



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

**P. O. Box 80066 – Don Valley Village P. O., Toronto, ON, M2J 0A1** Email: [svgat@vincytoronto.com](mailto:svgat@vincytoronto.com)

**KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED THROUGH COMMUNICATION**

**Quarterly Newsletter**

**SUMMER ISSUE**

**July 2024**



## The President's Greetings

Dear Members and Friends of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.,

As we reflect on the past quarter, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the progress and unity we have achieved together. Our collective efforts, including your invaluable support and contributions, continue to strengthen our association, fostering community and belonging among all members. I want to take this opportunity to highlight some key areas that have been the focus of our activities and initiatives.

We hosted a membership appreciation and recruitment event in April. The event attracted many new faces who came out to support our efforts. They enjoyed delicious food and engaging games. This event was a platform to formally recognize and thank our current members for their invaluable support and contributions and to welcome new ones into our fold. The event also showcased our organization's achievements, goals, and the positive impact we have made on the community.

The community gathered once more on Father's Day to celebrate fathers and their role within the family with a family-friendly boat cruise. This boat cruise was a joint event with the Toronto SVG Support Group and Cari-ON SVG Disaster Preparedness. It will be left to our members to determine if this should become an annual event.

The countdown is on for the summer event—Vincy Unity Picnic Canada. This will take place on July 20th at Crysler Park in Morrisburg, Ontario. Join your family and friends from Montreal and Ottawa for a day filled with fun, delicious food, and sweet music. You'll also have a chance to see international artists Wetty Beatz, Skarpyon, and a host of young local talent.

The planning has already begun to celebrate the 45th Independence Anniversary of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The planning committee is committed to hosting a very exciting series of events to commemorate this very important occasion. We are all eagerly looking forward to these events and the positive impact they will have on our community. In keeping with the organization's youth engagement objectives, I'm proud to say that the planning committee consists of several young and dynamic individuals, many new to the organization. They have agreed to lend us their skills and expertise, and we are thrilled to have them be part of our organization.

Thank you for being a part of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. Let us continue to build bridges, engage our youth, and celebrate our vibrant membership.

Warm regards,

Cordel Telfer, President

## Corporation News

### SVGAT 2024 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto is pleased to announce that it is offering three (3) bursaries in its scholarship program to students attending University, College, or a Trade school in the 2024 - 2025 academic year in the amount of \$1,000.00.

**ELIGIBILITY:** To be eligible, the applicant must meet the following conditions:

a) They or their parents (including adoptive parents), grandparents or guardians should be of St. Vincent and the Grenadines descent.

b) Be a student enrolled at a recognized university, college or trade school in Canada or the United States. Proof of enrolment to university or college or trade school must be submitted along with the application.

c) All applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents or the holders of a valid student visa issued to the applicant by Citizen and Immigration Canada and be residents of Ontario.

d) All applicants must demonstrate academic excellence, financial need, and community involvement.

EVALUATION WILL BE BASED UPON: 1. An essay of approximately 700 words\* on the following topic: Discuss what you plan to study and how it can benefit the Vincentian or Black Canadian community.

For full information, please visit [www.vincytoronto.com](http://www.vincytoronto.com) where the application form can be downloaded.

Students of SVG descent are also eligible to apply for bursaries in the Council of Caribbean Associations-Canada (CCAC) scholarship program. Visit [Council of Caribbean Associations - Canada - Current Scholarship \(caribbeancouncilcanada.org\)](http://Council of Caribbean Associations - Canada - Current Scholarship (caribbeancouncilcanada.org))

## CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS

### Current Board of Directors and Officers include:

President: Cordel Telfer (647-717-9731)

Vice President: Francine Burke (647-772-3683)

Secretary: Cheyenne Samuel (647-989-4235)

Treasurer: Delcina Jardine-Reckley (647-464-3355)

P.R.O & Director: Gideon Exeter (416-992-4253)

Director: Erline Granderson (416-788-5163)

Director: June Ellis (647-867-7930)

