



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

Quarterly Newsletter

NEW YEAR ISSUE

January 2012

**Message from the Cordel Telfer, Chair,
Interim Committee**

Greetings and a Happy New Year to all members and friends of The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto.

I am very grateful to have been given the privilege to assist the organization during a very tumultuous period. With the help of dedicated volunteers who gave generously of their time and expertise, we were able to preserve the Organization intact.

Under the stewardship of the elected Executive Committee of 2011, the Association hosted two of its annual activities; the Annual Mother's Day Brunch and the massively successful Vincy Unity Picnic. On its own, our resourceful Seniors Group managed to organize a bus tour to St. Jacob's and Elmira and their second bus tour in two years.

In keeping with traditions of the Association, the Interim Committee organized the activities to mark the independence anniversary of our homeland, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Although we experienced a significant drop in the number of individuals who attended both the Thanksgiving Service and the Dinner & Dance, the quality of both events was commendable.

Despite all the challenges we encountered this years, we were still able to fulfill our charitable obligations by providing assistance to members of our community here in Ontario and in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Thanks to the generosity of our members and Western Union Financial Services, two bursaries of \$1,000.00 each were awarded to two post secondary students from Ontario, Ms. Onika Forde and Mr. Jamaal Exeter. We wish them success in their studies.

We continued our financial support for our two adopted primary school students in St. Vincent which amounted to \$80.00 per month through our Adopt-A-Child initiative. Your contributions have made it possible to brighten the festive season of members here in Toronto, where seven families received our

Christmas Hamper. Our annual Children's Christmas Party, providing gifts and entertainment for over 70 children under the age of 13.

In September our Association collaborated with other member associations of CCAC to host a Seniors Information Event where valuable information about seniors was provided to them from several agencies and government.

We thank our dedicated volunteers who gave selflessly of their time, especially committee chairs and members. Thanks also to our members who have made donations to our events throughout the year and to our corporate sponsors for your continued financial assistance to our programs. Thanks to all of our committee chairs and their committee members, for without you, the organization could not function.

Best Wishes to all.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Financial members of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto and other interested persons are hereby notified of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association to be held on Sunday, January 29 from 4:00 p.m. at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, Toronto.

The AGM is usually to review the activities of the Association for the previous year and to elect a new leadership team for the current year.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Children's Christmas Party

Over 70 children were treated with presents and entertainment just before Christmas at Grandravine Community Centre as the Association hosted its annual Children's Christmas Party. Many thanks to Mr. Allan Austin for coordinating the event. Thanks also to Mr. Theron Cumberbatch for performing the role of Santa Claus and to the many others who volunteered their time to put smiles on the faces of our young children.

The Interim Committee further expresses its gratitude to Mrs. Joan Alexander for her usual contribution of the cake for the party and to all others who contributed to make the event successful and memorable. See pictures on Page 3.

Christmas Hamper Outreach Project

Since 1989 the Association has annually been assisting families and individuals in our community with the provision of food hampers to assist them over the Christmas holidays. This past Christmas, through the generous donations of some companies and individuals seven such packages were made available to families. The packages included a food basket containing some basic food items, a Caribbean Christmas Cake along with \$50.00 in cash which was intended for use to purchase other personal material.

The cash contributions made by some individuals and families who wish to remain anonymous as well as the contributions by Pine Ridge Memorial Gardens and Grace Kennedy Money Services significantly assisted the initiative.

The Interim Committee herewith expresses its gratitude to those who contributed financially, to those who provided the names of the deserving recipients and the community on a whole for its continued support of this program.

Council of Caribbean Associations Canada (CCAC)

The Council of Caribbean Associations – Canada of which St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto is a founding member recently held elections for a two year term. The new executive includes Ms Frances Delsol of the Commonwealth of Dominica Ontario Association as President; Mr. Ross Cadasse of St. Lucia Toronto Association as Vice President; Mr. Randolph Edmead of St. Kitts Canadian Association of Toronto as Secretary; Mrs. Marilyn Daniel-Awong of Trinidad & Tobago Ontario Association as Public Relations Officer; and Mr. Gideon Exeter of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto as Treasurer.

