



“BROADCAST”

Newsletter of the Toronto Unit

Naparima Alumni Association of Canada

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

Vol. XXX No. 1

Fall 2006



Some of Panache pan players From Left, Shirley Zanchetta, Glenda Mohammed (rear), Ingrid Glyn-Williams, Jemma Boodram & Veejay Boodram



(L to R) Shani Mootoo, Roger McTair, Rita Cox, Pat McNeilly, Ramabai Espinet, Harold Hosein and Shelli Karamath at NAAC Trini Kaleidoscope (See story on page 9).



Barristers and Solicitors

OUMARALLY, BABOOLAL



Aneesa Oumarally, B.A., (Hons.) LL.B.

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

President's Message

At the AGM in May, I stated my belief that we as an association need to look towards growth and change if we are to survive. It is a fact that our membership is dwindling due to mortality. I stated that I envisaged for our Association a place we can call our own. Imagine we have been around for more than 25 years and we are still operating out of a post box. What would the founding members of this association say if they were here today? Do we not owe it to them to move forward and try and secure a place of our own?

Please don't get me wrong, I don't mean a lavish mansion in downtown Toronto. Given the current real estate prices, it seems like a herculean feat to try and acquire property now. But I did raise this issue in 1999 but found little support. So what about now? What about a place of our own? A meeting place where members can drop in and have a cup of coffee, play a game of scrabble, research and read a copy of the *Broadcast*, or simply research the history of our Association and the men and women who were once part of our Alumni, but have now passed on.

While the acquisition of a place of our own is a desirable goal, I recognize our financial limitations. Recently our situation has taken a turn for the worse regarding our Canadian programs. Our primary source of revenue, the bingos, has been severely reduced (see Bingo Report). I was faced with the unpleasant task of advising the Principals of both Cedarbrae Collegiate and West Humber Collegiate that NAAC would not be able to honour the steel band bursaries, which we normally award to students in the steel band program in these schools.

Obviously we need to look to new and innovative ways to bring in funds to cover Canadian initiatives. Currently our Executive is working on this. In the interim, might I suggest that perhaps you, our members, consider leaving us a legacy in your Last Testament?

Furthermore, we must strive to encourage new and younger people to become active members for the longevity of our Association.

Best Regards,
Selwyn R. Baboolal
President

From the Desk of the Editor

There is good news to report in this issue. The photo on page 14 is of the newly completed wing at St. Augustine Girls' High School. Also included is a news release which was issued at the official opening. Remember donations to the SAGHS Building Fund are still needed to offset the costs incurred to complete this project.

We, at NAAC(Toronto), send our congratulations to SAGHS Building Fund Committee.

We also received photos showing the progress of the Naparima College Auditorium project. A bank draft in the amount of C\$45,840, which represents the total of the Naps 100 Fund, was presented to Vice-Principal David Sammy in July. (Back Cover)

More good news comes from our own NAAC steelband Panache, who have performed throughout the Spring, Summer and now into the Fall for dancing and listening entertainment.

Sweet pan music is a hit with many Canadians, especially for their wedding receptions and garden parties. See page 10 for a steelband report.

There is even more good news from NAA UK/ EUROPE. On page 6 they've sent us an event list which includes a date for an AGM and election of a formal executive. We offer our good wishes to the Interim Executive members.

Although we were all saddened by the death of one of our Honourary members, Mr. Noor Hassanali, we welcomed the open invitation that NAAC members received to attend a program to honour his memory at U of T's Victoria College Chapel (pg. 12). A notice was posted to the NAAC website.

As always we look forward to receiving news and articles suitable for *broadcast*.

Merle Ramdial

Website: www.naactoronto.ca

Finance Report

As of September 30, 2006, the status of the Association's financial affairs was as follows:

Bingo Account \$ 2,286

General Account

Bank Account \$24,312

Arthur Siblal Memorial Fund:

Bank Account \$ 413

NAAC Investments

Term Deposit – Balance @Sept. 30/06 \$ 1,106

Edward Jones – GIC @ 4.32%

Maturing June 18, 2007 \$10,000

Scotia McLeod - Inter Pipeline Fund:

1600 Units - Book Value \$10.00 \$16,000

**Dividends earned on

Interpipeline Fund as at Sept. 30/06 \$ 1,836

Total Investments - NAAC **\$55,953**

** Market value of the Inter Pipeline Fund at Sept. 30, 2006 was \$10.24. Although the current market value of the fund remains around the same as the Book Value, the fund continues to earn dividends at a rate of \$104 per month. As reported last year, accumulated cash dividends of \$7,136 were used to purchase the Edward Jones GIC.

Naps 100 Fund

As at June 30, 2006 the 1500 units in the Interpipeline Fund "owned" by NAPS 100 Fund were assumed by NAAC (Toronto) for the sum of \$15,814 which included dividends earned to date. The NAPS 100 Bank Account and all other investments - CIBC Wood Gundy AIC units and Edward Jones GIC were liquidated and a total sum of \$45,840 was sent to Naparima College for their Building Fund.

The Association sent a donation in the amount of \$3,000 to Naparima College Old Boys' Trust Fund, from proceeds of the 2005 5K Run/Walk. It also recently made its annual contribution of \$5,660 to the five schools in Trinidad to fulfill our commitments for 2006.

To date the Association raised net revenue of

\$463 from the 2006 5K Run/Walk event. Through the various gigs performed by Panache, the NAAC-sponsored steelband, we received net revenue of \$2,292. Our participation in the Bingos continues to be the major source of income to support our Canadian programs. However, we are seeing a decline of about 33% in the Bingo revenues. The executive is pursuing other sources of funding to continue our support of these programs.

