

the Cayman Spirit



Cayman Islands Government Information Services

Issue 5, Volume No. 2, Friday, 18 February 2005

“Outcomes Worth the Trials”

CIDB GM Reflects With Pride

By Ruth Smith

With the original Government allocation of CI\$5.5 million now well on the way to being fully apportioned within the community, the Cayman Islands Development Bank this week expressed pride in being part of the process: “The outcomes are well worth the trials and tribulations we encountered,” says General Manager Angela Miller. “The work was not easy but being able to assist the over 300 families to date who will benefit from the housing recovery grants has made it all worthwhile.”

Of the 700 applications have been received at the HRG office since its inception,

Continued on Page 2

Save a Life...Give Blood

By Angelique Crowther

We all recall standing in line for ice or gasoline in the days after Ivan and our worry that supplies might be depleted before it came to our turn. That is a fear that we would never want to repeat – especially when it comes to a commodity as critical as blood supply. But that is the threat which the Cayman Islands Hospital Blood Bank, which is in dire need of re-stocking, is now seeking to avert.

This week the Blood Bank launched an appeal for donors called “Save a life...make a Difference” that is urgently appealing to local donors to bolster the critically low blood supply on Grand Cayman. Most urgently needed is O positive blood and current and potential donors with that blood type are asked

to visit the Blood Bank at the Cayman Islands Hospital as soon as possible.

Over the last three years, Laboratory Services Manager Joan Terry has noted a steady decline in donors, a position which worsened after Hurricane Ivan when many regular donors left the island. In addition, Medical Technologist Judith Clarke says, some regular donors have found it difficult to make their regular donations due to a lack of transportation. Others have changed phone numbers since Ivan and the Blood Bank has been unable to make contact. The resulting reduction in the blood donor pool has significantly affected the level of available blood supplies.

Ms Terry offers encouragement to first-time donors: “With a community as close-knit as ours, chances are that everyone will know

Continued on Page 5

Making a Difference One Roof at a Time

By Cornelia Olivier

The need to get a roof back over everyone's head is the driving force behind Stingray Construction's community outreach programme.

“We will do as much as possible, as fast as we can, until every person has a roof again,” says a determined Michael Ryan, owner of Stingray Construction. “There is a crying need out there, and it has to be addressed. People cannot be productive without proper homes to live in,” he continues.

Stingray Construction's outreach teams have already repaired more than 25 homes and its goal is to repair at least two homes weekly. Mr. Ryan, who has done some of the repair work himself, credits his staff for donating time on weekends to get the job done.

His company is part of the Cayman Islands

Continued on Page 2



Medical Technologist Mahalia Watson draws blood from John B. Smith who has been a regular blood donor for the past 20 years: “I support the idea of giving blood in case there is an accident and blood is needed immediately,” says the 67-year-old.

Cleaning House: Deadline Approaches

By Cornelia Olivier

Residents are urged to use the remaining weeks of February to rid themselves of accumulated debris by placing it on the roadside for easy collection. The public is also urged to examine contractor agreements to ensure they include a removal service. Owners of vacant lots or commercial establishments, condominium or apartment strata are responsible for the removal of their own debris.

This was the word from CIRO's Operations Manager Mark Scotland, who nevertheless urged everyone to step up the debris clearing to take advantage of MC Restoration's processing arrangements.

"Anyone can use the temporary MC Restoration dumping sites when hauling debris. That way all waste will be processed instead of accumulating at the landfill," Mr. Scotland concluded.

MC Restoration is expected to wrap up the waste removal aspect of its contract by the end of February. The processing of debris will continue until dumping sites have been fully restored to their original condition.

Although daily cleanups in Bodden Town and George Town end today (Friday, 18 February), people in this area should still schedule pickups at specific locations by calling 916-2625. Meanwhile, routine pick up continues in East End and North Side.

"Outcomes Worth the Trials"

Continued from Page 1

300 are pending approval, and so far only 39 have been declined, for reasons varying from false claims to insufficient evidence of damage.

Eligibility requirements are: that dwellings be owner-occupied, uninsured and damaged by Hurricane Ivan; and that applicants be Caymanian with household incomes of less than C\$40,000 per year. Extra consideration went to the elderly, infirm, the terminally ill, and families with young children.

