

THE TOBAGO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

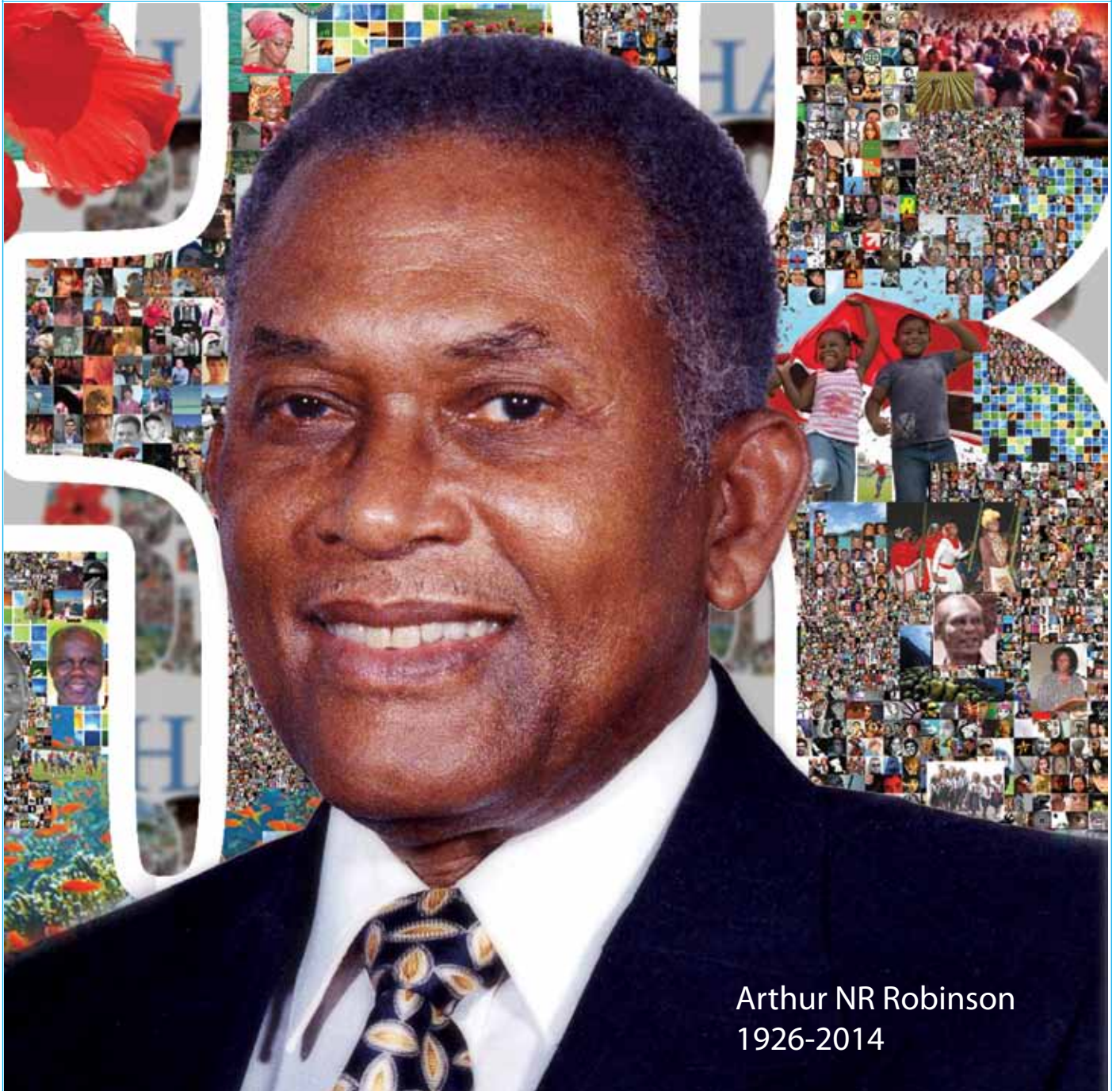


# UP DATE MAGAZINE

**WIN**  
A TABLET  
DETAILS INSIDE

ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2014



Arthur NR Robinson  
1926-2014

# THA *is*





CARNIVAL KIDDIE

**COMPETITION:**

**WIN A SONY DIGITAL CAMERA**

**Rules:**

1. Answer the question.
2. Only THA employees can enter the competition.
3. Submit your answer to the address below with your name, department, division, address and contact details.
4. Only correct answers will go to the final draw.
5. The winner will be informed and featured in the next issue of Update.
6. Only one entry per person.

**Question:**

**What year did Arthur NR Robinson become the country's first Finance Minister?**

**Hint:**

The answer is in this issue of the magazine.

Update Magazine  
 Department of Information  
 Administrative Complex  
 Calder Hall  
 Scarborough, Tobago  
 Tel:639-3720/639-3421 Ext. 5047  
 Fax: 660-7214  
 Email: cdinfo@tha.gov.tt  
 www.tha.gov.tt

**Contents**



**5** Fighting Temptations

**6** Expanding Road Network

**9** Blue Print for Development

**10** Towards Self Government

**21** Plant Tissue Culture Lab

**28** Chamber Restoration

**43** THA Young Blood

**49** THA In Review

**CREDITS:**

**PUBLISHER:**  
 Raye Sandy  
 Chief Administrator  
 Office of the Chief  
 Secretary  
 Tobago House of Assembly  
 Administrative Complex  
 Calder Hall  
 Scarborough, Tobago

Tel: 639-3720/639-3421  
 Ext. 5047  
 Fax: 660-7214  
 Email: cdinfo@tha.gov.tt  
 www.tha.gov.tt

**PRODUCER:**  
 Joannah Bharose  
 Communications Director  
 Department of Information  
 OCS

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**  
 Caswell Gordon  
 Clement Williams  
 Oswin Browne

**LAYOUT:**  
 Wespac:  
 Marketing Design  
 Development



**CHIEF SECRETARY ORVILLE LONDON**

## Productivity, is our future

The Tobago House of Assembly is this country's oldest political institution; even older than Trinidad and Tobago itself, since the THA's first incarnation was in 1768, and the twin-island union was set up 131 years later.

Now, as we mark 33 years of the establishment of the present Tobago House of Assembly, we take this opportunity to reflect on our growth. When the modern THA was formed in 1980, the island population was just under 41,000; it now stands at over 61,000, with fewer people emigrating in recent years, thanks to improving financial conditions and better social and employment prospects on the island. Of course, no reflection on the last 33 years would be complete without mention of our recently departed patriarch. The only person in Tobago's history to have held three of the nation's highest public offices, THA Chairman, Prime Minister and President. His contributions to Tobago's development are too numerous to mention here, but we can say with certainty that in any telling of our nation's story, one name will always feature and always be remembered with pride and gratitude: Arthur Napoleon Raymond Robinson. We dedicate this issue of UPdate to his memory.

One of the architects of modern-day Tobago was James A.A. Biggart (1877-1932), an active champion of equality, education, infrastructure, economics, agriculture, voluntary work, social welfare, sport, literature, and municipal reform. In 1925, he was elected Tobago's first Member of the Legislative Council – the forerunner of the THA – and served in that capacity until his death in 1932. His work was continued by Alphonso P.T. James (1901-1962), described by one historian as "Tobago's most ardent advocate for political, social, and economic development." When universal adult suffrage was

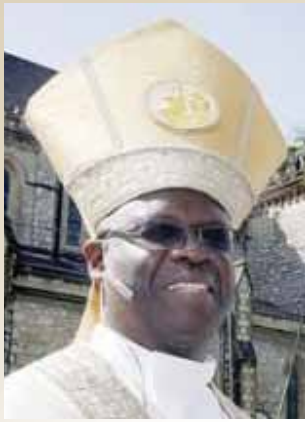
granted to Tobagonians, Mr James was elected to office by an overwhelming majority and served his people for the next 15 years. These men created a foundation for Tobago's growth and development on which we continue to build today. Tobago has one of the lowest levels of unemployment in the English-speaking Caribbean. There has never been more investment in training and developing our young people, and education will remain a priority. Improved healthcare and recreational facilities encourage a healthier lifestyle for all citizens, while improved road infrastructure and transportation make life easier for everybody.

However, we still have a lot of work to do. We must fix the relationship between Trinidad and Tobago, reach agreements on resources and the relative positions that both islands enjoy, and we must achieve greater autonomy. Most of the political parties are working together on this issue, and we hope that this year will bring the resolution we have worked towards for so long.

With greater autonomy, though, comes greater responsibility. The THA has long acted as a caretaker to the economy, but events in Greece, Ireland and Spain have shown this to be unsustainable. Consequently, the THA is driving an economic transformation in Tobago, helping the business community re-ignite a culture of entrepreneurship. The THA is also committed to continuing investment in education, lifelong learning and talent development for the good of future generations.

This drive for improvement must also encompass the current workforce. For too long, we have been content with low levels of productivity. This hampers our development, tarnishes our international reputation, and damages our economy. As we demand greater autonomy and the freedom to build Tobago the way we want to, we have to increase our productivity through good service and excellence in all we do.

We must all be congratulated on the progress we have made and the challenges we have overcome, but there is still a long way to go. Let us continue the good work started by Mr Biggart, Mr James, Mr Robinson, and all the other great men and women who have worked so hard to make Tobago what it is today. Let us make them proud of us. Let us follow in their footsteps by working hard, individually and together, to build an even better Tobago. ■



THE RIGHT REVEREND  
CLAUDE BERKLEY,  
ANGLICAN BISHOP



While there is a particular emphasis on resisting temptations during the forty-day period of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, the task and process is an ongoing need. Every day we are beset by urges to betray our own principles and those of civilised and ordered society. For example, at our place of work, we may be tempted to steal time or other resources, and we may act inhospitably to those we are meant to serve.

There are other manifestations of the same which might apply to how we behave at home, at places of recreation and even at church, but we always seem to have a 'good excuse' for why we do it. The fact is that we have been enticed to go against God, against our fellow human beings and against ourselves. Temptations are a part of our human reality.

Yet Jesus showed us that we do not have to yield to temptation. We can choose to do otherwise. In the story of the temptations in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), Jesus showed us that we can overcome these assaults on our person by the Great Deceiver. The Tempter approached Jesus when he was most vulnerable, at his weakest point: he was very hungry, uncomfortable and distressed.

Think about how easily we give in to temptations even when we are in much better circumstances! So the Devil tempts Jesus to use his skill to satisfy his hunger. This sounds normal, but we must not miss the enticement - if you are the Son of God then....

Of course Jesus declines to take flattery. He has nothing to prove to anyone and he firmly points out that there is more to life than satisfying hunger and trying to impress. A faithful

disciple of Christ uses his or her skills to improve lives, to build up and to empower others. How do you use your skills?

The second approach attempts to exploit Jesus's trust in God. In other words, it is like putting God to the test. According to the Devil, "If you cast yourself down from this high pinnacle, God will certainly send his angels to hold you up." Jesus was tempted to do this to what end? In support of the Devil and his vain displays? This episode reminds us that trusting God does not mean that He will enable our vain or silly behaviours. Trust is to be used responsibly, not abusively. How do we use trust in our relationships?

The third approach of the Devil had to do with power. All these things I will give to you. You shall be powerful having control over many things. Are you a power freak? Do you crave power? Remember, the words of Lord Acton, "Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely." The Devil sought to give Jesus that which was not his own. He tried to use the lure of power to subvert Jesus's purpose and mission. What is your relationship with power? Is power good or bad?

Jesus emerged unscathed and provides a template for us in treating with temptation. We do not have to submit to it. This realisation can transform our relationships and our conduct of affairs in the public domain. Our quality of life can be improved and good will triumph over evil. I agree with Charles Hoffacker that the lesson of the temptations shows us that skill, trust and power can be vehicles of grace rather than vehicles of destruction. God bless you as you continue to fight off the temptations of the day for the transformation of self and society. ■



From left to right, Secretary for Tourism and Transportation, Tracy Davidson-Celestine; Assistant Secretary, Division of Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Handel Beckles; Secretary for the Division of Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Gary Melville; and Chief Secretary Orville London at the opening of the Shaw Park roundabout.

## Expanding road network

The almost constant increase in trade, traffic and tourists means that Tobago's road network requires constant evaluation, maintenance, and improvements. Keeping the vehicles flowing smoothly from A to B is the responsibility of the THA's Division of Infrastructure and Public Utilities (DIPU). The last twelve months have seen a great deal of investment in new and improved roads and junctions, and Gary Melville, the DIPU Secretary, has assured Tobagonians that the next twelve months will see even more.

"Within the next twelve months we plan to re-develop Milford Road as a parallel route to the Claude Noel Highway. Two culverts in Lambeau and two bridges will be reconstructed at a cost of \$26 million to create more options for motorists. We also plan to build more roundabouts at major intersections over the next financial year or two."

The Secretary indicated that the Shaw Park roundabout was completed within the budget of \$8 million, and is Tobago's third modern roundabout in two years, along with the roundabouts at Signal Hill and Auchenskeoch. Melville says the project, which began in September 2013, will bring about significant change to the traffic management patterns on the island. The THA will also spend \$54 million in a massive repair and paving programme involving 32 kilometres of roads over the next six months.

In paying tribute to the Division's previous Secretary Hilton Sandy, who is receiving treatment in the US for a stroke, Melville says it was Sandy's vision that led to the creation of these roundabouts. He also indicated that Milford Road's bridges will be rebuilt to give motorists an alternative route into and out of Scarborough. ■





Secretary Tracey Davidson-Celestine greeted Captain Malaky O' Curry at the ANR Robinson International Airport after the arrival of the Apollo for the first time.



First arrivals from Scandinavia



## Apollo has landed

Tobago is blessed with sunshine and fine weather all year round, but for northern Europeans the winter months of December to March can seem very long indeed, with many people not seeing a single day of sunshine for months on end. It was welcome news, then, that when Apollo Airlines announced a new winter flight from Sweden to Tobago. Almost 4,000 people from Sweden, Denmark and Finland

booked their seats and headed to our paradise island, with many of them staying for upwards of two weeks.

The first Apollo Airlines flight arrived on 3 December, 2013, and the last of the winter 2013 season headed back to Sweden on 25 March 2014. Apollo and the THA's Division of Tourism and Transportation have already confirmed that the flights will resume for winter 2014. ■



# BLUEPRINT FOR DEVELOPMENT

## COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2.0

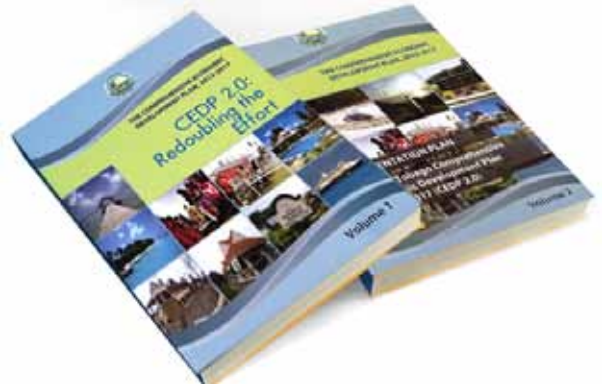
*Making concrete plans for the future is important in the lives of Tobagonian families and individuals, as well as for the Tobago House of Assembly. In line with the THA's commitment to planning a clear way forward for Tobago, the Assembly has produced its second four-year economic development plan for the island.*

The Comprehensive Economic Development Plan 2.0, which covers the period 2013–2017, is a guide to the Assembly as it attempts to strengthen the economic gains of the island and ensure diversified and sustainable growth and increased prosperity for the people of Tobago.

This is particularly important because, as the island moves to internal self government and as Tobagonians take greater responsibility for the future of Tobago, our economy will need to move away from the current subvention model so dependent on Port of Spain. Instead, we will need to move towards the independence and self-sufficiency that we need and deserve.

