



“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. XXXIX No. 1

Fall 2015

St. Augustine Girls' High School's 65th Anniversary

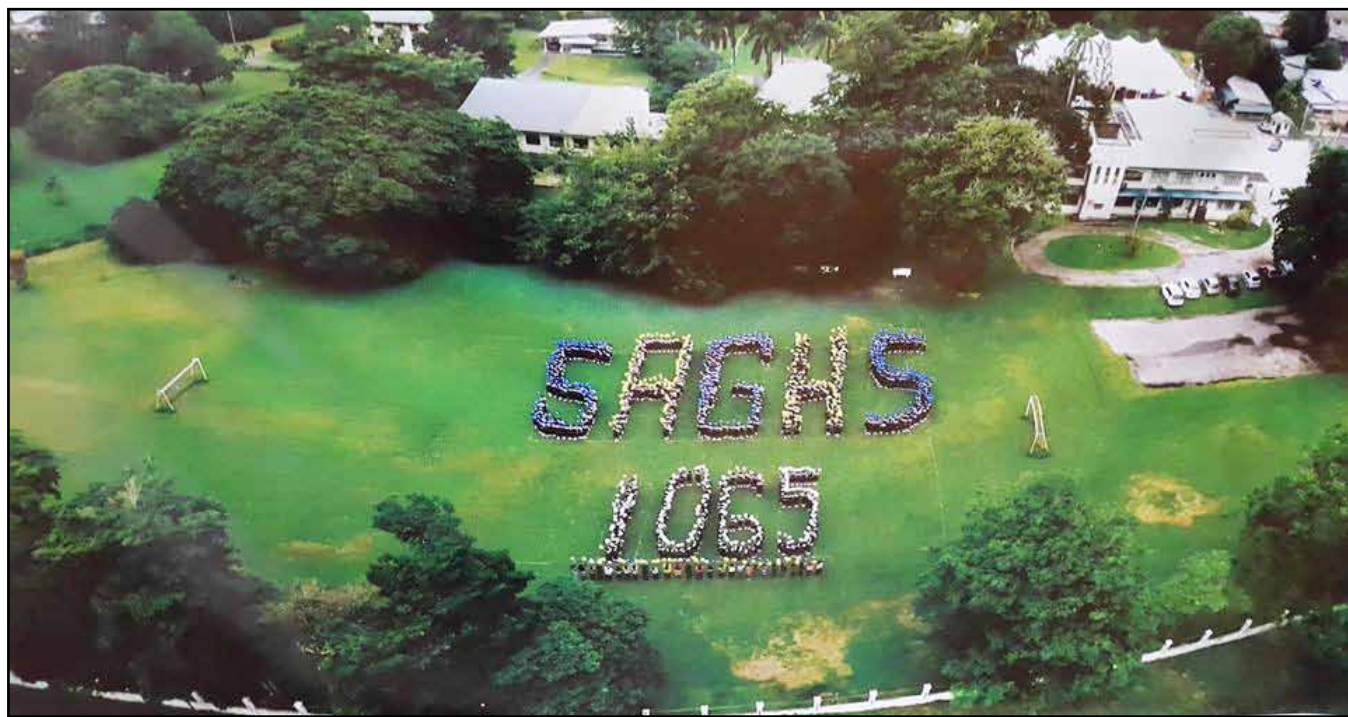


Photo by Josiah Persad

*SAGHS Students come together
to show their school spirit.*

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The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (NAAC) was founded in Toronto in 1978 and includes graduates of Naparima College, Naparima Girls' High School, St. Augustine Girls' High School, Hillview College, Iere High School, Naparima Teachers' Training College and St. Andrew's Theological College. Among other things, it supports programmes at alma mater schools as well as a steelband programme in schools in the Toronto area.

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

2015-16 NAAC Executive

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CREDITS

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President's Message

At my advanced age, I find myself more often than not in front of the TV watching the daily news. The recent news coverage of unfortunate Middle East families desperately scrambling north across European countries (borders being hastily closed by some governments while their own citizens hand out food and water), it is like "déjà vu all over again". With the Federal Elections now at hand, listening to the pundits expound on the various panels on TV, I gesticulate and have the urge to scream at the repetitious statements made by some.

To keep my sanity, I take solace in the small things that I do that make me feel good. On a slightly bigger scale my activity with NAAC has been reassuring. I feel good about the bursaries and awards that will help a few students move ahead and attain some of their goals. I have faith in this new generation.

As our Association moves ahead, the Executive has members with the experience to deal with most situations that may arise. We have worked as a team in the past and this year will be no different.

Raising funds is going to be more difficult now as many of our older members have retired and are on fixed incomes. However they and their friends still enjoy our functions because they feel safe, the food is always good and they like our steelband.

I would be remiss if I did not address the passing of Rustin Oree. Rustin served on the NAAC Executive for many years and he remained an active member, sharing his thoughts and following through with his proposals. Examples of the ideas he and Howard Sammy pushed forward to the NAAC were the School Partnership with the school board and the steelband program. Rustin was passionate about keeping Panache alive by rallying the players along. Another of his ideas was to upgrade our newsletter from stapled pages to a magazine format. He was instrumental in introducing us to Bingo as a source of funding and he worked at bingo sessions until his health started to fail.

"It's so much darker when a light goes out than it would have been if it had never shone." John Steinbeck

Ian Ramdial

From the Editor's Desk...

I am pleased to receive information from two more of our schools in Trinidad that celebrated anniversaries, SAGHS 65th and Iere 60th. In our Spring issue, Hillview's 60th was covered.

Cynthia Ramdeen, a member of our Executive, and her sisters went down to T & T to attend the SAGHS celebration. Cynthia kindly submitted pictures and short comments from SAGHS Alumnae, who are also members of NAAC.

I asked Chandra Gosine to write of his visit to Baku, a place that is not on the regular travel agents' tours (p.7). I knew Chandrashekha fifty-two years ago when we both worked at the Carnegie Library in San Fernando. I look forward to meeting him soon.

One assignment that Rustin Oree's friends found difficult to take on was writing something

about him. We all knew him well, some for over fifty years, but "where to start" was the problem. Rustin lived a very, very interesting life and his bio will require too many pages to tackle here. However, thanks to Al Foster, who knew Rustin as a part of the pan community in Toronto, for the piece on p.21.

I am indebted to Frank Birbalsingh, who willingly shares his book reviews with us. See p. 19.

Do you find that those of us who have no artistic ability whatsoever, are thrilled when a friend has that ability and is recognized by other artists? Thanks goes to Marilyn White for the photos of some of her paintings on p.22.

Once again, I thank Rajiv Persaud of Bluetree Publishing & Design for all his help in publishing Broadcast.

Merle Ramdial

Finance Report

This report reflects the Association's financial information as at August 2015. Annual Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for May 28, 2016.

