

THE COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

Conserve nature, preserve life



TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE INSTALLED AT BAY STREET, ST. MICHAEL

The Sankofa Moment Commemorative Plaque was recently installed by a team of Artisans from the National Conservation Commission (NCC) at Bay Street, St. Michael - opposite Government Headquarters.

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VISITORS TO THE National Conservation Commission's (NCC) Codrington House will be greeted by enchanting beach-themed epoxy steps that prominently features the NCC's logo. The upgrade is a component of the refurbishment and restoration process.

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EPOXY FOR CODRINGTON HOUSE'S ENTRANCE

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NCC'S FACILITIES CONTACT INFORMATION

Codrington House's PBX	536-0600
NCC's Garden Center	536-0641
Bath Facility	572-0691
Bathsheba Facility	536-0717
Batts Rock Facility	536-0690
Brandon's Facility	536-0691
Brownes Beach Facility	536-0692
Enterprise Beach Facility	536-0694
Farley Hill National Park	536-0699
Folkestone Marine Park	536-0654
Hastings Facility	536-0701
King George V Memorial Park	536-0703
Oistins Bay Garden	536-0704
Pebbles Facility	536-0705
Queen's Park	536-0706
Rockley Facility	536-0708
Silver Sands Facility	536-0709
Three Houses Park	572-0437
Worthing Facility	536-0711

GM'S MESSAGE

IN THE REALM of human existence, the concept that 'No man is an island' espoused by John Donne, resonates deeply, echoing the sentiment that individual success is intricately linked to the connections we form with others.

This profound notion, famously articulated by the renowned poet John Donne, emphasizes the inherent interdependence among individuals and the collective strength that emerges when we work together towards a common goal.

Throughout history, societal progress, innovation, and resilience have been fuelled by collaborative efforts rather than solitary endeavours.

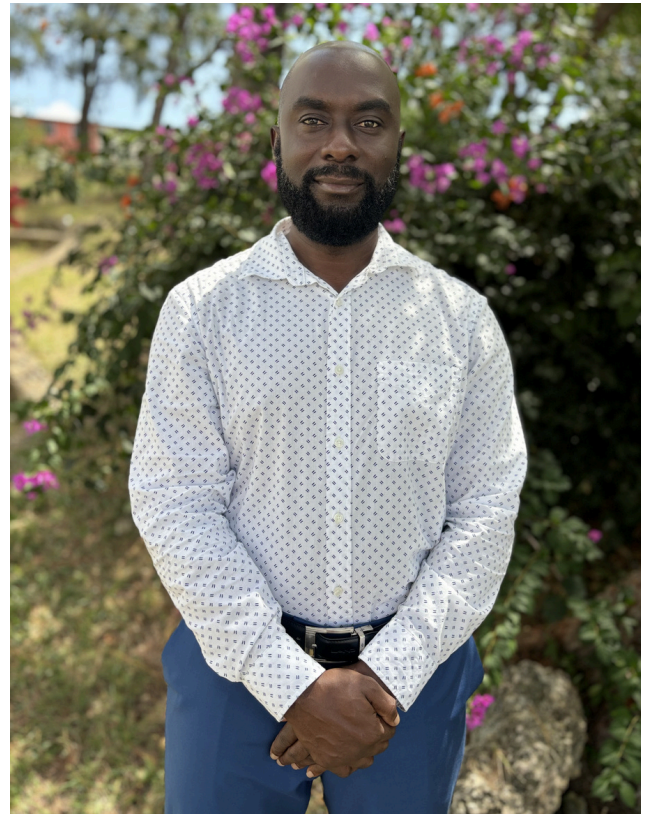
The National Conservation Commission (NCC) stands as a poignant example of the transformative power of partnerships and connectivity in shaping a sustainable future for all.

By forging alliances with environmental and conservation groups, nurturing business relationships, and collaborating with government agencies, the NCC exemplifies how interconnectedness lays the foundation for mutual growth and shared success.

The ethos of interconnectedness, serves as a guiding principle for the NCC's strategic approach to conservation and environmental stewardship.

