



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs



BERMUDIAN EXCELLENCE

Celebrating 40 Years of the Bermuda Day Parade

BERMUDA DAY PARADE: FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2019

BERMUDA DAY 2019 Schedule of Events

Morning

- 8:45am** Sinclair Packwood Memorial Youth Cycle Race
Start: Fort Hill, Middle Road
Finish: Cedar Avenue
- 8:50am** Sinclair Packwood Memorial Cycle Race
Start: St. George's
Finish: Cedar Avenue
- 9:00am** Bermuda Day Half Marathon Derby
Start: St. George's
Finish: Bernard Park
- 9:40am** Heritage Junior Classic Race
Start: Docksiders, 121 Front Street
Finish: Bernard Park

Afternoon

- 1:30pm** Bermuda Day Parade
Start: Front Street
Finish: Marsh Folly Road/Dutton Avenue

Parade coverage will be streaming live on CITV and The Government of Bermuda Facebook page from 1:30 PM.





MESSAGE FROM THE *Premier*

2019 Bermuda Day – Bermudian Excellence

The highlight of the Spring calendar is Bermuda Day. For some it remains the official start of the summer and culminates in that first jump overboard. Bermudians have united around traditions of the Day that include the Half-marathon and of course the colourful parade in Hamilton. At the heart of our diverse cultural backgrounds is the unity this day should bring. Bermuda Day can be more than the events and celebrations, it can inspire us to take pride in our Island home and to celebrate what we do well while committing to working together to make things better for the very same children who we applaud running, cycling or marching on Bermuda Day.

Led by the immaculate Band and Corps of Drums of the Royal Bermuda Regiment and the exciting, rhythmic beat of our Gombeyes, this year we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Bermuda Day Parade. The 2019 theme, Bermudian Excellence speaks to the tremendous talent that we have in Bermuda. From the outstanding craftsmanship displayed in our floats, to the extraordinary energy of the performers and the dedication of the many spectators who spend the entire day enthusiastically cheering on marathon runners and parade participants.

This year's Honorees reflect that Bermudian excellence. These men and women demonstrate the best of Bermuda and their enormous personal sacrifices are testaments to who we are as Bermudians. As we salute them, their diverse paths in life have been marked by international acclaim but Bermuda has always been in their hearts.

I am a great fan of Bermuda Day and look forward to watching the parade and the runners; mingling on the sidewalks with the community of spectators, and enjoying the warm and genuine hospitality that is abundant wherever I visit. May 24th is a special occasion for Bermuda, and my family and I look forward to being a part of this wonderful tribute to our heritage.

On behalf of the Government of Bermuda, I wish everyone a Happy Bermuda Day. Have a happy and safe holiday.

The Hon. E. David Burt, JP, MP
Premier of Bermuda



MESSAGE FROM THE *Minister*

Happy Bermuda Day to all!

This is my first Bermuda Day as the Minister responsible for Cultural and Community Affairs and I am excited to share this amazing day with you. Bermuda Day is that time of year when we celebrate all that makes us unique. Our heritage, our culture and our pride as a people – these are the ties that bind us together.

Today is a day when we participate in the numerous Bermuda Day activities, such as supporting our runners, dancing with the Gombeyes at the Bermuda Day parade, or even taking our first swim of the year. It's a day to enjoy family and friends and a day to just simply immerse ourselves in the sights and sounds of our culture.

This year's theme is *Bermudian Excellence*, which offers us an opportunity to show off our national pride. This is an occasion where we highlight our excellence in sports, education, philanthropy, advocacy, public service, business, the arts, hospitality and so much more.

Bermudian Excellence is about celebrating every individual in our community who's doing their part to make Bermuda great.

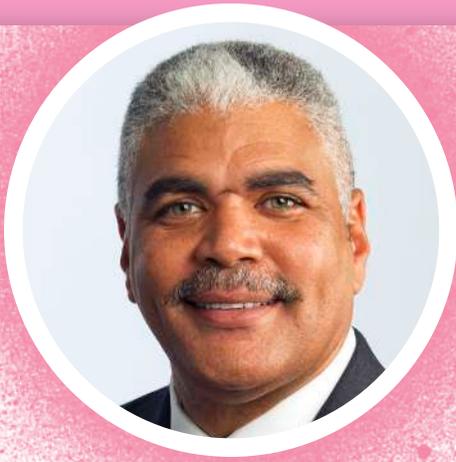
One of the things we excel at is the organisation of the Bermuda Day Parade. This event is one of the most anticipated events on our calendar. Much work has gone into ensuring that Heritage Month is an engaging, cultural experience and this includes the preparation and planning for the Bermuda Day Parade.

