

THE SISSEROU VOICE

Vwa Siséwou



EDITION 06/2022

Issue No: 108 Editor: Reg Hector



Dominica Oversea Nationals Association

11 Nemoure Road, Acton

London W3 6NZ

0208 9920142



*Find us on
Facebook*

DONA Website

WWW.DONA.ORG.UK

*Summer
Edition*

CONTENTS

Page	
1	Front page
2	Contents
3	Editorial
4	DONA word search
5	DONA Seminar Workshop
6	Botany Bay – Sunday fun - day
7	CHANCES- Cooker Range
8	Springtime Greetings
9-10	Our Island History
11	ADD – Property for sale
12-21	News From Home
22	Birthday greetings and Sympathy
23	Membership Reminder 2022
24	DONA Logo
	Disclaimer: The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those held by the Association DONA



**The Dominica Oversea Nationals Association (DONA) says,
Congratulations to HM Queen Elizabeth 11 on her Platinum Jubilee.**

Editorial

We recently received the good news of the inauguration of the reconstructed WS Stevens Primary School (WSSPS) in Marigot and it was most pleasing to hear of that important development and of others and how this contemporary center of learning will have far reaching positive impact on the lives of the youths who will attend this educational establishment.

The people of Marigot, as we are told, have been patiently waiting for this occasion as they had lost their old school when hurricane Maria destroyed it in 2016. In line with this development DONA has donated 12 Desktop computers to enhance the IT department of the school. This was acknowledged by the Minister of State in the Blue and Green Economy, Agriculture and National Food Security, Senator Gregory Riviere.

We are also pleased to have received confirmation of receipt of the donation of the Cooker Range donated to the disadvantaged children's home in Dominica, CHANCES. It is said that patient is a virtue and over the months we have patiently await news of these donated items and we are delighted to convey the good news to our members and friends.

Over the past months because of the covid restrictions it was not possible to hold any face-to-face meetings, but we were happy to say that this was made possible at our last meeting held in Hackney in April and we are now looking forward to the Biennial general meeting (Election Year) on the 26 of June 2022. There are other planned events, and these can be found in the work planner.

After a period of fundraising inactivity's, (due to pandemic restrictions) we are now poised to reactivate our fundraising drive and especially the much-loved Family Sunday Funday. Over this dark period, we have certainly experienced some setbacks one of which is the updating of our website (WWW.DONA.ORG.UK) as we have been badly let-down by the web designer, but we are currently taking steps to redress the situation.

We certainly experience lean times over this dark period, but we are pleased to say that the association remains viable this being a result of the dedicated and diligent members and executive who have worked relentless in preserving the association's dream.

Hopefully, the forthcoming seminar involving the professional youth will help to turn the tide.

R A Hector

DONA PRO

DONA Easter word Search _____ June 2022

Q	G	A	R	D	E	N	D	F	C	B	M	P	U	R	C	A	Q	H	M	T	C	G	I	O	P
B	I	R	D	S	A	C	F	R	N	M	A	O	D	G	N	P	X	O	Z	F	C	M	M	F	J
L	T	B	E	Q	S	C	L	I	Q	R	X	L	Y	T	E	L	F	L	Q	R	D	A	H	X	Z
S	A	N	D	H	N	C	I	E	K	S	X	L	B	A	D	A	F	I	J	U	K	N	L	C	V
A	Z	X	C	V	V	V	G	N	V	Y	D	E	G	H	J	N	C	D	U	I	R	G	O	P	A
T	Y	J	D	M	B	X	H	D	Q	Z	I	N	S	E	C	T	Z	A	X	T	D	O	B	M	S
U	R	T	F	B	L	B	T	S	D	S	B	S	T	J	D	S	M	Y	C	S	C	E	F	G	W
Z	X	C	V	N	O	M	T	U	C	S	S	C	R	O	H	F	P	L	M	N	V	V	J	K	E
O	U	T	D	O	O	R	S	Y	H	B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	I	E	S	X	Z	B	N	E
T	H	C	Z	V	M	B	M	P	T	G	M	X	V	Y	U	C	A	S	J	J	K	V	N	W	D
A	W	R	T	Z	S	Q	R	M	A	O	M	O	Q	S	F	D	N	T	J	V	B	B	E	E	S
V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	W	Z	R	E	T	H	U	C	B	T	X	Z	B	N	R	Y	D	U
O	S	G	H	T	M	R	I	B	M	C	R	X	C	N	W	T	S	J	K	V	U	S	C	X	U
C	U	T	I	N	G	M	O	M	A	N	G	O	E	S	Q	B	F	X	Y	U	M	P	Y	I	S
A	Z	C	B	M	L	I	Q	X	Z	U	R	H	W	K	D	M	M	I	O	F	Q	O	W	Z	W
D	F	V	H	B	R	D	J	D	U	D	A	Y	L	I	G	H	T	R	L	V	C	T	Z	M	I
O	R	H	E	C	Q	G	Y	U	I	T	I	Q	B	X	Z	M	Q	O	D	G	J	S	M	Y	M
R	J	Y	A	I	O	E	R	V	F	E	N	X	Z	V	B	M	W	J	E	J	Q	T	Y	D	M
Y	W	F	T	V	H	S	E	A	D	K	T	D	V	B	W	E	Q	N	U	N	S	O	M	O	I
F	K	T	G	T	I	Z	X	V	W	Y	R	Y	U	Y	R	O	O	B	J	T	M	Y	G	L	N
B	L	G	T	R	R	T	Y	U	C	C	A	X	R	S	I	L	I	I	R	M	T	R	E		G
F	D	Q	O	U	A	A	G	J	U	Q	V	Y	N	Y	O	L	E	E	L	R	J	U	L	M	E
C	I	S	Y	U	U	S	C	M	I	R	E	L	M	K	E	V	E	B	A	R	K	E	W	Q	N
K	E	W	U	O	I	X	S	U	N	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	X	P	R	Y	M	L	H	F	M

