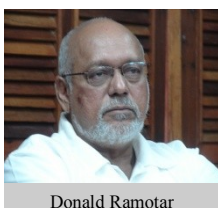




Masthead Picture The Picture above was taken from the Bank of Guyana Building. It features [St. George's Cathedral](#).
Georgetown: Here is an [Aerial view](#) < click and also see [Georgetown Map](#) < click

PPP names Donald Ramotar as Presidential candidate



Donald Ramotar

APRIL 4, 2011 | BY *KNEWS* Soviet-trained political scientist and economist Donald Ramotar was unanimously selected to lead the ruling People's Progressive Party (PPP) in this year's general elections. Ramotar, 60, was born months after the party was founded in January, 1951.

The three other candidates, Ralph Ramkarran, Clement Rohee and Gail Teixeira all withdrew from the contest to choose the nominee and committed themselves to working for another PPP victory this year.

Ramotar is popular with the working class which has traditionally supported the PPP, having served in one of the highest positions at the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union. [more](#)

Ramotar insists he will carve his own path if elected

APRIL 6, 2011 | BY *KNEWS* - Donald Ramotar, who will lead the ruling party's re-election bid this year, has insisted that if elected he will not govern in the shadow of outgoing President Bharrat Jagdeo, who the party would have asked to run again if the constitutional did not bar him.

At least two of those who were contesting the presidential nomination had accused President Jagdeo of "sponsoring" Ramotar, taking him on overseas and local engagements. Asked about allegations that he will not really be calling the shots if elected, Ramotar referred back to the same comments that were made against Jagdeo when he acceded to the presidency after ill-health forced Janet Jagan to resign.

"When Jagdeo came to government they were saying he was Janet's boy, he was a Freedom House boy, he was my boy, and that he wouldn't be pulling his own strings," Ramotar said in an interview yesterday. (April 5, 2011)

Political watchers say that Jagdeo could be pulling the strings if Ramotar gets into office, given the projects Jagdeo has personally been involved in such as the Low Carbon Development Strategy, the One Laptop Per Family Project, Amaila Falls Hydro Electric Project and the laying of a fibre-optic cable from Brazil. [more](#)

Granger congratulates Ramotar

2011-04-05 *Demerara Waves* - PNCR presidential candidate Brigadier (retd.) David Granger on Tuesday April 5, 2011 congratulated Donald Ramotar on securing the ruling PPP's nod to lead them into this year's general elections and called for a clean campaign in the run up to the polls. [More](#)

TOP 20- Guyanese Online Blog- March 2011

The Guyanese Online Blog received a 23,365 hits or views in March 2011. **The Top-20: most popular entries** are listed here. [Click on the title to view:-](#)

1. [Exploring a Lifetime of Memories in Guyana](#)
2. [People's Court - Mohamed Gafur - videos](#)
3. [Guyana Floods - March 2011 Updates](#)
4. [Countrywide Flooding in Guyana - UPDATES](#)
5. [MASH 2011 Photos](#)
6. [Trinidad's Calypso Monarch 2011](#)
7. [Come Visit Guyana - video](#)
8. [Bring Back Anansi-Diana Chapman-video](#)
9. [Thousands celebrate Mash 2011](#)
10. [World Cup Cricket 2011 Live Links](#)
11. [Living in Guyana - slide show](#)
12. [Human Planet - BBC One](#)
13. [TAKUTU BRIDGE - Rupununi. Guyana](#)
14. [Real Old Guyana Calypso - Bill Rogers](#)
15. [Guyanese Online](#)
16. [Call it Phagwa, or call it Holi](#)
17. [Trinidad Carnival: Soca Competition 2011](#)
18. [Eddie Neblett - Music videos](#)
19. [Famous People of Guyanese Heritage](#)
20. [Guyanese on People's Court](#)

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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
Edition # 14 - April 2011.



Cyril Bryan

In this issue I have relinquished my editorial space to the following Editorial that appeared recently in Kaieteur News dated March 10, 2011

Please send your comments to the Blog

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

You can also write Cyril at guyaneseonline@gmail.com

Guest Editorial:

Using the Diaspora

[Editorial—Kaieteur News—March 10, 2011](#)

It is rather pathetic that invariably when general elections roll around, the role of the Diaspora rises to the fore. One can only conclude that our political elites are both opportunistic and cynical.

They are quite aware that overseas Guyanese cannot vote, unless they have taken the time to return and register, which few ever do. They invoke the Diaspora mainly because they see it as a source of campaign financing. It wasn't always like this. From the seventies, the PPP had counted on overseas Guyanese – all ironically located in the much chastised west – to lobby their host governments to protest the rigged elections by the dictatorship back in Guyana. Donations obviously would have been solicited – even the PNC had its overseas groups that were represented at its congresses – but the strategic pressure from the Diaspora was considered more important to the PPP.

And the strategy paid off. Cheddi Jagan was the first to acknowledge that without the intervention of key US political figures, from Ted Kennedy to Jimmy Carter, the change of 1992 would not have been possible.

After the PPP was ensconced into office, most assumed that they would follow up on their stated recognition of the Diaspora as a source of highly developed and qualified human resource to reverse the depletion that had accompanied the destruction of the pre-1992 economy and society.

As a matter of fact there was a quite significant influx of qualified overseas Guyanese that volunteered their services to the new regime. But within a year or two they would all depart in frustration.

They faced a very deep and entrenched sentiment in the populace – never countered by the government, and some say, encouraged by it – that they were “carpetbaggers”. They had “run away” and were now merely returning home for the benefits. It didn't matter that by and large most of the returnees had left much more lucrative opportunities abroad.

But the sentiment towards the Diaspora was Janus faced: to those that remained abroad and continued sending in the barrels filled with goodies, there was only goodwill. As their success multiplied with the expansion of the American economy, their contributions had also risen. Even before international financial institutions revealed that

Diaspora remittances hovered around US\$400 million annually – more that sugar and rice and all our other agricultural revenue combined – the politicians had trimmed their sails. The Diaspora would now be a source of campaign financing.

As regular as clockwork, they began making their pilgrimages to New York and Toronto – the major Diaspora enclaves – once elections were in the air. Nowadays campaigns – including the present one – are not launched in Guyana. The heart of the Diaspora is the place to be. We should not be surprised that the PNC presidential hopefuls traipsed over to New York to display their wares. This is where they knew the money was. If they could not tap into this money they could never hope to compete with the incumbent PPP. Interestingly enough, even though the latter may have enough local sources of funding they still feel compelled to make the foreign foray.

Another party, the small AFC, is so dependent on Diaspora money that they have actually committed to dispensing two seats in parliament to their funders. Never mind such seats – assuming they can be garnered – can only be awarded to Guyanese actually resident and registered in Guyana – and on the party's list of candidates to boot. They have to outbid the other competitors for the greenbacks.

The cynicism of the local politicians – especially the ones in the opposition – can be gleaned from the fact that even though they have routinely denounced the incumbent government as a “dictatorship” that has committed an amazing host of atrocities – ranging from torture to murder – they have not had the integrity to consider the Diaspora as more than simply “moneybags” to organise them to lobby their most influential host governments as did the PPP in the past.

All of this is very much a pity since the Diaspora can be of so much more help to all of Guyana.

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

Individuals, Organizations, Associations and Guyanese groups should send e-mails with their announcements, features, news, pictures, event reports and advertisements for publication to the editor: **Cyril Bryan** at: guyaneseonline@gmail.com

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

The Guyanese Online Blog

The **Guyanese Online** blog has over 350 articles and videos on various subjects. Your comments, articles and ideas are welcome. Thank you for your readership and support!!

You can also write Cyril Bryan at guyaneseonline@gmail.com

Read and make your Comments

The Blog now averages over 22,500 hits or views/month The highest daily total, of 1569, was recorded on February 23, 2011. In March, we had a total of 23,365 hits

Thanks for visiting!

