



#### **Change of Mailing Address**

The Association has a new mailing address with a new location at Fairview Mall in north Toronto which makes it much easier to retrieve mails away from the downtown location. The new address is *P. O. Box 80066 – Don Valley Village P. O., Toronto, ON, M2J 0A1*.

#### 2018 Vincy Unity Picnic - Our Sincere Thanks

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. on behalf of the SVG Unity Picnic Committee, the organizers of the annual event at Brown's Bay Provincial Park, 1000 Islands herewith express sincere thanks to all those individual and companies that supported this year's event. The typical summer weather allowed those who attended to have an enjoyable time.

## 2018 Children's Christmas Party Register Now

The annual SVGAT's Children's Christmas Party will take place on Saturday, December 15, 2018 between 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court (off Sheppard between Keele & Jane Strs.) Toronto. Members and friends of the Association are asked to register their children who are under 12 years of age.

To register, please contact Cheyenne @ 647-989-4235; Yvette - 647-391-1285; Erline @ 416-788-5163 before December 1, 2018.

#### **SVGAT Celebrates 50 Years in 2018**

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto will this year celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of existence and service to the SVG community in Toronto. The Association was established on December 1, 1968 at a meeting of nationals of St. Vincent residing in Toronto.

An organizing committee headed by Malcolm Garraway is in place to coordinate a series of events to mark the occasion and is looking for suggestions on how best to celebrate the occasion. Please make your suggestions as to how you feel the Association should commemorate the occasion.

#### Participation in 2018 Peeks Toronto Carnival

The Association joined with other CCAC member associations to form a Guest Band in this year's Toronto Caribbean Carnival. The group representing SVGAT is pictured below.



#### SVGAT's Annual Walk-A-Thon & Local Picnic

Although this year's annual walk-a-thon and local picnic which was scheduled for June 24 was rained out, the Association was however able to raise just over \$800.00 to provide funding to the scholarship program. Thanks to those who contributed to the effort. Thanks to coordinator Petra Ryan-Phillips.

#### **Christmas Hamper Project**

The Association continues its tradition of reaching out to the less fortunate by providing a Christmas Hamper to members of our community. Please make a financial contribution to assist with the purchasing of goods for the hamper and/or provide the name of a deserving individual by calling Petra @ 416-840-7346, Erline @ 416-788-5163 or Gideon @ 416-992-4253.

### **Board of Directors and officers**

The Board of Directors and officers of the SVGAT: President & Director: Gideon L. Exeter (416-992-4253) Secretary & Director: Prudence Morton (647-529-3774 Dennis Bucchan: Treasurer & Director (905-477-6628) Director: Erline Granderson (416-788-5163) Director: Winston Woodley (416-824-7126) Director: Daffodil Davis (647-704-8625) Director: Petra Ryan Phillips (416-840-7346) Director: Jim Lewis (416-459-2462)

### ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



Celebrates its 39th year of Independence in 2018.

Please join the SVGAT for the following events:

Oct. 21, 2018 – **Thanksgiving Church Service**, Wesley Chapel Free Methodist Church, 2385 Warden Avenue @ Huntingwood starting at 4:00 p.m.

Oct. 26, 2018 – **Flag Raising Ceremony**, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, Toronto starting at 11:00 a.m.

Oct. 27, 2018 – **Independence Gala**, Estate Banquet & Convention Centre, 430 Nugget Avenue @ Markham Road north of Sheppard Ave. Guest Speaker: **Hon. Justice Adrian Saunders**, President, Caribbean Court of Justice

#### SVGAT'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Two (2) bursaries of \$1,000.00 each will be awarded to students of SVG descent and living in Ontario at this year's Independence Gala on October 27. The bursaries are part of the Association's goal of assisting and encouraging our youngsters in their pursuit of a higher level of education.

