



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
Cayman Islands Branch



A Young Commonwealth

Report on Commonwealth Day 2015 Celebrations
in the Cayman Islands



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Introduction

Commonwealth Day celebrations for 2015 in the Cayman Islands took three forms – a Church Service, a Youth Parliament and the Schools' celebrations and Essay Competition. The theme for this year's celebrations was "A Young Commonwealth".

These activities were coordinated by the Cayman Islands Branches of the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Church Service

A poster was designed to create awareness of and encourage participation in the service. It was distributed via various media. The church service was held at St. George's Anglican Church on Sunday, March 8, beginning at 4:00 p.m.



Uniformed groups and schools attended the service, and participated in a colourful display of the flags of the Commonwealth member countries. Citizens of Commonwealth member countries who are resident in the Cayman Islands were especially invited to attend the service.

Governor, HE Helen Kilpatrick; Deputy Governor, the Hon. Franz Manderson; Premier, the Hon. Alden McLaughlin; Minister of Finance, the Hon. Marco Archer; and Minister of Education, Employment and Gender Affairs, the Hon. Tara Rivers, were among the dignitaries who attended. Her Excellency, the Governor, read the Message from Her Majesty the Queen.

The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Tara Tyme-Campbell – Minister of the John Gray United Church, West Bay. She noted the theme for this year’s celebrations – A Young Commonwealth – and the fact that people 25 years and younger accounted for more than 50 per cent of the population of the 53 Commonwealth member nations. She commended the Commonwealth for investing in young people.

Rev. Tyme-Campbell urged the older members of the congregation to focus on developing the capacity and potential of young people, who are valuable and precious to the development of any society. “Teach them about God and the things of God”, she implored. In turn, she advised the young people present to set an example in their speech, life and purity. She admonished them to be outstanding in their look, their walk and their speech, and to listen to people who mean them well and want to see them succeed. “Be on your guard, and develop a relationship with God”, she advised.

Musical selections were provided by the Choir of the University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI), the UCCI ensemble and the violin ensemble from the primary schools. There was a Garden Reception immediately after the service, during which the UCCI Steel Band entertained the guests. The collection taken during the service was donated to the group to assist with tuning their pans.



Cayman Islands Youth Parliament

On Monday, March 9 – Commonwealth Day – high school students met in the Legislative Assembly for the annual Cayman Islands Youth Parliament.

This year, they debated two motions – one dealing with an amendment to the Sunday Trading Law to allow more Sunday trading, and the other dealt with a mentoring programme in the public high schools.



The Welcome to the opening of the Youth Parliament by Premier the Hon. Alden McLaughlin, MBE, JP, MLA. He said, “I am pleased to see that 25 students from Government and private high

schools, including Cayman Brac, have worked together to ensure the success of this day and have gathered to engage in important, lesson-teaching discourse”.

He added that, “The Commonwealth mission is to empower, engage and create value so that young women and men can contribute to the economic, social and cultural advancement of their families and countries as well as their own fulfilment. It's a mission I wholeheartedly support.”

The annual youth parliament debates are organized by the Cayman Islands Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and give high school students the opportunity to act as members of the Legislative Assembly for a day.



Photograph credits for Youth Parliament Debates: Jewel Levy, Cayman Compass.

The debates were carried live on Radio Cayman and CIGTV. The video can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0XUHyxDO3I>

A report on the local TV news can be accessed at the below link:

<http://www.cayman27.com.ky/2015/03/09/youth-parliamentarians-chime-in-on-sunday-trading>

Schools' Celebrations and Essay Competition

A Circular was sent to the Principals of all schools on February 9, inviting them to mount exhibitions and activities for Commonwealth Day, and to encourage their students to participate in the essay competition.

Schools shared in morning assemblies, viewed schools' exhibitions, and held flag parades, or held story-telling sessions with students dressing up as their counterparts from other countries of the Commonwealth.



The flyer for the Church Service was also sent to the Principals on March 4 as a reminder of the event, and to encourage the schools' participation.

Media Coverage

Good cooperation was received from the local media in publicising these events. A news release highlighting the upcoming celebrations was disseminated to the media on February 27.

This information was subsequently carried in a variety of media – print, radio, television and the Internet. A telephone interview about the activities was conducted with Radio Cayman on March 4.

The Message from Her Majesty the Queen and the Secretary General's Affirmation were sent to the media under embargo on March 4. These messages were carried in the print media and also broadcast.

In addition, media members covered the commemorative events for their media houses.



Community CALENDAR

■ **COMMUNITY CALENDAR** is published TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS. It is available to charitable or nonprofit organisations. Items should be submitted at least three working days before publication. Information must include name of sender, signature and contact number.

