



INSIGHT

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

P. O. Box 80066 – Don Valley Village P. O., Toronto, ON, M2J 0A1 Email: svgat@vincytoronto.com

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED THROUGH COMMUNICATION

Quarterly Newsletter

FALL ISSUE

October 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,

As we transition from the vibrant summer into the cooler fall season, I'm grateful for all we've accomplished together. Our August Boat Cruise was a resounding success, bringing together over 350 guests for an unforgettable evening on the Enterprise 2000. Special thanks to our event sponsors, volunteers, and Board members who worked tirelessly to make this event enjoyable and financially rewarding, with a net profit of \$8,879.53. Thank you to Erline Granderson for her exceptional ticket sales and unwavering support.

In the spirit of community and solidarity, we rallied to support Hurricane Beryl Relief efforts, raising over \$1,000 through a food sale. The generosity of members who donated food and time made this possible, and once again, Erline Granderson deserves special recognition for spearheading this initiative.

Our Walkathon continues to inspire. We raised nearly \$2,000 for our Education Fund, which supports bursaries for students in Canada and the Adopt-A-Child programme in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Through these efforts, we uphold our commitment to education and the future of our youth.

We are excited about the upcoming Independence Celebrations to commemorate 45 years of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' independence. There are several events planned for everyone in the community to participate in. We begin the celebrations with a Thanksgiving Church Service and end the week of activities with the spectacular illumination of Niagara Falls in our national colours. There will be a flag raising at Toronto City Hall as well as in the city of Brampton. In addition, the city of Brampton's clock tower will also shine brightly during this festive week. The Independence Gala is a not to miss event. All

these events promise to unite our community in celebration and reflection.

I'm particularly thrilled to announce the return of the Children's Christmas Party this December after a four-year hiatus. This event has always brought joy to our community's youngest members, and we look forward to seeing their smiling faces again.

None of this would be possible without the continued support of our members, sponsors, and dedicated volunteers. Your generosity, time, and commitment make our organization thrive.

The board and members were saddened by the sudden resignation and subsequent retirement of Gideon Exeter from his roles as a board member of the SVGAT, PRO of the organisation, and President of the Council of Caribbean Associations Canada. His invaluable service and unwavering dedication have greatly contributed to the growth and success of these organisations. We extend our deepest gratitude to Mr. Exeter for his years of committed leadership and wish him the very best in his retirement. His contributions will be greatly missed, but his legacy will continue to inspire.

Thank you for all you do, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Warm regards,
Cordel Telfer, President

Corporation News

SVGAT 2024 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto is pleased to announce that it is offering three (3) bursaries in its scholarship program to students attending University, College,

or a Trade school in the 2024 - 2025 academic year in the amount of \$1,000.00.

The three bursaries are sponsored by KLC/Eastern Caribbean Freight Lines, Mr. Wilmoth Seaton in honour of his wife, the late Mrs. Sonia Seaton, and one sponsored by the Association. The successful applicants will receive their awards at the upcoming Independence Anniversary Gala on October 26.

For complete information, please visit www.vincytoronto.com where the application form can be downloaded.

Students of SVG descent are also eligible to apply for bursaries in the Council of Caribbean Associations-Canada (CCAC) scholarship program. Visit [Council of Caribbean Associations - Canada - Current Scholarship \(caribbeancouncilcanada.org\)](http://Council of Caribbean Associations - Canada - Current Scholarship (caribbeancouncilcanada.org))

HURRICANE BERYL RELIEF EFFORTS

Following the passage of Hurricane Beryl in July that wrecked havoc in the Grenadines, the SVGAT, SVG Support Group and CARI-ON SVG Disaster Preparedness have been mobilizing efforts to raise funds and collect essentials to assist with the recovery efforts. We are grateful to those who have in one way or the other supported the various efforts.

On Saturday, September 14, the SVGAT organized a food sale at St. Stephen's Anglican Church in West Toronto where supporters were able to purchase some Vincentian food specials. Thanks to all who donated items and attended the event.

There are continued efforts to collect supplies at KLC's warehouse, 50 Tiffield Road, Unit 15, Scarborough. Please call Denzil Miller at 416-672-0305 to arrange when you can deliver your items.

