

April 2011



The Antigua and Barbuda High Commission Official Newsletter

A newsletter produced by the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission
London for nationals and friends of Antigua and Barbuda

Issue 142

Barbuda to name beach after late Princess

**"Each
Endeavouring
all
Achieving"**

Inside this issue:

New Airport Terminal at Coolidge 3

A Cricket Partnership with Essex and Antigua and Barbuda 5

From 1st January 2012 Old Style Passport no longer 9

Antigua and Barbuda Census 2011 10

New Lighting for Barbuda Airport 15



CODRINGTON, Barbuda, Wednesday April 6, 2011 –

Officials on Antigua's sister isle are in the process of naming a stretch of beach after the late Princess Diana, as speculation increases about where the elder of her two sons, Prince William, and his bride-to-be Kate Middleton will choose to honeymoon.

Barbuda has had the royal seal of approval, as the K Club there was a favourite holiday escape of the late Princess and a young Prince William and Harry.

"We have had consultations on the matter and we are working on naming the beach along the K Club, in honour of Princess Diana," Barbuda Council Chairman Kelvin Punter said. "If the royal couple were to visit

here on their honeymoon that would be an added incentive. It would add the kind of prestige we are hoping to generate to this project."

The British media reported this week that the Middleton family has been in "discreet talks" with a resort on Barbuda. Lighthouse Bay Resort, located on a private peninsula with acres of deserted beach, is understood to be the property of interest. It is accessible only via helicopter or boat.

"It is a beautiful part of the world and has some very happy memories for William but most importantly for him and Kate, it is strictly off limits to non-guests," a Middleton family friend told a British paper on Sunday.

The ceremony to mark the occasion is scheduled for July 1, which would have been Diana's 50th birthday.

Royal Wedding....Friday 29th April 2011

Her Excellency Dame Louise Lake Tack, GCMG, Governor General, His Excellency Dr Carl Roberts and Mrs Pauline Roberts were among the 1,900 guests who watched Prince William and Catherine Middleton exchange vows at Westminster Abbey Friday, 29th April.

Following the ceremony, Dame Louise was among six hundred special guests of honour to attend a special reception at Buckingham Palace, hosted by Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Phillip in honour of the newlyweds while members of the Diplomatic Corps to include His Excellency the High Commissioner and Mrs Roberts attended the reception at Lancaster House which was hosted by The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs the Right Honourable William Hague and Mrs Hague.

High Commissioner's Message



His Excellency Dr Carl B Roberts
High Commissioner to the Court of St James's
October 2004

Migration:A good or bad thing?

As someone growing up in the Caribbean in the 1950s it was not uncommon to be reminded that some members of the family (close or extended) had gone to live in the UK, USA or Canada. Not that a few of our family members did not leave Antigua and Barbuda to live elsewhere in the Region. This, however was not as prevalent.

It was a much anticipated joy especially at Christmas time to look forward to that gift from "overseas" or that letter which brought such relief to the tight budgets of many struggling households.

It was not until I was somewhat older and going to secondary school that I encountered such

terms as migration and emigration. No doubt each of my readers realizes immediately why I am using the first word in this message. Migration refers to the relocation of citizens of one country to reside in another for long periods. A very good example of the above is the mass migration from the West Indies in the 1950s and 1960s. Now many generations later there are many descendants of these early migrants making the journey homeward to the Caribbean to retire.

In the second of three reports produced by the Ramphal Commission on Migration and Development various aspects of this movement of people in today's Commonwealth are examined. The second report is prepared by Professor Elizabeth Thomas-Hope of the University of the West Indies, Mona. The report was published in May 2011 and has as its focus "action to reconnect historical links".

Although, I cite this report here, the main focus of this message is to initiate worthwhile discussion on the subject highlighting the issues, benefits and associated risks. Each of these can be expanded to produce a series of articles over time.

According to the International Organisation for Migration's World Report' the number of

international migrants was estimated at 214 million in 2010. This phenomenon is driven by characteristics in the environment from which individuals depart or those in the environment to which individuals move. It may be initiated by events such as war, natural or non-made disasters, persecutions (real or perceived) or simply motivated by search for greener pastures.

In the earlier part of my message I have already alluded to one of the benefits associated with Migration: i.e., the repatriation of hard earned foreign exchange to developing countries by their citizens living in the more developed countries.

In this first of my series of articles I propose to look at the issue of Migration from the vantage point of foreign exchange earning, that is the repatriation of funds from the country of residence by the migrant to the country of his birth. In some instances this fund is used to support members of the migrant's family at home to maintain a standard of living above subsistence. In others articles I will deal with the Brain Drain, the 3 T's of Migration, Risk Mitigation, Human Rights balancing and a few others.

His Excellency Dr Carl Roberts attends Commonwealth Day Ceremony at Westminster Abbey on Monday 14th March 2011



Seen above H. E. Dr Carl Roberts, High Commissioner and Miss Ayanna George, Flagbearer on Commonwealth Day

**Commonwealth Day:
“Women as Agents of Change”**

His Excellency Dr Carl Roberts and Mrs Roberts attended the Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey on Monday 14th March 2011.

New Airport Terminal at Coolidge

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua – April 15, 2011.....Chairman of the China Civil Engineering and Construction Company CCECC Mr. Liu Zhiming has pledged his company's intention to produce a new airport terminal at the V.C. Bird International Airport of good quality and deliver to the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda on-time.

The CCECC delegation lead by Mr. Liu Zhiming held a special meeting with Prime Minister the Hon. W. Baldwin Spencer, Tourism Minister the Hon. John Maginley, Ambassador David Shoul, Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority Mr. Gatesworth James, Architectural Consultant to the Airport Authority Mr. Johann Hesse and Engineer Consultant to the Airport Authority Mr. Bernard T. Lewis.

CCECC Chairman Liu Zhiming said that his company is pleased to

work with the government of Antigua and Barbuda on this very important project and will live up to the standards expected of a modern airport facility. The CCECC constructed the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium for the 2007 World Cup.

“New Airport

Terminal at Coolidge”

Prime Minister Spencer during the discussions said that his government is delighted to have the delegation in Antigua and Barbuda to sign the framework agreement for the construction of the new terminal building which he views as an important developmental project for the country.

“Antigua and Barbuda is heavily dependent on tourism and as such it is important for us to ensure that the gateway is welcoming and convey a positive first impression to lure tourists back to our nation. It gives us the opportunity to expand our reach and encourage other airlines to come to Antigua because of the facilities we have,” said PM Spencer.

