



Pres. Jagdeo wins highest UN Environmental award

[Masthead Picture Kaieteur Falls, Potaro River, Guyana, South America](#) < click
741 feet/226 meters



April 23, 2010 – Guyana’s President Bharrat Jagdeo has received the United Nation’s highest environmental award, and he isn’t keeping a cent of the prize money for himself.

Jagdeo, who was among six people to receive the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) 2010 Champion of the Earth Award yesterday, will donate the US\$40,000 to Amerindian communities in Guyana, according to a government statement.

The Guyana President received the prestigious award for his outstanding international leadership on combating climate change and his pioneering model on low carbon economic development.

“His tireless advocacy, particularly on the urgent need to protect the world’s forests, has made a tremendous contribution to the international climate change agenda”.--Lord Nicholas Stern

“President Jagdeo is a powerful advocate of the need to conserve and more intelligently manage the planet’s natural and nature-based assets,” said UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner in presenting the award.

“He has recognised more than most the multiple Green Economy benefits of forests in terms of combating climate change, but also in terms of development, employment, improved water supplies and the conservation of biodiversity.”

According to the UNEP, the award is given to “people and organisations truly distinguished’ when it comes to making a real difference in protecting the planet earth.

It said the Champions of the Earth Award honours the “best and brightest as they strive to take action for our planet through their visionary thinking, unwavering dedication and committed action towards the sustainable use of the planet’s resources for global green growth”.

In his acceptance speech, Jagdeo described the award as an endorsement of the long standing efforts of the people of Guyana to help change the way the world values scarce natural resources.

“Without changing this reality, the world will fail to reverse today’s dangerous trends of climate change and biodiversity destruction,” [Read full article—click here](#)

Inside this issue:

Pg01- Pres. Jagdeo gets highest UN award.: Masthead Picture: Kaieteur Falls with links.

Pg02- Editorial; “On the street where I lived” by Peter Halder; BBC radio program on Race (listen)

Pg03- Tourism News Items; List and links of Hotels, Eco-lodges and tour companies in Guyana.

Pg04 – Guest Editorial – “Tourism Policy”

Pg05 – Guyana News: including a list of news links

Pg06 – Guyana News: including a list of news links

Pg07- Commentary – “The Bartica Triangle- Door to the Interior” by Peter Ramsaroop.

Pg08 - Associations – Queen’s College Alumni-Toronto Chapter - Feature

Pg09 – Associations– News

Pg10 – Associations – News

Pg11 – Arts and Culture – “Tastes Like Home”

Pg12 – Arts and Culture – News

Pg13 – Business Feature – “Leadership and Vision” by William (Bill) King

Pg14 – Historical: Historic New Amsterdam

Pg15 – Historical: The Arrival of the Chinese in British Guiana



[ICC WEBSITE—click below or click here](#)

Scores, Game reviews, photos and video clips of recent games played , upcoming matches as well as archives

Welcome to the Guyanese Online Newsletter



Cyril Bryan

EDITORIAL: By: Cyril Bryan, Editor and Publisher

This is the third edition of the Guyanese Online Newsletter. The newsletters have been well received and now reach an estimated 40,000. The blog also has thousands of visitors every month. I must thank all those who have commented and sent personal e-mails. Thanks also to our advertisers whose support makes this publication sustainable.

HEADLINE NEWS—April 2010
[Links to news articles](#)

In this issue I have introduced two columns of Headline News and articles on Guyana, with links to a list of about 80 items that can be downloaded. These links, and others, are also on the Blog.

I have also featured in this issue a page on Tourism and links to the websites of some of hotels, eco-lodges and tour operators. There is also a link to the Cheddi Jagan International Airport with flight schedules.

Many persons have said that they are keeping these newsletters online in a folder for reference as they find the content interesting ..and not easily read at one sitting. My idea is to offer a “Buffet of articles and news” for people to select what interests them.’

In the northern hemisphere it is spring and soon to be summer with events that make a difference, especially after a cold winter. In Toronto, there is the big Caribana festival, at the end of July every year. The first Caribana, in 1967, which I attended, was just a small parade with music down Yonge Street, and a week-long event on Toronto Island. Today, it is a multicultural extravaganza with thousands on parade and over a million onlookers of all cultures, along Lakeshore Boulevard.

Cultural tourism can be profitable, and this has changed the perception of original critics of Caribana. A recent Ryerson Univ. study confirms the fact that Caribana is now Canada’s richest festival, generating twice the income of all Toronto-based festivals combined. Now it is too big to fail. In 2009, it pumped an estimated CAD\$450 million in the economy and created over 6800 jobs. A wide range of economic sectors benefit – CAD\$109M on restaurants and bars; CAD\$101M on accommodation; CAD\$64M on recreation and entertainment; CAD\$62M on clothing and CAD\$33M on transportation. Last year it had also generated CAD\$198M in tax revenues, and CAD\$260M in labour income..

Caribana has become a magnet for Caribbean people in that it allows them to connect with their friends who visit especially for the event. Thousands of Guyanese and their dependents live in the Toronto area and they look forward to Caribana and the Last Lap Lime in particular - held on Caribana Monday. There they are sure to meet Guyanese from all over the world, many they have not seen for years. We hope you visit Toronto this year and enjoy Caribana and especially the Last Lap Lime on August 2nd.

Of course there are other events that Guyanese and their friends will be attending all year long, all around the world, such as the carnivals in London, Miami and New York, the [Maryland’s GUYFEST](#), or the [Guyanese Association of Georgia events on May 28-30](#). We know that wherever Guyanese meet they will have a good time together enjoyng their multi-cultures and, of course, their cuisine that [Tastes like Home](#).

On May 26 Guyana will celebrate its **44th year of Independence** We will celebrate and feature the 44th Independence Day in our June edition. Have a safe and enjoyable summer where ever you may be.

This monthly **Newsletter** and the **Guyanese Online Weblog** is designed, edited produced and published by **Cyril Bryan**. Individuals, Organizations, Associations and groups should send their announcements, and features and event advertisements for publication to guyaneseonline@gmail.com

[COMMENTS for Guyanese Online Newsletter -May 2010 <click this link](#)

Send business enquiries and advertising requests to Cyril Bryan at this same address. Rates are very reasonable, so please support us. Please forward the newsletter to your Guyanese organizations, family and friends.

“On the Street where I lived” - in Albouystown, Georgetown

by Peter Halder - *former Guyana Ambassador, Commonwealth Expert, Consultant to Fiji Government.*

“I was born, grew up and lived for many years on a virtually unknown street. It’s name is Non Pareil Street and it’s in Albouystown, Georgetown, Guyana.”

“Albouystown is the long, narrow southern suburb of Georgetown, often called a “slum area” due to its “long ranges” of one room homes, thickly populated “yards”, latrines for the use of landlord and tenants and to a minor extent, crime.”

This is an intriguing story by a Guyanese man, Peter Halder, who grew up in Albouystown in the late 1930's and the 1940's. you would find it very interesting reading ... It shows the multi-racial and multi-cultural melting pot of British Guyana and the Guyana of today where mixed ancestry ia a reality.....

... read full story here...> [ON THE STREET WHERE I LIVED](#)

Here is the Conclusion of his story...

Conclusion: “A man is not always defined by where he was born or the circumstances of his birth. I became a journalist, District Administration Officer, Licence Revenue Officer, Chief Information Officer, Ambassador, Commonwealth Expert, Consultant-Government of Fiji; Consultant to Fiji’s Mission to the United Nations, received the Order of The Nile (Third Class) from Egypt, travelled to over 60 countries and lived in quite a few. My family and I now live in Springfield, Virginia, U.S.A. I am retired.

“Growing up in Guyana in my young days was paradise and Non Pareil Street and Albouystown, wonderland.”

BBC Radio Program on “Race”

A Distinguished Race - Episode 1 - What’s In a Race? [Listen now](#) (28 minutes)

Professor Steve Jones examines what race has meant in the past, and what it means today, delving into both the science and the sociology. Steve asks whether we have changed enough since humans first left Africa 60,000 years ago to create new races.

He explores how scientists have tried to split the human population into different categories, in the past, and now. What we view as different races is visible all around us. But when people who think they are of a certain ‘race’ have their DNA examined - they often have a shock.

Steve hears how science is using genealogy to combat racism.

With so much movement around the world and mingling of genes, Steve discusses whether the idea of race will finally disappear altogether.

