

Operation Upload

A celebration of the enrollment of the back catalog of Pont Casse Press into the digital platform of the University of Toronto Libraries, the 30th anniversary of Pont Casse Press and in celebration of Dominica's 44th Anniversary of Independence.



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
LIBRARIES



Friday, November 4, 2022

5:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.

45 Willcocks Street

William Doo Auditorium, Toronto, ON

*Featuring the founders of Pont Casse Press:
~Irving Andre and Gabriel Christian~*



EVENT PROGRAM

NEW COLLEGE & CARIBBEAN STUDIES IN COLLABORATION WITH PONT CASSE PRESS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022

5:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.

45 Willcocks Street–William Doo Auditorium, Toronto, ON M5S1C7

Hosts: Principal Dickson Eyoh & Jeff Newman with,
Justice Irving André & Mr. Gabriel Christian



Time	Participants	Activity
5:30 p.m.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doors open Light refreshments will be served
5:45 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcomes guests
5:55 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Dickson Eyoh & Jeff Newman 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcomes special guests National anthems of Canada and Dominica
6:05 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Dickson Eyoh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brings welcome remarks Welcomes and thanks Justice Irving André & Mr. Gabriel Christian, the founders of Pont Casse Press. Thanks Jeff and the team at U of T for their work on connecting with Pont Casse Press Expresses the importance of showcasing remarkable tapestry of literary work from Dominica, with its rich history, heritage and culture Special recognition of the Dominica's Independence Gives brief history between the scholarship undertaken by New College to highlight Caribbean history. Calls on Master of Ceremony to the podium
6:20 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Ceremonies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reads brief history on Pont Casse Press Introduces Justice Irving André & Gabriel Christian <p>Invites Justice André and Gabriel to speak</p>
6:35 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justice André & Gabriel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brings thoughts on Dominica's Independence and history: 1978 – present <p>Master of Ceremonies returns to calls Jeff Newman</p>
7:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Jeff Newman & U of T Library Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to the U of T/Pont Casse digitization project
7:15 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Ceremonies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calls on Readers 1 & 2 <p>Master of Ceremony introduces dance troupe</p>
8:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Ceremony 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduces dance troupe
8:20 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justice André & Mr. Christian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring reflective and closing remarks



A Brief History of **Pont Casse Press** *By Dr. Irving W. Andre*



Gabriel Christian and I founded the Pont Casse Press in 1992 but the seeds which gave birth to it were sowed many years earlier. Our collective interest in literature and Dominica's history had been birthed and then nursed by a collective of teachers at the Dominica Grammar School and the Sixth Form College. Many of these teachers introduced us to a world of simile, metaphor, imagery, plot and character. Our history teachers moved effortlessly through the pages of European history but except for basic information gleaned from books such as *The Making of the West Indies*, our exposure to West Indian, let alone Dominican history, was rather limited.

Navigating the turbulent waters of undergraduate studies either in Jamaica or in the United States in the case of Gabriel, further underscored the need to contribute to the emaciated body of works about Dominica and the realization that we have a role to play in rescuing our history from the black hole of oblivion and amnesia in which, except for a few works, it languished.

And so in the early 1980s after I had moved to John Hopkins University to do post-graduate studies in history we started a modest campaign of making monthly pilgrimages to the Library of Congress where we foraged for every book, article or documents about Dominica. We amassed a modest collection of primary and secondary sources. We plotted our assault to build a literary bridge over the chasm of our undocumented past. In 1992, after receiving rather lukewarm responses to a proposal to write a book about Dominica's recent history, we set about the task of writing a book which we titled: *In Search of Eden. The Travails of a Caribbean Mini- State*.

Three decades later, we look back with some satisfaction at the various works we have produced. We have jointly authored books on tragic events in Dominica's history and the Caribbean's contribution to World War Two. Gabriel has produced an excellent book of short stories, a book on Mary Eugenia Charles who attended the University of Toronto in the 1940s and a book about his journey to Cuba in the late 1970s when the region faced a Caribbean Spring with a significant amount of political upheaval. We have also produced a number of biographies of Dominican leaders in various fields such as politics, business, law, and religion. We have also written about Dominica's contribution to World War Two, whether in providing shelter to thousands of French nationals fleeing Vichy regimes in



Founders of Pont Casse Press



Gabriel Christian

*Esquire
~Co-Founder of Pont Casse Press~*

&

Dr. Irving André

*Judge of Ontario's Superior Court of Justice
~Co-Founder of Pont Casse Press~*

----- continued from page 3

Martinique, providing young recruits to the British Army, South Caribbean Battalion, or of providing hundreds of workers to the Dutch Oil Refineries in Curacao and Aruba to supply fuel for the war effort. We have financed this effort largely through a charity called, "My Pocket.com." We have also edited and produced the books of other Dominican officials. Over the three decades we have produced forty books.

It has been a long journey but one that has proven to be ultimately satisfying. Satisfaction has come from the unwavering dedication and contribution of our spouses, Kathy and Joan, to the production of these books, to those who had reached out in purchasing our books and those who have recognized our modest contribution to Caribbean scholarship.

