

March 2025

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THE COLLEGE BELL

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

Thanks For Supporting HCQCAN!

"Start by doing what's necessary, then do what's possible, and suddenly you're doing the impossible." **Francis of Assisi**

HCQCAN is pleased to start the year being grateful for your support, energized for the year ahead and recommitted to our mission. Thanks to the The College Bell newsletter team for their outstanding work in promoting our activities..

Thanks also to the support of alumni and friends who made donations to the improvement campaign throughout the year, including through our year-end concert and orders of our Commemorative Publication. We have raised over BDS \$60,000 in cash donations, pledges and orders.



Left to right: Suresh Chatrani, OSI Computers; Kofe Chevalier Jean-Baptiste, 2nd prize winner; Mary Symmonds, Chair, HCQCAN; outside OSI Computers in Black Rock, Barbados.

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A digital publication of the Harrison College & Queen's College Alumni Associations





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Thanks For Supporting HCQCAN!

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We also thank our **year-end concert sponsor**, **Unicomer**, and our concert prize donors for their generous contributions.

First prize: BTMI (Return ticket for two NY/Barbados) Second prize: OSI Computers (43-inch Fire TV)

Third prize: Aqua Spa/Aqua Medical (BDS\$250 gift voucher)

Fourth prize: Grant Morris, Toronto (Black cake) and Casper's at Miami Beach: (BDS\$50

voucher for fishcakes and drink of choice)

Congratulations also to our Donor Draw winners:

1st - Dany Barnett

2nd - Kofe Chevalier Jean-Baptiste

3rd - Margaret Leacock

4th - Mijon Zulu

5th - David Tudor

Deepest thanks for the generous donation of time and talent to our students, alumni and friends performers: Dale Rudder (Mr. Dale); Joshua Jemmott (QC); Joseph Callender, Mijon Zulu, Oshea Stoute (HC); Raymond and Marcel Maughan, Roger Gittens, Sean Jackson, Susan Grogan, Vallis Jemmott, and our able MCs Laura Nicholls (HC) and Sharon Callender (QC). Thanks to our technical contributor, Victor Gooding (HC) and script producer Cheryl Phillips (QC). Visit our YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AiGcM0NKYj0 to view any time and subscribe.

Lastly, thanks to the HC and QC principals, faculty and staff and the HCQCAAN team, without whose collaboration our concerts would not be possible.

Energized year ahead

In Barbados' We Gatherin' year, we invite you to let us know your year group is planning a reunion. We continue to work towards a forum on education, and our year-end concert on Thursday, 18 December 2025.

Send us your year group reunion plan at 2020hcqcgatherin@gmail.com and/or volunteer for one of our committees.

Fulfilling our mission

We continue to build our fund for the improvement campaign projects. In 2025, we aim to complete the perimeter fence and upgrade at least 2 science labs at QC and to lay the first stone for the labs at HC. We can only do so with your help. Help us do what seems impossible. You may send your donations by bank transfer to Harrison College Queen's College Alumni Network.

Here is the transfer information you will need to donate online:

CIBC First Caribbean International Bank, Rendezvous, Christ Church, Barbados

Barbados Swift Code: FCIBBBBB HCQCAN

Account number: 1001261229

Branch number: 010 Branch Transit: 09616

Account type: Business, chequing



Supporting Our Future: Alumni Fundraising Efforts - Toronto

Ensuring Educational Opportunities for Harrison College and Queen's College Graduates

As proud alumni of Harrison College and Queen's College, we understand the importance of giving back to our community and investing in the future of our students. All our fundraising efforts will be dedicated to providing two \$3,000 scholarships to deserving graduates, one each from our esteemed institutions, who are planning to study in Canada.

The Impact of Your Generosity

Your contributions will directly fund these scholarships, opening doors to higher education and empowering the next generation of leaders. By participating in our fundraising events, you are not only supporting the academic aspirations of our students but also fostering a spirit of community and mutual support that defines our alumni network.

Fundraising Events for 2025

We have an exciting lineup of fundraising events planned for 2025, designed to engage our alumni and community members while raising the necessary funds for these scholarships.

