

THE EXUMA FOUNDATION - MAY 2016



BAILLEY SMITH



As many of you will know our friend and trustee, Bailey Smith, passed away in March. Bailey was a supporter of The Foundation for many years and the chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Apart from his work with The Foundation, Bailey was a member of The National Regatta Race Committee and officiated with his boat "Ballamena" until last year. (photo left)

We shall miss Bailey's friendship and wise counsel and his visits to the campus.

Bailey was fond of birds and trees and a lignum viatae will be planted in his honour along the nature trail.

AGM



The Exuma Foundation AGM was held in March at the campus. The trustees agreed to begin the process of designing a new multi purpose building that would be capable of housing children temporarily in the care of the state and a battered women's refuge. Work on defining the uses of the building and possible designs will begin soon. Matthew Lee (Dr. Bill Lee's son) who is an architect has agreed to give us help during the design phase. Trustee Ron Frazer is working with a donor who has generously agreed to provide substantial matching funds to the project through Starve Poverty International.

Paul LeFevre announced his intention to resign the presidency at the end of this financial year as he has put his house on the market. The trustees thanked him for his support and effort on behalf of the Foundation over many years.

Basil Minns' son Chris was elected to the Board and it is hoped that he will stay in Exuma and become more involved in the organization.

Dallas Knowles who had been instrumental in developing the Junior Sailing Program was also elected.

HOSPITAL BUS



Although the hospital is not officially opened all the three clinics - Steventon, George Town and Forbes Hill - have closed and their resources concentrated at the new facility.

In discussions with the office responsible for the transition we were informed that the hospital was in need of a wheelchair accessible bus. The vehicle would be used to bring in patients, particularly the elderly and handicapped who might previously have visited one of the clinics and to take some of the hospital facilities into the communities.

Through a donation by Mr. Fisk Johnson and matching funds from The Exuma Foundation (Canada) the Foundation has purchased a wheelchair accessible bus for the hospital.

The bus is a Ford Starcraft that can seat 13 passengers plus 2 wheelchairs

USE OF THE FACILITIES



The Activity Centre is in constant use by a variety of agencies. Here, representatives from the "Yes" campaign explain the issues in the upcoming referendum to decide proposed constitutional changes relating to gender rights issues. A meeting of church leaders to discuss the issues will also be held here.

Among other organizations that use the facilities are the local branches of the Red Cross and the Cancer Society. Most town meetings and government departmental meetings are held at the campus.

If you are in Exuma please visit us. Your ideas and observations are welcome. Call Chris at 357 0208 or Danny at 424 2655

THE SIR DURWARD KNOWLES NATIONAL JUNIOR SAILING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Over the past several years the National Junior Sailing Championships have been held within Regatta. This meant trying to fit the races in among the adult ones with the result that not enough time was given to the junior event. This year the national championships were held over the Easter weekend holiday and included class "E" racing sloops from Abaco, Nassau, Long Island and the Exuma Five. Additionally the National Junior Sunfish Championships were also held. The Exuma Foundation provided logistical support and accommodation for visiting teams. Strong winds made sailing difficult and the final race was moved off February Point (photo left by Joe Haycock).

We are indebted to the Government for underwriting the costs involved in transporting teams and kids. Next year the event will be held in Nassau.



Group photograph of everyone involved with the Championships. (Centre - pink shirt - The Hon. V. Alfred Gray M.P., Minister responsible for Regattas whose Ministry made the event possible.) Left. Reg Smith, President of The Exuma Sailing Club, working on "One Bahamas" prior to the Championships.



BEES AND TREES

The original 12 nuclei that arrived from Hawaii last year are now 24 thriving

colonies in six locations on the island. There are no signs of parasites or disease so far and honey is being produced.

Catherine is giving some thought to importing unrelated queens to expand the gene pool.

Consideration is being given to forming a local beekeeping co-op.

Although this has been a very dry winter the bees have found forage and had little need of artificial feeding.

All stages of the beekeeping experience have been shared with children.

The breadfruit (right) experiment in which we imported 72 plants propagated by cell culture are now nearly five feet tall. Most of the trees were sold or given to farmers on Exuma.

"Welcome Home" sign at the entrance to the observation hive.



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STARVE POVERTY INTERNATIONAL



Volunteers from Starve Poverty International (left) visited us in March. They worked on providing a wheelchair accessible bathroom for a young man in Rolleville and completed work started earlier in the year for a lady and her grandchildren also in Rolleville. (photos - before and after.) Assistance has also been provided for basic furniture and appliances and the whole house has been rewired.

Tamara Knowles now runs the Food Bank (bottom left) that provides substantial gifts of staple foods to those in need once a month.

SPI is an established and much appreciated part of the Exuma community.



NEMA WATER SAFETY TRAINING



Photo - Nelson Ranger - Images by Alexander



In March officers from the United States Northern Command and The Bahamas National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) conducted Surface Water Rescue training sessions at the campus. (On one training activity in Elizabeth Harbour the team actually rescued a woman who had become separated

from her flotation device.) The team's inflatables and rescue equipment are kept at the campus.

The Bahamas team was led by the Director of NEMA Captain Stephen Russell (blue shirt left). The rescue team were present throughout the National Junior Championships and the National Family Island Regatta.

The Exuma Foundation is consulting with NEMA on the best way to convert the campus buildings into a robust Hurricane Shelter.

Visit us at exumafoundation.org