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CEO lauds Agency achievements for 2006

The following is an interview with the Chief Executive Officer of the NWA, Milton Hodelin, giving his assessment of his first year in office. The interview was conducted by Acting Administrative Assistant, Stephanie Edwards - Thomas, who is presently pursuing a course in Public Relations.



Milton Hodelin (centre) examines a hole in the road surface with members of his team while on tour in St. Mary - Cape Clear. Team members include, from left - Project Manager, Edgar Lewellyn, Director of Asset Management, Wain Anderson (partially hidden), Manager of Technical Service, Roger Smith and Project Manager, Varden Downer.

ST: You have just completed your first year as the CEO, how has it been for you personally?

MH: The year was truly a milestone in my life. I was overwhelmed by the support and team spirit of members of staff during the period. It made it that much easier to lead and overcome the various challenges we encountered and in the process, convinced me fully that our people are our best resource. Having declared from early in the year that it would be the "year of the staff," I was delighted. I could not have wished for a more excellent cadre of persons to share my first year with. The year was really fulfilling!

(contd. on pg 4)

Neville Anderson

is BOSS OF THE YEAR - 2007

It can be said that the beauty of a life is order and discipline. One could also say that the blessing of a life is hard work and commitment. Neville Anderson's life and work stands as testimony to these philosophies.

Neville is the Administrative Manager for the National Works Agency's western region (Trelawny, St. James, Hanover, Westmoreland). He was recently recognized as the "Boss of the Year" by the Jamaica Association of Secretaries and Administrative Professionals (JASAP).

His dedication, remarkable work ethic and excellent leadership abilities has gained him the respect of all those who have worked with him. It is these very qualities that led to his nomination for the "Boss of the Year" for the Parish of St. James in March 2007. He won this title and went on to compete for the all island "Boss of the Year" in April 2007. His eloquence and forthright attitude wowed the judges who unanimously selected him as "Boss of the Year."

Neville has had a long career with the public service which has been marked by excellence in the field of administration. Over the past six years, he has been employed as the NWA's Administrative Manager for the Western Region. Prior to working with the Agency he served the now defunct Public Works Department, for ten years as an Accounting Clerk and later as a County Administrator for the county of Cornwall.

Under Neville's leadership the staff has been able to achieve a high level of productivity. He motivates staff to achieve their full potential and ably articulates the vision for the staff to remain focused on achieving the desired results. He leads by example, transferring the vast expertise he has garnered overtime to staff members across the gamut of the Agency. He is a two time recipient of the Agency's Employee of the Quarter competition, the first and only individual from the Western Region to win this award twice in one year.

His dedication and commitment to service also extends to his community. He is a dedicated son of Hanover who works tirelessly in his quest to aid in the development of the Parish. "Service above self" is the philosophy which guides this philanthropist. This has led him to be involved in various community projects and organizations.



Neville Anderson, making his acceptance speech



Neville Anderson
 - "Boss of the year" 2007.

Currently, he serves as the Director of Club Services at the Hanover chapter of the Rotary Club. He is also the immediate Past President of the Club. Through this organization he has worked on many projects including the sponsorship of a hearing impaired student to the Jamaica Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf in Manchester. He has also worked on committees to beautify various public buildings in the parish.

Additionally, he is a member of the Hanover Co-operative Credit Union Credit Committee. Here he focuses on the business side of things by helping to decide on the awarding of loans.

Neville who is married to Donna, a teacher at Ruseas High School in Hanover has blazed a track record for success in the field of administration and community service and is deserving of this recognition.

The Chief Executive Officer, Milton Hodelin, **the Roadster** and the rest of the NWA family salute this hard-worker. A gentle giant with a golden heart and a shining example of what it means to be true to self and fellow men in giving service.

