



ST. LUCIA NATIONAL TRUST

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**Patron: Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy
Governor General of St. Lucia**

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PRESS RELEASE

Morne Pavillon Donation: A Green Space with a rich history for all to enjoy

Morne Pavillon, the second highest point at Cap Estate, has been donated to the Saint Lucia National Trust for the benefit of all the citizens of Saint Lucia. Through the generosity of Mr. Christopher Lutz of Cambridge, Massachusetts, this valuable, twenty-two acre site formerly known as Pointe du Cap was transferred through The Nature Conservancy to the Trust on 21st December 2010. Mr. Lutz's stipulation for the Nature Reserve with its heritage assets is that it remains in its natural state in perpetuity for the enjoyment of Saint Lucian residents and visitors. The Development Control Authority has approved in principle the Management Plan for the property.

“The Saint Lucia National Trust is extremely pleased with this donation,” said Director Bishnu Tulsie. “As the guardian of the country's patrimony we are very concerned about the rapid loss of green space in the north of the island and impacts this may have on the landscape in terms of aesthetics, loss of biodiversity and the impacts of extreme weather events”.

Former Wildlife Officer in the Forestry Department, Mr. Donald Anthony observed twenty-two species of birds on the site. The area is home to three endemic bird species: the St. Lucia Pewee, St. Lucia Oriole and St. Lucia Warbler. He also identified fifty-one species of plants. The dominant tree species are White Cedar, Gommier Modi, Ti Bonm, Bwa Lanmowi, Campeche and Bwa Flambeau.

Mr. Lutz's father, Herbert purchased the land in 1966 from Cap Estate. Vegetation covers the concrete ruins of his house today. He stopped construction in 1969 because his building materials were continually being stolen. Christopher inherited the property in 1986. The land laid dormant until 2004 when he started the process to preserve some of Cap Estate as green space. He decided never to develop the property after the large Mount du Cap development (41 condominiums and 16 luxury homes) was approved on adjacent lands.

This preserved green space has deep roots in Saint Lucia history. The flag of the first Governor of Saint Lucia, Baron de Longueville, was flown from Morne Pavillon in the mid 1700s when his official residence was at Cap Estate, according to extensive research conducted by Robert Devaux, OBE, former director of the Saint Lucia National Trust.



According to Mr. Devaux's research, during the Second World War German U-boats attacked several Caribbean ports. Martinique and other French departments were under the Vichy Government, and the US Naval Air Station at Reduit needed military protection. Cap Estate was selected for the Coastal Battery manned by the US Army. Two 155 mm cannons on Panama mounts were installed on Morne Pavillon with a compliment of 200 artillerymen. Today the two cannon emplacements, a machine gun nest, a small grave, and pillars from other structures remain.

Under the leadership of Mr. Devaux, other military remains have been found and a ridge trail developed. "The value of this property lies not only in its historic significance, but in its relatively large wilderness area," said Mr. Devaux. "It will act as an oasis for the increasingly threatened wildlife and continuing loss of habitat". Mr. Devaux's hiking trail opens up panoramic views of the northern part of Saint Lucia and Martinique to the north.

The Youth Arm of the Trust has adopted the site and, now that the transfer is complete, will take on its further development with guidance from Mr. Devaux. Mr. Mark Waters, the developer of Mount Du Cap, also supported the donation and development of the site and is now maintaining the grave of Lieutenant Colonel John Harrison which borders the site. Lt. Col. Harrison purchased Cap Estate in 1960 and turned it into a cattle ranch and residential development.



Work on this donation started almost eight years ago through the efforts of Mr. Geoffrey Jennings Clark, Mr. Devaux, and Rip and Julie Van Camp who purchased their property at Cap Estate in 1968. The Friends of Morne Pavillon, comprising residents and other persons concerned about the loss of green space in Cap Estate, has raised funds and donated their time to help with the upkeep of the site.

A formal dedication and acceptance of Morne Pavillon is planned for March 23, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. on the site. For more information about Morne Pavillon please contact Karetta Crooks Charles, Communications & Advocacy Officer, Saint Lucia National Trust 452-5005.