A Distinguished Race Episode 2 - Skin Deep [Listen now](#) (28 minutes)

Professor Steve Jones steps boldly into the racial ring to discover whether the concept of race is relevant at all.

Our own faces give us hints of past lives who have shaped our early family tree.

Steve Jones goes on a trail to discover what genetics has to say about the common traits that allow racial groupings.

He talks to Professor Nina Jablonski of Penn State University, an expert on skin - particularly its colour; Professor Rick Sturm of Queensland University about eye colour; and he discovers how genetics determined

[April 2010 will have highest number of arrivals to Guyana, says minister](#)

Friday, April 30, 2010 - Guyana (GINA) -- As fans across the cricketing world prepare to support their favourite teams and players, the Government of Guyana, through the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce is putting forth greater efforts to ensure that all necessary systems are in place to facilitate an easy process, as the spotlight will be focused on the National Stadium, at Providence, East Bank Demerara.

Present to welcome visitors, overseas-based Guyanese and foreigners and officials, among others, was Tourism Minister, Manniram Prashad, who said that "There are so many good things happening in Guyana, and as a result, we have repeat visitors. [Read Full article..](#)

[Cruise ship 'Clelia 2' docks in Guyana](#)

Thursday, April 29, 2010 - Guyana (GINA) -- Guyana's economic development is inextricably linked to the development of the tourism industry, which Government recognises as a sector with huge potential for development.



To improve the standard and efficiency of maritime transport and the movement of cargo in the international arena, 'Clelia 2' an international cruise ship on its maiden voyage, docked in Guyana today with approximately 142 persons which comprise 65 crew members and 77 passengers... [Read full article.](#)

[Tour of Guyana reveals Harpy Eagles, endless rainforests and authentic indigenous cultures](#)

Wednesday, April 7, 2010 - Guyana – The group had already been huddled 80 feet beneath a Harpy Eagle's nest for more than an hour when it started to pour down rain. It was well past lunchtime, but when asked if they wanted to leave, the keen birdwatchers responded, "We're not ready to dip on the Harpy."



A child at Rewa village sings a song about and shows his art depicting biodiversity

'To dip' is birding verbiage used when one misses the chance to see a rare bird. The nest appeared empty, but the more the guide Gary talked about seeing the adult female and juvenile Harpies at the nest two days ago, the more the group wanted to wait. [Read full article](#)

[Cheddi Jagan Int. Airport](#)
including Flight schedules

[Guyana Tourism Authority](#)
Website link

[International group impressed with Guyana's tourism products](#)

Guyana's tourism industry has come a long way and is continually expanding to offer more options to visitors, as Government works in partnership with several private sector bodies to develop different areas to attract more tourists.



From left to right, Tim Appleton originator and co-founder of British Birdwatching Fair, Director of the Guyana Tourism Authority, Indranauth Haralsingh and Kirk Smock author of Guyana's first travel guide during press briefing at Cara Lodge, Qumina Street.

A group of eight birding and natural history tour operators, journalist, and photographers from the United States, the United Kingdom and South America, during a recent unforgettable journey, experienced some of the country's natural wonders during a birding familiarisation tour.

The fam-tour which commenced on March 12 and concluded today gave the explorers an opportunity to discover over 356 different species of birds. Director of the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) Indranauth Haralsingh said birding tourism is a high-end activity which has over the years attracted the attention of international tour operators.

He noted that Guyana has been featured in several international magazines including Birdwatch, Waterlife, Condé Nast Traveller, Guardian Unlimited, and the Sundowner

Birding has been effective in enabling Guyana to gain international attention through the exposure of international agencies.

Haralsingh stressed that the publicity that Guyana has received over the years from fam tours has provided an incredible boost to the country's level of recogni

t "These fam trips are the corner stone of market efforts and have helped us to build tourism over the years. We need to let persons know about Guyana's bird watching and this is a definite approach to place the country on the international front." of the tourism industry..... [Read full article](#)

Website Links Hotels, Eco-resorts. Interior Lodges, & Tour Operators

[Adel's Rainforest Resort](#)

[Ariantze Sidewalk Hotel Café and Jazz Club](#)

[Banganara Island Resort](#)

[Blue Wave Apartment Hotel](#)

[Bradsville Apartments](#)

[Cara Hotels](#)

[El Dorado Inn](#)

[Evergreen Adventures](#)

[Grand Coastal Inn](#)

[Herdmanston Lodge](#)

[Hurakabra River Resort](#)

[Hotel Tower – Emerald Tower Resort](#)

[Iwokrama Canopy Walkway](#)

[Iwokrara Forest -](#)

[Kanuku Suites](#)

[Le Grand Penthouse Hotel](#)

[Pegasus Hotel](#)

[Princess Hotel](#)

[Radisson Apartment Suites](#)

[Regency Suites Hotel](#)

[Rock View Lodge, Rupununi](#)

[Roraima Airways, Hotels and Companies](#)

[Sleepin International Hotel](#)

[Splashmins Resort](#)

[Surama Eco-Lodge Rupununi](#)

[Timberhead Eco-Resort](#)

[Trans Guyana Airways](#)

[Wilderness Explorers](#)

[Zoom Inn Hotel](#)

GUEST EDITORIAL

TOURISM POLICY

While press releases flutter down about one or another aspect of the tourist industry from time to time, one is still left to wonder whether there is any coherent, integrated policy in relation to it. If there is, it hasn't been relayed to the public.

Most recently there was a release about a 'birding' group which extolled the virtues of Guyana's hinterland – no doubt about those – but there have also been the usual statements about attracting tourists for Mashramani and at the various holiday periods which might seem to be out of consonance with interior tourism.

Of course, it can legitimately be argued that coastal holiday events are intended to attract expatriate Guyanese; no one could pretend, for example, that foreign-born tourists would be tempted by Mashramani or the Main Big Lime, for example, when competition of the order of Carnival in neighbouring Trinidad and Brazil exists.

Guyana's eco-tourism product, on the other hand, is unique, and appeals to specialist groups, the 'birders' being one example. In addition, this country's interior is also largely geographically insulated, and can be treated separately in many regards from the coastal littoral. In fact, theoretically, eco-tourists could land at the CJ airport and be taken straight to the hinterland, bypassing the capital and the coast altogether.

However, by its very nature eco-tourism has restricted potential in terms of numbers; if there are too many visitors they will destroy the very environment they have come to enjoy. At the moment, venues are very limited, but presumably they will increase over time, and spread to all corners of the interior.

Has the Ministry of Tourism worked out exactly where in the future likely sites would be located, and most of all, just what kind of burden in terms of numbers each possible locale can carry, as well as the hinterland overall? One imagines they are facing just this question already in the case of Kaieteur Falls, whose delicate ecosystem in the immediate vicinity could easily be damaged by the presence of too many visitors.

In connection with the latest birding expedition, reference was also made to cultural tourism, which of course is not something associated with the hinterland alone. Much has been written about the dangers of this form of tourism to tribal societies; however, in this instance the foreigners were exposed to community tourism, as it is called, at Rewa, and one can certainly see the potential for the expansion of this into other locations.

Once the communities themselves have control of the product, the risk of doing violence to their cultural integrity and lifestyle is much reduced, and the members are provided with a means of income.

Where cultural tourism on the coast is concerned, however – Mashramani and celebrations of that ilk apart – there has been no attempt at evolving a strategy. The history of the coastland is intimately connected with the history of the plantation, and in particular the history of sugar. Even Georgetown, as one Dutch consultant pointed out some years ago, is a plantation city – the only one in the world, it might be added.

There is too the fact that life on the coast has always been a hydraulic challenge; to make the plantation possible, the sea had to be kept out, and the inland water had to be drained off. While this does not make Guyana unique in the world, one feels that among developing countries there cannot be very many whose drainage and sea defence infrastructure is so elaborate and extensive.

In other words, there is a story to be told here, as much for schoolchildren it might be noted, as for tourists. But officialdom does not appear in the least interested in telling it, or in preserving and reconstructing the material heritage related to it. There is no sugar museum in this country, for example; no plantation houses which tourists can visit; no logies (of various designs) so visitors can have an idea of the conditions under which the Africans and Indians lived at various periods; in short, no historical sugar centre, perhaps complete with typical nineteenth century village shop which visitors can wander around.

Most of it would have to be reconstructed (bar the estate houses, if the authorities were of a mind to preserve them), but that is what has been done in other places with great success. Together with the story of our war with the sea and our drainage and irrigation (cleaned up, of course), there is endless potential for offering tourists something really quite unusual which they will not find elsewhere in the Caribbean, and arguably elsewhere in the world.