Employee of the Year

- Winston John Wiggan

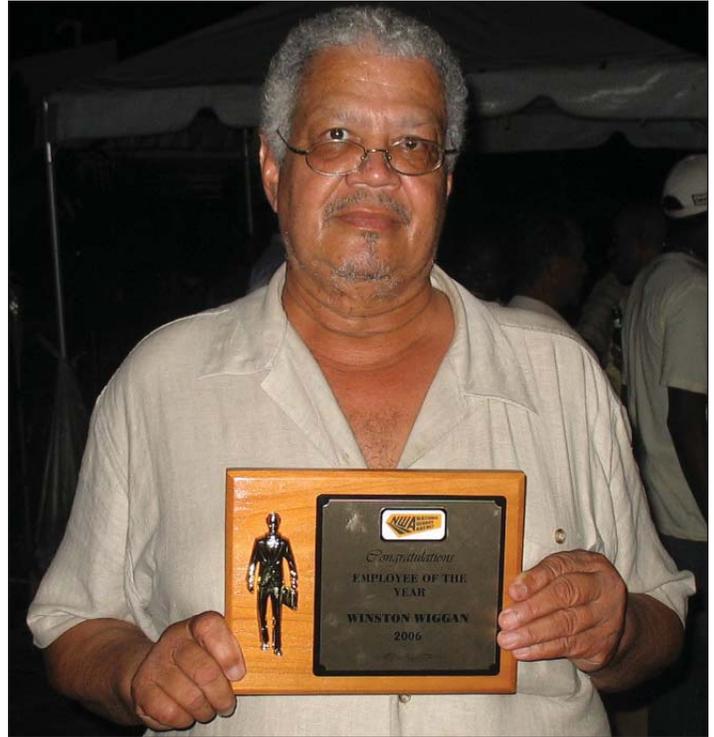
According to the citation read to the 2006 Employee of the Year, he "has through the year practiced an attitude which caused a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes thereby earning him this recognition and deserved title".

A profound comment. So what has he done that made him so deserving of this title. He was always mindful of the Agency's mandate. Developing Safe, Reliable and Quality Roads. While he was not always able to ensure that these qualities were in place, he was not deterred. So committed was he that on one occasion he purchased material to effect temporary repairs to a roadway, preventing its closure. His colleagues report that this act not only prevented economic loss to the parish, but an imminent demonstration and more importantly prevented major embarrassment to the Agency. Remarkable!

His attitude, even during periods of ill health, contributed to keeping the unit going during times of great stress. Persons of less fortitude would have folded under the pressure. This kind of resolve is the hallmark of a stalwart. He withstood the challenges and always delivered.

Again, quoting from the citation, "His dedication and passion are both admirable and worthy of emulation". He always shared information and his knowledge which was always beneficial and timely.

Driven by the conviction of always going beyond the call of duty, he worked relentlessly on assigned tasks never flinching, lending support, encouragement and ensuring that the task at hand was well executed. He is a testimony to the thought that:



Winston John Wiggan

"Our lives are not determined by what happens to us but by how we react to what happens, not by what life brings us, but by the attitude we bring to life".

The Employee of the Year is passionate about the parish for which he has responsibility and unapologetic about his beliefs and convictions. The selection of Winston John Wiggan, a man who served faithfully and unreservedly, as the National Works Agency's 2006 Employee of the Year is richly deserved.



From the Director

The Directorate of Asset Management welcomes this opportunity to contribute to this magazine and look forward to keeping you informed on the activities of the Directorate and how it affects you our valued internal customers. The Directorate consists of four divisions, namely Legal Services, Information Technology, Equipment Management and Property/Estate.

As the Directorate of Asset Management we are aware that you depend on us to provide all physical support required for the success of the Agency in general and in particular your ability to perform your functions efficiently and comfortably. This requires the practice of proper life cycle management which in turn must be supported by the availability of adequate and stable capital funds. As far as possible we have built the Directorate around proactive programmes and prioritised responses. We do not always deliver in a timely manner due mainly to the Directorate's internal deficien-

ASSET MANAGEMENT

cies which we are succeeding in eliminating or minimizing and we also depend on external services for our output to other Directorates.

We are currently working on establishing an internal service charter for the major deliverables for each division of the Directorate.

We take this opportunity to thank you, our fellow team members for the support and understanding we have received from the majority of the staff over the years and commit ourselves to improving our product to you as we go forward together.

Take care of the assets as we would our own and encourage others to do the same.

I truly hope you will benefit from our contributions from our team members and look forward to your feedback. Remember all things are possible; we just have to find a way to make it work.

Wain Anderson

Contd. from pg 1

ST: What would you consider to be some of the major highlights of the Agency during that period?

MH: While there are several I will just mention a few not necessarily in order of importance. The completion of Segment Two of the North Coast Highway, I think went a far way in restoring confidence and respect for the Agency. I had given a commitment to Cabinet to have the project completed by November 2006. This was achieved. This is extremely gratifying, and was a manifestation of my pro-active approach to management and leadership. I was able to personally guide this project with many weekend visits.

Yet another significant achievement was the re introduction of the force account method to carry out works for both roads and bridges. The construction unit in each region has been re-established. This has not only resulted in significant savings but contributes heavily to the training and development of team members in those units. I am also pleased at the capacity building that we have started in respect of the construction of bridges. Through our efforts, the bridge at Boswell Heights was for example completed at significantly less than the price we were quoted, when it was sent to tender.