We are very pleased to advise that the financial records of the Association were obtained in June this year and we have re-created the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2005 and completed financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2006. These statements will be available at the General Meeting scheduled for October 28, 2006.

Respectfully submitted

Glenda Ramsahai, Treasurer

REMINDER

Silent Auction of Original Oil Paintings Proceeds to the

SAGHS Building Fund

**(See photos in Spring 2006 issue of
broadcast)**

Bids will be accepted via mail until November 17th. However, at the Christmas Dinner & Dance on November 25th, the highest \$\$\$ bid will be displayed beside each painting and attendees will have an opportunity to view the paintings and place higher bids to secure their favourite piece of art

*If you wish to view the paintings please
contact Cynthia Ramdeen at 416 499 7357*

Bingo Report

For the current fiscal year to date, April 1st 2006 to September 30, 2006, NAAC was responsible for 19 bingos at the Finch Bingo Country Hall at 2424 Finch Avenue West in Toronto. Revenue earned for the six months from Jan/06 to June/06 was approximately 6.8K. This averaged out to about \$360 per session a whopping decrease of about \$390 per session, over the same time last year. Revenue for the period July/06, Aug/06 and Sept/06 is still owing to NAAC from the FCBA. We have had a sharp decline in revenue especially during the summer months when revenue dropped to about \$200 per session. This unexpected drop in revenue will affect both our funding to the steelband programs and to the bursaries for graduating high school students. We are currently looking at other sources of funding these programs.

We hope that bingo revenue for the remainder of 2006 will increase. We have spoken with a couple of the bingo hall managers who seem optimistic that changes in some of management strategies, which have been implemented will prove to be more fruitful.

The future of the bingo revenue is uncertain and NAAC and the other charities will receive better information along that vein at the FCBA meeting to be held on November 21st, 2006. At this time we have received an application for bingo sessions for the first six months in 2007 and can only assume that we will be manning sessions in 2007.

Again, special thanks to all our volunteers and team leaders for their help in running the bingo sessions. We look forward to your continued contribution to this project.

Currently, the City of Toronto has approved the following charitable objects of NAAC for which proceeds are to be used.

- 1) Funding the steelband programs at the two high schools.
- 2) Bursaries for graduating high school students.
- 3) Cultural and Community Support

We welcome new volunteers. Just helping a couple sessions per year would be much appreciated. Please contact Norma Ramsahai at 416-283-0675 for more information.

Norma Ramsahai
Bingo Coordinator.

Communications Report

In an earlier report I pointed out the increase in costs of producing and mailing each issue of *broadcast*. With this in mind, I am again appealing to those of us who abhor storing soft cover items. You may prefer to receive an email message with a link to the most recent issue of broadcast. You can then read an e-version or, if you prefer, you may print some or all of the pages. Yes, I said this before, but I got zero response.

Getting there: Go to www.naactoronto.ca then choose the BROADCAST button from the left hand side. It is important to let me know if this is your preference by sending me an email mjramdial@hotmail.com

In any event, to be able to continue publishing our newsletter, we need additional sponsors and paid advertisements to defray some of the costs. Please contact any member of the Executive if you, or anyone that you know, would like to place an ad in an upcoming issue of *broadcast*.

Submitted by **Merle Ramdial**
Chair, Communications Committee

Social Committee Report

At our 1st Executive meeting in June 2006, I boldly volunteered to chair the Social Committee. With the assistance of David Seemungal and Vitra Mungal, one of the first events we had planned was a Wine Tour in September 2006. Unfortunately, the tour never took off because after mapping out a route, calling numerous wineries and bus companies, several emails back and forth to the members of the Executive, the cost of doing the tour for the day was more than we anticipated. An Executive decision was made to scrap the plans for the tour.

Down but not defeated the next great event planned is NAAC's Annual Christmas Dinner and Dance on November 25, 2006 at Elite Banquet Hall. A resounding success every year, this is a chance for the "saga-boys" to shine and the women to dress in their finery. It is a night for family, friends, delicious food and let's not forget, good music. Feel free to call any member of the executive for tickets.

There is more planned for the coming year: • A Games night and an Ole Mas Competition to beat the winter blues • Casino Trip for all you wanna-be Gamblers • For the summer – A boat cruise and a golf tournament

Lots of great events planned so we hope you keep your schedules open and join us. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Darise Crevelle, Chair, Social Committee

Membership Report

There are currently 217 members of the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada

The breakdown is as follows:

Honorary	19
Life	161
Annual	37

Over the years many memberships have lapsed for whatever reason and we are asking those who have been past annual members to renew their memberships. Please be reminded that our membership year runs from January to December and any membership fees received will be applied to the current year. Therefore, if you sent your money in on October 1, 2006, this will be applied to the membership year 2006, consequently, your membership will expire on December 31, 2006. So please renew early in the year. You may download membership forms from our website www.naactoronto.ca or if you prefer a hard copy, please contact Aneesa Oumarally at 905 366 5400 ext 24.

NAAC is facing the problem of extinction. Our members are getting older and we are failing to attract younger new or past members even though we have very active programs in the community, e.g. steelband programs at various high schools and the 5K Fun Run/Walk. This year's Executive would like to make a big push to encourage younger members to join. NAAC needs people who are willing to

take on new initiatives that will increase NAAC's profile in the Trinidadian-Canadian, West-Indian-Canadian communities and Canadian society at large. NAAC needs members who will ensure its sustainability. We have a long, good history in Toronto, but the future does not hold much promise for us, as it is.

