



Guyana announces International Commission to – Probe Rodney's death

Thirty-three years after the assassination of Walter Rodney, co-founder of the Working People's Alliance (WPA), the Government of Guyana has announced that an International Commission of Enquiry will be held.

In making the announcement, Cabinet Secretary Roger Luncheon said it would be an uphill struggle for the Commission to come to a conclusion because several suspected key players were no longer around.

They include former Guyana Defence Force (GDF) electronics expert Sergeant 4141 Gregory Smith who had allegedly planted the bomb-in-walkie-talkie that blew up on Rodney's pelvic region on June 13, 1980 on John Street near the

Georgetown Prison. Smith died of cancer several years ago in French Guiana where he had gone to live under the name of Cyril Johnson a few days after the incident.

WPA executive member, Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine welcomed the announcement but acknowledged that it would not be easy.

"I think it's going to make the work of the commission more difficult, not just Gregory Smith but there are other witnesses who would have been able to assist the commission but I don't know whether or not you are going to be able to find any of them for one reason or the other," he said. Government has not yet named the commissioners. Roopnaraine hoped that the WPA and Rodney's

family would be consulted by government about the terms of reference for the probe team. "It's long overdue and I wish it well and I hope that there will be action following the announcement," Roopnaraine said.

Dr. Rodney was a preeminent scholar and political activist and who was assassinated in Guyana in 1980.

He was a highly respected historian and left-leaning political activist in Jamaica and Tanzania. On his way back to Jamaica from a Black Writers' Conference in Montreal in 1968, he was banned from landing in Jamaica and prevented from taking up academic appointments at the University of Guyana. Ironically, a chair in history has been since established in his honour.



Walter Rodney

Faduma transcends tribulations

by Sarah Onyango

As she accepts her hard-earned high school diploma at the graduation ceremony on June 28, Faduma Mahmoud will probably be feeling the weight of her family's hopes and dreams on her young shoulders. And this graduation will be made all the more special by the fact that Faduma will be at the podium speaking to fellow students as Valedictorian of Hillcrest High School's "Class of 2013".

Indeed, the 18-year-old's brilliant smile belies the trials and tribulations that have dotted her path to this milestone.

The fourth of five children raised by a single mother who fled Somalia to escape an abusive husband, Faduma was born in Yemen and arrived in Canada at the age of six as a refugee. Growing up in a large and low-income single-parent family, she learned to balance school and adult responsibilities at an early age, often helping keep her family afloat financially by working part-time and babysitting. The family has also experienced trauma such as homelessness and one of Faduma's brothers barely surviving being stabbed.

However, Faduma has gained strength and grace from these challenges and has become an inspirational leader in her school community. Driven by her quest to learn about and promote the contributions made by blacks to Canadian society – and with the encouragement of her history teacher, Mary Enns – Faduma founded Hillcrest High School's Black History Club. This multicultural group of students now organizes the school's annual observance of Black History Month as well as discussion groups and an ongoing guest speaker series, an initiative for which they were recognized in 2012



with a Black History Ottawa Community Builder Award (youth leadership category).

Other recent life-changing experiences for Faduma have included attending the National Student Commonwealth Forum (NSCF 2013) and receiving this year's Max Keeping Award for Personal Courage from the Ottawa icon himself at a gala organized by Youth Ottawa in May.

So what's next for this steadfast champion for disenfranchised youth? As she makes her Valedictorian speech at graduation, Faduma will no doubt look back fondly on her years at Hillcrest.

"These few years have been amazing, and I am thankful, grateful and humbled to have met people who have changed my life," she says. Given Faduma's passion for empowering vulnerable communities and developing her skills as an agent for positive change in the area of community-police relations, it is hardly surprising that she has decided to study political science with a double major in law at Carleton University in order to pursue a career working in the justice system.

Whatever her future endeavours, there is no doubt that Faduma Mahmoud will continue to invest the same hard work and focus that have earned her the respect and admiration of her teachers, fellow students and family.

Toronto police settle complaint with former teacher they pulled over

"Who do you think you are? F---ing Obama?"

In the middle of a Human Rights Tribunal hearing, Toronto police and the Toronto Police Board offered to settle a racial profiling suit filed against them by Clem Marshall, an Africentric scholar and long-time educator. Dr. Marshall, 60, who makes his focus language, culture, ancestry and race filed the suit after he was pulled over driving in Parkdale in 2009.

"It's not racial profiling. . . Two Black guys driving a car like mine in Parkdale meant crack. . . That's just the way it is," the officer told Dr. Marshall, according to his complaint.

He was driving a friend home when he noticed a police cruiser following him. When he pulled into his friend's driveway, the cruiser stopped and he was approached by the officers. He said when he asked

why he was approached, the officer abused him.

"He said 'Who do you think you are? F---ing Obama?'" Marshall told a television station. "You don't look like you could own this car. It was just an ordinary Nissan Altima. It wasn't a fancy car."

"I was publicly humiliated because of my race," Dr. Marshall complained.

Dr. Marshall and his passenger testified at the tribunal that the officers told him later he was pulled over because he didn't make a full stop at an intersection, which they both dispute. In the end, the officers issued a \$120 ticket because Marshall's ownership wasn't signed.

The complaint went to a full tribunal hearing in November, but midway through, the board and force said they wanted to settle. The terms of the

settlement are confidential and neither the Toronto Police nor the board has admitted any liability.

Dr. Marshall said he will put the money toward organizing events where African-Canadian youth can share their experiences with the justice system and learn about their rights.

Under the Highway Traffic Act, police have an obligation to inform a driver why they're being stopped as soon as reasonably practical. Then they have the right to demand a driver's documents. Dr. Marshall's lawyer who is with the Human Rights Legal Support Centre, said the critical piece is that her client didn't know why he was stopped.

In this case, police issued a ticket but they also carded him. Police enter personal information about



Clem Marshall

the people they "card" into a massive database used for investigations. The Toronto Star which has been following carding incidents, says its research shows that in the majority of cases, carding happens during non-criminal encounters.

The officers later told him he was pulled over because he didn't make a full stop at the intersection. In the end, Marshall was issued a \$120 ticket because his ownership wasn't signed.



On June 1, Zambia's first president Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, was the guest of honour at a luncheon hosted at Zambia House by the Zambian High Commissioner, H.E. Bobby Samakai, and local Zambians. Dr. Kaunda led the Republic of Zambia from its independence in 1964 to 1991. During his brief visit to Canada, the former president was the keynote speaker at a high-profile gala organized by African envoys to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Organisation of African Unity. He also met with Foreign Affairs minister John Baird as well as various Canadian parliamentarians and business leaders. – Sarah Onyango photo

Hugh Fraser named senior justice for Eastern Ontario



Former Olympian and senior Ottawa judge Hugh Fraser has been appointed the new regional Senior Justice for Eastern Ontario. Assuming his new position in July, he is replacing Senior Justice Lise Maisonneuve who was appointed Associate Chief Justice for the province earlier this year.

