



**REPUBLIC DAY
CELEBRATIONS
42 YEARS**

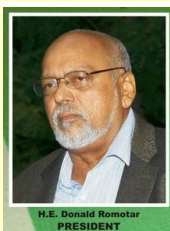


2012 REPUBLIC DAY MESSAGES

**Land three times the size of Barbados
committed to ANSA McAL**

February 23, 2012 | By [KNews](#) |

**GOVT. HAS GREAT PLANS TO TAKE
GUYANA TO NEW HEIGHTS**



**Message from His Excellency President
Donald Ramotar on the Occasion of
Republic Day**

I extend warm greetings to all Guyanese at home and abroad on this the forty-second anniversary of our republic. This is a very special time for all Guyanese, and is marked by great festivities celebrating our national culture.

This national culture has been weaved from the strands of the various ethnic groups which constitute our people. Let us celebrate this diversity by being part of the many events that are being held to commemorate this year's anniversary of our status as a republic.

To those visiting Guyana to be part of our grand celebrations, I extend a warm welcome. I extend best wishes to you and hope that you will have a great and enjoyable time in our beautiful country and amongst our friendly and hospitable people. As we celebrate our republic, let us promote and emphasize the things that unite us as we move closer to our Motto of "One People, One Nation, One Destiny." [\[more - read all messages\]](#)

OTHER MESSAGES FOLLOW:

- **A PARTNERSHIP FOR NATIONAL UNITY (APNU)**
- **PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS REFORM (PNCR)**
- **FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT TRADE UNIONS OF GUYANA (FITUG)**
- **GUYANA AGRICULTURAL AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION (GAWU)**

[\[more - read all messages\]](#)

(Kaieteur News) February 24, 2012

In an agreement reminiscent of the secret US\$138M airport deal with a Chinese company in Jamaica, the former administration under President Bharrat Jagdeo, in September, signed yet another one...this time for the building of ethanol production plant.

Yesterday, the Trinidad Guardian announced the agreement which was signed since September 30th, 2011, but which has not been made public to date by the Guyana Government. It is not dissimilar to another major deal signed last year with a China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) in Jamaica.

The deal only came to light after a newspaper report in Jamaica was published.

According to a press statement yesterday from ANSA McAL, on Friday September 30, 2011 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Guyana Government and the Trinidad-based Trading Limited, for the establishment of an ethanol production project.

The statement said that the agro-energy industrial project will be built on 110,000 (approx. 425 square miles) hectares of virgin land. The island of Barbados is 166 square miles.

"In conjunction with the Government of Guyana, ANSA McAL is currently conducting an in-depth feasibility study, which includes infrastructure and development works; plant and equipment and rolling stock. This ethanol plant is projected to have a capacity to process up to 2,000,000 tons of sugarcane per year and produce up to 40 million gallons (nameplate capacity) of ethanol per year." [\[more\]](#)

Trinidad Guardian article announcing this MoU:

[ANSA McAL, Guyana sign govt ethanol pact](#)

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 **23rd edition** of the Guyanese Online Newsletter. It culminates two years of publishing the Blog website and the Newsletters. Thanks for your support.....



Cyril Bryan

Republic Day #42 — Mashramani 2012

By: Cyril Bryan — Editor

On February 23, we celebrated the 42nd year of Guyana's Republican status. As usual, there was Mashramani – “the best ever,” according to reports. Here, and on our Blog, we feature a number of the Mashramani events.

This month is also the second anniversary of Guyanese Online. On February 9, 2010 we made the [first entry](#) to the Blog and published our first Newsletter on March 5, 2010, where we featured Mashramani 2010. Over the last two years we have published 23 newsletters; the Blog now has almost 1140 entries and our visitors (hits) are approaching 450,000. Our monthly hits this month will be over 40,000. The 2011 review of the Guyanese Online Blog shows that we have readership around the world ([see review](#)). We thank our readers for contributing to our success.

This issue of 26 pages and 128 items is the largest issue we have created ([see list](#)). Here are the major news categories (items in brackets): Mashramani (12); Parliament (16); Governance (26); Georgetown (7); Flood Updates (12); Other News (17) includes the University of Guyana (6); Medical news (9); Guyana organizations (5); Tourism (8); and Caribbean/Regional News (11).

Also in this issue, we have featured more on political/economic matters as there are systemic changing events occurring in Parliament and in the governance of Guyana. The recent elections in Guyana have attracted much attention since no party gained over 50% of the votes. The opposition parties (APNU and AFC) now hold a one seat advantage in the Legislature and this has created a “difficult situation” for the PPP/C, which had the most votes and formed the Executive government. Now they have to provide detailed answers, as financial expenditure and agreements have to be passed by the Legislature. Also, the opposition now controls the Committees which oversee various aspects of Executive governance.

This is the first month of sittings of the Parliament and the release of the Auditor General's Reports, as well as queries into many recently signed Government contracts and expenditures. We have, therefore, created a newsletter that gives links to most of the important political and economic stories that are unfolding. There is much to read, but you can choose what most interests you and use this newsletter as a reference.

We hope you find the contents interesting and we look forward to your comments. Thanks for your support!

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**. **Organizations get FREE advertising.**

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
or cybryan@gmail.com

Jan 23 – Feb 23 - 30 Most popular entries

Blog: guyaneseonline.wordpress.com

1. ["I am a Guyanese" - music video by Adrian Dutchin](#)
2. [The Dubai Fountain - Tribute to Whitney Houston](#)
3. [Famous People of Guyanese Heritage](#)
4. [The Royal Visit of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip to British Guiana in 1966.](#)
5. [Guyana Floods - February 2012 - Updated articles](#)
6. [MASH 2012 - "Guyana Funtime" - Slingshot - Video](#)
7. [Beautiful Guyana - video by German foundation](#)
8. [Guyana's Child - song by Jessica Xavier - video](#)
9. [Offshore drilling rig arrives in Guyana](#)
10. [Come Visit Guyana - video music by The Tradewinds](#)
11. [Cruise liner docks in Georgetown](#)
12. [Whitney Houston's Funeral - Kevin Costner's Speech](#)
13. [Combined Opposition strikes another blow in Parliament](#)
14. [Gospel-Calypto - New Age Christian religion!!! - music video](#)
15. [Cecil Fitt, wife die within three hours in Barbados](#)
16. [Heart Surgeon Admits Huge Mistake! - By Dwight Lundell, MD](#)
17. [Guyana - NCN TV Streaming video - LIVE](#)
18. [Top10 - Most Educated Countries in the World](#)
19. [The Health Benefits of Coconuts](#)
20. [Fruits of Trinidad and Tobago - and Guyana](#)
21. [West Indian Americans and Black History Month](#)
22. [Eulogy for Maurice Moore - by Vibert Lampkin](#)
23. [MASH 2011 Photos](#)
24. [The World's Strictest Parents - Barbados - videos](#)
25. [Team in Guyana to shoot documentary for History Channel](#)
26. [First Lady of Guyana - Deolatchmie Ramotar - Interview](#)
27. [Unmarried black women - Down or out](#)
28. [President Ramotar is doing his work; the opposition is incompetent - Freddie Kissoon](#)
29. [Coconut Oil Touted as Alzheimer's Remedy](#)
30. [Carnival 2012 - Machel Montano - 'PUMP YUH FLAG' - video](#)

Feb 23 -Total posts = 1135. Total views = 438,046

Mash 2012 Pictorial



The winning Mash Band in the Rupununi



Digicel reigns supreme in Mash costume competition

...As Dutchin's 'I am a Guyanese' is adjudged #1 road march song

Cellular phone giant, Digicel Guyana, reigned supreme in the full large costume category when the results for the Mashramani 2012 costume and float parade were unveiled. And it was another giant company, Banks DIH that copped the second place. The Youth Coalition for Transformation (YCT) and the Ministry of Culture both following in a close third.

In the Full Medium costume category, it was the Ministry of Agriculture that was adjudged the winner while the Ministry of Tourism was second and the Ministry of Local Government in a competitive third place.

The Ministry of Education was not to be left out of the winning streak having being able to secure first place for itself in the Full Small Costume category. The Public Service Ministry placed second and Rusal third in this category. [\[more\]](#)



Mashramani 2012

Note: Click headlines to read the articles in full



[‘Rubber Waist’ Jomo cops 2012 Carib Soca Monarch Crown](#)

February 20, 2012 KNEWS

...as newcomer shines with ‘Lime, Tomato, Celery, Seasoning’ Bones-man failed to defend his crown and Bill Rogers’ dream of winning another title was dashed as veteran entertainer Jomo ‘Rubber-waist’ Primo walked away with the coveted 2012 Carib Soca Monarch crown.

Also Read: [Jumo "Rubber Waist" Primo is Soca King](#)

(DemereraWaves) In what can be termed a surprise to some patrons of the 2012 Carib Soca Monarch Finals, Jumo "Rubber Waist" Primo Sunday morning walked away with the coveted Carib Soca Monarch prize of \$1.5M for his spectacular performance at the National Park.

The runners up are Linden's George Anthony Abrams; who came in second and who also copped the prize for highest scoring newcomer; followed in third position by Adrian Dutchin. [\[more\]](#)

[Buxton/ Foulis Mash 2012 to feature Li'l Rick and smashing surprises](#)

FEBRUARY 19, 2012 |

It appears as though the founder of the Buxton Mash celebrations, Eon Havercome, aka Father Moey, has every intention of making this year's event the best thing to ever hit East Coast Demerara. Revelers will be treated to an exciting package which would include performances by international artiste, ‘Lil Rick’.....

[‘Soup drinker’ gives Young Bill Rogers Calypso crown](#)

FEBRUARY 19, 2012 |

Roger “Young Bill Rogers” Hinds yesterday copped the 2012 Calypso monarchy, chalking up his second win in this year's Mashramani singing competitions. The second place winner of the Calypso competition was The Mighty Believer, while Lord Canary placed third. Young Bill Rogers had copped the 2012 National Health Song Competition



“Young Bill Rogers”

[Rudy Grant still blushes at the success of ‘Mash in Guyana’](#)

FEBRUARY 19, 2012 |

- **25 years later** You can see the excitement gush through his eyes when he is told that “Mash in Guyana” is still known in Zimbabwe today, and not just among the older folks among whom the song was popular when it first came out 25 years ago. When Rudy Grant put lyrics....