“As you stated, your idea is to deliver and to deliver on time. We have seen your work and dedication in working with the people of Antigua and Barbuda with the cricket stadium. And we are pleased with the outcome of that venture. We have no doubt that you will work with us as we undertake this project.”

The country's leader also pointed out that his government wants the project to be undertaken in a manner in which the people of Antigua and Barbuda and the construction company can work together to see it to completion.

“We look forward to further cooperation. The objective is to enhance the airport to make it modern and one that also represents an injection of capital into the economy which is very important at this stage,” outlined PM Spencer.

It is anticipated that construction work on the new facility will commence before the third quarter of the year.

Antigua and Barbuda honours Sixty Years of Service To Tourism



Earlier this year, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Dr. The Honourable Baldwin Spencer hosted a cocktail reception in honour of two senior members of the diplomatic service who recently retired, Miss Madeline Blackman; Consul General to Canada and Dr. Werner Giersch, Honorary Consul to Germany.



Government Ministers, members of the diplomatic service, permanent secretaries, representatives from the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Tourism and other tourism stakeholders gathered at the Prime Minister's Office on Thursday 3rd February 2011 to pay tribute to the two retired diplomats; Miss

Madeline Blackman and Dr. Werner Giersch. In addition to their diplomatic roles, the two also functioned as tourism directors for their respective markets.

Miss Madeline Blackman began her distinguished career working for the Antigua Tourist Board at 18 years of age. In 1977 she left Antigua and went to Canada to work at the Antigua & Barbuda Tourist office. While in Canada Miss Blackman earned a degree in Communication Arts from Sinclair College and rose through the ranks until her retirement after 43 years of public service. Miss Blackman is a highly respected figure in diplomatic and tourism related circles.

"She is described as the consummate public servant who commands the respect and admiration of her peers. A perfect example of the traditional values of honesty, fairness and commitment to the work of Government" said the Prime Minister.



Dr. Werner Giersch came to Antigua and Barbuda in the late '70s to work as a consultant on an OECS tourism related project for the European Union. As

a result of his expertise he was invited to take up the position of Honorary Consul and Director of Tourism in Germany; the position he held for 23 years. Dr. Giersch and his small team in the German Office worked tirelessly to promote Antigua and Barbuda in Germany and throughout Northern and Eastern Europe.

The Prime Minister in addressing the gathering commended both public servants, "They are perfect examples of what dedication, hard work and commitment are all about. And whether they are retired or not they will always make significant contributions to the service of people."

Mr. Colin James, CEO of Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority expressed his gratitude to Miss Blackman and Dr. Giersch for their work in the area of tourism. "It is important to recognize the efforts and achievements of those who went before us. It is the hard work and diligence of people like Madeline Blackman and Werner Giersch that has helped to build our tourism industry to the level that it is today. They set the standard and we applaud them for their efforts."



“Cricket Partnership with Essex”



Director of Tourism for the UK & Europe, Hilary Modeste and David East, Chief Executive of Essex County Cricket Club sign agreement on 6th April

As a major sponsor of the Essex County Cricket Club, Antigua and Barbuda will receive a high level of brand exposure when thousands of spectators attend matches during the cricket season and for the remainder of 2011.

Boundary advertising boards in prime TV spots, posters throughout the grounds, strong web presence and “Antigua Days” at matches, are components of the extensive coverage package that have been agreed.

The UK & Europe Director of Tourism said: “The UK team is always looking for new and innovative ways of proactively promoting Antigua and Barbuda, that will reap tangible returns on our investment.

“We are capitalizing on our historic ties with cricket to raise our profile in the Essex community and the wider UK. With our office based in Essex, our

aim is to ingrain ourselves into the minds of individuals in the county.

“National television coverage will also allow us to get inside homes of sports lovers throughout the UK, and deliver our message to persons in the household. We want to become their first choice when considering a holiday abroad.”

Modeste added that, Antigua and Barbuda being associated with one of the leading county clubs in the UK was a feat that would not go unnoticed.

He said: “We are already receiving publicity from our association with the team.”

Players of the Essex 1st team squad that include famous and talented England players Ashes hero Alastair Cook and Essex Cricket Captain James Foster, posed with Modeste and marketing manager Cherrie Os-

borne, during a media day this week.

The photo appeared in the sports section of the East Anglian Daily Times with the caption promoting the sunny island destination f Antigua and Barbuda as an alternative to the grey skies in Essex.

Cricket fans will learn more about Antigua and Barbuda when the full colour advertising boards are unveiled at the grounds for the start of the cricket season. The season starts April 8.

James Foster, Captain of the Essex Cricket team said: “In 2010, we were fortunate to play in front of packed crowds wherever we played our cricket in Essex. The atmosphere that is generated at our one-day games, especially Twenty20 is second to none.”



Barbuda Council's Committee for Tourism Develops New Program.....

29th April A new tourism initiative, Barbuda Moons Romance package, which offers opportunities for engagements, weddings, honeymoons, renewals and other celebrations of commitment for couples, will be launched on May 12. The concept was developed by Barbuda Council's Committee for Tourism in collaboration with the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Department in New York.

Dorcas Beazer-Williams, chair of the Tourism Committee, said Martello Tower, a former defence fort built in the 19th century, would be developed as a sea-side garden venue for weddings, commitment ceremonies or renewals. "The highlight of this garden is to have each couple plant a fruit tree to encourage longevity of relationships and at the same

time give them a reason to come back and also to have a taste of the fruit from the tree they planted,"

Dorcas Beazer-Williams said. "We will actually label and date the trees so that we will know who planted what tree."

The Tourism Committee chairperson said there would be a variety of packages from which couples could select. These would include Day Moons, Baby Moons, After Moons or Full Moons. However, she said the packages remain works in progress. "We are in the process of fine-tuning those different packages, because we just wanted to offer different options according to the needs of the individual couple," Beazer-Williams said.

She indicated that it was the first project planned under her leadership and the goal is to complete it in time for the naming of the Princess Diana Beach on July 1. The Princess Diana Beach will be one of the main attractions of the romance package. Other attractions will be the caves at Two Foot Bay, the Frigate Bird Sanctuary, and fresh seafood, including the spiny lobster, conch and local game such as venison.

Barbuda Moons Packages will be co-ordinated by the Tourism Committee of the Barbuda Council and will offer options for air or sea transfers from Antigua, accommodations, tours and entertainment for day trips or longer stays.

