

St. Vincent & the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings!

My sincere gratitude to the membership of the Association for placing confidence in me to lead the Association again. I take the opportunity to congratulate the other members who were also elected at the meeting as I look forward to a productive year.

The slate of executive members is still to be completed and I trust that some committed individuals will come forward to join the team to carry on the work of the Association. I welcome with open arms anyone who wishes to join the executive or to serve on one of the many committees that will be formed throughout the year. The more volunteers we have the lighter the task will be on each of us.

As we move forward, my desire is for all of us to collectively improve on what has been accomplished so far by the Association and build on it by initiating new ideas and programs to suit our needs. Over the years the Association has had a number of talented men and women who served as president and in other portfolios where they made their own mark during their tenure. I urge each of you who is still in our midst to once again come forward and contribute.

The Association has not yet reached that threshold of having 200 financial members in any fiscal year. This should not be difficult as there are so many St. Vincent and the Grenadines nationals living in Toronto and suburbs. To accomplish this in 2007, I expect that the new executive and its supporting committees will implement and coordinate programs which will draw many of our nationals towards the Association for them to make their own contributions.

We need to strengthen our financial base so that we can:

- Respond out to those in need of some form of assistance, whether here in our adopted country or in our native St. Vincent and the Grenadines;

## Quarterly Newsletter January 2007

- Sponsor and encourage more of our children to higher standards of learning;
- Create a fund so that we could move towards realizing ownership in some form of property in our community, whether it is owned by SSVG Nationals or in partnership with other organizations and individuals in our midst;
- Sponsor programs and activities to support the senior members in our community;
- Initiate a creative environment to encourage youth involvement and participation.

In closing, I look forward to a close and meaningful working relationship with each of you. I do encourage that each of you continue to demonstrate support and respect for the work that each and every member of this organization contributes.

Looking forward to your support.

Gideon L. Exeter

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

#### **ANNUAL MOTHERS' DAY DINNER**

Sunday, May 13, 2007 from 2:00 p.m.

#### **Disciple's Banquet Hall**

30 Gordon McKay Drive, Toronto (Jane & Falstaff – near to Leons Furnitute Store)

> Admission: Children under 6 years - FREE 6 years to 12 years - \$15.00 Adults - \$20.00

For more information and tickets, please contact: Allan Austin: 416-510-2889 Gracelyn Providence: 905-717-7896 Jason Jones: 905-999-1771 Audrey Lewis: 416-829-6201 Cordel Telfer: 905-789-9731 SVG Consulate Office: 416-398-4277

## 2 CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

(Editorial for Searchlight Newspaper – SVG Feb. 16, 2007)

#### **Rise to the challenges**

by William "kojah" Anthony

Leaders of the nations of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) would by now have returned to their respective homes and jurisdictions after the completion of their 18th Inter-Sessional Meeting which concluded in the host country, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, on Wednesday of this week. Following the usual high-profile opening, the focus was largely on a number of in-house matters, tackled in retreat-style caucus by the leaders.

There was, as usual, no shortage of issues demanding urgent attention consolidating the Caribbean Single Market (CSM) and its expansion to a common economy; the formidable challenges of negotiating an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union; regional social problems such as violent crime, violence, the nefarious drug trade and HIV/AIDS; and the bold yet just call for reparation for the crimes of colonization, subjugation and genocide, slavery and indentureship - were all on the table.

They, in turn, brought into sharp focus an over-arching approach, that of governance within the CARICOM structure. It is no

secret that CARICOM has long been plagued by the twin weakness of decision-making and implementation. While analysis and diagnosis have been in no short supply, the region has often lagged behind when it comes to clear decision-making, putting these decisions into practice and sticking to time-lines. It is left to be seen whether under the leadership of the Vincentian prime minister, which ends with the annual summit in July, if much progress would be made in these vital areas.

Perhaps the most outstanding example of one crosscutting issue which encapsulates the whole range of matters thus raised is the Caribbean's hosting of World Cup Cricket 2007. It represents not only the largest single undertaking of the Community as a whole but typifies the highs and lows of the regional integration process. That the region, at least the English speaking, cricket-playing nations, could not only agree to the hosting of cricket's



premier event, but actually find the resources including huge financial outlays to make it possible, says a lot for the Caribbean resolve.

