

# THE COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

*Conserve nature, preserve life*



## TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

### RESTORATION OF SECURITY STATION COMPLETE

**NESTLED AMONG THE lush greenery at the entrance of the National Conservation Commission's (NCC) Codrington Headquarters is the recently completed security station.**

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**PLANNING AND PREPARATION are the fundamental factors propelling the National Conservation Commission's (NCC) thrust to maintain operational capability and reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters at its facilities.**

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### BACK-UP STORAGE UNITS FOR 10 SITES

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## THE NCC'S FACILITIES CONTACT INFORMATION

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

# GM'S MESSAGE

**THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION Commission (NCC) is dedicated to establishing wellness-oriented spaces.**

We prioritize mental, emotional, and physical well-being as the foundation of our mission.

While casual observers may perceive our efforts as mere clean-up and beautification, our initiatives extend beyond enhancing aesthetics.

We design areas where individuals can unwind, engage in physical activity, and meditate, ensuring that wellness is deeply woven into the fabric of the community to help manage the stresses of daily life. The NCC aims to inspire more individuals to embrace wellness activities that enhance their quality of life and contribute to a more vibrant and productive Barbadian community.

## ***Natural Wellness Areas***

We provide accessible wellness-focused attractions, including beaches, parks, open spaces, Farley Hill, Barclays Park, Joes River, and Three Houses.

## ***Diverse Fitness Activities***

Our offerings include play areas, walking trails, cycling, kayaking, swimming, paddleball, beach cricket, and beach football, among others.

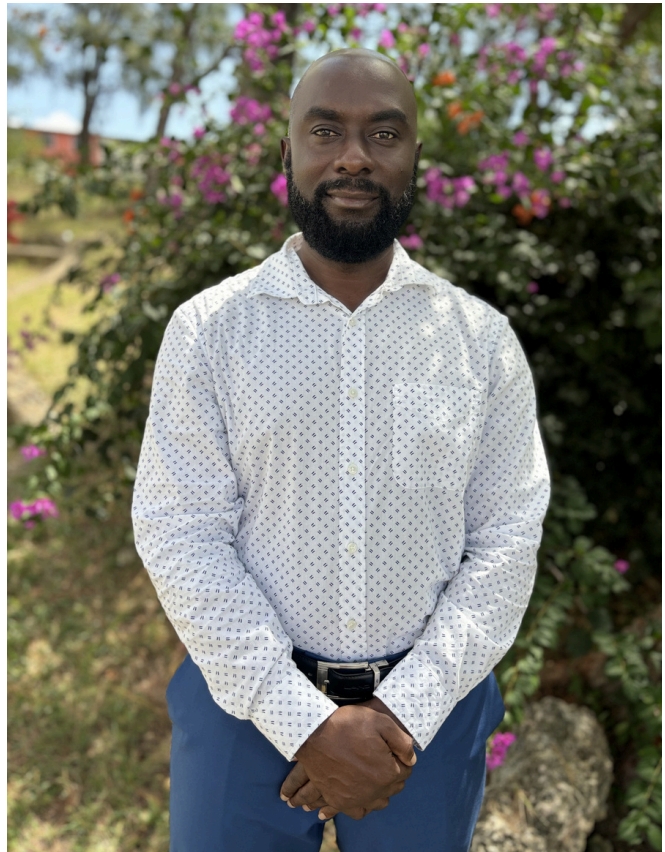
## ***Calm and Serene Environment***

We create tranquil settings that offer an escape from the stresses of modern life, promoting peace and relaxation.

## ***Safe and Secure Spaces***

We prioritize the safety and comfort of both locals and visitors in our parks and on our beaches.

We also uphold standards of health and



**Mr. Ryan Als**

**Acting General Manager**

**National Conservation Commission**

hygiene by ensuring that beaches and open spaces remain clean and aesthetically pleasing.

## ***Enhanced Quality of Life***

We support the community through recreational opportunities and provide economic hubs for vending and leisure activities.

## ***Environmental Wellness***

We are committed to sustainability in managing our natural environment, protecting biodiversity, and minimizing waste from human activities.

Recognizing that each individual requires different elements to achieve balance in their lives, we offer a diverse range of activities, natural beauty, and tranquility throughout the island - an ideal combination of activity and relaxation.



# Renewable energy powers security station



***The NCC's Codrington Headquarters security station has been completed.***

**NESTLED AMONG THE lush greenery at the entrance of the National Conservation Commission's (NCC) Codrington Headquarters is the new security station, which will be operated by personnel of the Ranger/Warden Service.**

The off-white cottage style building, which is trimmed with dark brown boards and has a radiant royal blue base, accentuates the aesthetics of the historic central property.