IIT - Indian Institute of Technology : video

This is the Editor's choice for this month.

A very interesting documentary video on Education and the drive for Excellence in Science and Technology.



[IIT - Indian Institute of Technology](#)

A documentary movie on IIT and its brand reputation. The world's toughest educational institute to get into. Acceptance rate- less than 1.7%. Its a famous saying that combine Harvard, MIT and Princeton - then you will get a feel of the level of IIT. It is very economical and students pay only \$700 to study the best-in-the-world education. There are 15 IIT in India, the best ones being Mumbai, Delhi, Kharagpur, Chennai, Kanpur and Roorkee. [more](#)

Feature: [GUYANA'S PICTORIAL HISTORY](#)

Historical Slide show of British Guiana :

This is a slide show of 38 historical pictures from the 19th and 20th century of scenes in British Guiana. Click or go to the [Blog Entry to play the slide show](#). < click

Or Download the slide show here: [Guyana Pictorial History – 19th & 20th Centuries](#) <click



Picture #1: Agricultural Hall and Post Office around 1870

Blog Entries for March 2011

During March we published 39 new entries:
Click name to access the article or video

Eddie Grant – his story and songs
Equal Access and Equal Opportunities for all
Music videos by “Slingshot” Drepaul
Johnny Braff – video
Peter Wight honoured by Somerset
“Vision or Pragmatism” – by M.G. Joe Singh
Eddie Neblett – Music videos
Carnival in Brazil – 2011 – slide show
Exploring a Lifetime of Memories in Guyana
GUYANA'S PICTORIAL HISTORY
Environment – The “Green Thing”
CCADA – Spring Dance – Toronto – April 16,
Goddess of thousand hands – video
Celebrating Phagwah in Queens
The Libyan War of 2011
Political Podcasts – Guyana Elections
Japan Earthquake: before and after
Let's use video to reinvent education
Guyana Floods – March 2011 Updates
St. Stanislaus-Toronto - Spring Dinner-Dance
VIDEOS: Japan Earthquake and Tsunami
Japan – earthquake and tsunami photos
Welcome to GUYANESE Online
Call it Phagwa, or call it Holi
World Cup Cricket 2011 Live Links
The Blue Train – Africa
“A Mothers' March” – Eusi Kwayana
The MERRYMEN- Island in the Sun
Trinidad's Calypso Monarch 2011
Trinidad Carnival: Soca Competition 2011
Wall Street Accountable for Economic Crisis
Guyanese Online Newsletter – March 2011
Michael Moore: “America Is NOT Broke”
Who is Muammar Gaddafi?
The Africa they never show you – photos
The Song of the Birds – slide Show
People's Court – Mohamed Gafur – videos
Free messaging apps threaten wireless carriers
It's Official: Voice Is Worthless

Yesu Persaud bemoans migration of entrepreneurs

April 5, 2011—Kaieteur News: Business magnate, **Dr Yesu Persaud**, yesterday (April 4, 2011), bemoaned the migration of entrepreneurs he helped breed through the **Institute of Private Enterprise Development (IPED)**. He also said that the political directorate needs to ensure security and allow free speech.

Speaking at a celebration of IPED's 25 anniversary last evening, Persaud spoke of the need for Guyanese to be secured in their homes and for them to enjoy the same security when they walk on the streets. He added that all must have the ability to express themselves whenever they want to and not fear the repercussions if they do.

"These days as soon as you say something, it goes back and you're castigated or you're called names," Persaud told a gathering that included Prime Minister Samuel Hinds at the Pegasus Hotel.

"You must have the ability to express yourself when you want to; you shouldn't be walking and turning behind your back to see who's going to be listening to take it back," Persaud said. "That's not how you build a nation, Sir," he said to the Prime Minister. "You build a nation by getting the people to work with you, not against you".

Persaud said that this sort of fear is "not what some of us fought for" in the period running up to the restoration of democracy in 1992 and said he hoped the Prime Minister had not forgotten those years.

Persaud chronicled the life of IPED, pointing out that in its 25 years it has produced successful entrepreneurs, some of whom have migrated after finding success. Over the years, he said that IPED has disbursed 78,134 loans with a total value of \$16.8 billion. This, he said, has resulted in the start up of more than 30,000 micro and small businesses. He said that IPED started with just one member of staff to help those who were willing to help themselves, and with the aid of foreign donors and the government has been able to turn around the lives of many.

"We got entrepreneurs going and kept their enterprises growing. We have proven that if given the opportunity, people will work hard in helping themselves out of poverty," Persaud noted in his annual report.

Persaud said that IPED started when the government was in control of the bulk of the economy and so the idea was to rejuvenate the culture of entrepreneurship. He said micro and small enterprises are important to the success of the economy.

IPED is proud of what it has been able to achieve over the years and there are many examples to point to. Leslyn Small, a New Amsterdam retail vendor, started borrowing from IPED back in 2003 to expand her business. She sells clothing and footwear at Pitt Street in New Amsterdam and in the evening she sells beverages on Main Street, also in New Amsterdam

Despite losses over the years and personal tragedy when she lost her husband and sister to death, Small continues her business and with IPED's help keeps going. Another of IPED's clients, Premchand Budhu, is seeing success. He worked as a "Tapi" operator, but when harassment by traffic ranks and a

major surgery forced him to stop, he looked to IPED to get a poultry business started so he could have a steady income to maintain his family.

"Truly, IPED has made a difference in my life," Budhu says. "I got a daughter going to UG, one in high school and one in primary school; so I am living a comfortable life." The United States Government was among the first international donors to support IPED. Last evening, U.S. Embassy Charge d' Affaires, Tom Pierce, commended IPED for its success over the year.

"IPED has recognised that access to credit is one of the factors in fostering a vibrant private sector that creates jobs," he said. Pierce quoted US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as saying that one of biggest obstacles to making the most of everyone's talent and hard work is a financial system that leaves out three billion disadvantaged persons, including rural farmers, people with disabilities, women, and small business owners.

"Without loans, farmers can't buy seeds or fertilisers and small businesses can't grow and expand," Piece said, adding that this is the task IPED undertook to change 25 years ago. Prime Minister Samuel Hinds commended Dr Persaud for boldly taking the lead back in 1986 to bring about IPED. He said that from the inception, IPED generated enthusiasm and he recalled reading of success stories of entrepreneurs who were "finding their feet."

He said the government today continues to stress the need for the spirit of enterprise and innovation that started when then President Desmond Hoyte started to shift away from a policy where government controlled more enterprises to giving way for private sector development.

"We do not see a Guyana that is as prosperous as it can be without every Guyanese giving play to the spirit of initiative, innovation and enterprise that lies in every one of us," Hinds stated.

Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana, Professor Lawrence Carrington said IPED's celebration of its 25 anniversary was not just a ritual of celebrating milestones, since the celebration was justified.

"It is justified in the fact that the service that we celebrate is service to the salt of the earth – service to people – who have to be our primary concern in the development of Guyana both as the beneficiaries and drivers," he said. Carrington hailed IPED as an instrument of value Guyana's development.

Ramesh Persaud, the Chief Executive of IPED, said among IPED's clients are those with HIV, and women who are abused in the home. As a result, he said oftentimes, officers of IPED become social workers as they seek to help their clients make a success of their business.



Chairman of IPED, Dr Yesu Persaud, shares a joke with diplomats at the 25th anniversary celebration of IPED

Chairman of IPED, Dr Yesu Persaud, shares a joke with diplomats at the 25th anniversary celebration of IPED

New U.S Ambassador for Guyana – D. Brent Hardt appointed



WASHINGTON, D.C., Weds. April 6, 2011: U.S. President Barack Obama has named a career diplomat as the new ambassador designate to Guyana,

D. Brent Hardt, who currently serves as Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at the U.S. Embassy to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, has been named to the post pending confirmation.