With this in mind, the CEDP 2.0 envisages tourism remaining an important economic activity on the island and calls for a strengthening of that sector. Under the new plan, Tobago will set its sights on attracting visitors from beyond the traditional North American and Western European markets, by capitalising on the island's natural amenities – such as sun, sea, sand, entertainment and festivals, craft goods, cuisine and culture – while also growing the increasingly popular area of eco-tourism.

Looking longer-term, the plan recognises the need to foster a strong entrepreneurial spirit on the island, with



every effort being made to encourage Tobagonians to seize the opportunities available to them and to invest in the island's economy. The CEDP 2.0 also calls for 'business incubator' facilities and easier access to credit so the young entrepreneurs of Tobago can build the future businesses on the island. The plan identifies agriculture and eco-agriculture as the primary areas for production, as niche products are developed for domestic as well as foreign markets, while the opening of the Cove Eco Industrial Park provides a unique opportunity for increased manufacturing output while maintaining Tobago's brand of being "clean, green and serene".

For many years, the THA has directly and indirectly supported the local economy and this has to change. As such, the plan makes it clear that the THA will reduce its direct involvement in the local economy while still recognising the important role it has in certain sectors such as construction and internal distribution. As the economy of the island expands, and as the THA itself creates a demand for goods and services, more Tobagonians will have to become involved as agents on the supply side, just as some of the businesses that eventually became exporters and earners of foreign exchange started as providers of goods and services to the Government. This administration has shown its commitment to the highest level of public transparency and accountability in the operations of the THA, and this will only continue under the CEDP 2.0, by strengthening the institutions that operate within the THA and those that act as a watchdog over the operations of the Assembly. The CEDP 2.0 – the full details of which are available at [tha.gov.tt](http://tha.gov.tt) – has been compiled and refined by many experts over many months, and we hope that all Tobagonians will come to see it as a blueprint for a better Tobago for many years to come. ■



From left: Hochoy Charles, Platform of Truth; Chief Secretary Orville London, People's National Movement; Ashworth Jack, Tobago Organisation of the People.

# Towards self-government

*On 7 January 2014, a historic meeting took place that marked the beginning of a new chapter in Tobago's history. For the first time ever, the leaders of the three political parties (Orville London of the People's National Movement, Ashworth Jack of the Tobago Organisation of the People, and Hochoy Charles of the Platform of Truth) got together "to discuss Tobago people's business".*

The business they were discussing was the issue of establishing greater autonomy for Tobago. The struggle began several decades ago, when the political landscape still featured characters like APT James and ANR Robinson, and although some minor victories have been won, the greater goal of self-government has remained elusive. January's historic meeting was the first in more than a dozen that took place with stakeholders across the country in an effort to achieve self-government for Tobago.

In a statement released after that first meeting which lasted 2 1/2-hours, the leaders said that the interest of the Tobagonian people must take priority over political and other considerations.

The leaders agreed that they had a responsibility to ensure that the legitimate demands of the people were finally met, and that that a successful resolution to these troubling and longstanding issues can only be achieved through a united and sustained approach. As London said at a plenary sitting

of the Assembly shortly after the meeting, "...the only way Tobago will have a voice is if Tobago speaks with one voice... if we shout across the waters saying different things, the message will become distorted on the other side".

A second meeting with the leaders was held on 18 March 2014, and lasted three hours.

The TOP leader did not attend and has since been absent from the process. At that meeting the political leaders identified specific demands made by Tobagonians over the last 40 years. These included: Equality of status between Trinidad and Tobago; Definition of boundaries according to the constitution; Tobago's right to make its own laws; Elimination of conflict between Sections 75 of the Constitution and 25 of the THA Act; the ability to seek and secure financing on its own to build homes, schools, libraries, etc.

To ensure that Tobago really does speak with one voice, The Forum, made up of Tobago's political parties with an independent secretariat, met with representatives from various sectors of society across the country, to ensure that all the diverse opinions and requirements are taken into account.

It is hoped that the issue will go for parliamentary debate by the end of September.

By involving all parties and all people in the process, it is hoped that this issue will never again be allowed to be pushed into the background. Hochoy Charles, former Chief Secretary of the THA and now leader of the TPT, said "It is critical for all the people to be involved. I'm excited!" ■

# THE TOBAGO LEGACY



Robinson holds court.

Born on 16 December, 1926, in Calder Hall, Tobago, Arthur Napoleon Raymond Robinson became the first and only person to hold three of the highest political offices of Trinidad and Tobago: Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly from 1981-1986, Prime Minister from 1986-1991, and President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago from 1997-2003. Indeed, were it not for “Robbie,” as he was fondly called in Tobago, the THA in its present form might never have existed.

Robinson’s formal entry into politics started in 1956, when he unsuccessfully contested a seat in Tobago on a PNM ticket. In 1958, he was elected Member of Parliament in the Federation of the West Indies. After the Federation collapsed in 1962, he was appointed to the key post of Finance Minister and, in 1966, was made deputy political leader of the PNM. Robinson also acted as Prime Minister on several occasions when Dr Williams was out of the country. A media release from the PNM on Robinson’s passing asserts that “Mr. Robinson, from early in his political career, was identified for national and regional leadership.”

## SETTING HIS OWN PATH

By 1967, the first crack in their relationship was beginning to show, when Williams shifted Robinson to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Robinson later explained that the genesis of this final break was his disagreement with Williams’s handling of the 1970 Black Power protests. Robinson resigned from the PNM and became the leader of the Tobago-based Democratic Action Congress (DAC).

In these years, when he had a relatively minor role in local politics, Robinson was pursuing several international causes, such as working with the Foundation for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. After two decades of lobbying, the ICC was established in 1998, based on a motion brought by him 10 years before at the United Nations.

## CALLING FOR AUTONOMY

14 January, 1977, Robinson, then Member of Parliament for Tobago East, presented a motion calling for internal self-government for Tobago. This historic move was not just a crucial issue for Tobago, it was also a brilliant political move as it cemented Robinson’s own power base.

In introducing the motion in the House of Representatives, Robinson emphasised, “This is not secession, sedition or separation. It is rather a matter of historical justice. It is consistent with contemporary notions of human rights and it accords with realism.” He noted that Tobago was “the only island in the Caribbean where the masses of its people never

had any say whatever in the determination of their destiny.” In what is recognised as one of the great speeches of T&T, Robinson asserted: “I can say that the history of Tobago, when properly written, will teach every lesson that should be learnt by the West Indian child.”

The speech assessed the Tobago situation: “It will show how racism and colonialism have nothing to do with geographical position or the colour of one’s skin. It will show how today’s prosperity is no guarantee for tomorrow and how the surest way to continuing prosperity is the careful husbandry of present resources, however plentiful. It will teach the universality of human nature and of human aspirations, reliance on principles in government rather than on men and, it will teach that power, wherever and by whomever held, can be abused.”

## CREATING THE THA

Three years later, the THA was re-created by Act 37 of 1980 for “making better provision for the administration of the island of Tobago and for matters therein.” The first election of the new Assembly took place on 24 November, 1980, and over two-thirds of Tobago’s adults came out to vote. Three years before, the PNM had taken seven of Tobago’s 11 seats in the county council election. In the THA election, the DAC routed the PNM with an eight to four victory of the 12 electoral districts. Robinson, who had resigned his parliamentary seat to contest the election, was appointed the THA’s first chairman. Robinson would serve as THA chairman for eight years, beginning the journey of establishing himself as “Tobago’s greatest son.” He laid the foundation of the modern THA, and also established Tobago as a key player in the political fortunes of our twin-island nation. That importance was demonstrated in the general election of 1995, when the two Tobago seats, won by the National Alliance for Reconstruction, became the key to victory in the 17-17-2 outcome of that year’s election. Robinson as NAR’s leader joined forces with the United National Congress to give the Basdeo Panday-led party a victory. Robinson would hold the balance of power once more, as President in 2001. Panday would be removed as head of government by Robinson following the historic 18-18 PNM-UNC tie in the general election of that year.

## THE LEGACY OF THE MAN

Thus it was no surprise when, for its 30th anniversary, the Assembly recognised Robinson as one of Tobago’s three founding fathers. Robinson was honoured with the newly minted Tobago Medal of Honour along with James AA Biggart (1877-1932), a tireless advocate for improvement in the quality of life for Tobagonians; and Alphonso PT James (1901-1962), who did so much for Tobago’s social and economic development.

Robinson died on 9 April, 2014. In a life full of accomplishments, the establishment of the modern THA is one of his finest legacies. ■



# BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

## ARTHUR NAPOLEON RAYMOND ROBINSON

1. Born 16 December, 1926, at Calder Hall, Tobago.
2. Attended the Castara Methodist School and was awarded a Bursary to Bishop's High School, Scarborough, Tobago.
3. At Bishop's High School won a Junior House Scholarship and two Cambridge Higher School Certificates.
4. Worked as a Clerk in the Public Service.
5. Studied privately for a law degree as an external student of the University of London.
6. In 1951 he went to England to further his studies. He qualified as a barrister at the Inner Temple, London. He then entered St John's College, Oxford, where he read for a degree in philosophy, politics and economics.
7. He returned to Trinidad in 1955 and joined the chambers of Sir Courtenay Hannays, setting up a practice in Port of Spain and Tobago.
8. He joined the fledgling Peoples National Movement in 1956, became the party's first treasurer, contested the elections as a PNM candidate in Tobago and lost.
9. In 1958 he contested the federal elections (for the now defunct West Indies Federation) and became a member of the Federal Parliament (1958-1961).
10. In 1961 he won the Tobago seat in the national general election and was appointed Minister of Finance.
11. In 1966, he was removed from the Ministry of Finance, was made deputy political leader of the PNM and Minister of External Affairs (1967-1970).
12. From 1966 spearheaded a move for internal reform of the PNM.
13. In 1970 he resigned from the cabinet, critical of the PNM's handling of the 1970 disturbances.
14. Resigned from the PNM in protest of the Public Order Bill on September 20, 1970.
15. Assumed the leadership of an informed group of citizens call the Action Group of Dedicated Citizens (AGDC).
16. The AGDC merged with the Democratic Labour Party for the 1971 Elections.
17. In 1971 he wrote *The Mechanics of Independence*. Also wrote the article on Trinidad in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (1974).
18. Robinson's group evolved into the DAC (Democratic Action Congress) which contested the 1976 general elections and was defeated by the PNM. However, Robinson won the two Tobago seats.
19. In 1980 Robinson gave up his seat in Parliament, contested the first Tobago House of Assembly elections, and became the first chairman of that body.
20. From 1976, Robinson collaborated with the United Labour Front of Basdeo Panday and this led to an alliance of parties in 1981. Although soundly defeated in 1981, the alliance was successful in local government elections in 1983 and THA elections in 1984.
21. This led to the formation of the National Alliance for Reconstruction and Robinson was elected political leader on 8 September, 1985.
22. On 15 December, 1986, the NAR defeated the PNM by 33-3.
23. On Friday 27 July, 1990, Robinson, members of his cabinet and other national parliamentarians, were held hostage by the Jamaat-al-Muslimeen. Robinson was shot during the takeover of the parliament building. He was released on Tuesday 31 July when the insurgents surrendered.
24. The NAR was defeated in the 1991 election but Robinson retained his Tobago East seat.
25. In March 1997, Robinson became President of the Republic of T&T. He would serve until 2003.
26. In 2012, he published his autobiography, titled "In the Midst of It."
27. Died on 9 April, 2014, after several years of ailments.

Sources: Trinidad Express, NALIS, Meighoo, 2003 ■

# ARTHUR NR ROBINSON SPEAKS: INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR TOBAGO

14 January 1987, House of Representatives, Port of Spain

“The purpose of this motion is to place a substantial part of the responsibility for the conduct of Tobago’s affairs fairly and squarely where it belongs; that this is to say, in the hands of the residents of Tobago themselves. This is not secession, sedition or separation. It is rather a matter of historical justice. It is consistent with contemporary notions of human rights and it accords with realism. The purpose of the motion is to enable the people of Tobago to discharge their responsibilities to themselves and to the people of Trinidad in a united Trinidad and Tobago and to the Caribbean as a whole. What the motion seeks is a more just, a more realistic and, consequently, a more lasting basis of unity between the peoples of the two islands. A unity which is not based on justice, on human rights and on realism is no real unity and will not last. What the motion seeks is an enduring unity, a framework which could establish an acceptable model for unity in the Caribbean as a whole.

It is safe to say that no single island in the Caribbean, however large or small, would accept Tobago’s present status. I challenge anyone to contradict that statement. Tobago does not accept it. Let the people of Trinidad know, let the people of the Caribbean know, let the people of the world know; Tobago does not accept its present status. I go further and I say – nobody else would accept it. Trinidad certainly would not accept it; Barbados or would not; Jamaica certainly not;

nor would Grenada, St. Kitts, Antigua, Anguilla or Montserrat; not the biggest, not the smallest, not the least, would accept Tobago’s present status.

It is important at the outset to make known a few physical

facts of comparison in relation to Tobago and other Caribbean islands. An article in the Barbados Sunday Advocate of September 26, 1976, described Tobago as “nothing and nowhere. “Tobago”, it went on, “is more romance and history than it is a place.” That this Tobago through our neighbour’s window. Yet Tobago is little smaller than Barbados itself. Barbados is 166 square miles; Tobago is about the size of Grenada – 120 square miles – almost twice the size of St. Kitts, which is 68 square miles; larger than Antigua, 108 square miles; more than three times the size of Montserrat, 39 square miles and in fact larger than any of the Leeward Islands. ...

If, as Vidia Naipaul has said, “the Caribbean is the Third World’s Third World, ” Tobago is the Caribbean’s Third World. No island in the Caribbean – possibly none in the world – has been the object of so much

international rivalry and imperialist ambitions; none so much the victim of colonial exploitation and neglect; none has been so kicked around like a political football. It is the only island in the Caribbean where the masses of its people never had any say whatever in the determination of their destiny. For while Tobago had self-governing institutions nearly 200 years before Trinidad, it was a government of the plantocracy and of the Colonial Office. Self-government in a modern democratic sense has been a thing unknown to



Arthur NR Robinson as the country's first Finance Minister.

Tobagonians. Everybody else has had a substantial say in the determination of the destiny of Tobago except the masses of the people who live on the island.

The purpose of this motion is to correct this unsatisfactory course of events and let me make it absolutely clear, whatever the outcome of this motion, whether the members opposite vote for it or against it, the fact of the matter is that from today self-government for Tobago is on the national agenda and it will not be off the national agenda until it has been achieved. ...

Tobago's struggle is Trinidad's struggle. It is a struggle of

the underprivileged in Trinidad. Tobago's struggle for a position in the sun, for attention to its problems must do good, must be of benefit to the people of Trinidad who are struggling for attention to their problems. Tobago's struggle is the Caribbean's the struggle; Tobago's struggle is the Third World's struggle. And I repeat: if as Naipaul said, "The Caribbean is the Third World's Third World", Tobago is the Caribbean's Third World.

Let me end by saying this. I have deemed it a great honour and a great privilege to be the mover of this motion today on what is and must be a most historic occasion. I hope that I



Arthur NR Robinson receives the Simon Bolivar Award, Venezuela's highest accolade.

have done justice to my constituents, to the people of Tobago as a whole and to the people of Trinidad and the Caribbean. As I researched into the subject over the last few weeks new dimensions opened up to me and I can say that the history of Tobago, when properly written, will teach every lesson that should be learnt by the West Indian child. It will show the slave of today can be the slave-owner of tomorrow; how the anti-imperialist of yesterday can become at the imperialist of today. It will show how racism and colonialism have nothing to do with geographical position or the colour of one's skin. It will show how today's prosperity is no guarantee for tomorrow and how the surest way to continuing prosperity is the careful husbandry of present resources, however plentiful. It will teach the universality of human nature and

of human aspirations, reliance on principles in government rather than on men and, it will teach that power, wherever and by whomever held, can be abused. These are some of the lessons of Tobago's history and if, in the course of dealing with Tobago's problems, these lessons can be demonstrated to the Caribbean child and to the outside world, then we who are engaged in the struggle will have played our part.