Each member association of CCAC is entitled to three representatives on the Council. At this time, our Association is represented on the Council by Mr. Ivan Richards and Mr. Gideon Exeter. SVGAT is to name another representative.

Insight is compiled and designed Gideon Exeter with assistance from Cordel Telfer and Glendon Carmichael.

Annual General Meeting

The Association will hold its Annual General Meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2012 from 4:00 p.m. at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, Toronto. The AGM is usually held to review the activities of the Association over the previous year and to elect a new leadership team. All financial members, prospective members and members of our community who have an interest in the affairs of the Association are invited to attend.

Many of us feel that the Association serves a good purpose in our community and therefore justify its existence. In order for the organization to continue to serve the community, improve its service to the community and to the country of Canada on a whole we need persons to serve in leadership positions.

A number of persons use varying reasons including dissatisfaction about the manner in which the Association is run and in the behaviour of some persons involved as a means of not getting involved. Some of those persons state that when things change they will become involved. There is an old saying that change takes place from inside and not from outside so if you would like to see improvement in the Association and your community we urge you to come forward and serve.

Constitution Amendment

The Association continues its drive to revise the constitution which was originally written in 1970. After several meetings it appears as though we are close to finalizing the changes. A meeting was held in November and another is scheduled for just about the time that this newsletter is being released. It is hoped that all amendments will be ratified soon.

Following the adoption of the revised constitution discussions will begin on the Policies and Procedures document, an accompanying document to the constitution.

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

**Chair: Mr. Cordel Telfer
Tel: 647-717-9731**

**Secretary: Mr. Glendon Carmichael
Tel: 416-321-9029**

**Treasurer: Mr. Dennis Bucchan
Tel: 905-477-6628**

**Committee Members:
Ms Cornetta Mason
Tel: 416 247-8155
Mr. Allan Austin
Tel: 416-510-2889**

Pictures from the 2011 Children's Christmas Party



Activities prior to Santa's Arrival



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SHARE YOUR ARTICLES IN INSIGHT

If you have an article or story you would like to share with other readers in Insight, we ask that you contact members of the Executive Committee by email to svgat@vincytoronto.com.

The next issue of Insight is due out in early April so your article should be submitted by the middle of March.

Make a contribution to the Association

Your donation to any of the following will help the Association meet its objectives: the Emergency Fund, the Scholarship Fund, the Adopt-A-Child Program, the Children's Christmas Party, and the Christmas Hamper to those less fortunate and/or to General Operating Funds.

**ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.
TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2012**

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Sunday, January 29 | Annual General Meeting | Northwood Community Centre |
| Sunday, February 26 | Monthly General Meeting | Northwood Community Centre |
| Sunday, March 25 | Monthly General Meeting | Northwood Community Centre |
| Sunday, April 29 | Monthly General Meeting | Northwood Community Centre |
| Sunday, May 13 | Annual Mothers' Day Dinner | TBA |
| Sunday, May 27 | Monthly General Meeting | Northwood Community Centre |
| Sunday, June 24 | Monthly General Meeting | Northwood Community Centre |
| Saturday, July 21 | Vincy Unity Picnic | Brown's Bay Provincial Park, 1000 Islands |
| Sunday, July 29 | Monthly General Meeting | Northwood Community Centre |
| Sunday, August 26 | Monthly General Meeting | Northwood Community Centre |
| Sunday, September 30 | Monthly General Meeting | Northwood Community Centre |
| Sunday, October 21 | Thanksgiving Church Service | TBA |
| Saturday, October 27 | Independence Banquet | TBA |
| Sunday, October 28 | Community Discussions | York Civic Centre |
| Sunday, November 25 | Monthly General Meeting | Northwood Community Centre |
| Sunday, December 16 | Children's Christmas Party | Northwood Community Centre |
| December 20 – 23 | Christmas Hamper Outreach | Distribution of Hampers to Less Fortunate |

Addresses & Directions:

Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, (off Arleta between Keele & Jane Streets)
York Civic Centre, 2700 Eglinton Avenue West @ Keele Street

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IMPORTANT 2012 DATES

This year is a Leap Year.

