



July 2010

# The BUXTON-FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS



## WELCOME HOME!

BFE 2010-6

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It is with sincere commitment and pride that the Response Committee, formed to organize the activities for the commemoration of the 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the purchase of Buxton-Friendship assiduously undertakes plans to satisfy the expectations of hundreds of overseas-based Buxtonians and friends of Buxton, who will participate in this major historic event.

Our foreparents exposed ideals and values-cooperativism, thrift, unity, independence, education, love for your fellow people, strength of character etc., and they must remain pillars upon which we continue to build and defend Buxton. In retrospect, our foreparents were a nonsense group of people who fought for what they believed-a virtue we need to promote, as we collectively climb to the top of the mountains with Buxton on our shoulders.

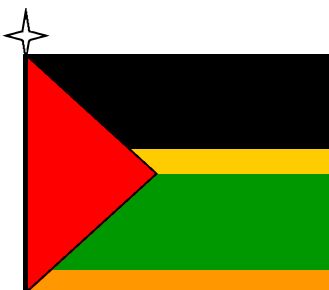
Village development has indeed been dormant for too long and whatever

caused that malaise should be addressed so that Buxton, the second village to have been purchased by former African slaves and the first to have acquired its transport, is restored to its prime position. During this journey, we have earned too many 'firsts' (which you will hear about later) to not contemplate serious development of our village at this juncture.

It is with deep anticipation that we await your arrival and active involvement in the wide variety of activities programmed for this landmark celebration. We are truly excited and, on behalf of all our members, I take this opportunity to welcome you home to Buxton to celebrate our heritage while charting a new development path.

Let that feeling of nostalgia propel you not only to reminisce on the good, old village life but, most importantly, to reaffirm your conviction to rebuild Buxton in every respect.

Come and have real fun!!



### BUXTON PRIDE

*One Love One Family!*

Bring your brain to promote a progressive vision.

Bring your energy to fuel the spirit of unity.

Bring your right clothing to celebrate the Buxton Village Movement.

Bring your commitment, passion and goodwill to endorse the development thrust of Buxton Village.

Our fore parents must be smiling in their graves.

Warm Regards,

*Barbara Thomas-Holder*

Chair,

Buxton Response Committee

## Our Native Land

By Hugh (Tommy) Payne

This article would not be complete without reference to the features that make our joint community – Buxton-Friendship – **special** to all who lay claim to its impressive heritage; all who, indeed, fully endorse the significant implication in consistent refrain of our ‘Battle Song’ which proclaims that **“Buxton!” is our “Native Land”...**

Let me start by pointing to the premium placed on education. The 1871 Memorial stressed the link between education and the ability to play a meaningful role in constitutional affairs that was not lost on ‘Buxtonians’. As already pointed out in the article *“Buxton Pride”*, (which appeared in the initial issue of this Newsletter) *“Buxton-Friendship once boasted one of the best education systems in the country ...”*. This system not only produced a wide-range of illustrious professionals whose work and worth have been lauded in Guyana and the wider world but it also produced what is the bedrock of every progressive society – the **solid citizen**, capable of making a meaningful contribution in communal affairs, steeped in integrity and committed to the pursuit of ‘upward mobility’. I will never forget the philosophic bent of the point made by my neighbour when, in the course of a violent squabble with his wife, he looked up, saw my mother looking on, and proclaimed, *“Mrs. Payne, peace is better than disunited love, so let she go.”* *Woman, get out!* And I must confess that it is only in writing this article that I realise the true meaning of the same worthy gentleman’s statement when, on my return from ‘UWI, Mona’ he opined, *“Mrs. Payne, I see that*

*Tommy has returned to the land of his nativity”* – it was not a reference to Guyana but to “Buxton, my own native land”: it was in fact the assertion of pride that Buxtonians feel in each others achievements. This significant attitude resulted from the fact that education – conditioned by the communal culture – taught that achievement carried with it the responsibility for benefiting others. Thus the patriarch of the Jacobs family is cited as having informed a February 23, 1905 Meeting (convened to discuss the formation of Agricultural Loan Banks) that in ‘Buxton’, the more prosperous farmers had contributed funds to a society *“and the first loan had been made to an energetic farmer six weeks ago”*. Thus too, the celebrated Pan-Africanist **Ras Makonnen** – whose links to Buxton are proudly recorded in a biographical note that gives his original name as “George T. N. Griffith” – performed the arduous task of archiving the documents at the Pan-African Movement headquarters in the United Kingdom, before moving to Africa to play an equally important role in the independence struggles. Then there was Mr. E. F. Fredericks – justly celebrated in the ‘Buxton Battle Song’- who made his contribution through his sponsorship of the “Buxton Scholarship”. It would also be pointed out that it is a Buxtonian, Ovid Abrams, whose *Guyana Metege* makes an invaluable contribution to all Guyanese in its detail of culture, history and much, much, more. Indeed, it can well be said, that only the Buxtonian – Simeon Josephus Wills, the venerable ‘Prophet’ – could, (as legend tells it) have dared to memorize the *Oxford Dictionary*. And it must be told that Buxton’s “County High School”, founded by the esteemed

village elder, Eusi Kwayana, made an outstanding contribution not only to Buxtonians, but also to the many beneficiaries from the East Coast Demerara corridor, whose gratitude extends to the recognition of Buxton as ‘a spiritual home’.

