

INSIGHT

THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. (SVGAT)
KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED THROUGH COMMUNICATION

Quarterly Newsletter April 2010

10th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

From the President's Desk



On behalf of the executive and myself, let me take this opportunity to thank you for your confidence in us to be your leaders of 2010. We take this task with pride and dedicate our hard work into making this year yet another successful one. Your input and contributions towards our efforts to push forward the association's business are welcome.

The SVGAT executive has several goals targeted this year. Our youths and seniors are two groups in our community that have been neglected. We are endeavouring to reach out and re-connect with as many youths and seniors as possible. The SVGAT is dedicated to this task and is taking seriously the need to make that connection.

Enhancing our website and increasing our membership are also two of our primary focus. The St. Vincent & the Grenadines population here in Ontario continue to grow and we endeavour to reach out to our fellow nationals for the union of our Vincentian families here in a foreign land. We will also continue to embrace our Vincy cultural heritage by embracing our local talents in Canada.

Apart from our annual activities such as the Mother's Day Brunch, Unity Picnic, and our Independence Celebrations, we will be re-establishing our annual walk-a-thon and other fundraising drives throughout the year.

Please take a look at our Calendar of Events on Page 9, or visit our website to see how you can contribute and participate in upcoming events.

I encourage your continued support and we look forward to working closely with you as we move the work of the association forward.

Sincerely,
Audrey Lewis

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Here is a list of the executive members and their contact information:

President: president@vincytoronto.com
Audrey Lewis - Tel: 905-796-2400
Vice President vicepres@vincytoronto.com
Vere Palmer - Tel: 416-286-8145
Executive Secretary: execsecretary@vincytoronto.com
Bernadette Phillips-Ryan - Tel: 416-652-5207
General Secretary gensecretary@vincytoronto.com
Zakiya Hutchinson - Tel: 416-652-5207
Treasurer: treasurer@vincytoronto.com
Wendell Cole - Tel: 905-792-1248
Assistant Treasurer: assisttreas@vincytoronto.com
Cordel Telfer - Tel: 905-789-9731
Public Relations Officer: pro@vincytoronto.com
Gideon Exeter - Tel: 905-831-1814
Immediate Past President: ipp@vincytoronto.com
Elma Gabriel - Tel: 416-282-4557
Nominated Member: cparsons1@sympatico.ca
Carmen Parsons -
General Email address: svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com

EVENT/PROJECT COORDINATORS

Mothers Day: - Allan Austin & Adina James
Local Unity Picnic: - Glen Carmichael & Claudius Samuel
SVG Unity Picnic Reps: - Cordel Telfer & Audrey Lewis
Independence Committee: - Elma Gabriel
Constitution Review - Rosie McIntosh

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED SVGAT

During the past 41 years quite a number of individuals have taken time to volunteer and serve on the executive and other committees of our Association. Without their commitment and dedication we would not have anything to celebrate today. Thanks to all of you.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Annual General Meeting

The forty-first Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Sunday, January 29, 2010 during which a report for the previous year was presented and a new executive was elected to run the affairs of the Association for a full year ending on January 30, 2011.

Special guest at the meeting was Consul General Mr. Steve O. Phillips who encouraged members to work together for the benefit of the Association and the SVG community as a whole. Mr. Phillips took time out to draw attention to the high number of SVG nationals in Toronto who are filing for refugee status and noted that it was of grave concern to the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. He cautioned that it might not be too far off that the Canadian government puts legislation in place for SVG nationals to join the long list of nationals from other countries to have to apply for visas to visit Canada.

Following the AGM Cordel Telfer has since been elected as Assistant Treasurer, the sole elected position that was not filled at the AGM. Since then, Carmen Parsons has also been added to the executive as a Nominated Member. Both Cordel and Carmen have served on previous executives. See page 1 for a list of all executive members.

Committees

The Association's constitution provides for the establishment of several committees to assist the executive to carry on the work of the Association. The regular committees include the Finance, Fundraising & Entertainment, Publicity and Membership, Education & Culture and Building. There are opening on several committees so you would have a chance to volunteer and make a difference.

