



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

Department of Culture



46th ANNUAL BERMUDA DAY PARADE

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2025

VISIT THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE
www.culture.bm #Thefutureisnow #BermudaDay

BERMUDA DAY 2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MORNING

8:15 AM Sinclair Packwood Memorial Youth Cycle Race

Start: Fort Hill, Devonshire

Finish: Cedar Avenue

8:20 AM Sinclair Packwood Memorial Cycle Race

Start: St. George's

Finish: Cedar Avenue

8:30 AM Bermuda Half Marathon Derby

Start: St. George's

Finish: Court Street

8:40 AM 4-Person & 2-Person Relay Race

Start: St. George's

Finish: Court Street

8:55 AM 2 Mile Walk/Run Event

Start: Blue Waters Anglers Club

Finish: Court Street

AFTERNOON

1:30 PM Bermuda Day Parade

Start: Albuoy's Point, 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**

Bermuda Day is a treasured time for us to celebrate who we are as Bermudians, our vibrant culture, our shared history, and the pride that we feel in calling this island home.

This year's theme, "*The Future is Now*," reminds us that the Bermuda we are building for tomorrow begins with the spirit, talent, and choices of today. From students developing cutting-edge apps to artists transforming our buildings into powerful visual and digital art, to local businesses embracing new tools like digital finance, Bermudians continue to prove that innovation and cultural pride go hand in hand.

As we gather to celebrate this special day, we see the essence of Bermuda come alive, whether it's the determination of our athletes in the Half-Marathon Derby, the precision of cyclists racing through the streets in the Sinclair Packwood Memorial Cycle Race, or the hard work and creativity on display in the floats, costumes, and performances of the Bermuda Day Parade. Together, we honour our traditions while embracing the future with confidence and unity.

Let us use this day to reflect on how far we have come and may we be inspired by what lies ahead. Every beat of the drum, every step in the parade, and every proud Bermudian lining the streets reminds us that we are a people full of possibility.

I would like to thank The Hon. Owen Darrell, Minister of Tourism & Transport, Culture & Sport, and his dedicated team at the Ministry and the Department of Culture, for ensuring that Bermuda Day and Heritage Month continue to evolve and bring our community together.

On behalf of the Government of Bermuda, I wish everyone a safe, joyful, and inspiring Bermuda Day.

Happy Bermuda Day!

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



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

As we gather once more to celebrate Bermuda Day, I am filled with pride and anticipation for what this day means to all of us. Bermuda Day is more than a public holiday, it is a vibrant, living expression of our shared identity, a day when our streets come alive with colour, rhythm, and unity.

This year's Heritage Month theme, "*The Future is Now*", invites us to reflect on the dynamic intersection between our cultural heritage and the boundless potential that lies ahead. Our culture is not a static relic of the past, but a powerful force that shapes how we live, connect, and dream. It evolves with each generation, nourished by tradition and propelled by innovation.

Our past is the foundation upon which we stand, rich with stories, customs, and creativity. Yet, it is the actions we take today, and the cultural expressions we nurture now, that will define the Bermuda of tomorrow. This theme reminds us that the future is not a distant horizon, but something we are actively creating in every moment, every celebration, and every expression of who we are.

On Bermuda Day, we see this truth come to life. The enduring spirit of our ancestors' echoes through the drums of the Gombeys, the choreography of our majorettes, the craftsmanship of our float builders, and the joy of our walking groups. These traditions, while rooted in history, are constantly evolving, shaped by fresh ideas, diverse voices, and a renewed sense of purpose.

This year, I look forward to joining the thousands of Bermudians who line the parade route, from the early morning excitement at the Half-Marathon Derby to the dazzling energy of the parade through the heart of Hamilton. From the Flagpole to Court Street, the celebration will showcase the talent, resilience, and creativity that continue to define us.

I encourage each of you to celebrate Bermuda Day with a sense of pride and purpose. Whether you're performing, cheering, or simply spending the day with loved ones, remember that your presence and participation are part of what makes our culture thrive. The future is now, and it is bright, inclusive, and uniquely Bermudian.

