

# INSIGHT

Quarterly Newsletter

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED

Unity Picnic Issue

## Share the Fun and Laughter: Vincy Unity Picnic 2012

BROWN'S BAY PROVINCIAL PARK, THOUSAND ISLANDS, ONTARIO, CANADA



Once again, thousands will gather at Brown's Bay Provincial Park for the annual pilgrimage to the Vincy Unity Picnic on Saturday, July 21, 2012. The Picnic as it is widely known, has become a unifying force among Vincentians living in North America. Many have considered it the largest gathering of Vincentians outside of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and an event that they cannot miss.

### TORONTO BUS INFORMATION

Buses depart at 7:00 a.m. from:  
**Dufferin & Wilson (\*\*NEW\*\*)**  
 (Near Home Depot)

**Jane & Finch Mall**  
 (Outside McDonald's Restaurant)

**Scarborough Town Centre**  
 (Outside YMCA Building)

**Adults: \$45 per seat**  
**Children under 12: \$30 per seat**

For Tickets Contact

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Ken - 416 822-3601





# 2012 Unity Picnic

## NEWS RELEASE

The Parking Fees for 2012 are as follows

**Lower or Main Parking Lot** Advance Sales \$37.50  
per car/van - maximum 8 seats.

**Upper Parking Lot** - Advance Sales - \$27.50 per  
car/van maximum 8 seats

**(Day of Picnic)** Gate Sales - \$30.00

Vehicles 9 - 20 Seats \$150.00

Vehicles 21 + Seats \$300.00

This year for the first time The St. Lawrence  
Parks Commission has entered into a reciprocal  
agreement with the SVG Unity Picnic Committee  
whereby patrons attending the picnic can receive a  
subsequent benefit by holding on to their ticket stub.  
**THE AGREEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:**

### Free ATTRACTIONS Offer!

We are pleased to offer you an opportunity to explore our heritage attractions  
free of charge.

This pass\* will provide you with **TWO FREE** admissions to **Upper Canada  
Village, Fort Henry** or any other **Parks of the St. Lawrence Day Use** facility  
of equal or lesser value.

This pass is not transferable and cannot be combined with any other offer.

**Offer valid through Labour Day, September 3, 2012.**

Visit [www.parks.on.ca](http://www.parks.on.ca) for more information on programs and dates.

**Not Transferable - No Cash Value**

**\*The ticket stub constitutes the pass**

NOTE...(1). Drivers caught exceeding speeds of 150 K.P.H  
OR 90 M.P.H run the risk of their vehicle being  
confiscated.

(2) Alcoholic Beverages are not permitted in the Park.

(3) The use of foam plates, cups etc. not permitted





**St. Vincent & Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.**

**33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Dinner**  
**celebrating the Independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

Saturday, October 27, 2012

**Riviera Parque Banquet & Convention Centre**  
2800 Hwy 7 West, Concord (Hwy 7 & Jane)

Guest Speaker:

**Dr. Rudolph Matthias, CEO**

*Argyle International Airport Development Agency*

Music by

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Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m. Dinner at 7:30 p.m.

**ALL INCLUSIVE ADMISSION: \$80.00**

Part of the proceeds of this event will be donated to the Ontario Epilepsy Association

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**2012 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of SVGAT**

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Assistant Treasurer: Ms. Kinda Keizer

**Contact Info:**

Mr. Alston Davy  
(905) 887-9561  
cofm@rogers.com

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.***



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## Calendar

**July 15, 2012**

CCAC Scholarship Application Deadline

**July 21, 2012**

Vincy Unity Picnic, Browns Bay, 1000 Islands

**July 23, 2012**

Town Hall Meeting  
Scarborough Civic Centre

**August 11, 2012**

Youth and Games Evening

**August 26, 2012**

Membership Appreciation

**August 31, 2012**

SVGAT Scholarship Application Deadline

**October 21, 2012**

Thanksgiving Church Service

**October 27, 2012**

Independence Banquet

**October 28, 2012**

Community Discussion

**December 16, 2012**

Children's Christmas party

**December 20 - 23, 2012**

Christmas Hamper Delivery

## IMMIGRATION MATTERS:

### NEW CHANGES IN EFFECT

*Contributed by: Sandra Sutherland, RCIC*

In the April 2012 issue of the *Insight*, I reported that the government vowed to wipe out approximately 300,000 pending applications (presumably from the federal skilled workers program) by discontinuing their processing after years of sitting in the processing queue. It was announced in the Federal Budget that a backlog of about 284,000 non-Canadians (representing applicants, their spouses and dependents) would have lost their place in the queue and have to reapply again under new policies and procedures because they would not be processed.

