



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

## KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED THROUGH COMMUNICATION

Quarterly Newsletter

**INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY ISSUE**

October 2011

### Message from the Chair, Interim Committee

Members and friends, we should all take pride in the role the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto has played in the community over the last 43 years. We extend a helping hand to Vincentians in Canada and those at home in our quest to fulfill our main objective to be a source of humanitarian assistance to people in difficulty. We continue to provide scholarships to post secondary students in Ontario as well as to elementary students in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Christmas is a time of giving, and with your continued support we are able to provide the children in our community with an annual party, free of charge. In addition, we distribute hampers to deserving families in our community.

This year has been an especially difficult one for us. However, it is quite promising that we have come to realize and accept that there is a need for change. Our members have taken proactive measures to move the organization forward by selecting an interim committee to manage the affairs of the Association until the annual general meeting in January, with the ultimate objective of refocusing our efforts to achieve a unified and progressive St. Vincent and Grenadines (SVG) community.

The transformation that our loyal members seek will not be achieved overnight. However, if we commit ourselves to working hard and seeing these changes through to the end, despite the difficulties that may lie ahead, we will succeed in building a dynamic and meaningful organization that we can proudly pass on to the next generation.

In sticking to our mandate, we will hold a constitutional meeting on Sunday, November 13th where our members will have a say in how they would like to transform the organization. We will host our annual Children's Christmas Party on December 11th and in keeping with the Christmas spirit and our outreach initiative, we will distribute Christmas baskets

to members of our community who are less fortunate than many of us this season.

We call on all Vincentian in the Greater Toronto Area to give their support to the growth and development of the Association. We have a solid foundation awaiting your knowledge and skills to move us forward.

Join us! Register today! Become a member of The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. Our Annual General Meeting and elections of officers will be held on January 29, 2012.

Best Wishes to all.  
Mr. Cordel C. Telfer  
Chair, Interim Committee

### SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Financial members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto and other interested persons are hereby notified of a Special General Meeting of the Association to be held on Sunday, November 13 from 4:00 p.m. at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, Toronto.

This Special General Meeting is called to discuss the Proposed Revised Constitution and the new Policies & Procedures Document to be adopted by the Association.

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# ASSOCIATION NEWS

## **Changes in Administration of SVGAT**

Just over midway in its one year term the executive of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. was removed from office by way of a vote of no confidence.

It was obvious at this point in time that the Executive was not functioning at an acceptable level.

At the monthly meeting in September, Cordel Telfer was named Chair of an Interim Committee. He selected Glendon Carmichael, Dennis Buchan, Allan Austin and Cornetta Mason to assist him. The committee is charged with conducting the affairs of the Association and will remain in place until a new executive is elected, most likely at the annual general meeting (AGM) which is due in January 2012.

## **Change in Email Address**

Over the years, executive members have drawn to the attention of the membership the difficulty experienced in distributing emails to persons on the contact list. The portal used from the website account severely restricted the number of emails that could be sent at one time which resulted in the process of sending emails taking over two days.

As a result, the Interim Committee has decided to use the email account, [vincytoronto@gmail.com](mailto:vincytoronto@gmail.com) as an official email address and account of the Association created for the sole purpose of sending out mass emails. This email account is the property of The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. and its access will be passed on to succeeding executives.

## **Independence Anniversary Activities**

As the Government and nationals of St. Vincent and the Grenadines celebrate the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the usual activities took place. The Thanksgiving Church Service was held at the Anglican Church of the Nativity, 10 Sewells Road, Scarborough on Sunday, October 23 with Pastor Maurice Whittle delivering the message. Addresses were made by Canon Donald Butler, Rector of the Church and Mr. Steve O. Phillips, Consul General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Toronto.

The annual Independence Dinner and Dance took place on October 29 at Elite Banquet & Convention Centre, 1850 Albion Road, Etobicoke. Bursaries were presented to two young students, Jamaal Exeter and Onika Forde who are currently pursuing post secondary studies. Hon. Mr. Saboto Caesar, Minister of Tourism was the guest speaker and representative of the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Chair of the Interim Committee of the Association, Mr. Cordel Telfer used the occasion to bring attendees up to date on the affairs of the Association. The closing event, a public discussion with the visiting minister took place at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, Toronto.

