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Meetings and Contacting Us

The Association meets on the last Sunday of each month at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, (Keele & Sheppard area) North York from 4:00 p.m. Business meetings are held in January, April, July and October. The other Sundays are used for educational discussions and social events. One can get in touch with the Executive either by writing to P.O. Box 392, Station F, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2L8, e-mail at svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com, or phone at (416) 763-9889.

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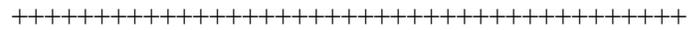
You can now donate to any of the following, the Relief Fund, the Scholarship Fund, the Children's Christmas Party, the Christmas Hamper to Families In Need and/or to General Operating Funds.

Association Sub-Committees

Since the elections a number of sub-committee chairs have been named with the intent of carrying on the business of the Association. Those committee chairs include:
Public Relations & Membership Committee - Ms Yolande Lewis
Unity Picnic Committee - Mr. Claudius Samuel

Mothers' Day Committee - Mrs. Gracelyn Providence
Constitution Review Committee - Mrs. Grace Stephens
Finance Committee - Mr. Wendel Cole
Seniors Committee - Mr. Ivan Richards
Sports & Recreation Committee - Mr. Jimmy Lewis

If you are interested in serving on any of the above committees please feel free to contact the chair of the committee or the President, Mr. Jason Jones.



**St Vincent & Grenadines wins National Post
Canadian Campaign**

St Vincent and the Grenadines has been selected as the winner of the 2005 National Post newspaper's Canadian campaign.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines was chosen from among the many Caribbean and other world destinations in the campaign. The National Post campaign is an annual event which reaches millions of Canadian consumers in the paper's quest to enlarge and expand readership.

The 2005 campaign features a contest amongst the National Post readers by way of advertisements and special displays of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in all Canadian newsstands. A radio campaign will also be a component of the campaign; this will direct the Canadian public to win a trip to St. Vincent and the Grenadines by subscribing for delivery or direct buy of the National Post.

According to Sandra Zingraro of the National Post, "The total due of the 2005 campaign is an estimated 150,000 Canadian dollars and will provide St. Vincent and the Grenadines visibility and positioning for the Canadian consumer".

The campaign is being conducted through SVG's Public Relations Company in Canada "The Westminster Communication Group". The National Post is one of Canada's largest dailies and as a week day circulation of over 600,000 copies.

YOU MADE IT POSSIBLE

Thanks to all those who assist in one way or the other to make the production of Insight possible. We invite others to join in sharing their articles with our readers.



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**ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
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For more information please contact

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333 Wilson Ave, Suite # 601

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Tel: (416) 633-3100

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

*Please bring along a friend to the next meeting of
 the Association on Sunday, April 24 at 4:00 p.m.*

**ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
 ASSOCIATIONS OF MONTREAL,
 OTTAWA AND TORONTO**

ANNUAL UNITY PICNIC

Join Vincentians and friends in the Montreal, Ottawa
 and Toronto areas as we celebrate this
 Annual Unity Outing

Brown's Bay Provincial Park, 1000 Islands

Saturday, July 16, 2005

Contact any member of the Executive for more details.

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CANADA DAY PICNIC

Friday, July 1, 10:00 a.m.

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THE CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE – Completing our Independence

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) is set to be inaugurated in April this year in Trinidad, the Head Quarters of the Court. Last August, the Rt. Hon. Michael de la Bastide former Chief Justice of Trinidad & Tobago, was sworn in as the President of the Court. Since then six other judges have been selected to sit on the CCJ. They are:

Rolston Nelson, Trinidadian, a member of the Court of Appeal of Trinidad & Tobago;

Duke Pollard, Guyanese, a Legal Consultant at the CARICOM Desk in Guyana;

Desiree Bernard, Guyanese, the Chancellor of the Guyana Judiciary;

Jacob Wit, Dutch, a member of the Supreme Court of the Netherlands Antilles and Curacao;

David Hayton, British, a Professor at the University of London; and

Adrian Saunders, Vincentian, the Acting Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court;

The Judges were selected late last year by the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission (RJLSC). The RJLSC is a body that is entirely independent of the Governments of the region. Its membership is comprised of four nominees of regional Bar and Law Associations, two distinguished jurists nominated by the Deans of the Law Faculties of CARICOM states, two nominees of civil society nominated jointly by the Secretary-General of CARICOM and the Director-General of the OECS following consultations with regional NGOs, one Chairman of the Judicial Services Commission of a CARICOM

state, and the Chairman of a Public Service Commission of a CARICOM state. The RJLSC is chaired by the President of the court.