In addition to traditional wedding and honeymoon packages, couples can select Day moons, Baby moons, After moons or Full moons, a suite of romance packages designed to meet the diverse lifestyles of today's modern couples.

There is no residency requirement for couples who wish to wed in either Antigua or Barbuda and the process can be expedited to accommodate elopers or short trips.

The 62 sq mile island has a population of 1,500 residents and is accessed via Antigua's international airport located 25 miles away. Visitors can get to Barbuda via helicopter, chartered or scheduled plane service, yacht, speed boat, or ferry.

27th April 2011 ... Students invited to participate in Annual FCCA Foundation Essay Contest

Primary and Secondary school students in Antigua and Barbuda are invited to share their thoughts on the tourism industry and showcase their creative writing skills, for a chance to win the 2011 Florida Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) Children's Essay Contest.

The Ministry of Tourism is an active participant of the annual FCCA Children's Essay (tourism) Contest. The contest which is endorsed by the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), represents that organization's (FCCA) on-going support for Caribbean Tourism.

This year's topic is "What Does Sustainable Tourism Mean To Your Destination?" to be written in English with 500-750 words in length. Entries should be forwarded to The Ministry of Tourism, Attention Cynthia G Simon, no later than Monday, 13th June (2011).

Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua's Youths make a difference...

A group of vibrant young men and women have taken the task to lead Youth on the Move (YOM) for 2011. The 2011 executive council of YOM currently comprises of President Elijah James, Vice President Annie Jno-Baptiste, Treasurer Sumita Jeremy, Secretary General Tiffany Providence and Public Relations Office Melville Greene. The core values of YOM which the new executive will be guided by can be derived from the following motto, vision & mission statements of YOM.

**"Two Preschools in
Tomlinson and Five
Islands being built
for less fortunate
children"**

Two more Pre-schools

Two more government pre-schools are in the pipeline for the Tomlinson's and Gray's Farm communities. This is according to Minister of Education Jacqui Quinn-Leandro, who recently said this is being done to ensure that children of "less fortunate" homes have proper educational foundations.



"Those are two largely built-up communities where there are large pockets of single-parent households where people are basically working for the minimum wage and they cannot afford those foundation years and we want to make sure that we look after preschoolers," Dr Quinn-Leandro said recently. The Caribbean Development Bank is expected to fund the construction of the project at Tomlinson's, which will not only house an early childhood unit, but will also include a secondary school and a measurement and evaluation unit. Dr Quinn-Leandro said in addition to the secondary school at Tomlinson's, another community, Five Islands, is expected to benefit from a similar school being built to cater to the children in that area

**Hon Dr Jacqui Quinn-
Leandro, Minister of
Education, Sports,**

Minister of Education, Sports, Youth & Gender Affairs Hon. Dr. Jacqui Quinn Leandro sent a letter of congratulations to Ms. Dorcas Beazer-Williams on her victory in the recently held Barbuda Local Government Elections.

In the letter, first woman elected to Parliament in Antigua and Barbuda wrote, "Your achievement is well deserved and signals to the nation that women can and do make a difference in the socio-political life of our nation. Your election speaks volumes for women and girls across Antigua and Barbuda as we continue to struggle to increase the number of women in elective political positions alongside our men in a more equitable manner."

Dr. Quinn Leandro further stated, "Your achievement is well deserved and signals to the nation that women can and do make a difference in the socio-political life of our nation. Your election speaks volumes for women and girls across Antigua and Barbuda as we continue to struggle to increase the number of women in elective political positions alongside our men in a more equitable manner."

Councilwoman Beazer-Williams whose portfolio also includes education intimated to Minister Quinn Leandro that very soon it would be necessary for them to collaborate on issues affecting education in Antigua and Barbuda.



2011 EDUCATION WEEK - celebrated from 10 – 19 FEBRUARY 2011 ...

Under the theme "Exploring Creative Ways to Enhancing Student Learning," the Ministry of Education hosted a week of activities to mark Education Week 2011, which

has been observed for the tenth consecutive year.

The activities to mark the week of celebrations was launched on 10th February during a ceremony at the Nurses' Association Headquarters, Queen Elizabeth Highway, and was followed by an Infant Fair at the Deanery Grounds.

The week of activities concluded on 19th February 2011 with the Education Awards Ceremony at the Precision Centre, located at the back of GiGi Industries, off Sir Sydney Walling Highway .

OBSERVER CARIBBEAN IS IN THE PLANNING STAGE...

General Manager of the OBSERVER Media Group, Julian Rogers, said the company is poised to begin taking the first steps in filling the void left by last Friday's shutdown of BBC Caribbean. In an interview, Rogers made clear that OBSERVER Caribbean, as the group's regional outreach is to be named, will not be looking to go it alone. Rather, he explained, it would be seeking to build on existing partnerships and forge new ones in the other territories. But he said something definite should take shape not long from now.

"I think we have an opportunity to Caribbean from the point of view of select number of territories. We can



Rogers said OBSERVER also has "the vice," but noted that "it requires the requires some investment" – two ed, the company hopes to "be in a position to announce a definitive programme very soon." Rogers admitted that funding for such a venture is likely to be a major challenge. But he is confident that advertisers will come on board when they realise the value of such a programme.

"I think we have to work smart," he said. "We have to work with the nucleus of people that we do have. We have to work with the partners that we can build across the region to keep our costs of operation to the minimum. From an advertising point of view, you have to deliver an audience before an advertiser will put dollars on the table."

do something in response to the closure of BBC extending our programme to direct coverage in a start with that, first of all."

ability to work on creating a regional news ser-co-operation of a number of interests and it also things that OBSERVER is working on. But, he add-



LIAT CLOSING CITY TICKETING OFFICES...

Workers at LIAT's ticketing office in Antigua and Barbuda will be among dozens across the region out of work soon, now that the unions have agreed with the airline's management that staff cuts cannot be avoided. The employees here will be sent home within the next few weeks. The plan by LIAT to close all its city offices across the region as part of a move to save EC\$3 million annually, had initially been opposed by the workers' bargaining agents. However, Head of the Council of LIAT Trade Unions Chester Humphrey re-

vealed after a meeting in Barbados recently, which involved the airline's Board of Directors, and unions representing the employees, that they had reached consensus on the matter.

"The meeting concluded with a broad realization that it appears that the closure of these offices is inevitable," he said in an interview with the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC), adding that LIAT had indicated that given its overall performance, the restructuring was urgent. Humphrey, who is also president of the Caribbean Congress of Labour, said the aim now is to ensure that the affected workers get a fair deal.

