



THE ANTIGUA & BARBUDA ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL

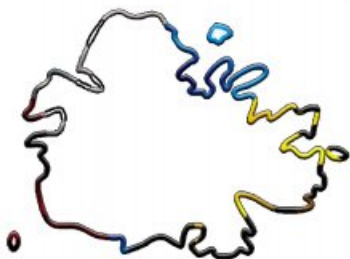
PRESENTS



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
ANNIVERSARY
OF INDEPENDENCE
"Resilience, Reflection and Recovery"

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

Celebration



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2021





Antigua "Black" Pineapple

In a region where fruits come in a variety and are renowned for their taste and texture, the Antigua Black is wildly re- garded as a delight of the Caribbean. With a history that traces back to the Arawak Indians coming from South America "about the time of the first Christmas," pineapples were called Boniama or Yayama and "believed to be food for the Gods." The Antigua variety of pineapple is known as the "Black". And it is described as having a dark green color when it is most delicious, but is smaller than other commercial types. This variety ripens to agolden glow. It is juicy, sweet, and full of flavor. A tasty wine was made from the fruits and pineapples.

The State Flag of Antigua & Barbuda



Official Description

The **Golden Sun** symbolises the dawn of a new era
Red symbolises the dynamism of the people
Blue symbolizes hope
Black symbolizes the soil and our African heritage
Gold, Blue and **White** together represent
Antigua's tourist attractions –
sun, sea and sand
The "**V**" depicted in the design by the **Black**
Blue and **White** bands is the symbol of Victory.

The flag was designed by:
Reginald Samuel
Adopted: **February 27, 1967**

Reginald Samuel
A National Hero

National Anthems

Canada

O Canada!

Our home and native land!

True patriot love in all of us command.

With glowing hearts we see thee rise,

The True North strong and free!

From far and wide,

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

God keep our land glorious and free!

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

Antigua and Barbuda

Fair Antigua and Barbuda

We thy sons and daughters stand,

Strong and firm in peace or danger

To safeguard our native land.

We commit ourselves to building

A true nation brave and free.

Ever striving ever seeking

Dwell in love and unity.





PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

2021

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone taking part in this celebration of Antigua and Barbuda's 40th year of independence, hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Montreal.



This occasion offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the events that shaped the history of Antigua and Barbuda, and to highlight the country's many achievements.

It continues to be a challenging time for planning and hosting events. That is why I would like to thank the organizers for making this year's celebration virtual so that it could take place. I would also like to commend the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Montreal for their commitment to fostering fellowship in the community. Canada is truly a multicultural nation, made stronger and more resilient by our diversity.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable celebration.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE

Congratulations to the people of Antigua and Barbuda on the 40th Anniversary of Independence!

The country which our ancestors began reinventing, after defeating colonialism, differs remarkably from the sparse building blocks inherited on 1st November 1981. Those forty years until the present have been a marvelous experiment; the people and government created a better life for the citizens and residents through innovation, courage, and resilience.

For a colonial outpost, peopled and economically designed purposefully to extract wealth for absentee owners, beginning nearly four centuries ago, the relatively short period of sovereignty demonstrates collective brilliance. Our people have been yearning for the opportunities to manage their own affairs and to express their nationhood by astute leadership. The evidence demonstrates that the political maturity and social cohesion displayed during the forty years of independence are highly-valued behaviours that have become deeply ingrained in the sovereign consciousness of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

There have been 16 general elections since 1946, when political parties first emerged. Never has there been a resort to violence or to force, in order to change the outcomes of those democratic expressions. In the eight general elections since 1981, governments have been changed with power passing from one political party to another, no violence or disturbance. Political maturity and social cohesion have been at work. Our cultural traditions, including the annual Carnival and the Christmas celebrations, enrich and

bind our people. These celebrations allow for all other incidental identities to be submerged temporarily, even as competition for excellence shines through. Our people have learned, through Christian values and socialization, to be tolerant and patient with each other.

The novel Coronavirus disease, or the Covid-19, the resulting vaccines that prevent hospitalization and death, and the securing of a sufficient supply of those vaccines now approved, have tested every country's people, worldwide. In Antigua and Barbuda's case, sufficiency of supply of the vaccines has been achieved. Yet, a significant cadre of our people seem determined to challenge the nation's leadership and to remain unvaccinated. This disagreement in the 40th year of Independence is surprising. Achieving national immunity will, nevertheless, continue as a national ambition. I am confident that our people will triumph over Covid and restore normalcy, good health, and prosperity for future generations.

I congratulate the people of Antigua and Barbuda for forty years of excellence, and I promise to take our country forward in the years ahead, turning the nation into an Economic Powerhouse.

Long live Antigua and Barbuda! Long live our people!
Long live sovereignty!

Honourable Gaston Browne M.P.
Prime Minister
November 1, 2021



Consulate General of Antigua and Barbuda

60 St Clair Avenue East, Suite 601, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1N5 Canada
Tel: (416) 961-3143 • Fax: (416) 961-7218 • info@antigua-barbuda-ca.com

Independence Greeting from the Consul General



Fellow Antiguan and Barbudan and friends of Antigua and Barbuda,

Happy 40th Anniversary of Independence!

On behalf of the staff of the Consulate-General-Toronto, I extend warm greetings and congratulations to all Antiguan and Barbudans in the Canadian Diaspora. We are celebrating this 40th anniversary of independence under the theme resilience, reflection, and recovery.

The past 18 months have been especially challenging for all of us as we try to stay ahead of and survive the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges, Antiguan and Barbudans in the diaspora have remained strong and resilient finding creative ways to stay connected to each other and the homeland, to support those in need and to maintain a strong and vibrant Antiguan and Barbudan community here in Canada.

As we reflect on the past 40 years we do so with a sense of gratitude, recognizing that the road to independence was not without its obstacles. But our leaders and citizens alike were determined, and when the struggle got difficult, they persisted. We are the proud beneficiaries of their hard-fought battles.

We must continue to stand together not only to rebuild the Antiguan and Barbudan economy after covid-19 but as global citizens fighting against social and racial injustice and calling for greater protection of our planet, for gender equity, diversity, and inclusion. As our national anthem says, 'gird your loins and join the battle 'Gainst fear, hate and poverty, each endeavouring all achieving, live in peace where man is free.'

