

Insight

St. Vincent & the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

Quarterly Newsletter October 2006

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings

I greet you in the bond of Oneness. It gives me great pleasure to address you at this time as Interim President. As we now enter into the fall season we can reflect on the summer that just slipped by.

I am sure we all had a great summer. Our Annual Unity Summer Picnic took place at Brown's Bay Park, Thousand Islands, July 15th 2006, where between twelve to fifteen thousand Vincentians and friends were in attendance and they are still celebrating the success of the picnic. Family and friends spent over nine hours of fellowshiping with each other in such great harmony. Old friends were reacquainted and new friendships were fostered for a life time. Observing the interaction among our people at the picnic has awakened a greater passion within me to call on all to demonstrate each day of our lives that same oneness that was on display at our Unity Picnic. Many of us have already marked off that third Saturday of July 2007. The day was excellent and very successful.

In a few weeks we will be celebrating our country's twenty-seven years of Independence from Great Britain. As Interim President, I extend a personal invitation to all to attend the Church service, Banquet and the Town Hall meeting. For more information please visit our website at www.vincytoronto.com. Let us make this year's independence bigger than ever.

I will like to thank everyone for their continued support to the development of our Association, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto. May God's peace be upon us and remain.

With all Peace Profound
Kenneth Farrell
Interim President

St. Vincent & the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. Independence Celebrations 2006

"One People, One Team, One Goal"

Independence Banquet

Saturday November 4th, 2006

Cocktails @ 6:00 P.M.

Renaissance Parque Banquet & Convention Centre
2800 Hwy 7 West, Concord, Ontario

Guest Speaker, The Honourable Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders
Caribbean Court of Justice



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IMPORTANT NOTICE

The date for this month's General Meeting is changed to October 22 due to the Independence Thanksgiving Church being held on October 29. The meeting is held at the usual place, Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court and begins at 4:00 p.m.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

JUSTICE AUDRIAN D. SAUNDERS

The Honourable Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders graduated the University of the West Indies with a Bachelor of Laws degree and was called to the Bar in 1977. He entered private practice as a barrister and solicitor from 1977 until 1996 when he was appointed as a Judge of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC). At the time of his appointment, he was the Senior Partner in the firm of Saunders & Huggins in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. On 1st May, 2003, Mr. Justice Saunders was appointed Justice of Appeal of the ECSC and from June 2004 until March, 2005 he acted as Chief Justice of that Court. In April, 2005, Mr. Justice Saunders took up an appointment as a Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice.

Since being appointed a Judge of the ECSC, Mr. Justice Saunders has been deeply involved in judicial reform in the Eastern Caribbean. He has been a faculty member of the Halifax-based Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute since 1998, and as such has regularly participated in judicial education programmes for Judges from throughout the Commonwealth. Mr. Justice Saunders served as Chairman of the Judicial Education Institute of the ECSC from 2001 to 2004. From 2000 to 2004, he sat as Chairman of the Ethics Committee of the ECSC, presiding over the development of a code of ethics for Judges of the Eastern Caribbean. He was also Chairman of the Committee that established court connected mediation in the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

Off the Bench, Mr. Justice Saunders was President of the National Youth Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 1978. He represented his country at table tennis on a number of occasions and for many years he was a member of the Executive of the St. Vincent & the Grenadines Table Tennis Association. He also served as Chairman of the St. Vincent Save the Children and as President of the St. Vincent Guild of Graduates. In December 2004, with the concurrence of the affected parties, Mr. Justice Saunders was appointed by a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on Cricket to act as Judge-Advocate and deliver a binding ruling on a heated dispute between the West Indies Cricket Board and the West Indies Players' Association.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Saunders is married to Marilyn Angela née Joslyn and has two sons.