I placed special emphasis on collection of the Agency's fees and it really paid off. We collected the highest percentage of fees during last year than ever before. These fees were channeled primarily towards staff welfare both for personal development and improvement of the work environment. Staff members at the KMR Office on Hagley Park Road, who are now in a new and more comfortable surrounding can testify to this.

This leads me to our training and development programme which was widened last year to include non professional staff. Team members from various groups including mechanics and ancillary staff benefited. This was augmented by a programme of recognition of members from groups such as drivers/operators, ancillary staff and administrative staff, during special functions held for them. This was a first for the Agency and the feedback was quite positive. I intend to this year work with groups from the different functional areas for example administrative assistants, technical staff, mechanics to further enhance those gains that were made.

ST: What has been your most satisfying moment/achievement as CEO?

MH: There have been many moments which could qualify, but the first one that comes to mind is the comment to me from a member of the ancillary staff after her training, she said that it was the first time that she was feeling so appreciated by anyone or entity in many years. This was a very satisfying moment for me as CEO. When I look at the number of projects that we have been able to plan and execute through our staff it gives me a tremendous lift. These team members have in some instances been able to complete projects below the engineers' estimates and way below that which contractors have tendered. I truly believe that our people are our greatest assets! All team members, including equipment operators, site supervisors, accounting personnel, human resources staff, quality and internal audit or communications have all worked together to assist us in earning record fees for the agency. This is an accomplishment that cannot be understated and of which I am proud. We were able to undertake our 3.9 billion dollar road programme without employing consultants. Last Christmas, when I walked through the Accounts Department and saw the level of activity undertaken by staff in the face of tremendous pressure, I was satisfied. Praises cannot be too much for this group.

ST: What are some of the plans that you intend to implement over the next year, especially where staff are concerned?

MH: I intend to continue the programme of staff development and improvement in the work environment.

ST: How do you see the NWA functioning over the next five years?

MH: I hope to create a national road network maintenance plan that is properly and reliably funded to ensure that the planned life cycle of these roads is achieved. This must be supported by a highly skilled, properly paid and motivated staff. I see us building on our strengths and delivering to the people of Jamaica quality service, which will leave lasting impressions. Some effort is already underway in this regard, with the Routine Maintenance Fund being in place. The funds are not enough to achieve what I would like, but it is an important starting point.

Food for Thought

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GOOD HUMAN RELATIONS

1. Thou shalt love people, not just use them. (The greatest thing in the work is a person)
2. Thou shalt develop thy understanding.
3. Thou shalt compliment more than criticize.
4. Thou shalt not get angry. (If you are right, you don't need to. If you are wrong you can't afford to)
5. Thou shalt not argue.
6. Thou shalt be kind. (It's nice to be important, but it's important to be nice)
7. Thou shalt have a sense of humour (A sense of humour is to a man what springs are to a wagon. -it saves him jolts)
8. Thou shalt smile. (No man is ever fully dressed unless he wears a smile on his face)
9. Thou shalt practice what thou preachest. (One example is worth one thousand arguments)
10. Thou shalt go to school with the Headmaster of the Universe, the Master of Men, the Secretary of Human Relations - Namely God.

The Northern Coastal Highway Improvement Project

And the resettlement of persons affected by the project ... part 2

There are areas of the road reservation along the existing corridor which are inadequate in many places to accommodate the proposed widening and upgrading of the Northern Coastal Highway carriageway. For this reason it was necessary to acquire additional lands along the majority of the length of roadway.

This exercise has had decisive impact on individuals who reside in the areas where land was acquired. Loss or relocation of buildings, dislocation of families, disruption in the livelihood and productive capacities of the affected population, exhumation and relocation of graves, loss of agricultural lands and crops were the result of this exercise.

A 1994 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the project listed the relocation of several hundred residences and businesses among the expected negative outcomes. Worldwide experience has shown that if the effects of resettlement projects are left unmitigated they often give rise to severe economic, social and environmental problems. It is against this background that the Project Administration Unit (PAU) of the then Ministry of Works undertook the formulation of a comprehensive resettlement plan.

A range of resettlement solutions are usually offered to protect affected persons. These are:

- Payment of relocation expenses.
- Cash in lieu of replacement structures land or own land.
- Acquisition of old structures and construction of new structures on same or own land.
- Construction and sale of new structures on same or own land.
- Acquisition and replacement of structures at residential sites.
- Acquisition of structures and sale of land at residential sites.
- Sale of land and structures at residential sites.
- Relocation of portable structures.
- Provision of temporary housing or the loan of structures.
- Provision of temporary housing or the rental of premises.
- Compensation for dislocation of tenants and
- Compensation for loss of agricultural crops.