Independence Celebrations 2010

The following dates have been determined for our Independence celebrations. **The Independence Church Service** will be held on Sunday, October 24 at Rosewood Church of the Nazarene; **Independence Banquet** will be held on Saturday, October 30 at Riviera Parque Banquet and Convention Centre; and the **Educational Symposium** will be held on Sunday, October 31 at a York Civic Centre.

Insight is now 10 years young.

Our newsletter as it looks today is now ten years old. Prior to April 2000 the quarterly newsletter did not have a name but was simply called newsletter. In the early days the publication was much smaller and did not contain as many ads. The inclusion of ads was encouraged to help offset the cost of production and mailing. Our sincere thanks to all those who have contributed over the years to keeping **Insight** alive.

Insight is mailed out to over 400 members and friends and circulated to hundreds more through emailing. Issues dating back to April 2003 can be found on our website, www.vincytoronto.com.

ANNUAL MOTHERS' DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 9, 2010

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

St. Clement of Ohrid Banquet Hall

76 Overlea Blvd, Toronto

(Don Mills Road & Overlea just south of Science Centre)



Admission:

10 years and under - \$15.00

11 years and over - \$35.00

SPECIAL TICKET PRICE

The first 20 Teenagers (ages 11 – 19) to buy tickets will pay only \$20.

For more information and tickets, please contact:

Grafton Bibby : 647-405-9209

Allan Austin: 416-510-2889

Adina James: 416-661-0343

Audrey Lewis: 416-829-6201

Elma Gabriel: 416-282-4557

or any Executive Member

THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Please view our events calendar and join us at our General Meetings on the last Sunday of each month from 4:00 p.m. at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, North York (Keele & Sheppard).

Please bring along a friend with you.

CCAC Launches Disaster Preparedness Initiative for the Caribbean

The Council of Caribbean Associations – Canada (CCAC), an umbrella organization consisting of the national organizations of 12 Caribbean countries is hosting a Fathers' Day Event to launch its Disaster Preparedness initiative to assist with relief efforts in the Caribbean.

The Sunday afternoon luncheon will take place at Elite Banquet and Convention Centre, 2850 Albion Road in West Toronto (Albion Rd & Highway 27) and begins at 2:30 p.m. Hon. Jean Augustine, retired MP and first Fairness Commissioner for Ontario will be the guest speaker.

Tickets are \$45.00 each and are available from members of the SVGAT executive.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. is one of the founding members of CCAC.

COMMUNITY CORNER

YOUR SECURITY

Identity Theft – It Could Happen to You!

When an imposter steals your name, your Social Insurance Number (SIN), your credit card number or some other piece of your personal information for their use, without your knowledge – IT'S A CRIME, PLAIN AND SIMPLE.

Maybe you never opened that account or ordered an additional card, but someone else did, someone who used your name and personal information to commit fraud.

Some of the signs your identity might have been stolen:

- a) Bills and statements don't arrive when they are supposed to – they may have been stolen from the mailbox or someone has changed the mailing address.
- b) You receive calls from collection agencies or creditors for an account you don't have or that is up-to-date. Someone may have opened a new account in your name, or added charges to an account without your knowledge or permission.
- c) Financial account statements show withdrawals or transfers you didn't have.
- d) A creditor calls to say you've been approved or denied credit that you haven't applied for. Or, you get credit card statements for accounts you don't have.
- e) You apply for credit and are turned down for reasons that do not match your understanding of your financial position.

What To Do:

- Call your financial institutions and the police;
- Put a fraud alert on your credit report;
- Contact Canada Post if your mail is missing;
- Keep records of steps taken to clear your name and re-establish your credit;
- To replace ID cards like health, driver's licence, SIN call 1-800-Canada.

About Your Debit Card

Debit card skinning is the method that fraudsters use to copy your magnetic stripe information and PIN which is then used to reproduce a counterfeit card and steal money from your bank account. Fraudsters use hidden equipment such as pinhole cameras and card reading devices to obtain your magnetic stripe info.

A chip card is a new generation of payment card technology that will put the power of a computer onto the debit card and provide increased protection against debit card skimming.

The Harmonized Sales Tax on July 1, 2010 will affect the price on a number of items. Please see what you can save on NOW. See FAQ on Page 7.