The article *“The Buxton Scholarship”*, which also appeared in the first issue of this newsletter (sourced from Eusi Kwayana’s compelling study *Buxton-Friendship In Print & Memory*) stipulates that, *“The first scholarship was awarded in 1925 to Balbir Ballgreene Nehaul, who attended Queen’s College and went on to become a Doctor of Medicine, specializing in Bacteriology and Pathology”*. This fact highlights an important feature of ‘the Buxton heritage’, its cosmopolitan composition. East Indians, Portuguese and Chinese families settled in ‘Buxton’ and made a significant contribution to its growth and stature. The ‘Buxton legend’ is enriched by the fact that the Maniram Family chose to name their bus service “BUXTON PRIDE”; by acknowledgment of the effectiveness of the ‘special concoction’ brewed and dispensed by Dr. Ramdeholl; by reference to the significant role played by Ernest ‘Rubber’ Correia as proprietor of both the Cinema and the renowned ‘watering-hole’; by the tale behind the display of the motor-bike in Mr. Chung’s ‘storefront window’; and by the fact that the man hailed as “The World’s Oldest Blogger”, Randall Butisingh’, proudly acknowledges his ‘Buxtonian’ heritage. Indeed, a necessary addition to this list is the unstinting contribution made by the celebrated Amerindian Pastor, Rev. Pat Mat-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Buxton

*(Continued from page 2)*

thews in shepherding the flock at the Congregational Church; his son “Marc Matthews” – who, if not ‘a born Buxtonian’ was definitely weaned in this village – has received international acclaim for his dramatic recounting of village influences (“the Train”) and facets of Guyana’s cultural milieu.

The ‘Buxton’ legend is also enriched by the sterling contribution that was made by “S. J. Holder”. Born in 1870, S. J. Holder was the epitome of the progressive spirit unleashed by the historic ‘1871 Memorial to the Queen’. He refused to allow his tremendous business acumen to be trammelled by the traditional and still activity hostility that the plantocracy felt for village movement and the villagers. The success which he achieved reached its zenith in his dry goods store – a veritable emporium on account of both the spread of its stock and its significant location – which was hailed by his fellow villagers as the finest example of its kind between Georgetown and Mahaica (if not Georgetown and Mahaicony, or even Rosignol) and which probably reinforced the heroic legend since trains seemed to tarry at the nearby Train Station to accommodate the many customers from the ‘East Coast corridor’. Holder also enhanced the village’s status when, during his tenure as Village Chairman, he spearheaded the development of the Recreation Ground which was opened in 1924 in an atmosphere of pomp and splendour.

George Younge, whose report on the funeral of S. J. Holder emphasised the fact that the deceased was “a Merchant and Landed Proprie-

tor” – thereby placing “S. J.” on par with members of the plantocracy and government bureaucracy – is another ‘Buxtonian’ whose activities enhanced the stature of ‘Buxton’. For Teacher George earned the sobriquet (to use language worthy of the other ‘S. J. – “Prophet Wills”) “Pro” as a nickname that recognised his status as ‘the Professor’ of the proverbs and sayings that are the rich heritage of our local vernacular. In addition George Younge placed ‘Buxton’ at the centre-stage of Guyana’s renown as the country that had the best Christmas in the Caribbean, if not the entire world, since it is indisputable that the premier event of the season was his annual “Boxing Day” Gala which needed three venues – the Buxton Cinema, the “Round House” (a pavilion located on the Younge ‘family property’ at Friendship, and “Tipperary Hall” (famed for the ambience that was promoted by its wonderful ventilation) – to house the thousands of revellers (drawn from all across the country) who flocked to ‘Buxton’ every Boxing Day/

The ‘Buxton’ legend was also enhanced by our cricketers who waged intense struggle against visiting teams on the Recreation Ground; by athletes like Roy Mingo, whose training at the same location won them national attention; by the outstanding trio of volleyball players – Lincoln ‘Trigger’ Griffith, Neville ‘Toesile’ Blair, and Keith ‘Big-Roller’ Layne – whose skills, honed on the village volleyball courts, demanded their inclusion in the national team; by the men, whose valour and capability in defending ‘Buxton’s’ ‘honour ensured that no outsider dared trifle with a ‘Buxtonian’; and above all by the womenfolk whose consistent dedica-

tion to the family ensured the generational development and transfer of those attitude and behaviours that are foundation of all progressive communities.

In conclusion, it would be reiterated that ‘Buxton’ is once more on the “**onward, upward**” path that is the heritage of the progressive and sustained struggle that was waged by the village movement. It would be pointed out that the valuable and consistent inputs made by our overseas individuals and organisations, proud of their ‘Buxtonian’ heritage and committed in their endeavour, offer indisputable evidence that there will be no turning back. It is in fact confidently contended that when we gather as ‘Buxtonians’ to participate in the celebrations organised by the 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations Committee, we will recognise the importance and be strengthened in our resolve by our awareness of the significance of the fact, that it is the first verse of the “Buxton Battle Song” which states the proud and defiant assurance:

*Thou wilt not cower in the dust  
Buxton my own native land  
Thy glorious name shall never rust  
Oh Buxton my own native land!*

*This is part of a much more comprehensive article submitted by Mr. Payne. Part of it first appeared in our 170th Commemorative Magazine that was released last month. We hope to present the full article in a future publication.*

## Religious Services

Religious services for the commemoration of Buxton's 170th Anniversary will be conducted at all churches in the village on Saturday, 24 July and Sunday, 25 July, 2010.

We wish to encourage everyone to fellowship with their own denominational church in the village. Those who do not belong to one will, of course, be gladly welcomed by any in the community.

### **Saturday, 24 July**

#### **Traditional Church**

##### **Seventh-Day Adventist Church**

Time-9:15 a.m.

Pastor Sancho

#### **Spiritual Churches**

##### **Apostolic Order of St. Mary**

Time-10:00 a.m.