So, as we prepare to revel in the Bermuda Day activities, it's my sincere hope that we each take some time to reflect on how unique and special our Country is. As we look ahead we must endeavor to uphold our traditions for future generations, teaching and instilling in our children the importance of sustaining and celebrating our heritage.

Whether you are dancing in the streets, enjoying the beach, or spending the day with family and friends, I want to encourage you to truly appreciate the excellence of Bermuda and above all, appreciate one another as Bermudians.

On behalf of the Ministry of Labour, Community Affairs and Sports, I extend best wishes to all and hope you have a safe and fun filled Bermuda Day.

The Hon. Lovitta Foggo, JP, MP
Minister of Labour, Community Affairs and Sports



MESSAGE FROM THE *Opposition Leader*

I would like to offer my warmest greeting to the people of Bermuda as we celebrate Bermuda Day and the Bermuda Day Parade.

Bermuda is blessed by an abundance of good fortune from the beauty of our island to the amazing people who make our home what it is today.

We are a pioneering people who have successfully weathered many storms to always bounce back, better and stronger.

Underpinning that has been a sense of excellence - excellence in spirit, in endeavor and in performance. Bermuda really has, and continues to, punch way above its weight.

We only have to look at recent successes such as Bermuda qualifying for the Concacaf Gold Cup and the outstanding results at the recent Carifta Games to see how our people excel.

However, while they may get the headlines, there are countless others who strive, often unrecognized, to make a difference in our society, who excel in upholding what is best about Bermuda - its friendliness, its willingness to help others and its innate sense of humanity.

We are lucky to live in a place such as this and I would ask you all to pause for a second and think of those whose efforts make our lives better.

The Hon. L. Craig Cannonier, JP, MP
Leader of the Opposition



MESSAGE FROM THE *Department*

Warm holiday wishes to you on this 40th annual Bermuda Day.

There is a wealth of examples of Bermudian Excellence: we have had athletes, scholars, activists, and artists succeed and thrive on a global scale over the years. For a small island, Bermuda has always over-produced in talent and passion.

For me, however, the Bermuda Day Parade holds so many examples of the less-celebrated but more universal versions of Bermudian Excellence. We see the passion with which people camp for over a week to hold a spot for a few hours of magic. Excited children helping elders unload the campsites laden with favourite dishes cooked with love. The crowd dressed in their sharpest outfits lends a distinctly Bermudian flavour to the day. The way the community has embraced what Nadanja Bailey playfully dubbed “gap time” to allow for the babies to spend an extra minute performing in front of their nana’s camp further down the road. The participants who spend countless hours learning steps and sewing costumes and building floats for just a few hours of performance, of national pride. Bermudian Excellence is in the fabric of our community: woven as spectacularly intricate and bright as the cape of a Gombey.

The history and legacy of Bermuda Day’s creation is complicated and uncomfortable, but out of the discomfort, we have created Bermudian beauty, traditions, creativity, culture, and excellence. While 40 years is a significant milestone for this holiday, it has still not been long enough to bridge the collective pain that the Pitt Report sought to address when they recommended this celebration be created. Let us all take a moment to reflect on our history and use this Bermuda Day to connect with community, family and friends to share our love for this island in the sun.

Many thanks go to the participants that invest more money, time, and energy to Bermuda Day than most realize. Thanks also to the Heritage Advisory Committee and my colleagues at the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. Our appreciation and gratitude is also extended to our partners at the Department of Communication, the Royal Bermuda Regiment, the Department of Corrections, and the City of Hamilton.

Happy Bermuda Day to each of you – I wish you abundant inspiration, limitless national pride, and boasty vibes.

