

Insight

St. Vincent & the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

Quarterly Newsletter April 2006

2006 VINCY UNITY PICNIC organized by **ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATIONS OF MONTREAL, OTTAWA, TORONTO**



Join Vincentians and friends in the Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto areas as we celebrate this Annual Unity Outing

**Brown's Bay Provincial Park, 1000 Islands
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BREAKING NEWS

PM gives airport update

Carmelita Jamieson, 2006/04/07

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves on Tuesday said the International Airport Development Corporation (IADC) has agreed to purchase and develop 21 acres of land at Harmony Hall to be sold to Argyle homeowners displaced by the construction of the airport there. Homeowners will be asked to pay \$7 per square foot rather than the market price of \$12.

Her Majesty's Prisons has resumed clearing of the land in preparation for the infrastructural development expected to commence by the end of May. Once the lands are cleared sufficiently, he said, tours for homeowners will be organized by mid to late April when lot selection will commence. The Prime Minister said a number of initiatives are also under consideration for the homeowners. Government is considering waiving the 5% stamp duty and will bear all the legal fees in the conveyance of the property.

Dr Gonsalves said homeowners at Argyle can remove all and any fixtures from their property even as he said government would decide if it can afford a relocation allowance. Some persons, Dr Gonsalves said, have been paid for their properties while others have received a substantial portion of their compensation.

Meanwhile, the government is also involved in tense negotiations with farmers at Pembroke Estate near to the Buccament on the Bay Restaurant where investors are interested in building a multi-million tourism resort.

Should these two projects be allowed to go ahead they would be deemed two of the biggest projects in the history of SVG to be going on at the same time.

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FROM THE PR COMMITTEE

Greetings to everyone as we move to a milder period of weather for the year! Let us thank God for what we have accomplished over the past few months and ask him to comfort those who may not have had as much good fortunes.

The PR Committee continues to deliver the information about the Association to our members and friends through ***Insight***, our quarterly newsletter and on our website, www.vincytoronto.com. We appreciate and thank all who contribute articles and ideas to assist in the improvement of these mouthpieces of the Association. Our sincere thanks too to our advertisers whose contributions enable us to maintain this transmission of information to you our readers. The Executive and members of the PR Committee encourage each of you to support our advertisers when and where possible.

Our advertisers expect something in return for their contribution so the more people that get access to both the website, www.vincytoronto.com and the newsletter creates the more opportunity for them to see the services that are offered by the advertisers and the subsequent engagement of those services.

This being our first newsletter since the Annual General Meeting where election of officers took place, we use the opportunity to congratulate and express thanks to those persons who were elected and or accepted nominations to serve on the various committees of the Association. With the Public Relations Officer retaining her portfolio there were no changes to the PR Committee but there have been changes in other areas. A full list of executive members as well as committee chairs could be found elsewhere.

It seems that this will be an exciting year for the Association and we trust that each member will play his or her part in making it another successful one for the Association. We hope too that we can build on the foundation of past executives to strengthen us to continue pursuance of our goals and objectives.

Since *Insight* only comes out quarterly the committee will do its best to regularly update the website with any information that we feel should be sent to you. We therefore ask that you visit the website www.vincytoronto.com regularly and encourage others to do so. A recent suggestion made at our general meeting is to ask you to make the site your homepage so that each time you log on to your Internet you will be reminded to visit and see what's new.

On behalf of the Executive and other Committee Chairs we wish you an enjoyable Spring Season and God's blessings throughout the year.

Happy Easter to you!

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Make a contribution to the Association

You can now donate to any of the following: the Relief Fund, the Scholarship Fund, the Children's Christmas Party, the Christmas Hamper to Families In Need and/or to General Operating Funds by contacting any member of the Executive or the Chair of the Committee you wish to support.