## **Monthly General Meeting**

The regular monthly meeting of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto will take place on Sunday, November 27 from 4:00 p.m. at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, Toronto.

This will be the last regular meeting for the year since no meetings are usually held during the month of December.

All financial members and other interested persons are invited to attend.

## ***The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.***

### ***Annual Children's Christmas Party*** *(For children up to 12 years old)*

***Sunday, December 11, 2011 from 2:00 p.m.***

*23 Grandravine Drive, Toronto*  
*(Keele Street, north of Sheppard Ave)*

*To register your child(ren) please contact any member of the Interim Committee by sending an email to [svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com](mailto:svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com) or simply write to:*

*St. Vincent & the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.*  
*P.O. Box 392, Station F*  
*Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2L8*

**Registration closes on November 30, 2011**

## **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 Steering Committee by email to [svgat@vincytoronto.com](mailto:svgat@vincytoronto.com).

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

## **Make a contribution to the Association**

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

## The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court

### Mission Statement

To serve its Member States by providing access to a system of justice that is accountable and independent, and administered by officers in a prompt, fair, efficient and effective manner.

### Vision Statement

The achievement of professionalism and excellence in the timely, effective and efficient access to, and administration of a cohesive, independent and accountable system of justice for the benefit of its Member States.

The Court was established in 1967 by the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court Order No. 223 of 1967. It is a superior court of record for nine Member States - six independent namely, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and three British Overseas Territories namely, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat. The ECSC's website, [www.eccourts.org](http://www.eccourts.org) was first launched in September of 2000.

Hon. Hugh Anthony Rawlins is the Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

Justices of Appeal include:

Honourable Ola Mae Edward

Honourable Janice Mesadis Pereira

Honourable Davidson Baptiste

Chief Registrar

Mrs. Kimberly Cenac Phulgence

Deputy Chief Registrar

Ms. Agnes Actie

Headquarters

Heraldine Rock Building

Waterfront, Castries

Saint Lucia

Administration Tel: 758-457-3600 ; Fax: 758-457-3601

Email: [offices@eccourts.org](mailto:offices@eccourts.org)

### 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**

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

## The Caribbean Court of Justice

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) is the final court of appeal for member states of the Caribbean Community it fosters the development of an indigenous Caribbean jurisprudence.

In its original jurisdiction it ensures uniform interpretation and application of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, thereby underpinning and advancing the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

The Caribbean Court of Justice is more than a court of last resort for Member States of the Caribbean Community. In addition to replacing the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the CCJ is vested with an original jurisdiction in respect of the interpretation and application of the Treaty of Chaguaramas, which established the Caribbean Community. In effect, the CCJ exercises both an appellate and an original jurisdiction.

The agreement to establish the CCJ was signed by the CARICOM states of: Antigua & Barbuda; Barbados; Belize; Grenada; Guyana; Jamaica; St. Kitts & Nevis; St. Lucia; Suriname; and Trinidad & Tobago. Two further states, Dominica and St. Vincent & The Grenadines, later signed the agreement, bringing the total number of signatories to 12. The Bahamas and Haiti, though full members of CARICOM, are not yet signatories, and because of its status as a British colony, Montserrat must await Instruments of Entrustment from the UK in order to ratify.

The Justices of the Caribbean Court of Justice include:

The Right Hon. Sir Charles Michael Dennis Byron, President

The Honourable Mr. Justice Rolston Nelson

The Honourable Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders

The Honourable Mme. Justice Desiree Bernard

The Honourable Mr. Justice David Hayton

The Honourable Mr. Justice Jacob Wit

The Honourable Mr. Justice Winston Anderson

The Caribbean Court of Justice is located at

134 Henry Street, P. O. Box 1768

Port of Spain

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Email: [info@caribbeancourtofjustice.org](mailto:info@caribbeancourtofjustice.org)

Tel: 1-868-623-2CCJ(2225)

### BEREAVEMENT

Since the last publication of Insight we have received notice of the passing of several members of the SVG community in Toronto and beyond. The leadership and members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto takes this opportunity to express condolences to the bereaved families.

