



Patron: His Excellency  
the Governor General  
Sir Cuthbert Sebastian  
G.C.M.G., O.B.E., C.M., M.D.

# HERITAGE

*The Newsletter of the St. Christopher National Trust*

Newsletter # 4

July - September 2010

## THE YOUTH ARM OF THE ST. CHRISTOPHER NATIONAL TRUST IS LAUNCHED



On July 15<sup>th</sup>, along with the launch of the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP) Reef Monitoring Project being undertaken by the St. Christopher National Trust, the Youth Arm of the National Trust was announced. As it is expected that many aspects of the project will be implemented by young people, this combined launch was thought to be timely and appropriate. Although this Project is intended to focus on building capacity and increasing awareness among young people of the importance of marine resources of our Country, the Youth Arm will be expected to extend its interest and activities to other areas related to our natural and cultural heritage. The group that seeks to include individuals and

representation from other youth organizations has already met several times and has produced a logo. Recognizing the need to teach basic swimming skills, efforts are in progress to encourage this. Two young certified divers have received training in reef monitoring and evaluation methods.

Two swimmers from among the group have already received Dive Certification thanks to sponsorship from the Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park Society. Both Pro Divers in St. Kitts and Scuba Safaris of Nevis have given major discounts to allow this to happen. Additional funding and opportunities will have to be found to ensure that the young people build their knowledge and confidence as they seek to relate more closely with the sea and reef systems along our coastline. A trip to Buccoo Reef in Tobago for two members is presently being organised through the efforts of

Dr. Halla Sahely with the Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) Project.

Of particular note is a relationship that is presently being built up between the Science Department of the Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College and the SCNT via its Youth Arm. Recognizing the critical role the College has in developing the future scientists and educators of our Nation, Dr. Leighton Naraine, Vice Principal and lecturer in Geography and Environmental Studies has been instrumental in encouraging his young staff and students in becoming members of the Trust and to thereby benefit from projects and experiences being offered.

The National Trust is very excited about this development and hopes that the Youth Arm will grow and become an engaging voice in the understanding and projection of our country's heritage resources. If our young people become activists in the protection and development of our Country there is no doubt it will move forward in a way that will do us all proud. The Board and the membership of

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***OUR HERITAGE BELONGS TO ALL OF US***

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*St. Christopher National Trust  
P.O. Box 888, Bay Road  
Basseterre, St. Kitts  
Tel/Fax (869) 465-5584  
Email: schs@sisterisles.kn  
Website: stkittsheritage.com*

the National Trust wish the Youth Arm all the very best.

For more information contact:

***The Youth Arm***

***The St. Christopher National Trust  
Bay Road, Basseterre, St. Kitts,  
Eastern Caribbean  
Phone/Fax: 869-465-5584***



**THE GEF/SGP REEF MONITORING PROJECT  
ADVANCES**



***The Project Management Committee in meeting***

Work on the GEF/SGP Reef Monitoring Project has advanced over the last few months. Launched in July, all the dives to collect data and take photos have been completed. Fortunately this was done early in the Hurricane Season as since the passage of Earl in August the weather has deteriorated badly with several bouts of wind, rain and high seas.

rain and high seas.

Jason Phillip who headed the Reef Monitoring component of the Project has submitted his report to the Monitoring and Evaluation Team lead by Mr. Leighton Naraine of the CFB College.

The Public Education component has been ongoing and a brochure, poster Heritage Matters Worksheet and video will subsequently be produced.

To all those who have been involved with the project we are most grateful. The Project is being coordinated by the SCNT's Environmental Specialist, Kate Orchard.

## ***The Historic Basseterre Sugar Factory to be demolished!***

The following letter addressed to the Prime Minister and Minister of Sustainable Development was delivered on July 29th. On hearing that the company hired to do the demolition had begun work, the SCNT informed the general public of its findings in an interview with WINNFM, an independent radio station on which is regularly interviewed. It subsequently placed the letter, which speaks for itself, on its website (*www.stkittsheritage.com*) and has conducted numerous interviews with media houses that were interested in following up on the story.

A response from the Prime Minister was received on September 27th.

Dr. The Hon. Denzil Douglas  
Prime Minister and Minister of Sustainable  
Development etc  
Government Headquarters  
Basseterre

July 28, 2010

Dear Prime Minister,

### **Re: The St. Kitts Sugar Factory**

At a meeting convened by the Permanent Secretary of Agriculture, Mrs. Hermia Morton Anthony, held on July 14<sup>th</sup> 2010 at the conference room of that Ministry to discuss matters related to the heritage sites scheduled in the St. Christopher National Trust Act, the President and Executive Director learnt for the first time of the decision by your Cabinet to sell all the machinery and equipment owned by SSMC at the St. Kitts Sugar Factory (SKSF) to a foreign company as scrap! Although we had heard public statements made by your Government that, conscious of its history and association with the economic and social development of the People of the country, the site would be preserved as a 20<sup>th</sup> Century Sugar Museum, this most recent information had never been conveyed to us at any time.

