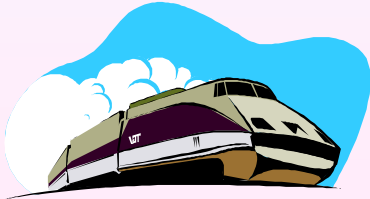


# BUXTON-FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS



*Charting A New Development Path!*

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Government hands over computers and steelband
- Several women approved for low-interest investment loans
- Health Centre facilities further expanded
- COTAB donates school uniforms, books and more
- Lewd Passa Passa activities invade Buxton on Friday nights

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## DELIVERY UNDER WAY

During a ceremony at the Office of the President in Georgetown, on 8 September, at which twenty computer sets and an 18-piece steel band were handed over to representatives of the Buxton-Friendship community, President Bharat Jagdeo urged facilitators to provide Computer training programmes for both young and older villagers. He also directed that the machines be put into use immediately and commended Buxtonians for their strong sense of community service.

The President also encouraged community leaders to approach GT&T, a major telephone service provider, for free internet connection, and exhorted other private entities to assist in Buxton's revitalization efforts.

The computers were distributed among four groups in the community.



*Robin Phillips stands next to the batch of computers and peripherals that were allotted to his Buxton Youth Developers organization.*

Six were allotted to Buxton Youth Developers (BYD), a group housed inside the abandoned market, which offers free educational and recreational programmes to the community. It is headed by Mr. Robin Phillips. BYD was formed in March 2007 and aims to

“regain the glory of Buxton through Sports, Education and Culture”. It offers classes in Reading Writing, Mathematics and Social Studies every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The group also maintains a library which is accessible to the com-

*(Continued on page 2)*

# DELIVERY UNDER WAY

(Continued from page 1)

munity on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sports activities are facilitated on weekends.

Buxton Youth Developers will also soon benefit from a new multipurpose building to be constructed at Vigilance through a grant from the Canadian government.

According to a recent

Stabroek News report: "A release from the Canadian High Commission here stated that an Amended Contribution Agreement was signed with the group [BYD] on Monday [20 September, 2010] and builds on the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives' (CFLI) earlier contribution of some \$2.4M in 2009. That

money was used for, among other things, leveling the ground and to build bleachers and a sanitary block.

"The overall cost of the second phase of this project is approximately G\$5.9M of which CFLI's new contribution will provide G\$5M and the Rotary Club of Stabroek will source G\$900,000," the release stated.

It added that the building will be used for the direct support of the BYD's Literacy, Educational and Recreational Project."

Two computers were also given to Grace Assemblies of God Church, located on Friendship Middle Walk, south of the Embankment Road. According to Pastor Desmond Glasgow, this donation will boost the computer training programme recently launched by the church. Training in basic computer applications is currently provided by two volunteers and classes are free of charge. Participants do not have to be members of Grace Assemblies of God Church.

Another six were given to Pastor Terry Thomas' Ambassadors of Christ, located on Company Road, in the vicinity of Ogle Street.

The final six machines went to the Toucan II Club, which presently operates from space inside the Friendship Primary School. Construction work on a new building to house the Club is expected to resume with the acquisition a GY\$22 million grant from the government.

Just last month, this club also benefited from a donation of two computers by Dr. Richard Van West Charles' foundation. Toucan II provides tutoring, literary resource services, cultural and sports activities to youths in the community. Founder and Past President, Yvette Herod, was reportedly pleased with the gift.

## Steelband

The community also received 18 pieces of steel pans. These are currently housed at the Community High School and training, organized by the Ministry of Culture, is expected to get underway very soon. The band is, however, short of a drum set and a donation will be welcomed.

## Investment Loans

Forty applicants were approved for collateral-free loans under the government's Women of Worth (WOW) programme. It is adminis-

(Continued on page 3)



President Bharrat Jagdeo (2nd from left) and members of Toucan II Multipurpose Club posing with some of the new steel pans donated to Buxton. Also in photo are Buxtonian government officials-Messrs. Odinga Lumumba (extreme left) and. Clyde Roopchand (extreme right).



