



BRAZILIAN TRADE DELEGATION VISITS GUYANA

Lethem road, reliable power key to deeper ties -Brazil ambassador

March 24, 2010 – A huge Brazil trade delegation continued talks with local officials and businessmen on March 23, 2010, and heard the Brazilian ambassador identify the road to Lethem and a reliable power network in the area as pivotal to deeper ties between the two neighbours.



Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Guyana Office for Investment (Go-Invest), Geoff DaSilva receives a gift of appreciation from his Brazilian counterpart, President of Sebrae Boa Vista, Almir Sa. (G.I.A. photo)

Brazilian Ambassador to Guyana Luis Gilberto Seixes de Andrade, while addressing members of the delegation and the local business community at the International Convention Centre at Liliendaal on the East Coast of Demerara yesterday, told the gathering that the two countries are “beginning to know each other” and according to him, discussion between members of the visiting delegation and the local business community is an aspect of the beginning of relations in investment between the two nations.

De Andrade stated that the commissioning of the Takutu Bridge in Region 9 “was the turning point in relations between the two countries,” and against this background, he noted that the infrastructure should be seen as a link between the economies of the two countries.

Noting that the possibility of a reciprocal visit by a Guyanese delegation to the state of Roraima in the neighbouring country exists, de Andrade stated that the Brazilian authorities are committed to working towards the achievement of the objective which would see plans for the

Improvement of economic relations, resulting in increased trade.

Ambassador de Andrade cited the completion of the Linden/Lethem road project as a priority, which would complement the benefits offered by the Takutu Bridge and according to him, the establishment of a safe renewable power network should be examined.

Tourism and Commerce Minister Manniram Prashad, in his feature address, told those gathered that Guyana has tremendous opportunities for investment, as he emphasised that the authorities have provided foreigners with favourable investment opportunities in the various sectors here. He noted that the tourism sector is among many in which investment can be made as he alluded to an expected 5,000 persons from the neighbouring state who will attend the annual Rupununi Rodeo in two weeks time. According to Prashad, Guyana saw a significant increase in tourist arrivals in 2009 when compared to 2008, noting that the increase did not include arrivals at the ports at Moleson Creek in the Corentyne area, Lethem and at the Ogle Airport.

Noting that “Guyana is open for investment,” Prashad stated that currently some 55 plots of land have been allocated towards the setting up of a commercial zone in the Lethem area, on which some construction has commenced.

Chairman of the Private Sector Commission (PSC) Captain Gerry Gouveia told the gathering that relations between the two countries should see Guyana’s economy being catapulted into rising trade and investment, which would see unprecedented growth in the country’s economy. Noting that this country’s economy “may not be wealthy but healthy,” Gouveia stated that it is one of the free ones in the hemisphere. He said that in the past Guyana “made a bad mistake,” noting that the country has always, “looked north.” He cited the language barrier as a factor which contributed to this. (continued on page 2)

The Takutu Bridge (above) was built by Brazil to bridge the Takutu River border with Guyana. It is located near Lethem in the Rupununi. Its nearest Brazilian town is Bon Fim across the border, but Boa Vista is just 120 km (80 mls) away by high speed highway. [Click here for articles and photos](#)

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Welcome to the Guyanese Online Newsletter



Cyril Bryan

EDITORIAL: By: Cyril Bryan, Editor and Publisher

This is the second issue of the Guyanese Online Newsletter and I am pleased with the positive feedback and encouragement by readers who have seen the first issue and who have visited the web blog. I do hope that this issue, as well as the content of the Blog, is just as informative. I would comment here on three subjects:

OIL—It is my belief that Guyana is in for some “interesting times” as its real economic potential is fully revealed and that we should be aware of these developments. The news items in this edition as they relate to oil exploration in Guyana’s economy, if realized, should make us all wonder what the economic and political future of Guyana would be like.

The USA has already sent its representatives to warn and give advice on how oil discovery can be a blessing as well as a curse if there is no unified approach to the equitable distribution of oil riches. We see thousands of extremely poor people and internal conflicts in oil-rich countries like Venezuela, Nigeria and even Trinidad, so oil wealth is not usually the harbinger of internal peace and harmony.

BRAZIL -The other more immediate and important story is the growing influence and economic investment by Brazilians in Guyana. They are usually not voters so they do not affect the outcome of elections directly. However, their growing influence in mining made the value of gold exports higher than that of sugar and rice combined ([see article](#)). Now with the imposition of tighter controls on mining to satisfy the Norway agreement, (where Guyana gets US\$25M/yr for five years), we see that there has been a reduction in gold declarations for January 2010, because of “loss of confidence among miners”. (see Pg 5)

The Brazilians are moving into the interior and investing in Guyana, and they plan to use Linden (formerly McKenzie) as their initial export base due to its location and infrastructure for shipping goods from Roraima Province in Northern Brazil. Their investments in Guyana could be rapid, as some miners and investors move from Suriname to Guyana due to the bloody anti-Brazilian disturbances in eastern Suriname last year. With falling production in sugar and rice due to the droughts, it is the mining industries and the growing investments by the Brazilians, that could now be the economic supportive leg of the economy. If their plans fail and there is the ongoing fall in remittances- due to the world’s economic downturn - there could be some tough times in the near future.... But Guyana knows about tough times... No Problem!!!

DRAINAGE-IRRIGATION- After the floods of 2005, the Guyana Government decided to construct the Hope Canal stretching some eight miles and 200 feet wide to drain the East Coast Conservancy directly into the Ocean. It would need maintenance and improvements, so the initial cost US\$18.6M is only the beginning. However it would not drain coastal villages in case of very heavy rainfall as was the case in 2005. In an article “Guyana Flood Analysis” in January 2005, I identified certain issues regarding the drainage of coastline villages and the lack of natural drainage systems that were operational before 1960. I suggested then that if there were not radical solutions to sea defenses and drainage systems, the rising tides from melting icebergs and global warming could eventually create an uninhabitable coastland where most Guyanese live. I do hope that I am wrong... The dry El Nino is here now, but La Nina with its heavy rainfalls could someday return. Would Guyana’s drainage systems be ready?

In the [“Guyana Flood Analysis”, written in January 22, 2005](#) <click here for article>, I ended with these words..... **“Here come the Brazilians from the south, as the coastlands slowly sink under the sea.... It has already started ... learn Portuguese real fast!”**

Cyril Bryan, Editor and Publisher.

Map of Guyana



BRAZIL – GUYANA TRADE TALKS

(Continued from Page 1)

On this note the PSC chairman expressed hope that Portuguese and Dutch be embedded into the school curriculum as he reiterated, “we must be able to break the language barrier.”

Almir Sa, President of Sebrae Boa Vista, one of the organisers of the delegation’s visit to Guyana which also includes Go-Invest, the PSC and the Guyana Tourism Authority among others, expressed hope that discussions over the next few days will see fruitful results. He said that the anticipated agreements between members of the PSC, the local chambers of commerce as well as their Brazilian counterparts should provide opportunities for investors from both countries.

Speaking to Stabroek News at the conclusion of yesterday’s session, Adalberto Pires, who is part of the Brazilian delegation, stated that he plans to invest in trade and he expressed hope that discussions over the next few days will be successful. He said that he has already allocated funds towards the setting up of infrastructure in the border community of Lethem for his import/export business, Ponta Seixas Ltda, and according to Pires, it is important to know the laws regarding trade and investment on these shores.

Like Pires, other members of the delegation expressed hope that discussions with local business persons over the next few days will be fruitful, many of them citing the language barrier as well as their knowledge of the laws regarding trade and investment in Guyana as key factors in their business plans.

At the conclusion of yesterday morning’s session, members of the local business community and their Brazilian counterparts discussed investment partnerships which can be pursued in the various sectors including tourism, trade, agriculture and information technology. These one-on-one engagements will continue over the next two days before the 50-member delegation returns to Brazil on Friday March 30. (By [Alva Solomon](#) On March 24, 2010 – Stabroek News)

This monthly Newsletter and the Guyanese Online Weblog are designed, edited and produced by Cyril Bryan. Individuals, Organizations, Associations and groups are asked to send their articles, announcements, and features and event advertisements for publication to E-mail address: guyanesonline@gmail.com.