In 2006 the then St. Christopher Heritage Society had been asked to submit a proposal for the site's future use (copy enclosed) and we had been part of discussions in 2006 for the SKSF rehabilitation as a Museum at a meeting held at the Ministry of Agriculture by the then Minister Mr. Cedric Liburd and his PS Mr. Ian Liburd. After that we heard nothing further and in spite of inquiries made we were not able to gain any

insight into what was planned for the site until the meeting a couple weeks ago. Needless to say we could not help but express our dismay and outrage about this new development. Others at the meeting also express their concern and immediately a meeting was set up to tour the site the following week.

To dismantle and demolish the Factory and export its parts seemed to us a travesty and totally incompatible with the development of a social consciousness and understanding of our past that is so fundamental to the physiological growth and identity of a people. Indeed the creation of a Museum at the site would be further evidence of the Government's stated objective of making the Country a premier Heritage Tourism destination. The dismantling of its extremely valuable parts would present a serious blow to the economic diversification programme that this Country has embarked upon. Also, the potential of it becoming a Museum with the re-absorption of the former sugar industry workers into the economy would be lost. The spin-off of the rehabilitation of the SKSF as a Museum and other economic activities associated with it could only benefit the Nation as a whole.

Of enormous additional concern is the fact that already, certain major industrial artefacts at the site have been unnecessarily damaged (perhaps destroyed beyond repair) through the ignorance of persons associated with the recent clearing of land by the Department of Electricity to accommodate new electrical generators. These and other activities diminish the value of the

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site and its legacy to the people of St. Kitts in particular.

The social history associated with this site cannot be overstated. We are in the process of collecting the speeches of our first National Hero and other documentation regarding the management and acquisition of the SKSF, and no one can deny the critical role it played in the development of the St. Kitts Nevis Trades and Labour Union from which your Party evolved. There is hardly a family in St. Kitts that has not been touched in some way by the activities that took place at the SKSF. We are in the process of interviewing some of the persons whose lives were indelibly touched by their sugar factory work experience. The sites physical industrial remains are of lasting heritage and *financial* value. To destroy this is to destroy and obliterate the proud history of a People who have endured.

Prime Minister, we appeal to the good conscience of your Government to reconsider the sale of the contents of the St. Kitts Sugar Factory and to consider possible alternatives to the decision you and your colleagues have taken. We are prepared to work with you in finding a solution and way forward. We trust that this letter will not fall on deaf ears. Our Board hopes that we can meet to discuss this momentous matter further.

Yours respectfully,  
S.W.T. Seaton, Q.C.  
President

c.c. Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Tourism, Minister of Education, PS Agriculture  
Archivist Mrs. V. O'Flaherty

**THE RESPONSE FROM  
THE PRIME MINISTER  
Received on 27th September, 2010.**

September 14th, 2010

S.W.T Seaton Q.C  
President  
St. Christopher National Trust  
P.O. Box 888, Bay Road  
Basseterre, St. Kitts

Dear Sir,

**Re: The St. Kitts Sugar Factory**

The Honourable Prime Minister acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 28th July 2010 with reference to the captioned subject.

The Honourable Prime Minister is unaware of a Cabinet decision to sell all the machinery and equipment owned by SSMC at the Basseterre Sugar Factor to foreign company.

The Labour Administration is well aware of the importance of the Basseterre Sugar Factory to the social and psychological growth of our people. The Honourable Prime Minister appreciates the concerns of the Heritage Society and will do everything to preserve the legacy of our people.

Best regards

Beverly Knight (Ms)  
Snr. Assistant Secretary  
Office of the Prime Minister

***The St. Christopher National Trust  
to hold it first Annual General Meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010***

For the past 11 months, the Council of the St. Christopher Heritage Society (SCHS), elected at the final Annual General Meeting (AGM) in July 2009, has acted as a Transitional Board of the St. Christopher National Trust (SCNT). On October 27<sup>th</sup>, at the first annual general meeting to be held by the SCNT, the Board composed according to the dictates of the St. Christopher National Trust Act, will be put in place. Of this thirteen member Board, seven will be elected from among the membership of the Trust, while two will be appointed from the non-governmental sector (i.e. The Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park Society and the SKN Chamber of Industry and Commerce). The four remaining members will be representatives of different Government Ministries, namely Sustainable Development, Education, Culture and Tourism.

Life members and those other members who have paid their dues for 2010 will be eligible to vote and be elected to the Board. **All members of the Trust are urged to attend and participate in the AGM on Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of October. The meeting begins at 5 pm and will be held at the National Trust's Office in the National Museum Building.**

# Heritage Update

**July 1<sup>st</sup>:** ED met with Mr. Dwight Francis of the Government Lands & Survey Department to discuss the survey of the 4 heritage sites to be managed by the SCNT.

