

The Antigua and Barbuda High Commission Official Newsletter



“Each Endeavouring all Achieving”



Inside This Issue

Cancer Centre for Antigua and Barbuda	4
Her Majesty’s Diamond Jubilee Celebrations	4
New Facilities for Grays Farm and Cedar Grove	5
Barbuda halts Sand Mining	7
Water supply improving for Barbudans	8
Coco Point Lodge Barbuda closes	12
Poultry Farm for Antigua and Barbuda	14
Back Garden Initiative a Success	15
Carnival in Antigua	20
Caribana in Barbuda	20

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

Issue 148



**Prime Minister
Dr. The Hon. W. Baldwin
Spencer**

My honour is the country's honour, says PM

The man who describes himself as the chief servant accepted the honorary doctorate he received from Mid-Continent University on behalf of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer spoke at a United Progressive Party (UPP) town hall meeting, said the tribute belongs, not to him, but to the country, for the strides made in regional and international fora over the past eight years.

“I accepted the award on behalf of the people of Rural

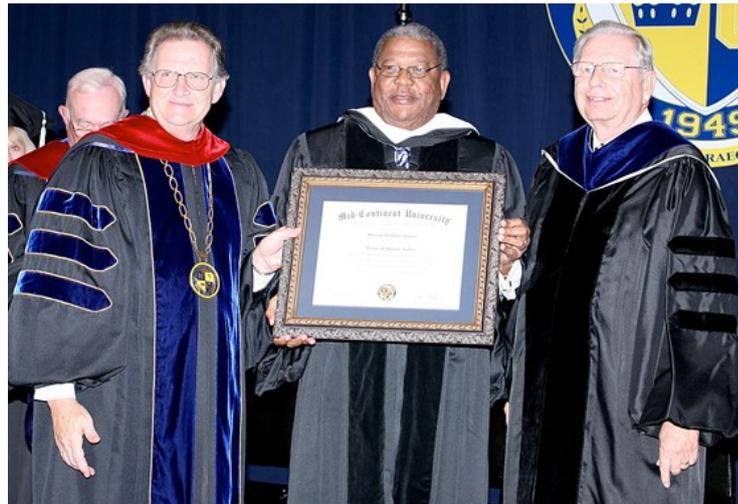
West, my colleagues and the people of Antigua and Barbuda,” the Prime Minister told the gathering.

He called the honorary doctorate and the one he received in 2009 from his alma mater, the Coady International Institute, St Francis Xavier University in Canada, “a tribute to the United Progressive Party’s quest for good governance.”

He said while the populace here might be guilty of failing to “recognize and appreciate” what the UPP has done to repair the twin-island’s image in the international community, the outside world is watching, comparing eras and making the assessment.

“Whatever accolade is given to me is a reflection of what we as a government and a people have been able to do over the years,” PM Spencer said.

17th May 2012



July 28th to August 7th

High Commissioner's Message



His Excellency Dr Carl B W Roberts, CMG
High Commissioner to the Court of St James's

“Taking Stock”

For the last two budget presentations, I have listened to the Hon Harold Lovell, Minister for Finance, the Economy and Public Administration provide vivid details of the performance of the economy over the proceeding year and the plans for the ensuing year. The Minister has spoken of the challenges faced by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda over the period 2008 – 2011 and the difficult decisions that had to be taken to ensure a better quality of life for the citizens of our beloved Nation.

We may not have agreed with every statement made by the Minister, nor would we have taken the same course of action were we in the same position. One thing is certain some form of action needed to have been taken.

We could not have continued with a “business as usual” plan of action, for we are certain of one thing, life would

have been so much more difficult. I remember a discussion I had with a good friend during one of my visits home several years ago. Let me recreate the scenario for you my readers: -

The government had taken a decision to shake up the Antigua and Barbuda Police Force. It sought help from the Canadian Government and several retired members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) were recruited to re-organise, re-focus and re-motivate the Antigua and Barbuda Police force.

My friend heard the outcry from opposing view point around the island asked whether I agreed with the decision to install such persons in the hierarchy of the Force. I trust that he has now seen the wisdom of that decision and better understood my support of it. Over the last three years, the re-vitalised and re-motivated Antigua and Barbuda Police force has solved 4 of the 5 murders occurring in the island. This is indeed commendable and deserves to be applauded. It shows the new level of cooperation between the Police and the community which it serves. Coupled with the remarkable reduction of incidents of crime (from 2735 in 2008 to 1591 on 2010) things are moving in the right direction.

Much has been said of the Sovereign debts of Greece, Ireland and Spain among the member states of the European Union. In fact it has been preferred that the inability of many countries around the world to service their external debt is a major contributor to the greatest economic crisis mankind has faced over the last 100 years. Antigua and Barbuda also has to assess its situation and take appropriate actions to address it. The Government's response to the situation is the National Economic and Social Transformation (NEST) Plan (2010-2014).

As the Honourable Lovell, Minister of Finance, the Economy and Public Administration said in his 2012 Budget Speech, “Antigua and Barbuda is in the middle of a storm and at times it is difficult to see the shore”. One thing is certain though, the storm will end. With the steady hand of our Honourable Prime Minister at the helm, we will emerge from the tempest stronger and with even greater resolve to move our Nation “onwards and upwards”.

The NEST Plan, the Minister continued, “has started the much needed process of transformation that will immediately deliver a more fiscally sound, economically viable and socially advanced Antigua and Barbuda”.

The six overarching strategic objectives of the Plan are: -

1	Fiscal Balance
2	Education for All
3	Enhancing our Social Development Agenda
4	Preserving our environment and building a stronger physical infrastructure
5	Economic Sustainability
6	Antigua and Barbuda – The Best Brand

It therefore embodies the following policies and programmes:

A	Fiscal Consolidation Programme
B	Economic Action Plan
C	Social Transformation Programme
D	Fiscal Sector Stability Programme

Let us now continue to examine a few of the results of the Plan to date. In 2009 the assessed total National debt of Antigua and Barbuda stood at EC\$ 3.3 billion. This can be further described as 110% of the GDP of the country. The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, like its counterpart in the UK, Europe and elsewhere, sets a debt to GDP target figure of 60% for member states of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU).

Antigua and Barbuda must take the appropriate steps to reduce its ratio and like any prudent family unit “live within its means”. I can safely say that in spite of a 25% drop in Government’s Recurrent Revenues in 2009 due to the world economic crisis, the Government’s efforts are beginning to show positive results.

Our National debt has begun to reduce as the initiatives taken by the Government to curtail expenditure, reduce borrowings and re-negotiate outstanding debt servicing has paid dividends. At the end of 2012 the National Debt stood at EC\$ 2.8 Billion (94% of GDP) and by the end of 2011 had been projected to be reduced to EC\$ 2.75 billion (90% of GDP).