■ Items may be faxed to 949-2662, brought to the Cayman Compass office on Shedden Rd. or emailed to cwinters@pinnaclemedia.com at least three days in advance of publication.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

FIRST IMPRESSIONS:

Professional First Impressions clothing drive today through March 27, to collect gently used business attire, including shoes and accessories such as handbags, belts and fashion jewelry. Items needed to help women enter or rejoin the business world. Clothing drive organized through the Cayman Islands Crisis Centre and the Family Resource Centre. For more information, to make a donation or arrange clothing collection, email cjganga@caymanffirst.com or go to facebook.com/professionalfirstimpressions.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

FISH FRY: Fridays during Lent until March 27. St. Ignace School cafeteria, 9-6 a.m. Dine in or carry out. Menu includes...

breakfast, and self-guided tour parks in the gallery for families. Free coffee and tea available in the Art Cafe. Donations welcome. For more details, contact education@nationalgallery.org.ky or 945-8111.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

COMMONWEALTH DAY: Service 4 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church, followed by garden reception. All are invited, especially residents and visitors from Commonwealth countries.

FUN RUN AND DOG JOG: Dog lovers are invited to show off their pet's sparkling talent or take a Hamene Society shelter dog for a spin at the annual CAVE KR-5K Fun-Run and Dog Jog. Registration, \$25. Includes event T-shirt, finish line snacks and doggie biscuits.

free event, which includes presentations by medical specialists, a Get Active Zone for kids, heart-healthy meal produce and cardiac-protective healthy snacks. Free screening for blood pressure, BMI (Body Mass Index), blood glucose and cholesterol and waist circumference. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Arts & Recreational Centre, Camana Bay. For more information, contact caymanheartland@gmail.com, 916-6324 or visit caymanheartland.com.

FARMERS MARKET: 10 a.m. to noon, Camana Bay, Gardenia Court. Chef demonstrations and tastings. Free and open to the public.

CAYMAN SUNSET: Adult mixed-media painting course today and tomorrow offered through National Gallery. Contact education@nationalgallery.org.ky

of five other member signatures.

FLOETRE: All are invited to job posts and performers who share their work during an open mic night of poetry and readings. Share your own work or listen to others. 7-8:30 p.m. Books & Books.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

DRUM CIRCLE: Professional drummers of 1 Am Percussion Ensemble jam in Gardenia Court, 5-7 p.m. All are invited to join in or just enjoy the show.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY: Free presentation on occupational therapy for persons with mental health and intellectual challenges. Hibiscus Room, George Town Hospital, 8-9 a.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

GOLF SCRAMBLE: St. Ignace-sponsored event at

get listed should arrive by 9 a.m. Testing will be available every Tuesday, 9-10 a.m. Contact HWAIDS Coordinator Laura Whitfield at 944-2631.

BEEF RESTORATION:

Certified brewers are invited to work on the Cayman Magic Reef restoration in George Town. A schedule of work dates and times is posted on Facebook under Cayman Magic Reef. Recovery, Dates, Times and places are listed under. Events for volunteers to check and sign up.

FOOD HANDLERS:

Certification courses in basic food hygiene are offered by the Department of Environmental Health. March 8, 20; April 15, 29; May 13, 27; June 10, 24. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the DEH conference room in the Environmental Centre, 580 North Sound Road. \$15 per person covers all materials and fees; pay at DEH headquarters, 580 North Sound Road, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday to Friday. For more information, call 949-6696.

Hospital is open Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for breakfast, lunch, drinks, snacks. Tobacco orders welcome, call 244-2560. Funds are donated back to the community. Contact phil@desccermin@gmail.com.

ARTISANS MARKET:

Camana Bay Artisan Market every Wednesday. Visual Arts Society has artists displaying arts, crafts, paintings, prints, hand-crafted jewelry and ceramics for sale between noon and 6 p.m. See facebook.com/visualartsociety for more information about being a displaying artist. Contact info@visualartsociety.com or 540-9420.

MIND'S EYE:

Free guided tours for up to eight people are offered at Mind's Eye - The Visionary World of Miss Leslie, Cayman's intuitive artist. Tours by appointment, 10 a.m., second and fourth Saturdays. Contact the Cayman National Culture Foundation by email at admin@cnfc.org.ky or 949-5477.

HUMANITY SOCIETY BOOK

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Future politicians to tackle debate on Sunday trading

Cayman News | 03/03/2015 | 5 Comments

(CNS): While the current government has already decided not to introduce Sunday trading in the Cayman Islands as a result of opposition from significant sectors of the community, the next generation of potential leaders will be taking the subject on in the annual Youth Parliament next week. Part of the Commonwealth Day celebrations, the debates are organized by the Cayman Islands branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and give high school students the opportunity to act as members of the Legislative Assembly for a day.

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Commonwealth Day to focus on youth

04 March, 2015

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This year's Commonwealth Day celebration, observed on March 9, will focus on the youth of Cayman.

This year's theme of Commonwealth Day, which is celebrated worldwide on the second Monday in March, is "A Young Commonwealth."