*February 20 – Family Day, Ontario
February 20 & 21 – Carnival in Trinidad & Tobago
March 11 – Day Light Saving Time Begins
March 20 – First Day of Spring
April 8 – Easter Day
May 13 – Mothers' Day
June 17 – Fathers' Day
June 20 – First Day of Summer
June 29 to July 10 – Vincy Mas
July 21 – Vincy Unity Picnic
August 3 to 6 – Caribana Weekend
September 9 – Grandparents' Day
September 22 – First Day of Fall
October 8 – Thanksgiving Day
October 27 – SVG Independence Anniversary
November 12 – Day Light Saving End
December 21 – First Day of Winter*

***Join other Vincies in Toronto for the celebration of our nation's Independence Anniversary during
October 21 to 28. Details to follow later.***

NEWS FROM SVG

(Courtesy of Searchlight & The Vincentian Newspaper, SVG)

Royal Caribbean offers first cruises to St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Royal Caribbean has begun selling cruises to the Caribbean island of St. Vincent -- a first for the 42-year-old company.

The line's 2,000-passenger Vision of the Seas will visit the destination as part of new 11-night Southern Caribbean voyages out of Fort Lauderdale scheduled for Dec. 3, Dec. 24 and Feb. 4, 2013.

Throne Speech

His Excellency Sir Frederick Ballantyne, GCMG, MD, Governor General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines delivered the Throne Speech to open the Second Session of the Ninth Parliament in Kingstown on Monday, January 09, 2012 during which the accomplishments of previous years and plans for 2012 and future years were outlined. For a full view of the speech please visit our website, www.vincytoronto.com.

International Garifuna Center for SVG

Two more chapters of the fascinating story of the Garifuna civilization will be written in St. Vincent and the Grenadines this year, when the Garifuna Heritage foundation embarks on two historic projects.

The projects are the opening of the International Garifuna Centre next month and the staging of the first ever International Garifuna Conference, Art and Cultural Exhibition, film series and Garifuna marketplace on Saturday, March 10th at the Peace Memorial Hall.

SVG strengthening ties with the Arab world

This country is building its relations with the Arab world, Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves told the state-owned National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) on Monday.

Dr. Gonsalves made a 15-day trip over the Christmas holidays that saw him worshipping in Bethlehem on Christmas Day. St. Vincent and the Grenadines is among Caribbean Community nations that recognize the Palestinian state.

The Vincentian leader has held talks with Mahmoud Abbas, his counterpart from the Palestinian Authority. "We are building our relations with the Arab world. As you know we have good relations with Kuwait, Qatar, we have an honorary consul in Egypt, we have relations with Morocco and Iran, and then, of course, we also have good relations with Israel, and we are seeking to build bridges where possible and see after the interest of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in addition to world peace,"

Please support our advertisers when possible.

SVG named as a Top Tourism Destination

Despite international nods for being a top tourism destination for 2012, the Chief Executive officer of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tourism Authority (SVGTA), Mr. Glen Beache says that this country has a long way to go and Vincentians should not rest on their laurels in spite of the designation.

At the end of 2011, St. Vincent and the Grenadines was listed in third and fifth positions by the media outlets among the world's top destinations for 2012.

Dr. Gonsalves Drops Defamation Cases

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has decided to withdraw two defamation cases he had brought against members of the opposition New Democratic Party (NDP).

On January 11, just before debate on the 2012 Budget wrapped up for the day, the Prime Minister announced to the nation that he intended to instruct his lawyers not to proceed with High Court judgments in his favour, in separate defamation suits against Leader of the Opposition Arnhim Eustace and Member for West Kingstown Daniel Cummings.

In an interview with SEARCHLIGHT after the adjournment, the Prime Minister said he decided to discontinue with the cases because he wanted to make a personal gesture in the efforts towards national reconciliation.

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OBSERVATIONS by Glendon Carmichael

For the last several years the respectability of a prestigious organization, the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto (SVGAT), has been in a constant state of erosion.

