



St. Vincent & the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. Quarterly Newsletter (On-Line Edition) July 2003

From the President

Greetings to Fellow Vincentians and Friends!

I am happy for the occasion to brief you on the activities of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. This issue of Insight can be referred to as one of the more important ones since it falls in the middle of the year and it gives us a chance to look at our activities so far and the planning of those for the rest of the year that includes our major functions celebrating Independence.

We are aware that Insight is read by quite a number of Vincentians around the world and we invite other Vincy groups and organizations that also publish a newsletter or have a website to share it with us. We expect to use Insight to educate our people not only with our association's affairs but the role and responsibilities of our country's foreign offices and any other useful information that we can help the government and people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to get across to its citizens outside of the country. In the April issue, we featured an article from the Toronto Consul General, Mr. E.B. John and in this issue we are grateful for a contribution from His Excellency Ellsworth John, Ambassador to the United States and Permanent Mission to the OAS. I trust that you too will find these articles interesting and informative. It is hoped that other government representatives would accept our invitation to contribute in the future.

Since the April issue, we held a rather successful Membership Appreciation and Drive on Easter Sunday when we also paid tribute to former presidents and leaders of the Association and we also had a good turn out at our Annual Mothers Day Dinner. Our thanks to all those who in one-way or the other contributed to the success of these activities and we look forward to your continued support. As we go to press, our wider community is paying host to a number a Caribbean literary artists in the first ever Caribbean-Canadian Literary Expo which includes some Vincentians resident in North America, Europe and other Caribbean islands.

On the following pages you will find advertisement of our upcoming functions and activities. Please do your best to support them when and where possible. It appears that the Vincy Unity Picnic on July 19 will attract a record crowd and we also look forward to successful Independence Anniversary events. We invite you to frequently visit our website, www.vincytoronto.com as it is now being regularly updated.

The government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has appointed a Constitutional Review Commission to review the country's constitution. This commission is currently soliciting the view of Vincentians at home and in the Diaspora. I invite as many of you as possible to get a copy of the document that is now circulating and a copy of the country's constitution so that you can make your contribution. I also trust that the Commission will be allowed to visit some of those major cities in North America and Europe where there are large enough Vincentian populations to encourage their participation and contribution to the new Constitution.

Let us enjoy ourselves while we continue to prepare for our future. With all good wishes for an enjoyable summer.

Gideon L. Exeter

(N.B.: Gideon Exeter can be reached by telephone at (905) 831-1814 or by email at gexeter@yahoo.com.)

THE EXECUTIVE

- President** - Mr. Gideon Exeter
- Vice President** - Ms Elma Gabriel
- Executive Secretary** - Ms Marcia Farrell
- General Secretary** - Ms Petra Hutchinson
- Treasurer** - Vacant
- Assistant Treasurer** - Mr. Dennis Bucchan
- Public Relations Officer** - Mr. Ricardo Francis
- Committee Members** - Mr. Cordel Telfer
- Mr. Chester Searles
- Immediate Past President** - Mr. Kenneth Farrell

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Meetings and Contacting Us

The Association meets on the last Sunday of each month at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, (Keele & Sheppard area) North York from 4:00 p.m. Business meetings are held in January, April, July and October. The other Sundays are used for educational discussions and social events. **One can get in touch with the Executive either by writing to P.O. Box 392, Station F, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2L8, e-mail at svgatoronto@hotmail.com, or phone at (416) 763-9889.**

Youth Committee Report

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Youth Committee is pleased to say that this year our major emphasis is to bring to our Youths attention the need to move forward positively in order to lift the educational standards of our young people in the Vincentian Community and Greater Toronto. The committee has organized a poetry writing and Public Speaking competition to be held this year 2003. We are looking for interested persons to participate in these two competitions. The age group for the Poetry Writing competition is 7 to 14 years old, and the Public Speaking Competition is 15 to 21 years old.

Trophies would be donated to the Association by very prominent Vincentians, who have served the Association, community and Greater Toronto with distinguished honour. These trophies would be given to winners in both categories.

Other activities planned are as follows: Attending Jazz Festival, visiting Art Gallery, Raptors basketball game, movies, volunteering at food banks, learning to play the Steel Pan, educational trips and camps.