**Members of the Interim / Steering Committee  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ass'n of Toronto**

**Chair:** Mr. Cordel Telfer

**Tel:** 647-717-9731

**Email:** [president@vincytoronto.com](mailto:president@vincytoronto.com)

**Vice Chair:** Mr. Glendon Carmichael

**Tel:** 416-321-9029

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

**Treasurer:** Mr. Dennis E. A. Bucchan

**Tel:** 905-477-6628

**Email:** [treasurer@vincytoronto.com](mailto:treasurer@vincytoronto.com)

**Committee Member:** Ms. Cornetta Mason

**Tel:** 416-247-8155

**Email:** [cornettad2000@yahoo.com](mailto:cornettad2000@yahoo.com)

**Committee Member:** Mr. Allan Austin

**Tel:**

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

**General E-mail:** [svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com](mailto:svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com)

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**JIM LEWIS**

416-459-2462

### Conscious Vibes

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

### News

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

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## LEADERSHIP FOR SVGAT - 2012 AND BEYOND

As the end of the year approaches it is time for us to reflect on the leadership team that we put in place to do the work required in order for us to have a harmonious, productive and an effective organization. Quite often many of us criticize those who take on the responsibility but we do not come forward to try to make things better. Our organization and community need the support of those who can make them more effective. Please give it your prayerful consideration and assist in building both your organization and community. A new leadership team is to be elected on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Annual General Meeting.



# NEWS FROM SVG

(Courtesy of Searchlight Newspaper, SVG)

## Great Things Happening In Bequia

### Paget Farm Gets Public Library

The NGCDI, formerly the Northern Grenadines Community Development Organization (NGCDO), was formed in 2008 as an umbrella organization for NGOs and CBOs in the Northern Grenadines. The aim of the group is to facilitate access to funding, in addition to providing accountability, good governance and monitoring of the execution of projects.

Some of the projects completed under the auspices of NGCDI include the restoration of the Paget Farm Farine Shed and construction of a well for the farine makers, the Port Elizabeth Water Project which tapped into a well and created a storage reservoir of 20,000 gallons of water to provide the community with potable quality water, and now the Paget Farm Community Library Project.

The library project was undertaken as the group realized that Paget Farm, the largest community on the island of Bequia, was in need of a community library. The group, adopting the theme, "Linking Groups, Empowering People" took a derelict building which formerly served as the first health clinic in the community, and later as a post office to transform it into a community library.

### Bequia Gets Desalination Plant

The residents of Bequia who have traditionally relied on rainfall to provide their drinking water, will soon have a new water source with the completion of a desalination plant that will end the water woes of the past.

The Desalination Plant which is a system that converts salt water into fresh water is a pilot project funded by Global Environmental Fund through the World Bank and the Caribbean Climate Change Centre, with the implementation agency being the local Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment.

The plant can produce 34,560 gallons of fresh water in a 24-hour period. The Desalination Plant is fully operational. However, Deputy Director of Grenadines Affairs Herman Belmar said they are now working on a second part of the project, which will see the storage of the water and subsequent distribution to the residents. Belmar said a 20,000-gallon storage tank, already on its way from Singapore will be placed at the top of Paget Farm in an area known as Derrick Hill.

Once a concrete structure is built to store the tank, Belmar said this will clear the way for the Government and the Central Water and Sewerage Authority to commence the final phase of the piping to the communities. Belmar estimates that the process will be completed no later than December 31 and it will be very unlikely that they will have to import water from mainland St. Vincent after that time.

### National Scholars for 2011

Gregory Tuayev-Deane, Gavary David, Kevorn Cuffy, Shane Clarke, Jenell Gibson and Lianne Wynne, all former students of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College Division of Arts, Sciences and General Studies, have been awarded based on their performance in the May / June 2011 CXC Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Exam (CAPE) and the GCE A'level examinations.

The National Scholarships cover five years of study at university with no restrictions on the area of study. The National Exhibitions will be for a period of three years with no restrictions on the area of study.

The most outstanding student, in addition to the five-year scholarship, normally receives the Prime Minister's Award of a medal and an additional sum of \$10,000.00.

### SVG Student Grabs Regional CSEC Award

A Vincentian student has won one of the 8 Regional Top Awards for the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC).

Seventeen-year-old River Providence, a former student of the Girls' High School, is the recipient of the award for the Most Outstanding Candidate in the Humanities for 2011.

