



semper unum esse

“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. XLI No. 1

Fall 2017



THE HIGH COMMISSION FOR THE REPUBLIC OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

presents this

CULTURAL RECOGNITION AWARD

to the

Panache Steelband



17th June 2017
Inspiration Village 2017
Canada's 150th Anniversary

In recognition of the sterling efforts of the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (Toronto) in promulgating the national instrument of our Twin Island Republic.

Trinidad and Tobago owes the organization a debt of gratitude for its dedicated service in ensuring that our culture is prominent in the multicultural mosaic that is Canada.

His Excellency Garth Chatoor
High Commissioner

*Award Presented in Ottawa following
Panache Performances for
Canada's 150th Birthday.*



CANADA 150

TPG Services and Machine Ltd

Tel: 905-728-6267/416-414-5632

Email: info@townlinepump.ca

**Don't
Get
Caught
With
Your
Pumps
Down!**



TPG Services and Machine LLC

Tiffany Jaikaran

266 Elmwood Avenue, Unit 242
Buffalo, NY 14222

716-804-8408 | tiffany.tpgusa@gmail.com

Print Supplier to NAAC



- PRINTING • GRAPHIC DESIGN
- SIGNS • BOOKLETS
- PROJECT MANAGEMENT
- TRADE SHOWS/CONFERENCES
- SELF PUBLISHING

CONTACT: RAJIV PERSAUD
T: 416.878.5218
E: RAJIVP@SYMPATICO.CA

WWW.BLUETREEGRAPHICS.COM

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.

2017 – 2018 NAAC Executive

PRESIDENT	Merle Ramdial	905-844-1254	merle.ramdial@gmail.com
TREASURER	Norma Ramsahai	416-283-0675	npramsahai@rogers.com
SECRETARY	Vilma Ramcharan	416-284-5198	viram@rogers.com
ASST. SECRETARY	Cynthia Ramdeen	416-499-7357	cynthia.ramdeen@gmail.com
EXEC. MEMBER	Wendy Rostant	905-542-3548	twrostant@gmail.com
EXEC. MEMBER	Richard Jaikaran	905-708-6267	RichardNAAC@gmail.com
EXEC. MEMBER	Ia Sirju	416-287-8871	isirju@gmail.com
EXEC. MEMBER	June Look Foe	905-842-5189	jcslook@hotmail.com

CONTENTS

President's Message	2	My Papa	9
From the Editor's Desk... ..	2	Total Solar Eclipse	10-11
Finance Report	3	Obituary: Marjorie Laltoo	11
Congratulations	3	Panache in Ottawa Photos.....	12-13
Social Report.....	4	Brinsley's moving search for his roots	14-15
Steelband Report	5	The First Presbyterian Co-Ed Secondary School: Iere	16-17
Notice of NAAC Annual General Meeting.....	5	WWI's only serving Indigenous woman	18-20
Communications Report.....	6	Large turnout but not enough for world record.....	21
Membership Report	6	In Punta Cana	22-23
Music Notes from West Humber Collegiate Institute	7	Toronto Raptors 2017-18 season preview	24
Panache in Ottawa for Canada's 150th Birthday	8	NGHS Class of 1967 Reunion Photo	25

CREDITS

“Broadcast” is the newsletter of the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada, Toronto Unit and is published twice a year. The views expressed in articles published are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Executive or of the Association unless specifically stated as such.

Editor: Merle Ramdial

Advertising: Ras Shreeram • 416-743-1331

Layout & Printing: Bluetree Publishing & Design 416-878-5218

Contributions and Correspondence should be forwarded to:

The Editor, “broadcast”, NAAC, Bridlewood Mall Postal Outlet

P.O. Box 92175, 2900 Warden Avenue, Scarborough, ON M1W 3Y9

Web Site: www.naactoronto.ca

President's Message

I welcome June Look Foe who joined us as an Executive Member. June attended NGHS and is a NAAC Life member. She is also a member of our Panache Steelband playing in the alto section. I offer my thanks to the returning executive members, whose names are listed on page 1.

I must add a special "thank you" to Ian Ramdial for the years that he has served as a member of our Executive. He thinks that he has retired from all NAAC-related duties, but that is far from what I see and expect. He will still be assigned tasks not specified anywhere.

Although we add new people to help run our Association, the interest of the general membership is still not apparent when we meet twice yearly at

the General Meeting in November or at the Annual General Meeting in May. However, I will quickly add that there is always good attendance at our fundraising events. This may be as a result of good and persistent communication and marketing or it could be that the majority feels that three events a year are just right for them.

Next year, 2018 will be our Association's 40th Anniversary. In "marriage years" I know that to be a long, long time. Fewer graduates from our T & T schools are choosing to come to Canada, so for our Association to exist and prosper for forty years is an outstanding accomplishment.

To all our members, I thank you for your support.

Merle Ramdial

From the Editor's Desk...

Our Ottawa trip was a first of its kind for Panache because of the significance of the occasion. They've been on other road trips, but this one was extra special. In order to share the experience with our members, I am indebted to Anna Lee Kim and Timothy Rostant who gave up their time to make sure that the event was recorded in video and stills and got their submissions to me in time for publication. Shanti Ramkerrysingh Inman adds more colour to the scene at the time with her piece on page 8.

I understand that another groupie videotaped both performances, but I heard that the editing process is taking longer than anticipated.

For this issue, I was pleased to hear from Diane Sitaram, who made the arduous trip to be in "the" place on the eastern seaboard to view the Total Solar Eclipse. (p.10).

Although Ramabai Espinet's poem "In Punta Cana"(p.22) was written about a personal celebration, let's see how many of the NGHS old

girls relate to some of the verses.

We've never had anyone write about a Canadian professional team for NAAC, so thanks to Tristan Garnett for his piece on the Raptors on page 24. Tristan is a freelance Web Producer for TSN.ca

"My Papa" is a true story by Rubyha McKenzie (p.9) that starts out with a visit to see a tiny new island that appeared off the coast of Cedros, but quickly moves on to how her inquisitiveness gets her into a predicament only to be rescued by her father.

I'm always looking for interesting articles, so don't be shy about sending in your suggestions for publication.

Merle Ramdial

ADVERTISEMENTS

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

Ras Shreeram at rasras@rogers.com

or Tel: 416-743-1331

Finance Report

This report reflects the Association's financial information as at August 2017. Annual Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for May, 2018.