The CCJ will have two jurisdictions, an original and an appellate. Firstly, in order for the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) to function effectively, there is need for a single tribunal to interpret and apply the Treaty of Chaguaramas as revised (the CARICOM treaty). That tribunal will be the CCJ. When the CCJ plays this role it will be discharging its *original* jurisdiction. Secondly, the CCJ will replace the Privy Council as the court of final appeal in civil and criminal matters for those English speaking CARICOM countries that so desire. This will be the *appellate* jurisdiction of the CCJ.

Throughout the Caribbean region, there has been tremendous debate regarding the desirability of establishing the CCJ. Most of the discussion has centred on the appellate jurisdiction of the court since most observers recognize the need for the CCJ, or at least a body of a similar nature, to perform the role that the CCJ will perform in its original jurisdiction.

Detractors of the CCJ question the motives of regional governments in replacing the Privy Council as a final court of appeal. This debate has intensified sharply in the wake of several decisions handed down by the Privy Council in death penalty cases. Over the last ten to 15 years, the Privy Council has upset regional governments by reversing decisions of regional courts in murder cases and also in constitutional cases having to do with the death penalty. The move to establish the CCJ has therefore been seen by some as a step by regional governments to avoid the consequences of these rulings of the Privy Council and to create a court that will make it easier to hang convicted murderers.

It is regrettable that the idea of a Caribbean court to replace the Privy Council has become embroiled in the death penalty controversy. Long before this controversy arose, the notion of a regional final court gained currency as far back as 1970 when Jamaica tabled a resolution at the Sixth Conference of the Heads of Government of CARICOM calling for the implementation of a Caribbean Court of Appeal. This was not surprising. All of the former British colonies that once used the Privy Council have gone on to establish their own final court. At this time the Caribbean is grouped with the somewhat obscure territories of the Isle of Man, Jersey, the Pitcairn Islands, Gibraltar and Mauritius as the only remaining countries that still retain the Privy Council as a final court.

The argument that the use of the Privy Council is free of cost to us or that we can better invest our scarce resources in shoring up the admittedly poor state of some of our legal infrastructure are poor excuses for clinging on to a relic of colonialism in the 21st Century. With the Privy Council as our final court of appeal, too few Caribbean litigants can have their cases decided at the highest level. Firstly, there is the physical distance involved. It is quite daunting for a litigant to contemplate having to pursue the ends of justice way across the Atlantic Ocean. Secondly, and closely allied to this, is the matter of the costs involved in bringing a matter before the Privy Council. London solicitors

must be briefed and travel, accommodation and out of pocket expenses must be paid to counsel. Moreover, those expenses are quite apart from the legal fees charged, which fees, given the stature of the Privy Council and the finality of its decisions, are always quite considerable. The establishment of the CCJ will naturally eliminate or at least ameliorate these constraints to access to justice.

Before subscribing to the appellate jurisdiction, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, like most Caribbean countries, will be required to undertake constitutional amendments. Care has to be taken to ensure that the mechanisms adopted to subscribe to the appellate jurisdiction are in conformity with constitutional requirements. Recently, the Privy Council held to be unconstitutional and void three Bills passed by the Jamaica Parliament that sought to revoke the right of appeal to the Privy Council and to replace it with appeals to the CCJ. In the view of the Judges of the Privy Council, the procedure adopted by Jamaica was inappropriate. There would however be little difficulty for Jamaica and other CARICOM countries to subscribe to the court in its original jurisdiction and indeed many countries have already executed and passed the necessary instruments to do so.

The Privy Council's recent decision to rule the Jamaica Acts unconstitutional should not prevent the CCJ from coming into operation in April as scheduled. The court will still have work to do in its original jurisdiction and, because of their peculiar Constitutions, the countries of Guyana and Barbados are ready to subscribe to the court in its appellate jurisdiction immediately. The recent decision may however serve to lengthen the time before some countries that wish to join the appellate jurisdiction actually do so.