Word List: ____ Have fun; 40 to find. Play: Horizontal, Vertical and Diagonal.

Sunflower, Pollen, Insect, Garden, Birds, Plants, weeds, Outdoors, Blooms, Trees, Sparrow, Rose, Bees, Summer, Grass, Butterflies, Mangoes, Avocado, Daylight, Midges, Holiday, Travel, Outing, Plants, flowers, Park, sports, swimming, Sea, Sand, Friends, Rain, Mango, Sun, Heat, Vacation, Jubilee, Party, Flight Fruits.

Work Plan 2022 (Subject to change)

Month	Date	Time	Item/Event	Venue
January	Saturday 29th	2pm to 4pm	<u>Windrush Reach Meeting</u>	<u>Acton Hill Church W39BU</u>
January	Sunday -16	3.00 pm	<u>General Meeting, Thanksgiving service and New year social</u>	<u>33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8</u>
February	Saturday 12	3.00 pm	Executive Meeting	Acton Hill Church or Zoom
March	<u>Friday 25</u>		Newsletter issued	<u>Zoom</u>
March	<u>Sat 26</u>		Executive Meeting	
April	Sunday -10	3.00 PM	General Meeting	33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8
April	Saturday 30	3:00pm	Trustees Meeting	Acton Hill Church or Zoom
May	Saturday 14		Dona Seminar -Bridging the gap	Dominica Embassy
May	Saturday 28	3.00 pm	Executive meeting	Acton Hill Church or Zoom
June	Sunday 26	3.00Pm	AGM & Biennial Election	33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8
June	Saturday 18	11am	Sponsored Walk	Regent's Park
June	Friday -24		Newsletter Issued	
July	Saturday 16	3.00pm	Executive Meeting	Acton Hill Church or Zoom
August	Saturday 06	7:30am	Seaside Day Trip	BOTANY BAY
August	Sunday -21	1.00 pm	24 th Annual Funday	North Acton playing fields
September	Sunday -11	3.00Pm	General Meeting	33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8
September	Saturday 24	3.00pm	Executive Meeting	Acton Hill Church or Zoom
September	Friday -30		Newsletter issued	
October	Saturday 08	3:00 pm	Executive Meeting	Acton Hill Church or Zoom
October	<u>Sunday -30</u>	<u>3.00 Pm</u>	<u>Independence Mass</u>	<u>TBC</u>
November	<u>Date TBC</u>	<u>4.30 pm</u>	<u>Evensong Service</u>	<u>TBC</u>
November	<u>Date TBC</u>	<u>9.00 Pm</u>	<u>Independence Dance</u>	<u>TBC</u>
November	<u>Sunday -13</u>	<u>3.00PM</u>	<u>General Meeting</u>	<u>33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8</u>
December	<u>Saturday - 10</u>	<u>7.00 Pm</u>	<u>Christmas party</u>	<u>TBC</u>
December	<u>Friday -16</u>		<u>Newsletter Issued</u>	

Your participation in the sponsored work on the 18th of June will be most appreciated. We look forward to seeing you all there. Your sponsorship will be greatly treasured. Contact DONA for further details.



DOMINICA OVERSEAS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO:

Join us at Botany Bay

6th **AUGUST 2022**

£27 non-members
£25 members
£19 under 16's

**CALL NOW FOR BOOKING!
INFO & ONLINE BOOKING**

**+44 7932 702 072
WWW.DONA.ORG.UK**

Come Join Us



**SUNDAY
21ST AUGUST
1PM-7PM**

Family Funday

Quizzes, tombola, sack race, egg & spoon races, 3 legged races, cash prizes bingo, food, drink & Music

...and many more!