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Bank of Nova Scotia	\$24,389.00
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NAAC INVESTMENTS

Bank of Nova Scotia – Term Deposit	
-Balance at December 31, 2014	\$ 1,211.00
Investment Planning Counsel – Inter Pipeline Fund	
*1600 Units – B.V. per unit \$10.00	\$16,000.00
(M.V. \$45,120.00)	
*Dividends earned – Feb/15 to Aug/15	\$ 1,176.00
**Riocan Real Estate Inv T/U	
(M.V. \$19,934.00)	\$21,915.00
820 units - B.V. per unit \$27.46	
Dividends earned - Feb/15 to Aug/15	\$ 578.00
	<hr/>
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	<u>\$48,880.00</u>

*Market value of the Inter Pipeline Fund as at August 2015 was \$28.20 per unit. This reflects an increase of 182% over book value. The fund continues to earn dividends at the rate of \$196 per month which translates to a return of 14.7% per annum.

**Market value of Riocan REIT as at August, 2015 was \$24.30 per unit, a decrease of 9% over book value. Dividends from Riocan REIT are approx. \$96.00 per month which shows a 5% return.

The Association met its financial commitments to the schools in Trinidad in the amount of \$3,760 which was remitted in September, 2015. This is the sum of the following amounts to each of the five schools : NGHS, Iere, & SAGHS in the amount of \$820 each, Naparima College in the amount of \$620 and Hillview College in the amount of \$680.

We look forward to our Annual Christmas Dinner & Dance to bolster our General account so that we can continue to keep on funding our programs.

Respectfully submitted

Merle Ramdial for

Norma Ramsahai, Treasurer

Communications Report

Following up on the decision made at the last AGM concerning the cost of printing and mailing copies of Broadcast, an insert was included in the Spring 2015 issue of Broadcast. Members were given two options; you could receive an e-mail that informed when the e-copy was posted to the NAAC website, or you could continue to receive print copies. Members were asked to respond no later than August 30th, 2015.

It is interesting to note that of the 198 members, 32 opted to receive e-alerts and 22 for print. It means that 144 members did not read the instructions and therefore did not pay attention to the deadline.

In any case, anyone who has access to the internet will still be able to visit the NAAC website

at anytime www.naactoronto.ca and click on the "Broadcast" button on the left hand column to read e-copies of Broadcast from 2005 on.

NAAC wishes to thank the businesses who have placed ads with us. Thanks for your support.

Submitted by

Merle Ramdial

Chair, Communications Committee

Congratulations to:
first-time grandparents,
Anand and Glenda Ramsahai
on the birth of a grand daughter,
Sophie Elizabeth Ramsahai,
July 27, 2015.

Social Report

Thunder, lightning, heavy rains and winds left the Executive no choice, but to cancel our NAAC Picnic which was to be held on June 28th, 2015. The Social Committee will be looking at booking a date for next summer's picnic as well as other events that are in the planning stages.

In the meantime, we are concentrating on our annual Christmas Dinner & Dance. The tickets are ready and are available from any member of the Executive.

2015-2016 Executive

President: Ian Ramdial	ian.ramdial09@gmail.com
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Exec. Member: Richard Jaikaran	RichardNAAC@gmail.com
Past President: Cynthia Ramdeen	cynthia.ramdeen@gmail.com

We are accepting donations of gifts for our raffle. In the past years the raffles have proved to be quite successful in adding to our fundraising for the schools.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Rostant
Chair, Social Committee

Membership Report

Membership numbers have shown no increase from January – September 2015, although we did welcome a new Life member at our AGM, Ia Sirju.

So sad to report that we lost three Life members and one very dear Regular Member this year.

Our heartfelt sympathy has been conveyed through condolence cards that were sent to the respective families.

There are 24 Annual Regular Members who attended the Naps Schools. As Chair of the Membership Committee, I would like to encourage these members to upgrade to becoming LIFE members. There are 4 members of this group who were actively involved on the NAAC executive. In our 36th year as an association it is not too late for these members to consider becoming more actively involved. Your emails or telephone calls with suggestions for the Association, comments or questions, or letting us know how you would like to participate in our planning of events and most of all your updates of family news would be highly appreciated.

We would be making every effort to keep our membership well informed about our planned events and all relevant information about members through our website. We ask all members to please check our site periodically at www.naactoronto.ca for news about the Association.

Please call /email to let us know that you would be attending our next General meeting on Saturday, November 7, 2015

Tickets are now being sold for the Christmas Dinner & Dance on Saturday, November 28th, 2015. We look forward to meeting you soon.

Cynthia Ramdeen
Chair, Membership Committee

ADVERTISEMENTS

If you wish to place an ad in the next issue of Broadcast

Contact: rasras@rogers.com or Tel: 416-743-1331

Steelband Report

Steelband classes have been running since Monday September 21 at Cedarbrae CI on the east end of Toronto and on Wednesday September 17 at West Humber CI on the west side. There is still space for eager beginners to join the classes, especially at Cedarbrae. Classes are open to all aspiring pannists, young or old. Check the Notice to your right. NAAC's partnership with the two high schools is still in place. We will continue to give our financial support for bursaries and awards as well as the tuning of pans and occasional purchases of new equipment.

Both beginner and advanced players at the west end celebrated after the last class in June with a buffet dinner. Players and their spouses had a good time.

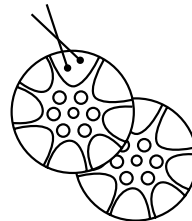
Our sponsored steelband Panache (working out of West Humber) already has several gigs lined up for this year and next, including the NAAC Christmas Dinner and Dance and the Etobicoke Santa Claus Parade.

Ian Ramdial

NAAC Steelband Liaison

NOTICE:

Steelband Classes 2015/2016 Season



Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute

• ***Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.***

Contact: Randolph Karamath

• Tel: 416-283-4152

email: ramachez@hotmail.com

West Humber Collegiate Institute

• ***Time: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.***

Contact: Ian Ramdial

• Tel: 905-844-1254

email: ian.ramdial09@gmail.com



NOTICE OF NAAC GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 7, 2015 • 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church

4156 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough, ON

Refreshments will be served at Noon

Music Notes: West Humber Collegiate

by Joe Cullen

It's going to be an exciting year at West Humber for the music department! Some music events will include the WHCI Awards Ceremonies, Remembrance Day, two Black History Assemblies, two music nights, feeder school concerts, and more! We are already booked for the Black History services at **Applewood United Church** and **Grace Anglican** church in February 2016. Music will also be an integral part of the **WHCI 50th Anniversary**, celebrating on Saturday May 14, 2016!

