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1957 JAMAICA TRAIN CRASH (for the big screen)

Young protagonist whose fictional story is woven into the real story of the 1957 train crash in Kendal, Jamaica, which killed nearly 200.

See story on Page 2



**A history
of the African
Female Gaze**

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**The story
of the Jamaica
Canadian Association**

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Proposed Jamaican film gets the nod from The Big Pitch

By Stephen Weir

Horrific crashes are the stuff movies are made of. The Titanic. The Hindenburg. The Twin Towers. And if the judges at the Caribbean Tales Film Festival



(CTFF) are right the next Jamaica feature film to be made is sure to be the second biggest train wreck of them all.

The CTFF has given the nod to a film proposal that wants to create a drama around the most famous

Jamaican train wreck you have never heard of - the 1957 crash of a packed train near Kendal, Jamaica.

"Yeah you probably never heard of the Kendal. I didn't, and I am Jamaican," said award-winning filmmaker Gabriel Blackwood. "When I did learn about the Kendal crash I knew I had to tell the story. You know when the train derailed over 60 years ago, it

and South Africa telling film and TV industry professionals why their movie ideas should get funding.

"The Big Pitch is the culmination of 3 months of preparation, followed by an intensive 3-day pitch and training session designed to refine their pitches," explains the Caribbean Tale Film Festival organizers. The Big Pitch is one of the most popular events occurring during



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was the world's second worst train wreck!"

Kendal is the name of the feature length film the young Jamaican is gearing up to make, and her plans got a big boost last Sunday when she won the CTFF's \$10,000 "Big Pitch" Incubator competition.

It was held on Sunday morning in the second floor restaurant at the TIFF Bell Lightbox on King Street West. The Big Pitch had 11 filmmakers from the Caribbean, Canada

the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). The Big Pitch did indeed attract the film and TV industry as over a 100 people filled the restaurant to hear about the proposed movies.

There were two dominant and very different themes to most of the pitches - family dramas about the plight of women within the diaspora and supernatural films and TV series about Trini vampires, Haitian mermaids and

Turn to PAGE 19

Bahamas needs your help

By **Lincoln DePradine**

The Bahamian people, who are in need of clean water, food, housing and other essentials following the passage of Hurricane Dorian that left a trail of death and destruction, remain in strong spirit, according to the top diplomat for The Bahamas in Canada.

Dorian, a Category 5 hurricane with winds of up to 185 miles an hour, "devastated two of our major islands



Alvin A. Smith

– Grand Bahama and Abaco", Alvin A. Smith, the Ottawa-based Bahamian High Commissioner to Canada, said Monday. "Amidst this havoc,

the spirit of our people has not been broken," said the high commission in a news release signed by Smith.

Dorian made landfall in The Bahamas on September 1, remaining stationary over the Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama Island for two days. The official death toll has been put at more than 45, but the final count is expected to be considerably higher.

Electricity and water supply services were severely affected by the hurricane, which left some 70,000 Bahamians homeless. Some of the homeless are leaving, seeking to enter the United States via Florida, which is only about 80 miles from The Bahamas.

Several Bahamians, who were headed to the U.S. last Sunday, were ordered off a boat by American officials. U.S President Donald Trump defended the decision. Without providing evidence to back his claim, Trump said The Bahamas had some "very bad people and some very bad gang members and some

very, very bad drug dealers".

"Everyone needs totally proper documentation," Trump told reporters at the White House on Monday. "I don't want to allow people who weren't supposed to be in the Bahamas to come into the United States, including some very bad people."

Many American politicians, from both the Democratic and Republican parties, are urging the government to suspend visa requirements to help reunite Bahamians with relatives in the U.S.

Meanwhile, in Canada, individuals and organizations are continuing with their mobilization efforts to collect and

donate supplies to The Bahamas.

GlobalMedic – a

Turn to PAGE 15



GlobalMedic volunteers packing family emergency kits bound for The Bahamas

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Canadian contingent makes lasting impact at CARIFESTA

By Dayo Kefentse

The contingent representing Canada during the 14th edition of The Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA) will be remembered as a unique and trendsetting addition to the festival. Canada was the only country with a Caribbean diaspora delegation participating in this year's festival. The 10-day feast of Caribbean culture held in Trinidad and Tobago, which featured sights, sounds and tastes of countries from right across the region, ended on Sunday August 25.

The nearly 50-members, who made up Canadian's entry,

was managed by the Canadian-Caribbean Arts Network (C-CAN). They received significant attention from audiences because people were curious as to why Canada would participate in a Caribbean event. Audiences were pleasantly surprised by exceptional performances by The Children and Youth Dance Theatre Toronto (CYDT), the Roots and Branches Dance Company, KasheDance and Daniel Ellis' presentation of the play Speaking of Sneaking.

"Our younger artists, who made up the largest segment of our contingent, were very enthusiastically received," said Michael

G. A. Lashley, C-CAN Co-founder and Chef de Mission for the Canadian contingent. "C-CAN is justifiably proud of its contribution to youth development and to the future of the arts and culture in Canada, and especially within our Caribbean diaspora community."

The Grand Market was one of the key features of the festival: picture huge white tents peppering the Savannah grounds. On display were multiple exhibits of regional literature, arts, crafts and fashion. Canada's booth featured a virtual carnival experience conceived by Dwayne and Candice Dixon of SugaCayne Designs. On a daily

basis, as many as 500 people waited in line to see one of Canada's newest innovations in the carnival sector. On the final day, Calypso Jazz band, Kalabash entertained standing room only crowds.

"We're thrilled that we were able to give audiences more than they may have expected from a Canadian contingent," said Rhoma Spencer, Artistic Director and Co-founder of (C-CAN). "This speaks to the fact that Caribbean culture and talent are also very much alive and well outside of the Caribbean region. They are spread around the world and are passed on from generation to generation, and we're glad to share that perspective with Caribbean audiences."

Joan Pierre managed the logistics



and planning for the Canadian team. She was particularly happy about this CARIFESTA's success as she was born in Trinidad, and has also called Canada home for more than 40 years. As a veteran arts and events administrator, she assessed the festival both as a professional and as an audience member.

"My overall experience surpassed my expectations," said Pierre. "We showed the CARIFESTA organization that although we live in North America

, we are doing great work, keeping our art form intact, and making our respective islands proud."

C-CAN plans to increase its presence at future CARIFESTAs. During the closing ceremony, the Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts, Dr Nyan Gadsby Dolly formally handed the festival over to her counterpart representing Antigua and Barbuda. These twin islands will be hosting the festival in 2021.

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Luther Brown sent off in style

Recently the Jamaican Canadian Centre played host to an exciting event where the Caribbean community, along with the Toronto's first Africentric School, celebrated the retirement of their principal Mr. Luther Brown. The evening was hosted by actor Marcia Brown and the guest include Lloyd Wilks, Consul General of Jamaica in Toronto, singer Jay Douglas, along with a number of children both performing and speaking about

Mr. Brown.

The celebration highlighted the contribution of a genuine community builder and an educator's career that has had a great influence on the of people he has touched, nurtured, developed and mentored.

The events saw colleagues and students that he had inspired, including one who is now one of three Deputy Directors of Education, speaking about the impact of Luther Brown on their careers. Luther

has led the Africentric Alternative School for several years and has made a tremendous impact on that institution.

This was evident in the school's 10th Anniversary Celebrations and Graduation in June. At that event the first cohort of kindergarten students admitted to the school, graduated from grade eight. Accolades were bestowed on Mr. Brown by a diverse group of community members including stalwarts in the field of education

and the entertainment industry.

Victor Tipper Henry, who co-hosted the radio program "The Crucible" with Brown, came to praise the respected educator, while Jimmy Reid serenaded the audience. Jay Douglas then assembled all the entertainers on stage to deliver a rousing rendition of Bob Marley's "One Love."

The unflappable Luther Brown, true to his reputation, kept his composure even as the love poured forth from



Luther Brown

those he had mentored; even as his wife spoke of his commitment to family and community, and daughters recalling the great times they had growing with him.

Luther Brown had done his part now as he moves on to more challenges in education - the field for which it seemed he was made for.

Retired Trinidad-born professor dies in Winnipeg at 78

Retired Trinidad-born professor Deo Harry Poonwassie died at his home in Winnipeg on Sunday. He was 78.

Poonwassie who taught for several years at the University of Manitoba and Brandon

and honour to Canada in the field of education," said Dookeran.

After receiving his Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Manitoba, Poonwassie taught at Winnipeg's Eastwood Collegiate while work-

ing towards his Master of Education which he completed in 1973. He earned his PhD in education in 1978 after working with the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Education and Brandon University's Northern Teacher Education Program.

In 1979, he returned to the University of Manitoba as a founding director of two programs focusing on aboriginal students: the Access Program and the Special Premedical Program. Both programs received national awards from the Canadian Association for Continuing Education.

In 1992, Poonwassie received the Commemorative Medal for the 125 anniversary of the Confederation of Canada, in recognition of his dedication to Manitoba's communities.

In 2012, he was

awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his service to his community and the nation.

His contributions

and accomplishments as an educator has been recognized with a promotion to the rank of Professor Emeritus.

He leaves his son,

Alex.

A funeral service for the late Deo Harry Poonwassie will be held in Winnipeg on Saturday September 21.



Deo Harry Poonwassie

University, suffered a stroke last April.

Former Trinidad and Tobago foreign minister Winston Dookeran, a

graduate of the University of Manitoba, told the Caribbean Camera that Poonwassie "rose miraculously in university circles and was an academic pioneer in aboriginal studies and in the field of education."

"He brought pride to Trinidad and Tobago

ing towards his Master of Education which he completed in 1973.

