



# SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2024

## Message from the Executive Director

Ernesto's visit was a reminder that even 'just' a Cat 1 hurricane is a force to be reckoned with.

Fortunately, the impact on BNT's historic buildings and nature reserves was relatively minor.

However, with forecasters predicting up to 10 more named storms in the Atlantic this season, it seems we are now living with the predicted effects of climate change.



**Bermudiana Beach Hotel after Ernesto. Photo by Wendell Hollis.**

Speaking of predictions, many of you will have seen photos of the latest rock falls at Bermudiana Beach Hotel caused by Ernesto, putting the buildings closer than ever to the edge of the cliff. BNT was among those who warned of the dangers of building so close to the shoreline and objected to the development at the planning stage – only to be accused of scaremongering and standing in the way of affordable housing (which was the original intent of the development). An ugly seawall was built along the coast to provide some protection. Though Government engineers still profess faith that the hotel is safe, it remains to be seen what damage might be wrought by a Cat 3 or 4.

Sadly, this is just one example of many where the warnings of BNT and other environmental organisations and concerned individuals have been set aside. Plans have recently been submitted by Palmetto Gardens in Flatts to shore up the ecologically important cliff undercut on Harrington Sound (known as the "notch") due to concerns for the stability of the condos above. The notch has, predictably, deepened due to natural forces since the condos were built over 20 years ago.

The lesson is clear – we ignore or underestimate the forces of nature at our peril; when

development takes place without consideration for the environment there will always be a price to pay.



**Karen Border**  
Executive Director

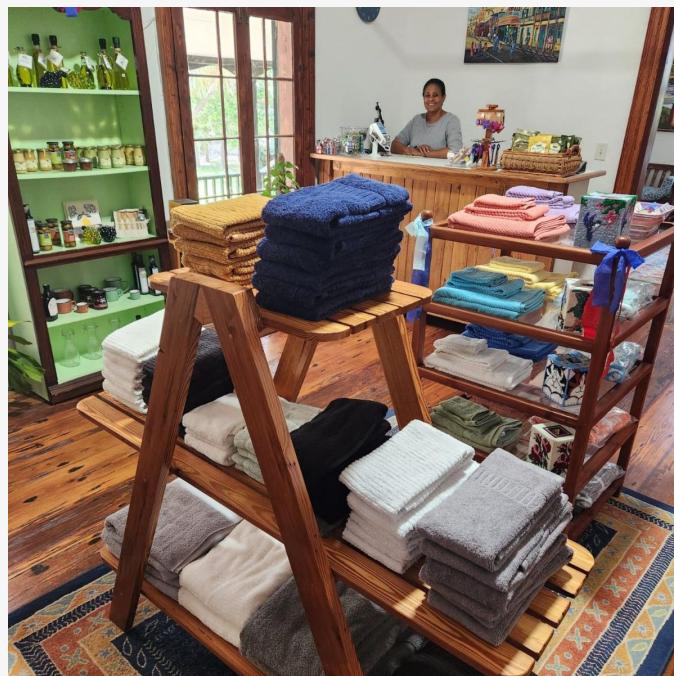
## New chapter for Springfield as eco store opens

BNT's Grade 1 listed Springfield property in Sandys has started a new chapter in its long history, with the opening of eco store Gotta Go Green in the main building.

The new shop is in the same location as Bargain Hunters, which closed last year. Run by Steven and Donna DeSilva, Gotta Go Green is focused on selling 'green' products at competitive prices. "We aim to encourage minimal waste with responsible, earth friendly products" said Donna DeSilva. "We're excited and optimistic about the future here at Springfield."

Merchandise includes household items such as sheets and pillows made from responsibly harvested bamboo; locally produced seasonal jams and preserves and Bermuda honey; plant-based cleaning products such as laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid and multi surface and floor cleaning products; hand crafted bath soaps and plastic-free toothpaste in tablet form.

"We remain true to promoting healthy and 'green' lifestyles," said Donna. "We are encouraging recycling, reusing, and repurposing via the opportunity to refill dishwashing and laundry containers from our bulk supply. A selection of home gardening supplies is on its way and we will promote and supply healthy alternatives to pesticides, insecticides, and fertilizers."



In due course, Steven and Donna intend to provide an opportunity to linger on the property by running a coffee shop.

*Gotta Go Green is open Monday to Saturday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.*

## Natural Heritage Updates

*Myles Darrell, Head of Natural Heritage*

### Help us if you can, we're feeling down

Having just experienced Hurricane Ernesto, we are all familiar with the resulting storm damage! Fortunately, we know that the battered vegetation will recover amazingly quickly, as nature springs into action to battle for its survival.

However, sometimes our help is needed, for example tree-staking. Although blown-over trees can survive, we need those trees upright again to provide the canopy that helps prevent invasive species from flourishing.



Operations to clear up trails and stake trees are still ongoing and will take quite some time. Please do continue to access Trust properties for your enjoyment, but take care of hanging branches, protruding roots, uneven terrain and slippery leaf-covered pathways.



