

DLP BARBADOS (CANADA) Newsletter



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Issue 7 – JUNE 2015

YEAR OF CHANGES

WELCOME TO THE NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER

DLP Barbados (Canada) extends to Her Excellency Yvonne Walkes, High Commissioner of Barbados, a warm welcome to Canada and we look forward to a successful working relationship. If you would like to contact The High Commissioner, she can be reached at:

High Commission for Barbados in Ottawa

55 Metcalf Street, Suite 470
Ottawa, ON K1P 6L5
Canada

1 (613) 236-9517

1 (613) 236-9518

Email: ottawa@foreign.gov.bb

Website: www.foreign.gov.bb

60th ANNIVERSARY CHURCH SERVICE



*Her Excellency Yvonne
Walkes and Consul General
Haynesley Benn*

DLP Barbados (Canada) joined St. Hilda's Anglican Church service on **Sunday, April 26, 2015** to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Democratic Labour Party. Her Excellency Yvonne Walkes, High Commissioner for Barbados in Canada and Haynesley Benn, Consul General of Barbados at Toronto were in attendance. Many came out to celebrate this important milestone in the Party's history. The service was followed by a coffee hour which included inspiring words from the Consul General, refreshments and fellowship. Similar 60th Anniversary services were held in Barbados and other countries. Thank you to all who came out to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of DLP.



Consul General of Barbados at Toronto

105 Adelaide Street West, Suite 1010, Toronto, ON M5H 1P9

Phone: (416) 214-9805

Website: <http://www.barbadosintoronto.com/the-consulate.html>

DLP Barbados (Canada) Inc.

P.O. Box 30088 Hawthorne, Milton, ON, L9T 0L8

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Democratic Labour Party (DLP) celebrated its 60th anniversary on April 27th, 2015. The success of the DLP during the past 60 years speaks to the policies that were put in place and are still in effect to this day such as the following:



- The democratization of the Education Process and free education
- The introduction of the National Insurance schemes
- The introduction of improved nutritional programs such as school meals
- Significantly improved Health Care
- The expansion and recognition of the tourism sector
- Voters share in governance through their constituency
- The development of the commercial sector
- Significant improvement in the provision of social services to all Barbadians and many other policies which affect the lives of all Barbadians

One cannot speak of the success of the Democratic Labour Party during this period without recognizing The Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, our first Prime Minister of Independence who was responsible for many of the policies which changed Barbados from a village to an economy and now to a society.

DLP Barbados (Canada) will host its 8th Annual Errol Barrow Memorial Dinner on September 19th, 2015 at the Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale Hotel in Mississauga, Ontario. The guest speaker will be The Right Honourable Freundel Stuart, Party President and Prime Minister of Barbados. Please reserve this date and join us at this Memorial Dinner.

Your branch continues to bring you the latest developments from DLP Barbados. I encourage you to come out and participate in our Annual General Meeting on June 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm located at Toronto Airport West Hotel in Mississauga. Our presenters have much to share with you.

April 1st started a new business year for DLP Barbados (Canada), and once again we have had a successful year. We thank you for your contributions and participation during the past year. We also thank Consul General Benn and Mrs. Benn for their hospitality and support. 2015 will be an exciting year of changes. Don't miss out.

Sincerely,

Reynold Austin

President, DLP Barbados (Canada) Inc.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE



DLP Barbados (Canada)'s Outreach Committee was formed to help create "A Brighter Future for All Barbadians". We are committed to improve the quality of life for Barbadians in Barbados and Canada. All financial donations to the Outreach Committee will be used to help fund specific

projects in Barbados such as donating school supplies, supporting the hospitals and patient care. The Outreach Committee is looking for the following donations: books, school supplies (e.g. pencils, pens, erasers, etc) computer software and hardware, art supplies, wheelchairs, walking canes, and other medical equipment. All other pertinent items are also welcomed.

Monetary donations can be made online at www.dlpbarbadoscana.com. Contact 416-287-8291 for more information.

DLP BARBADOS (CANADA) EVENTS FOR 2015

- **June 19** - AGM (Annual General Meeting) – Toronto Airport West Hotel, 5444 Dixie Rd, Mississauga – 7 pm
- **July 1** – Family Picnic – Mississauga Valley Park – 10 am
- **July** – Limin' Wid Dem – Location TBA
- **August** – BBQ – Location TBA
- **September 19** - 8th Annual Errol Barrow Memorial Dinner, Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale, 6750 Mississauga Rd, Mississauga, ON – 6 pm
- **November** – Branch Meeting – Location TBA

