



THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.

Established 1968

P. O. Box 392 - Station F, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2L8

Website: www.vincytoronto.com

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REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS For Presentation on Sunday, November 26, 2017

Since the general meeting of September 24th, the board of directors met on two occasions in October and November by teleconference. In addition to board meetings there have been several other meetings by members of the board and special committees. There was no membership meeting held in October due to the independence anniversary activities.

New Venue for Monthly Meetings of the Association

Through the efforts of Mr. Dennis Bucchan we are today meeting at our new meeting place at St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, 1080 Finch Avenue, Toronto. This arrangement will last until at least January 2019 and will save the Association hundreds of dollars over the period of time. Meetings will begin at 4:00 p.m. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Bucchan and members of the Church.

Adopt-a-Child Program

The final amounts due to Seherrian Baptiste of the Tourama/Overland Government School and Frediq John of the Fairhall Government school were handed over to the students, parents and principals respectively at presentations on Wednesday, November 15 when the Association's president Gideon Exeter along with former board member Ewan Odel Lewis visited the respective schools for that purpose. The students along with their parents and school principals expressed their gratitude for the financial assistance provided to them. The contribution over the 5 years amounted to Cdn\$3,000.00 each. Both Frediq and Seherrian are doing well in school and should graduate from their respective schools at the end of the next school year.

It is now up to the membership to determine the continuation of the program from the 2018 school year.

The Scholarship Program

For the first time since the inauguration of the program there were no bursaries presented as there were no applications received. It is hoped that more and better efforts will be made to make students and parents in our community aware of the program.

2017 Boat Cruise Proceeds

The amount of Cdn\$2,400.00 which represents one-third of the proceeds from the boat cruise held in August 2017 that was jointly coordinated by SVGAT and Toronto SVG Support Group was handed over to the School for Children with Special Needs in SVG on November 10 by the president of the SVGAT, Mr. Gideon Exeter and Mr. E. Bernard John of the Toronto SVG Support Group. At a media presentation representatives thanked the organizations for the contribution which they indicated will assist with the programs planned for 2018 and beyond.

Insight

The October issue of Insight was produced and released in time for our independence anniversary celebrations with an increased amount of advertising to help offset the cost of producing and mailing. The next issue is due in January 2018.

A number of companies have agreed to advertise in both the Insight and the Independence brochure.

Honorary Life Member

The Board of Directors conferred the title of Honorary Life Member on Mr. Glendon Carmichael for his years of service to both the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto and the community at large. The certificate of Life Membership was presented at the Independence Anniversary Gala on October 28. Mr. Carmichael served the Association in several capacities including president in 1993.



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Disaster Relief

As a result of the destruction caused by the passing of hurricanes Irma and Maria to many countries in the Caribbean the Association joined the number of entities that provided assistance to Barbuda and Dominica. The amount of \$2,000.00 was made available to the relief organizations for both countries in Toronto and a further amount realized from the collections taken at the Independence Anniversary Church Service amounting to \$700.00 is to be sent out shortly. Officials from representatives of the coordinating committees for the relief efforts for Barbuda and Dominica have thanked our entire community for its immediate and continuing response.

Through the efforts by a member of our community that works with the Marshalls/Winners Clothing Company the Association has reached an agreement with the company to collect new and discontinued merchandise from the company on a monthly basis to be used only for relief efforts outside of Canada. As a result, the SVGAT got the assistance of the Commonwealth of Dominica Ontario Association (CDOA) to provide a Canadian registered charity through which the donations will flow. As a result of the situation in Dominica it has been agreed that all clothing collected up until January 2018 will be given to the CDOA. After that time the clothing will be collected on a rotating/alternative basis by both the SVGAT and the CDOA.

2017 Independence Anniversary Celebrations

The Association along with the SVG Consulate General's Office in Toronto coordinated events to mark the anniversary of the independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines from Great Britain which took place on October 27, 1979. The events included:

Thanksgiving Church Service – Sunday, October 22 at Wesley Chapel Free Methodist Church which was attended by over 300 persons. Several pastors in the SVG community along with a number of talented individuals participated and performed during the event. June Ellis coordinated the service and led the worship team. A reception was held following the service. The organizing committee is grateful to the number of persons who performed during the service and contributed refreshments.