And as has been said before, developing historical Georgetown within the plantation framework is also perfectly doable, if the authorities had a mind to do it. However, it seems they don't. The capital for the most part was carved out of the front lands of plantations, and this is reflected in the nomenclature and the drainage system, among other things. (The Forty Foot Canal, for example, was dug by hand by Africans in the 1770s.)

None of this seems to interest the powers-that-be. Their attitude to culture is perhaps summed up in the violation of Castellani House, which was commented on in these columns some weeks ago. Guyana actually has rather a remarkable local art tradition which is well represented in the National Collection (and would certainly be of interest to tourists), were it not for the fact that the grounds of Castellani are now encumbered with the unsightly contours of an intelligence agency.

Tourism is one of the world's truly fast-growing industries, but Guyana cannot become a viable destination unless there is a coherent policy where what has to be done is made clear and where the priorities are set out. Strategies would have to be devised to help achieve those ends, and approaches for securing funding, both private and public, to invest in specific projects were suggested. But first of all, the public would like to see a detailed policy paper from the Ministry of Tourism.

Stabroek news Editorial— April 11, 2010

Editor Note: This article is posted on the Blog [at this link](#). We look forward to your comments there on this most important subject. A multi-dimensional approach to Guyanese Tourism is absolutely necessary for the benefit of all Guyanese.

[IMF: Slow sugar modernization could expose Guyana to world-price volatility](#) *(read outline of IMF report here)*

Slow sugar modernization could expose Guyana on the international market, says IMF

April 15, 2010 -The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has concluded its annual assessment of Guyana's economic health and found the country "weathered the impact of the global crisis" well, by regional and global standards.

However, the fund warned in its statement, continued modernization of the sugar sector and diversification of Guyana's productive base are critical to sustaining growth. IMF Directors, in its Executive Board Assessment, stressed the importance for the public sugar company to implement its recovery measures and ensure that the new plant at Skeldon becomes fully operational in the near term....[read more](#)

[Guyana celebrates more than 300 years of sugar](#)

April 18, 2010 *The history of the sugar industry in Guyana was the focus of an exhibition the National Trust* hosted Friday to mark International Day for Monuments and Sites. The exhibition, held in the foyer of the National Cultural Centre, showcased the important role sugar continues to play in the socio-economic development of Guyana.

The sugar industry began in the 1600s when the Dutch West India Company sent settlers to establish plantations along the Pomeroon River.[read more](#)

[Skeldon Factory in first of three performance tests](#)

- GuySuCo management awaiting Engineer's report

April 7, 2010 | By [KNews](#) One of three performance tests on the multi-million-dollar Skeldon Factory has been completed and management of the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo) says it is awaiting the Engineer's report before conducting the other tests.

Upon receipt of the binding report, both the Chinese contractors and GuySuCo will "continue to work in a well coordinated manner to achieve a mutually acceptable conclusion to the tests", the Corporation said in a statement yesterday, April 6. 2010. [Read more](#)

[Hope Canal closer to reality](#)

April 13, 2010 | KN The technical phase of the Hope/Dochfour Relief Channel is over, excavation of the channel will begin shortly and the tender requests for construction of the necessary structures along the route of the relief channel will soon be advertised – this from the Minister of Agriculture, Robert Persaud.

The Relief Channel will serve to alleviate the swelling of the East Demerara Water Conservancy (EDWC), during periods of heavy rainfall. Since it has been designed with the tolerances necessary to handle water levels matching those that caused the flooding that was experienced in 2005, it is hoped that the Channel will prevent such an event recurring. [Read more](#)

[Amaila Falls road project went through tender process](#)

April 10, 2010 (KN) - U.S. company, Synergy Holdings was awarded the US\$15 million project to build roads and bridges necessary for the start-up of the Amaila Falls Hydro project, in compliance with the public tendering process,

The Inter-American Development Bank and the China Development Bank have agreed to finance the US\$450 million project. Synergy Holdings's contract is for the upgrade of approximately 85 kilometers of existing roadway and the design and construction of approximately 110 kilometers of new road. The works also include building bridges across the Esse-quiibo and Kuribrong rivers. . [Read more](#)

HEADLINE NEWS—April 2010

[Links to news articles](#)

Government

- [Amaila Falls road project went through tender process](#)
- [Amaila Falls - Govt. to meet affected hinterland residents](#)
- [Concerns - LCDS funds outside of Parliamentary Oversight](#)
- [IMF - Slow sugar modernization could expose Guyana](#)
- [IMF predicts 4 or 5 % economic growth for Guyana in 2010](#)
- [Hope Canal closer to reality](#)
- [43,000 Property Tax returns go missing](#)
- [Billions in property taxes owed to City Hall](#)
- [Economic Freedom Report - 2010](#)
- [Pres. Jagdeo dismisses US Economic Freedom report](#)
- [Envoy to help resolve Guyana border dispute](#)
- [Renewable energy in three years- Jagdeo](#)
- [Jagdeo invites South Korean investment](#)

Georgetown

- [GS600M Environmental Tax not just for City Hall](#)
- [Billions in property taxes owed to City Hall](#)
- [City Hall may soon resume grading of eating houses](#)
- [Georgetown waterlogged](#)
- [Flooding - President calls spontaneous meeting](#)
- [Clogged drainage cleared](#)
- [Outfall channels being dredged as rains threaten](#)
- [Restoration Fund for City Hall to aid urgent rehabilitation](#)
- [Govt to return Georgetown to "Garden City"](#)

Agriculture

- [50 containers of coconut leave Guyana monthly](#)
- [Coconut industry record explosive 2009 growth](#)
- [Beef industry gearing for major overhaul](#)
- [Enmore sugar packaging plant operations by October](#)
- [Guyana celebrates more than 300 years of sugar](#)
- [Guyana diversifying its agri exports](#)
- [Illegality in forestry sector significant](#)
- [IMF - Slow sugar modernization could expose Guyana](#)
- [Skeldon Factory in first of three performance tests](#)
- [Guyana-Brazil agricultural trade closer](#)
- [Guysuco needs drastic surgery to ensure survival](#)

Tourism

- [An adventure on wheels](#)
- [American reaches Guyana after historic row](#)
- [IDB pleased with progress made in local aviation](#)

Minerals

- [Guyana could be a major player in the uranium market](#)
- [Guyana could begin uranium exports by 2014](#)
- [Gold fever on Million Mountain](#)
- [Miners warned about abuse of prospecting licences](#)

[Guyana could be a major player in the uranium market](#)

- exploration company projects finding 50 million pounds by 2014

April 13, 2010 | KN -With the demand for uranium expected to increase by 2014, Guyana is poised to be a major player in the supply chain with projections indicating that deposits in the Kurupung could reach 50 million pounds of the precious metal.

The Canada-based U308 Corporation with its local subsidiary, Prometheus Resources (Guyana) Inc. is optimistic that their investment will bear significant dividends in the promising new S.A. frontier.[more](#).

[43,000 Property Tax returns go missing](#)

..Tax authorities are crying foul as property owners continue to evade taxes

April 17, 2010 - A 'ridiculous' low number of property tax returns are being filed annually and the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) is warning that several government agencies will be enlisted to tackle the situation.a mere 7,000 persons filed for their returns.

Self-employed persons and employees have until April 30 to file. The Commissioner-General said that while he is not in a position to pronounce on the number of properties owned, the number of "prominent, well-endowed residential areas existing with fantastic properties, and housing schemes opening up, paint the picture and is an indication that persons are neglecting obligations to file property tax returns.".. [more](#)

[Guyana revenue body catches up with tax evaders](#)

April 29, 2010 – As a result of an intensified campaign on tax evaders, the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) has closed in on thousands of businesses across the country.

Owners of liquor stores, restaurants, grocery shops and stalls at municipal markets have been caught in the net.

"The Authority is aware that that several businesses, both big and small, employ tax experts to falsify their income statements so that it declares less than what is actually earned, thereby leading to a significant loss in revenue on a yearly basis," the GRA said in a statement. [..more](#)

[Billions in property taxes owed to City Hall](#)

...moves afoot to revamp valuation package

Some \$2 billion in property taxes is owed to the Mayor and City Council of Georgetown (M&CC), and according to information emanating from the municipality it is suspected that most of the debt owed is connected to Government properties.

