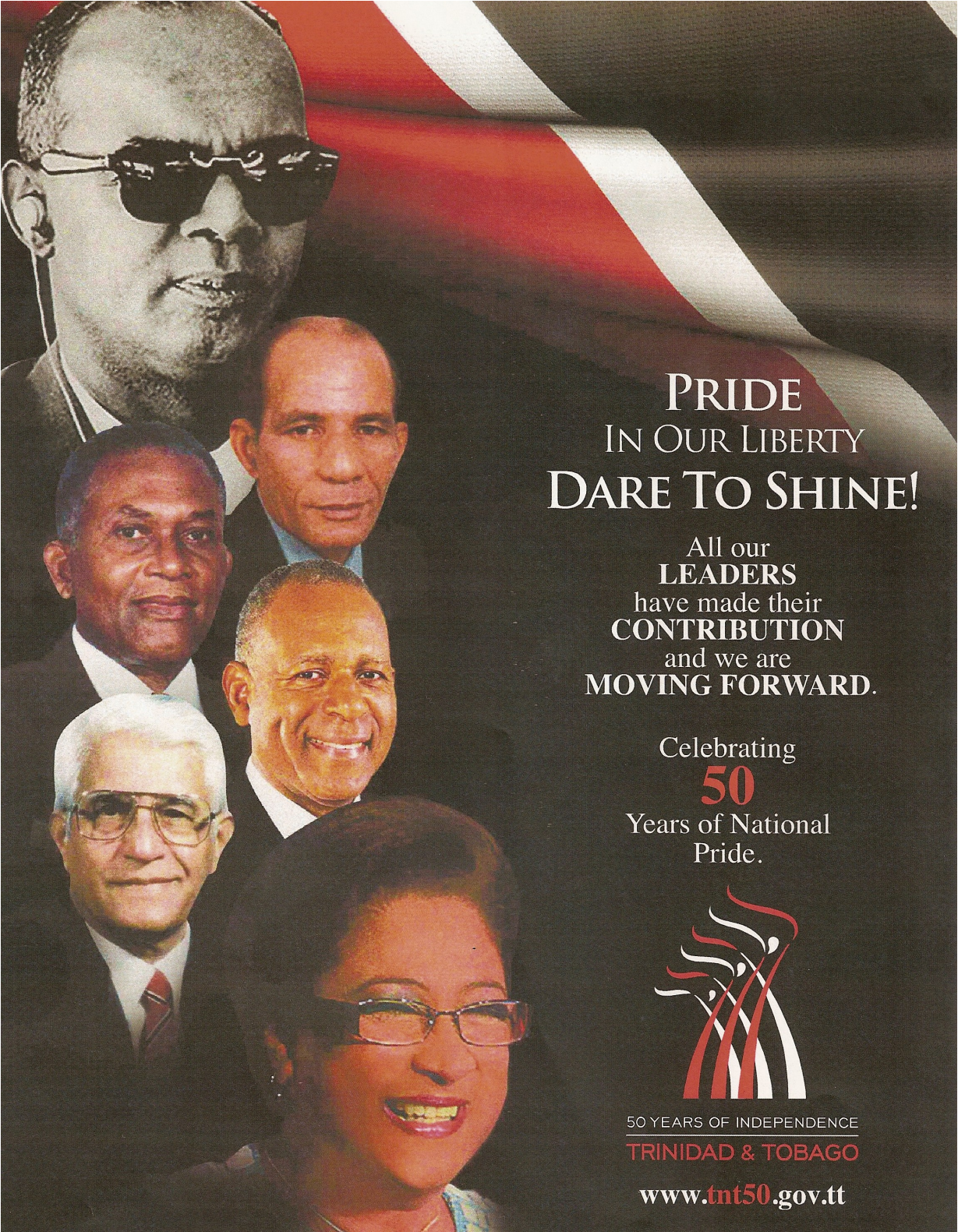


THE TRINIDAD & TOBAGO ASSOCIATION OF OTTAWA
CELEBRATES **50** YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2012

THE OTTAWA CONVENTION CENTRE
OTTAWA ROOM
55 COLONEL BY DRIVE, OTTAWA



PRIDE
IN OUR LIBERTY
DARE TO SHINE!

All our
LEADERS
have made their
CONTRIBUTION
and we are
MOVING FORWARD.

Celebrating
50
Years of National
Pride.



50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

www.tnt50.gov.tt



HISTORY OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Trinidad and Tobago's culture was heavily influenced by its extensive history. Prior to the discovery by Christopher Columbus in 1498, Trinidad was inhabited by Amerindian tribes consisting mainly of Caribs and Arawaks.

