

THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.



*Celebrates 46th Anniversary of
Independence of St. Vincent and the
Grenadines*

Celebrating Our Identity, Inspiring Our Future



**Parkview Manor
55 Barber Greene Rd**

October 19, 2025

METELSKY LAW

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Program

Socializing & Appetizers

Pan Music - Zarina

Welcome Remarks

Ricky Bowman – Master of Ceremonies

National Anthem of Canada

National Anthem of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Invocation – Ms. June Ellis

Remarks: Mr. Cordel Telfer

President, The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

MEAL SERVICE -

Door Prizes

Performance – Ebou

Remarks: Ms. Lasana Andrews –

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Consul General to Canada (Ag)

Recognition of Honorary Life Members & Community Member

Performance: Kaira Dixon-Browne, Violinist

Performance: Margaret Williams

Presentation of SVGAT 2025 Bursaries

Performance - Zarina

Raffle Draws

Performances - Open Floor for Vincy Talent

Vote of Thanks

Committee Chair - Sandra Bobb

Dancing to the music of DJ Fusion

We are grateful to the following for their contribution to the fundraising & door prizes:

Collette Bonadie
 Cordel Telfer
 Cynthia John-Bentham
 Delcina Jardine-Reckley
 Dougal Williams
 Earl "Old George" Daniel
 Grace Foods Canada
 Petraum McIntosh
 Sandra Bobb
 Shelley John
 Director of Sales, SVG Tourism Office

OUR APPRECIATION

The Organizing Committee, on behalf of the Board of Directors and the membership of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc., hereby expresses sincere thanks to all those who, in one way or another, assisted in making the celebrations of our activities to commemorate the 46th anniversary of our country's independence possible.

We thank our sponsors and advertisers in this Souvenir Magazine, as well as those who donated in kind and coin for the other events. We also appreciate our Master of Ceremonies, the artists who donated their time at all events, and those who assisted in the sale of tickets and encouraged others to attend our events.

We also thank all those who were able to attend our events. We trust that as we celebrate the accomplishments of yesterday, we are encouraged to embrace the future with the hope that God will guide us to be a Nation of Blessed People.

Special thanks to the management and staff of the Parkview Manor for their hospitality.

We join all St. Vincent and the Grenadines nationals at home and in the diaspora in celebrating this anniversary.

*From Members of the Organizing Committee,
 2025 Independence Anniversary Celebrations*



The ship, Captain Hugh Mulzac, is a St. Vincent and the Grenadines Patrol Vessel named after the late Captain Hugh Mulzac, a Vincentian sailor, and first black captain of SS. Booker T. Washington, a United States ship that carried troops and supplies across WW11 seas.

The National Pledge of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

*Land of my birth I pledge to thee,
 My loyalty and devotion,
 In all I think or say or do.*



Consulate General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

55 Town Centre Court, Suite 403 Toronto, Ontario M1P 4X4

Tel: 416-398-4277 Fax: 647-438-5312 - E-mail: consulategeneral@rogers.com

Greetings, Ladies and gentlemen, fellow Vincentians, and friends of SVG, welcome to our Independence Brunch. Today, we gather to celebrate 46 remarkable years of freedom, progress, and pride for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

As we enjoy this delicious spread, let us take a moment to reflect on our nation's journey. We have come a long way and our progress is a testament to the strength, courage, and determination of those who paved the way.

Their legacy inspires us to continue moving forward with pride and purpose. Our Vincentian spirit is rooted in resilience, vibrancy, and unity. Whether we are living at home or here in Canada, we are connected by our culture, heritage, and values, so let's take pride our identity and celebrate the beauty of our island.



As we celebrate this milestone, let us also acknowledge the tireless efforts of our leaders, past and present, who have guided our nation with vision and dedication. Their commitment to our development has enabled us to achieve remarkable progress in areas such, education, healthcare and economic growth.

My fellow Vincentians, let us remember that our independence is not just a celebration of our past, but also a reminder of our collective responsibility to shape our future. Let us work together to build a prosperous and sustainable future for ourselves and generations to come, promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and social justice, and ensure that everyone has access to opportunities and resources.

To the younger generation, I urge you to get involved, to dream big, and to contribute to our nation's development. Your energy, creativity, and passion are essential to our continued progress and success.

As we enjoy this Independence Brunch, let's also take a moment to appreciate the beauty of our island nation. From the majestic La Soufrière volcano to the pristine beaches and crystal-clear waters, we are blessed with natural beauty and rich cultural heritage.

Finally, a big thank you to the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto for bringing us together to celebrate this special occasion. Let's continue to build a brighter future for ourselves and future generations.