Pastor Terry Thomas (2nd from left) with Buxton School students posing with one of the donated computers at President's Office.

# NEW STREET NAMES UNVEILED

(Continued from page 2)

tered by Guyana Bank for Trade & Industry (GBTI) and makes available GY\$100,000 to GY\$250,000 to eligible single mothers for investment in small business ventures. Training and advice are also provided to borrowers, who are given up to two years to repay the loan at a below-market interest rate of 6%.

### Tipperary Hall

According to informa-

tion reaching 'Express', work on the reconstruction of Tipperary Hall could start before year's end if a contract is signed before then. Notice inviting bids from interested contractors should soon published. The government has already committed up to GY\$56 million for this project.

### School Feeding

This programme is also expected to begin by next month. A meeting

was recently held with the principals of the community high school and three primary schools to work out logistics.

### Street Names

Until now, the new streets developed in recent decades that run between the main roads in the village, were all called "middle streets". They had no names of their own. Earlier this year, the Buxton-Foulis NDC accepted a suggestion to give these streets names in honour of Bux-

tonians who served the village with distinction. From the nominations submitted, the NDC approved names for three streets. These are Winifred Thierens-Gaskin Street, Clyde Roopchand Street and E.F. Fredericks Street.

In a simple ceremony on 19 September, prominent signs bearing the names of these newly-christened streets were unveiled. See descriptions below.



Winifred Thierens Gaskin Street is the "middle street" between Buxton's Side Line Dam and Middle Walk. It runs behind her former home, which later housed County/Republic High School.

She was a recipient of the Buxton Scholarship in 1926 and runner-up for the Guyana Scholarship. She served as a Minister of Education and High Commissioner to Jamaica.



Clyde Roopchand Street is the "middle street" between Company Road and Friendship Middle Walk. He was instrumental in the massive road improvement project as well as the construction of the new Practical Instruction Centre and Buxton Primary School buildings in the village.



E. Fredericks Street is the "middle street" between Friendship Middle Walk and Brusche Dam.

Edmund Fitzgerald Fredericks was a teacher and famous lawyer who successfully petitioned the Government to establishing the Buxton Scholarship, which enabled children from the community to attend top high schools in Georgetown

# IMPROVED HEALTH SERVICES

## GINA Report

26 August, 2010

Following hard on the heels of the recent visit by President Bharrat Jagdeo to Buxton, yesterday Minister in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Bheri Ramsaran, led a team of Ministry and Regional officials to inspect the community health centre, interact with its staff, and meet with the citizens. In an effort to ensure that adequate and sufficient health services are provided nationwide, the Health Ministry has been dispatching skilled personnel to various health facilities. Additionally, improvements have been ongoing on the infrastructure of these facilities, ensuring that services are provided in a conducive environment. These interventions reduce the number of patients who frequent the major health facilities and encourage them to seek services at health facilities within proximity of their homes. Dr. Ramsaran was a member of the team accompanying President Bharrat Jagdeo on his August 19 visit to Buxton, East Coast Demerara. Minister Ramsaran met with residents immediately after the meeting ended and heard

their complaints, concerns and recommendations regarding the provision of primary health care in the large, densely populated village and neighbouring communities. The Minister undertook to personally visit in the week following President Jagdeo's meeting.

In keeping with this commitment, the Minister dispatched a technical team to the community on Monday to interact with the Regional Health Officer and Regional Executive Officer, and the Health Centre staff in advance of his visit yesterday. The Buxton Health Centre is one of the largest in the country. It is staffed by a young Guyanese Graduate Doctor, Dr. Heather Morris, a mid-wife, several nursing assistants, a pharmacy assistant and a clinic attendant.

Minister Ramsaran was accompanied by Regional Health Officer (East Coast Demerara), Karen Cummings; Regional Health Services Manager, Rayann Shury; Coordinator for Coastal Facilities, Carol Joseph; and District Development Officer, Rickford Profit. The team was supported by a Civil Engineer working for the Ministry.