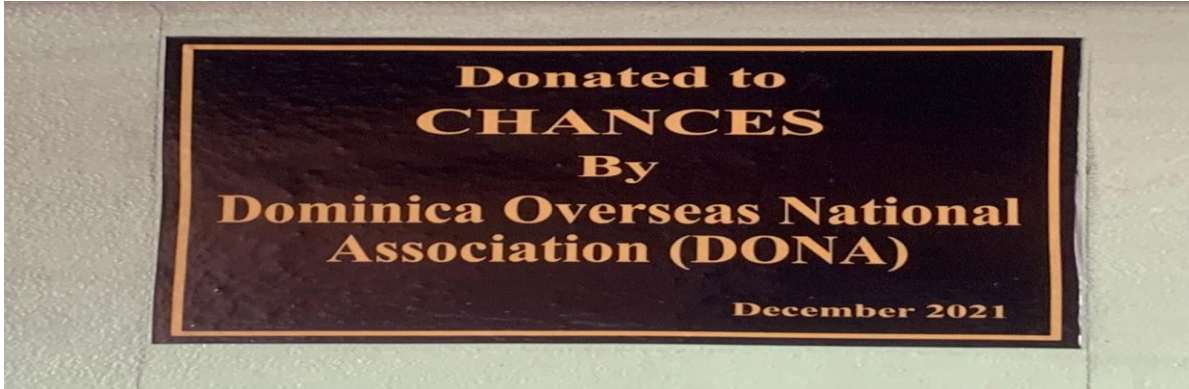
North Acton Pavilion, Eastfields Road, Acton, London, W3 0JF



DOMINICA OVERSEAS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
WWW.DONA.ORG.UK

We (DONA) are pleased to announce that the six Burner Cooker Range donated to Changes has been installed and is now in use to the delight of the the staff and residents of the establishment.

CHANCES has conveyed their thanks to the association for this invaluable donation .



Dear Member

Springtime greetings

I hope this meets you in good health.

How lovely it is to wake up to bright days, warmer weather, the sight of new growth, flowers and the sound of birds chirping away. What a pleasure it is to once again feel free.

At last, we can take some relief that the two and more years of Covid-19 is begging to wane, although there is still some concern about the emergence of other viruses. Let's not take our guards down totally, be mindful and continue to monitor the situation with due care and diligence.

I must say, in these days, there is never a dull moment; with the war still raging in Ukraine, we now have a cost-of-living crisis adding to the disastrous effect from Covid-19. We can only pray and ask the Lord to intercede, come to our rescue. However, if any of you are facing difficulties, please let us know, we may be able to assist or direct you to the correct services.

The last two years have set DONA back a pace or two as we were unable to meet, have social activities and carry out our fundraising programme. Now with the Government's relaxation of all covid rules, we are again able to plan this year's events with the hope that they can be carried out successfully.

The Committee has organised some events as you will see from your programme with some time changes.

A sponsored walk on the 18/6/22.

A Seminar for the young people 23/7/22

The seaside trip to Botany Bay 6/8/22

And the annual fun-day 21/8/22

To ensure that these events are successful we are hoping that you can encourage your families, friends, neighbours, and the general public to buy tickets and support them in whatever way possible.

Keep well, stay safe

God bless. (Mrs Ethelca Brand OBE, MBE<MSA)

Prayer and healing chant

Just as the soft rain fill the stream,
Pour into the rivers and join together in the
ocean,
So may the power of every moment of your
goodness
Flow forth to awaken and heal all things.

By the power of every moment of your goodness
May your heart wishes be soon fulfilled
As completely shining as the bright full moon,
As magically as by a wish-fulfilling gem.

By the power of every moment of your goodness,
May all dangers be averted, and all disease be
gone.
May no obstacle come across your way.
May you enjoy fulfilment and long life.

For all in whose heart dwells respect,
Who follow the wisdom and compassion of the
way,
May your life prosper in the four blessings,
of old age, beauty, happiness, and strength.

Bradley Whitford

Infuse your life with action. Don't wait for it to
happen.
Make it happen. Make your own future. Make
your own hope.
Make your own love. And whatever your belief,
honour your creator, not by passively waiting for
grace
to come down from upon high, but by doing what
you
can to make grace happen...yourself, right
now, right down here on earth

Our Island History

A BRIEF HISTORY OF PORTSMOUTH

By lennox Honychurch

Portsmouth is the second civic center of Dominica and the main town of the northern district. It is situated at prince Rupert bay on the north-west coast of the island in an area called by the Kalinago people: Ouyouhao, and by the French: Grand Anse. The area has been occupied for over 2000 years; ever since indigenous Amerindian people arrived from south America. They established settlements on land above the floods waters and sea surge up the Indian River, at Chance, and on high ground at Glanvillia and Pickard. Stone tools and other ancient artefacts have been found here that provides evidence of their location.