How You Can Help

There are various ways you can contribute to our fundraising efforts:

- Attend our events: Join fellow alumni at our fundraising events and enjoy a range of activities from gala dinners to sports tournaments.
- Make a donation: Even if you cannot attend the events, your financial contributions are greatly appreciated and will go directly towards the scholarships. Please e-mail: hcqcaatoronto@gmail.com
- Volunteer: Offer your time and skills to help organize and run our events, ensuring they are successful and enjoyable for all attendees.

A Legacy of Support

By providing these scholarships, we are continuing a legacy of support that has long been a hallmark of Harrison College and Queen's College. Our commitment to education and community service is unwavering, and we are grateful for the continued support of our alumni.

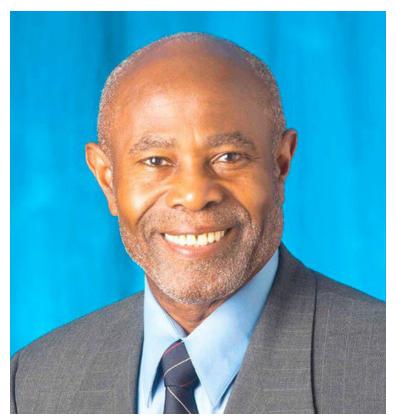
Thank you for your generosity. Together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of our students and the future of our schools.



>>>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



Dr Cardinal Warde was the sole Caribbean representative honoured at the **7th OAS meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Science and Technology (REMYCT).**

Dr Warde, an alumnus of Harrison College, was celebrated with pioneering researchers from Barbados, Canada, Chile, Honduras, Mexico, Uruguay and the United States for their contributions and commitment to fostering cooperation across the OAS member states.

After leaving Harrison College, Dr Warde earned a doctorate in Physics from Yale University and joined MIT where he established himself as a leading expert in materials and systems for optical information processing and displays.

Dr Warde is the president of the Caribbean Diaspora for Science, Technology and Innovations (CADSTI) and oversees the Student Program for Innovation in Science and Engineering (SPISE) which is a summer program preparing gifted students for careers in these fields.

He has also established the Rosetta Irene Ward Memorial Scholarship Fund to support the higher education of students from the English-speaking Caribbean.



The Student Leadership Exchange initiative between Queen's College and Harrison College saw the Warriors Head boy, Raashon Hackette and Head girl Renée-Simone St John welcome the Harrison College Head girl Amariah Brathwaite and Head boy Amari Forde to the school and vice versa.

During their time at each school, the student leaders attended assembly, classes and meetings and had the experience of walking in each other's shoes to observe different methods and approaches to leadership.



2025 CONCACAF U17 World Cup Qualifiers were held recently in Toluca, Mexico and the Barbados team included Queen's College student **Jonathan Clarke** and alumnus **Jonathan McFarlane**. The team finished the tournament 3rd in their group, which included Mexico, Nicaragua, Belize and Dominica.

>>>PASSAGES <<



THE PASSING OF A BARBADIAN ICON

by Lennox Honeychurch, friend and colleague

Dr Karl Stewart Watson, outstanding Barbadian historian, archaeologist, university lecturer, naturalist, former member of the Barbadian Foreign Service and multifaceted cultural icon has died. He passed away at his home at the Garrison, St. Michael, Barbados, on Saturday evening, 11 January 2025, after battling with cancer.

Watson was Senior Lecturer in the Department of History, University of the West Indies, and he also taught at the Mona Campus, UWI, Jamaica during the 1980s. He was the Editor of the Journal of the Barbados Museum for 20 years and served on the Museum board. He was Secretary (Hon) and for a time President of the Barbados National Trust, Chairman of the George Washington House Restoration Committee, and the Barbados/Carolinas Committee. His publications include, 'Barbados, The Civilised Island, A Social History 1750 to 1816', 'The White Minority of the Caribbean' (with H. Johnson) and 'Old Doll, Matriarch of Newton Plantation', among numerous other articles and papers for both general and academic magazines and journals.