### Committees to Assist the Board of Directors

In order to effectively provide the services of the Corporation a number of committees have been established and volunteers are required to serve. Please contact us to indicate which of the following committees you would like to volunteer on: *Fundraising, Independence Planning, SVG Unity Picnic, Scholarship, Adopt-A-Child, Unity Picnic Bus Coordinator, Public Relations, Walk-A-Thon, Christmas Hamper Project.*



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## St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tourism Office

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Scarborough, ON M1P 4X4

## 2024 TORONTO HARBOUR BOAT CRUISES

The SVGAT along with CARI-ON SVG Disaster Preparedness and The Toronto SVG Support held a boat cruise on Fathers' Day, Sunday, June 16. The organizers hereby extend thanks to all who in one way or the other supported the event.



The annual popular cruise will be held on Friday, August 9, 2024 jointly with the Toronto SVG Support Group (TorSVGSG). Please see the advertisement on page 10 for details about this event.

## CCAC NEWS

The Council of Caribbean Associations-Canada (CCAC) is an umbrella group comprising of ten (10) active member associations in the Caribbean community in the GTA including: Alliance of Guyanese Canadian Organizations, Antigua & Barbuda Association of Toronto, Barbados Canada Association, Commonwealth of Dominica Ontario Association, Grenada Association Toronto, Montserrat Association Toronto, Nevcan Cultural Association, St. Kitts & Nevis Association of Toronto, St. Lucia Association Toronto and the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto.

The CCAC administers a scholarship and bursary program where it provides scholarships and bursaries to students of Caribbean descent who are resident in Ontario and are attending universities, colleges or trade schools leading up to their first certificate, diploma or degree.

In 2024, five (5) bursaries of \$3,000.00 each will be provided to eligible students. Also, through Seneca Polytechnic, the CCAC is offering a full tuition paid scholarship for up to 4 years with a value of \$6,000.00 per year. Application closes on August 31, 2024. Information is available on the organization's website, [www.caribbeancouncilcanada.org](http://www.caribbeancouncilcanada.org).



### THREE STUDENTS IN SVGAT'S ADOPT-A-CHILD PROGRAM GRADUATES

The three remaining students from the group of 2019 have finally graduated from their respective primary schools and would be moving into secondary schools in September. Please join us in congratulating Winston Saunders, Xavier Bowens and Clayrice Bruce. At the time of going to press, we received news that Clayrice will be attending the Emmanuel High School, Mesopotamia but we are not sure which schools Xavier and Winston will be moving to.



Xavier Bowens,  
Lodge Village Gov't School



Winston Saunders,  
Buccament Primary



Clayrice Bruce, Lauders Primary School

### CORPORATION ADDRESS

The Head Office Address of the Corporation is:

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of  
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## IMMIGRATION MATTERS

SEEKING REFUGE IN CANADA?

Contributed: Sandra Sutherland, RCIC-IRB

Hurricane Beryl seems to be competing with the OVID 19 virus to see how many countries it could impact. It teared through Caribbean nations and even came as far north to Canada and the U.S.A. St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) and Grenada are believed to have been hardest hit with severe devastation as Beryl pummeled its way through these nations wreaking major havoc. Five of the



SVG Grenadine islands (Union Island, Canouan, Mayreau, Petit St. Vincent and Palm Island) as well as two Grenada ruled islands (Carriacou and Petite Martinique) are believed to have suffered the worst with over 90% of homes and businesses destroyed and leaving thousands of residents homeless and desolate. Schools, churches, post offices, government buildings, agriculture, fisheries and livestock were severely impacted.

As of July 10, 2024 aid was still being deployed to assist displaced residents, clear debris, and commence some rebuilding efforts. While monetary aid, food and other goods are being supplied, it is imperative to also focus attention on physical and mental health issues. Moving residents out of the impacted islands shall serve to allay the chances of them contracting cholera or other bacterial and viral infections and to minimize the risk of depression. This brings me to the issue of migration. But where else, apart from other Caribbean nations, might they go?

