



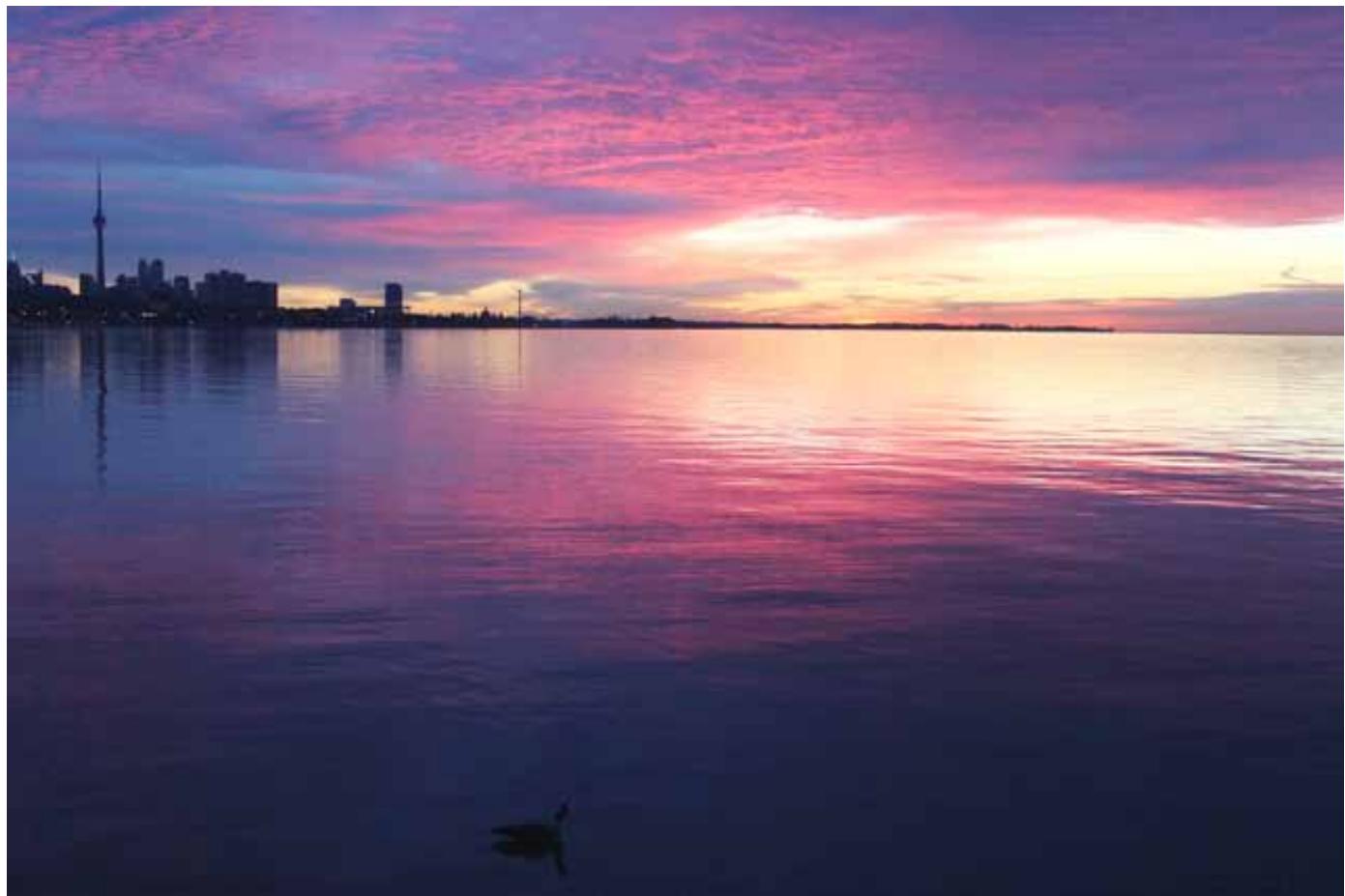
**“BROADCAST”**  
Newsletter of the Toronto Unit

*Naparima Alumni Association of Canada*

*Naparima Teachers’ Training  
St. Andrew’s Theological  
St. Augustine Girls’  
Naparima Girls’  
Naparima  
Hillview  
Iere*

Vol. XXXX No. 2

Spring 2017



*Photo by Michele Comeau*

*A February Sunrise  
Toronto 2017*

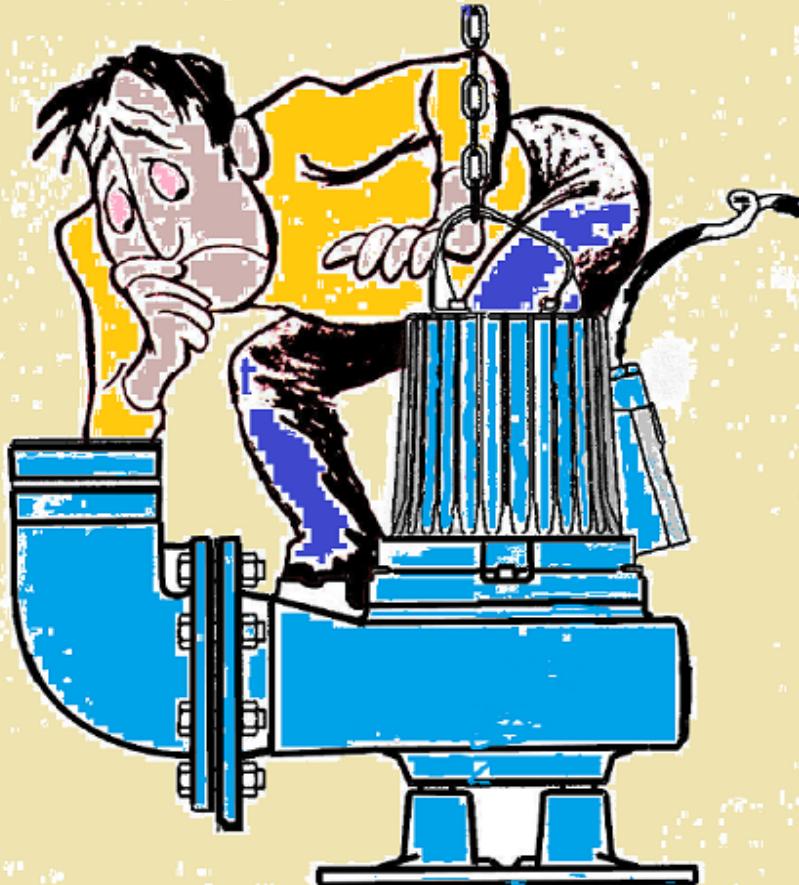


# TPG Services and Machine Ltd

Tel: 905-728-6267/416-414-5632

Email: info@townlinepump.ca

**Don't  
Get  
Caught  
With  
Your  
Pumps  
Down!**



## TPG Services and Machine LLC

Tiffany Jaikaran

266 Elmwood Avenue, Unit 242  
Buffalo, NY 14222

716-804-8408 | tiffany.tpgusa@gmail.com

*Print Supplier to NAAC*



Attention to Detail Since 1995

- PRINTING • GRAPHIC DESIGN
- SIGNS • BOOKLETS
- PROJECT MANAGEMENT
- TRADE SHOWS/CONFERENCES
- SELF PUBLISHING

CONTACT: RAJIV PERSAUD

T: 416.878.5218

E: RAJIVP@SYMPATICO.CA

WWW.BLUETREEGRAPHICS.COM

*The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (NAAC) was founded in Toronto in 1978 and includes graduates of Naparima College, Naparima Girls' High School, St. Augustine Girls' High School, Hillview College, Iere High School, Naparima Teachers' Training College and St. Andrew's Theological College. Among other things, it supports programmes at alma mater schools as well as a steelband programme in schools in the Toronto area.*

*All graduates coming to Ontario are invited to join the Association.*

## 2016 – 2017 NAAC Executive

PRESIDENT	Merle Ramdial	905-844-1254	merle.ramdial@gmail.com
TREASURER	Norma Ramsahai	416-283-0675	npramsahai@rogers.com
SECRETARY	Vilma Ramcharan	416-284-5198	vram@rogers.com
ASST. SECRETARY	Cynthia Ramdeen	416-499-7357	cynthia.ramdeen@gmail.com
EXEC. MEMBER	Wendy Rostant	905-542-3548	twrostant@gmail.com
EXEC. MEMBER	Richard Jaikaran	416-414-5632	RichardjNAAC@gmail.com
EXEC. MEMBER	Ia Sirju	416-287-8871	isirju@gmail.com
PAST PRESIDENT	Ian Ramdial	905-844-1254	ian.ramdial09@gmail.com

## CONTENTS

President's Message .....	2	Spring Fling Panache Fundraiser .....	7
From the Editor's Desk... .....	2	The Other Side of The Computer .....	8
Finance Report .....	3	bmobile partners with NC for TT's first Smart School .....	9
Notice of NAAC Annual General Meeting.....	3	Report from Naparima College.....	10-11
Social Report.....	4	NAAC Christmas Dance 2016 Photos.....	12-13
Steelband Report .....	5	Pearl Ramcharan Crowley.....	14
Condolences.....	5	On the way to the Buddhist monastery .....	15-18
Communications Report.....	6	Interview With Ruby Samlalsingh .....	19-22
Membership Report.....	6	A glorious hat-trick for Naps swim team.....	23
Music Notes from West Humber Collegiate Institute .....	7	NGHS Production of Sound of Music.....	24

## CREDITS

**"Broadcast"** is the newsletter of the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada, Toronto Unit and is published twice a year. The views expressed in articles published are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Executive or of the Association unless specifically stated as such.

