

Visit to Her Excellency's Residence

Southern Membership Group – St. Lucia National Trust

30th May 2009

On Saturday 30th May 2009, the Southern Membership Group of the St. Lucia National Trust visited the Governor General's museum and residence. Representatives of the National Trust Council along with a number of secondary school teachers and students from the South accompanied the Southern Membership Group on this one of a kind visit.



Upon arrival at Her Excellency's residence, a tour guide gave a brief history on the grounds before leading everyone to Le Pavillion Royal Museum.

The museum contained a wide range of historical state, military, and cultural artifacts as well as prestigious collections of ornaments and cutlery used by previous governors. Despite the tour guide's informative lectures, participants were eager to ask many questions throughout the tour.

Moving on from the museum the group was ushered outside to take a walk around the well maintained and picturesque garden including a number of national plants and trees - all planted by members of the Royal family.

From the gardens, the group moved on to the dining hall, where they were welcomed by walls adorned with photographs and artwork representing St. Lucian life and culture, including scenes of Anse La Raye fish fest and a picture of a Choiseul carnival queen in action.



To end the tour, the group assembled in the main living area in time for Her Excellency's arrival. As she entered the room with her courteous warm smile, she was very interested in finding out what the younger students had learnt throughout the tour, before engaging the older participants in a discussion on the significance of their visit.

The group continued to ask Her Excellency questions about her residence but not before inviting her on future National Trust membership activities – to which she expressed interest in, as long as there was not too much walking involved. An appreciation card along with a framed collage of Southern Membership Group events

and activities was presented to Her Excellency, which she accepted with her warmest gratitude. The group was then invited to join Her Excellency in having some light refreshments on the balcony.

Overall, the tour was a great success and the group left the grounds with a large amount of information on the historic and cultural assets of the Government house. A visit most enjoyed by all.