For more information you can contact Marcia Farrell who is the chair of the Youth Committee at svgayouth@urbanxpression.com, or Farrellmarcia@hotmail.com. or phone # 416-656-4180

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.

Association Sub-Committees

Our Sub-Committees with their respective chairpersons are listed for your information. Please contact the chairperson to indicate your interest in volunteering for the community or the Association: -

- Education & Culture** - Malcolm Garraway
- Sports & Recreation** - Kenneth Farrell
- Finance** - Elaina Lewis
- Fund Raising &**

- Entertainment** - Elma Gabriel
- Seniors Enrichment** - Chester Searles
- Relief** - Cordel Telfer
- Public Relations** - Ricardo Francis
- Youth** - Marcia Farrell

Dr. Allan Liverpool Award

Nominations are invited from members of our community for the Dr. Allan Liverpool Award. Throughout his lifetime, Samuel Allan Liverpool dedicated himself to serve the communities in which he lived, both in his homeland of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Montreal and Toronto, Canada. He did so with enthusiasm, dedication and without looking for any reward.

This award is given by St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. in honour of one of its founders and the first president. The award is to be presented annually to one or more individuals whom the Association feels meet the criteria as set out below.

To be eligible for the award, the person's name must be submitted to the Association outlining his or her contributions in serving the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto, the Vincentian community in the Greater Toronto Area, the wider Vincentian community and the Canadian community at large. Members and friends of our community are encouraged to forward the names of any individual they feel merit this award not later than September 30th, 2003 to:

The Recognition Committee
St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ass'n of Toronto Inc.
P.O. Box 392, Station F
Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2L8

Do you have an article you want to share with other readers? Do you want to contribute a story to our quarterly newsletter? Please contact the PRO, Ricardo Francis at 416-824-9127.

YOUTH RECOGNITION

In 1993 the Association began an annual event of recognizing children of Vincentian background who have graduated Grade 12 or Grade 13. The intention is to encourage them to pursue a higher level of education and to motivate their juniors to excel academically. Please encourage those qualified to use the registration form on Page 10 or get one from any Executive member and complete it before returning it by mid September.

It is expected that the recognition will take place during our Independence Anniversary Celebrations held from October 19 to October 26.

We take this opportunity to congratulate all those who have graduated or will graduate later this year from one grade to another at the end of the last school year. KEEP REACHING FOR THE STARS.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Help a child in your homeland to a brighter future.

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

New OECS High Commissioner

The OECS (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States) High Commission in Ottawa has a new High Commissioner, St. Lucian-born, Mrs. Lorraine Williams. Mrs. Williams succeeded Mr. George Bullen who has taken up the position of OECS High Commission to Brussels.

The High Commission represents seven of the nine member states of the OECS in Canada, namely: Antigua & Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines. It promotes and protects the economic, political, and cultural interests of the member territories of the OECS in Canada, in order to contribute towards the economic and social development of these states.

More information on the High Commission can be found by visiting their site at www.oecs-ottawa.com.

HIGH COMMISSION FOR ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

*130 Albert Street, Suite 700
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5G4*

Tel: (613) 236-8952 Fax: (613) 236-3042

High Commissioner: Her Excellency Mrs. Lorraine Williams

RELIEF COMMITTEE WALK-A-THON

The Association's 7th Annual Walk-A-Thon will be held on Sunday, August 10 from 10:00 a.m. Part proceeds go to a Charity in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Last year, \$1,000.00 raised from the Walk was donated to The National Diabetic and Hypertensive Association (NDHA) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The 5km walk starts from the Parking Lot at Yorkwoods Library, then east on Finch to Keele, south on Keele to Sheppard, then west on Sheppard to Northwood Park

Investing in the Diaspora

By H.E. Ellsworth I. A. John,
Ambassador of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

As a new government, the Unity Labour Party Administration did a quick assessment of the foreign policy that it inherited and decided that more emphasis was required on servicing the needs of Vincentians living in the Diaspora. It was decided to immediately establish a consulate in New York City. A year later, the office in Toronto was expanded and it is now headed by a Consul General instead of an Honorary Consul. This brings to seven the number of offices in North America servicing the needs of our citizens.

