

INSIGHT

Quarterly Newsletter January 2010

THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. (SVGAT):
KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED THROUGH COMMUNICATION

"Much gratitude to all of you"

Dear Members, Friends and Patriots,

What a pleasure it has been to serve the SVG Greater Toronto Community in the capacity of President of The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. For that I extend much gratitude to all of you for the confidence you have placed in my leadership abilities and those of the other members of the Executive.

Nevertheless, all undertakings come with their challenges, and in living up to such tenure, one must always focus on the objectives to which they have been consigned. It is all about service to one's people, bearing in mind that we are all unique human beings with various expectations. The fact remains that we are all of one heritage and whatever may be the agenda in query, it is all about our very blessed SVG.

The opportunity this year allowed me a more in-depth look into the operation of our forty-one-year-old SVGAT organization. My patriotism to this Union is in high regard to the great work done by the founders of the organization, a well-grounded blueprint that has enabled the stability of SVGAT to date; which, even during utter unpredictability still lives, and is always evident by the cross section of our community supporters. In reminiscing over the past term, I recalled at one meeting in dismissing what at the moment would have classified as a never-ending topic, the Vice President remarked *"well, let's say; the fact is you win some and loose some"*. The confidence in the releasing of such an expression is relevant to our culture and at times is necessary and should be credited to the groundwork set by the initiators of SVGAT.

Let us collectively rejoice for the accomplishments of 2009, remembering that no contribution made towards the development of SVGAT is too small, but must be recognized as we move forward energized by the spirit of accumulation, prosperity, accountability, transparency, leadership effectiveness and respect for each other.

January 31, 2010 is "The Day", a day when we as *'A People'* have the privilege to individually voice our opinion on a ballot to select the leaders of 2010, Those to persevere in the

building of our SVG national community, who strive for 'us' as a people, those who understand the meaning of volunteering, dependability, meeting deadlines, the connotation to giving back, advocating for our families, our young people and seniors.

Be assured that the qualities and capabilities listed above are clearly proven by the skills exhibited amongst your leaders at the conclusion of the 2009 term of office, a great Team and proven patriots for the welfare of others.

Sincerely

Elma Gabriel
President, SVGAT

In appreciation.....

The Executive Committee and members of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. extend much appreciation to ***Mr. Allan John and KLC Eastern Caribbean Freight Lines*** for their generous donation to our benevolent funds such as the Adopt-A-Child program, the Children's Christmas Party, and the Christmas Hamper

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

*Please view our events calendar on page 11 and join us at our General Meetings on the last Sunday of each month from 4:00 p.m. at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, North York (Keele & Sheppard).
Please bring along a friend with you.*

EXECUTIVE Committee

Feb.1, 2009 - Jan 31 2010.

Here is a list of the executive members and their contact information:

President president@vincytoronto.com

Elma Gabriel: Tel: 416-282-4557

Vice President vicepres@vincytoronto.com

Audrey Lewis: Tel: 905-796-2400

Secretary (Interim) gensecretary@vincytoronto.com

Thelma Charles: Tel: 905-571-4766

Treasurer assisttreas@vincytoronto.com

Wendell Cole: Tel: 905-792-1248

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fundraise@vincytoronto.com

Alfred Compton: Tel: 416-495-0858

Youth & Recreation Chair youth@vincytoronto.com

Anslem Keizer: Tel: 647-836-6800

Building Chair building@vincytoronto.com

Kwuassi Hutchinson: Tel: 416-652-5207

Immediate Past President amazing_grace@hotmail.com

Francelia George:

General Email address: svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com

COORDINATORS

Mothers Day: - Edna Hunt

SVG Unity Picnic: – Kenneth Farrell

SVG National Unity Picnic Rep: – Cordel Telfer

Independence Dinner: – Audrey Lewis

Constitution Review – Rosie Mc Intosh

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE ASSOCIATION

You can now donate to any of the following: the Relief Fund, the Scholarship Fund, Adopt-A-Child program, 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.

ARGYLE AIRPORT WEBSITE

Learn more about the international airport at Argyle via the (IADC) new website. The website (www.svgiadc.com) was launched on Monday, January 11, 2010.