[Children’s Costume Parade attracts thousands](#)

FEBRUARY 19, 2012 |

Thousands of spectators lined the streets of Georgetown and turned up at the National Park yesterday to have a glimpse of the colourful, dazzling floats and revelers in the Children's Costume Parade 2012. Several schools across the country participated in this display which captivated their audience. It was only fitting that such a spectacular

[Pulse Entertainment, E-Networks collaborate for Mash](#)

FEBRUARY 19, 2012 |

-Revelers could join the Party Truck The collaboration is exceptional. It brings together three of the best in their respective business pursuits and Guyanese preparing to take to the road for the Mashramani celebrations are being presented with an opportunity to duplicate the ‘the Greatest show on Earth’, the Trinidad and Tobago Carnival. Local

[N/A outlines big plans for Mash 2012](#)

FEBRUARY 11, 2012 |

Berbice will have its own mega Mash Float Parade on Mash Day this year. This is according to Public Relations Officer and Organizing Secretary of the New Amsterdam 2012 Mashramani Committee, Maxine Williams. Williams noted that the organization is working along with the New Amsterdam Mayor and Town Council “to restore Mashramani celebrations in the

[Region 6 Mash politicized – Former N/A Mayor](#)

FEBRUARY 20, 2012 |

Guest Editorial - "A Refreshing Change in Parliament"

(Stabroek News) MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2012

It was the Irish philosopher Edmund Burke who said: **"Those who have been once intoxicated with power, and have derived any kind of emolument from it, even though but for one year, never can willingly abandon it. They may be distressed in the midst of all their power; but they will never look to anything but power for their relief."**

That one quote captures succinctly the mindset of the PPP/C and its defiance in the wake of the novel configuration of the 10th Parliament. For much of its 20 year tenure and particularly following the passing of former President Hoyte, the PPP/C grew exceedingly comfortable in its ruthless domination of all centres of power that it had access to.

Parliament was its plaything. It cracked its whip and the vote went its way. There was no semblance of compromise or willingness to concede any ground to the opposition on any important legislation. Thus bill after important bill carried the hallmark of its domination of the House – the unacceptable authority given to the respective subject ministers. Its use of its majority vote to have its way was naked and unrelenting. Even after bills were passed some were not assented to or brought into force.

The shoe is now on the other foot. Having narrowly lost control of Parliament, the PPP/C is now fretting each day at the opposition's new found ability to have a greater say in the parliamentary agenda, the peopling of Parliament's important committees and ultimately the content of the laws passed.

Aside from the reform of the constitution 10 years ago, nothing promises more significant and meaningful change to parliamentary life and better governance in the country than the one-seat edge that the opposition has. Thursday's sitting of the National Assembly was a most welcome and refreshing change from the two decades of set pieces that the PPP/C had crafted for the public. The intense questioning of Finance Minister, Dr Ashni Singh and the rebuff of his positions when necessitated must have been a revelation to the viewing public and one that bodes well for accountability. This would be the appropriate time for live and unedited broadcasts of parliamentary sessions to the public. It will be a revelation.

The government must now realize that compromise is the name of the game at Parliament and not pout and create unnecessary dramas as it did last Thursday after the marathon session in which its two financial papers came under careful scrutiny. The ruling party's convenient resort to accusations that parliamentary conventions

are being ignored by the opposition is unadulterated nonsense. It must remember that there was a time when its Leader of the House for Government Business was not the Prime Minister, as should be the case, but Minister Reepu Daman Persaud.

In the same manner that the opposition chronicled its litany of parliamentary snubs be it in relation to questions, motions, bills or applications for the adjournment of the House on matters of urgent public importance, the PPP/C government now gets the exact opportunity to test whether the opposition is prepared to be flexible with it and enable it to pursue its programmes for country. At the same time, the PPP/C gets to show its willingness to submit its ministers and officials to testify frankly and fully before the various committees of parliament and take heed of appropriate advice. It further gets to show its willingness to support legislation presented by the opposition and ultimately whether President Ramotar will sign it into law.

The 2010 Auditor General's report – as deficient as it is – presents a sublime example of how the government continues to ignore broad accountability checks such as the Public Procurement Commission, the Contingencies Fund and accounting for all public monies like the lotto funds via the Consolidated Fund. It cannot expect the opposition to turn a blind eye to these glaring transgressions in the future and should understand that compromises with it will likely depend on whether it has kept its word. A recurring problem as cited again by the Auditor General has been procurements via the New Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation despite the fact this has been raised for several years at the level of the Public Accounts Committee and during parliamentary debates.

So there is a long road to travel for all the parties in parliament before any of them can express disenchantment and griping of the type evinced by the government delegation at the press conference following Thursday's sitting. What the PPP/C needs to come to grips with quickly is that it has to begin crafting honourable compromises with the opposition and the sooner it shows this flexibility the greater the chances are that its programmes will be implemented even if with modifications.

Immediately, the onus is on the government to engage with the opposition on the budget so that when the speech is made in parliament and the budget debate is concluded there would be a reasonable expectation that it will pass. A review of the VAT rate, the income tax threshold, public service pay and priority capital expenditure programmes should be on the agenda for these talks in line with the pre-election commitments of the parties and also public sentiment.



Parliament of the
Cooperative
Republic of Guyana

Guyana's Coat of Arms and an aerial view of Guyana's Parliament Buildings

Guyana's Parliament

Note: Click headlines to read the articles in full

[Ramotar's tripartite arrangement in further jeopardy](#)

FEBRUARY 18, 2012 |

...Teixeira reminds Govt. won't be held to ransom.

The Tripartite Arrangement which was initiated by Head of State Donald Ramotar as a means to foster political cooperation between the Government, Alliance for Change and A Partnership for National Unity is now in further jeopardy. This is as a

[Govt. argues less than half of \\$5.7B was spent from coffers](#)

FEBRUARY 18, 2012 |

...as Dr. Ashni Singh accuses opposition of stymieing Govt. work

Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh has lambasted the combined opposition for voting down several provisions in a supplementary request to the 2011 budget during last Thursday's sitting of the House. He says that the opposition appears to want to stymie the work of the Government.

[Opposition votes down supplementary provisions](#)

FEBRUARY 17, 2012 |

... Govt. flabbergasted

"It bothers me that we are being asked to replenish money already spent, contrary to the law," Moses Nagamootoo For the first time in two decades the ruling administration in Guyana did not get the approval sought for monies spent in advance. This time around they were seeking approval for \$5.7B spent

[AFC seeking answers to several Govt. spendings](#)

FEBRUARY 17, 2012 |

The Alliance For Change (AFC) says that it will take all measures necessary and allowable under the law to ensure the government is held accountable, espe-

cially scrutinizing the spending from the Contingencies Fund. Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh has asked the National Assembly to approve \$5.7 billion from the Contingencies Fund, which ...

[Tripartite talks in jeopardy...Ramotar should provide evidence of rigged elections – AFC](#)

FEBRUARY 16, 2012 |

The Alliance For Change (AFC) is challenging President Donald Ramotar on his recent comments in another section of the media to provide evidence that the opposition parties were part of manipulating and rigging the recent elections for their benefit. The challenge came from AFC Chairman, Khemraj Ramjattan, at a press conference yesterday at ...

[No time for Opposition to make input on 2012 budget](#)

FEBRUARY 16, 2012 |

While it has been conceded by all stakeholders involved that the tripartite arrangement initiated by President Donald Ramotar is very pertinent in seeking consensus on a range of issues, the Opposition input on the 2012 budget is not expected to be significant. This is according to former Finance Minister Carl Greenidge who says that there...

[Opposition may seek to surcharge for illegal Govt spending](#)

FEBRUARY 15, 2012 |

"In this country, men believe that they can break the law and do whatever it is that they like because those who are close to the government have been able to get away with it"- APNU MP Carl Greenidge The National Assembly will meet tomorrow to debate whether it should approve some \$5.7B which has ...

Continued on next page >

2012 - Mashramani Reports

Beer giants, Digicel rule the road

Kaiteur News—February 24, 2012

- *float parade returns to Berbice after two decades*

It took three giants –two into brewing and the other into mobile communications – to infuse much-needed energy to transform the Mashramani parade into a gyrating sea of red, blue, gold and white yesterday. Thousands braved the threat of rain to line the main parade route and watch the annual costume and float parade that marks the climax of celebrations for the country's Republic anniversary.

Brewery giants Banks DIH and Ansa McAl under their Banks Beer and Carib Beer brands infused the usual bacchanal that was associated with Mashramani, providing much needed entertainment for those who stood hours upon hours waiting. Of course, there were those who chose the smarter route of picnicking on the sides of the road.

Digicel brushed aside its signature red colour and chose to lead its parade with revelers dressed mostly in white. Joining the band were Bajan soca singer, Peter Ram and 2012 Carib Soca Monarch, Jumo.

One would have thought that Jumo would have taken



his “rubber waist” to the Carib parade, but his presence did not in any way dampen the energy in the Blue and Yellow brigade.

The man behind the parade, Minister of Culture, Dr. Frank Anthony, led his band down the Mash road, and from the look of things, he seemed happy with the way things turned out.

