



THE COLLEGE BELL

The Official Newsletter of the Harrison College/
Queen's College Alumni Associations Network

December 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2

*HCQCAA Annual
Walk/Run/Bike Event*

Page 4

Passages

Page 6

In Memoriam

Page 7

News from the QCPTA

Page 11

*How To Join
The Associations*

Page 12

*Childhood Christmas
Memories*

Page 13

*Improvement Campaign
Update*

Page 14

*Volunteers Wanted:
Night of Stars 2026*

Page 15

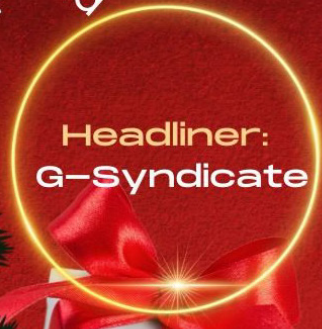
*2024: A College Bell
Retrospective*



Follow us on:



Online Uplifting Year End
Fundraising Concert



ENTERTAINMENT - DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

6:00 pm EST (USA/Canada)
7:00 pm (Caribbean)

RSVP:
hcqcanevent@gmail.com

www.hcqc alumni network.org

<https://youtube.com/@hcqcalumni?si=Tqjgd90aBGsaqP5q>

How to donate: Queen's College Association, CIBC First Caribbean Bank, Warrens Chequing Account 1001137473

International contributions may be made in US\$ via the HCQCAN website www.hcqc alumni network.org to HCQCAA, USA or via PayPal or Zelle using its email address hcqcalums@gmail.com

All donors are eligible to win several wonderful prizes, including:
Two (2) round trip airline tickets between New York and Barbados, compliments of BTMI
One 43 inch Fire TV compliments of OSI Computer Store and other attractive items.



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Alumni Associations**



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HCQCAA's 2024 WALK/RUN/BIKE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

HCQCAA, USA concluded its third annual fundraising challenge on Sunday, November 9, 2024. The challenge, which raised some BDS\$14,000 and another BDS\$12,000 specifically for scholarships, was fun, suspense-filled, and closely contested to the very end.

Twice daily updates sustained the event's momentum, and updates every two hours on the final day brought the event to a crescendo.

HC started off with an impressive lead, which it maintained for all seven days of the challenge, which is based on miles walked, run, or biked - or any combination thereof - accomplished in a single day and reported by 11:59 p.m. on the final day. But at 9 p.m. on Day 7, QC grabbed the lead and never let go!!!

Six prizes were up for grabs, four of which were possible thanks to the generous donation of four gift certificates by HC-alum-run **AQUA MEDICAL**.



Individual winner: Harrison College alumnus Wayne Greaves' bike ride of 20.9 miles of the HC New Jersey (HCNJ) team. (He is pictured above.)

The runner-up was Neal B, also a friend of HCNJ who achieved 20.3 miles biked.

Continued on Page 3

HQCAA 2024 Virtual Walk/Run/Bike

Continued from Page 2

Individual winner by school: *Queen's College:* **Mary Symmonds** who registered 13.9 miles walked and biked, despite recovering from a knee injury.

Individual Team winner: In the major upset of the challenge, **HC Team HCNJ**, captained by **Trevor Atherley**, won with a record 86 miles and clinched the individual team category victory this year.

They impressively sidelined last year's winner **MS QC Warriors**, captained by Mary Symmonds, which took second place with 73.16 miles.

In another upset, **Team EL Friends for QC** captained by Eleanor Larrier took 3rd place with 43.66 miles pushing out last year's third place team, **MS QC Warriors Team 2**.

School winner: **Queen's College** captured this for the third consecutive year.