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ASSOCIATION BRIEFS

RELIEF COMMITTEE REPORT

The Relief Committee has been active during 2006 with fund raising drives such as the Walkathon and the planning for the first annual Caribbean cruise to be held in June 2007. The Walkathon raised funds for the Diabetes Association of Canada and the Cruise will raise funds for the Lewis Punnett Home for the Poor, an institution located in St. Vincent. Other Relief Committee activities in 2006 included responding to help for students and individuals in the GTA community and from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. We are currently planning for the 2006 Christmas Food Hamper program. A food drive and a call for volunteers is being organized to help with the food hamper program.

A draft of the Relief Committee Mission document has been made to clarify the Relief Committee's mandate. In the past the Relief Committee focused on fund raising for various charities. The new mission statement, to be approved by the Executive and the membership, will clarify the role of the Relief Committee.

A draft of a Christmas Food Hamper Protocol is being made so that the Relief Committee and the SVGAT members have clear guidelines on the policies and procedures. This year we are asking for volunteers and we are being proactive by making sure that a) the policies and procedures are closely followed and b) there is transparency in all tasks and decisions from the selection of the food hamper recipients to the distribution of the food hampers.

Relief Committee initiatives that did not materialize include the RaptorBall program for children of the SVG members and the SVG umbrella drive. The RaptorBall community program for the children was deemed not specific to Relief activities. The SVG umbrella fund raiser was to involve the sale of extra large umbrellas with the SVG flag and colours. The cost for the umbrellas (\$40) was considered prohibitive and this activity was not Relief specific so this initiative was dropped.

In January 2006, we set our 2006 goal to raise \$2000 for our various Relief projects. Unfortunately, we did not meet our monetary goal this year but have met our other goals of camaraderie and team building. Thanks to the members of the Relief Committee for their hard work and effort with special mention to Michelle Doyle and Cordel Telfer for their exceptional work in taking the lead for the Walkathon. The Relief Committee members are: George

Duncan, June Ellis, Jason Jones, Yolande Lewis, Carmen Parsons, Cordel Telfer and Veronica Timm.

The Relief Committee is in need of more community minded and project oriented volunteers. Project oriented volunteers are members who are willing to roll up their sleeves and lead a project with the help of the other Relief members. If you have about 4 hours per month and would like to help build a positive and supportive team, please contact the Chair of the Relief Committee, Veronica Timm.

Independence Anniversary Celebrations

One People, One Team, One Goal"

2006 marks the 27th year of Independence of St. Vincent & the Grenadines. The St. Vincent & the Grenadines Association of Toronto will host three events to commemorate this significant part of our history.

Thanksgiving Service

The activities surrounding Independence 2006 will commence with a Thanksgiving Service to be held on October 29th, 2006 at the Rosewood Church of the Nazarene, 657 Milner Ave, in Scarborough. The service will begin at 4:00 p.m. with refreshments following. The Guest Speaker, Pastor Rick Bacchus, will bring the evening's message.

Independence Banquet

On November 4th, the SVGAT will host the banquet at The Renaissance Parque Banquet & Convention Centre at 2800 Hwy 7 West, Concord, Ontario. The evening will start at 6:00 p.m. with live piano music during the cocktail hour. Dinner will follow at 7:00 p.m. The emcee for the evening will be Mr. Ken DeLecia.

The Scholarship Program continues this year with an increase in both the number of recipients and the number of bursaries to be awarded. This program benefits students of Vincentian heritage living in Ontario.

Western Union is once again a sponsor with a \$1,000.00 bursary, and another \$1,000.00 bursary from funds contributed by several individuals within our community. These two awards will be given to two qualified students to assist them with their expenses.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders, a member of the Caribbean Court of Justice, will be the evening's Guest Speaker. Please visit our website for more information about Mr. Saunders. www.vincytoronto.com.

The jazzy sounds of the McIntosh Band will soothe as you enjoy a wonderful dinner. Dancing, a favourite part of the evening, will commence with a performance from the reigning SVG Junior Soca Monarch 2006, Ms Shazique John. The evening will end with music from DJ Fusion.