The main focus right now is gearing up for the five-day **Cleveland, Ohio, Music Trip in May 2016!** We will be going back to Ohio for our fourth time in twenty years, and we are visiting **Ravenna Steel Band** in addition to our many other events. We are also planning on seeing or performing with the **University of Ohio Steel Band** if schedules permit. We will also be playing a joint concert with the students of **Ravenna High School** where we have performed to a very receptive audience! We are also visiting **PANYARD INC.** where the owner gives WHCI a personal three-hour tour of the pan factory! Students are selling chocolate almonds and our CDs: "Best of Us, Volume 1" and "Best of Us, Volume 2" to offset costs for the trip.

December ARTS Night is Thursday December 10 at 6:30pm, and will feature the **N.A.A.C. Panache steel band** as special guests, under the direction of Al Foster! WHCI steel band will be

playing various pieces and also join Panache for a song. Al's amazing arrangements have won him many awards both here and abroad. Please come out and see the show, hear some fantastic music, and support the WHCI Music Trip at the same time! **Spring Music Night** (also with special guests Panache steel band) is April 28, 2015.

The winner of the **NAAC Steel Band Award** for 2014-2015 was Simran Bains, a very dedicated and talented double guitar (double tenor) player. The winner of the **NAAC Steel Band Millennium Scholarship** was Sunny Narwal, an excellent 6-Bass player who was also a champion wrestler for the school! The winner of the **NAAC Steel Band Bursary** was Nityam Naipaul, who plays soprano (tenor) pan and is now attending York University in Music! He is the third WHCI Music Student to major in steel pan music at university in the recent years! Congratulations to all.

Our pan tuning and music awards would not be possible without the support we get from the NAAC. Our wonderful long-term partnership is vital to the success of our program. Several of our pan graduates perform regularly with Panache, allowing them to enjoy steel band for years after finishing at WHCI.

For more information, videos and pictures, check out **www.whcimusic.com** on the web, and also on Facebook at whcimusic.com.



Joe Cullen & Simran Bains



Joe Cullen & Nityam Naipaul



NAAC President Ian Ramdial, Sunny Narwal & Joe Cullen

A visit to BAKU, Azerbaijan

March 2015

My wife and I went to Baku in March of this year to visit our son and his family who have been living there for the past year. Our son is the Systems Technical Director for the Inaugural European Games, the opening ceremony of which was held on June 12, 2015 and was seen on You Tube. They have a son who was one and a half years old when we were there and who is seen in the photograph taking the old man for a walk. In the background is the Parliament building.



Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, is an oil producing city that is located 92 feet below sea level, making it the lowest lying capital and largest city in the world below sea level. Like Chicago it is a windy city and known as the City of Winds. It is the scientific, cultural and industrial hub of Azerbaijan. The country is situated on the west coast of the Caspian Sea and is at the crossroads where Europe and Asia meet. It is a secular state of an Islamic nation with a Western orientation. The Red Army invaded Azerbaijan and it was then incorporated

into the Soviet Socialist Republic in 1918. Shortly before the official dissolution of the Soviet Union, in October 1991, Azerbaijan declared its independence and continued the process of westernisation. It has opera houses, theatres and modern universities.

Azerbaijani and some Russian are spoken but English is limited. The country has a large Russian and Jewish population and a small English-speaking community which is attached to the oil industry. International tourism is underdeveloped and taxi drivers and the general population do not speak or understand much English or other European languages. Communication with citizens is therefore difficult for unilingual English speaking peoples. The people were polite and helpful despite that. Google maps on an i-phone proved useful in providing directions to taxi drivers. On the other hand Russian tourism was well developed during the Soviet era when Azerbaijan was a Soviet Republic as Baku has a temperate climate, warm dry summers and cool winters.

Principal attractions are Fountains Square, the Baku Museum of Modern Art, Azerbaijan State Museum of History, the modern Flame Towers and now the European Games Stadium. The Flame Towers house a hotel, apartments and shops. The facades of the towers are turned into gigantic display screens which are better seen at night as they are lit by more than 10,000 high powered LED lights. A major attraction is the Carpet Museum which houses the carpets of the region and includes a 17th century carpet donated by an American carpet dealer. Also found here is an extremely large reproduction of a carpet which at present hangs in the Tate Museum. Carpet weavers are stationed at the museum and demonstrate their techniques on a small loom. Carpets are available for purchase at the museum at reasonable prices.

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A visit to BAKU

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Baku is divided into two principal parts: the downtown area and the old Inner City. It has varying architecture, the old walled city core and modern buildings with interesting decorated facades. The old walled city, called the Inner City of Baku, which includes Shirvanshah's Palace and the Maiden Tower, was recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000. Redevelopment has resulted in the destruction of older buildings in the larger city. However reconstruction has also resulted in more green spaces and a pedestrian walk along the seaside where the photograph of Elliott taking me by the hand begins. Double-decker buses for tours of the city set off from a bus stop opposite the Parliament building in late Spring to Fall.

Most pubs, bars and restaurants are located near Fountains Square. The cuisine is mainly Azerbaijani. There are Georgian dishes from the old days of being with the Soviet Union and of course American fast food. Product labelling and menus are in Azerbaijani. There is often one waiter who speaks a little English and can guide you through the menu. Many major American hotel chains have locations there and most of the staff have a smattering of English. We had brunch at the Four Seasons hotel. We had dinner at the Shirvanshah Museum restaurant located in the Inner City, where we were served Azerbaijani cuisine. We also ate at Iveria, a Georgian restaurant and at Chinari, an Asian Fusion restaurant. Some traditional herbs used in Azerbaijani cooking are mint, dill, basil and parsley. They have excellent

fish and black caviar. Kebabs are a feature of many menus, bread is often served with meals and rice with saffron is a feature of their cuisine. As an hors

d'oeuvre for our dinner we were served Qutab, a crescent shaped dough with filling, one with meat, one with pumpkin and one with parsley.

Application for a visa may be made with an invitation letter from Azerbaijan and processed at Baku airport on arrival. Airport and other taxes for Turkish Airlines were approximately \$400 as opposed to \$1400 for Air Canada and other major airlines for the two of us. Our flights were from Halifax to Toronto by Air Canada, from Toronto to Istanbul and then to Baku by Turkish airlines. Total travel time including to the airport in Halifax to our final destination in Baku was 26 hours. Our return flights were by Turkish airlines from Baku to Istanbul and then to Montreal where we overnighted. The next day we found out that there was a great snowstorm in Halifax and we were forced to stay

another night in Montreal. We had a delightful visit with our son Carl and his family and we are glad that we were able to make the journey over. They return home to Canada and Halifax on July 14, 2015.

Azerbaijan's exposure to Europe during the European Games augurs well for the future of tourism in the country.

(Chandra Gosine attended Naparima College from 1952 -1956. After working at libraries in San Fernando he immigrated to Nova Scotia, Canada in 1969. He worked at Saint Mary's University library before attending Schulich Law School. He practised law in Halifax until he retired in March 2015.)