Chip cards and terminals have started to roll out across Canada and will continue to enter the marketplace over the next several years to be completed in about 2015.

Cardholders are protected and will not suffer financial losses due to circumstances beyond their control if they are victims of debit card fraud.

The type of information stored on your magnetic stripe is payment related information that allows the debit transaction to be authorized and processed, such as the debit card number, the financial institution code or country code. If captured, fraudsters primarily use the payment information on your magnetic stripe to make a counterfeit card and steal money, not your identity. With the transition to chip, the same information will now be stored within the chip, which is protected by multiple layers of security, making it extremely difficult to copy the information and make a counterfeit card.

Source: Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police

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Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
333 Wilson Avenue, Suite 601
Toronto, Ontario, M3H 1T2

Mr. Steve O. Phillips - Consul General

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

NEWS FROM SVG

(Compliments of The News, Vincentian, Caribbean Net News)

SVG's Newest Senator

The government of Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has named Mr. Cecil "Ces" McKie as a Senator in the Parliament of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. McKie, an insurance executive is also named Minister of State in the Ministry of National Mobilization, with responsibility for Sports and Youth. It is rumoured that he will be the ULP's candidate for West St. George in the next general elections which are constitutionally due by next year.

SVG TV Marks 30

St. Vincent and the Grenadines' only television station recently marked its 30th anniversary of service to the nation. The station is owned by Mr. Paul McLeish and family.

Congratulations and thanks for the service you have provided to our nation over the years. The station is located at Dorsetshire Hill overlooking Kingstown.

St Vincent minister praises work of Cuban medical brigade

HAVANA, Cuba -- (ACN) Douglas Slater, Minister of Public Health from St Vincent and the Grenadines on Friday praised the scientific level of the Cuban medical team now working in his country in the Vida a la Vida project for the disabled.

While addressing participants in the parliamentary session, Slater spoke about the scientific, psychosocial and clinical studies carried out since March 1 by 38 Cuban voluntary workers for the benefit of the disabled in the neighbouring nation. The official highlighted that this study has been favourably received by the population and its significance for the devising of governmental strategies for social attention, the Cuban Foreign Ministry's web site reports.

St Vincent and the Grenadines is the first country in the Caribbean to receive this project, in the results of which the University of the West Indies is very much interested.

Slater said that the program has been approved by the Commission of Ethics in his country, an essential aspect before implementing a program of this magnitude.

Cuban specialists have already made studies on the disabled in Venezuela and Nicaragua, and are currently carrying them out in Ecuador and Bolivia, under the auspices of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA).

Launch date of new Caribbean inter-island ferry service to be announced soon

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada -- With the gradual resolution to a number of logistical issues, the date for the launch of the Caribbean's new inter-island ferry service, will soon be announced.

In a statement on Wednesday, Benjamin Ross, CEO of the Grenada-based owners and operators of the service, BEDY Ocean Lines, said his company has been making significant progress with a number of logistical matters, which had accounted for earlier delays in the start of the service, and is now looking forward to bringing the people of the Eastern Caribbean and beyond, a safe and reliable mode of transportation that provides all their travel solutions.

In the company statement, Ross apologised to the people of the region for the unavoidable delay, and reiterated that the service was "still very much on stream".

The new ferry service, which will see inter-island passengers paying one-third of the current airfare for travel to the islands by air, will be offered to residents of Barbados, St Vincent, St Lucia, Trinidad and Grenada.

Initially, the company's two vessels, which are passenger speed boats, will each have a seating capacity ranging from 260 to 300. One of the vessels will make St Vincent its home and will service the St Vincent to Barbados and St Lucia routes, while the second ferry will be based in Grenada and will service the Grenada to Trinidad and Barbados route.

DIABETES AND YOUR HEALTH

What is Diabetes?

Diabetes is a serious problem that costs our entire planet. Most people don't realize that it is not only the world's 4th leading cause of death, diabetes is increasing daily and now affects an estimated 246 million people globally.

Living with Diabetes

Both type 1 and type 2 diabetes are serious conditions. But you can do many things to stay well. These include eating according to a healthy meal plan, being physically active and learning as much as possible about your diabetes. Talk to your healthcare team about all of these points and about your diabetes management targets, including blood glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Diabetes may affect driving performance due to chronic complications, which may impair sensory or motor function (diabetic eye disease (retinopathy) nerve damage (neuropathy), kidney disease (nephropathy), cardiovascular disease (CVD), peripheral vascular disease and stroke) and because of incidents of hypoglycemia.

