

A scenic view of a rocky coastline. The foreground shows dark, jagged rocks. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, with white foam from waves crashing against the rocks. The sky is a deep blue, filled with scattered white clouds. In the distance, a line of green trees marks the horizon.

The Rainbow Times

Number 29 • Winter 2020-21

**Rainbow Bay Property Owners Association,
Eleuthera, Bahamas • Founded 1979**



The Rainbow Times

*Newsletter of the Rainbow Bay
Property Owners Association*

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Photo by Edgardo Mune.

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President's Letter



Here it is, December already (as I write this). Last year at this time, my wife and I were preparing to return to Eleuthera and host a pre-Christmas party. Wish we could say that was happening again.

We did get down to the island around the third week of October and stayed for four weeks. My house has never been buttoned up for as long, having been closed and prepped for hurricane season in the first week of April. Fortunately, it weathered the season well and behaved almost normally once we powered back up. One thing I have learned, however, is to keep the car battery on a trickle charger. Dead batteries were my biggest challenge.

Covid Cometh and Goeth

Bahamas rules in October required a Covid test no more than five days before arriving and a medical visa, followed by a fourteen-day quarantine. Not long after we arrived the rules changed. Arrivals had to get the Covid test, but also purchase the medical visa. The reason, under what became the "new" rules, was that you needed a test after you'd been in Eleuthera four days. The fee for the medical covered the cost of the test. I believe that the last time I looked the cost of the medical visa was \$60.

One of our neighbors arrived in late August and stayed until mid-November (under the "old" rules). He was telephoned every day of the fourteen-day quarantine to check on his health. After that he was "released." Our experience was only slightly different. We processed through Governor's Harbor Airport, where the entire staff were professional and courteous. We were out the door in about ten minutes. We received calls for only three days of the fourteen. Another Rainbow resident arrived after the "new" rules took effect. After four days she drove to the clinic in Palmetto Point and took the test with no problems.

Then came special "Eleuthera rules": lockdowns on weekends and 6pm curfews. I had two reports of booked rentals that were immediately cancelled once the word got out. No surprise there. As of right now, the weekend lockdowns have been lifted and the curfew changed to 10pm.

As for restaurants, I didn't see a lot open, though many have opened since. With the 6pm curfew there was no night-life and no restaurant business. The Rainbow Inn did open in December, along with La Bougainvillea and "1648" at French Leave. The Sunset Inn in Governor's Harbour appeared to be open when we drove by. Of course, this was only during the day. "Billy's and Brenda's" was open as usual, LeoRose was not.

Rainbow Bay: The Work Goes On

What about Rainbow Bay? Well, the fill in the road around the "Traj Mahal" did the trick (as did the new roof). You can actually drop off trash after rain and not step into a lake. The vegetative growth on both sides of many of the roads is closing in. Our brush cutter, so often asked to cope with the bush, gave up the ghost, and finding a replacement is proving very hard. We may have to hire this work out. We notice that many absent homeowners are not having their lawns maintained. Eleuthera has had an uncommonly wet year and growth is rampant. I feel this leads to increased tendency for a break-in, to say nothing of the appearance of the property. This is pretty ➔

common as I drive around Rainbow Bay with Matt Hoopes, and it gives the whole area a shoddy appearance.

Many probably know that for the last couple of years the Rainbow Bay Property Owners Association has been involved in a lawsuit. The issue is still open, and since both sides are part of our community, I will not discuss it here. I can report only that testimony has been completed, written and oral arguments have been made, and the court's decision will be rendered sometime in the future. I can say also that expenditures have been purposely conservative because of this situation as well as the Covid experience, which partially explains the lack of progress on the badly need roadwork.