These various categories of resettlement solutions require different types of standard agreements.

(Next issue we will examine these standard agreements).

NWA Special Flood Damage Programme

Making a Difference:

Between 2001 and 2005 the country experienced extremely active hurricane seasons. This resulted in considerable damage to the road infrastructure and the economy. A way had to be found to address what was becoming a perennial problem, and so the Special Flood Damage Programme was developed by the Agency.

Total estimated damage of the October/December 2001 rains, the May/June 2002 rains, Hurricanes Isadore/Lili 2002 rains, the May 2003 rains, Hurricanes Charley and Ivan rains of 2004 and the Hurricanes Dennis and Emily rains of 2005 is in excess of \$14 billion. This does not include the cost to repair main roads (AB&C) that were already in a very poor state. Had the Agency decided and was able to repair or rehabilitate the entire main road network and bring it up to the desired standard, approximately \$80 billion would be required.

In an effort to arrest continued deterioration and address the damage of this valuable asset, the Government allocated some \$1.318 billion in the Financial Year 2005/6 for road repairs, flood control and disaster mitigation works.

Damage to infrastructure and the main road network during the past five years has been extensive. The absence of proper road profiles and drainage facilities have taken their toll over these years and the resulting condition of the network particularly the

tertiary roads ranges between poor and very poor. This Special Flood Damage Programme was instituted to effect repairs to infrastructure which was ravaged by hurricanes and flood rains during these years.

The programme involves eleven major areas. Critical aspects are road rehabilitation and construction, flood control, critical retaining wall programme and disaster mitigation.

George Knight is the Major Projects Manager with responsibility for overseeing implementation of the programme. Edgar Llewellyn is responsible for the flood control component, while the disaster mitigation component is implemented and administered from our parish offices. The critical retaining wall and road rehabilitation aspect is administered by George Knight from the Corporate Offices Major Projects Department.

"Implementing this programme has been extremely challenging" says George Knight. "Approval for works to be undertaken came late in the year, August to be exact". Consequently all the projects that were programmed will not be completed for the Financial Year 2006/7. However, the number of projects that were prepared and the amount committed have been approved. These works will be carried over into the next Financial Year.

(Continue in the next issue)

TEAM NWA!

Big Up!

03/05/07 MON 12:24 FAX

2001

March 5, 2007

NATIONAL WORKS AGENCY · Telephone No.926-3210-9 Fax:-926-5831
9262572

I AM FAXING THIS LETTER TO YOUR ORGANIZATION WITH THE HOPE OF IT REACHING THE RIGHT PERSON(S), SINCE I AM UNABLE TO MAKE CONTACT BY TELEPHONE.

I am writing about the one way through road that leads to Hanover Street (the beginning of the road from the sea side). Some Scootabankers park there including Air Jamaica staff as well.

I parked there last Friday, March 2 and up to that time nothing was wrong with the surface of the road nor its sidewalk.

To my surprise this morning I arrived only to find the sidewalk on your right fully dug up and I mean the NWA must have been aware that the road is used as a parking area. Couldn't your office, out of courtesy inform us of the pending fixing of the sidewalk?

I called to speak with one Mr. John Wright of NWA but of course these officials are never around to speak to anyone.

Look how far this little road is, and I cannot imagine why you found it necessary to dig up its sidewalk and for what purpose.

Don't you think our priority, as a Country is not all together right?

Have you seen the amount of potholes on major roads in the city including where I live in St. Andrew?

Have you ever considered installing flush toilets rather than pit latrines in schools?

Don't tell me this has anything to do with World Cup Cricket...NOTHING WAS WRONG WITH THE SIDE WALK...

FROM A CONCERNED CITIZENS
Cell:-571-8981



*See
John
12/3/07*

*See
Please see to John.
We can put this on
in the Roadster. I
think it is funny but
also instructive.*

*Thanks
12/1/07*

February 27, 2007

Mr M. Hodclin
Executive Director
The National Works Agency
140 Maxfield Avenue
Kingston 10

Dear Mr Hodclin

Providence Methodist Church wishes to thank you most sincerely for seeing to the repair of the sidewalk in front of the Church. These repairs will not only enhance the appearance of the area but make walking on it much easier for the many pedestrians who use it.

Please also convey our special appreciation to Mr Colin Morrison the Senior Customer Relations Officer who was frequently in touch assuring us that it would soon be fixed.

May we invite you both to worship with us at our 8:30 morning service on March 18 so we can, as a congregation, thank you in person. Please let us know if this date is convenient.