River, the daughter of Dr. Karen Providence of Green Hill, achieved Grade I in 11 subjects, with all A Profiles except one B Profile in Information Technology. River achieved Grade I in Biology, Caribbean History, Chemistry, English A, English B, French, Geography, Information Technology, Mathematics, Physics and Social Studies.

Students from Queen's College in Guyana won four of the eight Regional Top Awards for the CSEC, which were announced by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) last Thursday, October 21, 2011.

### Duty Free Concessions on Barrels

Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves announced during his 2011 Independence Anniversary message that the annual duty-free concessions on Christmas barrels will be observed during November 21 to December 31.

### SVGAT Calendar or Events for Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 13, 2011	Constitution Review Meeting, Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 27, 2011	Monthly General Meeting, Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 11, 2011	Children's Christmas Party, Grandravine Community Centre, 23 Grandravine Dr., 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 29, 2012	Annual General Meeting with elections – Northwood Community Centre from 4:00 p.m.



## Membership Has Its Rewards



Through the Arbor Alliance Program offered by Memorial Gardens Canada **financial members** of St. Vincent and the 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.

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### Canada

**Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

333 Wilson Avenue, Suite 601, Toronto, Ontario, M3H 1T2,

Canada Tel: (416) 398-4277 • Fax: (416) 398-4199

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

### United States

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nue, 21st floor, New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A. Tel: (212) 687-

4981 or (800) 729-1726; Fax: (212) 949-5946

E-mail: [svgtony@aol.com](mailto:svgtony@aol.com)

## Tribute To Ruby Olivia Phillips, née Samuel



June 13, 1936, Fountain, St. Vincent and the Grenadines -  
October 15, 2011, Toronto, Canada

The fourth child of Jonathan and Lessaline Samuel's 10 children who survived past infancy, Ruby Phillips immigrated to Toronto from St. Vincent in early 1960 to meet her sisters Minerva and Elsa who were already here. She started life in her new country as domestic worker, as did most of the young women who immigrated to Canada from the Caribbean at the time.

On November 24, 1962 she married Hubert Phillips and together they raised five children.

After completing her Canadian high school equivalency at night school in 1964, she worked in various fields including banking for 13 years, before pursuing her chosen profession as a hairdresser. She was an excellent student at Marvel Beauty Schools in Toronto, graduating with a diploma as well as a Certificate of Merit in 1978. Her business was established first in the basement of the family home before opening the first *Ruby's Beauty Salon* at York Woods Plaza in North Toronto in 1977, moving to the intersection of Keele & Finch in 1990, where it continues to today.

Not content to rest on her laurels, Ruby continually strove to keep herself updated on the latest in hairdressing by attending seminars and training sessions throughout her career. They included the Thomas Hayden Advanced Training in November 1983 and at the Dudley Products Company in Greensboro, North Carolina (USA) in 1988, among others.

Miss Ruby, as she is known by her clients and friends, trained and mentored many hairdressers at her salon, including 3 of her children and one grand-daughter who are now accomplished hair stylists. Of the many certificates of appreciation and acknowledgement that she received over the years, she was very proud of the ones from the Learning for Life Co-op Education Programme from several Boards of Education around Toronto (City of York, North York and Etobicoke). Her participation in these programs was her way of giving back to the community by passing on her passion for hairdressing to the young students. In addition, various companies, such as D-orum Hair Products (1988) and Lady Velvet (1996) awarded her with certificates of appreciation for outstanding and dedicated service.

She also supported others in their businesses by buying products from them, unable to resist helping a fellow Vincentian or West Indian to succeed.

A proud Vincentian, and a member of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association, she actively promoted its functions at *Ruby's Beauty Salon*. She even sponsored one of the buses to the annual picnic at Thousand Islands Park for several years. In 1993 the Association presented her with the "Mother of the Year" award in appreciation for her outstanding contribution to the community and in 2005, she was honoured at the Association's Independence Dinner and made an Honorary Life Member.

Ruby sponsored many people to Canada from St. Vincent, as well as from other Caribbean islands. Her generosity knew no bounds, never turning anyone away who may need her help. She opened her home to those who needed a place to stay, and fed countless others. As she said herself, "I love helping people".