Opposition coalition, A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) led a green band down the streets and they too were enthused about the support they received. [\[more\]](#)

Mashramani Children's Parade Diamond Secondary emerge as winners



Glittering, dazzling floats and dancing revelers decked out in a galore of colours created quite a stunning attraction this year at the annual Children's Costume Parade. . [\[more\]](#)

Here are lots of Photographs from the 2012 Children's Mashramani Parade in Georgetown, Guyana Click link:

<http://www.themichaellamcollection.com/p1008015807>

Mashramani Pan-o-rama Steel Band Competition



Sweet Steelpan music rocks CASH

Sweet, sweet steelpan music echoed through the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall (CASH) last Sunday evening as the 2012 Republic Bank Mashramani Pan-o-rama Steel Band Competition delivered in full throttle, another evening of splendid metallic symphony under its “Power to make a difference” ... [\[more\]](#)

Guyana's Parliament

Continued from previous page

Note: Click headlines to read the articles in full

[Granger flays Ramotar on election rigging claims](#)

FEBRUARY 15, 2012 |

....says it's untrue, un-statesmanlike and should be withdrawn

Leader of the Opposition, Brigadier (ret'd) David Granger has lashed out at President Donald Ramotar's assertion that the 2011 General and Regional Elections were rigged in favour of the Opposition saying that his remarks are "untrue, un-statesmanlike, untimely and unhelpful," and should be withdrawn. Ramotar is quoted

[Govt. continues to abuse Contingency Fund – says Auditor General](#)

FEBRUARY 12, 2012 |

...\$50 B overdrawn from special accounts

Reflecting that the Contingency Fund continues to be abused, the 2010 Auditor General Report was presented to the National Assembly yesterday by Speaker of the House, Attorney-at-Law, Raphael Trotman. The Report points to the abuse of amounts totaling over \$550M which were drawn from the Fund and utilized ...

[Ramotar warns Govt. will not be held to ransom](#)

FEBRUARY 11, 2012 |

...as Granger issues call for annual State of the Nation report

"We must seek consensus and compromise and should resist the temptation to believe that any party can ride rough shod over another...Any such attempt may see us missing the historical opportunities that this new composition offers...I urge that we put the interest of

[Combined Opposition strikes another blow in Parliament](#)

FEBRUARY 11, 2012 |

...secures majority votes on Committee of Selection

Mere minutes after the Head of State Donald Ramotar charged Members of Parliament to avoid gridlock and find consensus, the House seemed destined for a brawl as the nominations for the Parliamentary Committee of Selection were held. The Speaker, Raphael Trotman had his work cut out on the....

[AFC eyes Parliamentary review of planned Marriott Hotel](#)

FEBRUARY 2, 2012 |

The Alliance For Change (AFC) has condemned the government for resisting growing demands to review all major contracts signed in the run up to the 2011 General Election to be reviewed by Parliament, including the controversial Marriott Hotel project. This was expressed by AFC's Chairman, Khemraj Ramjattan, at a press conference yesterday at the

[Govt. and Opposition agree on three major issues](#)

FEBRUARY 3, 2012 |

The representatives of the Alliance for Change and A Partnership for National Unity met with His Excellency President Ramotar and his delegation as agreed on Monday, last at the Office of the President. The meeting agreed to the establishment of three inter-parliamentary party committees as follows: i) The Governance (non-parliamentary) Committee which

[Jagdeo signs another MoU on behalf of Guyana](#)

FEBRUARY 3, 2012 |

Former Head-of-State, Bharrat Jagdeo, and Head of the Climate Change Unit, Shyam Nokta, are in India where they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indians which is related to a Climate Change Initiative. Head of the Presidential Secretariat Dr Roger Luncheon yesterday confirmed the visit, saying that Jagdeo was conducting official

[Opposition feels snubbed by IDB president](#)

FEBRUARY 19, 2012 | ...

wonders if move was orchestrated by Govt. With the single largest project ever to be undertaken by Guyana now hinging on an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) loan, the local Opposition parties are flabbergasted that the entity's President visited Guyana but did not meet with them. Alliance for Change (AFC) Chairman Khemraj Ramjattan says that

Other Governmen/Governance articles next page >>>

Articles related to Guyana's Governance

ENVIRONMENT

Note: Click headlines to read the articles in full

PROJECTS

[Hope Canal may not be concluded by May 2013 deadline – Dr. Ramsammy](#)

FEBRUARY 6, 2012 |

The Hope Canal which is being erected to ease the pressure of water on the East Demerara Conservancy may not be completed by its May 2013 deadline. This is according to Agriculture Minister, Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, who stated, "At the pace they (the contractor, BK International) are going now, if they do not accelerate, it

[Norway funds could start trickling in](#)

FEBRUARY 5, 2012 |

The initial release of the forest-saving funds from Norway to Guyana could be released shortly, ending a long struggle, characterized by prolonged fretting on the international stage by former President Bharrat Jagdeo. The Office of Climate Change announced yesterday that the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has given final approval ...

[Norway's carbon funds: 16 Rupununi villages sign to help monitoring process](#)

JANUARY 31, 2012 |

Sixteen North Rupununi villages have signed up to help the country's push to receive monies for preserving its state forests. Over the weekend, at Annai, the Community Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (C-MRV) Project was launched in that Region Nine area. Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) is a key component of Guyana's Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP)

["Holding Back the Sea" launched](#)

JANUARY 29, 2012 |

The Mangrove Action Committee's documentary, "Holding Back the Sea" provides information on the usefulness of and importance of preserving mangroves and would soon be available in secondary schools along the coastline. According to Annette Arjoon-Martins, Chairperson, Mangrove Action Committee, this development comes under the Mangroves Restoration Project's education and awareness component. It is the

[Govt. resists disclosing Sithe Global Hydro-power contract](#)

FEBRUARY 5, 2012 |

...PM Hinds says wait until financial closure, "We have said a lot along the way" Bruce Wrobel, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sithe Global, the developers contracted by the Guyana Government for the Amaila Falls Hydro Electric Plant has said that he is willing to provide the Guyanese public with a copy of the

[Fip Motilall's failure costs Guyana...Amaila Falls road will cost much more than US\\$15.4M](#)

FEBRUARY 16, 2012 |

Contractors being selected The cost of building the road to the Amaila Falls will cost more than the original contract price of US\$15.4 million, Dr Roger Luncheon, the government's chief spokesman said yesterday. On January 12, the government cancelled the controversial contract that was won by Synergy Holdings under the Bharrat Jagdeo presidency....

[Govt., Synergy Holdings fighting over 'junk' equipment](#)

former senior employees relate horror stories about road project

The matter before the High Court involving Makeswar 'Fip' Motilall of Synergy Holdings Inc and the Attorney General has been postponed until Tuesday as the Attorney General Anil Nandlall is out of the jurisdiction. But this has not quelled the brewing controversy over Motilall's failed

[Guyana, Suriname seek IDB funding to bridge Corentyne River](#)

FEBRUARY 18, 2012 |

-special committee to tackle cross-border crime - Suriname offers help in oil search Guyana and Suriname may move to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to seek joint financing for a bridge that will join the two countries via the Corentyne River. The announcement was made in a joint statement by the two neighbours following

Continued on next page

Articles related to Guyana's Governance

SECURITY and POLICING IMMIGRATION SMUGGLING

[New procedures for issuance of visas to Guyana](#)

FEBRUARY 4, 2012 |

The Home Affairs Ministry has instituted new procedures governing the issuance of visas for persons desirous of entering Guyana. Minister of Home Affairs, Clement Rohee at a press conference at the Police Training Center at Carifesta Avenue and Young Street said that this decision was taken by Cabinet based on recommendations

[Guyanese worried most about robbery, night-time break-ins](#)

FEBRUARY 19, 2012 |

- UN reports cites corruption in Caribbean police forces

A United Nations report shows that criminal violence is taking its toll on Caribbean countries, with Guyanese mostly concerned about robbery and night-time break-ins. The Caribbean Human Development report, released last week, shows that the increasing crime rate is threatening economies and

[Rohee hints at lie detector test for entire Police Force](#)

FEBRUARY 12, 2012

If Home Affairs Minister Clement Rohee has his way, more police ranks, including senior officers, could face lie detector tests. Kaieteur News understands that this was hinted at a meeting he held last week with senior officers of the force at his temporary office in the police officers training centre at Eve Leary....

[Gold smuggling...GGMC to establish Lethem checkpoint](#)

FEBRUARY 5, 2012 |

Government has announced its intentions to establish a Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) office at the Takutu River crossing to help prevent smuggling of gold and other minerals into Brazil. The announcement was made earlier this week by the newly established Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment.

BROADCASTING RADIO LICENSES

[EU calls for urgent establishment of broadcast authority](#)

FEBRUARY 17, 2012 |

- as TV stations, media launch new association Media executives and key stakeholders in the news business, have banded together in a new association that will advocate for new legislations and work on mechanisms for self-regulations. During the launching of the Guyana Media Proprietors Association (GMPA) yesterday at the Ocean View International Hotel

[Ramotar has no obligation to honour radio licences issued by Jagdeo](#)

JANUARY 29, 2012 |

"Our elation, that the unnecessarily prolonged Radio monopoly maintained by the Government is finally ending, is tempered and diminished by both the absence of transparency in the licence granting process and an obscurity in respect to any structured approach to the media licences allocation," GMPA The Guyana Media Proprietors Association is calling on the administration ...

Local Government Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs).

[Granger calls on President to halt 'arbitrary' transfers of NDC Overseers](#)

FEBRUARY 7, 2012 |

The Opposition Leader, Brigadier David Granger, has called on President Donald Ramotar to halt the plan to re-deploy overseers of several Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs). Granger has written to Ramotar pointing out that A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) and members of several NDCs are deeply concerned about the "arbitrary transfer" of their duly

[NDCs' overhaul...Overseers ordered to pack up, hand over by February 3](#)

JANUARY 29, 2012 |

-staff unhappy Government has embarked on a major overhaul of the local government structure with several functionaries, including overseers of the Neighborhood Democratic Councils (NDC), ordered to hand over properties and responsibilities by next Friday, February 3. A number of Regional Executive Officers (REOs) and engineers have already been reassigned.