To examine how this is being driven, let us look at how the government is utilising the money it gets through its various sources. Two financial indicators demonstrate the stewardship of the government and the conformity to the NEST Plan. I have selected the current account balance (I will explain in layman’s terms what this means) and the Primary (Account) Deficit.

The Current Account Balance incorporates all of governments income from Direct Taxes (such as Income Tax, Property Tax), Indirect Taxes (Sales Taxes) and other Non-Tax Revenue. Government then uses the money to cover its expenses or outflows. A simplified example of this would be a household income and expenses assessment. Wages and Salary are used to cover household commitments. If the commitments are below the total wages and salary of that family, there is something to set aside for savings and emergency. The table below shows the movement in both these indicators. Where the figures are in brackets it indicates a negative balance which means that as a country we are absorbing more than we are producing. This also means someone is lending us money in the form of debt (as we cannot in reality interpret this deficit as depleting on reserves). This has a direct impact on our National debt.

Primary deficit on the other hand is the amount by which a government’s total expenditure exceeds its total revenue and excludes interest payments on its debt.. **Continued on Page 4 (see over)**

His Excellency Dr Carl B W Roberts, CMG
High Commissioner

High Commissioner's Message continued from page 3

To be continued in the next Newsletter

TABLE 1	Primary Account Balance
2004	(1.2)
2005	(35.7)
2006	(117.6)
2007	(89.0)
2008	(96.0)
2009	(357.5)
2010	52.9
2011	(2.0)

TABLE 2	Current Account Balance EC\$M
2007	(24.6)
2008	(23.1)
2009	(307.9)
2010	(58.1)
2011	(71.0) projected

His Excellency Dr Carl B W Roberts, CMG
High Commissioner



Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Antigua and Barbuda will be represented at Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations by Her Excellency Dame Louise Lake-Tack, GCMG, Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda, His Excellency Dr Carl B W Roberts, CMG, High Commissioner and Mrs Pauline Roberts, spouse of His Excellency

(Full stories in June's Issue of the Newsletter)

Antigua and Barbuda Nationals sing on 'Jubilant Choir' at Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Mr Ulston Richards, Choirmaster, Mr Keith Coates and Mr Antonio Joseph, Members of Antigua and Barbuda National Association Choir
(Full story in June's Issue of the Newsletter)

'New transport board HQ called state of the art'

After years of setbacks and much controversy, Transport Board management says that construction of the new Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board headquarters is just months away from completion.

OBSERVER Media was granted an exclusive tour of the state-of-the-art facility in Potters and candid interviews with the facility's top brass.

The one-million-square-foot compound encompasses five buildings including administrative, repairs and maintenance, motor pool, inspections and staff canteen areas.

The complex is being touted as the largest on island, with the repairs and maintenance building being the largest governmental building at 450,000 square feet.

The crown jewel of the new facility, the repair and maintenance building, is said to be currently the most innovative and advanced facility of its kind in the Caribbean, according to David Bartholomew, the consultant in fleet management who facilitated the design of the building.

"I honestly don't think that what we are putting here you are going to see in any other smaller Caribbean country," Bartholomew noted. Part of the Board's implementation

plan is to offer training and retraining of mechanics in automotive repair maintenance. The training will be offered to mechanics both on island and throughout the Caribbean. The mechanics will learn high-tech skills in the maintenance of newer, computer-based vehicles.

"This is really something that I think we can offer to the other neighbouring islands; training for their people at this facility," he said.

Sections of the headquarters, including the repairs and maintenance and motor pool divisions will operate around the clock, daily, in order to facilitate daily governmental vehicle inspections and maintenance and mechanics classes that will take place during the evening.

The licensing department will house two new automated inspections machines that they anticipate will streamline and allow for a more accurate vehicle inspections process.

"It takes away any kind of subjective decisions, so I can't favour somebody and let it ride. If the machine says it ain't good, it's not good," Bartholomew continued.

The project, reportedly 85 per cent complete, began construction in 2005 with an 18-month timeline and \$16 million budget.

Seven years later, the budget has ballooned to \$30 million. However

Harry Josiah, general manager, says that the facility will be well worth the wait.

"Yes, some people complain that you (Transport Board) started to build this place in 2005. It is true. But when we are finished we are going to be delivering a world-class facility that is going to make a difference in terms of how Antiguan and Barbudans and visitors to this country view government purchasing, upkeep and maintenance of vehicles," Josiah explained.

The completion date is slated for late August, when the staff is scheduled to begin work at the facility. The grand opening is tentatively scheduled for November 1, Independence Day.



The Transport Board's new headquarters features five buildings, including a 450,000-square-foot repairs and maintenance centre. (Photo by Eustace Samuel/OBSERVER Media

24th April 2012

'New facilities for Gray's Farm and Cedar Grove'

The Ministry of Public Works says it is working on the construction a new community centre for Gray's Farm and a new health clinic for Cedar Grove, with both projects expected to come on stream this year.

"We have to do a design in Gray's Farm, where a community centre will be erected right next to the basketball court," government's chief architect Wesley James revealed in an interview with OBSERVER Media.

He said the building would be constructed from scratch to meet the needs of residents in that community.

Over in Cedar Grove, James said he hoped that the construction of a new clinic for the area would begin "sooner rather than later."

According to James an area has been allocated and a design approved for the facility.

"We are waiting to end the negotia-

tions and put a contract in place so we can go to do the construction," he said.

Once that contract is in place, James said construction of the facility that will also include a day care centre should begin thereafter.

The current clinic at Cedar Grove is said to be housed in a building that was not designed for that purpose.

Tuesday 24th April 2012

Prison on the way to sufficiency in food

National Security Minister Dr Errol Cort is boasting that the prison is well on the way to becoming self-sufficient as it has begun reaping crops planted at a small farm at the Botanical Gardens.

Additionally, the authorities are awaiting the installation of water at Duers Estate where a larger prison farm is to be developed.

“The prison farm project is well ad-

vanced and it is under the watchful eye of Mr John McKinnon who is the person in the Ministry of National Security in charge of our project implementation. They have ploughed up the area and have started to plant and things are moving along nicely,” the minister said.

Dr Cort said he is pleased with the development and is looking forward to the time when prisoners would also plant and reap at the larger farm because the project could go a long way in not only feeding the prisoners but also help raise funds for the expansion of the penal institution.

“The idea is to be able to provide food for Her Majesty’s Prison and maybe if possible to sell some of the food so we could raise funds to assist with the rehabilitation programme at the prison,” Dr Cort said.

Efforts to develop the farm began in 2010 and the project has been receiving support from the Ministry of Agriculture.

17th April 2012

‘Agriculture revives production marketing unit’

The Ministry of Agriculture is anticipating getting a better handle of its agriculture produce, through the initiation of the Production Marketing Intelligence Service (PROMIS), which is tasked with assessing and recording the level of production on the ground.

