



## Trinidad declares a Limited State of Emergency to control crime

(Newsday) Trinidad— August 22, 2011

At midnight last night (August 21, 2011, TT was placed under a limited state of emergency to facilitate anti-crime curfews in hot spots, as announced a few hours earlier by Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

The measure specifically allows the 5,000 Defence Force powers of search and seizure, and of arrest, so they will be able to better supplement the work of the TT Police Service, she explained. Details are due today of the areas in which the curfew takes effect.

At a 15 minute news briefing at her Phillipine home at 8 pm, she said the documents to effect the state of emergency — a proclamation and regulations — were already on their way to President George Maxwell Richards to be signed.

The measure follows two recent instances of mass killings, namely four persons shot dead at Jonestown, Arima, on Thursday, a woman killed at Pt Lisas on Friday and three killed in Laventille and another in El Socorro yesterday .

The 2011 murder rate is about 261 persons. Persad-Bissessar said the State must respond to a very tragic spate of murders.

“We are of the view that this situation has reached proportions that we must respond in a most definite manner possible.”

The spike in murders, she said, was ironically due to the police’s success in seizing large drug hauls, saying such sums won’t disappear from the drug-trade without such consequences. [more](#) Also read the [Trinidad Express reports](#).



## USA to forfeit Ed Ahmed’s assets if he is convicted for mortgage fraud

August 21, 2011 - KNEWS

Prosecutors in the mortgage fraud case against New York-based Guyanese businessman Edul Ahmad has given notice that they will seek the forfeiture of his properties if he is convicted. Ahmad who was indicted on ten counts relating to bank fraud could also be deported at the end of his sentence if convicted, according to a legal source.

A federal grand jury in Brooklyn has returned an indictment charging Ahmad with participating in a mortgage fraud scheme in which he and others fraudulently obtained more than \$50 million in loans.

Ahmad’s indictment alleges the defendant conspired to defraud financial institutions, including Bank of New York, JP Morgan Chase, Citibank, N.A., Countrywide Financial, Flushing Savings Bank, Fremont Investment and Loan, HSBC Bank USA, N.A., IndyMac Bank, One West Bank, U.S. Bank, and Wells Fargo & Company, and wholesale mortgage lenders, including New Century Mortgage Corporation and Ocwen Financial Corporation.

As detailed in the indictment, from 1995 to 2009, Ahmad was a licensed real estate broker in the state of New York and also acted as a loan officer. As part of the alleged scheme, he submitted false loan applications and supporting documents to make borrowers of mortgage loans appear to be more creditworthy than they actually were. [.more](#) Also read this article: [FBI arrests Ed Ahmed](#).

### Inside this Issue

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## The Newsletter and Blog for Guyanese Individuals, Associations and Groups Worldwide

Welcome to the Guyanese Online Newsletter

By: Cyril Bryan. Editor and Publisher

This is the **18th edition** of the Guyanese Online Newsletter. We will now be publishing on the third week of every month so please send in your information early.



Cyril Bryan

Please send your comments to the Blog

If you would like to comment on this newsletter please go to the comments for the **August 2011 Newsletter** on the Blog. You do not have to use your actual name in your comments.

You can also e-mail me at: [guyaneseonline@gmail.com](mailto:guyaneseonline@gmail.com)

## Scotiabank Toronto Caribbean Carnival

Every year, around late July and early August, Toronto comes alive with what was known as —CARIBANA, a Festival that reflects the sounds and culture of the peoples of the Caribbean. It has now been renamed —Scotiabank Toronto Caribbean Carnival and the city has taken over the management of the Festival and major sponsorship is now provided by Scotiabank. Both of these bodies have stressed the important roles that the Band Leaders play in the production of this Festival and in order to ensure that they are well compensated and supported, they have stepped in to secure the future viability of this event.

For almost everyone it is still CARIBANA. From the first CARIBANA in 1967, which I attended, to this year's Scotiabank Toronto Caribbean Carnival 2011, the themes have always been the showcasing of Caribbean culture. People LOVE IT!! From its inception, this event has always been a replica of Carnival in a North American setting. It basically is a free street party, but limited income was being realized by the organizers. The bands and their costumes and all the infrastructure in holding this event must be paid for. The financial infrastructure of the past Caribana committees could not sustain such a large Festival. It required a high level of management and financial support and so the city and the sponsors stepped in to ensure it's continued success.

Although there are many who may not agree with the changes that have taken place with respect to the Festival, the importance of maintaining a Caribbean influence in Toronto must be the priority and focus here and we should be very proud of the financial contribution we make, as a people, to the economy of the city during this Festival....remember, it's the largest annual Festival in North America and contributes a whopping \$550M to the city's coffers. It has become too big to fail and MONEY TALKS!!

What people find most amazing about the Toronto Carnival is its size of over a million people stretching for miles along the Lakeshore Boulevard, the multi-racial mix of the crowds, and the many languages heard being spoken by those witnessing the event. Toronto is truly a multiracial and multilingual city, encompassing people from over 150 countries. a true melting pot of people who love Caribbean music, food and the carnival atmosphere. Today, with digital phones, cameras, and expansive social networks photos and film clips are widely distributed.

Here are two video clips of the event.

Video1— The [Official Music Video for Scotiabank Toronto Caribbean Festival](#).

Video2- An earlier travel video featuring [Caribana](#) shows the large crowd of revelers and spectators.

## TOP 25 – Most Popular entries July 2011—August 20, 2011

1. [Last Lap Lime 2011 - Toronto - Photo album](#)
2. [Triple Play & Fuh Fun Calderia BBQ 2011- photos](#)
3. [Easter Monday 2011 - 63 Beach Corentyne, Berbice](#)
4. [Saints Caribjam and Victoria Pub Events - 2011 Photo Album](#)
5. [GTLIME 10th Anniversary 2011 - Photo Album](#)
6. [CAL Plane from NYC crashes at Guyana's airport + video and updates](#)
7. ["Go Brave! - Obama" by Singing Francine](#)
8. [Famous People of Guyanese Heritage](#)
9. [Last Lap Lime 2011 - QC Alumni Toronto](#)
10. [Last Lap Lime - Toronto - Monday August 1, 2011](#)
11. [Corentyne centenarian reaches an amazing 110 years](#)
12. [Plane Crash - Editorial](#)
13. [TAKUTU BRIDGE - Rupununi. Guyana](#)
14. [Guyana - Original Folk Songs](#)
15. ["Little Richard" - the entertainer](#)
16. [Tilapia production idea for Guyana - Tony Vieira](#)
17. [GTLIME-10th Anniversary Dinner Dance - Toronto - July 30,2011](#)
18. [Nostalgia 561 – Saga and Romance of the 'Sea Wall'](#)
19. [Places I Love - Beautiful Guyana!](#)
20. [Buxton-Friendship Express Newsletter - July 2011](#)
21. [Port Mourant Market in Berbice - 2011](#)
22. [REDjet expanding flights from T&T to Caribbean](#)
23. [St. Stanislaus - CARIBJAM - Toronto - July 29,](#)
24. [History Wm Fogarty Store, Georgetown, British Guiana](#)
25. [Pictures: Caribbean Airlines plane crash in Guyana](#)

## Guyanese Online

The **Guyanese Online Newsletter** and the **Guyanese Online Blog Website** are independent publications that have been designed, edited, produced and published by **Cyril Bryan**.

