



THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. (SVGAT)

P.O. Box 392, Stn. F, Toronto, Ontario, K4Y 2L8 Email: svgat@vincytoronto.com

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED THROUGH COMMUNICATION

Quarterly Newsletter

SPRING ISSUE

April 2018

ASSOCIATION NEWS

New Board of Directors

The 2018 annual general meeting of the Association was held on Sunday, January 28 when a review of the activities of the Association for the previous year was presented. Also, there was the election of a president and new directors to replace retiring board members.

Gideon Exeter was returned as president for another year while Ulpia Stephens, Cheyenne Samuel, Jim Lewis, Daffodil Davis and Petra Hutchinson were elected as new members.

The complete list of directors and officers includes:

President & Director: Gideon L. Exeter

Secretary & Director: Ulpia Stephens

Treasurer & Director: Dennis Bucchan

Director: Erline Granderson

Director: Winston Woodley

Director: Daffodil Davis

Director: Petra Ryan Phillips

Director: Jim Lewis

SVGAT Celebrates 50 Years in 2018

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto will this year celebrate its 50th anniversary of existence and service to the SVG community in Toronto. The Association was founded on December 1, 1968 following a request from officials in St. Vincent to assist with the raising of funds to construct a national playing field which was later named The Arnos Vale Playing Field. Its first president was the late Dr. Allan Liverpool, a dentist by profession.

An organizing committee is in place to coordinate a series of events to mark the occasion and is looking for suggestions on how best to celebrate the occasion.

Committees of the SVGAT

The Association requires a number of committees to assist the Board to ensure that the Association functions effectively. Some of these committees are established while others still need volunteers to complete them. The following are the committees:

By-Law Revision

Jim Lewis - Chair

Christmas Hamper Project

Petra Ryan-Phillips (Chair), Erline Granderson, Gideon Exeter

Children's Christmas Party

Daffodil Davis, Cheyenne Samuel, Marva Brazel,

Independence Planning

Sandra Sutherland, Cheyenne Samuel, Sandra Bobb, Petra Ryan-Phillips, Cynthia John-Benthan, Frank Wilson, Fitz Huggins, Dennis Bucchan

Public Relations

Tax Tips & Traps

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY, APRIL 29
FROM 4:00 P.M. FOR THE
SVGAT'S MONTHLY GENERAL
MEETING AT ST. CYPRIAN'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH, 1080 FINCH
AVENUE EAST @ LESLIE STREET.**

PRESENTER

MR. LENNOX FRASER, CPA, CGA.

BRING YOUR QUESTIONS

Daffodil Davis, Jim Lewis, Ken Farrell, Cheyenne Samuel, Dennis Buchan

Unity Picnic Representatives

Claudius Samuel, Gideon Exeter, Jim Lewis

Unity Picnic Bus Coordination

Needs members

Local Picnic & Walk-a-Thon

Petra Ryan-Phillips (Chair), Erline Granderson,
Ulpia Stephens

CCAC Representatives

Erline Granderson, Petra Ryan-Phillips, G. Exeter

50th Anniversary Planning

Malcolm Garraway, Daffodil Davis, Barbara
Toney, Fred Williams, Jim Lewis, Pat Nash,
Gideon Exeter

- c) The informant must provide their contact details – name, telephone and email address.
- d) Upon receiving the information, the responsible personnel from the Association will formulate the email and send it out to persons on the Association's contact list.
- e) There is no charge for this service.

TIPS TO ASSIST FAMILIES WHEN A DEATH OCCURS

2018 VINCY UNITY PICNIC

**JOIN THOUSANDS OF VINCENTIANS AND
FRIENDS FOR THE ANNUAL UNITY PICNIC**

SATURDAY, JULY 21

**BROWN'S BAY PROVINCIAL PARK
1000 ISLANDS, ONTARIO
ORGANIZED BY THE ST. VINCENT AND THE
GRENADINES ASSOCIATIONS OF MONTREAL,
OTTAWA & TORONTO**

Upon the death of a loved one, all family members do not react the same way. It could be a difficult time for the family, and some family members can become quite confused and may not know how to proceed. It is hoped that the following will help:

POLICY REGARDING SVGAT'S DEATH & FUNERAL NOTICES

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto provides a courtesy service to members of our community by circulating the announcement of death and funeral services for their loved ones through the Association's emailing system.