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Bank of Nova Scotia **\$26,696.00**

NAAC INVESTMENTS

Bank of Nova Scotia – Term Deposit \$ 1,215.00

IPC portfolio:

* Inter Pipeline Fund

*1600 Units – B.V. per unit \$10.00 \$16,000.00

(M.V. \$38,960.00)

*Dividends earned – Apr/17 to Aug/17 \$ 1,040.00

**Riocan Real Estate Inv T/U

(M.V. \$20,500.00) \$21,785.00

820 units - B.V. per unit \$26.56

Dividends earned - Apr/17 to Aug/17 \$ 484.00

TOTAL INVESTMENTS \$40,524.00

*Market value of the Inter Pipeline Fund as at August 2017 was \$24.35 per unit. This reflects an increase of 143 % over book value. The fund continues to earn dividends at the rate of \$208 per month which translates to a return of 15.6% per annum on that investment.

**Market value of Riocan REIT as at August 2017 was \$25.00 per unit, a decrease of 6% over book value.

Dividends from Riocan REIT are approx. \$96.00 per month or 5.25% per annum.

The Association met its financial commitments to the schools in Trinidad in the amount of \$3,760 which was remitted in September, 2017. 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 held a fundraiser dance on May 13/17. The purpose of which was to raise funds to subsidize the trip for Panache to Ottawa in order to play at the Inspiration Village, Byward Market to help celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary of Confederation. The Spring Fling realized a profit of \$4,611.00. We also received donations in excess of \$2000.00 for this event. The bottom line was that NAAC did not have to provide a subsidy from their general funds to offset the cost of this event. The revenue raised on behalf of this event exceeded the expenses incurred by \$211.00 . This reflected the hard work and dedication the Panache steelband team put forward to make this event the great success that it was...congratulations!

We look forward to our Annual Christmas Dinner & Dance which is a fundraiser and helps us to meet our commitments to the schools in Trinidad and to fund our programs here.

Respectfully submitted

Norma Ramsahai

Treasurer

Congratulations to...

First-time Grandparents!

*Roger Singh, a granddaughter and to
Winston & Joan Poon on the birth of their granddaughter.*

Social Report

Seems like we are just entering fall and summer finally rolls around. This tricky weather could last till the middle of October. It makes one wonder if we have time to revisit our barbeque; I guess we will have to see.

A big thank you once again to Panache members, friends and our home team for all the hard work at the Spring Fling event, on May 13th at the St Clements RC Church in Etobicoke; what an amazing job done in fundraising for Panache's trip to Ottawa on June 18th, representing part of the culture of our homeland, The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Regretfully, our scheduled Picnic at Adams Park on June 4th, had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. We hope that we might be able to secure

a date later in the month of June, for 2018; as later in the month is typically dry and warm. I don't believe I've seen a more wet summer since I moved to Ontario many years ago. It seemed like spring was never leaving us for summer.

Our focus now lies ahead, looking forward to our annual dinner and dance with great anticipation and expectation for an enchanting evening filled with friends, members of our alumni association, great food and music. I look forward to seeing all of you on November 25th at Elite Banquet Hall in Etobicoke.

We welcome newcomers to test the water; one sip and you'll be back with us next year.

Submitted by

Richard C. Jaikaran

Chair, Social Committee

The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada



Christmas
Dinner & Dance

Saturday
November 25th, 2017

at Elite Banquet Hall
1850 Albion Road, Rexdale

Time: 6:00 p.m. • Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Dress: Formal • Cash Bar

Music by: DJ Kevin & Panache Steelband

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



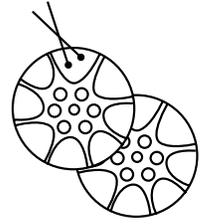
Steelband Report

NAAC wishes to thank the Principal of West Humber Collegiate Institute, Mr. Dil Alvi, for approving our application for the use of the Music Room at WHCI for this 2017 – 2018 school year.

Beginner classes started on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 with Winston Poon as the tutor. He has done a great job with beginners in previous years and this year already looks very promising.

In the last issue of Broadcast, it was reported that Panache had made plans to perform on June 17th in Ottawa for Canada's 150th birthday. Well, they did, and they were very well received by the Ottawans who sat in the bleachers at first, but later danced in the street. Thanks to Al Foster, our musical arranger, for making the trip with us and organizing the stage setup and making the last minute changes to the program as required. The band worked hard to raise the funds that were

needed for transportation and accommodation and they were successful at that too. The NAAC Executive members applaud their efforts.



NAAC is grateful to the High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Garth Chatoor, and his staff, Sajitha Petersen, Liana Sukhbir and Kizzy Scott, for their thoughtfulness and hospitality.

The High Commissioner took the opportunity at the venue to make his presentation of the *Cultural Recognition Award*, pictured on the front cover.

Our NAAC Christmas Dinner & Dance is on Saturday, November 25th, 2017 and Panache has begun rehearsals for this event which is our big fundraiser in support of our schools in T & T.

Submitted by

Merle Ramdial, Steelband Liaison



NOTICE OF NAAC GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 11, 2017

12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church

4156 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough, ON

Refreshments will be served at Noon

Communications Report

Broadcast

Feedback from recipients of print copies of the newsletter has been very positive and those who contacted me made sure to let me know that they do not wish to change to e-copies.

We all want to hear the good things that our schools in Trinidad are doing and accomplishing, but it seems that asking the principals to assign the task of writing articles to update NAAC so we, in turn, can share through Broadcast seems a bit outdated. Especially so, since we publish twice yearly. All five schools have revamped their websites. If you wish to get the latest news and planned events from your alma mater, you can go to their website.

www.naparimacollege.org
www.naparimagirls.edu.tt
www.saghs.edu.tt
www.hillviewcollege.edu.tt
www.facebook.com/ierehighschool

To be sure, we will continue to report on truly outstanding performances and accomplishments that make us proud of our schools.

Broadcast is supported by advertisements and donations. You may contact Ras Shreeram if you wish to place an ad at 416 743 1331 or at rasras@rogers.com

Submitted by

Merle Ramdial

Chair, Communications

Membership Report

Honorary Members.....	17
Life Member	194
Ann. Reg./Family Members.....	38
Assoc./Student Members	17
Total.....	266

This year we welcome Maya and Omar Baboolal to our membership. These two young members have grown up in our midst as we have enjoyed their company at some NAAC events which they have attended with their parents.

The total membership for Jan. – Sept. 2017 shows a slightly lower number than last year at this time. Annual Members are reminded that fees must be paid in January of each year.

New members from 2016 and 2107 are encouraged to attend the General Meeting on Saturday, November 11th. and our Dinner and Dance on November 25th. Your decision to become a member means that you want to get involved in our Association. We urge you to come out and introduce yourselves so that we could fully

embrace you as active members. Being members mean that you will share your ideas to help NAAC continue its growth, you will enjoy the camaraderie by interacting with friends as you attend our events and you will make the decision to give back through your volunteerism to the community here in Canada and to our schools in Trinidad.

NAAC has been fortunate to have so many friends who support our events. It would be remarkable if members could encourage these ardent supporters to become associate members.