Iere High School: Celebrating 60 Years of Truth Conquering All

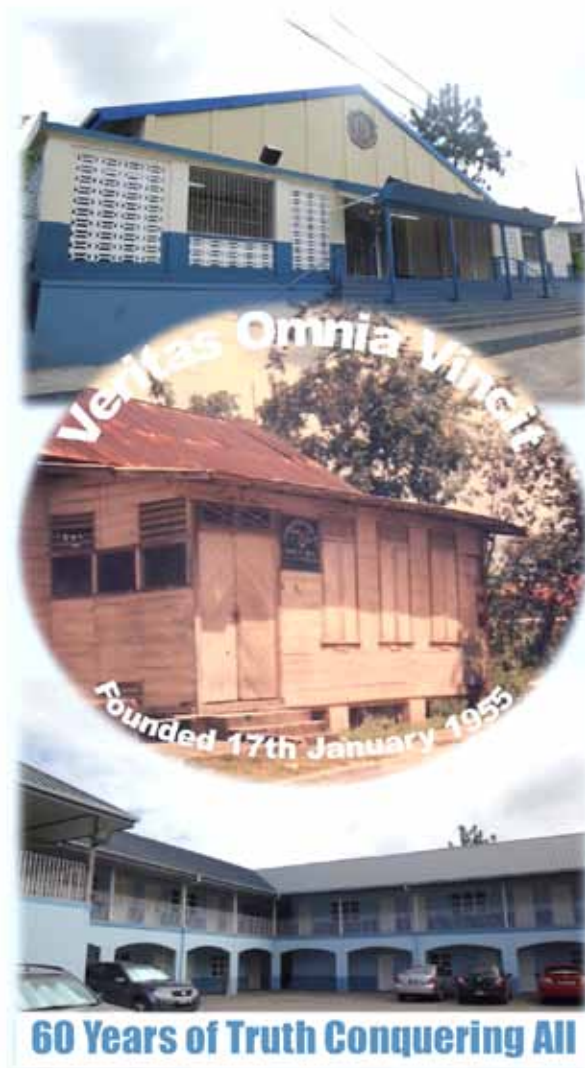
By Roy Nandlal (Principal Ag.)

January 17, 2015 commemorated 60 years in which Iere High School would have been serving the needs of the people of our great nation of Trinidad & Tobago. From our hallowed hallways, this proud yet humble establishment has produced greatness throughout the years using very limited means. Some of these icons include The Right Reverend Brenda Bullock, former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad & Tobago, the former Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago Kamla Persad-Bissessar and from the first class of 1955, our very own Mr. Irving Hoosainie, recipient of Trinidad and Tobago's Public Service Medal of Merit (Bronze), just to name a few.

The original school, a refurbished structure located in George Street, Siparia Trinidad was a temporary location which could accommodate only a small number of students. When the school was moved to its present location on Bayanie Street Siparia in 1957, it could house up to four hundred (400) students but came to cater for a student population of over five hundred and fifty (550). As much as we did enjoy the challenges of having classes under the trees, in the car park, behind the stage, down by the pond....in every corner we could find; our new spacious and air-conditioned classrooms in the new wing (2012) has certainly made life much easier while saving on 'search time' for space. The cover picture of our 60th anniversary IEREVIEW magazine showcases these three structures with the George Street building in



Iereview 2015



the middle, the 2012 wing at the bottom and the updated auditorium at the top.

This newly refurbished, expanded and fully air-conditioned auditorium now means that our morning worship along with all our many functions are in very comfortable settings. The courtyard behind the auditorium has been expanded by roughly 40%, re-paved and fully covered, literally provides a haven for our students. It has possibly resulted in both our

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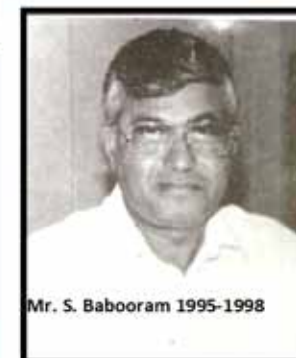
Iere High School

(Continued from previous page)

volleyball and badminton teams becoming zonal champions in ALL the categories in which they entered in 2014, with the volleyball teams becoming triple National Champions in 2015.

A newly built car park now means added convenience for parents and visitors. Students also have a very safe pavement from our main gate down to the school. With the improvements to our physical environment, academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular performance continues to climb. In 2014 there was a 98% pass rate at CAPE and 92% at CSEC with four Additional National Scholarships and one Open Scholarship. Iere High School has made great inroads in every sphere of life: cultural, sporting and of course leadership.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the stakeholders who were responsible for these outcomes. I would like to thank God Almighty for His guidance and blessings throughout the years, the Presbyterian Secondary Schools Board of Education, the Minister of Education and by extension the Government of Trinidad & Tobago, the school's Administrative Committee, parents and the business community for their continued support. I would like to thank the entire staff for their commitment and dedication to our students which allows us to maintain and improve on our usually high standards. Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada for its



Iere Principals

outstanding work and continued support. I also want to recognize our past student Mr. Richard Jaikaran, now an Executive Member of your Board.

On a personal note, as a former student of Iere High School, I had always thought that I had received too much from this institution, it therefore gives me great pleasure and a genuine sense of satisfaction to come back and serve as I had been served. Let us remember our watchwords which has been our guiding light for the past sixty years; the simple truth that **"Veritas Omnia Vincit" - Truth Conquers All.**

S.A.G.H.S. Past Students Pay Tribute To Their Alma Mater

The SAGHS Alumnae must be congratulated for the excellent planning of an event to celebrate the school's 65th. Anniversary.

Under the canopy of a well-decorated tent and a starlit sky, the exuberance was immense when smiles abounded, spontaneous embraces helped to give light to recognizable voices of the familiar faces that we missed over the past years. As we reminisced about days gone by and shared life experiences of the past and present, we renewed friendships and spent a memorable evening before we could say goodbye.

Our new endeavour is to seek out the former friends who we missed at this celebration- past students from the 1950's to 2015's.

Past students of St. Augustine Girls' High School who are also members of Naparima Alumni Association contributed their memoirs of SAGHS to praise and reminisce through the 65 years.

From Dawne Mahabir (Patrajsingh)

Amo, amas, amat.....

This is the sound that reminds me of St. Augustine Girls' High School. It is also the voice of our revered Latin teacher, Mrs. Undine Guiseppi. As long as you were in her class you definitely had to learn Latin. The other sound that I cannot forget is a melodic chorus of girls' voices singing from the Psalm "Unto the hills around do I lift up my longing eyes."..... and indeed when you lifted up your eyes you could see the majestic hills in the distance.