Watson was an expert on the Jewish presence in Barbados and just before his passing he completed a book on the Jewish synagogue in Bridgetown, awaiting publication. He taught archaeology at the Cave Hill Campus and led archaeological fieldwork at sites in Bridgetown, primarily at Jubilee Gardens, the Pierhead, and in the grounds of the Jewish synagogue and at George Washington House site at the Garrison. He was a leader in the archaeology of the African presence in Barbados and had particular interest in the cemetery of the enslaved at Newton plantation. He was also involved in field research of the pre-Columbian indig-

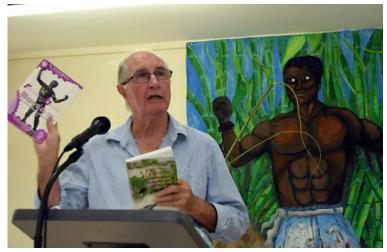
enous people of Barbados. He developed a master's programme in Heritage Studies.

He was a Latin Americanist, with a special interest in Brazil, and in the run up to Barbados independence in 1966 interpreted for the Latin American delegates, while on the night of the independence celebrations in November, he served as assistant to the representative of El Salvador. He was Chairman of the Barbados-Carolinas Committee promoting awareness of the historical links between the two.

As an officer of the Barbados diplomatic service, he served in Latin America and Europe, attached to consulates in Venezuela, Frankfurt Germany, and Canada. He was fluent in French, Spanish, and German. Even beyond his official position he was 'on call' prepared to provide information and assistance on various levels to all the Prime Ministers of Barbados from independence to the time of his passing. He was awarded the Gold Crown of Merit in 2011 for his services to Barbados.

He was a passionate naturalist with a strong determination to protect Barbadian and Caribbean wildlife be they birds, monkeys or regional whales. His interests included ornithology, and he was a consultant to the creation of Graeme Hall Bird Sanctuary, persuading financier Peter Allard to purchase the wetlands for protection and preservation. He was also Barbados' Ornithological representative to CITES and a member of the Biodiversity Committee.

Watson used all manner of communications to promote public knowledge of aspects of Barbadian heritage through the popular media and performance and appearance in film documentaries. He acted as George Washington for the weekly 'Dinner with George' events associated with that historic site and conducted tour groups to points of interest throughout the island. His love for Barbados and all things Barbadian and Caribbean was passionate, and his life touched many both within his beloved island and beyond.



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Alumna of Queen's College and Stevens Institute of Technology, New Jersey Renée Muco has been appointed as head of technology and transformation for BlackRock's Legal & Compliance Department.

Growing up in Barbados, Renée was achieving at high levels in physics, mathematics, chemistry and other STEM disciplines.

She says, "I enjoyed studying these subjects", however was not sure what type of career she might have until her father introduced her to professionals in a few different engineering disciplines and she decided on computer engineering. "It was the 90s, and computers were considered the new frontier," she says.

She began her Stevens education with 18 transferable credits from her A-level high school studies as well as a partial scholar-ship earned through the highly competitive Barbados Government Exhibition Program.

Renée graduated with a bachelor's degree in computer engineering and master's in management. She began as a software engineer with Lehman Brothers, moved on to Barclays Capital and joined BlackRock as a technical program manager.

For nearly 14 years, Muco and her BlackRock teams led complex, cross-functional programs to ensure that systems are resilient while also building new products and solutions for internal businesses. During that time, she earned a certificate in leading strategic growth from Columbia Business School and became a Registered Scrum Master. Muco is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).

Her focus as the head of technology and transformation will be on increasing the department's operational efficiency and scale and on reducing regulatory and reputational risk through technology. She is looking forward to learning more about this aspect of the business and, of course, having new problems to solve.





The Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) at the start of its 4th rotational cycle has announced that Barbados, led by Queen's College alumna Keisha Reid, takes the helm and Keisha becomes the Chairperson of the Executive Board of the organization.

