



**Canadian
SUPERBILT
SHUTTERS
& BLINDS**



**We Sell Only The Best Brands
Motorized Roller Blinds & Shutters**

HunterDouglas



MAXMAR
WINDOW FASHIONS

ALTEX

John Persaud, CEO C: (416) 239 - 2863 B: (416) 201 - 0109 sales@superbilt.com canadiansuperbiltshutters.com

KEEPING ALIVE THE TIES THAT BIND

NOW IN OUR 41ST YEAR: 1983 - 2024

INDO CARIBBEAN WORLD

Vol. 41 • No 11 • February 7, 2024 • Tel: 905-738-5005 • 312 Brownridge Dr. Thornhill, ON L4J 5X1 • indocaribbeanworld.com • indocaribbeanworld@gmail.com

Veda Lall
HOMES

**Most
Productive
Agent In
Canada!**

*With over 20
years of combined
experience, we will
help you to achieve
your dream of
home ownership!*

**Call
Veda
Today!
Veda Lall
Broker**

**416.
419.2140**

vedalallhomes.ca



Our Community Is Thriving!

Community efforts need our support

Toronto – Our thriving community will be in full flight in the coming weeks with special events that are celebrating our growing voices and our presence here in the diaspora.

Among the events are the One Love Gala, the Caribbean Children Foundation's *Be My Valentine*; Shiv Sewa Sangh's *Sangeet Ki Kahani 3*; Devi Mandir of Pickering's grand fundraising gala; and Radha Krishna Mandir's *Vasant Ki Raat*.

First up on February 9 will be the One Love Gala, an event that allows the chaplaincy community to showcase not only its crucial services that are delivered to Canadian prisons, but to celebrate its ability to rehabilitate incarcerated individuals.



Dwarka Persaud



Joe Jaglall



Habeeb Alli



Jay Brijpaul

As a chaplain, community advocate, and leader of One Love Table, our own Habeeb Alli notes that the One Love Gala is "a time to hear the stories of the diversity chaplains, of successfully reintegrated former inmates, and about interfaith communities".

Guest speakers include equity, diversity, and inclusion consultant, Dr Sabreena Ghaffar-Siddiqui, and Honorary Consul at the Guyana Consulate, Toronto, Mani Singh.

Love Gala takes place at the Jamaican Canadian Association in Toronto; [click here to visit their website for more information](#). Also, see our display on [Page 7](#).

The Caribbean Children Foundation holds its [See Page 5: Our thriving community](#)



MP for Brampton South Sonia Sidhu conveyed best wishes on January 21 to the Over-40s and Over-60s IMC national cricket teams heading abroad to compete in the upcoming World Cup Tournament. In photo, Sidhu presents greetings from the federal government to Ashay Pandya, Director of Cricket at the Cricket Canada Masters Council. More photos on Page 14. FB photo

'A heritage to celebrate, a future to build'

By Romeo Kaseram
LJI Reporter

Toronto – Two community leaders have expressed commitment and ongoing support for the objectives of Black History Month, which is being celebrated in February here in Canada.

Last week Canada's Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities, and MP for Brampton North, Kamal Khera indicated Ottawa's ongoing commitment to the philosophy and objectives of BHM.

Also, the Director of Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion at the Carpenters' Regional Council, Chris Campbell, recalled the groundwork and foundational contributions that BHM and the Black Lives Matter movement had on his union's EDI thrust.

Citing the February 1 start to the celebration of BHM, Khera noted that the government of Canada will be marking the month throughout February, and for the rest of the year, by "acknowledging the incredible contributions, past and present, that Black Canadians have made to Canadian society while also recommitting ourselves to building a more inclusive and equitable Canada".

Noting that this year's BHM theme is *Black Excellence: A Heritage to Celebrate; a Future to Build*, Khera recalled that in

December 1995, following a motion introduced by Dr Jean Augustine, the House of Commons officially recognised the month-long BHM celebration in Canada. Augustine was the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament.

"Since then, every February Canadians from coast to coast to coast come together to celebrate and learn more about the legacies of trailblazers like Abraham Beverley Walker, Canada's first Black lawyer, and contemporary filmmaker Ilhan Abdullahi," Khera stated.

Khera also pointed out that her government has remained steadfast in its commitment to fighting anti-Black racism in all its forms.

"To that end, Canada officially recognised the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent in 2018. The government also continues to invest in Black-led and Black-serving organisations across the country, and to work toward eliminat-

ing long-standing systemic barriers to social and economic inclusion," she said.

Also, "Most recently, Budget 2023 provided an additional \$25 million to the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative, extending the program for an additional year and bringing the total commitment up to \$200 million since

[See Page 4: Leaders celebrate BHM](#)



Kamal Khera



Chris Campbell

LIFE INSURANCE



Paul Ram,
Life & Investment Broker

MONEY FREEDOM INC.

AGE	\$100,000 M/F	\$250,000 M/F
30	10.00/09.09	13.73/11.70
35	11.00/09.90	15.30/13.05
40	12.78/11.70	19.13/16.43
45	16.02/13.59	25.88/19.80
50	22.05/17.73	36.88/26.65
55	27.27/20.43	56.03/40.95
60	39.69/28.62	88.65/61.43
65	62.28/43.20	142.20/94.50

Also offered: *Non Medical & Mortgage Insurance *No Load Funds *No Penalty RESP *Critical Illness *Universal Life *Dental & Drug Plans *Disability, (E&O)
Companies represented: Assumption, BMO, Canada, Empire, Equitable, Foresters, Industrial Alliance, Manulife, RBC.

Instant quote online: www.moneyfreedom.ca
Tel: 416.414.2204

Open 7 Days from 10 am to 10 pm

ALI'S ROTI

*** Eat In or Take Out * We also Cater**

Specialising in West Indian Dishes - Trinidad Style Cooking

1446 Queen St. W. Toronto
(1/2 Block East of Lansdowne,
North side, W. of Dufferin)

Only HALAL Meat Served

Tel: 416-532-7701

JAY BRIJPAUL

416-418-BRIJ (2745)



Advance Selling System

- House matching services
- Mass email to prospective Buyers
- Targeted Social Media Advertising
- 3-D virtual tours
- Floor plans
- Live streaming
- Electronic Signature
- We take all precautions



FOR LEASE \$1,650

Great Location!

This is a shared accommodation. Spacious primary bdrm w/ 4-piece ensuite & walk-in closet! Suite part furnished w/ large com. space incl. liv./din. room & kitch. Primary bdrm awaits loving touch. All utilities w/ cable TV/Internet covered under rent! Ideal for stdnts/single individuals. Comes with 1 park. spot!



\$1,150,000

Live with Potential!

Spacious bungalow is move-in ready! Featuring large bedrooms, well-maintained hardwood floors, & bright spotlights, this home can double as an investment. Basement apartment is fully legalized with own kitchen, large living space & 2 bedrooms! Right place, right value – be the right buyer!



\$719,900

Close to What's Convenient!

This spacious home is located in a well-sought location, minutes away from downtown Brampton, close to highways & amenities. Features large-sized bedrooms, open concept living & dining room, finished basement, & a side entrance! Take advantage of the eat-in kitchen & lovely yard space. Ready for your personal touches.



\$919,900

Double-sided Coin!

This lovely home sits on a premium lot with no neighbours behind. Features an in-law suite, un-retrofitted with a separate entrance. This four-level split home offers lots of space and private corners for everyone. Take advantage of the huge covered carport that can be used all year round!



\$579,000

Innovative Living!

Ultra-modern Tridel innovation is just a hop, skip, & jump to Mississauga's Square One! Resort-style condo offers around 30,000 sq ft of luxury amenities: virtual golfing, theatre room, indoor pool, high-end gym, guest suites, sauna & banquet facilities! Luxury suite features open balcony, large kitchen & ensuite laundry!



\$1,099,700

Character Plus Charm!

Modern, meticulously maintained home is in one of Heart Lake's most pristine neighbourhoods! Spacious home features sep. liv. & fam. rooms, two fireplaces & sep. entr. to an in-law suite in the bsmt! Take advantage of lovely custom, fully-enclosed deck, manicured lawns, & private backyard.



FOR LEASE \$2,550

Location, Location, Location!

Luxury condo features spacious suite with high ceilings, gleaming quartz counters, easy-to-clean laminate flooring, & large windows welcoming a beautiful city view! Prime location in Vaughan, close to shopping centres, parks, subway, & many more amenities! Take advantage of extra den space, deep soaker tub, Moen faucets, & glass-walled showers!



FOR LEASE \$3,250

Value With Comfort

Lovely home in prestigious Heartland neighbourhood. Low-maintenance townhome with private driveway, garage, & front porch! Impressively designed - open-concept main floor, spacious bdrms upstairs. A hop, skip, & jump to Public & Catholic schools, with Heartland outlet mall three minutes away! Made for easy travelling.

TheBrij.com

3500+ HOMES

* Sales mean both buyer and seller transactions from 1990 to 2016, Team Sales combined.

Jay Brijpaul, Broker, FRI

Direct: 416-418-2745 (BRIJ)
Office: 416-745-2300 ext 5292
96 Rexdale Blvd., Toronto M9W 1N7

RE/MAX

West Realty Inc. Brokerage
Independently Owned and Operated



Anjie Brijpaul, MA
Broker

Office 416.745.2300

Fax 416-745-1952

anjiebrijpaul@gmail.com





Mayor Scarpitti (seventh from left), Deputy Mayor Chan (fourth from right), councillors, and guests at the flag-raising ceremony on January 26 at the City of Markham marking India's 75th Republic Day anniversary

Events mark India's 75th Republic Day anniversary

Toronto – The Consulate General of India in Toronto celebrated India's 75th Republic Day on January 28 at the Pearson Convention Center in Brampton. The event saw the raising of India's national flag by Consul General Shri Siddhartha Nath, who also read to the attendees the special Republic Day message to the nation by India's President Droupadi Murmu.

Attending the event was Guyana's Honorary Consul Mani Singh, who extended congratulations to the government and people of India on behalf of the government of Guyana.

There were also similar anniversary celebrations held across the GTA. One event organised by the Hindu Community of Canada took place on January 26 at the City of Markham.

The celebration was hosted by the HCC's President Sudhir Bhalla, Canadian Academy of Sports Education & Culture Vice-President Mahendra Bhandari, and Director Kavita Manyal.

A highlight of the event saw a touching flag raising ceremony that was complemented by singing, speeches, and cultural festivities. The City of Markham then displayed the Indian national flag for seven days in a show of unity, diversity, and cultural pride.

Attending the City of Markham event were Mayor Frank Scarpitti; Deputy Mayor Michael Chan; Regional Councillor Joe Li; Councillors Ritch Lau; Amanda Collucci and Isa Lee; and Chief Administrative Officer, Andy Taylor.

City staff members, and a diverse audience were also in attendance, reinforcing Markham's cultural vibrancy.

In a statement, HCC and CASEC extended gratitude to the Mayor, Councillors, volunteers, and the community "for their unwavering support" in making India's 75th Republic Day celebrations "a resounding success".



Consul General Shri Siddhartha Nath (right) during the raising of India's national flag on January 28



Honorary Consul at the Guyana Consulate General, Toronto, Mani Singh, addresses the gathering

Happy Black History Month

Let's Celebrate Black Excellence

THIS BLACK HISTORY MONTH, AND EVERY MONTH, WE HONOR THE IMPACTFUL CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK INDIVIDUALS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Shafqat Ali, MP
Brampton Centre
(905) 790-9211 | shafqat.ali@parl.gc.ca
225A-350 Rutherford Road South - Plaza 2,
Brampton, ON L6W 4N6

[@shafqatalimp](#)

DENTISTRY

DR. NAR DALJEET
DR. NIKHIL DALJEET

Ask us about our:

- Dental Implants (from start to finish)
- Invisalign (Misaligned Teeth)
- Snore Guard

DENTAL EMERGENCIES ALWAYS WELCOME

Serviceing our community for over 30 years.
Now two locations to serve you better
2942 Finch Avenue East, Scarborough, Ontario
(At Victoria Park) Village Square Plaza (Ground Floor)
416-492-3077 • www.tddental.ca

Second Office Location:
SmileVille Dental
86 Ringwood Dr, Unit 23, Stouffville, ON L4A 1C3
Tel: 905-640-4600 • www.smilevilledental.ca

Book Giveaway For Supernatural

Enter for a chance to win one of five copies of "Supernatural - Volume 1" - A compilation of thirty-two tales from the popular newspaper series, "Supernatural". Collect your own personal autographed copy of Volume 1 and be the first to know when Volume 2 will become available. Good Luck!!!

Please leave your email address at:
www.kamilali.ca/contact

Kam Ali

VEDIC BOOKS

- Complete set of the Vedas
- The Upanishads
- Bhagavad Gita
- Ramayan
- Philosophy of Vedas
- Vedic Thoughts
- Vedic Vision - Sanskar Vidhi
- Quest - The Vedic Answers
- Vedic Marriage Ceremony
- Introduction to the Commentary on the Vedas
- Life & Teachings of Swami Dayanand
- Light of Truth
- Wisdom of the Rishies
- Gems of Vedic Wisdom
- Anand Gayatri Katha
- Daily Prayer
- Vedic Philosophy
- Whose Wealth?
- Mahabharata
- ... and many more

Call AVM Bookstore
416-805-2685 or 905-824-2685

'Black Canadian history is Canadian history ...excellence is all around us'

Statement by Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, on the celebration of Black History Month in Canada.

"[February 1] marks the beginning of Black History Month. This month, we honour the achievements of Black Canadians, past and present, celebrate Black culture, and reaffirm our commitment to building a more diverse, welcoming Canada for everyone. The theme of this year's Black History Month, 'Black Excellence: A Heritage to Celebrate; a Future to Build', encourages us to share the stories of Black Canadians.

"Black Canadian history is Canadian history. From groundbreaking trailblazers in halls of fame and history books to unsung heroes in communities across the country, Black excellence is all around us.

"We celebrate Stephanie Bernard, the founder of the Nunavut Black History Society and a community leader advancing Black-Canadian arts and culture. We celebrate Abraham Beverley Walker, the first Canadian-born Black law-



Stephanie Bernard



Justin Trudeau

yer and first Black New Brunswicker to publish a magazine. Black Canadians have played a pivotal role in making Canada the diverse, prosperous, and compassionate place we know and love.

Leaders celebrate BHM with commitment to EDI

From Page 1 2019."

Khera also reaffirmed her commitment as Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities, stating, "I firmly believe that a more inclusive Canada is a more resilient Canada. That is why our government will continue to combat racism by soon introducing a new Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy and Canada's first ever Action Plan on Combatting Hate."

She added, "In Canada, diversity is a reality, and fostering inclusion is a shared responsibility. As we commemorate Black History Month, I invite all Canadians to join in celebrating and deepening our understanding of Black history, as well as the vibrant Black communities thriving across Canada."

And in speaking with *Indo-Caribbean World* earlier this week in appreciation of BHM, CRC's EDI Director Campbell recalled his union taking to the streets of Toronto in 2020 to march in support of the global call sent out by the then fledgling Black Lives Matter movement.

Campbell is also Vice President of Carpenters Union Local 27 here in Toronto.

Recalling marching for BLM with his team and supporters

back in 2020, Campbell said in 2024 he was pleased to see how the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion movement "has since grown in our industry".

As a consequence of this growing awareness, Campbell noted that the EDI movement "is now a subject that general contractors, the City, and the unions are paying more attention to in our industry".

He added, "The tragic death of George Floyd in 2020 in the US; and here in Ontario, the hateful graffiti that were appearing at job sites, the nooses, and unfair job practices, were major catalysts for this growth. Consequently, today there is growing appreciation for our EDI movement in our construction workplaces."

Campbell added that his union was now "looking to continued improvement, and looking forward to the next generation benefiting from our work in making our voices heard, and ensuring that better EDI practices are put in place, and that these remain in place for all Canadians."

He also expressed gratitude for the ongoing support, saying, "As we celebrate BHM, I want to thank the leadership of UBCJA Canada, and the membership, for believing in the importance and the work being achieved by EDI".

"Canada's painful history of anti-Black racism continues to impact communities across the country. We can – and we must – do better. In 2018, we officially recognised the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent. This initiative, centred on recognition, justice, development, and fighting discrimination, helps us build frameworks to empower Black communities and advance our work to combat racism, discrimination, and xenophobia faced by those of African descent.

"We've also strengthened our supports to Black-led organisations here at home. Since 2019, through the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative, we have invested in more than 2,300 projects to grow Black-led, Black-focused, and Black-serving charities and non-profit organisations.