Hardt previously served as Deputy Chief of Mission and Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Nassau, Bahamas and at the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See. Prior to that, he served as team leader for NATO Policy in the Office of European Political and Security Affairs in the Department of State and as Political-Economic Section Chief at the U.S. Embassy to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. (News Americas)

Guyana government-media relations cited in US Human Rights Report

2011-04-08 (Demerara Waves): The US State Department's 2010 Human Rights Report has captured the Guyana government's testy relationship with the local media outlining what it says are indirect efforts at censoring the media and limiting opposing views.

The report, released on Friday, notes that the law provides for freedom of speech and of the press, and that the government generally respected these rights in practice.

"However, the government's monopoly on radio broadcasting continued. The government attempted to censor or restrict content; the government sought indirectly to censor the print media by controlling advertising," the report states.

It notes the establishment of the eprocure.gov.gy website last year on which the government places its advertisements and subsequent reports of state ads being pulled from the private daily newspapers.

"Stabroek News claimed that after the announcement the Government Information Agency (GINA) placed no advertisements in Stabroek News or any other private newspapers, although some appeared in the government-run Guyana Chronicle"

According to the report, some attributed this pattern to a "government attempt to deprive independent newspapers of advertising earnings."

The US report also chronicled government officials resort to libel laws to suppress criticism and its closure of the UN-funded Media Monitoring Unit, established in 2006 to monitor media in advance of the elections. [more](#)

Indian company to export Guyana's cut logs: granted 30-year lease

Published on 2011-04-07 20:21:22 in News

(TIMES OF INDIA) BANGALORE: V G Siddhartha, best known for his Cafe Coffee Day (CCD) chain, has taken 1.85 million hectares of Amazonian forestland on a 30-year lease from the Republic of Guyana in South America to start a furniture business in India.

The idea is to transport cut logs on chartered ships from the Guyanese capital Georgetown to the Mangalore Port and then carry them via road to the Coffee Day Group's furniture plant in Chikmagalur. The Amazonian hard wood varieties coming to Indian shores through this route will include Greenheart, Purpleheart, Wallaba and Bullet Wood.

The royalty that Siddhartha will pay the Guyanese government is not clear. [More](#) see link below

Source: <http://www.demerarawaves.com/read.php?article=4204>

Weak, untimely supervision facilitating drug- smuggling-- Luncheon

2011-04-08 (Demerara Waves): Government on Thursday defended the removal of customs anti-drug agents from wharves and attributed the flow of drugs through the country's ports to weak and untimely supervision and deliberate malfunctioning of equipment.

Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Roger Luncheon said that, while lie-detection tests are used to weed out accomplices, the biggest hurdle was the absence of proper monitoring and supervision.

"Too often, the work that is being done fails to attract the right kind or the right level of incisive supervision so people get away with 'murder'," he told a news conference.

Luncheon said the absence of timely reviews, inconsistencies and claims of forgetfulness were part of a concoction to facilitate the flow of drugs by people looking for quick cash.

"Very often, when we look at it, we could see is a carefully orchestrated departure from the norm to facilitate this kind of behaviour," he added.

Major problems include the sabotage of equipment, convenient non-functioning of cameras coinciding with the smuggling of cocaine. He noted that a probe was currently underway into how a supposedly trouble-free shipping container scanner bought from the manufacturer-supplier suddenly broke down. "The long and short of which is that a scanner that is not scanning."

Luncheon, who is also Secretary to the Defence Board, conceded that lie-detection tests identified the perpetrators after the drugs would have already left the shores. [More](#)

Top U.S. Army general concerned about Guyana and Iran ties



President Mahmud Ahmadinejad of Iran and President Bharat Jagdeo of Guyana

The head of the U.S. Southern Command says Iran is expanding its ties in Latin America beyond its close relationship with Venezuela's Hugo Chavez.

Gen. Douglas Fraser told a Senate panel on Tuesday that Iran has nearly doubled the number of embassies in the region, from six in 2005 to 10 in 2010. It also has built 17 cultural centers. Fraser said Iran has hosted the heads of state from Bolivia, Guyana and Venezuela.

The commander said the Iranian effort to expand its ties and relations in small countries such as Guyana is a concern that U.S. is watching closely.

Guyana has inked several deals with the Iranian government which includes mapping and locating uranium deposits in Guyana and has ever since been on the U.S. radar of countries to be aware of, although the U.S. government has not approached the Guyanese government to discuss these relations, it is believed that they are alarmed by the blatant acts of the Guyanese government to reach out to enemies of North America.

On a separate issue, Fraser said Venezuela has purchased \$8 billion to \$12 billion worth of weapons from Russia, China and Spain, including automatic weapons. The U.S. is concerned the weapons could end up in the hands of illegal groups.

Source: <http://www.guyanapress.com/archives/6251>

Testing for oil begins at Rupununi well

April 7, 2011 (Stabroek News) Drilling is complete at the exploratory oil well in the Rupununi and it is being tested to see if oil is present.

This newspaper was told that the target depth of the well was reached recently and the next step in the process is testing for oil. It is not clear how long this process might take, but operations seem to be progressing smoothly.

Earlier last month, operator Groundstar Resources had reported that the Apoteri K-2 exploratory oil well being drilled in the Takutu basin in the Rupununi had surpassed two-thirds of its projected depth. It was expected that the target depth would have been reached by the end of last month. It is possible also that the company could drill a bit further down.

The target depth of approximately 3,350 meters (11,000 feet) was set to target the same productive reservoirs that tested over 400 barrels of oil per day of 42 degree API (American Petroleum Institute) light oil from the Karanambo 1 well drilled in 1982 and located 600 meters to the east of the current well. [more](#)

Norway stresses anti-corruption ahead of meeting with civil society, opposition

2011-03-31 (Demerara Waves) - Norway Thursday night stressed the need for anti-corruption mechanisms before compensating Guyana and other countries to preserve their forests.

"We do not want to interfere in how Guyana use money...But there must be strict standards for anti-corruption and also strict international standards for environmental and social concerns that will be applied," said Norway's Environment and International Development Minister, Erik Solheim

He also identified the need for a consultative process with interest groups and others.

"As long as these basic standards are applied, it is up to Guyana to decide how it will use its money," he told a news conference that he shared with President Bharrat Jagdeo.

Solheim confirmed that an additional US\$40 million would be paid to Guyana because the country has kept within the limits of deforestation, a sign that a call by the Group of 22 civil society activists and politicians' call for monies to be withheld has been rejected. US\$30 million have been already deposited into a special fund and is awaiting disbursement after projects would have been approved.

The Norwegian minister pointed out that the issue of corruption was not specific to Guyana but it was also being raised in Brazil and Indonesia where similar compensation schemes are being developed. [more](#)

Opposition vents to Norway on forest \$\$\$

2011-04-02 (Demerara Waves) - The parliamentary opposition parties on Friday got to vent their concerns about the processes in place to govern the funds coming Guyana's way from the climate deal with Norway when they met that country's Environment Minister Erik Solheim and his team.

The Norwegians had met President Bharrat Jagdeo the previous day. Speaking to reporters following their meeting Leader of the Opposition and PNCR Robert Corbin said the party used the opportunity to air several concerns it had.

"The first one is the question of the decision-making process whereby there is non-participation of the major stakeholders in determining how the money would be spent and particularly in this election year we made the point that they may be directly involved in the internal political affairs by the way the government is planning to use this money at the moment," Corbin stated.

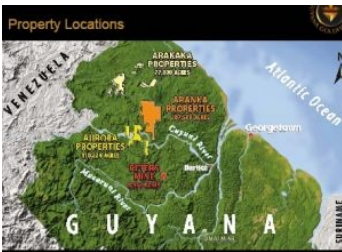
He added that they are not against the money being spent in a particular way but they believe there should be "full participation" in how all the monies will be utilised.

"Apart from Amaila Falls and the demarcation of boundaries, you'll find that all the remaining money is going for a select project in every indigenous community which we don't know what that project is."