VACANCY ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As a result of the sudden resignation of Gideon Exeter, due to health reasons from the board of directors and PRO, the board is inviting interested persons to volunteer to join the board to assist in that capacity.

The president and remaining directors thank Mr. Exeter for his contribution to the Association over the many years in the several positions he has served. We wish him every good and encourage him to do his best to care for himself.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS **Current Board of Directors and Officers include:**

President: Cordel Telfer (647-717-9731)
Vice President: Francine Burke (647-772-3683)
Secretary: Cheyenne Samuel (647-989-4235)
Treasurer: Delcina Jardine-Reckley (647-464-3355)
P.R.O: Vacant
Director: Erline Granderson (416-788-5163)
Director: June Ellis (647-867-7930)

Committees to Assist the Board of Directors

In order to effectively provide the services of the Corporation a number of committees have been established and volunteers are required to serve. Please contact us to indicate which of the following committees you would like to volunteer on: *Fundraising, Independence Planning, SVG Unity Picnic, Scholarship, Adopt-A-Child, Unity Picnic Bus Coordinator, Public Relations, Walk-A-Thon, Christmas Hamper Project.*

SUMMER BOAT CRUISES

The board of directors herewith express sincere thanks to all those who supported the Fathers' Day boat cruise on June 16 as well as the Night Cruise on August 9. The Day Cruise being a new event was not very well attended but the Night Cruise was better attended that allowed us to realize a profit.

The Day Cruise was jointly held with CARI-ON and The SVG Support Group while the Night Cruise was held in conjunction with the Support Group.

CELEBRATING SVG'S INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto is scheduling the following activities to commemorate the 45th anniversary of St. Vincent and the Grenadines under the theme, 45 Years of Togetherness, Prosperity and Perseverance.

Thanksgiving Church Service - Sunday, October 19 @ 3:30 p.m. at Church of the Nazarene, 655 Milner Avenue (west of Morningside Avenue, Scarborough)

Flag Raising Ceremony – Friday, October 25 @ 12:00 noon at Toronto City Hall, Toronto


Flag Raising Ceremony – Saturday, October 26 @ 12:00 noon at Brampton City Centre, Brampton

Lighting of the Brampton Clock Tower - October 27.

Anniversary Gala – Saturday, October 26 @ 6:00 p.m. at Parkview Manor Banquet Hall, 55 Barber Greene Road (Don Mills & Eglinton), Toronto. Tickets are \$120.00 if purchased before October 5 or \$130.00 thereafter.

Lighting of Niagara Falls in SVG Flag Colours – Sunday, October 27 at 7:00 p.m. at Niagara Falls.

Paid transportation is being organized



The poster features the text "SVGAT ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY" in large, colorful letters. Below the text are illustrations of a yellow duck, a blue teddy bear, a red gift box with a tag that says "LOVE", a yellow pencil, and a red clock. At the bottom, it says "SAVE THE DATE Sat, Dec 14, 2024 3 pm - 6 pm" and includes the SVGAT logo.

Hey everyone, guess what? After a long 4-year wait, the SVGAT annual children's Christmas Party is finally making a comeback! Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 14th from 3 pm to 6 pm. We've got an amazing lineup of activities, games, and maybe even a talent show for kids aged 0 to 13. If you're feeling generous, you can donate new, unwrapped toys by reaching out to Cheyenne at secretary@vincytoronto.com. We're also welcoming donations of food items, sweets, and treats for the little ones. And hey, if you're up for some fun and want to volunteer, we'd love to have you on board! Save the date and get ready to register your kids. More details coming soon!

2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The following activities/events will be coordinated by the Board for the duration of its term:

- Sunday, October 27 – No Meeting. Trip to Niagara
- Sunday, Nov. 24 - Monthly Members Meeting
- Saturday, Dec. 14 – Children's Christmas Party
- December 21 to 23 Christmas Hamper Distribution
- Sunday, January 26 – Annual General Meeting

CCAC NEWS

The Council of Caribbean Associations-Canada (CCAC) is an umbrella group comprising of ten (10) active member associations in the Caribbean community in the GTA including: Alliance of Guyanese Canadian Organizations, Antigua & Barbuda Association of Toronto, Barbados Canada

Association, Commonwealth of Dominica Ontario Association, Grenada Association Toronto, Montserrat Association Toronto, Nevcan Cultural Association, St. Kitts & Nevis Association of Toronto, St. Lucia Association Toronto and the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto.