Happy Bermuda Day to you and your families. May it be a day of joy, reflection, and inspiration.

The Hon. Owen K. Darrell, JP, MP
Minister of Tourism & Transport, Culture & Sport



MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Dear Bermuda,

As we come together to celebrate Bermuda Day, let us take a moment to reflect on who we are — a proud, resilient, and vibrant people united by heritage, hope, and a deep love for our island.

Bermuda Day is more than a holiday. It is a powerful reminder of our shared identity — from the rhythm of the gombey and the colours of our culture to the spirit of community that binds us. It's a time to honour our past, embrace the present, and look ahead with purpose.

This year, let's carry the theme "*The Future is Now*" into how we celebrate and how we live. Let it remind us that we are not waiting for change — we are the change. The energy, innovation, and determination we see in our people every day are what will move Bermuda forward.

As families line the streets for the parade, as runners test their limits, and as communities gather in joy, remember this: every act of unity, every show of pride, every step forward — no matter how small — is part of shaping the future we all deserve.

So enjoy this special day. Celebrate safely, have fun, enjoy precious memories with family and friends and take pride in what makes Bermuda so special.

The future is not far away — it's in our hands. The future is now.

Happy Bermuda Day!

The Hon. Jarion C. Richardson JP MP
Opposition Leader



MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT

Warm holiday wishes to you on the 46th annual celebration of Bermuda Day.

“The Future is Now” might evoke images of flying cars and robots, but in reality, it calls on us to consider how the choices we make today will shape the world we live in tomorrow. But to truly understand where we’re going, we must first look back. The Bermuda Day Parade was conceived to bring the Bermudian community together, a vision rooted in the Pitt Report’s call to address inequities and systemic challenges. While the pursuit of unity remains a work in progress, the 2025 theme, “The Future is Now,” calls us to reflect on how far we’ve come, while acknowledging the work still to be done. As we continue to shape our future, let us do so with a deep respect for our history, and an understanding that true progress requires not just celebrating, but actively working to address the barriers that remain.

This year, as we look ahead, we celebrate the Bermudians who are turning the future into a reality. Our people are proving every day that the future is not a distant dream, but something we are building with each step. Artists, innovators, and creators are shaping Bermuda into a hub of imagination and advancement. Creativity, as the driving force of progress, is on full display during the Bermuda Day Parade, where tradition and innovation merge to showcase our vibrant future.

Each year, I am in awe of the time, effort, and creativity that participants pour into bringing the streets of Hamilton to life. From the dancers perfecting their routines to the artisans building floats that tell our collective story, every single participant plays a crucial role in making this day special. Many of the participants spend months preparing—sewing costumes, rehearsing routines, and refining floats— all for those brief moments of celebration that define Bermuda Day. This year, we celebrate the resurgence of the majorettes, and the heartbeat of the drums will punctuate the parade in perfect rhythm.

I also want to extend special thanks to Cultural Programme Manager, Aden Peets, whose artistic vision has helped bring this year’s Bermuda Day Parade to life. The hours of unseen work that go into making the parade a reality are immeasurable, and I want to express my deepest gratitude to all those involved who invest so much of themselves to bring our traditions to life.

As we stand on the brink of tomorrow, let’s honour the energy, innovation, and resilience that define Bermuda. Let’s continue to build a future where we can thrive as a people, and where our cultural heritage continues to inspire generations to come.

