



THE PRIVATE SECTOR HALL OF FAME

CHARLES JOHNSTON, CD

Charles Johnston, occupying a focal position in the shipping and agricultural industries, belongs to that rare breed of free-spirited, open-minded, adventurous risk-takers who gleefully enjoy the cut and thrust of business. He takes whatever may fall upon him accidentally and from it creatively builds monuments of success. He is a natural builder.

Charles Johnston, popularly known among his peers as 'Charlie', is the second of four children born to the late Ernest and Anna Johnston. His father had remarried with three more children, and Charlie has always enjoyed being part of a big family. This notion of belonging to a family was extended during his early school days, because of the four schools he attended three were boarding schools. It was at Jamaica College that he developed lasting friendships and a love of sports, representing his school in Manning Cup football, swimming and rifle shooting.

After graduating from Jamaica College, he worked briefly in the family shipping business started by his grandfather in the early 1900s, before heading off to The University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance and Commerce, where he qualified in 1964 with a Bachelors Degree in Economics, specializing in International Trade and Finance, the first in his family to receive a university education. Life at the University was not only books and academics though, for Mr Johnston learnt, and now affirms quite confidently, that life is made up of hard work as much of as of hard play.

On his return home from university in 1964 he joined the family business, working from the very bottom, before becoming Operations and Marketing Manager. In 1966 he married Sakina Parboosingh with whom he had three sons, Edward, Aaron and Marek. The free spirit within him yearned for adventure and innovation and, together with his brother Michael and brother-in-law Arnie Sherman, he broke away to form and become the Managing Director of J&S Developments Limited and Crescent Developments Limited. These companies proved to be highly successful, but unable to ignore the call of shipping in his blood, he acquired a produce

dealer's licence which he used to purchase and ship produce from Jamaica to the Cayman Islands.

It was in 1976, when his father invited him to return and take leadership of Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Company that he became Executive Chairman of the company and its subsidiary, Jamaica Freight and Shipping Company. In that same year he moved with his then wife, Sakina and their three sons to Miami and, even while commuting to Jamaica to run the business, he seized the opportunity to open another business, the Miami Freight & Shipping Company. His son, Marek, works in that operation

Five years later, he returned with his family to Jamaica to give his full support to the business that at that time was the representative of Jamaica Producers Shipping Company, Alcan Shipping and Kirk Line. This company, despite many hazards, is now the representative of many more lines. The group now owns a large stevedoring company, Shipping Services Stevedoring, and is partner with Tank Weld in T.S. Crane Limited, one of the main suppliers of cranes and other equipment to ports. Under his visionary directorship, Jamaica Fruit became a partner with Seaboard Marine to form Seaboard Jamaica Limited. He also invested in Amalgamated Stevedores Ltd. and in the Kingston Logistics Centre, the first "Panama type" free zone created in Jamaica by ZIM.

In 1986, Charles Johnston became the Chairman of the Jamaica Producers Group. As chairman, he gave his full support to the development of Sunjuice, now a major player in the United Kingdom's juice and 'smoothie' market. He was also instrumental in taking back Jamaica Producers Shipping Company, which had been nationalised in the 1970s. The expansion of the business into Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Honduras is due in no small measure to his intervention.

In 1990 Marine Management Services Limited was formed to provide management services to the Shipping Industry and then subsequently branched out to lease and rent marine equipment. His son, Aaron, is in charge of that operation.

In 1992, the presence of water on a family property led his astute entrepreneurial sense to develop a lucrative business together with his siblings and other partners to form Peak Bottling Company Limited. Though this company is no longer part-owned by the family, Catherine's

Peak Water remains the premier brand of spring water of Jamaica. Always looking for a new business venture, Charles Johnston, with several Jamaican partners created Port Royal Patties. This business is run by his son Edward in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Johnston has had many firsts, of which by no means the least was his leading the Shipping Association of Jamaica and other shipping interests in a battle for a change of the board and management of Kingston Wharves, a publicly listed company. This was the first company on the Jamaica Stock Exchange to have successfully achieved such transformation in its leadership structure.

He has been invited to sit on the boards of a diverse range of businesses including the Bank of Nova Scotia Jamaica Limited, Jamaica Public Service Company Limited, the Port Authority of Jamaica, H.D. Hopwood and Company Limited, the Kingston Port Workers Superannuation Fund and Kingston Wharves Limited. He is also a member of the Kings House Foundation, a founding member of the Jamaica British Business Association and member of the Kingston Cricket Club and the Liguanea Club.

In 1996 Charles Johnston married Lisa McGregor with whom he had his fourth son, Liam. A proud father of his four sons, he is a committed family man. With his colleagues, his congenial disposition makes him an affable, yet plain-spoken, low-profile person who is relaxed and comfortable with himself. Despite his affable nature he is a serious businessman who does not suffer fools gladly. Hard work, dedication, attention to detail, honesty, trust and caring relationships with workers are his watchwords. His personal experience has taught him that hands-on knowledge of the job is a crucial attribute for the successful business manager. His success in the diverse business activities connected with shipping and agriculture is not only in response to the legacy left by his forefathers.

The Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica salutes the drive and iconic entrepreneurial leadership of Charles Johnston, CD and welcomes him as the 2008 inductee in its Hall of Fame.

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