E-Mail replies or comments, or requests for inclusion or exclusion from our mailing list should also be sent to the same address.

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Linden could be conduit for Brazil trade before year end

On March 23, 2010 - Physical trade from Brazil to and through Linden is likely to start before the end of the year, according to members of a visiting business delegation yesterday, during a familiarisation tour of the mining town.



Julian Archer Divisional Manager of GNIC (centre) explains the potential operations of the company's new terminal at Christianburg. At right is Sebrae's team Leader Almir M. Sa, President of Sebrae Boa Vista.

The trip is the fulfillment of a promise made by the Sebrae Boa Vista organisation to explore the viability of the Lethem/Linden road, the GNIC Linden terminal and the IAMGOLD wharf in their present state as trade routes. According to several members of the delegation, the route and waterway facilities that exist at Linden are better than expected.

The stop at Linden was the beginning of a four-day tour aimed at enhancing business partnerships between the two neighbouring countries.

Alluding to the significance of the partnership between Brazil and Guyana, Prime Minister Samuel Hinds, who was in Linden to welcome the team, said that since 2000 the government has been spending between US\$1 million and US\$1.5 million annually to maintain and slowly improve the Linden/Lethem road. He said the government intends to continue the investment. Hinds said the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is currently working on a feasibility study, which is likely to be ready in a year's time. "We have been in discussions with Brazil to arrange for the financing of asphaltting the road, and constructing steel and concrete bridges along the Linden/Lethem road and the construction of a bridge across the Essequibo River," he explained, adding that it would cost in excess of US\$250 million.

According to Hinds, Linden stands to benefit tremendously from the partnership and it would be the key economic driver in transforming the town from being known mainly for its bauxite mining activities.



Businessmen of Linden and Brazil engaged in discussions on March 22, 2010, relating to investments in Linden

Team Leader and President of Sebrae Boa Vista Almir M. Sa, while addressing a large contingent of Linden businesspersons, said that it is very important that entrepreneurs not depend on governments only. He said businesses need to pool resources to ensure that they play a major

role in their country's growth and development. He added that one of the objectives of the visit was to understand how to do business with Guyana and in so doing understand the laws of both countries. "Another objective is for us to clarify the real interest to close business, to do business with Guyana. Business is a two-way relationship. We want to buy from Guyana and sell to Guyana so we need to know what Guyana [has]," he explained.

During his address, he noted that at present Brazilian businesses procure goods and services from further afield although they are available much closer in Guyana. He also spoke at length of the tourism potential which exists in Linden and expressed interest in developing a linkage with the local tourism association in Linden and the wider Guyana. "Together we need to do all that is necessary to make this partnership work," he said. In a move to achieve this, he said that Sebrae is working on removing the language barrier in ensure that members of the business sector become familiar with the English language. This, he said, would be done through intensive training.

Interim Management Committee Chairman Orin Gordon noted that the yesterday's visit was one which has the potential to bring lasting benefits to the people of both countries once they work diligently to develop the bonds that will enhance business and neighbourly relations. "Our town Linden and Region Ten are hospitality havens despite falling on hard times as a result of being a 'one-primary-product' town. Diversification is a must if we are to survive and therefore it's no secret, our interest in developing these partnerships," he said.

Gordon urged the Brazilians to explore, discuss and begin the process of maximizing on the ecotourism potentials of the region. As part of the Amazonian rainforest eco-zone, the flora and fauna of this region in many ways are still pristine and available for exploration. During the visit, it was noted that the intermediate savannahs have soil types similar to that of Northern Brazil where there are very large expanses of corn and Soya cultivation. More particularly, the road corridor and some of the Class 1 type soils in Guyana offer tremendous potential for vegetable and fruit production with low fertilization rates.

It was also said that there are some fears that the Brazilians will eventually swallow or dominate the local producers. Many felt that the steps must be measured carefully to avoid this perception becoming widespread and a reality.

Speaking on behalf of the Linden Chamber of Development and Commerce, Basil Jaipaul, said the chamber sees the corridor opening opportunities for all Lindeners and by extension the rest of Guyana and they are working assiduously to grasp these opportunities.

The Brazilian delegation was met with much pomp and ceremony, beginning from its arrival at the Wisroc/Blue Berry Hill/ One Mile Junction where an escort team led the team through Wismar to the Egbert Benjamin Conference Centre at Mackenzie. Entertainment was provided by the Wismar Christianburg Band as team members mingled with some of the organisers of the tour: the Linden Chamber, Linden Tourism Association, the Regional Democratic Council and the Linden Mayor and Town Council.

Following opening introductions by the IMC Chairman and Sebrae's Almir M. Sa, there was a lengthy interactive and working lunch with local entrepreneurs, following which there were several presentations by the Linden Chamber, Linden Enterprise Network, Regional Democratic Council and business partners of Sebrae. The team then toured the Linden community before converging at the GNIC and IAMGOLD wharf facilities at Christianburg.

By Cathy Richards – Stabroek News – March 23, 2010.

Guyana in USA list of “next decade” oil and gas producers



President Bharrat Jagdeo sharing a light moment with Coordinator for International Energy Affairs of the US Department of State David Goldwyn, Senior Advisor Paul Hueper and Charge d Affaires of the US Embassy Karen Williams

Friday, March 5, 2010- Guyana -- The United States is in the process of working on a proposed Energy Governance and Capacity Initiative (EGCI) for countries on the verge of becoming oil and gas producers for the next decade.

Guyana is on the list of such countries and on Thursday Coordinator for International Energy Affairs of the US Department of State David Goldwyn met President Bharrat Jagdeo at State House to discuss the proposal which will include the provision of technical assistance to empower countries to wisely manage resources and revenue generated from oil and gas.

Goldwyn is leading the effort which involves bringing together the US Government's top experts along with their unmatched global expertise on oil and gas sector management within a formalized and integrated technical assistance programme focused on the energy sector.

In an invited comment Goldwyn said “many countries who are oil and gas producers have suffered some of the challenges of the resource curse and in our country (US) we learned a great deal of how to manage the resources both physical and financial. We are here not to prescribe a particular model but to see if there are ways that we can help the government.”

Assessments by the US geological survey on the Guyana basin reveal that the potential for oil discovery is very high given that the location is the second most prospective under explored area worldwide.

Were an oil discovery to be made in the Basin, production targets would be estimated at 50 million barrels per year which would be equivalent to 140,000 barrels per day. Additionally Government would be receiving a cash flow of 53 percent, and the oil company 43 percent.

Goldwyn said the probability of finds once drilling begins is high and thus believes that management interventions are one of the necessities. “It's never too early to start preparing for managing that (oil and gas resources)...that is, having the Government's capacity to manage, make sure that the reservoirs are done correctly, the costs are audited and that the flows when they come don't upset the country's foreign exchange rate or balance of payment and that Guyana has great capacity.

CGX Energy Incorporated, the Canadian-based oil and gas exploration company that is at present in pursuit of petroleum discovery in the Guyana Basin had announced its readiness this year to commence drilling. The company was given the green light to commence operations uninterrupted, after Guyana in 2007 won the Maritime Arbitration Award, following a long maritime border issue with neighbouring Suriname. Since then the CGX Energy Incorporated has done a significant degree of work.

During Thursday's meetings Goldwyn was accompanied by Senior Advisor of International Energy Affairs Paul Hueper and Charge d' Affaires of the US Embassy Karen Williams who moments before had met Prime Minister Samuel Hinds at his Wight's Lane office.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Guyana Power and Light (GPL) Bharrat Dindyal, CEO of the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) Mahendra Sharma and Manager of the Petroleum Division of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) Noel Dennison were also present at that meeting.

Goldwyn was appointed by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in August 2009. He formerly served as President of the Goldwyn International Strategies (GIS) an international energy consulting firm that was a leading adviser on extractive industry transparency. Through GIS Goldwyn advised Nigeria's Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) on its groundbreaking implementation programme, “Drilling Down: The Civil Society Guide to Extractive Industry Revenues and the EITI.”