THE EXECUTIVE

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

President – Jason Jones; Tel: 905-999-1771

jonesjason@rogers.com or president@vincytoronto.com:

Vice President – Kenneth Farrell; Tel: 416-762-3283

farrell4180@yahoo.ca;

Executive Secretary - Francelia George; Tel: 647-234-4040

execsec@vincytoronto.com

General Secretary - Petra Hutchinson; Tel: 416-652-5207

gensecretary@vincytoronto.com

Treasurer – June Ellis; Tel: 416-261-5399

juneellis_2@sympatico.ca or Treasurer@vincytoronto.com

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Nominated Member – Glendon Carmichael; Tel: 416-321-9029

gcarmichael@sympatico.ca

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Association Briefs

Scholarship Program

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Scholarship Program is intended to assist our young people to pursue their educational goals. From the 2006/2007 school year there will be two (2) scholarships issued with each recipient receiving \$1,000.00. Please visit the Association's website www.vincytoronto.com for more details and the application form. The Association herewith acknowledges contributions and pledges from Mr. Adonal Foyle, Western Union, The St. Vincent Cultural Group, Exeter Development Inc., the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Children's Charitable Foundation and Miss Diane Liverpool. Other contributions are welcomed.

2006 Vincy Unity Picnic

For those persons living in areas served by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Associations of Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto who have never attended one of these picnics and to those outside of the country who are planning to be in Ontario next summer, please mark **Saturday, July 15, 2006** on your calendar as that is the date for **Vincy Unity Picnic 2006**. Please visit our website, www.vincytoronto.com regularly for updates on this.

2006 Independence Anniversary Celebrations

Audrey Lewis has accepted to chair the Independence Committee for another year. This year's activities will be held during October 29 to November 5. The committee is meeting to finalize arrangements for the various events. Should you have any input or suggestions for the committee please contact Audrey at 416-829-6201.

Help to Liberty Lodge Boys Centre

In continuing its assistance to causes in St. Vincent and the Grenadines the Association recently handed over an amount equivalent to just over EC\$1,500.00 to the Liberty Lodge Boys Training Centre. The money was raised through a Walk-a-thon coordinated by the Relief Committee.

The Liberty Lodge Boys Training Centre is a government institution which falls under the Ministry of National Mobilization. Its mission is to provide a caring environment in which boys 7 to 16 years old of poor and disadvantaged families having familial, educational, social, emotional and/or behavioral difficulties can develop skills that would allow them to become responsible and productive citizens.

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Please bring along a friend to the next meeting of the Association (the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, January 29 at 4:00 p.m. Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Crt, North York (Keele & Sheppard)

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

The Executive and Members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. will like to extend condolences to all members and friends of our community who have lost loved ones.

We are cognizant that many members of our community have passed on since our last publication and that all the names were not reported to us.

We wish you God's blessing as you cope with your loss and that those who have departed will find rest in the Lord.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES

Financial Planning

By Lance Garraway CFP

Many local sayings have become acceptable reminders of the way we live our lives. Sayings such as "If you don't know where you're going, how will you know when you get there"; and "If you stand for nothing, you will fall for everything".

These two are certainly applicable to the way we conduct our financial lives and to its eventual success or failure. Many people talk about wanting to retire comfortably or wanting to send their children to university but have not taken the next step towards realizing those dreams; among others. As the saying goes, "if you don't know where you're going how do you know when you get there"? This is where financial planning becomes important.

The term financial planning brings to mind many misconceptions, it is for the rich, it cost too much money; among them. Simply put, it is a process which when followed provides a greater possibility of success in achieving your goals. The first step in the process is taking an accurate assessment and review of your income, your expenditures, assets and debts. This forms the platform from which everything else is built. Secondly a listing of all your financial goals is important in order to identify the time frame and priorities of each. Thirdly, reviews of what steps are being taken now to achieve these goals must be done and an action plan put in place to implement steps towards those goals. Fourthly, appropriate reviews are necessary to ensure that the plan is still appropriate and applicable to your goals and changing financial circumstances.

The above review of the planning process is not an exhaustive discussion of the subject but covers the main guidelines. The need to have a written plan in place is where the other saying comes into place, "If you stand for nothing, you'll fall for everything". Quite simply many people try to run their financial lives by trying every new piece of information heard on the TV, every hot tip whispered by a friend or read in the newspapers;

whether it applies to their circumstances or not. They fall for everything, guaranteeing financial failure. They are susceptible to each new hot trend or past glory. They try going forward by constantly looking in the rear view mirror.

Financial advisors are trained to work in implementing the planning process above and in providing a written blueprint to achieve the intended goals. One of the most important services of the advisors though is to keep the focus on the plan so that you do not "fall for everything". The aforementioned is one of the most undervalued services of an advisor, preventing costly decisions being made at the wrong time.

It is never too late to start the process. Be mindful of the two sayings and take action today.