Yet there has been the downside as well. The failure to meet deadlines especially in regard to infrastructure development, the gaffes over the regional visa, the inconsistencies over security issues and the apparent disconnect with some serious concerns of the tourism industry are examples of these. Both cricket and government officials should share the blame for some of these but are they not very typical of our community as a whole? Do we, the people of the region, not also exhibit this double-faced approach to World Cup 2007? Proud of hosting but indecisive in support?

Whatever our views, the World Cup is at our door. For us in SVG, this weekend's hosting of the final stages of the

regional one-day tournament, the KFC Cup provides an opportunity to test our final readiness. Not only will the facilities be under the spotlight, but the hosting and aboveall security arrangements as well. It is no secret that the requirements of the so-called "Sunset Legislation" and security and traffic regulations will cause disruptions and inconveniences to many. Perhaps we have left it too late to explain, been too sparing in information, but as a nation, we are exposed to the world. As a region we are called upon to show our mettle. Whatever our shortcomings, we must rise to the challenges, just as our leaders are called upon to do.

#### **TORONTO CONSULATE OFFICE**

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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. <u>www.svgconsulate.org</u> functions as an effective tool in assisting us to reach our goals. Visit our website.



#### 2007 Annual General Meeting

The Association held its Annual General Meeting on January 28, 2007 where members reviewed the activities of the past year and elected a new executive to lead it through the next fiscal year up to January 2008.

The Association ended the year on a positive financial note just as it has done for the past few years. As a result of the financial position of the Association it was able during the year to provide outreach and assistance to a number of charitable causes both in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and in Canada.

Assistance was provided to:

- Liberty Lodge Group Home for Boys in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

- St. Benedict's Infant Hospital and Day Nursery in SVG

- A SVG based national that travelled to Toronto for medical assistance

- The Canadian Diabetic Association

- Rosewood Church of the Nazarene in Toronto

- Christmas Hamper Project for needy families in Toronto. There were 7 recipients.

In addition, there was the annual Children's Christmas Party held in conjunction with the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Sports Club, formerly the SVGAT Cricket Team, where over 100 children participated.

The Scholarship Program was expanded during the past year with bursaries in the amount of \$1,000.00 each made available to two (2) deserving students.

When elections were held four positions on the Executive were filled. Three others will be elected and a further four are to be named as Nominated Members to comprise the full executive. Those elected so far include:

President	Gideon Exeter
Vice President	Melba DaSilva
Executive Secretary	Petra Hutchinson
Treasurer	Marcia Farrell

Jason Jones, the person who was the last elected President that served a full year is the Immediate Past President and as such continues as an Executive Member.

#### **Mothers' Day Dinner**

Mothers' Day this year is on May 13 when the Association will host its Annual Mothers' Day Dinner. For the third consecutive year it will be held at Disciples Banquet Hall, 20 Gordon McKay Drive, Toronto. Tickets will be available by the end of February so please try to get yours early. Allan Austin has kindly agreed to chair the committee again this year. Please call Allan at 416-510-2889 to let him know how you can assist his committee and where you can get your tickets.

#### **2007 Unity Picnic**

Our annual picnic at Brown's Bay Provincial Park, 1000 Islands held in conjunction with the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Montreal and Ottawa is on Saturday, July 21 this year. The Organizing Committee will provide details soon regarding the cost of tickets for those traveling by bus and the various forms of entertainment that will take place. Please mark this date on your calendar and share the information with friends and relatives.

#### **Independence Banquet**

The Renaissance Parque Banquet & Convention Centre at 2800 Hwy 7, Concord has been reserved for our Annual Independence Banquet to be held on Saturday, October 27. There were many requests from those who attended

last year for us to try to have it there again. We look forward to having the room full to capacity this year. Please mark October 27 on your calendar and try to get your tickets early.

#### Sponsorship of Child in SVG

Late last year the general membership voted for the Association to provide financial assistance to a child in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. We look forward to the Relief Committee to work out the details of this arrangement. Details will follow soon.

#### Committees

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In order to carry on the work of the Association a number of committees will be formed. Please contact any member of the Executive to indicate where you feel you can best serve the Association.

#### **Cruise Cancelled**

The Caribbean cruise which was being organized by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto in conjunction with Golden State Warriors Basketball Team member, SVG-born Adonal Foyle has been cancelled.