At the Buxton Health



*Minister in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Bheri Ramsaran, interacts with patients waiting to be seen at the Buxton Health Centre*

Centre, Minister Ramsaran interacted with the health care providers to discuss their needs, the adequacy of services provided and ways of improving the facilities and services provided. The Minister advised that he intended to deploy to the Centre a second doctor. He stated that he was exploring the possibility of a resident doctor for the Buxton Community. The upper flat of the building could be renovated to function as doctors' quarters. Dr. Ramsaran emphasized that this would be beneficial for the community. During a tour of the facilities, Dr. Ramsaran inspected the on-going renovations being done on the doctors' quarters, dental area and laboratory. Renovation to the old section of the centre is also to be done. Dr. Ramsaran pointed out that following the reno-

vation, the provision of specialized services will be improved.

Requests were made for a guard to be stationed at the health centre on a 24-hour basis, medications, installation of lockers, an ambulance and dental tools.

At the health centre services are provided by professional nurses, nurse assistants, pharmacists, midwife and dental workers. Additionally, several trainees from the Board of Industrial Training (BIT) and work study students are attached to the centre. Dr. Ramsaran indicated that the attachment gives them the opportunity to experience the nursing profession and this can result in them seeking professional training through the Ministry of Health, in the future. He also advised the staff to appropriately dispose

*(Continued on page 5)*

# HEALTH SERVICES

*(Continued from page 4)*  
of waste. The District Development Officer, Rickford Proffitt, indicated that the NDC was advised to remove regular or general solid waste from the Centre more frequently. The infectious medical waste will continue to be collected in special red plastic bags and incinerated in the clay brick incinerator in the compound of the Centre. Sharps, such as used needles and scalpel blades, are collected in special receptacles which are removed from the facility at frequent

intervals. The facility will no longer burn in its incinerator the regular or general waste, as currently occurs. This will be stored in black plastic bags for removal by the NDC. Minister Ramsaran expressed satisfaction with the waste disposal measures. In his brief address to the residents and staff, Dr. Ramsaran drew attention to the services being provided by the Dr. C.C. Nicholson Hospital at Nabaclis. He called on residents to utilize these services more frequently. This

small hospital is located some 15 minutes by motor vehicle from Buxton. The C.C. Nicholson Hospital has facilitated the delivery of 49 babies for the first six months of this year, as compared to 30 for the corresponding period last year. Minister Ramsaran pointed out that the Government is committed to continued improvement in the health of the residents of Buxton and surrounding communities. He said that the visit of his team and the visible acceleration in the renovation works at the Bux-

ton Health Centre were a direct consequence of President Jagdeo's recent visit to the community and the commitments he made to Buxtonians then. Minister Ramsaran later met with Regional Executive Officer, Donald Gajraj, at the Triumph RDC Office to coordinate the efforts of the central Ministry of Health and the Regional Administration in the improvements at Buxton.  
(GINA)

## Fall of Tipperary



*GOING! GOING!*



*GONE!*

# COTAB MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Committee to Assist Buxton/Friendship, which is popularly known by its acronym-COTAB, is the Toronto-based organisation that caters to the interests and welfare of Buxtonians, and promotes activities to benefit the village. The group was formed in 2000 and continues to make a big difference in the community. During the 170th Anniversary celebration in Buxton, COTAB struck a notable presence. Its president, Ingrid Ifill-King, delivered greetings and well wishes, on behalf of the group, at the Opening Ceremony. She also accepted the role of a lead representative and worked assiduously to secure much-needed government assistance for the village. Another of its Executive Committee members, Charis Newton-Thompson, lent her expertise in Education to the conference, which resulted in the development of a number of initiatives to improve conditions and results at the schools in the village. In addition, the group took the opportunity to roll out some gifts to the community.