A regional senior judge exercises the powers and performs the duties of the Chief Justice in his or her region, including scheduling court hearings and assigning cases to individual judges.

Justice Fraser has been a judge in

Ottawa since 1993. Before becoming a lawyer in 1979, Fraser was a member of Canada's national track and field team and won 13 national championships. He represented Canada in the 200 metres in the 1976 Olympic Games, won a bronze medal as part of the relay team at the 1975 Pan Am Games and competed in the 1978 Commonwealth Games.

Justice Fraser, the son of the late attorney Cecil Fraser and his wife Rose, is also the father of Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman Mark Fraser.

COMMUNITY *Pulse*

Ontario Citizenship Minister Michael Coteau and Ottawa Centre MPP Yasir Naqvi who is also Minister of Labour, paid a visit to two Ottawa-based organizations to highlight successful bridge training programs at the Bruyère Centre for Immigrants, home of LASI World Skills on Friday, June 7. The visit was also the occasion for a grant to the Catholic Immigration Centre to strengthen its services.

Among the great Black artists you can expect to see and hear at this year's festival June 20 - July 1: Mavis Staples, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Courtney Pine, David Murray and Big Band

featuring Macy Gray, The Doobie Brothers, Wayne Shorter Quartet, and Jazz at Lincoln Centre Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis. For more details and tickets go to ottawajazzfestival.com

Fri, Jun 21, 6:00pm to 9:00pm, Tropical Heat Restaurant, 1036 Merivale Road, CUSO International and Guyana: Collaborating for a Better Future event will bring together members of the Caribbean communities, CUSO International alumni and supporters, and those with an interest in CUSO International's work in Guyana and the Caribbean. Register at: diaspora@cusointernational.org

Fri, Jun 21 - Sun, Jun 23, CornerStone House of Refuge Apostolic Church - 1196 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON K1Y 2Z5 Annual Convention: Speakers: Friday at 7:30 PM: Pastor Raymond Grant (Bibleway Apostolic Church) Ottawa; Saturday at 4:00 PM: Bishop Mark Tolbert (Victorious Life Church) Kansas City MO; Sunday at 11:00 AM & 6:30 PM: Pastor Kevin Chantilou, (Vision Worship Center) Fort Lauderdale FL.

Thu, Jun 27 6:00 pm - Rideau Carleton Entertainment Centre, 4837 Albion Rd., A Caribbean Night At The Races, presented by The Trinidad & Tobago

Association Of Ottawa and the High Commission of Trinidad & Tobago. Includes: Buffet dinner & Trini-centric Entertainment. All guests to the dining room must be 19 years or older and in possession of a valid, government issued, photo identification; guests 19 - 25 years old will be required to present a second piece of i.d., with a signature. Admission: \$30.00. For tickets: 834.0983; 834.1718; 850.0870

Fr, Jul 5, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Chimo Hotel - 1199 Joseph Cyr St, Gloucester, Ontario, 2013 Lignum Vitae Achievement Awards Reception in honour of singer/song-writer Lionel "Bingie" Barker and

steelpan maestro Ashton Hughes; presented by the National Institute of Jamaican-Canadians. Cocktails: 5:30 pm; Awards 6:30 pm Silent Auction; Bids open at 5:30 p.m. Dress code: Business Attire. Tickets: \$20 per person (available until Tuesday July 2, 2013) For tickets/info: Tel. 834-1718; 569-1059; 226-8085; 739-0955; 731-5371, all with the 613 area code; e-mail: nijc@sympatico.ca

Sat, Jul 6 - 368 Lisgar Road, Rockcliffe Park, 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm - The Barbados (Ottawa) Association Inc. hosts its 2nd annual Garden Party in support of the CHEO Sickle Cell Parents' Support Group. Enjoy an

afternoon of fun, delicious treats and a fashion show by a local artist in support of Sickle Cell in our community and abroad. Tickets: \$20/person. For or more information please contact Sandra at 843-1448 or Leslie at 261-4170, both in 613 area.

August 1 - 4, The 23rd annual International Black Summit and International Black Youth Summit. The Summit will provide an opportunity for participants to bring into being their vision for the Black community and the world. Check www.blacksummit.org for details about the IBS vision, mission and previous summits.

Ottawa Jazz Festival Has Sax Appeal

Sax Appeal, the National Capital's hottest saxophone talent, is proud to have been selected as one of the musical acts for the Ottawa Jazz Festival running from June 20 - July 1. The versatile quartet will be playing a mix of jazz that will appeal to all audiences on June 21 at 12:00 noon at the Rideau Centre.

"While normally our performances consist of

background music, this is a great opportunity to finally let loose and showcase the saxophone in all its jazzy glory," says Jarrod Goldsmith, founder of Sax Appeal. Saxophone enthusiasts definitely will not want to miss the gig with the most Sax Appeal!

Sax Appeal is a unique professional saxophone quartet that enhances the ambiance of functions

requiring the finest of touches. Comprising only four saxophone players, the group plays everything from classical to jazz and everything in-between.

Four saxophones are capable of playing any style of music. In the past year, Sax Appeal has performed at some 35 events including weddings, cocktail receptions, corporate events, and other elegant functions.



Picture by Sophie Renaud Media



MONEY TALK\$

Women: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You

by Elcho Stewart

There are many reasons why women must not neglect their finances. The research that they do and the advisors that they choose can make a difference at every stage of life whether single, married, divorced, retired, or widowed. As the average household debt increases, some governments, financial advisors, and educational institutions have added budgeting and money management to (or are recommending that it be included in) the school curriculum as a basic life skill - one as important as reading, writing, and arithmetic, beginning in elementary school. The hope is to empower children before they start to work, or enter college and begin to accumu-

late student-loan debts. Baby Boomers, who are now staring down retirement, are concerned that they will not have enough money to maintain the standard of living to which they have grown accustomed. They are also painfully aware that medical expenses tend to increase with age. Women have cause to pause because we have become disempowered by giving ourselves permission to be experts on just about every subject except money. Seven things all women should know:

1. More women head single households; more women are choosing to become single mothers; and women head the majority of single-parent households.
2. More women work outside of the home.

3. The income gap between men and women is estimated to be anywhere between 25-30% and the gap widens as women get older.
4. Regardless of income bracket and socio-economic standing, if there are two income earners of opposite sex, chances are the woman is still earning less.
5. After divorce or separation, most women and their children face a lower standard of living, experience poorer health, and have less access to good health services.
6. Both men and women experience depression; however, women are twice as likely to be depressed and have more frequent episodes with one in eight women developing depression at some point in their lives.
7. Women generally outlive their spouse but widowhood finds most women over

the age of 65 facing a lower standard of living than when they were married.

What actions should women take?