The CCAC administers a scholarship and bursary program where it provides scholarships and bursaries to students of Caribbean descent who are resident in Ontario and are attending universities, colleges or trade schools leading up to their first certificate, diploma or degree.

In 2024, the CCAC made available up to \$63,000.00 in scholarships and bursaries and had a record number of 43 applicants vying for full-tuition paid scholarships at Seneca Polytechnic and George Brown College each worth up to \$6,000.00 per year for up to 4 years depending on the duration of their study, as well as 5 bursaries of up to \$3,000.00 each paid over a three-year period.

The successful applicants will receive their prizes at a virtual event on Sunday, November 17, 2024.

Information is available on the organization's website, www.caribbeancouncilcanada.org.

On another note, the CCAC takes this opportunity to thank Mr. Gideon Exeter for his contribution to the organization from its inception up to his retirement as president of the organization due to health reasons. We wish him every good as he continues to take care of himself.

CORPORATION ADDRESS

The Head Office Address of the Corporation is:

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.
501 – 230 Westney Road South
Ajax, Ontario, L1S 7J5

SVG UNITY PICNIC 2024

The SVG Unity Picnic Committee is herewith expressing its gratitude to all who in one way or the other made this year's event successful and memorable. The event, customarily held on the third Saturday of July, was held on July 20 at Chrysler Park in Morrisburg, Ontario.

Although the change from Brown's Bay Provincial Park which is about 45 minutes longer for persons travelling from the Toronto area, a significant number of persons still made the journey to have fun and reunite with friends and families.

Special thanks to all attendees, volunteers, entrepreneurs and Air Canada for contributing to the success of this year's event.



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IMMIGRATION MATTERS

CHANGES TO TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PROGRAMS

Contributed: Sandra Sutherland, RCIC-IRB

There have been talks in the media claiming that the increased levels of international students placed a strain on the Canadian housing market and public resources. The results of a poll of 1,602 Canadians done in August 2024, revealed that 65% of Canadians believed that current immigration targets are too high. The 2025 and 2026 target set by the Government of Canada to bring in newcomers is

500,000. The belief is that high immigration levels contribute to our housing shortage, infrastructure and health care strains. These beliefs played a role in prompting the Government of Canada to make changes to the temporary residence programs.

On September 18, 2024, the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced that by 2026 the government of Canada will further decrease the number of temporary residents from 6.5% of the population to 5% by 2026. The key focus will be on restructuring the International Student Program by reducing the 2025 intake cap on study permits by 10% from the 2024 target of 485,000, tightening eligibility requirements for temporary foreign workers by limiting work permit eligibility, making labour market impact assessments more rigorous, enforcing employer compliance more strictly and addressing integrity issues in the in-Canada asylum (refugee) system by improving the claims and visa decision-making processes.

International students seeking to come to study in Canada will face a more stringent eligibility criterion. They would need to be cognizant of their field of study and how it aligns with labour market shortages. They should also be cognizant of their ability to obtain a Post-Graduate Work Permit (PGWP) as well as the ability of their spouse to obtain an open work permit.

Currently the length of a PGWP is dependent on the level and duration of the student's study program - subject to the expiry date of their passport. Graduates from an 8 month and up to 2-year program could obtain a PGWP that's valid for up to the same length of the study program while graduates of a master's degree program could get up to a 3-year PGWP. It is proposed that in November 2024, PGWP's of up to 3 years shall only be granted to eligible graduates from fields of study related to occupations in long-term shortage. PGWP applicants will also need to meet Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) of 5 for college graduates and CLB 7 for university graduates.

Later in 2024, it is expected that Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) shall implement tighter eligibility criteria for accompanying spouses of international students and foreign workers seeking to obtain a work permit. Only the

spouse of master's degree students in programs of 16 months or longer and, under the Temporary Foreign Workers Program (TFWP) and the International Mobility Program (IMP), the spouse of workers in management or professional occupations or in industries with labour shortages shall be eligible for a work permit. We shall also see restrictions to the eligibility criteria for open work permits for spouses of other foreign workers in certain specialized professions, health care fields, construction and certain other occupations where there is a labour market shortage.

The Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship declares that these measures ensure that temporary residents can be supported adequately and also ensure the management of the volume of temporary resident arrivals, uphold the integrity of our immigration system and protect vulnerable people.

Sandra Sutherland is a competent authorized immigration representative and counsel who can represent clients at all divisions of the Immigration and Refugee Board. She specializes strictly in immigration, citizenship and refugee matters and is licensed with the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants (CICC) as a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant and counsel at the IRB (RCIC-IRB). She can be reached at **(416) 431-2829** or via e-mail at ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com. View her advertisement under *Suthern Immigration & Paralegal Services Inc.* in this publication for more information.

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF OTTAWA

presents

Masquerade Gala in honour of the 45th Anniversary of the SVGAO and Independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in support of the Beryl Relief Efforts & Scholarship Funds

Saturday, November 2, 2024
Sala San Marco Event & Conference Centre, 215
Preston St., Ottawa, ON

Theme: "Celebrating US in the Canadian Sphere"

Honorary Patron: Mr. Fitzgerald Huggins,
Consul General for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Toronto

Ticket Information:

Limited: (Valid from September 9-30, 2024)

Advance: \$95.00 OR

Table of 10: \$90.00/person

General Admission: \$100.00 (From October 1 – 23, 2024)

Includes: Mask, Hors d'oeuvres, Buffet Dinner with Wine, and Swag Bag

Purchase via E-transfer to svgottawaassociation@gmail.com, including 'Gala' and ticket holder names in the memo.

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SVG TORONTO CONSULATE OFFICE

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

Mr. Fitzgerald Huggins

Consul General

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

Email: consulategeneral@rogers.com

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Director of Sales

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Email: svgta.ca@discoverysvg.com

Spring's Blossoms and Young Thorns

By Her Excellency H. E. Andrea Bowman
SVG's Ambassador
Taipei, Taiwan

Having presented The Story of Paulene Bramble Book One: Spring's blossoms and young thorns in seventeen (17) chapters, Richard A. Byron-Cox treats us to a gift of a real Vincentian/ Caribbean story that needed to be told. The oxymoronic expression 'real...story' understates the depth and breadth of the stories (in this story), which are interwoven in this massive contribution to our Vincentian/Caribbean literary heritage. This intricate story presents the lived lives of its characters inside of the historical and socio-cultural experiences of the 1930s, which contextualise and shape their lives. These albeit fictionalised stories are presented through the eyes and the words of the characters by our storyteller par excellence.

Our author/storyteller centres himself, his narrative and his narration within these stories. His authorial voice melds with an oral story-telling voice that places his audience under a mango tree, listening in

rapt, mouth-watering attention to stories that make one conscious that the place, class and, therefore, status of each human being on the island were determined long before that person was born.

This story places the story in history, with the type of suspense that tugs at and tears apart one's emotional investments in its characters. This story's stories take us to a milieu that is authentically characterized by the paternalism of the 'man's world; scarred, disfigured and shaped by physical abuse; domestic violence; a viciousness in the society which is accepted as the norm from the brutish legacy of slavery and colonialism which dehumanised the slave master and the enslaved. The characters' names are exquisitely chosen for anticipation; so, too are the titles of the chapters.

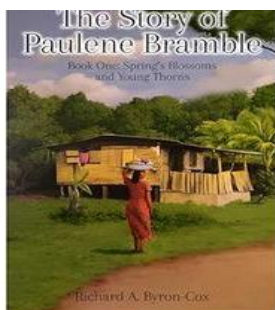
I could see a film emerging from this story, a film of epic proportions. The Story of Paulene Bramble..., a story of how community is formed, was begging to be told.

Embassy of SVG,
Taipei, Tiawan

A Golden Gift for our 45th Independence

Covering 150 years of Caribbean history; relating the lives of five generations; taking twelve years to write; it is a compelling story of the real lives of our people. You will find your great, great grandparents, great grandparents, grandparents, your parents and you in it! It will inspire you and your children!

You will laugh, cry, dance, cry some more and feel many other emotions. It's all there in "The Story of Paulene Bramble Book One: Springs Blossoms and Youngs Thorns."



The Book



Dr Richard A:
Byron- Cox

Get your copy of this masterpiece on Amazon and other sites and have signed by the Author who will be in Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto, doing signings during the celebrations of the 45th Anniversary of our nation's independence. Don't be afraid of your own story, for it is special!