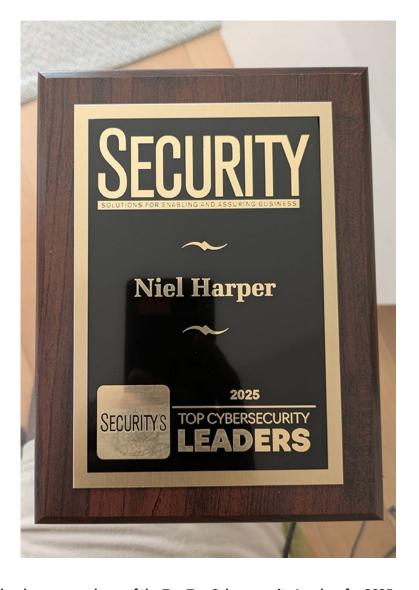
The new Chairperson has pledged to accelerate CCREEE's sustainable energy initiatives in its mission to drive impactful changes.



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Queen's College alumnus and cybersecurity expert Niel Harper has been named one of the Top Ten Cybersecurity Leaders for 2025.

Harper, who is currently the chief information security officer (CISO) and data protection officer at Doodle, a major online scheduling cloud provider with 25 million users, said yesterday that "cybersecurity is more than a job for me, it's my passion".

"I have spent the last 20 years contributing to security and resilience at the global level because digital trust underpins the information society and contributes to human, social and economic advancement," he said.

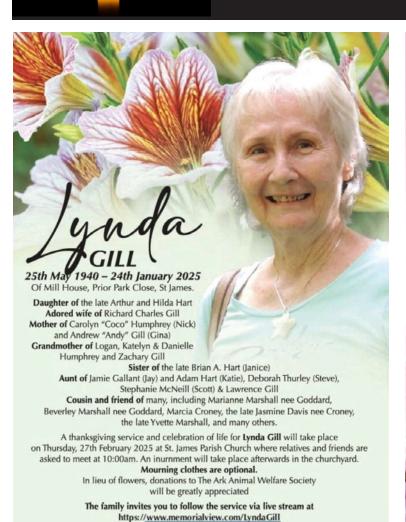
Harper previously served as CISO at the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL), where he was responsible for developing and executing their cybersecurity strategy at headquarters in Lyon, France, the global centre for innovation in Singapore, regional hubs and national central bureaus in 195 member states.

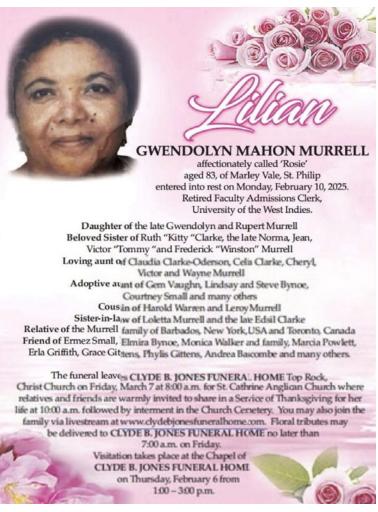
He has also held the CISO role at the United Nations Office for Project Services, where he led all cybersecurity-related activities across 1 500 humanitarian projects in more than 150 countries.

Harper has also worked with the European Commission where he developed cybercrime and cybersecurity capacity, building strategies for more than 25 countries in Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific Islands.

In Memoriam









In Loving Memory
Captain Caesar Haynes

Capt. Caesar Haynes attended Harrison College in the early 70s.

His classmates remember him as an exceptional athlete. He passed away in early February 2025.

Fellow Kolij alumnus Gordon Ashby notes: "Hail Caesar. He is Mercury with wings on his feet. A top high jumper, long jumper, triple jumper, shot putter, discus and javelin thrower. Victor Ludorum more than once at school and interschool level. His love of heights led him to flying."

May he Rest in Peace IN DEO FIDES

Impromptu QC reunion at the Barbados Independence Gala in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

On November 23, 2024, Sarah-Jane Brathwaite (formerly Carter-Griffith), Kathryn Serieux and Ukweli Wilson happened to be seated together at a table at the Barbados Independence Gala organized by the Barbados Ottawa Association.