- Know what your take-home pay is, how to make a budget, and how to stick to it
- Save before meeting other obligations
- Know the difference between your needs and your wants
- Attend seminars on how to manage money
- Read publications to understand the language of business and investments
- Get as comfortable talking about money as you are about other interests
- Have a list of questions ready to ask your professional advisors
- Shop around for your team of advisors: banker, insurance broker and accountant - as diligently as you would for a house or the "it" pair of shoes. A good advisor anticipates

your changing financial needs for the different stages of your life, and helps you to address them. Find advisors who are reputable, are licensed or accredited, and are good listeners.

Sometimes what you don't know can hurt you; and when it comes to money, women need to be smart. Women who take control of their finances are better prepared to make sound decisions and take actions with respect to their health, their children's health, their retirement, as well as their financial well-being.

For a confidential and free financial security planning session for women at every stage of life check with Elcho Stewart/Financial Security Advisor. E-mail:

elhostewart@weblifefinancial.com. Tel: 613-422-9188.

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SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE SPECTRUM!

Nelson Mandela – The Long Goodbye



Nelson Mandela

At presstime former South African president Nelson Mandela remained in serious condition in the Pretoria Hospital after being treated for a lung infection. He has suffered a series of health problems and this is his fifth visit to hospital in two years. During a hospital stay that ended April 6, doctors diagnosed him with pneumonia and drained fluid from his chest.

Now his country is trying to prepare citizens for life without Mandela.

The 94 year old Madiba has been particularly vulnerable to respiratory problems since contracting tuberculosis

during 27 years as the prisoner of the white racist government. The bulk of that period was spent on Robben Island, off the coast of Cape Town where Mandela and other prisoners spent part of the time toiling in a stone quarry.

He was freed in 1990, and then embarked on peacemaking efforts during the tense transition that saw the demise of the apartheid system and his own election as president in 1994.

The former leader retired from public life years ago and had received medical care at his Johannesburg home until his latest transfer to a hospital.

On February 11, 1990,

Nelson Mandela walked out of Robben Island prison in South Africa amid an international outpouring of joy. He had spent 27 years in jail as a political prisoner of the South African government. The reason – acts of resistance against the unjust and oppressive apartheid system in that country. He then won South Africa's first democratic election and became president.

President Mandela who visited Canada three times became the first living person to receive honorary Canadian citizenship in 2001 when he was 83. Parliament passed the motion on June 7, 2001,

in recognition of his "great moral leadership to South Africa and to all humanity." He won the Nobel Prize for peace in 1993.

Apartheid was a government policy of discrimination and unequal rights imposed upon the majority of South Africa's citizens who were Black, "coloured" or of mixed racial background.

His release from prison came as result of pressure from countries around the world and action by his African National Congress's armed wing Umkhonto We Sizwe, (Spear of the nation) which he had founded.

TRAFFIC STOP RACE DATA COLLECTION PROJECT

Beginning June 27, 2013, the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) will collect the observational recordings of the race of drivers involved in traffic stops for a two-year period.

Drivers will not be asked to identify their race. The focus of the project is officer perception of driver race. Passengers are not included in the study.

This project is the result of an agreement between the Ottawa Police Services Board and the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC).

The OHRC and the OPS believe that race-based data collection is important in ensuring bias-free policing services. The data will be provided to the OHRC at the end of the two-year collection period. It will be limited to information required for analysis. The data will not include any personal identifiers of drivers.

The project will be the largest of its kind in Canada.

- Questions? • Visit ottawapolice.ca/race
- Email racedata@ottawapolice.ca
 - Call **613-236-1222**, extension **5586**

OHRC Information

- Visit www.ohrc.on.ca
- Email info@ohrc.on.ca



Ontario
Human Rights Commission
Commission ontarienne des
droits de la personne

PROJET DE COLLECTE DE DONNÉES FONDÉES SUR LA RACE AUX CONTRÔLES ROUTIERS

À compter du 27 juin 2013, et pour une période de deux ans, le Service de police d'Ottawa recueillera les données d'observation de la race des conducteurs impliqués dans des contrôles routiers.

On ne demandera pas aux conducteurs d'identifier leur race. Le projet s'intéresse à la perception de l'agent quant à la race du conducteur. Les passagers ne font pas partie de l'étude.

Ce Projet est le fruit d'une convention de règlement conclue entre la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa (CSPO) et la Commission ontarienne des droits de la personne (CODP).

La CSPO et le SPO estiment que la collecte de données fondées sur la race est importante pour assurer des services policiers sans préjugé. Les données seront mises à la disposition de la CSPO au terme des deux ans de la période de collecte. Les données se limiteront à l'information nécessaire à l'analyse, et n'incluront aucun identifiant personnel lié aux conducteurs.

Le Projet sera le plus important du genre mené au Canada.

- Questions? • Visitez le ottawapolice.ca/race
- Écrivez à racedata@ottawapolice.ca
 - Composez le **613-236-1222**, poste **5586**

Pour en savoir plus sur la CODP

- Visitez le www.ohrc.on.ca
- Email info@ohrc.on.ca



Ontario
Human Rights Commission
Commission ontarienne des
droits de la personne

the Spectrum

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Salute them!

Mairuth Hodge Sarsfield and C. Alexander Brown lit resplendent lamps of progress and leadership for the Black community and all Canada, no more so than when they worked in Ottawa in the nineteen eighties and nineties.

The imagination never had better friends. This they demonstrated clearly as they toiled for a living and as they contributed voluntarily and extensively to the well-being of the thriving Black community that decorates Canada's capital.

They both had stints at the *CBC*, she as host, broadcaster and Director of the Board; he as producer for the superb public affairs program *This Hour has Seven Days*, starring Patrick Watson and Laurier LaPierre. He created documentaries including "Chemical and Biological Warfare" and "To Be Black in Philadelphia," which took up the cudgel for Visible Minorities long before that phrase became popular. She also worked with *TV Ontario* and *CTV*. Both spent good productive time with various departments in the Federal Public Service, and Mairuth worked on *Expo 67* in her hometown of Montreal along with *Expo 70* in Osaka, Japan, and the UN Environmental Programme in Nairobi, Kenya.

As it happened, both died as the month of May 2013 continued struggling to embrace summer and put away its winter clothes, and this led to remembrance services a week apart in Ottawa that were very well attended by an Ottawa community that was as thankful for their lives as sorry for their departure.

Alexander Brown was not as widely known. He walked quietly but carried the big stick of unending curiosity, wide knowledge and deep compassion (see his 1962 letter to Dr. Martin Luther King on page 4) which came out in his writings. It was these qualities the propelled him to offer to write a column for *The Spectrum* shortly after we began publication in 1984. The offer readily accepted, he wrote trenchantly and progressively for some years under the nomme de plume *Frobenius* before ailments impelled him to spend more time on his health.