According to the opposition leader, the funds are being handled "for political purposes to influence the elections in an election year." The second issue, he said, was the lack of institutions to monitor the effective implementation in the absence of a Procurement Commission. It is the party's view that the Commission would be essential in working with the World Bank to ensure that the standards the Norwegians are pushing for are met. [more](#)

Largest Gold Mining Operation Planned

if approved: Project includes underground mining



Map of Guyana showing Goldfields' Aurora and Aranka properties

2011-03-24 - (Demerara Waves)

The Guiana Shield's first underground gold-mining operation will begin commercial drilling in another three years for at least 6.7 million ounces of the precious yellow metal that could earn the country GUY\$150 billion.

President & Chief Operating Officer of Guyana Goldfields, Claude F. Lemasson said that pushing ahead with the project depended somewhat on the signing of a mineral agreement with the Guyana government.

"It is a critical step and it is on a critical path and we would hope that we are able to secure a mineral agreement with the government in the near future and that will then allow us to move forward and finish our technical studies and also do some other project financing," he said. [more](#)

Two new 7.8Mw generators for GPL



Foundation work in progress for the new GPL generators - GPL pix

The Guyana Power and Light Corporation (GPL), is in the process of acquiring and installing two Warsilla 7.8Mw generators for its Kingston Plant. The new equipment would add over 15.6 megawatts of new power capacity to that plant. The project cost is budgeted at US\$ 20 million.

At present the GPL is working on the foundation for the new equipment, which is expected to arrive in Guyana in May. The installation is expected to be completed and operational by August 2011.

The GPL management has said that their present capacity at GPL in Demerara is 88Megawatts, but only about 64.7 megawatts is considered as being reliable. The added capacity now being installed at the Water Street location is expected to supply more capacity to GPL customers, who now suffer from blackouts and brownouts. .

The power company also plans to link the West Demerara area to Kingston via a second sub-marine cable across the Demerara River, to complement the present link between the Garden of Eden power station and Versailles.

One Laptop Per Family Conflicts

Consultant Jud Lohmeyer lashes out at Government

[Video: One Laptop Per Family \(OLPF\) Conflicts revealed](#)

[Click link above to go to website for video link](#)

The "One Laptop Per Family" (OLPF), project has been in the news for a few months. This video, made in mid-March by Capital News, outlines some of the conflicts with Jud Lohmeyer. Many readers may not be aware of OLPF details, so we will attempt to give some simple answers here:

1. OLPF was conceived and managed by the Office of the President (OP). It was intended that over three years, 90,000 laptops would be given to families. The Government was accused of using the project for electioneering.
2. Jud Lohmeyer, a former US Peace Volunteer in Guyana, was given the job of co-coordinating the plans for the implementation of the project. Funding was expected to come from the Norway environmental grants that were expected last year but which were delayed.
3. Mr. Lohmeyer says that all his plans were scrapped when it was decided to give the project to a US based company. He resigned in mid-November 2010, and asked to be paid the salary due, based on his contract. His request was refused, and Mr. Lohmeyer went public with various negative revelations regarding the project. The government has accused Mr. Lohmeyer of black-mailing them. He has said that all he wanted was his money.

Recently, **Jud Lohmeyer** made some more comments on the political situation in Guyana, as he sees it here is the link : [Consultant lashes out at Guyana Government](#).

Guyana Floods – March 2011 Updates

Here are news reports and updates– Floods 2011

Guyana has been having heavy rainfall over the last three months. In February we reported heavy flooding especially on the coastal lands and the Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary creeks. The February Reports were in the last newsletter and are on the Blog.

We have now added 19 news items as the March updates to the list : [\(see the list of the 19 news items here\)](#).

The East Demerara Water Conservancy (EDWC) is now at a critical height due to heavy rainfall, and water from the highlands flowing towards the coast-lands. Efforts are being made to shore up the EDWC's earthen dam and release more water into the Mahaica Creek to prevent the over-topping of the dam. In 2005, the over-topping of the EDWC caused massive floods which lasted for weeks.

The Floods have now abated, but the economic and social damage has been deep and widespread. Many communities have been affected and farmers concerned about their losses and the ongoing recurrence of floods. These floods have been the worst since 2005, and have affected the rice, sugar and vegetable production across the coast lands, as well as the lives of inhabitants.

Two attractions share environmental excellence award

Harrison's Cave in Barbados and Surama Village Eco-Lodge in Guyana

Southampton, Bermuda, Thursday April 7, 2011 -

Two initiatives emanating from two ends of the sustainable tourism development spectrum are sharing an award for environmental excellence. Barbados' Harrison's Cave and Surama Village Eco-Lodge of Guyana are the winners of this year's Caribbean Excellence in Sustainable Tourism Award, presented by the Caribbean Tourism Organization, in collaboration with TravelMole.

A panel of regional and international tourism and environmental specialists - led by the head judge, Lelei LeLaulu, vice president of Marketplace Excellence and Caribbean Media Exchange - selected the winning projects.

"These two initiatives reflect two of the core aims of the CTO and TravelMole; namely to use tourism as an anti-poverty/development tool and to encourage the continuing refinement of products to ensure enhanced environmental conservation and added revenue generation," LeLaulu said.

Harrison's Cave won for taking what was already a mature tourism attraction and upgrading it to make it more environmentally responsible and more economically productive.

Green principles have been incorporated into the design and construction of the facility. Elements of greening include the use of natural wood and stone products, low carbon transportation, rainwater harvesting, green design for Visitor Reception Centre and the use of membrane bio-reactor sewerage treatment plants.

Surama Village Eco-Lodge, on the other hand, harnesses the economic power of the visitor industry in a responsible and sustainable way to create wealth and to benefit the community of less than 290 people and their environment.

The Surama Eco-Lodge and all tours in and around Surama - a small Amerindian situated on five square miles of savannah land - are managed and operated solely by the local Makushi Amerindians. With only eight rooms, tourism is intentionally kept small to lessen any impact on traditional lifestyles. However, the roughly 700 annual visitors provide employment for 70



The Surama Village Eco-Lodge and all tours in and around Surama - a small Amerindian situated on five square miles of savannah land - are managed and operated solely by the local Makushi Amerindians.

people - (from three-quarters of village households) and nearly 60 percent of the village's income comes from tourism.

The CTO/TravelMole awards are aimed at identifying, recognising and showcasing sustainable tourism best practices in the Caribbean, which embrace sustainable tourism concepts and core values, and which helps to enhance the tourism product offerings. (Source: <http://www.caribbean360.com/>)

Website: [Surama Eco-Lodge Rupununi](http://www.suramaecolodge.com/)

Guyana to host 13th Annual Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism

Guyana will host the 13th annual Caribbean conference on Sustainable Tourism Development (STC-13) next year.

Bermuda's director of tourism William Griffith passed the symbolic sustainable tourism scroll to the deputy director of the Guyana Tourism Authority, Tameca Sukhdeo-Singh, at the closing of STC-12 in Bermuda on Wednesday, April 6, 2011.

"It is with great pleasure that I accept the distinguished honour of hosting STC 13 in Georgetown, Guyana, next year. With this scroll comes great responsibilities and Guyana is eager take the mantle and continue hosting a successful and memorable STC 13.

"Bermuda has done a wonderful job in hosting a productive and successful STC 12, so we have to rise to the challenge and continue the standards set by them," Sukhdeo-Singh said.

Source: <http://www.demerarawaves.com/read.php?article=4199>

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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[Roraima Airways, Hotels and Companies](#)

[Sleepin International Hotel](#)

[Splashmins Resort](#)

[Surama Eco-Lodge Rupununi](#)

[Timberhead Eco-Resort](#)

[Trans Guyana Airways](#)

[Wilderness Explorers](#)

[Zoom Inn Hotel](#)

CARICOM to meet to discuss “Free Movement”

Jamaican Shanique Myrie accuses Barbados Immigration of improper conduct — cavity search and insults re Jamaicans...

