



**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 42<sup>nd</sup> YEAR: 1983 - 2024

# INDO CARIBBEAN WORLD

Vol. 42 • No 3 • October 9, 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!



Pandits, devotees, and well-wishers gathered at Brampton Triveni Mandir on September 21 to celebrate Dr. Budhendra Nath Doobay (third from left in photo) as a stalwart of Hinduism in Canada, and to congratulate him on his Order of Canada honour. *More photos on Page 5.*



Triveni Mandir's Dr. Yudhishtir Dhanrajh (right) leads his mandir to the lake for immersion of the murti during the Hindu Federation's Ganesh Visarjan 2024 celebrations at the Alex Robertson Park in Pickering. *Story on Page 14.*

## Excitement rising for CGCC 2024 gala

By Romeo Kaseram  
LJI Reporter

**Toronto** – With excitement soaring for the Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce's upcoming Gala, organisers announced earlier this week they are ramping up efforts to meet the unprecedented interest in investing in Guyana's booming economy.

In response to this surge, the CGCC will be hosting two pivotal educational sessions later this year and in early 2025.

The highly anticipated 2024 gala, set for October 19 at the prestigious Woodbine Banquet Hall in Etobicoke, sold out weeks in advance, underscoring the buzz around this landmark event.

Organisers say the enthusiasm has since sparked the development of two new marquee events designed to guide investors looking to tap into Guyana's wealth of opportunities.

CGCC fundraising committee chairman, Toronto lawyer and community leader Dhaman Kissoon, shared the chamber's plans with *Indo-Caribbean World* earlier this week, emphasising the CGCC's proactive approach in supporting members eager to expand into Guyana's flourishing market.

"From the overwhelming interest in our gala, two more premier events are now in the works," Kissoon revealed. He urged members and the community to mark their calendars.

"I am saying to our membership, and to our community: Save the dates!"



Attendees at the CGCC's inaugural 2022 gala

It will review the steps on how to register and operate a business in Guyana. Also, the session will look at the CGCC's role in facilitating these requirements.

"These sessions are vital for anyone looking to invest in Guyana," Kissoon noted.

He added, "It's all part of the CGCC's mission to promote Canadian investments, and to support our members as they

**See Page 10: Excitement building**

The first session, scheduled for November 30, will explore the investment climate in Guyana, and will examine the strengthened legislative and regulatory improvements to attract foreign investments.

Attendees will learn how to access and navigate procurement opportunities and the local content legislation provisions.

The second session, which will take place on March 1, 2025, will focus on the legal requirements for conducting a business in Guyana.

## LIFE INSURANCE



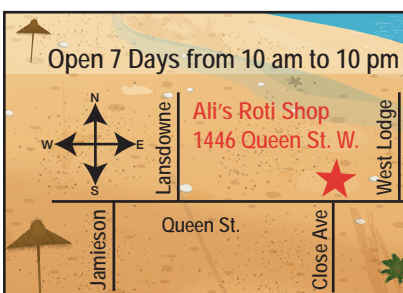
Paul Ram,  
Life & Investment Broker

### 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](http://www.moneyfreedom.ca)  
Tel: 416.414.2204



# 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



Now two generations  
serving our community

JAY BRIJPAUL  
416-418-BRIJ [2745]

ANJIE BRIJPAUL  
416-745-2300



\$599,000

**Designed for Happy Living!**

Spacious, upgraded 3-storey TH in fam-friendly Wildflowers community, perfect for 1st-time buyers, investors, or growing families! 6 years young with beaut. blend of style, space, & substance, modernised kitchen, gleaming lam. flring; open concept din. area walks out to large balcony. Conv. loc. with pub. transit steps away.



\$1,169,000

**Talk of the Town!**

Beautiful bungalow located in one of Toronto's most sought neighbourhoods! Designed for happy living, this freshly painted home has been recently renovated throughout & features gleaming laminate floors, bright potlights, brand new appliances & boasts both modernity and marvels!



\$1,150,000

**Right Place Right Value!**

This lot has great potential for conversion into a commercial property! Has approximately 127 feet facing Confederation Parkway. Features a large double car garage – ideal for the home mechanic. It's a rare find with a lovely corner lot property – endless possibilities await!



\$1,049,900

**A Pleasure to Treasure**

This spacious home is impressively maintained with careful attention to detail. The main floor features a tall, nine-foot ceiling, California shutters, and internal access to the garage! There are three full baths upstairs! This lovely home features a stamped concrete front porch and patio.



\$879,700

**Bright and Spacious!**

Spacious princess-bungalow features an overlong driveway & a lovely balcony. Take in the beautiful oak hardwood floors, the spacious eat-in kitchen, & enjoy the finished basement complete with a separate side entrance, kitchen & two bedrooms! Located on one of the best streets in Malton, you need to see it to believe it!



\$1,650,000

**Smooth, Smart and Rambling**

Prestigious home in top-notch neighbourhood features impressive dble door entry to grand foyer & office. 9' ceilings with LED lighting – natural flow to inviting open concept living & dining room. 80K state-of-the-art kitchen with water inlet, built-in ovens, & grand centre island. You're invited to visit this charming abode.



\$1,099,000

**Double-Sided Coin!**

A roomy 5-level split home on a lovely premium location. Features internal access from garage, open conc. liv. & din. rooms, large kitch. & fam.room leading to covered patio. Lower level feat. in-law suite with kitch., bedrm & washrm. Ideal for investor looking for top-notch quality tenants willing to stay.



\$497,000

**Can't Beat Location**

Spacious & clean unit features 2 bedrooms & 2 washrooms! Open concept living area walks out to large balcony. Minutes away from the University of Waterloo! Freshly painted unit comes furnished, & features laminate floors, large windows & stainless-steel appliances! Comes with a parking spot!

TheBrij.com

3,500+ 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





IUPAT DC46 Business Representatives who had their PSA tests done proudly extend their forearms as evidence with IUPAT political director, Ivan Dawns (third from right); also in photo (second from right) is The Walnut Foundation's Executive Director Ken Noel, and its President Anthony Henry, at right.



Humber River-Black Creek City Councillor Anthony Perruzza, (from left, second row), Scarborough-Guildwood MPP Andrea Hazell, and Humber River-Black Creek MPP Tom Rakocevic, with volunteers from UHN, Black Creek Community Health Centre, and IUPAT's Ivan Dawns

## Building Trades Union members turn out for PSA tests

As part of its Health and Safety initiative, members of the Building Trades Unions recently benefited from a free PSA testing clinic, which was held at its union hall.

The event also saw the Black Creek Community Health Centre giving high blood pressure and blood sugar tests to union members who had the PSA tests done.

Also participating in the event were The Walnut Foundation, UHN Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades and TAIBU Community Health Centre.

This latest health project was led by Ivan Dawns, political director at IUPAT, in a move to encourage members in the building trades, who are mainly men, to become proactive with their health, do their annual physicals, and talk to their family doctor about prostate cancer.

The PSA: Detect & Protect free prostate cancer screening, blood pressure, and blood sugar screen session took place on September 28 at IUPAT offices in Toronto. September was Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

According to statistics from the Canadian Cancer Society, 27,900 men in Canada will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year, with 5,000 expected to die from the illness in 2024.

However, the impact is particularly severe and alarming in our community, where Black men are twice as likely to die from prostate cancer compared to other groups.

## TWF holds men's health conference October 19

Toronto - The Walnut Foundation (TWF) will be holding its annual Conference on Men's Health on October 19 at Movember's Canadian Headquarters, 588 Richmond Street West in Toronto, and also online through ZOOM. The event is scheduled to run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The topic to be covered will be "Why are Black Men Disproportionately Affected by Prostate Cancer?"

A number of leading experts, patients, and researchers are lined up to speak at the event. Among the topics they will discuss are the role of genetics, research, masculinity and global health equity in shaping the future of prostate cancer and early detection. Sessions will also be led by academics, survivors, healthcare and counseling professionals.

The conference is organised by the Walnut Foundation and sponsored by Movember.

Among the speakers is Kris Bennett, who currently serves in a global role as the Director, Prostate Cancer Health Equity Initiatives at Movember.

Also speaking will be Dr. Belinda Morrison, a Senior Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in the Department of Surgery, and a Consultant (Attending) Urologist at the University of the West Indies and University Hospital of the West Indies. She is also the Program Director of the Residency Training program in urology at the University of the West Indies.

Dr. Neil Fleshner will also be speaking at the event. He is a clinician scientist and Uro-oncologist within the Division of Urology at the University Health Network, and is the Founder and Director of the GU BioBank, the recipient of the inaugural Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation Love Chair in Prostate



TWF's Anthony Henry addresses the gathering

Put another way, these statistics mean that one in eight men in Canada will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, with one in six Black men diagnosed with the illness; also, Black men are twice as likely to die from prostate cancer than other populations.

Cancer Prevention.

Family physician and scientist at Women's College Hospital, Dr. Aisha Lofters, will also participate at the event. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, and a scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences.

Dr. Lofters currently holds a Chair in Implementation Science from the Peter Gilgan Centre for Women's Cancers in partnership with the Canadian Cancer Society. Her research interests include cancer screening, immigrant health and health equity.

Also participating is Dr. Shane Joseph, a Social Worker, Psychotherapist & Consultant & CEO, Roots Community Services Inc.

And Anthony Henry, who is the President of the Walnut Foundation, a Prostate Cancer Survivor and a passionate advocate for early detection within Black men.

The Walnut Foundation is a registered charitable organisation with a focus on Men's Health. It currently has a Men's Health Interest Group and a Prostate Cancer Support Group.

TWF is the brainchild of Dr. Winston Isaac, who is an academic and a Prostate Cancer Survivor.

It was after Dr. Isaac's diagnosis and treatment for prostate cancer in 2003 that he realised that there was insufficient focus on the disease in the Black community, and hence a lack of information for Black Men, especially in the areas of screening, monitoring and follow-up support.

For more information, visit TWF's website here. Also, contact Ken Noel via email, [ken.noel7@gmail.com](mailto:ken.noel7@gmail.com); or call him at 905-799-2759. See graphic on Page 15.

### 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**

Servicing 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](http://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**



## RB PARALEGAL AND NOTARY SERVICES

Small Claims | Landlord & Tenant Board | Notary Services





**Rita Boodram, B.S.W. (Hons), Paralegal, Commissioner of Oaths & Notary Public**

BOOK YOUR FREE 15-MINUTE CONSULTATION BY VISITING:  
<https://calendly.com/rbparalegalandnotaryservices>  
OR CONTACT US AT:  
TEL: 647-745-8308  
EMAIL: [ritaboodram@rbparalegal.com](mailto:ritaboodram@rbparalegal.com)  
Visit Our Website at: <https://bit.ly/RB-PARALEGAL-NOTARY-SERVICES>





**R DASS**  
GROUP OF COMPANIES



*unforgettable*  
EVENTS HAPPEN HERE!

*25 Years of Impeccable Hospitality.*

Premuim Venues. Gourmet Catering.  
Impeccable Decor. Luxury Stays.  
All in One Place.



416-743-0003  
info@woodbinebanquet.com  
www.woodbinebanquet.com

905-451-1500  
info@dreamsconventioncentre.com  
www.dreamsconventioncentre.com

416-712-2247  
luxurydecorandco@gmail.com  
www.luxurydecorandco.com

416-743-9997  
info@woodbinehotels.com  
www.woodbinehotels.com





Pandits, devotees, and well-wishers gathered at Brampton Triveni Mandir on September 21 to honour Dr. Budhendra Nath Doobay as a stalwart of Hinduism in Canada, and to congratulate him on his appointment to the Order of Canada. Dr. Doobay is a heart specialist, a philanthropist, and the founder of Vishnu Mandir. He was among the 80 Canadians who were appointed to the Order of Canada in July. Along with the leaders from Triveni Mandir celebrating Dr. Doobay were other dignitaries that included Sonia Sidhu, MP for Brampton South; Guyana's Honorary Consul Mani Singh; Brampton's Mayor Patrick Brown; and Radha Krishna Mandir's president Dwarka Persaud.



AN EVENING OF ELEGANCE IN SUPPORT OF



**The Caribbean Children Foundation**

*Even angels need guardians.*

Assisted Over 400 Critically Ill Caribbean Children Since 2000

# 24th ANNIVERSARY ANGEL GALA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 2024

COCKTAILS 6:00 PM

WOODBINE BANQUET HALL

30 VICE REGENT BLVD

ETOBICOKE (HWY 27, SOUTH OF REXDALE BLVD)

**TICKETS: \$60.00**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT  DJ FLIP

GRAND BUFFET DINNER

RAFFLE PRIZES  CASH BAR

FORMAL ATTIRE

Twitter Hashtag #TCCFAngels

visit [tccfangels.com](http://tccfangels.com)

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

# KISSOON Law Office

## NEW LOCATION

Suite 304 1 Greensboro Drive  
Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 1C8  
(Near 401 & Kipling Avenue)



Dhaman Kisson's  
Areas of Practice:

- CRIMINAL LAW
- IMMIGRATION LAW

Lawyers available for referrals  
Family Law, Real Estate  
Law, Corporate Commercial  
Law, Personal Injury Law,  
Civil Litigation

**Tel: 416-234-1446**

**Fax: 416-234-0154**

Email: [dkisson@bellnet.ca](mailto:dkisson@bellnet.ca)

Website: [www.kisson.ca](http://www.kisson.ca)



**Editorial**

**Time for a global reset**

In her address to the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Barbados' Prime Minister Mia Mottley delivered a resonant appeal for a global "reset". Speaking on behalf of a Caribbean region beset by crises, Mottley's call to world leaders was clear: the time has come to reimagine international relations, financial institutions, and global governance to better serve vulnerable nations, particularly small island developing states (SIDS) such as our Caribbean homelands.

Few regions are more acutely affected by the intersection of global crises than the Caribbean. Climate change, in particular, has left the region reeling from its impacts, with unprecedented hurricanes, floods, droughts, and rising sea levels threatening lives and livelihoods.

As Mottley put it, "The Season of Superlatives with its floods and droughts, its hurricanes and fires will take the lives and livelihoods of so many."

For the Caribbean, this is an existential threat. Yet, the global response has been woefully inadequate, leaving nations like Grenada, St. Vincent, and others grappling with the climate crisis on their own.

Mottley's call for a reset is rooted in the failure of current global systems to support vulnerable economies. The existing financial architecture, she argued, perpetuates inequality, with many developing nations burdened by unmanageable debt, high borrowing costs, and limited access to capital.

These nations are our homelands, which, despite contributing little to the global climate crisis, find themselves spending more on debt repayments than on health, education, or infrastructure. Her *Bridgetown Initiative*, which aims to reform the global financial system, offers a blueprint for addressing this disparity by calling for more equitable access to resources and solutions tailored to the needs of the developing world.

As she highlighted, reforms must start with the international financial system, but they must also address the historical injustices that continue to hold back our Caribbean homelands. And so, she made a compelling case for reparations, pointing out that the legacy of slavery and colonialism still haunts the region.

The global system, she argued, was built on the enslavement of bodies and the extraction of resources from the Global South; it is time for the world to reckon with that history. Reparations are not just about compensation, but about recognising the scarring left behind by colonialism. The Caribbean's call for reparative justice is a call to restore dignity and fairness in an unjust world.

At the heart of Mottley's vision for a reset is the need for inclusivity. She emphasised that small states must be given a seat at the table where global decisions are made. This is important when it comes to climate action, where the voices of those most affected, such as Barbados, are often drowned out by larger, wealthier nations.

Mottley underscored that climate justice cannot be achieved if the current systems remain in place – systems that favour those least affected by the crisis while leaving the most vulnerable to weather the hurricanes.

Yet, despite the enormity of the challenges, Mottley also expressed optimism for the future. Progress has been made, she noted, through international agreements such as the *Global Digital Compact* and the *Pact for the Future*. These initiatives, along with the reform efforts outlined in the *Bridgetown Initiative*, provide a framework for real, tangible change. The key, she insisted, is to maintain focus on the goal of building a more just and equitable world.

Mottley's call for a reset is not just a plea for reform but a vision for a better future. It is a vision where our homelands, such as Barbados, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago, can thrive; where the climate crisis is met with decisive global action; and where the painful legacy of colonialism is addressed through justice and reparations.

The crises we face today are daunting, but Mottley reminds us that positive and lasting change is possible. Her vision of a reset is founded on hope, inclusion, and fairness – qualities that are essential if we are to build a more just, egalitarian, and perhaps even a better world.

**Caribbean Heritage Month needs legal framework**

We leverage opportunities in our multicultural Canada to showcase our diversity as part of this nation's fabric. This diversity is an identifiable trait that gives meaning to the Canada that we are seeking to become.

In modern times, legislators have sought to declare various months to recognise communities that have settled here, and now call Canada home. The recognition of these months signals to members of these communities that they belong; it also honours their contributions, and it provides a distinct path to celebrate the contributions of these cultural groups.

In a previous column, we discussed the importance of having a Caribbean Heritage Month in Canada. As a fact, there is no law or regulation declaring an annual recognition of Caribbean heritage in Ontario, or in any other province.

October is commonly mistaken as an official Caribbean Heritage Month; however, legislation to achieve this did not complete the legislative process. Therefore, October (or any other month) cannot officially be deemed as a heritage month dedicated to celebrating Caribbean culture in Canada.

