

# INSIGHT

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

**Quarterly Newsletter October 2008**

## "From the President's desk"

Greetings to all members of the Association, friends and community partners:

As we moved into the final months of the year, we thank you for your continued support as we work together to build our organisation.

On July 19, 2008, thousands of SVG Nationals and their friends from Ontario, Quebec and the north eastern United States, made the annual summer sojourn to Brown's Bay Provincial Park in the 1000 Islands area of south eastern Ontario for a day of reuniting with family members, old friends and schoolmates, enjoying traditional Vincy foods, listening to music and some even went as far as taking a dip in the St. Lawrence River. On behalf of the Executive Committee I thank the Unity Picnic Local Organizing Committee and its army of volunteers, who have worked tirelessly to execute a well ran event. Thank you to everyone who attended. We appreciate your loyalty and ongoing support. Special thanks to our Corporate partners – Western Union, Jamaica National Building Society, Jamaica National International Money Transfer, KLC Freight, Maison Doreen and Sunset Products for their continual support.

At this time of the year our Independence organizing committee is busy planning for our Independence activities. There are a number of activities planned and we encourage you to make early arrangements to attend one or all of these events. Please contact any member of the Executive Committee if you require further information.

On September 7, 2008 the Past Presidents Council convened a special meeting for the review of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. Constitution. The meeting was well attended and our Membership had an opportunity to give input to the review of the Constitution. Our sincere thanks to the PPC for their diligence and hard work.

As we move into the month of December the Children's Children party co-ordinators and the Christmas Hamper Project will be asking for your assistance as they prepare hampers and the planning of the party for our children. If

you are able to do so, I ask that you please assist with a contribution.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, we continue to wish each and everyone all the best. Please visit our website at [www.vincytoronto.com](http://www.vincytoronto.com).

Respectfully yours,  
Francelia George, President

**St. Vincent & the Grenadines Association  
Of Toronto  
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Celebrating  
29th Anniversary of Independence**

**Under the Distinguished Patronage of the SVG Consul General to  
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**Saturday November 1, 2008**

Riviera Parque Banquet & Convention Centre  
2800 Hwy 7 West (East of Jane St), Concord, Ontario

**Cocktails 6.30 p.m. - Dinner 7:30 p.m**

Tickets: \$65.00 before Sept.15 - \$75.00 thereafter  
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**Guest Speaker:** His Excellency Camillo Gonsalves,  
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**Theme:** National Pride  
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## *Defining an Independent Country*

By Matt Rosenberg

While the terms country, state, and nation are often used interchangeably, there is a difference.

A State (note the capital "S") is a self-governing political entity. The term State can be used interchangeably with country.

A nation, however, is a tightly-knit group of people which share a common culture. A nation-state is a nation which has the same borders as a State.

States and Independent Countries

Let's start with what defines a State or an independent country. An independent State: Has space or territory which has internationally recognized boundaries (boundary disputes are OK).

- Has people who live there on an ongoing basis.
- Has economic activity and an organized economy. A country regulates foreign and domestic trade and issues money.
- Has the power of social engineering, such as education.
- Has a transportation system for moving goods and people.
- Has a government which provides public services and police power.
- Has sovereignty. No other State should have power over the country's territory.
- Has external recognition. A country has been "voted into the club" by other countries.

There are currently [195 independent countries or States](#) around the world. Territories of countries or individual parts of a country are not countries in their own right.

Examples of entities that are not countries include: Hong Kong, Bermuda, Greenland, Puerto Rico, and most notably the constituent parts of the United Kingdom. (Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland, and England are not countries.)

A "state" (with a lower-case "s") is usually a division of a federal State (such as the states of the United States of America).

Nations and Nation-States

Nations are culturally homogeneous groups of people, larger than a single tribe or community, which share a common language, institutions, religion, and historical experience.

When a nation of people have a State or country of their own, it is called a nation-state. Places like France, Egypt, Germany, Japan, and New Zealand are excellent examples of nation-states. There are some States which have two nations, such as Canada and Belgium. Even with its multicultural society, the United States is also referred to as a nation-state because of the shared American "culture."

There are nations without States. For example, the Kurds are stateless people.