Submitted by

Cynthia Ramdeen

(Chair, Membership Committee.)

REMINDER TO RENEW YOUR NAAC MEMBERSHIP

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

Music Notes from West Humber Collegiate Institute

www.whcimusic.com

Joe Cullen, ACL The Arts

Well, here we are, back at it at WHCI for another year! I am back from my motorcycle accident after a year of recovery, which is still ongoing. It is great to be back in the steel pan room, hearing the sounds of the students and teaching again. For now, it is a gradual return to work for me, with the assistance of Mr. Todd Prescott, an amazing supply teacher and also a professional drummer. My colleague, Mrs. Cindy Mashinter, is off on maternity leave and expecting her fourth baby anytime now! Ms. Melissa Chapman is here for the year. Miss Chapman has been teaching pan at WHCI many times before and we are thankful to have her back again.

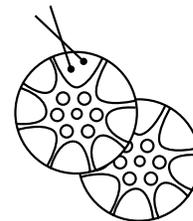
This coming year will bring the usual exciting steel band performances: Commencement, Awards assemblies, Black History month assemblies, special events, pep rallies, basketball tournaments, and more. Our **Holiday Arts Night** will be on Thursday December 7, 2017. **Spring Arts Night** will be on Thursday May 3, 2018. We hope that Panache will be able to be our guest artists if their schedules allow.

This year, I am not over-committing to any and all gigs on top of our school shows as I usually do, in order to have enough energy to continue my physio and gym routines while I build my strength and return to full-time work. One event I HAD to accept though, was the opportunity for WHCI to play with the Hannaford Street Youth Band on Saturday February 17, 2018! Guest Artist: The amazing Paganini of Pan, **Virtuoso Liam Teague!** He will be in town for a larger concert on Sunday Feb 18 with the Hannaford Senior Band called "Island Time". He has agreed to perform on the Saturday concert as well, and we are seeing if he

can come to WHCI for a steel pan clinic with our students!

Our plan for the **NYC Music Trip in May 2018** had to be postponed due to the uncertainty of border crossings into the United States due to the policies of the present administration. The TDSB doesn't want to take the chance of any students being refused entry into the United States. We are looking at other options, so our trip to NYC may have to wait for May 2019. In the meantime, we look forward to making great steel pan music and are very thankful for all the support of the NAAC community for their financial support with pan tuning and the very motivating student awards and scholarships that are donated each year.

NOTICE: Steelband Classes 2017/2018 Season



*At the Music Room at
West Humber Collegiate Institute*

• **Time: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

Contact: Winston Poon

• Tel: 905-824-3589

email: wpoon354@rogers.com

Panache in Ottawa for Canada's 150th Birthday

by Shanti Ramkerrysingh-Inman

Byward Market in downtown Ottawa, was filled with the sounds of sweet pan music when Panache Steelband rocked the capital on Saturday June 17. As part of Canada 150 celebrations, the High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency, Garth Chatoor, invited Panache through NAAC to Ottawa to share the vibrant sounds of steelband, a major part of Trinidad and Tobago's culture, as a contribution to Canada's sesquicentennial celebrations.

The band gave two outdoor performances at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. at Ottawa's Inspiration Village, a collection of special exhibits and performing arts events housed in converted shipping containers, showcasing Canada's provinces and territories. The weather started off with scattered showers but finished off with glorious sunshine and warmth which perfectly fitted the fast-paced steelband music making it difficult to just sit in our seats and listen. We had to move! I knew Panache would deliver a superb performance and they did not disappoint. I am a proud, long-time supporter of NAAC and a regular attendee at the Christmas dances, so I was familiar with the range and depth of their music. Although there were bleachers provided for those attending, most people were up and dancing, waving Trini flags and giving Ottawa a taste of a good Trini lime. We even had a bride and her groom who were walking through the market join in the dancing complete with her high heels and bridal flowers. Bernice Frank, well known in Ottawa for teaching Caribbean cooking and dancing, gave impromptu dancing lessons to many in the crowd. Even the High Commissioner and his wife, Dianne Chatoor, joined in the revelling and the Conga lines! Bandleader, Al Foster, got the crowd going by calling on them to join in the jamming and grinding, and they delivered!



As an Ottawan and a Trini, I can truly say that I was very proud of Panache. The band members were so obliging to the many requests for encores, even in the heat. It was very nice seeing Merle Ramdial, President of NAAC, and her husband Ian, make the trip to Ottawa to be part of this fantastic day. I also met other NAAC members from Toronto who had encouraged their friends and family to make the trip with them to celebrate with Panache. At the end of the performances, the High Commissioner thanked the crowd and the band and aptly noted that the band really was a true reflection of Canada and its diversity. President Ramdial also thanked the revellers and gave a brief description of NAAC and its association with Panache.

Many Trinis came out to enjoy the music but it was also really nice to see so many local Ottawans dancing and having a ball. We do not get many opportunities in Ottawa to see a medium-sized steelband so it was a treat. We hope that Panache will do this again in the future and on behalf of all those who were there, a big thank you to NAAC and Panache. I know you had to fundraise to come and we sincerely thank you for bringing your energy, talent, and obvious love of pan, to the nation's capital and to Ottawans to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. Happy Birthday Canada!

My Papa

by Rubyha Mckenzie

The newspaper was full of the story. An island had arisen out of the sea. It was a small rock really, and it emerged out of the sea overnight- just off the south west coast of the tip of Icos.

My father was as excited as we children were. On Saturday we all piled into his truck and set off for the beach to see the island. The beach was crowded with onlookers. People were trudging up and down in the sand looking out in awe at this overnight wonder. Where did it come from? Local founts of knowledge spouted myth and folklore: "A baby island that would grow in time to replace the larger one we were living on". "No, no, no." someone else said. It is an evil omen! Watch and see what grows there..." People had their cameras out taking pictures left, right, back and centre. I listened for a while and then I tuned out.

My eyes searched the horizon and I could see in the distance far off atop the nearby cliffs wisps of steam arising out of the ground. I headed toward them, barely conscious that it was quite a distance up hill. My quest was to find out where the steam was coming from. One foot in front of the next I arose foot by foot to the top of the cliff.

As my eyes got used to the steamy sulphurous surroundings, I saw before me spread out like a carpet of carnations, tiny fissures in the rock-face all bubbling gently. I knew enough not to get too close as I carefully explored the terrain. Tiny creatures scurried in the soft yellow green moss-like protuberances. Child as I was, I took a stick and decided to poke around. They looked like baby scorpions, and encrusted cockroaches. The rocks looked flattened and smooth, and barnacles clung to their sides, like little ships hanging on for dear life. Mystery after mystery absorbed me, until I looked up to realize that the sun had shifted in the horizon, and I should head back...