This agreement with the University of Toronto marks the culmination of our collective efforts to put Dominica on the proverbial map and to demonstrate that there is more to this magnificent land of breathtaking tropical forests, its 365 rivers and its friendly people. We therefore thank Ben Walsh, Nelly Cancilla, Chad Chrichton, Eva Jurczyk of the University of Toronto Libraries, and also, Jeffrey Newman for reaching out to us and for hosting this excellent event.

Greetings from New College Faculty & Staff



Jeffrey Newman

New College Library

On behalf of New College and, the University of Toronto Libraries, I welcome you to New College, thank you for joining us this evening. We gather to celebrate the history and culture of Dominica on the traditional lands of the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Mississauga's of the Credit and are aware of the histories of colonization and ongoing struggle and resistance that the inhabitants of Dominica and Canada share.

Tonight, we are gathering to celebrating the anniversary of Dominica's 1978 Constitution, which like Canada's Constitution Act of 1982 marked the culmination of an independence movement to establish the sovereignty of the Commonwealth of Dominica.

We are also here, gathered to celebrate a collaboration between Pont Casse Presse and the University of Toronto Libraries to make 13 books on the history of Dominica freely available to the world. This project, funded by the University of Toronto Libraries is a part of a larger initiative to use the Libraries' scale, skills, and global reach to better preserve, promote, and share the histories and stories of Canada's black diasporas and communities.

We are humbled by the way Gabriel Christian and Irving Andre freely gave their time to help this project come to life, and for their incredible generosity in releasing their back catalogue under an Open Access license. By releasing their works as Open Access, they are allowing have opened their books up to be read, shared, and discovered by anyone looking to learn more about the history of Dominica and its people, free of charge, forever. I hope that you enjoy the evening's readings and performances, but even more than that, I hope that you enjoy the works that Mr. Christian and Mr. Andre have ushered into creation and will share them broadly.

Jeffrey Newman,
New College Library

A Brief History of **The University of Toronto**



The University of Toronto was founded as King's College in 1827 and has evolved into a large, internationally significant research and teaching institution. It now occupies three campuses: Scarborough, Mississauga, and the historic St. George campus and is home to over 122,000 students, staff, librarians and faculty from 170 countries and boasts an alumni network of over 630,000 alumni. It has federated with three smaller universities which are on the St. George campus, and is affiliated with several colleges and institutes. UofT is also partnered with ten fully affiliated teaching hospitals. The University is Canada's most important research institution and has gained an international reputation for its research. To support its work of teaching and research, the University has collected a library that is the largest in Canada and among the best in the world.



Founded in 1962, New College was the first college to be created within the University of Toronto since the federation with Victoria, Trinity and St. Michael's Colleges. The name of the college was initially to be "New King's College", in homage to University College, which had been known as King's College before receiving a new royal charter. It is home to some 6,300 students and 27,000+ alumni.

Greetings from New College

Faculty & Staff



Dickson Eyoh

Associate Professor & Principal

Greetings from New College. The Caribbean Studies program was established at New College in 1995 to promote the study of the Caribbean and its peoples. Importantly, the program strives to celebrate the nations and peoples of the Caribbean on their own terms, in their own words, which is why providing students and scholars with access to materials written or published by those living in the archipelago or living in the diaspora is so critical.

When we think of nations like the Commonwealth of Dominica, it is even more important to foster the publishing and wide distribution of books on the island's peoples and history so that the voices of the Dominican people and their stories aren't drowned out by the voices of larger states in the Caribbean and beyond who may seek to write a different history of the region. The fact that the University of Toronto Libraries and Pont Casse Press have partnered to make electronic copies of these materials openly accessible to the world is a great gift to global scholars of the Caribbean and of the history of Dominica.

These books are now not only available for University of Toronto students to use in their studies, but to members of the Dominican community in Toronto, across Canada, and around the world to celebrate their history and develop a better understanding of their heritage and their island's place in this history of a region of the world so central to modern history.

This publishing project that the University of Toronto Libraries undertook is a radical experiment in community building. I am grateful that Pont Casse was such an enthusiastic partner and I hope you enjoy reading and sharing the books that they have published celebrating the history of the Commonwealth of Dominica.

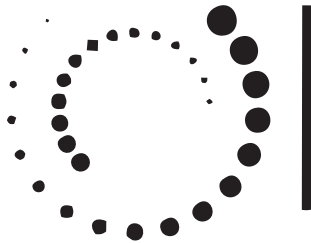
Dickson Eyoh,
Associate Professor & Principal,
New College
University of Toronto



The History of



Caribbean Studies at New College



**Caribbean Studies
University of Toronto**

In its early history, The College was established in an era of social activism change, evolving social attitudes, and changes in immigration patterns that began to resonate in resonated with the work taking place at the College New College's programs.