The confusion emerged from earlier attempts by legislators to achieve an official declaration.

Bill 134, Caribbean Heritage Month Act, 2019, was introduced by then Member of Provincial Parliament, Michael Coteau (now a federal Member of Parliament); and then there was Bill 139, Caribbean Heritage Month Act, 2019, which was introduced by former Member of Provincial Parliament Sara Singh, Ontario's first female Indo-Caribbean MPP.

Bill 134 proposed October as Caribbean Heritage Month in the province, and Bill 139 proposed the month of August.

In the Ontario Legislative Assembly, bills only become law when they complete all stages of the legislative process, which include First Reading, Second Reading, (most times consideration by a committee), Third Reading, and then Royal Assent.

The First Reading of a bill is the introduction of the bill. All bills receive a First Reading, which places them on the "Order Paper" – the listing of bills that are available for debate. Very rarely does a vote called at the First Reading see bills carried unanimously as a sign of parliamentary respect for it to be considered.

Second Reading is the debate of a bill. The time allotted for debate is according to the Standing Orders of the Ontario Legislative Assembly. Private Member Bills (which would be the classification of Bill 134, 2019, and Bill 139, 2019, versus a



Ryan Singh

bill introduced by the government) have a lower threshold to complete the Second Reading debate.

After this debate, there is a vote, and if this bill is carried out, then most of the time it is referred to a committee of the assembly for consideration.

Bills considered at committees are subjected to public hearings. Here the public can make oral presentations or even deliver a written submission. Further, there is clause-by-clause consideration of bills by the members of the committee, which offers an opportunity to make amendments, and then to finalise the bill.

After committee consideration, bills return to the assembly for Third Reading consideration. Debate time is allotted, and there is a vote to conclude. Should the bill pass this stage through voting, it then must receive Royal Assent to be officially enacted as law.

At the provincial level, the Lieutenant Governor, the representative of the King, would sign the bill, which would grant Royal Assent.

Since Bill 134, Caribbean Heritage Month Act, 2019, (42nd Parliament, 1st Session) did not complete all of these stages, it is not law. Therefore, it is not possible to claim October as Caribbean Heritage Month in Ontario in any legal capacity.

There are hundreds of private members' bills and motions introduced at the Ontario Legislature during parliamentary sessions, and only a very small number receive Royal Assent.

If every group that advocated for a bill perceived the First Reading of a bill as approval of their proposal, then that would cause a lot of confusion among stakeholders and external parties. It would also be disrespectful to the processes of the Ontario Legislative Assembly. It would also mean no legal backing for claims within the original proposal.

As a community, we should call on the government to move forward with legislation for Caribbean Heritage Month in the legal and appropriate manner. We must point to the feeling that Caribbean Heritage Month already exists; in fact, it does not exist within the framework of law, and that as an illusion this could work against raising the urgency to enable requisite legislation to legitimise this month in Ontario.

We must ensure there is legislative involvement in making October be officially recognised as Caribbean Heritage Month in Canada. Not doing so is problematic, since it hinders the groundwork required for an official and legal declaration of Caribbean Heritage Month at the governmental level.

**Visit to an abandoned standpipe, fallen chimneys**

The undulating hills where I grew up stretched out before me during a recent visit, now stripped of life and even the memory of what it used to be. As we ascend the unpaved, gravel road, the bald tires of the taxi struggle for traction.

It has been decades since I last traveled these hills. I return to a place I no longer recognise – a village abandoned in a land worn bare by the grasping hands of a colonial empire that took all it could; now all that are left are ruins.

The driver's face is aged, contoured like a map. He takes his foot off the gas at the top of the hill.

"Save money when you can," he mutters, cutting the engine to coast downhill. Both hands grip the wheel tightly as he navigates the sharp turns with concentration and silence. The land outside is similarly mapped with lines, its contours defining scarred earth, patches of erosion, and charred remains from bush fires where once the sugar canes stood.

As we hurtle downhill, I spot remnants of the village where I grew up as a boy. And there, in the distance, are the cracked concrete remains of the standpipe. Its brass faucet has vanished; where it sat there is now barely an opening where once villagers bent downwards, cupping their hands for water. The sink beneath the tap is broken and shifted with time; angled awkwardly, it is a reminder of how bones do not heal well with great age.

Nodding toward the standpipe, the gas-saving driver says, "Here people used to wash away soot from the cane fields."

The car careens downwards even as the decades rewind. I see how my village once pulsed with life. Here men and women, arms blackened from burnt canes, gathered to wash away the day.

I was a young boy splashing in its flow, my laughter ringing out as Ma scrubbed clothes with the other women, and gossip streamed alongside the faucet. Here, under the grinding of the sugar factory, villagers connected, and dreams shared with cackling, and burdens whispered in mournful undertones.

But now, that place is gone. The canes, which once rustled in the breeze, rising high with their flowering arrows at harvest, have vanished. The fields have been replaced by scorched earth; trees and scrub, charred by bush-fires, claw upwards with skeletal branches, like grisly fingers uprooted from the underworld.

These bush fires have left behind not just blackened soil but a sense of something that continues to be lost to the slow burn of time and neglect; just like the villagers, who have vanished.

Ahead, the ruined sugar factory totters with a ghostly presence, its two iconic chimneys – once symbols of industry and empire – now collapsed and fallen away. Once, these stacks poured soot into the sky, its contrails marking the rhythm of life here, casting lengthy shadows that menaced the villagers, a constant reminder of the yoked weight of their diurnal toil.

Now, even these shadows too have faded, leaving behind cracked walls and rusting machinery. The factory, like the empire it served, has decayed into desuetude; its power and reach are now cracked instruments played by the wind.

"We used to come to that standpipe every day," the driver continues as the car strains up the next hill. And then, with a gap-toothed grin, "I was looking to meet my first sweetheart!"

But now the village has no heartbeat. Its standpipe is barely visible against the wasteland; soon its burnt-out perimeter will be covered by the renewed, creeping scrub.

The chimneys of the sugar factory, once towering over the village like watchful sentinels, lie broken. Their fall is the final chapter in a story of extraction that drained the land and my village of its life, leaving behind ruin where once there was vitality.

I close my eyes to recall my village – alive, energised, its heady moments sweet and sugary; there was laughter; there was a mingling of caramel and soot when the sugar canes were torched.

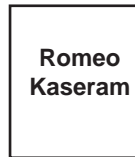
I recall silver-edged blades descending during harvest; the rustle of cane trash with the lithe passage of a mongoose; the cloying sweetness of stolen sugar canes. But that life has been taken away; abandoned standpipes and fallen chimneys remain.

We descend the hill in silence, the car coasting on momentum alone. The truth unfolds before me the way these undulating hills did at the beginning of time.

Empire left my homeland decades ago; but scars remain. Remove the faucet from a standpipe, and its vitality drains away. What is before me is a village overcome by decay; the only remnants are reminders of lives once lived; the ruins the sum total of detritus from vitality that was extracted and shipped away.

A sugar factory's fallen chimneys, an abandoned standpipe, the village where I grew up, have all crumbled. It is not just the landscape that has decayed, but something vital is gone – a community erased, its *ichor*, its life-giving essence drained with vampiric premeditation.

I understand now I am leaving this past behind.



Romeo Kaseram

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/Photographers: Vidur Dindayal, Bernard Heydorn, Dwarka Lakhan, Dhanpaul Narine, Ryan Singh, Nalini Mohabir, Ramesh Ramkalawan, Russell Lutchman. Contact Information: Indo Caribbean World Inc. 312 Brownridge Drive, Thornhill, Ontario. L4J 5X1 (905) 738-5005; indocaribbeanworld@gmail.com Website: www.indocaribbeanworld.com



## Examining what was not in Janet Jagan's vision

Dear Editor,

The Indian narrative, and particularly, Indian history, should not be indentured to any institution or political party. That includes the PPP, although historically the PPP has outperformed all political parties when it comes to addressing Indian concerns.

The recent commissioned publication of *Janet Jagan: Freedom Fighter of Guyana* by Patricia Mohammed, which seeks to establish an official biography of the PPP matriarch, audaciously highlights Janet Jagan's indifference towards her largely loyal Indian supporters.

No one will deny that Janet (1920-2009) made significant contribution to our country's development, a pathway inextricably linked to a partnership with her charismatic Indian husband.

However, her political contribution, perhaps underestimated, is grossly overstated and overplayed. Outside of the political world, her most significant contributions remain visible in the creole artistic and literary fields, but with a perfunctory interest in Indian culture.

Janet provided material and public support for the School of Guyana Ballet, Castellani House as a National Gallery, the Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology, and the Museum of African Heritage. Many Guyanese may be unaware that she catapulted Martin Wylde Carter (1927-1997) into the national spotlight by giving exposure to his poems of resistance in the PPP's organ, *Thunder*, which she edited.

To her credit, the late Rooplall Monar told me that Janet had provided exposure to some of his work, but it was Jeremy Poynting who gave Monar his opportune break by publishing his short stories in *Backdam People*.

The spectrum of Janet's cultural interests was widespread, yet preservation of the Indentured Indian records or initiating plans to establish an Indian Museum were not in her vision.

Not only was Janet unaware of Indian history and its diverse culture when she arrived in British Guiana in 1943, but the same holds true for much of her 66-year political career. It was the innocence and naiveté of Indian generosity, ignorance too, which accorded her the status of the "blue-eyed bowgie of Guyana", the title of a chapter in Mohammed's book.

It is intellectually challenging to situate analyses in Janet's narrative that offer any credible prescription for Guyana's enduring racial/ethnic problem. To the best of my recollection, her very first, perhaps only letter to the press as President, was in response to my reminder that she participated in the rigging of the 1962 election for PPP Party Chairman against Balram Singh Rai in favour of Brindley Benn, an intervention engineered to project the multi-ethnic character of the PPP leadership. As Minister of Home Affairs in 1964, Janet opted for the easy way out – resignation at a time when the country was mired in racial strife.

Terrible acts, which she categorised as "genocide" in her resignation letter of June 1, 1964, were perpetrated against her Indian supporters in the isolated villages of Wismar and Christianburg. Senator Ann Jardim, later to become a business professor at Harvard University, described Janet's short-lived role as Home Affairs Minister as one of "incompetence and ineffectiveness".

Vanda Radzik, as recorded in Mohammed's book, described a disturbing incident marking the commemoration of Walter Rodney's literary contributions at Hotel Tower in June 2000, at which Janet was present.

"I remember when we launched Walter Rodney's children's series book, *Lakshmi out of India*, a Swami got up and disagreed about

how Walter portrayed little Indian girls, and he was saying that it was not true that little Indian girls who were indentured had any problems and were suffering from drought in India and trying to dismiss Walter Rodney's characterisation of the young woman Laxmi. Janet got up and rose to her feet and she put Swami in his place. She quoted this and that and she defended Walter Rodney's portrayal, and she defended Walter Rodney himself who was never disingenuous and knew his history – she was just fantastic."

Radzik was referring to Swami Aksharananda, the principal of Saraswati Vidya Niketan, a nationally recognised school of academic excellence on West Coast Demerara. Like Radzik, Aksharananda (formerly Dr. Odaipaul Singh), was an admirer of Rodney and once a fellow WPA supporter.

Rodney, who was "never known to entertain the idea of a value-free and neutral scholarship" adopted a "classic orientalist construction of India", thereby incorporating into his narrative some widely held misconceptions of the Indian experience. Aksharananda merely sought to identify the common stereotypes of Indians embedded in Rodney's narrative on Lakshmi. To Radzik's gratification, Janet delivered a well-deserved "tongue lashing"!

Janet deliberately thwarted demands to establish a commission to investigate the racial attacks against Indians on January 12, 1998, which occurred during her presidential tenure. It is doubtful Cheddi Jagan would have surrendered to such indifference. Even after a report of the racially targeted attacks was documented, compiled and publicly launched by GIFT, her government refused to acknowledge its existence.

Janet's misunderstanding of Guyanese history is most glaringly revealed in the violence that came on the heels of the 1997 presidential election. She failed to comprehend the reaction of descendants of enslaved African people, who, 235 years after Governor Kofi Akan led a rebellion against the European plantocracy, were motivated by a historical memory that fueled derision for a white woman as Head of State, long after Massa gone.

Her admission to David Dabydeen that Guyanese "do not see white when they look at me" is stupefying, and points to the superficial and illusory alien world she inhabited. Janet was certainly no revolutionary who stormed the stone gates of Bastille Saint-Antoine on behalf of her supporters, except in the minds of a misguided few who may now wish to caricature her as the "mother of the nation".

We live in a global village today where Guyanese in the diaspora far outnumber Guyanese at home, with the majority domiciled in the US. A naturalised Guyanese could never become President in Janet's country of birth, but an American could do so in ours. It is ironic when one considers that many who left Guyana did so when Janet was a prominent leader of an ineffective Opposition that rented critical support to the dictatorship, in exchange for the promise of a "scientific" socialist revolution (she predicted the collapse of the US!).

The cultural ennoblement and political experimentation associated with Janet's legacy in Guyana leaves us with another reality: any well-meaning Guyanese in the diaspora, particularly those who work to positively strengthen our fragile democracy (as opposed to the naysayers and instigators), have earned a legitimate right to influence the shape of a future Guyana. It would be grossly hypocritical for anyone associated with Janet to declare otherwise.

Baytoram Ramharack, NY, via email.



## Leveraging Small Claims Court: A Vital Tool for Small Business to Recover Unpaid Invoices

By Rita Boodram  
Licensed Paralegal,

Commissioner of Oaths, & Notary Public

One recurring challenge plagues small business owners in the intricate tapestry of business transactions: unpaid invoices. In business, day-to-day interactions between small business owners and their clientele often result in the unspoken establishment of trust and integrity, which forms the bedrock of commerce relationships. However, delayed or defaulted payments can severely disrupt operations, strain cash flow, and even jeopardize the viability of enterprises. Amidst this backdrop, small claims court emerges not merely as a legal recourse but as a crucial lifeline for small business owners grappling with the aftermath of unpaid invoices.

### Accessibility and Efficiency

Small claims court embodies accessibility, offering a streamlined and cost-effective venue for resolving disputes involving modest sums. Unlike protracted legal battles that burden businesses with exorbitant legal fees and prolonged timelines, small claims court operates with simplified procedures, affordable legal representation or self-representation, and swift adjudication of claims typically under a specified monetary threshold. This expeditious resolution is particularly advantageous for small business owners who seek prompt relief from financial setbacks caused by unpaid invoices.

### Equitable Redress

Its commitment to fairness and equitable redress is central to the efficacy of small claims court. Regardless of the size or stature of the parties involved, small business owners find themselves on equal footing within this judicial arena. Here, the merits of each case are assessed objectively, ensuring that justice prevails based on the facts presented and applicable legal

principles. Such parity instills confidence among small business owners, assuring them that their grievances will be adjudicated fairly and without prejudice.

### Legal Safeguard

Beyond its practical utility, small claims court serves as a formidable legal safeguard, reinforcing the sanctity of contractual obligations in business transactions. By holding delinquent parties accountable for their financial commitments, this judicial mechanism upholds the integrity of commercial agreements and fosters a culture of accountability within the business community. In doing so, it fortifies the foundation upon which trust and reliability thrive, which are essential attributes for sustainable business relationships.

### Empowering Small Business Owners

Moreover, the empowerment conferred by small claims court extends far beyond mere financial restitution by allowing small business owners to enforce their rights and protect their interests. In this time of significant economic complexities, this empowerment assumes paramount significance by enabling entrepreneurs to safeguard their hard-earned revenues and sustain their entrepreneurial endeavours amidst a competitive landscape.

### Conclusion

In essence, the role of small claims courts in resolving unpaid invoices for small business owners transcends its procedural mechanics. It stands as a testament to the resilience and resourcefulness of entrepreneurs who navigate the ebb and flow of economic challenges with unwavering determination. In leveraging this invaluable tool, small business owners assert their rights and affirm their commitment to a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem built upon mutual trust and equitable resolutions.



## GUYANA PROPERTY MATTERS

### Does paying the Land Tax guarantee possession of your Property... Perhaps not!

By Maj Khan

It has been generally understood that one of the best ways to protect your property anywhere in the world is to pay the land taxes. The fact is land taxes must be paid, and in Guyana there is an annual filing requirement with a two percent penalty for failure to do so. The government arm responsible for land taxes is the Guyana Regulatory Authority.

The optics are quite straightforward; however there is *caveat* with far-reaching consequences, of which owners should be aware. Those who are familiar with land disputes strongly advise that taxes must be paid in person. Why? The receipts for paying land taxes are often handwritten on a carbon-copy book.

In fact, property transactions in Guyana including title, valuation, mortgage, and tax compliance receipts are all done on paper. In the age of the Internet, those living abroad are well-versed with the digital world, where access to home ownership is at their fingertips. In Guyana, the government has just implemented an e-service platform that will take time to develop. In the meantime, most land records are written or typed and housed in local offices. It means that remote property owners have to invest a great deal of time and funds to ensure their paperwork is in order.

Currently, most owners living abroad have a 'trusted' family member they rely on to ensure the daily upkeep of their property, including paying the land tax. If that receipt is written in the name of anyone else other than the registered owner, it can create conditions that are favourable for that individual whose name is on the receipt. Translation: that individual is in a position to file for possession of that property. This is especially viable if the owner has not visited the property for years.