With this in mind, the NAAC Executive wants volunteers from our current membership to work on a committee that will brainstorm and come up with ideas to address this most pressing problem. If you are interested, please contact Aneesa Oumarally at aneesa@oblaw.ca by December 15, 2006, so that the new Committee can have its first meeting in early January 2007.

Respectfully submitted

Aneesa Oumarally

Chair, Membership Committee

Thank You

NAAC would like to thank the advertisers that appear in broadcast. Their support is greatly appreciated.

—
*For advertising information, please call
Selwyn Baboolal or any member
of the NAAC executive (p.2)*

The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada

Christmas Dinner & Dance

Saturday November 25th, 2006



**at Elite Banquet Hall
1850 Albion Road, Rexdale**



**Time: 6:00 p.m. • Dinner: 7:00 p.m.
Dress: Formal Cash Bar**

**Music by: The Vibes and DJ Raul
Tickets: \$40 • Members / \$45 • Non Members**

Greetings from The Naparima Alumni Association of UK/EUROPE

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

I refer to your request for an article, which you could include in your magazine, about the activities of our Association during the last year. A summary of the events which have taken place and any other activities planned are listed below.

Yours sincerely,
Lenore Teelucksingh,
Interim Secretary,
NAA of UK/Europe.

Naparima Alumni Association UK/EUROPE

The Association is still in its budding stages and functioning with an interim Executive Committee. The committee members are Miss Shirley Sookraj (President), Clive and Lenore Teelucksingh (Joint Secretaries), Mrs. Patricia Jaggs and Mrs. Jeanette Lalla Maharajh (Joint Treasurers) and Canon John Metivier and Mr. Martin Sinclair (Publicity Officers). We have since added two Student Liaison Officers, Mr. Anthony Kange and Mr. Andrew Watley, who have responsibility for liaising with Trinidad students in London. We plan to combine our efforts with the Officials at the Trinidad High Commission to welcome and assist the students where possible.

Membership

We currently have about 20 paid up members and over 80 supporters who have indicated an interest in becoming members. We hope to be able to recruit some more members before we have our Annual General Meeting. This meeting is planned to take place on either the 29th October or the 11th of November. It will end the period of the Interim Committee members and formalise the next committee.

EVENTS PAST AND FUTURE

Twelfth Night Dinner 6th January 2006

We greeted the New Year with a dinner which was attended by about 24 members and interested supporters. The dinner was at a Restaurant in Finsbury Park to mark the end of the Christmas season and to enjoy some West Indian Food. The evening provided the opportunity to publicise our existence and to enrol a couple of new members. A good time was had by all.

Fund Raising Dinner at the home of Mr Gerard Seebaran 25 February 2006

Cottage dinners are proving to be a very successful means of raising funds and networking. A member or interested person would volunteer to host a dinner or Tea Party and those attending are asked to make a donation to the Association. This particular dinner was on a cold winter's evening where 22 members and friends gathered to have a meal consisting of a variety of local Trinidad dishes. This proved to be a very enjoyable evening with lots of good food and convivial company. Funds were also raised by selling raffle tickets.

A Day at Ascot Races 20th June 2006

Ascot is the social meeting of the racing year, with the Queen and other members of the Royal family doing a lap of the course in their carriages. This is also a fashion parade where ladies wear their beautiful outfits with the emphasis on hats. A group booking was made for some members and friends to enjoy a day out and to mingle with the crowds at Ascot. This Racecourse and Pavilion were recently rebuilt and it is now one of the most modern Pavilions in the world. With all the excitement and display of head gear it was an enjoyable day out.

Fun Cricket Match - Sunday 9th July 2006

It was an unusually hot summer and we made the most of it. A fete match, known here as a Fun match was organised. This event was well supported although it was on the same day as the finals of the Football World Cup. The weather was sunny and a meal was provided for the players and spectators to raise funds for the Alumni. There were donations of food and we had a lot of fun.

Second Cricket Match Monday 28th August 2006

As the first cricket match was so successful, it was decided to have a second match on Bank Holiday Monday. This coincided with the Nottingham Carnival but the weather was fine and all those who attended enjoyed the day. A set of cricket gear was purchased for the Alumni and it is now our intention to organize one or two cricket matches every summer.

Fundraising Garden Party held by Mr and Mrs Radford (Esher) Sunday 17th September 2006.

It was a perfect day for an outdoor event. A stroll in an English garden was afforded us by our host and hostess and although we did not cruise down the river on the Sunday afternoon, it was a wonderful way to spend a summer's evening. Among the guests who attended were two students from Trinidad, who have come to study and Dr. Allan Sammy, the father of one of the students.

High Tea hosted by Canon and Mrs. John Metivier.

This event is scheduled to take place on Sunday 15th October at 4pm.

Naparima Girls' High School Cookbook

We are selling the very popular NGHS cookbook to raise funds to help the NGHS Alumnae in San Fernando and for ourselves to a lesser extent.

No further events have been planned. This will be done after the AGM is held later this month or in early November.

