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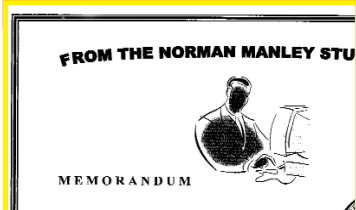
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New Advisory Board in Place



Chief Executive Officer of the National Works Agency, Milton Hodelin (left) taking a final look at one of the documents to be presented to incoming Chairman of the Agency's Advisory Board, Richard Powell. The new Advisory Board members met for the first time in March.

X *Were you there? Do you see yourself?*

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New Advisory Board Appointed

A new Advisory Board is now in place. Didn't know we even had an old one? Fret not. The good news is that now you are about to receive enough information to put you in the "know".

The Advisory Board was created through the Executive Agencies Act of 2002 and arose out of the Government of Jamaica's decision in the late 1990's, to reform the public sector, in order to make the sector more efficient and effective. The Board has advisory functions only, its primary function being to advise the Chief Executive Officer in the strategic and business planning responsibilities of the Agency.

The Chief Executive Officer is required to report the progress of the Agency to the Board. The Board meets once per month to assess the performance of the Agency and to provide advice, in accordance with the Executive Agencies Act 2002.

The members of the Board are appointed from among suitably qualified persons in the public and private sectors, as well as non-governmental organizations.

The members of the new Board are:-



Richard Powell
CHAIRMAN



Anthony Walker
MEMBER



Ivan MacNally
MEMBER



Ivan (Mitch) Stephenson
MEMBER



Dwight Wilson
MEMBER



Joel L Williams
MEMBER



Dr. Alwin Hales Permanent
Secretary, MTW



Mark Kerr-Jarrett
MEMBER



Rolda Grey
MEMBER



Milton Hodelin
C.E.O. NWA



Parris Lyew-Ayee Jr.
MEMBER

THE R.A. MURRAY BRIDGE PROGRAMME

up and Running in the West

The billion dollar R.A. Murray Bridge Programme got underway in the Western Region in January 2008 with the construction of a new bridge in Seven Rivers, St. James.

contractors are now focusing their efforts on reinforcing the abutment with concrete.

In the case of the Martha Brae River Bridge, Mr. Sturridge explained that a new two lane steel girder bridge will be con-

structed to replace the older structure in the vicinity of the Rafter's Village. This structure is more than 75 years old and has outlived its design life. The new bridge will span approximately 30 metres and will be equipped with sidewalks to allow ease of movement for the pedestrians who use this area.

In Hanover a new bridge will be constructed in the same location of the Bailey Bridge, which now serves the area. In light of this, surveys are being conducted to determine the best route to redirect the traffic that currently uses the Green Island Bridge.

The R. A. Murray Bridge Programme is aimed at assisting with the replacement of forty bridges in five phases through a loan agreement of \$45 million US Dollars. R. A. Murray International has been selected by the government to provide management, material, procurement and assistance in bridge design.

Other structures are being built in Milk River, Clarendon; Bog Walk, St. Catherine; Black River, Portland and Seaforth, St. Thomas.



Foundation for one of the abutments of the new Steel Girder Bridge, Seven Rivers, St. James.

The Seven Rivers Bridge is being constructed at a cost of \$90 million and is just one of three bridges that will be constructed in the Western Region under this programme. The Queens River Bridge in Hanover and the Martha Brae Bridge in, Martha Brae, Trelawny will also be targeted under this programme.

In Seven Rivers a two lane steel girder bridge is being constructed parallel to the Bailey bridge which now serves the area. Construction work on this project is well underway and is expected to be completed within three months.

According to Mr. Andrew Sturridge, Major Projects Manager, the project involves the excavation of the road surface to facilitate the driving of piles; the reinforcement of the abutment with concrete; the construction of steel girders; the reinforcement of the bridge with concrete decking and the installation of guardrails. To date the piling phase of the project is complete and the



The existing Bailey Bridge which will be replaced.

Critical works to be undertaken in four parishes

The government on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 signed a US\$10 million contract with the Inter-American Development Bank to carry-out work in six areas that were badly impacted by Hurricane Dean in August 2007 and the subsequent 40 days of rainfall between October and November last year.

The areas to get attention under this agreement are:

- The Bog Walk Gorge in St. Catherine
- The Roselle main road in St. Thomas
- The road from Muirton to Fair Prospect in Portland;
- The Georgia Bridge in St. Thomas;
- The Yallahs River in St. Thomas and
- The Fern Gully main road in St. Ann.

