

# The CHACONIA The TTAO Newsletter

June 2019 Volume 10, Number 3

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# **Contact Us**

tandtassociation@gmail.com info@ttao.ca

or

The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa P.O. Box 8401, Station T Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H8

#### From the President's Pen

#### Greetings:

Dare I say that Spring has arrived? Although it hasn't shown a consistent appearance, don't be dismayed as the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa (TTAO) has a slate of interesting events, which would bring on the heat in full force!

On Sunday, June 23, the TTAO will once again host Night at the Races at the Rideau Carleton Raceway Casino. You are invited to spend a relaxing Sunday afternoon entertained by the Nepean Panharmonic Steelband, while enjoying TrinbaGo cuisine and placing bets on your favourite horses.

Plans are afoot to make TrinbaGo Day an experience to remember. We are aiming to "up the ante" in every facet for this event. We will keep you apprised as plans materialize, however, your best bet is to keep **Sunday, August 18, 2019** free for an afternoon of educational enhancement and FUN! FUN! FUN and all for FREE!!! A flyer has been included in this newsletter.

Saturday, September 21, will be the end of the social activities for 2018/2019. The TTAO will celebrate Republic Day with a Dinner-Dance at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa. The Guest Speaker for the event will be Dr. Sade Francois, the 2015 recipient of the C.L.R James Scholarship Award, and a 2019 financial contributor to the TTAO's Scholarship Awards initiative. The TTAO is very proud of Sade, as she is now pursuing her residency at The University of Illinois College of Medicine. More importantly however, is her desire to pay it forward in appreciation of the help that she received from the association. You won't want to miss this event to hear the message from this remarkable and inspirational young lady. A flyer has been included at the end of this newsletter.

Have a wonderful and safe Summer and I hope to see you at many, if not all, of our TTAO events.

Ingrid John-Baptiste

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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**

#### **Culture and Educations:**

Dianna Pierre, Ingrid John-Baptiste, Andrew Williams, Sharon Pierre-Louis

#### **Social Committee:**

Tony and Dianna Pierre, Sharon Pierre Louis, Andrew Williams, Judy Madhosingh, David and Anne-Marie Bostic, Lena Baptiste, Pat Cholmondeley, Carmen and Earlvin Dyer, Joycelyn George-Francois, Molly and Maurice Taitt, Rosanna and Trevor Lashley, Suzanne and Errol Whittier, Ingrid John-Baptiste

#### **Membership:**

Molly Taitt, Joycelyn George-Francois,

#### PR & Communications:

Brenda Agard Alleyne, Carol Joseph, Rose Leblanc

#### **Recreation Committee:**

Carmen and Earlyin Dyer, Judy Madhosingh, Pat Cholmondeley,

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#### Glen Mason

#### **Humanitarian (Visits to Shut-Ins):**

Pat Cholmondeley, Lena Baptiste

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.



# TTAO Games Evening......

Fun! Fun!, there's no better descriptor for the TTAO Games Evening held at the Overbrook Community Centre on Friday May 31st. Jacks were hung with flair, pizzazz and the occasional "Happy Dance". "So Long I Eh See Yuh" was sung as a welcome to some of our members who graced us with their presence, after a lengthy stay in Trinidad – yes it was the return of the snowbirds. Delicious Trini delectables satisfied the palettes and the constant laughter punctuated the enjoyable time had by all. There was so much laughter that perhaps the next event could be classified as a "comedy evening" featuring, you guessed it, our very talented members, some of whom could give any late night talk show host a run for their money.

Please look out for the next games evening because you definitely won't want to miss it.

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## Save the Date......

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

**July 28, 2019:** Community Family Fun Day Picnic & Kites for Cancer, Petrie Island Beach, 727 Trim Road, Orleans. A flyer can be found at the end of the newsletter.

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).

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# Scholarships.....



This year the TTAO will award three scholarships:

- C.L.R. James Scholarship Award (minimum \$750.00)
  - Serviam Scholarship Award (\$750.00); and
- Dr. Sade Francois Scholarship for Young Black Women (\$1,000.00).

The TTAO is inviting applications from eligible and interested parties, **no later than midnight on July 15, 2019**. This year the criteria have been extended to include Associate members, who shall:

- consist of persons other than nationals of Trinidad and Tobago who express an interest in the functioning of the Association;
- not hold any position on the Executive Committee;
- not have voting rights; and
- pay a minimum annual contribution.

The Scholarship Application Forms and the Guidelines are available on the TTAO website. Further information can be obtained by sending an email to tandtassociation@gmail.com or by calling 613-834-1718.