The one column that was returned unpublished was on the topic of the asbestos in the Parliament buildings and several other government structures in Ottawa, and that because it contained assertions that could not readily be substantiated. It is of great irony then that the ailment that ended his noble life was instigated by - asbestos.

Mairuth, whose semi autobiographical novel *No Crystal Stair* depicts early 20th Century life in Montreal, was a *maestra* of public relations who overflowed with brilliant ideas.

She did the public relations groundwork including coming up with the name for the Commonwealth Club on Frank Street which was a happy centre for community cultural and culinary affairs for a time.

When people started talking expressing the need for replacing the National Black Caucus of Canada (NBCC) as a Canada-wide Black organisation, she came up with the idea for Harambee Centres Canada and again suggested the name, Harambee, a Swahili word meaning "let's pull together." And along with the Harambee idea came her notion for the Carrie Best Collection of books, which later morphed into the Equatoria Collection (see page 5).

And yet, what was perhaps her most imaginative creation was the Black Orpheus Gala which she masterminded to raise funds for Harambee and which was staged first in the West Block, Parliament Hill and then at the then fairly new National Gallery on Sussex Drive. Patrons went first to a formal dinner thrown by a community member at their homes and then everyone gathered for the ball on Parliament Hill. Sheer magic! The one originating in Montreal, the other in Kingston, Jamaica, their effort, singularly, was fantastic. Taken together their impact is monumental.

Their light still shines.

A Piece of Ottawa's Black History

C. Alexander Brown writes MLK

Editor's note: C. Alexander Brown who died recently was one of *The Spectrum's* first columnists when he lived and worked in Ottawa. He wrote under the name *Frobenius*. A CBC producer for the famed *This Hour Has Seven Days* public affairs television program He had an unerring instinct for news, human rights and justice. Below is a letter he once wrote US Civil Rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Public Eye Program Unit
 Public Affairs Department, CBC
 Box 500, Toronto, Canada

31st January, 1962

Dr. Martin Luther King
 Southern Christian Leadership Conference
 330 Auburn Street
 Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. King,

I have been reading with horror the news reports on the brutal and inhuman conditions in the Arkansas prison that have just been made public. My God, Dr. King, what did we fight the Nazis for, if in America the things for which we condemned them are to be reproduced? When one thinks how lightly Black people are arrested in Arkansas, how easily and routinely sentenced to long terms... My God, how many innocent Black women have been forced in that terrible prison to eat, as their only food, the scraps from

the plates of white prisoners? How many innocent Black men have had electrodes connected to their testicles and their toes and then shocked with electric generators? How many innocent Black men down through the years, have been beaten to death by sadistic guards? Is this the Middle Ages? Or America in the 20th Century?

Dr. King, I urge the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to have, starting as soon as possible, an independent investigation... a commission type investigation that would hear witnesses and issue a report... on the conditions of Black prisoners in American jails. For in the case of the prison that is now in the news, the conditions existed since the turn of the Century. The prisoners and ex-prisoners knew about it, talked about it, but there was no one to listen. In how many other prisons do similar conditions exist? The glare of publicity needs to be turned on this dark corner of American life.

I know that the Southern Christian Leadership Conference has plans for the summer that will keep it busy. But I hope you will be able to do this thing that I suggest, or perhaps have others do it - other organisations involved in the Civil Rights struggle.

Sincerely,

C. Alexander Brown

N.B. The letter was stamped Received on February 5, 1968.

Supreme Court: No patents for Human Genes

In a unanimous ruling, the US Supreme Court has banned the isolated patenting of human genes. The case concerned patents held by Myriad Genetics, a Utah company, on genes that correlate with increased risk of hereditary breast and ovarian cancer.

The patents were challenged by scientists and doctors who said their research and ability to help patients had been frustrated. The particular genes at issue received public attention after the actress Angelina Jolie revealed in May that she had had a preventive double mastectomy after learning that she had inherited a faulty copy of a gene that put her at high risk for breast cancer.

The price of the test, often more than \$3,000, was partly a product of Myriad's patent, putting it out of reach for many women. The company filed patent infringement suits against

others who conducted testing based on the gene. The price of the test "should come down significantly," said Dr. Harry Ostrer, one of the plaintiffs in the case decided recently. The ruling, he said, "will have an immediate impact on people's health."

The court's ruling will also shape the course of scientific research and medical testing in other fields, and it may alter the willingness of businesses to invest in the expensive work of isolating and understanding genetic material.

The decision hewed closely to the position of the Obama administration which had argued that isolated DNA could not be patented, but that complementary DNA, or cDNA, which is an artificial construct, could. The patentability of cDNA could limit some of the impact on industry from the decision.

Let Marin oversee health, NDP Leader says

The Ontario New Democrats are proposing to give the Ombudsman oversight over hospitals, ambulance services (including air ambulance services), long-term care homes, community care access centres, and retirement homes. It is a proposal that has long been mooted by Ombudsman Andre Marin himself.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath says people want to see some accountability in Ontario's Budget and their healthcare. That's why she is calling for Ontario's Ombudsman to have oversight into the health care sector.

"Ontarians told us they want clear, concrete change in health care. They're tired of the

Liberal government saying 'just trust us', Horwath said. "Asking Ontario's Ombudsman to have oversight into the health care sector is a fair and reasonable way to start building trust.

"Families have seen their faith in the health care system shaken by chemotherapy underdosing, scandals at Ornge air ambulance, and the government's failure to guarantee home-care wait times. We need to do better."

New Democrats have been consulting with Ontarians following the introduction of the Liberal Budget and thousands of Ontarians have responded with their feedback and ideas.

Mayor's Column

Ottawa in 2017

by Mayor Jim Watson

When I was six years-old Montreal hosted Expo 67. Visitors and locals alike enjoyed an amazing celebration while the eyes of the world watched. As a kid, I was swept up in the excitement of the Expo and count that feeling as one of my earliest memories. It left a lasting impression on me and I've never forgotten how a world-class event can transform a city.

In 2017 Canada will celebrate 150 years since the signing of the British North America Act and the creation of our country. As the capital of Canada, I want to make Ottawa the focal point of these anniversary celebrations. Our city is known for its annual Canada Day celebration but I want to extend that celebratory spirit to the entire year of 2017.

In the lead-up to 2017 we have already been aggressive in pursuing major events for Ottawa. The City, in partnership with Ottawa Tourism, created Events Ottawa which is guided by a simple strategy: bid more, win more, host more. Already this has borne fruit as seen by the 2012 NHL All-Star Game, the 2012 JUNO Awards, and the 2013 IIHF Women's World Championships all having come to Ottawa. And for 2017, we have already confirmed a several events including:

- 2017 Annual

Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference;

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference and Tradeshow; and,
- The Canadian Whitewater Canoe and Kayak National Championships.