Unfortunately, today property disputes are common, with siblings pitted against each other, parents against children, and families at war with each other. The stakes are high, and the price paid heavy – often with a bitter experience fraught with a gamut of emotions, with substantial time and monies invested over decades. And the question is always asked, "What could they have done differently to ensure none of this would come to bear in the first place?"

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 visit RE/Guyana's website.](#)





Imbert (centre) is greeted by colleagues after his Budget 2024 presentation

## TT's Budget 2024 does not address crime

Dear Editor,

According to widespread public opinion, Trinidad and Tobago's Finance Minister Colm Imbert's five-hour budget presentation on September 30 has failed to adequately address the critical issue of rising violent crime.

Imagine enduring a budget speech of such an excessive length – which former finance ministers have criticised as being a form of “abuse” inflicted upon the population – yet, incredibly, the government has offered nothing substantive to confront the nation's most pressing crime crisis.

Despite the allocation of (TT) \$6.1 billion to national security, the measures proposed by Imbert – such as acquiring 2,000 new vehicles, four new patrol boats, and eight high-speed interceptors – do not tackle the root causes of crime. These strategies are surface-level and fail to focus sufficiently on crime prevention.

Until we adopt a comprehensive approach that addresses social inequalities, and reforms

our criminal justice system guided by intelligence and solid data analysis, violent crime will continue to escalate.

After nearly a decade in power, this government has demonstrated a complete lack of competence and political will to implement such a holistic approach.

In nine years, with over (TT) \$60 billion of taxpayers' money spent on national security, the administration led by Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley has produced no effective solutions to curbing violent crime.

This latest Budget does not offer as much as a glimmer of hope to a population reeling from fear, hurt, and devastation.

After almost a damning decade of failed policies and ineffective strategies, isn't it time to let a new administration take the reins and tackle this escalating violent crime crisis? Wouldn't you agree?

Leisha S. Dhoray, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.

# ASSERTION LAW

BUSINESS | LITIGATION | CONSTRUCTION

### BUSINESS LAW

- Business Formation
- Charities and Not for Profits
- Leasing
- Contracts and Agreements
- Business Purchases and Sales
- Labour and Employment Law
- Franchising
- Corporate Agreements

### LITIGATION

- Commercial Litigation
- Civil Litigation
- Small Claims Court
- Professional Liability
- Insurance Litigation
- Breach of Contract
- Negligence Claims

### CONSTRUCTION LAW

- Construction Agreements and Disputes
- Construction Liens
- Construction Litigation
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Pre-litigation Negotiation
- Contract Negotiation

### CONTACT US FOR A FREE CONSULTATION

**ANEAL S. SEEOBIN**  
B.A.(Hons.), J.D.(Can.), J.D.(USA)  
Barrister & Solicitor

---

TEL: (905) 499-8013  
DIRECT: (647) 997-6325  
EMAIL: [INFO@ASSERTIONLAW.CA](mailto:INFO@ASSERTIONLAW.CA)  
WEB: [ASSERTIONLAW.CA](http://ASSERTIONLAW.CA)  
2601 MATHESON BLVD E, UNIT 17  
MISSISSAUGA ON L4W 5A8

### Ajax Crematorium & Visitation Centre

289-372-3300

www.acvc.info

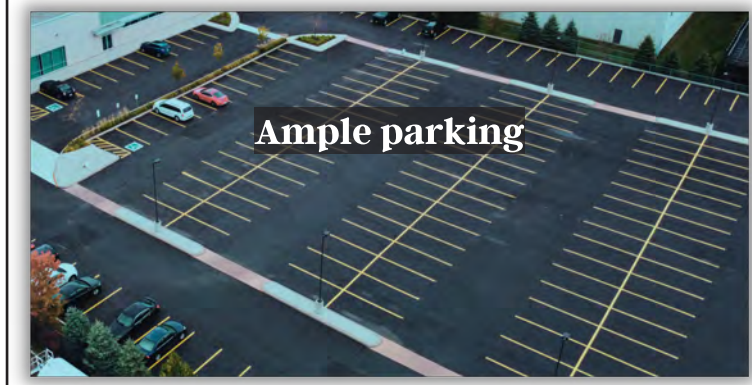
384 Finley Avenue, Ajax, ON L1S 2E3

### Brampton Crematorium & Visitation Centre

905-458-2222

www.bcvc.info

30 Bramwin Court, Brampton, ON L6T 5G2



As the experts in funerals we can offer many options that fit your traditions, wishes and budget

CALL US TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR FAMILY BY PLANNING AHEAD

## Compassion - Care - Convenience

Lock in funeral costs and protect against inflation and price increases

Make decisions now and protect your family from the emotional burdens of planning a funeral



# Striking gold or striking out - Smuggling still tarnishes industry

Smuggling gold has been a decades-old problem in Guyana. It has never been seriously addressed by either the past or the current Guyanese administration, although empty commitments to put measures in place to deal with the problem have been made at various times over the past 30 or more years.

It would appear that the commitments to deal with smuggling have been plagued with execution risks, wherein selected corrupt government officials have deliberately supported smuggling activities, thereby circumventing official guidelines.

Incidentally, the recent sanctions imposed by the US government on one of Guyana's wealthiest families for smuggling gold served as a warning that the US is intent on intervening where the Guyana government has failed to step in.

The fact that the US did not share any information with the Guyana government prior to the imposition of sanctions on a senior government official, and the Mohamed father-son duo, is indicative of a lack of trust in the government officials. It would appear that there is suspicion that confidential information is leaked to smugglers, thereby disrupting plans for any potential arrests and seizures.

Historical evidence of arrests indicates that small-scale smugglers are typically arrested, but large-scale operators tend to evade arrests, apparently because of corruption among government officials who are complicit with the smugglers.

Since the US sanctions were imposed, the government has been quite vociferous about taking action to prevent gold smuggling, but such actions have been stymied by corrupt officials. Sanctions imposed on the former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs are indicative of corruption at a senior level of government.

According to Guyana's 2017 National Risk Assessment (NRA) report, a major gold smuggling racket was unearthed through the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which provided Guyana's authorities with a list of persons who had taken gold to JFK Airport, New York, and declared it there. It is not known whether any action was taken on the list of persons identified.

According to the report, "the smuggling was made possible because Customs and other Gold Board documents were recycled along with seals. Hundreds of millions of dollars of profits were being made but little for Guyana."

Perhaps the most scathing criticisms of the failure to curb smuggling come from the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA), which in a release two months ago stated that illegal mining, illegal shops, and the unregulated trading of gold within the interior are the "pillars" upon which the illicit gold smuggling enterprises survive.

The GGDMA inferred that the government's regulatory agency, the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC), as well as public servants associated with the industry, are also to blame for gold smuggling. It stated that lax enforcement by GGMC has allowed illegal activities to flourish, noting that over the years, it has turned "a blind eye" to repeat offenders, merely slapping them on the wrist, which in turn has fostered a culture of "unabashed lawlessness".

According to the release, these illegal operators openly disregard the orders of GGMC officers and brazenly make violent threats against anyone trying to stand in their way.

"An illegal operation is shut down one day, but by the very next day, they return to contravening the orders of the GGMC as if nothing

had ever happened. Equipment is seized from repeat offenders, and within days, the said equipment is returned to them. There is no real serious consequence for their actions," stated the release.

The GGDMA complained that every year for the past ten years, it has been calling on the GGMC to step up its enforcement against illegal activities in the gold sector, but to no avail. It stated that in the past, there were a number of areas in the interior that were gazetted to permit trade to take place; however, this has degenerated into persons simply setting up itinerant trading posts, also known as 'landings', at will.

This, the release explained, has resulted in a "multitude of landings" throughout the interior, too numerous to be properly regulated, where illegal gold buyers set up shop and buy directly from unethical miners who are willing to sell their production for higher prices, free of any paper trail, thus avoiding the payment of any royalties or taxes.

The GGDMA said: "We have repeatedly called for the reduction of the vast number of these hubs and for the ones that remain to be properly regularised, but to date no meaningful action has been taken. If the avenues through which illegal miners and illegal buyers are connecting are significantly reduced, then there would undoubtedly be an increase in gold declarations."

The release also asserted that "a blind eye" is turned by certain individuals appointed by the State to safeguard its interests in these areas to facilitate illegal mining, for which they are no doubt handsomely rewarded. This prompts the following questions: "How much gold is produced in these areas that goes undeclared? How many illegal operations in these areas are being funded by smugglers?"

The claim was also made that many miners have made repeated appeals to the GGMC about illegal activities, but very little gets done. And miners who report often find themselves targeted by the officers and have as such resorted to joining the "stay quiet gang".

The GGDMA acknowledged that while overall gold production may be down for several factors, it remains convinced that reduced gold declaration is "inextricably linked to the proliferation of illegal mining". It reiterated that illegal mining, coupled with the establishment of illegal shops that facilitate the purchase and sale of gold without effective oversight, are among the chief reasons the government fails to get its revenue.

Given this state of affairs, the association opined that it is time the government also engages its financial agencies, such as the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and the Special Organised Crime Unit (SOCU), to investigate the many shop owners and mining operators, who despite having massive operations, do not declare any significant amounts of gold.

In addition, the owners of some of the operations are well-known, and flaunt their wealth despite, not declaring any gold on paper.

The release asked several questions: "Who is actually the real owner of these large active operations that do not declare any gold, but yet regularly purchase large quantities of fuel, spares, and other supplies to support their operations? Is the equipment even really owned by these operators, or is the equipment in fact owned by the smuggling ring to which the gold is eventually sold?"

The release also touched on the issue of civil servants connected to the industry who are enjoying lifestyles beyond what their salaries can support.



**Dwarka Lakhan**



**Irfaan Ali**



It adds all of this must be investigated, as it is of the firm belief that these financial agencies have the relevant tools and procedures at their disposal to put all the pieces of this puzzle together, and consequently take condign action against the "masterminds" who currently reside in the shadows.

In June, Guyana's President Dr Irfaan Ali announced that the government had established a new task force to tighten systems for monitoring the gold industry, while also focusing on verifying the accuracy of data provided by exporters against domestic declarations. This initiative, he said, is part of a broader strategy to combat gold smuggling, and enhance the regulation of gold exportation.

"We are proactively seeking additional information on all exporters to ensure that the information matches what is declared here in Guyana," Ali told reporters.

He explained that the task force's primary objectives are to identify weaknesses in the existing system, enhance enforcement mechanisms, increase surveillance, and improve inter-agency cooperation and international support.

The task force will also strengthen cooperation with bilateral partners involved in gold

exportation. Additionally, it will develop data analytics to track gold exports using technology such as GPS tracking, radio frequency identification, and other monitoring mechanisms.

While the government's intentions may be good, the task force is unlikely to come up with anything new to deal with smuggling, which has encircled powerful political and business forces in the country. At the same time, smugglers have become increasingly sophisticated, using drones, "submarines", and sophisticated communications equipment in their operations.

Moreover, way back in 1997, when the government discovered through the US that billions of dollars' worth of gold was being smuggled to the US, dating back to the mid-1980s, promises of taking action never really materialised. Do you think now will be different?

\*\*\*

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](http://winningways101.com). He can be reached at [dlakhan@rogers.com](mailto:dlakhan@rogers.com).

## Mani Singh

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

### "The King of the Jungle"

*Residential & Commercial Real Estate Specialists*



**Mani Singh**  
Sales Representative

647-274-4172

Email: [manisinghhomes@gmail.com](mailto:manisinghhomes@gmail.com)

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



**Tej Singh**  
Sales Representative



[www.manisinghhomes.com](http://www.manisinghhomes.com)

THE PEACE OF PARADISE!!!

**Gorgeous, huge detached, open concept, 2 year old, beautifully upgraded, 4 huge bedrooms, 2 with full ensuites, 4 bathrooms, wooden shutters, privacy screens, concrete driveway, professional landscaping, security alarm. Asking \$999,900. Call Mani or Tej to view this beautiful property!**

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

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR OVER 35 YEARS!





Dhaman Kissoon



Winston Kassim

## Excitement building for CGCC gala

### From Page 1

explore opportunities in Guyana's fast-growing economy."

CGCC founding director Winston Kassim echoed these sentiments, reaffirming that this year's theme centres on investment and networking.

He also revealed a highlight of the evening: ExxonMobil will be in attendance, with one of its senior directors speaking about the company's significant role in Guyana's oil production.

Kassim noted that while the burgeoning oil industry lays the foundation, it is up to Guyana to seize emerging opportunities and diversify its economy.

"There is a strong and unprecedented enthusiasm in Guyana, and we are looking at diversification," Kassim said, pointing to CGCC members' growing interest in sectors beyond oil, such as agriculture. Specifically, a few members are targeting new ventures in corn and soya production, he said.

"CGCC members, and potential members,

are looking at these types of investments in Guyana," Kassim noted.

Meanwhile, plans for the gala itself are shaping up for an exciting evening. Kissoon hinted at some of the highlights, including a mounted police horse guard and a police piper to announce the arrival of dignitaries.

The evening will also feature the presentation of three prestigious awards recognising excellence in business, innovation, and sustainable development.

The **Canada-Guyana Business Excellence Award** will be presented to a sponsor demonstrating outstanding leadership in promoting strong business ties between the two nations. The **Canada-Guyana Business Innovation Award** will honour a sponsor who has driven transformative progress through creativity and innovation.

And the **Canada-Guyana Sustainable Development Award** will recognise a sponsor committed to environmental stewardship, celebrating their role in supporting green initiatives and sustainable business practices.



# save the DATES

FOR EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN TORONTO

## SESSION ON THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN GUYANA

**NOV 30 2024**

Examine the strengthened legislative and regulatory improvements to attract foreign investments. Explore how to access procurement opportunities and the local content legislation provisions

## CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN GUYANA - LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

**MAR 01 2025**

Review the steps required to register and operate a business in Guyana and the Chamber's role in facilitating such requirements

FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW

The CGCC announcement for the upcoming information sessions

**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

**WESTERN UNION**  
MONEY TRANSFER

**JUMBO BARRELS NOW AVAILABLE!**

**SPECIALS TO GUYANA**  
**SHIP EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS**  
**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!

**905-677-6400**  
[rscargoexpress.ca](http://rscargoexpress.ca) [rscargoexpressinc@yahoo.ca](mailto:rscargoexpressinc@yahoo.ca)

**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**



CGCC ANNUAL

2024



THE CANADA GUYANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
WOULD BE HONORED BY YOUR PRESENCE AT OUR  
**ANNUAL GALA 2024**

SATURDAY, OCT. 19TH, 2024 | 6 PM  
AT THE WOODBINE CONVENTION CENTER  
30 VICE REGENT BLVD., ETOBICOKE, TORONTO, ON., M9W 7A4

TICKETS COST \$150 CDN PER PERSON | \$1,500 CDN PER TABLE OF 10  
**TICKETS ARE LIMITED AND ALMOST SOLD OUT!**

WE ARE OFFERING LIMITED SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT \$5,000.  
SECURE YOUR SPONSORSHIP **NOW!**

PAYMENT DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2024  
TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE OR SPONSORSHIP, PAYMENT MUST BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 15, 2024.

RADHA RAJARAM (416) 732-0604 | AMITA PERSAUD (905) 409-2265  
ROCHELLE PARASRAM: (592) 693-5137 | EMAIL: [INFO@CGCC.GY](mailto:INFO@CGCC.GY)





## Mottley addresses the general debate of the General Assembly's 79th session Mottley makes a plea for a 'global reset'

**New York** – An impassioned plea for a global reset – one rooted in the collective need for equality, climate justice, and reparations for the Caribbean, was made at the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly by Barbados' Prime Minister, Mia Mottley.

Her speech, delivered on September 27, resonated deeply with the region's challenges, addressing the urgency for a "global reset" in international relations, economic systems, and the shared responsibility of humanity.

In her opening remarks, Mottley emphasised the 'poly-crises' facing the world, from the climate emergency to economic disparities and the lingering effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As she noted, the crises have left many nations, particularly small island developing states (SIDS) like Barbados, and others, struggling to survive in an unequal world.

Mottley was quite unequivocal, stating clearly, "If ever there was a time to pause and reset, it is now."

With a solemn and focused tonality, Mottley's delivery lifted her words above the rhetorical. She identified the root of the problem in the enduring neo-colonial structures and global institutions that have failed to reflect the true diversity of the international community.

At the same time, she called for an end to systems that create "first and second-class citizens depending on your nation of origin", arguing that they perpetuate a crisis of confidence in the international order.

For Mottley, a true reset means revisiting and reshaping these outdated structures to ensure the inclusion of developing nations, especially those like Barbados, at the decision-making tables.

Mottley also spoke to climate change, and the need for a reset for survival.

As she noted, the Caribbean, as one of the most climate-vulnerable regions in the world, is at the forefront of the climate crisis.

In her role as the new president of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), she stressed that the region cannot wait any longer for action.

"The Season of Superlatives with its floods and droughts, its hurricanes and fires will take the lives and livelihoods of so many," she forewarned.

Her vision for the reset includes robust climate action, not only for the sake of the environment, but for the very survival of the Caribbean.

Also, she called on the global community to tackle the climate crisis through collective action, with specific attention to debt relief for vulnerable economies, many of which are overwhelmed by the burden of climate-related disasters.

Mottley highlighted the success of initiatives like the *Bridgetown Initiative*, which aims to reform the global financial system to better serve developing nations.