#### Why we keep doing what we do......

I was sincerely honoured to have been selected over the past 5 years as the recipient of two TTAO sponsored scholarships; one being the C.L.R. James, and the other being the Friends of Serviam Ottawa. By receiving these scholarships, my financial burden with school was lightened, allowing me to focus on my studies towards achieving a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering.

I am pleased to inform you that I have completed my education at Carleton University, and will be graduating in June of this year. I have also recently began a job in my field of expertise as a Project Designer (Structural), Engineer In Training. I also plan on pursuing a Master's Degree in the not too distant future.

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The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa P.O. Box 8401, Station T Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H8 The generosity I have received has not only helped me personally, but it has inspired me to help others and give back to the community, and I hope that one day I will be able to help others achieve their goals as the TTAO has done for me. Once again, I sincerely thank you and the TTAO for your generous gift.

Sincerely yours, Lyndsey Simard

## In Memory of......



Horace Carter migrated to Canada from Trinidad and Tobago in 1967. He initially lived in Montreal and later moved to Ottawa, where he worked with the Royal Canadian Mint for many years. Horace was an

ardent photographer and his camera was never far away from his shoulder. He loved his twin island state and often reminisced by listening to the calypso music of yester years. He never developed a musical relationship with the newly evolved sounds of the 80s and 90s however, as Soca was simply not his idea of good calypso music.

Horace was a devoted member of the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa (TTAO). As he was a very quiet person, he was not seen at many of the social events hosted by the association but contributed his way by attending meetings and always renewing his membership. Even when he was placed in a Long Term Care Facility, he insisted that his membership with the TTAO be maintained.

Horace lost his battle with Alzheimer's Disease on May 7, 2019. The Executive and members of the TTAO extend sincere condolences to Steven, Terrence and Christina as well as other members of the Carter family.

May he rest peacefully.

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## Inspiration Corner......



#### Trini teen accepted by 17 US universities

From the Trinidad Guardian of March 15, 2018. Written by Jesse Ramdeo.



Formerly homeless student Dylan Chidick of Jersey City and his Mother Khadine Phillip

He migrated from this country at a young age and has been dominating headlines in the United States after he was accepted into not one, not

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or

The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa P.O. Box 8401, Station T Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H8 two, not even three but 17 universities.

At just seven years old Dylan Chidick, along with his mother and younger twin brothers, left their home in Point Fortin in hopes of a brighter future in the United States.

However, not long after settling in New Jersey the family began falling on hard times. During a Skype interview with Guardian Media Limited Dylan explained how challenging life had become "my family went through a lot, many would look at me and say that I won't achieve my goals". The family's situation would then take a sharp turn for the worse when Dylan's younger brothers were diagnosed with serious heart conditions.

Mounting medical bills subsequently forced the family into periods of homelessness. Dylan described the family's new struggle as scary "we lived among disabled people, and others suffering from various illnesses, we had to adapt and were forced to comply with certain conditions, it was difficult for us all but I tried not to show how it affected me."

Despite the insurmountable obstacles Dylan and his family faced, he never forgot his dream to achieve. Instead of hanging his head, the Jersey City student began shouldering some of the load which was weighing his family down heavily. "When we lived in the shelter I took advanced school so that the next year which is now I would be able to leave school early. I would get up by 6.30, leave the house by 7.30 then take the train and drop my brothers to summer camp, from there I'd go to school from 8.30 to 12.30 and then from 1 to 7 pm I will work at the recreation centre. I worked at the pool as a locker room attendant and I basically clean up after people and after that, I'd go home and do my homework."

Dylan rose to become senior class president at Henry Snyder High School, now the 17-year-old son of the soil has gotten acceptance letters from 17 of the 18 universities he applied to.

From a homeless teen enduring financial struggles with his family, Dylan is now proof that through determination and hard work you can accomplish all your goals.

He intends to visit home later this year, but in the meantime, he wants students who may have their backs against the wall to "push through and don't let your dream out of sight, keep working until you've accomplished your goals."

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## TrinbaGo Humour......





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## On the Bookshelf......



The Bus Stories is a compilation of the unique and varied experiences that the author shares about her trips using her country's public transport. Uncertain travels set the stage for the series of unexpected events that are chronicled in The Bus Stories. These stories meander along a pathway that is shaped by the actions and attitudes of the characters depicted in them. To Greet or Not and The Anatomy of Good Morning invite the reader to re-examine some societal norms that persons take for granted. As the reader journeys on, he or she is introduced to Saved by the Bus and encounters another character Living off the foolish/Making a Living - a common sight in any busy thoroughfare. The reader gets glimpses into the cultural realities of the author's world and how these are displayed in That is how we is! and This seat could be mine. Though some of those realities may seem harsh, the author reminds us that even in our busyness, we can still find time to care for others and notice our fellow travellers. No passenger left back and Crossing one's path reinforce that idea. Before The Bus Stories can be completed, the reader is treated to another exciting experience aptly called, Too hot for the journey. As the meandering lessens and the road ahead is more visible, we are presented with hope- an adolescent's declaration that The best man is an honest man.