Editor: Merle Ramdial

Advertising: Ras Shreeram • 416-743-1331

Layout & Printing: Bluetree Publishing & Design 416-878-5218

Contributions and Correspondence should be forwarded to:

The Editor, "broadcast", NAAC, Bridlewood Mall Postal Outlet  
P.O. Box 92175, 2900 Warden Avenue, Scarborough, ON M1W 3Y9

Web Site: [www.naactoronto.ca](http://www.naactoronto.ca)

## **President's Message**

I am stymied by the turn that politics has taken in so many parts of the world, so much so, that I rely on listening to Fareed Zakaria on a Sunday morning to hear a voice that confirms that I am not completely out of my mind. I'm sure that in the future, when the historians look back at this time period, they will not have to look far to account for the big rise in mental health problems that were brought on by uncertainties created by one-dimensional politicians.

Small island nations are caught up in some of the same short-sighted economics, cutting back on Environmental Protections, Arts and Education. However, I have faith in community leaders who

organize and lead protests to get their voices heard.

I read the news from Trinidad every day, and the reporting of murders, stabbings, assaults and rapes dominate the front pages. But all I need to lift my spirits is just one report that brightens my day and it is usually about our schools.

The students from our alma mater schools are doing well in academics, sports and the Arts. We should be proud of them. To the Principals and dedicated teachers, I say "Thank You". Hopefully, the next generation of graduates will bear witness to the mistakes that are being made now so that they can correct them when it is their turn to lead.

***Merle Ramdial***

## **From the Editor's Desk...**

Let's start with the cover picture. We've all seen beautiful sunrises, but this one was taken on a cold, cold February morning on the lakefront and took some special effort. I know that Michele Comeau lives in Brampton, so she had to drive to Toronto's lakefront to take this photo even before I woke up! I applaud the effort.

On pp. 19 is Ramabai Espinet's transcription of her interview with Ruby Samlalsingh, NAAC Life Member, who has lived and worked in many countries. I was born in San Fernando and lived on the same street as Ruby, Irving Street. I remember quite clearly, that Ruby was the only lady that I knew of, who owned and drove her car herself. I grant you that my world at 5 years old was rather small, but I was thrilled at her special ability.

This is the second such interview that Ramabai has done for *Broadcast*. The other one, with Patricia Moonilal, was published in the Spring 2013 issue.

Hurray for innovation in education! Dr.

Michael Dowlati submitted the report on pp. 10 that includes a teaching model that the college has adopted. This method is the opposite of the one that we knew during our high school years. Instead of being taught the modules in class and doing the assigned homework of solving problems, etc., the students will study the module on-line at home and do their homework in class. Naparima College is the first such Smart School in the island.

I admire people who travel and who make time each and every date of their trip to keep notes along with special commentary. Shirley Lobin, who submitted the article, "On the Way to the Buddhist Monastery" on (pp. 15), is one such person. Hope you enjoy reading of her experiences.

Thanks to the advertisers who continue to support us throughout the year.

I offer special thanks to Rajiv Persaud of Bluetree Publishing & Design for his patience in dealing with a fluid deadline, this one time.

***Merle Ramdial***

## Finance Report

This report reflects the Association's financial information as at December 2016. Annual Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for May 27, 2017.

### GENERAL ACCOUNT

Bank of Nova Scotia	<b>\$26,830.00</b>
---------------------	--------------------

### NAAC INVESTMENTS

Bank of Nova Scotia – Term Deposit	\$ 1,215.00
------------------------------------	-------------

IPC portfolio:

\* Inter Pipeline Fund

*1600 Units – B.V. per unit \$10.00 (M.V. \$47,424.00)	\$16,000.00
---	-------------

*Dividends earned – Aug/16 to Dec/16	\$ 840.00
--------------------------------------	-----------

**Riocan Real Estate Inv T/U (M.V. \$21,836.00)	\$21,785.00
--	-------------

820 units - B.V. per unit \$26.56	
-----------------------------------	--

Dividends earned - Aug/16 to Dec/16	\$ 384.00
-------------------------------------	-----------

<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>	<b><u>\$40,224.00</u></b>
--------------------------	---------------------------

\*Market value of the Inter Pipeline Fund as at December 2016 was \$29.64 per unit. This reflects an increase of 196 % over book value. The fund continues to earn dividends at the rate of \$208 per month which translates to a return of 15.6% per annum on that investment.

\*\*Market value of Riocan REIT as at December 2016 was \$26.63 per unit, an increase of 0.7% over book value. Dividends from Riocan REIT are approx. \$96.00 per month or 5.25% per annum.

Our Annual Christmas Dinner & Dance which is a fundraiser and helps us to meet our commitments to the schools in Trinidad was held on November 26, 2016. The net profit was \$6439. Of that total, \$1,520 was derived from the raffle which was conducted during the event.

Respectfully submitted

*Merle Ramdial*

for *Norma Ramsahai*

*Treasurer*



**NOTICE OF  
NAAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Saturday, May 27, 2017 • 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**Knox Presbyterian Church**  
**4156 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough, ON**

*Refreshments will be served at Noon*

## Social Report

It's here, spring, the transitional season, in which it is normal to have periods of unseasonal cold and warmth in all regions of the country. That is not a forecast, just a reminder of how spring typically plays out in Canada. I think spring will give us just what we need to kick off the Association's activities for 2017.

The Alumni's Dinner and Dance held on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 was once again a sold-out event; many thanks to the members who assisted in the planning and promotion of the event. I hear from attendees that Panache Steelband is a big draw for new and returning supporters.

On this occasion, we were honoured to have in attendance, the High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Garth Chattoor and his wife, Mrs. Diane Chattoor. Mr Chattoor spoke to the gathering and congratulated our Association on the work that we have done and continue to do. He wished us well for the future. Prior to our dinner, we were pleased to have the reigning Pan Alive Champion arranger, Mr. Al Foster accompanied by Mr. Michael Green play the national anthems of Canada and Trinidad and Tobago.

As usual, the chef at Elite Banquet Hall did a great job. The small changes to the dinner menu were well-received. The raffle, now the rollercoaster thrill part of our evening, was a hit.

I must thank Ms. Wendy Rostant as well as her team of helpers for doing the hard work prior to and on the night of the event. I also thank our donors without whom our profit would not have been the best to date.

Now that we have closed another successful year with good friends, good food and good music; we look ahead into 2017 for our second picnic in the park to be held at Adams Park in West Hill on June 4th 2017. This year we are looking for more help with an improved menu. I think with a little prayer from our members, the long-range forecast of 20 percent precipitation will turn to zero.

Please don't forget our fund-raising Spring Fling on May 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 to assist with our Panache Steelband's trip to Ottawa, (see ad on p.7 for more info) where they will be representing Trinidad and Tobago's cultural excellence in celebration of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Please come out and support your brothers and sisters of the NAAC Alumni. Should anyone have any questions, suggestions or would like to assist in any way, please feel free to contact me by email richardjnaac@gmail.com

Respectfully Submitted by

**Richard C. Jaikaran**

*Chair, Social Committee*

## ADVERTISEMENTS

*If you wish to place an ad  
in the next issue of Broadcast*

**Contact: Ras Shreeram at rasras@rogers.com or Tel: 416-743-1331**

## **Steelband Report**

The second semester after-school beginner class is doing well under the tutelage of Winston Poon. The players are enthusiastic and seem to really enjoy their sessions on Wednesday evenings.