The unit, which went out of commission in 2004, is now working in tandem with the local producers and farmers to ensure that food is imported in the country based on a needs basis.

Extension Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture Owalabi Elabanjo told OBSERVER Media that the food importers are now cooperating with the ministry in this regard.

“Most of them, before they bring in any import licence ... they consult the ministry as to what is available and where can they get it and what is the cost attached to it and on our own part too we have been dealing with them through telephone calls on what is available and what they can bring in,” Elabanjo said. Data from the field slowed around 2004, when the PROMIS unit went out of commission after its officers took the voluntary separation package.

Agriculture Minister Hilson Baptiste, in an earlier interview with OBSERVER Media, said that efforts were being made to revive the unit, but not without an uphill battle, given the conditions outlined in the Uruguay Round of the World Trade Organization (WTO), to which Antigua and Barbuda is a signatory.

This WTO regulation restricts any country, which is a signatory from

free trade without proper statistics, and evidence to quantify the tariff on the goods imported locally even if it is to protect domestic agricultural services. He insisted however that, the move to protect farmers would have to be in a “conscious way” in which warrants for imports are signed selectively. And the extension officer said this is being achieved.

“What we don’t have, we allow. So it has assisted in many ways and if it continues like this, I think the joy is there for our local farmers,” the extension officer concluded.

In 2011, statistic revealed that the ministry imports vegetable commodities to the tune of EC \$32 million, while several farmers reported spoilage of local produce, due mainly to lack of proper storage and proper post harvesting facility.

5th May 2012

New fuel station for Fisherfolk

Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer has hailed the commissioning of the Marine Fuel Station for fishermen as a historic day for the country, even as he underscored the importance of the fisheries sector to the twin-island state. “The livelihood of hundreds of persons is dependent on a good fishing industry,” Spencer told the opening of the facility at Point Wharf Fisheries Complex late yesterday.

“This depot will contribute to the continued success of the fishing industry,” Spencer told an audience that comprised mainly career fishermen.

Construction of the fuel station started in September last year and was built at a cost of approximately EC \$300,000 but fishermen say the dream took a long time to become a reality.

“The whole process spanned over 30 years but the important thing is

that we are here,” President of the Antigua and Barbuda Fishermen Co-operative Leonard Mussington recalled. The co-operative negotiated with West Indies Oil to provide the fuel at concessionary rate. Government has also waived all taxes on fuel to members of the fishermen co-operative in a bid to make the commodity more affordable.

Addressing the opening, Fisheries Minister Hilson Baptiste urged fishermen to take care of the facility.

20th April 2012

Barbuda Council halts sand mining



The governing body in Barbuda announced that it had passed a resolution halting all sand mining operations on the 62-square-mile island even as it came under fire from environmental experts for acting too late.

The resolution passed on 26th March 2012 seeks to bring to an end a more than 30-year practice on the island. Efforts in the past to bring an end to sand mining were short-lived because some people depended heavily on the business for their survival.

Barbuda Council Chairman Kelvin Punter acknowledged that there would be financial implications but said the council felt that action was

needed to prevent further degradation of environment.

“We now have to look past the economic benefit and look at the reality of the situation,” Chairman Punter told OBSERVER Media.

The Barbuda Council said since mining operations will end shortly, they are now tasked with “going into consultation with the people of Barbuda and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to discuss survival means where finances are concerned.”

“It is unfortunate that it had to come to this but this is something that was expected over a number of years. But the time has come where enough is enough, the decision has been taken and we have to look at other ways of moving forward,” Punter said.

Experts have described the mining operations on Antigua’s twin island, whose white sand beaches are the envy of many, as an “ecological disaster.”

Marine biologist John Mussington, who has been following mining op-

erations on Barbuda, has dismissed the council resolution as “too late.”

He told OBSERVER Media that the council went beyond the 2007 benchmark for it to size activity leading to “irreparable damage that Barbuda has.”

“If you can have an administration doing that knowing full well what the dangers are it shows the callous disregard they have for the long term sustainability of Barbuda,” said Mussington, who has been opposed to mining operations from its inception.

He has refuted statements that mining on the island is a major economic activity adding, “the vast proportion of monies made from sand mining goes to concerns who are outside of Barbuda.”

Antigua and Barbuda is party to the Bio-Diversity Convention, and Mussington believes that authorities acted in contravention of that treaty “because the mining eliminated a lot of species.”

31st March 2012

Age is Honor: Street Naming to Honor Centenarians

Freetown village on the south east coast of Antigua is home to one of the world’s super centenarians, an exclusive title awarded to persons who attain the ripe age of 110 years. Irene Carlos achieved this status in January of this year and celebrated her “super birthday” in grand style with many local government officials in attendance.

Dame Louise Lake-Tack, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda and representative of Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth was on hand to congratulate Irene Carlos. The Governor also announced plans to rename some of the local streets in Antigua and Barbuda in honour of the nation’s centenarians. At the last count, the destina-



Sally Davis and her grandmother,
106 year-old Lady Evelyn Davis

tion had 18 living centenarians – 16 women and 2 men. “Life expectancy rates in A & B do not appear to be significantly higher than other Caribbean countries, but the number of centenarians in a population of less than 100,000 is quite impressive”, says local physician, Sir Prince Ramsey. “The results also show significantly better survival rates among women than men, pointing to better health outcomes among women.” Sally Davis feels honoured to celebrate this Moth-

er’s Day with her grandmother Lady Evelyn Davis, who recently turned 106. The former school teacher is still in fairly good health, is very cognitive, somewhat mobile and is cared for by her children, family and friends. Deeply religious, she reads her bible every day and also the local newspaper. Her philosophy is, “nothing is greater than God!”

Sally, the oldest of 11 grandchildren, describes her grandmother as easy going with a simple daily routine. Lady Davis takes a shot of brandy every day, is never indulgent -- she eats well but in moderation, never going for seconds. It’s all about freshness. She believes is eating fresh produce and fresh meat. Lady Davis still enjoys eating “rice pudding,” a local delicacy prepared especially for her every Saturday.

*** 11th May 2012 ***

Distribution of hundreds of plots of land begins shortly



The landless will be given priority in the queue when government begins the distribution of approximately 600 plots of land, at concessionary prices, at the end of May.

Those left holding the bag owing to the Antigua Labour Party's (ALP) failed Land-for-Youth scheme are also in for a reprieve, Minister of Lands Hilson Baptiste said.

The latter group, which has been in limbo for a decade, can expect an announcement shortly, the Minister said.

"Some of them paid down monies and some paid off for lands they nev-

er had. The former administration took their money but never gave them the land," Baptiste said.

He noted that these individuals would be allocated lands in and around the North Sound area.

"We are finalizing the deal and they can look out for a plan to come in by next month," the minister said.