"What we have to ensure as trade unions is that the process is fair, is transparent, is objec-tive, and that we can cushion the effects for the workers. That's our responsibility and I can tell you that we are grasp-ing that responsibility firmly

with both hands," the trade union leader said. "But there are limits in terms of what we can do. Survivability of the airline has always been a central question anytime you talk about LIAT and it is even more so now given the very difficult financial and economic situation that we face within the region." Humphreys said that while the unions regretted the decision to lay off the workers, they would ensure that the airline, whose three main shareholder governments are – Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Vincent & the Grenadines – would adhere to best practices as they negotiate severance packages. The company has already begun closing its city offices, beginning with the Port of Spain, Trinidad office in January.





ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA BAGS FIVE OLYMPICS SCHOLARSHIPS...Five Antigua and Barbuda elite athletes have secured Olympic Solidarity's Olympic Scholarships for the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, England. The President of the NOC, Senator Paul Chet Greene and Secretary General, Mr. Cliff Williams negotiated the scholarships during a meeting with the IOC in Acapulco, Mexico just over a month ago.

The five athletes, **Brendan Christian, James Grayham, Jyme Bridges, Orel Jeffery and Emily Ward** are drawn from the sports of Swimming, Cycling, Equestrian and Athletics.

The scholarship awards will allow the athletes to train and compete in qualifying events leading up to the Olympic games in London during the summer of 2012. "We submitted eight names to the IOC for consideration and received confirmation of five for the Olympic scholarships", Secretary General of the NOC, Cliff Williams reported with obvious satisfaction. "Given the fact that these scholarships form a part of a global programme, we are more than pleased that we secured such a high percentage among the 204 countries that make up the IOC. It is now up to the athletes to show commitment and dedication to advancing their own careers and to representing Antigua and Barbuda," Williams concluded.

The scholarships become effective January 1, 2011 and will run until August 2012. The IOC has recommended that national Triple Jumper James Grayham pursue his scholarship at the High Performance Centre in Cuba. Brendan Christian is recommended to the Centre in Jamaica; Emily Ward will continue to train in Europe where she is based, while Jyme Bridges and Orel Jeffery scholarship awardees in the sport of Cycling and Swimming will be determined by the NOC. The NOC commits to funding the preparation of the unsuccessful applicants and to increase activity for the nations elite athletes in a quest to qualify more athletes for the 2012 Summer Olympic Games.

NON MACHINE-READABLE PASSPORTS OUT-OF-DATE BY THE END OF 2011...



Shown Above: New Style Caribbean Community Antigua and Barbuda Passport

All citizens who currently use the older version of Antigua and Barbuda passports have been put on notice that the travel document will become out-of-date by year-end, and

are therefore being advised to apply for the new machine-readable passports in the upcoming months. Minister of National Security and Labour Senator Dr Errol Cort made this disclosure during his presentation on the 2011 Budget Debate in the Upper House, saying that continued use of the outdated passports is now a security concern.

"We've since moved to a machine-readable passport," Dr Cort said. "We still have some ordinary passports out there being used by individuals, so I want to say, Madam President, that we're allowing those individuals up to December of 2011 to come in and convert their old passports into machine readable passports. After December of 2011, you will not be able to use the ordinary passports for travelling because it presents a security risk."

He further advised that those affected need not make a run on the office. "We're giving everybody a whole year to make that conversion. I don't want them all to just come in a sudden flow. Take your time, but you have a year to come and deal with your machine-readable passport and bring your documents so that we can verify and ensure that you are the proper recipient," Dr Cort said.

The minister also told the Senate that since the Passport Office became fully computerised in 2007, all necessary documents required to accompany new passport applications are scanned and stored in the system's database for future reference.

Pensioners Certificates Now Due At Treasury Department

The Treasury Department wishes to notify the General Public that Pensioners' Life Certificates are now due for the period May to October 2011.

Persons who do not submit their Life Certificates before June 2011 are likely to have their pensions discontinued.

Pensioners are also asked to take note of the persons who are authorized to certify the Life Certificates:

Lawyers

Notaries Public

Permanent Secretaries and Senior Civil Servants

Parliamentary Representatives

Medical Doctors

Ministers of Religion

Justices of the Peace

Bank Managers

Pensioners living in Barbuda are asked to take note that Life Certificates can be collected at the Council Office.



Census 2011

The count down is on to the biggest statistical event that a country can undertake, Census Day, May 27th 2011 in Antigua and Barbuda.

At the recently held official launch of the 2011 Population and Housing Census, residents were updated on the status of the Census activities and sensitized about the importance and benefits of the Census to the socio-economic development in Antigua and Barbuda and to the wider sub-region.

The occasion was also used to

encourage citizens, residents and visitors to lend their full support and co-operation to this most important undertaking.

According to Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Baldwin Spencer, the country is changing rapidly and the information that will be gathered from the Census will form the basis for the development of our people, our institutions and our infrastructure. He adds that "so much has happened since the last census in 2001 and as such, the census will provide a comprehensive picture of the social and living conditions of our people, only a census can provide such complete data."

Prime Minister Spencer also assured non-nationals living in Antigua and Barbuda that, "no one will be jeopardized from their participation in the census".

It is expected that more than

400 temporary jobs will be created to aid in the successful execution of the Census. An estimated EC \$2 million will be spent on the Census.

The Census Office continues to accept applications from persons wishing to be employed as enumerators, supervisors, liaison officers, data editors and coders.

Although the actual date for the Census is May 27th 2011, it could take about six to eight weeks to complete. The slogan for the 2011 Population and Housing Census is 'Co-operate! Participate! Make Census 2011 Great'.

Training for Census Enumerators begins on Monday May 9th. Names of persons who have been selected for training can be seen on the Government Information Service (GIS) TV channel.

Antigua's Groovy Soca Queen Claudette "CP" Peters will be honoured



Antigua's Groovy Soca Queen Claudette "CP" Peters will be honoured later this year for her contribution to Caribbean music. As part of the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, the Institute of Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barro Unit at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, will be honouring women across the region considered to be "Kaiso trailblazers".