QC fielded seven teams:

1. **MS QC Warriors Team 1**, Captain Mary Symmonds
2. **MS QC Warriors Team 2**
3. **MS QC Warriors Team 3**
4. **MS QC Warriors Team 4**
5. **Pilly Outsiders**, Captain Cecilia Pilgrim
6. **EL Friends for QC**, Captain Eleanor Larrier.
7. **NC for QC**, Captain Pamela Hoyte

HC fielded four teams:

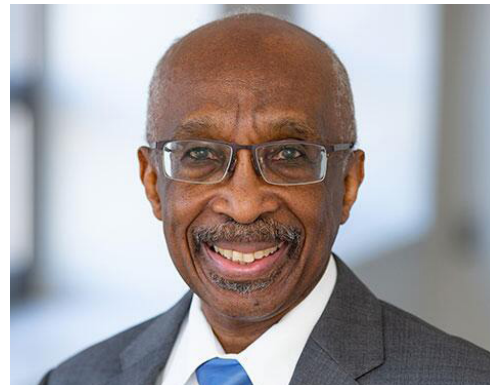
1. **Andre Alleyne**, Captain Andre Alleyne
2. **Team HCNJ**, Captain Trevor Atherley
3. **Cutting Adventurers**, Captain David Cutting
4. **Team Weekes Family**, Captain Eric Weekes

In a closely contested challenge drawing participants from across the US and the world, QC ended up once again in first place with a triumphant final combined team score of 240.9 miles, bettering their 2023 score of 152.57 miles. HC's final score was 162.43 miles, also improving on their 2023 accomplishment of 122.67 miles.

The race outcome was truly an example of teamwork is dream work. Every mile counted.



Mary Symmonds



Dr. Trevor Atherley

Fundraisers

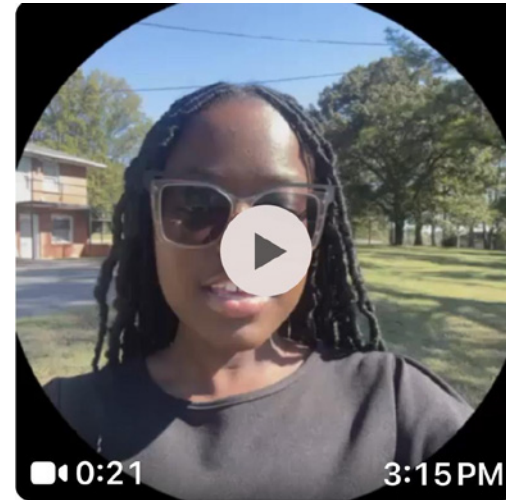
- 1st place Mary Symmonds
- 2nd place Eleanor Larrier
- 3rd place Cecilia Pilgrim

HCQCAA, USA thanks all the participants and donors and looks forward to you joining next year — giving back while engaging in healthy activity and having heaps of fun. We look forward to your participation next year.

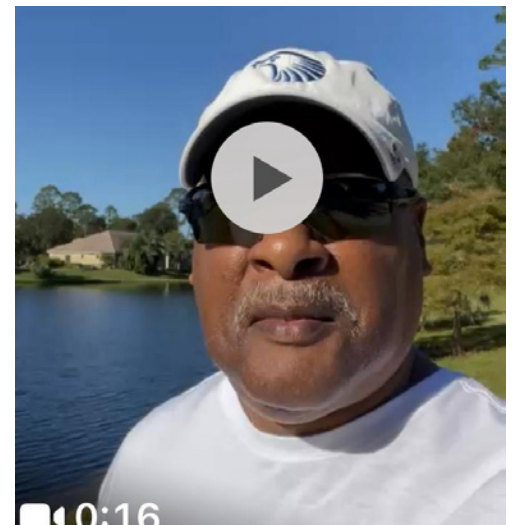
Eighty percent of funds raised through this exciting participation and donations will go towards the HCQCAA, USA scholarship funds, namely, for HC — the Junior Moore Memorial Scholarship Fund, and for QC — the Angela Forde Memorial Scholarship Fund. Twenty percent goes towards the HCQCAN Improvement Campaign.



David Cutting



Meladee Carter



Eric Weekes

PASSAGES

Celebrating the social, professional and personal milestones of our alumni.

If you have events that you'd like us to feature, please reach out to us at communications.hcqc@gmail.com

Both Queen's College and Harrison College have been having great success these past months in the sports arena.

Queen's teams are the winners of the 2024 Schools' Under 19 cricket championship and the Under 19 Basketball championship.



QC - the School's 2024 Under 19 Basketball Champions



Harrison College's swimmers were winners in both the female and male divisions at the recent interschool championships.