Meanwhile, spoke on 15th May 2012 at a United Progressive Party (UPP) town hall meeting at Princess Margaret School (PMS), Baptiste said plots would be available, primarily for first-time landowners, starting at the end of May.

Though the plots are available across the island, land in Bendals, Wier's and Red Hill will be on offer first.

The Minister, in a subsequent interview, said the prices and the sizes would be dependent on location.

"Lands are subdivided based on topography. The shape of the land will determine the size of the lot, but the average size is 5,500 square feet. Some are bigger, some are smaller," Baptiste said.

"The prices are also based on location and the infrastructural needs, so that if the land is on a hill where it is difficult to put water and electricity, it

would cost more than land in a flat area, but the prices range from \$3.50 per square foot to \$5.50," Baptiste added.

The tone at the town hall indicated that there is the expectancy of a correlation between first-time landowners and the youth.

This caused an audience member to ask what systems are in place to ensure that the lands do not remain fallow, owing to a lack of funds to build, or the absence of haste associated with youth.

Minister of Finance Harold Lovell said the aim is for the land programme to complement the Construct Antigua and Barbuda Initiative (CABI).

Individuals who are approved by the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority administered CABI are entitled to tax relief and concessionary rates on building materials and aggregates purchased locally, as well as reduced rates from banks, insurance companies and contractors who are registered with the programme.

Responding to the woman, Lovell said while first-time landowners would be given priority, the programme is not exclusive to them.

18th May 2012

Water supply improving for Barbudans



Construction has started on a reverse osmosis plant in the River area of Barbuda.

The plant is being constructed with a \$1.2 million loan from Venezuela and is a part of the Petro-Caribe (PDV) deal negotiated by Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer.

The plant is expected to produce at least 600,000 gallons per day for the village of Codrington and to hotels in the area. Pipes will be laid from River

to Codrington and from there to households up as far as the Highland area of the island. This project will also be a major resource for farmers, particularly those with land at Highland and those areas traversed by the pipelines.

15th March 2012



Dear Readers, if you know of any nationals and friends travelling to the UK for London 2012 Olympics please remind them that they need to have appropriate travel insurance to cover the cost of medical care in the event of illness. They will not be entitled to NHS treatment



Did you know that Antigua and Barbuda will be participating in the London 2012 Olympics?

See stories below about two of our Olympians

'Ward qualifies for Olympics'

Antigua and Barbuda's **Emily Ward** has qualified in the sport of equestrian for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. She will contest the dressage section of the discipline.

The news of Ward's qualification was sent to the National Olympic Committee on Friday, informing them that the national had qualified for the upcoming Games.

"We hereby have the pleasure to confirm the eligibility of your country to participate in the Equestrian Sports for the 2012 Olympic Games in London," the notification to the NOC said.

"Please confirm if you intend to participate at the Olympic Games with a team; with individuals only; with fewer participants than qualified, or if you do not intend to participate in any equestrian discipline," the notification added.

This is, however, not the first major qualification for Ward who had quali-

fied for the Beijing Olympics back in 2008 but was forced out of the competition following the death of her horse.

The NOC now has until March 31 to



indicate whether or not they intend to participate in the field for which the athlete has qualified.

The deadline of March 1, 2012 for NOCs/NFs to gain eligibility to take

part in the Olympic Games was set by the IOC and FEI.

Eligible NOCs/NFs are kindly requested to inform the FEI in writing by March 31, 2012 whether or not they intend to participate at the London Olympic Games," the notice said.

"An answer both from the respective NOC and NF is required, and a positive answer will confirm your NF/NOC as qualified to participate at the 2012 Olympic Games."

Dressage is a competitive equestrian sport, defined by the International Equestrian Federation as "the highest expression of horse training." Competitions are held at all levels from amateur to the World Equestrian Games.

Its fundamental purpose is to develop, through standardised progressive training methods, a horse's natural athletic ability and willingness to perform, thereby maximising its potential as a riding horse. * * * * *

'Paralympic Committee receives Government's support'

At the official launch of Antigua and Barbuda Paralympic Committee (ABPC) on March 15, 2012, Minister of State with responsibility for Sports, Senator Winston Williams Jr announced his government's endorsement of ABPC.

Senator Williams shared with the gathering his experiences and inspiration gained from working with the founding members in the early stages of discussions on the way forward.

He also said that the establishment of the body is in line with the Ministry's 2012 focus on sports for special needs groups and increasing the level of participation of women and girls in the sector.



Other highlights in the minister's presentation included recognition of two emerging para-athletes, Jamol Pilgrim and Spadicia Harris whose courage, in spite of their challenges, was cited for commendation.

In the latter case, Harris who is a young amputee has been pursuing training in equestrian sports, sailing and now golf. Pilgrim is expected to make history in Antigua & Barbuda as our first paralympic athlete in the 2012 Games slated for London in

September.

Minister Williams also reported on his meeting with Maylene Hector and the National Olympic Committee on leading the charge for the re-establishment of the National Special Olympics Committee. In keeping with the ministry's endorsement of the committee, Williams has since continued discussions with representatives from the ABPC executive on avenues of assistance for Pilgrim.

Coming out of the meetings, it has been agreed that a submission will be made to the Government of Jamaica to facilitate Pilgrim's training at the Athletics High Performance Centre. Williams has given assurances that every effort will be made to assist ABPC in facilitating the participation of Antigua & Barbuda's first paralympic athlete in the Games in September 2012 in London.* * * * *

Clean-up at Parham Fisheries scheduled

The Fisheries Division will be spear-heading a clean-up campaign later this month at the Parham Fisheries Complex, in a bid to improve its environs which “have been abused by the fisher folks and members of the general public.”

General Manager of the Parham Fisheries Complex Gene Small said the co-operation of the fishing community and the general public will be needed for the April 20 exercise to remove abandoned items from the compound.

He said items such as boats, trailers, engines and old fishing gear are causing an eyesore.

“We need to move these away,” Small said. “It certainly does not give us a good image, and the abandoned boats, on the other hand, are a health hazard because they are taking in water which has become stagnant and are

breeding grounds for mosquito.”

Vessel owners and other people who fail to comply with the notice after this date will have their items taken to the Cooks sanitary landfill.



One of the areas on the fisheries compound targeted for clean-up.

The entire slipway area of the Parham dock will also be cleared in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season.

The aesthetics of the facility is among a number of other challenges the GM pointed out to OBSERVER Media during a tour of the facilities.

A critical challenge he noted is that of vandalism of the property and a lack of adequate security.

Small said because there is no gate to secure the compound, it is easily accessed after working hours.

“A lot of fishers and patrons have displayed a lack of co-operation and have continually abused the property, including graffiti all over the compound, tampering with the doors, damaging the bathroom facilities and indiscriminate parking,” he added.