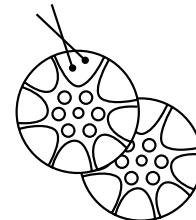
On receiving an open letter from The High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago that was sent to "Trinicentric" organizations to participate in "Ottawa Welcomes the World 2017" celebrations for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, our Executive heeded the call. It was felt that Panache could best fit the criteria of showcasing T & T's music and culture.

In consultation with the players, it was decided that Panache would travel to Ottawa for two outdoor performances on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. To raise funds for this venture, NAAC will be assisting the band with a Spring Fling event on May 13, 2017. Tickets are available from members of the band as well as from members of the NAAC executive. (See Notice on page 7).

If you wish to make a cash donation for this specific trip, please contact me directly so that I can send a receipt to you.

Panache has added a few extra rehearsal days to work with their leader and arranger, Al Foster, in

## **NOTICE: Steelband Classes 2016/2017 Season**



***West Humber Collegiate Institute***

- ***Time: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.***

***Contact: Winston Poon***

- Tel: 905-824-3589
- email: wpoon354@rogers.com

order to fine-tune some of the more recent pieces.

The members of the band were saddened by the loss of one of their players, Larry Jeffers. Larry, like many of the older players, joined after retiring. He had a long and valued career as a nurse. We will miss him.

Submitted by  
***Merle Ramdial, Steelband Liaison***

## **Condolences to...**

*Indira Sinanan and her family on the passing of her mother in December 2016.*

*Clifford Ramcharan, Phyllis Ramjattansingh and Pamela Alleyne on the death  
of their eldest sister, Pearl Crowley.*

*Shirley Jeffers and her family on the passing of her husband, Larry.*

*Ms Anna Mahase on the recent death of her sister, Lenore Mahase-Samaroo*

## Communications Report

### Broadcast

Both the Fall issue of *Broadcast* and this Spring issue are slightly smaller than usual. With this slight change, we were able to bring the weight down one level in Canada Post's weight measurement rates and this resulted in a cost saving to the Association. We've sent 135 print copies by regular mail while the remaining 161 members received theirs as an attachment to an e-mail message.

### NAAC Website

The files and links have been updated as part of

regular maintenance. Included on our naactoronto.ca site are new links to Naparima College and Naparima Girls' High School.

Thanks to our advertisers who continue to lend their support to our magazine.

To place an advertisement, please contact:

Ras Shreeram at 416 743 1331

or rasras@rogers.com

Submitted by

**Merle Ramdial**

*Chair, Communications*

## Membership Report

The year 2016 seemed to be a very productive one for NAAC. New members have been welcomed and the events planned for 2016 were very well attended.

In this report, NAAC appeals to members to demonstrate their interest in the functioning of the Association. There are three groups that can be considered: the elderly members who joined NAAC in the founding years and are resigned from taking any active part due to their inabilities; the middle-aged members who are now retired from their employment, and the young, employed and active members - our 'millennials' as they are recently known!

Our gratitude to those senior members who helped to bring the Association to this stage. In their moments of recollections they are proud to relate their experiences when they were active participants. To the members who have retired lately, there are moments when they think that they deserve relaxation, entertainment and peace and quiet times. Just name it and NAAC may plan events for their enjoyment to provide some of these desires.

To our young employed, active members we need you to carry on beyond our 40<sup>th</sup>. year. Here's the hope ..... **our faithful membership**:

**Hon. Members..... 17**

**Life Members..... 194**

**Ann. Reg./ Fam. Members..... 42**

**Associate/ Student Members ..... 20**

**Total membership ..... 273**

The following new members are warmly welcomed to our Association.

Annika Boodoo, Lynette Maharaj, Mary Alexander, Kerish and Kavelle Maharaj, Fred McNeilly, Tyrone and Sylmarie Saney, Brian Teelucksingh and Darren Taitt.

We look forward to meeting you at our events in 2017 and hope that you will join our team as active participants in the NAAC.

Submitted by

**Cynthia Ramdeen**

*(Chair, Membership Committee.)*

### **REMINDER TO RENEW YOUR NAAC MEMBERSHIP**

*Please remember to renew your  
NAAC Membership. The membership  
year runs from January to December.*

# **Music Notes from West Humber Collegiate Institute**

The Music Department at WHCI has been busy this year! Although, this is the second time that I have taught steel pan at WHCI, as always, the musical talent of our students never ceases to amaze me.

This year the grade 12 class had the opportunity to perform at Nathan Phillips Square for Epilepsy Toronto's "Fair in the Square". It was a bitterly cold day, but the enthusiasm of the students warmed the hearts of many shoppers.

In February, the grade 11 and grade 12 classes travelled to Meadowvale Secondary School in Mississauga to perform for their Black History month celebrations. For many of the students at Meadowvale, it was their first time seeing a steel pan! The WHCI students were lively, energetic, and put on a terrific show.

Nadar Khan, a drumming specialist, visited the second semester steel pan classes and put on a four day workshop. The workshop entitled *The Beat Goes On...* focused on according to Mr. Khan, "breaking down boxes" by incorporating drums from South East Asia, Arab, and South African countries. The students used the knowledge gained from these workshops to create their own beats and layer their rhythms over a current song.

We are currently planning a Spring Performance Arts Night for Thursday May 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$5.00 and can be purchased at the door; the show will include the steel pan, drama, and dance classes.

**Melissa Chapman,**  
Occasional Teacher, Music Department,  
WHCI



*Students performing at Meadowvale Secondary School*

## **The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada Spring Fling Panache Fundraiser**

**Saturday, May 13th, 2017**

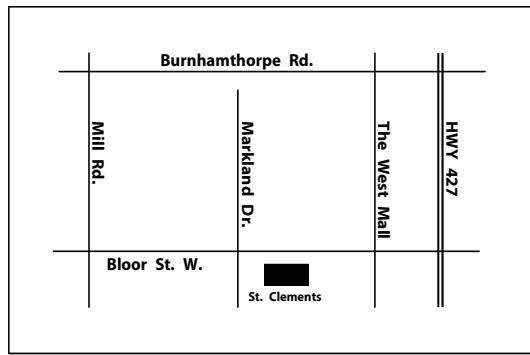
**At St. Clements Roman Catholic Church  
409 Markland Drive, Etobicoke  
(Hall entrance at rear of building - See map on back)**

**Time: 8:00 p.m.      Tickets: \$25.00**

**Music by: DJ Wukup Productions & Panache Steelband**

- Trini-Style Food on Sale
- Cash Bar • Dress: Casual

**St. Clements Roman Catholic Church  
409 Markland Drive, Etobicoke  
(Hall entrance at rear of building)**



# *The Other Side of The Computer*

by Franklyn Dookheran

*NAPS old boy, former executive member and Life Member of NAAC documents his professional Autobiography 50 Years' Practical Experience in Information Technology*

## INTRODUCTION

Up to the 1970s, the main technical magazines on the shelves in bookstores dealt with auto-mechanics. By then, computer books and magazines started competing for shelf space, and eventually shunted aside the automobile magazines.

Initially, most of the books about computers were quite technical, produced to meet the demand of a growing minority of laypersons who needed (and, later, wanted) to understand and use the technology. So there were software books that described programming languages, operating systems, application development and methodologies, while books about computer hardware dealt with tubes, chips, logic circuits and electronics.

The first generation of non-expert readers were people curious about the new technology and how it was revolutionizing the way human beings performed technically oriented mental tasks. This set of readers was followed by people who wanted to become developers, users, and technicians. So most books were written with a focus on what was happening inside the computer, but even at this early stage, a lot was happening outside the computer too. There had suddenly emerged a new class of workers who had never existed in human history: people making a living in the Information Technology industry.

My career spanned four continents, the Caribbean basin, and thirty-three cities. The events in this book occurred between 1966 and 2015, which is the duration of my career in Information Technology. The book is divided into five sections. The first part deals with my first three years in the United Kingdom. After this, I returned to my homeland, the twin-island republic of Trinidad and



*The Other Side of The Computer*

Tobago (T&T), from 1969 to 1987. From 1987 to 1994, I lived in Canada and the United States, after which I went to Guyana for two years, returning to T&T in 1996, where I have lived ever since.

Business changes on a daily basis, so some companies I worked for have changed their status. In this book, I refer to them as they existed at the time I was associated with them.

With over 11,000 new words in a computer dictionary, I have deliberately omitted technical descriptions so as not to make this another technical book. Instead, I have attempted to bring out the human side of life experienced by those who are committed to a career in IT. After all, without life on the other side of the computer, it would all be meaningless.