In closing, let's raise our glasses and toast to our journey, our people, and the promise of a brighter future. Happy 46th Independence Anniversary to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines! May God continue to bless our nation, our people, and the road ahead.

Cheers! Happy Independence!

Ms. Lasana Andrews,
Consul General, Ag.



ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO Inc.

Established 1968

P. O. Box 80066 – Don Valley Village P. O., Toronto, Ontario, M2J 0A1

Website: www.vincytoronto.com

Email: www.svgat@vincytoronto.com



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To Our Members, Friends, and Community Partners,

Allow me, on behalf of The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. (SVGAT), to extend heartiest Congratulations to the Government and people of St. Vincent & the Grenadines on this, our country's forty-sixth anniversary as an Independent Nation.

This year's theme, "Celebrating Our Identity, Inspiring Our Future," is quite fitting as it captures the enduring spirit of Independence and the renewed sense of regional solidarity taking shape across the Caribbean. As we celebrate our Vincentian heritage and the shared Caribbean identity that unites us with our

brothers and sisters in Barbados, Belize, and Dominica, we also embrace the opportunities made possible through the recent advancement of free movement among citizens. This historic development strengthens our collective resolve to build a more connected, empowered, and prosperous Caribbean community.

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto remains steadfast in its mission to strengthen community ties, preserve and promote our cultural heritage, and support health and educational initiatives that benefit Vincentians at home and across the diaspora. This work is made possible thanks to the hard work of our Board, who are strongly supported by our dedicated members, friends, and community partners. You are the pillars of our strength and the foundation upon which our progress is built.

As we commemorate this significant milestone, we pay tribute to the resilience and courage of those who fought to end colonial rule, and to the vision of those who laid the foundation for our independence. May their legacy continue to inspire us as we look ahead with unity, pride, and confidence toward a brighter, more connected future for all Vincentians.

Happy Forty-Sixth Anniversary of Independence to the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Respectfully,
Cordel Telfer, *President*

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.

President:	Cordel Telfer	Tel: 647-717-9731	president@vincytoronto.com
Vice President:	Terrance Gordon		vicepres@vincytoronto.com
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	June Ellis		
	Kenneth Farrell		

Association's General Email address: svgat@vincytoronto.com; **Website:** www.vincytoronto.com



Andrea Hazell
Member of Provincial Parliament



October 19, 2025

Greetings from MPP Andrea Hazell

As a Member of Provincial Parliament, I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. (SVGAT) and to all attendees of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association Independence Celebration Brunch, in honour of the 46th Anniversary of Independence.

This event is a celebration of the rich cultural history, traditions, and customs of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. It is a wonderful opportunity to gather and commemorate 46 years of independence.

Canada is a great multicultural mosaic and a place of acceptance. We are grateful that all cultures have the freedom to share and celebrate their heritage through festivities such as this. I would like to congratulate the SVGAT and all the volunteers who have helped make this celebration possible.

Your dedication to celebrating and showcasing the vibrant heritage of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is truly commendable. As someone with roots in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, this celebration is especially near and dear to my heart.

Please accept my very best wishes.

Sincerely,

Andrea Hazell

Member Provincial Parliament for Scarborough-Guildwood

Third Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House

Second Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on Social Policy

SPECIAL COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARD



The Board of Directors, on behalf of the membership of The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. (SVGAT) uses this occasion to herewith present a plaque and express sincere thanks to Mr. Ken L. Chitolie, his family, and his company for their ongoing support and contribution to the St. Vincent and the Grenadines, both here in Canada, and in our homeland.

Since KLC/Eastern Caribbean Freight Lines was established, Mr. Chitolie has been generous to our community, not only supporting the programs and activities of the SVGAT, and the SVG Unity Picnic, but also all other organizations in Toronto, Montreal & Ottawa. KLC has assisted St. Vincent and the Grenadines in several ways by making direct

contributions to the Government and People of the country, and providing free shipping of material on behalf of the SVG Consulate General in Toronto, and all organizations that requested support. Thanks, Mr. Chitolie and family.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Mr. Ricky Bowman



Ricky Bowman has been in the entertainment industry for most of his life, spanning over 50 years, and has been living and performing in Canada for the past 35 years. In his native St. Vincent and the Grenadines, he was the lead vocalist with the band X-A-Dus for 10 years. Ricky and his brothers have performed internationally, across the Caribbean, North America, and the United Kingdom.

Apart from entertainment, Ricky was involved in the banking industry before retiring, and he is an active member of the Toronto SVG Support Group, in which he served as Vice President. Ricky volunteers his talent with several organizations in the community here in Canada and in his birthland.