Tickets for this event are available at a number of Vincy-owned businesses as well as from various members of the community. Please call Audrey at 416-829-6201, Yolande at 416-809-9820 or Gideon at 647-722-5786 to find out who has tickets in your area.

Town Hall Meeting

On Sunday November 5th, 2006 @ 3:00 p.m. the Association will host a panel discussion at the *York Civic Centre, 2700 Eglinton Ave. West @ Keele St., Toronto.*

The topic of discussion will be “**The Caribbean Court of Justice**”. The Honourable Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders, a member of the Caribbean Court of Justice, will lead us in this discussion. Keeping in mind that this topic affects the entire Caribbean, let us please make a special effort in attending and encourage others to attend this event. Light refreshments will be served.

Contributions of food, cash or your time to assist in any of the aforementioned events are welcomed.

Let this year’s theme “One People, One Team, One Goal” be a guide to the fulfillment of what so many of our leaders are trying to accomplish. A Proud Caribbean People, independent, true and strong.

I encourage you as Vincentian Nationals to continue supporting the association in our endeavors. We are dedicated to helping all Vincentian Nationals in every way possible. Once again, thank you for your continued support over the years. For more information about SVGAT visit our website at www.vincytoronto.com.

Audrey Lewis

Chairperson, Independence Committee
416-829-6201

Adonal Foyle’s Annual Toronto Visit

Each year as the Golden State Warriors come to Toronto to take on the Raptors, SVG native son, Adonal Foyle takes the opportunity to try to meet as many of us from his native country. This year’s game is on Sunday, December 17 and Adonal hopes to be in town from Saturday, December 16.

The Association is looking into arranging for a few events to coincide with Adonal’s visit. As soon as plans for the events are completed the relevant information will be circulated. Please keep visiting our website, www.vincytoronto.com for updates.

THE EXECUTIVE

Here is a list of the executive members just in case you would like to contact any of them:

Acting President – Kenneth Farrell; Tel: 416-762-3283
farrell4180@yahoo.ca;

Executive Secretary - Francelia George; Tel: 647-234-4040
execsec@vincytoronto.com

General Secretary - Petra Hutchinson; Tel: 416-789-2019
gensecretary@vincytoronto.com

Treasurer – June Ellis; Tel: 416-261-5399

juneellis_2@sympatico.ca or Treasurer@vincytoronto.com

Assistant Treasurer – Grafton Bibby; Tel: 416-496-1029

sbibby@sympatico.ca; or AssistTreas@vincytoronto.com

Public Relations Officer – Yolande Lewis; Tel: 416-809-9820

ylewis@sympatico.ca; or pro@vincytoronto.com

Immediate Past President – Jason Jones; Tel: 905-999-1771

jonesjason@rogers.com

Nominated Member –Glendon Carmichael; Tel: 416-321-9029

gcarmichael@sympatico.ca

Nominated Member - Fred Williams; Tel: 416-505-2366

fred.williams@sympatico.ca

Nominated Member - Rev. Dr. Chester Searles; Tel: 416-439-

4736; searlesc@look.ca

Ass’n General Email address: svga@vincytoronto.com

Make a contribution to the Association

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 by contacting any member of the Executive or the Chair of the Committee you wish to support.

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MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

*Please bring along a friend to the next meeting
of the Association on Sunday, October 22 at
4:00 p.m. Northwood Community Centre, 15
Clubhouse Court, North York (Keele &
Sheppard)*

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BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

*During the past few months a number of members of our
community have passed on including former members of
the Association. News of these deaths do not always
reach the PR Committee or the Executive Members in
time to circulate the information as we would like to.*

*The Executive and Members of the St. Vincent and the
Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. would like to
extend condolences to all members and friends of our
community who have lost loved ones.*

*We wish you God's blessing as you cope with your loss
and we trust that those who have departed will find rest
in the Lord.*