A New Attitude

One of the biggest changes in recent years regarding diabetes management is taking responsibility for your own care. "It's not just the doctor taking care of your diabetes," points out Janssen, "Now, your diabetes team supports you and you make your own decisions."

For more information, visit www.diabetes.ca

OTHER NEWS

Haiti earthquake provides opportunity for integration into CARICOM

KINGSTON, Jamaica (JIS) -- Former Prime Minister of Jamaica and Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Special Representative to Haiti, PJ Patterson, said the devastation caused by the Haiti earthquake provides the opportunity for the full integration of the country into the Caribbean Community drawing on the best of its history and culture.

He noted that while Haiti had not yet subscribed to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), President Rene Preval has repeatedly indicated that Haiti's future model of development must be consistent with integration into CARICOM.

"Future policy and planning for the country must therefore take this into account and be geared towards helping it to become a full beneficial member of the CSME," he stated at a public forum in Castries, St. Lucia on Tuesday, March 9, on route to the meeting of Inter-Sessional Heads of Government in Dominica from March 11 to 12.

The former Prime Minister maintained throughout his address that while CARICOM was there to assist and advise, Haiti must be primarily responsible for its own development plan. Regarding the way forward as supported by CARICOM, Haiti has already indicated an initial focus on agriculture, light manufacturing and services.

Hence, the rebuilding of the economic and social infrastructure, including substantial housing, should be seen as an important part of the way forward given the country's potential employment capacity. In addition, tourism is seen as a key driver in the recovery process, given its linkages with agriculture, arts, crafts and culture.

Patterson stressed the importance of planning small business development within the context of climate change, sustainability and the creativity of the Haitian people, utilising the depth and diversity of the CARICOM cultural profile. He said that the private sector of Haiti and its CARICOM arm should gear up and equip itself for much of the work.

The forum in St Lucia was organised by the co-ordinating committee of civil society representatives, which was formed to help ensure a more cohesive response to the national effort aimed at assisting the people of Haiti. Patterson praised the initiative, noting that St Lucia and Dominica were uniquely poised to advance the rebuilding process in Haiti.

He said that both countries had the strong bond of language and a shared colonial history that brings them closer to Haiti than most other countries of the region. "This makes

your nations ideally suited to assume a leadership role as CARICOM establishes its physical presence in Haiti to assist the redevelopment," he stated.

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CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES

BENEFITS OF PRE-ARRANGING & PRE-FUNDING

By Gideon L. Exeter

Planning ahead is a part of our daily lives. We plan for holidays, special occasions and quite a number of things, some of which may never happen. In the prime of our lives we plan for the things we enjoy and this has become an integral part of Canadian culture.

The terms pre-arranging and pre-funding are usually associated with death and funeral and even though death is the only certain thing that will happen in our lives, many of us are afraid to deal with the subject much more going ahead with making arrangements for the inevitable.

Since we know that one day we will die then the sensible thing to do would be to plan for that day by putting as much in place as is possible since we do not know when death will come.

A summary of the advantages and benefits of pre-planning your cemetery and funeral products and services include:

