



THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. (SVGAT)

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED THROUGH COMMUNICATION

Quarterly Newsletter

INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

October 2017

ASSOCIATION NEWS

New Meeting Place

Starting from November 26, 2017 the new venue for the Association's monthly general meeting will be at St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, 1080 Finch Avenue East at Leslie Street. Meetings will begin at 4:00 p.m. The Board of Directors is grateful for this new arrangement as there is no cost to the Association for the use of this facility.

New Logo

The Association adopted a new logo and a banner that was used as a group of individuals formed a band to participate in the 50th anniversary of Toronto's Caribbean Carnival. Just over 70 persons represented the Association and community as part of the Guest Band from the Council of Caribbean Associations – Canada.

Board Member Resigned

After spending more than 40 years as a resident of Canada, Mr. Odel "Ewan" Lewis decided that St. Vincent and the Grenadines is the place he wishes to spend his retiring years. Mr. Lewis returned "home" in September and as a result resigned from the Board. He spent several years on the executive of the Association and served as president in 1992. The board members paid tribute to Mr. Lewis for his contribution to the Association over the years and in particular in 2017.

New Board Member

We are pleased to welcome **Ms. Daffodil Davis** to join the Board of Directors to replace Mr. Odel Lewis. Ms. Davis is relatively new to the Association but has been a resident of Canada for over 20 years. She will serve until the Annual General Meeting in 2018 and will be eligible for election for a full term.

The full board of directors and officers include:

President - Gideon L. Exeter

Secretary - Sandra Bobb

Assistant Secretary - Prudence Morton

Treasurer - Dennis Buchan

Board Member - Kenneth Farrell

Board Member - Erline Granderson

Board Member - Zakiya Hutchinson

Board Member - Winston Woodley

Board Member - Daffodil Davis

Our Response To Hurricane Relief

Following the passage of the recent hurricanes that affected several Caribbean countries, leaders from the SVGAT, Bequia Social Organization, Toronto SVG Support Group and the Union Island Cultural Association met to discuss how they could collectively lend support to those who suffered losses. Many persons across the Caribbean lost their lives while others lost their homes, livelihood, jobs, houses and other personal belongings.

Collectively, the SVG groups contributed about \$10,000.00 to Dominica and Barbuda. Additionally, individuals have been asked to donate to relief funds being set up by both countries. Persons who wish to make donations and would like to get a tax deductible receipt to file with their 2017 income tax returns are asked to donate as follows:

For **Dominica** you can make your cheques out to Dominica Emergency Fund or to Caribbean North Charities Foundation, A Canadian Registered Charity. Mail to P.O. Box 62518, 85 Ellesmere Road, Toronto, ON, M1R 5G8.

Deposits can be made at Bank of Montreal, 2330 Kennedy Road, Unit E, Scarborough ON, M1T 3H1

Transit # 29242, Account # 8330 256

(Keep your deposit info for tax receipt verification - Contact **Frances Delsol** to provide necessary info for tax receipt for amounts of \$25.00 or more.)

To contribute to the **Barbuda Relief and Recovery Effort**, make a donation to the Antigua and Barbuda Emergency Relief Fund, registered with the Canada Revenue Agency as a charitable entity under registration number 889758579RR0001. Deposits can be made at any Branch of Royal Bank of Canada, Transit 06402 Account 1005040

Tax receipts for deposits in excess of \$20.00 can be issued by providing proof of deposit, with Name and Mailing Address. E-mail to Eric Williams, vicepresident@abatonline.org;

Or mail to: Antigua Barbuda Association of Toronto; P.O. Box 6, Station F, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2L4 or Consulate General of Antigua and Barbuda, 60 St. Clair Avenue East, Suite 601, Toronto, ON, M4T 1N5

GIVE GENEROUSLY TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

Celebrating the 38th Anniversary of Independence
of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Let's Celebrate... SVG Independence

Music:
Tropicks Band
and
dj fusion

October 28, 2017

Woodbine Banquet and Convention Centre
30 Vice-Regent Road (Hwy 27 and Rexdale Blvd.)

