



The CHACONIA

The TTAO Newsletter

February 2019

Volume 10, Number 2

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From the President's Pen

Greetings:

Undaunted by the sub-zero temperatures and the inordinate quantity of snow, the Executive and Committees (Social/Recreation et al) have been working feverishly to complete the roster of activities for the TTAO during the year 2019, details of which are outlined further on in this "mini-newsletter".

The TTAO has been engaged in acts of kindness both here and in our homeland. At the SOCA Parang event on November 4, 2018, patrons donated items of non-perishable food for the Ottawa Food Bank. Also, on January 10, 2019, a presentation was made to the Living Waters Community in Trinidad & Tobago, the organisation to which the TTAO Flood Relief funds was donated. More details appear later on in this newsletter.

On January 15, 2019, H.E. Garth Chatoor, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to Canada demitted office and returned to Trinidad with his wife, Mrs. Dianne Chatoor. During his term of office, H.E. Chatoor was always welcoming to the TTAO and offered full support of our activities. We all remember the well-attended collaborative effort between the TTHC and the TTAO in the hosting of TrinbaGo Day 2017, as part of the Ottawa Welcomes the World project hosted by the City of Ottawa. We thank H.E. and Mrs. Chatoor for the support that they offered our community and the TTAO and wish them the best in their future undertakings.

Last year, there was a significant increase in the membership of the association and we are reminding those who have not yet renewed their membership, to do so as soon as possible.

As always, we thank you for your patronage of the TTAO over the years and look forward to your continued support.

Ingrid John-Baptiste
President

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TTAO Executive and Committees:

TTAO Executive and committees for 2018-2019 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.

Your 2018-2019 Executive:

President:	Ingrid John-Baptiste
Vice President:	Dianna Pierre
Treasurer:	Andrew Williams
Secretary:	Sharon Pierre-Louis
Asst. Secretary:	Judy Madhosingh
Floor Members:	Brenda Agard Alleyne, Anne-Marie Bostic and Jocelyn George-Francois
Past President:	Adrian Benjamin

TTAO Committees Chairpersons

Culture and Educations

Dianna Pierre
Ingrid John-Baptiste

Social Committee:

Ingrid John-Baptiste
Rosanna Lashley
Trevor Lashley

Membership:

Molly Taitt

PR & Communications:

Brenda Agard Alleyne
Carol Joseph

Recreation Committee:

Carmen Dyer

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Earlvin (Joe) Dyer

We are always looking for participation on our 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.

Save the Date.....



May 4, 2019: Spring Fling, Ottawa Masonic Centre, 2140 Walkley Road, Ottawa (see flyer at the end of this newsletter)



June 23, 2019: Trinidad and Tobago Evening at the Races, Rideau Carleton Raceway, 4837 Albion Road, Ottawa



August 18, 2019: TrinbaGo Day, Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue, Ottawa



September 21, 2019: Republic Day Dinner and Dance, RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa



TTAO General Meeting (Date to be determined)

Contact Us

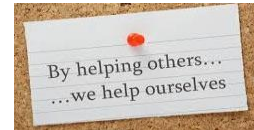
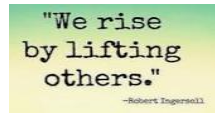
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TTAO Members and Friends are the best.....



TTAO Flood Relief Fundraiser

We are proud to announce that the funding drive initiated by the TTAO to assist the victims of the October floods in Trinidad and Tobago, raised \$2, 698.60 (CAD), thanks to your generosity. A cheque in the amount of \$12,630.00 (TT) was presented to Rhonda Maingot, Director of Living Water Community, by Mr. Keith Anatol, TTAO member, on January 10, 2019. In addition to presenting the cheque, Mr. Anatol took the opportunity to provide Ms. Maingot with background information on our association.



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We would also like to thank Clarence John-Baptiste for donating the exchange bank charges of \$277.00 (TT).

Together we aspire, together we achieve!



Ottawa Food Bank Drive

The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa (TTAO) would like to thank everyone who donated to our food drive at the Soca Parang event held on Sunday November 4th, 2018. Because of your generosity, Dianna Pierre, Vice-President (centre) and Tony Pierre, Social Committee Member, presented five boxes of food to Casandra Wood (left), of the Ottawa Food Bank, on November 6th, 2018. This was the TTAO's way of replenishing items utilized by citizens who were negatively impacted by the tornadoes which hit our region on September 21st, 2018.

Bravo to everyone who contributed to the success of this worthy cause.

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TrinbaGo Humour.....



Her: "Take me to one of those fancy restaurants where they make the food in front of you"...

