



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

NEW YEAR'S ISSUE

January 2025



The President's Greetings

Dear Members, Volunteers, and Supporters,

As we welcome 2025, I want to take a moment to thank all our board members, volunteers, and members of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. Your dedication and hard work in 2024 were instrumental in our success. Together, we've continued to serve our community and strengthen the bond among Vincentians in Toronto.

While 2024 brought its share of challenges, it was also a year of progress and accomplishments. Despite the obstacles, our resilience and teamwork helped us achieve remarkable things. I'm especially encouraged by the rise in new members joining our organization. Your enthusiasm and willingness to contribute to our programs and events have brought new energy to our mission.

Last year also saw the start of some incredible new partnerships. A special thanks to the Durham Community Action Group for providing perishable food items that enriched our Christmas Hamper program. We're also excited about our collaboration with the Toronto Raptors, who offered discounted tickets for our community to attend Caribbean Heritage Night at the Scotiabank Arena in February—an event which will highlight the rich traditions and diversity of the Caribbean while enjoying our team battle the Miami Heat.

In addition to our local efforts, we're extending our support to the Grenadines by assisting those affected by Hurricane Beryl. Very shortly, we will be contributing all the funds raised for and donated to the Corporation for that purpose to the Union Island Environmental Alliance's Water Security Project as part of their Hurricane Beryl Relief

efforts. This initiative reflects our commitment to making a difference both in Toronto and in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

As we move forward, I encourage everyone to continue supporting our events and initiatives. Together, we can achieve even more in 2025. Please stay involved, share your ideas, and inspire others to join us in building a stronger community. Thank you once again for your commitment and support. Here's to a year filled with growth, resilience, and unity.

Cordel Telfer,
President

Corporation News

45TH INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto and the Consulate General of SVG in Toronto organized a series of events to mark the 45 years of SVG's independence. Events included a Thanksgiving Church Service on October 20 at Rosewood Church of the Nazarene, Scarborough where Rev. Steve Phillips delivered the sermon and there were presentations by several members of our community including singer/songwriter Margaret Williams; Flag raising ceremonies at Toronto City Hall on October 25 and Brampton City Hall on October 27; a Gala held at Parkview Manor on October 26 with Mrs. Rhonda Metelsky as the guest speaker; and the illumination of the Niagara Falls on October 27.

FAMILIES RECEIVED CHRISTMAS TREATS

The SVGAT was able to assist 8 families and individuals over the Christmas holidays with food hampers and cash. The gifts were provided by

Grace Foods Canada and Durham Community Action Group.



Special thanks to members of the committee that organized the collection and distribution to help the organization continue its tradition of assisting the less fortunate in our community. The committee included Erlene Granderson, Cheyenne Samuel, Ken Farrell, Petra Ryan-Phillips and Gideon Exeter. Thanks also to Mr. Ian Hypolite and Petra McIntosh for their assistance with this project.

Persons who wish to assist with this project can make contributions throughout the year by e-transfer to treasurer@vincytoronto.com.

BURSARIES PRESENTED AT INDEPENDENCE GALA

Bursaries of \$1,000.00 each were presented to three students of SVG descent studying at colleges and universities in Ontario.

Tiffani Sardine, an international student attending George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Commerce, specializing in Commerce, received the Sonia Seaton Memorial Bursary sponsored by Mr. Wilmoth Seaton. **Maya Boweya**, a student at the University of Toronto pursuing studies in Psychological and Health Studies received a bursary sponsored by the SVGAT; and **Oniah Telfer** in her second year at Durham College where she is pursuing a Diploma in Accounting received the KLC/Eastern Caribbean Freight Lines Bursary.

Congratulations to these rising stars.

The SVGAT's bursary program began in 2004 and has since provided assistance to over 30 students.

Please visit the website www.vincytoronto.com to read the profiles of the students.

RECOGNITIONS AT INDEPENDENCE

The Board of Directors of the SVGAT paid tribute and recognized Mr. Zepton Greaves for his contribution to the game of cricket. Born in Dorsetshire Hill on mainland St. Vincent in 1941, Zeppie as he is fondly known is one of the oldest persons still playing competitive cricket. Zeppie represented St. Vincent and the Windward Islands before migrating to Canada in 1974. Here in Canada, Zeppie continued playing club cricket and in 2024 was named captain of Team Canada in the Inaugural Over 70s International Masters Cricket Tournament.

