

The BUXTON-FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS



Where the Present Meets the Past

April 2010

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY & HERITAGE

APRIL 1840
 APRIL 2010
 Celebrating 170 Years!

This month marks the 170th anniversary of the purchase of the former cotton plantation, Orange Nassau, by 128 former slaves who renamed it Buxton in honour of the British abolitionist Thomas Fowell Buxton.

Eusi Kwayana, in his compilation, Buxton-Friendship in Print & Memory notes: "The buying and development of Buxton and Friendship by pioneers, who had been enslaved, was not simply a buying of land by persons once owned by others. It was one event which was part of

a larger episode known as the Village Movement".

This Movement began in November 1839 when 83 men and women pooled \$10,000 to purchase Plantation Northbrook, also located on the East Coast of Demerara, six miles east of Buxton. They renamed the estate Victoria, presumably in honour of the reigning British monarch, Queen Victoria.

Buxton was the second village purchased, and this was in April of 1840, for a sum of \$50,000. The following

year, they purchased the adjacent plantation, Friendship, and amalgamated the two estates to establish one community.

The milestone reached by Buxton this year comes at a very crucial time in the history of our village. Starting on 24th July, hundreds of us, sons and daughters of the village, are expected to come home and join in giving thanks to our ancestors, celebrate our rich and illustrious heritage and leave a legacy of goodwill for generations to follow.

Show is on SUNDAY May 2nd 3:00 p.m.

Please note that the Grand Variety Show will take place on **Sunday, May 2, 2010** from **3:00 p.m.** at Catherine McCauley High School

Auditorium, Brooklyn, NY.

On the ticket, the day was inadvertently printed as Saturday and the starting time

was omitted. This error was not caught before the tickets went on sale, and we sincerely regret any inconvenience this might cause.

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Highlights

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- Spotlight on young Candace Austin
- Improvement Work in Buxton
- Buxton Ball set for The Georgetown Club
- Hemraji Tiwari, Compton Samuels and Galton Lewis
- Imogene Williams, the Creative Designer behind Buxton's Mash 2010

PURPOSE, PROMISE & PRIDE

by Dr. C. Quintin Bacchus

In our spotlight on young Buxtonians who continue to carry the torch of our illustrious legacy, we present Miss Candace Austin, a young lady with a strong sense of purpose, promise and pride. She is the eldest daughter of Carl Austin and Cheryl Glen, and she now resides in Brooklyn, New York, USA.

Prior to her migration to the United States at age 17, Candace attended St. Stanislaus College in Georgetown, Guyana.

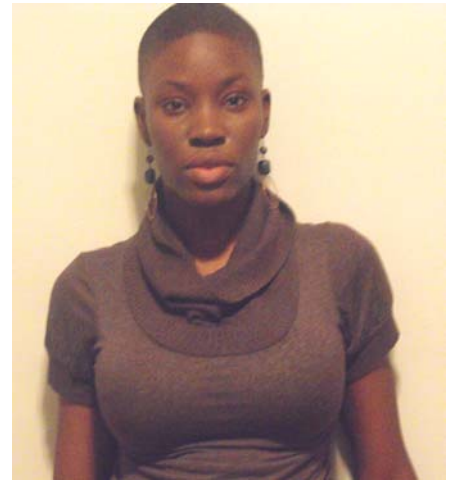
She still remembers the rich traditions of Buxton. These cherished rituals and mores have become the bedrock of her every mission as she pursues a B.A. degree in Cross Cultural Literature and a minor in Women's Studies at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, NY. Currently, she is working on a children's novel that she plans to publish this year. Her long term goal is to earn a doctoral degree in Cross Cultural Literature and to become a professor.

When asked to describe the things that make her proud of her Buxton Heritage she ingeniously articulates, "I would say our traditional African culture: in terms of our wedding ceremonies, funerals and just our sense of awareness of our history and heritage. When relating with individuals from other parts of the country or even the East Coast, Buxton seems to be or I should say used to be more active in traditional drumming and folklore (I'm not aware of what goes now). But I do remember the Emancipation celebration; I was even a participant on several occasions. I remember just going over by the Abrams on Friendship because we were close

neighbors and it would be perhaps a blackout and we would sometimes get a nice fire or, just gather on the front steps and tell "Nancy Stories". Even the adults would share tales from the past about their young school days. I miss those moments and cherish them deeply."