Flag Raising Ceremony – This event held on October 26 was attended by a number of individuals who braved the weather to witness the raising of our country's flag at Toronto City Hall. A reception was later held at the SVG Consulate in Scarborough.

Independence Gala – The annual event was held on Saturday, October 28 at Woodbine Banquet & Convention Centre, 30 Vice Regent Boulevard, Etobicoke. It was attended by just over 250 persons. Guest speaker at the event was Miss Taisha Lewis, a young lawyer of SVG parentage. The following presentations were made at the event:

- a) Recognition of Mr. Glendon Carmichael as an Honorary Life Member of the Association;
- b) Mr. Randy Dopwell for his contribution to the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines both at home and in the Diaspora through his work as a journalist;
- c) A plaque presented on behalf of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the SVGAT to the family of the late Dr. Alban Liverpool who was the first president and one of the founders of Caribana. Caribana was founded in 1967 as a result of an invitation by the Federal Government of Canada for people from the Caribbean community to organize an event to make a contribution in Toronto to Canada's Centennial in 1967. This event is now known as Toronto Caribbean Carnival. Two of Mr. Liverpool's children living in The Bahamas travelled here to accept the award.

Entertainment was provided by Kimya Hypolite, Yellow, DJ Fusion and Tropics Band and the MC for the evening was Mr. Shomari Garraway.

The Board of Directors herewith expresses thanks the Independence Planning Committee which consisted of Sandra Bobb (Chair), Sandra Sutherland from the Toronto SVG Support Group, Frank Wilson from the Union Island Cultural Association, Consul General Fit-Gerald Huggins, Dennis Bucchan, June Ellis and Gideon Exeter. Thanks and appreciation go out to all others who in one way or the other supported, participated or made contributions to make the events memorable and successful.



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2018 Toronto Harbour Boat Cruise

It has been agreed that the SVGAT along with the Toronto SVG Support Group will continue to organize an annual fundraising boat cruise in the Toronto Harbour. Next year's event will be held on Friday, August 10 on the MV. Enterprise 2000. Further details for this event will be made known later.

An attempt was being made to coordinate a second boat cruise (afternoon) in conjunction with the Bequia Social Organization and the Union Island Cultural Association but plans did not materialize.

Children's Christmas Party

It has been determined that the Children's Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 17 at the Grandravine Community Centre, 30 Grandravine Drive, Toronto from 3:30 p.m. A budget of \$1,500.00 has been set for this event which will allow for children between the ages of 1 to 12 to attend.

Christmas Hamper Project

The Board of Directors has approved a budget of \$500.00 for this program with the hope of assisting up to 6 families with food supplies and a little ash to help them over the Christmas holidays. The hampers are to be delivered just before Christmas Day.

Financials

The Board of Directors has made an effort to put things in place so that there will not be too much carrying over of expenses from 2017 to go into the next fiscal year. During this year, a number of expenses from previous years including amounts payable to the Adopt-A-Child Program had to be taken care of. The website domain registration has been paid for 4 years up to the year 2020 and the Liability Insurance covering the Board of Directors has been paid up to 2018. A complete picture of the Association's financial position will be provided in the financial report to be presented later.

SVGAT Celebrates 50 in 2018

The St. Vincent Association which later became known as The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. was officially founded on December 1, 1968. It is felt that such an anniversary is worth celebrating so a number of persons including Fred Williams, Monty Providence, Malcolm Garraway, Jim Lewis, Patricia Nash, Barbara Toney, Daffodil Davis and Gideon Exeter was invited to form a committee and they recently held an inaugural meeting to discuss plans for the+++ celebration. Any member who has any ideas that they would like to share with the committee is asked to contact any committee member.

Passing of Association's Member

Mr. Timothy Ottley, a stalwart member of the Association passed on November 11. It was heartening to see a number of members of the Association including former presidents present at the services held to celebrate his life. We had an opportunity to convey condolences to Mr. Ottley's wife and children. Mr. Ottley had been ill for some time and was unable to attend meetings in his latter days.

Committee chairs for the respective committees will entertain questions and comments with respect to their particular portfolios.

Respectfully submitted,

Gideon L. Exeter
President and Chair of the Board of Directors