**Join**

### **The SVG Consulate, Canada**



#### ***Flag Raising Ceremony***

Monday, October 27 at 10:30 a.m.

Toronto City Hall

100 Queen Street west

## **SVG Political Overview**

### **PROFILE: *Background Note: SVG***

The People's Political Party (PPP), founded in 1952 by Ebenezer Joshua, was the first major political party in St. Vincent. The PPP had its roots in the labor movement and was in the forefront of national policy prior to independence, winning elections from 1957 through 1966. With the development of a more conservative black middle class, however, the party began to lose support steadily, until it

collapsed after a rout in the 1979 elections. The party dissolved itself in 1984.

Founded in 1955, the St. Vincent Labour Party (SVLP), under R. Milton Cato, gained the support of the middle class. With a conservative law-and-order message and a pro-Western foreign policy, the SVLP dominated politics from the mid-1960s until the mid-1980s. Following victories in the 1967 and 1974 elections, the SVLP led the island to independence, winning the first post-independence election in 1979. Expecting an easy victory for the SVLP in 1984, Cato called early elections. The results were surprising: with a record 89% voter turnout, James F. Mitchell's New Democratic Party (NDP) won nine seats in the House of Assembly.

Bolstered by a resurgent economy in the mid-1980s, Mitchell led his party to an unprecedented sweep of all 15 House of Assembly seats in the 1989 elections. The opposition emerged from the election weakened and fragmented but was able to win three seats during the February 1994 elections under a "unity" coalition. In 1998, Prime Minister Mitchell and the NDP were returned to power for an unprecedented fourth term but only with a slim margin of 8 seats to 7 seats for the Unity Labour Party (ULP). The NDP was able to accomplish a return to power while receiving a lesser share of the popular vote, approximately 45% to the ULP's 55%. In March 2001, the ULP, led by Ralph Gonsalves, assumed power after winning 12 of the 15 seats in Parliament.

In the December 2005 parliamentary elections, Prime Minister Gonsalves and the ULP retained their 12-3 majority over the NDP.

## ASSOCIATION BRIEFS

### ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO

#### GENERAL MEETING

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

*Please bring along a friend with you.*

**Do you have an article you will like to share with other readers? Do you want to contribute a story to our quarterly newsletter?**  
**Please contact the PRO, Elma Gabriel at**  
**PRO@vincytoronto.com**

## THE EXECUTIVE

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

**President** – Francelia George; Tel: 647-244-6642

[president@vincytoronto.com](mailto:president@vincytoronto.com);

**Vice President** – Kuwassi Hutchinson; Tel: 416-652-5207

[vicepres@vincytoronto.com](mailto:vicepres@vincytoronto.com)

**Executive Secretary** – Franklyn Ash; Tel: 905-970-1063

[execsec@vincytoronto.com](mailto:execsec@vincytoronto.com)

**General Secretary** – Vacant;

[gensecretary@vincytoronto.com](mailto:gensecretary@vincytoronto.com)

**Treasurer** – Kenneth Farrell; Tel: 416-822-3601

[Treasurer@vincytoronto.com](mailto:Treasurer@vincytoronto.com)

**Assistant Treasurer** – Yolande Lewis – 416-809-9820

[assistentreas@vincytoronto.com](mailto:assistentreas@vincytoronto.com)

**Public Relations Officer** – Elma Gabriel – 416-282-4557

[pro@vincytoronto.com](mailto:pro@vincytoronto.com)

**Immediate Past President** – Gideon Exeter; 905-831-1814

[gexeter@yahoo.com](mailto:gexeter@yahoo.com)

#### *Nominated members:*

Monty Providence –

[montyprovidence@rogers.com](mailto:montyprovidence@rogers.com) - 905-416-9625

Emergene Sam –

[relief@vincytoronto.com](mailto:relief@vincytoronto.com) - 416- 456-6563

**Association's General Email address** –

[svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com](mailto:svgatoronto@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.