All criteria are validated by the HRG committee (inclusive of a site inspection) prior to approval. A shortage of available site inspectors has caused minimal delay in the processing procedure. Any incidents of false information can also subject applicants to criminal proceedings. "Unfortunately there have been incidents of false information," says Mrs. Miller, whose agency, the CIDB, administers the fund on behalf of Government. "It's so important that people realize that these grants are for those with the greatest need and we therefore verify the claims before we issue any funds.

A contract for repairs is executed between the beneficiary, the contractor and the Bank so that we can monitor the progress of repairs. At the start of work, the contractor receives a deposit; once the client and site inspector agree that the work is satisfactory, the contractor receives the final allotment from the Bank."

The main focus of the grant is to ensure that families can secure their homes. The bulk of the \$15,000 grant is accordingly allocated to roof, interior walls, door and window repairs. The HRG also addresses the needs of those who have lost basic appliances and/or furnishings—up to C\$2,500 can be used for basic furnishings and up to C\$1,500 to replace items such as refrigerators and stoves.

In an effort to contribute to the restoration of Cayman's local economy, one stipulation is that those who receive funds for furniture or appliances must purchase locally. To ensure this, the HRG issues the payment to the supplier directly. Some local suppliers have created appliance packages, keeping them in the C\$1,500 price range.

"Our initial efforts were aimed at maximizing the benefits to the community and that has not changed much," says CIDB General Manager, Angela Miller. "The Cayman Islands Government faced the daunting challenge of having to come up with criteria to establish people's levels of need. It was not an easy exercise as so many in the community were affected in so many different ways."

From homes that were destroyed, to those that suffered only minor damage, the HRG worked diligently to assess applications and distribute funds – and it's been worth every bit of the effort, Mrs. Miller concluded.

Making a Difference

Continued from Page 1

Recovery Operation (CIRO)'s roofing project in which local construction companies have been asked to assemble five-person teams to repair the houses of those who have received allotments from the Housing Recovery Grant (HRG).

In addition to Stingray Construction, which has been on board from the start, some nine additional firms have indicated that they will join the project. The work teams will enable the HRG to repair more roofs with less money, since companies will charge reduced fees or even work at cost.

In the case of Stingray Construction, supervisory and administrative staff members donate their time, thereby eliminating overheads and leav-

ing more money for roofing materials. The company was also able to source large donations for supplies, including \$50,000 from Mr. Bill Marriott, through the Marriott Foundation.

"Our staff has been wonderfully supportive of the community and I am proud of the difference they are making. It's a good feeling to get a thank you from someone when a roof goes up," says Mr. Ryan.

He urges all to stay focused on the restoration process: "Now that the lights are back on and water runs through the taps again, we should not become complacent. For the sake of a better future, everyone has to keep working full steam to restore the island."



The outreach team, including Mr. Ryan (centre, forefront), on the job.

Schools Squeeze Curriculum Time

With schools now settled into a second term of post-hurricane activities, every effort is being made to ensure that students continue to gain as much curriculum time as possible.

Efforts include increasing the school day by a half hour by an earlier start and shaving off some days from normal vacation schedules.

Schools and parents will review the benefit of a longer school day prior to the start of the summer term, on 4 April. Feedback from school principals indicates that valuable curriculum time has been gained as a result of this initiative. However, some school buses are finding it hard to make the 8:00am start and some flexibility will be exercised where needed to adjust school start time to 8:15am, with a 3:15pm finish.

Last week, schools in Grand Cayman reopened immediately following the Ash Wednesday holiday, rather than utilising the two-day midterm break usually scheduled then. Plans are also in place to gain additional days in the summer term.

The Education Department is advising parents that no new registrations will be accepted for the current academic year. New registrations will be accepted in May for the next academic year, due to begin in September.

Chief Education Officer Nyda Flatley said that although schools are in the recovery phase, they are striving to ensure that all students are receiving a high quality education. "The Ministry of Education, Education Department and School Inspectorate are all working together with the schools on planning for the future," she said.



Deputy Permanent Secretary for Education Mary Rodrigues reads to Year Two students.

Ministers Grade School Recovery

By Lynsay Brown

Minister for Education the Hon. Roy Bodden, JP, and Minister for Health the Hon. Gilbert McLean recently visited Savannah and Bodden Town primary schools to view the newly installed modular classrooms and to assess the status of the rebuilding process.

They were accompanied by Deputy Permanent Secretary for Education Mary Rodrigues and Project Manager for the school rebuilding programme, Mr. Jim Scott.