This book is dedicated to those members of staff and colleagues in different countries without whose support I would not have had a successful and enjoyable career in IT. It is for all readers, but aimed especially at all those who are dedicated to improving the quality of life by making the computer the revolutionary tool that it is.

# **bmobile partners with Naparima College for TT's first Smart School** (*The Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, Thursday, February 16 2017*)

"Students in a small economy like Trinidad and Tobago may not be exposed to many of the experiences that students in first world countries have, but through a partnership with TSTT and the benefits of the advancements in technology this brings, our students will be able to gain this kind of global experience. Our smart school concept will empower our students, teachers, parents and stakeholders by affording them access to educational opportunities beyond what happens within the traditional classroom.", said Dr Michael Dowlath, Principal of Naparima College, as he unveiled his school's plans for the completion of the country's first Smart School by April this year. Dr Dowlath was speaking to an audience of students, staff, alumni and other stakeholders at the schools' annual Founders' Day celebrations at the school compound on February 8.

Gervon Abraham, Manager Government Sales and Services, Enterprise, TSTT, commended Naparima College for its pioneering efforts and commented that TSTT looks forward to the day when smart schools in Trinidad and Tobago are no longer a novel concept.

"At TSTT, we believe that not only is life on, but life is constantly evolving and to meet the demands of tomorrow's world, we too must adapt and adjust accordingly. Hence, in 2016, TSTT rebranded its commercial arm, bmobile, to reflect the company's transformation from a traditional telecoms company to an agile broadband organisation. How is this relevant, you ask? You see, Naparima College and TSTT are cut from the same cloth. We respect tradition but value the power and promise of innovation. TSTT is proud to partner with Naparima College as you transform into Trinidad and Tobago's first ever Smart School. As the only full-service, locally-owned telecommunications provider, we are deeply committed to shaping the future by investing in Trinidad and Tobago's greatest assets: the future leaders and decision makers."

The Smart School will go beyond the concept of a Smart Classroom by incorporating modern technology into many more elements of the school's environment and will benefit all the school's stakeholders, including the 875

students, 52 staff members, alumni and PTA. TSTT is in the process of completing a campus local area network (LAN) via Wi-Fi and fibre to provide internet access for the whole school compound. The LAN will support the Smart School elements of interactive classroom boards and projectors; ICT smart rooms for CXC and CSEC Courses; an E-Library; a virtual learning management system using Google Suite, Schoology and Blackboard Learn; school administrated software; a VOIP, messaging, PA and alert notification system for students and parents; IP cameras and CCTV System; and smart and solar power to reduce the school's energy footprint.

Acting Vice Principal, Devanand Gosine, added that the smart school will include the use of an instructional model called 'Flipping the Classroom' which reverses the traditional learning environment by delivering online instructional content outside of the classroom. "We often feel that we must give the students the information ourselves. So traditionally, a teacher provides information inside the classroom, the child takes notes and goes home and does homework. But there is so much information out there. Why not let the child use the internet and learn at home? When they come to school, the teacher can now use that time to apply their expertise to guide the students' deliberations on the topics and give the students a much deeper appreciation for the content they learned at home. In a Flipped Classroom, the homework is now done at school and schoolwork is done at home. What this does is make the student a lifelong learner," he said.

Dr Dowlath agreed and said, "Our vision is for our students to become globally competitive so they will be able to work in any part of the world and achieve whatever goals they have after they graduate. It means that our infrastructure and technology must come up to first world standards similar to educational intuitions globally. Our present students and graduates, through the Smart School concept, will be exposed to advanced technology and we are very thankful that TSTT has understood and supported the vision we have for Naparima College."

# *News from Naparima College*

## **2016 Drama Festival Winners**

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Naparima College, under the direction of the interim Drama Teacher Mr. Simeon Chris Moodoo, entered the Secondary Schools' Drama Festival 2016 with a play called 'The Inspector' which he wrote. At the preliminary round on November 2nd 2016, Naparima College earned its spot in the semi-final round as one of the top six schools out of the twenty schools which participated. Then on November 16th 2016, at the semi-final round they earned the most points out of the eleven schools who participated in the semi-finals, thereby qualifying for the Finals as the top school out of the five schools which made it to the finals. Finally, at the finals on Sunday 27th November 2016, the boys put on a memorable performance which moved the entire audience. Naparima College won the Drama Festival receiving 9 awards including the James Lee Wah award for outstanding production. Naparima College will now represent Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean Secondary Schools Drama Festival in Antigua in November 2017.



*Participants at the Drama Festival*

## **School Bus**

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 Naparima College collected a brand new Nissan Civilian Bus, registered TDM 1963. This bus was sponsored in

part by Republic Bank Limited who generously donated \$300,000 in addition to funds raised by the Naparima Association of Parent, School and Community (NAPSAC) and the Naparima Association of Past Students (NAPS). This bus was officially launched by Republic Bank Officials at the observance of Founders' Day 2017 on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017.



*Side View of the new NC Bus*

## **Chemistry Laboratory**

The Naparima College Chemistry Lab was completely refurbished and reopened on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016. A team of past students headed by Mr. Roger Rajan, together with Mrs. Leelamanie Maharaj-Trehan, Teacher III-Chemistry ensured that the students of Naparima College were provided with an ultramodern facility with which they can conduct their School Based Assessments. New gas lines, chemical resistant sinks, air-conditioning, and lab benches were installed together with other minor infrastructural improvements.

## **2016 Graduation & Prize Giving Ceremony**

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 Naparima College held its annual Graduation and Prize Giving Ceremony. 121 Form 6 and 117 Form 5 students graduated. Naparima College proudly celebrated 41 National Scholarship winners.

*(Continued on next page)*

## **News from Naparima College**

(Continued from previous page)

### **“100 Years on Paradise Hill”**

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 Naparima College hosted a special assembly to recognize the centennial year on Paradise Hill. Naparima College, when founded, was housed in a small building on the compound of the Susamachar Presbyterian Church, San Fernando. It was later moved to its current location on Paradise Hill, San Fernando on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1917.

### **The Multipurpose Court**

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016, Naparima College launched its Multipurpose Volleyball/Lawn Tennis court. This court was donated by Ashmead Ali Contracting Services Limited. Mr. Ashmead Ali is a past student of Naparima College. This court would be used by the students of Naparima College as well as students of neighboring schools in the San Fernando area.

### **Science Fair 2017**

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 Naparima College hosted its Annual Science Fair. Each form level was given a theme and students were placed into groups. Each group was responsible for completing a presentation together with a model to be showcased at this science fair. Students displayed their projects



*Students of Form One at the Science Fair 2017*

in the Naparima College Auditorium. All students were allowed to view the entire display.

### **Sports Day 2017**

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017 Naparima College held its annual Sports Day. Students represented their respective houses in a number of events including marching, marathon and Mathematics race. Sports Day was held at the school's ground at Lewis Street, San Fernando. Sammy House was overall champions.

### **“Party in Paradise”**

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017, the Naparima College Association of Past Students held its annual carnival cooler fete at Naparima Bowl. There were performances by 2017 Chutney Soca Monarch Winner, Omardath Maharaj, as well as Raymond Ramnarine, 5 Star Akil and Alison Hinds. Funds raised went to the College's Sports programme.

### **“Smarter On D Road”**

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017 the Interact Club of Naparima College hosted a campaign entitled “Smarter on D Road” aimed at promoting smarter drivers and pedestrians. Members of local awareness group Arrive Alive and the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, TTPS were invited to attend and make presentations to the audience. The audience was invited to take a pledge as a pedestrian and as a driver. Students of the Interact Clubs of Parvati Girls Hindu College, ASJA Boys College San Fernando and San Fernando Central Secondary School were also invited.