He also served as Chairman of the Global Energy and Environment Initiative at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and Senior Associate in the Energy Programme at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

IRANIAN Geological Survey Team arrives



Iranian four member delegation (right) meets with Prime Minister Samuel Hinds at his Wight's Lane office.

Tuesday, 23 March 2010 (GINA) - A four-member delegation of Iranian geological survey experts from that country's Ministry of Industries and Mines met Prime Minister Samuel Hinds at his Wight's Lane, Kingston office yesterday.

The delegation includes Gold Project Manager in the Ministry of Industries and Mines Geological Survey of Iran Dr. Mohammad Reza Hezareh, Chief of Data Base Somageh Veyseh, Director of Iran Export Industrial Development Bahram Bahram, and Adviser Ali Mohammadi.

Their visit to Guyana is in keeping with the unprecedented intervention in the mining sector of mapping mineral reserves, a venture which emanated from discussions between the Governments of Guyana and Iran following a visit by President Bharrat Jagdeo to the Islamic state early this year. President Jagdeo had engaged in several discussions during his visit with Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and many of his Ministers.

Upon his return to Guyana, President Jagdeo explained that for a very long time Guyana relied on investors to seek prospecting licences and develop projects in a 'hit-or-miss' manner because of the absence of mineral wealth data in the country, for which the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) has been making several efforts to fund.

Cheaper alternatives to \$3.6B Hope relief canal – says engineers group

March 9, 2010 – As the government moves ahead with its plans to construct a Guy\$3.6 billion (US \$18M) High Level Foreshore Discharge at Hope/Dochfour, the Guyana Association of Professional Engineers (GAPE) believes that there are cheaper alternatives that could be pursued.

Last December, the consortium of consultants CEMCO/ SRK'N joint venture in Association with Mott McDonald presented a draft report, which suggested that a High Level Foreshore Discharge consisting of a shallow outfall channel and a high crested weir (dam) would be the best option to drain water out of the East Demerara Water Conservancy (EDWC) when the water level reaches a threatening level. GAPE, after being invited to scrutinise the proposals in January, issued a report where it expressed its concern that not much emphasis was placed on considering other alternatives of relieving the EDWC in times of excessive rainfall. The body also believes that “the other alternatives should not be so costly.”

GAPE stated that in the conclusions and recommendation section of the Hydrological and Hydraulic Modelling Studies, the consultants noted that “A much shorter relief channel route is possible between Flagstaff and the Mahaica River.” This section said that “it is possible that drainage in Mahaica could be improved in the lower return period events. The Mahaica option would also need maintenance, but that requirement may not be any greater than the maintenance required for the Hope/Dochfour options. The capital cost of the Flagstaff-Mahaica relief route would be significantly lower than that of the Hope/Dochfour relief.” According to GAPE, these statements suggest that “decisions have been made without paying heed to the engineering inputs to guide those decisions.”

The association, in its report, recommended that the Mahaica River be dredged so as to increase its discharge capacity. The proposal by the consultants had noted that “A bar has formed across the mouth of the Mahaica River and this inhibits full tidal drainage in the system.” Further, GAPE has recommended that the Land of Canaan sluice should be investigated to ensure that its design capacity of 2000 cu/secs is achieved. Reports suggest that currently flows of only 800 cu/secs are being achieved which is significantly less than its design capacity.

Additionally, the Engineering Association also recommended that the Sea Defence and Hydraulic Structures should include a small pumping unit to facilitate aid in out-fall clearing. Provision should also be made for a larger pump which can be used during high flood conditions, the engineering body suggested.

The outfall channel at the sea defence location must be maintained regularly so as to prevent Retardation of Water Flows, GAPE suggested, even as it disapproved of the use and selection of the geotube material.

Meanwhile, the body noted that the construction of the Northern Relief Channel and its associated Dam will create empolder conditions on both the eastern side to Mahaica and western side to the Demerara River. According to GAPE, the new dam constructed should be technically sound and safer than the existing Conservancy Dam, which was built over a century ago. Further the body recommended that the dam along the east and west of the new canal should be planted with selected grass to prevent erosion. The grassed dam should also be maintained at regular intervals each year.

Further, the engineering body argued that projected annual maintenance and operating cost should be compiled, given the fact that siltation is expected to take place at the outlet end.

Speaking generally about the project, GAPE said “it is not clear if any financial analysis was done since the report is silent in this area.” Consequently, “it is not clear if the decisions taken are or will be financially justifiable,” the body stated.

Additionally, considering the magnitude of this project, GAPE suggested that an Environmental Impact Assessment be done as well as an Environmental Management Plan prepared.

The proposed relief channel, which was initially priced at \$3 billion, is intended to drain the EDWC into the Atlantic Ocean, thereby serving as a more efficient and less destructive means of releasing water from the conservancy. At the moment, when the EDWC is at a dangerous level, water from the conservancy is drained through the Maduni and Lama sluices and this has caused catastrophic flooding in the Mahaica and Mahaicony areas.

Editor's note: A number of articles on the Hope Canal will be put on the Blog, as this is an important project that will affect the country.

Gold declarations plunge 40% in January

March 9, 2010 | Kaieteur News - Miners have expressed worry over the state of the industry as declaration to the Guyana Gold Board plunged by 40 per cent for January alone and a loss of confidence among miners is being blamed.

According to the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners' Association (GGDMA), while it does not have the projections for February, indications are that it is just over 15,000 ounces, still way short of the expected target. According to Executive Director of the GGDMA, Edward Shields, the declaration is a clear indication of miners not being confident.

In January, 13,762 ounces of gold was declared. This translated to about 62 per cent of what was budgeted for, the official disclosed. Government has projected just over 300,000 ounces for this year although the GGDMA is calling on miners to reach 500,000 ounces.

Commenting on the figures, Shields yesterday said that it is clear that there is fear among the miners about the uncertainty. The industry will not resume normally until Government officially publishes a notice of the new mining measures. Issues of what happens to operators who are mining for claim holders (landlordism), how much of a say, if any, the forestry sector has in new mining measures, no stoppage to mining, will all have to be published urgently as stakeholders are cautious, Shields said. [read more](#)

Guyana signs US\$25m agreement with IDB for transport infrastructure

Wednesday, March 24, 2010- Guyana's Minister of Finance Dr Ashni Singh and the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Luis Alberto Moreno Monday, March 22, 2010 signed a US\$24.8 million Road Improvement and Rehabilitation Loan Agreement in Cancun, Mexico, where they are both participating in the 2010 Annual IDB Board of Governors meeting.

The US\$25 million being provided by the IDB will support implementation by Government of a project aimed at enhancing urban and suburban mobility and safety for Guyanese, along with improving access to agricultural areas, by upgrading specific elements of transport infrastructure.

Under this US\$25 million programme, the East and West Canje roads would be improved and rehabilitated with the replacement of 24 bridges and 6 culverts and the rehabilitation of 3 box culverts, thereby improve accessibility to an important agricultural zone. In addition, construction of shoulders in interurban segments, and sidewalks and other safety related works in urban areas; as well as improvements of urban crossings, and roadside amenities, including bus stops and parking areas at key locations to enhance safety and socioeconomic benefits. The Sheriff Street – Mandela roadway in Georgetown and the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) access road would also be improved and rehabilitated, while selected localized interventions would be implemented along the carriage way between Providence Cricket Stadium and Diamond on the East Bank of Demerara with the ultimate aim of widening this road further to become a four-lane road.

GEORGETOWN GUYANA

[Aerial view](#) < click here

You can zoom in and out and move map to the left and right as well as up and down.

Also download the Greater Georgetown Street Map at this link.

[Georgetown Map](#)

Japan provides 35 solar water pumps

The Japanese government yesterday handed over 35 solar pumping systems to the Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI). They will be used in the hinterland.