In closing, as we celebrate this milestone in our nation's history, I would encourage us to continue to be thoughtful in our words and show kindness and extend grace to one another. As the saying goes 'everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind always.

Happy 40th anniversary of independence! May God continue to guide and to bless you.

Ann-Marie Layne
Consul General

Félicitations à l'Association Antigua-et-Barbuda de Montréal à l'occasion de leur 40e anniversaire d'indépendances!

Congratulations to the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Montreal on their 40th Anniversary of Independence!



MARC MILLER

Député | Member of Parliament

Ville-Marie—Le Sud-Ouest—Île-des-Sœurs

3175 rue Saint-Jacques
Montréal, Qc H4C 1G7
Tél.: 514-496-4885
marc.miller@parl.gc.ca
mmiller.liberal.ca



CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA



Greetings from your
Member of Parliament
Saluations de votre Député



Montreal Office

4770 Kent Avenue, Suite 316
Montreal, QC H3W 1H2
Tel: 514-283-0171
Fax: 514-283-2407

Anthony Housefather

Member of Parliament – Mount Royal
Député – Mont-Royal

Bureau à Montréal

4770 avenue Kent, Bureau 316
Montréal, Québec
Tél: 514-283-0171
Téléec: 514-283-2407

As the Member of Parliament for Mount Royal I would like to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the Antigua and Barbuda association of Montreal Inc's virtual event in celebration of Antigua and Barbuda's 40th anniversary of independence.

I would like to thank the association's President Juleen Barrington and Public Relations Officer Erene Anthony for allowing me to share these words of welcome with you all and for ensuring that this year's festivities can once again be carried on in a safe, socially distanced manner. I also applaud the association for its fundraising efforts in directing a portion of the proceeds from this event towards the Ada Moore Bursary. Thanks so much for your continued commitment to academic excellence in your community, you are truly making a difference!

Canadians who have their origins in Antigua and Barbuda, together with Canadians whose roots lie in other Caribbean nations, are a vital component of Montreal's diverse cultural makeup both in the Mount Royal riding and throughout the entire region. Thank you for your contributions to our vibrant and diverse community and for bringing your traditions to Canada.

Please accept my regards and best wishes.

Anthony Housefather
Member of Parliament for Mount Royal /
Député de Mont-Royal
Anthony.Housefather@parl.gc.ca



C'est avec un immense plaisir que je me joins à l'Association Antigua-et-Barbuda de Montréal pour vous souhaiter à tous un merveilleux et incroyable 40e anniversaire d'indépendance. Que votre histoire et votre culture continuent de bénir le monde.

It is with extreme pleasure that I join the Antigua & Barbuda Association of Montreal to wish all of you a wonderful and amazing 40th anniversary of independence. May your history and culture continue to bless the world.



ANJU

DHILLON

Députée / Member of
Parliament
Dorval-Lachine-LaSalle

OTTAWA OFFICE

Justice Building
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
Tel. 613-995-2251
Fax. 514-639-7407

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

735 Notre-Dame Street
Lachine QC H8S 2B5
Tel. 514-639-4497
Fax. 613-996-1481

BUREAU D'OTTAWA

ÉDIFICE DE LA JUSTICE
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
Tel. 613 995-2251
Télééc. 514 639-7407

BUREAU DE CIRCONSCRIPTION

735 Notre-Dame Street
Lachine QC H8S 2B5
Tel. 514-639-4497
Fax. 613-996-1481





Borough Mayor and City Councillors' Office
5160 Décarie, Suite 610
Montréal (Québec) H3X 2H9
Tel. 514-726-6521
marvin.rotrand@montreal.ca

November 1, 2021

A MESSAGE FROM CITY COUNCILLOR MARVIN ROTRAND
Re: 40th Anniversary of Independence of Antigua and Barbuda

Dear Friends,

Today is a milestone occasion marking the 40th anniversary of Antigua and Barbuda's independence. I know the day will bring pride and joy for you, and rightly so, the diaspora living in our city can point to the homeland's success and many accomplishments since attaining national independence.

Represented by the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Montreal, your community will celebrate overcoming the devastation wrought by hurricane Irene in 2017, the dislocation of the tourist industry by the Covid pandemic and the relaunching of the nation's economy despite the many challenges of the past two years.

But most of all you will cherish the country's devotion to democracy and the rule of law. Antigua and Barbuda takes pride in its membership in the Commonwealth of Nations and its growing relationship with neighbours in the Caribbean and with Canada.

Antigua and Barbuda is blessed with lush and spectacular natural beauty with some of the most ravishing beaches in the world. It has become a choice tourist destination of international renown. I trust that as we move beyond COVID the tourist industry will realize its potential enhancing the nation's economy.

The Antigua and Barbuda Association of Montreal works hard to maintain links with the homeland while also providing important services to the diaspora here in our city. As in past years, it has been my pleasure to ensure a grant has been voted by the Borough of Côte-des-Neiges – Notre-Dame-de-Grâce in support of your association's ongoing good work including your events to celebrate independence day.

Please note this will be my last message to your association as a City Councillor. In a few weeks' time my mandate will expire after 39 consecutive years as an elected official. I have chosen not to be a candidate in the upcoming municipal election.

It has been an honour for me to work closely with your association. You have instilled a sense of heritage in the generation born here so they are proud to be Canadian but retain an Antiguan identity. You provide seniors a taste of home and have long partnered with the City of Montreal. It has always been my pleasure over the years to support your good work.

Yours truly,

Marvin Rotrand
City Councillor – Snowdon

Cabinet de la mairesse et des élu.es
Arrondissement de Villeray – Saint-Michel – Parc-Extension
405, avenue Ogilvy, bureau 103
Montréal (Québec) H3N 1M3



November 20th, 2021

Subject : Congratulations to the Antigua and Barbuda 40th anniversary of independence

Dear friends,

As City Councillor for the Parc-Extension district in the borough of Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension, I would like to congratulate the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Montreal for the organization of the 40th anniversary of Antigua and Barbuda's independence.

Celebrating defining historical moments is essential to stay connected to our origins and to bring the community together. I applaud the initiative of the Board of Directors.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the great work you do in your community.