According to Human Rights Watch, Canada has a global reputation as a defender of human rights. Canadians, in general, have a reputation of being polite, humble, and compassionate. It is fair to conclude that Canada could provide aid to the displaced Vincentians and Grenadians in extending humanitarian and compassion considerations to these residents. As a Canadian immigration law practitioner, I look at Canada as being a viable temporary or permanent refuge for some of the displaced nationals of SVG and Grenada

Vincentian and Grenadian nationals could apply to visit Canada during the period when permanent housing is being sought or rebuilt. Elementary and high school students could apply for a study permit to pursue studies here while schools are being rebuilt and while teachers strive to regain their livelihood. Successful applicants who arrive in Canada shall be afforded the blessings of living in our society where they may enjoy having their basic needs met and get to enjoy our multicultural society. The hope is that their stay would also have a positive effect in staving off or improving their mental health.

Immigration officials have discretion in decisioning temporary resident visa applications. When applicants are refused, the common reasons provid-

ed are: 1) the applicant does not have strong ties to their home country to compel them to return back at the end of their temporary stay, 2) the applicant lack insufficient funds to carry them throughout the duration of the intended stay, 3) the applicant did not provide adequate supporting documents. One may say that these displaced nationals risks having their applications refused for any or all of these stated reasons because they have fallen on desolate times. They've lost their property, belongings and other assets. They may not have the ability to obtain documents to prove that they had a decent livelihood, to prove ownership of assets, or their funds may have been depleted in order to meet survival needs. Canadian residents who are inviting the applicant should submit a declaration that they will cover the travel costs, provide accommodation and cover any incidentals that may be incurred during the entire stay. Proof of income, savings and other assets shall be necessary in order to demonstrate financial solvency.

Some persons may be eligible to apply for permanent resident status. They would need to explore the various programs and categories to determine if they meet eligibility criteria. Citizens or permanent residents of Canada could apply to sponsor certain family members for permanent resident status under the family class category. In some cases, humanitarian and compassionate considerations may be required if the person being sponsored falls short of the eligibility requirements.

I implore our community to extend a helping hand in inviting and supporting displaced nationals of SVG, Grenada and other islands to come to Canada during these distressing times. Additionally, we should lobby the Canadian government to extend humanitarian aid and show compassion to these nationals by extending leniency and opening up its borders to allow them to come to Canada temporarily or permanently.

**Sandra Sutherland is a competent authorized immigration representative and counsel** who can represent clients at all divisions of the Immigration and Refugee Board. She specializes strictly in immigration, citizenship and refugee matters and is licensed with the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants (CICC) as a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant and counsel at the IRB (RCIC-IRB). She can be reached at **(416) 431-2829** or via e-mail at [ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com](mailto:ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com). View her advertisement under ***Suthern Immigration & Paralegal Services Inc.*** in this publication for more information.

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ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com

The hurricane unleashed heavy rains and powerful winds, leading to extensive damage to vegetation, homes, and infrastructure.

Prime Minister Dr. the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves, in a national address following the hurricane, stated that Union Island suffered greatly, with 90 percent of the houses severely damaged or destroyed, including the airport.

Current evaluations in the Grenadine Islands of Canouan and Mayreau indicate comparable degrees of devastation. Bequia has reported a confirmed fatality, with concerns rising over the potential for additional casualties and injuries.

Full details will be available following the final assessment. Meanwhile, we are allocating CAD\$5,000 to support the immediate recovery needs of those affected by Hurricane Beryl.

Kindly mark your calendars for **August 17, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**, for our Hurricane Beryl Relief Brunch. More information regarding the event will be shared shortly.