Due to the extensive damage caused by Ivan, the temporary classrooms are a short-term solution until phase two of the rebuilding programme—repair of buildings and roofs—is completed. Four temporary classrooms are being used at Savannah Primary and one at the Bodden Town school. The new classrooms are able to hold approximately 30 students each.

Savannah Primary's principal, Mrs. Lorna Blackman, explained that widespread damage had reduced space to the point where classrooms were being shared by up to 45 students: "It is good to get our own space back; it is so much easier for both teachers and students," she said, adding: "But we still plan to continue to team teach, as it has been a very successful system. Each teacher focuses on one subject, rather than covering all areas, which allows them to do more thorough preparation."

Minister Bodden said that he was aware of concerns in some quarters about the safety of the temporary classrooms' foundations. However, after visiting the sites and speaking with teachers, students and Mr. Scott, the minister said that he was pleased to confirm that there was no cause for concern: "I am satisfied that the needs of students and teachers are being well served by the temporary classrooms. I am

also pleased to learn that additional measures are planned to further secure the foundations." He added that he hoped the joint visit with Minister McLean, who is responsible for the Public Works Department, would be seen as evidence of the importance they both placed on the safety and welfare of students and teachers.

Lack of storage space has also been a major obstacle for schools that suffered damage. In an effort to resolve this, twelve 40ft containers have been ordered by the Ministry of Education, with six arriving early this week. The containers will free much needed classroom space, explained Mr. Scott. "In some cases, classrooms are being used to store school materials, delaying renovation work. Two classrooms at Bodden Town are currently being used for storage, but when the containers arrive, they will relieve the pressure and we can start the repair work." The first six containers have already been allocated: George Hicks and John Gray will each receive two, while Savannah and Bodden Town have been allocated one each.

The second — and final — stage of the rebuilding process is currently underway at both schools. At Bodden Town Primary, roof repairs began last week with the delivery and installation of new roof frames. The pre-fabricated trusses, which were built on the island, are being installed on an entire classroom block that lost its roof: "At the moment the buildings are wide open to the weather. As soon as we get the roof completed, then work can begin on the interiors. We hope to be finished at Bodden Town by May and at Savannah by June," said Mr. Scott.

Work is also continuing on reinforcing the existing roof frame at Savannah Primary, as well as on the repair of the school kitchen, which will reopen as soon as work is completed.



Inside one of Savannah Primary's temporary classrooms

Then and Now...

By Cornelia Olivier

Remember the days when a bottle of water made you smile, when the beach was everywhere and transmission poles were regular obstacles? Although still bearing many Ivan scars, since 11 September 2004, Grand Cayman has come a long way in the recovery process. Here is a glimpse of how it was then and how it is now.



From main road to pedestrian zone—and back to main road.



Shamrock Road—no longer a war zone.



House by house, every neighbourhood is recovering.

Save a Life...Give Blood

Continued from Page 1

someone who requires blood at least once — be it a family member or a friend. It is important to have adequate supplies at all times to ensure that lives are saved.”


Another impetus for bolstering the local blood supply is the 247% increase in the cost of importing blood. This, coupled with the possibility of being unable to obtain the required quantity of certain blood types when urgently needed, can put lives at risk.

“For anyone who has ever considered becoming a blood donor, we ask you to turn thoughts into action and make your first donation today. Those who have given in the past are encouraged to schedule an appointment to once again give the gift of life during this time of critical need,” Ms Terry concludes.

Ms Clarke assures new donors that giving blood is completely safe since the technologist monitors all stages of the process and ensures that all equipment is sterile. She also explains the process of donating blood:

- New donors fill out confidential information form answering questions related to health status. To be considered as a donor you must be 18 years or older, weigh over 110lbs and be in good physical health.
- Once approved as a donor, you'll undergo a mini-physical where blood pressure and haemoglobin are checked. Then a unit of blood is taken (lasting about five minutes). Donors are then asked to relax for ten minutes and enjoy a glass of juice to replenish blood sugar levels.
- The Blood Bank contacts donors every three months to come in and give blood.

So if you are between the ages of 18 and 60 and are in general good health, you are invited to enroll as a blood donor. Please contact the Blood Bank at the Cayman Islands Hospital at 244-2674 or 244-2669.



