



The CHACONIA

The TTAO Newsletter

January 2018

Volume 9, Number 1

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TTAO Committees

Chairpersons

Education

Dianna Pierre & Ingrid John-Baptiste

PR & Communication

Brenda Agard Alleyne & Carol Joseph

Membership

Molly Taitt

Social

Ingrid John-Baptiste & Rosanna & Trevor Lashley

Recreation

Carmen & Earlvin (Joe) Dyer

From the President's Pen

The Christmas celebration is now over and we are slowly returning to a life of normalcy, that is if we survive the polar vortex that we are in the midst of. We can take solace in the fact that Ottawans are not the only ones suffering this fate.

At the Planning Session of the newly elected Executive and Committee members, the following objectives were decided upon:

1. Grow membership (both seniors & millennials)
2. Increase cultural activities
3. Identify, through suggestion box or surveys, what activities our membership would like the association to focus on

The Executive immediately set in motion plans to achieve these goals. It was decided to host a "Meet and Greet" on Thursday, November 23, 2017 as a means of kick-starting our membership drive. Details of this event appear further on in this newsletter.

The increase in cultural activities is an ongoing endeavour, however, there are two activities this month that we would like to highlight. On Saturday, January 20, 2018, the TTAO will host a Pre-Carnival Dance and on Sunday, January 21, 2018, the National Arts Centre (NAC) will host a performance by one of the cultural icons of Trinidad & Tobago, Calypso Rose along with Kobo Town. The leader of Kobo Town is another Trinbagonian, Drew Gonzales, and together they intend to "bring the house down" on January 21st. The TTAO was invited to partner with the NAC in the promotion of this show and we are actively adhering to this request. It is hoped that you would support these events, both aimed at promoting the culture of Trinidad & Tobago. Details of this unique weekend appear further on in this newsletter.

We have proposed some activities for the association in 2017-2018. Some oldies such as the Health Seminar in April, Trinidad & Tobago Night at the Races in June and TrinbaGo Day in August have been retained. The full list of activities is published further on in this newsletter. We are inviting suggestions from our members as we are cognizant of the fact that there are those who prefer daytime or family-related activities. We are always willing to accommodate your suggestions, once practical and feasible.

The TTAO will also formalise a program that has been in existence on an ad hoc basis for the last few years. Pamela Antoine, Molly Taitt, Maurice Taitt, Lena Baptiste and Patricia Cholmondeley have been visiting some of our members who now reside at retirement homes/long term care facilities. In some cases they even bring them out to participate in some

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of the TTAO activities. This is a very noble and caring gesture on the part of these members and they are to be applauded for their efforts. We invite members to provide us with the names of nationals who may now be at institutions and who would appreciate a visit from the TTAO team. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with the visits.

Our webmaster Rose Leblanc has been doing a super job keeping our website current and interesting. Our Communications team of Carol Joseph, Brenda Agard Alleyne and Judy Madhosingh are kept busy maintaining our Facebook page, publishing The Chaconia Newsletter and preparing and vetting correspondence, all to keep our membership up-to-date and informed.

Molly Taitt, Lena Baptiste and Brenda Agard Alleyne have been hard at work with the membership portfolio. Our membership is growing and we are hoping that those of you who have not yet joined the association will do so at your earliest convenience.

The TTAO intends to maintain its relationship of collaboration and cooperation with the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission towards promoting the culture and interests of Trinidad & Tobago. Our association will also continue partnering with other Caribbean and mainstream organisations in the National Capital Region (NCR) in promoting activities of mutual interest.

The TTAO also continues to be an organisation which inspires its members to do great and wonderful things. Nazru (Naz) Deen, an eminent educator and a longstanding member of our organisation, published his book "No Better Life" in 2016-2017. 25 % of the proceeds from the sale of his book was donated to the TTAO's C.L.R. James Scholarship Fund. The 2017 scholarship winner was Sheniqua O, a resident student at the St. Dominic's Children's Home (hereafter called The Home) in Trinidad & Tobago. Naz's pebble in the water has had two distinct effects. Firstly, the fact that the scholarship fund to which he so generously donated was given to someone at The Home, inspired Greg Samuel, another TTAO member, to make a personal donation to the scholarship fund. Secondly, in reading the profile of Sheniqua, Naz's interest in the workings of The Home was peaked. He decided that he would host a celebration of "No Better Life" and anyone making a donation, would receive a copy of his book. The \$3,000.00 CDN raised at this event will be a surprise donation to The Home and will be presented to them in January 2018. The TTAO thanks Naz for his generosity and insightfulness to our nationals, both here and at home.