A Spanish ship from Columbus' fleet entered the bay on 3 November 1493. It did not land, but they reported that they saw dwellings and people. The Spanish called this bay 'La Bahai Grand del costa noroeste' and it was used to refresh and repair their ships coming in from the Atlantic before they sailed on to the Spanish Main. Their presence is noted in the name of Morne Espanol. The Kalinagos came out in their canoes loaded with cassava, pineapples, and other fruits to trade with them. More Europeans adventurers followed, and the bay was a focus for marauding pirates. Gradually French settlers began to arrive from Guadeloupe to occupy land around the bay contributing to the many French place names nearby.

When the British took over Dominica under the terms of the treaty of Paris in 1763, the land between the North River and Indian river was chosen as the site for the capital of the Island. It was surveyed and laid out in 1765 by Royal Engineer, John Simpson, with a grid design of streets around a central square (now part of Benjamin's Park). On the east side of the parade square was to be the House of Assembly, Court House and government office. A jail was to be built on the banks of the North River and a Governor's House on the banks of the Indian River. A Market Place and a carenage was planned on the mouth of the Indian River. The town was named after important naval seaport of Portsmouth in the south of England. Streets was named after leading members of the British board of Trade who directed the establishment of the new colony from London: Lords Egremont, Queensborough, Sandwich, Bedford, Pembroke, Halifax, Holland, and others as well as military leaders and Governors active at the time such as Granby, Rollo, Scott, and Rodney. The bay was renamed for Prince Rupert who repaired his ships here.

However, because of the surrounding swamps, the place proved to be unhealthy for the new settlers due to the incidence of malaria and yellow fever carried by swamp mosquitoes. At the time no one made the connection between the stagnant water, the mosquitoes, and the diseases, so they were at a loss to know how to solve the problem. Therefore, in 1768, the decision was taken to transfer the capital to the small French village of Roseau in the south.

Nevertheless, the superior bay and port of Prince Rupert, where the Royal Navy came for wood and water had to be guarded, so a major garrison was constructed on the twin hills of the Cabrits. Today the restored Fort Shirley and the cruise ship berth on the site of the original dock is a focus of community and tourism activity. The town continued to be an active seaport, harbouring at different

times, squadrons of the British Royal Navy, North Americans whaling ships, Confederate ships during the US Civil War, Banana boats sea planes serving |Dominica, yachts, and local inter-island trading vessels. Plantations such as Bell Hall, Cotton Hill, Mount Eolus, Chance, Sugarloaf, Picard, Mount Alleyne, and Pointe Ronde were established around the bay. One of the early owners of Picard Estate was the Glanville family, hence the community of Glanvillia today. In the hills behind, smaller estates grew coffee. As crops change from sugar, coffee and cotton, production moved to cocoa, coconuts, limes, and bananas. For a time, Longhouse was the busiest banana port on Dominica.

After slave emancipation in 1838 many free labourers crowded into the outskirts of Portsmouth to occupy areas such as lagon, Zikak and Glanvillia. From 1871, Dominica became part of the Leeward Islands federation and many workers arrived to find employment here from Antigua, Montserrat, and St Kits. Because of the availability of timber from the surrounding forests, many boat builders also came to settle here from the Grenadines and families such as Mitchel and McLawrence remained. A timber company called Forest Ltd was established here in 1910. It erected the only railway on Dominica going up to the Valley behind Indian River.

Because no Motorable road connected Portsmouth to the south until the completion of the trans-insular road in 1957, a Northern District Commissioner was appointed to administer the North. His residence was at the Grange where the Senior Citizens Home is now located. Motor lunches connected Portsmouth to Roseau just as buses do today. The first airplane to land in Dominica touched down in Benjamin Park in 1943, The bay was used for the first scheduled air service when the Grumman 'Goose' seaplane landed here until Melville Hall airfield was built and began use in 1958. At last, the road was cut along the west coast directly from Roseau, the present EO Le Blanc Highway. It started as a rough, wide, dusty, tarrished road from 1968 until it was properly surfaced in the early 1970s.

Portsmouth has experienced periods of boom and bust such as the rise and collapse of shipping and banana exports and it continues to do so with the departure of Ross School of Medicine in 2017-2018 and whatever may follow. Now hopes are pinned on three large hotels for tourism. In spite of this, the town has produced notable contributors and leaders of Dominica's business, agriculture, maritime, tourism, religious, political, educational, sporting and cultural life, not least three presidents of Dominica including the current incumbent, His Excellency Charles A Savarin.

DONA Family Sunday Funday 21st August 2022

We require new items for our Tombola. All items will be appreciated.

We will be happy to collect.

please contact DONA (Mrs. Brand on 0208 9920142).

We thank you for your generosity.

News From Home

FOLLOWS

(GIS)

WSSPS: COMPLETE AND COMMISSIONED



The safety and comfort of students have always been a priority for the Government of Dominica, and staff and students of the Wills Strathmore Stevens Primary School have benefitted from this as the newly rehabilitated infrastructure was handed over on Friday, May 13 2022.

