

# Insight

St. Vincent & the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

Quarterly Newsletter January 2008

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Members, Friends and Well-wishers.

As we start this New Year we thank God for his blessings during the past year and pray that He will make this a healthy, productive and progressive year for all of us.

With the festivities over, we begin to focus on another year and the upcoming Annual General Meeting with reports evaluating the past year and of course the elections for the various positions on the executive. It is hoped that a number of persons will volunteer their time to serve the Association in areas that they feel comfortable and competent. Volunteer work, while personally rewarding takes a large part of your personal time and we recognize that but we encourage you to help out your Association by giving of the personal time and effort required to allow us to continue to grow in this community. We all ought to play our part and make whatever personal sacrifices are necessary, if the SVGAT is to continue to thrive in Ontario.

In 2007 I was heartened by the number of persons who came forward to volunteer their time and contributed in one way or the other and to make a positive impact in our community here and in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. I truly believe that last year proved to be one of the best where the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto demonstrated its outreach to the wider community.

The year started with a cash presentation to St. Benedict's Day Care & Hospital in Georgetown, St. Vincent and was quickly followed with a contribution to assist with the shipping of a container of hospital needs to the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital in Kingstown. As the year progressed, we continued with the annual bursary in the scholarship program for students in the Greater Toronto Area which was awarded to Miss Vanessa Browne; the inaugural five-year sponsorship of a primary school student, Donlee Sutherland of Spring Village; we assisted eight families during the Christmas season with food hampers and we ended with a successful Children's

Christmas Party where we entertained and catered to almost 100 children.

As 2008 begins, we are pleased to announce that another student, this time from Cane End Government School will receive a five year sponsorship made possible through the generosity of one of our members. Our sponsorship of these students over a 5 year period is a clear demonstration that we are committed to investing long term in our homeland. The investment in these two students over 5 years is Cdn\$8,400.00.

On behalf of the Executive Committee members, I want to publicly thank all of you who in one way or the other supported the work of the Association during the past year. To those who served on committees, made financial and other material contributions, attended meetings and events, performed at events and of course those businesses and individuals whose advertisements enabled us to produce and maintain our website and newsletter, we extend a sincere "thank you"

I also seize the opportunity to extend special thanks to the Past Presidents who have gotten together to lend their experience to the Association. We look forward to their work on the completion of the revised constitution and other guidance material that they are currently working on for the benefit of us all.

Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to serve you.

Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto.

Gideon L. Exeter

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## Energy Tips

(Source: US Department of Energy)

### Don't Let High Fuel Costs Drive You Nuts

Whether you drive an economy car or an SUV, there are plenty of ways to improve your gas mileage. Avoid aggressive driving and observe the speed limit. Speeding, fast acceleration, and hard braking wastes gas. Lighten your load by clearing your car of extra weight, and remove roof racks or carriers if not used frequently. Keep current with car maintenance—clean air filters can improve gas mileage by as much as 10%. Properly inflated and aligned tires will improve gas mileage by 3%. Using the wrong grade of oil can reduce mileage by 1% to 2%. For longer-term savings, consider a high-mileage vehicle for your next purchase.

### Track Your Energy Costs with a Home Energy Audit

An energy audit will show you which areas of your home use the most energy and help you decide the most effective way to reduce energy costs. You can conduct a simple audit yourself, contact your local utility, or call an independent energy auditor for a more comprehensive examination. Check your home's insulation levels, and check for open fireplace dampers. Look for holes or cracks around doors, light and plumbing fixtures, and other places where air may leak into or out of your home. Make sure your appliances and heating and cooling systems are properly maintained, and study your family's lighting needs and use patterns, paying special attention to high-use areas.

### This Winter, Save Money and Stay Warm

Keep your energy bill and your pollution output low this winter by taking a whole-house approach to heating. Start with setting your thermostat as low as is comfortable. A programmable thermostat can help by adjusting the temperature according to your schedule—it can cut back heating at night, for instance, and turn it up again before you rise in the morning. It's also important to weatherize your home—caulk and weather-strip any doors and windows that leak air. Make sure your equipment is properly maintained and cleaned, and that furnace filters are replaced regularly. Finally, insulation is inadequate in many homes. Check the insulation in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, floors, and crawl spaces to see if it meets the levels recommended for your area.