[1]

Japanese Ambassador Tatsuaki Iwata and Minister of Housing and Water, Irfaan Ali (left) examine one of the solar pumping systems at GWI's headquarters (Photo by Jules Gibson)

The photovoltaic pumping systems were handed over at a ceremony held at GWI's Corporate Complex at Church Street and Vlissingen Road. The systems were received from Japanese Ambassador Tatsuaki Iwata by Minister of Housing and Water Irfaan Ali, a press release from GWI said.

The systems were made possible through bilateral funding made available by the Government of Japan to the Government of Guyana.

According to the release, the solar pumping systems are an integral part of GWI's Hinterland Strategy, which focuses on the use of sustainable energy and appropriate cost effective means to pump potable water for these communities. These solar photovoltaic pumping systems will provide immediate relief to the residents of Almond Beach in Region One, St Denny's in Region Two, Micobie in Region Eight and Tiger Pond and St Ignatius In Region Nine,"..... [\(read full article at this link\)](#)

Red Thread inks grant pact with Japan

Red Thread signed a contract with the Japanese Embassy yesterday for grant assistance which will fund several projects at its South Georgetown office including expansion works and the installation of an alternative source of energy.



[1]

Expansion boost: Karen DeSouza of Red Thread (left) signs the contract with Second Secretary of the Japanese Embassy, Mariko Chiba yesterday at the organisation's Princes and Adelaide streets office.

Red Thread will receive US\$73,634 for the projects outlined in its proposal to the embassy. The local non-governmental organization had submitted its proposal to the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme.

Specifically, the grant will fund the installation of solar panels; an expansion project at the office and the construction of a paal-off (revetment) in the Princes Street canal bordering the centre. The organisation said the extension will provide additional space for its remedial classes for children in reading and basic computer skills; more room for its library and available sleeping accommodation for out-of-town women who are part of its network. [\(read full article at this link\)](#)

Scotiabank donates 100 computers for schools

Scotiabank has donated 100 computers to the Ministry of Education in its drive to equip secondary schools with computers as it joins with organisations such as Global Partnership for Literacy to foster the development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) countrywide.



From left to right are: Manager of Products and Marketing at Scotiabank Jennifer Cipriani, Senior Manager of Business Support, Scotiabank, Bruce Deoraj, Vice-Chairman of Guyana Chapter, Global Literacy, Conrad Plummer, Chairperson, Global Literacy, Danny Doobay and Software Engineer, Global Literacy, Varman Cholan. (GINA Photo)

Scotiabank Manager for Products and Marketing Jennifer Cipriani explained that the Bank's contribution was made possible through its 'Bright Future Programme,' which caters for initiatives that will further develop the country and young people.

She said Scotiabank recognises that computer literacy is essential and that is the basis for its partnership with Global Literacy. The Bank intends to help furnish computer laboratories at schools countrywide.

..... [\(read full article at this link\)](#)

Latter Day Saints donate gear to group

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints handed over \$1.8 million in equipment to the Corriverton Development Association to support its training sessions and charitable works.



Elder Solomon of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints presents equipment valued over \$1.8M to the Corriverton Development Association for its charitable work.

According to a press release the items include laptop computers, projector, printer, amplifier, speakers, microphone, DVD player, footballs, volleyballs, basketballs, cricket bats and pads, cricket balls, table tennis and balls, boxing gloves, head guards, majorette boots and batons.

Public Relations Officer Lyndon Murray said the club started in 2007 with dance and karate classes sponsored by Dance Alive of Georgetown and it hosted courses in information technology in 2008 with a grant from the European Union and the Guyana government. [\(Read full article at this link\)](#)

GUYANA *cultural* FESTIVAL



SATURDAY JULY 10/2K10

FROM 10.00 AM - 10.00 PM



A Fun Filled Family Day Celebrating Guyana's Diverse Cultural Heritage, Indian & African Dancers, African Drummers, Indian Tasa Drummers, Folklore, Steel Pan Music, Performing arts, Story Telling, Guyanese and Caribbean Cuisines, Children Playground, Fashion, Arts & Crafts Vendors. A Musical Journey Highlighting a Spectacular Line-up of Guyana's musical Icons, SHELLY G & FOJO BRUTAL JAMMERS, ADRIAN DUTCHIN, TONY RICARDO, GEETA BISRAM, TERRY GAJRAJ, JUMO, TIMEKA MARSHALL, THE ANGELS CARIBBEAN BAND, THE SUPERTONES BAND, QUATAPINT & H2O WATAFLO

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BUSINESS FEATURE

Aranaputa women open peanut butter factory in the Rupununi

March 21, 2010 - Jobs are scarce in the Rupununi. A majority of the mainly Amerindian population farm but markets for produce are scarce too. So it was with a sense of accomplishment that a group of women in Aranaputa, North Rupununi last week celebrated the opening of a new peanut butter factory in the community.

They started with the aim of improving the social and economic welfare of their village, Leona Bremner of the Aranaputa Processors Friendly Society (APFS) said. Peanuts are one of the main crops grown in the savannah region to earn money. The women produced and sold salted peanuts but this was not enough.

In 2002, a local team of peanut farmers joined with the Universities of Georgia and Florida to start the Peanut CRSP (Collaborative Research Support Programme) – Guyana project. The 2004 peanut crop reached an all-time high but this coincided with an increase in imports of peanuts from China, a glut in the Georgetown market, thus lower prices to peanut farmers. A search for new markets led to negotiations with the Ministry of Education for the purchase of school snacks made from locally grown peanuts, cassava and fruits. The Ministry agreed to a six-month pilot project in seven villages in Region Nine. In January 2005, the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives committed funds for the purchase of tools and equipment for the pilot and by February, groups of women were active in the seven villages. By June that year, they were in operation, producing a peanut butter, cassava bread and fruit juice snack for 1,400 students.

Aranaputa was one of the villages. They started under a thatched roof in the compound of the Aranaputa Primary School, Yvette Benjamin of the APFS recalled. She said in the beginning, they purchased cassava and fruits from farmers in the community. They also sold salted nuts and peanut butter in and around the community. It was “very challenging” she said, noting that they baked the cassava bread in the traditional way – on a wood fire.

Bremner added that it took twelve and a half hours to produce 100 pounds of peanut butter by hand. Last week, with the new equipment, they produced the same amount in an hour, she said. The group also purchased 400 pounds of the nuts per year but plan to purchase thrice that amount this year. At the end of 2005, the seven cottage industries were selling \$20 million in the snacks to the Education Ministry, Jerry La Gra of the NGO Society for Sustainable Operational Strategy (SSOS) said. SSOS was formed in 2007 to ensure ongoing training and technical support to the women.

With funding and support from several organisations including the Canadian government and the US Ambassadors Self-Help Fund, the factory was built. It was also equipped and has storage capacity. Canadian High Commissioner, Francois Montour, said that they provided close to \$3



USAID Guyana Mission Director, Carol Horning (top right) looks on as a woman prepares cassava bread at the peanut butter factory in Aranaputa at the opening of the factory on April 15, 2010.

million. “We have to pay tribute to the women,” he said at the formal opening of the factory last Thursday. US Embassy Charge d’Affaires, Karen Williams, as well as Agriculture Minister Robert Persaud and Amerindian Affairs Minister, Pauline Sukhai, were also present at the opening.

USAID Guyana Mission Director, Carol Horning (top right) looks on as a woman prepares cassava bread at the peanut butter factory in The group plans to expand their market. In January, SSOS and the Education Ministry signed an agreement to expand the school snack programme from seven to 33 villages in Region Nine, integrating over 4,000 new nursery and primary school students. Five of the new villages have already started operations and were serving snacks made using the peanut butter made in the factory, La Gra said. He said that by next year, earnings are projected to be \$34 million, which would remain in the local economies.

Currently 50 women have steady jobs and this is projected to double by December. There are market opportunities for over 300 farmers and this is projected to reach 500 by next year, La Gra said. He noted that over 15 groups from the private and public sectors, including governmental ministries and bilateral and international organisations collaborated to make the project a success.

Bremner noted that they had already been selling peanut butter to small businesses within the community and said the group plans to serve the region and country. They also plan to produce jams and jellies from local fruits, she said.