New College was where the University of Toronto Women's Studies program was founded in 1974-75. It was where the University's African Studies Program was established in 1978. In 1995, during the principalship of Guyanese-born scholar Frederick Ivor Case, the Caribbean Studies program was launched here, too, as a way to reflect, acknowledge, and celebrate Toronto's thriving Caribbean diasporas. In 1998 the College launched the Equity Studies program, which eventually grew into its current form of the Critical Studies in Equity and Solidarity program. In many ways the College's identity is wrapped up in scholarship, research, and teaching that focuses on liberation, freedom, empowerment, and community.

Its faculty, students, and programs have strived to help add volume to stories and experiences that were being left out of popular narratives of the Canadian experience. Throughout the College's history there has been a tradition of connecting the world of academia to the wider communities in Toronto and beyond.

The famed CBC TV series, *The Nature of Things* was hosted by physicist and New College's second principal, Donald G. Ivey for its first five years on the air. The late Guyanese-born scholar and member of the Caribbean Studies department, Arnold Itwaru ran the free *Racism and National Consciousness* conference as a way to raise racial consciousness and mobilize resistance.



The History of Roseau Public Library



Roseau Public Library

Established,
May 11th, 1907



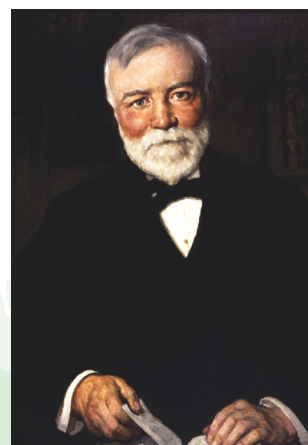
In 1904, Sir Henry Hesketh Bell (1864-1952) reached out to American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) in an effort to persuade him to give a grant for the construction of a public library on the Caribbean island of Dominica. Carnegie agreed to provide the grant and in 1905 gave £1,500 for the library's construction. The city of Roseau, the capital of Dominica, was chosen as the library's location. The architecture of the library was managed by Bell and on May 11, 1907 the library was opened to the public.

It was designed by a popular British Administrator of Dominica, Hesketh Bell and funded by a Scottish born philanthropist, Mr. Andrew Carnegie.



Hesketh Bell

(1899-1905)
British Administrator of Dominica



Andrew Carnegie

(1835-1919)
The Scottish-American iron magnate
and philanthropist who financed the
building of the Roseau Public Library



Pont Casse Press: *From the Archives*



2 D'cans write of state travails

NE

By

Two young sons of Dominica, both living overseas, combined their energies, education and experience to release a book on September 11, 1992 on Dominica entitled 'In Search of Eden: the Travails of a Caribbean Mini State'.

The book was published in the United States of America and is being distributed in the United States, United Kingdom and Canada. It should be available in Dominica this month.

Behind it are young lawyers who live in Canada and Washington DC. They are Irving André, Crown Attorney in Ontario and Gabriel Christian, Attorney at Law in the US.

'In Search of Eden' comprises 10 essays and deals with the main events in the last 25 years of Dominica's history.

The book looks at Radical Politics in the 1970's; The Ideological Justification for Independence; The Dread Act and Related Legislation; The Literature of Dominica in the late 1970's; The Fall of John; The Attempted Invasion of Dominica and its Aftermath; The Economics of Survival in the 1980's and Encouraging Investment while protecting the Environment, among others.

Irving André is a former student of the Dominica Grammar School and graduate of the University of the West Indies and

John Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, before going on to Osgoode Hall Law School in Canada. Since being called to the bar in 1990, Mr. André has gone on to become Assistant Crown Attorney in the City of Brampton, Ontario.

He began researching the book in 1983, but started writing it in earnest in 1991.

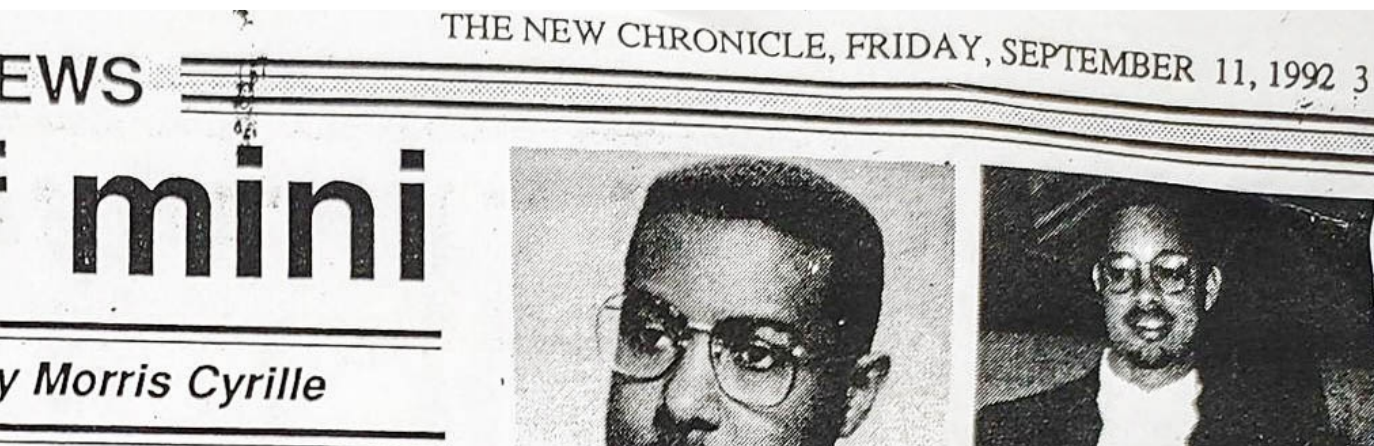
"The Book is intended for the serious reader seeking an analysis of the important events in Dominica's history over the last 25 years," he wrote to Morris Cyrille of the New Chronicle.