In the case of the Bog Walk Gorge, the intention is to carry - out

protective works along the seriously exposed section of the roadway known locally as "Ribbie's Corner." This is the area where the first sign of trouble will usually surface in the Gorge, as it is the lowest point of the Rio Cobre, where it hugs the road. Asphaltic overlaying work will also be done in the area. Work will also be done along the Angels main road, where flooding is often experienced during heavy rainfall. The National Works Agency has already completed the

designs for the work to be done in the Gorge. The designs for the Angels section of the corridor are being finalized.

At Roselle, it is the Agency's intention to not only mitigate the damage done to the roadway by wave action, but also to rehabilitate the bridge in the area. Sea defence work will be undertaken, as well as work to effectively protect the roadway.

According to Minister of Transport Works, Mike Henry, ensuring

that the main corridor between Portland and St. Thomas is kept open is important to the government. To this end, the Agency will be embarking on work along the Muirton to Fair Prospect main road. Areas such as Long Bay and Manchioneal, which were badly affected by not only Hurricane Dean, but also the 40 days of rainfall will be getting much needed attention. The NWA is now carrying out surveys along this road section, where aspects of our sea defences were breached during these events.

The Yallahs community has been significantly impacted by weather systems for many years. A bridge is now being constructed in that community. Minister Henry said the government recognized the importance of protecting this valuable asset, which is being constructed at a cost of 402 million dollars. River Training will be done as part of the contract for the construction of the

bridge. The Minister said this however will not be enough. Through the agreement with the IADB therefore, the river training component of the Yallahs Project will be augmented. The designs for this important aspect of the works have already been completed.

The community of Georgia in St. Thomas will also benefit from this agreement. This community suffers immensely whenever it rains and sometimes gets cut

off for up six days at time. Extensive river training work will be undertaken in the area, as well as launching at least one Bailey Bridge. The NWA is now carrying out further assessments, to ascertain whether a second bridge will be necessary for the community.

A major drain is also to be constructed in the Fern Gully, St. Ann. This should significantly mitigate flooding and subsequent damage to the roadway.




Roselle main road. This section of road is slated to undergo major rehabilitation as part of the US\$10 - million programme

TEAM NWA!

Big Up!

FROM THE NORMAN MANLEY STUDENTS



MEMORANDUM

TO: National Works Agency Human Resource Department
FROM: Norman Manley Students
DATE: 2008 February 22
SUBJECT: THANKS

Let us use this medium to say **Thank You** to you all, for your cooperation and the patience you had with me during my Three (3) weeks here at the National Works Agency. Let us say that we have learnt a lot during our short time here in agency and we can assure you that the knowledge that we have acquired during our time will remain with us no matter where we go. We really appreciate all the effort you all put in just to make us comfortable during our stay here and indeed we were more than comfortable. Tears when we realized that we have come to the end of an exciting, worthwhile experience for our lives. We wish that this time was longer just to talk and smile some more with you all.

Thank You All!

Yours truly,

Nemeica Campbell	Jordan Trewick
Travion Williams	Javan Benjamin
Shaneka Peterkin	Kevin Warren
Kaylian West	Kashwaync Needham
Ishmael Douglas	Chereka Stewart
Jason Anderson	Terrance Clue

Mr. Russell what a lovely letter!
2008/02/21
2008/02/21

PERFECT BODY and PRESIDENT
Sign: [Signature]

RECEIVED
 Date: 2/2/08

NCB NATIONAL COMMERCIAL BANK JAMAICA LIMITED

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: 2150 NAIJAM

HEAD OFFICE
 "THE ATRIUM"
 32 TRAFALGAR ROAD
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 98
 KINGSTON, JAMAICA, WEST INDIES
 TELEPHONE: 92-9800-80
 FACSIMILE NO. (876) 929-8586
 E-mail: ncbinfo@ncb.com
 Web site: http://www.ncb.com

February 27, 2008

Mr. Keith Russell
 Parish Manager - Kingston
 National Works Agency
 15 Hagley Park Road
 Kingston 10

Mr. Russell

Repairs to Roadway on Windward Road

Our letter dated January 25, 2008 refers.

We have received confirmation from our Windward Road branch that the repairs to captioned roadway have been completed and would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation for your prompt response.