Roger Bissessar's *Spirit of Youth*

About the Book

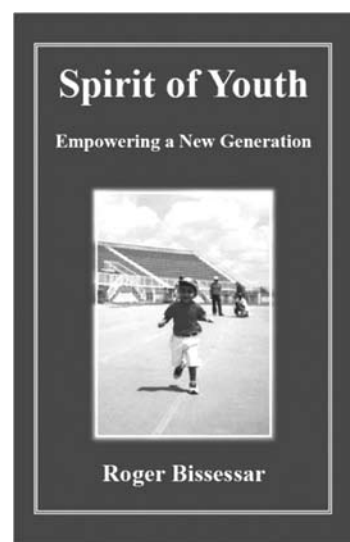
We are all born with a higher purpose than we initially realize. As we venture through life amidst the confusion and chaos around us, this higher calling, purpose or reason dawns upon us like a flash of lighting from the heavens.

What is the true purpose of our lives? Have we ever pondered upon this question during moments of quiet and reflection? Some of us

achieve significant success in terms of wealth, power and status in society but at the end of the day have we truly found peace of mind, contentment and happiness? If not, then we are like restless souls constantly driven in search of personal fulfillment, satisfaction and enlightenment.

Spirit of Youth-Empowering a New Generation is a motivating guide on discovering and walking the path of happiness and success. It is an uplifting journey on the power of self- discovery and positive mental dynamics. It is an insightful and inspirational guide to self- realization, personal accomplishment, managing change and overcoming challenges in our daily lives.

135 pages; quality trade paperback (softcover); catalogue #05-0208; ISBN 1-4120-5313-7; **US\$16.70**, C\$19.20, EUR13.72, £9.60 / Publisher: <http://www.trafford.com/05-0208>



About the Author

Roger Bissessar lives and writes in Trinidad & Tobago. He is a qualified process engineer with over 10 years' experience in the international petrochemical sector (BSC Chemical & Process Engineering). He has served as a Regional Youth Forum representative of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (1999-2002), and has been involved in strategic planning and programs in Australia, Anguilla, Great Britain, Guyana, St Lucia, Solomon Islands and Trinidad & Tobago. He continues to provide support to motivational and educational programs within the Commonwealth. He is an Associate Member of the Institute of Chemical Engineers (AMICHE) and a life member of the Guild of Graduates of the University of the West Indies. He is a graduate of Naparima College.

NAA of Quebec's Annual Spring Dinner & Dance / May 2006

A small group of NAAC Executive members and their spouses attended the NAA of Quebec's annual Spring Dinner & Dance that was held in May. We were warmly welcomed by the members of NAAQ's Executive. It was great meeting old friends at this event, with whom we shared a delicious West Indian dinner. Pictured enjoying herself is Norma Ramsahai of NAAC, with three of her former NGHS classmates who reside in Montreal and are NAAQ members.

Thanks NAAQ for a good time. Remember our NAAC Christmas Dinner & Dance is on November 25th. You are all welcome. This is our major fundraising event to support our alma mater schools.



Norma Ramsahai (NAAC) with Habza Karamath, Rea Ganghoo & Cheryl Hasmatali at NAAQ Annual Spring Dinner Dance.

NAAC & NAAQ Exec members:

*Ian Ramdial (NAAC),
Ralph Paltoo(NAAQ),
Norma Ramsahai(NAAC),
Errol Mullahoo & Marjorie Mullahoo (NAAQ),
Anand Ramsahai (NAAC),
Jenny Thompson(NAAQ),
Merle Ramdial (NAAC),
Frank Lutchman(NAAQ)
& Angie Batchasingh (NAAQ)*



Naparima Alumni Association of Canada

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Visit our web site at: www.naactoronto.ca

Check out the latest issue of *broadcast* online. See details on upcoming events and follow links to other school and alumni sites. There is also a "Steelband Corner".

NAAC Trini Kaleidoscope

If you were not among the 190 people who attended this October 14th event, you missed a great afternoon chuck full of entertainment; from kaiso to poetry and literary readings by distinguished authors, steelpan solos, storytelling and a performance by our own NAAC Panache steelband. The funds raised are targeted for awards to Fifth Form female students in our T & T schools who have exhibited promise in their writing skills. The first, called the Meghu/Scrimgeour Literary Award, was made this year to an NGHS student.

This event, planned by a Sub-Committee of NAAC, was chaired by Karma Naike along with committee members Ramabai Espinet and Myrtle Gopeesingh. Congratulations on a job well done! If you wish to learn more about this program, please contact Karma Naike at: 416 783 6591

(Editor's note: We'll be hearing more about this initiative, which truly deserves more space, if it weren't for our publishing deadline)



NAAC PHOTO GALLERY

◀
*Funtime for some of
our Panache steelband
members (but not so
much for the mules)
at the Sammy
Family Picnic
held in September*

▶
Jealous?
*This NAAC member
made it to Germany
to see the Warriors
play live!*



Steelband Report

Panache Steelband:

The Panache steelband has had a very busy schedule over the last six months. While we had a full slate of gigs for April and May, during the months of June and July we were so flooded with requests that we finally had to pass on some bookings to other steelband groups or else to politely turn them down. For the year 2006, Panache has performed at 20 functions so far. Half of these were paying gigs that provided a steady source of income for our sponsor organization, NAAC. These consisted mainly of weddings, anniversaries and other private functions.

For the remaining gigs – involving charity and community causes – Panache virtually donated its services. While these engagements serve to achieve the stated goal of NAAC to promote cultural interaction with the (Canadian) society at large, they have proven to be, on a personal level, the most enjoyable experiences for members of the band.

Having negotiated to play at Wild Water Kingdom certainly didn't help the band's tight schedule. But playing there did serve the purpose of giving us more exposure while at the same time allowing us to practise and play during the summer months. It also helped all of us to hone our playing skills and to approach the new year of after-school pan classes at West Humber CI with a lot more confidence.