Gabriel Christian is also a graduate of the Dominica Grammar School. He is an

The Roseau Public Library holds sentimental value in the minds and hearts of Pont Casse Press founders, Irving Andre and Gabriel Christian. This was the birthplace of their



Pont Casse Press: *From the Archives*



Attorney at Law following his graduation from the Georgetown Law School in Washington in 1991.

The new book traces the political lineage of the United Workers Party in 1988 back to the Dominica United People's Party and Dominica Labour Party back in the 1950's and the emergence of the Dominica Freedom Party in the 1960's.

It looks at the ideologies and political paths pursued by the DLP leading to political independence from Britain in 1978 and the rise of the DFP in the 1980's.

According to the introduction written by Irvin André: "There is a degree of overlap in some of the



• Gabriel Christian

essays since they were not all written in conjunction with each other. They do not reflect a single ideological viewpoint and in fact may contain different interpretations of the same events."

It marks the culmination of a period of collaboration between the two authors which began in the mid-1970's when they attended the DGS and Sixth Form College. They discovered that they shared interests in literature, politics and society. These mutual interests were sharpened both by higher education



• Irving Andre

and the political and economic events since the 1970's.

"This book is merely the organised expression of the respective views of the authors reinforced by research over a considerable period of time. In a sense the book represents the combined efforts of Mr. Christian and myself to rescue the thoughts, feelings and convictions developed over time from the ethereal platonic world of ideas which they would otherwise inhabit," wrote Mr. André.

friendship that blossomed into what we see today, successful sons of Dominica who made it their duty to spread the history and culture of their country.

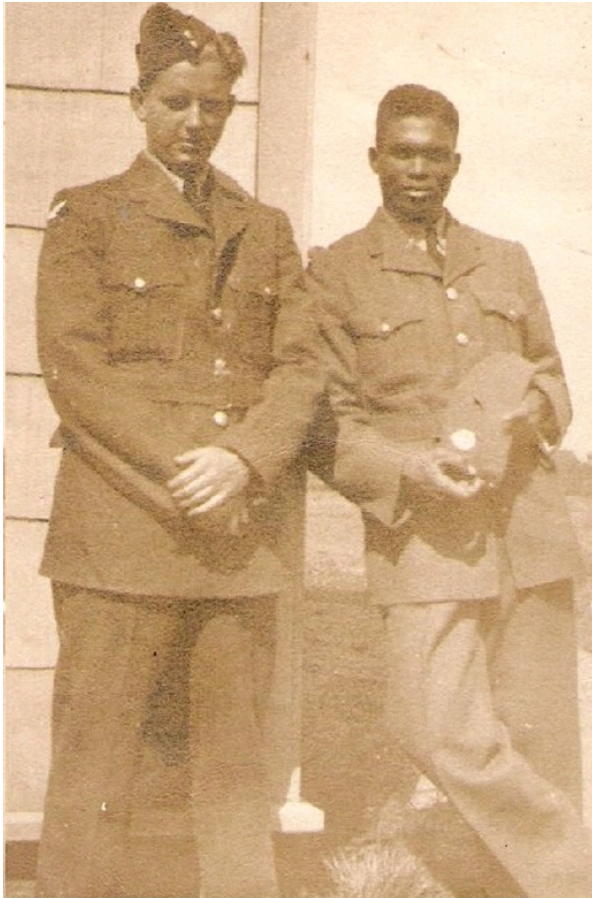
Dominica and the Canadian Connection of Colonialism, Trade, Friendship, Solidarity

By *Gabriel Christian*

Esquire



The history of Dominica and Canada has deep roots which resides primarily in both countries having once been colonies of Britain. That connectivity finds resonance in our common English language and includes the presence of a French language component to our two cultures. In the early days of colonialism and slavery those West Indians who fought the American revolutionaries of 1776 alongside the British during the War of Independence and the War of 1812, were given refuge in Halifax, Nova Scotia. During the slave era some Jamaican Maroons (enslaved Africans who resisted slavery) were also exiled to Canada. Despite the heavy burden of colonialism, enslaved Africans, and the Indigenous Kalinago of Dominica, as with Canada's Mississauga and Ojibwe First Nations, have always struggled towards self-determination. In the colonial period, the trade between Canada and the Caribbean islands in sugar, molasses, wheat flour, corn meal and codfish (or saltfish) proceeded with vigor. Today, saltfish forms part of our Caribbean culinary culture as with corn meal. Even today, those of us who are from Dominica (or the other British West Indian territories) cannot forget the common breakfast fare of canned New Brunswick sardines.