I will summarize briefly the role that is envisioned for Vincentians in the Diaspora and then describe the function of each of our offices.

We firmly believe that the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines can and should make a contribution to bettering the standard of living of all Vincentians whether they live at home or here in the Diaspora. For that reason, the government has worked with statutory bodies, private entities and organizations to facilitate greater access by Vincentians in the Diaspora to benefits and investment opportunities previously available only to Vincentians resident in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. These include enacting legislation to allow all Vincentians to participate in the National Insurance Scheme, promoting the benefits of joining local credit unions and facilitating greater participation by Calypsonians in Vincy Carnival. As importantly, there is increased lobbying by our Embassy on Capital Hill in Washington for liberation of immigration legislation in order to provide greater mobility and economic empowerment to Vincentians currently undocumented.

At the same time, we understand and appreciate both the political and economical importance of organized and active Vincentian communities in the Diaspora. In a future issue of this newsletter, I will go into more detail about how we can harness and utilize our power more effectively for the benefit of our homeland.

Role of The Embassy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United States

Our primary responsibility is the maintenance of good relationship with the United States. To do this, we interact mainly with the White House, the State Department, and members of both the Senate and the House of Representative. We utilize our contacts established through "pounding the pavement" to try and influence legislature that can impact on St. Vincent and the Grenadines or Vincentians in the Diaspora. We also monitor the activities of the USAID, the US Agency responsible for assistance to the region to make sure that any aid given reflects our priorities for development.

We also interface with the representatives from other countries. As the preeminent development country in the world, most

countries have a permanent presence in Washington. We have been utilizing this office and the Permanent Mission to the United Nations to establish and maintain functional relationships with other countries. In Washington, because we serve the dual function as Embassy and Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States, we have been able to forge strong alliances with the other member states in the Americas.

As I indicated before, I want to dedicate a separate article to other interaction with the Diaspora, and I am aware that in a previous issue, Consul General E.B. John in Toronto outlined the functions of the Consulate. Likewise, those aspects of the Embassy's work are carried out through the Consulate established in New York City.

Our Offices in North America

- Embassy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United States and Permanent Mission to the OAS – Washington DC
- Permanent Mission to the United Nations – New York City
- Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines – New York City
- Honorary Consul in St. Louis
- Honorary Consul in California
- OECS High Commission – Ottawa, Canada
- Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines – Toronto, Canada

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES UNITY PICNIC

**Join Vincentians and friends in the Montreal,
New York, Ottawa and Toronto areas at our
Annual Unity Outing**

**Brown's Bay Provincial Park, 1000
Islands
Saturday, July 19, 2003**

**Bus departs at 7:00 a.m. from 3 points:
Jane/Finch Mall, Dufferin & Lawrence and
Scarborough Town Centre at the Y**

\$25.00 per seat.

***If you are driving, please check the map on our
website for directions.***

Vincy Artists

St Vincent & The Grenadines has given a lot to the Art world. Many talented people have despite the lack of infrastructure and support managed to make an impact on the world of culture. We can for example talk about Ellsworth "Shaeke Keane, a trumpeter who along with Jamaican saxophonist Joe Harriott managed to change the face of British Jazz before moving onto Germany where he became known as the European Louis Armstrong. Many of us know about the McIntosh's who ruled the music world in St Vincent before moving onto North America where their talents were soon felt on the big city musical scene. Names like Frankie McIntosh and Syl McIntosh are very prominent in musical circles.

In the world of stage and screen, I grew up hearing about the great work of the St Vincent players and writers like Tim Daisley. New Artist Movement (N.A.M.) ruled the stage in my day when I lived in St Vincent. Many great actors came out of that group and unfortunately many of them left St Vincent and did not continue or were unable to pursue work in the theatre, but yet, a few had risen to prominence despite the odds. Right here in Toronto Ardon Bess has become a leading actor working both on stage and screen, winning awards in the process. Children born of Vincentian parents are showing up in bit parts on TV movies. People who love the old Shaft movies can catch a glimpse of Actor/dancer Tracey Connell in a bit part in that movie. He also acted in some seventies Canadian movies before returning to St Vincent.