Carlita Lodge
Cultural Affairs Programme Manager

Celebrating 40 Years of the Bermuda Day Parade

THE ORIGINS OF *Heritage Month and Bermuda Day*

Civil unrest in the 1960s and 1970s prompted the Bermuda Government to commission a report examining the social conditions in Bermuda and make recommendations to promote a more unified and peaceful social atmosphere. The Pitt Report of 1978 gave an accurate representation of the social and racially tense atmosphere at the time, and included feedback from many Bermudians that suggested an event should be organised to bring Bermudians together in harmony and to build a sense of civic pride.

It was decided that a parade would provide an opportunity for camaraderie and celebration, similar to the Easter Parade that ran from the 1930s through to the 1960s. During that time, many farmers grew flowers so that they could be in full bloom for the Easter period. It was also suggested in the Pitt Report that the proposed event capture the unifying spirit of the existing May 24 half-marathon. These events both served as inspiration for the Bermuda Day Heritage Parade which replaced Empire Day, the annual public holiday recognising Queen Victoria's birthday. The first Bermuda Day Parade took place in 1979. It was historically celebrated on May 24th or the

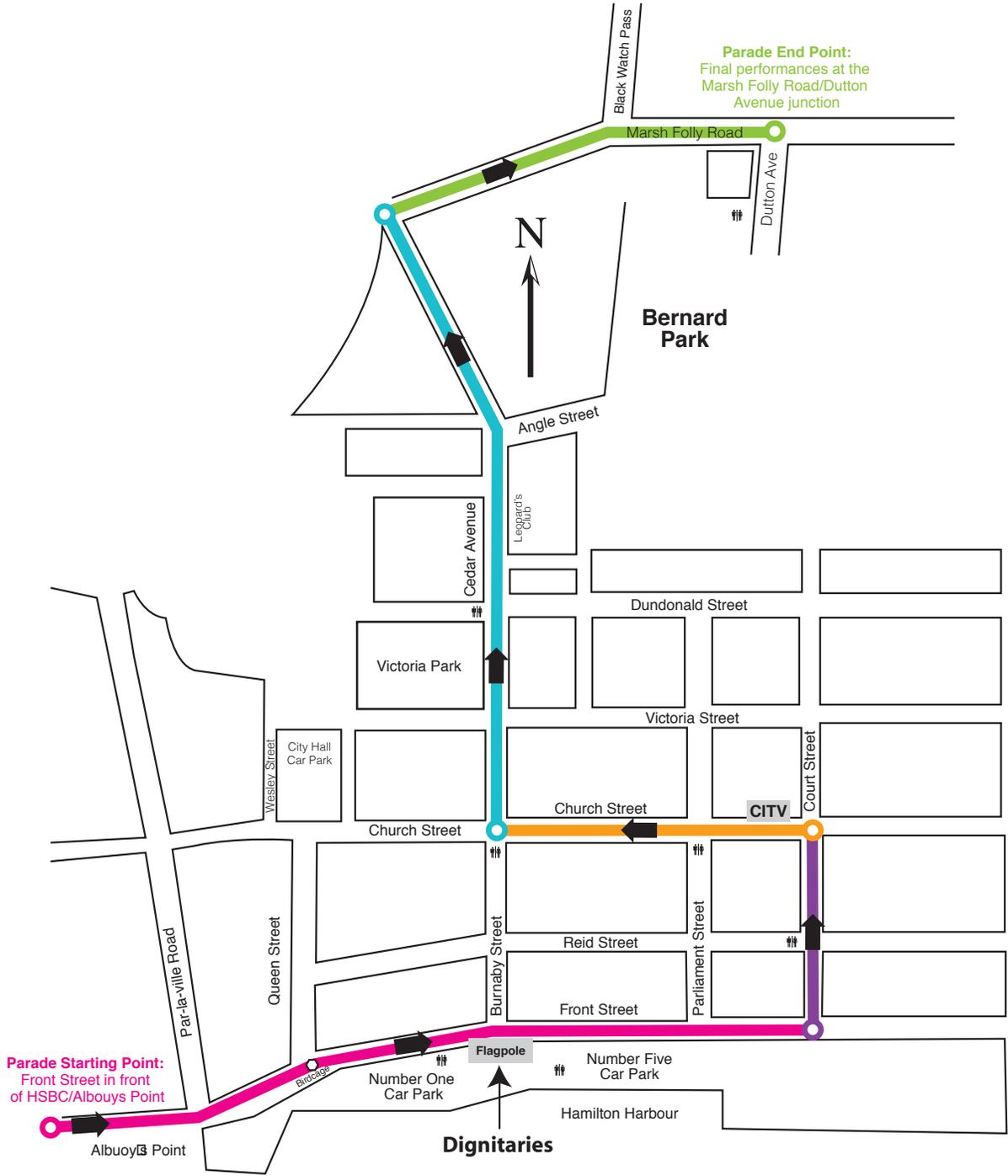
weekday nearest May 24th if that date fell on a weekend, but from 2018 onward will be celebrated on the last Friday in May, and in 2019 on Friday, May 24, 2019.

