

Insight

St. Vincent & the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

Quarterly Newsletter July 2007

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

In these parts of the world most of us who hail from tropical countries tend to feel that summer is the best season of the year and we do our best to break loose and enjoy it. I therefore trust that you will have an enjoyable, healthy and accident free summer.

This time of year also allows the Association to put on or plan for most of the activities and programs we get involved in. As we plan and execute these events we ask for the full support of our membership and friends of the community. Planning for these events comes with challenges. It is increasingly difficult to predict what the attendance will be at our functions due to the last minute determination of most of us.

For the first time ever the organizing committee took the chance and advertised an "early bird" price for bus seats to the SVG Unity Picnic at 1000 Islands. We are encouraged that about two of the 12 buses reserved have been pre-sold. Unfortunately, we have to decide whether to risk keeping the other ten buses with the hope that all seats will be taken or determine to release some of them. By releasing some we could be confronted with the problem of leaving some folks at home.

Last year, the closing date for accepting applications for the scholarship program had to be extended which left the selection committee with very little time to make the selections. A decision has been made not to extend it any later than August 31 this year. Then, there are the Independence anniversary events which we have to contend with last minute decisions again.

This serves as a plea to our members and friends who plan to attend our events, to assist us by making your arrangements early and getting your tickets so as to avoid the hiccups that constantly plague us.

We welcome the cast of JEMS Theatre Company, a group of SVG Nationals based in the United States that is coming here for a production on August 18. Tickets are now on sale and we urge you to get yours early.

In closing, the executive committee reminds me to thank all those who have paid their membership dues so far and ask those of you who have not yet done so to come forward now.

With all good wishes.

Gideon L. Exeter

(Challenges – cont'd from Page 9)

This is the reality for which we must strive. For the destiny of our youth, in every **Home**, in every **Family** and in every **City** will be inextricably linked to the **Survival and Success** of our people. And so,

- For the **good** of our **youth**
- For the **well-being** of our **family**,
- For the **benefit** of our **people**, I urge you sit **back, relax and listen** to our knowledgeable and experienced panel as I pass you over to today's moderator to do the honors.

She is an eloquent example of excellence and is of Vincentian parentage.

She is bright, young, vibrant, versatile and blessed with an impeccable and unblemished character.

She is molded with academic excellence and has many degrees at this youthful age.

B.Sc (Hons)	McMaster University
LL.B	University of Windsor
LL.M	University of London (England)

She also did studies on Intellectual Property at the London School of Economics

She is a Lawyer and Associate of DWW (Deeth Williams Wall)

- ♦ A Specialist in Pharmaceutical Patent Law
- ♦ Experienced in Trade-Marks, Corporate and Commercial Law

Ladies and Gentlemen, let's put our hands together and give a warm welcome to Ms. Abigaile Browne, Esq., LL.M, LL.B, and B.Sc. ... Abigaile.

*** After two years or so are these things still happening in our neighborhoods with our youths? ***

CONTENTS

Dr. A. Cecil Cyrus – A Man for All Seasons, Page 2
Association Briefs, Pages 4- 5
List of Executive Members, Page 5
News from SVG, Pages 5 – 6, 14
Calendar of Events, Page 7
Breaking News – New High Commissioner, Page 8
Challenges Facing Our Youth – Pg 9, 1
Tables Will Turn, Page 10
List of SVGAT Committees, Page 15

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

Dr. Cyrus - A man for all seasons



The Vincentian, 2007/07/05

His name is Arthur Cecil Cyrus, better known in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, as Dr. Cyrus. He is originally from the Leeward town of Layou.

By his own sweat and ambition, he pursued his dream of wanting to do something for his country. Queen's University of Belfast turned out to be the foundation of Dr. Cyrus' fulfillment.

Fifty years on

Fifty years after he qualified as a doctor from that institution, Dr. Cyrus returned there for a reunion with colleagues. That was in June 2007. Dr. Cyrus paid tribute to the university at that function, in a way only he can. He enjoyed the occasion and described it as a "special and happy reunion," but, being the humble and unassuming individual he is, there was a hint of excitement about the return to his 'adopted homeland'.