A minimum of 25 persons were to have registered and made an initial deposit by January 31, 2007 in order for the Association to participate in the cruise but the number fell quite short. The cruise was scheduled for June 21 to July 1, 2007 with costs starting from US\$914.00. Part of the proceeds from the fundraising cruise was intended to be donated to the Lewis Punnett Home in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

#### Former SVGAM President, George Richardson

George Richardson, formerly of Chauncey, SVG, one of the longest serving presidents of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Montreal died in early January. He held office in 1973-74, 1984-87 and 1993-94. George was responsible for many initiatives including being instrumental in creating the National Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Canada, The Montreal Council of Caribbean Associations, the SVG/Canada Pension Plan Agreement, and helping numerous Associations including SVG-Ottawa to set up and write their constitutions. His body was cremated and a Memorial Service was held for him on Saturday, January 28 where many relatives and friends turned out to pay their final respects.

The Executive and Members of SVGAT hereby express their condolences to the relatives of Mr. Richardson and wish them every good throughout their period of grief.

#### **Toronto Bids Farewell to E.B. John**

Organized by a group of St. Vincent and the Grenadines citizens in Toronto who worked closely with Evans Bernard John, affectionately known as "E.B." as he spearheaded the "Building Bridges" project, a wide cross section of the SVG Community attended a farewell reception for to show their appreciation for the work done here in Toronto by the former Consul General.

Mr. John, a former broadcaster and entrepreneur in his native SVG took up the assignment as Consul General for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Toronto in June 2002 shortly after the Unity Labour Party took office. E.B. John was accompanied to Toronto by his wife, Shelly and children Kelcey and Brandon.

The evening at the Radisson Hotel in Toronto included contributions by several speakers who spoke affectionately about Mr. John. E.B. in his usual masterful way brought the curtains down with a thank you address during which he said that he would continue to build bridges whether he remains here in Toronto or moves to another location.

The government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines recently announced several changes in its diplomatic offices abroad and part of that change included Toronto.

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto is part of the group that is included in the Building Bridges project.

#### **THE EXECUTIVE**

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

President – Gideon Exeter; Tel: 647-722-5786 president@vincytoronto.com; Vice President - Melba DaSilva; Tel: 905-919-9693 vicepres@vincytoronto.com Executive Secretary - Petra Hutchinson; Tel: 416-789-2019 execsec@vincytoronto.com General Secretary - Vacant gensecretary@vincytoronto.com Treasurer – Marcia Farrell; Tel: Tel: 416-645-0608 Treasurer@vincytoronto.com Assistant Treasurer - Vacant assisttreas@vincytoronto.com Public Relations Officer - Vacant pro@vincytoronto.com Immediate Past President - Jason Jones; Tel: 905-999-1771 jonesjason@rogers.com Nominated Member -Nominated Member -Nominated Member -Ass'n General Email address: svga@vincytoronto.com

#### Make a contribution to the Association

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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.

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1111 Finch Ave W., Suite 212, Downsview, Ontario, M3J 2E5 Tel. 416-736-9066 Ex 231 Fax. 416-736-8556 Pager:416-382-3032 The 2007 Independence Anniversary Banquet is to be held on Saturday, October 27, the actual date of the anniversary. Please plan to be there with us. **Get your ticket early.** 

#### 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 will amount to at least EC\$50.00 per month. This small sum 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.

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#### YOUTH DEBATE

The Antigua & Barbuda Association (Toronto) has invited our Association to participate in a youth debate among some of the OECS National Associations in Toronto. We are encouraging our young people between ages 18 to 30 to get involved. Please contact us by mid March if you are interested in being a member of the SVGAT's team to represent the Association.

## 6 NEWS FROM SVG

(Courtesy of The Vincentian and Searchlight Newspapers

#### **Diplomatic Changes**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in St. and the Grenadines Vincent has announced a number of changes in its representatives abroad. It noted that Pastor Steve Phillips will take up the position of Consul General of the Toronto Consulate, Former Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Brendon Browne will be appointed the OECS Ambassador in Ottawa and Mr. Maxwell Charles, Principal of the Buccament Secondary School will take the post of Deputy High Commissioner at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Commission High in London. England. Sir Louis Straker indicated that the new appointees are expected to take up their positions tentatively in March or later.

His Excellency, Ellsworth John, St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Ambassador to the United Nations has also announced that he will be returning to life in his homeland.

Her Excellency, Lorraine Williams, OECS High Commissioner to Canada will be leaving office soon to take up a position with the United Nations. She has been High Commissioner for four years and is being replaced by Vincentian Mr. Brendon Browne.

# New SVG Passports - Urgent Notice to St. Vincent and the Grenadines Nationals

We have been asked to advise St. Vincent and the Grenadines nationals that as of August 1, 2007, only the new Machine-Readable Passports issued by the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines will be accepted as official travel documents for our country.