Bermuda quickly realised that one day of celebration was not enough time to recognise the broad spectrum of Bermudian heritage and traditions. Heritage Week was born, celebrated in the last week in May. By the mid-1980's, this was expanded further into Heritage Month with a calendar full of events through May that celebrates Bermudian culture, heritage, and traditions.

Bermuda Day has become the culminating point of Heritage Month and one of the most beloved cultural holidays alongside Cup Match (Emancipation Day & Somers Day). On Bermuda Day, Bermudians showcase their pride in the beauty and diverse culture of our island – whether they participate in the parade, the half-marathon, go for their first swim of the year, attend the season's first fitted dinghy boat races, or follow the Gombeyes through the streets crying, "Ay-oh!".



BERMUDA DAY 2019 Parade Route



The **2019 Bermuda Day Parade** will begin **1:30 PM**. Parade will begin on Front Street in front of HSBC/Albuoys Point area and continue along Front Street. The parade then turns left onto Court Street, takes a right onto Church Street, a left along Cedar Avenue, and ends at Marsh Folly Road/Dutton Avenue junction.

BERMUDA DAY 2019

Parade Order

1. St John's Ambulance
2. Royal Bermuda Regiment
3. Bermuda Long Riders Motorcycle Club
4. **Grand Marshal:** The Progressive Group
5. Seniors of Bermuda in partnership with The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and BUEI
6. City of Hamilton - *Art Float*
7. **Grand Marshal:** Dr. Eva Hodgson
8. Bermuda Rifle & Drill Team
9. Bermuda Dance Academy
10. **Grand Marshal:** Shiona Turini
11. Wadson's Farm Limited - *Natural Heritage Float*
12. Tee L's Emancipation Seniors Tea Party: Ms. Cupmatch
13. Rated E
14. Special Olympics Bermuda
15. Cybertips: Department of ICT Policy & Innovation - *Art Float*
16. The Bermuda Shrine Club
17. Vision Dance Group
18. Bermuda Nurse's Association Nurse of the Year: Janice Mullings - George
19. Roger Francis - Classic Car
20. Creative Drum Corps
21. Precious Treasures International School and Chatmore British International School
22. Caravan for Peace & Healing
23. The Lotus Aerial Team - *Art Float & Performances*
24. Bermuda National Athletics Association: Carifta Track & Field Past and Present Athletes
25. The Anchor Boys Club - *Natural Heritage Float*
26. The Anchor Boys Club - Music Truck
27. Inspire! Bermuda
28. For God's Purpose & Last Call - *Art Float & Performances*
29. John A.B. Woods Sr.- Classic Car Experience
30. 1 Bermuda
31. Bermuda Motocross Club
32. Vasco da Gama - *Natural Heritage Float*
33. Vasco da Gama - Dance Group Entry
34. Johns Hopkins Medicine International - *Natural Heritage Float*
35. United Dance Productions
36. Department of Community and Cultural Affairs - *Natural Heritage Float*
37. PHC Majorettes and Drum Corps
38. Controversy - *Upcycled Float*
39. Bermuda Squad
40. Cedarbridge Academy - *Natural Heritage Float*
41. The St. George's Original Dancerettes
42. Arijahknow Live Wires & The Kings Band: Reggae Highway
43. Place's New Generation Gombeys
44. HnH Gombeys
45. Warwick Gombeys
46. Gombey Warriors
47. Gombey Evolution

Grand Marshals Not Able to Be Present: Earl Cameron, Jennifer Gray, & Luis Bernardo



