



SAINTS NEWS & VIEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TORONTO
AND THE ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE (GUYANA) ALUMNI SOCIETY

Volume 24, Issue 1, 30 Mar., 2018

On the Web at: WWW.TORONTOSAINTS.COM

Report from Outgoing President, Hon. Justice (retd.) Vibert Lampkin

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016-2017

My second term as President commenced on September 25, 2016, when the Annual General Meeting was held. There have been areas of satisfaction during the year mixed with disappointment in other areas.

The Agreement of Employment between Vibert Hart, the St. Stanislaus College Board of Governors and the St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto (hereinafter referred to as the Association) entered into in August 2015 whereby Vibert Hart was appointed Administrative Officer of the College at the annual salary of \$9,000.00 (CAN) paid by the Association expired on August 31, 2016. Mr. Hart continues as Administrative Officer of the College, but the Government of Guyana now pays his salary.

In September 2016, the Association awarded two full scholarships to two outstanding students to attend the University of Guyana to pursue studies leading to degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Business Management at a total cost of \$752,000.00 (GUY) per annum, [\$3,517 (US)], for the first year. In addition, the Association provided each student with a laptop computer and computer bag. Each student entered into an Agreement with the Association providing *inter alia* that, upon graduation, she will teach the subject, in which she was qualified, at the College for a period of three years. The completion of the Agreements was so satisfactory that Hugh Hazlewood was driven to state:

"Let me say at this time. This has been the most satisfying example of co-operation between the parties in Guyana and Toronto that I have yet experienced."

Those comments were echoed by John Sparrock.

In September, twenty three students agreed to continue their Sixth Form studies at Saints rather than fly to other High Schools. In keeping with the past practice, the Association provided an incentive of \$50.00 (US) to each student. The Association also presented gifts of \$50.00, \$40.00 and \$30.00 (US) respectively to the three best performers at the Grade 9 examination conducted by the Ministry of Education.

In October, the four students of the St. Stanislaus College Team won the CARICOM seventh annual inter-school quiz competition. Further, one member of the Team was adjudged to be the Most Outstanding Student of the competition. The Association donated the sum of \$100.00 (US) to each member of the Team and the sum of \$200.00 (US) to the Geography/Social Studies Teacher, Mrs. Chrisel Shepherd, who had prepared them for the competition.

In December, the Association provided the sum of \$2,500.00 (US) to the local Association in Guyana to be distributed among

deserving Teachers of the College as a Christmas bonus. Also in December, the Association shipped sports equipment, pedestal fans, and other paraphernalia for the use of the College.

In December, the Association subsidized the return air fare to Guyana of Glington Hanover, one of our 'star' students at Trent University, to the tune of \$1225.00 (CAN) for him to visit his family at Christmas.

Recently, the Association agreed to assist Cleon Bovell, Head Prefect of the College, by paying one half of his fees and other outgoings for attending the University of Guyana to the tune of \$1,250.00 (CAN). He is an outstanding student who performed exceptionally well at the recent Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination. Attempts will continue to be made on his behalf, principally by the Board of Governors of the College in Guyana, to get him a scholarship to attend the University of Toronto to pursue a degree in the Health Sciences. His ultimate goal is to qualify as a thoracic surgeon and to return to work in Guyana upon completion of his studies.

The Association paid the return air fare to Guyana for two members of the Pueblo Science Team at a cost of \$2,518.10 (CAN) to conduct their teaching Seminars at the College. It was a very successful enterprise with about 80 Science Teachers, drawn from high schools country-wide, attending the classes. This is the second such venture, the first having been conducted in 2015 and being so successful that it was the Government of Guyana that floated the idea that they should return. All the classes were conducted at the College. The Government of Guyana paid for their accommodation and internal travel, and gave the Team a trip to Kaieteur Falls.

The Association funded the purchase of four LEGO Robotic Kits from Amazon at a cost of \$1,842.00 (CAN) as a teaching tool for the College.

The Association is presently arranging to purchase science equipment and supplies from England and the United States at a cost in excess of \$8,000.00 (CAN) for shipment to the College to reach there before the end of 2017.

We have successfully run the Fall Dance in October 2016, the Spring Dance in April 2017 and the Caribjam Dance in August 2017. These events earned the sums of \$3,314.21, \$4,638.25 and \$3,502.84 respectively for a total of \$11,455.30 (CAN).