Ranging from a debt of \$715M for a Water Street, Kingston, property to \$106,000 owed on a Middle Road La Penitence property, taxes are in arrears for the more than 60 locations across the city. [more](#)

[Georgetown waterlogged -](#)

,,,residents slam lack of preparation for rainfall...April 16, 2010:

Flooded out city residents yesterday condemned the authorities for failing to heed several calls made over the past seven months for drainage works to be carried out.Residents called on the authorities to be more proactive in anticipation of heavy rainfall during the May/June rainy season. According to the Met Office, rainfall is expected to continue over the next f w months [more](#)

[Flooding - President calls spontaneous meeting](#)

April 18, 2010 - President Bharrat Jagdeo hastily called a meeting on April 17, at State House to consult with various stakeholders to discuss the garbage that contributes to the flooding around various parts of the country. According to the Head of State, the drains are in a mess; the result was the recent flooding. [more](#)

[G\\$600M Environmental Tax not just for City Hall](#)

April 20, 2010 - Minister of Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, has appealed to citizens that they have to play their part in managing their environment. The government collects some G\$600M as an Environmental Tax on items such as styrofoam and plastics. Dr Singh said, "The Environmental tax is one source of revenue for the budget... This tax goes into the Consolidated Fund." He added, "The budget includes very significant investment of billions in drainage and irrigation expenditure ... [..more](#)

[HEADLINE NEWS—April 2010](#)

[Links to news and articles](#)

Awards

- [Jagdeo gets top UN award](#)
- [2010 Guyana Awards - Award Winners](#)

Amerindians

- [Amerindian communities likely to get grants](#)
- [Amerindians fear large scale gold mining in south Guyana](#)
- [Indigenous leaders call for hold on LCDS](#)

Business

- [Bank Card interconnectivity likely in early 2011](#)
- [Businesses urged to file complaints over undue delays -GRA](#)
- [Guyana revenue body catches up with tax evaders](#)
- [Private sector, GRA partner to tackle business 'bottlenecks'](#)
- [Linden - G\\$50M metal and fabrication workshop opened](#)
- [Over 80,000 vehicles registered in 14 months](#)
- [Several projects underway by DDL](#)
- [EMPRETEC supports entrepreneurship in women](#)
- [William King on Leadership and Vision](#)

CARICOM

- [Brazil, CARICOM hold first summit](#)
- [Guyana- re Brazil and CARICOM summit](#)
- [Services and investments - priorities fCARICOM, Canada](#)

Culture

- [Daphne Rogers honoured .. "A recognition most deserved"](#)

Documentaries: [BBC Radio Program on RACE](#)

Education:

- [St Margaret's Primary celebrates 75th year](#)
- [Carnegie marks 77th year with Health fair](#)
- [Culinary Art included in Portfolio 2010](#)
- [200,000 get uniforms](#)
- [Labour force lacks higher education](#)
- [School of the Nations tackles illiteracy in its community](#)

Essequibo

- [The Bartica triangle](#)
- [The mighty Essequibo - Dave Martins](#)
- [Wakenaam airstrip still grounded in initial phase](#)

Historical

- [The Tramways of British Guiana](#)
- [National Archives looking to expand with support](#)
- [Netherlands endows National Archives with digitised maps](#)
- [British regiments in British Guiana](#)
- ["On the street where I lived" by Peter Halder](#)

Medical

- [Three paediatric heart surgeries successfully completed](#)
- [Nursing programme- G\\$400M external funding planned](#)
- [Guyana to create pool of specialist doctors](#)

The Bartica triangle – the door to the interior and development

Overview In a previous column on November, 23, 2009 titled “Development areas”, I introduced a development plan for the Bartica Triangle and Region Seven. The current issues regarding the mining industry demonstrated that the government did not conduct proper stakeholder discussions, which translates to completely ignoring this sector and the people.

We must put major emphasis on further developing these areas versus looking at ways to shut it down. Guyana’s resources must be allowed to be extracted and used in an environmentally friendly way for further development of our nation versus waiting for handouts from countries such as Norway or selling them for higher prices to countries such as Iran that may be interested in our uranium potential.

Areas such as Bartica have been under-funded by central government, even though the entire Region Seven is one of our richest regions. We need the localisation of taxes where a major portion of taxes collected in each region remains in the region for funding the people’s activities at the regional level. The regional chairman cannot fix major roads as the central government must approve or do it. At the end of the day the area is ignored or projects seriously delayed.

Economic zone This area must become a major economic zone for Guyana. This is the area west of the Essequibo River. It is accessible by river and road. The Bartica-Potaro Road passes through the area on the watershed between the Mazaruni and the Essequibo Rivers. The Bartica Township occupies the apex of the Bartica Triangle.

We must also look at returning some of the lands to major agriculture development and with the energy solutions proposed below, move into large-scale production in areas such as citrus. In the 1950s, the Lima Estate near Agatash village, exported barrels of lime-juice to England. Industries such as these create jobs for those who do not want to go into mining.



Areas for hydropower plants: Source German Study April 2003

Developing new major roads into our forest and asphaltting existing major roads, as one logger told me, will also create new tourism opportunities. In addition, the miners should be part of rebuilding our environment such as re-planting trees that may have been destroyed. Certain areas in this zone should also be protected from any mining. This is a beautiful region and a major tourism opportunity waiting to be devel-

oped in a sustainable fashion.

Energy sources for development: Bartica has a unique value in areas such as eco-tourism and forestry. In 2003, a German study looked at hydropower sites at Ikurbisi and Big Barabara which were considered critical to the future development of Bartica and Region Seven. Had we focused on these projects, today many of the tourist operators would have had clean, cheap renewable energy for the resorts and populations in the vicinity. There are many mini-hydro projects that we need to get implemented in these areas.

The Ikurbisi Falls which is located about 29km upstream of Bartica was identified as a key project. The government keeps waiting for the big one when many of these smaller hydro projects could have been completed. Some of these studies go back to 1984 and the site at Barabara could have produced 170kw. These projects can significantly improve the Bartica Triangle and make this area a key development zone for our nation.

Bartica is an area that we need to develop as a major hub for both mining and agriculture. It was once known for its peanuts, but lack of infrastructure has destroyed this industry

Conclusion: Guyana is a land bursting with opportunities for environmentally friendly economic development. Last year, miners officially declared 300,000 ounces of gold with a projected of 500,000 ounces this year. Rather than arbitrarily issuing moratoriums to the miners the government should enforce the regulations already on the books, hold real consultations with stakeholders on any proposed changes, get out of the way of potential investors in renewable energy, genially create a regime which encourages business investment and implement real reforms to give residents local control of where they live and work.

We must have a longer view of what a budget of a nation should look like as the 2010 debates start. The long-term plans of what we would like to see this region and others look like must be discussed. Our focus must be on the creation of jobs, diversification of the economy and ensuring that the lives of our citizens are getting better and not pushing such dictatorial policies as recently targeted at miners.

The essential point of our plan for this region is we need to consider carefully our resource endowments before we make massive commitments. For example, if the government had studied Guyana’s resource capacities, it would have already been targeting holistic renewable energy capabilities rather than looking for one silver bullet energy project.

Here we have an example of a German study supporting our call for localized hydroelectricity plants. This will serve to keep long-term unit cost down as the power generated per fixed/sunken investment costs is reduced. Moreover, a holistic renewable energy strategy also addresses the need to diversify production into manufacturing. For example, ethanol and bio-diesel are manufactured goods. Simultaneously, we build infrastructure and create long-term jobs.

Editor’s Note: This article was written by Peter Ramsarop and appeared in the February 9th 2010 issue of his column in the *Stabroek News*. It is included as it highlights another perspective regarding the development of the interior and Bartica triangle. Send your comments to peter.ramsarop@gmail.com

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INVITATION TO
**Study in
Barbados**

Department of Language, Linguistics & Literature

Linguistics Coordinator



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QUEEN'S COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF GUYANA (TORONTO CHAPTER)

ABOUT US



The Toronto Chapter of the Queen's College of Guyana Alumni Association was founded in 1990. It is one of several overseas chapters of the Association.



Like those of the other chapters, our objectives include holding fund-raising events to assist our *Alma Mater* in such ways to ameliorate the lives of its student population for the purpose of maintaining the standards of excellence for which the School is renowned.

OUR OBJECTIVES

In addition, the pursuit of these and other activities is seen as helping to foster a sense of meaningful participation and a spirit of camaraderie among alumni residing in Ontario and other parts of Canada.

