

Masthead Picture: Umana Yana

“Umana Yana” is a Wai-Wai word meaning “Meeting place of the people”. The Umana Yana on Main Street, next to the Pegasus Hotel, is a conical palm thatched hut (benab) erected for the [Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers Conference](#) in [Guyana](#) in August 1972 as a V.I.P. Lounge and recreation centre. It is now a permanent structure and admired part of [Georgetown](#)’s scenery, and used as an exhibition and conference centre.

The structure is 55 feet (16.78 meters) high and is made from thatched allibanna and manicole palm leaves, and wallaba posts lashed together with mukru, turu and nibbi vines. No nails were used. It was erected by a team of about sixty [Wai-Wai](#) Amerindians, one of the nine indigenous tribes of Guyana. Fashioned like the Wai-Wai benabs or shelters which are found deep in Guyana’s interior, it occupies an area of 460 square metres, making it the largest structure of its kind in Guyana. [more](#)



Rupununi oil well results forecast for December

[Stabroek News, September 11, 2010](#)

Groundstar plans to begin drilling for oil in the Rupununi in mid-October in the first such major operation here in ten years.

Most of the drilling rig has arrived on the Apoteri K2 drilling location while the remainder is in the process of clearing customs in Manaus, Brazil prior to being mobilized to the location, the company said in a statement yesterday. It said that pre-drill operations continue at the location.

The company expects to begin drilling the Apoteri K2 well in mid October and anticipates that the well will take 50 days to drill, the statement said.

Previously, the company had anticipated drilling beginning in August. “Groundstar is extremely pleased and excited to have reached this stage”, the company said.

It pointed out that the company is currently drilling a high-potential well drilling in the Kurdish part of Iraq while, apart from the exploratory well that will be drilled on its Takutu PPL here, another will be drilled on the WKO block in Upper Egypt this year, at no cost to the Company. “Regardless of this year’s drilling results, additional exploration wells will be drilled in 2011 in Guyana and Egypt at no cost to Groundstar”, said the statement.

Groundstar has a 10% working interest in the Takutu Petroleum Prospecting Licence (PPL), which contains the Karanambo discovery drilled by Home Oil in 1982 while Canacol Energy Ltd holds the remaining 90% interest in the PPL.

However, in November 2009, Canacol completed a farm-out agreement with Sagres Energy Inc whereby Sagres acquired a 25% interest in the exploration agreement by agreeing to fund 30% (US\$1.25 million) of costs of drilling the K-2 exploration well; bringing Canacol’s net working interest to 65%.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Corporation and Sagres will carry Groundstar’s 10% remaining working interest until first commercial oil production.

The joint venture plans to drill the Apoteri K-2 well to a total measured depth of approximately 11,000 feet. Gaffney Cline and Associates attributed gross mean recoverable prospective resources of 128 million barrels of oil to the discovery in a December 2009 report compiled for Canacol.

Groundstar to date has completed the construction of the drilling pad, access roads, and staging areas in preparation for drilling, and has purchased and mobilized wellheads sufficient for 3 wells which are in the country. If successful the well will be put on a long-term production test to establish the deliverability and performance of the formations. [\(read complete article here\)](#)



Workers decorating a sign at the entrance to the Sophia Exhibition site where the five-day GuyExpo opened on Thursday, September 30, 2010. (Photo by Jules Gibson)

SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO THE BLOG

If you would like to comment on this newsletter or Blog please go to comments for [October Newsletter link HERE](#) < click. . You do not have to use your actual name. In your comments. You can also write Cyril at guyaneseonline@gmail.com

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

Welcome to the Guyanese Online Newsletter



By: Cyril Bryan, Editor and Publisher

This is the **eight edition** of the Guyanese Online Newsletter. The newsletters and Blog have been well received and reach thousands of Guyanese and their friends worldwide. I must thank all those who have commented and sent personal e-mails. Thanks also to the associations, groups and advertisers.

EDITORIAL: "Our Indigenous Heritage" Part 1/2

September is recognized in Guyana as Amerindian Heritage Month. Therefore, in this issue we feature a number of articles related to Amerindians - the Aboriginal peoples of Guyana, whose ancestors have inhabited the region for over 10,000 years.

Whether we believe it or not, many Guyanese, at home and abroad, have Amerindian ancestors. The European planters and managers, the free men of mixed heritage, the freed slaves, the Portuguese, the Chinese and the East Indians all married or made children with Amerindians or persons who were part Amerindian. The main reason for most men was the shortage of their own ethnic women during Indentureship. The manifests of landed persons show this great disparity. The "mixed" category is actually larger than reported, as DNA would prove that the majority of Guyanese have ancestors from various ethnic groups.

In this age of Globalization we depend on integrated supply networks to ensure economic viability. On the other hand, the ecologists and environmentalists say that the world is headed for disaster if present population and environmental trends continue. Environmentalists look for a more stable and sustainable future, living with and protecting natural environments.... meanwhile the Amerindians have lived that way for thousands of years. If the whole world's economic system collapses tomorrow, they may still survive. However, could we in our "Modern World?"

Aboriginal peoples are usually disrespected in most countries. They are called uncivilized, cannibals and such names as they are exterminated to make way for settlers who want their land and resources. Brazil's Amazon is a perfect example of this. Inferiority complexes are created and the beauty, medical knowledge, botanical and ancestral knowledge, languages, oral traditions destroyed or ignored. Of course, the drug companies help themselves to the botanical knowledge of their medicine men.

The Amerindians now make up about 10% of Guyana's population, and growing. There are also people who consider themselves as "mixed" at almost 20%. Those who say they are Afro-Guyanese make up about 30% and those who say they are Indo-Guyanese about 40%. It is believed by many that Indo-Guyanese more than any other ethnic category, have left Guyana since the [2002 Census](#) when they were 43.5% of the population. Amerindians and those of mixed heritage are, therefore, becoming a force that could influence the political future of Guyana.

The attention now being paid to our Amerindian ancestors is laudable. However, what is the price of so called "progress"? Does it mean the disrespecting of elders and the loss of ancestral lands, knowledge and wisdom? Does it mean giving them "peanuts", as they are used as backdrops in a human zoo for tourists, who pay thousands for the experience? Does it mean the further loss of ancestral lands as title is given to individuals and later sold to persons not of their tribe. Does it mean more mercury and cyanide in their water and fish? We have to ask these questions as we speed them into the 21st century with high-speed Internet, increased crime and their social destruction.

Guyana to receive Norway \$US30M soon

Jagdeo makes announcement at opening of GuyExpo 2010

October 1, 2010 | By [KNews](#) | By Gary Eleazar

Guyana will be the first country to be paid for standing forests and the first tranche of US\$30M will be deposited into the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF) account within ten days. This is according to President Bharrat Jagdeo who was at the time speaking at the opening ceremony of the **GuyExpo 2010** which will continue over the next five days under the theme, **"Expanding Investment in a Sustainable Environment."**

Jagdeo said that the process for the depositing of the money is currently in the final stages of processing to receive the money which is being paid to Guyana as part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Kingdom of Norway to the tune of some \$250M

Jagdeo said that the money will be used to invest in Guyana's future, adding that some will be used for the access road to pave the way for the construction of the Amaila Falls Hydro Electric Plant. The President said that as soon as the Environmental Social Impact Assessment Report is met with satisfaction the Government will authorize the contractor to commence building the access road

He said that some of the money will also be used to allow for the installation of Solar Panels in Amerindian communities many of which have never had electricity before and some of the money will also be used for the demarcation of Amerindian Lands. [more](#)

GUYEXPO-2010

With regards to international participation, the tourism sector of Suriname and investors from Mexico, Brazil, and India are lined up to be part of the event. This year, the food court is expected to be more spacious, modern and well-organised, offering a wide variety of cuisines.

Minister Prashad highlighted that over the years; GuyExpo has evolved, promoting local markets and attracting foreign investors. He also added that the six-night event is the longest sustained exposition in the Caribbean, owing to the overwhelming response by the Guyanese public.

The manufacturing sector will be given priority as the main pavilion that previously accommodated approximately 86 booths will now be occupied entirely by the manufacturing sector which includes exhibitors, major furniture manufacturers such as Comfort Sleep, NDS, Melsha and the Kissoon Group of Companies.

Categories of participation this year include art and craft, engineering, fashion design, food and beverage, food processing, horticulture, information, tourism, manufacturing, photography, and technology. GuyExpo 2010 was launched in July with the theme **'Expanding investments in a sustainable environment'**.

[more](#)

Please note

This **Guyanese Online Newsletter** and the **Guyanese Online Blog** is designed, edited, produced and published by **Cyril Bryan**.

Individuals, Organizations, Associations and groups should send their announcements, features, news, and event advertisements for publication to **Cyril Bryan** at: guyaneseonline@gmail.com

Computer technology promised at Amerindian Heritage month launch

Stabroek News - September 2, 2010 | Comments



The Santa Mission dance troupe performing at the Amerindian Heritage Month (GINA)

A plan to provide computer banks to Amerindian communities as part of the government's goal to expand on September 1, by President Bharrat Jagdeo at the launch of Amerindian Heritage Month celebrations.