For too long, dedicated, well-meaning members of the Association, including some executive members at various times, remained indifferent while a remarkably few individuals with little or no respect for their fellow members persist with behaviors which should not be tolerated under any circumstances. We the vast majority deluded ourselves that this repulsive behavior would eventually run its course without bold, corrective action on the part of the membership as a whole. WISHFUL THINKING

Ironically, the rapid and seemingly deliberate destruction of our organization is being perpetrated under the guise of patriotism. Yet, the people most affected are unfortunate fellow Vincentians who require our assistance. The most prominent feature of the SVGAT is, and always has been our commitment to charity. The beneficiaries of our efforts are individuals and families who experience hard times. We are also firmly committed to promoting education of our youth. The Association needs all the help it can get.

There is no doubt that a significant number of supporters of SVGAT including former members are disturbed by recent developments. It is likely that their personal circumstances restrict their ability to participate in moving the Association forward.
(Continues on Page 11)



Membership Has Its Rewards



Through the Arbor Alliance Program offered by Memorial Gardens Canada **financial members** of St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. (SVGAT) and their families are eligible for preferential pricing on cemetery and funeral services and products. **Financial members** and their immediate family are eligible for a 10% discount on products and services when pre-purchased, and a 5% discount when purchased at the time of need at any of the company's funeral homes or cemeteries.

Planning ahead allows you to enhance your family's security, spare them unnecessary emotional strain, and potentially save them hundreds, even thousands of dollars.

To find out more about the Arbor Alliance Program please contact any member of the SVGAT executive or Gideon Exeter of Pine Ridge Memorial Gardens by email at gexeter@arbormemorial.com or phone 416-992-4253.

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St. Vincent and the Grenadines – A Tourism Perspective

Home, to many of us, a second home to others, the only home some of us know, and visited by a relatively small number of tourists... our secret may not be able to be contained much longer. Tourism officials predict that St. Vincent and the Grenadines is on the verge of becoming one of the most demanded destinations in the Caribbean.

We have to admit that with 32 unique islands and cays, thousands of shades of blue pristine waters, both black and white sand beaches, intimate accommodations of all kinds, some of the most friendly hosts one can find, unsurpassed sailing, undeniably fantastic diving, cultural festivals, breathtaking topography... (And I can go on), we have a product that not many can resist.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has seen a steady growth in our tourism numbers from Canada with over 7,200 visitors arriving on our shores in 2010, despite a worldwide financial crisis. This figure is up over 5% from 2009, amidst a decrease in total visitors of 3.9%. I urge you to continue to recommend our destination to your friends as you are all tourism ambassadors for your country of which I know you are all proud. With the tourism sector as a major contributor to the GDP, we all have a role to play to ensure a bright future for our country.

The opening of the 240 million dollar Argyle International Airport in early 2014 will signal a new era in tourism development and arrivals in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. We also expect to see agricultural exports soar and investment in the country increase, as the current airport location and design prohibit planes from carrying cargo to capacity, making imports and exports more expensive. The airport project broke ground on August 13, 2008, and with the earthworks near complete; the paving of the runway and aprons should begin shortly. The construction of the terminal building has started and is designed to handle about 1.4 million passengers per year, more than five times the capacity of E T Joshua Airport. The airport will facilitate jets as large as the Boeing 747-400s.

The Tourism Authority which started operation in 2009 is responsible for all tourism related marketing of the destination as well as marketing the Argyle International Airport. Ongoing talks are being held with all major

international airline carriers and when the new airport opens, we expect to see at least one major airline from each of our three key gateways in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom landing on our shores.

Last year, the multimillion dollar Buccament Bay Resort was opened on St. Vincent complete with a Pat Cash Tennis Academy, a Liverpool Football Club Soccer School, a Harlequin Performing Arts Academy and Spa treatments by ESPA. Currently housing 90 villas with 1, 2 and 4 bedrooms each, a full complement of 1,000 rooms should be ready to coincide with the opening of Argyle International Airport.



