



Season of change and renewal

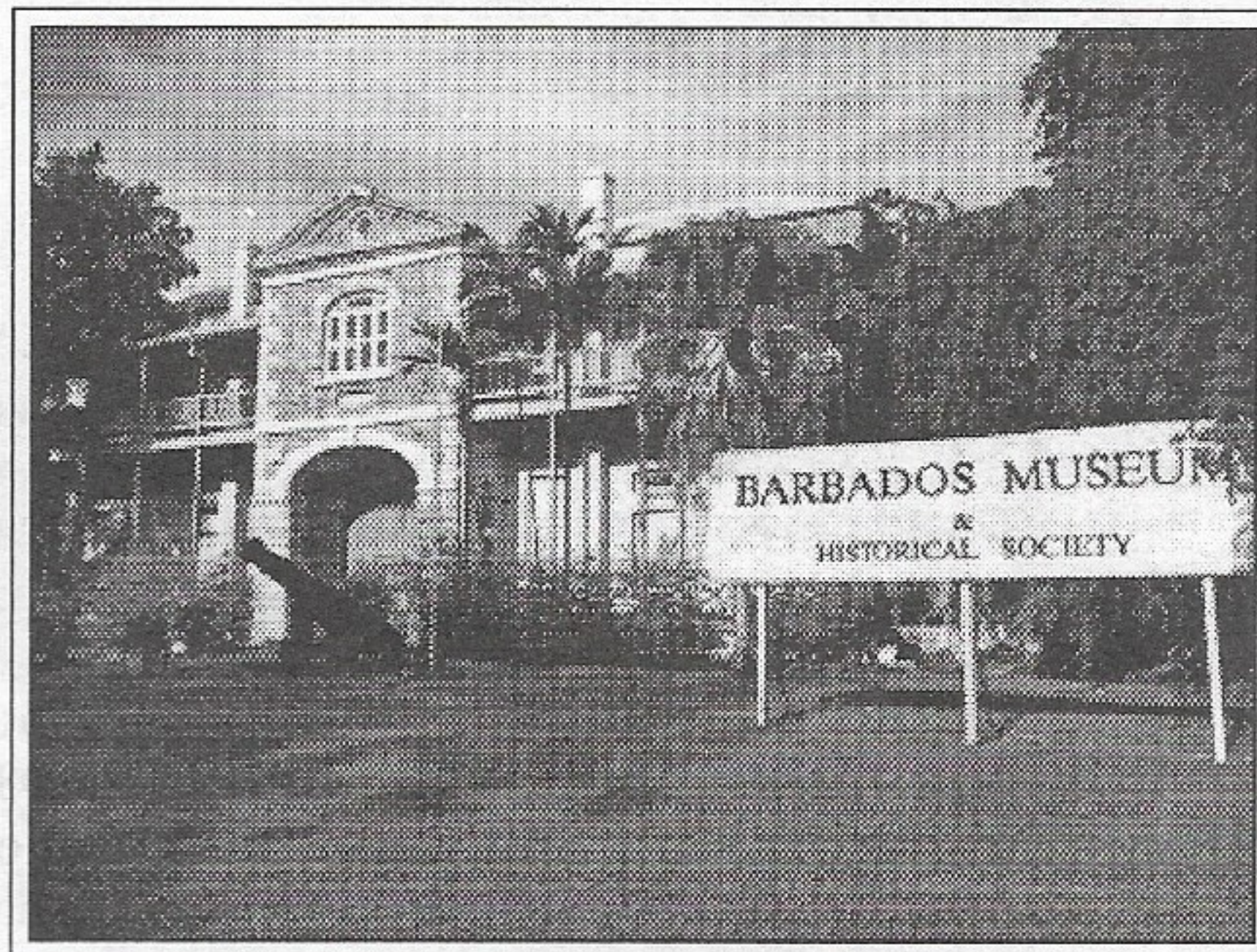
The past year has been a process of both change and renewal, as the Museum's buildings themselves shed their old skin (roofs, walls, windows, doors) and are being updated and transformed. This has been a major challenge for our small institution to keep the collections both safe and secure, while ensuring their accessibility to the public as far as possible.

At times we feel as though we are playing musical chairs with the museum's galleries, having collections in and out of storage, which serves to underscore how far we have grown over the last decade, and how much more we need to grow to meet the needs of the community. We look forward to presenting to you the new Cunard and Warmington Galleries; and the shop, following their redesign. Community has been a significant theme for us as we have gone about our business of educational programming and outreach. It will continue to be a major theme of the coming period as the Museum reshapes itself to parallel the goals and aspirations of our youth, who seek confirmation in their identity. The museum can reflect a guiding spirit through the authenticity of its experience.