Earl Cameron, CBE

Finding a job in the UK as a black person was extremely challenging in the late 1930s. No matter how qualified an individual was, washing dishes in hotels or kitchen portering would have been some of the only available options. However, thanks to a stroke of luck Bermudian **Earlston J. Cameron** found himself on a different path. Stranded in London after arriving as a merchant seaman on October 29, 1939, a young Mr Cameron learnt from a friend of an acting role that had become available in a West End play production. He enjoyed the opportunity so much he kept at it - and went on to act in a number of plays in London, including *The Petrified Forest* and *Deep are the Roots*. In 1951, he was offered his breakthrough role in *Pool of London*, a film set post-war involving racial prejudice, romance and a diamond robbery, for which he earned much critical acclaim. Beginning his career in racially charged times, Mr. Cameron made a decision early on to turn down roles that perpetuated derogatory stereotypes of black people. One director even threatened to blacklist him as a result of his ethical stance. It is also what kept him from pursuing a film career in Hollywood, where race relations were far worse. Mr. Cameron's career thrived despite the odds. He had major parts in films in the 1950s and 1960s; and many repeat appearances on British science fiction programmes such as *Doctor Who*, *The Prisoner* and *The Andromeda Breakthrough*, as well as a host of other television programmes. His most recent film appearances include a major role in *The Interpreter* in 2005 alongside Nicole Kidman and Sean Penn; a cameo as a painter in the film *The Queen*, alongside Helen Mirren, in 2006; and a part in the film *Inception* in 2010. As a result of his commitment and excellence in the arts, he has been the recipient of a number of awards, including the Bermuda International Film Festival's Prospero Award; a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Bermuda Arts Council; and a retrospective by the prestigious National Film Theatre of London. He was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2009 New Year Honours. In 2012, Bermuda's City Hall was renamed in his honour, and the following year the University of Warwick awarded him an honorary doctorate.

Note: Unfortunately, Mr. Cameron was not able to travel home to participate in the Bermuda Day Parade and will be celebrating Bermuda Day in his home in the United Kingdom.



The Progressive Group

Visiting the theatre today typically involves ordering popcorn or snacks, picking your favourite seat and then relaxing as you enjoy a film on the big screen. In the mid to late 1950s, however, everything from what kind of job you could have to where you could sit while watching a movie was dictated to you based on the colour of your skin. **The Progressive Group**, made up of 19 young social activists, put into motion a plan to end segregation in Bermuda, starting with local theatres. Meeting for months in secret, the young men and women involved courageously worked to address the sad state of racial relations on the Island. Some of the group's members had been educated abroad and got a taste of new freedoms, which were still being denied to them back home in Bermuda. They organised a theatre boycott, which started in mid June 1959 and gradually gathered steam. By June 23rd, six theatres operated by Bermuda General Theatres were forced to close their doors due to lack of business and just a week later [on July 2] theatre owners announced an end to segregated seating. Restaurants, hotels, schools and churches in Bermuda followed soon after. This year marks the 60th Anniversary of that monumental event. Today many of the members of the Progressive Group are hailed as national heroes, yet for decades they had to keep their identities anonymous for fear of undue social and financial repercussions. Their commitment to improving racial relations and to achieving universal suffrage in Bermuda has left a positive, lasting imprint in our community. Even more notably, they did it by emphasising no violence and without the shedding of even a drop of blood. The members were as follows: Dr Stanley Ratteray, Edouard and Rosalind Williams, Clifford Wade, Marva Phillips, Coleridge Williams, Rudy and Vera Commissiong, Clifford and Florenz Maxwell, Eugene Woods, Lancelot and Esme Swan, Dr Erskine Simmons, William Francis, William Walwyn and Gerald and Izola Harvey.

Note: The Progressive Group will lead the Seniors Train in the Bermuda Day Parade, represented by Vera Commissiong, Gerald & Izola Harvey, Florenz Maxwell, Dr. Erskine Simmons, and William Francis.



Dr. Eva Hodgson

This past February the Bermuda Union of Teachers (BUT) celebrated its 100th Anniversary. Since its inception the organisation has advocated for better working conditions and greater access to resources in order to ensure the future success of the Island's children. One of the organisation's most outspoken leaders was former President **Dr. Eva Hodgson**.