Help a child in your homeland to a brighter future.
*An old saying reminds us that children are the future of
every country. Each of us can help to build the future of
St. Vincent and the Grenadines by helping the children.
As little as Cdn\$1.00/day will amount to at least
EC\$50.00 per month. This small sum 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 & the Grenadines, how to get such a child and
how to ensure that your sponsor money is used for the
development of that child, please enquire in confidence
by writing to the Association either through regular mail
or e-mail. You can also contact any member of the
Executive.*

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

Sunday, October 22	Monthly General Meeting	15 Clubhouse Court, North York
Sunday, October 29	Independence Thanksgiving Church Service	Rosewood Church of the Nazarene
Saturday, Nov. 4	Annual Independence Banquet	Renaissance Parque Banquet Hall
Sunday, Nov. 5	Town Hall Discussions	York Civic Centre, 2700 Keele Street
Sunday, Nov. 26	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre 15 Clubhouse Court, North York
Saturday, Dec. 16	Reception for Adonal Foyle & SVG Cricket Club Dance	CAW Union Hall, 15 Tangiers Rd, Toronto
Saturday, Dec. 16	Children's Christmas Party	TBA
Sunday, Dec. 17	Annual Christmas Sing-a-Long	Northwood Community Centre 15 Clubhouse Court, North York
Friday, Dec. 22	Christmas Hamper Outreach	
Sunday, January 28	Annual General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre 5 Clubhouse Court, North York

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SVGAT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Two (2) bursaries worth \$1,000.00 each will be presented at the Independence Banquet on November 4, 2006 as part of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association Scholarship Program for 2006. To learn more about the Scholarship Program and how you can qualify for next year please visit www.vincytoronto.com.

The Caribbean Court of Justice

What do you know about it?

Here's an opportunity for you to learn more about it.

Join us on Sunday, November 5, 2006 at 3:00 p.m.

York Civic Centre, 2700 Eglinton Ave. West @ Keele.

Hear directly from one of the Judges of the Court,
Vincentian-born

Hon. Justice Adrian D. Saunders

Other Ontario-based legal minds of Caribbean descent will
participate in the discussion.

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HELP SOMEONE OUT THIS UPCOMING CHRISTMAS SEASON

Each year the Association through the Relief Committee tries to assist some less fortunate members of our community by providing them with a food hamper at Christmas time.

If you know of someone who needs this assistance or you are able to make a contribution to this effort please contact Ms Veronica Timm, chairperson of the Relief Committee by emailing her at "relief@vincytoronto.com".

The names of recipients of this assistance are kept in confidence.

A Banana Story

Henria Stephens, one of our young members has written an article on bananas, which is published in an on-line magazine.

Please copy the link

<http://www.elements.nb.ca/theme/theme.htm> to read the story entitled, Pulling Back the Peel.

2007 CARIBBEAN CRUISE

Start planning to be part of the SVGAT Caribbean Cruise for June 24 to July 1, 2007. Visit www.vincytoronto.com for more details.

NEWS FROM SVG

(Courtesy of The Vincentian and Searchlight Newspapers)

VAT To Be Implemented in May

Dayle Da Silva

When visiting St. Vincent and the Grenadines from May 1, 2007, please be prepared that you will not be getting as much for your dollar as you are getting. May 1, 2007 is the day legislated for the implementation of the Value Added Tax.

For some time now there have been numerous discussions about the coming on stream of this new tax. Since most people would not necessarily want to pay taxes, Vincentians are not quite happy about this new tax. Just like how Canadians have reluctantly grown accustomed to the GST, so too would Vincentians in the years to come settle with the reality that VAT is something that they will have to live with.

"St. Vincent and the Grenadines have finally succumbed to the attraction," stated Ms Michal Andrews, a former Tax Commissioner of Trinidad & Tobago who was in St. Vincent educating Vincentians about the proposed tax. "It's the way the world is going," she said.

According to Andrews, one of the advantages under VAT is that revenue is collected throughout production as opposed to retail sales taxes, where tax is collected only at the point of sale.

