

SAINTS NEWS & VIEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. STANISLAUS
COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TORONTO



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The appointment of a Board of Governors brings new hope for the future of our Alma Mater

Saint Stanislaus still overlooks the entrance of the school that bears his name, a reminder of the Jesuit origins of the school we once attended. The Jesuits have long left, but their legacy lives on in the character of generations of alumni.

In recent years, as the economy of the country deteriorated, the health of its educational sector declined. The quality of schooling suffered, and St. Stanislaus was not to escape the fate of other schools. Soon, the physical appearance of the school came to reflect the quality of schooling it provided. Broken windows, peeling paint and leaky roofs simply mirrored the state of the soul of the school - inadequate teaching, poor discipline and miserable examination results. The school was in need in every imaginable way.

Since its inception in 1993, the Toronto Alumni Association has been providing financial help for specific projects for the school and its related activities to the extent that available funding allowed, as well as computers and related items, laboratory equipment, books etc., in an effort to alleviate the numerous shortcomings. Alumni Associations in Guyana, New York and Barbados likewise contributed as they were able to, but serious deficiencies still existed that cried out for a basic change

in the way the school is operated and maintained.

It was with a feeling of relief that word reached us three months ago that the government had appointed a Board of Governors (BOG) to run the school. This removes the school from the direct control of the civil service, and places it in the hands of people dedicated to the betterment of the school. The appointment of the BOG is heartening to the Association. It brings to us hope that the fortunes of the school can be reversed and that, sometime soon, our Alma Mater will again take its place alongside the best in the West Indies. By happy coincidence, the Wall of Fame was officially opened on November 11, Remembrance Day. Several members of our Association attended as well as members of the Barbados and Guyana Associations.

The visit to Guyana and the school allowed members of the alumni associations to meet with the BOG and hear first hand from the Board about its plans for the future.

This issue serves as a report on St. Stanislaus, its present activities, and hopes for the future as the new Board of Governors takes control of the school. Our Association has pledged its full support to the BOG as it works to restore St. Stanislaus to the ideals it once represented.

46 Years Later.....

(The following is a personal reflection of the author returning to Guyana after an absence of a period of 46 years.)

The last time I was in Guyana, it was mid-1959, and the country was called Br. Guiana. I had returned from University for summer vacation, and discovered that my parents were planning to migrate during this period to Canada to join my two sisters who were already resident there. Soon, I bade them farewell, and I spent the last month of my vacation living with my Aunt Dotsie and Uncle Carlos Fernandes in the main level of a house on Murray St. (now renamed Quamina) just one or two houses away from Main St. (and Ferraz' cake-shop selling the famous Peanut Punch).

My Aunt was also my god-mother (we shared the same birth-day) and, not having any children themselves, my Aunt and Uncle had always spoilt me as I grew up. This time was no different. Therefore, my recollections (especially my last) of Guyana were of carefree, idyllic times, of a child growing up in a trouble-free city in which there were many beautiful places and enjoyable occasions, and where one could wander at any time anywhere (within reason....Tiger Bay was definitely out of bounds) without any fear.

After I completed my University studies in Jamaica, I was "compelled" to move to Canada as I had neither money nor a job nor a home in Br. Guiana. I knew few Guyanese in Toronto, and my social interactions were mainly with "locals" through work or leisure activities. Having no immediate family contact remaining in Guyana (communications with Aunts and Uncles were the responsibility of my parents, not me!), I lost track of what was going on in Guyana. There was the occasional small item in the newspapers whenever something noteworthy occurred in Guyana, but the country was just a blip on the world stage and did not rate priority or continuous news coverage. Eventually, in the mid-1990s, someone got hold of my address and started to send me information about a Toronto Saints Alumni Association. Initially, I was only mildly interested but, eventually, my curiosity got the better of me and I decided to attend some of the meetings.

These meetings were eye-openers for me. I heard about past and current events in Guyana for the first time. When those at the meetings talked about helping out the boys and girls at the College, my instant reaction was : "Girls?" I did not know that all the high schools were now co-educational! I did not know that the Government had taken over all education, even from the religious orders! I did not know that the Jesuits were no

longer a factor in teaching at the College! In fact, just a few months ago, when there were discussions about students finding it difficult to get to school in Georgetown and forced to use taxis from the East Coast areas, my query about why weren't they using the train was greeted with howls of laughter. I did not know that the train service had long since been eliminated!