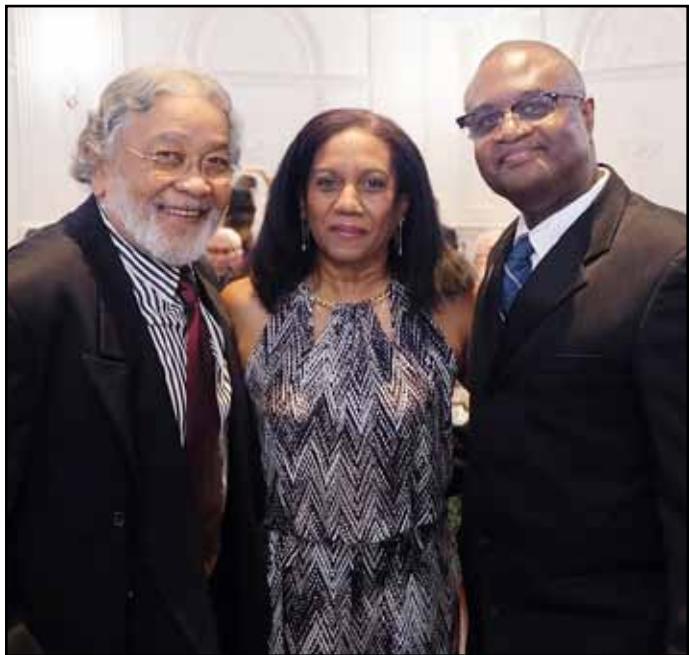
**Naparima College  
mourns the passing  
of former Master  
Elmo Lennard**

# *NAAC Christmas Dance 2016*



*Photos  
by:  
Brian  
Teelucksingh*

## *NAAC Christmas Dance 2016*



# *Pearl Ramcharan Crowley*

*Nov. 7, 1921 — Dec. 29, 2016*

*By Special to The Enterprise • January 8, 2017*

Pearl Ramcharan Crowley, who passed away at age 95 on Dec. 29, 2016, was an early childhood educator, intrepid world traveler, fledgling anthropologist, selfless wife, mother and grandmother, and natural champion of women's rights, access for the physically challenged, and ethnic and racial equality.

Pearl was born in 1921 in Balmain, Trinidad. She helped her parents, Rose Bhagmania Teelucksingh and Joseph Motilal Ramcharan, raise and educate her seven younger siblings. Pearl attended Naparima Teachers' College and then studied early childhood education at Toronto Normal School Teachers' College in Canada before completing a bachelor's of education on an honorary scholarship from National College of Education in Evanston, Ill., in 1948 (from which she subsequently received a Distinguished Alumna Award). She returned to Trinidad where she helped to found one of the island's first kindergartens, Naparima Girls' Preparatory School in San Fernando, and eventually served as its principal.

In 1955, she met anthropologist and art historian Daniel John Crowley (confined to a wheelchair since contracting polio as a naval officer during WWII), while he was writing his doctoral dissertation in Trinidad. Despite their differences in culture (she was a teetotaling, Trinidadian East Indian Presbyterian and he was a rum- and calypso-loving, Irish-Alsatian American Catholic), they were married on Feb. 4, 1958, in Roxborough, Grenada. She turned down an offer to attend Stanford University's Ph.D. program in anthropology to settle with their three children in Davis, Calif., where Dan was a professor at the University of California, Davis. She spent the next 30 years feeding, packing and transporting the family to more than 100 countries while continuing to publish scholarly articles.

Pearl was a trailblazer. Among her many adventures,



while seven months pregnant in 1960, and with an infant son and disabled husband in tow, she fled the Belgian Congo as civil war erupted, to search for a hospital where she could deliver her bi-racial daughter in apartheid-controlled Southern Africa. During the height of the Cold War, she drove the family in a camper van 13,000 miles from London to Moscow and Tbilisi to Barcelona across the Iron Curtain and back.

She visited every continent and actively engaged with many cultures at a time when dark-skinned women were not openly welcome. She never saw the limits in herself or others and never liked to see others treated unfairly or have limitations placed on them because of physical ability, social status, race or gender. She will be fondly remembered for her resilience, impish sense of humor, stubbornness (particularly while defending the underdog), and level-headedness during crises.

Pearl is predeceased by her brothers Alfred, Gene and Winston Ramcharan, and by her husband Dan Crowley. She is survived by her siblings Clifford Ramcharan (Beverly), Kenneth Ramcharan, Pamela Alleyne (Albert) and Phyllis Ramjattansingh; her son Peter Crowley (Kelley Dean) of Martinez, daughter Eve Crowley (Pablo Eyzaguirre) of Chile and daughter Magdalene Crowley (David Hartmann) of Berkeley; and grandchildren Brynn Crowley, Rowan Crowley, Jaya Eyzaguirre and Maria (Maita) Eyzaguirre.

Pearl was cremated and a memorial will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Daniel J. Crowley Memorial Scholarship. Make checks payable to "UC Davis Foundation," and in the memo line, please write "Daniel J. Crowley Memorial Fund #122033." Send to: UC Davis Gift Administration, Daniel J. Crowley Memorial Fund, 1460 Drew Ave., Suite 100, Davis, CA 95618.

# *On the way to the Buddhist monastery*

by Shirley Lobin ([shirleylobin@yahoo.com](mailto:shirleylobin@yahoo.com))

THE sign in front of the restaurant read “Traditional Cuisine.” This was just across from Mao’s Mausoleum in Beijing, in the city’s historic Qianmen Square, that wide and graceful pedestrian boulevard lined with upscale stores. But it is the centuries-old alleys (*hutongs*) leading off it that throb with the ‘real’ life of Beijingers, in the souvenir shops, bargain-basement outlets, street-food stalls and restaurants of regional cuisines. The words ‘traditional’ and ‘cuisine’ in combination proved too irresistible to me; before I could think ‘chopsticks’ I was in the restaurant chowing down on *jiaozi* – crescent-shaped dumplings stuffed with pork-cabbage-egg-chives, fried lightly (not boiled), and served with a piquant dipping sauce of chili and soy.

After lunch, I asked the waitress, “Toilet?” She stared at me, uncomprehending. “Shee shoh-uu jen?” I asked her, in my best Internet-derived imitation of the Mandarin *xi shou jian*. She frowned. I patted my belly in hopeful explanation. ‘Strange woman!’ said her eyes. Finally, when I pointed to a door at the back end of the restaurant, her face melted into a broad smile. “Ohhh, shee shoh-uu jen!” she exclaimed. Only at its edges did her words sound remotely like mine.

A smartphone could do the talking for me, but why deny myself the pleasure of rolling my tongue around exotic foreign words and the thrill of occasionally being understood? Much is forgiven the traveler who attempts to make conversation in the local language. But Chinese dialects can be tricky; a novice can never be sure what nonsense or incivility will spill from her lips with just the slightest twist of accent or tone.

Forewarned that English is not commonplace in China, I booked a group tour, with an English-speaking Chinese guide. It was described as ‘adventure’, meaning, we would stay at mid-range hotels, rough it on everyday public transportation, and dine at ordinary restaurants, all to get a more authentic experience of China by mingling with its people and living more like they do. And there would be no time-wasting shopping stops; we would have enough free time to use as we wished. Precisely the reasons why I chose this tour (though a few of the hotels, it turned out, barely met the promise of ‘mid-range’). And it would attract travelers who are independent-minded, un-pampered, and full of adventurous tales. And so they turned out to be. Our group, fourteen people from seven countries, could not have been more companionable in the three October weeks we spent together.



BEIJING is infamous for its smog, but sunshine and blue skies greeted me on my first day, before the start of the tour. After that, it all went downhill; by the fifth day when we left, yellow-brown smog was already creeping in.

Taking advantage of the sunshine and my free day, I  
(Continued on next page)

## **On the way to the Buddhist monastery**

(Continued from previous page)

strolled down to Tiananmen Square. It was Sunday; it was also the end of China's annual, week-long Republic Day celebrations when Tiananmen's tourist attendance can reach a *daily* high of 100,000. The massive crowds spilled out onto the small, concrete-paved parks outside where I sat on a bench under leafy trees, marveling at this awesome reality: I'm actually in China!

Next day, the crowds were in no way diminished. In Forbidden City, a steady crush of people kept pushing their way to the entrance door of one of the small palaces, their cameras raised high above their heads to take photos of whatever was so intriguing inside. This only enticed the rest of us to find out for ourselves what all the fuss was about. "Should we go for it?" I asked Alexa, my young tour-mate. "Sure," she said. Earlier, our guide, the lovely Yang – or Cindy, her 'tour name' – had told us that the Chinese are fond of pushing, so we have to push back. So Alexa and I merged into the maelstrom, buffeted from all sides as we elbowed our way to the front of the crowd.

But when we arrived at the door, all we could glimpse (wedged in, as we were, among hundreds of forceful bodies) was an unadorned, throne-like chair from imperial times. "That's all?" remarked Alexa. Still, we got to have our tourist experience. What impressed me, though, was that, despite the pushing and shoving, Chinese and foreigners were all enjoying the moment.

MUTIANYU is one of the many Great Wall remnants that meander over the crests of mountains in various stages of restoration or decline, some of them too wild for all but the most intrepid of hikers. Reputedly one of the oldest and best preserved, Mutianyu has the added advantages of being closest to Beijing and lesser trafficked by tourists.