The general manager said the fisheries complex was built in a strategic location in 2003 to promote economic diversification and self-sufficiency in food supply, hence it should be kept in good order.

The \$45 million fisheries complex is the result of a joint effort between the governments of Antigua & Barbuda and Japan.

*** 5th April 2012 ***

Groundbreaking For State of the Art Cancer Centre in Antigua

Upon becoming aware of the Cancer Centre of the Bahamas through one of its principals; Dr. Conville Brown, Prime Minister Spencer approached

Global Health Partners Ltd, The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the Governments of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and MEI Healthcare, Inc.



Antigua and Barbuda is set to become the home of a state of the art Cancer Centre for the Eastern Caribbean.

The desire for a Cancer Centre was the brainchild of Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda the Hon. Dr. Baldwin Spencer back in 2009 while attending the 50th meeting of CARICOM in Anguilla.

him with the idea of creating a similar Centre in Antigua for the benefit of the citizens of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

The planning for the Cancer Centre of the Eastern Caribbean or CCEC was thus begun.

CCEC is a joint venture between

Based off the Cancer Centre of the Bahamas model, the CCEC will be fully equipped with state of the art machinery, technology and personnel to effectively and efficiently care for cancer patients within the OECS. The CCEC will provide patients with superb Medical, Radiation and Surgical Oncology services.

It is the intention of the Principals and stakeholders of the Institution to have it accredited by the American College of Radiation Oncology (ACRO) Accreditation standards via the Cancer Centre of the Bahamas.

It is conceived that the Cancer Centre of the Eastern Caribbean will not only provide high quality care to cancer patients within the OECS but also provide opportunities for Medical Tourism to be a possibility. The construction of the CCEC is set to be fully completed in just under a year.

26th April 2012

Notices and Announcements

Antigua and Barbuda Pensioners' Social Security Life Certificates

Kindly note that Pensioners' Life Certificates can be witnessed and signed at the
Antigua and Barbuda High Commission, 2nd Floor, 45 Crawford Place, London W1H 4LP
For more information or to make an appointment please Telephone 020 7258 0070



**To All Antiguan and Barbudans and Friends of Antigua and Barbuda
a Service of Thanksgiving**

**To Celebrate the 45th Anniversary of
Antigua and Barbuda National Association London (ABNA)**

**Took place on Sunday 24th June 2012 at 3.00pm
St Mary's Church, Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 9ES**

Antigua and Barbuda National Association London

**Please
Join us**

Family Fun Day

Sunday 15th July 2012

Peter May Sports Centre

135 Wadham Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4HR



NOTICE

**PLEASE APPLY AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN
A NEW CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
MACHINE READABLE PASSPORT**

*New Style Caribbean Community
Antigua and Barbuda Passport*

'Tourism welcomes yachtsmen for Sailing week'

The 45th Antigua Sailing Week got off to a start with a mix of activities in the Nelson's Dockyard on 28th April 2012 when hundreds turned out for a night of partying and to welcome sailors from around the world to the Caribbean's largest sailing regatta.

Joining in the festivities was the Minister of Tourism John Maginley who expressed his delight at yet another opportunity to share Antigua's renowned sailing conditions and the warmth of hospitality with the visiting competitors.

He further encouraged the sailors to return to the island for other racing events on Antigua's yachting calendar, which runs from November right into May.

The changes that were introduced to Antigua Sailing Week this year were prompted mainly by the wishes of the sailors. The Minister noted the value of constant feedback as the committee and government are making a much greater effort to listen to everyone involved in Sailing Week.

He urged the community to make their voices heard as the organisers continue their work in developing and improving the product, not only for the sailors, but also for residents. Chairman of the Regatta Organising Committee Kathy Lammers also welcomed the yachtsmen and women and wished them good luck and a fun time in the next few days of what has already turned out to be an exciting time of racing in Antigua Sailing Week.

The various winners in the Yachting World Round Antigua Race were handed their awards by Editor of Yachting World Magazine, David Glenn, and Maginley.

A cocktail reception in the Copper and Lumber Hotel attracted top local officials, dignitaries and press. It was held against the backdrop of the Marine Art Exhibition and the showcase of some of the top entries and winners in the annual LIAT sponsored Schools' Art Exhibit.

With formalities over, the partying continued as the Vision Band played well into the night delighting the hundreds who gathered for the English Harbour Rum Welcome Party.

The after-race activities returned to the Dockyard yesterday with the Immobile Dockyard Day. Big bands and giveaways were a part of the entertainment line-up. Sir Vivian Richards was on hand signing autographs and presenting prizes to the winners of the first official day of racing at Antigua Sailing Week.

30th April 2012

Hotel closure places more strain on Barbuda



Coco Point Lodge

The closure of Coco Point Lodge in Barbuda at the end of the tourist winter season, last week, has raised concerns that the cash-strapped Barbuda Council will face further financial woes.

The fear was expressed by Chairman of the Council Kelvin Punter, who said several hotel workers, though not more than a dozen, are expected to join the council in order to secure an income to provide their basic needs.

While some of the hotel workers

have already approached the council, Punter said he expects more will follow when the few workers remaining at the lodge are sent off at the end of May. The hotel is expected to reopen in late October or November.

"One of the two operating hotels closed last week, so that puts a lot of pressure on the council with everybody looking for a job. Some of the workers that went off to work with the hotel actually came back out to the council and with sand mining not going on anymore, we are also further cash-strapped," Punter said.

Punter said the council proposed new measures just over a week ago and he hopes the plans get under way as soon as possible so the body can meet its expenses.

"Wages (weekly paid workers) are behind by three weeks and we are looking at paying another week's wages (yesterday) and I hope we can do that and also be able to pay shortly to bring it up to only two weeks outstanding." Salaries (monthly paid

workers) for the month of April have not been paid as yet, but Punter hopes it would be done by tomorrow.

The weekly payroll is about \$168,000 while the monthly payroll is approximately \$300,000. The Barbuda Council employs 419 people, which represents about 80 per cent of the working population on the sister isle.

Meantime, Deputy Chairman of the Council Fabian Jones is of the view that the body can continue to manage its expenses using monies from sand already mined and waiting to be sold; the Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax (ABST) to be collected from the two hotels in Barbuda for March and April; and the transfer grant from central government.

Jones said government has only handed over half of the amount of the grant for the first quarter of the year.

3rd May 2012

Barbuda police stretched to the limit



Residents on the sister isle are complaining about the shortage of police officers at the Barbuda Police Station as reports indicate the facility is staffed with about half the number it is supposed to have.

A senior official in Barbuda told OBSERVER Media, "The station is supposed to have about a dozen lawmen but at the moment I believe there are six or seven of them. There were more but it seems they have been moved and no replacements were sent for a year or so now, from my observations."

While acknowledging that Barbuda's population is bordering on 2,000 people and crime is very minimal, the source said more police officers are still needed.