During Spanish rule, many French and Creoles from the islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe settled in Trinidad bringing with them Africans enslaved to work the plantations. When the British captured Trinidad in 1797, they met a country ruled by the Spanish with French speaking citizens.

With the abolition of slavery, a shortfall in labour for agriculture was met by indentured labourers from India, who arrived in Trinidad in 1845. They emigrated from Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Punjab and other provinces, and had both Muslims and Hindus among them. Chinese and Portuguese from the island of Madeira came as indentured labourers as well.

Many Syrian and Lebanese also came to Trinidad and played an important role in commerce, particularly in the textile and retail industries. Traders from England, Scotland, Germany, France and America, also came as salesmen, entrepreneurs and bankers.

Even then, Trinidad was considered a wealthy and cosmopolitan country. Tobago's history is very different compared to that of Trinidad.

The island changed hands several more times and was ruled at one time or another, by the Spanish, Dutch, French or British.

Named for the tobacco cultivated by the original Carib population, Tobago existed separately from Trinidad for centuries. While the explorer Christopher Columbus sighted the Island in 1498, he did not land and no attempts were made to colonize Tobago.

But long before European powers expressed interest in the island's strategic harbour and fertile soil, it was the centre of battles for control between the Carib population and other Amerindian tribes.

Later, in the 17th century, English, French, Dutch and even Courlanders (Latvians) fought to control the strategic island and it changed hands more than 30 times.

During British rule in the late 1600s, sugar, cotton and indigo plantations were established and thousands of Africans were brought to Tobago as slave labour. In 1781 the French invaded, but by 1814 the island was ceded to Britain.

In 1889, during a period of economic decline, Britain annexed the smaller Tobago to Trinidad as an administrative ward. The islands achieved independence from England in 1962 and became the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in 1976.

The base of Tobago's early economy was agriculture, but this was ravaged by severe hurricanes in 1847 and 1963.

Today the island is serene, yet the many forts and batteries that dot Tobago's landscape hint at a thrilling past.

(continued on page 2)



THE TOBAGO MAIN RIDGE FOREST RESERVE

The Tobago Main Ridge Forest Reserve is on record as the oldest legally protected forest reserve geared specifically towards a conservation purpose. It was established on April 13th, 1776 by an ordinance which states in part, that the reserve is "for the purpose of attracting frequent showers of rain upon which the fertility of lands in these climates doth entirely depend."

The passage of the ordinance is attributed to Soame Jenyns, a member of the British parliament whose main responsibilities were trade and plantation. He was influenced by the ideas of the English scientist Stephen Hales who was able to show the correlation between trees and rainfall.

It took Jenyns eleven years to convince the parliament that this was indeed a valid endeavour. Scientific American has commented "...that the protection of Tobago's forest was the first act in the modern environmental movement". This can be considered a landmark in the history of conservation and preservation of the environment.

The living testimony is the survival of the Forest Reserve itself. A unique feature of the fauna of Tobago is that although Tobago is an island, the fauna are continental in origin, since Tobago was once joined to the South American continent some one million years ago.

Considerable endemism has resulted; for example, 31% of the birds that nest on Tobago are endemics. Support of this unique biodiversity and exceptionally diverse ecosystem is of great value to humanity. In addition, it protects against soil erosion, it encourages rainfall and provides significant carbon sinks.

Source: whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5646/

HISTORY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Fierce slave revolts, bitter battles for control between European powers, attacks on European settlers by the Amerindian Indians who inhabited the island and pirates are all part of Tobago's rich history.

In 1629 an expedition of Dutchmen established a settlement which was annihilated by disease and the Amerindians. More settlers were sent in 1632 but an attack by the Spaniards four years later drove them out.

English Puritans also attempted to settle in Tobago, but many were killed by the Amerindians and the survivors driven out.

To learn more about Tobago's vibrant history please see the following books: History of the People of Trinidad & Tobago by Dr Eric Williams and Introduction to the History of Trinidad and Tobago by Dr Bridget Brereton.