A traditionally male dominated arena, the award recognises the accomplishment of women in the English speaking Caribbean who

have contributed to the development of calypso, chutney, zouk and soca artforms. Spanning a period of over 30 years, CP joins a sorority of performers who include Singing Sandra, Calypso Rose, Denise Belfon, Fay Ann Lyons, Destra Garcia, Posthumous Onika Bostic from Trinidad; Ophelia from Dominica; Lady Leen and Nicole David from St. Lucia; Alison Hinds and TC from Barbados, and also Queen Ivena from Antigua.

The IGDS: NBU continues to play its part in developing programmes which create linkages between the academic mandate of the University of the West Indies and the Caribbean Community it serves. To this end the Institute provides and continues to provide a forum for the discussion and sharing of information on all aspects of gender in the Caribbean Society including gender as it relates to culture.

The official award presentation is slated to take place on 29th October, 2011 in Barbados.

Deeply humbled and honoured by

the award, CP's contribution to soca has not gone unnoticed. Between her music and volunteer work, especially with children, she continues to improve her craft. In fact, the soca queen reveals that she has undergone a personal process of rebranding and is preparing to offer her fans, not only a new range of music, but a new look.

As she prepares for the 2011 Carnival season with the vision of her management company Team Machine, she has every intention to defend her groovy title and reclaim her party monarch crown, CP is focused and hitting the studio harder than ever, and with the honour of this award she has every intention of living up to its symbolic gesture as she continues to contribute to the soca artform across the Caribbean and the world.



Sunday 24th April to

Friday 29th April 2011

29th April 2011....

Sailors come to Antigua for thrilling, warm, adrenalin-pumping sailing and, the hundreds of competitors at Antigua Sailing Week certainly got what they came for .

Big breeze and lumpy seas spiced up the action for the third day of racing. Twenty knots of breeze, gusting over 25 with seas of up to two meters provided some seriously feisty conditions. It was a wet wild ride up-



wind but with a sea temperature of 25°C, it was a labour of love.

Downwind, those who could stay in control came out on top. Big wind and big waves turned

the Antiguan race course into surf city. The conditions caused several retirements which have meant quite a few changes to overall positions of yachts racing at Antigua Sailing Week.

A wild, windy and memorable week of racing concluded on 29th April thus bringing and end to the 44th annual Antigua Sailing Week. A prize giving ceremony was held at the Event Village in Nelson's Dockyard on Saturday, 30th April. Antigua Sailing Week has been blessed with outstanding racing conditions and beautiful weather.

Bankers Reduce Fees Off Mortgages



Commercial banks have knocked off a few thousand dollars in fees normally associated with mortgages as part of their contribution to government's stimulus package. President of the Bankers Association, Vere Hill said nearly half the local banks have waived the one (1) per cent commitment fee charged for accessing loans, while the rest have cut it by half.

"Bankers met with the Finance Minister a couple of months ago. But he got the letter with our agreement a month or so ago. If it is \$300,000 you want to borrow, it would normally be \$3,000 commitment fee. But in some cases it will no longer apply and in others it would be \$1,500," he said.

Hill noted that this is a ma-

jor step by the banks since outside of interest payments the commitment fee is the only charge the financial institutions apply to mortgages. He said anyone walking into a bank today for a loan will receive the concession. But he stressed that continuation of the special consideration is contingent on the other sectors buying into the stimulus package.

"It's about all the service providers actually coming together. We are expecting the architects to reduce their costs; the vendors to reduce their costs. That was part of the agreement of banks coming on board the initiative. No point in doing a stimulus package if one element is doing it and the others are not," the bankers' association president added.

Echoing the call of many other sector heads, Hill said even though it is cash-strapped, government still needs to pitch in with some concessions such as a lower stamp duty. A check with the President of the Bar Association, Kelvin

John revealed that, "members have not received the details or terms of the stimulus package for consideration."

Last week, Minister Lovell said he still had to speak with the insurance industry about how they would contribute to the cause. Government was also hoping to further reduce the cost of building homes by getting banks to drop their interest rates for homeowners constructing environmentally friendly houses.

"I don't think we were really convinced there was any big benefit they were going to get except for driving more use of solar heaters and green technology. So while we support it in principle, we haven't really examined it. Generally by our lack of response they realise we have not done anything yet. But I think we are still within time to do something," the bankers' association president noted.

The Vehicles and Road Traffic Amendment Act 2011



The Vehicles and Road Traffic Amendment Act 2011 was passed in the Upper House on Monday 19th April 2011.

Tint grades that are allowed under the regulation range between 25 and 35 per cent.

Offenders with a lower tint grade can be fined between \$150 to \$200, or face a year in prison or a maximum fine of \$5,000.

Leader of Government Business in the senate Dr the Hon Errol Cort noted the new measures will assist police officers to carry out their duties.

"The issue really is law enforcement, and allowing them to see who are the people driving these vehicles that are being used to commit serious crimes in this country," Dr Cort said.

Emergency vehicles, armoured se-

curity vehicles, hearses and the Prime Minister are exempt from the tint regulation.

A meter will be used to determine whether tints comply with the regulations.

The Act also puts an end to the powers of police to rip off vehicle tints on the spot.

"The Vehicles and Road Traffic (Enforcement and Administration) Order, 2011, 2011, No.3"
Available at the Government Printing Office, Antigua and Barbuda

Temporary Restriction following Bumper

Harvest: 5th April , 2011

As part of efforts to promote and support locally grown products, there has been a temporary restriction on the importation licenses of seven vegetables due to a surplus in the market.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and the Environment has restricted the importation of onion, cabbage, carrot,

sweet pepper, eggplant, tomato, cucumber, and butternut squash during the month of April 2011.

Permanent Secretary within the Ministry of Agriculture Sharon Peters says, the Central Marketing Co-operation (CMC), continues to assist farmers to market their agricultural produce and importers desirous of purchasing fresh vegetables are asked to liaise with (CMC) to effect such purchase.

The move comes as the ministry continues to encourage residents to buy local and reduce the im-

portation of Agricultural goods and services into Antigua and Barbuda.

Last year the ministry imported approximately 16 million lbs of vegetables.



Mango Fest Launched 13th April 2011

The 6th annual Antigua Mango Festival was launched on Wednesday 13th April 2011 at the Heritage Quay bandstand.

The festival will take place from August 13-14 at the Christian Valley Agricultural station.

The Ministries of Tourism and Agriculture have both teamed up to promote the event.



Buy Local Street Fair, will be held on lower St Mary's Street on 5th May 2011.



The Buy Local Street Fair, will be held on lower St Mary's Street on 5th May 2011

The fair will have on display a wide variety of art and craft products.