Clifford Severin of Dominica (at right) was a volunteer in the Royal Air Force during World War II. He was trained in Canada as a pilot under the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Commonwealth Aircrew Training Program. Severin is seen in the above photo with an unnamed RCAF colleague at their Canadian airbase. The role of West Indians in World War II is fully explored in ***For King & Country, the Service and Sacrifice of the British West Indian Military*** (Andre & Christian, Pont Casse Press, 2009).

Approximately seven thousand West Indians served in the Royal Air Force during World War II, many having been trained in Canada.

During World War II, the Canadian cargo/passenger vessels Lady Drake, Lady Nelson, Lady Somers, Lady Rodney, and Lady Hawkins plied the Atlantic and Caribbean Sea to sustain the Caribbean islands like Dominica with foodstuff and other goods. Bravely facing marauding German U-Boats one of the so called “Lady Boats” was lost. On March 22, 1942, Lady Nelson was sunk by the German U-boat -161 while at harbor at Castries, St. Lucia. Lady Nelson sank immediately, and fifteen passengers were killed, and three crew members died. Unable to easily secure goods from the United Kingdom during wartime, the United States and Canada were a lifeline for the British West Indian territories. After World War II Canada donated two cargo/passenger vessels to the British West Indian Federation's government, the Federal Palm, and the Federal Maple. During the 1960s and early 1970s, these two vessels were the primary marine transport platforms for inter-island travel.



Canada's government donated the cargo/passenger vessels Federal palm & Federal Maple to the British West Indian Federal Government (1957-1962) which once united most of the British territories in the Caribbean. Both ships provided considerable value to inter-island travel and trade. The Federal Palm is featured on this Grenada stamp.

At the port of Roseau in the 1960s/1970s it was common to see the huge Saguenay Shipping Lines cargo ships anchored in the harbor offloading cargo and taking on that cargo. Some of that cargo included prized mahogany and gommier timber harvested from Dominica's lush hinterland by the Canadian company DomCan Timbers which operated in Dominica between 1968 and 1971. The company concentrated much of its efforts in the Central Forest Reserve. After a few short years, the company produced some 6,948 447 board feet of lumber. A total of 1,970 270 board feet of lumber were exported to Canada. The financial levers of such trade and industry between Canada and Dominica were in part lubricated by the Royal Bank of Canada which maintained a branch in Roseau, Dominica during that period. Many of our distinguished citizens held their first job in the financial sector as employees at the Royal Bank of Canada.



Royal Bank of Canada branch in Roseau, Dominica- circa 2015

For those Dominicans of our time, especially those born after World War II, the Canadian presence stood out in the Goodwill Junior High School which was a gift to Dominica by the Canadian Government in 1964. Completed in 1965, the school was the most modern on the island when it opened. I had the opportunity to have attended what we simply called “Goodwill School” from 1970 to 1972. It was at Goodwill School that I took the tough Common Entrance Exam in 1972 which allowed for me to graduate to the Dominica Grammar School that year.

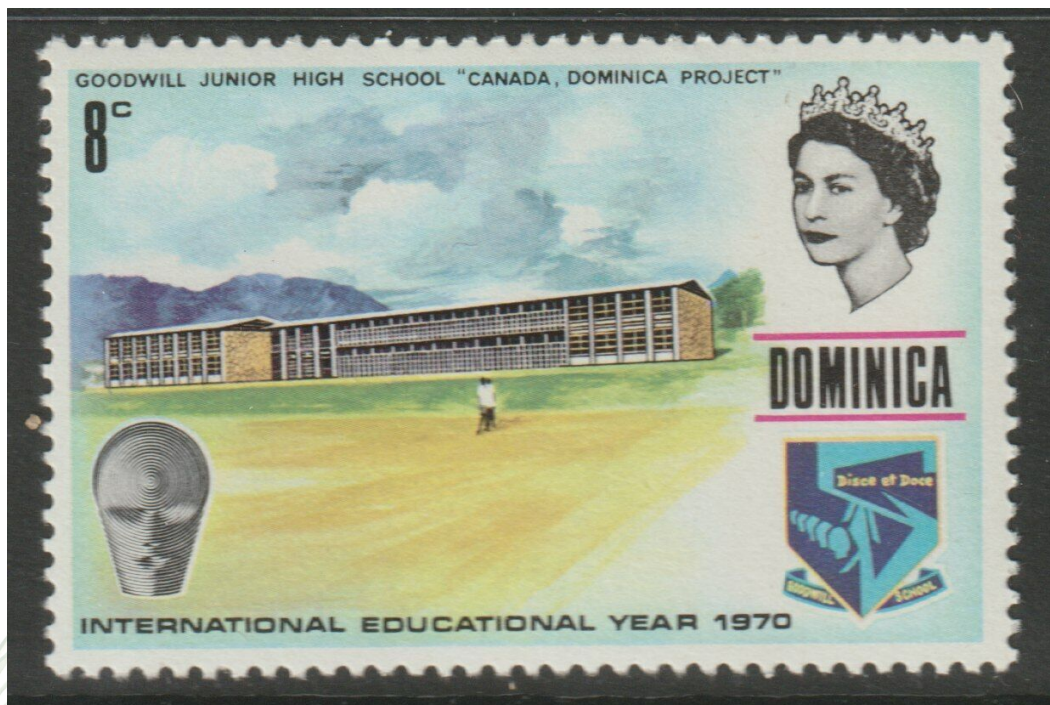
Having attended the more spartan Roseau Mixed Infant School between 1966-1970, I can attest to the creature comforts of Goodwill School. In the gender biased education of the time, the Goodwill School had a woodwork shop for the boys, and a home economics kitchen for the girls. It was the first school in Dominica to have a modern fire alarm system,