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS**

**Fundraising & Entertainment** - Monty Providence

**Education Committee** - Fred Williams

**Building Committee** - Kuwassi Hutchinson

**Finance Committee** - Kenneth Farrell

**Public Relations Committee** - Elma Gabriel

**Relief Committee** - Emergene Sam

**Scholarship Committee** - Franklyn Ash and Gideon Exeter

**SVG Unity Picnic: Coordinators** - Cordel Telfer

Representative - Kenneth Farrell

**Mothers Day Dinner Committee** - Gracelyn Providence

**Independence Dinner Committee** - Yolande Lewis and Shelley John

**Children's Christmas:** Coordinators - Yvette Cadogan and Lucine Butler

**Youth Committee** - Jimmy Lewis

**CCAC:** Representatives - Cordel Telfer & Gideon Exeter

### **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\$1.50 a day, will amount to almost EC\$120.00 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 contacting the Relief Committee Chairperson either through regular mail at P.O. Box 392 – Station F, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2L8 or by e-mail at “relief @vincytoronto.com”

## **SVGAT Scholarship Program**

The Association is pleased to announce that two (2) scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each will be presented at the 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Celebration Dance on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

This year's scholarships are sponsored by Western Union Financial Services and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Sports Club.

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## **NEWS FROM SVG**

### **Articles on SVG's international airport at Argyle**



source of article: *The Vincentian Newspaper*  
21/08/08 [www.thevincentian.com](http://www.thevincentian.com)

source of photo:  
[www.searchlight.vc](http://www.searchlight.vc)

#### **And we're off...**

Airport works begin in earnest. “This lever is to go forward, this lever is to lift the blade, and this one is to start the airport,” Rupert Bullock advised the Prime Minister. And with a shrug, a nod and a characteristic smile, to indicate that he had understood the instructions from Bullock, the

Equipment Supervisor of the International Airport Development Company, the Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Ralph Gonslaves proceeded to manoeuvre the bulldozer.

In so doing, the Prime Minister signaled the formal commencement of the construction of the Argyle International Airport on Wednesday 13th August, birthday of former Cuban President Fidel Castro and former National Security Minister Vincent I Beache. A large crowd had gathered at Rawacou to witness the ceremonial act by Dr. Gonslaves, the beginning of the undertaking of the single largest project in SVG, a project estimated to cost EC\$589m and originally scheduled for completion by end 2011.

The Prime Minister's careful removal of dirt represented the start of work on the first kilometer of the runway, which is from Stubbs Bay to Colonel Anderson's residence at the entrance to Argyle. This involves the demolition of the Mc Connie Yammie Hill, the leveling of the Stubbs Bay cliff and Johnson Hill, and the filling in of the Mt Pleasant Valley. Up to eight earth-moving machines were in operation last week Wednesday demolishing buildings and uprooting trees and vegetation from the proposed runway location.

Some of the spectators commented on how easy it looked, as within minutes an entire section that was overgrown with mango trees and tall cedars, was cleared. The machines were



operated by Cuban and Vincentian heavy equipment operators. There seemed to have been mixed feelings of relief and joy among the gathering, as though to dispel any latent fears they might have had. They left feeling assured that the international airport was now a matter of years away.

## 2008 CARIBBEAN YOUTH DAY MESSAGE

### **CYPCC REGIONAL DIRECTOR,**

Henry Charles

September 30, 2008

Many of us have grown accustomed to a daily diet of media reports chronicling the negative manifestations of youth socialization. Whether the issue is Crime and violence; HIV and AIDS; substance abuse or drug trafficking the portrait painted is of a crisis among our young Caribbean citizens.

It is no secret that many, if not all of our major development challenges impact on Caribbean young people in a most profound and disproportionate manner. However it is also true that the majority of our young Caribbean citizens has and continues to make a significant contribution in the development of their communities, country and region.

Lest we forget the once mighty West Indies cricket team comprised of young people. Each year our secondary and tertiary institutions graduate hundreds of brilliant academics and intellectuals. Many of our leading artistic icons made their mark when they could have still boasted of being a "youth". In communities throughout the Caribbean young people are involved in clubs and other community organizations working towards the sustainable development of these communities. The recent success of some young regional athletes at the Beijing Olympics ignited a spirit of unprecedented national pride and unity, throughout the Caribbean. Suffice it to say that despite our obvious challenges, we must never forget that Caribbean young people are a key partner in the evolution of our Caribbean civilization. They with their abundance of energy, creativity, dynamism and technological savvy must be treated and engaged as strategic partners in our quest for peace and sustainable development.