He earned his PhD in education in

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Robert Mugabe

Robert Gabriel Mugabe died within the last fortnight. The floodgates of Western criticism were opened. It seems that Mugabe's professional life and rule of post-independence was one of unrelieved violence and failure. We wish to enter a most profound disagreement with these gloomy and biased assessments.

We believe that during Mugabe's long reign as President, mistakes were made but there were definite achievements. Like all political leaders, the circumstances in which Mugabe had his social being and his political existence were complex and challenging and provoked responses which were not perfect or acceptable in normal circumstances. To make our point we will examine Mugabe's career through critical periods: when he was a leader of the liberation movement, when he became the Prime Minister of an independent Zimbabwe and when he became President of his country.

Robert Mugabe came to political consciousness in a country whose political system was based on the minority rule of Whites over the majority, a situation which was offensive to every democrat of the western world. But there was no universal outcry against the circumstances in which Black men and women were robbed of their dignity on a daily basis in the land of their birth. Only those who have not experienced the whiplash of racial inferiority will ignore the environment which shaped Mugabe's politics.

Mugabe must have heard Sir Roy Welensky's remark as Prime Minis-

ter of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland that the relationship of the Whites and Blacks was like that of a horse and a rider and he did not have to say who was the horse and who was the rider. Offensive racial politics and practices continued without major objection from the western world until Mugabe and his fellow liberation fighters took up arms against this tyranny.

Educated by Jesuits, bookish and critical of his social and political circumstances, Mugabe acquired seven degrees and entered the teaching profession before becoming involved in the liberation of his country. He was arrested and tried for subversive speech and imprisoned for ten years from 1964 to 1974. Once he regained his freedom, he went into exile in neighboring Mozambique where he joined the liberation struggle. Soon he became the leader of ZANU-PF and prosecuted the case against minority rule in Rhodesia. As Ian Smith's rule tottered, the western countries entered the fray to rescue the system which would leave the Whites in control of the levers of power.

At the Lancaster House conference to discuss the independence of Rhodesia, the resulting agreement seemed to ignore the rights of the black majority.

No land reform could be undertaken for ten years and the minority Whites owned most of the land. A fund was established, supported by the western countries, to compensate the white farmers who might have lost their land between 1980 and 1990. The trouble was the Fund never became a reality and the desire for land sharpened in the post-independence period; a hunger for land, which was the initial source of conflict between Blacks and Whites.

The importance of this question to the countries of Southern Africa is dramatized by the fact that the administration of President Ramaphosa of South Africa is being challenged by this salient issue. When Mugabe yielded the clamant demands of his supporters and seized land, the resulting chaos caused him to be painted as a monster. But what do we find decades later? In a study undertaken by Ian Scoones of the UK Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University in 2010 on the land question, came to this conclusion: "What we have observed on the ground does not represent the political and media stereotypes of abject failure..."

We believe in the Ten Command-

ments and therefore have some difficulty justifying what Mugabe and his government did to the Ndebele in Matabeleland in the eighties. The killing there has been justifiably condemned. But in reaching a conclusion on this matter the context and the circumstances must be understood. Mugabe's ZANU-PF and Nkomo's ZAPU were involved in an internecine contest for power. They were backed by China and the Soviet Union respectively. The latter governments were involved in a known ideological war and were prepared to do anything to ensure that their ward emerged triumphant. There is a lot here which is unknown and is best left to the judgement of God and History.

Mugabe is gone. But let us remember that he made great personal sacrifices to struggle for the independence of his country and in the process extended the geography of freedom on the African continent. Too many writers tend to forget that Zimbabwe at moments seemed to be doing well and seemed to be on its way to be an economic model for a troubled continent. But then, in the words of that great historian Suetonius, "nature turned disruptive."

Climate change and the game of cricket

Older movie fans and discotheque frequenters of a bygone era will no doubt remember the upbeat song "The Heat is on," with its catchy saxophone refrain, from the 1984 Eddie Murphy comedy "Beverly Hills Cop. Well, the Heat has caught the attention of the cricketing world and at this time no one is jumping up to get on the dance floor.

According to a new report, "Hit for Six," which was released recently at Lord's Cricket Ground in London, England, climate change and the subsequent increases in heat are having a profound effect on the game of cricket, especially in Australia. Down Under, they experienced three consecutive days of temperatures hovering at 46 degrees Celsius during the last cricket season, whilst enduring weeks of extreme heat, often leading to the abandonment of games. The game's omnipresent nemesis, rain, now has a new and unlikely dance partner, the heat.

The warning signs were being posted all along but

the cricketing world, like so many others, chose to look the other way. Last year, drought forced the cancellation of school and club cricket in South Africa, whilst, here in the Caribbean, we can still remember the haunting images of the Hurricane Ivan's devastation of Grenada in 2004. Ignoring Nature's bellows is no longer an option.

The report, the first of its kind, combines climate science and heat physiology, and provides intriguing insights on how extreme heat currently affects players and future problems which will confront the game.

"It's the extremes of temperature that present the problems for cricket, particularly when combined with high levels of humidity that also appear to be on the rise," Mike Tipton of the University of Portsmouth and the report's co-author observed. He further noted, "A batsman in full protective gear exercising during an Indian heat wave where relative humidity rises and the temperature exceeds 37 degrees

Celsius will struggle to control body temperature; it's just not possible to evaporate sweat at the rate required to control body temperature." Wicketkeepers, porters of extra gear, are also vulnerable to the withering effects of heat.

The report also gives an intuitive understanding of the psychological effects of heat on the brain. It notes that the short term/ working memory of bowlers and the ability of batsmen to concentrate become more stressed with increases in temperature. Umpires, who have to stand for hours on end, and are then called upon to make split-second decisions are also vulnerable to the effects of extreme heat.

At present, only Cricket Australia has specific rules to deal with the extreme heat. The Heat Stress Risk Index Management Interventions, which were introduced last August, includes increasing the number of drinks breaks and even suspending play.

The "Hit for Six" report concludes with a few suggestions for dealing with climate

change. Cricketing bodies around the world should be encouraged to emulate Cricket Australia and adopt their own heat rules, while kit manufacturers should be brought into the loop to produce heat resistant clothing and gear that enhance air-flow. Other ideas touted included extending acclimatization periods of tours and having cricketers play in shorts. It also suggested that the ICC, which is not a member of the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework, set up a global climate disaster fund.

As Grenada's Prime Minister Keith Mitchell writes in the foreword of the "Hit for Six" report, "Climate change is real." So, what are we planning to do about it, with regards to our cricket? Commission more Patterson and Barreau reports? We all know what has become of those reports, sitting on a shelf somewhere, decaying in the heat.

What are your thoughts Ricky Skerrett, CWI President?

- *Stabroek News editorial*



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Climate science and the Caribbean voice



By David Jessop



In the last few days new evidence has been published suggesting that scientists are now 99 per cent certain that human activity is causing global warming.

As if to validate this, temperatures in parts of Northern Europe spiked in the last week of July at 44.9C (113F), breaking records and confirming changing patterns that have brought extreme weather and higher temperatures often for sustained periods to regions of Africa, the Americas, the Arctic and many other parts of the world.

Such events graphically illustrate the impact and trend of global warming, raising questions as to what the Caribbean and other states most at risk can do to ensure that the science is acted on.

Earlier this month, a research letter published in the scientific journal *Nature* from scientists at the University of Bern demonstrated that not at any time in the last 2000 years has there been a period when temperatures have changed so rapidly or widely. Using evidence taken from ice, sediment and trees, the new research indicates

that the current warming is unique, taking place on a global scale and in recent decades has accelerated as a result of industrial emissions.

Despite this, in many countries populist politicians backed by powerful companies, lobbyists and wealthy individuals who profit from denial, continue to reject such data-backed scientific evidence.

To make matters worse, the United States is not only withdrawing next year from the global climate change accord reached in 2016 but is also working to weaken multilateralism and the institutions that have previously enabled a consensus to be reached on mitigation and adaptation. This presents a problem for the Caribbean.

Although CARICOM, Cuba and the Dominican Republic have previously been instrumental in trying to drive a new global consensus on addressing climate change by working closely with China, the EU, the ACP group and others, the region alone has little ability to influence or change the actions of the US, Brazil, Russia or other nations that in one or another way are

undermining the rest of the world's ability to reduce global carbon emissions.

Just as worryingly, the Caribbean, despite its widely recognised vulnerability, has not been able to trigger the international financial support it requires to build the resistance necessary to defend and protect its citizens. This is in part because the region is classified by international development agencies as consisting of middle-income economies – Haiti is an exception – and thus not eligible for concessional development assistance.

Encouragingly however, in a welcome and under-reported address, the UN Secretary General, António Guterres, has publicly recognised the need to find ways to address the plight of the Caribbean and other small states at risk from climate change.

Speaking recently in St Lucia to CARICOM heads of Government he observed that the destruction caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria had negated many years of Caribbean development gains. These events, he said, had made abundantly clear to him and others

the need to find ways around development financing constraints.

Mr Guterres observed that the Caribbean should be seen as an influential test bed for innovative climate action. This could involve decentralised clean energy solutions that ensure that power losses after storms will be shorter and less catastrophic, investing more in concrete conservation and resilience measures, and reviewing international financial mechanisms relating to climate change.

He also commended the region on its wish to become the world's first climate resilient zone and endorsed the idea of a 'Caribbean Resilience to Recovery Facility' able to develop financial solutions that support CARICOM members to build resilient communities and nations.

Most importantly of all, the UN Secretary General recognised that apart from the recurrent costs of climate-related events, the Caribbean and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) faced unique economic constraints "complicated by the difficulties (they) face in mobilising development finance on

affordable and appropriate terms".