an intercom system, and comfortable desks and chairs made of different colored fiber glass cladding and tubular steel legs. In ***Rain on a Tin Roof, Common Entrance at page 169 (1999, First Edition)*** I related:

[Theresa's] parents had sent her to live with relatives in town because they felt her chances for passing the exam were better at one of the schools in the city. Better still at the Canadian funded and designed aluminum and red brick edifice of the Goodwill Junior High School.

The School was pretty, not like the barracks-style schools built under the British school administrators. It had flushing toilets, mirrors at every landing, graceful stairs to carry one from floor to floor, a public address system, and even a fire alarm. The windows were made of an inner wire latticework and slanting outer aluminum slats through which the cool mountain air or sweet sea breeze would blow soothingly on an otherwise scorching hot afternoon.



Goodwill Junior High School, Dominica. A gift to the Government and people of Dominica by the Canadian Government, completed in 1965.



In the 1980s, and continuing, such assistance in education extended to summer teacher improvement seminars for Dominican teachers put on by Canada's Organization for Cooperation in Overseas Development (OCOD). Added to that trade and friendship between Canada and Dominica as made manifest in that gift of a school, many Dominicans had migrated to Canada in the 1960s as part of the Domestic Workers Program. In the 1960s, Dominicans were also recruited to work on Canadian farms as part of the Government of Canada's Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program.

Between 1968 to 1971, Dominica Grammar School (DGS) and St. Mary's Academy (SMA) cadets attended army cadet training in Canada. In 1969 Francis Richards (DGS) and Tony Sorhaindo (SMA) traveled to Canada for training at the Army Cadet Training Camp Valcartier in Quebec. In February 2000, Richards was appointed by Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to "do all things reasonable and necessary" to revive the defunct Dominica Cadet Corps, which he did. Richards retired as Commandant of the Dominica Cadet Corps in 2008 and fondly recalls his training alongside the Canadian Army to this day.



Justice Telford Georges

(1923-2005)

University of Toronto Law School Graduate (1947)

Telford Georges of Dominica represents yet another link to Canada and the University of Toronto, specifically. A brilliant scholar, Georges was an active member of his college community. He entered McGill University in 1942 and then switched to the University of Toronto. He represented the University at inter-varsity debates, was President of the Law Society and an active member of the Historical society, as well as Speaker of his college mock Parliament. He proceeded to graduate with First Class Honors and at the top of his class, for which he was awarded the Gold Medal and an inscription on a plaque at the University of Toronto. Georges later became Chief Justice of several Commonwealth nations over time, namely the Bahamas, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. He was also a Court of Appeals Judge in Trinidad & Tobago.



Dorothy Leevy

University of Toronto Graduate (1966)

Dorothy Leevy, University of Toronto graduate (Class of 1966) taught English Literature to the founders of Pont Casse Press at Dominica's Sixth Form College. She later became the first Dominica-born principal of the most prominent girls' secondary school in Dominica - the Roman Catholic Church-administered Convent High School.

Other notable Dominican students had traveled to Canada for university level education to include Dorothy Leevy. A distinguished graduate of the University of Toronto she later taught English Literature to both founders of Pont Casse Press – Irving Andre and Gabriel Christian. Mrs. Leevy graduated from St. Michael's College of the University of Toronto in 1966 with a BA degree in English Literature. The co-founder of Pont Casse Press Judge Irving Andre himself, traveled to Toronto, Canada for education and to build a new life with his fiancé Kathy Bertrand. He attended Osgoode Hall Law School of York University before moving on to a distinguished career as an Assistant Crown Attorney, trial lawyer in private practice and an eminent jurist within Canada's judiciary.



Dr. Irving André

*Judge of Ontario's Superior Court of Justice
~Co-Founder of Pont Casse Press~*



Dame Mary Eugenia Charles

(1919-2005)

Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica – a 1947 graduate of the University of Toronto.