URL to article: <http://www.stabroeknews.com/2010/stories/03/21/aranaputa-women-open-peanut-butter-factory/>

The Last Lap Lime 15th Anniversary

1995-2010

Monday August 2nd, 2010

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

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

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BISHOPS HIGH SCHOOL, Georgetown. Guyana



Bishops' High School is a [secondary school](#) in [Georgetown, Guyana](#). It was established in 1870 by the [Anglican Church](#) as a ladies' school. The school later merged with Mrs. Vyfhuis' school, also founded in 1870, and then with the DeSaffon school. Mrs. Vyfhuis was offered [headship](#) of the combined schools in 1875.

The school's first home was at Brickdam and Manget Place, and then at "Minto House" on Waterloo Street. It later moved to "Lamaha House" at Carmichael and Lamaha Streets, the property of Bishop E.A. Parry. In 1907 Bishop E.A. Parry moved the school to "Woodside House" (now known as "Transport House") on Main Street, and it became known as "Woodside House School".

In 1921 the school moved to its present location at Carmichael and Murray (now known as Quamina) Streets. In 1922 Bishop E.A. Parry retired and the school then became known as "The Bishops' High School". Bishop Parry died in 1936 and the "Oswald Parry Hall" was opened at the school.

In January 1936, the school was handed over to the government of then [British Guiana](#). The new building was opened on January 5, 1946. The school celebrated its centennial in 1970 and became a co-educational institution five years later, in 1975.

In 1970 the School celebrated its centennial.

In 1995 Bishops' High School celebrated its 125th anniversary.

The school's motto is "[Labor Omnia Vincit](#)". There are five houses in The Bishops' High School: Allen House, Baskett House, Dewar House, Vyfhuis House and Wearn House; each named after a former headmistress of the school.



[Bishops' High School Old Students' Association](#) website

[CHAPTERS of the BHS Old Students—news](#)

[Senior Class Notes January 2010](#)

[Report on Guyana Geology and Mines Commission Science and Technology Quiz By Stefan Farier](#)

[Collective Memory - Yderle Browman-Hazel](#)

[Senior Class Notes July 2009](#)

[BHS Fun Day - 27 June, 2009](#)

[South Florida Chapter donates Public Speaker Address system to BHS](#)

The Old Students of BHS have been holding reunions around the world every three years. These are links to past reunions:

Reunion 2008 was held in Toronto - see right

Reunion 2011 will be held in Jamaica.

Photo Slide Slow:

[Special Slideshow : A Trip to Takutu Bridge](#)



A day at Bishops' High School, 2004 in pictures

[The Library; Elocution Day; BHS Steel Band and Music Classes; Information Technology Lab.](#)

[Pageant 2004 highlighting the five BHS houses; Caricom Day with exhibits and prizes](#)

[Official Prize Day; Fun Day with games and entertainment.](#)

Bishops' High School Alumni Association Toronto Chapter

The BHS Toronto Chapter is one of 10 International Chapters of the Bishops' High School Old Students' Association. The Toronto Chapter, formed in July 1985, is the oldest Chapter celebrates its 25th Anniversary in 2010.

The Toronto Chapter is a non-political Association affiliated to the Bishops' High School Old Students' Association in Georgetown, Guyana. The primary objective of our Chapter is fund-raising for our Alma Mater in Georgetown, Guyana.—more information on that later.



The Toronto Chapter hosted the **9th International Reunion** from August 5 to 10, 2008. The 9th International Reunion of the Bishops' High School Alumni took place in Toronto, Ontario, Canada from August 5th to 10th, 2008. Most of the events were held at the historic [Fairmont Royal York Hotel](#). We hope you enjoyed Toronto and our hospitality. The boat ride on Lake Ontario was lots of fun. Did you visit the Eaton Centre? We are sure you found lots to see and do in Toronto.

Over 500 Alumni attended the events. According to those who were there the Reunion was a huge success. If you did not make it to the Reunion look at the Calendar of Events and the photographs to see what you missed.

[Calendar of Events](#) at the Royal York Hotel

[Picture Gallery created by Patricia Cambridge](#)

Upcoming Events - Click event and download flyers for events

April 24, 2010 - [Casino Trip - Location Casino Rama, Ontario.](#)

May 1, 2010 - [May Hatters' Tea Party - Location St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Church Hall, 3333 Finch Avenue E \(at Warden\), Toronto.](#)

ASSOCIATIONS

The Last Lap Lime 15th Anniversary 1995-2010

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

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

Monday August 2nd, 2010- 15th Anniversary

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

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

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

Guyanese Canadian Cultural Association of British Columbia - Canada

Rama Diallo, whose mother is Guyanese, and who is the only person of colour contestant in the Miss Universe Canada Rama was selected as a Regional Finalist. The Miss Universe Canada - 04 June 2010 Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

The BC Association has supported her efforts by offering a gift of \$250.00 to represent the Region in the Miss Canada Contest for the Miss Universe Pageant. In addition to this amount, individual members of our board, Mr. Wayne Jemmott contributed \$200.00 and his sister, Ms. Sylvia Jemmott \$50.00, and President, Clyde Duncan \$100.00. The cheque was sent to her agent, the Patti Falconer Agencies in the amount of \$600.00.



Miss Diallo is seeking to contact like organizations across this country in her bid efforts. The B.C. Association would like to help and provide you with substantive support in making those contacts.

Rama Diallo was born in Liberia, West Africa, of a Guyanese mother and a Guinean father. She spent her childhood travelling around the world and adapting to different cultures. During an idyllic upbringing in the South of France, she developed a knack for languages and in addition to the French and English spoken at home, she spent years studying German, Spanish and Latin .

Click the link below for full biography of Rama Diallo.

Web link <http://www.beautiesofcanada.com/2010/rama.htm>

A message to all members of Guyana Reunion

GT Reunion members, Colin Baker and Mark Rodrigues are traveling to Guyana on April 22nd to co-host a presentation, along with the GFF, about "The Women's Program" to the Government of Guyana, and the Guyanese business community on Saturday April 24th 2010. The primary purposes of this presentation are:

- 1) **To continue raising awareness of the Women's Program.**
- 2) **To encourage significantly more capital investments by the Guyana government and the Guyanese business community, to assist us in covering our expenses (International friendlies, camps, airfare, accommodation, meals, equipment, administration, field rentals, etc...) during our continued quest to get to the World Cup Finals in Germany - June 2011.**

We are requesting your assistance in this regard by asking you to send us information you may have on friends or family members who own businesses in Guyana, so that we can invite them to be a part of this exciting opportunity.

Additionally we are requesting you send an e-mail or this newsletter entry to your circle of friends and family members worldwide, as they may have business contacts in Guyana.

Information such as: - **Company name, Title, Address, Phone and fax number, Email address, Cell phone number**

Please provide any & all information to Colin Baker - colin_baker@guysportsdevelopment.com or Mark Rodrigues - gffnatwomensprogram@live.ca at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your support.

Mark Rodrigues, Women's National Development Technical Director, Guyana Football Federation, email: gffnatwomensprogram@live.ca, Ph: (813)220-0911

Visit **Guyana Reunion** at: http://guyanareunion.ning.com/?xg_source=msg_mes_network

GUYANESE ASSOCIATION OF BARBADOS Inc - G.A.B.I.

Caribbean Under-16 Netball Tournament

Guyanese and their friends in Barbados have been asked to support the **Guyana Under-16 Netball Team** during the Jean Pierre Netball Tournament, from April 8th-18th, 2010. The matches will be played at the Netball Stadium at Waterford, St. Michael, Barbados.

The tournament features teams from Barbados, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & The Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. The [schedule of matches can be downloaded here.](#)

Mashramani Celebrations

In March, (GABI) celebrated Guyana's 40th Anniversary as a Republic to observe this milestone in our native country's history. The festivities included a Grand Mashramani Commemoration Event at the Boardwalk Café on Hastings Road on Saturday, March 6th.

On March 7th the organization also supported the Phagwah Celebrations sponsored by the Guyana Hindu Society of Barbados.