Individuals, Organizations, Associations and Guyanese groups should send e-mails with their announcements, features, news, pictures, videos, ideas, event reports and advertisements for publication to the editor:

**Cyril Bryan's E-mail:** [guyaneseonline@gmail.com](mailto:guyaneseonline@gmail.com)

### The Guyanese Online Blog

The **Guyanese Online** blog has over 600 articles and videos on various subjects. Your comments, articles and ideas are welcome. Thank you for your readership and support!! Support us by clicking the online advertising ... THANKS!!

### New Blog Entries for August 1-20, 2011

[FBI indicts President Jagdeo's friend – Ed Ahmad "Rip Off Britain" – a society in shambles – letter](#)  
[CARIBBEAN EVENTS CALENDAR – to December 2011](#)  
[Keep an eye on Suriname – letter](#)  
[Revamping the education system in Guyana](#)  
[US had provided info on cops' drug connections- Ramjattan](#)  
[Police order India activist freed after protests](#)  
[Obama Will Triumph — So Will America](#)  
['Black Clothes' police running drug blocks](#)  
[BHS and QC Alumni New York – Labor Day Sunday Jam – Sept 4](#)  
[QC Alumni Toronto – Dinner Dance – October 28, 2011](#)  
[REDjet eyes Antigua and Brazil – Fuel cost a problem](#)  
[Where are the billions? – letter by "Joey" Jagan](#)  
[Linden Fund Canada AGM – September 10, 2011](#)  
[Guyana Folk Festival Symposium 2011 – Update](#)  
[Last Lap Lime 2011 – QC Alumni Toronto](#)  
[Pictures: Caribbean Airlines plane crash in Guyana](#)  
[UK youth – living outside the boundaries of civilised society](#)  
[VIDEO: Children having children contributing to poverty](#)  
[Global Economic Downturn: A Crisis of Political Economy](#)  
[Suriname eyeing US\\$3.5B of investments](#)  
[Transaction was a private affair – Luncheon](#)  
[PPP's postpones congress to campaign; Nagamootoo dismisses reason](#)  
[Britain Debating Cause Of Its Worst Unrest In Years](#)  
[Nothing 'mindless' about Rioters](#)  
[Plane Crash – Editorial](#)  
[REDjet expanding flights from T&T to Caribbean](#)  
[Last Lap Lime 2011 - Toronto - Photo album](#)  
[Saints Caribjam and Victoria Pub - 2011 Photo Album](#)  
[GTLIME 10th Anniversary 2011 - Photo Album](#)  
[Triple Play & Fuh Fun - Calderia BBQ 2011- photo album](#)  
[Tilapia production idea for Guyana – Tony Vieira](#)  
[Guyana, Belize reduced hunger by 50% in 2010 – FAO](#)  
[Corentyne centenarian reaches an amazing 110 years](#)  
[CAL Plane from NYC crashes at Guyana's airport + video](#)

### New Blog Entries for July 2011

**During July we published 41 new entries:**

**Click on the title to view :-**

[New Amsterdam Association Ball – NYC – October 8, 2011](#)  
[CARIBANNA SCHOLARSHIPS](#)  
[Buxton-Friendship Express Newsletter – July 2011](#)  
[St. Stanislaus – CARIBJAM – Toronto – Friday July 29, 2011](#)  
[Guyana Cultural Asso – New York – July 2011 Newsletter](#)  
[Thomas Jefferson – a very remarkable man](#)  
[Nostalgia 561 – Saga and Romance of the 'Sea Wall'](#)  
[Folk Festival Symposium Update – Historical Obeah Article](#)  
[NO STIGMA, NO SHAME by Ewalt \(Waltie\) Ainsworth](#)  
[BHS-QC present Labour Day Sunday Jam – NYC](#)  
[Our Oceans are Dying](#)  
[I Love the Smell of Murdoch in the Morning](#)  
[Cancer cure suppressed – video](#)  
[Canada Guyana Music Festival – Saturday July 30, 2011](#)  
[Easter Monday 2011 – 63 Beach Corentyne, Berbice](#)  
[Africa and its history – By Cedric L. Joseph](#)  
[Which Low-Cost Laptop is Best for Education?](#)  
[Port Mourant Market in Berbice – 2011](#)  
[Places I Love – Beautiful Guyana!](#)  
[AUTOBUM – By: Ewalt \(Waltie\) Ainsworth](#)  
[History of Wm Fogarty Store, Georgetown, British Guiana](#)  
[Time to decide where we stand on Caribana](#)  
[Letter on Denis Solomon – by Joey Jagan](#)  
["Thank you Tiger – Shivnarine Chanderpaul"](#)  
[TORONTO FOUNDATION – Dinner-Dance – September 17, 2011](#)  
[Frank Sinatra – It Was A Very Good Year -1965](#)  
[GUYANESE ONLINE NEWSLETTER – JULY 2011](#)  
[Last Lap Lime – Toronto – Monday August 1, 2011](#)  
[Paramakatoi: Through the eyes of a Coastlander](#)  
[Overworked America: The Great Speedup](#)  
[Le Plus Grand Cabaret Du Monde – Guang Dong – Pas de deux](#)  
[FIRE IN BABYLON – Cricket Documentary](#)  
[THE ROYAL WEDDING – April 29, 2011](#)  
[Nostalgia 560 – No trick – No gain....even in Squash](#)  
[Sholto Fox Memorial Health Fair 2011 – August 6 – NYC](#)  
[Guyana Christian Charities volunteers honoured](#)  
[GTLime selects its Charity of Choice in Guyana](#)  
[USA Politicians – by Charlie Reese](#)  
[Cricket: Gayle breaks silence on WICB treatment](#)  
[Iwokrama Rainforest Conservation Park – Guyana](#)  
[Georgetown National Park and Zoo](#)

**Total weblog-website hits for July 2011 = 20,302**

## QC-BHS Labor Day Sunday Jam Brooklyn New York

The Alumni Associations of  
**Bishops' High School  
and Queen's College of Guyana**  
Present

**X2**  
**JUMO • DUTCHIN**  
**Ninja Band**  
SHOW TIME 1:00am

**LABOR DAY  
SUNDAY  
JAM** 8pm - 4am  
Admission \$25.00  
Food and Drinks on sale

**Sunday September 4th., 2011**  
CPAC 1020 E. 48th Street, Brooklyn, NY- off Farragut Road

**VIP Lounge - \$50.00**  
(Limited # of VIP tickets available. Sold in ADVANCE ONLY, on first come first serve basis)  
VIP: FREE parking, Lounge bar service and private bathroom with FREE access to all other areas.