(Continued on Page 2)

INDEX

Outgoing President's Report.....	1
Interview of Mrs Cho-Shee-Nam.....	2
A Broken Covenant.....	4
Obituary.....	5
The Grand Old Lady of Classic Brass.....	5
Education and Expectations.....	6
Shifting Sands and Seawall (Poem).....	7

President's Report 2016-2017*(Continued from Page 1)*

Attendance at the Caribjam Dance was a disappointment this year. We had hoped to sell 450 tickets but wound up selling only 250, resulting in the low profit realised.

Last Lap Lime continues to be a dilemma. In 2016, the event earned a gross sum of \$16,258.00, netting each of the five participating High Schools the net sum of \$2,551.60 after deducting the charitable donation of \$500.00 each and \$200.00 each for the rental of their tent space. The Association took a decision early in the year to stay in for two years to give Last Lap Lime an opportunity to move forward. St. Rose's High School has formally withdrawn from the event with effect from June, 2017. They were paid their seed money of \$8,000.00 plus their net profit of \$2,551.60. As a result, each of the remaining four High Schools agreed to leave their profit in the organisation to fund it for 2017. A new Chair was elected to the Board and a new Treasurer has been appointed. Last Lap Lime this year was better organised and better run. But the attendance was down to 2,200. Each

school was allotted 500 tickets to sell at \$15.00 each and had to pay \$7,500.00 each up front to help fund the event. The Association sold about 447 tickets, most at the discounted price of \$10.00 each to encourage sales. We have suffered a loss on the sale of tickets. The financials for the event are not yet in, but we can speculate that the earnings will not be great. We earned \$400.00 for the sale of Raffle Tickets connected with the Lime.



Justice Vibert Lampkin

The Association passed a Code of Ethics which generally sets out the duties and responsibilities of directors, and seeks to regulate the manner in which alumni and alumnae ought to treat each other and members of the public. Notwithstanding the Code of Ethics, Meetings of Directors still do not start on time and very often they fall through for lack of a quorum. Too often, calls have to be made to Directors to have them respond to e-mails if an urgent decision or vote has to be taken. A huge difficulty is receiving Minutes of Meetings in a timely manner. The Constitution provides that the Secretary shall produce and circulate the Minutes of the last Executive meeting within ten days of that meeting. That rule is honoured more in the breach than in the observance.

The other disappointment lies in our inability to attract more active and, in particular, younger alumni and alumnae. Many support the dances, pay their dues, but do not actively participate in the business of the Association. The average age of the active members must be close to 70 years of age. In the autumn of our years, we cannot do the heavy lifting that Last Lap Lime demands. We cannot move as quickly as we did ten or twenty years ago. We desperately need fresh blood.

I wish to thank all those active members who still support our *Alma Mater* and, in doing so, give back some of the benefits we have received from Saints.

Hon. Justice (retired) Vibert Lampkin

Interview**Lounette Choo-Shee-Nam****(Past Secretary of St. Stanislaus College)**

Lounette was born in Essequibo, Guyana, into a family of six with four sisters and a brother. She has three children Patrick, Guy, and Luana. Lounette was employed as a Secretary to the Principal (Fr. Hopkinson) of St. Stanislaus College from the 1950s (cannot remember exactly) to 1980 when she resigned her position, maybe due to her observation of a decline in the quality of education, and maybe the Guyana's government taking over administration and operation of the College that was previously managed by the Jesuit priests and the replacement of Fr Hopkinson by Mr. Trots (a QC boy) as Principal of Saints and the dismissal and expatriation of foreign priests from the College and Guyana. She migrated to Canada in 1982 and, in Canada, she worked at Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) Main Office in Front Street, Toronto, Ontario.



Lounette Choo-Shee-Nam

Most memorable experiences

She especially remembers the leadership, strict discipline, and respect shown by Fr. Hopkinson, as Principal, and the staff, and especially enjoyed meeting with the male students (and later female students) for 6th Form studies. She really enjoyed working at Saints. Lounette recalls having to correct verbally any student who did to show politeness and respect to other students, staff, and herself. Lounette enjoyed her primary schooling in Huistederin in Essequibo and secondary education at Central High School where she met her lifelong friends. She enjoyed being able to provide her children a disciplined, family focused, humble, and respectful Guyanese upbringing.