Yours in Christ

Catherine Gale (Rev'd)

Copy: Mr Colin Morrison

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN PURCHASING YOUR DREAM HOME

Helen Pitterson - Manager Legal Services

So you have been dreaming about this all your adult life and you are now ready to take that bold step to purchase your very own dream home.

Having identified the perfect home here are a few important points to consider:

1. Assess your personal funds/savings and discuss your eligibility and loan options with a reputable financial institution to determine which option is most suitable and affordable for you.
2. Having done that, once it is intended to use the property being purchased as security for the loan/mortgage, most mortgage or lending institutions have certain requirements which you must provide. These include:
 - a) Obtaining a valuation report from a licensed valuator stating the current market value of the property (Some mortgage companies have a list of pre-approved Valutors that prospective buyers must choose from).
 - b) Obtaining a Surveyors ID report. This report will indicate that the boundaries of the property have been checked and are consistent with those shown on the Certificate of Title, or whether any breaches of the covenants endorsed on the Title exists.
 - c) Certificate of Payment of Taxes, which can be obtained from a Collectorate of Taxes which will indicate that all property taxes in respect of the property have been paid.
 - d) Evidence of payment of water and electricity bills.
3. The next important step is to determine how much of the cost you will need to pay from your personal funds. The items listed below are commonly referred to as opening and closing costs:
 - a) The deposit required in most sale transactions is 15% of the total purchase price.
 - b) The Purchaser is responsible for paying one-half of stamp duty (cost of stamping Agreement/Transfer). Stamp duty is 7.5% of the total purchase price.
 - c) The Purchaser is required to pay one-half of the cost to draft the Agreement for Sale plus GCT (where applicable). This cost is fixed and determined by the Seller's Attorney, and can range from \$20,000.00 to \$50,000.00 depending on the complexity of the sale. The Purchaser is usually required to pay this cost upon execution of the Agreement along with the deposit mentioned in (a) above.
 - d) The Purchaser will also have to pay one-half cost of Miscellaneous Items plus GCT (where applicable). This cost usually covers the cost of preparing letters of possession, letters to utility companies advising them of the new owner and cost of preparing a Change of Possession or TR1 which directs the Collector of Taxes to list the property in the name of the new owner.
 - e) The Purchaser must also pay one-half of the registration fees. This fee is payable to the Registrar of Titles to cover the cost of endorsing the name of the new owner on the Certificate of Title. Registration fees are 0.005% of the total purchase price.

(contd on pg 7)

- f) If the Purchaser retains an Attorney-at-Law to act on his behalf then the Purchaser will be responsible for the full cost of this. Purchaser's Attorney's fees usually range from 2% - 3% of the total purchase price.
4. Depending on your ability to repay, some mortgage companies may agree to bear these opening and closing costs as part of the loan, so remember to ask about this.
5. It is important that you discuss the term of your mortgage with your mortgage company. A shorter term leads to lower total interest and a faster repayment period. It might prove a little difficult at first, but it is worth the while in the long run.
6. Finally, consider whether you want to own your home solely or add a loved one's name to your title. It is far cheaper to do so at the time of purchase than to have to transfer it to them later or even worse, to will it to them on your passing. If you decide to own property jointly, then consider the two (2) types of joint ownership:

JOINT TENANCY

A joint tenant's interest in property is not defined or separate from the whole.

TENANTS-IN-COMMON

A tenant in common has a right to a specific share of the property and it is not necessarily equal to the other co-owners.

The main difference is that when one joint tenant dies the property passes to the other joint tenant automatically. The tenants-in-common can sell their share of the property at any time, use it as security and make provision under a will for it to be transferred to a beneficiary.

Although some will say joint tenancy is ideal for husband and wife, I recommend tenants-in-common, along with good succession planning to all prospective Purchasers and I leave you to figure out why (smile).

Remember, the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams!

Happy Buying!!

Helen Pitterson
Manager Legal Services

The Rehabilitation of South Camp Road

Prior to the National Water Commission's (NWC) Sewer Installation Works along South Camp Road, motorists constantly complained about this roadway, some even referring to it as a death trap. South Camp road extends approximately 1.4 kilometres between Deanery Road in Vineyard Town and East Queen Street in down town Kingston. It is a major thoroughfare which provides motorists and other commuters with direct access to many areas in the heart of the city.

Of significance also is the fact that South Camp Road designated by the Tourism Product Development Company (TPDco.), as part of the "Humming Bird Route" and is used by officials and delegates entering the island at the Norman Manley International Airport en route to Kingston.