"Last year, we selected the Foundation for Black Communities to manage the Black-led Philanthropic Endowment Fund. The Fund supports charities and non-profit organisations in fighting anti-Black racism and improving social and economic well-being in predominantly Black communities. With the Black Entrepreneurship Program, we are helping Black Canadian business owners and entrepreneurs start up, scale up, and succeed – now and into the future.

"Canada has undoubtedly come a long way. But so long as inequality and injustice still exist in our society, our work is far from done. So, this month, and every month, let us celebrate Black heritage, honour the extraordinary stories of Black Canadians, and build a better, fairer future – for the stories yet to be written.

"Happy Black History Month, Canada."

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: Welder

2 Vacancies (Full Time)

\$26.50 Hourly

Education

High school/graduate/certificate

Please email resume to:

jdgtool@bellnet.ca

A MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU AND YOUR LIBERAL MPS:

As we celebrate Black History Month, let's shine a light on Black Excellence: an invaluable heritage that shapes our nation's narrative. From the pioneers who paved the way to the present-day visionaries, the contributions of Black Canadians enrich our shared history.

Our Government honours the resilience, creativity, and unwavering spirit of Black Canadians.

It's a testament to their legacy and an inspiration for the future we aim to build together –

a Canada that values diversity, embraces inclusivity, and nurtures every dream.

UN MESSAGE DU PREMIER MINISTRE JUSTIN TRUDEAU ET DE VOS DÉPUTÉS LIBÉRAUX :

Alors que nous célébrons le Mois de l'histoire des Noirs, mettons en lumière l'excellence des personnes venant des communautés noires : un héritage inestimable qui façonne le récit de notre nation.

Des pionniers qui ont ouvert la voie aux visionnaires d'aujourd'hui, les contributions des

Canadiens venant des communautés noires enrichissent notre histoire commune.

Notre gouvernement rend hommage à la résilience, à la créativité et à l'esprit inébranlable des Canadiens venant des communautés noires. C'est un témoignage de leur héritage et une source d'inspiration pour l'avenir que nous voulons construire ensemble - **un Canada qui valorise la**

diversité, embrasse l'inclusivité et nourrit tous les rêves.

PRESENTED BY / PRÉSENTÉ PAR

Shafqat Ali, M.P. • Hon. Anita Anand, M.P. • Hon. Gary Anandasangaree, M.P. • Yvan Baker, M.P. • Hon. Bill Blair, M.P. • Hon. Bardish Chagger, M.P. • Shaun Chen, M.P. • Paul Chiang, M.P. • Michael Coteau, M.P. • Julie Dzerowicz, M.P. • Ali Ehsassi, M.P. • Peter Fonseca, M.P. • Hon. Chrystia Freeland, M.P. • Iqwinder Gaheer, M.P. • Hon. Ahmed Hussen, M.P. • Hon. Marci Ien, M.P. • Hon. Helena Jaczek, M.P. • Majid Jowhari, M.P. • Arielle Kayabaga, M.P. • Hon. Kamal Khera, M.P. • Hon. John McKay, M.P. • Hon. Marco Mendicino, M.P. • Hon. Mary Ng, M.P. • Jennifer O'Connell, M.P. • Ruby Sahota, M.P. • Hon. Ya'ara Saks, M.P. • Hon. Judy Sgro, M.P. • Sonia Sidhu, M.P. • Francesco Sorbara, M.P. • Leah Taylor Roy, M.P. • Ryan Turnbull, M.P. • Hon. Rechie Valdez, M.P. • Tony Van Bynen, M.P. • Hon. Arif Virani, M.P. • Jean Yip, M.P. • Salma Zahid, M.P.

Our thriving community

From Page 1

big community event, *Be My Valentine*, which will take place on February 10 at the Woodbine Banquet Hall in Etobicoke.

Led by humanitarian, philanthropist, and community stalwart, Jay Brijpaul, the TCCF has been saving the lives of critically-ill children from the Caribbean for over two decades.

Founded in 2000, TCCF assists children from the Caribbean who are suffering from life-threatening ailments for which no treatment is available in their homelands.

Through our generous community's donations, many critically-ill children have received life-saving treatment at hospitals here in Canada and elsewhere. [Visit TCCF's website here for information on Be My Valentine](#); or see our display on [Page 11](#).

On February 24, Devi Mandir of Pickering will hold its grand fund-raising gala in aid of its building renovation fund, which will take place at the Woodbine Banquet and Convention Centre in Etobicoke.

An evening of dinner and entertainment, Toronto's finest artistes will be on stage, among them Harold Boodoo, Shiva Mohabeer, and Vedant Panwar. [Visit Devi Mandir's website for more information](#). Also, see our display on [Page 11](#).

Shiv Sewa Sangh Mandir & Cultural Centre will hold its *Sangeet Ki Kahani 3* on March 2 at the Vedic Cultural Center in Markham. The event is in collaboration with the Sangeet Vidyalaya School of Music, and will be helmed by Toronto's best master of ceremonies, Joe Jaglall.

Jaglall's eminent presence will be complemented with performances by Anisa Dhar, Harvinder Shridhar, Pooja Singh, and many other top artistes.

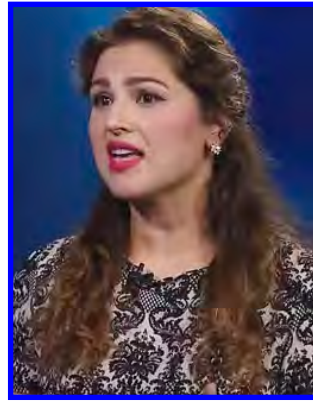
Visit [Shiv Sewa Sangh's website here](#), or see our display on this page.

Also, save the date for Radha Krishna Mandir & Cultural Centre's *Vasant Ki Raat*, which takes place on April 7 at the Pearson Convention Centre. Led by its president Dwarka Persaud, this RKM event is a fund-raiser for ongoing construction of its new mandir in Cambridge.

The evening promises dinner and an entertaining concert featuring Bhajans, Geets, and Bollywood favourites. On stage would be Pt Rajin Balgobind and Pt Munelal Maharaj, and many others, backed by a live band. [Visit RKM here for more information](#); or see our display on [Page 18](#).



Harold Boodoo



Sabreena Ghaffar-Siddiqui



Pt Munelal Maharaj



Pt Rajin Balgobind

SHIV SEWA SANGH MANDIR & CULTURAL CENTER
IN COLLABORATION WITH SANGEET VIDYALAYA SCHOOL OF MUSIC

SANGEET Ki KAHANI 3

March 2, 2024 at 5 p.m.
Vedic Cultural Center
4345 14th Ave. Markham, ON L3R 0J2

An Evening of Song and Dance

Joe Jaglall
Toronto's Best Emcee

Anisa Dhar, Kevin Dhar, Harvinder Shridhar, Gurinder Singh, Pooja Singh, Pt. Dave & Nanda

Sudesh Sewkumar, Avinash Narine, Priya Ramoutar, Suhana, Sumera and Sunaya Singh, Akash Choudhary, Manisha Choudhary, Alana Singh, Aaron Luckhoo, Sachin Sukhu, Raymond L. Singh, Emily Janvi Sanasi, Shiv Sewa Sangh Group, Alex Mohan

DONATION INFO:
Etransfer (Canada) - donate.ssm@gmail.com
PayPal (Canada & USA) - donate.ssm@gmail.com
Cheque Payable to Shiv Sewa Sangh

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO PLEASE CALL:
Pt. Dave Ramoutar 416 918 4038
Raymond Lutchmansingh 416 659 8967
Nadira Baghunandan-Dyal 416 873 4486
Mandir 416 261 0281

Tickets Available:
Admission: Adults \$25
Children 12 years and under \$15
Food & Snacks will be on Sale

City of Brampton Fire and Emergency Services celebrates **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** with a dedicated fire truck to showcase the contributions from the Black community that helped shape the international fire service.

Come out and learn about the accomplishments and inventions by the pioneers from the Black community.

For more information on the truck's availability, visit brampton.ca/bhm

BRAMPTON

KISSOON & ASSOCIATES

Barristers and Solicitors

Dhaman Kissoon's Areas of Practice:

- CRIMINAL LAW
- IMMIGRATION LAW

Lawyers available for:

Family Law, Real Estate Law, Corporate Commercial Law, Personal Injury Law, Civil Litigation.

8 Beamish Drive
Toronto, Ontario, M9B 3P3

Tel: 416 234 1446. Ext.231
Fax: 416-234-0154
Email: dkissoon@bellnet.ca
www.kissoonlaw.ca

Tel: 416-234-1446
Fax: 416-234-0154
Email: dkissoon@bellnet.ca
8 Beamish Drive
Toronto, Ontario M9B 3P3

Editorial

Shamar delivers

Shamar Joseph delivered. As media in the Caribbean and across the globe gushed, and many editorialised right to the brink of hyperbole late last month, there is no thesaurus with enough synonyms; and as the Guyana newspaper, *Stabroek News*, stated, there are not enough “superlatives to frame the courageous single-mindedness of Baracara’s and Guyana’s Shamar Joseph in leading the West Indies to this marvellous victory over Australia.”

The moment when Joseph took his seventh wicket to secure victory for the West Indies in Australia in the second Test reflected the immense magnitude of the moment, *Newsday* editorialised out of Trinidad and Tobago on January 30.

The newspaper added, “This was not just a single win in a Test cricket series. It was the reaffirmation of a dream and the wider hopes of a region. When Joseph made his Test cricket debut mere weeks ago Down Under, it was clear the world was in store for something special. He took a wicket off the very first ball he delivered in his Test career, dismissing Steve Smith for 12.”

And as was noted across our globe by the cricketing media, the long history of Test cricket has seen just 22 bowlers achieving the first-ball-wicket feat, with Joseph sharing the honour with one other West Indian bowler.

Also, in that match, he went on to take a five-wicket haul, yet another rarity for debut bowlers, *Newsday* noted.

However, it was Joseph’s follow-up performance with the ball that was spectacular, taking seven wickets for 68 runs at The Gabba in Brisbane even as he nursed a toe injury, the consequence of a Mitchell Starc yorker.

It appears that players on the West Indies team make history at The Gabba. Here was the same ground where our dearly departed Joe Solomon tied that historic Test in 1960.

Perhaps it is heroics as Solomon’s historic run out, and Joseph’s class performance, that have now stirred the dormant embers into life once more among disillusioned West Indies fans in the region, and here in the diaspora.

Joseph’s memorable bowling performance, despite his injury, saw West Indies taking a breathtaking, tension-filled eight-run victory that drew the two-match series.

That West Indies beat the Australians on their home turf was in itself an astonishing achievement.

The last time the Caribbean side won a match in Australia was in Perth in 1997. In that match, Brian Lara scored a century, with Curtly Ambrose named Player of the Match. Notably, the names Lara and Ambrose summon a wholly different era in West Indian cricket. No wonder Lara, who was in The Gabba’s commentary box for the game, was reported to have shed a few tears.

As the *Trinidad Express* noted in its Editorial on January 29, Joseph’s sustained pace, hurled down the pitch at close to 150 kilometres per hour during his unbroken 11.5-over spell, while battling through his stark pain, was a statement of fortitude, talent, and determination in itself.

“He is undoubtedly the real deal, a young fast bowler fully capable of leading the West Indies attack for many years to come. Perhaps, he could even steer the regional team back to the top,” the newspaper opined.

And as *Stabroek News* noted, when Joseph was capped on January 16, on the first day of the first Test for his stunning debut, he received sage advice from another formidable West Indies speedster, now commentator, Ian Bishop.

“With a pat on his shoulder, Bishop told Joseph that he now had, ‘A chance to carry on the legacy, the great legacy of fast bowling which was set up by Hall and Griffith, Holding, Roberts, Garner, Marshall, Ambrose, Walsh... Now it is on your shoulder,’ Bishop was reported as saying.

Additionally, he told Joseph, “It is a great honour to present you with this cap, and every time you put it on, every time you look at it, remember 12 months ago you bet on yourself. You came from little, and now you are a national cricketer. Remember your family: those who have helped you; those who love you; and those who supported you over the years, every time you look at it. And aspire to greatness”.

Last month, with an injured toe, Joseph set out firmly on that path; and he delivered.

Why BHM remains important to Indo-Caribbeans

Identifying as Indo-Caribbean does not limit one from recognising Black History Month. Nor does this identity not permit us to understand, learn, and celebrate the Black community.

In fact, being Indo-Caribbean does not earn an automatic label of being anti-Black.

When we established the Indo-Caribbean Canadian Association, we fielded statements that we were dividing the Caribbean community. A handful of people said this would only aggravate the racial divides that are experienced in Caribbean countries.



Ryan Singh

During our *Dhal and Rice: Indo-Caribbean Food Drive*, a comment was made that this should be focused on assisting the broader Caribbean community. In fact, donations do benefit those within and outside our Caribbean community.

Anyone familiar with Caribbean history would be aware of the heavy racial divides, many of which continue to date. Instilled in the Afro and Indo populations by colonisers, this divisiveness and fear of others obstructed a sense of unity, and ensured the imperial hold on power.

Instilling and cultivating racial divides was a convenient tool for the British and Americans to curb anti-colonial sentiments emerging through working-class solidarity. Any threat to capitalism was dealt with, no matter what it cost.

Imperialist ambitions were fearful that potential independent and self-governing Caribbean nations, such as Guyana, would align with the ongoing global socialist movement elevated by radicalism. This was being witnessed in Western Europe during the 1950s.

In the Guyanese context, the long-lasting trauma of political and racial violence in the 1960s are remnants that still resonate in the consciousness of many. These fueled anti-Black sentiments, which still reverberate today.

Those who witnessed or recall that past, are wary that potential racial identification is aligned with a sense of racial supremacy and the fostering of community divides.

As individuals and families originating from the Caribbean with Indian ancestry, our sense of belonging there is sometimes lost in a world that misunderstands the complex demographic composition of the region. This also aggravates that sense of division.

However, this detailed history and interaction of people originally from different continents is the foundation of why Black History Month is relevant to every Indo-Caribbean person.

Black History in many ways influenced that of the Indo population in the Caribbean.

For the Indo-Caribbean community, Black (Afro-Caribbean)

individuals are our neighbours, friends, family, colleagues, and peers. Afro-Caribbean persons have been of constant relevance to the history of the Indo-Caribbean community.

The story of the Afro-Caribbean community is intertwined with the introduction of South Asian Indentured workers in the Caribbean, and the evolution of the vibrant diversity found in modern Caribbean culture.

The need for a new source of labour was required in the Caribbean after the emancipation of enslaved Africans in 1834.

This revolutionary milestone for enslaved Africans was critical to the evolution of an Indo-Caribbean community, as it would be the leading event that would influence the history of our ancestors.

Emancipation was the catalyst that established the modern-day composition of the Caribbean with a majority of persons being of African and South Asian descent. It led to the integration of these communities with each other, building communities and a new society in the region.

Unfortunately, the connectivity and unity within the two communities have faced tension and turbulent periods. Unity is the desired outcome that continues to face challenges.

As a Canadian, the context of race is completely different, and I am a foreigner to the racial conflicts of Guyana. From my vantage point, it may be easier to prescribe racial unity through understanding. But understanding the past of the other is the only path to gaining appreciation.

The struggle and toil of enslaved Africans before the arrival of South Asian Indentured workers must be understood. The legacy of slavery still has impacts to date.

After centuries of slavery, racism, and segregation, Black citizens continue to be disproportionately impacted by hate and discrimination.

Indo-Caribbean people have witnessed the ongoing impacts of communities that have racial divides, and it is incumbent on us to play a central role in breaking down anti-Black sentiment and combatting Black racism.

For our community, Black history is not an external factor, not something many of us need to relearn. Our community was established through Black history, and is deeply integrated into the development of the Afro-Caribbean community.

Beyond February, we must recognise that we hold more familiarity with those in the Afro-Caribbean community, and our commonalities should drive us toward a sense of allyship.

Leveraging our Indo-Caribbean identity is vital to ensuring that we understand our history with the Afro-Caribbean community. And although we can’t rewrite a tumultuous history, we can learn from that, and ensure it is not repeated.

When the sun did not shine on condensed milk tins

I wonder what my dearly departed grandmother would make of the ridiculous prices we are paying at the grocery for food nowadays.

Perhaps she would have stared at me with her signature disbelief, which was that liminal space of detachment that her eyes occasionally occupied between the dawning of comprehension and her inner struggle to accept yet another intrusion from an eternally encroaching and extractive world.



