

SAINTS NEWS & VIEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. STANISLAUS
COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TORONTO



Volume 13, Issue 4 December 10, 2007

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President's Message

At the AGM of the Toronto Alumni Association, held on Sun. 30 Sept., 2007, a new Executive team was elected to office for the year 2007 - 2008. I wish to thank the outgoing members (especially those not returning to serve another term : Ken Cumberbatch, Clive Devers, and Maurice Serrao) for helping us achieve our goals for the year, and I welcome the newly-elected members (especially Alvaro De Freitas, Hugh Hazlewood, and Harold Rampersaud) to an exciting new year with new goals.

This coming year will be an even more challenging one as the new Executive plans to hold more family-based fund raising events and increase its revenues over this year's record by at least \$10,000.00. Keep a watch for the announcements about these exciting new events, but don't forget to continue to come out to all our events in our mutual quest to help the students in Guyana to get a good start in their journey through life.

As well, we shall be working with the College's Board of Governors to improve the expertise of the teaching staff at the school, and to take initial steps in helping the College to become more financially self-sustaining while addressing the educational needs of its community.

While we have been blessed with many volunteers giving of their scarce time and even limited financial resources to

raise funds for direct support of the College or for purchasing items requested by the College, we shall be looking for a new type of volunteer to move into a new direction of support. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with VSO Canada which will be assisting us in the search for and the training and funding of qualified volunteers to go to Guyana to work on short-term projects in support of the efforts mentioned above. We encourage alumni or other Guyana-connected volunteers to come forward and contact us about how they can give more of their time which will be remunerated at the local Guyanese rate. Already, one alumnus, John Choy, has returned to teach maths to the Sixth Form for the 2007 - 2008 school year.

This approach of personal volunteering will not be an easy year for either us or the volunteers. We know that we cannot do this on our own. We shall need the active support of the other Alumni Associations in Guyana, Barbados, New York, and Antigua & Barbuda. We look forward to working with all Saints alumni, where ever they may be, in restoring Saints to the pre-eminent position of the Number 1 High School in Guyana.

Bunty Phillips

The 2007—2008 Executive

At the SSCAAT Annual General Meeting, held on September 30th, 2007 at the Saint John the Divine Church Hall, Toronto, the following Executive Officers were elected:

President	Lawrence (Bunty) Phillips
Secretary	Godfrey Whyte
Assistant Secretary	Errol Chapman
Treasurer	Neville Devonish
Assistant Treasurer	Paul Camacho
Vice President	A. Rupert De Castro
Vice President	Roger Devers
Vice President	Hugh Hazlewood
Vice President	Des Jardine
Vice President	John Yip
Director	Joe Castanheiro

Director	Alvaro DeFreitas
Director	Frank Delph
Director	Harold Rampersaud
Director(Past President)	Arthur Veerasammy

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Remembering Ole-Time Christmas

Creole Johnny

Eh, eh, now dat Christmas cumin', it bring back memries `bout Christmas back `ome, wen ah wuz a small boy. Dem wuz de bess holidays Creole evva spen growin' up in a small tung everybody did know as de Ancient County. Ah rememba how ah use to look farward to de halidays. Creole could hardly wait fuh school to close. Even dough we had to mek use wid wha little we had, it wuz a lotta fun. We use to mek we own bucktop and slingshot, an' sumtime we would scrape up enough jills to buy a cap bomb or a balata water pistol from Aubrey Harper, who use to go to de same Kathlic boy's school called Cintra House.

A cupple weeks before de big holiday, ah rememba how me mudder use to buy some green crepe paypa dat we would wrap around a wooden tree wid spindles for de branches, which me fadda had made a lang, lang time ago. We would cut strips `bout 3/4 way down each folded sheet of crepe paypa, in half inch or so width, to wrap aroun' each spindle to look like leaves.

It didn't matta dat we didn't get more dan wan present frum Santa Clauze under de tree, cum Christmas marnin'. Even gettin' up foreday marnin' to go to Novena mass wuz fun. Me mudda wuz a religious Kathlic who insist dat all she children attend mass every mornin' for nine dayz before Khrismas. As youngsters, we use to like wen de mass finish before dawn break.