#### 2018 Toronto Harbour Boat Cruise

The organizers of this year's Toronto Harbour Boat Cruise, the SVGAT and the Toronto SVG Support Group hereby express thanks to the general public for what turned out to be an overwhelming successful event with over 425 persons attending. Lovely summer weather, good food and music were enjoyed by all. Part proceeds from the event have been used to purchase medical supplies for clinics and hospitals in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

### Milisizwe Brothers Concert

Special pricing for tickets is available for this concert being held at the Lyric Theatre, Toronto on Friday, November 16. Please contact Gideon – 416-992-4253; Silbert – 416-553-1171; Terry – 905-428-7726; Hayden – 416-889-3293 for your discount code to get the special price of \$50.00 from Ticket Master for any seat in the Theatre.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

The next Annual General Meeting of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2019 from 4:00 p.m. at St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, 1080 Finch Avenue East (Leslie & Finch), Toronto.

The meeting will review the activities and operations of the Association for the previous year and elect a number of directors to form the Board of Directors.

Nine directors are elected to serve either 1, 2 or 3 year terms. At this next meeting, there will be election for 3 directors for a one-year term and 1 for a 2-year term.

#### HELP A LESS FORTUNATE PERSON THIS CHRISTMAS

Make a donation to the Association to assist a needy person or family this Christmas Season through the Christmas Hamper Project. Call Petra @ 416-840-7346, Erline @ 416-788-5163 or Gideon @ 416-992-4253.

(Continued from last Issue)

Address by RENÉ M. BAPTISTE CMG on 11th March, 2018 (See the April and July issues for earlier portions)

These are The Colossus – The Building Pillars of the Twentieth Century – St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Persons will differ in their views but these are the views canvassed and rendered elsewhere and collected over time. The job of the National Heroes Advisory Committee was to collect the Submissions and make recommendations.

The Evolution of Modern St. Vincent and the Grenadines followed footpaths. Slavery was only abolished in 1834, and it was just under 100 years afterwards GEORGE AUGUSTUS MC INTOSH emerged as

a LEADER of the people in the midst of Colonial St. Vincent. Because, the agitation started back in the 1920's; and the First Mass Organisation by and for the Ordinary people was registered in 1926. The RIOTS occurred in 1935. Adult Suffrage came in 1951. The Town Board was the Centre of People's Power. The Legislative Council was the home of the Moneyed Class to control the coffers of the Nation.

Bookmark 1935 – This was the time of the Push Back at the Colonial Legislature to give the people the Representation they yearned for so earnestly – to be part of the process of governance. George McIntosh was not purely a 'party' political figure. He was 'The Voice of the people! He was also into his Music and with his brothers and their children left a great Legacy for us. Syl McIntosh and



Frankie McIntosh – living testimonies of that Legacy. In the 1940s and the 1950s every Cultural Event took place at the "Association Hall" – the meeting peace of the Workingmen's Association.

So, these 4 Names dominated the submissions and the chatter. I must let you know that the Criteria for the conferment of the Status of National Hero -3 things are required: -

1. Must be born in St. Vincent, or a citizen at the date of death; and

- 2. Must be dead; and
- 3. Must meet 1 or 2 or 3 thresholds

1. Impact – to positively alter the course of the history of SVG – giving outstanding service;

2. Visionary & Pioneering Leadership led to extraordinary achievements – redound to the honour of SVG;

3. Heroic exploits & Sacrifice – led to changes economic, social & political conditions of SVG.

It is clear how in my view George Augustus McIntosh fitted into the criteria.

Next Ebenezer Theodore Joshua – Teacher and Trade Unionists & First Chief Minister – rallied the people around working conditions. Joshua is today responsible for The Wages Council Legislation under which the Minimum Wage is fixed was done in his time, under his watch. Brought Trade Unionism to the forefront and did do at least one Housing Scheme for the working-class people.