An unforgettable person was Mrs. Tewari (nee Naipaul) our Geography teacher, a dramatic and exceptional teacher who wore a different sari to school every day, much to the delight of the girls and other teachers. She also shared bits of her family life with the class, making her more endearing.

There was excitement in the air when we were moving to our newly built school and leaving the old premises behind. The new school was indeed very beautiful and for that time, well appointed. One

addition that all the girls enjoyed was Mrs. Lalla's Tuck Shop. We enjoyed a variety of home-cooked meals and treats.

Being a graduate of SAGHS as it is fondly known, has impacted my life as a person. I have had a long and interesting teaching career and now a much-deserved retirement. At this stage of my life, I can still recall the happy days and many friends at SAGHS.

Miss Constance Wagar, the Principal and her sister Miss Marion Wagar, the Administrative Assistant were both caring missionaries who had the students' interests at heart and what was best for the school.

I applaud SAGHS for its 65 years of successful education.

From Nola Jandejsek (Bhopalsingh)

"On Wings of song I will take Thee," I recall with fondness these beautiful words of the song we sang during the 1950s. I am truly grateful for the good education given to us by our amazing teachers, Ms. Beattie, Ms. Anna Mahase and Mrs. Guiseppi. We experienced wonderful camaraderie and fun. Our teachers instilled in us great values to enrich our lives and to become good citizens.

My Alma Mater means a lot to me. I will always cherish memories of the good old days at SAGHS.

From Lydia Rameshwar (Ackbarali)

I entered SAGHS with my two older sisters who were already students there. The House System which bore the names of our Principals, Beattie, Lahourie, Mahase and Wagar was soon introduced. I remember how diligently we worked to ensure that our particular House would excel in all the various aspects of our happy and enjoyable school life. Even then, what was being instilled in us as young women was that a good, well-rounded character was just as important as obtaining a graduation certificate of excellence. Our

(Continued on next page)

S.A.G.H.S. Past Students Pay Tribute To Their Alma Mater

(Continued from previous page)

daily morning worship periods particularly, helped to nurture us, and we were fortunate to be exposed to many meaningful passages of Scripture such as Psalm 121 (our school hymn), in addition to many favourite hymns from the United Church of Canada's Hymnary.

I hold dearly, the lasting friendships that were made during my years at SAGHS. I celebrate the dedication of the teachers, administrators and my own parents who gave so much of their time to the Parent- Teachers Association in order to establish a Girls' High School that was destined to become one of the best in Trinidad.

From Merle Gobin – Valadez

Memories of SAGHS remain vivid in my mind. Faith cultivated in our young minds through the Morning Worship, has helped to make us the strong women of today. At Mrs. Lalla's Tuck Shop, good foods to nourish our growing bodies and satisfy our 'always hungry feelings' were provided. There are memories of the good times of dancing the

Maypole, being crowned as the Maypole Queen and being chosen as the leader of the Cheer Leaders .At the recording of the first Christmas Album of the school choir I was chosen as the soloist. My career was destined for me through Mrs. Lenore Mahase-Samaroo's musical tuition, support, encouragement and coaching of the varied repertoire which led me to pursue a career as a Classical Opera Recitalist.

I wish that SAGHS will continue to instil the values with which we grew and the guidance to help the students reach their destiny.

From Kimberlei Jaggernath

What I miss the most about my time at SAGHS was getting to school at 6:45 a.m. and spending time with my friends before school started – sitting in the corridor and 'ole-talking', rushing down the homework, singing, dancing and eating. I have to admit I did not enjoy the 'school' aspect of my time there, but in retrospect, I would have it no other way. Adhering to the uniform rules made us disciplined. Picking up litter around the school grounds instilled in us a sense of pride and ownership in our surroundings. Setting up for events – from class worship to sports day to fashion

(Continued on next page)



S.A.G.H.S. Past Students Pay

Tribute To Their Alma Mater

(Continued from previous page)

shows to religious ceremonies made us organized, adaptable and team players.

The warm, dedicated staff gave us support and mentorship in a safe learning environment, thus allowing us to grow into strong, independent critical thinkers. The moral and spiritual values taught to us ensured that diversity was always appreciated, enabling us to have respect for everyone from all walks of life. This is what makes SAGHS ladies excel wherever they go, in a world that severely lacks these qualities.

I am so proud to be a SAGHS girl for life and my wish is that the school will continue to shine forever. PER ARDUA AD ASTRA.

From Veda Roodal-Persad

My Lasting impression of SAGHS is that of empowerment as a woman in that everyone at the school from the Principal to the cleaner was a woman. There were only two males on the grounds: one was the school's handyman who kept to his workshop and the other ran the Tuck Shop. (He was the husband of one of the teachers). So I realized at an early age that women could do anything. I also learned very quickly that being at the school at all was a privilege.

I remember our Principal, Miss Anna Mahase, saying, "Take note that for every chair that you are

sitting on there is a line of girls waiting to get into this school"

I took to school like a duck to water. In the mornings we would walk into Assembly with one of the older girls playing the piano (my favourite tune was *La Paloma*.) Our teachers took turns in leading the service, the most memorable of them simply telling a story every morning. It was a treat to hear our choir led by Mrs. Lenore Mahase-Samaroo. I remember being moved by the singing of "*We would be building temples still undone*" to the tune of Finlandia.

I remember my Form 1 teacher who chose to read us a chapter from the *Tales of Shakespeare* each Friday in our free period, thereby laying down a foundation for a life-long love of Shakespeare and literature in us.

The final crowning touch for me in my experience at SAGHS was that I learned to cherish the diversity that was my classmates and teachers. We came from many different backgrounds but we learned to appreciate one another, to make room for another, and to thrive as a community and a school. Thanks to the Principal and staff for instilling the moral and spiritual values that have shaped my life today.



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Memories of The First Term at SAGHS

by Celia Kalloo -Borges

One drowsy day, Miss Beattie appeared on our front doorstep wearing her trade-mark blue and white Liberty lawn dress. No, she would not come in, but she was on a mission to recruit the daughters of prominent families in the area to attend the new girls' high school which the Presbyterian Church was opening in St. Augustine.

She said that my uncle had already agreed to enroll his daughter, so my father did as well. I had been expecting to attend St. Joseph's Convent in Port of Spain where my sister and cousin were already students, but I was not consulted about the change.

I found myself on **September 19th, 1950** walking along the Eastern Main Road with my mother, herself an old girl of the Archibald Institute, and familiar with the area. We turned into Austin Street, which was shaded by overhanging Poinciana trees, and crossed a grassy plank bridge to the institute's cottage which was to house the school. Inside, other students and parents were already assembled. Miss Beattie conducted a brief Opening Ceremony at which she introduced the two teachers.