Jagdeo made the announcement while addressing Ministers, MPs, members of the Diplomatic Corps and other members of the indigenous community at the Amerindian Village, Sophia, where activities kicked off month-long activities in Georgetown and in Amerindian communities. The theme for this year's celebrations is "promoting sustainable livelihood and cultural heritage while transforming our village economies."

Jagdeo said that in order to begin improvements in the lives of Amerindians, information technology linkages was necessary. He explained that within the next two years in the larger communities, a computer centre will be set up which would allow for villagers to access a bank of computers with internet access. Additionally, he emphasised the benefits of "e-medicine," which he said would tackle the problem of distance between hinterland communities and hospitals in Georgetown and would improve diagnosis. With the government's acquisition of its own overland fibre optic cable, Jagdeo said that it will be able to connect all institutions of the state to help its people.

He also urged Amerindians to see the benefits of the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), noting "No Amerindian land will be pledged as part of the LCDS-only if they want to," he assured, while also noting that \$8M out of the funds received from the Norwegian government will be used to assist in the village development plans in Amerindian communities. He added that ideally the projects should focus on economic activities which would create jobs and improving food security. He also repeated the government's plan to outfit 10,000 Amerindian households with solar panels. The initiative has started with 1,000 households and would be rolled out fully within three years.

Commenting on the state of healthcare in the hinterland, Jagdeo said that while the programme has expanded to include more health huts and hospitals, he was not satisfied. He stressed the need to elevate the health care standard by increasing the number of medexes and doctors.

He also said the principle task which faced Amerindians was to improve their livelihoods without compromising their cultural growth and preservation and he expressed his deep respect for Amerindians, and their self-sufficiency.

In her address, Pauline Sukhai, Minister of Amerindian Affairs informed that a dictionary in five Amerindian languages-Arecuna, Akawaio, Arawak, Wapishana and Warrarau-had been completed and she said that this was a positive sign that the documentation of Amerindian languages would be done in the near future.

She added that the theme selected for heritage month was important since it placed prominence on livelihood options while striking a balance among social, economic and productive sectors which would result in a modern landscape. In this regard, she noted that she was proud of villages in regions 7, 8 and 9 who have been able to preserve their language and their traditional means of cultivation and food. "Amerindians should make a conscious effort to make use of resources and recognise that they should be their own agent of change," Sukhai said. Additionally, she pointed out that growth in economic and productive sectors would lead to employment generation and sustained income in the long run.

Meanwhile, Dr. George Norton of the Guyana Organisation of Indigenous Peoples (GOIP) said that it was important for Amerindians to learn about their history and their language. He said that through the churches, Amerindian had lost much of themselves. He issued a call for the return of the indigenous naming of villages and babies and more involvement in the Alleluia church which he said was the soul of indigenous peoples in Guyana. He said that the time had come for indigenous peoples to assume the position of power and he suggested that Sydney Allicock would make a good president.

Both Jagdeo and Sukhai paid tribute to the life and work of the late Dr. Desrey Fox whom they said left a void with her passing. Jagdeo said that for progress to prevail, "we need to work together and not follow who deh pun top." He said that we constantly see each other through racial eyes and it was necessary to break down that barrier. "Young people take the country back, mould and shape it, don't let older folks to dictate to you."

Toshao Bernard Laud of Waramuri, this year's heritage village, invited everyone to come to his community to be part of celebrations, an experience he said they would not regret. He described his village as one of the fastest developing villages which has much to offer their visitors.

At the launch, the audience was treated to songs and cultural dances from groups from various Amerindian communities. Representatives from Amerindian organisations based in Georgetown brought their greeting for the month long celebrations.



Visitors to the Amerindian Village, Sophia admire some of the craft pieces on display. The food and craft exhibition ran from September 1-5.

President's US\$30M laptop pledge raises doubt over viability

[Stabroek News August 15, 2010](#) | [Comments](#)

President Bharrat Jagdeo's recent pledge of some US\$30M over the next three years to purchase laptops for 90,000 poor families has attracted a lot of scepticism, including the suggestion that it is an election campaign gimmick.

The announcement was made two weeks ago at GT&T's official launch of the Suriname/Guyana Submarine Cable System (SG-SCS), which is the backbone on which its e-magine broadband service was rolled out.

While Information Technology (IT) professional and human rights activist Vidyaratha Kissoon felt it was important for any government to ensure there is universal access to telecommunications and related technology, he was concerned that there seemed to have been no effort to find out what assistance the poor would prefer. "The government wants to spend about G\$66,000 per family on giving access to ICT. What if the families decide that they could use this money to fix a roof, invest in some other income earning activity, [or] buy a Blackberry?" he wrote on his blog.

He noted that global initiatives such as the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) were based on the philosophy that "education is important to come out of poverty, and that IT could enhance, not replace, access to high quality education."

"What is our vision for education in Guyana? Is it still considered important enough for our development? Which is better – 30 Million US on laptops, or on paying more teachers better salaries, improving training and having them more accessible to poor families who could also get the books, the clothes and food to attend school?"

Kissoon added that there were children in Guyana today who could not learn because they were hungry and he asked how IT people, the president and others could ensure that those families eat so they enjoy the benefits of the laptop and other poverty reduction strategies. "This IT man believes that no child should go hungry in Guyana and that all children should have access to a high quality education with teachers who will help to remove illiteracy and to encourage learning. The children and their families should also have access to services – health, housing, work, security, good governance- and ICTs could enable the delivery of these services and IT people should be kept happy and in business by supporting the infrastructure for these services," Kissoon stated.

President Jagdeo has been speaking about computers in most homes since the early 2000s and at the launch he said this had not been realised because of the uncertainty about internet access but he noted that with the introduction of the cable the plan could now proceed. He added that it would help generate the demand to sell the bandwidth GT&T has available. However, the president acknowledged that those families may not be able to afford broadband service initially and may receive some assistance from the state. Jagdeo also touted widespread broadband access as a developmental tool which he said the entire region should pursue. He said, "We spend hundreds of millions of dollars on roads, on water supply, sewerage etcetera, and those are important but they don't have the same kind of transformative impact on our society if we were to spend this on broadband access plus the instruments for all of our households. The educational industry could see a boom in our region and we can probably offset some of the loss of competitiveness in the traditional trade areas that we are accustomed to."

Stabroek News tried contacting several other IT professionals and educators to get their views but many were reluctant to comment on the initiative. However, the newspaper's online report on the announcement attracted 178 comments, many of which questioned the wisdom of the plan.

Some commentators saw the initiative as a way to ensure GT&T recouped its investment, with one likening it to the practice of the telecommunications company giving away cellular phones. "They will make every single cent back from these laptops. If you give the people laptop and charge them [the] extra dollars for their internet services they will make that 30 mil back easily. It is the same thing Digicel and others did and guess what, nearly every person in GT owns a cell phone," one wrote.

Another called for training for the recipients of the government's largesse. "Jagdeo should first spend some of the money to train the would-be recipients how to use computers before he gives it to them. Otherwise it will be an exercise in futility. Before buying a car for your kid, you first make sure he/she knows how to drive one. A noble gesture, but Jagdeo has no vision. No advanced planning - Another PPP ploy to get votes. You give computers to people based on skills and need, not poverty, or else they would end up being sold to the 'rich' for little."

Yet other comments noted the unreliability of the power supply and the necessity of ancillary equipment to protect the machines, saying this would be another expense for the poor families. However, many persons were of the opinion that the computers should go to schools instead.

"One method of distribution would allow the schools to determine meaningful use. Hand out these laptops to students who show a desire to learn. This will encourage parents to send their kids to school and it would also provide an excitement and enthusiasm for learning," was one suggestion. "I would have preferred the president donate the laptops to high school students to aid them in their educational upgrades instead of to every family household, I believe he means good in his intentions, on the other hand it would be better to 'feed and house the nation' instead, or make education free from nursery to university like we had before," another said.

Another called for the initiative to be supported by an effort to ensure computer labs in all schools and Learning Resource Centres in Guyana. "The Ministry of Education was challenged to equip these centres over the years. This initiative will not succeed unless these centres and schools are included in this gesture. The better approach would speak to issues of sustainability. This will require looking at staffing, maintenance in addition to a planned curriculum and strategies to ensure yearly replenishments both for replacement and for new students each year."

According to the commentator, "a one-time gift is more of a gimmick."

However, not everyone was skeptical about the initiative with one commentator stating that Jagdeo's name would enter the history books as "the president who ushered Guyana out of the Twentieth Century and brought it into the first decade of the Twenty-First Century."

Another stated that IT was the way to go and that education of the people was the most important thing in modern societies. "More jobs will fall in place as technical skills improve. This is a massive boost to the children in Guyana."

Tremendous increase in commerce seen a year after opening of Takutu Bridge

Posted By Mark McGowan On September 15, 2010

Guyana is already reaping tremendous commercial benefit from the presence of the Takutu Bridge a year after it was officially commissioned and it is set for take off and expansion, Trade and Commerce Minister Manniram Prashad has said.