Next Robert Milton Cato – First Premier and First Prime Minister, was a member of The Canadian Army; and a great friend of William Bill Davis, a Premier of Ontario. Opened the door to Humber College. Built the Ontario – Troumaca Secondary School. Opened the Diamond Dairy. Opened the Campden Park Industrial Estate. Campden Park Housing Scheme. Built other Secondary Schools. Extended the General Hospital. Founded the National Provident Fund – now the NIS. Founded the National Commercial Bank. Nationalised the Wharf & Port which was in private hands. Under his watch that the First Foreign Medical School was established.

> Then there was a quiet revolution happening alongside this, streaming along in Education and Evangelism led by Dr. JOHN PAR-MENAS EUSTACE who started private Secondary Education when he was 21 years old. He started the Intermediate High School, and the Emmanuel High School Kingstown in 1952; and the Emmanuel High School in Mesopotamia 1963 and they were

growing.

Dr. Eustace was an Eye-Specialist and a Christian man. He loved languages and was proficient in French, Spanish and Latin. He was a keen Sportsman – introduced Volleyball in St. Vincent. Body Building & Weight-Lifting. Tennis; whilst he built Gospel Hall in Kingstown, Mesopotamia and Sandy Bay; and the Family Enterprise in Mayreau.

History demands that we record the works of these extraordinary persons who gave us outstanding service; who provided visionary leadership and by their heroic exploits and sacrifice, their achievements impacted the social, economic and political conditions of SVG.

Several other names where mentioned, and some were not even born in SVG, or some had not died yet; others gave worthwhile community-based service; or gave service outside of SVG which was admirable but did not impact on or in St. Vincent.

This Dialogue had led to vociferous call for a system of National Honours and Awards. I can safely say that our Committee has recognized this as well, and that recommendations have been made to reflect this desire.

We even thought of some Categories:

Sports. Culture. Business

Community Activism. Education. Health & Medicine Law. Armed Forces. Media. Religion. Politics. Public Service. This Exercise has also caused one to examine Systems in the Commonwealth. The Caribbean. U.S.A; Canada. Asia. I think we are ready for this. I think we are ready to move forward. This is the Twenty-First Century and we must make our own History.

I thank you. René Baptiste 11th March, 2018, Toronto, CANADA.





#### SVG TORONTO CONSULATE OFFICE

Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines 55 Town Centre Court, Suite 403 Toronto, Ontario, M1P 4X4

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#### ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2018

Sunday, October 21 Friday, October 26 Saturday, October 27 Sunday, October 28 Sunday, November 26 Saturday, December 15 Sunday, January 27 Independence Thanksgiving ServiceFlag Raising CeremonyIndependence Dinner & DanceTown Hall MeetingMonthly General MeetingChildren's Christmas PartyAnnual General Meeting

Wesley Chapel Free Methodist Church, 2385 Warden Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, Toronto Estate Banquet Centre, 430 Nugget Ave, Scarborough St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, 1080 Finch Avenue East St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, 1080 Finch Avenue East Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, 1080 Finch Avenue East

#### **Addresses & Directions:**

St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, 1080 Finch Avenue East @ Leslie Street, Toronto Wesley Chapel Free Methodist Church, 2385 Warden Avenue @ Huntingwood Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, (Sheppard & Arleta) between Keele & Jane

# IMMIGRATION MATTERS

### END OF YEAR RACES FOR APPLICANTS AND SPONSORS Contributed by: Sandra Sutherland, RCIC

#### Vincentian Nationals to Provide Biometrics

Starting December 31, 2018 Vincentian nationals and predominantly all other foreign nationals applying for a temporary resident visa (i.e.: visitor visa, study permit, work permit) or a permanent resident visa to come to Canada will need to provide biometrics at a visa application centre (VAC). Providing biometrics means providing one's biographic (identification) data, electronic fingerprints, and a digital photograph. At present the closest VACs to St. Vincent and the Grenadines and other Caribbean islands are in Jamaica (Kingston & Montego Bay), Trinidad (Port of Spain), and Guyana (Georgetown). In addition to the costs of travelling to the VAC and the usual application processing fee, applicants must pay a non-refundable biometric service fee of Cdn\$85.00 per person or Cdn\$170 per family. So, a Caribbean national living outside one of these countries would be incurring travel expenses in order to get to a VAC to provide his/her biometrics. To avoid the additional costs and service fee many applicants are already racing to submit their temporary or permanent resident visa application before December 30, 2018.