I picked my way back to the edge of the cliff and

looked down. The sea lay like a silken shawl wrapped around Wilkey's Island far, far, down below. People, tiny as ants, were still milling around on the sands beneath. I felt the breath knocked out of me, and my head begin to swirl. I felt that I would fall into the sea below...I must have crouched down before this could happen... there was no way that I was going down that cliff!

I sat there with my eyes shut against the panorama of sand and sea waiting for my stomach to settle, and my head to be still. And then I heard a voice calling my name. Gingerly I opened my eyes and peered down. I could see him standing at the bottom of the cliff in his white pants. He was waving his arms up at me. Papa was calling me. As I watched, he started climbing up toward me. I watched in fascination as he inched up the side. About half way up, he stopped and called out to me again. He said, "Turn around. Do not look down. Hold onto the bush and rocks. Put one foot back and down, then another. Come down to me. I am here. I will hold you."

Papa, Papa was here. I shall be alright. Relief flooded me, and I began to breathe steadily again.

I turned around and hugged the ground, inching my legs over the cliff top, grabbing roots as I hung at the edge. Little by little, first one foot then the other, I made purchase with the rock face. Burying my toes into the crevasses, one hand in front of the other, I backed down the side. Papa's voice was there quietly saying, "keep coming. I am here". I was breathing hard, and my hands were raw with scratches, my lips and cheeks bloodied and bruised from being pressed into the rock. After what seemed an eternity, I felt his hands on my hips.

From there on I breathed easily. Papa guided me deftly down to the beach. I looked up at him expecting recriminations. His eyes met mine and he asked gently, "Did you find what you were looking for?"

Total Solar Eclipse

by Diane Leela Sitaram

Our family's summer holiday coincided with the August 21st Total Solar Eclipse. Like Toronto, Myrtle Beach expected a partial eclipse, but I wanted to be in the 'Path of Totality'. I expected traffic, but this was slower than yesterday, when a 7 hour drive on the I-95 took 13½ hours. It took 3 hours to inch our way to Pawley's Island, which was a short 35 minute drive from our hotel. As we crawled along the evacuation route, I wondered what would happen in an actual disaster. Michael commented - yet again - on how long the GPS has shown that we're 18 minutes from our destination. *I remember road trips with Mikey and Brandon in the backseat constantly asking, "Are we there yet?" and decide the GPS countdown is slightly more tolerable.*

Finding no place to park when we arrived, I desperately tried to squish my SUV into imaginary parking spots. Much to the chagrin of the twenty-somethings in my car, I called out the window to two strangers, asking if I could pay to park on their property. A woman from Pennsylvania recognized an Ontario license plate, and was happy to let a Canadian park at her beach house. She refused my offer of cash, and instead asked me to speak to a local reporter who was working on an eclipse story.

Giddy with excitement, we hit the beach at 12:50pm and raced to dip our feet in the ocean. I've had a strong bond with water since childhood. *I'm seven years old - at the Scout House in San Fernando, wearing my inflatable water wings and yearning to join my big cousins who would swim out to that stranded boat.* We stood in the Atlantic Ocean when the eclipse started at 1:18pm, but worried when we saw nearby clouds threatening to blot our view. Back on the sand, I gazed up at the sky from the comfort of my beach blanket, and basked in the sun's warmth. I closed my eyes for a few minutes, and breathed in deeply the familiar smell of salt water and listened to the soothing sound of waves. *When I was a little*

girl visiting Mayaro, those same Atlantic waves would lull me to sleep while the adults played cards, so that sound brings back blissful memories.

Nearby, a father used a cardboard cutout to explain the scientific process of the eclipse to his son. *I remembered using that when I last saw a total solar eclipse on February 26th, 1979, at Glenwood Elementary School in Winnipeg.* I have a quiet chuckle at the degree of difference (pun intended) between now and February in Winnipeg...um... Winnipeg. Plus I'm using eclipse glasses so I could look at the sky instead of shadows on cardboard.

I joined the kids in the water, and watched the sky grow dark in the middle of the afternoon. The balmy warmth suddenly gave way to a damp chill. The sound of activity on the beach lowered, and then became eerily quiet. I actually whispered when asking if everyone was okay. I noticed we were no longer standing in the water because the tide had gone out very quickly.

We speed towards Totality. Suddenly, I see the 'diamond ring' and then 'Baily's Beads' which means it's about to happen! Pawley's Island reaches Totality at precisely 2:47:21pm, and the crowd on the beach roars! The cheering only lasts for a few moments, which is appropriate because you want some quiet time to have that intimate connection with ... the universe/what's out there/the sky -no, the heavens... I can clearly see several stars and planets, but Venus shines brightest of all.

The 'photosphere' is what most people see when they look up during the day, and that is now completely covered by the moon. We can see the 'chromosphere' which is the middle layer of the sun's atmosphere. I expected it to be red, but it's a bright vivid pink ring surrounding the dark circle of the moon. Last is the 'corona' which is the outermost layer of the sun. It looks like bright white rays of

(Continued on next page)

Total Solar Eclipse

(Continued from previous page)

light bursting from behind the moon. It's incredibly dramatic to see both the bright glowing pink ring and the brilliant white light behind the black moon – particularly against the darkened sky. This celestial sight is breathtakingly beautiful.

It honestly felt much longer, but Totality lasted a mere 39 seconds. Words seem inadequate. I firmly believe in science, and I'm also a person of deep faith. NASA refers to the corona as the 'pearly-white halo' around the sun. A halo brings to mind angels, and this total solar eclipse beckons a glimpse of Heaven.

Psalm 139:11 (NRSV): Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night

Obituary

Marjorie Laltoo (nee Mulchansingh)

1915-2017

Marjorie Laltoo 1915 — 2017

Marjorie Ethel Laltoo passed away peacefully at McNair Manor on July 29, 2017, at the age of 101 years old.

Pre-deceased by her husband, Ralph Laltoo, she is survived by her children Heather (Ron Ferguson), Hayden (Sharon Stevens), and Hans (Mary McBeath), and her beloved grandchildren Gregory (Indri Purwana) and Alexandra Ferguson, Devin and Reanna Laltoo, and Andrea Laltoo and Lindsay Boylan (Aaron). Marjorie is also survived by many nephews and nieces who have settled in Canada, the United States, England, Wales, Europe, and Trinidad, West Indies.

Marjorie was born on December 31, 1915, in Freeport on the Caribbean island of Trinidad to parents Ezekiel and Jane Mulchansingh. She was the sole survivor of a large family of siblings which included brothers Hubert, Rowdon, and Winston, and sisters Laura, Winnifred Deonarine, Violet Bhagirah, Claudia, Carmen Rajkumar-Maharaj, and Sylvia Yamin-Ali. She had an amazing career as an educator, having taught at her alma mater of Naparima Girls' High School in San Fernando, and Holy Name Convent in Port of Spain in Trinidad.