**NOTE: LIMITED SEATING. VALET PARKING ONLY.**

**CONTACT**  
www.qcguyanaalumny.org • www.bhsnytristate.org

**TICKETS:**  
347-232-8930; 917-689-5129  
917-930-1932; 917-692-8322

**DJ HANNAH**  
**DJ FLEXX**

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The Queen's College of Guyana Alumni Association (NY), Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit organization

## Linden Fund Canada Annual General Meeting 2011

### Notice of the Linden Fund Canada Annual General Meeting September 10, 2011

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Linden Fund Canada will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at 10:30 am at **Ellesmere Community Centre, (416-396-5536), 20 Canadian Road, Toronto, ON, Canada. M1R 4B4 (Scarborough District)** for the following purposes:

1. Receiving the Chair's Report
2. Receiving Financial Statements
3. Amendments to the By-Laws
4. Election of the following Directors to the Board:

Nominations for Board positions can be submitted to Lorraine Giles at [lygiles@sympatico.ca](mailto:lygiles@sympatico.ca). Nominations will also be accepted at the AGM. We also need members for Membership, Public Relations, Finance, and Fund Racing Committees.

All are welcome to attend the AGM but to be able to vote you must be a paid up member. Membership fee is \$40. The fee for members 65+ and less than 25 years is \$20. Please consider submitting your membership cheque by mail, if you are unable to attend the AGM.

For further information, please call :  
Lorraine Giles, Chair at 905-507-2282 or  
Ronald Hunte, Vice-Chair at 416-577-6061.

Thank you for your participation. We look forward to seeing you on September 10 at 10:30 am. Please RSVP to [lygiles@sympatico.ca](mailto:lygiles@sympatico.ca) by September 3.

**Reminder: Linden Fund Annual Dinner/Dance will take place in November.**

## GUYANA HERITAGE FOUNDATION FUN DAY - SEATTLE. WA

Guyana Heritage Foundation - Seattle

INVITES YOU TO THE 11<sup>TH</sup> GUYANA FAMILY  
FUN DAY

**SATURDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2011**

AT THE ROXHILL PARK SW. BARTON ST &  
29TH AVE SW  
SEATTLE, WA 98126

FROM: 1:00 PM TO 7:00PM

[Download Flyer here](#)

THE COUNCIL OF FRIENDS OF NEW AMSTERDAM

**INAUGURAL MAYORAL BALL**  
&  
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TO BENEFIT THE TOWN OF NEW AMSTERDAM, GUYANA

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH, 2011**  
FROM 8PM TO 1AM

**ANTUN'S BANQUET HALL**  
96-43 SPRINGFIELD BOULEVARD  
QUEENS VILLAGE, NEW YORK 11429

DONATION: \$100.00

MUSIC BY EXQUIZITSOUNDS, DJ FARLEY

FOR INFORMATION AND TICKETS CONTACT: AL FARLEY-(347)663-6344  
WWW.COFONA.ORG SHARON-(718)434-1622



St. Stanislaus \* St. Rose's \* St. Joseph's  
Alumni Associations  
invite you to their  
*Annual*  
**Labor-Day Weekend**  
**Saturday Night Jam**  
**Saturday, September 3, 2011** from 10:00 p.m.  
**Nazareth Auditorium**  
475 East 58th Street  
(between Clarendon Rd & Avenue D)  
Brooklyn, NY 11203

**DJ FLEXX**  
Complimentary Buffet  
Donation: \$25  
CaSh Bar  
Proceeds in aid of schools in Guyana

Patron must be 21 Years or older  
ID required  
Convenient Parking for Early birds

Contact Information  
St. Stanislaus College Association  
917-972-4175 / 917-407-5166  
917-972-4462  
Website: [www.saini-stanislaus.org](http://www.saini-stanislaus.org)  
St. Rose's Alumni Association  
718-287-5187 / 718-342-7046  
718-284-7154  
Website: [www.strovesalumni.org](http://www.strovesalumni.org)  
St. Joseph's Alumni Association  
718-342-4136  
Website: [www.sjhsGuyanaalumni.us](http://www.sjhsGuyanaalumni.us)

## EXCELSIOR CLUB - London. England 'Free and Easy Sundays'

All the news we read and hear of seems to be bad or sad news; But here is some good news starting from ....

**Sunday July 10th, 2011,**  
and **every Sunday** thereafter from 8.00pm  
till 12.30 am

It's "**FREE EVERY SUNDAY**" Free entry for all .

Great Music for Relaxing, Reminiscing,  
Socialising or Dancing ... So, 'dance' while  
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Remember it's **FREE EVERY SUNDAY** .

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Do tell all your friends

## Caribbean cruises - lots of choices - excellent value

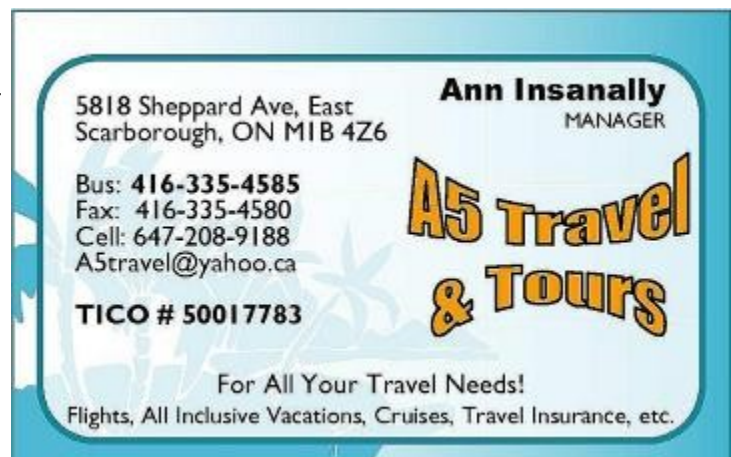
A Caribbean cruise is a cruise through the turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea to the astounding array of ports of call that offer something for everyone. On the Islands, vacationers will find long stretches of sandy beaches, lazy swaying palm trees, fun and upbeat shopping spots, and water sports galore. Abundant sunshine and the beating rhythm of steel drums call to those who want to get away from it all.

Choosing this type of vacation is choosing a destination with many diverse options within three distinct regions: Eastern, Western, and Southern Caribbean. Trips to one of these regions can be a two night get-a-way, or a longer, seven day vacation. Also, cruises of ten and eleven nights that tour all the regions are available. It will take several Caribbean cruises to experience the diverse people, languages, culture, and landscapes among these islands.

These adventures offer many things to do on sea and on land. A Caribbean cruise will start with the relaxing voyage on the sea, where guests can sleep in or take part in the many activities offered by the crew. Once reaching the destination, there will be water sports, beach play, and duty free shopping.

To select the option that is right for a specific individual or family determine first the length of time planning to sail, and then the ports of call that seem enticing to individual tastes. Next, a person will need to determine from what port they plan to leave. Most Caribbean cruises leave from Miami, Florida. But there are other ports in Florida, New Orleans, and Galveston, Texas.

Call A5 Travel and Tours for cruise details and pricing



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## GUYANA FOLK FESTIVAL 10TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS

Awards Ceremony on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011 Brooklyn. New York USA.

