

THE SISSEROU VOICE

Vwa Siséwou



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Merry Christmas

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	Disclaimer: The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those held by the Association DONA



A Merry Christmas and a Happy New year

to

all our Members and Friends

“Peace on earth and good will to men”

Editorial

I am pleased to present the Christmas edition of the Sisserou Voice to members and friends of the association.

By the time you read this edition of the newsletter we will be well into the winter, wrapped up warmly and happily enjoying the warmth of home and family and looking forward to Christmas and the new year.

As we now take time to reflect on the past year, looking at our progress or lack off, looking at the positive achievements in the light of the past traumatic period of the covid-19 pandemic and the imposed restrictions, it must be said that we have managed to hold our own and survived, notwithstanding. It is most pleasing to see the signs of continuous recovery of social and cultural life albeit with apprehension as we are all now aware of the covid variant which is still cause for concern.

With our new chairperson at the helm, the team has now been given an added impetus and with teamwork the association will turn a new chapter of enhancement, rediscovery and diligence. At this I must remind you of the successful seminar hosted by our deputy chair Dr Sylvia Smith and which was greatly appreciated internationally as it was accessed (and still available to watch) on the digital highway.

Our website (www.dona.org.uk) is up and running and we urge you to take a look and of course, your feedback is always valued. Our Facebook page (the New Dominica Oversea Nationals Association face book) is also available, and we do hope you can find time to login.

Recently we all had the privilege to celebrate the 44th Anniversary of our beloved Island the Commonwealth of Dominica, the theme being “one Dominica, one People, one Vision” and for those of us who could not be in Dominica at this time, was most grateful to our Acting High Commissioner Miss Janet Charles and her dedicated staff was most gracious in inviting us all to the independence celebration reception at the Dominica Embassy.

Coincidentally, the 44th Year of independence of Dominica coincides with the 44th year of the inauguration of DONA, this being the innovation of our late founder member Mr Alphonso Charles, and we are proud to say that the association has remained sustainable over the years thanks to its dedicated members, the intervention of Mrs Ethelca Brand, Haden Francis, Elenora Royer Desbonne and many others who over the years have worked relentlessly to maintain the integrity and continuity of our association.

The Association wishes to give thanks to all its members and friends and to wish you all A Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year

Reg Hector

PRO

CHAIRPERSONS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.

A Christmas message to all our members and friends

I am honoured to embrace this privilege to address you all in this my first article in the newsletter as your chairperson, having been elected in June 2022, at the biennial general election held at the Hackney venue.

I have not been a chairperson for very long and facing the challenges of undertaking the association well-integrated system and familiarising myself with the nuance of its operations is a learning curve, which I need to understand and embrace.

Although I have been a trustee for some time now it has become apparent that the workings of the association administrative functions are complex. This includes organising the fundraising activities, organising, and coordinating meetings, managing executive committee members, attending external meeting on behalf of DONA, ensuring the organisation is functioning in line with its aims and objectives, its financial affairs, but to name a few.

The task ahead is undoubtedly an onerous one, however I have a wealth of management experience spanning well over 20 years where I have managed, developed, rescued and created numerous projects in the caring profession. I have managed Family Centres, Young Offenders Projects, I am the Founder of CHANCES a place of safety for children in Dominica, the list goes on. My pledge is to use these experiences to help me in continuing to assist and improve the wonderful work that this association has done over the years to improve the lives of Dominicans, our members, and their friends.

My first fund raising involvement was of the family Funday and this to my delight was a successful event where many families patronised.

There are many other activities in the pipeline which we will advise of in due time as we are slowly but surely getting back on track after the Covid -19 pandemic setback.

I am most pleased to be wishing you all, our members, partners, and our friends.

[A merry Christmas and a Happy New year to you all](#)



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Season's Greetings to all

I do hope you are keeping well, in spite of the unending Covid19 and the various strains around it. We also have the cost-of-living crisis looming over our heads, brought about by the increase on energy etc. Many people are now faced with extra pressure and anxiety, especially those on low income, unemployed, the elderly and the homeless.

Speaking of the homeless, it brings to mind the story of Christmas. We can say Jesus faced homelessness from birth as there was no room in the inns for Mary and Joseph to lay their heads; the only place they could find was a stable where Mary gave birth to Jesus. I wonder what was going through Joseph and Mary's mind on that day. Not only did they have to contend with homelessness they were being sort after as Herod wanted Jesus dead.