Regards

[Signature]
 French Campbell
 Sr. Asst. General Manager
 Facilities & Services Division

RECEIVED
 Date: 6/2/08

Copy:

- Hil Winship (to Mr. Mayor, Senator, Councilor Desmond McKenzie, JP Kingston & St. Andrew Corporation)
- Mr. Stephen Shaw, Communications Manager, National Works Agency
- Mr. Donal McKeon, Officer in Charge, NCR Windward Road
- Ms. Carolyn Schaub, Manager, NCD Duke Street

RECEIVED
 MAR 05 2008
 N.W.A. RECORDS SERVICES UNIT

US\$10 Million Contract signed for Design of roads for Phase Two of Kuwait Programme

The partnership between the Kuwaiti and the Jamaican governments continues with a new loan under the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, secured to undertake rehabilitation of sections of the roadway between the North and South of the Island. Through this new loan agreement, valued at US\$10million, the NWA intends to commence the rehabilitation of approximately 47.05 kilometres roadways. The corridors identified for attention are:-

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| Ferris Cross | - | Mackfield, Westmoreland |
| | | 13.4 km |
| Brown's Town | - | Alexandria, St. Ann |
| | | 15.0 km |
| Tom's River - Broadgate (Junction Road) | - | Aqualta Vale, St. Mary |
| | | 18.65km |

The Agency has engaged the services of DIWI Consultants to complete the designs of these road sections. This design phase which began in January 2008 is expected to be completed in August 2008. The plans will address:-
 Re-alignment/reconstruction;
 Drainage improvement;

Pavement upgrade; and
 Improvement in protective structures, including retaining walls.

So far, the Pre-Feasibility Study for the 18.65 km stretch of roadway from Tom's River to Broadgate to Aqualta Vale, St. Mary has been completed. This study included data collection on Topography; Materials Testing; Pavement Strength; and Structural Integrity (of bridges, walls, drains).

Similar data collection is in progress for the road sections from Ferris Cross to Mackfield, in Westmoreland and Brown's Town to Alexandria, St. Ann.

The objective of this Phase Two Kuwaiti Programme, is to enhance the North to South corridor of the island and is expected, upon completion, to decrease travel time along the roadways from North to South of the Island. "Upgrading these corridors is a prudent economic decision. Decrease in travel time, will almost certainly increase the viability of economic activities," Major Projects Manager, Keith Brown said.

LESLIE E. MILLER

The Stalwart from the Central Region.

"Down in their hearts, wise men know this truth: the only way to help yourself is to help others" Elbert Hubbard (1856 - 1915).

This quote sums up the man who has been at the helm of the Central Region for the past four years and who has worked in the public service, helping people and country for nearly 40 years. He is Leslie Edarious Miller. But who is Leslie Miller and what has made him the successful person he has become moving through several positions in the former Public Works Department and then into the National Works Agency?

Leslie Miller was born on the 24th of April, 1946 in the parish of St. Elizabeth.

He grew up with his grand parents on their farm. He speaks glowingly and unendingly about them, especially reflecting on his boyhood days when he would ride on the back of a cow across the Pond in the community. This feat brings back happy memories, emanating in much laughter even now.

Mr. Miller joined the Public Service through the Public Works Department in April, 1969, as a Field Assistant in Santa Cruz, St. Elizabeth. He was promoted to Works Overseer in 1974, while working at the Black River Office. He became the Senior Overseer for St. James in 1975 where he was promoted to Superintendent in 1994. He was transferred to Westmoreland in 1995. He later moved to St Ann's Bay, St. Ann in 1997. After a year in that location again transferred. This time it was to be the Superintendent at Half Way Tree, St. Andrew. Mr. Miller returned to rural Jamaica in 1999, when he started working out of the Trelawny Parish Office. Mr. Miller's love with the National Works Agency started in 2001 in the parish of Westmoreland, when he was appointed the Parish Manager. After four years in that position, he was promoted and transferred to Manchester, to assume the challenging task of being the man in charge of the Central Region.



Mr. Leslie Miller at his desk.

Leslie Miller expresses a passion for Infrastructural Development. "Good roads are essential and key to the development of any country. I get my satisfaction from building my monuments on roads," he said. Mr. Miller said his most memorable projects related to the restoration of roads after the 1979 floods in New Market, St. Elizabeth and the redesign of the Chelsea to Round Hill road in that parish. His greatest moment in road construction however came in 2007, when he spearheaded the restoration of the Bruce Field Parish Council Road in St. Elizabeth. "This is my childhood district and I used to walk with my ten toes in the mud. I was happy when I could blow my breath on the work bill. It was a lifetime dream and achievement of which I am extremely happy," a beaming Mr. Miller said.

Over the years Mr. Miller has forcefully and consistently impressed as one who utilizes the challenges of life to generate a deep determination to succeed. He has a gentle but firm attitude and is not afraid to make his position known in a forceful, yet respectable and responsible way.

"Mr. Miller approaches life with a deep sense of maturity and purpose and his very humble mannerism, friendliness, the warmth in his personality and desire to be helpful, readily propel one to respect and admire him," said Administrative Assistant for Westmoreland, Dasmine Jones who worked with him in that parish.