Board Meetings and the March AGM

Before convening board meetings, we draft a formal agenda and usually the items for discussion, preceding a vote up or down from elected board members. My point is that if you have an issue you want placed on the agenda, please contact any one of us (list opposite). State your topic with a brief discussion and your proposal for action. As to the March Annual General Meeting, we have opted for an online Zoom meeting, and I will announce details by email and on Facebook (search for "Rainbow Bay Homeowners Group"). Attendance is in question, since many homeowners we normally see arriving this time of year currently have no plans to come to the island.

Expect to see more information soon regarding the AGM. To date I have sent two mass emails. If you received at least one of them, you are on my list. If you haven't, email me if you want to be added: terryclark.florida@yahoo.com.

Lighthouse Point and Medi-Vac Advice

My wife and I decided to go and see Lighthouse Point. We had been there two years ago, but wanted to see if Disney had started any of the rumored work. The road was as bad as it has always been. You can imagine with little traffic how the vegetation has grown on each side of the road. The entire site looked untouched and as pristine as ever. We actually ran into real tourists and counted four cars with rental tags. No sign of any work. When you get back to Eleuthera, take a trip to see it one more time.

John Watts, a Rainbow Bay homeowner, recently prevailed upon me to put out a piece of advice. Last Spring, his wife Jean suffered a stroke and had to be air-evacuated to Nassau. They are still there and she is still suffering after-effects and under 24/7 care. John's message is to recommend that you obtain some sort of coverage to cover the cost of an air evacuation should it be needed. This can run into thousands of dollars. I have done some research and recommend you visit the following: www.medairservices.com. This is not the first occasion I have heard of a resident needing sudden evacuation for medical needs.

Back on the Island

We returned to Eleuthera in early January for about six weeks to get of lot unfinished Rainbow Bay work completed. I will return the second week of March for the AGM, if there is one. If I am

there and the garage door is open, that means I am open for business. We are on Ocean Drive just north of the Traj Mahal.

You will find a prominent blue sign by the road proclaiming our yellow house to be "Lutra Gold." All the best...



↑ 2019 AGM party: Terry, Kristi Klein, Matt Hoopes. ↓ Working at Nentwig Park: Max Brave, Barbara Fischl, Seneque Meme.



Terry Clark

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Changes of Address

Please notify our Accounts Manager, Vicki Collins, if you relocate or change your RBPOA mailing address: vickicollins2013@yahoo.com

Calendar 2021

March 20, 12 noon EDT, 9am WDT, 4pm UTC:
Annual General Meeting
(by Zoom-details to be announced by email)

Get Your Rainbow Times by Email:

110 members receive *The Rainbow Times* (and hurricane alerts) by email as a .pdf, saving us \$200 per year. Triple that would save plenty. If you'd like your copy by email, notify richard@langworth.name. Your copy will arrive six weeks before print copies. Your email address will not be passed to anyone, nor used for any other purpose.

Available Again!

Rainbow Rising, a history of Rainbow Bay, \$35.
Laminated color maps of Rainbow Bay from the original developer's brochure, \$30. Contact Matt Hoopes (page opposite).

Emergency Numbers

Police

- Governors Harbour: 911, 919, 332-2111 or 332-2117.
- Hatchet Bay: 335-0086

Clinics

- James Cistern: Mon-Wed, 9am-2pm.
- Hatchet Bay: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm, 335-0091.
- Resident nurse: 335-0620.



What's Happening



A sight we all know well: Rainbow Bay from the air. (Photo by Edgardo Mune)

HOW THINGS ARE NOW

Life is getting back to normal (or maybe new-normal) on Eleuthera. The only requirements now (mid-January) are that one wear a mask in public, in stores and offices, and social-distance while waiting in lines. Some stores take your temperature prior to entering. All stores and businesses require use of hand sanitizers. There is an evening curfew of 10pm daily.

Most government offices and banks have shortened business hours, but are now open. The Haynes Library in Governor's Harbour is open, while limiting

numbers and the length of stay. Almost all the restaurants and bars are now open, and allow indoor dining and drinking. All outdoor activities are now permitted—beaches are open, boating and fishing allowed. There are a lot of self-drive cars on the roads and tourists are visible everywhere.