Mother Edris Valladares

##### **St. Paul's**

Time-10:00 a.m.

Mother Linda Griffith

##### **The Order of Mathias**

Time-10:00 a.m.

Mother Desiree Watts (Morgan)

##### **The Spiritual Rock**

Time-10:00 a.m.

Mother Gem Cummings

### **Sunday, 25 July**

#### **Pentecostal Churches**

##### **Ambassadors of Christ**

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Terry Thomas

##### **Community Life Fellowship**

Buxton Middle Walk (Back) (Pastor Clevie's Church)

Time-10:30 a.m.

Pastor Benjamin

##### **Full Gospel Fellowship**

Buxton Middle Walk & Public Road

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Moffat

##### **Grace Assemblies of God**

Buxton Middle Walk (Back)

Time: 9:30

Pastor Desmond Glasgow

##### **Temple Gate**

(Jane Marcus Square, between Side Line Dam & Middle Walk)

Time-10:00 a.m.

Pastor Murray

##### **The Overcomers**

Buxton Middle Walk (near the baker shop)

Time-10:00 a.m.

Pastor Lewis

##### **Victory Mission**

Garment Factory Compound

Time: 10:00 a.m.

## Traditional Churches

Sunday, 25 July, 2010

### St. Augustine's Anglican Church

Friendship

**Time: 8:00 a.m.**

Celebrant: Father Clifton Elias

Church Warden: Mrs. Paulette Charles

### Friendship Methodist Church

**Time: 7:30 a.m.**

Reverend Adolph Davis

### Arundel Congregational Church

Buxton Middle Walk

**Time: 7:30 a.m.**

Reverend Paulette Hannibal

### St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church

Friendship Middle Walk

**Time: 9:00 a.m.**

### Church of God

Public Road & Buxton Middle Walk

**Time: 9:00 a.m.**

Pastor Ida Abrams

### Brethren Church

Buxton Middle Walk

**Time: 10:30**

Brother Dale Armstrong

### AME

Company Road (Market Square)

**Time: 10:00 a.m.**

Reverend McKenzie

## Contact Information

### In Guyana

Barbara Thomas-Holder

220-3411 / 624-4040

Fitzroy (Rollo) Younge

274-0606

Merceline (Patsy) Moses

274-0052

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274-0601

Lorna Campbell

220-0845 / 666-3629

Dr. Owen Ifill

220-8643

Mboya Wood

274-0589

## Souvenir Magazine

We have a small number of magazines available for sale. This special publication dedicated to the 170th Anniversary of the Purchase of Buxton consists of 60 pages historical, cultural and educational achievements of our village and its people.

You can find the names of the original purchasers of the village. One of them, Walter Young, was the patriarch of the Young clan. Fitzroy (Rollo) Younge, an offspring, takes us through succeeding generations of the Young(e) family with an inspiring genealogical presentation.

Historian Tommy Payne "places our renowned legacy in perspec-

tive", while elder Eusi Kwayana, a village stalwart, looks at the "Pioneers in post-emancipation History".

A good chunk of the publication is dedicated to our illustrious scholastic achievements. Nandi Tyrrell-Kellman sets the stage with an article on "The Early Agents of Education" in the twin-village, based on research information compiled more than 45 years ago by her late mother and former teacher, Sheila King-Tyrrell.

Retired teacher, Randall Butisingh examines the unique flavour of Creolese and the wisdom in its proverbs. We look at religious practices in the community, and present the history of the first two churches that were established in the community-St.

Augustine's Anglican and Arundel Congregational.

Gone, but certainly not forgotten, are some legends and landmarks that, once upon a time, enriched our community. Jonathan Azore and Lyndon Barton brings some of them back to life with their splendid artwork.

These are just a sample of the rich collection of articles. Copies of the magazine are US\$10 each. Please add US\$3 for shipping within the continental US and US\$10 for overseas destinations.

Call 718-342-0040 or send an e-mail to [lorna@buxtonguyana.net](mailto:lorna@buxtonguyana.net) to place an order.

## Tickets

Tickets purchased for the Baganara Trip, Berbice Excursion and Buxton Ball will be distributed in New York from 15 July and in Guyana from 20 July 2010. We will also have a special distribution booth at the Sports/Fun Day on Sunday, 25 July. Persons who will not be able

to pick up their tickets during these times are asked to contact Lorna Campbell to make alternative pick-up arrangements. You can telephone her in Guyana at 666-3629 (Cell) or 220-0845 (home). You may also contact any of the other associates listed on page 9.

Please note that walk-on patrons will not be allowed on the trips. The operators requested advance payments for their services, and we have no choice but to comply. There will also not be any ticket sales on the day of the Buxton Ball. Advance payment is required for this event as well.

## Villagers Asking for Help

The Buxton Response Committee which is organizing the activities for the 170th Anniversary celebration in the village is asking overseas residents, who can afford a donation, to assist local residents-relatives, friends or needy persons-with tickets for the events.

At the top of the request list is the day trip to Baganara Island Resort in the Essequibo region. This will perhaps be the first opportunity for many Buxtonians to visit the West Demerara-Essequibo area. They will be able to visit Bartica and see landmarks like Fort Island and Fort Kykoveral. The

ticket price is US\$90/GY\$18,000.

Donors can also consider the less expensive events - Berbice Excursion and the Buxton Ball. Tickets for these are US\$40/GY\$8,000 and US\$50/GY\$10,000, each, respectively.