A current serving senior member of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda revealed that the station on the sister isle is supposed to have seven constables, two corporals, one inspector and one sergeant. However, at the moment there are five constables, one corporal and one inspector.

"They have to work at the airport each time a flight comes in and leaves. Someone has to remain at the station; they have to do security runs at Coco Point and they have to do field investigations for old matters and new ones and they have to patrol the place every day all day. Their weakness in numbers keeps showing up whenever something happens," the source said.

When contacted about the alleged shortage of staff, the officer who answered the station's phone said to speak to Commissioner Vere Browne who was long ago informed of the situation. The officer said he could not discuss the matter any further.

27th April 2012

Requirement for completion of Declaration Forms when persons are travelling with more than US \$ 10,000.00

Travellers are reminded that there is a legal requirement to complete a Declaration Form of any country when travelling with currency valued at more than US \$10,000.00. In accordance with the Customs (Currency and Goods Declaration) Regulation section 2 (1) and (3), the Money Laundering (Prevention) Act sections 18 (1) and (3), the currency may be seized if it has not been declared or if there is reason to suspect that it is the proceeds of crime, or is intended for use in unlawful activity.

Persons leaving or entering Antigua and Barbuda with more than (US\$10,000) or its equivalent in EC dollars or in any other currency whether in cash or negotiable bearer instruments should make a declaration in the form prescribed.

The following process has been established to complete the declaration forms when taking currency out of the country.

Step 1. - Notify Ministry of Finance by letter in duplicate of your intention to transfer the currency and obtained a receipt.

Step 2. – Submission of Form I in triplicate to ONDCP by Applicant and obtain approval

Step 3. –Submit a copy of the ONDCP approval to the Ministry of Finance

Step 4. – Present the approval to Customs and Excise Division

The individuals are advised to make their application at least five (5) business days before the travel date. The ONDCP recently had signs installed at the VC Bird International Airport to ensure that all travellers are notified of the legal requirements when travelling with currency valued at more than US \$ 10,000.00.

18th May 2012

Antigua and Barbuda Airport Departure Tax

Did you know that retired (60 years and over) citizens of Antigua and Barbuda are exempt from Antigua and Barbuda airport departure tax?

To be exempted you must present as evidence of citizenship an

Antigua and Barbuda passport

New Disciplinary Measures for School System



With a view to alleviate the problem of violence in schools, the Ministry of Education is set to implement strict disciplinary measures in the upcoming September school year.

In 2011, the number of incidents of violence in schools created headlines and were a cause for concern amongst parents, teachers, fellow students and the country in general.

The Ministry of Education has since undertaken a number of initiatives in an attempt to solve the problem.

Minister of Education, the Hon. Dr. Jacqui Quinn-Leandro in an address during the recently held UPP Town Hall meeting, says that the upcoming school year will see the Ministry implementing new anti-violence initiatives.

Dr. Quinn-Leandro said these initiatives include: a 6:00 pm curfew for school children in St. John's, a voluntary Cadet Corps programme along with a mandatory Boot Camp. These initiatives are the result of meetings between the Ministry of Education and National Security, the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force and

the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.

With respect to the mandatory Boot Camp, Dr. Quinn-Leandro says it's "going to be incorporated as a regime of punishment for children who are deviant...badly behaved and children displaying negative and anti-social behavior."

The Boot Camp will be at the disposal of Principals to use as a form of discipline for wayward students. Unlike the Boot Camp, the Cadet Corps will be voluntary and will be used to boost team spirit, civic and national pride.

According to the Education Minister, these initiatives are especially geared towards repeat (violent) offenders.

17th May 2012

Boxing Club starts on Barbuda

Here is a new initiative of the sports department of the Tourism, Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Committee of the Council - a boxing programme.

The club meets every Monday,

Tuesday and Thursday from 5pm - 7pm and recently acquired new equipment from a generous sponsor in Antigua.

The first outing is scheduled for June this year against another amateur club in St Johns, Antigua

6th May 2012



'Poultry farm for Antigua and Barbuda

A United States-based company has agreed to invest in a poultry farm – a move expected to create much needed jobs, Minister responsible for the economy, Harold Lovell said.

He told supporters at a recent rally of the United Progressive Party that for the past four months, the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority has been in discussion with "one of the largest poultry producers in America."

The Minister said although talks were in the preliminary stages, construction was expected to begin by the end of 2012, "of the largest poultry farm anywhere in the Caribbean."

"This will be designed for export," Lovell said, adding, "Antiguans eat more chicken than anybody else.

"With this poultry farm, we will begin to produce our own chicken and we will be able to export for the Caribbean," he said.

Lovell told supporters that this latest project demonstrated government's commitment to override the

economic difficulties and provide jobs for citizens.

"If we are to provide jobs for our people, we need to make sure that we have the investment. I can tell you that we are doing everything to move investments locally forward and to bring foreign investments to this country," he said.

The California headquartered Zacky Farms LLC is a food production company incorporated in 1955. According to the company's website, it currently employs 1500 people in the Los Angeles area.

8th May 2012

'Backyard garden initiative a success'

The Ministry of Agriculture is moving full speed ahead in its quest to further advance backyard farming.

The programme launched in 2011, seeks to address the issue of food security and the availability of wholesome foods to all citizens by encouraging all to grow what they eat.

According to Agriculture Minister Hilson Baptiste the ministry will be intensifying its campaign to increase the level of production from backyard farmers.

Baptiste, who was speaking at the launch of National Backyard Gardening Day, said the aim is to see at least 4 million pounds of food produced annually from the programme.

"I want to see that happen. You would not have to buy anything from the supermarket, you can grow your own and share with you neighbours, I grew up where my mother would send some pumpkins to someone and they would send back two fish we build better communities when we do this," Baptiste said.

The minister said his ministry will be stepping up the support given to backyard farmers to ensure that the needs of everyone are met.

To this end, the ministry will be dividing the country into zones, to better support the initiative.

"We are zoning Antigua off into three or four zones to focus on each zone once per month to ensure that we assist you to better supply your-

self and your family with all the vegetables you need," the minister added.

Over 300 new and existing backyard gardeners flocked the Ministry's headquarters on Queen Elizabeth Highway to participate in the programme.

At the close of business day yesterday the ministry distributed over 15,000 vegetable seedlings to the anxiously awaiting crowd.

Among the seedlings distributed were tomatoes, , butternut squash, zucchini, sweet peppers, season pep-



Seen above H E Dame Louise Lake-Tack GCMG, Governor General and Honourable Mr Hilson Baptiste, Minister of Agriculture

pers, and an assortment of fruit trees were available for sale at a minimal cost.

Also present at the ceremony on Wednesday was Finance Minister Harold Lovell, who made remarks on the behalf of Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer.

Lovell, who spoke highly of the initiative, commended Minister Baptiste for his drive and commitment to the programme over the past year.