The cross-country teams also had great results, wrapping up the season by winning the Senior Boys, Under 15 Boys and Girls.



QC - the School's 2024 Under 19 Cricket Champions



Kehzion Hepburn-Murray of Queen's College and **Jaden Hunte** of Harrison College are the secondary school winners of Pontifications & Poetry 2024! 10 students from secondary schools across the island took part in the finals of the highly anticipated & keenly contested competition sponsored by METVT.



The **Pitching for Progress Competition** was hosted in November by the Barbados Youth Business Trust (BYBT) and the Harrison College team of **Jessica Chow, Jaydn Gill, Rania Roberts, Leanna Cumberbatch, and Jade Evelyn** placed 1st. The group presented the model for an app that could revolutionize the employment landscape as it targets people with disabilities which could lower the unemployment rate among marginalized groups.

Continued on Page 5

PASSAGES

Continued from Page 4



Barbadian golfer and former honour role student at Queen's College, **Emily Godwin**, finished in second place at the recent Women's Amateur Latin America 2024 Gold Championship in Peru.

She ended the 4-day tournament with a total of 281 points with 11 birdies, 53 pars and 8 bogeys. This excellent performance gives her an invitation to the 2025 South American Women's Amateur in Chile and the 2025 R&A Women's Amateur in Scotland.



Harrison College alumnus **Daniel Best** has been elected as the 7th President of the Caribbean Development Bank (CBD).

With a career of 20+ years in development finance, policy planning and infrastructure investment in both public and private sectors, he was an excellent candidate for this position.

The CDB statement indicated that "Under his leadership the bank aims to build on its legacy while addressing emerging challenges and opportunities in a rapidly changing global landscape."



Barbados Independence 2024 service in New York City was attended by Queen's College alumni Velta Simmonds, Shona Gray of Chicago who delivered the guest address, Mary Symmonds, and Shane Trotman. (Pictured at left, named left to right.)

In Memoriam



Mrs. Mary Gibbs: April 23, 1942 – November 14, 2024

The death is announced of Mrs. Mary Gibbs, former teacher, Head of Department (Foreign Languages) and Deputy Principal of Harrison College.

Mrs. Gibbs began her teaching career at Harrison College circa 1960 and retired on her 60th birthday on April 23, 2002.

Mrs. Gibbs was a beloved teacher of French who is described by several of her former students as having an unmatched passion for teaching and being one who brought the subject to life. Former colleagues acknowledge Mrs. Gibbs as a trusted mentor.

The service of thanksgiving for the life the late Mary Gibbs will occur at the Coral Ridge Memorial Gardens on Monday, November 25, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

The Harrison College community extends sincere condolences to Mrs. Gibbs' husband, Tony; children Rachel, André and Kathy who all attended Harrison College; and her entire family circle.

On Monday October 7, 2024

Pauline

Ruth Ena Stevenson

affectionately known as "Polly" of 'Elweena', Jackson, St Michael; died peacefully. She was a retired employee of The Bank of Nova Scotia and The Barbados National Bank;
Mother of Melanie Stevenson;
Sister of Lawrence, Horace, Robert, Peter, Stacey, the late Rudolph, Coral, Pearl, Denis, Alban, Leo and Florence.
Aunt of many;
Relative of the King, Nelson, Birkett and Wilkinson families.
 The Funeral of the late **Pauline Ruth Ena Stevenson** leaves **Paramount Funeral Home**, Upper Hindsbury Road, St. Michael at 8:15 am on Thursday October 24, 2024 for The Chapel of Coral Ridge Memorial Gardens, The Ridge, Christ Church, where relatives and friends are asked to meet at 10:00 am for a Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate her life followed by the interment in the Cassia Lawns. The Resident Organist is kindly asked to attend. Flowers may be sent to **Paramount Funeral Home** no later than 8:00 a.m. on Thursday October 24, 2024.
 N.B. Mourning colours are optional. However Green is the preferred colour of choice.
 The funeral service for the late **Pauline Ruth Ena Stevenson** can be viewed live on youtube or at [kd34streamingservices](https://kd34streamingservices.com)
 Fond remembrances and condolences to the family may be directed to paramount@caribsurf.com or paramountfh993@gmail.com or on [Paramount's facebook page](#)

PROOF
They Work
Nation
Classifieds

Mary

EVERSON GIBBS,

aged 82, of "Cocos", #3 Adams Castle, Worthing PO, Christ Church.