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Tony Nero - the artist



Tony Nero began his journey of art from the Caribbean island of St Vincent, where as a child his natural talents were realised. While attending secondary school in London his passion for art grew and this was encouraged by his art teachers. Tony whose brushworks are Vibrant & diverse works in various different medium such as pencils, charcoal, pastels, oils, water colour and stipple-dot drawings. He is quite at home when working in either of these mediums. With the majority of his skills being self taught he also undertook formal training in the fine arts at the London Guildhall University there he developed a specialised technique in abstract oil paintings.

He is also trained as a graphic designer and worked in the music industry producing record sleeves, posters and magazines for a period that exceeded 20 years. Part of this time spent running his own graphic studio. Tony has also produced graphic works and artistry for charitable purposes. This includes the Peterborough Environment Week 2005 leaflet, which was produced for Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire. His work has been displayed at the former Peterborough Art House and are held in homes and private collections across the Caribbean, Spain, France, UK, Kenya and New York. Some of his works hang in the corridor and offices of the Marie Lloyd Day Care Centre, Hackney Council, London. And the Millennium Centre in Peterborough.

In November 2006 "Waiting to Prey", the oil painting which depicts the glorious Golden eagle, was shown in the South Holland openarts competition and exhibition, in Spalding.

For further information on any of the works in this gallery or to place a comission contact Tony on Tel: 07984 366142, by email: art@tonynerobrushworks.com or by post PO Box 908 Peterborough PE1 9DR.

Artist Comment: If you ask me when did I first become interested in art, I would have to say that it all started when I picked up my first pencil. Way back when I first started school and learning to write my alphabet, I would write a very large single letter on each page of my writing book, which I got in trouble for. I guess at this point this was just the beginning of my artistic endeavours.

My first ever oil painting was done on a small bit of card I had torn from an empty cornflakes packet.

Over the years my passion for art has grown and I love to paint just about anything. Inspired by nature, people, surrealism, life and other artists. I also love the effect of light and dark and sometimes love to work while listening to music. Learning all the time while trying to improve my work and hoping to evoke something in the viewer. Now, without art in my life I would be like a butterfly without wings.

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St Vincent & The Grenadines POSTAL CODES

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines acting on the advice of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) has approved the introduction of Postcodes for all existing postal addresses in the State.

The Postcode is a unique and essential element of an address which ensures quick and efficient sorting and transmission of postal items.

Customers would select a postcode based primarily on the postal address that he/she currently uses.

Main Region - Kingstown

Existing Postal Addresses	Post Codes
All post boxes in Kingstown	VC0100
Sion Hill	VC0110
Kingstown (General Delivery)	VC0120
Kingstown (Other)	VC0130
Lowmans Hill	VC0150
Lodge Village	VC0160
Edinboro/Ottley Hall	VC0170

Main Region - Windward

Existing Postal Addresses	Post Codes
Fancy	VC0200
Owia	VC0202
Sandy Bay	VC0204
Overland	VC0206
O Briens	VC0210
Georgetown	VC0212
Byera	VC0214
South Rivers	VC0216
Park Hill	VC0218
Colonarie	VC0220
Mt. Grenan and Diamonds	VC0250
New Grounds	VC0252
Lowmans	VC0254
Lauders	VC0256
Greggs	VC0258
Biabou	VC0260
Peruvian Vale	VC0262
Calder	VC0264
Stubbs	VC0266
Enhams	VC0270
Prospect	VC0272
Calliaqua	VC0274
Arnos Vale	VC0280
Belair	VC0282
Belmont	VC0284
Evesham	VC0290
Marriaqua	VC0292
Richland Park	VC0294

Main Region - Leeward

Existing Postal Addresses	Post Codes
Chateaubelair	VC0300
Petit Bordel	VC0302
Rose Bank	VC0310
Rose Hall	VC0312
Troumaca	VC0314
Coulls Hill	VC0316

Spring Village	VC0318
Barrouallie	VC0350
Layou	VC0360
Buccament Bay	VC0370
Vermont	VC0372
Peniston	VC0374
Rillan Hill	VC0376
Clare Valley	VC0378
Questelles	VC0380
Campden Park	VC0390