ARTS and CULTURE

HANSIB PUBLICATIONS

Celebrating 40 years in publishing, 1970 - 2010

Hansib Publications marks the 40th anniversary of its publishing activities in 2010. The company was founded in 1970 by Guyana-born Arif Ali following the sale of his north London-based West Indian food business. The following year the company launched its first title (the monthly magazine West Indian Digest) and since then has published magazines, newspapers and books for Britain's 'visible' minority communities.

Hansib Publications continued to expand its multicultural publishing activities and, from the beginning of the 1970s, produced newspapers, magazines and periodicals for Britain's Caribbean, Asian and African communities. These titles included Caribbean Times, Asian Times, African Times, Asian Digest, Root Magazine and West Indian World.

In 1997, after twenty-four years of publishing newspapers for Britain's Caribbean, Asian and African communities, Hansib Publications sold its three weekly titles and thereby concluded its interest in newspaper publishing.

The European Union declared 1997 as the 'European Year Against Racism' and Arif Ali was awarded the 'European Year Against Racism Champion (Individual) Gold Standard Award'.

In 1997, when Tony Blair came to power, he set up the Caribbean Advisory Group under the chairship of Baroness Patricia Scotland. Arif Ali was appointed to sit on that group to advise Her Majesty's government on matters pertaining to Britain's Caribbean communities and to address issues relating to Caribbean nations as a whole.

Since the beginning of the 1980s, Hansib has published more than two hundred books and specialist titles. With forty years' experience in multicultural publishing, Hansib Publications is widely acknowledged as having established visible minority publishing in the United Kingdom.

Hansib books are now available throughout Britain in bookshops, libraries, schools, colleges, universities and specialist outlets. A growing network of distributors in the Caribbean and North America has ensured that Hansib books are available in many countries, including Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Canada, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, St Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States.

[Hansib Book Catalogue –2010](#)

Download : Catalogue of Books, bookstores & order online.

Download: [Address by Pres. Bharrat Jagdeo on the launch of Hansib Publications book - "Guyana" - on July 6, 2006](#)

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THE ARTS JOURNAL

Volume 5 Numbers 1&2- March 2010

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

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

LAL BALKARAN releases new edition of "Bibliography on Guyanese writers and DVD of the Guyanese Amerindians"

Lal Balkaran has recently released the third edition of his book "Bibliography of Guyana and Guyanese Writers".

This version contains over 2000 titles and 1100 authors and is listed comprehensively into one index and three appendices. The references are categorized into 73 subject headings. It contains references to all the well known Guyanese authors, as well as the relatively unknown and struggling authors who have written books on Guyana, and other subjects and novels.

The foreword is written by Prof. Jan Carew. It has 314 pages and comes in paperback, published by Seaburn, New York and is available at bookstores or directly from the author. **Download [the Brochure on this book here.](#)**

Lal Balkaran has also created a DVD on Amerindians in Guyana. It is called: **A PHOTOJOURNAL of the GUYANESE AMERINDIANS:**

Photographs of the Everyday Life and Cultural Activities of the Nine Amerindian Tribes of Guyana. A Photojournal of the Guyanese Amerindians contains almost 300 captivating photographs that will give readers a visual journey into the everyday life and other issues of the nine Amerindian tribes currently living in Guyana: Ackawaouis, Arawaks, Arekunas, Caribs, Makushi, Patamona, Wai Wai, Wapishana, and Warrau. Relax and enjoy. **Download [DVD brochure here.](#)**

Contact Lal Balkaran at: lalbalkaran@rogers.com or 416-283-4051

Rocky Mirza:**"The rise and Fall of the American Empire"**

A Re-Interpretation of History, Economics and Philosophy: 1492-2006
By Rocky M. Mirza, 514 pages. ISBN: 9781425113834

This objective and rigorous re-visiting of the history of the US as the world's super imperialist and "mock" democracy comes at an opportune time. The book explains with logical integrity why the world is finally on the right path when it questions the true motives of Americans for invading Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Grenada, Cuba, Nicaragua, Panama, the Philippines, Mexico, Canada and numerous other countries during its short history as a world power.

Those motives, far from being its professed motives of spreading democracy and republican values, are those of military industrial complex determined to dominate the world and exploit its resources for the benefit of a small minority of Americans who own the wealth of the US and exerts economic, military and political power in the US.

The book begins with the documentation of the exploitation of First Nations, Black Americans and poor White Americans by a small power elite, founded by the landed gentry of Virginia and the merchant class of Massachusetts, Philadelphia and New York. It explains the root cause of racism in the US and the deeply ingrained desire for war mongering in the American psyche.

The Cambridge Who's Who, Burnaby B.C. Canada -- says that Rocky M. Mirza of the Faculty at Thompson Rivers University, has been recognized by them for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in higher education and as an author.

Specializing in macroeconomics, Guyanese born, Dr. Mirza has 34 years of experience in his field. At Thompson Rivers University, he is responsible for teaching online classes, developing curricula and updating instructive materials.

Ron Savory's 'Evocations' now on show at the National Gallery

'Evocations on Caribbean Literature Revisited,' an exhibition of recent works by artist Ron Savory, opened to the public on March 19, 2010 at the National Art Gallery, Castellani House.

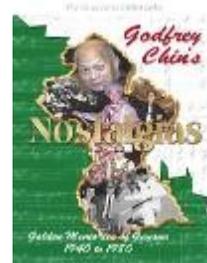
Savory, who has been practicing art for 50 years, emerged as one of the first artists to paint and interpret the interior for the wider public, the Gallery said in a statement, while noting that his interpretations of landscape involved experimentation with materials and methods that made up the response to his subject matter. "...This approach is continued in the current exhibition, where he shows 33 works including 28 'Evocations' inspired by his readings of some of Guyana and the Caribbean's finest poets and writers: revisiting a theme first presented in an exhibition in Port-of-Spain in 1982," the statement added.

In addition to the exhibition, Savory will also be presenting two informal lecture/discussion sessions at the Gallery. The sessions would be open to the public but would target the art community. The first session, which is to be held today, between 4pm and 6:30pm, in the exhibition area, will see Savory share his experiences and challenges as a 'Third World artist,' and in particular, his approach to his subject matter and his materials. During the second session, scheduled for next Wednesday, from 5pm to 7pm, Savory will speak about his life as a 'Third World' practitioner over five decades in Guyana, St. Lucia and the wider Caribbean region.

Meanwhile, the exhibition will run until Friday, April 30. Gallery hours are 10am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and 2pm to 6pm on Saturdays. Admission is free. Posted By [Stabroek staff](#) On March 20, 2010



The Canje,' Edgar Mittlehozer 2010, from Ron Savory's Evocations collection, now being featured at the National Gallery, Castellani House.



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

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

VIDEOS by Guyana's KEN CORSBIE - on Guyana and the Caribbean

KEN CORSBIE identifies himself on his website as a: "Full-blooded West Indian stereotype: half Chinese, half African, half Scottish, half South American Indian, and now living in America".

He has contributed to Guyana's wealth of artistic talent over the last 50+ years as a member of the Theatre Guild in its earliest times, and plays, shows and documentaries where he highlights Guyana and the Caribbean with stories and jokes we relate to. Here are four of his recent videos.....

FRED ALICOCK.- "IWOKRAMA"

caribvoies — April 10, 2010 — A few days ago I read of a special award given to FRED ALICOCK who has spent a lifetime working towards preserving and researching Guyana's rainforest. Then I remembered that I had hosted a promotional mini documentary 15 years ago about FRED and the IWOKRAMA project, so I did some editing to highlight (though briefly) both the project and FRED. Watch the YouTube video at this link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkJngvBOa3s>

MICHAEL GILKES .. his one man play "LAST OF THE RED-MEN"

caribvoies — March 23, 2010 — Michael Gilkes tells the story of a sweet "Comby", the invention of "the boys of the Taitt's Yard" in Georgetown, Guyana, 1945.