Dark View Falls

Petit St. Vincent Resort changed hands and went through major renovations with refurbished cottages, a Hillside Spa and new Beachside Restaurant. Renovations are underway at Canouan Bay Resort (formerly Raffles Resort) and Bequia Beach Hotel added a new block of rooms. New developments are scheduled to start on Mayreau and Bequia will see a 23% increase in cruise ship visits for this winter season. Our Hospitality Institute is in the works and the new European Union funded refurbished sites across the country are ready to greet everyone.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has received many awards over the years, but our two latest endorsements are the best New Year's gifts ever... **3rd Hottest Travel Destination Of 2012** by [Travel + Leisure](#) and **5th In World's Top Destinations For 2012** by [CNN.com](#). We at the Tourism Authority and Ministry of Tourism are ecstatic! Undoubtedly, we are on the right path. Let us continue to promote St. Vincent and the Grenadines as much as we can to ensure that it continues to excite all who venture to our treasured home.

Contributed by Mrs. Shelley John

Director of Sales

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EASTERN CARIBBEAN LIAISON SERVICE (E.C.L.S.) – TORONTO

Submitted by E. Bernard John, Head E.C.L.S.
January, 2012

The Eastern Caribbean Liaison Service (ECLS) is a unit of the St. Lucia-based Secretariat of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). The ECLS administers the Canada-Caribbean Seasonal Agricultural Workers Programme on behalf of the countries of the OECS, through an arrangement that became effective in 1976 following Memoranda of Understanding signed between the Government of Canada and the Governments of the participating countries of what is now the OECS. Similar Memoranda of Understanding were signed earlier, first with Jamaica in the late 1960's, then with the Governments of Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados. Mexico is the other country that participates in this specific programme. The OECS participating countries are: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

This initiative came about as a result of the labour shortages that Canada was experiencing in the agricultural sector, when Canadian employers of farm labour found it difficult to attract locals to satisfy the needs of their respective farms. In terms of the OECS countries, nationals have been recruited every year for the last thirty-six (36) years on contracts which run from a minimum of six weeks to a maximum of eight months, annually.

In executing its mandate, office staff work in close collaboration with agencies such as the Foreign Agricultural Resource Management Services (F.A.R.M.S.), Service Canada, CanAg, individual employers, OECS Ministries of Labour and the workers themselves. OECS workers are largely employed in the province of Ontario with some current deployment in the provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick and British Columbia.

The ECLS sees as its Mission:

To seek employment in the Canadian Agricultural and other Foreign Worker Programmes for suitable nationals of the countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, through a selective recruitment process; to provide appropriate orientation for such workers and attend to their welfare; and foster and maintain good working relationships between employer and employee.

And the Objectives, to:

1. *Increase the number of OECS workers employed on farms throughout Canada.*
2. *Seek new employers both within and outside of the concentrated area of Ontario.*
3. *Source new employment opportunities in new service industries such as hospitality, construction, care giving and transportation.*
4. *Reduce the number of 'unsuitable' workers who end up being ejected from the programme.*
5. *Employ measures to boost levels of contentment and comfort of workers.*

In seeking to fulfil its Mission and Objectives, the Office of the ECLS maintains close contact with workers and employers alike, and pays regular visits to farms to assess living and working conditions of the workers and to resolve any disputes that may arise.

To date, the mandate of the ECLS has been to focus on farm labour, but other employment opportunities such as within the hospitality and other service industries are now being explored.

The Canadian Foreign Worker Programmes have been under some threat over the last four or so years, consequent on the global financial crisis. One of the Canadian Government's responses has been to encourage employers to redouble their efforts at employing local labour with a view to keeping the unemployment rate in check. However, this has had a minimal effect on the number of Canadians taking up this challenge.

Some farm owners have reduced the size of their operations or gone out of business altogether having felt the economic squeeze.

Another threat is the relatively recent upsurge of workers from countries such as Guatemala, seeking employment on Canadian farms under the low-skills programme.

(Continued on Page 9)

Employers continue to engage workers with whom they have had a longstanding work relationship, with whom they feel comfortable – those that have acquired a positive track record. In 2010, for example, just seventeen (17%) percent of employees were new or first time workers.

It is important that workers are adequately screened before embarking on the programme, to ensure that they are medically fit, possess a favourable criminal record, have the right attitude to work and unlikely to seek to remain in Canada illegally after their contracts expire. One bad experience that an employer has with an OECS worker has the potential of adversely affecting the chances of recruitment by that employer of other workers from the same source.