I decided to join the Association and become an active member in giving back to the school the help it had given to me in my education. This included a donation to purchase a plaque on the Wall of Fame, and a resolve to visit Guyana for the official dedication of the Wall. It took many years for the Wall to be built and completed but, finally, a date of November 2005 became the target for the dedication.

Over the years of my membership in the Association, various alumni began to enlighten me about the current environment there. I also saw photos of the College and of other areas of Georgetown, and it was continually stressed to me that, if I were to visit, I would not see very much which corresponded to my memories of the place. Forewarned, they say, is forearmed, so I was quite prepared to see the worst when I made my plans for my first visit to Guyana in 46 years. Or was I? In spite of having been given all these warnings, no information given to me verbally or pictorially had quite prepared me for what I experienced. Like "doubting Thomas", I had to see it to believe it.

Since airport terminals, no matter where they are, are not among my favourite places to visit, my first impressions begin at the point of leaving the terminal building...and they were not bad! Although there was some chaos as the taxi drivers competed for fares, I actually was impressed by what I perceived to be a "uniform" they wore. I think that they looked "smart" in the white shirts which identified them as taxi drivers. From there on, everything went downhill! On the journey into town, I soon found it better (calmer!) to study the passing landscape to try to identify objects from my memory (a totally unsuccessful activity) than to watch the driver manoeuvre through the traffic at a frightening speed on the narrow (though now paved) road. I was somewhat surprised at the extent of the vehicular traffic on this road and, later, in the city in spite of the high price of petrol.

My first view of the school made my heart immediately sink! I know that we, in Toronto, had sent much financial aid to repair the school buildings and, yet, all I could see were a lot of broken windows!

As we drove along High Street (now

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renamed the Avenue of the Republic), I finally started to recognize some buildings (the Law Courts, the Town Hall, the Library) and some missing ones (like the Chronicle, and the Sacred Heart

Church and School). However, I was amazed at how the wide street of my memory seemed to have narrowed considerably. This narrowing may be due to the large number of parked vehicles, the traffic, and the pedestrians criss-crossing the road.

During the next twenty-four hours, I walked around the city, trying to reconcile my memories to the present. I was sorely disappointed in “seeing” many missing flamboyant trees which used to shade and give colour to the central pedestrian walks along both Camp and Main Sts. Many of the grass verges bordering the streets seemed to have gotten smaller or disappeared and, yet, the streets still seemed to be narrower. There were many “new” buildings, and many of the large old residences were either in need of paint or repair, or had been converted to commercial use. A sign at the Promenade Gardens stated that it was closed and currently undergoing renovation. I could see that it was badly overgrown and poorly cared for but, yet, there were no signs of anyone working to restore it to its previous splendour.

Along the Avenue of the Republic, there was litter everywhere and, wherever there were trenches or gutters, the water was stagnant, smelled awful, and was also full of garbage and litter. The motorized traffic was continuous (in spite of high petrol prices), and no rules of the road seemed to be obeyed as all of the stop lights seemed to be non-operative. Bicycles, the transportation of choice in my day, were noticeable by their absence. The reason, I was later told, was that they were easily stolen and disposed of. There was no public transportation, and people got around by hailing taxis (cars or mini-vans) which would be shared by many individual fares and which acted as de facto buses.

At the College, my first impression was : where did the trench in front of it come from? I remembered only a small “standard” concrete gutter with fast flowing water in which we used to race paper boats, not the current large, smelly, stagnant trench. I was impressed with the new wall and the plaques, and was pleased to see workmen repairing the west-side zinc fence (between the College and the government offices). I had a quick look at the ground floor rooms, and I was dismayed at what I saw. All the classrooms needed to be refurbished. The two science labs were nothing short of a disaster area....I don't know how science classes can be taught in them!



The author (left) with Saints contemporaries Pat Derrell (centre), and Desmond Birchsmith (right), at the dedication ceremony of The Wall of Fame.

