

Saints News & Views

A bi-monthly newsletter of St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto

May/June 2002

Volume 8 Number 3

From The President

WHAT A WEEKEND

In recent years the four-day Caribana celebration in Toronto has turned into the biggest festival of its kind in North America. Caribana allows us of Guyanese/ West Indian ancestry to proudly share our customs, traditions, values, foods and dance with the rest of the citizens of this truly multicultural city in which we live. It allows us to appear fearlessly on center stage, honoring our heritage and showing the rest of Toronto who we really are. It allows us the chance to say that even though we are happy and comfortable with the new, we never intend to forget the old.

As always, Caribana spans four days, beginning on Friday, August 2nd and ending on Monday, August 5th (actually, the festival ends in the wee hours of Tuesday morning). As in past years, SAINTS kicks off the celebrations on Friday evening with our "Caribjam," and shares the duties with four other prominent Guyanese high schools in staging the grand finale, the "Last Lap Lime," on Monday.

Caribjam is usually always sold out by the middle of June, so avoid disappointment by planning for it now. This is Caribjam's 10th anniversary. As usual, we have imported Guyana's number one band, JAHRUSALEM, an excellent group with a stage show to rival any you have ever seen. The dance begins at 8:00 p.m., ends at 2:00 a.m., and will be at the Thornhill Community Centre at 7755 Bayview avenue. This is the perfect function to which you can bring your newly arrived house guests, as dinner, drinks, entertainment and old friends will be all under one roof.

The Last Lap Lime has become a tradition, with visitors to Toronto planning their holidays to coincide with this event. We have made quite a few changes to its format in our efforts to ensure that it continues to be the premier family function of the weekend. The 'Lime' will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 11:00 p.m. We will not have a dance this year. Our research shows that most of you find it too much of an inconvenience to leave the 'Lime' at 7:00 p.m., go home, shower and change, return for the dance, and pay another entrance fee. We listened to you. This year, the entrance fee is the same as always, \$5.00, and this entitles you to remain in the park and enjoy all of the entertainment until 11:00 p.m. at night...that's 14 hours. This year, the entertainment is nonstop, with four different bands beginning at 10:00 a.m. and playing for two hours each until 6:00 p.m. At 6:00 p.m., our DJ will take over, and entertain

you until the end of the function. Children under twelve years of age will be admitted to the park free of charge, but must be accompanied by an adult. We are adding to the children's activities as well. We are introducing a caricaturist this year, and have a few other surprises planned for the children. You are welcome to arrive at anytime that you desire.

Our growth throughout the years confirms our belief that the continued popularity of this function is its simplicity, affordability, safety and the family atmosphere we encourage and promote. In 2001, almost 4,000 guests came through our gates, each having had a wonderful time. Each year, we attract new people, and each subsequent year those new people bring more new people. Last year, we had guests from Guyana, Trinidad, Barbados, Jamaica, Antigua, Quebec, New Orleans, California, Florida and New York. And those are only the ones that we can remember!

This is really a complete day away from home. Breakfast, lunch and dinner, (all traditional Guyanese fare), can be purchased in the park. Water coconuts, sorrel, mauby and every Guyanese snack imaginable is usually available. The entertainment is literally nonstop, and we just about guarantee that you will meet someone you have not seen in ten to twenty years. As our brochures say, "Nuff nuff shade, plenty gaff, so come out an' lime an' laugh". The 'Lime' is at Tam Heather Country Club on Military Trail once again this year.

TheToronto alumni organizations of St Stanislaus, St. Roses, St. Joseph's, Queens and Bishops work very hard to ensure that this is a successful day. We currently have about 250 volunteers, (50 provided by each school), and each paying their way. However, we could always use more help. If you are in a position to volunteer for an hour or two, please get in touch with someone on the SAINTS executive.

The Caribjam tickets are limited, so call us now to avoid any disappointment As always, I am looking forward to seeing you all at both these functions 🗷

T

Paul Abdool President

SAINTS NEWS & VIEWS

KEEPING THE TRADITIONS ALIVE

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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 and other aid to the College, 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 Catholic clergy in 1980.