Marjorie immigrated with her family to Canada in 1970, settling in the Town of Shelburne, Nova Scotia, where she embraced a new culture. She became a



member of the Shelburne United Church, and joined the local chapter of the IODE. After eleven years in Shelburne, Marjorie moved to Moncton, New Brunswick, upon her husband's retirement from a teaching career. Here she greeted the arrival of grandchildren, revelled in family life, enjoyed gardening, and entertained visiting relatives and friends. She became an active member of Mount

Royal United Church and sang in their choir for many years. Marjorie also joined an IODE chapter, under whose auspices she regularly welcomed newly sworn-in citizens to her adopted country of Canada.

Marjorie's life was celebrated at a memorial service held at Fair Haven Funeral Home at 11am on Thursday, August 3, followed by internment at Fair Haven Cemetery. The family of Marjorie would especially like to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to the exceptional team of caregivers at McNair Manor for their devotion to Marjorie in making her final days comfortable and serene. Marjorie Laltoo's was indeed a life well-lived.

Mrs Laltoo was the oldest known alumna of the Naparima institutions, when she passed away. She attended NGHS, together with many of her sisters during the 1920's; and Naparima Training College in the 1930's.

(Photo courtesy of Mrs. Laltoo's grandson, Greg Ferguson)

Panache in Ottawa, June 2017



Photos by Anna Lee Kim

Panache in Ottawa, June 2017



Photos by Anna Lee Kim

Brinsley's moving search for his roots

by Yvonne Baboolal

Published: The Trinidad & Tobago Newsday, Sunday, May 28, 2017

Prof Brinsley Samaroo

University of the West Indies history professor, Dr Brinsley Samaroo, great-grandson of indentured Indians, in a moving search for his roots in India, found his relatives in the village of Baraich in Uttar Pradesh and keeps a close connection with them.

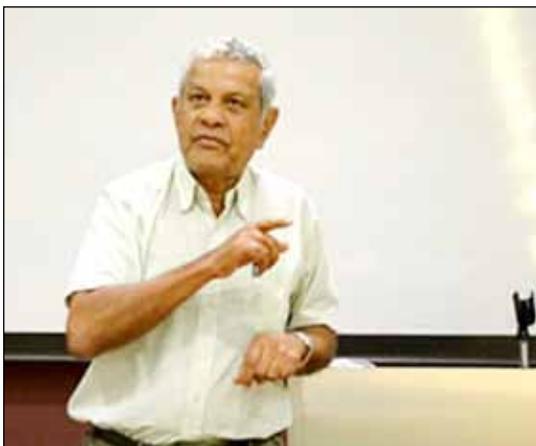
A graduate of Delhi University and descended from the Somaroods from Bahraich in Northern India, Samaroo said he has been travelling frequently to India after his studies there to do research and bond with his relatives.

"I can go back at will to my village and I am treated well." He said they actually had a piece of land that was left for his great-grandfather which they offered him. "They joked, do you want that or can we take it."

Samaroo, a Presbyterian, said he is valued by his Hindu Indian relatives because he fills a void in their lives created when his great-grandparents left India.

He said to this day Indians in Baraich and different villages in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, where the majority of Indian immigrants came from, yearn to know where brothers, uncles, other relatives went, if they were killed or suffered.

"It pleases me that I am able to go to their villages and fill that void, give them some kind of closure. I tell them about the villages the Indian created here and they are happy to know



they did not come here and were killed."

He said Baraich was a village when his great-grandparents left it but is now a thriving agricultural town cultivated with pomegranate, mango, pineapple, guava, rice, lentils and even sugar cane.

"It's quite big now and it was with great difficulty I was able to find the particular region from where my great-grandparents came."

Samaroo said he meets people in these villages looking just like Trinidadian Indians who eat the same kind of food prepared in exactly the same way.

"When you go to these villages you get food your mother used to make, sada roti, dhalpuri, talkari made with exactly the same ingredients. You see the Indian from whence you came still very much alive."

He said India has started doing research into Indian indentureship and has actually begun to celebrate Indian Arrival Day and it is becoming quite popular there.

Samaroo, who did specific research on the humble jahaji bundle Indians brought here with them, spoke to the T&T Guardian on the eve of Indian Arrival Day on his Indian roots and how 143,939 Indians who arrived here between 1845 and 1917 not only changed the economic and social landscape of T&T but its physical space, as well.

(Continued on next page)

Brinsley's moving search for his roots *(Continued from previous page)*

He has been going to schools in different areas, like Penal/Debe, giving students lectures on the jahaji bundles brought to T&T by Indians, modest pieces of cloth tied to long sticks, which carried the seeds of new fruit trees and vegetables which were to later change the literal geography of the island.

Given swamplands by the colonial authorities after their indentureship was over, they also transformed wet, marshy areas, like Felicity, into thriving villages.

Samaroo said Indians who came poor, bedraggled and as semi-slaves have today transformed themselves and the geography of the Caribbean islands where they settled.

“In their jahaji bundle, which was like a very large three cornered handkerchief tied to the top of a large stick, they brought a remarkable range of seeds of fruit, vegetables and herbs we didn't have in the Caribbean.

“Like mango, pomegranate, guava, downs, cowa, karaille, bodi, mustard, different varieties of dhal and rice, a whole range of bhaji, cinnamon, clove, cumin.”

The Indians brought ganga (marijuana) to the Caribbean because it was not illegal and prohibited and used it very sparingly as a form of relaxation in the evening, he said.

Samaroo said Indians were given the worst lands after

their indentureship, the swamplands of Caroni, Oropouche and Nariva.

“If you go and look at these swamplands now, you see remarkable transformation. Indians had thousands of years of experience in India in converting swamplands to profitable lands.

“In places like Felicity, Barrackpore, Plum Mitan, they changed the physical geography by draining and cultivating these areas and making them profitable.

“Indians created villages where there were no villages before out of swamp and jungle and gave them ancestral Indian names, like Chandanagore, which means place where the moon shines, Calcutta Settlement Number One and Two, Madras Settlement, Coromandel, Malabar, Barrackpore, Fyzabad and Eli Road.”

Samaroo will lecture on Indian indentureship at the Sangre Grande Civic Centre at 11 am today.

“When you go to these villages you get food your mother used to make, sada roti, dhalpuri, talkari made with exactly the same ingredients. You see the Indian from whence you came still very much alive.”



New World Realty Inc.