Source: www.tdc.co.tt/



Tobago Main Ridge Forest Reserve



MILESTONES

THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

First Peoples

Circa 6500 BC - Rise of Amerindian villages across Trinidad and Tobago

Multinational Period

1498 - Trinidad claimed for Spain by Christopher Columbus

1592 - Rise of Spanish towns and villages across Trinidad

1776 - Tobago Main Ridge Forest Reserve proclaimed
(oldest in western hemisphere)

1783 - French Catholic settlers imported to increase European population

1797 - Britain takes administrative control of Trinidad

1806 - First Chinese immigrants arrive in Trinidad on the ship Fortitude

1814 - Tobago is ceded to the British

1834 - Abolition of slavery, First Portuguese arrive from Azores on the ship The Watchful

1845 - Indentured East Indian immigration begins

1866 - End of Chinese Indentureship Program

1888 - Tobago joined to Trinidad

1902 - First Arab (Syrian, Lebanese) settlers arrive in Trinidad

1917 - End of indentured East Indian immigration

1941 - War-time construction of US military bases in Trinidad

Nationhood Period

1956 - Self-government under Dr Eric Williams and People's National Movement

1962 - Trinidad and Tobago Independence (August 31)

1976 - Trinidad and Tobago becomes a Republic (August 1)



50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

DR. ERIC WILLIAMS THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

Born on September 25, 1911, Eric Williams was the son of Elisa and Henry Williams, a minor Post Office official in Trinidad. He was educated at Queen's Royal College and won the Island Scholarship to Oxford University.

At Oxford, he placed first in the First Class of the History Honours School and received his Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1938. His doctoral thesis, *The Economic Aspect of the West Indian Slave Trade and Slavery*, was considered an important contribution to research on the subject and was published in 1944 in Williams' *Capitalism and Slavery*.

Much of Williams' educational pursuits at Queen's Royal College and Oxford University is documented in his book, *Inward Hunger: The Education of a Prime Minister*. In 1939, Williams migrated to the United States to teach at Howard University. He became an assistant professor of social and political sciences and organized several courses, especially a humanities course for which he developed a three-volume work called *Documents Illustrating the Development of Civilization* (1947).

While at Howard, Williams began to work as a consultant to the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission, a body set up after the war to study the future of the region. In 1948, he left Howard to head the Research Branch of the Caribbean Commission.

Later, in 1955, he resigned from the Commission in protest against its crypto-colonialist policies. Williams returned to Trinidad and Tobago and became more involved in politics. His first major political speech was titled "My Relations with the Caribbean Commission" (1955).

(continued on page 6)



- 1888-1889 - Tobago is joined to Trinidad as a single Crown Colony
- 1914-1918- World War 1
- 1919- Captain Cipriani called on the workers to strike, resulting in the first important industrial strike in Trinidad
- 1924- The first major legislative reform which allowed for elected representation on the legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago
- 1925- Limited elections to the Legislative Council and to the governors Executive Council
- 1934- Captain Cipriani formed the Trinidad Labour Party, which promoted the ideals of self- government and anti-colonialism
- 1937- Butler Oilfield Riots, rumblings in the labour movement added to the growth in anti-colonial sentiment
- 1939-1945- World War 2
- April 1941- Legislative reform which created a more representative government, in which elected members had

the majority

- 1945- Universal Adult Suffrage instituted
- 1945-1960's- Decolonization: Many European powers granted independence to their colonies
- 1946- The first elections held under universal adult suffrage
- 1950- Butlers Party, (British Empire Citizens' and Workers Home Rule Party) won the General elections
- 1955- The formation of the People's National Movement
- 1956- People's National Movement won the elections and Dr. Eric Williams elected Chief Minister
- 1958- Trinidad and Tobago joins the British Sponsored West Indies Federation
- 1959- Britain granted Trinidad and Tobago internal self-government; Eric Williams named Premier from 1959-1962
- 1962- The West Indian Federation Collapsed
- August 31st 1962- Trinidad and Tobago gained
- Independence. Dr. Eric Williams became the First Prime Minister of the Island nation

NATIONAL EMBLEMS

THE NATIONAL FLOWER - THE CHACONIA

The National Flower, the Chaconia, (*Warszewiczia Coccinea*), called "Wild Poinsetta" or "Pride of Trinidad and Tobago" is a flaming red forest flower of the family Rubiaceae.

The title is in honour of the last Spanish Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, Don Jose Maria Chacon. This flower which is known by its long sprays of magnificent vermillion blooms on every anniversary of our Independence.



As an indigenous flower it has been witness to our entire history. It can therefore be said to represent the imperishability of life and the continuity of our Nation. With its colour matching the flaming red of our Flag and Coat of Arms, and bearing the same symbolism, the Chaconia harmonizes with the national Emblems



THE NATIONAL FLAG

Red is the colour most expressive of our country. It represents the vitality of the land and its people; it is the warmth and energy of the sun, the courage and friendliness of the people.

White is the sea by which these lands are bound: the cradle of our heritage; the purity of our aspirations and the equality of all men and women under the sun.