The WSSPS is one of four primary schools which received a significant upgrade under the Dominica Climate Resilience and Restoration Project prepared in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in 2017 and financed with support from the Government of Canada, the Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of Dominica.

Minister of State in the Blue and Green Economy, Agriculture and National Food Security, Senator Gregory Riviere described the new school as evidence of another promise made and kept by the Government.

“When this Labour Party Administration makes a promise it keeps it, and standing here today is testament, evidence, proof and witness to that fact that when we make a promise we keep that promise. Our school must be a place of learning and training but it is a space also to facilitate and host community activities. This new and improved auditorium should be fully utilized in a responsible manner, we need to organize adult education trainings, parenting programmes, cultural engagements and the likes,” Senator Riviere noted.

Member of Parliament for the Marigot Constituency, Hon. Lennox Linton stated that the facility represents a major improvement to what residents have known the school to be.

“So, we continuously improve. We go from strength and strength. I express the hope and prayer that these new facilities that we commission today will redound to the benefit of the community as never before and will in fact be the platform on which we continue to rise to higher levels of education, advancement, leadership opportunities for ourselves here in Marigot and Dominica as a whole,” Hon. Linton stated.

High Commissioner of Canada to Barbados, Her Excellency Lilian Chatterjee stated that the newly rehabilitated school is the result of a pledge made by the Government of Canada.

“In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in 2017 Canada pledged a hundred million Canadian dollars towards reconstruction and resilience in the Caribbean which I am now happy to say has been fully disbursed. As part of this pledge Canada provided 9.25 million Canadian dollars to restore five primary schools and provide training on construction skills necessary for resilient construction; as well as to provide Dominica with coverage under the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility over a two year period,” Her Excellency noted.

Division Chief of the Social Sector Division of the CDB, Mrs. Deidre Clarendon said that the new facilities were built in keeping with Governments vision of Dominica becoming a climate resilient nation.

“In delivering this school, the facilities were designed to mitigate floods, landslides, hurricane hazards and torrential rain. Emphasis was placed on designs to resist hurricane force winds in accordance with the OECS building codes. This also included infrastructure solutions to accommodate persons with disabilities. We also incorporated renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions including the use of energy efficient lighting fixtures and equipment. Overall, the rehabilitation and reconstruction met the safe school standards with the development of individual schools safety disaster risk reduction management plans. The infrastructural design of this school is reflective of Government’s build back better vision to position Dominica as the first country in the region with enhanced socio-economic wellbeing and a resilient country,” Mrs. Claredon explained.

Minister for Education, Human Resource Planning, Vocational Training and National Excellence, Hon. Octavia Alfred noted that this new facility will serve students in all capacities.

“We are celebrating the opening of a centre of learning which represents new opportunities, not only for our students but for the entire community. We are not only celebrating the opening of a school but indeed we are also celebrating a new philosophy of schooling. We are celebrating a philosophy where the school serves as a one stop shop for students. One where they can socialize with friends, feel welcomed by their teachers, where they can enjoy a healthy meal, develop important life skills and appreciate the environment in which they learn. A philosophy where parents as well can benefit from the learning opportunities provided by the school,” Hon. Alfred stated.

Senior Minister and Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Reginald Austrie went on to say that the rehabilitation of this school and others around Dominica will give students a comfortable place where they can learn and develop their talents.

“These new and improved facilities represents for students a happy and comfortable place where they can learn and develop their talents and their skills. The investments we are making as a Government, with the support of our invaluable partners, provide a solid foundation for improving students learning and performance and supporting our children as they grow and learn,” Hon. Austrie added.

PM SKERRIT HONOURED WITH THE ORDER OF JOSE MARTI IN CUBA



Prime Minister of Dominica, Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit has been bestowed the Order of Jose Marti from the Government of the Republic of Cuba.

This award has placed him among a number of prestigious world leaders who have previously received this award. The ceremony was hosted on Tuesday April 26 to conclude a three-day visit to the Republic of Cuba.

Jose Marti was a renowned national hero of the Republic Of Cuba. The order was established in 1972 and a memorial built in 1978 with the support of former President Fidel Castro. It is the highest decoration given by The Government of Cuba to Cubans, foreign citizens, and Heads of States and Governments, who have distinguished records in the defence of human rights, special contribution to education, culture, governance and the well-being of people.

World leaders to include former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela and Former President of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez have also been presented with the Jose Marti award.

"I sense that Revolutionary spirit still in this land; a spirit which arises out of your history, your character and your values. The Revolution is no longer one of guns but one of ideas, one which seeks to elevate the dominant principle of our world as the dignity of the human person," Prime Minister Skerit stated during the ceremony.

He expressed his 'deepest gratitude' to the Government of Cuba for bestowing him with this honour.

"Through the example of the Cuban people, the world has seen that size is no bar to excellence or global leadership; that determination is the greatest driver for success and that the human spirit is indomitable in its quest for dignity and freedom. For Cuba's service to the Commonwealth of Dominica, the world and to humanity, I thank you. For finding me worthy of honour I express my most humble and deepest gratitude," Prime Minister Skerit added.