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. Membership Registration Form

Name: _____ Tel: _____

Address: (Street) _____ Unit _____

(Town/City): _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

CURRENT MEMBER FOR RENEWAL OR NEW MEMBER? _____

NEW MEMBER OR RENEWAL: (\$20:00 annual subscription); (Student: \$10.00) When application is approved, please make cheque payable to THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. and mail payment to: P.O. Box 80066 – Don Valley Village P. O., Toronto, ON, M2J 0A1

Our Entertainers



Kaira Browne-Dixon

Kai, is a Toronto based multi-genre violinist. She has been playing for 22 years now. Performing, composing & teaching. She has performed internationally and for Toronto artists such as Savannah Ré & Dylan Sinclair. She took private lessons, theory classes, group classes, and was in orchestras throughout all of her 20 years of playing violin. She studied at The Royal Conservatory of Music for 10 yrs.

While studying at York University where she obtained a Bachelor in Fine Arts – BFA Music Performance, General degree, Kai was honoured to be the concert master of the York Symphony Orchestra. She played at the Canada Walk of Fame in 2017 and performed for many Iranian music artists. Kai has

been in music videos and has created/composed string parts for many different local artists.

Kai's passion to perform has grown a lot after graduating from university, and she is ready for more wonderful experiences ahead.



Margaret Williams

Margaret is a Toronto-based Vincentian Singer/Songwriter experienced in delivering captivating and soulful performances. She began singing when she was 9 years old, and graduated from the Vocal Arts Program at Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts. Notably, after a powerful rendition of “Hallelujah”, Margaret came in 1st place as the winner of the Canada Center Stage Singing Competition in 2022. Margaret has performed at numerous music shows, including the Harry Jerome Awards, the Grammy Chapters in Texas, the US Consulate, the Sickle Cell Awareness Group of Ontario's Hope

Gala & Awards, Sweetwater Sound, and Theatre on the Ridge's “The Song of Samuel”.

In 2024, Margaret was selected for the Honey Jam Artist Development Program, where she performed her original song at TD Music Hall and won the Yamaha Award.



Elgin Hamblett, formerly of Chauncey on the island of St. Vincent, attended the Questelles Government School, where he first developed his love for music. During his primary school years, he actively participated in musical performances, including calypso, and was crowned *Primary Calypso King* in the late 1970s.

Performing under the stage name **Black Ebou**, he rose to national prominence and, in 1987, captured his first **National Calypso Monarch** title. His talent took him beyond St. Vincent and the Grenadines' shores, performing internationally and releasing his first 33 RPM record, *100% Vincy*.

In 1993, Ebou migrated to **Toronto, Canada**, but continued to return to St. Vincent and the Grenadines to participate in national calypso competitions. In 2012, he embraced Christianity and dedicated his life to **gospel ministry**, marking a new chapter in his artistic and spiritual journey.



Zarina Adams is a multi-talented performer who has been singing since early childhood and is also an accomplished steelpan player, having been mentored by the late Vince Cato. Her passion for music has taken her to numerous community and private events, where she continues to captivate audiences with her versatility and vibrant performances.

Beyond the stage, Zarina is equally dedicated to empowering the next generation. A graduate of Humber College's **Child & Youth Care Program**, she works daily with children—helping them learn, grow, and thrive. She brings the same warmth, creativity, and commitment to her work with youth as she does to her music.

MENU

Appetizers

Hors D' Oeuvres

Chicken Satay, Beef Satay, Smoked Salmon Rosette, Coconut Shrimp, Cheese & Spinach Pies, Vegetable Spring Rolls, Mini Tomato Bocconcini, Italian Rice Balls, Cheese Balls

Main Course

Salad Arugula - Fresh Arugula Salad with shaved Parmesan Cheese, Curly Apples and Curly Carrots in a Traditional Balsamic & Olive Oil Dressing.

Meat Entrée: Chicken Supreme

Served with Fresh Baby Carrots, Asparagus, & Roasted Potato

Dessert Trio Dessert

Scoop of Ice Cream, Scoop of Tiramisu, Portion of Cheese Cake

Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, and Tea





Wishes the Government and People of St. Vincent and the Grenadines all the best as you celebrate the 46th Anniversary of Independence as well as growth, prosperity and God's blessings in the years ahead.

Congratulations to the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. (SVGAT) for coordinating the events to celebrate the occasion.

As a founding member of the CCA, thanks to the board of directors and membership of the SVGAT for your continued support.

www.caribbeancouncilcanada.org

Email: admin@caribbeancouncilcanada.org

SVGAT's The Adopt-A-Child Program – “A young mind is a terrible thing to waste.”