The Black represents for us the dedication of the people joined together by one strong bond. It is the colour of strength, of unity, of purpose and of the wealth of the land.

The colours chosen represent the elements Earth, Water and Fire which encompass all our past, present and future and inspire us as one united, vital, free and dedicated people.

THE NATIONAL INSTRUMENT - THE STEELPAN

The steelpan was invented in Trinidad and Tobago and is widely regarded as the only major musical (percussion) instrument to be invented in the 20th century.

The Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards describes the steelpan as "a definite pitch percussion instrument in the idiophone class, traditionally made from a steel drum or steel container.

The metallic playing surface is concave with a skirt attached. The playing surface is divided into convex sections by channels, grooves and/or bores. Each convex section is played by striking the pan with sticks to produce musical notes."



NATIONAL EMBLEMS CONTINUED

THE NATIONAL BIRDS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Scarlet Ibis

The Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus Ruber*) is a species of ibis that occurs in tropical South America and Trinidad and Tobago. The largest habitat of the Scarlet Ibis is the Caroni Swamp in central Trinidad. This beautiful bird is brown when young and, its colour changes to red when it is mature.



The Cocrico

The Cocrico (Red-tailed Guan or Rufus-tailed Chachalaca) is a native of Tobago and Venezuela, but is not found in Trinidad. It is the only game bird on the island of Tobago, and is referred to as the Tobago Pheasant. It is about the size of a common fowl, brownish in colour with a long tail.

National Emblems: www2.nalis.gov.tt

Dr. Eric Williams (continued from page 4)

A year later, Williams formed the People's National Movement (PNM), a political party of which he became the leader. In September of 1956, the PNM won the national elections and he became the chief minister of the country from 1956 to 1959, premier from 1959 to 1962, and prime minister from 1962 to 1981.

During his term as prime minister, Williams led Trinidad and Tobago into the Federation of the West Indies and to independence within the Commonwealth in 1962.

Williams died in office on March 29, 1981. Often called the "Father of the Nation," Williams remains one of the most significant leaders in the history of modern Trinidad and Tobago.

Reference: Eric E Williams Speaks: Essays on Colonialism and Independence- Edited by Selwyn R Cudjoe. Copyright©1993 by Calaloux Publications. Distributed by the University of Massachusetts Press.

OUR NATION IN NUMBERS

5 National Tertiary Level
Education Institutions (2007)
1 Nobel Prize Laureate
2 Miss Universe Titles
3 National Newspapers
5 Television networks
35 Radio stations (2007)
353 cars per 1000 people (2007)
593,000 internet users (2009)
Trinidad 1864 sq miles plus
Tobago 116 sq miles
468 Bird species
14 Official public holidays
18 Olympic Medals (1948-2012)
1.894 million+ cell phones (2009)
1.3 million people (2012 est)
50 years of Independence
Two Islands
One Nation

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Forged from the love of liberty,
In the fires of hope and prayer,
With boundless faith in our Destiny,
We solemnly declare,
Side by side we stand,
Islands of the blue Caribbean Sea,
This our Native Land,
We pledge our lives to Thee,
Here every creed and race find an equal place,
And may God bless our Nation,
Here every creed and race find an equal place,
And may God bless our Nation.

Mr. Patrick S. Castagne composed the words and music of the National Anthem in 1962. The words of the National Anthem reflect the nature and the strength of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, our courage as one nation working towards living in unity despite our diversity.

THE COAT OF ARMS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Coat of Arms of Trinidad and Tobago was designed in 1962, by a committee of distinguished citizens established to select and design the country's national emblems. Committee members included noted artist Carlyle Chang and Carnival Designer George Bailey.

The Coat of Arms Incorporates important historical and indigenous elements of Trinidad and Tobago. They are: The Shield, The Helm of special design, the Mantle which covers the Helm, the Wreath to hold the Mantle in place, the Crest, the Supports and the Motto.



At the top is the Crest - a ship's wheel in gold in front of a fruited coconut palm. This palm had always been the central figure on the Great Seals of British Colonial Tobago. Beneath the wheel is the wreath which holds the mantle in place.

The Helm is a gold helmet facing front which represents the Queen. The devices on the Shield are the two humming birds.

The three gold ships represent the Trinity - the discovery of the islands and the three ships of Columbus; the sea that brought our people together; and the commerce and wealth of our country. The colours of the National Flag are displayed on the Shield.