By recognizing that no entity exists in isolation, the NCC has cultivated a network of partnerships that amplify its impact and effectiveness in achieving its conservation objectives.

Moreover, the symbiotic relationships cultivated by the NCC extend beyond the realm of environmental conservation, encompassing strategic alliances with businesses and



Mr. Ryan Als
Acting General Manager

National Conservation Commission

government agencies.

The collaborative efforts with government agencies underscore the NCC's commitment to interdisciplinary cooperation and holistic approaches to conservation.

By aligning with governmental entities, the NCC enhances its efforts and leverages institutional resources to drive systemic change in environmental governance.

Our interconnectedness is not merely a philosophical ideal but a pragmatic imperative for addressing the complex challenges of our time.

As we navigate the intricate web of relationships that bind us together, let us heed the timeless wisdom of John Donne and recognize that our true strength lies in unity, our greatest achievements emerge from collaboration, and the flourishing of our collective well-being is inexorably intertwined.

Commemorative plaque installed at Bay Street



The historic Sankofa Moment Commemorative Plaque was recently unveiled.

IN RECOGNITION OF the 159th Anniversary of the migration of 346 Barbadians to the West African country of Liberia, the Sankofa Moment Commemorative Plaque was recently installed by a team from the National Conservation Commission (NCC).

The Commemorative Plaque, which is located at Bay Street, St. Michael, symbolises the signal moment when the ship Brig CORA sailed from Bridgetown to Monrovia, Liberia, on April 6th, 1865. Ryan Als, NCC's Acting General Manager, lauded the team for their prompt execution of the project, which was led by Acting Foreman, Rommell Jones. He also underscored the importance of collaborations between the Commission and government agencies for these projects of national significance.

“By recognizing the value of mutual support and shared achievements, the NCC cultivates a culture of reciprocity that sustains enduring partnerships and paves the way for long-term collaboration. This not only strengthens the bonds between stakeholders but also fosters a sense of solidarity and shared purpose in advancing the common good,” he opined.

Meanwhile, Jones disclosed that the installation took about three days and was complemented by a beautification component, which was executed by NCC's landscaping team.

He explained that the three-day process included the preparation of the area which was executed with the assistance of an excavator and the installation of the stone for the commemorative plaque.

The team's artisans also conducted masonry work in the vicinity of the plaque.

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Commemorative plaque unveiled during ceremony

“Initially, we levelled out the area, set up the boxing, casted the area and on the second day, we worked on stepping stones. Then we removed the boxing on the following day and the area was beautified by our landscaping team; they did a wonderful job,” Jones added.

While Jones noted that the teams did not experience any challenges on the project, he hinted that further development is on the cards for the area, which is opposite Government Headquarters.

Under the theme, Sankofa: The Pilgrimage to Barbados, over 250 Liberians visited the land of the flying fish to engage in several educational and cultural activities over an eight-day period.

On Wednesday, May 8th, the Liberians were joined by scores of Barbadians at the Department of Archives’ Genealogy Marketplace for a day of fun and fellowship.

This event facilitated the tracing of

Barbadian/Liberian connections and included cuisine from both countries.

Entertainment packages, games, workshops and a cultural exhibition by the Division of Culture, Prime Minister’s Office were also part of the event’s activities.

The highlight of the Pilgrimage was the Sankofa Moment Commemorative Plaque Laying Ceremony on Thursday, May 9th, 2024.

During the ceremony, the Commemorative Plaque was unveiled by Prime Minister, Mia Amor Mottley, and Her Excellency, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Former President of Liberia.

The Cora set sail from Bridgetown’s Wharf in 1865 for a 34-day Atlantic voyage to the West African nation.

Two of Liberia’s presidents – Arthur Barclay, the 15th president who ruled from 1904 to 1912, and Edwin Barclay, the 18th president from 1943 to 1944 – were descendants of the single voyage of Barbadians in 1865.



The Sankofa Moment Commemorative Plaque is significant to Barbados’ history.

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

Installation of the Commemorative Plaque



The Commemorative Plaque's stone was installed during the preparatory work.