While my zealous tour mates – one couple in their fifties and the others all under thirty-five – bounded up the hundreds of steps to the starting point as if competing for Olympic gold, I chose the cable car up. (Though I was the 'grannie' of the group, I generally kept pace with the 'youngsters' but knew well enough to leave the

cycling and mountain climbs to them. Still, I welcomed the kind-hearted help of Matt, a young Australian on his honeymoon, who always grabbed my luggage whenever we encountered menacing stairs or hills).

Mutianyu's beauty is not the untamed ruggedness of Jinshanling or the pristine perfection of lake-bejewelled Huanghuacheng, but, rather, the serenity of endless, rolling hills lush with cypresses and pines. But like all the other remnants of the wall, it has survived pillaging, weathering and the general wear and tear of the centuries. But how much longer can it survive the modern onslaught, tourism? Not even The Great Wall can shut out 'the other' forever.

SIZZLING. That, to me, is China's cities. One day, at a broad street-intersection in Beijing, I watched, transfixed, the spirited competition between auto and humankind for passage: the criss-crossing, sprinting, swerving, horn-blaring, autos cutting each other off, yet no one road-raged, none colliding. In the spiffy subways, trains arrived, disgorged passengers, swallowed others and departed, all within efficient seconds of each other. Shopping, particularly in Hong Kong, took on the mania of a national sport, even in stores with prices in the stratosphere, like Dolce Gabbana, Prada and Bvlgari. And everywhere along our route, new and ever-grander building construction surged.

Shanghai, too, is all of this; but its ambience ranges wider. Our hotel was in the genteel, former French Concession, a district that the French relinquished in wartime 1943. Plane trees line the quiet residential streets, their branches with maple-shaped leaves interlacing into graceful arches that filter in sunlight in speckles. The elegant colonial mansions are now the homes of Chinese elite or have been converted to historical sites. For a modest entrance fee, I wandered through an extensive display of Mao's propaganda posters in the basement gallery of one of them.

While Shanghai's French Concession is 'European' by circumstance, Yu Garden in its historic Old City is 'Chinese traditional' by design. Here, tea pavilions sit placidly amidst bonsai trees and lily ponds. In the style of olden dynasties, their overhanging roofs curve skyward

(Continued on next page)

## **On the way to the Buddhist monastery**

(Continued from previous page)

with corners tapering off to a point to keep the evil spirits at bay. Further along, walkways led me mysteriously from one themed mini-garden into another: rounding a corner, I came face-to-face with a prickly hunk of white jade rock; I peeked under an archway into a pond swimming with goldfish; urged on by the tinkling of bells, I wandered into the courtyard of a little temple.

Back-dropping this traditional garden is the modern architectural skyline of Shanghai.

This skyline – of spheres and slender towers of glass, one in the shape of a square-head bottle-opener, another caught in a seductive half-swirl – rises from the opposite bank of the Huangpu River, in the newer district of Pudong. The best view of it is from The Bund, the riverside colonial boulevard near the Old City. Every night, these buildings put on a dazzling show of lights. From a riverboat, we watched the brilliant neon lights dancing up and down the walls of the towers, radiating their beams out into the indigo sky, and then, as if taking a bow, rippling down onto the surface of the water below.

Thrilling as that was to the eye, the Shanghai Acrobatic Show could send a heart into spasms. At its climax, eight motor-cyclists zipped along the inside walls of a glass sphere whose span was probably no greater than the length of four tall persons lined up end to end. The teeniest misstep, and this could end in disaster. I found myself sitting on the edge of my chair – literally!

TRAVEL by regular train (versus the three-times-faster bullet train whose luxury we got to savour only twice) meant *lo-o-o-ong* overnighters on it. We slept six to a bathroom-sized cubicle, on narrow bunk beds stacked three to a wall on opposite sides. No door. No curtain. Toilets down the corridor, our choice of ‘basic western’ (which always seemed to be four or five cars down from ours) or ‘squatting style’, *a la* hole-in-the-floor. We brushed teeth and washed faces at communal washbasins to the sounds of articulate throat-clearings of some of our fellow passengers.

The first time, we couldn’t imagine how we would survive the night. But sleep we did, snorings and all. And we even enjoyed the waking hours sharing food, drink and music with our new-found, onboard, Chinese friends.

Despite the language barrier, we found ways to communicate, even if only with smiles or friendly gestures. At a crowded restaurant, I shared a table with a college-age student who stared into his cell phone the entire time. But when he got up to leave, he paused, fished around in his backpack, and shyly handed me a little package. It was a box of mints. I think it was his way of saying, “Sorry we couldn’t talk, but welcome to my country.”

Sometimes, the gestures took a surprising turn. Standing outside the Terracotta Warriors’ Museum in Xi’an listening to Cindy, I felt a hand tug at my shoulder. Thinking it accidental, I ignored it. But immediately, a no-nonsense arm encircled my waist and dragged me off.

(Continued on next page)



## **Granger Tax & Advisory Solutions**

**Greater New York City Area**

**Tel: 347-898-3376**

**email: curtis\_82@hotmail.com**

**Curtis Granger (Mgr. Director)**

- Investment Advisor Representative**
- Tax Preparations**
- Bookkeeping**
- Notary Public**

## ***On the way to the Buddhist monastery***

*(Continued from previous page)*

As my ‘assaulter’ squished her body into mine, I noticed her husband snapping our photo. Both were grinning. From her ethnic-styled dress, I assumed she might be from the Chinese countryside, unaccustomed to dark-skinned beings like myself. Mission accomplished, she waved to me and went on her way, husband in tow. Sightings of such ‘exotics’ are rare in Mainland China; I met three of them on a brief, social visit to the Trinidad & Tobago Embassy in Beijing where the friendly staff seemed happy to see a Trini face.

NEXT stops: Chengdu, Chongqing, Emei Shan, Yangshuo. We saw the Giant Pandas and their days-old babies at their sanctuary in Chengdu, and we visited a small tea plantation where the owners fed us lunch in the backyard of their modest farm house. At Chongqing, we boarded a mid-sized passenger ship for a two-day cruise down the Three Gorges section of the Yangtze River. The next midnight, we watched it descend the five-step shipping lock at its famous dam (or infamous, to those who lost their lands to its resultant floodings).

Downstream, at Yangshuo, we knew we were entering karst country, but we didn’t expect these soaring, limestone outcroppings to resemble giant-sized Mexican sombreros draped in ponchos and crouched all over the land. We had arrived at night, in a thunderstorm that pelted down rain in sheets that obscured the road and threatened to skid our minibus into the ditch. Or worse. The karsts, momentarily luminous in each lightning flash, created an eerie, otherworldly sight. Back in the real world, Cindy informed us that Yangshuo and the surrounding regions are among the few places in China where canine cuisine still persists; at the market, the frightened dogs, locked in constricting cages, awaited some customer’s pick.

At tour’s end, I spent three extra days in Hong Kong. I had expected this city to intimidate me. But, surprisingly, it was compact and easily explorable on foot; if I got disoriented, there was always some English speaker nearby to sort me out. The island side of Hong Kong is chic, expensive and hyperactive, but

it is sprinkled with calming zones of concrete parks and plazas amongst its cyber-age skyscrapers; had I landed here by parachute, I might not have guessed I was in Asia. But exciting though it was for day-visits, I preferred to stay in the more Chinese-atmospheric Kowloon with its jade markets, sociable night-markets of trinkets and street food, walk-in foot massage salons that dispensed pain and reprieve in equal measure to my walked-out feet, Buddhist temples, the mosque on Nathan Road, and the splendid, thirty-three-acre Chinese garden right in the center of it all.

Back at Emei Shan, in Sichuan province, we had stayed at the 600-year old Baoguo Monastery ensconced in the misty, lower slopes of Mt. Emei. Our room furnishings were simple, but we snuggled in under our thick duvets in the frigid nights, lulled to sleep by the repetitive chanting of the Buddhist monks and wrenched out of our dreams by it at dawn. We shared communal squat toilets (though, mercifully, the practical Chinese provided us with a portable stool with a hole cut out in the middle). For showers, we had to cross the large courtyard – abuzz with candle-lighting worshippers at their prayers – to get to the shower room where we discovered that the cubicles had no doors. But we quickly turned ‘going to the shower’ into a group ritual: “Are you going down to the shower?” we would call out to one another. “Wait for me, I’m coming too!”

We all agreed that this was our most unusual experience on the tour.

CHINA, we hear in the West, is a society of political repression and unconscionable rural poverty. Cindy cautioned us not to ask politically-tinged questions of her in public; we could do so in private. But, in the cities we visited and in the places we went, repression and poverty were never really evident. No one was begging or sleeping in the streets; only rarely did we see any police presence, and then, mostly at the national monuments; and when I walked around alone at night, even in Beijing, I felt entirely secure.