Mr. Leslie Miller out in the field.

PROJECTS IN THE CENTRAL REGION

January to March 2008

There was a buzz of activities in the Central Region since the start of the New Year. Rehabilitation of road and bridges, bushing, road patching and drain cleaning has taken place across St Elizabeth, Clarendon and Manchester on both parochial and main roads.

The parish of Clarendon have been the hub of activities in the region. The replacement of the Milk River Bridge under the R.A. Murray programme is in high gear and completion is expected by June 2008. At the Summerfield Bridge near Chapleton, the agency was able to underpin the exposed abutment and reconstruct the approach road. The driving surface area of the Alley Bridge was rehabilitated creating easier access for the nearby communities.

The main roads received attention across the parish. Hot mix patching took place along Mineral Heights to Lionel Town, Whitney Turn to Four Paths, Free Town to Four Paths, Summerfield to Thompson Town, Kupis to Beckford Kraal and Rocky Point. Spray patching was significant along road sections such as Crooks Gate to Preddie, Sevens to Rock River, Parnassus to Mocho and Soursop to Danks. Micro surfacing was reintroduced to Clarendon along May Pen to Hayes, Jacob Hut to the Glenmuir stoplight and Bucknor to Singer Store in May Pen.



Patching exercise underway along the Spur Tree main road in Manchester.

The capital, May Pen buzzed with activities funded by the R Murray Emergency Flood Programme and the Additional Allocation Road Works. Roads such as Bridge St, North St, Paisley Housing Scheme, Harris Street, Tread light Street, Garvey Street, Jackson Street, East Lane, Evan Street, Fairfield, Norman Boulevard, Oakland Avenue, Bucks Avenue and Oliver Drive had their road surface worked on and some drains were rehabilitated. A lay-by was also constructed at the Denbigh Hospital.

Routine maintenance was prevalent in Manchester during this given period. Drain cleaning took place along Caines Shop to

Highgate Hall, Skull Point to Caine Shop, New Forest to Rhudds Corner, Clarks Town to Kendal Bypass, Downs to Alligator Pond and Greenvale to Spur Tree. The agency carried out drain cleaning activities on parish council roads such as Red Berry, Hampton Road, West Road, Balvenie and Bloomfield Road, Mandeville. Hot Mix patching was completed along Clandon to Sedburgh, Skull Point to Caines Shop, Dump to Craighead, Gutters to Downs, Downs to Alligator Pond, Pusey Hill to Newport, Oxford to Troy, Mispah to Bellfield, Greenvale to Spur Tree and Walderston to Grantham.

The National Road Service Improvement Programme (NRSIP) is active in Manchester. Bushing was done along Williamsfield to Greenvale, Shooters Hill to Caines Shop, Ballynure to Coleyville, Dump to Moravia, Green Hill to Keynsham, and Mandeville to Mark Post among others. Patching under this programme was completed along Williamsfield to Greenvale, Sedberg to Clandon and Craighead to Troy.

There were no major projects in St. Elizabeth during this period. Activities were suspended at the Treasure Beach Canal and the breakaway in Pizgah. However Hot mix patching took place along road sections such as Claremont Park to Malvern Well, Black River to Pedro Cross via Pondsides, Park to Mountainside,

Southfield to Portsea, Braes River to Newton, Hodges to Speculation, Williamsfield to Fullerswood, New Holland to Red Gate and Malvern to Southfield.

Patching was done on the Parrottee and the Watchwell to Mountainside PC road. During this period, the un-asphalted road on the Brownberry PC road in South West St. Elizabeth was restored. The Burnt Ground Housing Scheme Road and the Lacovia Old Road were rehabilitated in Northern St. Elizabeth. Serious repair and restoration of approaches was undertaken on the Slipe Bridge in the Black River Lower Morass.

Remembering Omar...

"He was a promise, he was a possibility, he was a great big bundle of potentiality..."

How well this prose describes Omar Kerrick Kirk Patrick McBean! The National Works Agency had the honour of meeting Omar a few years ago. The year was 2004 and Omar had joined the NWA team, as a Clerk of Works, initially to verify road measurements on the patching programme. His performance in this position was exemplary, and Omar went on to become coordinator of the Patching programme. Omar became Senior Clerk of Works, managing up to twelve crews at a time. Each crew consisted of eight persons - persons who were sometimes not the run of the mill employees, in that some of these persons were, as we say in Jamaican parlance, "rough necks", who were hired from what we may call "rough" communities.

