



2007, July 27

Miss Lou's Room opened in Canada

A room dedicated to the memory of Jamaica's cultural icon, The Honourable Louise Bennett-Coverley (Miss Lou), was opened yesterday, July 26 at Harbourfront Centre in Toronto, Canada. This date represents the first anniversary of Miss Lou's death and the Harbourfront Centre, which overlooks Lake Ontario, was chosen because Miss Lou had performed there on several occasions. The Miss Lou's room houses photographs and the works of the Jamaican cultural giant, including videos, audiocassettes, DVDs and books. An interactive section where people can sing along with Miss Lou is also included.

The opening was attended by Jamaica's former Prime Minister, The Most Honourable, P.J. Patterson and Minister of Tourism, Entertainment and Culture; The Honourable, Aloun Ndombet-Assamba.

[For further information visit: www.harbourfrontcentre.com]

Jamaica carnival takes off at airport

To celebrate the launch of Airtours inaugural flight from East Midlands to Jamaica on July 18, a number of children from the 2nd Castle Donington Brownies and Cubs group transformed the terminal at Britain's East Midlands Airport into a Jamaican carnival. The festivities, which attracted the attention of curious onlookers and a number of media personnel, featured a local steel band and a limbo dance competition. With the assistance of the Jamaica Tourist Board's UK office, passengers and staff were able to sample some of Jamaica's traditional tasty food, including patties and rum punch.

On July 18 Airtours began making weekly direct flights to from the East Midlands Airport to Montego Bay. The service will be offered for eight weeks during the summer.

[For further information visit: www.airtours.co.uk]

Jamaica celebrates emancipation islandwide

A number of activities will take place between July 31 and August 1 to mark the emancipation of enslaved Jamaicans on August 1, 1838. On the eve of Emancipation Day on July 31, several Jamaicans across the island will participate in various emancipation vigils including performances by a number of cultural and religious groups. The vigils will take the form of candle-light civic ceremonies and give recognition to those who fought for freedom. The National Emancipation Vigil and Emancipation Jubilee (July 31 and August 1 respectively) will be held at the Seville Heritage Park in St. Ann.

On Emancipation Day Jamaicans will have an opportunity participate in Augus Fair during the day and later, Jamaica Nite at the Ranny Williams Entertainment Centre in Kingston. Augus Fair is a cultural event showcasing traditional folk forms and activities for the entire family, while Jamaica Night is a concert

featuring contemporary Jamaican artistes. This year's emancipation celebration coincides with the bicentenary observance of the abolition of the trans-Atlantic trade in Africans.

[For further information visit: www.jcdc.org.jm]

Barrington Irving to visit Jamaica

Twenty-three year old aviator, Barrington Irving is scheduled to make an official visit to Jamaica between August 3 and 7. Barrington recently made headlines when on June 27 he became the youngest and first pilot of African descent to complete a solo round-the-world flight. The young pilot was born in Kingston, Jamaica but migrated to the USA at the age of six and is now a role model and mentor to many young children, particularly those with an interest in aviation. Whilst in Jamaica he will be engaged in a number of activities, including a courtesy call on the Governor General, His Excellency, The Most Honourable Professor Kenneth Hall, a civic reception at Emancipation Park in Kingston and rap sessions with the youth.

*[For further information telephone: (876)-908-5298; or visit:
http://www.experienceaviation.org/meet_barrington.php]*

CVM TV Port Royal Music Festival launched

The second staging of the CVM TV Port Royal Music Festival was launched on Tuesday, July 24 at the Morgan's Harbour Hotel and Marina in Port Royal. The 3-day event will take place from September 7 -9 and involves an array of highly acclaimed artistes including Regina Belle, Brian McKnight, Maxi Priest and Dean Fraser.

The first event on September 7 is a celebrity party entitled Pirates and Wenches at the Morgan's Harbour Hotel and Marina. Decked out in garb reminiscent of the days of piracy, patrons will seek to relive the former glory of the richest and wickedest city on earth. The festival continues with the main show on September 8 at the Port Royal Entertainment Centre and concludes with Jazz on the Harbour on Sunday, September 9 at the hotel.

[For further information visit: www.portroyalmusicfestival.com]

Asian Food festival at Jamaica Pegasus

The Jamaica Pegasus hotel in Kingston will stage its 3rd Annual Asian Food Festival entitled: "A Taste of Asia & the Middle East". The festival will run from Friday, July 27 - Sunday, July 29, 2007, starting 6:30pm. It will feature traditional cuisine from China, India, Japan and Lebanon and entertainment will include cultural dances from India and China.

[For further information visit: www.jamaicapegasus.com]

REMINDERS

Travel Channel highlights Jamaica

On July 28 at 4:00 pm, the US Travel Channel will continue to highlight Jamaica in a film entitled Jamaica: Paradise Uncovered. The sixty-minute feature reflects the beauty of the island and its rich culture and heritage.

[For further information visit: <http://travel.discovery.com/tv-schedules/special.html?paid=26.7588.80556.0.0>]

Byron Lee to be honoured in New York

Just weeks after being honoured locally for more than 50 years in the business, musical giant, Byron Lee is again being recognised in New York at Yam Jam 2007 on Sunday, July 29. The event will take place at the Roy Wilkins Park in Queens. The musical legend formed his Byron Lee and the Dragonaires band in 1956 and has since been taking Jamaica's music to the world stage. The band's big break came in the first James Bond film Dr. No, where they appeared in the scene at Pussfeller's club and played a number of tunes on the soundtrack. The group's versatility has seen them perform various soca, reggae, ska and dancehall tunes.

[For further information visit <http://www.byronleemusic.com/> OR <http://www.jamaicans.com/news/events/ByronLeeNYChonor072007.shtml>]

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