Then, in a welcome reference to the challenge the Caribbean faces in having been graduated out of concessional development financing, Mr Guterres said: "We join your call, and will take the steps we can, to improve access to development financing as a priority. I agree with you that eligibility for Official Development Assistance and other forms of concessional financing should include vulnerability criteria, in addition to Gross National Income per capita".

Vulnerability, Mr Guterres said, "should be recognised by all" and that the speed and predictability of climate financing, especially for Least Developed Countries and SIDS, should be improved.

Mr Guterres appears determined to try to bring more resources to SIDS and to change the global mechanisms that determine who is eligible for development assistance. However, this will not be easy. This is because when it comes to climate change multilateralism and the role played by international institutions is of declining interest to some states,

most notably the US.

The world needs to see global greenhouse gas emissions reduced and to work collectively towards ensuring that global temperatures do not rise more than 1.5C above pre-industrial levels in order to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

Unfortunately, some think differently, so much so that when it comes to climate change the populist trend towards Manichean thinking, the denial of interdependence and a failure to act in the common interest suggests that the ultimate destination may be uncontrollable migration, food shortages and even wars.

For the Caribbean, climate change is existential. Fifty per cent of the region's population and almost all its productive enterprise and infrastructure lie within 1.2 miles of the sea. If nothing is done to provide support, very large numbers of people and whole economies will have to face the effects of ever more intense hurricanes, rising sea levels, and economically damaging related natural phenomena such as sargassum.

Climate change and the science behind it are issues on which the Caribbean has every reason to be taken seriously and its concerns addressed.

David Jessop is a consultant to the Caribbean Council and can be contacted at

“Tobago Beyond” shortlisted for International Travel & Tourism Awards

SCARBOROUGH, Tobago - The Tobago Tourism Agency Limited's destination marketing campaign, “Tobago Beyond”, has been shortlisted in the International Travel & Tourism Awards 2019 in the “Best National Tourism Board Campaign” and “Best Destination Campaign” categories.

Presented by World Travel Market and supported by the United Nations World Tourism Organization, the International Travel & Tourism Awards are a global platform that recognizes and promotes excellence within the travel and tourism industry. The 2019 Awards Ceremony will take place on



Tuesday November 05 in London, England.

The “Best National Tourism Board Campaign” award recognizes which destination showcased its vibrancy, culture and individuality through a consumer or trade campaign that leaves the viewer pushing

the destination to the top of their bucket list, or wanting to return. The award for “Best Destination Campaign” looks at which destination's campaign achieved volume and value growth in addition to encouraging visitation. The submitted campaigns were assessed

using tangible metrics, including proof of audience engagement, budget, and obstacles and how they were resolved.

According to Nicole Smart, International Travel & Tourism Awards Organizer: “Our judges have been greatly impressed by the exceptional quality of entries, and those who are on the shortlist know they have reached a very high standard – they will be among the best in the world.”

Tobago's submission, “Revitalizing Tobago Tourism”, outlined the aim of the “Tobago Beyond” campaign, which is to revitalize the international appeal of Tobago as a real chal-

lenger holiday destination for those seeking a Caribbean holiday. With limited resources in comparison to other Caribbean destinations, focusing on specific markets and traveler segments was a key part of the strategy.

The submission also indicated that all of the campaign's KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) have outperformed, and resulted in double digit growth of arrivals in 8 months, with the last three months showing 22%, 29% and 40% growth respectively.

Commenting on the announcement of Tobago being shortlisted in the awards, Secretary for Tourism, Culture and Transporta-

tion, Councillor Nadine Stewart-Phillips said: “This accomplishment is another reflection of our continued commitment to advance the island's tourism sector. This is certainly testament to the fact that we are going in the right direction with respect to greater visibility for destination Tobago.

Since the launch, the ‘Tobago Beyond’ campaign has attracted tremendous local and international interest and has yielded substantial results. I am heartened that our efforts are being recognized globally and look forward to the continued positive returns this recognition will bring.”

Jamaica offers online immigration & customs declaration forms

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Jamaica now offers an online version of the Immigration and Customs Declaration form (C5) for arriving travellers at the island's international airports.

The online form will enable passengers to be processed more seamlessly through the arrival process (Immigration and Customs) in the island. This will also lead to a reduction in waiting

and processing times in both Immigration and Customs.

The form is currently (available here: <https://c5online.pica.gov.jm/apply/>) provides travellers with the option to be completed prior to their travels to Jamaica (once their travel has been booked) as opposed to filling out the physical form upon arriving at their respective airport.

The Online Pas-

senger Declaration Form captures the same information as the current paper Immigration and Customs Passenger Declaration Form. The electronic format, once completed, is then submitted to Immigration Officers and Customs Officers and when passengers arrive at the airport in Jamaica, they are processed by designated officers.

“As Jamaica's arriv-

als numbers continue to soar, it's important that we offer a speedier process at our airports, so our visitors spend less time waiting in immigration and customs and more time enjoying the destination,” said Donovan White, Jamaica's Director of Tourism. “We're continuously seeking ways to enhance our visitors' experience while in Jamaica and we hope this improved experience also promotes greater return visits for our guests.”

“The new system is efficient because it is user-friendly and requires minimal effort on the part of the traveller,” said Andrew Wynter, CEO of Jamaica's Passport, Immigration & Citizenship

Agency. “Once you click on one of the boxes, it moves you onto the next option; we don't want people spending too much time on the form, we want them focusing on their stay and experience in Jamaica.”

According to PICA, the system was created and designed by the Information and Communication Technology staff at both PICA and JCA, in consultation with other stakeholders. As part of its continuing efforts to improve the arrivals experience, the customs agency's next project is to launch a mobile application.

For more information on traveling to Jamaica, go to www.visitjamaica.com.

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Nigerian mother denied refugee status; daughter faces child marriage

Nigerian born Morufat Ogunkoya, her son and two daughters, are urgently seeking an appeal to their denied application for refugee status by Immigration Canada. Ogunkoya, who is being assisted by two advocacy groups in her appeal, claims that her own father and male relatives have threatened her safety, due to her conversion from Islam to Christianity. Ogunkoya also says her 14 year-old daughter has been pledged to marry an older man,

and she fears that marriage will be enforced if they are deported to Nigeria.

Ogunkoya, who is living in an undisclosed area in the Niagara region, declined to speak publicly, however, the Caribbean Camera was able to speak to David Cooke, Executive Director of Citizen Go, a family values public advocacy organization, on Ogunkoya's behalf. He admits that there are complications with Ogunkoya's claim for refugee status in

Canada, but says the family is now facing eminent deportation, "We have an online petition with over 19 000 signatures and we have been calling and emailing Immigration Minister Ahmed Hus-sen with no response. I believe he's ignoring us, or at least he hasn't been accessible for this issue. We plan to stage a protest rally in front of his Toronto office, and hope for a chance to present our petition to him. Morufat is a hard-working mother,



Morufat and the family

who is fearful for her life, and the safety of her children. She genuinely believes they are in danger, regardless of

which part of Nigeria they are sent to."

Cooke says the Ogunkoya family has been sent a deporta-

tion order so time is running out for them, "Initially, Morufat and her family lived in the U.S but became afraid of Trump's immigration policies, and she heard that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had a more humanitarian open door policy, and so came here. Now here it is, Canada is deporting them to face persecution and possible death," Cooke laments.

The Caribbean Camera will continue to monitor developments in this case.

Chile marks its own 9/11 – when CIA ousted Salvadore Allende

Latin Americans remember Sept. 11 as the date in which the Chilean Army, supported by the U.S.' Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), carried out a coup against the socialist President Salvador Allende. His death marked the beginning of the brutal dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, the general who opened a cycle of neoliberal reforms, authoritarianism and violence against the South American peoples.

At 7:30 A.M. on Sept. 11, 1973, the democratically elected President Salvador Allende arrived at the Palacio de La Moneda in Santiago to be informed about the insubordination of the Navy in the city of Valparaiso. A couple of hours later the armed forces and the military police, "Los Carabineros", carried out a coup against the socialist government of the Popular Party.

Based on Cold War logic, Salvador Allende's democratic admin-



Salvadore Allende

istration meant a direct and immediate communist threat.

To overthrow it, then U.S. President Richard Nixon allocated millions of dollars, a fact which was confirmed decades later when declassified documents revealed the U.S.' participation in the rise of Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship, which killed more than 40,000 people at the start of its reign.

"Nixon ordered the CIA to prevent President Allende from taking over the presidency," admitted Edward Korri, who was U.S. Ambassador to Chile from 1967 to 1970.

In an interview

for the "Allende's last decision" documentary, Korri recalled that at a meeting with Nixon in Washington, the U.S. President spoke of the Chilean socialist politician, stating "how he was going to crush Allende, while hitting his hand with his fist. He called him a son of a bitch, too."

A few years later, a CIA document dated October 1, 1973, praised the coup d'état in Chile and called it almost "perfect."

For Latin Americans, September 11 is the day when Salvador Allende died. This democratic politician and physician was the first Marxist to ever be

elected to the presidency in Chile.

For Latin Americans to forget its 9/11 would be to forget thousands of men and women who were tortured, killed and disappeared because of the military dictatorships of the 1970s and 1980s.

The coup that ended the life of thousands of Chileans was led by Augusto Pinochet, the man appointed by Allende as the Army Commander in Chief just a month before the 9/11.

Under his orders the army planes dropped more than 20 bombs on the Palacio de La Moneda. President Allende asked his cabinet members to leave; they did not. They remained there until their last moments.

Shattered crystals and walls turned into rubble. Dust and fire. One bomb after another. All the noise and images of this ignominy were captured and remain as historical records.