Ms. Barbara Toney and Mr. Raymond England were given special recognitions by Consul General, Mr. Fitz Huggins on behalf of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines for their contribution to the community here in Toronto.

The Board of Directors takes this opportunity to once again thank all those who contributed to the success of all of the events to celebrate Independence,

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 14th, the SVGAT proudly hosted our annual Children's Christmas Party at the Church of St. Stephen Downsview. The event was a breathtaking success, bursting with laughter, joy, and the vibrant spirit of the holiday season!

The air was filled with excitement as children dove into an array of games, delicious treats, and refreshing drinks,



all while grooving to the lively melodies spun by DJ Akin. The pinnacle of the day arrived with the much-anticipated visit from Santa Claus himself! His arrival sparked an eruption of cheers and

delighted smiles as each child received a special

Christmas present, creating unforgettable memories that will be cherished for years to come.

Parents also enjoyed a cozy moment, indulging in a warm bowl of soup lovingly crafted by our dear Erline. To complement this delightful dish, we offered her famous sorrel and refreshing Mauby, generously donated by Ms. Cynthia.

The camaraderie among families, paired with the festive atmosphere, transformed our gathering into a heartwarming celebration. A heartfelt thank you to the Church of St. Stephen Downsview for their gracious hospitality and for opening their doors to us with such warmth. We are incredibly grateful to Allan Austin for his unwavering support and kindness throughout the event.

A massive shout-out goes to all our wonderful donors and tireless volunteers. Your selfless contributions and hard work made this event the joyous occasion it was. We truly appreciate your dedication to creating a magical day for our children.

As we bask in the afterglow of this year's festivities, we're already bubbling with excitement for next year's celebration! We can't wait to reunite and collaborate again in just 11 months. Here's to more joyful moments, festive fun, and cherished memories waiting to be created in the future!

SVGAT's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Association will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025 @ 4:00 p.m. At that meeting, there will be a review of the activities of the Corporation for 2024, the presentation of the financial report and the election of board members to replace those whose terms have expired. All members of the Association are invited to attend and to make themselves available to serve.

VOTING ELIGIBILITY

In order to cast a vote at the upcoming annual general meeting, a person has to be a financial or honorary life member in 2024. According to the by-laws, a person who is not a financial or honorary life member can be elected to serve on the board. If such a person is elected, the person has up to ten (10) days following the election to pay his or membership fee and become a member. Membership fees are paid annually and are good up to December 31 of the year in which they are paid, however, there is a grace period ending March 31 where those members remain financial.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION PROCESS

1) Introduction

According to paragraph (22) of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto (hereinafter "The Association") By-laws, each year Board seats are opened for elections according to numbers. Elections will take place during the Annual General Members Meeting that is normally held in the month of January. For 2025, the Annual General Members Meeting will be held on January 26.

In accordance with the Province of Ontario Corporation Law, a person can be elected as a director without being a member of the Corporation. If a person who is not a member is elected, then that person has up to ten (10) days following the election in which to become a member.

The logistic of the elections and its running will be managed by an Election Supervisor. Firstly, there will be the election of a president, then there will be election for the remaining directors.

2) Eligible Candidate

In order to be nominated for and elected as president and/or director, the person must:

- Be 18 years of age
- Not be a declared bankrupt
- Not be prohibited from being a director or promoter of the Association
- Be of sound mind •

Agree to be nominated

- Must be present at the meeting
- State his/her qualifications and why he or she feels they are fit to serve the Corporation in that capacity.

Eligible Voters

Only persons fulfilling the following criteria are eligible to vote:

- Any financial member of the Association in good standing. Good Standing in this context refers to a member who has paid his/her membership dues for the year 2024. All paid members for the 2024 year continue to be members up to March 31st, 2025.
- Honorary Life Members.

The following voting criteria apply to all members. Members present at the election have both a self-voting right as a candidate if they are board members seeking reelection, and as ordinary members to nominate and elect persons to serve on the board.