### Keep Your Energy Bill Out of Hot Water

Water heating can be expensive, but there are a number of ways to lower your costs one way is to use less water. Repair leaky faucets immediately and use low-flow shower heads. (A family of four, each showering for five minutes a day, uses 700 gallons of water a week; you can cut that amount in half by using low-flow aerating showerheads.) Insulate your hot-water storage tank and pipes, and drain a quart of water from your water tank every three months to remove sediment that impedes heat transfer and lowers the

efficiency of your heater (follow the manufacturer's instructions). Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees; water heaters sometimes come from the factory with higher temperature settings than are necessary. When buying a new water heater, compare Energy Guide labels to find an energy-efficient model.

### Cut Loads of Energy While Doing the Laundry

It's easy to cut your energy costs for laundry. About 80%-85% of the energy used for washing clothes is used to heat the water. You can reduce this cost by using less water by washing full loads and using cooler water and cold-water detergents - switching the temperature setting from hot to warm cuts a load's energy use in half. . If you are in the market for a new washer, look for the ENERGY STAR and read Energy Guide labels. You can reduce drying costs as well: clean the lint filter after every load to improve air circulation, and don't over-dry clothes. Use the cool-down cycle to allow clothes to finish drying with residual heat. Also, periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it's not blocked. Consider buying a natural gas dryer, the cost per load is less than an electric dryer. Check out

### Lower Your Lighting Costs

Increasing your lighting efficiency is one of the fastest ways to decrease your electricity bills. Turn off the lights in any room you're not using, or consider installing timers, photo cells, or occupancy sensors to reduce the amount of time your lights are on. Use task lighting; instead of brightly lighting an entire room, focus the light where you need it. For example, use fluorescent under-cabinet lighting for kitchen sinks and countertops under cabinets. Consider three-way lamps; they make it easier to keep lighting levels low when brighter light is not necessary. Finally, use compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs); they are much more efficient than incandescent bulbs and last 6 to 10 times longer. CFLs are more expensive than incandescent bulbs, but they pay for themselves by saving energy over their lifetime.

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**Steve O. Phillips**  
Consul General

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## ASSOCIATION BRIEFS

### THE EXECUTIVE

Here is a list of the executive members just in case you would like to contact any of them. Please note that this executive is subject to change on January 27, 2008.

**President** – Gideon Exeter; Tel: 905-831-1814

[president@vincytoronto.com](mailto:president@vincytoronto.com);

**Vice President** - Melba Da Silva; Tel: 905-919-9693

[vicepres@vincytoronto.com](mailto:vicepres@vincytoronto.com)

**Executive Secretary** - Petra Hutchinson; Tel: 416-652-5207

[execsec@vincytoronto.com](mailto:execsec@vincytoronto.com)

**General Secretary** - Nichole Edwards; Tel: 416-256-4328

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**Treasurer** – Marcia Farrell; Tel: 416-645-0608

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**Assistant Treasurer** – Yolande Lewis – 416-809-6820

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**Public Relations Officer** – Jim Lewis – 416-459-2462

[pro@vincytoronto.com](mailto:pro@vincytoronto.com)

**Immediate Past President** – Jason Jones; 905-999-1771

[jonesjason@rogers.com](mailto:jonesjason@rogers.com)

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

### **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.

### **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. A little as Cdn\$1.50 a day, will amount to almost EC\$120.00 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 select such a child and how to ensure that your sponsorship 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.

### **SVGAT Adopts/Sponsors Primary School Child in SVG**

Donlee Sutherland, a grade 2, 7 year old student from the Spring Village Methodist School will benefit from an EC\$11,000.00 sponsorship program over a five-year period through an initiative of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto. The program which begins in January 2008 is an initiative by the Association to assist children from lower income families to be able to get the necessary foundation at the primary school level to prepare them for secondary school and life beyond.