Remembering people at Saints

1. Fr. Hopkinson - I was employed by Fr. Hopkinson who had just taken over from Fr. Scannell. He was a wonderful person, principal, educator, disciplinarian, and leader. She recalls visiting him in Liverpool, England, while on holidays in the UK, after he left Guyana. After Fr. Hopkinson served his time, Fr. Kenneth Khan was Principal, then came Mr. Trots.
2. Fr. Feeny - She did not have many dealings with Fr. Feeny but remembers him as the Physics lab teacher and as a positive professional Jesuit, always smiling and a nice person, with Roger Devers as Fr. Feeny's laboratory assistant.

(continued on page 3)

Interview - Lounette Choo-She-Nam

(Continued from Page 2)

3. Fr. Darke - She says, "Oh My Gosh (OMG)"; she remembers the day that Fr. Darke was killed in Georgetown by radical protesters of Rabbi Washington. Fr. Darke was correcting exam papers when he left his safe surrounding in the staff room to venture outside with his camera in hand to shoot some photographic images of the protest. Fr. Darke was a photographer and scout leader. She recalls being informed of Fr. Darke's stabbing attack outside of the College and her having to telephone the Catholic Bishop about the attack. She believes that Fr. Darke died from the stabbing before he was transferred to or upon his arrival at the Mercy hospital in Kingston, Georgetown. He was such a kind, gentle and honest person.

4. Fr. Lynch - Oh boy!! Fr. Lynch - the Saints boys called him Jiggo or Jiggs, and he was a mathematics teacher and cricket coach. She recalls the complaints of some of the Saints' cricketers who were not eager to play against her husband who played in the Northcote Cup championship as a member of the Cosmos / Chinese Association, simply because her husband scored more runs than the Saints boys, and he also was an excellent all-around cricketer.

5. Fr. Barrow - Fr. Barrow taught at Saints in my time. He was a very pleasant and gentle man. The students he taught all liked him very much. Ian Valz died suddenly in England and, when I visited Guyana, Godfrey Chin held a memorial Mass for him to which I attended and where I met Fr. Malcolm Rodrigues (Milky). He also was at Saints in my time, and he invited me to lunch at the Presbytery the next day, and there was Fr. Barrow too at the lunch. I enjoyed the lunch with them, and conversation on the table brought back memories of the good old times at Saints.

6. Fr. Khan - Very good and positive and uplifting memories of Fr. Khan who still keeps in touch with her by e-mail and telephone calls to this day. She remembers knowing him as a boy, and that Fr. Khan came back to Guyana as a scholastic and always insisted that he be referred to as Ken Khan. She always thinks kindly of him and his family.

7. Rupert De Castro - Lounette did not recall having known Rupert at Saints - but she always had high and memorable regards for the De Castro's family and especially his brothers - Stephen, Thomas and Compton. She recalls her meetings with Rupert when the SSCATT Association was being founded and her contribution to Rupert on the contact persons - names, telephone numbers, and addresses that she recalled at the time. Although Lounette was invited to join the SSCATT Executive, her parental responsibilities never allowed her to accept his invitation.

8. Roger Devers - Lounette remembers Roger as a Form 1 Saints boy - very quiet, nice, respectful, and polite child. She also remembers Roger as Fr. Feeney's Physics lab assistant.

9. Clement Derrell - She still keeps in touch with Mr. Derrell, through e-mails, who now lives with his son in Barbados after his wife "passed on". She recalls encouraging Mr. Derrell to apply

for a transfer to Harrison College in Barbados since he was experienced with marking of CXC Mathematical exams papers and his network of personal and professional contacts in Barbados.

10. Patrick Gomes (PI) - She recalls that, as a Saints boy, he was very caring, honest, polite, and BRIGHT. As a scholastic, he became a Catholic priest but then she recalled nothing further of PI.

Quotes Lounette lives by

Honesty is the best policy

God is Great

My family is the most important people in my life

Live - Love and Laugh

She sees and lives this mantra which is hanging on the wall in her home.



Alumnus Clive Devers with Lounette Choo-She-Nam

Retirement living in Canada

Lounette is first and foremost a family person and especially enjoys living with her daughter (Luana and family) in Pickering, Ontario, and spending time with her sister in Kingston, Ontario.

"I love Canada, and Canada has been good to me, especially enjoying the quality of life, great medical, social security / pension benefits, and never being bored for a minute. I love my grandchildren and enjoy meeting friends and families at weddings, baptisms, funerals, and even at Guyanese events".