I congratulate you on your commitment and wish you success in all your endeavors. Once again, I extend my warmest congratulations on the 40th anniversary of Antigua and Barbuda's independence.

Sincerely,



Mary Deros

City councillor - Parc-Extension district
Borough of Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension
mary.deros@montreal.ca

514 872-3103



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
ANNIVERSARY
OF INDEPENDENCE
"Resilience, Reflection and Recovery"



Message from the President

Fellow Antiguan, Barbudans, Friends,

It joins in congratulating our nation, Antigua and Barbuda on its 40th year of independence, with the theme: Resilience, Reflection, and recovery.

It was more than a year when the coronavirus pandemic reached our shores bringing with it illness, the loss of loved ones, job losses, and many other changes.

However, as a resilient people, and we are facing those challenges head on.

The pandemic has impacted every facet of our lives.

Today in-person gathering for various activities came to a halt with zoom becoming the new norm to reach out and stay in contact with family, friend and business associates.

This year, the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Montreal has decided to make a donation to the Fiennes Institute in Antigua, to assist them with the purchase of protective supplies including masks, gloves and hygienic products.

As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, the association will honour Ms. Falcona Henry, a stalwart of our community. She has been a staunch long-standing member of the association as well as a prolific poet as evidenced by the many poems that she has written and presented at many of our functions throughout the years.

There are many lessons that can be learned from the lens through which Ms. Henry views life in general.

As we have been doing in the past the association will also present bursaries to assist and encourage our deserving students. It is one of the ways we can help them as they pursue their academic studies so they can be an example for others to follow.

On this our 40th Anniversary of Independence celebration, we will also pay tribute to Dame Dr. Ruby Lake Richards, an iconic Antigua who has elevated to the highest level of success in the medical field. At 96, she is also one of our oldest living compatriot here in Montreal.

Thank you Dr. Lake for the contributions you have made to the Douglas Hospital, McGill University and to the members of your Antiguan community here in Montreal.


On behalf of the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Montreal, I wish to express my condolence to all who have lost loved ones due to Covid 19, or other illnesses. Also, to those who are still impacted by the pandemic as we continue to pray for your comfort and healing in God's name.

May God continue to bless and keep us all safe.

Happy Independence to all Antiguan.

Julleen Barrington






Congratulations

To the Antigua & Barbuda
Association of Montreal
of Montreal on your
40th Anniversary

and Best Wishes

Purves and Lynette Ellis





Silverene 

**Congratulations
and Best Wishes**

to The Antigua & Barbuda
Association of Montreal
on your 40th Anniversary
of Independence


info/share website
www.silverene.ca
Email: centianthony@gmail.com




Congratulations 

to the Antigua & Barbuda Association of Montreal
on your 40th Anniversary


Ville de Dollard-des-Ormeaux
Errol Johnson
Conseiller/Councillor



12001, boul. De Salaberry
Dollard-des-Ormeaux
H9B 2A7
Tel: 514 684-0879
Cell: 514-781-0890
ejohnson@ddo.qc.ca



Le Consulat de Grenade à Montréal
Consulate of Grenada in Montreal






Phone: (514) 756-5168
thblaize@gmail.com

3640 College St.
Saint Hubert, Quebec
J3Y 3S2 Canada

We Congratulate the Nation of
Antigua and Barbuda on this significant attainment.

**Forty years of Nation Building
and contribution to regional development**



THEODORE H BLAIZE
HONORARY CONSUL OF MONTREAL



Tribute:

Dame Ruby Beryl Viola Lake Richards
(MD. FRCS-psych)



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
ANNIVERSARY
OF INDEPENDENCE
"Resilience, Reflection and Recovery"

Today we celebrate the life and work of Dr. Ruby Lake-Richards a 99-year-old Antiguan for her outstanding accomplishments as a medical professional. She was part of the inaugural class of medical students at the University of the West Indies (UWI) and is the first female graduate from Antigua and Barbuda and the only surviving alumni.

In 1948, Dr. Lake was one of 33 students from across the Caribbean region who registered to study Medicine at the then University College of the West Indies (UCWI) she was one of 10 women and one of only two students from Antigua & Barbuda in what was the first faculty of the institution.

She received her medical degree from the UCWI in 1954 and interned at the Holberton Hospital in St John's, Antigua. She then worked as a parish doctor at the Carty's Hill's Clinic in Glanvilles where she also established a private practice.

In 1967, Dr. Lake Richards migrated to Montreal, with her husband, the late Sir Nouvelle Richards who was appointed by the governments of the Eastern Caribbean countries to be the first Diplomatic Trade Commissioner to Canada.

In Montreal she did postgraduate studies at Mc Gill University in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry while also working at the Reddy Memorial Hospital and the Montreal Children's Hospital.

In 1977, she received her Fellowship in the Royal college of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and with it recognition "by the public and the entire health community as proof of her world-class expertise.

Dr. Lake Richards' medical career spanned well over 60 years, four decades of which was spent here in Montreal at the Douglas Hospital. She retired in 2015 at age 93.





Tribute:

Dame Ruby Beryl Niola Lake Richards
(MD. FRCS-psych)

On Saturday July 31, Dr Lake-Richards who resides in Montreal received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from UWI to mark her lifetime contribution to the field. The ceremony was held at the Five Islands Campus of UWI that was recently opened In Antigua & Barbuda.

In tribute to Dr. Lake-Richards, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal of the UWI Five Islands campus, Professor Williams Densil Williams noted, "Being an Antiguan and being honored by the youngest campus in the UWI system, domiciled in her country of birth is special and even more so that she is alive and in good health to receive this accolade from her alma mater."

Following the recommendation from the prime minister of Antigua & Barbuda, The Hon. Gaston Browne, on November 1, 2021 the title of Damehood "which is the most senior honor in the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire" was bestowed upon her for her exemplary contributions to medicine

Today, November 20, 2021, The Antigua & Barbuda Association of Montreal is privileged to recognize a professional who has worked in our community and has positively touched the lives of family members and friends whom we know. We thank her for her stellar legacy.

It is our distinct honor to recognize and pay tribute to Dame Ruby Lake Richards for her distinguished accomplishments and service as a medical professional.

May God Continue To Bless You.