Visit www.dlpbarbadoscana.com for more details

2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES

A gentle reminder that 2015 Membership Dues were due by **April 1, 2015**. Membership dues can now be conveniently paid through our website! No more looking for stamps, licking envelopes and going to the post-office or mailbox. Save your cheques and have your membership dues paid up-to-date from the comfort and convenience of your home. Visit www.dlpbarbadoscana.com to pay your 2015 dues today. Membership dues may also be mailed to P.O. Box 30088 Hawthorne, Milton, ON, L9T 0L8. In order to not have your membership go into default, dues must be paid on or before **June 30, 2015**. Thank you to all who have already paid their 2015 dues.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2014-2015

- President – Reynold Austin
- 1st Vice President – Glyn Bancroft
- 2nd Vice President – Robin Wason
- Secretary – Jamila Jones
- Treasurer – Warren Holder
- Norma Byer
- Vicky Williams
- Merton Joseph Knight
- Alex Waithe
- Joyce Tull
- Collin Licorish
- Gordon Knight
- John Grimes
- Stephanie Austin
- Charles Gittens

CALENDAR OF BARBADIAN COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **May 23** - The Louis Albert Lynch Memorial Scholarship Awards Dinner & Dance
- **June 13** – Annual Barbados Ball
- **July 11** – Donald Moore Appreciation Brunch, 35 Danforth Road, Toronto (Barbados House)
- **July 18** – Barbados House Golf Tournament
- **Aug 22-23** – Annual Conference (Barbados)
- **September 5** – Annual BOCC Dinner
- **October 17** - St. Michael's Alumni Annual Dinner

WANT TO GIVE BACK? DONATE TODAY!

Want to make a donation to DLP Barbados (Canada) to help support Barbadians in Barbados and Canada?

Visit: www.dlpbarbadoscana.com today. All donations are welcomed and appreciated. Every dollar counts!

GENERAL SECRETARY, GEORGE PILGRIM THANKS TEAM CANADA



Dear Comrades,

The Democratic Labour Party (Canada) continues to be an important cog in the party's Diaspora wheel. Like its other Associate bodies in the United Kingdom and New York, the baby of the team has earned its stripes. The commitment of the Democratic Labour Party members in Canada is well illustrated by the President, Reynold Austin, in his annual Reports to the Party's Annual Conference.

The role of the Diaspora was just brought under the microscope as we hosted yet another successful 2014 conference at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre. This activity along with our efforts at outreach speaks to the agenda of the Democratic Labour Party in seeking to involve Barbadians wherever they reside.

The Party's constitution speaks to "... the sound, orderly and rapid development of Barbados and its people in the shortest possible time is the prime impulse of the Democratic Labour Party". This desire to see a better Barbados despite not living on the shores and making a living elsewhere should be commended. There is a particular value within each and every one of you who enlisted as a member

which speaks to service and commitment to your country and fellow Barbadians. This is why I chose this occasion to salute those members of the DLP Canada branch that have responded to the call for service and turned out for duty.

The benefits of politics to a country should best be represented by the difference that the elected officials make in the people they serve. Today, I can boldly say that this branch has made a difference in the political blood that flows through the veins of the Democratic Labour Party's body.

As General Secretary, on behalf of the President, Officers, and members of the Councils, I THANK YOU Team Canada for staying the course with the Democratic Labour Party as we navigate the many economic and political land mines of this period. The Democratic Labour Party is very appreciative of your efforts here in Canada and stand ready to further assist you in your expansion and outreach to Barbadians in all corners of this great land mass. May God continue to bless you Team Canada.

George Pilgram
General Secretary

PRESIDENT'S AWARD RECIPIENT FOR 2014



Steve Dowrich received the 2014 President's Award for Excellence. Steve, former Board member and Vice President of DLP Barbados (Canada), chaired the Policy Committee that made adjustments to more than twenty DLP Barbados (Canada) documents dealing with regulations and governance. His niche includes Strategic Planning, Organizational Review and Management Development, Board Governance, and Equity and Race Relations Issues in the Work Place. Steve Dowrich supports, mentors, and advises in any of the above areas. Congratulations Steve!

Annual Family Picnic – July 1, 2014



RECAP OF DLP BARBADOS (CANADA) SOCIAL EVENTS FOR 2014

Our Annual Picnic took place on July 1, 2014 at the E.T. Seton Park Thorncliffe Park, Toronto. The day started out with heavy rain showers in the morning, however, quickly turned around with some good Bajan sunshine and it turned out to be a gorgeous day. Just under 100 people attended the picnic and were treated with delicious food: macaroni pie, Bajan rice and peas, our famous Bar-B-Q Burgers, hot dogs and chicken. Excellent food and great company are always the key ingredients for a successful picnic and 2014's picnic was no exception. By all accounts, an enjoyable time was had by all. We look forward to seeing you at our next Picnic on July 1, 2015 at Mississauga Valley Park in Mississauga.