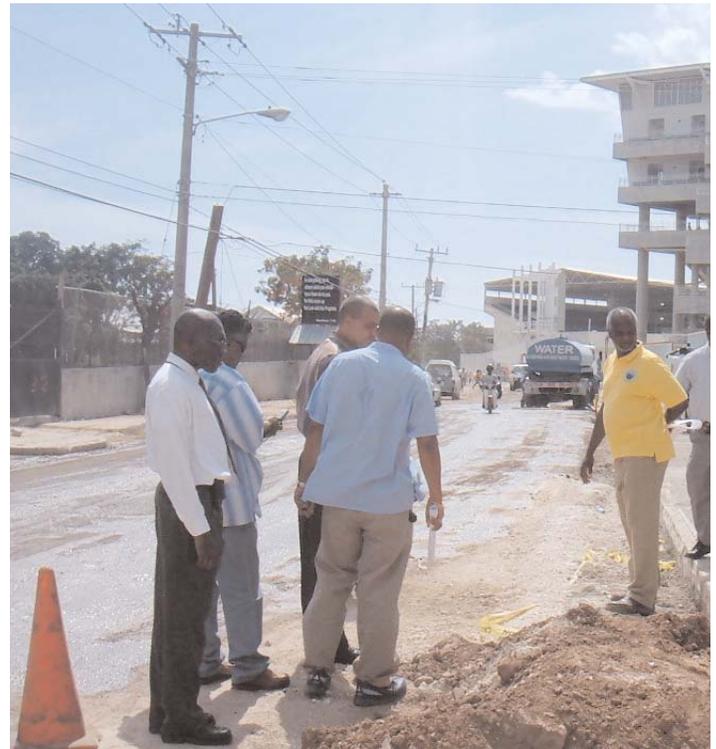
Even before the NWC project got underway the roadway had exhibited cracks in several areas. Numerous patched and uneven areas along the roadway contributed to extremely poor riding quality. Added to this was the continuous heavy truck traffic in and out of the Sabina Park Expansion Project as well as the NWC excavation works which contributed to further rapid deterioration. The integrity of the roadway was affected to the point where it was no longer in a safe, reliable condition and required immediate intervention by the Agency.

The repairs which began in early January 2007, included demolition and reinstatement, laying of kerbs, construction of sidewalks, drainage improvements and preparation of the road surface to be overlaid with asphaltic concrete.

It was important to undertake this project for several reasons. Among these are improved safety and riding quality, but also the longer term effect on the economic development of the area. This particular section of roadway assumed greater importance as it was the main access route to the Sabina Park Cricket Venue during the Cricket World Cup in March and April this year. There were also increased employment opportunities for residents of the (Sabina Park) community on the South Camp Road rehabilitation project. Further, stakeholders of the vast number of schools

and businesses along the corridor as well as motorists and pedestrians who use the roadway are pleased with the improved ease of movement in this area.

The project funded by the Government of Jamaica, cost \$106 million and the contract awarded to Surrey Paving and Aggregates Limited.



South Camp Road - during recent rehabilitation works.

Cubans complete \$10 million Palisadoes Road study

Consultants representing the government of our closest Caribbean neighbour, Cuba, recently completed a study on the rehabilitation of the Palisadoes road.

This main road runs along the length of the peninsula and priority must be given to having it remain open and properly maintained. This most important roadway is the only one linking the Kingston Metropolitan Region to the Norman Manley International Airport, the historic township of Port Royal and other important institutions such as the Caribbean Maritime Institute, Royal Jamaica Yacht Club and the Jamaica Defence Forces' Coast Guard Headquarters.

In July 2006, Cabinet approved a Memorandum of Understanding to enter into a Technical Cooperation Agreement for a Coastal Protection Study in which the Palisadoes road peninsula was identified as the priority area. A contractual agreement was entered into between the National Works Agency and the Cuban company, "Inversiones Gamma S.A." on behalf of the government of Jamaica to conduct the study and develop the design for the shoreline protection works.

The study team was led by Dr. Jose Juanes of the Cuban Institute of Oceanology, supported by a team of specialists in Meteorology and Oceanology.

The Consultants commenced their study on November 30, 2006 and this was completed as scheduled on February 15, 2007 after

which a final report was submitted. The Ministry of Housing Transport Water and Works, and the Ministry of Local Government and the Environment collaborated with the Cubans on this project. They were contracted to:

- Study the coastal regime of the Palisadoes peninsula from Caribbean Terrace to Port Royal.
- Prepare engineering designs and
- Prepare preliminary Bills of Quantities for the rehabilitation of a prioritized 6.5 kilometre section of the roadway.