Daughter of Morgan and Kathleen Hatfield.
Wife of Hon Tony Gibbs.
Mother of Rachel, André and Kathy Gibbs.
Grandmother of Archie and George Gibbs.
Sister of John Hatfield.
Mother-in-law of Vicki Gibbs and Scott Treude.
Sister-in-law of Etain Hatfield, Dr Peggy Antrobus and Betty Peter.
Aunt of Lesley and Peter Hatfield, Gerrit and Alison Antrobus and Samantha Peter.

A service of celebration and thanksgiving will be held on Monday, November 25, 2024 at the Chapel of Coral Ridge Memorial Gardens, where relatives and friends are asked to meet at 2:00 p.m.
 Mourning colours are optional. In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Cancer Society in Mary's name
<https://www.thebarbadoscancersociety.com/get-involved>
 The family invites you to view the live streaming of the service via www.lyndhurstfuneralhome.com/events/mary-everson-gibbs
 Condolences may be sent to www.lyndhurstfuneralhome.com





News from the QCPTA December 2024



On October 26th, 2024, the QCPTA welcomed its newly elected PTA Executive and our AGM. The new Executive is as follows:

President: Mrs. Michelle Smith-Mayers

1st Vice President: Mr. Shawn Babb

2nd Vice-President/Teacher's Rep.: Ms. Sharon Callender

Immediate Past President/Rep. on Board of Management: Mrs. Somlata Bispat

Secretary: Mrs. Lisa Cummins

Treasurer: Mrs. Keira Cave

Asst. Secretary/Treasurer: Ms. Sharon Archer

Public Relations Officer: Ms. Peta Smith

Floor Members:

Mr. Christopher Waterman

Mr. Michael Grant

Ms. Debbie Fraser

The Executive plans to carry on the work of the past executive as well as to identify a new **Just One Thing** project aimed at improving the campus facilities. Prior to the AGM, there was a discussion as to how to get parents more involved in PTA activities and attending meetings.

The new Executive will seek to address this concern through mixing up the format of the socials to include both online and in person PTA meetings. We will monitor the response and this will inform how we engage parents moving forward. The goal is to increase the level of involvement from parents to that the workload does not fall mainly on the members of the Executive.

The first such attempt was for our first funding activity of the Movie Night on Saturday, November 23rd. The movies were chosen for their AI theme.

Continued on Page 8

News from the QCPTA - December 2024

Continued from Page 7



The Graduation class sold popcorn and the PTA sold food and beverage. For this event we asked for parent volunteers and the response was encouraging. Parents helped with security, chaperoning students to make sure everyone was safe, manning entrance to bathrooms to monitor access, selling food and drinks and generally keeping an eye out for the many young people who attended the movie night. We were grateful for all the assistance from parents!

On October 25, the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) honored all of our teachers for Teachers' Professional Day at the school planned activity at The Crane. To celebrate this special occasion, the PTA has decided to give each teacher a gift as a token of appreciation. This gesture is meant to show gratitude for the time, effort, and passion that teachers invest in their students' education. This year's gift was a luxury blanket which the teachers were especially happy to receive. We also presented the non-teaching staff with tokens of appreciation.

Continued on Page 9

Continued from Page 8



Continued on Page 10

Continued from Page 9



NON - TEACHING



PRESENTATIONS



Continued on Page 11

News from the QCPTA - December 2024

Continued from Page 10

For International Men's Day, the PTA showed love to the male teachers and staff of QC with a gift of special temperature monitoring flasks. The gift was useful and unusual and the men of QC really appreciated the thoughtful gesture.



How to Join the Associations

Your Alumni Associations look forward to welcoming new members, and to your participation in upcoming reunion events both online and in person!