They were Mrs. Undine Guiseppi, who taught Language, Literature and Latin and Miss Samaroo who taught Mathematics, Geography and French. Mrs. Guiseppi's impeccable use of the English language was impressive, her vocabulary, precise, her pronunciation correct. She seldom lost her temper but on the one occasion that she did, the student was berated in such erudite and crisply delivered language that it made a lasting impression on me. I can still see the hapless girl standing at her desk probably wondering what some of the words meant.

In all the years I attended SAGHS, we never had a lunch room; we simply sat at our desks. There was no Tuck shop then but there was a café (parlour) a short distance away where at lunch time, we could buy snacks, soft drinks and juice. In the 1950s

no one queued, and we were no different. It was survival of the fittest and loudest, with some of the more agile girls climbing on the table, their hands outstretched over the heads of others, eager to be served ice-cold, half-frozen bottles of juice which were quickly disappearing in the noon-day heat.

The school building was two- storeyed with the older students on the first (or upper) floor, the younger ones in the ground. There was a small enclosed area of lawn where we spent our breaks chatting or playing rounders. There was also a piano around which a fledgling choir practised during the lunch hour.

On the last day of that first term, we all assembled on the ground floor to say goodbye for the holidays and express the fondness and gratitude we felt for the staff. One of the senior girls presented them with sprays of crepe-paper roses (popular at that time) and small gifts. The next year school reopened in the Dr. Lee Kam building at the corner of Austin Street and the Eastern Main Road.

The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada



*Christmas
Dinner & Dance*

**Saturday
November 28th, 2015**

**at Elite Banquet Hall
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Time: 6:00 p.m. • Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Dress: Formal • Cash Bar

**Music by: DJ Chinese Unlimited
& Panache Steelband**

Tickets: \$55 • Members / \$60 • Non Members



Playing the cards we're dealt

by Julian Sammy

"Do you have a cold," the young lady behind the counter asked, handing me my coffee.

"Throat cancer," I said.

Her mouth said, "You look well," but her face said, "PANIC. RIGHT. NOW." I imagined a wordless wail inside her head. You know, that feeling you get when you realize asking "When are you due?" was a terrible mistake?

I haven't found the right way to answer that kind of question yet, I guess.



Just the Facts

I was diagnosed with laryngeal cancer early in August. It was classified as stage 4 because it had spread from my right vocal cord into the cartilage of my windpipe.

This is not the stage 4 that means my body is riddled with tumours though. It was still contained to my larynx. On August 17th my entire larynx was removed in an eight hour surgery.

The pathology reported that they got it all out, but there were narrow margins in a few places. With radiotherapy I have a 60% to 75% chance of still being cancer free in five years. Chemotherapy should add 5% to 10% to that prognosis, without a high probability of long-term side effects, so I'm doing that too. That phase of my treatment starts on October 5th, and will run seven weeks: five days a week I go for radiation; once a week I have chemo as well.

My recovery has been remarkably good so far. At every turn I've done better than expected. I was home in just 8 days following major surgery. I was eating everything I wanted a few days later. At two weeks I tried using my new voice for the first time, and shocked everyone with the clarity and strength of my voice.

During radiation treatments most of this recovery will go away. Radiotherapy causes a sunburn inside

and out, making tissue swollen and painful. It does the most harm to rapidly dividing cells - cancer - but still does a lot of harm on the way.

The kind of chemotherapy I'm getting will enhance the effects of the radiation.

Just The Feels

This affected the whole family, of course. Mom was with me for the diagnosis and has handled much of the dreaded paperwork that comes with a complicated condition. My wife Kathleen has given me the right mix of support and motivation.

My daughter Livé - just turned five - is curious and concerned and a pleasure to be with. Her moms, Anita and Holly, have been amazingly flexible, taking on more so I have time to recover and prepare. My sister Joy, her husband Hugo, and their son Mateo have come from Guelph to stay and to help. Uncle Donald and Auntie Chris have visited many times, concerned and caring and cheerful. They've all been shocked, and worried, and uncertain, and frightened of course. They have also been wonderfully open, supportive, and understanding.

My reaction to all this has not been normal. It has been a useful reaction, but definitely not normal. I wasn't devastated or panicked or frightened or angry when I found out. It was more a feeling of disappointment, as in, "WTF body, I thought we had a deal." To an extent this is inherited: dad used to say, "These are the cards I'm dealt. I have to play them." It is also the result of long study of the illusions and biases that make us human, and long practice at dealing with them. There is a vast chasm between how humans behave and how humans think we behave, and I've trained to deal with most harmful. For example, I intentionally and carefully avoided discovering my five-year survival rate until weeks after my surgery, because too much information can do real harm.

Why worry myself about how many years I have left before knowing if I have any days left at all? I asked for a clear answer only after I was far enough along in my recovery for the answer to matter.

Having an even keel isn't the same as "being strong" or "being positive" though. I have foul moods and also fine ones. I get frightened and also have fantasies of a far future. I've lost much on the way, but also found relationships that I could not have imagined.

To Give Back

My professional life has had a purpose: innovate to make it better for people. In businesses large and small there are many ways to improve what is done and make life better for those doing the work. My voice - physical and metaphorical - was my primary tool for provoking innovation and change. Over the last three years I lost that voice twice and twice struggled to regain it. Now, on my third round and with my voice physically cut out of me, I'm in the struggle again.

One way I have dealt with this is to be public and open about my condition. I started posting about what I was going through before I had a diagnosis (see [Facebook.com/groups/ThereAreNoWords](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ThereAreNoWords)). I'm somewhat of a loner but not at all private, so this seemed like a way I could also give insight into a difficult and often terrifying experience.

Opening up lead to hundreds of good wishes and prayers - a tremendous and humbling and moving outpouring. It made me feel better... but did it do good in the world? At some point it shifts from accepting help and hope, to seeking sympathy. That isn't giving back.

Now, as I prepare for months of pain and fatigue and illness, I'll need help and hope - and there's a way you can provide it.

That urge to pray or wish us well? Go stick it someplace useful.

What I mean is, channel that urge into a tangible expression of compassion: go do something nice for someone, because it's nice, and they're someone.

When you've made a difference to someone's day, allow yourself to feel good about doing good. Then tell your friends why you did something nice and invite them to do the same: spread good deeds by spreading good words.

In the end - whether I live 45 or 50 more years like my grandfathers did, or just a few days - if you go do good deeds, we'll have made a difference.

Editor: Julian Sammy will start chemotherapy soon and he intends to cut his long hair, which he has sported for the last 25 years. He started a fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society to which he'll donate the proceeds from his 10 cents a strand project.

Details are at <http://convio.cancer.ca/goto/ThereAreNoWords>



TransCare Community Support Services

by Odette Maharaj, Executive Director

TransCare Community Support Services (TransCare®) is a registered, charitable and accredited multiservice Agency providing home and community support services to seniors and adults with disabilities in the community since 1976. The agency is funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, City of Toronto and the United Way as well as **TransCare®**'s own fundraising events and productive enterprise initiatives; and modest client service fees for those who can afford it, and with subsidy assistance for those who cannot. TransCare® is governed by a community Board of Directors.