Guyana's Governance - Corruption

Note: Click headlines to read the articles in full

[Health Ministry used pencils to keep records – Auditor General Report](#)

FEBRUARY 21, 2012 |

- \$40M loss in expired drugs The 2010 Report of the Auditor General has continued to make worrying revelations about the Bharrat Jagdeo-led administration, with poorly kept records being the order of the day. At the Ministry of Health, drugs at the government's storehouses were being entered into the system using pencils, with almost

[Text book racket at Education Ministry...Cheques worth hundreds of million prepared before contracts awarded](#)

FEBRUARY 19, 2012 |

State auditors working on the Ministry of Education 2010 accounts, uncovered serious discrepancies over the ordering of \$110M worth in textbooks. Systems were manipulated and almost \$62M remained undelivered at the time of the audit. The indication now is that, there was a huge racket on at the Ministry involving the ordering of textbooks.....

[Gov't book distribution process in total mess-Audit Office](#)

FEBRUARY 17, 2012 |

"The manner of storage of books that were gifted at the BDU stores made the various texts and quantities thereof, inaccessible and therefore it was difficult to carry out a physical count or determine proper accountability of the texts." A 2010 audit of the Ministry of Education distribution processes has revealed continuing worry over

[2010 Audit Report...Gov't paid blindly in chaotic old-age pension programme](#)

FEBRUARY 17, 2012 |

-system designed for manipulation A review of the state-run Old Age Pension programme has revealed total chaos, with the government in 2010 unable to determine how much money would have been paid at a given time, according to the Auditor General of Guyana. "The overall conclusion of the review was that the Old

[APNU will pursue repossession of Sanata Complex from QAIL, Bobby Ramroop](#)

FEBRUARY 16, 2012 |

...to have Parliament release details of all secretive, questionable deals—Carl Greenidge Pull Quote: "The officers and the Ministers responsible have to realise that they are accountable for the use of Public Funds...We are not speaking about small amounts of money here,"- Greenidge Frustration will no longer be the order of the day for the

[AG criticises Tender Board for \\$1.3 B allocation to New GPC](#)

FEBRUARY 12, 2012 |

...cites gross irregularities Accusing fingers are being pointed to the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board for approving the payment of an exorbitant sum to the New Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited. According to the 2010 Auditor General Report the astronomical sum of \$1.252 billion was paid to the company on the basis of sole sourcing

[Senior GRA official skips country amidst \\$4M bribery probe](#)

FEBRUARY 10, 2012 |

A senior official of the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) has reportedly resigned amidst investigations into the unauthorized release of a container and the demand of bribes. GRA officials yesterday confirmed that Ray Sukhnandan, Senior Manager of Internal Affairs and Intelligence, an arm of the GRA, reportedly handed in his resignation, via his brother....

[AFC demands Parliamentary probe of NICIL](#)

FEBRUARY 9, 2012 |

-says billions unaccounted for in deals The Alliance For Change (AFC) is calling for a total scrutiny of the National Industrial and Commercial Investments Limited (NICIL) by the Economic Services Sector Committee of Parliament before the departure of Executive Director of NICIL, Winston Brassington. AFC's Chairman, Khemraj Ramjattan, made the call on February 8, 2012.....

Georgetown News

Note: Click headlines to read the articles in full

[Dawn of a new era?... Local Government Ministers finally meet with City Mayor](#)

FEBRUARY 17, 2012 |

There seems to be a renewed relationship between the Georgetown Municipality and the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development. Years of Government ignoring the political head of City Hall, Hamilton Green, culminated yesterday when the Minister of Local Government, Ganga Persaud engaged him on issues concerning the City's enhancement. The meeting, which

[M&CC laments non-consultation on one-way streets declaration](#)

FEBRUARY 15, 2012 |

The Mayor and City Council (M&CC) has placed on record its dissatisfaction with the creation of some one-way streets by the Ministry of Home Affairs without reference to the Municipality. This was contained in a motion that was passed at the Council's most recent statutory meeting, which was held on Monday, last. According to

[Several city streets now one-way](#)

JANUARY 31, 2012 |

Beginning tomorrow, several streets in Alberttown will no longer accommodate two-way traffic. The new arrangement is to facilitate a freer flow of the increasing traffic in the area and is done in accordance with section 49 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act with the approval of the Minister of Home Affairs.....

[Govt. doesn't deny financial irregularities](#)

—says Luncheon

— **Luncheon says PAC can make recommendations**

February 23, 2012

The government is not denying charges of financial irregularities, but says the option the Parliamentary opposition used two weeks ago in not approving supplementary spending has left the system of financial administration in a quandary.

"What specifically with regards to financial administration will come of this, up to now, I haven't any answers," said Dr Roger Luncheon, the government's chief spokesperson. [\[more\]](#)

[Youths brave rains to clean up seawall](#)

FEBRUARY 7, 2012 |

A group of young people, joined by those involved in politics, sports and other backgrounds braved the rains yesterday to clean up the Georgetown seawalls. Youths for Guyana (Y4G), a non-governmental organization, organized the activity. An estimated 150 youths, including those from the national football team – the Golden Jaguars – joined in to

[Fogging begins in city](#)

JANUARY 29, 2012 |

...**as government moves to arrest garbage crisis**

Government has launched a mosquito fogging campaign as concerns mount over the garbage situation in the city and along the coast. A joint emergency work plan between the Ministry of Health and the Mayor and City Council to address the Solid Waste Management crisis in Georgetown

[Oil drilling offshore Georgetown begins](#)

FEBRUARY 10, 2012 |

By Leonard Gildarie Hopes are running high as Guyana's search for oil took a major step forward with an announcement yesterday that drilling has started in the Jaguar-1 well, located 107 miles offshore of Georgetown. The Atwood Beacon, a jack-up rig, is in place and drilling is fully underway, officials said yesterday ,February 9, 2012 This

[Power company forecasts \\$11B shortfall this year](#)

February 5, 2012

The Guyana Power and Light (GPL) has forecast an \$11B shortfall for 2012, with an escalation in fuel prices being the key factor and the utility has presented a calculation for a 19.5% tariff hike which the government says it will work to avoid.

According to the Government Information Agency (GINA), Chairman of the corporation, Winston Brassington during the company's shareholders' meeting

Note: Click headlines to read the articles in full

Flood Updates—February 2012

[From the Diaspora... THERE WERE NEVER FLOODS IN NEW AMSTERDAM](#)

FEBRUARY 12, 2012 |

By Ralph Seeram It was the morning after a devastating hurricane. I drove around the city of Orlando to survey the damage as a result of the hurricane. As expected there were fallen trees strewn across the street, live electric lines dangling dangerously on the streets, hundreds of older homes had their roof

[Canal farmers welcome flood relief efforts](#)

FEBRUARY 11, 2012 |

As water continues to recede in flood affected areas, farmers of Canals Number One and Two will now have to wait until the rainy period passes before they can recommence planting crops. In Canal No.1 Polder, most of the cash crops were either badly damaged or destroyed after being under water for weeks.

[Mahaica flooding sluice to be closed](#)

Stabroek News- February 8, 2012

The Maduni sluice which has been used to drain water from the swollen East Demerara Water Conservancy into the Mahaica Creek is to be closed. The closing should ease the present severe flooding in Mahaica and Mahaicony.

[Water level drops at Conservancy as rainfall eases](#)

FEBRUARY 8, 2012 | BY KNEWS |

While most of yesterday saw cloudy skies and minimal rainfall in some parts of Guyana, the water began to recede in most of the flood affected communities. [more](#)

[Black Bush farmers protest over flooding](#)

Stabroek editor On February 4, 2012

Farmers of Yakusari, Black Bush Polder burnt tyres on the road today in protest at the stagnant floodwater in their farms which has resulted in losses to their rice, cash crops and livestock.

[Severe flooding in Pomeroun – Agri Ministry](#)

[Conservancy reaches threatening level](#)

[Hope/Dochfour farmers mull next move after severe flood losses](#)

[Melanie Damishana farmers grieve over their losses](#)

[Canal farmers count \\$M losses](#)

[Rain pounds Region Six](#)

[Health system on high alert – ministry](#)

General News

[500 remigrant houselots to be ready by May](#)

FEBRUARY 9, 2012 |

-gov't targets 3,000 for locals by year end By Kristen Macklingam Five hundred remigrant houselots could be ready by May as government completes the first phase of the Providence scheme. Kaieteur News understands that around 65% of the infrastructural work has been completed at the area.

[RCMP Canada seizes 20 kilos coke from Guyana in star apples](#)

FEBRUARY 7, 2012 |

Canada (VancouverSun) – Another batch of cocaine has been seized in a shipment of fresh fruit from South America — this time in hollowed-out star apples. RCMP announced Monday that police and Canada Border Services Agency investigators seized 20 kilograms of cocaine from a star apple shipment at Toronto's Pearson International Airport.

[Guyanese sex workers trekking to Suriname's gold fields](#)

JANUARY 31, 2012 |

Paramaribo-Guyanese sex workers are trekking to Suriname's goldfields in search of work and are striking it rich, the De Ware Tijd newspaper reported yesterday. With gold at an all time high, the prostitutes are coming also from Brazil, Dominica, and French Guiana.

[ImmigrationTALK: Fraud Indicators to avoid in the immigration process](#)

FEBRUARY 12, 2012 |

By: Attorney Gail S. Seeram There are millions of immigration petitions processed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of State. Unfortunately, not all the petitions are good faith filings. In other words, many of these petitions are based on fraudulent representations. Various reports indicate an increase in fraud among.....

Guyana's First lady steps out

[A charmer, empty seats, a wave, and those sleepers](#)

FEBRUARY 11, 2012 |

- the opening of Guyana's tenth Parliament Her staff needs to do some work in guiding her, but Guyana's First Lady, Deolatchmee Ramotar, proved a charmer as her husband, President Donald Ramotar, inaugurated the Tenth Parliament. For a woman who did not show up on the social circuit during her husband's decades-long political life, Mrs.

[Army women the greatest form of public service- First Lady](#)

FEBRUARY 2, 2012 |

The Women's Army Corp (WAC) of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) yesterday held a thanksgiving service to start off their celebration for their 45th anniversary. The event was held at the auditorium at Base Camp Ayanganna, Thomas Lands. First Lady, Deolatchmee Ramotar, in delivering her first official address as First Lady said women serving in

Manganese Mining

Major manganese find at Matthews Ridge

February 24, 2012 | By [KNews](#) |

. A Canadian company exploring for manganese in the Matthews Ridge, Region One area. According to Reunion Gold, significant manganese mineralization in four target hills of the Matthews Ridge Project," the company said. "Widespread mantle-type mineralization in the weathered profile confirms the supergene enrichment of host rocks, amenable to simple earth-moving extraction.