Amid the chaos generated by the military's belligerence, Allende fulfilled his words: "I am not going to give up." While waiting for the final attack, the socialist politician continued addressing millions of citizens.

"Workers of my country, I have faith in Chile and its destiny. Other men will overcome this dark and

bitter moment when treason seeks to prevail. Go forward knowing that sooner rather than later, the great avenues will open again where free men will walk to build a better society."

"Long live Chile! Long live the people! Long live the workers! These are my last words, and I am certain that my sacrifice will not be in vain."

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A History of Female Gazes in African Portraiture

By **Stephen Weir**

Artur Walther is that guy. A self-made billionaire who in retirement shucked off his golden handcuffs and dedicated himself to doing good things, including the collection and exhibition of historical and contemporary photographs.

Over the course of the past 26-years, the former co-head of Goldman Sachs' world-wide capital markets group in 1983, and the founding partner of Goldman Sachs' operations in Germany, has managed to create one of the world's most important privately held photography collections. His Walther Collection Foundation has opened two photography museums – one in Germany, the other in New York City.

Last Tuesday the 70-year old collector was in Toronto to open a photography exhibition of African women. *Way She Looks: A His-*



tory of Female Gazes in African Portraiture is now on display at the Ryerson Image Centre in downtown Toronto.

Artur Walther told the Caribbean Camera that after he retired from business he took a four-week trip round the continent where he purchased contemporary and historic photographs. Those purchases were the genesis of his African collection and many of them are part of the Toronto exhibition.

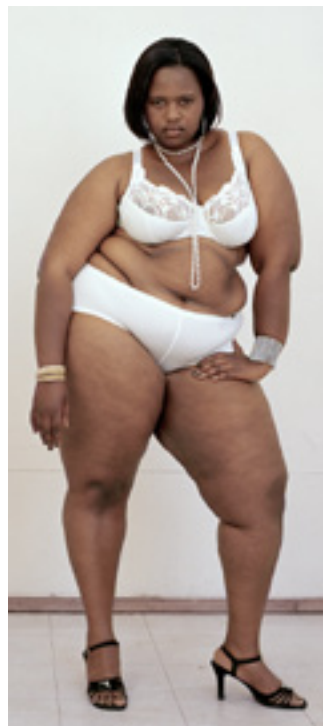
The Way She Looks provides a rare historical overview of the African female experience in photography. The free exhibition is on view until December 8, 2019.

"The exhibition of African photography in terms of North

America and European galleries is very limited," Artur Walther told the Caribbean Camera. "The first exhibition of Contemporary African Photography took place only 31 years ago. In New York the first photo exhibition was at the Guggenheim some 25 years ago....what you have here (referring to the new Ryerson exhibition) is very deep into a specific topic – pictures of African women gazing at the camera."

The large exhibition is divided chronologically into three parts. The first section showcases nineteenth and early twentieth-century photographic prints, postcards, albums, and books from Southern and Eastern Africa.

Despite the large number of colonial era pictures, many early photographs offer windows into their subjects' experiences; the exhibition foregrounds photographs from this era in which the female sitters' confident and



forthright gazes rival that of the photographer.

The second section features women's portraits since the 1950s by notable West African photographers. As portrait studios started to spring up throughout Africa, female consumers became involved in how they were pictured: they styled themselves, chose their outfits, commissioned



the photographer, and often performed during studio sessions.

"At the same time," explains the Ryerson exhibition text, "documentary photographers began to record the African female experience in a period of rapid social, cultural and political change as many nations prepared for and achieved independence."

The final section

highlights a number of significant African female and non-binary artists who have emerged since the 1990s. Exploring a wide array of subjects, from feminist, queer, and gender issues to history, kinship, migration, memory, and loss, many of the works made by these artists challenge conventional understandings of African female "photographic representation".

"By privileging women's perspectives, both in front of and behind the camera, this groundbreaking exhibition confronts the canons of art history and allows for new narratives," said Ryerson Curator Gaëlle Morel. "We're thrilled to celebrate the work of so many leading African artists, many of whom are being shown in Canada for the first time."

See events, talks and tours at ryersonimagecentre.ca/events

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The story of the JCA Cultural Centre

By **Nicole Georges**

On August 6, 1962, a group of Jamaican-Canadians, celebrated the independence of Jamaica from colonial rule. The patriotic fervour of this group led to the founding of the Jamaica Canadian Association, and the desire to have a Centre - a physical space which would act as a hub for its social and advocacy activities. In 2019, on the celebration of Jamaica's 57th Independence, and the JCA Anniversary, Philanthropist Denham Jolly donated more than \$300,000 to pay off the outstanding



Sylvanus Thompson

tory policies in housing, employment, education etc, and the JCA helped to change laws affecting exclusion in those areas. We needed a hub whereby we could deliver programs and services and so the JCA secured 65 Dawes Road, but it was lost in a mysterious fire. We used borrowed or rented premises for some years."



mortgage of the JCA Centre. A long cherished dream, over fifty years in the making, was realized.

The first President of the JCA, Roy Williams, recalls the early days of the association, and the struggles to secure a space of its own, "The numbers of people of colour in Canada at that time were small due to the anti-black immigration policies. So we discovered early in the game that one of our functions was advocacy, speaking out against the discrimina-

The Association purchased another property at 1621 Dupont Street and occupied it from 1985-1986, offering social and community services. Williams says that before long the JCA outgrew the property and the search was on again. "We had to adapt our services to cater to a rapidly growing, diverse population, so we sold that property and bought the current building at 995 Arrow Road, renovated it and opened for business in 1999." The proper-



ty was bought with a mortgage of \$360,000 plus a renovation loan in 1998 for \$980,000.

It was this financial burden that captured the attention of retired businessman and philanthropist Denham Jolly. Jolly decided to set an example through a substantial donation of \$314,000 to pay off the Centre's mort-

gage. Jolly said he had several reasons for the magnanimous gesture, "The first reason I did it is because I thought it would free them up to do other things in the community such as set up more programs for the Youth. I

Turn to PAGE 12-14

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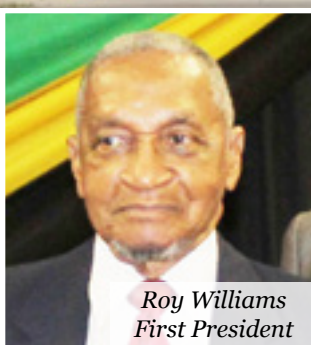
also thought that it would probably be a catalyst for other people to be philanthropic to organizations within our community. I also hope that it could serve as an inspiration for the 2nd and 3rd generations, so that they can aspire to doing things of that nature, or at least aspire to be in a position to do it." Jolly, who sold off the last of his businesses in 2012, has committed



Adaoma Patterson
President

his retirement years to volunteer work and sponsoring community programs both in Canada and Jamaica.

Current president of the JCA, Adoma Patterson, believes Jolly's benevolent act, will res-



Roy Williams
First President

onate for years to come, "Ownership of property is critical to the community's growth and says we are here and matter. Over the years, many JCA members contributed their personal funds to support

the Centre. Mr. Jolly's donation to pay off the balance is powerful and will have ripple effects for many years. The JCA Centre is a model of economic power as it illustrates the impact we have when we come together. Each year thousands of people attend events at the JCA Centre and support charities, caterers, DJ's, artists and other small businesses."

Patterson outlined future plans for the Cultural Centre, including upgrades and renovations to the building. "In addition, we are continuing to implement initiatives and activities that align with our five strate-

gic priorities: youth, culture, education, community hub and advocacy. Among the priorities, we are excited to expand our Saturday Morning Tutorial Program, implement outreach activities to international students and increase use of space for community programs."

Ms. Patterson conveyed her thoughts to the Caribbean Camera, while on a trip to Jamaica: "More than 50 people are currently on a JCA trip. We visited the Liberty Hall, the Centre that documents the life and legacy of the Honourable Marcus Mosiah Garvey. Mr. Jolly and the hundreds of

individuals who contributed to the purchase and sustainability of the JCA Centre exemplify the purpose and vision of Mr. Garvey. I am so moved to be part of what is a historic year for the JCA."

Consul General for Jamaica, Lloyd Wilks, pointed to the Donation as a seminal moment, "This gesture helps to change the narrative that Black people cannot work together, or only fight each other. In fact people of colour have been collaborating successfully in Canada; the JCA has been a point where people of various backgrounds coalesce and find a space for education, so-