Jacob Emily Michael Madison Matthew Hannah Joshua Ashley Christopher Alexis
 Nicholas Samantha Andrew Sarah Joseph Abigail Daniel Elizabeth William Jessica
 Anthony Olivia David Taylor Tyler Emma John Alyssa Ryan Lauren Zachary Grace
 Ethan Kayla Brandon Brianna James Ann Alexander Megan Dylan Victoria Justin
 Destiny Jonathan Sydney Christian Rache istin Jennifer Samuel Jasmine Benjamin
 Julia Noah Isabella Kevin Morgan Jose Logan Kaitlyn Robert Natalie Nathan
 Nicole Thomas Hailey Cameron Hal Catherine Gabriel Alexandra Caleb
 Sophia Jordan Amanda Kyle Marie Aaron Stephanie Eric Savannah
 Luis Allison Isaiah Jenna Brian Jordan Jack Mary Connor
 Gabrielle Luke Amber Juan Makayla Carlos Madeline
 Mason Sierra Sean Brookson Erin Alex Kimberly
 Steven Caroline Danir Kaylee Jared Trinity
 Timothy Shelby Ian P Courtney Patrick
 Autumn Cole Melir stian Alexa Gavin
 Marissa Chase C riella Alejandro
 Leslie Antonio V itlin Jeremiah
 Alexandria Vict akota Aaliyah
 Carson Kathy rael Madison
 Matthew Han rtha Andrew
 Sarah Joseph David Taylor
 Tyler Emma Jo don Brianna
 James Anna Ale dney Christian
 Rachel Austin Jai Kevin Morgan
 Jose Chloe Logan Hailey Cameron
 Haley Hunter Kathe Jordan Amanda Kyle
 Maria Jason Mackenzie Luis Allison Isaiah Jenna
 Brian Andrea Elijah Rebecca Connor Gabrielle Luke Amber
 Juan Katelyn Adam Faith Angel Mokayla Carlos Madeline Mason Sierra Sean Brooke
 Charles Sara Evan Michelle Jackson Erin Alex Kimberly Steven Caroline Danielle
 Nathaniel Zoe Cody Vanessa Bryan Kaylee Jared Trinity Timothy Shelby Ian Bailey

**CAYMAN
 DONATE BLOOD**

"Save a life . . . make a Difference"

To schedule a blood donation appointment, please call 244-2674

Turning Loss into opportunity...

With schoolchildren having to forego this year's usual sports activities, North Side Primary School decided to turn loss into opportunity and stage a "Reading Olympics."

"Under normal circumstances we would now be busy travelling to other schools to compete, but with Hurricane Ivan upsetting the whole school year, that can't happen this year," said Principal Mazelyn Curtis.

So instead of letting it get them down, the first 'event,' a Reading Marathon, took place on

Tuesday, 15 February.

Attending the marathon, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Education Mary Rodrigues congratulated the staff on their initiative: "Reading is a crucial part of learning and this new approach to motivate children to read will certainly enhance the education process. It is also a part of our recovery to go beyond pure academics and give children a creative opportunity to do better in school," she said.

North Side Primary suffered considerable

damage during Ivan and still operates out of the North Side Civic Centre. They also lost most of their books when the library roof was destroyed. "For the marathon we borrowed books from other schools and had teachers and children bring books from home to obtain enough reading material," said Ms Curtis.

The Reading Olympics will continue until the end of June. Several more 'Olympic events' will be held, each one focusing on a different subject.

The Future's in Our Hands

By Ruth Smith

Cleanliness and a tidy landscape have always been aspects that have enhanced the natural beauty of the Cayman Islands, even as these attributes have become powerful selling points for the tourism industry. These qualities have also been a source of pride for residents who relish our pristine environment. But now, with more mounds of rubbish on the horizon even as they were at the point of diminishing — and with many derelict vehicles still visible — it is obvious that our work is far from done.

Working in favour of our ultimate goal of reclaiming our environment, however, is the certainty that any vision of incipient junkyards in our island paradise is unpalatable to us all — even for those who may be in denial. So, there is much basis on which to remain positive — as the outcome is really dependent on individual commitment and drive.

So as the MC Restoration contract nears its end, let us stay in the game! And, in that respect, CIRO Operations Manager Mark Scotland has sound advice for the people of Grand Cayman: take advantage of the debris and derelict vehicle removal service **now**, because once ended, the responsibility will be personal once again. “The time has come when everyone must start thinking ahead,” says Mr. Scotland.