Clients' exercise session in the Adult Day Program.

Clients are seniors and younger adults with disabilities (mental, medical, or physical). The catchment area has a high prevalence of chronic health conditions such as vascular disease including diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease; mental health and addictions; and palliative and end of life care needs. Programs are designed to improve or maintain cognitive, social, emotional and physical functions. Client Intervention and support strategies range from immediate assistance in crisis situations, to navigation of the health care system, to finding long-term solutions for needs that impact seniors' health and well-being. Programs and Services offered by TransCare include; Meal delivery for clients with dietary needs; Community Dining and Social Recreation Program; Friendly Visiting and Telephone Reassurance; Home at Last - assistance to seniors being discharged after hospitalization in settlement back home safely; Homemaking, Personal Care and Respite Care assistance; assistance with snow removal, grass cutting and other yard maintenance duties; Transportation for medical appointments across Scarborough; Falls Prevention and Exercise Classes.

TransCare® also relies on volunteers to support its work in the community. Volunteers assist with meal delivery, friendly visits, program assistance, and office duties. Volunteers also serve as members of our Board of Directors and Committees.

Visit us at: www.tcare.ca

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Book Review:

Nothing Like Love – Sabrina Ramnanan

A Review by Frank Birbalsingh

Sabrina Ramnanan, *Nothing Like Love*,
Doubleday Canada, 2015, pp. 415
ISBN 978-0-385-68102-5

Nothing Like Love is the latest novel about Indian-Caribbean experience by a female, Indian-Trinidadian author; it joins Ingrid Persaud's *If I Never Went Home* (2013) to perhaps herald a generation of authors, intent on updating the portrait of Indian-Caribbean society we already have from more established women writers like Lakshmi Persaud, Ramabai Espinet and Shani Mootoo. Emigration from the Caribbean is only a minor theme in *Nothing* since the chief female protagonist - Vimla Narine – is already in Canada, and the rest of the novel consists of a third person narrative, comprehensively describing rural Indian-Trinidadian characters and manners in Vimla's village, aptly named "Chance," because business affairs rely more on chance or improvisation than collaboration or planning.

The novel's action, which takes place during August 2 to September 1, 1974, revels in hilarious exploits of villagers energetically engaged in work, social activities, and religious rituals, ceremonies and celebrations. The main action is driven by a conflict between two main Hindu families in the novel, Vimla's parents, Om and Chandani Narine - on one side, and the family of Vimla's rival - Chalisa Shankar and her rich grandmother Nanny - on the other. In the middle is a shrewd, calculating and greedy Hindu priest, Pundit Anand Govind, whose son Krishna has had what is coyly described as an "escapade" with Vimla, which both disfigures her moral reputation and seemingly puts paid to her expectation of marriage with Krishna.

Another wedding is then arranged between Krishna and Chalisa, and a date set by the pundit, according to propitious zodiacal signs, for September 17, except that there is a further twist:



before her wedding, Chalisa makes an appearance on "Mastana Bahar," a popular song and dance competition show on local, Trinidad television. In a society capable, in the 1970s, of outdated notions of chastity and Hindu puritanical belief, we should not be entirely surprised when Chalisa's bold exhibitionism on television earns her a notoriety that brings her into such scandalous disrepute as to scuttle her marriage plans as well.

Neither should we be surprised by the underlying sexism of Vimla and Chalisa being automatically punished for violation of an ancient taboo, while Krishna appears to get off scot free despite his participation in violating the same taboo. If *Nothing* does not take on historical or political aspects of colonialism in the Caribbean, it is very much alive to the oppressive weight of tradition in cultural or religious and moral issues, for instance, half way through the novel, when Krishna fails to turn up to a secret tryst with Vimla who meditates on her bleak fate: "Krishna Govind had sullied her reputation, deserted her for Tobago, detached himself from their disgrace by choosing Chalisa Shankar for a bride. Krishna Govind was a crook." (p.241) On further reflection, however, Vimla realises it is more her mother who regards Krishna as a crook, while she herself is simply

(Continued on next page)

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overwhelmed by doubt and confusion about everything.

Romantic aspects of the plot remain confused to the end with the date of Krishna's wedding being brought forward to September 1, in hope of attracting wedding guests before they decide to excuse themselves out of shame over Chalisa's scandal at "Mastana Bahar." Financial intrigue also complicates things when Krishna and Chalisa are promised gifts of land at their marriage; and there are secret financial dealings between Pundit Govind and his sister Kay. But, although the theme of love is central to the unity and coherence of the novel, it is the colourful *mise-en-scène* that steals the show through picturesque descriptions of fruits, landscape or vegetation, piquant Trinbagonian speech, and brilliant descriptions of physical action like the barat or wedding procession: "And then it happened: an explosion of rhythm rolled off the drums and the pound of heavy bass fell in sync with their hearts. The barat broke into a joyous frenzy of swivelling hips and swept Vimla forward down the road." (p.395)

Ramnanan displays impressive, literary skills, for example, in a market scene where Vimla helps at her parents' stall and passes through: "piles of shiny eggplant, green figs, yellow plantain and halved pumpkins with gold-orange flesh... [and smells] ripe papaya, watermelon and sweet juicy Julie mangoes,"

(p.16) while flies buzzed around from a tangelo pyramid to the bumpy skin of a green karela. More specialised description is deployed on Chalisa's bridal dressing with: "identical sets of gold and opal bangles over her wrists...a bejewelled choker... around her slender neck...two longer necklaces that draped across the red silk of her sari like ropes...a flower nose ring with a delicate diamond in the centre to Chalisa's nose and hooked the filigree chain attached to one of Chalisa's enormous earrings. The nosering pinched her nostril and the earrings stretched her ear lobes." ((p.403)

Examples of speech and orality in the young author's first novel also illustrate remarkable, linguistic versatility. Vimla's mother, for instance, regards Pundit Anand Govind as : "a blasphemous pork-eating fiend," and Nanny denounces Chalisa's scandalous performance in "Mastana Bahar" as "singing and dancing like some slack no-where-ian vagrant child who never had parents to lick she tail with bamboo and keep she ass in line." (p.155) Such rumbustious wit proves that however hypocritical the villagers of Chance may be, the author of *Nothing* is herself not prudish, and more than capable of holding her own in an episode of sexual banter even among a group of lustful young men: "I tell you I like woman with curves, man, not a lumpy pillow with two hand and foot."/ How about Leela, then?/ "That mosquito? She too skinny-minny for me. Nothing to pinch on that body except she big nose." (p. 231)

Condolences to...