Yuh see, de ole people use to go for a walk aroun' town, afta mass done. We smallboys use to run ahead a dem. Before dey could reech Queenstown, to turn back by de bandstan, we would be peltin' down mangoes frum trees in de front yard of adda ole folks livin' in dat part a town. What a feast dat wuz at home, wen we cut up de greene mangoes in pieces an' mix dem up with peppa an' salt. Fuh Khrismas breakfass we always had a ham me fadda use to make. He would buy a pig leg from de market unda de Town Hall on Watta Strete, put nuff clove and ting in it an' cook it up. An me mudda nevva fail to mek rice wine an' Khrismas cake. The only hamburger joint in town wux a cake shop called Espinjula, which wuz famous for toddy. Dat wuz our Brown Betty.

Window shappin' wuz anodda big ting in dem days. Me favourite store wuz D.M. Fernandes at Trinity an' Watta Streetes. Ah use to go dere a lot, just to look at de mouth argans on display. Ah use to dream ah gettin' a ECHO mouth argan fuh Christmass, but Santa Clauze could nevva fine .D.M. Fernandes. Ah doan kno wha kinda raindeer he had in dem days, or if it wuz becauze we didn't have no chimney pun de roof. But de real fun wuz yet to cum.

On Kristmas nite we would walk aroun' downtown by Pitt Streete, which was where all de action wuz. We would wet unsuspectin' folks wid our water pistols, den run like hell, or we would fire our cap-guns like if we wux Doc Holliday at de O.K. Coral. On Khrismas day, de biggest event wux Long Tall Sally goin' roud de town dansin' pun stilts in a masquerade band, waving a tin cup in yuh face fuh you to put some small change in it. As a smallboy ah use to be scared of Long Tall Sally reachin' up to de window of our house, so ah would close de window an' run inside.

Krismass today, up here in Toronto, is a whole different ting dat I doan so like. Forget de snow. Climate change tekkin' care a dat. De worse part is all de changes dey insisting on, like yuh now gotta kall a Khrismas tree, a Holiday tree. Yuh kant say "Merry Christmas" anymore, but instead yuh should say "Happy Holidays". Is sum stupid ting `bout offendin' non-Christians. Dey already tek Khrist outta de schools, so is no wonda de youth a today kant even say de Lord's Prayer. An all it is, is about makin' money and partyin' all nite lang. Eh, eh, dis is not wat Creole rememba Kristmas wuz like.

So, all ah gotta say `bout Khrismas nowadays is, "Kristmas cums but once a year, an' every man must hav his share". Ah gone.



Long Tall Sally - memories of both fear and excitement at Christmastime in Guyana

From the Outgoing President

The Association's Annual General Meeting of September 30 marked the start of the term of office of the 2008 Executive and the end of the term of outgoing president, Art Veerasammy.

Art's farewell speech as president provides a useful synopsis of what the Association has been able to accomplish during the past year

Let me say, first of all, a very warm welcome and thanks to everyone for coming out to our Annual General Meeting and Member's Social.

This has been a very exciting year for me to be serving as President of the Saints Alumni Assoc. – Toronto chapter. I hope it was just as exciting (and at times tiring) for you – fellow members of the executive as well.

I have tried to live up to my promise for change and advancement of our purpose to assist our Alma Mater in its quest to be the #1 Secondary School in Guyana. Let me stress here that I was merely the President with a superlative Executive team of dedicated members with a carefully planned program of events and functions, the means by which to support with funds and materials, the Board of Governors and school administration in cooperation with the local alumni association. Together, we are the \$50,000.00 team. For the past two years, we strove valiantly to meet the target of \$50,000.00 in one fiscal year and this has been finally achieved.

You will hear from the Treasurer's report that the target was surpassed this year and plans are already being mooted to raise the target in the ensuing year. Raising the funds is one thing but on the other hand, we fulfilled the many requests for assistance which is explained more fully in the September Issue of the News and Views under Contributions to the College. Total aid to the college including cash, equipment, and volunteer air fare and shipping costs exceeded \$31,000.00 this year.