Prime Minister Skerit is now the ninth recipient and the first leader in the Eastern Caribbean to receive such esteemed acknowledgement.

General Secretary of the Dominica Labour Party, Hon. Cassanni Laville shared congratulatory remarks on behalf of the DLP.

"This recognition is very significant for the Dominica Labour Party and for the country. This is yet another major international acknowledgement of the extraordinary attributes and accomplishments of the Hon. Dr Roosevelt Skerit. We are truly proud and blessed for the service and sacrifices of our leader. In the same way Jose Marti represents pride to the Cuban nation, we also share that pride with our people. Notwithstanding our small size as a country the accomplishments of our great leader is recognized by nations all over the world," Hon. Laville stated.

The ceremony was well attended by Cuban dignitaries to include President of the Republic of Cuba, His Excellency Miguel Diaz Canel Bermudez and Dominica's delegation.

Dominica's delegation comprised Hon. Fidel Grant, Minister of the Blue and Green Economy, Agriculture and National Food Security; Hon. Gregory Riviere, Minister of State in the Ministry of the Blue and Green Economy, Agriculture and National Food Security; Hon. Dr. Adis King, Minister of Youth Development and Empowerment, Youth at Risk, Gender Affairs, Seniors Security and Dominicans with Disabilities, Mrs. Barbara Dailey, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry Foreign Affairs, International Business and Diaspora Relations; and Ambassador Mathew Walter, Dominica's Ambassador to Cuba.

GOVERNMENT ACQUIRES 52% MAJORITY SHARES OF DOMLEC



Prime Minister Hon. Roosevelt Skerit has announced that Government has regained majority shares in the Dominica Electricity Services Company (DOMLEC).

The final agreement is set to be signed on, Thursday, March 31, 2022, between the Government of Dominica and Emera Incorporated.

Prime Minister Skerit made this announcement while addressing the nation on Wednesday, March 30, saying that although there has been a marked improvement in DOMLEC's services since Emera Inc. acquired majority shares in April 2013, it has always been the desire of this Dominica Labour Party Government to regain ownership of DOMLEC.

"We have enjoyed over the years a solid, professional relationship with Emera Inc. that has been defined by mutual trust and respect. This has categorized our discussions over the last several months as we have been in negotiations to acquire their shares in DOMLEC. I now have the privilege to announce that the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica will on March 31, 2022, sign an agreement with Emera Inc. to purchase its 52% stake in DOMLEC. This means that from April 1, 2022, (and this is not an April Fool's joke), the Government and People of Dominica will once more hold controlling interest in DOMLEC," Hon. Roosevelt Skerit stated.

He further explained that twenty-one percent of the shares will continue to be held by the Dominica Social Security and the remaining twenty-seven percent is owned by private investors mainly Dominicans.

PM Skerit noted that this acquisition falls in line with Government's plan to build a climate resilient nation.

“The acquisition of DOMLEC aligns with our goals to build resilience in the energy sector through deliberate action to improve energy security and strengthen growth and economic prospects. As part of our vision for a Dynamic Dominica, we are pursuing greater efficiency in electricity generation to meet our national target of 100% clean, carbon neutral energy by the year 2030,” PM Skerrit added.

PM Skerrit explained that Government will now undertake upgrades of existing power plants and transmission and distribution lines to ensure a resilient power system.

“Enhancing the resilience of the power system will require significant investment to avert risks, minimize damage to infrastructure and avoid disruptions of service. As a matter of priority, the Government of Dominica will undertake further upgrades of transmission and distribution lines and fortify operations at existing power plants, to deliver a more efficient electricity supply to homes and businesses. These targeted efficiency measures, along with cleaner more affordable, geothermal energy, is expected to result in, lower utility bills, reduced cost of doing business, and job creation as a spillover effect,” Hon. Skerrit stated.

The Nation’s Leader cautioned citizens that the acquirement of DOMLEC would not automatically or immediately result in lower electrical bills, however Government will lay the foundation for that possibility.

GEOHERMAL POWER PLANT FOR DOMINICA BY 2023



Dominica will have a geothermal power plant by the end of 2023.

This has been a long time goal of the Labour Party Administration, a goal that they have taken many steps towards as Government continues to rebuild a modern and resilient nation.

On a visit to the site on Thursday, January 13, 2021, with the British High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, His Excellency Scott Fursstedonn – Wood, Minister for

Planning, Economic Development, Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy, Hon. Dr Vince Henderson stated that despite the uncontrollable delays the project has met since its inception, he is confident that the completion date will be met.

“One of the things that I think this pandemic is teaching us is the greater need for having indigenous sources of production. And in this case it is energy and we are very fortunate in Dominica. I am very happy that our friends in the United Kingdom, the Government of the United Kingdom continues to be steadfast in their support to us and we are now in a position to push through this project and hope that we can see work started with the actual construction of the power plant by the summer of this year,” Dr Henderson stated.