Conservation

Conservation will also guide many of our actions as we seek to ensure the longevity of our artifacts and sustain their 'life' for the generation in this new millennium and beyond. Conservation remains not merely for our own collection but for those of other collections. We will therefore be focussed on raising awareness as well as raising funds to achieve this goal. For the need to establish expertise in this area grows more urgent with each passing day.

We continue to rely on members like you to achieve these goals. Without your support and interest there would



be so much more of a mission impossible. The goal of the expanding African Gallery and broadening out attendants programme has moved even closer with a generous donation from Energy Mutual Insurance Co. Ltd. in honor of our President, Dr. Trevor Carmichael, to launch our endowment campaign. We continue to search for new and intriguing artifacts to display.

We look forward to your active support in this endeavor over the next year and to celebrating with you the achievement of Barbados' 50th anniversary of **Adult Suffrage Year**. ♦

Alissandra Cummins, Director

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What's inside

- Museum receives donation from Bank of Nova Scotia
- A look at the new Library space
- Museum Open Day May 19

**MISSION
STATEMENT**

The Barbados Museum is a non profit institution. Its mandate is to collect, document and conserve evidence of Barbados' cultural heritage; and to interpret this evidence for all sectors of society.

PATRON

His Excellency,
Sir Clifford Husbands
G.C.M.C, K.A.
Governor General of
Barbados

COUNCIL

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Ms. Nancy Jacobs
Mr. Mencea Crookenendale
Ms. Diane Campbell
Dr. Allyson Leacock

Ex-Officio
Director of the Museum
Alissandra Cummins

Connecting to the African

To keep all members up to date on the progress and development of the redesign and expansion of the African Gallery, this year we will begin a series called **Connecting to the African**. The objective is to inform all members on a quarterly basis of the development of this project. This quarter we shall be providing you with some insight into the rationale behind the project and the themes under which the new exhibition will be created.

Why redesign the African Gallery

The purpose and importance of the African Gallery has been foremost in the minds of museum management since it opened in 1986, under a

new mission of providing access to and interpretation of the island's national objects and artifacts. Initially the African Gallery, as part of this revitalised museum, was designed as a temporary exhibit - the gallery provided information about West African culture and the linkages with the Caribbean and Barbados. In particular from its inception, it has proven to be one of the most popular among children and young people. The gallery as originally envisioned has outlived its usefulness. Therefore the time for change is **NOW**.

The storyline for this new gallery has been developed out of a series of discussions and informal reports focused on ensuring that the concept of the gallery could be visually realised. The gallery will be called **Connections: Africa and its people in the Caribbean**

The gallery is broken down into the following themes

Africa the Continent: Highlights the geographical and demographic diversity of the continent.

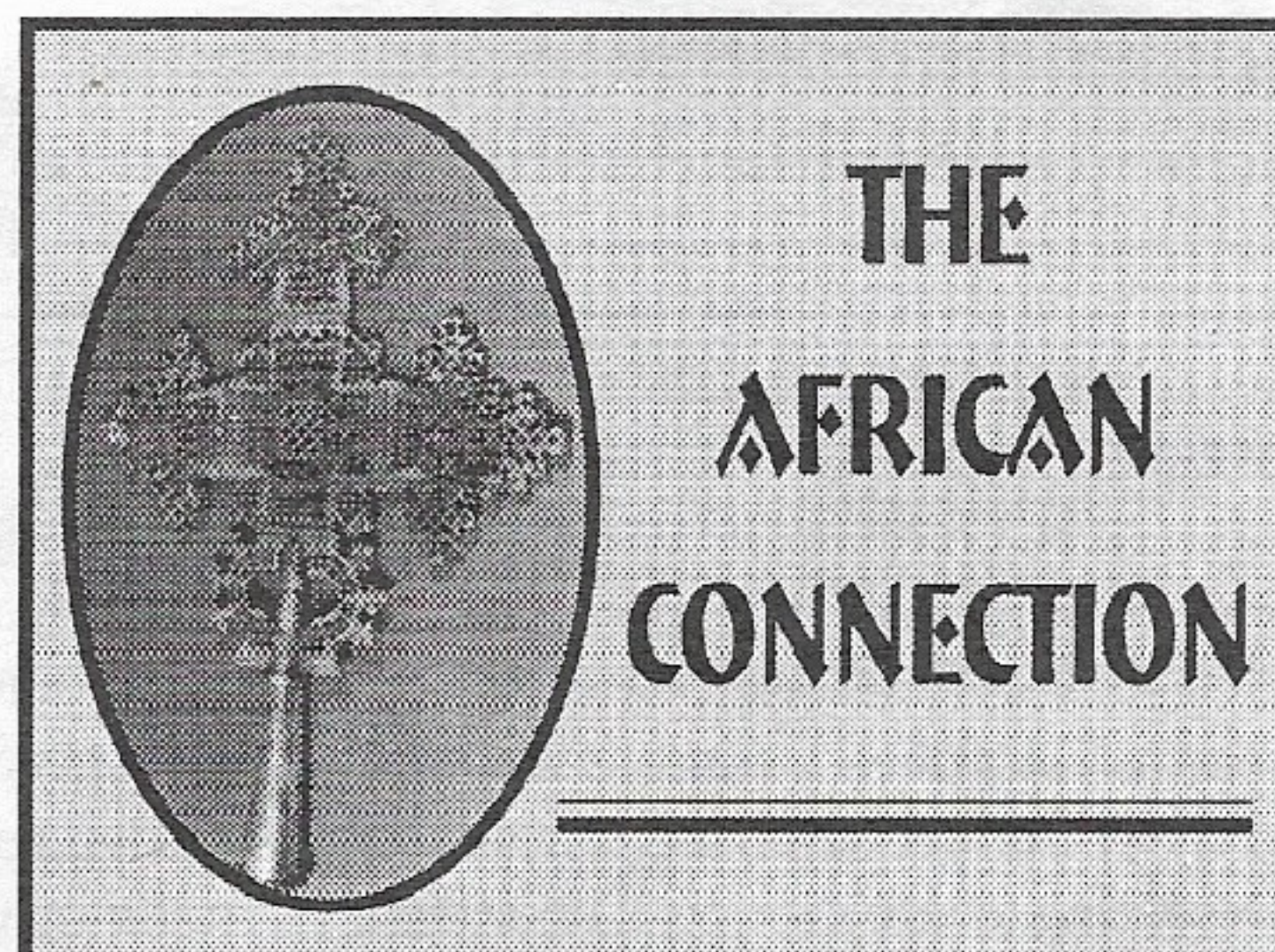
Dawn of Civilisation. Discusses the rise of early man on the African Continent.