Within a few weeks of the new executive taking office, we held a planning meeting at which lots of ideas were put forward for functions and events to raise funds as well as to increase and service our membership. A few fell by the wayside for one reason or another, for example, a Car Raffle, Dinner Theatre with Dave Martin and a family style BBQ. However, the five main functions or events held raised in excess of \$32,000.00 with the Golf Tournament topping the list at \$12,000.00+ due, in no small measure, to the tremendous teamwork of the golf and executive committee.

Our annual Caribjam dance, which is usually the top money spinner, came second at a shade under \$11,000.00. We bit the bullet to engage a top Soca band from Trinidad – Roy Cape All Stars which contributed to our continued success with this event.

Our low performer was the NYE dance which was disappointing mainly due to the high level of competition in this area. On the other hand, we experimented with a smaller venue for the Spring Dance – West Rouge – and promoted an all inclusive priced dance which realized a 50% profit margin at \$6,500.00.

We continue to be an equal stakeholder of Last Lap Lime in a major way with at least five present and past executives including a friend of Saints serving in an executive capacity on the LLL board, whether as project manager or key managers. With increased due diligence, keen budgeting and overall sound management, the 2007 LLL made the highest net profit ever. I am reliably informed that our share will be in the region of \$12,000.00+. Of course, this is not reflected in the financial statement as the money has not as yet been officially declared or received. Rupert DeCastro who serves on the Board of LLL as the Saints representative will give a more detailed report later.

Chris Fernandes and the BOG have undertaken among other things, to improve the quality of teaching at the college. To this end, they have asked us to resource qualified persons who would be willing to give short term stints teaching special subjects at Saints. This was not part of our planning but we accepted the challenge. At about the same time, we were approached by Don Socalit of VSO Canada to partner with them to engage, train and send volunteers to Guyana and this fitted in superbly with Saints request. You will hear more about this from Roger and / or Bunty.

You will also hear from Joe Castanheiro about our membership drive and incentive plan which has resulted in 167 paid memberships for this year and another 56 pre-paid for future years.

Tremendous strides have been achieved in the area of communications. We have purchased a laptop computer, projector and screen to project visuals at various functions i.e. dances, LLL etc as well as a webcam, microphone and speakers which together with **Skype free voice-over-internet service enable any member worldwide with a similar setup to join in and contribute to our discussions at the monthly executive meeting.**

Farewell, continued from Page 3

It would be remiss of me to not mention the loss of several fellow alumni as well as much loved family members and we have honored their memory in our prayers and other tangible ways via our vibrant Hearts and Flowers sub-committee.

To foster social interaction among our members, we instituted the member's social, one of which was already held and after the business part of today's function we will again socialize with drinks and refreshments as provided by Paul C. and his team.

As I come to the end of my report, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the entire executive and other members who helped to make this year the success it has been. Special thanks to our Secretary and his assistant as well as the Treasurer and his assistant for their yeoman service to the association. Thanks also to the Committee chairs and their teams for the hard-work, dedication and resulting success. Thanks to Rupert and Camille De Castro and the staff of CENTURY21 Camdec for all the

services provided to our association by way of accommodation and clerical services etc. Our very special thanks go out to Kathy Devers, our honorary auditor, and lest I forget, thanks also to Roger and Kathy for hosting the Crabfest as well as to the chefs who prepared the dishes.

I would like to mention with thanks the many special privileges afforded me with regards to email access, postage and stationery, prizes and sponsorship by my employer TDR Enterprises.

Last but by no means least, special thanks to my family, Joan and Lara for all the help, assistance and time off given me to carry out my duties as your president over this past year. It has been an honour and privilege to serve this association and for that I will be ever grateful. Thanks again.

Arthur Veerasammy

Past President, 2006—2007.

GENESIS OF ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE FARM

The St. Stanislaus College Farm has to be seen within the context of various happenings during the year 1972-3 when I assumed the position of Principal of St. Stanislaus in July 1972. This was an exciting time, with the announced goal of feeding the nation by 1976.