What a birth for a man who was going to be King over the world

When we think of December, we conger up stories and incidents over this period but what is the real message? it is the coming of a new King born into the world to save us the people of the world from our sinful selves. Therefore, December should be a very happy and joyful time as we prepare for his coming. It is a time to let bygones be bygones, enjoy the holidays and for families to come together in celebration of the gift of life, that gift of life which comes in the form of a special baby named Jesus who was born into the world to redeem us all. We must thank God for his gift that is too wonderful for words

We have not read of Joseph and Mary being dissatisfied with or the inconvenienced by the place of birth, but rather respectfully accepted the situation. This teaches us to be humble in whatever situation we may find ourselves as there is a greater power that works miracles. That miracle, that Jesus did not die from exposure or Herod finding him.

Christmas time although relatively a happy time, I always find there are so many people who are going through difficulties, families, friends and neighbours. This year especially, we need to pray more for this country and those in need. Let a shining light shine upon them and be gracious to them.

As we celebrate this Christmas let us be mindful of the love that Jesus showed and extend it to others.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year

Every blessing

Ethelca Brand OBE, MBE, MSA

FOOD FOR THOUGHT**Freedom**

Freedom is something we should all cherish. It is wonderful that we can express ourselves without fear of recriminations; to voice our opinion in pursuit of fairness, to speak our minds, to preserve one's integrity and to use this in pursuit of justice.

Freedom is a gift which should be protected and used constructively in our daily lives to promote positivity, to assist the disadvantaged, to empathise with their plight and to alleviate whenever possible.

Freedom of eloquence should not be used to bully, to oppress, humiliate, and to be condescending to others.

It should be remembered that derogatory words are always forgotten by persons who delivers it but invariably remains with the receiver for a lifetime.

Reg Hector

Recommended new films to see

The woman King: Staring -Viola Davis, Thuso Mbedu, Lashana Lynch

Black Panther-Wakanda Forever: Staring- Letitia Wright, Lupita Nyod'o, Danai Guripa

Avatar, The way of water: Staring- Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver, Kate Winslet.

Jurassic World: Staring -Christ Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, Laura Derns.

King Richard: Will Smith, Aunjanue Ellis, John Bernthal. (Story of Venus and Serena Williams)

Me Time: Starring - Kevin Heart Mark Wahlberg, Regina Hall

Nope – Staring Daniel Kalooya, Keke Palmer Brandon Perea

DONA – Christmas Wordsearch

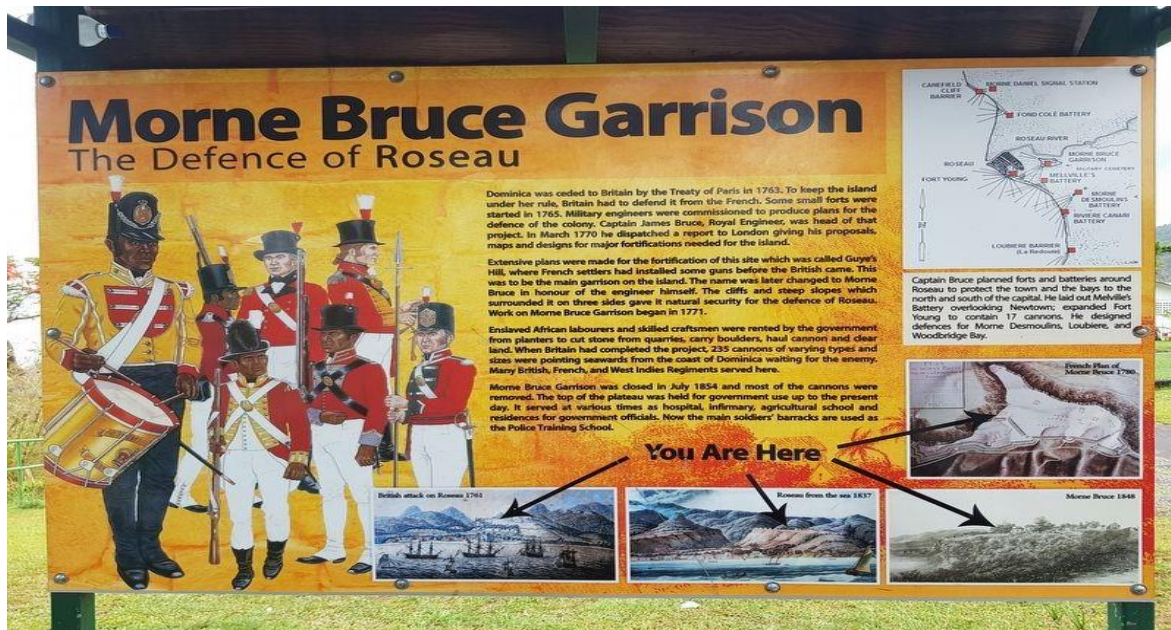
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X	Q	O	T	I	V	Y	U	R	Q	W	Z	X	A	O	O	P	T	H	B	V	Q	D	X	K	T