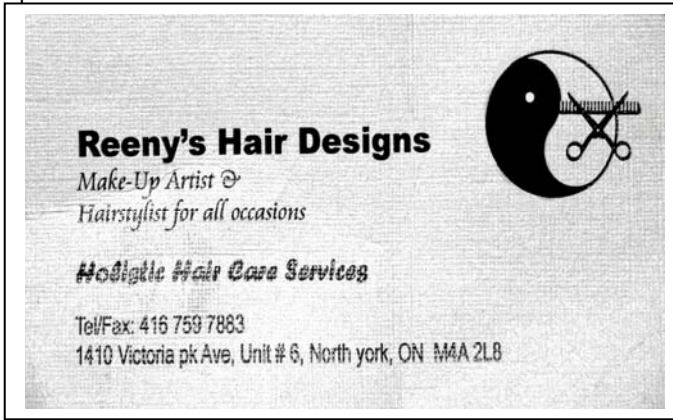
Donlee was selected by two trustees who will liaise with the student and his mother, the school and the Association on Donlee's progress.

As requirements, the student who is selected should have been at school for at least one year, and not younger than 6 years of age, should come from a family that is experiencing economic hardships, and should be in regular attendance at school.

The Relief Committee of the SVG Toronto Association which wrote the program, stated that this is a win/win situation for a number of participants who will be involved in the program – the sponsor, SVG nationals abroad reaching out and touching someone in need in the homeland; the student, by getting a chance to have a solid foundation laid for his or her future; the family, by getting some well-needed financial assistance; the school and the Association for getting involved in an outreach program in the community to enhance the lives of others; and the trustees, who will get to liaise between the student, family, school and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto.

The committee also stated that quite often assistance of this nature is geared to the academically advanced children who most often come from homes that could provide the financial base to equip them. According to Mr. Gideon Exeter, the Association's president, this initiative is different from regular scholarships or sponsorships. "It is to help someone who may not have made it through primary school if this help was not available".

Since word got out of this effort by the Association there have been numerous inquiries from individuals who want to know how they could become involved. One such person, Mr. Allan John has already made his first installment in sponsoring a student on similar terms. It is hoped that the success of this would lead to SVG nationals in the Diaspora join in helping with the education program in our homeland. Please contact any member of the executive or the Relief Committee for further information about the outreach efforts of the Association.



### Soca & Calypso Competition

Victor Adams who goes by the stage name Crazy Angle outperformed seven other contestants to capture the crown and first prize at the second annual Soca & Calypso competition held on November 24. Carlos David Morgan whose stage name is Yello placed second while Natasha Pope, known as Tasha P came in third. Other contestants were Storm, Vincy Sting, Dave and Lady Ann. Our thanks to the contestants and all those others who made this event possible

### LOOKING TO MEET OTHER SVG NATIONALS

Ms Cleo Edwards, a senior member of our community was born in St. Vincent but left at an early age for Trinidad where she grew up. She has lived in Canada for many years but has not been in touch with many of her former nationals. Ms Edwards will like to hear from you. Her telephone number is 416-924-3403

### CCAC Career Options Day

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto as a member of the Council of Caribbean Associations in Canada is hosting a Career Options Day on March 1, 2008 where services that include law enforcement, the military, police, TTC, EMS, Immigration and Border Enforcement will be available to promote themselves to our young people. The event will be held at Ryerson University in Toronto. Please see flyer on page 15 for more details.

### 2007 Children's Christmas Party

Almost 100 children signed up for our annual Children's Christmas Party and most of them showed up despite the inclement weather. They all seemed to have fun and enjoyed their gifts from Santa. We thank them and their parents for attending. Special thanks also go out to Allan Austin, Yvette Cadougan, Najla Edwards, Nichole Edwards, Petra Hutchinson, Joan Alexander, Melba Da Silva, Petro Canada, Lavonne Myal and the Cadougan family for their contribution of kind and time to make the event memorable for the children.