Two new manganese occurrences with strike lengths of 300 to 400 meters were discovered two km north of the former Matthews Ridge manganese mine area and initial trenching at the westernmost discovery occurrence indicates multiple manganese beds."

The Matthews Ridge Project is located in northwest Guyana, in and around the former Matthews Ridge and Pipiani mines, 260 km northwest of Georgetown, the capital city of Guyana. Manganese ore was mined from 1960 to 1968 by Union Carbide and exported via a railroad and a fluvial port. Mining was done on five of a series of nine hills extending for 12 km. The manganese-bearing sequence is known to have an overall strike extent of 40 km and remains largely unexplored. [\[more\]](#)

Other News

[GuySuCo racks up US\\$40M debt to local banks, creditors](#)

FEBRUARY 22, 2012

- overseas bank refuse to lend money

The state-owned sugar company is finding major difficulty in obtaining short-term financing. Yesterday, the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo), currently facing a series of strikes across the country, announced that it owes \$8B in short-term debt. In fact, GuySuCo disclosed that it is unable to get working capital

[Robert Persaud's Ministry has no authority to spend money](#)

FEBRUARY 22, 2012 |

...still to be gazette - Greenidge

While there are those that laud the creation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, there are those that criticize the expansion of Government. Others question the legality of the operations of this new entity. Former Finance Minister in the People's National Congress Government, Carl Greenidge, said that

[New Chinese ferries to cost \\$50M per month](#)

FEBRUARY 22, 2012

- Diesel-run Caterpillar engines unsuitable, more expensive

Two new Chinese-built ferries that will ply the Parika/Supenaam route are likely to cost Guyanese taxpayers millions of dollars more to operate and maintain than the older class Makouria vessels, officials have said. It is now more than likely government will have to subsidize the operations.

The two vessels, Sabanto and Kanawan, arrived late December as a "gift" from the Chinese Government and are said to worth around US\$14M (\$2.8B).

[Wapichan communities conserve 1.4 million hectares of pristine forest](#)

FEBRUARY 8, 2012

- Villagers to continue sustainable economic activities Twenty indigenous communities in South Rupununi and South Central Rupununi, Region Nine, have proposed to conserve 1.4 million hectares of pristine rainforest. This would allow controls of commercial lumbering and discourages destructive activities on forested lands. However, villagers would continue to utilize the forest for traditional economic ...

University of Guyana - Industrial action updates

[Industrial Action escalates at U.G.](#)

February 21, 2012

Industrial action at the University of Guyana (UG) Turkeyen campus has escalated with faculty and administrative workers proceeding on sickout Tuesday, two days after their unions' bargaining rights were called into question.

In a letter to the media at the weekend Pro-Chancellor Dr. Prem Misir stated that there is no evidence that the UG Workers Union (UGWU) and the UG Senior Staff Association (UGSSA) are recognized as bargaining units under Part III of the Trade Union Recognition Act 1997 and that there is no collective bargaining agreement with the union.

["Rescue UG" committee urges speedy signing of \\$10M World Bank grant....](#)

FEBRUARY 17, 2012 |

-minor works commence at campus

As the "sit in" action continued at the University of Guyana, "Rescue UG" committee members are now strongly calling for the urgent signing of a \$10M grant from the World Bank. The grant is designated mainly towards the strengthening of the four Science and Technology faculties at UG through



FLASHBACK: Workers started taking action with a lunch break picketing exercise.

[UG US\\$10 million project stalled](#)

JANUARY 29, 2012 |

The first major inflow of funds for the University of Guyana in over 20 years has been stalled, as the University waits on the Minister of Finance to sign off on a loan document. Seven months ago, the World Bank approved a credit of US\$10 million to strengthen science and technology education

U.G. Workers, lecturers to strike - with updates

[\(Demerara Waves\) February 24, 2012](#)

All categories of University of Guyana (UG) staff are to proceed on a three-day full-scale strike from Monday following the failure of the workers union and the UG negotiating team to reach agreement on employee grievances earlier this week.

The decision was taken at a meeting with employees Friday morning at the Turkeyen campus where it was also announced that a strike relief fund was to be set up at a commercial bank the same day.

"We're setting up a fund whereby monies that have been pledged to us will go into that account, we're setting that up today.

We know that you are hurting because you have to send your children to school, you have to pay the house rent but we're asking you, begging you to stay strong, give the executive the space, let's say from today until next Wednesday so that we could negotiate a package that will be better for all of us in the fu-

ture," UG Senior Staff Association president Dr. Patsy Francis implored the workers at the meeting.

The decision to strike was taken after the workers views were sought on the next step forward as the unions press their demands . [\[more\]](#)

Also read:

[UG cancels Career Day as strike looms](#)

Update:

[University of Guyana strike called off](#)

February 25, 2012 (Demerara Waves)

A planned three-day strike by University of Guyana academic and non-academic staff was Saturday called off after the workers' organisations and UG's administration finally agreed to send the termination of service of three lecturers including Freddie Kisson to conciliation. [\[more\]](#)

News items from Guyana on Medical related subjects

[GPHC admitted 29,591 persons last year](#)

FEBRUARY 17, 2012 |

The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) admitted 29,591 patients last year. Out of that amount, the hospital revealed that 1,406 patients died at the institution. According to figures from the GPHC, the Accident and Emergency Unit alone accounted for more than 12,000 of those admitted. In total the Accident and Emergency unit saw a [\[more\]](#)

[No major outbreak of water borne diseases this year](#)

FEBRUARY 17, 2012 |

Unlike the 2005 floods, Guyana has no reports of any serious water borne diseases that might have been caused by the current flood. This was according to Dr. Narine Singh, Director of Regional Health Services, who noted that preparations for the prevention for an outbreak of any kind were made prior to the floods, [\[more\]](#)

[Ramsammy lashes out at critics of HPV Vaccine](#)

FEBRUARY 13, 2012 |

Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Leslie Ramsammy has lashed out at critics of the Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine (HPV) and debunked claims of it being unsafe for young women. The former health minister raised the issue while addressing health workers recently in Berbice. "I see some stirrings and I have been hearing things that this vaccine [\[more\]](#)

[US medical group hands over \\$5M Bartica Hospital annex](#)

FEBRUARY 11, 2012 |

Members of the United States-based, Guyana Medical Relief Inc. (GMR), last Thursday handed over a newly-constructed \$5M annex to the Bartica Hospital. Chief Operating Officer of the outfit, Sharir Chan, yesterday told Kaieteur News that the additional accommodation will be used for Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA) testing of females for cervical cancer and [\[more\]](#)

[Patients not satisfied with treatments received at the Malaria Clinic](#)

FEBRUARY 5, 2012 |

Staff at the Malaria Clinic, located at the Georgetown Public Hospital (GPH) seemed to be overwhelmed with the number of persons who have been

visiting the facility recently for malaria treatment. Malaria is a mosquito-borne infectious disease of humans and other animals. The disease results from the multiplication of Plasmodium (a sort of [\[more\]](#)

[GPHC commits to improving ambulatory service](#)

FEBRUARY 5, 2012

Sustaining serious injuries during a road accident or any life threatening incident may no longer be a death sentence, given the plans apace to expand and enhance the ambulatory service of the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC). According to Matron of the public health institution, Sister Audrey Corry, the plans which will be [\[more\]](#)

[Fifteen graduate from Operating Room Technician Programme](#)

FEBRUARY 4, 2012

The Georgetown Public Hospital yesterday held a graduation ceremony for the 15 participants who successfully completed the one year Operating Room Technician Programme. The course which concluded after nine months of rigorous training started January 31, 2011. The course also included three months preceptorship. The small group comprised five 5 nursing staff members and [\[more\]](#)

[GPHC to commence ultrasound training programme](#)

FEBRUARY 1, 2012 |

The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) in collaboration with the University of Guyana is gearing to commence a certificate training programme in echocardiography, to specialize medical practitioners in utilizing diagnostic ultrasound. This initiative is supported by Minister of Health, Dr. Bheri Ramsaran and is being assisted by two Professors, Debra Isaac and Dr. Kishar [\[more\]](#)

[Berbice health workers praised for being best in the country](#)

JANUARY 31, 2012 |

....young doctor named Champion Worker A young doctor walked away as the Champion Health Worker on Saturday evening at the ninth Berbice Regional Health Authority (BRHA) Awards Ceremony. Dr Nerissa Ramnarine, Government Health Officer, stationed at both the Port Mourant Hospital and Health Centre won a trip for two to Kaieteur Falls. Several other [\[more\]](#)

Guyana Organizations

Note: Click headlines to read the articles in full

[More backing for Tiger Bay project](#)

JANUARY 31, 2012 |

The work being done by School of the Nations and Varqa Foundation in Tiger Bay is gathering momentum. For more than two years, more than 100 children, youths and adults from the Tiger Bay community have been attending a variety of classes in the afternoon, at the school.