With modern fixtures, such as solar powered lights, the NCC's team continues to introduce renewable energy components to its facilities. William Husbands, the NCC's Senior Electrician, was responsible for this aspect of the building's construction.

"The renewable energy component included the installation of emergency lighting and all of its security lights are solar powered," he disclosed.

The new security station was also wired more adequately in comparison to the previous station, according to Husbands. "As a result, it can accommodate additional electrical appliances such as a small fridge. We have also installed an air conditioner unit on the building to bring some much needed relief for the staff on humid days," he explained. The staff also have more space to execute their duties as the new building is double the size of the previous security station.

A counter with lockers has been installed as part of the station's design for the staff's personal belongings.

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# Artisans lauded for their outstanding work

NCC's Acting General Manager, Ryan Als, lauded the staff of the Building and Works Department for their seamless execution of this project.

He also seized the opportunity to reiterate his satisfaction with the team's efforts during the refurbishment and restoration of Codrington House - the NCC's main building.

While he alluded to the complexity of the project, given its magnitude and intricacies, Als underscored the 40-member team's willingness and capacity to rise to the occasion and overcome obstacles.

He credited their strategic approaches to said obstacles for yielding the desired results on Codrington House.

The security station's team included Carpenter, Randolph Johnson, and Artisans, Junior Sealy and Patrick Hinds, who also worked on Codrington House. Johnson and Sealy worked assiduously

to construct the station, which was built on a concrete foundation.

The talented gentlemen utilized concrete board and lumber for the building's structure, which also has a panelled white interior.

Sealy meticulously cut and prepared the shingles for the roof, prior to their application.

With assistance from Johnson, the pair worked expeditiously to ensure they maintained the timeline of the project, despite minor delays caused by the intermittent inclement weather.

The Artisans also worked closely with the painters, who were strategic in their execution, given the unpredictability of the weather.

And despite the brief disruptions, the new security station was constructed, completed and presented to the Ranger/Warden service, within one month - the stipulated timeline.



***Solar powered emergency lights have been installed on the security station.***



# RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS

## Codrington headquarters security station



Concrete board and lumber were utilized to construct the station.



Shingles were applied to the roof as part of the construction process.



# RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS

## Codrington headquarters security station



The window frames were installed during the project's second phase.



Seven window frames and one door frame were installed in the station.



# RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS

## Codrington headquarters security station



The second phase also included the electrical wiring of the station.



The electrical wires were concealed during the panelling of the interior.



# RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS

## Codrington headquarters security station



The panelling of the interior was completed during the third phase.



This phase also entailed the installation of the air conditioner unit.



# RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS

## Codrington headquarters security station



The painters primed the security station ahead of the third phase.



The electrical isolator was also installed ahead of the project's third phase.



# RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS

## Codrington headquarters security station



The solar powered emergency lights were installed during the third phase.



The finishing touches of the project comprised the painting of the station.



# Electrical back-up storage units for 10 sites



*Folkestone museum and restaurant have been earmarked for the installation of electrical back-up storage units to minimize disruption of their operations.*

**PLANNING AND PREPARATION are the fundamental factors propelling the National Conservation Commission’s (NCC) thrust to maintain operational capability and reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters.**

Emphasizing the need to be ‘forward thinking’, NCC’s Acting General Manager, Ryan Als, indicated that power outages and fluctuating power supply have been a concern for the NCC in its daily operations and emergency situations.

“By hardening our [electrical] infrastructure, this will ensure that we are ready to face challenges and can rebound faster when natural disasters strike, especially with annual forecasts showing the increase likelihood of the

the development of more weather systems during the hurricane season,” he explained.

**Consequently, 10 of the NCC’s facilities have been earmarked for the installation of electrical back-up storage units.**

**They include the NCC’s Garden Centre and Tissue Culture Lab, Farley Hill’s restaurant and staff quarters, Folkestone’s museum and restaurant, King George V Memorial Park’s facility and the offices in Queen’s Park.**

William Husbands, NCC’s Senior Electrician, said that the electrical back-up storage units will facilitate the commercial demands of the facilities when there is a

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# Minimizing disruptions to daily operations

power outage.

With a maximum charging power of 8,800 watts, Husbands noted that the battery will be fully charged in about two hours and fully discharged over a period of 36 hours.

He added: “The unit acts very similar to the average back-up generator. However, its advantages over the regular generator is that it is obviously quieter, it occupies significantly less space than a generator with the same capacity.”

An added bonus is the unit’s in-door installation capability, which provides more security and facilitates close monitoring.

“The Unit's activity may also be monitored by smart devices with added features to its installation. It is portable and may be repositioned or relocated with the least manpower,” Husbands explained.