Niagara Falls Lighting in our National Flag Colours

Sunday October 27th, 2024

Join us for a comfortable coach ride to witness the lighting of Niagara Falls.

DEPARTURE TIMES:

- SCARBOROUGH TOWN CENTRE @ 5:00 PM
- JANE & FINCH MALL @ 5:45 PM
- SQUARE ONE MALL @ 6:15 PM
- NIAGARA FALLS @ 10:45 PM

CONTACT JUNE - 647-867-7930

RETURN TRIP FARE \$30.00



2024 WALK-A-THON

This year's annual walk-a-thon coordinated jointly by the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto and The Toronto SVG Support Group was a hybrid event held virtually from September 8 and ended on September 22 with a gathering of participants at Sunnybrook Park, Toronto.

Thirteen participants from both groups raised just over \$5,500.00 which would be used to support the educational programs coordinated by both groups.

Many thanks to the volunteers who collected pledges and walked, and more so, thanks to all those who sponsored the walkers.

SWIFT

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ST.VINCENT & THE GRENADINES INDEPENDENCE

ROSEWOOD CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

657 Milner Avenue, Scarborough, ON M1B 2K4

"45 Years of Togetherness, Prosperity and Perseverance"!

SUNDAY, 20 OCT, 2024

4:00 PM

- Solo performance by Margaret Williams
- Refreshments and socializing after Service

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto is looking for enthusiastic individuals with fresh ideas to advance the causes of the organization. Please join us.

Insight in a publication of The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto. Our sincere gratitude to Mr. Gideon Exeter for being our editor and producer.




CARI-ON SVG DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

JOIN OUR MISSION TO HELP COMMUNITIES IN SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

WHO IS CARI-ON?
Established in 2018, CARI-ON is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing resources and timely relief efforts to help families and communities carry on during and after disasters in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

To achieve this, we are establishing several committees with representatives from each Caribbean country, operating under the umbrella of the Canadian Caribbean Disaster Relief Action (CCaDiRA) committee. This initiative aims to strengthen ties and cooperation between the Caribbean diaspora and their home countries in times of need.

OUR VISION
To provide preventative measures and mobilization support to meet the human needs of those impacted by natural disasters in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

WHY JOIN US?

- Be part of a dedicated team making a real difference
- Support disaster preparedness and relief efforts
- Help build resilient communities

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!
SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO JOIN OUR MISSION AND SUPPORT OUR CAUSE.



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NEWS FROM VINCYLAND

SHAFIQUA MALONEY MAKES SVG PROUD



Shafiqua Maloney, who created history by becoming the first Vincentian to advance to the finals of an Olympic event, said that while she did not medal, a loss is when one does not learn anything from the experience. Shafiqua placed fourth and warmed the hearts of Vincentians at home and abroad.

Maloney was recently welcomed home in the presence of her mother whom she had not seen in eight years. Maloney entered the Paris games as the 27th fastest woman in the 800 metres and finished as the fourth.

Maloney thanked her sponsors as well as Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves and his government, and everyone who turned out to welcome her home. At the welcoming reception, Shafiqua was given US\$10,000.00 and invited to sit with the St. Vincent and the Grenadines delegation on September 28 at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The 25-year-old is a graduate from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville with a master's degree in operations management.

E.B. John Memorial Fund

The Toronto SVG Support Group (TSVGSG) is pleased to announce that bursaries, funded by its E.B. John Memorial Fund, are available to selected registrants in the Public Relations Management 10-week CPE course. Please enquire at the contact information posted on the UWI Global Campus.

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For more information don't hesitate to call:

(784)-456-1183 or (784)-532-9343 or (784)-528-5597

We are here to help you!

Reshaping Energy Policy In St. Vincent And The Grenadines



The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and USAID have partnered to make significant updates to the energy policy. Together, they are working to modernize the nation's decade-old energy policy by aligning it with the contemporary demands of sustainability and economic resilience.

In April, a series of meetings facilitated by USAID's Energy Sector Reform Project brought together technical experts and policymakers from the Energy Unit within the Ministry of Urban Development, Energy, Seaports, and Grenadines Affairs, along with local government, industry, and community representatives. In facilitating the meetings, USAID actively ensured inclusive participatory dialogues by capturing and delineating the perspectives of all stakeholders.