Living Faithe of T&T

born in Chapman Village SVG



Surrounded by family members and friends Faithe Lewis shares a moment with her daughter Yvonne and her only son Gladstone. ...Photo: Keith Matthews Published: 3 Jan 2010 - Shaliza Hassanali 'The Trinidad Guardian'

In Frederick Settlement, Caroni, Faithe Lewis, is known as queen in the village. Lewis was bestowed with the title by family, friends and neighbours because she is one of few people in the community who has lived long enough to celebrate a milestone. Born on December 24, 1910, Lewis celebrated her 99th birthday last Thursday in grand style with loved ones. In paying tribute to a woman who spent over 60 years of her life in a community shared by one of T&T's infamous men, Joey Ramiah, known as Little Indian, Lewis said, if she has to live her life all over again she would choose no other than Caroni. Ramiah, who grew up in Harlem was hanged with T&T's biggest drug baron Dole Chadee and nine others for the murders of four members of the Baboolal family.

Frederick Settlement, a virtual unknown community, was thrown into the spotlight by Ramiah, who up to this day remains a talking point by the young and young at heart. Last Saturday, family members, friends and residents gathered with gifts, drinks and food in hand at the Frederick Settlement Community Centre to thank God for Lewis' long, happy and healthy life. Surrounded by loved ones, Lewis, affectionately called Mamma Faithe danced and even blew out the candles on her decorated cake to a lusty round of applause by her elated guests. Extending her hands to 65-year-old Gladstone, her only son, Lewis politely asked him for a dance to Baron's infectious soca parang song It's Christmas again.

In full view of everyone, Lewis, dressed in a white and blue cotton dress with a flowing white lace overcoat and thin silver

belt hooked around her slim waistline, started showing off her fancy footwork, bringing the party to an official start. As she stepped up her pace on the dance floor, Lewis smiled and kept nodding her head, which was covered in a mass of grey hair, indicating that she was having the time of her life. One year short of turning a centenarian, Lewis, a grandmother of 23 and great grandmother of 46, heaped praises on the Almighty for living this long. "With God anything is possible," Lewis whispered, when asked about the secret to her longevity. Once a strong and energetic woman, Lewis who did everything for herself in her heyday now depends on one of her granddaughters to do her chores. "There are days I feel like I am 20 years old and other days I feel like 99. But God has to be credited for the time I have spent on this earth," Lewis said. Of the 16 children Lewis' parents produced, she is the last standing survivor. Born in Chapman Village, St Vincent, Lewis came to Trinidad at age 32, after the birth of her first two children in search of a better life. Her stay in Trinidad lasted long after she became pregnant and returned to her native land, where she married Albert Lewis. Smitten by T&T's beauty, Lewis returned to Trinidad where she settled her roots in Caroni where she had two other children, Gladstone and Yvonne. In those days, Lewis recalled that jobs were hard to come by and often made pone, tamarind ball, sugar cake, red mango, nutcake and toolum ball, which were sold between a cent and five cents at the Caroni Presbyterian School to children to maintain her offspring. In 1979, Albert, a diabetic, died leaving Lewis a widow. "When I moved into Caroni it was covered in grass with neighbours far and few between. Now everything has changed," Lewis recalled.

Gladstone, a former national cyclist and footballer, believes the key to his mother's longevity is linked to the ground provision she ate in St Vincent. Lewis' last child, Yvonne, thinks her mother's good heart and active lifestyle attributed to her long life. "Mom still has 20/20 vision. She reads the newspapers and Bible daily. She's also in perfect health." Lewis' favourite past time is playing All Fours, the popular card game which she has mastered. Yvonne said the family decided to celebrate her mother's birthday because they were not sure if she would live for another year. "We are glad she made it this far and would be extremely delighted if God blesses her with one more year of life."

CW Prescod Primary School marks 20 years



Hyacinth Harry

SEARCHLIGHT Newspaper

The C W Prescod Primary School commemorated its 20th anniversary on October 29 with a march and church service,

under the theme "Honouring the past, charting the future with God's guidance".