HCQC AA (USA)

Mary Symmonds

Email: hcqcalums@gmail.com

HCQC AA (Toronto)

Cheryl Phillips

Email: hcqcaatoronto@gmail.com

QCA (Barbados)

Erica Hinkson

Email:

qcapresidentbarbados@gmail.com

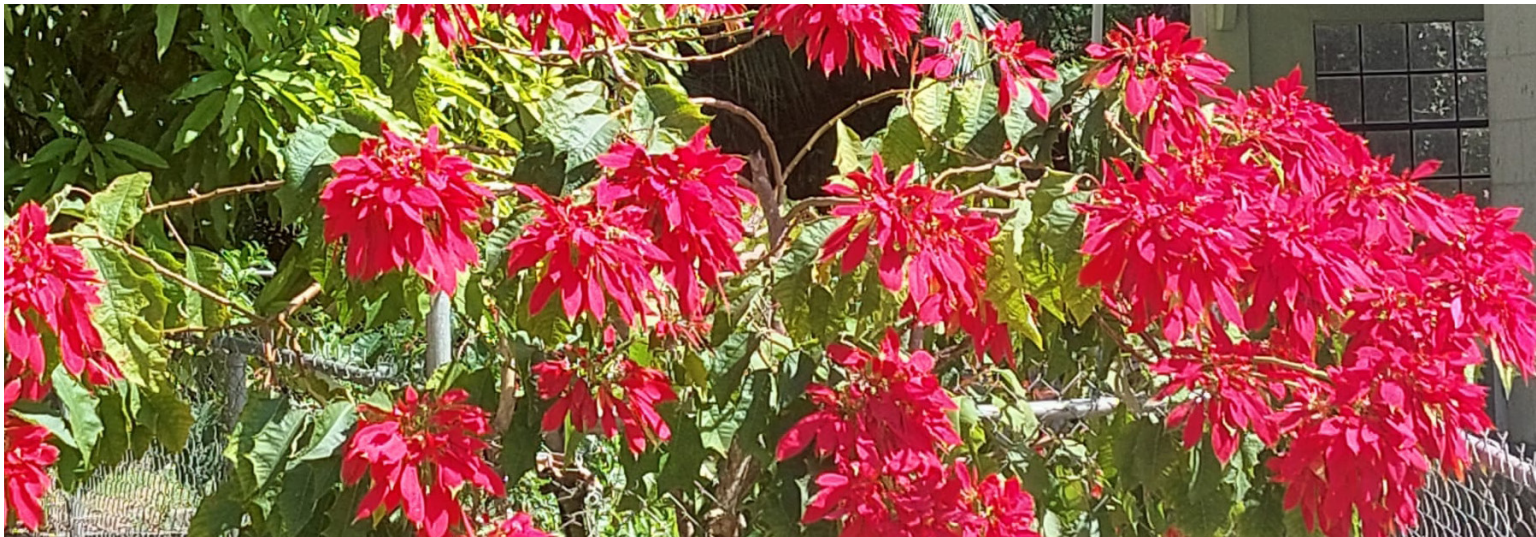
OHS (Barbados)

Junior Browne

Email: kolijpresident@gmail.com

Childhood Christmas Memories

by Jo Ann Warren



Now is the time of year for me to summon up wonderful childhood memories of Christmas. Not cold winds, snowflakes, and roaring fires but balmy trade winds, clear star-filled nights, and Father Christmas uncomfortably warm in that heavy suit. Thankfully, it was not until I was well grown that he changed into the red shorts, flowered shirt, and flip-flops!

In the garden, the Poinsettia is doing very nicely this year. The streetlight has not upset its internal clock and it has had the right amount of light and dark needed for it to turn that scarlet Christmas red. Next to it, the Snow on the Mountain is in bloom and will be a mass of white by Christmas Day.

Since November, the most important question of all has been asked time and again, "When will the boat arrive?" My oldest Christmas memory revolves around that question!

Sometimes because of bad weather somewhere along the Christmas trees' journey, the ship would be late, and everyone worrying – "will it get here in time?" I think it always did, though I remember, once or twice, a mad Christmas Eve rush to get the tree home and decorated.

By early December it's definitely Christmas season at our house. Daddy worked at K R Hunte and every evening, until well after bedtime, he would sit on the floor of our verandah surrounded by scooters, bicycles, tricycles, and lots of other toys he was assembling for sale in the store. You know that living on the island everything arrived Ikea style, in bits and pieces. My brother and I were allowed to watch and perhaps hand something that was out of reach while silently wishing for one of each to be under our tree!