Romeo Kaseram

Now that moment of disbelief was a gap, a break in the flow of my grandmother’s otherwise wholesome and indefatigable engagement with the world that I was growing up in back then during my boyhood days in the homeland.

It was such that in this homeland world for me, then a mischievous young boy, to say to Ma that somehow the tin of condensed milk had leaked more than half its contents from the day before; that the delicious, candy-thickened, and heavenly elixir copiously wound onto a tablespoon, and surreptitiously consumed crouched behind the chulha and its cobwebby woodpile, had somehow inexplicably evaporated without a trace.

Later in life, with my acquisition of book-sense, I would come to appreciate my irascible young uncle, no doubt unhappily navigating the rigours of a teenager’s hangover, saying with sour cynicism, and getting it all wrong, “That is why the people name it ‘evaporated milk’. It always evaporating into thin air”.

My uncle’s intrusion, and me sticking to my story that the missing condensed milk was the wine-making equivalent of the evaporated “angel’s share”, would barely see Ma lifting an eyelid with disbelief.

Ma would process both pieces of information from us with resignation, and finish off the interrogation with a knowing “Hmm!”, her tonality brief, conclusive, and etched in stone with unwavering conviction that she had cornered the suspect.

For no doubting it, she was quite convinced that the culprit for said ‘evaporation’, the missing “angel’s share”, was standing right in front of her as an accused who was a repeat offender, and whose guilt had been solidly established even before a

charge was laid.

Even the most peripheral evidence in the case against the purloiner of condensed milk was being maliciously re-enacted for Ma as she gathered her judicial thoughts, my uncle exaggeratedly crossing the floor into the kitchen like a disloyal politician in Parliament, pausing with each step so the creaking of its betraying floorboards rose upwards to groan with its burden of proof.

Of course, Ma’s laconic, judgemental “Hmm!” was then amplified, growing into an extended “Hm...”. It was yet another damning piece of evidence being gathered by my judge-and-jury grandmother, her “Hm...” similar to my exclamations during those episodes of delicious, surreptitious consumption following the repeated acts of piracy that were committed against the diminishing contents of the condensed milk tin.

Of course, there is nothing like a free lunch visit to the condensed milk tin, which meant sour contemplation of my oncoming entry into adult life still serving out my sentence of filling up the water barrel each morning with eternal journeys to the well. Then there was the sweeping of the yard, washing of dishes, and most punitive of all, an afterthought in my grandmother’s reading of the riot act, submission to a daily bath.

For his work as Ma’s side-kick detective in solving the case of the missing condensed milk, my dear uncle ‘Watson’ was sent off to the shop by the junction to purchase a replacement tin.

He was in his glee, since my grandmother hardly ever asked for leftover change when she sent one of us out on an errand. However, this time he returned with a long face, the consequence of receiving short change from the purchase.

It was such that the shopkeeper had raised the price of condensed milk in the interval since her last purchase. Ma was aghast, her face frozen with disbelief, her eyes vacant and inhabiting the gap between incomprehension and wonderment.

Even if Ma had known the word “unconscionable”, she would not have used it. A lot is being lost in my translation of what Ma really said that day. Suffice to say, moving forward, said shopkeeper was now storing his condensed milk in a dark place.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of this publication. Letters to be published will be edited where necessary. Publisher: Harry Ramkhelawan Editor: Romeo Kaseram Columnists/Writers: Frank Birbalsingh, Vidur Dindayal, Bernard Heydorn, Adit Kumar, Dwarka Laxhan, Dhanpaul Narine, Harry Persaud, Arti Panday, Mohan Ragbeer, William Doyle-Marshall. Contact Information: Indo Caribbean World Inc. 312 Brownridge Drive, Thornhill, Ontario. L4J 5X1 (905) 738-5005; indocaribbeanworld@gmail.com Website: www.indocaribbeanworld.com

Caution needed – Venezuela using hybrid war tactics in battle for Essequibo

Dear Editor,

Among the agreements between Guyana's President Dr Irfaan Ali and Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro that are contained in the Argyle Declaration are that they "directly or indirectly, will not threaten or use force against one another in any circumstances", and a commitment to "peaceful coexistence".

This has been widely understood to mean that "war" between our countries has been averted, and that the subsequent meetings of the Commission of the Foreign Ministers and their teams are meant to move relations towards cooperation in agreed-on areas.

However, this understanding assumes a view of "force", "war", and "peace" that has long been superseded among military establishments across the world – including Venezuela.

Rather than the old, "absolute, kinetic wars", today, these establishments discuss, prepare for, and engage in "hybrid wars" – the use of a range of different methods to attack an enemy.

These include political, diplomatic, economic, financial initiatives, and the spreading of propaganda, criminality, infiltration by fifth columnists, or attacking important computer systems. Technology has opened up new ways to conduct hybrid warfare. Hybrid wars are conducted in what are called "grey zones" – where all instruments of national power are leveraged to achieve the aggressor's aims.

Venezuela's use of PetroCaribe's debt write-offs made some of our Caricom fellow members not only undermine our diplomatic strength, but gave succour to Maduro in a very personalised manner that subverted decades-long institution building.

In a word, hybrid wars strive to avoid Carl von Clausewitz's kinetic war as "politics by other means" to Sun Tzu's *Art of War*, where the enemy can be conquered without necessarily fighting.

The strength of the adversary is gradually sapped in the grey zone, as much energy is wasted to keep the war from getting kinetic. The premises of the hybrid war aggressor also become normalised over time, as we saw with Russia's moves against Ukraine and other neighbours, including Georgia, and now the Baltics.

I have been arguing that Maduro and Venezuela are conducting a hybrid war against us, and for them to keep their agreement on peace, they have to retract their hybrid war salvos to convert the grey zone into a zone of peace.

Take, for instance, Venezuela's refusal to accept the ICJ's interpretation of the Geneva Agreement to assume jurisdiction over the border controversy. This cannot stand. We must expose this for what it is: an act of hybrid war by Venezuela that encouraged them to escalate their aggression to an announcement of their "annexation" of our entire

Essequibo Region.

If this was not an act of war, then what is? Maduro's appointment of a Governor of the region with the "authority" to award or deny licenses continues the normalisation of Essequibo as Venezuela's so that the final physical occupation – as with Russia in Eastern Ukraine – becomes a *fait accompli*.

The Venezuelan people's historic grievance of being taken advantage of by Britain was once again emotionally aroused after the Argyle Declaration by the exhumation of General Domingo Antonio Sifones' body, and his installation in the Venezuelan pantheon of heroes on par with Simon Bolivar for "expelling the British from the Cuyuni Basin".

Maduro made it clear that this expulsion was to be extended in the present, and he left no doubt about the means to accomplish this with his mobilisation of one quarter of the conventional Venezuelan armed Forces to counter



Carl von Clausewitz



Guyana's President Dr Irfaan Ali (left) with Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro at Argyle, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on December 14, 2023, where both leaders met for discussions on the territorial dispute between both nations

the visit of the 30-man *HMS Trent*.

Maduro's actions illustrate how subversive war in the grey zone is to the international rules-based order. And our acceptance of the several acts of aggression against our national interests, such as discouraging FDI into Essequibo because of the "dispute" as not "warfare" makes us complicit in their international brigandry.

We can expect such actions to continue to be escalated until one day we will wake up as Ukraine did, to have enemy forces occupying our Essequibo.

However, in a positive development, our government has evidently accepted the need

to buttress our security to possibly fight Venezuela's grey zone war. This can be discerned in our acceptance of members of the US 1st Security Forces Assistance Brigade working with our Guyana Defence Force.

The SFABs are a US Army innovation to deal with the reality of hybrid wars in the grey zone that used to be handled by their Special Operations Forces. They organise, train, equip, and advise foreign security forces like ours to face threats by wannabe regional hegemony like Venezuela. We again reiterate the need to establish a base in our Essequibo Region to which our US ally can have access.

Ravi Dev, Guyana, via email.

9TH ANNUAL ONE LOVE GALA

LOVE MATTERS

Freedom

AWARDS | DINNER | DANCE

PRISON INJUSTICES: PALESTINE, CANADA AND MANDELA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
DR SABREENA GHAFFAR SIDDIQUI

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH 2024 | 7PM TO 1AM

JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
995 ARROW ROAD, NORTH YORK ON

EARLY BIRD UNTIL FEB 1ST \$85
REGULAR \$100
DRESS CODE: FORMAL ATTIRE

PERFORMANCE BY JAN MORGAN

PERFORMANCE BY GEM SHADOU

ONELOVEGALA.ORG

AMIR
QUALITY MEATS

CFC

Mountain of Mercy
Canada
ABDUL NURANI & FAMILY

Tropical TV

CELENE CHOTAI
REALTOR
(416) 564-5785
www.celenechotai.com

GUYANA PROPERTY MATTERS

Prescriptive Title Explained

By Kal Juman-Yassin

Guyana's laws allow a person residing in or in possession of a property to claim ownership after 12 years if they can prove the paper owner has abandoned it. The law originated to allow Guyanese to claim ownership of land historically owned by overseas colonial entities, and has allowed for both the legitimate and fraudulent transfer of property ownership to occur.

In some cases, overseas Guyanese property owners have deliberately allowed their relatives to claim ownership with their consent. Property owners who intend to retain and pass on assets to their heirs need to actively engage in the administration of their properties to avoid losing it to an unchallenged prescriptive rights claim.

The process would include filing an application with an updated survey, interviewing and obtaining statements from witnesses, preparing an Affidavit, and serving a Petition to the neighbouring occupiers of the land in support of the Claim.

The applicant would then be required to file an advertisement of the Petition in the *Official Gazette*, and a daily newspaper for three consecutive Saturdays. After these steps, the applicant would then appear in court and obtain the grant where there is no opposition, and then files to become the owner of the property by Transport, Certificate, or Title of a Lease.

Any person can file an opposition to the grant of a Petition by filing and serving an Opposition, which would trigger a court trial to determine whether the Opposition should be upheld or dismissed.

Challenging the court's ruling years after can be difficult unless proof of fraud can be adequately demonstrated. If the property has subsequently been sold to another party, then the property is likely irretrievably lost.

The lesson for every overseas owner of Guyanese property is to ensure that the property is effectively administered and managed. Owners should ensure they pay the rates and taxes, have an up-to-date rental agreement with their tenants, and visit the property at least once per year. Don't assume everything is fine; check up on your property today.

RE/Guyana is a property services company dedicated to making it easier for overseas property owners to administer, divest, acquire, and develop their real estate assets in Guyana.

[Click here to go to our free online property risk assessment.](#)

Caribbean cricket fans hail emergence of pacer Shamar Joseph

Dear Editor,

It was January 28 at 3:22 a.m. Trinidad and Tobago time. My eyes were glued to the television, my heart was racing at knots per second, when new Aussie opener Steve Smith took a single off the fourth ball of Shamar Joseph's 11th over.

The number 11 batsman Josh Hazelwood was left to survive the last two balls of the over. Joseph sent down a rocket close to 145 kilometres per hour that clattered into Hazelwood's off stump. It triggered mass West Indian celebrations all over the Gabba ground, known as the fortress of Australian cricket.

One could have heard screams of joy from the little islands of the Caribbean halfway around the world. Legends Brian Lara and Carl Hooper were in tears.

Only in his second Test, Joseph became the fourth West Indian bowler, and the first since 1993 to capture seven wickets in an innings in Australia.

It was the West Indies first Test match victory on Australian soil since 1997.

Joseph comes from a family of five boys and three girls, brought up in the remote Maroon village of Baracara, located approximately 130 kilometres south-east of the capital Georgetown. Baracara's population is under 500, with a subsistence economy, and is a village that only started receiving Internet and mobile services in 2018.

The 24-year-old Guyanese has brought tremendous jubilation and happiness to the people of the English-speaking Caribbean, and the Caribbean diaspora.

Having sustained a toe injury courtesy a yorker delivered by Australia pacer Mitchell Starc, Joseph was not expected to bowl in the second innings. With the aid of modern medicine he recovered and sliced through the Australian batting like a hot knife through



Shamar Joseph

butter.

Showing indefatigable stamina and endurance, Joseph bowled 11.5 consecutive overs, the speed of his deliveries clocking between 142-148 kilometres per hour consistently, the Australians receiving a taste of their own medicine.

At the post-match conference, a beaming captain Kraigg Brathwaite called him a "superstar".

By no stretch of the imagination, as a result of this one victory, can we say that the West Indies have turned the corner in Test match cricket. But we have heard that before.

What the cricket world has seen of Joseph is a never-die attitude, a hungry desire to win for the people of the Caribbean, an X factor DNA in his blood.

At an early age, his cricket idols were West Indian greats Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh.

We await with cautious optimism for more Josephs to emerge from the cauldron of West Indian Test cricket.

Reza Abasali, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.

Dear Editor,

There are cricket memories in my mind that I will never ever forget. A few I have witnessed in person, some I have seen on television, and some I listened to on the radio.

However, none can compare to what I saw on television in the early hours of January 28, 2024.

I had the privilege of seeing my hero Alvin Kallicharran make his first Test century on debut at Bourda against New Zealand in 1972. Earlier in that same series, I was absolutely blown away by Sir George Lawrence Rowe making 214 and an unbeaten 100 on his Test debut at Sabina Park in Jamaica.

In 1977, I listened keenly to the radio as Colin Everton Croft destroyed Pakistan on Test debut with devastating fast bowling to claim eight wickets for 29 runs.

A certain Barbadian by the name of Joel Garner also made his debut in that Test match, and the two of them went on to accompany Andy Roberts and Michael Holding to form the most feared pace quartet in cricket history.

Curtly Ambrose's devastating seven wickets for one run at the WACA against Australia in 1993 was special, just as were his six wickets for 24 runs in Trinidad to help bowl out England for 46 runs in the 1993-1994 series.

And no one can forget how he partnered with Courtney Walsh to stun South Africa in 1991 at Bridgetown, Barbados, during the latter's return to Test cricket, and snatched victory from the jaws of defeat.

Then the best fast bowler that ever lived, Malcolm Marshall, demolished England at Headingley with a broken thumb and his left wrist in cast. They referred to him as the "one arm bandit".

And Tony Cozier agreed with me, when I said that the best display of fast bowling ever seen was at Bourda in 1991, when Marshall

bowled Border a few runs short of 50, after a stubborn partnership with Geoff Marsh.

But what I saw in the early hours on the morning of January 28, during the day-and-night Test match played with the pink ball at The Gabba in Brisbane Australia, between a young West Indies team versus Australia, the World's number one Test team, will forever be etched in my memory.

It will be regarded as the best ever performance by a West Indian fast bowler.

Shamar Joseph, in only his second Test match, with a damaged toe and in obvious pain, bowled 11.5 overs and literally obliterated the Australian batting with figures of seven wickets for 59 runs; and essentially ended a 27-year drought of West Indies winning a Test match in Australia.

The result was that West Indies successfully defended 216 runs, and won by eight runs, which shocked the Australian public and the entire cricketing world.

After that Mitchell Starc toe-cruncher in the first innings, like most individuals, I had written Joseph off, and had little or no hope of West Indies successfully defending that total.

But, like a true warrior, Joseph demonstrated tremendous grit, determination, self-belief, and testicular fortitude, and used his young but experienced cricketing brain to do the impossible.

When I saw him for the first time in the 2023 CPL at Providence, I was impressed with his action, among other things; however, I felt that he needed a few seasons more to be ready for the big time.

I am glad that I was wrong, and I look forward to the day when I will be sitting in the stands of the Shamar Joseph Cricket Stadium at Palmyra, Berbice, in Guyana, to see him destroy teams for the West Indies.

Eric Whaul, Guyana, via email.



'The King of the Jungle'

Mani Singh
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Tej Singh
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

647-274-4172



★ Residential & Commercial Real Estate Specialists

- ★ **It's the Experience that Counts!**
- ★ **Members of RE/MAX Hall of Fame!**
- ★ **Winner of RE/MAX Lifetime Achievement Award!**
- ★ **Father & Son Professional Real Estate Team**
- ★ **When Experience & Professionalism Matter to You**



www.manisinghhomes.com

RE/MAX
West Realty Inc., Brokerage

Bus: 416-745-2300 • ReMax West Realty • 96 Rexdale Blvd. Toronto, ON M9W 1N7

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR OVER 34 YEARS!