The last day for using the old type of passports that are not machine-readable is July 31, 2007. Please take the necessary actions to obtain your new St. Vincent and the Grenadines Passport. The following rates apply for obtaining your new passport:



#### When applying in Canada - Cdn\$102.00

When applying in the United States of America - US\$105.00 When applying in the United Kingdom - 40 Pounds (Sterling) When applying in St. Vincent and the Grenadines - EC\$85.00

Please be guided accordingly and share the information with others. Please check with any SVG Overseas Office for further information. The SVG Toronto Consulate Office can be reached at 416-398-4277.

#### **Students off to Malaysia**

Ten persons recently left the county to pursue studies at the Limkokwing University of Creative Technology in Cyberjaya, Malaysia. The group will be pursuing three-year Bachelor's degree programmes in areas ranging from Electronic Commerce to Digital Imaging and Illustrations.

This is the first group of students to receive scholarships to the Southeast Asian nation since diplomatic relations had been established. At a media briefing on January 31, Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves outlined details of the scholarship. The scholarships were made available through the University's president and through the Petra Foundation of Malaysia. It is expected to cover tuition and room and board.

The Prime Minister said he was pleased with the advancements made in ensuring tertiary level education was available to the young people of the nation. He announced that, as of February 2008, an additional 15 scholarships will be made available to the institution. On January 27, the government handed out twenty-five scholarships to students to study in Venezuela.

#### **SVG Brewery Into Water**

St. Vincent Brewery Limited officially launched its new product, 'Duna' Natural Spring Water. Wayne Murphy, Sales and Marketing Manager at the Brewery, said at a press briefing that his company had formed a "strategic alliance" with the Dominica Brewery and Beverage Ltd.

In a press release from the company, it stated that the decision was one that provided the opportunity for growth by creating a "sustainable and significant boost" in a market with excellent growth potential.

Murphy told members of the press that the local Brewery was taking advantage of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) agreement.

The new product is expected to eventually be marketed throughout the region. Murphy explained that samples had already been sent to Barbados and that they were expecting to market the product in Antigua and Tortola. Dominica is also geographically located to facilitate access to the Leeward Islands, Murphy explained.

#### Too late to turn back

Whatever reservations there might be about hosting the International Cricket Council Cricket World Cup 2007, we have to stand up and face the music. Former SVG Attorney General Parnel Campbell is of the view that "we are beyond the stage of debating. We are in it. It is too late to change our mind."

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATIONS ANNUAL UNITY PICNIC Saturday, July 21, 2007 @ Brown's Bay Park 1000 Is.

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Campbell, a sporting, cultural and national figure, noted that "whatever, reservations are irrelevant. Let us make the best of what we have to do". Focusing on St. Vincent and the Grenadines with its role of hosting warm-up matches from March 5 to March 9, Campbell pointed to the matter of security. "We simply have to pull out every stop. We have to demonstrate (that) we are a people worthy of celebrating that event. We must rise to the challenge. Government must do all in its power to facilitate this arrangement." One with a finger on the pulse of the region's historical development, Campbell noted the observation of the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the Slave Trade.

A former Central Kingstown parliamentarian, Campbell expressed the hope that the Cricket World Cup 2007 would leave a "positive legacy".

The Local Organizing Committee for World Cup Cricket 2007 has traveled to a number of overseas cities where large numbers of Vincentians reside to promote the event and encourage Vincentians to travel home for the event. A reception was held in Toronto last December 1.

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Visit <u>www.vincytoronto.com</u> regularly to find out what is happening in our community and within the Association.

Check out the Message Board and participate in a topic or start your own topic for discussion.

Submit articles that you would like to share with others.

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#### ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2007

Sunday, February 25	Monthly General Meeting	Nort
Sunday, March 25	Monthly General Meeting	15 C
Sunday, April 29	Monthly General Meeting	15 C
Sunday, May 13	Annual Mothers' Day Dinner	Disc
Sunday, May 27	Monthly General Meeting	Nort
	, .	15 C
Sunday, June 24	Monthly General Meeting	Nort
Saturday, July 21	Annual Vincy Unity Picnic	Brov
Sunday, July 29	Monthly General Meeting	Nort
		15 C
Sunday, August 26	Monthly General Meeting	North
		15 Cl
Sunday, Sept. 30	Monthly General Meeting	North
		15 Cl
Sunday, October 28	Independence Thanksgiving Church Service	TBA
Saturday, November 3	Annual Independence Banquet	Rena
Sunday, November 4	Town Hall Discussions	TBA
Sunday, Nov. 25	Monthly General Meeting	North
		15 CI
Saturday, Dec. 15	Children's Christmas Party	TBA
Sunday, Dec. 16	Annual Christmas Sing-a-Long	North
		15 CI
Saturday, Dec. 22	Christmas Hamper Outreach	
Sunday, January 27	Annual General Meeting	North
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Northwood Community Centre 5 Clubhouse Court, North York