The preparatory work was executed with the assistance of an excavator.

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

Installation of the Commemorative Plaque



Prior to the application of mortar, the surface was adequately prepared.



The team removed the stepping stones within the plaque's vicinity.



This removal facilitated their reinforcement and reinstatement.

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

Installation of the Commemorative Plaque



The team ensured that the plaque's stone is well-positioned and secure.



The finishing touches of the project included the levelling of the surface.

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

Installation of the Commemorative Plaque



The beautification aspect of the project was executed simultaneously.



The installation of the plaque was conducted during the project's final phase.

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

Installation of the Commemorative Plaque



The Plaque was unveiled during the Sankofa Pilgrimage to Barbados.



It symbolises the moment when the Brig CORA sailed on April 6th, 1865.

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

Installation of the Commemorative Plaque



The Plaque Laying Ceremony was held on Thursday, May 9th, 2024.



NCC's landscaping team ensured that the area was beautified to perfection.

Epoxy application for Codrington House's entrance



Preparation of the steps' surface was completed ahead of the epoxy application.

VISITORS TO THE National Conservation Commission's (NCC) Codrington House will be greeted by enchanting beach-themed epoxy steps that prominently features the NCC's logo.

Ryan Als, NCC's Acting General Manager, made the disclosure while he indicated that the upgrade is part of the refurbishment and restoration of the organization's main office building.

"The Refurbishment team had a discussion about the appearance of the Codrington House's entrance and emanating from it was the idea of having NCC's logo embedded. We then looked at the best way to do it and considered epoxy as the best solution," he explained. This solution, Als added, was supported by key benefits that were derived from the team's research.

"Epoxy floors are highly durable and can withstand heavy traffic, making them ideal for our office setting. They provide a seamless surface, they are more cost-effective than traditional tiles, and they can be designed to be slip-resistant, enhancing safety in areas where moisture and spills are common," he averred.

The epoxy's seamless finish is also free of grout lines or seams that can accumulate dirt, which makes easy to clean according to Als.

He added: "This feature also helps to prevent bacterial growth. They require less material, less labour, and have lower maintenance costs over time due to their durability and longevity".

Its environmentally friendly feature was an added bonus, as Als emphasized the importance of this component to the Commission's staff.

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Building's balcony will also feature epoxy design

“The epoxy is low in volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and can be installed over existing surfaces, eliminating the need for new materials and reducing waste,” he opined.

The customisable design option, which offers a range of colours, patterns and finishes, sealed the deal as the team opted to also use the application for the building's balcony.

With a neutral and simplistic design, Als anticipates that the balcony's maintenance will be low and its durability will withstand the test of time.

“Our balcony will carry a marble type finish as opposed to the specific theme we opted for at the entrance. Given that the space is primarily used for relaxation and recreation, we opted for lighter tones and a softer finish, which complements the

picturesque view from our balcony,” he explained.

While he highlighted the partially enclosed feature of the balcony, Als noted that the epoxy application was ideal for the space due to its resistance to impact, chemical stains, and scratches, which leads to a longer lifespan compared to tiles.

“The epoxy floor option offered us a combination of durability, design versatility, and cost-effectiveness with features that make it them preferred choice over traditional tile flooring in many applications,” he asserted.

The refurbishment and restoration of Codrington House commenced last year with phase one comprising the removal of the building's roof.

The epoxy application is a component of the project's final phase.



The Codrington House's entrance wall will also be repainted during this phase.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Meet Verden Seale, Acting Assistant Superintendent



Verden Seale was recently appointed to the role of Acting Assistant Superintendent.

ON A FIRM foundation, which was built by his dedicated father, Verden Seale commenced the construction of his career at the National Conservation Commission (NCC) over 35 years ago.

With critical 'building materials' such as the requisite knowledge, techniques and training, Seale honed his skills as a mason under his father's mentorship.

"I felt great following in my father's footsteps. He also worked at NCC and was an A-Class mason. I watched and learned from him and I became one too," he declared. Seale credited the mastery of his skills to his 'progressive mindset' in addition to his father's tutelage.