Then there was the shopping list which was filled with grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. It seemed to take Mummy, with my brother and me in the backseat of the Baby Austin A30 and later the Morris Minor Traveler, days to drive round to all the houses delivering gaily wrapped packages, and collecting

just as many in return. Chocolates, hankies, Dinky cars, games, clothes, and always lots of books.

As little 'uns the most important pre-Christmas event was the Toy Service. Thoroughly cleaned up and decked out in our best, we showed up, each with a carefully selected, gently loved toy, that was presented at the altar to be delivered to a little 'un who was less fortunate than we were.

By the time we were 'tweens, Christmas Eve attendance at the midnight service at St Cyprian's in Belleville was the ritual as no one wished to delay Christmas morning one minute more than absolutely necessary.

The church was at the bottom of 7th Avenue and we were at the top. In between and all around, lived our friends so there was a lively walk there with Mummy, while Daddy went off in the car to fetch Great-Aunt Ivy who always joined us for the service. Afterwards, at about 1:00AM or so, Daddy dropped her back home and, if we had been very good through the service, Mummy supervised the opening of one present each before bed. We then all had about 4 hours sleep before we raced downstairs to get at the other packages under the tree.

Under the tree each year, one never to be forgotten gift was from Great-Aunt Violet and Great-Uncle John. It was a black box with an elegant red tassel that you lifted to reveal not one, or two, but 3 layers of the most wonderful chocolates in the world – Cadbury Black Magic all the way from England. You could smell them even before the gift was unwrapped, which we often did as soon as it arrived at the house, just to make sure! It was always the final gift opened and was rationed over the holidays as intently as water on a life raft!

Two indelible results of these Christmases which have formed all following Christmases for me, have been making sure that as many little 'uns as I can manage have a gift and I have Cadbury Black Magic chocolates on that glorious morning.

HCQCAN Improvement Campaign Update

by Mary Symmonds, Chair, HCQCAN



"It always seems impossible until it's done."

Nelson Mandela

"The greatness of a man is not in how much work he acquires but in his integrity and how he affects those around him positively." Bob Marley.

Our quest is to contribute to the schools' goal of maintaining academic excellence. Through our support, HCQCAN aims to contribute to capital projects NOW that will inspire students to develop critical skills which STEAM helps build and create students that can excel in the 21st century.

HCQCAN started the year with the realization that projects delayed is achievement denied. We recognized that we need to accelerate attaining our fundraising target of BDS\$2 million in the shortest possible time.

We established a fundraising advisory group with distinguished alumni, Sir Trevor Hassell, Sir George Alleyne, and Mrs. Anne Gittens to help us see how this can be achieved.

Our focus this year has been outreach, engagement and institutional consolidation. Tisha Peters of Career Coach is voluntarily helping us sustain outreach by creating and disseminating messages on social media. Marianne Greenidge and Naila Robinson have also been disseminating our posts to the QC and HC communities through various media respectively. We are also being assisted by an HC alumnus' company, Vault, to develop an outreach campaign. **Aqua Spa**, owned by an HC alumnus, is also

giving a 15 % discount to alumni of both schools if you drop us a line, so send us an email 2020hcqcgatherin@gmail.com if you are interested.

On the organization consolidation side, HCQCAN has been registered as a charity in Barbados, and like the slow and sure tortoise, is on the cusp of having its bank account open. We are grateful to OHS for having been our banker from the inception.

We have also made great progress with sales of the Commemorative Publication and are almost sold out of the first print of this fundraising collector's item.

We will end this year with our fourth annual fundraising concert made possible with the usual generous contributions of talent from alumni, students and friends of the schools. Planning is underway, and our goal is to raise \$120,000 so that we can advance with the improvement campaign projects.

In 2025 — the year of return — we aim to gather as many year groups as possible. We are also looking at convening another Education Conference, so let us know if you wish to contribute to planning any of this. We also aim to conclude our fundraising so that the projects can be realized. We can do this with your help. Remember our mantra. It takes a contribution of \$250 each from 4000 alumni. Together we can do this.