Kingdoms and Power: Introduces the visitors to four great African Kingdoms and explores the symbols of power employed at secular and religious levels in Africa and in the Caribbean.

Trade and Commerce: Examines the various routes and items traded and the internal and external trading systems of the continent.

Africa in the Caribbean: Looks at the legacy of cultural retentions in the Diaspora.

For further information on this project please call Mr. Kevin Farmer or Maria Boyce Taylor at 427-0201 or email museum@caribsurf.com. ♦



Darwin school project closes

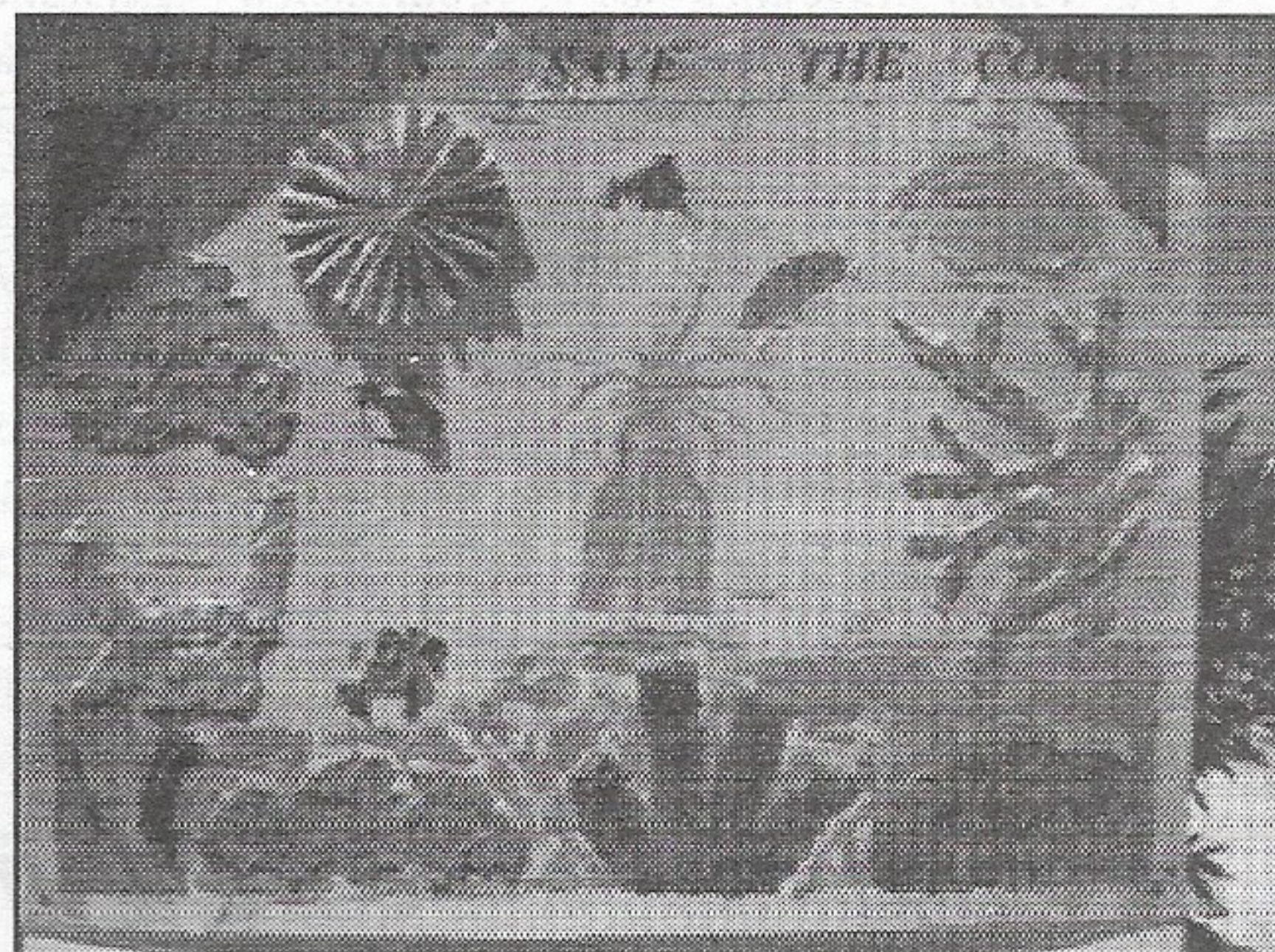
The 12th of January brought to conclusion the school's participation element of the Darwin project, Coral Reef Biodiversity: A school's Project. To bring closure to this portion of the project and to reiterate the principles learned, as well as familiarise all participants with each other's conservation projects, we staged a mini exhibition and closing ceremony on the museum's grounds.

