

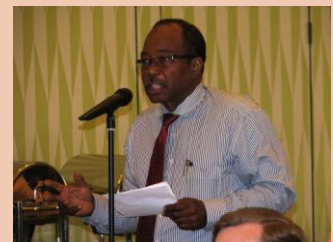


This issue:

- BCCI takes a look at its role P.1
- Chamber's history recorded P.2
- President's Message P.3
- Tribute to the late PM P.4



Mrs. Roseanne Myers



Mr. Wismar Greaves



Everyone paid rapt attention

Chamber takes a fresh look at its role

The Barbados Chamber of Commerce & Industry got some invaluable feedback at the conclusion of its 185th Anniversary Panel Discussion, held at the Barbados Hilton on October 13th, 2010.

The thought provoking breakfast event, which looked at **'The Future of Business in Barbados and the Role of the BCCI'**, featured panelists, Professor Avinash Persaud, businessman Dereck Foster and President of the Chamber Andy Armstrong. The moderator was veteran journalist, David Ellis.

The discussion was lively and engaging, as members of the Chamber used the opportunity to make candid, important observations and contributions, all aimed at trying to help the Chamber fulfill its mandate and modernize its role.

BCCI Council member Roseanne Myers, who is General Manager of Atlantis Submarines (Barbados) Inc, was among the persons giving their perspective on the issue.

She expressed the view that the BCCI must strive to represent both small and large businesses around Barbados and move away from the perception that it only represents big businesses. She also urged the BCCI to embrace new technology when it interfaces with members. Other key contributions came from Eddie Abed of S. Abed & Co. Ltd, Wismar Greaves of ICB, Jerry Blenman of Calidad, May Hinds of May Hinds Consulting, former BCCI President Hallam Edwards, Consultant Dr. Basil Springer, BCCI Executive Director Lisa Gale and Carol Nicholls of KPMG.

Chamber's rich history captured

The rich history of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce & Industry has been well documented in a recently completed book, researched and written by young historian Oliver Thomas.

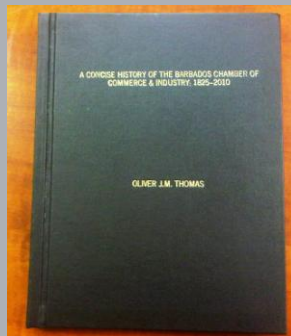
Entitled 'A Concise History of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce & Industry: 1825-2010', Thomas was able to chronicle the Chamber's journey despite a dearth of available recorded information about the formative years of the first incarnation of the Chamber in the early to late 1800s.

Following is an excerpt from the pages of the book: "The Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry or the 'Commercial Hall' as it was called initially was founded in 1825. There is no conclusive evidence to support this perception but according to Peter F. Campbell, there seems little doubt that this date is correct (Campbell 7). In one instance, during a monthly Board meeting of the Hall in 1899, Chairman, J. Gardiner Austin made a plea for a reduction in rent at a time when the fortunes of the Hall were in doubt, he wrote, 'this I may say the last resource (sic), which means that, should you not grant the reduction asked for the old institution which has existed from 1825 must either go elsewhere or seek a cheaper place (Ibid).' It could be inferred that Mr. Gardiner Austin must have heard of the date (even if old records were not then still available) from persons who knew the early history of the Commercial Hall. One of these was E.G. Clawson, who retired as Harbour Master in 1887 and who had been Clerk of the Hall fifty years earlier (Ibid)..."

Copies of the book will be available for the culmination of the Chamber's 185th Anniversary Celebrations in April 2011.



Oliver Thomas (centre) who researched and wrote the book on the BCCI's history, presents a draft copy to Executive Director Lisa Gale as Business Development Officer Carol Charles looks on.



The book: 'A Concise History of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce & Industry: 1825-2010'

Welcome!

The Barbados Chamber of Commerce & Industry recently welcomed three new members. They include:

- **Caribbean Solutions Limited**
- **Caribbean Tourism & Business Advisory Services**
- **The Lee Group of Companies – BUSMAXX Inc**

BCCI President and Executive Director make courtesy call on Airport Manager



President Andy Armstrong and Executive Director Lisa Gale made a courtesy call on Grantley Adams International Airport Manager David Barrow on Thursday, October 28th, 2010.

During the visit, Mr. Armstrong and Mrs. Gale discussed matters of mutual interest with Mr. Barrow, including some proposed physical changes to the Chamber's Duty Free Facility, which operates from the Airport's Departure Hall.

Chamber businesses being encouraged to participate in Business Confidence Survey

As evidenced by the number of responses to the Barbados Business Confidence Survey, it is felt that the local business community has not yet grasped the true value and enormous potential of which results from such an economic and business tool can assist their business planning and by extension their continued survival. Therefore, a plea is once again being issued to the Chamber's business community to let their voices be heard through this Business Confidence Survey, as we build a sustainable economy.