### 2007 Christmas Hamper Project

Eight food hampers along with some cash were handed out for families and individuals during this year's outreach program.

This program which dates back to the 1980's allows the Association through its Relief Committee to reach out to some less fortunate members of our community at Christmas time. Our thanks to the following donors who made it possible - Mr. Pat Fiore and his CIBC staff, Joycelyn Jackson, Joan Alexander, Grafton Bibby, Grace Kennedy, GEMS and Friends Steel band and Gloria Butler.

## NEWS FROM SVG

(Courtesy of the Vincentian and Searchlight Newspapers)

### Vincy Heat Takes On Team Canada in World Cup Qualifier

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines national football team, Vincy Heat, will take on Canada in a home and away series in June to determine which team will advance to the next round of qualifying games in the bid to be one of 16 teams to play in the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa.

Both teams are members of the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) and have never played against each other. They each received a bye out of Stage One and the winner of the series will advance to Stage Three scheduled for August to November where the most likely opponents will be Mexico, Jamaica or Honduras. Canada currently ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in CONCACAF while St. Vincent and the Grenadines ranks 9<sup>th</sup>. In FIFA ranking, Canada is 55<sup>th</sup> while Vincy Heat holds on to the 77<sup>th</sup> spot.

The timing of the series has caused some problems for St. Vincent and the Grenadines as the country is to host a One Day International cricket match, June 24, West Indies versus Australia, and the Arnos Vale Playing Field is the venue for both matches. Pitch preparations, vital for the cricket fixture, and other logistical reasons put the SVGFF in a position where alternative arrangements have to be made, since this country has no other facility to host a football match of that international status.

The football authorities for both countries are in dialogue to see whether the dates can be changed and St. Vincent and the Grenadines is also talking with the governing body of cricket, the International Cricket Council. When this is all settled, it will be determined when and where in Canada the game will be played.

### SVG 2008 Budget

The 2008 Budget was presented and debated in the House of Assembly in mid December. The expenditure budget for 2008 amounts to \$757.3 million comprising of recurrent expenditure (including amortization) of \$517.5 million and capital expenditure of \$239.8 million. The total budget is some \$127.2 million or 20.2 percent more than the 2007 approved estimates. For a complete detail of the presentation, please visit the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' website. [www.gov.vc](http://www.gov.vc) and look for the budget address.

**ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES' FLAG - A DESCRIPTION**

The flag of St. Vincent and the Grenadines was officially adopted on October 12, 1985.



The green diamonds are shaped in a V for St. Vincent, and reflect the plural nature of the many islands of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. These gems define St. Vincent and the Grenadines as the gems of the Antilles. The Blue represents the sky and sea. The gold is for warmth, the bright spirit of the people and the golden sands of the Grenadines. The Green represents the lush vegetation of St. Vincent's agriculture and the enduring vitality of the people. The Flag may be called "The gems".

**FACTS ABOUT ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

**POPULATION AND LABOUR FORCE**

\* The population is estimated to be 109,022

\* The labour force is estimated at 41,000.

\* Recent data indicates an unemployment rate of 22%.



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**ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2008**

Sunday, January 27	Annual General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Sunday, February 24	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Saturday, March 1	CCAC Careers Option Day	Ryerson University, 350 Victoria Street, Toronto
Sunday, March 30	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Sunday, April 27	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Sunday, May 11	Annual Mothers' Day Dinner	Northwood Community Centre
Sunday, May 25	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Saturday, July 19	Vincy Unity Picnic	Brown's Bay Provincial Park, 1000 Islands
Saturday, November 1	Independence Banquet	Riviera Parque Banquet Hall, 2800 Hwy 7 West

**Addresses & Directions:**

Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, (off Arleta between Keele & Jane Streets)  
Riviera Parque Banquet Hall, 2800 Hwy7 West at Jane Street, Concord

## NEWS FROM SVG CONTINUED

### Teachers Unrest

Attempts by government to avert a two-day withdrawal of services by teachers proved futile, as teachers stayed away from the classrooms throughout the country, on Wednesday, January 9 and Thursday, January 10. Many schools throughout the island recorded abnormally low student and teacher attendance. Some classrooms were deserted, while at other institutions, students were to be seen milling about the schools' compounds, in small pockets.