Each school nominated a spokesperson who gave a short summary of their various projects. Some of these children were also interviewed by print and electronic media, and were thrilled to recognise themselves in the newspapers and on television over the following weekend.

Artwork

All Saints Primary School had produced wonderful artwork and poems from their glass bottom boat trip, which were mounted on card and formed a major aspect of the exhibit. Hindsbury Primary's activities of a beach clean up; the production and erection of a notice board on Browne's beach alerting the public to the consequences of littering in the marine environment were chronicled by a series of enlarged photographs.

The Children of Society Primary were undoubtedly the stars of the afternoon, performing a humorous, informative and captivating skit on the fishing practices of old. The skit



Notice board created by the students of Hindsbury primary

was based on their field trip to Consett Bay fish Market, and interviews with the old fishermen.

In closing I wish to thank all those who worked so very hard to reap the success of this project- the students and teachers, Peggy McGeary, our education officer who ably assisted and Laura Picard and the Caribbean Conservation Association without whom the project would not have been possible.

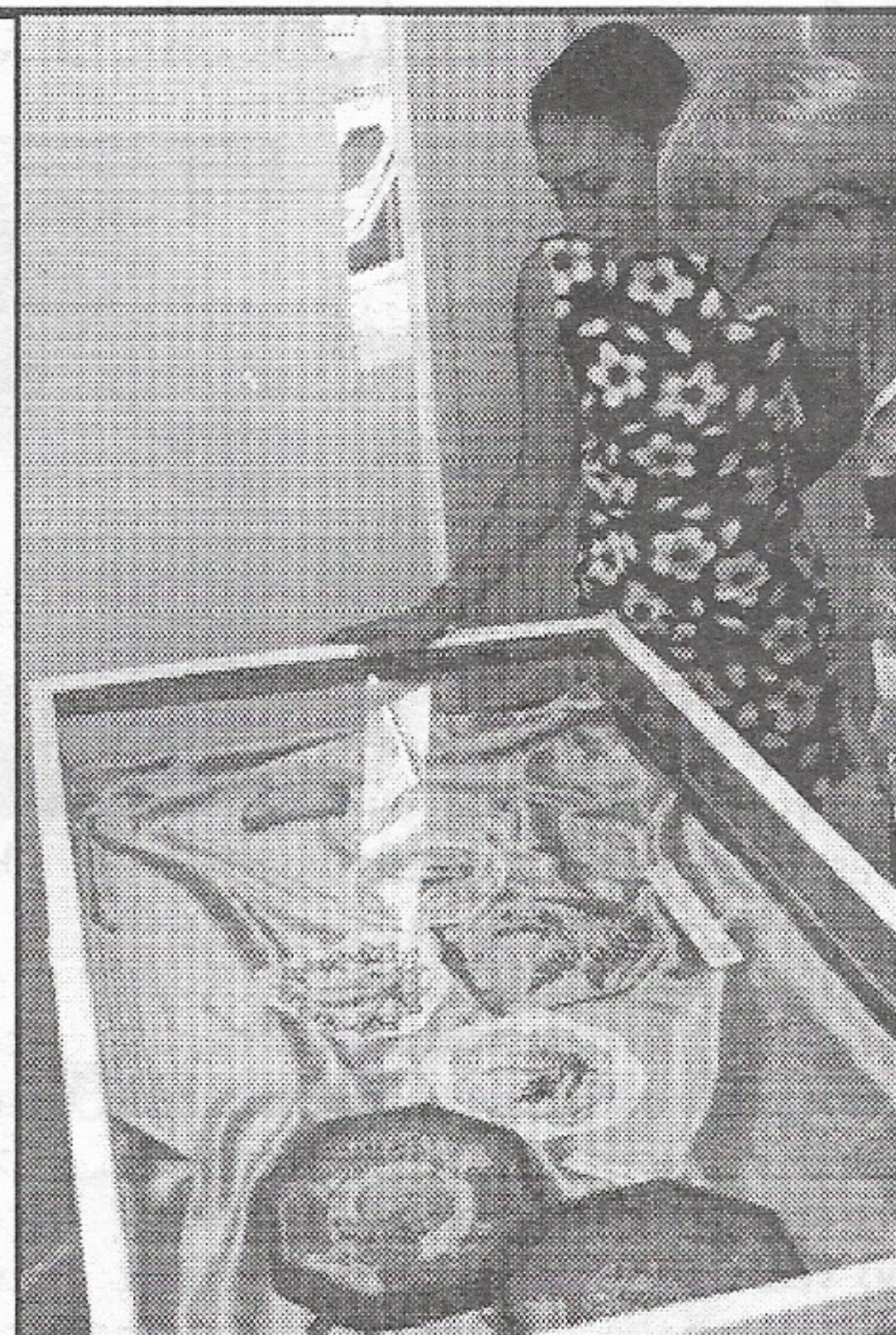
Cherrie Parris, Assistant Curator Natural History. ♦

Barbados

– One of the world's first spas

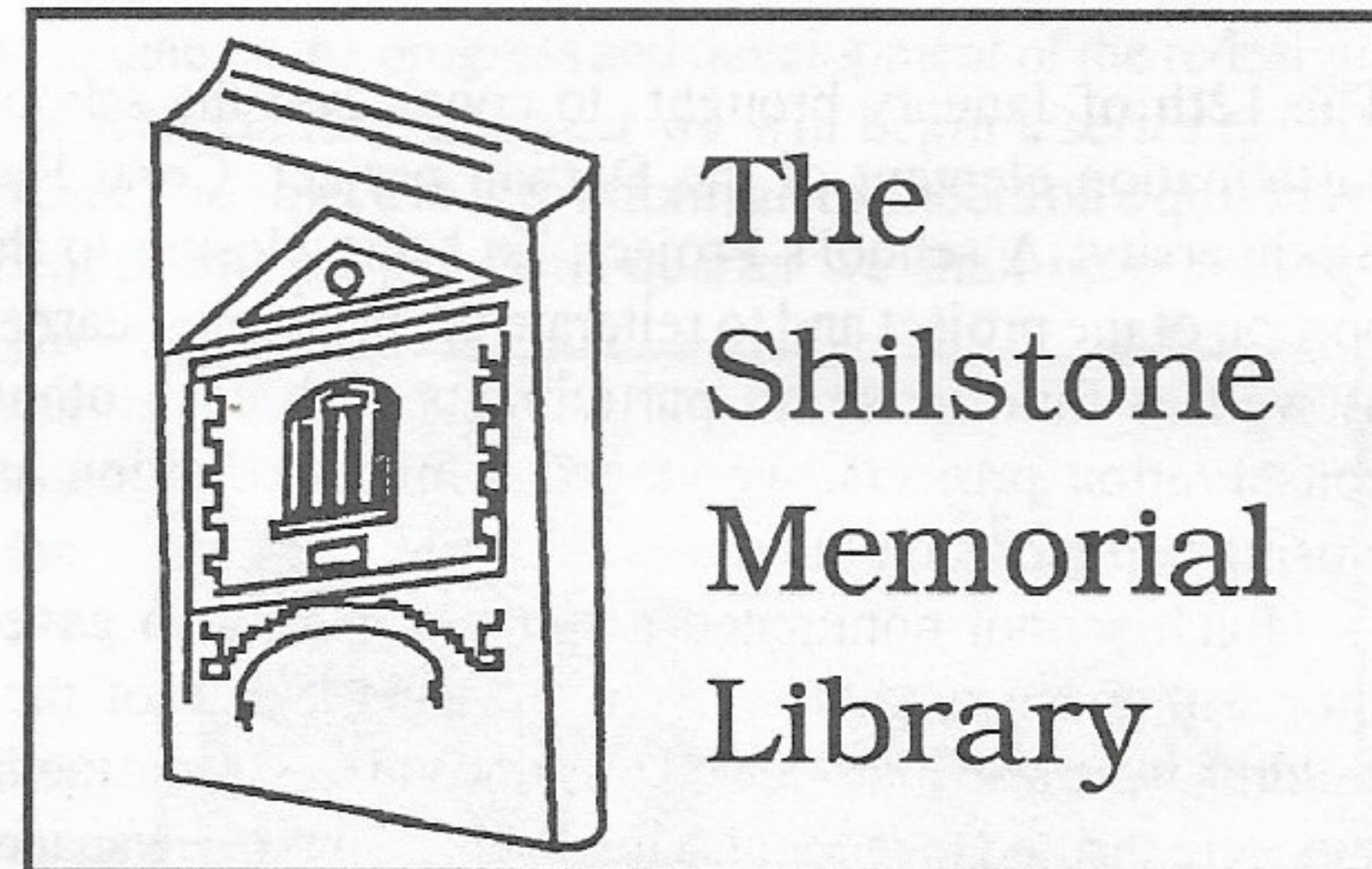
Cherrie Parris, Assistant Curator for Natural History discussing the souvenir section of the exhibition with a visitor