To coordinate the City's efforts and plan for 2017 we have set up a task force led by Councillors Katherine Hobbs and Rainer Bloess. It has already begun to meet regularly to discuss other major events and conferences that should be bid on but those are only part of what we want to bring to Ottawa in 2017. The larger goal is to realize former Convention Centre Chair and Member of Parliament Jean Pigott's dream of Ottawa being every Canadian's second home town. In 2017, we want Canadians to be especially proud to call it so.

We have ideas already as to how we can make 2017 a year to remember in Ottawa but we want to hear your ideas as well. Are there festivals, events, concerts, or cultural celebrations you think would make for great additions to Ottawa in 2017? If there are, or if you would like to share any ideas you have for Ottawa in 2017, please send me an email at jim.watson@ottawa.ca

For more information please visit www.ottawa2017.ca

Mairuth Sarsfield – a mighty tree



Mairuth Sarsfield

by Marilyn Wilson

Mairuth was a mighty tree – but one that also flowered beautifully. She was not a rosebush or a daffodil. She was a strong perhaps chestnut tree, lovely, intrepid, and never giving up. To me she was the epitome of, “Yes we can!” long before President Obama made that phrase so popular.

Mairuth was a visionary. I feel so lucky to have been asked to join a group of volunteers who were to work, almost behind the scenes, to help make the International Librarians' Conference, a major project envisioned and brought to fruition by Mairuth, her sister Lucille and others, proceed as smoothly as possible. It was a wonderful experience, both because the conference was a great success, but also because I bonded with the other volunteers – about ten of us at that time – and formed

close friendships which have lasted to this day. We took on welcoming the out-of-town guests at a reception we helped host the night before the conference began. We also registered participants and made sure everyone had what they needed. At the end of the conference Mairuth called on us to help make her vision of a national multicultural library become a reality.

We were energized and excited, by her and the idea. We all agreed with the premise that people need to see themselves in the literature they read, the stories that they hear and the films that they see; that children, particularly, gain self-esteem by seeing themselves and people like them and their families in the stories they read, or hear, or see. Lucille and her husband Ernesto, as professional librarians, were responsible for choosing and cataloguing the books, using the Dewey Decimal system. Our motto was “It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.”

What a wonderful leader Mairuth was – never bossy or domineering, but graciously wanting to share her ideas and hear ours. Her leadership was so progressive that she didn't act as leader, but just as one of us. Still, we knew she was the idea person and therefore, the leader. She created a loving atmosphere of equality in our group so that we never had a hierarchy. She made our

work fun, and inspired us to bring our best expertise to each meeting and each project we took on. It was a marvelous group to be part of. We laughed a lot. The other thing we always did was have food at our meetings and at most of our projects as well. I think this was also due to Mairuth, who knew that people really bond over a snack or a meal.

As Friends of Harambee Library, we initiated fundraising projects to share with Harambee and to help us buy the books and films we wanted in the library. Many of us hosted dinners for six, eight, or more, prior to attending the Black Orpheus Ball for Harambee, and the library received some of the proceeds to continue with our project of collecting a base of 500 books, which we called the “Carrie Best Collection,” in honour of the late Carrie Best. Some of the group went to New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, to present the collection to the new library in that city, which was where Carrie Best lived. We gave workshops and talks on how our multicultural books and other materials might be used by the librarians and teachers with students of all ages. We also had a great time together on that trip, which culminated in Mairuth's husband Dominick persuading a small restaurant to open on a Sunday (our final full day in N.S.) and provide our group with a lobster lunch! It was fantastic!

At some point our group decided that we wanted more independence in our activities, and more control over our funds than we had under the auspices of Harambee. So, after some discussion, we went on our own. We incorporated our name as The Equatoria Group because our collection contained a majority of books with subjects and/or authors located around the equatorial regions of the globe. While the collection included many authors and subjects from various ethnic backgrounds, we wanted to emphasize those authors and subjects who were of African descent.

After Mairuth and Dominick moved out to Parksville on Vancouver Island, and others in the group moved from Ottawa, we decided to end our activities as the Equatoria Group, although we all remained friends and kept in touch. It just wasn't the same without Mairuth, Dominick and Lucille and Ernesto. We continued to donate our Carrie Best Collection to various libraries here in Canada, including the Ottawa Public Library, along with countries in the Caribbean and South Africa. We also hosted various events in our community especially around Black History Month.

Finally, early in 2010 Lloyd Stanford asked me if I would be interested in producing a program on Equatoria for his radio broadcast, Third World Players Present,

on CKCU-FM radio at Carleton University. I said I would check with former members of the group and let him know. Again, we met over a potluck lunch to discuss what we could do in remembering our Equatoria days and the Carrie Best Collection. We agreed that to have a round-table reminiscence of that time, but when the time came to begin taping the show, we found we could not get everyone together at the same time. Instead, with me acting as interviewer, we met at the CKCU radio studio at Carleton, in small groups of two or three over about a month, beginning in June 2010, and produced a series of 15 programs on the Equatoria Group.

Fortunately, I was able to interview both Mairuth and Lucille by phone, and we taped the calls. How wonderful it was to hear their voices, not in the same conversation, but on the same day. Mairuth's warm tones came over the phone line, as if she was sitting right across from me, and we had a great reminiscence. It was as if it had all happened just in the past year or so. We packed a lot into the roughly 12 years or more that we were together, from the late 80s to about 2002.

Among the highlights were the Canada Day story readings and display of multicultural books we mounted in a tent in Major's Hill Park, which brought us a lot of attention. Another was the focus on

successful professionals in the Black community as role-models for our young people. During Black History Month one year, we hosted on Parliament Hill a program of presentations by these professionals which we called ‘Trail Blazers’. It was a hit!

Another project was the historical installation at the Museum of Civilization called “Many Rivers to Cross” where Equatoria collaborated with the curator of this display, Sheldon Taylor, and some of our young people acted as guides. It was a great success and provided a true learning experience about the history of Blacks in Canada, for everyone. The Equatoria Group celebrated Black authors and one year hosted an evening of readings by several people, including Mairuth herself, as she launched her first novel, No Crystal Stair. We were so proud of her. With her guidance, vision and the enthusiasm, she had a way of putting everyone at ease and encouraging everyone to pull together and belong. We could never forget her or our experiences with the Equatoria group.

Mairuth, we love you! May you continue to soar in the next life, just as well and as high as you did in your life here with us. As a mighty tree your limbs and branches have reached out and touched so many lives. Farewell dear friend.

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C. Alexander Brown A Daughter remembers

by Althea Nwealleh

C. Alexander Brown, my father was a good man. Smart, brilliant, he read voraciously. He wrote reams of material, he wrote proposals, research papers, essays, letters. He read widely, thought deeply. He was curious about life.