Special people in her life

Her friends Elwyn Matthews (nee Yansen) and Rita Stayner (nee Ng A Qui - aunt of Clive Ng A Qui, the motor racer), her husband Clem (now deceased), and her children and grandchildren.

(Continued on Page 4)

Interview - Lounette Choo-She-Nam

(Continued from Page 3)

Her advice for new or past graduates of SAINTS

Continue to focus on quality education as a trusted vehicle for your success. Plan well, set your goals high, have true faith, and believe in divine guidance and intervention. Recognise your God-given talents, achieve your goals so as to make YOURSELF and your parents, family, and your College proud of your achievements and contribution to society.

Do you have any specific advice to give your sister, daughter, and other family?

Her sister - No advise to you. You are older, so I must listen to your advice to me.

Her daughter Luana - I am so proud of you and your family. Continue to work hard and strive for your best; then, success will always result from your hard and conscientious efforts.

Her family including children, grandchildren, and other relatives - Always be fair, always be honest, always be truthful, and always be sincere.

To all other people

PEACE and LOVE!

Note

This article was the outcome of a review of Lounette Choo-She-Nam's memories of her role as Secretary at St. Stanislaus College, assembled by Clive Devers, a College alumnus graduating from 5th Form in 1968.

For additional information, please contact:

Clive Devers - A visionary and a new-wave business leader that "walks the talk" in the need to plan, implement, and improve international business practices in quality and environmental practices for global competition.

63 Bradbury Crescent

Ajax, ONT

Canada L1T4G5

Tel: (905) 239-0200

Cell: (905) 903-9704



CAMDEC REAL ESTATE LTD.
Brokerage*
A. RUPERT DE CASTRO, CPA, CMA
Broker of Record
rupertworks724@gmail.com
C: 416.817.7604

**PRIVATE
OFFICES
FOR RENT
\$299
ALL INCLUSIVE**
4544 Sheppard Ave East
(West of McCowan)

3 minutes from/to Highway 401
416-298-8888
**CENTURY21 CANADA'S FIRST
FRANCHISEE OF THE YEAR A
WARD WINNER**

A Broken Covenant

By Hilary De Cambra

I find society's irreverence for Nature and the environment appalling. We give lip service to wanting to bequeath to our children the earth, air, and water, vital to their survival. But we have long lost respect for and don't seem to care much about the protection and restoration of nature, our life source, as it was in the beginning.

It matters not whether we believe that everything around us originated from a higher order or from under some Darwinian rock, for it is not ours to destroy but to preserve, because we do not have the right of ownership. I am not so much amazed by man's unquenchable greed or his moral values redefined as a matter of convenience, as by his steadfast faith in scientific profundity for its amazing discoveries. The more we advance towards the scientific truth, the more we distance ourselves, it seems, from the spiritual truth. Why, when both are compatible? After all, what is the source of man's intelligence?

"Planned obsolescence" is the corporate catch-phrase in certain sectors of the manufacturing industry. For economic reasons, even a surplus of food products is wilfully discarded. We have become a throwaway society. In some instances, we kill God's creatures for ornamental purposes and needless commodities that we can produce synthetically. Society continually produces an overabundance of goods whose production often robs the earth, dissipates our water resources, and pollutes the air we breathe.

A striking example of greed is the "Diamond Rush" about to begin in Northern Canada. A diamond mine can only devastate the ecology of Canada's beautiful, unspoiled, new Northern Territory, Nunavut (established on 1 April, 1999) where the Inuit (formerly known as the Eskimo) have survived for centuries without such glittering pieces of mineral to adorn their person.

The Industrial Revolution has outlived its usefulness. We already have life's necessities, the know-how to produce them, and all we need to survive comfortably on God's earth. Yet, society strives to re-invent the wheel, as if it were not functioning efficiently enough. Man is nothing more than a temporary extension of God's Universe in which we were created to inhabit the earth and to purposely achieve full life by living in harmony with nature. Such a precious gift, free of charge, was enshrined before we ever saw the light off day.

Why doesn't man just accept this, be happy with what he has engineered by himself, and be satisfied with how far he has come from his original sorry state of ignoble ignorance? We are far from convincing our collective conscience that we are fast approaching the point of no return in destroying the earthly environment. So much so, we are already trespassing on the outer fringes of space to colonize it.

Society spends billions of dollars on space exploration, which would be correctly spent on easing the human suffering of its global family.