Wishing you a blessed holiday season and thanking you for your continued engagement, generosity and support.

Volunteers Wanted: HCQC Night of Stars Awards

The next Night of Stars Gala is being planned for 2026. We are seeking a chair and volunteers to serve on the Awards Committee. The awards committee members are expected to lead the effort to identify alumni of the 2 schools who should be considered for the various award categories based on their achievement and acclaim

The award categories we have used in the past are:

- Medicine & Health Services
- Education
- Law
- Science & Technology
- Public & Community Affairs
- Business & Financial Services
- Media & Creative Arts

- Performing Arts
- Sports
- Emerging Leader (40years and under)
- A Posthumous award
- Spirit Award

The committee, led by the chairperson, is invited to review the categories and, if deemed necessary, make recommended amendments to the Steering Committee. This is an opportunity for members who would like to be actively involved in the process of identifying and recognizing outstanding graduates of HC and QC.

Those who are interested should indicate their interest by emailing 2020hcqcgatherin@gmail.com by January 31, 2025.



Here we are with another newsletter from the erudite HC/QC Alumni Association. We would love to have some feedback from you.

And especially, we would love your input. We are looking for contributors and fun photos through the ages.

**Give us your valuable feedback at:
communications.hcqc@gmail.com**

2024: A College Bell Retrospective



In 2024, Harrison and Queen's colleges had bumper years, with major achievements coming from students and alumni alike. And the College Bell has kept track of it all! Here's a look back at some of the major stories carried in this newsletter for our schools.

In 2024's first issue, we highlighted the official opening of the sports pavilion at Queen's College — an achievement 30 years in the making. At the forefront of this extraordinary journey were three remarkable trustees of the QC Give Back charity: Professor Anne St. John, Angela Simpson, and Vivian-Anne Gittens. Among the distinguished guests at the opening was international celebrity Sir Cliff Richard, a beacon of support whose contributions to the fundraising efforts were monumental. Also at the opening were members of the Board of Management; PTA; members of Parliament and officials from the Ministry of Education.

A strong contingent of past students who received Independence Honours in the ceremony in 2023 were also featured, along with the profiles of Juliet Daniel and Alan Emtage — two former students who were recognized by the Senate of Canada as Black Canadian Innovators.

The second issue headlined the historic Gun Hill Signal Station in St. George, Barbados, that was lit up and rocking on Friday, July 19 when the Give Back QC Charity hosted their ever-popular Crop Over Gun Hill by Moonlight.

This fund-raising event aimed to help purchase equipment for the newly opened Sports Pavilion. The event was well attended and is one of many highlighted activities and fundraising efforts that continued throughout the year to support projects at both schools.

Both schools continued the tradition of excellence in sport. In 2024, both HC and QC were champions of the National Sports Council Under-16 Volleyball League. The QC cricket team was the first school team to win the Barbados Cricket Association's T20 Plate Competition for Second Division teams, defeating North Stars by six wickets in the final of the tournament. QC's fast bowler Raedon Bellamy was Player-of-the-Match after taking four wickets which assisted the team's victory. Alumni Matthew Wright, Sada Williams and Jack Kirby competed in the Summer Olympics in Paris.

In September as the new school year began, there were a number of scholarships and exhibitions awarded to both schools; some from the Ministry of Education in Barbados and other from the HCQCAA Toronto chapter. All the recipients were profiled in the third edition of College Bell.

In 2024, we lost some distinguished alumni across the world. Among them were Dr. Victor Blanchette, who had a long, distinguished career in Toronto, Canada; George Nicholson, rugby player/coach/administrator extraordinaire; Neville Rowe, entrepreneur; and Ricardo 'Ricky' Aimey, musician...all of Harrison College. On the QC side, losses included Monica Procope, former teacher; and Reverend Doctor Joycelyn Patricia Thorington-Alleyne, former Government Senator and General Manager at Purity Bakeries. We continue to extend our deepest sympathy to their families, and to all those connected to Harrison and Queen's Colleges who have lost loved ones in 2024.

The College Bell wishes all readers the very best of the season and for 2025. Make sure you continue to subscribe to this newsletter, and share your stories and photos with us.