- a) **Peace of Mind** - Decisions are made together in cases of couples and at times with other family members. This gives the peace of mind because the decision is not made alone nor left to the survivors; In case of individuals, it takes the strain off the surviving relatives who may not know how the deceased would have preferred to have his or her departure felt;
- b) **Prevent Family Conflict** – We have seen some family members at the time of grief being unable to mutually agree on matters pertaining to the final arrangements and expenses of their deceased loved one. This quite often leads to a breakdown of family relations;
- c) **Minimize Problems with Blended Families** – With the growing number of blended families today arriving at decisions by consensus is a difficult process, more often;
- d) **To Control the Cost of service** – Prices increase annually. When pre-purchased, the price on a purchased product or service does not change once the purchase is made;
- e) **To Prevent Emotional Overspending** – In numerous cases survivors get carried away due to the pressure of grief and make decisions on spending that may not have been made under normal circumstances
- f) **To Relieve Cost to Spouse, Children and Those Left Behind** – By purchasing early you demonstrate responsibility by avoiding your loved ones to bear the cost when you did not pre-fund;
- g) **To Guarantee Price Against Inflation or Loss of Income** – Purchasing early guarantees the price from inflation, changes in taxation and at a time when you can better afford it;
- h) **Relatives Are Aware of Your Final Wishes** – Having gone through the process of making your final wishes, it is very unlikely that your loved ones will change them at the time of your passing;
- i) **Available Convenient Terms to Suit Any Budget** – Most cemetery and funeral providers have convenient payment terms over a period of years. When plans are not in place, the total cost of products and services quite often overburdens the surviving relatives left to take care of things;
- j) **Better Choice Selection** – With a clear mind and no rush to make decisions you are better able to make sound and long lasting choices and there are more available options;
- k) **Decisions Can Be Changed or Altered** - As we go through life we make changes to the things we have. Changes can be made to products and services prior to their use;
- l) **Transferability** – In some cases, after a period of time one may decide to move to another area of the country. In that case, the products can be transferred to the new location providing the cemetery provider has property in that area. The product and services can also be transferred to a loved one or another person;
- m) **HST Increases Costs** - Currently, the only tax on cemetery and funeral services is the 5% GST. As of July 1, 2010 when the Harmonized Sales Tax becomes effective the new tax will be 13%.



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Sponsoring your Family Members

Contributed: Sandra Sutherland, CCIC

Do you have family members living inside or outside Canada whom you would like to sponsor to become a permanent resident? If so, take these necessary precautions and suggestions prior to submitting an application package to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC).

First ensure that you meet the eligibility criteria as a sponsor. If you have any bars to sponsoring (i.e.: default in prior undertaking, default in court ordered support payments, pending bankruptcy proceedings, etc.) rectify them prior to submitting your application to sponsor. Secondly, ensure that the person being sponsored meets CIC's definition of a Family Class member. Thirdly, find out what documentation you and your family member may need to substantiate your case.

You may sponsor spouses and common-law partners who reside in Canada without status through the Spouse or Common-law partner in Canada class category. All other family members residing in Canada without status may submit a Humanitarian and Compassionate application which may be supported by you as a sponsor - this constitutes an undertaking of assistance. If your family member resides outside Canada, you may sponsor him/her under the Family Class category.

If you are sponsoring a spouse, common-law or conjugal partner, you will need to convince the immigration officer that your relationship is genuine and ongoing and thus not entered into for immigration purposes. Be sure to provide comprehensive and persuasive information and documentation such as photographs, records of communication, proof of joint matters, etc.

If you are a father sponsoring a dependent child, it would be beneficial that your name appears on the child's birth certificate as the father. This would help to avert any added costs of paternal DNA testing. If sponsoring other family members (parents, grandparents, orphans or other relatives), you should provide evidence to prove your relationship with each other and which suggests that the relationship has been continuous.

Filling out multiple application forms, each of which may range in length from one to six pages, can be quite intimidating. If you hire someone to assist you, make sure that he/she is a competent authorized representative. Authorized representatives include Certified Canadian Immigration Consultants (CCIC) who are members of the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants (CSIC) and lawyers/notaries who are members of a provincial law society. The money spent in doing so may avert a more costly Appeal process and wasted time in being united in Canada.

Sandra Sutherland is a Certified Canadian Immigration Consultant (CCIC) and regular contributor to *Insight*. Please see her advertisement immediately following this article.

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Sandra Sutherland, CCIC

Immigration Law Practitioner (Honours Certification)
Commissioner of Oaths & Member of CSIC

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Website: www.suthernimmigration.com

Email: ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com

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High Commissioner

His Excellency Mr. Brendon C. Browne

Frequently Asked Questions About the HST

What is a Harmonized Sales Tax?

Ontario plans a major tax reform that will combine both the provincial and federal sales tax on products and services. The combined tax of five per cent GST and eight per cent Ontario sales tax won't change the price on most items. But many items that used to be exempt from sales tax will no longer be so.

What is no longer PST exempt?