The reset, according to Mottley, must include a comprehensive, development-focused approach that allows small states to

invest in resilience. She noted too that while progress has been made through international agreements like the *Global Digital Compact* and the *Pact for the Future*, the fight for climate justice is far from over.

"The deniers need a reset," she declared, calling on world leaders to acknowledge the necessity of immediate and decisive action to save not just the Caribbean, but the planet.

Also at the forefront of her speech was a call for justice with reparations for slavery, which she keyed in as part of her broader vision for resetting the global order.

As she noted, Barbados and Caricom have long advocated for reparations as a means of addressing the enduring legacy of slavery and colonialism.

Mottley then pointed out that the current international systems are built on centuries of exploitation, and it is time for the world to acknowledge and address the historical wrongs.

Again she was unequivocal, stating crisply and clearly, "The Caribbean Community is resolute that it must happen."

She argued that just as it took Britain nearly 200 years to repay the 20 million pounds sterling debt incurred for compensating slave owners, so too must the reparations for the descendants of slaves must be addressed over multiple generations.

Her call for reparations is part of a broader demand for recognition, justice, and development for people of African descent, a promise that was made during the United Nations' Decade for People of African Descent, which ends this year.

Mottley also spoke on the other challenges that needed a reset. Beyond climate change and reparations, she addressed other pressing issues requiring immediate attention.

In this part of her wide-ranging delivery, she called for a reset in global peace and security, condemning the ongoing conflicts in Sudan, Ukraine, Myanmar, and the Middle East.

She noted that while the Caribbean has not been engulfed in war, it is facing an unprecedented rise in gun violence fueled by weapons manufactured in the US.

The crisis in Haiti, too, demands a global reset, and she urged the international community to support Haiti through a combination of security, political, and financial assistance.

She also pointed to the unjust economic embargo on Cuba and called for its immediate lifting. At the same time she also described Cuba as a vital partner to many countries in the Caribbean, particularly in the field of public health.

Meanwhile, despite the multifarious challenges, Mottley ended her speech on a hopeful note. She quoted Barbadian calypsonian Edwin Yearwood, saying, "Today is the start of the rest of your life", expressing her belief that the world can indeed reset and transform.

She hailed recent international agreements and initiatives as steps in the right direction, but stressed that eternal vigilance and consistent action are necessary to truly realise the reset she envisions.



# Ask Jay...

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

## WILL THE UPDATED MORTGAGE RULES MAKE HOMEOWNERSHIP MORE ATTAINABLE?

**R**ecently, the federal government revealed plans to update its mortgage regulations. There are two changes – the first is raising the price cap for insured mortgages (mortgages where the downpayment is less than 20 percent) from \$1M to \$1.5M; the second is increasing the amortisation from the traditional 25-year to 30-year for first-time and new home buyers. In addition, The Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) will erase the stress test requirement for uninsured mortgage holders (mortgages where the downpayment is more than 20 percent) who want to switch lenders.

From December 15, buyers can buy a home for up to \$1.5M with less than 20 percent as a downpayment. Previously, only buyers with less than 20 percent could be at most \$1M. Lenders will lend 95 percent of the purchase price on the first \$500,000 and ten percent of the difference. For example, if you buy a home for \$1M, you will need a minimum downpayment of \$75,000. With this new guideline, you can buy a home for \$1.5M with a downpayment of \$125,000, but CMHC will take almost \$60,000 (nearly half of the downpayment) to insure the mortgage on behalf of the lender. If a buyer buys a home for \$1.5 million, their gross income must be around \$300,000 to qualify.

How many families are making a combined income of \$300,000? If we discuss this further, the carrying cost will be around \$10,000 per month when combined with property tax and utilities. This program must address the current housing situation. It also encourages families to take on more debts than they can afford. However, we may see more activities around the \$1.1M level since more buyers can now buy with around 7.5 percent.

Mortgage amortisation is the time it takes to pay off a mortgage, and, traditionally, it is 25 years. With the new regulation, first-time buyers and buyers buying new construction can choose a 30-year amortisation for high-ratio mortgages. A first-time buyer is someone who has never purchased a home or has not owned a principal residence in the past four years. According to the Home Buyers' Plan, a borrower can qualify as a first-time buyer if they are recently divorced.

With a newly-built home, the borrower must be the first occupant. Freshly-built condos with an interim occupancy period also satisfy the requirement as newly-built.

A mortgage at six percent for \$100,000 and a 25-year amortisation will result in a monthly payment of \$639.81, and with a 30-year amortisation, it will be \$594.82, a savings of \$45.00 per month. The average homeowner has about \$600,000 in mortgage and can reduce their monthly payment by \$270.00 with the 30-year amortisation. This is a good move for affordability, but paying off your mortgage would take five more years.

The feds could have made this easier by offering 30-year amortisation to everyone, easing the burden on homeownership for many families. This would have allowed more buyers to afford to purchase and to choose which payment option they preferred.

Another critical decision by OSFI is that anyone renewing a mortgage with more than 20 percent in equity can switch lenders without a stress test. A mortgage stress test is designed to qualify buyers using a higher interest rate than the current rate.

The reason is that the homeowner can handle the extra payment if the interest rate increases. When a mortgage is up for renewal, the lender usually does not re-qualify the homeowner and the mortgage is automatically renewed with the same lender. If the homeowner switches lenders, the homeowner must re-qualify and undergo the stress test. With the new rules, homeowners can now shop around for competitive rates, knowing they do not need a stress test.

The mortgage regulators should abolish the stress test because of its practicality. To become a homeowner, you must be able to save a downpayment and have a good credit record, demonstrating that you know financial management. If the stress test is eliminated, more buyers will qualify to buy, releasing some pressure on the rental market.

The dream of owning a home can become easier if the regulators make their qualifying guidelines more attainable. This can be accomplished by allowing longer amortisation, abandoning the stress test, and lowering the interest rates for first-time buyers. Notably, the real estate industry will churn with these changes and lower interest rates.

## 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



1920949CN

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



**Free Estimates**

# KNK RENOVATIONS

- Kitchen • Bathroom • Basement • Hardwood Floor
- Tiles • Plumbing • Painting....and more

\* No Job Too Small \* Prompt \* Efficient  
\* Dependable \* References Available

**ANIL 647-280-8755**  
anilroopnaraine@hotmail.com  
www.knkrenovations.webs.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.





## Hindu Federation celebrates well-attended Ganesh Visarjan 2024

The Hindu Federation's Ganesh Visarjan 2024 celebrations were held at the Alex Robertson Park in Pickering on September 24, 2024.

The event was a resounding success, drawing close to 1,000 devotees to celebrate on a beautiful, sunny day. The event was well-attended by members of various Hindu Federation member temples, including Brampton Triveni Mandir, Devi Mandir, Mississauga Ram Mandir, Nityananda Meditation Academy, BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Vishnu Mandir, Maha Rudra Dev Mandir, and Pranav Ashram.

This year's event was a colourful celebration that showcased the value of a united community joining hands to express the spiritual and cultural values of the Hindu tradition and philosophy.

The day was filled with vibrant chanting and singing in an atmosphere rich with colour combined with devotional

dancing, expressing the feeling of unburdening of the stress of daily life.

Students from Brampton Triveni Mandir provided captivating dance performances, while devotees from all participating mandirs shared melodious bhajans at various intervals. The energy of the celebration was further uplifted by the rhythmic sounds of the Dhol and Tassa drums that created a very festive atmosphere.

In attendance was the Mayor of Pickering Kevin Ashe, who pledged his ongoing support to the event. He was accompanied by representatives from the Durham Regional Police Services.

The highlight of the day was the grand procession to the lake, with each mandir carrying their Ganesh Murti, accompanied with chanting and dancing to the rhythm of the Dhol and Tassa drums.

It was quite a colourful and serene spectacle, as each mandir

took the time to enter the lake to gracefully immerse their murti into the cool waters of Lake Ontario, thus accomplishing the objective of the day – the "Visarjan".

Everyone who attended was treated to a variety of fruits, sweets, and food that were offered/donated by devotees of the participating mandirs.

The event highlighted the value of collaboration among Hindu Federation members, as volunteers came from all the mandirs. They were the backbone of the work force that was at the site from as early as 7:00 a.m. to arrange for the set up of the tents and the layout of all the chairs, tables, and so on, that were essential to achieve an organised function.

It was truly a memorable day, filled with devotion, unity, and cultural pride, and the Planning committee is already considering how to accommodate an even larger gathering next year.



## VCC Toronto Arya Samaj honours 3 musicians at annual dinner

The Vedic Cultural Centre/Toronto Arya Samaj hosted its 28th annual Dinner and Awards presentation on September 28 at its banquet hall in Markham. The event was a celebration of the contributions of three prominent musicians for their exceptional work in preserving and promoting Indian musical traditions in Canada.

Pt. Devanand Ramoutar, Chandi Pitamber, and Suresh Hanoman, all well-known musicians and singers, were honoured for their outstanding contributions to the community. Along with the awardees, their wives were also recognised for their strong supporting roles.

According to a release from the Vedic Cultural Centre, the musicians "are household names in Ontario", and "not only perform at major cultural events but also teach music, helping to keep our cultural musical traditions alive".

Their voluntary musical support to grieving families was also

recognised, highlighting their role in helping individuals cope during difficult times.

The event was well-attended, with close to 250 people, including members of the Arya Samaj, other mandirs, and the wider community.

Honorary Consul General of the Guyana Consulate, Mani Singh, was among the stellar attendees, and presented a 'One Guyana' pin to each awardee on behalf of Guyanese President Dr. Irfaan Ali.

Also in attendance was MP Paul Chiang, who presented a plaque to the Vedic Cultural Centre in recognition of its ongoing community service.

In addition to the awards ceremony, the evening featured a group dance performed by students of the Panwar Music and Dance Academy, as well as musical performances by the three honorees.

Pt. Devanand Ramoutar was introduced by Doodie Ross, Past President of the Toronto Arya Samaj; Chandi Pitamber by Sat Purushotam, President of Pranav Mandir; and Suresh Hanoman by Rudy Lochan, President of Anava Financing.

Congratulatory messages were also received from Ontario Premier Doug Ford, and from the Mayor of Markham Frank Scarpitti that further emphasised the importance of the contributions made by the honorees and the Vedic Cultural Centre itself.

The Vedic Cultural Centre/Toronto Arya Samaj has been hosting this event annually since 1997, recognising individuals whose achievements have had a positive impact on the community. The Centre indicated it was thankful to all who helped to make the event another annual success, stating, "We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who supported this year's event."





# Sunny cultures, warm connections, and cold landscapes in Reykjavik

By Dhanpaul Narine

Letter from Reykjavik, Iceland

Where else can one become a Masai Warrior outside of Kenya? It has to be in Iceland. I had the honour of wearing that crown when I met two Kenyans in Reykjavik. There was Yvette selling her fancy, colourful, and unique African fabrics. It gave me the chance to practice my Swahili with *Jambo Bwana*, and when her friend Paul arrived, we did the song all over again, and added another favourite, *Malaika*.

Yvette met her husband online. The chats led to something more concrete when he flew from Iceland to Kenya and proposed marriage. She is now in Reykjavik, learning Icelandic, and awaiting her residence papers.

Paul Ramses Oduor registered the charity *Tears Children and Youth Aid* in Iceland. He is a busy person raising funds for a school in his village Got Agulu, in Usenge, Bondo sub-county, in Kenya.

There is already a kindergarten and primary school, and Paul and his team also support over 77 widows. There are plans to build a dormitory, basketball court, and a football ground. Paul even had the President of Iceland become interested in his project when Kenyan students were invited to State House. Paul has vision and drive and he will accomplish a lot.

There are over 200 Kenyans in Iceland. We spent a long time discussing how they can preserve their identity while they integrate into the Icelandic society. There is need to learn and speak Swahili and to display the foods and traditional wear. But an annual Kenya Day, in which the wider community is invited to learn about Kenyan culture, should be on the calendar. The same applies to the growing Nigerian community as well.

What of Reykjavik, and why did I choose to visit there? I spoke to Caroline Kulig, a world traveler. Krishna Subrian, a distinguished Guyanese, lived in Iceland for a number of months, and knew the place well. After listening to their stories, I was hooked!

Reykjavik is a neat package wrapped in beautiful ribbons. It is clean, well-planned, and picturesque. A little Manhattan, off the beaten track! And it loves visitors, especially Americans.

Iceland has a population of around 390,000, and Reykjavik around 125,000 persons. The soil is volcanic, which means that most foodstuff is imported and prices are high. This accounted for the closure of the only McDonald's in the island.

Reykjavik is a modern port that attracts international shipping. But its claim to fame are for two events that captured the attention of the world. The first occurred in 1972. It was during the Cold War, the height of tension between the superpowers, Russia and America.

The rivalry was fought on a chessboard in Reykjavik, a game that can be as brutal as boxing. The match between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky has been described as the 'Game of the Century'. Every move was monitored, dissected, and discussed.

Fischer won, despite losing the first game and forfeiting the second. America triumphed and chess was never the same. The game took off like a rocket with grandmasters from everywhere.

Fischer, once the Chekov of chess, became a flawed hero. Iceland was kind enough to give him citizenship. His last words were, "there is nothing like the human touch". Spassky too was a winner, in the court of life. Urbane and decent, he was highly regarded in the world of chess and by his family.

Reykjavik was also prominent in October 1986. It involved superpower rivalry again and this time with the heads of the two most powerful countries. The Hofdi House is standing in Reykjavik where Presidents Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev met to discuss a reduction of armament. They held meetings over two days, at the end of which a commitment was made to end the global arms race.

Many saw the Reykjavik meeting as the turning point in the Cold War. It set the stage for Reagan to proclaim, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" in Berlin, Germany, in 1987, that led to the fall of communism.

A variety of immigrant groups have made Reykjavik their home. One such is the Afghans. Many of them fled from the Taliban and set up a community in Iceland. Their population is around 500 persons, and there are three mosques.

Ali feels that the world needs to come to grips with what is happening in Afghanistan. The three main groups Pashtun, Hazara, and Tajik, do not always share the same concerns.

Ali left his country seven years ago and works hard to make ends meet. Iceland has a good education system, but he is looking to America to educate his children and for better weather. There can be nine months of cold and darkness. Those with money travel abroad to break the tedium.

The geysers, waterfall, glaciers, and volcanic activity, add to the splendor of Iceland. In fact, many will argue with good reason that these are the attractions of the country.

One of the lasting memories was the 'Food Tour' conducted by Jenny Gudmundsdottir. She calls herself 'Jenny from the Block', and her knowledge of the Iceland food scene is beyond



I became a Masai Warrior in Reykjavik, Iceland. Paul Ramses Oduor and Yvette Salleron from Kenya did the induction!

compare. She took 15 of us on a walking tour into the restaurants of Reykjavik, where we sampled the delights of the local cuisine.

Jenny added her own humorous spices to it, from the pancakes to the cheese rolls, and more. It was then time for the whale watching on a freezing Saturday. After an hour of circling around in choppy waters, the puffins appeared, followed by a humpback. Its brief appearance was worth the visit, and we retired to the main square for a concert that attracted hundreds. It was then off to the anticipated ten-hour tour to the South Coast. This was a chance to see the countryside, raw, and uncut.

A good tour guide is essential to the success of these many hours. Svein Bjorn, our guide, is the best around. He has been taking tours in small groups for over 20 years, and he has deep knowledge of the area. The rugged landscape came into view as we left Reykjavik. The mountains with unmelted snow, sheets



Hofdi House in Reykjavik where Presidents Reagan and Gorbachev met in 1986 to end the Cold War

of glaciers, and small towns in the valleys with grazing sheep in the steep hills, were memorable. The pristine waterfalls with glistening rainbows, Black Beach with towers of moss jutting from sea, and the prayers of Buddhist monks at a rest stop, added to the carnival of the day.

On the way to Keflavik Airport, the smoke of a volcano filled the sky. We reflected on an amazing time in Iceland. The scenery was stunning, but in the end, as always, it was the people that made the trip unforgettable. Warm and friendly smiles, and eyes that spoke of love and embrace say that another visit should be made. Captain Juan Manuel Gonzalez Zamora, of Mexico, piloted many aircraft but reserves a special place for Reykjavik. As we boarded for JFK, I caught a glimpse of a young man who was from Guyana. "Why Reykjavik?" I asked. "Why not? It's beautiful," he replied.

October 19<sup>th</sup> 2024  
10:00am - 2:00pm

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROSTATE CANCER

# Why Are Black Men Disproportionately Affected by Prostate Cancer

Hear from leading experts, patients, and researchers as they discuss the role of genetics, masculinity, and global health equity in shaping the future of prostate cancer diagnosis and early detection

### Keynote Speakers & Agenda Highlights



**Anthony Henry**  
A Patient Experience: Our Journey



**Dr. Shane Joseph**  
The Role of Masculinity in Avoiding Health Issues



**Dr. Aisha. Lofters**  
The Importance of research in changing the landscape of prostate cancer in Black Men



**Kris Bennett**  
The Prostate Cancer Global Health Equity Landscape



**Dr. Belinda Morrison**  
Why is Prostate cancer high in the Caribbean Islands



**Dr. Neil Fleshner**  
Genetics and Black Men's Disproportionate Diagnosis

**Event Location:**  
Movember Canadian Headquarters  
588 Richmond Street West, Toronto

Available Online via ZOOM

**Registration and Info:**  
thewalnutfoundation.com/prostate-cancer-conference  
info@thewalnutfoundation.com  
Phone: (905) 799-2759



CLICK TO REGISTER

Sponsored by:  
**MOVEMBER®**



Hosted by:  
The Walnut Foundation





Sam Selvon



V.S. Naipaul



George Lamming

## Legacy beyond borders: How the Windrush writers overlap into our Caribbean diaspora

### An LJI Series on the Caribbean Diaspora

In June 1948, the *HMT Empire Windrush* sailed into Tilbury Docks, Britain, carrying nearly 500 Caribbean men and women. For these migrants, the journey was one of hope – a chance to contribute to rebuilding Britain after World War II, and to find opportunities in the so-called “Mother Country”. But the reality they faced was often starkly different from the dreams they carried across the Atlantic.