The CCJ is to be funded by a Trust Fund capitalized at US\$100 million. That money has been raised by the Caribbean Development Bank and the fund is to be administered by an independent Board of Trustees. The investment of the fund will yield sufficient sums of money to take care of the expenses of the CCJ for the foreseeable future.

The CCJ is more than just a court of original and appellate jurisdiction for the Caribbean region. It is a body that can assist in fashioning a Caribbean jurisprudence, a role that the Privy Council could never perform. The CCJ can also play a significant role in forging broader and deeper ties between regional states. The judiciary comprises one of three branches of Government. To continue consciously to entrust to a foreign court of law, and to judges with no emotional or spiritual connection with the region, the responsibilities that go with the highest rung on the judicial ladder is to surrender a vital aspect of one's sovereignty. The establishment of the CCJ can therefore be regarded as the completion of our independence.

*Adrian D. Saunders
11th February, 2005*

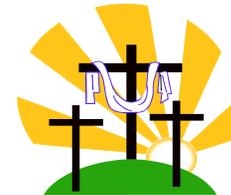
COMMUNITY NEWS

**Help a child in your homeland to a brighter future.
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St. Vincent and the Grenadines by helping the children. As little as Cdn\$1.00/day per month will give at least EC\$50.00 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, 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 Association either through regular mail or e-mail. You can also contact any member of the Executive.

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Memorial Service



In Celebration of the Life of

*The Late
Oswald Kingsley George*

*Saturday, April 23, 2005
4:00 p.m*

*The British Methodist Episcopal Church
1828 Eglinton Avenue West
(Corner of Dufferin & Eglinton)*

Reception to follow

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**HIGH COMMISSION FOR ORGANIZATION
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TORONTO CONSULATE OFFICE

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Email: consulategeneral@svgconsulate.org

The Office of the Consulate General in Toronto is here to attend to the needs of Vincentians. It also strives at strengthening its ties with organizations looking to do business in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

www.svgconsulate.org functions as an effective tool in assisting us to reach our goals. Visit our website.

Obituaries

Quite a number of our friends and relatives of our community have passed to the great beyond since our last publication. 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 Executive and Members of the Association take this opportunity to express sincere condolences to all who have lost their loved ones.

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LOVE, UNITY AND CHARITY REFLECTIONS OF A PAST PRESIDENT

Eddie U. Bernard

I was asked by the Relief Committee, of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto, Inc. to speak on the subject of “Love, Unity and Charity” as seen from the eyes of a Past President. I accepted the invitation although I am no expert on the subject of Love, Unity and Charity. I believed that my leadership experiences over the years would have allowed me to express some random thoughts and thus provide a reflection on this most important subject that the Associations still yearns for today.

LOVE

The Readers Digest great Encyclopedic Dictionary defines love as follows:

- “ A very great interest in, or enjoyment of something”
- “The kindness and charitableness man should show towards others”

In 1991 I made a conscious decision to step down from active leadership and participation in the Association .It was necessary then to not only step down but also move out and move on. Stepping down and moving out did not mean terminating my membership in the Association as I never did. It meant making room for and allowing new faces, new blood, new personnel to get in line, and thus have an opportunity to get involved in leadership roles and move the Association to further heights.

That self imposed retirement was a difficult moment in my life. It meant letting go of something of great value, interest, and close to your heart. Letting go of something that I enjoyed.. By then you must understand that after eight years in the Association seven of which were spent in executive leadership roles it was difficult not to fall in love with your work and the passion that this brought to you to keep on going.

I relate to you this opening scenario because it is important to note that without the support of my family in place I could not have achieved the success and satisfaction in the roles that I played in the Association over those years. Let me therefore for

the first time since leaving office in 1991, officially say, “Thank You,” to my wife and daughter for your undaunted and unrelentless support. This is where that love must first be shown and must now be recognized.

Cam saw to it that our home was an open and inviting place. In fact, a meeting and resting place for the numerous executive gatherings that I chaired and/or hosted. Without my direct involvement she saw to it that food and I mean sumptuous pot cooked meals with Caribbean flavor were always prepared and ready regardless of whether two people or the full executive committee of twelve or more showed up.

Let me at this point also recognize and express my appreciation and sincere thanks to all those Past Presidents and their spouses who opened their homes and showed similar love to the developing, struggling and stranded executive committees of the day. You have all contributed to the construction of a foundation upon which the house is built today.