He said years ago the society turned its back on agriculture and this void was filled with the importation of foods and vegetables at a high cost to the country.

"I think the backyard garden initiative is very important from the point of view of food security and we must get back to that position where even if we do not produce everything that we eat, we should produce substantially what we eat and we should also eat what we produce," Lovell said.

Lovell added that agriculture is very important to the country's economy and should be recognized as the most important form of culture.

The event was declared opened by Governor General Dame Louise Lake Tack.

According to officials with the Ministry of Agriculture in 2010, the twin island nation imported approximately 16 million pounds of vegetables and serious moves are being made to slash that amount by half.

Governor General Dame Louise Lake Tack was amongst the more than 300 new and existing backyard gardeners who turned up yesterday for activities which marked National Backyard Garden Day, where 15,000 seedlings were distributed to budding farmers. Among the seedlings distributed were tomatoes, butternut squash, zucchini, sweet peppers, season peppers, and an assortment of fruit trees.

* * * ****

10th May 2012

Useful Telephone Numbers in Antigua and Barbuda

Registrar of Births, Marriages, Deaths—001 268 462 3725

Land Registry—001 268 462 3745 Or 562 3943 or 562 3894

'The Whopper debuts'

On March 27th Burger King fans present and future were able to sample the offerings of the first BK outlet in Antigua and Barbuda.

Owner, Island Burger, officially celebrated the opening of its new restaurant located at the Deluxe Cinema Building, Cross and High streets. Representatives from the company and Burger King in Miami, Florida joined the community to commemorate the opening at 10 am.

"Island Burger is proud to grow our restaurant base in St John's and create more than 50 jobs in the community," said Stuart Wexelman, managing director.

"We look forward to serving guests their favourite flame-broiled products for many years to come."

The new restaurant features a menu of popular guest favourites, such as burgers, chicken sandwiches, desserts, ice cream and, of course, the Whopper sandwich, the Burger King brand's signature menu item.

Additionally, the new restaurant



menu offers BK Kids Meals which include an entrée and side dish such as a burger, cheeseburger or chicken tenders, along with a beverage.

The Burger King restaurant, nestled within the Deluxe Cinema façade, features an updated exterior and interior design, keeping with Island Burger's commitment to providing its guests with a dining experience that rivals all other casual dining restaurants in the area.

It also features the Duke Flexible Batch Broiler, a new broiler that

maximises cooking flexibility and facilitates a broader menu selection while reducing operational and energy costs.

Founded in 1954, Burger King is the second largest fast food hamburger chain in the world, operating more than 12,250 locations serving over 11 million guests daily in 76 countries and territories worldwide.

27th March 2012

'Farm group gets grant funding'

A local farming group is responding favourably to a US \$14,000 seedling programme funded by the Australian government.

The initiative, which is set to begin shortly, will result in the planting of 24,000 tomato seedlings, 32,000 cucumber seedlings, cabbage, lettuce, sweet peppers and watermelons utilising 20 acres of land throughout Antigua & Barbuda.

The project will be executed by Team Fresh Produce, a group of farmers with a wealth of experience.

The team's vice president Neil Gomes said the group was able to secure the funding after written and

verbal communication with the government of Australia.

The project, which will be conducted in two phases involving 14 farmers, is expected to be completed by June.

"It would allow for our farmers to be self-sustainable and to add to the GDP as well as add to the country on a whole," Gomes said during an appearance on *OBSERVER AM*.

Gomes said the farmers will be monitored on the planting of selected crops, which he indicated are needed on the market.

"We looked at cucumbers, watermelon, tomatoes, sweet peppers, cabbages that we know the industry would take. What we are also do-

ing is to allow individuals in the group to actually sow out these seeds, show them how, get them up and get them going so that they can get them into the ground," Gomes explained.

"Our intention is to use the seedlings from the grant to sell to the market, have a revolving fund and use that to grow Team Fresh produce so that in the long run we would not be looking for grants."

The vice president also added that his group will also be looking to forge a partnership with the Central Marketing Corporation (CMC), who has indicated interest in purchasing the produce.

25th April 2012

Laws coming to manage gold and copper rush



The United Progressive Party (UPP) administration will table legislation in Parliament to deal with increasing crime associated with the cash-for-gold and copper schemes, Minister of National Security Dr. Errol Cort

said.

Dr. Cort was speaking Tuesday night at a UPP town hall meeting at Princess Margaret School (PMS).

Antigua and Barbuda, like many of its neighbours, has been grappling with an increase in criminal enterprise related to the sale of copper and gold, reports indicate. Construction sites and unoccupied buildings have been the main targets for those rummaging for copper, which is sold to dealers for export. Police spokespersons have also recently linked muggings and break-ins to the cash-for-gold market.

Dr. Cort said, Tuesday, the stiff penalties included in the law would serve as a deterrent.

“This situation is running rampant

and as a government we intend to bring legislation to Parliament to deal with that situation,” Dr. Cort said.

The minister acknowledged that the drafting process would take some time, and said a meeting will be convened with the respective business persons to establish a framework for trading.

“We will seek to have an understanding, so that proper records are kept in respect of persons bringing in property for sale,” Dr. Cort said.

This would include, he said, photocopies of the sellers’ ID and photographs and adequate descriptions of the items sold.

17th May 2012

Eleven Graduate from GRACE Programme



The head of Government’s Residential and Care for the Elderly and Eligible (GRACE) programme is looking ahead towards greater advancement of Elderly Care Assistants who work under the initiative.

Director of the programme Brenda Bennett is hoping that Elderly Care Assistants could be registered so

they can be nationally recognised which will develop in them a sense of

self-worth to effectively carry out their duties.

Bennett was speaking at the graduation of eleven Elderly Care Assistants at the Simon Boulevard Centre, who completed a course in care for the elderly and home nursing.

The individuals were taken through topics like the United Nations Princi-

ples for older people, understanding your job, protection of vulnerable adults, nutrition, personal care and hygiene.

Top student Nora Namygwanya said the course provided a sense of confidence, skills and the necessary knowledge to be efficient on the job. Minister of Health and Social Transformation Wilmoth Daniel, under which the programme falls, says government will spare no effort to strengthen such programmes.

He said government is now working on regulations to protect the elderly from all forms of abuse and should be applauded for looking after the nation’s senior citizens.

The Minister congratulated the graduates and encouraged them to let this be a stepping stone to future development.

17th May 2012

To Our Readers

The next issue of the newsletter will cover June only

'Patriot Hugh Pigott dies'

He served in two administrations, decades apart, and is being remembered both for his political acumen and devotion to nation building.

Hugh Theodore Pigott passed away peacefully at his Wireless Home residence yesterday morning at the age of 78 years.

Pigott was one of the earlier entrepreneurs in the tourism field as he was proprietor of Pigottsville Hotel which opened its doors in 1975 and which continues to operate to this day.