Dr. Cyrus has accepted Northern Ireland to be as much his back yard as Texier Road in Layou or the main road in front of the recently upgraded Layou waterfront. Dr. Cyrus stumbled into Queen's University of Belfast. "I was simply informed by the Colonial Office in London that I had been allocated a place at Queen's University of Belfast which I had never heard of," he said in his tribute to the institution during the 50th anniversary reunion. A young Cyrus, then Junior Master at the St. Vincent Grammar school, saved \$200 a month for 28 months to take him through the first phase of his University education.

That money came from his entire salary of \$113 a month, with the other \$87 contributed by his father. Whatever the coincidence, Cyrus observed that, "from the very onset, it was obvious that Queen's was the perfect choice for many reasons." Dr. Cyrus has shown his gratitude to Queen's and the Irish people in sincere fashion. "Queen's had accepted me with open, welcoming and reassuring arms. Over the years, she had nurtured and moulded my intellect and made

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me realize my passion to be a doctor," he outlined. "She had accepted me on merit and treated me fairly in all academic matters at all levels, so that I did not have too undistinguished an undergraduate career. Moreover, in my quest for post graduate experience, Queen's was equally considerate and helpful," he went on. Therein is his modesty.

The man

Dr. Cyrus, aged 78, cuts a neat figure. He is keen on gardening, carpentry and masonry, and applies those traits to the refinement of his premises at the Botanic Garden Road in Kingstown. He describes his present appointment as Curator of the Dr. Cecil Museum, a project he opened five years ago. He has retired from the operating table, and intends to make the memories of his life experience available in print. That would be something for the archives, visits down nostalgia lane, and a reservoir of knowledge for the future.

Dr. Cyrus has survived the passage of history, whether standing his ground or adjusting to nature. He is a model of his generation where, once you had the tenacity to pursue your aim in life, nothing could get in your way. Dr. Cyrus lived the typical Vincentian existence. He played cricket for his home team, and travelled around the state, interacting with his citizenry. Dr. Cyrus took his academic work seriously, but he admitted that he was not “just a book-worm.” “My higher education was travelling to the continent.

To study people in their own setting,” Dr Cyrus admitted. As a result, Dr. Cyrus had firsthand impression(s) of life in many European countries and sometimes, he was the only black person on the train or ferry. His background from the British colony of St. Vincent and the Grenadines helped to shape him, for he grasped the virtues of speaking Standard English. He made himself understood to whomever he chose to converse with. He also acknowledged the importance of proper presentation and, being the son of tailor, had a taste for stylishness. “You have to demean yourself properly,” Dr. Cyrus disclosed. His trips to Europe added to his appreciation of human virtues.

Women – the superior sex

He believes in the practice of traditional African way of life - one in which the entire community was responsible for the care of the child. “Every mother looked after everybody else’s child,” Dr, Cyrus recounted about his upbringing. “If you misbehaved, any adult female could have given you a smack,” Dr. Cyrus reflected. He cultivated some philosophies of his own, one of which was “reverence for motherhood.” That served him in good stead, for Dr. Cyrus took that pattern of life wherever he went, and he encountered tremendous acclaim for his accommodation to women. He would help women with their suitcases or baggage as they struggled. Those tendencies he displayed, especially during his tours to Europe. “When I saw women with suitcases, I would help them. Some would ask me why I did this” he outlined. Dr. Cyrus married Kathryn nee McTurk, from York in England. They have four children: Helen, Rachel, Paul and Mark.

Dr. Cyrus has carved out his own niche over time. But he would be first to acknowledge the role of his wife. He outlined his newest philosophy as “I wish all the leaders were women.” He qualified his outlook with the view that “Women are by nature compulsive mothers (more caring and forgiving). They make use of their heart more than their brain,” Dr Cyrus added. He added that he thought that they were superior. His respect for women has been emphasized, he pointed out, by “hundreds of babies I have delivered.” “The actual birth of a baby would always rank in my mind as one of the greatest phenomena in life,” Dr. Cyrus stated.