Support is also appreciated through our [Online Marketplace](https://www.32auctions.com/HurricaneBeryl), (<https://www.32auctions.com/HurricaneBeryl>) which contributes to the Hurricane Beryl Relief Efforts. New items are continuously added to the Marketplace. Alternatively, donations can be made using the following methods:

1. Auto Deposit E-Transfer to [svgottawaassociation@gmail.com](mailto:svgottawaassociation@gmail.com) (Please indicate in the memo that the donation is for Hurricane Beryl Relief).
2. Cheque – Payable to the St. Vincent and the Grenadines (Ottawa) Association. Mail to Samantha Tim, Treasurer, 53 Callaway Court., Orleans, ON K1C 7S4. Please write 'Hurricane Beryl Relief' in the memo and include your email address.
3. Direct Bank Deposit: Account Details for TD Canada Trust are:  
**Transit # 01646, Institution # 004**  
**Account # 5218333.**

The community's resilience and determination in

### SVG TORONTO CONSULATE OFFICE

Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
55 Town Centre Court, Suite 403  
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**Mr. Fitzgerald Huggins**  
Consul General

Tel: (416) 398-4277 Fax (416) 398-4199  
Email: [consulategeneral@rogers.com](mailto:consulategeneral@rogers.com)

### SVG Association of Ottawa Community Pulse



Efforts to rebuild St. Vincent and the Grenadines are underway after the widespread destruction caused by Hurricane Beryl.

Despite the extensive damage inflicted by Hurricane Beryl on July 1, 2024, particularly in the

Southern Grenadines, St. Vincent and the Grenadines are making strides towards recovery.

facing this adversity are extraordinary. Together, we will rebuild and ensure a brighter future for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Rebuilding after such a calamity requires time, dedication, and a united effort. Let us stand together in solidarity with St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

*Stay resolute; together, we will overcome.*  
**Team SVGAO**

## **GEM AND CCC CALL ON THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY TO MOBILIZE IMMEDIATE AID FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE BERYL**

Miami, July 2, 2024—Earlier today, Global Empowerment Mission (GEM) and the Caribbean Consular Corps (CCC) held a press conference at GEM headquarters in Doral to address the urgent need for aid following the devastating impact of Hurricane Beryl. This powerful storm affected Grenada, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago.

The event saw a significant gathering of officials and consular representatives, including the Hon. Oliver Mair, Consul General of Jamaica and Dean of the CCC; the Hon. Rudy Grant, Consul General of Barbados; the Hon. Darrel Montrope, Consul General of St. Lucia; Dianne Perrotte, Deputy Consul General for Grenada; other Caribbean consular representatives; and members of the Caribbean Strong Relief Fund. These leaders collectively underscored the critical importance of immediate and coordinated aid efforts.

AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. P. O. Box 80066 – Don Valley Village P. O., Toronto, ON, M2J 0A1 Email: [svgat@vincytoronto.co](mailto:svgat@vincytoronto.co) and warmer-than-average ocean temperatures, the need for rapid mobilization is more significant than ever. This year's forecast includes 17 to 25 named storms, with 4 to 7 potentially becoming major hurricanes.

During the press conference, GEM and CCC outlined the immediate response plan, emphasizing the need for volunteer support and community donations.

Volunteers are needed to help mobilization of emergency kits to the Caribbean in conjunction with


the Caribbean Consular Corps and SFL Caribbean Strong. Volunteer hours are from 10 AM to 5 PM, seven days a week, starting July 3 (including Independence Day) at GEM's warehouse (1850 NW 84th Ave #100, Doral, FL 33126). The community is encouraged to sign up through this link and sign the waivers in advance of arrival. Physical copies of waivers are also available at the warehouse for those who cannot sign beforehand. Comfortable clothing and shoes are suggested.


Donations can also be dropped off at GEM's warehouse in Doral between 9 AM and 4 PM. A list of needed items includes, tarps, generators, trash waste bags, canned foods, peel-off lid preferably with 1+ year expiration date non-perishable foods, 1+ year expiration date, sleeping bags, work gloves, solar-powered lights, tents, industrial sponges, professional first-aid kits, hygiene Kits, including hair brush toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo (small) soap, wash cloth, deodorant. **IMPORTANT NOTE: NO USED CLOTHING OR LINEN!!**


Monetary donations are also welcomed and can be made through GEM's donation link as well through the US Caribbean Strong Relief Fund at The Miami Foundation.

