Beyond the comedy of the show, I forgot the cold, chill and snow. You see, I cook perfect, perfect, perfect! And yes, that Rice that always goes well with Ackees and Saltfish, what would a home-cooked meal be like? Every little thing will be alright.

It is a subject you may read about in my book, The Ackee Tree. Or you may read about it in the book, The Mango Tree. The series of events leading to the importation and canning procedures of the first Ackees in Canada is documented in the book.

During my trips to the supermarket back in the days (1970s, 80s and 90s), there was an emergence of products that brought back memories of my native land of Jamaica. For example, Ackees, Pigeon Peas, Okra, Lime, Sorrel, Scotch Bonnet, Moro, Yam, Pimiento (Red Kidney Beans), without Ackees and Saltfish, what would a home-cooked meal be like? Every little thing will be alright.

The above is one example of articles related to Black history and his impact on our history. The writer of the above title about a subject that period.

Through reading your book, you can imagine that you were instrumental in prompting changes in laws and regulations not only in the food industry and Canada Customs, but also in the music industry via The Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to enact changes to enable me (and everyone nationally) to enjoy our cultural roots here in Canada.

I sincerely thank you on behalf of all immigrants in Canada.

At a recent gathering in our editorial office, we tried to assess the depth and positive impact of you in our lives. We then thought that it would be an unfair article to look at the situation from a Caribbean and black perspective only. Because we live in this multicultural society, we have friends from different nations and we all affect each other whether we like it or not.

Each nationality has its own ethnic music, television stations and radio programs and we all listen to the music of our homelands.

Let us stop for a moment and analyze the above statement.

We would like you to take a moment, sit back and think what Canada would be like if we did not have the option to listen to our own music. How someone with an Indian background would feel not being able to listen to Indian music? What would an Arab do without his rhythms?

Of course, because we are from the Caribbean and we know our music, what would we have done if there were no Canadian Radio Programming playing hits from Bob Marley, the Neville, Byron Lee and the Dragonaires, Kitchener, the Wailers, Derek Morgan, Bongo Banton or other artists that we are so familiar?

I told you to stop for a moment and think and I would like to relay to you a story that not too many people know.

This story takes you back to the late 1960s when an immigrant from Jamaica, Peter Goudas from Kalakma, Athens, Greece, arrived in this country. He opened up a Union Station with no money, no English, no friends, no home. He was to sell food on the benches outside of City Hall, Toronto, Ontario.

There was not a vast amount of immigration from different countries as it is today. The CRTC was not going to go into the details of his misfortune during that period. If you are interested you may read about his biography titled, The Immigrant. However, after several events of violence this Greek immigrant tried to understand and explore, in fact, understand is not the correct word, it would be more appropriate to say that he attempted to grasp the full meaning of the requirements of this particular customer.

The series of events that followed have been documented by him in this book. The Cow Foot Story is a 100% comedy and should you be able to obtain a copy, we are certain 100% sure that it would make you laugh.

The book is written in a comedy format and I’m sure some behind the scenes information related to the success or the failure of either hoisting everything, or succeeding thereby swaying and introducing the Ackee to the rest of the world.

Old timers would immediately recognize this verse since back then there were only two Caribbean Clubs in Canada, The 813 Club and The Room On The Top.

Mr. Goudas used the facilities and introduced all the ethnic foods from the different nationalities. He celebrated different events for the different cultures including all his Christmas parties for the children of all nationalities.

His thirst for learning led him to find the rest of the world. As a gentleman explains that no one was able to sit down and listen to the music at the Club under the nickname of Mr. Whoo. There were no musicians in the Caribbean that did not know who Mr. Whoo at the time because they all knew him by sight and asked him to play and introduced them to his crowd.

On the other hand, he knew all the musicians and record producers. He possessed a huge library of music. This was the pre-CR era. Music was recorded on vinyl discs during this period.

Looking and listening to them led him to think one day that it would be a good idea to throw the little bit of time that he had left during the day and on the weekend to buy time on the Radio Stations CHIC and CHUL. Therefore, he hired the best of the best to be the disc jockey (DJ) and play the music at the Club. He asked them.

Are you an immigrant like us? Can you imagine, all of us in the Caribbean, particularly Jamaica, we know our Ackee.

Try now to think and explain to a non-Jamaican about the Ackee, what it looks like and what it tastes like.

The series of events leading to the importation and canning procedures of the first Ackees in Canada are perfectly portrayed in his book, The Ackee Tree.

The music and the selection of the music was his baby. The music was recorded on vinyl discs during this period.

We have incorporated several procedures of the first Ackees through the CRTC to enact the ruling and allow the Cow Foot to be sold on the open market along with some restrictions, which are documented in the book.

The second example of events is exhibited through his writings in the book titled, The Mango Tree.

Within the book, he portrays humour with how the first mangoes arrived and were sold in Canada.

Needless to say, the importation of the mango led to a field of other fruits, vegetables and provisions such as, dasheen bush, eddoes, Negro yam, coco, cho cho, etc.

The series of events at the time led to doors being slammed in his face.

This man did not give up on the idea because he was a visionary. He continued to work with the government to be able to introduce black music to the rest of the world. The government did not want to change the ruling and allow the Ackee to be sold in Canada.

The ideas of trying to introduce these products did not stop at the stammered doors.

He opened the 813 Club at 813 Bloor Street West at Christie Park, Toronto.

Therefore, he fired the best of the best, the cream of the crop at the time. Wynn Calendar, Cha Monn.

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He was a professor, an author on the music selection subject. At first, a dream and later he realized its introduction and became very loyal to the program.

This was the era of the Goudas Rice Song which as it follows: Goudas rice is very nice. It is good for Peru and Canadian Fried Rice. So take my advice and buy Goudas Rice. You may listen to it on his website. The Saturday Night Musical Recipes Program had a tremendous listener base.

The reason being ethics never had the opportunity to listen to this type of tunes from their radio stations and later on they put a ban on the radio station on the airwaves at the time due to the fact that the programs and the airwaves were only allowed to play foreign music during 50 percent of the allocated time on the airwaves.

One year later, out of nowhere, the CRTC called Mr. Goudas in for an interview. At that point, he learned that Radio Stations were restricted to 50 percent Canadian Music Content Programming.

In defense, Mr. Goudas stretched his idea and the point that he had a Latin American, Caribbean and other ethnic Radio Program where he was bringing Caribana Festival and finally, the Caribana Celebration was initiated by a small group of people from Trinidad and Tobago as a gift to Canada on this momentous occasion. Consequently, Peter Goudas witnessed that initial, small parade. Needless to say, he continued to grow and living on the streets anyway. A few years later in 1974, the same group who initiated the Caribana Celebrations out of their own pocket, ended up in financial difficulties and were unable to continue with their efforts and ideas.

But the Good Lord above enlightened a gentleman called, Ken F. Shah, who passed in 2002, and whose name has been synonymous with Caribana since that awareness of the festival today, he would be turning over in his grave.

Following up on the years the Goudas line of products are now available for mail order.

Viewing photos of Peter over the years shows the progression of time on his being.

The most recent photo prompted me to ask him if any of his hairs on his head were reflective his experiences.

It is amazing how Peter takes a serious topic and projects uncontrollable laughter into his report. “Sir, what happened to you? Where did all that gray hair come from, do you not still kick a?” and insisted that she take a photo so that I could remember this day.

What would life be in Canada, or the world for that matter, without Mr. Goudas? Boring, monotonous, a constant yarning for ‘home’ foods! A nightmare all day long! He is not one to brag of his accomplishments. He has been the subject of many discussions, study seminars and day conversations. Where would we be without him?