

# *President's Report – Barbados Canada Foundation*

*2020 Annual General Meeting – February 9, 2021*

*Report by Chair/President Hugh Graham*

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At incorporation in August 2013, the primary purpose under which Barbados Canada Foundation was established as a registered charity was: *“To advance education by providing publicly available scholarships, bursaries and other forms of financial assistance to students of Barbadian heritage to be used for post-secondary education.”* Management of *The John Rollock Memorial Scholarships Program* (now *BCF Scholarships Program*) was transferred to BCF from BBKA as it was accepted that given BCF’s ability to issue tax receipts, the scholarships program should have the opportunity to obtain greater donor support which would positively impact its growth. BBKA also agreed to sponsor at least one scholarship annually – the Don MacKinlay Memorial Scholarship, and to work cooperatively with BCF.

In July 2018 we expanded BCF’s purposes to include the purpose: *“To promote health by providing medical equipment and supplies to hospitals and public health facilities in Barbados for the public’s benefit and use.”* Concurrently we entered into an agreement with The Queen Elizabeth Hospital to donate equipment or supplies to the QEH from time to time as fundraising revenue permits.

Recognizing that general fundraising will not adequately support our objectives with regard to the scholarships program, equipment donations to QEH and financial donations to other healthcare initiatives such as the SickKids-Caribbean Initiative and Camp Jumoke, we established the following fundraising activities/events:

- ◆ *The BCF Raffle* – an annual raffle to raise funds for the scholarships program.
- ◆ *Bring On The Spring Event* – an annual event to be held in the Spring to raise funds for our QEH equipment donation program.
- ◆ *The BCF Golf Tournament* – an annual golf tournament to be held in the summer to raise funds for healthcare initiatives.

From fiscal 2015 (our first year of full operation) to fiscal 2020 we raised \$270,872 from donations, and over the 3-year period 2018 to 2020, \$17,372 from *The BCF Raffle*, *Bring On The Spring Event* and *The BCF Golf Tournament* combined, after fundraising expenses. This allowed us to grant a total of 38 scholarships totalling \$115,000 and to donate \$103,986 to healthcare initiatives – consisting of 8 Doppler Ultrasound Units costing \$13,986 to the QEH, \$65,000 to the SickKids-Caribbean Initiative, and \$16,000 to Camp Jumoke. In addition, a total of \$9,000 was donated for disaster relief (to the Dominica Relief Fund after hurricane Maria and the Antigua and Barbuda Relief Fund after hurricane Irma) and to other Canadian health related charities.

In 2020 *Bring On The Spring Event* and the *Golf Tournament* were cancelled because of COVID-19. However, with funds raised by our spring online campaign and the raffle, we granted 10 scholarships totalling CAD\$40,000 and donated a convection oven costing CAD\$9,083 to the QEH. We did not donate to the SickKids-Caribbean Initiative or Camp Jumoke in 2020 – fiscal 2021.

*Bring On The Spring Event* will be held this year on April 24th by ZOOM video conference and our objective is to raise CAD\$20,500 to donate 5 ECG Machines to the QEH. With regard to the raffle, which will close on April 24<sup>th</sup> this year with the draw being held at the *Bring On The Spring Event*, we are hopeful that we will be successful in selling all 1000 tickets printed. Together with funds provided by scholarship sponsors we expect to be able to grant a minimum of 7 scholarships.

We recently received email enquiries regarding the distinction between Barbados Canada Foundation (BCF) and Barbados Canada Association (BCA). In September 2019 Barbados Ball Canada Aid (BBCA) changed its name to Barbados Canada Association and this has caused confusion in the community, particularly as BCA's Mission now incorporates objectives that are almost identical to BCF's purposes. We are having discussions with BCA and hope to resolve this issue shortly.

It should be noted that the primary distinction between BCF and BCA is that BCF is a registered charity with the ability to provide donors with tax deductible receipts for donations made. However, donations received by BCA are not tax deductible for the donor. As a not-for-profit organization, BCA has the unrestricted ability to make donations to support any organization or cause in Canada or Barbados that it may choose from time to time. This provides BCA with the advantage of being able to provide monetary assistance to groups and/or individuals in Barbados or elsewhere, in need of disaster relief or urgent assistance – help that BCF cannot provide given its registered charity status.

Looking forward our principal challenge will continue to be fundraising. At about 37,000 in Canada and 18,000 in the Greater Toronto Area, the Barbadian community in Canada is relatively small and with competition from several other organizations in the community and the church, we need your help to increase donation revenue from individual donors. Also, many large corporations have limited the causes they support and by making applications for donations and sponsorship an online process, have made it difficult for small not-for-profit organizations to establish personal connections and secure corporate support. Here also your assistance will be of immense value.

Continuous effort to secure donors and scholarship sponsors by members of our board and strong advocacy by our supporters is necessary if BCF is to survive and grow, especially in a post-pandemic environment. In addition, the recruitment of persons with the right values, skills, attitude and commitment to serve on the board is critical to BCF's success and we appeal to you – our members - to assist us in this regard also.

I wish to thank all members of the board for their assistance in BCF's governance and all donors and scholarship sponsors for their financial contributions. While my term comes to an end this year, I look forward to continuing to serve if you will have me.