GEM's significant donors include brands and companies such as Good360, KIND, Amazon, Earth Breeze, Goya, and Drip Drop. These partners have consistently provided essential supplies such as protein bars, hygiene products, biodegradable

### 💡 **What to Expect at Vincy Unity Picnic** 💡

 **Fun for All Ages:** The Vincy Unity Picnic is a day where people of all ages can come together and enjoy a wide range of exciting activities. From thrilling games to entertaining performances, there's something for everyone to revel in.

 **Scenic Beauty:** Nestled on the banks of the picturesque St. Lawrence River, Crysler Park provides a breathtaking backdrop for our festivities. Immerse yourself in nature's splendor and feel the tranquility of the surroundings.

 **Bring Your Own Set-Up:** Make yourself at home by bringing your tents, tables, chairs, and coolers. Create a cozy space for your family and friends to relax and enjoy the day's events comfortably.



laundry sheets, non-perishable foods, and equipment like generators and tents. GEM has already pre-assembled 2,000 family necessity kits containing hygiene products and other essentials for air.

About GEM: The Global Empowerment Mission was established in response to the 2010 Haiti Earthquake with a mission to deliver the most aid to the most people in need swiftly and cost-effectively. GEM has deployed over 355 disaster relief missions across 57 countries and all 50 states. Charity Navigator highly rated the organization, earning 100% in Accountability & Finance and Impact & Results categories. With 97% of donations going directly to mission-related activities, GEM ensures maximum impact in the communities it serves through a smart partnership model of donors, volunteers, and local stakeholders.

About The Caribbean Consular Corps (CCC): The CCC comprises Caribbean Consuls General and Representatives in South Florida, facilitating communication and collaboration on regional issues of mutual interest.

About Caribbean Strong: This volunteer network of South Florida Caribbean community leaders, supported by the Miami Foundation, focuses on raising awareness and providing critical financial support and supplies to the Caribbean, especially during hurricane season. The fund ensures quick

and efficient mobilization of resources to help those affected by natural disasters rebuild and recover.

#### HOW TO HELP:

##### DONATE \$:

Global Empowerment Mission:

<https://www.globalempowermentmission.org/hurricane-beryl/>

US Caribbean Strong Relief Fund at The Miami Foundation, Memo: Beryl Relief:

<https://lnkd.in/eZRnZDfG>

Items can also be purchased at populated Amazon link:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/dl/invite/141xqLB?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/dl/invite/141xqLB?ref_=wl_share) for delivery to GEM Warehouse for assembly

Donations can also be dropped off at Global Empowerment Mission HQ:

1850 NW 84th Ave STE 100

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<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Nerwg6VssSGMtpQg7>

Donations are being accepted Monday – Friday, 10 AM – 5 PM

For other inquiries, email:

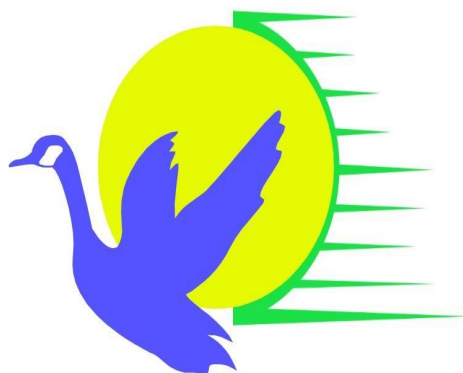
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Through **Arbor Foundation**, the CCAC and its affiliates receive special funding for its programs and activities.

For further information, please visit any of the websites listed below or contact Gideon Exeter at 416-992-4253 or by email at [gexeter@arbormemorial.com](mailto:gexeter@arbormemorial.com)



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## CARI-ON SVG DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

JOIN OUR MISSION TO HELP COMMUNITIES IN SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

**WHO IS CARI-ON?**  
Established in 2018, CARI-ON is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing resources and timely relief efforts to help families and communities carry on during and after disasters in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

To achieve this, we are establishing several committees with representatives from each Caribbean country, operating under the umbrella of the Canadian Caribbean Disaster Relief Action (CCaDiRA) committee. This initiative aims to strengthen ties and cooperation between the Caribbean diaspora and their home countries in times of need.