The world of visual arts has not been spared by many Vincentian artists who have had exhibits at home and abroad. I always remember looking at the work of one Lennox Dink's Johnson with pleasurable wonder. In the world of writing Canadian artist would have gotten a chance to see some of the work of our present crop of writers as part of the Caribbean Canadian Literary Festival June 19 – 21, Writers like Michael MacMillan who was born of Vincentian parents in England is a writer, professor, and producer. Nigel Thomas, author and professor lives in Montreal, the home to another prominent writer, Trevor Joyette, both born in St. Vincent. The ladies were represented by Marcia Harold-Hinds whose epic poem The Saga Of Hairoun was published in 2002. She resides in Barbados. This writer who has been struggling to make it on the Toronto/world scene is having his best year so far and besides representing St. Vincent and the Grenadines at the Festival I am getting ready for my production in this year's Toronto Fringe Festival with a play called Back Home.

Starting this month Insight will try to highlight the achievements and present activities of many of our Vincentian artists that struggle to make it in the world of the Arts.

By Tien Providence

Want to get news and views on SVG matters on the web?

Here are some links and sites to view: -

www.nbcsvg.com www.vincy.com
www.svgtourism.com www.cananews.com
www.scubasvg.com www.svgbc.com
www.windiescricket.com www.svgottawa.com
www.embsvg.com www.visitsvg.com
www.svg.8m.net www.freenet.hamilton.on.ca
www.tonyoldies.homestead.com

For more news from St. Vincent, please check the websites mentioned above or get your regular copy of Searchlight distributed at several outlets across Toronto.

A contribution by Elma Gabriel at SVGAT Mothers' Day Dinner, 2003.

When I decided to give this speech today, I had to compromise between talking about this day that commemorates us mothers, or about something different. Like, questioning ourselves as to what, we want as people living in Canada. Then I thought, since I am a mother whatever I say to you today is in celebration of our struggles through the years. As I reflect on my time living outside of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the way Vincentians in Toronto express their cultural identity, I ask myself, "Why I am so troubled about the future of Vincentian organizations in Canada after our generation passes?"

What are our legacies in these foreign places we now call home?" For the past couple of years I had the privilege to see and experience the many talents in different places of our community, including Montreal, New York, Ottawa and our own Toronto. I was also overwhelmed by the population of Vincentians outside St. Vincent and the Grenadines. That I said to myself, maybe one of these days I will try and find out more.

Take my own census and create my own study on the Vincentian communities of Canada. I was excited to know that there are many of us out here but this excitement slowly dissipated when I wonder about our legacy as a community to our offspring, their offspring's, the society in which we live and the one from which we came. Looking around I see nothing, yet inside of us there is so much to give and I wonder why aren't we giving to ourselves the goodness of our hearts. We landed in many parts of Canada, some of us directly from St. Vincent & the Grenadines, some of us via Europe, then North America.

What do we really want as a people? Is it a sense of belonging, or the vanity of our individuality? Our lack of support of the Symposium in New York and our Membership drive, have opened my eyes to see a bit clearer, why we are failing as a culture. Why we are unable to influence even our own self as a people, much less, the respect and support from our Vincentian Government, to accept us as the representative of the Vincentian community in Toronto.

Reasons are, we continue to look at ourselves as an invisible minority, relating to a "have and a have not" kind of social thinking. Our values are measured by the values of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which many of us aspire to be among the

elites of that culture, rather than to the values of our Canadian reality. In other words, after being out of St. Vincent and the Grenadines for many years, we still see ourselves as Vincentians however, in this society, we are simply tossed within the multicultural minority of the Canadian /North American, globalize world. Our children are classified as first generation Canadians. This in itself is a cast of two cultures -- The invisible minority and multicultural Canadian identity while, we as naturalized Canadians adhere to a Vincentian mentality. Some of us would look at these factors as negative to our present interpretations of Vincentian culture while, some may see them as positive elements that relates to our Vincentian Canadian reality.

Depending from which perspectives we are looking, some of us may feel that we have "arrived" while others are still looking. The end result is that no matter how we look at ourselves in this society, we are immigrants of a minority status. Our Vincentian status is better recognized when we celebrate as a people. Therefore, the larger the gathering the more unity, influence, respect and recognition for all Vincentians. Not only by other cultures around us but by our offspring's and future Vincentians who, are the inheritors of our accomplishments; including the achievements of our Association.