Some might argue that it is repression that keeps the citizenry in check.

Who’s to know? The faces of China are many. Tours show you only a selected few.

# *Interview with Ruby Samlalsingh*

*Feb 2017 • Ramabai Espinet*

**RE:** So, you are such a wonderfully inspiring person that I thought we should get something of your story. I know you've just published a little booklet, an autobiography of sorts and you've just promised me a copy, so I would be delighted to get that.

Now, I'd just like you to talk freely about yourself. And I'll tell you that we were at a dinner party a couple of years ago, at M's, and you came out with a sentence that was so striking that I have never forgotten it. And I'd like to start there. Someone asked about your career and you mentioned a few things and then you said, "But, it was when I went to Guyana that I really knew who I was."

**RS:** Oh, I said that, did I?

**RE:** Yes. And I thought what a statement! And I just wondered what that was about.

**RS:** Did you know that I'd been in Guyana?

**RE:** No, I didn't know anything too much about your career but when you said that I took note of it. I've been to Guyana myself, not for very long periods but I find it a tremendously inspiring place. It is so incredibly beautiful.

**RS:** Did you leave Georgetown and go into the interior?

**RE:** Yes, I did.

**RS:** Well, I'll tell you. I consider that time I spent in Guyana to be the most formative and most

challenging period in my life because I was invited to go there without any knowledge of it and without any knowledge of that kind of work. I had a sister who was living there and I was able to live with her. And I had to go out in the country along these awful dirt roads and sometimes I had to spend two or three days up in Skeldon. The Company was very good to me; they put me up at the homes of the managers for the three or four days I was there and I would go around - I had a chauffeur - they treated me very well and I worked very hard.

**RE:** What did you do?

**RS:** Oh my goodness! Well, there was a lot of unrest in the sugar-estates at the time, but no labour unions or anything. And Dr. Cheddi Jagan who had just come back with his wife had been talking to the people. And the sugar-estates and the Company, which were owned by people in London who had great influence with Whitehall managed to imprison him and then they suspended the constitution. We went right back to colonial direct rule from England. And Dr. Jagan was in jail. {1950's}



*(Continued on next page)*

## **Interview With Ruby Samlalsingh**

(Continued from previous page)

So by then, the Company realized that it had to do something. And at the same time, the Company had this Oxford graduate, a younger, brighter fellow, and he was instrumental in getting them to do something about it. So they spent a lot of money and they invited me to come and do the work. I had been in Ireland at the time, in Belfast, and I had a phone call from Colonial Office telling me that they were looking for somebody to do a project in Guyana and I said, "No, thank you. I'm not interested; I'm going back home, I have a job waiting for me there."

But when I got home, my father had died just two weeks before I arrived and I was desolate, desolate. And in Trinidad they wanted me to do this job as an almoner which I did not like at all. I took the training in London; they offered me that training and I took it. They didn't offer me – they told me to do it. I was a civil servant at the time, you know.

So I was feeling very unhappy and I got a phone call from Pointe-a-Pierre. It was this man from the Colonial Office and he wondered if I would come and have tea with him - he was staying at his sister's in Pointe-a-Pierre – and talk about the project. So I went and he was very charming, very nice. And he told me all about it and how they were desperate to do something and Miss Ibbotson from the Colonial Office had recommended me. She didn't know me, she had never met me, but she had met my sister Wilma, who was helping around, doing some voluntary work. In that time there were some riots

and a lot of unrest. Then they invited me to come to Guyana and I went and they took me around and showed me the situation. I was really not intending to stay because it wasn't my cup of tea but when I saw what the work entailed...there were a few men, an English chap had been employed to work among the men and he had started a few cricket clubs. There were also one or two community centres where the men and boys could go to exercise and play and so on. But nothing for the women. So I went and had a look around and it really moved me to see the conditions there – we can't imagine it in Trinidad. Although we still had indentured Indians then but I had never seen anything like it. And you know in Guyana the coastal region is still underwater and they had to build a big sea wall and often the dykes would break and the water would come right in and flood the places where the people were living because they would be under that. It's a strange country but a lovely society in those days, you know.

**RE:** So the conditions were very bad?

**RS:** Terrible. Awful. The day I was supposed to leave they had a Board meeting. At the meeting they welcomed me – it was eleven men and me. They said that they knew I had been going around the estates and they wanted to know what were my impressions and what was my decision. I told them quite frankly that I was shocked. I had never seen anything like that and, also, I didn't think I was the person for it. I didn't know what to do; I wouldn't know where to start! And the Chairman of the Board, an Englishman, said,

(Continued on next page)

## **Interview With Ruby Samlalsingh**

*(Continued from previous page)*

“We think you can, Miss Samlalsingh, we think you can. And don’t be afraid, there’ll be money to spend; we’ll support you.” So I said I’d give them my decision the next day. So the next day I discussed it with Wilma and she encouraged me – she said why not? So I then told them I’d try. And they were wonderful. I had to pay back the Trinidad government – they paid everything.

**RE:** They must have been most relieved.

**RS:** Yes, well they gave me a good salary and for the seven years that I was there they gave me increments. They gave me a car and a chauffeur and they were giving me a house to live in but I did not want to live by myself. I stayed with the Ramdeholls, my sister Wilma’s family.

**RE:** Why did you see it as the making of you? “That’s what made me who I am, you said.” Was it because of the challenge?

**RS:** The challenge, yes, but people so appreciated what was being done that I realized that there was truly something I could do.

**RE:** So what did you do with the women? In a practical way, I mean.

**RS:** First of all I went around and met the people and they were very suspicious of me because I represented Bookers. Bookers was their enemy; but I won them over. I started programs and I would have to meet with them in the afternoons when people

were off so I would often be on the road late. I stayed there for seven years and by the time I was finished things were going great. I got bored – there was nothing new that I could do.

I had started a Drama Festival ... you know Robert Christiani? They lived on Port Mourant Estate and often I stayed with them. I started small play reading groups with the children. One time I had a Drama Festival where each estate would present three or four plays on one night. I got people in the community to help with producing these plays. These were plays done by children whose parents were absolutely illiterate and it was so thrilling afterwards to hear these unlettered people discussing the plays using terms the adjudicators had mentioned such as “masking,” for instance. And these were men who had worked in the fields all day.

**RE:** That must have been fantastic.

**RS:** It was really very satisfying. I’ve done many jobs after that but that job is still the highlight.

**RE:** And what about the women? What did you do with them?

**RS:** The husbands did not want them to do things with me and they also did not want to go to the community centres. So I had small separate buildings made with a kitchen, which I furnished – I bought every pot spoon and knife – with everything. I furnished it like a modest home with a kitchen, living and dining room – sort of like a model for a family. There was a sewing machine – all kinds of things –

*(Continued on next page)*

## **Interview With Ruby Samlalsingh**

(Continued from previous page)

and we encouraged the women to come there and they did.

**RE:** What did they learn?

**RS:** Some of them learnt to sew. I had someone coming in to teach child care, hygiene – things like that. And cooking too.

**RE:** English style cooking?

**RS:** No, their own cooking. It was Indian cooking but some of it was so basic that you wouldn't want to eat it. I think they learnt a lot.

**RE:** You must have felt that you were doing something really worthwhile.

**RS:** Yes, very worthwhile. The Company really appreciated it and one time there was a conference held at Oxford and they asked me to present a paper on the work I'd been doing. These Englishmen had come to Guyana from the London office of Bookers and had seen the work so they asked. So I wrote a paper and delivered it. It was subsequently published. I met my old Professor from Liverpool there and he was wonderful. He came up to the podium threw his arms around me and said to the audience, "This is my girl!"

**RE:** And after that?

Interviewer's note: The list is long and we could not print the whole interview here. Ruby has also (under pressure by friends and family) produced a small

autobiographical text entitled *Ruby's Ramblings*. It is a treasure and we thank her for it.

She has had a wide range of work experiences including Resident Tutor at the Extra-Mural Department in Trinidad, and Head of the Old Age Pension and Public Assistance in Victoria with an office in San Fernando. For this job she was responsible for large sums of money to be paid out publicly and she toted a gun! A revolver licensed in her name. She never touched it, she says, never had to, such was the innocence of those times. Her absorption in reading the *Economist* regularly at the Extra-Mural Department led to a Masters degree in Economics from McGill University and a subsequent career at Statistics Canada in Ottawa and various government ministries in Toronto. She is enjoying a well-deserved retirement at present – enjoys going to the opera, "world affairs and the occasional gossip."