Many applicants, along with their representatives, were shocked and deeply troubled by this decision. Consequently, people started to speak out against this injustice. But, individually each voice cannot even amount to a whisper in the ears of Jason Kenney, the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism. When joined together with hundreds or thousands of other voices, their outcries stands a better chance of reaching the ears of the authorities.

In addition to being a member of the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC), I am also a member of the Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants (CAPIC). CAPIC is a non-profit professional association which is founded on four pillars: Lobbying, Education, Information, and Recognition. Members of CAPIC and other lobby groups joined forces and sought to defy the government's decision regarding wiping out the backlog of unprocessed Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP) applications.

CAPIC's lobbying effort were fruitful. Court actions were launched against CIC and a moratorium on the planned backlog clearance was granted to the approximately 900 litigants who took CIC to court over the unjust stoppage of the processing of their applications under the FSWP. So, during the next 90 days or so none of the litigants' unprocessed files should be returned to them. The government continues to strive forward with achieving their goals and has yet another bill in waiting. The Federal Court of Canada had to be asked to enforce this ruling against CIC so that the processing of the applicants' cases can be resumed. The government launched Bill C-38, which is expected circumvent the temporary pause to the

backlogged FSWP applications and move ahead with their intended process of refunds and backlog eliminations.

Much more has been happening with CIC and prospective immigrants. June 29, 2012 was slated to be the last business day for certain prospective applicants to get their completed application packages in to CIC offices. Many of us immigration representatives have been working exorbitant hours in efforts to ensure that our clients' cases could be submitted to CIC offices before this anticipated cutoff date.

On June 28, 2012, the Minister announced that effective July 1, 2012, as a part Canada's Economic Action Plan 2012, CIC will place a temporary pause on new applications to the FSWP and federal Immigrant Investor Program (IIP). Applications in the FSWP received after July 1<sup>st</sup> will not be processed unless the applicant has secured arranged employment or is applying under the PhD eligibility stream.

On June 29, 2012, CIC announced on their website that the *Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act* (Bill C-31) received Royal Assent on June 28, 2012. According to the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada's (the IRB) website it was slated for June 29, 2012.

*Continue on page 6.*

IMMIGRATION MATTERS: NEW CHANGES IN EFFECT *Continue from page 5*

This new bill will have major impact to new refugee claimants as well as failed refugee claimants.

Canada is built by immigrants and thrives on the continuous flow of immigrants, so when you are in disagreement with changes or proposed changes in legislature or policies let your voice be heard. Talk to your Members of Parliament (MP's), immigration representatives, and other lobbying groups. 900 applicants and their representatives spoke out and were heard. Together our voices can truly be resounding and may have some impact in holding the door ajar to let more immigrants in, especially from our community.

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

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Immigration Law Practitioner (Honours Certification)  
Commissioner of Oaths & Member of ICCRC

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**CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY TO THE ASSOCIATION THIS YEAR!**

Your generous donation will assist the Association meet its objectives to assist and support individuals and groups in Ontario and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. All of our programs depend on you. Support our Scholarship Fund, the Adopt-A-Child Program, Children's Christmas Party and the Annual Christmas Hamper Outreach Program to those less fortunate at Christmas.



**TORONTO CONSULATE OFFICE**

Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
333 Wilson Avenue, Suite 601  
Toronto, Ontario, M3H 1T2

**Mr. Steve O. Phillips**  
Consul General

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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](mailto:gexeter@arbormemorial.com) or phone 416-992-4253.

**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](mailto:svgat@vincytoronto.com).

The next issue of Insight is due out in early October. Submit your articles by the middle of September.

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**SVG Unity Picnic Committee**

invites you to a

**Town Hall Meeting**

with presenters from

- Bank of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- A1 Real Estate
- and other businesses

**Monday 23, July 2012**

**6:00-9:00pm**

**Scarborough Civic Centre**

**Council Chambers, 150 Borough Drive**

**(McCowan & Ellesmere Road)**

For more information or to RSVP:

**Gideon Exeter: [gexeter@yahoo.com](mailto:gexeter@yahoo.com) /416 992-4253**

**Sandra Bobb: [sybobb@hotmail.com](mailto:sybobb@hotmail.com)/613 864-4175**

**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.*



## CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMPLETED

The members of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association have finally completed the arduous task of reviewing and making changes to the current constitution. This exercise began in 2008 and was completed on May 27, 2012. Once the new constitution is vetted by a legal counsel and approved by the provincial government, it will bring the organization into the 21st Century.