Sarah-Jane and Kathryn had entered Queen's College in 1984, and were in 1 Delta together that year. Kathryn has been living and working in Ottawa for many years, and was thrilled that Sarah Jane and her family had moved into the area a few months earlier. They planned to attend this event together, and was happy to have another occasion to meet up.

At the table where they were seated, they soon found another QC alumni. Ukweli Wilson, who was attending the event on behalf of the BTMi in Toronto, shared that she, too had attended QC in the 2000s! They reminisced about teachers in common, the old campus versus the new campus, and a lot of shared experiences. A wonderful night was had by all.

From left to right: Sarah-Jane Brathwaite, Ukweli Wilson and Kathryn Serieux at the Independence Gala put on in Ottawa, Ontario on November 23, 2024.



When Old Friends Reconnect After 54 Years!



Left to right, Kathie Daniel, Perry Marshall, Hamilton "Hammie" Hinds, Gordon Ashby

On a rainy Saturday morning in early March 2025, a group of Harrison College alumni visited their alma mater. It was the first time in over 50 years that this group had met in person. HC alumni Hamilton "Hammie" Hinds, Perry Marshall, Gordon Ashby entered secondary school in September 1971, at the tender age of 10 years old. Now, some 54 years later, the trio explored the campus, accompanied by Queen's College alum, Kathie Daniel (née Branker), Gordon's sister Lisa Ashby (St. Michael's School) and Perry's wife Amanda Marshall.

Hammie Hinds is the unifying force in this group, as he and Perry became friends, while he and Kathie have been friends "since before birth" as he jokes, thanks to the close friendship of their parents, and a shared history of living in the Ivy in the early 60's. He became good friends with Gordon, and they have stayed in touch over the decades. On the other hand, Perry's family emigrated to New Zealand after he had been in Lower 1C at HC, and Hammie was only able to re-establish contact in 2024! When Perry and his wife planned a visit to Barbados this year, the group decided to include some reunion activities and take a trip down memory lane at Harrison College.



Left to right, Gordon Ashby, Perry Marshall, Hamilton "Hammie" Hinds, Kathie Daniel and Amanda Marshall



The iconic sandbox tree, a landmark on the HC campus, gathering spot of students during lunch

When Old Friends Reconnect After 54 Years! Continued from Page 10



Hamilton "Hammie" Hinds on-site at Harrison College in early March 2025. The INFRA Construction team were busy patching potholes!



Left to right, Kathie Daniel, Hammie Hinds sharing stories of junior school, Amanda Marshall



Hammie Hinds seated in his old classroom. Kathie Daniel in the background.

When Old Friends Reconnect After 54 Years! Continued from Page 11









Bringing back memories of old classrooms, rushing to claim a tennis court, the playing field and more...

Perry Marshall returns to Kolij

In His Own Words

I was only in Lower 1C in 1971 before I left to go to New Zealand where some of my Dad's family had already emigrated.

We lived on the North Shore of Auckland and my brother and I quickly assimilated into Kiwi life and ways.

Music became important to me and I learned guitar and joined a band called Peking Man which became popular, toured the country extensively and had a number one single called 'Room That Echoes' in 1986.

I moved to London in 1988 where I continued playing music and also completed a Research Masters in Community Mental Health.

I work in the Charity sector and am currently Assistant Director for a UK charity called Home-Start.

I got married to my lovely wife Amanda in 1993 and we have two children aged 30 and 28 and one beautiful granddaughter born in December 2024.

Although I was only at HC for a short period I remember being very excited at the prospect of beginning a journey of learning and I especially enjoyed being in the library, sitting and reading.

I was very pleased to have met Hamilton Hinds and Gordon Ashby as developing friendships was so important.



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!

Alumni Get-Togethers in Barbados



Left to right, Peggy Thornton, Anita Thornton, Helen Springer, Rosita Mandeville

Celebrating Connections and Memories

The tropical paradise of our home Barbados served as the perfect backdrop for a series of delightful alumni get-togethers over December and January. These events were filled with laughter, reminiscences of days at Harrison and Queen's College, and the joyous spirit of reunion.