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

Carlita Lodge

Acting Director, Department of Culture

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

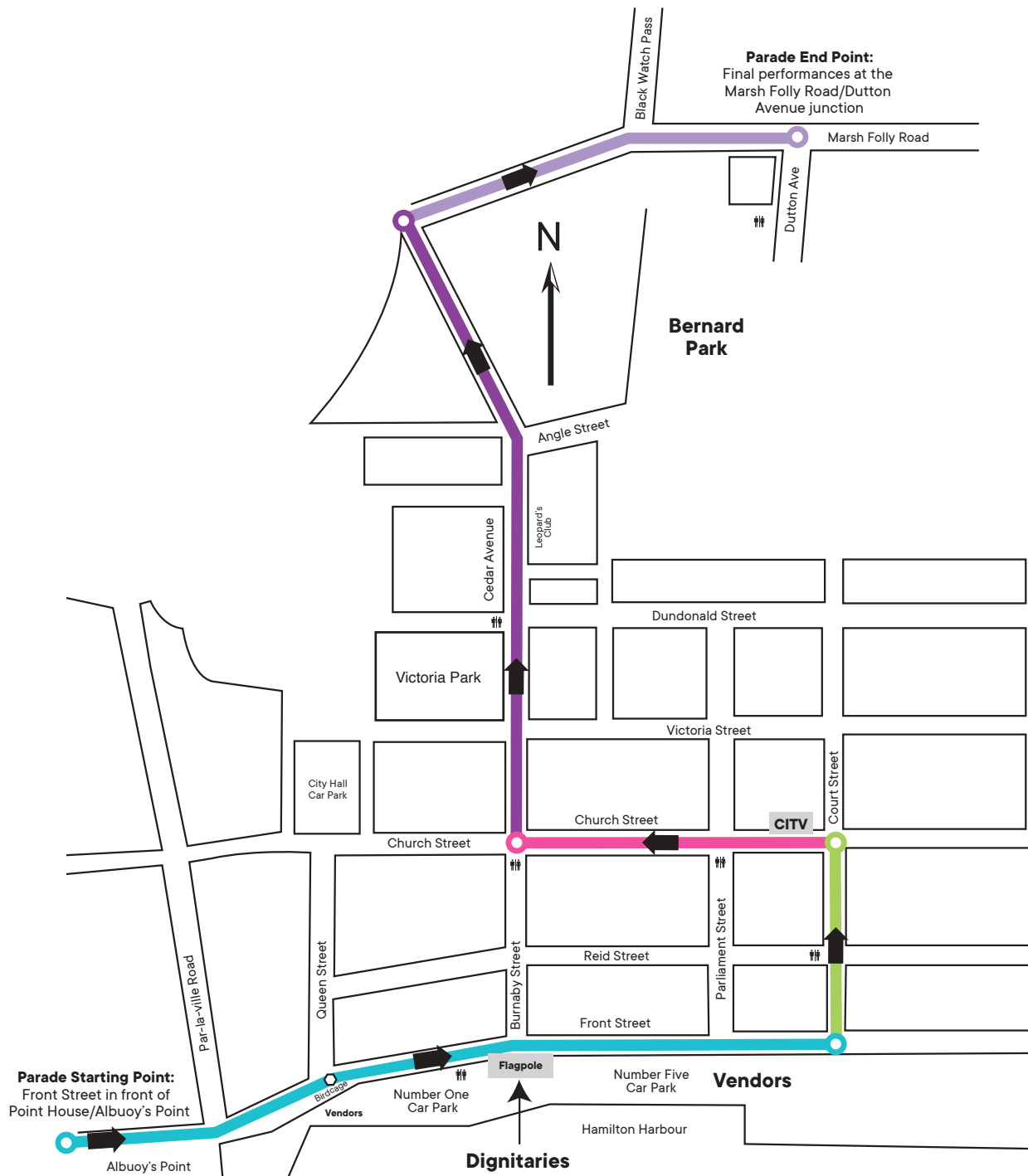
the weekday nearest May 24th if that date fell on a weekend, in 2018 adjusted to the last Friday in May, and in 2019 onward it will be on the fourth Friday in May. **The Bermuda Day Parade in 2025 is on Friday, May 23, 2025.**

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 & Mary Prince 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 2025 PARADE ROUTE



The **2025 Bermuda Day Parade** will begin at 1:30 PM. The parade will begin on Front Street in front of Point House/Albuoy's Point area and continue along Front Street. The parade then turns left onto Court Street, takes a left onto Church Street, a right along Cedar Avenue, and ends at Marsh Folly Road/Dutton Avenue junction.