- \* Seventy-five students from the three primary schools in the community were each outfitted with a pair of school uniforms.
- \* A large number of books was donated to the Library located at the Community Centre building.
- \* Several Sports items and books were donated to the Buxton Youth Developers organisation and Toucan II Club.
- \* Stuffed toys and books were also presented to the three Nursery schools
- \* Provision of Medical and Dental supplies for the healthcare clinics
- \* Presentation of Appreciation Award to Paulette Charles for assistance given to the group in carrying out its program in Buxton.

COTAB also donated US\$1,300 to assist 8-year old Amadi Arthur obtain medical treatment in Barbados for a life-threatening condition. She is the daughter of Peter Arthur, a Buxtonian.



*COTAB's president, Ingrid Ifill-King (right) presenting the Appreciation Award to Paulette Charles*

# 170<sup>th</sup> COMMITTEES RETIRED

Following the successful outcome of the 170th Anniversary celebrations, the organizing committees in the United States and Buxton have retired their operations in this regard.

At the final meeting held on 11 September in New York, secretary Lorna Campbell gave a review of the activities held to commemorate the historic event. This was followed by a report from president Mboya Wood on the discussions held with the government that led to the village securing a number of development assistance pledges. Dr. Owen Ifiill gave an account of the medical outreach staged during the final two days of the celebra-

tion, while John Newton spoke about the overall success of the venture.

Members of the committee were pleased that the goal to uplift the image of Buxton and the spirit of its sons and daughters was achieved. They, however, recognized that there was still much work to be done to keep the momentum alive, and pledged to support any initiatives that would benefit development in the village.

The Buxton Response Committee, which coordinated the programme in Guyana, also held its final meeting that day. Word is that the former members will soon reorganize themselves under a new mission to continue serving the com-

munity. The committee received lots of praise for its hard and efficient work, not only for a magnificent celebration but, also for a successful national campaign to restore respect for Buxton.

In the meantime, adequate arrangements have been put in place to facilitate the transmission of government assistance to the community of Buxton-Friendship.

The organizers of the 170th Anniversary celebrations also take this opportunity to extend heartfelt thanks to all villagers and friends of Buxton, who supported the commemoration of this historic event. We will forever cherish the participation, performance and other contributions of all in making this event unforgettable.

## US Committee

Howard Abrams  
Ovid Abrams  
Dr. Clayton Bacchus  
Lorna Campbell  
Errol Cockfield  
Vashti Cockfield  
Dr. Wilbert Hope  
Dr. Owen Ifill  
Remington London  
John Newton  
Rennie Parris  
Mboya Wood

## Guyana Committee

Barbara Thomas-Holder  
Merceline (Patsy) Moses  
Nandi Tyrrell-Kellman  
Hazel Carter-Murray  
Yvette Herod  
Fitzroy (Rollo) Younge  
Lester Andries  
Dr. Leslie Carter  
Andrew Castello  
Lyndon France  
Ras. Jerome Hope  
Shurcine Hope-Hinds  
Mosa Telford  
Ronald Willabus

Congratulations!  
**Congratulations!**

We extend Congratulations to both the US and Guyana organizing committees for doing an excellent job in the commemoration of the 170th Anniversary of the Purchase of Buxton.

*Ingrid Ifill-King*

---

Ingrid Ifill-King  
President  
Committee to Assist Buxton/Friendship (COTAB)

# THE QB COLUMN

## PROGRESSIVE CHANGE IN BUXTON

Amidst the rancor that was concocted by political opportunists and fusts, Buxton continues on the road to recovery. Profound common sense prevailed over 'confounded nonsense'. Political posturing, scare tactics and misinformation did not work. Those who camouflage their compulsion for always wanting to be in control with shenanigans did not win. Those who continuously seek to tarnish the reputations of those with integrity so as to prop up and publicize their flawed views have failed. The real people of Buxton have won!

There are those who labeled some Buxtonians as 'beggars', 'greedy', 'sell outs', 'misguided' and 'lazy'. One of them, an executive member of an overseas-based organization, even minimized the significance of celebrating the 170th Anniversary of the Purchase of Buxton. At last, Buxtonians did not buy into their empty rhetoric; instead they wisely took advantage of the opportunities created by the event to develop the village and sustain their livelihoods.