(Continued on Page 5)

A Broken Covenant*(Continued from Page 4)*

The clean, pure, clear, mysterious, expanse of the universe in outer space is God's domain. We have no calling there, unless invited. Otherwise, it would be the ultimate "home invasion". By so doing, and with other wasteful spending, we are jeopardizing the covenant between God and man by ignoring man's true needs instead of his "wants".

**OBITUARY**

Hilary DeCambra, Saints Alumnus (1948-1953), died suddenly on Saturday, 2nd December, 2017, at his home in Brampton, Ontario. He left behind his only living siblings: older sister Clare and his younger brother **Dennis** (aka **Bushy**) who is also a Saints Alumnus (1951-1957) living in the Don Mills area of Toronto.

Hilary was a past member of the *St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto* Executive Committee during which time he acted as the Editor of the Association's newsletter.

A viewing was held on Wednesday, 13th December, at the Ward Funeral Home, 52 Main St. S., Brampton, and a funeral Mass on Thursday, 14th December, at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, 940 N. Park Dr., Brampton, followed by a private burial (immediate family only) at the Assumption Cemetery, Mississauga.

Please remember Hilary and all whom he has left behind in your prayers. *Requiescat in pace.*

The Grand Old Lady of Classic Brass*By Hilary De Cambra*

This wrought iron structure that sits solidly on its reinforced concrete base was built in 1903 with public donations to commemorate the reign of Her Royal Majesty, Queen Victoria. It became known simply as the Bandstand. Celebrating its Centennial in 2003, the monument to peaceful times in Guyana still stands. Partly rusted through age and neglect, with its concrete skirt painted dark green, it is now protected by a fence of wooden slats that replaced an original metal chain along its perimeter on a miniscule patch of unkempt grass.



The grand old lady of Classic Brass was once home to the British Guiana Militia Band, housed at Eve Leary, a military complex within walking distance from where it stands. It will always be fondly remembered by an older generation of expatriate Guyanese for its open-air concerts. On Sunday afternoons or evenings, it attracted crowds of music lovers seated on the promenade's wooden benches, on the bare wall itself along the beach, or in vintage cars of the more affluent parked along the road within listening distance.

The militia band, conducted by Major Henwood during WWII, freely entertained its audience with classical music of renowned composers, military marches, and big band music from the Glenn Miller era. The bandstand still stands in its millennium solitude, like some ghostly caricature deserted by its audience of yesteryear. It will always haunt our social conscience as a favourite meeting place, where rich and poor alike socialised on many clear, cool, comfortable Sunday afternoons and evenings that are no more.

EDUCATION AND EXPECTATIONS

(This is but one scene of many of growing up in British Guiana. It is the reminiscence of a young school-boy who was raised in a somewhat sheltered or protected environment and whose views, therefore, are personal impressions or perceptions (and based on long-ago memories) and may not reflect the actual reality which existed at the time.)

In the 1950s, there was no doubt that British Guiana (BG) was a colony of England. While there existed a form of elected local Government, an English-appointed Governor ruled the colony (under direct orders of the British Government in London) and had the powers to overrule any decisions made by any local party elected with a majority in the legislature.

In fact, these powers were exercised most dramatically in October 1953. The colony had been granted the most advanced Constitution of any British colony anywhere in the world at that time, giving it almost total internal self-government, and general elections were held in April 1953 under this Constitution. In October, this Constitution was suspended (at the secret urging of the U.S. government), the leaders of the party in power in the legislature thrown into jail, and direct rule imposed from London.

This specific reminiscence is not an attempt to make any judgement on the political actions of any side during that era, but is meant simply as an introduction to and an example of the breadth of the influence of the British in the every-day life of that time in BG.

St. Stanislaus College (Saints) had been founded by the English Jesuits who were still running it at that time. The education system (not just at Saints but throughout BG) reflected an English education. At Saints, the foreign language taught was French! This made little sense as, except for the three little Guiana colonies (British, Dutch, and French), the language of the surrounding area of Latin America was Spanish – except for Brazil which spoke Portuguese. However, it did make sense if viewed from a British perspective! The country with which the English have had a multi-centuries long and close connection (including being subject to its last invasion in 1066) is France which is physically separated from them by a mere 20+ miles of water (the English Channel). Further, until the twentieth century, the *lingua franca* of the diplomatic corps had been French. Hence, I and my school-mates had to learn French which was the primary foreign language taught at school in England.