This moment in history, the arrival of the *Windrush* marked the beginning of a cultural and social shift that still reverberates today. For the Caribbean diaspora, the *Windrush* story is not just a moment frozen in time, but a living, breathing narrative that continues to speak to the experience of migration, displacement, and belonging. At the same time, it is a story of turbulence and triumph, of hardships, and cultural emergence.

As we explore the works of the *Windrush* writers in this series, we find that their experiences mirror the challenges faced by the Caribbean diaspora today, particularly in places like Toronto, where our large community continues the journey of carving out a space in a new world.

To understand the significance of the *Windrush* generation, we must first recognise that it was more than just an isolated event. The migration of Caribbean people to Britain in the 1940s and beyond was part of a larger movement – a movement of people, ideas, and cultural identities that shaped not only our Caribbean diaspora but also the British and global landscape.

These early *Windrush* migrants faced tremendous challenges. Upon arrival, they were met with racism, exclusion, and a society that was unprepared – and often unwilling – to welcome them. Housing was scarce, jobs were limited, and many Britons viewed Caribbean migrants with suspicion. This was a moment of turbulence, not only in the physical sense, but also in the emotional and psychological experience of those who had left their homes for what they believed would be a better life.

Out of this turbulence emerged the voices of the *Windrush* writers – authors, poets, and storytellers who captured the lived experiences of migration in their works. These writers gave voice to the struggles of their communities, while also offering a glimpse into the resilience, creativity, and cultural contributions of the Caribbean diaspora.

For today’s Caribbean immigrants in Toronto and beyond, the stories of the *Windrush* generation remain powerful, relevant, and deeply resonant.

For this series, we will look at writers and their seminal works that emerged out of the moment of migration into the movement of a new literary genre. Among them is Sam Selvon and his humour and humanity in the face of cold reality. Selvon is well-known and respected for his *The Lonely Londoners* (1956), which is one of the most celebrated works to come out of the *Windrush* literary movement (see following page).

Selvon’s writing captures the everyday lives of Caribbean immigrants in London with a warmth and humour that contrasts with the harsh realities his characters face. His protagonist, Moses Aloetta, is an old hand in London, showing newcomers like Galahad the ropes as they navigate the city’s unforgiving streets. Through their experiences, we see the struggles of adaptation, the coldness – both literal and metaphorical – of life in a foreign land.

Selvon’s Galahad, wide-eyed and hopeful, steps out into his first London winter, marveling at the snow, only to be struck by its biting cold.

“Eh eh,” he mutters, “this place cold like it vex wid me.”

It is a moment filled with Selvon’s characteristic humour, but beneath the laughter lies a deep truth: the immigrant’s journey is one of constant negotiation, balancing the excitement of discovery with the alienation of feeling out of place.

For Caribbean immigrants in Toronto, this moment of stepping into the cold is all too familiar. The biting wind off Lake

Ontario may be different from the foggy chill of London, but the experience of adapting to a new world, navigating cultural barriers, and finding warmth in community is universal.

Selvon’s humour is a reminder that, even in the face of adversity, there is resilience. His characters do not just survive – they thrive, creating spaces of belonging where they can, finding joy amidst the struggles.

Then there are the works by George Lamming. While Selvon uses humour to explore the immigrant experience, Lamming takes a more introspective approach in *The Emigrants* (1954).

Lamming’s work delves deep into the emotional and psychological displacement felt by Caribbean migrants. His characters, like Selvon’s, leave their homes full of hope, but they quickly realise that the dream of Britain is not as simple as it seemed. They find themselves caught between two worlds – torn between the cultural norms of their Caribbean heritage and the demands of adapting to a new, often hostile environment.

Lamming’s characters wrestle with feelings of isolation and alienation, mirroring the experiences of many in the Caribbean diaspora today.

For those of us in Toronto, especially first-generation immigrants, the emotional journey of trying to find one’s place in a society that does not fully understand or accept them is ongoing.

Lamming’s exploration of this internal conflict – feeling both connected to and disconnected from multiple identities – is one that resonates with modern-day immigrants who continue to negotiate their sense of self in a multicultural but sometimes exclusionary world.

Lamming’s protagonists are not just displaced geographically; they are displaced emotionally and psychologically, forced to reconcile their past with their present. In this way, Lamming’s work speaks to the modern-day immigrant experience in Toronto, where the challenge of balancing cultural heritage with the pressures of adaptation is ever-present.

Next, we have the enigmatic V.S. Naipaul, who among other things, is at times reviled for his caustic exploration of the psychological depths to diasporic identity.

Where Selvon uses humour and Lamming explores emotion, Naipaul takes a step back to interrogate the psychological landscape of displacement.

In *The Mimic Men* (1967), Naipaul’s protagonist Ralph Singh is a man adrift, caught between the remnants of colonial rule and the search for personal identity. His journey is one of deep introspection, as he struggles to define himself in a world that constantly shifts beneath his feet.

For Caribbean immigrants in Toronto, Naipaul’s exploration of hybridised identity is particularly relevant. Singh’s experience of being neither fully British nor fully Caribbean reflects the internal battle many immigrants face when trying to adapt to a new culture while maintaining their own.

Naipaul’s characters are often caught in the liminal space between two worlds, much like many in the Caribbean diaspora who feel they belong to both places and yet neither fully at the same time.

Naipaul’s work forces us to confront the complexities of identity, belonging, and the post-colonial condition. His characters’ journeys are not just physical – they are psychological, revealing the deep tensions that come with being an immigrant in a world shaped by the legacies of colonialism.

It means exploration of the *Windrush* generation finds manifest many parallels with the modern Caribbean diaspora here in Toronto.

For our Caribbean diaspora living here, the experiences of the *Windrush* writers offer a mirror to our own lives. The themes of displacement, hybridisation, and adaptation that Selvon, Lamming, Rhys, and Naipaul explored are as relevant today as they were in the 1950s. Whether they arrived in Canada

## Jean Rhys’ voice still speaks to our Caribbean diaspora

In the evolving narrative of the *Windrush* legacy, where we have explored the works of Selvon, Lamming, and Naipaul, Jean Rhys emerges as yet another distinctive voice. Her contribution, though often framed as apart from the more mainstream *Windrush* discourse due to her European Creole heritage, is deeply relevant to the same themes of migration, displacement, and identity that resonate through the Caribbean diaspora experience today.

Rhys’ work, particularly her seminal novel *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966), grapples with the psychological and social fractures caused by colonialism – an experience that overlaps with the modern-day struggles faced by the Caribbean diaspora, especially in places like Toronto.

Born in Dominica to a Creole mother and a Welsh father, Rhys was intimately familiar with the sense of “otherness” that defines the post-colonial experience. *Wide Sargasso Sea* is her most famous work, a reimagining of the backstory of Bertha Mason from Charlotte Brontë’s novel, *Jane Eyre*.



Jean Rhys

In Rhys’ version, Bertha becomes Antoinette Cosway, a mixed-race woman in the Caribbean whose racial and cultural displacement leads to her tragic mental breakdown. This exploration of identity – of belonging neither to the colonial world nor fully to the Caribbean – mirrors the sense of duality felt by many in the Caribbean diaspora today.

For modern-day immigrants in the Caribbean diaspora, particularly in cities like Toronto, this duality is a familiar tension.

Rhys’ Antoinette, who is torn between conflicting identities, reflects the inner conflicts experienced by those living between two worlds: the cultural roots of the Caribbean and the new societal structures they must navigate abroad.

Much like Selvon’s Galahad in *The Lonely Londoners* struggling with the cold realities of London life, or Lamming’s emigrants torn between home and exile, Rhys’ characters must confront their own liminality – caught between histories, cultures, and expectations.

as first-generation immigrants, or are part of families that have been here for decades, Caribbean people in Toronto continue to navigate the complexities of belonging in a multicultural but still racially divided society.

Toronto, like London, is a city of migrants. It is a place where cultures collide and blend, where the streets echo with the languages, accents, and rhythms of the world. But it is also a city where the challenges of adaptation, racism, and exclusion persist.

Our Caribbean community in the GTA faces its own set of struggles – finding jobs that recognise our qualifications, securing housing in competitive markets, and maintaining ties to our cultural heritage while adapting to new norms.

The works of the *Windrush* writers remind us that these struggles are not new. They are part of a continuum – a journey that began with the *Windrush* generation and continues today.

The stories of Moses, Galahad, Ralph Singh, and Lamming’s emigrants are not just historical reflections – they are living documents that continue to speak to the lived realities of our Caribbean diaspora in Toronto and beyond.

As we continue this series on the *Windrush* writers, we must remember that their stories are not confined to the past. They are part of an ongoing journey – a journey that our Caribbean diaspora continues to navigate today. The themes of migration, displacement, and adaptation are universal, and they resonate with the lived experiences of so many who have left their homes in search of a better life.

For the Caribbean community in Toronto, the works by Selvon, Lamming, Naipaul, and others offer not just insight but validation. Their stories remind us that the post-colonial journey is far from over, and that the search continues for belonging, identity, and home. The streets of London may be distant, but the experiences of displacement, hybridisation, and adaptation are now shared by those navigating the streets of Toronto today.

As you read through this series, we encourage you to explore the works of these writers, not just as historical artifacts, but as living, breathing documents that continue to shape us, and our understanding of the immigrant experience. Their stories are our stories, and their journeys remind us that, no matter where we come from, we all share the desire to belong.



Giorgio de Chirico's *The Enigma of Arrival*

## Fitting *The Lonely Londoners* into our modern-day arrivals

### An LJI Series on the Caribbean Diaspora

In a world where the migrant's journey is both a literal and metaphorical crossing, Sam Selvon's *The Lonely Londoners* stands as a living document of the *Windrush* generation's experiences. For the Caribbean diaspora in Toronto, Selvon's work is not merely a story set in the past – it is a mirror to the ongoing journey of navigating two worlds, caught between the warmth of home and the cold realities of a new land.

Like the two shadowy figures in Giorgio de Chirico's *The Enigma of Arrival*, Selvon's characters occupy a liminal space – one foot planted in the hope of arrival, the other hesitantly stepping into the uncertainty of belonging. The wall that stands behind these figures, like the invisible borders of class and race, divides the known from the unknown, the familiar from the foreign.

Selvon's writing captures this tension, and as we explore his legacy in this series, we find that his work speaks not only to the past but to the present-day Caribbean diaspora in Toronto, where these same walls still exist, albeit in different forms.

Selvon's *The Lonely Londoners* (1956) is a work of quiet rebellion. On its surface, the novel offers a series of humorous vignettes about Caribbean immigrants trying to make a life for themselves in post-war London.

But beneath the lighthearted banter and the camaraderie of characters like Moses, Galahad, and Big City, there is a more profound commentary on the absurdity of Empire. The very people who were taught to revere Britain as the "Mother Country" find themselves cast aside, outsiders in a land that feels more like a cold-hearted stepmother.

The duality of this experience is at the heart of the novel's power. Selvon's characters are neither fully welcomed into British society nor fully able to escape the shadow of their colonial past.

Instead, they stand, like de Chirico's figures, on the threshold of two worlds. One hand reaches forward, grasping for a future of opportunity, while the other hand holds back, tethered to the weight of displacement and exclusion.

It's this liminality – this standing on the edge – that makes Selvon's work resonate so deeply with modern readers, particularly in the Caribbean diaspora here in Toronto.

In a metropolis like Toronto, where the rhythms of migration are woven into the very fabric of its streets, Selvon's exploration of identity, belonging, and alienation speaks directly to our present-day experience.

Much like London in the 1950s, Toronto today is a city of arrivals – a place where cultures intersect and identities are continuously negotiated. Selvon's writing, with its humour and heartache, mirrors the lived experiences of those who have arrived but are still searching for where they truly belong.

Now, if Selvon were to set *The Lonely Londoners* in Toronto, we might find Galahad standing downtown on Front Street outside Union Station, suitcase in hand, eyes wide as he takes in the towering buildings, the frenetic rush of commuters, and the unmistakable bite of the winter wind off Lake Ontario.

He would be both amazed and perplexed, the same duality of awe and discomfort filling his mind. For Galahad, as for many new immigrants, the city would seem at once full of promise and curiously indifferent – like the arrival he had long dreamed of, but with all the warmth drained out.

Let us try to picture it using the narrative style of Selvon:

*Galahad step out of Union Station, suitcase in hand, looking left, right, and left again, like he waiting for a sign or maybe a small miracle to tell him where to go. The cold slap him like a bad dream, but he laugh it off. "Boy, dis place cold like it vex wid me!" He take a deep breath, the air cutting like sharp ice, and he pull up his coat collar up pass his ears. He could feel the train rumbling underground, and the city, big and wide, all around him, like it watching him and holding its breath, waiting to see what he go do next. "Well," he mutter, "is either I make it or I freeze first. Only time go tell."*

That moment – standing outside Union Station at the confluence of paths, feeling both the weight of arrival and the uncertain pull of what is ahead – captures the essence of Selvon's characters.

It is a feeling shared by countless immigrants in Toronto, balancing the joy of reaching a destination with the sobering realisation that the journey of belonging has only just begun.

Selvon's writing is steeped in the idea of liminality – the space between here and there, between now and what could be. His characters do not belong entirely to the world they have left behind, nor do they fully fit into the world they have entered.

This sense of being "in-between" is not just a condition of the immigrant experience; it is a universal human experience. In Selvon's world, liminality is both a burden and an opportunity. The uncertainty with its enigma of arrival, the sense of not yet belonging, opens the door to reinvention and to adaptation.

For the Caribbean diaspora in Toronto, this duality remains a defining feature of life. There is the coldness of displacement – both in the literal sense of Canadian winters and in the emotional sense of cultural estrangement. But there is also the warmth of community, of creating new spaces of belonging in a foreign land.

Selvon's characters, with all their struggles, remind us that even in the darkest moments of uncertainty, there is always the potential for joy, for laughter, for connection.

This is the paradox of migration: to lose something and yet to gain something else entirely. It is the journey of standing on the edge of the known and the unknown, of pushing forward into the cold with the hope that warmth lies somewhere up ahead.

The relevance and legacy of Selvon's work to our Caribbean diaspora in Toronto cannot be overstated. His characters' journeys mirror those of us as modern-day immigrants, navigating the complexities of identity, belonging, and cultural adaptation.

Like the two figures in de Chirico's painting, our Caribbean diaspora stands at a crossroads – one figure facing forward, eager to embrace the opportunities of a new world, while the other looks back, remembering the warmth of home and the security of the familiar.

Yet, as Selvon so beautifully illustrates, these two figures are not separate – they are parts of the same whole. The migrant experience is one of duality, of constantly negotiating between the past and the present, between loss and gain, between exclusion and inclusion.

Selvon's humour in his light and dark playfulness with words, offers both a balm and a challenge to those navigating this complex terrain.

For the Caribbean diaspora in Toronto, the journey is ongoing. The *Windrush* generation may have laid the foundation, but the story continues to evolve, as new generations carve out their own paths in this ever-changing landscape.

## Notable Windrush Authors

**Sam Selvon (1923–1994)**

**Heritage:** East Indian

**Born:** May 20, 1923, San Fernando, Trinidad

**Died:** April 16, 1994, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad

**Seminal Work:** *The Lonely Londoners* (1956)

**Biography:** Sam Selvon is best known for capturing the voices of Caribbean immigrants in post-war Britain. His novel *The Lonely Londoners* remains a seminal text in Caribbean literature, offering a humorous yet poignant exploration of the immigrant experience in London. Selvon's distinctive use of vernacular English brought an authenticity to his portrayal of Caribbean diaspora life.

**Other Works:** *Moses Ascending* (1975), *Moses Migrating* (1983), *A Brighter Sun* (1952)

•••

**George Lamming (1927–2022)**

**Heritage:** Black

**Born:** June 8, 1927, Carrington Village, Barbados

**Died:** June 4, 2022, Barbados

**Seminal Work:** *In the Castle of My Skin* (1953)

**Biography:** George Lamming is a major figure in Caribbean literature, whose writing deeply engages with themes of colonialism and migration. *In the Castle of My Skin*, his debut novel, explores the impact of British colonial rule on Caribbean identity and culture through a coming-of-age story. His work often critiques the socio-political forces that shaped post-colonial Caribbean societies.