The SVGAT's Adopt-A-Child Program, which began with sponsoring two (2) students in 2008, is now assisting thirteen (13) students in the fifth 5-year cycle, up to the 2028/2029 school year. The program is to assist students in primary schools throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines, who are in their second year in primary school, who the chosen schools select as facing economic challenges but have the potential to succeed if they receive financial assistance to provide meals, clothing and school materials. The financial aid is intended to last for five (5) years, at which time, the students should complete their primary school education and transition to secondary school.

The thirteen students are from the following schools – Barrouallie Anglican, Belmont Government, Bequia Anglican, Evesham Methodist, Fitz Hughes Government, Georgetown Government, Kingstown Anglican, Layou Government, Lowmans Windward Anglican, Mary Hutchinson – Union Island, Owia Government, Rose Hall Government and School for Children with Special Needs – Kingstown.

During this cycle of sponsorship, the students receive CDN\$720.00 per year for the 5 years. Interested persons can wholly sponsor a student for the full amount or join with others to do so. The annual sponsorship fee is paid in advance.

SPONSOR A CHILD IN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Individuals, families or organizations are encouraged to sponsor one or more students by committing to pay the amount for the 5-year period. The sponsor could select the school, the geographical area or allow the Association to choose for them through a random lottery draw where the schools are entered in a pool from which to choose.

The board of directors herewith express sincere thanks to the sponsors in this cycle – Caroline Layne & Family, Cordel Telfer & Family, Delcina Jardine & Family, Erlene Granderson & The Yellow Hat Ladies, Gideon Exeter & Family, Jasmine & Gordon Davis, Dr. Andrea Providence/Marsha Baynes/Maurice Providence, Drs. Sabrina Coombs and Stephanie Sadler, The Toronto SVG Support Group and the SVGAT. The new sponsors for the student at the Layou Government School prefer to remain anonymous.

Donations to The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto can be made by E-Transfer to: treasurer@vincytoronto.com. Please indicate the reason for the transfer in the message box.

IMMIGRATION MATTERS

CELEBRATING OUR IDENTITY, INSPIRING OUR FUTURE

Contributed by: Sandra Sutherland, RCIC-IRB

It is quite fitting that the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has chosen the theme “Celebrating Our Identity, Inspiring Our Future” for this year’s Independence celebration. For Vincentian nationals and those of Vincentian heritage in Canada, this is precisely what we should continuously strive to do—celebrate who we are while building toward what we can become.

The current population of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) is estimated to be about 100,000; however, there are likely hundreds of thousands of Vincentian nationals and descendants living in Canada. Since their arrival, many Vincentians have made a name for themselves. In last year’s article for this journal, I noted that Vincentians have prospered and become **professionals, business owners, civil servants, and even politicians**. Yet, despite their success, most have never forsaken their country of birth or heritage. Their identity as Vincentians remains strong and should always be celebrated. As the saying goes, “*You can take the man out of the country, but you can’t take the country out of the man.*”

When applications for permanent resident status in Canada near completion and are approved, the Government of Canada sends applicants a letter about available **pre-arrival services**—programs delivered free of charge by settlement service providers. Over the years, several Vincentian organizations have played a similar role by supporting newcomers through community and cultural engagement.

Organizations such as the **St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto (SVGAT)**, the **St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Ottawa (SVGAO)**, and the **St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Montreal (SVGAM)** host the annual **Vincy Unity Picnic**, where thousands of Vincentians and friends from around the world gather to celebrate their culture, promote togetherness, and encourage participation across generations. Events like these allow newcomers and long-standing residents alike to feel welcomed, connected, and proud of their Vincentian identity.

In addition to these major associations, other Vincentian groups in Toronto—including the **Toronto SVG Support Group**, **CARI-ON SVG Disaster Preparedness**, and the **Union Island Cultural Association (UICA)**—host fundraising and celebratory events that benefit SVG and its people. Supporting these

organizations through membership, donations, or attendance strengthens community bonds and helps inspire future generations of Vincentians at home and abroad.

I continue to write on **immigration matters** to educate and empower individuals about Canadian immigration processes, so they are better informed and less vulnerable to misinformation or unscrupulous representatives. My hope is that these articles inspire Vincentians—both foreign nationals in Canada and those still at home—to position themselves for success in achieving or maintaining immigration status in Canada.

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

Sandra Sutherland is a competent, authorized immigration representative and counsel who is licensed to 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 - 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.