Staying the course: People's Budget 2024 passes without change

Themed *Staying the course, building prosperity for all*, Guyana's (G) \$1.146 trillion 2024 budget aims to "improve the lives of each and every single Guyanese citizen." It "addresses today's priorities but also blatantly sets the stage for tomorrow," stated Dr Ashni Singh, Senior Minister with Responsibility for Finance in the Office of the President.

Following five days of extensive debate, Guyana's \$1.146 trillion 2024 Budget was passed without any changes – in spite of challenges by the Opposition.

The Budget – which contained no new taxes – seeks to expedite social and infrastructural development, advance food and energy security, develop the housing infrastructure, support small businesses and vulnerable groups, improve the welfare of the people by creating new job opportunities, and promote income generation.

Finance Minister Ashni Singh implored Guyanese to take advantage of opportunities created by becoming more entrepreneurial in pursuing their goals. He stated that "we are building a Guyana where the conditions are in place for every single Guyanese family to be able to create, build, and accumulate household wealth through their own efforts".

He added, "[We] are creating an environment where opportunities for entrepreneurial activity abound across all

sectors of economic endeavour, where the barriers to entry into those activities are lowered, and where appropriate support systems and services are available to enable those opportunities to be realised."

The budget offered a diverse range of incentives and programs aimed at ensuring that each household will benefit in some way, and be in a position to meet their most basic needs relative to a minimum threshold required to enjoy a decent life.

Among these programs/incentives are:

Expansion of Part-time Job Programme

The government will continue to expand its part-time work program that enables one person per household to earn \$40,000 by working ten days per month in public offices in close proximity to their homes.

Support for Farmers

The government will maintain support for farmers by providing them with fertilisers to increase production, aimed at containing the impact of price increases.

Support to Small Businesses

The government will partner with the commercial banks to lower the interest rates on loans up to \$5 million, thereby reducing the cost of financing for small businesses.

Containing the Cost of Fuel

The government will absorb the impact of elevated fuel prices to mitigate the transfer of higher fuel cost to the people. This measure will be kept in place once fuel prices remain elevated.

Reduction in Freight Charges

The government will maintain shipping charges at pre-pandemic levels up to the end of 2024 for the purposes of computing import taxes, and in order to combat the increase in shipping costs that were passed on to consumers by importers.

Removal of Duty and VAT on Sports Equipment and Technology

In order to promote access to sports and technology, the government will remove the

VAT and duty on sports equipment and on essential cell phone accessories, such as chargers, charging cables, and headphones, along with phone components for repairs.

Increase in Old Age Pension

The Old Age Pension will be increased from \$33,000 to \$36,000 per month, reflecting a 75 percent increase since 2020.

Increase in Public Assistance

Public Assistance payments will be increased from \$16,000 monthly to \$19,000, more than doubling public assistance since 2020. All persons with a disability will be registered automatically to receive monthly public assistance.

Supporting Eye Care for School Children and Pensioners

A \$3,000 voucher towards the cost of an eye test for over 205,000 school children and 76,000 pensioners to determine whether the persons tested require spectacles to aid their vision.

For those who require spectacles, a \$15,000 voucher towards the cost of the spectacles will be provided.

Support for Cervical Cancer Testing

The government will provide a voucher of \$8,000 for women between the ages of 21 to 65 to meet the cost of Cervical Cancer Testing.

Removal of Duty and VAT on Firefighting Equipment

In order to promote household fire prevention capabilities, the government will remove the VAT and duty on fire extinguishers and smoke alarms.

Minimum NIS Pension

The new minimum pension will be increased to \$43,075.13 monthly, up from \$35,000.

Survivor's Pension

The NIS survivor's pension payable to the surviving spouse of a deceased insured person, will be increased to \$21,537 monthly, up from \$17,500.

Invalidity Pension

The Invalidity Benefit, which is paid to an insured person who is incapable of work other than as a result of employment injury, will be increased from \$35,000 monthly to \$43,075.

One-Off Grant

Individuals who have attained the age of 60, and have not met the minimum requirement of 750 contributions to qualify for the receipt of an old age pension, will receive a one-off grant if they have between 700 and 749 contributions.

Because We Care Student Grant

The Because We Care Student Grant payable to parents of school children in both public and private schools will be increased to \$40,000 from \$35,000. A voucher of \$5,000 will also be provided for uniforms.

Support to University of Guyana Graduates

The government announced that it will commence the process to provide a pathway for debt write-off of outstanding loans owed by graduates of the University of Guyana, on the condition that these graduates can demonstrate proof of being employed or self-employed in Guyana after their graduation, for a minimum period to be specified.

Reducing the Cost of Life and Medical Insurance

To incentivise citizens to insure themselves with life and medical insurance, the govern-

ment will increase the deductible ceiling from \$30,000 to \$50,000 monthly, or ten percent of income, whichever is lower. These measures will allow taxpayers a deduction from their chargeable income for premiums paid for life and medical insurance.

Income Tax Threshold

The income tax threshold was increased from \$85,000 to \$100,000 monthly.

The budget will be partially financed by revenues earned from Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund, under the original Low Carbon Development Strategy totalling \$6.8 billion, and is projected to receive a further injection of \$43.7 billion earned from the sale of carbon credits.

In addition, an estimated \$240.1 billion will be withdrawn from the Natural Resources Fund and transferred to the Consolidated Fund to support the country's development agenda.

During the budget debate, the APNU+AFC Opposition accused the government of emptying the NRF, and increasing Guyana's debt ceiling.

"By now stipulating that as much as 97 percent of last year's oil revenues can be withdrawn, they have essentially abolished the fund altogether," stated APNU Chairman and Opposition Leader Aubrey Norton at a news conference.

Singh said there would be increased withdrawals to finance government's infrastructural and other development projects, but 90 percent of the first (US) \$5 billion in the NRF would be saved for future generations.

He said more money would be taken out of the fund while "striking an optimal balance between how much we withdraw in the near term versus how much we save in the medium

and longer term".

He said that "the lion's share" of Guyana's oil revenues would be saved several years from now after the first (US) \$5 billion is earned, while at the same time ensuring that today the government could build roads, schools, hospitals, and housing areas for Guyanese.

AFC spokesman on Finance, Juretha Fernandes

interpreted the Finance Minister's position as a "nice way of saying that they are going to be spending all right now; they are not going to be leaving any for later."

The new NRF fiscal rules allow government to draw down 100 percent of the first (US) \$1 billion of deposits paid into the fund in the immediately preceding fiscal year; 95 percent of the second (US) \$1 billion; 90 percent of the third (US) \$1 billion; 85 percent of the fourth (US) \$1 billion; 50 percent of the fifth (US) \$1 billion, and ten percent of any amounts in excess of the first (US) \$5 billion immediately preceding fiscal year.

Evidently, the government is taking steps to fortify the country now by using available funds, instead of borrowing all the money needed to finance its development.

At the same time the country's public debt is rising. The contention is that should oil not perform as well, future generations could be left with a huge debt burden.

Dwarka Lakhan, BA, MBA, FCSI, FICB is a Member of the Canadian Association of Journalists, and an accomplished financial writer. His book, *Winning Ways, Real World Strategies to Help You Reimagine Your Practice*, is available on Amazon and on winningways101.com. He can be reached at dlakhan@rogers.com.



Dwarka Lakhan



Finance Minister Ashni Singh



Black History Month

Black history is our history

RAYMOND CHO

MPP - Scarborough North

Constituency Office

4559-B Sheppard Ave E, Scarborough, ON M1S 1V3

416-297-5040 | raymond.choco@pc.ola.org

raymondcho.ca

Guyana ready to take on leadership role on UN Security Council

By Robert Persaud

Special to Indo-Caribbean World

(An opinion piece marking Guyana's assumption of its seat as an elected member on the United Nations Security Council, and its presidency of the Council in February 2024.)

For the next two years Guyana will serve on the United Nations Security Council. The Security Council is the principal organ of the United Nations responsible for the governance of the world security order, including the maintenance of international peace and security.

Notably, Guyana is the first Caricom country to serve on the Security Council.

During its two-year tenure on the Council, Guyana intends to contribute to shaping international policies on peace and security, in line with the theme "Partnering for Peace and Prosperity".

In keeping with our government's national priorities and our commitment to sustainable development, and without prejudice to other agenda items on the Council, Guyana will pursue five priority areas including climate change, food security, peacebuilding and conflict resolution/prevention, women and global security; and youth and children in peace and security.

Having recorded the highest number of votes with 191 UN Member States voting in favour of Guyana in June 2023, this endorsement reflects the country's strong diplomatic agenda and the trust bestowed by the international community in our ability to be a constructive and responsible global actor for international peace and security.

According to President Irfaan Ali, Guyana's election to the Council represents an endorsement that could not be more resounding, and is "clear evidence of our success in achieving broad respect for our nation and influential role we can play in the world".

The President has also stated that the government will live up to the expectations of the international community by "ensuring that Guyana plays the full part in fashioning an international system that is fair and just".

In so doing, Guyana will "seek alliances and embrace friends, but at all times we will remain independent and principled, standing up for values set out in the United Nations Charter and International law".

Indeed, since joining the United Nations in 1966, shortly

after gaining Independence, Guyana has long been a responsible and constructive contributor to the purposes of the United Nations and its Charter.

In view of this, Guyana's engagement in the Council will be guided by the consistent and principled approach historically adopted in relation to people's right to self-determination, adherence to international law, and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Merely one month after assuming its seat as an elected member, Guyana will preside over the United Nations Security Council in February, 2024. To mark its presidency, Guyana will convene a signature event that will be chaired by President Ali in the form of a High-Level Open Debate under the theme "The Impact of Climate Change and Food Insecurity in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security".

Given the growing concern and acknowledgement of the climate, food and conflict nexus, the Open Debate will promote greater understanding, better coordination of responses, and proactive approaches to addressing the intersection of food insecurity and climate change in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Of note, Guyana's presence on the Security Council comes amidst the rise in the number of conflicts, increase in democratic backslide, and threat to peace in many regions of the world. The wars in Ukraine and Gaza, for instance, have upended peace, causing instability with far-reaching consequences for both the human beings who are the casualties, and the international system, which is now experiencing severe strain.

All our citizens should be proud that Guyana will play its part in building alliances and engaging meaningfully in finding long-lasting and sustainable solutions to conflicts, in line with international law and the UN Charter.

Moreover, we will also seek to elevate the voices of developing countries particularly those in States like Haiti, Colombia, and in the African region and to ensure the respect for all States' territorial integrity and sovereignty consistent with international laws.

Our practice of diplomacy under the guidance of President Ali will show that small States can be meaningful actors in global governance.

Robert M. Persaud is the Foreign Secretary and Guyana's High Representative for United Nations Security Council Affairs.



Irfaan Ali



Robert Persaud

SHIPPING WEEKLY TO:
ANTIGUA, ARUBA,
BARBADOS, DOMINICA,
GRENADA, GUYANA, JAMAICA,
ST. LUCIA, ST. VINCENT,
AND TRINIDAD



R&S Cargo Express Inc.
Air Land Or Sea We Deliver For Less
2715 Rena Road, Mississauga, Ontario, L4T 3K1





JUMBO BARRELS NOW AVAILABLE!



SPECIALS TO GUYANA

SHIP EARLY FOR MASH, PHAGWA, & EASTER

PLEASE CALL FOR PRICES & SPECIAL RATES

WE SHIP FOR LESS

CHECK THE OTHERS AND COMPARE




Shipping all personal and household items to your destination in 6 weeks or less!

VISITING GUYANA SOON?
FOR AN ENJOYABLE STAY
FURNISHED 2-BEDROOM SUITE
ALL AMENITIES INCLUDED
LOT 128 NEW ROAD,
VREED-EN-HOOP
WEST COAST
DEMERARA GUYANA
CONTACT:
416-738-8078



905-677-6400

rscargoexpress.ca rscargoexpressinc@yahoo.ca



UG, Canada host climate change, land, energy, and water assessment initiative

Georgetown – The University of Guyana in collaboration with Catalyste+, a Canadian development partner, last month hosted a week-long modelling workshop aimed at strengthening the capacity of students, researchers, and government technical staff working on climate change, land, energy, and water resources management, the media in Guyana have reported.

The workshop was held under the theme: *Enhancing policy coherence for the SDGs through integrated Climate, Land, Energy and Water assessments and institutional strengthening in Guyana*, and facilitated by Canadian expert, Dr Taco Niet, Assistant Professor of Professional Practice, School of Sustainable Energy Engineering, Simon Fraser University in British Columbia.

The workshop was held at the UG's Turkeyen Campus from January 15 to 19, and saw over 15 participants in attendance.

The initiative was supported by the Canada-Caribbean Expert Deployment Mechanism, a Canada-funded project.

This Caribbean-specific mechanism, managed by Catalyste+ (formerly CESO), is a partnership between Canada and national government entities to provide Canadian expertise to help build capacity in identified priority areas.

The workshop aimed to provide participants with the skills to assess the interlinkages among resource systems in order to understand how production and use of food, energy, and water resources contribute to climate change, and how climate change affects these resource systems.

It was also intended to equip participants with the knowledge that will allow them to more efficiently manage Guyana's resources, and mitigate climate change while growing



Participants at the UG workshop
the economy and working to achieve the sustainable development goals.

In her remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paloma Mohamed Martin said UG was extremely delighted to be partnering with the Canadian High Commission and its partner agencies in planning and executing the workshop.

She thanked the government and people of Canada for their support, and noted that the initiative will serve as a massive boost to the efforts being made by UG, and Guyana to understand and efficiently manage Guyana's land and marine resources.

Martin added that waterways and oceans are important to Guyana, and noted UG's initiative in launching the Institute of Marine Ecology and River Economics, which is being housed at its Tain Campus in Berbice.

Head of Cooperation at the Canadian High Commission in Georgetown, Adam Loyer, noted that the importance of comprehensive, climate smart policies and integrated planning have become a global focus.



Taco Niet



UG's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paloma Mohamed Martin (left, front row); Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Institutional Advancement), Dr Melissa Ifill (back row, second from right), facilitators, and participants at the workshop's opening ceremony

He added that this is so as the economic, human, and ecological costs to respond to and recover from climate-related disasters continue to increase in frequency and severity.

Said Loyer: "Canada is committed to improving climate resilience strategies by supporting efforts to enhance research and innovation, strengthen inclusive and coherent policy-making and channels for mutual cooperation to improve sustainable resource management and development."

Additionally, Loyer noted, "This commitment aligns with Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy to effectively address climate-related challenges in the pursuit of sustainable development. Specifically, it aligns with the government's commitment to stimulating low-carbon growth through investment in clean energy transition."

Loyer also stated he was delighted to see another partnership between Canada and Guyana that supports these efforts, and commended UG for leading the initiative.

Among those present at the opening ceremony were Second Secretary (Development) Caitlin Sievert from the Canadian High Commission, and Dr Mellissa Ifill, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Institutional Advancement, whose office facilitated the UG-Catalyste+ collaboration, and also supported the training workshop.

In her remarks at the close of the workshop, Dr Dawn Fox, Head of UG's Department of Chemistry, and local coordinator for the CLEWs training, noted the training yielded immediate benefits in the formation of a UG modelling group, and their ability to share their newly-acquired skills with UG's students.

She noted the workshop also set in motion the initiative to support building a CLEWs model for Guyana, which will in turn support a national, cross-sectoral approach in addressing the complex issues in relation to climate change and management of energy and other natural resources.

DEVI MANDIR OF PICKERING INVITES YOU TO A

GRAND FUNDRAISING *gala*

IN AID OF ITS BUILDING RENOVATION FUND

featuring Toronto's finest artists

Harold Boodeo (Keyboard)	Bisram Deekinandan (Vocalist)	Mohua Parial (Vocalist)	Shivo Mohabeer (Tabla & Dholak)	Amin Jivam (Drummer)	Vedant Panwar (A Prodigious Talent)

Together with the dance schools from Devi Mandir

--	--	--	--

24TH FEBRUARY 2024

5.00 P.M TO 8.00 P.M

Admission: \$75/person
VIP tables of 10 - \$1,000

Price includes dinner and entertainment
Vegetarian Meal

WOODBINE BANQUET AND CONVENTION CENTRE,
30 VICE REGENT BLVD, ETOBICOKE, ON M9W 7A4

Media Sponsors

Keeping Alive The Ties That Bind

INDO CARIBBEAN WORLD

Tropical TV

Scan QR code to buy Online
or enter this URL <https://www.ticketgateway.com/event/view/fundraising-gala>
For further information, please visit our website at www.devimandir.com or call our office at 905-886-8534, Acklema 647-294-5711 or Latchmie 437-225-0100

The Caribbean Children Foundation (TCCF)

HELPING CRITICALLY ILL CARIBBEAN CHILDREN
Assisting Angels Since 2000

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10th, 2024

Be My Valentine

WOODBINE BANQUET HALL
30 Vice Regent Blvd, Etobicoke
(Hwy27, South Of Rexdale Blvd)
Doors Open @ 5:30 pm • Dinner 8:00 pm

Tickets \$60.00

• Roses for the Ladies • Cash Bar • Formal Attire

FOR TICKETS AND INFO CONTACT: • Jay: 416-418-2745 • Ojha: 905-672-2287 • Vic: 647-280-6712
• Jankie: 905-303-5817 • Kumar: 416-498-9962 • Ray: 416-278-9302
• Amit: 647-703-1283 • Donna: 416-741-4970 • Deeka: 416-281-5525

tccfangels.com



Jamaican PM Andrew Holness arrives at the 19th Jamaica Stock Exchange Regional Investment and Capital Markets Conference late last month

Investor interest growing in Jamaica

Kingston – Jamaica is currently experiencing unprecedented levels of investor interest, thanks to a positive economic environment, Prime Minister Andrew Holness said last week.