Saints News & Views publishes six issues each year. The articles published represent the opinions of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher who disclaims any liability arising from the information or advertisementsherein. Please address your enquiries to:

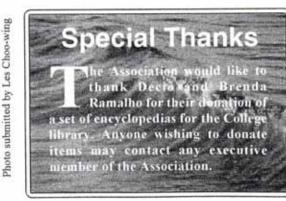
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SAHATA AMS TO SUCTION

The tireless, tenacious, tried-and-true threesome

Our hard-working staff, Bunty Phillips (Secretary), camera-shy Maurice Serrão (Treasurer), and A. Rupert De Castro, diligently stuffing envelopes with Saints News & Views



SAINTS: The Untold Story

(Part 1 of 2)

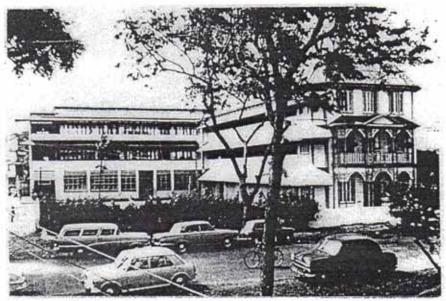
It all started 136 years ago, on May 1, 1866 to be exact, on the ground level floor of the Catholic Presbytery, next to the Church of The Resurrection. It was founded by Fr. Theobald Langton, this Roman Catholic school they called the Catholic Grammar School. It all began with Fr. Langton and two students named Marshall and Pairadeau.

By November 3rd of the same year, its founder had died of yellow fever, and the school had moved from a dank, dismal room in the Presbytery to brighter premises on Main Street. In 1869 it had moved to Waterloo Street, and in 1871 it returned to the Presbytery. In spite of being unsettled in its formative years, with classes split in different locations and numerous changes in Headmasters, Fr. Hartnell introduced boarders to the school in 1874. This was to cater to Venezuelan students who came to Demerara to be educated in English.

By 1878, due to the continuing financial crisis, the Catholic Grammar School closed its doors. Not to be discouraged, the Jesuit General re-opened the school in 1880. Restarting with 15 students, the new school saw yet another change in its leadership with the appointment of Fr. Barraud. It was he who, over the following 20 years, finally brought a sense of stability to the forerunner of SAINTS. Its student population constantly grew as it expanded its curriculum, acquired more teachers and yet another building on the site of St. Mary's School in 1897.

Through 31 troubling years of major financial crises, the Catholic Grammar School never paid its way, literally begging for financial aid from its parishioners. The Governor, Sir Charles Cameron Lees, had spurned the school's attempts to get Government grants as early as 1894. Undeterred, Fr. Barraud promoted a high standard of academic and religious tutelage which earned the College its first 'Guyana Scholar' in 1901. A silver medal was awarded to its most brilliant student S. I. Cyrus for winning this scholarship.

Gaining in prestige by its achievement, the school continued to grow. Another six years were yet to pass before acquiring a permanent site at its present location in Brickdam. 1907 was a banner year for the Catholic Grammar School. After 41 years of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, dragged by necessity and



Saint Stanislaus College after completion of the Scannell wing in 1952

resolution into the 20th Century, this much revered institution of learning had fulfilled its mandate ad majorem dei gloriam...to the greater glory of God. It had eventually reached maturity as the finest, most progressive educational institution in British Guiana, without financial support from the colonial government of the day. It was reborn, acquiring a new name, St. Stanislaus College, named for St. Stanislaus Kostka, the patron saint of youth.

A statue of St. Stanislaus, located on the second floor balcony of the building, has watched thousands of students enter the gate since 1907. This symbolic statue was transferred from its previous location at St. Mary's School as a gift from the College's 100 or so students at the time. It still stands there today as a testimonial to the dedication and stewardship of Fr. Barraud, who served as Headmaster for the Catholic Grammar School from 1880 to 1900. He had passed the baton to his successor Fr. Pollen, who enjoyed the distinction of being SAINTS Principal in 1907. Among the many innovations for the new college was its new motto, "Aeterna Non Caduca"..."Not for this life only, but for Eternity," which aptly describes the lasting quality of education we as graduates shared, of which we are proud, and for which we are eternally grateful.

