



## CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

505 CONSUMERS ROAD, SUITE 206, WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO M2J 4V8  
Tel: 416-494-6040 Fax: 416-494-1530 Email: [info@guyanaconsulate.com](mailto:info@guyanaconsulate.com)

For immediate release

### **Announcing the Winners of the 2010 Guyana Awards Scholarships**

The Guyana Awards Council (Canada) and the Consulate General of Guyana are proud to announce the following winners of the 2010 Guyana Awards Scholarships, which will be presented at the **10<sup>th</sup> Guyana Awards Gala on Saturday, May 29, 2010** at On the Park Centennial Ballroom, 1095 Leslie Street, Toronto, Ontario:

- Ms. Nareefa Nasrudeen
- Ms. Lashawn Murray
- Ms. Shara Nauth
- Mr. Richard Sukhdeo
- Mr. Christopher Saleem

The Guyana Awards National Scholarship program was formally launched by the Guyana Awards Council in 2008. The Guyana Awards Council is dedicated to supporting and promoting the achievements of academic excellence by students of Guyanese heritage pursuing post-secondary education in Canada; by providing monetary awards for students currently enrolled, or planning to enroll no later than Fall 2010, in a full-time undergraduate degree, diploma or certificate program at an accredited college, university, or vocational-technical school in Canada. Scholarship recipients are selected based on a combination of high academic achievement, strong character/goals, community involvement, and financial need; and are paid upon receipt of student enrolment certification from the post-secondary institution.

The goal of the Guyana Awards Council is to maintain a comprehensive National Scholarship program that benefits a wide range of students, while encouraging business partnership opportunities with corporate citizens, as well as mentorship programs and career counseling for scholarship recipients. Seven inaugural scholarships were awarded in 2008, and five scholarships in 2009.

An independent panel of eminent judges selected the 2010 Scholarship winners from the many applications submitted to the Guyana Awards Council. The panel was composed of the Honourable Justice Vibert Lampkin, former Judge of the Ontario Court of Justice; Ms. Gale Lee, Program Manager for Asia and the Caribbean, CESO, and former acting Ambassador of Guyana to Brussels; and Mr. Ken Singh, President, Atlas Cargo and member of the Advisory Council, York University.

The sponsors of the 2010 Guyana Awards Scholarships are Scotiabank, Irie Food Products, Kee Plus Realty Ltd. Brokerage, and Sherene Shaw.



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At this year's Gala, the Guyana Awards Council will also present the prestigious Guyana Awards to outstanding Guyanese-Canadian individuals and organizations for their sterling contributions towards the achievement of excellence, and their commitment to Guyanese heritage and culture in Canada.

The Guyana Awards Council (Canada) would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students who applied, and to congratulate the recipients of the 2010 Guyana Awards Scholarships.

**For further information, please contact:**

Danny Doobay, Honorary Consul General, Guyana Consulate, 416-494-6040 X29  
Sherene Shaw, Chair, Guyana Awards Council (Canada), 416-289-4441

May 2, 2010

***BIOGRAPHIES OF THE 2009 GUYANA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOLLOW:***

**NAREEFA NASRUDEEN:**

Nareefa Nasrudeen is the youngest of three children of the late Sheik Mohammed Nasrudeen and Zamin Nasrudeen of New Amsterdam, Berbice. She was born in Toronto but grew up in New Amsterdam and attended St. Therese's Primary School. In 2003 she won a scholarship to attend President's College, where she was an honour student. Nareefa gained 11 subjects—all with grade one marks—at the 2008 Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) Examinations, and was among the top 15 CXC performers in Guyana. She is currently an honour student at Blessed Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School in Scarborough, where she received an Academic Excellence Award for Mathematics.

In addition to her academic prowess, Nareefa is a compassionate young woman who has spent considerable time caring for an individual with a developmental disability. She also volunteers two evenings a week at her school's Mathematics Tutorial Program, assisting students in Grades 9–11.

A diligent and highly motivated individual with a thirst for knowledge and a commitment to achieving excellence, Nareefa has a passion for mathematics, science and reading. She plans to complete an undergraduate degree in Life Sciences then pursue doctoral studies in medicine in Canada, with the ultimate goal of returning to Guyana to utilize her skills to serve her fellow Guyanese.



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### **LaSHAWN MURRAY**

LaShawn Murray is a 17-year-old honour student in the final year of an International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Robert Bateman High School (RBHS) in Burlington, Ontario, where she holds the Bateman Best Award for Academics. She aspires to obtain a combined degree in business and medical science, with the goal of becoming a neurosurgeon.