Even our final exams were of English origin! They were prepared in England and shipped to us. The school-leaving class of Form 5 would sit the Cambridge Certificate Exam but, later, this was changed to the Oxford & Cambridge General Certificate Exam (GCE) Ordinary Level. For those students contemplating a tertiary education, they would continue into Form 6 and eventually sit the London GCE Advanced Level, the passing of which would secure them an entry into a British (or American or Canadian) university.

For those students hoping to go off to university, the main question was to which one? Assuming that the entry qualifications had been satisfied, there remained the co-dependent problem of



L. A. (Bunty) Phillips

the affordability of obtaining a tertiary education which was available only by leaving BG. This was a costly endeavour which could be afforded only by those families with the necessary financial resources or by a student winning a scholarship or obtaining a grant from a local business with a condition of returning to BG after graduation to be part of that business.

If the financial problem had been resolved, there was still the question of the selection of a university. Generally, it would be one in an English-speaking country, which meant either Canada, or the U.S.A., or the U.K.

Canada tended to be an unknown entity; while it was known that a few students went there, mainly to McGill in Montreal, there seemed to be a dearth of knowledge of any others, and this country was rarely considered as a serious contender for tertiary education.

Through the various communications media, there was an awareness of quite a few well-known and “top-class” American universities. However, this country suffered from two drawbacks. First, it was believed that it may be difficult in getting into the “top-drawer” universities, and the “lower” ranked ones suffered from a perceived lack of quality of education. The typical put-down of these institutions was stating that one could obtain a degree in “basket-weaving” at these universities! Secondly, the cost of living was quite high, so a greater amount of money would be needed to complete a university education there.

This left the “Mother” country. All the universities in the U.K. were held in high esteem by the “indoctrinated” Guianese with respect to the quality of education offered, and were considered to be “first-class”. Further, these universities would be fully familiar with the level of secondary education obtained and of the examinations passed in BG by the applying student. As well, the cost of living there was considered to be somewhat lower than the previous two countries mentioned, and the student probably would be more cognizant of the social environment due to the colonial relationship between the two countries.

An important change occurred in 1948 when the University College of the West Indies (UCWI) was established in Jamaica to service the English-speaking areas of the West Indies (including B.G. and British Honduras). This was not an autonomous education facility, offering its own degrees, but was an external independent College of the University of London which conferred its degrees on the successful students at the campus in Jamaica (until 1962 when UCWI became UWI and was able to offer its own degrees to its students).

(Continued on Page 7)

EDUCATION AND EXPECTATIONS

(continued from page 6)

Since this tertiary education facility had this very strong connection to a highly reputable university and was fully funded financially by the colonial governments in the West Indies, it was considered a very viable low-cost alternative for the student seeking a higher education in a course of study available at this campus. For courses not available in Jamaica, the student still had to go to the U.K.

The selection of an appropriate university was also dependent on the course of study selected by the student. Any course was available in the three major English-speaking countries, but only a small sub-set was available at the newly created UCWI. The student's course selection revealed a distinct bias in the perception of a university education in the eyes of the "average" Guianese citizen of the time.

While completing my 6th Form studies, I had a first-cousin (the well-known Guyanese general surgeon Dr. W. I. "Bud" Lee) already at UCWI, studying medicine which the founding authorities had decided was to be the most important and initial course to be offered. When I had completed my 6th Form studies and had announced to the elder members of my extended family that my father would be financing me through university, I was invariably asked: "Are you going to study medicine?"

On receiving a negative answer, a slight look of disappointment could be seen on the questioner's face, but there immediately was a follow-on question with an anticipatory look of understanding: "Well then, are you going to become a lawyer?" On receiving another negative answer, a look of complete disbelief would cross the questioner's face, followed by a final question: "What are you going to study?"

On receiving the reply of: "Physics", the questioner's face would display one of great bewilderment. There were two reasons for this. First, he/she probably had not had a secondary education (remember, we're talking here about education in the early 20th century) and had never heard of such a course of study, which was not a great surprise as even I only learnt about it when I entered 3rd Form at College and was introduced to it by Fr. Feeney! Secondly and probably most importantly, there was a distinct "pecking" order in the Guianese society of the time. The medical and legal professions were held in very high esteem by the "average" Guianese as BG had inherited both the legal and the medical systems of England, and the lawyers and doctors (both mostly educated in the U.K.) generally occupied the "upper class" strata of Guianese society. Therefore, it was assumed that anyone going off to university would naturally want to improve his/her status by studying either of these subjects. Britannia surely ruled the waves in Guiana.....that is, until independence occurred in 1966 and BG became the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, but that's another story for another time.