Guest Speaker: Ms. Taisha Lewis

Cocktails 6:00 p.m. • Dinner 7:00 p.m. • Door Prizes

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Frank: 416-616-2247
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Consulate Office: 416-398-4277
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The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc., in collaboration with:
Bequia Social Organization • The Toronto SVG Consulate Office • Toronto SVG Support Group • Union Island Cultural Association

2017 SVG Independence Celebrations

<p>Thanksgiving Church Service</p> <p>Sunday, October 22, 2017 4:00 p.m. Wesley Free Methodist Church 2385 Warden Avenue</p> <p>Refreshments will be served</p>	<p>Flag Raising Ceremony</p> <p>October 26, 2017 11:30 am City Hall, Toronto 100 Queen Street West Celebrate 38 years of Independence</p>	<p>Independence Gala</p> <p>Saturday, October 28, 2017 6:00 p.m. Woodbine Banquet and Convention Centre 30 Vice-Regent Road (Hwy 27 and Rexdale Blvd.) Limited early bird tickets \$70.00 Regular tickets \$80.00</p>
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The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc., in collaboration with:
Bequia Social Organization • The Toronto SVG Consulate Office • Toronto SVG Support Group • Union Island Cultural Association
Independence Coordinator: Sandra Bobb

SUNSHINE IN THE ISLAND OF DREAMS

by Ezra Clarke

Based on young boys and girls growing up in a small village in tropical St. Vincent and the Grenadines while reflecting on the experiences of the author growing up in a place he called, Big Yard. The book lends itself as a tool for younger and older generations alike who have a passion for memories of family and adventures.

A must read for Vincentians and people the world over. Available on amazon.com, booksamillion.com and barnesandnoble.com the book speaks about education, culture, politics and a bit of fiction and humor.

The author seeks assistance to have several book launches. His first book "A Desire for Satisfaction" is also available on the websites.

Send email to groupcountry@gmail.com

Adopt-A-Child Program

In 2008 the Association began supporting two children in St. Vincent and the Grenadines with their expenses for 5 years each to see them through primary school. In 2012 a second set of two children was selected from the Tourama and Fairhall Government Schools. This is the final year of sponsorship for these two children and it is hoped that two others will be selected from the 2018 school year. Persons who are interested in assisting a child or contributing to the cost are asked to contact any member of the Board. **HELP US TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN OUR HOMELAND.**

Membership Has Its Benefits

Currently, members of the Association are entitled to discounts off tickets for SVGAT organized events. Also, members who make funeral and cemetery arrangements through Arbor Memorial are entitled to the Arbor Alliance Program (AAP) discount.

BURSARIES FOR STUDENTS

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. and the Council of Caribbean Associations – Canada are offering annual bursaries through their respective scholarship programs for students of SVG heritage that are currently attending college or university. Please visit the Associations' websites www.caribbeancouncilcanada.org and www.vincytoronto.com and check for details to apply before the due dates.

The proceeds from the collection taken at this year's Thanksgiving Church Service after the expenses, will be donated to the Relief Fund for Barbuda and Dominica. Please donate generously.

PROTECTING THE “VULNERABLE CHILD” IN OUR SOCIETY

Child Protection and the *Child and Family Services Act*

October is known as Child Abuse Prevention month which centers on protecting vulnerable children. The *Child and Family Services Act* governs this area of law which is the legislative scheme when a child is believed to be in need of protection.

Paramount Purpose of the *Child and Family Services Act*

The *Child and Family Services Act* states that the primary purpose of the act is, “to promote the best interests, protection and wellbeing of children”. In order to determine the best interest of a child the court examines a comprehensive list including but not limited to the following factors:

1. The child’s physical, mental and emotional needs, and the appropriate care or treatment to meet those needs.
2. The child’s physical, mental and emotional level of development.
3. The child’s cultural background.
4. The religious faith, if any, in which the child is being raised.
5. The importance for the child’s development of a positive relationship with a parent and a secure place as a member of a family.
6. The child’s relationships and emotional ties to a parent, sibling, relative, other member of the child’s extended family or member of the child’s community.
7. The importance of continuity in the child’s care and the possible effect on the child of disruption of that continuity.
8. The merits of a plan for the child’s care proposed by a society, including a proposal that the child be placed for adoption or adopted, compared with the merits of the child remaining with or returning to a parent.
9. The child’s views and wishes, if they can be reasonably ascertained.
10. The effects on the child of delay in the disposition of the case.
11. The risk that the child may suffer harm through being removed from, kept away from, returned to or allowed to remain in the care of a parent.
12. The degree of risk, if any, that justified the finding that the child is in need of protection.
13. Any other relevant circumstance.