Candace is much focused and is passionate about youth development. She firmly suggests that there is a need to foster opportunities for youths in Buxton. "Growing up in Buxton was a wonderful experience. I was an active member of Rising Stars Dance Group, Methodist Youth Fellowship and Young Adults organization, Buxton Library member and enjoyed the children/youth camps organize by the Methodist church during the summer. So I do hope that these institutions are still active, if not I would suggest great funding and support be mobilized in order to maintain these organizations that helped garner my sense of identity, self respect and pride. In addition, I would say an organizing of a Youth Center where children can gain experience and information from; social discussions, motivational seminars, career seminars that focus on utilizing resources within the village and basically forums where young people can gather and educate each other."

Miss Austin's reverence for the history behind the purchase of Buxton-Friendship 170 years ago, and what it means to her, signifies her commitment to her roots. She affirms: "It means that collectively as Buxtonians we have a great responsibility to our ancestors and ourselves to maintain a community that we can boast of pride and honor. It means that I am from a lineage of leaders, warriors and great men and women



Candace Austin

who laid their bones and sweat so that I can now reap the benefits."

Candace's spirited acknowledgment of the virtues of her cultural heritage is enriching, and this should be emulated. We salute her for her outstanding efforts as she adds perfect pride and praise to the Buxton community. We look forward to more great things from her.

CORRECTION

In [History Beyond the Shore](#) on page 5 of our March 2010 issue, part of the story read:

"Proof of that was obtained when, in 1838, together with other adventurous boys, I went to the beach where we usually assisted fishermen to collect and sort their catch, and received part of it for so doing."

The correct year is 1938.

We regret the error.

BUXTON PROGRESS REPORT

By Lorna Campbell

Over the last few months a great deal of work has been done in Buxton-Friendship that has greatly improved the aesthetic appearance of the community. The most notable development has been the resurfacing of major roads and paving of almost all (if not all) of the middle streets. Some bridges have also been repaired and others have been expanded. To control speeding on the middle streets, speed bumps were installed along the way. Barriers have also been erected at the entrance points of the middle streets to prevent overweight vehicles from damaging the roadway.

A building to house the new Trade School was recently constructed in

the Pond Dam area. The community is also home to three Nursery schools, three Primary schools and one Community High school. All of these appear to be in fairly good condition. However, the building which housed the former Buxton Secondary School appears to be in need of extensive repairs.

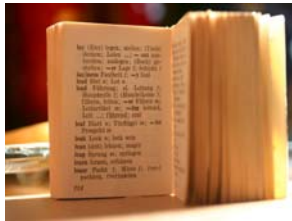
The local authority has also picked up some steam. At the time of my visit, cleaning work was being done on the Buxton Middle Walk trench. Because of a long drought, Company Canal was reportedly dry and shallow. Hopefully, this waterway is in line for a much-needed cleanup too.

Some streets have also benefited from name signs through a project

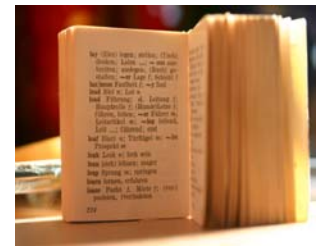
undertaken by the local Methodist Church.

Some of the roadside stalls around the Embankment Road have also been dismantled, following Government orders to occupants to vacate State reserve lands. Vendors were encouraged to relocate their businesses to the Buxton Market. However, this facility is said to be in a bad shape.

Villagers asked for attention to be directed to the completion of the Health Centre and restoration of street lighting throughout the community. The local Post Office and Village Office buildings could also do with a facelift.



Buxton-Friendship in Print & Memory



\$20

(Additional Charge for Postage)

Compiled by
Eusi Kwayana



**Copies will be on sale at
170th Anniversary Show
Sunday, May 2, 2010**

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BUXTON 170TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Celebrating our Community!

Celebrating our Heritage!

Welcome Reception & Dance

On Saturday afternoon of 24th July, the local 170th Anniversary Committee will host a reception for homecoming villagers and friends. In addition to enjoying popular Saturday evening treats, guests will receive a package of information on events, church services, transportation, restaurants and bars, emergency medical facilities, safety precautions, historic sites and more. Guests will also be able to purchase available tickets for the events.

Later that night, the Tipperary Restoration Committee is expected to host a fundraising dance.