The coat of arms of Antigua features a central shield with a pineapple, a bunch of grapes, and a bunch of bananas. The shield is supported by two blue birds (possibly doves) and is set against a background of a yellow sunburst. The shield is flanked by two brown hands holding the shield's sides. The entire emblem is set against a background of the Antigua flag, which consists of a black triangle at the top, a blue triangle at the bottom, and a red triangle on the left and right sides.

Antigua

Where land and sea make beauty
Antigua, we salute thee
We all awoke to celebrate and say,
Let's all give cheers to Independence Day
In the land of sea sand and sun,
Where fruits flowers and vegetables grow
May we endeavour to be on the run
As our small island of Antigua glows.

Antigua my sweet nationality,
Taste our pineapple then talk to me,
Antigua the beautiful Antigua the free!
I am very proud and excited about my country.
My small island has a lot of toiling,
Instead of toiling some rather go gambling,
Nationals and immigrants are always rambling
But true nationals and immigrants keep the economy boiling,

We are our brother's keeper
Let's lend a hand to our neighbors,
Antigua my small country,
With St John's our gorgeous city,
With thankful hearts we call on thee,
Thou Blessed Lamb of Calvary,
Let this our Antigua be,
To keep Antigua in unity.

Falcona Henry.



Honoree 2021:

Ms. Falcona Henry

Falcona Henry was born in Antigua and grew up in the beautiful village of Buckley's. Her parents William and Effie Henry did their best in raising all 10 children and she was the last one. At an early age her Mom got sick and passed so she was raised most of her life by her father and her older siblings. After she graduated from school She went to the Antigua Technical College where she did a three year program in Hotel and Catering and worked for a short while in Antigua in the Hotel industry.

Falcona immigrated to Montreal in 1978 and worked for a couple of families but did not find it easy. She emphasized that she did not tolerate any form of abuse from those families. She later worked in a CSHLD for 23 years until it eventually it closed in 2010. Falcona also worked in a community center near home and found the experience rewarding. There she was able to mentor several children and young adults who came to the centre. She is now retired and is enjoying this new life immensely.

The Lord has blessed her with two beautiful children Curran and Courtney Connor. She says they have taught her a lot and that she is still learning. Many, many years ago, Falcona developed a love for poetry and has been writing ever since. She hopes that one day she will be able to publish all of her poems. Falcona also loves to pray also and says it's the only weapon that guides me her life's journey. She extends thanks to the Antigua and Barbuda Association for this honour and prays that as Antiguan and Barbudans, we may work together for the development of our beautiful country and be blessed by our efforts.





ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
ANNIVERSARY
OF INDEPENDENCE

"Resilience, Reflection and Recovery"

Guest Speaker

Mr. Fernando Smith

Fernando Smith was born and raised in Freeman's Village Antigua. He now resides in Toronto, Canada.

He is a Political Science graduate of York University with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He is passionate about community social justice. This passion led him to serve as President and Treasurer of the Antigua and Barbuda Association in Canada.

At an early age he developed a keen interest in the history of Antigua and Barbuda after listening to stories told by his late grandfather Pappa Sammy. As a result, he co-authored two books "To shoot Hard Labour 1 & 2" with his brother the late Sir Keithlyn Smith.

Fernando is the recipient of many awards including A UNESCO Honour Award in 2004 for Outstanding Contribution to The Improvement Of Literacy And The Development Of The Literary Arts in Antigua And Barbuda.



A circular portrait of an elderly Black woman with short dark hair, wearing a white top and a pink shawl. The background of the portrait is the flag of Antigua and Barbuda.

Ada Moore *Bursary Recipient*



The late Ada Moore was one of many Antiguan domestic workers who arrived in Canada in 1959 and spent her first year in Calgary. She later moved to Montreal, contacted other Antiguan who were living here and some years later, in 1970 was one of the founders of the Antigua & Barbuda Association.

Over the years, Miss Moore was quite vocal in matters related to the Association as well as Antigua and Barbuda. Her continuous service was priceless to our community. During her service as member of the Executive, we recall her laughter and the sense of humour with which she often summoned us to action. Miss Moore was dedicated, hardworking and always saw the glass as half full. As a founding member and pillar of the Association, in 1997, Miss Moore was made a life time Honourary member for her contributions.

For this exemplary volunteer service to the Antigua and Barbuda Association, tonight, we are pleased to ask her niece Elaine Thomas to make presentation to two deserving students in her memory. The scholarship is awarded to students of Antiguan and Barbudan parentage with high academic achievement who intend to pursue programs at the college level.



Ms. Courtney Connor

Courtney is a graduate of Lakeshore High School in Lachine Montreal and was heavily involved in the leadership program. She spent countless hours dedicating herself to fundraising, planning school activities and variety shows. She really enjoyed every minute of her service, including being a basketball athlete. Currently, she is a volunteer coach with the leadership basketball program, a non-profit organization in La Salle. The Founder and president of Leadership Basketball club and a teacher in the community school has known Courtney for over 10 years. She worked with him helping at risk kids to become successful.

She is described as a person whom the youths could trust and ask for advice. She is currently volunteering with youths age 12 and under. We are told that her calm tone makes the kids comfortable while her organization skills keep them engaged. She has been nothing but committed, responsible and has always acted in a professional manner.

Courtney's bio tells of her intense volunteer experience with at-risk youths and the commitment she has made to adapt and work with students with a variety of needs. As an Integration aide within the Lester B Pearson, she loves working in a school environment helping to make a positive impact on the lives of our future generation. In her own words, Courtney says that "I have recently decided to go back to school taking a program that will allow me to obtain a diploma in Special Care Counseling at Vanier College. This program teaches how to work with people with physical, cognitive, intellectual, neurological, emotional as well as behavioural needs. I have a strong desire to help others and I believe that this program will further educate and help me work with people from all different walks of life. This will be beneficial to my current line of work as well as my community."

In our small way, the Antigua Association of Montreal is happy to help her achieve her goals.