We'll let her have the last word, from the conclusion of her book:

"So here I am – your proverbial rolling stone, gathering no moss! But so many messy memories! I have had my fair share of successes and failures, but being the optimist that I am, I choose to dwell on the former and keep chugging along!"

# *A glorious hat-trick for Naps swim team*

by NGHS Administrator

On Sunday 29th January, the NGHS swim team participated in the January 2017 National Aquatic Centre Swim Meet.

For the third time in a row, Naparima Girls' High School was named the Best South School 2017. Notable mentions must be made of Thea Jagdeo of Form 1, Samara Wilson of Form 3 and Aliyah Noel of Form 6. Thea and Samara both placed 3rd Overall in the 12 & under and 13-14 age group. Aliyah Noel placed 1st in the Non-competitive 15 & over Breaststroke. Below is a listing of all the results. Congratulations to all our Swim team members.



## **NAAC PICNIC**

*June 4, 2017  
Adams Park  
2 Rozell Road,  
Toronto*



201 Consumers Road, Suite 205, Willowdale, Ontario M2J 4G8  
BUS: (416) 490-1177 FAX: 1-888-321-2821

羅研嬌  
**Mina Law** B.Soc.Sc.CHRM  
Sales Representative  
Mobile: (416) 520-9628  
Email: mina.law@sympatico.ca

Your experience begins at  
Expedia CruiseShipCenters



At Expedia CruiseShipCenters, we are navigators of spectacular vacation experiences. As part of the number one brand in travel this is our promise to you:

- Advice you can trust • The best choice and prices
- Expedia Extras • More than Cruises
- Always there

Please visit my website and register for a chance to win a free cruise:  
[www.cruiseshipcenters.ca/glendaramsahai](http://www.cruiseshipcenters.ca/glendaramsahai)

**Glenda Ramsahai**  
Cruise and Vacation Specialist  
6465 Millcreek Drive, Mississauga, ON L5N 5R3  
**Bus: (905) 821-7447 / Cell: (416) 575-8996**  
E-mail: gramsahai@cruiseshipcenters.com

# *Sound of Music mesmerises*

by Yvonne Webb, *Trinidad Guardian*

**It's amazing, in the midst of the Carnival season, with fete after fete after fete, the Naparima Bowl was packed to capacity for the staging of the well loved musical, The Sound of Music.**

Seven shows later, including an impromptu Saturday morning performance, over a four day period, patrons were still expressing regret at not getting an opportunity to see the Naparima Girls' High School production. Primary and secondary schools from around San Fernando were also part of the cast.

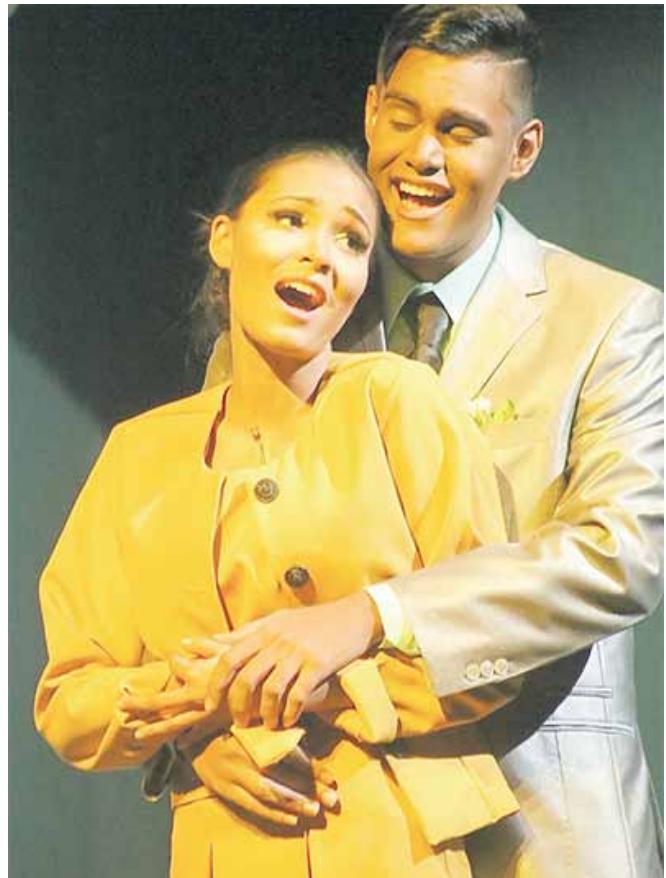
Director Victor Edwards had reservations when he was initially approached by the Principal Carolyn Bally-Gosine to do this play, as he was not sure it still had the power to attract such large audiences, especially in the midst of the Carnival season. Man was he wrong.

From the introduction of the cast doing a ribbon dance to a medley of the memorable original soundtrack in the opening scene, to the end when the von Trapp family disappeared into the seating area of the theatre, the audience remained mesmerised.

What was most striking was the prominent use of the steelband in the live orchestra, ringing out sweetly and in harmony with the other traditional instruments, for the Do-Re-Mi, My Favourite Things, The Sound of Music, Sixteen Going on Seventeen, and all the other sing-a-long tracks, just adding that local touch.

The use of the red, white and black in the costuming, designed in a flower and also a book marker given to guests, was not lost, but relatable in the play set in 1938 Austria which delved into the love between a novitiate Maria and Captain von Trapp during a period of resistance.

While Edwards tried to adapt the production locals could identify with, for the most part the traditional script was maintained with a Julie Andrews look and sound alike in Marina Mohan



*Maria, played by Marina Mohan, sings with Captain Georg von Trapp played by Rondell Mungal. PHOTOS: TONY HOWELL*

who creditably executed the role of Maria. Marina was one of two Marias who alternated between shows. The other was Sydney Mohan.

The wedding scene, not in the original script, between Captain Georg von Trapp, portrayed by gifted singer, actor and musician Rondell Mungal, stirred all kinds of emotion as the bridal party journeyed through the aisles of the theatre on the way to their honeymoon.

The charming multitalented children von Trapp, who demonstrated skills in not only acting, but singing and dancing, also won the hearts of the audience.

*(Editor: This is an excerpt of a much larger article published in the Trinidad Guardian, February 15, 2017).*



**RE/MAX**  
Realty Specialists Inc., Brokerage  
Independently Owned And Operated  
**416.939.2999**  
email: [beths@bethssuepaul.com](mailto:beths@bethssuepaul.com)

*Beths*  
*Suepaul*  
Broker, M.A.



## Specializes in Residential and Commercial Real Estate

New Construction | Multi-Family | Condominiums | Luxury Homes  
Investments | Relocation | Business Opportunities

**DEDICATED TO RESULTS...RESULTS THAT MOVE YOU!**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

If you are looking to purchase Pre-Construction condos,  
please give us a call. As a Broker we have inside access to  
the builder to get special pricing.

**BethsSuepaul.com**



Superior Home Staging And Consultation  
Maximum Online And Print Exposure  
Professional Photography, Virtual Tours, And Much More!

## THE BEST ROTIS AND DOUBLES IN TOWN

**WE DID IT! ROTI ROTI DID IT!!!**

**WE CREATED THE WORLDS LARGEST**  
Bus-up-Shot Dhal Puri & Doubles at the Albion Islington Festival 2009  
(check out [www.rotirotirestaurant.com](http://www.rotirotirestaurant.com) or on Youtube: Worlds Largest Paratha)



**PARATHA or DHAL PURI single**

Still only

\$2.50\*  
Each

**WEDDING SIZE PARATHA** (\*feeds up to 12 people)

Still only

\$12.99\*  
Each

**DOUBLES WORLD'S LARGEST**

Still only

\$1.75\*  
Each  
BUY 5 &  
GET 1 FREE

**MINI ROTIS** (your choice of Boneless chicken, goat, beef, shrimp or veggies)

2 For \$7.50\*

**WEEKEND BUFFET BREAKFAST**

(sada roti, fry bake, Paratha, plantain, saltfish & tomatoes, bhaji, roast bigan choka, carilly, channa & alloo and lots more) FREE COFFEE OR TEA OR OVALTINE

ONLY

\$7.99\*  
per person

\*PLUS TAX



**ROTI**  
**ROTI**  
Restaurant

979 Albion Road, Etobicoke,  
(1 block east of Islington Ave)

WE ARE 20 YEARS OLD!!! (established 1994)  
COME CELEBRATE WITH US !!



Call Mr. Roti Roti today

**416-745-9208**

\* PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

"WHERE ABSOLUTELY NO ROTI IS COOKED BEFORE ITS TIME"®

# *NAAC Christmas Dance 2016*



Photos by: Brian Teelucksingh