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Toronto Inc. (SVGAT)**



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



**HELP OUR YOUNG SVG NATIONALS IN CANADA PURSUE THEIR DREAMS BY
SPONSORING A BURSARY IN HONOUR OF YOURSELF OR A LOVED ONE.**

CONTACT ANY MEMBER OF THE BOARD, OR EMAIL: SECRETARY@VINCYTORONTO.COM

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Scholarship Program



The Association initiated its scholarship program in 2005 to support eligible students of SVG descent residing in Ontario who are attending trade schools, colleges, or universities in Canada or the United States with their post-secondary expenses. Each bursary is valued at \$1,000.00.

This year, the Association is providing five (5) bursaries, of which one is sponsored by KLC\Eastern Caribbean Freight Lines, one by Mr. Wilmot Seaton in honour of his late wife, Mrs. Sonia Seaton, one jointly by District Stairs Canada & SVG and Pastor Eric Duncan of Straight Gate Ministries, and two by the SVGAT's Education Fund. This year makes it 43, the number of students who received bursaries so far.

Recipient of the 2025 St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Bursary



Memuna Roforce is currently in her first year at the University of Guelph-Humber, working towards my Honours Bachelor of Applied Science in Justice Studies. She is a passionate individual known for her dedication to personal growth and making a positive impact in her community. She was a co-chair for the black heritage club at her school as well as a school rep for the Student Council Committee.

Memuna is always seeking new opportunities to learn and grow as an individual. values integrity, hard work, and creativity, bringing these qualities into everything she does. She believes in the power of education to create meaningful change.

The Board of Directors and members of The SVGAT, along with The Toronto SVG Support Group, congratulate Memuna Roforce on her achievements and wish her every success on her academic journey.

Recipient of the 2025 KLC / Eastern Caribbean Freight Lines Bursary



Augustus Gellizeau is a proud Vincentian and aspiring aerospace engineer, currently pursuing a Bachelor of Engineering in Aerospace Engineering at Toronto Metropolitan University. A recipient of the prestigious Island Scholarship of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Augustus distinguished himself at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College, earning Grade I with Distinction in Chemistry, Physics, Pure Mathematics, and Computer Science. He is passionate about using engineering innovation to uplift the Vincentian and Black Canadian communities through mentorship and outreach.

The Board of Directors and members of The SVGAT, along with The Toronto SVG Support Group congratulate Augustus Gellizeau on his achievements and wish him every success on his academic journey.

Recipient of the 2025 District Stairs & Straight Gate Ministries Bursary



Timanna Sutherland is a first-year student at George Brown College, pursuing a diploma in Early Childhood Education. She moved to Canada three years ago after graduating from the SVG Community College. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Timanna was actively involved in track and field, the dance group, the cheerleading squad, and netball. Timanna's passion for dance flourished as a former member of the Avenue Dancers, where she performed and assisted in choreographing routines for local dance groups. She continues to apply her leadership, creativity, and compassion in her work with children. Inspired by their laughter and curiosity, Timanna strives to nurture their growth and development while making a positive impact in the field of early learning.

The Board of Directors and members of The SVGAT, along with The Toronto SVG Support Group, congratulate Timanna Sutherland on her many achievements and wish her all the best on her academic journey.

Recipient of the 2025 St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Bursary



Naomi Lampkin-Zienus is a first-year student at the University of Toronto, pursuing a joint major in Forensic Science with either Chemistry or Biology. A high-achieving scholar, Naomi maintained an academic average of 95% or higher throughout high school and graduated as the recipient of her school's Mathematics and Science Award. In addition to her academic excellence, Naomi demonstrated exceptional commitment and leadership outside the classroom. She played elite-level basketball in the Ontario JUEL league and has operated a successful lawn mowing and flyer delivery business since the age of thirteen.

Naomi is passionate about justice and aims to build a career as a forensic scientist, crime scene investigator, or forensic pathologist. She is deeply committed to promoting equity in the justice system and is particularly focused on addressing unconscious bias and eliminating racial stereotypes in forensic and legal environments. As a proud Black woman in STEM, Naomi aspires to be a role model for younger girls and to advocate for increased cultural awareness in institutions that influence critical decisions in criminal cases.

Naomi is honoured to receive the SVGAT bursary and is sincerely grateful for the support as she continues to pursue her academic and professional goals.

The Board of Directors and members of The SVGAT, along with The Toronto SVG Support Group, congratulate Naomi Lampkin-Zienus on her many achievements and wish her all the best on her academic journey.

Recipient of the 2025 Sonia Seaton Memorial Bursary



Margaret Williams

Margaret is an accomplished entertainer, known for her captivating vocals and soulful performances. Beyond her music, Margaret is currently pursuing studies at Western University's Faculty of Law, towards achieving her dream of becoming a lawyer. She has a special interest in Entertainment Law and is a strong advocate for artists' rights in the music industry.