# Large-Scale Farming in Buxton-Friendship

## Getting a Boost

By [Stabroek News staff](#) / June 24, 2010 / [Local News](#)

Minister of Agriculture Robert Persaud and a team met with farmers of Buxton/Friendship on Tuesday to discuss the ministry's plans to revitalise large-scale farming in the area by undertaking drainage and irrigation and road works. Persaud, along with Region Four Chairman Clement Corlette, Neighbourhood Democratic Council Chairman Randolph Blair and other officials from the ministry engaged cane, non-traditional and livestock farmers at Buxton and nearby villages at the Buxton Market.

The ministry is involved in land-clearing projects in Buxton/Friendship communities which will enable farmers to return to the land, a Government Information Agency (GINA) press release said.

Because the lands have been abandoned for years and the area does not have a proper drainage system, it is prone to flooding and as such the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board opened seven contracts for major drainage works. The contracts will see the expediting of mechanical excavation of drainage canals in Friendship at east sideline at a cost of \$9.1M; west sideline at a cost of \$9.1M; and middle walk canal at a cost of \$8.8M.

Plans are also in train to

excavate canals in Buxton at east sideline at a cost of \$9.1M, the west sideline drainage canal, at a cost of \$8.8M and middle walk canal to the tune of \$9.1M. In addition the revetment within the Buxton pump basin will be built at an approximate cost of \$4M. During interactions farmers said the clearing of canals is necessary. One cane farmer noted that he was forced to abandon his crop because the clogged canal made it difficult for the punt to traverse the area. Persaud also highlighted several other infrastructure works being expedited in the Buxton/Friendship area including the construction of Abrams/Watson Street, Friendship and Middle Road, Buxton.

Farmers noted that they are pleased with the construction of the roads but some suggested that livestock farmers are indiscrete. They complained that roving cattle are ravaging their crops and pigs are destroying newly built roads. In response, Persaud suggested that crop farmers submit a proposal to the ministry with the cost to fence and gate the farmlands. He noted too the Pounds Act has been amended and that errant livestock farmers should pay heed.

Additionally, Blair said he

has been proactive on the issue but the livestock farmers are not complying. "They refuse to attend meetings and continue to have their pigs and cattle roam the area," he said.

A farmer also said a few weeks ago the area was flooded and livestock farmers released their pigs onto the road, adding that since the Great Flood of 2005 farmers should have learnt to build pens for animals above ground.

Persaud agreed with Blair and further advised that persons should build their homes at least three feet above ground, adding that persons need to start adapting to the effects of climate change. He then encouraged farmers to participate in the ministry's Agriculture Diversification Programme as they need to

take a collective approach to enhance agriculture in the communities.

According to GINA government is working on building the human resources capacity in Buxton and as such youths from the community were given scholarships to the Guyana School of Agriculture.

At the end of the scholarship, Persaud will return to the community to assist farmers in new techniques in order to help develop the sector. Also, the ministry has purchased a number of safety clothing and first aid kits for the drainage and irrigation workers in the community who are employed on a part-time basis at the ministry. The ministry has also distributed knapsack sprayers and seeds to the farmers.



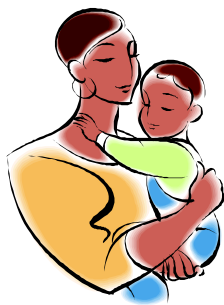
*Minister of Agriculture, Robert Persaud (standing) chats with residents of Buxton. (Gina photo)*

# Health Care in Buxton

by Lorna Camp-

*Continuing our feature on Healthcare in Buxton, we present the second and final part that is also based on an interview with Dr. Leslie Carter, a practising physician in the area. Our focus in this issue is on pregnant women and our young.*

*In our June 2010 issue, the focus was on the major conditions affecting the adult population and life expectancy.*



*“45% of infants are fully breast-fed up to six months of age, while 50% are fed a combination of breast milk and formula. Most babies in the country are breast fed up to three months old.”*

## Anaemia

One of the major problems found among pregnant women in the community is Anaemia. Throughout the country, about 20% of these women reportedly face this very problem, which also affects the development of their children. To combat this phenomenon, the Health Ministry implemented a “Sprinkles” programme which supplements the nutritional needs of pregnant women, young mothers and infants, aged 1-2 years old.

This special diet, comprising iron, folic acid and vitamins, is delivered in saturates which are added to meals. Dr. Carter revealed that the Buxton clinic is part of this government programme and supplies are regularly distributed to the women and children under its care. Since its implementation, he said that there has been a significant reduction in malnourishment among children. He added that parents have also become more aware of the nutritional needs of their young ones.

Authorities are also stressing the importance of the need for mothers to continue breast feeding their babies, for at least the first

six months of the baby’s life. It is felt that the growing presence of women in the work force is limiting the time these women need to do so effectively. According to the doctor, data collected around the country reveal that some 45% of infants are fully breast-fed up to six months of age, while 50% are fed a combination of breast milk and formula. Most babies in the country are breast fed up to three months old.

## Sexually-Transmitted Diseases

There has been a notable drop in cases relating HIV infection and AIDS. The doctor attributes this to increased awareness of the disease and the importance of engaging in safer sex practices.

The Health Ministry has also taken steps to combat infection caused by human papilloma virus (HPV) and plans to implement a vaccine program very soon to contain the growing risk of cervical cancer. According to information garnered from Mayo Clinic’s website, virtually all cases of cervical cancer are related to this virus, the leading risk factors for which it states as:

### Number of sexual partners.

The greater the number of

sexual partners, the more likely one is to contract a genital HPV infection. Having sex with a partner who has had multiple sex partners also increases one’s risk.