- ♦The ED and Project Coordinator Kate Orchard linked up with the Regional GEF Office in Barbados to participate in an online Project Inception Workshop related to the management of the GEF/SGP Reef Monitoring Project being undertaken by SCNT.
- ♦A SCNT Youth Arm meeting was held.

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>:** The ED attended the SKN Marine Zone Planning Project meeting at OTI.

**July 5<sup>th</sup>:** The ED attended the OAS Civil Society meeting in St. Lucia.

**July 13<sup>th</sup>:** SCNT Board Meeting

**July 14<sup>th</sup>:** The President, Tapley Seaton and ED met with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and other officers to discuss the Heritage Sites for management by the SCNT.

**July 15<sup>th</sup>:** Launch of GEF SGP Reef Monitoring Project and the SCNT Youth Arm.

**July 20<sup>th</sup>:** Kate Orchard attended a Multiple Use Marine Zoning Project meeting..

**July 21<sup>st</sup>:** The ED attended a Steering Committee meeting for the Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management Project at the Physical Planning Unit.

**July 22<sup>nd</sup>:** The ED attended a Sustainable Financing Mechanism meeting.

- ♦The Museum Manager, Jacqueline McCleave attended a History and Heritage Week Committee meeting at the Brimstone Hill Office at Taylor's Range.

**July 26<sup>th</sup>:** The President, Austin Gumbs and the ED visited the Basseterre Sugar Factory for a tour by SSMC manager Mr. Reginald George.

**July 27<sup>th</sup>:** The Museum Manager, Jacqueline McCleave attended a Media Launch of 2010 Cruise Schedule Booklet at the arrival building at Port Zante by the Tourism Authority.

- ♦ Board meeting held for August because of members taking off island vacation leave.

**July 28<sup>th</sup>:** The ED attended the public launch of the 6th Phase of the Basic Needs Trust Fund Programme.

**July 29<sup>th</sup>:** The ED held a meeting with the Youth Arm Executive.

**August 4<sup>th</sup>:** Project Management Committee (PMC) Reef Monitoring Project meeting.

**August 5<sup>th</sup>:** Kate Orchard had a meeting with a Bat Research team from Ross University.  
♦Youth arm had a meeting.

**August 9<sup>th</sup>:** Kate Orchard met with Halla Sahely of the Water Department in relation to members of the Youth Arm visiting Buccoo Reef in Tobago.

**August 10<sup>th</sup>:** Kate Orchard attended the Sea Turtle Summer Camp on behalf of the SCNT.

**August 12<sup>th</sup>:** ED attended a Multi Use Marine Zoning meeting in Nevis.

**August 16<sup>th</sup>:** The ED interviewed Mr. Lindsay Cogan, former manager of the Basseterre Sugar Factory at this home.

**August 18<sup>th</sup>:** Kate Orchard met with Dr. Naraine, Deputy Principal at the CFB College to discuss a partnership with the College and his participation in the Monitoring and Evaluation of the GEF SGP Reef Monitoring Project.

**26<sup>th</sup> August:** PMC for Reef Monitoring Project met.

**September 7<sup>th</sup>:** Youth Arm meeting

**September 8<sup>th</sup>:** Vice President Schneidman Warner and ED met with the VAT Department at Brimstone Hill Office.

- ♦The ED met with Curriculum Director Ruth Thomas to discuss the incorporation of History into the Primary School Curriculum.

♦ED attends a Sustainable Land Management Project meeting;

**September 9<sup>th</sup>:** The ED attended a Marine Zoning Project (MZP) meeting.

- ♦ED is interviewed on WinnFM Heritage Matters Programme about the proposed demolition of the Basseterre Sugar Factory.

**September 13<sup>th</sup>:** The ED had an interview with a journalist of the News Link newspaper regarding the issue of the demolition of the Basseterre Sugar Factory.

**September 14<sup>th</sup>:** SCNT Board Meeting

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>:** A GEF SGP Project Management Committee meeting was held.

**September 23<sup>rd</sup>:** The ED attended a MZP meeting at the Ocean Terrace Inn

**September 28<sup>th</sup>:** Project Coordinator for the GEF SGP Reef Monitoring Project, Kate Orchard met with Emma Griggs of the Ross University.

# National Museum Update

The last quarter has been very quiet with regards to visitors. Bronte Welsh and Violet Petty Primary Schools were the only two schools that visited before the summer vacation began. However, we were visited by a few older students who preferred to take another look around the exhibits rather than shop with their parents! French Students from Guadeloupe attending summer camp here made a special visit to the Museum as part of their programme.