Steelpan
Fatima Wilson

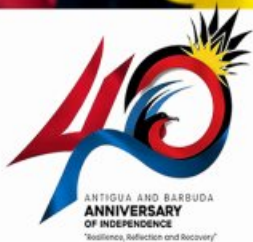
Fatima Wilson Introduced to the Steelpan at the age of 5 by father Salah Wilson. She started performing alongside her 5 siblings, where they were known as Salah and Family Steelpan Workshop. Performing for thousands of events and also participating in many annual steelpan competitions, her vision is one just like her father's as she continues to teach the steelpan as an extra-curriculum program in the English Montreal School Board school system. Fatima continues to keep pushing and growing the steelpan movement and is determined to have it acknowledged one day, as a recognized school accredited program in and around the city of Montreal.



Clarinetist
Michael Maxwell

Clarinetist Michael Maxwell currently calls Ottawa his home but he is Jamaican born and received most of his training in Montreal. It all started in church at age 8 on the drums, playing with much older musicians. He eventually became an accomplished gospel musician and from a teen has taught many aspiring musicians in this tradition. He started the clarinet in high school then went on to study at the Conservatoire du Music de Montreal then at McGill University. Since those early years Michael has been performing in churches, public events and the concert hall. Equally adept in classical, gospel and popular styles, he is known for his facility and beautiful tone on the clarinet as well as his unique interpretations and improvisational style. He is one of the few black musicians who has performed regularly with the Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal and other classical groups. Since 2010 he has been a member of the full-time Central Band of the Canadian Armed Forces in Ottawa, playing at national ceremonies and for visiting dignitaries. He recently played at the inaugural concert of the Ensemble Obiora which is dedicated to promoting black and diverse classical musicians.

Michael continues to teach musicians and mentors our leaders. Always active in sports, he and his wife Hazel are blessed with a large family.



Program



6.00 P.M. Co Hosts:

Antigua as a Tourist Destination of choice

-Music Serenade

-Antigua Attractions

-National Dress -Slide Show

6:30 P.M.

PRAYER

Canada National Anthem

Message: The Rt Hon Justin Trudeau

Antigua National Anthem

Message:

Message: Prime Minister

Trumpet Solo Antigua the Beautiful

National Choir:

Message:

President's Message

Soprano : Antigua

Tribute: Dame Dr Ruby Lake-Richards MD FRCS psych

Highlights: Legacy of Service

Rev Dr. Charles Humphrey Este

Sir Novelle Richards

Mr. David Ralph

Tenor: Our Pledge

Highlights: Legacy of Service

Mr. Patrick Sylvester Benjamin

Mrs. Joan Gomes

Moment of Silence:

Steelpan: Can't Help Fall in love

Guest Speaker: Mr. Fernando Smith

Honouree: Mrs. Falcona Henry Connor

Poem: Antigua

Bursary Recipient: Ms. Courtney Connor

Clarinet: One Love

Prizes:

Slide Show: Past Events

Acknowledgement /Thank You

Erene Anthony & Devolyn Carter

Father James Pratt

Mrs. Juleen Barrington

His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, KGN, GCMG Mrs. Cicely Jarvis

Hon Gaston Browne Video

Mr. Erickson Skeritt

The Antigua Community Players

Consul- General Ms. Ann Marie Layne Video

Mrs. Juleen Barrington

Mrs. Adriane Henry (Nov 1 A&B)

Ms. Erene Anthony

Ms. Devolyn Carter

Ms. Devolyn Carter

Mrs. Veron Henry

Mr. Arlen Seaton /Pianist Dr. George Roberts

Ms. Devolyn Carter

Ms. Erene Anthony

For Mr. Winston Bell

Ms. Fatima Wilson

Mrs. Juleen Barrington

Mrs. Juleen Barrington

Mrs. Falcona Henry Connor

Mrs. Cicely Jarvis

Mr. Michael Maxwell

Ms. Courtney Connor

Mrs. Cicely Jarvis





A Legacy of Service

Mrs Joan Gomes

Mrs Joan Gomes was a stalwart of the Antigua & Barbuda Association of Montreal and led us as President into an exciting celebration of our first Independence. She grew up in Freemans Village, Antigua and taught at her alma mater The Convent School/Christ The King High School.



She was also a Red Cross community volunteer – both in Antigua and Barbuda and a First-Aid instructor. She migrated to Canada in 1972 and settled in Montreal, where she continued in her career as an educator working as a lecturer at Excelsior Business College and as a teacher in The Adult Education sector of the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal. Mrs Gomes served this community well. Her commitment to the success of youth and older folks was boundless.

Her tenure as president of Antigua & Barbuda Association of Montreal and leading us into our inaugural independence celebration is one of the highlights of the organization, serving at a time when she could rely on the advice and leadership of our own Eastern Caribbean High Commissioner, the late Sir Novelle Richards. Also, she served at a time when nationals were anxious to keep their links with the homeland.

She also volunteered extensively for many years here in Montreal with seniors, engaging them with drama among other social and creative activities.

In marking the first Independence celebration of Antigua and Barbuda, she worked closely with vice president Leonard Jarvis and together they were instrumental in producing a memorable Souvenir Booklet for the occasion.

The enthusiasm and passion Mrs Gomes exhibited for her work with the organization was extraordinary. Her easy laughter, her diligence for work and her frank communication skills were traits that served her well during her tenure. She pioneered an era when our folklore and traditions were always highlighted, and ensured that our connections to our roots would not be forgotten.

Mrs Gomes loved Antigua and Barbuda, and helped members of the local association maintain link with family and friends in the home country. She often lamented that she missed the island's sun and sea and dreamed of returning, which she did in 1987. Back home, she worked as Chief Welfare Officer in the government of Antigua and Barbuda. Also, she returned to volunteer work – both in Antigua and Barbuda with the Red Cross. Upon retirement, she became even more involved in her work serving as a community project manager with the Red Cross. For her commitment she received several national awards both from the Red Cross and the government of Antigua and Barbuda. Her legacy 40 years later shines brightly in our midst.

Thank you Joan as we reflect on your service for your link to this Montreal chain that remains unbroken.



A Legacy of Service

Mr. Patrick Sylvester Benjamin

Patrick Syvester Benjamin grew up in St Johns and attended the Spring Gardens Moravian School. His experience as a young scout obviously impacted his love of service in his adult years. Today he is one of only two Antiguans who holds the distinction of Queen Scouts, one of the highest efficiency badge one can acquire as a scout. He is well known for his service and illustrious career in the Antigua Defence Force.