A public statement made by the Acting Prime Minister Hon. Mike Browne on Tuesday, intending to dissuade the Teachers Union from 'taking industrial action', may have achieved just the opposite.

Browne, in his statement alluded to political divisiveness as a probable cause to not wanting to call off the action. Part of that statement reads: "There is absolutely no doubt that the Teachers' Union meeting yesterday (January 7th) served as a magnet to pull anti-government teachers who pushed the decision in that direction."

The action, dubbed 'two days of rest and reflection,' was called for by a December 7th General Meeting of the Teachers Union. The protest action was against government's proposed action with respect to the Reclassification of teachers' positions and salary scales which, according to the Union, it would have been made aware of only as recent as December 28, 2007.

Teachers are concerned that in a number of cases, salary scales have been adjusted downwards, running contrary to the recommendations of the Powell Report, on which the Reclassification exercise was expected to be predicated. In the case of the starting point for Graduate Teachers for example, the Union contends that this has been reduced from \$3024.00 per month to \$2772.00.

Joy Matthews, President of the Teachers Union, has gone on record as saying: "As a Union, our trust was betrayed, and we feel undermined by our own policymakers."

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves was still out of the country at the time of the unrest. His Office carries the portfolio of the Public Service and hence responsibility for the implementation of the Reclassification recommendations.

### New Year's Honour List

The following persons were named on the 2007 Queen's Honours List in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

**Owen Douglas Brisbane Jr.** for recognition for his contribution to the Auxiliary Police, Civil Society and Business.

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**Jestina Charles** received the O.B.E for contribution to Social and Community work, especially among the youth and elderly.

**Dawn Smith** is "surprised" to be on the 2008 New Year's Honours list. She has been accorded the M.B.E for "Distinguished contribution to tourism and catering."

**Keith Gregory Miller**, appointed Commissioner of Police in September 2007, has been further exalted. He has been granted the M.B.E. for his impact on the maintenance of law and order here. Miller, who joined the constabulary in 1979, lingered at the lower ranks for a major part of his career. He distinguished himself as one with decorum and ambition and pursued evening classes while displaying a role as a model officer.

**Rev. Victor Job** has been awarded the Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (C.M.G.) for "Distinguished Contribution to the Propagation of Christianity, especially Methodism in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Caribbean and for his work among the poor." At present, he is Superintendent of the Kingstown/Chateaubelair Methodist Circuit, and he seems to be relishing this opportunity to serve.

## UWI celebrates 60

The University of the West Indies (UWI) School of Continuing Studies kicked off celebrations of its 60th anniversary of the regional university with representatives from Admissions, and the various faculties of its three main campuses (Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad), visiting the Community College, Teachers College and schools in Kingstown and the rural areas. This was revealed in Monday's press conference given by the UWI School of Continuing Studies, featuring Head, Dr. Adrian Fraser.

Other activities planned for the year include: meeting of the Interim Committee of the Alumni Association – January 24; a beach splash for alumni – March 16; church service – April 27th; alumni visits to local schools – April 30th; a newspaper pull-out – May 2; a cultural evening – May 3; a 60th anniversary dinner – July 19; and the Annual Independence Lecture – October 16. The Independence Lecture is expected to address the role of UWI.

Head of the local UWI School of Continuing Studies, Dr. Adrian Fraser made the announcement of the University's plan to shift under-graduate studies to the Community College, beginning in September, when first level courses will be offered.

January 7 has been declared UWI Day across the region. It was declared such in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in a proclamation dated December 31st, 2007, by Governor General Sir Frederick Ballantyne.

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Sat: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

## ADOPT A CHILD PROGRAM

The Association's Adopt-A-Child program got off the ground with the selection of Donlee Sutherland of Spring Village Methodist School, St. Vincent, being the first sponsor child. His school was chosen from among the Government Primary Schools and Special Needs Schools throughout the country, then he was selected.