Since its inception, SAINTS, as it has come to be known, has had its 'ups and downs.' Some of its lustre in recent years has become tarnished. Like some uncontrollable watercraft, it seems to be drifting dangerously into obscurity as a viable educational institution, for which it has been renowned for the past 95 years. The one common denominator in its struggle for survival is the sad lack of funds to keep it afloat. This, despite the fact that it has been fully funded by the Guyana Government since 1980. We the alumni have taken up the challenge that it first faced in 1942 when the venerable John Fernades Snr. inspired a group of graduates to form The St. Stanislaus College Old Students' Association.

As we ponder the foreboding prospects, we the alumni accept the challenge, imbued with the knowledge that by so doing we are keeping some very sacred traditions alive.

(to be continued)

A Decade Ago

It seems like only yesterday when quite a few ageing SAINTS alumni were invited to an informal gathering, all because of a letter about termites. The letter was from Bobby Fernandes, then President of the College Association in Guyana. The meeting was in December 1992. The place was a basement in Scarborough. The text of the letter was simple and direct, "Termites are attacking the very foundations of our beloved Alma Mater. We need your help."

A focus group was formed that same evening and officially sanctioned by the parent organization that was started by yet another Fernandes, the venerable John Fernandes Snr. in 1942 to resolve the College's financial crisis at the



A constitution was developed. Elections were

held. A mission statement was adopted...To provide a vehicle for alumni and friends to gather and rekindle the spirit...To raise funds for the benefit of the College and any charitable purpose connected therewith.

The word soon spread, culminating in the Toronto Association's first Inaugural Dinner Meeting held at the Golden Star Restaurant, and attended by about 150 former staff and students of SAINTS from the 1940's through the 1970's. The banter that evening was dominated by the issue of co-education at the College in the mid-1970's. The "Old Boys" lobby marvelled at this, as they endured flashbacks of their afterschool rendezvous with the girls from Ursuline Convent and St. Joseph's.

As they salivated over memories of 'the young and the beautiful,' their thoughts were arrested by the presence of the group of bright, articulate "Old Girls" in their midst. The evening ended leaving a strong sense of purpose to build the organization and to achieve the goals and objectives identified that night. The Association successfully responded

to the "Termite Eradication Bill". However, two things haven't changed, namely the College's constant cry for help, and fulfilling our mandate from a basement for ten long, arduous years.



Still, it seems like only yesterday 🔊

editorsaints a aol.com

Events Calendar 2002

GOLF TOURNAMENT

July 6, at 1:30 p.m. (shotgun start) at Rolling Hills Golf Club Championship Course, 12808 Warden Ave. (2 km north of Stouffville side road, on the west side of Warden).

SAINTS/QUEENS SOCCER MATCH
If QUEENS can field a team, then we shall have a soccer
match sometime in July. For further information please
contact Paul Camacho at 416-289-2158.

SAINTS/CENTRAL CRICKET MATCH

Sunday, August 11, at L'Amoreaux Cricket Ground, 2000 Mc Nicoll Avenue (west of Kennedy Road, South of Steeles Ave.)
For further information contact Joe Castanheiro at 416-283-6780.

SAINTS/OUEENS CRICKET MATCH

If Queens can field a team, a **cricket** match will be played during the Labour Day Weekend in **September.** For further information please contact Joe Castanheiro at 416-283-6780.

CARIBJAM

Friday, August 2, at Thornhill Community Centre, 7755 Bayview Avenue, (North East corner of Bayview Ave. & John St.). From: 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Contribution: \$25 per person. Food bar available.

LAST LAP LIME

Monday, August 5, at Tam-Heather Country Club, 730 Military Trail, Scarborough. Entrance fee: \$5 per person. Parking is free.

FALL DANCE

Saturday, October 19, at Thornhill Community Centre, 7755 Bayview Avenue (Bayview Ave. & John Sts.). Further information to follow 🗷



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Labass As An Olympic Demonstration Sport?