[32 new Peace Corps volunteers arrive](#)

FEBRUARY 2, 2012 |

Thirty-two Peace Corps Trainees arrived in Guyana yesterday to complement their 56 colleagues already in service. According to the US Embassy yesterday, the new group of trainees makes up the 24th group of Peace Corps Volunteers to serve here, and they will soon begin their pre-service training. "The intensive nine-week Pre-Service Training focuses

[Senior citizen gives back to youths in community](#)

FEBRUARY 4, 2012 |

A respected senior resident of North East La Penitence is reaching out to two young men in his community who have impressed him with their exemplary behavior. Retired Deputy Director of the Civil Aviation Department, Mr. Aubrey Alexander has opened bank accounts for Keiron Noel, 19, of Kiskadee Street, North East La Penitence and

[Food for the Poor offers police help](#)

FEBRUARY 7, 2012 |

Executive Director of Food for the Poor (FFP), Leon Davis, has urged the Guyana Police Force (GPF) not to hesitate to approach the organization for assistance, "since the more you come to us, it is better for us because we will try and help out". He was over the weekend addressing the new police

[Scotiabank 'spreads love' to the less fortunate](#)

FEBRUARY 15, 2012 |

With the season of love in the air, residents of the Salvation Army Women's Home and those at the Archer's Home were last Saturday treated to a pre-Valentine's lunch, as a reminder that they are still cared for. The meals, which were all prepared by staff of the Scotiabank Carmichael Street Branch, were gladly

CENTURY21 CAMDEC Real Estate Ltd. Celebrates 35th Anniversary in 2012 Hemthorn Investments Corporation Celebrates 26th Anniversary in 2012

Camille De Castro FRI formed CAMDEC Real Estate Ltd. on January 4 1977. **Rupert De Castro** joined Camille in CAMDEC in August 1977. CAMDEC joined the CENTURY 21 system in 1978 at which time, Camille and Rupert were the only agents.

Hemthorn, owned by Camille and Rupert, owns and manages the 17,000 sq.ft. building from which CENTURY21 CAMDEC operates. The majority of space is divided into private, fully furnished offices which we rent from \$309.00/mth on short terms, 1-24 months +.

At the "peak" of the market in 1989 Camille and Rupert worked with 230+ sales associates speaking some 30 different languages, 23 support staff, opened the office from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. 7 days a week and closed \$6.75 million in commissions (1988).

In April of 1989 the market turned: The average house price in Toronto dropped from a peak of \$273,698 in 1989 to \$198,150 in 1996.

Then the market turned to the positive again. The average price increased in 1997 and has done so each year since, to an average of \$465,294 (year to date October 2011). With interest rates set to rise, one would expect the pace to be tempered.

It this a good time to buy a house as an investment? NO.

It this a good time to buy a home to live in? Yes, especially if you can accommodate a tenant in a separate entrance apartment in your basement. Rent of \$800 per month carries \$150,000 + of your mortgage. This process affords you the opportunity of buying another property as an investment sooner.

For more information on buying your first home or selling your property for the maximum price with the least amount of inconvenience and within your time frame and/or building a portfolio of investment properties (houses), I am a phone call away c: 416-817-7604 – 24 hours or Email (adecastro@trebnet.com).

Are you in your 20's/30's ++ and want a better chance of becoming a millionaire? The younger you are the greater time advantage you have. Buy a house and another and then another. I will lease the property for you to your first tenants at no cost and will literally teach you how to handle your investments.

TALK TO SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THE PROCESS AND IS WILLING TO IMPART HIS KNOWLEDGE OF RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS (HOUSES). SOMEONE WHO HAS HIMSELF DONE IT.

INFORMATION IS PROVIDED WITHOUT OBLIGATION.

TALK TO SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THE PROCESS AND IS WILLING TO IMPART HIS KNOWLEDGE OF RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS (HOUSES). SOMEONE WHO HAS HIMSELF DONE IT.

INFORMATION IS PROVIDED WITHOUT OBLIGATION

A. Rupert De Castro CMA,
Broker of Record
Bus. (416) 298-2800 Res.
292-1056 Cel. (416) 817-



**(416)
7604**

"When young, build assets...
Then build cash flow."

Note: Click headlines to read the articles in full

[Cruise liner docks in Georgetown](#)

FEBRUARY 6, 2012 |

As the country continues to gain international recognition among tour operators, the cruise liner MV Vista Mar cruise ship docked at the Guyana National Shipping Corporation's (GNSC's) wharf yesterday, with over 300 passengers and crew members on board. This marks the 2nd anchorage for the German-flag carrier which has a carrying capacity of 400.

[Tourism Ministry to offer "Festival of Colours" package](#)

FEBRUARY 1, 2012 |

Government, in boosting the tourism sector, is set to launch a special package under the theme "Festival of Colours" from March 2 – 9, 2012, which will coincide with the annual Holi/Phagwah festival. Tourism officials revealed that the aim of the project is to get Guyanese living abroad to come home for the week

[Redjet, Tourism Ministry to collaborate on holiday package](#)

JANUARY 31, 2012 |

Low fares airline Redjet is set to announce a partnership with the local tourism Ministry to bring more Caribbean tourists to Guyana. "Shortly we will be announcing with the Minister of Tourism, Irfaan Ali, a drive for Guyana, which will be an all inclusive holiday, probably from Trinidad and Tobago, for 500 people....

[President Ramotar pledges support for tourism sector](#)

JANUARY 30, 2012

– during THAG Awards President Donald Ramotar has pledged Government's support of Guyana's tourism sector while working with stakeholders to prevent anarchy and develop strategies to allow the sector to realize its true potential. He made those remarks January 29, at the Tourism & Hospitality Association of Guyana (THAG) President's Awards Dinner...

[RedJet moved 250,000 passengers to Guyana since May](#)

FEBRUARY 18, 2012 | FILED

REDjet, the Caribbean's low fares airline, has said that it has transported in and out of Guyana, some 250,000 since it started flights here in May, saying it has opened travelling to those who found it unaffordable. "On many of our flights are people who would not ordinarily fly," Chairman Ian Burns said

[REDjet boosting Barbados tourist arrivals](#)

February 15, 2012

Barbados Nation) REDjet has had a significant impact on Barbados' visitor arrivals from the Caribbean and Tourism Minister Richard Sealy has affirmed government's commitment to supporting the local carrier as a result.

Sealy said the decision to throw support behind the airline was the "direct result" of a significant increase in visitor arrivals from the CARICOM region last year following the introduction of "the new player" into the regional airline pool.

[LIAT to review strategies to ensure survival](#)

February 3, 2012

Barbados -- St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves says shareholder governments of the regional airline LIAT have come up with a short-term plan to ensure the survival of the airline.

Gonsalves told members of the media that the shareholder governments have come up with a number of options to keep the cash strapped carrier servicing the region.

He said the issue of fleet renewal and fleet expansion also came up for discussions.

Gonsalves said that, last year, the airline lost an estimated EC\$46 million for the year, compared with a loss of \$20 million the previous year.

Website Links Hotels, Eco-resorts. etc

[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](#)

[Status International Hotel](#)

[Timberhead Eco-Resort](#)

[Trans Guyana Airways](#)

[Wilderness Explorers](#)



Note: Click headlines to read the articles in full

[Japanese business investors interested in Jamaica](#)

February 22, 2012

KINGSTON, Jamaica (JIS) -- Japanese businesses have demonstrated significant interest in investing in Jamaica. This was stated by Japan's Ambassador to Jamaica, Hiroshi Yamaguchi, during his presentation at a recently held investment forum.

"Probably for the first time in our nearly 50-year bilateral history, executives from big giants like Marubeni, Hitachi and Fujitsu, in addition to officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, received presentations from JAMPRO and toured prospective investment sites across Jamaica," the ambassador stated.

[China-built Antigua power plant said to be flawed](#)

February 2, 2012 (AP)

(AP) ST JOHN'S, Antigua — Chinese government officials are inspecting a power plant in Antigua amid allegations from the political opposition on the island that there are flaws in the recently completed project.

Spencer said in a statement on February 2, 2012, that the 30 megawatt plant is fully functional and providing reliable power to Antigua and Barbuda.

China's state-owned Export-Import Bank financed the project with a \$47 million loan at 2 percent interest. Opposition officials toured the new plant and complained that some equipment appears to be old and not in good condition. **[end]**

[Jamaican ambassador challenges Diaspora](#)

February 20, 2012

NEW YORK, USA -- Jamaica's ambassador to the United States, Audrey Marks, has called on alumni associations overseas to forge a structured, collaborative effort, to harness the tremendous reservoir of resources, expertise and experience that abound within the Jamaican Diaspora.

Marks made her comments as she addressed an alumni association fund raising ball on Saturday night, February 19, 2011 in Queens, New York.

"While we can make an impact as individual associations, we can have a far greater national impact if we work with other alumni associations to forge a structured, col-

Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States, Audrey Marks, delivering the keynote address at the Marymount High School Alumni Association's inaugural dinner held in Queens, New York. Photo: Derrick Scott



laborative effort to harness the tremendous reservoir of resources, expertise and experiences, that abound within the Jamaican Diaspora," she said.

The Jamaican ambassador pointed to the field of education, training and social issues as areas which "coincides with the government's own programme for national development and embraces the critical pillars of development of any nation." [more](#)

[Taiwan dispute should never have reached the courts, says Grenada PM](#)

February 20, 2012 By Melanius Alphonse. Caribbean News Now contributor

TORONTO, Canada -- Grenada's Prime Minister Tillman Thomas said that the ongoing dispute between Grenada and Taiwan should never have reached the courts.

Speaking at a press conference held at the Grenadian Consulate in Toronto on Friday, Thomas said, "This matter should have never reached the courts, had it been dealt with in an appropriate manner by the previous administration and, second, this is a matter between the statutory corporations and Taiwan, not the Govt. of Grenada."

"However, in order to rectify this matter quickly, the legal team is at work and redress is expected shortly; meanwhile, a concession loan and other capital injections are

being aggressively pursued," he added.

The dispute with Taiwan is over outstanding and unpaid loans made by the EXIM Bank of Taiwan, which filed a law suit in the United States and obtained a default judgment against the government of Grenada.

Consequently, a demand was made to airlines operating on the Grenada route to pay monies owed to the Grenada Airports Authority to the Taiwanese, resulting in severe financial difficulties being experienced by the Grenada Airports Authority.

This has led to concerns that the airport itself may have to close down until the situation is resolved. [more](#)



[Bollywood celebrities and beauties arrive for international pageant in Suriname](#)

February 22, 2012 Suriname;

A score of Bollywood movie stars and beauty queens from 35 countries have arrived in Paramaribo for the highly acclaimed Miss India World Wide 2012 beauty pageant to be held here on Saturday, February 25.

The Miss India World Wide pageant in Suriname is a unique event for South America and the Caribbean, Dharmatma Saran, president of India Festival Committee (IFC), which is staging this international event, said during a press conference.