Both objectives are being achieved since the Chapter's formation. Over the years we have made contributions towards the rebuilding of the School following the disastrous fire in November 1997; provided computers; a photocopier; a variety of musical equipment and music education books; a public address system and miscellaneous laboratory equipment. We are currently pursuing the offer of further assistance to the School based on a list of priority projects.

In addition, we have awarded annual bursaries to qualified children of our Toronto alumni as well as to QC graduates to enable them to pursue post-secondary education at institutions both in and outside of Canada. Our bursary eligibility criteria now include the grandchildren of our alumni. We have also assisted students of the School in various other ways from time to time.

We have supported many commendable charities in our community, and we contributed to the Guyana Flood Relief Fund several years ago, and, more recently, to the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund.

OUR EVENTS

Our annual calendar of events includes fund-raisers such as the annual 12th Night Dance held in January jointly with the Bishop's High School A.A.; the Father's Day Brunch; and the very enjoyable Last Lap Lime in August – a combined effort of the Bishop's, St. Rose's, St. Joseph's, and St. Stanislaus' High Schools Alumni Associations and our Chapter.

Apart from our Annual General Meeting in April, our non-fundraising events have included Literary and Cultural Presentations, Appreciation Awards, Games Nights, Family Picnics, Day-at-the-Races outings, soccer and cricket matches.

Anyone wishing to learn more about our Chapter's past, current and future activities, or about the School and its history can do so by visiting our website at www.qcalumnitoronto.com. Membership enrolment is also facilitated by accessing the site.

[Queens's
College Alumni
-Toronto
Executive
Members](#)

Executive

Contact:
info@qcalumnitoronto.com
Phone: (416) 267-7227.
P.O. Box 312. West Hill. ON.
M1E 4R8. Canada

<http://www.qcalumnitoronto.com/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL APPRECIATION AWARDS EVENT

The Annual Appreciation Awards Event will be held on Sun May 16, 2:00 p.m. at [Scarborough Village Recreation Centre](#). < see map here

Guest Speaker will be Dr. Frank Birbalsingh,

Senior Scholar and Professor Emeritus, Department of English, York University. **The Topic: "Guyanese Literature",** [Queen's College Appreciation Awards – 2010](#) < click here

ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday June 13 at Cedarbrook Community Centre from 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. [Click here](#) for all the details.

GRAND REUNION OF THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE FAMILY IN NEW YORK, USA.

July 4, 2010. [Click here](#) or all the details.

The Alumni Association has prepared the following release:

IN MEMORY OF CLARENCE FREDERICK ELLIS

Obituary – Clarence F. Ellis Clarence F. Ellis, 80, a former Deputy Governor of the Bank of Guyana and Vice Chairman of the State Planning Commission,...

Queen's College Publications

N.E. CAMERON'S HISTORY OF QC

N.E. Cameron's history of QC presented to school at Reunion 2009.

SCHOOL HISTORY NOW AVAILABLE

"A History of the Queen's College of British Guiana" previously published in 1951, is now on sale.

Order your copies for C\$20 plus postage from one of the following:

Vivian Wong	416-724-5937	vwong0502@rogers.com
Syed Rayman	416-412-0103	roraimatravel@yahoo.com
Patrick Chan	416-686-8835	patchanmail@sympatico.ca
Victor Moses	905-791-3412	victor.moses@rogers.com
Audrick Chung	905-839-6816	achung@imagevideo.com
Ron Wharton	519-442-5337	whartonr@rogers.com

[Newsletter
"The Scribbler"
January 2010](#)

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1996-2009](#)

Archives



Photo Galleries

The Last Lap Lime 15th Anniversary 1995-2010

The **Last Lap Lime** (LLL) is an annual event held jointly by five non-profit Guyanese Alumni Associations resident in Toronto, Ontario. It is the largest congregation of Guyanese outside Guyana.

This social event ensures that Guyanese culture remains vibrant in the Diaspora by celebrating what it means to be Guyanese through entertainment, food, drink and 'liming'. The event provides a taste of Guyanese culture to the children, grandchildren and friends of Guyanese living in the Diaspora

Contact list for the [five Alumni Associations](#) <click here>, associated with Last Lap Lime: Bishops High School; Queen's College; St. Joseph's High; St. Rose's High; St. Stanislaus College.

Download "[Last Lap Lime Gaff](#)" [newsletter](#): < click link

The Last Lap Lime 15th Anniversary 1995-2010

Monday August 2nd, 2010

Location: [Woodbridge Fairgrounds](#) 100 Porter Avenue Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada. Kipling Avenue & Highway 7. Large Parking area ! Tickets: Early-bird purchase - \$15.00. At the event - \$25.00. View list of — [Ticket Outlets](#) here.

Download "[Last Lap Lime Gaff](#)" [newsletter](#) here

St. Stanislaus College Barbados Chapter - Fund-Raising Dinner

The St. Stanislaus College—Barbados Chapter
Fund-Raising Dinner in aid of their alma mater.

Date: **Friday 18th June at 7.00 p.m.**

Location: **The Azul Restaurant, Sea Breeze Hotel, Maxwell Coast Road, Christ Church..**

Buffet available from 7.00– 10.00 pm. Tickets \$75.00

Guest Speaker : Mr. Chris Fernandes

Tickets are available from:

Mr. Gavin Ferreira 266-3135
President

Mr. Sean Hussain 823-7741
Vice President

Mr. Kesh Saywack 233-0600
Treasurer

Mr. Gavin Bovell 236-3873
Secretary

Mr. Ken Khan 269-0567
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Clement Derrell 267-5415
Committee Member

Ms. Fabiola Wong 243-9367
Committee Member

Mr. Pat Thompson 437-4080
Immediate Past President

[Download or see Flyer Here](#)

GUYANA ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA

Guyana Association of Georgia will be holding a number of events at the end of May 2010:

Independence Ball – Sunday May 30, 2010 at Jolie (formerly Next Hot Event), 2401 Mellon Court, Decatur, Georgia, 30035. Admission \$35(Advance) \$40 (Door). Music by Terry Gajraj, Jumo (Former Byron Lee lead singer), Fojo and Shelly G (2008 & 2009 Mashramani Road March Queen).

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GUYANA AWARDS - 2010

The Guyana Consulate has announced that the Guyana Awards Council (Canada) had selected the winners of the prestigious Guyana Awards (Canada). The awards were presented at the 10th Guyana Awards Gala held on Saturday, May 29, 2010 at On the Park Centennial Ballroom, 1095 Leslie Street, Toronto, Ontario. The winners were:

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: DR. DINDIAL RAMOTAR, Professor, University of Montreal Faculty of Medicine and Scientist, Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital .

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: MR. CYRIL DABYDEEN, Author, Educator and Race Relations Practitioner .

LEADERSHIP AWARD: MR. ALBERT SWEETNAM, Executive Vice President, Nuclear New Build, Ontario Power Generation .

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD: MS. GLORIA RAJKUMAR, Founder and CEO, SIMAC (Superior Independent Medical Assessment Centres) .

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: DR. BRAM RAMJIWAN, Director of Research Innovation and Regulatory Affairs, St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba .

COMMUNITY SERVICE (ORGANIZATION) AWARD: BISHOPS' HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, TORONTO CHAPTER (see story on the BHSSA –Toronto Chapter in next column).

COMMUNITY SERVICE (INDIVIDUAL) AWARD: MS. JENNIFER WELSHMAN, Director, St. Rose's High School Alumni Association, Toronto Chapter; Founding Member, Last Lap Lime; Chief of Staff to Ontario Minister of Health Promotion

CULTURE AND MEDIA AWARD: MS. "MELANIE FIONA" HAL-LIM, R&B Singer/Songwriter, Grammy Award nominee, Juno Award Nominee, NAACP Image Award nominee

YOUTH AWARD: MS. LISA PUNIT, MBA

An independent panel of eminent judges selected the 2010 Award recipients from the many nominations submitted. The panel was composed of the Honourable Justice Vibert Lampkin, retired Judge of the Ontario Court of Justice; Gale Lee, Program Manager for Asia and the Caribbean, CESO and former Acting Ambassador to Brussels; and Ken Singh, President, Atlas Cargo and member of the Advisory Council, York University.

The Guyana Awards (Canada) recognize the outstanding achievements of distinguished individuals and organizations in the Guyanese-Canadian community, and their sterling contributions toward the promotion and development of Guyana, Guyanese heritage and culture. The high calibre of this year's awardees will instill a greater sense of pride in the Guyanese-Canadian community and provide positive role models for our youth.