Ruby is survived by her husband, Hubert; her 5 children: Junior, Fitz Allen, Leroy, Irvin and Donna; 22 grandchildren and 7 great grand-children; sisters: Doris Timm, Elsa Sutton and Ancilla Cadougan and brothers: Stanley, Charles, Errol and Claudius; brothers-in-law James Timm and Christopher Cadougan and sister-in-law Gloria Samuel; many nieces, nephews, friends, and clients. She was predeceased by her parents Jonathan and Lessaline Samuel and sisters Christobel Worrell and Minerva John.

*Submitted by: Shirley Samuel*



### AGENTS IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

#### [BARROUALLIE COOPERATIVE CREDIT](#)

Slater Street, Barrouallie,

Tel: 784-458-7943

#### [MARRIAQUA COOPERATIVE CREDIT UNION](#)

Mesopotamia Post Office, Mesopotamia,

Tel: 784-458-5269

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Cnr. of Grenville & Melville Sts, Kingstown Tel: 784-456-1622

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#### [GENERAL EMPLOYEES COOP CREDIT](#)

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## Members of Cabinet in the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

### **Hon. Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves**

Prime Minister, Ministry of Finance, National Security,  
Grenadines Affairs and Legal Affairs  
Telephone: (784) 456-1703  
E-mail: [pmo.svg@caribsurf.com](mailto:pmo.svg@caribsurf.com)  
Constituency: North Central Windward

### **Hon. Girlyn Miguel**

Minister of Education, Deputy Prime Minister  
Telephone: (784) 457-1104  
E-mail: [office.education@mail.gov.vc](mailto:office.education@mail.gov.vc)  
Constituency: Marriacqua

### **Hon. Senator Dr. Douglas Slater**

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade & Consumer  
Affairs  
Telephone: (784) 456-2060; (784) 456-1111 Ex. 315, 319  
E-mail: [office.foreignaffairs@mail.gov.vc](mailto:office.foreignaffairs@mail.gov.vc)  
or: [office.trade@gov.vc](mailto:office.trade@gov.vc)

### **Hon. Clayton Burgin**

Minister of Housing, Informal Human Settlements, Physical  
Planning & Land & Surveys  
Telephone: (784) 457-2039  
Email: [ps.mtwh@mail.gov.vc](mailto:ps.mtwh@mail.gov.vc)  
Constituency: East St. George

### **Hon. Montgomery Daniel**

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural  
Transformation  
Telephone: (784) 456-1410  
Email: [office.agriculture@mail.gov.vc](mailto:office.agriculture@mail.gov.vc)  
Constituency: North Windward

### **Hon. Saboto Caesar**

Minister of Tourism and Industry  
Telephone: (784) 457-1502  
E-mail: [tourism@vincysurf.com](mailto:tourism@vincysurf.com)  
Constituency: South Central Windward

### **Hon. Maxwell Charles**

Minister of National Reconciliation, the Public Service,  
Labour, Information & Ecclesiastical Affairs  
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### **Hon. Cecil McKie**

Minister of Health Wellness & The Environment  
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### **Hon. Frederick Stephenson**

Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, the  
family, Persons with Disabilities, Youth, Sports and Culture  
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Constituency: South Windward

## IMMIGRATION MATTERS

### **CARIBBEAN REFUGEE CLAIMANTS**

Contributed by: Sandra Sutherland, CCIC

It appears that more and more people arrive in Canada bearing a passport from St. Vincent and the Grenadines or from St. Lucia and remain here illegally. Some eventually make a claim for refugee protection. There are fervent grumblings that focus on the issue that people from the Caribbean should not apply for refugee status because the Caribbean countries are not refugee producing countries. Because making a claim allows claimants to apply for certain benefits, some claimants pursue this option of acquiring status for these privileges. While I agree that the refugee system should not be exploited in this regard, if a person has a genuine claim it may be pursued under the grounds that the claimant deems to meet the definition of a Convention Refugee or a Person in Need of Protection.

The Refugee Protection Division of the Immigration and Refugee Board state the criteria for in-Canada claimants as “persons who are outside the country of their nationality and have a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of: race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership of a particular social group.” or “persons whose removal to their country of origin would subject them personally to: a danger of torture, a risk to their life, or a risk of cruel and unusual treatment or punishment.” There are genuine cases whereby a person from the Caribbean may make a refugee claim.