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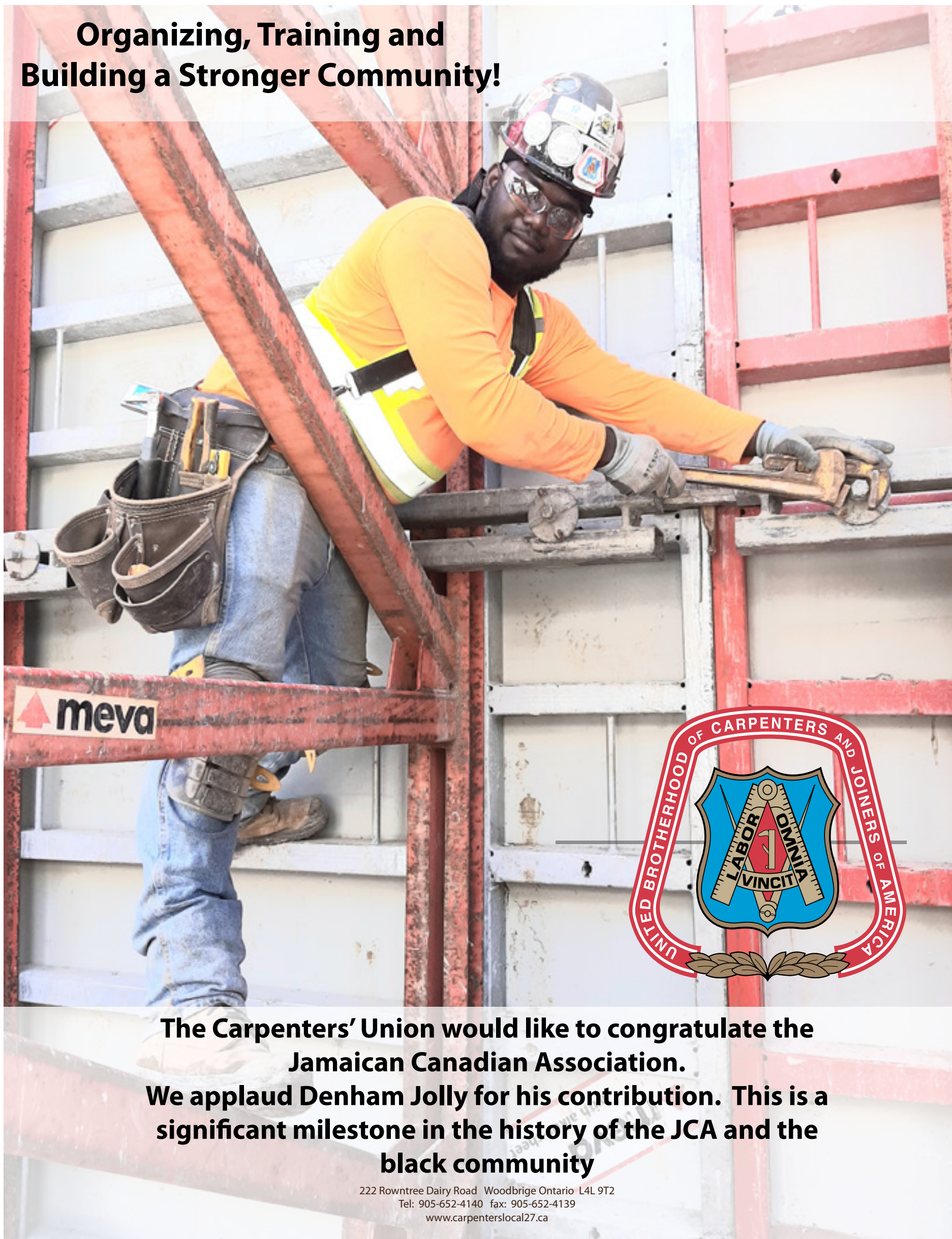
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cial and entertainment purposes. Now that we celebrate this singular act of a generous donor paying off this mortgage let us use this as momentum moving forward together for social gain, and to build a broader economic base.”

For inaugural JCA President Roy Williams, it was a poignant moment to be one of almost 400 persons to witness the Donation ceremony, “Most of those who were there in 1962 are no longer with us so it was exhilarating to be there to witness this moment, I was thankful to be



Denham Jolly hands over the check to JCA

their representative. I am hopeful this shot in the arm will renew the zeal and energy of the JCA to go on to do even better things, having survived over 50 years, in the future.”

Responses to Denham Jolly's generosity

“Out of Many One People”

The Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) delivers programs and services, provides a physical hub at 995 Arrow Road, and advocates to improve the well-being and equity of Jamaican, Caribbean & African Canadian communities within the Greater Toronto Area. A cross section of Jamaicans

shared their response with The Caribbean Camera, to the Denham Jolly donation of over \$300 000 to pay off the JCA Cultural Centre mortgage.

Past JCA President Herman Stewart: “It brings pride and joy as I doubted when we started the ‘Burn the Mortgage Campaign’, and hoped to see we would be Mortgage free. Since we purchased the building this is the most significant accomplishment.”

Past JCA Board member Francella Moore: “Magnificent! We have something to call our own and that is great for the Jamaican and Black community. Now we are open to

assisting more people who require it.”

Past JCA President Audrey Campbell: “We are an example of ownership on a grand scale. If you look at the initial purchase, and the members putting up their personal funds so we could have a collective home, it is a true demonstration of the commitment of our community and an example to young people of what can be achieved when we work together.”

JCA member since 1962 Gifford Walker: “We know for sure we have left something for the next generation to build on. We can now concentrate on creating a members lounge for members to get together and as a benefit to members, friends and special guests.”

JCA member Sandra Whiting: “It’s fantastic and I acknowledge the many hundreds of people who contributed with big and small dollars. We can concentrate on programming and fixing the building. Still much work to be done.”

JCA member of Board of Directors Mi-

chelle McKenzie-Dolly: “It’s liberating and opens up opportunities for future generations.”

Dr. Sylvanus Thompson former JCA Vice President and current Jamaica Diaspora Advisory Board Member: “This most generous contribution from Mr. Jolly will allow the JCA to focus on needy repairs and maintenance of the building and will also allow the organization to implement more programs for its members and the broader community.”

JCA member Ivan Dawns: “It was very exciting to know that the JCA is now mortgage free. Moving forward they need to do some renovation, and other plans that they can now do that funds are freed up.”

JCA member Chris Campbell: “I have to commend Denham Jolly for stepping up to the plate and assisting. It gives you a sense of pride when somebody from your community takes care of things as a parent cares for a child, as versus getting a hand out from someone outside or government.”



OPEN LETTER TO DENHAM JOLLY

**Friends of the JCA
Toronto
September 9, 2019**

Mr. Jolly,

We, the undersigned, commend and congratulate you on your generous gift to the Jamaican Canadian Association, a gift that enabled the Association to pay off its outstanding mortgage. Your gift represents a historical moment not only in our community in Toronto, but also throughout Canada.

Your generous gift is incredibly helpful and allows the organization to achieve one its long standing ambitions of owning a debt free building. Furthermore, the JCA will now have a better opportunity to develop more services for its members and the community at large. Your generosity will therefore make an immediate difference and influence the lives of a number of persons.

We are convinced that you acted with kindness without expecting gratitude. However, “Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.” —Voltaire

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” Gandhi. You are demonstrating that change.

Respectfully,

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Buried bones found in house of former Paraguayan dictator

Forensic experts will carry out tests on bones found in a house believed to have been the summer retreat of former Paraguayan military ruler Gen Alfredo Stroessner.

Squatters came across the bones when they occupied the property near the city of Ciudad del Este last week.

Gen Stroessner ruled Paraguay from 1954 to 1989. During his rule, 459 people were killed or disappeared, according to the commission for historical memory.

Gen Stroessner was deposed in a coup in 1989 carried out by another general, Andrés Rodríguez. After being

ousted from power, he took refuge in Brazil, where he died in 2006.

Rogelio Goiburú, who heads the commission, says that the remains were found last Wednesday by squatters who were searching the property for buried treasure after they had heard it belonged to the Stroessner family.

The bones were found under a bathroom and are thought to have belonged to four people.

Mr Goiburú, whose own father disappeared under Gen Stroessner's regime, said that he had in the past heard reports about the property and its possible use as a torture centre, which prompted some

to dub it "the house of horrors".

"There were reports that shouts and cries could be heard coming from that house [during the time of military rule], people begging for their lives, and that there may be many bodies buried there."

Mr Goiburú travelled there five years ago but without a search warrant was only able to conduct a superficial search during which he did not find anything suspicious.

He said that the discovery of the remains had raised hopes among those searching for missing relatives. "Even I am going with the hope of finding that my father will be one of

those buried there."

Human rights activists say Gen Stroessner was one of Latin America's most secretive dictators. Stroessner's rule in Paraguay. A brief look at his record reveals that Alfredo Stroessner held power for 35 years. He detained 19,862 persons, tortured 18,722 tortured, and killed or "disappeared" 459.

In the three decades since the end of his rule, only 37 bodies of people who disappeared during the dictatorship have been found. And of those, only four have been identified.

Activists also say the current government of Paraguay has not provided enough fund-



Alfredo Stroessner

ing for the search of the disappeared.

President Abdo Benítez is the son of a close aide to Gen Stro-

essner and has faced criticism for defending the former leader's record.

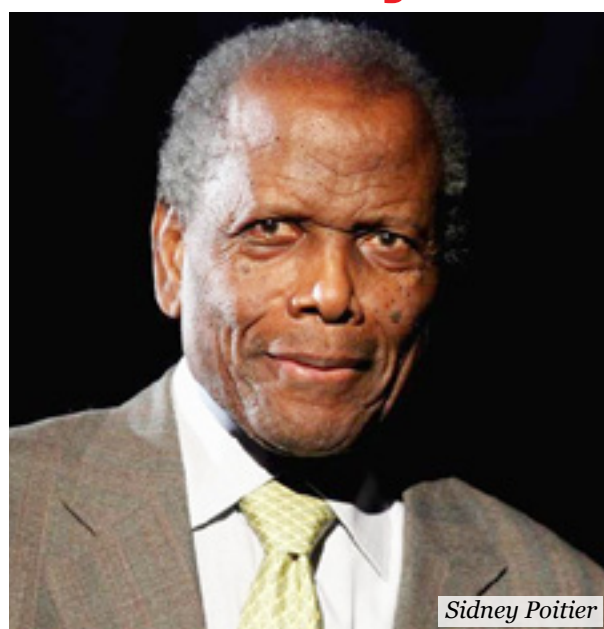
23 members of Sidney Poitier's family missing in Bahamas

At least 23 of Sidney Poitier's extended family are feared missing in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian.

The actor-director's nephew Jeffrey Poitier (66) said his sister Barbara and his adult children were among relatives they were awaiting news from in Freeport, Bahamas.

The family is one of hundreds scrambling to locate their loved ones a week after the category 5 hurricane wreaked devastation across the islands. In some cases, entire families were missing.