Christmas word List: --- Have fun; 40 words to find. Play: Horizontal, Vertical and Diagonal.

Advent, Angels, Bells, Jesus, Carols, Christmas, Cake, Tree, Wine, Presents, Star, Magi, Yuletide, Crackers, Poinsettia, Santa, Toys, Children, Pudding, Happy, Family, Robin, Holly, Snowman, Baking, Holiday, Ivy, Party, Shepherds, Flowers, Winter, Church, Lights, Manger, Mary, Joseph, Rooms, Stable, Bethlehem, Kings.

OUR HISTORY

Morne Bruce Garrison North Point Battery



Photographed By J. Makali Bruton, June 9, 2019

1. Morne Bruce Garrison Marker

Morne Bruce Garrison

North Point Battery

Cannon and Signaling Station

To get messages up and down the coast, Captain James Bruce organised a line of signal stations. The signals were a combination of gun salutes and flag signals. Each coloured flag represented a different number. When put together, these numbers were coded messages. A message could get from Scotts Head to the Cabrits Garrison at Portsmouth in less than half an hour by this method.

If, for instance, there was a fleet of French ships approaching Dominica from the south, Scotts Head station would signal to Fort Young and Morne Bruce. The gun and flag signals went on to Morne Daniel, Layou, Grand Savannah, Pointe Crabier, Pointe Ronde, Cabrits Garrison and finally to Cape Melville at the northern tip of the island.

The signal cannon mounted on this site was made in England of cast iron. The figures marked on the cannon: 51-1-7 represents the weight in old English measures: 51 hundredweights, 1 quarter, 7 pounds. The cannon therefore weighs $(51 \times 112 \text{ lbs.}) + (1 = 28 \text{ lbs.}) + 7 \text{ lbs.} = 5,747 \text{ lbs.}$



Photographed By J. Makali Bruton, June 9, 2019

2. Morne Bruce Garrison Marker

The signal stations along Roseau can be seen in the background and the cannon mentioned in the marker text to the far left.

the west coast of Dominica in the 1790s with The Cabrits Garrison, Fort Young and Morne Bruce being the main points of communication along the chain.
Coastal batteries to guard against enemy landings.

Jack's Walk

The path leading up the cliff from the Botanic Gardens to Morne Bruce is called Jack's Walk. It was a short-cut for soldiers going to and from Roseau and their barracks on the Morne Bruce Garrison. It was named after the British flag, the flag of the United Kingdom, The Union Jack, which flew from a large flagpole on this site. The huge flag could be seen from way out to sea and along the coast and it declared to all sailors and military forces that this was the colonial power currently in charge of the island.

To enter the Morne Bruce Garrison from this side, a soldier would “walk past the Jack”, hence the name for the path, Jack's Walk. Today it is a popular trail for fitness exercise and it is an extension of the Botanic Gardens, maintained by the Forestry and National Parks Service.

Caption: Panorama of Bath and Goodwill Estates, 1910

The Shrine

In 1928 the British colonial government gave permission to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Roseau, Bishop James Morris, to construct a large cast concrete crucifix with supporting buttresses to look over the island's capital and out to sea. It symbolized the protection



Photographed By J. Makali Bruton, June 9, 2019

3. Morne Bruce Garrison Marker

The 'Jack's Walk' is to the right of the marker.

of the town and the harbour beyond and it is linked to the name of the Roseau Cathedral: Notre Dame de Bon Port, Our Lady of Fair Haven. ‘The Shrine’, as it became known, was one of the earliest structures in Dominica that was built using cast concrete.