We will always be Canadian -Vincentians spiritually connected to each other by the land of our birth. By the land of our fore parents, where we ate the same foods, swam in the same waters, looked at the same sunsets, shared the same breeze and enjoy the magnificence of La Soufriere and the Botanic Gardens. Where we roamed the same beaches shared the same history, looked at the same "Iron man", yes! Weathered the same storms and rose when it became calm. So, let us mark this year as the time we charter a new course for the stability and future of our organization.

One behalf of the St. Vincent and The Grenadines Association of Toronto; I thank all mothers, daughters, husbands, wives, sons and fathers and hope that this day would be one remembered for a long time. I would also like to thank all those who created this organization many years ago. It is a part of our legacy and history that gives me a sense of belonging and confidence to move beyond our colonial upbringing. I wish you all very happy Mother's day.

To contact Elma Gabriel by E-mail, please write to :

elma.Gabriel@sympatico.ca

UPGRADE YOUR SKILLS

Adult Day School offers full-time secondary school credit courses in academic and business skills, ESL, skills training and co-op. Call any school in your area and they should provide you with all details. No Fees.

NEWS FROM SVG

Merger gets off the Ground

by CAROL MATROO

A holding company, Caribbean Airlines (Holding) Ltd, would be incorporated in T&T within two weeks, to hold shares within BWIA and LIAT as several governments prepare to reorganize the region's airline business.

Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph Gonsalves, yesterday said that the holding company would act as a frame for the two bankrupt companies. “We have established a clear nexus between BWIA and LIAT, but you must have a frame and that frame is the holding company,” Gonsalves said during a news conference at the Central Bank of T&T, Port-of-Spain, yesterday. The holding company would be subject to approval from the Registrar of Companies. This, he said, may result in a possible merger between the two airlines, creating one major Caribbean airline. “This will be a structure helping us to reorganize the airline business in the Caribbean and owning that business,” Gonsalves said.

Gonsalves had earlier met with Prime Minister Patrick Manning, Junior Finance Ministers Ken Valley, Conrad Enill and Christine Sahadeo and Labour Minister Franklyn Khan to discuss the matter. He also met with the deputy PM of Antigua and Barbuda, Robin Yearwood, Barbados’ Minister of International Transport, Noel Lynch, BWIA’s Chief Executive Officer, Nelson Tom Yew, LIAT’s CEO Garry Cullen and other LIAT and Caricom officials.

Talks of a merger between the two cash-strapped airlines have been bouncing around for some time now, but it is only after a report from a yet-to-be appointed technical co-coordinator that the two leaders would decide on the feasibility of the venture. Gonsalves said the decision to co-ordinate a holding company came after an interim report from a Barbadian technical team appointed on April 13. The appointed technical co-coordinator’s job would be to prepare and co-ordinate the implementation of a detailed plan for the establishment of the new company, and the restructuring and rationalization of the operations of BWIA and LIAT, he said.

The technical team would also continue to work with the co-coordinator to determine the strategic and operational issues for the new airline and the equity requirements for the holding committee. The leaders also decided that other financial contacts should be sought, adding that the airlines would restructure their efforts towards viability as a pre-condition for any further public sector participation. Manning said T&T would provide initial funding for the retention of the services of the technical co-coordinator, but explained that the cost would be “minimal”.

The aviation problem

The decision by regional leaders, meeting in Port-of-Spain yesterday, to establish a holding company to facilitate the establishment of a regional airline is a neat solution to a possibly messy problem. The problem: How to establish a properly-capitalized, low-cost regional carrier in the Eastern Caribbean at the least cost to the owners – presumably regional governments, the regional and international private sector and the workers.

The holding company, Caribbean Airline (Holdings) Ltd, would own a majority of shares in two existing airlines – BWIA and LIAT – but could hold shares in other airlines which may be encouraged to join. BWIA and LIAT would become subsidiaries of the holding company.

Who will control it?