It is for these reasons I implore you to use the occasion of Caribbean Youth Day 2008 to celebrate the achievements of our young citizens. Let us use this occasion to promote and reward the young unsung heroes in our education institutions, sporting fraternity, artistic community, business enterprises and governance systems. If we do then we would help paint the portrait of a great story yet untold.

I wish you all divine blessings and "One Love" on this the occasion of Caribbean Youth Day 2008.



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## St. Vincent & the Grenadines Association of Toronto 2008 Independence Anniversary Celebrations

### **Thanksgiving Church service**



Sunday, October 19, 2008,

4:00 p.m.

Rosewood Church of the Nazarene

### **Independence Banquet**



Saturday November 1, 2008

Riviera Parque Banquet Hall,

2800 Hwy 7 West



### **Future Planning Workshop**

Sunday, November 2, 2008

3:30 p.m.

The location for this workshop will be announced at a prior event

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### **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

**Tel: (416) 398-4277 Fax (416) 398-4199**

website: [www.svgconsulate.org](http://www.svgconsulate.org)

Email: [consulategeneral@rogers.com](mailto:consulategeneral@rogers.com)

*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.*

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# SVG Highlights

## National Dance Company members inducted



Newly inducted NDC members performing at the Finals of the National Dance Festival.

Minister of Urban Development, Culture, Labour and Electoral Matters René Baptiste, used the opportunity of the Finals of the 8th KCCU National Dance Festival on Saturday, October 4th, to induct the newest members of the National Cultural Foundation's National Dance Company (NDC).

At the Finals, which took place at the Peace Memorial Hall, Baptiste announced the names of the 13 dancers and 3 musicians who are, now, officially members of the NDC. The dancers are as follows: Molicia Browne, Ronique Dellimore, Natasha Gordon, Andrell Grant, Lisa Johnson, Claydonna Peters, Maxine Browne, Chelsea Ferdinand, Shanel Toney, Nicholas Bartholomew, Marcus Hannaway, Stanley Johnson and Christine Martin. The musicians are Rodney Small, Reajhaun Baptiste and Jomoro Francis.

The NDC has been in existence for just over a year, and, as part of the Vincentian delegation, recently attended CARIFESTA, which took place in Guyana last month. (JSV)

*Staff Reporter 10.OCT.08*  
*Searchlight Newspaper*

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**BEREAVEMENT NOTICE**

The Executive and Members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto 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.



## Community Mom 100th Birthday

### Gwendolyn Jack celebrates 100th birthday



Mrs Jack surrounded by some members of her family and Governor General Sir Fredrick Ballantyne.

A close look would not reveal that she has just celebrated her 100th birthday. But she has a birth certificate to prove it.

Gwendolyn Jack was born in Grenada on September 11, 1908, to Vincentian parents. She came to St Vincent at the tender age of two, the only girl of five children born to her parents.

Throughout her life, this humble woman has been involved in a number of charitable organizations in her church and the community. She was part of the first ever Brownie troop in Calliaqua and the Women's League. She was also part of the music council, having sung since age ten.

The wife of the late George Hubert Jack, Gwendolyn has travelled extensively throughout Canada and has also been to England, the USA and France. "I can tell you about Louis XIV's castle in Versailles" she said.

Gwendolyn is the mother of five children: F.I Jack, former Deputy Headmaster of the St. Vincent Grammar School, who lives here in St. Vincent, as well as Earl Jack, Louise Jack Richards, Joan Jack Heselton and Yvonne Jack, all of whom journeyed from Canada to celebrate their mother's 100th birthday.

Still very active, "Nennie Gwen" as she is called, enjoys a full life. Believe it or not, she still continues to play the piano quite skillfully, does handcraft and sews.

When Searchlight visited her home last Thursday, September 11, she was playing melodious piano music for an appreciative audience. She, however, confided that she

"can do very little now" because of her failing sight.