National Emblems: www2.nalis.gov.tt



PRIME MINISTER - PREMIER MINISTRE

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone marking the 50th anniversary of the independence of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

On August 31, 1962, the nation of Trinidad and Tobago raised its new flag for the first time. Canada is proud to have been one of only three countries to recognize its status on the very first day of its independence. Since then, as joint members of the Commonwealth and other international fora, Canada and Trinidad and Tobago have developed close and long-standing ties of cooperation and friendship. Our bilateral relations cover a broad range of sectors, including trade and security, and are strengthened by the more than 100,000 Canadians who can trace their roots to this Caribbean nation.

I would like to commend everyone involved with the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa for their contributions to building a strong and diverse Canada and for their efforts in organizing this celebration of history and community.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer you my best wishes for a most enjoyable and memorable celebration.

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.

OTTAWA
2012



112.ppt



Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario

September 1, 2012

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone celebrating the 50th anniversary of the independence of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Trinidad and Tobago community is an integral part of our rich cultural tapestry. This important event is an ideal opportunity to recognize the many vital contributions of Trinidadian and Tobagonian Canadians to enriching our society on many levels. As members of that community, you continue to make Ontario and Canada as a whole — an even better place to live.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the dedicated members and volunteers of the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa for their commitment to promoting Trinidadian and Tobagonian heritage and culture, providing educational and social programs, and for raising awareness of issues of concern among the community. Know that your efforts do much to enrich the quality of life of the citizens of Ottawa — and of all Ontarians.

As you gather to commemorate this special occasion, I encourage you to reflect on the rich heritage and traditions that define and distinguish your vibrant, dynamic community. Please accept my best wishes for a meaningful independence day celebration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dalton McGuinty".

Dalton McGuinty
Premier



Jim Watson
Mayor / Maire



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September 1st 2012

The Trinidad and Tobago
Association of Ottawa

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Members of Ottawa City Council, it is my distinct pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to the dignitaries, honorary guests and all those assembled here tonight to celebrate the auspicious occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of Trinidad and Tobago.

Five decades since Independence, Trinidad and Tobago has achieved remarkable economic success, as a highly industrialized nation, as well as the largest and most diversified economy in the Caribbean with a standard of living among the highest in the region.

Similarly, the Trinidadian and Tobagonian Community in Canada has contributed to the economic, social, cultural and political fabric of Canadian society. Canadians of Trinidadian and Tobagonian heritage are representative in numerous professions, in both the private and public sectors, in addition to being prosperous business owners.

Fellow Canadians Bas Balkissoon, Dr. Rita Cox and Hedy Fry, have all distinguished themselves in politics. Ian Hanomansing and Harold Hosein are well-known figures in journalism and television. The arts scene boasts famous cultural icons like Frances-Anne Solomon, RTI (Randall Thorne), Amanda Marshall, Glenn Lewis, K-os (Kheaven Brereton) and Keshia Chanté. The world of sports is dominated by celebrated athletes like Glenroy Gilbert, Gary Goodridge, Stephen Ames, the Toronto Raptors' Jamaal Magloire, and Trinidad and Tobago's own Lalonde Gordon, the Men's 400 metre Bronze Medallist at the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

This evening, Ottawans of Trinidadian and Tobagonian ancestry will have an important opportunity to pause and reflect, and take pride in their numerous professional, business, sports and volunteer achievements in our community, as well as the accomplishments of Trinidadians and Tobagonians from across Canada and in their homeland on the national and world stages.

As Head of Council, I want to thank the members of The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa, along with the sponsors, entertainers and volunteers for their dedication of time, efforts, talents and resources to the successful organization of tonight's festivities marking the golden anniversary of the Independence of Trinidad and Tobago.

Allow me to convey my best wishes to everyone in attendance for a most memorable and entertaining evening, as well as for a very successful 50th anniversary year.

Sincerely,

Jim Watson
Mayor

LETTER FROM
THE PRESIDENT OF THE TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
ASSOCIATION OF OTTAWA
INGRID JOHN-BAPTISTE



The Trinidad & Tobago Association of Ottawa joins with Nationals at home and abroad, as we celebrate the 50th Golden Jubilee year, the Independence anniversary of our twin island state.

At this pivotal time in our development, it is important that we reflect on that first independence day message delivered by our first Prime Minister, the Father of our nation - The Right Honourable Dr. Eric Williams. Noteworthy also that this year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birth.

In this spirit let us focus on his words, "I urge you. Let it always be so. Let us always be able to say, with the Psalmist, Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

The Father of our nation had a vision for his beloved country. In spite of many challenges, our nation has remained a melting pot of ethnicity and culture with an enviable capacity to work together, fostering a future for ALL.