The bridge, which links Guyana to Brazil, was commissioned on September 14 last year by President Bharrat Jagdeo and his Brazilian counterpart Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. And according to Minister Prashad the progress made in the year since the official opening "has laid the foundation for [Guyana's] take off and expansion."

According to Prashad, there has been increased trade in the community and a genuine interest by entrepreneurs to invest in Lethem. The government, he said, has invested in two commercial zones in Lethem. The first has 61 plots; 46 have already been leased. The second has 40 plots and 42 applications have already been submitted, the minister said. He said persons are interested in building hotels, warehouses, banks and other business enterprises.

He said too that the Brazilian private sector is interested in investing in Guyana and he pointed to a visit made by several businessmen earlier this year. The minister said a reciprocal trip is planned for members of the local private sector very shortly. According to him, the bridge has already facilitated increased export of flour and coconuts from Guyana into Brazil. Prashad said too that about 100 vehicles cross over from Brazil on a normal weekday while on weekends and holidays this number grows to approximately 300. According to him, these were



The Takutu bridge connecting Guyana and Brazil

healthy indications of what was happening since the commissioning of the bridge. However, he pointed out that it was not all smooth sailing and that the administration was still trying to iron out some hiccups.

Meanwhile Foreign Affairs Minister Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett said Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) has informed that there has been an increase in the volume of goods traded between the two countries. She pointed out that the Guyana government also took a decision for all but five items – ammunition, tobacco products, petroleum products, alcohol and vehicles – imported into the country from Brazil to be duty free . [more.](#)

Matthew's Ridge - manganese exploration

Reunion Manganese Inc. a Canadian company, plans to hire Guyanese to help explore for the mineral in and around the abandoned manganese mine at Matthew's Ridge and Pipiani which was operated by a subsidiary of Union Carbide Corporation from 1962 to 1968. The company shut down the mine due to a huge slump in the price for manganese.

With more than 1.66 million tonnes of manganese concentrate shipped from the mine site during the 1960s by Union Carbide; Reunion Manganese Inc is optimistic that it would eventually move from exploration to commercial production.

The company has begun moving in heavy-duty equipment to Matthew's Ridge, north-western Guyana, hoping to revive the mining of manganese- a mineral that is required for the production of steel which is in global demand. "At the moment we're in the process of just getting our supporting infrastructure set up, reconditioning some houses and getting things to site such as bulldozers and back-hoes," President and Chief Executive Officer of Reunion Gold, James Crombie.

Crombie said his company's wholly-owned subsidiary, Reunion Manganese Inc. would be investing at least US\$7 million in the first year of its planned four-year exploration in 45,729 acres that have been covered by four prospecting licenses.

"We're very optimistic, from the initial research that we have done that there are additional reserves and there has been a good deal of technological change and the process has become more efficient for recovering manganese," he said. (Demerara Waves September 13, 2010)

High prices triggering new gold rush

Continually rising gold prices coupled with a highly successful 2009 for the industry appears to have triggered a fresh wave of investment interest in the sector by coastal businessmen who have traditionally paid little if any attention to the gold-mining industry; and according to Executive Secretary of the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA) Edward Shields Guyana's latest 'gold rush' could add to the already existing challenges facing the industry.

It would surprise you to know how many traditionally urban businesses are now indicating an interest in investing in the mining sector. The problem is that these potential new players in the industry are not interested in exploration. They want to have access to those areas where there are proven reserves and that could have implications for those miners already operating in the sector," Shields said.

And according to the GGDMA official this fresh wave of business interest in the gold-mining sector has come at a time when the industry is facing additional challenges associated with the future of the mining sector in an increasingly regulated operating environment.

GGDMA members met recently to prepare and submit recommendations to President Bharrat Jagdeo for the management of the sector, arising out of the setting up by government in January this year of a Special Land Use Committee (SLUCT) to charter a course for the industry. [more](#)

[Stabroek staff On August 20, 2010](#)

Rice tipped to surpass sugar

-2010 first crop exports earn US\$68.5M

Guyana's rice industry may be set to surpass sugar as the country's principal money earner from agriculture, according to a recent review of its performance by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The official review of the current state of the sector concludes that it continues to hold its own despite what the Ministry says are "several challenges." Statistics produced by the Ministry show that the rice sector—which accounted for approximately 3.3% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)—by last year upped its export earnings by 147% over the past five years.

The statistical review of the performance of the industry also points to a 7.2% increase in the total area under cultivation and an increase of 9.8% in harvested area between January and June this year when compared with the same period last year. The Agriculture Ministry says that the expansion of area under cultivation and increased harvesting resulted in an overall 4.5% increase in production. Last year's paddy first crop yielded 258,873 metric tonnes of paddy compared with 247,492 metric tonnes during the same period the previous year while actual rice production jumped from 160,670 metric tonnes for last year's first crop to 168,267 metric tonnes for the corresponding period the previous year. For the 2010 first crop, exports jumped from 124,277 metric tonnes for the 2009 to 157,234 metric tonnes.

According to the Agriculture Ministry, a key barometer of the upswing in the performance of the rice industry has been a 15.5% increase in the dollar value of rice exports, to \$68,586,947.00 from \$US59, 361,868.00 for the 2009 first crop. The Ministry's assessment of the state of the country's rice market says that the new Venezuela market represents "one of the reliable additions" to the country's overseas markets., Guyana's major rice export markets are Jamaica, Holland, Portugal and, more recently, Venezuela. [more](#)

Buxton/Friendship Co-op secures big market for pumpkins

[Stabroek staff](#) | August 25, 2010 | [12 Comments](#)

Farmers of the Buxton/ Friendship Grantee Co-op recently secured their first market of 4000 lbs of pumpkin to a purchaser at Bourda Market, (GINA reported)

Leroy Hamer, Chairman of the Buxton/Friendship Grantee Co-op and Cane Farmers Society, said that the initiative of the group springs from the farmers assistance programme aided by government's drive to promote agriculture, elf-sufficiency, but to also aid the community and the country as a whole.



4,000 lbs of pumpkins from Buxton on way to Bourds Market

Hamer, also commented on the additional drainage works to be embarked upon. He committed, on behalf of the group, that they would ensure that all drainage and irrigation structures will be maintained. The Agriculture Ministry recently completed eight drainage projects to the value of approximately \$115M. These included the rehabilitation of the Buxton pump basin, construction of the revetment along the Buxton Company canal, and excavation works within Buxton and Friendship. [Full article here](#)

Sugar far behind target ... but Bhim optimistic

Chief Executive Officer of GuySuCo, Paul Bhim yesterday confirmed that the sugar industry is facing a heavy production deficit saying that it has slumped to "some low levels" this year, but he expects things to "pick up soon".



Paul Bhim

The industry has just over two months to pick things up before the crop ends in mid-December and while Bhim is optimistic, the signs continue to paint a dismal picture, particularly in production.

Bhim declined to release any production numbers mid-week, but sources within the industry said the deficit is high as 30,000 tonnes. Second crop numbers were reportedly some 61,000 tonnes with production averages around 8,000 tonnes weekly.

"It is true that we are behind, yes it could be close to that number, but the weather has severely impacted on our operations", the CEO told Stabroek News. He said the industry has been struggling since the start of the first crop and is constantly facing setbacks, but that the current dry weather means better results.

He said GuySuCo could easily "catch up" with its production provided the weather holds because the industry has an adequate supply of cane in the ground.

This, he said, means that GuySuCo has to go ahead with full speed and bring the numbers up within the next few weeks. Ac-

ording to him, they are sticking with the current targets and previously revised estimates for the second crop put it at around 185,000 tonnes.

A production target of 280,000 tonnes has been set for this year, but the industry recorded a shortfall during the first crop with output being recorded at 81,864 tonnes.

Skeldon is currently operating with one punt dumper and there are no clear indications as to when the other dumper would be functional. The problem started this week, according to Bhim, who stressed that the factory is operating satisfactorily despite the problem. However, he admitted that it is grinding less cane because of the problem.

And this week Skeldon's General Manager, Vishnu Panday also resigned. The resignation comes as Skeldon is recovering from a fire at the bagasse plant which resulted in extensive damage to a conveyor belt and prior to this, an explosion that resulted in damage to both boilers.

Agricultural Manager at Skeldon, Vickram Subramani has since been appointed to act as General Manager. When questioned about the resignation Bhim said Panday left over personal reasons, but there were reports of some tension between the GM and some farmers. [.more](#)

[Stabroek News—By Iana Seales On September 30, 2010](#)

G\$3.6B (US\$18M) Hope Canal works begin

September 26, 2010 | By [KNews](#) |

— says Minister of Agriculture, Robert Persaud

After months of hiccups and delays, the Hope/Dochfour Canal will finally make its way from a proposed project to actual infrastructure. Minister of Agriculture, Robert Persaud told this newspaper yesterday that on Friday, October 1, the Ministry will be breaking ground on the canal.

It was established that the Ministry would be undertaking the earthen portion of the works through its drainage and irrigation arm, the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA). NDIA will be responsible for excavating the actual canal while the civil works such as the sluices, intake structures and bridges will be advertised to the public for contractors to tender their services. To facilitate the works, the Ministry had imported at least ten excavators earlier this year and now has a fleet of earth moving equipment which will be deployed to dig the more than ten-kilometer long canal.