**OUR VISION**  
To provide preventative measures and mobilization support to meet the human needs of those impacted by natural disasters in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

**WHY JOIN US?**

- Be part of a dedicated team making a real difference
- Support disaster preparedness and relief efforts
- Help build resilient communities

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## TRAVELLING FROM TORONTO AREA TO VINCY UNITY PICNIC

Parking tickets for the event are \$60.00 at the gate if they were not purchased previously for vehicles with capacity of up to 10 persons. Larger capacity vehicles are at a higher price and will be determined at the entrance. The gates open at 7:00 p.m. and admission closes at 4:00 p.m.

The SVGAT is operating a bus service starting from the Jane & Finch Mall (McDonalds) boarding @ 6:30 A.M. and departs the Scarborough Town Centre (YMCA) @ 7:00 A.M.

For return, Bus Departs Crysler Park @ 6:30 P.M.  
**All tickets are sold out.**

If you do not feel like doing your own meal preparation, there will be several vendors providing several Caribbean-styled selections to choose from.

The UPC will be collecting cash or specially requested items to be shipped to the hurricane relief efforts for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

## VINCY UNITY PICNIC 2024

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**Get in Touch:**

- SVG Association of Montreal, Inc.: 514-581-4879
- SVG Association of Ottawa, Inc.: 613-866-8939
- SVG Association of Toronto, Inc.: 647-717-9731

Organizing Committee: [vincyunitypicnic@gmail.com](mailto:vincyunitypicnic@gmail.com)

Web: [svgunitypicniccanada.ca](http://svgunitypicniccanada.ca)  
FB: Vincy Unity Picnic Canada  
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**Vincy Unity Picnic Will be Fundraising for SVG Relief Efforts**

[www.svgunitypicniccanada.ca](http://www.svgunitypicniccanada.ca)   Vincy Unity Picnic Canada



## Birth of the SVGAT

One never knows what his/her contribution could turn to later in life. In 1967, the St. Vincent Cricket Board under the leadership of Dr. Gideon Cordice and Mr. Frank Thomas wrote to a number of organizations and individuals living abroad (in the diaspora) to contribute to a fund to build a stadium for cricket at Arnos Vale, St. Vincent.

The Canadian request came to Dr. Allan Liverpool who contacted a number of Vincentian nationals living in Toronto. A contribution was collected and forwarded to the Cricket Board but the group in Toronto kept speaking (no internet nor smartphones at the time), and after a series of discussions, a meeting convened on Sunday, December 1, 1968, at 12 Queen Street East, Toronto, saw the formation of The St. Vincent Association of Toronto. The first officers elected were: President- Dr. S. Allan Liverpool, Vice President- Mr. Fred Isaacs, Secretary- Ms. Shirley Sutherland, Treasurer- Ms. Edna Hunte, and PRO- Mr. Caley Bonadie.

Since then, the facility has become the premiere sporting ground in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It hosts many sports and athletic events. The stadium hosted its first ever international game on 4 February 1981. The match was an ODI between West Indies and [England](#) and was a close encounter which the hosts won by two runs. The ground's maiden [Test](#) match came in 1997, when the [West Indies](#) played [Sri Lanka](#) to a draw, with Sri Lanka finishing on 233–8 chasing a target of 269 runs. The facility recently hosted 5 games in the 2024 ICC T20 World Cup.

From 1968 to present, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines community in Toronto, through the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto (SVGAT), continues to contribute to causes in the country. Please visit [www.vincytoronto.com](http://www.vincytoronto.com) and navigate the various pages to see the contribution of the organization.

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The board of directors take this opportunity to thank the advertisers who support the ongoing work of the SVGAT and hereby request our community members to support these businesses when you are able to.



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7:00 PM

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# Annual Vincy Boat Cruise

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