"We still couldn't find any, nor have we heard from them," Mr Poitier said. "We are still looking for and waiting for them to appear soon. It has us all worried. We are trying to reach out to



Sidney Poitier

them using every means available to us but we are not hearing anything. We are deeply worried."

More than 500 Bahamians belong to the extended family of Sidney Poitier, the 92-year-old actor who was born in Miami to Bahamian parents and grew up in

the Bahamas.

Up to 70,000 people have been left homeless while Great Abaco is said to be virtually uninhabitable, with bodies piled up and witnesses reporting the "smell of death" caused by corpses.

The official death toll so far stood at 35 to

42 in the Abaco Islands and eight in Grand Bahama - but Prime Minister Hubert Minnis warned that was likely to climb "significantly".

The scramble to escape the worst-hit islands continued as some residents complained that their government was nowhere to be seen.

Government and private planes, helicopters, boats and ships

- including cruise liners - have converged on the Abacos to help with evacuations.

More than 260 Abacos residents arrived last Friday in Nassau on a ferry, the first wave to be evacuated. However, the prime minister warned that not all Abaco residents could be accommodated in Nassau.

Chamika Durosier, who was waiting at the

airport to escape, said: "People have no food. People have no water, it's not right. They should have been gone. Dead bodies are still around, it's not sanitary."

Even though Dorian lost some of its ferocity by the time it reached the North American mainland, the eastern seaboard was pummelled by powerful winds and heavy rain.

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Guyana elections could be held in March next year

GEORGETOWN

– The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) will meet this to discuss a proposal that the fresh regional and general election as mandated by the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) be held in March next year.

One of the three government appointed GECOM commissioner, Vincent Alexander, said that there's nothing definitive about the proposal that had been presented by the GECOM Secretariat.

He said that the commission will meet to discuss the way forward and that while the proposal had been made, there has been no consensus between the two political sides represent-



Joseph Harmon

ed on the commission.

"I have no major contention with those timelines but we, as I said, in a consensual mood were looking at the activities which are not statutory to see how they could be curtailed," he said.

Director general of the Ministry of the Presidency, Joseph Harmon said political players should allow the elections body to carry out the functions they are being paid to do.

But the opposition

members on the commission said the proposal could not be accepted and reiterated the call for the polls to be held as early as possible.

"We have now at least four proposals from the Secretariat which suggests that the elections will be held in March next year. We are opposed to that situation, we are insisting that we be on par with the Constitution imperatives, we advise that the house to house registration is incomplete . . . and that there should only be minimal use of the data from the house to house registration to identify persons who are first time registrants," the opposition commissioner, Robeson Benn, said.

The CCJ, which is the country's highest court in July ruled that the vote of no confidence passed last December against the David Granger government was valid, but it could not insist on the polls being held on any specific date for the election and instead urged all stakeholders to work within the Guyana Constitution to ensure the polls are held.

Under the Guyana Constitution, the elections should take place 90 days after the vote of no confidence is passed. The Constitution also makes provision for an extension of the period based only on a two-thirds majority vote in the Parliament.

The opposition has also said the planned

merger of data from the house to house registration of voters will not improve the quality or "credibility" of the database, but rather it will further contaminate the National Register of Registrants (NRRDB) and cause further delays in the holding of the elections.

GECOM had earlier announced that the house to house registration exercise would come to an end on August 31 and that, based on the ruling of the High Court on August 14, the house to house registration was neither unlawful nor unconstitutional and the data garnered from that registration exercise must be merged with the existing NR-RDB.

Bahamas needs your help

from PAGE 3

Toronto-based non-profit organization that provides short-term, immediate support following disasters around the world – was one of the first to respond to the tragedy in The Bahamas, sending a team of volunteers, as well as

cargo that included two water purification units, a solar light and water-cleaning packets.

The volunteers, say GlobalMedic officials, are expected to be in The Bahamas for weeks or months. "We are going to keep delivering aid," promised Rahul

Singh, GlobalMedic's executive director. "We don't know how long we are going to be there as an agency."

Last weekend, members of the Black and Caribbean community joined other GlobalMedic volunteers in Etobicoke to pack Bahamas-bound family

emergency kits filled with hygiene items and other supplies.

The community's GlobalMedic involvement is part of a broader effort to assist The Bahamas. The effort is being coordinated by the Caribbean Consular Corps, with the support of agencies such as Caribbean North Charities Foundation and the Canadian Caribbean Disaster Relief Action.

A collection depot, for the receipt of donations, has been opened at 55 Nugget Drive, Unit 10, in Scarborough. An attempt is being made to secure a

second depot in west-end Toronto. Among the donated items being sought are baby food, non-perishable foodstuff, cereal, generators, portable stoves, blankets, flashlights, gloves, mops, buckets and towels.

All this week, rescue teams were trying to reach some Bahamian communities that are still flooded and cluttered with debris. It's believed there are bodies buried below some collapsed buildings.

Alvin Smith, The Bahamian High Commissioner, says the government and people of the hurricane-

ravaged Caribbean nation "deeply appreciate the support that we have been receiving".

However, he added, that "the best way to support the relief and recovery effort is through a monetary contribution".

In this connection, a "Bahamas Disaster Relief Fund" has been set up at RBC Royal Bank 003. The Account Number is 1281013. The Transit Number is 05625 and the Swift Code is ROYCCAT2. For further information about donating to The Bahamas, you can call 647-283-8339; 416-595-1343; or 416-578-6649.

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Assessing the best interests of the child

In several of my columns, I have discussed issues relating to the “best interests of the child” with respect to applications for permanent residence on humanitarian and compassionate (H&C) grounds.

This subject continues to be a matter of concern to many in our own Caribbean community.

In this week’s column we will look at the recent case of a couple from Poland who applied for permanent residence from within Canada on H&C grounds or alternatively, a temporary resident permit.

The couple, James and Joan (not their real names) who have resided in Canada for more than a decade, now have two Canadian-born children.

In April last year when the couple had applied for permanent residence, they had a son and were expecting

their second child.

They submitted that it was in their son’s best interest that they be allowed to remain in Canada.

But the immigration officer who considered their application found that the couple had provided “insufficient objective evidence that relocating to Poland and resettling there would have a negative impact on their son.”

“While I acknowledge their son has spent the majority of his life in Canada given his young age, it is reasonable that he would be able to adapt to changing situations with the continued support of his parents,” the officer said.

The officer accepted that while the applicants might face some difficulties in readjusting to life in Poland, it was reasonable to believe that during their years in Poland they would have developed and continued to have friends, acquaintances,

and social networks, and they would not be returning to an unfamiliar place, language, culture or place devoid of a familial network rendering re-integration unfeasible

“I find that the applicants have not demonstrated that the general consequences of returning to Poland would be counter to the best interest of their son,” the officer noted.

The officer took into account that the applicants did not wish to return to Poland but not wishing to return to Poland was not, in the officer’s view, a sufficient reason to allow the applicants to become permanent residents of Canada.

The officer refused the H&C application and, also found that there were not sufficient grounds to warrant issuance of a temporary resident permit.

The couple then applied to the Federal Court of Canada to

set aside the officer’s decision and remit their H&C application for reconsideration by a different officer.

Did the officer fail to reasonably assess the best interest of the child?

According to the couple, the officer misapprehended the evidence regarding their son’s establishment and ties to Canada. They noted that he has spent his whole life in Canada, and has never been to Poland; yet, the Officer appears to believe that the child previously resided in Poland.

The applicants said that this is evident in the reasons where the officer stated that their son “has spent the majority of his life in Canada” and his best interests would not be compromised were he to “return” to Poland

with his parents.

The applicants acknowledged that this error alone would not be fatal but said that when taken together with the officer’s overall approach, it demonstrates that the “best interests of the child” analysis is fatally flawed.

They complain that the officer never identified their son’s best interests, making it impossible for the officer to give them considerable weight.

According to the applicants, the officer failed to consider that it may be in their son’s best interests to remain in Canada with them and measure that against the scenario which is treated as a foregone conclusion that he would be resettling in Poland.

The judge found that the immigration

officer unreasonably assessed the best interests of the applicants’ son as well as their establishment in Canada.

Judicial review was granted and the matter is returned for redetermination by a different immigration officer.

Best of luck to James and Joan.



SUKHRAM

Ramkissoon

Sukhran Ramkissoon is a member of ICCRC and specialises in Immigration Matters at No. 3089 Bathurst Street, Suite 219A, Toronto, Ontario. Phone 416 789 5756

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Global Tourism Resilience Centre mobilizes coalition for Bahamas relief

KINGSTON,

Jamaica – This past week the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre (GTRCM), one of the first international organizations dedicated to providing resources and support to tourism-dependent nations around the world, announced that it is mobilizing efforts to assist the Bahamas following the devastating effects of Hurricane Dorian.

Former UNWTO Secretary General and GTRCM Co-chair, Dr. Taleb Rifai, stated, “while the damage caused by Hurricane Dorian is truly devastating, the 700 islands that comprise the Commonwealth of the Bahamas



GTRCM Co-Chairs Taleb Rifai and Edmund Bartlett

are intact and open for business. The GTRCM, along with its partners, will aid in coordination efforts towards restoring normalcy on the islands of Great Abaco and Grand Bahama, the two islands affected by the hurricane.”

In his discussion with the Minister of Tourism of The Bahamas, the Hon Dionisio D'Aguilar, GTRCM Co-Chair the Hon Edmund Bartlett, Minister of Tourism of Jamaica and members of the GTRCM board discussed the state of the industry

and the nature of help that is required in the Bahamas. He also made contact with regional and international partners who are specifically involved in tourism development, to assist the Bahamas in the re-development of the two affected islands.