Born in Jamaica in 1936, he was known to always have his nose in a book. He went to Kingston Technical School in 1950 where he was enrolled in an engineering program. Graduating, he went to work at the University College of the West Indies in the Chemical Engineering Department, and from there to Alcan Jamaica. He migrated to Montreal, Canada in 1959 with his young wife and graduated from Sir George Williams University (now Concordia University) with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

My father experienced great success early in life, becoming the first Black producer at CBC,

He broke new ground as a young producer on the unique news magazine programme, *This Hour Has Seven Days*, hosted by Patrick Watson, and Laurier LaPierre.

Long before hiring policies

enforced opportunities for Visible Minorities, Alexander Brown proved his merit, producing such controversial documentaries as “*Chemical and Biological Warfare*” and “*To Be Black in Philadelphia*.”

He left CBC and worked in the Federal government for Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and Energy Mines and Resources, designing the first rebate program for home insulation. He worked for the Secretary of State in charge of the Canada's iteration of the International Women's Year in 1975. Along the way he suffered setbacks attracting jealousies and recrimination. If anyone is familiar with the some of the warfare that accompanies working for the federal government in this town it would not take much to make you understand that he lost some battles that closed the doors of the public service to him permanently. He built a new career as a journalist and researcher contracting to many embassies as well as the United Nations.

His real job beyond anything that he did to earn a living was to help people, many of whom considered his aid a positive, life changing experience. He

did this tirelessly. He was so patient – listening to people and working out solutions often brilliant solution to help them out of one challenge or another. Our home became to first stop for many people migrating to Canada from Jamaica.

He always saw the best in people, always hoped for the best. He was trusting and friendly and intelligent. There was no cut deeper to my father than when this trust was betrayed. But he never ever stopped hoping in the goodness of people. He carried a kind of innocence of heart. The truth is he did not know how to protect himself from scenarios where people had hidden agendas and duplicity. The things that hurt him hurt all of us as a family but we soldiered on.

My sisters and I grew up in a house full of books and music and the constant hum of international news. Our father made us feel safe and happy. Sometimes if I woke up in the middle of the night because of a nightmare, I would wake to the light coming from his office in our upstairs hall (that was my night light) and the sound of this typewriter, and this was my lullaby.

My sisters and I could



Alexander Brown

and should have listened to him more; he always had great advice. There was no one more excited over our successes than our father and no one sadder when things did not go well.

My father Alex was diagnosed with multiple myeloma 14 years ago. At first he was told he would never walk again. But he recovered, he walked – in a way I believed it was miraculous. With the cancer in remission he began a new chapter in his life, meeting Inge and creating a happy relationship and a busy social calendar.

Some of my father's lifelong dreams came true in these last few years with his unforgettable travels to Europe. His wish to have his family and friends come together is a desire that we are fulfilling here and now as we celebrate Alexander Brown's life journey.

THE GOOD WORD

When Man Questions God



Pastor Jacob Afolabi

Just as the first question God asked in the Bible concerns the whereabouts of the fallen man Adam, (Gen.3:9), question no.8 concerns the whereabouts of the man's next of kin, his brother, "...And the Lord God said unto Cain, where is Abel thy brother(Gen.4:9). This is a straight question to the conscience, which is being examined by the Divine voice. The use of the phrase, "Abe1, thy brother," directs the question straight to his heart, bypassing the mind. In Cain's response, therefore, he was duty bound to own up about the whereabouts of his brother.

But Cain had sinned, and he did not feel concerned about the welfare of the one

he had suddenly developed hatred for. He had murdered his brother, and his response, therefore, was not meant to accept that he had a duty to be concerned about his brother's welfare. He responded to God's question by posing his own question, in a spirit of wicked defiance. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

This was the very first question man asked in the Bible. It was directed to God. It was a question neither of ignorance nor of innocence, but the desperate action of one who felt trapped by the avenging Justice of God, and about to be convicted of his crime. Cain did not know that the blood of man, though covered, can still speak! (Hebrews 12: 24; Matt.23: 29-36; Luke 11: 46-51).

Let us now examine the full, implications of this question of defiance by Cain. "Am I my brother's keeper" ? This world can be likened to Cain, in their character and moral response to God.

"The world says NO!" Every man ought to keep himself. If he cannot keep himself he deserves to

perish. This is the doctrine of survival of the fittest. (John 5:5-8). There is a thought being developed these days that those who are too old or too sick to live and become burdensome on their families should be "helped" to die! Euthanasia; and those who are too poor to raise themselves up from the dust should be helped to become servants.... (Leviticus 25:25, 35, 39).

The world says NO! Every man has enough to do to keep himself. This is the gospel of selfishness, proclaimed and practiced by the world. To be selfish is to choose not to do good to others, and not to do good is to do harm. (Luke 17:3; Rom.14:10, 15)

The world says NO! Those who choose not to worship God, will instead start to worship self. This is the beginning of perversion, which ends up in worshipping others, (idols of men, beasts, things and beings in heaven or on earth). Self-worship is the direct opposite of self-sacrifice.

But, to the same question, God says YES

YES ! Because he is your brother. Even natural affection should prompt you to know where he is, or where he should be. God has brought all men together so that all of our lives we require each other's help, and we cannot avoid influencing each other. If God wants you to be alone He could have made you ALONE!!! (Ecc 1.4 : 9 , 10)

YES ! Because your brother may get lost if you do not keep your eyes and mind on him. Your common humanity should make you want to keep him. God has created a bond of brotherhood between all people, (Acts 17:24-26; Luke 15:32).

YES ! Because God expects us to love them. Faith commands us to preach the gospel of love which Himself preaches and calls on us to practice. (John 3:16; 1John 3:10.14).

We commit sins against god and man. On the first page of human history, Adam sinned against God, and his son Cain sinned against man, (his brother). Cain's religion was too refined to slay a lamb, but not too cultured to murder his brother-

The heart that will not respond to God will respond to self and will eventually be absorbed into Satan's evil purposes. All true religion involves, first of all, obedience to God's Word and acceptance of His guidance, and following closely after that is the cultivation of brotherly affection with all men... (Leviticus 19:18). Let brotherly love continue. Bishop Jacob Afolabi bishop@christschapel.com

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More Closures for Highway 417 Work

The following additional ramp and lane closures are now in place between Nicholas Street and the Highway 417/ Ottawa Road 174 Split as part of the Highway 417 expansion project:

- The eastbound Lees Avenue on-ramp is closed until spring 2018.
- The eastbound Nicholas Street on-ramp is reduced to one lane until fall 2015.
- The eastbound Vanier Parkway Riverside Drive off-ramp will be reduced to one lane until summer 2015.

Speed limits have been reduced to 80 km/h on Highway 417 from Nicholas Avenue to the Split in both eastbound and westbound directions, but all three lanes will be maintained in both directions during peak periods. There will also be intermittent lane reductions during off-peak periods. Signage is in place to advise commuters of traffic and road changes and motorists are reminded to use caution when travelling through construction zones. The Highway 417 expansion project, which began in May, will add an additional lane in each direction, between Nicholas Street and the Split.