# Cultural Heritage Updates

Dr. Charlotte Andrews, Head of Cultural Heritage

## Açores-Bermudas Conexões

Visiting the Azores this summer with my family really brought home to me the profound cultural ties of our two island communities. Nearly every local we met had a Bermuda connection, and we only explored a few of the islands! I felt proud to see the Bermuda flag and the Azores-Bermuda story on display at the Azorean Emigration Museum. I was reminded there and throughout our trip that Azorean-Bermudians are celebrating 175 years of cross-Atlantic shared heritage this year.

There were cultural parallels everywhere, many arising from the strong connection to the sea. Festivals of the Sea with aquatic art, seafood, pilot gig racing and live performances were hotly anticipated and well attended. Whaling museums sensitively told tales of a dangerous occupation that has today evolved into whale watching tours. Of the two World Heritage Sites of the Azores, the Central Zone of the Town of Angra do Heroísmo on Terceira is most like our UNESCO-inscribed living town of St. George's. Our historic towns share well-preserved central areas and related fortifications amid modern merchants and an array of attractions run by different cultural partners.



Whaling Industry Museum located in the original whale oil, flour and vitamins factory on Pico.

## Golden congratulations NMB!

The Trust team would like to express our most sincere congratulations to everyone at the National Museum of Bermuda on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Bermuda has benefitted enormously from the dedicated work done by everyone involved in setting up and running the museum over the last half century.

BNT is proud to have played a key role in the establishment of NMB's forerunner, the Bermuda Maritime Museum (BMM) in 1974. BNT President John Ellison, Council members Lt. Col. Michael Darling and Andrew Trimingham and BNT Executive Director William Zuill worked closely with BMM's first chairman Dr Jack Arnell to create a non-government, not-for-profit organisation that today has a mission '*to be a first-class national museum and research facility, inspiring engagement with and protection of Bermuda's diverse cultural heritage*'.

We at the Trust very much value our ongoing relationship with the museum as a cultural heritage partner. We are constantly inspired by our NMB colleagues and the meaningful initiatives and programming they undertake and provide for the community with the support of their members, donors and volunteers.

## Heritage Education Updates

*Anna Stevenson, Heritage Education Manager*

The summer sped by and the last of our holiday camps wrapped up at the end of August. It has been a wonderful season of field trips, fun, and creativity with lovely groups of engaged and curious children. We wish them all the best of success for their new school year. Registration for [Funtastic Fall camp](#) is now open.

With the start of the academic year, we are delighted to launch our fourth annual [Student Art Competition](#), sponsored by Sompo! The theme this year is "Worth Protecting". There are two age categories: 9-12 years and 13-18 years, with cash prizes for the best three entries in each category. Winning pieces will be exhibited at Waterville and then in the foyer of the Sompo office, Waterloo House. The deadline for submitting artwork is 1 November. For more information, click on the link above. We look forward to seeing many creative entries!

**FUN FAMILY ACTIVITIES FOR FALL**



## Built to Last



*Black Watch Well as it appeared in John J Bushell's 1938 guidebook, Picturesque Bermuda, 29th Edition. Governor Elliot had the granite slab made in 1849 to commemorate the site.*

### The Well of The Black Watch

*This is part of a series of architectural articles by the Bermuda National Trust that highlight some of Bermuda's endangered historic buildings.*

*By Linda Abend and Margie Lloyd, Bermuda National Trust*

Straddling Langton Hill and Black Watch Pass is a small structure that protects a long-forgotten landmark known as Black Watch Well. The well was dug at the request of then Governor Charles Elliot in 1849 by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Royal Highland Regiment of Foot during a period of severe drought for

the people living in the area around Government House.

[Click here to read the full article](#)

## Filemaker Pro - expert help needed

BNT stores a huge amount of information on Bermuda's historic buildings, as well as our Collections inventory, in the Filemaker Pro database. We are looking for someone with expertise in Filemaker to provide technical assistance with transitioning the data to a Cloud-based version and advise on other queries about the database. Please contact Lauren Simons at [lsimons@bnt.bm](mailto:lsimons@bnt.bm) or 236- 6483 ext 218 if you are willing to volunteer your help!

## 2024 Annual Raffle has launched!

We are excited to launch our annual raffle! Don't miss the chance to win one of four amazing prizes, including an electric Mini COOPER. Other prizes include a Vespa Motor Bike, a \$500 BELCO Voucher, a \$500 Supermart Voucher and two round trip tickets on BermudAir



Tickets cost \$100, and we have only printed **1,100 tickets**, giving you a better chance to **WIN!**

**Tickets are available at the following locations:**

- **Online** – Click the link below or visit our website to easily purchase a ticket online! You will automatically receive your ticket number and be entered into the raffle.
- At Waterville, 2 Pomander Road, Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm or call 236-6483 and we can process your card over the phone.
- At the Trustworthy store at the Globe Museum in St. George's ([view opening hours](#))
- Through other supporting partners!