Governor General Sir Frederick Ballantyne was also on hand to wish her a happy birthday and present her with a cake and a bouquet of flowers.


Gwendolyn, who has been worshipping at the St. Paul's Anglican Church in Calliaqua since 1914, said it "feels great" to be one hundred years old. She said her secret to longevity is "trust in God all the time; faith, patience and prayer".

She urges young people to "hold on to God's unchanging words; serve the Lord with gladness; try to put some of the things of the world behind, (as) they would go dim no matter how they look; God First". (VM)


Searchlight Staff Reporter 19.SEP.08









*It is not how much you have, but how much you enjoy, that makes happiness.*

*C Spurgeon*



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## Sports

**Once in a while a person comes along that is phenomenally gifted with a natural talent for golf, greatest of all games. Such is the case of**

### **Sidney Cozier**

*A nine-year old "Little Pro" golfer*



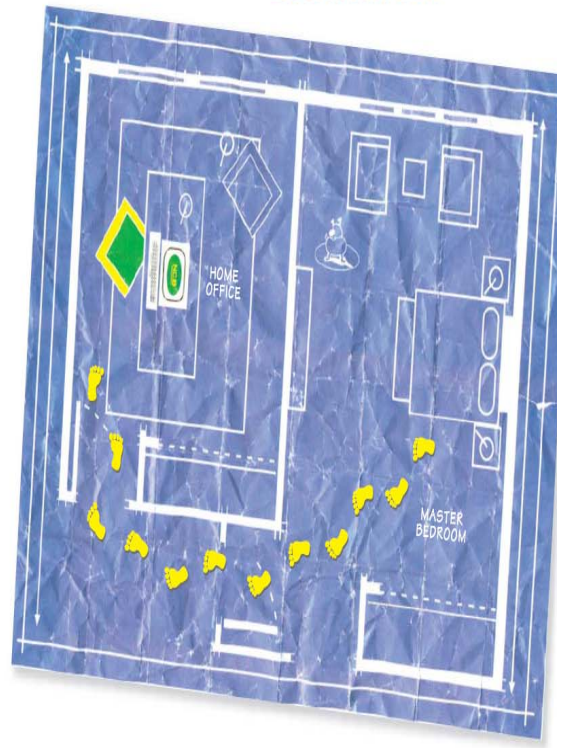
Sidney Cozier, a nine-year old competitive golfer, has won EIGHT tournaments in 2008. Cozier competes in local, national, and now; international tournaments from San Diego, CA to Pinehurst, NC. This "Little Pro", the grandson of Cosmus E. Cozier, Consul General of St Vincent and the Grenadines-New York, has won the "Player of the Year" Award & "Exemption" to US Kids World Championship in Pinehurst, NC next Summer. He Competed in six of the eight tours in Los Angeles and Chino Hills to qualify. He won four of six and earned 154 points. He competed against top kids in the world.

Born in Encinitas, CA, Cozier started competing at the age of four. He won his first trophy at four and a half at Welk Golf Resort in Escondido, CA. He competed in 27 tournaments in 2007. This outstanding junior golfer's best score was 3 under for 33 on the front nine at a Boulder City Golf Course, located in a picturesque suburb of Las Vegas, NV.

"Golf is indeed one of my favorite sports since I started watching it on TV at the age of 21 months." Cozier stated excitedly. As an aspiring golf pro, he looks up to Tiger Woods, the #1 golfer in the world. Cozier has his accomplished instructor, Chuck Anderson, to thank for his success.

"Sidney has an extraordinary passion for reading and math!" Zoraida and Colin Cozier, his parents admitted. As a fifth-grade home schooler, he reads four levels above his age, and takes language arts, math, and geometry classes at fifth and sixth grade levels.

## BANKING...



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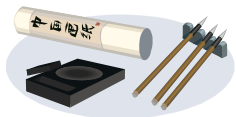
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## From the desk of the V.P.

### SVGAT: 40 Years After Birth

#### Time For Change, Change Must Come

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto (SVGAT) will embrace its 40<sup>th</sup> year in few months; a milestone of rich, diverse community history; a time to pass on the torch to our Canadian Vincentian children, our future leaders. As a body of people in the Canadian society, our goal must be to look forward to achieve long-term growth that can sustain the base on which SVGAT was founded.