At the time, Holness was speaking at the 19th Jamaica Stock Exchange Regional Investment and Capital Markets Conference, which was held at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston.

As the Jamaica Observer and the Jamaica Information Service reported, Holness declared that “global investors, who in the past would have seen Jamaica as too risky, are now taking a serious interest”.

He added that among the contributing factors for this interest were ten consecutive quarters of economic growth that were recorded since the Covid-19 pandemic, a record low 4.5 percent unemployment rate, and a reduction in inflation.

“We are on target to now reduce our debt-to-GDP [ratio] to 74 percent by the end of March 2024. This is well below pre-pandemic levels, and the lowest in 25 years,” Holness stated.

He also cited Jamaica’s credit ratings, which are now at the highest levels they have ever been.

In September 2023, Standard and Poor’s upgraded Jamaica’s rating to double B minus.

CEDA hopes for intra-regional ferry

The Caribbean Export Development Agency announced last week that the Caribbean Investment Forum will be held in Guyana this year.

Also, its head, Deodat Maharaj, expressed the hope when Caricom leaders meet in Guyana next month that plans for the intra-regional ferry service will be finalised.

Last week, Executive Director of CEDA head, Deodat Maharaj, said it was the organisation’s hope that the ferry service would come to fruition.

Said Maharaj: “There are three things: the free movement of our people across all occupational categories; second is a formal agreement; and an announcement for intra-regional transportation, including the timetable when this first inter-regional ferry will start, and the plans going forward to expand this ferry service to include other countries.”

It was his hope that these areas would be discussed at the upcoming Caricom Heads of Government meeting, which will be held next month in Guyana.

Maharaj added, “Also the ease of doing business in the Caribbean. We need to radically transform how we do business in the Caribbean, in terms of regulatory and policy environment, because the Caribbean is a very difficult place to do business.”

Holness also revealed that for the fiscal year 2022-2023, Jamaica recorded a Balance of Payments Current Account Surplus of (US) \$352.4 million. The last time Jamaica had a current account surplus was in 1966, Holness noted.

Additionally, in November 2023, the government issued a Jamaican dollar-linked international bond in the sum of (J) \$46.6 billion, the equivalent to (US) \$300 million.

“This is the first time in our history that Jamaica has been able to issue a Jamaican dollar-linked bond in the international capital markets. This is a clear signal of confidence,” he remarked.

Also, “Our Net International Reserves are now at a record high of (US) \$4.75 billion, as at December 31, 2023. We have created an environment of fiscal certainty with eight consecutive Budgets with no new taxes.”

Holness recounted the recent breaking of ground for the (J) \$1.4-billion Pinnacle residential development in Montego Bay, which entails the construction of four 28-storey apartment blocks in the Reading area of the Second City over the next four years.

“That is a massive investment, and we have several other large investments of that magnitude to announce in the coming months,” he declared.

At the time, Maharaj was in Guyana on a four-day visit to hold discussions with officials from the Guyana government, Caricom, Cariforum, and the European Union.

He said that CEDA was also using the opportunity to enhance its visibility in Guyana “so that persons are aware of what we do and can fully leverage the support we provide to boost the country’s exports and attract investments, as many believe they are focused only on export”.

Maharaj said the two recent announcements of ferry services in the region were cause for elation.

Also, he was certain that many Caribbean nationals and businesses were also enthused by the announcement, given the potential opportunities that were opening up.

In late January a Caribbean private sector consortium Connect Caribe launched its ferry initiative, saying they anticipate the company will secure the (US) \$50 million needed to make a modern regional cargo and ferry service a reality by the end of this year.

Connect Caribe is now working with Caricom and individual governments to ensure smooth passage as it relates to the Caricom Single Market & Economy and regulatory frameworks. It is different from the one Caricom has in mind.



Ask Jay...

Please send your questions to TheBrij@TheBrij.com or call: 416-418-2745

A GUIDE TO SELLING A HOME AFTER YOUR LOVED ONES HAVE PASSED

Selling a family home after a loved one passes away can be challenging. It’s not just a house; it’s where precious memories have been made. While it may seem straightforward to sell the home after reading the will, there’s more to it.

Let’s talk about selling the family nest – but first, there’s this thing called probate. The court ensures everything gets divvied up correctly when someone passes away, including the family HQ and any secret stashes of treasures.

Step one: find out who is wearing the decision-making cape; they’re the executor. This person is chosen at the same time a will is made. It could be a family member, a financial institution, or a lawyer. And here’s the plot twist – if it’s a financial institution or a lawyer, they might charge a fee. But fear not, the fee comes out of the estate’s piggy bank, not yours.

Let’s break down the probate fee math – no sweat, I promise. Imagine your family home is worth a cool million bucks. Good start, right?

The first \$50,000 gets a free pass – no tax vibes there. So, we’re left with \$950,000 to do some math magic.

Take \$950,000, divide it by \$1,000, and you get 950. Now, multiply that by the probate fee rate of \$15; voila, it is \$14,250. That’s your total.

Grab your wallet and pay the Minister of Finance that \$14,250. But wait, there’s more! The Minister of Finance wants to know all the details about the estate. So, within 180 days of getting the estate certificate, send in an estate information return.

Fast forward to selling the property – within 60 days, spill the beans on the actual sale value with amended estate info. The probate fee will do a little dance, adjusting to match the new digits.

Let’s talk about saving some cash when dealing with the estate stuff. First up, when figuring out how much everything is worth, leave out anything with a beneficiary, such as life insurance, joint-owned stuff, RRSPs, and TFSA’s.

Now, to cut down on taxes, keep the probate list manageable. Some things can’t be subtracted, like credit card debts, vehicle debts, real estate commissions, lawyer bills, and funeral costs. They stay put in the estate’s total value.

But here’s a gem – if there’s a mortgage on a property, subtract that from the total estate value.

Now, check if your loved ones have a dual-will system. The primary will handles things that need probate, while the secondary will takes care of the rest. It’s like pulling a magician’s disappearing act on the estate’s value. And guess what? Beneficiaries score a win on the tax front. Magic, right?

Here’s some luck in the estate game – the first dealings exemption. Before everything went digital, land titles had their homes in the Land Registry System (LRS). In the 1980s, they jumped to the Land Titles System (LTS), deciding to go all high-tech.

Most titles now live in the digital LTS world, changing hands a few times. But here’s the cool part – some properties are still doing their thing in the old LRS or went digital but stayed put, never switching owners.

Why does it matter? Well, these properties get a free pass on probate. They’re exempt because their first dealings happen after the owner’s exit. Translation: You can sell them without the hassle.

But wait, there’s a checklist. The executor needs to ensure the property title is on point, there’s a legit will, and no other estate goodies need probate. The owner had to be a legal adult when signing that will. Luck meets preparation. Cool stuff!

As you go through this journey, keep in mind the emotional connection everyone has to the family home. It’s essential to team up with an estate executor to prevent conflicts among family members. Remember, too many cooks can indeed spoil the broth. So, bring the family together, pick a few decision-makers, and tackle the process as a team. After all, you’re untangling a web of memories and accomplishments built over the years. Let’s make it a collaborative adventure!

LAW OFFICE

GENERAL PRACTICE

Chet Sharma

B.A., B.S.W. (Hons), LL.B

Barrister, Solicitor & Notary Public

• Immigration Law

• Criminal Law

• Divorce & Family Law

• Notarisations, Affidavits

• Power of Attorney, Wills

OFFICE

416-285-1550

Emergency:

416-284-9191

By Appointment Only

150 Lawson Road, Toronto, ON M1C 2J4





MUNGOL SINGH
BARRISTER SOLICITOR & NOTARY PUBLIC

ROMA S. MUNGOL (SINGH)
LL.B. - LONDON ENGLAND
(SOLICITOR OF THE SUPREME COURT
OF ENGLAND AND WALES)

SPECIALTY: FAMILY LAW
OTHER: CRIMINAL LAW | REAL ESTATE LAW | WILLS & ESTATES LAW

40 WESTMORE DRIVE, SUITE 202
ETOBICOKE, ON M9V 4C2

(416) 745-SING (7464)
FAX: (416) 745-1464
ROMA@MUNGOLSINGH.CA



Play more. Stress less.

Switch your home and auto insurance today to enjoy one-on-one personalized service and coverage uniquely tailored to you.

Get in touch today.

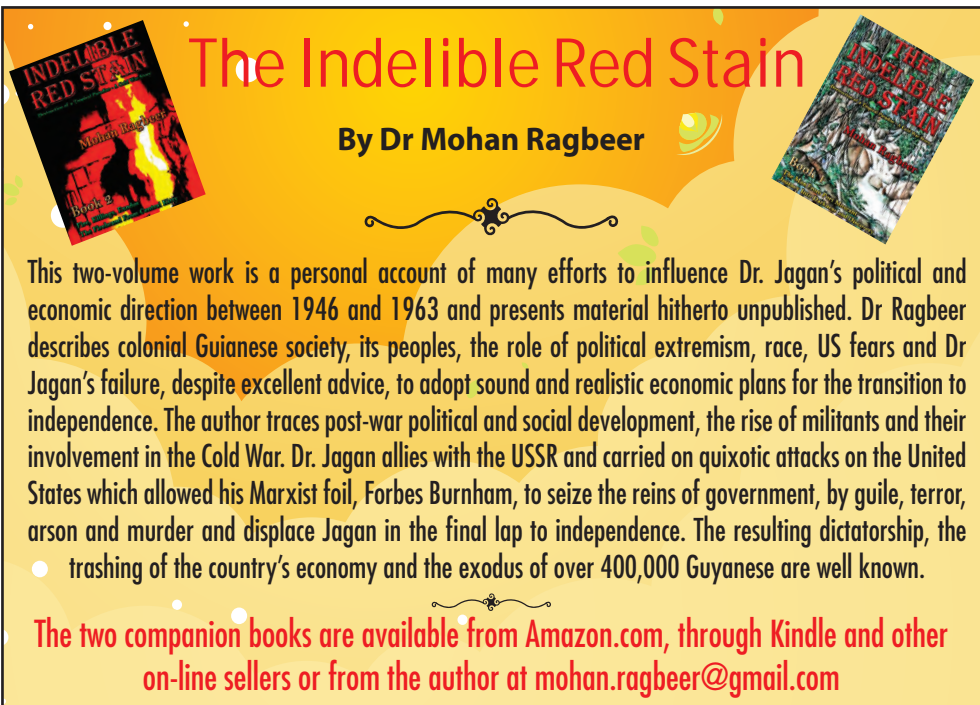


Sherry A. Harrikissoon
Insurance Agency Inc.
Sherry Harrikissoon, Agent
13311 Yonge St Unit 103
Richmond Hill ON
905-773-9782



1920949C1N

Desjardins, Desjardins Insurance and related trademarks are trademarks of the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec, used under licence.



The Indelible Red Stain

By Dr Mohan Ragbeer

This two-volume work is a personal account of many efforts to influence Dr. Jagan's political and economic direction between 1946 and 1963 and presents material hitherto unpublished. Dr Ragbeer describes colonial Guianese society, its peoples, the role of political extremism, race, US fears and Dr Jagan's failure, despite excellent advice, to adopt sound and realistic economic plans for the transition to independence. The author traces post-war political and social development, the rise of militants and their involvement in the Cold War. Dr. Jagan allies with the USSR and carried on quixotic attacks on the United States which allowed his Marxist foil, Forbes Burnham, to seize the reins of government, by guile, terror, arson and murder and displace Jagan in the final lap to independence. The resulting dictatorship, the trashing of the country's economy and the exodus of over 400,000 Guyanese are well known.

The two companion books are available from Amazon.com, through Kindle and other on-line sellers or from the author at mohan.ragbeer@gmail.com



LOTUS

Funeral and Cremation Centre Inc.

Seating capacity for 500. Adaptable rooms for smaller funerals. Can accommodate larger gatherings.

121 City View Drive, Toronto, Ontario M9W 5A8

Conveniently located to serve Toronto and areas west of the City including Etobicoke, Brampton, Bramalea and Mississauga. Cremations are done on the premises without leaving the building. Large gatherings can view start of cremations. Media available to broadcast proceedings.

YOUR COMMUNITY FACILITY OWNED AND OPERATED BY KAMAL BHARDWAJ, ONTARIO LICENCED SOUTH ASIAN FUNERAL DIRECTOR. WE ARE PROFESSIONAL, RESPECTFUL AND CARING.

Tel: 647-547-8188

info@lotusfuneralandcremation.com

www.lotusfuneralandcremation.com



Pre-arrangement plans available. Free executor support for Canada Pension Plan and Survivor Benefits. In-home services offered if desired.



Brampton All Fours tournament league winners, Nitro (top photo), with Toronto and NY team members, in a celebratory team moment following their victory last month in Brampton. Nitro is sponsored by Metro Infrastructure. At centre in photo are team members from D'Boyz, who took away the Best of the Rest honour. And at photo on left is Radica's Hot n' Spicy's Shiva Nandlal (left in photo), who led his Hot n' Spicy team, with ace player, Ashton Soorjudeen from Team Blazers. All photos by Russell Lutchman

Canada's International Masters Cricket Over-40s players are leaving for Cape Town, South Africa next week; also heading to Chennai, India is the Over-60s team. They will be competing in the IMC World Cup Tournament, which takes place at both locations later this month. In photo above, MP for Brampton South, Sonia Sidhu (centre) with Over-40s team members and spouses displaying player jerseys. Below (left) are Cricket Canada Masters Council's President, David Mohammed, and Over-60s player, Shameem Baksh. At bottom right are Over-60s players Ranjit Chaudhri and Farooq Kirmani. All photos by Russell Lutchman



This February, we honor Black excellence throughout Black History Month, celebrating the diverse contributions of Black Canadians to our nation's heritage and future.



Member of Parliament | Scarborough North

SHAUN CHEN

4386 Sheppard Avenue East, Unit E | 416-321-CHEN (2436)
Scarborough, Ontario M1S 1T8 | info@shaunchen.com



ShaunChenMP

shaunchenmp

Shaun_Chen

www.shaunchen.com

NY a tale of 2 cities - in one narrative, the homeless really suffer

By Dhanpaul Narine

The 2024 migrant situation in New York has put the State on a collision course with US President Joe Biden's administration. New York City has had to make serious cuts in its budget to cater for the migrant influx, with education and social services taking some of the hardest hits.

The latest is that President Biden is working to "significantly restrict illegal migrant crossings at the southern border". Even before the migrant crisis, New York City had a housing problem that the city administration would do well to address.

Each year, on the coldest night, officials walk the streets to collect data on the housing crisis. This writer volunteered one year, and this is his finding: We wondered why they wanted us to walk the streets on the coldest night of the year. Who would want to be out in such frigid weather?

As we checked in at York College, we soon found out the reason. The coordinator said that if anyone was found sleeping in the streets on such a night, then that person desperately needed a place to stay.

This was empirical data and was perhaps one of the best indicators of homelessness. Such cases, we were told, should be reported, and steps would be taken to move the person to a shelter.

New York is a tale of two cities. It is described as the city that never sleeps and the contrast could not be starker. The homeless make do with makeshift quarters, while the upper-class party the night away.

In fact, Bill de Blasio was able to convince a majority of voters in New York about inequality, and this helped to propel him into the Mayor's office. The Homeless Services Department said that homelessness is part of a "bigger inequality like low wages and a lack of affordable housing".