The Shrine is a symbolic representation of the main tenets of the Roman Catholic faith.

- The central crucifix with Christ on the cross is supported by three buttresses which represent the Holy Trinity.
- Each of these three buttresses is topped by four pinnacles which together make twelve, representing the twelve apostles.

Ever since its consecration in 1928 it has been the focus for religious pilgrimages, and like the statue of Christ the Redeemer overlooking Rio de Janeiro, it has become a popular tourist attraction and viewpoint.

Captions:

French Plan of Morne Bruce 1780

James Morris · Bishop of Roseau · 1922-1957

Topics. This historical marker is listed in these topic lists: [Churches & Religion](#) • [Colonial Era](#) • [Forts and Castles](#) • [Man-Made Features](#). A significant historical year for this entry is 1910.

Location. 15° 18.006' N, 61° 22.806' W. Marker is in Roseau, Saint George. Marker can be reached from Unnamed road just west of Morne Bruce Road, on the right when traveling north.

Other nearby markers. At least 8 other markers are within walking distance of this marker. A different marker also named [Morne Bruce Garrison](#) (about 150 meters away,



Photographed By J. Makali Bruton, June 9, 2019

4. Morne Bruce Garrison cannon

measured in a direct line); [David the Goliath](#) (approx. 0.4 kilometers away); [Roseau Cathedral](#) (approx. 0.7 kilometers away); [Methodist Church](#) (approx. 0.7 kilometers away); [Anglican Church](#) (approx. 0.8 kilometers away); [Carnegie Library of Roseau](#) (approx. 0.8 kilometers away); [World Wars Memorial](#) (approx. 0.8 kilometers away); [Cecil E. A. Rawle](#) (approx. 0.8 kilometers away). [Touch for a list and map](#) of all markers in Roseau.



Photographed By J. Makali Bruton, June 9, 2019

5. 'The Shrine' at Morne Bruce

The Morne Bruce Garrison is the remains of the main military garrison on the Morne, for the troops defending Roseau. It was named after James Bruce, a Captain in the Royal Engineers, who designed many of Dominica's forts in the 1700s. He organized a line of signal stations with gun salutes and flag signals to give coded messages between Scotts Head AND the Cabrits Garrison at Portsmouth in less than half an hour. Signals could reach Cape Melville at the northern tip of the island. The Garrison was closed in 1854. The old garrison graveyard still exists at Kings Hill. It is said that the Morne has its own ghost, a headless drummer who marches with muffled drumbeat at midnight. The signal cannon from those days is still in place. It was made in cast iron in England. It is marked 51-1-7, representing its weight in old measurements – 51 hundredweights, 1 quarter, 7 pounds. It, therefore, weighs 5,747 lbs

list of towns and villages in the Commonwealth of **Dominica**.

The following definitions have been used:

- **City:** Any settlement listed at ^[1] that had a 2009 population estimate of 75,000 or more. There are no cities in Dominica.
- **Town:** As given at ^[1] plus any other settlements with a 2009 population estimate of between 750 and 75,000.
- **Village** Any settlement not listed at ^[1] and/or with a 1991 census population of less than 750.
- **Hamlet:** Any settlement not listed at ^[1] and which Google Maps satellite view shows is too small to be a village.
- **Neighbourhood:** Geographically obvious subdivisions of any of the above.

Towns

-
- **Atkinson**
- **Barroui** (Salisbury)
- **Calibishie**
- **Canefield**
- **Castle Bruce**
- **Grand Bay** (Berekua)
- **La Plaine**
- **Mahaut**
- **Marigot**
- **Pointe Michel**
- **Portsmouth**
- (Grand-Anse)
- **Rosalie**
- **Roseau**
- (Capital)
- **Saint Joseph**
- **Salisbury**
- (Barroui)
- **Soufrière**
- **Wesley**
- (La Soie)
- **Woodford Hill**