Lance Garraway is a Financial Planner with OptiFund Investments Inc. in Scarborough, Ontario. He could be contacted at 416-297-1766.

IT IS NOT EASY...

To apologize, To endure success,
To begin over, To profit by mistakes,
To be unselfish, To forgive and forget,
To take advice, To think and then act,
To admit error, To keep out of a rut,
To face a sneer, To make the best of little,
To be charitable, To subdue an unruly temper,
To keep trying, To shoulder a deserved blame,
To be considerate, To recognize the silver lining –
To avoid mistakes, BUT IT ALWAYS PAYS.

Author Unknown

Breadfruit:

From East to West – A Brief Account

by Fred Prescod

It is believed that the breadfruit is native to the Malayan Archipelago. From there it was carried to other Pacific islands in prehistoric times. There are later accounts of Spanish voyagers having come across the plant in the Solomon Islands during the 16th Century and in Tahiti in the early 17th Century.

At the beginning of the 18th Century English explorers promoted the idea of introducing the tree to the West Indies. Also, periods of famine during the late 1800's prompted Jamaican plantation owners to petition King George III to import breadfruit trees to provide food for their slaves.

Now accounts of Captain William Bligh's notorious 10-month voyage between 1787 and 1788 are well documented. His crew mutinied and set him adrift near Tahiti. In a second attempt Bligh sailed in 1791 with 2000 breadfruit plants bound for the West Indies. This voyage was successful. It resulted in the introduction of the breadfruit in 1793 to the islands of St. Vincent and Jamaica, from where plants were subsequently distributed to other islands of the West Indies.

Some authorities indicate that there is evidence of a French Navigator having brought a seeded variety of breadfruit to the French West Indies from the Philippines in 1772. It is also believed that some seedless and seeded breadfruit plants reached Jamaica from a French ship bound for Martinique but captured by the British in 1782. In addition there appears to be a record of a plant having been sent from Martinique to the St. Vincent Botanical Garden before 1793. It has also been suggested that the seeded breadfruit was carried by Spaniards from the Philippines to Mexico and Central America long before any reached the West Indies.

Today breadfruit trees are commonplace in the backyards and gardens of many rural and urban homes in the West Indies, and trees can be seen growing as far north as Key West, Florida. Raw or canned fruit can also be found in North American and European groceries and markets.

Of historical and horticultural significance is the presence today of a tree said to be a descendant of the original tree planted by Captain Bligh in the Botanical Garden in St. Vincent. And of course most Vincentians are aware of the fact that this Botanical Garden is the oldest in the Western Hemisphere. It was established in 1765.

(Editor's Note: *The Education Committee is preparing a special page for our website which will include more information about the breadfruit and some interesting recipes. Please keep checking the website for this information.*)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Help a child in your homeland to a brighter future.

An old saying reminds us that children are the future of every country. Each of us can help to build the future of St. Vincent and the Grenadines by helping the children. As little as Cdn\$1.00/day per month will give at least EC\$50.00 per month. This small amount can help to keep a young child in school and contribute to his or her development in the community. If you are interested in learning how you can go about sponsoring a child in St. Vincent & the Grenadines, how to get such a child and how to ensure that your sponsor money is used for the development of that child, please enquire in confidence by writing to the Association either through regular mail or e-mail. You can also contact any member of the Executive.

HIGH COMMISSION FOR ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

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MORE ASSOCIATION NEWS

Committees

Among the committees that the Executive has agreed to activate this year to attempt to advance the causes of the Association and put the Association in a more positive financial footing are the **Fundraising and Entertainment Committee** and the **Sponsorship Committee**. The **Fundraising and Entertainment** will work with all committee chairs to coordinate fundraising events and the allocation of funds raised from those events to carry out the objectives of the Association. This committee is headed by Glendon Carmichael and includes Grafton Bibby, Fred Williams, Adina James, Allan John, Claudius Samuel, Marcia Farrell, Grace Vendryes and Jason Jones, ex-officio.

The **Sponsorship Committee** is a sub-committee of the F & E Committee and is responsible for developing a program to seek sponsors for activities initiated by the Association and is comprised of Jason Jones – President, Glendon Carmichael and Gideon Exeter. Through sponsorship the Association will be able to raise funds to allow it to keep our events affordable to our members and supporters and the sponsors will get the opportunity to advertise their businesses to our community through our website, newsletter and at the sponsored events.