The procession, which preceded the service, saw students, teachers and parents marching from the school to the Kingstown Methodist Church, led by the Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force Band.

The service was reflective of the school's development and achievements since it opened its doors September 11, 1989, under the name New Kingstown Primary School.

The New Kingstown Primary facilitated all unsuccessful students at the Common Entrance Examination from the Kingstown schools in grades 7 and 8.

After the two-year programme, these senior students then sat the School Leaving Examination, which, if they were successful, earned them a place in a secondary school. However, this practice was discontinued in 2005 with the introduction of universal secondary education.

The new school then was occasioned by the overcrowding of the Kingstown Methodist School, which occupied the

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compound where the Methodist Church Hall is now located.

Speaking at the service were current Headteacher Hyacinth Harry, Senior Education Officer Elizabeth Walker, and former Headteacher Anita Da Silva, while teacher Kesslon Wilson gave a brief history of the institution.

Reverend Victor Job of the Methodist Church, under whose jurisdiction the Kingstown Methodist School and before that the Wesley Hall School fell, delivered the sermon.

Criscione Morgan, a former student of the C W Prescod, sang Michael Jackson's "Heal the World".

The name C W Prescod Primary came into being in 1991, in honour of the late educator, Christopher Wilberforce Prescod.

As part of the school's continued celebrations of the milestone, photographs of past Headteachers will be mounted in the school's staff room.

The vision of the school is embodied in its mission statement, which reads: "The school aims, through varied experiences, to motivate students to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills, values and attitudes for success in life".

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His Excellency Mr. Brendon C. Browne

Young Vincentian grabs prestigious scholarship



Governor-General of Barbados Sir Clifford Husbands (right) congratulates Vincentian Kamal Wood on being selected the Caribbean's Rhodes Scholar for 2010.

Staff Reporter - Searchlight

Kamal Wood, a 22-year-old Vincentian national scholar now studying at the Cave Hill campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI), is the Caribbean's newest Rhodes Scholar. The final-year maths and computer science student topped a list of seven contenders to take the prestigious scholarship for 2010.

Governor-General of Barbados Sir Clifford Husbands made

the announcement on Tuesday at Government House, after a meeting of the Caribbean Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee, which he chairs.

Wood, who is going to Oxford University in Britain, told reporters that when he was very young he wanted to be a doctor, but switched to mathematical modelling and scientific computing.

But he noted that his work could still have some medical applications, since his models could deal with problems such as the spread of diseases.

Describing this type of modelling as "something the Caribbean can do with", Wood said his planned work utilised cold, hard facts to make projections.

The resident of Dauphine is the second Vincentian to land the Rhodes Scholarship, the first being Robert Luke Browne, two years ago.

Also on the latest short list were three Trinidad and Tobago nationals – Camille Ragnauth, Tamara Maharajh and Jeremie Amoroso – along with Barbadian Kimberley Benjamin and Guyanese Loria-Mae Heywood.

In 2004, when Kamal was a 16-year-old student of the St. Vincent Grammar School, he made national history when he was named the top performer for the region in the CXC CSEC examinations with his 11 grade one passes.

Two years later, Wood again made headlines when he took the Prime Minister's award for being the most outstanding performer in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the Advanced level examinations. In recognition of his performance, he received a trophy, a cash award and a five-year university scholarship. He is the son of Linus and Cheryl Wood.

SVGAT Scholarship Program

The Association is pleased to announce that two (2) scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each were awarded at the annual Independence Banquet of October 31, 2009.

Two recipients were selected amongst the applications received for the 2010 school year. Western Union Financial Services and The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. are sponsors of those scholarships.

For further information about the scholarships, please visit the website <http://www.vincytoronto.com/>.



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IMMIGRATION MATTERS

Federal, provincial and territorial governments speed up foreign credential recognition for newcomers to Canada

TORONTO, Ontario, November 30, 2009—Under the new Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications, foreign-trained workers who submit an application to be licensed or registered to work in certain fields will be advised within one year whether their qualifications will be recognized. The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and Co-Chair of the Forum of Labour Market Ministers, and the Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, today endorsed a new framework to enhance foreign qualification recognition for internationally trained workers.

The Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications is part of the Government of Canada's strategy to have the best educated, most skilled and most flexible workforce in the world. Recognizing foreign credentials is part of the strategy, and foreign qualification recognition is the process of verifying

that knowledge, skills, work experience and education obtained in another country are comparable to the standards established for Canadian professionals and tradespersons.

"Attracting and retaining the best international talent to address existing and future labour market challenges is critical to Canada's long-term economic success," said Minister Finley. "Ensuring that foreign credentials and qualifications are assessed and recognized in a timely manner will enable newcomers to maximize their talents."

Minister Finley and Minister Kenney thanked the Forum of Labour Market Ministers, consisting of federal, provincial and territorial representatives, for its work on the Framework. "This framework is another important step in paving the road to success for Ontario's newcomers," said the Honourable Michael Chan, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. "This builds on the plan our government already has in place to help newcomers get licensed in their field and get jobs."

The Framework follows the Government of Canada's commitment in the 2008 Speech from the Throne to "work with the provinces to make the recognition of foreign credentials a priority, attract top international students to Canada and increase the uptake of immigrant settlement programs."

The Framework states that governments across Canada will work towards better pre-arrival services, assessments that are fair, transparent, consistent and timely across Canada, and improved workforce participation services for newcomers. These services will help internationally trained workers put their training and knowledge to work sooner.

"A priority of this government has been to make our immigration system more competitive globally and more responsive to Canada's needs," said Minister Kenney. "This framework complements initiatives such as the Action Plan for Faster Immigration, as they make our immigration system better meet the needs of our labour market. We want newcomers to be able to use their skills and work to their full potential. It's good for them and good for the Canadian economy."

Minister Finley and Minister Kenney also met with community leaders in the Greater Toronto Area to discuss foreign credential recognition and its place in Canada's economic recovery. In particular, the discussion highlighted the commitments made by the Government of Canada to improve the process for newcomers to get their education, skills and experience assessed and recognized.

The Economic Action Plan committed \$50 million to work with the provinces and territories to address barriers to credential recognition in Canada. This investment will do four things:

- Develop the principles of timeliness, transparency, fairness and predictability that the federal, provincial and territorial governments set out to guide the process;
- Develop standards for the timely handling of requests;
- Identify the priority occupations for developing recognition standards; and

Help people who want to come to Canada start the assessment process before they arrive.

The Foreign Credential Recognition Program and the Foreign Credentials Referral Office are the key federal initiatives in place to support pan-Canadian implementation of the Framework.

To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

The Framework is available on the Human Resources and Skills Development Canada Web site at <http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/publications/fcr/pf.shtml>.

For more information about foreign qualification recognition, call 1 800 O-Canada, visit www.servicecanada.gc.ca or drop by your local Service Canada Centre.

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BLOGGING THE CARIBBEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY FORUM

From: <http://greenislandinc.blogspot.com/>

By Herbert A Samuel

Thursday, November 26, 2009

I attended the **Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum (CREF)** held in Jamaica, in October. It was well-attended and featured a packed programme of presentations and panel discussions on renewable energy issues and options in the region.

At the conference I heard the phrase "agnostic about renewables" a lot (and used it a couple of times myself I'm

sure), which I guess is a safe position to take. There's no single technology fix that's going to secure the Caribbean's energy future. In fact, **the question of whether technology is the answer** is something that's been occupying me for the better part of the year, but that's for another post.

That said, I think that, assisted by events such as the CREF, a fairly clear picture is emerging of the continuum of Caribbean renewable energy technology prospects, from the game-changers on the one hand, to the technologies that need to be in the game on the other. So here's my list of the things we should be watching now in the Caribbean.

Geothermal is (**as I had previously written**) the game-changer in the Eastern Caribbean. Successfully implemented, interconnected geothermal power projects will provide abundant, renewable, baseload power to OECS countries at a predictable price, and will usher in the reality of hybrid and electric-vehicle transport in the region. Note that Dominica and St Vincent & the Grenadines, which are ranked 2nd and 3rd in the OECS for geothermal potential, already use more fuel for transport than in their power sectors. Memo to regional oil companies: you should be taking a serious look at geothermal energy as the 21st century driver of your energy business.