**Young age.** Genital HPV infections are most commonly diagnosed with a Pap test in sexually active adolescent girls and women younger than 25 years of age. While this risk may be associated with increased sexual activity at this age, some research suggests that younger women may also be biologically more vulnerable to the virus. Adolescent boys and young men also are at increased risk, but the virus isn’t often detected.

**Vulnerable immune systems.** People who have vulnerable immune systems may be at greater risk of HPV infections. This vulnerability may be the result of HIV/AIDS or of immune-system suppressing drugs that enable people to receive an organ donation.

The Ministry reportedly plans to target a special age group for distribution

*(Continued on page 9)*

# Dr. Carter On Call

(Continued from page 8)

of the vaccine due in order to cope with availability.

Dr. Carter also disclosed that there is also a programme that distributes free condoms, but this is not yet available at the Buxton clinic though there are plans to implement it in the area soon. In addition, the Ministry has introduced an outreach programme aimed at encouraging youths to access information and care at the clinics.

This programme is convened twice weekly at a time outside regular adult clinic hours. Dr. Carter assures, "Youths can meet with their peers and health counselors to discuss issues of STDs and pregnancy in a more conducive environment." He later added that they can also discuss any health issue or request any information that they may not feel comfortable to receive from their parents.

The programme, which started three years ago, is already available at clinics located at Lusignan and Beterverwagting, and it is likely to expand to other areas, including Buxton, in the near future.

## Emergency Care

According to Dr. Carter, the Clinic is not currently equipped to deal with emergency care. Such cases must be referred to the Public Hospital in Georgetown, at least 12 miles away. In terms of available Ambulance services, he said that there was one allotted to the Cane Grove-Georgetown region. The vehicle, which is based at the Dr. C.C. Nicholson Hospital at Nabaclis, was out of operation at the time of this interview. He also pointed out that Guysuco provides Ambulance services for its workers out of its Enmore location, but they usually also respond to road casualties.

## General Situation

In diagnosing the main cause of economic stagnation in Buxton-Friendship and surrounding communities, Dr. Carter suggested that a solution can be found in the agricultural field. "We need to go back to agricultural ventures." Though admitting that it entailed a lot of physical work, he observed that today's generation seems less inclined to undertake such arduous employment. But he contends, "That could improve the economic

situation, but they may need some financial assistance."

He also believes that opportunities can be created in the woodworking industry as well and, at this instance, he pointed to the newly constructed Practical Instruction Centre (formerly known as the Trade School). He intimated that the school was supposedly planted at the Back to spur enrolment by youths in that section of the community, who often appear to be more vulnerable to the economic swings.

The planned curriculum is reportedly designed to offer full-time course work to young students up to 16 years of age. Dr. Carter shared his understanding that the youths in the area were not showing keen interest in the programme; thus, insufficient participation may have delayed the opening of this centre.

Dr. Carter would like to see the community enjoy great economic benefit from the celebration of our 170th Anniversary in the village.

*"Youths can meet with their peers and health counselors to discuss issues of STDs and pregnancy in a more conducive environment."*

# Buxton-Friendship Health Centre

## In Perspective

by George B. Abrams

The vision to extend the Buxton-Friendship Health Centre was etched and given flight by a group of persons who had already formed themselves in an organization named Jay Bee Medical Services International, Inc. (JBMSI). The visionary and brain-child of this project is Genevieve Bathersfield-Adams, who garnered around her partners in action to forge and execute the planned gigantic task ahead.

The term "Project Buxton" was coined to lay emphasis on the plurality of tasks for Buxton that were planned, foremost of which was the rehabilitation of Buxton-Friendship Health Centre. JBMSI quickly elected a Board of Directors with positions assigned to individuals whose part and contributions as partners in action were critical to the success of the project. The Board consisted of the following individuals:

Chief Executive Officer

Genevieve Bathersfield-Adams

President

Verbena Reed

Vice-Presidents

Eutol Griffith Gibbons

Patrick Bathersfield

Chief Financial Officer

George B. Abrams

Secretary

Jacqueline McPhee

Treasurer

Abike McPherson

Clinical Director

Lorraine Watson-Newton

Health & Education

Patsy Clinton

Senior Consultant

Bernadette Hermonstyne

Director of Technical Operation

Michael Benons

Public Relations Officers

Andrew Barker

Alwyn Hope

Paulette Charles

Operation Staff

Peter Bathersfield

Cosbert McPherson

Glendon McPherson

Support Staff

Renee Adams

Superintendent

Adwin Jacobs

Medical Advisory Board

Dr. Hugh Holder

Dr. Miriam Michael

Dr. Elena Tilly

Dr. Leslie Carter

One important objective of the names making up the board is that many of them are not Buxtonians, and even a few are not Guyanese, but even more im-

portant is their willingness to serve on a board that was committed to improving the health of the people of Buxton-Friendship and surrounding villages and communities. This commitment revealed itself when, on April 22, 2004, JBMSI organized its first official visit into Buxton-Friendship to assess the needs and treat patients. The following press release was made available to Guyana Newspapers:

*April 22, 2004*-Jay Bee Medical Services International, Inc., a US-based organization that has responded to the needs of the people of Buxton and surrounding villages, made its first official visit into Buxton to assess the needs and treat patients. The USA-based team has committed to revitalizing the Buxton Medical Clinic this year and has long-term plans to providing medical care to the area. The group that arrived consisted twelve members. The medical team, headed by Dr. Elena Tilly, Assistant Chief of Trauma Unit, Fairfax Hospital, in Fairfax, Virginia, and accompanying her were members of Jay Bee Medical Services International, Inc.-Genevieve Adams, Eutol Gibbons, Lorraine Newton, Verbena Reed and volunteer, La-Ruby May. The medical team worked with Dr. Carter and his staff and was able to treat approximately 100 adult patients and 138

children from six local schools. Eighty-five patients were screened and given reading glasses. Health screenings which consisted of blood pressure check, glucose and cholesterol monitoring and counseling were done on over 150 patients. Safe sex counseling was done and more than 1,500 condoms were distributed with HIV/AIDS literature on this visit. Three patients were referred to Public Hospital Georgetown for immediate care and one trauma victim was treated at the Clinic for a stab wound. During this visit, the need for dental, optical and hearing services were identified and added to the list of specialty services to be offered in the future.