By June, the multi-phased process moved into comprehensively analyzing the existing policy alongside current national frameworks. Through this analysis and initial meetings, the team identified gaps, areas in which the current energy policy no longer meets the country's evolving

energy needs and untapped opportunities that can be explored. The insights gained from this analysis were instrumental in shaping a series of ongoing stakeholder consultations and focus group discussions. These discussions are designed to ensure that the revised policy will embody the collective aspirations and goals of all societal sectors in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Four New Airlines Arrivals and Increase in Stay Over and Cruise Ship Arrivals Boost SVG Tourism

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has experienced overnight arrivals during the first six months of 2024 and for the third consecutive year has had an increase in cruise ships arrival. These increases surpass the pre-COVID numbers and highlight the country’s upward trajectory in tourism, stated Minister of Tourism, Hon. Carlos James.

Adding to this positive momentum, Minister James also announced the arrival of four new airlines,

enhancing the region’s connectivity and accessibility. LIAT20 will commence flights starting October 4, followed by JetBlue on October 9, Sunrise on October 28, and WINAIR on November 15. “The introduction of these airlines is a game-changer, providing more options for travelers and further boosting our tourism sector,” he noted.

The 2024-2025 cruise season is set to welcome a record number of calls across multiple islands:

The first cruise call of the season is scheduled for **Mayreau** on October 21, with Port Kingstown’s first call on November 6. The island of **Canouan** has seen a major increase in cruise calls, rising from 5 calls last season to 14 expected this year.

Bequia is also experiencing a surge in arrivals, with triple-digit growth and a forecasted 104 cruise calls to its berth, setting new records for the island.

*Happy 45th Independence Anniversary to the Government and People of
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
May God Bless You with Togetherness, Prosperity and Perseverance.*

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Hurricane Beryl's Impact on St Vincent and the Grenadines: Rapid Needs Assessment – Final Report (July 2024)

INTRODUCTION

On 1st July 2024, Hurricane Beryl struck St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) with Category 4 hurricane force winds. In response, the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, through the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), requested a Rapid Needs Assessment Team (RNAT) from the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency's (CDEMA's) Regional Response Mechanism.

The remit of the RNAT was to prepare a Rapid Needs Assessment report, which aims to provide a preliminary assessment of damage. This preliminary assessment serves as a guide for a subsequent detailed needs assessment, uses the preliminary assessment, and provides the following information to each requested sector:

A detailed description of sectoral damage;
Analysis of underlying causes; Why the damage occurred;
Assessment of potential preventative measures; How the damage could have been avoided;
Identification of requirements for restoring the sector to an operational capacity; What needs are required in order to restore the sector to an operational level;
Sector-specific recommendations. Recommendations for mitigating future vulnerability to natural hazards.

METHOD

An advanced team of seven (7) RNAT members arrived in St Vincent and the Grenadines on July 2, 2024, within 24 hours of the issuing of the 'All Clear' following Hurricane Beryl's impact. The team conducted intensive fieldwork for three (3) days until they were joined by the

remaining six (6) members on July 4, 2024, and carried out their assessments within two days.

The RNAT comprised specialists from several sectors, each of whom visited impacted sites across St Vincent, Union Island, Canouan and Mayreau to assess, gather and analyze data to determine the extent of the impact and needs. Following the completion of their specialist sections of the report, the team demobilized on July 7 2024, departing as transportation services became available.

The assessed sectors follow:

- a) Infrastructure
- b) Shelters
- c) Water Sanitation and Health
- d) Social Protection
- e) Psycho-Social Support
- f) Beach and Coastal Structures
- g) Agriculture
- h) Telecommunications

Following the presentation of the preliminary RNAT results to Cabinet on July 10th, 2024, the Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves, requested for a further detailed assessment of the livelihood sectors of Fisheries and Tourism. Subsequent to this, these two sectors were also assessed across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The Fisheries assessment was conducted and the report prepared by Ms. Sanya Compton of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and the Tourism Assessment, and report was done by Ms. Amanda Charles and Mr. Kennedy Pemberton from the Caribbean Tourism Organisation.

The Health section of the report was prepared by the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and also included as an amendment subsequent to the first RNAT report.