**Other Works:** *The Emigrants* (1954), *Of Age and Innocence* (1958), *The Pleasures of Exile* (1960)

•••

**V.S. Naipaul (1932–2018)**

**Heritage:** East Indian

**Born:** August 17, 1932, Chaguanas, Trinidad

**Died:** August 11, 2018, London, UK

**Seminal Work:** *A House for Mr Biswas* (1961)

**Biography:** Sir Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul was a Nobel laureate whose works focused on the legacies of colonialism, migration, and displacement. His novel *A House for Mr Biswas* is often regarded as his masterpiece, chronicling the struggles of an Indo-Trinidadian man striving for independence and identity. Naipaul's writing spans both fiction and non-fiction, often blending the two in his exploration of post-colonial realities.

**Other Works:** *The Mimic Men* (1967), *In a Free State* (1971), *The Enigma of Arrival* (1987)

•••

**Jean Rhys (1890–1979)**

**Heritage:** European-Creole

**Born:** August 24, 1890, Roseau, Dominica

**Died:** May 14, 1979, Exeter, UK

**Seminal Work:** *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966)

**Biography:** Jean Rhys's work is a powerful exploration of displacement, race, and gender, particularly through a feminine lens. *Wide Sargasso Sea* reimagines the backstory of Bertha Mason, the "madwoman in the attic" from *Jane Eyre*, situating her in the context of Caribbean colonialism. Rhys' own mixed-race background deeply informs her narratives of alienation and exile.

**Other Works:** *Voyage in the Dark* (1934), *Good Morning, Midnight* (1939), *After Leaving Mr. Mackenzie* (1930)

•••

**Andrea Levy (1956–2019)**

**Heritage:** Black British of Jamaican descent

**Born:** March 7, 1956, London, UK

**Died:** February 14, 2019, London, UK

**Seminal Work:** *Small Island* (2004)

**Biography:** Andrea Levy became one of the most important voices in contemporary British literature, with her work focusing on the Black British experience, especially that of the *Windrush* generation. *Small Island* explores the lives of Jamaican immigrants and British citizens post-World War II, and has been widely acclaimed for its nuanced portrayal of racism, migration, and identity.

**Other Works:** *The Long Song* (2010), *Fruit of the Lemon* (1999), *Every Light in the House Burnin'* (1994)

•••

**Claude McKay (1889–1948)**

**Heritage:** Black Jamaican

**Born:** September 15, 1889, James Hill, Jamaica

**Died:** May 22, 1948, Chicago, US

**Seminal Work:** *Home to Harlem* (1928)

**Biography:** Claude McKay was a key figure in both the Harlem Renaissance and Caribbean literature. His novel *Home to Harlem* is a vivid portrayal of Black life in Harlem in the 1920s, and explores themes of identity, racism, and diaspora. McKay's work often reflects his revolutionary politics and his critiques of imperialism.

**Other Works:** *Banana Bottom* (1933), *Banjo* (1929), *Harlem Shadows* (1922).



## More questions on Hyatt's no \$TT gaffe

**Port-of-Spain** – The Opposition is demanding answers from the government following Hyatt Regency Trinidad's brief announcement that it would go cashless and stop accepting payments in Trinidad and Tobago dollars.

The hotel, which later retracted the Facebook post after facing widespread backlash, initially declared that only US dollars, British pounds, and Euros would be accepted, sparking outrage among citizens and political leaders alike.

Opposition chief whip David Lee is now calling on Minister of Finance Colm Imbert to explain why a locally operated hotel would consider such a policy.

Said Lee: "We are asking the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for that Hyatt hotel, to come clean with this nation to tell us why would Hyatt want to charge the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago – if you go there to get a meal, to get a cup of coffee, to do anything in the Hyatt you have to pay with US dollars. Where are we getting the US dollars to pay if we go to Hyatt, and we work for TT dollars?"

He added, "Hyatt belongs to you, the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, not Hyatt. It just named Hyatt, but it is our asset. We live in Trinidad and Tobago. Our currency is Trinidad and Tobago currency, not US dollars."

In its Facebook post on October 5, the Hyatt Regency Trinidad announced that effective November 1, all transactions will be cash-free for a "faster, smoother and more secure experience".

It also stated that all major credit cards, debit cards and only US dollars, British pounds sterling and Euros would be accepted going forward.

Following criticism, General Manager of Hyatt Regency Trinidad, Michael Hooper said, "A message regarding cashless payment options at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad hotel was prematurely distributed with inaccurate

information. At this time, we will not be implementing any changes to our payment process."

On Monday, Imbert said that while the Ministry of Finance has no oversight over Hyatt's operations, it will still investigate the "currency aspect of the matter" relating to the controversial social media post.



David Lee

In a message posted on X (formerly Twitter), Imbert stated, "The Hyatt recently announced a contentious decision to stop accepting TTD cash while accepting USD and GBP cash, which it quickly rescinded. As corporation sole the MOF has no oversight role over the operations of the Hyatt but will investigate the currency aspect of the matter."

Meanwhile, the president of the Tobago Tourism and Hotel Association, Alpha Lorde, said no company operating in the country should consider a payment policy that does not accept Trinidad and Tobago dollars.

Referring to Hyatt Regency Trinidad's now-retracted cashless policy, Lorde pointed out that the Trinidad and Tobago dollar is the nation's official currency, and he could not fathom why a local establishment would choose not to accept it.

He said if the hotel had gone away with the policy, it would have negatively impacted potential guests who do not use credit cards. He maintained that businesses cannot disregard the value of Trinidad and Tobago dollars or refuse to accept it, especially considering that local staycations represent a substantial source of revenue for the tourism and hospitality sector throughout the year.

While Lorde could not speak on behalf of all hotels, he acknowledged the ongoing challenges related to foreign currency. He speculated that some businesses might adopt such policies to secure more foreign currency for their operations.

"It is advantageous for any business to have access to US dollars," Lorde said.

## Paray prioritises patriotism over politics

**Port-of-Spain** – Mayaro MP Rushton Paray has signaled the possibility of being sidelined by the Opposition UNC in the next general election, but he remains undeterred, vowing to prioritise the nation's welfare over political allegiances.

Speaking during the 2024/2025 budget debate in the House of Representatives on October 7, Paray hinted that this could be his "swan song" in politics, but affirmed his commitment to serving Trinidad and Tobago as a patriot.

"I am willing to put Trinidad and Tobago above all else, above partisanship, above politics. So let the chips fall where they may," he said.

Despite potential exclusion from the upcoming elections, Paray pledged to continue serving his constituents with "passion and humility" for as long as they would have him.



Rushton Paray

He remarks come amid rising tensions within the UNC, with him and other MPs publicly questioning the leadership of Kamla Persad-Bissessar, leading to their demotion within the party.

Paray and fellow UNC MPs Dinesh Rambally, Anita Haynes-Alleyne, Dr Rai Ragbir, and Rodney Charles have publicly questioned the ability of Opposition Leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar to lead the UNC to victory in the next general election.

They were not invited to a UNC election preparation meeting in Chaguanas on September 1, and were moved to the bottom of the opposition's bench in the House on September 9.

Rambally, Haynes-Alleyne, Paray and

Ragbir filed nominations in April to stand for re-election in their respective constituencies. Charles announced last year he will not stand for re-election.

In the House on October 4, Rambally expressed a similar sentiment to Paray, when he said no man or woman would determine when he speaks.

Paray dismissed claims made by some UNC members that he is a PNM operative out to destroy the UNC.

While he does not support the PNM politically, Paray said, he recognised the responsibility to deal with crime transcends party lines and it was for the Prime Minister, not Persad-Bissessar, to lead that charge.

"I am prepared to work beyond party lines, to grant the Prime Minister the authority needed to provide our protective institutions with the legislative tools required

to combat and suppress criminal activity – provided these laws uphold the fundamental rights of our citizens and can withstand judicial scrutiny."

Responding to an earlier contribution by Trade and Industry Minister Paula Gopee-Scoon, Paray said the information she provided did not reflect the national reality.

Outside the challenges posed by crime, he said, "Our economy is in intensive care. There is low consumer confidence, low local investor confidence, low foreign direct investment and an overwhelming sense felt by everyone that things are not going to get better."

Paray described Finance Minister Colm Imbert's September 30 budget presentation as first in line for "an award for best fiction".



TTDG at the Toronto Consulate General

## TTDG performs Belle Fanto at Consulate General

**Toronto** – The Tobago Drama Guild recently conducted a successful three-night production of Eric Roach's classic play *Belle Fanto*. It took place from September 27-29 at the Consulate General in Toronto.

The performances captivated audiences, showcasing the talent and dedication of local and diasporic artists while celebrating a beloved story.

Under the skilled direction of THABITI, *Belle Fanto* transported attendees into a world rich with emotion, humour, and poignant themes of familial expectations and deception.

The talented cast delivered powerful performances that resonated deeply with the audience, leaving a lasting impression.

Said TTDG Administrator Cherryll Birchwood: "It was an incredible experience to bring *Belle Fanto* to life on stage. The support from our community was overwhelming, and

we are grateful to everyone who came out to experience the magic of theatre with us."

The TTDG was thrilled to highlight the creative talents within the Canadian community, reinforcing its commitment to fostering partnerships and exploring the synergies between local artistry and the talents within the diaspora in Toronto.

THABITI's adaptation of *Belle Fanto* was filled to the brim with buzzy dialogue and perfectly-timed punchlines that drew both laughs and shocked gasps from the crowd.

Audience members expressed enthusiasm after the performances, praising the engaging storytelling and the cast's remarkable dedication. Said an audience member: "This production was a beautiful representation of our culture and talent. I was moved by the performances and the entire atmosphere of the show."



TTDG's cast engages the audience. Photos courtesy Curtis Bachan

THE QUEENS BOOK FAIR AND LITERARY FESTIVAL INC  
AND THE OFFICE OF ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION NYC

are pleased to invite you to our symposium

SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER  
9TH 2024  
From 1pm to 4pm

**The Power of Books**

PRESENTER: Dr. Jackie Jones, formerly School Superintendent, District 29, currently Education Consultant.  
BOOK LAUNCH: "Sylvie's Loss and Love" by Professor Ivelaw Griffith. Readings by Professor Ivelaw Griffith and Dr. Rose October  
Poetry Readings by Haimnauth Ramkirath  
HONOREES: Radhika Olarte and Dheeraj Gayaram  
MODERATOR: Dr. Melina Basant, MD

Queens Library,  
Richmond Hill Branch  
118-14 Hillside Ave,  
Richmondhill NY, 11418

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
DOCLSE007@AOL.COM

This program will include youth participation in poetry, speeches and the arts.





Persad-Bissessar comments on the 2024/2025 Budget

## UNC promises to scrap property tax

**Port-of-Spain** – The Opposition United National Congress has promised to scrap the property tax “within days” if re-elected to office.

The pledge was made on October 6 by Pointe-a-Pierre MP David Lee, who also promised lower business taxes and increase investment in energy, tertiary education, and vocational training. At the time, Lee was yet again bashing the government’s 2024-2025 budget for lacking economic trajectory.

Lee highlighted some election promises laid out last week by Opposition Leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar in her budget response, vowing to increase citizen safety, employment, and raise living standards.

He endorsed Persad-Bissessar’s promise that if re-elected she would reinstate the “baby grant” for single parents, as well as pump funding into social and educational support networks in vulnerable communities.

Lee said the UNC continues to reject the government’s wage offer to public servants of four and five percent, which he called “unjust” and was “imposed” on the workers. He said the UNC promised to engage in “free and fair” bargaining through the office of the Chief Personnel Officer.

He also promised that a UNC government would establish a technical-vocational and teacher training facility, and would do so by including private sector partnership.

Lee also reiterated Persad-Bissessar’s position that citizens be afforded the right to bear arms, and be able to defend themselves against criminals. He also backed the Opposition Leader’s promise to implement a “stand your ground policy” that favours citizens.

He also outlined promises in public healthcare, saying the UNC would establish 24-hour dialysis services at major hospitals, as

## New cars cited as heavy forex consumers

**Port-of-Spain** – The new car industry has been labelled as the largest consumer of foreign exchange in this country by Minister in the Ministry of Finance Brian Manning.

Manning’s revelation came during his contribution to the 2024/2025 Budget debate in the Lower House of Parliament earlier this week.

In addressing the issue of foreign exchange, Manning said citizens of Trinidad and Tobago in many ways are victims of their own success.

“We hear this all the time about what is the government doing about protecting foreign exchange. Madam Speaker do you know what is the largest consumer of foreign exchange in Trinidad and Tobago? It is new motor vehicles...”



Brian Manning

He said people need to understand where they are at as a country.

“So Trinbagonians want access to new vehicles, and they want cheap fuel, but they don’t want any traffic, and they don’t want any of the negatives that come out from this. You want access to foreign exchange, but you also want luxury food items which deplete

well as establish a stroke rehabilitation centre.

He said revenue-generating plans included the revival of the energy sector to ensure returns to the country, saying Trinidad and Tobago’s energy industry was currently a “rust belt”.

Accusing the government of destroying oil and gas production, Lee said all major plants were operating at under 75 percent, with the most plant closures in the last nine years.

He said, according to the Central Bank, in 2015 some 20,500 people were employed in the energy sector, but by 2023, that had declined by 49.3 percent to under 10,000.

Lee questioned warnings by Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley that the country was in for difficult economic times in the next two to three years, as well as the validity of the government’s promised boom by 2027.

He said four bid rounds in the last nine years have failed, and that the government is unable to say when the first benefits will be seen in its cross-border negotiations with Venezuela.

He suggested that the government needed to incentivise energy companies to explore, stating that companies in Point Lisas were “crying out” for gas.

He said the government had failed to deliver on its renewable energy promises, asking what was being done with lands at St Augustine designated for a solar energy project.

He also called on the government to state how much was spent on fuel subsidy for the last fiscal year.

Lee said the shutdown of Petrotrin had decimated communities on the southern peninsula and the government was yet to fulfil its promise to create alternative employment.

He also again asked about the status of the pension plan due to former Petrotrin employees, notably in Pointe-a-Pierre.

foreign exchange, even though we need that foreign exchange for essential items,” Manning explained.

He added that in any economy there must be give and take, so when something is done in one sector, it affects another.

“We have to be knowledgeable and informed about how exactly we are dealing with the economy of Trinidad and Tobago, and as I said earlier, this government in the past decade has been both reasonable and responsible in managing the economy of Trinidad and Tobago,” he said.

Speaking to Trinidad and Tobago’s \$7.3 billion food import bill, Manning said no matter what kind of tariffs the government puts on luxury food items, the food import bill continues to rise.

In December 2015, then-Central Bank governor Jwala Rambarran was fired after he revealed details of the biggest foreign exchange users in the country. However, in October 2022, High Court Judge Devindra Rampersad ruled that Rambarran should receive (TT) \$5.47 million in compensation for being wrongfully dismissed by the government.

## Expert: Fiscal deficits unsustainable

**Port-of-Spain** – Nine fiscal deficits in ten fiscal years is not sustainable in the long term and can spell “doom and gloom” for Trinidad and Tobago’s future. This was the view issued to the government last week by Dr Daren Conrad, a senior lecturer in economics at The University of the West Indies.

Conrad who spoke at a post-budget webinar hosted by the South Chapter of the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Insurance & Financial Advisors on October 2.

On September 30, Finance Minister Colm Imbert presented the national budget for fiscal 2025, projecting total expenditure at (TT) \$59.741 billion, with total revenue at \$54.224 billion. The projection was for an estimated fiscal deficit of \$5.517 billion.

Since the 2008 budget, Trinidad and Tobago has recorded fiscal deficits for every year, except 2022, when the country’s energy revenues were boosted by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, and the supply-chain issues that resulted.

Conrad said running deficit budgets over the years should be a “concern” for the country.

“Our gross debt is accumulating. I think last year (the 2024 fiscal year) the deficit reached \$7.1 billion. We have never been able to align the revenues with the expenditures, which tells us that given a budget of \$59.74 billion with more than 50 percent being transfers and subsidies, it tells us that we need to work on the number of transfers and subsidies as these do not equate to economic activity,” he said.

Additionally, “They are just that, transfers and subsidies to persons who are in need. One of the ways to work on that is to have employment working in the right direction.”

He added that not being able to balance a national budget can lead to some economies crashing.

“We can only run a deficit budget for so long, and we can continue to borrow to finance



Daren Conrad

the deficit, but when you are borrowing to finance the recurrent expenditure and that is driving your deficit up, that well will run dry at some point in time,” Conrad stated.

He added, “The debt-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio is at 76 percent and in some countries, it is at 101 percent. There is no scientific limit for it, but what it means is that for every dollar that you earn, it goes to paying the interest on the debt and not able to reinvest anything. So,

you will become a perpetual borrower until that time your economy crashes if you don’t take proactive measures. So, it can spell doom and gloom for us if we continue to do that.”

He explained that running budget deficits and having to finance burdensome debt can lead to a deterioration of the quality of life for nationals.

Said Conrad: “We have been doing it for years, successfully managing the borrowing to fit the expenditure in terms of recurrent expenditure. That is why Trinidad and Tobago has a deterioration of the infrastructure. People talk about the roads, people talk about WASA. It is that when the revenue is generated or when the loans are booked, they are being used for recurrent expenditure, so the infrastructure is going to deteriorate and it cannot be maintained.”

Also, “So, you have to strike a balance between whether I continue to feed people, or continue to allow some things to run awry.”