This is an extract from a letter by an "Old Boy" with fond memories of a sport we called our own. It'a about a game of courage, speed, acute reflexes, exquisite timing, physical endurance and expert dexterity which proved, since the '50's, that Guyana had risen to prominence in several sports throughout the Caribbean. Ed

"...Perhaps, Labass, a rather primitive sport dating back to the 1950's, is no longer played by today's students at St. Stanislaus College, but older generations of alumni will always remember the game that was created by accident, and caught on like wild fire. It was frowned upon, banned as a matter of fact by the establishment, but remained a source of great fun and excitement for its participants, the students.

Sports fans who have watched several Olympic Summer Games over the years will doubtless be aware that the International Olympic Committee keeps adding many new



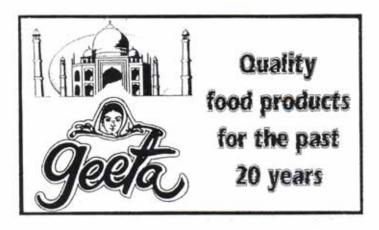
events of somewhat questionable merit to their already overcrowded programme. For example, Syncronized Swimming (for heaven's sake) and Beach Volleyball to name but two. On second thought, I ought not to be too hard on the latter, as the ladies' version does have considerable aesthetic merit

As many former players will attest, Labass is a game requiring stamina, agility, athleticism, good judgement, and strategic thinking. It would make compelling televisionviewing and attract sponsorship like flies to molasses. It would give Guyana an excellent chance of achieving the elusive sporting recognition it deserves, now that 'Sixhead' Lewis has lost his WBA welterweight crown. The international media would beat a path to the playing fields of SAINTS, the birthplace of labass. Not to mention the funds that would flow into our financially strapped Alma Mater. Imagine the income stream from a series of 'How-to' books starting with "Labass 101: The Kick of Death." and fees for film and

TV rights, and use of the SAINTS logo.

Ever since the introduction of co-education in the midseventies, SAINTS can surely field a women's team, commensurate with the men's team, provided they get proper coaching from SAINTS graduates and past stalwarts of the game like Roy Gunby, Jerry Goveia, Frank Small and Alexander Sue-Ping, to name a few. Whilst they may not have had a grounding on the playing fields at Brickdam, this should not deter the women, for they have had ample opportunity over the years to hone their kicking skills on the rear ends of their husbands or partners ... "









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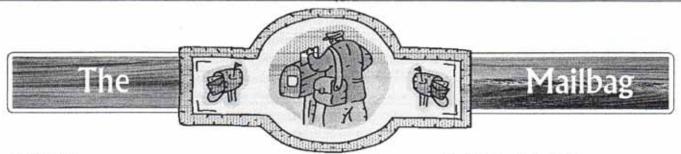
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Hail Hilary,

You're right. SAINTS does have a lot of vivid memories. Thanks for the information about the G/T "Lime" in New York on the Memorial Day weekend, and about the Barbados Association. Good to hear about Stanley's continuing work. He was one of the close friends I had when I lived in Barbados. It's amazing how "Stanislausians" have spread everywhere and continue to be productive and concerned.

Ken Corsbie Long Island, N.Y. kcorsbie@optonline.net

Guyana, 1945-1985

First, you have my permission to publish "My Best of Everything - Guyana, 1945-1985."

Incidentally, both my sons, Brian and Richard, and my neice Michelle McCoon and nephew Tony (Bernice's offspring) attended SAINTS. As a parent, I was involved with several fund raisers for the College and was one of the producers with Chris Fernandes of the successful "FUN DAYS".

Perhaps, I should write of the good SAINTS days... Sports, Scouting, Hockey, Ken Hahnfield / Joe Castanheiro still playing against my CENTRAL teammates (1954 Team).

We will communicate later re: our families...having gotten in touch after 50 years. Wow!

> Godfrey Chin Orlando, Florida Godchin1@aol.com

Dear Hilary,

I say, you are properly enjoying your newfound post. I have had several e-mails from the Class of '58 and some asking if it is the same Malcolm who kept drawing planes on all the scrap paper at SAINTS. If you get any more replies, please pass on the e-mails to us.

Malcolm enjoyed "gaffing" with Frankie De Abreu in Antigua. Brought 2 shirtjacks over from Guyana for him. Heading back to Guyana on Sunday. Heiri (Schurmann) will be arriving soon with his suitcases of medicines for the Amerindian community.