It is important to note that the first major change was that of the Prospectus that had been in use since 1866. Here, the aim was stated as giving a "good liberal education" i.e. a grammar-type education in keeping with the models available at the time. A committee, comprising Fr. Bob Barrow S.J., the Guidance Counsellor, and others, worked very hard in crafting a new Prospectus, and changed the wording to "imparting intellectual and technical skills", to which was added at a later date "social skills" i.e. a move to a multilateral-type model. This did not go down very well with some parents who had been brought up to think of education as that of only the Arts and Sciences, and were naturally afraid of any innovation including manual labour and working the land as the source of our wealth.

Within this context, the SSC Association under its new President, Mr. Rafiq Khan, formed a Farm and a Workshop Sub-committees to examine ways of transforming the 16 acre land into a productive unit and to look at the introduction of technical education at the Brickdam site. The Sophia land had been bought by the Jesuits as a site for a new College when the political directorate seemed bent on seizing the Brickdam site. It had lain fallow for some time, and squatters had taken it



1974: Fr. Kenneth Khan (centre) helps to get the job done building pens for the Farm. On the left is Fr. Bob Barrow, and on the right, the late Fr. Fred Rigby.

over, claiming prescriptive rights to the complex.

The Farm was considered to have 4 aims:

1. Primarily, as an aid in teaching Agricultural Science, eventually achieving Gold medal status of 2 GCE (later CSEC) subjects;
2. As a commercial enterprise that would pay for itself out of the sale of produce;
3. As an effective correlation with other subjects e.g. biology, mathematics, geography, economics, social studies, physics, chemistry, etc.
4. As a useful link with

See **Farm Genesis** on Page 8

Membership

The following is the list of alumni who are paid-up members in 2007. The names in *italics* are alumni who have paid since the last issue of the newsletter was published.

CANADA (126)	Frank Delph	<i>Cyril Jardine</i>	Jeffrey Rogers ³	Guy Goveia ¹
<i>Paul Abdool</i>	Andre Depeana	Des Jardine	Joseph Schuler	<i>Michael Heydon</i> ²
<i>Lance Alexander</i>	Vyvyan Deryck	Clayton Jeffrey	Cecil Seymour	Kenneth Jordan
Bernard Arokium	Clive Devers	Anthony Jekir	Desmond Singh	Frank Mandal ³
Leonard Arokium	Roger Devers ¹	Aubrey Kellawan	Winston Sparrock	Carl Marx ³
Michael Barrington	Terrence Devers	Greg Kellawan	Michael Teixeira	<i>Evan Phillips</i>
<i>Arnold Bayley</i> ¹	Neville Devonish	<i>Gary Kennard</i>	Walter Tiam-fook	<i>Hugh Rodrigues</i> ³
Gerard Bayley	Frederick Dias	John King	Arthur Veerasammy	<i>Oliver Rodrigues</i>
David Bourne	Jerome D'Oliveira	William Lall	Warner Veerasammy	Peter Rodrigues
Teddy Boyce	Ronald D'Ornellas ³	Vibert Lampkin	Vibert Vieira	Keith Seaforth ³
Paul Camacho	Paul Duarte	Clive Lee	John Vincent	John Sparrock
Ronald Camacho ³	<i>Mark Dummett</i>	Geoffrey Luck ³	Howard Welshman	<i>Leyland Thomas</i>
Errol Campbell	Carlton Faria ⁴	Fr. Ken Macaulay ³	Godfrey Whyte	<i>Errol Thompson</i>
Wilfred Carr ¹	<i>Desmond Faria</i>	Dereck Mahanger	David Wong	Owen Weithers ¹
Joseph Castanheiro ¹	Joe Faria	Sherlock Martin	<i>Raymond Wong</i>	
Antony Chapman	Paul Farnum	Gerard Martins	Brian Yhap ¹	INTERNATIONAL (9)
Errol Chapman	Frank Fernandes	Herman McCowan	John Yip	Australia
Victor Charan	Raymond Fernandes	Michael Mendes de Franca	<i>Victor York</i>	Lennox Yhap ²
Vernon Chaves	Julian Fisher ¹	Vincent Mendes de Franca	Angus Zitman	Brazil
Bob Chee-a-tow	Sonny Francis	Aubrey Miller		Stephen De Castro
Tony Chee-a-tow	Gerard Gomes	Richard Miller	U.S.A. (29)	
Ivan Choo	Richard Gomes	Dennis Ngui-Yen	<i>Courtney Blair</i>	England
John Choy ³	Trevor Gomes	Stan Niccols	Anthony Bollers	Philip Cheong-leen
Malcolm Cole	Harold Gonsalves	Clarence Nichols	Fr. Andrew Chan-a-sue	Richard De Caires
Paul Crum-Ewing	Mark Gonsalves	Tony O'Dowd	Ronald Chanderbhan	Tony Gomes ²
Ken Cumberbatch	Neil Gonsalves	Malcolm Pequeneza	Paul Chester	Leyland Grant ²
Vivian D'Andrade	Gerry Gouveia	Leslie Pereira ⁴	Brian Chin	Scotland
Eddie DaSilva	Alfred Goveia	Desmond Perreira	<i>Lawrence Correia</i> ¹	Neville Jordan ²
Ivor DaSilva	Orlando Goveia	Bunty Phillips	Vincent Correia ¹	Trinidad & Tobago
Tyrone DeAbreu	Ken Hahnfeld	Carl Ramalho	Ronald DeAbreu	John Jardim
Dennis DeCambra	<i>Albert Hamilton</i>	Harold Rampersaud	Brian Devers	Wales
Hilary DeCambra	Hugh Hazlewood	Ramon Rego	Peter Fernandes ¹	Christopher Cho-Young ³
Rupert DeCastro	Paul Hazlewood	Joe Reis	Bernard Friemann	
Thomas DeCastro	Jocelyn Heydorn	Romeo Resaul	Cecil Glasgow	
Alvaro DeFreitas	<i>Brian Irwin</i>	Phillip Rodrigues	Vic Gonsalves	
Peter DeFreitas	Richard James	Raphael Rodrigues	Edward Gouveia	