The draw will take place on Tuesday, 10 December at 10:00 am at Waterville, 2 Pomander Road and can be watched through Facebook Live.

[Purchase a ticket online!](#)

## Upcoming Events

**BNT Annual Raffle**

Launch date: Tuesday, 3 September, 2024

Draw: Tuesday, 10 December, 2024

[Purchase your ticket online!](#)

**Student Art Competition**

Theme: Worth Protecting

Deadline: Friday, 1 November, 2024

[More information](#)

**Trust Talk: Decolonizing Language with Rashida Godwin**

Tuesday, 24 September, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Waterville, 2 Pomander Road

[Click here to sign up](#)

**Community Volunteer Day: Paget Marsh**

Saturday, 28 September, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Waterville, 2 Pomander Road

[Click here to sign up](#)

**Nannini's Fashion Show Fundraiser**

Saturday, 19 October

Doors open at 3:30 pm; Show begins at 4:00 pm

Verdmont Museum, 6 Verdmont Lane

[Click here to sign up](#)

**Community Volunteer Day: Eve's Pond Nature Reserve**

Saturday, 19 October, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Waterville, 2 Pomander Road

[Click here to sign up](#)

**Community Volunteer Day: Gilbert Nature Reserve**

Saturday, 16 November, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Waterville, 2 Pomander Road

[Click here to sign up](#)

**Museums' Opening Hours**

[Click here to view our museums' opening hours](#)

**SAVE THE DATE: Bermuda National Trust Walkabout**

Friday, 6 December 2024

UNESCO World Heritage Site, St George's



# STUDENT ART COMPETITION



The Bermuda National Trust together with SOMPO International is excited to invite students to participate in our fourth Student Art Competition.

Show us how you interpret this year's theme:

## WORTH PROTECTING

Winners will receive cash prizes and the artwork will be shown at a special exhibition at Sompo.

## COMPETITION DETAILS

**Deadline:** 5:00 pm on Friday, 1st November 2024

**Theme:** Worth Protecting

**Medium:** Drawing, painting, sculpture, multimedia, collage, photography, and digital art (video excluded)

**Age Categories:** 13 – 18 years; 9 – 12 years

**Prizes:** 13 – 18 years: 1st \$500; 2nd \$300; 3rd \$150

9 – 12 years: 1st \$300; 2nd \$150; 3rd \$75

**Registration must be completed before you submit your work.**

For competition rules and to register, visit [bnt.bm](http://bnt.bm) or scan the QR code.



Artwork must be dropped off at BNT headquarters:  
Waterville, 2 Pomander Road, Paget PG05

For questions please contact [education@bnt.bm](mailto:education@bnt.bm)

# TRUST TALK

## Decolonizing Language with Rashida Godwin



Join us for an in-person Trust Talk with award-winning tour manager Rashida Godwin.

*Why does language change over time?*

*What influences those changes?*

*And who drives the change?*

In this Trust Talk, Rashida Godwin will explore the history of language used in relation to enslavement and Emancipation in Bermuda, particularly focusing on the recent move away from dehumanising terms to those that focus on culpability.

Rashida manages Titan Tours, a transport and tour company that also shares the vibrant history of Bermuda. Through diverse tours and educational offerings, Rashida has redefined the way we perceive and learn about Bermuda's history. She was recently awarded the Dr. Eva Hodgson Award. Her work includes untold stories and hidden history tours such as: The Mary Prince Legacy Bus Tour, The Freedom Tour in the City, The MAAFA Tour at National Museum, Friendly Societies Tour, which all provide invaluable insights into the African heritage deeply embedded in Bermuda's history. She has knitted together a landscape to create a sense of place and memory where previously there was nothing and how one person's desire to share hidden histories can spark change and pave the way for a more equitable and just community.



This talk is part of the RISE program (Re-Imaging Sites of Enslavement).

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Tuesday, 24 September, 2024

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Cost: \$20 Members; \$25 Non-Members

Refreshments will be served after the talk

Visit [bnt.bm](http://bnt.bm) to sign up.

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# NANNINI'S FASHION SHOW & FUNDRAISER

AT **VERDMONT MUSEUM**

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SATURDAY, 19 OCTOBER, 2024

TICKETS: \$35 MEMBERS; \$45 NON-MEMBERS

DOORS OPEN AT 3:30 PM, SHOW STARTS AT 4:00 PM

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Nannini Group Fashions, a Bermuda-based company offers exquisite women's fashion from European designers in France, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, and more. For this year only, they are also offering a selection of items for girls aged 3 to 12 years!

**Ticket includes:**

**Welcome Drink:** Enjoy a complimentary drink upon arrival.

**Door Prize:** Your ticket includes entry into a draw for an exciting door prize.

**Support a Cause:** All ticket proceeds and 15% of sales will go towards supporting the Trust's heritage mission!

Don't miss this unique opportunity to explore the latest in European fashion while contributing to a meaningful cause.

For more information and to purchase a ticket,  
visit [bnt.bm](http://bnt.bm) or call 236-6483



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