As it stands, the T&T Government holds a 49 per cent stake in BWIA – 33.5 per cent by the Corporation Sole and 15.5 per cent in trust for the airline’s workers stake. These shares have not been transferred to the workers as yet. LIAT is owned by the regional governments. Twenty-nine per cent of LIAT is owned by BWIA, which also owns 49 per cent of Tobago Express, the air bridge airline, which, like LIAT, flies Dash-8s, a short-haul aircraft. It is likely that the T&T Government, because of its financial strength, would be the largest single shareholder in the new airline. This means that the Manning administration would be in a position to call the shots in aviation in the Southern Caribbean by having the airline based at Piarco, choosing the new CEO and dictating labour terms. It also means that the T&T taxpayer would be called upon to fund the airline, at least in its initial stages.

Why a holding company?

Holding companies are companies which have control over several operating companies. When Royal Bank decided to embark on regional expansion, it opted to form a holding company (RBTT Financial Holdings) which would own its local and regional subsidiaries. Likewise, Guardian Life. The advantage of a holding company is continuity – the existing airlines would be able to maintain their identities and their route rights. The obvious disadvantage is that the new owners of the airline may not be able to force new wage and salary terms and conditions on the company’s employees.

Other options?

The governments could have pulled the rugs on both airlines and attempt to form a new structure from the ruins. This would have been an expensive option with millions being paid in retrenchment costs. There is also the issue of the debt that both airlines carry, especially to the airline leasing companies.

OVERSEAS MISSION

The Heads of overseas Missions and Consulates recently met in Kingstown to review their work and to plan strategies, which will bring greater benefits to the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The consultation, which is held annually, is aimed at enhancing relations and improving the operations of the overseas offices. High Commissioner to the United Kingdom - Cenio Lewis; Permanent Representative to the OAS and Washington - Ellsworth John; Ambassador to the United Nations - Margaret Ferrari; Consul General in New York - Cosmos Cozier and Consul General to Toronto – E. Bernard John attended the event.

Items on the agenda include Administrative, Political, Economic and Trade Issues. Reports on the operations of their Missions and Consulates over the last year were to be tabled.

IMPORTANT VISA NOTICE

The United States of America (USA) have imposed visa restrictions on Canadian Landed Immigrants from Commonwealth Countries (this includes all OECS Countries). Bottom line, this means that if you are a landed immigrant in Canada, you **CANNOT** visit the USA without a VISA. These restrictions took effect as of March 17th, 2003. The USA Embassy has indicated that it can take up to 30 days or longer to process a VISA application, so you should apply early if you have plan to travel to the USA. To make an appointment to apply for a VISA you must call 1-900 451-2778 (\$2.00 per minute).

For those of you who qualify to apply for Canadian citizenship, now may be a good time to do so, since the visa restrictions do not apply to Canadian citizens. Usually you qualify to apply for Canadian citizenship after you have been living in Canada as a landed immigrant for three years. The laws of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Canada allow you to have dual citizenship; therefore, you have nothing to lose by becoming a citizen of Canada.

Obituaries

Quite a number of our friends and relatives of our community have passed to the great beyond since our last publication. At the time of going to press, we have been unable to get a complete list and for the fear of unintentionally omitting anyone, we would like to state that the Executive and Members of the Association take this opportunity to express sincere condolences to all who have lost their loved ones.

The Executive is looking to reach out to Vincentian groups around the world as we feel that from time to time we may be able to work together on matters of mutual interest and on projects designed to benefit St. Vincent and the Grenadines. If you know of any of these groups in Canada, the United States or elsewhere, kindly ask them to contact us.

TORONTO CONSULATE OFFICE

Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
133 Wilson Avenue, Suite 601
Toronto, Ontario, M3H 1T2
Tel: (416) 398-4277 Fax (416) 398-4199

Consul General: Mr. E. Bernard John
Email: consulategeneral@rogers.com

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.

INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS 2003

Thanksgiving Church Service

***Sunday, October 19, 2003, 11:00
a.m.***



***Anglican Church of the Nativity
10 Sewells Road @ Neilson, Scarborough.
(2 lights north of Sheppard)***

***Refreshments will be served in the
Church Hall following the service.***

Bus Route: From Scarborough Town Centre, take the Neilson #133 bus, leaving every 15 minutes or the Nugget #131 leaving every 25 minutes. For more information regarding connecting buses to the Neilson Road route, call TTC at 416-393-4636.