Published on 2011-04-03 The Caricom Secretariat is to hold a series of meetings in early April 2011, to address free movement and contingent rights under the Single Market and Economy (CSME).

The April 4-7 meetings, to be held at the Liliendal-based headquarters, follow on the heels of recent allegations of mistreatment of Jamaicans seeking entry into Barbados.

In the first instance Shanique Myrie, a drug suspect, was allegedly cavity-searched and has since claimed that she was finger-raped by a female immigration officer before she was denied entry. Barbados' Foreign Minister, Maxine McClean has since said that an investigation was conducted and found the woman's claims to be untrue.

The case has sparked outrage in Jamaica and is being addressed at the governmental level.

The second incident saw three Jamaican promoters being allegedly held in a cell for hours and assaulted by immigration officers before also being denied entry. That case is also being dealt with by government officials from the two Caricom countries.

Over the years, numerous Guyanese have alleged discrimination at the hands of Barbadian immigration officials and have suffered the ignominy of being placed on a "Guyanese bench" at Grantley Adams International Airport before they were denied entry. [Read the rest of the article here:](#) < click

Here are more details on this story:-

(1) [the original news by Jamaican Shanique Myrie regarding her treatment before being deported by Barbados' Immigration authorities](#) < click

(2) [New Immigration Abuse claims against Barbados](#) < click

Jamaican music artistes claim that they were mistreated before being deported

REDjet: still awaiting airline certification by Barbados'



The low cost
Caribbean Airline

Article by Cyril Bryan—Guyanese Online

Airone, is the parent company of the newly formed REDjet, which has labeled itself as a Low-cost carrier serving the Caribbean and Latin America. ([link re Airone/REDjet concept](#))

The idea was formulated in 2008 by Irish businessmen, who included Leslie Buckley of Digicel. They first tried to get licensing using Jamaica as their base, but that was denied, due to opposition by the ailing Air Jamaica – now sold to Trinidad and Tobago's Caribbean Airlines.

Barbados was then chosen as their base. Applications were made last April. REDjet planned to start services by last Christmas. Their planes have been purchased; their pilots and personnel hired; they have done trial flights to major airports including Guyana's. However, their application is still not yet approved by Barbados.

Some feel that irrespective of what the politicians are saying, that there is underlying opposition to the establishment of a "Ryanair of the Caribbean" implementing lower air fares and forging a closer Caribbean. [Click: REDjet's October 20, 2010 announcement](#)

Brazil sends elite squads to its borders

- **targeting smuggling of drugs, weapons**

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Brazil says it will deploy an elite police force along its borders with nine countries to curb the smuggling of drugs and weapons.

The National Security Force includes top police officers from around the country.

The force will patrol Brazil's borders with Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Surinam and French Guiana

MARCH 17, 2011 | BY [KNEWS](#)

Jamaica trying to cash in on medical tourism

Kingston, Jamaica April 6, 2011 (Caribbean 360):

With the medical tourism market representing the fastest growing segment of the travel and tourism trade globally, Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett says efforts are underway to position Jamaica to capitalize on the boom estimated to be worth US\$40 billion.

Speaking recently at the Jamaica Emergency Medicine Association's annual banquet, the Tourism Minister stressed that medical tourism would not only diversify Jamaica's tourism product, but would also bring in much needed foreign investment with the construction of state-of-art medical facilities.

"The growth of this form of tourism would lead to the development of new resorts that are conducive to recuperation and rejuvenation, present new possibilities for the employment of highly skilled and specialized health professionals locally, and recapture those health professionals who have migrated," he added.

Minister Bartlett noted that medical tourism would also contribute to the development of Jamaica's health infrastructure and enhance the island's reputation as a safe destination with the capabilities to treat various illnesses and perform a variety of specialized procedures. He highlighted the case of India which is projected to earn an estimated US\$2 billion in 2012 from medical tourism alone. [more <click](#)

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Improving the Health of Children in Guyana

This is the first in a series of medical articles by Dr. Narendra C. Singh

Guyanese Diaspora Partner with the Guyanese Medical Community

. For a population of 750,000 people, Guyana has two certified Pediatricians, both of whom are working in the private sector. There are no certified pediatricians in the entire public health service of Guyana, although this system is required to provide Pediatric & Neonatal care for the entire Guyanese pediatric population. In contrast, there are presently six pediatricians of Guyanese descent practicing in the Toronto area.

The infant mortality rate in Guyana, although improving, is still higher than some of the Caribbean Islands, but it still only ranks 125th in the world. The Government of Guyana has made great strides in attempting to improve the health of its children, especially with its immunization programs. However, the government recognizes that unless it can attract and retain adequate numbers of qualified pediatricians in its public health sector, it would not be able to achieve its stated goal of significant improvements in pediatric health care.

To address this important problem, the Government of Guyana, the University of Guyana (UG) and the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC), in partnership with a newly formed and registered charitable organization titled "Guyana Help the Kids", have identified specific projects that are intended, over time, to increase the number of qualified pediatricians in the public sector, and to overall enhance the care provided by the country's public health sector to the children of Guyana.

Dr. Madan Rambaran, the Director of Medical & Professional Services of GPHC has been very proactive in facilitating this partnership with the strong support from Dr. Leslie Ramsammy (Minister of Health), Dr. Clive Bowman (Chief of Pediatrics), Mr. Michael Khan (CEO of GPHC) and Dr. Hardat Persaud (Pediatrician).

Dr. Narendra Singh, Chief of Pediatrics at Humber River Regional Hospital in Toronto, and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Toronto, has made multiple trips to Guyana to strengthen this partnership and to identify specific achievable and sustainable goals. Dr. Singh is also the President and founder of "Guyana Help the Kids" Organization. The initial projects would include, but not limited to:

1. Assisting the GPHC with the development of a 10 beds Neonatal Intensive Care (NICU) and 20 beds Pediatric Ward at GPHC, identified in its redevelopment plan;
2. Assisting the GPHC with the development of an equipment list for the two units, and to facilitate with the procurement of these equipment items.
3. Developing and implementing a Pediatric Residency Program in collaboration with the GPHC, the Ministry of Health and the University of Guyana. This program, which



Dr. Narendra C. Singh, Chief of Pediatrics, Humber River Regional Hospital and Asst. Professor of Pediatrics University of Toronto, Canada, with Dr. Clive Bowman, Chief of Pediatrics at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation

will be accredited by the University of Guyana, is aimed at increasing the number of qualified pediatricians in the public health sector with a view, over time, to substantially improve the quality of pediatric health services provided in the country. Dr Singh has been in touch with twenty-six Pediatric faculty members from the University of Toronto and McMaster's University who have volunteered their time, and at their own expense, to travel to Guyana on a regular basis to provide bedside and didactic teaching to pre-selected Guyanese doctors. A curriculum, based upon the spectrum of diseases encountered, has been developed in consultation with the doctors in Guyana and the University of Guyana. The Government of Guyana has agreed to provide accommodation and security for the visiting faculty members.

Finding Guyana-born doctors is important so Dr. Singh has developed a web site (www.guyanadoctor.com) to identify doctors of Guyanese origin who would be interested in this and other such projects in Guyana. Dr. Singh's father, Mr. Chetram Singh, a former Administrator of GPHC, has been a very strong advisor and catalyst in this partnership.

Guyanese abroad have been very supportive of this initiative. There has been a fundraising event in partnership with the Vishnu Mandir Global Outreach Program in Toronto. The Brampton Flower City Rotary Club and Mr. Dhaman Kissoon's Annual Golf tournament have committed to purchasing specific pieces of equipment to provide respiratory support for premature babies. Donations to support this fragile and high-risk part of the Guyanese population can be made by contacting Dr. Narendra Singh (nsingh@guyanadoctor.com). A Tax receipt will be provided.