Villages

-
- **Anse du Mé**
- **Bagatelle**
- **Bataka**
- **Belles**
- **Bellevue**
- **Chopin**
- **Bense**
- **Bioche**
- **Boetica**
- **Bornes**
- **Campbell**
- **Capucin**
- **Clifton**
- **Colihaut**
- **Cottage**
- **Coulibistrie**
- **Delices**
- **Dublanc**
- **Dubuc**
- **Eggleston**
- **Fond Cani**
- **Fond St. Jean**
- **Galion**
- **Giraudel**
- **Good Hope**
- **Goodwill**
- **Grandbay**
- **Grand Fond**
- **Laudat**
- **Layou**
- **Loubiere**
- **Massacre**
- **Mahaut**
- **Mero**
- **Morne Daniel**
- **Morne Prosper**
- **Paix Bouche**
- **Penville**
- **Petite Savanne**
- **Petite Soufriere**
- **Pichelin**
- **San Sauveur**
- **Salybia**
- **Scotts Head**
- **Stowe**
- **Tanetane**
- **Tarou**
- **Thibaud**
- **Toucari**
- **Trafalgar**
- **Vieille Case**
- **Warner**
- **Wotten**
- **Waven**

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Work Plan 2023 (Subject to change)

Month	Date	Time	Item/Event	Venue
January	Sunday 15th	3.00 pm	General Meeting,	33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8
January	Saturday 28	3.00pm	Executive Meeting	Zoom
February	Wed. 8th	8.00 pm	Ad Hoc Executive Meeting	Zoom
February	Saturday 22	3.00 pm	Executive Meeting	Zoom
March	Wed. 22 nd		AD Hoc Executive Meeting	Zoom
March	Friday 24 th		Newsletter issued	
March	Saturday 25 th		Executive Meeting	Zoom
April	Sunday 16th	3.00 PM	General Meeting	33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8
April	Saturday 29th	3:00 pm	Trustees Meeting	Zoom
May	Saturday 13 th		Dona Seminar TBC	TBC
May	Wed. 17th	8.00 pm	Ad Hoc Executive meeting	Zoom
May	Saturday 27th	3.00 pm	Executive meeting	Zoom
June	Saturday 17 th	11.00 a	Sponsored Walk	TBC
June	Friday 23 rd		Newsletter Issued	
June	Sunday 25 th	3.00 pm	AGM Meeting	33 Brougham Road Hackney E8
June	Wed. 31st	8.00pm	Ad Hoc Executive Meeting	Zoom
July	Saturday 15 th	3.00pm	Executive Meeting	Zoom
August	Saturday 5th	7:30am	Seaside Day Trip	BOTANY BAY
August	Sunday 20th	1.00 pm	²⁵ th Annual Funday	North Acton playing
Sept.	Sunday 10 th	3.00Pm	General Meeting	33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8
Sept.	Saturday 23	3.00pm	Executive Meeting	Zoom
Sept.	Friday 15 th		Newsletter issued	
October	Saturday 7th	3:00 pm	Executive Meeting	Zoom
October	Sunday -30	3.00 Pm	Independence Mass	TBC
November	Saturday 11 th	3.00 pm	Executive Meeting	Zoom
November	Date TBC	4.30 pm	Evensong Service	TBC
November	Date TBC	9.00 Pm	Independence Dance	TBC
November	Sunday -13	3.00 pm	General Meeting	33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8
December	Saturday 11 th	7.00 Pm	Christmas party	TBC
December	Friday 15 th		Newsletter Issued	

News From Home

FOLLOWS



Skerrit's DLP cruises to victory in Dominica

Roseau – The ruling Dominica Labour Party (DLP) has been returned to power in Tuesday's general election, even as two independent candidates won constituencies in the 21-seat Parliament following a boycott by the main opposition political parties.

Preliminary results released by the Electoral Office here showed that the DLP, which had entered the election already having won six seats uncontested, had won 19 of the 21 seats.

Independent candidate Jesma Paul polled 617 votes to 463 cast for the DLP's Lynsia Frank in the Salisbury constituency, while in Marigot, Anthony Charles had defeated the DLP's Gregory Riviere by a margin of 491 to 329 votes. The independent candidate Carlos Charles received six votes

The Electoral Office had said that voters would be electing representatives for 15 constituencies after the main opposition parties – the United Workers Party (UWP) and the Dominica Freedom Party (DFP) – failed to nominate any candidate.