Omar's job was therefore not an easy one. Yet ask anyone who had the privilege of knowing or working with Omar and they will tell you that Omar was great with people - always, cordial, always pleasant, always willing to help. He was in a sense:-

- Human Resource Manager as he was required to hire crew members for in-house patching programmes;
- Operations Manager as he performed

the duties that would be emcomben on this position, being responsible for ensuring the smooth and effective undertaking of road patching works;

- Quality Assurance Manager, responsible for ensuring the works are done to specifications and standards set the Agency;
- Conflict Resolutionist as he was responsible for establishing amicable solutions among dissenting crew members and maintaining morale.

Omar was a stalwart in his professional field. And we believe, no less in his personal life. Despite his responsibilities of managing people and work processes of many of our in-house patching programmes, Omar still found time to farm, build a house and pursue his academic advancement. Omar was truly a bundle of potentiality.

We will miss you Omar, our co-worker, our friend.

To the family and other friends of Omar, we



*Omar McBean
Sunset: January 4, 2008*

say, "Be of good courage." His physical presence may no longer be here, but you can keep him always in your hearts.

Food for Thought

Proverbs 28:19

He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.

Webster's defines entrepreneur: "one who organizes, operates, and assumes the risk in a business venture." [Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth ed. (Springfield, Massachusetts, 1993), "entrepreneur."] Entrepreneurs can smell an opportunity a mile away. However, what is often their greatest asset can become their greatest downfall. The road is littered with entrepreneurs who have been successful in one venture only to fail in countless others. Is this the natural way for an entrepreneur, or is there a better way?

King David was an entrepreneur. He grew up as a shepherd boy and later became Israel's greatest warrior. He responded to opportunities, like the time when no one would fight Goliath. He saw this as an opportunity. He ultimately became king of Israel and faced many opportunities placed before him. David learned an important lesson somewhere along the way that each of us as businesspeople should learn.

As an entrepreneur the greatest danger is engaging ourselves in activities in which God never intended us to be involved. This is poor stewardship of what God has entrusted to us. When the Philistines attacked David, he always inquired of God as to if and when he was to counter-attack. When he was attacked a second time on one occasion, David inquired of God as to whether he was to attack yet. This time God said yes, but with a condition, "Wait until you hear the sound of marching in the balsam trees" (see 2 Sam. 5:24). This story tells us that David had learned an important lesson about staying vertical in his relationship with God at all times. David had learned the important principle of staying focused on what God wanted for him, not what seemed logical. He was an opportunist, but only through the filter of the Holy Spirit in his life.

How do you approach opportunities? Do you consider the merits of the opportunity only? Or do you inquire of God as to whether He desires you to pursue? It may be a wonderful opportunity, but it may not be God's will for you to be involved. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you as you seek to use the skills He has given you.

Even the Dead Pays Taxes!

There is a saying that there are two certainties in life: Death and taxes. So you die and there is no need to worry about being in debt. Well, not quite, you may very well pay the most taxes from your grave. The law allows for what are called Death Taxes. There are four main taxes that are levied when you die. These are Transfer Tax, Stamp Duty, Attorney's fee and fees to oversee your estate if you have a Will, you will have to appoint what is called an Executor. If you do not have a Will, then you have what are known as Administrators, who are referred to as your personal representatives. These persons are allowed to charge a commission for their services.

In terms of Transfer Tax, This act speaks to transferable assets on which taxes may be levied. These include such things such as real estate, shares, debentures, jewellery among others. Under this particular act, even if you live outside of Jamaica, any land that you own in Jamaica, once you are a Jamaican by birth you must pay the tax on the land situated in Jamaica as well as that overseas. Taxes are also applied to shares, not only those you may own in your private company, but also those floated on the Stock Exchange. Additionally, the same principle that is applied to land is applied to shares that you may own in companies overseas. How much do you pay? Up to 2005, the tax applied was 15%. Since that time however, based on an announcement by former Minister of Finance Omar Davis, the amount was reduced to 7.5%. Current Finance Minister, Audley Shaw announced that the figure will be 6%, during this financial year. It is important to note that these percentages attract interest, as high as 6.5% per annum compounded. Interest is usually waived for a one year period for the completion of the process. So if you have an estate on which you did nothing for five to 10 years you are looking at five to 10 years of compounded interest on that figure of transfer tax.