This program is coordinated by the Relief Committee. Please support this cause by making a special donation to it.

Please call Emergene Sam, Relief Committee Chair at 416-537-3269 or email [svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com](mailto:svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com)

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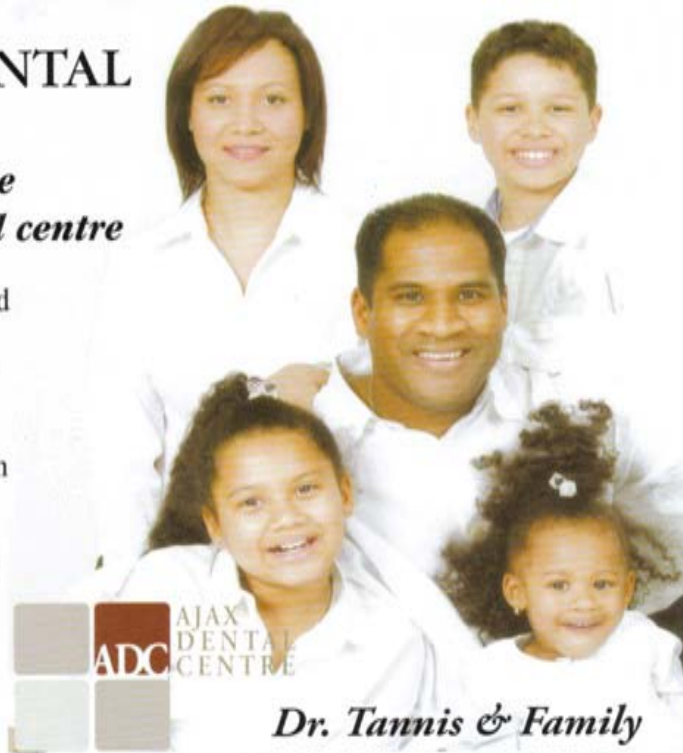
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### Energy Tips (Continued)

#### Save Energy Today!

You can take a few simple actions today to save energy. Set your thermostat low in the winter and high in the summer. Install a programmable thermostat to control your home's temperature automatically.

Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. Air dry dishes. Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use.

Use power strips and turn them off when equipment is not being used. Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees. Take short showers instead of baths. Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes. Drive sensibly and don't speed.

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*St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc – Founded December 1, 1968*



**IMPORTANT  
IMMIGRATION NOTICE TO  
SVG 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 was 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.

The Consulate is located at 333 Wilson Avenue West at Bathurst.  
Email address is:  
[consulategeneral@rogers.com](mailto:consulategeneral@rogers.com).

**ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES  
CONSULATE TORONTO**

The Consulate General wishes to advise the general public of its hours of operation:

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**By Special Appointment only:**  
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**The office is closed on all statutory holidays  
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A government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's licence; AND  
a birth certificate or a citizenship card;

OR  
A valid passport;

OR  
A NEXUS or a Free and Secure Trade (FAST) card;  
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For those 18 and under, a birth certificate.

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The Executive Committee on behalf of the membership of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto herewith expresses thanks to the businesses and individuals whose contributions through advertising have supported the publication of *Insight* and the upkeep of the website, [www.vincytoronto.com](http://www.vincytoronto.com).

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

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*Please join us for the Annual General Meeting of Association on Sunday, January 27, 2008 from 4:00 p.m. Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, North York (Keele & Sheppard).*

*Please bring along a friend with you.*

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

**ANNUAL MOTHERS' DAY DINNER**

**Sunday, May 11, 2008  
from 2:00 p.m.**

**Northwood Community Centre**  
15 Clubhouse Court, Toronto  
(off Sheppard Ave W at Arleta between Jane & Sentinel)

Tickets and Contact Information will be available soon.

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Mulzac – Cont'd from Page 12

After the war, Mulzac again couldn't get command of a ship. In 1948 he unsuccessfully filed a lawsuit against the ship's operators. Then in 1950 he made a bid for Queens Borough President under the American Labor Party ticket. He lost the election, having gotten 15,500 votes.