I end by emphasising that whatever the fate of this motion, whether the Honourable Members opposite oppose it or accept it, it will be on the national agenda from today and it will continue to be on the national agenda until - with the help of Almighty God - justice and internal self-government are brought to the people of Tobago. ■





A member of the public quiz THA officials at a community meeting.

## Have Your Say: Face to Face

Since the new administration was installed, the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) has taken steps to bring governance closer to the citizenry, with its monthly community meetings being a key part of the process.

Following the People's National Movement sweeping victory at the polls in January 2013, the Executive Council took the decision to host a series of open fora. These took place in all 12 electoral districts. The Executive Council saw the meetings as an opportunity to deepen the democratisation process, as they engaged communities and also offered up a medium through which to account to the population.

The meetings, which were held at 7:00 p.m on the second Thursday of each month in a different electoral district, had a specific theme and allowed all

people the chance to attend and have their say, by voicing their concerns, satisfaction and to make suggestions.

Sanctioned by Chief Secretary Orville London, the meetings allowed members of the public to join the 'conversation' with regards to meaningful governance, to make recommendations and to contribute to the development of their communities.

London said the series was "linked to the process of getting communities involved in the governance of the island." So far, meetings have been held in twelve districts: Canaan/Bon Accord, Charlotteville/Delaforde, Roxborough/Delaforde, Bethel/Mt. Irvine, Buccoo/Mt. Pleasant, Goodwood/Belle Garden. Members of the public may also call the Public Interest Desk, Tel: 635 0754 /1362 / 2165, [publicinterestdesk@tha.gov.tt](mailto:publicinterestdesk@tha.gov.tt) ■





**THA reports  
to  
communities**





# Environmental certification

FOR TOBAGO TRIO



Top photo: Daniela Tramacere, Chargé d'Affaires of the EU Delegation presents the environmental award to the an airport authority representative. Bottom photo: THA officials feed fish at an eco-friendly pond at Eco Villas

The ANR Robinson International Airport is the first airport in the region to be awarded ISO 14001 certification. A big feat for a small facility with an even smaller carbon footprint. The airport is one of three Tobago entities that have secured the International Environmental Standard ISO 14001. Adventure Eco Villas and the Argyle Waterfall Riverdale Lodge are the two other organisations that were certified.

ISO 14001 is the internationally recognised standard for the environmental management of businesses. It prescribes controls for those activities that have an effect on the environment. These include the use of natural resources, handling and treatment of waste, and energy consumption.

The THA, supported by the European Union, assisted the three organisations in taking action towards controlling

their environmental impact and improving environmental performance. "Tobago now has the only airport in the Caribbean certified to such a standard, while Argyle Waterfalls is perhaps the only certified nature reserve," says Daniela Tramacere, Chargé d'Affaires of the EU Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago in Ridge Forest Reserve, and towards ensuring good environmental practices in its transport and tourism sectors. The EU provided Tobago with technical and financial assistance of around 100,000 Euros for the design and implementation of the Environmental Management Systems of the three selected sites.

Orville London, Chief Secretary at the THA, told us, "Thanks to the assistance of the EU, and the many dedicated people working at the three sites, Tobago is leading the way in promoting environmentally sustainable tourism as well as safeguarding the responsible growth of our future. We're especially delighted that the ANR Robinson International Airport is the first airport in the Caribbean to receive this certification." He added that every nation "blessed with outstanding natural beauty" is charged with the added responsibility to preserve its heritage for generations to come. "Tobago is actively working to limit its impact on the environment, and ISO 14001 certification is an invaluable part of that work," said Mr London. "We are proud to be taking such an active role in this international initiative, and fully committed to continuing this good work in the future," he added.

According to Ms Tramacere, an 'Environmental Management System' is a set of processes and best practices that enable an organisation to reduce its environmental impact while encouraging the improvement of its environmental performance.

Ean McKay from Adventure Eco Villas is especially delighted at this achievement. "One of our environmental objectives is to enhance biodiversity by increasing the number of species presently visiting our nature site. We did this by building a rainwater pond large enough to serve as a water source. Since then we have noticed that a number of birds, such as the famous Ruby Topaz hummingbird and are now visiting

# A fishy story: Capital of Paradise



Capital of Paradise 1 deck hand, Stefan Pierre.



Weighing in from the Capital of Paradise 1.

News of a 10,000-pound fish haul aboard The Capital of Paradise 1 might have stunned the public, but for the crew it was only a matter of time. Up to October last year, the vessel had docked 26,600 pounds of fish for the local market and 39,179 pounds of yellow fin tuna for export, valued at over \$730,000. Owned by the Fish Processing Company of Tobago Limited (FIPCOT), a special-purpose company set up by the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) in 2009 to revive Tobago's fishing industry, Paradise 1's reputation for bringing in bounties was already established long before the record haul in March 2014.

And though there may be concerns in some quarters that fishermen are a dying breed, at least one young man aboard the Capital of Paradise is looking to a future on the high seas.

Having started as a deckhand just over a year ago, 21-year-old Stefan Pierre helped bring the massive catch aboard and is certain that the trade still offers a good standard of living for those willing to work hard – despite the vessel having to dock in Trinidad to use the larger storage facilities, the majority of the profits from the catch will remain with Paradise 1's eight-man crew.

Pierre, whose father, Llewellyn Ellis, has served as captain of Paradise 1 for three years, said "I not only get money from the catch, I also get to help my father and travel around the Caribbean."

Pierre underwent one month of training to prepare him for weeks out on the open water. The Capital of Paradise 1 has been known to venture as far as 500 miles off the coast of

Tobago into the Atlantic to find yellow fin tuna, albacore and blue marlin. "The work is difficult," he said, "and you don't really sleep a straight night. We sleep in shifts in small bunks." Despite that, Pierre describes his tenure as "a tremendous opportunity" for personal and financial growth and thinks that the sea has more than enough charms.

"It's peaceful and I'm able to provide for myself. It's an exciting job because you get to meet different people," he said. "But I believe this field of work is more for young people, because it takes a while to adjust and it's hard on the body. You also have to be willing to follow orders!"

The opportunities now afforded Pierre and others in various industries have been the result of the THA's heavy investment in Tobago's businesses, through incentive-based loans, small business grants and special purpose companies such as FIPCOT.

The company's mandate is to initiate the development of a Tobago-based commercial fishing industry on the island, diversify the fishing industry, minimise the seasonality of fishing activities, boost raw material supply to fish processing facilities, acquire fishing vessels, provide a practical demonstration of the business side of a commercial fishing enterprise, and to train and provide seagoing experience to Tobagonians. All of this will open up career opportunities in fishing and other maritime fields, both locally and abroad.

If the success of The Capital of Paradise 1 is any indication, the THA's goals with FIPCOT are being realised.

Bon voyage. ■



On the set of *Tobago 1677*.

# Sea battles for a tiny island

Tobago's history of enticing the history's superpowers to fight for her has led to the creation of the film *Tobago 1677*, a docudrama from Oceans Discovery Limited, led by German filmmaker Rick Haupt and photographer Sylvia Krueger. The result of six years of research, the film looks back at what was a constant battleground on and around Tobago's shores from 1677 and the more than thirty times that she changed hands. Expect to see a re-enactment of some of the bloodiest battles between the French and the Dutch, brought to life by a largely local cast. The film had a simple beginning, when Krueger was in Jamaica with Kevin Kenny, the former vice-president of the Trinidad Hotels, Restaurants and Tourism Association. Kenny, now one of the film's producers, had casually remarked, "Listen, guys, we have a lot of shipwrecks in Tobago, too. Please come over and have a look." Highlights of the film include a look at 20 Dutch and French shipwrecks, and evidence of the deaths of over 2000 people from both sides, including slaves, at Scarborough Harbour, in battles that historians have typically described as "epic."

The island was under Dutch rule when the French came in May 1677, with orders from King Louis XIV to destroy the Dutch presence in the Caribbean. A fight for dominance ensued and the French were at first driven off. Refusing to accept defeat, the French returned a second time, this time better equipped.

"Back then," said Haupt, "Tobago belonged to anyone who was able to defend it." As Kenny explains, "These were the two superpowers of the day, waging a war over a little insignificant island called Tobago! That is a major factor in

the history of Tobago and it had nothing to do with slavery. It was all to do with war and trade." The late Edward Hernandez, artist and former curator at Tobago Museum & Tobago Trust, once said: "When I am told that Tobago has had a colourful history for nearly 480 years, my answer is yes, our history is written in blood, sweat and tears; and the naval battles between the French invaders and the Dutch defenders who had colonised Tobago in 1677 is a grim reminder of blood, sweat and tears" (as reported in the *Trinidad Express*, 7 May, 2011). There was no shortage of iconic and scenic locations during the making of the film. Filming in Quad HD on RED One cameras was done at Fort King George, Parlatuvier waterfalls, Bloody Bay and Scarborough harbour, as well as other former battle sites.

The cast is 98 per cent local and includes actors portraying both the Dutch and French. Adding to the atmosphere is Tobago's Signal Hill Alumni Choir, under its director John Arnold, who composed the music for the film.

"I'm very passionate about the movie because I'm very strong about culture. One of the greatest competitive advantages we have is our cultural and historical heritage," Arnold enthused. He added that he was willing to contribute his musical expertise since he believes the film strengthens the image of the island on the world stage. The costumes were locally made by Tobago seamstresses, while the sets were built by project manager Roger Hadeed. Much of the film's needs were met with support from the Tobago House of Assembly, which provided financial assistance of around \$500,000, as well as equipment and infrastructure.

Additional support also came from the Tourism Development Company, the Trinidad & Tobago Film Company, Proman AG Switzerland, Proman AG Trinidad & Tobago, Caribbean Nitrogen Company Ltd and Nitrogen 2000, the T&T Coast Guard, the Cadet Force, and the Ministry of National Security.

Krueger, in an interview with *Caribbean Beat's* Skye Hernandez, said, "People didn't realise the number of organisations and people involved. It has become a real community project."

Haupt added that the name Tobago was placed in the title so as to promote the island "from the start. There is no mistaking that this is all about Tobago." ■



Godwin Adams, Secretary for the Division of Agriculture, Marine Affairs, Marketing and the Environment flips the switch at the opening of the plant tissue culture lab with Chawanda McFarlane.

## PLANT TISSUE CULTURE LAB

It sounds like something out of a science fiction story; a laboratory that can use plant tissue to rapidly clone and grow virtually any plant. Well, after five years of development, it is now a reality right here in Tobago.

The Plant Tissue Culture Laboratory in Goldsborough has the capacity to produce about 250,000 plants each year, which is a significant step towards Tobago's agricultural self-sufficiency, or "food security." Conventional agricultural methods are susceptible to external factors such as the supply of poor quality and diseased stock, low-yield crops, and the impact of climate change. Using the tissue culture method, crops can be propagated cleanly and reliably, and in a fraction of the time.

Furthermore, the best crops – whether high in yield, resistant to disease or parasites, or possessing other desired factors – can be selected to create a stock of 'elite' plants. These can then be used to mass produce the perfect crops.

So far the lab has worked on food crops such as blue and white dasheen, dwarf plantain, and several varieties of banana and yam. Although the emphasis has so far been on food security and food crops, the lab expects to work on ornamentals too. They also plan to produce enough to be able to export to other Caribbean nations. That will be a proud day indeed, when our little island helps feed the region!



# Plant clinic

What if you could play doctor whenever your plants ‘fall ill’? With the successful introduction of ‘plant clinics’ to Tobago in November 2012, home gardeners and farmers have been able to save their precious plants – and money – as well as add to the island’s beauty and food production like never before. An initiative of the Division of Agriculture, Marine Affairs, Marketing and the Environment, the programme is jointly run with CABI International, an inter-governmental non-profit organisation set up by a United Nations treaty. The concept has been a success around the world, allowing

farmers and gardeners to benefit from the organisation’s scientific expertise and wealth of information.

In Tobago, the clinics have been a boon to the agricultural sector, providing local treatment for plant diseases; in the past, farmers and gardeners had to travel to Trinidad for the service. “There was nowhere in Tobago to take your plants to,” said Orwin Dillon, President of the Tobago Agricultural Society. “You had to take them to CARIRI in Trinidad, and that’s very costly. Sometimes by the time you get there the disease has developed and spread so rapidly that it’s harder



to determine what happened.” The programme’s goal is to cover the island’s eight farming districts, and clinics have so far been held in Buccoo, Goodwood, Moriah, and twice in Scarborough. Kasey Marie Boucher, Specialist Officer with the Division, encourages all farmers and growers to attend the clinics. “These clinics deal specifically with plant issues, and are held at fixed venues at specific times, so it’s like a national health system but for plants!” Boucher also advised farmers and gardeners that samples intended for examination should not be allowed to wilt, as this could compromise or prevent diagnosis.

“Cut the sample and put it in a plastic bag in the refrigerator until you can bring it to the clinic,” Boucher said, adding that samples can be brought in first thing in the morning.

At least one home gardener was able to find a solution for her beloved but beleaguered soursop plant. Marjorie Piggott

observed a strange pattern on the leaves, and brought a sample to the clinic held at the Buccoo Community Centre.

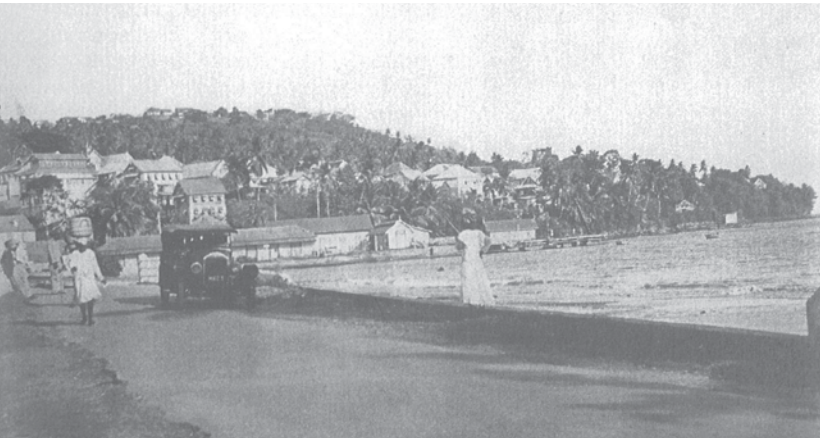
“The leaves kept falling off, even from the new growth. The fruits are also falling off. I did get one very large fruit, and it was very nice, but after that the buds just keep falling off,” Piggott reported. Plant doctor Terrence Pope examined the sample under a microscope and found a problem that could not be detected by the human eye.

“What we could see on the leaves was an infestation of tiny mites and soft-scale insects,” Pope said. “Basically, what these things do is suck the sap out of the plant until the leaves dry out and fall off. The solution is to spray the plant every seven days with a special solution until the symptoms disappear.” The roving clinics also have pamphlets on plant diseases and their treatments, and tips for best plant cultivation methods. ■



# THA RESPONSIBILITIES

The Assembly is divided into two main arms. The Legislative Arm (Assembly Legislature) is where all members of the Assembly meet in plenary and/or in select committees to make policy decisions with respect to its operations. These functions are supported by the Assembly Legislature Secretariat, which is headed by the Presiding Officer, with the Clerk of the Assembly responsible for duties relating to the conduct of the business of the Assembly. The Executive Arm of the Assembly is headed by the Chief Secretary in his capacity as leader of the Executive Council, which has individual and collective responsibility for carrying out the functions of the Assembly through the Divisions.