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Once again, we would like to thank the Executive of 2016-2017, under the leadership of then President Adrian Benjamin, for the dedication and hard work in the hosting and execution of last year's activities.

We, the Executive and Committee members, thank you our members and friends for your ongoing support and look forward to your participation by attendance at events, submission of suggestions or in whatever form you deem convenient.

Best wishes for 2018.

Ingrid John-Baptiste

President

TTAO Executive and Committees

TTAO Executive and committees for 2017-2018 will be kept busy planning another diverse and engaging year for you.

The TTAO has been in existence since 1983. The mission of the association is to promote and maintain the integrity of our cultural heritage and assist with the continuing development of nationals of Trinidad and Tobago. Congratulations are extended to the new members of the TTAO Executive Team, who will ensure that the association continues to thrive and maintain its purpose.

Your 2017-2018 Executive:

President:	Ingrid John-Baptiste
Vice President:	Dianna Pierre
Treasurer:	Anne-Marie Bostic
Secretary:	Rosanna Lashley
Asst. Secretary:	Judy Madhosingh
Floor Members:	Brenda Agard Alleyne, Carmen Dyer, Trevor Lashley

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Education Committee:

Dianna Pierre (Co-Chair)
Ingrid John-Baptiste (Co-Chair)

Social Committee:

Ingrid John-Baptiste (Co-Chair)
Rosanna & Trevor Lashley (Co-chair)
Lena Baptiste
Pat Cholmondeley
David & Anne-Marie Bostic
Carmen & Earlvin (Joe) Dyer
Dianna & Tony Pierre
Molly & Maurice Taitt
Suzanne & Errol Whittier

Membership:

Molly Taitt (Chair)
Brenda Agard Alleyne
Lena Baptiste

PR & Communications:

Brenda Agard Alleyne (Co-Chair)
Carol Joseph (Co-Chair)
Judy Madhosingh

Recreation Committee:

Carmen & Earlvin (Joe) Dyer (Chair)
Pat Cholmondeley
Judy Madhosingh
Glen Mason

Webmaster:

Rose Le Blanc

We are always looking for participation on these committees, which will increase chances of success. You are more than welcome to volunteer and/or share your ideas so please [contact us](#) if any peaks your interest.

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TTAO Activities Update

meet+greet



Meet and Greet

As an introduction to our membership drive, on Thursday, November 23, 2017, 60 plus members and friends of the TTAO, attended the Meet and Greet, hosted by the Executive and Committee Members. The event was held at the Trinidad & Tobago High Commission, 200 First Avenue, Ottawa.

The evening opened with a brief welcome by the President, followed by very enlightening remarks from His Excellency Garth Chatoor, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago to Canada. The President then presented a synopsis of what the TTAO has achieved and the direction that the organisation proposes to take this fiscal. The 2017-2018 Executive and Committee members were introduced and the list of proposed activities to be hosted by the TTAO was also presented.

There was positive feedback from many in attendance.

To those who missed, the event, please remember that your input is still appreciated. Please feel free to contact us via email at tandtassociation@gmail.com or by mail at P.O. Box 8401, Stn. T, Ottawa, ON K1G 3H8.

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Chaconia All Fours Club

The Chaconia All Fours Club usually meets monthly and these sessions are organised by the Recreation Committee, chaired by Earlvin (Joe) Dyer. It should be noted that All Fours is not the only game played as board games can be enjoyed by non-All fours players.

During the winter months (January – May 2018), the club will operate with less frequency, unless there is a great demand to do otherwise. The next scheduled dates are Friday, March 9, 2018 and Friday, May 4, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at the Overbrook Community Centre, 33 Quill Street, Ottawa.