Digicel lends helping hand To Buxton Youth Developers

March 16, 2011– Kaieteur News - Digicel became the latest entity to add their support to the Buxton Youth Developers Programme after presenting Patron of the organisation Lenox Shuffler with a cheque worth \$225,000 from Head of Marketing Jacqueline James, in the community of Buxton.

In addition to the money, James, who was accompanied by Events and Sponsorship Manager Gavin Hope, singing sensation Jomo and DJ Casual, also distributed gifts including umbrellas, key rings and back packs to members of the Programme as well as adults in commemoration on the organisation's fourth Anniversary

James, quizzed on what prompted her Company's involvement, stated that they are always looking for opportunities to support various community projects throughout Guyana. According to her, when the opportunity arose, they decided to get on board to help promote literacy in the Buxton community

She disclosed that at the current stage, the money will be used to assist with the purchasing of concrete blocks for the completion of the project.

<http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2011/03/16/digicel-lends->

Guyanese Association of Barbados Annual Mashramani Event—March 13, 2011



Some of the attendees at the Mashramani Lime held by the Guyanese Association of Barbados at the Banks Brewery Sports Ground

THANK YOU!

The President and Executive Committee members of the **Guyanese Association of Barbados Inc** wishes to thank all the patrons who attended the Mash- Lime on Sunday March 13th at the Banks Sport Club grounds at Wildey, making the event a huge success.

We look forward to your continued support in the future.

Victoria Village - Creole Breakfast Brooklyn. New York. June 25, 2011

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Guyanese Association of Manitoba Seniors Program Re-Launched

By Sharmela S. Rambally

March 18, 2011 was the re-launching of the senior program sponsored by Guyanese Association of Manitoba, and the debut of their new collaboration with the Arya Samaj Mandir and the Manitoba Hindu Senior Society to get the seniors of both west and East Indian descent to come out and participate.

The program agenda featured; an open house for all to attend with a meet and greet session, dinner and an open forum to follow with games and activities. The evening met with plenty of seniors from all areas of Winnipeg.

There were West Indians from Guyana and Trinidad, and East Indians from all across India. There was plenty of food, company and activities to fill the night and that is exactly what took place. It was glorious to see everyone, young and old playing, talking and laughing to stories - old and new- and of their homelands.

Being there that night gave me a feeling of happiness and great joy to see how much a simple gesture holds so much weight for those that are the most important in life. Seeing the smiles and hearing the acknowledgement and suggestions of what was done and what needs to be done to maintain this program going was a key factor in having this evening and making it a success and that is exactly what was accomplished. With over 50 seniors present, we not only got their insights and ideas, we also got their enthusiasm and drive to continue this program and more often. Read full report - click link below...

Download: [Seniors Program Report by Sharmela S. Rambally](#)

Tutorial High School Reunion - 2011

11TH INTERNATIONAL TRIENNIAL REUNION

DATE: July 31 to August 7, 2011

HOSTED BY: TUTORIAL HIGH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (TORONTO CHAPTER)

PLACE: TORONTO, ONTARIO CANADA

THEME: "SURGING AHEAD WITH COMMITMENT"

In this vein, we shall begin the festivities with a Church Service in the afternoon of Sunday, July 31, 2011 and close 7 days later with a Family Fun Day.

Commencing as this does in the wake of Toronto's Caribana festivities, will enable 'early arrivers' in Toronto to catch a bit of the carnival fever. Time for a second generous serving of our unique brand of Canadian hospitality.

We already have in place a prestigious venue for our Highlight Dinner and Dance. Other committees are hard at work in a sustained effort to align other planned events with suitable venues.

Note: Please continue to check this web site for up-to-date schedule information. A complete listing of activities, with times and locations, is also available at our website: <http://www.thaatoronto.org/>

Membership in the THAA (Toronto Chapter) includes all former students, staff, faculty and friends.

Alumni of Tutorial High School now resident in Canada are encouraged to become members of THAA. A link is provided below to the Registration Form which can be printed, downloaded or completed online.

[Download Registration form from the website.](#)

[Information on Tutorial High School—Toronto Chapter and their plans for their 11th International Triennial Reunion \(click to download\)](#)

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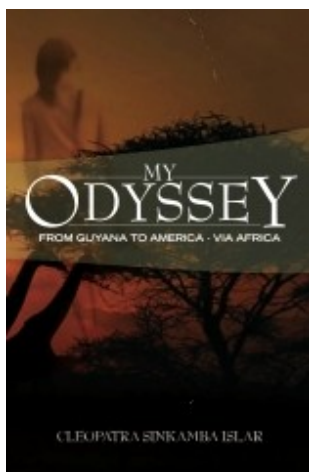
Tipperary Hall Rising— update

Construction of the new Tipperary Hall in Buxton is progressing rapidly



*Picture of Tipperary Building construction taken March 28, 2011
 Picture: Thanks to Fitzroy (Rollo) Younge .*

“My Odyssey” - by Cleopatra Islar



From Guyana to America - via Africa

This is an epic account of Cleopatra's experiences after leaving her native land at nineteen years old. She started this journey as an adventurous, young woman in pursuit of a career path.

As a young girl growing up in Guyana, she had big dreams. She would look up at the sky as the planes flew by and won-

dered what life was like in other lands. She knew that there was a world out there that she wanted to explore but she did not know how she was going to get there. She did not have the resources that would make this even a remote possibility.

Nevertheless, as she subsequently learned, miracles do happen and the key was to be able to discern the opportunities that would make them a reality. Her curiosity propelled her to explore every opportunity that came her way and this led her through an extraordinary path which she now calls "My Odyssey."

My Odyssey is a timeline of wanderings, tragedies, triumphs and new beginnings. Cleopatra has taken the long route to North America, through a myriad of African countries, languages and cultures but all these experiences have molded her character and made her a believer in the power of faith and the resilience of the human spirit.

About the author:

Cleopatra Sinkamba Islar has lived the life of an international civil servant. After several years of working in various parts of the world with international development organizations, she has learned how to overcome adversity and embrace new beginnings.

Her experiences since leaving her home in Guyana, and the challenges she faced while living and working in Zambia, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, and the USA where she currently resides, have given her a deep passion for helping others and sharing the lessons she has learned on her journey.

Publication Date: Feb 10 2011 — *List Price:* \$17.99

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Trim Size: 5.25" x 8" Language: English

Color: Full Color Related Categories:

Biography & Autobiography / Women

“GIMISTORY” in the Cayman Islands

“GIMISTORY” - VIDEOS from Ken Corsbie

Here are two video extracts from the **2002 GIMISTORY FESTIVAL** in the Cayman Islands run by the National Cultural foundation. Most of these stories were recorded at "Duppy night" (ghost stories).

This festival, created by Henry Muttoo (Artistic Director of the CNCF) is unique in the storytelling world - it runs for a week with evening performances on beaches or private yards, in-school tellings, and refreshments after each - fritters (small bakes), fried fish, and swanky (limeade) - all open and free to the communities.

Part 1 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KM9FelyFEKA>

Part 2 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhSXS4Xb2ME>

Part 2 of the annual Cayman islands' GIMISTORY Festival . Tellers – Marc Matthews, Dave Martins, Alex Neptune, Ken Corsbie (Guyana), Nasaria Sookhoo (Cayman), Samantha Pierre, David Bereaux, Louis McWilliams, Ewart Serrant (Trinidad).

[Also view this video](#)

WILBERT HOLDER AND DEREK WALCOTT'S PANTOMIME

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NZfxT798is&rel=0>

My friend WILBERT HOLDER was one of the finest Caribbean actors. One of his best roles was as a retired Trinidad calypsonian living in Tobago and working in a third rate hotel run by a failed English actor. Wilbert started his acting in the "Taitt's yard", then the Theatre Guild in Guyana and developed and honed his art/craft in the fire of the now legendary TRINIDAD THEATRE WORKSHOP where Nobel Prize Winner (for his remarkable poetry) DEREK WALCOTT was the mastermind. PANTOMIME is my favourite "Walcott play", and I have designed/directed it in Guyana, Trinidad, Barbados and Florida.