The Scarborough Port in the old days.



The Scarborough Port today.

1. Finance associated with carrying out the functions of the Assembly
2. State Lands
3. Land and marine parks
4. Museums, archives, historical sites and historical buildings
5. Public buildings and the maintenance of the residences of the President and the Prime Minister
6. Tourism
7. Sports
8. Culture and the Arts
9. Community development
10. Co-operatives
11. Agriculture
12. Fisheries
13. Food production
14. Forestry
15. Town and country planning;
16. Infrastructure, including air and sea transportation, wharves and airports and public utilities
17. Telecommunications
18. Highway and roads
19. Industrial development
20. The environment
21. Customs and excise
22. Licensing
23. Health services
24. Library services
25. Education, including curriculum
26. Social welfare
27. Marketing
28. Valuations
29. Postal services
30. Statistics and information
31. Housing
32. Plant and animal quarantine
33. Such other matters as the President may, by order, assign to the Assembly





# TOBAGO, THEN AND NOW



2000-2014

The Hon. Orville London  
Chief Secretary



1996-2000

The Hon. Hochoy Charles  
Chief Secretary



1989-1996

Assemblyman Lennox  
Denoon  
Chairman



1986-1989

Assemblyman  
Dr. Jefferson G. Davidson  
Chairman



1980-1986

Assemblyman  
Arthur N.R. Robinson  
Chairman

In 1963, Hurricane Flora hit Tobago. Many Tobagonians lost their homes, crops were destroyed, and the landscape devastated. Nonetheless, the people were able to recover and rebuild their lives and livelihoods and, in the process of rebuilding, the modern day Tobago House of Assembly (THA) was established.

The THA is this country's oldest political institution; in fact, it is older than Trinidad and Tobago itself, since the twin-island union was set up in 1889 by the British government, and the THA's first incarnation was in 1768. That Assembly thus predated even the British takeover of Trinidad in 1797. But the THA of 1768 and the 20th century incarnation are very different institutions in structure, purpose, and, most importantly, ethos. The modern THA is open to any Trinbagonian residing in Tobago, for election to its 12 seats, according to Section 15 of the THA Act. The THA was reconstituted in 1980, creating a formal institution through which Tobagonians could express their resilience and independence, and for "making better provision for the administration of the island of Tobago and

for matters therein." The THA was designated a corporate entity by law, with its first leader being ANR Robinson, who carried the title of chairman. Today the institution is headed by the Chief Secretary, Orville London, who is the THA's longest serving leader. The THA's land distribution initiatives perhaps best summarise the giant strides made over the past two decades. The THA has acquired about 40 percent of Tobago's estates, mainly to provide housing for the population.

Now as the THA celebrates 33 years of working with the Tobagonian public, it's an opportunity to reflect on its history in combination with Tobago's own growth and development.

Tobago has changed enormously in the last 33 years, not least in the stability and wellbeing of its population. By the time the THA was formed, the island population was just under 41,000; it now stands at something over 61,000, with fewer people emigrating, thanks largely to improving financial conditions and better social and employment prospects here at home. Tourism has played a major part



in those improvements. Just 30 years ago, the island was virtually unknown as a tourist destination for Americans and Europeans, whereas now tourism is a major economic driver. In fact the island celebrates its arrival of the newest tourists from Scandinavia.

Recognising that modern, sophisticated tourists want more than sand, sea, and sunshine, and to help distinguish Tobago from the rest of the Caribbean, the THA has led the development of festivals and ecological attractions, including the Jazz Festival, the Gospel Festival, the Muhtadi Drum Festival, the Blue Food Festival and, of course, the Tobago Heritage Festival.

All of these draw thousands of visitors each year, and help promote Tobago as something unique in the area. Key landmarks, such as Fort Granby, King's Bay and Store

Bay, have been restored and upgraded, while our capital, Scarborough, has an ongoing beautification project to make it one of the most vibrant and modern towns in the Caribbean.

The THA continues to invest in the development of modern agriculture, fishing, and food processing – the THA now proudly stands at the head of a nation with one of the lowest levels of unemployment in the English-speaking Caribbean. There has never been more investment in the training and development of our young people, and education will continue to remain at the top of its priorities. Improved healthcare and recreational facilities encourage a healthier lifestyle for all citizens, young and old, while significantly improved road infrastructure and transportation make daily life easier for everybody. ■



Left to right: Paula Chester-Cumberbatch, former Chief Executive Officer, Tobago Regional Health Authority, Division of Health and Social Services; former Administrator Ethlyn John and Secretary of Health, Claudia Groome-Duke; General Manager of Corporate Services, Godwyn Richardson and District Medical Officer, Dr. Mentor Melville cuts the ribbon declaring the opening of the Health Museum at Fort King George.



Tobago Water Wheel.

# LEAVING IN THE PAST, ARRIVING NOW

A good indication of the quality of life in a country is when the population grows: citizens continue to live where they were born rather than emigrate, and other people come there to live. In her definitive study of Tobago, sociologist Susan Craig-James notes that, “At census 1960, the net migration (loss) to Trinidad was 12,936, falling to 8,762 in 1970; after a decade of accelerated migration, it was 11,802 in 1980; but by 1990 it had fallen to 4,613.”

This tells us that, thanks in large part to the THA’s developmental initiatives, Tobagonians have felt less need to emigrate to Trinidad or to other countries to look for a better life. The last national census notes that “approximately 1,554 persons whose usual residence was Tobago in the 2000 census took up residence in Trinidad at the time of the 2011 census. The census data also reveal that approximately 2,794 persons who were resident in Trinidad in 2000 became residents of Tobago in 2011.” In other words, not only did the migration rate drop, but more people came to Tobago to live.

In 1945, the population of Tobago was just over 27,000. By the time the THA was formed in 1980, the population had increased by one-third to just under 41,000, and the 2011 census records the Tobago population at almost 61,000. This increase in the population is more significant than it would be for Trinidad, since Tobago has always had a high migration rate. ■



# CHAMBER RESTORATION

The Assembly Legislature Building was constructed in 1825 and remained the official seat of the government in Tobago until 1877, when the Crown Colony administration was established and the representative government was abolished.

Over the years, the building has been home to a variety of public offices, including the island's Court House, the Inland Revenue Department, the Election and Boundaries Office and the Public Library.

In 1985, following the establishment of the 1980 Tobago House of Assembly Act, the space was refurbished and returned to its original use as the seat of the island's House of Assembly. The Chamber was officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on

November 2nd.

The Office for the Presiding Officer was established in 2002, and more extensive renovations were embarked upon with the changing of the roof in 2009. Work also began on the restoration of the external brick work to restore the building to its original 19th century appearance. Renovations were completed and the building was re-commissioned in November 2011, and is now managed by the Assembly Legislature.

Space allocation now includes a portrait gallery, Assembly Chamber, an office for the Presiding Officer, members' lounge, tea room, media room, offices for the Marshall and Clerk, conference room, THA library, committee room, data centre, media room, seminar room and store room.



## THA COLOURS

The official colours of the Tobago House of Assembly are blue, green and yellow. Blue represents the ocean; green is for the verdant vegetation; while yellow represents the sun, with its light and warmth reflected in the culture of the island. ■



## THE ASSEMBLY SEAL

The Tobago House of Assembly (THA) is identified by the seal that has been the badge of Tobago since 1816. The words "Tobago House of Assembly" now encircle the seal, with "Pulchrior Evenit" written underneath: "she becomes more beautiful". This motto has not changed since 1816, and remains as true today. In the London Mint there is an undated wax impression of the Tobago great seal, which appears to be an earlier version from around the same period, the time of King George III. It shows a harbour with four ships, a fruit-laden coconut tree on a hill, and a building and palm trees in the background. The current design, adopted in 2003, is a ship at anchor in a harbour, with the rising sun and coconut tree on some land in the foreground.

THE RESTORED ASSEMBLY LEGISLATURE BUILDING





Dr. Krishna Pulchan explains the operations of the emergency department to Chief Secretary Orville London, with Dr. Jean Richards.

## LIVING LONGER NOW

Life in Tobago is seen as healthier than that of many other places, not only because of fresh air and the supply of fresh fish, but also because of infrastructural development spearheaded by the Tobago House of Assembly (THA). In 1960, the island was served by 10 health centres treating about 4000 patients a year; by 2012, Tobago had 17 health centres and five outreach facilities, which together treat about 15,000 patients annually. Thus, the ratio of health facilities to population has improved from 1 facility per 3300 people to 1 per 2600, while the ratio of centres to patients has decreased from 1:400 to 1:700. Put another way, only 12 percent of the population accessed professional

healthcare 50 years ago but 26 percent do now. This is a world-class standard of healthcare, and the highest number of health facilities per capita in the region, according to the Pan American Health Organization.

It might just be one of the factors that have contributed to Tobagonians having a higher life expectancy than Trinidadians, with most people expected to live at least until their late 70s. According to the Central Statistical Office, Tobago now has a very low rate of poverty because of good standards of income, education, sanitation and infrastructure; all areas under the remit of the Tobago House of Assembly. ■



An early 1906 postcard of Market Square on Burnett Street. In 1816 all of the buildings were removed and it was declared that the Square be used for public purposes only.



Dr Rita Pemberton

## THE SEARCH FOR AN ELUSIVE AUTONOMY

The constitutional history of Tobago is one of contestation. The island has endured a variety of imposed administrative/constitutional arrangements, reflecting unsuccessful attempts to satisfy the best interests of various groups. The constitutional issue became even more tense during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as British officials remained committed to some form of unification regardless of local sentiment; this is seen by some as the root of Tobago's constitutional and administrative problems.

There are seven distinct phases of contestation. The first stage occurred as Europeans fought over the island, passing it from one victor to another. As a result, the island lacked any specific permanent constitutional arrangements until 1763, when it was made a British possession.

The second phase occurred during the early period of British rule when the island was administered as part of the Government of Grenada, along with Dominica, St Vincent and the Grenadines. The central administration was run by a General Council, with each island having its own resident Lieutenant Governor. This arrangement did not satisfy the resident planters, who successfully petitioned for a Council in 1768, when the island's first assembly was established.

The third phase of contestation occurred between 1833 and 1876 as the British sought to reform government and cut administrative costs. In 1833, Tobago was included in the Windward Islands Federation, run from Barbados. However, tensions continued to grow and, finally, amid attempts to reform the judiciary in 1866, the first discussions for unifying



James Biggart advocated for Tobago's development in the early 1900s.



Alphonso James a political advocate for Tobago in the mid 1900s.

Trinidad and Tobago took place. In 1874, the Tobago Single Chamber Act merged the Council and Assembly. While the larger planters supported the Bill, the smaller freeholders, including enfranchised non-whites, saw the Act as an attack on their political aspirations. In 1875, the planters protested the new arrangements, and this led to the Barbados Confederation Riots and the Belmanna Riots of Tobago in 1876. In June 1876, panicked planters voted to abolish the political constitution to facilitate the introduction of crown colony government.

The fourth phase occurred between 1876 and the end of the 19th century. Faced with severe financial problems, the island's administration was placed in the hands of a cheaper junior official called Administrator and Tobago was declared part of the new Grenada Governorate which excluded Barbados. The Tobago Defence Association mounted a bitter campaign against the new confederation and, in 1885, a debate in the Legislative Council ended in a violent anti-confederation disturbance in Market Square. In March 1885, despite the opposition of planter politicians, Tobago entered the new Windward Islands Governorate. Continued opposition from the planter class led the imperial governors to focus on association with Trinidad; by 1887, this was a fait accompli. In June 1887, the St Vincent, Tobago, and Grenada Constitution Act was repealed to make way for the union of Trinidad and Tobago.

The era from union to independence marks the fifth period

of contestation. On 1st January 1899, Tobago became a ward in the united colony of Trinidad and Tobago but there was dissatisfaction from the beginning with the inadequate representation in the councils of the state, the need for a decentralised administration, transfer of decision-making power to the island, and popular control over the organs of the state. Tobago was placed in an "unenviable political and economic position" and remained underdeveloped and frustrated until 1962, when the sixth phase began.

Independence for Trinidad and Tobago aggravated rather than solved Tobago's problems, as the central government did not empathise with the people of Tobago. The creation and later removal of the Ministry for Tobago Affairs only heightened political tension. In 1979, the Seemungal Draft constitution was prepared and the public was given one month to comment. While residents of Tobago supported the draft, government opposed the autonomy it proposed.

Finally, in 1980, the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) was re-established, and this is where the seventh and current phase begins. Despite revisions to the THA Act in 1996 and 2006, the constitution remains a hotly debated issue in the politics of Trinidad and Tobago, while real autonomy remains a dream for the people of Tobago. ■

**A summary: The Search for an Elusive Autonomy by Dr Rita Pemberton, Senior Lecturer University of the West Indies.**



# REMEMBERING...



DAVID  
WILLIAM  
HERBERT  
KNOTT



To most onlookers, the man painting the famous teak trees that line the entrance of Argyle waterfall must have seemed like just another admirer, trying to capture Mother Nature's endless dance. To the knowing, however, David William Herbert Knott was the father of those trees, having planted in 1960 the seeds of the very giants he later painted. Preferring to be called a painter rather than an artist, Knott was born a farmer's son in England in 1933. He graduated as a chartered surveyor in 1954 from the College of Estate Management, University of London.

An advertisement on the college's notice board for the Overseer of Hermitage Estate at Man O'War Bay, Charlotteville would bring Knott to an island of which he knew nothing. He sailed to Trinidad on the SS Ariguani, and celebrated his 21st birthday while on the water. Having grown up as a farmer's son, Knott was able to ease into a life based on agriculture, working at the Roxborough Estate. He went on to become President of the Tobago Agricultural Society, there he planned and coordinated Tobago's first Annual Agricultural Show. Knott became well known as a judge in the island-wide field garden competition, which he also helped create. When Hurricane Flora hit the island in 1963, Knott's house, which stood on a hilltop surrounded by cultivated lands and estate buildings, was battered by winds of more than 150 miles per hour. Knott later recalled seeing trees being stripped, their limbs torn off and sent sailing in the wind.

By 1965 he had joined Tobago Estates, a commercial and plantation company which oversaw the development of the Mount Irvine Bay Hotel and Golf Course, Bacolet Estate and Buccoo Estate. He eventually set up the Tobago Estates

Agency Limited, which is now 40 years old. Years of experience in agriculture led to Knott's appointment as director of the Agricultural Development Bank in 1986, and later chairman, which he said "broadened my experience of agriculture and politics."

In the meantime, Knott's reputation as an artist had grown, and Discover Trinidad and Tobago 2011 listed him as "one of Tobago's longstanding professional artists [who] does powerful landscapes and old buildings."

His passion for art had been encouraged by his high school Art teacher, Winifred Rigby, who was later disappointed that he had not chosen art as a career. His wife, Annette, recalls, "Knotty used to say, back in the day, that art did not make much money and he did not want to paint door knobs." He once described his passion "finding great satisfaction and pleasure in painting".

Knott's work made it into exhibitions held in Trinidad in 1987, 1998 and 2009 and also displayed in Washington DC, and at the Commonwealth Institute of London. In spite of all his other work and hobbies, he somehow found the time to be a member of the Rotary Club, Mt Irvine Museum Trust Fund, Tobago Museum, Paradise Hockey Club and the Building Committee of the St. Patrick's Anglican Church, among others.

He was a believer in dreams and often supported – sometimes financial – people in whom he saw a passion for achieving their dreams. Knott passed last August after a long battle with cancer.