Use of Community Centres

The Association, like other community organizations has been informed that soon it will have to pay for its use of any community centre for its activities including meetings. The suggested charge will be \$20.00 per hour. This decision by the City of Toronto will impact immensely on the Association as a financial burden. The Executive has agreed to do more follow up on this matter. In the mean time, if nothing changes, we are exploring different venues for meetings, including for our Membership Meetings.

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Our sincere thanks to those companies that have provided assistance to this publication by advertising with us again. Please support them.

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

Sunday, April 30	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
	Presentation of Building Bridges Report	15 Clubhouse Court, North York
Sunday, May 14	Annual Mothers' Day Dinner	Disciples Banquet Hall
		30 Gordon McKay Dr., Toronto
Sunday, May 28	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
		15 Clubhouse Court, North York
Sunday, June 25	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
		15 Clubhouse Court, North York
Saturday, July 1	Canada Day Family Picnic	Downsview Dells Park, North York
		(Between Jane & Keele Streets off Sheppard)
Saturday, July 15	Vincy Unity Picnic	Brown's Bay Provincial Park, 1000 Islands
Sunday, August 27	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
		15 Clubhouse Court, North York
Sunday, Sept. 24	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
		15 Clubhouse Court, North York
Sunday, October 29	Independence Thanksgiving Church Service	TBA
Saturday, Nov. 4	Annual Independence Banquet	TBA
Sunday, Nov. 5	Town Hall Discussions	TBA
Sunday, Nov. 26	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
		15 Clubhouse Court, North York
Saturday, Dec. 16	Children's Christmas Party	TBA
Sunday, Dec. 17	Annual Christmas Sing-a-Long	Northwood Community Centre
		15 Clubhouse Court, North York
Friday, Dec. 22	Christmas Hamper Outreach	
Sunday, January 28	Annual General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
		5 Clubhouse Court, North York

OECS Anniversary

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Community. The community consists of the island nations of Antigua & Barbuda; the Commonwealth of Dominica; Grenada; Montserrat; St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia; and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The High Commission, based in Ottawa would like to celebrate the anniversary in Canada by bringing together nationals residing especially in Ontario and Quebec. To this end a gala event is being planned to take place at a location in Ottawa on June 24. The spirit of the Gala will be one of celebration and we would take the opportunity to recognize and honour outstanding nationals who have given their time and talents in services to their respective communities.

Information on the criteria for the selection of honorees and further details about the event will be circulated shortly. In the meantime all members of our community are invited to begin the process of identifying persons whom they feel need to be recognized for the contributions to society. Please check our website, www.vincytoronto.com regularly for information as they become available.

GOSPEL EXTRAVANGANZA

The members of the **SVG Renal Failure Relief Fund Steering Committee in New York** invite you to a Gospel Extravaganza

in Toronto on May 28th, 2006, at the Charles Mc Vetty Convention Center, Canada Christian College, 50 Gervais Drive (Don Mills & Eglinton), Toronto. Tickets are \$20.00.

Our own Bridget Blucher would be the main artiste, with performances by Seltha Browne, Divine Praise Mime Ministry, Brian Anderson, Julian McIntosh, Ellsworth Quammie, Sonja Sutton and Chantelle Grant. For tickets and further information please contact Phillip Dopwell at 905-430-5357.

CULTURAL SYMPOSIUM

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Embassy in Washington in collaboration with the SVG Consulates in New York and Toronto will hold its Cultural Symposium on 20th May, 2006 in New York City.

Throughout the course of the day, there will be simultaneous workshops taking place. The topics for discussion at these workshops are (1) Creating wealth from our cultural arts; (2) Building linkages between workers in cultural arts in the Diaspora and those in SVG; (3) Identifying opportunities in North America for promoting Vincentian cultural arts; (4) The role of the Government, Private Sector, Non-Governmental Organizations and the Media in promoting Vincentian cultural arts in North America; and (5) Defining our cultural identity.

For more information please contact the Embassy at 202-364-6730, SVG Consulate in Toronto at 416-398-4277 or the SVG Consulate in New York at 212-687-4490.