Margaret thanks the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. for supporting her with the exposure it has been providing and also for this bursary to assist with her financial obligations.

The Board of Directors and members of The SVGAT, along with The Toronto SVG Support Group, congratulate Margaret Williams on her many achievements and wish her all the best on her academic journey.



Conducting Active Relief Impacting Our Nation

CARI-ON SVG DISASTER PREPAREDNESS takes this opportunity to wish the Government and People of St. Vincent and the Grenadines a Happy and Enjoyable 46th anniversary of Independence. We also thank the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. for coordinating the events here in Toronto to celebrate the occasion.

CARI-ON is a Non-Profit Organization dedicated to providing resources and timely relief efforts to help families and communities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to CARRY-ON during and after natural and other disasters.

Working closely with the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) and NGOs, CARI-ON ships needed supplies to help mitigate disasters such as hurricanes, floods and alike, as well as the recent passage of Hurricane Beryl. CARI-ON is a member of the Canadian Caribbean Disaster Relief Action (CCaDiRA), whose remit is to coordinate disaster preparedness, relief, emergency and response activities between the Caribbean Diaspora in Canada and the Caribbean Region.

CARI-ON SVG DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

21 Kingham Avenue, Ajax, Ontario, L1Z 1M9

Website: carionsvg.org

Email: carion.org@gmail.com



CONGRATS
and
Happy 46th
SVG

The Toronto SVG Support Group

joins you in....

*"Celebrating Our
Identity, Inspiring
Our Future."*

Follow/Like us:

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Email us: torsvg@gmail.com

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto's Scholarship Program is intended to encourage students of SVG descent to pursue the highest level of education possible and to assist them financially. Five (5) bursaries of \$1,000.00 each are presented in 2025.

Our sincere thanks to all those who have supported this program from its inception.

Governors General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Sir Sydney Gun-Munro	1979 – 1985
Sir Joseph Lambert Eustace	1985 - 1988
Henry Harvey Williams, Acting	1988 – 1989
Sir David Emmanuel Jack	1989 – 1996
Sir Charles Antrobus	1996 – 2002
Dame Monica Dacon, Acting	June 3 – June 22, 2002
Sir Frederick Ballantyne	2002 – 2019
Dame Susan Dougan	2019 - Present

Prime Ministers of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Name	Term	Time In Office	Political Party
Robert Milton Cato	October 1979 to July 30 1984	4 years, 277 days	St. Vincent Labour Party
James Fitz-Allan Mitchell	July 1984 to October 2000	16 years, 89 days	New Democratic Party
Arnhim Eustace	October 2000 to March 2001	153 Days	New Democratic Party
Ralph E. Gonsalves	March 2001 to Present	24 years, 197 days*	Unity Labour Party

*up to October 26, 2025

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St. Vincent and the Grenadines
attained Independence from Great
Britain on October 27, 1979.

Happy Independence Anniversary
Greetings to all St. Vincent and the
Grenadines Nationals at home and in
the Diaspora. May God truly bless our
country, its leaders and people.

Our sincere thanks to all members of the Committees
for the contribution of their time, talent and efforts.

2025 INDEPENDENCE BANQUET COMMITTEE

Sandra Bobb, Chairperson
Cordel Telfer Collette Bonadie
Sandra Sutherland June Ellis
Delcina Jardine-Reckley
Gideon Exeter Mahalia Spann
Cheyenne Samuel-Jack
Petraun McIntosh Terrance Gordon

INDEPENDENCE THANKSGIVING CHURCH SERVICE COMMITTEE

Sandra Bobb Sandra Sutherland
Prudence Morton Petraun McIntosh
June Ellis, Collette Bonadie
Cynthia John-Bentham

.....

COORDINATOR OF COACH CRUISE TO LIGHTING OF NIAGARA FALLS

Petraun McIntosh

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Our sincere thanks to those companies and individuals
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A Special Expression of Thanks

The Board of Directors, on behalf of the members of The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto, the recipients, and the Vincy Community, herewith express sincere gratitude to the sponsors of the bursaries of this year's bursaries: KLC/Eastern Caribbean Freight Lines, District Stairs Canada & SVG, Straight Gate Ministries, and Seaton's Funeral & Cremation LLC.