The Cultural Development Division planned the initiative to establish stronger ties with the talented producers of art and craft in Antigua and Barbuda.

Art and craft products on sale include locally made shoes, weaved fabrics, pottery, ratan baskets, soaps, jewellery, and body care products.

The theme, "Buy local means supporting Antigua's and Barbuda's local economy." The Ministries of Tourism and Agriculture have both teamed up to promote the event.

Government Announces WTO Gaming Dispute Summit.....



The Honourable Harold Lovell, Minister of Finance and the Economy of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda announced the scheduled commencement on Wednesday, 27th April 2011 of a summit was held in Antigua at the Sandals Grande Resort. The two-day conference is being held under the sponsorship of the government to discuss the current status of the country's long-standing dispute with the United States over remote gaming services at the World Trade Organisation, and to forge a consensus among global

gaming industry participants on how best to utilise the WTO decision to open up the American domestic remote gaming industry to fair international competition.

gaming law expert Frank Catania.

Minister Lovell noted that the session "marks a sincere attempt by the government of Antigua and Barbuda to reach out to the International remote gaming community to explore ways in which our country's historic victory at the WTO can be used to open the door to fair and responsible trade in remote gaming services to consumers in the United States, as the WTO has held we are entitled to do."

"We are hopeful," the Minister continued, "that by engaging more with major industry participants outside of Antigua we might be able to bring more force to bear on what has proven to be very intractable anti-free trade interests in the remote gaming space in America."

Antigua-Barbuda still at odds with US over internet gaming.

23 April, 2011 CaribbeanNewsNow

ST JOHN'S, Antigua -- The Antigua and Barbuda government has expressed disappointment at the decision by United States authorities to arrest and indict a number of individuals engaged in online internet gaming.



Finance and Economy Minister Harold Lovell

Finance and Economy Minister Harold Lovell described the indictments as the latest efforts by Washington to shut off competition in remote gaming in violation of international law.

A CMC report stated that Lovell said, "I am concerned that at this point in time United States authorities continue to prosecute non-domestic suppliers of remote gaming services in clear contravention of international law."

an international treaty" he said.

The two countries are at loggerheads over the issue of internet online gaming, with Antigua seeking to recover millions of dollars in lost revenue based on the WTO agreements.

"The United States, being a very heavy user of the WTO rules to its own benefit, simply cannot continue to prosecute persons for engaging in legitimate international commerce," said Antigua's legal counsel in the WTO matter, Mark Mendel.

* * *

International Monetary Fund (IMF) GIVES ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA THUMBS UP...

The Antigua and Barbuda economy is on the road to recovery, but still faces several challenges including risks associated with rising food and fuel prices. This was the prognosis of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as it gave the country thumbs up for its economic performance in the Fund's latest review. That assessment gives Antigua and Barbuda access to US \$10.7 million more of the US \$128 million approved under a Stand-By Arrangement (SBA), last June.

"The Antiguan economy is beginning to recover. Recent indicators point to moderate posi-

tive growth in 2011 based on some improvement in the tourism sector," said First Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chair John Lipsky. He noted, too, that "The overall fiscal balance improved significantly as a result of expenditure restraint, interest savings from debt restructuring and, to some extent, enhanced revenue efforts. Government's efforts at restructuring its debts have come in for especially high commendation. The restructuring of public external debt exceeded initial expectations. The authorities have secured refinancing of external public debt with Paris Club creditors on non-concessional terms, and have concluded bilateral negotiations with most of these creditors," Lipsky said.

"There has also been comprehensive restructuring of domestic debt to statutory bodies and suppliers, with substantial haircuts on the face value of the

debts. The authorities are actively pursuing negotiations to resolve remaining arrears and complete the debt restructuring."

Even though the IMF said recent indicators point to moderate positive growth in 2011, the Fund said private and foreign direct investments remittance flow and construction spending are "below pre crisis levels." Lipsky also said, "Continued vigilance is necessary as risks remain high, including those related to increasing global food and fuel prices and the domestic banking sector."

This brings the number of reviews to which the island has successfully completed to three under the 36-month SBA.

* * *

LIGHTING AT BARBUDA'S AIRPORT NEARS COMPLETION...

4th April 2011 ...

Chairman for Barbuda Council Kelvin Punter said lighting which is the third phase in the renovation of Codrington Airstrip is scheduled to be completed by the end of April. He said the lighting cables have been ordered from Puerto Rico and should arrive on island in two weeks. He disclosed that tradesmen from Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority arrived in Barbuda and would be there for a week getting things prepared.

"They're making sure that the temporary lights are still working ... at

the same time, they're making preparations for the new lights that have been ordered," he said.

He said the electrician and plumbers would be returning on April 9, when they would be engaged in cutting the trench along the side of the runway into which the cables for the permanent lighting would be laid. Punter said APUA will also be on island from April 9 to supervise the laying of electricity and water cables. "You know, there have to be authorised electricians and so on, so they will be making sure that everything is in place," Punter said. The Council met with representatives from PDV Caribe who are responsible for funding the resurfacing, as well as the lighting of the airstrip.

According to the chairman, in addition to the preparatory work, some remedial work on the perimeter fence will have to be done to return it to an acceptable standard. "When the tractors were doing the resurfacing, they had to cut the fence in some places for the heavy-duty equipment to come in, those have to be brought back to standard," he said.

Meanwhile, the chairman is hopeful that construction of the terminal building, which is the last phase of the renovations, would begin by mid-year. However, he is not sure how that part will be funded. "I am not sure, but I know that Minister (Trevor) Walker has met with the Chinese and Ambassador Shoul to put things in place for that aspect of it," he said

REDJET PROMISES A US\$9.99 AIR FARES...

As the entire region waits to hear when REDjet airline will get off the ground with its promised US \$9.99 fares, Antigua-based LIAT seems not to be expecting it to stay very long in the air when it eventually takes off. "People who come into this region and think that they will run an airline successfully using jet planes for less than you charge for a hot dog on some of the other carriers are really not serious unless they're not telling us the whole truth," LIAT Chairman Dr Jean Holder said, even as he acknowledged that his airline's fares were high.

Speaking to journalists following a LIAT shareholder meeting in St Vincent and the Grenadines, Holder said people who think they can offer cheap products in the Caribbean "are just dreaming."

"LIAT could not charge under \$10 per passenger and make it and nobody else can. So if anybody comes into the region – I'm calling no names – and say they can run an airline at under US \$10 per person, well ask them to sell you the London Bridge as well," the airline chairman said.