新世界地產

Brokerage - INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED



羅研嫦

Mina Law B.Soc.Sc.CHRM

Sales Representative

Mobile: (416) 520-9628

Email: mina.law@sympatico.ca

201 Consumers Road, Suite 205, Willowdale, Ontario M2J 4G8

BUS: (416) 490-1177 FAX: 1-888-321-2821

The First Presbyterian Co-Ed Secondary School: Iere High School, Siparia (Est. 17th January 1955)

Posted by national archives, written by Ken Kalloo, Archivist.

Pioneer Canadian Presbyterian Minister Rev. John Morton arrived in Trinidad on 6th January 1868 instituting a 'mission' that lasted until 1975 with the departure of the last Missionary personnel.

Within a few short weeks of his arrival Morton was inducted into the Iere Village Pastoral Charge which had been established by American Presbyterian Missionaries in 1843 but was not continued after 1853 because of heavy casualties among the personnel. However, the little African congregation along with an outstation at Mt. Stewart continued to be served by Scottish Missionaries working out of San Fernando. It was this little missionary plant that Morton 'inherited' and out of which has grown what is today recognised as the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT).

Very early the Missionaries embarked upon an Educational thrust along with Evangelism amongst the East Indian indentured labourers. This latter group began arriving in Trinidad in 1845 – slavery being finally abolished in 1838.

While Evangelism was always the main thrust in the life of the Church, education played an increasingly important dimension in the subsequent growth and expansion of the Canadian Mission (PCTT). Such an interest and commitment to Education were vital and necessary order to create and sustain a literate population so that the Christian Gospel would be available to all who come into contact with Church and School.



By 1892 there were already 52 Primary Schools established throughout the length and breadth of the island. This number eventually grew to 72 schools at the present time. In addition there were a number of non-assisted schools run entirely by the Canadian Mission from its own resources most of which in time completely disappeared or were taken over by the Government. One good example is the Coora Road Canadian Mission Indian (CMI) School which was closed but shortly thereafter revived by the Villagers and eventually become what is now known as the Penal-Quinam Government School.

The Church was also involved in operating 'Night Schools' for those who wanted to gain an education and who were able to attend such schools after their day's labour in the cane fields.

(Continued on next page)

The First Presbyterian Co-Ed Secondary School: Iere *(Continued from previous page)*

By 1897 in the San Fernando Field alone there were 18 such 'Night Schools'.

It became obvious that with thousands of children in the Primary School System there would arise a need for Post-Primary Schooling and this development was not long in coming.

1892:

A Theological College was established to train Preachers and Church Workers.

1894:

Naparima Training College for Teachers

1894:

Naparima College which had its origin in 1883 in Dr. K.J. Grant's Class.

1931:

Archibald Vocational Institute in St. Augustine

1950:

St. Augustine Girls' High School

In the early 1950's a survey was carried out at Naparima Boys and Naparima Girls which revealed that more than 50% of the students travelled for three to four hours every day to get to school – all from villages outside of San Fernando.

From this survey it was learnt that about one hundred and fifty (150) students came from the oilfield area within a five mile radius of the little town of Siparia. The information gleaned pointed in one direction.

January 17th 1955 was the great day when Naparima College (South) was opened with Rev. Weldon Grant as the Founding Principal along with Staff members – Ms. Phyllis Ramcharan and Mr. Clifford Ramcharan. Enrollment on the first day of school was 75 students.

By 1957/58 Iere High School was firmly established on a fine site comprising 14 acres at Bayanie Terrace at De Gannes Village, Siparia – the first and only Presbyterian Co-Ed Secondary School.

It is also necessary to note that Naparima College (North) was opened on the same day as Iere High School – the 17th of January 1955. Now known as Hillview College, the founding Principal was Rev. H.F. Swann the former Principal of the Naparima Training College for Teachers. The first classes were held on the Aramalaya Church grounds and subsequently established at El Dorado Road, Tunapuna.



Iere High School as it is today.

The fascinating life of WWI's only serving Indigenous woman, Marion Leane Smith

By Sophie Verass (April, 25, 2017)

The only identified Indigenous Australian woman in WWI was actually serving for Canada.

Nestled in the records of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve(QAIMNS) is Dharug woman, Marion Leane Smith, the only identified Aboriginal Australian woman to serve in the First World War. However, rather than volunteering as a part of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), Marion was among the 3,141 Canadian nurses who worked overseas and on the home front.

In Australia, women were only able to serve in the national army as nurses or other medical staff and only if they were already trained in the field. Given that many official and unspoken barriers prevented Aboriginal women from accessing such nursing training, it was Marion's Canadian connection that made her one of no other identified Indigenous Australian nurses in the First World War.

Last native woman of the Georges River

Marion was born in Liverpool, NSW in 1891 and comes from a long line of courageous Indigenous women. She is the granddaughter of historic Cabrogal woman Lucy Leane, wife of farmer and landowner, William Leane, who met one another while Lucy was foraging in the Liverpool river (William thought she was



Pioneering nurse Marion Leane Walls (nee Smith), the only known Indigenous nurse to serve in WWI, with husband Rev Victor B Walls. (National Portrait Gallery)

drowning and dived from his boat to 'rescue' her). Lucy and William reared 13 children, including Marion's mother, Elizabeth, and remained married until Lucy's passing. Lucy was a proud Aboriginal woman and is on record in 1893 for petitioning to the NSW Aborigines Protection Board



William and Lucy Leane circa 1870 (Wordpress/Neurodrooling)

to use a boat in order to sell her farm produce along the river, describing herself as 'The only surviving Native Woman of the Georges River and Liverpool District, residing here ever since birth.'

(Continued on next page)

Marion Leane Smith

(Continued from previous page)

Life in Canada

Marion's mother, Elizabeth, married her English cousin (yes, you read correct), George William Smith in 1890, with Marion being born the following year. When Marion was two years old, her parents moved to Canada where Marion was raised. An article by Tamsin Hong of the National Portrait Gallery states, 'It is not clear what prompted George and Elizabeth Smith to move to Canada with their daughter Marion. However, the turn of the century was textured by growing concerns about the welfare of 'half-caste' children, leading to the devastation of the Stolen Generations. Had the Smiths remained in Australia, Marion's upbringing would have been decidedly different.'

As a young woman, Marion Smith trained as a nurse at New England Hospital, Massachusetts US and after graduating, joined the Victoria Order of Nurses in Montreal in 1913. When she was 26, she volunteered for the QAIMNS and became known as Marion *Leane* Smith during war service. Marion is one of a few of the Leane family to volunteer for service, with her cousins, Albert Edmund Leane, his brother William Arthur Leane and her uncle Albert Charles Leane all serving with the AIF.

Remembering Albert Leane: the Indigenous serviceman who fought at the Battle of Fromelles 100 years ago and survived

It was a battle of 'mass slaughter and mass grief', the first time Australians were confronted with 'the full force and horror of industrialised warfare.'