TORONTO CONSULATE OFFICE

*Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
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Consul General: Mr. E. Bernard John
website: www.svgconsulate.org
Email: consulategeneral@svgconsulate.org

The Office of the Consulate General in Toronto is here to attend to the needs of Vincentians. It also strives at strengthening its ties with organizations looking to do business in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

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*On behalf of the Ministry of Tourism & Culture and the Government and people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines the SVG Tourist Board in Canada takes this opportunity to wish all nationals of St. Vincent and the Grenadines both at home and in the Diaspora a **Happy and Blessed Easter**.*

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NEWS FROM SVG

(Courtesy of The Vincentian and Searchlight Newspapers)

Vincentians Encouraged to Save Energy

VINLEC has been mandated by the government to carry out a publicity and information campaign on the experimentation of using energy efficient bulbs therefore replacing the incandescent light bulbs they have used for years. It is expected that the approximately 250,000 energy efficient bulbs will be required and a team of Cuban experts will oversee the project with the assistance of some young Vincentians. The estimated cost of electricity in SVG is EC\$10.26 million, equivalent to 5,000 tonnes of fuel.

Heritage Month Celebrations

As a part of Heritage Month Awareness, East Indians commemorated their arrival in SVG. It was on June 1, 1861 that some 260 Indians landed at Edinboro, just outside of Kingstown. This trip from Madras, India was the first of eight trips to bring a total number of 2,475 Indians during 1861 to 1890 from several parts of India. They came to St. Vincent for economic reasons – the shortage of labour on the plantations following the abolition of slavery on August 1, 1838. India was at that time feeling the impact of years of famine. The Indian population, though shrinking has contributed immensely to the growth and development of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Value Added Tax

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is joining the growing number of global countries to introduce Value Added Taxes. Business owners and the general public have been encouraged to attend

courses and seminars to educate them about how the new tax will affect their livelihood.

PM's Press Secretary Murdered

Popular journalist and political activist Glen Jackson was found dead in the back of his car on March 6. The murder sent a chill throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the government has made it clear that it will leave no stones unturned in trying to solve the vicious crime. Mr. Jackson became a close friend of Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves following the role Mr. Jackson played in using his radio program to bring down the former NDP government and paving the way for the ULP to take over governance of the country.

An official funeral was held for him on March 15 which drew a wide cross section of Vincentians to overcrowd the Kingstown Methodist Church and later the streets on the way to the cemetery. The government has announced a reward of EC\$100,000 to anyone who could provide information that would lead to the arrest and conviction of the murderer. Scotland Yard detectives are assisting the local police with the investigations. Meanwhile, Dr. Gonsalves has announced the naming of a scholarship in Jackson's honour.

Constitution Review Committee Report

The final report of the Constitution Review Committee of St. Vincent and the Grenadines was presented to the House of Assembly on February 28, 2006. The Commission held numerous discussions with Vincentians throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines as well as with Vincentians in the Diaspora.

To view a full copy of the final report, please visit the CRC's website: www.crc.vincy.com.

Changes in UK Immigration Rules

From 3 April 2006, there will be important changes in Immigration Rules, which will affect people applying for leave to remain, and indefinite leave to remain (or settlement), in the UK.

The changes in summary are: -

For all employment-related categories of entry to the UK, and those who have entered under the Ancestry category, the qualifying period for indefinite leave to remain (settlement) is now 5 years.

The initial grant of leave to remain will now be 2 years (except for Work Permit holders and Retired Persons of Independent Means), followed by a subsequent period of up to 3 years. The rules previously allowed for an initial period of up to 12 months leave to be granted, followed by a subsequent period of up to 3 years.

The UK ancestry provision has been changed to allow leave to be granted in a 2 and 3 year pattern, rather than allowing one single period up to the settlement qualifying period. Retired Persons of Independent Means will still be eligible for one single period of leave all the way up to the settlement qualifying period as before.

Work Permit holders will still be eligible for an initial grant of leave up to the currency of their work permit. Highly Skilled Migrant's will now be able to amalgamate continuous time spent in the UK as a work permit holder, Highly Skilled Migrant and / or an Innovator when applying for indefinite leave to remain as a Highly Skilled Migrant.

This Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules will be laid before Parliament on 13 March 2006. The Government announced these changes to the Immigration Rules in February 2005 in its paper "Controlling Our Borders: the Five Year Strategy for Asylum and Immigration". These will bring the requirements for settlement nearer to those for citizenship; and to bring the UK's practice for the qualifying period required in line with the rest of the European Union.

This Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules will be incorporated into a consolidated version of the Immigration Rules which can be found under the 'Laws & Policy' page of below mentioned website, where there are also copies of all the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules issued since May 2003.