The second team of JBMSI comprised members responsible for the renovation of the Clinic. The team consisted of Cosbert McPherson, Glendon McPherson, George Abrams and Andrew barker. With the help of local volunteers from Buxton and Georgetown, the team was able to restore running water, repair electrical problems and do general work needed at the Clinic while finalizing the plans for renovation. The group will be returning at the end of May to continue offering medical services and start renovation at the Clinic.

Project Buxton forged ahead with an architectural plan designed by the senior

*(Continued on page 11)*

# Expanded Healthcare Facilities

(Continued from page 10)

engineer of the project, Michael Benons, assisted by Cosbert McPherson and Glendon McPherson. The estimated cost of the renovation ranged from US\$89,000 to US\$100,000.

A ground-breaking ceremony was held on June 2, 2004, and this event set in motion the months of planning. Several representatives of the government, major opposition party and JBMSI were present at this event.

[Expanding the ground floor and adding a second floor to the front building, the new clinic includes:](#)

- ♣ Emergency Room
- ♣ Minor Operating Room
- ♣ Dental Clinic
- ♣ Ophthalmology Room
- ♣ Library
- ♣ Classroom
- ♣ Kitchen
- ♣ Paediatric Office
- ♣ Examination Rooms
- ♣ Housing for visiting physicians and nurses.

[The upper level houses](#)

- ♦ Library
- ♦ Four bedrooms
- ♦ Kitchenette
- ♦ Two classrooms
- ♦ A Workroom
- ♦ One Bathroom

The then estimated cost of the renovation was US\$89,000—US\$100,000.

### Fundraising

A project of this magnitude needed to be well funded. Money was contributed, in large amounts, by Board members. Two Black & White Balls were held, as well as some smaller fundraising parties. Many creative ways were discovered to raise funds. The organization was in no way timid in its attempts to seek financial assistance for its goal. JBMSI became articulated in 2004, and obtained tax-exempt status under Federal Code 501c(3) on April 27, 2005. With this new ammunition, the organization was able to extend its fundraising efforts to businesses and individuals. This gave these donors the advantage of deducting their contributions from their income tax returns.

We, however, must not lose sight of the tremendous challenges faced by JBMSI during construction/renovation. During this time, the village was experiencing an upheaval that, among other things, tarnished its name. This made fundraising efforts more difficult. Construction work slowed, as funds to maintain the project schedule dried up.

At this juncture, then Regional Health Officer, Dr.

Leslie Carter, approached Chairman of Region 4, Mr. Corlette, for financial assistance to complete the health centre. I also met with the chairman separately. Requested financial statements, income tax returns and other supporting documents showing that JBMSI had laid out more than US\$70,000 on the project were transmitted to the chairman's office.

The first injection of funds from the Region was GY\$6M-\$7M. This turned out to be inadequate for completion of the project. Thus, another GY\$3M was successfully requested by Dr. Carter and this did the job.

The Buxton-Friendship Health Centre is not yet full operational. JBMSI stands ready to deliver equipment and furniture. Electricity, proper security and water supply are among the problems to be resolved. There are, however, ongoing efforts to have these problems fixed before the celebration of the 170th anniversary of the Purchase of Buxton commences.

### Other Projects

Not losing sight of its main goal, JBMSI undertook a few more endeavours, such as:

- ◇ Repainting the interior of the Guyana Embassy in Washington, DC, and

refurbishing the office with decorations and new pieces of furniture.

- ◇ Distributing food and other items to those affected by the flood in Guyana, early 2005. A few board members travelled to Guyana to aid in this cause.
- ◇ Sponsorship of an annual Feeding Program, for the elderly in Buxton-Friendship and Anandale, for the last six years. This program, managed by George Abrams, the group's CFO, continues to grow in size and stature. In January of this year, 325 persons were treated to a delightful meal and each of them provided with a cash gift of GY\$2,000 (US\$10).
- ◇ Supplying toys to children confined at the Public Hospital Georgetown and others residing at Buxton, Ituni, Soesdyke, Linden, East Bank Demerara and Berbice communities. Genevieve Bathersfield-Adams' "Toys for Tots" program spanned the length and breadth of Guyana from 2006 to 2009. Some children residing in other countries also benefited from this program.

Our Motto: *"When we help others, we help ourselves."*

# Eunice McKenzie Lawrence nee Hamer

19 September, 1935 — 20 June, 2010

Eunice Winifred McKenzie Lawrence was born on 19 September, 1935 to the late John Walter and the late Kate Agnes Hamer, in Buxton, Guyana. She was the first of four children.

Eunice passed away on Sunday, 20 June, 2010 at Calvary Hospital, Brooklyn, New York.

She attended St. Augustine's Anglican School, which was later re-named Friendship Government School, and Carnegie School of Home Economics. Shortly after, she met Police Officer James McKenzie. They were married in 1958. From that union four children, Dawne, Desiree, known as Gail, Pat and Mark (deceased) were born. James's work took him and his family to the Rupununi District. Then tragedy struck. She witnessed the death of James during the Rupununi Uprising. With her four children, the last one, a baby, and along with other residents, she was forced to flee from her home. It was a mother's love, and faith in her God, that brought them to safety



from the rebels and the Rupununi jungle. She was thrust into the role of a single parent. To fulfill that role she became a Police Officer. Eunice was a woman of strength and one to be admired.