Of the 164 paid-up members, 109 are renewals from last year.

Notes :

1. These (11) alumni have paid in advance through 2008.
2. These (5) alumni have paid in advance through 2009.

3. These (11) alumni have paid in advance through 2010, so will be credited with an extra year (to 2011).

4. These (2) alumni have paid in advance through 2011, so will be credited with an extra year (to 2012).

Membership is still \$25.00 per year, or 5 years for \$100.00. Imagine, for \$100.00, you can 'lock in' for **FIVE YEARS**.

Just complete and submit the Membership Form on Page 8, and maintain your membership, worry-free for five years!

The St. Stanislaus College Farm

Godfrey Whyte

Background

The recent visit to Toronto by Mr Chris Fernandes, the Chairman of the St. Stanislaus College Board of Governors, served as a great eye-opener with regard to the developments at the St. Stanislaus College Farm. I remember when it was started in the early 1970s under the inspiration of the then Principal, Fr. Kenneth Khan, and, in the many years since then I still tended to think of it as a small operation providing eggs and garden vegetables. What a pleasant surprise to learn of the many impressive developments since!

The Farm is located on 6.8 hectares of land at Sophia, of which 5.1 hectares are dedicated to the production of "antelope" grass (*Echinochloa pyramidalis*) and allocated as follows:

- 3.5 hectares are now being used by milking cows, dry cows, and heifers in a rotational grazing cycle;
- 1.3 hectares are set aside for calves and afternoon grazing of the milking cows;
- 0.3 hectares are used as a cut-and-carry system for the small (8) sheep stock.

The remaining 1.7 hectares are occupied by buildings, roads, and drainage canals.

The Farm is now a well diversified one, engaging in activities involving the production of poultry, dairy products, organic fertilizer, and vegetables using hydroponics technology, and has exciting prospects for its future.

Poultry, Fish, and Ducks

From its humble beginnings, the poultry unit is now able to produce 13,000 chickens per batch for Bounty Farm Ltd. (one of Guyana's largest poultry producers and marketers) under contract on an all in/all out basis.

The fish and duck projects occupy a large pond at the entrance to the Farm. The type of fish is tilapia which is known to be very tolerant of a wide variety of conditions (e.g. salt or fresh water) and reproduces prolifically. Aquaculture production of tilapia in Guyana has been recently emphasized in order to fill a demand in the export market, especially to the U.S., as well as to provide additional sources of protein to the local population. The floods of 2005 damaged the fish project immensely as the fish were scattered all over the surrounding area in Bel Air. The Farm is presently in dialogue with the Aquaculture Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture for the use of the facility for experimental purposes as it is too small to be commercially viable.