Due to his strong ties to the labor movement, he found himself blacklisted in the era of [McCarthyism](#). In 1960 a Federal Judge restored his seaman's papers and license, and at the age of 74 he was able to find work as a night mate. He died in 1971.

**BEREAVEMENT NOTICE**

*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.*



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## GARDENING

### Gardening can be fun – even in winter

Here are a few gardening activities to help you beat the winter blahs and give you a head start on spring.

#### First the homework

- Visit Garden Centres and other plant stores – there you can pick up useful gardening pamphlets as well as seed and plant catalogues.
- Couch potatoes and computer aficionados can find information on the Internet
- Make use of the gardening literature at your local library, or at institutions such as Botanical Gardens
- Research plants you'd like to add to your garden this year
- Take digital photos of your plants in their winter form to add to your garden journal

[For the computer geek – Helen Kirkup, a Master Gardener and writer gives comprehensive instructions for a homemade garden journal at the following link: <http://www.hmk.on.ca/homemade.html>]

- Formulate a plan (on paper) for upgrading your garden
- Buy seeds to start in late winter
- Join a horticultural society or garden club in your area.

For information, contact:

*Ontario Horticultural Association*

Jim Mabee, OHA President, 312 Simcoe Street,  
Tilsonburg, ON, N4G 2J6, Phone: 519-842-9829

[The computer geek can find horticultural societies and garden clubs in Ontario at the following link: <http://www.gardenontario.org/soc/index.php>]

#### Hands-on Indoor Activities

- Care for your houseplants
  - Drench the entire soil mass at the time of watering and allow the water to drain out of the holes in the bottom of the container; then allow the soil surface to become almost dry before the next watering
  - Do not let the container sit in water
  - Provide good light, but avoid direct sunlight on foliage plants; although some variegated plants and flowering plants will benefit from brief daily periods of direct sunlight
  - Keep plants away from cold drafts as well as heating ducts, and provide extra humidity if possible
  - Use fertilizer very sparingly
  - Control insect pests by spraying plants with a mild soap solution (commercial insecticidal soap or dish detergent); you may need to repeat the treatment a couple times at weekly intervals
- \*Take cuttings from houseplants and plants that are being over-wintered indoors, and root these in a soilless planting medium (e.g. equal parts peat and perlite, or perlite and vermiculite)
- +Build a terrarium – this makes a good Valentine gift

- \*Sow seeds (vegetables, herbs, annuals, etc.) to get an early jump on spring planting

Catalogues and seed packages from most reputable companies usually give comprehensive information about sowing seeds and transplanting seedlings

\* Use artificial lights to enhance the growth of your cuttings and seedlings – a minimum of two 40-watt cool white fluorescent lamps placed about 6” above the plants (lights on for about 12 hours a day)

+ A terrarium is a miniature garden in a closed transparent glass or plastic container – the plants recycle water, oxygen and carbon dioxide as they undergo transpiration, respiration and photosynthesis

For the outdoors, Master Gardener Helen Kirkup suggests:

#### “Things you can call ‘Gardening’ (but it's a stretch) vs ‘Work’”

- As snow comes and goes, monitor the ground of your garden beds to make sure plants have not heaved right out of the soil. If they have, cover with mulch, leaves, or more soil
- Remove broken branches as they happen, to prevent them ripping further down the trunk of the tree
- Apply dormant horticultural oil to plants to control insect pests before dormancy breaks in spring
- Remove snow loads from evergreens so the limbs don't break

*Fred Prescod*

*Horticultural Educator*

## Remembering Captain Hugh Mulzac

Born on March 26, 1886 on Union Island in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, his life at sea started right after High School when he served on British schooners.

With a mate's license from Swansea Nautical College he rose to the rank of mate before immigrating to the United States in 1918. Within two years he had earned the first ever master's certificate ever issued to an African American. He served as a mate on the SS Yarmouth of the Black Star Line until that line went out of business in 1922.