Her faith was unwavering. She loved Christ and was a devoted church member. She was always cheerful and loved to dance. She instilled within her children the absolute necessity to be hardworking, kind and honest. However small her

portion in life, she always had time to say a kind word or to share her favorite meal—Cook-up Rice.

She was attached to many organizations, including the Police Wives' Association. She was an outgoing person who loved finding new family members.

Time, as we know, heals all wounds, so Eunice later became the wife of Donald Lawrence, also a Police Officer, and moved to Kitty until her departure for the US where she resided with her daughter, Desiree and her family.

She lost her will to live when she experienced another tragic incident. That was the death of her son Mark, in 2003. That was the onset of her illness.

She is survived by her husband, Donald of Guyana; her daughters, Dawn of Canada and Desiree (Gail) of the US, her son, Patrick of Guyana; her grandchildren, Damion, Kurt, Mark Jr., Darnell, Akeem, Abeba, Kimberly, Amanda, Tahj, Darnell; son-in-law Ashton of US.; sister, May of Guyana; brothers, James, known as Pat, of Canada and Kenneth of Guyana; aunt, Nelly Thomas; nephew, Junior; nieces, Paula, Patricia, Michelle, Marcelle, Jamie and Stacey; cousin, Eula Springer. She will be missed by all of her relatives: the Hamer, Marshall, Thomas, Burrows' families and a host of friends and neighbors.

*"When a few years are come, then I shall go the way whence I shall return to be with the lord forever, so let it be".*

## Delano Williams

Our sympathy to the bereaved family of the late Delano Williams, who passed away on 25 June, 2010, in Brooklyn, New York.

Delano was the son of Pauline and Aubrey (Jive) Williams; and brother of Clyde Abrams-Williams, Jerome, Storme and Tracy Williams.

May his soul Rest in Peace!



# Margot Barnes

1 June, 1958—22 June, 2010

Though a most regrettable occasion, it was one of the largest gatherings of Buxtonians outside of the home community. The funeral for Margot Phillipa Barnes, who died on 22 June, 2010, in Brooklyn, NY, USA brought out hundreds of mourners to pay final respects in Brooklyn to the once charming and vivacious lass.

Margot was the last child of seven children, and one of four girls, born to Mildred Barnes and the late (Charles) Augustus Barnes, on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1958. She received her primary education from Friendship Methodist School, then proceeded to the Fredericks School of Home Economics in Georgetown.

In 1977, Margot migrated to the United States.

She is gone but leaves to cherish her loving and precious memories her mother, Mildred; children; grandchildren; siblings; aunt, Sybil McRae; nieces; nephews; cousins; sister- and bothers-in-law; and numerous friends.

Children-Tiffany, Tracy and Tristan; adopted son, Senecia

Grandchildren-Lacey, Ethan, Jabari and Janice

Siblings-Paulette Thomas-Emanuel, Maxwell Barnes, Vaulda Philander, Thora Braithwaite and Clairmonte Barnes.



# Veronica Samuels

We extend deepest sympathy to the loved ones of the late Veronica Samuels of Buxton Side Line Road, who died on 3 July, 2010, in Buxton.

According to a report received, “V” was on her way to Bourda Market

“and had just stopped at her sister’s [Patsy’s home] where death engulfed her.”

She was the daughter of the late Daphne and Brother Edward Samuels.

Veronica Samuels leaves to mourn children, siblings and a host of other relatives. May her soul rest in peace!

# Juliet Curry

We wish to offer sincere condolence to the Curry, Fredericks, Charles, Telesford families and other bereaved relatives of the late Juliet Curry of Annandale, who passed away on 29 June, 2010.

Juliet was laid to rest on 5 July, 2010. May she rest in peace!



# Yvonne Joseph

We also learnt of the passing of Mrs. Yvonne Joseph of Friendship Front, and extend sympathy to her bereaved family. She was the wife of Mr. Patrick Joseph, nicknamed “Bush Cat”.

Mrs. Joseph reportedly died on 30, June, 2010.

May her soul rest in peace!

# COTAB

**Committee to Assist Buxton-Friendship (COTAB)** is a non-profit community group. It was established in 2000 with the explicit intention to provide assistance to economic, education, and sports projects that have the potential to contribute to the development of Buxton-Friendship and its people. The Committee reference may be a misnomer. COTAB intends to enlist all Buxtonians in the Greater Toronto area to duty. Further, there is nothing in its constitution that excludes Buxtonians outside the GTA area, friends of Buxtonians, or any other non-Buxtonians from becoming members.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President: Ingrid Ifill-King

Vice-President: Ena Ageda

Secretary: Victor Moses

Treasurer: Shirley Seaforth

## Committee Members

George Culley

Charis Newton-Thompson

Michael Parris

## Social Committee Members

Patsy Adams

Ena Ageda

Odessa Austin

Nelga Azonvanna

Brentnol Blair

Ingrid Ifill-King

Dawne McKenzie

Victor Moses

Cedric Reid

Jenny Shortt

John Shortt

Angela Thomas

Jenny Wills

## Projects Undertaken

October 2009—Eight computers were distributed to six outstanding students, Club Toucan and Buxton Youth Developers. Books for the schools and soccer items for Buxton United Sports Club were also shipped.

February 2009—52 bikes, Soccer and other sports items were shipped to Buxton.