Any document that your attorney tenders in court has to be stamped. This is where this duty comes in. For all the documents that have to be submitted to the Courts whether you apply for a grant of probate; if you have

a Will; or if you had no Will; you must apply for grant letters of administration. For either type of estates, you need to lodge documents and once your attorney lodges documents they must be stamped. In stamping these documents, the government will request, for example fees in the value of your real estate, life insurance, shares, debentures, money in the bank, motor vehicle/s, jewellery, Artwork among other things. On these you pay 3% stamp duty. In calculating the tax, a net market value is used. In other words it is the value of the assets at the time of death. Certain liabilities can however be deducted, but with restrictions. These include funeral expense and some medical expenses.

The third tax is the attorney's fee. Attorneys charge between five and seven per cent to have your matter processed.

Finally, personal representatives are allowed to charge a commission. The law stipulates that they can charge 6%. If for some reason you have two or three representatives, then the commission is shared

equally among them. They only get commission, however on monies passing through their hands. If you have an estate where you have three properties, the personal representative will not get a commission because of simply transferring the real estate to your beneficiaries, it is only on monies that are invested, in the bank, life insurance policies that have a surrender value or a property where rental income was accruing. They really only get their commission on liquid cash.

Clearly it is important for everybody to do proper estate planning. It is not enough for you to take a nonchalant attitude on this matter as "I am going to be dead anyway." You may not be able to avoid paying these taxes, but you can certainly try and minimize them.

PS. It is important that you seek the services of an attorney on matters regarding estate planning.

Next issue: Writing the Will



This is how it is done - by staff! Director of Human Resources Management and Administration, Jennifer Henry (second right) pointing to the plan for the western abutment at Yallahs, St. Thomas

Community Meetings

NWA Continues its Efforts to Garner Customer Feedback on Planned Work Activities

The Communication and Customer Services Department continues its effort to keep the Agency's customers abreast with its activities, through the medium of public meetings. These meetings allow the Agency the opportunity to obtain invaluable customer feedback on various planned and ongoing projects.

The department recently convened three such meetings in the parishes of St. Mary, St. Andrew and Kingston. The meeting in St. Mary was held at the Golden Seas Resort with focus on Segment Three of the Northern Coastal Highway Improvement Project. That in St. Andrew was held at the Gordon Town All Age School, focusing on the replacement of the bridge in the community, while the Kingston meeting was held at the Donald Quarrie High School in Harbour View. The Environmental Impact Assessment Study relating to the work being undertaken on the Palisadoes Strip was presented at this meeting.

SEGMENT THREE

Speaking at the meeting for Segment Three, Project Manager, Varden Downer explained that the Agency considered it necessary to update stakeholders on the progress of the works along this corridor. It was to this end that an audience comprising stakeholders in Port Maria and along the stretch of roadway from Boscobel to Galina was targeted. Representatives from thirty-six (36) civic/community groups and governmental ministries/agencies located along the stretch, and within the town of Port Maria, were invited. Over seventy-four (74) persons, including Mayor of Port Maria Richard Creary and Member of Parliament for Western St. Mary Bobby Montaque were in attendance. Segment Three covers 96 kilometres of the roadway from Ocho Rios in St. Ann to Port Antonio in Portland

The residents raised several concerns relating to the project. These concerns were addressed by a team which included Mr. Downer, Manager of Communication and Customer Services, Stephen Shaw and representatives of the contracting firm, E.Pihl and Sons.

GORDON TOWN BRIDGE

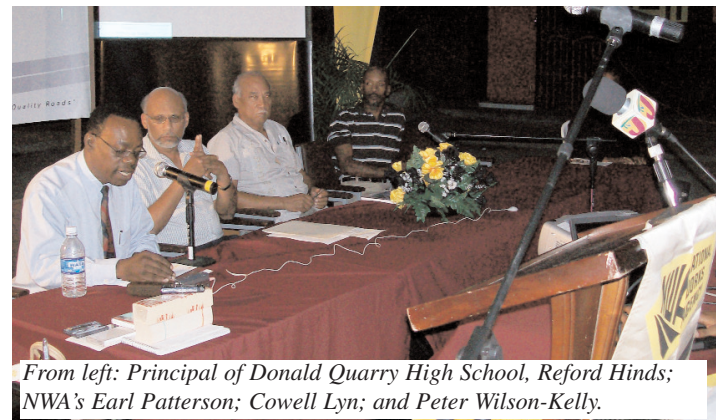
The NWA will be constructing a new bridge in the community of Gordon Town. Construction of this new bridge is expected to impact many persons in this area. The CCS Department organised the recent meeting in order to obtain feedback from the persons who are most likely to be affected by the construction. The new bridge, which will be constructed over the Hope River in Gordon Town (vicinity of the Gordon Town Police Station), St. Andrew is one of eleven (11) that R.A. Murray has been contracted to build at several locations across the island.