Ladies and gentlemen the Association has a strong foundation. Permit me to continue that story of love by telling you that with the passionate involvement to build a strong and vibrant organization family business was on many occasions put on hold or took second place. I almost did not see my daughter grow up because Daddy was seldom in place during quality family time. How can you when you were averaging four nights per week being out on Association business after putting in long days at work.

I recalled one Saturday afternoon several years ago as the Vice President of the Association then. I was a spectator at one of the association cricket matches. I had my daughter with me. Cam was spending part of her Saturday at the hair dressers. I was approached by a member of the cricket team, who posed a direct question to me -“Eddie how come you keep paying your cricket dues year after year but you never play cricket?”

Now you need to understand the setting here. This was a week end, and I was ‘baby sitting’ if you permit me to use the term loosely. My daughter was bored as she would rather be somewhere else. I had made her a promise not to stay at this cricket place too long. I looked at the member who posed the question and said “that is a fair question. You see I spend an average of four nights per week at four to five hours per night on association business, not including general meetings. I therefore think it will be very unfair to look my daughter and wife in the eyes and tell them that I will be gone on weekends as well to play cricket Saturday and Sunday. He agreed with me.

You see Love must be shared. This is part of that kindness and charitableness that one must show towards the other.

I learned a long time ago that regardless of the love you show that is regardless of the interest or enjoyment you have for something and regardless of the charitableness you should show towards others you must execute a common sense approach to balancing work, personal and family obligations. Your family must be part of what you are and families must become emotionally engaged or connected.

This then was the ultimate sacrifice in that what the association gained in me as a leader it lost in me as a cricketer. I made that early choice in life balancing. Unfortunately I was never able to show my hidden talent in cricket. I continued to pay my dues to support those who had the time to make their contribution in that direction and in that area of the development of the Association.

UNITY

The readers digest great encyclopedic dictionary defines unity as follows:

- “The state of fact of being one.”
- “Something that is wholly united and complete within itself.”

History will show that from 1985 the Association went through some very interesting and interactive years This was the emergence of an organization with new direction and leadership with a renewed vision. There were some challenging moments but with a united front it was no longer business as usual but New Business.

The operative words coming out of the era of the mid to late eighties were unity and leadership. We were connected and that was without the reliance on cells phones and computers. It was at the end of the eighties that in order to remain wholly united, I coined the term, “shoulders cannot go above head”. That remained a well used term which was embraced by several leaderships thereafter.

In the early to mid nineties and continuing through those years the Association had developed to a point where change was again inevitable. The solutions of the eighties were not remedies for the nineties and as a result leadership recognized that the organization could not function in any progressive and meaningful way as an entity unto itself. There were several other Vincentian organizations all struggling but striving to maintain their identity in order to gain the respect of the community at large. The Association made a conscious, demonstrative, and visionary leadership effort to reach out and recognize these organizations. We respected their objectives. We recognized their mandate and supported their efforts. The records will show that we reached out to:

- St. Vincent Child Welfare Committee
- St. Vincent Cultural Group
- Girls High School Alumni
- Grammar School Alumni
- Bequia Organization
- Union Island Organization
- Other Groups

Concerted efforts were made to truly unite the front with the association taking the initiative and the lead. It was a hard struggle in a difficult period. As the years rolled on the constant revolving change in SVGAT leadership did not do justice to the stability of the unity efforts. As a result while significant progress was made the semblance of unity was never complete within itself. What was however significant and complete was

the fact that membership in the Association was open to every individual member of all the other groups who so wished to join.

The Association continued to move forward and looked ahead. The unity focus shifted with this move to a broader Vincentian national base. Following discussions with several other Vincentian Associations across Canada, The National Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association was formed. The Toronto Association was a founding member, played a leading role and remained a key participant. Toronto demonstrated a vital leadership role. The National council went on to gain full federal government recognition and all of the privileges that came with such member status. The Associations recognized were:

- SVGA Montreal
- SVGA Ottawa
- SVGA Toronto
- SVGA Winnipeg
- SVGZ Calgary
- SVGA Edmonton
- Other

The National Council later went to rest!