While it doesn't appear that there will be changes in the present conditions and requirements, it would be wise to check the following websites prior to making final travel plans: healthvisa@bahamas.com and <https://travel.gov.bs/international>.

OLD CAPE ELEUTHERA: <https://bit.ly/3i3qSN4>

A reader sends us to this historic video of the original development at Powell Point, Cape Eleuthera. In the early 1970s the very tip of Cape Eleuthera peninsula was a favored playground of the Good and the Great, with nearby Rock Sound providing a convenient airstrip that accommodated planes flying directly to and from New York. There was a championship golf course designed by Robert von Haggee and Bruce Devlin that rivaled Pebble Beach. And Billy Jean King was the visiting tennis pro.

HOLIDAY CHEER

Over the holidays, the board donated \$250 in their personal funds to a food drive that included churches in James Cistern. In December I met with Rev. Orlando Thompson and his wife Clarice, expressing how happy we were to contribute to this worthy cause.

Rainbow's James Ryder assisted Gregory Town in setting up Christmas decorations, which were funded by many local residents and businesses. James helped with decorations and electrical work, while a local woodworker made a sleigh pulled by two seahorses!

Local churches and charities always need our support, and we take the liberty of providing contacts. There is a place to leave a

TOMMY'S NEW OLD TRUCK

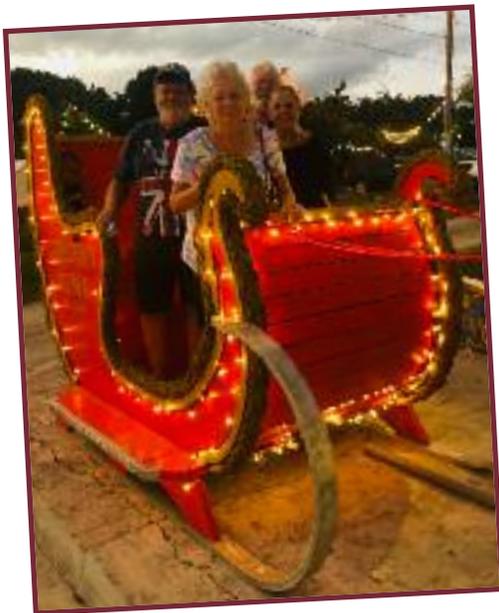


Recently our utility truck failed inspection by the Road Traffic Department because of bald tires, cracked windshield and rusted body. Undaunted, Rainbow Maintenance Manager Tommy Pinder went into action. Traveling the island looking for parts, he found an identical truck in a northern junkyard. The junk truck

had practically new tires—Tommy had priced new ones at \$250 each—so he bought the junker for \$400. He spent \$200 getting parts cut and welded to our truck, and swapped windshields. He had blue Rustoleum paint in his shop and found a talented gentleman who painted the truck by brush. The entire restoration cost \$900—\$100 less than four new tires alone! Our 38-year-old truck will roll on for another 38 years. Once again, our appreciation goes out to our hard working, skillful, and money-saving Maintenance Manager Tommy Pinder. —Matt Hoopes ❖

check at the Methodist Church in JC, but of course you have to be on the island to deliver these. If you are so inclined, here are some contacts for more information: Rev. Orlando Thompson, 242-470-4991. Mrs. Clarice Thompson 242-422-9448; Roderick Pinder, 242-808-3131 or 305-748-4878.

—Rosie Graham ❖



RAINBOW ENCOUNTERS WITH 007

“Suddenly the Red Phone at Regent’s Park gives its loud, distinctive jangle. ‘At once, please, James. Special from M. Crash-dive and ultra-hush. If you’ve got any dates for the next few weeks, better cancel them. You’ll be off tonight.’”

Sean Connery was a Scottish separatist and a bit of an eccentric, but the best James Bond ever, and withal, everybody said, a good guy.

