



JCAA NEWSLETTER

Jamaican Canadian Association Alberta

New Executive

At our last Annual Membership meeting last October, New members of the Executive were elected.

The new President, Dudley Morgan, on behalf of the new members of the Executive and other members of the Association, thanked past President Donovan Simon and his team as well as all members of the Association past and present, for the excellent work they have done in bringing the Association to its present position since it was formed over 25 years-ago.

The members of the new executive are:



City of Calgary

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Membership Secretary
Asst. Membership Secretary
Youth Coordinators

Public Relations Officer
Social Convener

Immediate Past President

Dudley Morgan
Carol Boeth
Cleve Dawkins
Jenni Jackman
Bernice Bramwell
Violet Morrison
Faith Greaves
Leisa Sangster
Bob Arthurs
Karen Thorpe-Cochrane
Ewart Russell
Donnovan Simon

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Special points of interest:

- JCAA seeks to acquire its own property in 2010
- Taste of Jamaica 2010 will be Spectacular
- JCAA embarks on ambitious strategic planning in 2010
- New face of the JCAA Newsletter
- Logo and Branding competition
- High visibility for JCAA in 2010
- Volunteers wanted

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Message from The President



Welcome to the New Year.

My personal wishes and the wishes of the executive is that you and your respective

families will enjoy a prosperous, safe and healthy 2010.

Wow! We are already at the end of the first month, so if we think about it, there are

only 335 days remaining in the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to zero in on what I would like to term: *The*



The President (cont'd)

Power of Effective Leadership and the Power of Volunteerism. Recently under the guidance, leadership and direction of Donovan Simon, JCCA immediate past president, thirty four volunteers provided services for the January 2010 Casino Event.

Special appreciation must be extended to Donovan and this team serving in the

positions of cashiers, bankers, chip runners, count room staff and general managers.

We are now engaged in planning for **Taste of Jamaica Expo 2010**, and with the coordinating effort of Karen Thorpe-Cochrane and a team of the executive members, things are shaping up for a good event on April 3rd.

Without the consistent help of volunteers there will be no successful outcome in any of our events.

We are asking for dedicated and committed volunteers to serve on the following Committees: Taste of Jamaica, Finance, Building, Events/Entertainment, Youth, Strategic Planning and Constitution Revision.

Finding a Home for the JCAA



The new Executive has made finding a home for our Association a top priority. The efforts of past officers of the Association are highly recognized in their efforts toward this goal. Much groundwork has been done and available funds are in place. The search is on for a suitable

place. We investigated the Shephard project, have had professional advice on the matter, and have decided to look elsewhere. We are in the process of forming a Building Committee, We realize that we have valuable resources in some of our past members, including past Presidents,

"Much groundwork has been done and available funds are in place. "

and are appealing to them as well as other members, to volunteer for this committee

Taste of Jamaica 2010



The planning and organizing of Taste of Jamaica 2010 is underway.

Taste of Jamaica 2010 will be held on Saturday, April 3, 2010. We are currently soliciting sponsors and vendors and are seeking volunteers to help at this event. We are also looking for performers to volunteer their talents at this event.

Earthquake in Haiti

We are all saddened by the news of the devastation in Haiti and the resulting suffering of our brothers and sisters. We have sent a message to Urbain Loussaint of the Haitian Association of Calgary to convey our condolences to the people of Haiti on behalf of all Jamaicans living in the Calgary area. We also assured him of our support towards alleviating the sufferings of our

brothers and sisters in Haiti. We are currently working on providing that support. In the meantime, we are encouraging all members of the Association to make a donation using the many charitable organizations involved in this disaster's relief.



Rescue efforts in Haiti





CPS Community Recruiting Efforts

In November last year, we received a request from Constable Lawrence Cross of the Calgary Police Service (CPS) Diversity Unit for volunteers from the Jamaican Community to assist with the process for recommending and selecting new police officers for the CPS.

He received excellent response from Jamai-

cans in Calgary, and was quite pleased with our response.

Constable Cross is looking forward to an invitation to attend one of our general meetings in the near future.



World Poetry Festival

Calgary Multicultural Centre has extended an invitation to the Jamaican Community to participate in a poetry festival to be held in Calgary on March 21 – World Poetry Day.

The event will be organized to promote international poetry and increase the visibility of poets from various parts of the world. We replied that we are willing to participate and is awaiting further instructions

Upcoming Events

Black Gospel Concert	February 13, 2010	Jubilee Auditorium
Guyana Independence Dinner	February 20, 2010	Lady of Fatima Hall
ACCC Conference	February 27, 2010	TBA
Canyon Creek Festival	March 13, 2010	Canyon Creek Gym Mindapore
Taste of Jamaica	April 3 rd . 2010	Thornccliffe Community Centre

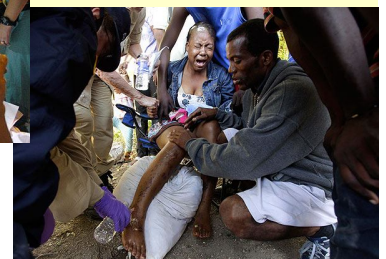
Good News from Jamaica

A contingency of doctors and nurses escorted by members of the Jamaica Defense Force (JDF) were among the first group of relief personnel to arrive in Haiti after the recent earthquake.

The medical team worked tirelessly to provide medical assistance to their in-

jured brothers and sisters.

Members of the JDF provided security and other support for the medical team. They were also instrumental in the efforts to retrieve survivors from the devastated buildings. (Jamaica Gleaner)



International Medical efforts in Haiti

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*"Serving the Jamaican Community with
Excellence, Credibility and Integrity through
effective programming"*



The Jamaican Canadian Association Alberta began in 1982. Today the organization promotes the Jamaican culture to the city of Calgary and its environs through promotional activities and provides support to members of the Jamaican community on an as needed basis.

The Jamaican Canadian Association Alberta's work over the years has included planning and staging functions which relate to the national heritage in Jamaican immigrants to Canada. Notable are the annual Taste of Jamaica extravaganza and the Jamaica Independence Day Celebrations.

The Jamaican Canadian Association Alberta also offers information and referral services, and works to educate the community about *including Jamaican immigrants and visible minorities*. It is widely recognized for its advocacy work in the city and the province to improve public policy and keep *Jamaican immigrants and visible minorities' issues* in the hearts and minds of decision-makers, donors and volunteers. 



JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION ALBERTA



Milestones

Longtime and loyal Association member Olive Lewis recently lost her sister. She was visited by two members of the association who presented her with a bouquet of flowers and a card and offered condolences on behalf of the members of the Association. They were well received.

Members of the Executive also offered condolences on behalf of the Association to President Morgan whose cousin Ronald died recently in Edmonton after a long illness. President Morgan expressed his gratitude to the membership for their concern.

Invest in Jamaica's Children

Mountain Movers Children's Club of Mosquito Valley, Red Hills District in St. Andrew is in need of chairs and art supplies and items for prizes.

Norma Ellis (ackee@telusplanet.net) is coordinating the efforts for funding donation to purchase chairs and to collect items for the club from those of us who are interested in donating.

Should you be interested in donating funds for chairs, please write your cheques to JCAA, indicating in the memo section: *Mountain Movers Children's Club*. One cheque would then be written for



all the funding donations.

Please consider donating pencils, pens, erasers, story books (Christian as well as non-Christian) and yarn.