The good news is that biometrics is valid for 10 years. Once a person gave biometrics when s/he applied for a temporary resident visa s/he need not give biometrics again within that 10-year period unless s/he is applying for permanent resident status.

There are very few scenarios where certain foreign nationals would be exempted from giving biometrics. Applicants younger than 14 years or older than 79 years, U.S. nationals who are applying for a work or study permit, U.S. green card holders who are applying for a visitor visa, visa-exempt foreign nationals seeking to enter or remain in Canada as a visitor, and in-Canada applicants whose applications will be processed in Canada are the more common applicants who, at present, are exempt from giving biometrics. Designated Officers would have the discretion to exempt applicants from providing one or two pieces of biometric information (fingerprints and photo) if the collection is deemed not possible or not feasible.

Parents and Grandparents (PGP) Sponsorship Starting on or about January 2, 2019 the Government of Canada is expected to open the parent and grandparent sponsorship program. Unlike the "lottery" system of a randomized selection process in 2018, the government, in 2019, will invite eligible potential sponsors to complete and submit an online Interest to Sponsor form which will be accepted on a first come first served basis. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will then invite eligible potential sponsors to submit an application to sponsor their parents or grandparent to live permanently in Canada. The government plans to accept up to 20,000 complete sponsorship applications in 2019 so sponsors risk being left out if their applications are not complete and/or not received before the 20,000 cap is reached.



For the applicant parents or grandparents this is like an amazing race for Canada with their sponsor(s) being the runners. More specifics about this PGP sponsorship program are expected to be announced by November but, in the interim, potential sponsors who want in on this race should find out if they are likely to meet the eligibility criteria before they consider applying on or about January 2, 2019.

Sandra Sutherland is an authorized immigration representative and counsel. She is licensed with the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC) as a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC). She can be reached at (416) 431-2829 or via e-mail at <u>ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com</u>. View her advertisement in this publication for more information.

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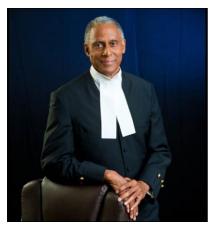
#### (Courtesy of I-Witness News, ANN & News 784) SVGCC launches BScN programme (ANN)

A significant red-carpet day may have gone unnoticed by most Vincentians, but for those involved in the Health profession, in particular in Nursing, September 3, 2018, marked an amazing milestone. On that day, 34 students embarked on the journey of a lifetime as the first full-time students in the Bachelors in Nursing programme offered by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College. This programme is franchised from the University of the West Indies School of Nursing at the Mona campus, Jamaica.

The Bachelors Programme replaces the Associate Degree in Nursing and is of 4 years in duration rather than the 3 years in the Associate Degree programme. On successful completion of the Bachelor's programme, the student nurses will write the Regional Examination for Nurse Registration (RENR), in order to be licensed to practice as nurses.

This transition to the Bachelors Programme brings Nursing education in St. Vincent and the Grenadines more in line with global standards for nursing practice and is also in keeping with the policy decision made by the Regional Nursing body and approved by CARICOM Ministers of Health back in 2006.

#### CCJ President Justice Adrian Saunders is Guest Speaker at SVGAT Gala



Hon. Justice Adrian D. Saunders will be the featured speaker at the 39th Independence Anniversary Gala organized by the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association Toronto of on October 27 at the Estate Banquet &

Event Centre, 430 Nugget Avenue, Scarborough.

Justice Saunders, a native of St. Vincent and the Grenadines was recently elected as the President of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), based in Trinidad. He was named a member of the CCJ in 2005 when the Court was inaugurated and became its third president earlier in July 2018, having been elected earlier in February.