The unity movement however was on a high. The Association leadership responded to yet another call for Canadian /; Caribbean organizations to unite. The Association again stepped up, to the plate and played a significant and leadership role as a founding member of what emerged as the Canadian Congress of Eastern Caribbean Association,(CCECA). There were difficult and some turbulent times. But the leaders of the day including yours truly were determined and committed to overcome the obstacles that were before us. We were determined to prove among other things that unity was indeed “the state of fact of being one.” We were committed to use the mandate given to us by all the organizations to report back to them and say we passed and not that we failed. Failure was not an option. We functioned at a high level with too much at stake.

At the historic all day inauguration ceremony of CCECA, It was duly noted and recorded that CCECA made happen what other Caribbean movements tried years to achieve but failed to grasp .and that was the state of fact of being one. In that united movement, let me recognize the regional organizations of the day that made this a reality:

- Anguilla Association
- Antigua Association
- Dominica Association
- Grenada Association
- Montserrat Association
- St.Kitts / Nevis Association
- St.Lucia Association
- St.Vincent and the Grenadines Association

CCECA connected with people. As the umbrella organization CCECA connected with the local member Associations. CCECA connected with Local Government, CCECA connected with Ontario Provincial Government. CCECA connected with the Local and Regional Consulate offices, CCECA connected

with the High Commission for Organization of Eastern Caribbean states. CCECA connected with Toronto Police. CCECA connected with Caribbean Governments. CCECA was seen as a “breath of fresh air”. Then CCECA went to sleep!

It will take dedicated, committed, and inspired new leadership to step up to the plate and reenergize the efforts made so that this unity can be complete within itself. It can be done but unity must first come from within. A chemistry must work between the President and the entire executive committee. The executive must connect with the main stream body. The main stream membership must buy into and support local, national and regional unity efforts. That’s the only way we will realize the state of fact of truly being one.

CHARITY

Noted definitions are as follows:

- “The providing of help to the poor”
- “That which is given to help the needy”
- “An act or feeling of benevolence or good will”

MY CHALLENGES TO RELIEF COMMITTEE

1. Emergency Preparedness Plan

Develop a plan with some flexibility. Maintain and refine this plan in order to make things happen. A wise man once said that there are three kinds of people:

- Those who make things happen
- Those who wait on things to happen
- Those who wondered what happened

2. Rapid Response Team

Have readily available an identifiable Task Force of three or four persons with the skill, resources and connections to execute actions within a relatively short time.

3. Capture The New Wave

Target retiring Vincentians and Friends. Tap into the wealth of knowledge, experience and resources. Tap into their expertise, their abundance of valuable contacts. Retired people have time but they are also busy. A wise man once said, “if you want something done give it to a busy person to do.”

4. Brain Gain

Several years ago it was said that St.Vincent was experiencing a brain drain with a number of foreign trained personnel leaving the State. In fact as a Lecturer at the Technical College at the time I recalled reading a communiqué whereby the Ministry was reluctant to have students trained abroad on scholarships or bursaries as foreign trained students were inclined not to return or return only for a very short duration. SVGAT can be part of a partnering program that can:

- Look at the contribution that retiring professionals, skilled or trained workers can make to SVG...
- Look at the contribution that visiting professionals or skilled or trained workers can make in terms of contributing some of their time even while on holidays.

5. Charitable Volunteerism

Identify with the needy within your immediate community and continue to be part of any organization making charitable donations.

MY CHALLENGES TO THE NEW LEADERSHIP

“A good leader must have the ability to inspire others.”

“Success for good leadership is not handed down. It must be earned”

“Leadership must have a distinct view of where the Association is heading”

“Leadership is not about numbers, it’s about touching lives.”

In closing let me quote a line from a presentation made by Charles Mac Donald a renowned speaker who delivered a topic at a conference I attended in Nova Scotia several years ago. He said, “We must look inward to move forward. Our life is filtered through our image of ourselves and when that image is distorted our relationships become distorted as well.”

Love, Unity and Charity. My utmost regards to the Relief Committee and long live the St.Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto.

Note:

This address was prepared for a 2004 Valentines Day Event but the function was cancelled. The speech in its entirety was never presented.