Having given you the opportunity to explore the vagaries of using public transport daily, the author encourages you to join her as she reflects Going Beyond the Book. Each of these stories completes the puzzle that is The Bus Stories, but can be read as a stand-alone piece to be enjoyed. Get your copy from Pendium Publishing, online and regular book distributors

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## Did You Know?.....



A Bill recognising The Double Chaconia as Trinidad and Tobago's national flower was passed in the Senate on May 7, 2019. The National Emblems of TT (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill was passed with the support of both the Opposition and Independent benches.

The previous national flower was The Chaconia, also known as Wild Poinsettia or Pride of Trinidad and Tobago.

#### Tobago Fun Facts:

Tobago's first British capital was named Georgetown and was located further along the windward coastline of Tobago, near Studley Park.

Fort Granby is the second oldest fort on the island. It was built in 1765 to protect Tobago's first capital, Georgetown.

The Tobago West Main Ridge Forest Reserve is the oldest of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. On April 13th, 1776, Governor Sir William Young signed an ordinance making this unique attraction the first ecological Rain Forest Reserve.

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# Local Gardening Find.....

#### Trinidad and Tobago Pimento (Seasoning) Pepper plants

No need to request the most used cooking pepper from home, as you can now grow your own. Visit J.A. Laporte Flowers & Nursery, located at 455 Famille-Laporte Ave. (off Old Montreal Road, Orleans), to purchase your plants and give your meals the ultimate Trini flavor.

# Carivibe 2019.....Yuh Hooking Meh....



**OTTAWA CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL GRAND STREET PARADE** 

tandtassociation@gmail.com info@ttao.ca

or

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### Contact Us

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The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa P.O. Box 8401, Station T Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H8 Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>
Downtown Ottawa, Wellington St. to Laurier Ave.
12: p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The TTAO will be teaming up with Club S.O.C.C.A to bring out "Mas is Mas" for the street parade. Costume and registration are only \$45.00, and includes cold drinks and snacks on the road. Details can be found in the flyer at the end of this newsletter. There is a special on now so contact 613-850-0870, 613-220-9920 or 613-791-0870 for further details.

# Due to the recent floods in Ottawa, Petrie Island will not be functional in time for Carivibe weekend. CARIVIBE 20TH ANNIVERSARY BLOCK PARTY

Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> 255 Centrum Blvd, Orleans 2:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Tickets available here:

https://www.ticketgateway.com/event/view/carivibeblockparty

Children 12 and under - FREE

There will be 15 hours of non stop entertainment to keep you moving! Featuring an All Star International DJ Line Up on our Main Stage playing Soca, Dancehall, Reggae, Afro & Caribbean Dance.

Music vibes by Willy Chin, Ryan Sayeed, DJ Ana, Crown Prince, Jester, Spex, Brandan Duke The DJ, Mace, DJ Kevin, Smartiez, Sweet Chunes, Production Sounds, Tytus, Eazy El Dee, Jae D Squared, DJ Peets, Dr. T, Kendee & Ty Ty

Visit the Latin Street Party stage and enjoy Bachata, Kizomba, Salsa Romantica and Latin Dance Workshops, brought to you by A.S.A Dance Production

Meet the Carivibe Grand Street Parade Masqueraders, taste delicious Caribbean Food, Tropical Drinks and Ice Cream. Indulge in our Rum Shack and enjoy the sweet sounds of our Steelbands and Riddim Section.

Be sure to take part in "The Likkle Wine Challenge".

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The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa P.O. Box 8401, Station T Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H8 There will also be a place for kids (12 and under) to enjoy face painting and other activities at the Kiddies Carnival Village.

Visit <a href="https://www.carivibe.com/about">https://www.carivibe.com/about</a>, their Facebook page "Carivibe Festival Ottawa" or their Instagram page "Carivibe" for further details.

## 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.



#### **Reminder**

The annual membership for the association runs from **September 1st to August 31st**. **Your membership for 2018-2019 is now due.** Please think about renewing your membership if you have not already done so.

TTAO membership form



#### The TTAO's website & Facebook page

You are encouraged to visit our <u>website</u>. The new and improved site provides updated and current information on Trinidad & Tobago and brings you information on the upcoming activities of the TTAO and other sister organizations and details of past events.