During this time staff took vacation leave so as not to impact the new tourism season when it starts in October. The upgrade of The Story of Sugar Exhibit was finally completed and plans were put in place to begin a refurbishment exercise on other displays especially the one on Carnival. Most of the refurbishment involved the replacement of photos and text that had been destroyed by water. This rainy season has been fierce and several new leaks have appeared in the building.

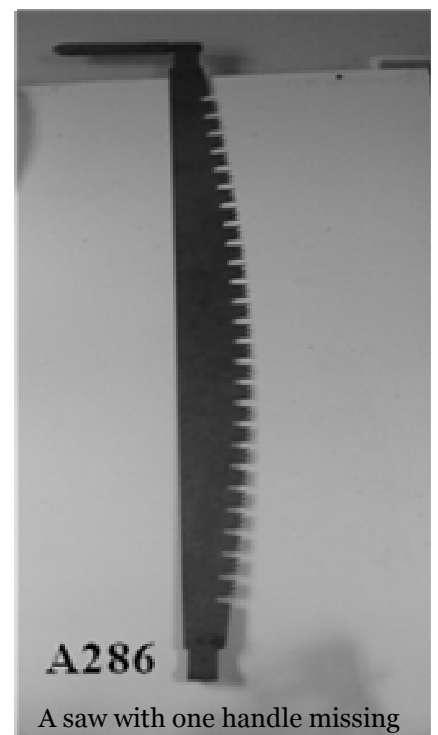
Two new objects have been received from Mr. Bernard Morton, a wooden cattle yoke and a long two handle saw. These items were retrieved from his workplace at the Public Works Department where they were to be thrown out. We are most grateful to him for thinking of their usefulness to us. It is thoughtful people like him that have made contributions to the Museum that allow us to mount the exhibitions we have.

Special thanks must also go to Gil Schneider, Overseas Life Member, who has kindly translated our Museum Brochure into German.

It has been decided by management that the price of entrance for foreign visitors to the Museum will go from US\$2 to US\$3 beginning October 1. Locals will continue to pay EC\$5 or US\$2. Members of the SCNT enter free as do students in uniform and children under the age of 12.

## NEW ACQUISITIONS FOR THE MUSEUM

**A Yoke**— a piece of wood fastened over the necks of two animals and attached to a plough or cart in order for them to pull.



# Mutki Research & Documentation Centre (MRDC)



## New Reference Items & donations

**Green Paper: National Plan for the protection of underwater Cultural Heritage.** Published by the working group of the Technical Coordination Committee of the Historical Heritage Council in 2009

**Journal of the Commissioners for Trade and Plantation** (January 1768-December 1775 R942 073) Preserved on the public record office. Issued by the authority of the Lord of Commission of his Majesty's Treasury under the direction of the Master of the Rolls. Published by His Majesty's Stationery Office 1937.

**#1 Cultural heritage protection handbook** (Security at Museums) by UNESCO

**#2 Cultural heritage protection handbooks** (Care and Handling of Manuscripts) by UNESCO

**#3 Cultural Heritage Protection Handbook** (Documentation of artifact's Collections) by UNESCO

**Multiple documents of the St. Christopher & Nevis Government Gazettes**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### Resident Student Members

Leonardo King, Ninian Cameron-Blake, Leah Cameron-Blake, Melanie Dupre, Nicholas Dupre, Tasha Hendrickson, Tristley Bassue, Randell Thompson, Quincy Edwards, Demetre Allen, Keniqua David, T'Keymah Edwards.

### Overseas Student Members

Danielle LaPlace

### Resident Ordinary Member

Fran Pope, Kevin Horstwood, Amanda Laftis.

### Overseas Corporate Member

Sons and Daughters of St. Christopher

## THANK YOU

*Contributors to the SCNT &*

*National Museum*

Schneidman Warner, Arthur Leaman, Kate Orchard, Jacques Cramer, Dessie Henry, Sir Probyn Inniss, Denzel Crooke, National Archives, Vicky O'Flaherty, George Stouter, Lindsay Cogan, Earnest Wigley, Winston Lake, Bernard Morton, Sons and Daughters of St. Christopher .

## NEED'S LIST

- A small fridge
- A photocopier
- A flat file cabinet for storing posters, maps etc.
- An audio visual display cabinet (for displaying CD's, DVD's etc)

# SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE ST. CHRISTOPHER NATIONAL TRUST

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Membership Fees 2010:

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Life Member: \$1000 Resident/\$1400 (Overseas)

**OUR HERITAGE BELONGS TO ALL OF US!**



*P.O. Box 888  
Bay Road, Basseterre,  
St. Kitts, Eastern Caribbean  
Tel/Fax (869) 465-5584  
Email: [schs@sisterisles.kn](mailto:schs@sisterisles.kn)  
[www.stkittsheritage.com](http://www.stkittsheritage.com)*