

# INSIGHT

Quarterly Newsletter April 2009

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



*From the President's Desk*

## Contribution and Service

To everyone I extend much gratitude for the trust and confidence you have exhibited by the various modes of communication sent to me in the past few months. I am humbled and can assure you that contributing to our Country is a reflection of who I am. Like you, it runs within my blood stream as the spirit of Chatoyer stands tall, a gallant symbol for our SVG and its people.

With your undivided support, we will over time, accomplish those goals and objectives set for us over the past 40 years by our initiators then and now, and those willing to carry the baton; the challenges of today's objectives such as:

Acquiring our own building; Standardizing our constitution; Strengthening, combining and securing our SVG Canadian historical, social and cultural similarities among our people; Developing common political values and ethics; Focusing on effective leadership that can only lend to positive development to SVG.

In addition to ensuring the publication of our Insight quarterly news letter, we are committed to sharing information on a more regular basis via our [www.vinvytoronto.com](http://www.vinvytoronto.com) website and SVGAT e-mail distribution list. Many of you would have received the February and March monthly general meeting review and have sent feedback of its usefulness in keeping you informed of your Greater Toronto Organization. Although we anticipate larger attendance at our monthly meetings, we do consider those unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. We however, know that you will be amongst our patrons at our events.

We are currently updating our Canada Post mail contact list, and do hope that with your ongoing financial support, whether by subscribing, by special donations, attending our events or otherwise, we will in the not too distant future be in a position to justify the cost of mailing the monthly review to all members and friends of our community. We welcome any recommendation, and or funding that would aid this initiative.

Our Mothers Day and Unity Picnic tickets are out and can be obtained by contacting any member of the Executive and the Agents as shown in the event flyers within this issue of Insight. Please also check out our "Coming Events" section. Please support the Homecoming Canada Diaspora

Conference on May 16<sup>th</sup> where, as a SVG Canadians you will have the opportunity to submit recommendations and opinions that are essential to the development of SVG. In conclusion, please do not hesitate to contact any of your 2009 SVGAT executive members. In acceptance of your nominations, we are committed to community service and therefore, have made our lines of communication open to each and every one of you. Volunteering is about putting aside that which may seem a hindrance, extracting the positive from what may appear negative, and moving forward in optimism. By supporting us in living up to your expectations, we urge you to become members of our committee; remembering that our community is a "body" of many parts that by working together can only achieve "much".

Let's as one people heighten our contributions to service.

Have a great and safe summer 2009.

Sincerely  
Elma Gabriel  
President, SVGAT [president@vincytoronto.com](mailto:president@vincytoronto.com)

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## Yes! Is it happening in SVG?

### WILD HORSES, INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



How many readers of The Vincentian know what is happening at the end of the Leeward Road in Richmond? How many of you knew there was a Richmond-Vale Academy training students from around the world to do development work in poor countries? Or a place in Richmond where wild horses are being given a new life?

**THE VINCENTIAN** did a mini-survey, And not one person was aware of the incredible work being done by Stina Herberg from Norway and her husband Jesper Friis of Denmark.

Richmond Vale Academy is a training centre for persons planning to do development aid work for HUMANA People to People Projects world-wide.

Humana is an international movement of non-governmental organizations running over 200 development projects in over 30 countries, including Africa, India, China, Brazil and Ecuador. They fight HIV/Aids, do community work, establish children's aid projects, run farmer's clubs and income generating projects.

Its recent Africa training course ran for 14 months, and trainees from 25 countries learned about fighting poverty in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin American countries. Their training included the HIV/Aids epidemic, languages, development work, cooperation skills, teaching and problem- solving. Part of their training involved carrying out community work and events in the North Leeward area of St. Vincent.

The day after The Vincentian visited the Academy, 18 program graduates left for assignments in Mozambique. Richmond Vale also operates a Nature and Hiking Centre,

with profits directed to supporting the educational activities at the academy.

Guests stay in low-cost, simple rooms with prices from \$US 50.00/night including full board. Activities include hiking the Trinity Waterfall and Rainforest Trails, and the Soufriere volcano. Staff also give lessons in hiking and swimming with horses.

Speaking of horses, shortly after arriving in St. Vincent two years ago, Stina came across an abandoned herd of wild and starving horses in the Buccama area. They had been brought to St. Vincent 8-10 years ago to take tourists on trail rides. For some reason, the owners abandoned both the project and the horses. Stina removed their shoes, allowing them to heal naturally in a large pasture and the sea. They were de-wormed, de-ticked and cared for, slowly becoming healthier and gaining weight.

To train the horses to regain trust for humans, she introduced what is known as Liberty Training: No Tack, No Ropes, No Whips or Sticks, No Pens, just Stina and the horse, free; at Liberty, building a willing trust. Over time, they have come to trust her and actually come to her, where previously they feared humans. She has developed a bond with the horses.

Stina said, "We are able to offer a very different kind of horse program. Instead of people coming to 'rent' a horse for a trail ride, they can come for a 'magic' ride. Ride the herd without tack, walk 5 horses together in the rainforest and enjoy nature at its unique best."

Richmond Vale Farm is also part of the enterprise, producing a variety of fruits and vegetables, including passion fruit, limes, and bananas as well as passion fruit and lime juice which is sold in most stores on the island. It also employs 15 people from Fitz Hughes, Chateaubelair and Spring Village.

Richmond Vale: A training centre for development workers, a Nature and Hiking Centre for tourists, a very productive farm providing employment for Vincentians, and the magic of wild horses that up until now you only heard about in books and movies.

#### *The VINCENTIAN*

*Author: Ben Harrison - International Correspondent*

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#### **BEREAVEMENT NOTICE**

The Executive and Members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto extend condolences to all members and friends of our community who have lost loved ones.

We wish you God's blessing as you cope with your loss and we trust that those who have departed will find rest in the Lord.

## Map of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