For further information, please contact us via email at tandtassociation@gmail.com or call 613-424-1399 or 613-834-1718.



Children's Christmas Party

The Children's Christmas party is one of our more popular events. This year's event was held on December 10, 2017, in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission (TTHC), as well as through the generosity of a number of donors who donated cash or kind. Parents were asked to make a donation of \$5 to offset the cost of staging the party and also to bring a gift, valued no more than \$20, to be placed under the tree for distribution by Santa. As in the past, children from less privileged homes were sponsored and an invitation was also extended to their parents. In the past the TTHC provided the Santa gifts for these kids, however given the fiduciary constraints in T&T this was not possible. The TTAO, with the support of generous donors, were able to provide gifts from Santa for the 10 children in need.

The afternoon was an overwhelming success. It was difficult to tell who was having the most fun, the parents, the volunteers or the children. Of course a Children's Christmas Party would not be complete without

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Santa. Although it was a very busy time for "Old St. Nic", he took the time off from his busy schedule to visit the children at the TTAO Christmas party. From all accounts, he thoroughly enjoyed his time with them and he has promised to be back next year. Thank you Santa!!!!

The TTAO thanks the High Commissioner and Staff of the TTHC for allowing us the use of their facilities to bring Christmas cheer to so many children.

We would also like to thank the Recreation Committee for all their hard work in staging this popular and very successful annual event.

Some Useful Information.....

Legal services

The contact below is allowed to practice and address legal matters in Trinidad & Tobago for nationals residing in Canada. This information may prove useful in a time of need when a trip to Trinidad and Tobago is not feasible.

Gideon McMaster, Attorney at Law and Foreign Legal Consultant – 289-838-4350

What's on Around Town.....

Tune in:

Saturdays - CHUO 89.1FM (www.chuo.fm) and CKCU 93.1FM (www.ckcufm.com)

African, Caribbean and Latin American music and news.

Joe Sounds Calypso Oldies: Internet Radio featuring Calypso, Soca and Reggae (www.LIVE365.com)

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Member's Corner.....

To enhance what the TTAO can do for the community, we need your support so why not become a member? New members are always welcome! Does an event or committee peak your interest? If you are 16 years of age or older looking to get involved, then consider becoming a member and joining a committee that interests you the most.



Membership

As part of its succession strategy, the current Executive is making a special push for millennials to join the TTAO. The membership fee is only \$20 for individuals and \$40 per family (which includes children 17 years of age and younger). We encourage those who are not members or those who have not yet renewed their membership to do so at their earliest convenience. We have tried to make the process easier so although cheques, money orders and cash are still acceptable, payment via *Interac e-Transfer* is also an option to our Gmail account at tandtassociation@gmail.com. As well, the membership form is fillable online and can also be sent as an attachment to our Gmail account. We hope that our members will make use of these convenient features.

[TTAO membership form](#)

Just a reminder, the annual membership for the association runs from **September 1 to August 31. Your membership for 2017-2018 is now due.** Please think about renewing your membership if you have not already done so.



Greetings Members and Friends:

Here's hoping that you had a most enjoyable Christmas celebration with those dear to you.

Now that the hustle and bustle of the festive season is behind us and we are in the midst of a prolonged cold spell, let us think WARMTH. Treat yourself, your family and friends to two great "sunshine" events.

Saturday, January 20, 2018 - A Pre-Carnival Dance hosted by The Trinidad & Tobago Association of Ottawa (see details below).

Sunday, January 21, 2018 - Performance by [Calypso Rose](#) and [Kobo Town](#) hosted by the National Arts Centre (see details below).

Please make an effort to lend your support to both events.

Best wishes for a happy, prosperous and peaceful 2018.

From
The Executive of the TTAO





**The Trinidad & Tobago
Association of Ottawa**

Invites You To A

PRE-CARNIVAL DANCE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2018

AT : THE GOOD COMPANIONS CENTER

670 ALBERT STREET, OTTAWA

From: 8:00 p.m.