The statistics for the homeless make interesting reading and should jolt policy-makers into action. The Department of Housing and Urban Development has reported that in 2014 there were more than 67,000 homeless people in New York City, and about 3,000 of them were the street homeless. The overall numbers included 10,845 families, and 10,334 single adults.

In terms of ethnicity, about 56 percent of the homeless are African Americans, 33 percent Latinos, and four percent whites.

At the York College meeting, the volunteers were assigned to groups and given maps of the area. We had to walk the streets in the Sutphin Boulevard area that included Jamaica Avenue and the Air Train Station. My group comprised a leader that had volunteered before, and this made our journey less stressful.

We left York College at around 10:00 p.m. and began walking the streets. Two police officers from the NYPD formed part of our group, and we were to return to the 'base camp' at around 4:00 a.m. with our findings.

This was no walk in the park. The snow in the streets made life treacherous, and on many occasions, we slipped and had to be helped.

The homeless came in different forms. There were able-bodied persons that had nowhere to go, and just kept walking up and down the streets. They refused to go to a warm place for the night. There were also others that wouldn't speak about their condition and gave the impression that all was okay.

When I mentioned that I was volunteering with 'Hope' to find out about homelessness in New York, the reaction was predictable. The City should build more housing for these people, some said. It was as easy as that and there would be no problem.



Homeless man sleeps under an American flag blanket on a park bench in NY

But the more one looked at the homeless situation, the more apparent it became that the solution is rather complicated.

According to one publication, "[If] we house every chronically homeless person but don't address their other needs, then we have failed them. Real success occurs when individuals reconnect into society as much as possible - staying housed, working when possible, achieving improved mental health, overcoming substance abuse and reconnecting with family and community networks."

In addition, there are questions of safety and security to address.

On our walk in the streets of Queens we found Jose all alone trying to sleep on hard cold concrete in the subway station. Why wasn't he in a shelter in the first place?

It is an open secret that shelters can be dangerous and overcrowded, and some people tend to avoid them even in bad weather. Clearly, more work needs to be done to deal with safety issues in shelters.

Fortunately, we were able to find Jose a shelter for the night for which he was grateful.

According to current statistics, the numbers of those in shelters are rising, and can be found mainly in Manhattan. What is worrying also is that four out of five in those shelters are men.

There is no question that homelessness comes with a heavy price. In Queens, the homeless can be found sleeping at various places that can include under the bridges and subway stations.

The *New York Times* reports that in Manhattan "homeless men can be found sleeping on benches around basketball courts and sprawled out by soccer field by day".

In Brooklyn the situation is hardly different. There are confrontations between the homeless and residents that use the parks, and in the Bronx the tension was so great that the local community board discussed the removal of all benches in the park.

While the numbers may make dismal reading, the causes of the homeless crisis have become the subject of a number of academic studies.

Professor Randall Filer at Hunter College in New York suggests that "the city's homeless policies have caused much of the problem by creating powerful incentives for poor families to become homeless".

The housing market is expensive, and when this is combined with poverty it increases the risk of being homeless. Then there are the 'hidden homeless'. They weigh the options and may find that the shelter system is a better choice in terms of costs, rather than renting.

A number of solutions have been proposed in recent years to stem the rising tide of homelessness. In 2013, the Department of Homeless Services proposed that rather than wait for

new affordable housing, the aim should be to prevent homelessness before it starts.

A group 'Homebase' was said to follow 415 families over a two-year period, and found that families that received assistance spent fewer nights in shelter "than those in the control group".

One smart solution is to flag families at risk and allocate short-term rental subsidies. According to some analysts, it is better to identify families that are at risk before they fall into homelessness.

There are other approaches that can be adopted as well. While it is recognised that prices are rising and the inventory is shrinking, some States have found a 'third way' to tackle the housing crisis.

In Utah, for instance, the State divided the homeless into two categories: those that will be homeless for only a short time, and others that will be chronically homeless.

The conventional approach was to guide the homeless through several rehabilitation programs, and to then offer them subsidised housing. But it was found that few of the chronically homeless completed the programs, and those that did ended up losing their apartments, and were back on the streets again.

Utah decided to adopt the Tsemberis idea to help solve the problem.

In 1992, Sam Tsemberis, a psychologist at

New York University, advocated that it might be a good idea to provide housing to the chronically homeless without any strings attached.

He asked of the planners, "Why not treat chronically homeless people as human beings and members of our community who have a basic right to housing and health care?"

It was hardly the usual way to provide housing. Tsemberis and his group 'Pathways to Housing' provided apartments to 242 homeless persons, and one of the prescriptions was "they could drink, take drugs, and suffer mental breakdowns, as long as they didn't hurt anyone or bother their neighbours. If they needed and wanted to go to rehab or detox these services were provided."

It was found that after five years 88 percent of the clients were still in their apartments and the cost was less than if these persons were on the streets.

This model was taken to other cities such as Seattle, Rhode Island, Illinois, Maine, and Denver with similar results. The Bush administration embraced the program in 2003.

In New York City, the Bloomberg Administration slashed subsidies for the homeless population, arguing that they undermined client responsibility.

In recent years, the 'Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing' has been taking the lead in addressing the housing crisis in New York. Its Executive Director Marc Greenberg has adopted a proactive stance in dealing with the housing crisis.

The Interfaith Assembly has fought for rent stabilisation for those that are below, or at the poverty line. It is leading a campaign to protect people from unwarranted evictions, and works to provide legal help to prevent evictions where necessary.

But the Assembly realises that increasing the housing stock is critical, and it is teaming up with a number of organisations to get the City and Albany to make more housing available.

Homelessness is complex. There is no one fit that would solve the problem. There has to be the political will to want to address it.

Once this is established, planners should begin to fix the health of the community, rather than provide structures that may only paper over the walls.

INDO-CARIBBEAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

EMILY MOORE TERRY GAJRAJ

MUSIC BY
DJ Navin
TROPIC FLAVA
ENTERTAINMENT
HOSTED BY
SHIVANI & TASHAA LOVEE

FOOTSTEPS DANCE IND DANCE TEAM

FETE GALA

75% SOLD OUT

Saturday, February 24, 2024 ~ Door Open at 5:30 p.m.
Grand Cinnamon Banquet & Convention ~ 3895 McNicoll Ave, Scarborough
REGULAR PRICE ~ \$75 per ticket or \$700 for a table of 10 // DOOR PRICE- \$85
BUY AT INDOCARIBCDN.COM

CELEBRATING

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



UBC BUILT

LOCAL 27

THE CARPENTERS' UNION LOCAL 27 STANDS TALL WITH ALL OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS TO FIGHT FOR EQUALITY, JUSTICE AND OPPORTUNITY. TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR EVERYONE!

222 ROWNTREE DAIRY RD WOODBRIDGE, ON L4L 9T2 • (905) 652-4140

WWW.UBC27.CA

   @CARPENTERS27

Poet's Corner

Drawings on the Sidewalk

See the gaiety and gladness on the face of the sidewalk when decorated with fat-coloured chalks. Look at the stars, yet unnamed. The flowers opening their petals in the gentle rain, and templates of childhood joy, and fun-filled games – all on the sidewalk – what little hands can do in the jubilant air.

Then I think of the children in war-torn lands. Little remains of their blood-stained sidewalk. When they gather the scattered crayons to draw or make a mark, we see no splendid flowers, no rolling hills, and no gull cutting the air so still. Their hands compelled to draw what seared in their mind and heart.

Machines with wings bristling with frightening power. A carnival of death coming nearer and nearer. A payload of explosive fire and thunder; sirens screaming, mothers wailing and beating their chests. Children buried under pillars, and slabs of concrete, and little hands in the rubble clutching a doll and a biscuit.

The sun no longer looks but hides its face when earth and sky ablaze, and not from a brilliance, but a ghoulish dance that's ever our disgrace.

A sparrow looking down from a lonesome tree, and trembling at the rivers of blood and the ghastly scenes, and wondering if they're the handiwork of human beings.

Haimnauth Cecil Ramkirath

Persaud explored lives of Indo-Caribbean women

Described as “one of the first and most influential writers to narrate the complex experiences of Indo-Caribbean women both in the region and in the diaspora” by the *Journal of West Indian Literature*, the life of Trinidad and Tobago-born and British author, Lakshmi Persaud, was celebrated last month following her death on January 14.

Persaud was born in 1939 in Tunapuna, east Trinidad, in what was then Streatham Lodge, later called Pasea Village.

As the publisher of *Peepal Tree Press*, Jeremy Poynting stated in his tribute, Persaud was born into “a devout Hindu home where pujas, kathas, and other observances were regularly held”.

She left Trinidad in 1957 to study at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland, with her postgraduate work completed at Reading University. She lived in the UK since the 1970s.

Persaud taught at various schools in the Caribbean, among them St Augustine Girl's High School, Bishop Anstey High School, and Tunapuna Hindu School in Trinidad; she also taught at Queen's College in Guyana; and at Harrison College and The St Michael School in Barbados.

She was also a freelance journalist; however, the foundation of her literary legacy was built on her work as an author.

In her lifetime, Persaud wrote five novels, *Butterfly in the Wind* (1990), *Sastra* (1993), *For the Love of My Name* (1999), *Raise the Lanterns High* (2004), and *Daughters of Empire* (2012).

As Lisa Outar noted in *JWIL*, “Persaud's work is particularly notable for its exploration of how the constraints and possibilities of an orthodox Hindu upbringing, paired with the multicultural Caribbean landscape, unfold in the lives of girls and women as they navigate spaces of home, school, professional life, and diaspora.”

Citing *Butterfly in the Wind* and *Sastra*, Outar adds, “[In] particular, we find Persaud fleshing out the Hindu Indo-Caribbean world that V.S. Naipaul introduced in his early novels while providing greater agency and voice to women protagonists”.

Outar also recognised the “particular attention” that literary critics paid to Persaud's evocative treatment of food in her novels. She recalled the quote by Brinda Mehta, who argued that, “*Sastra* and *Butterfly in the Wind* are illustrations of Hindu attitudes toward food as well as women's efforts to contribute to

community development through their control of the kitchen”.

And as Outar declared, “Persaud thus contributed to revealing some of the subtler and less celebrated forms that Indo-Caribbean feminist practices can take.”

In his tribute to Persaud, Poynting recalled that *Butterfly in the Wind* began its life in the mid-1980s and was published by *Peepal Tree Press* in 1990 to enthusiastic reviews in the UK's *Sunday Observer* and *The Sunday Times*.



Lakshmi Persaud
1939 - 2024

“It deals in an imaginatively autobiographical way with the first 18 years of her life. ...Persaud records that her reading of Edmund Gosse's *Father and Son: A Study in Two Temperaments*, and Laurie Lee's *Cider with Rosie* were significant influences in writing this book.”

Persaud's successful first novel was followed by *Sastra* (1993), which was also published by *Peepal Tree Press*.

As Poynting noted, “Both [*Sastra* and *Butterfly in the Wind*] explore the tensions within Hinduism between the somewhat puritanical, patriarchal forms orthodox Hinduism took in the Trinidad of her childhood and youth and its latent capacity for a sensuous embrace of life. The mouth-watering descriptions of food and feasting in her novels have been commented on by several reviewers!”

However, as Poynting notes of *Sastra*, it is in this novel “where [Persaud] began to take further the issues of gender and the inequalities of women within a still patriarchal Indo-Caribbean culture, to portray with great inwardness the costs of a woman's self-determination, whilst still wanting to embrace a heritage of Indianness and how that heritage had been reshaped in the Caribbean.”

He added, “*Sastra* is a novel where she writes about a love marriage with tenderness but without sentimentality, but also introduces the theme of the fragility of life which echoes through her other novels.”

Persaud died on January 14 at her home in London, England after living with dementia since 2017. She was married to the late Guyana-born economist professor, Bishnodat Persaud; the couple were parents to three children.

Why those of goodwill need to take courage and act before it is too late

Editor's Note: Bernard wrote this column for our March 15, 2017 edition. It is reproduced below in light of what is now taking place in the run-up to 2024's Presidential elections south of the border.

It comes as no surprise that an examination of Donald Trump's history and present actions provide compelling evidence of personality disorder in a number of dimensions. The Psychiatric and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder, the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, the WHO International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, and other instruments give information, insights and characteristics of personality disorder. In the case of Trump, three disorders immediately spring to mind – psychopathy, character/conduct disorder, and narcissistic personality disorder.

Psychopathy is a personality disorder showing a lack of empathy. It is being egotistical, demonstrating uncaring behaviour, lacking in shame, guilt, or remorse. It is blaming others for events rather than oneself. It is exhibiting blatant and chronic lying. It is using others for profit or pleasure. It is being hedonistic, and having a grandiose sense of self-worth. Add to the list being impulsive, selfish, low in tolerance, and quick to anger. Psychopathy in summary, is marked by what can be described as amoral behaviour (lacking a conscience).

There are many studies and clinical evidence to back these descriptors of psychopathic personalities. Historic personages manifesting psychopathy include Adolf Hitler, Josef Stalin, Idi Amin, Jim Jones of Guyana's Jonestown infamy, and Paul Bernardo, the sexual predator in Toronto, to name a few. It is reported that a study from the University of Oxford showed that Trump scored higher than Hitler on the Standard Psychopathic Personality Inventory.

Another personality disorder is that of conduct or character disorder. This is an antisocial type of behaviour with sociopathy as the worst manifestation. These are the criminal types who have the predisposition to actions that break the law in the extreme. A number of these perpetrators go without punishment, especially if they are wealthy with top legal support. They can be violent and sadistic as in gangland types like Al Capone, or be more “respectful” and devious as in white collar crime. They may get rich quickly through shady deals and

double dealing.

These folks have no ethics. They are bullies who disregard the painful and destructive consequences of their actions. They take advantage of the weak, the vulnerable, and even the justice system. They are insulting to their victims, the poor, the sick and disabled. Some have the bravado of Bonnie and Clyde, notorious American bandits and bank robbers of the past. Outwardly bold and brazen, many are inwardly cowards.

They deceive and switch regularly, and cannot be trusted. They play on people's fears, insecurities, weaknesses, anger, racism, intolerance, jealousy, and ignorance. They

are hypocritical and two-faced, even pretending to be religious and having people's welfare at heart. They project their own flaws onto others. They are the high stake gamblers, the shysters, the cheats; an immoral group of people that exists in many places, high and low. They are willing to make a deal with the devil, and often do. Politics and gangsterism seem to be professions that attract a number of these characters!

One can make a distinction between the amorality of the psychopath and the immorality of the character disordered. It is thought that the psychopath's amorality (no clue of right or wrong) is mainly of genetic disposition, while the character/conduct disorder's immorality (derailed notion of right and wrong) may be attributed to both pre-disposition and environmental factors, such as family and childhood experiences.

In both the above categories, successful treatment or rehabilitation is reportedly very low or negligible. Neither medical nor psychological therapies have proven of much use to date, especially in the area of psychopathy, except perhaps for castration in the case of sexual predators. In the instance of character disorder, recidivism – returning to a life of crime – is very high in chronic offenders. In both the above categories, counselling, restraint, constraint, monitoring, and guarding are recommended for the safety and well-being of the individual and society at large. There seems to be no reset button to decency and morality in the brain, heart, or soul of these individuals.

A third category of mental illness, in which Trump seems to fit, is that of Narcissistic Personality Disorder. These are individuals with an inflated sense of their own importance.

They have a need for attention and admiration. They have a fragile self-esteem, and are vulnerable to criticism. They are conceited, boastful, pretentious, and fake. They have a sense of entitlement, and are obsessed with power, wealth, and perfect appearances (the trophy wife). They are arrogant, and take advantage of others. They are disrespectful, hedonistic, selfish, quick to anger, generally toxic and obnoxious. Unfortunately, this behaviour in some cases can resemble what some may describe as “the ugly American”.

Trump seems to show a number of the above characteristics of NPD, so much so that some lecturers in psychological clinical teaching studies have reportedly used videos of his behaviour to demonstrate Narcissistic Personality Disorder!

In terms of what can be done to curtail Trump's presidency, a number of actions can be taken. The Constitution of the US reportedly has safeguards to remove a president in office who is deemed to be unfit for office, with or without impeachment. This can be done by his party and members of Congress. It may be because of illness, mental and/or physical.

It can be incapacity or actions that could lead to a catastrophe. It can be erratic and irresponsible behaviour. It can be treason (there are still many questions regarding Trump's connection to Vladimir Putin and the Russians), illegal business transactions, abuse of office, nepotism... the list seems endless.