He was seconded to the West India Regiment of Jamaica in 1959 where he served for three and a half years followed by another seven and a half years in Trinidad. He is legendary for keeping in touch with his counterparts in the other islands and travels often to their reunions. In 2009, on the 50th Anniversary of the West India Regiment, Mr. Benjamin was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for being the first person of Antigua and Barbuda enlisted in the West India Regiment with an inscription, The Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force will from Henceforth Award the Best Recruit the WIF Private Sylvester Benjamin Award. It was his honour to present the first award in 2010. Mr. Benjamin settled in Montreal in 1969 and was involved in the shipping business. For many years nationals from the islands throughout the Caribbean depended on his services. He is regarded as the founder of the Antigua & Barbuda Association of Montreal. It was under his leadership in 1970 that a group of loyal nationals who wanted to keep the familial bond of the country joined him 51 years ago to inaugurate the Association. It was a safe place of belonging, of friendship and challenges with a goal to stay committed to helping each other. From 1981 to the present time, he has been an active member of the Independent United Order of Mechanics. With his title of Grand Tyler, he honed strong leadership skills. If there is a character trait that fits Mr. Benjamin it is resilience. Throughout his 11-year term as President of the Antigua & Barbuda Association, he held the fort when others felt the burden with leadership. He was always determined to keep nationals engaged and united. Giving up was not an option for him. He gave of his time and energy to ensure that the Association reached out with events and activities that included other members of the Caribbean community. One of his strengths was that of his keeping the nationals of Montreal connected to those in other areas of North America. The groundwork in committed leadership that he encouraged is testament to the survival of the Association today. For his service we are truly grateful.

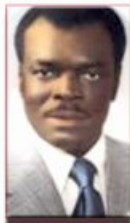




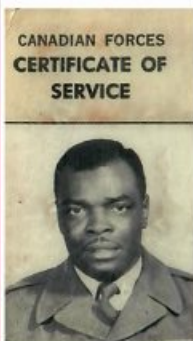
A Legacy of Service

Mr. Davis Ralph

Mr. Davis Ralph was born in Dominica but grew up in Antigua. His early years were in the village of Liberty village and St John's. He settled in Montreal in 1940 and lived most of his years in Brossard on the South Shore.



Here, he was drawn to military service and served in the Canadian Army as an elite paratrooper. He was also a decorated veteran of the Viet Nam and Korean War. As it was in the military so it was in his civilian life in Montreal Mr. Ralph distinguished himself as a man who was driven, committed and strived for excellence in all his undertakings. He built an exemplary career after earning his degree as a civil engineer at McGill University. He also maintained throughout his life his passion an active golfer and bowler and showed himself to be a man of versatility and well-rounded skills beyond academia, He has been known as one always willing to go the extra mile to succeed. Mr. Ralph's achievements are noteworthy and his versatile career singles him out as a person whose life reflects the virtues of humility and hard-word. His trajectory of purpose has led his stellar accomplishments. His is a legacy worth elevating.



To the Antigua & Barbuda Association of Montreal,

On behalf of the West Island Black Community Association and our members, we would like to wish the great Antigua & Barbuda a Happy 40th Independence! As we move forward with freedom, we hope to see continued progress, success, and prosperity for your country. The Antigua & Barbuda Association of Montreal continues to be a source of strength and communal cooperation for the city of Montreal.

Best Wishes,
The WIBCA Board of Directors



WEST ISLAND
BLACK COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION

L'ASSOCIATION DE LA
COMMUNAUTÉ NOIRE
DE L'OUEST DE L'ÎLE

EARLY ANTIGUANS



Reverend Charles Este

For 45 years Rev. Dr. Charles Este served as the spiritual leader of the flock at Union United Located at 3007 Delisle, and forged his outreach work extending throughout the community, helping Black in Montreal and newcomers, in areas of employment, housing, immigration and other social issues.



Dr. Este was raised in the village of Jennings in St Mary's Parish, Antigua. He attended Cedar Hall School and worshipped with his family at the building next door, the Cedar Hall Moravian Church. His family later moved to St. John's and continued their spiritual journey in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. He emigrated from Antigua in 1913 to further his education. His ministry at Union United Church one Canada's oldest Black congregations began in 1925 and extended to 1968. Throughout his tenure, Rev. Dr. Este was indefatigable in advocating on behalf of members of his congregation as well as members of the the Anglophone community, and indeed marginalized people across Montreal.

His social justice advocacy and his focus on the literary arts exemplified is status as a formidable community builder. Among his many standout achievements and contributions are his efforts in establishing the Negro Community Center, an organization that later bore his name. The Center was established in 1927 under his leadership as Pastor of Union United Church and was located in several neighbourhood spaces in Little Burgundy before it was moved to the basement of Union United Church, in 1930 then to its long-standing location at Coursol Street in 1955. In its heyday the Negro Community Centre (The Charles Este Center) was a foundational spot for Quebec's Black and Caribbean community offering range of programs that included health and welfare services as well as activities that facilitated the educational and recreational needs of children, youth and adults in the Montreal and surrounding areas. Under the good guidance of Rev. Dr. Este, the Centre as it was known, grew to be not only a gathering place but also that nurtured and enhance the lives of the families that it served. The building that housed the Centre was demolished in 2014 and efforts are still at play for its revitalization. His work in establishing and maintaining the Centre as well as his spiritual leadership at Union United Church, earned Rev. Dr. Charles Este legendary status not only in the Black community but across Montreal. His name evokes pride and his formidable legacy of service will live on. For that we honour and celebrate him



Sir Novelle Hamilton Richards

Sir Novelle Hamilton Richards, (K.C.G.N.) was a distinguished author, statesman and politician who represented the Leeward Islands and Antigua and Barbuda, both at home and abroad. He was born in the historic village of Liberta, Antigua. He attended the Grace Hill School, the Antigua Grammar School and the London Polytechnic Institute in England where he successfully pursued a Diploma Course in Journalism. Sir Novelle Richards He was first elected to the Antigua Legislative Council in 1951, representing the St. John's Rural South (1951- 60) for the Antigua labour Party. In 1958 he was elected as a member Federal Parliament of the West Indies Federation and served as a member of the Federal Cabinet and acted as Federal Prime Minister on several occasions. Following Antigua's declaration of Independence from Great Britain in 1967,