Wind energy is now the fastest growing renewable energy resource in the region, with some large projects on stream: Jamaica is upgrading its Wigton Wind Farm from 20 MW of installed capacity to 38 MW by July 2010 and Aruba has commenced construction of its 30 MW Vader Piet wind farm, also scheduled for completion in 2010. I think that the

deployment of multiple small (@300 kW), collapsible wind turbines in distributed wind farms is an approach perfectly suited to the Caribbean, particularly for the smaller islands, but **so far only the French island Guadeloupe** has made any significant use of this windpower model. In any case, the bottom line is that the future of wind energy in the Caribbean looks very good.

For countries with relatively large populations and/or high rates of personal consumption (and therefore large waste output) Waste-to-Energy (WTE) makes complete sense, which would explain why two large WTE projects are now in progress in Jamaica (65MW) and the US Virgin Islands (49MW).

Continued development, improvement and upgrading of small hydro in the region is essential and, fortunately, ongoing. There are hydro projects at some stage of development now in progress in Belize, Dominica, Jamaica and **St Vincent**, all financed under the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme (CREDP).

Ocean energy hasn't yet made much of a splash. The ocean current regimes in parts of the region are considered by some to be quite favourable, but the shortage of fully-commercial ocean energy projects anywhere in the world isn't helpful in bringing the technology to a region that can't afford to be an early adopter.

Biofuels and biomass energy are always of interest in this region, but have made few inroads. The much-publicised debate on the role of biofuels in the 2008 'food crisis' has left the sector with a definite image problem. Brazil, the world's biofuels giant, has over the past 30 years created a huge, and hugely successful, biofuels sector based on sugarcane ethanol, that has replaced 50% of the country's gasoline consumption. The Caribbean can't match this using agriculturally-based biofuels production, but Jamaica has already made a small start, with its **e10 program**, which uses refined ethanol (produced in Jamaica from imported raw ethanol from Brazil) in a 10% blend with gasoline.

Solar thermal energy is truly the low-hanging fruit in the Caribbean RE space – and it's not being picked. **Barbados amply demonstrated**, decades ago, how easy and inexpensive it is to make solar thermal energy a national success story with huge benefits. And yet, their excellent example has been all but ignored by the other countries.

As always, the belle of the ball was solar electricity and not surprisingly, the solar discussion panels generated the most heat!

I was intrigued by presentations on solar cooling projects that have been implemented on large commercial and institutional facilities in Europe and elsewhere. The technology appears to be developing rapidly and the economics are reported by its proponents to be far better than the economics of, say, installing PV panels to power space cooling needs. But, I didn't get a sense that there was anything happening on this front in the Caribbean, despite the obvious facts that we have the sunshine and we need the cooling. As one local delegate passionately summed it up, "nutting naa gwaan!"

Jigar Shah, CEO of Richard Branson's Carbon War Room, founder of SunEdison and pioneer of the solar-as-a-service business model for solar power, presented thought-provoking ideas on how to deliver solar electricity in large quantities to the Caribbean. Shah's presentation was reflective of his thinking on how to enable the new paradigm for electric utilities – what he refers to as Utility 2.0 – and how to translate that to the Caribbean. (His ideas were well-received and I get the impression that several Caribbean utilities have been in follow-up discussions with him on this).

I believe that energy efficiency, one of the things only mentioned in passing at the CREF, is a critical component of the Utility 2.0 model, for the simple reason that whatever our sources of energy, we need to find ways to use it more efficiently: after all, even a resource such as solar PV can have a significant environmental footprint due to the materials and processes that go into its deployment.

All things considered, attending the CREF was a well-spent two days for me. Now some serious follow-up is needed by the people who can make things happen. I'd better get back to work...