Mediocrity

Dr. Cyrus finds a degree of tolerance today which he thinks has contributed to the acceptance of mediocre standards of life. He is not pleased with the poor grammar; bad punctuation and spelling that are common-place. He pointed

out that, “American television does not help.” He reflected on some stalwarts who he regarded adopted proper use of the English language. He cited persons like Leonard Providence, Rupert John, Henry Williams, Harley Moseley, and W.M Lopey whom he described as “well grounded” in the use of the language. He lamented the absence of “communal responsibility” today. Dr. Cyrus stayed clear of mentioning any aspect of his life that represented any controversy. “I had my hell,” he confessed. He recalled starting this country’s first Private Hospital. That was a forced situation, in response to his being fired in 1976.

The profession

A look at his qualifications testifies to his depth as a doctor and as an individual. He admitted that he has been doing a lot of writing, and the publication of those editions is a matter of time. He has made a number of presentations, delivered countless lectures, written articles and has shared his expertise in many ways. He describes “trauma” as a result of “deliberate and accidental injuries” as the most serious medical problem affecting St. Vincent and the Grenadines. He is one schooled in making use of the diagnosis. He is not happy with the modern trained medics who he pointed out “rely too much on machines.” “The modern day practitioners,” he pointed out, “forget how to diagnose without the aid of the machines,” Dr Cyrus noted. But when it is all said and done, Dr. Cyrus analyses that “a man has to look within himself for his inner strength.”

The 2007 Independence Anniversary Banquet is to be held on Saturday, October 27.
Please plan to be there with us.
Get your tickets early.

TORONTO CONSULATE OFFICE

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Steve O. Phillips
Consul General

The Office of the Consulate General in Toronto is here to attend to the needs of Vincentians. It also strives at strengthening its ties with organizations looking to do business in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

SVGAT 2007 Scholarship Program

Visit www.vincytoronto.com to apply for one of two \$1,000.00 for the 2007/2008 School Year.

ASSOCIATION BRIEFS

Independence Banquet - An Almost Repeat

Our patrons loved it so we are going back to The Renaissance Parque Banquet & Convention Centre at 2800 Hwy 7, Concord for the Independence Anniversary Banquet on Saturday, October 27. Your \$60.00 admission will include a sumptuous six-course meal along with an all inclusive bar, coat check and parking. Julian McIntosh and his band will be there again. We look forward to having the room full to capacity this year. Please purchase your tickets early.

2007 Mothers' Day Dinner

A sincere thank you to all those who contributed in one way or the other to make this year's Mothers' Day Event a success. In addition to a lovely meal and entertainment all attendees received gifts. Special gifts were also given to each mother. The executive committee thanks the organizing committee led by Allan Austin as well as all those youngsters who performed.

Sponsorship of Child in SVG

The Relief Committee has been given the responsibility to work out the details for the sponsorship of a child in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. As soon as details of this arrangement are finalized you will be duly informed.

Casino Rama Outings

The Association is organizing a number of trips to Casino Rama during the year. The next Casino Rama trip will be on Saturday, July 28 with the bus leaving Scarborough Town Centre at 2:30 p.m. and at Dufferin & Lawrence at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are now on sale and can be had from Audrey – 416-829-6201; Jason – 905-999-1771; Gracelyn – 905-417-9625; Allan – 416-839-5513; Glendon – 416-321-9029 or Gideon – 647-724-0645.

Calypso Competition

A Calypso competition and dance is being planned for Saturday, November 24 at CAW Union Hall, 15 Tangiers Road. All locally based SVG calypsonians are invited to compete. Generous prizes will be awarded.

Committee Chairs Wanted

Some important committees still need personnel and chair persons. One such committee is the Relief Committee which usually coordinates the annual walk-a-thon and the Christmas Hamper Outreach Project. If you are interested in serving on this committee please

contact any executive member. Other committees that need members are the Building Committee, Youth Committee and Seniors Committee.

Coordinators Required

We are looking for a coordinator for the annual Independence Thanksgiving Church Service scheduled for Sunday, October 21. Also, if you are interested in coordinating the annual Children's Christmas Party please contact any executive member.