The new cafeteria was in full operation, but the manageress related her story of the January flooding which had resulted in two feet of water damaging the floor. She had replaced the floor lining behind the counter with hard (porcelain?) tiles at her own personal expense, as this made it easier for her to clean and maintain. She asked us to approach the administration to do the same for the rest of the floor which still needed some repair.

I walked to the Cathedral, again despairing at the changes to the large and beautiful previous residences on Brickdam, and received a most pleasant surprise. When I last saw it, the building was almost all black with grime accumulated over the years but, now, it was sparkling clean and freshly painted where it should be. Inside was another pleasant revelation. It was clean and well painted (in white and colours), and looked better than the way I remembered it.

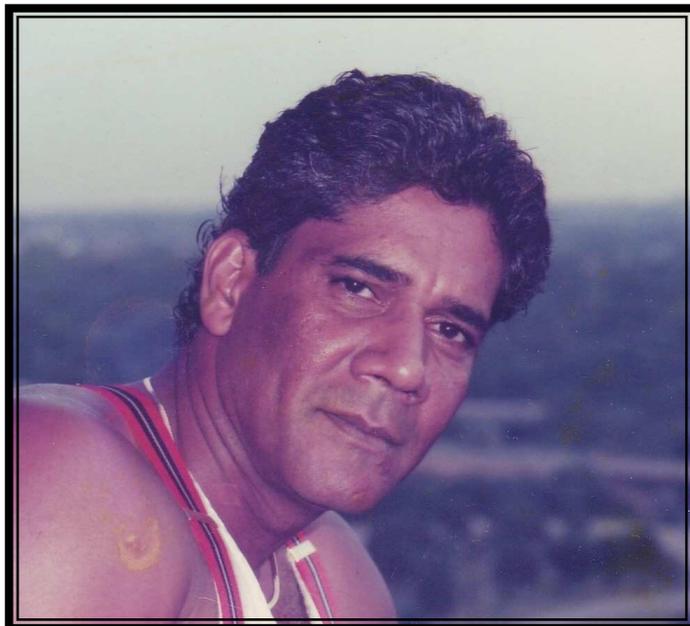
Across the road on the east side of Camp St., it was a different case. I had attended “Brickdam” (St. Mary's R.C. Primary) School, but the building I knew was no longer

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The Passing of a Pillar of our Association

Howard Bryce

February 9
1946



November 29
2005

In Memoriam

It is with much regret and very great sadness that we communicate to you the sudden death of **Howard Bryce**.

Howard was a Past President of St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto and a current member of the Executive committee. He has been a most active member of the Association almost from the inception of this organization, demonstrating his commitment by being always willing to stand for election to the Executive. Over the last five years, he became the organizer for all the dances of the Association, and their successes must be attributed to his selfless dedication to the objectives of the Association.

Within the Executive, Howard was well-known for his efforts in moving the Association towards doing more not just for the College itself but for giving direct assistance to the individual students. His enthusiasm overflowed to his wife, Jackie, who became a member of the Association and always attended the Executive meeting and helped in our fund-raising events in spite of not being an alumnus of the College.

Howard will be greatly missed by all of us. On behalf of the Association and all alumni and friends, we extend our deep and sincere sympathies to Jackie and his family. We ask you to remember him and his family in your prayers.

Bunty Phillips

Saint's Computer Laboratory

Roger Devers

During my recent visit to Guyana for the dedication of the "Wall of Fame", I was charged with the task of visiting the computer laboratory and to report back on what would be needed to upgrade the facility. Even though there were a limited number of functioning computers, the students that I spoke to all had good things to say about the current teaching of Information Technology at the college.

The unstable electrical power over the years had ruined many of the computers previously sent to the college. With the rewiring and installation of new transformers, the electrical situation has improved. At present, defective computers stacked on side benches provide a source of parts to keep the few remaining units functioning.

What is now needed is a major investment in new computers and accessories. Not only are there requests from the IT Department, but requests from the Languages department, Visual Arts department and the Library.