The government has begun to deliver and this has left cynics 'ah shame bench'. However, I would like to see the government con-

tinue reaching out to all communities throughout the country with sustainable development programs.

Indeed, much is being made of the economic, social and cultural revival of the village. Buxton is on the move!

Those who maligned the organizers simply because they were not the initiators of this common-sense-approach are now scrambling to find ways to jump on the band wagon. There are those who are still using this Buxton resuscitation to fulfill their psychological need for publicity. They continue to exploit the dignity of Buxton by constantly running to the press, like media hounds, ranting and raging on issues that have nothing to do with moving Buxton forward. They ignore the central point at hand – the economic sustainability of Buxtonians. They constantly lambaste the organizers. Amazingly enough, these same people who vehemently opposed the government's support are now trying to be the overseers of the benefits garnered from the engagement. These people even had the audacity to question and to set up parameters on

how the 'bloody' resources should be distributed. These people, by any means necessary, would find ways to immerse themselves, giving the impression that they are relevant, when in reality they are not. These are people whose political life is literally dead.

More significantly, these antics that are being played out by these egomaniacs expose them. Their fragility and absurdity are much more translucent than they could ever imagine. Their quest for personal fame is not only toxic but destabilizing to Buxtonians. This 'Buxton venture' informs us that there are some people who are willing to sacrifice the needs of Buxtonians over their personal political ambitions. It must be noted that this 'Buxton venture' came about because a few courageous Buxtonians were sick and tired of 'dumb politics' at the expense of innocent Buxtonians who have young mouths to feed. It came about



*Dr. C. Quintin Bacchus*

because as citizens of Buxton, we realized that satisfying basic human needs supersedes every thing else in life.

We are not oblivious to politics, but we know that positive engagement is more likely to bring about progressive change.

Finally, I must congratulate President Jagdeo for a job well done. We need to give credit where it is due. After all, no other government or party has done for Buxton what this current government has done and is about to do.

*Clayton Quintin Bacchus*

Pictures of the 170th Anniversary events in Guyana are now available on our Facebook page. Visit: [www.facebook.com/Buxton Village Guyana](http://www.facebook.com/Buxton Village Guyana)



# FRIDAY NIGHT IN BUXTON

It was after 3 a.m. when the vehicle that was transporting me from the airport turned north on Buxton Middle Walk and headed to my front-side home. On the way there, I heard music, suggesting there was a party nearby. I wondered aloud who would be playing music at that time, at such a high volume. The driver thus informed me that the music was coming from Buxton 'Line Top'. I asked in disbelief: 'Till from Line Top?' He reassured me that it was. I then asked how were the people residing in the immediate vicinity making out. He told me that it was not just the people around Line Top who could not sleep, but also folks living as far away

as Strathspey and Anandale were disturbed by the ear-splitting sounds from 8:00 p.m. on Friday night until 8:00 a.m. next morning. I felt lucky that my home was a good distance away from the blasting station.

In the ensuing days, I learnt some of the troubling details of this popular Friday night event which reportedly attracts hundreds of revelers, mostly mature men, from far and near. I was told that cars can be seen lining both sides of the Embankment Road, from Brusche Dam to Side Line Dam. There are also lots of vendors, selling food, liquor and more.

This all-night, anything-

goes party is called "Passa Passa", an import from Jamaica and a growing phenomenon around the rest of the Caribbean. It is also held in Plaisance on Thursday nights and Golden Grove on Saturday nights. In Buxton, the activities are so out-of-this-world that villagers call the event "Dutty Friday".

Here, I cannot repeat details of some of the goings-on I have heard; however, the one that sparks a lot of curiosity surrounds the strip show performed atop a nearby Genip tree which converts to a dance pole that night. Some folks have even wagered that that tree could "never bear fruit again".

There are also reports of

illicit drug sales and gambling but, most disturbing, is the sexual exploitation of young and vulnerable girls from our village. Stories abound of prostitution in the wide open.

This event, if allowed to continue without necessary restrictions, will leave some detrimental effects on our society.