“We are developing a coalition of partners such as major hotels, airlines and all major tour operators who can provide resource support to enable recovery in Great Abaco and Grand Bahama islands,” said Minister Bartlett.

The Minister noted that one such local partner is the Sandals Resorts International (SRI), which has already created a response mechanism through their SRI Foundation. In addition, Minister Bartlett noted that, through the efforts of those who have supported the GTRCM thus far, more than US \$10,000 worth of water has been donated to those in Abaco, through the Centre's partner the Bahamian non-profit group HeadKnowles.

Jamaica beats defending champs Colombia in ice hockey

Jamaica's ice hockey team trounced defending champions Colombia in the first game of their Group A fixture in the LATAM Cup 2019 at the Florida Panthers Ice Den in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, last Friday evening.

The score was tied at 0-0 after two of the three periods, but Jamaica scored five minutes into the third and final period and went on to register four more goals in the last eight minutes of play.

Scorers for Jamaica were Jaden Lindo, D'Andre John, Ethan Finlayson, Sean Murphy and Sounthorn



Jaden Lindo on the move

Thammachack.

Jamaica then completed the double when they defeated Argentina 8-4 in an earlier encounter.

The locals went 3-0 up after 10 minutes, before the South Americans reduced the deficit to 2-3 in the early stages of the second stanza.

However, Jamaica regained their three-goal cushion to lead 5-2, then 6-4 before eventually winning by four goals.

Argentina were runners-up to Colombia last year, and they defeated Brazil 9-3. Jamaica will now take on Brazil.



Guyana signs pact to protect Amazon forest

Guyana joined six fellow Amazonian countries last Friday in Letecia, Colombia to sign a pact to protect the world's largest tropical forest.

Signed at a time when the Amazon is under threat from fires, the pact aims to coordinate disaster response and satellite monitoring, the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana said. Minister of Natural Resources, Raphael Trotman, signed on behalf of Guyana.

Colombia's President, Ivan Duque; Bolivia's President, Evo

Morales; Ecuador's President, Lenin Moreno and Peru's President, Martin Vizcarra were the Heads of State who signed. Suriname's Vice-President, Michael Ashwin Adhin, and Brazil's Foreign Minister, Ernesto Araujo, signed the pact on behalf of their respective countries.

Trotman, in delivering a message on behalf of President Granger, reiterated that, "our President is the visionary who conceptualised the Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) for Guyana – it is our lighted path towards

attaining a 'green' and sustainable economy and is open to be shared and improved upon."

"An inferno in the Amazon, two-thirds of which is in Brazil, and the reason for us being here, threatens the rainforest eco-system and also affects the entire globe," Minister Trotman related. "The effects of damage to the Amazon go far beyond Brazil and its neighbours. We are the lungs of the earth, we must all breathe to live. Therefore, our presence here is in recognition of the value and importance

of the Amazon, and the Guiana Shield, and our role as custodians, stewards and guardians of it," Minister Trotman asserted.

The world's largest rainforest, the Amazon, which produces approximately 20 per cent of earth's oxygen and spans eight countries, Guyana included, covers 40 per cent of South America, and is inhabited by 30 million people and, is home as well to vast numbers of mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles, most of them, unique to the region and where a new plant or



Raphael Trotman

animal species is discovered every two days.

More particularly, Guyana is part of the Guiana Shield, which, in the words of President Granger, "is the single most important zone of

biodiversity in the world today."

Trotman reminded the forum that Guyana committed 371,000 hectares of its pristine rainforest, Iwokrama, to the Commonwealth in 1989 in Kuala Lumpur at a Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. "Then, we sought to advance the sustainable management of tropical rainforest. We believe this remains a good model for sustainability. His Excellency, President Granger has pledged another two million hectares to conservation."

Proposed Jamaican film gets the nod from The Big Pitch

from PAGE 2

Cuban ghosts.

There were three film proposals from South Africa (two of which won awards at the Big Pitch), two proposals from Canada, two pitches from Cuba and single presentations from Trinidad, Jamaica, Belize and an American Haitian proposal from the team that opened the festival last week with their thriller Rattlesnakes.

The winning pitch

wants to combine the fictional story of a young girl who is raped on an ill fated Jamaican Sunday outing and the real story of the wreck of a wooden train near Kendal, Jamaica. There were 1,600 on the train that day, 175 passengers died and over 800 were injured.

The train went off its tracks on the return journey of an excursion hosted by St Anne's Roman Catholic Church in Kingston. The investi-

gators said the cause of the tragedy was a failure of the breaks, which were widely believed to have been helped along by vandals.

"The \$10,000 is greatly appreciated, but we are still on the hunt for investors," said Director Blackwood. "We are looking at filming in early 2021 in Jamaica."

The Caribbean movie ideas that didn't make the cut

Soucouyant. Teneille Newallo is an

accomplished Trinidad and Tobago actor and filmmaker. Her outline for Soucouyant is a dark fantasy about Caribbean vampires, a Soucouyant, and desperate humans fighting it out prior to the arrival of Columbus to T&T.

Mother Water. Haitian American actor and producer Jimmy Jean-Louis proposed movie is about a couple that survive an air crash on Haiti. The husband and wife are taken to a

village where the locals are holding a water festival. There are miracles performed and the wife questions what she is willing to sacrifice to the Mermaid to achieve her deepest desire.

Seven steps to heaven. Belize filmmaker Leon Lozano wants to make a feature film about a young jazz musician who travels to the homeland of his parents. He seeks out Lupita, a young woman he fell for when he last visited Belize as an adolescent.

The Grave and the kite. A Cuban child inherits a leaky home inhabited by the spirits of his African ancestors! Producer Frank Ernesto Carvajal pitched the film idea.

Nara. Two siblings, confined to their Cuba home due to a mysterious illness, struggle with independence after the death of their mother. Pitched by award-winning Cuba director, screenwriter and actress Rosa Maria Rodrigues.

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New blood test for prostate cancer avoids invasive biopsies

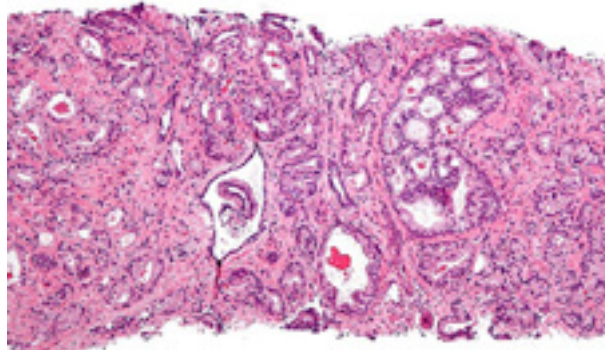
A new and simple blood test has been found to efficiently and accurately detect the presence of aggressive prostate cancer. In combination with the current prostate specific antigen (PSA) test, the new test could help men avoid unnecessary and invasive biopsies, over-diagnosis and over-treatment.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in Western men, with 1.3 million new cases being diagnosed each year worldwide. It is currently detected using a blood test that measures PSA levels. Although it provides early diagnosis, the PSA

blood test has a low specificity (high false positives) with about 75 per cent of all PSA positive results ending up with negative biopsies that do not find cancer.

When a high PSA level in the blood is detected, the patient undergoes a tissue biopsy of the prostate gland, which is invasive and carries a significant risk of bleeding and infection. On biopsy, the majority of patients with elevated PSA levels are found to not have cancer.

Additionally, most diagnosed early-stage prostate cancers are not fatal if left untreated. The current practice of the combined PSA test



and biopsy for prostate cancer therefore results in unnecessary biopsies and over-diagnosis and overtreatment of many men.

The new prostate cancer test (the Parsortix® system from ANGLE plc) detects early cancer cells, or circulating tumor cells (CTCs), that have left the original tumour and entered the blood-

stream prior to spreading around the body. By measuring intact living cancer cells in the patient's blood, rather than the PSA protein which may be present in the blood for reasons other than cancer, it potentially provides a more accurate test for prostate cancer.

The study, published in the Journal of Urology, looked at the use of the CTC test in 98 pre-biopsy patients and 155 newly diagnosed prostate cancer patients enrolled at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London.

The research team found that the presence of CTCs in pre-biopsy blood samples were in-

dicative of the presence of aggressive prostate cancer, and efficiently and non-invasively predicted the later outcome of biopsy results.

When the CTC tests were used in combination with the current PSA test, it was able to predict the presence of aggressive prostate cancer in subsequent biopsies with over 90 per cent accuracy, better than any previously reported biomarkers.

Additionally, the number and type of CTCs present in the blood was also indicative of the aggressiveness of the cancer. Focusing on more aggressive prostate cancer may reduce over-treatment and unnecessary biopsies for benign and non-aggressive conditions.

Lead researcher Professor Yong-Jie Lu from Queen Mary University of London said:

"The current prostate cancer test often leads to unnecessary invasive

biopsies and over-diagnosis and overtreatment of many men, causing significant harm to patients and a waste of valuable healthcare resources. There is clearly a need for better selection of patients to undergo the biopsy procedure.

"Testing for circulating tumour cells is efficient, non-invasive and potentially accurate, and we've now demonstrated its potential to improve the current standard of care. By combining the new CTC analysis with the current PSA test, we were able to detect prostate cancer with the highest level of accuracy ever seen in any biomarker test, which could spare many patients unnecessary biopsies. This could lead to a paradigm shift in the way we diagnose prostate cancer."

As this is a single centre study, the results need to be further validated in other independent research centres before the CTC test is available either privately or on the NHS in the UK, which could take a further 3-5 years. Clearance by the US Food and Drug Administration could also take 3-5 years.