ANOTHER SVG INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GETS CCAC SCHOLARSHIP



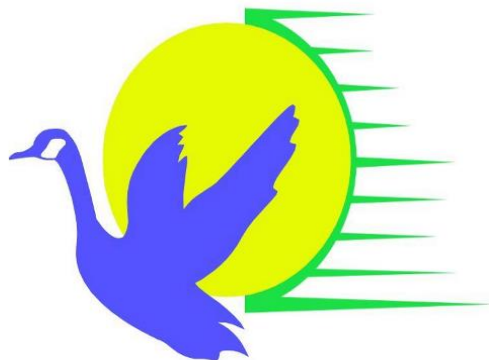
The Council of Caribbean Associations-Canada (CCAC), of which the SVGAT is a founding member, is pleased to announce that on Sunday, October 5, 2025, it presented \$53,000.00 worth of new money in scholarships and bursaries to seven (7) students to assist them with their post-secondary education.

Among this year's recipients is SVG's international student, Miss Tiffani Sardine, a student at George Brown College who is pursuing a degree in Commerce, specializing in financial services.

Tiffani is the third SVG international student in the last three years to receive such an award. In 2023, Lenron Doyle received the first full-tuition paid scholarship from the Association through Seneca Polytechnic, and in 2024, his brother, Donalan, received one.

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

Monday, October 27	Flag Raising Ceremony at Toronto City Hall	12 Noon
	Illumination of Niagara Falls @10:00 p.m.	Bus leaves Toronto at 5:30 p.m.
	Illumination of Clock Tower, Brampton	10:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 30	Monthly General Meeting	4:00 p.m. on Zoom
Sunday, December 14	Children's Christmas Party	St. Stephen's Ang. Church, Downsview
Week of December 17 – 23	Christmas Hamper Outreach	To Various Families
Sunday, January 26, 2026	Annual General Meeting	Virtually on Zoom



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LOSS OF HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Honorary Life members shall be those individuals who have filed an application for such membership with the Corporation and who have been appointed as life members by the Board.

During 2024 and 2025, the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association lost four (4) of its Honorary Life Members.

Hubert Phillips – February 2024
Alfred Compton – January 2025
Joan Alexander – March 2025
Glendon Carmichael – September 2025



May their souls rest in eternal peace.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE,
WWW.VINCYTORONTO.COM

NEW HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

The Board of Directors of The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. has agreed to add the following two persons to the list of Honorary Life Members.



Mrs. Adina James

Born in the Marriaqua Valley in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Adina James migrated to Canada in 1974. She is the proud wife of Powell James and mother of three children.

Adina's greatest passions are helping others, gardening, and baking—especially her famous Black Cake, which has graced the homes and gatherings of many Vincentians across the diaspora. Known for her generosity and community spirit, Adina has been a dedicated member of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto (SVGAT) since 1987. Over the years, she has given countless hours of service to the Association's activities and events, where her

legendary Black Cake has become a beloved highlight.

Professionally, Adina worked with the Toronto District School Board as a Library Technician for many years. She also contributed her skills and compassion as a support staff member at the San Romanoway Revitalization Association and the Griffin Centre.

A devoted Christian, Adina has served her church community in various capacities. Her love for Christ, family, and service to others is both inspiring and unwavering. She is affectionately known as a “professional volunteer,” having dedicated many years to supporting seniors' groups within her community.

Adina lives by her favorite quote: “I shall pass through this world but once; any good therefore or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”
— *Robert Collier*

Ms. Elma Gabriel

From her teenage years, **Elma Gabriel** has been deeply passionate about serving her people and preserving the culture of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG). Her commitment to community life began in Montreal in the late 1960s and continued with great dedication in Toronto from the early 1970s onward. For Elma, volunteering was never just a pastime—it was a calling rooted in patriotism, service, and love for her Vincentian heritage.

Elma officially became a member of the Toronto Vincentian Association (now SVGAT) in **November 1972**, when she attended her first meeting at *Club Tropics*, then a hub for Vincentians in Toronto. From that moment, she became a steadfast member and an integral part of the association's leadership and activities. Throughout her decades of service, Elma has held **nearly every major leadership role** within the organization, including: **President, Vice President, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Secretary, Church Service Coordinator, Building Committee Member, Coordinator and Organizer** for numerous events, including fundraising drives, recognition ceremonies, community picnics, and cultural celebrations.



Elma's leadership extended beyond titles. She was actively involved in:
The **1979 Volcano Relief Committee** supporting Vincentians after the eruption of La Soufrière.
Coordinating student placements and liaising with Ontario representatives for Vincentian students at George Brown College.

Organizing the first Vincentian picnics at **Browns Bay (1972)**—a tradition that became a historic gathering point for Vincentian immigrants across Canada.

Serving as liaison and coordinator for meeting venues, hall rentals, and community events across Toronto. Her service was not confined to SVGAT alone. Elma was also part of the organizing committee for the **first Montreal Caribbean Carnival**, led by the late Winston Roberts, the internationally recognized bodybuilder and community leader.