The question now is what are the American people waiting for to act – an environmental global disaster, a nuclear war, another American Civil War, widespread civil unrest, uprisings against the US and its people from countries around the world, a total economic collapse, a fall from the greatest nation on earth to a divided and devastated nation?

History is replete with demagogues and would-be dictators like Trump, whose social and political experiments have led to the decline of humanity, the death of democracy, decency, and a life worth living. The American Dream could turn into a total nightmare. Imitators of Trump's actions have been emboldened to come out of the woodwork in a number of countries including Canada, some using it for political opportunism.

The cancers of radicalism, racism, and religious intolerance are spreading. Trump's diehard followers, a rabid, radicalised group, seem willing to believe his lies and follow him to hell as Hitler's followers did.

Men and women of goodwill everywhere need to take courage and act before it is too late.

TTPS misses 2023 crime reduction goals

Port-of-Spain – The 11 crime reduction targets set for 2023 by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service were not met, and were “a bit exaggerated” and “ambitious”, Police Commissioner Erla Harewood-Christopher admitted to the Joint Select Committee on National Security last week.

Harewood-Christopher’s admission was then followed by a question for an explanation by Member Independent Senator Dr Paul Richards.

Said Harewood-Christopher: “If we looked at our previous achievements over the years, we would have seen that these targets were never really met. So it was ambitious targets to encourage the officers to really work towards reaching in that time.”

The specific targets identified to be achieved by December 31, 2023 were 30 percent detection rate for violent crimes; 30 percent detection rate for homicides; 15 percent increase in firearm retrieval rate; and 15 percent reduction in serious crime.

Also targeted were a 20 percent reduction in homicides; 20 percent reduction in violent crimes; ten percent reduction in larceny of motor vehicles; five percent reduction in fatal road traffic accidents; 20 persons charged under the Anti-Gang Act; 40 priority (prolific) offenders arrested and charged; and 20 priority offenders successfully prosecuted.

However, Harewood-Christopher reported that there was a five percent reduction in murders (as opposed to the targeted 20 percent reduction); in violent crime reduction the target of 20 percent was not achieved.

The target for serious crime was a 15 percent reduction, with only a two percent reduction achieved, she said.

For larceny of motor vehicles, instead of the ten percent reduction target, there was a two percent increase. There was a one percent decrease in road fatalities (as opposed to the target of five percent.

The detection rate for murders was 15 percent, missing the targeted 30 percent.

And instead of hitting the 30 percent detection rate for violent crimes, the TTPS achieved a 20 percent detection rate, she revealed.

The TTPS targeted a 15 percent increase for firearms recovery from the previous year, but only turned over one percent.

In response, Richards told Harewood-Christopher when targets are laid down for the national community and are not achieved, a credibility problem then emerges for the entire TTPS. Questioned on whether Harewood-Christopher would amend the objectives to target more realistic goals, she replied in the affirmative.

Responding to questions from JSC Chairman Keith Scotland, Christopher said 2023 was a challenging year, as the police continued to confront a “brazen, innovative and determined criminal element”.

She added, “Although we may not have achieved the targets we had set...We did see some successes in terms of homicides. We did defy the projections and not have an increase,” she said.

She also referenced the “relatively small decrease... but still notable” in the number of murders committed in 2013. Additionally, Harewood-Christopher said she had hoped to get more support from “our partners, stakeholders” in the fight against crime.

“I suppose you mean members of the public. What do you think is accounting for the lack of public confidence in the police?” Scotland responded.

Said Christopher: “I know some of my officers may have contributed to the public not having the confidence that we require, but ...we have taken a zero tolerance approach to police indiscipline, and that is obvious in the number of officers who would have been brought before the court just in 2022.”



Erla Harewood-Christopher before the JSC last week



Rowley with Harris in Washington last week

Rowley in high level talks in Washington

Port-of-Spain – Trinidad and Tobago’s Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley met with US Vice President Kamala Harris for high level talks in a closed-door session at the White House in Washington, DC on January 31.

According to the media reports out of Trinidad and Tobago, both leaders discussed continued progress under the US-Caribbean Partnership to Address the Climate Crisis (PACC 2030), and other key priorities, including regional security issues and the imperative of addressing firearms trafficking.

PACC is the US government’s flagship partnership with the Caribbean to advance climate adaptation and resilience and clean energy cooperation in the move to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

A statement from Washington and Port-

of-Spain also noted that the leaders discussed Venezuela, with Harris stressing “the need for Nicolás Maduro and his representatives to meet their commitments under the democratic electoral roadmap and support the aspirations of the Venezuelan people for a democratic future”.

Last week Rowley also met with US national security adviser to the vice president Dr Philip Gordon in Washington.

The meeting provided an opportunity to delve into regional and national security concerns, with both parties reiterating their commitment to continue working closely together.

Rowley also held high-level meetings with US military officials at the Pentagon, headquarters of the US Department of Defense in Washington. He also met with the Central Intelligence Agency in Virginia.

EARLYBIRD TICKETS NOW ON SALE!!!

RADHA KRISHNA MANDIR & CULTURAL CENTRE PRESENTS

Sunday April 7, 2024

VASANT KI RAAT

TAKING PLACE AT THE PRESTIGIOUS PEARSON CONVENTION CENTRE
2638 Steeles Ave E, Brampton, ON L6T 4L7

Featuring



Pt. Rajin Balgobind

Featuring



Pt. Munelal Maharaj

INCLUDES DINNER AND CONCERT

LIMITED QTY AVAILABLE

\$65 EARLYBIRD

\$75 REGULAR

BUY TICKETS ONLINE



SCAN ME

BUY ONLINE ONLY. WHILE QUANTITIES LAST.

hotstubs.ca/rkm

905-479-8100 | Mary.Ng@parl.gc.ca | 16 Esna Park Drive, Unit 107 Markham, ON L3R 5X1



Hon.

MARY NG, MP

MARKHAM — THORNHILL

*Throughout February,
let's celebrate Black
history and culture.*

CELEBRATING

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY



18 indocaribbeanworld.com | february 7, 2024

Mixed views by diaspora on Carnival 2024 with crime, rising costs

Port-of-Spain – While Trinidad and Tobago is expecting around 66,445 arrivals via inbound flights this month, views among visitors and the diaspora are mixed on whether Carnival 2024 remains a draw, with some citing the worrisome crime rate and escalating costs.

According to the projected data from Tourism Trinidad Limited, arrivals into Trinidad and Tobago have increased since the start of 2024. For example, the projected number of visitors for February is 6,752 more this year when compared to 59,693 arrivals for the same period last year.

Then in January, 73,588 people were expected to fly in, compared to 59,854 that arrived in January 2023, and 25,305 in 2022.

The forecasted arrivals for 2024 are based on the calculation of the average load factor for 2023, by the maximum seat capacity into the country.

For the nine weeks between January and February, 1,350 flights are expected. Comparatively, for the eight weeks between January to February 2023, the number of flights stood at 784.

But despite the increase in flights and an upward climb in the number of arrivals, there remain mixed views by visitors and members of the diaspora over whether it is safe to make the trip to Trinidad and Tobago for Carnival, with some citing the increased costs, and others noting the troubling crime rate.

One repeat visitor from the US, Nicole Roberts, makes the trip annually for the festivities. A childcare worker, she recently told the media in Trinidad and Tobago that despite an unsettling crime situation, there is no place like the homeland.

“Carnival is my thing, I love meh country. What I don’t like what is going on is our crime rate in our country, and what makes it worse, everyone who lives there build more fear in us. I know it’s bad, but we always like to come and have a good time,” she told the *Trinidad Guardian* last week.

Along with the growing unease over the crime rate, Roberts noted the high costs associated with flights, and the purchase prices for tickets for events, revealing she has spent (US) \$10,000 so far to participate in Carnival 2024.

On the other hand, Fiazz Mahamood told the *Trinidad Guardian* he will no longer return to Trinidad and Tobago for Carnival.

Mahamood is a projects’ director for an oil company in Kuwait, and has lived outside Trinidad and Tobago for close to two decades.



Carnival 2024 in Trinidad and Tobago

An avid Carnival enthusiast, he said he was not participating in Carnival 2024 due to anxiety caused by the crime situation.

“The increase in crime, I honestly didn’t feel safe, even the last time I was there in August. I like to go out at nights, and by nine o’clock I was feeling so unsafe that... I left and went back home. Nine o’clock was my deadline to get back home,” he said.

Additionally, “It is an insecure feeling – you’re sitting by a bar, or in a restaurant, and you’re looking at your back all the time to see who is walking in. I didn’t feel like that before, and reading the news ...everyday is murder. I’m just scared to go out there, and going out to party at night, and next thing something happens, [such as] being in the wrong place at the wrong time.”

Mahamood has been part of a group of 25 Trinidad and Tobago nationals who visited annually for Carnival. He revealed that out of this group, around five members have returned for the 2024 event.

Meanwhile, media reports are also indicating that crime and the high costs associated with Carnival are heavily impacting on registrations with the large masqueraders’ bands.

One of the big bands, Tribe, saw an executive member telling the *Trinidad Guardian* last week that it had seen at least a ten percent decrease in registered masqueraders for Carnival 2024.

Tribe’s brand manager Rhiannon Pemberton told the *Trinidad Guardian* one notable source of the decline in participants was mostly with their foreign-based clientele.

“The feedback we are getting from [the foreigners] is that the airfare is expensive, which is their first hurdle in deciding to come, as well as difficulty in finding affordable accommodations; and then the crime is a bit of a turn-off as well,” Pemberton said.

“They are reading headlines, it’s scary for them, and they’re cautious about coming,” she added.

One move the band has made to attract and reassure registrants was to pay for additional security, Pemberton revealed.

“We’ve added extra security to all of the bands, as well as our road team is currently revising the routes because the safety of our masqueraders is our number one priority, it might cost a couple tens of thousands of dollars more,” she said.

Another big band Yuma, saw its co-director, Tanya Gomes, also lamenting that registrations were being impacted by the fear of crime.

“I will definitely say [crime] is affecting sales, or rather affecting people reconsidering to come Carnival. [In some] of the emails we’ve been getting recently, people are asking if it is safe to come,” Gomes stated.

Additionally, “There were one or two masqueraders who said they were Trini, they live away, but, ‘If I come back I will be in hot-spot area. They asked if they could get a refund, or assistance to resell the costumes’”

Yuma has reported registration numbers of 4,500 so far, which is down 500 from its 2023 participants.

Tribe’s Pemberton also spoke to costs as a disincentive to participation in Carnival 2024.


“Our Carnival is certainly very expensive when it comes to accommodation, flights, and transportation,” she sated.

She also noted a recent meeting where discussions were raised about the bands “being part of stakeholder conversations going forward for Carnival, because a lot happens without the bands’ input”.

Said Pemberton: “They’ve deemed us as tourism vendors because we are hosting people coming into the country. So, if those conversations could now have the other stakeholders, which are air, transport, accommodations, and see if we can come to some sort of medium to make Carnival affordable going forward, then it is something we are very open to. But at present, this is what we are dealt with, so we have to roll with what we have.”

**BLACK EXCELLENCE:
A HERITAGE TO CELEBRATE;
A FUTURE TO BUILD**


BLACK
HISTORY MONTH



Member of Parliament

PAUL CHIANG

MARKHAM-UNIONVILLE



paul.chiang@parl.gc.ca

905-470-2509

@PaulChiangMU

Shabana takes on role as stubborn matriarch in *Lahore 1947*

After sharing the screen with Dharmendra in Karan Johar's *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani* for the first time in what was an unconventional pairing that ignited the screen, Shabana will now be seen with Dharmendra's son Sunny Deol in Rajkumar Santoshi's *Lahore 1947*, the Indian media have reported.

Shabana will play the pivotal part of a Hindu matriarch in Lahore who refuses to give up her ancestral *haveli* after it is allotted to a Muslim migrant family from India.

As *Wikipedia* informs, a *haveli* is a traditional townhouse, mansion, or a manor house, usually one with historical and architectural significance that is located in a town or city in India.

Lahore 1947 also stars Preity Zinta as Deol's significant other. Whether Zinta is relocating to Mumbai to resume her career is not known.

Lahore 1947 is produced by Aamir Khan and directed by Santoshi, with Deol taking the role as lead character. It is based on the play *Jisne Lahore nahi dekha, wo Jamye nahi*, which is written by Asghar Wajahat.

The play is a hard-hitting take on the events of the partition of India and Pakistan, which took place in 1947.

Shabana will play a Hindu matriarch who lives in the *haveli* in Lahore, and claims her right over it.

The film revolves primarily around her character. Shooting of the movie started last month.

As the online version of the *Hindustan Times* reported in December, Shabana was preparing for the role by perfecting her Punjabi accent.

As a source told the publication, she was excited to "play Sunny's mother in the film", and was "undergoing several training sessions to get the role right, as it comes with emotional complexities".

The *Hindustan Times* also revealed that the period film, set at the time of Partition, was being shot with the depiction of Lucknow, in Uttar Pradesh, as Pakistan.

As the source noted, "The story is about an elderly woman who is being forced out of the country after Partition, with Sunny's character saving her from the hate and negative things coming her way. A lot of segments in the film are set in Pakistan and India, that's why the makers have planned to turn the bylanes of Lucknow into Pakistan."

Lahore 1947's story revolves around Shabana's character, and is set in Lahore after the traumatic partition of the country in 1947. The storyline follows a Muslim family that moves from Lucknow to Lahore, and are allotted the *haveli* as their new place of residence.

However, when the family arrives to occupy the *haveli*, they meet an old woman from a Hindu family who is resident there. The matriarch is insistent, and claims her right over the house.

The new family then concludes that they cannot own the house until she leaves, thus firing up the conflict that drives the narrative.

As the plot evolves with old woman stubbornly refusing to vacate the house, a relationship slowly begins to develop between her and the new, occupying family.

However, the old woman encounters resistance from goons in the neighbourhood, who upon discovering that she is Hindu, and is still resident in the *haveli*, seek to evict her from the house. But the family from Lucknow saves her.

When the old woman dies, the question arises as to how her funeral rites should be performed. On the advice of the local Muslim teacher and scholar, the Maulvi decides that her last rites are to be performed according to the Hindu tradition. The matriarch is then cremated on the banks of the Ravi.

Lahore 1947 explores themes of identity, violence, displacement, and communal harmony.

It marks the first collaboration between Khan and Sunny Deol. Aamir worked as an assistant to his uncle Nasir Hussain for two films that starred Deol in *Manzil Manzil* and *Zabardast*. Aamir also featured as a child artist in *Yaadon Ki Baaraat* that starred Deol's father Dharmendra.

The movie also reunites Deol and Santoshi, who have worked together in films as *Ghayal*, *Damini*, and *Ghatak*. Aamir has expressed excitement and happiness to collaborate with the immensely talented Sunny, and his favourite director Santoshi.

Aamir took to *Instagram* to share the news with his followers, writing, "I, and the entire team at AKP, are most excited and happy to announce our next, starring Sunny Deol, directed by Raj Kumar Santoshi, titled *Lahore 1947*. We look forward to collaborating with the immensely talented Sunny, and one of my favourite directors Raj Santoshi. The journey we have embarked on promises to be most enriching. We seek your blessings."



Shabana Azmi



Sunny Deol

Celebrating Black History Month

**BLACK EXCELLENCE:
A HERITAGE TO CELEBRATE;
A FUTURE TO BUILD**



Hon. Kamal Kherra
Member of Parliament
Brampton West

(905)454-4758
kamal.khera@parl.gc.ca



/kamalkheraliberal



/kamalkheralib



/kamalkheralib



Joseph addresses his supporters



Family, friends, and team-mates cheer during Joseph's address



Ramson Jr (right), Joseph, and his son

Hero's welcome, CWI international retainer for bowling star Joseph

Georgetown – West Indies pacer and emergent superstar Shamar Joseph received a hero's welcome following his return to Guyana late last week.

Joseph catapulted to international stardom following his seven wickets for 68 runs in the second innings of the second Test between West Indies and Australia. His productive spell propelled the West Indies to an historic victory, with the team securing the first win against the Aussies in 27 years.

The welcoming party at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport saw many family members, friends, and local team-mates in attendance. Also present were Guyana's Minister of Culture, Youth, and Sports Charles Ramson Jr; Guyana Cricket Board President Bissoondyal Singh; Director of Sports Steve Ninvalle; and Guyana Harpy Eagles Assistant Coach Garvin

Nedd.

Minister Ramson Jr stated during the feature address that Joseph was as an inspiration to the world.