The Value Added Tax replaces the consumption tax, telecommunications surcharges, stamp duties and the entertainment tax.

Now that the law has been passed, local businesses will be required to put into place the necessary measures to facilitate the requirements of the VAT.

All persons making taxable supplies of the threshold amount of \$120,000 are expected to begin registering later this month.

Mothers continue education

The Vincentian

Pregnant students are now able to give birth and return to school to continue their education. This was made possible by a progressive government.

So says former Attorney General Arthur Williams. He made the point last Wednesday at the Criminal Assizes while representing a client in a rape case. In his cross-examination of the alleged victim's father, Williams asked if his daughter (alleged victim) was in school. The witness replied that she is a student but is currently not attending school because she is pregnant. He however indicated that she hopes to return to school after giving birth.

As if in disbelief, Justice Lyle St. Paul of Grenada, who is here on a one month stint, asked if a pregnant student in St. Vincent and the Grenadines can go home, give birth and return to school. The former Attorney General replied, "Yes it happens, me Lord, a progressive government has seen that it has happened".

Constitution final report tabled - Gov't and opposition pledge support

The Vincentian

After close to four years of intense work geared towards fashioning a new constitution for the country, the Constitutional Reform Commission (CRC) tabled its final report in Parliament, Thursday 28 September.

Copies of the Report were presented by CRC Chairman, Parnel Campbell QC, to Speaker of the House Hendrick Alexander, Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves and Leader of the Opposition Arnhim Eustace.

The presentations received loud cheers from the public gallery in parliament as though to signal the last hurdle before the final straight to a new constitution for the country. In his address shortly after receiving the report, Prime Minister Dr. Gonsalves commended the CRC for its remarkable feat in bringing the process of constitutional reform thus far. He added that, although the process was at times untidy and messy, the manner in which the CRC conducted its work was highly democratic and transparent.

He assured that parliament will have to find the time to examine the recommendations suggested in the report, so that the process could be completed before the next general elections constitutionally due in 2010/2011.

Opposition leader Arnhim Eustace, in his address, expressed appreciation for the work of the CRC. "It is almost four years since the exercise started, and I am satisfied that enough work has been done. The ball is now in the parliament's court," Eustace told the House. While acknowledging that there are going to be differences with what is suggested in the final report, he pledged the Opposition's continuing commitment to the process and outcome.

The final report will be debated and, after any amendments, is expected to be approved. Thereafter, the new constitution will be put to a national referendum, and must secure a Two-thirds majority approval for it to be enacted.

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GESCO to be dissolved

The Vincentian

The General Equipment and Service Corporation (GESCO), which was established under the New Democratic Party government, is going under but will re-emerge as a new corporation to be called the Roads and Building Authority.

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves made this disclosure while responding to a question from opposition Senator Daniel Cummings, during the Thursday 28 September sitting of Parliament. According to Dr. Gonsalves, "It appears that the twenty-year old corporation is not doing well."

The Corporation is responsible for the mining and sales of Rabacca sand and red dirt from government lands and servicing all government vehicles as well as supplying them with petrol. Dr. Gonsalves cited a report which showed that the Corporation earned less revenue so far for

this year over last year and to compound the situation, it was having difficulty honouring payments to SOL, the supplier of petrol used to serve government vehicles.

According to the Prime Minister, the proposed Road and Building Authority is expected to have a wider portfolio but will include the responsibilities of GESCO.