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Tentative Calendar of Events

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
Spring Games Evening	April 10, 2005	TBD
Monthly General Meeting	April 24, 2005	Northwood Community Centre
Mothers' Day Dinner	May 8, 2005	Northwood Community Centre
Cricketers Spring Dance	May 21, 2005	CAW Union Hall, North York
Monthly General Meeting	May 29, 2005	Northwood Community Centre
Cricket Team in Montreal	June 25, 27, 2005	Montreal
Monthly General Meeting	June 26, 2005	Northwood Community Centre
Canada Day Picnic	July 1, 2005	Brampton
Annual Vincy Unity Picnic	July 16, 2005	Brown's Bay Park, 1000 Islands
Monthly General Meeting	July 31, 2005	Northwood Community Centre
Monthly General Meeting	August 28, 2005	Northwood Community Centre
Monthly General Meeting	September 25, 2005	Northwood Community Centre
Independence Church Service	October 23, 2005	TBD
25 th Independence Banquet	October 29, 2005	TBD
Town Hall Discussions	October 30, 2005	TBD
Monthly General Meeting	November 27, 2005	Northwood Community Centre
Winter Games Evening	December 3, 2005	TBD
Children's Christmas Party	December 17, 2005	TBD
Community Sing-a-long	December 18, 2005	TBD
Christmas Hamper Distribution	December 23, 24	

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

Annual Mothers Day Dinner

Sunday, May 8, 2005 from 2:00 p.m.

Disciples Banquet Hall

*30 Gordon Mackay Drive, Toronto
(Jane & Fallstaff Drive near Leons Superstore)*

Tickets - \$20.00

Children under 5 years old – FREE

Contact:

**Gracelyn – 905-717-7896; Allan – 416-510-2889;
Jason – 905-999-1771; Yolande – 905-672-3444;
Audrey – 905-796-2400; Cordel – 905-789-9731;
Kenneth – 416-822-3601**

With sponsorship from



The Membership & Publicity Committee that is responsible for the newsletter and the website includes **Yolande Lewis – Chairperson, Cordel Telfer, Fred Williams, Gerry Wolkowski, Gideon Exeter and Grafton Bibby.**

Just For Laughs!!!

The creative Trini team lawyer and the defendant!!!

A lawyer defending a Trini man accused of burglary tried this creative defense: "My client merely inserted his arm into the window and removed a few trifling articles. His arm is not himself, and I fail to see how you can punish the whole individual for an offense committed by his limb."

"Well put," the judge replied. "Using your logic, I sentence the defendant's arm to one year's imprisonment. He can accompany it or not, as he chooses." The Trini defendant smiled. With his lawyer's assistance he detached his artificial limb, laid it on the bench, and walked out.

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No Excuse Sunday

Beds will be placed in the aisles for those who say 'Sunday is my only day for sleeping in.'

Eye drops will be available for those whose eyes are tired from watching TV too late on Saturday night.

We will have steel helmets for those who believe the roof will cave in if they show up for Mass at the church.

Blankets will be furnished for those who complain that the church is too cold. Fans will be on hand for those who say the church is too hot.

We will have hearing aids for parishioners who say 'The priest doesn't talk loud enough.' There will be ear plugs for those who say, 'The priest talks too loud.'

Score cards will be available for those who wish to count the hypocrites.

We guarantee that relatives will be present for those who like to go visiting on Sunday.

There will be TV dinners for those who claim they can't go to church and cook dinner too.

One section of the church will have trees and grass for those who see God in nature, especially on the golf course.

The altar will be decorated with a Christmas crib and Easter lilies, to create a familiar environment for those who have never seen the church without them.

.....**See you in church next Sunday**
%%%%%%%%%

SVG Unity Picnic

Our Unity Picnic at 1000 Islands in July each year is one of the biggest of its kind coordinated by a single community. The numbers keep increasing each year to over 6,000 folks last year. With just about a 2 ½ hour drive from Toronto and less from both Montreal and Ottawa it's a good day's trip to mingle with folks whom you have not seen for some time or to make new friends.



Prepare to be a part of “the largest gathering of Vincies outside of St. Vincent and the Grenadines” on Saturday, July 16.

The Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal associations are arranging coaches to take you there. You are advised to get your tickets early as they go on sale at the end of April.



**ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.**

STUDENT RECOGNITION INFORMATION SHEET

Recognizing students who have successfully completed the Ontario Secondary School Program.

The idea is to lend community support and show encouragement to those students who have completed and graduated from the program and to further encourage them to pursue a higher level of education through college or university.

As members of a smaller community we are mindful of the importance of education for our advancement within the wider Canadian and world community, therefore, it is the responsibility of the leaders and parents within our community to inspire our young people to strive for the ultimate goal.