—
Ken Corsbie .. is .. "Caribbean Voices"
Long Island, NY.

www.caribvoices.com for my 5 CD's

<http://www.youtube.com/user/caribvoices> for my 40 videos

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LAL BALKARAN'S DOCUMENTARIES

Also view his website and Publications at <http://www.lalbalkaran.com/>

Guyana: A Photographic Journey



Photographs of the Landscape
Across All Four Geographic
Regions Including the capital
Georgetown

Guyana – A Photographic Journey

Photographs of the Landscape Across All Four Geographic Regions including the capital Georgetown

See Guyana's four geographic regions – the coastland, the hilly sandy area, the forest, and the savannahs - in over 300 stunning photos from Waini Point in the Northwest to Moleson Creek on the Corentyne and then scenes in the sandy area, the forested region, and the scenic Rupununi savannahs including the Pakaraimas. The captivating photos will leave you breathless on the beauty of Guyana – the rivers, the mountains, the lakes, the waterfalls, the forests, and others. Watch colonial architecture and other structures throughout the capital Georgetown and see the city in all its glory. Well chosen background music from Latin America add a colourful taste to this well-done documentary. **Price: \$25**

A PHOTOJOURNAL of the GUYANESE AMERINDIANS:

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: **Ackawaois, Arawaks, Arekunas, Caribs, Makushi, Patamona, Wai Wai, Wapishana, and Warrau.**

This unique documentary captures such scenes as: the Barama Caribs, the different types of Amerindian dances; house building; making *tasso*; cultural activities; children travelling by canoes to school; Basil Rodrigues's Mariaba band; the construction of the *benab* or Umana Yana by the Wais Wais in 1972; Rupununi cowboys or *vacqueros* in action; making the much-prized Wapishana hammock; village scenes; making food from the poisonous bitter cassava; fishing; and much more. The documentary covers these different aspects of life relating to Guyana's indigenous peoples in the following 14 areas:

The Landscape; Popular Buildings; Everyday Life; Cultural Activities; Cattle Ranching; Food from Cassava; Farming; Fishing; Craft Work; School Activities; Transportation; Church Activities; Village Scenes; and the Early Explorers and Missionaries that helped shape Amerindian way of life over the years. Price: \$25

A PHOTOJOURNAL OF THE GUYANESE AMERINDIANS



Photographs of the Everyday Life and Cultural Activities
of the Nine Amerindian Tribes of Guyana

Lal Balkaran

STAMPS of BRITISH GUIANA and GUYANA

Guyana, as British Guiana, was the nineteenth country in the world to begin issuing its own postage stamp in 1850, ten years after Great Britain issued the world's first adhesive postage stamp in May 1840. This documentary, backed with appropriate music, captures those important stamps, including first-day issues, over those years. These stamps have helped shape Guyanese way of life and have instilled a great awareness of the country's diversity, resources, anthropology, history, and geography in addition to being a rich legacy of our heritage.

It has long been recognized that stamps serve as a recording media and source of information that illustrates the social, commercial, political, cultural, historical, geographical, and artistic aspects of a society in their own unique style. Using short and abstract text, color graphics and symbols on a limited surface area to communicate its contents is the key attribute that differentiates stamp from other non-book material. For this unique attribute, the stamp can be deemed both as a communication tool and a work of art. **Price: \$25**

Order from his new website: <http://www.lalbalkaran.com/documentaries.php>

Stamps of British Guiana and Guyana:



A Collection of Over 300 Stamps
Spanning 160 years

The Birth of a Village - Annandale Today- written in 1964

From the [blog of Randall Butisingh](#): born in 1912. He grew up in Buxton and Annandale/Lusignan.

About eleven miles from the City of Georgetown, journey East, one cannot fail to notice the compact Housing Area which extends for four hundred yards on both sides of the public road from Buxton on the East to Lusignan on the West. The stranger will be surprised to learn that a little more than twenty years ago, this well-drained area was swampy rice fields and pasture for cattle and sheep. He will not fail to notice the rectangular streets and macadamized roads which are kept in good state of repair and the piped water system which gets its supply from two deep artesian wells in the area.

Annandale was a grinding Sugar Estate many years ago. It was said to be named after Ann and Dale, the daughters of the proprietor but its factory was dismantled because of its proximity to Lusignan whose factory had the capacity for grinding its sugar cane. The workers were then removed to Lusignan where they were housed in Logies, or range houses.

How did these new houses at Annandale, which the middle class or urban dweller may envy, spring up in so short a time. The older heads will remember that as recent as 1947, following discontent and restlessness among Sugar Workers, the Venn Commission was sent from England to investigate conditions on the Sugar Estates of British Guiana. and to make recommendations for improvement. They found the most appalling conditions in the estates. Apart for a small number of certain categories of workers, the majority of sugar workers live in ranges, called logies of five or six white washed, mud-floored rooms for as many families with no fences and not much privacy. These homes were also prone to flooding in the rainy season.

In 1948 the Lusignan Sugar Factory was dismantled and the canes were sent to a Central Factory at Enmore, a Sugar Estate about six miles east of Lusignan. This too was a reason for getting the workers out of the Lusignan Estate and for speedily finding alternative accommodation for them in another area. The Commission recommended that these ranges be pulled down and proper houses erected for the workers.

In 1949, the first interest free loans were given by The Enmore Estates Ltd to the first set of workers to be paid on the basis of a dollar a week and the logies in which they lived were sold to them for a pittance. With the money and the materials, part of which was sound, they built the first houses on which is now called Annandale South. These houses were to form the nucleus of a fast-growing community which now totals hundreds of houses and a population of around three thousand. In 1950, the Sugar Industry Welfare Fund was introduced. This fund which was raised by setting aside a small percentage of the sum collected for each ton of sugar provided the loans for the houses and also the infrastructure – proper streets, water supply and social amenities.

Within Annandale, where the land is leasehold, is an area with over a hundred and twenty houses. This area was reserved for sale to the people of Lusignan Pasture so that they could remove from the present site which was not developed, and so leave the land vacant for the use of the estate.

However, residents of the pasture were reluctant to remove from an area with gardening and pasturing facilities and very few took the opportunity to purchase plots there. Other workers too, who were safely accommodated in the Housing Scheme did not avail themselves of the opportunity to buy although they were given first preference. Eventually the lands were sold to selected applicants and the section which is known as Courabane Park is

made up of chiefly of residents from villages in the surrounding areas. Courabane Park boasts the finest houses in Annandale, but it lacks the facilities of good roads, proper drainage and potable water supply. These inadequacies however will be remedied soon within the framework of a Local Authority and Self help.

The population comprises the descendants of East Indians and Africans with Indians forming a large majority. Most of the Indians are Hindus, a small number is Muslims and a smaller number of Christians. Annandale also has a Government Primary and a Secondary School to serve the educational needs of the people, a Temple, an Arya Samaj Mandir, a Mosque and a Baptist Mission Church to serve their spiritual needs

A Community Centre, the best of its kind, a project of the S.I.L.W.F., provides recreational facilities e.g. cricket, table tennis, volley ball, athletics and the like. Here also can be found facilities for Adult Education, e.g. groups, films and a library.

With the availability of free Higher Education, children of the estate workers have become Graduates of the University of Guyana, or have attained certificates at the 'O' and 'A' levels of the G.C.E. Examinations. Annandale has produced to date (1964) two medical doctors, a lawyer, two sanitary inspectors, and a number of teachers, nurses, accountants, mechanics, tailors, carpenters and other skilled workers.

Recently, Annandale has projected itself on the literary scene and during the past year works of three of its creative writers. Among them is a young poet and story writer Roolall Monar with a string of National prizes. His work has appeared in local and Caribbean anthologies and magazines. The others are Bramdeo Persaud, poet and short story writer and Guska, a brilliant student, poet and artist.