My friend Garry, who runs a fleet of London private cars, occasionally drove him. One night during the screening of *Indiana Jones* he chauffeured Sean Connery, Harrison Ford and screenwriter George Lucas out for a night on the town. Garry was in stitches behind the wheel, listening to each tell the other two how far “past it” they were getting.

Connery lived in posh Lyford Cay, Nassau. He was tetchy with visitors, who were always trying to see him. Appropriately, he chose to live where he filmed many escapades romancing lovelies while fighting sharks, frogmen, tarantulas, ’cudas, gorgeous assassins and diabolical masterminds. —RML



Alas both lost in 2020: Sean Connery with Honor Blackman (Pussy Galore) in *Goldfinger*, 1964.

A Rainbow Bay Memory, by Stew Morrison

Sean Connery loved a little bistro outside of Lyford Cay. The restaurant belonged to the sister of a good friend. We went there often. One night we had returned from a northern fishing trip. We brought back salmon, some of which was featured on the menu. Seated a couple of tables over were Connery and his wife Micheline, feasting on our fish.

The waitress, my friend’s niece, gestured toward us, telling Sean we were the ones who had actually caught the salmon. As he was leaving he stopped at our table to thank us.

Another friend who was at the table but had not been on the fishing trip stood up, shook hands with Mr. Connery and said, “You’re welcome!” We of course gave our friend action for having taken credit for fish-catching he had no part of. He said he didn’t care what we thought—it was one of the highlights of his life. He tells the story of shaking Sean Connery’s hand quite often.

For a remembrance of Connery, the “Thunderball Grotto” on Exuma, and Bond’s greatest cars, see: richardlangworth.com/bond-connery. ❖

CHRISTMAS AT GREGORY TOWN:

Rainbow’s James Ryder helped with lights and transformers for these fine Christmas displays at Gregory Town, a cheery note in the glum season of 2020. Locals and businesses supported the effort, ensuring a happy holiday for residents and visitors alike.



Rainbow Neighbo(u)rs

BY TERI BETHEL

Andrew and Ashley Hall

Some years ago, Nassau native Ashley Hall was on her way to Eleuthera, the island of freedom, to take up a new post as a teacher in the south with the Ministry of Education. Those were exciting but bittersweet weeks. In Nassau, Ashley had just been engaged to the love of her life, Andrew, and they were eager to wed. Not long after, though at the time it felt like an eternity, Andrew's transfer to Eleuthera was approved. The young, determined, and ambitious Bahamas Power & Light (BPL) mechanic would at long last be with Ashley. Andrew moved so swiftly to Eleuthera that we're not sure if he caught the plane over, or if the plane caught him.

Once settled in their new posts, the couple fell in love with the island and its people and decided to make Eleuthera their home. It offered better opportunities for homeowners, and a much improved quality of life. After due diligence in searching for the ideal property, they found the perfect multi-family home in Rainbow Bay, with unobstructed, breathtaking views of the ocean and the Lucayan Sea on the island's western side.

Both Andrew and Ashley are hands-on, industrious people who love to put their time to good use. While Andrew is quick to take on any project around his home and property, he is a DIYer at heart. Ashley meanwhile is artistic and

lends her creativity to personalizing mugs and t-shirts for special occasions. She loves the kitchen and can often be found perfecting delightful new recipes to satisfy anyone's sweet tooth.



This friendly and caring couple is community-minded. They are members of the Rotary Club of Eleuthera and its partner, Rotaract.

Once settled, Andrew and Ashley became active in a church whose heart is geared towards serving the community through youth development, feeding and clothing outreaches, and much more.

Jane-Michele Bethel

Though a new face to many in the area, Jane-Michele is in no way a stranger to the Rainbow Bay community. She has visited several times with a former resident, her friend Ruth Saunders, in her exquisite island home overlooking our beautiful waters. But Jane-Michele is one transplant who has traveled and experienced many cultures as a child and adult, studying and working abroad for a number of years. So she knows a great community when she sees one.