According to Persaud, the Ministry's decision to handle this part of the project themselves was a cost cutting measure. The excavators will not only save the Ministry from paying a separate contractor to do the digging but the equipment can be used by the NDIA indefinitely as they undertake their drainage and irrigation works around the country.

The Hope/Dochfour Canal is the Ministry's \$3.6B solution to the drainage issues facing East Demerara and West Berbice, which were found to be very vulnerable to flooding in January 2005. Persaud pointed out to Parliament in June last that after the record amounts of rainfall that the country received in January 2005 and every year since, the country has seen the water levels at the East Demerara Water Conservancy exceeding the maximum safe limit for the structure.

The Minister also noted that if there had been just 6cm or a little over 2.5 inches more of rain in January 2005, the dams at the Conservancy would have given way and the damage suffered by the low-lying areas of the coast would have been measured on a much more catastrophic scale. He was at the time attempting to justify the cost and necessity of the Canal to the National Assembly.

The project has been on the table for some time and a number of studies have been conducted to assess the state of the Conservancy in an effort to determine whether or not the Relief Channel was actually necessary.

A draft report jointly issued by the consultants CEMCO/ SRK'N and Mott McDonald last December suggested that the proposed design – 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 Conservancy. The East Demerara Water Conservancy is a water catchment system that is essentially a large reservoir fronted by an earthen dam and drained by a number of small channels which are used in times of heavy rainfall to release the water into surrounding waterways.

In dry seasons the water is used for irrigation purposes in the surrounding areas most of which engage in agricultural activities, and is a big part of the reason why farmers in the region are able to have two crops.

In the report, the options for relieving the stress on the conservancy under heavy rains were laid out. [more](#)

Trading under threat? at Stabroek Market

Many Stabroek Market stallholders believe the last week's spring tide assault is a sign of things to come.

What happened on Thursday, September 9 went way beyond an accustomed swelling of the spring tide. It was a poignant signal to the more than 300 stallholders in the Stabroek Market that the forces of nature can be a temperamental companion. If the financial loss and the attendant dislocation to trading were not half as bad as they could have been, the real significance of the event lies in the fact that the Demerara River, long taken for granted by the traders, has issued a warning that it can no longer be taken for granted.

In the same way that the devastating floods of 2005 and 2006 instructed the coastal farming communities, last week's flooding warned the stallholders that they are under constant threat.

By the time I visited the market last Tuesday, there was little evidence of the damage done by the deluge. Among the stallholders, who had been bemoaning their losses just a few days earlier, the spring tide had ceased to be a talking point. They appeared to have put the event entirely behind them. It was business as usual.

Clerk of Markets Schuller Griffith was insistent that the municipal clean-up team be given its due for their work. The tide had begun to ebb by 6:30 and the first phase of the clean-up went on until 11:30 that evening. The next day, they returned to finish the job. [more](#)

Pandama seeking Caribbean wine market

- making significant inroads locally

If Warren Douglas gets his way Guyana could be exporting a range of high-quality, fruit-based table wines to the rest of the Caribbean in less than a year. Warren's Pandama brand of wines has already won a measure of acclaim among a modest but appreciative cross-section of local wine drinkers.

The quality of his offering no less than his attractive labelling and presentation has attracted the patronage of some of the city's more popular supermarkets including Nigel's, Survival, Guyana Stores, Fogarty's, N&S Mattai and the Police Consumers Co-op Society. In the short-term, his local marketing plans include targeting hotels and restaurants, both directly and through the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana (THAG).

Guyana, however, is only a small part of Warren's plan for his Pandama brand. Brimming with confidence in its potential to become a favoured local export, the remigrant-turned-vintner has given himself six months to break into the regional market. Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent are his immediate regional target markets and market acceptance in those territories will see him tackle what he considers to be a more challenging Jamaican market.

There is much about this modest manufacturing initiative that is deserving of commendation. Warren and his American-born wife Tracy returned to Guyana and established their home on a seventeen-acre plot of land at Madewini on the Soesdyke-Linden Highway between the Marudi Creek and Splashmin's. Home is also the factory where 5,000 gallons of wine are produced every month. [more](#)

Regional
News**BBC reports on forced labour in Brazil****Slave-like conditions a reality for thousands of poor Brazilians**

Brazil court upholds \$3m 'slave labour' fine on firm —BBC News August 19,2010

A Brazilian court has upheld a fine of nearly \$3m (£1.93m) on a company accused of keeping people as slave labourers on its ranches for years. The fine is the biggest imposed for employing slave labour, the Supreme Labour Tribunal said in a statement.

Among 180 employees freed from the firm's two ranches in the state of **Para** in 1998 were several adolescents. In its ruling, the TST upheld a decision by a lower court to impose a financial penalty on Lima Araujo Agropecuaria, the firm that owns the ranches in the Amazonian state. Confirming the fine of 5m reais (\$2.8m), Judge Luiz Philippe Vieira de Mello Filho said it should serve as an example not only for the company in question but to all guilty of exploiting workers.

He said the company's premises had been raided on five occasions between 1998 and 2002. The company's behaviour, the judge said, was "absolutely reprehensible, a direct attack on and affront to people's dignity".

This included not giving them water, keeping them in mud huts without sanitation and denying sick workers medical treatment.



Debt slavery is found especially in Brazil's Amazon. Poor workers are lured to plantations where they then incur debts to owners which they cannot pay off.

It is estimated some 25,000 people in Brazil still work in conditions that amount to slave labour.

The Brazilian government launched a national plan in 2002 to eradicate slavery. Government agents last year rescued some 3,000 workers across Brazil.

Related Stories:

[Brazil rescues farm workers](#) 12 SEPT, 2010
[Brazil tackles forced labour boom](#) 26 JUNE 2010,
['Slave' labourers freed in Brazil](#) 03 JULY 2007,
[Brazil's 'slave' ranch workers](#) 11 MAY 2005,
[Brazil 'slavery' damned by report](#) 19 JULY 2004,
[Brazil government national plan against slave labour](#)
[ILO Report on Forced labour in Brazil](#)

Chavez slim Venezuela vote win in elections

CARACAS (Reuters) – President Hugo Chavez's party just beat a newly united opposition bloc for the popular vote at a weekend parliamentary election that split the country down the middle, final official results showed yesterday.

The National Electoral Council said his ruling Socialist Party took 5.45 million votes or 48.9 per cent of ballots cast in Sunday's poll, compared with 5.33 million votes or 47.9 per cent for the Democratic Unity umbrella group.

The president has said the presence of a rejuvenated opposition in the 165-seat National Assembly will not hinder his legislative agenda and promised to accelerate his socialist reforms in South America's biggest oil producer.

The focus is now on the next presidential election, when the opposition will hope to win by maintaining their newfound unity, finding a candidate with national appeal, and developing a policy platform that goes beyond simply being anti-Chavez.

The final results gave Chavez's party 97 seats, two short of the three-fifths it would need to grant the former soldier decree powers letting him bypass parliament. Democratic Unity had 65 seats, and smaller parties three seats. [more.](#)

Regional
News**Suriname's small-scale gold miners facing environmental pressures**

[Stabroek News—September 3, 2010](#)

As is currently the case in Guyana, record gold prices have reportedly swelled the ranks of small-scale gold mining operations in neighbouring Suriname, bringing them under increasing official scrutiny over allegations that the current 'gold rush' is cutting a swathe through the former Dutch colony's tropical rainforest.



This huge clearing in Suriname's rainforest is a telltale sign of aggressive mining activity

Recently an Associated Press (AP) report noted a warning by Vice-President of Suriname's newly-elected government Robert Ameerali that the authorities may be set to reduce the use of mercury in the gold-mining industry, which, though illegal is widely available to Surinamese miners.

Allegations of excessive and irresponsible use of mercury and its impact on the poisoning of rivers and streams also abound in the mining sector in Guyana and a debate over the future use of mercury here has already started ahead of the imminent banning of mercury exports by both Europe and the United States.

As is also the case in Guyana, blame for the creation of huge clearings in the jungle surrounded by mountains of overturned soil and felled trees in Suriname is being laid at the feet of the small miners—an estimated 14,000 of them—who last year produced a record 16.5 metric tonnes of gold. The Toronto-based IAMGOLD, which once ran the single largest gold-mining operation in Guyana's history, owns Suriname's largest gold

mine. Last year, the mine produced nearly 12 metric tonnes of gold.

Large gold-mining operations are not without their critics, but it is the small mining operations that are attracting most of the attention from environmentalists. It is the lucrative nature of the industry that has reportedly caused the government in Paramaribo to turn a blind eye to the illegal but reportedly rampant sub-letting of mining and what a World Wildlife Fund (WWF) official has been quoted as saying has been the tearing up of trees, poisoning of creeks with mercury and erecting of makeshift jungle towns complete with shops, prostitutes and churches. "Some parts of Suriname have become like the Wild West, only with All Terrain Vehicles and satellite dishes,"

AP reporter Ben Fox says. Fox, one of a number of AP journalists who recently visited a mining area about 100 miles south of Paramaribo writes: "All around were the huge telltale piles of discarded soil and open pits. ... [More..](#)

Big Earth producer featuring Guyana in new adventure book

British film producer Russell Malkin is featuring 'Destination Guyana' in his new book titled 101 Amazing Adventures of the World after spending four days here exploring the country's unique features.