The power demand or increase, he added, may easily be regulated by simply adding another battery to the unit.

“These units definitely carry more options and add-on features than a regular back-up generator. In the case of electrical power outages at these selected NCC facilities, the units will restore power and allow for the standard operations to continue, hence the ongoing presence of our employees on the job, while continuing to provide a service to the public at a fully functional facility,” Husbands opined.

Meanwhile, Als disclosed that the project, which will be led by Husbands, will commence within the first half of next year, utilizing a phased approach.

He added that this approach is ideal for some of the facilities that are scheduled for refurbishment and restoration works, such as Folkestone museum and restaurant.

Project updates will be provided in upcoming editions of *The Commission*, as the team endeavours to bolster the NCC’s daily operations, with the support of efficient electrical supply.



***The installation of the electrical back-up storage units will commence in 2025.***



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Meet NCC's Tractor Operator, Hallan Greene



*Tractor Operator, Hallan Greene, joined the NCC's team over 30 years ago.*

**BENEATH THE QUIET and calm demeanour of Hallan Greene is a true believer in the Almighty Father, a proud son of St. Andrew's rich clay soil and a dedicated Tractor Operator at the National Conservation Commission (NCC).**

His journey at the Commission, which began over 30 years ago, has been enriched with work assignments that have taken him across the length and breadth of Barbados.

In his initial role as a General Worker, Greene diligently executed his duties and built longstanding relationships with his colleagues,

some of whom became his friends.

And while a few of these persons have passed on, Greene continues to embrace their positive impact on his life and the great times that they shared at the Commission.

As he expressed his gratitude for their ability to help him 'smoothen the rough days', Greene was equally appreciative of the personal and professional growth that he experienced in this role.

The knowledge he acquired while his skills were honed have also contributed to Greene's preparation for his promotion to the post of Operator.

Utilising tools, such as the lawnmower and lawn edger, he beautified his assigned areas to perfection.

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# Beautifying Barbados is blissful for Greene

“I enjoyed this role because I love beautifying play parks and I especially loved working down Trevor’s Way in The City. The tourists would often pass and admire the landscaping work and the gardens,” he recalled. Greene’s love and passion for beautifying Barbados intensified with each assignment.

“Beautifying the country was, and still is significant to me, especially when people saw the work I did before.

Their compliments made me feel good that I was doing it for my country,” he declared.

His love and passion for beautification did not go unrecognised by the NCC’s management team, as they expanded Greene’s portfolio to include tractor operations.

“This was a bit rough and difficult but became smooth and easy because I also matured with it. When I first started, I did not know a lot about the machinery, but as I became more familiar and knowledgeable, it became easier and maturity played a key role... Now, I really enjoy doing it,” he explained.

One of Greene’s more outstanding assignments in this capacity entailed being a member of the team that developed the National Botanical Gardens.

“Although this work was technical, I enjoyed it. I gained a lot of knowledge and experience through this project from Dr. Nigel Jones. Mr. Ryan Als has



***Greene’s love and passion for the beautification of Barbados fuels his drive to execute assignments.***

also complimented me on the work done. The Prime Minister, Mia Amor Mottley, shared her appreciation for my contribution and even nicknamed me ‘Tractor Man’. I felt warm about that,” he said with a smile.

Greene alluded to developing and utilising a strategy, given the technicality of the assignment.

He added: “I had to be mindful of the small trees in the space while I operated the equipment. My focus was primarily ensuring that I cut the grass at a height and level that was appropriate and it was aesthetically pleasing.”

Paying close attention to details has worked in Greene’s favour, particularly during the Flail Mower’s workshop that was organised by the NCC.

“A MTW [Ministry of Transport and Works] operator trained some of us at the NCC and this prepared me to operate the machinery. I primarily operate it now and I get a lot of praise for the work I do

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# Greene embraces appreciation for his work

and I am happier knowing I do such a wonderful job for the public. Sometimes there are ups and downs with persons traversing the roads while I am operating but it is mainly smooth sailing,” he disclosed. The appreciation Greene receives for his work from members of the public is unmatched.

“The compliments I receive let me know that people are acknowledging my work. They have even spoke about my work on the call-in programmes and this also makes me feel good. I always get praise for what I do and sometimes people even stop me while I am doing it to share their compliments and this always warms my heart,” he said with glee.

And while Greene is a team player, he equally enjoys working independently.

He succinctly said: “I produce more work, I am more comfortable at times and the results speak for themselves.” These results exceed his duties at the NCC as Greene’s beautification efforts have enhanced the aesthetics of open spaces in Chalky Mount - the quiet, rural village that he calls home.

“I do this during my spare time... this is like a hobby for me and it keeps me active and contributes to my wellness. My body feels good while I am doing it and I don’t have any pains associated with it. I don’t know about the future but I feel good now,” he expressed.



