

Welcome

Good evening and a warm welcome to everyone. We extend a very special welcome to Her Excellency Lou-Anne Gilchrist, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ambassador to the United States of America and Non-Resident High Commissioner to Canada, our guest speaker for this prestigious occasion. Our celebration tonight is unique and exceptional.

We are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the 50th anniversary of the Association.

While we celebrate the past and look forward to tomorrow let us honour and thank our past leaders of St. Vincent and the Grenadines for building and guiding our nation to its standing in the Caribbean Region and on the world's stage. Let us also recognize those in our community who helped us keep our connection to the land of our birth and to foster relations that served our mutual benefit. Tonight, you will meet some of those special people who took the reins of leadership and built the Association that we know today.

As we celebrate our accomplishments let us remember that there is still much more to achieve.

Enjoy the evening!.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.

This celebration was organized by the SVGAT in collaboration with the SVG Toronto Consulate General; the Bequia Social Organization; the Toronto SVG Support Group; the Union Island Cultural Association

National Anthems



*O Canada! Our home and native land
True patriot love in all of us 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.*

Menu

Assorted Hors D'oeuvres

Salad

Mixed Greens with Balsamic Dressing

Main Course

Jerked Breast of Chicken with Mango Sauce

Baked Salmon served with Lemon

Roasted Potatoes, Vegetables and Rice

Assorted Rolls

Dessert

Ice Cream Stuffed Crepes

Coffee, Tea

Programme

Mistress and Master of Ceremonies - Renee Phillips & Andy Lavia
Recognition of Head Table

Anthems

SVG Anthem sung by Kim Arthur

Prayer: Reverend Henry Stephens

President Remarks

Mr. Jim Lewis – President, St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

Dinner

Performance by Courtney Taylor

Greetings

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

Feature Address

Her Excellency, Ambassador Lou-Anne Gilchrist
Ambassador of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United States of America
and High Commissioner to Canada

SVGAI Honourary Awards

Kenneth Farrell
Evans B. Morgan
Rosemary Pierre Mohammed
David Morgan a.k.a. "Yellows"

SVG Consulate General Award

Ron Kilius
Tony Trigiani
Moore's Clothing for Men

Performance by Kim Arthur

Presentation of Scholarship Awards

Hawah Roforce
Venassa Baptiste

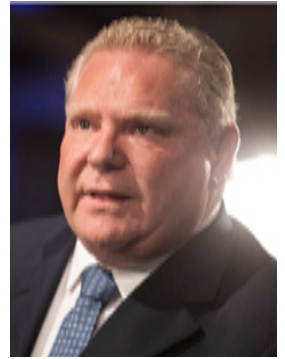
Vote of Thanks

Sandra Bobb, Chair of the Independence Planning Committee

Raffle - Will be drawn during Dance



Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario



November 2, 2019

A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DOUG FORD

I'm so pleased to extend greetings to everyone celebrating St. Vincent and the Grenadines' 40th year of independence from Great Britain, and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto (SVGAT). I want to thank all those who helped make this important event a success.

I want to congratulate the team at SVGAT on marking 50 years of outstanding service to the Vincentian community. This is a remarkable milestone for any organization.

This event, which also honours the island nation's 40th anniversary of independence, is the ideal occasion to express pride in the rich culture and heritage of St. Vincent and the Grenadines as well as its many achievements.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge, with gratitude, the many ways in which the Vincentian community has made Ontario a better place to live.

Best wishes for a memorable evening and a very successful fundraiser!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Doug Ford'.

Doug Ford
Premier



CONSULATE GENERAL OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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E-mail: consulategeneral@rogers.com

40th Independence Message from Consul General Huggins

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 40th Independence anniversary.

I also want to wish the St Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto a happy 50th anniversary. With your slogan to celebrate your 50th anniversary being "Much has been accomplished, Much more to achieve", I can attest to the fact that you have made a tremendous contribution to St. Vincent and the Grenadines in every sector of economic development and I encourage you to continue to make your contribution.

This year we celebrate our Independence under the theme "With Strength, Honour and Dignity, We stand resolute at 40 and Beyond". The Renewal at 40 celebrations has started and will run until Independence 2020. Renewal at 40 is an opportunity for us to take a fresh guard. Build on our strengths and possibilities and to work on our weaknesses and limitations.

Renewal at 40 belongs to all of us whether we live in SVG or in the Diaspora. We must own it for it to be successful. If you hear someone bad talking your country, you have a duty to defend your country. We are not perfect and yes we have many imperfections but we are a proud people who can boast of our achievement in Health, Education, Transportation, Governance, Tourism, Agriculture, Housing, Seaport and airports, sea and river defences, water, electricity, information communication technology.

In every walk of life, we have seen improvements from where we were 40 years ago under various governments. This year forty-eight (48) government scholarships were awarded to students to study at UWI and hundreds more will be awarded to study in various countries around the world. In 1979 we had one (1) national scholarship.

We can celebrate the fact that a country only 40 years old and the smallest country to be voted on the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent council member between 2020 to 2022. SVG received support from 185 countries out of 191 countries at the United Nations. Some may say that we should dance a yard before we dance abroad but this myopic view can be countered by the fact that this opportunity gets SVG a seat at the table where much can be achieved. I am confident that we have effective leadership and youthful exuberance on our side who will look after our interest. Already we have seen many countries coming to us to seek advice on their own campaign, Canada is one.

SVG is leading the way in conducting explorations so we can be self-sufficient in geothermal energy. We already have installations in renewable energy in solar energy and three recently upgraded hydro plants capable of deliver up to 20% of electricity at peak. We are making our contribution to slowing down the impacts of climate change, as small as we are.

In health, the recently opened Modern Medical Hospital in Georgetown has come in for excellent reviews having delivered quality health care to citizens all over the country although it was designed to service patients from the north east quadrant of SVG.

We have many challenges and we had to admit that like every other country crime is a problem. Pockets of indigence, high unemployment, the threat to Climate Change, political divisiveness. As we move beyond our 40 years, we have to resolve to live better with our neighbours, don't all the divisive politics to cause you to hate your neighbour and lose your friends.

I must acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the Canadian Vincentians, the national associations and charitable foundations in Canada to St Vincent and the Grenadines. Your remittances make up a substantial portion of our GDP and we treasure your support in sensitizing the Diaspora with the political, cultural, social and economic developments in your homeland.

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.