Initially an Orthoptist, upon returning to The Bahamas she quickly found her place in management and real estate. A seasoned broker, Jane-Michele's savvy for the simple yet beautiful aspects of island living was undoubtedly passed down



from her mother, the late Joan Bethel, a British native who fell in love with Jane-Michele's father, attorney Paul Bethel, also deceased. Paul, a gifted singer, was the brother of our cultural icon, the late E. Clement Bethel, composer, pianist, choral director, and the first Director of Culture in The Bahamas. After her husband's passing, Joan purchased her piece of the rock in the Current. There she transformed her house into a well-loved native villa, where her family gathered for special occasions. One item of interest discovered by Jane-Michele after securing her home here was to find that her father was a director on the first Rainbow Bay Association board.

Of all the places in the world she has traveled to and lived in, Jane-Michele wouldn't hesitate to tell you why she chose to reside in Rainbow Bay. Apart from the spectacular sea view coupled with the refreshing breeze that pours through her home, she is tickled by the seemingly constant serenading birds that flit around her property daily.

If that wasn't enough, Jane-Michele is convinced that the island has the most beautiful sunrises she has ever seen. As a realtor, she knows that location is vital. That's why she loves being

minutes away from the beaches, close to grocery stores, and sandwiched between two airports, yet still remote enough to enjoy her privacy. But most of all, Jane-Michele appreciates living among the friendly, kind-hearted people of Eleuthera.

Teri Bethel lives and writes in Rainbow Bay. Contact her by email: terimonique@yahoo.com ❖

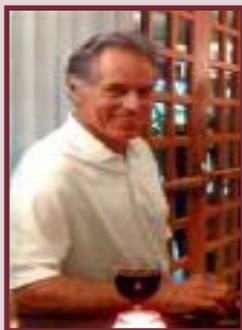
Perry Attfield: A Community "Thank You" for a Job Well Done!

BY MATT HOOPEs

After over seven years working with over fifty sets of building plans, our Building Control Officer Perry Attfield has retired. He helped residents adjust their plans to individual lot demands, offered knowledgeable advice when asked, and assisted owners on power needs with BP&L, water and sewage. Most importantly, he's welcomed new residents and made them feel at home in Rainbow Bay.

Most residents really don't know what the Building Control Officer's job entails. It means being available year round, arranging meetings with those planning to build, going over our permit application with the owners, explaining our building regulations, collecting back dues and permit fees, studying individual building plans, pointing out possible infractions and ways to avoid them, visiting lot sites with owners or builders, and making follow-up visits to check on the progress and clarify questions. It's a time-consuming job, but Perry has been devoted to it and never has avoided any difficulties that have arisen.

Perry took over the position at a time when Rainbow's "housing boom" was starting and organized a system for filing plans, permits and progress reports. Prior to his volunteering, the system was a hodgepodge operated by a few board members. It



worked well enough when there were only one or two new houses per year, but not after the "boom" began. Living in Rainbow year-round, Perry was able to oversee buildings that went up during the summer months too.

In one case the RBPOA board of directors voted unanimously to go to court to protect our right to regulate building requirements, as well as our ability to collect maintenance fees. The Supreme Court session did not occur until summer, when the president and most board members were off the island.

However, Perry, along with previous president Perry Pinder and this writer, traveled to Nassau to testify. The focus of the case was the right of the Association to set its own building regulations, so Perry, as Building Control Officer, was in contact with our lawyers frequently. He returned to Nassau to testify again, and was included in the final Zoom session when our hired building expert addressed the court. Perry also spent hours following up with our lawyers before they presented their final written appeal. The verdict will be handed down several months from now. Should we win the case, most of the credit will go to Perry Attfield for his hard work and determination.