### 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

In 2011, GCA Will Celebrate its 10th Anniversary. We ask for your on-going support.



### GUYANA FOLK FEST

GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

1368 E. 89 STREET SUITE 2, BROOKLYN  
NEW YORK 11236, U.S.A.

TEL: 718.209.5207 FAX: 718.209.6157

WEBSITE: [www.guyfolkfest.org](http://www.guyfolkfest.org)

E-MAIL: [info@guyfolkfest.org](mailto:info@guyfolkfest.org)

### FOLK FESTIVAL FAMILY DAY 2011

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2011

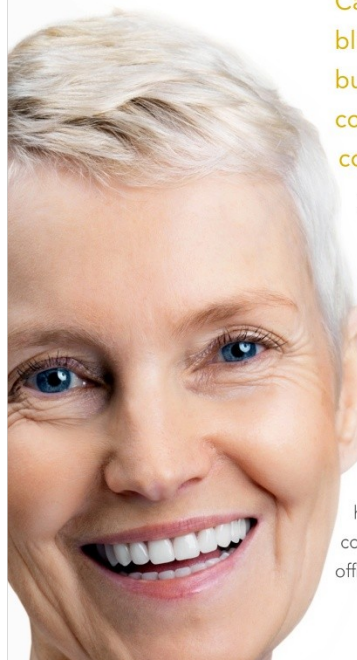
See Newsletter for details

Download: [Guyana Cultural Association of New York Inc. August 2011 Newsletter](#)



### FOLK FESTIVAL 2011

## SHARP VISION. SHARP MIND.



Cataracts are the leading cause of blindness in people 55 and older, but did you know they could also contribute to an increased risk for cognitive decline and dementia?

In a study of 625 elderly patients conducted by the University of Michigan, those with poor vision who did not receive proper eye care were 9 times more at risk of developing Alzheimer's disease and 5 times more at risk for some form of cognitive impairment. In contrast, those participants with good vision had a 63% reduced risk of developing dementia.

Sharp vision and a sharp mind seem to go hand-in-hand. Protect both by scheduling a comprehensive eye health examination in our office today.

*VISION SOURCE™*

### Dr. Gregory V. Wong

OPTOMETRIST	Monday	10 - 7:00pm
	Wednesday	10 - 7:00pm
	Thursday	10 - 6:00pm
	Friday	10 - 3:00pm
	Saturday	10 - 2:00pm

**(416) 297-6766**

8 Glen Watford Drive, Unit 50  
Scarborough, ON M1S 2C1



online

### THANKS FOR ATTENDING #16

The Last Lap Lime (LLL) is an annual event held jointly by five non-profit Guyanese Alumni Associations resident in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. It is the largest congregation of Guyanese outside of 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 pro-vides a taste of Guyanese culture to the children, grandchildren and friends of Guyanese living in the Diaspora. **The 2011 LLL#16 was a great success!**

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; and St. Stanislaus College.

## TORONTO FOUNDATION

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

### CANADIAN VISION CARE – GUYANA TEAM

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO OUR

DINNER & DANCE

IN AID OF

HELPING TO FEED & EDUCATE UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENTS IN GUYANA &

BRINGING THE GIFT OF SIGHT TO THE PEOPLE OF GUYANA BY THE CANADIAN VISION CARE – GUYANA TEAM

**DATE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>. 2011.**

Place Elite Banquet Hall, 1850 Albion Road, Rexdale, Toronto Ontario Canada

Cocktails 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Vince on the Steel Pan

Dinner 7:45 p.m. - Jan Morgan – Trumpeter

Entertainment Popular D.J. "PAUL" - Narie Mahabir on the Sax.

**Donation \$55.00 per person**

Endorsed By: The Consulate General of Guyana, The Rotary Club of Bramalea, Brampton, ON, and the Rotary Club of Georgetown Central.

Toronto Committee and Ticket Info:

Shanta De Abreu: 416-409-0990 [sdeabreu@trebnet.com](mailto:sdeabreu@trebnet.com)  
Gordon Collins: 905-274-7292 [gordcoll@rogers.com](mailto:gordcoll@rogers.com)  
Nandi Mahabir-Broomé: 905-270-6164 [nmusbio@hotmail.com](mailto:nmusbio@hotmail.com)  
Paul Mahabir: 613-258-5170 : [pmahabir@yahoo.com](mailto:pmahabir@yahoo.com)

**Come and have an enjoyable evening!**

[Download flyer](#) < click

## Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Upcoming Events - 2011

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011**

at 7:30 p.m.

### FALL DANCE

Pickering Recreation Complex  
1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering --  
(Liverpool and Highway 2)

Music: Band: Triple Play and D.J.: Bake  
Admission—\$25 per person

Tickets can be obtained for the dance from:

Joe Castanheiro -- 416-286-1956  
Mike Gonsalves -- 416- 420-0565  
Des De Barros -- 905-837-0135  
Dennis Choy -- 905-839-0434  
Karen Heifa -- 416-287-2526

or any GCC Member E-Mail: [info@gcccanada.org](mailto:info@gcccanada.org)

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 30, 2011 at 1.00 p.m.**

### ANNUAL FOOD FAIR

#### AND BAKE SALE

Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Church Hall  
1490 Markham Road  
(North of 401 – Entrance on Milner Avenue)  
**Free Admission**

## QUEEN'S COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (TORONTO)



### 2011 ANNIVERSARY DINNER & DANCE

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Cocktails (Cash Bar) - 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Dinner - 8:00 p.m.

#### VENUE

Sts. Peter and Paul Banquet Hall  
231 Milner Avenue, Scarborough

#### ADMISSION

\$50  
includes sit-down dinner  
and complimentary wine

Dress:  
Formal

Music by the band  
"STORM"



Guyana Singing-Sensation  
PAMELA MAYNARD

#### For tickets contact:

Syed Rayman - 416-412-0103  
Audrick Chung - 416-750-8872 ext. 225  
Vivian Wong - 416-724-5837  
Gerald Alleyne - 416-883-5011  
Albert Ramprasad - 416-822-8802  
Eden Gajraj - 416-609-9727

Limited tickets so purchase  
early to avoid disappointment

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Letter to the Editor- "Joey" Jagan

## Vishnu Bisram and political polling in Guyana

Dear Editor,

The constant bickering between Vishnu Bisram and those who think that he is a fraud when it comes to polling in Guyana, is getting boring and taking up important space in your letter columns and indeed, needs closure in more ways than one. In his latest missive,

Bisram talks about "proof" that he is a biased "pollster" and with Mike Persaud's help in a previous letter, he wishes away all the attacks on his employment references and his "connections" to questionable relationships he claims he have cemented. Mike Persaud has no credibility as his letters always suggest racial answers to our serious political problems; his defense of Bisram opens our eyes to both of their political machinations. Mr. Bisram should remember the quote: "proof is in the pudding".

Editor, your letters are not harvested in any way through a court of law but nevertheless should contain elements of truth and objectivity in order to be accepted by the Guyanese public and to be stimulating to their minds and to bring further discussion among themselves. Over the years, Mr. Bisram has obviously decided that he is much more interested in writing commentaries than in conducting polls which can reflect political reality on the ground in Guyana and that is his personal decision; but let us, the public, look at his writings in general and what do we see as his central themes and his "truth"?