***St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ass'n of Toronto
Hotline number: 416-763-9889
www.vincytoronto.com
E-mail: svgatoronto@hotmail.com***

**St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Association of Toronto Inc.**

invites you to celebrate with fellow
Vincentians
on the occasion of the 24th Anniversary
of Independence of

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

at its Annual Banquet

Saturday, October 25, 2003
7:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Travelodge Hotel, 2737 Keele Street,
Toronto
(Keele Street & Wilson Avenue at Hwy
401)

Dinner will be served between 8:00 p.m. and 9:00
p.m.

Admission: \$50.00 ----- CASH BAR

Complimentary Parking at Hotel Lot

RELIEF COMMITTEE WALK-A-THON

*The Association's 7th Annual Walk-A-Thon
will be held on Sunday, August 10 from 10:00
a.m. Part proceeds go to a Charity in St.
Vincent and the Grenadines. Last year,
\$1,000.00 raised from the Walk was donated to
The National Diabetic and Hypertensive
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*The 5km walk starts from the Parking Lot at
Yorkwoods Library, then east on Finch to Keele,
south on Keele to Sheppard, then west on Sheppard
to Northwood Park.*

BACK HOME. The latest
production of writer/director Tien
Providence open at the Artword
Theatre on Sunday July 6th at 9.30pm
and runs for one week as part of the
2003 TORONTO FRINGE THEATRE
FESTIVAL.

BACK HOME tells the story of Mr.
Forbes a man down on his luck, he
doesn't have a steady job, he has been
divorced and he recently lost custody
of his only child a daughter named
KEENYA.

The play is set in the early hours of
the morning. She is to be picked up
by her mother. Keenya stays up all
night waiting for her father to come
home, but true to form Mr. Forbes
forgets about it and goes out drinking
stumbling home half drunk in the
morning. His daughter confronts him
and together they argue, reminisce,
play a game of domino and decide
that their bond is too great to let go.

BACK HOME can be seen at the **ARTWORD
THEATRE** 75 Portland Ave, Toronto, 1blk
East Of Bathurst on King.

SUN, JULY 6th, 9.30pm
MON, JULY 7th, 3.30pm
TUES, JULY 8th, 2.00pm
WED, JULY 9th, 8.00pm
THUR, JULY 10th, 6.00pm
FRI, JULY 11TH, 1.30pm
SAT, JULY 12TH, 9.30PM

ADM: \$8.00

Please come early, latecomers will not be
admitted. Fringe Hotline 416 966-1062

www.fringetoronto.com

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

**STUDENT RECOGNITION INFORMATION
SHEET**

Recognizing students who have successfully completed the Ontario Secondary School Program.

The idea is to lend community support and show encouragement to those students who have completed and graduated from the program and to further encourage them to pursue a higher level of education through college or university.

As members of a smaller community we are mindful of the importance of education for our advancement within the wider Canadian and world community, therefore, it is the responsibility of the leaders and parents within our community to inspire our young people to strive for the ultimate goal.

On the occasion of the celebration of the Independence Anniversary of our country, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, we choose this time to publicly show our support, encouragement and render thanks to our future leaders.

ELIGIBILITY

The student would have completed the Ontario Secondary School Program during the current year or the year previous to the one in which the recognitions are held and fall into at least one of the following categories: -

- a) Be a citizen of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- b) Be the child of a citizen of St. Vincent and the Grenadines either by birth or naturalization.
- c) Be a member of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto.

- d) Be the child of a member of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto.

The Information Sheet on Page 10 must be completed and returned to the Association by September 30, 2003.

ANOTHER SVG ASS'N REACHES OUT TO US

While we were preparing this newsletter we received word from our sister organization in Barbados. Their message read in part:

"Dear Mr. Exeter,

I was checking out the Internet looking for other SVG organizations and I came across yours. We started in 2001 and have membership of approximately 75.

I was very impressed about all the info you guys supply over the net and it makes me proud for you all that you have come so far.

At our recently concluded Annual General Meeting a new executive committee was elected. We also have four sub-committees headed by individual chairpersons.