The ducks are housed in a pen over a section of the pond

but are excluded from the pond by wire mesh. The theory is that the fish benefit from the droppings of the ducks. This theory is still to be confirmed by this experiment which is being tried also in other parts of the region with apparent success.

Dairy

To give an idea of the enormous strides made in this area, one need only consider that, in 1983, the Farm had a dairy herd with three cows, two heifers, and one bull calf but that, a decade later at the end of 1992, the herd had increased more than five-fold to 19 cows, 12 heifers, two female calves, and one breeding bull. At present, there are 38 adult animals (all Creole with a strong Holstein element); the bull has since been sold, and artificial insemination is the norm as is common in all high-production herds. Milk production is now at an average of 3.5 gallons per cow per day, with each being milked twice per day. An innovation at the Farm is the use of a portable milking machine which has played an important role in terms of efficiency since, the faster cows are milked and returned to the pastures, the better the production results. Milking machines also keep the milk enclosed and safe from external contamination. To protect from various diseases associated with the dairy industry, there is a stringent health and reproductive testing program. The Dairy Products Unit, established in cooperation with the Guyana Dairy Development Project (GDDP), now produces 22 products in all for the local market, including flavoured milk drinks, plain pasteurized milk, liquid and solid yoghurts, eggnog, cream cheese, and sour cream under the brand names, "*Good Morning*" and "*Moogoodies*".

The success of this aspect of the Farm's activity can be traced back to an initiative by alumnus Dr. J. R. Deep Ford, the Chairman of the Farm Committee, who sought the assistance of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in 1998 and obtained the services of Dr. Hector Munoz, a livestock specialist formerly with the IICA and now a volunteer at the Farm. It was decided to convert the Farm into a dairy one which would use appropriate technology. A rotational grazing system, consisting of 28 paddocks, was devised with the cows moving each day to a new paddock. A solar unit powered the electric fences which confined the cows. With these innovations also came, even more importantly, an improvement in the Farm's human resources capacity, resulting in better record-keeping systems and effective herd management.

Of note, also, is the fact that local by-products, such as rice bran and wheat middling, are used to supplement the feed. Silage (fermented, high-moisture fodder that can be fed to ruminants) is used in both the dry and the heavy rainy seasons. Fodder production has become sustainable as the

system in use preserves, stimulates, and revitalizes the grass.

Organic Fertilizer

Under the brand name "*Bloom Zoom*", the Farm produces and markets its own organic fertilizer. It is advertised as "a rich and natural product based on red California worms". Vermiculture is a process for the production of humus (mature compost). Worm manure is considered by many in horticulture to be the very best soil amendment available. When worms are fed materials with high nutrient content, such as food waste and manures, the nutrient content of their manure increases correspondingly. The cow and chicken manure is therefore not wasted.

A small biogas Digester is also installed for demonstration purposes and presently provides cooking gas for the two families who live on the Farm.

Hydroponics

Hydroponics is a method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions instead of soil. Plants can be grown with their roots in the mineral nutrient solution only, or in an inert medium. Almost any plant will grow using hydroponics, but some will do better than others as was found to be the case with lettuce and celery at the farm. In this context, it is not surprising that the IICA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Agriculture, launched its first training workshop on hydroponics at the Farm in September of this year. The Farm is really on the cutting edge of the introduction of new agro-technology in Guyana. Hydroponics will be most suitable for homeowners with limited land space, time, materials, and equipment.

The Training Centre

People who have benefited from Training at the Farm come from a wide cross-section of the society, and from beyond the shores of Guyana. This particular application of a set of technologies has been called the "St. Stanislaus Model", and has been shown to satisfy the needs of medium- and small-scale dairy farmers. As a model of best practices, it has since been introduced elsewhere in Guyana and in other Caribbean countries.