*Vashti Charles and son Christopher on the passing of husband and father, **Roderick Charles**.*

*Brenda Jaleel , on the death of her mother, **Lilla Jaleel** at age 89.*

*The Eccles family on the sudden death of **Maureen Eccles-Hill** this past summer.*

*Angela Jutlah, whose husband **Clifford Jutlah**, passed away on September 11th.*

*Thelma Oree on the very recent death of her husband **Rustin Oree**.*

My memory of Rustin Oree by Al Foster

"C'mon Al, lets get started! Do you think you're here for your good looks?"

Those were the first words Rustin Oree ever said to me. That exchange took place in 1991(?) at West Humber Collegiate Institute in Etobicoke. I was a student at the school at the time helping out with the beginner steelpan class taught by Pat McNeilly aka Panman Pat. After hearing the above statement by Rustin I wondered to myself "who the heck does this guy think he is?". Well, over the next 23 years I would finally receive the answer to that question.

Rustin, along with 3 other men - Pat McNeilly, Winston Cross and the late Howard Sammy played a very important role in guiding me down the path that I am currently on. Pat McNeilly was my music teacher. The man who gave me my first pair of sticks (mallets) to play the steelpan with. Winston Cross was the teacher representative for the band as well as my science teacher. Howard was my vice principal and a strong advocate for the steelband program at West Humber. Rustin was the drive, the visionary of the group. Rustin had a passion for the steelpan unlike anyone I have ever met. He was extremely dedicated and it showed in his willingness to support our high school group, the Etobicoke Schools Steel Orchestra. He was very instrumental in producing our CD "Pantastix - A Touch of Class" which was released in 1993(?). He was an active runner and as far as I knew he participated in many marathons. He lived and loved everything he did.

Rustin and I had a special friendship. After graduating from WHCI in 1995 I went on to post secondary studies and continued playing with Pan Fantasy steelband (where I joined in 1992). Rustin always had an interest in what I was doing where steelpan was concerned. Silently he became one of my biggest supporters. Every so often he'd ask me if I was interested in coming back to West Humber "in my spare time" and working with the Naparima group (now named Panache). I even tried a few times but the timing just wasn't right. Finally in 2007 everything worked out and I was able to continue working with the group which had undergone several changes. Since then our relationship was even tighter than before. He was now known as "old man" and I was the "young man". I have been fortunate to work with a wonderful group of people in Panache and by extension the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada.

Rustin will be fondly remembered as one who always kept things moving. Often during practices he would be the one to say "ok c'mon Mike (our drummer) let's go". There was never a dull moment with him around.

Over the past year the unthinkable happened. Rustin was physically unable to continue doing what he loved the most and his absence from practice was certainly felt by many members of the group. What I respected the most about him was in spite of all the pain he endured physically, he fought like a true champion and always had a smile on his face.

I can't say enough about how Rustin has impacted my life and my career. I can't thank him enough for all he has taught me. He was a man with integrity and was never afraid to tell you the truth especially if he knew you didn't want to hear it. He was never one to hide his feelings especially for those closest to him. Thank you Rustin for all the advice over the years. I was very fortunate to have you in my corner. Thank you for believing in me even when I didn't believe in myself. The selfish part of me wishes you were still here but I am relieved to know that you are no longer suffering (although sometimes you were too stubborn to admit that you were in more pain than it appeared). Thank you for everything!

For the record, it took me forever to write this. I feel like I have written a book and this is not even scratching the surface. You often told me "don't TRY to do it - just DO IT" and for that I am extremely grateful.

Sleep well, old man...



Water, water everywhere...it began with Mayaro

It is not unusual for an expat Trini to visited elsewhere, pitting it against cially if one is “from the south” and to find its way into many of my



cast a jaundiced eye at every beach youthful memories of Mayaro, especially can't swim... Water inevitably tends paintings.

Fetching up on the banks of the St Lawrence River is a piece of good fortune for an artist, and the changing waterscape, always in my line of sight, works its particular magic in many ways.



Early on I was moved to paint my memories of *Mayaro* (acrylic, above) , and Columbus Bay, often using as reference, the tiny black & white photos we took in the '50s. Later there were the beaches of Normandy, Provence, Santorini, & England to record. Last year on Bequia's Lower Bay, the irresistible *Beach Bums*



(watercolour left) wandered down my way; and from the villa above the beach, *Bequia Bay* (watercolour, right) was the view to wake up to every morning.



Back home the summer river traffic in front of me is hard to resist. *Dog Daze* (acrylic, left) captured our poodle Barnaby and his chum Cruize keeping the CSL laker company on canvas. Earlier this year *Spring Thaw* (oil, right, top) recorded the view downstream as the ice on the river receded. *Spring Arrival* (watercolour, right) is an annual event when a pair of mallards arrives in the pool each May. *Coming home* (oil, left) records a visit to the Brockville waterfront twenty years ago with a Trini friend from England. And the two-storey *Carousel* (oil, right) on the beach at Stes-Maries-de-la-Mer, mesmerised me on a painting trip to Van Gogh's stamping ground near Arles & the Camargue in Provence in 2008.



Water, water, everywhere....it speaks to the soul!

Prescott harbour

Marilyn (Ramasra) White, NGHS, NC

www.marilynwhite.ca

MAIL BAG...



9 May 2015

Mrs. Merle Ramdial
Editor
Broadcast
Naparima Association of Canada
Bridlewood Mall Postal Outlet
P.O. Box 92175
Scarborough, ON M1W 3Y9

Dear Madame Editor:

Re: Spring 2015 Issue of Broadcast

The Principal of Hillview College has instructed me to convey his thanks and that of the 60th Anniversary Committee for the dispatch and receipt of copies the Spring Issue of the Broadcast published by the NAAC.

Copies were made accessible during our meeting of the Committee today at Hillview

The parties also wish to thank the NAAC for according enormous space and high prominence to the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Hillview College both here as well as in Canada. Many of our graduates in Canada will have seen the coverage and felt a sense of pride and attachment to Hillview. We note that both Stan Algoos and Ken Maharaj have also promoted the activities of the Diamond Jubilee and we are also grateful to these your members of the NAAC.

We look forward to our visit to the Association in November 2015 when we can cement further ties of mutual friendship and co-operation that can redound to the strengthening of the Naparima Spirit.

Best wishes in all your undertakings during 2015 and beyond

Sincerely yours

Stephen Kangal
Head, Public Relations/Publicity

Pakaraima



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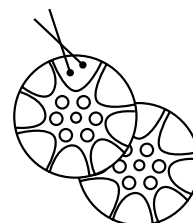
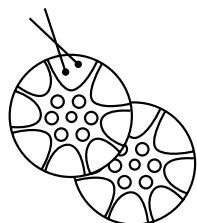
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Year End Celebration of West End Pan Classes



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