

ANTIGUA ECHO

THE LIGHTER
SIDE OF LIFE

SAVE THE WHALES



ISSUE 2026:15

Antigua and Barbuda is leading a deeply troubling attempt to reopen the door to commercial whaling. At September's International Whaling Commission meeting, the country will push for a process that could allow whales to be commercially hunted again. Why is Antigua taking this position, and who stands to benefit?

Environmentalists warn that the policy risks damaging Antigua's international reputation and sits uneasily with an island that promotes its extraordinary marine environment. Eleven local environmental groups have appealed directly to Prime Minister Gaston Browne to change course. A recent poll found that 64 per cent of residents surveyed oppose commercial whaling. [find out more here](#) and [here](#).

FOOD SECURITY



The Government plans to place Antigua and Barbuda's remaining agricultural lands into a farm trust, protecting them from housing and other development.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne said some of the island's most fertile land had already been lost, but pledged that remaining agricultural areas would be secured exclusively for farming. The commitment recalls a similar promise in the 2023 Budget to protect farmland through trusts or designated zones. It inevitably brings Dunbars to mind, where land at the former Experimental Station was subsequently cleared for housing & commercial development — a reminder that protecting agricultural land depends as much on what happens after the pledge as on the pledge itself.

WARNING



A word of caution for residents and visitors following a disturbing incident at Pigeon Beach last week. A man was reportedly getting into his car in broad daylight when he was surprised by a masked man armed with a knife. The attacker stole his phone and keys before driving away in the victim's car. The incident was reported to police. While Antigua remains a place where most people go about their daily lives without trouble, the robbery is a reminder that opportunistic crime can happen even in familiar, busy places and during daylight hours. Beachgoers are encouraged to remain aware of their surroundings, particularly when approaching or leaving parked vehicles.

MAKE THE MOST OF MANGOES

Still have a few mangoes? Mango season isn't over yet! Grab mangoes, scotch bonnet, a few spices, and make the most of those last golden beauties with Caribbean Pot's delicious mango Talkari — sunshine on a plate. Thanks to the culinary genius of Chris de la Rosa. [recipe](#)



BACKPAGE GOSSIP

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RUMOUR HAS IT



That November could be Antigua's most productive month in years. The new cruise port development is due for completion, CHOGM is coming to town and, just to sharpen everyone's concentration, so are the King and Queen. Rumour Has It clipboards are multiplying, rods are being fixed, paintbrushes are being dusted off and deadlines once regarded as charming suggestions have suddenly acquired an altogether more urgent air. There's nothing quite like a King, a Queen and assorted Commonwealth leaders heading your way to give those final construction deadlines a little extra encouragement.

RUMOUR HAS IT



That Europe's heatwave has left the Danube running so low it has begun producing things everyone had more or less agreed to leave underwater. Near Serbia, at least 20 Nazi German warships have reappeared, some still containing mines and unexploded shells. Elsewhere, a 1937 cargo ship has surfaced, while Budapest has yielded two German soldiers, a wartime motorcycle and, further along the river, what may be ancient mammoth remains. At this rate, archaeologists might simply wait until September and see what else turns up. the [Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service \(ABMS\)](#) is warning that northern Antigua is under a Drought Emergency, what might lie hidden in the depths?

RUMOUR HAS IT

That Simon and Garfunkel, a rare two-headed crested gecko (geckos?), have defied the odds by reaching the grand age of four weeks. Both heads eat independently, although breeders say the left is rather grumpier, the right may be more dominant and the pair occasionally disagree about which direction to go. The condition, called polycephaly, is extremely rare and usually makes survival difficult in the wild. Politicians, however, see enormous potential. Two opinions, one body, frequent arguments over direction and nobody entirely sure who's in charge? Frankly, Simon and Garfunkel sound ready for a seat on almost any committee.

When the two heads disagree about which way to go, presumably the Sound of Silence is not an option.



AD-DED EXTRA

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VISITORS

As if welcoming leaders from 56 Commonwealth nations wasn't enough, Antigua is getting royal visitors too. Their Majesties The King and Queen will visit as part of their autumn tour from October 27 to November 4, culminating in CHOGM in St John's. The tour will celebrate the Commonwealth's communities, cultures and nature. PM Gaston Browne will be meeting the King & Queen at Buckingham Palace in the next few weeks. Antigua will have an impressive guest list.



LET US PRAY



Antigua and Barbuda will mark its 2026 National Day of Prayer on Thursday, September 10, with churches opening their doors from 6am for prayer, reflection and thanksgiving. Held under the theme "From Repentance to Restoration," the day will culminate with a national gathering at the Antigua Recreation Ground from 4pm to 6pm. Everyone is invited to take part.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

— 2 Chronicles 7:14, KJV

