

MTW INSIDER

Volume 3 Issue 54
17/11/2008

A weekly news brief prepared by the PR Unit, MTW

A contract in the amount of US\$122M was signed between the Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ) and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines on Friday, November 7, 2008 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.

The contract is expected to see Royal Caribbean guaranteeing 400,000 visits to Falmouth over the next twenty years. Under this contract, work is expected to be done on the harbour and a marina to facilitate modern cruise liners as well as a ship terminal. Other facets of the contract include the construction of the actual piers, the raising of areas to the shoreline as well as the construction of terminal, bus and taxi areas. Work has already begun on the various facilities and is expected to be completely by 2010.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Prime Minister Bruce Golding noted that the signing was important for three main reasons. These he listed as:

1. Falmouth's accommodation of Royal Caribbean's Genesis type vessel, the largest cruise ship in the world.
2. Implications for the Jamaican tourist industry and more specifically the cruise shipping business. As a result, he said, craft workers, attractions etc, will provide more opportunities for more Jamaicans to become involved in the tourism industry. The PM used the opportunity to announce that policy issues to facilitate casino gambling have been signed off on so that they would reach parliament by the end of November. Two casino licences – one for western Falmouth and the other eastern Falmouth will be granted. The PM also noted that the Reynolds Pier will be brought on board with a view to expanding the cruise facility in the Ocho Rios area.
3. It will be a catalyst behind the re-development of Falmouth. In doing this, things such as the town's Georgian architecture, will be taken into consideration.

BOGUE ROAD CONTRACT SIGNED

Help is coming for the Bogue Road in MoBay.

A contract in the amount of J\$1.4B was signed on November 14, 2008 with Surrey Paving and Aggregate Limited to effect long-awaited improvements to the problem-plagued Bogue main road, one of the main entrance points for traffic from the island's south coast into Montego Bay.

The work, which will be effected under Segment 1a of the North Coast Highway Improvement Project, will see the dualisation of the roadway between Reading and Fairview which has for years been the source of time-consuming traffic snarls.

During the period of the work, alternative routes and other temporary measures are to be identified in short order so that motorists will not be unduly inconvenienced by the work.

ROAD CRASH VICTIMS REMEMBERED

Sunday, November 16, was commemorated as World Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims. To mark its observance, a church service was held at the Saxthorpe Methodist Church.

The theme for the day's observance was 'Have a Heart, Make Peace in Traffic' while the theme song was 'Let there be peace on Earth'.

The observance of this day was initiated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005 and will provide the opportunity for the public to reflect on the victims of road crashes.

MAJ STAFF MEMBER EXCELLS AT UNIVERSITY

The Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ) and by extension the Ministry of Transport and Works is very proud of Carolyn Graham who excelled in her just completed Masters Degree at the World Maritime University in Sweden.

She specialised in maritime education and training. Her exemplary performance gained for her a distinction and with that the PIERRE LEONARD prize for the top female student. This is an award given by the French Friends of the University.

ROAD CLOSED

The roadway from Papine to Bull Bay is blocked. Alternative route is Bull Bay through Harbour View