We are fortunate that, with the installation of a board of Governors, the problems of accountability has essentially been resolved. The Works Committee, consisting of David Fernandes, Raymond Shaw and Robin Lowe now provide local expertise to advise us on the ongoing needs as well as the ability to maintain the facility. I am very excited about the future prospects of Informa-

tion Technology at Saint's and would like to urge anyone in a position to donate equipment to the Computer Laboratory to do so by contacting any member of our Executive.



At the Saints Computer Laboratory

Left to Right: The Saints IT teacher, Gavin Ferreira – President of the Barbados Association, John Lewis – President of the Guyana Association, Pat Thompson – Barbados Association, Roger Devers – Toronto Association, Suresh Singh – Guyana Association

The Industrial Arts Department

An industrial arts class was started several years ago in an effort to make this course an option at Saints. Building space was provided but even today, an appropriate learning environment has not been available for the students to seriously consider taking this option. Our response to this situation is typical of the way in which we have been able to help the school tackle needs that are well defined and within our means.

At the dedication ceremony of the Wall, our Association presented a cheque for CDN\$ 6000.00 towards the cost of refurbishing ceilings, windows, doors and other such basic needs of the classroom. It is the intention of the Association to work closely with the new Board of Governors of the school to see that the school provides a fully functional industrial arts department in the near future.



Association President Des Jardine (left) presents a cheque to John Lewis for refurbishing of the Industrial Arts building. John is a member of the St. Stanislaus Board of Governors and is president of the Guyana Association.

Opening of the Wall of Fame

On November 11, Remembrance Day, and two days before the feast of St. Stanislaus Kostka, the Wall of Fame of St. Stanislaus College was opened. The opening was an occasion for many of the alumni to meet, and for some to visit their homeland after many years of absence living abroad.

The Stabroek News gave full coverage to this event, and we are indebted to them for permission to reproduce their article below taken from the November 12 issue of the paper.

An additional item of note is the fact that donations of any amount may be made in the name of past members of staff. A plaque will then be installed when sufficient funds have accumulated in the name of the staff member nominated.



Students of Saint Stanislaus College fascinated by the school's wall of fame opened yesterday.

A St Stanislaus College Wall of Fame was opened yesterday afternoon in a ceremony attended by members of two of the school's overseas Associations, students, and the school's Board of Governors appointed two months ago.

The wall is a brick one to the north of the school, facing Brickdam. The idea of the wall is for former students to "buy a brick" on the wall where a plaque will be placed with the student's name and period of attendance.

A brick costs CDN\$200, President of the St Stanislaus College Association (Guyana) John Lewis said. There are 104 plaques on the wall now, with room for 400. The wall is 126'X5' high and cost about CDN\$38,000 to build.

"The good, the bad, or the ugly can buy a brick," Lewis told Stabroek News.

A. Rupert De Castro of the St Stanislaus Alumni Association (Toronto) presented the idea in 1996. He told Stabroek News the idea stemmed from observing that Jamaicans had built a community centre in Toronto by selling a brick for the centre for CDN\$10. The concept of putting a plaque on the brick was observed at a police association dedicated to fallen men of the force.

There is also an Alumni Association in Barbados.

The occasion saw the getting together of old students including some who had not visited Guyana for a long time. "Bunty" Phillips of the Toronto Association had not returned to Guyana in 46 years. He wore a tie he got when he attended the school.

Cecil de Caires was one of the oldest to have contrib-

uted to the venture. His plaque on the wall says: 1929-1934. He died before the venture became a reality.

Chris Fernandes, Chairman of the school's Board of Governors introduced members of the Board present to the gathering. The Board is made up of 18 members. He described the Board members as enthusiastic, vibrant, and committed. He felt encouraged, Fernandes said, by the show of support from the Associations.

The Board will be responsible for the running of the school, Fernandes informed the gathering, and this would include the hiring and firing of staff, except the head and deputy head teachers of the school.

It will receive a subvention from the Ministry of Education to help but, if there is a shortfall the board will have to fill in. Though this is a challenge, Fernandes said, when the board inspected the school, the challenge took on a bigger magnitude.

The board hopes to get sponsorship to refurbish six classrooms by year-end. The Board has refurbished one at a cost of GUY\$300 000 (CDN\$,2000). Toilets, too, need to be done. Fernandes called upon students to report anyone found defacing work done on the school. President of the Association in Toronto, Des Jardine, presented a cheque for CDN\$6,000 for the Industrial Arts Department.