The following is intended to guide persons who require the assistance of the Association for this purpose.

- a) A family member of the deceased is to contact the Association through the president, secretary or public relations officer.
- b) The informant must provide all pertinent details regarding the deceased and the services they wish the wider community to know.

- a) When death occurs outside of a hospital or nursing home, the person who discovers the death must immediately call 911.
- b) Following the confirmation of the death by an authorized medical professional, the family of the deceased is to contact a funeral home. If arrangements were completed in advance, the next move will be for the funeral home to determine when their personnel will go to the place of death to take away the deceased person.
- c) If the death occurs at an institution (hospital or nursing home) and the funeral home is called, their personnel will contact the institution to confirm that the deceased is there and will make arrangements to take away the deceased person.
- d) Arrangements will have to be made with a funeral home for the preparation of the deceased for interment or cremation.
- e) Funeral arrangements are separate from cemetery arrangements. The cemetery is the final resting place for deceased persons interred.
- f) The cemetery is where lives are commemorated and deaths are recorded. It is a history of people, a perpetual record of

yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today.

- g) Arrangements made ahead of time will help the surviving family members to better deal with the aspects of preparing for the services to follow, and provide peace of mind to many.
- h) Apart from the arrangements for funeral and cemetery products and services there are many other things that have to be considered, like,
 - Contacting family members and friends
 - Contacting church and clergy

aware of. Statistics indicate that there are 87 Decisions to be made and things to be done when a death occurs. It is much easier to deal with the burial and funeral arrangements if family members speak about their wishes with a licensed professional well before the inevitable occurs in your family. These professionals are trained to lead you through the process.

Address by RENÉ M. BAPTISTE CMG on 11th MARCH, 2018, TORONTO, CANADA at the The TORONTO – SVG SUPPORT GROUP'S 2ND ANNUAL NATIONAL HEROES DAY LUNCH.

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- PROTOCOL - - Mbringa

First of all, permit me to record my gratitude for the kind invitation from this Organisation to attend the lunch and deliver these remarks at your auspicious function. It is a special time of year for me, and I believe it is the same for other Vincentians here and elsewhere including yourselves.

I was advised that there is no special title for the Address and that I could craft it as best suited to the occasion. I therefore thought I would entitle it “Of

History, Heritage and Heroes”. It then requires me to place it very carefully in its time.

At the turn of the 21st Century, St. Vincent and the Grenadines was still in search of confirmation of our place in History. I believe that the Nation having passed through changes of political Throes, Constitutional advancements, disasters from volcanic eruptions, hurricanes and storms, we need now to place over markers afresh.

For many, many years the dialogue centered on our Cultural Identity. What truly sets us apart; what indicia makes us unique; marks us VINCENTIAN. The emergence of an intellectual class amidst the turmoil of the 1960's gave us a combative formula. The chemistry did not sit well with the middle and upper class and even the Elite.

There are several things involved in saying farewell to a loved one that many people are not

- Newspaper and community announcements
- Arranging for flowers
- Arranging transportation and accommodation for persons coming from out of town
- Arranging for a period of fellowship with those who came to pay respect to the deceased – refreshments and a venue for such
- Filing of final Tax Return for the deceased at the end of the year
- Filing of death report to the government and applying for the Canada Pension Plan (CCP) death benefit.

It met with limited success amongst the working class. At that time the Nation was enveloped in the political labor pains sweeping our Caribbean Region absorbing the way of BLACK POWER, and the greeting of “BRO. Macombay” and “Sister Eva”, and the political shout of “Comrade”.

