



Government of Bermuda
Ministry of Community, Culture and Sports

Heritage Month 2014

Ministerial Statement
To The House of Assembly

By

The Hon. R. Wayne Scott, J.P., M.P.
Minister of Community, Culture and Sports

Friday, 9th May 2014

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to share with Members of this Honourable House and the people of Bermuda many of the wonderful events being planned for Heritage Month 2014. The theme this year is "*Bermuda's Historical Treasures*". The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, aided by the very committed and enthusiastic members of the Heritage Advisory Committee, has chosen a theme that draws singular attention to some significant aspects of our collective cultural heritage. This year the spotlight is focused on some of our *treasures*.

Mr. Speaker, our unique cultural heritage has in many ways been shaped by our environment, our connection with the sea, and beliefs and practices that have forged and molded our way of being. This sense of "*being Bermudian*" has evolved over centuries and is reflected in our

people, our architecture, our foods, artistry and our music. As we come together this month to celebrate all that is good about "*being Bermudian*" there are activities for every palate. When the phrase "*Historical Treasures*" is mentioned some of us immediately think of some of Bermuda's distinctive buildings which display beautiful architectural features. For those of us who would love to have a "peek" inside some of Bermuda's treasured sites *Open House Bermuda* will provide locals and guests the opportunity to visit historical forts, some church towers and National Trust farmlands. This event will take place on **Saturday May 10th**, and the Department is grateful to Mr. Richard Lowry, Heritage Officer within the Department of Planning, for his collaboration to make this event possible.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of our maritime heritage the Department has organized a talk that will be given by Dr. Struan Smith who is the Curator of the Bermuda Natural History Museum. He will focus on the organisms and conservation of the Sargasso Sea. This lecture, which promises to be most informative, will take place at the Bermuda Zoological Society Hall from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Mr. Speaker, we will also be celebrating another "treasure" blossoming in Bermuda - our literary artists. One of the programmes organized annually by the Department is the Writer-in-Residence Workshop; this particular initiative is the responsibility of our Folklife Officer Dr. Kim Dismont-Robinson. In March of 2012 the writer in residence was Rachel

Manley - granddaughter of Norman Manley and daughter of Michael Manley - and the focus of that workshop was writing memoirs. The culmination of this workshop is an anthology of writings featuring some of our own authors. The book "**Take This Journey with Me: Bermuda Anthology of Memoir and Creative Nonfiction**" will be launched on **Thursday May 15th** at Bermuda Society of Arts Gallery, City Hall; from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Mr. Speaker, on **Sunday May 18th** a "**Mini Folk Festival**" will take place at the Bermuda Arts Centre in Dockyard. There will be poetry readings, musicians who will provide entertainment and artisans who will demonstrate their creativity as they engage in their craft work. This event begins at 5:30 pm; and we invite people to come out and enjoy a fun afternoon with some of our visual and performing artists.

Mr. Speaker, a singular highlight of this year's heritage month will be the Food Festival planned for today Friday May 9th in St. George's. This culinary food festival promises to provide our guests with the opportunity to sample some of the foods of yesteryear - fish, fowl and hog. All who attend will have the chance to experience culinary delights by Fred Ming, Tavern by the Sea, Wahoo's Bistro, Griffin's, Go Jo, Sweet Saak, White Horse Tavern, and Temptations. There will be "oldfashioned" children's games that will undoubtedly interest the young people. Stan Seymour, also fondly known as "Lord Necktie", will be there along with James Martinez to delight the audience with their

music; and the Bermuda All Stars Steel Orchestra will get us moving and dancing!

Mr. Speaker, there is more! Some of the Department's Folklife Films will be screened at the World Heritage Centre on May 9th , including the following:

- **"Bits and Bites: Culinary Arts"** featuring Fred Ming and Dolly Pitcher
- **"Folklife Documentary: Farming"** featuring Carlos Amaral, Richard Bascome, Omari Dill, Frances Eddy, Harry Kromer and Tom Wadson
- **"Bermuda Shark Project"** featuring Choy Aming, Neil Burnie, Tim Hasselbring and Jeff Manson
- **"Kitchens of Yesteryear"** featuring Joe Gibbons.

Mr. Speaker, everyone is invited to come to St. George's this Friday evening and experience *"A Taste of Bermuda"*. Schedules outlining these activities will be distributed as people park at Tiger Bay; as well there will be schedules on hand at the World Heritage Centre.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to all of our cultural industry partners who have been working collaboratively with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to make Heritage

Month so successful I am grateful to all of the participants, the Bermuda Arts Centre at Dockyard, the Bermuda Craft Market, the Bermuda Society of Arts, the Bermuda Zoological Society, the restaurants of St. George's that participated in "*A Taste of Bermuda*", and the World Heritage Centre. I am also very grateful to the members of the Heritage Advisory Committee, the Historical Heartbeats Committee, the Bermuda Police Service and the Corporations of Hamilton and St. George's. I would especially like to single out **Mrs. Louise Tannock**, the Cultural Affairs Programme Manager, and her team for planning and preparing these heritage month events. Job well done!

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.