**CONFERENCE ON HINDU ISSUES IN THE CARIBBEAN & THE DIASPORA**

**THEME: CARIBBEAN HINDUS: CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS**

Arthur Chung Conference Centre  
Georgetown, Guyana

**SATURDAY, 19TH OCTOBER 2024**  
8.30AM - 4.30PM

Cultural Presentations : 6:00pm - 8:00pm

**WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS:**  
**PRESIDENT DR MOHAMED IRFAAN ALI**

**FEATURE ADDRESS:**  
**PROFESSOR DR. PRAKASH PERSAD**

**Plenary Session**  
**Panel Discussions**  
**Dinner & Cultural Presentations**



[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdqkP08ddpFWAbB7QmV2GJcjP2vydrY95vaxcNfv7VP4ybtca/viewform?usp=pp\\_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdqkP08ddpFWAbB7QmV2GJcjP2vydrY95vaxcNfv7VP4ybtca/viewform?usp=pp_url)

Click the above link or scan the QR code to register

**SCAN ME**

Contact: Caribbean American Hindu Issues Inc. (CAHII)  
Whatsapp: +14168563810; +18687564961; +16318759492  
Email: [ptroopsharma@gmail.com](mailto:ptroopsharma@gmail.com)  
PANDIT ROOPNAUTH SHARMA, DR. TARA SINGH,  
DR. KUMAR MAHABIR, DR. INDIRA RAMPERSAD, VISHNU DUTT,  
KERON SOOKLAL & RABI NAUTH



## The Golden Years of Indian Cinema

# Celebrating cinema superstars Leela Chitnis and Naseem Banu

By Vidur Dindayal

Our first subject of this article, **Leela Chitnis** was the first lady film star I ever heard about. The early pictures my parents saw starred Ashok Kumar and Leela. I remember when the movie *Jhoola*, starring Ashok Kumar and Leela, was shown at our local village cinema. There were many other movies with the same stars.

Before that, the old people talked about Tanman and Kishore – a romantic couple. People used to make remarks about this or that person who had a resemblance similar to Tanman; or that this couple was behaving like Tanman and Kishore. I never saw a picture of them.

Another well-known star at the time was Nadia, in ‘fighting’ pictures – Nadia, her face in a mask, riding her horse, bold and fearless, going after the crooks. She was Australian-Indian, and very popular. She took the Indian film industry by storm in 1935 when she appeared in the Hindi film *Hunterwali*. I remember seeing her in movies: *Punjab Mail*, *Diamond Queen*, and *Jungle Princess*.

Leela was born Leela Nagarkar on September 9, 1909 in a Marathi-speaking Brahmin family in Dharwad, in Bombay Presidency, which is now present-day Karnataka. Her father was an English literature professor. Although he was of Brahmin caste, he supported the Brahmo Samaj, which rejected the caste system.

When Leela was around 15 to 16 years old, she was married, arranged by her parents in the traditional way, to Dr Gajanan Yeshwant Chitnis, of her own community. The couple had four children, all sons: Manavendra, Vijaykumar, Ajitkumar, and Raj.

After the children were born, the marriage did not last long. Leela divorced her husband. She continued her education to graduation and began working, first as a schoolteacher; she then turned to acting. She started acting to support her four children, beginning as an extra and moving on to stunt films.

She was one of the first educated film actresses. She joined *Natyamanwantar*, a progressive theatre group that produced plays in her native Marathi language. Leela played the lead role in a series of comedies and tragedies while with the theatre group. She then founded her own repertory company.

She was active as an actress from the 1930s to the 1980s, starring in about 120 movies. In her early films, she played the heroine in many romantic roles, but later in her career, she dominated the screen, and is best remembered for playing the virtuous and upright mother to many stars.

With her own film group Udyacha Sansar, Leela's early stage work included the comedy *Usna Navra* (1934). In *Gentleman Daku* (*Gentleman Thief*) in 1937, Leela played a smart-looking crook dressed in male clothes. A photo of her in that outfit was published in the *Times of India* as the first graduate society-lady from Maharashtra. She had by then made her name, her first major mark as a formidable actress in movies.

Leela then worked at Prabhat Pictures in Pune and Ranjit Movietone, and eventually progressed to being the leading lady in *Bombay Talkies*. This association with *Bombay Talkies* propelled her to big-time stardom.

Leela seemed to specialise in films on controversial subjects, particularly those on unconventional marriages and the caste system, which challenged accepted societal norms. *Bombay Talkies* at the time was not doing too well at the box office. However, the movie *Kangan* (*Bangles*, 1939), changed all that. It introduced Leela in the lead role, where she fell in love with the son of a local landlord. She played the adopted daughter of a Hindu priest.

The local landlord vehemently opposed the friendship between his son and the daughter of the holy man, issuing threats to the priest. However, the daughter stood up to the landlord's prejudice, and her love for the landlord's son prevailed.

Although this was a risky and uncommon story at the time, it strangely had great public appeal, and the movie became a hit.

Leela benefitted greatly from *Kangan's* success, and she quickly replaced Devika Rani as the leading lady at *Bombay Talkies*.



Naseem Banu



Leela Chitnis

In fact, she made herself an excellent partner with Devika's erstwhile leading man Ashok Kumar in a number of *Bombay Talkies'* films that followed – such as *Azad* (*Free*, 1940), *Bandhan* (*Ties*, 1940), and *Jhoola* (*Swing*, 1941). All these films dealt with social issues and were major hits.

Ashok Kumar was so impressed by her acting abilities, from which he admitted having learned on how to communicate using his eyes.

At the peak of her glamour and popularity, in 1941 Leela created history by becoming the first Indian film star to endorse the popular *Lux* soap brand. At the time, this was a distinction only granted to top Hollywood actresses.

By the mid-1940s, as younger leading ladies entered the film industry, Leela's career began to suffer. However, she had another string to her bow: in 1948, she embarked on the most renowned phase of her career, playing ‘mother’ roles. In *Shaheed* (*Martyr*), she was cast as the hero's suffering, ailing mother, a role she played to perfection, and which became one of her most memorable performances.

For 22 years, Leela played the mother of later leading men, often portraying an ailing mother, or one struggling to bring up her offspring. In fact, she created the archetype of the Hindi Film mother, which was continued by later actresses.

In films such as *Awaara* (*The Vagabond*, 1951), *Ganga Jumna* (*The Confluence*, 1961), and the runaway success *Guide* (1965), Leela's maternal roles were on display to perfection.

Leela also briefly dabbled in movie-making, producing *Kisise Na Kehna* (*Don't Tell Anybody*, 1942) and directing *Aaj Ki Baat* (*The Talk of Today*, 1955). She also wrote and directed a stage adaptation of Somerset Maugham's *Sacred Flame*, and published her autobiography, *Chanderi Duniyet*, in 1981.

Active through the 1970s, Leela cut down her appearances, and took her final curtain call in *Dil Tujhko Diya* (*I Give My Heart to You*) in 1985.

Leela later emigrated to the US in the late 1980s to join her children. She lived with her eldest son until her death at the age of 94 in Danbury, Connecticut. She had three grandchildren at the time of her passing.

Our second subject, **Naseem Banu**, popularly known as Naseem, starred in her first movie *Khoon Ka Khoon* (*Blood for Blood*) in 1935. This was a filmed version of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. With Sohrab Modi as Hamlet and Naseem as Ophelia,

it was also Modi's debut feature as a director. The script was in Urdu.

Produced by Sohrab Modi's company, *Minerva Movietone*, where Naseem acted for several years, the film was cited by the National Film Archive of India's founder as one of the “21 most wanted missing Indian cinema treasures”.

Director Modi even cast Naseem's mother, Shamshadbai, to play the role of Hamlet's mother, Gertrude.

In 1939, Naseem played the role of Empress Nur Jahan in Modi's movie *Pukar*. This film marked a high point in her blossoming career. Music director Naushad described her as having a *Pari-Chehra* – a fairy face – a term frequently used in advertisements for her films.

Naseem was the mother of another *Pari-Chehra* actress Saira Banu, who later married Dilip Kumar.

Naseem was born Roshan Ara Begum on July 4, 1916 into a community of performers in Old Delhi, India. Her mother was a famous singer and *tawaif* named Chamian Bai.

A *tawaif* is a female performer, trained in classical music, dance, and poetry, associated with the Mughal era, and patronised by the aristocracy. The tradition originated in the courts of medieval India, evolving into professional entertainers.

When Naseem became a successful actress earning a good salary, she noted that her mother, even in old age, was still earning more than her.

Naseem was educated at Queen Mary's High School in Delhi. Her mother wanted her to become a doctor, but Naseem was fascinated by films, and admired the actress Sulochana (Ruby Myers).

During a visit to Bombay, Naseem expressed her interest in film shooting, and met Sohrab Modi, who was captivated by her “fairy face”. He offered her the role of Ophelia in his filmed version of *Hamlet*, and *Khoon Ka Khoon* (1935). Initially, Naseem's mother refused permission, as acting was then considered a lowly profession.

However, she eventually relented, and Naseem's acting career began. Her decision caused scandal at her school, which disapproved of her involvement in films, and as a result, she had to leave her education behind.

Naseem went on to sign a contract with Sohrab Modi's *Minerva Movietone*, and appeared in several films, including *Khan Bahadur* (1937), *Talaq* (*Divorce*, 1938), and *Meetha Zahar* and *Vasanti* (1938).

However, her role as Nur Jahan in *Pukar* (1939) made her become quite famous, and cemented her position in the industry. Naseem worked hard for this role, learning horse riding and singing to prepare for her part.

Her performance in *Pukar* made her an enduring star, and her “fairy-face” nickname became iconic, a moniker which was later applied to her daughter, Saira Banu.

Following *Pukar*, Naseem received offers from various studios and acted in around 23 films. In 1942, she married her childhood friend, architect Mian Ehsan-ul-Haq, and together they had two children: daughter Saira Banu, and son Sultan Ahmed.

Ehsan-ul-Haq and Naseem formed the production company *Taj Mahal Pictures*, through which they made films like *Ujala* (1942), *Begum* (1945), *Mulaqat* (1947), *Chandni Raat* (1949), and *Ajeeb Ladki* (1952), the latter two directed by Ehsan.

During her time at *Filmistan Studios*, she starred in *Chal Chal Re Naujawan* (1944) with Ashok Kumar, where her performance in the song *Soja Meri Laadli* is still fondly recalled. Later, she appeared in *Sheesh Mahal* (1950), which showcased her acting abilities once more.

After the partition of India in 1947, Naseem's husband opted to move to Pakistan, while Naseem remained in India with her children. Her films were released in both countries, gaining her a following in Pakistan as well. Naseem eventually moved to England for a time, where both her children studied.

Her career included notable films like *Anokhi Ada* (1948), *Sinbad Jahazi* (1952), and *Baghi* (1953). She made her final film appearance in *Nausherwan-E-Adil* (1957), before retiring from acting. Naseem remained involved in the industry by working as a producer, and later as a designer for her daughter Saira Banu's films.

Naseem passed away on June 18, 2002 in Mumbai at the age of 85.





## Laapataa Ladies makes Japanese debut after Oscars' nod

**K**iran Rao's *Laapataa Ladies*, a heartwarming and humorous film set in rural India, continues its triumphant journey on the global stage. After being selected as India's official entry for the 2025 Oscars in the Best Foreign Film category, the film made its debut in Japan on October 4 under the title *Where Is The Bride*.

The entry into Japan marks a significant milestone for the movie, which has already captured the hearts of audiences at home in India and abroad.

Rao took to *Instagram* last week to share her excitement over the film's release in Japan, revealing glowing reviews from the screening. Among the highlights of the debut was one fan who arrived dressed in a red outfit, with her face covered, imitating the brides Phool and Jaya from the film.

The symbolism of this gesture resonated with the film's theme, further enhancing the connection between the Japanese audience and its compelling narrative.

*Laapataa Ladies* tells the tale of two brides who find themselves separated during a train journey, setting off a series of unexpected and complex events. The film is anchored by newcomers Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta, Sparsh Shrivastava, Chhaya Kadam, and Ravi Kishan.

Rao deliberately cast fresh faces in the lead roles to ensure an immersive experience for viewers. In an interview with *India Today*, she explained, "The story resonated with me because it centres on two girls searching for freedom and finding their voices. The fresh faces helped the audience forget they were watching a movie, and instead feel like they were witnessing a real-life incident."

This authenticity played a key role in the film's success, with audiences embracing its blend of humour and pathos. Despite a slow start at the Indian box office, *Laapataa Ladies* became a massive hit after its release on OTT platforms, quickly becoming one of the most-watched films online.

It also won the Best Film Critics' Choice Award at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2024 (IFFM), further solidifying its critical acclaim.

The screenplay and dialogue, penned by Sneha Desai, with additional contributions from Divyanidhi Sharma, brought Biplab Goswami's award-winning story to life. Presented by Jio Studios and produced by Aamir Khan Productions and Kindling Productions, *Laapataa Ladies* has consistently impressed both viewers and critics since its initial release in India in March 2024.

In Japan, the film's release marks a "full-circle moment" for Rao, who has long admired Japanese cinema and culture. She shared her thoughts on this personal milestone, stating:

"I'm thrilled that *Laapataa Ladies* is releasing in Japan. As an admirer of Japanese cinema, this feels like a full-circle moment. I've always had a deep interest in Japanese culture, and I hope the film's emotional core will resonate with Japanese audiences just as it did with ours."

She continued, "This release is a significant milestone for the film and showcases how cinema can bridge cultures through shared stories and emotions. It's surreal to see a film so close to my heart reaching new audiences. I'm thankful to Jio Studios and Aamir Khan Productions for extending the film's global reach. Taking it to Japan is an exciting next chapter."

Rao's passion for storytelling shines through in every aspect of *Laapataa Ladies*. The film's blend of mistaken identities, comic misadventures, and emotional depth has drawn comparisons to the works of classic Indian cinema, while also offering a fresh perspective on modern issues.

The narrative revolves around the search for identity and autonomy, with the two brides' journey symbolising the quest for freedom in a patriarchal society.

Critics have lauded the film's sensitive portrayal of its characters and the setting.

WION's Shomini Sen called *Laapataa Ladies* a "giant warm hug," noting that although the film has feminist undertones, it never vilifies the male characters or simplifies their roles.

"Rao creates a stunning world where everyone and everything is *nirmal* (gentle), much like the film's treatment and the place it's set in," wrote Sen.

The film's success in India and now Japan highlights its universal appeal, with its emotional core resonating across cultural boundaries. As it continues its journey towards the 2025 Oscars, *Laapataa Ladies* represents a powerful example of how cinema can connect audiences worldwide through shared stories, humour, and humanity.

Produced by Aamir Khan and Jyoti Deshpande, *Laapataa Ladies* is poised to leave an indelible mark not only on the Indian film industry, but also on international audiences. As it expands its reach, the film continues to gather momentum, blending rural Indian charm with global cinematic appeal.

For fans of Rao's work and admirers of heartfelt cinema, *Laapataa Ladies* stands as a beacon of storytelling that transcends borders, celebrating the complexities of life, love, and identity with warmth and humour.

With its latest success in Japan, Rao's vision of cultural bridging through film has come to fruition, leaving both audiences and critics eagerly awaiting its next chapter.



Kiran Rao



Japanese poster for *Laapataa Ladies*



Govinda

## Actor Govinda shoots self

**V**eteran Bollywood actor Govinda was rushed to Criticare Hospital in Juhu after accidentally shooting himself in the leg with his licensed revolver on October 1. The incident occurred in the early morning at his Juhu residence while he was preparing to leave for a flight to Kolkata.

The Mumbai Police confirmed that the 60-year-old actor suffered a bullet wound to his knee after the revolver misfired around 4:45 am.

According to Govinda's manager, Shashi Sinha, the actor was alone at home and getting ready to catch a 6:00 am flight when the accident occurred.

"Govindaji was about to leave his residence when the revolver accidentally fell from the cupboard and misfired," Sinha said, adding that "by God's grace, Govindaji sustained only a minor injury to his leg, and it wasn't more serious."

The actor was immediately taken to Criticare Hospital, where doctors successfully removed the bullet, and was later discharged.

In an audio message to his fans, Govinda expressed his gratitude, saying "I was hit by a bullet, but it has been extracted. I thank the doctors, and your prayers have kept me safe. The blessings of my fans, parents, and my guru saved me."

Despite the actor's account, Mumbai Police have maintained a cautious approach, noting that while preliminary evidence suggests no foul play, investigators are skeptical about some aspects of the incident.

Police sources revealed that Govinda's daughter, Tina Ahuja, has already been questioned, and further inquiries may involve the actor himself to clarify the sequence of events.

Initial reports stated that Govinda was cleaning his licensed revolver when it slipped and misfired, grazing his leg just below the knee. However, there are varying accounts about how the firearm was handled at the time of the shooting.

Govinda addressed the media after his discharge, describing his disbelief at the incident: "I couldn't believe it had happened. It is a deep wound, and I couldn't believe it had happened. I was getting ready for the show... It was in the morning, around 4:45 am. The revolver fell and misfired. I felt a shock and when I saw... there was a fountain of blood."

Urging the public not to speculate or link the incident to other concerns, Govinda added, "Let this be a lesson to remain a bit cautious. Please do not link this incident to something else or misunderstand it in any way. I thank everyone who prayed for me."

Mumbai police have since confiscated Govinda's firearm, and have initiated an investigation into the circumstances of the gun being fired.