On this programme, workers benefit from compulsory savings of 25% of their earnings which they receive at the end of their contracts; and the employer is responsible for providing accommodation which is given prior approval by the respective Ministry of Health. Workers are paid at the same rate as that provided to Canadians and are provided access to the provincial health insurance programme.

Some workers are able to report a number of success stories, such as, having been able to finance their children's secondary and tertiary education, expand and build their dwelling homes and substantially enhance their standard of living.

Total figures are not readily available for 2011, but in 2010, some 540 OECS nationals arrived in Canada to participate in this programme. Its value is well felt by all stakeholders involved...

IMMIGRATION MATTERS

CONDITIONAL SPOUSAL VISAS

Contributed by: Sandra Sutherland, RCIC

An integral part of being an informed and responsible immigration representative is keeping abreast of changes and proposed changes to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and Regulations as well as immigration policies and procedures.

Several months ago I wrote an article entitled "Marriage Fraud" which was published in the July 2011 issue of the *Insight*. In that article I revealed some information with respects to Jason Kenney's, the Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister of Canada, consideration of imposing sponsorship bars upon sponsors and their sponsored spouses. It was hoped that these considerations would not come to fruition; however these considerations are now planned reforms which, according to reports, are expected to be introduced in the very near future. As of press time (early January 2012) these reforms had not yet taken effect but reports claim that Mr. Kenney should soon be

announcing the full details of these reforms and when they shall take effect.

Mr. Kenney declares that Canadian immigration officials have been witnessing a growing number of fraudulent marriages from certain particular nations (particularly from Asian nations - including China and India). As a means of controlling these numbers the federal government plans to impose conditional spousal visas upon spouses applying for permanent resident (PR) status under the Family Class Spousal Sponsorship category.

The imposed condition spousal visas (CSV's) would restrict sponsored spouses from being granted PR status until they have resided and genuinely remained in their relationship for a period of at least two years. If the relationship fails for any reason couples will be obliged to live together so as to satisfy the condition and allow the sponsored spouse to obtain PR status. Couples would have to submit adequate proof of living together in order for the sponsored spouse to be deemed eligible for PR status.

The CSV's has been quite a controversial topic over the past several months and continue to spark concerns amongst many groups and agencies with regard to the underlying potential for spousal abuse. There may be provisions in immigration policies and procedures to extend special considerations to spouses who end up in abusive relationships but it is unknown at this time as to how much discretionary powers immigration officials shall have in concluding whether or not abuse is evident and if a relationship is genuine.

If the imposed condition has not been met or it is found that a marriage was not genuine or was entered into for immigration purposes, PR status will not be conferred upon the sponsored spouse. Additionally, immigration officials shall be granted the authority to enforce immediate deportation.

There have been occurrences whereby immigrants get sponsored by their spouse, obtain their PR status, then get divorced shortly thereafter and subsequently marry and sponsor their new spouse. Mr. Kenney plans to implement new rules that will ensure that those who obtained their PR status fraudulently will face a five-year bar from sponsoring anyone.

With the advent of the CSV's we could expect to see a higher percentage of spousal applications refused and many would-be permanent residents returned to their home country for failing to satisfy imposed conditions. We could also expect more oppressed immigrants who may feel compelled to remain in abusive relationships for the sake of acquiring their desired status as their sponsors exploit them for whatever reason(s) they see fit.

Sandra Sutherland is a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC) with the new regulatory and governing body, the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC). She can be reached at (416) 431-2829 or via e-mail at ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com. View her advertisement in this copy of the *Insight* for more information.