*As Secretary of the **SVG ASSOCIATION OF BARBADOS** let me introduce you to our Executive Committee which was elected **16 June 2003:***

PRESIDENT - Mr Noel Adams

VICE PRESIDENT - Mr. Winston Romeo

SECRETARY - Miss Debra Jacobs

TREASURER - Miss Noreen Shortte

P.R.O - Mr. Trevor Burrowes

ASST / TREASURER - Miss Brunette Hinds.

With the exception of the P.R.O., we are all Vincentians who have been living in Barbados for 15 years or more years. The PRO is a Barbadian.

The Association started in 2001 and has 75 members.

Yours truly,

Debra Jacobs, Secretary"

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.

STUDENT RECOGNITION INFORMATION SHEET

Full Name of student: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Father's Name: _____ Mother's Name: _____

School of graduation: _____

Please give a summary of your achievements in school: _____

Do you intend to post secondary education? _____

Or, are you currently attending college or university? _____ If yes, name the institution:

Please indicate which career you intend to pursue: _____

List other extra curricular interests: _____

Do you volunteer any of your time to a charity or cause within the community you live? _____

If yes, give details: _____

Please indicate if any member of your family is a member of the Association: _____

If you are not a member and wish more information about the Association, please contact any member of the Executive or call write to us at the address listed below.

Please complete and return this form by September 30, 2003, to:

P.O. Box 392, Station F, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2L8. Tel (416) 763-9889 (email: svgatoronto@hotmail.com)

Calendar of Events

Below is our tentative Calendar of Events for the year. Some venues are subject to change and update will be given when necessary.

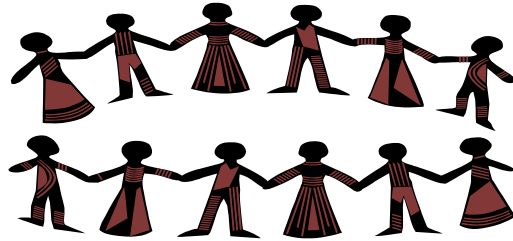
EVENT	DATE	VENUE
Vincy Unity Picnic	July 19	Brown's Bay Provincial Park, 1000 Islands
President's XI Cricket Match	July 26	Regular Cricket Ground
Women's Cricket Match	July 27	Regular Cricket Ground
Monthly General Meeting	July 27	Northwood Community Centre
GHS Alumnae Caribana Function	August 4	Masonic Lodge, Scarborough
Cricket Team Caribana Fundraiser	August 4	CAW Union Hall
Car Wash Fundraiser	August ____	To be decided
Annual Relief Committee Walk-A-Thon	August 10	From Yorkwoods Library to Northwood Park
Allan Davis Memorial Cricket Match	August 17	To be decided
Cricket Team in Albany, New York	August 23 & 24	Albany, New York
Monthly General Meeting	August 31	Northwood Community Centre
Seniors Function	September 14	To be decided
GHS Alumnae Caribbean Fiesta	September 27	St. Dunstan's Anglican Church
Monthly General Meeting	September 28	Northwood Community Centre
End of Season Cricket Dance	October 12	CAW Union Hall
Youth Forum	October 18	To be decided
Independence Church Service	October 19	Church of the Nativity, 10 Sewells Rd
Independence Anniversary Banquet	October 25	Travelodge Hotel, Keele & 401
Community Discussions	October 26	Northwood Community Centre
Monthly General Meeting	November 29	Northwood Community Centre
GHS Alumnae Christmas Luncheon	December 7	
Children's Christmas Party	December 21	Northwood Community Centre
Christmas Hampers Delivery	December 23/24	

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc, Membership Registration Form

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

Mission Statement

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



Objectives

- To maintain a high level of volunteerism through recruitment, training and effective utilization of skills.
- To provide a forum to promote leadership and advocacy for the enrichment of Culture and Education.
- To provide an anti bias environment for the discussion of matters of general interest to its members.
- To plan, implement and participate in fundraising activities to meet urgent human needs.
- To promote social and recreational events to enrich the lives of Children, Youth, Adults and Seniors.
- To maintain a network of communication through information and referral.

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

We hope to see you there!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

FAMILY MEMBERS: _____

NEW MEMBER OR RENEWAL : _____

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

Please make cheques payable and mail to:

**ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.
P.O. BOX 392, STATION F, TORONTO, ONTARIO, M4Y 2L8**