REDjet, which was officially launched late last year with the hope of starting

flights in December, is being held up by officials in Barbados where it is based.

In a post on the airline's Facebook page on Thursday, co-founder Robbie Burns said the carrier is eager to take to the skies but it's playing the waiting game.

"I know lots of people are dying to get their hands on low fares and are frustrated. Believe me, the whole airline is ready and waiting. We are working well with the ministry here in Barbados to give us our final clearance to start selling fares, but we don't know how long this will be," he wrote.

HERE ONWARD CHILD MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS WITHOUT TEARS...

Mothers who often complain of long waits at the Treasury to collect child maintenance payments will take comfort in the announcement in Parliament by Attorney General Justin Simon that a maintenance account has been established at Antigua Commercial Bank, so that maintenance monies, which are paid into the court will no longer go into the Consolidated Fund at the

Treasury, but into the ACB maintenance account.

"The days when mothers would have to line up at the Treasury and be told there is not sufficient money there and have to come back again and suffer that humiliation will now be a thing of the past," Simon said. "Because that is an entitlement, not a matter that they should be subjected to humiliation and ridicule in respect of."

The attorney general said he has already held discussions with administrators in the Magistrates' Court so that those monies that are already in the Consolidated Fund will still be paid from the Treasury. He added, though, that the new procedure will go into effect for monies now coming in. "All monies coming in now will go into that account at the bank and it will be paid out by way of cheques which will be signed by the magistrate and maintenance officers at the Magistrates' Court," Simon said.

Summer GOLD

Antigua Summer Gold Programme is back!

FAMILY FRIENDLY, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

A wide variety of hotels offer great value family packages and family activities in Antigua and Bar-



see and do than in Antigua. Swim with stingrays in Antigua, zip through the rainforest or try water-sports in Antigua like windsurfing, kitesurfing, deep-sea fishing, sailing in Antigua and scuba-diving.

www.visitantiguabarbuda.com

buda, meaning that there is no better and safer place for families to enjoy a sunshine holiday and be spoilt for choice with so much to

"Each Endeavouring All Achieving" ...

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of Independence for Antigua and Barbuda. A series of activities have been planned. The Executive of Antigua and Barbuda National Association (ABNA) met with the High Commissioner and

Minister Counsellor to ascertain ways in which the occasion can be celebrated.

Dates for Diary:

**Sunday 30th October 2011,
3.00pm**

ABNA Anniversary of Independence Thanksgiving Service

Monday 31st October 2011,

5.00pm

Evensong at Westminster Abbey for Antigua and Barbuda's Anniversary of Independence

**Saturday 5th November 2011
at 8.00m**

ABNA Anniversary of Independence Dance

Antigua Carnival launched

The launch of Carnival 2011 was twinned with the culmination of Antigua Sailing Week on Saturday, 30th April 2011

The event featured musical performances from a number of local artistes including reigning Groovy Soca Monarch Claudette "CP" Peters.

Also included in the entertainment lineup were; Jashan Hughes and the Chezekake Factory, Yoko, Burning Flames,

Danski and Militant out of Trinidad & Tobago.

Between performances there were energetic dances by the Sunnydale Dancers, Elite Dance Troupe and Dusk Dance Company.



Antigua's Carnival 2011 will be held from July 23rd to August 2nd.



Antigua 4th May



Salsa Festival to 10th May

GRAY'S HILL RESERVOIR IS UP AND RUNNING...

25th March 2011

Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer said the opening of the 1.25 million gallon Gray's Hill Lower Reservoir will signal the start of many more water construction projects in the island. The most significant of Spencer's revelations during recent official opening ceremony was that testing would begin in April on the newly constructed desalination plant on Ffryes Beach.

"Testing will commence in two weeks' time in the newly constructed Ffryes Beach reverse osmosis plant," Spencer said. "This new facility has the capacity to produce 600,000 gallons of potable water per day. When testing is completed, this plant will bring relief to the southern and south-western portions of the island during periods of low rainfall."

The Prime Minister added that the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) would continue extending main pipes in a number of communities including Herbert's, Carty's Hill, Paynters and Bath Lodge in the coming months. "Work will also commence on the construction of additional water storage tanks in Liberta, Buckley's, Wallings, Bolans, Ffryes and also in Barbuda," Spencer said.

The Prime Minister said Barbuda will also soon be the beneficiary of a desalination plant to help alleviate the water shortage problems on the sister island. "Work on the containerised reverse osmosis plant in Barbuda will be accelerated shortly and is expected to be completed in 12 weeks' time," Spencer said. "This new plant will have an installed capacity to produce 100,000 gallons of potable water per day which will ensure that Barbusdans have 24/7 potable water service."

The restoration project on the

Gray's Hill Lower Reservoir began in 2009 when the People's Republic of China agreed to a grant to fund the project. The Beijing Construction Engineering Group Co Ltd (BCEG) was awarded the contract to carry out the renovations with some technical input provided by APUA. APUA said the newly restored reservoir will be mainly used to service the city of St John's and its surrounding areas.

"This facility will ensure that during the morning hours when the demand for more water is high that there will be a uniform flow of the commodity during that period," Spencer said. "We must ensure a sustainable supply by implementing conservation methods. Water is precious and must be conserved."

The government in 2009 had estimated that the fund would have cost around \$1.3 million and cater to between 400 to 1,000 persons.

LEGAL DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED...

A disciplinary committee has been put in place to address the concerns of persons with complaints against lawyers or members of the Antigua and Barbuda Bar Association. Attorney General Justin Simon revealed the formation of the disciplinary committee during the parliamentary budget debate on last week. Simon said the development came as a progression from the Legal Professions Act which was passed in 2008 to provide for the regulation of the legal profession, for the qualification, enrolment and



discipline of its members, and for incidental and connected purposes. "We have now gone a step further to establish the disciplinary committee in respect of complaints against lawyers by members of the public. It is something that has been long in coming. It is now established," Simon said.

The members of the committee are: Chairman Sir Clare K Roberts QC; Bar Association President Kel-

vin John, Esquire; Nelleen Rogers Murdoch; Hollis Francis, Esquire; Charissa Roberts-Thomas; and two others who are not lawyers, Reverend Selina Joseph of the Anglican clergy and Dr Hayden Thomas, former Ombudsman and current member of the industrial court. "We thought it important, lest we are accused of how can we put the guards to guard the guards. It is important that we have some non-lawyers of some repute on that committee so that members of the public can be comfortable and feel confident that it will not be lawyers protecting lawyers, but they will get justice where they believe that some member of the Bar has done them wrong," Simon said.