Construction on the project will be completed by fall 2015. For further information please visit ottawa.ca. With all of the construction-related activities underway, residents are encouraged to be flexible with commuting times, stagger work hours or use other alternative means for travel. The public is asked to consider options such as transit, walking, cycling or carpooling. The City of Ottawa has tools on ottawa.ca to help motorists and transit users plan their routes and manage their commute including:

- Travel Planner at octranspo.com - transit users can chart and plan routes
- City of Ottawa Traffic Report - outlining citywide road closures, traffic restrictions and detours
- Interactive traffic map - showing construction areas and live traffic cams throughout the city
- Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) cameras along Highway 417
- Cycling maps and information - detailing bicycle pathways and lanes throughout the city.

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Their day in court

Cases can fall apart when children are too frightened to testify in court. So Cuso International volunteers are supporting their journey to justice in Jamaica...

Story and photos by Sean Kelly

Keisha* was worried that what happened to her would happen to her siblings. So the slight 10-year-old made the walk alone – even her mother didn't know – through the alleys and streets of West Kingston to the closest police station. Past the cinderblock houses capped with corrugated tin, past the tiny corner snack shops, past the local betting shop. "I had to go because my dad did something bad to me," she reveals in a soft voice. The young girl says she was raped by her father when she was six, and again when she was nine. Keisha lives in Jamaica. While tourists may know only one side of the Caribbean country – the turquoise seas, balmy beaches, rum and reggae – it is a diverse land ranging from bucolic rural rhythms

to blue mountain vistas to edgy urban beats. While Jamaica is rich in culture and history, it struggles with poverty and crime. With a population approaching three million – 30 percent of whom are children and youth – it has one of the higher murder rates in the world. Much of the violence takes place in Kingston, the nation's political and industrial capital. It's a colourful collage of modern buildings, colonial architecture, and the creative chaos of inner-city communities immortalized in the songs of music legends Bob Marley and Peter Tosh. These neighbourhoods can be dangerous, scarred by social problems and poverty of opportunity. And it is one of these so-called garrison towns that Keisha calls home. Courting change The alleged assaults (the case has not yet gone to court) would be terrible enough, but the girl's

journey into the Jamaican justice system can also be traumatic. Too many cases fall apart when youth are too frightened to testify – and the children usually go back to the same community as their now-freed attackers. "Children in Jamaica are, frankly, treated as just another witness, and they are often intimidated and don't get through their evidence very effectively," says Judge John McGarry, a retired superior court judge from Ontario who volunteered in Jamaica with Cuso International in 2011. "I sat in on a case, and I saw this 12-year-old sitting outside. Sitting across from her was the accused. There she was, having to go in and testify against the person who was staring right at her. She lasted about 15 minutes before she ran from the court room crying." During his volunteer placement, Judge McGarry worked with the office of the Chief Justice of Jamaica to learn about the situation of children in the court system, and make recommendations on how to better support youth. His ideas included children giving testimony on video, or at least behind a screen so they don't have to look at the accuser. The suggestions have helped shape a new Evidence Act that is winding its way through the Jamaica parliament. If approved, it will help make the process more child-friendly. It would complement the Childcare and Protection Act, which became law in 2004. The government has also

set up the Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse, a one-stop destination for child victims. "They can go there with police, be examined, meet with a social worker, give their initial testimony by video," says Judge McGarry, who has returned to the island at the request of the Jamaican government, to head the Justice Reform Implementation Unit. "I wish we had centres like it in Canada." A safe space School is over for the day, and Keisha is at the West Kingston satellite office of the Victim Support Unit, in a cement building with no sign outside to let on what is happening inside. Her orange school shirt tucked neatly into her blue skirt, she sits in a small room with comfortable chairs. A plastic kitchen play set is in one corner, and in another two small cloth dolls – a mom and a dad – peer from behind a stack of books. Keisha is talking to Jhodi Ann Bowie, a counsellor who offers emotional comfort. "You know that when your Dad is in court, he won't be able to hurt you, right?" reassures Jhodi, a calm, warm, but in-control presence. "Because everyone there is watching me to keep me safe," replies the girl, holding a pillow tightly in her lap. "That's what we're all there for, the police, mommy, and me, we're going to be there to protect you and to support you so you don't have to feel as scared.

And remember, anytime you're feeling nervous, just take some deep breaths." In the past, there was little or no support for children like Keisha, so Cuso International, the Jamaican Ministry of Justice's Victim Support Unit, the Office of the Children's Advocate and Unicef created the 'Children in Court' program. Cuso volunteers were instrumental in getting the initiative off the ground, and continue to be involved. While volunteers do not generally do frontline work, they help build the capacity of partner groups that offer such support. "We give the children emotional support through counselling sessions," says Jhodi, a trained social worker. "We don't coach them, we don't tell them what to say, we just answer their questions and try to make them feel comfortable so they can give their best testimony." She gets out the wooden model of a court room, different coloured pegs with velcro on the bottom stand in for the judge, lawyers, police, defendants and witnesses. "So do you remember who this person is in the court?" Jhodi asks the young girl. "The judge." "The judge, that's right. And these are the police officers, they are the ones that will come outside the court room and call out your name. And one of these lawyers..." "...is going to be with my dad." "That's right, and the other one is working for Jamaica to try and show that your dad did what you said he did." A voice to the voiceless Onyka Barrett, a Cuso International volunteer from Trinidad & Tobago, is working with the Ministry of Justice, helping implement and standardize the kids in court initiative across Jamaica. "You're seeing how

depressed children can get," says Onyka, "you're seeing how it's affecting them because they no longer have self-esteem, they no longer have confidence in themselves. That's why we support them, why it's necessary to help orient them, to tell them what to expect." "And once they know that, it reduces the level of fear that they feel, and they are better able to speak and give their evidence in court. Having a program like this gives the witness a voice in justice being served in their best interest." Cuso International also works outside the court system. Rafael Tahan is a volunteer from Montreal serving with the advocacy group Jamaicans for Justice. As a child rights advisor, she does research on children's rights, and talks to the media, to schools and to community groups to make human rights more visible in Jamaica. "The Jamaican government has signed international conventions on the rights of children, but we're concerned they are not fully implemented. It's important to make it visible, for people to know their rights. Children are the future. If we're not building this country with children, it won't grow." For Tarik Perkins, the coordinator of Cuso International's programs in Jamaica, justice is a development issue. "You can think of access to justice as the enabling environment for economic and social development. The poor need to have confidence in the system, that they can make a living and know there is recourse if they are robbed, or are victims of corruption." "With no security, no justice, it's hard to start a business or to grow a business. And we need youth involved in the economy, that's why we have this focus on children and young adults." Speaking in Trench Town, with Culture Yard, Bob Marley's old home, on one side and a community reading centre on the other, Tarik sees potential in the children that are playing in the street. "When you think of poverty in Jamaica, you think of places like this...lack of educational opportunities, limited healthcare, depressed economy, crumbling physical infrastructure. But look around, there is a community library that is an oasis for children, a cultural tourism business, a greenhouse." "People are working hard here, there is an entrepreneurial spirit. You can feel the hope." And it's why Cuso International is deepening its justice work in Jamaica. The Chief Justice of Jamaica believes the work is making a deep impact in her country. "Cuso International has made a tremendous difference to the lives of children and youth in our justice system," says the Honourable Zaila Rowena McCalla.