Trinidad and Tobago has given to the world a unique street festival, which is gradually being duplicated on every continent, a unique musical instrument—the steelpan, as well as three musical sound innovations—calypso, soca and chutney. The world has taken note of our scholars, administrators, inventors, artists, athletes and above all the beauty of our people...ALL world class.

We have earned the right to celebrate with enthusiasm and passion. CONGRATULATIONS !!

Sincerely

Ingrid John-Baptiste

President



PROGRAM

COCKTAIL HOUR

MASTER OF CEREMONIES WELCOMES GUESTS

NATIONAL ANTHEMS

ADDRESSES BY THE HONORARY CHAIRS:

DR. RUDOLPH (RUDY) ORMSBY GITTENS,
ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON & SPORTS MEDICINE CONSULTANT

DR. GYAANDEO MAHARAJH,
CHIEF, DIVISION OF CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY
AT THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF EASTERN ONTARIO

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
ASSOCIATION OF OTTAWA,
MRS. INGRID JOHN-BAPTISTE

REMARKS BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO,
HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. PHILIP BUXO

DANCE PERFORMANCE: MISS CAMILLE LEWIS

REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE SENATOR,
REVEREND DON MEREDITH (ONTARIO)

REMARKS BY OTTAWA CITY COUNCILLOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR,
MR. ELI EL-CHANTIRY

BLESSING OF THE MEAL:
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER, ST. PATRICK'S BASILICA
MR. LESLIE KUMAR-MISIR



PROGRAM

DINNER

MASTER OF CEREMONIES INTRODUCES
THE GUEST SPEAKER, MISS JOANNE ST. LEWIS

ADDRESS:
MISS JOANNE ST. LEWIS

DANCE PERFORMANCE:
CULTURAL ARTS STUDIO SCHOOL OF AFRO-CARIBBEAN DANCE

PAN JAZZ DUO:
GARETH BURGESS AND KEITH DINDAYAL

DOOR PRIZES AND RAFFLE

VOTE OF THANKS: MR. KEITH ANATOL

DANCE

MENU

CARROT & GINGER BISQUE
ORGANIC CARROTS STEWED AND
BLENDED WITH YELLOW GINGER ROOT
OVEN BAKED FRESH CHERVIL PASTRY TWISTS TO DIP

BABY SPINACH AND CITRUS
TENDER BABY SPINACH, ORANGE MEDALLIONS
MANCHEGO CHEESE CURLS, LOCAL CRESS AND PETALS
MAPLE DIJON VINAIGRETTE

BRIE STUFFED CHICKEN SUPREME OR CHOICE OF VEGETARIAN MEAL
HERB RUBBED CHICKEN BREAST FILLED WITH SMOKED BRIE,
BATONS OF ZUCCHINI, BABY CARROTS AND SWEET PEPPERS
ROASTED CORN AND SAGE SALSA
SAUTÉED YELLOW FINGERLING POTATOES

APPLE BRÛLÉE CHEESECAKE
SUMPTUOUS CARAMEL AND SUMMER BERRY COULIS
BUTTERY GRAHAM CRUST



SENATOR DON MEREDITH
CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA
ADDRESS AT OTTAWA LAUNCH
OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
CARLETON UNIVERSITY, KALISH MITAL THEATRE
MAY 5, 2012

Members of the diplomatic corps, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Prime Minister and my colleagues in the Senate of Canada, I want to congratulate the twin island republic of Trinidad and Tobago on your 50th anniversary of independence.

It was 50 years ago that Trinidad and Tobago and my home island of Jamaica were the first British islands in the Caribbean to become independent nations, at the same time establishing diplomatic relations with Canada. Since then Trinidad and Tobago went one step further and became a republic within the Commonwealth. This testifies to the leadership role your country plays in the region until this very day.

Trinidad and Tobago, affectionately known as T&T, has become the home of a world class Carnival, which became the inspiration for other carnivals around the world, has become a major producer of petroleum and natural gas, has originated Calypso music, and has invented the steelpan, the only new acoustic instrument to be invented and accepted worldwide in the 20th century.

Looking forward, the government of Trinidad and Tobago has been clear with its ambitions of being a major player in the region and on the world stage. They envision the country as an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) centre. They have also sought to grow the economy by becoming an equal trading partner with regional and international partners. And this week they decided to move away from Britain's Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and adopt the Caribbean Court of Justice as its final court of appeal for criminal matters.