"In the early days, he ensured that my skills were sharpened, which was easy because I

embraced his efforts to correct me when he saw that I was making mistakes and I was able to master my own style from the skills that he taught me," he explained.

This style is guided by one of Seale's mantras, 'begin with the end in mind'.

"Planning the work before I start has helped me a lot and my colleagues have also benefited from this because I have shared my knowledge with them to ensure that they work smart and not hard," he opined.

A natural leader, Seale often grabbed the proverbial bull by horns and provided strategic guidance on the execution of projects, prior to formally acting as a Foreman in 2007.

"The aim is to always get the job finish satisfactorily. If I am not doing something properly and good, I am not doing it at all.

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Relentless effort is the bedrock of Seale's achievements



Verden Seale commenced his journey at NCC as a Mason on Monday, November 2nd, 1987.

as the enhancement of its recreational facility and the development of its play park. While Seale alluded to the projects being 'tedious', he recounted his relentless efforts to always rise to the occasion despite the challenges.

This approach was a critical component for Seale during the construction of the NCC's facility at Bathsheba, St. Joseph.

"I was in my 20s at the time of this project and it was one of the most challenging projects I have worked on over the years because of the location of the facility, it was built on the beach," he explained. Seale alluded to remaining steadfast despite the project's obstacles and the rugged

I love my job, I have learned the length and breadth of Barbados from working at NCC and after all of these years, there is not a parish I have not touched through my work," he averred. As his eyes glistened with satisfaction, Seale reflected on his journey at the NCC and vividly recalled his first assignment, the refurbishment of Queen's Park in 1987. "I began work at NCC in November of that year and they were preparing Queen's Park for the Christmas Morning Celebration. The preparations included the refurbishment of the lake," he added. This assignment preceded the restoration of the restaurant and gazebo at Farley Hill, the development of the Three Houses Park, the construction of the pavilion at the King George V Memorial Park as well conditions of the beach.

"We had to dig and go down to the sea water to develop the area for the facility's foundation and we had to remain focused. The sun was extremely hot at that time and it caused us to generate a lot of sweat... our shirts looked like they had tie-dye patterns because of the excess sweat," he said with a chuckle.

Seale noted that the Bathsheba Facility is still one of the most outstanding projects in his portfolio.

"That project remains significant to me

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Good decision-making is critical to Seale's success

because of the high level of camaraderie among the workers, the challenges we were able to overcome throughout the job and also because it showed me how hard I can work," he asserted with a burst of laughter. Seale's commitment and dedication has not gone unnoticed by NCC's management, as he was recently promoted to the role of Acting Assistant Superintendent, having served as a Foreman for 14 years.

His first assignment in this role was the refurbishment and restoration of Codrington House - NCC's main office building. The removal of the building's roof was the first phase of this project.



Verden Seale is always prepared to put his astute leadership skills in motion for NCC's projects.

"My leadership skills were put in motion from inception because decision-making has been critical throughout the project and work was required on every area of the building," Seale explained.

In addition to the removal and replacement of the roof, the Codrington House refurbishment and restoration comprised the replacement of sections of the floor, the resurfacing of the walls, electrical and plumbing upgrades to the existing infrastructure as well as the replacement of the doors, windows and window hoods. "This refurbishment had a lot of moving

parts and several of the Artisans were operating simultaneously to execute the work required for the reinstallation of the air condition units and cameras while executing the other electrical and plumbing works," he outlined.

With the finish line in sight, Seale is proud of his dynamic team.

"This project made me feel good, I saw the ability of workers that I was not seeing all along and I can safely say that this project has brought out the best in the staff that worked consistently on the building," he affirmed.

While Seale acknowledged that there were 'frustrating' periods during the project, he emphasized the importance of not yielding

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Seale's leadership style is sealed with assertion

when the pressure is mounting.

"Sometimes with strong and varying personalities, leadership becomes more of a requirement to ensure there is a balance between the work and the desired progress and that is where I came in, with this project," he stated.

As Seale looked to the future with optimism, he indicated that he 'anticipates the reopening of Codrington House's purple heart doors to the staff and customers of the NCC'.