Needless to say, it is acceptable to acknowledge the mistakes that we have made, and to cherish the experiences that will help us to correct the present and the future. The elders of this Association and community owe a great deal to future generations, to set the path for positive development and ownership that will help to build on the foundations that were laid down.

The arena of opportunities must be well established to accommodate and to advance whatever are our children's demands. Planning and making wise decisions will bring about good management of our association and community businesses. This can only take place when infrastructure has been put in place to adopt the right concept that will generate the quality status to function as an organization for the people.

We must fortify education, skills, family life and voluntary actions even in the heat of despair within the Association

and community. This will help to foster greater understanding and spiritual self-awareness. By overcoming our failures, we will set a course of action for better respect, tolerance, patience and guidance to achieve our goals.

As SVG patriots, we must not give up on what we are and who are we. Keep doing the best we can to succeed. Logical thinking will produce quality products. Positive feelings will release the affirmative and produce confidence of comfort. Reassurance will bring about faith that will allow us to believe in ourselves.

The message of our future is love and positive awareness, to appreciate self; and to live with being you, ought to plummet into the spirit of community unity. Just remembering that this upcoming year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto, will give time to reflect on those great thoughts – the blueprint to an action-plan, a positive reality to countless generations.

Let's protect this organization for our community and our future generations.

Kuwassi Hutchinson

### HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

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**High Commissioner**  
His Excellency Mr. Brendon C. Browne

## Immigration Matters

### Visiting Canada

Contributed: Sandra Sutherland, CCIC

With the onset of the Christmas season many Vincentians may be looking to spend time with their families in Canada. Because there are no temporary resident visa requirements for citizens of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, many visitors take it for granted that they can come and go with ease. This is not always the case. An exemption from the visa requirement merely permits a foreign national to come to Canada to seek entry. It is entirely up to the immigration officer at the port of entry to decide whether or not to grant entry and to define the length of the visit.

Many Vincentians are thoroughly questioned by immigration officials upon their arrival. The outcome of this examination process may lead to authorized entry, further examination procedures, effecting your return home on the next available flight or to your detention. Detention may lead to your removal or release.

The following are tips that could facilitate entry into Canada:

1. Conduct yourself well during the examination process: Be sure to understand each question prior to answering. Be confident and respectful and speak clearly.
2. Have sufficient information: Know the full name and contact information of who is receiving you and whom you will be staying with. Sometimes you may have to clarify the nature of your relationship between yourself and your host - if so, it is important to ensure consistency with what your host may state if interviewed.
3. Have relevant documents: You should have a return ticket that corresponds to the date you claim to return. It's good to have an invitation letter from your host.
4. Have sufficient funds that are relative to the nature and duration of your visit.

If you are detained, you should make contact with your host and/or counsel as immediately as possible. Try not to be too easily persuaded by immigration officials. This is not to say that they are not to be trusted but you do need to be vigilant about the nature of your situation and circumstances as well as fully knowing your options.

Sandra Sutherland is a Certified Canadian Immigration Consultant (CCIC) and can be reached at (416) 431-2829 or via e-mail at [ssutherland@southernimmigration.com](mailto:ssutherland@southernimmigration.com).

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her advertisement in this copy of the *Insight* or visit her company's website at [www.southernimmigration.com](http://www.southernimmigration.com).



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# Profile - of our Homeland



***Woman wearing a traditional dress***

## **Geography**

Area: 340 sq. km. (130 sq. mi.); slightly less than twice the size of Washington, DC. The Grenadines include 32 islands, the largest of which are Bequia, Mustique, Canouan, and Union. Some of the smaller islands are privately owned.

Cities: *Capital*--Kingstown.

Terrain: Volcanic and mountainous, with the highest peak, Soufriere, rising to 1,219 meters (4,000 ft.).

Climate: Tropical.

## **People**

Nationality: *Noun and adjective*--Vincetian.

Population (2008): 118,000.

Annual growth rate (2006): 0.5%.

Ethnic groups: African descent (66%), mixed (19%), West Indian (6%), Carib Indian (2%), other (7%).