Consumers are most likely to notice an increase in the price of gasoline and heating fuels. Electricity will no longer be exempt from provincial sales tax, nor will tobacco, personal services like haircuts, membership fees for clubs and gyms, newspapers and magazines, taxi fares, cemetery and funeral and the professional services of lawyers, architects and accountants. Real estate commissions will also be taxed.

Will anything remain exempt?

Not a lot. Children's clothing and footwear, children's car seats and car booster seats, books, diapers and feminine

hygiene products will remain exempt from the provincial portion of the single sales tax. Basic groceries, rent, condo fees, prescription drugs, and medical devices remain exempt from both PST and GST. Purchase of resale homes will remain exempt from PST, although real estate transaction fees will be taxed.

Why is Ontario doing this?

The province says implementation of the single sales tax would bring Ontario into line with "what is viewed as the most efficient form of sales taxation around the world." The finance ministry says the single sales tax would reduce the cost of goods that Ontario exports, making the province more competitive and boosting a sector of the economy that has been particularly hard hit by the economic downturn.

At the moment, businesses may not deduct the PST from the cost of materials and other products they buy; instead, they pass the cost along to consumers. But under harmonization, businesses may claim tax credits for those purchases, which some estimates suggest could save them \$3-billion a year.

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce believes a fully blended system would cost consumers approximately \$905 million in additional sales taxes per year, while the GST and PST bill for companies would fall by \$1.6 billion annually.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses says harmonization will save business \$100 million a year in reduced red tape.

Businesses will save a further \$500-million a year on the costs of administering a single tax instead of two, according to the budget documents.

Are all businesses on side?

Contractors, developers and homebuilders oppose the blending. Ontario's Building Industry and Land Development Association estimates that a blended tax would add more than \$46,000 to the price of a \$580,000 new home in Toronto.

Will household expenses rise?

Yes, although the province says it will offer \$10.6 billion worth of tax relief over the next three years:

- Cash payments of up to \$1,000 for in 2010 and 2011 for families earning less than \$160,000 a year.
- A new permanent \$260 refundable sales tax credit for low to middle-income adults and children.
- An enhanced refundable property tax credit for low and middle-income homeowners and tenants.
- New homes under \$400,000 would be exempt from the new blended tax.
- \$1.1 billion in personal income tax cuts

So what's the problem?

The provincial NDP says the single sales tax would leave families "feeling the pinch" from having to spend more on a range of goods at a time that many are already struggling to deal with job losses.

The Conservatives, while ideologically in favour of harmonizing, say this is no time to be raising taxes.

The Ontario Real Estate Association says merging the taxes will add more than \$2,000 to the cost of a real estate transaction, hurting the resale home market and prolonging the housing industry's recovery from the economic doldrums.

Is Ontario alone in this?

All the Atlantic provinces except Prince Edward Island have a harmonized sales tax.

When does the new tax begin?

July 1, 2010.

Read more: <http://www.cbc.ca>

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ANNUAL WALK-A-THON RETURNS

Saturday, June 12
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Route:

York Woods Library to Northwood Park, North York.

Proceeds to
SVGAT's Scholarship Fund

If you are unable to participate in the Walk, please sponsor someone

For further information and pledge sheets please contact:
Cordel - 905-789-9731



For more information contact:
Ronald Crichton
 VEGETRON INC. 12-3400 14th Ave, Markham, ON , L3R
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Calendar or Events for 2010

April 25, 2010	Monthly General Meeting, Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, 4:00 p.m.
May 9, 2010	Annual Mothers' Day Brunch. St. Clement of Ohrid Banquet Hall, 76 Overlea Blvd, Toronto
May 30, 2010	Monthly General Meeting, Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, 4:00 p.m.
June 12, 2010	Walk-A-Thon - 5 Km Walk from York Woods Library to Northwood Park, 10:00 a.m.
June 27, 2010	Monthly General Meeting, Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, 4:00 p.m.
July 17, 2010	SVG Unity Picnic, Browns Bay Provincial Park, 1000 Islands
July 25, 2010	Monthly General Meeting, Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, 4:00 p.m.
August 29, 2010	Monthly General Meeting, Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, 4:00 p.m.
September 26, 2010	Monthly General Meeting, Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, 4:00 p.m.
October 24, 2010	Independence Church Service, Rosewood Church of the Nazarene, 657 Milner Ave, 4:00 p.m.
October 30, 2010	Independence Banquet, Riviera Parque Banquet Centre, 2800 Hwy #7 West, Concord
October 31, 2010	Cultural Symposium, York Civic Centre, 2700 Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto, 3:00 p.m.
November 28, 2010	Monthly General Meeting, Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, 4:00 p.m.
December	Annual Children's Christmas Party - TBA