Some major changes to the document will include the inclusion of a separate Board of Trustees. This new document will also provide a

role for the Past Presidents Council. Term of office will be increased from one year to two. Elections will no longer take place at the Annual General Meeting in January.

Once the new document is in place, election of officers will now be held in November which will allow for a smooth transition at the AGM in January. The new document will also see changes in the standing committees of the organization. Three new standing committees have been added, Youth, Seniors and Relief. Other existing standing committees have been reorganized which members believe will make them more effective.



### AGENTS IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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The next **General Meeting of the Association** will take place at Northwood Community Center  
Date: Sunday, July 29, 2012  
Time: 4:30 PM

**Address & Direction:**  
Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, (off Arleta between Keele & Jane Streets)

Membership Dues:  
New Members: \$22.00  
(\$2.00 registration and \$20.00 membership fee)  
Renewal of Membership: \$20.00

**BECOME A FINANCIAL MEMBER NOW!**

## SVGAT's Adopted Children Pass Common Entrance Exams

Donlee Sutherland and Kadesha Nichols, two students in the SVGAT's Adpot-A-Child Program were successful in the Common Entrance Exams in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. In 2007 the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto accepted to venture into a program to assist primary school children in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to help them financially to build a foundation to prepare them for the education and life after primary school.

The program was being advertised in the Association's newsletter for many years prior but nothing was really done about it until that time when it was decided that the Association should take the plunge. The then Relief Committee of the Association presented a program that was accepted by the membership to choose one child as a start and provide the support starting with \$600.00 in the first year with the amount increasing by \$120.00 each year for the next 4 years to make a total contribution of Cdn\$4,200.00. It was decided then that the funds should be sent at the beginning of each year, starting January 2008.

The names of all SVG government primary schools were put into a hat and the Spring Village Methodist School was chosen from which a student

was to be selected to begin the program. The school and the Ministry of Education were contacted and a local committee from Spring Village chose Master Donlee Sutherland, a grade 2 student to be the recipient of this assistance.

Immediately as this was announced to our community, Mr. Allan John who resides in London, Ontario contacted the then president of the Association stating how pleased he was to learn of the program and he offered to sponsor a child through the Association. The same school selection method was used and the Cane End Government School was picked. Their committee chose Miss Kadesha Nichols, a grade 2 student as the second sponsored child.

It is a delight to learn that the two children who were sponsored and assisted during the past four and a half years have been successful in the 2012 Common Entrance Examinations and will be pursuing further education at secondary schools starting this September.

Congratulations to Donlee and Kadesha, their parents, the trustees who worked with them, Mr. Allan John and family as well as the membership of the SVGAT for their support of this initiative.

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### SVGAT Scholarship Program Application Deadline Approaching

The Association is pleased to announce that two (2) scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each will be available to eligible applicants for the 2012/2013 school year. The deadline to submit applications is **August 31, 2012**.

***For more information and to download the application forms please visit our website [www.vincytoronto.com](http://www.vincytoronto.com)***

One of this year's scholarships is sponsored by Western Union Financial Services while the other is from funds contributed to the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto.

## Kadesha says thank you!

On June 20th, young Kadesha Nichols sent this gracious letter to the members of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto to thank them for the financial and moral support they have given her throughout her primary education.

Kadesha, you are so welcomed, and we wish the very best as you enter high school in September.



Dear Sponsor,  
How are you? I am writing to you to tell you thanks for everything that you have done for me. The money you sent for me at the end of the term help me to get things I need to go to school. The money helped to buy things like clothes for school pen, pencil, Book and others and helps me to get break and lunch. Also it <sup>every</sup> help my mother to send me to school <sup>every</sup> day. From the day that you sponsored me I was able to get the supplies for school. Thank you for every thing that you have done for me over the year. I will do my best in High School. I will make you and my family proud. I cannot stop thanking you for what you have done. Thank you.

your faithfully  
Kadesha  
Nichols



June 16, 2012

Mrs. Marcia Farrell  
President  
SVG Association of Toronto  
Canada



Dear Mrs. Farrell:

On behalf of our entire family, we express sincere thanks to you and your association for your monetary assistance given to us. We would ensure that your kind consideration indeed contribute to our worthy cause.

We have another two years to battle in ensuring that Kaeley is cured from the cancer. She is on her way to be cured from her cancer and we want to ensure we do everything possible in giving her that opportunity. One of these days, she would be able to tell her story and assist others to have faith and be strong in their challenges.

We wish your organization great success as you continue to take care of the needs of our people. Having the assurance that there is a living organization that truly cares makes such difference when one is thrown into circumstances that were never imagined.