Struggling in the fallen leaves of Colonialism were the personalities such as Dr. Earle Kirby unearthing documents of “the people who came before “. A few like souls paid attention; beginning to blow the dust off the real past of our Nation – the bones and stones of the past.

The panting breath and prancing feet of the Trade Unionists mingled amidst this clamour and this Noise. Duff Walker James’s union threatening strike uptown with Vinlec Workers..... Cyril Roberts and Burns Bonadie threaten strike downtown with Cable & Wireless workers and the Sanitation workers. The ‘New Blood’ had taken over the Civil Service Association with persons like Arnhim Eustace. And the Boys Grammar School and Girls High School led their Protest March to the Government House to the Administrator to set things right. That was the tone. That was the Tempo. “Kill the Bill” was another shout. The Tear Gas Teachers March all in the midst; while a group of youths clamored for a National Hero; each and every year on March 14th. They selected the Date. They selected the Hero.

Should it be 22nd January since we were never “discovered? Sometimes, the language was not too clear and sometimes the message got “lost in translation. 22nd January was disregarded. We were not discovered. Our Forbears lived there for Centuries.

Who could interpret Shake Keane or Tim Daisley’s poetry yes, in dialect, they spoke volumes. Who would interpret Danny Williams’ or Ode Coombs’ Spoken Word. It was for the most part – a closed shop for the intellectuals and those seeking to elevate their knowledge. The common ordinary man and woman were struggling to move out of poverty, to get that elusive Secondary education for their children whilst they, the youth were reading about what was happening elsewhere in the Region – Walter Rodney of Guyana and other Rebels and Revolutionaries and they wanted

a Hero too, their Hero, and to make it, him, OUR HERO.

They were not content to look for just anyone-or someone. Not just those who could dribble a football or run a quick mile or print a 60yd or 100yd dash. The youth yearned for more, to place to. The mark of National Identity, to stamp it on them, on us to be called Vincentian.

As we left 1960’s and 1970’s behind and reached the 1980’s and 1970’s we were fairly sure that we must confront the History as written for us. So radio programs presented an opportunity for Dr. Adrian Fraser fresh from university and filled with that spirit to confront Colonial Thinking and Walter Rodney confronting political forces throughout the Region – the time to listen, to question, to seek answers came full circle, again.



And, we heard “from where we came”. The Research from old records in the Library, the Registry and other Academic Exchanges – came – Revelations upon Revolutions, Mrs. Norma Keizer OBE of blessed memory prepared several papers through au OAS Project and Doc Kirby’s toil saw more shoots, green shoots. YES. We were ready. The story had become OUR HISTORY.

The History revealed, and we began to learn that our forefathers and forebears were brave warriors and cunning military strategists, not cannibals and savages. That they lived and occupied their land, our land; and they fought the conquering might of the French and English/British Empires with a bravery still unmatched.

That’s the reason why the guns at Fort Charlotte are turned INLAND – the enemy of the British was within – the Kalinago & Garifuna Warriors.

They had “accommodated” the French. But they left a record carved in stone to enlighten us, and, it proved that they never leave us nor abandon us. The proof is there in Petit Bordel, Barrouallie, Layou, Argyle and Yambou. They never left us. They gave us a Legacy just as the Pharaohs give Egypt and the world the Pyramids. Chinese give China the Terra Cotta Warriors – we too have a History written in stone. (*Continues in July Issue*)

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ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2018

Sunday, April 29	Monthly General Meeting	St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, 1080 Finch Avenue East
Sunday, May 27	Monthly General Meeting	St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, 1080 Finch Avenue East
Sunday, June 24	Monthly General Meeting	Walk-a-Thon and Local Family Picnic
Saturday, July 21	SVG Unity Picnic	Brown's Bay Provincial Park, 1000 Islands, Ontario
Sunday, July 29	Monthly General Meeting	St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, 1080 Finch Avenue East
Friday, August 10	Toronto Harbour Boat Cruise	Toronto Harbour aboard MV Enterprise 2000
Sunday, August 26	Monthly General Meeting	St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, 1080 Finch Avenue East
Sunday, September 24	Monthly General Meeting	St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, 1080 Finch Avenue East
Sunday, October 21	Independence Thanksgiving Service	TBA
Saturday, October 27	Independence Dinner & Dance	Estate Banquet Centre, 430 Nugget Ave, Scarborough
Sunday, November 26	Monthly General Meeting	St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, 1080 Finch Avenue East
	Children's Christmas Party	Date & Venue to be determined