Resulting from the study, the original length of dune construction from the original 5 kilometres to 6.5 kilometres and the area requiring immediate attention was reduced to 310 metres of the peninsula. This area is adjacent to the destroyed groyne field. The Consultants have recommended the establishment of a rock revetment in the short term. This will be capped, when the dune protection and rehabilitation component of the programme is implemented.

The project to be undertaken will enable the National Works Agency to carry out sea defense and infrastructure environmental protection works along the recommended 6.5 kilometre length of the Palisadoes road, between the Harbour View roundabout and Plumb Point. This is intended to ensure safe and uninterrupted access to the Norman Manley International Airport and Port Royal during or immediately following hurricanes, storms and floods.

Protective Work for Southern Clarendon

Rocky Point in southern Clarendon is a fishing village that has been experiencing severe flooding caused by the drains being blocked by high level of silt whenever the tide is high. The National Works Agency, in its effort to reduce the flooding, has started the construction of a Rock-jetty along the Rocky Point shoreline.

Rock jetties are important structures used to protect the shoreline from erosion as well as to control flooding.

The Rocky Point jetty which will cost approximately J\$15M is being constructed 40 metres from the shoreline into the sea and is 16 metres wide. This structure will break the motion of waves during high tide and prevent the collection of silt in the channel. As part of the protective works the earth drain will also be cleaned and re-channelled.

This project is being undertaken by the National Works Agency in collaboration with and Gabion and Structures Limited who are supplying material. The residents of Rocky Point will experience relief from flooding with the completion of the project before the start of the next Hurricane Season.



Rock Rivetment work at Rocky Point, Clarendon

NWA Annual Christmas Dinner

A sumptuous affair! That's how they described it. Comments like these would suggest that those who attended enjoyed themselves thoroughly. It's the third year running. Employees were out in their numbers, dressed to kill! Must be something special, even enchanting, about this location, Caymanas Golf and Country Club.

Nestled in the foothills of the Dawson Mountains just outside White Marl in St.Catherine, the Club House overlooks the picturesque golf course which is spread over twenty acres of undulating land. From early afternoon there was a buzz of activity: employees streaming in, musicians' adjusting their set, caterers adding last minute touches and the organizers ensuring that everything was in place. The constant stream of employees eventually reached the 200 or more mark.

The panoramic view from the clubhouse is breathtaking, relaxing, earthy and rustic. Many team members and visitors described it as "hauntingly seductive". No wonder many appeared reluctant to leave when the function came to an end late into the evening.

The afternoon's programme of activities was exciting and cultural. Dinner started off with servings of tasty mannish water. The main course did not disappoint. Ham, fish fillet, barbecued chicken served with white rice or rice and peas, candied sweet potato and a salad. It was colourful with a taste that was meant to tantalise palates. Dessert included carrot cake, Christmas pudding served with sorrel or fruit punch.

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What unfolded thereafter was a treat of local talent. The NWA Band with Jeffery Dixon & Company and Horace Walker did not disappoint in delivering every note in harmony and style. The highlight of the presentation package was the superb performance of the group Tolsis. They wowed the audience; they had lolyn invent her own dance and serenaded Edmarie, who blushed charmingly, enjoying the moment. The performances and presentations were expertly guided by the MC for the programme Mr. David Knight.

Hours before the afternoon's major highlights there was a steady stream heading to the bar which was well stocked with a wide array of mild and not so mild liquors, assorted wines, rum punch and red bull, a beverage to satisfy every taste.

As the afternoon eventually turned to dusk and dusk to evening,

the shadows provided the perfect backdrop for what unfolded. Employees were caught up in the moment, clapping, cheering laughing some even gyrating to the music that interspersed the presentations.

And when some began to wonder, might have thought, then came the defining moment of the evening, presentation of the NWA's Employee of the Year. This turned out to be none other than Winston John Wiggan, Assistant Parish Manager for St. Mary. A presentation of a plaque and scroll was made to him by CEO, Milton Hodelin who congratulated him for an outstanding year's performance. This climaxed this episode of the afternoon's activities.

From then it was to the dance floor, lounging at the bar or just lying until late into the evening.



PWD/NWA STALWART -

Edgar Hales Llewellyn -

Order of Distinction

Sixty-five year-old Edgar Hales Llewellyn was recognised for outstanding public service during the 2006 Heroes Day National Awards Ceremony in October held at Kings House, Jamaica. This award has propelled him to national attention.

For Edgar Hales Llewellyn, it has been a long and eventful journey from the little rural district of Mount Peto in Eastern Hanover, where he was born. The second of five children of ex-Public Works Department worker, turned farmer, and dressmaker, who he affectionately calls "Baba". Edgar says: I have come a long way, accomplished a lot, but still have more to do.

