

Stakeholders, experts meet to review plan

...as mountain chicken depletion continues

By Rudy Joseph Jr

Major stakeholders and regional amphibian experts met at the Holy Redeemer Retreat House this week to discuss plans which would protect the mountain chicken or crapaud, against the threat of chytridiomycosis, which is caused by the chytrid fungus.

This is the second of two regional workshops funded in part under the Darwin Initiative of the United Kingdom Government, as part of a project, "Addressing a Threat to Caribbean Amphibians: Capacity Building in Dominica".

The first was held in Dominica in March 2006 and was designed to raise awareness among wildlife personnel from the Caribbean on the region's amphibian fauna and the chytrid disease, and to begin discussion on designing a strategic management plan to combat this disease.

The second workshop was intended to review work done over the last two years, and also review the draft of a regional management plan to combat the disease with a view to adoption of the plan. While the project focuses on Dominican amphibians, it also highlights the need for regional action to halt the spread of the disease among the amphibian populations in the region.

Participants were from St. Kitts/Nevis, Montserrat, Guadeloupe, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Grenada, Trinidad, the US Virgin Islands and the host country Dominica.

Speaking on behalf of the Minister for Agriculture at the opening ceremony of the International Workshop on Prevention of Chytrid Spread and Early Surveillance Measures, Minister for Economic Planning and Urban Renewal Julius



MOUNTAIN CHICKEN

Timothy explained that urgent action is needed to protect one of the country's most prized possessions.

"We are very concerned about the occurrence of the chytrid fungus and the presence of the disease among our amphibian population...it has not only destroyed and threatened the survival fortunes of our mountain chicken but has also indicated to us that something strange is occurring in the environment," he noted.

Timothy noted that the mountain chicken plays a significant role in the balance of nature and their survival is therefore essential to the environment and other creatures. "...they also assist in keeping down the populations of insects and other pests that may cause damage to agricultural produce," Timothy also stated.

Timothy explained the severity of the situation and has slightly diminished

since the initial outbreak and urged the public to come on board in order to preserve the presence of the crapaud on island.

"It is estimated that between 2003 and 2004, Dominica's population of mountain chicken had declined by some 80%... since then, the government of Dominica has taken steps to safeguard the remaining mountain chicken population from further exploitation and further risk of imported sources of infection," he stated.

"A total and indefinite ban on the hunting of the mountain chicken was imposed and the importation of frogs or frog meat into Dominica has also been banned...between the period of diagnosis of the disease on island and present, many developments have occurred," the Minister added.

He praised the officers at the Division of Forestry, Wildlife and Parks for their dedica-

tion to the prevention of the Crapaud's extinction and their work since the threat was realised over five years ago.

"Once the alarm was sounded about the devastating disease affecting the amphibians, the Forestry and Wildlife Division rose to the challenge and set plans in motion to determine the scale of the problem...the script was written and the stage was set for what we are presently doing," he noted.

"With the assistance of the Veterinary Unit of the division of Agriculture, and together with the able assistance of a number of concerned nationals, the field investigations began...samples of dying and dead animals were collected and were even



JULIUS TIMOTHY

brought in by members of the public," Timothy added.

Chytridiomycosis is an infectious disease that affects amphibians worldwide. It is caused by the Chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*), a fungus capable of causing sporadic deaths in some amphibian popula-

tions and 100% mortality in others.

The disease has been implicated in the mass die-offs and species extinctions of frogs in the past 15 years, but its origin and its true impact on populations remain uncertain and are under investigation.

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

Commonwealth of Dominica
Suit No. 074 of 1999

BETWEEN

DOMINICA AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIAL
AND DEVELOPMENT BANK

PLAINTIFF

AND

WYNANT RYAN
AND DANIEL RYAN

1ST DEFENDANT
2ND DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO FIX A NEW DATE OF SALE AND TO INCREASE THE UPSET PRICE

The Plaintiff, The Dominica Agricultural Industrial and Development Bank, of Charles Avenue, Goodwill, Commonwealth of Dominica applies to the Court for an order that:-

The upset price be increased, a new date of sale be fixed and adjusting the announcement of sale and the mode of publication thereof for the portion of land known as Bungalow No. 2 Lot 93 situated in the Bath Estate Housing Scheme (U.W.C.H.) in the parish of St. George containing 2,880 square feet and bounded as follows:- North-West: Remainder of Bath Estate; North-East: Remainder of Bath Estate; South: Lots 218, 219 and 220; South-West: Lots 89 & 90 and held in Certificate of Title in favour of DANIEL E. RYAN registered in Book Y5 Folio 70 in accordance with section 95 of the Title by Registration Act Chapter 56:50.

A draft Order is attached herewith.

The grounds of the application are:

1. That on the 17th day of December, 2007 the court settled the articles of sale in this matter and set a date for sale for 14th day of February, 2008.
2. On the 14th day of February, 2008 at the plaintiff's request the registrar adjourned the auction sine die.
3. The claimant has obtained a new valuation which states the Market Value of the property as \$89,880.00.

[An affidavit in support accompanies this application].

Dated this day of , 2008.

PREVOST & WILLIAMS
SOLICITORS FOR THE PLAINTIFF

NOTICE

This application will be heard by the judge in Chambers/Masters on the 10th day of April, 2008 at 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon at the High Court of Justice, Bay Front, Roseau.

The judge in Chambers/Master will deal with this application by granting the relief prayed for in this notice.

The Court Office is at Dame Eugenia Charles Boulevard, Bay Front, Roseau. Telephone number 448-2401 Ext. 3110, Fax: 448-7400. The office is open between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Mondays and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays to Friday except on public holidays and court holidays.

Weekend M@d... Weekend M@d...

Thank you, Dr Fadipe

Dear Editor,

I want to thank Dr. Fadipe and his well disciplined and humane staff for having my wife alive today. She had spent a month under treatment elsewhere and was dying with a very large and deep bed sore. I then hastily called Dr. Fadipe and took her to the Justin Fadipe Centre at Mero. Suddenly, after four days in the centre, a miracle happened. Lazarus had risen from the dead due to the well trained and dedicated staff of that centre, including Nurse Jaguba and Mrs. Erin Pendenque. After eight months in the centre, my wife is now back home, enjoying life once more. I just cannot find words to express our gratitude to Dr. Fadipe and his wonderful staff. And may God bless you all and the Fadipe Centre.

Bryson J. Louis