The Farm has recently signed an agreement with the Guyana Micro-Projects Programme, funded by the European Union, to receive \$34,000 (Can.) of which the Farm would have to contribute 25% or \$8,500 (Can.). This project will fund the upgrading of the Training Centre's equipment and supplies as well as the production cost of eighteen DVDs geared towards the CXC Agriculture Syllabus. Work has already started, and it is expected that the project will be completed by the end of next February.

Future Prospects

In the area of agro-tourism, a recent study indicates bright prospects for development. With the growing reputation of the Farm, many more would be interested in visiting the establishment to see its operations. Its location on the outskirts of Georgetown, near to major hotels and a new Convention Centre, is one of its major advantages. However, before welcoming tourists on any large scale, the buildings must be improved structurally and painted, good fences need to be installed along roadways, signage needs to be in place, and roads and parking need to be improved and installed. In the long run, upgrades to roads, draining of parking areas, and improvements to structures will require significant amounts of capital.

A butterfly garden, installed so that butterflies thrive within the confines of the structure, is being proposed as a major attraction for visitors. Such a garden would give an insight into the biodiversity and conservation in the Guyana interior.

Solar energy generation is another project whose feasibility and possible funding is being considered.

As the Farm develops, another area of exploration would be the introduction of a Continuing Education program for fee-paying mature students.

Conclusion

From its inception, the plan was to provide training while generating income for the College. This is still the goal, but the progress made over the years is an outstanding tribute to the foresight, dedication, hard work, and leadership and managerial skills of a wide range of alumni, staff, students, and parents working in harmony with help from donor agencies and the outstanding contribution of Dr. Hector Munoz. The Farm should be seen primarily as a centre of sustainable agriculture which protects the environment, particularly in view of the urgent need to diversify Guyana's agricultural sector due to the challenges facing the sugar and rice industries. Involvement in sustainable agriculture education and agro-tourism will develop a new income stream for the farm, educate consumers about the food they eat, and promote the agricultural sector.

As members of the St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association in Toronto, we are proud to be associated with the Farm and to be contributing to the future of Guyana. When more details of the future plans for the Farm become available, we shall inform you of them and shall be appealing for your help in raising the funds which will be needed for the major capital expenditures to effect the necessary infrastructural improvements.

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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.

Erratum

The September issue of N&V described the 'Rumfelters' as being 'Alumni All'. In fact, they are not all Saints alumni. The N&V apologizes for this error in reporting.

Farm Genesis, continued from Page 4

technical education, emphasizing the value of manual work. This would eventually be expanded to include Food and Nutrition.

All students would be exposed to agricultural science education in Forms 1 and 2, spending 1 day each week at the Farm, as well as to technical education and home economics at the Brickdam premises. They then could choose to proceed to GCE (later CSEC) when they reached Form 3, if they wished to do so. This would enable them to learn by doing, and their parents would be invited to offer their labour on weekends when the actual work was done by self-help.

The Farm construction was not without dramatic moments. I well remember one Christmas Day, knee-deep in mud as we tried to prevent a catastrophic flooding. The pumps had broken down, the vegetable crops were destroyed, and the livestock was in danger. Somehow, we managed to save the chicken pens, and the crisis was averted.

The Workshop was opened on 4 December, 1974, by Dr. Ptolomey Reid, at the time Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister of Agriculture and National Development, whose son Herman was a student at the College, and the Farm on 25 September, 1975, by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Mr. G. B. Kennard.

The Farm Sub-committee, headed by Dr. Peter Fernandes, and the Workshop Sub-committee by Mr. Noel Gonsalves, included many whose names are etched into the history of Saints. At some time, a permanent record should be made of these stalwarts who gave freely of their time and resources to promote the Farm and Workshop. We owe a lot to these men and women, some of whom are no longer with us. Of special mention is the Fernandes family: Peter, Bobby, Billy, Chris, Bunny, John Jon., and the generations of Fernandes whose contribution is still ongoing to this day. A very special thanks is owed to Mr. John Fernandes Snr. who set up the SSC Association in 1943.

References for this article are the St. Stanislaus Magazines 1972-1980, 1982, 1993, 1995, and the 140th Anniversary Magazine 2006.

Kenneth Khan, 1948-1955, 1964-66, 1970-71, 1972-1980.

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