The Electoral Office said 45 candidates contested the 15 remaining seats with the DLP contesting all seats, Team Unity Dominica five seats and there were 10 independents.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, 50, who has been in office since 2004 and was among those six DLP candidates elected to Parliament before a ballot was cast, said he welcomed the outcome of the polls.

"I accept this victory from the people of Dominica with the greatest humility. This is an extraordinary confidence that the people have shown in us," Skerrit said, adding the voter turnout was "exceptional".

The opposition parties had been calling for electoral reform, including a clean voters list and identification cards ahead of the poll that is being monitored by observer teams from the Caribbean

Community (CARICOM), the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Commonwealth (CMC)

PUBLIC SERVICE HOSTS FIRST EVER FARMER'S MARKET



The Ministry of Governance, Public Service Reform, Citizen Empowerment, Social Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs hosted a farmers' market day as part of the activities leading up to public service day.

The event was held on Friday, September 30, 2022, on the ground floor of the Government Headquarters, where business owners in the public service were able to showcase their products and services.

Chief Personnel Officer, Ms. Edith Thomas Roberts says this farmer market falls under the health and wellness aspect of the public service day activities.

"Included in our activities is a health and wellness programme and under the health and wellness programme we are introducing the farmers market as one of the many activities that we are undertaking in promotion of health and wellness to ensure that we have healthy and resilient public officers," CPO Roberts stated.

Mrs. Thomas-Roberts says the farmer's market is aimed at promoting healthy living among the public service.

"The event here is meant to promote healthy living, promote local products and to encourage our public officers to continue to contribute towards a healthy lifestyle, and to ensure that everything we do is in promotion of our health, and we can live healthy lives," she noted.

A variety of products and services were on display, ranging from agricultural produce to locally made hair and skin care treatments.

"We have agricultural produce, we have a large variety of plants, skin care products, hair care products, juices, smoothies, coffee, poultry and snacks. We have a wide range of products from different public officers. We want to continue to encourage you to grow your own produce, do

your own backyard gardening, consume local products and engage in health and wellness activities so we can continue to live healthy lives,” CPO Roberts added.

Acting Secretary to the Cabinet and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Governance, Ms. Careen Prevost says the farmer’s market is an opportunity to showcase what is being produced locally in all sectors.

“I particularly want to highlight the fact that everyone here is a public officer and that this is for us by us. We are putting this on to showcase what we can do locally, it’s also part of our ‘Buy Local Campaign’. We are starting the Independence Celebrations and everything that we have here is made here and grown here and manufactured here,” Ms. Prevost noted.

Minister for Governance, Public Service Reform, Citizen Empowerment, Social Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs, Hon. Gretta Roberts says this is one way of encouraging citizens to eat what we grow as the country continues to fight non-communicable diseases.

“All this is an effort to encourage us to eat what we grow and grow what we eat. So we are trying our best in our campaign to fight against the NCDs that are so prevalent in this country. So we need a productive workforce, a healthy workforce, a healthy people, a healthy nation and we can only do it by starting with our public officers who have shown us today that they can help in ensuring that Dominica remains the healthy nation that it should be. So let us continue in our efforts to eat what we grow and live a healthy lifestyle for a beautiful country,” Hon. Roberts stated.

364 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE ADULT EDUCATION DIVISION SKILLS SUMMER PROGRAMME



Three hundred and sixty-four participants have successfully graduated from the annual Adult Education Division summer programme.

A certificate ceremony was held on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at the Goodwill Parish Hall to celebrate the accomplishments of the participants.

The Adult Education Summer Programme ran for eight weeks and covered various skills including tiling, electrical wiring, guitar playing, pastry making and acrylic nail application among others. During her keynote address, Minister for Governance, Public Service Reform,

Citizen Empowerment, Social Justice, and Ecclesiastical Affairs Hon. Gretta Roberts stated that she is honoured to celebrate this milestone with the participants.

“It is indeed an honour to celebrate this important milestone with all you gathered here. As minister responsible for citizen empowerment, a responsibility that I hold near and dear to my heart stemming from my tenure as an educator, it gives me great pleasure to witness the work and achievements of this graduating class, and the dedicate staff of the Adult Education Division,” Hon. Roberts stated.

Hon. Roberts told the participants that this graduation ceremony is evidence of the decision that they made to invest in themselves and improve their lives.