For the next two decades the only shipboard work Mulzac could get was in the steward's departments on several shipping lines.

Captain Mulzac and his crew in England after the maiden voyage of the SS Booker T. Washington.

In 1942 he was offered command of the SS Booker T. Washington, the first Liberty ship to be named after an African American. He refused at first because the crew was to be all black. He insisted on an integrated crew, stating, *"Under no circumstances will I command a Jim Crow vessel."* The Merchant Marine finally gave in and agreed to an integrated crew, and he took command from 1942-1947, making 22 round trip voyages. (See Mulzac on Page 11)

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**FACTS ABOUT ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

**POPULATION AND LABOUR FORCE**

- \* The population is estimated to be 109,022
- \* The labour force is estimated at 41,000.
- \* Recent data indicates an unemployment rate of 22%.

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

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## RHODES SCHOLAR

Robert Luke Browne, 22, has won the 2008 Rhodes Scholarship.



Something to smile about: Robert Luke Browne (left) sharing a happy moment with Governor-General Sir Clifford Husbands (right) and Peter Goldson, secretary of the Rhodes Trust.

This is the first time a Vincentian has been awarded the prestigious scholarship which will take him to Oxford University in October next year.

He was named as the Rhodes Scholar following an interview process at the official residence of Governor-General Sir Clifford Husbands of Barbados in October 2007.

Browne said it was an arduous process; it was also a rewarding experience. "Processes like these are character building and will develop exactly the traits in leaders that the Caribbean needs," he said.

Browne plans to complete a Master's in philosophy in development studies and after that to study law, following which he plans to contribute to this region's development.

He credited the support of his family with his academic success, saying it was due to their encouragement and support. "I have to give honour to whom honour is due. They have been there at every stage of my development."

Peter Goldson, Jamaica and Caribbean Secretary of the Rhodes Trust and Secretary to the Selection Committee, said that there were usually ten to 12 applicants who are then short listed to the final six who faced a long interview process.

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THE ASSOCIATION'S RELIEF COMMITTEE

## Looming Threat

By R. Andrew Cummings (Searchlight Newspaper)

For several generations West Indians have migrated to different parts of the world in search of better opportunities than exist at home. During the last 60 years or so large numbers have gone to the United States of America, United Kingdom and Canada. They have made worthwhile contributions in every field of human endeavour especially in transportation, nursing, manufacturing and providing general manual labour. Today, the exodus has been arrested as the metropolitan countries have clamped down on migration for a variety of domestic reasons.

### Highly Skilled Labour

Just recently, however, the European Economic Commission has invited its 27 member countries, especially those of Western Europe, to cater to 20 million highly skilled migrant workers over the next 20 years from the Third World. This has become necessary in order to compete and remain at the cutting edge of science, technology, and industry in the face of the growing strength and power of China, India, Singapore and the Pacific Basin.

### What About Us Small Developing States?

What will be the impact on our economies when our highly skilled workers leave for greener pastures? It was President John F. Kennedy who said, "Our progress as a nation cannot be swifter than our progress in education". The brain drain of our highly skilled workers in science, technology and informatics will consign us to be forever "drawers of waters and hewers of wood".

### Safety Valve

There are those who argue that emigration is a safety valve for over population and to boot, encourages remittances to boost local economic growth. But then, what of the received wisdom that posits "Give a man a fish and feed him for a day; teach him how to fish and feed him for life". I am sure that our education oriented Prime Minister would agree with the great late William Demas once our foremost economist when he said, "We must devise measures to retain the highly trained and highly skilled for work in the Caribbean. That is the only way our society will advance. If not we will remain distant outposts of the economic empires of the metropolitan countries. It is the avenue to emerge from persistent dependency."

Which is the way? Retention of our highly skilled especially in science and technology or their migration to the already developed First World? The choice is ours.



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**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 and institutions in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Ontario, and wherever the Association deems fit. We are also committed 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 OF EVERY MONTH from 4:00 p.m. at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, (Keele St. & Sheppard Ave. W. area), North York.**

*We hope to see you there!*

---

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