Debate Champions

Our association won the debate competition organized by the Antigua & Barbuda Association of Toronto. Our team of Duane Browne and Najla Edwards outclassed the St. Kitts Canadian Association's team in the semi-finals then devoured the defending champions Antigua & Barbuda in the finals. Duane and Najla will be recognized at the annual Independence Banquet on October 27. We congratulate Duane and Najla and wish them every good for the future.

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Western Union Steps Up Again

Special thanks to Western Union for subsidizing the cost of children travelling from Toronto to the SVG

Unity Picnic. Up to 100 children will enjoy the \$5.00 discount. In addition, Western Union is a sponsor of the SVG Unity Picnic. The following SVGAT events are also sponsored by Western Union – Mothers' Day Dinner, the Scholarship Program, Independence Banquet, Children's Christmas Party and the Christmas Hamper Outreach Project.

THE EXECUTIVE

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

President – Gideon Exeter; Tel: 647-724-0645

president@vincytoronto.com;

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

vicepres@vincytoronto.com

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

execsec@vincytoronto.com

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

gensecretary@vincytoronto.com

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

Treasurer@vincytoronto.com

Assistant Treasurer – Yolande Lewis – 416-809-6820

assisttreas@vincytoronto.com

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

pro@vincytoronto.com

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

jonesjason@rogers.com

Ass'n General Email address: svga@vincytoronto.com

Make a contribution to the Association

You can now donate to any of the following: the Relief Fund, the Scholarship Fund, the Children's Christmas Party, the Christmas Hamper to Families In Need and/or to General Operating Funds by contacting any member of the Executive or the Chair of the Committee you wish to support.

Help a child in your homeland to a brighter future.

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

NEWS FROM SVG

Foreign investors forfeit lands at Chatam Bay

Searchlight Newspaper Staff Reporter 06.JUL.07

“Foreign investment is welcome if it promises to come to fruition, but not for those who do not act in the interest of the citizens”. This is part of a statement from the Office of the Prime Minister after the High Court ruling on June 29 marked a victory for St. Vincent and the Grenadines as 100 acres of land at Chatam Bay, Union Island was forfeited from foreign investors and vested in the Crown.

The ruling for the case, titled ‘Attorney General v. Chatam Bay Club Ltd. And Chatam Bay Development Corp., Ltd.’, was delivered June 29th 2007 after a hearing on April 3rd 2007. The land, whose sale to the purchasers, Chatam Bay Club Ltd. and Chatam Bay Development Corp. Ltd. at a cost of \$435,000 was approved in 1987 by the New Democratic Party (NDP) administration, was forfeited on the grounds that the purchaser had failed to comply with the conditions that a minimum of \$15 million be spent on construction within 3 years of the grant of the license.

Caricom hassle free swipe cards soon

by Tracy Moore 06.JUL.07, (Barbados Nation)

CARICOM NATIONALS may soon be able to travel the region with less hassle by the swipe of a card. The announcement came during a press conference on Wednesday at the start of the last session of the 28th CARICOM Heads of Government Conference where the Travel Card was introduced.

Similar to the “Pass Cards” available in other parts of the world the CARICOM Travel Card would fast track entry through immigration because passports would no longer have to be submitted for examination or stamping. In addition, the new card would be the size of a credit card but with two biometrics features - finger print and facial - so that upon entry travelers can “swipe the card in the machine and the barrier will open and you walk through”.

The card will be made available to all nationals of participating CARICOM States as well as to any third party persons who have legal status within the particular country. Their card would be time-bound in a way that is linked exclusively to the time of their legal status. The cards will however be at a cost to the users. The Heads of Government have agreed that the fees derived from the travel card will go to help offset the CARICOM security architecture without putting a burden on the treasury on the various member states.

PM, Eustace agree on death penalty, homosexuality

Kirby Jackson 06.JUL.07, Searchlight Newspaper

This country's two major political figures are united on the death penalty and the continued criminalization of homosexuality, but the head of the local Human Rights Organization, Nicole Sylvester has declared war.