The need to protect our fragile environment is also critical. The areas most vulnerable to debris and derelict vehicles are the mangroves, protected animal sanctuaries, bird habitats, and all waterways. Mangroves are our first line of defence against flooding and a key protector of our reefs and ecosystems; but derelict vehicles, their waste oil, fuel, coolants and other non-biodegradable waste can compromise these areas, causing serious and, possibly, irreparable contamination that might not be visible to the naked eye.

Residents are accordingly advised to drain oil from derelict vehicles and take the oil to the attendant at the George Town landfill, weekdays between 7:00am and 4:00pm, or Saturdays, 7:00am to 11:00am. Oil should be placed in a clean, leak-proof plastic container and should not be mixed with any other substances. For more information on proper disposal of vehicle fluids, contact the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) at 949-6696.

As we approach the summer months, consideration should also be given to debris and its potential to harbour mosquitoes, rodents and other pests. The Mosquito Research and Con-

trol Unit (MRCU) is already investigating the possibility of hurricane debris becoming home to mosquito larvae and is pre-treating certain locations holding derelict vehicles and/or debris. The unit will closely monitor the growth and spread of mosquitoes in these areas as part of its year-round approach to mosquito control in Cayman.

Residents are reminded that since mosquitoes prefer dark, humid containers that can hold water, discarded tyres represent one of the main threats. Mosquito season generally starts at the end of May, but the hazard actually begins with the onset of seasonal rains. In Cayman there is little risk of mosquito-borne disease, but it is still possible that the *Aedes aegypti* or dengue fever mosquito (which can also carry the West Nile virus), could find debris or discarded tyres perfect places to call home.

Post-Ivan, rodents have also caused anxiety; the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) has received numerous calls from residents concerned that debris mounds are encouraging rat infestations around Grand Cayman. While it is unrealistic to attribute all such problems to debris, rodents are adaptable and prone to locations where they can breed and eat undisturbed. To combat the problem, a rodent control team has set up a weekly schedule to lay bait and to otherwise address any reports of rats. Residents are advised to call DEH at 949-6696 if infestations of rats are noticed; if the problem is hurricane debris or other waste, contact Mr. Scotland at 916-2625. Mr. Scotland reminded residents of apartments, strata-related building projects or commercial property that the responsibility lies with the owners or the governing associations.

Overall, it is clear that there are many pressing reasons to prioritise the removal of hurricane debris. As we continue to rebuild and restore, more waste will accumulate—but we must continue our drive to ensure proper disposal. The power lies within the community to retain the spirit that was so evident immediately after Ivan. Collectively, we can restore Cayman's beauty; in the final analysis, our future truly lies in our own hands.

Conditions that lead to rodents

- Careless garbage disposal
- Overgrown vegetation and piles of debris
- Abandoned vehicles and discarded appliances
- Open discharge of kitchen wastewater
- Dilapidated buildings

Gastroenteritis: Take Precautions

By Angelique Crowther

The Public Health Department advises that gastroenteritis cases are still being reported and asks the public to continue practising good hygiene, especially with regard to frequency of hand washing.

Gastroenteritis is an inflammation of the stomach and of the small and large intestines, caused by a variety of viruses or bacteria. Usually, *Rotavirus* is the most common cause of severe gastroenteritis in infants and young children, especially during winter months. In Cayman the outbreak seems to be a seasonal occurrence, says Medical Officer of Health Dr. Kiran Kumar, noting that 163 cases were reported in January of last year.

Persons contract the germs by consuming contaminated foods and/or water, or by breathing contaminated air. A lack of adequate hygiene, especially after using the toilet, can also enable transmission through close contact with infected persons.

To stem the outbreak of diarrhoeal disease, the Public Health Department has issued these guidelines:

- Healthy persons should stay away from those who are ill.
- Sick children should be kept away from schools or nurseries for one week from onset of first symptoms
- Good personal hygiene must be maintained, especially after using the toilet.
- Anyone who attends to a sick person should wash his or her hands with soap and water and, if possible, antiseptics such as Dettol or Savlon.
- Control flies by ensuring sanitary premises, including proper collection and disposal of garbage.
- Drinking water must be safe; use desalinated, bottled or boiled water.
- Disinfect cisterns by adding 2½ ounces of bleach for each 1,000 gallons of water in the cistern.
- Soiled disposable diapers of affected children should be placed in a garbage bag and securely tied. The bag should then be placed into a covered container for collection.
- Toilets should be disinfected after use, so that other persons will not contract the illness.