L. A. (Bunty) Phillips, Alumnus (1950 – 1958)

Shifting Sands and Seawall

For tired old eyes, and fading memory,
Reinforced concrete, beach Atlantic sea,
Irreplaceable, irretrievable, irreversible decree,
Yesterday's memories, invaluable to me.

Of sun-filled place and dry crystal sand
Where mud and silt now cover the land.
Youthful days, all cherished memories
Of football and cricket in friendly rivalry.

A place in the sun, between sports grounds and sea,
Seawall, a concrete defining boundary.
Tennis ball wind-pouce, poor quality sports gear,
Everyone would play, whoever was there.

Colourful blend of six races undeniably.
"How's zat?" and high fives in boisterous revelry.
Kites at Easter, 3-speed tickers cruising constantly,
Beautiful girls sitting on wall for all to see.

B.G. or bhaji, whichever you choose
Is yours to discover, mine to prove
God's little acre, so much still untold,
Land of Many Waters, bauxite, and gold.

"What place is this?" you keep asking me,
"El Dorado, a city? Sir Walter Raleigh?"
Still undiscovered, clothed in mythology,
My home, my native land, olden B.G.

Hilary De Cambra



Publisher:

St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto
4544 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto M1S 1V2

Editorial Committee:

Paul Camacho, Vibert Lampkin, Godfrey Whyte, Jimmy Fung

Contributing Writers:

(The late) Hilary De Cambra, Clive Devers, Vibert Lampkin,
Bunty Phillips

Photographs:

(The late) Hilary De Cambra, Clive Devers, Bunty Phillips

St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto, founded in 1993, is devoted to making St. Stanislaus College the best educational institution in Guyana. It provides financial aid and other aid to the college, which was founded by Fr. Langton S. J. in 1866. Formerly run by the Jesuit Order of Catholic Priests, the school was taken over by the Government in 1976, with Government-appointed teachers replacing the clergy in 1980.

Saints News & Views publishes four issues each year. The articles published represent the opinions of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

Saints News & Views welcomes contributing articles from its membership. The publisher reserves the right to edit or publish all submissions solely at its discretion.

How did YOU receive this copy of The News & Views?

If you received this newsletter in paper form and have an e-mail address, please provide us with your e-mail address so that we can send you the newsletter electronically in the future. This will enable us to save the cost of postage, and you will receive the newsletter faster. Plus, you get to see the pictures in *colour*.

Please note that we will not make any of your personal information available to any other person or organization, and we will use it only for the purpose of carrying out the objectives of the Alumni Association. As well, do not forget to let us know about any change in your personal information.

Contact Us

The Association welcomes your feedback. Please direct your comments, enquiries, or articles you would like published to:

The Editor, Godfrey Whyte, 4544 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario M1S 1V2. You may contact the Editor, Godfrey Whyte, by phone at home at 416-265-4362 or cell 416-315-8158 or by email at gwhyte@st-stanislaus-gy.com.

COMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location	Cost
Sat. 14 Apr., 2018	Spring Dance	West Rouge Community Centre	\$50 (all inclusive)
Sat. 14 Jul., 2018	Golf Tournament	Bethesda Grange Golf Course, 12808 Warden Ave., Stouffville	<i>tba</i>
Fri. 3 Aug., 2018	CaribJam Dance	Pickering Recreation Complex 1867 Valley Farm Road, Pickering	<i>tba</i>
Mon. 6 Aug., 2018	Last Lap Lime	Woodbridge Fairgrounds	<i>tba</i>
Sat. 13 Oct., 2018	Fall Dance	West Rouge Community Centre	<i>tba</i>
Mon. 31 Dec., 2018	New Year's Eve Dance	<i>tba</i>	<i>tba</i>

Alumni Association Membership Form

Please complete this portion and return it with a cheque for \$25.00 (Cdn) for 1 year, or \$100.00 (Cdn) for 5 years payable to:

St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto, 4544 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M1S 1V2

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone (Res.) : _____

(Bus) : _____ Amt. enclosed: \$ _____ Year graduated: _____