Defining the Term “Child in Need of Protection”

A child may be in need of protection if he/she has suffered physical harm, sexual molestation, sexual exploitation, emotional harm, inadequate care or has been abandoned or been subject to a pattern of neglect.

Dealing with the Children’s Aid Society

- (a) Do not become angry and hurl insults at the child protection worker.
- (b) Do not cry and have an emotional meltdown as the worker may interpret this as being emotionally unstable, instead be calm, respectful and rational.
- (c) Take the time to listen to the concern of the worker regarding your child and ask him/her what is required of you as a parent, be cooperative.
- (d) Neglect, if the child protection concern is that your six (6) year old was left unattended at home, you failed to properly feed and clothe the child or take him/her to medical appointments or school, then make alternative care arrangements, obtain the necessary service providers and take a parenting class.
- (e) Physical harm, if the child protection concern is that you used a pot spoon to hit the child and he reported the matter to his teacher, take a parenting and anger management class.
- (f) Sexual harm, if the child protection concern is that while in your care the child was touched in a sexually inappropriate manner, then undertake a parenting class, attend a reduction of sexual harm program and put measures in place to protect the child.
- (g) Emotional harm, if the child protection concern is that you are shouting, threatening and using foul language to describe the child a remedy will be to take a parenting, conflict resolution and anger management class.
- (h) Drug and alcohol abuse, if the child protection concern is substance abuse, then attend a program for substance abuse and a parenting class.
- (i) Mental health issues, if the child protection concern is due to mental health issues, then see a medical professional and obtain the necessary care, either talk therapy such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy or medication.
 - (j) Hire a lawyer. The area of law governing child protection is complex and both the rights of the child and parent require competent representation. Typically counsel from the Office of Children’s Lawyer will be appointed to provide legal representation for the child. By hiring a lawyer your parental views can be addressed with the goal of having the child or children returned to your care.

Contributed by Tricia Simon, Barrister, Solicitor & Notary Public

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%%%%%%%%%%
The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto participated in the Council of Caribbean Associations – Canada section of the 2017 Toronto Caribbean Carnival as part of the 50th anniversary of the Festival.

The banner displays the Association's new logo.

%%%%%%%%%%
There were over 70 participants in the SVGAT'S group. The committee that coordinated this group included Cordel Telfer, Cheyenne Samuel and Zakiya Hutchinson.

Our sincere thanks to all who made this possible.
Another section of band members.



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PRESCRIPTION EYE GLASSES PROJECT

The Association is collecting unwanted prescription eye glasses to send to St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the benefit of persons there who need them. The project will be done in conjunction with the Lions Club South in St. Vincent and the Grenadines through the SVG Toronto Consulate Office. Please bring your unwanted eye glasses to a meeting, contact any member of the Board of Directors or drop them off at the **SVG Consulate Office** at 55 Town Centre Court, Scarborough.

There are people in our homeland that could make good use of your unwanted glasses.



Tourism Authority

Mrs. Shelley John

Director of Sales - Canada
403 - 55 Town Centre Drive
Toronto, Ontario, M3H 1T2
Tel : 416-630-9292

TORONTO HARBOUR BOAT CRUISE

In conjunction with the Toronto SVG Support Group the SVGAT held its third annual Toronto Harbour Boat Cruise on Friday, August 11 aboard the Enterprise 2000. This was a financially successful event and it was decided that part of the proceeds will be donated to the School For Children With Special Needs in Kingstown. The presentation of the donation will take place during November when representatives of the organizations visit SVG.

Next year's boat cruise is scheduled to be held on Friday, August 10.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Annual Children's Christmas Party for children of members of the SVG Community will be held on Sunday, December 17. A venue is yet to be decided and the information will be sent out later.