Fernandes threw out the challenge for parents and teachers to join the Associations. He is the first Chairman of the Board of Governors. This could be attributed, Fernandes said, to the fact that his father was the first president of the school's Association back in 1943. He was born a year later.

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Also at the ceremony were President of the Barbados Alumni Association, Gavin Ferreira and acting Chief Education Officer, Genvieve Whyte Nedd, who said she was happy as the Ministry embraces partnerships. "What a wonderful mix".

Stabroek News, November 12, 2005



Members of the Barbados Association at the opening ceremony: left to right: Peter De Freitas, Keith Arno, Gavin Ferreira (President), Pat Thompson, Gerald De Freitas, Pat Derrell and Ken Khan. Ken was Head Master of Saints from 1972 to 1980.



Gathered at the Wall Dedication Plaque: Des Jardine (stooping) president of the Toronto Alumni Association, and left to right standing: Keith Arno of the Barbados Association, A. Rupert De Castro and Bunty Phillips of the Toronto Alumni Association.

*Celebrating the Dedication of
The Wall of Fame*



Reunion at The Wall. The Devers brothers, all St. Stanislaus alumni, at the opening of The Wall. It was 48 years ago that Brian (second from left) started at St. Stanislaus. He was followed by Roger (second from right), Clive (right) and Terrence (left).



Celebrating the Dedication of The Wall that evening

Above, left to right: Justin Habibulla, Sandell Kissoon, Mark King and wife.

Below, left to right: Camille Teekasingh-deGroot, Karen Gordon-Boyle, Joanne Collins-Gonsalves & Johnathan Yearwood.



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there. Instead of a two-storey building, there was a single (ground-floor) level building which looked like an aircraft hangar. I later learnt that the old building had been in irreparable condition, and that the new building had been erected by the U.S. Army as a gift. No wonder it looked like a military building!

In my walk-about, I could identify very few buildings of my memories. The Chinese grocery on the north-east corner of Camp & Charlotte Sts. and the “shaker” church just a few buildings away were still there, the former being closed and completely devoid of any paint (and looking like it might fall down at any time) and the latter having had a new face added on. Of the three houses in which I lived at different times, only one was still standing. Though it needed some repairs and a good paint job, it had remained exactly the same, at 45 Brickdam, as my father had had built, which was more than I could say about all the nearby houses which had either changed unrecognisably or been replaced.

I went past St. Barnabas Church (which had been nicely freshened up on the outside) on Orange Walk along the east side of Bourda Market. I could hardly find the street itself. Vendors on both sides of the road had encroached so much that it would have been difficult for two cars to pass each other. The road surface itself was practically non-existent. It consisted of large holes connected by the odd piece of tar or pavement! I discovered that Bourda Green had met a fate similar to the road. It was now completely an extension of the market which had grown even further north. The North Road/Church St. “punt trenches” in which we used to fish for patwa had been filled in, and the market vendors had taken over this area as well.

St. Rose’s (Ursuline Convent) still stood as I remembered it, but my heart went out to them. The buildings seemed to be in a dreadful state. Opposite, the old “water-works” building (which had seemed to be “falling down” even when I lived there) had finally been taken down, and a formal square had been created, dedicated to a local celebrity. The Astor, seemingly the only cinema still in operation (I actually heard the early afternoon movie being shown as I went past), was also in need of some repair and paint.

In walking up Camp St. to see the sea-wall, I crossed the smelly, stagnant Lamaha trench and noted that the old sluice gate was still there while the train tracks and gate were gone. I passed the newly renovated QC and was unhappy to see that a security fence had been installed around it, with a security hut at the gate. It is a sad commentary on the times when security fences and

guards are *de rigueur* for any large or important buildings. I was anticipating a hard walk up the steep hill at the sea-wall end of Camp St. but, to my surprise, there was no longer a hill but a gradual slope. As well, the large sand-hill on the east corner had completely disappeared.