Many other Dominicans have gone on to distinguish themselves in Canada. Dominica's Prime Minister during the period 1980-1995, Dame Mary Eugenia Charles earned her LLB degree from the University of Toronto in 1947. Another Dominican Prime Minister, the late Roosevelt "Rosie" Douglas, attended Guelph University where he studied agriculture and McGill University where he studied political science. Douglas later made his name as a student activist and civil rights advocate during the Sir George Williams University uprising of February 24, 1969. Identified as the ringleaders of the riot at that university, Douglas, and (later Senator) Anne Cools, from Barbados, were sentenced to prison terms: two years for the former, and four months for the latter. Douglas served 18 months in a Canadian jail and was then deported in 1976 to his birthplace of Dominica. Once home, Douglas became the most outspoken advocate of Dominica's independence movement and nourished a nationalist and social justice consciousness among a generation of Dominican youth. Douglas was elected to be Prime Minister of Dominica on February 3, 2000. In May 2000 he made an official visit to Montreal, the first time he had been back since he was deported. During this visit, he recalled the events at Sir George Williams University as follows: "It was a fight for Black people to have an equal stake in the nation. We had no malice in our heads—we just wanted justice." Judge Andre has written brilliantly of Rosie Douglas' time in Canada civil rights movement where he agitated for African descended and Indigenous Canadians, in the biography: ***Rosie Douglas, Fearless Fighter for Freedom (Pont Casse Press, 2020).***



Roosevelt "Rosie" Douglas

(1941-2000)

Prime Minister Roosevelt "Rosie" Douglas -A pioneering civil rights advocate in Canada



Marlene Green – Born, Roseau Dominica November 9, 1940 – Died Toronto, Canada October 31, 2002

Marlene Green

(1940-2002)

Marlene Green is another notable Dominican in Canadian history. In many studies Green is listed as among the top five most notable Canadians of African descent. Green did her B.A. in English at the University of Toronto and her M.A. in English Literature at Windsor University. She was a Canadian community activist, educator, and NGO field worker. Best known as the founder of the Black Education Project, a volunteer-run organization created to address racial inequalities in Toronto's education system, she also contributed to ending the system of apartheid in South Africa.

Often many limit the Caribbean presence in Canada to the carnival parade known as Caribana, forgetting the centuries old links in trade, education and common cause that link Canada to Caribbean people. Caribana now known as the Toronto Caribbean Carnival, began as a one-time celebration of the Canadian Centennial in Ontario's provincial capital city. Within the first five years, 1967 to 1971, the festival aimed to share West Indian (Black Canadian, Indo-Caribbean and Chinese-Caribbean) culture with the community at large, and to fund the creation of a permanent West Indian cultural centre. Today, it constitutes just one strand of the multilayered fabric of ties between our people.



Scholars have argued that the increased Caribbean presence in the Canada of today has much to do with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's multicultural policies which started in 1971. The presence of the Caribbean Diaspora in Canada continues to afford our Caribbean with a steady source of remittances, know-how, solidarity, and charitable works. The connection between our people benefits Canadian society in way of the intelligence and creativity of Caribbean migrants – not forgetting the material resources of the Caribbean which flow northward.

Indeed, the honor conferred on Pont Casse Press by the University of Toronto Libraries and the New College in enrolling our back catalog into their digital library system is in the fine tradition of the long-established trade links, friendship, and solidarity between the Canadian and Caribbean people. Our November 4, 2022, celebration of Dominica's 44th anniversary of independence celebration at the University of Toronto is indeed a homecoming of a kind for a kindred people who have forged connections of affinity over generations. It is the hope of the founders of Pont Casse Press that the mutually beneficial connections between the people of Dominica and Canada can continue. It is a connection that has enhanced the quality of life for the people of both nations. For all that and more, the founders of Pont Casse Press express profound gratitude.

The Wind Beneath Our Wings



The founders of Pont Casse Press herein salute their wives, Kathy Andre (L), and Joan Christian (R), for their incomparable wisdom, guidance, and unrelenting support provided to Pont Casse Press over the years.



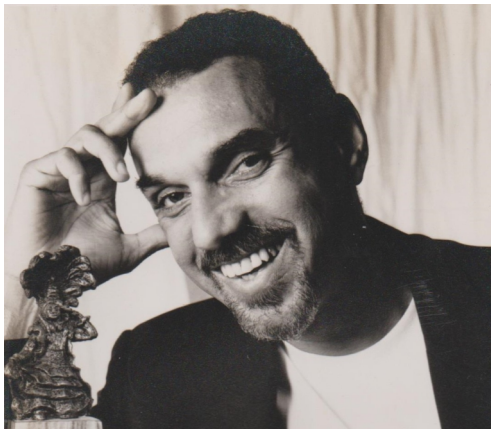
With Gratitude From Pont Casse Press



Pont Casse Press wishes to thank the staff members of the University of Toronto Libraries and the New College, whose efforts led to the enrollment of our back catalog into the digital library of the University of Toronto Libraries system.