Religions: Anglican (47%), Methodist (28%), Roman Catholic (13%), other Protestant denominations, Seventh-day Adventist, and Hindu.

Language: English (official); some French Patois spoken.

Education (2004): *Adult literacy*--88.1%.

Health (2006): *Infant mortality rate*--17/1,000. *Life expectancy*--men 69 years; women 74 years.

Workforce (2006): 57,695.

Unemployment (2004): 12%.

## **Principal Government Officials**

Head of State--Queen Elizabeth II

Governor General--Sir Frederick Ballantyne

Prime Minister--Ralph E. Gonsalves

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Commerce, and Trade--Sir Louis Straker

Ambassador to the United States and the OAS--La Celia Prince

Permanent Representative to the UN--Camillo Gonsalves

## **FOREIGN RELATIONS**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines maintains close ties to the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, and is a member of regional political and economic organizations such as the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and CARICOM. St. Vincent and the Grenadines is also a member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Nations, the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). St. Vincent and the Grenadines has chosen to recognize Taiwan instead of the People's Republic of China.

## Profile - of our Homeland Cont.....

### Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



**Bequia** - means island of clouds in Arawak but don't let the name deceive you: Bequia's lush hills are much lower than the peaks of St. Vincent, 10 miles to the north, so they don't catch as many showers.

**Canouan** - Carib for "island of turtles", was until a few years ago one of the less developed islands of the Grenadines. Until the late 18th century the island was inhabited by various Indian tribes until the British finally succeeded in defeating the last of these, the Caribs.

**Mustique** - is an exclusive 1,400-acre island (1.5 miles wide by 3 miles long), 18 miles south of St. Vincent with lush rolling terrain cooled by gentle trade winds, surrounded by pristine white beaches and crystal clear aquamarine waters. The island has a year-round population of about 500 living in the villages of Lovell, Britannia Bay and Dover.

**Mayreau** - Situated 7 miles south of Canouan, Mayreau has a population of only around 200 in the one village on the highest hill of the island. From the church on top of "Station Hill" you have the most spectacular view of the Grenadines.

**Petit St. Vincent** - (Better known locally as PSV) lies 40 miles south of St. Vincent in the Grenadines. Is a paradise of softly rolling hills spread over 113 acres surrounded by two miles of white sand beaches

**The Tobago Cays** - are a cluster of four uninhabited islands, protected by the world famous "horseshoe reef". Tobago Cays are a national marine park of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Only accessible by yacht, they offer superb snorkeling and perfect beaches.

**Union Island** - is the Southernmost of the Grenadines. Due to its dramatic silhouette, Union is also called by some the Tahiti of the West Indies. Its location just a few miles from the Tobago Cays, Mayreau and Petit St. Vincent has made it the ideal starting point for day charters to these islands.

*Excerpts - Island time Holidays*

## ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR October 2008 - January 2009

Sunday, October 19	Thanksgiving Church Service	Rosewood Church of the Nazarene
Sunday October 26	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Monday, October 27	Flag Raising Ceremony	Toronto City Hall
Saturday, November 1	Independence Banquet	Riviera Parque Banquet Hall, 2800 Hwy 7 West
Sunday, November 2	Future Planning Workshop	To be announced
Sunday November 30	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Saturday, December 13	Children's Christmas Party	Northwood Community Centre
Christmas Week	Christmas Hamper Project	Across the Community
Sunday, January 25	Annual General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre

### 2008 Independence Anniversary Celebrations



#### ***Future Planning Workshop***

**Sunday, November 2, 2008  
3:30 p.m**

*The location for this workshop will be  
announced at prior events*

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From the PRO

**The Public Relations Committee of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto extend our undivided love to the Ontario Diaspora and beyond. To our contributors – newspapers, ad subscribers and patrons – we applaud your generous commitment to the survival of *INSIGHT* and our SVGAT website; also to our dedicated Webmaster, hats off for your priceless work and patience.**

**To the SVGAT devoted members, we urge you to focus towards a positive future for our Association.**

***Give what you have to someone; it may be better than you dare to think. (H. Longfellow)***

## Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Membership Registration Form

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*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 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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