Church Services

Sunday, 25th July has been earmarked for worship services at all churches in the community. We would like to encourage homecoming villagers to visit their home church and join in religious fellowship with the local congregation.

Road Race & Fun Day

Sunday morning, 25th July will also showcase half-marathon athletic and bicycle road races. In the afternoon, a variety of games and sporting events for the entire family will be held at the Seawall Playground.

Opening Ceremony

The Anniversary celebrations will be officially declared open with a grand ceremony and cultural show on Monday, 26th July. This will be preceded by guided village tours to landmarks.

Baganara Island Resort



On Tuesday, 27th July, we will embark on a sightseeing and pleasure trip to the Essequibo destination of Baganara Island Resort. Tour buses will arrive in Buxton-Friendship in the morning to pick up the excursion party for transportation across the Demerara Harbour Bridge to Parika to board jet boats (not speed boats) destined for the Resort. Enjoy breathtaking views of several small islands and a tour of Bartica.



Boardwalk at Bartica Boat Landing

Souvenirs and meals will be provided. The all-inclusive price is US\$90 / GY\$18,000 per person.

There are also plans to deliver care packages to senior citizens.

Children's Day Camp

Wednesday, 28th July has been set aside to enlighten our young ones on the history of the village and the rich legacy left by our ancestors. They will also indulge in cultural activities.

Symposium

In the evening the community will gather for a panel discussion on The Legacies of Our Forefathers: Opportunities and Challenges.

Berbice Bus Excursion



On Thursday, 29th July, we will visit the Berbice region. We will ride across the Berbice River Bridge to the Guyana/Suriname Ferry Stelling at Moleson Creek, where you can look across to Suriname. We will also pass through New Amsterdam and make brief stops at some WCB villages. Meals will be provided. The ticket price is US\$40 (GY\$8,000).



The Berbice River Bridge

Socio-economic Summit

On Friday, 30th July, the day's ac-

(Continued on page 5)

GUYANA HOTEL

The Georgetown Club

208 Camp Street
(between Middle and Camp Streets)
Georgetown

- * The Club has 13 rooms available, consisting of four suites, seven double rooms and two single rooms.
- * All rooms are self-contained and fully air-conditioned .
- * A Continental Breakfast is included with room reservation.
- * Wireless Internet is also available in all of rooms.



The Georgetown Club

Rates are as follows:-

- ♣ Single room: US\$60 us dollars per night (Vat Inclusive)
- ♣ Double room: US\$60 per night (Vat Inclusive)
- ♣ Suite: US\$80 per night (Vat Inclusive)

The Buxton Ball-Dinner Dance & Fashion Showcase on July 30th will be held at the Georgetown Club.

For more information or assistance, please contact Lorna Campbell;

Phone: 718-342-0040

E-mail: lorna@buxtonguyana.net

170th Anniversary Events

(Continued from page 4)

tivities will begin with a socio-economic summit. This meeting will bring together economists, sociologists, political scientists, educators, farmers, business persons, religious and other group leaders for discussion of a sustainable economic programme for the community.

The Buxton Ball

The need for a Social/Banquet Hall in Buxton cannot be overemphasized, especially at a time like this. It was our earnest desire to hold all of the events within the community and to provide affordable access to all Buxtonians. Despite exploring several ideas, we could not come up with a venue in the village to accommodate the Dinner-Dance. Therefore, the event will be held at the Georgetown Club on Camp Street, Georgetown on Friday, 30th July.

The Georgetown Club is located on the western carriageway of Camp Street, between Middle and New

Market Streets. It boasts a magnificent garden Patio for elegant dining and dancing; an international bar of fine liquor, wine and non-alcoholic beverages and a delectable menu of appetizers, main course dishes and desserts.

Music for the event will be provided by the **Yoruba Singers** and a super Disc Jockey.

The all-inclusive admission price is US\$50 (GY\$10,000) per person. All tickets must be purchased in advance.

Health Fair

The two-day clinic will commence on Saturday, July 31st, and will be conducted by local and overseas medical practitioners, nurses and assistants. Patients will be given routine examinations and treated for minor ailments, while those suffering from complications and major illnesses will be referred to specialists for continuing care. Medical supplies will be distributed to those in need of them.

Market Day

This will also take place on Saturday. Local produce, food, arts, craft and books are among the many items expected to be on sale.

Camp Fire & Libation

In the evening, the First of August Movement will stage the annual Campfire & Libation ceremony to commence observance of Emancipation Day.