4) The Election Process

4.1) Nominations & Voting

Nomination: The nominator must state why he or she feels that the nominee is a good candidate for being the president/director of the Corporation. If the nomination is seconded then the nominee must state his or her qualifications for being a president/director and whether he or she feels that they are fit to serve the Corporation in that capacity. The Election Supervisor shall ask if there are any more nominations. If none is forthcoming, he/she asks for a motion that nominations to be closed, seconded and agreed upon.

4.2) Voting: Voting takes place when nominations are closed. The following voting criteria apply to all candidates:

A candidate, present at the election, either has a self-voting right as a candidate or as an ordinary member if they are a board member seeking reelection.

5.) Election of President & Directors

5.1) Election of President: The president is elected to serve as president for one year. The president will automatically become a director and his/her term of office as a director will be determined when the directors are elected. Nominations and voting will follow the above-noted process.

5.2) Election of Directors: For 2024, four directors will have completed their terms. Therefore, there will be four vacancies to be filled as follows:

One director to be elected for a three-year term

Three directors to be elected for a one-year term

The election results are published later on the Association's website.

The Supervisor of Elections will declare the names of all candidates who have been elected.

The elected president may choose to give some remarks at this point.

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

President & Director: Cordel Telfer (647-717-9731)

VP & Director: Francine Burke (647-772-3683)

Secretary & Director: Cheyenne Samuel (647-989-4235)

Treas. & Dir: Delcina Jardine-Reckley (647-464-3355)

Director: Erline Granderson (416-788-5163)

Director: June Ellis (416-867-7930)

At this year's AGM on January 26, four (4) directors positions will be up for elections, namely, three directors for two-year terms and one director for a one-year term.

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. The following are so far proposed, *Adopt-A-Child, Boat Cruise, Independence Planning, Scholarship, Unity Picnic Reps., Public Relations, Social Engagement & Outreach and Children's Christmas Party and CCAC Representatives.*



St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Tourism Office

416-630-9292

svgta.ca@discoversvg.com

403 - 55 Town Centre Court
Scarborough, ON M1P 4X4

HURRICANE BERYL RELIEF EFFORTS

The Corporation hosted a food and bake sale on September 21 at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Downsview to raise funds for the victims of Hurricane Beryl which caused severe damage in many Caribbean countries and particularly the Southern Grenadines. The event which ran from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. saw scores of individuals dropping by to purchase some Vincy delicacies including roast breadfruit, tri-tri cakes, sweet bread, goat head soup, bread and buns, as well as popular drinks like sorrel, mauby and ginger beer. Just over \$2,000.00 was raised to help the people of the Southern Grenadines.

CARI-ON SVG Disaster Preparedness spearheaded a collection drive to gather and ship clothing, tools and machines to the affected individuals.

2025 TORONTO HARBOUR BOAT CRUISE

The SVGAT and the Toronto SVG Support Group (TorSVGSG) will again coordinate the summer boat cruise to raise funds for supporting the activities and programs of both organizations. The annual popular cruise will be held on Friday, August 8, 2025.



More details about this event will be shared in due course.

CCAC NEWS

The Council of Caribbean Associations-Canada (CCAC) of which the SVGAT is a founding member held its bursary and scholarship presentations on November 17 during which it presented 5 bursaries of \$3,000.00 each to students of Caribbean descent who are attending colleges and universities. Two other students each received full tuition-paid scholarships to attend Seneca Poly-technic and George Brown College for up to four years.

This is an election year for the CCAC. The AGM is scheduled for May 26 when new board members will be elected and committees appointed.

The CCAC has ten active member associations – 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 St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto.



SVGAT'S ADOPT-A-CHILD PROGRAM

The Corporation is into the second year of the fourth cycle of the Adopt-A-Child Program. The five-year terms ran from 2008 to 2012, 2013 to 2018, 2019 to 2023 and 2024 to 2028 where students from schools across St. Vincent and the Grenadines are provided with funding to support them at school. The funds are entrusted in each students' account with the respective

schools and a committee including teachers and members of the parent-teacher committees oversee the students' progress at school.

In this cycle of sponsorship, 12 students from the Barrouallie Anglican, Belmont Government, Bequia Anglican Primary, Evesham Methodist, Fitz Hughes Government, Georgetown Government, Kingstown Anglican, Lowmans Windward Anglican, Mary Hutchinson Primary, Owia Government, Rose Hall Government and School for Children with Special Needs – Kingstown.