Message from the Mayor

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes to the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto on its 50th anniversary of providing community services to the Vincentian community in Toronto.

These occasions present wonderful opportunities to acknowledge the achievements of the St. Vincent and Grenadines community and celebrate its traditions, heritage and culture. This year also marks the 40th anniversary of St. Vincent and Grenadines independence.

Toronto is one of the world's most multicultural cities and home to people from all over the world. The valued contributions of multicultural communities strengthen our society and contribute to our city's motto "Diversity Our Strength".

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

Yours truly,


John Tory
Mayor of Toronto



Message from the President

The St. Vincent And Grenadines Association Of Toronto Inc.

My Fellow Vincentians and Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today. I would like to take the time to thank all the members of the association who put their trust in me to lead this great organization. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary we must thank our founding members who had the foresight to get this organization started over 50 years ago. Their sacrifices we truly appreciate. The countless hours they have volunteered over the years have made this community a more accommodating place for us, Vincentians, to feel more welcomed and at home. We cannot for one moment ignore the contributions of their families who have silently provided their loved ones with support over the years.

Over our 50 years one would ask what have you accomplished? My response would be based on one of our founding principles -- to provide assistance and support to groups, institutions in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and in Ontario and wherever the association deems fit. Before there was a Saint Vincent and the Grenadines there was a Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto (SVGAT). As a community we built and provided support to our homeland and watched it develop into a nation. We are still here as it grows. Some of our initiatives have played a direct role in this development including the 'adopt-a-child program' that has provided financial assistance to primary school students; providing emergency relief funds and other forms of donations to hospitals and clinics to name a couple.

Here in Toronto, we are especially proud of our programs that assist our community; our scholarship program has

provided over \$22,000.00 in bursaries to students since its inception; our Christmas hampers include cash donations of \$40.00 per basket; our children's christmas party each year provides toys for about 40-50 children; a team of volunteers assists with the organization of the unity picnic and the buses that go to the picnic are provided as a service and not necessarily a fund-raiser; our Independence celebration every year also comes with a cost. While we may not have been "blowing our own horn", we have been steadfastly working in silence.

Also, before there was a Consulate Office there was the SVGAT. The association filled that void. New Vincentians to Canada relied on us for a sense of community. We did this by remaining unified regardless of the challenges that we faced. We need this unity to remain if we want to continue growing as an organization. As we celebrate this evening let us not forget the contributions that were made to build our homeland and the contributions that were made to build the association and which helped to bring each of us here tonight. As this year's independence theme says: Renewal at 40, we hope that you will truly renew your commitment to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and to the association. A great way to do that is to get more involved with the organization. We look forward to having your continued support as we embark on another year. Let us always remember our theme, that although much has been accomplished there is much more to be achieved.

Jim Lewis

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

Board of Directors

Dennis Bucchan • Kenneth Farrell • Erline Granderson • Anthony Lavia • Jim Lewis • Cornetta Mason
Prudence Morton • Cordel Telfer • Bernadette Ryan-Phillips

Website:- <http://www.vincytoronto.com> Email:- svgat@vincytoronto.com

Our Honourees for 2019

Honourary Life Member: Kenneth Farrell

Kenneth Farrell is a longtime member of The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. (SVGAT) and has served in several capacities during his many years of service to the SVG community through the Association. Kenneth presently sits on the Board of Directors and has led the Association on four occasions, beginning in 1996 as Chair and then as president in 2002; 2004 and then as interim president in 2006.

During his years with the Association, Kenneth has held various positions on the Executive and Board. He has chaired many committees. In one particular year, due to the lack of manpower in the organization, a decision was made to amalgamate several committees – cultural and recreation, education and sports under one large committee (CRES). It was a challenging task to chair this committee and when the call went out for a Chair, Kenneth volunteered to take on the responsibility. He organized games evenings and led the scholarship committee on many occasions while being involved heavily with the Netball Association and the Cricket Club. Kenneth has been very instrumental in 2013 with the Association's Diabetes and Seniors' Programs by taking a few courses at City Hall to assist with implementing the programs.

While Kenneth's service with the Association has been exemplary, it is his outreach work in the SVG community that has impressed Board members and many members of the Association. One Board member puts it this way, "Kenneth has always risen to the call for assistance. He has been 'out there' in the community, visiting the sick in nursing homes, taking seniors to Drs. appointments, delivering hamper baskets all over the City, being heavily involved with youths in the Netball Association while also being involved with his church." Another member of the Association also had this to say, "Kenneth is very supportive of all SVG organizations and one can always find him at any event in our community. He is also the kind of person you can call on for assistance. If your car breaks down in the middle of the night and you call on him for help, he will be there...no muss, no fuss. Kenneth is a true community person".

In this 50th year of the Association, the Board of Directors of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. proudly confers on Kenneth Farrell the title of Honourary Life Member of the Association placing him amongst a select group of Honorary Life Members of the Association.



Sports

Rosemary Pierre Mohammed

Rosemary Pierre Mohammed was born and raised in the village of Sion Hill, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. She attended the Richmond Hill primary school where she was introduced to sports but it was at the Emmanuel High School in Kingstown where her love of sports blossomed. Rosemarie competed in Netball, Track and Field and Long Jump events.

After graduation from Emmanuel, Rosemary says she was floundering a bit as to what to do with her life. She only knew that she loved sports and especially netball. Soon, Rosemary gathered all of the young people in her village and began teaching them the game. It wasn't long before the entire village was involved with Rosemary and her team of young players. Very soon, a Sion Hill Mixed Team was born and the young players were on their way. "After winning a title", Rosemary says, "the team knew it was heading for the big netball tournament and when they set off for the "Big Game", the whole village came along. We were not just playing the game, we were representing entire villages".

During that netball tournament, Rosemary did not realize that her leadership skills and talent were being observed by the netball legend, Mrs. Gloria Ballantyne. It was only when Mrs Ballantyne recruited her later, that she knew her skills and talents were being observed. "Mrs Ballantyne helped me to develop my skills and also assisted the other players to develop their abilities as well." That year, Rosemary joined the Three Jewels Jogger Team and later on the Under 23 National Netball Team. She stayed with that team for several years before going on to the Senior National Netball Team. She was ranked 4th in her position.