When I stood on the sea-wall, I was crest-fallen at what I saw. The tide was out, but there was little or no beach! All I could see were mud flats. All the old jetties had either completely disappeared or were in ruins. There was nothing to stop the very high tides from washing away any deposits of sand. What was left of the beach was overgrown with small trees or shrubs among which were signs of obvious occupation by homeless people. As well, the ubiquitous garbage and litter was every where.

The sea-wall itself seemed generally to be in good condition, but it seemed to become impassable with overgrown trees and brush after I passed the “round-house” (which still stood). I had to take a detour along a path behind the Pegasus Hotel which had replaced the large pool or reservoir, the purpose of which I had never known. I’m not sure if this change is an improvement!

As I headed towards the river and what used to be the electric power station, I saw that the old bathing huts were gone, and in their place were one or two houses in an area badly overgrown with trees and brush. On the shore itself (beyond the sea-wall), there was a large wooden boat (of commercial size) being constructed, and more signs of people living “rough” in the bushes. I reached the river and walked along the groyne with some trepidation as this structure also showed signs of needing some repair.

In walking along High Street in the Kingston area, I could not fail to notice that all the great houses that still remained on this street either had been turned into commercial buildings or now housed government offices. In fact, government offices seemed to be everywhere. I wonder how many people it takes to run a government of such a small country. Too many, I suspect! In addition, I felt it rather incongruous to see residences (many in need of repair and paint) mixed in with commercial and government buildings. There seemed to be no city zoning plan which would regulate the use of property in the various areas of the city.

All in all, my first day was a real culture shock! I was disappointed, sad, depressed, and angry to see how badly the city had deteriorated. I even felt some guilt in that, perhaps, I could have contributed in some way to stopping the slide from happening. However, sanity and reality soon set in as I had a very busy schedule of meetings for the next few days, and

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Board of Governors now runs Saints

A. Rupert De Castro and Bunty Phillips

A wind of change is blowing through the education system in Guyana, and Saints is now in the “eye” of the hurricane. An unbelievable opportunity now exists for moving Saints forward in accomplishing our collective goal of “Making Saints the No. 1 secondary educational institution in Guyana”.

The Government has created a Board of Governors which will have complete responsibility for managing the school and which will be given an annual pre-determined amount of funds for the school’s expenses (e.g. teachers’ salaries, maintenance, etc.). The Board will be responsible for developing the budget, as well as for the hiring and dismissal of all staff, except for the Head and the Deputy Head who, by legislation, are the responsibility of the Minister of Education. Even in these cases, the Minister has given his full support to the Board by indicating that he will accept any recommendations made to him by the Board. At this time, we have few other details on how the Board will operate and, indeed, on its mandate from the Government.

The Minister has asked and appointed alumnus Chris Fernandes to be the initial Chairman of the Board. Together with the Minister, he has chosen a Board of twenty stalwarts, the vast majority of whom are Saints alumni, drawn from industry, academia, staff, and parents. We feel certain that, under Chris’ capable chairmanship, the Board will accomplish great things. In fact, we have already seen the positive effects the Board has had in its short three months of operation. Buildings are being painted, grounds have been cleaned, classrooms are being refurbished, a raffle is on to raise US\$10,000 and committees have been struck to share the load and come up with positive suggestions. We have also heard of Board members using their own personal money to get projects completed. This is the spirit!

Mrs. Esther McGarrell, the Headmistress, and her staff are doing their part as evidenced by the award presented to Saints by the Ministry of Education. Saints is the MOST improved secondary school for the year in all of Guyana. Yet, Mrs. McGarrell has been on the job for only just over a year. Our wish is that Mrs. McGarrell and her staff wins this award every year.

Now is the time to “get on board”. The Government no longer runs Saints; Saints old boys/girls now run Saints. We need YOUR support. The Toronto Association has committed CDN\$50,000 towards matching every equivalent CDN\$1 that the Board raises for Saints by 31st August, 2006. We will be receiving a list of projects and their related costs from the Board in due course, and we will be soliciting your contributions to assist the Board in improving conditions at Saints.

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I consigned this irrational feeling to the back recesses of my mind. Later, on Sunday, I was pleased to find that at least one Guyanese characteristic had not changed. As I was driven in a taxi through the city after lunch, there were very few people on the streets. It seemed that the time-honoured tradition of having a big lunch on Sunday and then sleeping it off in the afternoon was still observed!