Sir Novelle was elected the first President of the Antigua and Barbuda Senate later that year. He was appointed by the governments of the Eastern Caribbean to serve in Montreal as the First Diplomatic Trade Commissioner in Canada. Antiguans have always been proud of the contributions of Sir Novelle Richards to our government and the life and progress of the people of the twin islands. In addition to being the author of several publications including Tropic Gems, Twilight Hour and Vines of Freedom, one of his most significant contributions is having composed the lyrics of the National Anthem of Antigua and Barbuda. Members of the Antigua Barbuda Association of Montreal remember and acknowledge the formidable legacy of Sir Novelle Richards. As well as his lasting inspiration for success. As we celebrate his stellar statesmanship and reflect on his service, we remember his message of encouragement to us at our first Independence celebration some 40 years ago and it continues resonates today. His legacy to all Antiguans and Barbudans everywhere is indelibly etched in our lives.





The Antigua & Barbuda Association of Montreal

The Antigua & Barbuda Association of Montreal Inc is a non profit organization. It was founded in 1970 to bring nationals together so that we could support each other, share the common bonds of our twin island that we hold dear and allow us to maintain our rich cultural heritage. Apart from providing a forum for discussions of matters of interest to Antiguan and Barbudans living around Montreal, the organization has since developed aims and objectives that provide cooperation with organizations, on matters of concern. Over the past 51 years the Association has promoted a channel of communication with the wider community. To that end it, it promotes social activities throughout the year. It provides medical equipment and supplies the Mount St John's Hospital in Antigua and designates personnel that make visits to nationals and others who are in hospitals and nursing homes in the city. Cognizant of the need to foster high achievement in education for our youths and continued need to foster good health, it strives to provide a college bursary or two, each year as well as make donations to community health related organizations. In the year ahead the association will make every effort through its activities to join our nationals at home to promote our theme **Resilience Reflection and Recovery**

THEN



THE ANTIGUA ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL INC.
Is a non-profit organization.



The executive body for the year 1980-81 are shown below.



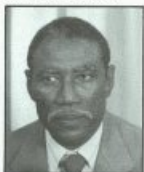
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The Antigua & Barbuda Association of Montreal

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Is a non-profit organization.



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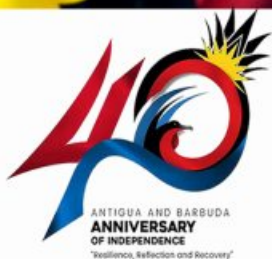
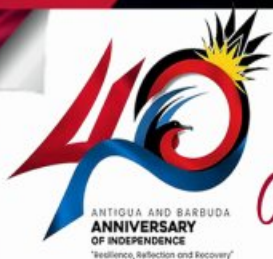
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INDEPENDENCE THEMES



2021	40th	Resilience Reflection and Recovery
2020	39th	<i>One Purpose, Vision, Nation</i>
2019	38th	<i>Embracing our National Pride</i>
2018	37th	<i>Forward Together</i>
2017	36th	<i>Unite to Rebuild</i>
2016	35th	<i>Building An Economic Powerhouse Together</i>
2015	34th	<i>Antigua and Barbuda, Rebuilding with Unity and Purpose</i>
2014	33rd	<i>Rebuilding our Nation with Togetherness, Commitment and Perseverance!</i>
2013	32nd	<i>Antigua & Barbuda One Family: Uniting For A Cleaner, Greener and More Productive Nation</i>
2012	31st	<i>Antigua & Barbuda One Family: Moving Towards A Secure Future</i>
2011	30th	<i>Antigua and Barbuda One Family Celebrating Our Youth</i>
2010	29th	<i>Antigua and Barbuda One Family Reviving Our National Pride</i>
2009	28th	<i>Antigua and Barbuda One Family Striving for Peace and Harmony</i>
2008	27th	<i>Antigua and Barbuda One Family Aspiring, Advancing, Achieving</i>
2007	26th	<i>Antigua and Barbuda One Family Embracing the Future Together</i>
2006	25th	<i>Antigua and Barbuda One Family Working together to Achieve Excellence</i>
2005	24th	<i>Antigua and Barbuda One Family</i>
2004	23rd	<i>Unrelenting Dedication and Unity the key to a Better Nation</i>
2003	22nd	<i>Reunion 21</i>
2002	21st	<i>Volunteering to Preserve and Safeguard Our Heritage</i>
2001	20th	<i>Creating a Sustaining Environment for a Culture of Peace</i>
2000	19th	<i>Our Elders or Foundation; Our Youth, Our Hope for the 21st Century</i>
1999	18th	<i>Positive Development through Sustained Efforts</i>
1998	17th	<i>Forward Together with Pride and Productivity</i>
1997	16th	<i>Emancipation to Independence: Our Heritage, Our Future</i>
1996	15th	<i>United to Rebuild Our Land, Our Pride, Our Heritage</i>
1995	14th	<i>The Family Foundation for a Strong Nation</i>
1994	13th	<i>Forward Together</i>
1993	12th	<i>National Unity for a Secured Future</i>
1992	11th	<i>Reflections</i>
1991	10th	<i>Maintaining Excellence</i>
1990	9th	<i>Building an Excellent Structure</i>
1989	8th	<i>A Solid Foundation</i>
1988	7th	<i>Give thanks Together for Benefits</i>
1987	6th	<i>A Peaceful Nation Moving Forward</i>
1986	5th	<i>Youth Participation in National Development</i>
1985	4th	<i>Freedom Attained Freedom Maintained</i>
1984	3rd	<i>One Nation One Family</i>
1983	2nd	<i>Youth Development for Greater Productivity</i>
1982	1st	<i>A Nation to Build, A Country to Mould</i>
1981	-	





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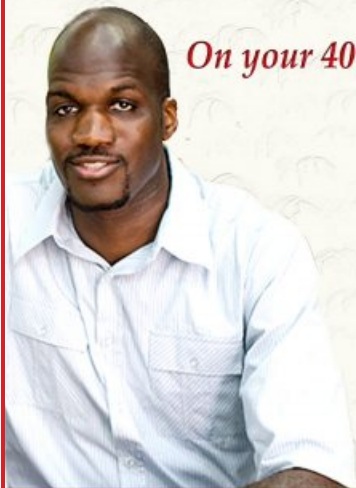
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On your 40th Anniversary of Independence



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Congratulations

to the Antigua and Barbuda
Association on its 40th Anniversary
of Independence. May your future
endeavours continue to reap the
fruits of success, as you strengthen
and prosper your community in love
and fellowship.