Rosemary left St. Vincent and the Grenadines for Canada where she joined the Vee Jay's team and was soon representing the Ontario Open Team. Rosemary started her own netball team, Wings Underneath. Within a year, she added a soccer team and began building her sports her club. Two years later, Rosemary joined forces with her sister, Kathy Ann Forbes, and created Success Sports Club. Rosemary eventually branched out in to Radio and soon had Success Radio up and running. Today, Success Sports Club--SVG is sponsored by the Vincy Liberators Inc. Rosemary says her goal is to continue creating platforms for continuing education.

The SVGAT congratulates Rosemary on all of her sports and business accomplishments and wishes her well in her future endeavours.

Our Honourees for 2019

Professional Accomplishment Evans B. Morgan

Mr. Evans B. Morgan was born in Richland Park, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. He is the last surviving member of the first legislative council that was elected, after universal adult suffrage, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. In 1951, Morgan and his colleagues, Rudolf E. Baynes, Julian A. Baynes, George H. Charles, Ebenezer T. Joshua, Samuel E. Slater, Herman F. Young and Clive L. Tannis contested the first general election after voting rights were granted to Vincentians.



SVG Early Legislative Council

Their political party was known as the Eight Army of Liberation (EAL). The party was an amalgamation of The United Workers and the Peasant and Ratepayers Union and their campaign slogan was "A Better day, A Brighter Day and a More Prosperous Day". The election was a land-slide victory for the eight comrades as all eight of them won their seats with Morgan gaining 80% of the vote. In 1953, however, internal conflicts led to a breakaway faction that then formed the Peoples Political Party. The EAL did not contest another election. Morgan, 23 years of age at the time was the youngest of his colleagues to be on that first legislative council and today, at 93 years of age he is the only surviving member of the EAL. He had this to say "we worked very hard to try and bring about a better day for the people. One of the changes I am happy that we made was to introduce the West Indian Reader into the school system which replaced the Royal Reader. This was a 'big leap' at that time as we were up against many challenges.

Morgan's love of education was evident in the fact that at 13 years of age he became a pupil teacher and at 18 years graduated with honours from the Caribbean Union College in Trinidad. He returned to St. Vincent and the Grenadines and began teaching at the Stubbs Government School. At 19 years old he became a Head Master at Stubbs and it was while teaching at Stubbs that his colleagues encouraged and supported him to run as a candidate for the Parliament of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Life after politics for Morgan revolved around studying and working. In 1955, he earned a Master of Science in economics and was recruited by Shell Oil

Company as an economist and served for many years. Morgan relocated to Canada in 1968 and worked as a Chief Cost Accountant with Northern Telecom. Later, he was recruited by the government of SVG to be the deputy accountant general but during his transition to that role, there was a change in government and he went to work elsewhere. After moving to Canada, Morgan joined the Ontario Ministry of Housing and on retirement worked with the Ontario Conference of Seventh-Day-Adventists as Chief Internal Auditor until fully retiring.

Morgan and his wife Erène, a registered nurse, are very much involved with their Church. Morgan still teaches Sabbath school and gets involved in the church's community outreach programs. Over the years, Morgan and Erène, through their church, have supported schools in SVG by sending home computers and other items. In the flash floods of 2013, they worked with their church to raise funds and sent thousands of dollars to their counterpart church in SVG to help the victims of the flooding. His wife Erène had this to say, "Evans cannot keep still, when he was 90 he was still mowing the lawn, now at 93, he still wants to pot around in the garden. He wants to go out and do things. Every day, he gets up and asks "where are we going today?" Morgan and Erène have two children, Mark, a Senior Project Manager and Gail, a lawyer. When asked to what he owed his longevity, Morgan quickly answered, "I played cricket. I played until I was 83 years, (He was instrumental in forming the Etobicoke Cricket League) so if you want to live long like me, trust in God, don't smoke, don't drink and play cricket"

Music David Morgan aka "Yellows"

Carlos David Morgan, aka "Yellows" as he is known professionally, was born in the town of Barouille, St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG). Yellows first sang in public at the tender age of 15 years and has been entertaining audiences throughout SVG and North America since then. A house-hold name in SVG and North America, Yellows credits the time he spent singing in the choir at Sunday morning church services in Barrouallie for helping to shape his voice and his singing career. After placing second at a Calypso competition at his high school, Yellows joined the band, Resurrection, in the mid-1980's as lead vocalist.

However, it wasn't until he toured with the band, Astericks, throughout the Caribbean, that he progressed musically. Yellows moved to Canada in 1988 and began signing with various bands across the country. In 2000, he became the lead vocalist with Moses Revolution, then known to be the #1 Soca band in Toronto. In 2002, he placed second for the Canadian Soca Monarch title and held that spot from 2003 to 2005. He placed second in 2012 in a New York Song Competition and took home the Soca title for the St. Vincent and Grenadines in 2013. Yellows has performed for the Association several times and has two albums and one single on the market. He can be reached at Email: cdmorgan365@yahoo.ca For Yellows music visit: <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/album/portrait/id445535123>



SVG Independence 1979

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. congratulates the Government and people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on their 40th Anniversary of Independence



27th, October 1979: Robert Milton Cato (Prime Minister 1974-1984) signs the newly formed 32 islands of "Saint Vincent and the Grenadines" into Independence.

Sir Sydney Douglas Gun-Munro GCMG FRCS



The first Governor General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (1979-1985). He was educated at Grenada Boys' Secondary School where he won a scholarship, and in 1937 travelled to King's College, London, England where he studied medicine, graduating in 1942.



The current flag was adopted 22nd, October 1985.

Saint 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.*

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1979 No. 918

ASSOCIATED STATES

The Saint Vincent Termination of Association Order 1979

Laid before Parliament in draft

Made - - - - 26th July 1979

Coming into Operation 27th October 1979

At the Court of Saint James, the 26th day of July 1979

Present,

The Counsellors of State in Council

Whereas Her Majesty, in pursuance of the Regency Acts 1937 to 1953, was pleased, by Letters Patent dated the 16th day of July 1979, to delegate to the six Counsellors of State therein named or any two or more of them full power and authority during the period of Her Majesty's absence from the United Kingdom to summon and hold on Her Majesty's behalf Her Privy Council and to signify thereat Her Majesty's approval for anything for which Her Majesty's approval in Council is required:

And whereas a draft of this Order has been laid before Parliament in accordance with section 17(2) of the West Indies Act 1967(a) and has been approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament:

Now, therefore, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and His Royal Highness The Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, being authorised thereto by the said Letters Patent, and in pursuance of the powers conferred by section 10(2) of the West Indies Act 1967 and all other powers enabling Her Majesty, do hereby, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Privy Council, on Her Majesty's behalf order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:—

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Saint Vincent Termination of Association Order 1979.

