bequia where she gained her education and eventually became a teacher and taught for a few years prior to immigrating to Canada. After a short period of time, Pearl received employment with the Ontario Government to assist persons in accessing certain benefits. Later on, Pearl transferred to other areas in the Ontario Public Service and attended night classes to further her knowledge of the Canadian Pension System.

As the number of SVG nationals migrating to Toronto increased, Pearl said, "We tried to keep in touch with one another, hence the formation of the Bequia Social Organization. Pearl is a founding member of that organization and served as president for over twelve years. Pearl shared her teaching skills in other areas. She was invited to assist in teaching in Math and English at a church program in Scarborough and subsequently coordinated a tutorial class program on Saturdays. She eventually joined the scholarship team and have been sponsoring and assisting students -- who attended the church -- to further their education. Pearl has also been very active in sponsoring children back home with the help of staff at the Bequia Sunshine School.

After almost thirty-two years in the public service, Pearl retired as manager of pension and benefits, and still wanting to help others, she opened a business (WOODS & ASSOCIATES) in February 1997. Pearl continues to assist others in making the transition from work to retirement through workshops on Pre-Retirement and Finances and Wills and Estates. These seminars are run by professionals in the respective fields. Pearl's clients are happy to have such needed commodity and many commented that they would have been lost without her guidance. Pearl continues to share her talents with the community and consults with the Toronto SVG consulate office for assistance in obtaining information on persons who have returned home to live while receiving Canadian pensions. She wants to ensure that all who contributed to the pension system whether in Canada or in SVG receive their due benefits.

Pearl is a proud and loving mother of two children and a granddaughter, and her many friends and clients usually comment on her involvement in encouraging them to live a positive life of giving, for the greatest gift that one can give is oneself.

This is someone who really lives up to her name ---- "A PEARL OF PRECIOUS PRICE".

## **Business: Monica "Nola" Smith**

Monica Smith, better known in the SVG community as Nola Smith is the owner -operator of Hairoun Bakery. Established in 1987, Hairoun Bakery, is a family run business, that has been serving the SVG and other Caribbean communities for decades. It provides a myriad of breads and assorted pastries that cater to all taste buds.

Hairoun Bakery has been a long-standing contributor to events held by St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto (SVGAT). At any event, such as Mother's Day, the Annual Independence Church Service, the Children's Christmas Party and any other event the Association is hosting, Hairoun Bakery can be depended on to provide baked goods. And, when cakes or pastries are not the order of the day, Mrs Smith finds other ways to give back, whether through gift cards for events or simply taking out an ad in the Association's newsletter, Insight. Hairoun Bakery also acts as a centre-point for selling tickets or for displaying ads for SVG events. It is also customary for members of the SVGAT to drop off packages at Nola's to be picked up.

This spirit of giving back is a hall-mark of Hairoun Bakery. Its contributions serve to help sustain the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association in its endeavours to provide assistance when necessary to the SVG Community.

When one drops in at Hairoun, it is not unusual for one to see Nola chatting with other members of the community. Some of her many customers had this to say, "Nola is never too busy to have a word with you and to ask how things are going and to offer encouragement in all areas of your life...she is an icon in our community not only as a business owner but also for the goodwill she displays towards the SVG community and the community at large.

If you visit the website of Hairoun Bakery at [www.hairounbakery.ca](http://www.hairounbakery.ca) you will find this quote, "We are humbled and thankful for the love and support that we have been blessed with, and we are looking forward to further maintaining and building our client relationships. We will remain committed to you our customers, and will do our very best to ensure we give you the quality of service and product that you deserve".





## Culture and The Arts: Vince Cato Fraser

Vince's formal musical career began at the age of 9 when he learned to play the violin. At age 14 he became interested in the steel pan, and by age 16 he entered his first steel band competition as a novice member of the Melody Makers band.

Vince was later commissioned to head the Royal St. Vincent Police Force steel band as arranger and pan tuner a few years before migrating to Canada, by which time he had already won a total of 16 competitions (six panoramas, four solos, one king of steel, and five talent shows). Vince has also performed in the UK and the USA.

In Canada Vince has received many awards for his excellence as a steel pan instructor at various Canadian institutions. Most significantly he was honored by the Ontario Steel Pan Association with a "Pan Pioneer" award for his contributions to the steel band movement.

Vince has recorded several CD's and one vinyl record that made the Caribbean's top ten.

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# THE ENTERTAINERS



## Julian McIntosh & the Thunderbolts

Vincentian bom sax virtuoso, Julian McIntosh, has been entertaining the Canadian Caribbean Community for many years and has been known to stir up plenty of emotions with his music around the world, thrilling audiences from the Caribbean to North America.

His saxophone and his singing covers a spectrum of beats and moods. It includes calypso, reggae and some fusion, aimed directly at the hearts of music lovers. For those who are into Caribbean music, his name is an instant drawing card, coming from a household of respected musicians: Everyone from his grandfather to his father and brother are master music men.

His cousin, Frankie McIntosh, is a highly touted calypso composer and arranger who is also well respected in the USA for his orchestration skills in jazz and classics. Julian, who joined his first band when he 12, along with Frankie, attended the Brooklyn Academy. Julian subsequently moved to Montreal in the 1970s. He has come full circle, and is just as high on Caribbean music as ever and remains on the circuit with his band the "Thunderbolts".

*Information on Julian McIntosh and the Thunderbolts retrieved from the group's website.*

## Soca Artiste Gideon James



Gideon was born on the beautiful island of Bequia and in his early years found himself in love with music. With the necessary passion and talent at his fingertips, Gideon contributed seriously to the development of music in his homeland and joined several music bands. In his formative music years Gideon's first bands, Merrits and Comets, allowed him to explore and develop his talents before he moved to Kingstown to continue his musical journey with the bands the Ambassadors and Gravity. It was as a result of the drive, passion, commitment and the genuine decency of the man known as Gideon James that Bryan Alexander invited him to join the extraordinary and popular band Touch.

Gideon and Touch were a captivating force. he reminisced about performing with Touch all over the world. These experiences he says will forever be a part of him no matter where he lives or performs. Gideon's many hits with Touch include the Caribbean Fusion melodies; "Black Sugar Woman", "Sexy & Irie", "Loving Can't Done" and "Tamika", the soca ballads, "Jubilee", "Rock You Real Bad" and the gospel track "Time for Prayer".

Gideon is a simple but special man and it is no surprise that his passion and drive for music have culminated in his hit album "So Special" which signals his explosive return to the Vinci carnival scene. The first releases, "U-turn", "Come Home" and "Work It" were so popular that the albums flew out of record stores.

In 2007 Gideon became the first artist to be signed by St. Vincent's first and only record label, Magma Music Group.

## Margaret Williams

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto, thanks Ms Williams for her wonderful rendition of the National Anthems of Canada and of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. We are truly grateful for her contribution to the evening's celebrations.

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO



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