In an unusually show of unity, Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves and Opposition Leader Arnhim Eustace both declared their support of the death penalty and the continued criminalization of homosexuality in the St Vincent and the Grenadines Parliament on June 28. Dr Gonsalves, answering a question on this year's murder rate asked of him by Opposition Leader Arnhim Eustace, used the opportunity to reiterate his stance that the death penalty is a needed deterrent to would-be murderers. The Prime Minister stated that the Court of Appeal and the Privy Council had taken the teeth out of the death penalty. "It is very difficult to hang somebody now, with the deadlines and the way the process is going now, they have practically made it impossible," Dr Gonsalves said.

"In many instances politicians make decisions based on what is the popular vote," said Sylvester who added that these decisions are not necessarily made on principle and that in a modern society it is important to note that violence begets violence and no act of violence should be tolerated - even in the name of the state.

"We should not desire to tighten the constitution to allow us to hang people but rather search out the root cause of crime," said Sylvester. "When we examine our prisons they are poor and oppressed people, society has failed them," she stated emphatically.

As for the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader's united stance on the criminalization of homosexuality, Sylvester said that our society is only perpetuating the continued "closet" lifestyle which is detrimental to the said society.

"While I know that homosexuals are children of God and I have nothing against them as children of God, I will not be involved in changing the laws as they exist in St Vincent and the Grenadines, someone else can do that," Dr Gonsalves said in parliament last week. He got support from Arnhim Eustace, who made it clear that he fully supports the death penalty as a form of punishment for capital offences, and he does not support the decriminalization of homosexuality in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

History at Holberton as mother gives birth to...CONJOINED TWINS



History was made in Antigua & Barbuda as the first

recorded conjoined twins were born at the Holberton Hospital early on morning of July 3 but after less than 70 hours making their surprise entrance into the world, Antigua & Barbuda's first conjoined twins have died.

The unnamed twin girls, born by C-Section were joined at the abdomen and chest region, died after experiencing respiratory problems and spending the previous night in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The exact cause of death was not revealed by the hospital.

The father of the twins, Walwyn Joseph of Five Islands, confirmed the death and reported that the girls' mother, 32-year-old Alfiea Farrell formerly of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, was taking the news badly. She refused to speak to anyone either on the phone or in person. Shockwaves reverberated around the nation at the news of the twins' death. One person's reaction was, "I feel so bad. They belonged to all of us."

Earlier in the day, the girls' doctor, Holberton Hospital's Paediatrician Dr. Thomas Martin, said that they had been transferred to the ICU the night before because their lungs were not producing the oxygen levels expected at this stage. "They share a chest and that's why I think it is hard (for them) to breathe. They can't take a normal breath."

He said that the oxygen levels should have been at 90 per cent but the girls' were only about 60 per cent. "So that's kind of border line... it's a survivable level of oxygen but we have to see," he stated at the time.

The doctors at the hospital had identified that the girls had two separate bladders and two separate gastrointestinal (GI) tracts that control digestion and excretion. Dr. Martin said, however, that they were believed to be sharing part of a liver.

Conjoined twins are born together at birth. This happens where the zygote of identical twins fails to completely separate. Specialists say conjoined twins occur in an estimated one in 200,000 births, with approximately half being stillborn. Their overall survival rate is between 5 per cent and 25 per cent and records suggest conjoined twins are more likely to be female 70 to 75 per cent of the time.

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

Sunday, June 24	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Saturday, July 21	Annual Vincy Unity Picnic	Brown's Bay Park, 1000 Islands
Saturday, July 28	Casino Rama Outing	Casino Rama
Sunday, July 29	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Saturday, August 18	JEMS Theatre Production	Isabel Bader Theatre, Victoria University
Sunday, August 26	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Sunday, Sept. 30	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Sunday, October 21	Independence Church Service	Rosewood Church of the Nazarene
Saturday, October 27	Annual Independence Banquet	Renaissance Parque Banquet Hall
Sunday, October 28	Town Hall Discussions	TBA
Saturday, November 24	Calypso Competition	CAW Union Hall, 15 Tangiers Road
Sunday, November 25	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Sunday, December 9	Children's Christmas Party	TBA
Sunday, December 16	Annual Christmas Sing-a-Long	Northwood Community Centre
Saturday, December 22	Christmas Hamper Outreach	
Sunday, January 27	Annual General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre

Addresses & Directions:

Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, (off Arleta between Keele & Jane Streets)
Rosewood Church of the Nazarene – 657 Milner Avenue, Scarborough (Morningside & Milner)
Renaissance Parque Banquet Hall, 2800 Hwy7 West at Jane Street, Concord
CAW Union Hall, 15 Tangiers Road, Toronto (Keele & Finch)
Brown's Bay Provincial Park, 1000 Islands – Going East on Hwy 401, take Exit 675
Isabel Bader Theatre, Victoria University – 93 Charles Street West, Toronto, near to Museum Subway

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BREAKING NEWS - New High Commissioner Arrives

As we were about to go to press we learnt that Mr. Brendon C. Browne, a national of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has arrived in the country to assume the role of OECS High Commissioner to Canada. We welcome Mr. Browne and wish him every good during his tenure. We look forward to welcoming him in Toronto. Mr. Browne replaces Ms Lorraine Williams who spent 4 years in that position. Mr. Browne is accompanied by his wife and a daughter.

Challenges Facing Our Youth

Larry Daisley Oct.23/2005

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good afternoon and welcome. Welcome to this very special event, on behalf of the **Education Committee** of SVG Association of Toronto. It is indeed a special occasion.

- Special, because we would be **exploring those challenges** that are currently facing our youth in today's world
- Special, because we would be able to **reflect on those people** who in some way or the other have influenced our lives when we were young.

And so Ladies and Gentlemen, today's event is by all means, a beautiful tribute to our youth because our **youth today** would inevitably be our **leaders tomorrow**. Leaders blessed with that intangible blend of **Initiatives**, of **Courage** and of **Insight**.

- **Initiatives** to set and prioritize goals
- **Courage** to pursue them and,
- **Insight** to realize those goals that will ultimately shape their future.

In the past, **education** was a phenomenon that **guaranteed success**. Today, it merely provides us with an **opportunity**.

- An opportunity of **hope**, for **enrichment** and of **success**.

In the past, a **high school diploma** landed us a **good job**. Today, it merely serves as a **passport**.

- A passport to a **higher education**, a **better future** and indeed, a passport to a **better life**.

Without this passport, life will be **tough** and **chaotic**!

As I look around here today, it is evident that we are among many **sound minds**.

- Minds that not only **sound good** but, by and large, are **good and sound**
- Minds that not only have **progressive ideas** but also indeed, have the ability to transform those ideas into **ideal accomplishments**.

These are the type of minds that got us as a people, this far. But it WASN'T easy. **It Wasn't Without A Struggle**. For

- The struggle of our people to **survive in dignity**, has always been our struggle
- The struggle of our people to **overcome inequities**, has always been our struggle and,

2007 SVG Carnival Results

Soca Monarch - Delroy "Fireman" Hooper
 Calypso Monarch - Ken "Vibrating Skates" Alleyne
 Junior Soca Monarch - Hans John
 Miss St. Vincent and the Grenadines - Mellisa Yorke
 Miss Caraval - Miss Dominica, Miss Leandra Lander
 Road March Title - Problem Child
 Band of the Year - KFC SVG Players International

- The struggle of our people to **be respected** has always been our struggle.
- But, we CAN'T give up our struggle!
- We can't give up our struggle, for we have **struggled relentlessly with hope**
 - We can't give up our struggle, for we would be **betraying our ancestors** and **disappointing our youth**.
 - We can't give up our struggle, for "if there is **no struggle** then there will be **no progress**".

Throughout our struggles there are THOSE who sit on the fence because of fear.

- They are afraid of **failure** and so they **avoid trying**
- They are afraid of **rejection** and so they **isolate themselves** and live a life of solitude
- They are afraid of being **COUNTED** as this may jeopardize **unfulfilling promises** to them.

To be successful today, our youth must harness the energy spent on fear and use it wisely so that they can:

- **Stand up** with a **greater readiness**
- **Reach out** with the **greatest determination** and,
- **Realize** their **glorious future**.