(2) This Order shall come into operation on 27th October 1979.

2. The status of association of Saint Vincent with the United Kingdom is terminated as from the date on which this Order comes into operation.

N. E. Leigh,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

(a) 1967 c. 4.

2398

ASSOCIATED STATES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Order.)

This Order terminates the status of association of Saint Vincent with the United Kingdom, with effect from 27th October 1979.

All information taken from the National Archives of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines website

Moments in Time

Charles Ollivierre Routs English Cricketers at Victoria Park in 1895

Information contributed by Emery Wallace



Transcript of Photograph Caption:

In a one-day match in 1895 at Victoria Park, St. Vincent beat the visiting English team led by a Mr. Lucas. Scores were: St. Vincent 159, England 63. The bowler who destroyed them was Charles Ollivierre. He may have got some help from the pitch, but even the English admitted he was quite a handful. Mr Ollivierre subsequently played for Derbyshire in England and died there in Pontefract in 1949 at the age of 73.



Kingstown Market in the sixties.



Independence Banquet, 2007



Photo by Robert Young

La Soufriere erupts, 1979

In the 1979 Soufriere eruption the ash was carried 90 miles away to Barbados and perhaps even further. A year later, farmers in St.Vincent were recording giant growth in their crops especially the height of corn plants.

A Few Important dates in the History of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

- 1979 Eruption of La Soufriere volcano
- 1980 St.Vincent became a member of the United Nations
- 1981 Mr. Joel Toney served as Ambassador to the United Nations - the first resident Ambassador from St. Vincent (1981 - 1984)
- 1981 Signing of the Treaty of Basseterre that gave rise to the OECS
- 1985 The new SVG flag came into use officially
- 1987 SVG elected to one of the Vice-Presidencies of the United Nations General Assembly - the first English speaking Caribbean country to have attained that honour
- 1991 Death of Ebenezer Theodore Joshua (March 14) - first Chief Minister of SVG
- 1997 Death of Robert Milton Cato, father of the Nation (February 10) - 1st Premier and Prime Minister
- 2002 Joseph Chatoyer declared first national hero of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (March 14)
- 2007 Opening of the Yurumein Taiwan Bridge at Rabacca

Prime Ministers of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (1979-present)

<i>Incumbent</i>	<i>Elected</i>	<i>Took office</i>	<i>Time in office</i>
Milton Cato (1915-1997)	1979	27 October 1979	4 years, 276 days
Sir James Fitz-Allen Mitchell (1931-)	1984	30 July 1984	16 years, 87 days
Arnhim Eustace (1944-)	—	27 October 2000	153 days
Ralph Gonsalves (1946-)	2001	29 March 2001	17 years, 271 days



The A I A opened for business in 2017



A seat on the Security Council of the UN, 2019



A Brief History of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. ... How it all began

(The following article was written by Ms Elma Gabriel, past president of the Association for the January, 2009 issue of Insight Newsletter. Edited for space by Prudence Morton)

In 1968, Dr. Allan Liverpool, a Vincentian living in Toronto, received a letter, dated 10th October, 1968 from the Secretary of the Arnos Vale Playing Field. The letter asked Dr. Liverpool if he could request financial assistance from Vincentians in Canada to help with the development of the Arnos Vale Playing field. This sparked the beginning of the "Vincentian Association of Toronto". On receipt of the letter Dr. Liverpool invited all interested Vincentians to a meeting on Sunday, November 24, 1968 to discuss raising funds for the Playing Field Project, and also for the possibility of formulating a Vincentian association in Toronto. Following discussions at that gathering, an initial meeting of the Association was convened on Sunday, December 1, 1968 at 2 PM at Club Tropics, 12 Queen Street East, Toronto. Club Tropics was owned by Stilly Fraser and Rufus Jarvis, two nationals of SVG who donated their venue for the meeting. The notes of the meeting revealed a sense of "fierce urgency of now". What has to be done? How will it be done? The meeting was a crossroad to the beginning of something for their homeland and the foundation for what is now The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Incorporated (SVGAT). The following officers were appointed:

President, Dr. S. Allan Liverpool
Vice President, Mr. Fred Isaacs
Secretary, Ms. Shirley Sutherland
Treasurer, Ms. Edna Hunte
Public Relations Officer, Mr. Caley Bonadie

The officers set a course and never lost sight of the objective -- giving priority to the Playing Field Project. By the second meeting on December 14, 1968, a collection of \$800.00 (CAD) was raised and forwarded to St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the playing field project. The third meeting was held in January 1969, and the fourth meeting on the third Sunday in February. A draft Constitution was discussed, with clauses ratified and passed. Before the meeting ended, the President (Dr. Allan Liverpool) expressed his appreciation to the team for their accomplishments. He also offered his regrets that due to commitments to his medical profession, he had to tender his resignation. The next meeting was scheduled for the third Sunday in March 1969. Mr. Hermus Liverpool, because of his past involvement in a similar organization in Montreal, was asked to take over as President.

The Vincentian Association of Toronto, as it was named at the time, held a Statehood Ball on October 24, 1969 to commemorate the granting of Associated Statehood status on St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Ms. Pamella Venner was selected as Statehood Queen and represented the Association at the celebrations in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The airfare was provided by BWIA. Ms. Joan Hewitt, first runner-up received a passage to New York or Montreal donated by Air-Sea-Land Travel.

The Association asked Attorney M. A. Zuker to represent the Association at The Department of Finance & Commercial Affairs in Toronto and to file an application for Letters Patent on November 23, 1970. On February 26, 1971 a Letters Patent was rendered by the Province of Ontario in the name "The St. Vincent Association of Toronto" with the Chartered objectives: (a) To provide a forum for the non-political discussion of matters, social, cultural, recreational and any other topics of interest to members. (b) To provide any form of assistance, wherever such is possible, to groups or institutions in St. Vincent and/or, where the association sees fit. The first and original Directors of the Corporation were Edmund DeFreitas, Alfred Issac, Shirley Margaret Sutherland and Edna Hunte. The Corporation was ordained and declared to carry on with the purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other accretions to the corporation should be used in promoting its objectives. Our founding fathers and mothers championed the formulation of an organization which was to serve for generations to come.