Since Grade 6, LaShawn has actively participated in both community-based volunteering initiatives and global humanitarian efforts—from *Reading for the Fun of It*, World Literacy of Canada's project "*Big Day Out*", Youth in Action and Africentric Summer Program, to Canadian Cancer Society and City of Toronto-Public Health Youth Initiative: *Toronto Don't Own Tobacco*—both anti-smoking initiatives aimed at youth. An active member of the Halton Youth Advisory Committee, LaShawn has demonstrated leadership skills through her involvement in a number of school-based initiatives. She co-founded the *Invisible Children Book Drive* which collected approximately 37,000 books to support literacy endeavours for children in Uganda; organized an *AIDS Run* which raised \$10,000 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation, a Fashion Show to support *Sleeping Children Around the World*, and an Environmental Conference for students across Halton District through the *Bateman Environmental Activist Team*.

LaShawn excels in basketball and is an active member of the RBHS Athletic Council. Her volunteer work as a children's basketball coach at Oakdale Community Centre led to her three-year involvement with Oakville Basketball Club, both as volunteer and referee, coach and timekeeper with children aged 5–16.

Having realized at an early age that literacy was the key to success, LaShawn has consistently demonstrated that hard work, commitment and compassion are values by which to live.

### **SHARA NAUTH**

Shara Nauth is a multitalented individual who has excelled both at her academic studies and extracurricular activities, and has performed extensively since the age of nine. Currently in her final year of high school, she has participated in the Shad Valley enrichment program for exceptional students at McMaster University and plans to pursue a degree in Health Sciences, thus contributing globally in the fields of either Medicine or Research.



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A vibrant leader and inspiration at school, Shara is actively involved in 15 clubs including Treasurer of Student Council, Undersecretary General of Model United Nations, Assistant Yearbook Editor, First Flutist, and Talent Show organizer. She has achieved the prestigious Principal List Platinum Award for four years, the English Award, won her school's Science Fair and Speech Arts Competitions, and was school representative in the Lagrange Math Contest, finishing in the top 1%; York Science Olympics; Kiwanis Music Festival; and international Model UN conferences.

She is an accomplished musician who has completed the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) Level 8 diplomas in Vocal and Piano as well as competing locally and provincially, winning over 50 music awards and 10 music scholarships. Trained in karate, she has also taken ballet and Indian dance lessons for many years, and is a creative writer who has published stories, poems and editorials in several newspapers and magazines, including *What If!*, *Wet Ink* and *Toronto Star*.

A passionate community volunteer, Shara has made notable contributions at the New Conservatory of Music, Scarborough General Hospital, Vedic Cultural Centre, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Golden Age and Last Lap Lime.

### **RICHARD SUKHDEO**

Richard Sukhdeo is a 17-year-old Grade 12 honours (AP) student at Vaughan Secondary School (VSS) in Thornhill, and a licensed pilot who plans to pursue a career as an Aerospace Engineer and Commercial Pilot.

An active member of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets (RCAC) since 2004, Richard holds the second highest rank of Warrant Officer Second Class and is Deputy Squadron Commander of over 150 cadets. He was chosen as one of the select few to earn a scholarship to acquire his Glider Pilot Licence as well as a secondary scholarship to obtain his Private Pilot Licence.

At the age of 11 Richard raised \$234.00 for the Canadian Cancer Society by creating a book of stories which he sold to his peers. At 12, he became the first student in his school's history to be selected as one of 20 Legislative Pages across Ontario to serve in the Legislative Chamber of the Ontario Provincial Parliament in Toronto.

Richard has been a member of the Vaughan Senior Wind Ensemble since 2006, holding the position of saxophone section head for the last two years. Pride in his



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Guyanese heritage led him to learn to play the tabla and to volunteer as a teaching assistant of Hindi with the York Region District School Board's International Languages program.

Richard is the Grade 12 student representative and an executive member of the VSS Student Activity Council. Among his many awards are the *Air Force Association of Canada Pilot Achievement Award*; the *Royal Canadian Legion Medal of Excellence* for outstanding service, citizenship and comradeship; and the *Duke of Edinburgh's Young Canadian Challenge Silver Award*.

### **CHRISTOPHER SALEEM**

18-year-old Christopher Saleem attends Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School in Markham, Ontario and is interested in pursuing a career in the field of Medical Technology.

Towards this end, for the last two summers Christopher has volunteered in a doctor's office at a chronic pain clinic. In his role as physician's assistant and clerical assistant, he gained valuable experience in his chosen discipline while managing excellent interactions both with the staff and with a potentially difficult patient clientele.

A well-rounded individual, Christopher is active in sports, interested in technology, and has taken leadership training. He enjoys helping people of all ages, having volunteered within his high school and at Community Living—an organization that advocates for people with intellectual disabilities to be fully included in all aspects of community life.

The eldest of three children of James and Annie Saleem, Christopher's determination and perseverance has allowed him to embrace his learning disability and prove that anyone can succeed if they only try hard enough.