Me:



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When yuh eating your roti
and see yuh cousin who like
to beg reach



TRINI'S  BELIKE

CAN I



YOU A QUESTION ?

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Explore Trinidad and Tobago.....

Knolly's Tunnel



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Knollys Tunnel, near Rio Claro in south-east Trinidad was named after the then acting Colonial Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, Sir Clement Courtenay Knollys KCMG, who officially opened the new railway tunnel on 20th August, 1898. The official Governor at the time was Hubert Edward Henry Jerningham (1897 – 1900) whose name was given to the line's Junction (Jerningham Junction) where the Rio Claro Line left the Southern Main Line. The opening of the tunnel not only celebrated a railway link with Tabaquite less than a mile beyond the tunnel, but the engineering of the tunnel itself which, at 660 feet in length, was by far the longest in the Trinidad. Over 220 people, including several high ranking dignitaries, turned out to witness the ceremonial opening.

The Rio Claro line closed the same day as the San Fernando line on 30th August 1965. On that day emotions ran high during the passage of the last train when the people of Caparo, angry because of the decision to discontinue their rail service, stoned the train and blocked the line at Jeffers Halt. It was by far the most violent reaction to the closure of the railway, but it many ways mirrored the true sentiment of a population who wanted it retained but did not use it enough for it to survive. The Rio Claro line was only 67 years old when it was closed.

After many years of neglect, Knollys Tunnel was partially restored by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. On Tuesday 13th August 1991, the Minister of the Environment and National Service, Dr. the Honourable Lincoln Myers, reopened the tunnel as a national heritage site.

Both of the commemorative plaques have been removed from the southern end of the tunnel. 20th August 2018 marked 120 years since the official opening of Knollys Tunnel.

Bamboo Cathedral



In the Tucker Valley in Chaguaramas is the Bamboo Cathedral, a 300 metre stretch of roadway where the bamboo stalks bend towards each other above the road. Their tops form arcs reminiscent of those found in cathedrals. Several watercolours by Michael Jean Cazabon (b. 1813 d. 1888), Trinidad's great nineteenth century artist and National Hero, were painted on this trace, now known as Cazabon Trail. The "Cathedral" has remained the same for over 150 years.

Cazabon Trail meets the main Tucker Valley Road on the way to Macqueripe Bay. The trail leads to a satellite tracking station overlooking the bay. The valley was named after the Tucker family, one of the original owners of the estate.

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Bioluminescence at Bon Accord Lagoon, Tobago



Once a little-known secret, some now come from around the world to see these tiny, wondrous creatures, called dinoflagellates, which emit a biochemical reaction when disturbed, creating a phosphorescent glow underwater. Some fans of bioluminescence travel the world visiting the natural phenomena, and many have been astounded at the experience at the Bon Accord Lagoon.

There are two hour tours available during which visitors are given a chance to swim, paddle and revel in the warm water of the lagoon while learning about the many other marine species which live there. The lagoon is also home to the protected Hawksbill turtle.

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Inspiration Corner.....



KINDNESS CREW: (L-R) Britney Woods, Rene Rampersad, Jurshelle Andrews, Chelsea Jacob and Tia-Marie Dellamore

Five 13-year-old girls from Woodbrook Secondary School threw a surprise birthday party on Tuesday January 22 for a homeless man who frequently sits outside the school.

Jurshelle Andrews, Chelsea Jacob, Rene Rampersad, Britney Woods and Tia-Marie Dellamore didn't think much of their act of kindness,

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they just wanted to make the elderly man, whom they call Uncle Carlos, smile.

Andrews said, "I talk to him on a regular basis. One day last week I was coming from Rituals. He told me Tuesday was his birthday, so I got together with my friends to plan the party."

The students, who are all in the same form two class, often lime together in the morning as they usually arrive early at school on French Street, Woodbrook. Andrews told her friends about Carlos' upcoming birthday and they planned the party together.

Jacob, whose five-year-old sister had a party over the weekend, brought leftover cake and party bags. Dellamore pitched in some money to buy more snacks for Carlos.

On Tuesday, the girls had a free supervised period, so they asked their teacher if they could go across the road to Massy Stores where Carlos sat.

The girls sang Carlos "Happy Birthday" as they handed him chocolate cake. Carlos clapped after they sang, and told them he was 66. "Uncle Carlos always says, 'Good morning, Woodbrook,' and asks us how our day was. When he talks to me he brings a smile to my face, so I was returning the favour," Andrews said. The spirit of generosity and charity is not unusual among Woodbrook Secondary students.

Acting principal Wendell Pujadas said he is not surprised that his students were so kind, as the foundation of the school's value system is based on respect, integrity, caring, honesty and fair play.