As some of you are aware, Panache has decided to produce a CD. Recording dates have been set for October 19 and November 9. The CDs likely will not be available until next Spring. We are in the process of seeking financial support for the project. Net proceeds from the sale of the CDs will go to NAAC.

NAAC as our major sponsor has recently given funding for the purchase of a drum set and new T-shirts, for which the band is grateful. Panache's next target is to acquire a set of bass pans.

Morale in the band remains at a high level as members continue to volunteer to take on jobs that are required to keep the band running smoothly. Future engagements before the year's end include the NAAC Xmas Dance on November 25 and private gigs (wedding, retirement) and a repeat of last year's Christmas Jam.

School Partnerships: With the severe drop in bingo income over the past year, NAAC funding of some of its steelband program initiatives at the various Toronto-area schools has been seriously affected. In

communication with the schools, NAAC has confirmed that the partnership agreement will still be in effect but that some aspects of the program may either be reduced or cancelled at least for the coming year. NAAC however is in the process of seeking other sources of income as a possible replacement of bingo revenues.

Cedarbrae CI Trip to Trinidad: Randolph Karamath has gained approval from the Toronto Board of Education and support from the Principal of Cedarbrae CI to take 14 of his steelband music students to Trinidad. Randolph and three adult supervisors will accompany the students on the visit from March 7 – 14. NAAC has been asked to help by liaising with the principals of some of the Naparima family of secondary schools to arrange for the group to visit with members of their school steelbands. We extend best wishes to Randolph for a safe, educational experience.

After School NAAC Teaching Programmes:

At WHCI, Blake Stansfield has agreed to return as an instructor for the steelpan classes and Pat McNeilly will come in on an occasional basis as an arranger. Classes resumed on Thursday September 7. An attempt will be made to accommodate three levels of playing ability. Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced to fit into the Thursday night allotted time of 6:30 – 9:00.

At Cedarbrae CI, Randolph Karamath will continue as the instructor for the regular NAAC pan class. Classes started on October 4. Beginner classes are held every Wednesday evening from 5:30 – 7:00.

Persons interested in joining the classes can contact Ian Ramdial 905-844-1254 / iramdial@cogeco.ca (for WHCI venue) or Randolph Karamath 416- 283-4152/ ramachez@hotmail.com (for Cedarbrae location).

Ian Ramdial,

Steelband Liaison Representative

NAAC - Sponsored Steelband Classes

*Interested in learning to play pan
or in joining a Steelband?*

Two venues:

West End: West Humber C.I.

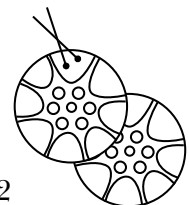
Ian Ramdial: 905-844-1254

E-mail: iramdial@cogeco.ca

East End: Cedarbrae C.I.

Randolph Karamath: 416-283-4152

ramachez@hotmail.com



What's your latté factor?

Can cutting back on trips to the coffee shop help you retire better than planned? The answer is a resounding “yes” according to Roger Ramchatesingh, whose responsibilities include understanding the investment needs of Canadian women for Mississauga-based brokerage firm, Edward Jones.

“Just take a look at the ‘latté factor’” says Ramchatesingh. Buy a coffee, a bagel, and a couple of snacks during the day, maybe even a lunch, and before you know it, you’ve spent \$10 to \$15 in one day. Ramchatesingh argues that if you were to save \$7 of that, that’s \$210 a month, or \$2,520 a year. Put that money in a diversified portfolio of high quality stocks, bonds or mutual funds over 20 to 25 years and don’t be surprised if you suddenly have hundreds (yes hundreds!) of thousands of dollars that you would not otherwise have. The notion of the latté factor, which stems from David Bach’s New York Times best-selling book *Smart Women Finish Rich*, is really a metaphor. We spend without thinking about it. For many, their latté factor could be their cell phone; for others it could be video rental fees or long distance phone calls. A key message of the *Smart Women Finish Rich* book is that we should all be cognizant of our latté factors, trying to reduce them without sacrificing a quality of life.

This idea of quality of life is an important one. You always want to try to balance “living rich” and “finishing rich”. And by rich, we don’t mean in a material sense. Rather, we mean a richer quality of life. When you think about it, money is not an end in itself; it’s really a means to an end. It’s a tool to help us achieve some particular goal. If you want to talk about money, you have to inherently talk about values. *Smart Women Finish Rich* recommends you ‘put your money where your values are’. Talking about values is not the first thing that typically comes to mind when it comes to your finances. Instead, we typically talk about returns, returns we made on a particular stock, bond or mutual fund. But, if the way you handle your money is in direct conflict with your

personal values, you may find yourself not living the happy and fulfilled life you have hoped for.

This issue of saving for retirement is particularly important for women. Women can fall victim to what Ramchatesingh calls the “triple whammy” – living longer, being out of the workforce more (due to child and caregiving responsibilities), and likely feeling the financial effects after divorce. Because this creates a different context for women, they need to prepare differently than men do. That will often mean saving more. Generally, women need to save about 20% more than men do. If the standard rule of thumb is to save about 10% of your total income, then women need to be thinking more along the lines of saving 12%. Of course, the more you save, the better off you’ll be financially.

So, the next time you get the urge for some caffeine, while you surely want to “live rich”, think about your latté factor so that you can ensure you’re on track to “finish rich” as well.

Roger Ramchatesingh, Market Development, Edward Jones. The ideas expressed may or may not reflect those of Edward Jones. Individuals should always consult a financial professional when making investment decisions.