Editor, Mr. Bisram is definitely an Indo-centric commentator, basking in the limelight of "indian-ness" and trying to create the impression that his connections with India and the East Indian diaspora in New York is cemented in stone and mortar; his subtle racialism is apparent when one reads through the lines of his letters and, as he tries to become the chief spokesman for the apologists for this administration, we see his true nature.

The very fact that the Chronicle, a newspaper which only spouts government and PPP propaganda, prints his letters on a regular basis, is an indication of where Bisram's sympathies lie. Where he is employed or where he gets his finances in relationship to his controversial polling is really irrelevant and is of no importance, unless he gets financed by certain local political entities, which is a strong possibility.

What is important to the citizens of our country is his mind-set before he conducts his "polls" and he has made it clear, over the last few years, that he is for "Indian-ness" and the propagation of his "Hindu" connections, both here and abroad; that is his right and nothing at all is wrong with his love of Hinduism but there are Christians, Muslims and other religious entities here in Guyana who probably have lost trust in his polling.

Since he is such a storm trooper for the East Indian and our rights (because I am a born Hindu), then let him do a poll on only two questions, but only to East Indians living here in Guyana and involving Freddie Kissoon and a UG team : 1. How the East Indians feel about their beloved sugar industry under thus government 's management of that industry and 2. Is this government following the vision of President Cheddi who always fought for and who was always the maximum leader of all the sugar workers and first President of GAWU. Maybe Bisram would never agree to such a poll because he probably already knows the result but he says he believes in truth so let him prove it forthwith.

Editor, Bisram should take me up on my suggestion for again, "the proof is in the pudding" and if he chooses not to, then he will make himself the object of suspicion, controversy, ridicule and diversionary conflicts in the letter columns of both SN and KN, and for these puerile engagements, he will be in the position where his comments have to be taken with a grain of salt and his polling reduced to a joke.

Yours faithfully,

Cheddi(Joey)Jagan(Jr).

Thanks for attending our 19th CaribJam





## GPL hosts cultural extravaganza

August 21, 2011 KNEWS - As part of its observance for the **International Year for People of African Descent** and its annual emancipation celebrations, the **Guyana Power and Light Incorporated (GPL)** hosted a Cultural Extravaganza on Friday, last ,at the Umana Yana.

The programme commenced with a libation ceremony presided over by Brother Andrews. The libation is a significant and sacred part of the African culture. It is usually done at the beginning of any African cultural proceeding. Among the audience who gathered to witness the spectacular event were Prime Minister Samuel Hinds; the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Dr. Frank Anthony and the Minister of Public Works and Communication, Robeson Benn.



Some of the GPL staff displaying their African attire

Making brief remarks was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of GPL, Bharat Dindyal, who made an extensive reflection on the abolition of slavery. He noted that if one should just imagine how slaves felt years ago, they would find pleasure in honouring the ancestors. He added that GPL is proud to remember the African ancestors and happy to be a part of the emancipation celebrations.

Dr. Anthony also reflected on the history of the African slaves. He took the time to commend the ancestors for their sacrifices and contributions to the development of Guyana. He added that without the contribution of the Africans, the country would not have so many sugar plantations to benefit from today.

If our culture is lost, then our identity is lost", the minister stated. Dr. Anthony stressed that many Guyanese only remember the 1763 Berbice Slave Rebellion because there is a monument. He noted, however, that the large uprising in 1823 on the East Coast of Demerara should be remembered because of its significant contribution to the abolition of slavery

"The minister disclosed that there are plans to construct a monument in memory of the revolt in just a few months. Dance, poetry, drama, steel pan music, singing and the display of African craft work were among the main items of the event, along with the display of African attire by GPL's staff.

A number of staff members were extravagantly dressed in African outfits. There was also the selection of a king and queen of the day.

Capturing the audience's undivided attention were the Whaul Sisters who performed a popular Miriam Makeba song – Pata Pata. Also "rocking the house" was a drummer and folk song singer, Winslow 'Blackie' Cole.

## Guyana Zoo to be greatly improved

[August 21 KNews](#) - Guyana is a land with a large rainforest containing some of the world's most impressive species of indigenous flora and fauna – a variety of the radiant flora can be found in the Botanical Gardens in Georgetown.

Adjacent to the Botanical Gardens is the Guyana Zoo, a sanctuary for lost and injured animals, and an exhibition site of the diverse species that dwell in and out of the illustrious tropical forest.

The zoo displays almost all of the classes of vertebrates. Even though there appears to be a reasonably large amount of exhibits, it is obvious that there has been a significant decline over the years.

Many members of the public have expressed their disappointment at the current state of the zoo. They believe that it can be more visitor-friendly and intriguing. [more](#)



Entrance to the Georgetown, Guyana Zoo

## Freddie vs Jagdeo court battle begins

- **Court told Ambassadors, heads of key state agencies all Indians.** - **Luncheon claims Govt. impartial**

By **Latoya Giles** - [August 20, 2011—KNEWS](#)

The highly published and much anticipated court battle – President Bharrat Jagdeo vs. Kaieteur News Columnist Frederick Kissoon – got underway yesterday with Head of the Presidential Secretariat Dr Roger Luncheon being the first person called to give evidence in chief.



Frederick Kissoon

The Head of State is suing Kissoon and National Media and Publishing Company, publishers of Kaieteur News, and Editor-in-Chief Adam Harris for over \$10M, claiming libel in one of Kissoon's daily columns last year. The matter is being heard before Justice Brassington Reynolds. Yesterday Kissoon's legal team comprising prominent lawyers Nigel Hughes, Christopher Ram and Khemraj Ramjattan were present. Meanwhile the state was represented by attorneys at law Anil Nandlall, Jaya Manickchand, Bibi Shaddick, Sase Gunraj.

As the proceedings started yesterday Dr Luncheon was examined by attorney at law Anil Nandlall. Despite carrying a walking stick, the witness had to be helped into the area of the witness box and was allowed to be cross-examined outside of the box while sitting on a chair provided by the court.

As reporters struggled to listen to the proceedings, due to the noise made by the traffic outside and the construction that is being done at High Court, the matter commenced

### Foreign company may run Skeldon

August 20, 2011: The government on August 19, bluntly admitted that the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo) does not have the management expertise to run the Skeldon Sugar factory and is seriously looking at hiring a foreign company (Chinese or Indian) to manage the estate.

The Minister of Agriculture Robert Persaud said that the success of the sugar industry rides on the success of the Skeldon factory, which was commissioned two years ago at a cost of US\$181 million.

He was careful to state that the government has no intention of privatising sugar, as this was important both to the economic and social fabric of the country, with thousands of families depending on sugar for their livelihood.

The factory has been dogged by a number of problems and the main workers' union, GAWU, has been agitating for the problems to be fixed so the factory could realize its potential. [more](#)

with Dr Luncheon being asked about his opinion of the article. He answered that the article intended to confuse the readers about the position of His Excellency President Bharrat Jagdeo held, with regards to Afro-Guyanese.