According to a press release Malkin along with photographer Victoria Morton visited Kaieteur Falls, Dadanawa Ranch in the South Rupununi and Surama Village in the North Rupununi accompanied by Wilderness Explorers tour guide Luke Johnson.

Malkin, who is also a creative director has produced and directed three motorcycle adventure documentaries and founded the television production company Big Earth. He said the project stemmed from an invitation for him to produce an inspirational adventure book so that people would feel compelled to have their own adventure. The book is expected to be released in March/April 2011.

Malkin said Guyana captured his attention at the 22nd Annual Birdwatching Fair in Rutland Water, England last month and Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) Director Indranauth Haralsingh and Coordinator of National and Other Events at the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Avalon Jagandan encouraged him to visit. He said Guyana is a "fascinating country with much to explore."

Morton said her experience videoing and gathering information for the book was interesting and diverse and that Guyana is among the number of places she would like to visit again.



Big Earth producer Russell Malkin and photographer Victoria Morton

She also praised the community's conservation efforts pinpointing Surama as unique and an inspiration to readers. Morton also singled out Kaieteur Falls as "absolutely spectacular and unique and spiritual" and Guyana's "amazing wildlife" as a draw for the younger generation.

She said on her return to the UK she will be talking about Guyana in a "very positive way" as an alternative to somewhere like going on safari in Africa.

The release said the public can follow Russell on his adventures with video blogs and pictures located at the website www.bigearth.com. The public can also follow him on Twitter and YouTube. Source: [Stabroek News Sept 20, 2010](#)

"Pictures of Guyana" by Mike Charles



Ret. Major Mike Charles

Mike Charles has been a helicopter pilot in Guyana for over 25 years. The three (3) DVDs; (1) Guyana Yours to Discover, (2) Wild Guyana, and the most recent release (3) Pictures of Guyana include unique footage as recorded by Mike Charles and presented in spectacular, unscripted form.

Website: <http://www.wildguyana.com/>



Pictures of Guyana (New)

This DVD highlights aspects of a magnificent country that has a low carbon footprint. It captures in Still Photography the quintessence of the 40 million hectares of intact rainforest of a country where the people and culture co-exist in harmony with nature and embracing the low carbon development strategy (LCDS) Guyana is implementing.

It includes over 800 pictures of Guyana and Twenty minutes of the Mashramani 2010 float parade for you added enjoyment. Mike Charles Production once again is taking Guyana to the living rooms of the World on DVD.

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

[Adel's Rainforest Resort](#)

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

[Banganara Island Resort](#)

[Blue Wave Apartment Hotel](#)

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[Grand Coastal Inn](#)

[Herdmanston Lodge](#)

[Hurakabra River Resort](#)

[Hotel Tower – Emerald Tower Resort](#)

[Iwokrama Canopy Walkway](#)

[Iwokrara Forest -](#)

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[Surama Eco-Lodge Rupununi](#)

[Timberhead Eco-Resort](#)

[Trans Guyana Airways](#)

[Wilderness Explorers](#)

[Zoom Inn Hotel](#)

Orealla being scouted for tourist attraction

Stabroek News | On September 27, 2009 | [18 Comments](#)

Talks of turning the Amerindian reservation of Orealla into Guyana's next hottest tourist attraction dominated the village's heritage celebrations but many residents questioned the advantages of such a move.



The G\$20M Cortour Guesthouse located at Orealla overlooks the Corentyne River and offers a stunning view of the sun rising.

Orealla is located about 50 miles up the Corentyne River from Crabwood Creek, Corentyne, Berbice. It is home to about 1,000 people and was recently pushed into the tourism spotlight with the launching of a guest house during its heritage celebrations on September 11.

Corentyne Tours (Cortours), a tourist group which claims to be an ecotourism provider, formally opened the activities of its new guest house in Orealla. The Amerindian reservation will be one of the stops on a tour that ends several miles up river at Wanatobo Falls.

But as Minister of Tourism Manniram Prashad commissioned the fifteen room structure, during Orealla's heritage celebrations, some villagers voiced concerns about what was going to happen to their home. Some amount of xenophobia was present in the words several villagers.



One of the peaceful views of Orealla from the top of a hill.

For many, Orealla is their place of birth and the only home they have known in their lives. It is where they have raised their children, provided for their family and battled against the foreign cultures which are slowly killing their own. Fear and "a little resentment" of the strangers who will bring a variety of new cultures to Orealla, as one villager pointed out, is only natural.

"I have heard of this new guest house," a 79-year-old woman, who declined to have her name published, told Stabroek News, adding, "I have been told that the matter has been discussed by the village councillors along with other people and that it is a good move for Orealla's development...but I am still afraid of what it will bring our village."

Her words were repeated by many others. While villagers say they crave development in their community, they are worried about what they will have to give in exchange. The spotless streets and beaches which greeted visitors to Orealla on September 10 were greatly deteriorated by September 12. As boats departed the Orealla waterfront at the end of heritage celebrations, Styrofoam boxes and other bits and pieces of waste could be seen dotted along the shore. "We were prepared for some amount of garbage being left behind," a downhill resident who lives at the village's waterfront told us on the morning of September 12, "And to be honest there was not as much garbage as we expected... I'm still upset to know though that all those people came to our home and they couldn't follow our example and keep it clean."

As one approaches Orealla by boat from the Corentyne River, the village's pristine beauty is an awesome sight. It is a sandy, hilly region full of natural vegetation and animal life, not easily seen and offers the perfect location for ecotourism. The Orealla people know the value of their land and its beauty and they are very protective of it

Giving back

Orealla will get \$100 (50 cents US), for every Cortours visitor that sets foot in the village; they will receive the money from the leasing of the land on which the guesthouse stands; employment will be created and, according to company officials, bins will be placed along the village's streets.

Cortours is governed by a board of directors the majority of whom come from the family of company president Ganesh Singh. Steve Cruckshamk, a resident of Orealla, is also a member of the board and is primarily responsible for the daily operation of the guesthouse.

Singh, the architect of the newest addition to the Cortours group, told Stabroek News on September 12 that he has been a logger for about 35 years and it was while working at the many "unspoiled" Corentyne locations that he discovered a need to share its beauty with others. Cortours, according to Singh, makes provision for ecotourism and sees tourists primarily from Germany, Holland, the US, Canada and as far as Portugal. "My family and I camped at many locations up the Corentyne River," Singh said, "and it was seeing this constant beauty that drove me to find some way to share it...I can't even begin to tell how beautiful it is."

The constant stream of visitors, Singh also noted, will provide a "renewable market" for villagers to sell their local products. Cortours also intends to arrange other "outside markets" for the products and produce coming from Orealla, he said.

Meanwhile, Singh's younger brother Motee Singh, a company director responsible for administration issues, pointed out that Cortours has a game plan and gave assurances that it is in the best interest of the Orealla people and will provide many advantages for them. [\(more ... read complete article here\)](#)

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL U.G. GUILD EVENT

The 18th Annual Reunion Dinner and Dance of the University of Guyana Guild of Graduates, Ontario was held in the evening of Saturday, September 25, at the York Reception Centre and by all accounts it was another highly successful event.

In his opening address, Harry Hergash, President of the Guild, told the gathering that within the last year, the organization contributed financially to two projects. He stated "firstly, and this is not the norm for us but because we were moved by the enormous human tragedy, we donated \$500 to Doctors' Without Borders, a very credible humanitarian organization, for its work among the Haitian earthquake victims".



Dr. Frank Birbalsingh, Professor Emeritus, English Department, York University giving the keynote address

He noted what a horrific event the earthquake was and even Guyanese at home and the Guyana Government, though in dire need too, made significant contributions to help the people of Haiti. And secondly "we donated \$500 (US) to the UG to help with a landscaping project undertaken under the auspices of Mrs. Pamela Bourne, wife of the recently appointed Chancellor of the University, Dr. Compton Bourne". Also, he indicated that the Guild will be making a financial contribution to a credible

humanitarian aid organization to help the millions affected by the devastating floods in Pakistan.

The highlight of the evening was the keynote address by Dr. Frank Birbalsingh, Professor Emeritus and Senior Scholar, English Department, York University. He spoke on Guyanese literature and held the audience in rapt attention as he spoke on the works of Edgar Mittelholzer, Martin Carter, Roy Heath and Sharon Maas. In the view of author, Ashmead Ali, that is reflective of the general sentiment of attendees, "Dr. Birbalsingh is a man of literature, first and foremost, but he used literature to convey to, and to inform us of important events in (Guyana's) history, politics, its everyday life, and its literature. He got me involved; he got us all involved - the mark of a good writer and a good storyteller. It was indeed a pleasure to listen to him".