Nearly 50 persons attended the meeting, including Councillors from the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC) and Member of Parliament for the area, Joseph Hibbert. Mr. Hibbert

who is also the State Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Works told the meeting that he was happy with the developments regarding the new bridge. He also gave an undertaking to follow the process through to its completion and to have some attention given to the Ford located close the site of proposed bridge. For their part, the residents expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Agency in having the old bridge replaced. They were however concerned about the issue of the weight of trucks on the new bridge and the need for a set of traffic signals to be erected at the entrance points of the Bailey Bridge, which will be used along a detour route that will be created, when construction gets under. These concerns were addressed by Manager of Communication and Customer Services, Stephen Shaw who said that that the Planning and Research Department would be asked for assistance in erecting traffic lights at the location. He said the police and the community members would be asked to assist in policing the structure to ensure compliance with the weight limit.

PALISADOES

The Communication and Customer Services team also spearheaded the meeting with stakeholders, regarding the Palisadoes project. The meeting was held in light of the works and the possible impact these may have on the environment. Some 75 persons were in attendance. These included the NWA's Senior Director for Project Implementation, Earl Patterson Environmental Engineer, Mark Richards and Peter Wilson-Kelly who did the EIA on behalf of the Agency. Several key stakeholders were also in attendance, including Cowell Lyn, who assisted with the study, done by the Cubans in 2006 and representatives of the Jamaica Environmental Trust (JET).



From left: Principal of Donald Quarry High School, Reford Hinds; NWA's Earl Patterson; Cowell Lyn; and Peter Wilson-Kelly.

Mr. Patterson, Mr. Wilson-Kelly and Mr. Richards addressed the audience on aspects of the study, which was completed in May 2007. Among the concerns addressed were the issue of beautification of the strip on completion of the work and the sustainability of what is put down along the peninsula, so as to ensure the protection of the roadway.

Rock Revetment

work continues along Palisadoes Road

The National Works Agency's thrust to significantly mitigate the incidence of flooding along the Palisadoes Road in Kingston is continuing. The Agency signed a 39 million dollar contract in March for the supply of raw materials to facilitate the continuation of protective works, which started in May last year.

The Project is being managed by Major Projects Manager, George Knight and directly supervised by Project Manager, Edgar Llewellyn. According to Mr. Llewellyn, through this agreement with Y.P. Seaton, just under 11,000 cubic meters of stones will be provided for the continuation of the rock revetment.

The Agency had completed 120 meters of rock revetment work in July last year in one of the two areas along the Palisadoes Road, identified as most vulnerable to high tide.

Mr. Llewellyn said the material to be supplied will be used to construct another 900 meters of rock revetment along the corridor. This will be done along the open sea side of the road. The work though machine intensive has resulted in the employment of eight persons from the local communities.

In the meantime, the NWA presented the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study of the area in March. The presentation was made on March 12, at a public meeting held at the Donald Quarrie High School in Harbour View. The public presentation of the EIA is an important component in the approval process of the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA). The EIA Report can be viewed at the NWA's Library or through the website at www.nwa.gov.jm.



George Knight (hand in the air) explaining aspects of the Palisadoes Road Project to members of the Senior Management team. Others in the picture are from left Patrick Rose, Wain Anderson, Earl Patterson, John Wright (partially hidden), Edgar Llewellyn, Richard McHargh (partially hidden), and Jennifer Henry.



"Put that one right there!" Clerk of Works, Caswell Whyte monitoring the placement of rocks along the Palisadoes Road. The rock revetment (wall) is being constructed along the strip to assist in mitigating the effects of high tide and wind, which often results in sections of the road becoming impassable.

Were you there? Do you see

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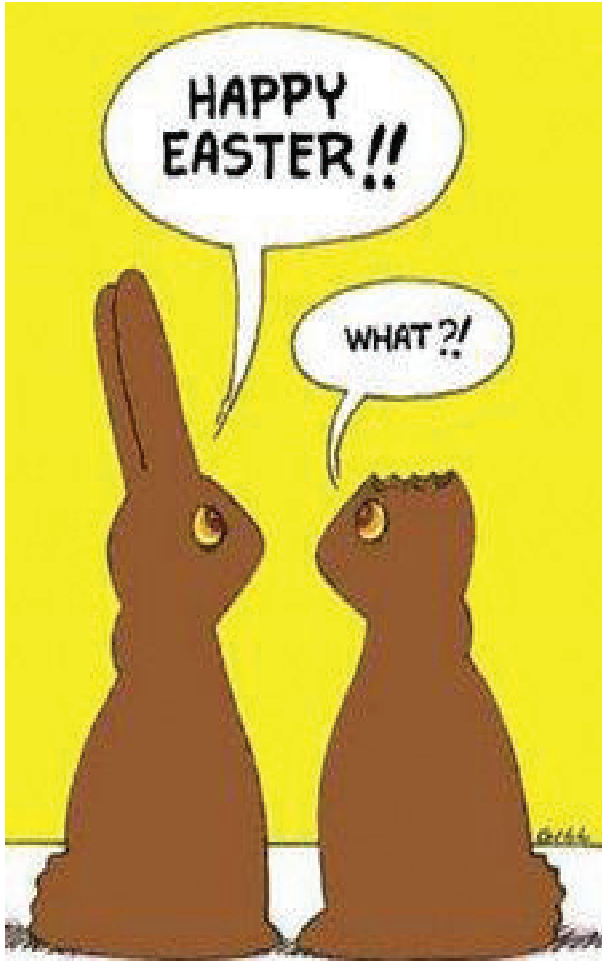
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Ha HA Ha!