Had the folks over who are setting up the Burn Unit at the Public Hospital.

> Maggie Chan-A-Sue Georgetown, Guyana maggiechanasue@yahoo.com

Paul. Great Lead Article

Just to say that I thoroughly enjoyed reading your lead article in the SAINTS newsletter (Stan shared it with me).

Congrats! It was well written, funny and got the message across without being heavy-handed.

The entire publication was good. Much credit to your Editorial Team.

Hope all's well.

Fay M.

Hilary,

I'm a SAINTS "Ole Boy" and was a member of the Association in Guyana, but never joined after migrating here in Toronto. I would appreciate a membership form and details of dues, etc.

You may send me this information either by e-mail or call me for my postal address.

Arthur Veerasammy (a.k.a. Prince Veerasammy) Scarborough artveer@hotmail.com

Hi Hilary,

I've lived in the U.K. for 40 years since leaving what was then B.G. There are no Guyanese that I know of anywhere near where I live, so I do enjoy receiving the newsletter.

Hang in there.

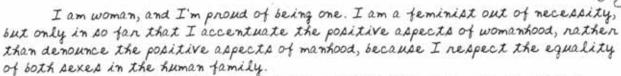
Ron Westmaas England rwestmaas@easynet.co.uk



From a Saints Girl's Diary

June 2, 2002 Dean Diany,

I am Woman



It dipturbs me that we still live in a male-dominated society, but ask yourself dear diary, "Why?" Throughout evolution of the human species, women were nurtured to believe that the human condition was man's alone, as if woman were of some lower life form.

Each generation held forth the falsehood that woman was the weaker sex and subordinate to man. Each generation had failed in its ethical responsibility of acknowledging women's rights. Each generation refused to acknowledge the woman's role as an equal partner in human endeavours. Each generation was conditioned to

live by the prevailing precepts of the day that frowned on a woman's participation in our pluralistic society.

Finally, over generations of these absurdities, there is a growing body of evidence that puts such archaic thinking beyond scientific dispute. In the natural order of things, more and more the playing field is being levelled and the scales of justice will be balanced for both sexes. I am truly convinced that it will happen in my lifetime.

As a student of SAINTS, I have become aware of various religious doctrines as taught by different spiritual leaders. With the advent of World Youth Day, I am particularly enamoured of the Pontiff, a holy man who has revolutionized public thinking on ethics, womanhood and human depting. I am consoled by his divine teachings, and overwhelmed by his unwavering nespect for womanhood. His extraordinary insight in human affairs is evidenced by his words, It is a sad reflection on the human condition that still today, at the end of the twentieth century, it is necessary to affirm that every woman is equal in dignity to man, and a full member of the human family. Canolyn-Jo



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MARIA

Congratulations!

udos to our "4-Seven" Guyanese-Barbadian alumni in Bimshire. These forty-seven friendly and fearless foot soldiers for a faltering Alma Mater, continue to prove their dedication by re-electing their entire Executive Board to a second term of office.

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Past President - Clement Derrell: mrdee@hotmail.com

Keep up the good work. Keep in touch. Keep the faith. We wish you continued success in your endeavours and hope to see you in Guyana for the dedication ceremony for the Wall of Fame.



This guiz is not intended so much as a test on the College's history, but as a snapshot of significant events affecting the College's status as a leading educational facility in Guyana.

- 1) For how many years now has the former Catholic Grammar School been known as St. Stanislaus College?
- 2) What is the school's motto, in Latin and English?
- 3) Who is the patron saint of youth?
- 4) In which year did SAINTS produce the first Guyana Scholar, and what was his name?
- 5) In which year (approximately) was science introduced into the cirriculum, and by which Principal?
- 6) Which Principal started the House League in
- 7) How many Houses are there, and who were they named for?
- 8) In which year was the College taken over by the Guyana Government?
- 9) In which year did the Jesuits stop teaching at the
- 10) Who was the last Jesuit Principal of the College?

AMOUNDE

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(01	circa 1925, Fr. Weld	(5
(6	1901; S.I. Cyrus	(4
(8	St. Stanislaus Kostka, S.J.	(8
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