In so doing, the contributions made by those dedicated to helping our youth would not be in vain.

This is why we must face certain realities of life!

- The reality of the **youth studying** so as have a **great future** would be our reality
- The reality of **parents struggling** and **toiling endlessly** to make ends meet so that their children (our youth) can have a **great life** would be our reality and,
- The reality of **policy makers** to understand that the **clock is ticking** and can't be turned back is indeed our reality.

In fact, we should live such realities as a family.

- A family that can **stand up** as an **inspiration and shining example** to everyone.
- A family that can exhort others to **excellence** as it endeavors to **reach out** to them
- In fact, a family that will not only feel each others' **pains** but moreover, share in each others' **blessings**

.... Continues on Page 1

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

THE ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
CONSULATE, TORONTO

The Consulate General wishes to advise the general
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Monday to Friday

Open to the General Public
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

By Special Appointment only:

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tel: 416-398-4277

**The office is closed on all statutory holidays in St.
Vincent and the Grenadines**

**IMPORTANT IMMIGRATION
NOTICE TO SVG NATIONALS**

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

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

When applying in Canada - Cdn\$102.00

When applying in the United States of America - US\$105.00

When applying in the United Kingdom - 40 Pounds (Sterling)

When applying in St. Vincent and the Grenadines - EC\$85.00

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

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Persons wishing to apply for the 2007 scholarships offered by the Association are invited to apply early. The closing date for receipt of applications is August 31.

To get further information about the requirements for a scholarship, please visit the website, www.vincytoronto.com and download the information sheet and the application form.

Two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each will be awarded at the Annual Independence Banquet.

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The St. Vincent and the 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. We kindly ask our readers to support these businesses and individuals when and where possible.

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

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

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

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

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SVGAT Independence Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, October 28, 2007

3:00 p.m.

Theme: Leaders of Today for Tomorrow

Venue: TBA

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Please bring along a friend to the next meeting of the Association on Sunday, July 29, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, North York (Keele & Sheppard)

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FUN FOR A TRIP TO CASINO RAMA ON SATURDAY, JULY 28. \$10:00 PER SEAT. CALL NOW TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT.

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More News from SVG

Putting the Clamp on Crime

by Dayle DaSilva, Searchlight Newspaper

“We are making very serious efforts in trying to clamp down on drug trafficking and gun violence. Progress in clamping down drug trafficking is always uneven. Sometimes you get it very right and you nab the important persons, sometimes you get the drugs and not the persons.”

Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves made the comment in Parliament last Thursday. He was at the time addressing the crime situation and the progress the Police Force had made in dealing with the situation. According to Dr. Gonsalves, immense progress has been made in some areas.

He said that the Police had been making what he called “determined and in some instances, heroic steps in maintaining law and order.” Paul’s Avenue and the central areas of East St. George were highlighted as two areas where there have been significant decreases in illegal activity, as a result of a number of measures taken by the Police Force. Prime Minister Gonsalves cautioned that, while there was a decrease, this did not mean that there was a total absence of criminal activity in the said areas; however it provided “a strengthening and created some confidence for those entering the said areas.”

The drug trade and illegal guns

While noting the successes of increased surveillance in some areas, the Prime Minister explained that the nature of the drug trade created problems.

“There is always a level of unevenness; this is an ongoing battle,” Dr. Gonsalves said. He explained that, while problematic areas were restricted by increased Police presence, it meant that new areas were likely to develop. Dr. Gonsalves said that the Police needed to be sure that they were armed with the necessary intelligence to deal with the situation as it presented itself. This also meant the Police



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needed to be more mobile. This was addressed with the recent deployment of two mobile units.

Dr. Gonsalves added that, through the implementation of a number of initiatives, the Police was already cracking down on illegal guns.

According to Dr. Gonsalves, a recent stop and search operation was instrumental in the discovery and seizure of a number of unlicensed firearms, for which persons have been charged.

The Prime Minister also sent out a message to Courts at all levels, to be cognizant of the fact that Parliament has declared a new, maximum 7-year sentence (previously a 1 year sentence) for unlicensed firearms.

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



Objectives

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

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

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