Helen Springer (UK), Rosita Mandeville and Cheryl Phillips (Toronto), took the opportunity to visit the Thornton sisters, Peggy and Anita, at their home in St. George.

Not all alumni meetings originate with joy. Some are as a result of attending a funeral. QC alumna Ann Forde was laid to rest, and many of her classmates came to say goodbye to a dear friend.





Left to right, Diana Cossey, Jennifer Leacock, Sonia Drayton, Margaret Bynoe, Noelle Sutherland, Roma Cozier, Francina Downey-Smith

Alumni Get-Togethers in Barbados Continued from Page 14



Left to right, Deanne Kennedy, Yvette Morris, Judy Watson, Cheryl Mayers, Annette Fenty, Deborah Walcott, Roma Cozier. Annette's daughter and granddaughter are in the background.

The Queen's College Class of 1973 tries to get together when one of their classmates comes in from overseas. The laughter and shared memories resonated through the tables at Chefette one day in February, as the group celebrated the return of Yvette Morris who resides in Switzerland.



 $Left\ to\ right, HC\ alumni\ Gordon\ Ashby, Hamilton\ Hinds\ and\ Perry\ Marshall\ -\ together\ after\ 54\ years!$

These gatherings not only strengthen the bonds within our alumni community, but also creates unforgettable memories. We look forward to hearing of and sharing occasions in the future, celebrating the spirit of unity and friendship. If you have any photos you'd like to share of your gatherings, please email them to hcgctoronto@gmail.com.

Upcoming HCQCAA Activities

by Mary Symmonds



Fiscal year: January-December Programme year: April 2025-March 2026

2023/4 and 2024/5 contributions:

- 2023/4 Funded two (2) scholarships one (1) HC, one (1) QC
- Contributed to Improvement Campaign and Night of Stars Awards

2024/5 In Progress:

- Funding first form HC and QC student
- Initiating school leaver scholarship award
- Raised and earmarked BDS\$3000 for improvement campaign; disbursement to be made simultaneously with other chapter contributions

Tentative calendar for programme year 2025/6

All are welcome to join our events

Meetings:

Saturday, March 29, 4 to 5:30 pm: Annual General Meeting

Quarterly Board Meetings:

- Thursday, June 12, 7:30 pm EDT
- Thursday, September 11, 7:30 pm EDT
- Thursday, November 20, 7:30 pm EST
- Thursday, February 26, 2026, 7:30 pm EST

Quarterly General meetings with featured speaker:

- Saturday, June 28, 4-5:30 pm
- Saturday, September 27, 4-5:30 pm
- Saturday, December 6, 4-5:30 pm
- Saturday, March 28, 2026: 4-5:30 pm: 2026 Annual General Meeting

July Social: Date to be announced

October/November: Annual Walk, Run, Bike Week-long Fundraiser: Date to be announced

Year-end concert: Thursday, December 18, 2025, 6:30 pm EST, 7:30 pm AST,

Sunday, June 22, 6 pm EDT/AST



Evil Lurks Among us with guest author, Kim Ramsay (Available on Amazon and in bookstores in Barbados)

Quarterly Financial Literacy

Dates to be announced; sessions to be held in: May, August, November

February 2026: Career Day Mentoring

HCQCAA, USA activities highlights

by Mary Symmonds

"A strong team can take any crazy vision and turn it into reality."

HCQCAA, USA continues its commitment to giving back to the schools through working together with and mobilizing alumni to give back by funding scholarships and other priority projects. It is gearing up for its annual general meeting on Saturday March 29 at 4 pm. This meeting serves as another opportunity to recruit association, board and/or committee members. Help us pass the word around and contribute to our member/alumni survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSepjsOv-GEyod7f1AA0dIgDZak0yg3_3Ly1lvTmIVDLBrXD8Q/viewform

Contact us at hcqalums@gmail for information on joining or visit our website

www.hcqcalumninetwork.org

Contributors Wanted!









We want to hear from YOU!

Send your articles, photos, memories, comments to communications.hcqc@gmail.com