ABOUT CDEMA

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) is a regional inter-governmental agency for disaster management that falls directly under the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). CDEMA's main function is to make an immediate and coordinated response to any disastrous event affecting any member-state of CARICOM, once the state requires such assistance.

CARICOM member states and associate members benefits directly, in means of assistance services, monetary donations, financial grants and essential food and medical supplies.

Established: 1991 as CEDERA, transitioned to CEDEMA IN 2009

Areas of work: Health and Disastrous Assistance

Members: (18) Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Republic of Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands and the Virgin Islands.

Head: Mr. Ronald Jackson, Executive Director.

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Toronto, ON – September 25, 2024 –
CARI-ON Delivers \$50,000 in Disaster Relief to St. Vincent

CARI-ON SVG Disaster Preparedness is proud to announce the successful delivery of \$50,000 worth of disaster relief goods to St. Vincent and the Grenadines in partnership with the Lion’s Club South, SVG as part of ongoing recovery efforts following the passage of Hurricane Beryl. The shipment, which included essential food items, non-perishables, clothing, and larger goods like bathtubs, was delivered with the support of the Lion’s Clubs of South St. Vincent and Union Island, ensuring these supplies reached those in need.

We extend heartfelt thanks to the Toronto community, Consul General Fitzgerald Huggins, the SVGAT, Toronto SVG Support Group, KLC Freight Forwarders, Arabesque Inc. and CEO Aaron Crichton for their help with transportation and logistics. Special recognition goes to Janiel George, President of Lion’s Club Kingstown, and Margaret Wilson of Lion’s Club Union Island, for their leadership in receiving the shipment. Samantha Bailey, local representative for CARI-ON played a key role in coordinating the delivery and ensuring

smooth transportation of goods to Union Island.

This is the first of two shipments, with the second scheduled for dispatch on September 26, 2024. While we celebrate this milestone, the reconstruction process is far from over. We urgently need additional household goods, construction materials, and monetary donations to support long-term recovery.

A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated members of CARI-ON for their unwavering commitment. Together, we stand united in helping St. Vincent and the Grenadines rebuild after Hurricane Beryl. For donations or inquiries, Contact CARI-ON SVG Disaster Preparedness. Website: [CARI-ON SVG Disaster Preparedness \(carionsvg.org\)](http://CARI-ON SVG Disaster Preparedness (carionsvg.org))

Obituaries

Quite a number of our friends and relatives in our community have passed to the great beyond since our last publication and indeed during 2024 At the time of going to press, we have been unable to get a complete list and for the fear of unintentionally omitting anyone, we would like to state that the Board of Directors and Members of the Association take this opportunity to express sincere condolences to all who have lost their loved ones. May the souls of the departed rest in peace with their heavenly Father.

Help a child in your homeland to a brighter future.

An old saying reminds us that children are the future of every country. Each of us can help to build the future of St. Vincent and the Grenadines by helping the children. As little as Cdn\$1.00/day per month will give at least EC\$60.00 per month. This small amount can help to keep a young child in school and contribute to his or her development in the community. If you are interested in learning how you can go about sponsoring a child in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, how to get such a child and how to ensure that your sponsor money is used for the development of that child, please enquire in confidence by writing to the Secretary of the Association either through regular mail or e-mail. The email address is: secretary@vincytoronto.com.

In 2024, with the assistance of a number of individuals and families, the Association sponsored 12 new students from across St. Vincent and the Grenadines for 5 years. From reports received from both the school and the parents, the impact the assistance made to the students is already showing in their performance at school.




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Through **Alliances By Arbor Memorial**, members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines community in Ontario who are members of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. who choose to use the services of Arbor Memorial at any of its cemeteries or funeral homes are entitled to special discounts off products and services.

Through **Arbor Foundation**, the CCAC and its affiliates receive special funding for its programs and activities. For further information, please visit any of the websites listed below or contact Gideon Exeter at 416-992-4253 or by email at gexeter@arbormemorial.com





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The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

Membership Registration Form



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: (Street) _____

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TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

CURRENT MEMBER FOR RENEWAL, OR NEW MEMBER: _____

NEW MEMBER OR RENEWAL: (\$20:00 annual subscription); (Student: \$10.00) When application is approved, please e-transfer the amount to "treasurer@vincytoronto.com" or make cheque payable to THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC . and mail payment to:

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