At intervals throughout the evening MC, Ed Yhap had the audience in stitches with his outstanding array of jokes and quotations. And the music by DJ Raymond Pereira kept revellers on the dance floor right up to closing time. Overall, the ambience of the venue was appealing, the food in ample supply and delicious, the company great, and the evening enjoyable. (Harry Hergash)

Guyana Jamboree -2010 < details

Featuring : Dave Martin & The Tradewinds, Bing Serrao & The Ramblers and Roy Geddes Steel Band. Venue: Splashmins Resort. **Date: November 2nd to 9th, 2010.** Main Event: Entertainment Evening Sat. Nov. 6th, 2010.

Eco Tours: During the period Nov.2-9,2010. Splashmins Resort, Arrowpoint Resort, Timberhead Resort. Accommodations; Splashmins Resort; Arrowpoint Resort; Timberhead Resort; Roraima Duke Lodge; Roraima Residence Inn; Princess Hotel; Pegasus Hotel.

St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association of Toronto



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Shevin Narine 905-294-4865

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Website: www.torontosaints.com



Donations towards St. Stanislaus College projects in Guyana

Senior Guyanese Friendship Association Dance - October 23, 2010

Venue: Flipper's Fish House Banquet Hall
2300 Lawrence Ave. East, Scarborough, Ontario.
White Shield Plaza (North-West corner of Kennedy)

OCTOBER 23, 2010

8.00PM - 2.00AM

Donation—\$25.00

D.J. Jones

Tickets: (416) 493-0349;

(416) 492-8557

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Senior Guyanese Friendship Association Executive

Joan McLean - *President*, Una Valladares - *VIP Public Relations*, Carmen Brewster - *VIP Coordinator of Activities*, Jim Bovell - *Treasurer*, Sherma Mitchell - *Secretary*, Edgar (Pluto) Martindale - *Asst/Treasurer*, Bernice Davis - *Asst/Coordinator of Activities*, Doreen Moore - *Special Projects*, Joyce Tadege - *Member at Large*, Aubrey Knight - *Member at Large*. **Auxiliary Committee:** Lorna Bayley, Lucille Charles, Gloria Franklin, Maisie Henry, Bibi Lall, Mary Tucker.

Bishops' High School Alumni - Toronto 25th Anniversary - Ontario Award

This year, BHS has also the Newcomer Champion Award from the Province of Ontario Canada, for the work they have done from inception with their contributions to community services in Ontario. Dr. Vivian Rambihar, an ex-QC boy who is now a Cardiologist and author in Toronto, sponsored and nominated BHS to the Province.



Back row: Fay Mendoza; Patricia Moore; Lynette Spence; Nancy Rickford
Front row: Jennifer Singh; Dr. Vivian Rambihar; Barbara Bacchus. Sharena Annamunthodoo with the Newcomer Champion Award.

BHS Alumni Association (Toronto Chapter)

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Sunday, October 24

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Buxton: Jagdeo hands over computers, steel pans to community

Forty Buxton women approved for WOW loans

[Stabroek News - September 9, 2010](#)

Forty Buxton women have been approved for loans under GBTI's Women of Worth (WOW) initiative following a visit by bank representatives on Saturday, and President Bharrat Jagdeo yesterday pledged to find alternative means to help unsuccessful applicants.

Jagdeo met some members of the community yesterday at Office of the President, where he also took the opportunity to donate 20 computer systems and 8 steel pan sets to them. This comes after a visit by the President to the community last month, where he made several promises to residents. Among these were to assist with agriculture, education, access to low interest loans for single parents, and the restoration of the historic Tipperary Hall.

At the September 8th meeting, Pastor Terry Thomas told the President that on Saturday, GBTI representatives visited the community and accepted 40 applicants. Under the WOW scheme, individuals can access loans of up to G\$250,000 without collateral at a six per cent interest rate from GBTI, with which the government has an arrangement. Thomas reported too that the Bankers' Association had visited the community and that Courts was scheduled to visit residents shortly.



Pastor Terry Thomas (second from left) and students from Buxton receive the President's presentation of computers on September 8, 2010.

Jagdeo said he was pleased with these developments but would need to do something to help the others who did not qualify under the WOW programme.

Regarding the presentation of computers and steel pans, the President said he wanted the items to be used right away. Concerning the computers, he said that he wanted both the young people and the older residents to be trained in their use. He suggested to the community that they could approach GT&T for free internet access. He also called on other private corporations to lend assistance to the community.

Jagdeo lauded the community of Buxton and said that unlike many other villages, there were several volunteer groups. He said that in the past government had found it difficult to sustain community projects because there were just not many interested persons or groups. [\(read full article here...\)](#)

VICTORIA VILLAGE

Resolutions presented to Local Government Minister



Minister of Local Government Kellawan Lall receives the document containing the resolutions of Victoria village from community leader Abraham Poole in the presence of officials of the Local Government Ministry.

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development Kellawan Lall received a document containing 15 resolutions from the village of Victoria, East Coast Demerara, at his Fort St. Kingston office on September 1, 2010. The resolutions emanated from a village conference organized by community leaders interested in the revitalisation of the once proud village.

Victoria was the first village, in then British Guiana, to be bought (November 1839), by the combined resources of Africans who had won their freedom from slavery.

Minister Lall, who attended the conference, declared it important for villages all across the country to engage each other at the community level to discuss issues critical to them and to put together concrete plans towards achieving practical solutions. Government is not unmindful of the fact that there is work to be done in the various villages especially along the coast and has over a period of time worked to address some of these concerns, the Minister said.

Having seen the resolutions, Minister Lall believes that these should be used as a template upon which all villages should base their community revitalisation efforts.

Abraham Poole, representing the village of Victoria said that resolutions are a result of consensus among the villagers as to the way forward for their community. Poole noted that the conference was held under the theme "imagining, involving and investing in our future" because development is not something done to persons, but it's something they should be involved with. Poole said that the village is seeking to partner with the government and other stakeholders in the revitalisation of the village economy, which will in turn promote development within Victoria.

Recently, Buxton experienced a wave of governmental interventions. The Diaspora as well, approached President Bharrat Jagdeo with initiatives to resuscitate that community. The approach saw the President visiting the community in an attempt to address the concerns of the residents there. (GINA)

VICTORIA VILLAGE RESOLUTIONS

FIRST VILLAGE INDABA CONVENED AT VICTORIA NURSERY SCHOOL DURING AUGUST 5 – 8, 2010:

The Victorians desire to see the non-governmental organization, the Victoria Reconstruction Trust become the umbrella organization nurturing other groups and organisations to implement comprehensive solutions for their village.

Read the full document here:
[First Village INDABA RESOLUTIONS 2010](#)

G.A.B.I. donates to the Caribbean Dyslexia Centre in Barbados

The Guyanese Association of Barbados Inc (GABI) has made a contribution of Bdos\$2,000 (US\$1,000) towards the office and classrooms improvement fund of the Caribbean Dyslexia Centre, located at 2nd Avenue, Haggatt Hall, St. Michael. Barbados.

The official presentation of the cheque was made on Friday September 24th 2010, by Mr. Compton Hendy, on behalf of GABI to Mrs. Yvonne Spencer, coordinator of the Dyslexia Centre. Also present at the presentation was Mrs. Gloria Crookes of the Dyslexia Centre and Mr. Jermaine Adams and Mrs. Sonia Cadogan of the GABI Executive Committee.



Mrs. Gloria Crookes and Mrs. Yvonne Spencer of the Dyslexia Centre with Mr. Compton Hendy, Mrs. Sonia Cadogan, and Mr. Jermaine Adams of GABI, at the presentation ceremony at the Dyslexia Centre's Offices. (picture by Cyril Bryan -Guyanese Online)

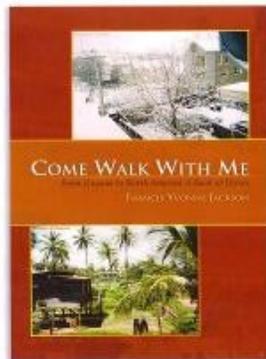
The Caribbean Dyslexia Association and Centre, is a registered charity and was founded in 1994 by Mrs. Yvonne Spencer (nee Ramsahoye) and Sylvia Johnson. Starting with a small core of parents and students, it has grown and is now well established with almost 200 students, sponsoring workshops and lectures and overseas courses in various Caribbean islands. They have truly met their mission of enabling children and adults to acquire coping skills to live with and master their dyslexia throughout their lives in order to learn, earn and enhance their personal development. The Centre and Mrs. Spencer can be contacted by E-mail at dyslexiabarbados@gmail.com.

GABI was established in 2004, as a non-profit organization for Guyanese and their supporters in Barbados. Two of its main aims are to foster the integration of Guyanese in the Barbadian society and to help Guyanese in Barbados and in Guyana who may be in need of assistance. (Guyanese Online).

Guyana Community Outreach Yvonne Jackson's book for Charity

Guyana Community Outreach is a non-profit organization based in Chicago, Illinois, USA. Their address is P.O. Box 32132, Chicago IL 60632. Phone: (773) 471-6007. E-mail address: francisyvonne@netzero.net

This non-profit, in operation since 2006, has been busy sending barrels, helping persons with disabilities and supplying books to libraries in Guyana.



Their President Francis Yvonne Jackson has written a book of poems of her life in Guyana and Chicago, and the proceeds of her book—"Come walk With Me", will be donated to the charity.

