

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

## **REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESENTED APRIL 30, 2017**

The board of directors has met for a total of 4 times since the January 29<sup>th</sup> election with most of those meetings being by teleconference. In addition to board meetings there have been several other meetings by members of the board and special committees.

**Committees:** The following committees and committee chairs were also named:

### **2017 Boat Cruise Committee Representatives –**

Gideon Exeter as Chair with Prudence Morton and Dennis Bucchan, members.

Event Date: Friday, August 11 aboard Enterprise 2000. The event is jointly coordinated by SVGAT and Toronto SVG Support Group. The 150 Early bird tickets at \$45.00 have been released on a first come first serve basis. Regular tickets are \$55.00. The organizing committee is recommending to their respective groups that part proceeds from the event be donated to the School for Children with Special Needs in SVG.

**2017 Unity Picnic Committee Representatives –** Dennis Bucchan, Odel Lewis & Claudius Samuel. The Unity Picnic Committee held meetings with the St. Lawrence Parks Commission to finalize plans for this year's event. We look forward to see the results of the discussions.

Unity Picnic Date: Saturday, July 15 at Brown's Bay Provincial Park, 1000 Islands  
Parking tickets go on sale May 15 for both areas of parking at same prices as 2016.

### **2017 Unity Picnic Bus Trip Committee chairperson –** Erline Granderson

4 buses are reserved and the pricing remains the same as last year – \$50.00 for adults and \$30.00 for children under 12 years. The tickets will be available by the middle of May.

### **2017 Local GTA Picnic and Walk-a-Thon Coordinator –** Kenneth Farrell.

The Board of Directors has agreed to continue with the annual walk-a-thon which would end with a family picnic at Northwood Park off Sheppard between Keele & Arleta on Sunday, June 25 in place of the usual monthly meeting. Persons are encouraged to support the walk-a-thon and come out to enjoy a get together. The Board recommends that the proceeds from the walk-a-thon go towards the Adopt-A-Child program. Pledge sheets for the walk-a-thon are to be available soon.

### **2017 Independence Planning Committee Chair –** Sandra Bobb.

The Association's organized Independence activities include:

Thanksgiving Church Service – Sunday, October 22 at venue to be determined;

Independence Gala – Woodbine Banquet & Convention Centre, Saturday, October 28

Community Discussions – Sunday, October 29. To be finalized.

### **Adopt-a-Child Program**

It was recognized that funds were not remitted to the children sponsored through the Adopt-a-Child program during 2014 to 2016. The board of directors has reached out to the principals of the two schools and is aiming to get the outstanding funds to the children prior to the end of the year. The term of sponsorship for those children end in 2017. The amount due to this program is \$4,800.00.

### **The Scholarship Program**

The board will continue to support this program and will have the relevant committees in place soon.

## **March Town Hall Meeting**

In place of the regular monthly meeting on March 26 a Town Hall Discussion was held to discuss the annual SVG Unity Picnic. A reasonable amount of persons turned up and expressed their views on how the picnic can be organized to make it more meaningful and profitable. A summary of ideas raised and discussed and was taken to the Unity Picnic Committee by our local representatives.

## **Website & Insight**

The April issue of Insight was released on time but due to rising costs and reduced income from advertisements only a limited number of copies were printed. Until the board can find advertisers to help bear the costs the newsletter may only be sent through emails.

## **Membership in the Association**

As of the middle of April the Association has a total of 40 persons as registered members for 2017 with 7 of them being honorary members.

## **Council of Caribbean Associations – Canada (CCAC)**

The SVGAT is one of the founding members of this Association which started with 14 organizations of 13 Caribbean countries. Currently there are 10 member groups that participate. At its recently held AGM elections were held for a two-year term with results as follows: President – Gideon Exeter (St. Vincent and Grenadines Ass'n); Vice President - Carlton Abbott (Antigua & Barbuda Ass'n); Secretary – Ingrid King (Alliance of Guyanese Canadian Organizations); Treasurer – Sandra Pierre (Grenada Ass'n Toronto); PRO – Claudia Davis Ewan (Montserrat Ass'n Toronto); Board Member – Egbert Balthazar (Commonwealth of Dominica Ontario Ass'n). The CCAC annually presents 2 bursaries of \$1,000.00 each to eligible applicants. To raise funds for this event a walk-a-thon is held annually. A date for this event as well as one for the seniors' event will be announced shortly. The CCAC has accepted an invitation from the organizers of the annual Caribbean Carnival Festival formerly known as Caribana to participate in this year's parade. Cordel Telfer has volunteered to organize members of our community who wish to participate and represent St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the CCAC's section of the parade.

## **Eye Glasses for SVG**

The board of directors has accepted to start a project to collect and ship eye glasses to St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the Lions Club South to match up with persons in need of them. The Club will work closely with opticians on an ongoing basis to help the less fortunate who are in need of them. Persons are asked to bring whatever glasses they have along with the prescription (if possible)

## **Mothers' Day Events**

Since the Association is not hosting a Mothers' Day Event of its own, the board of directors is urging members of our community who wish to go out to celebrate the occasion to support the events put on by our sister Caribbean organizations. Here are details of two events we can support:

**Members of The Commonwealth of Dominica Ontario Association** invite you to join them to celebrate Mothers' Day at their Brunch on **Sunday, May 8, 2017 from 12:30 p.m.** at St. Clement of Ohrid Macedonian Orthodox Church, 76 Overlea Blvd., Toronto (Don Mills & Overlea). Admission: Adults - \$45.00; Children under 12 - \$20.00. **For tickets Call:** CDOA (647) 693-1231; Hetty (647) 702-6831; Zisker (416) 447-5886

**The St. Kitts & Nevis Association of Toronto** invites you to attend its Annual Mother's Day Luncheon, Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 12:00 noon- 4:00 p.m. at The Toronto Don Valley Hotel, 175 Wynford Dr., Toronto. **Admission: Adults: \$40.00 - Children: 12 & Under: \$10.00.** For Tickets Call: Loudanski (647) 933-6101; Joan 905-824-0651; Hillary (416) 922-9170; Keish (647) 205-5713; Wendy (647) 278-2353.