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, 1080 Finch Avenue East @ Leslie. There will be election for those directors whose terms have ended and the naming of new committees. Please consider volunteering to be either on the Board of Directors or on one of the supporting committees.

SVG TORONTO CONSULATE OFFICE

Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
55 Town Centre Drive, Suite 403
Toronto, Ontario, M3H 1T2

Mr. Fitzgerald Huggins
Consul General

Tel: (416) 398-4277 Fax (416) 398-4199
Email: consulategeneral@rogers.com

INTERESTED IN AN AFTERNOON BOAT CRUISE? LET US KNOW

Some members of our community have expressed interest in having the SVG Community organize a Toronto Harbour Boat Cruise in the early afternoon to accommodate those persons who prefer not to go out at night. If you are interested in being on this cruise, please contact any member of the Board of Directors.

President - Gideon L. Exeter – Tel: 416-992-4253
Secretary - Sandra Bobb – Tel: 613-864-4175
Assistant Secretary - Prudence Morton – Tel: 905-787-1009
Treasurer - Dennis Buccan – Tel: 905-477-6628
Board Member - Kenneth Farrell – Tel: 416-822-3601
Board Member - Erline Granderson – Tel: 416-788-5163
Board Member - Zakiya Hutchinson – Tel: 647-780-7506
Board Member - Winston Woodley – Tel: 416-824-7126
Board Member - Daffodil Davis – Tel: 647-704-8625

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ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2017

Sunday, October 22	Thanksgiving Church Service	Wesley Chapel Free Methodist Church, 2385 Warden Ave
Saturday, October 28	Independence Banquet	Woodbine Banquet & Convention Centre
Sunday, November 26	Monthly General Meeting	St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, 1080 Finch Avenue East
Sunday, December 17	Children's Christmas Party	Venue to be determined
December 20 – 23	Christmas Hamper Outreach	Distribution of Hampers to the Less Fortunate

Addresses & Directions:

St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, 1080 Finch Avenue East @ Leslie Street, Toronto
Woodbine Banquet & Convention Centre, 30 Vice Regent Road, Etobicoke (Highway 27 & Rexdale)
Wesley Chapel Free Methodist Church, 2385 Warden Avenue, Scarborough, (Warden & Huntingwood)

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY TO ALL NATIONALS OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

IMMIGRATION MATTERS

THE REALITY ABOUT IMMIGRATION

Contributed by: Sandra Sutherland, RCIC

The stark reality about Canadian immigration is that the applicant either meets the eligibility criteria for the program he/she is applying for or not; an application can either be accepted, rejected or refused; and/or the case appeals to immigration officials' assessment and/or discretionary judgment or not. The discretionary judgment could be quite unpredictable and may weigh in the applicants' favour or not. Regardless of the type, nature, circumstances, completeness, or documentary evidence contained in an application package, once the case completes processing, the decision (approved or refused) needs to be communicated to the applicant and he/she has to deal with the decision. Obviously approvals are the easiest cases to accept. The issue lies with refusals. Most people have a difficult time dealing with rejection or news that is not to their liking.

The usual first step for immigration applicants is the consultation. Authorized immigration representatives are required to be forthright and competent in their areas of practice. Being forthright may entail telling a client or prospective client something they may not be pleased about hearing; however, the truth must be told. As an authorized immigration representative I pride myself in being straightforward rather than telling clients what they would like to hear. They tell me about the reality of their case and I tell them about the realities about immigration - the policies, the procedures, the processes, the officers, etc. Sometimes the realities about immigration may be positive and thus easy to communicate and accept and other times it may not be positive and thus not easily accepted. Whichever way it is it must be communicated and dealt with. During consultations, when it comes to unpleasant news, I do my best to soften the blow by providing suggestions as to what may be done in preparation to meet eligibility criteria or to make a case stronger.