Miss Casteneiro's corner shop was the end-of-the-day wateringhole for the young adventurers, and the unique combination of a syrup sweet ball of compressed shave ice and mauby the "national drink" of those times. Look at this YouTube video at this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mafvrRHnPxPU>

COUVADE

caribvoies — March 23, 2010 — "COUVADE" is Michael Gilkes' epic play about identity, race, native peoples, rebirth. It was the first item on the first ever CARIFESTA (Caribbean Festival of the Arts) 1972 in Guyana. Gilkes staged an updated and grander production in 1992 at the Guyana National Culture Centre. Ken designed the soaring set made entirely of "round wood" found in the country's rainforest. The production won several awards that year. The promotional video shows images from both historic productions. Watch the YouTube video at this link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U224iZAhypQ>

CARIBBEAN EYE

caribvoies — April 06, 2010 — CARIBBEAN EYE, (1992) presented by Ken Corsbie, is a series of thirteen half-hour made-for-television documentaries about some of the social/cultural/artistic expressions that shape the Caribbean scene. The series was conceived, written, directed and edited by the remarkable Banyan (Trinidad) team of Christopher Laird, Bruce Paddington and Tony Hall. Nearly 20 years later, they are still mostly relevant, and are available from the unique Caribbean video archives of www.pancaribbean.com Watch the YouTube Video at this link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxDKIJGLnVI>

Ken Corsbie .. is .. "Caribbean Voices"

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Telephone: 631) 744-3127

THE PRIMACY OF HOPE— by Dave Martins

In years past, hearing outside about my country's difficulties, I would come home to Guyana with Tradewinds to play music, or just to visit, always concerned that I would find a joyless, dispirited people. Instead, I would find Guyanese, certainly complaining, but also upbeat, showing exuberance, finding things to laugh at. It would always surprise me. I would be away for a year or so, hear about some other traumas – devaluation; items banned; shortages; etc. – and I would come home thinking, “Okay, this time I will see them down in the dumps”, and again I would be wrong. In all those years, on every trip, I never saw a downtrodden, hopeless people.



In that context, when a letter writer, complaining about our various societal problems, recently made reference to “a paucity of hope” in Guyana, the phrase pulled me up short. Paucity of hope? In Guyana?

Although I had never thought about the subject before in those terms, that letter writer's clear statement made me realise, almost as I read it, that I had the completely opposite view. Guyanese, it seems to me, are redolent with hope. And in case you're about to say it's a kind of blindness to reality, I disagree. Our ability to deal with our difficulties is predicated on understanding the realities, but also on having a reservoir of hope; hope that things will change; hope that whatever the present distress may be, it is not permanent (history shows that); hope that whatever bad apples we see generating wrong will not be there forever. Hope is the fuel that keeps the engine going, although obstacles abound.

I can see how someone caught up in a particular vexing scenario might be inclined to see things as “hopeless”, but to interact across the board in this society is to see example after example of people who haven't given up hope at all. People like the two policemen who stopped traffic to help an old lady across the street; or the coconut vendor on Irving Street, laughing at two Guyanese arguing, and saying “I ain't wan' live nowhere else.”; or the people investing in new infrastructure; or the young couple slaving over a backyard garden to make ends meet – I've seen all those things here.

I'm not formally religious, but I regard hope, in effect, as the presence of God in us. It is the abiding knowledge that “better will come”. It may take time (look how long it took for Papa Doc to be sent packing; look how long before the Berlin Wall fell; look how long it took for a cure for polio) but it will come. The strength to endure comes from hope. Think of the travail of black people in the United States, with dogs and fire hoses turned against them, powerless; think of Little Rock, in 1957,

with 11 young children facing hundreds of rabid rednecks in order to go to school; those black people were fortified by the conviction of hope. The phrase Barack Obama uses is “the audacity of hope”; it is a relentless power. It eventually prevails.

The singular story of Nelson Mandela, of his lifetime in prison, is known around the world. How could one keep facing a totalitarian, unrelenting regime, determined to deny you your rights, every day, year round, for 27 years? Talk about hopelessness – that would be it. Mandela says he never gave up hope. It is mankind's nature to hope. We know from the Bible about faith, hope and charity, and I may get some arguments about this, but I think hope is the most powerful of the three because it is the fuel for the life force that keeps us going when everything is breaking loose around us. History is replete with examples of it.

Consider the tangled history of Europe with entire nationalities being subjugated, displaced from their homelands, and even in the depths of those horrors, those people kept their vision of nationhood and persevered to see its revival. Hope never deserted them.

Ironically, even the media voices in Guyana who are constantly regaling us with the litany of things going wrong; it could be argued they constitute an expression of hope. Yes, the constant diet of bad news can be draining, but by their very actions these people, if they are genuine, are operating also on the premise of a hope that change can come, that improvements can take place; that irregularities can be repaired. By the very fact that they are still here – and not in New York, or Toronto, or Trinidad – these people are agitating for change because they believe it can occur. Freddie and Adam and Fenty, et al, may not be inclined to say so publicly, but I expect if you press them they will tell you that they have not given up hope; on the contrary, it is their fuel.

When I was commissioned to write an emancipation musical by the Guyana Commemoration Commission in 1984, I spent many research hours in the Caribbean Reference Library at UG and I remember, in those hours of reading, how totally surprised I was to learn that the slaves, in the midst of that degrading existence, were somehow able to retain their dignity, their resolve and even their sense of humour. It had to be hope operating there, not allowing them to fold up like a pack of cards in what appeared to be a dead end situation. In the story of the Haitian earthquake unfolding around us now, we see it again. In those conditions, appalling beyond belief, people don't give up hope. It keeps them going, even to the point of lying trapped in rubble for over a week, simply refusing to let go. The people I referred to earlier – the ones in Guyana I would meet on my trips back here – are evidence of it. The quotation “hope springs eternal in the human breast” sentence is more than great writing; it is also great truth.

From the Crusades, to slavery, to the Holocaust, to Pol Pot, to pre-Castro Cuba, even in early America itself, mankind, in infinitely worse conditions than Guyana, doesn't give up hope. In fact, all the people who choose to stay in this country, or the ones who return, are doing so precisely because they are full of hope for better days; the time line may be uncertain, but the hope is not. Hope in a person dies only when they're dead. (*Stabrock News—Features—February 8, 2010*).

170 th
Anniversary**Guiana and Local Government: The Village Movement****By Allan Young, B.Litt. (Oxon.) - first published in 1958**

A stranger to British Guiana, travelling from Crabwood Creek to Charity, would be forcibly struck by the number of times he would pass through substantial and well-defined village areas outside the sugar estates. He would be even more impressed to learn that in nearly a hundred of these villages corporate councils manage the local affairs of their hundred thousand inhabitants – transacting business to a value of three quarters of a million dollars in the course of an average year.



[1]

The Village Movement began with the purchase of Pln Northbrook—Victoria Village—in 1839 Illustrated by Barrington Braithwaite

A hundred and twenty years ago, the countryside was almost bare of villages. Only four free coastal settlements were to be found that could possibly be described as villages. From East to West, the first of these was “The Winkel”, a small settlement on the outskirts of New Amsterdam that is now a part of that town. Next came a group of houses at the Mahaicony ferry, but so few in number that it is doubtful whether they should be dignified by the name of a village. The other two were somewhat larger. One was at the Mahaica ferry [and] the other at Aberdeen on the Essequibo Coast.

Against a background such as this, the forces that operated to produce the chain of villages that we know today had to be very powerful indeed. What were these forces? To find the answer we must turn to the general history of the period.

In an article on the administrative view of history in the May issue of the Magazine KyK-Over-al, I gave it as my personal view that history is essentially the record of the successive national decisions of a people, in its upwards striving on every front towards the attainment of the fuller life. The national decisions are enshrined in the laws of a country and reflect the policy of the Government on the various problems of the time. We need to know now, what was official policy on the question of village development, but to understand this we must look at the economic background.

The essential point in this background is that gold, diamonds, bauxite and rice – none of these was playing its present part and the Colony’s economy was wholly dependent on sugar production. But this was before the days of agricultural machinery as we know it. Without a supply of labourers to work in the canefields, the sugar industry was bound to collapse and, in doing so, it would submerge the economy of the entire country.