I had walked around the city to places I knew as I was growing up. I think I was trying to go back to and recapture my youth or, at least, the fond memories of my youth. I found out that I couldn’t. Time doesn’t work that way. All I can do now is to try to help the current youth to create their own good memories of growing up in a place which needs all the help it can get.

L. A. (Bunty) Phillips – 1955 5th Form

The St. Stanislaus College Farm Complex

Agricultural Training is our Business

- that's the motto of the college farm. We are indebted to the Coordinator of the Farm Complex for the following information on its activities.

Background

The St. Stanislaus College Farm Complex (Complex), located at 69 Sophia Backlands, Greater Georgetown Guyana was established in 1975 to provide practical training for Agriculture Science students of the St. Stanislaus College. The Complex comprises the St. Stanislaus College Farm (SSCF), the St. Stanislaus Training Centre (SSTC) and the Dairy Products Unit (DPU). The St. Stanislaus Old Boys Association owns the 13 acre Complex. Most of the Farm's income is generated from dairy and poultry production. In addition, there are: a sheep enterprise, an integrated fish and duck enterprise, a humus production unit, a compost production unit, a hydroponics unit and a dairy products unit.

St. Stanislaus Model

Collaboration with IICA, CARDI and NDDP as from 1983 resulted in the testing and validation of improved dairy production technologies that are appropriate and cost effective for small scale dairy producers in coastal Guyana. This improved package of technologies, commonly referred to as the "St. Stanislaus Model", has been used to train / expose farmers as well as students from secondary schools, universities and agricultural training institutions. The model has also been exposed to farmers, technicians and students from the Caribbean.

Training

The SSTC was constructed in 1993 with financing from Futures Fund while the Agricultural Institute of Canada and the German and Netherlands Micro-Project funded training equipment and materials (videos and brochures).

Persons trained / exposed over the years include farmers, students from primary and secondary schools as well as students from the Guyana School of Agriculture, the Regional Programme for Animal Health Assistants and the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Guyana.

Instructors / facilitators are experienced scientists and technicians drawn from the SSCF and from collaboration institutions such as the National Agricultural Research Institute, Inter-american Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, National Dairy Development Project, University of Guyana and the Ministry of Fisheries Crops and Livestock.

The SSTC has a television and VCR and uses these to show appropriate training materials to students and visitors. It is in the process of acquiring its own multimedia projector and computer to better facilitate training. In addition, a new set of training modules are in the process of being prepared.

Training is offered in:

Organic Fertilizer Production, Dairy Management, Poultry Production, Hydroponics, Marketing of Agricultural Products, and Agri-business Management.

Editor's Note:

Further information on operation of the farm, including training programmes offered, may be had by contacting the Coordinator, Mr. Kelvin Craig by email at sscf@yahoo.com.



The St. Stanislaus College Farm Complex at Sophia Backlands



Visitors to the Farm Complex last November learn about dairy operations. Front row, left to right are Andy Carto, alumnus living in Guyana, Jackie Bryce, Des Jardine, Andre Devers and Clive Devers. Bunty Phillips can be seen in the background behind Des Jardine.

Membership

We are pleased to report that our membership continues to grow. Below is a complete listing of our members, with names in *Italics* indicating those who joined since our last issue. We shall be publishing our membership list regularly, in part to acknowledge those who have paid their dues. If you have sent in your dues and your name is not listed below, please let us know and we will correct our oversight. Alumni are invited to join by filling out the Membership Form on the last page of this issue, and sending it in along with the annual dues. Membership remains at \$25.00 as it has been since the start of our Association in 1993!