Cost of book **Paperback \$19.99: Hardback \$29.99 + shipping. Call now and Order!**

THE MAGIC POT Nansi Stories of the Caribbean by Odeen Ishmael

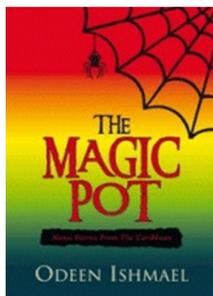
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THE ARTS JOURNAL

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The gentle revolutionary: Jan Carew at 90

By David Austin

Jan Carew, who celebrated his 90th birthday on September 24, has lived an extraordinary and itinerant life, or many overlapping lives, and seemingly many lifetimes. He begins in Guyana, but in many ways his life defies space and time. He is the quintessential diasporic persona, a happy wanderer whose presence helped to shape seminal moments in the lives of people of African and Caribbean descent.

Jan reported for the London Observer on the Cuban Missile Crisis from Havana; joined the Laurence Olivier Company in the 1950s and acted in several plays while simultaneously working for the BBC. He also studied dentistry at Charles University in Czechoslovakia and travelled to and wrote about Russia and people of African descent.]

Jan worked alongside Claudia Jones and other notable Black and Caribbean figures as they attempted to humanize Britain, to liberate the decaying empire from itself and its legacy of colonialism and racism [full article :The Gentle Revolutionary](#)

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Anil Roberts: Amerindian way of life is art

While art for some may be just a painting, for emerging artist Anil Roberts it is the medium through which deeper meaning and appreciation for his indigenous culture can be transmitted.

“Amerindian way of life is art; everything we do is an art form whether it is farming

or fishing,” says Anil, a Makushi from Annai, a community which is considered to be the gateway to the Rupununi Savannahs. He says he is proud of his Amerindian heritage and highlights this rich culture and aspects of history and folklore in his paintings.



Kamo Waning Yenu - an Anil Roberts painting.

“I find these stories very interesting and I’m able to let persons catch a glimpse into this world through my work,” he adds. Through his paintings, he hopes that others would be able to appreciate and learn about the culture and belief of Amerindians. “Art allows you to express yourself – your thoughts and emotions through paintings,” he says.

Today, he is an art teacher at Mae’s Schools teaching primary and secondary students. However the road to his official entry into the art world began in St Ignatius after he had completed his secondary education in 1999. He says that while art was not among the subjects he wrote at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate ex-



The Rupununi – an acrylic painting by Anil Roberts.

aminations, drawing was always in his blood. “I always liked drawing so it was something I did in my spare time.”

While he was unsure of his direction, fate stepped in and an encouraging nudge by activist Vanda Radzik, whom he affectionately calls his second mother, led to his enrolment at the Burrowes School of Art. In 2003, when he graduated, he was named the Best Graduating Student. After art school, he taught at the Alleyne’s High School before returning to the Rupununi for a two-year period. In 2005, he attended the University of Guyana for a degree in Fine Arts, graduating last year.

“I like art because of my cultural background, it comes out better than normal paintings since it has significance,” says Anil. He is of the opinion that every artist should make an impact through their work which must be able to captivate the audience.

“I haven’t made an impact on the world of art as yet,” he says. However, he believes that in the future with much work and commitment he will be able to produce work with which he is totally satisfied. His comfort zone lies in focusing on abstract and realistic pieces. Abstract allows him to capture the details of objects while realistic brings landscapes to life.



Anil Roberts

Responding to claims that art does not make money in Guyana, he says it’s all in the marketing of one’s talent. He says he receives requests from persons who are familiar with his work to do illustrations and other projects for them.

In collaboration with veteran artist George Simon, Roberts has worked on several murals which can be found at the Umana Yana, National Stadium and University of Guyana. “I love the idea of putting your work where it can be seen by people,” he says. One of his most recent murals can be found at Jerries on Robb Street while his current project is one at Iwokrama which is expected to be completed by November.

He credits Simon, whom he has tremendous respect for, with being his tutor and moulding his understanding of the deeper aspects of his culture. This deeper appreciation is in turn reflected in his work.

Of his works, several which have been exhibited at Castellani House. He says they are all unique because he tries to make them all stand out. While he does not have a favourite piece, the painting “Hunter’s Eye” is one of his best, he says.



Pogning – an Anil Roberts painting.

In the future, Anil wants to pursue further studies in art and work towards the development of art in Guyana through a collaborative effort among local artists. He also sees himself playing a vital role in the leadership and development of his community.

Anil speaks proudly of his culture which he said is unique. He believes that it is important for this way of life to be captured in various works of art and added that Amerindian heritage is one which should be celebrated since it has survived over the years.

Literature on the Amerindians of Guyana

Compiled by Petamber Persaud

SEPTEMBER 5, 2010 | BY KNEWS GUYANESE LITERATURE

September, in Guyana, is dedicated Amerindian Heritage Month. After the pomp and the ceremonies, here is a short list of publications on Amerindian issues to supplement the experience of the month-long festivities:-

1. A Selective Reading List on Guyanese Amerindians by Janet Forte, University of Guyana: Turkeyen 1995.
2. About Guyana's Amerindians by Janet Forte, University of Guyana: Turkeyen 1996.
3. Iwokrami pantone: Stories about Iwokrama edited by Janet Forte, North Rupununi District Development Board, 2001.
4. A Brief Introduction to Some Aspects of the Language and Culture of the Guyana Arawak edited by Walter Edwards, University of Guyana: Turkeyen 1980
5. Folk Tales and Legends of Some Guyana Amerindians edited by Walter Edwards and H. R. Hubbard, University of Guyana: Turkeyen 1980.
6. Encyclopaedia of the Guyanese Amerindians by Lal Balkaran, LBA Publications: Toronto, 2007
7. A Photojournal of the Guyanese Amerindians by Lal Balkaran. LBA Publications: Toronto
8. The Rupununi Savannahs – A Visual Journey by Lal Balkaran. LBA Publications: Toronto
9. Amerindians Legends of Guyana by Odeen Ishmael, Artex Publishing: Sheboygan, 1995.
10. Amerindian Stories. Told in Makushi and English by Laureen Pierre and Adrian Gomes, CBR Program and Red Thread Women's Press, 1994.
11. Amerindian Stories. Told in Wapishana and English by Laureen Pierre and Adrian Gomes, CBR Program and Red Thread Women's Press, 1994.
12. Uncle Basil: An Arawak Biography by Justin Greene-Roesel.
13. Dark Shamans: Kanaima and the Poetics of Violent Death by Neil Whitehead, Duke University Press, Durham, 2002.
14. Folk Literature of the Warrao Indians by J. Wilbert, University of California, Los Angeles, 1970.
15. Indian Tribes of Guiana: Legends and Myths of the Aboriginal Peoples of British Guiana by William Brett, Bell and Diddy, London, 1868.
16. Indian Notices by William Hillhouse, 1825
17. An Inquiry into the Animism and Folklore of the Guiana Indians by Walter Roth, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, 1915.
18. Among the Indians of Guiana by Everard Im Thurn, Kegan Paul, trench & Co. London, 1883.
19. Sketches of Amerindian Tribes 1841-43: With an Introduction by Mary Noel Menezes. Edward Goodall, British Museum Publications: London, 1977.

It was a pleasant surprise to discover that there were lots of literature on the Amerindians,.

Pioneers in post emancipation history

By: Eusi Kwayana

Copyright – Part of a forthcoming book on the Village movement)

This article was read in August 2010 at the celebration by Buxton villagers of the 170th anniversary of the village.

According to Allan Young, using available official estimates, during the first decade of the village movement the land bought and the houses built and improved both in the Victoria type 25 collective, and in the Queenstown type villages made a total investment of some \$2.5 million of African savings - at a time when there was no lender. Collective labour for village purposes must have added another value to total investment.

There are mainly two ways of approaching and seeing village history in Guyana. One is to study villages one by one. We shall find that the oldest villages were those of the indigenous people whom we call Amerindians. Their names are often noteworthy, helping to preserve ancient languages. They are about the only villages with this cultural distinction.

There are a large number of African villages, the great a majority of which have Dutch, French or mostly English names which had some significance when they were chosen. There are lastly a large number of Indian villages, with names not far different from the African villages. If we taught history in our schools the finding of meanings of names and reasons for naming will be an interesting project for schools and pupils or students of all races and classes. It would be one step in the direction of a good place to go.

There are several villages over many years that have celebrated their anniversaries. The celebrations were either at home or abroad where our people have gone. Last year (2009) the first Village, Victoria, celebrated its birthday. There are three publications on this village one by a long gone schoolmaster Mr. Arno. The second is a booklet by Mr Rupert Dowden, "*The First Village*", written in days of the PNC which had come out in favour of cooperatives. The third other was by this writer. They should still be available in Victoria.

My forthcoming book will approach village history, not village by village but by discussing the Village *Movement*. It is my view and I have proclaimed it since reading Allan Young's "*Approaches to Local Self Government in British Guiana*", that the Village movement was a period of, about fifty years, during which Guyana went through its most significant period of lasting social change.