This work was funded by Orchid Cancer Appeal, Cancer Research UK and ANGLE plc (which manufactures the Parsortix system). The funding sources had no role in the design of the study; the collection, analysis, or interpretation of the data; or the writing of the research paper.

This according to research by Queen Mary University of London.

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St Lucia PM Allen Chastanet visits Geneva

GENEVA – On Monday 9 September 2019, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia The Hon. Allen Chastanet began an official visit to the United Nations (UN) Office and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva.

Prime Minister Chastanet was received by the Director General of the UN Office in Geneva, Her Excellency Dr. Tatiana Valvoya; along with the Director General of the UN Conference for Trade and Economic Development (UNCTAD), Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi; and the Deputy Secretary General of UNCTAD, Ms. Isabelle Durant. Following these bilateral engagements



Allen Chastanet

with the senior leadership of the UN Office in Geneva, Prime Minister Chastanet delivered a keynote address at the UN Trade Forum where he spoke on trade and climate change.

Having recently made a visit to The Bahamas where he saw firsthand the destruction caused by Hur-

ricane Dorian, Prime Minister Chastanet painted a graphic image of the extent of devastation that he witnessed and the toll that this was having on the lives of the people. Against this background, the Prime Minister noted that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are in imminent danger of

extinction.

To assist SIDS in combating the threat of climate change, the Prime Minister called on the international community to pay attention to the following:

- the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) should not be classifying SIDS on the basis of per capita Gross Domestic Product, but should instead use a vulnerability index in determining the countries which qualify for funding

- the 100 billion United States dollars pledged under the Paris Climate Agreement to assist developing countries in their mitigation

and adaptation measures to combat climate change needs to be delivered on. The Prime Minister indicated that SIDS in particular have very little confidence that these funds will be delivered

- Chastanet suggested that an alternative path could be the creation of a dedicated fund for SIDS to address resilience in the context of climate change and reiterated his call for a SIDS Foundation

- the negative impacts of Blacklisting on the economies of the OECS and the reputational damage that these arbitrary and unjustified designa-

tions can cause to small economies was also highlighted.

Following on from his meetings at the United Nations, the Prime Minister met with the Director General of the WTO Mr. Roberto Azevêdo. The meeting explored the importance of trade to growth and development. Chastanet highlighted the need to assess the full trade potential of the tourism sector. According to the Prime Minister, understanding the full potential of the sector is a prerequisite to advancing policies that would impact the lives of the people of the OECS.

JetBlue direct flights from New York to Guyana begins in April

JetBlue has announced a new nonstop service between New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) and Georgetown, Guyana's Cheddi Jagan International Airport.

Flights will operate daily on JetBlue's new A321neo aircraft beginning April 2, 2020 with seats available for purchase in the U.S. as of now.

"Guyana service introduces a diverse and underserved destination to the JetBlue route map which will benefit both leisure

travelers, as well as those visiting friends and relatives," said Andrea Lusso, director route planning. "Just as we've done in our South American markets in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, we're introducing a new, low fare high-quality choice to travelers in Guyana."

"The Government of Guyana is delighted to welcome the services of JetBlue to Guyana," said, Guyana's Minister of Public Infrastructure, David Patterson, according to the release.

"The introduction

of this immensely popular low cost carrier will see lower ticket prices to Georgetown and provide travelers with an opportunity to fly on an airline of choice to their favorite destination. This agreement with JetBlue is timely and comes on the heels of continued and sustainable growth in several sectors of our economy, including, service, tourism, mining and oil and gas."

"We are extremely excited to welcome JetBlue's new non-stop services from New



York-JFK to Georgetown, Guyana," said Brian T. Mullis, Director of the Guyana Tourism Authority. "2019 has been quite a year – winning five

international awards, increased route options to Europe, new community-led and owned tourism product development, increased stakeholder collabora-

tion, growing demand in our target markets and now JetBlue improving connectivity with one of our core markets – North America."

Guyana becomes the fourth country in South America JetBlue serves and grows the airline's presence in Latin America and Caribbean. The new non-stop flight between New York City and Georgetown will be made possible by the A321neo's extended range and fuel efficiency.

No cholera or epidemic in The Bahamas – PAHO

Bahamas – The Ministry of Health Bahamas and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) are reassuring the public that none of the islands in the Caribbean country is under quarantine.

In a statement the ministry and PAHO said while floods can potentially increase the transmission of water-borne and commu-

nicable diseases, there is no cholera in the country.

"Nevertheless, there have not been any detected cholera cases at the moment, nor any increased number of infectious diseases due to the hurricane," the statement said.

The statement said the Ministry of Health and PAHO are urging the population in

affected areas to drink and use safe water and also continue to practise good hygiene such as hand washing to prevent water-borne diseases.

"After a disaster, the priority is to care for the survivors. Contrary to common belief, there is no evidence that corpses pose a significant risk of disease "epidemics". This is



because most agents e.g., virus and bacteria do not survive long in the human body after

death," the statement read.

It said the Ministry of Health is monitoring

the health situation closely and will keep the public updated.



Woman charged with fraud in Neymar rape case

Police in Brazil have charged a woman who accused the international footballer, Neymar, of raping her in a Paris hotel last May with perverting the course of justice.

Najila Trindade and her former husband, Estivens Alves, have been accused of lying to police and attempting to blackmail the player.

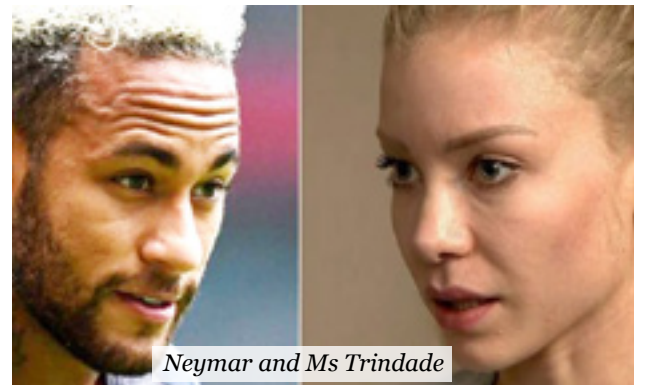
The Paris St-Germain player has been cleared of any wrongdoing. Ms Trindade's lawyer said the indictment had taken him by surprise. Cosme Araújo rejected the police accusations

newspaper headlines in Brazil and abroad for several weeks.

on Instagram revealing that he had been accused of rape. He also published Whatsapp messages and images that he claimed to be from the woman.

In the video he says

he had to make them public to "prove that nothing really happened". He said they met online. He paid for her trip to France and they had consensual sex before Ms Trindade returned to Brazil and went to a police station to accuse



Neymar and Ms Trindade

him of attacking her. She then went public, giving a television interview and releasing footage and a video clip purportedly showing an altercation between the two.

Police later filed a defamation suit against Ms Trindade, who allegedly insinuated the

force was corrupt and closed the case at the end of July. Neymar denied the allegations from the beginning and said he was being extorted.

The São Paulo attorney general's office said the case was suspended due to a lack of evidence.

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SCC and "Our Own" victorious at Toronto Cup 3

By Ravendra Madholall

Softball Cricket Club (SCC) and Our Own were victorious at the 2019 Toronto Cup 3 which was played last Sunday at the Toronto University ground, Scarborough campus.

In the opening category, SCC defeated arch-rivals Rebels by four wickets while Our Own beat Canadian Legends by three wickets in the over-40 Division.

Rebels won the toss and batted first; they reached a competitive 113-5 from the reduced 15-overs due to rain while SCC, in reply, safely surpassed the target in the penultimate over losing six wickets in the process.

Leading the way for SCC was Avinash Sookdeo with a responsible 26, which included two fours, while Zaheer Allard and Azam Haniff contributed 24 and 20 respectively, as former Guyana first-class fast-bowler Trevon Garraway grabbed



The victorious SCC team with their supporters

two wickets for 26 runs from three overs. Richard Latiff was also on target with the ball snaring two wickets for 28 runs in his three-over spell.

When Rebels batted, the in-form Garraway slammed an unbeaten 42 while extras was a healthy 39. Sunil Ramkissoon bagged four wickets for 13 runs from three tidy overs to claim the player-of-the-match award.

In the over-40 Category, Our Own invited Canadian Legends to

take first strike, and they only managed a 105 off the 20-overs while Our Own responded nicely, scoring 108-8 with two overs to spare. Ex-Guyana youth batsman Troy Gobin top-scored for Canadian Legends with 33 as former Canada international player Aftab Shamsudeen snatched two wickets for 21 runs in his four overs. Our Own's victory chase was led by the experienced Asif Ally who hit an impressive 36. He was later named

player-of-the-match for his outstanding batting innings.

Since the inauguration of the Toronto Cup

in 2015, this is the first time the host League, Ontario Masters Softball Cricket Clubs won in the over-50 category.

Home team Toronto Blizzards overwhelmed New York Hustlers by 37 runs also at the same facility. Blizzards set up a challenging 160-5 from the allotted 20-overs while New York Hustlers could only muster 123 all out in the 18th over. Jaimini Singh hit an attractive 76 punctuated with three sixes and seven overs for Blizzards while Rajpaul Persaud took 2 wickets for 24 runs from his four overs. In New York's innings, Ken Sanichar made 42 as

Lalchand Shivraj picked up three wickets for 17 runs from four overs; he was well supported by Terry Mathura who accounted for two victims.

Singh was inevitably named player-of-the-match for his beautiful batting display.

President of the Ontario Masters Azeem Khan, while praising all the teams for their participation in the three-day tournament, was delighted with the presence of Toronto's deputy mayor Michael Thompson and councillor Jennifer McKelvie of Ward 25 – Scarborough Rouge who readily accepted the invitation from the league.

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