In particular, we note the efforts of Eva Jurczyk, Jeff Newman, Kevin Edmonds, and Brenda Registe for their invaluable assistance in making the November 4, 2022 celebration of this collaboration a success.

The founders of Pont Casse Press wish to thank our family members and friends, Dominicans, and friends of Dominicans, at home and abroad, Q95 Radio, Dominican.net, Dominica News Online, members of the Caribbean Diaspora, Carib Nation TV, the Dominica Association of Washington DC, Dominica Academy of Arts & Sciences, Roseau Public Library, Dominica National Archives, Rebuild Dominica, Dominica Arts and Literary Association, Sisserou Cultural Club, the Commonwealth of Dominica Ontario Association, and last but not least our cultural icons, our teachers who taught us well and our writers who inspired our efforts.



Alwin Bully

*An inspirational
leader in the arts*

Alwin Bully is the designer of Dominica's National Flag (Photo: Division of Culture) Alwin Bully gave Dominica its proudest and most distinctive symbol of nationhood. Every year, Flag Day features on the island's Independence Calendar, reminding us of Bully's outstanding contribution to Dominica's arts and culture.

Designed by Samora Dominique Christian of the Law Offices of Gabriel J. Christian, LLC, and Larine M. Greaser of the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA).

The Law Offices of Gabriel J. Christian & Associates, LLC
301-218-9400 | 301-218-9406 -Fax

<http://www.marylandattorneyatlaw.com>

Designed & Printed By The Air Force Sergeants Association
Afsa Business Center | 301-899-3500 | 302-899-9276 Fax



afsabusinesscenter@hqafsa.org | hqafsa.org



In Memoriam

Twistleton St. Rose Bertrand (1924-2019) and Wendell McKenzie Christian (1921-2011) were both born on Dominica, British West Indies. They both served in the same British Army unit during World War II. The exact unit within which they served was “C” Company, Windward Islands Battalion, South Caribbean Forces, British Army. Both men gave inspired support and critical information that guided the works of Pont Casse Press – ***Death by Fire-The Explosive Story of the 1963 Carnival Tragedy (2006)*** and ***For King & Country – The Service and Sacrifice of the British West Indian Military (2009)***. For that support, we are eternally thankful. Following the war Bertrand rose to the rank of Major, Dominica Defence Force and Captain of the Canadian Army, while Christian became a Station Officer of the Dominica Fire Service. Bertrand was the father-in-law of Irving Andre, and Christian was the father of Gabriel Christian. Though they are both gone, we salute them for their noble service in war and peace. ***We shall remember them.***



Twistleton St. Rose Bertrand

(1924-2019)



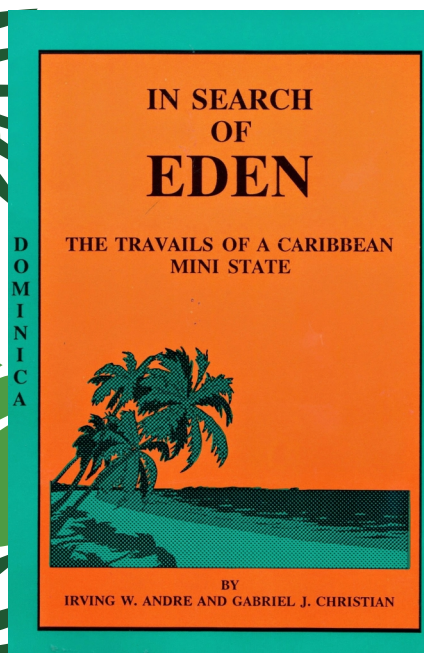
Wendell McKenzie Christian

(1921-2011)

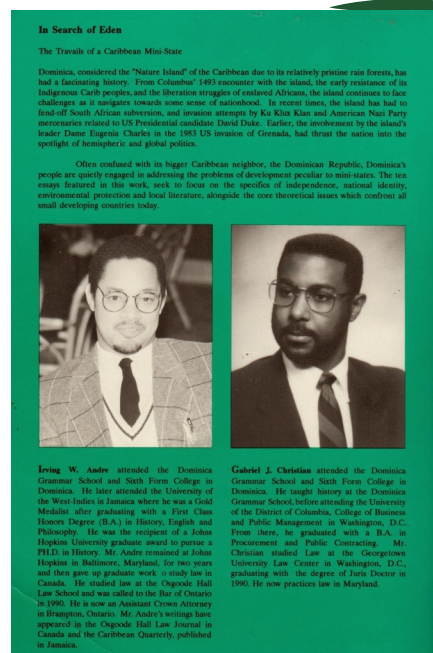
Pont Casse Press

30th

Anniversary



**Pont Casse Press
was founded by
Dr. Irving André and
attorney
Gabriel Christian in
1992. *Featured are
the front and back
cover of the founders
first book.**



**Since 1992 Pont Casse Press has published forty-two books on
Dominica/West Indian general history, biographies, agriculture
science, sports history, and literature.**