SVGAT - *How it all began*

The Arnos Vale Playing Field Board

Chairman : His Honour Mr. H. George, C.M.G., O.B.E. KINGSTOWN

Vice-Chairman: Dr. G.J. Cordice

ST. VINCENT

Secretary : F.G. Thomas, Esq.

10th October, 1968

Dear Dr. Liverpool,

You will no doubt have heard, with much delight, of the efforts being made here in St. Vincent to provide a National playing Field at Arnos Vale, which will cater for all branches of sport, and allow St. Vincent to be hosts to international and intercolonial cricket, football, netball, etc. teams. So far we have not been able to have important games here, due to lack of a first class ground and of proper pavilion facilities.

The present Government is very interested in this project, and work on levelling and drainage of the 22 acres donated by them has already started. They have passed legislation - The Arnos Vale Playing Field Ordinance, a copy of which I enclose - which will ensure that things are done properly, and a Board, the Arnos Vale Playing Field Board, has already been appointed in accordance with the Ordinance. The membership is:-

His Honour Mr. Hywel George, C.M.G., O.B.E. - Chairman
Dr. G.J. Cordice - St. Vincent Cricket Association - Vice-Chairman

S. Taylor, Esq. - St. Vincent Football Association
Mrs. Sylvia DaSilva - St. Vincent Netball Association
T. Michael Findlay, Esq. - St. Vincent Sports Council
C.R. Punnett, Esq. - Kingstown Tennis Club
J.V. Alves, Esq. - St. Vincent Lawn Tennis Club
The President, St. Vincent Jaycees
Dr. K. Baksh - St. Vincent Lions Club
A.R. Connell, Esq. - St. Vincent Chamber of Commerce
A.W. Dalrymple, Esq. - Chief Technical Officer, Ministry for Communications & Works
H.S. McConnie, Esq., - Chief Agricultural Officer, Ministry for Trade & Production
The Public Relations Officer, St. Vincent
L.W. Sandy, Esq. - Surveyor
F.G. Thomas, Esq. - Member/Secretary

The target for the project is close to \$500,000, but it is designed to be carried out over a period of five years in three stages. The first stage is for levelling and drainage of the cricket and athletics field, the construction of turf wickets and athletics facilities and of a players' pavilion and is to cost \$120,000.00 - this is what we are aiming at for the present. I enclose ten (10) copies of a brochure which will give you an idea of what is planned.

As one who is genuinely interested in your homeland, the Board feels that you will wish to associate yourself with the project, and wonder if you would organize a fund among the many Vincentians (and others) in your area who may be interested in contributing to the venture. We ask this favour, well

knowing that your many duties keep you well occupied but we hope, nevertheless, that you will be able to assist us in whatever way you can.

The Board is working hard at home to raise part of the amount required for the first stage, and we have pledges from the Jaycees, Lions and the National Playing Fields Association of the U.K. The target is high, however, and any receipts from whatever source, will be of help.

I hope to hear from you soon. Please accept the best wishes of the Board, and their thanks in advance.

Yours very sincerely,

F. G. Thomas

(F. G. THOMAS)

**Letter about the
Arnos Vale
Playing Field
that sparked the
beginning of the
the SVGAT**



Dr. Allan Liverpool
The first President of the
Association. (1968)

**Arnos Vale Playing
Field project ...
2009**

With a capacity of 12,000 seats, the stadium at the Arnos Vale Playing Field was built in 1996. Regarded as one of the larger stadiums in the Caribbean, it got its first cricket test match in 1997, when the West Indies played the touring Sri Lankan team.

Warm-up matches for the 2007 ICC World Cup were held here. The stadium is located next to the E.T. Joshua Airport on Mainland St. Vincent.

SVGAT - *How it all began cont 'd...*

First letter to Vincentians in Toronto, dated November 8th, 1968
inviting them to a meeting to form the Association

540 College Street,
Toronto 4, Ontario,
November 8th, 1968.

Fellow Vincentian:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I received from the Secretary of the Arnos Vale Playing Field Statutory Board.

You will, no doubt, observe that the project outlined therein is not only worthwhile, but is indicative of a great deal of permanence by which, it is hoped immense benefits will accrue to the present and future generations of our beloved homeland.

Vincentians have always been keen competitors in Intercolonial sports. Their past and present performances and achievements are memorable credits to us all. You will agree that those who strive to maintain such high standards deserve our wholehearted support and encouragement in order to ensure continued participation.

There are approximately One hundred Vincentians in the Toronto area, a minimum goal of One thousand Canadian dollars (\$1,000), is the objective, this is an average donation of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) each, so let us make this appeal a gigantic success. Would you kindly adhere to the following as regards your donation.

1. Cheques or money orders (no cash in Mail) should be made payable to Dr. S.A. Liverpool (re- Playing Field)
2. All contributions should reach the following address no later than December 14th, 1968:

Dr. S.A. Liverpool
College-Euclid Clinic
540 College Street
Toronto 4

In the circumstances if you know any Vincentian who has not received a circular letter, please tell him about it. Don't you think this is a good opportunity for us to get together and formulate plans for a Vincentian organization in Toronto? If you do, then the suggestion is that we meet at CLUB-TROPICS, 12 Queen Street East, on Sunday November 24th, at 2 p.m. Keep the date and time open and try to come out.

Thank you kindly,

Yours truly,

S. Allan Liverpool
S. Allan Liverpool.

SVGAT - How it all began cont 'd...

First Bulletin of the Association dated July 11th, 1969
listing its first Executive Members

The Vincentian Association
c/o Club Tropics,
12 Queen Street., East,
TORONTO, Ontario.

July 11th, 1969.

Bulletin 1/69

Dear Fellow Vincentian:

As most of you may have already heard, a Vincentian Association has recently been formed in Toronto. The first official meeting was held on Sunday, January 26, 1969 at Club Tropics, 12 Queen Street., East.

The executive members are:-

President	- Mr. Hermus Liverpool
Vice President	- Mr. Reuben Jeffers
Secretary	- Mr. Junior Baynes
Treasurer	- Miss Shirley Sutherland
Public Relations Officer	- Mr. Cayley Bonadie
Recording Secretary	- Miss Edna Hunt
	- Mr. Fred Isaacs
	- Mr. Vincent Beache

The aims and objectives of the Association fall into three categories:

- (1) Social
- (2) Cultural
- (3) Recreational

Membership is open to:

- (1) All Vincentians resident in Toronto
- (2) Non-Vincentians resident in Toronto who express an interest in the aims and objectives of the Association.