Queries should be addressed to the Home Office's Immigration and Nationality Enquiry Bureau on telephone: 0870 606 7766 or by e-mail: indpublicenquiries@ind.homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Church Needs Help

The Methodist Church in Kingstown, St. Vincent, built in 1841 is in dire need of repairs and needs your help. The roof needs to be changed and one of the balconies is closed off from public use as a safety measure. It is estimated that approximately EC\$1,000,000.00 is required to finance the repairs. Your contributions could be mailed to: Kingstown Methodist Church, P.O. Box 26, Grenville Street, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Windward Islands and more information could be had from Rev. Victor H. Job, Superintendent, Minister & President, South Caribbean District Methodist Church in the Caribbean & the Americas (MCCA) – 784-457-1989.

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OPINION COLUMN

(We invite members and our readers to share their opinions with other readers in matters of interest to the development of the Association and our community).

Views and opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and do not reflect the views of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

PRESERVING OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE

March is recognized as National Heroes and Heritage Month in St. Vincent and the Grenadines so at the time of preparing information for this issue of Insight we are right in the middle of the recognition but that period will be over by the time this article is printed. Two of the things that Vincentians are widely known for are, one, we do not like to write and the other is that we find it difficult to recognize those among us who are making contributions well above the accepted norm and therefore show public recognition to them.

By an Act of Parliament in 2002, March 14 was proclaimed as National Heroes Day and ultimately the entire month was declared as Heritage Month. The objectives of the declarations were:

- To increase general public knowledge about our history, heroes and heritage;
- To heighten public awareness about the importance of National Heroes;
- To continue the process of preserving our National Heritage;
- To generate stronger feelings of National Pride among Vincentians.

To date, however, we have been only able to identify and agree on one individual as a National Hero. Listening to discussions on the topic some argue that in order to uphold the dignity of the recognition we should not hastily name a bunch of persons but rather take our time so that citizens could take time to appreciate the value of the award. There is the feeling though that we are so critical a community that we find it

difficult to show our appreciation to our own for their contributions.

The various SVG associations and organizations outside of St. Vincent and the Grenadines seem however to regularly host events to recognize their outstanding members. This is commendable and it is hoped that the records of the contributions of those individuals are shared so that Vincentians all over world could be able to access them. Quite often, due to the lack of written information on our achievers and stalwarts later generations do not get to know about them. Quoting the words of one of SVG's Cultural Officers, Anthony Theobalds, "One of the constant concerns (one may even say complaint) of students and other researchers, has been the lack of written documents. They have found that usually they are directed to a person who must then be interviewed, therefore making it a longer and more complex process that slows the sharing of our heritage".

Apart from the award of National Hero there are other awards and recognitions that our government bestows on its citizens. There are quite a number of Vincentians in the Diaspora who have distinguished themselves and are making meaningful contributions to not only where they reside but to a great extent to life in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. They too, need to be considered for some of those national recognitions. In order therefore for Vincentians at home to know about these ambassadors of SVG it is important that the information about them be widely circulated.

Joseph Chatoyer is our only declared National Hero and a lot is not well known about him because there is very little written information on him. I print here for you what is found in a document produced by The Ministry of Urban Development, Culture, Labour & Electoral Matters. In future issues of Insight, we would share information on some other outstanding contributors to our nation so that those at least within our readership could share with their younger ones.

The Right Excellent Joseph Chatoyer, Paramount Kalinago leader of the Carib Peoples and Defender of Hairouna was a brilliant military strategist, a world class diplomat and most importantly, he was and still today is loved and respected by his people. On the night of March 14, the English stormed Dorsetshire Hill where Duvallier, the Windward Carib Chief and Chatoyer had just earlier made their headquarters.

Joseph Chatoyer led the Carib people in a guerilla campaign against the invading French and British. Often times, the battles were pitted so they fought against one another to the advantage of Chatoyer and his people.

Chatoyer by that time was convinced that he couldn't be killed by mortal means. He therefore challenged Major Alexander Leith to a duel. Major Leith was a trained army officer therefore he was a good user of the sword and so Chatoyer was killed in that duel. The French version of the duel says that while Chatoyer was getting the upper hand of Major Leith, an English soldier shot the Carib Chief in the back. Whichever way Chatoyer was killed, the limited information

available on him dictates that he was a great leader. We know that his home and headquarters were at Morne Ronde on the northwestern end of the island. There is no clue as to his final resting place.