The reality about immigration is that the decision makers at the visa offices are not perfect and thus subject to making errors, ill judgment, and critique. The reality about immigration is that an application may have all the makings for success but may be refused or it may have the makings of a weak case but may be approved. Each case is assessed on its own unique merits and viewed under microscopic lens with an "if/then" and "what if" approach in preparation for submission to the appropriate government division. The reality about immigration is that authorized representatives and applicants must be cognizant of

these if/then or what if scenarios and work cases to the best of their abilities. The reality about immigration is that a case should be viewed from the decision maker's perspective and not necessarily from the subjective perspective and hopes of the client.

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The reality about immigration is that immigration representatives and clients have to comply with the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA)* and the *Immigration, Refugee Protection Regulations (IRPR)*, and the *Citizenship Act*. We also have to adhere to the varying rules and procedures of the many divisions and departments (i.e.: Refugee Protection Division (RPD), Refugee Appeal Division (RAD), Immigration Appeal Division (IAD), Immigration Division (ID), Canada Border Service Agency (CBSA), etc.),

Another reality about immigration is that, from time to time pilot projects are launched, new Bills are passed, and internal policies and procedures change, etc. For example, applications to sponsor parents and grandparents used to be accepted on a first come/first serve basis starting on the first business day of the year with a maximum cap on the quantity of applications that shall be processed. This was abruptly changed this January 2017. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) switched to a "lottery" type system whereby applicants had to submit an online submission form expressing their interest in sponsoring their parent or grandparent and hope that they get picked to

actually apply. Keeping abreast of and garnering an understanding of these new initiatives and changes plus understanding new Bills is vital to us representatives so that we may present alternate options to clients or prospective clients at the consultation, application and post application stage and better serve them. This is why hiring someone who specializes in immigration and is competent and forthright is important.

I treat clients and potential clients the way I would like to be treated. The stark reality about immigration is that not everyone may meet the stringent eligibility criteria to obtain the immigration status that they hope for.

With advanced planning and preparation, plus the guidance of a competent and forthright authorized immigration representative, applicants can maximize their chances of meeting eligibility criteria and their chances of having their case approved.

Sandra Sutherland is a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC) and Immigration Counsel. She is licensed with the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC). She can be reached at (416) 431-2829 or via e-mail at ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com.

NEWS FROM SVG

(Courtesy of The Vincentian Newspaper)

SVG-Taiwan: Celebrating friendship



Raising a toast, across political boundaries, to mark the 106th anniversary of Taiwan's National Day.

The Republic of China on Taiwan has progressed tremendously Over the years, and has now become a power and force to be reckoned with, not just only in

Asia, but the world.

Taiwan's Ambassador to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, H.E. Baushaun Ger, highlighted some of his country's developments – its economic growth, advances in health care and education, low unemployment rate, and housing reform for most of the disadvantaged people.

H.E Ger further explained that in the first year (2016 – 2017) since President Tsai Ing-Wen took office, she has implemented a number of reforms, including pension and social housing reform.

Today, Taiwan ranks 11th on the index for economic freedom, and the World Competitiveness Yearbook

ranked Taiwan 14th in the world, 3rd in Asia. And it ranks at the top for press freedom in all of Asia. "But that progress today has not come easy with all the challenges," H.E. Ger said.

"Both countries have always worked close together," he said. The government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines was commended for its continued effort to fight for the right for Taiwan to participate in the United Nations. The cause was raised recently at the UN General Assembly when Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sir Louis Straker spoke on Taiwan's behalf. It was also disclosed that the Taiwan government had increased its contribution to some projects in St Vincent, including its contribution to the YES and School Bursary programmes.

"So, we are here celebrating a country that has done well, but has extended a hand, and has given us immeasurable assistance. We are here to underscore and renew our commitment to the people of Taiwan," he said. (DD)

Opportunity opening for SVG's bananas



The statement that St. Lucia is expected to export some 20,000 tonnes of bananas to the UK this year, is false

Saboto Caesar, Minister of Agriculture (inset) is and misleading. The statement is false and misleading. The statement that St. Lucia is expected to export some 20,000 tonnes of bananas to the UK this year, is false. This is according to the Minister of Agriculture, Saboto Caesar, in part response to a question posed in Parliament by Representative for East Kingstown, Arnhim Eustace, regarding the expected date for this country's recommencement of the exportation of bananas.