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Mondays: 4:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.
(Jim Lewis and Kevin Padmore)

News

Tuesdays: 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

CHRY 105.5 FM

Request Line Tel: 416-736-5656

<http://www.yorku.ca/chry/>
Office Tel: 416-736-5293 Fax: 416-650-8052



Mr. Alston Davy, a Minister at Large with the Christian Missionary Alliance Canada, is founder and President of the Christian Outreach Ministries, a ministry that provides consultation services to churches on an individual and corporate level. Prior to taking on the leadership role of the Ministry, Mr. Davy was an Elementary School Vice-Principal with the Toronto District School Board; a teacher and an Instructor at Seneca College. He conducts marriage enrichment seminars and does itinerant preaching within the GTA. He holds a M. Ed. in Applied Psychology; a combined B.A. Hon. in Psychology and Sociology; and a Specialist Certificate in Special Education. He is currently pursuing a M. Div. on a part time basis at Tyndale Seminary. Mr. Davy is available to carry out the following services for members of the SVGA community in Toronto: **spiritual counselling, marriages, baby dedication and funerals**. He can be reached at **905-887-9561** or at email: cofm@rogers.com

Travel Tips

1. Ensure that your passport and Permanent Residence Card is valid. Some countries ask that you have at least six months left on your documents before the expiry date in order to allow you to board the plane/boat/train/auto at the point of entry, so make sure that you know the entry rules for the country you are visiting. The Consulate/Embassy of your destination will be able to provide you with that information accurately.
2. Check the safety level of the destination you are going to and what you can expect by asking a consulate/embassy staff member or a resident of that place. Countless times people see high profile news stations such as CBC News or CNN or even print media describing a place inaccurately with high crime and the story may wrongly discourage people from visiting. Common sense is a good approach to safety when travelling such as "don't wear jewellery or electronics openly" and "do not go into areas that you see no pedestrians in or walking around late at night."
3. Make sure that you have enough money to spend on your trip and most importantly, make sure there is money left over from your trip for any departure taxes that may be required when leaving. No money to pay the departure taxes means that a person cannot leave. Consular assistance is not available in every country and a Consulate/Embassy cannot pay bills for an individual.
(Contributed by Professional Travel Place)



Your Christmas Gift

Fly For FREE*

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Fax: 718-228-3579, 784-457-1382
Skype: don.providence1
Website: www.aisvg.com

Residential | Commercial | Land Sales | Property Management

* AI Real Estate will refund the air fare for two (2) adults who fly to SVG to sign a contract to Purchase any of our Special Holiday Properties before January 31st 2012.

Happy Holidays!

OBSERVATION Cont'd from Pg 5

Others, including former members or visitors to our meetings, expressed disgust at the conduct of individuals and vowed not to return. Yet others of the SVG community at large observe disinterestedly from a distance. After all, what goes on in the Association is of no concern to them. Or so they think. .

Without doubt, failure to take corrective action has led to severe consequences. We have had divided Executive Committees resulting in dysfunction. As evidence, consider that the Executive Committee of 2011 was dissolved by an expression of non-confidence and replaced by an interim committee.

This Organization is in dire need of an infusion of progressive thinkers, people prepared to promote the aims and objectives of the organization rather than satisfying their ego. There are an appreciable number of qualified individuals in the SVG community including current active members. I appeal to you to don your tolerant armour and help to return the organization to respectability and progress.

THANK YOU

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto acknowledges the contributions of those businesses and individuals who support the production of Insight by promoting their businesses and services through advertisement in our newsletter.

Travel Tips Cont'd

Ensure that you have emergency medical insurance for your destination. Most countries charge for health care and an unforeseen accident that causes a high medical bill may prevent a person from leaving the destination until the bill is taken care of. Out of Province emergency health insurance is usually affordable and an asset while visiting another country.

VINCY UNITY PICNIC

Saturday, July 21

Join thousands of Vincentians and friends for a day of fun and frolic at the Annual Vincy Picnic at Brown's Bay Provincial Park, 1000 Islands on the third Saturday of each year.

. The BEQUIA SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US ON OUR
ANNUAL MAY LONG WEEKEND EXCURSION
THIS YEAR GOING TO

Grove City, Erie PA & Buffalo NY

Saturday, May 19 TO Monday, May 22

Come with Us As We Celebrate Our 23rd
Anniversary!!

*Enjoy a weekend of laughter and fun with friends
and family while relaxing, browsing or
shopping till you drop!!*

****PLEASE CONTACT AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR
MORE INFORMATION****

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 of Toronto Inc. (SVGAT) 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)

Please make cheques payable to THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. and mail to:

THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.
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