Emancipation Festivities

On Sunday, 1st August, there will be an inter-faith open-air service in the morning. This will be followed by a Feast and African drumming.

Payments for The Buxton Ball, Baganara and Berbice trips must be received by June 30, 2010. Cheques/money orders should be made payable to Lorna Campbell, and sent to her at: 454 Vermont Street, Brooklyn, NY 11207.

BUXTON RESPONSE COMMITTEE

This committee was formed two months ago to co-ordinate activities for the celebration of the village's 170th anniversary, and it is headed by Barbara Thomas-Holder, lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of Guyana. The Secretary is Merceline (Patsy) Moses. Some of its other members are: Hazel (Junie) Carter-Murray, Nandy Terrell, Shurcine Hope-Hinds, Mosa Telford, Jerome Hope, Lyndon France (Joker) and Andrew Castello.

Earlier this month, Lorna Campbell, John Newton, Errol and Vashti Cockfield of the North American Commemoration Committee met with the group in Buxton. The members of the local team were very enthusiastic about the task ahead, and are zealously working to

promote the event via community outreach and national media sources. They also offered some useful suggestions to enhance the programme of activities.

The delegation from New York also attended a meeting with members of the Tipperary Society Restoration Committee. The members expressed keen interest in participating in the upcoming celebrations to mark the 170th Anniversary celebration. Time was also spent discussing the legal structure of the society and the design of the new building.

The meetings were all very fruitful, and the visiting delegation was very pleased with the preparations taking place for the homecoming celebration of our 170th anniversary scheduled to begin on 24th July, 2010.

A calendar of the events planned can be found on the last page of this newsletter, while details of each activity appear on pages 3 and 4.

Book Now Available

Buxton-Friendship

in

Print & Memory

Compiled by Eusi Kwayana

US\$20

(Additional charge for postage)

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E-mail: keasto@verizon.net

HEIMRAJI TIWARI (TEACHER JAIO)

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Heimraji Tiwari, on April 13, 2010 in Scarborough General Hospital at the age of 75. She was the wife of Rampersaud, mother of Rohini, Rabin-dranath, Amrita and Mahendranath, grandmother of Divya and Sanjana and mother-in-law of Savitrie Kadaru, all of Ontario, Canada and Michael Douglas of Indiana, USA. Fondly remembered as Teacher Jaio by her many students of McGil-livray Canadian Mission School at Canal Number One Polder, West Bank, Demerara and as Miss Tiwari of John Gibson Canadian Mission School at Unity, East Coast, Demerara and of Rama Krishna Dharmic Sabha School at Kitty, Greater Georgetown all in Guyana. She was the daughter of the late Seepersaud

and Basmati Ramdhan of Canal Number One Polder and daughter-in-law of the late Shiwprashad and Dhanraji Tiwari of Buxton Front and Annandale Sandreef in Guyana and sister of Prakash Ramdhan of New York, Karnowti Ramdhan of London, Ontario and Satiowti (Teacher Sati) Dyal of Canal Number One Polder in Guyana. She was a retired VISA Department employee of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) in Ontario, Canada. She was a unique person who travelled her mortal journey in life with dignity, decorum and propriety. She helped to shape the minds and lives of so many who were fortunate to be among her charges and the legacy she has left is more lasting than bronze.

"After many births, the wise seek refuge in me,

Seeing me everywhere and in everything

Such great souls are very rare."

"For certain is death for the born,

And certain is birth for the dead,

Therefore over the inevitable,

There should be no grief."

Lord Krishna in his sermon to Arjuna at Kurukshetra in the Mahabharata War of 3100 BC.

Submitted by Rampersaud Tiwari

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mr. Rampersaud Tiwari and all the other loved ones of Teacher Jaio. May your sorrow be soon comforted!

COMPTON SAMUELS

Compton Theolpheus Samuels was born on 17th November, 1935 to the late Lilyan and Walter Samuels. The highlight of his life was combining fatherhood, a Christian family life and his career as a construction engineer.