"On behalf of Guyanese, I want to say how proud we are of you. The pride we express as a nation is a pride we want to be for evermore," he stated.

Furthermore, he noted that Joseph should avoid the inevitable distractions that will arise and continue to focus on his career objectives, adding that the fans, supporters, the GCB, and the government of Guyana will support him in his future endeavours.

Meanwhile, it was also announced last week that Cricket West Indies had upgraded Joseph from his current franchise contract to a CWI International retainer contract.

This decision came following Joseph's per-

formance against Australia, CWI stated.

Enoch Lewis, CWI Director and Chair of the Cricket Development and Performance Committee, stated, "As exhilarated as we are, it is also dutiful to elevate Shamar Joseph to a CWI International retainer contract. His extraordinary talent and steadfast dedication serve as the cornerstone of our team's recent triumph at the Gabba, and such promise merits its due recognition. Shamar has not just been rewarded with a retained contract, he has earned it."

Joseph's remarkable debut series showcased his prowess with 13 wickets in two matches, including the match-winning spell of seven for 68 in the decisive second Test.

As Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe stated, "Shamar's elevation to a CWI International retainer contract reflects his potential and the

bright future ahead for West Indies cricket."

Bascombe also revealed that CWI had offered Chemar Holder a franchise contract, "as we double down on securing the best fast-bowling talent available. We are excited to see both men continue to excel".

As CWI noted, "With these contract upgrades, CWI reaffirms its commitment to nurturing talent and fostering excellence within the team. Shamar Joseph's journey exemplifies the promising future of West Indies cricket, and we look forward to his continued success."

Full list of Men's International retainers 2023-2024: Alick Athanaze, Kraigg Brathwaite, Keacy Carty, Tagnarine Chanderpaul, Joshua Da Silva, Shai Hope, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Gudakesh Motie, Rovman Powell, Kemar Roach, Jayden Seales, and Romario Shepherd.



**HAPPY
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

**OFFICE OF
RECHIE VALDEZ**
MP FOR MISSISSAUGA—STREETSVILLE

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE
8 Maiden Lane
Mississauga, ON L5M 1W8
905-812-1811



Hayley Matthews

Matthews top 2023 ICC Women's T20 player

Cricket West Indies last month offered its congratulations to West Indies women's captain Hayley Matthews following the news that she was named ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2023.

The prestigious recognition was testament to her exceptional skills, consistency, and outstanding performances in both batting and bowling throughout 2023, CWI noted in extending its congratulations.

As CWI stated, last year "one player stood out distinctly in the T20 International format: West Indies women's captain Hayley Matthews. Her consistency with bat and ball earned her the prestigious title of ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2023, a fitting accolade for a player of her calibre."

It was a "year of dominance, nothing short of phenomenal. Her performances were not just about the numbers; they were about the impact she had in turning games around, and stepping up when her team needed her the most", CWI added.

Last year Matthews demonstrated her prowess with the bat, amassing an historic 700 runs at a striking rate of 132.32. This achievement marked the first time a women's player reached such a remarkable figure in a single calendar year.

One of the standout innings of the year was her brilliant 132 runs in the historic 213-run chase against Australia in the second T20I, which was played at the North Sydney Oval. Her century in the second T20I followed an unbeaten 99 in the first match.

Matthews went on to add 79 in the third T20I, accumulating a total of 310 runs, the highest by any player in a women's T20I bilateral series.

In her innings, Matthews showcased a blend of traditional and innovative shots, while displaying her ability as an anchor, or accelerating the scoring when required. These performances established her as one of the most feared batters in T20I cricket.

On the bowling side, her performances were equally impressive. Matthews bowls right-arm off-spin, with her deliveries known for its flight and turn. Her performances from the bowler's end troubled many top-order batters. Matthews claimed 19 wickets with an economy rate of 6.84.

Her recognition as the ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2023 was not only a personal achievement, but also a significant boost for West Indies women's cricket, and highlights the talent and potential within the team.

Following the ICC announcement, Matthews said, "It's nice to see all the hard work paying off. It's been a long two or three years to get to this point. It's been really nice to have a good time with the bat and the ball in the last year to help the team as best as I can."

She also expressed her gratitude, stating, "I am very grateful for this award, and it's something that growing up I saw my role models achieving so to win one myself definitely means a lot."

Matthews was also recognised as a member of the ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year 2023.

CWI's Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, praised Hayley's achievement, stating, "Hayley has been remarkable by any standard, and has embodied leadership by example. Beyond her obvious talent, her professionalism and work ethic certainly underpin her performance, and should be a source of inspiration to aspiring cricketers in the West Indies and the world over."

Cricket Schedule

(Matches ALL TIMES LOCAL)

Wednesday February 7, 2024

South Africa tour of New Zealand, 2024
New Zealand vs South Africa, 1st Test, Day 4,
Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui, 11:00 AM
ACC Men's T20I Challenger Cup 2024
A3 vs B3, 5th Place Play-off, Terdthai Cricket
Ground, Bangkok, 9:30 AM
A4 vs B4, 7th Place Play-off, Terdthai Cricket
Ground, Bangkok, 1:30 PM

Thursday February 8, 2024

South Africa tour of New Zealand, 2024
New Zealand vs South Africa, 1st Test, Day 5,
Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui, 11:00 AM

Friday February 9, 2024

Afghanistan tour of Sri Lanka, 2024
Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan, 1st ODI, Pallekele
Int. Cricket Stadium, Pallekele, 2:30 PM
ACC Men's T20I Challenger Cup 2024
A1 vs B2, Semi Final 1, Terdthai Cricket
Ground, Bangkok, 9:30 AM
B1 vs A2, Semi Final 2, Terdthai Cricket
Ground, Bangkok, 1:30 PM

West Indies tour of Australia, 2024

Australia vs West Indies, 1st T20I, Bellerive
Oval, Hobart, 7:00 PM

Sunday February 11, 2024

Afghanistan tour of Sri Lanka, 2024
Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan, 2nd ODI, Pallekele
Int. Cricket Stadium, Pallekele, 2:30 PM
ACC Men's T20I Challenger Cup 2024
TBC vs TBC, 3rd Place Play-off, Terdthai
Cricket Ground, Bangkok, 9:30 AM
TBC vs TBC, Final, Terdthai Cricket Ground,
Bangkok, 1:30 PM

West Indies tour of Australia, 2024

Australia vs West Indies, 2nd T20I, Adelaide
Oval, Adelaide, 6:30 PM

Tuesday February 13, 2024

South Africa tour of New Zealand, 2024
New Zealand vs South Africa, 2nd Test, Day 1,
Seddon Park, Hamilton, 11:00 AM
West Indies tour of Australia, 2024
Australia vs West Indies, 3rd T20I, Perth
Stadium, Perth, 4:00 PM

Wednesday February 14, 2024

South Africa tour of New Zealand, 2024
New Zealand vs South Africa, 2nd Test, Day 2,
Seddon Park, Hamilton, 11:00 AM
Afghanistan tour of Sri Lanka, 2024
Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan, 3rd ODI, Pallekele
Int. Cricket Stadium, Pallekele, 2:30 PM

Thursday February 15, 2024

South Africa tour of New Zealand, 2024
New Zealand vs South Africa, 2nd Test, Day 3,
Seddon Park, Hamilton, 11:00 AM
England tour of India, 2024

India vs England, 3rd Test, Day 1, Saurashtra
Cricket Association Stadium, Rajkot, 9:30 AM

Friday February 16, 2024

South Africa tour of New Zealand, 2024
New Zealand vs South Africa, 2nd Test, Day 4,
Seddon Park, Hamilton, 11:00 AM
England tour of India, 2024

India vs England, 3rd Test, Day 2, Saurashtra
Cricket Association Stadium, Rajkot, 9:30 AM

Saturday February 17, 2024

South Africa tour of New Zealand, 2024
New Zealand vs South Africa, 2nd Test, Day 5,
Seddon Park, Hamilton, 11:00 AM
Afghanistan tour of Sri Lanka, 2024
Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan, 1st T20I, Rangiri
Dambulla Int. Stadium, Dambulla, 7:00 PM
England tour of India, 2024

India vs England, 3rd Test, Day 3, Saurashtra
Cricket Association Stadium, Rajkot, 9:30 AM

Sunday February 18, 2024

England tour of India, 2024
India vs England, 3rd Test, Day 4, Saurashtra
Cricket Association Stadium, Rajkot, 9:30 AM

Monday February 19, 2024

Afghanistan tour of Sri Lanka, 2024
Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan, 2nd T20I, Rangiri
Dambulla Int. Stadium, Dambulla, 7:00 PM
England tour of India, 2024
India vs England, 3rd Test, Day 5, Saurashtra
Cricket Association Stadium, Rajkot, 9:30 AM.



Black History Month Message

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us honor the rich heritage, resilience, and achievements of the Black community. This month is a time to reflect on the profound contributions of Black individuals throughout history, acknowledging their impact on culture, science, politics, and every facet of our shared human experience.

May this month be a reminder to recognize and appreciate the diversity that enriches our nation. It is a time to celebrate the voices that have shaped our past and continue to inspire our future. Let us embrace the opportunity to learn, grow, and stand united in the pursuit of equality and justice for all.

Thank you to the Black community for their invaluable contributions to our society. May the spirit of Black History Month inspire us to create a future where diversity is celebrated, and every individual is given the respect and opportunities they deserve.

Wishing everyone a meaningful and reflective Black History Month.

With gratitude,

Date: February 2024

Judy A. Sgro

Hon. Judy A. Sgro, Privy Council
Member of Parliament
Humber River-Black Creek

2201 Finch Ave West Unit 25
Toronto, Ontario
Tel. 416-744-1882 Fax. 416-952-1696





GTA LEADERS REALTY INC., BROKERAGE

4300 Steeles Avenue West, Suite 26
Vaughan ON, L4L 4C2

Tel: 416-241-3337 Fax: 416-987-0056

www.teamgtahomes.com
gtaleaders@gmail.com

~ RESIDENTIAL · COMMERCIAL · INDUSTRIAL · INVESTMENT ~



Abdool Saif Saheed
Sales Representative
647-894-0764



Abdool Saheed
Broker of Record/Owner
416-731-7527



Ralford Chatrie
Sales Representative
416-806-1803



Shawn Ambedkar
Broker
416-580-9189

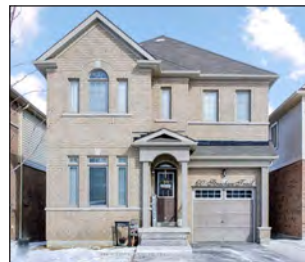
Angus For Sale \$1,688,062

Premium lot with lots of upgrades on a cul-de-sac, 4 bedrooms, open-concept, 3-car garage, g/foyer, parlour/formal dining areas, white kitchen with quartz countertops & island, dining area with walkout to deck, stainless steel appliances, butler pantry, wood beam accents & barn door, living room with built-in gas fireplace, high ceilings, mudroom with garage access, California shutters, primary bedroom with gas fireplace, shiplap, his/her walk-in closets, & a 5-piece ensuite. Second bedroom with 3-piece ensuite & walkout to balcony. Third & 4th bedrooms with Jack & Jill bath, basement with separate entrance with lots of potential. Fenced yard with beautiful trees in backyard. Plus More!



Beeton For Sale \$1,149,000

Location! Location! Location! Welcome to this lovely 4 bedroom, full brick home. This premium lot boasts a beautiful walk-out with patio, brand new glass façade deck above, both outdoor spaces providing an unobstructed view of the Beeton Creek. Hardwood throughout, freshly upgraded oak stairs with iron pickets, new light fixtures, open-concept kitchen with custom backsplash, quartz counters & breakfast bar, rough-in for central vac as well as three piece basement rough-in & an extended driveway.



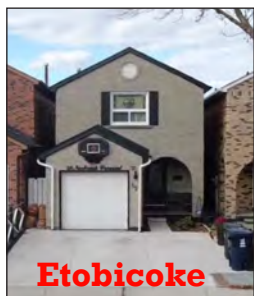
Port Dover For Sale \$699,990/For Rent \$2,550

Location! Location! Location! Welcome to this rare & highly-sought-after townhouse bungalow in Port Dover! This home boasts over 1,800 sq ft featuring 3 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms, convenient main floor living with primary bedroom, ensuite shower, & walk-in closet. Living room features 23-foot high vaulted ceilings. Modern custom kitchen featuring granite countertops & huge eat-in island. Dining & kitchen space perfect for entertainment & family gatherings. Second floor features loft-style family room along with 2 bedrooms & full bathroom. Watch gorgeous sunsets from every bedroom. Close proximity to beaches, trails, vineyards, breweries & fresh farm food. Gorgeous location for nature lovers with close proximity to downtown restaurants & shops.



For Sale \$999,900

Family Friendly Neighbourhood, Walking Distance To Schools & Parks. **SOLD \$350,100 OVER ASKING PRICE**



Etobicoke

Oshawa For Sale \$719,990

Location! Location! Location! Beautiful raised semi in a highly sought after neighbourhood in Oshawa. The main floor features a large living combined w/ dining, 2 large bedrooms & 1 fully upgraded washroom. The kitchen features a large island with quartz countertops throughout. The lower floor features; the laundry room, a large recreation room, 1 full fully upgraded washroom & primary bedroom with lots of light! The washrooms features quartz countertops & upgraded fixtures! Huge driveway able to fit up to 3 cars. Close to all amenities, 401/412/407, shopping, places of worship, walking trails, parks & much more...



Richmond & Jarvis Downtown Toronto Condo For Sale \$598,990

Location! Location! Location! Bright & spacious 1 bed 1 bath corner suite located in the rarely available prestigious French quarters. The residence features a functional open concept layout boasting 9' ceilings. The spacious living room seamlessly transitions to a breathtaking private balcony overlooking quiet courtyard. Building features world class amenities; spectacular roof top garden with BBQ, gym, party room, lounge/library suites. Steps from the St Lawrence Market, distillery, and financial district.



Omnis Insurance & Investment Solutions Inc.
FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS
• LIFE • MORTGAGE
• DISABILITY
• TRAVEL • VISITOR
• CRITICAL ILLNESS
• SUPER VISA
• RESP & RRSP
• INVESTMENT

If you fail to plan, then you're planning to fail.
Abdool Saheed
Financial Advisor
Cell: 416-731-7527

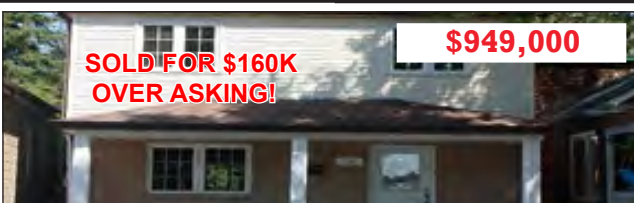
CityPointe Heights starting @ High 400s

Located at The Gore Road and Queen St E., CityPointe Heights is a new condominium community connected to three of the GTA's most beloved cities. Your favourite - and soon-to-be favourite - Brampton, Toronto, and Vaughan locations are very close to home. Discover two of the fastest growing cities in the Greater Toronto Area, and why with each passing year, they have more to offer.



Essa For Lease \$2,995

Beautiful 4 bedrooms, 4 washrooms, 2 storey home located in the quiet neighbourhood of Angus. Minutes to Barrie. Open concept main floor w/ walkout to fenced backyard. Finished basement with rec room, full washroom & laundry area. Large driveway w/ 4 parking spots. Walking distance to trails & parks. Stainless steel apps, recently upgraded w/ pot-lights & led lighting & much more. All light fixtures, fridge, stove, dishwasher, washer & dryer, central air-conditioning, hot water tank, furnace, & garage door opener.



A Beautiful Open Concept Renovation - 3 bedroom, 4 washrooms, Detached Home in York. Huge Backyard. Conveniently Located Within Walking Distance To amenities and schools. Extremely Close Proximity to Public Transit! A Great Place to Call Home.

Narrative Condos

STARTING FROM LOW \$300s



It all begins at 7437 Kingston Road - a unique project set against the backdrop of both nature and the city. Located on Kingston Road, adjacent to Rouge and Port Union, The Narrative offers the perfect balance of nearby green space, a diverse and welcoming community, nearby amenities, and easy access to the heart of Toronto via the 401.



647-852-7243
MORTGAGE
1st, 2nd, & Refinance
PROPOSAL/
BANKRUPTCY
Make One Small Monthly Payment For All Your Debts
INCOME TAX SERVICES
Personal • Business
Business Registration
HST • Payroll • WSIB
Abdool Saheed
C: 416-731-7527
Jason Saheed
C: 647-293-8397