Over the years I have represented clients from the Caribbean, as well as other countries, with respects to their claim for refugee protection. Many cases have been successful while others fail. One particular client, Lucy (not her real name), made a claim because she feared returning to her homeland. Lucy was constantly abused by her husband. She testified at the hearing that because it was “normal” in the Caribbean for husbands to beat their wives, she had to endure it and was unable to receive protection from the authorities. She would leave her husband only to have him find her and bring her back home and then continue with the beatings, most times worse than before. She received no help from the police and



was able to demonstrate that protection from the police was not forthcoming, and will not be forthcoming upon her return to her country. Her claim was successful.

Most successful cases for males were based on the grounds of homosexuality. In general, the Caribbean is known to be homophobic. Homosexuality is not condoned in the Caribbean and, in some countries; persons can be severely brutalized and/or even jailed for not being heterosexual. Take the case of Frank (not his real name). While engaging in sexual relations with another male, Frank was discovered by a neighbour. Word spread, as it usually does in the Caribbean, like wildfire. Soon enough many communities on the island became aware of Frank's sexuality and he was constantly assaulted, shunned and discriminated against. The consequences of this persecution caused Frank to lose his job, family and friends. He became a recluse and stayed indoors fearing to venture out lest he succumb to severe beatings or get killed. He came to Canada and made a refugee claim. As his representative I provided solid documentary evidence and presented supporting letters from two close family members who cared enough about him. His testimony at the hearing was credible and his claim was successful.

Claimants are required to sign and adhere to a Departure Order promising to leave Canada if their claim is refused, withdrawn or abandoned. Prospective claimants should acknowledge that their claim may not be successful and to take heed of the negative consequences bogus claims may have on them. They should also duly assess the impact it may have on other genuine claims from their country as well as the effects that it may have in contributing to the volume of claims from their country, if any.

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

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THE BEQUIA SOCIAL ORGANIZATION PRESENTS

OUR 2nd Annual ...

## **NEW YEARS NIGHT DANCE**

FRIDAY DECEMBER 30TH 2011



Door open at 8:00pm, dance until 2am  
Music by DJ Paul - The Professor

\$20 IN ADVANCE  
\$25 at the door

Taking place at:  
The Church of The Nativity Hall  
10 Sewells Road Scarborough  
(Neilson /Sewells Road, Malvern)



Mr. Alston Davy, a Minister at Larger 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 counseling, marriages, baby dedication and funerals.** He can be reached at **905-887-9561** or at **[cofm@rogers.com](mailto:cofm@rogers.com)**



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*Happy Holidays!*

## CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

Here are a few expressions for you to interpret. Visit the Message Board page on the SVGAT's website, "www.vincytoronto.com" and provide your meanings of the following expressions:

- Way hurt eye mek nose run water.
- Is nah fuh want a tongue why cattle can't talk.
- If you could die for me I could bury fo you.
- Belly does bring good and it does bring bad.
- Thunder wid rain stops rain.
- Too slow to walk last at a funeral.
- Yo walking like yo loss yo shadow
- De best cure fuh a dog bite is to keep out ah the dog way.

## THANK YOU

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.

## The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. Scholarship Program

The Scholarship Program which began in 2005 is an effort by the Association to encourage and assist young people of SVG descent in their pursuit of a higher level of education. Each year, a minimum of two \$1,000.00 bursaries are made available for persons to apply for. The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. and the community on a whole wish these students every good in the future endeavours. More information on the scholarship program can be found on the Education & Culture page of the website, [www.vincytoronto.com](http://www.vincytoronto.com). The successful applicants for the 2011/2012 school year are:

**Mr. Jamaal Exeter**, a second year student at the University of Ottawa who is an aspiring medical doctor pursuing studies in Sports Medicine. Prior to university he attended St. Mary's Catholic Secondary School in Pickering from which he graduated in 2010 as an honour student. He is an avid soccer player having played representative soccer for both Markham and Pickering for a number of years. Jamaal's bursary was sponsored by the Association.

**Miss Onika Forde** is a first year student pursuing studies in the Environmental Protection Technician Program at Centennial College and intends to continue in her goal of attending the University of Toronto to become an Environmental Engineer. She graduated from Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute and was awarded the Riverdale Kiwanis Club Award which recognised students with exemplary community service. Onika's bursary was sponsored by Western Union Financial Services.