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The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa P.O. Box 8401, Station T Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H8 Our webmaster, Rose LeBlanc, ensures that <a href="ttao.ca">ttao.ca</a>, with its artistically inviting look, offers authentic and up-to-date information.

Please remember to like our Facebook page. Carol would be more than happy to see the number of likes increase.

Our Facebook page is at https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Trinidad-and-Tobago-Association-of-Ottawa-TTAO/157550578878. Your feedback and comments are always appreciated.

### 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!



# NIGHT AT THE RACES

Sunday, June 23rd, 2019

From: 6:00 PM

Tickets: Adults: \$39.99 Kids: (6 - 12) \$19.99

THE EVENING INCLUDES:

Trinidad & Tobago Cuisine All You Can Eat Live Harness Racing

Racing Program Silent Auction Door Prizes and Surprises

Entertainment: Nepean Panharmonic Steelband

Part proceeds to the TTAO's C.L.R. James Scholarship fund that benefits students in Ottawa and Trinidad and Tobago

INFO: Info: 613-850-0870; 613-834-1718; 613-834-4282 Email: tandtassociation @gmail.com | Web: ttao.ca



4837 ALBION RD WWW.RIDEAUCARLETONCASINO.COM

Must be 19 years of age or older with valid government issued photo ID to enter the Clubhouse dining room and the casino, 19 - 25 requires 2 pieces of ID to enter the casino

# SAVE THE DATE SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2019



Presents

# Trinbago Day #8

JEAN PIGOTT HALL, OTTAWA CITY HALL 110 Laurier Avenue West From: 12:00 NOON TO 7:00 PM

Showtime at: 1:00 pm

# Celebrate the Rich Diversity of Trinbago Culture

# **Featuring**

# Live Entertainment All Day

Bring the entire family to experience Trini-Centric cuisine and hospitality

## Admission Is Free

INFO: Info: 613-850-0870; 613-834-1718; 613-834-4282 Email: tandtassociation @gmail.com | Web: ttao.ca

## Join The Band

# Saturday, June 15, 2019

In Ottawa

For CARIVIBES 2019

## Grand Street Parade

This band has 4 sections

CLUB S.O.C.C.A. & The Trinidad & Tobago Association of Ottawa

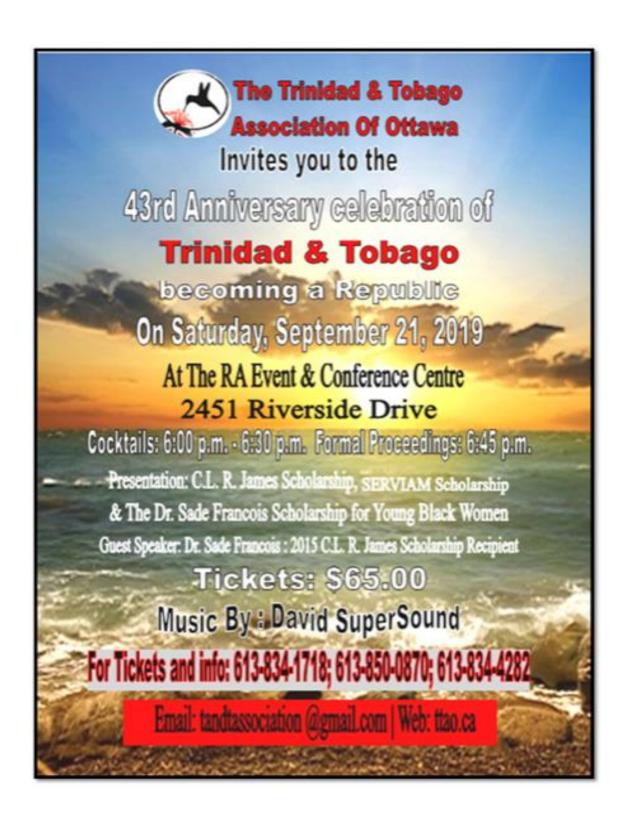
PRESENTS SECTION (1)



Costumes + registration: \$45.00 Total Includes: cold drinks and snacks on the road

(Please note that, Participants are asked supply their own: WHITE Pants long or short Pants or Tights, Knee high or long)

Please register by May 25th. 2019 For More Info: 613.850.O870 | 613.220.9920 | 613.791.0870 clubsocca@gmail.com | dlovebos@yahoo.com





Sunday, July 28th 2019

13th Annual

COMMUNITY FAMILY FUN DAY PICNIC

From: 12.00pm To 7.00pm

At: Petrie Island Beach - 727 Trim Road Orleans/Ottawa, ON.

Come fly your kite with us

Caribbean Food, Games & Live Entertainment All Day

Info: clubsocca@gmail.com