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#### 10 Energy Conservation Tips

#### **Electric Hot Water Tanks**

- Be sure to turn off the water heater when you are out of town for some time
- Installing low flow aerators on faucets can save water and energy.

#### **Space Heating and Cooling**

- In the winter, open curtains during the day to let in the sun, and close them at night to keep the heat in
- Keep blinds, shades and drapes closed during the day in the summer
- Try cooling your home to only 24 or 25 degrees C instead of the low 20's. Each degree below 26 C will noticeably increase your electricity use
- Turn off unnecessary lights in the house (they produce a lot of heat which works against the Air Conditioner).

#### **Fridges and Freezers**

- Owning a second fridge may be costing you several hundred dollars per year. If you use the fridge occasionally, consider removing it and/or replacing it with a smaller, more energy efficient model
- Don't overfill the refrigerator, as this blocks air circulation. Conversely, a full freezer will perform better than an empty one.

#### **Ovens and Stoves**

- Turn off the oven just before finishing the oven will remain hot long enough to complete the job
- Don't use a bigger pot than you need, and match it to the right size element.

#### Dishwashers

- Don't waste hot water by pre-rinsing dishes before washing
- Air dry your dishes you can save 10% of the cost of operation.



# Clothes Washer and Dryer *Washer*

- Run full loads whenever possible but don't overload the machine
- Wash your clothes in cold or warm water. A whopping 85 90% of the energy used by washing machines is for heating the water
- Try using cold or warm water for the WASH cycle, instead of hot water.

#### Dryer

- Separate loads into heavy, medium and lightweight items. Lighter loads will take less drying time than a mixture of items
- Dry consecutive loads to utilize otherwise wasted heat from the dryer

- Clean the lint filter after every load. A clogged lint filter can increase energy use up to 30%, and may be a fire hazard.

#### - Lighting

- Use compact fluorescent lights in fixtures that are on for excessive amounts during the day, they last longer and take less energy to function
- Take advantage of natural light as much as possible.

#### **Other Things**

- Devices that can be turned on with a remove, have digital clocks, or a little coloured light can use up to 50 watts all the time, so unplug them when not in use, or shut them off with a power bar.
- Be sure to at least shut off the computer screen, as 60% of the power used by a computer is used by the monitor. The other 40% is used to keep your hard drive spinning and to power the electronics.
- Unplug infrequently used TVs, as many continue to draw power even when turned off
- Use surge protectors for your computers and televisions to protect from fluctuation of power.

Fore more energy saving tips, please visit www.energy.gov.on.ca or call them at 1.888.668.4636.

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#### SVGAT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Association provides bursaries for financial members of any age or students who are not members but have Vincentian parentage to assist them in furthering their education beyond high school. Check out the website, <u>www.vincytoronto.com</u> for details and make sure that your application for 2007 comes in early.



#### SAND and STONE

TWO FRIENDS WERE WALKING THROUGH THE DESERT. DURING SOME POINT OF THE

JOURNEY, THEY HAD AN ARGUMENT; AND ONE FRIEND SLAPPED THE OTHER ONE IN THE FACE. THE ONE WHO GOT SLAPPED WAS HURT, BUT WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING, WROTE IN THE SAND:

"TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE".

THEY KEPT ON WALKING, UNTIL THEY FOUND AN OASIS, WHERE THEY DECIDED TO TAKE A BATH THE ONE WHO HAD BEEN SLAPPED! GOT STUCK IN THEMIRE AND STARTED DROWNING, BUT THE FRIEND SAVED HIM.AFTER HE RECOVERED

FROM THE NEAR DROWNING, HE WROTE ON A STONE:

"TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE".