In the field of music Ramdhan is rated the best player of the dholak (Indian drum) in the Caribbean. His son is following in his footsteps, and Sugrim Samaroo, as player of the harmonium and mandolin. In athletics, Annandale has produced three athletes of note – Sheik Hassan, Twahir Ali and R.D. Singh. Sheik Hassan is at present in Neighbouring Surinam where he is imparting his skill and techniques to the youths over there. Twahir, the veteran is active in the Athletic Group at the Community Centre. R.D.Singh, the youngest of the three was the winner of the Caribbean long distance championship in Grenada.

For the physical needs of the area there are large groceries and parlours, hardware and dry goods stores, a furniture mart, and spirit shops. It also has two garment factories, two mechanic shops, a welding shop and two small printers. Its market is one of the largest on the East Coast, but it is accommodated in makeshift tents on both sides of the Main road. It operates for about four busy hours starting about 11 a.m. every day except Sundays. After about two p.m. vendors and buyers clear the street and everything becomes quiet again.

Annandale as an Extra Nuclear Area has hitherto enjoyed freedom from rates and taxes and the help of the S.I.L.W.F. (Sugar Estates Labour Welfare Fund), in the maintenance of roads, internal drainage and water supply facilities, but these privileges will go under the system of Village Administration and the residents will have to be faced with the obligation of supplying the facilities for themselves through rates and taxes and by means of Self and Cooperation.- *Written in 1964 by Randall Butisingh. Read his 30-Chapter "My Story" of growing up in Buxton/Lusignan/ Annandale area and his life as a teacher on his blog at randallbutisingh.wordpress.com*

A History of Buxton's Tipperary Hall to 2010

Speech by Fitzroy (Rollo) Younge, at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for hr new Tipperary Hall on December 20, 2010

His Excellency, the President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, Guests & Fellow Buxtonians. Good afternoon. My assignment today is to give you a brief but succinct history of Tipperary Hall, Buxton's famed edifice.

Tipperary Hall was built in 1909 on this same site. The architect is unknown since the archives yield no information. (Phyllis Bachuss – Architect/Consultant) The building which was erected in the colonial architecture style consisted of one storey and timber was used for its construction. The Hall was once the headquarters of the Buxton/Friendship Benevolent Burial Society. The descendants of the former slaves were fussy about the way their loved ones were buried. I cannot over emphasize the important role this Burial Society played in ensuring a proper funeral for the “dearly departed.” I must also mention that coffins for the dead were made in this building. This made it cost effective for relatives who could not afford the high prices charged by the Funeral Homes in Georgetown.

In 1911 the society was registered as a burial society. The initial use of the building was expanded to include social, cultural, educational and political activities not only for the people of Buxton/Friendship but also the entire country at large. The building was inaugurated by the Chairman and Councilors of Buxton/Friendship local authority. Many of the Community's essential social services were pioneered by the Benevolent Society.

In 1947 when Dr. Cheddi Jagan won his first seat in Central Demerara, Tipperary was a central meeting place. Supporters such as Byron Lewis, Doodnauth Tiwari, Edmund Jack (an elder), Balram Singh Rai (BV), Benjamin Profit (Plaisance), Bertha Harry, Veta Griffith and Rampersaud Sawh & his wife Jasmat (all Buxtonians), frequented this building.

In 1950 when the PPP was formed with LFS Burnham as Chairman and Cheddi Jagan as Leader, many decisions were made here. In 1953 when the PPP won its first general elections under adult suffrage, Cheddi Jagan, Aston Chase, LFS Burnham, Dr. J.P. Latchmansingh, Jainarine Singh, Sidney King (now Eusi Kwayana) and Janet Jagan, the original first Government Ministers congregated here. It was also here that when Burnham attempted to seize the leadership from the pioneer, Cheddi Jagan, he met with strong resistance from the so-called ultra-left, Sidney King, Rory Westmass, Martin Carter and others.

Tipperary was also notorious as the venue for Boxing Day Dances hosted by Tr. George Younge (my uncle). All classes of people come to Buxton on that day to show off their fine clothing. Orchestras such as Syncopators (Tom Charles), Washboards (Al Seals), Luckies and Hot Shots found this venue to be the best in the country. Of the revelers, Malcolm Parris said, “They were enchanted throngs of distinctly innervated but orderly revelers.”

In 1980 the building started to deteriorate due to lack of maintenance, age and the fact that people gained access to commercial banks; a factor that led to the downsizing of the Society which was responsible for the upkeep of Tipperary Hall. The last part of the building fell in 1998. In May 2009, a meeting was held by Mr. Charles Booker, coordinator, where 60 persons attended. The purpose was to make his mother's (Aunt Jess) dream a reality that Tipperary Hall to be restored to its former glory.

We are gathered here this afternoon to take the most significant step in “The restoration of a modern Tipperary Hall” with the turning of the sod for the new building by His Excellency President Jagdeo. In welcoming the President, and in acknowledging the

preparedness of his Government support to this important civic activity, I feel it necessary to attempt to deal with the unanswered conundrum, “Why Tipperary?” How was it possible that Buxtonians, 100 years ago would choose the name of an Irish Town for this important civic center? You see, Tipperary Town, as distinct from the County, was “The center of a rich agriculture region and an important farm market. 100 years ago, Buxton was the same. Buxtonians, we can again become the agricultural bread basket of this country. This is something that Agricultural Minister, Robert Persaud & Edgar Simon are tirelessly working on.

Mr. President, during your historic visit to Buxton on August 18, 2010, the rebuilding of a new Tipperary was among the many priorities that emanated from a needs analysis of the village. Today, the turning of the sod is happening. We, the people of Buxton are extremely grateful, not only for this proposed edifice, but for the steel band, the 20 computers, the School Feeding Program and the WOW loans which you had promised and have delivered. We need more computers.

In closing, I must mention that there are people, some not even Buxtonians, who are whining saying that we should not accept government funds to restore Tipperary. Some are mortified that, against all predictions, the people of Buxton welcomed the President & his team with open arms. Fellow Buxtonians, **these are the people who want to go backward rather than forward.** We must continue to forcefully reject these demands. I want each of you to realize that as citizens of Guyana, it is our fundamental right, not a privilege, to access government resources to aid our community. We are not beggars of “Massa”. \$M60 is not a few pieces of dirty coins, as they say. I see it as an Economic and Social Development that should have been addressed a long time ago. This historic village and villagers have taken a bold step forward, and the few manufacturers of discord have been left behind.

What is happening today is deeper and more enduring. We are witnessing nothing less than the renaissance of this historic Village. **Something great has begun today.** Fellow Buxtonians, I am not going back to California until my mission is accomplished. My goal is to work assiduously with all of you to move Buxton forward without inciting punitive rhetoric against each other. **It is time that we, as Buxtonians, begin the task of restoring not only Tipperary, but also this great Village.**

In a quotation in the PPP's Thunder News Paper in May, 1952, it says, “As Buxton Goes, So Goes the Country.” Mr. President, I would like for you to ponder on this quotation. **You see, this quotation was said in this building during a very successful PPP meeting.** The contemporary press sensed that Buxton at that juncture most accurately reflected the political organization and political consciousness in the country, and highlighted the victory as pointing the way forward for the entire country. **The Thunder, perceptively recognized Buxton as the barometer of political opinion in Guyana.** Even the LCP “Sentinel” at the time agreed the country should agree with this statement. This newspaper was an inveterate of the PPP. Take care of Buxton and the rest of the country will follow. As you leave office next year, you have the potential to become the most influential President of Guyana. You can leave an everlasting legacy in Buxton. Again, Mr. President, **“As Buxton Goes, So Goes the Country.”** What happened in Buxton in May, 1952 can happen throughout the country by 2011. Make no mistake about it. Buxton can inspire this nation, Buxton must inspire this nation, and Buxton will inspire this Nation.