The Temporary exhibition of the above title opened its doors to the public in the museum's Hometown Exhibition space on the 17th of February. The exhibition traces the development of Barbados' tourism product from the time of George Washington (the focus of this year's Hometown Festival) to the second World War. The exhibition highlights Rachel Pringle-Polgreen and the ladies of Bridgetown who were the islands' first hoteliers, as well as the Ice House Hotel with its infamous "swizzle." The growth of the South Coast hotels such as Hotel Royal, Seaview, Balmoral and Marine Hotels and the East Coast hotels of the Crane, Atlantis and Beachmount are explored. One of the many outstanding artifacts of the exhibit are the 96-year old lace bark dollies brought as souvenirs in 1906, which can be found in the marketing segment. ♦



Newly renovated Museum library reopened

The Barbados Museum's newly reburbished Shilstone Memorial Library has been reopened. The library now has a new roof, new hardwood floor, issue desk, new lights and some new cabinets. This is in an effort to provide an environment conducive to the preservation and conservation of the rare books stored there, as well as to provide comfortable surroundings for the library patrons doing historical and genealogical research. Librarian Ms. Betty Shannon said she and her volunteers are very pleased with the new library. The Library is open Monday -Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. ♦



Journal disbursement programme well supported

The council and management of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society extend a sincere thanks to these companies who supported the **Journal Schools Disbursement Programme**. This programme is a museum initiative, which solicits corporate financial support for the purchasing and disbursements of the annual **Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society**. This project is coordinated by the marketing department and is now in its third year. This year we are happy to report that all of the public secondary schools on the island have received donations of the Journal for their school libraries. The journal is an excellent research tool in the areas of History, Biology and Social Studies. ♦



Museum celebrated with centenarian

The Barbados Museum recently celebrated with **c e n t e n a r i a n** Ms. Beatrice St. Clair, who celebrated her birthday on Sunday February 11th, 2001. Ms. St. Clair was a loyal employee of the museum for over 40 years and her contribution to the development of the institution was invaluable. The Museum was very pleased to be invited to her birthday celebrations. Ms. Maria Boyce Taylor, Marketing Officer, attended her celebrations on behalf of the museum. Ms. St. Clair remembers fondly her time at the Museum where she was a technical assistant for over 40 years. Her caretaker Ms. Webster with whom she lives commented on her



Ms. St. Clair with her nephew

love for the museum and how she constantly recalls her time at the institution. The Barbados Museum presented Ms. St. Clair with a bouquet of flowers and a monetary gift. Best wishes were conveyed from the council, members, management and staff. ♦

The following companies supported the **Journal Schools Disbursement Programme** this year.