About the author: Herbert A. Samuel

§ Caribbean green energy and sustainability consultant

§ Winner of a 2009 IDEAS Energy Innovation Award for Welectricity, a social networking web app for household energy efficiency:
<http://www.welectricity.com>



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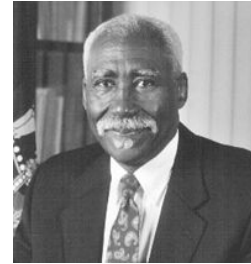
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Sir Frederick N. Ballantyne

23.DEC.09

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

**FROM HIS EXCELLENCY SIR FREDERICK N.
 BALLANTYNE, G.C.M.G., MD, GOVERNOR-
 GENERAL OF ST. VINCENT AND THE
 GRENADINES**

As we approach the Birthday of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ with great joy and merriment, it behoves us to take some time to reflect on His life and teachings.

We are without doubt a Christian Nation, and one cannot help but be impressed that every function begins with an invocation to God as we praise Him for all blessings bestowed on us and thank Him for saving us to see a brand new day.

However, an analysis of our day to day behaviour might leave some doubt in an observer's mind as to whether or not we are true Christians.

Perhaps the time has come for some serious introspection as we seek to answer a few of these questions.

- Do we truly love our neighbours? Or do we love some and hate a few?
- Do we care about those afflicted with diseases, such as HIV and AIDS?
- Are we truly concerned about the increasing incidence of unemployment and those persons who continue to be plagued by poverty?
- Are we becoming a nation where violence, malice, greed and hatred are so pervasive that we view each other with mistrust and skepticism?
- Do we speak at length about the many ills which plague our society and do nothing about them?

In my view, we need a change to a new or different type of society, beginning with each one of us.

For myself, I can honestly say that there is no one whom I hate, no one for whom I wish failure, no one whom I envy.

I try to love all of my neighbours, even those who dislike me or speak ill of me.

I, too, am trying to be a good Christian, hoping to set an example for my children to follow.

It is my fervent hope that for this Christmas and the upcoming New Year all Vincentians would seek to cultivate love in their hearts and find it possible to

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work together to build this beautiful Nation.
Let us prove to all that we are not only Christians in name but also by our deeds.

My family and I take this opportunity to wish you all a Blessed, Safe and Happy Christmas and a New Year filled with Joy and Prosperity.

Buccament Bay Beach Resort



Buccament Bay Beach Resort.

By **NICK KAYE**

Published: December 23, 2009

WHAT Beachfront residential resort.

WHERE St. Vincent.

AMENITIES Restaurants, a tennis academy and a marina, among others.

PRICES Residences range from about \$261,000 to \$1.9 million; prices are planned to increase after next Friday.

STATUS Scheduled to open in July. Nearly 90 percent of the units have been bought.

DEVELOPER Harlequin Hotels & Resorts.

DETAILS St. Vincent - is known in the Grenadines archipelago as the big island, despite being not much more than a 10th the size of Rhode Island. In the southeast

Caribbean, below St. Lucia, the island has yet to draw the kind of attention that has filled other islands in the region with high-end mega-resorts. But with the arrival of this 98-acre resort and residential development on the southwestern coast, St. Vincent may be poised for a coming-out party. The Buccament Bay Beach Resort is the first development within the Harlequin Hotels & Resorts brand, whose parent company is based in England. In the works for five years now, the resort is planned to open this summer with 369 furnished units that are rented to serve as hotel rooms. Owners will be able to use their residences 30 days a year, and they will receive a share of the rental revenue. Upon completion, which is expected around the end of 2011, the resort will have 1,710 units in all, including studio, one- and two-bedroom condos, beachfront cabanas and two- to four-bedroom houses with private pools. For amenities there will be a dozen restaurants, including some branded as Trader Vic's; a full-service spa; and the marina, which will have 24 slips. Reflecting the development's British roots there will also be a sports academy with soccer and cricket instruction. The tennis center will be led by the former Wimbledon singles champion Pat Cash.

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THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2010

Sunday, January 31

Sunday, February 28

Sunday, March 28

Annual General Meeting

Cultural Evening – Black History Month

General Meeting – Women's History Month

Northwood Community Centre

Northwood Community Centre

Northwood Community Centre

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

Membership Registration Form

Become a Member!

Join with us in achieving our goals.

Mission Statement

The St. Vincent and 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!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

FAMILY MEMBERS: _____

NEW MEMBER OR RENEWAL : _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ (\$2.00 for new membership registration, \$20.00 annual subscription)

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