With so many natural disasters affecting St. Vincent and the Grenadines, there is a growing need for those of us who can do our best to support families there, especially with ensuring that the students are provided with at least the basic needs to get a proper education. If you are so inclined to join as a sponsor in this program, kindly contact any member of the board of directors. The current commitment is CDN\$720.00 per year which converts to approximately EC\$1,200.00, so that the student receives EC\$100.00 per month.

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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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

IMMIGRATION MATTERS

IMMIGRATION MATTERS: EXODUS

Contributed by: Sandra Sutherland, RCIC-IRB

The Bible tells a story of the Israelites embarking on an exodus to flee from their enslavement in Egypt to Canaan, the promised land flowing with milk and honey. Today people flee their countries due to persecution and other crisis in pursuit of a better life in a country perceived to be filled with opportunities. There are stories of Americans planning to migrate to Canada because of the current political climate in the U.S. Whatever the reasons may be, many foreign nationals choose to migrate to the U.S.A or Canada. With the looming threat of mass deportation in the U.S.A the expectation is that Canada will likely be viewed as “the promised land” as less and less foreign nationals get disenchanted by the idea of migrating to the U.S. It is fair to say that, during 2025 and over the next few years, Canada can expect to face mass migration. With the potential of more Americans moving here, does it mean that Canada will limit the number of other foreign nationals they let in?

It is estimated that Canada has between 300,000 and 600,000 undocumented immigrants. There is concern that the Canadian government may, within the next couple of years, follow suit and implement a deportation plan similar to that of the U.S. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) intends to limit the number of immigrants they accept as permanent and temporary residents starting this year (2025).

In October 2024 IRCC released details of their 2025-2027 Immigration Levels Plan. The volume of foreign nationals slated to be admitted to Canada as permanent residents will decrease from 500,000 to 395,000 residents in 2025, 380,000 in 2026 and 365,000 in 2027. The majority of admitted perma-

nent residents will be from the economic/skilled worker streams. 22% are slated to come from the family sponsorship category and 15% are expected to come from the resettled refugees and protected persons category. The target for applicants applying for permanent residency based on humanitarian and compassionate grounds and/or as part of public policies is 21,200. Temporary resident targets (specifically international students and temporary foreign workers) shall be reduced to 5% of Canada’s population by the end of 2026. The good news is that more than 40% of overall permanent resident admissions in 2025 shall be students or workers already in Canada.

So, with more Americans and other foreign nationals setting their sights on migrating to Canada what are we likely to expect? Reducing the number of permanent and temporary residents could result in IRCC tightening eligibility criteria, refusing more applications, reducing intake caps on study permit applications, and/or restricting or closing existing programs. It was announced on January 3, 2025 that IRCC will not be accepting any new applications for the parent and grandparent (PGP) sponsorship program this year. As we progress through this new year more and more changes will be announced.

The government of Canada states that they are reducing the immigration levels so as to alleviate pressures on housing, infrastructure and social services. They acknowledge that temporary and

APPEAL FOR NEW MEMBERS

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. welcomes new members for its survival. An appeal is being made to younger persons who have an interest in its survival to become members and use your talent to make your contribution.

permanent residents play a key role in supporting economic growth, addressing labour market shortages, and contributing to the diversity of communities across Canada. At a time when mass migration may be imminent the Canadian government is seeking to reduce the amount of permanent and temporary residents it lets in. Could any of this be counterproductive? What will foreign nationals encounter as they set about their journey to migrate to Canada? How will the Canadian government

actually deal with an onslaught of migrants over the next few years?

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.

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Support the Reconstruction Efforts in St. Vincent & The Grenadines

In the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, the work of rebuilding St. Vincent & The Grenadines (SVG) continues. Many communities across the islands, including the Grenadines, are still in need of critical resources to restore homes, infrastructure, and essential services. CARI-ON SVG Disaster Preparedness remains committed to providing direct support and aid in these reconstruction efforts, ensuring that those impacted receive the help they desperately need.