Both Ron Nentwig's and Terry Clark's boards wish to join all Rainbow Bay residents in thanking Perry for his dedication to a very difficult job. ❖

Neighborhood Watch Update

Hope this finds everyone well. The neighborhood watch continues. We've seen some doors and windows open but overall, everything is good. Thanks to Sam and Rosie Graham for helping me out last year.

Please email or phone me if you wish to be put on the watch list. I drive by all properties but I do check the doors and do walk-arounds for residents who request it. Thanks, and let's have a great year. —James Ryder okislandman@gmail.com, telephone 242-470-7586 ❖

Great Blue Herons



Ardea herodias is a large wading bird in the heron family Ardeidae, common near the shores of open water and in wetlands over most of North and Central the

Caribbean.



Eleuthera herons are commonly seen wading for fish near the shallower shorelines

such as James's Cistern. Masterful hunters, they stand stock-still for long spells before a quick stab and a hearty sashimi lunch. There is a white variation but we believe the smaller white birds we see on Eleuthera are egrets.

The photographs are by Edgardo (Ed) Mune, who supplied our cover and page 4 photos, and more fine shots which will appear in later issues. RML ❖

ADVERTISEMENTS

\$100 for 1 year on website & newsletter. Contact Bobbi Updegraff, tel. 242-335-0698 (robtaupdegraff@me.com).

Please note: The Rainbow Times does not offer display advertising nor are we involved in classified ads. We simply pick up whatever is on the website at the time when producing a new issue.

Section A, Block 8, Lots 12-13

Twin Beach Road facing Atlantic. Generous 160' road frontage x 120' deep, sloping to 60' above sea level, fine 180° Atlantic view. Build your "green dream" island home. \$42,000 negotiable. Photos & details, Katy Nelson tel. 239-455-4284. (katytara3@protonmail.com) ❖



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PREFERRED PROPERTY OWNER:

Greetings from Rainbow Bay: Twenty Years Ago: Familiar Issues

The board has met several times on the island during the past year. Some of the matters we addressed were fire protection, the possibility of fire hydrant installation, continued problems with non-residents using the dumpster, a zoning issue involving a commercial zone, and new cabanas for the beach. The board also met with representatives of Batelco and a property owner interested in building a small hotel but in need of more phone lines. There are still occasional problems with water and building permits. However, most people understand that a review is necessary and that certain restrictions are in the best interest of all property owners.

Expenses for 2000 were about \$1800 below the previous year, since mowing and other regular maintenance are being hired out as needed without having more permanent employees. Road patching in 1998-99 has not held up, and Frank Gross is investigating a new process that appears more durable. We continue to locate previously unknown lot owners, and have met with a law firm regarding collections from large landowners in arrears. We expect to go ahead with this arrangement in the near future. We appreciate the help of real estate agents in notifying us of recent sales and new owners. —WINTER 2000-01 ❖

Times Past



The Rainbow Times, No. 9, Ten Years Ago: Nature's Rages

To Bahamians, a “rage” is a sub-hurricane tropical storm with high winds and terrific waves, which usually leaves ample evidence of its passing. We had one in November which effectively tore up Ocean Drive at Hidden Beach curve. John Kavali and John Watts were joined by Bob Kjerulf to clean up the mess. Bob, who owned a farm, is an excellent tractor driver and kindly offered his services. The photos show the damage, repair and work crew. There was a lot of rubble, the worst we’ve seen in sixteen years on the island.

If a cliff fell into the ocean and no one was there, would there be a splash? Sadly, Rainbow Bay’s shadiest, most secluded and smallest beach is no longer. Actually Little Twin Beach is still there, but unless you’re very agile and a skilled climber, you won’t be able to access it.

Sometime last autumn the long, overhanging cliff, which created grottoes for bathers to hide from the world, broke away and crashed down to the beach below. How many times have you laid on a towel in some coral cave like Little Twin Beach and looked up to wonder to yourself, “what if...?” Well, it finally happened. (2021: nature and a kindly sea have more or less put the sand back and you can still get there, gingerly.) —WINTER 2010-11 ❖