- ♦ BRC West Indies Ltd
- ♦ Cable & Wireless Cellular
- ♦ Roberts Manufacturing Ltd
- ♦ R.M. Jones
- ♦ Standard Distributors
- ♦ TMR Sales & Service
- ♦ Insurance Corporation of Barbados Ltd



Museum staff undergoing museum studies programme

The Barbados Museum's curatorial staff has recently started an intensive six month course in Museum Studies. The Assistant Curators, Cherrie Parris and Kevin Farmer and the Executive Secretary Ms. Angela Boyce are the first three employees involved in this programme, along with Mr. Rodney Ifill, Visual Arts Officer at the National Cultural Foundation. The course, organised and facilitated by Commonwealth Association of Museums, seeks to provide a comprehensive introduction to the field of Museology. Subject areas are collection management, exhibition design, legal framework and management of museum. After the successful completion of this course, staff will be awarded a professional qualification in Museum Studies. ♦

Archaeology for 2001

This year found us hosting one of our favourite researchers, Ms. Mary Hill Harris from Cambridge University, who continued to carry out the analysis of the ceramics found at Heywoods. Ms. Hill Harris was with us from 4 weeks.

Excavations at Little Welches, Christ Church, ran from March 25, - April 9th, 2001. Dr. Peter Drewett, University College, London Institute of Archaeology, excavated the Amerindian site at this location.

For further information contact Kevin Farmer at 427-0201/436-1956. Or email: museum@caribsurf.com.

Kevin Farmer, Assistant Curator for History & Archaeology.

Barbados National Committee
of the International Council of Museums
(ICOM)

Cultural Heritage Week

May 13-19

May 19: National Open Day Programme

Participating sites:

Barbados Museum
George Washington House
Queens Park Gallery
Welchman Hall Gully
Springvale Eco Museum
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**ADMISSION TO ALL SITES AND
SHUTTLE SERVICE
FREE**

*Free shuttle service from the Barbados Museum
at 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.*

For more information please call or email the
Barbados Museum

Membership Dues Reminder

Members are reminded that membership fees for 2001 are now due.

The Barbados Museum sincerely thanks its members for their support in 2000 and looks forward to your continued support in 2001!!

Staff and volunteers go on 'ole time' outing'

On Sunday, 21st January, Errol Barrow Day, some museum staff and volunteers went on an old time outing on the renovated Banks 'Wildey' Bus. The tour which was organised by the education officer was intended to be educational and enjoyable. The group first went to Gun Hill where the system of signal stations was explained. Of course the breathtaking view from Gun Hill was 'icing on the cake'.

The next stop was at Three Houses where staff and volunteers shared food, drink and good fun. The outing continued to Ragged Point Light house and Foul Bay before returning to the museum. The only question on everyone's lips was, "how soon can we do this again?"

□ **Education Officer, Peggy McGeary**



Museum staff and volunteers enjoying the tour, seen here relaxing at Three Houses

*The Barbados Museum & Historical Society
welcomes the following new members into its family:*

Miss. Mia Duguid
Miss. Kathleen Ouigley
Miss. Kelly-Ann Murphy
Hazel Roach
Ms. Mary. E. Gill-Mascoll
Claus de Bansa
Mrs. Norma Holder
Mr. Christopher Parravicino
Mr. Michael Tabor
Ms. Lesley Barrow
Mrs. Christine Roberts
Mr & Mrs. Colin Nicholls
Dr. Stephen K. Donovan
Miss. Carmen Hutchinson Miller
Mr. David Walters
Ms. Gail Harper

Museum members please note that all email messages to the museum must be sent to:

museum@caribsurf.com

Please ignore the email address noted on your new membership card.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Looking back at the 2000 Fine Craft Festival

The annual Fine Craft Festival was held on Saturday December 2nd, 2000. This year's festival continued to showcase the wide variety of craft on the island. The festival was host to 55 stall holders. There was a wide variety of craft from Ceramics, textiles, Christmas decorations and soft furnishings. Last year the new types of craft which were introduced were products used in areomatherapy (soaps, body oils and lotions) and mosaics.

Due to heavy rains leading up to the festival, a new layout was devised to accommodate water logged areas on the lawn. This new layout was very favorable to the patrons who thought that the flow of traffic was better. Over \$15,000 was made from commissions and gate receipts. Plans are underway for 2001 and the organisers are looking to increasing the display space and making the event a weekend one.

The museum is appealing to any members who are interested in assisting with the planning of this event to please call **Maria Boyce Taylor** at 427-0201 or email us at museum@caribsurf.com. ♦



Newly designed museum shop coming

The museum shop is presently undergoing renovations. After completion of the library roof, attention is now being placed on redesigning the museum shop to make it more customer friendly and attractive.

Ms. Denise Young Brown the principal designer at Innovative Interiors and Designs has kindly donated her services to the museum and has created a wonderful new space. Ms. Young Brown is a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in the USA and is **FIDER** accredited.

She has worked on a number of retail, residential and corporate buildings on the islands. By June a new look museum shop will re-open. ♦

**The Barbados Museum
& Historical Society extend
thanks to those companies
who supported the
2000 Festival Craft Festival.**

*Barbados Shipping &
Trading*

*A.S. Brydens & Sons
(B'dos) Ltd*

Paints Plus

Printsource

Coles Printery

Harrisons Ltd.

