

A NEW BOOK FROM HANSIB PUBLICATIONS

Steve Connolly

**CHILDREN
of
WATOOKA**

A Story of
British Guiana

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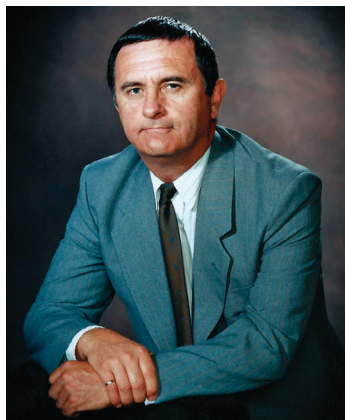
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CHILDREN of WATOOKA

A Story of British Guiana

by Steve Connolly

Step into an extraordinary and fascinating world ... little known, but immensely remarkable and hollering for attention ... formerly British Guiana, now Guyana. Learn about the country's captivating history from before slavery/indenture through to modern times. Learn about some of its outstanding people both within/without the country.

Entwining history with people, the book is a 'story of stories'. Over eighty-five people of five races have contributed to make fascinating reading. Five notable people have endorsed the content.

Follow the stories of Guyanese people, as well as of ex-patriates from Britain, Canada, Holland and the U.S., and, particularly those of the Canadian Connolly family, as the centre of the more general story focuses throughout the middle of the twentieth century in the village of Watooka nestled in the former rainforest area of Mackenzie, now known as Linden.

The reader will also learn about the incredible and little known ties between Guyana and Canada and about the bauxite/aluminium industry. Working together, the two countries produced forty percent of the aluminum used by the Allies for airplane production to win WWII. Detailed drama stories of this, of torpedoed bauxite ships and of survivors prevail.

The unique and unsurpassed flora and fauna of the country are highlighted so as to entrance the reader.

Children of Watooka is published to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Guyana's independence.

STEVE CONNOLLY was born in 1943 in Mackenzie, British Guiana, to Canadian parents. His family left British Guiana when he was only four months of age when they subsequently lived in Arvida, Quebec, Canada, and then in Texas City, Texas, U.S.A. The family returned to British Guiana in 1950 for three years, and it is this period of time that the author fondly remembers and that gave him the impetus to write *Children of Watooka*.

The author enjoyed his teenage years at Kitimat, British Columbia, starting in 1954. He obtained his degree in advanced electrical engineering from the University of British Columbia in 1965 and since then obtained management training at several other universities.

Upon graduation, he worked almost five years for Computing Devices of Canada in Ottawa helping to design/develop anti-submarine warfare technology for Canadian destroyer ships. By 1982, he had risen to the V.P. level at the Bank of Montreal in Toronto in the function of computer systems and operations. Later, he managed large informatics organizations in two ministries of the Federal government in Ottawa before his last work posting as Assistant Commissioner for Informatics with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

After forty years in the field of computer systems, he retired with his wife, Carolyn, at their farm in the Gatineau Hills of Quebec. They have two children, Todd and Julie, and five grandchildren.

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WATOOKA MOON

*'Twas dark and light and twilight,
All in singular time,
In the land of El Dorado,
Only six degrees from the line.*

*'Twas dark for reason of night,
'Twas light on account of the moon;
And twilight because Guiana
Would no longer a colony be soon.*

*Watooka children in the village abed
Safely sound, without a care;
Of heaven, never a dream they had ...
For them, they were already there.*

*They dreamt of parrots, flowers and fun,
Of slate board spelling at the school,
And later, in the hot, hot sun,
Of day's delight in the Clubhouse pool.*

*They shared a common birth,
In this distant colonial town,
For reason of rich, red earth,
Divided by dark Demerara brown.*

*Dippers divine defined above,
The night had come so soon.
The children slept with God's good love,
Under the light of the Watooka moon.*

—Steve Connolly