"The question is premised on an expectation espoused by the government of St Lucia that the export will reach 20,000 tonnes by the end of the year," Caesar told the Parliament.

He cited the real St. Lucia export figure as at week 40 as 6,060.59 tonnes, adding that information received from the procurement officer for WINFRESH indicated that the expected figure by the end of the year was expected to be 9,000 tonnes.

As far as the local situation was concerned, Caesar explained that although the Black Sigatoka issue was under control, the GlobalGAP compliance was yet to be completed. GlobalGAP is the world's leading farm assurance programme and is intended for fresh products, to ensure produce traceability and compliance with intellectual property laws. This process is expected to be completed by November, and until then, this country will not be able to export bananas to the UK.

WINFRESH, however, expressed an interest in selling bananas from St Vincent to the UK, Caesar said, and the ministry was currently working with two potential exporters in that respect. And while there was nothing preventing persons in the private sector from selling their bananas on the regional market, WINFRESH has also started discussions so to do, the Minister disclosed.

With Dominica out of production, following that country's devastation by Hurricane Maria, there was an opening for bananas in the regional market, especially in the US, British Virgin Islands and the Leeward Islands.

WINFRESH was already pursuing this and openings in St. Kitts/Nevis and Antigua. (DD)

Avoid disappointments: Ship Christmas Barrels Now (Courtesy of The Vincentian Newspaper)



Ken Chitolie, President of KLC Shipping in Canada

It's that time of year again when families and friends overseas are shopping for holiday gifts to be carefully packed in barrels and boxes and shipped to St. Vincent, timed to arrive before Christmas.

Shipping agencies take care of the many details and logistics of arranging everything from delivery of personal shipments to a local warehouse, trucking to the closest sea port, loading on an ocean-going freighter to off-loading in Kingstown. In addition, due to an increase in drug trafficking and terrorist activities, shipping companies are experiencing heightened security at all ports, and there is an increasing necessity for additional export and import

paperwork such as customs declarations, duty and tax collections, all involved in the clearing of shipments through a local broker.

For over 30 years, Canada's KLC Shipping has been providing weekly freight service for shipments from Toronto, Ottawa and Montréal to St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Barbados. Today, KLC offers specialized weekly service to St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad, and Barbados, as well as Full Container Load shipments to the rest of the Caribbean and Latin America, in addition to consolidating commercial freight shipments anywhere in the world.

Through the years, KLC has been a familiar face in the St. Vincent and St. Lucia communities, frequently reaching beyond the call of duty to assist other communities in need. During an interview with the Vincentian, KLC president Ken Chitolie shared that KLC had not only made a significant financial contribution to the Dominica relief committee, but had worked with them in a consulting capacity, arranging shipping services to that hurricane ravaged island.

According to Ken Chitolie and customs broker Wayne Chrichton, President of Arabesque Inc. in Kingstown, the volume of barrel shipping this year is predicted to increase substantially. Considering the thousands of barrels that are shipped, most barrels arrive on time, in perfect condition, however, each year, a number of families face frustration and disappointment over not receiving their barrels until into the New Year.

On behalf of KLC and his fellow shippers throughout the Diaspora, Ken offers the following advice to everyone planning to ship barrels and packages to family and friends in time for Christmas: Ship early: (The very last shipment, barring any interference by Mother Nature, such as late season hurricanes or other storms at sea, will leave Toronto on or before December 1st, arriving in St. Vincent for clearance and delivery on December 17th). Document all goods being shipped and do not risk sending any prohibited or falsely described goods; Pack all items carefully, especially anything that may be fragile. If you do not use a barrel, be sure other containers are solid and secure. It is not unusual for a poorly wrapped cardboard box to break open, scattering items on the warehouse floor. Please pass this information along to your families overseas.

KLC freight attempts to avoid increasing shipping rates and have tied any rate increases to the fluctuation in the value of the Canadian dollar. For people sending shipments from Canada, please call the KLC office in Toronto for up to date shipping rates.