Among his dreams, which grew to fruition, is the Orange Valley Nature Park which opened in the 1980's with a wide assortment of exotic birds and other flora and fauna.

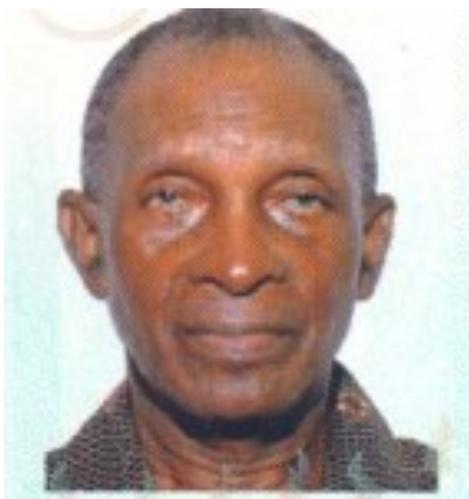
Pigott is, perhaps, best known for his activities in the political arena and his contribution to the public service. He was one of the earlier chairmen of the Carnival Committee. He worked at the Transport Board and the Tourism Department and was a senator in the PLM administration and an advisor and confidante of the late Vere Cornwall Bird, Father of the Nation.

Son, Andre Pigott, told Observer Media that his father only complained of feeling unwell on Sunday and that yesterday he collapsed on

leaving the bathroom. He died before the ambulance could transport him to hospital.

"He served his country well, and one of the things which stand out for me is his honesty and his love for his country and his family," Andre said. "He never demonstrated at any time he would trade his country for another"

Chairman and Deputy Political Leader of the Antigua Labour Party Gaston Browne described the deceased as a stalwart of the Antigua Labour Party and a very effective organizer who was well respected in the institution.



"As an advisor and confidante of Sir Vere, his contribution to the Labour Party is well known and respected. His integrity was impeccable and he took principled positions.

"On behalf of myself, the leadership and membership of the ALP, I would like to express sincerest condolences.

"I know his passing will be a great loss to the Pigott's family and I trust that the knowledge of his contribution to the ALP and the advancement of our country will help to assuage their pain," Browne said.

On a personal note, Browne said Pigott was a good friend who believed in him and would advise him from time to time.

"His good wishes were so extensive that he would say to me, he would have wanted me to become leader of the country."

Pigott was frequent caller to Winston Derrick's *Voice of the People* programme. Derrick said his contributions would be missed as one who was willing to share his knowledge and to give advice.

Pigott is survived by his wife of 53 years Naomi, eight children, 22 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

10th May 2012



'Visit'

Antigua and Barbuda

At

The Commonwealth Fair

Saturday 3rd November 2012, 11.30am to 6.00pm

Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street London W8 7NX

Music—Food—Crafts

Entry: Adults £5.00 Children up to 12 years old £3.00



'Antigua and Barbuda loses another WWII vet'

One of the last of Antigua and Barbuda's World War II veterans, Alfred Theophilus Peters, has died. He passed away on Monday, May 14, in St Croix US Virgin Islands. Peters enlisted in the British Army's 1st Battalion Caribbean Regiment in 1943, and was honourably discharged after serving three years. He leaves to mourn his wife, Fernella Peters, five children, 12 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

22nd May 2012

'Additional funds to combat violence against women'

Antigua and Barbuda is among six Caribbean countries expected to benefit from an agreement to continue the battle of violence against women.

The Organization of American States (OAS) and the Government of Chile signed a Letter of Intent to strengthen capacities in the area of violence against women.

The Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the OAS, Deborah-Mae Lovell, said Caricom thanks the Government of Chile for its continued assistance for social development.

Ambassador Lovell said that the signed Letter of Intent "is another example of the Government of Chile's partnership with the Caribbean" and stressed the important role played by the OAS in the efforts to address issues of common concern. Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs Alfredo Moreno said his

government recently contributed US \$1 million for social development in the Caribbean countries, of which US\$113,000 will be aimed at strengthening capacity in the area of combating violence against women in the Eastern Caribbean.

Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, St Kitts & Nevis, and St Vincent & the Grenadines are the countries who will benefit from the initiative.

10th May 2012

Ministry of Information Launches Arrive Alive Campaign



The Ministry of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications, Science and Technology has launched an "Arrive Alive" Safe Driving Campaign designed to raise awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.

The Safe Driving Promotion which will run throughout the summer will look at road safety in terms of discouraging persons from texting and driving, the importance of using seat belts and recognizing that alcohol can impede judgment while driving.

"Watch the Road Not the Phone" is the first message that has been

launched in the series. The campaign comes as Government seriously looks at enacting legislation that will prohibit the use of cell phones while driving.

It is geared at raising public awareness about distracted driving by urging drivers to put down their phones and focus on the road, the "Watch the Road Not the Phone" series sends a clear message that drivers need to keep their attention on the road, not on their cell

21st May 2012



London 2012 Olympics

Friday 27th July 2012 to Sunday 12th August 2012

London 2012 Paralympics

Wednesday 29th August 2012 to Sunday 9th September 2012

Carnival 2012 Officially Launched

committees should be commended for building on the foundation laid

inclusion of the National Festivals Committee to work along with the CDC. He expressed his appreciation for the Sponsors who have returned to assist the festival and also to the artistes and Mas Bands who have once again committed themselves to Carnival 2012 despite previous grievances.



The audience was treated to performances by last year's Jumpy Soca Monarch winner Hard Knaxx and his crew, as well as former Party and Groovy Soca Monarch winner Tian Winter. Repeat Party and Soca Monarch winner Claudette "CP" Peters also took to the stage and gave the audience a sample of her new releases.

Members of the various media houses were present, along with CDC committee members, Government officials, sponsors, Mas leaders and artistes.

over the previous years and carnival 2012 promises to be successful.

Mas Bands brought color and vibrancy to the already charged atmosphere with their beautiful costumes and head pieces. The atmosphere was one of anticipation, revelry and good vibes.

Minister of Carnival the Hon. Euston Adams congratulated the new C.D.C. Chairman Mr. Kayode O'marde on not only his appointment but his efficient handling of the position. Minister Adams said that O'marde and the CDC sub-

CDC Chairman Kayode O'marde, welcomed those at the Carnival launch and while noting some of the difficulties the CDC faces, mentioned his Committees' resolve to make the Caribbean's greatest summer festival successful.

Mr. O'marde spoke highly of the commitment of his team and the

"In Living Colour" is this year's theme for Carnival 2012 and by all accounts it promises to be the greatest summer festival.

10th May 2012



www.barbudaful.net
A website with information just about Barbuda



Caribana 2012

Caribana, Barbuda's own carnival celebrations, will run as usual over Whit Weekend (24th May to 28th May 2012)