Antigua secures increased flights from Italy

ST JOHN'S, Antigua

Wednesday 6th April, 2011 –



The strong growth in visitor arrivals from Italy has led to charter Blue Panorama agreeing to extend their weekly service to the destination.

The weekly service from Milan, previously scheduled to end in April, will now continue into the difficult summer months and beyond.

Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Tourism, John Maginley, said the flight will now operate from 4th July to 5th September and then 31st October to 19th December 2011.

"The Italian Market is a very profitable market for us and this shows increased confidence in our destination from our Italian travel partners. We are pleased with this announcement particularly as we enter the summer months when we are concerned about filling hotel rooms," he said.

Antigua and Barbuda's UK and Europe Director of Tourism, Hilary Modeste, who is now directly responsible for the Italian and German markets following structural changes in the overseas offices, said the Italian market has been doing very

well for the twin-island nation.

"Our main tour operator Press Tours is reporting strong forward bookings to the destination and they are confident that with the demand for Antigua and Barbuda holidays remaining high, they will be able to sustain the additional lift," he disclosed.

Vice President of Sales at Blue Panorama Airlines, Remo Della Porta, shared the news with the Italian travel trade press at the BMT- National tourism showcase in Naples, Italy following discussions with Modeste and the representative from Press Tours.

Ten agents from the Italian tour operator visited Antigua and Barbuda from 11th April to 18th on a familiarisation trip.

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Friday April 8, 2011 –

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Italy have signed



a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at strengthening political, scientific and technical relationships and promoting development co-operation partnership between the two parties.

The MOU was signed by acting CARICOM Secretary-General Ambassador Lolita Applewhaitte and Ambassador Paolo Serpi of Italy at the CARICOM Secretariat in Guyana.

"The MOU is intended to develop the human resources of CARICOM in areas vital to the development of the economies of its Member States notably in the fields of trade negotiation skills and trade promotion and to develop the scientific and technical capacity of CARICOM," said a statement from the Secretariat.

Some of the other areas identified include Tourism, Agriculture (including livestock, forestry and agro-industry), Fisheries, Mining, Climate Change, Scientific and

Technological Research, Information and Communication Technology for Development and Health.

A Management Committee composed of representatives from both CARICOM and Italy will oversee analysis, revision and follow-up of the MOU as well as of any specific Memoranda which may be concluded arising from the original document.



COCO POINT LODGE GIVES SUBSTANTIAL HELP TO ITS COMMUNITY...

It is not uncommon for corporate citizens to give back to the communities in which they operate but two prominent Barbudans are full of praise for Coco Point Lodge which they consider to be exemplary in this respect. Chairman of Barbuda Council Kelvin Punter would like to thank Patrick Kelley, owner of the establishment for his assistance in transporting persons to and from Barbuda as the authorities try to find another airline to replace Winair. He explained that Kelley has had to come to Council's assistance on many occasions in transporting councilmen, as well as other civil servants who found themselves stranded on the island.

The chairman also expressed special thanks for his assistance in transporting persons to the hospital on the mainland. "With lights not in place, we've asked Co-

co Point to facilitate us in the event that there is a Medivac to put the lights on at Coco Point Airstrip ... and they've really been good to us," Punter said.

But this is not the only way that this corporate citizen has given back to Barbudans. Community activist John Mussington shared with us a number of ways the 40-year-old all-inclusive hotel has assisted Barbudans.

The services highlighted by Mussington included replacement of the roof of Holy Trinity School which was damaged during the passage of Hurricane Luis in 1995; construction of a classroom for kindergarten students; expansion of the library to include a computer lab; and full scholarships for students at the tertiary level. All of this he said was made possible through a fund, called the Coco Point Fund that was established by repeat guests to the hotel. "For example, we've had doctors, architects who benefited from

Coco Point Fund to get their degrees and return to contribute to Barbuda," Mussington said.

According to Mussington, for the past 15 or 20 years, the schools, hospital, day care centre have been asked to submit a list of things they need, many of which would be provided from the fund. One year, Holy Trinity got all of its lab equipment and chemicals through the fund, he said. "This year in particular, the container which persons were talking about was bringing the items to Barbuda for the hospital, preschool, Holy Trinity, Sir McChesney George Secondary and even the Pentecostal Educational Centre," Mussington said. "Sir McChesney Secondary, we were able to source and obtain a sound system, audio visual equipment, for example, flat screen TV, DVD players, projector screen and most importantly, we've been able to get this year irrigation equipment which would enable us to deal with landscaping, agricultural programme," he added.

Antiguan Receives "Sea Turtle Champions" Award

Posted On: 26th April, 2011

Mr. Jepson Prince of Crab Hill, Antigua, was recently presented with a *Sea Turtle Champions* award for his exceptional contributions to sea turtle conservation in Antigua. Mr. Prince received the award while attending the International Sea Turtle Society's 31st Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation held in mid-April in San Diego, California, USA.

The *Champions* awards are presented to individuals who conduct "outstanding work towards the effective conservation of sea turtles." Prince was one of only 3 recipients from around the world to receive the award. The President of the Symposium and world-renowned

researcher Dr. Jeffrey Seminoff joined Dr. Karen Arthur, chair of the Awards Committee, in presenting Prince with his plaque at the Symposium banquet on Friday, April 15.

Prince serves as the lead patroller for the Antigua Sea Turtle Conservation Project and works as the nursery manager for the Parks Department at Jumby Bay. He is also a long-term volunteer with the Jumby Bay Hawksbill Project.

Prince received numerous letters of support from individuals recognizing his contributions to Antiguan marine conservation, including the Antigua Fisheries Division, the Environmental Awareness Group, the Parks Department at Jumby Bay, and the Jumby Bay Hawksbill Project. He also presented a research

poster describing his monitoring efforts in southwestern Antigua.

The annual Symposium, attended by more than 1,000 people from around the world, provides an opportunity to present research on sea turtles and a forum to discuss regional and global conservation issues.

"Jepson has done an enormous service for Antiguan sea turtle conservation", said Seth Stapleton, manager of the Jumby Bay Hawksbill Project. "This award is a great tribute to his long-term commitment to protect and monitor nesting turtles on Antigua's beaches. The Awards Committee couldn't have selected a more deserving individual; Jepson's an outstanding role model for young people who want to make a difference."