In the Miss India World Wide Pageant, contestants of ethnic Indian origin showcase Indian culture and fashion in combination with western influences. [\[more\]](#)

[Suriname automated border control system](#)

.....to keep out unwanted persons

Criminals and other suspicious persons on the black list of local and international authorities as well as lost or stolen passports can be uncovered easily at all legal ports of entry.

An Integrated Border Management Control System will be used to register, identify and track incoming and departing travelers.

The system will also be used to determine whether travel documents are real, as well as to screen airline passengers' manifests before arrival. Canadian Bank Note (CBN), which is involved in similar projects in eighty countries, will set up the system in the next seven months.

[Bob Marley documentary electrifies Berlin](#)

By Deborah Cole (AFP) – Feb 12, 2012

BERLIN — A hotly awaited documentary on Bob Marley has premiered to cheers at the Berlin film festival, tracking his journey from bullied biracial Jamaican boy to reggae superstar.

"Marley" by Oscar-winning Scottish film-maker Kevin Macdonald is a two-and-half-hour-long tribute to a child of the Kingston ghettos who made reggae a global phenomenon by the sheer force of his talent and charisma.

"For me, Bob is really one of the greatest cultural figures of 20th century. I don't think anyone in popular music has had the same lasting impact that he has," Macdonald, 44, told reporters after a

rapturously received screening.

"Anywhere you go in the world, you find his image, his music, his wisdom -- literally anywhere you go. So it's nice to be a small part of that and hopefully to bring to people around the world a sense of who this man was as a human being, not just as the legend, not just as the great icon."

Macdonald bagged an Academy Award for his 1999 documentary "One Day in September" and Britain's BAFTA for his 2006 feature about Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, "The Last King of Scotland". [\[more\]](#)



[Jamaica: \\$2-B CASH CHASM as tax revenues fall](#)

Spending cuts—higher taxes—austerity

February 01, 2012 Jamaica Observer

A \$2-billion chasm has opened in the Government's accounts as tax revenues have fallen below target over the last nine months, raising the spectre of additional spending cuts, higher taxes and more austerity for ordinary Jamaicans.

The new finance minister, Peter Phillips, has already promised cuts to the budget to improve the Government's fiscal position. But the latest figures suggest he may have to cut even more or put additional tax measures in place for the upcoming fiscal year, starting April 1.

Tax revenue for the nine months to December 31 was \$15.4 billion, or 6.2 per cent lower than budgeted. Revenue in the last month of 2011 was even less than for the same month in 2010.

The decline was largely a result of companies paying less corporate tax on their profits so far this fiscal year when compared to a year earlier. Taxes on imports, another big earner for the Government, yielded only two per cent more revenue than they did a year earlier.

Government revenue from corporate income tax during the nine months to December 31 declined by four per cent to \$16 billion, when compared to the same period in 2010.

On the other hand, PAYE earners forked out 20 per cent more cash, or \$44.3 billion during the nine months to December 31, 2011, compared to \$37 billion in the corresponding period a year earlier. [\[more\]](#)



The future of CARICOM thrown into question

“Fundamental changes in its operations and structures must be made decisively and speedily”

Barbados, February 22, 2012 -

A comprehensive report now in the possession of Heads of Government of the 15-member Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has indicated that the regional bloc is in crisis.

The document has been circulated to Heads of Government ahead of their forthcoming Inter-Sessional Meeting scheduled for March 8-9 in Suriname.

The summary strongly supports the establishment of a new administrative structure and stated that, unaddressed, the situation was



“sufficiently severe to put CARICOM’s very existence in question”.

The report identified three areas within CARICOM that were causing the crisis, namely: long standing frustrations with its slow progress have continued to mount; a serious weakening in its structure and operations over a number of years; and continuing economic retrenchment since the 2008 (international) financial crisis and the risk of a further downturn in 2012.

The analysis plainly stated that the Community Secretariat and related CARICOM institutions were “not strong enough” to cope with any shortfall in funding, a precarious situation given the arrears by a number of CARICOM states to the institution.

The warning was given that without a “fundamental change”, CARICOM could expire slowly over the next few years as stakeholders begin to vote with their feet...”.

Nevertheless, the authors of the report felt that CARICOM can yet surmount the prevailing crisis “as long as fundamental changes in its operation and structures are made—and made decisively and speedily”. (Caribbean360)

T&T explains huge Saudi Arabian project to US

(Trinidad Express) Energy Minister Kevin Ramnarine said yesterday his Ministry responded to concerns raised by United States Ambassador Beatrice Wilkinson Welters over proposed energy projects worth US\$5.7 billion with Saudi Arabian state company SABIC.

Speaking at the post-Cabinet press conference at the Diplomatic Centre, St Ann’s, Ramnarine confirmed a report Wilkinson Welters wrote to him expressing concerns about the project.

He did not give details of the concerns raised, saying private companies were involved but he assured the permanent secretary in his ministry responded to the Ambassador. Ramnarine said the evaluation process was transparent and above board.

Following the submission of bids, the evaluation committee provided with a report in December 2011 and taken to Cabinet in.... [\[more\]](#)

US President offers life line for Caribbean immigrants

January 25, 2012 (Antigua Observer) CMC

WASHINGTON – United States President Barack Obama has offered a life line to illegal Caribbean immigrants, urging the US Congress to work with him on “comprehensive” immigration reform.

In his election-year State of the Union address on Tuesday night, Obama said he believed “as strongly as ever that we should take on illegal immigration.

“We should be working on comprehensive immigration reform right now,” he said.

“But if election-year politics keeps Congress from acting on a comprehensive plan, let’s at least agree to stop expelling responsible young people who want to staff our labs, start new businesses, defend this

USA President
Barack Obama



country. Send me a law that gives them the chance to earn their citizenship. I will sign it right away,” he added.

Obama reminded Americans that hundreds of thousands of “talented, hardworking students in this country” face another challenge: the fact that they aren’t yet American citizens.

“Many were brought here as small children, are American through and through, yet they live every day with the threat of deportation,” he said.

“Others came more recently, to study business and [\[more\]](#)

“Helping to Feed and Educate Underprivileged Students in Guyana” –
Information Letter

TORONTO FOUNDATION

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

CANADIAN VISION CARE – GUYANA TEAM

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO OUR

10th. ANNIVERSARY -- 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 15^h. 2012.

Place	Elite Banquet Hall, 1850 Albion Road, Rexdale
Cocktails	6:00 p.m. – Vince—Steel Pan
Dinner	7:45 p.m. - Jan Morgan-Trumpeter Narie Mahabir-Sax
Entertainment	Popular D.J. “PAUL”
Donation	\$55.00 per person

Endorsed By: The Consulate General of Guyana, The Guyana Distribution & Monitoring Committee (Mr. Billy Fernandes, Georgetown, Guyana), The Rotary Club of Georgetown Central & The Rotary Club of Bramalea, Brampton, ON.

Toronto Committee and Ticket Info:

Shanta De Abreu: 416-409-0990/416-745-2300

Gordon Collins: 905-274-7292

Nandi Mahabir-Broomé: 905-270-6164

Paul Mahabir: 613-258-5170

email: sdeabreu@trebnet.com

email: gordcoll@rogers.com

email: nmusbio@hotmail.com

email: pmahabir@yahoo.com

“HELPING TO FEED AND EDUCATE UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENTS IN GUYANA”

The Toronto Foundation: “Helping to Feed and Educate Underprivileged Students in Guyana” came into being in November 2002. This project involves feeding students in schools in the general Guyana Diaspora where it has been identified that the nutritional needs of the students are not being effectively met. Through participation in this initiative, students are enabled to reap full benefits of the educational information being passed on to them.

The Toronto Committee has successfully held EIGHT (8) fundraising banquets from which they were able to garner a total of \$101,981.00, (inclusive of 2011 Dinner/Dance that raised \$15,757.00). This amount has been utilized, with the assistance and administration of the Guyana Committee to feed students at the following NINE (9) schools.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Malgre Tout Primary | West Bank Demerara |
| 2. La Grange Primary | West Bank Demerara |
| 3. Kuru Kururu Primary | Linden Highway |
| 4. Supply Primary | East Bank of Demerara |
| 5. Mashabo Primary | Ituribisci Lake (Hot & Cold) |
| 6. St. Francis Xavier Boys Dorm. | Charity, Essequibo |
| 7. Abram’s Creek Primary | Pomeroon River |
| 8. Friendship Primary | East Bank Berbice |
| 9. Edinburgh Primary | East Bank Berbice |

The Toronto Committee is effectively and efficiently monitoring the situation in Guyana and even participates in the feeding of the students at the schools. In essence, this program is working and needs your continued support.

CANADIAN VISION CARE - GUYANA TEAM

For over 20 years, the Canadian Vision Care - Guyana Team has been travelling to Guyana to provide free eye care to areas where these services do not exist and to the people who are not able to afford this care. We work in partnership with Guyana’s Ministry of Health and local service clubs, who assist with the planning and logistics for the projects.

Our team provides a complete eye examination, including free prescription eyeglasses if required. Our nurse conducts a diabetic and hypertension clinic with counseling for disease management. Our ophthalmologists have performed cataract surgery with IOL implants and pterygium surgery. As well, vision screening at local schools is often conducted to identify children with eye-related problems.

Our team is made up of volunteer ophthalmologists, optometrists, opticians, nurses and assistants, who not only give their time and skills but cover all related costs for their travel, meals and accommodation. However, other expenses such as purchasing supplies, equipment, medications, eyeglasses, etc. must be financed through fundraising activities such as this gala. Your support is greatly appreciated. In advance we thank you for your help as we bring this Gift of Sight to the people of Guyana.

Our most recent project:

Jan. 27 to Feb. 12, 2012 (Anna Regina, Essequibo & Bush Lot, West Berbice)

Patients Seen: 2300

Eyeglasses Distributed: 1800

Patients Referred to Ministry Of Health for Eye Surgery/Treatment: 92

A wonderful program is planned, and you are assured of a great time.