No. 41 Ambulance Train

She embarked for France in March 1917 where she was placed in No. 41 Ambulance Train. Having lived and worked in Montreal, it's assumed



Ambulance train circa. 1917 (National Railway Museum)

Marion could speak French and possibly therefore assigned to an area which operated in France and Belgium. Hong explains that 'Ambulance trains were specially fitted to transport injured troops from casualty clearing stations on the front to base hospitals, and were in operation in France and Belgium.' Trains of course were unpredictable, bumpy, dim and narrow and nurses had to work around the difficult, dirty and dangerous conditions, with staff at risk of catching disease and even being bombed. Patients were crammed into triple bunks, hundreds of injured fought to get on the train and in some cases, these trains even included theatres for emergency operations.

Inspiring tales of trains and bravery during wartime

A vital part of wartime efforts, trains often showcased the selfless bravery of men and women, not just in the carriages but also on the tracks.

Despite this, Marion proved herself a skilled nurse, with the sister in charge of No. 41 Ambulance Train noting, 'Staff Nurse Smith has given complete satisfaction in the carrying out of her duties

(Continued on next page)

Marion Leane Smith

(Continued from previous page)

whilst on the train. Her work is both quickly and efficiently done. She is most capable in every way. Power of administration satisfactory as also tact and ability to train others.’

Marion’s contract ended in September 1918 and she sought an extension, she served in Italy with Britain’s Italian Expeditionary Force, and then University War Hospital Southampton, UK where she remained until the war ended.

In May 1919, Marion returned back to her family in Canada at “Home Farm” in New Brunswick. She later married Victor Walls, who had also served in WWI – some speculate the two met during the war years.

Naparima College and Trinidad

Not long after their wedding, Victor and Marion Walls relocated to Trinidad, where Victor was posted as principal of Naparima College, a secondary school founded by Canadian Presbyterian Missionaries. Victor was the headmaster for near 30 years and subsequently, in 1959 ‘Walls’ became a school house (red) and remains so. As does the school hymn which was written by Marion, the wife of the long-serving principal, which include some telling lyrics given her own life story, “Our island home, no matter where we roam, if near or far from home. Let us be always one.”

“Our island home, no matter where we roam, if near or far from home. Let us be always one.”

With a commitment to

raising medical awareness, during her time in Trinidad, Marion compiled an elementary first-aid and home nursing text book, which catered especially for the tropics. She also set up an infirmary for the school’s dormitories, and was a central figure in the lives of the students at Naparima College.

When World War II eventuated, Marion was directly responsible for bringing the Red Cross to Trinidad, in which she stood as commandant for, as well as the Nurses’ Council and the Junior Red Cross. Marion received a Distinguished War Service Medal for this role.

After her husband’s retirement, she and Victor returned back to New Brunswick, Canada. Marion died four years later at age 66, leaving behind a legacy as a trained nurse, a distinguished war service veteran, a community leader, a wife, mother and the only known Aboriginal Australian woman to serve in World War I to date.

Marion’s story first emerged publicly and was originally documented by Philippa Scarlett on theIndigenous Histories blog in 2013.

Like the content? Follow the author @sophieverass



Naparima College, Trinidad (Naparima College)

Large turnout but not enough for world record

By Laurel V. Williams

Published: The Trinidad & Tobago Newsday

Monday, September 11, 2017

In Carnival-like atmosphere, more than 500 moko jumbies assembled at Skinner Park in San Fernando yesterday and created history in Trinidad by having the largest number of stilt walkers in one place.

It was, however, not enough to break the record in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The brainchild behind the attempt, cultural activist and founder/leader of the San Fernando School of the Arts, Sport and Culture, Junior Bisnath was pleased with the turnout of moko jumbies and the overall response from the public.

“There is always another time.

We made the first attempt and it will only get better with the next one. Just like with Panorama, it started off with one steelpan and grew into bands so too will moko jumbies grow,” Bisnath said.

Apart from the energetic stilt walkers with varying ages, Carnival characters and scout bands entertained the gathering, Bisnath added: “Earlier today I was still putting together a pair of stilts”.

You will see moko jumbies at all schools in TT soon.

“Recently I got permission from the Education Ministry to teach children about it and we started already.” **The oldest stilt walker at yesterday’s event, Milton Moonah, 76.**

He said he began learning the art only three



On right, Milton Moonah on stilts.

weeks ago in memory of his deceased wife, Kathlyn, who died last year.

Moonah, is from Henry Street, San Fernando, but resides in Toronto, Canada.

“She always came down here and she loved it. I am doing this to commemorate her and all the people around Henry Street and the entire Brown Lane area. I am the oldest person who was born in Brown Lane, everyone else died. I had to help make my own stilts yesterday.”

(Editor’s Note: Milton Moonah is a Naps Old Boy and a NAAC Life Member since its inception).

In Punta Cana

by Ramabai Espinet

NOTE: This poem might well be titled "Reflections on NGHS" so its backstory provides a bit of context. The occasion was the celebration of a big birthday and a group of us Naparima "ole girls" were celebrating it together with our husbands, partners etc. at a resort in Punta Cana. The first day we lazed but on the second we began to plan a celebratory evening to mark the birthdays. One friend, my old seatmate who always got me in trouble for talking in class, gave me a playful shove and said, "Write a poem, nah!" I laughed but the next morning, to my surprise, I found myself in one of the outdoor cafes, drinking spiked coffee and (obediently!) writing this poem.

One of the husbands was also a birthday celebrant and I happened to be seated next to him at dinner on the first night. Somehow he got to talking about being a small boy on the prairies following his grandfather as he poisoned the gophers on their farm. I was intrigued and horrified of course, and kept asking questions. To this day he swears that I had contrived to sit next to him and interview him for the poem I intended to write. Not that he minded the details but would he have shared them so readily if he had known where they would end up? That writing a poem was the furthest thing from my mind as he talked about gophers, that the idea of the poem only erupted the second night as a kind of joke – he will never believe. Serendipity, that's all.