Guyana Jamboree –2010

STEPHENSON'S ECO TOURS

PRESENTS: GUYANA JAMBOREE 2010

PERIOD: November 2nd to November 9th, 2010

VENUE: Splashmins Resort, Madewini Creek, Soesdyke, Linden Highway

Full Entertainment and Eco Tours. Package includes travel from Toronto, New York or Miami. Eco-Resort Accommodation. Also take in the year-end Motor Racing Meeting at the same time.

Full details on this link:> [Guyana Jamboree](#)

BHSSA Toronto Wins Guyana Award

25th Year Anniversary for BHSSA –Toronto

Bishops' High School Alumni Association, Toronto Chapter (BHSSA Toronto), was formed on July 28, 1985 with the primary objective of raising funds to assist the school in Georgetown.

Financial Contributions top \$500,000 Canadian.

Over the last 25 years BHSSA Toronto has contributed almost half-a-million Canadian dollars in financial and non-financial aid to its alma mater. The largest project undertaken has been the establishment, maintenance and support of a fully networked Computer Lab with current software, at a cost of CAD\$275,000. Other aid has ranged from infrastructure and curriculum support to annual bursaries for students and miscellaneous school-based and library resources.

Cultural Events and Bursaries

BHSSA Toronto has successfully conceptualized and organized events which evoke and transmit strong elements of Guyanese culture and heritage—two major theatrical productions; a variety concert with renowned Guyanese and Canadian artistes; an Art Exhibition of Guyanese Women Artists; annual literary evenings; book launches; brunches and dances. In addition, the BHS Singers was established to perform Guyanese folk/national songs at numerous community events.

From its inception, BHSSA Toronto has been recognized as a leader, sharing some of its pioneering efforts—such as developing a Constitution and initiating a Bursary Awards program—with new and emerging associations in the community. In collaboration with four other alumni associations, BHSSA co-developed the highly successful Last Lap Lime community festival. Partnership with Queen's College Alumni Association led to the highly acclaimed production of The Last of the Redmen, as well as the popular annual Twelfth Night Dance.

Interactive Volunteer program

BHSSA Toronto established an Interactive Volunteer Program whereby "volunteers" return to the school to use their diasporic experiences/qualifications to mentor and inspire current students. The association also created a Circle of Support Program for alumni and Guyanese Seniors, and has always been a strong supporter of Guyana Consulate initiatives.

The significant and invaluable contributions that the Toronto Chapter continues to make to the school create a ripple effect throughout the Guyanese Diaspora. A BHS education effectively prepares students for both nationhood and world citizenship, and the Toronto Chapter's efforts are instrumental in achieving these outcomes.

Guyanese Academics.

Guyanese Academics is a professional academic organization (nonprofit) established to record, publish and preserve the achievements and legacies of Guyanese Academics globally.

We are located online at, <http://guyaneseacademics.ning.com>

Minimum requirement for membership is a four year bachelor degree. All Guyanese Academics with a bachelors, masters or PhD. are welcomed to join Guyanese Academics. All profile photos are must be passport size in business attire.

Contact: Mr. Laurie Talbot, BBA Management and Information Systems, Lubin School of Business. Pace University New York, NY 10038 . E-Mail: ltalbotus@yahoo.com.

Guyanese Cuisine - Tastes like Home By Cynthia Nelson



Hello!!

Welcome to Tastes Like Home, my virtual dining table! I'm Cynthia.

I was born and raised in the only English-speaking country in South America – [Guyana](#). Guyana is a multi-cultural society and you will see that reflected in the food I make. Guyanese trace their heritage to every corner of the world, but especially Africa, India, China, Portugal, and to the indigenous populations for whom the region has always been home.

I've been living in Barbados now for more than a decade and so when I speak of home these days, I do not only refer to [Guyana](#) as home but also [Barbados](#) as both places contribute in different and significant ways to who I am.

I am a trained media practitioner and teach Broadcast Journalism. As a food writer, I write a weekly newspaper column, Tastes Like Home which is published in print and online at Guyana's leading newspaper, <http://www.stabroeknews.com/>.

Apart from my column, I also write freelance for a variety of publications regionally and internationally. I am a regular contributor to [Caribbean Belle](#) (Trinidad) and [City Style & Living](#) (Canada). I also contribute to **U Magazine** (a new Health Magazine produced and published in Trinidad & Tobago).

My Blog - <http://www.tasteslikehome.org/>

The food scene in Guyana is diverse and very different from that in Barbados and food was the main thing that I missed about being away from home. Sure I missed my family but I did not separate the two because the food was very much a part of my daily familial gathering. For me, food is more than what is on my plate; it is about the atmosphere, the people...

My weekly newspaper column was created with the focus of chronicling the tastes of home that I missed. I started the blog to tie-in with my column and to give readers an opportunity for interaction. I also see it as a way to introduce people to Caribbean food and to emphasize that we are more than a garnish – some of you know what I mean, more than the slice of pineapple that sits on the rim of a glass, the slivers of mango that adorn a plate or the shreds of coconut sprinkled over something.

Over the years, **Tastes Like Home** has evolved and grown as I too have evolved and grown; so too has the food scene here in Barbados. Today, I can find 90-percent of the ingredients and produce that can create a taste of Guyana that I was missing 12 years ago. I have incorporated the tastes of Barbados as a part of my tastes like home.

Thanks also to phenomenal food bloggers who cook and write tirelessly, my cooking repertoire has and continues to grow exponentially. Today, Tastes Like Home has become the food I make and serve in my home, from various cuisines and influences. It's homemade, it tastes like home.

Please visit my Blog at <http://www.tasteslikehome.org/> for my columns, Readable Feasts and Albums which have pictures and links to various slide shows like this one below :-

Check out this slide show: - [Fruits of the Caribbean](#)

Please note that all content featured here and on my blog – text and photography are copyright protected with all rights reserved. Please ask my permission before using any of my material. My E-mail is cynthia@tasteslikehome.org



Guyanese vegetables, fruits and condiments in the marketplace



Picture and demo Albums on my Blog

- [Barbados Agricultural Festival – Agrofest](#)
- [Caribbean Fruits](#)
- [Food scenes from Guyana](#)
- [Making Butterflaps](#)
- [Plucking & Roasting Chicken for Curry](#)
- [Roasting Breadfruit](#)
- [Scenes of Barbados & Guyana](#)

Here you will find links to my recent columns.

1. [A mental adjustment to cooking and eating](#)
2. [In Defence of All-Purpose Flour](#)
3. [Of Sponge Cakes & Pound Cakes](#)
4. [Homemade Granola](#)
5. [Conquer Your Oven](#)
6. [A Bountiful Opportunity](#)
7. [Cornmeal Cou-Cou in 10 minutes!](#)
8. [Pau takes me back...](#)
9. [What is Wheat Germ](#)
10. [No flipping pancakes for me](#)
11. [In touch with my senses... eating with my hands](#)
12. [So you want to make a Trini Pelau?](#)

Go to the blog for previous columns and more albums. **My Blog - <http://www.tasteslikehome.org/>**

Carnegie marks 77th year with health fair

April 30, 2010 (SN) - **The Carnegie School of Home Economics and Craft Production and Design Division** held a one day health fair on April 29, as part of the celebrations to mark its 77 years in existence.

The fair, which was held at the school's compound, D'Urban and High streets, was declared open by Yvette De Freitas a public health nutritionist from the Food Policy Division of the Ministry of Health. De Freitas who was a former teacher of the school said the health fair is an indication of the school's effectiveness to provide education that is right and relevant.

She urged the students as they go through the sessions to ask questions and pay attention to their bodies since teenagers usually do not see the need to take care of their health.

Meanwhile, Avril Boston, clothing and specialist teacher at the school said that this was the second year the school has held a health fair which is aimed at educating students and visitors about a variety of subject areas so that they have an all-rounded health education.....

Read full article here: [Carnegie marks 77th year ...](#)

ARTS and CULTURE

Daphne Rogers honoured .. “A recognition most deserved”

April 6, 2010 | By KN

It was an evening of nostalgia laced with songs, dances and drama. There were also the tributes. The venue was the Theatre Guild and the occasion was a celebration of the contributions by Daphne Rogers, dubbed by the Actors Action Association as a cultural icon.

The Actors Association sponsored the occasion Sunday evening and everyone whose life Ms Rogers had touched and their relatives and friends paid \$2,500 just to be there. The takings will all go to Ms Rogers who is now in her twilight years.