The Minister explained that reviews had to be made to the design following the passage of Hurricane Maria, going on to thank the UK Government for their continued support on this project.

“Interestingly after Hurricane Maria we went back to the drawing board, redesigned the project and went back to them and said we want to do this, are you still willing to provide the support and they were very supportive and now they are here with us. We have gone through several challenges and they are still steadfast in their support because they believe in this project and just like we do. And we are grateful that we have friends who continue to encourage us,” Dr Henderson added.

Meanwhile His Excellency FursseDonn-Wood stated that this is an important project for Dominica as a geothermal power plant has the potential to be a significant source of income for the country.

“Our partnership with Dominica is a really important one. It is an important one for the British Government. It is one that we have invested a great deal in and I know also that is an important partnership for the people and Government of Dominica because we are contributing directly to all of your efforts to increase your owner resilience; your resilience to the effects of climate change and your economic resilience. And this geothermal project is a really important example of that because the potential here is not just to make this island energy independent, and to generate all your electricity from renewable sources but there is also the amazing potential for you to generate electricity and drive your own prosperity through that very significant source of income,” H.E FursseDonn-Wood explained.

The Commissioner went on to say that the funds will be used for numerous projects around Dominica including health facilities.

“Well our total commitment is something like 70 million pounds, or a 100 million US dollars and that is going directly to support CREAD and your climate resilience efforts. It is going to support the road project as well water projects, and also an investment in skills for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. I’ve also worked with the smart health centres to ensure that your health facilities are climate resilient so I hope the commitment will assist in a range of areas across your national life,” H.E FursseDonn-Wood noted.

Five wells have already been drilled in the reservoir at the centre of the project, among them, one production well and one re-injection well.

The expected output from this well will be above 20 mega-watts of electricity.

Brief History



Dominica Library and Information Service had its beginnings with Reading Rooms which were stated on the island here in 1843.

The first library built in Dominica was the Victoria Memorial Library. It was built on approval given by the Executive Council for the sale of a lot on Church Street and for the purchase of books and furnishings for a new building which would also commemorate the memory of the late Queen Victoria. In 1902 the position of librarian was offered to Miss Bessie Roper by the Board of Trustees at an annual salary of 40 pound sterling.

The Victoria Memorial Library opened its doors, and charged 1p from everyone who entered. The library received a yearly government grant of 75 pounds sterling. It was found that the library was too small, and the Governor at the time, Andrew Bell wrote to Andrew Carnegie, retired industrialist turned philanthropist for \$7500 for the construction of a larger building. Andrew Carnegie agreed to fund the construction of the building on condition that the government provided a site as well as ten percent of what was given for annual maintenance and books.

In April 1905, the Legislative Council having passed a resolution accepting Carnegie's offer and his terms. One year later in April 1906, the Carnegie Library (as it was called) was completed. In September of that same year, the library was transferred to the new building, and the Victoria Memorial Library was taken over as the Victoria Memorial Museum. The Carnegie Library was formally opened to the public as a subscription library from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Although the words "Free Library" were inscribed on the building, the library was free only to the extent that anyone could come in to use the reading room. But only subscribers had borrowing privileges. At that time, the collection consisted mainly of newspapers and periodicals. In 1940, with the implementation of a project aimed at setting up a regional library, Dominica received books for setting up a demonstration library. As a result, for a time Dominicans could borrow books free. In 1954 Government took over the administration of the library under the Public Library Act No. 11 of 1954.



Artist impression of proposed library

DOMINICA BOASTS OF MOST MODERN FULL SERVICE RADIOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE REGION



Minister for Health, Wellness and New Health Investment the Hon Dr Irving McIntyre has described the commissioning of the High intensity focused ultrasound, HIFU service as another historical moment in the continued development of hospital services in Dominica.

The Ministry of Health commissioned MRI services in October 2021. That service is expected to serve not only Dominica but CARICOM and beyond.

“As you aware the Government has made tremendous investments in upgrading the health care infrastructure over the past five years. Much of these investments have seen the construction of new health and wellness facilities to strengthen our resolve to improve the delivery of primary care and in particular the practical implications of the principles of health investments,” Dr McIntyre stated.

The Minister says Government has also embarked on a major capital development program of close to forty million US dollars at the Dominica China Friendship Hospital.

The Health Minister says the Dominica China Friendship Hospital is well on its way towards modernizing the delivery of health care services in the country.

Dominica can now boast of having the most modern full service radiological department in the public services within the region. The DCFH now has two x-ray machines, including CT scan, mammogram, Ultrasound, MRI and now the High Intensity Focused Ultrasound, the HIFU machine.