"He always organises and plans," recalls Annette, fondly. "It's as if he planned everything. He planned when he was going to die and we are still feeling the effects of his planning." ■

# REMEMBERING...

## EDDIE HERNANDEZ

– A BOY WITH A KITE

By Earl Lovelace

Our dear friend and my compère, the artist Edward Hernandez, has departed this life. In the last few years, a stroke left him a little less invincible and that bit more tentative. He would listen to what Jim and I had to say with a mild detachment, as he tried to navigate alone a new unfamiliar space. His speech has changed, too – he spoke now not with the confident spontaneous rush of ideas that used to have us interrupting each other, but more deliberately, allowing more silences to intervene before he said his piece. But, even so, we never ceased looking for the old Eddie, the determined, opinionated, passionate Eddie, who valued order and beauty, and talent and work, manners and good taste. The old Eddie, who was clear in his mind on what was right and what was wrong, and who was always ready to stand for or against something by the simple and effective method of cussing, not always outright and loud but fretting loudly to himself as he railed against whatever ugliness had crossed his path. Whenever we spied out any provocation heading our way, Jim, with his own mischievous chuckle, would say, “Eddie going and cuss”. In the latter days, this was said with a tinge of hope as if we needed Eddie’s cussing to not only put the world back on course, but, more importantly to confirm that Eddie was still Eddie.

I met Eddie and Jim when I went to Tobago, transferred to the Department of Agriculture from Rio Claro. It was 1964. Eddie wasn’t yet the manager of Sports and Games. He was managing a business for Fitz Blackman, on Main Street, Scarborough. Eddie was then an energetic, imaginative man bubbling with self-confidence, holding ideas on everything, including theatre, art, folk songs of Tobago, and the future of the islands. He was running workshops, teaching painting,



painting murals, deconstructing Tobago’s folk songs, and a fan of the speech band. Indeed, Eddie was at the centre of Tobago’s art community, in touch with Tobagonians and an expatriate community of supporters. Through Eddie, I got to know many of them: Jim Bryan, a retired radio announcer from Trinidad and his wife Daisy, a lawyer in Tobago; Lou Lichtveld, not only a retired ambassador from the Netherlands via Surinam but also a distinguished novelist under the pseudonym Albert Helman, and his wife Thera; John Rood, an expatriate artist who settled in Tobago in 1952; and an American businessman we only knew as “Mr Todd,” who commissioned Eddie to paint a mural at his Little Tobago Island home.

And there was of course Jim, a precocious young painter just out of high school. He was one of Eddie’s students, part of the lime, painting steadily with the benefit of Eddie’s critical eye and our incessant discussions, and about to go abroad to study. I wasn’t a painter, but it was in their company that I attempted my first (and last) oil painting, heaping coat upon coat of (Eddie’s) paint on the canvas, only bringing the exercise to an end when I recognised triumphantly what looked like a duck in the rain. We were having a great time, seeing Tobago, liming at La Tropicale – the night spot along the Bacolet Road – each one of us, in his way, readying himself for the world, an idea echoed in one of my favourite of Eddie’s paintings that shows a boy holding a kite at least as big as himself. I should have known that the boy was



Eddie Hernandez in bow tie and white jacket.

Eddie, and the kite represented his dreams, waiting for the right breeze to lift it into the sky. Looking back, I see that this painting spoke to all three of us: young men with our kite of dreams, each waiting for a breeze. What breezes would rise. My road was clear. I was going to be a writer. Jim was going away. And Eddie. What was Eddie going to do?

It was a time of excitement – just after independence. The disappointment at the failure of the West Indies Federation had not yet settled on us fully, and the general elections of 1966 were about to take place. We met CLR James and Stephen Marajh, then co-leading the Workers and Farmers Party, when they came over to Tobago. We met Peter Farquhar who was heading The Liberal Party. I too was on my way. By this time, my novel *While Gods Are Falling* had

won the BP Independence Literary Award and JB Priestly and his wife had come over to see me in Tobago. I had finished my second novel *The Schoolmaster*, which I had discussed with Eddie as I was writing, and now I was preparing to leave for Howard University in the US where the age of Aquarius was coming to its end and Black Power was beginning. Eddie had been courted by the Liberal Party and, before I left, would accept their offer to run for elections in the Tobago East constituency. With Jim as his chief support, he would set about his campaign. He lost, but with enough votes to keep his deposit. That was his last flirtation with politics. Soon after the elections, Jim would go abroad to study. The lime would mash up. I returned to Trinidad after a short period in the US and saw Eddie a few times, but it was really when

Jim came back many years later that we really resumed the lime. Jim – now Dr James Armstrong – had returned with a PhD from a career in the United Nations that took him through most of Africa, and with much the same zest for painting and life that he showed when he was a teenager.

At this time, Eddie was curator of the Tobago museum. I was surprised that he was no longer painting. Life had happened. Tobago had changed. The House of Assembly had been established. Scarborough appeared more spacious, parted by the Claude Noel Highway; its artistic centre, to me, a bit more remote. The JD Elder Heritage Festival was now at the centre of Tobago's culture, Signal Hill Choir had spread its wings, and individual actors in many disciplines had stepped forward. Shadow was bringing his rhythmic genius to calypso. Many of the things we had talked about – the folk songs and the speech band – had now been established in the Heritage Festival. I

couldn't help feeling that Eddie had a hand in making all of this.

Still, although Eddie didn't talk about it, I also had the feeling that things were not quite where he would have wished them to be. He had retained his independence of mind, his concerns, his taste... but I was puzzled. Eddie wasn't painting. I went to see him at the museum where he was the curator. I was impressed by the museum, its neatness, the care, the love, the

beauty, its substantiality... but even as I looked at what Eddie was showing me, in the back of my mind was the feeling that Eddie had turned from being an artist to an administrator.

All that time, even as I expressed my admiration for what I was seeing, it did not register on me that the magnificence all around was of Eddie's making; that this was Eddie's great

work. It would be nice to say that I conveyed this to Eddie, that I made the fuss over it that it deserved, that I told him how great and important I thought this work was. I did not. It is only now in this small and inadequate summing up that I begin to really see Eddie and what he offered. I had been looking for Eddie in his paintings as others might have looked at his murals, Carnival designs, and all the other things he did to define him. But Eddie had become more than a painter. Eddie, right before our eyes, had become the artist, placing himself in the space to help us to better see ourselves.

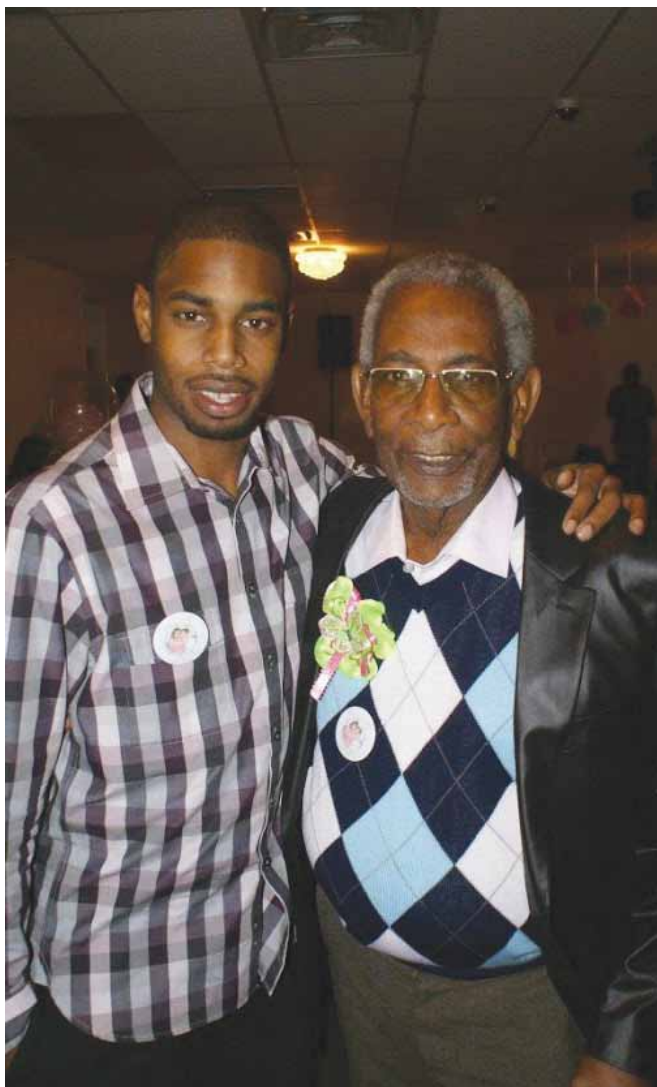
His work in tutoring and producing, his work in establishing the museum, the caring for his family; all of it was one output. What I am trying to say is that Eddie was not just a multitasking individual. What he was doing was establishing the template for the artist in this space. I still don't

think we have understood the importance of his work at the museum, not only in establishing it but in conceptualising it as a grand work of art, as an installation that covers the history of the island.

Farewell. ■

*Published with the permission of the Express Newspapers.*

*Edited for length*



Eddie Hernandez and grandson Leon.

# Track & field champs



The Tobago Zone of the Trinidad and Tobago Secondary Schools Track and Field Association won the National Secondary Schools Track and Field Championship title for a consecutive 22nd year. They were given a warm welcome by supporters and officials from the Division of Education, Youth Affairs, and Sport at the Scarborough Port Authority Passenger Lounge. The Tobago Zone led this year's competition with 1,127.5 points. Tobago's Safiya John also won the Victrix Ludorum and Under 14 age group titles.



Parlatuvier

## COMMUNITY CONNECTION PARLATUVIER MUSINGS

If you drive along the North Side main road from the Rockley Vale traffic lights and follow the sometimes meandering road for about an hour, you will find a lovely coastal community nestled at the foot of the rainforest. This community consists of approximately 320 residents, of which I am proud to be one. I am not native to these parts, but I first became aware of this community some seven years ago when, as the old people used to say, “me eye ketch fire” on one of the village’s men. Though this conflagration was soon doused, another affair of the heart was started between me and this wonderful place called Parlatuvier.

I have been living here for the past five years and, from the beginning, I knew that I had found my home. Many people ask me why I left the western part of the island where everything is more accessible, to come and live in a rural community ‘behind God back’, and my answer is always the same. My sister, on her first visit to Parlatuvier, observed “It’s so quiet, you can hear the voice of God!” From that, I have concluded that the best way to hear the voice of God is to go behind his back... and here I am. One night in July 2012, I dreamed of the waterfall in the sea at Parlatuvier.

The next morning, I resolved to visit this place that I had previously only heard about. I set out that same morning and discovered the most beautiful cathedral-like glen bathed in a golden light and shaded by bamboo arches. I felt like I had perhaps fallen into a rabbit hole and ended up in Alice’s wonderland. Bamboo whispered and creaked, and birds chorused a welcome. Since that glorious morning, I have trekked to many hidden basins, mountains, rivers

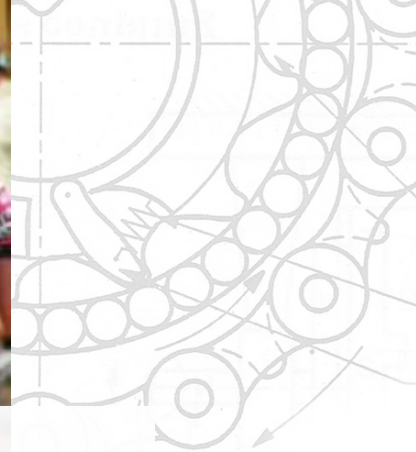
and waterfalls in Parlatuvier and yet I still feel I have only scratched the surface. I have seen grassy meadows alive with monarch butterflies, bathed in icy cold crystal-clear pools, and seen crayfish flitting from rock to rock and swimming curiously (or maybe hungrily!) towards my feet. I have seen the remains of some historical structures, characterised by porous blocks of red brick that bubbles when wet; I have seen cocoa trees alongside rivers deep in the bush... and this makes me wonder.

What manner of men worked this land, this mountainous terrain? How did they get their produce out of there? The course I charted coming down some of these rivers does not seem to me to be one that would allow easy passage of heavy bags of cocoa beans, so how did they do it? I wish I could peek through the fabric of time and for one moment see how. I love the tranquillity of Parlatuvier, I am seduced by the quiet, the serenity, the beautiful views, the natural flora and fauna, the rivers, the waterfalls, the sea and the history. If you ask the residents what Parlatuvier means to them, you may hear many different answers. Some may tell you it’s the “land that’s hard to find”, some would say “land between two rivers” and some would say it comes from palétuvier, one of the French words for mangrove.

All would be correct – Parlatuvier is many things to many people. To me, it’s a place of possibilities, opportunities, dreams, and tranquillity; a place to live my life.

**By Krystal George**

Submit your community feature to our next issue to [cdinfo@tha.gov.tt](mailto:cdinfo@tha.gov.tt) ■



# INTERNATIONAL CYCLING

Most people in our neck of the woods use cycling as a form of exercise, some use it for recreational purposes, but others dedicate almost all of their time, energy, and money to it. Cycling can be a lot of fun, it's a great means of transportation, and it's also a hugely popular sport in many parts of the world. The Tour de France is one of the biggest cycling events in the world, and in recent years has given cycling a great deal of international exposure, but for the last 27 years, right here on this island, Tobago has been host to one of the classic cycling event, TICC.

The idea to introduce a new sporting event to the island came from two Tobagonians, Tony Abraham and Brent Hart, in 1983. They originally set up a mainly local one-day race, but under the stewardship of Jeffrey Charles from 1986 it has grown into a 5-stage international event that accredited by the UCI, cycling's international governing body, and a major fixture on the international cycling calendar.

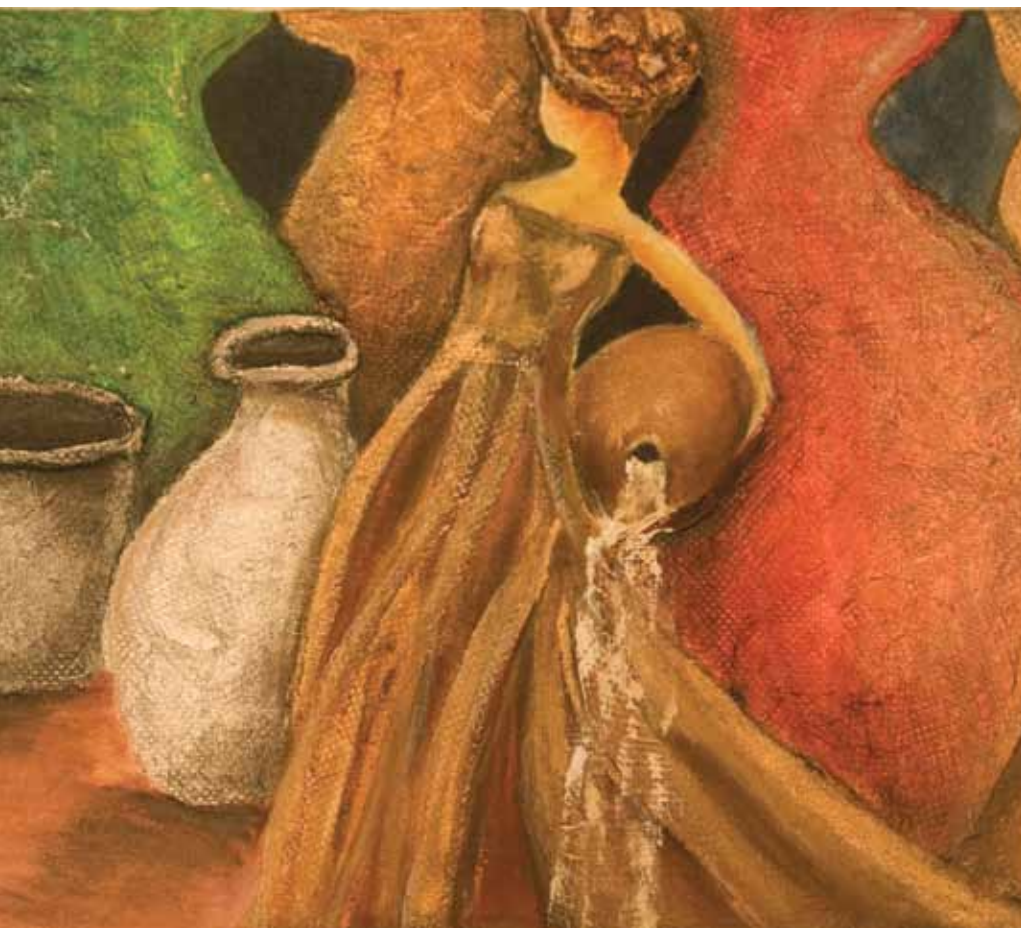
Charles, chairman and organiser of the TICC, said that this tournament has helped Tobago's image as a sport tourism destination, and that the island is more than capable of hosting more international sporting events. From having no international or regional competitors, the Tobago International Cycling Classic now sees more than 300 international and regional participants and supporters from over 30 countries.