Limin' Wid Dem - November 21, 2014

Our annual Limin' Wid Dem was held on November 21, 2014 at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall, located at Victoria Park and St. Clair Avenue in Toronto. The attendees were welcomed by the Consul General of Barbados at Toronto, Mr. Haynesley Benn and the President of DLP Barbados (Canada), Mr. Reynold Austin. Everyone in attendance expressed what a good time they had. The evening's activities consisted of dominoes, cards, and games. Karaoke was of course a big hit. Even the Consul General took the stage to showcase his singing talents. Door prizes were plentiful also. Congratulations to all the winners. A huge thank you goes out to Larke Miller and Bryan Linton who prepared the appetizing dinner for the evening. The food was incredible and everyone enjoyed it. Join us for another enjoyable Limin' Wid Dem in 2015. Further details coming soon!

7th Annual Errol Barrow Memorial Dinner – September 20, 2014



On Saturday, September 20, 2014 our 7th Annual Errol Barrow Memorial Dinner was held at Sts. Paul and Peter Banquet Hall, in Scarborough. Our Party Leader and Prime Minister of Barbados, The Right Honourable Freundel Stuart, was our guest speaker for the evening. Consul General, Haynesley Benn and Consul Ferdinand Gill were in attendance for the evening. Susan G, Structure, and The Omari Trio provided the entertainment for the night. Guests danced the night away to the sounds of Phase 4 Sound Crew.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event a success. Your hard work, dedication and efforts are greatly appreciated. Make sure to join us for our 8th Annual Errol Barrow Memorial Dinner on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at the Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale located at 6750 Mississauga Road, Mississauga, ON. This year's event will be spectacular! Don't miss out on hearing our guest speaker, The Right Honourable Freundel Stuart, who will bring greetings and updates from Barbados.

Christmas Social at Consul General's House – December 13, 2014

Our Annual Christmas Social for the 2014-2015 Board members took place on Saturday, December 13, 2014 at the Consul General's residence. Board members and their spouses were invited to an evening of great conversation, excellent food, and Christmas carols. Santa Clause and Mrs. Clause made a special appearance and brought Christmas gifts for everyone. The event was catered by Kevin Jones, a talented chef who is also our secretary's husband. Thank you to Kathy-Ann Sandiford for assisting with the evening. The night was definitely a success.

We've got a fantastic year coming up. Don't miss out. Visit our website at www.dlpbarbadoscanda.com for updates and more information!

AN OLD BARBADIAN DIASPORA COMMUNITY REMEMBERED

By: Steve Dowrich

The year 2014 marked the 100th Anniversary of the completion of the Panama Canal in 1914. There was much fanfare to commemorate this ground breaking engineering accomplishment and its contribution to mercantile and naval shipping, and Barbadians were highly recognized for the role they played.

The impetus to embark on the Panama Canal undertaking was directly due to the earlier success of the construction of the 14 mile, man-made, Suez Canal in Egypt, some 20 years earlier. That project, like the Panama Canal, was to find a way to shorten some sea routes – which reduced time and costs. Travel by sea was still the principal means of international trade, military activity and civilian passenger movement.

So jubilant were the French engineers who built the Suez and the financiers who made it possible that, a celebration to mark this historic occasion included an invitation to the great composer Verdi to develop a musical composition to match “the times”.

Optimism spread across Western Europe. The great opera *Aida* was the result.

The 56 mile canal contemplated in the Americas, would be four times longer than the Suez and being situated in the tropics, European engineers had to deal with a hostile terrain of jungle and swamp combined with sweltering heat. This oppressive environment proved to be an enormous challenge as a mosquito-borne strain of malaria, created a heavy human toll as death and debilitating sickness emerged. It also decimated the project’s labour force, threatened project curtailment at worse, and caused significant delays and increased costs over runs, at best. The project managers (Americans by then, who took over from the French) eventually conceded that manpower, indigenous to the local conditions, might be the solution.

A significant number of Barbadians played a vital role in building this alternate sea route that

linked the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

When the canal was finally completed, there was still a continuing need for that type of labour force to construct and maintain the infrastructure that stemmed from this new enterprise in the Canal Zone.



Many Barbadians stayed on and settled in Panama raising their families and creating a sense of community. Their remittances to Barbados were needed and appreciated.

In the post slavery period, the Barbadians who settled in Panama might very well have been one of the early, if not the first, Diaspora

Communities, long before the heavy, and

then trickling, migration to England, the United States, and later to Canada, during, and after, World War II.

The blossoming new Diaspora populations, now much larger than the one in Panama, is credited to the casualties of the war and the major re-construction that followed in all three countries. Migrant workers from the Caribbean may no longer be an important factor, but after Verdi’s *Aida*, the potential embarrassment in this South American Isthmus was averted by the hands, courage, and resilience of the Caribbean workers, including Barbadians. Another musical composition, this time by a regional (Caribbean) artist, may be a fitting way to conclude the 100 Year Anniversary of the completion of the Panama Canal.

Steve Dowrich, is a Management Consultant and former Board member of DLP Barbados (Canada) who resides in Oakville, Ontario.

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