## THE NINE MORNINGS FESTIVAL IN SVG

Submitted by E. Bernard John

Nationals of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, who live in the Diaspora, have a special incentive to return home annually for the Christmas season, because of the special activities that take place at that time...

The Nine Mornings Festival is unique to St. Vincent and the Grenadines and is a tradition which has grown by leaps and bounds, particularly over the last twelve (12) or so years.

There are several theories seeking to locate the origins of 'Nine Mornings', the most plausible of which relates it to the 'Novena' of the Catholic Church in the 1920's. It is believed that during these early morning Church services which many attended, others engaged in other activities such as window shopping and sea bathing – activities which the church goers would have joined at the end of the Church services. This, it is widely believed to be the genesis of 'Nine Mornings'. Another school of thought is that it originated during the period of slavery.

Whatever the origin, participation over the decades has been spontaneous; and activities have varied over time: from the sea bathing and window shopping mentioned earlier, to street dancing to the music of goat skin drums and wooden flutes, matinee shows, public fetes, bicycle riding, Christmas carolling, street vending and steel band music.

Despite the diversity of activities that evolved from time to time, there were several years of dormancy when Vincentians seemed to have lost the enthusiasm to participate. During the 1990's, interest waned to the extent that there was very little happening on the streets in terms of attractions and the number of persons leaving their homes. This triggered the coming together in 1999, of a group of four (4) patriotic Vincentians who sought to revive 'Nine Mornings'.

This national committee, comprising Sebastian 'Bassy' Alexander, Michael Peters, Lennox Bowman and Joel Providence, put together a programme of activities to take

the form of a street concert in the capital, Kingstown. Their efforts have resulted in the spread of similar street concerts in one dozen or so communities across the country, from the villages of North Leeward and Fancy in the north, to the Grenadine island of Bequia in the South. So residents and visitors alike have a wide choice as to what community to which they wish to journey for this unique experience, which would normally begin at around 4.00 in the morning.

Activities and competitions today include bois-bois dancing, hula-hoop, road races, egg & spoon races, keep fit exercises and a host of other attractions that the various community organising committees bring to the fore. Musically, in recent years, outstanding artistes such as Carlton 'CP' Hall and the Bowman brothers have been creating and performing Christmas/Nine Mornings music specifically for the festival. A community lighting competition, preparation of which also knits each community together, also adds to the euphoria. The national committee must be highly commended for their efforts.

All these activities are preceded by a formal launch of the festival, which, this year, will be held on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. It will take the form of a candle light march and concert at Heritage Square, which will involve the musical bands of the Police Force and Cadet Corp, various cultural groups, appropriately costumed characters and the like. And it begins with an act of worship.

It should be noted that in recent years, statistics reveal that our crime rate has been at its lowest in the month of May (when the Gospel Festival is held) and December (Christmas/Nine Mornings) and this may very well be the result of the community spirit engendered at these times.

When walking through the throngs of people on the streets of Kingstown in December, it is now not uncommon to hear the accents of Barbadians, Grenadians, St. Lucians and others, as our neighbours and those who live further afield recognise more and more, what St. Vincent and the Grenadines has to offer at this time of year.

It is a true family-oriented affair...

### The Adopt-A-Child Program

As part of its outreach and assistance to the people of our homeland, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Association decided to provide assistance to children in the primary school system in order to ensure that they receive the basic foundation that would lead the way to their future development.

The program began in 2008 with the adoption of two students whose schools were chosen at random here in Toronto and then the community including the school principal in St. Vincent and the Grenadines selecting the child. The sponsorship is for a five year period during which time each student will receive the equivalent of Cdn\$4,200.00. A set of trustees in SVG monitor the student's performance and supervise the distribution of the funds on a monthly basis.

Sponsors are required to assist other children. Sponsorship can be done in the full amount or combined with others. If you would like to assist a child in St. Vincent and the Grenadines please contact a member of the executive of the Association or send an email to [svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com](mailto:svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com).

# The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

## Membership Registration Form

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

### Mission Statement

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



### Objectives

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

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

***We hope to see you there!***

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

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