MORE SVG NEWS

Timmy crops launched in SVG



SVG Chamber of Commerce and representatives of other organizations in support of the Timmy Crops initiative.

In a matter of months, Vincentians will be able to feast on agro products harvested from the fields of Timmy Crops.

Timmy Crops is the newest business venture undertaken by the Intermediate High School, in collaboration with the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Chamber of Commerce and their newly launched Schools Garden Project.

The Intermediate High School is the first school on this project.

Executive Director of the SVG CIC Shafia London indicated at a school assembly to launch the project last Friday that the students that make up Timmy Crops would be responsible for market research, planting and harvesting the produce, marketing and record keeping.

“In the future, we expect that some of the students will be involved in various businesses,” London said. “They all stand to benefit from the basic business thinking, business skills and, above all, hands on business experience they will acquire during this project.”

London said that the project was started in an effort to re-ignite the interest of agriculture among Vincentians, especially young people, whom she noted could be motivated to become more involved in the agricultural sector and consider business in agriculture as a viable career option.

“This will in turn strongly influence a production of locally produced foods, therefore leading to wealth creation in our economy. This project is, therefore, considered a vital one for the sustainability in the agricultural sector in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.”

Also throwing their support behind the project is the Ministry of Agriculture, which was represented at the launch by Winston George, as well as Jethro Greene of ECTAD, and Philmore Isaacs of IICA.

The men congratulated the Chamber as well as the school for the initiative and promised support from their organizations towards the projects.

Villette Browne, Managing Director of Bickles, the project’s major sponsor, said that her company was also in full support of the project because they believed in the abilities of the students, and was expecting great things from the school.

She said that the students are being given an opportunity to make a difference and they should make the most of that opportunity.

“Put your heart into this project... We are behind you. We are expecting a lot of great things from you,” Browne encouraged.

Also donating to the project was the Green Finger Garden Supplies store, which gave the students a spray can.

The students who make up the business are yet to decide on the crops to be planted on the plot of land situated at the back of the school.

HELP KEROSENE LAMP FOUNDATION

Dear Friends,

Our \$15K or Bust Birthday Campaign is underway! Help this year to be as successful as last year when we aimed for \$10,000 and received nearly \$13K thanks to your generous support!

Your donation will help me [bring up a few kids from my home country](#) of St. Vincent & the Grenadines to visit the States to help broaden their horizons and show them what opportunities are available to them if they work hard in school. The kids will also be enrolled in my mentorship program to continue to encourage them throughout the year and provide additional academic tutoring.

[A few ways that you can contribute to KLF's March \\$15K Campaign:](#)

- [Purchase a \\$15 raffle ticket](#) (no restrictions on quantity & the person who buys the most tickets is guaranteed a prize!)
- [Make a direct donation](#)
- [Other ways](#)

If just 1000 people each make a \$15 donation, we'll raise \$15,000 in no time!

By the way, we are looking for sponsors for our gala dinner in Orlando, FL. Please contact Shiyana at svalentine@kerosenelampfoundation.org or 925-699-9754 if you are interested in hearing more.

Thanks for caring as much as you do,

Adonal Foyle
KLF Founder & President
www.kerosenelampfoundation.org

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The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

Membership Registration Form

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Mission Statement

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. (SVGAT) is a non-profit community-based Association. We are committed to providing assistance and support to groups and institutions in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Ontario, and wherever the Association deems fit. We are also committed 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 OF EVERY MONTH** from 4:00 p.m. at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, (Keele St. & Sheppard Ave. W. area), North York

We hope to see you there!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

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NEW MEMBER OR RENEWAL: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$_____ (\$2.00 for new membership registration, \$20.00 annual subscription)

Please make cheques payable to THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. and mail to:

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