In Punta Cana

What journeys, what moves-
Likely and unlikely – the wavering
Motions of time and space
Circumambulations, peregrinations
The fanciful longings of those
Who taught us and even then
Sought to send us marching, pushing
Far beyond their own boundaries

It was at the exact point
Of turning, in the lives of girls
We met – each of us charged
Singly, unmistakably
With our family's stamp - important
Ascending La Pique Hill on mornings

And now here, with hibiscus and ixora
The anthurium lilies of our earliest landscapes
The ocean roar of the Atlantic
Croton bushes, wild tannias, carat huts –
All transformed into the manicured
Cartography of brochures, yet
Lulled into an equal beauty, contained,
Careful – even the wild pines and agaves

All of this they dreamed for us
Perhaps, margaritas and sea breeze
Aroma de mujer, us, older women now
Still searching out nuevos arenas
Unending possibilities, rebel causes too,
Yet, poised to pass the torch, the flambeaux
And our friend, a husband, a brother too
Once a stranger on prairie grass
Once a small boy, his footstool at the ready
Following his grandpa, learning to understand the
Lineaments of beef cattle, sheep, horses
The poisoning of gophers – no wasted guff there-
Only the simple economy of Highland and ranch
Spare, precise, every note in balance

Learning too the startling symmetry of numbers
Calculations against the grain of old certainties
Against the predictable hypotheses of granary and silo
Absolute equations inventing themselves
Circling that great bowl of prairie blue
Erupting in places strange and new

Yes, an unlikely convergence in this place
On Punta Cana's white sand, its pounding surf,
Friends since those early days

(Continued on next page)

In Punta Cana

by Ramabai Espinet

(Continued from previous page)

Remembering lessons on the geography of discovery
How Columbus sighted land at Hispaniola
As now, we walk through his son Diego's second
bedroom
His stone house echoing the improbable history
Of all our arrivals into Taino land

In Santo Domingo, first city of America
We search for traces and find only
The sweep of Empire and colony
Nicolas Ovando, the Franciscans;
On the other side Ayiti and revolution:
Toussaint, Dessalines, Christophe

Creating that vast wave from the Indies
We mapped this, however imperfectly
In breezy classrooms through girlish pranks
Stoning teachers with paper pellets
Grumps, Miss Cartar, studying Latin and Dictee
And somehow, making sense of it all
An eclectic education you might say:
Sipari Mai, 'youth undaunted,' douenne and diablesse

Phagwa, Divali, All Saints and Hosay
Flirting with foolish boys in dances
And in church, coy, but scornful too
Demanding too much, maybe
Our rich tastes modulated by teen magazines
By Rio Bravo, Elvis and Hollywood idols

This too was our colonial education
All of it landing us in this distant year
On a tropical beach – a hedonist enclave
Paradise, a temporary utopia of the senses
Careful, cocooned, fanned by breezes
True and false, counting nothing
The respite that we sought from books
Grafted onto images from brochures

And on that other island? Invisible faces
Black, brown, the in-between
A day or two earlier, there we were
A day or two later, we may find
Our way back – but to whom do we belong?
Ourselves? The islands? The tourist brochures?

Hispaniola – the first sighting
Of that explorer, Cristobal Colon
A small brown man, returning to Spain in chains
Ending in poverty and ignominy
His poor remains held in crypts,
In tombs and vaults across this archipelago
No resting place, only statuary
Only a name clanging down the centuries

We stand here, three classmates
Starting things up at eleven, together with
A once small boy, honoring his grandpa, listening,
A convergence of worlds
An improbable wreathing of lives,
A toast for years to come.

Toronto Raptors 2017-18 season preview

Submitted by Tristan Garnett for this issue of Broadcast

The Toronto Raptors have enjoyed a tremendous amount of success the last four years, but this season, the club's 23rd in the National Basketball Association, could look significantly different.

The theme surrounding the Raptors this season is change. How will the team respond for the first time in four years to significant changes to its roster, as well as the conference it competes in, the Eastern Conference, projected to be more competitive.

The answer to both of those questions figures to be answered early this season, which kicks off for the Raptors on Oct. 19 versus the Chicago Bulls at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto. The Raptors will play half of their 82-game schedule at home. Here are the dates for games against some of the league's top teams: Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant and the reigning NBA champion Golden State Warriors; Kyrie Irving and the new-look Boston Celtics; LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Warriors: Oct. 25 (away) Jan. 13 (home)

Cavaliers: Jan. 11 (home) Mar. 21 (away) Apr. 3 (away)

Celtics: Nov. 12 (away) Feb. 6 (home) Mar. 31 (away) Apr. 4 (home)

Foremost on the list of priorities for the Raptors this season is to find a new starting small forward to play alongside Kyle Lowry (point guard), DeMar DeRozan (shooting guard), Serge Ibaka (power forward) and Jonas Valanciunas (centre). C.J. Miles, who was acquired in a separate trade last off-season, and Norman Powell will compete for the vacant spot, as will 2017 first-round pick, OG Anunoby, once he's recovered from a knee injury. Powell benefits from having played the past two seasons with the Raptors, but Miles has the real edge having 12 seasons in the league under his belt — as well as the multi-year contract he signed with the Raptors in July.

Another question surrounding the Raptors roster-wise is their depth. Besides Carroll, Toronto also lost Cory Joseph (traded to the Indiana Pacers), Patrick Patterson (signed with the Oklahoma City Thunder), and P.J. Tucker (signed with the Houston Rockets). All three of these players were key contributors for the Raptors last season, as reserves coming off the bench. The defensive prowess of Carroll, Joseph and Tucker will particularly be missed.

On the flipside, Miles is a solid pickup, who should be able to provide double-digit scoring and good defensive play. And Anunoby is considered a draft-day steal because he fell to the Raptors at No. 23 overall — he would have been a lottery pick if not for his injury.

Despite making their fourth consecutive postseason appearance, advancing past the first round of the playoffs for the second straight year, and putting together back-to-back seasons of at least 50 wins, the Toronto Raptors, unsurprisingly, are projected to regress in 2017-18. Ahead of the start of this season, ESPN projected that the Raptors will finish sixth in the East with 43 wins. A sixth-place finish would still get Toronto back into the playoffs, but 43 wins would be the club's lowest total since the 2012-13 season — prior to now-team president Masai Ujiri's arrival

The Raptors, however, shouldn't be surprised by ESPN's projection or anyone else's for that matter. As the lone Canadian team in the NBA, the Raptors have virtually had to prove themselves to the media, players, and other teams for the better part of their 23-year history. The question is, though, are the Raptors up to doing so yet again, particularly, coming off a four-year win total that was only bested by a few teams around the league.

Tristan Garnett, @TristanJGarnett



NGHS Class of 1967 Reunion held on Sept 2, 2017 at the NGHS Auditorium

RE/MAX
 Realty Specialists Inc., Brokerage
 Independently Owned And Operated
416.939.2999
 email: beths@bethssuepaul.com

Beths Suepaul
 Broker, M.A.

Specializes in Residential and Commercial Real Estate

New Construction | Multi-Family | Condominiums | Luxury Homes
 Investments | Relocation | Business Opportunities

DEDICATED TO RESULTS...RESULTS THAT MOVE YOU!

PLEASE NOTE:
 If you are looking to purchase Pre-Construction condos,
 please give us a call. As a Broker we have inside access to
 the builder to get special pricing.

BethsSuepaul.com

Superior Home Staging And Consultation
 Maximum Online And Print Exposure
 Professional Photography, Virtual Tours, And Much More!

Panache in Ottawa