By the way, I was not lucky for too long. On Sunday night, Friendship Seawall became the blast off point. Never before did I hear more noise. I got a headache and could not sleep.

How residents put up with this kind of abuse twice every week? I cannot understand it.

*Lorna Campbell*

## Restoring Trust

Consequent to meetings with President Jagdeo and stepped-up efforts by community organizers, the relationship between financial institutions and residents of the village is being reviewed towards restoring credit worthiness to villagers. Concerns of safety and security had forced lenders to cease extending loans and other credit services to residents. Representatives of the Guyana Association of Bankers recently visited

the community and held discussions with the Buxton/Friendship Community Action Council (CAC), which is headed by Pastor Terry Thomas. The bankers reportedly explained that there was no "social discriminatory" policy against Buxtonians but that "insecurity" was a major factor in the decline of current market value of assets in the community. The CAC signaled its understanding of the situation by pledging to

help "re-brand and market Buxton as a safe and stable community".

Representatives of Courts, also visited and met with community representatives. The consumer goods giant indicated some willingness to resume deliveries and hire-purchase agreements, while CAC promised to facilitate and monitor arrangements.

During the recent hand-over of 20 computers and a steelband to the village, the President

was apprised of the developments to re-establish links between Buxton and the business sector. He was pleased to hear of them and seized the opportunity to call on property insurance companies to review their policy on coverage of homes in the village. He reportedly asked Minister of Finance Dr. Ashni Singh to follow this up with the insurance companies.

# THANK YOU

The 170th Anniversary Committee takes this time to express its special appreciation to some dear friends for their support and contributions to the success of the celebrations:

Cheryl Ainsworth-Martin  
 Kwame Apata  
 Horace Azore  
 Jonathan Azore  
 Lyndon Barton  
 Noelle Burgan-Edgehill  
 Dr. Linden & Paula Carter  
 Bridget Castello-Nieuenkirk  
 June Griffith-Collison  
 Janice Ifill-Harry  
 Ingrid Ifill-King  
 F. Yvonne Jackson  
 Ras. Michael Jeune  
 Wayne Jones  
 Eusi Kwayana  
 Kofi Kwayana  
 Rennison Laundry  
 Odinga Lumumba  
 Celeste McDonald  
 Dawn McDonald  
 Shawn McDonald  
 Charis Newton-Thompson

Malcolm Parris  
 Natasha Parris  
 Allison Robinson

Hugh "Tommy" Payne  
 Thank you all!

We also take this opportunity to express sincere thanks to Sholto Fox for his donation of a ticket to the Buxton Ball at the Georgetown Club. The ticket was presented to octogenarian, Pearl Osborne, who was also grateful for the gift.

"Aunty" Pearl recited a poem at the Concert to the delightful appreciation of the capacity audience. At the Ball, she was seen having a ball of time, 'wining down' to the sweet music provided by the Yoruba Singers. She was also happy to meet Prime Minister Sam Hinds and villagers she had not seen in a long time.

Thank you, Sholto!

Special thanks to Noel Moses for the donation of a set of Mathematics text books to Toucan II Club and a barrel of school supplies.

An administrator with the City of New York's Department of Education, Mr. Moses joined with Mboya Wood, also a NYC teaching administrator, in a presentation of the art of teaching to some teachers and students of Buxton Community High School Since

returning to his base in New York, he shipped off a barrel of school supplies to be donated to a class he adopted at the school.

Mr. Moses, said that he was deeply touched by the history of Buxton and the pride and illustrious achievements of its people. He also said that learnt a lot from that experience, and pledged to stay in touch with developments in the village.



*"Aunty" Pearl Osborne  
 at the Buxton Ball*



## LAND FOR SALE

Twelve parcels of residential land, three located on Company Road, Buxton Front. One parcel with four bedroom wooden house.

**Contact Sholto Fox**

E-mail: [OSHOLTO@aol.com](mailto:OSHOLTO@aol.com)

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Gladstone Marcus 240-486-6341



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