Addresses & Directions:

St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, 1080 Finch Avenue East @ Leslie Street, Toronto

IMMIGRATION MATTERS

HOW EASY IS IT TO OBTAIN A VISITOR'S VISA TO CANADA?

Contributed by: Sandra Sutherland, RCIC

As an authorized immigration representative and counsel I am often contacted by permanent residents and citizens of Canada who are seeking to invite family or friends to visit. Anyone seeking to come to Canada to visit family or friends, for a vacation, or as a business visitor must apply for a visitor visa/Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) unless their country of citizenship is visa exempt.

Before being granted a visitor visa/TRV foreign nationals must submit an application and satisfy immigration officials that they are not inadmissible to Canada and that their visit is genuine. The most common factors that may render an applicant as inadmissible to Canada is being found guilty of misrepresentation, being the subject of a valid removal order, or having criminal charges or convictions. Visa officers at Canadian embassies and high commissions have the discretion in determining if the applicant's visit is likely genuine.

How easy is it for applicants to persuade the visa officer that his/her visit is genuine and thus obtain a visitor visa/ TRV? Visa officers process applications in compliance with the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and Regulations* and with specific policies and procedures. They have the authority to use their discretion in determining if a foreign national is likely a genuine visitor. In assessing the information provided by the applicant officers take the following factors into consideration:

- ✓ *Purpose of the visit:* Is the applicant's intention clear and persuasive? Does the length of visit correspond to the stated purpose of the visit? Does the visit involve working or studying?
- ✓ *Immigration status in home country:* Does the applicant have legal status in his/her home country? Is the applicant's travel and immigration document valid?
- ✓ *Ties to home country:* Does the applicant have strong family and other social ties to their home country? Will all of the appli-

cant's dependent children accompany the applicant? Does the applicant have obligations to return to?

- ✓ *Establishment in home country:* How stable is the applicant financially? Does the applicant have stable employment? Does the applicant own property or other assets? Does the applicant have sufficient funds for the airfare, accommodation, and other incidentals for the period of the visit?
- ✓ *Ties to Canada:* Does the applicant have strong ties (i.e: family, social, economical) to Canada that may entice them to remain in Canada?
- ✓ *Sincerity of an invitation letter:* Is the letter clear and credible? Does it corroborate the applicant's story?
- ✓ *Travel history:* Has the applicant travelled to Canada or other countries before? Did the applicant overstay any visits?
- ✓ *Previous refusals:* Has any previous applications for a visa to Canada or any other country been refused? If so, when and for what reasons?
- ✓ *Likelihood of leaving Canada:* How well do the answers to the above noted factors add up? Does the applicant appear to be trustworthy? Has the applicant been credible?

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Parents and grandparents of citizens and permanent residents of Canada have the option to apply for a “regular” visitor visa or a super visa. The main difference between a super visa and a “regular” visitor visa is that a super visa allows for an initial visit of up to two years. The eligibility criteria for a super visa is more stringent than that of the “regular” visitor visa in that the child(ren) or grandchild(ren) must prove their relationship to the applicant(s) and must prove that they meet minimum income requirements based on their family size. Their letter of invitation must be very detailed and should state their family size. It is imperative that private medical insurance coverage for a minimum of one year be taken out for the applicant(s) through a Canadian insurance company.

Basically, there is a lot that the visa officer has to glean from the application package. Applicants do not necessarily have to satisfy all of these factors, they are being presented for consideration purposes. Sometimes an interview may be convened to obtain or clarify certain information. It is never a good idea to leave out pertinent information with the expectation that it could be provided at an interview. The applicant’s case should be presented on paper as best as possible. If need be, the services of an authorized immigration representative should be enlisted.