David McGuinty

Member of Parliament - Ottawa South Député - Ottawa-Sud

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If I can ever be of assistance to you, please contact my office. *Si jamais je peux vous aider, n'hésitez pas à contacter mon bureau.*

David McGuinty, M.P.

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Caribbean will dominate World Bank says

A new World Bank report predicts that in less than a generation, the Caribbean will be among developing countries dominating global saving and investment.

The World Bank's Global Development Horizons (GDH) report says that by 2030, half the global stock of capital, totalling US\$158 trillion (in 2010 dollars), will reside in the developing world, compared to less than one-third today, with countries in East Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean accounting for the largest shares. It says this is compared to less than one-third today, with countries in East Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean accounting for the largest shares.

The report explores patterns of investment, saving and capital flows as they are likely to evolve over the next two decades. Titled "Capital for the Future: Saving and Investment in an Interdependent World", GDH projects developing countries' share in global investment to triple by 2030 to three-fifths, from one-fifth in 2000.

The report says productivity catch-up, increasing integration into global

markets, sound macroeconomic policies, and improved education and health are helping to speed growth "and create massive investment opportunities, which, in turn, are spurring a shift in global economic weight to developing countries."

It says although demographics will play a "positive role, as dependency ratios are projected to fall through 2025," financial market development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which reduces precautionary saving, and a moderation in economic growth "will play a counterbalancing role."

With developing countries on course to add more than 1.4 billion people to their combined population between now and 2030, the report says the full benefit of the demographic dividend has yet to be reaped.

Entitled Capital for the Future: Saving and Investment in an Interdependent World, the report explores patterns of investment, saving and capital flows as they are likely to evolve over the next two decades.

"Legalise it," lobby groups urge

Marijuana lobbyists in Jamaica have issued an appeal to have the drug legalised or decriminalised, as the country is missing out on great economic benefits.

The Ganja Law Reform Coalition (GLRC) and the Millennium Council of RasTafari Houses in Jamaica held a press conference June 14 where they also called for the repeal of the laws to allow for the private, moderate use of marijuana.

The press conference was used to launch the International Cannabis Conference scheduled for late September. Assistant Millennium Council Secretary Tzdhne Ishigyht said the country did not need assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"If a country like Jamaica is growing Cannabis for export, we will have no need for the IMF, because the by-product from hemp can make garments, it can make a lot of healing products such as oils – the uses are endless. So ganja has a lot of commercial value other than just smoking it," she said. Jamaica recently signed a US\$932.3 million agreement with the IMF.

Canada and UWI Open Campus

Canada will assist young people in the Caribbean to gain greater access to post-secondary education. Foreign Affairs State Minister Ablonczy made the announcement in Antigua May 15 on behalf of International Cooperation Minister Julian Fantino, during her seven-day, seven-country tour of the Eastern Caribbean. The total contribution is \$19.6 million over five years (2013-2017).

"Canada is committed to helping countries in the Caribbean build a more prosperous and integrated community, generate sustainable economic growth and increase opportunities for its citizens," Minister Ablonczy said. "Helping the region's young people develop the high-level skills needed to contribute to the work force is a key step toward reaching those goals."

Canada's engagement in the Americas seeks to work with partners to advance three goals: to increase economic opportunity, strengthen security and institutions, and foster lasting relationships.

The University of West Indies (UWI) Open Campus will be the main implementing partner of this project. The UWI serves 16 Caribbean

countries and territories. Advances in communication technologies have helped to expand access to post-secondary education, reduce costs in learning resources, and reach learners in remote and rural communities. The project will help increase access to post-secondary education for remote and under-served communities at up to 42 learning sites across the Caribbean using

distance education technologies. The ultimate aim of the Strengthening Distance Education in the Caribbean project is to increase employment opportunities of Caribbean citizens and generate economic prosperity.

"The project will support economic growth and increased employment through the development of human capital," said Minister Fantino.



Mauril Bélanger
Député / M.P., Ottawa—Vanier

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Caribbean Runnins

Compiled by Karen Scantlebury

Tropical Storm Risk (TSR), which provides real-time mapping and prediction of tropical cyclone wind-fields worldwide, has released their June forecast update for the 2013 Atlantic hurricane season and the outlook continues to be bleak. The key factors behind the TSR forecast for an above-normal hurricane season this year are the forecast July-September trade wind speed over the Caribbean and tropical North Atlantic, and the forecast August-September 2013 sea surface temperatures in the tropical North Atlantic.

St. Vincent – Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves says implementing a fast ferry service in the southern Caribbean is a risk the private sector must take, with government assistance. "This is not as easy as some people think. It is a lot of money which is involved. In fact, the reason why you haven't had it, despite all sort of efforts, is because it is a difficult proposition," Gonsalves said at the recent 43rd special meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development.

Grenada – Grenada says it is willing to be a partner in the development and success of the regional airline, LIAT, only if the cash-strapped airline shows itself to be serious and cost effective. Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell said has made recommendations on improving the airline to the just concluded summit of leaders of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in Antigua. "We're prepared to make sacrifices but we will not be able to support a business if it cannot demonstrate that it can get its act together and provide what we believe is necessary; much cheaper transport and much more efficient transport to the OECS and the Caribbean region as a whole", Prime Minister Mitchell said.

Jamaica – Sprint giant Usain Bolt suffered a 100 metres defeat to resurgent American Justin Gatlin at the Rome Diamond League. In his first race of the season on the European circuit, the 26-year-old Bolt finished second in 9.95 seconds to Gatlin's 9.94. "I need two months to get ready so I am not worried," Bolt said. "It is always a good thing to lose. You can figure how to step it up. I knew I wasn't in great shape but I'm not worried. It takes time to get back into shape and I didn't expect much from this race." Bolt suffered a hamstring injury last month which hampered him in his opening race of the season in the Cayman Islands where he won with a time of 10.09 seconds.

Barbados – Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) has facilitated the development of a ground-breaking project that saw the first of ten Megapower solar carports being launched in Barbados. The project, which is being implemented by Caribbean Consultant Limited, is one of many regional initiatives that have received support from the agency under the direct assistance grant scheme (DAGS). Executive director Pamela Coke Hamilton said, "This project is one of many, which continues to demonstrate the private sector's efforts to introduce environmentally sustainable practices and alternative energy sources to fuel their businesses everyday needs."

Say It For The Month: Nobody never kick dead dog.

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