For further information, call the Public Health Department on 244-2630 or 244-2621, or Faith Hospital on 948-2243. For assistance with cisterns, call the Department of Environmental Health on 949-6696 in Grand Cayman or 948-2321 on the Brac.

“Tonight is Your Night” LoGB Honours Those Who Sacrificed



The Hon. McKeeva Bush, left, with Fire Chief Kirkland Nixon, centre, who was recognized for outstanding contribution to Cayman's safe passage and recovery from Hurricane Ivan. The Chief Secretary, the Hon. George McCarthy, presented the award to Mr. Nixon. (Jewel Levy photo)

The Leader of Government Business on Saturday (12 February) feted those whose sacrifice took us safely through the worst disaster in terms of damage in recorded history – Hurricane Ivan—at a gala affair at Pedro Castle. The keynote speaker for the event, Hon. McKeeva Bush, who is directly responsible for the Islands' reconstruction, described his vision for Cayman's recovery.

The event, made possible through the generous donations of many individuals and companies, featured a silent auction as a means of raising additional recovery funds.

The following are excerpts from the LoGB's speech:

“We recognize this evening not only those whose sacrifice brought many of us safely through the storm and sustained us in the aftermath. But this evening we also honour those who, both individually and collectively, prepared our islands to withstand the impact.

Through their foresight, years of planning

and hard work, many lives were spared. We will never know the number, but we all appreciate that we could have been devastated in terms of the loss of human life! And we must give due honour to those who laboured behind the scenes over many years.

For all of these individuals and groups, tonight is your night! On behalf of the Government and people, I thank you.

And, now that we are safely over the initial hump of the devastation, we call on everyone to continue the upward journey. With the help of all of you, we will continue to move in the right direction.

And that must bring some pride. For there has never been a country, hit as we were, which has remained the same – as UN representatives told us when they visited.

But through it all, we had no doubt in which direction we would go. We have always felt deep within our souls that we would not only come back – but we would do so better and stronger. And we are still very fervent about that determination.

But we are not there yet — and we must not be weary in well doing.

While we recognize the good that has been done so far, we must keep our eyes focused on the goals ahead:

- to have everyone resettled in their homes; and I am not just speaking about habitable homes; we want to have people re-established in homes that recapture the standard of living we had before Ivan.
- to replant and beautify Cayman, to have

again a verdant and blooming country.

- to maintain Cayman's reputation as a safe and peaceful vacation spot. Recovery encompasses the social and psychological, as well as the physical; we may need to place greater resources in our social and support programmes.

- to see even greater vibrancy in the small business sector that suffered so much from the impact of Ivan.

- to see government and the private sector embark on an intensive international marketing and sales promotion programme. We already have a pressured public budget – we will need help in this process of restoring vitality and in renewing our products.

All of these are areas in which we must all continue to involve ourselves – from the personal to the financial, and beyond.

So our work is not yet done – and like others before me, I renew the battle cry today. The choice is in our own hands.... We can have the greatest failure or the greatest triumph – as we choose. There is the victory we have now to win. Let us go forward together.

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Cayman Islands, thank you, and may God continue to bless you all.”

In further remarks, the LoGB said that while he continued to hope for international aid, he sympathized with nations, both global and regional, that suffered through much more severe disasters.

And he appealed for us to continue to be our brothers' keepers. “Let not the spirit shown after September 11 disappear,” he urged. “We need that now more than ever.”

CAL's Air Cargo Service Ready for Take-off

As part of its recently announced move to improve and develop air cargo services, Cayman Airways this week appointed a new director of Cargo Development, Mr. Gordon Anderson. His immediate priority will be developing the new dedicated freighter service from Miami, which has been launched in response to the huge demand in post-Ivan Cayman for transporting goods purchased in the US.

“Cargo is an important part of our product offering,” said Mr. Mike Adam, Cayman Airway's CEO. “There is great potential for Cayman Airways, as long as we raise aware-

ness of the cargo services we offer. Traditionally people in Cayman are used to shipping their goods by sea, but they now have a faster alternative. We look forward to having Gordon on our team to oversee this initiative.”