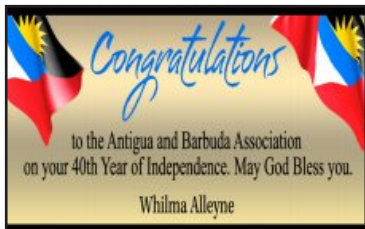
David and Julie Whittaker



and Best Wishes to the
Antigua & Barbuda Association your
40th Anniversary of Independence

Erica Laptiste





MOIS DE L'HISTOIRE DES NOIRS
BLACK HISTORY MONTH



TABLE RONDE DU MOIS
DE L'HISTOIRE DES NOIRS
THE ROUND TABLE ON
BLACK HISTORY MONTH



The Round Table on Black History Month congratulates Antigua and Barbuda on the 40th Anniversary of Independence. The Round Table on BHM would like to take time to thank and congratulate the country of Antigua and Barbuda for their stellar example of pride and resilience to elevate the citizens that comprise the people that are of Antigua and Barbuda descent.

The Antigua 40th anniversary is an important milestone and an occasion to mark a moment of accomplishment and recognition of this rich young country that has established itself as a role model for its values.

La Table Ronde du Mois de l'Histoire des Noirs félicite Antigua et Barbuda pour son 40ième anniversaire d'indépendance. Il est important de prendre le temps de féliciter et remercier le pays d'Antigua et Barbuda pour leur sens de dignité et de résilience.

Nous savons que le jeune pays possède un riche héritage culturel et que leur principal capital est empreint de détermination pour aller de l'avant positivement.

Le 40ième anniversaire est un important plateau pour ce jeune pays qui marque sa façon ces accomplissements et nous prenons le temps de reconnaître le rayonnement de leur culture et les traditions que nous offre ce pays. Nous saluons le travail sans relâche de l'Association d'Antigua et Barbuda qui permet d'être un vecteur pour le meilleur de la société québécoise et canadienne.






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IN MEMORIAM
Winston Bell

July 22, 1946 - July 30, 2021



Winston Bell was born in the village of Cedar Grove in Antigua and had been an active member of the Antigua and Barbuda Association for many years. We remember him fondly for his tireless volunteer contribution . The Association was pleased to have him in 2018 as our Father' Day Honouree.

May His Soul Rest In Peace

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Antigua and Barbuda Unbounded Beauty and Stability

Today Antigua and Barbuda, a country of about 100,000 people stands as a stable and solid democratic state built on a foundation of education and a fledgling and diverse economy that revolves around tourism, investment banking and financial services and what has been described as “enclave-type” manufacturing. Antigua is 108 square miles located in the eastern Caribbean Barbuda is 62 sq miles and stands 30 miles north of Antigua . The twin-island state which gained its independence from Britain, 40 years ago on November 1981 was guided politically by Vere Cornwall Bird as its first Prime Minister.



Today, Antigua and Barbuda is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary form of government. Executive power is vested in a Council of Ministers headed by the prime minister in the person of The Hon. Gaston Browne. His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams serves as Governor-General.



The country's history on education is sound. Antigua's early schools were started by the Moravian church leaders and the island was the location for the only Teachers college in the Leeward Islands.

Today education is free and compulsory for students of primary and secondary school and is seen as the foundation and the strength of success for the youth.

There are three colleges and two universities located in Antigua and Barbuda. College level education is often referred to as “Tertiary Education.”

The majority of the population is of African descent and speak English, most of whom live in and around the capital city of St. John's.

The country history was built on various forms of exploration and exploitation by various European powers.



Antigua was first visited in 1493 by Christopher Columbus,

who named it for the Church of Santa Maria de la Antigua in Sevilla, Spain. It was colonized by English settlers in 1634 and raided by the French in 1666 but remained a British possession. The early colonizers were also attacked by the indigenous

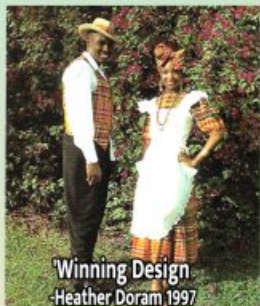
Carib warriors who were once one of the dominant peoples of the West Indies.

With an early plantation economy fueled by slave labour, tobacco was the crop of choice first grown in Antigua, but in the later 17th century, sugar was found to be more profitable. Barbuda history is even more sordid, when the country was used by one of Britain's powerful financiers, the Codrington family as a breeding ground for slaves to work on their plantation in Antigua.

Antigua was the first English speaking Caribbean Island to receive full emancipation for its slaves on August 1, 1834. Barbuda was not yet a part of Antigua.

Although Antigua and Barbuda's flourishing tourist economy has been decimated by Covid-19, the country remains one of the region's most attractive spots for visitors with 365 crystal clear beaches and interesting island attractions.

National Dress



Winning Design
-Heather Doram 1997



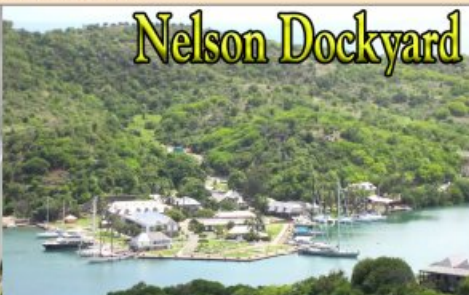
Worn by market vendors and cake makers in Antigua and Barbuda circa 1834. (This version designed by native Antiguan Heather Doram.) "National Day" is when Antiguan proudly wear their national clothing, service or eat local food or drinks, and attend national prayer services.

FRIGATE Sanctuary Barbuda



Hibiscus

Nelson Dockyard



Port St Johns





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On your 40th Anniversary of Independence, Antigua & Barbuda are wished continued success in all of your Island Nation's future endeavours

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