

SPORTS

Rev. Toppin utilizing sports event to showcase adelaide

Fr. Andrew Toppin has always been somewhat of a sports enthusiast. He is known to voice questions often regarding various national athletes and the different sports disciplines.

The good Minister of the Gospel is now based at St. James Anglican Church in Adelaide Village in the capital island of New Providence. Fr. Toppin coordinates the Sir Clement T. Maynard Fun Run Walk Cycle Event, "to bring together the members, friends and supporters of St. James for fellowship and fun" each year. In a significant way though, Fr. Toppin is indeed showcasing the sleeping village of Adelaide through the sports/social event.

There actually is the opportunity for the Sir Clement event to become one of the signature sports/social affairs in the country each year. It could well grow into a feature event that executives of both the Bahamas Association of Athletic Association (BAAA) and the Bahamas Cycling Federation would be very proud of.

The people of Adelaide should appreciate what Fr. Toppin has done. If they galvanize their efforts around Fr. Toppin, the event could expand into a whole weekend of related activities next year and ultimately, an entire week of sports, fun, social, Christian interactions in Adelaide. The village is one of the often forgotten communities of New Providence, similar to Gambier. Adelaide is said to be one of the old locations where the children and grandchildren of slaves congregated and established a residential community, centuries ago. There are historians who link the early settlers in the Bain and Grants town areas to Adelaide.

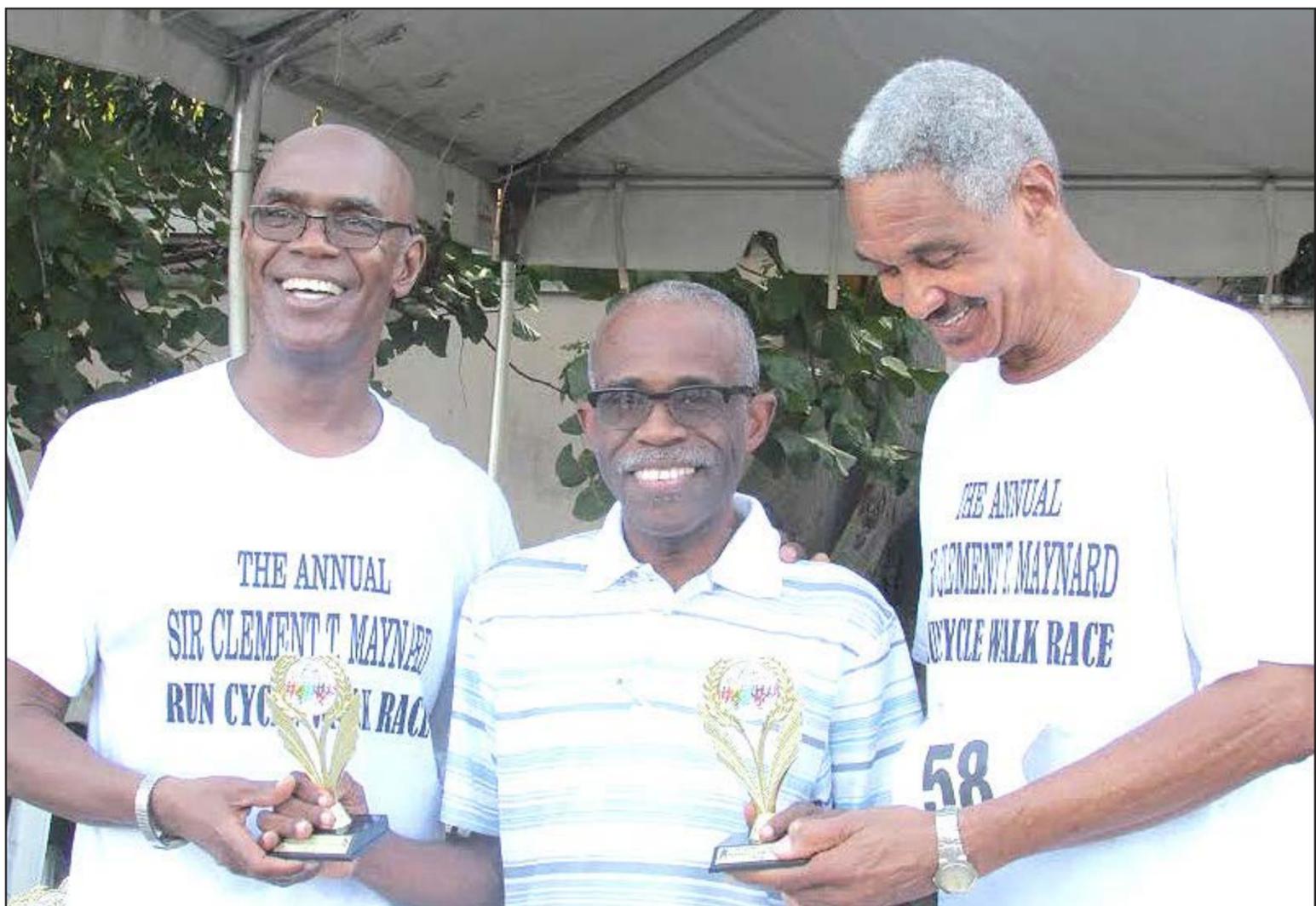
So, Fr. Toppin is highlighting a village with meaningful history. He has informed that the interest in the event is growing very much to his satisfaction. Originally scheduled for September 9, the Sir Clement run-walk-cycle combined race had to be postponed because of the threat of Hurricane Irma. On October 14 though, according to Fr. Toppin "the event attracted many persons."