All the best to everyone associated with your organization. We will continue to provide updates to let you know how we are doing and seeing baby Kaeley enduring her leukemia.

Warm Regards,

Rosann L. Lewis

Kaeley's mom

## Organisation Formed To Link Vincentians In Canada

By the best of estimates, there are currently over 40,000 persons from St. Vincent and the Grenadines living in Canada, many of whom have been making huge contributions to the growth of the Canadian economy and its development.

While most Vincentians in Canada may live in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal, some live over 3500 miles apart, from the Atlantic ocean on the eastern seaboard to the Pacific ocean on the west coast, and northwards from the U.S.A. border to the Arctic circle.

There are a number of SVG organizations in Canada. Their mandate, among other things, is to promote the social and cultural values and traditions of our Vincentian heritage and to improve the quality of life of Vincentians in both Canada and SVG. Annually, they host numerous events to benefit individuals and institutions in SVG.

Vincentians in Canada, however, lack a national organization, representing and speaking on behalf of each sector of the Vincentian community; an umbrella organization capable of interacting and communicating the views and needs of the Vincentian Diaspora in Canada.

Two years ago, Toronto based St. Vincent and the Grenadines Counsel General in Canada, Steve Q Phillips, had a dream to facilitate the creation of the National Federation of St. Vincent and Grenadines Organisations in Canada.

On Sunday, June 10, 2012, at 8:00 a.m., after two years of communication and hard work, that dream became a reality. Approximately 25 persons representing SVG associations in Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Edmonton attended a symposium to discuss and approve a formal resolution to establish the

National Federation and, following a line by line review and much discussion, to approve a Constitution to govern the new organization. The meeting was chaired by Counsel General Phillips, and the proceedings were moderated by Vincentian born Toronto lawyer Anthony Stephen Benjamin. SVG associations in Vancouver, BC and Calgary, AB sent regrets.

An Executive Committee was elected, and included, President Marcia Farrell; Vice President Alfred Dear; Vice President for Western Canada, Charles Henry; Vice President for Eastern Canada, Cypriani Burke; Secretary, Candice Farboe; Treasurer, Ometha Robertson; Youth Coordinator, Joel Byron; and Public Relations Officer, Hassan Pereira.

Author: BEN HARRISON,  
International Correspondent for the  
Vincentian Newspaper in St. Vincent  
and the Grenadines

## Deadline for CCAC Scholarship

The Council of Caribbean Associations - Canada (CCAC) has launched a scholarship program to assist students of its member associations in their pursuit of post-secondary education.

In its inaugural year of the scholarship program, bursaries of \$1,000.00 each will be awarded to qualified applicants who meet the eligibility requirements. It is expected in future years that there will be different

forms of scholarship available within the program. The closing date for accepting applications is July 15, 2012.

Presentations are scheduled to take place on September 9, 2012 at a brunch to be held at Rembrandt Banquet Hall, 900 Progress Avenue, Scarborough.

For further information including the program outline and application form, please visit [www.caribbeancouncilcanada.org](http://www.caribbeancouncilcanada.org)

## Canadian-Vincentian BPA Launched



*L-R Keynote speaker, Philip Leong, Vice President and Director of RBC Dominion Securities and Tony Browne, President, Canadian-Vincentian Business and Professional Association.*

On June 9th, Steve Phillips, Toronto based Counsel General of St. Vincent & the Grenadines, hosted an official launch of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Business and Professional Association (SVG BPA).

Two years earlier, Phillips had invited Vincentian business and professional members in Toronto to participate in a planning committee to form a national business and professional association.

Its purpose was for members to work together to fulfill their own needs, market their expertise, products and service, create an effective member network and mentor many young professionals and business people of Vincentian heritage.

In his greetings to a gathering of over 100 invited guests including diplomats and political figures, newly elected President of SVG-BPA, Tony Browne, stated that the mandate of the association is “to build, promote and cultivate a stronger, more empowered united community, and support a network of businesses, professionals and entrepreneurs in our Canadian community, the Caribbean Diaspora and the global marketplace.”

Keynote speaker, Philip Leong, Vice President and Director of RBC Dominion Securities and Canada’s representative to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Advisory Council, ( ABAC-APEC), said the new organisation will represent an important voice to all levels of government.