To avert this danger, emancipation had been introduced as a phased affair. Instead of fully liberating all the slaves in a single step, the workers had been made to serve a four-year period of apprenticeship, in which they were bound to continue to work for their former masters. With the

end of apprenticeship in sight, the danger of a labour shortage re-appeared and something had to be done about it while a solution was being worked out through immigration.

One thing was certain. The free labourers would need to do work of one kind or another to secure food and clothing which they now had to provide for themselves. It was inevitable that they would look almost exclusively to agriculture, since this was the only career for which they were really fitted. But agriculture needs land, and it followed that so long as the freed apprentice could be kept without land of his own, just so long would he remain tied to the sugar plantation. In British Guiana, where unoccupied lands were available in large quantities, policy was carefully shaped towards producing a free but landless labourer.

To prevent squatting, the Apprenticeship Order-in-Council provided that an apprentice found five miles from his own plantation was subject to arrest. The unauthorized occupation of waste lands carried a penalty of three months imprisonment with hard labour, any apprentices found establishing themselves as distinct communities were to be dislodged and a vagrancy law was introduced, similar to that in force in England. As regards Crown lands, the policy adopted was to regulate the labour market by controlling the flow of such lands by means of price manipulations. For a start, Crown lands were to be alienated in minimum quantities of 100 acres, at a price of \$4.80 per acre.

But in the minds of the labourers, powerful forces had begun to work. Prominent among them was the urge to do more than just eke out an existence by planting a provision farm to serve their own immediate needs. But the only economic crop they had any skill in handling was the sugarcane and their skill was based on plantation methods and not on peasant-farming. What is more, the old drainage system to which they were accustomed was one designed to serve an entire plantation. In short, cane-farming, as the labourers knew it, demanded a plantation and not a plot of the kind being sold by some of the planters, of which I shall tell you more in a moment.

But to the free labourer the urge to become a land-owner was more than an economic urge. It was also very largely psychological. In the past, the slaves had been part of a plantation. The sale of an estate as a going concern included the sale of its slaves. In this way, the ownership of land had come to connote mastery. To become a landowner meant that the freedman would have to call no man master. To own a plantation would be to achieve the ultimate in self-mastery.

In the case of Crown Lands, it was a simple matter for the Government to apply a restrictive policy. With privately-owned lands it was quite another matter. With these urges acting on the emancipated labourers, the planters found it impossible to adopt this policy, particularly in the case of the abandoned plantations, which remained responsible for maintaining their public road and sea defences and for which the owners were only too happy to find a market.

The number of these plantations was quite considerable by this time. Between the Corentyne and Mahaica rivers, for example, fully three-quarters of the plantations were out of cultivation and, on the entire Essequibo Coast, only two were still in operation. An abandoned plantation was beyond the means of the individual labourer but not beyond the combined resources of a group.

In the radio talks I gave two years ago, I described how, in November 1839, a group of 83 labourers from the five nearby Estates of Dochfour, Ann’s Grove, Hope, Paradise and Enmore on the East Coast of Demerara, combined to make the first collective purchase of a plantation for cane-farming. (continued on Page 15)

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Anniversary

Guiana and Local Government: The Village Movement

(continued from Page 14.)

This was Northbrook, which has since become known as Victoria village. The price was \$10,000, and more than \$6,000 was subscribed in cash for the down-payment and, as I mentioned, in their eagerness the labourers were to be seen pushing this purchase-money in laden wheelbarrows through the streets of the city. The balance was covered by a pro-note which they were able to redeem in three weeks.

The migration from estate to village had begun. How were the planters to arrest it? The more far-seeing among them had already attempted a remedy. They had argued, with a good deal of merit that, if the freed apprentices owned or lived on plots of land on or near to an estate, they would be less likely to migrate and the planter would have near at hand a settled labour force. A number of villages were created in this way. Among them the name of Queenstown figures prominently.

The labourers in Demerara and Essequibo had started the movement. Those in Berbice were not slow to follow and, by 1840, four large collective villages were to be found on the West Coast of Berbice. On the Canje there were three flourishing villages and on the Corentyne Coast Fyrish had come into existence. These were followed within a year by Sisters on the Berbice River and Cumberland on the Canje and by villages at Springlands and Skeldon on the Corentyne Coast. Back in Demerara, villages were springing up on both banks of the Demerara River, on the West Coast and in Canal No. 1.

And so with these urges and from these origins the village movement came into being. The inflation in land values that followed the opening of the movement had little effect in arresting its progress. On the other hand, a general strike in 1842 did much to accelerate it. Before the end of that year, 16,000 labourers, alarmed at the threat of eviction by the planters, had migrated from estate to village. By the end of 1844 the villagers numbered 19,000. By the middle of 1847, they totalled 30,000.

In the book called *The Approaches to Local Self Government in British Guiana* that has just been published I have traced in some detail, the rise and fall of the village movement. Here, I must sum up by saying that in less than ten years the village movement was on the decline.

As with the beginning of the movement, the first cause was economic but, as before, the psychological factor played an important part for it was this psychological factor more than anything else that cut off the village movement at the height of its glory. The economic forces were free trade and the 1847 economic crisis in Britain. At the height of this crisis in British Guiana, the bank failed for a while. The labourers refused to accept banknotes in payment of wages. Paper money was hawked through the streets and bought by the Portuguese shop-keepers at 20 per cent below par.

This was a situation that brought home to the labourers, for the very first time, the economic hazards inherent in their new-found freedom. The fact that a banknote could lose its purchasing power struck at the very foundations on which their new life of industry and thrift was being built. What did it profit a man to labour so industriously for a roll of bank-notes when, in the twinkling of an eye, the banknote might lose its purchasing power?

The village movement was basically the investment of savings in the purchase of land but what if, in this process, the savings could lose some of their value? The realization that this was possible undermined the incentive for the village movement. But by this time the value of village property had reached a total of two and a half million dollars at a conservative estimate. As regards people, the villages and settlements held between them more than 40,000 creoles; the estates held less than half that number.

But the village movement was far from its end. Twenty years later it had a revival in the East Indian settlements movement started with the object of inducing the immigrant to remain in the Colony at the end of his period of indenture under an arrangement by which he would commute his right to return passage in favour of a small land-holding.

After the first unsuccessful attempts at Nooten Zuil and Huis t'Dieren, this phase of the movement reached its peak in such villages as Bloomfield, Whim and Bush Lot, Maria's Pleasure, Helena and Clonbrook. In our own time, we are witnessing the third phase of the village movement. I am referring to our land settlement schemes and to the extra-nuclear housing areas that have been springing up so rapidly on the sugar estates within the last few years.

With a magic stroke of the pen, Her Majesty the Queen had transformed the legal, civic and social status of 80,000 serfs in British Guiana. In what I have already described as the greatest un-aided self-help scheme ever to be witnessed in this country, the new citizens had triumphed over a restrictive land policy to transform their own economic status.

If for no other reason than this, the village movement will always demand a place of its own in the historical literature of Guiana.

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HISTORY OF RADIO IN BRITISH GUIANA



Winners at the Ovaltine Show—do you recognize them?

Behind them - left to right - are Rafiq Khan (Program Director), M. R. Lam (Agent for Ovaltine), Unidentified Person, Olga Lopes-Seale (Announcer) and E. R. Burrowes (Quiz Master).

Radio broadcasts were started in Guyana (then British Guiana) in the 1920s by a number of enthusiasts. In 1926, just 4 years after the British Broadcasting Company (later the British Broadcasting Corporation) started regular broadcasting in Britain, there was a small wired service that relayed broadcasts, especially from the BBC's Daventry transmitter, over the Georgetown telephone system. ... continued...

Read all about early radio in British Guiana with the names of announcers, managers, reporters, operations personnel and other employees you may have known.

Read whole article at this link: [History of Radio in British Guiana](http://www.guyaneseonline.wordpress.com) on our Blog at www.guyaneseonline.wordpress.com