The programme began with cocktails and video tributes by former actors and actresses who now reside in the Diaspora. Hosting the event were overseas-based actress Rose October- Edun and Nazim Hussain.

Dances by the National Dance Company, Dharmic Nrityasangh, the Classique Dance Company and Rose October-Edun; songs by the Woodside Choir, Winfield James, the Jazz Ensemble, Dr Paloma Mohamed, Delma Lynch, Russell Lancaster and Winslow Patterson; and steel pan renditions by Ras Camo Williams added to the occasion. Those paying tribute were colleagues of Ms Rogers –Ms Edna Cadogan, Mrs Sybil Wiltshire and Mayor Hamilton Green

Ron Robinson used his harmonica to good effect to evoke memories of the days when the theatre was the place to be.

Many traced the life of Ms Rogers, from the days when she was a sight for sore eyes to the days when she rejected suitors. “She wanted the perfect man but these do not exist these days. They have to be made,” said Mrs Wiltshire.



Daphne Rogers

An emotional Ms Rogers declined to address the gathering as ladies and gentlemen. Rather she saw them as “friends, colleagues and well-wishers.” She lauded their contributions and cried when the members of the guild who now live in the Diaspora announced their financial contribution to her.

The programme lasted all of three hours and enforced the fact that people need to be recognised during their lifetime and not when they lie cold in a coffin.

Culinary Art included in Portfolio 2010 at Carnegie School

A number of budding chefs from Carnegie School of Home Economics will participate in this year’s designer stylist portfolio, partnering with stylists and designers to create team presentation with a unique theme.

April 1, 2010 | By KN |

In an effort to integrate the arts in the branding of a Guyanese identity Sonia Noel has included the culinary arts in the portfolio competition.

A number of budding chefs from Carnegie School of Home Economics will participate in this year’s designer stylist portfolio, partnering with stylists and designers to create team presentation with a unique theme.

Over the years, Carnegie has had a large number of chefs graduating. Many have migrated to mainly working on cruise ships.

The theme will be chosen from fruits and vegetable grown in Guyana. In an effort to highlight the ‘grow more’ campaign they will be expected to go through a number of challenges that will be judged through the competition.

On June 27 at Duke Lodge there will be an evening of unbelievable talent called ‘cutting style’. The atmosphere will unlike anything seen before in Guyana where the theme will be reflected from the decor to the cuisine, Noel promises.

The finale judging will be done that evening. The winners will be announced at the final of Guyana Model Search Designers Stylist portfolio on the July 4 at the Pegasus hotel.

The eight persons selected to be part of the new and exciting programme were ecstatic to get a chance to express their creativity

“This year’s portfolio will not have a dull moment. I am excited to have the culinary arts included because that would have probably been my next career choice so I am looking forward to the creativity that expected from this fusion,” said Sonia Noel.

Penelope Harris, Principal of Carnegie, in expressing excitement about the venture said, “I think it’s a wonderful opportunity for the school to showcase the talents of many of its budding chefs and graduates. It will also give many of them exposure that they have long hoped to get.”

THE ARTS JOURNAL

[Volume 5 Numbers 1&2- March 2010](#) <click here for link to contents

The Editor of The Arts Forum’s Page, Ameena Gafoor, can be reached by E-mail: theartsjournal@live.co.uk or by phone: 592 227 6825.

THE ARTS JOURNAL is available at all leading bookstores in Georgetown or from the editor or from Bernadette Persaud, E-mail: bernadettepersaud5@hotmail.com or by phone: 592 220 3337.

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William (Bill) King on Leadership and Vision

Guyanese born [Bill King](#) is the founder and Principal of the Nova Organizational Development Group (Nova Group Ltd.), a Management and Human Resources consulting company. A graduate of the Harvard School of Business, he has a Bachelor of Arts Degree as well as a Certificate in Personnel and Industrial Relations from the University of Toronto

He works at all levels of the organization from Boards of Directors and executive management to front line employees. Bill also designs and facilitates strategic planning, leadership, labour relations and change management initiatives.

In addition to his consulting work, Bill enjoys a solid reputation as a motivational and keynote speaker at conferences both nationally and internationally. His insightful messages, along with his passion for leadership and people, are reflected in the high demand for these services.

The world will stand aside for those with a compelling vision and a convincing plan for how to get there.

Vision – or a picture of a future state that we are pursuing – is one of the most powerful tools in a leader’s toolkit. Far from being just consultant-speak, Vision is what moves us all forward – improving, adapting, progressing, in a world constantly in flux.

Vision as Dialogue

Imagine the next time there was an election that the political leaders actually engaged the public in dialogue about substantive issues. Far-reaching, high-impact issues such as: access to a reliable supply of fresh water; how the country would ensure the workforce could provide high-value services/products to the rest of the world; how we might ensure our elders are both listened to and cared for; how we can simultaneously sustain economic development and the environment upon which it depends; and how we might contribute to the safety, security and sustainability of the people..

Imagine the next Board/CEO of your organization engaging employees, suppliers and other stakeholders about the substantive issues lying below the surface of most motivation “talk”.

How will we generate enhanced value or improved cost/productivity with a 10 year-old production or IT system? How can we sustain high quality programs/services delivery into the future when 30% of our workforce is due to retire in the next few years and there are no upcoming/incoming people with their knowledge and experience in sight?

Sometimes today, I think leaders are too busy being “careful” and avoiding the difficult discussions, to truly be Visionary. Instead, let’s get our people and community focused on both the outcomes we aspire to achieve, and the real challenges that lie in our way. .

Vision and Passion

Like chicken and egg – does Vision come from passion or does passion result from Vision? Either way, Vision and passion for moving forward against obstacles are closely linked.

In scanning the network, identifying challenges and opportunities, seeing the dynamics at play and focusing on the outcomes to achieve, passion often wells-up inside participants in such a dialogue. To start to put patterns together in a new way that are strangely recognizable yet never done before brings a warm glow inside and smile to the face.

It is in focusing on outcomes and the results/benefits from achieving the Vision, that I become convinced about its value and resolute in its achievement. This helps me suffer the self-doubts and doubts of others. This allows me to be flexible in its achievement as we trouble-shoot the obstacles, and it allows me to argue for its merits against the inevitable challenges to its validity.

These are crucial aspects for a leader and their Vision. Passion towards the Vision is what gets you to achievement when so many other forces would try to de-rail you. As a leader you had better have passion for your Vision! And, you must build the passion in others towards obtaining the Vision too.

Vision and Planning

Vision is much more than a tick-box element in the annual planning process! In many ways it is the sum-total of a richer, broader strategic thinking and network exploration endeavor.

Vision is hopefully formed from a variety of knowledgeable inputs and framed by the pursuit of both uniqueness and sustained value. It surely comes from deep thought and thorough reflection.

Vision is outcomes-focused and also seeks to “position” the organization/community amid the dynamics of a complex and ever changing world. A Vision without a plan to get there is clearly difficult and not advisable; though a compelling Vision will almost always call-forth plans to get there. A plan without Vision however, is neither engaging nor sustainable. Yet, this is often what we see in organizations today – a short term focused business plan for yet another cycle, based upon status-quo assumptions.

In building the planning process and timelines, it is advisable to start the “strategic thinking” component far in advance of the business plan/budgeting activities. This will allow for appropriate exploration, engagement, dialogue, reflection and ultimately Vision enunciation. If the Vision is already established, and the business planning/budgeting cycle is coming around again, there is still terrific value in making time for strategic thinking. In this case, the thinking can be around review of the dynamic forces that are at play, consideration of various scenarios for the future and how that might affect the existing Vision or plan. And finally, it can provide time to discuss how or whether the organization & Management is truly living the Vision.

Vision at the Personal Level

As a student, a vision for our profession or career helps us choose our university/college, then it drives every decision from course selection to study discipline to extracurricular involvement. Our youth often find this a difficult process as it is hard for them to imagine forward into a working world they have never been involved in.

Once in the work world we build new visions – of our family, or dream home, or style of living to which we aspire. This further shapes our decision-making in career advancement choices, the choice of a mate (or not), the savings we make and major purchases. Again we revisit our assumptions of how “success” is defined.

Some of us are caught up by advertising or magazines or media that drive us towards their definitions of success. Others are influenced by their employers, professional bodies, and family members. Still others look within and are guided by an inner sense of what “success” means.

We all need a sense of purpose in our lives.

We all need a sense of purpose in our work.