*No record
of previous
meetings
under the
Chairmanship
of DASA Liverpool*

. . . 2

SVGAT - *Statehood Celebration 1969*

Statehood Celebration in Toronto, 1969

Beauty contestants
at the first
SVGAT "Statehood Ball"
held on October 24, 1969



Master of Ceremony asking skill question to Ms. Hewitt



The Judges of SVGAT first Statehood Ball, 1969



Officers of the Association



Statehood Celebrations in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 1969



Statehood Address by Sir Rupert John, 1969



Statehood Celebration in SVG, 1969



Statehood Celebration in SVG, 1969

SVGAT *Early Cultural Group*



The origin of The St. Vincent Cultural Group (Toronto)

The St. Vincent Cultural Group was founded in 1979, when UNESCO proclaimed that year as the International Year of the Child. The proclamation was signed on January 1, 1979 by United Nations ... Six members of SVGAT, Keith Homer, Hubert Phillips, St Elmo Hunt, Barbara Toney, Edson Huggins, and Elmond Jackson each put together \$100.00, contacted some kids and put on a show in honour of the Children, and to commemorate the "Year of the Child".



Practices for the show took place at Keith Homer's house. After the first show, the children were so energized and motivated that they asked Keith and the others to keep the group going.
...Continued on next column...

The adults discussed the possibilities and solicited the space at the then newly opened Northwood Community Centre. The St. Vincent Cultural Club is recorded in the Municipality as the first group to use the Northwood Community Centre facilities. In the main hallway hangs a picture of the late Keith Homer Sr.

To accommodate the group's annual objective, Keith, St. Elmo and Hubert would pick up the children at their homes, take them to practices and then take them back to their respective homes.



The Maypole dance became one of the primary attractions at the shows, adding greater transportation demands due to popular bookings to perform at shows. However, the adult volunteer transport officers were so encouraged by the enthusiasm of the children that they sorted out ways to form a balance between their family, work, and volunteering for their community kids. And if that was not enough, the children added to their demand a Caribana band. In addition to preparing the costumes, on Caribana day the kids were dropped off by their parents, as it was the responsibility of the volunteers to care for the kids on that day.

The children of that era are now grown up, while the St. Vincent Cultural Group is currently in a defunct stage, pending the revamping of what was no doubt one of our most vibrant and promising youth cultural initiatives of the 70's.



Performance at the Unity Picnic, 2011

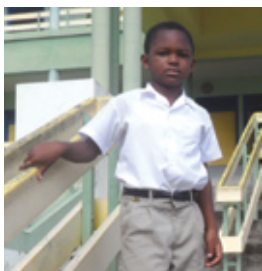
Research and historic information for the above articles were compiled by: Ms. Elma Gabriel (PRO, SVGAT, 2008)

SVGAT Today

The Association has several programs that cater to our community here in Toronto and in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG). A few are outlined here.

Adopt-A-Child Program

Our Adopt-A-Child program was launched in 2008 to assist students in the primary school system in SVG. An adopted child receives assistance for five years which takes her/him through primary school. The Association seeks out partners for this program and was fortunate to have a sponsor for two 5-year terms. This year, the second set of two students (pictured below and now grown up) graduated from primary school, one with an 85% average and both are now attending high school. The Association currently has six children sponsored. The sponsors are Allan John, SVG Support Group, SVGAT members and one anonymous donor. The Association is proud of this accomplishment and invites you to join them in sponsoring a child.



Keisha Carrington was the first recipient of the scholarship program in 2005. Today, Keisha works as a Project Analyst at the University Health Network.



Taisha Lewis received a bursary in 2006. Today, she is an associate lawyer at Fasken Martineau Dumoulin LLP in Toronto. Taisha was our feature speaker at our 2017 Independence Gala.



Jamile Garraway received a bursary in 2006. Today, he holds a teaching position with the Toronto District School Board.



Annual Unity Picnic

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Unity Picnic, or more popularly, the 'Vincy Picnic' is organized by SVG-Toronto, SVG-Montreal and SVG-Ottawa. This picnic has been going on for about 35 years. Starting as a way for Vincentians to 'meet up' with their family and friends from all over North America, the picnic now averages between 10,000 and 15,000 attendees each year. The picnic is held at Brown's Bay Provincial Park at 1000 islands, the third Saturday of July annually.

The Vincy Boat Cruise

Proceeds from the annual Boat Cruise go towards a worthy cause in SVG



Christmas Hamper Program

This program has been running for many, many years. Each year members of our community suggest names of families and/or individuals who should be on our list to receive a hamper. A team of volunteers packages and wraps the hamper baskets, which include a cash donation and delivers the baskets. The program is totally private and the Association has a policy of non-disclosure. Visit our website this Christmas and call to make a donation. www.vincytoronto.com



Past Presidents

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

1968 - Allan Liverpool	1997 - Yolande Lewis
1969 - Hermus Liverpool	1998 - Silma Millington
1970 - Hermus Liverpool	1999 - Cordel Telfer
1971 - Eddie DeFreitas	2000 - Cordel Telfer
1972 - Lawrence Collymore	2001 - Earla Labban-Dalzine
1973 - Vincent Beache	2002 - Kenneth Farrell
1974 - Shirley Sutherland	2003 - Gideon Exeter
1975 - Fred Phillips	2004 - Kenneth Farrell
1976 - Oswald George	2005 - Jason Jones
1977 - Reuben Jeffers	2006 - Jason Jones – Up to May
1978 - Reuben Jeffers	2006 - Kenneth Farrell (Interim) – May onwards
1979 - Monty Providence	2007 - Gideon Exeter
1980 - Shirley Sutherland	2008 - Francelia George
1981 - Monty Providence	2009 - Elma Gabriel
1984 - Oswald George	2010 - Audrey Lewis
1984 - Sam Warner (Acting President)	2011 - Monty Providence (January to July)
1985 - Frederick Williams	2011 - Cordel Telfer (August to December)
1986 - Claudius Samuel	2012 - Marcia Farrell
1987 - Claudius Samuel	2013 - Marcia Farrell
1988 - Malcolm Garraway	2014 - Marcia Farrell
1989 - Edmeston Bernard	2015 - Marcia Farrell
1990 - Rosalind McIntosh	2016 - Antonius Clarke (January to March)
1991 - Yolande Lewis	2016 - Prudence Morton (April onwards)
1992 - Ewan Lewis	2017 - Gideon Exeter
1993 - Glendon Carmichael	2018 - Gideon Exeter
1994 - Malcolm Garraway	2019 - Gideon Exeter (January to February)
1995 - Malcolm Garraway	2019 - Jim Lewis (February to Present)
1996 - Kenneth Farrell (Chairperson)	

Our Appreciation

The Independence and 50th anniversary Planning Committee, on behalf of The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc., the Toronto SVG Consulate General, the Bequia Social Organization, the Toronto SVG Support Group and the Union Island Cultural Association, express sincere thanks to all our sponsors and advertisers in this brochure; all the artistes for donating their time and talent and all those who in one way or another assisted in making these celebrations a success. Finally, we thank you all for attending all of our events. We trust that as we look towards the future, we do so with optimism, togetherness and hope.