***Members of the public have complimented Greene about his work during the line of duty.***

Entering and exiting the tractor also provides a good daily workout for Greene, which he described as ‘simple exercise’.

And the bonus for Greene is his vast knowledge of Barbados’ road network, which he acquired through his job.

“I have been able to understand all of the parishes through the various beautification efforts of the NCC. This is also how I know so many people now, who have associated me with my work across Barbados,” he opined.

While Greene highlighted that he has ‘touched’ all of the parishes through his assignments, he believes he still has more of a positive impact to make at the national level.

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# Discipline keeps Greene on the right track



## ***Greene seeks guidance from the Almighty Father and he is thankful for life.***

The grandfather of one is keen on ensuring there is balance between the personal and professional aspects of his life to bring this desire to fruition.

His granddaughter, Serenity Kellman, is the apple of his eye and Greene thoroughly enjoys their light-hearted moments and wide-ranging conversations.

“I enjoy talking with her, she makes me laugh all the time and she helps me to keep feeling young,” he cheerfully said. Greene is also keen on imparting his knowledge on Kellman as well as the numerous life lessons that he has learned throughout his life.

The importance of being disciplined and keeping out of trouble are some of the pearls of wisdom that he has shared with her.

Greene noted that these two fundamental factors have guided him throughout life and he continues to see the reap the desired results from these seeds he sowed many years ago.

As Greene shifted his outlook to the future, he alluded to strengthening his relationship with Kellman and enhancing his track record at the NCC.

“I see myself continuing to do what I am doing now as long as the Lord gives me the health and strength, and keeps breath in my body. I make sure I say my prayers twice daily because without the Almighty Father, nothing can happen so I have to continue to be a strong believer in Him,” he affirmed.

Greene is also enthusiastic about sharing the knowledge he has acquired with his colleagues at the NCC.



# CONSERVATION CHRONICLES

## 30 bollards installed at Fitts Village Beach



*Four of the white bollards that were recently installed at Fitts Village Beach.*

**THE PROTECTION OF the endangered leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles is paramount to officials at the National Conservation Commission (NCC).**

And their commitment was recently reaffirmed with the installation of 30 bollards on a section of the beach at Fitts Village, St. James - the open lot immediately north of the Church of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

NCC's Acting General Manager, Ryan Als, said that the bollards 'are but one form of defence to save baby turtles'.

"Thousands of sea turtles die every year at Fitts Village Beach. They are often crushed by vehicles, eaten by rats and mongooses, and lured to their demise by the bright lights," he disclosed.

In recognition of the rodent and mongoose attacks on the sea turtles, Als indicated that the NCC's team will

be bolstering its efforts to reduce their presence at this beach.

Another area of high priority for the team is illegal dumping, which significantly impacts the environmental conditions of the western beach.

"We try to remove litter from the beach on a daily basis but we lack the necessary collection vehicles at this time to execute this task as desired. It is further compounded by persons who dump construction and household waste on the beach," Als stressed.

Notwithstanding the challenges, the NCC's team remains committed to conserving the sea turtle population in support of the Barbados Sea Turtle Project's efforts.

Earlier this year, Carla Daniel, Director of the Barbados Sea Turtle Project, made an impassioned plea for assistance from the NCC to maintain and improve the conditions at this beach for the sea turtles.

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# CONSERVATION CHRONICLES

## Sea turtle conservation efforts are critical

The placement of bollards, the planting of low and mid-level vegetation to improve the screening of artificial light from the beach as well as the proper maintenance of the existing vegetation were outlined by Daniel, as areas that the NCC can play a critical role to save the sea turtles.

“This critically endangered species is now facing unprecedented threats from development of its nesting beaches. In 2023, for the third year in a row, numbers of nesting females declined. Without human intervention, it will take very little for our population to crash,” she stressed.

The planting of vegetation was previously explored by the NCC team however, their unauthorised removal by cutlass wielding persons have impacted the full implementation of

this measure.

While he referenced the development and implementation of a comprehensive beach management plan, Als emphasised the importance of the public supporting his team’s efforts to ensure that harmony exists between man and nature.

“Recreation and economic activity must work together with conservation to enable us to enjoy our natural environment and maintain our biodiversity and species protection,” he asserted.

In addition to the placement of bollards at Fitts Village beach, the NCC’s team has installed turtle friendly at several facilities including the Bath Beach Facility in St. John, Worthing Beach Facility in Christ Church and Pebbles Beach Facility in St. Michael.

To date, over 20 turtle friendly lights have been installed as part of the project.



***The installation of the 30 bollards aims to conserve the sea turtles population.***



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