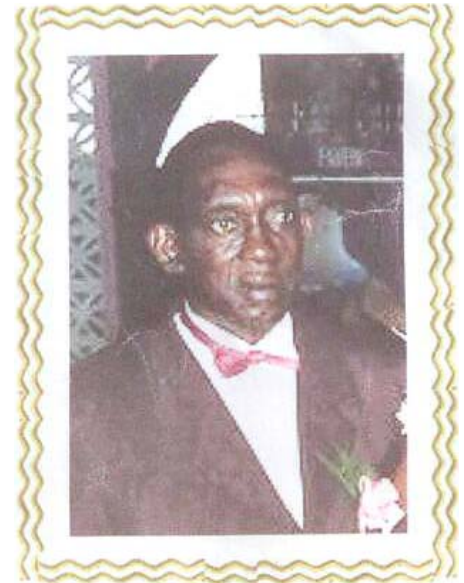
He first attended Buxton Congregational Primary School then went on to Government Technical Institute. Later, he obtained a Diploma in Clerk of Works from Bennett College of Sheffield, England.

In 1963, Compton married Waveney Phillips. He was the father of five children: Michael, Clonel, Olive, Tyrone and Carlyle.

He worked as a building contractor both in Guyana and the Caribbean. His last place of employment was the University of Guyana, which he joined February, 1977 as a Works & Maintenance Supervisor. He worked his way up to Facilities Maintenance Manager, a position he held up to the time of his retirement.

After his retirement from UG, Compton resumed his construction career. He also dedicated himself to serving his church, Arundel Congregational Church, where he was a deacon. He was also a member of Doric Lodge No. 15.

After a struggle with illness, Comp-



ton succumbed on 9th March.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.
May perpetual life shine upon him!

GALTON LEWIS

The rich culture of Buxton and the community of Buxtonians in the village and overseas is progressively denuded by every loss of a son or daughter of the village. May their memories and legacies live on for the benefit of future generations; and hopefully, to continue to adorn the cultural mosaic of our homeland.

I knew Galton and his brothers Charlie and Khama in many fond and affectionate ways-especially Charlie and Galton, also known as Carlos Gomes and Gerry. I remember Charlie and our shared experiences when we were at school. I lost touch with him after he left the village for where, I know not. Galton (Carlos) I met in London in 1967 when I was on training in public administration foreign relations in Canada and in the UK and when I was privileged to spend some truly quality time with him, Martin Zephyr (Peckatoo), Henry Glasgow (Browdie), Lincoln Griffith (Trigga), Ganga (Ramphal) Persaud, Eric

Dannison and Surujpaul (Paul) Singh.

Hector (Yippee) Ifill, Peckatoo, and Yippee lived in the same place in St. Stephens Gardens in Bayswater, Browdie and Carlos I think, lived on Portobello Road, Trigga lived, I think in Woodgreen; Eric lived some distance from Golders Green Tube Station, Ganga lived on Lullingington Road and Paul lived, I think in Peckham. Imagine all these boys with the exception of Ganga Persaud are dead? I am still in and of this world with my memories of their strong brotherhood, great friendship and the goodness of a superlative bonding culture and of wonderful times gone by.

Galton's father, Byron (Unlce Byron) Lewis, Arthur Short, Wilton Major, Clarence Andrews and my father were of a very closely knit group of Shovelmen in a Task Gang of Lusignan estate - my father was the leading hand of the gang and

Noor Mohammed was the Estate Driver. A few weeks ago before he left New York for Buxton/Friendship, Wilton Major's son, Dennis Phillips who is a "Jill" bonded brother of mine, called me on the telephone and as we spoke at length, he (Dennis) mentioned to me of the demise of Lusignan estate and its effects on life and living in the village - "when Lusignan Chimney was taken down, an important economic life line of our village was rent asunder" but we survived to live and Buxton survived to live in the best of times and the worst of times. *A LUTA CONTINUA.*

May the soul that was Galton's in this world find much peace and comfort in the realm of the ancestors. Happy journey brother!

Peace and love to all!

Ram/Butters.

(Rampersaud Tiwari)

Buxton MASH 2010

From all accounts, the Mashramani celebration in Buxton this year was a grand event. A parade of three floats depicting “Sassy Girls”, “Rich Gold” and a beautiful mosaic of cultures, accompanied by some hot music, paraded through the streets of Annandale, Buxton and Friendship to the delight of thousands of spectators.

Behind the success of the show was New York-based Buxtonian Imogene Williams, assisted by her twin-sister, Lavern, her daughter Ashanna and friends June King and Margaret Williams—all members of *Buxton Spice Mango Girls*.