— REMINDER —

NAAC MEMBERSHIP

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

Contact:

*Aneesa Oumarally,
Chair,
Membership Committee.*



A Tribute to Noor Hassanali

At the recent memorial service held at University of Toronto's Victoria College Chapel for Noor M. Hassanali, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (1987 – 1997), his niece, Mrs. Angela Jutlah spoke on behalf of her family.

The Hassanalis hold Honourary memberships in NAAC. Angela Jutlah is a Life member of NAAC. Thanks Angela for sharing your tribute (below), with those of us who were unable to attend the service.

Mr. Chairman, Former First lady of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Consul General of Trinidad and Tobago, Members of the Hassanali Family, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is indeed my privilege and a great honour to pay tribute to the extraordinary life of His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (1987-1997), Mr. Justice Noor M. Hassanali (T.C.) I say privilege, because I know that if there are two hundred people in this room right now, there are likely two hundred very unique stories on the impact he has made upon each of us here.

We may have joined him at different stages in his remarkable journey but we are all still unpacking the memories.

It is my great fortune to have known Noor Hassanali personally, as his niece, and to be able to value the kind of love and support he not only received from but gave to his family members.

This is Uncle Noor.

My earliest memories stretch back to about sixty years ago. At that time from the stories I used to hear, as a very young child, I knew that my uncle, my mother's brother, was in this far away country called Canada, studying Law at an important place called a University. I also sensed he had to be

someone very special just from the way my parents, grandparents and every adult I knew, showed the pictures he sent, and from the way they relayed his written updates about his life in Canada.

And then one day, after five years away, he returned to Trinidad. I cannot forget the preparation his loving family had made and the excitement it created among his nieces and nephews. But by this time, my younger brothers, slightly

older cousins and I, (then about eight) were old enough to spend some of our school holidays at our grandparents' home in Victoria Village, where Uncle Noor lived. And he always found the time to entertain us with his stories and riddles. We also had family Christmas dinners and Eid Celebrations there.

But my treasured memories were the evenings he spent with us. I remember how we would sit with him in the gallery (the Trinidadian term for porch). He would play his banjo, recorder or mouth organ and teach us songs, 'Danny Boy', 'You are my Sunshine', 'Oh Susanna', 'Down by

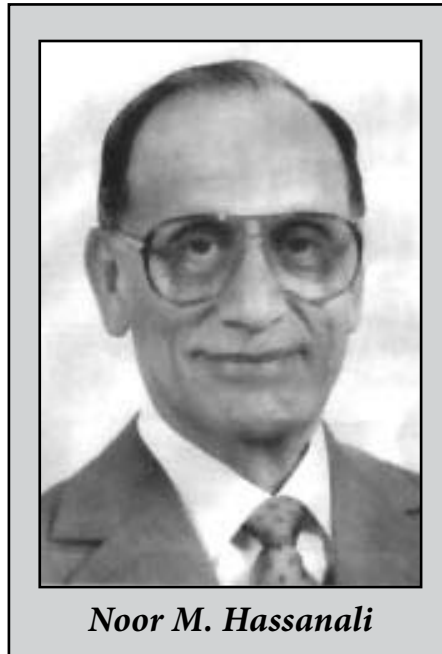
the Riverside', and then the next evening, we'd have a Spelling Bee or a Quiz, for which he gave book prizes. I remember being the proud winner of one of those prizes – a small pocket Oxford English Dictionary, which I kept for many years.

Ten years later, during my first year at the University of British Columbia, he must have thought that I no longer needed that Dictionary, so he sent me his massive Latin Dictionary.

To this day, I'm not sure whether it was his handsome movie star good looks, his easy, unassuming manner, or his great teaching skills; but as children, we loved being around him.

Years later, one could see his own children and

(continued on next page)



Noor M. Hassanali

A Tribute to Noor Hassanali

(continued from previous page)

grandchildren sharing a similar love for him.

Throughout his years, he has always advocated for children. He has eloquently argued that parents have deep obligations to guide their children and that the family has a critical role in raising children. In one of his addresses featured in "Teaching Words", a collection of his Selected Addresses, he says, and I quote, *"the family is the most important basic unit in the structure of human society, and the one upon which the welfare and progress of our civilization must ultimately depend."*

My uncle very early in his life..... and I quote from Professor Ken Ramchand's Biographical Introduction in this book, *"had this intuitive understanding that the uniqueness of the self is discovered and expressed not in isolation but in relation to other selves in society."* His life in the village community and brilliant career at Naparima College as a student, a young teacher, and Sportsmaster, demonstrated this.

But Canada was unknown territory to him. Little known to him were the customs, cultures and food. Here he was, in the 1940s at a time when letter writing was the primary means of communication with family and friends abroad. Contact by telephone, Internet or periodic visits home was not as easy as it is today. But he adapted very well to his new environment. His academic and athletic achievements continued to be outstanding. And he made lifelong friendships.

Perhaps the most significant, however, was the incredible connection he established during that time with the Dillon family. The Dillons from Canada became a household name among the Hassanali household in Trinidad. This resulted in letter writing, gifts of books, visits of the Dillons to Trinidad and visits of various members of the Hassanali clan (including my parents) to the Dillons' home in Cooksville, Mississauga. That friendship and interaction has continued throughout the last sixty years even with the changing generations. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the role that Molly Yeomans, whose mother was a Dillon,

has played in the planning of this function.