Members of the 2019 Independence Planning Committee:

Sandra Bobb, Chairperson • Cynthia Bentham
 Dennis Bucchan • Consul General Fitzgerald Huggins • Andy Lavia
 Samantha Lewis • Prudence Morton • Bernadette Ryan-Phillips • Cheyenne Samuel
 Sandra Sutherland • Cordel Telfer • Frank Wilson

Scholarship Award Recipients 2019



Hawah Roforce

A first year student at Seneca College, Hawah is pursuing a diploma in Social Work. During high school, Hawah worked closely with her teachers assisting them with other children. Her keen interest in working with children did not go unnoticed by several of her teachers and she was quickly made an official Teachers' Assistant and gained valuable experience which helped to guide her in choosing a career.

Not one to sit idly by, Hawah managed the Boys Football Team at Richview Collegiate Institute and coordinated various activities such as the Girls Flag Team. She was also a member of the Black History Every Day Club. Despite her many activities, Hawah managed to graduate with honours in French and humanities.

According to one of her high school teachers, Hawah demonstrates leadership and a strong desire to learn and share knowledge. She is well-liked, capable and very respectful to everyone around her. SVGAT is proud to present Hawah with one of its 2019 Scholarship awards.

Venassa Baptiste



Venassa is a 3rd year student at Carleton University, Ottawa pursuing an Honours Bachelor of commerce, with a concentration in accounting, degree. Her minor courses are in political science. Venassa is very much involved with university life. She is the current vice-president of the Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority with responsibilities for finances, risk management and administration. This busy young lady also took on the responsibility of external vice-president of the Sprott Marketing Student's Association at the university where she is responsible for sustaining strong relations with the Sprott, Carleton and Ottawa communities by reaching out to potential partners and panellists for various club events and partnership opportunities. Venassa has also ventured out in the political arena by volunteering this year with MP Hedy Fry and is currently a member of the Equal Voice: Daughters of the Vote Delegation. Her early years in university saw her assisting with the orientation of new students coming into university.

According to her professors, Venassa is a bright and respectful young lady. She is a leader in every sense of the word; a keen organizer with collaboration skills and one who has developed a sense of social responsibility.

Venassa is currently attending a conference in New Jersey and is unable to be with us tonight. The SVGAT congratulates Venassa on all of her accomplishments and is proud to present her with one of its 2019 scholarship awards.



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**CONGRATULATIONS
SVG & SVGAT!**

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Grenadines on its 40th year of
independence and the SVGAT on
50 years of serving Vincentians.
We wish you continued blessings!

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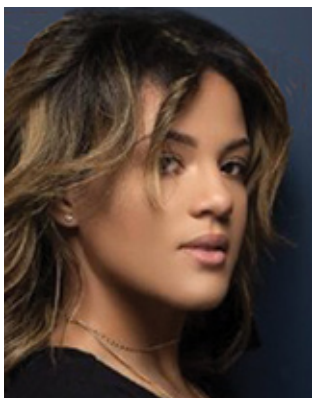
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Our Entertainers

Courtney Taylor



Courtney Taylor is a singer/songwriter hailing from Markham, Ontario. She started writing songs at the age of 14. In 2011 she graduated round six of The Remix Project (a creative arts program that fosters young artists by building their platform) and has since performed in various locations in the downtown core. Some notable venues include: CBC Radio, The Hard Rock Café, Horseshoe Tavern and The Rivoli. Courtney was also chosen to be one of the featured artists in the Honey Jam Showcase in 2018. Honey Jam is an artist development program for young women in music (notable alum includes Nelly Furtado, Melanie Fiona, and Jully Black). She has collaborated and performed alongside Canadian singers/songwriters Jocelyn Alice and Jully Black. Her major influences include Sade, Amy Winehouse, John Mayer and Lianne La Havas. Courtney is currently working towards recording her original music and plans to release an EP in the near future.

Kim Arthur



Kim Arthur was born into music. Her talent as a singer was recognized very early as a little girl in St Vincent and the Grenadines. A sought after international gospel recording artist, author and evangelist, Kim has impacted the lives of many through the use of personal experiences and her songs. She is especially passionate about inspiring and empowering youth and women to find healing and restoration. Kim's desire is that the good news of Jesus Christ will transform lives for God's glory.

Kim lives in Toronto and is the founder of Youth International Ministries, a vibrant global prayer and intercessory ministry for youth and young adults. Kim believes her life's purpose is to reconcile people to a relationship with God. Her uniqueness and pragmatism fuses cultures and creates a spirit of oneness every-

DJ Sting



Sting, also known as D'Ultimate Sting kicked off his music career as a DJ back in his homeland, Trinidad and Tobago. He's especially known for being versatile in all music genres. His popularity gained through playing at various clubs throughout the country.

In 2001 Sting migrated to Toronto, Canada. Shortly after his move, he could be heard juggling throughout Canada at Parties, Fetes and Private Events. Sting's multitude of talents does not limit him to only running tracks. Apart from being a brand Ambassador for Soca Passion and Stag Canada, he is also the Canadian Representative for Soca On The Seas touring the World promoting Soca Music and Caribbean Culture.

DJ Fusion



DJ Fusion has given his services for many years to the Association and other Caribbean organizations. He is the Association's resident DJ and plays at the Children's Christmas Party, our annual Boat Cruise, the Unity Picnic and our Independence celebrations.

Our M.C.s

Renée Phillips-Samuels

Renée is a passionate, free-spirit individual who is dedicated to all ventures she pursues. She has an energetic commitment to her community, specifically her Vincentian community. Her passion for the culture is broad based and extends from mas, to pan and is an ardent soca lover.