St. Vincent Building and Loan Association

SAVINGS & DEPOSITS	SERVICES OFFERED	LOAN PRODUCTS
Regular Savings Account – No Monthly Fees Fixed Deposits Super Saver Accounts – Rate: 3.25% Per Annum	The Management & Staff of St. Vincent Building & Loan Association Congratulates the People of our Nation on 38 Years of Independence FORGING AHEAD AFTER 75 YEARS OF GROWTH	Consumer Loans Mortgage Loans Vehicle Loans Commercial Loans Education Loans

INVEST IN PERMANENT SHARES

108 Halifax Street, P.O. Box 252, Kingstown, St. Vincent & The Grenadines
 Tel: 784-457-1796; Fax: 784-457-1565
 Majiclaic: (821) 220-1891 (Canada); (929) 800-2188 (USA)

Totally Yours!

Of the 29 students, 16 have been awarded National Scholarships. Of the 16 National Scholarships winners, three will receive the Prime Minister's Award. In addition to the five-year scholarships, three of the students will each also receive a \$10,000.00 cash award. Seven other students have been awarded exhibitions and will each receive three (3) years full funding for their studies.

The other 6 students will receive bursaries which entitle them to receive \$20,000.00 each year for a three-year period. The awardees will be recognized on October 25 during the annual Schools' Independence Rally at Victoria Park, Kingstown.

Bequia Social Organization
Toronto

ANNUAL MAY LONG WEEKEND BUS TRIP
THIS YEAR GOING TO ...
MICHIGAN
SATURDAY MAY 19TH - 21ST 2018

Enjoy a weekend of laughter and fun with friends and family while, relaxing, browsing or shopping till you drop!!!

Price Includes ... Bus, Hotel (4 ppl per room; other arrangements can be discussed) Hot Breakfast every morning!!

Pick Up Locations & Departure Times
 6:15 am Park way Plaza - Victoria Park & Ellesmere (In front of LCBO)
 6:45 am Jane & Finch Mall - (In front of Mc Donalds)
 7:15 am Square One - (In front of Tim Hortons)
 *** Please be on time, the sooner we are loaded the sooner we can leave***

WE WILL BE SHOPPING AT THE FOLLOWING OUTLETS PLUS MORE!!!

OUTLETS BIRCH RUN PREMIUM OUTLETS Tanger Outlets

To reserve your seat and for any inquiries, please contact any executive member or the organization via:
 Email: bequiasocialorganization@yahoo.com Call or text: (647) 495-0157 Facebook: Bequia Social Organization of Toronto

NO SVGAT BURSARIES FOR 2017/2018 ACADEMIC YEAR

Since its inception in 2005 this is the first year that no bursaries will be handed out in the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association's Scholarship Program. None of the two available \$1,000.00 bursaries which were made available will be awarded as there were no applications lodged with the Secretary of the Association by the cut off date of August 31, 2017. Information about the program is posted on the website all year round so interested persons had enough notice to apply.

GOSPEL CONCERT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, KINGSTOWN

A local group of SVG Nationals is organizing a concert to raise funds to assist with the restoration work being done on St. George's Cathedral in Kingstown, St. Vincent. The concert will be held at St. Dunstan's Anglican Church, 56 Lawson Road, Scarborough on **Sunday, November 5 from 4:00 p.m.**

A number of artistes of SVG descent, including Julian McIntosh will perform. Tickets are available at Hairoun Bakery – 416-754-3854 or at the SVG Tourism Office – 416-630-9292.

Twenty-Nine Students To Receive National Awards for Academic Excellence

A total of twenty-nine students from secondary schools in St. Vincent and the Grenadines have received National Awards for the academic year 2017/2018. The Ministry of Education, National Reconciliation and Ecclesiastical Affairs, in a recent release said that the students are those who are deemed to have the best claims to the awards based on their performance in the May/June 2017 Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE) of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC).

ST.VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES SUNWING FALL/WINTER/SPRING CHARTERS

+1 - Arrival day after departure

A white Sunwing Airlines aircraft with an orange tail and blue accents is shown in flight against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The aircraft is angled upwards and to the right. The Sunwing logo is visible on the tail and the front fuselage.

Bookings available through G.G. Tours - Tel. 416-487-1146 or travel agents in Canada and SVG

THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY IN 2018. PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR EVENTS TO MARK THIS MILESTONE.