Tonight I join with you in celebrating everything Trinidad and Tobago has accomplished over the past half-century. What has been made clear is that in order for the Caribbean community to prosper, we will need leaders like Trinidad and Tobago to prosper. It is with this understanding that I believe Trinidad and Tobago can use its influence in the region to help make the Canada-CARICOM free trade agreement a reality. This agreement will go a long way in creating jobs and stimulating economic growth in both Canada and Trinidad and Tobago. I am working with our government to ensure this becomes a reality.

As you may know, Canada has been a major partner of Caribbean nations like Trinidad and Tobago especially in capacity building. Specific to your islands, Canada has provided assistance through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives and CIDA's Caribbean Program. It is our Government's desire to stand shoulder to shoulder as equal partners with countries like Trinidad and Tobago; not giving hand outs, but a hand up.

To quote the Governor General of Canada: "Trinidad and Tobago and Canada both know the importance of working together in a globalized world... [It is] Trinidad and Tobago's interest in creating a knowledge society and a learning culture and that will lead the country into the future".

In celebration this 50-year relationship, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, and Mrs. Sharon Johnston, as well as the Honourable Diane Ablonczy, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, made a state visit to Trinidad and Tobago earlier this week.



Continued from page 14

They were accompanied by a delegation of Canadians who helped to strengthen people-to-people ties with their Trinidadian counterparts. According to our Governor General, "These exchanges provided greater visibility for bilateral co-operation initiatives in various sectors, particularly in strategies promoting education and economic development."

While in Trinidad and Tobago, security co-operation announcements were made by Minister Diane Ablonczy. The Governor General witnessed the signature of a Corrections Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate information and personnel exchanges with Trinidad and Tobago, and of a Technical Framework Arrangement that will allow qualified Canadian companies to access commercial opportunities in the health sector.

You will be happy to know my office has been notified that Minister Ablonczy was very pleased with the outcome of this trip.

The State visit concluded with a keynote address by His Excellency at the University of the West Indies titled "Educating and Innovating in a Connected World". In his speech His Excellency noted: "...we cannot overstate the importance of education in our society. Trinidad and Tobago understands this and has worked hard, using innovative ideas and programs, to overcome obstacles to access to education. 'Education for all' is a mantra that I have heard here.

These three words mean everything to a young man or woman who dreams of building a better tomorrow. This is why I hope to encourage further ties between our two countries, ties that can begin right here.

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of our Government I want to thank Trinidad and Tobago for 50 years of close friendship and diplomatic ties with Canada. May the next 50 years be marked with great prosperity and blessings for both countries. God bless you and God bless Canada.





STATEMENT BY
THE HON. DR. HEDY FRY, P.C., M.P.
Vancouver Centre - Liberal Party of Canada
House of Commons, Ottawa, Canada.

June 8, 2012

***On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of
Trinidad and Tobago***

Mr. Speaker,

I stand to pay tribute to the land of my birth, Trinidad and Tobago, on its 50th anniversary of independence.

A small country of 1.3 million people, Trinidad and Tobago punches well above its weight in the Commonwealth and in the world.

Trinidad and Tobago is the original multicultural nation, its rich cultural diversity spawning renowned authors like Vidya Naipaul and Nobel Prize poet Samuel Selvon; bringing to the world calypso, limbo and the only new musical instrument of the 20th century, the steel pan.

Through effective long-term management of its natural resources, this little island is now one of the wealthiest countries in the Americas . It was recently removed from the OECD's list of developing countries and named the third best place in the Commonwealth to raise a female child. I am one female grateful for the excellent opportunities Trinidad and Tobago gave me as a child of poor parents.

On behalf of the Liberal caucus, I congratulate my fellow Trinnies on their 50th anniversary and echo the last verse of the national anthem: "Here every creed and race find an equal place and may God bless our nation."



STATEMENT BY
JOE DANIEL, P.C., M.P.
Don Valley East - Progressive Conservative Party of Canada
House of Commons, Ottawa, Canada.

June 13, 2012

Mr. Speaker,

I stand in the house today to congratulate the nation of Trinidad and Tobago on the 50th anniversary of its Independence. Trinidad and Tobago over the years has developed a great relationship with Canada.

Recently, our Governor General, His Excellency David Johnson, was in Trinidad and Tobago to officially convey our good wishes on behalf of the people of Canada. While he was there, he shared his great wisdom by addressing a faculty of the University of the West Indies.

Canada is privileged to have a community of people who are of Trinidadian and Tobagonian descent, some of whom live in my riding of Don Valley East. I am also pleased to say that my riding of Don Valley East has benefitted from their hard work, dedication and contributions to Canada.