The release date for the second Barbados Business Confidence Survey was October 31st, 2010. The Chamber has already started to distribute the survey by email. If by chance you have not yet received an email to participate please contact the Chamber at 434-4750 and one will be e-mailed to you.



President's Message

September ended with a very well attended luncheon featuring the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Mia Mottley. Ms. Mottley gave a well crafted and wide ranging speech, outlining a number of innovative proposals and signaling an intent to outsource the delivery of many services currently provided by central government to the private sector. A few days into October and Ms. Mottley was no longer the leader of the opposition as a long simmering internal struggle ended with the majority of opposition MPs throwing their support behind former Prime Minister the Honourable Owen Arthur.

At much the same time, PM David Thompson announced a major reshuffle of Cabinet with the appointment of Chris Sinckler as the Minister of Finance being the most notable change. Minister Sinckler took the early opportunity to consult first with the Chamber and then with other private sector organizations to receive recommendations for the upcoming budget. All members of Council who attended were impressed with the Minister's attitude and his willingness to listen and the respect he showed by bringing in a full supporting team from the Ministry of Finance.

On 13 October the Chamber hosted a far reaching breakfast seminar that looked at the future of business and the BCCI. Moderated by David Ellis and with a panel of Avinash Persaud, Dereck Foster and your president, we were able to take a frank look at business within Barbados and at the Chamber and to come away with many good ideas on how we can change to ensure that we stay vibrant and relevant in the years ahead.

The end of October brought a number of sad events. On 20 October the historic Sam Lord's Castle burned to the ground, the final act in a very sad period of neglect since the

hotel went into bankruptcy.

On 23 October came the tragic news that Prime Minister David Thompson had passed away. While we were all aware that he was very ill and most feared that he would not survive his fight, the apparent suddenness of his passing took most by surprise. His passing occasioned an outpouring of grief throughout the island and tributes flowed in from every part. The Chamber was among the first to offer condolences with your president appearing on CBC TV to offer condolences on behalf of all members. Former PM David Thompson had a very warm personality. He took a genuine interest in everyone he met and one came away from a conversation with him feeling that he was really interested in you as a person. He addressed the Chamber luncheon in each of the 3 Januarys that he was PM and this was the best attended Chamber event of the year and one of the "must do" business events every year. The former PM had a very clear understanding of the challenges facing Barbados and the need to increase efficiency and to reduce petty corruption within key public sector departments. He traced many of our societal problems back to the deterioration of the family unit and he developed policies to strengthen the family and led by example with his own. His controversial policy of free bus rides on public transport to schoolchildren was primarily designed to ensure that our younger generation was less likely to be led astray on their way to and from school.

He sought to get Barbadians to lead a healthier lifestyle. He exhorted us at the last National Consultation to not be too proud to accept help from our overseas friends when it is offered genuinely. He set up a diaspora unit to tap into the overseas network of Barbadians and friends of Barbados. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Barbados Entrepreneurial Foundation's goal of making Barbados the number one entrepreneurial hub in the world by 2020. He set the goal for Barbados to become the "greenest economy in the Caribbean and Latin America". He had the vision that Barbados could do almost anything if we put our mind to it. The best respect we can pay to his memory is to

keep alive that positive spirit that he embodied.

Just seven days later, with the country still in official mourning, Barbados was hit by storm Tomas. Tomas, which became a hurricane just after passing our island, battered us with high winds, blowing off about 500 roofs and numerous trees and knocking out power and water for up to a week in some cases. For me the lasting memory of Tomas was the many "Good Samaritans" who helped by clearing downed trees, putting back up palings and helping their neighbours repair their houses. Tomas brought out the best in Barbadians and we can all be proud of that. At the time of writing, our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Haiti as they brace for the impact of Tomas.

Conference & Meeting facilities

Are you planning to hold an important meeting or conference? Do you need a fully air-conditioned meeting room just on the outskirts of the City, away from the hustle and bustle?

Then contact the Barbados Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Members of the Chamber get special rates for use of the conference room at our Braemar Court, St. Michael offices. Teleconferencing and projector facilities are also available.

Call (246) 434-4750 for more details or email bcci@bdscham.com



Upcoming Chamber events

November 15th – 20th: The Barbados Youth Business Trust hosts Global Entrepreneurship Week 2010.

November 24th: BCCI's Monthly Business Luncheon at Hilton Barbados. Dr. Justin Robinson, Head of the Department of Management Studies at the Cave Hill Campus of the UWI, speaks on the topic: *In the Eye of the Storm – a business and consumer view of the Global Recession*. **Register now to secure your place.**



The Barbados Chamber of Commerce & Industry takes this opportunity to again express deepest condolences to the family of the late Prime Minister The Honourable David Thompson, and to his Cabinet colleagues and friends.