The number one trait that distinguishes these exemplary leaders from others is, in fact, “energy” – the ability to manage their own energy as well as the ability to infuse others with energy.

Leaders bring us that purpose, context, and also fire-up our energy, when they create in our mind’s eye a compelling picture of success, benefit and excitement in an achievable “future state”.

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Established
1784

HISTORIC NEW AMSTERDAM – Berbice. Guyana.

The town of New Amsterdam developed as a settlement beside Fort Nassau some 55 miles up the Berbice River. Around 1784, as a result of the fluctuating fortunes of Fort Nassau, the Dutch relocated the town to its present site at the confluence of the Berbice and Canje Rivers. The name New Amsterdam was chosen because most of the colonists originated from the province of Amsterdam in Holland. Between 1785 – 1790, New Amsterdam was established as the seat of Government for Berbice.

At that time the town was little more than a forest settlement, with a house here and a house there, no roads, no drains. By the resolutions of an Ordinance dated 11 January 1791, plots of land were awarded to settlers along the river front. In 1776 George Pinkhard described the town as that of a wild country, only just opening into cultivation. It comprised an extent of wood and water, with small patches of land breaking into incipient tillage. In May 1825 an Ordinance to establish a Board of Management for the town was passed.

Subsequent ordinances in October 1825 and September 1838 resulted in the establishment of a 'Board of Policy'; to be responsible for the affairs of the Town. In 1844 a Board of Superintendence was established for this purpose.

Under their guidance the town grew. The Board of Superintendence lasted until 1 September 1891, when legislation was enacted to incorporate the Town into a Municipality. The membership of this council consisted of members who had served on the Board of Superintendents and Mr. Neil Ross McKinnon, K.C., who was president of that Board, was appointed as the Town's first Mayor.



The New Amsterdam Town Hall :

This imposing structure was erected in 1868 after the establishment of the Board of Superintendants in 1844. The tower encircled by a 'widow's walk' is one of the main architectural features of this edifice.



Mission Chapel Congregational Church:

This edifice was constructed after the first Mission Chapel which was founded by Reverend John Wray was destroyed by the order of the planters who blamed the missionaries for the 1823 slave insurrection. Under the ministry of Ebenezer Davies, the foundation stone of this structure was laid in 1841.



Strand, new Amsterdam in the 1920's



New Amsterdam Public Hospital in 1950

The New Amsterdam Public Hospital: designed by Caesar Castellani, a Maltese architect, employed by the Public Works Department of British Guiana during the 19th century, this edifice is one of the most beautiful structures in Guyana. Arranged like a Pavillion Hospital, with the wards placed end to end this edifice was constructed in 1878.



A panoramic view of Queenstown, New Amsterdam—1950



A view of Strand, New Amsterdam - 1950

Read full article with pictures here >[Historic New Amsterdam](#)

160 years ago

The Arrival of the Chinese in British Guiana

Even though the planters in Guyana had expressed interest in introducing Chinese labourers since Emancipation, it was not until 1851 that such recruitment first began.

Because of the long travel distance from China, at first Chinese were not recruited since it was cheaper to transport Indians. While it cost a planter 13 British pounds to transport an Indian labourer from Calcutta or Madras, the cost was 15 pounds to transport a Chinese immigrant from any of the Chinese ports. But because of the growing need for labourers for the sugar estates, some planters decided to recruit Chinese especially during the period between 1848 and 1851 when Indian immigration was suspended.

In August 1851, the British Guiana Government agreed to pay the planters a bounty of \$100 for each Chinese landed in the Colony. The following month George Booker, one of the sugar estate owners, arranged for the first shipment of Chinese to work as indentured labourers. The 115 men and 39 boys who were recruited were transported from the port of Amoy on the *Lord Elgin*. The ship departed on 23 July 1852 and after a journey of 177 days arrived in Georgetown on 17 January 1853. On this difficult voyage 69 of the passengers died.

Another ship, the *Glentanner*, chartered by Hyde, Hodge & Co, left Amoy with 305 men and boys and arrived in Georgetown on 12 January 1853. A total of 51 passengers died on the journey. The same Company recruited another 352 men and boys later in the year and they were shipped from Amoy on the *Samuel Boddington* on 25 November 1852 and arrived in Georgetown on 4 March 1853, after a voyage which lasted only 98 days during which 52 passengers died. (On this journey, the Chinese mutinied and almost managed to take control of the ship).

Most of the Chinese who arrived during this period were assigned to estates in West Demerara.

The British Guiana Government expressed concerns about the physical quality of the Chinese who were recruited and also about the large number of boys who were apparently passed off as adults. Subsequently, the Government withdrew the bounty payment to the recruiting planters on 1 August 1853.

Earlier that year, James White, who had been the recruiting agent for the British Guiana Government in India, was appointed as Emigration Agent for the British West Indies in China. However, he was dismissed in June of the following year mainly because he failed to recruit any Chinese labourer.

In 1853 also, the British Government had decided to support a government-sponsored recruitment programme, but by May 1854 the British Guiana Government decided to halt immigration from China due to the transportation costs which had increased by over 66 percent and also because of the failure to recruit women.

Resulting from the absence of Chinese women among the immigrants, many of the men established conjugal relations with African women. There were "mixed" children born out of these unions similar to those of Indo-Afro unions, as there were few female indentured labourers.

The Chinese proved to be good workers on the estates to which they were indentured for a five-year period. Subsequently, the planters influenced the Governor (Philip Wodehouse) to appeal to the British Government on their behalf to allow the transport of Chinese to Guyana through private enterprise. At first, this was not supported by the British Government, but eventually in 1857 permission was granted for recruitment for a one-year period. Towards the end of 1858 two ships overloaded with 761 passengers, collected from "baracoons", left Hong Kong for Georgetown arriving in March and May 1859 respectively. On these two ships 60 persons died on the long voyage.

In 1858 the authorities in the Chinese provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi (served by the city of Canton) began to encourage people to migrate, and this enabled the recruiting agents to finally contract females who were part of entire families. On 24 December 1859 the *Whirlwind* sailed from Hong Kong with 304 men, 56 women, 7 boys (under the age of 15 years) and 4 girls (under 13 years of age). The voyage lasted 78 days and not a single life was lost.

During 1859-60 five more ships left Hong Kong and Canton for Guyana where 1549 men, 298 women, 53 boys, 26 girls and 18 infants landed.

In succeeding years ships continued to sail from the ports of Hong Kong, Canton, Amoy, Swatow, and Whampoa with Chinese immigrants who included a disproportionate amount of women. The *Dartmouth* which made the final voyage, sponsored by Hyde, Hodge & Co., started from Hong Kong on 24 December 1878 and after 81 days arrived in Georgetown with 515 passengers (436 men, 47 women, 18 boys, 5 girls and 9 infants). In this group were about 70 Christian converts.

For the entire period of 1853 to 1879, a total of 13,541 Chinese landed in Guyana.

CHINESE WORKERS ON THE PLANTATION

On arrival in Guyana, the Chinese immigrants agreed to the following terms of employment:

1. Payment was at the same rate as an indentured labourer - \$4 a month - with sufficient food.
2. The working period would be seven and a half hours per day, except Sundays and holidays.
3. Free housing and medicines would be provided by the estate owner.
4. One dollar per month would be deducted from the wages for monetary advances made in China.
5. Every immigrant could terminate his contract at the end of a year, on payment, for each unexpired year of the contract, of a sum equal to one-fifth of the amount of the passage money.
6. Every female Chinese immigrant was required to live on the same estate with her husband, or with her father if she was single, and would not work unless she agreed.

These terms were discussed with the Chinese immigrants who signed agreements with the recruiting agents in China before they departed for Guyana. The first batch of Chinese were assigned to Plantation Blankenberg, West Coast Demerara, and to other estates on the West Bank Demerara. Those who arrived later were distributed to other estates, including to a few in Berbice and Essequibo. Working conditions were relatively good on most of the estates, but some Chinese labourers complained from time to time of ill-treatment.

The Chinese came from many regions and they spoke different dialects. They also had varying skills and religious beliefs. Many of them were social outcasts picked up from the streets while others emigrated to escape misery and war. But they were concerned about maintaining their language and forms of their culture, and some of them, who had a relatively good level of education, organised night schools on the sugar plantations to teach the boys writing and singing.

Later, they and their descendants, became some of the most successful Guyanese.... Contributing to the "melting pot" of Guyanese society.

GUYANA *cultural* FESTIVAL



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