In a recent sit-down, Imogene told “Express” that she entered the show in 2006 after she was approached by some children in the village for help in developing the pageant that was started a few years earlier by a young man named Shaka. With encouragement from her mother and the support of kind friends, she took on the venture which she said was successful from the get-go.

One of the three floats on display was sponsored in its entirety by Morris Wilson, proprietor of the Buxton Gas Station, while financial

assistance for the other two came from the following donors: Barbara Carter, Alison Dodson, Claudette David, Sheranne Doorgasingh, Ashanna Ferrier, Simone Hatton, Royston Jeffrey (Power), Sharon John, Allison King, Carol Newton, John Newton, Yanette Sampson, Monica Sandiford, Roxanne Thomas, Ruby Thomas, Stacy Thomas, Lester Williams, Judy Yaw, Wavene Yaw and others too numerous to mention.

Ms. Williams said that, besides the time spent on the logistics of the pageant, she expends a lot of money purchasing materials for the costumes. The majority of these outfits are usually given away to children with insufficient financial means, while the remainder is provided to those in better circumstances for a token contribution from them.

In addition to producing the costumes, significant costs are incurred for renting trucks to mount the floats and procuring meals for participants. She took the opportunity to express thanks to the proprietor of “Jervis” Baker Shop on Buxton Middle Walk for his donation of buns. She also remembered a contribution of Boiled Channa from an

unknown donor.

Ms. Williams hopes that in the near future local residents would put greater effort into creating meaningful designs. She is, however, aware that such endeavours often need financial support. In this regard, she hopes more local business proprietors would step up to the plate and help. Businesses and vendors in the village reportedly benefited tremendously from sales of food and refreshments that day.

For next year’s pageant, she plans to include the importance of Education in her depictions. She thinks it would be a good opportunity to encourage children to stay in school.

She also has set her sights on a bigger stage. She is mulling over thoughts about entering a small band into the Georgetown Mashramani Float Competition. This would not affect her participation in the Buxton Mash, since the village carnival is set to be held each year on the Sunday following the 23rd day of February-Republic Day.

MASH 2011 is expected to be bigger and better.

EYE REPORT

The Buxton Mash on the 28 February, 2010 was very big and exciting. In my estimation, the entire village came out. It was as if every one was looking forward to this event. People came from far as Mahaicony and Georgetown to see Buxton Mash, and they are looking forward to mash 2011.

The only thing I did not like was

that there were two different starting points—one at the Gas Station (Wilson’s) and the other at the Line Top, though both were good and well organized.

The Mash Jam at the Gas Station was good. They almost blocked the road traffic, but everyone enjoyed themselves. I can safely say the Village of Buxton is back.

I am also looking forward to the Reunion. I hope everyone gets involved. It should not be for foreigners only. I observed, in the past, the people who live in Buxton being excluded.

I am also thankful for the website for the information it provides.

...*Jacqueline Jones*

How Sweet It Was!



The BUXTON-FRIENDSHIP *Express*

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Grand Variety Show

Purchase & Pride

Sunday, May 2, 2010

from 3:00 p.m.

Catherine McCauley High School

710 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203

*Drama, Poetry, Folklore, Art & Book Fair,
 Drumming, Singing, Dancing & More*

\$25-Adult \$15-Child

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*Celebrating
 170 Years*

Buxton's 170th Anniversary Calendar of Events

APRIL 1840

APRIL 2010

Saturday	July 24, 2010	WELCOME RECEPTION
Sunday	July 25, 2010	CHURCH SERVICES * ROAD RACE * SPORTS DAY
Monday	July 26, 2010	GUIDED VILLAGE TOURS * OPENING CEREMONY / CULTURAL SHOW
Tuesday	July 27, 2010	DAY TRIP: EXOTIC BAGANARA ISLAND RESORT, ESSEQUIBO HOUSE CALLS TO SENIOR CITIZENS
Wednesday	July 28, 2010	CHILDREN'S DAY CAMP * VILLAGE SYMPOSIUM EVENING
Thursday	July 29, 2010	BUS EXCURSION TO BERBICE
Friday	July 30, 2010	SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUMMIT * DINNER DANCE & FASHION SHOW
Saturday	July 31, 2010	HEALTH ARTS & CAREER FAIR CAMP FIRE * LIBATION CEREMONY * JAMBOREE
Sunday	August 1, 2010	INTERFAITH SERVICE * DRUMMING & FOOD FEST * HEALTH FAIR