To kick-start events in Cayman, a Commonwealth Day Service will be held at Saint George's Anglican Church on Sunday at 4 p.m. All are invited, particularly nationals of Commonwealth countries who are resident in or visiting the Cayman Islands.

At the church, uniformed groups and schools will participate in a display of flags representing various countries in the Commonwealth. The University College of the Cayman Islands choir, the International College of the Cayman Islands ensemble, and a violin ensemble from local primary schools will perform.

There will be a garden reception after the service.

On Monday, schools will participate in morning assemblies, view exhibitions, and take part in flag parades or storytelling... and students will dress as their favorite countries from

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Commonwealth Day Celebrations 2015

27 February 2015, 8:00 AM



The Cayman Islands Branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society is preparing to celebrate Commonwealth Day, which will be observed and celebrated on Monday, 9 March 2015.

The theme is "A Young Commonwealth", and the focus will be on young people. Cayman Islands schools have been invited to participate in the 2015 Essay Competition which has the same theme. The results will be announced in September 2015. On Commonwealth Day, schools will join to share in morning assemblies, view schools' exhibitions, flag parade, or story telling with students dressing up as their counterparts from other countries of the Commonwealth.

The annual meeting of the Cayman Islands Youth Parliament will also be held on Commonwealth Day. The youth parliament debates are organized by the Cayman Islands branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and give high school students the opportunity to act as members of the Legislative Assembly for a day. This year, they will debate two motions – one dealing with an amendment to the Sunday Trading Law to allow more Sunday trading, and the other which deals with a mentoring programme in the public high schools.

The Commonwealth Day service will be held at the Saint George's Anglican Church, commencing at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, 8 March 2015. Uniformed groups and schools will attend the service, and participate in a colourful display of the flags of the Commonwealth member countries. The sermon will be delivered by the Rev. Tara Tyme-Campbell – Minister of the John Gray United Church, West Bay. The Choir of the University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI), the UCCI ensemble and the violin ensemble from the primary schools will render musical selections.

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TALK SHOWS



COMMONWEALTH DAY

Message from Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth

One simple lesson from history is that when people come together to talk, to exchange ideas and to develop common goals, wonderful things can happen. So many of the world's greatest technological and industrial achievements have begun as partnerships between families, countries, and even continents. But, as we are often reminded, the opposite can also be true. When common goals fall apart, so does the exchange of ideas. And if people no longer trust or understand each other, the talking will soon stop too.

In the Commonwealth we are a group of 53 nations of dramatically different sizes and climates. But over the

years, drawing on our shared history, we have seen and acted upon the huge advantages of mutual cooperation and understanding, for the benefit of our countries and the people who live in them.

Not only are there tremendous rewards for this cooperation, but through dialogue we protect ourselves against the dangers that can so easily arise from a failure to talk or to see the other person's point of view.

Indeed, it seems to me that now, in the second decade of the twenty first century, what we share through being members of the Commonwealth is more important and worthy of protection than perhaps at any other time in the

As a concept that is unique in human history, the Commonwealth can only flourish if its ideas and ideals continue to be young and fresh and relevant to all generations.

Commonwealth's existence. We are guardians of a precious flame, and it is our duty not only to keep it burning brightly but to keep it replenished for the decades ahead.



Queen Elizabeth II

With this in mind, I think it apt that on this day we celebrate 'A Young Commonwealth' and all that it has to offer. As a concept that is unique in human history,

the Commonwealth can only flourish if its ideas and ideals continue to be young and fresh and relevant to all generations.

The youthfulness and vitality that motivate our collective endeavours were seen in abundance last year in Glasgow. They will be seen again in a few months' time when Young Leaders from islands and continents gather to make new friendships and to work on exciting initiatives that can help to build a safer world for future generations. And last November in India, talented young scientists from universities and research institutes conferred with eminent professors and pioneers of discovery at the Commonwealth Science Conference where to-

gether they shared thoughts on insights and innovations that promise a more sustainable future.

These are stirring examples of what is meant by 'A Young Commonwealth'. It is a globally diverse and inclusive community that opens up new possibilities for development through trust and encouragement. Commonwealth Day provides each of us, as members of this worldwide family, with a chance to recommit ourselves to upholding the values of the Commonwealth Charter.

It has the power to enrich us all, but, just as importantly in an uncertain world, it gives us a good reason to keep talking.

Conclusion

There was active and enthusiastic involvement of young people in the activities to mark Commonwealth Day 2015. These activities received support from the parents and guardians of these young people, as well as from the media and the general public.

The foregoing illustrate another year of success in the celebration of Commonwealth Day in the Cayman Islands. This level of interest from various quarters ensures that a young Commonwealth will be a sustainable Commonwealth.

I have already expressed my appreciation to all concerned for their assistance in the execution of the programme of celebrations.

J L Hurlston

Honorary Representative
The Royal Commonwealth Society
Cayman Islands Branch