This is part of the reason that some feel strongly about people who misguide themselves and violate the people's reputation for freedom by using their inherited lands for purposes of unprovoked attacks, not against a hostile government, but against unarmed persons who might be its supporters. In carrying out these acts of brutality they also corrupted the village inwardly, holding the unarmed villagers under a rule of fear and every form of suffering which war imposes. The insanity allowed the expansion of a drug financed and government- backed force called the Phantom whose self-confessed leader has been convicted and jailed in the USA on drug charges.

That period roughly from 2001 to 2007 was an unnecessary and unproductive anti-development interruption of the history of at least a small number of villages, including Buxton and Agricola.

Read full article here: [Pioneers in post-Emancipation History](#)

Among the Different Amerindian Tribes in Guyana

Excerpt from the *Encyclopaedia of the Guyanese Amerindians: Including Other South American Native Terms, issues, and Events* [Previously published as *Dictionary of the Guyanese Amerindians in 2002*] (LBA Publications: Toronto, 2007). By Lal Balkaran

Author: Lal Balkaran



There are currently nine Amerindian tribes living in Guyana - *Ackawaiois, Arawaks, Arekunas, Caribs, Makushi, Patamona, Wai Wai, Wapishanas, and Warrau*. Volumes of literature have been compiled over the years by anthropologists, missionaries, historians, travellers, government workers, miners, and many others. Notable authors include but are not limited to Rev. W. H. Brett ("Apostle of the Indians), Sir Everard Im Thurn, Sir Robert Schomburgk, Charles Waterton, Fr. C. Cary-Elwes, Dr. Audrey Butt-Colson, Sister Mary Noel-Menezes, Janet Forte, and most recently, the author Lal Balkaran, a specialist in compiling reference material.



Amerindians from St. Cuthbert at a cultural event in Georgetown. (Lal Balkaran pix)

Comprising over nine percent of Guyana's population of some 750,000 and occupying more than 90 percent of the landmass, Guyanese Amerindians live in over 130 villages throughout the country. They have a unique relationship with almost every phenomenon in life. For instance, creation myths; the start of life itself; light and darkness; the sounds and colours of jungle creatures; shapes of leaves; plumage of birds; origin of strife; traits of some tribes; reason for hunting, fishing and farming; and existence of the sun, moon and stars all have a unique meaning originating in fascinating myths and legends

handed down from generation to generation.

Amerindian culture, unlike ours, is a process of accommodation with nature. They may scrounge, pilfer and kill too, if need be, but none against the laws of nature and they never hoard. Their concern for ecology and the environment and the balance of nature is part of their belief system. Indeed, ecology is woven seamlessly into the fabric of their culture. Everything in the forest and the surrounding area has a role to play in the overall scheme of things and nothing is wasted. They live in harmony with nature and do not adulterate the landscape or endanger plants or wildlife.

Many of the technological contributions of their societies have already been recognised by the native terminology. In Guyana, quite a number of native products became current only after the Europeans and other immigrants settled on the coast - *pepperpot, hammocks, balata*, medicinal herbs, *ite* palms and *troolie* leaves (for thatching roofs). In their widely differing environments, Amerindians adapted and poured forth a stream of unique inventions, each one a distinct response to a local necessity: asphyxiating fish by the ground leaves and roots of specific plants in the absence of hooks and nets; bending twigs to mark a trail or preventing one from getting lost in the forest and to mark their route. It was through these bent twigs in Guyana and an Amerindian line

as a guide, that the cattle trail was cut (1916-1920) from Surama in the Rupununi to Takama in Berbice.

Amerindians are superb mimic of the sounds of animals and birds. They can mislead even the jaguar. For instance, they bring the *yarrow* fish to the surface through a slow seducing whistle and can even reproduce the mating call for the tapir. They bring other fish to the surface by splashing the water in such a way to mimic the falling of ripened seeds.



Amerindian children travelling to school in the Upper Mazaruni river



Kindergarden children at St. Cuthbert's School, Moruka (Lal Balkaran pix)

The Amerindians showed settlers a range of dishes based from the forest plants and animals, e.g., food from root crops like *casava* and *yams*, and oil from turtle eggs. They can recognize medicinal properties in hundreds of plants - knowledge that is a priceless resource of the rain forest. Armed with the knowledge of thousands of medicinal plants, *peaiamen* fought goiter, headaches, malaria, constipation and other illnesses. *Ipecac* from Amazonian roots cured amebic dysentery. Quinine from the *cinchona* bark cured malaria. Curare killed without affecting the heart. These medicinal plants were eagerly sought by the early colonists to supplement the old world's pharmacies.

Amerindians' greatest contribution to modern Guyana was the help they gave to colonists and subsequent coastlanders in penetrating and understanding its hinterland. All expeditions into the heart of the country and beyond, relied on Amerindian skills as guides, hunters, boat hands, woodsmen or canoers, knowing every treacherous rapid, jungle trail, mountain, hill, tree, cataract or waterfall.

— continued on next page

Among the Different Amerindian Tribes in Guyana

Continued from page 15

Indeed, it was these expeditions that opened Guyana to its non-Amerindian settlers and showed the riches of the interior – forest products, minerals, natural scenes and other phenomena that brought tourists. Through trade, alliances and cooperation, the Dutch cultivated friendly relationships with these people and protected them from unscrupulous Europeans. Early Spanish incursions and slave rebellions were all put down with the help of Amerindians.

They policed the interior, served as intelligence gatherers, tracked runaway slaves and provided valuable information which enabled the Dutch to understand the geography, wealth and vastness of the Essequibo.



A Carib girl in front of her troolie house at Karichau on the Barama river (Lal Balkaran pix)

This information helped the Dutch in delineating Guyana's frontiers with Venezuela and subsequently provided good support for the British in the territorial dispute in 1899. British Guiana's boundary demarcation that began in the 1840s and subsequently revised in 1906 and the 1930s could not have been done without the help of Amerindians.

The following three well-received publications by the author have all captured the above and much more:

1. Encyclopaedia of the Guyanese Amerindians;
2. A Photojournal of the Guyanese Amerindians; and
3. The Rupununi Savannas: A Visual Journey

The Encyclopaedia of the Guyanese Amerindians is comprehensive and covers a wide range of issues relating to Amerindians: anthropology, religion, exploration, history, geography, folklore, legend, myth and politics. The book also includes other South American native terms, issues, and events. There is a time chart that shows chronologically, all the major Amerindian-related events in Guyana and other parts of the continent from 18000 BC right down to 2006 AD.

The book also covers the profiles and impact of some of the leading figures who, over the years, influenced and helped shape the Amerindian way of life. It has a wealth of additional information categorized in eighteen Appendices covering such issues as the extinct tribes; those tribes currently living throughout the Americas; sample words from each of the nine Amerindian languages; names of Amerindian villages; commanders, lieutenant-governors,

colonial administrators, heads of government and heads of state since 1600; and Roman Catholic and Anglican priests who worked among the several tribes; Amerindian legislators, and much more.

A Photojournal of the Guyanese Amerindians contains almost 200 photographs of the different aspects of life among Guyana's nine Amerindian tribes. This picture-packed book captures such splendid scenes as: the Barama Caribs; the spectacular *parishara* dance; the making of *parakari*; various cultural activities; children going to school; the baboon dance; the construction of the *benab* or Umana Yana; cowboys in action; making a ham-mock; the breathtaking scenery where Amerindians live; the process of making food from the poisonous bitter cassava, and more.

The Rupununi Savannas: A Visual Journey is also a coffee-table picture-filled book containing: rock carvings; the majestic three-peaked Shiriri mountain, a landmark in the South Rupununi; Shea Rock (almost half the size of Uluru or Ayers Rock in Australia); the Kanuku mountains that divide the area between the North Rupununi and South Rupununi; giant ant hills; the curatella or sandbox trees (known locally as kai n'bay); everyday life; school and church activities; means of transportation; *vacqueros* or cowboys in action; preserving beef into *tasso*; making food from the poisonous bitter cassava; rocks and minerals; and village scenes.

Excerpt from the Encyclopaedia of the Guyanese Amerindians: Including Other South American Native Terms, issues, and Events [Previously published as Dictionary of the Guyanese Amerindians in 2002] (LBA Publications: Toronto, 2007).



Amerindian craftwork on display (Lal Balkaran pix)

Lal Balkaran has written several reference books and dozens of articles on a wide range of subjects. He did the world's first dictionary in auditing published by LexisNexis (Butterworths) in Toronto in 2003 and another guide on global accounting and related certifications published by Wiley in the US in 2007. He also did two DVDs on Guyana titled "Guyana: A Photographic Journey" and "A Photojournal of the Guyanese Amerindians." Mr. Balkaran spent five years in the Rupununi savannas as a primary school teacher in the early 1970s and travelled extensively throughout Guyana's interior.

Please e-mail him at lalbalkaran@rogers.com for more information. His other books on Guyana include *Bibliography of Guyana and Guyanese Writers* (Seaburn Publishing: New York, 2010); and *Timelines of Guyanese History: A Chronology of Over 2000 Key Events In 23 Categories* (now about to be published by Seaburn also).

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