**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.

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OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES**

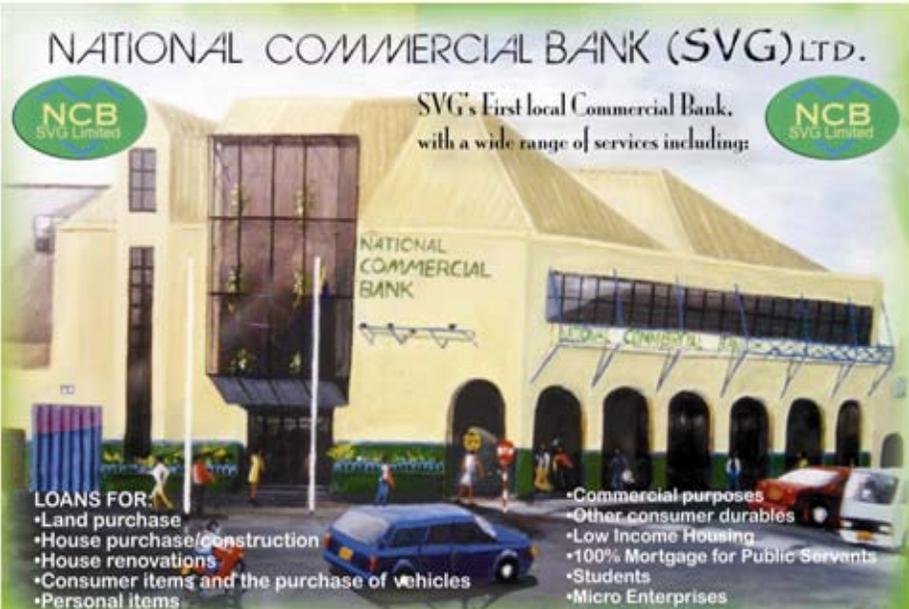
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The CCJ will have two jurisdictions, an original and an appellate. Firstly, in order for the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) to function effectively, there is need for a single tribunal to interpret and apply the Treaty of Chaguaramas as

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



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was not surprising. AH 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. Sounders 11th February, 2005



**SVGAT Committee Chairpersons
for 2006**

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Fund Raising & Entertainment Committee -
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Independence Anniversary Committee -
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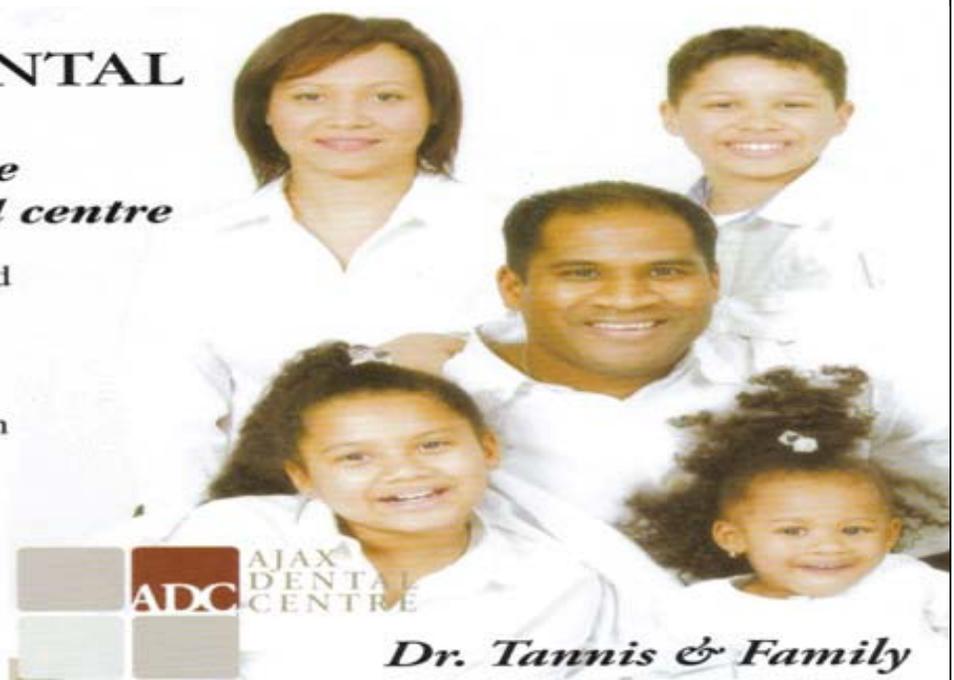
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FROM THE PR COMMITTEE

As we move into the final quarter of 2006 this issue of Insight is the last for the year. The Public Relations Committee on behalf of the Executive and members of the Association would like to extend thanks in many ways to each of you.