Sandra Sutherland is an authorized immigration representative and counsel. She is licensed with the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC) as a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC). She can be reached at (416) 431-2829 or via e-mail at ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com. View her advertisement under *Suthern Immigration & Paralegal Services Inc.* in this publication for more information.

**2018 SVG UNITY
PICNIC
TRAVELLING TO 1000
ISLANDS BY BUS ON
SAT. JULY 21?**

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SALE SOON.**

NEWS FROM SVG

(Courtesy of Gov't of SVG Website)

NEW FISCAL MEASURES INTRODUCED IN 2018 BUDGET

International Financial Institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, (IMF), and the World Bank, have lauded the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' (SVG's), decision to establish and capitalise a contingency fund to respond to issues of climate change. The fund was first established in 2017 and a levy on consumption was imposed by increasing the VAT rate by 1%, to provide a dedicated source of revenue to capitalise it. Over the eight months of operation, since its introduction in 2017, the levy capitalised the fund to the sum of \$6.75 million.

Speaking during the presentation of the 2018 Estimates, Minister of Finance, Hon. Camillo Gonsalves, said that, "St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been affected by several disasters over the past years, and given the country's vulnerability to increasingly intense adverse weather events, and the fiscal risks they pose, these international organisations have urged the Government of SVG to seek out additional means to increase the inflows to the contingency fund."

Part of the proposed measures is to reduce the kilo watt hour (kWh), threshold for VAT on electricity, from 200 kWh to 150 kWh. Mr. Gonsalves said, "This means that all VINLEC domestic customers who consume 150 units or more monthly, will be required to pay VAT. With the lowering of the VAT threshold to 150 units or more, just 36.0 % of VINLEC'S domestic customers will now pay VAT."

Mr. Gonsalves added, "St. Vincent and the Grenadines is one of few CARICOM countries where VAT is not paid by domestic customers consuming 200 units (kWh) of electricity or less." He further opined, "as consumers continue to implement more energy efficient measures in their households, the level of electricity consumption would decline, thus reducing the number of domestic customers who will fall within the VAT. The introduction of VAT on Electricity is expected to provide an estimated \$1.0 million in additional revenue annually to the government.

These new fiscal measures will all take effect from 1st May, 2018.

ARGYLE INT'L MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY



The Argyle International Airport (AIA), celebrated one year of operations on Feb. 14.

To mark this first anniversary, a small group of aviation enthusiasts, based in London and San Francisco, with family ties in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, has funded what appears to be one of the most spectacular LED chandeliers in the region. The chandelier serves as an anniversary gift to the AIA and is dubbed, 'Vinci Love'.

The sponsors commissioned CALM5, out of Trinidad and Tobago for the design and technical drawings of the chandelier. CALM5, is established as a light design and manufacturer of large custom made LED chandeliers, fixtures and bulbs, under the brand 'SUPERIOR LED'. The chandelier is erected in 'Departure Check-in', and was officially turned on, on Valentine's Day.

As part of the activities to mark the AIA's first anniversary, passengers arriving and departing the airport on 14th February were presented with tokens of appreciation sponsored by the business community.

From Searchlight Newspaper

Team SVG Wins 3 CARIFTA Gold Medals

Alexander Joachim has become the first Vincentian to win a gold medal at the Carifta Swimming Championships. The 14 year-old wrote his name in the country's history books while competing at the 2018 Carifta Games in Kingston, Jamaica when he placed first in the Boys 13-14 years old 200m breaststroke event, clocking 2 mins. 32.88 seconds. He now has 3 Carifta Games medals having won 2 silvers in his



Event	Date
Media Launch	Tuesday, April 10
Launch of Vincy Mas	Saturday, May 5
Miss SVG	Saturday, June 2
Soca Semi Finals	Saturday, June 23
Calypso Semi Finals	Friday, June 29
Junior Carnival	Saturday, June 30
Junior Pan Fest	Sunday, July 1
Junior Calypso/Soca	Tuesday, July 3
Steel & Glitter	Thursday, July 5
Evo 4.1	Friday, July 6
Soca Monarch	Saturday, July 7
Dimanche Gras	Sunday, July 8
J'Ouvert & T-Shirt Band	Monday, July 9
Mardi Gras	Tuesday, July 10
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www.carnivalsvg.com	

Membership Has Its Benefits

Currently, members of the Association are entitled to discounts off tickets for SVGAT organized events.