“This HIFU service is a cutting edge and non-invasive technology. It has the capabilities to treat many cancers such as liver, pancreatic, breast, uterus fibroids, soft tissue and also bone cancer. We understand that the capacity of the machine will exceed that of the needs of our population but citizens must feel a measure of comfort that they can receive treatments right here at home which otherwise would be obtained in the US and elsewhere,” D. McIntyre explained.

The Minister says Dominica is ready to provide health services that are not available in other OECS and CARICOM countries.

“There are no other HIFU facilities in the OECS or even in the rest of the CARICOM countries. I am told that the closest such facility is in Mexico. We can therefore leverage that capacity to provide services to the OECS and CARICOM countries and beyond,” the Health Minister added.



The Central Statistics Office has launched the Population and Housing Census under the theme “Yes It Matters. Get Counted.”

This is the 14th Population and Housing Census in the Commonwealth of Dominica. Dominica has been conducting these census for the last hundred and fifty years with the first one being held in 1871.

Census Officer and Acting Chief Statistician, Mrs. Lorna Prevost Stephens explained that the census was delayed due to the impact of the covid-19 pandemic in 2021.

“The Population and Housing Census is conducted every ten years due to the magnitude of its undertaking. As such it is indeed an exciting time that we have all looked forward to since the work we are doing has a direct impact on service delivery for our people at all levels. The Population and Housing Census was scheduled for 2021, however due to the setbacks brought about by the pandemic we were forced to reschedule for 2022,” Mrs. Stephens stated.

The Census Officer noted that censuses are important as they collect data which is critical to social and economic development.

“Censuses form a very integral part of our lives. The census plays a vital role in the National Statistical System therefore censuses are a foremost means of collecting basic population and housing statistics as part of an integrated programme of data collection, compilation, and dissemination aimed at providing a comprehensive source of information for economic and social development, planning, administration, assessing conditions in human settlements, research, commercial and other uses,” Mrs. Stephens explained.

She went on to address some questions frequently asked by citizens noting that the data collected assists the Government in addressing important issues such as poverty and housing.

“Many times persons ask, must I participate. Does it matter whether I participate or not. The answer is yes it matters get counted. Statistical data is important for planning and budgeting. How can you address poverty without statistics? How can you address unemployment without statistics? How can you address housing and infrastructure without statistics? How can you accurately mitigate the impacts of natural disasters without statistics? If we cannot measure precisely then we will not be able to manage the fair distribution of resources and delivery of service,” the Census Officer went on to state.

Mrs. Stephens further noted that the results of the census will also assist the Government of Dominica in achieving its Sustainable Development Goals.

Census Day in Dominica is carded for June 25, 2022

(GIS)

DONA Sends Birthday Greetings to all our members and friends.

June

Marlon Brand Jnr

Raphael Desbonne

Sylvia Mitchel

July

Molly Prince

Bertha Caesar

August

Hayden Francis

Dr Sylvia Smith

Franklyn Georges

S Darragh

Ham Prince

Mary Sylvester

A Happy and blessed Birthday to you all

Sick Members

DONA wishes you all a speedy recovery.



For the bereaved

To all our members and friends who have lost loved ones because of the corona virus and other ailments.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,
REST IN PEACE

**DOMINICA OVERSEA NATIONALS' ASSOCIATION (DONA)
11 Nemoure Road, Acton London W3 6NZ
DONA (Charities No. 279643)**

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER 2022

To carry out the administrative work of the association your membership subscription plays a significant part.

DONA depends on your support to enable it to function, in helping Dominicans here in the UK and at home in Dominica.

Your subscription of £20.00 for waged members and £15.00 for Senior Citizens and UB members covers membership, welfare and newsletter for one year.

1st January to 31st December 2022

Please contribute as a true Dominican / DONA supporter – your subscription will go a long way in maintaining the future development of the association

We value that support

Thank you.

For online transaction; Account No. 00736435 sort Code 30 - 00 – 09

.....

Tear off here and return with your subscription to:
The Membership Officer

C/o 11 Nemoure Road, Acton London W3 6NZ

Name.....

Address

.....

Post Code:



Dominica Oversea Nationals Association
Aid Dominica Development Trust
Registered Charity No 279643

DONA (Charities No. 279643) at 11 Nemoure Road Acton London W3 6NZ

For online transaction Account No. 00736435 sort Code 30 - 00 – 09

Your donations will be most appreciated.

Many thanks.

Dominica Oversea Nationals Association

Executive Officers

Chairman: Joseph Vidal

Deputy Chairman: Dr Sylvia Smith

Hon. Treasurer: Hilma Alfred; **Membership Officer:** Hilma Alfred

PR/Communications Officer: Reg Hector

Welfare Officer: Elenora Royer-Desbonne; **Youth Office:** Albert Lambert

Office without portfolio: Mrs. Ethelca Brand OBE, MBE. MSA , Shirley Stuart

Trustees

Reg Hector, Sylvia Smith, Joseph Vidal. Mrs. Ethelca Brand, Shirley Stuart