In commemoration of the life and struggles of this the greatest son of our soil, March 14, the day of his death is celebrated as National Heroes Day. The Right Excellent Joseph Chatoyer was awarded the highest honour of achievement attainable from the State on March 14, 2002 and became the first to attain the Order of National Hero of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

By share coincidence, another of our outstanding nation builders, Ebenezer Theodore Joshua died on that same date, March 14. A summary of Mr. Joshua's life and contributions to St. Vincent and the Grenadines will be shared in an upcoming issue.

(Submitted by Gideon L. Exeter)

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"America's High Tech "Invisible Man"

By Tyrone D. Taborn

You may not have heard of Dr. Mark Dean. And you aren't alone. But almost everything in your life has been affected by his work.

See, Dr. Mark Dean is a Ph.D. from Stanford University. He is in the National Hall of Inventors. He has more than 30 patents pending. He is a vice president with IBM. Oh, yeah. And he is also the architect of the modern-day personal computer. Dr. Dean holds three of the original nine patents on the computer that all PCs are based upon. And, Dr. Mark Dean is an African American.

So how is it that we can celebrate the 20th anniversary of the IBM personal computer without reading or hearing a single word about him? Given all of the pressure mass media are under about negative portrayals of African Americans on television and in print, you would think it would be a slam dunk to highlight someone like Dr. Dean.

Somehow, though, we have managed to miss the shot. History is cruel when it comes to telling the stories of African Americans. Dr. Dean isn't the first Black inventor to be overlooked. Consider John Stanard, inventor of the refrigerator, George Sampson, creator of the clothes dryer, Alexander Miles and his elevator, Lewis Latimer and the electric lamp. All of these inventors share two things: One, they changed the landscape of our society; and, two, society relegated them to the footnotes of history. Hopefully, Dr. Mark Dean won't go away as quietly as they did. He certainly shouldn't. Dr. Dean helped start a Digital Revolution that created people like Microsoft's Bill Gates and Dell Computer's Michael Dell. Millions of jobs in information technology can be traced back directly to Dr. Dean.

More important, stories like Dr. Mark Dean's should serve as inspiration for African-American children. Already victims of the "Digital Divide" and failing school systems, young, Black kids might embrace technology with more enthusiasm! if they knew someone like Dr. Dean already was leading the way.

Although technically Dr. Dean can't be credited with creating the computer -- that is left to Alan Turing, a pioneering 20th Century English mathematician, widely considered to be the father of modern computer science -- Dr. Dean rightly deserves to take a bow for the machine we use today. The computer really wasn't practical for home or small business use until he came along, leading a team that developed the interior architecture (ISA systems bus) that enables multiple devices, such as modems and printers, to be connected to personal computers.

In other words, because of Dr. Dean, the PC became a part of our daily lives. For most of us, changing the face of society would have been enough. But not for Dr. Dean. Still in his early forties, he has a lot of inventing left in him.

He recently made history again by leading the design team responsible for creating the first 1-gigahertz processor chip.. It's just another huge step in making computers faster and smaller.

As the world congratulates itself for the new Digital Age brought on by the personal computer, we need to guarantee that the African-American story is part of the hoopla surrounding the most stunning technological advance the world has ever seen. We cannot afford to let Dr. Mark Dean become a footnote in history. He is well worth his own history book.

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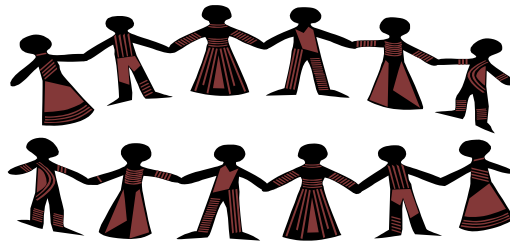
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The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association (SVGA) of Toronto is a non-profit community based Association. We are committed to providing assistance and support to groups, institutions in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Ontario and wherever the Association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



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- To maintain a high level of volunteerism through recruitment, training and effective utilization of skills.
- To provide a forum to promote leadership and advocacy for the enrichment of Culture and Education.
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- To promote social and recreational events to enrich the lives of Children, Youth, Adults and Seniors.
- To maintain a network of communication through information and referral.

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