Also, members who make funeral and cemetery arrangements through Arbor Memorial are entitled to the Arbor Alliance Program (AAP) discount where they can save thousands of dollars.

2016 debut in the 50m and 100m breaststroke in the 11-12 age group.

The Games also saw Hanadal Roban copping gold in the Under-17 male 800 metre track & field and the quartet of Annecia Richards, Shafiqua Maloney, Zita Vincent and Tamara Woodley winning gold in the Girls Under-2- 4x400 relay. The relay team achieved their gold following the disqualification of Jamaica and The Bahamas.

Miliszwe Brothers Concert

Special pricing for tickets are available for this concert being held at the Lyric Theatre, Toronto on Friday, November 16. Please contact Gideon – 416-992-4253; Silbert – 416-553-1171; Terry – 905-428-7726; Hayden – 416-889-3293 for your discount code to get the special price of \$50.00 from Ticket Master for any seat in the Theatre.

IT'S TEA TIME WITH THE TORONTO SVG SUPPORT GROUP



On the heels of a very successful National Heroes' Day Luncheon in March, its second such event, The Toronto SVG Support Group is getting ready for its annual Summer's Eve Tea Party fundraiser. The event is set for Saturday, June 9, at Morningstar Christian Fellowship, 7601 Sheppard Ave East at Morningside at 3.00 p.m. with tickets priced at \$30.00. All are welcome!!

The Toronto SVG Support Group was formed in 2012 and the tea party fulfills one of its main objectives which is to engage in fundraising activities to benefit the Vincentian, Caribbean and Canadian communities.

In 2017, The Group disbursed over \$5,000.00 to education and disaster relief initiatives and to support families and children in need. The Toronto SVG Support Group is also committed to partnering with or supporting other Caribbean groups or persons with similar objectives.

The Annual Vincy Toronto Harbour Boat Cruise in partnership with the SVGAT is another fundraiser and will set sail August 10. For tea party tickets, boat cruise tickets or for more information about The Toronto SVG Support Group, email torsvg@gmail.com. You can also follow The Toronto SVG Support Group's activities on Facebook.



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SAVINGS & DEPOSITS	SERVICES OFFERED	LOAN PRODUCTS
Regular Savings Account – No Monthly Fees Fixed Deposits Super Saver Accounts – Rate: 3.25% Per Annum	The Management & Staff of St. Vincent Building & Loan Association Congratulates the People of our Nation on 38 Years of Independence	Consumer Loans Mortgage Loans Vehicle Loans Commercial Loans Education Loans

FORGING AHEAD AFTER 75 YEARS OF GROWTH

INVEST IN PERMANENT SHARES

108 Halifax Street, P.O. Box 252, Kingstown, St. Vincent & The Grenadines
 Tel: 784-457-1796; Fax: 784-457-1565
 Melliclock: (321) 220-1891 (Canada); (929) 800-2188 (USA)


TOTALLY YOURS!

DID YOU KNOW?

That Vincy Mas, St. Vincent & the Grenadines' Carnival is held in the last week of June and the first week of July:
www.carnivalsvg.com?

That Hairoun is the original Amerindian name of St. Vincent. It means, 'Land of the Blessed' and is the name of the nation's favourite Beer?

That the national dish of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is **Fried Jack Fish with Roast Breadfruit?**

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto invites all SVG Nationals in the Greater Toronto Area to become members of the Association and to assist with the development and its advancement.