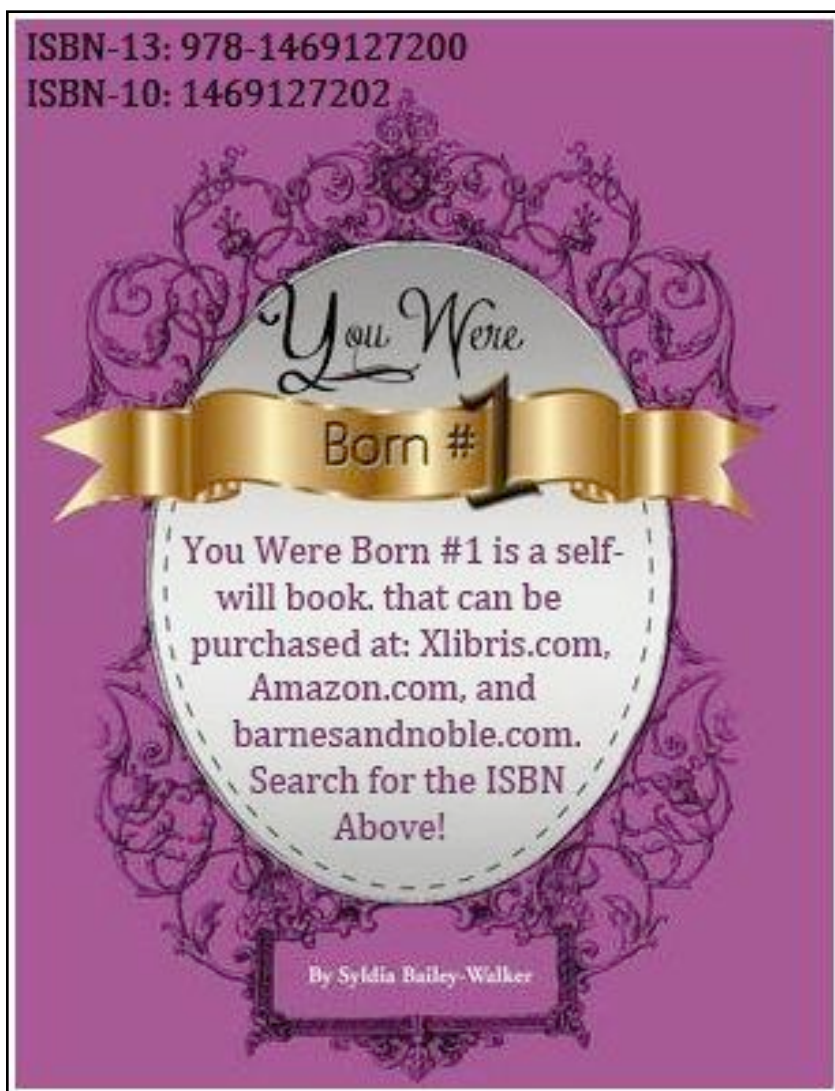
Leong encouraged the group to seek out the business opportunities that exist between Canada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and other Caribbean communities.

A welcome guest at the evening’s event was St. Vincent’s well known auto dealership entrepreneur, Bertille ‘Silky’ DaSilva, who passionately encouraged all present to seriously consider making financial investments in the future of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The evening closed on a very positive note, with entertainment by Carlos ‘Yellow’ Morgan and dancing to DJ Leon ‘Fusion’ Foyle.

Author: BEN HARRISON, International Correspondent for the Vincentian Newspaper in St. Vincent and the Grenadines





## Author Biography

S Y L D I A B A I L E Y - WALKER, also known as Cynthia, is a loving wife, mother, and self-made career woman who has enjoyed many opportunities to enrich her personal experiences throughout her lifetime. Through the many careers she has had over the years, she has been able to stay true to her belief in the supreme value of diversity. She hopes to share the wisdom she has acquired through the advice and the personal anecdotes she has gathered in this book, so that others may benefit from her experience and live fulfilling lives as well. Ultimately, her life's endeavour is to make a difference in the world by giving freely of her passion and her time to others and blessing them with small acts of kindness.

## CCAC HOLDS SENIORS HEALTH & WELLNESS EVENT

The Council of Caribbean Associations - Canada (CCAC) will host its second annual Health & Wellness Information Event on Saturday, August 25, 2012 at *Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, North York* from 10:30 a.m.

Representatives of the Ministry of Health, Ontario Seniors Secretariat, Woodgreen Community Services, Wheel-Trans of the TTC and the Caribbean Diplomatic Corp have been invited to make presentations on matters relevant to seniors in our community including information they need about vital programs and services, healthy lifestyles and aging.

**Admission is free.**

For further information please visit [www.caribbeancouncilcanada.org](http://www.caribbeancouncilcanada.org) or contact any of the affiliated organizations.

## 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:***  
**P.O. BOX 392, STATION F, TORONTO, ONTARIO, M4Y 2L8**