The CCJ is the Caribbean regional judicial tribunal established on 14 February 2001, by the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice. The agreement was signed on that date by the CARICOM states of: Antigua & Barbuda; Barbados; Belize; Grenada; Guyana; Jamaica; Saint Kitts & Nevis; Saint Lucia; Suriname; and Trinidad & Tobago. Two further states, Dominica and St. Vincent & the Grenadines, signed the agreement on 15 February 2003, bringing the total number of signatories to 12. The Bahamas and Haiti, though full members of the CARICOM, are not vet signatories, and because of Montserrat's status as a British territory, they must await Instruments of Entrustment from the UK in order to ratify. The Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice came into force on 23 July 2003, and the CCJ was inaugurated on 16 April 2005 in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, the Seat of the Court.

Uniquely among integrative courts, the CCJ is funded through an independent Caribbean Court of Justice Trust Fund. The Trust Fund was developed to ensure the financial independence of the Court from political interference. It was established with US \$100 million from initial contributions of the member states by way of loans from the Caribbean Development Bank. The income from the Fund is expected to finance the expenditures of the Court (remuneration of judges and other employees, operation of the court) in perpetuity.

This keeps the CCJ from depending on the largesse of governments and keeps it free from their administrative control. The CCJ Trust Fund is administered by a Board of Trustees drawn from various regional bodies including the following persons or their nominees: the secretary-general of the Caribbean Community; the vicechancellor of the University of the West Indies; the president of the Insurance Association of the Caribbean; the chairman of the Association of Indigenous Banks of the Caribbean; the president of the Caribbean Institute of Chartered Accountants: the president of the Organisation of Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Associations; the chairman of the Conference of Heads of the Judiciary of Member States of the Caribbean Community; the president of the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce; and the president of the Caribbean Congress of Labour.

For additional information on the CCJ, please visit www.caribbeancourtofjustice.org. (Source:CCJ Webssite)

# Caribbean gets revised coconut water standards

(I-Witness News)

The coconut water that you buy from your local vendor



should be from nuts that did not touch the ground before reaching you. Further, the nut

should have been washed and sanitized to ensure that no unwanted natural or other micro-organisms enter your body, thereby making you sick.

That is according to revised standards for the Caribbean coconut water industry. The new standard codifies good practices for harvesting coconut water, including how the nut is to be picked, handled, transported, washed, and sanitized. It also speaks to how the actual coconut water is harvested and stored.

The standards were revised after the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) found unacceptable levels of coliform in coconut water that was being commercially marketed. They were devised in collaboration with the International Trade Centre and the EU-ACP Secretariat.

"You know and I know that we see occasionally in the press, foreign press ... where there is an outbreak of some food-borne disease... You know nothing scares people more than they get a stomach bug and they have to spend a lot of time in the bathroom. We don't want that to happen in coconuts. So, we need to institute a system that obviates that issue," said Barton Clarke, CARDI's executive director.

"Those results were somewhat discouraging and, therefore, we said, 'look, let us fix this problem'," Clarke told reporters on the sidelines of Caribbean Week of Agriculture, taking place here Oct. 8 to 12, under the theme "Strengthening Agriculture for a Healthier Caribbean".

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

He said CARDI, a CARICOM agency, engaged the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ), which determined that it would adjust the regional standard for coconut water.

The standards speak to acceptable levels of heavy metals, coliforms, how coconuts should be collected and processed to ensure the delivery of a healthy product.

"This is very much a part of making coconut water and other coconut products part of everyday life because we have to ensure that we do nothing to destroy the confidence of the consumer, relative to consuming these products," Clarke said, adding that the standards go beyond coconut water to include the oil and pharmaceuticals.

"Part of our endeavour has to be to do the necessary research, engaging the food scientist, engaging the pharmacology expert to arrive at the correct and appropriate dosages for using coconut products so that we can again not compromise the health and wellbeing of persons", André Gordon, a scientist, is managing director of Technological Solutions Limited, the consulting firm that led the revision of the standards.