The educator, author and activist is best known for her anti-racism campaigning, which has won her both criticism and praise, perhaps in equal measure. Born into a family that put down roots in Crawl, Hamilton Parish more than two centuries ago, Dr Hodgson was the second eldest of six children. She graduated from The Berkeley Institute and received a Government scholarship to attend Queen's University in Ontario, where she obtained her undergraduate degree. Committed to academic excellence, Dr. Hodgson went on to earn a Diploma in Education and Honours Degree in Geography at London University. The time she spent in the U.K. heightened her awareness of racial injustice in Bermuda. Upon returning to the Island in 1959, she began writing letters to the editor of the Bermuda Recorder; and wrote prolifically for years thereafter. In 1965, while teaching at The Berkeley, she became the first president of the Amalgamated Bermuda Union of Teachers (BUT), the BUT celebrates their 100th year anniversary in 2019. The union sponsored her seminal book *Second Class Citizens, First Class Men*, which focused on the social and political changes that occurred in Bermuda between 1953 and 1963. In 1967, Dr. Hodgson moved to New York to study at Columbia University, where she received two Masters degrees, before embarking on studies for a Ph.D. in African history and black American history, which she obtained in 1980. She returned to Bermuda to serve as a guidance counsellor at Robert Crawford School and in 1983 was appointed coordinator of Oral History and Cultural Preservation in Education in the Ministry of Education, a post she held until 1990. As a result of her work with the BUT, she won the Russell Award for contributing to world peace from the World Confederation of the Organization of the Teaching Profession. She was also awarded a grant from Columbia to conduct field research in Liberia - during which time she visited several other West African countries. In 1992, Dr. Hodgson co-founded the National Association of Reconciliation, which remained an entity for 15 years. She has credited the association with helping to put the issue of race on the national agenda. Awarded the Queen's Certificate, Badge of Honour and an OBE, she is an honorary member of Citizens Uprooting Racism (CURB).



Luis Bernardo, MBE

The impact and influence of the Portuguese community in Bermuda is all around us: from the beautifully manicured gardens and parks, to contributions in education, real estate development and business, among other industries. Born in the Azores, **Luis Bernardo** has always been proud of his Portuguese heritage. His family immigrated to the Island in 1949; a time when there was considerable prejudice towards those of Portuguese descent. Still, Mr. Bernardo was determined to succeed both personally and professionally. He believed a moment would come when he and his fellow Azoreans would become an essential part of the social and economic fabric of Bermuda. While growing up, Mr. Bernardo developed a dear appreciation for the Bermudian way of life, including the people's friendliness, and thought of the Island as his adopted home. In order to assimilate, he focused his time and efforts on serving others in both his career and personal life. One of his first jobs was in the survey department of the Ministry of Public Works. He moved around to different Government departments, before eventually deciding on a career in architecture and joined local firm Smith & Marshall in 1962. Through hard work and dedication he later became a partner in the company. A former Chairman of the United Bermuda Party, Mr. Bernardo was respected for his modesty and common sense approach to community problems. He was tireless in his dedication to community service and held various volunteer positions- as the President of Sandys Holding Co. Ltd and Chairman of the Board of Governors at Warwick Academy. The dedicated husband and father of four involved himself in church activities, becoming the first president of St. Joseph's Men's Association, as well as Deputy Chairman at the St. Joseph's Church Council. A sporting enthusiast, he also served in various capacities with the Belmont Golf Course Links Committee and Bermuda Golf Association. Keeping his native traditions alive, Mr. Bernardo educated others through a Portuguese programme on Radio and Television Newscast. He also served as President of the Vasco Da Gama Club, lending a hand with the designing and planning of the club's Annual Bermuda Heritage Day Parade float - often staying up late the night before the holiday to finish his creations. His substantial service to the Portuguese Community was recognized in 1979 when he was awarded the Commander of the Order of Infante D. Henrique by the Portuguese Government.

Note: Unfortunately, Mr. Bernardo was not able to travel home to participate in the Bermuda Day Parade.