It was also stated that the article attempted to place the President as a racist. As regards the article, which was titled as "[King Kong sent his goons to disrupt the conference](#)", Dr Luncheon in responding to questions by Nandlall said that in his opinion "King Kong" referred to the president.

Luncheon was asked by the lawyer about how many persons within the Government are non-Indians and still held positions in it. Nandlall then asked Dr. Luncheon to call out the persons within the government who are non-Indians. This was done. The article in question was then tendered into evidence by Nandlall.

Defence Counsel Nigel Hughes then began cross-examining the witness, which was put forward by Nandlall.

The first question the witness was asked was about the ethnicity of persons who headed a majority of the Government agencies and state institutions, and held all the ambassadorial positions. Hughes called out a list of over 41 persons who are all of Indian ethnicity who hold these positions, to which Luncheon admitted during his evidence in chief.

These persons included Commissioner of the Guyana Revenue Authority Khurshid Sattaur; Chief Executive Officer of the GPHC; Michael Khan; Heads of GuySuCo, GPL, GWI, Guyoil, the Civil Service, NCN, GINA, CANU, the New GMC, EPA, NARI; Forestry Commission, Civil Aviation, Cheddi Jagan International Airport, Privatization Committee, the Judiciary, the Magistracy, the Director of Public Prosecutions, High Court Registrar, Auditor-General, GOINVEST, All Service Commissions ...the list went on. ....[more](#)

### Plans being hatched against Kaieteur News According to the newspaper

[August 22, 2011 Kaieteur News](#) STATEMENT

We have learnt from very reliable sources of a plot to fabricate allegations against persons connected with this newspaper so as to lay the basis for them to be charged.

This plot, we understand, has been hatched because of official concerns over the things that this newspaper has been exposing. We have been exposing the rampant corruption, the theft of national resources and the transfer of these resources to colleagues, associates and cohorts.

Certain persons in the upper echelons of the society are adamant that we should not be allowed to continue to report these things in the run-up to general and regional elections. . [more](#)

## Merai will only cooperate with international investigators

Kaieteur News— August 22, 2010

### Re: Police Officers Drug link

Assistant Commissioner Steve Merai is not likely to cooperate with local investigators who have been mandated to probe his allegations of links between senior police officers and alleged drug dealers. This is according to sources close to the controversial officer.

According to one reliable source, Merai is more inclined to cooperate with an international Commission of Inquiry. This follows calls by the two main opposition groupings, the Alliance for Change (AFC) and A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) for an independent inquiry comprising commissioners from outside of the jurisdiction.

The police in a press release following revelations in this newspaper had stated that Commissioner of Police Henry Greene had written to Merai requesting that he provide evidence to support his allegations.

Merai, this newspaper was told, had already indicated that he was not too comfortable with providing evidence to Crime Chief Seelall Persaud and head of the police Office of Professional Responsibility Mohamed Jameer, both of whom he had accused of initially turning a blind eye on the matter. [more](#)

## Tourism Ministry to beautify # 63 Beach

by Leon Suseran (Kaieteur News –August 22, 2011)

The Ministry of Tourism has developed a Number 63 Beach Redevelopment Vision which, when implemented, should enhance the shabby appearance and surroundings of Guyana's premier beach.

The Number 63 Beach is the Caribbean's longest stretch of beach with a unique hard surface on which driving can be done.

The planned initiative, which was launched at the recently held Berbice Expo and Trade Fair, will result in a more attractive and safer beach with more family- friendly activities. Some of the changes that would be immediately noticeable will be: life guards on duty to look out for the number of young children who frequent the beach ; lounge chairs and large umbrellas; an entertainment area with food courts, barb-b-que facilities; picnic- style benches, music; a large lot where every motorist will park and then walk through an entertainment area to go to the beach; and an area with a ferris-wheel, trampoline and wading pool.

The new initiative will also include a quiet religious zone, long boardwalk, Jet Ski rental, trampolines and beach shops and restaurants. [more](#)

## Food for the Poor Guyana Inc doles out G\$15M for community projects



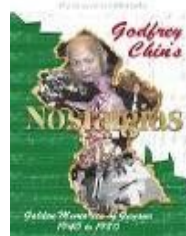
President of the St. Francis Community Developers and Representative of The Food for the Poor Guyana Inc. in Berbice, Mr. Alex Foster presents the Computers to Ms. Marian Tinne, Project Coordinator of the All Saints Presbyterian Developmental Centre

[August 22, 2011—KNews:](#) Food for the Poor Guyana Inc. is celebrating its 20th anniversary as a non government organization and Social Service provider in Guyana in collaboration with its local Berbice partner, the St. Francis Community Developers which is celebrating its 25th Year as a leading non government organization and social service organization. They recently unveiled a \$15 million assistance package which will see improvements done to a number of public facilities in Berbice.

Among the facilities and buildings that benefited were the Eversham Community Developers Play School and Life Skills Training Centre, The Kildonan Turn Your life Around skills Training Centre, Mibicuri Community Developers Play school and Skills Training Centre, St. Francis Community Developers head quarters and counseling centre had rehabilitation works done on its headquarters, the Albion Chapel Development Centre at Fyrish Play School and Skills Training Centre, The Corentyne Community Based Rehabilitation Centre had an upgrade on the floor of the building and the All Saints Development Centre New Amsterdam - upgrade to its play school and skills training centre. The project entailed tiling of the floor of the eight public facilities that are collaborating partners of the St Francis Community Developers.

The Felix Austin B division Police Training College at Adventure, Corentyne was the largest beneficiary which saw the completion of a Benab which is being utilized by the scouts had its entire floor tiled, a lunch room, washrooms and two classrooms are all in the process of being tiled. Upgrading of Child Friendly Spaces and Writing Desk and Chair support were extended to a number of agencies, including all the above and the Rose Hall Town Police Outpost, Fire Station and Public Library, the Child Protection Offices at Whim and New Amsterdam, Shining Star and All Saints Development Centers. [more](#)

## Nostalgias—1940-1980– Godfrey Chin



Order your copy of "Nostalgias" - Golden Memories of Guyana 1940-1980

Click picture at left and go to Godfrey Chin's website and order online

## Caribbean helps Virgin Atlantic return to profit



**LONDON, United Kingdom, Thursday August 11, 2011** – Virgin Atlantic has reported a strong year of trading and a return to profit, thanks in part to its Caribbean routes.

Despite the winter closure of London Heathrow and the ash cloud crisis costing the business a combined £40 million (US\$64.5 million), strong growth in business traffic and solid load factors delivered a good recovery for the UK-based carrier.

The airline said its routes to the Caribbean remained popular, with a total load factor of 83 percent, with Barbados a particularly strong performer.

## Air Jamaica - the end of an era in aviation

### 'The little piece of Jamaica that cries'

Friday, July 08, 2011 – Jamaica Observer News

FOR 10 years, Gordon 'Butch' Stewart gave Jamaicans a vision of an 'on-time, no-line' airline, confident that in the same way he had built his Sandals hotel chain into the most internationally recognised local brand, he could do the same for Air Jamaica, the national airline.