Mr. Gordon noted that there is no evidence throughout the region of coconut water ever being implicated in illness from any of the major microorganisms.

#### BREAKING ASSOCIATION NEWS New Honorary Life Member

The Board of Directors of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. has voted to make Mr. Malcolm Garraway an Honorary Life Member of the Association. Mr. Garraway has served the Association in numerous portfolios including being president on three occasions.

Malcolm also served as president of the National Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Associations in Canada.

He will be recognized at the Independence Anniversary Gala on October 27.

#### The Adopt-A-Child Program

The Association and an individual who wishes to remain anonymous have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) whereby the individual has agreed to sponsor a child in Bequia for up to 5 years while he attends primary school.

Our thanks to this caring individual.

### Saint Vincent and the Grenadines – Interesting and Important Facts

• There are over 32 islands and cays that make up St Vincent and the Grenadines; of these, nine are inhabited.

• St. Vincent and the Grenadines became officially independent on October 2, 1979 and adopted their constitution on the same day while choosing to follow a democratic form of government.

• There are more than 400 arches to be found in Kingstown – "The City of Arches" – which is the capital of St Vincent and the Grenadines.

• There are five Airports in St Vincent & The Grenadines – Argyle International Airport on St Vincent, J.F Mitchell on Bequia, as well as one each on Canouan, Union Island and Mustique.

• There is an active volcano on St Vincent (La Soufriere). The volcano rises to 4,048 feet. It is the largest of the 3 craters that are present at the summit of the volcano, the other 2, the Somma and the 1812 crater, both presently dormant.

• The oldest Botanic Gardens in the Western Hemisphere is located in St Vincent & The Grenadines, having been founded in 1765.

• Fort Charlotte is an historic fort with spectacular views overlooking Kingstown. It is located just to the west of Kingstown and perched at 600 feet overlooking the bay – a short drive from Kingstown.

• Some of the most fertile soil in the world can be found in the Mesopotamia Valley in St Vincent and the Grenadines. Often referred to as St Vincent's breadbasket, this broad, fertile valley is brimming with farmlands growing root crops, fruits, vegetables and spices.

• The seven Ports of Entry in the country are located in Wallilabou (yachts only), Kingstown, Bequia, Canouan, Mustique, Union Island and Chateaubelair.

• St Vincent and the Grenadines is the only Caribbean country in which petroglyphs, recording our ancestors' presence are found. These can be found in Yambou, Buccament, Layou and Barrouallie.

• The movies filmed in St. Vincent & the Grenadines are White Squall, Pirates of the Caribbean I, II and III.

• The airport destination code for St. Vincent & the Grenadines is 'SVD' (St. Vincent Diamond); because

the first airport in St. Vincent was located at Diamond, on the south east coast of St. Vincent.

• Two of the popular local drinks found in St. Vincent and the Grenadines are Hairoun beer and Sunset rum. Sunset rum is quite ludicrously potent rum from St. Vincent, Sunset Very Strong should never be taken neat, but heavily diluted with a mixer or as a float for cocktails.

• In 1793 Captain Bligh (of "Mutiny on the Bounty" fame) brought 630 breadfruit plants to St Vincent. The sucker from one of those plants can be found in the Botanic Gardens.

• There are at least 25 varieties of breadfruit in St. Vincent & the Grenadines such as Butterheart, Captain Bligh, Cocobread, Creole, Creole Black, Creole Common.

In 1813 the Byrea Hill Tunnel was cut through Mt. Young (1/4 mile from Georgetown) to facilitate communication with the north of the island.



• The King's Hill Reserve, established in 1791 is one of the oldest Forest Reserves in the Western Hemisphere. With an elevation of 600 feet, it provides a habitat for protected wildlife, and a home for more than 26 identified species of tropical trees and shrubs.





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