



St George's Caye Village Council

April 2013

Easter Weekend!

What a lovely Easter weekend we all had out at the caye this year! On Easter Sunday a small crowd gathered at the Sand Bar for a BBQ and the Easter Mass on Sunday attracted the most people ever! Mr Billy Musa Jr and his lovely wife DeeAnn made available their new home to host this year's mass. The downstairs of their house provided ample shade for everyone who attended and the seats faced directly into the cool easterly sea breeze! Each year the Council brings 10 more chairs, and this last year we brought 50, but next year if we bring 80, then everyone will have a seat. Mr. Musa was kind in locating chairs from throughout his home and bringing them so everyone could have a seat. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Musa! Of course we were very fortunate to again have Bishop Dorrick Wright lead the Easter Mass and Mr. Lynn Young and his son playing music that all could sing to. It was a lovely ceremony on a beautiful day. Mrs. Therese Vasquez and the rest of the Codd Family hosted Bishop Wright for lunch and Mr. Johnny Watt Searle transported the Bishop to and from the island. Thank you everyone for making our annual Easter Celebrations a super success! We cannot wait to see everyone there in 2014!

Burglaries At Hunt Property

They're Back !!! After a brief respite from the plague, the thieves were back and a few burglaries occurred during the weeks leading up to the Easter holiday and during the eve of Easter Sunday. Miss Betty Jean and Paul Hunt's property was burglarized prior to Easter where the thieves stole fuel and an engine, and while we all slept soundly on Holy Saturday night, they returned and made off with their boat that was secured with a chain! This event ruined the Easter weekend celebrations for the Hunts and understandably so. The Musa's also reported that, prior to the Easter weekend, someone had tried to steal the engine off their small boat but were scared off by Isaac's dogs. It's terrible that we all have to worry whether or not our boat will still be tied to the dock when we wake up in the morning. Unfortunately the theft of boats continues to occur along the coast of Belize, hopefully the authorities will be able to catch the culprits soon. If any residents have ANY information on any thefts occurring at St. George's Caye, please report it to the police department in Belize City and the Village Council.



Photos Courtesy: L. Searle & B. Musa Jr



Condolences to the Stahle Family

We received sad news from Mr. Stephen Stahle that his brother Peter had passed away on March 12, 2013. All of us at St. George's Caye extend our sincerest condolences to the Stahle family. May Peter rest in peace.

Village Council Elections

The Elections and Boundaries Dept. has scheduled the Village Council elections for St. George's Caye for Sunday, May 19, 2013. As you may recall Village Council elections occur every 3 years. Personnel from Elections and Boundaries requested a public area to hold the elections and since the Historic Cemetery / Archaeological Reserve is our only public area on the island and it has been utilized for the opening ceremony for September Celebrations, elections will be held here this year. Nominations will be held from 9-10 am and elections will immediately follow from 10 am until 1pm. The Council thanks everyone for their support over the past years and we encourage all residents of the island to come out and cast your vote.

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2013 St. George's Caye Archaeology Field Season

The 4th season of the St. George's Caye Archaeology Field Season will run from July 5-Aug 1, 2013. Dr. Garber and Dr. Sullivan will lead a team of 13 university students in collaboration with Dr. Jaime Awe of the Institute of Archaeology/NICH. Each year the team uncovers clues that help piece together life on St. George's Caye from as early as the 1700s. Each season's report compiled by the team leaders will soon be available on the new website for St. George's Caye. All residents are invited to visit with Dr. Garber and Dr. Sullivan and the team over the summer to discuss the project and their recent finds. Dr. Garber will be conducting a

preliminary visit to Belize and St. George's Caye in May and will be on the island over the elections weekend. Dr. Garber will be happy to talk to any of the residents about the project and hear your stories about historic St. George's Caye. If any residents have items that they found on the island he would be very happy to photograph them for inclusion into the database on historic findings. Some of the items residents have shared with us include a toy soldier found by Peter Codd, a piece of wood from the shipwreck that was given to him by Bruce Bowen, and reports of additional cannons buried on the island as reported by Derek Nisbet.



Button from the 5th West India Regiment



On Holy Saturday Mr. Andrew Roe observed a leatherback sea turtle in front of St. George's Caye. Leatherbacks are the largest living sea turtle and to date there have been no reported nestings of this endangered sea turtle in Belize. ECOMAR monitors reports of sea turtles and has received 3 other reports of leatherback sightings already this year, one from nearby Sergeant's Caye on March 23, one from Turneffe and one from Port Honduras Marine Reserve. Most recently on April 20 divers observed a 600 pound leatherback at Esmeralda, a dive site off San Pedro. Leatherbacks are confirmed to nest in Mexico and Guatemala, so it is quite likely that they also nest in Belize and just a matter of time until someone observes this amazing event! Please report all observations of sea turtles and any other unique marine life sighting to ECOMAR by visiting their website: www.ecomarbelize.org.

New Website for St. George's Caye

A new website is being developed on Historic St. George's Caye that will include information on current and past events. Links to important historical documents relating to the caye will be available as well as the annual archaeology project reports. We would also like to include old pictures that any residents would like to share with our extended family and friends of the island. Website will be up by May 6, 2013.



Please send contributions to stgeorgescayebelize@gmail.com.

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