My uncle strongly believed, and I quote from one of his speeches, *"In our cosmopolitan society, cultural differences must not prevent us from recognizing the importance of co-existence in an atmosphere of mutual respect and appreciation."*

The life he lived, clearly demonstrates that diversity can be a springboard for harmony.

As President and First Lady, the Hassanalis easily earned the goodwill of the people of Trinidad and Tobago. Their influence flowed from their joint endeavours, from their dignity, from their compassion and from the strength of their conviction. At President's House, the First Lady diligently maintained a kitchen garden with vegetables for family and official guests. She established a library museum featuring local exhibits, books written by local authors, as well as gifts from visiting dignitaries. And on display in the various rooms were different works of art created by the local artists. She made it an especially welcoming place for school children from all parts of the country. While the Hassanalis observed the necessary formalities of the Presidency their public functioning was an extension of their private lives.

Our own family - and I know many others throughout the years - have enjoyed my uncle's wonderful sense of humour and engrossing stories, during our visits to Trinidad and the Hassanalis' frequent visits to Toronto. My uncle's patience, integrity and knowledge were always reflected in his responses to questions. He would listen very carefully and answer each question as if it were the first time he had heard it.

Throughout the years, he has influenced us through play, song, stories, his strong leadership and most importantly, through his own attitude to people, ideas and life.

As his son, Khalid said at a recent Interfaith Service in Trinidad, held to commemorate his father's life, and I quote, *"My father would tell us to interpret and treasure the common message of all religions. He was of a particular faith but he was also of one faith."* Ladies and Gentlemen, We thank God for his long and blessed life, his example and his faith in humanity.

Dedication of New Wing At SAGHS

*Be an example in your speech,
your conduct, your love,
your faith and purity.
1st Timothy 4 : 12*

The newly-built west wing at St. Augustine Girls' High School was officially opened on September 19th, 2006, a date that also commemorated the 56th Founders' Day Anniversary of the school. For staff and students, this was a wonderful day when a dream of more space was transformed into reality through the tenacity and dedication of Principal, Mrs. Kathleen Anderson. A fitting and well-paced function was held at the Anna Mahase Auditorium to mark the event. The school community was honoured to receive greetings from the Moderator, The Rt. Rev. Rawle Sukhu, as well as Mr. Harold Gayapersadsingh of the Secondary Schools' Board of Education, and Ms. Taliba Ayodike, Schools' Supervisor with the Ministry of Education. Mr. Hatim Gardner, Chairman of the Administrative Committee, presented a report from the Building Committee. Rev. Cyril Paul, the School's Chaplain, delivered the homily to an appreciative audience which included the only surviving founding member of SAGHS, Mrs. Beatrice Nobbee, Past Principal, Dr. Anna Mahase, past music teacher, Mrs. Lenore Mahase-Samaroo, other past teachers and members of the church, donors, PTA representatives, staff and students.

One highlight of the morning's proceedings was the unveiling of a commemorative marble wall plaque bearing the message of 1st Timothy 4 : 12, quoted above. This was done by the Moderator after a ceremony of dedication performed by the Chairman of the Northern Presbytery, Rev. A. Lalla-Ramkhelawan. In the afternoon, many parents visited the Open Day displays mounted in the classrooms of the new wing, while others sat and enjoyed a talent show staged by their daughters.

The seeds of this auspicious occasion were sown in 2003 when Mrs Anderson submitted a comprehensive proposal to the Ministry of Education, describing the current needs of the school as well as detailed plans for expansion. The Presbyterian Secondary



Schools' Board of Education gave their approval in April, 2004. The Administrative Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Rawlins Latchu and, subsequently, Mr. Hatim Gardner, actively pursued the success of the project. In May, 2005, final drawings were ready; by July, the school community, led by Rev. Cyril Paul, engaged in an exciting sod-turning ceremony. By April 2006, the extension had been built, and needed only its finishing touches.

The SAGHS community is proud to now enjoy the addition of four large classrooms on the ground floor as well as two spacious computer labs on the upper storey.

This just in...

From the alma mater schools, Cherisse Baldeo and Nadine Ramharack from Naparima Girls' High School and Jansen Seheult from Naprima College were

winner of the President's medal.

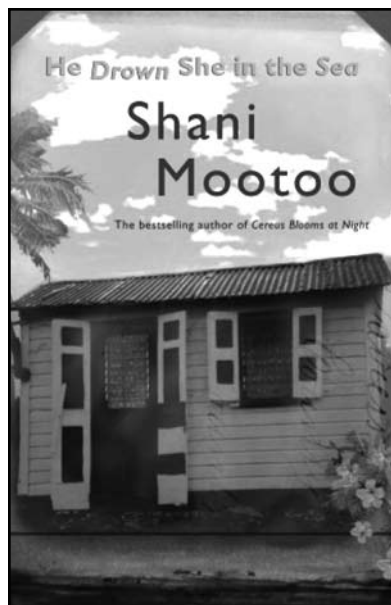
In addition, nine students from T & T placed in the top ten in the world in the Cambridge A Level exams. Nandaki Keshavan of Hillview College tied for tenth position in chemistry.

Shani Mootoo's *He Drown She in the Sea*

Shani Mootoo was born in Ireland and grew up in Trinidad. She has lived in Canada since the early 1980s. Her acclaimed first novel, *Cereus Blooms at Night*, was published in fourteen countries, was a finalist for The Giller Prize, the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize, and the Chapters/Books in Canada First Novel Award. She is also an accomplished visual and video artist.