James Douglas, Canada, and Guyana

By Adele Perry

James Douglas was born in the colony of Demerara in 1803, the year that it again became a British possession after a stretch of intermittent Dutch, British and French rule. Douglas died in 1877 in Victoria, the small capital city of what was by then Canada's west coast province of British Columbia.

Douglas had been a powerful man in the fur-trade, and then governor of the British colonies of Vancouver Island and then British Columbia from 1851 until he fully retired in 1864. By the time of his death, Douglas was a wealthy and influential man, and the day of his funeral was declared a civic holiday. People lined the streets of Victoria to pay their respects to a man who was widely acknowledged as a local hero.

Douglas's Guyanese origins were rarely mentioned in the tributes that were written in honour of his passing. Many of the historians who wrote biographies of Douglas in the middle years of the twentieth-century replicated this silence. They glossed over or altogether denied Douglas's birth and childhood in Demerara, instead focusing on his Scots lineage and portraying him as a self-made man and a frontier hero in the North American tradition.

The 150th anniversary of the founding of British Columbia as a colony was celebrated in 2008, and it was only then that Douglas's Guyanese heritage took on a meaningful role in public discussion. Identical statues of Douglas were erected in Mahaica, the likely home of his paternal family's sugar estate, and in Fort Langley, British Columbia, where Douglas first proclaimed British Columbia to be under Britain's control.

There is much more to be said about James Douglas and his family and their lives in Great Britain, the colonies that later became Guyana and those that later became Canada. This column usually focuses on the many meanings of diaspora for present-day Guyanese at home and abroad, but this article will focus on some of these transnational ties in a very different historical era, when they were experienced differently and meant different things for the individuals involved and the societies they lived in.

We don't know very much about James Douglas's early years or his family of origin. Nor are we ever likely to. Early nineteenth-century colonial governments did not usually keep records of births and deaths, and like many children born to colonial contexts, Douglas was of mixed origins and would have been considered 'illegitimate' by contemporary elite British standards.

What we know of his family of birth and early life comes from scattered references in Douglas private records kept in the British Columbia Archives, the occasional remarks of his family and friends, and most of all the painstaking research of a Canadian historian named Charlotte Girard,

who combed the available records in the late 1970s. Girard concluded that Douglas's mother was a free woman of colour named Martha Ann Ritchie, later Telfer, and his father a Scottish man named John Douglas.

I have not been able to replicate all of Girard's research. As Guyanese historians know well, the past three decades have not been kind to Guyana's archives, and archival material that was available in the 1970s is not always available now.

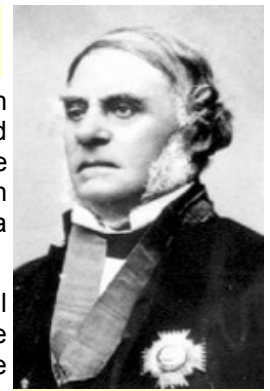
But the records at the Walter Rodney Archives on Homestretch Avenue and in the National Archives in Britain do confirm some of Girard's findings and help to flesh out the story of Douglas' mother and grandmother, Rebecca Ritchie. Their family seems to have been fairly typical of early nineteenth-century Creole elites, empowered by their freedom in a society organized around slavery but disempowered by their race and location in a hierarchical colonial world. By 1817, Telfer owned more than thirty slaves. Ritchie owned even greater numbers of slaves in both Demerara and Barbados, and used the courts in Demerara to protect her interests. Douglas's father's family was typical of another component of early nineteenth-century Guyanese life: itinerant Scots tied to the brutal economies of sugar production and trade.

John Douglas' family had longstanding ties to Demerara and Berbice, and more particularly to sugar plantations and shipping interests there.

Whatever the character of his relationship with Telfer, it was likely never celebrated in a church or committed to a government register. But they had three children – Alexander and James, born in the early years of the nineteenth-century, and a daughter, Rebecca, born in 1812. John Douglas returned permanently to Scotland in the 1810s, where he had another family, one recognized by British law and custom.

For free boys of colour in the early nineteenth-century, formal education in Europe could provide them with critical access to the privileges usually accorded only to whites. When James and Alexander Douglas were around eight and ten years old they were sent to school in Lanark, Scotland. There the boys boarded with a local family and were given the kind of general education that made Scottish men so useful to the practical administration of the British Empire. In 1819, when the boys were teenagers, they were apprenticed to the North West Company, the fur-trade enterprise located in Montreal.

Historians have not paid serious attention to the connections between the sugar colonies of the



Sir James Douglas

[go to next page](#)

From previous page

James Douglas, Canada, and Guyana

nineteenth-century Caribbean and the colonization of western North America. But recent research on families like the Douglas's and on biographies that spanned Barbados and western Canada by my colleague Ryan Eyford suggests that the Douglas's were not only men from the Caribbean's free Black and middling white communities who opted to move to other colonial contexts in the wake of the rearrangement of the sugar trade after the abolition of the slave trade in 1807 and the abolition of slavery in the British empire in 1833.

Alexander Douglas would spend only a few years in the fur-trade, but James would spend his adult life in fur-trade territories and the settler societies that emerged out of them. Douglas worked first for the North West Company and later for the Hudson's Bay Company.

He began as a clerk and concluded his career as the dominant company official on the west coast of North America, serving as Chief Trader at Fort Vancouver, in what is now Oregon, USA, and Chief Factor at Fort Victoria.

Douglas married into the North American fur-trade as well. In 1827, Douglas made a customary marriage with Amelia Connolly, the teenage daughter of his direct superior and a Cree Indigenous woman. A decade later Connolly and Douglas would be remarried by an Anglican missionary. In the middle years of the nineteenth-century, many elite men in the fur-trade married white women and put their Indigenous ones aside, but Douglas and Connolly's marriage weathered enormous social transitions in western North America. She bore thirteen children, and they raised six – five daughters and one son – to adulthood.

In 1851 the British colonial office appointed Douglas governor of the new colony of Vancouver Island. With his Creole background and history in the fur-trade rather than the colonial service, Douglas was an unconventional choice for Governor, but he was the one that Britain made when the colony's first governor left the post in frustration. In 1858 Douglas became governor of the adjacent new colony of British Columbia as well.

As Governor, Douglas was critical to the early years of the colony, and to its particular history of ignoring or denying Indigenous peoples' claims to the land. Douglas remained in this double post until he retired in 1863-4, and was named a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath. In retirement the man now known as Sir James devoted himself to his beloved family, old friends, and tending to his considerable fortune, much of it tied to land purchased around the city of Victoria.

Douglas's adult life was profoundly rooted in British Columbia, which became a Canadian province in 1871. Douglas spoke rarely about his early life or family, and

maintained a distant public persona that discouraged questions about his own history and racial identity. His considerable wealth and prestige made this possible. Within the local context of British Columbia, that Douglas's wife was Indigenous was a bigger and more persistent issue than his own blackness.

While Douglas ruled on behalf of Britain and identified with it and its empire, he had very little direct experience of the place itself, and made the one trip of his adult life to Britain on his retirement in 1864. Douglas stayed in occasional touch with his Guyanese relatives, and was part of a social circle where biographical connections to the Caribbean in general and Demerara and Berbice in particular were far from uncommon.

One of Douglas's sons-in-law, Alexander Grant Dallas, was Berbice born, and in the 1870s the husband of Douglas's niece was appointed Colonial Secretary of British Guiana. Douglas welcomed his sister Rebecca, her husband and daughter to Victoria from Georgetown in the early 1850s. But by the time Douglas's daughters inherited part of his grandmother's estate in the late 1860s, he had no active contacts in the place of his birth.

In the 1810s, James Douglas moved from Demerara to Scotland and then to Lower Canada. His work in the fur-trade took him throughout places that would later become Canada. His migration had a very different meaning than that of the countless Guyanese that have joined the diaspora of the last couple of decades, whose lives are often the subjects of this column.

The punishing divide between the Global North and South, one that is replicated by the divide between Canada's settlers and her Indigenous peoples, had yet to be built. Global inequalities were enormous and devastating, but had different contours than do today's. So did global connections and solidarities.

The nineteenth-century imperial world tied the peoples of Demerara to those of northern North America by putting them under the formal political authority of the British empire and organizing their economies around emerging global capitalism, whether it relied on enslaved and indentured labour to produce sugar or on Indigenous economies and unfree migrant labour to produce furs. Simple human histories and connections – of journeys undertaken, of marriages made, of lives lived – also tied together the colonies that would eventually become Canada and those that eventually would become Guyana. People whose lives, identities and politics are made in the Guyanese diaspora of today are inheritors of a long, remarkable, and complicated history.

For further reading suggestions, or if you may have any additional information on James Douglas or his family, you can write to Adele_Perry@umanitoba.ca

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[MASH 2012 – Mashramani Pan-o-rama Steel Band Competition](#)

[MASH 2012 – Mashramani Children's Parade...](#)

[MASH 2012 – Jumo "Rubber Waist" Primo is Soca King](#)

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[Top10 – Most Educated Countries in the World](#)

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[Beautiful Guyana – video by German foundation](#)

["I'm Coming Home" \(A tribute to Guyana\) – music video](#)

[The Peking Circus – Unicycle Performance](#)

[OMG !!! SUGAR??? – By Ron Persaud](#)

[The TRAMWAYS OF GEORGETOWN, BRITISH GUIANA.](#)

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[Guyana Cultural Assoc of New York – February](#)

[2012 Newsletter](#)

[Guyana – NCN TV Streaming video – LIVE](#)

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[Guyana Floods – February 2012 – Updated articles](#)

[Waltie Ainsworth's Blog – Latest Entries](#)

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[Cutting Edge Biofuels by NASA – Bilal Bomani video](#)

[The New World Oil Order](#)

[Guyana's Promise of Oil and Gas](#)

[GUYANA – "Festival of Colours" launched to boost tourism](#)

[Team in Guyana to shoot documentary for History Channel](#)

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[A Tribute to Lawrence D. Carrington by Rory Fraser](#)

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