The Tobago House of Assembly spent some \$500,000 to support the event in 2013 and will continue to invest in the growing event. Huey Cadette, Secretary for the Division of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, said: "The visibility, through international coverage, that the event has brought to Tobago and the development of the sport on the island has been significant. Events such as this one also contributes to the development of the sport on the island. A significant amount of business for tourism is also realised with events such as these."

ESPN, the worldwide leader in sports broadcasting, is a key partner with the TICC and has been providing coverage of the tournament for the past 3 years to a global audience. Not only do they show the races, they also feature some of the sights and culture the island has to offer - and their coverage reaches over 100 million households in 200 cities across 5 continents! Not only that, the shows are repeated several times over a 2-month period, so, thanks to the TICC and ESPN.

Tobago gets a lot of extra publicity. Furthermore, the TICC has shown everyone that Tobago is capable of hosting major international sporting events, not just cycling. When asked how long Tobago will continue to host this tournament, Jeff Charles grinned and asked "Why would we ever stop?" ■





Washer Woman by Coryse Wright.



Dance Lorraine Dance by Keedan Grant.



Nightmare by Shonari Richardson.



Tobago Coconut by Shaniece Joseph.

## OCS art competiton

In 2013, 59 art students from secondary schools cross the island put their creativity to the test when they competed for inclusion in the Chief Secretary's 2014 Calendar and prizes totalling more than \$30,000.

The young Tobagonians produced original pieces from inks, dyes, oils, charcoal, pastels, watercolours, pencils, 3D decoupage and other art-related media for the Chief Secretary's Tobago Secondary Schools Art Competition 2013. Entries reflected childhood experiences, culture, sports, food and landmarks.

This was the second such competition, which Chief Secretary, Orville London said was "dedicated to three of our art and culture stalwarts: Edward Hernandez, Luise Kimme

and Rodill Clarke whom we lost in 2013. They pushed the boundaries, broke the barriers and distinguished themselves from the ordinary." and, he added, their example encouraged young artists to do the same. The competition was won by 16-year-old Coryse Wright, of Speyside High School, with her *Washer Woman*, an illustration of grace, dedication, hard work and strength. She received \$3,000 and her school received the grand prize of \$10,000. The other 11 finalists received \$1,500 each. All of these excellent works of art, along with others that received special recognition by Community Development and Culture. Degas were displayed in Lowlands Mall for three months months, but in case you missed them the winning 12 are reproduced here for everyone to enjoy. ■





Blossoming Market Day by Thais Williams.



Simple But Extraordinary by Danica Ransome.



Tobago Cocoa by Kendra Bournes.



Goat Race by Howard Hamilton.



Butterfly by Rickeisha Caprietta.



Tobago Garden by Kaleel Yearwood.



Island Girl by Hannah Joanni.



Tobago's Sports Stars by O'Neal Murray.



Dancers by Josiah Cornwall.



Motion of the Island by Bryan Jordan.



Home Garden by Omella Walker.



Play Time by Kareem Guy.



Tobago: Unique and Serene by Rianne Jaglal.



Tobago Coconut by Shaniece Joseph.



# ARGYLE'S WINSTON DUKE IN LAW & ORDER

A Tobagonian is tasting international fame once again. Fans of the Emmy and Golden Globe award-winning show, *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* (SVU), saw local actor Winston Duke star in the segment "Gridiron Soldier" that aired on Wednesday 5 March, 2014 on NBC.

Originally from Argyle and a past-student of St Barnabas Anglican Primary School in Roxborough, Duke left Tobago – and his pastime of running along the beach with cousins and friends during what he calls his "most influential years" – to move with his mother and sister to New York, USA. He was nine years old.

The transition from Tobago to New York was no small feat, but the family soon adjusted, and it was in New York that Duke discovered and honed his gift for acting. Duke now describes himself as a "Caribbean-American actor born on the island of Tobago" with a dream of sharing himself with the world through his "passion for the art and craft of acting in theatre, film and television." In 2013, he graduated with a Master's degree in Fine Arts from the renowned Yale School of Drama. In the *Law and Order* episode, Duke plays the role of Cedric Jones, a high-school football star. Jones has already committed to attending Georgia Tech, but he accepts a free recruitment trip from Hudson University in New York. At first all goes well, but soon Jones goes missing, leaving his uncle worried and seeking help from hometown friend, Detective Rollins. Investigations lead them to find Jones in jail; the

victim of a terrible prank gone dangerously wrong. Along the way, the episode unravels a story of abuse, prejudice and hazing.

When news of his role broke in the local media, congratulations and stories of pride poured in on social media pages. Comments included "Blessings to you! It was great seeing you on tv!! Keep it coming!", "Congrats!!!!. That's amazing brotha... Keep it up", and "[Great] for Tobago. Keep up the good work - you made us proud." Following his performance, Duke was invited to join the Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of TV and Radio Artists.

In addition to acting, Duke is a screen writer and aspiring producer. Some of his acting credits include Winston in the Yale Cabaret's 2012 production of Athol Fugard's *The Island*; and Menelaus in Yale School of Drama's 2012 production of *Iphigenia Among the Stars*.

Locals also got to see him live at Central Bank in Son-Son, the acclaimed Trinidad Theatre Workshop's 2012 production of Dennis Scott's *Echo in the Bone*. ■



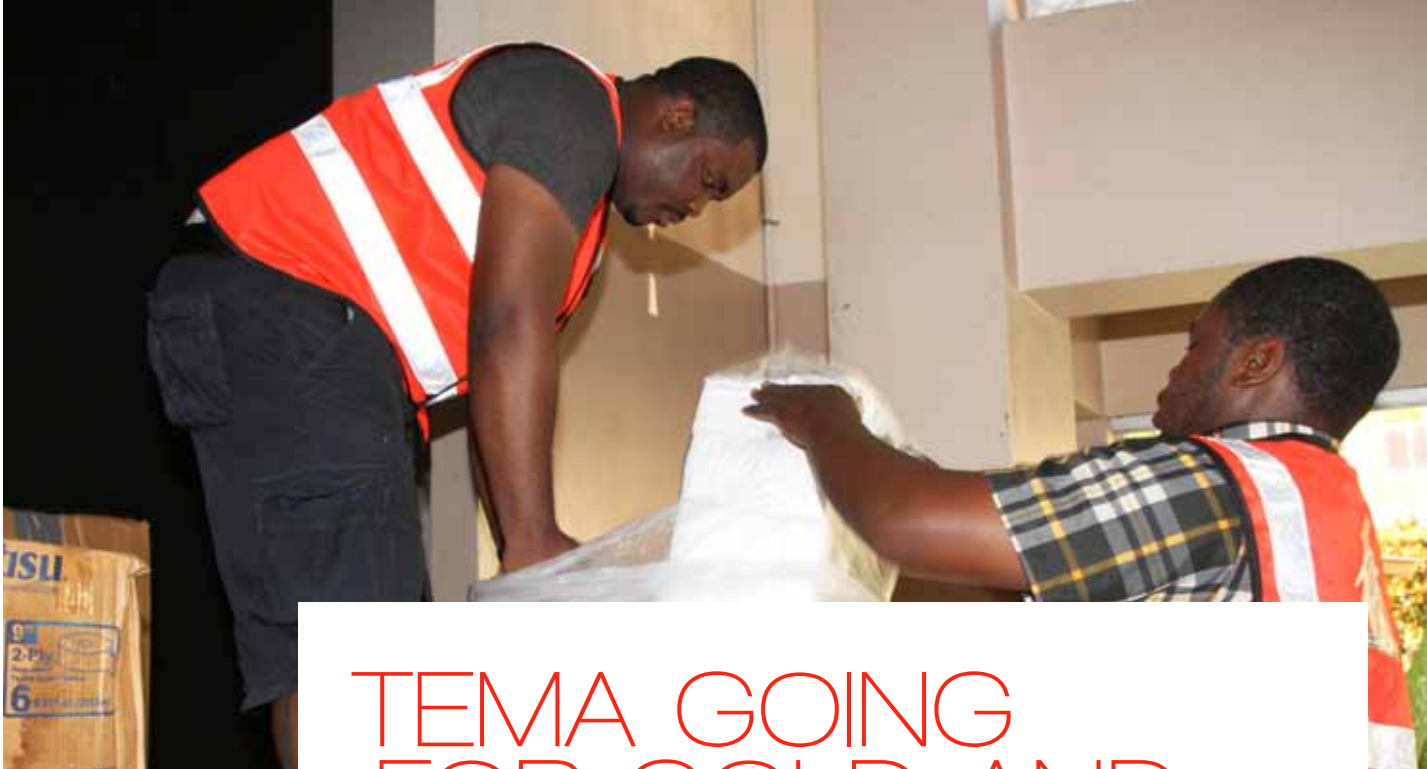
# THA young blood



President Anthony Carmona and THA Chief Secretary Orville London congratulates Assemblyman Deon Isaac on his appointment as Secretary of the Division of Settlements and Labour.



THA Presiding Officer Kelvin Charles swears in Assemblyman Ancil Dennis as Deputy Presiding Officer.



Tema team members prepare relief packages for St. Vincent after the hurricane.

# TEMA GOING FOR GOLD AND DIAMOND



Allan Stewart, TEMA director, puts together wheel barrows for St. Vincent hurricane victims.

Being a pioneer in Emergency Management in the Caribbean, TEMA is always striving to bring to the public the highest quality service, by staying abreast with technological advancements and by continually training its personnel. In September 2013, TEMA was one of three pilot agencies nominated by the THA's Chief Administrator to apply for the Gold-to-Diamond initiative. This initiative is an integrated approach focusing on excellence in service delivery and human resource management modernisation.

The concept of "Gold-to-Diamond" refers to the shift in the public service architecture from the 'Gold' or traditional pyramid-shaped organisation structure to a revitalised modern 'Diamond'. G2D introduces many new professional positions and promotes multi-skilled technical officers who exemplify a new integrated work culture. To ensure success in its certification process, TEMA

established a specialised team to learn the necessary knowledge and processes for the agency. From several meetings and workshops, the team developed a Service Improvement Plan that outlined all the necessary action items in eight categories:

- Service environment
- Customer involvement
- Communications
- Promoting a customer service culture
- Responsiveness
- Innovation and creativity
- Technology
- Partnerships

The team also created a Service Charter; a statement of standards that lets all stakeholders know what to expect from the organisation, and what to do if the agency fails to deliver.

TEMA hopes to obtain Diamond Certification soon, which will further cement its commitment to high-quality service delivery in Tobago. ■

# 18



## QUESTIONS

with Councillor  
Dr Denise Tsoiafatt-Angus  
Secretary for Community  
Development and Culture

1. When did you know that you wanted to be in politics?  
Can you recall the moment?

In 2008 when I was coming off of the TRHA board as Chairman.

2. Who inspires you?

Philosopher Jim Rohn, Nelson Mandela as a leader, Yolanda Adams as a singer and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for grounding of who we are as Black people in this world.

3. If you were not a Secretary, what would you be?

Everyone knows that I am a medical doctor, but any role where I am taking care of people and empowering them to care and develop themselves.

4. What motivates you?

Gratitude. Being able to get up every day knowing that I am not here for myself but to leave the world a better place for those who are coming after.

5. The issue I care most about is...

People maximising their potential. We are all brought here with purpose and with talent.

6. What is your biggest accomplishment?

Balancing my beautiful family - my husband and three children.

7. What is the latest accomplishment of your Division?

The launch of Black History month to recognize and embrace our ancestral line of where we came from.

8. Name one thing that you would have wanted done but did not do? (personal or business)

That's a tough one. I don't live my life in regret. I strongly believe that what you're supposed to be doing is what you're doing at every point.

9. What is your favourite memory / experience as a Secretary?

The launch of the Centenarian Programme. Bringing so many elderly persons together in one space, celebrating the lives of people who have turned 100.

10. What has been your most challenging experience?

Moving from a total life of private sector to public sector. I grew up in the private sector. My parents had businesses. That transition and having to learn patience and tolerance yet persistence.

11. If you were to meet anyone in the world, dead or alive, who would that be and what will you say to them?

Yolanda Adams! And say thanks to her for keeping me company on many a night and giving me inspiration.

12. What is the best thing about politics?

The opportunity to create policy that affects the lives of people on a larger scale and the opportunity to effect development across the island.

13. What is the worst thing about politics?

Being a woman in politics.

14. If you ever had to live your life all over what would you do differently?

I would have more children. I firmly believe that we have not taken our legacy as seriously as we should.

15. Describe yourself in three words.

Caring, persistent, innovative.

16. If you did not live in Tobago, where would you live?

Tobago. Tobago is paradise. I've tried living in many other countries. I've lived on average 2- 4 years in one place to another, in the United States from the North to the South and even Jamaica.

17. Have you changed as a result of politics?

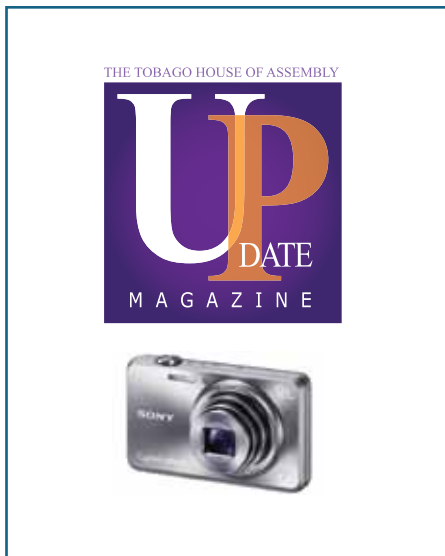
I have had to in some areas. I've had to toughen up, to learn that caring is not enough. I've learnt to become Teflon. How do you become Teflon without being uncaring and insensitive? Striking that balance is what I have attempted to do.

18. What can we expect in the future from Denise Tsoiafatt Angus?

Someone who continues to grow. ■

# Update quiz winners

Question: What year was the first bicameral legislature setup in Tobago?  
Answer: 1768.



Tobago House of Assembly (THA) employees Khristal Kirk and Laurel Frasier each received a Sony digital camera on Tuesday from the UPdate magazine quiz. The women won the cameras after correctly answering the question. "What year was the first bicameral legislature setup in Tobago?" The answer was "1768."

The quiz question was featured in the first issue of the THA's UPdate Magazine. Khristal Kirk is employed in the Personnel Department, Office of the Chief Secretary, while Laurel Frasier works in the Human Resources Department at the Division of Education, Youth Affairs, and Sport. ■



THA employee Khristal Kirk also receives a Sony digital camera from former Chief Administrator Dr. Ellis Burris.