I ask that all members of the house join me in congratulating His Excellency, Philip Buxo, High Commissioner of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and his delegation on this 50th anniversary. And may the future bring more growth and prosperity to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Thank you.



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ASSOCIATIONS OF OTTAWA

WE ARE
CARIBBEAN HUMMINGBIRDS
CARIVIBE
CLUB S.O.C.C.A
HURRICANE SPORTS CLUB
NEPEAN PANHARMONIC STEELBAND
3'S COMPANY

In collaboration with The Trinidad & Tobago Association of Ottawa, we have hosted a series of events in Ottawa to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of Trinidad & Tobago.

In the true essence of cooperation, we adopted the brand name *TrinbaGold50 - Our Twin Island Paradise*. (Name created by Maurice Taitt of Hurricane Sports Club).

We have taken ownership of our logo by including the name, Trinidad and Tobago Associations of Ottawa.

Our logo was designed by Trinidad & Tobago graphic artist, Ruby Ann Westfield, RAW Designs.

50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS IN OTTAWA

The launch of the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Independence Of Trinidad & Tobago with a Performance by LA PETITE MUSICALE of Toronto. "A GIFT TO YOU", A TRIBUTE TO TRINIDAD & TOBAGO. Saturday May 5, 2012, Carleton University, Kailash Mital Theatre.

Indian Arrival Day: Saturday, 26 May 2012.
Co-hosted by Caribbean Hummingbirds and TTAO at St. Mark Evangelist Anglican Church, 1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa.

CARIVIBE Beach Festival, Petrie Island, Orleans: Saturday, 16 June 2012. TTAO hosted a booth.

Independence 50 Family Day Picnic and Soccer Game: Sunday, 22 July 2012. Co-hosted by TTAO and Hurricane Sports Club, Trinidad versus Jamaica Soccer Match.

CARIVIBE Street parade, Orleans: 18 August 2012. TTAO sponsored a band. "TrinbaGold 50", which centres on the history, life and culture of T&T from slavery to Independence.

TrinbaGold 50 Day, The Good Companions Centre, Ottawa: Saturday, 25 August 2012. An exposition of culture, community and business.

Flag Raising Ceremony at Ottawa City Hall: August 31, 2012 at 11:00am. Hosted by The High Commission of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago.

Gala Dinner & Dance: Saturday, 1 September 2012. The final celebratory event at the Ottawa Convention Centre.



TOGETHER WE ASPIRE, TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our thanks to all donors and organizations for their support and contributions.

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The High Commissioner of The Republic of
Trinidad & Tobago in Ottawa, Mr. Phillip Buxo
The Consular General of The Republic
of Trinidad & Tobago in Toronto,
Dr. Vidhya Gyan Tota-Maharaj
Conrad Thomas
Voyages G Travel
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*Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped to make tonight's Gala a success.
Dr. Rudy Gittens, Dr. Gyaandeo Maharajh, The High Commissioner of The Republic of Trinidad &
Tobago in Ottawa, Mr. Phillip Buxo, The Hon. Senator, Don Meredith, Ottawa City Councillor & Deputy
Mayor, Mr. El El-Chantiry, Camille Lewis, Joanne St. Lewis, Keith Dindayal, Gareth Burgess, Cultural Arts
Studio School of Afro-Caribbean Dance, Sarah Onyango, Mr. Leslie Kumar-Misir, Naz Deen,
The Ottawa Convention Centre*

*We are especially grateful to everyone who volunteered at tonight's Gala
and all other 50th Anniversary events over the summer. We couldn't have done it without you.*

"All yuh real real nice... an sweet fuh so!"



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Family Picnic Day - Maurice Taitt, Carmen Dyer, Earlvin Dyer, Anne-Marie Bostic,
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Independence CARIVIBE Parade - Keith Anatol, Lena Baptiste, Anne-Marie &
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Independence Gala - Keith Anatol, Ingrid John-Baptiste, Lena Baptiste, Anne-Marie
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Earlvin Dyer, Judy Madhosingh, Carol Joseph



The Executive Committee
of The Trinidad & Tobago Association of Ottawa
would like to thank everyone who participated in the celebrations of
the 50th Anniversary of Independence of Trinidad and Tobago in Ottawa

We appreciate your continued support

Visit our website: www.ttao.ca
Contact us: tandtassociation@gmail.com



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contributed greatly to make our 50th Anniversary
celebrations a success*







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The Forum of Federations is an international governance organization founded in Canada and funded by nine other governments – Australia, Brazil, Ethiopia, Germany, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan and Switzerland.

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