In recognition of her outstanding volunteerism, Elma has received several awards, including the prestigious **June Callwood Outstanding Volunteering Award** from the Province of Ontario.

Beyond community service, Elma has established herself as an **author and poet**. She has published **three books**, including *Standing Tall in Echoes of Destiny*, and twice received the **Editor's Choice Award for Outstanding Achievement in Poetry** from the International Library of Poetry.

Today, Elma Gabriel is celebrated not only for her enduring service to the Vincentian community but also for her literary contributions and as a cultural custodian who has left an indelible mark on the diaspora in Canada.



INTRODUCTION OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES' NEW ACTING CONSUL GENERAL TO CANADA MS. LASANA KENISHA ANDREWS

Lasana Kenisha Andrews is St. Vincent and the Grenadines' new Acting Consul General to Canada. She has served in key roles within the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, including as Front-End Officer/Junior Clerk in the Inland Revenue Department from 2006 to 2019. In that position, Ms. Andrews ensured financial accuracy and compliance by processing, auditing, and reconciling remittances, maintained regulatory adherence, and strengthened financial oversight by monitoring budget allocations and identifying cost-saving opportunities.

In 2019, Ms. Andrews transitioned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an Administration Officer until 2020. In that department, she strengthened bilateral relations by leading administrative initiatives that optimized diplomatic coordination and cross-border engagements, drove stakeholder alignment, and enhanced organizational efficiency.

Since 2020, Ms. Andrews has served as a Counsellor for the Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations in New York. In this role, she supports the Head of Mission in carrying out directives, prepares statements and talking points for U.N. meetings, and engages in negotiations for the defense and enhancement of SVG's interests.

Ms. Andrews holds a Master's Degree in Corporate Finance and a Bachelor's Degree in Banking and Finance from the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica. Throughout her career, she has achieved significant accomplishments, including improved financial transparency and reporting accuracy, elevated customer experience and operational efficiency, expanded high-level networks and strategic partnerships, and secured high-impact economic advancements for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



**St. Vincent and the Grenadines
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**THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES
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Wishes the Government and People of
St. Vincent and the Grenadines

**HAPPY 46th INDEPENDENCE
ANNIVERSARY**

**The St. Vincent and Grenadines
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THAT ARE GEARED TO SUPPORT OUR
YOUNGSTERS AS WELL AS THE LESS
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- The Adopt-A-Child Program
- The Scholarship Program
- The Christmas Hamper Program
- A variety of causes in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

If you would like to contribute to any of the above,
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**The St. Vincent and Grenadines
Association of Toronto Inc.**

Christmas Hamper Outreach



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THREE FAVOURITE DISHES IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



Roast Breadfruit & Fried Jack Fish



Madongo Dumpling



Cooked Green Banana & Salt Fish



Happy Independence Day

**SAINT VINCENT
AND THE
GRENADINES**

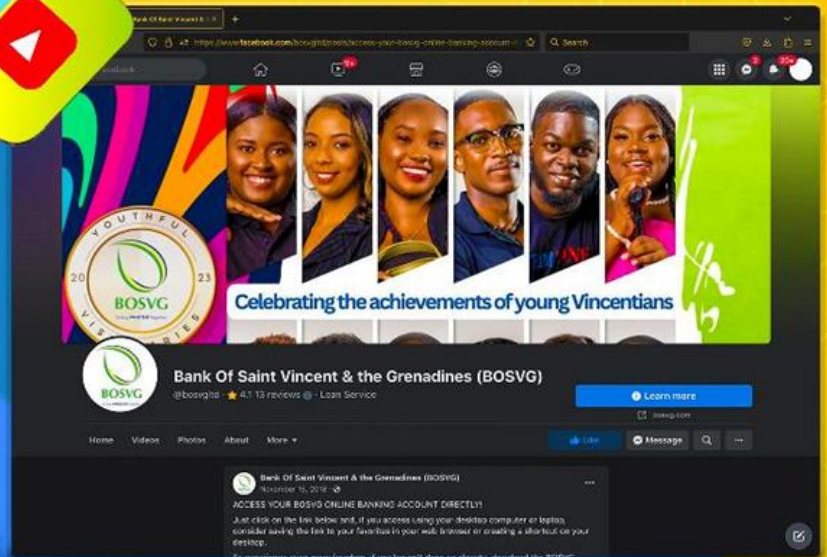
**Today, we celebrate the strength, culture, and vibrant spirit
of Vincentians here in Ontario and around the world.
May this Independence Day remind us of our shared
pride, resilience, and unity.**



Andrea Hazell, MPP
Scarborough-Guildwood



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