On the occasion of the celebration of the Independence Anniversary of our country, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, we choose this time to publicly show our support, encouragement and render thanks to our future leaders.

ELIGIBILITY

The student would have completed the Ontario Secondary School Program during the current year or the year previous to the one in which the recognitions are held and fall into at least one of the following categories:-

- a) Be a citizen of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- b) Be the child of a citizen of St. Vincent and the Grenadines either by birth or naturalization.
- c) Be a member of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto.
- d) Be the child of a member of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto.

The Information Sheet is available and must be completed and returned to the Association by September 30, 2005.

THE INVESTMENT CHALLENGE

Does your investment offer 'PEACE OF MIND'?

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***ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
SPORTS CLUB***

invites you to its

SPRING DANCE

Saturday, May 21, 2005 from 10:00 p.m.

C.A.W. Union Hall
30 Tangiers Road (Keele & Finch)

Admission: \$10.00

Please contact any member of the team for tickets

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RECAPTURING

Our time the past
 Our time the present
 Out time the future.

Do you remember the times?
 Getting up at the crack of dawn
 Going to the mountain fu drogue banana
 Or lackatan as we call it
 Tie out the goat; sweep the yard with the bamboo broom
 Before we get ready fu go a school.

Do you remember walking barefoot?
 Fu go fetch water from the standpipe
 Chit chatting with neighbours, family and friends
 In addition, people we do not even know
 Visiting from town or some place
 In the Caribbean or even overseas
 In conversation they talk about town or the city
 Creating thought in people head
 As though life is better some place else

So we pack we bag
 Reach the airport, Milton Cato Harbour.
 Take off by boat or plane
 To some place we do not even know
 When we arrive at the new place
 To call home a way from home
 Only to find out there no place like home
 Just a stranger in the land
 Its time to recover

Trying to settling cannot believe
 Culture shock, language barrier, no friends
 Ah, feel out ah place
 Not getting the right food, at war with myself
 Lord why did I leave me country.

Ah miss me fresh coconut water, mango
 And the ripe banana, the roast breadfruit, the rain that
 beats upon the galvanize
 Play such music to my ear
 The splashing of the river where
 I use to play with me friends,
 Family and neighbour.

Its time to remember
 Sister Pearlie, Neighbour Molly
 You hear St.Vincent make history
 They say to tell it in every community
 St.Vincent and the Grenadines is now an independent
 country
 Ah could have hardly believe me ear

When ah hear the radio say the 27th day of October 1979
 is independent day

Ah, grab me bible and start to pray
 Lord help us to see some brighter days

Well! Reality knocks an am here already
 Am going to make the best of it
 After looking back, left alone, the struggles
 Hmmm!!!, It arouse my intellect
 The transformation of the process, begun to determine
 my plans
 Progress is inevitable home and abroad
 The future will allows us twenty-five years and counting
 The time is upon us to rethink, recapture and dream for
 our future
 Thank you my fellow Vincentians, friends and visitors.

Contributed by June Ellis



Herman Roberts

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Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

Membership Registration Form

Be a Member!
Join with us in achieving our goals.

Mission Statement

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association (SVGA) of Toronto is a non-profit community based Association. We are committed to providing assistance and support to groups, institutions in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Ontario and wherever the Association deems fit. To provide an anti bias forum for Cultural, Educational, Social and Recreational enrichment and to maintain a network of communication through information and referral.



Objectives

- To maintain a high level of volunteerism through recruitment, training and effective utilization of skills.
- To provide a forum to promote leadership and advocacy for the enrichment of Culture and Education.
- To provide an anti bias environment for the discussion of matters of general interest to its members.
- To plan, implement and participate in fundraising activities to meet urgent human needs.
- To promote social and recreational events to enrich the lives of Children, Youth, Adults and Seniors.
- To maintain a network of communication through information and referral.

Our membership meetings are held on the LAST SUNDAY IN EVERY MONTH from 4:00 p.m. at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court (Keele St. & Sheppard Ave. W), North York.

We hope to see you there!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

FAMILY MEMBERS: _____

NEW MEMBER OR RENEWAL : _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ (\$2.00 for new membership registration, \$20.00 annual subscription)
Please make cheques payable and mail to:

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.
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