Shiona Turini

Fashion has opened up a world of opportunity for Bermudian Shiona Turini. The consultant, stylist, and costume designer has spent the last decade travelling around the globe, making herself known as one of the industry's leading fashion experts. The best part? She has taken Bermuda with her on the ride. Ms. Turini has shared about her love for her homeland and culture in *Elle Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *Harper's Bazaar* and *Conde Nast Traveler*, to name a few. She has also been instrumental in the annual Bermuda Fashion Festival, helping to pair up-and-coming local designers with influential fashion mentors, which directly contributed to the success of the Local Designer Showcase. Growing up in Paget Parish and Devil's Hole in Smith's, Ms. Turini attended college in Virginia before moving to New York at age 21. Her first fashion industry gig was working at Yves Saint Laurent; while stints at *W Magazine*, *Teen Vogue* and *Cosmopolitan* followed. She later branched out on her own as a freelance consultant, working on editorial and commercial styling, music videos and red carpet. Her extensive resume includes a collaboration with Solange Knowles on stunning visual projects, 'Don't Touch My Hair' and 'Cranes in the Sky' and styling Beyoncé's 'Formation' music video. She has also been a contributing editor for *New York Magazine's The Cut*; created the wardrobe for Season 3 of HBO's popular show 'Insecure' created by Issa Rae; and consulted for brands like Stuart Weitzman and Christian Dior. On her latest project, Ms Turini is doing costume design work on the set of movie 'Queen and Slim', written by Lena Waithe and starring 'Get Out' actor Daniel Kaluuya. Not one to forget her roots, Ms. Turini collaborated with the Bermuda Tourism Authority in 2015 to create a digital influencer programme that promoted Bermuda as a luxury, premier travel destination. No matter how far she rises one thing remains clear: she will never forget where she comes from and remains "so proud to call this tiny Island in the Atlantic [her] home".



Jennifer Gray

For more than half a century the Bermuda Turtle Project has been on a mission to protect sea turtles that call Bermuda's waters their home. At the helm of that organisation is director, Jennifer Gray, Partly thanks to the group's research and conservation efforts, the green turtle which once nested abundantly in Bermuda, but hadn't been seen for nearly a century, was discovered once again on a beach at Building's Bay in St George's in 2015. Ms. Gray's investment in local environmental organisations doesn't stop there. She is a past president and current vice president of the Bermuda Audubon Society; a former chair of the Bermuda National Trust Marine Environmental Committee; founding member of both the Environmental Coalition and Pesticides Focus Group; and consulting member of Save Open Spaces. Well known for three decades of service with the Bermuda Government's Ministry of Environment at the Bermuda Aquarium Museum and Zoo, Ms. Gray has been instrumental in shaping programmes to raise the awareness of the interactions between nature and people on our fragile oceanic island. She has nurtured many wild animals including hand rearing orphaned seals, longtails and cahows; healing injured and unwell sea turtles and saving magnificent whales. The mother of two enjoys working with people of all ages restoring habitats and fostering an interest and appreciation of Bermuda's unique environment. She successfully facilitated the collaboration between the Bermuda Audubon Society and the Bermuda National Trust to create, what is now, the Buy Back Bermuda campaign. A driving force behind the Nonsuch Natural History Camp for many years, she has encouraged the younger generation to love and care for our local environment. Ms. Gray is a motivated ambassador for Bermuda's cultural heritage, the environment and its biodiversity. She has also encouraged and implemented many successful programmes inspiring others with her passion, knowledge and energy. Grateful for her many opportunities and experiences on the Island, Ms. Gray believes we should all count ourselves "blessed to be a part of Bermuda".

Note: Ms. Gray notes that, "we have a fascinating history of diverse cultural traditions on such holidays and sadly I am not available for the parade as my family have made plans for a long weekend at sea."

Celebrating 40 Years of the Bermuda Day Parade





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Special THANKS

Heather Whalen – Director – *Community and Cultural Affairs*

Heritage Advisory Committee

Carlita Lodge – Chairperson – *Cultural Affairs Programme Manager*

Clyde-A-Mae Tucker – *Events and Programme Coordinator*

Vanessa Bartley

Ronnie Chameau

DeShae DeShields

Jill Dill

Glenn Fubler

Zina-May Parsons

Milton Raposo

Robert Wilson

Parade Marshals

The Royal Bermuda Regiment

Additional Thanks

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Staff

Department of Corrections

Department of Communications

Corporation of Hamilton

Bermuda Tourism Authority



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