As part of this ongoing commitment, CARI-ON SVG Disaster Preparedness is organizing two major fundraising events:

☀️ Jewels of the Sea Gala Royale – April 4, 2025

🏏 Cricket Fundraiser Event – August 24, 2025, Brampton

These initiatives are proudly supported by Councillor Rod Power of Brampton and the Consul General Office of St. Vincent & The Grenadines, who have been instrumental in mobilizing resources and rallying the community to support this vital cause. Their leadership and dedication to humanitarian efforts continue to make a significant impact.

Together, we can make a tangible difference in the lives of those affected by the hurricane. Stay tuned for further updates on how you can participate and contribute to this important cause.

✉️ For more information:

- ♦ Email: carion.org@gmail.com
- ♦ Website: www.carionsvg.org

☎️ Contact:

Hayden Jones – 416-889-3293

Andrea Jones – 647-291-6465

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER ALFRED COMPTON PASSES



At the time of preparing this newsletter, we learnt of the passing of Mr. Compton, an Honorary Life Member of The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto, following a period of illness. Alfred Compton, a native of Canouan, came to Canada in 1967 and became a member of the St. Vincent Association shortly thereafter and has served on the executive and board of directors on a number of occasions. At one time, he served as Assistant Treasurer chaired the Building Committee and Fund Raising & Entertainment Committee.

Throughout the years, Mr. Compton contributed in kind and coin to the Association. In the late 1970's when the Association rented a hall on St. Clair Avenue West, Compton went out and recruited persons to assist in areas that other members of the Association could not. Mr. Compton also contributed his time and money to see the renovations completed to the satisfaction of members of the Association.

Compton remained a contributing member over the years in spite of periods of disillusionment.

The Board and members of The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. take this opportunity to posthumously thank Mr. Compton for his contribution and herewith extend condolences to his family and all those who mourn his passing.

News From SVG

GEARING UP FOR ELECTIONS

Constitutionally due by February 2026, the political parties in St. Vincent and the Grenadines are actively preparing for general elections which some predict could be called as early of November this year.

While Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has indicated his intention to lead the Unity Labour Party for the sixth consecutive term in office, a number of government ministers have indicated that they would not be considering seeking re-election. The party is still in the process of recruiting suitable persons to replace those who would bow out.

Meanwhile, the New Democratic Party, the main opposition party has indicated that it has its full complement of 15 candidates to make a sixth attempt to dislodge the chains of government from the ULP. Among the NDP's hopefuls is Dr. Kishore Shallow, current president of West Indies Cricket.

A new party, the National Liberation Movement was recently launched by Dr. Doris Charles, a former diplomat and wife of a former Government Minister. The party described itself as "the voice of change and transformation" and is offering itself to the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines as "the only viable alternative for our people, to take the country further into the future with hope, prosperity and sustainable growth for ALL,

Non-European Visitors to UK Need ETA

The UK Government has introduced Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) for millions of visitors who pass through the UK border every year,

including six million from the United States, Canada, and Australia.

Since Nov. 27, 2024, all eligible non-European visitors can apply for an ETA and will need one to travel to the UK from Jan. 8, 2025.

In 2025, the UK will open ETA to eligible Europeans, who will be able to apply from March 5, 2025 and will need an ETA to travel to the UK from April 2, 2025.

From April 2025, all visitors to the UK who do not need a visa for short stays and who do not already have a UK immigration status will need an ETA.

The expansion follows the successful rollout of ETAs to Gulf Cooperation Council nationals earlier. In the first half of 2024, over 243,000 Gulf nationals were issued with ETAs and can now benefit from smoother, easier travel to the UK for short trips. It is stated that ETAs will enhance security through new technology and make the UK border more efficient, preserving the UK's appeal as a dynamic, diverse, and exciting destination to visit."

All travellers to the UK — except British and Irish citizens — will need permission to travel in advance through either an ETA or an eVisa. Replacing physical immigration documents with eVisas lets UK visa holders use online immigration services, take control of their data and prevent against documents being lost, stolen or tampered with.

RENOVATED PORT KINGSTOWN HEADING TOWARDS COMPLETION

Minister of Finance Hon. Camillo Gonsalves said the Port is now 82 percent complete and currently employs 169 Vincentians. He said that Vincentians can expect for the modern Kingstown port to be commissioned and fully operational by mid-2025.