While there are no official statements from Govinda's family, *The Indian Express* reported that his wife, Sunita Ahuja, was traveling to Mumbai at the time of the incident and headed directly to the hospital to be with her husband.

Govinda, known for his roles in hit films like *Coolie No. 1*, *Haseena Maan Jaayegi*, and *Saajan Chale Sasural*, has been a beloved figure in Indian cinema since the 1990s.

The actor recently made a political comeback by joining Maharashtra's ruling party, Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction), after a 14-year hiatus. His last appearance on the big screen was in the 2019 film *Rangeela Raja*, directed by Pahlaj Nihalani.

Following the incident, fans and colleagues in the Bollywood fraternity expressed relief that he was safe. He is expected to resume his commitments soon.

Meanwhile, the incident has since raised broader concerns about firearm safety and handling, especially among public figures in India.



# Kings ascend and Warriors fall

**Providence, Guyana** – Barbadians Roston Chase and Aaron Jones produced memorable performances to help the St Lucia Kings to an exciting six-wicket victory over the Guyana Amazon Warriors in Guyana on October 6. It was their first Caribbean Premier League title.

Noor Ahmad's three-wicket haul put the Kings in command after they won the toss and sent the defending champions in to bat, as they limited the Warriors to 138 for eight from their 20 overs.

With their side struggling at 51 for four in the tenth over, Player-of-the-Match Chase, who scored an unbeaten 39 together with Jones, who cracked 48 not out, added an unbroken 89 runs for the fifth wicket to help the Kings stroll to victory with 11 balls remaining.

After being sent in to bat on a slow surface at Providence Stadium, the Warriors never came to grips with the conditions.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz only lasted two balls before he picked out Faf du Plessis at mid-on to return with a duck with just one run on the board.

Moeen Ali and Shai Hope struggled during a 33-run partnership for the second wicket that required seven overs.

Hope was eventually out when he was bowled by Chase after scoring 22 off 24 balls.

Ali's torturous stay of 14 runs from 20 balls ended soon afterwards, when his intended sweep shot off Ahmad found the hands of Johnson Charles. At that point, the Warriors were being flanked with 45 runs on the board for the loss of three in the ninth over.

Wickets kept falling at crucial intervals, with Ahmad also accounting for Shimron Hetmyer for 11. Then pacer Matthew Forde took out Kevin Sinclair after he too scored 11, and Keemo Paul was caught behind off the bowling of Alzarri Joseph. In that moment, the Warriors were in difficult terrain, and perilously placed at 88 for six in the 17th over.

It took some major blade-work from Romario Shepherd and Dwaine Pretorius to add some semblance of respectability to the Warriors' total.

Pretorius struck two sixes and two fours

in scoring 25 from 12 balls, while Shepherd clobbered David Wiese for a six and four in the last over of the innings to finish unbeaten on 19 from only nine balls.

Ahmad, who was adjudged Player-of-the-Series, was the pick of the Kings' bowlers with 3-19 from his four overs.

The Kings' opening pair of du Plessis and Johnson Charles gave their side a decent start, scoring 23 runs inside the first four overs.

But once Charles inside-edged a delivery from medium pacer Romario Shepherd onto his leg stump and was gone for seven, things went downhill for the Kings.

Ali had du Plessis caught behind for 21, Akeem Auguste was bowled by off-spinner Kevin Sinclair for seven, and fast bowler Pretorius had Tim Seifert lbw after he made just three, as the Warriors collapsed to 51 for four in the tenth over.

Their dismissals brought Chase and Jones to the crease, and both batsmen started their innings cautiously.

At the end of the 15th over, the match seemed to be getting away from the Kings, who required 66 runs from 30 balls at a challenging run rate of 13.20 runs per over.

However, the pair responded perfectly by launching Ali for three sixes and two fours in the ensuing over that leaked 27 runs.

Jones then hit Pretorius for two sixes in the 17th over, while Chase added a boundary, as they took 20 runs from that over.

That brought the equation down to 19 runs from 18 balls, and Jones continued his impressive power hitting by clobbering Shepherd for a six and a four off consecutive deliveries in the next over to effectively end the contest.

Jones was left two runs short of a well-deserved half-century when with the scores tied, Imran Tahir's delivery was called a wide, sparking wild celebrations among the Kings' players and staff.

Chase finished unbeaten on 39 from 22 balls, inclusive of two sixes and two fours, while Jones' 48 not out boasted four sixes and two fours.

## Outage outrage puts TKR fans in dark mood

**Port-of-Spain** – Trinbago Knight Riders' elimination from the 2024 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League sparked widespread controversy following a dramatic nine-wicket loss to the Barbados Royals in the tournament's Eliminator.

The match, played at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, was marred by a two-hour delay caused by a floodlight failure, leading to a revised Duckworth-Lewis-Stern target that allowed the Royals to chase down 60 in just five overs.

Many TKR fans expressed frustration following the loss, with some calling for a rematch, while others leveled unfounded accusations of sabotage.

Thousands of fans also took to social media, voicing anger over what many described as an unfair result. They criticised the handling of the floodlight failure, and questioned the transparency of the match's continuation.

In a media poll conducted by the *Trinidad Express*, over 4,000 readers weighed in on whether a rematch should be held, with a significant number demanding a continuation of the match under fair conditions.

One commenter highlighted the unfairness of the situation, stating, "The question is had this happened to Guyana at their home ground, would they have taken this so? This is not a preliminary, it's a knockout match. It should be fair to both sides. Even if the lights didn't come back on, it would have been unfair to the Royals also."

Another frustrated fan wrote, "Yes, it should be a rematch, and if the Royals win, I will congratulate them because it will be a fair game, not what happened last night. Royals know TKR had them last night."

Other fans criticised the way the incident was handled, with one saying, "Tonight's game could have either held off for the morning or continued as per normal. This wasn't a freak incident; it was a stadium error, and our maintenance team took too long to fix it. TKR have been playing fiercely throughout the tournament, and I don't think they lost fairly. This entire situation caused shame upon our country, and some of us Guyanese do feel embarrassed about this."

One commenter pointed to the lack of a reserve day, writing, "There's such a thing as reserve days in cricket, especially for a match with such high stakes. The five-over reduced innings made a mockery of the tournament."

Had the match been abandoned due to the floodlight failure, TKR would have advanced to the finals by virtue of their higher standing after the group stage.

Among the vocal critics was TKR's star player Andre Russell, who posted his frustration on social media, saying, "I feel robbed of this light situation."

Russell's comments reflected the sentiments of many fans who felt the match should have been halted and rescheduled under fairer conditions.




Andre Russell



St Lucia Kings and support staff celebrate after winning the 2024 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League title at Providence Stadium on Sunday




Roston Chase (right) and Aaron Jones of the St Lucia Kings celebrate their victory over the Guyana Amazon Warriors on October 6



### BOOK LAUNCH - Mrs. Janet Jagan, Guyana's Freedom Fighter & Late Former President

Date: Tuesday, October 15th, 2024  
Time: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
Venue: Guyana Consulate  
505 Consumers Rd. Suite #707  
Toronto, ON



Book Signing by  
Nadira Jagan-Brancier  
(daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Jagan)

For Info: Devina Richmond: 416-494-6040 ext. 29  
Email: devina.richmond@guyanaconsulate.com





Hayley Matthews (left) and Deandra Dottin in a celebratory moment

## Matthews, Dottin praise ICC's equal prize \$

West Indies captain Hayley Matthews and all-rounder Deandra Dottin joined voices earlier this month in praise of the ICC's decision to introduce equal prize money for men's and women's competitions, the *Caribbean Media Corporation* reported.

The monumental step by the ICC came ahead of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024, and marked a significant moment for the tournament and the future of women's cricket.

The winners of this year's World Cup, which concludes on October 20, will take home USD \$2.34 million, while the runners-up will leave Dubai with \$1.17 million.

The total prize pool of \$7.95 million reflects a 225 percent increase from the previous edition of the tournament, positioning cricket as the only major team sport to offer equal prize money for both its men's and women's World Cup events.

Matthews was delighted with the move, saying it was a significant moment for women cricketers globally.

"It puts a lot of respect on the game. As professional cricketers, we work as hard as men do, so receiving equal prize money is a huge step forward," she declared.

Additionally, "It validates our efforts and the passion we bring to the game. Hopefully, this is just the beginning of more positive changes for women's cricket across the board."

Her sentiments were echoed by Dottin, who returned to the West Indies squad after a two-year absence.

Known for her explosive all-round abilities, Dottin also welcomed the ICC move, noting

that the shift reflected growing respect for women's cricket at the global level.

"It is great to see the ICC taking this step. It shows that women's cricket is being taken seriously, and that is a huge boost for players like us. We have always worked hard, and now we are seeing tangible recognition for that effort. This is a major move in the right direction."



Deepti Sharma

Meanwhile, a strong performance in the ongoing Women's T20 World Cup could propel Matthews to the top of the T20 batting rankings.

At the start of the tournament, Matthews was at the top ranked T20 all-rounder in the world, and third in the batting rankings behind Australia's duo of Beth Mooney and Tahlia McGrath.

She will need a strong performance if she is to become the first non-Australian to hold the top spot in three years.

In early October, just 22 points separated the top five batters, with Mooney currently leading the way on 757 points while McGrath was in second on 748 points.

Matthews is a further two points behind on a career-high 746, with India's Smriti Mandhana also in contention on 743, while Laura Wolvaardt is not far behind on 735.

However, Matthews comfortably sits at the top of the all-rounder rankings with 524 points, over a hundred more than second placed Ash Gardner of Australia.

Gardner is in second position on 415 points, India's Deepti Sharma in third on 396 points, Amelia Kerr of New Zealand at fourth on 387 points, while Chamari Athapaththu rounded off the top five on 330 points.

## NZ head to India for 3-match ODI series

New Zealand Women's team will visit India right away following the ongoing T20 World Cup final for a three-match ODI series in Ahmedabad, the cricket website, *Cricbuzz* reported earlier this week. The three games, due to be played on October 24, October 27, and on October 29 respectively, are a part of the ICC Women's ODI Championship 2022-2025.

New Zealand were due visit last year, but the series had to be pushed back due to the India's packed winter of 2023, which included a couple of one-off Tests against England and Australia, following the conclusion of the ninth edition of WBBL.

With Championship points on the line, both teams are expected to be full strength, meaning the A-listers will likely miss at least the first couple of rounds of their respective teams in WBBL 2024, which kicks off on the same date as the second ODI.

Six of India's players are headed to the Australian league this year, including vice-captain Smriti Mandhana. After the conclusion of the WBBL on December 1, India are also scheduled to play three ODIs against Australia from December 5 to December 11.

New Zealand are currently placed sixth in the ten-team IWC standings, having won only eight of their 18 ODIs this far.

India, by virtue of being hosts for the 2025 ODI World Cup, have automatic qualification for the mega event. In order to give the women's team exposure to maximum venues ahead of the showpiece event, the Board of Control for Cricket in India has decided to allot the games to the newly-built Narendra Modi Stadium.

Besides India, the top five teams in the IWC table will progress to the tournament proper, slated for October-November 2025, whereas the remaining four will have to go through the qualifiers to earn their place.

## Cricket Schedule

(Matches ALL TIMES LOCAL)

<p><b>Sunday September 15, 2024</b> Australia tour of England, 2024 <b>October 9, 2024</b> Bangladesh tour of India, 2024 India vs Bangladesh, 2nd T20I, Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi, 7:00 PM England tour of Pakistan, 2024 Pakistan vs England, 1st Test, Day 3, Multan Cricket Stadium, Multan, 10:00 AM <b>October 10, 2024</b> England tour of Pakistan, 2024 Pakistan vs England, 1st Test, Day 4, Multan CS, Multan, 10:00 AM <b>October 11, 2024</b> England tour of Pakistan, 2024 Pakistan vs England, 1st Test, Day 5, Multan CS, Multan, 10:00 AM <b>October 12, 2024</b> Bangladesh tour of India, 2024 India vs Bangladesh, 3rd T20I, Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad, 7:00 PM <b>October 13, 2024</b> West Indies tour of Sri Lanka, 2024 Sri Lanka vs WI, 1st T20I, Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium, Dambulla, 7:00 PM <b>October 15, 2024</b> England tour of Pakistan, 2024 Pakistan vs England, 2nd Test, Day 1, Multan CS, Multan, 10:00 AM West Indies tour of Sri Lanka, 2024 Sri Lanka vs West Indies, 2nd T20I, Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium, Dambulla, 7:30 AM <b>October 16, 2024</b> New Zealand tour of India, 2024 India vs New Zealand, 1st Test, Day 1, M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, 9:30 AM England tour of Pakistan, 2024 Pakistan vs England, 2nd Test, Day 2, Multan CS, Multan, 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>October 17, 2024</b> New Zealand tour of India, 2024 India vs New Zealand, 1st Test, Day 2, M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, 9:30 AM England tour of Pakistan, 2024 Pakistan vs England, 2nd Test, Day 3, Multan CS, Multan, 10:00 AM West Indies tour of Sri Lanka, 2024 Sri Lanka vs West Indies, 3rd T20I, Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium, Dambulla, 7:00 PM <b>October 18, 2024</b> New Zealand tour of India, 2024 India vs New Zealand, 1st Test, Day 3, M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, 9:30 AM England tour of Pakistan, 2024 Pakistan vs England, 2nd Test, Day 4, Multan CS, Multan, 10:00 AM <b>October 20, 2024</b> New Zealand tour of India, 2024 India vs New Zealand, 1st Test, Day 5, M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, 9:30 AM West Indies tour of Sri Lanka, 2024 Sri Lanka vs West Indies, 1st ODI, Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, Pallekele, 2:30 PM <b>October 21, 2024</b> SA tour of Bangladesh, 2024 Bangladesh vs South Africa, 1st Test, Day 1, Shere Bangla National Stadium, Dhaka, 9:30 AM <b>October 22, 2024</b> SA tour of Bangladesh, 2024 Bangladesh vs South Africa, 1st Test, Day 2, Shere Bangla National Stadium, Dhaka, 9:30 AM <b>October 23, 2024</b> West Indies tour of Sri Lanka, 2024 Sri Lanka vs West Indies, 2nd ODI, Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, Pallekele, 2:30.</p>
---	--

## Calypso History Month in Toronto

Saturday, October 19, 2024

1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Hosted by George Maharaj

Venue:

Consulate General of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago  
185 Sheppard Ave West, Toronto

To attend, please register by writing to [topcalypso@yahoo.com](mailto:topcalypso@yahoo.com) or calling 1-905-621-6157 on or before October 15, 2024

Oral presentations by four Calypso historians & Performances by:

The Crab and Callaloo Kaiso Band with Villaz and Mr. Wonderful Plus other artistes!

ADMISSION IS

**FREE**







# 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

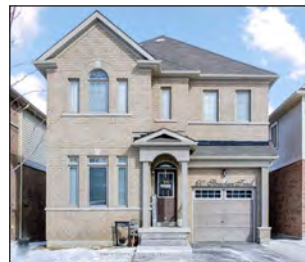
## Mississauga For Sale \$740,000

Location! Location!  
Location! Welcome to this beautifully well-kept 3 bedroom townhouse in the highly sought after neighbourhood of Malton. Home features large living and good-sized dining room. Large kitchen with stainless steel appliances & granite countertops. Walkout to your fully-fenced private backyard. Upstairs features 3 good-sized bedrooms and updated bathroom. Lower level features recreation room with additional storage area and walkout to your private garage. Close proximity to highways, public transit, Go, Westwood Mall, schools, library, airport, park, and community centre.



## Beeton For Sale \$1,139,000

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.



## Pickering Condo For Rent \$2,800

Location! Location! Location! Step into the world of modern elegance with this exquisite 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom home for lease in one of Pickering's new vibrant neighbourhoods. This unit boasts an updated, open-concept living space, perfect for entertaining and relaxation. The kitchen shines with stainless steel appliances and sleek design. Unit features beautiful wraparound balcony with extravagant views. Nestled in a desirable neighbourhood, this home provides unparalleled access to local schools, shopping, and entertainment options. The proximity to Pickering GO Station makes commuting a breeze, while Farm Boy and Pickering Town Centre are just a short walk away. Highway 401 access further enhances your connectivity to the greater Toronto area. Seize the opportunity to be part of this vibrant community. This brand-new unit is more than just a home; it's a gateway to a lifestyle of convenience, luxury, and charm! Don't miss out!!



## Ajax For Sale \$949,000

Location! Location! Location!  
Welcome to this BRAND NEW, NEVER LIVED IN modern 3 story 3 bedroom 3 bathroom townhouse in a highly sought-after neighbourhood in Ajax. The main floor beckons with its open-concept design, guiding you to a spacious second floor featuring a generous kitchen and breakfast area that overlooks the combined living and dining room. This seamlessly flows to a walk-out balcony, the third floor features 2 adequately-sized bedrooms with a large primary bedroom with 4 piece ensuite.



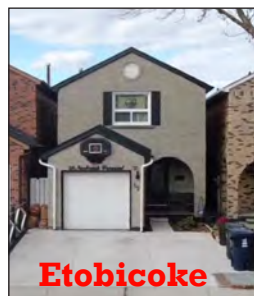
## Richmond & Jarvis Downtown Toronto Condo For Sale \$598,990

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.



## For Sale \$999,900

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



**Etobicoke**

## 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.



## SOLD FOR \$160K OVER ASKING!

**\$949,000**

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.



**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.



## 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



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