“These three words, conceive, believe and achieve, are the pillars of wisdom and encouragement which describe the path that each of you have taken in pursuit of adult education. Today we are all here to celebrate the decision each of you made in investing in yourself. The decision to overcome the obstacles that prevented you from completing school in the traditional sense or in fulfilling your desires to acquire a new skill, speaks volumes of your aspiration and desire to achieve more,” she noted.

She then congratulated the participants for completing the eight-week programme.

“Let me take this opportunity to congratulate each and every one of you for completing this year’s summer programme. Today, three hundred and sixty-four of you will receive certificates of completion for your participation in these programmes,” Minister Roberts stated.

The Minister says Adult Education remains an integral part of continuing education as the continued registration for the offered programmes shows its importance in Dominica’s society.

“Adult Education remains as fundamental a part of further education as ever. The continued enrolment in our programs underscores its importance and relevance in today’s socio-economic environment with far reaching benefits that can transcend generations. The key role of adult education is to allow our citizens to develop their skills and to acquire new ones. It presents an opportunity for adults to equip themselves with the knowledge and skills necessary to participate effectively as employees, entrepreneurs, parents and competent members of society,” the Minister explained.

Hon. Roberts went on to say that the adult education division will continue its mandate as government remains committed to achieving the sustainable development goals.

“The Adult Education Division continues in its mandate to promote functional literacy and numeracy, continuing education, capacity building and entrepreneurial skill programmes for adult learners across Dominica. We remain committed to achieving Goal 4 of the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals that is quality education to substantially increase the number of youth and adults with relevant skills including technical and vocational skills for employment decent jobs and entrepreneurship by the year 2030,” Hon Roberts added.

Meanwhile, participant in the pastry making programme in Layou, Ms. Stephanie Green encouraged other young persons to take advantage of the opportunity available and register with the adult education division for the chance to learn a skill.

“To all in the hearing of my voice, wake up. The Adult Education Division is giving people like me and you an opportunity to become self-reliant and to create an opportunity for upward

mobility. Young people take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Adult Education Division. I can attest to the fact that you won't regret it," Green stated.



Essi Matilda Forster, a woman of Dominican descent who became Ghana's first female attorney

Institute for African Women in Law - Sunday, March 13th, 2022

Essi Matilda Forster

Dominica News Online (DNO) is pleased to publish this interesting historical piece on Essi Matilda Forster of Dominican descent who was the first woman in Ghana to become an attorney.

She was the daughter of attorney and Pan Africanist George James Christian of Dominica who went to Ghana in 1902 after studying in the UK.

The article, a minibiography of this trail blazing woman of Dominican heritage, was produced by the Institute for African Women in Law.

DHA TOURS NEW INPATIENT BUILDINGS



With construction work slowly winding down on the new Dominica China Friendship Hospital, the Dominica Hospital's Authority led a tour of two newly completed and furnished in-patient buildings last week.

Chief Executive Officer of the Dominica Hospital Authority, Dr Dexter James says these buildings were handed over by the Chinese after passing the required inspection.

“About 2 to 3 weeks ago the Chinese Medical Team handed over the buildings to us after inspections were completed by their own credentialing authority. So, we in fact have possession of the buildings, so it is for us now to do what is necessary to fully commission the buildings. We will in the next week or two commission to particular units as part of a soft launch before we fully commission the two new inpatient buildings,” Dr James stated.

He noted that the relocation of the Dawbiney and Alford wards will be done in the upcoming weeks before the official commissioning of both buildings.

“And this is predominantly because we still have to do some works on the main entrance and those of you who know Dawbiney ward that is the area that will be repurposed for admissions, cashiering, outpatient dispensing and general reception. So, we have to relocate both Dawbiney and Alford wards, which are our surgical wards to the new building to allow the engineering department to repurpose those facilities. So that is going to take place within another week or so and we will begin thereafter to take steps to commission the rest of the building,” he noted.

Dr James explained that the new facilities will boast of a similar layout.

“For the most part, you have wards configured with twenty-four beds. There are six semiprivate cubicles comprising of four patients each. We will have also four single rooms which can be used for either infectious case and one semi private room with two patients. So in terms of the configurations of our wards, we are talking about thirty beds for our patients,” Dr James further explained.

There will also be a central nursing station, patient dining area, doctor and nurses' offices, staff and kitchen lounge area and an outside patient waiting area on each ward.