Unfortunately, no cyclists showed up. Certainly this is a situation that can be remedied easily. Roy Colebrooke, a Bahamas Olympic Committee Vice president, is also the Bahamas Cycling Federation President. Fr. Toppin should make a call to Colebrooke and once that contact is established, the cycling segment of the Sir Clement event would definitely be a reality. Further, Fr. Toppin should register the event with the Ministry of Sports and the Olympic Committee.

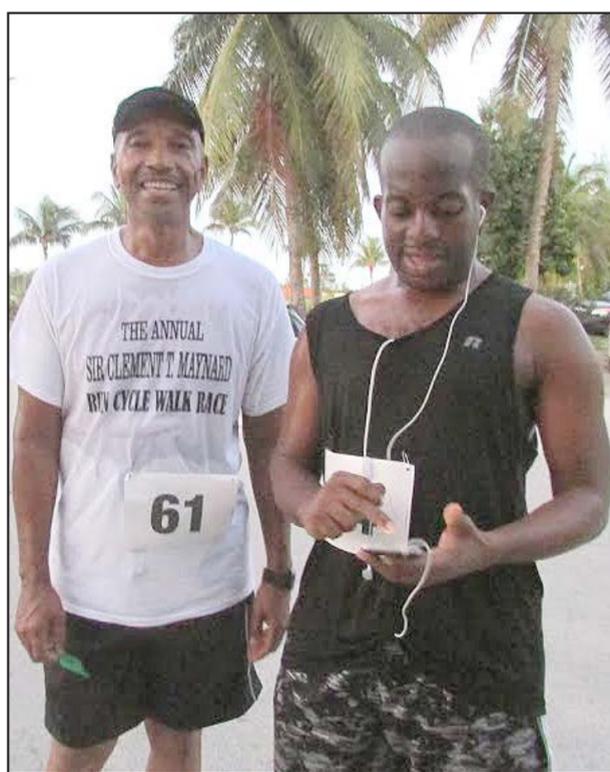
He has a product that fits very well into the expanding Bahamas Sports Brand. Veteran runner and former Olympian Leslie Miller, Fr. James Palacios and Allyson Maynard-Gibson were big winners last Saturday. No doubt if Fr. Toppin is assisted to maximize the potential of the Sir. Clement Fun Run Walk Cycle Race, many more celebrities, plus youthful competitive participants would no doubt be at the starting point for the 2018 event.

Fr. Toppin is to be congratulated. He has, with the event, injected enthusiasm into the Adelaide Village. The related sports federations are challenged to support his effort.

• (To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturup at sturup1504@gmail.com or on Whats App at 727-6363).



SIR CLEMENT SPORTS EVENT -- Fr. Andrew Toppin presents trophy to a participant following the event last Saturday in Adelaide Village. Accompanying photos show celebrities and other entrants in the annual Sir Clement Maynard Fun Run Walk Cycle Race.



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SPORTS SCOPE

By Fred Sturup