THA employee Laurel Frasier receives a Sony digital camera from former Chief Administrator Dr. Ellis Burris.

## Profile



# CLAIRE DAVIDSON- WILLIAMS

ADMINISTRATOR, DIVISION OF COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world” is a powerful message from an influential leader, Mahatma Gandhi, and also the idea that guides Claire Davidson-Williams, Administrator at the Division of Tourism and Transportation. Under her watch as Administrator, and working closely with Tourism Secretary Tracy Davidson-Celestine, the Division has been responsible for the arrival of Apollo Airlines from Sweden, training for Tobago’s Bed and Breakfast Association members, and the Destination Tobago stand at the Internationale Tourismus-Börse in Berlin, Germany.

Davidson-Williams also follows her “3 Rs”: respect for self and others, reverence to God, and resilience to manage change. Citing tourism as one of the mainstays of Tobago, Davidson-Williams says a cohesive image has to be developed, but for this to be realised, certain issues must be addressed. She encourages every Tobagonian to join in the development of tourism and to “make tourists feel welcome here and wanting to come back with others.” This involves individuals, but also the public and private sectors. “Tourists say that we have excellent roads, but our signage needs improving... they need to know where they are on the island.” She also wants this change in attitude to start at the earliest levels, so that “our children can tell a tourist where to find the rainforest or largest brain coral. This is where I would like to see tourism reach in Tobago.” Davidson-Williams is proof that a woman doesn’t necessarily have to choose between career and family. Of course, she had to make significant sacrifices to pursue studies and for her successful career, especially when she became Investigator at the Office of the Ombudsman in Trinidad. This was her most challenging period, being away from her husband Reynold and son Jevon Williams, so she was glad when she could return to Tobago, this time as Administrator for the Division of Tourism and Transportation. She’s happy with this latest move, as she gets the best of both worlds: “I have the best family, and if you ask me which Division is the best, I will say the Division of Tourism and Transportation!” ■

***Claire Davidson-Williams was the Administrator of the Division of Tourism and Transportation at the time of this interview.***

## RECORD OF SERVICE

Davidson-Williams began her career as a Clerk 1, she then became an Executive Assistant (HR) at the Office of the Chief Secretary, then Protocol Officer. She was later promoted to Investigator at the Office of the Ombudsman, Trinidad, and was instrumental in setting up Tobago’s first office.

With years of experience as a management specialist, Davidson-Williams specialises in organisational development, business expansion and development. For more than 10 years she has lectured in Public Administration, Human Resource Management, Business Law, Organisational Behaviour, Industrial Relations/Negotiation Skills, and Critical Thinking. Davidson-Williams has a Certificate in Public Administration and Bsc. in Management from the University of the West Indies, and a Master’s degree in International Management from the University of Phoenix, Arizona. She holds certificates from Public Administration International, England, and the International Program for Development Evaluation Training in Canada. She has also completed the Stitt Feld Handy Group syllabus in Mediation and Advanced Dispute Resolution at Canada’s University of Windsor, and is certified by the Mediation Board of Trinidad and Tobago. Davidson-Williams is also an External Evaluator for the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago.

Davidson-Williams is also a board member of the Scarborough Upper Lions Club, a volunteer group that helps communities worldwide.







# THA IN REVIEW

## A UNIQUE TIME IN THA'S ADMINISTRATION

### THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

On the 21st of January 2011, the people of Tobago gave this administration another resounding vote of confidence, and charged us with continuing the development of the island, its infrastructure, and its people.

We took that mandate very seriously and, in the last 12 months, we have continued to rise to that challenge, listening to the voice of the people at regular meetings and acting upon their suggestions and concerns.

Now, at the beginning of 2014 – a year in which we will continue to work on the issues that concern us all, from the wellbeing of local communities to the pursuit of internal self government and revenue share – we take this opportunity to share some of the achievements of this new administration in the first year. As part of our ongoing efforts to preserve

our heritage, we have continued to dedicate time and money to restoring historical buildings and working on the regularisation of land for the welfare of families. And, to protect and nurture our future, we continue to invest in education, infrastructure, housing, agriculture and fishing, as well as in new businesses and tourism that will help drive employment. We have also launched a cross-party task force to work on achieving increased autonomy; a goal that will be very firmly in our sights in 2014.

The list is far from exhaustive, of course, but we hope that it gives you a fair idea of the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes as we continue to make Tobago not just “ever more beautiful,” but also ever more functional, competitive, and forward-looking into the future.

# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY

- Self-Government Task Force launched consultations begins
- Have Your Say Face-to-Face community meetings held
  - Understanding and creating synergy between THA and stakeholders
- Public Interest Desk set up
  - All Tobagonians can share their perspectives, views and opinions on governance
- Launch of IHRIS, the Integrated Human Resource Information System
- Scarborough Enhancement Programme
  - Removal of unauthorised and unsafe structures (Tobago United Co-op/Viewport)
  - Lower Castries beautification
  - Phase II and Phase III of the Carrington Street Boardwalk completed
  - Phase I and Phase II of new fencing at the Botanical Gardens
  - Sidewalk along Burnett Street installed
  - Corner Park (Wilson Road and Carrington Street intersection) established
  - Consultation with the Scarborough Property Owners' Association on the capital's enhancement
  - Garden Side Street Mural phase II
- Purchase and upgrade of Tobago Sea Products Ice Plant
- Restoration of historical buildings (Old Works Building, Scarborough Methodist Church, The Ark Catholic Church, Scot's Anglican Kirk Building)
- Five scholarships awarded for Air Traffic Control (Diploma in Aerodrome/Approach Air Traffic Control)
- Five scholarships awarded for CAPE
- 326 bursaries and grants awarded to students for outstanding performance
- Energy sector outreach programme for secondary school students
- Completed specifications for THA's Wide Area Network and Data Centre
- Surveyed 65 acres of land at Charlotteville, Roxborough,

- Lammy Road, Adelphi, Belmost Farm Road for subdivision, allocation, regularisation and distribution
- Leases for families at Lammy Lands, Argyle
- Leases granted for Adelphi Estate, Mason Hall
- North Side Connector Road opened (connection from Gardenside Street to Northside Road)
- 29 CERT trainees inducted as Technicians
- Launch of TEMA Virtual Vision Platform – unique in the English-speaking Caribbean – an app to help the emergency reporting process
- Radio Riskland Dialogue series established for public interaction on Disaster Risk Management
- Participated in World Conference in Disaster Management, Toronto, Canada
- More than \$526,000 given to fishermen who sustained damages to their vessels and equipment
- Established THA magazine "Update"
- Established Community Liaison Unit to maintain relationships with the communities and THA
- Establishment of The Department of Advanced Training and Advisory Services (DATAS)
  - Absorbed the former Financial Assistance Unit
  - Established an Advisory and Placement Unit, responsible for career guidance, job placement and the outreach portfolios ■



Chief Secretary Orville London meets Independent Senator Victor Wheeler during the self-government consultations

# INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

- New and upgraded drains at Bloody Bay/Roxborough Road; Queen Street, Betsey's Hope; Prince Street, Roxborough; Scarborough Secondary School; Highlands Road, Moriah
- Road upgrade at Pentlands (between Plymouth and Arnos Vale)
- Sidewalk along the Windward Road, Argyle
- Several retaining walls erected at Les Coteaux; Belle Garden; Mason Hall; Bethel; Highlands Road
- Sidewalk along the Windward Road, Argyle
- Cross drain at George Street, Canaan
- Drainage along Bloody Bay/Roxborough Road
- Drainage at Queen Street, Betsey's Hope
- Drainage at Prince Street, Roxborough
- Drainage upgrade at Scarborough Secondary School
- Drainage and sidewalk at Highlands Road, Moriah
- Completed construction of the island's third roundabout
- Construction of buildings
  - Scarborough Library 90% complete
  - Lowlands Community Centre 85% complete
  - Adventure Mini Mall 88% complete
- Roads and bridges
  - Saw Mill Trace 90% complete
  - Friendsfield Road development 80% complete
  - Bethel retaining wall phase 2 90% complete
  - Box drain at Bloody Bay 80% complete
  - Piling for new bridge near abattoir 95% complete
  - Emergency access road to new hospital 95% complete
  - Grandy Gully retaining wall 80% complete
  - Highlands Road retaining wall 100% complete
  - Dennett Trace #3 retaining wall 90% complete
  - Runnemedede Village St. retaining wall 90% complete
  - Speyside box drain 90% complete
  - Windsor Road retaining wall 70% complete
  - John Gully drainage 95% complete
  - Long Bed box drain 90% complete
  - King's Bay Hill retaining wall 90% complete
  - Rose Hill, Mt. St. George retaining wall 80% complete



Chief Secretary Orville London presents the book "Capital of Paradise " to Indian Minister of Culture Mrs Chandresh Kumari-Katoch during a courtesy visit.



Secretary for the Division of Settlements and Labour Deon Isaac presents a land deed to Anne Trinidad.



Secretary for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, Huey Cadette presents SEA student Kaileen Lizama with her exam package.



Mark London receives an award from Assistant Secretary Jomo Pitt.

## EDUCATION, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORT

- Twenty schools repaired and upgraded: primary, secondary, special
- Lighting added to five recreation grounds at Shaw Park, Mason Hall, Moriah, Speyside, Signal Hill and Calder Hall
- Launch of I'm For... youth and healthy lifestyle campaign
- Free Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) classes for athletes
- Construction of jump pits at Montgomery, Speyside, Goodwood and Roxborough recreation grounds
- Hosted first Tobago Primary Schools science essay writing and portfolio competition
- 2-day science teachers' training workshop
- 5-day annual Tobago Science and Technology expo hosted in Crown Point
- Provided financial assistance to schools to participate in Science Expo
- Facilitated schools' participation in NIHERST's Scitecknofest 2013 at the Centre of Excellence
- Outfitted Montgomery Government Primary and Plymouth Anglican schools with steelpan instruments
- 12 full-time music Instructors now service the Tobago Education District
- Music camps conducted at Roxborough Anglican and Scarborough Methodist Schools
- Provided more than \$450,000 in assistance for community youth-development initiatives
- Facilitated over 4000 participants at Youth Development Centres at Pembroke, Bethel, Castara and Union for school project assistance, adult literacy classes, socialisation, etc.
- Nearly 6000 people reached by Carnival Caravan advising good sexual and social practice
- 220 students benefit from Pan Camps held around the island:
  - T&TEC East Side Pan Theatre, Belle Garden
  - Our Boys Pan theatre, Fort Street, Scarborough
  - Carib Dixieland Pan Theatre, Mt. Pleasant
  - Moriah Government Primary School, Woodlands
  - Pan Camp-Out at Lames Park featuring Len "Boogsie" Sharpe
- Extensive repairs to primary and secondary schools including: structural and cosmetic works, construction of retaining wall, construction of fence wall and wire fence, construction of labs, installation of toilets, construction of walkways, upgrades to fire alarm system, plumbing and electricals





The annual Heritage Festival opening night 2014.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE

- Y-Zone launched at Calder Hall – first of seven to be opened
- Calder Hall Play Park opened
- First night market held in Buccoo and several other villages
- Launch of Centenarian Awareness and Award programme
- THA facilitated making of documentary film “Tobago 1677”
- Six village councils received a total of \$151,000 in funding
- More than \$150,000 given to religious organisations
- \$730,000 given to organisations for cultural programmes
- Completed construction of multi-purpose community facilities at Betsey’s Hope and Bethesda
- 41 classes held for vocational skills training programme for communities
- Launch of Zumba sessions at the Speyside Multi-purpose Facility
- Training in resume writing and tour guiding for residents at Speyside
- Launch of Senior Citizens’ Club
- “I am Woman” Girls Talk for secondary school girls
- Cool Kids Camp IV held at Scarborough and Argyle for skills development
- Health and Wellness workshops to combat lifestyle diseases held at community centres across the island
- Mission to Guadeloupe to explore and strengthen craft industry
- Heritage Festival “Community Treasures: Reflections” launched – part one of a trilogy, ending in 2015
- Started country’s first Bele Festival project to encourage cultural research tourism, community partnerships and regional cultural networking
- First Peoples’ Heritage – celebration of the history of national and ethnic heritage
- Black History Month celebrated in November
- Twelve Joys of Christmas initiative for 12 days of bringing gifts and Christmas cheer to communities
- New survey for asset-based community development
- Tobago Trust honoured cultural stalwarts
- Tree-planting ceremonies for several communities for Community Development Day
- Presentation of “The Role of Traditional Groups in Community Development” at Community Development Conference
- Financial Assistance Unit created
- More than \$3.9M given to 259 organisations, including churches, village councils, youth organisation, pan groups, schools, cultural events, educational programme, fishing associations and community groups
- Establishment and outfitting of Parlatuvier IT Walk-In Centre
- Completion of Argyle and Speyside Y-Zones
- Repairs and upgrades to community centres at Mason Hall, Delaford, Les Coteaux, Moriah, Glamorgan
- Opening of Calder Hall Community Centre



Eudine Job-Davis Coordinator of Tobago campus of Cipriani Labour College, Dr. Denise Margaret Thompson Director, Joseph Remy Chairman of the Board, Chief Secretary Orville London and Secretary for Settlements and Labour Deon Issac and Administrator for Education Raphael Mitchell during a visit with the labour college.



A recipient for a Home Improvement Grant from the Division of Settlements and Labour is all smiles as Secretary for the Division, Councillor Deon Isaac, hand-delivers his cheque during home visits in the Moriah/Mason Hall area.

## SETTLEMENTS AND LABOUR

- Department of Labour conducted labour market survey
- Main signs installed at Adventure Estate, Castara and Blenheim Housing Development
- Four housing units in Blenheim updated and refitted in preparation for handing over
- Marsh areas at Adventure Housing Development were filled to alleviate mosquitoes
- Twenty-one houses in Castara received remedial and completion works this year, including installation and repairs of drainage, pavements, driveways, external staircases and storm drains; new kitchen and bathroom fittings; upgraded electrical and plumbing; landscaping and exterior paint
- Community walkabouts held at Castara, Blenheim, Roxborough and Adventure housing developments
- Over \$9 million distributed to successful applicants of the Home Improvement Subsidy, Home Completion Programme and Home Improvement Grant
- Established partnership with National Training Agency (NTA) for Customer Perception Survey
- Training for enumerators in fieldwork under NTA's Technical Vocational Education Training
- Training in industrial relations and practices for community labour advocates
- Safety Outreach held in 8 primary schools
- Women's Seminar for International Women's Day

# AGRICULTURE, MARINE AFFAIRS, MARKETING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Opened Goldsborough tissue culture lab
- Plant clinic established
- Development of demonstration and training at Goldsborough
- Development of government stock farm
- Establishment of sheep semen export facility
- Upgrades to agricultural access roads
- Established Hot Pepper Project at Roxborough
- Cocoa rehabilitation
- Establishment of microbiology lab at Hope
- Development of banana and cassava industries
- Development of new state lands for food production at Richmond
- Indian Walk root crop food security project
- Establishment of root and tuber crop planting material repository at Lure Estate
- Coconut industry rehabilitation
- Development of Blenheim sheep multiplication and research project
- Development of sheep fattening facility at Studley Park
- Establishment of Courland agricultural project
- Establishment of embryo programme
- Establishment of farm animal recording and monitoring
- Development of a goat multiplication and breeding centre at Hope
- Construction of administrative office complex at Louis D'or demonstration station
- Construction of lab facilities for tissue culture and entomology / plant pathology
- Establishment of centralised composting facility at Goldsborough
- River trenching, beach and ravine waterway clearance in 8 locations
- Launch of programme "Integration of Coastal Management and Climate Change Adaptation in South-West Tobago"
- Six trainees graduated from Cycle 2 of the Boat Repair and Maintenance of Outboard Engine Programme
- Consultations with farmers in eight agricultural districts to inform plans for the sector in Tobago
- 10th anniversary of the Annual Commercial Fishing Tournament
- 150 employees honoured at annual ceremony for retirement and long service



Kimron Eastman shakes hands with Assistant Secretary Mr. Hayden Spencer, who oversees Fisheries and Marine Affairs at DAMME. Devon Eastman standing in the background.



# HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

- 75 new employees at Health & Social Services
- Talk it Out not Fight it Out mediation programme expanded
- Work started for Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Centre
- Tech-Voc Centre Disability Affairs Unit relocation and expansion
- Roving health caravans for Health Heritage Month
- REACH (Realisation of Economic Achievement) held its first annual expo and disbursed funds of \$247,500
- Hosted a number of activities
  - Marked International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2013 with various events
  - Drug Rehabilitation Centre completed
  - Held annual Nostalgic Roots Competition 2013
  - International Day of Older Persons 2013 lunch and recognition function
  - Clean Air Fair – aimed at highlighting the adverse effects of smoking
  - Women's Economic and Technological Empowerment Centre (WE-TEC) drama series responding to gender-based violence, rape and other sexual violence
  - WE-TEC's first "Walk a Mile In Her Shoes" event throughout Tobago and a cultural concert to mark International Day For The Elimination of Violence Against Women 2013
- Joint projects with public health: achieved weekly target of inspecting food premises across Tobago; inspection of cafeterias at all secondary schools; completion of four cycles of the Aedes aegypti control programme; surveillance of all reported Dengue cases; and completed all requests for house spraying
- Refurbishment of sluice gate at Betsey's Hope
- Site restoration of Dock Workers' building
- Tobago Regional Health Authority
  - Intensive care unit established resulting in fewer patients being transferred to Trinidad
  - Comprehensive Integrated Eye-Care Programme (Cataract Removal) implemented
  - Ophthalmology unit expanded
  - Relocation of geriatric unit
- Ten interns assigned to SGH in May
- Additional medical staff recruited
- Expansion of the dialysis unit's operating hours
- Hyperbaric chamber located in Roxborough now fully operational
- New speech and language therapy clinics
- Extended pharmacy hours to 8:00pm
- Reduced time to fill prescriptions to average of 8 minutes
- Established histology and blood bank centre
- Extended opening hours at the Scarborough Health Centre walk-in clinic until 8:00pm
- Established walk-in clinic at Roxborough Health Centre
- Hosted the annual Touch Tobago Mission in July, the bi-annual Tobago Progressive Association, and set up nine health fairs throughout Tobago
- Expanded health screening outreach activities and immunisation programmes
- Maintained an average emergency response time of less than 20 minutes
- Relocation of TEMS Scarborough Base from The Fort to the Scarborough Health Centre in July 2013 with improved accommodation for staff
- TEMS Ambulance Services responded to a total of 3,662 calls



Secretary for Health and Social Services, Claudia Groome Duke cuts the ribbon declaring the implementation of the Communications System, at the Scarborough General Hospital.



Chief Secretary Orville London (front right) and Secretary for the Division of Finance and Enterprise, Joel Jack, at the THA annual Business Awards with the winners.

## FINANCE AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

- 316 new Enterprise Assistance grants distributed, totaling \$5.8 million
- Enterprise Assistance Loans disbursed worth \$0.7 million
- \$14.3m allocated to new private sector businesses and \$12.1m awarded to qualified investee companies through the Tobago Venture Capital Company
- Facilitated internships for young professionals at the Tobago Regional Health Authority and facilitated the 51st Study Programme of the UN Information Service, Geneva, through the Youth Energised for Success (YES) Programme
- CXC enrichment classes held at Roxborough and Mt. Pleasant under YES
- Pre-funding training programmes mounted by the Business Development Unit in the areas of marketing, customer service, budgeting and bookkeeping
- 18 entrepreneurs trained in Money and Cash Flow Management
- Business Readiness Training for 125 people
- Consumer Sentiment Survey launched
- Participated in the Annual Caribbean Monetary Studies Conference and the Conference on the Economy 2013
- Mounted Exhibit of Tobago Entrepreneurs at the Trade and Investment Convention (TIC) and supported the attendance of nine businesses
- Hosted Black Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century international conference
- Tobago entrepreneurs participated in ExporTT
- Hosted Finance Week 2013: Business Outlook Conference, Business Awards Presentation & Tobago Youth Forum
- Established two Financial Education and Business Innovation Incubation centres
- Calder Hall Micro-centre opens with 9 business tenants
- Two factory shells constructed: The I.T. McLeod Building (occupied by Rojas Engineering Limited) and Rufus T Phillips Building
- Installed and commissioned a solar-powered street lighting system at Cove
- Fish Processing Company of Tobago (FIPCOT) provided 26,600 lbs of fish, exported 39,179 lbs of yellow fin tuna valued at over \$732,000
- 11 members of staff trained and certified by International Academics of Emergency Dispatch
- Trained 30 Trinidad and Tobago Police Service officers in basic computer literacy
- 517 Emergency Medical Alert devices distributed
- 485 people received Emergency Social Assistance Cards



From left Tobago's Brand Ambassador, former international footballer, Dwight Yorke; former West Indian cricketer, Darren Ganga; Secretary for Tourism and Transportation, Tracy Davidson-Celestine; and former West Indies cricketer, Brian Lara at the Internationale Tourismus Borse in Germany.

## TOURISM AND TRANSPORTATION

- Arrival of Apollo: new Scandinavian charter flight
- Got to Go Tobago roadshow launched in Canadian market
- Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute gave a grand welcome fifty Nigerian students
- Launched 6-month Institutional Strengthening, Capacity Building and Strategic Plan training for Tobago's Bed and Breakfast Association
- Destination Tobago displayed for European markets at Internationale Tourismus Borse in Germany
- Five percent increase in tourist arrivals
- "Developing Tobago's Sustainable Tourism Potential" seminar held in collaboration with the Embassy of the Dominican Republic
- Celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the Tobago Blue Food Festival
- Displayed stand at the annual World Travel Market, London, England
- Dwight Yorke named as Tobago's Sports Tourism Ambassador

# TOBAGO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY: MEMBERS & DIVISIONS

The Assembly is older than Trinidad and Tobago itself, since the twin-island union was set up in 1889 by the British government, and the THA's first incarnation was in 1768.

Today's Assembly was created by Act 37 of 1980 for "making better provision for the administration of the island of Tobago and for matters therein." The Assembly is divided into two main arms.

The Legislative Arm (Assembly Legislature) is where all members of the Assembly meet in plenary and/or in select committees to make policy decisions with respect to its operations. These functions are supported by the Assembly Legislature Secretariat

which is headed by the Presiding Officer, with the Clerk of the Assembly responsible for the discharge of functions as they relate to the conduct of the business of the Assembly.

The Executive Arm of the Assembly is headed by the Chief Secretary in his capacity as leader of the Executive Council, which has individual and collective responsibility for carrying out the functions of the Assembly through the Divisions.

The Chief Administrator is the most senior public officer in the administration and is attached to the Office of the Chief Secretary.

## CONNECTIONS ADMINISTRATORS

**Mr. Raye Sandy**  
Chief Administrator  
Tobago House of Assembly  
Office of the Chief Secretary  
Administrative Complex  
Calder Hall  
Tobago  
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
Tel: (868) 660-7511  
Fax: (868) 639-4151

**Mr. Ritchie Toppin**  
Administrator  
Division of Infrastructure and Public Utilities  
Old Government Farm Road  
Shaw Park  
Tobago  
Tel: (868) 639-1287 Ext. 4005  
Fax: (868) 639-2422

**Ms. Nevlin Renwick**  
Administrator  
Division of Agriculture, Marine Affairs,  
Marketing and the Environment  
Tam Building  
Glen Road  
Tobago  
Tel: (868) 639-2234 / 660-7537 Ext. 302  
Fax: (868) 639-1746

**Ms. Agnes Winchester**  
Administrator  
Division of Health and Social Services  
Signal Hill  
Tobago  
Tel: (868) 639-5386 / 639-1252  
Fax: (868) 639-4808

**Mr. Paul Thomas**  
Administrator  
Division of Finance and Enterprise  
Development  
Victor E. Bruce Financial Complex  
14-16 Wilson Road  
Scarborough  
Tobago  
Tel/Fax: (868) 660-7533

**Ms. Karen Ottley**  
Administrator  
Division of Planning and Development  
Calder Hall Administrative Complex  
Calder Hall  
Tobago  
Tel: (868) 639-3265 / 639-3421 Ext. 302  
Fax: (868) 639-2382

**Mr. Oscar Brathwaite**  
Administrator  
Division of Tourism and Transportation  
Sanka's Building  
Sangster's Hill  
Scarborough  
Tobago  
Tel: (868) 660-7057 / 639-2402  
Fax: (868) 639-4369

**Mrs. Claire Davidson-Williams**  
Administrator  
Division of Community Development  
and Culture  
11 Main Street, Scarborough  
Tobago  
Tel: (868) 639-2339  
Fax: (868) 635-1044

**Ms. Wendy Guy-Hernandez**  
Administrator  
Division of Settlements and Labour  
Clico Building  
Corner Northside Road and  
Claude Noel Highway  
Rockley Vale Tobago  
Tel: (868) 639-3559 / 639-3566  
Fax: (868) 639-2028

**Mr. Rafael Mitchell**  
Administrator  
Division of Education,  
Youth Affairs and Sport  
Singh's Building  
Dutch Fort  
Scarborough  
Tobago  
Tel: (868) 639-3181 ext 3027/ 3108  
Fax: (868) 635-0731

**Mrs Ingrid De Lancy**  
**Clerk of The Assembly**  
Assembly Legislature  
Administrative Building  
Jerningham Street  
Scarborough  
Tobago  
Tel: 639-2616 / 639-2103  
Fax: 635-0256



## ASSEMBLY MEMBERS



Chief Secretary  
Honourable  
**ORVILLE LONDON**  
Member for  
Scarborough/Calder Hall  
Secretary of Planning,  
Public Administration,  
Information, State Lands  
and Energy Matters  
Administrative Complex,  
Calder Hall,  
Tobago  
Tel: 639-2696  
Fax: 639-5374



Presiding Officer  
**KELVIN CHARLES**  
Assembly Legislature  
Administrative Building  
Jerningham Street  
Scarborough  
Tobago  
Tel: 639-3274  
Fax: 639-1624



Assemblyman  
**TRACY DAVIDSON-CELESTINE**  
Member for  
Parlatuvier/L'Anse  
Fourmi/Speyside  
Deputy Chief Secretary and  
Secretary of Tourism  
and Transportation  
12 Sangster's Hill  
Sanka's Building Sangster's  
Hill, Scarborough  
Tobago  
Tel: 639-5126  
Fax: 635-4369



Deputy Presiding Officer  
Assemblyman  
**ANCIL DENNIS**  
Member for  
Buccoo/Mt. Pleasant  
Assistant Secretary  
Division of Community  
Development and Culture  
Ashora Court, Old Milford  
Road, Scarborough  
Tobago  
Tel: 639-1945  
Fax: 639-3309



Assemblyman  
**JOEL JACK**  
Member for  
Bacolet/Mt. St. George  
Secretary of Finance  
and Enterprise  
Development  
The Victor E. Bruce  
Financial  
Complex, 14 - 15  
Wilson Road  
Scarborough, Tobago  
Tel: 635-1203  
Fax: 639-49277



Councillor  
**DEON ISAAC**  
Secretary of  
Settlements and  
Labour  
Clico Building  
Corner Northside Road  
and  
Claude Noel Highway  
Rockley Vale Tobago  
Tel: (868) 639-3559 /  
639-3566  
Fax: (868) 639-2028



Councillor  
**GARY MELVILLE**  
Secretary of  
Infrastructure  
and Public Utilities  
Old Government Farm  
Road,  
Shaw Park, Tobago  
Tel: 639-3126/639-1287  
Ext. 4006  
Fax: 639-2422



Assemblyman  
**HANDEL BECKLES**  
Member for  
Bethel/Mt. Irvine  
Assistant Secretary of  
Infrastructure  
and Public Utilities  
Old Government Farm  
Road, Shaw Park,  
Tobago  
Tel: 639-3126/639-1287  
Ext. 4006  
Fax: 639-2422



## ASSEMBLY MEMBERS



**Assemblyman**  
**CLAUDIA GROOME-DUKE**

Member for Black Rock/  
Whim/Spring Garden  
Secretary of Health and  
Social Services  
Tam's Building Lot No. 2  
Glen Road, Scarborough  
Tobago  
Tel: 635-1751  
Fax 635-2604



**Assemblyman**  
**SHELDON CUNNINGHAM**

Member for Providence/  
Mason Hall/Moriah  
Assistant Secretary in the  
Division of Health and  
Social Services  
Tam's Building Lot No. 2  
Glen Road, Scarborough  
Tobago  
Tel: 635-1751  
Fax: 635-2604



**Assemblyman**  
**HUEY CALETTE**

Member for  
Canaan/Bon Accord  
Secretary of Education,  
Youth Affairs and Sport  
Singh's Building, Dutch  
Fort Plaza  
Dutch Fort,  
Scarborough  
Tobago  
Tel: 639-4137  
Fax: 635-0301



**Assemblyman**  
**JOMO PITT**

Member for  
Lambeau/Signal Hill  
Assistant Secretary in  
the Division of  
Education, Youth  
Affairs and Sport  
Singh's Building, Dutch  
Fort Plaza Dutch Fort,  
Scarborough  
Tobago  
Tel: 635-1733  
Fax: 635-0301



**Councillor**  
**DR. DENISE TSOIAFATT-ANGUS**

Secretary of Community  
Development and Culture  
Main Street,  
Scarborough  
Tobago  
Tel: 639-4009  
Fax: 635-10447



**Assemblyman**  
**GODWIN ADAMS**

Member for  
Plymouth/Golden Lane  
Secretary of Agriculture,  
Marine Affairs, Marketing  
and the  
Environment  
Tam's Building, Glen Road  
Scarborough, Tobago  
Tel: 639-0188  
Fax 639-1775



**Assemblyman**  
**HAYDEN SPENCER**

Member for  
Belle Garden/Goodwood  
Assistant Secretary in  
the Division of Agri-  
culture, Marine Affairs,  
Marketing and the Envi-  
ronment  
Botanics Station  
Scarborough, Tobago  
Tel: 635-1383  
Fax: 639-1341



## PUBLIC INTEREST DESK

AS part of its continuing efforts to create windows for citizens into the process of governance, the Office of the Chief Secretary has introduced a Public Interest Desk.

The Desk is yet another tool designed to engage the public in improving THA's own service, as it follows its mandate from the people in the January 2013 elections.

Assistant Secretary in the Office of the Chief Secretary, Deon Isaac, said the Public Interest Desk was being undertaken "in the interest of ensuring that the democratisation process of governance in Tobago is fully ensured and fully ventilated."

It is hoped that the initiative will ensure that all Tobagonians are given the opportunity to bring their

perspective to the forefront of governance in Tobago, Isaac said during a weekly Post Executive Council briefing.

To complement its efforts in making the people an integral part of its function, the THA also began hosting Public Day, every Tuesday .

These meetings begin at 8:00 a.m. and persons wishing to participate are asked to be on the first floor of the Unit Trust Corporation Building, in Scarborough, before 9:00 a.m.

The Public Interest Desk can also be contacted at: 635-0754, 635-2165 or 635-1362, as well as via email, at [publicinterestdesk@tha.gov.tt](mailto:publicinterestdesk@tha.gov.tt) ■

