



Bank of Bermuda Foundation splashes out an initial 1.55 million dollars for Bermuda's 400th Birthday

(Hamilton, Bermuda, 18 July 2008) The Bank of Bermuda Foundation today announced that it is donating an initial \$1.55 million dollars to four local charities in celebration of Bermuda's 400th birthday in 2009. The four charities chosen include Tall Ships Bermuda Limited for their 2009 Tall Ships event, the Bermuda Regiment Charitable Trust for the 2009 Bermuda Tattoo, the Bermuda 2009 Committee for a wide spectrum of events being planned for 2009 and Buy Back Bermuda to purchase two open spaces in Southampton and Hamilton parishes.

The Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge 2009 will involve as many as 50 sail training vessels, including The Spirit of Bermuda as they make their way from Vigo, Spain westward to Bermuda, then to Charleston, South Carolina and back to Belfast, Northern Ireland calling at seven ports along the way. Building on the success of the 2005 Tattoo, the 2009 Bermuda Tattoo will present a world-class spectacle of music, international dance and military precision in the historic grounds of the Keep Yard at the Royal Naval Dockyard. Meanwhile, the Bermuda 2009 Committee are planning a host of events and activities that will involve and captivate the entire community and Island during 2009. And finally, Buy Back Bermuda are currently fundraising to purchase two lots of land, one in Southampton consisting of 7.6 acres and another in Hamilton Parish which covers 3.36 acres. Once the properties have been purchased they will be cleared of invasive species, planted with native trees, and footpaths will be formed for pedestrians.

Deputy Chairman of the Bank of Bermuda Foundation, David Hamshere, explained that 2009 presented a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our rich culture and heritage noting, "Arguably 2009 is going to be one of the biggest celebrations of Bermuda in our lifetime and the Bank of Bermuda Foundation wants to be a part of that. We are proud of our history, our people and the progress we have made in 400 years and want to celebrate all that makes our Island home so unique and extraordinary."

Press Release

Paul Leseur, Director and Chairman of the Bank of Bermuda Foundation's 400th Anniversary Committee, explained that the four charities were selected because of the all encompassing nature of the events they were planning, "Both the 2009 Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge and the 2009 Bermuda Tattoo are celebratory in nature, the Bermuda 2009 Committee are planning so many events and activities that our 400th birthday will really be a year-long celebration and we believe that by supporting the Buy Back Campaign we are preserving our Island's beauty and environment for future generations to enjoy. All four of these charities share a passion for our Island home and are committed to bringing together the entire community to celebrate 2009."

John Wadson, Chair of Tall Ships Bermuda Limited thanked the Foundation for their generous support, noting that the Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge 2009 not only aims to be a celebration of Bermuda's past but offers an exciting experience for Bermuda's present day young people. "We want to assist and encourage as many of our young people as possible to sail one of the six legs of this race as trainees on one of these magnificent sailing vessels. It truly presents a potentially life-changing experience that will not only teach teamwork but will encourage self confidence as individuals are confronted with the demanding physical and emotional challenges of life at sea, while interacting with other people from various social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. That's the primary focus behind all of our work. And the good thing is that prior sailing experience is not a requirement!"

Regiment Commanding Officer and Trustee of The Bermuda Regiment Charitable Trust, Lieutenant Colonel William White noted, "2009 will be a momentous year and on behalf of the Trust and the Regiment I am grateful to the Foundation for their generous support as presenting sponsor of the Bermuda Tattoo 2009." While Director of Music, Captain Dwight Robinson, said the October Tattoo will be a spectacular event, "The Band and Corps of Drums of the Bermuda Regiment look forward to welcoming international performing units to the island for The Bermuda Tattoo 2009. The Tattoo will present a world class spectacle of music, international dance and military precision in the historic grounds of the Keep Yard at the Royal Naval Dockyard. This promises to be a fitting celebration of Bermuda's 400th anniversary."

The Hon. Dale Butler JP, MP, Minister of Culture and Social Rehabilitation, speaking on behalf of the Bermuda Government and the Bermuda 2009 Committee noted that, “The 2009 Committee is deeply grateful to the Bank of Bermuda Foundation for the magnificent support they have provided for this watershed moment in Bermuda’s history. In our efforts to ensure a year’s worth of spectacular events commemorating Bermuda’s past and celebrating her future we rely on the generosity of those who share our vision of what Bermuda’s 400th birthday should be and the Foundation has responded superbly. The funds from the Foundation will ensure that the community groups that have submitted proposals to date will get the funding they need to move forward with their events for the Anniversary year.”

David Saul, Buy Back Bermuda Committee member, remarked that the donation received from the Bank of Bermuda Foundation was the third largest single donation they had received so far and were thrilled by the public response to their campaign. “The Foundation has, for years, taken a lead role in supporting projects that are in the best interests of Bermuda as a whole. This grant will take our campaign just over the \$2 million level, leaving us to now raise the final \$500,000. We need all the help possible if we are to preserve our dwindling “green” space. This gift will be of great assistance to that end.”

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Notes to Editors:

- Bank of Bermuda Foundation helps charities that support the community and people, preserve our local heritage, culture and environment, and help develop the youth of Bermuda. It also offers several scholarships. Established in 2000, the Foundation incorporates the Centennial Trust, Charitable Trust, and Educational Trust, which were established by Bank of Bermuda to support the community in Bermuda.
- Since 1989, more than \$40.8 million has been donated to charitable Bermudian organisations.
- Applications can be made to Bank of Bermuda Foundation throughout the year on behalf of charitable organisations. Guidelines about what information is needed and who to send it to can be found in the Bank of Bermuda Foundation brochure, which can be picked up from all Bank of Bermuda branches, or by visiting the Bank of Bermuda website at: www.bankofbermuda.com