Set on the fictional Caribbean island of Guanagaspar around the time of the Second World War, and in modern-day Vancouver, *He Drown She in the Sea*, fulfills the promise of Shani Mootoo's internationally acclaimed debut novel, *Cereus Blooms at Night*.



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At the centre of the story is Harry St. George, the son of a laundress, and the unrequited love he bears for a woman, Rose, the daughter of a wealthy man, whom he knew as a child. Looking back to his past, evoking the rich culture and texture of his Caribbean boyhood, and the life of his mother, Dolly, Harry reveals his friendship with Rose, and the events that will continue to haunt him across time and place. When Rose arrives suddenly in Vancouver, where Harry has built a hard-earned life for himself, the two embark on an impossible affair that will have tragic consequences.

He Drown She in the Sea is a vividly evoked, subtly described story of love, class division, and the unrelenting hold of the past, told by one of our most gifted writers. Shani Mootoo joins the front ranks of Caribbean literature, in the company of Austin Clarke and Dionne Brand.

Reminiscing

1976: Naps won the following trophies: National Championship Cricket, National Junior Cricket, National Intercol final - Football

I was surfing the Naparima College site recently reminiscing about the “good ole days” and came upon this section. I attended Naps for 1972 to 1979, so the 1976 achievement mentioned above filled me with nostalgia. This year is the 30th Anniversary of this monumental achievement. Winning the Senior and Junior Cricket Championships as well as The Intercol Championships in the same year had never been done by any school. It was one of the proudest moments in Naparima history. I certainly remember the “Sports Teacher” Mr. Roy Jagroopsingh who was the driving force behind this accomplishment. He was one of the most dedicated teachers of his time and a man for whom I had the utmost respect. That year was truly a celebration year for the school. I am proud to say that I was actually present at each of the events having been the “scorer” for both the Cricket Teams and was known to be one of the strongest supporters of the Football Team. As far as I am aware, to this day, the feat has never been replicated.

For those who remember the Teams of the era, David Williams went on to represent the West Indies and had an outstanding career. Ravi Deonarine who was the Naps Senior Team cricket captain (and also played on the football team), represented Trinidad and Tobago in regional cricket and if memory serves me well, Robbie Francis represented Trinidad in football.

Join me in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of this fantastic accomplishment and raise your glass when next you have one in your hands and say – “GO Naps GO – Naparima Forever”.

Dave Ramsumair
Naps Old Boy

MAILBAG

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Letter from Kobe...

Kobe was selected as the second best city in Japan. I can understand why. It is a very international city, excellent facilities, favourable climate and friendly people. There are restaurants and bars everywhere. The cost of living is high but still one of the best in Japan and in SE Asia. The average meal costs about \$12 CDN and you can get a variety of cuisines. Public transportation is cheap and efficient. A return fare to school is \$3.40 CDN.

My school has 300 students, 160 are in Grades 7-12 and they are my responsibilities. We are located in the area of Suma on a hill overlooking the sea. It is about a 5 minute walk from the train station and about 25 min. from home. 60 % of the students are Japanese, 25% Korean, 10% Indian and the remainder from many parts of the world as far as Peru and Mexico. We follow a California curriculum. The attached group picture is of some staff and students at the Upper School Orientation Day. Every year all the Grades 7-12 students overnight at this camp setting in the mountains. It is a beautiful site with wonderful facilities. It has a large hot spring in the building. All activities are planned and managed by the Student Activity Council. It is a fantastic opportunity for students to build friendship, develop leadership skills, have fun, and see staff in many different perspectives. This year a very strong typhoon almost cancelled the program.

I am now beginning to explore the surrounding area. Today I went to an area where ninjas and samurais lived. Along the way I heard pan music in a mall. During Christmas, Odette and I plan

to go to Guam. It is the latest resort area in this part of the world. I will miss you all for the Christmas Dance and my birthday.

(Editor's Note: Rudy Rishi Maharaj graduated from Naparima College and migrated to Canada in 1970. He was a teacher, department head and administrator for 27 years in Toronto high schools. His last position was at Albert Campbell C.I. in Scarborough. Since 1988, he has worked as a teacher for the Hong Kong government and numerous times for a Canadian school in Hong Kong. He founded the Canadian International School in Singapore and has worked as the Ontario Curriculum Supervisor for a Canadian school in Wuhan, China. During summers and weekends, he lectures for Royal Road University, Victoria, B.C. in their MBA program across S.E. Asia-Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guanzhou, Taipei, Hsinshu and Manila. He is currently the Upper School Principal for Marist Brothers International School in Kobe, Japan.. Rudy is a NAAC Life member).

Condolences to...

Rio, Kerin & Shielle Maharaj, who lost their father Adrian Maharaj.

Pat McNeilly, whose mother Louise passed away recently.

Richard & John Kitney on the death of their mother Florence Elaine Kitney

Ramabai Espinet, on the sudden death of her sister Susan Christina Ferrier.

Aneesa & Riaz Oumarally on the death of their grandfather Bennett Mohamed.

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Naparima College's new Auditorium, currently under construction (Photo taken July 2006)



Mr. Mervyn Mohammed presenting a NAPS 100 cheque to Vice Principal of Naparima College, Mr. David Sammy.



Consul General of T & T, Mr. Michael Lashley and former First lady of T & T, Mrs. Zalayhar Hassanali at Memorial Service held at U of T's Victoria Chapel.



Merle Pegus, Ian Ramdial & in the rear and barely visible Rustin Oree



Harold Hosein and Trini Kaleidoscope attendee, Patricia Bujan



(L to R) Ruby Samlalsingh and Joyce Kawaii.