- Those companies and individuals who choose Insight and our website, www.vincytoronto.com to advertise their businesses. Your contribution goes a long way in offsetting production costs.
- Those individuals who contribute articles and information to share with our readers.
- Our many readers and in particular those of you who assist us by forwarding copies of Insight and the URL for the website to their friends and relatives.

The committee welcomes your comments and suggestions as to how we could improve on the presentation of our newsletter and website.

There are a number of activities planned between now and the end of the year. We encourage you to support these events and activities when and where possible. Volunteers are still required to reduce the workload on some individuals so if you have the time and talent, please do not hesitate to contact any event coordinator listed or any executive member or committee chair.

The members of the PR Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all Vincentians a Happy Independence Anniversary. We encourage you to attend a celebration event hosted by any of the Vincentian groups in the area that you reside.

We also wish each and everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

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Energy Star Criteria are changing

The manner in which the efficiency standards for clothes washers and dishwashers have been regulated is changing effective January 1, 2007. The strengthening of the criteria is done because most of these products on the market today meet the existing requirements which have not been updated for several years. The goal of the Energy Star program is to identify products that among the top 25 percent of energy performers on the market.

If you have either a fridge, clothes washer or dishwasher manufactured 20 years ago even though it is in good working condition you should consider replacing it. If you want to hold on to it for sentimental reasons you are advised to invest in some shares from the energy companies.

The typical 18 cubic feet refrigerator manufactured in 1990 uses approximately 1067 kilowatt-hours of electricity per

year compared to a similar one manufactured in 2005 which uses approximately 407 kWh per year. Dishwashers manufactured in 1990 use approximately 1026 kWh compared to a recently manufactured one that uses 350 kWh. You should consider replacing your top loading clothes washer with a front load one. Top load washers manufactured in 1990 use about 1218 kWh while a larger capacity front load manufactured within the last two years use about 186 kWh annually.

The front loading clothes washers not only less considerably less energy, they use about one-third of the water, less detergent and take better care of your clothes. By using high efficiency detergent you will also prolong the life of your washer and clothes.

With the change taking place on January 1, 2007, some of the appliances that are now energy star qualified will no longer be considered as such. For further information on the changing regulations please visit National Resources Canada's Energy Star website, www.energysstar.gc.ca and click on the "News" section. You could also learn of ways to keep your home warm this winter while using less energy.

Municipal Elections

Municipal elections throughout the Province of Ontario will be held on Monday, November 13. According to the statistics very few of us exercise our rights to vote at elections especially at this level of government.

Since most residents are in closer contact with their mayors, councilors and school board trustees than they with their Members of Parliament (Federal) and Members of Provincial Parliament (Provincial) there is the need for us to know those who are looking to represent us at the various positions that are up for grabs. We urge each of you who is qualified to vote to turn out on election day and exercise that right. Following the elections we also urge you to get acquainted with the councilor in your area and your school board trustee and open dialogue with them as to how best they can look out for the interest of your community.

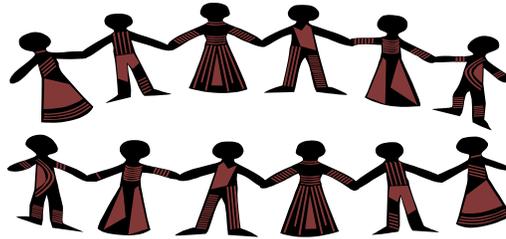
We note that a former Executive Member of the Association, Mr. Ricardo Francis is contesting for a position in Mississauga. If you live in Ward 5 in Mississauga please contact Mr. Francis to see whether his policies are ones you would want to support. Mr. Francis can be reached at 905-671-9349 or by email at ricardo@ricardofrancis.com

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. Membership Registration Form

*Be a Member!
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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.

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