*Government Information
Service*

Starcom Network

*National Cultural
Foundation*

British American Tobacco

Air Jamaica

Cable & Wireless BET

Museum participates in bridal showcase

The Barbados Museum participated in the 2001 Cave Shepherd Wedding showcase. This provided an opportunity for the Barbados Museum to showcase its property as the perfect setting for weddings and private functions. Response was very good.

The Barbados Museum's table at the bridal showcase.

Coming in September

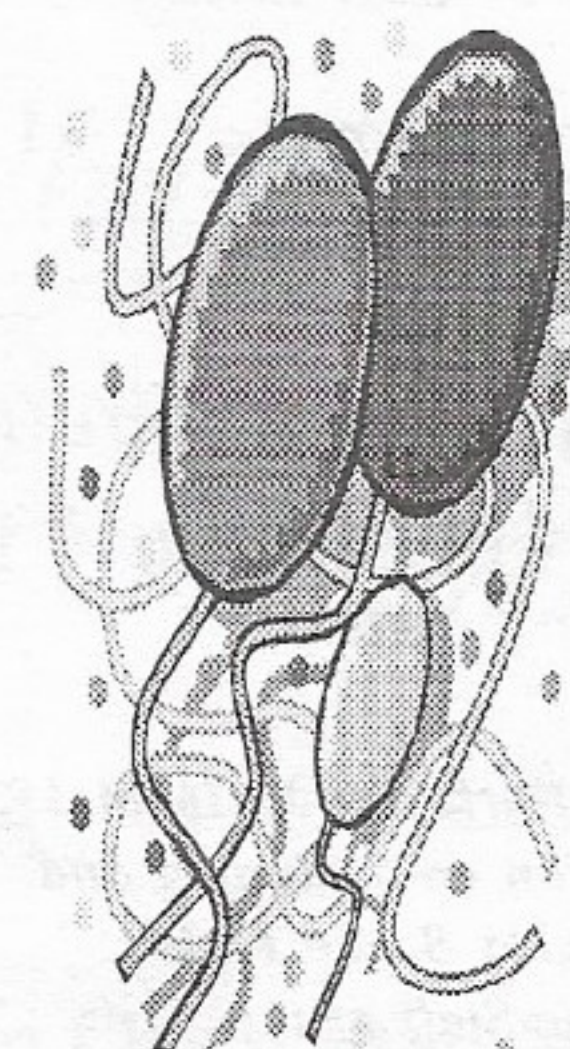
Library Fundraising Show and Tea

at the Barbados Museum
Sunday, September 09, 2001
at 4:00 p.m.

FASHIONS BY ELA

For more information contact
the Librarian, Betty Shannon or
Marketing Officer, Maria Boyce Taylor

Happy Birthday



to all
those
members
celebrating
Birthdays

in June, July & August

Museum Staff

ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR

Alissandra Cummins

Executive Officer

Melva Yarde

Marketing Officer

Maria Boyce Taylor

Administrative Assistant

Marcia Griffith

Executive Secretary

Angela Boyce

Administrative Assistant,

Accounts

Wendy Husbands

CURATORIAL

Archaeology and History

Kevin Farmer

Natural History

Cherrie Parris

Education Officer

Peggy McGear

LIBRARY

Betty Shannon

TECHNICAL & MAINTENANCE

Merna Bryan

Stephen Layne

Regina Rildey

Pauline Stuart

RECEPTION & SHOP

Julie Benjamin

Susan Boyce

Gail Harper

SECURITY

Rudolph Beckles

Beresford Nurse

Royston Sargeant

Rosalind Straker

Grantley Yarde

"Artifacts" is a Barbados Museum quarterly publication co-ordinated and designed by Maria Boyce Taylor edited by the Staff of the Barbados Museum.



Ms. Alissandra Cummins, Director of the Barbados Museum (far left) receiving the cheque from Ms. Marcelle Millar, Assistant Manager Sales and Marketing, Bank of Nova Scotia. Looking on is Maria Boyce Taylor Marketing Officer for the Museum.

Museum receives donation from the Bank of Nova Scotia

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society received a donation of Bds \$1,000.00 from the Bank of Nova Scotia. This donation by the bank is to assist the museum with its projects and programmes for the public benefit. The cheque was received by the Museum Director Alissandra Cummins who thanked the Bank of Nova Scotia for their generous support and contribution to the work of the Barbados Museum. ♦

Calendar of Events

- ❖ Cultural Heritage Week May 13-19, 2001
- ❖ International Museums Day Friday May 18, 2001
- ❖ Museum Closed Monday, June 04, 2001.

*Barbados Museum & Historical Society
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Tel: 427-0201/436-1956 Fax: 429-5946*