Seale added that he believes the climax of the project will result in a heartwarming feeling, that is synonymous with the proud moments he experiences when he traverses Barbados and reflects on previously completed projects.

"When I see the fruits of my labour or in some cases, when I visit sites and remember sacrificing my lunch hours to get the jobs completed, it reminds me that I did it for persons to enjoy the parks and facilities that I worked on," he said with a warm smile.

As he acknowledged the steady progress of the project over the past six months, Seale reiterated: "I will feel even better when the job is complete and the ribbon is being cut to signal the official reopening of the historic Codrington House".



Verden Seale has an extensive portfolio and is proud of his achievements at NCC.

CONSERVATION CHRONICLES

12 more turtle-friendly lights installed at NCC's beach facilities



Eight turtle-friendly lights were recently installed at the Bath Beach Facility.

THE RISK OF disorientation among female turtles and turtle hatchlings has been reduced at two additional beach facilities following the installation of 12 turtle-friendly lights.

Recently, eight lights were installed at the Bath Beach Facility in the eastern parish of St. John, while four lights were installed at the Worthing Beach Facility in Christ Church.

The installation of the turtle-friendly lights forms part of the National Conservation Commission's (NCC) commitment to safeguarding and enhancing the beach conditions for sea turtle conservation. NCC has also concomitantly bolstered its partnership with the Barbados Sea Turtle Project (BSTP) through this ongoing project.

William Husbands, NCC's Acting Head of the Plumbing and Electrical Division, emphasized the importance of the external lights installations at the beach facilities. Husbands said: "With these installations, we are reducing the risk of female turtles and hatchlings that can become lost because of the disorientation caused by the artificial bright lights, which makes it difficult for them to return to the sea".

Artificial lighting, he added, can also deter the female turtles from nesting - a process that typically occurs at night.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), pregnant female turtles venture to familiar beaches during the summer in search of a nesting spot above the high water mark.

Using their back flippers, the reptiles dig

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CONSERVATION CHRONICLES

Barbadians urged to support the sea turtles conservation efforts

their nests in the sand and lay the eggs, which usually takes from one to three hours. The female turtles slowly return to the sea on conclusion while the eggs remain to incubate in the warm sand for about 60 days.

The temperature of the sand determines the genders of baby sea turtles, with cooler sand producing more males and warmer sand producing more females - a phenomenon which is called Temperature Dependent Sex Determination (TSD) according to NOAA. Meanwhile, NCC's Acting General Manager, Ryan Als, lauded the Division's team comprising William Husbands, Lasonta Nurse, Colvin Sumrah and Richard Campbell, for their commitment and unwavering support of the project. While he underscored the importance of protecting the endangered hawksbill sea turtle, Als urged Barbadians to support the BSTP's and the NCC's efforts.

He added that the declining rate of nesting females for the third year in a row is deeply concerning.

"The installation of the turtle-friendly lights is one of NCC's mitigation measures that aims to assist with their navigation on the beaches, from nest to shore. Our overarching aim from a conservation standpoint is to ensure that a balance is met in order for harmony to exist between man and nature," he explained.

Recreation and economic activity, Als opined, are areas that must work in tandem with conservation to sustain the natural environment and maintain biodiversity while protecting the species within the ecosystem. The installation of turtle-friendly lights will continue at several facilities including Brownes Beach, Brandon's Beach, Batts Rock, Fitts Village, Half Moon Fort and Folkestone Marine Park.

Project updates will be provided in the upcoming editions of The Commission.



Four turtle-friendly lights were recently installed at the Worthing Beach Facility.

CONSERVATION CHRONICLES

Turtle-friendly lights at Bath Beach Facility



Turtle-friendly lights reduce the risk of disorientation among the sea turtles.



The installation aims to enhance the beach conditions for the sea turtles.

CONSERVATION CHRONICLES

Turtle-friendly lights at Worthing Beach Facility



This type of lighting is ideal because the female turtles typically nest at nights.



The NCC and the BSTP continue to work in tandem to conserve the sea turtles.

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