

Bank of Bermuda staff see ‘Green’ as second Community Action Day is launched

(Hamilton, Bermuda, 8 October 2007) Bank of Bermuda staff get ready to participate as the second project of the Bank’s Community Action Day kicks off at Tivoli North Nature Reserve in Warwick. Bank of Bermuda has partnered up with the Bermuda Audubon Society, the Bermuda National Trust and the Department of Conservation Service to assist in their efforts to remove invasive species and plant endemic plants at several of Bermuda’s nature reserves.

The Community Action Day programme, which was introduced last year, offers every Bank of Bermuda staff member with a half day off from work each year to volunteer their time to one of the three initiatives, focusing on the community, the environment and education. As an avid supporter of the community, Bank of Bermuda implemented the programme with a view to providing an innovative approach to community leadership and staff bonding. This year the projects include staff spending an afternoon socialising with seniors, removing invasive species and planting endemic plants at nature reserves and promoting the Arts amongst students.

In the community project some 100 Bank staff volunteered over five days, visiting seniors across the Island at various retirement facilities and participated in an afternoon of games, reading, music and afternoon tea. In the environmental phase of the Community Action Day programme, Bank staff will remove invasive plant species and replant endemic plants in nature reserves including Tivoli North, the Alfred Blackburn Smith Reserve, Winterhaven Nature Reserve and Shelly Bay Nature Reserve. The third phase of the Bank’s Community Action Programme focusing on education is scheduled to take place in December and will involve bank staff partnering with students from the five public middle schools to tour the Bermuda National Gallery’s fall exhibit, Modern and Contemporary African American Art from the Collection of Alitash Kebede. Bank staff and students will also take part in

interactive activities to help the students learn more about the exhibit and the importance of art as a form of expression.

Volunteers of the Bank, clearly recognisable by their red shirts and caps, will be assisting the Bermuda National Trust in culling back half of the woodland at Tivoli North of invasive plant species such as the Brazilian Pepper tree. By removing the seedlings of such invasive species as well as replanting native and endemic trees it is hoped headway can be made in preserving open spaces as habitats for endemic flora and fauna.

Bank of Bermuda Chief Executive Officer, Philip Butterfield, congratulated the staff on their participation thus far and thanked those who chose to be apart of the environment project adding, “The sustainability and maintenance of the environment is an important issue, one that affects everyone. In being part of this Community Action Day which focuses on the environment, we are not only planting seeds literally but figuratively as hopefully we bring awareness to the importance of our environment and the need to protect it for future generations.”

Bermuda National Trust Conservation Officer, Dorcas Roberts, thanked Bank of Bermuda staff for volunteering their time to help out on such an important cause, adding, “Our nature reserves around the Island are crucial to preserving our native and endemic plants species and we are especially proud to be working alongside Bank of Bermuda in an event that promotes the importance of our natural environment.”

Bermuda Audubon Society spokesperson, Jennifer Gray, noted that resources for this kind of work weren't always available and thanked Bank of Bermuda for their involvement, adding, “This programme is a wonderful idea. It inspires appreciation for our beautiful island, encourages

stewardship and collaboration and gets everyone out in the fresh air for good exercise, good company and meaningful community service.”

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Notes to Editors:

Founded in 1889, Bank of Bermuda is the leading provider of fund administration, trust, custody, asset management and banking services in Bermuda. Since 2004 it has been a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.

- Further information on Bank of Bermuda can be found at www.bankofbermuda.com
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