Bernard Austin	<i>Stephen DeCastro</i>	Trevor Gomes	<i>Joseph Mendes de Franca</i>	Desmond Rodrigues
Michael Barrington	Compton DeFreitas	Mark Gonsalves	<i>Michael Mendes de Franca</i>	Joseph Schuler
Anthony Bollers	Peter DeFreitas	<i>Claude Gouveia</i>	<i>Vincent Mendes de Franca</i>	Keith Seaforth
David Bourne	Vyvyan Deryck	Alfred Goveia	Vincent Mendes de Franca	Maurice Serrao
Teddy Boyce	Brian Devers	Ken Hahnfeld	Aubrey Miller	Tony Seth
<i>Howard Bryce</i>	Clive Devers	Hugh Hazlewood	Richard Miller	Cecil Seymour
Ian Camacho	Roger Devers	Paul Hazlewood	Tony O'Dowd	Robin Shaw
Paul Camacho	Terence Devers	Andrew Insanally	Malcolm Pequenezza	<i>Desmond Singh</i>
<i>Wilfred Carr</i>	Neville Devonish	Richard James	Leslie Pereira	Walter Tiam-fook
Joseph Castanheiro	Frederick Dias	John Jardim	Andre Periana	Arthur Veerasammy
Ronald Chanderbhan	Ronald D'Ornellas	Des Jardine	Desmond Perreira	Vibert Vieira
<i>Errol Chapman</i>	<i>Edward Driver</i>	Aubrey Kellawan	Bunty Phillips	John Vincent
Victor Charan	Paul Duarte	John King	<i>Carl Ramalho</i>	Clement Owen
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Dennis DeCambra	<i>Gerard Gomes</i>	<i>Kenneth Macaulay</i>	Michael Roberts	
Rupert DeCastro	<i>Michael Gomes</i>	Walter Melville		

JOY AND LAUGHTER AMONG THE TEARS

As a former Executive member, I attended our Association's dinner meeting on November 30th. It was one of celebration of a life and a wall; the life of a true and trusted friend and associate Howard Bryce and the Wall of Fame.

Congratulations to our delegation to Guyana, whose inspiring reports on the visit filled all those present with a newfound sense of pride and purpose in keeping the traditions alive. Des, our illustrious President, Rupert, our distinguished Past President, the brothers Devers, Roger and Clive, were most impressive in their reports on the events during their visit to Guyana.

With the creation of a Board of Governors, ably led by Mr. Chris Fernandes, to handle the affairs of our Alma Mater, the College's future as an outstanding educational institution is now most certainly assured. With continued support from us and our sister Associations in Barbados and New York, it shall regain its former prestige as a leading institution of learning in our homeland.

With a new and strict disciplinarian and educator as Principal of the College, the students seem to have been energized, and are destined to restore the prestige once attributed to "SAINTS", now 139 years old. Results of the recent CXC examinations attest to this.

The newly established Board of Governors promises a brighter future for the College. I never felt so upbeat about our Alma Mater, since joining the Association. I was really impressed by my associates and amazed at how much their visit of just a few days in Guyana has achieved, knowing how discouraging it has been in the past, due to the difficult lines of communication between the College and our Association in Toronto.

The meeting concluded with words of remembrance of Howard, a prayer and a minute of silence in his honour for his unstinting dedication to our cause. It was a night I shall long remember, a night of joy and laughter, filled with tears.

Hilary De Cambra

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

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

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

Alumni Association Membership Form

Please complete this portion and return it with a cheque for CND\$ 25.00 payable to:

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Phone (Res.) : _____ **Amount enclosed: \$** _____ **Year graduated:** _____

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Produce from the St. Stanislaus Farm Complex ready for shipping. The farm was hard hit during the recent floods, but has now largely recovered and has resumed its commercial production of dairy products. It is a recognized model of a well run business. It provides training and generates revenue for the college. See Page 10 inside for an account of this very successful operation.



St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto
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 (www.torontosaints.com)

New Year's Eve 2005 Celebration

Table service

5 course dinner

☆ **By the Incomparable Terrence Headley** ☆

Dinner Choice (Main Course)

Chicken Breast stuffed with goat cheese served with a mushroom sauce OR Prime Rib Roast of Beef

Time: 7:00pm - 2:00am
 (Dinner served at 8:00pm)
Place: Thornhill Community Center
 7755 Bayview Avenue
 Thornhill, ON
 (Corner of Bayview & John St.)

Dress: Formal

Only: \$75 Per Person **OR**

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Per Couple

Includes
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At Midnight

ONLY 8
persons
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Includes
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