

Northern Ireland Basks in Caribbean Sunshine – CaribbeanFest 2013

10 August 2013

Belfast, NORTHERN IRELAND: To commemorate Emancipation Day (August 01), regional integration and the camaraderie of the Caribbean, particularly those of Caribbean descent in Northern Ireland, CaribbeanFest was established.



Back Centre (R-L): Prince Marcus and Dr Christopher Stange – Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Northern Ireland & Chair (Ag.) ACSONI; Front (R) Yolande Robertson Greene – VBFWA President with some of the Vincentian Diaspora in Northern Ireland

Supported by the Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) to Northern Ireland, Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, Equality Commission, volunteers and artists from the Caribbean Diaspora, lead by the registered charity African Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland (ACSONI) in partnership with the Association of Caribbean Nationals (ACAN), a Caribbean food festival, cultural exhibition, concert and cricket match to support social integration, cohesion and cross-community partnerships was held.

The main countries involved were St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago and St. Lucia; promoting their history, culture, food and life in and amongst Northern Ireland communities.

Lord Mayor of Belfast - Cllr. Máirtín Ó Muilleoir and Dr Christopher Stange – Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines & Chair (Ag.) of ACSONI provided official remarks with

artists: Cacao, Prince Marcus, Clover Watts, Paul Brown, Raquel McKee, Philip Robinson and other talented musicians entertaining the packed auditorium.



Centre (L-R): Lord Mayor of Belfast - Cllr. Máirtín Ó Muilleoir and Dr Christopher Stange with some of the organisers from the Jamaican Diaspora in Northern Ireland (L-R): Joseph Ricketts, Clover Watts, Raquel McKee, Paul Brown and Faith Brown

Dr Stange commented: "I would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the invaluable contribution made by members of the Caribbean community in Northern Ireland to society, the economy and civic life. The passion, commitment and capabilities of members of this community cannot be overemphasized. On behalf of the SVG Government, I am delighted to extend my profound sentiments to all our Caribbean neighbours and our wonderful civilization. Today we pay tribute to a great region of the world and its great people."

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