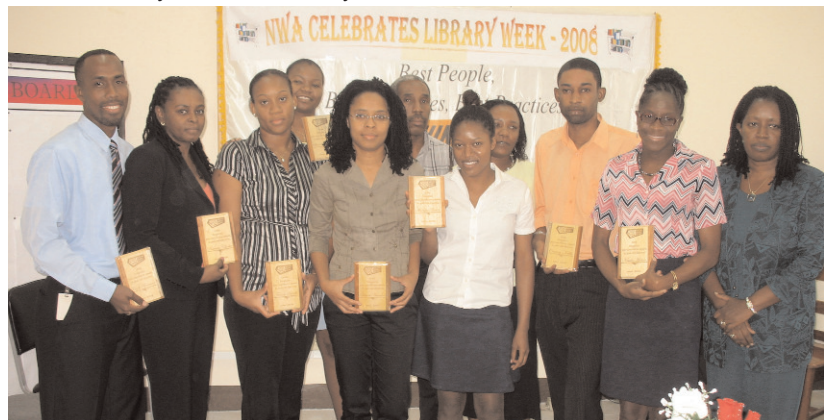
NWA celebrates Library Week by honouring Records Services Unit staff

Eight members of the Records Services Unit were recently honoured by the Agency for their effort at reorganizing the records in some departments. Plaques were presented to staff members, Natalie Mohan, Farah Smith, Dionne Newman, Monique Brown, Shanna Harley, Omroy Kelly and Hugh Bowman. Senior Records Officer, Patricia Clarke who is on maternity leave was also recognized.

Speaking at the ceremony, which was held in the Agency's Training Room, Manager of Personnel and Industrial Relations, David Knight said the recognition was a fitting testimony of the value that the organization places on the work of this vital Unit. Commendations/congratulatory comments also came from individuals of other departments. These included, Manager, Property and Estate, Christopher Campbell, Chief Internal Auditor, Ainsworth Savage, Director of Quality Assurance, Orlene Nembhard-Rowe, Administrative Assistant in the Physical Planning Unit, Michelle Pryce and Administrative Assistant for the Communication and Customer Services Department, Althea Cole. Project Director for the Northern Jamaica Development Programme (NJDP), Desmond Malcolm also had warm words for members of the Unit.

The speakers reflected on the professionalism displayed by members, who even though met resistance from some individuals, still got the job completed to a high standard. The speakers all agreed that the Unit is doing an exceptional job. Miss Cole pointed out that when contacted for information, team members were ready and able to provide the required information. This sentiment was echoed by the NJDP Director, who admitted that it took him a while to acknowledge the work of the Unit, but following their effort in his Unit, their efficiency and effectiveness was unquestionable.

Presentations were done by Director of Regional Implementation, Richard McHargh, Desmond Malcolm, Christopher Campbell, Ainsworth Savage, Manager of Communication and Customer Services, Stephen A. Shaw, Senior Quality Auditor, Devron Newman, Acting Manager, Geographical Information Systems, Alicia Gayle and Orlene Nembhard-Rowe.



Front row (from left to right) are: Librarian, Hugh Bowman; Manager, Information Resources, Houple Modest; Records Officer, Farah Smith; Records Officer Dionne Newman; Clerical Officer, Monique Brown; Records Officer, Omroy Kelly; Records Officer, Natalie Mohan; and Director of Human Resources Management and Administration, Jennifer Henry. Back row (left to right) Library Assistant, Shanna Harley, Blue Print Operator, Courtney White and Administrative Assistant, Judith Smith.

*Team NWA
let your voice be heard!*

We welcome your
articles, poems,
inspirations, quotes, etc
send to: susanwebb@nwa.gov.jm