Budget 2025 which was recently debated in parliament, allocates \$92.6 million to the completion of this phase of the modern port project. This will be used to complete ongoing works, namely:

- Construction of the container freight station building;
- Construction of the administrative building, maintenance workshop —including, internal finishing, elevator installation, and solar panel installation;
- Construction of the maintenance garage;
- Completion of the Break Bulk Warehouse;
- Installation of pavement;
- Installation of operational facilities;
- Terminal utilities — manholes, ducting, potable water and fire lines, sewer lines, etc.;
- Landscaping;
- Roadworks; and
- Commissioning and testing

The renovation began in early 2024 with the dredging of sand from shores around the Argyle International Airport and deposited in the Kingstown Harbour.







MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS REWARDS
Arbor Memorial Inc.
 is a proud sponsor of the
Council of Caribbean Associations-Canada
 (CCAC) and its member affiliates including
St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of
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





Contributed Opinion

TO CHANGE IS TO LIVE

Contributed by William Nedd

On November 1st 1968, Dr Allan Selwyn Liverpool wrote a letter to the Vincy Community in response to a request from SVG asking for assistance to refurbish a Playing Field. In a footnote to that letter, he put out a call to all concerned Vincentians to attend a meeting at Club Tropics on Queen Street, Toronto. This meeting was to form an organization to fill a growing need in the community for a networking focal point, a centralized gathering to attempt to address some of these needs here in Toronto and at Home.

On December 1st 1968 they formed the SVGAT and gave us a HOME Away from HOME.

Over the years a group of adults have selflessly given their Time, Effort and Expertise to grow that organization. Today we sit on the threshold of a new era. Here we need to seriously reflect on:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 The Annual General Meeting of the Corporation is on Sunday, January 26 @ 4:00 p.m. virtually.

Where we have been?
What we have done?
Where we are?
Where we want to go? and
What we need to do to get there?

We do know that any organization needs Pioneers and Settlers in order to grow and to effectively achieve their goals. We have Settlers, an abundance of Settlers. Where are the Pioneers?

The process of attracting Pioneers begins with a systematic method of recruiting. Without recruits, organizations wither and eventually die. In developing a recruitment program, we must first understand the New World order in which we live., or outside which we exist.

The Pioneers exist in a world that the Settlers do not understand and unfortunately some do not WANT to understand. The Settlers Need to begin to understand a little of that world. The Settlers Need to demonstrate a WILLINGNESS to understand a bit of that world-not necessarily all of it.

They will never understand all of it, because it travels fast and changes even faster. The Settlers need to form

a partnership with the potential Pioneers. They need to respect their brilliance, their energy and their expertise. The Pioneers on the other hand need to relearn the concept of Respect and Patience.

The Pioneers need to respect the struggles, the experience and the wisdom of the Settlers. I am convinced that both Settlers and Pioneers want to pursue the same goals and to grow the organization, to change its image, to reimagine its objectives and to create a futuristic plan going forward.

We are presently steeped in the pettiness and murky waters that anger and dissension have created. Out of the ashes of this acrimony must rise a Phoenix, a brand-new structure built with the positive bricks of the past, cemented by the hopes and dreams of the united Settler and Pioneer singing from the same sanky hymnbook, with differences yes but willingly demonstrating a continuous effort to find compromise and common ground.

This is my HOPE.

~~~~~

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**Community builder.**  
***Police officer.***

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### CONDOLENCES TO THE BEREAVED

*As we start another year, we remember members of our community whom we lost during the past year and earlier in this year so far and therefore take this opportunity to wish that they are resting in peace with our creator, God. We also ask God's blessings on their families and friends. May their souls Rest In Eternal Peace!*

### PHOTOS FROM 2025 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



From left to right: Reyanne Telfer serving refreshments; Reyanne & Delcina Jardine-Reckley; Santa's helpers Dhania St. Marie and Oniah Telfer



## SOME PHOTOS FROM INDEPENDENCE GALA



**Photos** – Left to Right from the top: SVG Tourism Display; Sandra Bobb – Chair of Independence Committee; DJ Fusion; Ken Farrell & Zeppie Greaves; KLC Rep Nicole & Bursary Recipient Oniah Telfer; Margaret Williams – Entertainer; Earl “Old George” Daniel – MC; Cordel Telfer – President-SVGAT; Francine Burke – VP-SVGAT presenting to Recipient Maya Boweya



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