Music By : *David SuperSound*

Tickets : Advance - \$20.00 & \$25.00 : At The Door

For Info: 613-825-2742 | 613-850-0870 | 613-837-2411



NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS
Canada is our stage. Le Canada en scène.

**CALYPSO
ROSE**
WITH KOBO TOWN
WATCH VIDEO

JANUARY 21, 8 PM
Southam Hall
TICKETS FROM \$25.50

BUY NOW

Calypso Rose is the undisputed queen of Calypso music, reigning for more than 40 years. Originally from Trinidad & Tobago, Calypso Rose has enjoyed a long and celebrated career as the matriarch of the genre from which she takes her name. Rose's latest album *Far From Home*, in which she collaborates with French singer Manu Chao, received the French GRAMMY Award (Victoires de la Musique) for World Album of the Year.

Learn more...

The Trinidad & Tobago Association of Ottawa

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2017-2018 EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2017

meet+greet



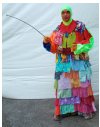
Thursday, Nov. 23: 'Meet and Greet' TTAO Executive and Committee Members, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Trinidad & Tobago High Commission, 200 First Ave., Ottawa

DECEMBER 2017



Sunday, Dec. 10: TTAO Children's Christmas Party, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Trinidad & Tobago High Commission, 200 First Ave., Ottawa

JANUARY 2018



Saturday Jan. 20: Pre-Carnival Dance, 8:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., The Good Companions Seniors' Centre, 670 Albert Street, Ottawa

MARCH 2018



Friday, March 16: TTAO General Meeting – Location to be confirmed

APRIL 2018



Date and venue to be confirmed: Annual Health Seminar

MAY 2018



Date and venue to be confirmed: Indian Arrival Day event

JUNE 2018



Thursday, June 21: Trinidad and Tobago Night at the Races, from 6:00 p.m., Rideau Carleton Raceway, 4837 Albion Road, Ottawa

JULY 2018



Sunday, July 26: TTAO Family Fun Day / Kites for Cancer, Petrie Island, Orleans

AUGUST 2018



Sunday, August 19: TRINBAGO Day, from 12:00 noon, Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue W, Ottawa



The Carivibe Grand Street Parade is moving to downtown Ottawa on Saturday June 16th!

More info here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1206768966122055/>

Reach The Beach - Canada's Biggest & Best Beach Party will now take place on the last Saturday in July, and it's **FREE!**

More info here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/154659995163508/>

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Reach The Beach - Canada's Biggest & Best Beach Party
will now take place on the last Saturday in July, and it's **FREE!**



carivibe

presents

REACH THE BEACH

CANADA'S BIGGEST AND BEST BEACH PARTY....and it's FREE!

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY JULY 28TH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Orléans (Ottawa), Ontario – On Saturday July 28th 2018, from noon to 10pm, thousands of Ottawa residents and guests from around the world will REACH THE BEACH for the highly anticipated annual celebration of Caribbean culture in the Nation’s Capital. Taking place on the beautiful Petrie Island in Orléans, this hidden gem nestled on the banks of the Ottawa River, boasts two of the nicest and largest beaches in the area.

Kick back and enjoy an ice cold RED STRIPE, plus a variety of smooth tropical beverages in our licensed Rum Shack. Indulge in the finest island cuisine from Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, Guyana, Dominica, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Haiti, Turks & Caicos, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Dominican Republic and more.

Music by an all-star DJ line up playing today’s hits and yesterday’s throwbacks in SOCA, Dancehall, Reggae, Afro Pop and Top 40 will get you in a jamming mood as boats pull up shore to check out the vibes. Before you know, you will be wining on our sandy dance floor, a sea of hands in the air pumping to the sounds of the World’s best party rocking Caribbean DJ’s.

Beach volleyball and beach soccer matches are heating up! The teens are loving our All-Ages Beach Dance Party and the Kiddies are having a blast in our Carnival village, filled with bouncy rides, inflatables, face painting, mascots and games. In short, there will be something for everyone and every age group.

We look forward to welcoming you to Canada’s biggest and best beach party!

[#ReachTheBeach2018](#)

[#SaturdayJuly28th2018](#)