The colourful, often rocky history of Air Jamaica can be written in tranches before and after the Stewart-led Air Jamaica Acquisition Group (AJAG), which spent US\$26.5 million for controlling interest in the ailing airline in 1994.

[Read an in-depth history in this download](#)

## CARIBBEAN ARLINES CRASH Pilot Error to blame - according to reports



Pilot error and not mechanical failure is being blamed for the crash of Caribbean Airlines (CAL) aircraft which overshot the runway and broke in two at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport in Guyana on July 30, according a report from the Wall Street Journal on August 8, 2011.

"Crash investigators believe excessive speed and other suspected lapses in landing procedures caused a Caribbean Airlines jet to roll off a Guyana runway in late July, according to people familiar with the details," the report stated. According

to eyewitnesses, the plane touched down halfway down the runway and could not stop before running off the end of the runway.

"Preliminary findings by investigators, according to industry and government officials, point to pilot error rather than mechanical or other system malfunctions," the report added.

While none of the 163 passengers and crew members on board flight BW523 were killed several sustained injuries.

Passenger Noel Elliot who broke his right leg in the accident had to have the limb amputated.

His wife, Sharon told the Trinidad Express via telephone on August 8 that Elliot, 42, was taken to a hospital in New York, USA on August 4, and the operation was conducted on Sunday August 7, 2011. (Trinidad Express)

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

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[Surama Eco-Lodge Rupununi](#)

[Timberhead Eco-Resort](#)

[Trans Guyana Airways](#)

[Wilderness Explorers](#)

[Zoom Inn Hotel](#)



## REDjet expanding Caribbean routes to Trinidad, Jamaica and Antigua



August 09, 2011 Barbados (CMC) The new regional budget airline, REDjet, has announced services to Antigua and for flights between Trinidad and Guyana. This is just days after securing licences under the terms of a bilateral 'open-skies' air services agreement between CARICOM countries.

The airline plans to inaugurate a direct Antigua-Guyana route by around early October, Redjet's management also sees Antigua as a starting point for other larger destinations. Antigua is home to a significant Guyanese immigrant worker population.

In early August, the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority granted the airline licences to operate scheduled services to and from Port of Spain, Trinidad, to Georgetown, Guyana, and Kingston, Jamaica.

## Trinidad running out of natural gas reserves

Trinidad, August 11, 2011 – A new audit has found that Trinidad and Tobago's energy reserves are falling, but Energy and Energy Affairs Minister Kevin Ramnarine is insisting that, despite the decline, the country is not running out of gas.

He has also assured that Government has no plans to cut the fuel subsidy which is projected to be in the region of TT\$4.8 billion (US\$756 million) this year.

"I want to make it very clear that gas is not running out," he said yesterday at the presentation ceremony for the 2010 Ryder Scott Gas Audit.

Ramnarine shied away from making any estimates about the number of years' gas supply left in Trinidad and Tobago, saying that such projections relate only to the proven reserves. However, the audit put it at just over nine years, down from 10 years in 2010 and 12 years in 2009. (Caribbean360)

## Suriname expects US\$3.5Billion of Investments

(De Ware Tijd) PARAMARIBO—August 9, 2011 - With four big investments in Suriname planned for the coming three to four years, the country must start preparing now to fully benefit from these financial injections. The labor market in particular must be made ready.

So says Henk Ramdien, retired managing director of bauxite company Suralco, newly appointed chairman of the negotiating commission that is to reach an agreement with multinational Newmont on the construction of a gold mine in East Suriname.

Ramdien told DWT that IamGold will invest between US\$ 800 million and 1 billion in the expansion of its Rosebel operations; Suralco is developing new bauxite reserves, Staatsolie is investing some US\$ 1 billion in the expansion of its refinery; and Newmont will construct a gold mine in East Suriname. He calculates that these investments total US\$ 3.5 billion, and at least 20% of this amount will remain in Suriname as wages for Surinamese workers and payments to Surinamese service providers.

## University establishes teaching hospital in Grenada

Grenada, August 15, 2011 – St. George's University and the Government of Grenada have signed an agreement which establishes a teaching hospital on the island.

As a result, according to St. George's University Chancellor Charles Modica, not only will students get the opportunity to experience one more system of healthcare delivery in a hospital setting, but Grenada will be provided with an influx of healthcare practitioners to local healthcare facilities.

"By adding to the elective and intern programme already in place and establishing this full teaching programme that operated by the University, we are able to provide a quality graduate and post graduate programme in Grenada. Our students will be able to perform clinical rotations in Grenada, in addition to the clinical rotations available at many top affiliated hospital and clinical centers in the US and UK," Modica said. (Caribbean360) [more](#)

## Jamaica Government seals sugar deal with COMPLANT

Chinese company investing US\$156m in industry



Prime Minister Bruce Golding (left) exchanges documents with Tang Jianguo, chief executive officer of the COMPLANT Group of Companies, following their August 15, 2011 signing of an agreement for the transfer of the sugar estates. (Photo: OPM)

August 16, 2011- (Jamaica Observer) Jamaica's Prime Minister Bruce Goldin handed over the remaining state-owned assets in the sugar industry to the China-based company COMPLANT International, signalling what both parties say will be a new era of development for the sugar industry in Jamaica.

The deal seeks to achieve the twin goals of pumping massive investment into the ailing sugar sector over the next four years while removing the accumulation of further debt on the public budget.

The Chinese company is paying US\$9 million for the three sugar factories — Frome in Westmoreland, Bernard Lodge in St Catherine, and Monymusk in Clarendon — as well as the lands immediately surrounding them. It has also leased hundreds of thousands of acres of government lands earmarked for growing sugar cane.

COMPLANT is committed to investing at least US\$156 million to renovate the three factories and sugar cane lands over the next four years.

Stating that the industry needs to transform radically in order to turn around its flagging performance of the last 40 years, Golding urged stakeholders to adopt the Chinese culture of hard work while promising that the Jamaican tradition of collective bargaining for workers is maintained. [more](#)

## THE ARTS JOURNAL

Volume 6 Numbers 1& 2 published

The **Arts Journal** is an independent, refereed Journal that provides fresh critical perspectives on the contemporary literatures, arts and culture of Guyana, the Caribbean and their Diasporas. ([read announcement for Vol 6 1&2](#))

The first thing to say is that prior to the launching of **The Arts Journal** in 2004, there was virtually no critical material published in Guyana that students of the humanities could easily access. Students of the visual arts would trundle around the country trying to contact artists and interviewing them on their own to fulfill SBA assignments.

Literary criticism was mostly to be found in overseas journals, often written in technical language and economically prohibitive to students. In addition, there was need for more space for regional scholars and creative writers to publish their work on Caribbean themes and issues.

During the last eight years **The Arts Journal** has filled all of these gaps by providing affordable and very readable analytical material on Caribbean works of literature and the visual arts, and on aspects of its social history and culture.