Mr. Anderson, who will be based at Cayman Airway's Miami Cargo office, joins the airline with over 35 years' experience in the air cargo industry. A key focus will be to improve both reliability and customer service within the Cargo division. “Boxes don't talk back, but their owners do,” explains Mr. Anderson. “Therefore customer service and

reliability are as vital for cargo operations as they are for passenger services.”

Mr. Anderson joins the Cayman Islands' national flag carrier from Capital Cargo International, where he was Director of Hub Operations in Toledo, Ohio, and responsible for a fleet of 11 aircraft.

Another of his responsibilities will be to explore the feasibility of expanding cargo services with dedicated freight services to other destinations, such as Tampa, Cayman Brac, and even points presently outside of the Cayman Airway's network.

Governor Intensifies Fund-raising

THE Governor Mr. Bruce Dinwiddy recently announced that a private donor has offered to advance \$3 million to the National Recovery Fund (NRF). The donor has agreed to waive repayment of \$1.5 million if the NRF raises another \$3 million.

The Governor announced the offer by the Cayman resident at a recent Government House dinner attended by some 100 current or prospective donors.

The Governor also disclosed that UBS Bank had agreed to match up to \$500,000 in donations from its workforce worldwide, adding that other corporations were considering similar drives.

The NRF has intensified its fund-raising efforts in a race to replace 500 roofs before 31 August. This would require an injection of a further \$10 million. So far, the fund has garnered nearly \$4 million, and allotted about \$2 million, which has assisted with house repairs

for some 160 families.

The current aim is to enable recipients to return home and/or achieve some minimum standard of housing. Fund officials say that they would very much like to not only raise the number of persons assisted (to around 800) but also expand the level of help beyond its current minimum.

"Unless we can do more (to assist)..., some of the relatively disadvantaged members of our community will soon start to lose hope," the Governor said.

Mr. Dinwiddy said that corporations which are still pressured by diminished cash flows but which are now on the way to recovery may wish to exercise the option of pledging monthly donations over a period.

The Governor, who has held similar events at Government House, plans to organize more such efforts in the near future.

Partners Strive to Keep Standards High

THE Cayman Islands Department of Tourism continues to work closely with its private sector partners to ensure that quality standards are being upheld and the Cayman Islands product retains its pre-Ivan attractiveness.

At 11 February there were four licensed hotels, 13 licensed apartment/condominium complexes, and 14 licensed guest houses and villas in Grand Cayman.

DoT projects that, among pre-Ivan facilities, approximately 42% hotel rooms, 40% apartment/condominium rooms, and 77% guest houses and villas will open by 30 April.

The Cayman Islands National Museum and Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park are scheduled to open within the next two months, followed closely by the Cayman Islands Turtle Farm.

"We're excited to announce that the new Cayman Turtle Farm will open in May on the Boatswain's Beach site," disclosed Managing Director Ken Hydes, who said that he hopes to open the interactive park in January 2006. He warned, however, that, as everyone else on island, they are subject to delays in getting materials.

Over 100 dining establishments are open, and guests in Cayman can choose among some 40 world-class watersports operators.



The Governor (right) with representatives from the prize-winning Cayman Islands Culinary Society who volunteered to prepare the meal as their contribution to the recovery fund.

More Homes on the Way

Site preparations are underway at the Dr. Shorlor Memorial grounds on Fairbanks Road for the accommodation of up to 27 trailers for persons in dire need of housing.

Seven trailers are now in place at the Ed Bush Sports Field in West Bay and three are at the Bodden Town community site (off Cumber Ave), with plans to install a further four. Trailers are also allocated to private sites, with one already in place in Bodden Town. Three more are expected to be delivered to private

sites this week, one each to Bodden Town, East End and George Town.

An additional 12 trailers were due to arrive this week (Thursday, 17 February) while another 44 are on order. Various shipping options are being explored for this latest batch, with estimated time of arrival of four to five weeks.

So far, the Temporary Housing Committee has received some 159 applications, requesting housing for almost 500 people.

CaymanSpirit

A weekly publication of the Cayman Islands Government Information Services (GIS).

Contributing Writers

GIS, Ministry of Tourism, Finance Portfolio
Other sectors of Government

Designers: GIS

Printing: CIG Computer Services

Distribution: Arranged by CIG Personnel
Department

Contact us: GIS

Government of the Cayman Islands

Cricket Square

Elgin Avenue

Telephone 949-8092

GIS@gov.ky

Do you have essential public information or an inspirational recovery story to tell? Give us a call or send an email.