Dr James also gave an overview of the layout of in-patient building number one.

“Building number one is a basement which will house the kitchen, stores and laundry. Ground floor is our paediatric and adolescent ward. First floor, we are now creating a new floor for Gynaecology. We used to house our gynae patients in Dawbiney, but gynae patients are now moved out from female surgical and they will have a ward for themselves. The second floor which is aligned to the theatres is going to be the male surgical ward and the top floor will be the male medical ward,” the CEO went on to state.

The second inpatient building will host numerous services as well as the female surgery ward.

“Look at building number two. The ground floor houses a lot of our services, the pump room, hyperbaric chamber, server room and other services. The first floor, we will have Orthopaedic, Urology and ENT. This is a major development. Ordinarily Orthopaedic, Urology and ENT patients will be housed on the male and female surgical wards. As we speak, we are now moving these patients out and giving them a floor by themselves to improve the quality of care to these patients. So Urology, Orthopaedic and ENT will occupy the first floor of the second

building. The second floor will have the female surgical ward and the third floor, the female medical ward,” Dr James further stated.

All wards in both buildings will have thirty patient beds including private and semi-private rooms.

“All of these floors with the exception of paediatric will all have thirty beds. Six bays of four patients each, four private rooms and a two bedded unit which we could use as a resuscitation unit for patients. This is the ergonomic layout and configuration of all our wards,” Dr James added.

NATIONAL TRAIL AUDIT TEAM WELCOMES COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



The Company which was awarded the contract to conduct and audit of the Waitukubuli National Trail, PENDEC, says the exercise which began on September 1 should be wrapped up within a few weeks' time.

PENDEC is doing an audit of the existing amenities and infrastructure on the WNT, mapping the entire trail route from segment one to segment fourteen.

The consulting team will go through the trail with the intention of restoring the facilities which were destroyed by Hurricane Maria while at the same time retaining the trails natural essence.

Winyard Esprit of PENDEC says the trail winds through a number of communities which are involved in the process.

“We have communities we are working with, and we are trying to ensure that we have full cooperation with all the village councils in the communities. We are doing some consultations in terms of meetings. We have the Kalinago Council that we will be meeting with soon and the other councils. So, village councils and other community members that generate income from

the hikes, so we will be meeting with those persons and make them part of the whole project,” Mr. Esprit stated.

Dominica named ‘Best Destination to Unwind’ in Lonely Planet ‘s Best in Travel 2023(Dominica News Online)



A visitor relaxes at the refreshing and scenic Boeri Lake, Dominica

Roseau, Dominica – November 24, 2022 – Global travel authority Lonely Planet has announced its ‘Best in Travel’ list for 2023 with Dominica (pronounced Dom-in-EEK-a) ranking as one of the top destinations to unwind. This is the first time Dominica has been honored as a top travel destination in Lonely Planet’s Best in Travel collection. This year marks the 18th annual collection of the world’s hottest destinations, and the must-have travel experiences for the year ahead.

Lonely Planet’s Best in Travel 2023 recommends 30 must-visit locations around food, journeying, connection, learning, and unwinding.

For more info: visit: **Dominica News Online.**

DONA Sends Birthday Greetings to All our Members and Friends

December 2021

Dawn Green

Jordan Wickham

Yvonne Hector-John

January 2022

Ethelca Brand (OBE)

Kelera smith-Jonkere

February 2022

Roslyn Robinson

Jenifer Sylvester-Davis

Sandra Brand

Trudy Bango

Marsha Charles

Charles Sylvester

Nicole Jones

Vincia Waldron

Elenora Royer-Desbonne

Nieman Wickham

Janet Hector

Reginald Hector

Laurel Whiteman

Lucia Brand

Nicholls Andrew

*Members and friends of the Association
Happy Birthday and Many Happy returns to you all*

Sick Members

DONA wishes you all a speedy recovery



For the bereaved



We join the Nation and the Commonwealth to convey our heartfelt sympathy to the Royal family on the passing of Queen Elizabeth the 11.
May she rest in peace. In the risen Christ

DOMINICA OVERSEA NATIONALS' ASSOCIATION (DONA)

11 Nemoure Road, Acton London W3 6NZ

DONA (Charities No. 279643)

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER 2023

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

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