"We are very proud of this innocent and civic-minded act of kindness. In a society like Trinidad, where we are void of empathy and compassion, it's great to see our students are so kind," Pujadas said.

The girls hope to continue helping people in their careers. Andrews wants to be an architect and build homes in Africa so no one there will ever be homeless. Jacob wants to be a doctor and travel the world as a cheerleader so she can help people. Rampersad and Woods also want to be doctors, and Dellamore wants to be a

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successful businesswoman so she can build hospitals and homes in Haiti.

Excerpt from Newsday.co.tt

Carnival 2019.....

Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago is on March 4 & 5, 2019 so the revelry is now in full swing. As Iwer once sang, "is fete after fete after fete".

History of Carnival and its Elements

Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago is celebrated before the commencement of the Lenten season. From 1783 for half a century, the French developed their Carnival, which was noted to be a season of gay and elegant festivities extending from Christmas to Ash Wednesday. These festivities consisted of dinners, balls, concerts and hunting parties.

The Africans started to participate in the festivities from 1833 after the Emancipation Bill was passed. The Africans brought Canboulay to its festivities. Canboulay was first played on August 1st, Emancipation Day, but subsequently took place after midnight on Dimanche Gras, the Sunday before Carnival.

In early celebration of the festival by the masses, activities were held over the three days preceding Ash Wednesday. However in the face of over 60 years of criticism from the upper class about the low standard of Carnival and strong feelings expressed about the desecration of the Sabbath, in 1943 Carnival on the street was restricted to the Monday & Tuesday.

Your feedback and comments are always appreciated.

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Feedback.....

Interested in contributing to the next newsletter? Would you like to provide comments or suggestions to the TTAO? Send us an email, write us a letter or put a posting on our Facebook page and tell us what you think!

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Carnival Calendar of Events 2019

JANUARY		
1 4PM	TUCO Annual Cooler Fete Queen's Park Savannah	
25 10AM	National Junior Calypso Monarch Final Queen's Park Savannah	2 7PM
		National Panorama Finals Medium and Large Queen's Park Savannah
FEBRUARY		
15 7PM	National Stickfighting Preliminaries TBA	3 7PM
		Dimanche Gras (Showcase of Mas, Pan & Calypso) Queen's Park Savannah
16 1PM	National Panorama Semi-Finals (S) TBA	4 4AM
		Jouvert Port of Spain
17 1PM	National Panorama Semi-Finals (M&L) Queen's Park Savannah	4 9AM
		Monday Traditional Parade Queen's Park Savannah
18 7:30PM	National Extempo Preliminary TBA	4 1PM
		Senior Parade of Bands Carnival Monday Port of Spain
21 7PM	Senior Kings & Queens Preliminaries Grand Stand, Queen's Park Savannah	5 7AM
		Senior Parade of Bands Carnival Tuesday Port of Spain
22 7PM	National Stickfighting Semi Finals TBA	5
		Pan on the Road, Mas & Las Lap All Regions
23 12NOON	Calypso Fiesta Skinner Park, San Fernando	9 8PM
		Champs of Steel Plus Queen's Park Savannah
23 10AM	Red Cross Kiddies Carnival Grand Stand, Queen's Park Savannah	
24 3AM	National Junior Panorama Finals Queen's Park Savannah	
24 7PM	Arima Panorama Princess Royal Basketball Court	
24 9AM	Junior Kings & Queens Preliminaries Adam Smith Square	
26 5PM	Rapso Explosion TBA	
26 10AM	Junior Roving Tent TBA	
27 7PM	Traditional Individual Adam Smith Square	
27 7PM	National Stickfighting Finals TBA	
28 7PM	Terrific Thursday Kaisorama Queen's Park Savannah	
28 7PM	National Finals Small Conv. Bands Skinner Park, San Fernando	
28 7PM	Conventional Individuals Competition Adam Smith Square	
MARCH		
1 4AM	Re-enactment of Canboulay Riots Piccadilly Greens • POS	
1 9AM	Dragon Festival George & Prince Streets	
1 12NOON	Traditional Carnival Characters Parade Memorial Park, Victoria Square & Woodford Square	
2 7AM	Republic Bank Junior Parade of the Bands Queen's Park Savannah	

2019 CARNIVAL SCHEDULE



SCHEDULE AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The Trinidad & Tobago Association of Ottawa

Invites you to a

SPRING FLING

"A Trini Ting"

Saturday, May 4, 2019

Ottawa Masonic Centre

2140 Walkley Road, Ottawa

From: 8:00 p.m.

Music by: David SuperSound

Tickets: \$15.00 (advance) \$20.00 (door)

Dress in bright spring colours

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