August 2008—Provided CDN\$1,500 bursary to enable a student to attend Guyana School of Agriculture.

July 2, 2007—Ten computers were shipped for distribution to outstanding students in the village. Books were also shipped for the library and a CDN\$300 bursary was given to the most outstanding student in the Village.

2006—CDN\$2,000 was donated to Project BX, the Aids Center in Buxton to help defray utilities expenses.

February 2005—CDN\$5,000 was donated to the Disaster Relief Committee for the immediate and post-flood needs of the community and its environs. Five barrels with foodstuff, toys and books were also shipped.

2004—COTAB assisted in the installation of streetlights and the building of toilets and the installation of floodlights at the play ground.

August 2003—COTAB donated three Canon Photocopiers and two boxes each photocopy paper to Buxton and Friendship Primary Schools and the Community High School. A TV/VCR was also donated to Company Road Primary School.

2002—COTAB members personally donated 100 pounds of pencil, pens, crayons, markers, and other writing implements to two primary schools in Buxton.

**COTAB**  
COMMITTEE TO ASSIST  
BUXTON/FRIENDSHIP

**ANNUAL  
CARIBANA  
fundraising dance**

**SATURDAY,  
JULY 31, 2010**

**DJ solid gold**

**COST  
\$20**

**15 Chisholm Ave.  
Toronto East Masonic Temple  
N of Danforth, W of Main St.  
CANADA**

(Behind the Kentucky Chicken Restaurant)

401 to Victoria Park Ave. S to Dawes Rd. (R) to Danforth Ave. (R) to Chisholm Ave. (R) or QEW to Lakeshore E to Coxwell Ave. (L) To Danforth Ave. (R) to Chisholm (L) or DVP to Don Mills S, to O'Connor Dr. (L) to Woodbine Ave. (R) to Danforth

**V. Moses: 905-791-3412 + I. King: 416-431-0273 + P. Adams: 416-752-4562 M. Parris: 416-636-2961 + E. Ageda: 416-289-3396**

# BESAC, Inc.

Invites you to its annual



# Buxton Fish Fry Lime

**Saturday, July 10, 2010**

from 5:00 p.m.

Fingerlickin' treats \* Homemade drinks \*

*Come Meet, Greet, Eat, Gaff & Enjoy!*



123-11 150th Avenue, South Ozone Park, NY 11420

(between 123rd & 124th Streets)

*Proceeds to benefit Scholarship, School Support & Social Development Programmes*

**For more info, phone:** 718-843-3690 (Errol Cockfield) 917-648-8383 (Shawn Adams)

347-228-6939 (John Massay) 718-235-0718 (Wilbert Hope)

## CIMBUX, Inc.

# Souse Party



**Saturday, July 10, 2010** 4:00pm—11:00pm

**Greene's Residence**, 917 Sheridan Street NW, (off Georgia Ave NW), Washington, DC 20011

**Ticket Donation: \$10** (One Complimentary Bowl of Souse with Ticket Purchase)

*Delicious home-styled cuisine, Pastries & Snacks, Blackpudding, Cook-up Rice, Roti & Curry, and more...*

George Hinds: 240-381-5190

Keith Easton: 240-601-3892

Gladstone Marcus: 240-486-6341

Horace Azore: 240-508-6388

**Jude Greene: 240-988-1941**

# The Buxton-Friendship Express

**July 2010**

Buxton-Friendship Express  
454 Vermont Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11207  
USA

Phone: 718-342-0040  
E-mail: lorna@buxtonguyana.net

We're on the Web!

Website: [www.buxtonguyana.net](http://www.buxtonguyana.net)

Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/Buxton Village Guyana](http://www.Facebook.com/Buxton Village Guyana)

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Lorna Ifill Campbell

George B. Abrams

## Editors

Dr. C. Quintin Bacchus

Dr. Owen Ifill

*Celebrating Our Rich Heritage  
Charting A New Development Path!*

**PRE-EMANCIPATION  
EXTRAVAGANZA**  
SATURDAY JULY 24TH, 2K10  
AT THE BEAUTIFUL  
**WOODBINE**  
2281 CHURCH AVE. COR OF BEDFORD AVE  
Adv. Ticket \$20 • \$25 At the Door

Music By  
**De-Untochables  
Samuels Top Ranking  
Big D. Movement**

FOR TICKETS CONTACT  
JOHN @ 347-881-7055 • MIYA - 718-249-9935  
BUFFET ON SALE • TIGHT SECURITY  
10PM-TILL

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>July 24, 2010</b>	<b>OPENING CEREMONY * WELCOME RECEPTION / DANCE</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>July 25, 2010</b>	<b>CHURCH SERVICES * ROAD RACE * FAMILY FUN DAY</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>July 26, 2010</b>	<b>GUIDED VILLAGE TOURS * CULTURAL EVENING SHOW</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>July 27, 2010</b>	<b>DAY TRIP: EXOTIC BAGANARA ISLAND RESORT, ESSEQUIBO HOUSE CALLS TO SENIOR CITIZENS</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>July 28, 2010</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S LITERARY CAMP * VILLAGE SYMPOSIUM EVENING</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>July 29, 2010</b>	<b>BUS EXCURSION TO BERBICE</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>July 30, 2010</b>	<b>SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUMMIT * DINNER DANCE &amp; FASHION SHOW</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>July 31, 2010</b>	<b>HEALTH CLINIC * ARTS &amp; CAREER FAIR * MARKET DAY CAMP FIRE * LIBATION CEREMONY * JAMBOREE</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>August 1, 2010</b>	<b>INTERFAITH SERVICE * HEALTH CLINIC DRUMMING &amp; FOOD FEST *</b>