The aims of **The Arts Journal** are, first, to foster a culture of critical thinking at home and in the wider Caribbean society; secondly, to look afresh at our intellectual heritage from a culturally relevant perspective; and, thirdly, to help individuals towards a sense of identity and belonging through the arts and cultural artifacts. **The Arts Journal** also seeks to bridge the gap between home and the Diaspora so that their scholarly and creative works are not lost.

While **The Arts Journal** recognizes a tradition of critical debate across the disciplines on Caribbean themes it aims to extend the debate to embrace the plurality of Caribbean peoples, particularly those whose works have been neglected and under-represented. The Journal sets out to discover and illuminate such works and does so through critical essays, interviews, book reviews, travel writing, the short story, poetry and the visual and traditional arts. In addition, the consequences of globalization and its rendering of national borders fluid and porous will demand more critical space for debates.

Now in its sixth Volume, this Journal is widely subscribed to by the libraries of secondary and tertiary learning institutions, community colleges, public and private libraries, art galleries and museums, and other such institutions in Guyana, throughout the Caribbean region, North America and the United Kingdom. **Download:** [The Arts Journal Flyer](#)

Please visit the **Arts Journal's website** at:

[www.theartsjournal.org.gy](http://www.theartsjournal.org.gy) to see reviews and responses to this publication, Editorial and Contents of each issue and composition of the Editorial and Advisory Boards. For Subscriptions and Submission of Articles, contact the editor, Ameena Gafoor, at: [theartsjournal@live.co.uk](mailto:theartsjournal@live.co.uk) or Bernadette Persaud at [bernadettepersaud5@hotmail.com](mailto:bernadettepersaud5@hotmail.com)

# B.G. Bhagee

Philippa Perry



**Philippa (Carrington) Perry** recounts her early life in pre-independence British Guiana, her neighbours, her relatives, her primary school, and her life at Bishops High School.

“My life was a series of battles, like those in European history that I studied without real understanding in the Royal Readers. After one war came another, without intermission, some of them long, hundred-year wars, and others short and bloody, but always conflict, never time to take your eye off the enemy, known or unknown.”

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\$12.95 paperback, or \$6.99 Kindle.

## Emancipation – the great watershed in Guyanese history

**Emancipation is the great watershed in Guyanese history**, when those who were in bondage were afforded some official space within the society to pursue goals of their own choosing for the first time in two hundred years. It did not open up an unlimited gamut of possibilities for the newly emancipated of course; the caste divisions of race, the unalloyed resentment of the planter class, and any number of practical impediments made that impossible. Nevertheless, August 1, 1838, produced changes so profound in the structure of the society, that Guyana (then British Guiana) from that day onwards appeared like an entirely different country from the Guyana of July 31, 1838.



1763 Memorial



At left is the **1763 Memorial** featuring the slave leader "Cuffy" to commemorate the Berbice Slave Rebellion. This rebellion was just one of the many slave uprisings in Essequibo, Demerara and Berbice that were brutally put down from the 1600's.

**Equally cruel was the murderous suppression of the Demerara Slave Rebellion of 1823, just a few years before slavery was abolished in 1833. ([link here for details](#)).**

Slaves had to work for another five years (1833-1838) under the "Apprenticeship" system, before being officially set free on August 1, 1838.

It should not be forgotten either, that it was not **Africans** alone who were the victims of slavery in this country; certain Amerindian groups too were subject to enslavement, although freedom for them came some forty years before 1838 when the Dutch were in control. August 1, therefore, can perhaps be regarded at least as a symbolic date for them as well. It should perhaps be explained that most of the dealings of the Dutch with the Amerindian tribes involved four nations: the Arawaks, Caribs, Warraus and Akawaios, all of which were granted immunity from enslavement at some point in the seventeenth century. Other groups, however, were referred to as 'slave nations' and their members could be seized.

Essequibo had its own slave trade, where members of certain tribes were bought or captured and then sold. Most of them were taken to Suriname, although some were sold to the authorities and planters here, particularly in Essequibo and later, in Demerara. (Berbice had very few Amerindian slaves.) While they did not perform the same work as their African counterparts, they were still regarded as 'chattels,' endured the same plantation conditions, were subject to the same draconian laws and suffered the same horrendous punishments. They too ran away, and sometimes took part in risings. A thought should be spared for their historical experience as well today.

Those who crowded the churches on August 1, 1838, were the same men and women who had been 'apprentices' – a glorified form of enslavement since they remained bound to the plantations – the day before. Yet they showed their resourcefulness and capacity for forward planning without further ado, some of them pooling their savings to purchase estates for their villages. The story about them transporting the money for these to the city of

Georgetown in wheelbarrows as absolutely true; the enslaved had not been allowed to own specie, hence they had to accumulate small coinage in order to pay for their purchases.

In a massive movement of people, thousands of them eventually left the plantations to try and carve out their own future paths in the teeth of difficult odds. Others of them grasped the importance of education at an early stage, and attempted to enter the world of the written word and confront the system at that level. One man, for example, opened a small lending library in Plaisance.

Most important for giving the 'Creoles,' as they came to be known, a voice in the wider society were the black newspapers, the most effective of which was the Creole. This paper was not afraid to challenge the planter views given printed expression in the press, more particularly in the Colonist. For the duration of its existence, the Creole forced the planters in the Colonist letter columns at least, to acknowledge the existence of the perceptions of the majority, even though they were excluded from participation in many areas of the society, especially the political sphere. Sometimes the debate between the two organs could be quite acrimonious in tenor.

The drive for education among some of the African forebears which produced a cadre of schoolmasters in the first instance, lawyers and later still, doctors, etc, laid the groundwork for the emergence of the well-educated African middle class of the twentieth century. In the end, even the humblest homes wanted their children to do well in school, and education was seen as the avenue to advancement. As is well known, Africans came to staff the civil service at lower levels; while their educational status made them good bureaucrats, the colour bar prevented them from rising through the ranks until very late in the colonial era.

As said above, the men and women who wasted no time exploring the possibilities that had opened up to them, were the same ones who years before had laboured under the yoke of enslavement. It was not just the ancestors from the post-emancipation period, therefore, who contributed to the evolution of the new society; it was also those who had preceded them in the slavery period. In circumstances where even their very humanity was denied, they managed to create little spaces in the interstices of the system to organize their own social relations, generate small sums through the sale of their own chickens or produce, engage in religious practices, evolve traditions and have their own entertainment.

In other words, they defied all attempts by the plantocracy to deny their intrinsic humanity, and through their resourcefulness and tenacity created something meaningful to pass on to their successors. As far as it was in their power to do so, therefore, they developed a cultural inheritance for the next generation. It was no small achievement. And they had always had their dreams, and on occasion took enormous risks in order to try and translate these into reality. Today especially, we should remember the sacrifices of those who were born, worked and died in bondage, and for their dreams and creativity under the most oppressive of conditions.

[Stabroek News On August 1, 2010 - Editorial |](#)

### Article: [The material culture of African-Guyanese](#)

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**African-Guyanese, despite two centuries of enslavement, were able to create a distinctive creole culture.**

**By David A. Granger**