Being the second of his five siblings, Edgar was always challenged to prove himself. His mother Baba played a pivotal role in this. She had a tremendous influence on him and the decisions he made. He recalls that she always encouraged him to be the best that he could



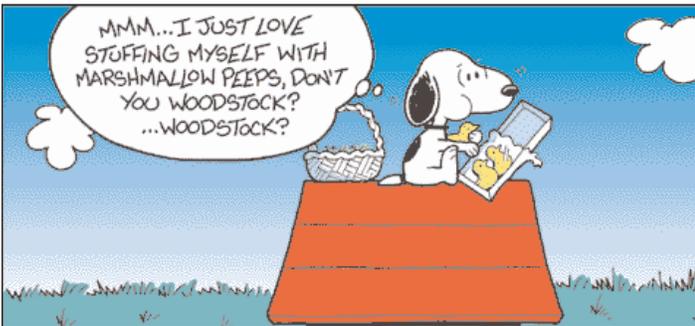
Edgar Hales Llewellyn

be in his chosen field. He attended Mount Peto Primary, Knocalva Agricultural School, North Western Academy in Montego Bay and St. Andrew Technical in Kingston. He equipped himself well at school and could be described as a model student. It was therefore not surprising that following graduation from High School in the 1960s he was drawn into the system of the Public Works Department (PWD) where he was employed as a Field Assistant. While working at the Public Works Department (PWD) He pursued various courses in areas relevant to the job.

His dedication and capacity for hard work was recognised. He proved himself and was quickly moved through the ranks rising from the position of Field Assistant to Superintendent in 1987 and Senior Superintendent in 1998, at the then Ministry Construction, Housing and Works.

Edgar Llewellyn has worked on several infrastructural projects during his tenure at the PWD. These assignments included the Wakefield Bridge in 1970, extension to the Palisadoes Runway and Terminal Building in 1971,

North Gully in 1976, Sangster's International Airport in 1977, restoration of the coastline between Portland and St. Mary which was destroyed by Hurricane Allen in 1980 and the rehabilitation of Hurricane Gilbert damaged projects in 1989, to mention a few. Despite his achievements in these areas, he has distinguished himself in the field of Flood Control and Sea Defence Works. These works have been both protective, aimed at shielding communities from disasters and restorative, allowing access to villages, towns and districts after the ravages of hurricanes, floods and other disasters.



(Contd from page 11)

The country has been devastated by flood rains, storms and hurricanes. On these occasions Edgar Llewellyn and his team moved into action quickly, restoring normalcy, reconnecting communities and restoring roadways and other infrastructure.

During the last five years many communities across Jamaica have suffered major destruction and dislocation as a result of an unusual weather system that was being experienced during this period. His performance on these occasions has been simply outstanding. He and his team restored the following areas in eastern Jamaica where residents experienced major disruption to their social and economic life following the October 2001 flood rains. The projects were quickly and professionally undertaken, and include:

- The Spanish River Bridge approaches and Gabion protective works upstream of the bridge.
- The western approaches to the Swift River Bridge and River Training works upstream of the bridge.
- Launching of a Bailey Bridge in the Swift River community.
- Bridge restoration in the Bybrook community.
- Restoration of roadways in Chepstowe, Claverty Cottage, Peter's Hill and Shirley Castle.

Other notable projects include extensive river training works carried out at Seaforth Bridge and Danvers Pen in St. Thomas, Haughton River in St. Mary and the Chalky, Cane and Hope Rivers in St. Andrew. Of these, perhaps the most notable (Continued from page 4) was the restoration works at the Tangle River in St. James.

Edgar Llewellyn's sterling contribution to the National Works Agency (NWA) in the area of River Training and Sea Defence did not go un-noticed. In January 2006 he was appointed Major Projects Manager. His over 40 years of outstanding contribution to the public service has been recognised by the Jamaican government. The National Works Agency salutes this modest and affable Jamaican - our colleague, NWA team member, PWD stalwart, son of Hanover.

Edgar is also committed to family. He is married to Hyacinth and has two daughters. Gena, the elder is presently a medical student in Cuba and Jonelle is in fourth form at St. Andrew High School for girls. His eldest child Garnet, resides in Florida. He is very attached to his siblings and keeps in touch with them on a regular basis. Edgar is an avid sports fan, his favourite being cricket and dominoes. Even with his hectic schedule, he finds time to operate a farm in St. Mary, where his focus is on livestock: pigs, cows, goats, chickens and various ground provisions. His contribution deserves our attention and is an example for us to emulate.