THE FRIEND WHO HAD SLAPPED AND SAVED HIS BEST FRIEND ASKED HIM, 'AFTER I HURT YOU, YOU WROTE IN THE SAND AND NOW, YOU WRITE ON A STONE, WHY?' THE FRIEND REPLIED 'WHEN SOMEONE HURTS US WE SHOULD WRITE IT DOWN IN SAND, WHERE WINDS OF FORGIVENESS CAN ERASE IT AWAY. BUT, WHEN SOMEONE DOES SOMETHING GOOD FOR US, WE MUST ENGRAVE IT IN STONE WHERE NO WIND CAN EVER ERASE IT.' LEARN TO WRITE YOUR HURTS IN THE SAND AND TO CARVE YOUR BENEFITS IN STONE.





# CANOUAN, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Canouan is one of the South Grenadines. It measures 3.5 miles by 1.25 miles and has as its main town, Charlestown, which lies on one of its longest beaches at Grand Bay. Very popular for swimming and snorkeling, it claims some of the best beaches in the Caribbean - long ribbons of powder-white sands, wide shallows and coral. The 900 foot Mount Royal dominates this sparsely inhabited tropical isle and its beauty attract developers to build an exclusive 800 acre retreat of private landscaped gardens, unobtrusive villas and 18-hole golf course. The Carenage Bay Beach and Gold Club also has four restaurants, bars, tennis courts, swimming pool and a traditionally sumptuous casino, all looking out over the renowned long coral reef which parallels this east side of the island.

Canouan has a modern airstrip with night landing equipment. American Eagle has a scheduled service between San Juan, Puerto Rico and Canouan. Mustique Airways, SVG Air and Grenadine Airways have scheduled services between the islands and mainland St. Vincent.

There is an Inter-Island Ferry Service that provides connection between the Grenadines and mainland St. Vincent.

Canouan is the birth place of Golden State Warriors player Adonal Foyle. Golden State Warriors is one of the California basketball teams that compete in the NBA.



#### ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES TOURIST OFFICES

#### **HEAD OFFICE:**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tourist Office
Ooashegunny Bay, Cruise Ship Terminal
P.O. Box 834, Kingstown
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, Windward Islands
Email: tourism@caribsurf.com
Tel: 784-457-1502; Fax: 784-451-2425

#### UNITED KINGDOM

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tourist Office 10 Kensington Court London, W8 5DL ENGLAND Email: <u>svgtourismeurope@aol.com</u> Tel: 207-937-6570; Fax: 207-937-3611

#### CANADA:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tourist Office 333 Wilson Avenue, Suite 601 Toronto, Ontario, M3H 1T2 CANADA Email: svgtourismtoronto@rogers.com Tel: 416-633-3100; Fax: 416-633-3123

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tourist Office 801 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor, New York New York, 10017 U.S.A. Email: <u>svgtony@aol.com</u> Tel: 212-687-4981; Fax: 212-949-5946

#### **BEREAVEMENT NOTICE**

During the past few months a number of members of our community have passed on including former members of the Association. News of these deaths do not always reach the PR Committee or the Executive Members in time to circulate the information as we would like to.

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

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

#### MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Please bring along a friend to the next meeting of the Association on Sunday, February 25, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, North York (Keele & Sheppard)

#### CANADA DAY PICNIC

The Association's Annual Canada Day Picnic is usually held at a local park. Please join us on July 1 to celebrate

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#### **URGENT PASSPORT NOTICE**

Please contact SVG Immigration & Citizenship Department or any SVG Overseas Missions for information on the New Machine-Readable passports.

Deadline for using old ones is July 31, 2007.

Everton Jackson, member of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto handing over cheque to the Sister Nina-Ann Pajotte of the St. Benedict's Day Nursery and Hospital in Georgetown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This is just one of the contributions the Association made to causes in St. Vincent and the Grenadines during the past 12 months.

#### Be a Member! Join with us in achieving our goals.

#### **Mission Statement**

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.



#### Objectives

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.

To provide an anti bias environment for the discussion of matters of general interest to its members.

To plan, implement and participate in fundraising activities to meet urgent human needs.

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.

# Our membership meetings are held on the LAST SUNDAY IN EVERY MONTH from 4:00 p.m. at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, (Keele St. & Sheppard Ave. W.), North York.

#### We hope to see you there!

NAME:
ADDRESS:
TELEPHONE:
E-MAIL:
FAMILY MEMBERS:
NEW MEMBER OR RENEWAL:
AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ (\$2.00 for new membership registration, \$20.00 annual subscription) Please make cheques payable and mail to:
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. P.O. BOX 392, STATION F, TORONTO, ONTARIO, M4Y 2L8 Website: <u>www.vincytoronto.com</u> email: svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com