



Government of Bermuda
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPORTS

Heritage Month & Bermuda Day 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

To the House of Assembly

By

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Minister of Social Development and Sports

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to share with members of this Honourable House and the people of Bermuda information about our exciting Heritage Month activities. The theme this year is ***“Our Sporting Heritage”***. The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, supported by committed members of the Heritage Advisory Committee, has chosen a dynamic theme that celebrates Bermudian sporting heroes and Bermuda’s favourite sports and games.

Mr. Speaker, more than simply a past-time for our children, sport has always been an opportunity for demonstrating determination, teaching teamwork, and exemplifying excellence. From the fierce loyalty to Cup Match teams, to the rallying unity to support a Bermudian Olympian, Bermuda has continued to build a sporting heritage to be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, During the month of May, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, together with many of our cultural industry and community partners, has organised a number of events to mark Heritage Month. We began our Heritage celebrations on May 2nd with a Senior Citizens Crafts show at the Peace Lutheran Church. I would like to thank all of the seniors whose creative works were on display.

Mr. Speaker, On May 11th, the Bermuda National Library hosted “Not Just Another Book Club”, featuring a book signing and lively discussion with footballing legend and author of “The Acid Test”, Clyde “Bunny” Best.

Mr. Speaker, In keeping with this year’s heritage month theme, throughout the month of May there have been many wonderful sporting events; and I have been pleased to see tremendous community support for them. Such events include: the

XL Catlin End-to-End; the Swan's Running Club "Sir" Stanley Burgess 5K race; and last week's Relay for Life. As the Minister responsible for both culture and sports I take this occasion to express my sincere gratitude to the organisers and participants of these large-scale events that benefit the community.

Mr. Speaker, One of the Heritage Month programmes that took place recently with much success was the first ever Quest for the Best song competition, produced by Intense Mas and sponsored by the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs. There were over 20 entries from Bermudian artists! There is so much talent on this island! The winner was local singer/songwriter Cush Evans with his song 'Run Road'. I wish Mr. Evans much success with his musical career. The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' partnership with The Chewstick Foundation has also yielded success. Their programmes included a public art installation at Gombeys at Clearwater, a Heritage Open Mic event hosted in Sweet Saak in St. George's, the upcoming Heritage Showcase Saturday evening May 20th at The Grand, and a Griot Session Concert on May 25th. I am pleased to see that this organization is recovering after the tragic fire that destroyed their new facilities last July.

Mr. Speaker, Yesterday evening I was honoured to attend the official launch of *The Stories We Tell: Bermuda Anthology of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror*. This is the first book of its kind in Bermuda, which incorporates science fiction, fantasy and horror elements. This is a welcomed addition to the collection of new writing by Bermudians that has emerged from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, primarily as an offshoot of their its Writer in Residence Programme. The Department should be commended for the strides they have taken in supporting Bermuda's writers by compiling works, from many of our literary talents, into anthologies such as this, spearheaded by Folklife Officer Dr. Kim Dismont-Robinson.

Mr Speaker, To give everyone a flavour of the offerings still to come during Heritage Month, I will share a small selection from the dozens that are listed, including: a guitar festival, an art exhibition, cooking demonstrations, film screenings, historical tours, and a Bermuda Children's Authors Day at the Youth Library Saturday May 20th . I encourage parents to attend with their children. There is also a strategic partnership with Hub 1 Tourism which has cultural-focused events running throughout the entire summer, including Knot the Art Walk

on May 27th. To see more details on all of these Heritage Month events, visit www.communityandculture.bm.

Mr. Speaker, Towards the end of the month we will also see the arrival of the Tall Ships and the beginning of the highly-anticipated America's Cup races. Both are significant international events that tie in with our Heritage Month theme this year. To commemorate Bermuda's nautical sporting heritage, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs collaborated with The Bermudian Magazine and The National Museum of Bermuda to produce a special edition of The Bermudian Magazine, which is on newsstands now. *In Celebration of Sail: Bermuda's Maritime Heritage* features articles on the Bermuda Sloop, pirates and privateers, The Spirit of Bermuda, the history of shipbuilding in Bermuda, biographies on Charles Roach Ratteray and James Darrell, the 35th America's Cup Endeavor Programme, treasure hunting, Bermuda's Olympic sailors, the Bermuda Fitted Dinghy, shark oil barometers, local Bermudian maritime traditions, whaling, and much, much more.

Mr. Speaker, Heritage Month's most celebrated event is the Bermuda Day Parade, which will take place on Wednesday, May 24th starting at 1:30 pm. Permit me to now share the Bermuda Day Parade route. The Parade will move along Marsh Folly Road and continue right through to the top of Cedar Avenue. The parade then turns left onto Church Street, takes a right down Court Street, a right along Front Street, and finally up Queen Street. Groups will have a final performance in City Hall Car Park. Floats will make a right turn on to Church Street, park in front of City Hall and remain there on display throughout the afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, Who doesn't love the pulsating rhythms of the Gombeyes, who will this year return to the end of the parade line-up, as was traditional in the past. To keep energy and excitement high during the parade, the Passion Bermuda soca truck has been inserted in the middle of parade. This should ensure that the energy level is high mid-way through the parade as well as well as the strong traditional finale. I am also looking forward to viewing the exquisitely crafted floats, the precision of the majorettes, the electrifying movements of the dance groups, and the pageantry of the parade led by our very own Royal Bermuda Regiment Band.

Mr. Speaker, This year the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is asking that members of the public share their favourite holiday moments on social

media by using the hashtags #BermudaDay and #BermudaCulture. Be sure to also follow the Department on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @BermudaCulture to see highlights of the events.

Mr. Speaker, for members of the public who are not able to stand on the sidelines and cheer their favourite participants, I am pleased to inform everyone that CITV will provide live TV coverage and will be streaming live coverage of the Heritage Day Parade through Facebook Live. Our hosts will be Tina Evans of CITV and Gavin “Djata” Smith of The Chewstick Foundation.

Finally **Mr. Speaker,** I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to all of our cultural industry partners who continue to work collaboratively with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to make Heritage Month and Bermuda Day so successful. I am grateful to all of the participants, the members of the Heritage Advisory Committee, the Royal Bermuda Regiment, the Bermuda Police Service, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Communications and Information, and the City of Hamilton. I would especially like to thank the staff of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs for all of their hard work, ingenuity, resourcefulness, and creativity in organising the Bermuda Day Parade and Heritage Month festivities. I would especially like to acknowledge the work of the Cultural Affairs Programme Manager, Carlita Lodge and Events and Programme Coordinator, Clyde-A-Mae Tucker. I would also like to take this time to wish all of Bermuda’s residents an enjoyable and safe Bermuda Day holiday. I encourage us all to display the courtesy and respect to our fellow residents and visitors that our Island has become so famous for over the years, while enjoying the festive mood and celebrations over the upcoming weekend and holiday.

Thank you Mr. Speaker