In 2011, she completed her undergraduate degree in Sociology at York University and continued on to her post-graduate studies at Centennial College the same year in Corporate Communications and Public Relations. Her experience has extended to working with Toronto's Annual Caribbean Carnival as the Social Media Manager which was the stepping stone for her involvement in the Caribbean community. Upon completing her post-graduate studies, finding work was a challenge. After months of looking for work she decided to create her own avenue. Her passion for the Caribbean led her to develop something that would serve the Caribbean region and the Diaspora. She developed her business as the co-founder and Editor-In-Chief of The COCO Magazine.

COCO made it's debut in 2012 with the focus on touching the Caribbean community. With interviews and special features from Problem Child, Alison Hinds, Pauleanna Reid and Kamila McDonald just to name a few, COCO excelled at connecting readers with all things Caribbean.

COCO relaunched in November 2015 and celebrated its third year anniversary December 14, 2015. In the summer of 2016 the Executive Team came to the decision to pursue different paths. COCO remains a staple in the community and is still to this day considered the space for all things Caribbean.

She is also the CEO of the all natural hair and skincare company called Amani Naturals which translates to natural peace. It is a vegan friendly handmade product for all skin and hair types. Using natural ingredients from the islands of Jamaica, St. Vincent, Barbados, Trinidad and from Africa, her products aid in healing the body and the skin leaving you with a natural glow.

Currently, Renée works for Service Canada. Although the public sector is much different than the private sector, she finds joy in her new job helping all Canadians.

Renée is currently pursuing her degree in Event Management while balancing life as a mother to her beautiful daughter, Olivia.

Andy Lavia

Andy is a member of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto (SVGAT) and also sits on the Board of Directors of the organization. He also represents the SVGAT on the Unity Picnic Committee. Andy is a school teacher by profession.

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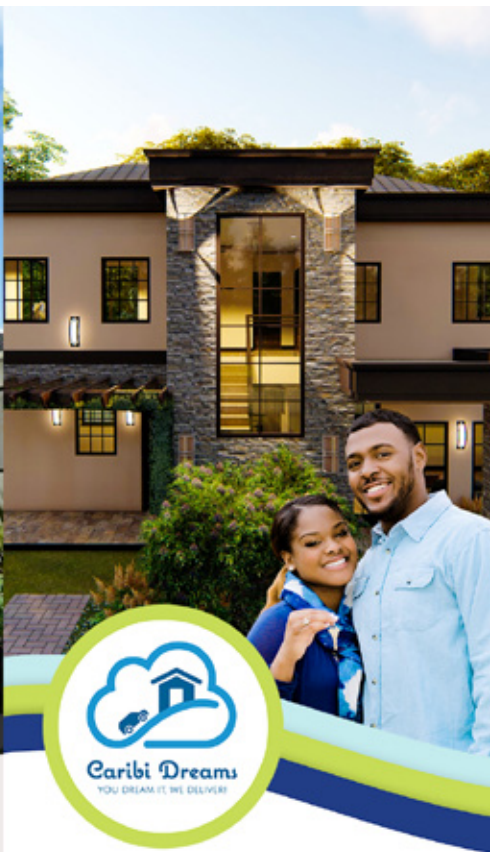
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The CARI-ON Committee wishes the Government and all SVG Nationals every good as they celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and congratulates the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. on the occasion of its 50th year of service to the SVG community in Toronto.

SVGAT COMMUNITY LAUNCHES DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE



L – R: Andrea Jones, Hayden Jones (Chair), Stuart Brereton, Melba DaSilva, Andrea DeSilva, CG Fitz Huggins, Hassan Perreira, Gideon Exeter, Sandra Sutherland

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community in the Greater Toronto Area on Sunday, September 22 launched a committee called CARI-ON, an acronym for Conducting Active Relief Impacting Our Nation. Its mission is to take a proactive stance to help mitigate some of the inherent challenges faced during, and in the aftermath of a disaster by providing timely relief to sustain essential functions.

Disasters strike at any time without notice, and as we all know, the Caribbean Region is prone to natural disasters. It is a phenomenon that we can expect each year - be it hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, storms or earthquakes. These disasters seem to be occurring more forcefully and frequently due to the effect of climate change. We need to pay attention and get organized.

Over the years, the various Caribbean communities in the Diaspora have reacted well but not in any organized manner. Following an appeal that was made last year, a number of communities here in the Greater Toronto Area are putting structures in place by forming disaster preparedness committees to develop plans to enable the communities to respond when a need arises. Grenada, Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines communities have so far launched committees. In addition, the Antigua & Barbuda Emergency Relief Fund was established years ago.

CARI-ON is a member of an umbrella organization in the GTA called CCaDiRA which is made up of a number of Caribbean communities' committees established for the same purpose. CARI-ON, through CCaDiRA will partner with international organizations like Global Medic and the Canadian Red Cross and channel its assistance through NEMO and the other Caribbean governments' established agencies to respond to

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disasters in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and any other Caribbean country.

CARI-ON is comprised of representatives of the various SVG organizations in Toronto including the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto, the Toronto SVG Support Group, the Union Island Cultural Association as well as some interested individuals. These committees all have the blessings of their respective governments.

An appeal is being made for other SVG groups to join CARI-ON. Let us all be prepared so that when disaster strikes our country of birth, we are in a position to positively respond. If you are unable to join the committee, we are open to accept financial donations in order to purchase materials to assemble emergency and survival kits.

Hayden Jones, former president of the Union Island Cultural Association is the chair of CARI-ON. Visit our website, www.carionsvg.org, follow on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/carionsvg/> or email us at carion.org@gmail.com to keep in touch with developments as disaster preparedness becomes more established.



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OECS Nationals Council Canada



I am delighted and honoured to extend warm greetings from the OECS Nationals Council Canada, to nationals of St. Vincent and the Grenadines as they celebrate 40 years of Independence and SVGAT's 50th anniversary.

All nationals of St. Vincent and the Grenadines can be proud of their many achievements since becoming an independent and sovereign nation and the many contributions your diaspora made to the development of the multicultural fabric of your adopted country - Canada.

As a founding member of the OECS Nationals Council Canada, we are proud of your contribution to OECS and your continued support for the development of peaceful and sustainable communities in Canada and the OECS union.

Best wishes for a memorable and successful Independence celebration.

John L. Allen
Chair, OECS Nationals Council Canada
Former, Honorary Consul General of St. Kitts & Nevis, Canada

Thank You

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