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PARADE PARTICIPANTS

- Bermuda Long Riders Motorcycle Club and Association
- 2 Stroke Legends
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Sigma Xi Omega
- Anchor Boys
- Bermuda College
- Bermuda Dance Academy
- Bermuda Gymnastics Association
- Bermuda Industrial Union
- Bermuda Motorcycle Racing Association
- Bermuda Nurses Association
- Bermuda Police Service
- Bermuda Power Boat Association
- Bermuda Shrine Club
- Bermuda Squad Entertainers
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bermuda: Female Mentor of the Year
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bermuda: Male Mentor of the Year
- CedarBridge Academy
- DailyMale
- Department of Culture
- Department of Sport & Recreation
- Devonshire Ultimate “STAR” Twirlers & Drum Corp Band
- Endeavour
- Fuze Dance Team
- Gombey Evolution
- Gombey Warriors
- **Grand Marshal:** Coral Wells
- **Grand Marshal:** Eugene O'Connor Sr.
- **Grand Marshal:** Glenn Jones
- **Grand Marshal:** McKenzie Kohl-Tuckett
- **Grand Marshal:** Seldon Woolridge
- H&H Gombey
- Hamilton Parish Community Hot Peppers
- M.A.I Inc. Bermuda Making an Impact
- One Body In Christ Movement - For God's Purpose Float & Dancers
- PADMA X
- Pathfinder and Adventure Club
- PHC Majorettes & Drum Corps
- Phoenix Gombey Troupe
- Places Gombey
- Project Action
- Rated E! Dance Crew
- Reggae Highway and Western Stars Return to Greatness powered by LiveNet
- Royal Bermuda Regiment Band & Corps of Drums
- Seniors Bus sponsored by the Department of Culture
- Soca Kings
- St. George's Original Dancerettes
- St. John Ambulance Bermuda
- Sui Generis Dance Team
- Tee'L Pre-Emancipation Day & Pre-CupMatch Senior Tea
- The Association of Filipinos in Bermuda
- The Berkeley Institute
- The Ex-Artillery Elite Majorettes
- The Harrington Sound Primary School
- The Office of Youth Affairs (TOYA)
- The Sammy Wilson Central Zone Community Centre (TOYA)
- Time Machine
- Together Time
- United Dance Productions
- Vasco da Gama
- Vibe Tribe Gombey Troupe
- Warwick Gombey
- Warwick United Majorettes & Drum Corps
- Wave of Change: Future in Our Hands
- After Party Truck by: D'General & One Communications

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Coral Wells

Pioneering the Future of Tech in Bermuda

In an era where “The Future is Now,” **Coral Wells** emerges as a beacon of innovation and progress within Bermuda’s technology sector. As the founder and CEO of Connectech Coding, her profound influence extends beyond breaking barriers as a leading woman in technology; she’s made significant strides in closing the gender gap within the tech community. Her fervent commitment to nurturing a passion for technology among the youth positions her as a symbol of empowerment and entrepreneurial spirit.

Hailing from Bermuda, Coral Wells embarked on her professional journey equipped with a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York, and an Interise Streetwise ‘MBA’ from the Bermuda Economic Development Corporation. Her career has been highlighted by a myriad of esteemed roles that underscore her leadership and unwavering dedication to technological progress. As of 2023, Coral serves on the Board of Directors for the Bermuda Monetary Authority, embodying her continued influence in the island’s financial regulatory framework. Additionally, she holds the position of Director for HOME Charity since 2022, showcasing her commitment to philanthropy alongside her tech endeavors.

Since its founding in 2015, Connectech Coding under Coral’s visionary leadership has stood out as Bermuda’s leading technology training center. The institution is devoted to fostering collaboration, education, and innovation, thereby preparing Bermudian youth for the digital future and imminent career opportunities. Coral’s efforts have inspired numerous young minds, equipping them with the tools and knowledge necessary to excel in the fast-paced tech industry.

Coral’s contributions to the tech industry and wider community have not gone unnoticed. Her list of accolades includes the Trailblazer Award from Bermuda Tech (2023), the Special Recognition Award from the Caribbean Women Inventors & Innovators Network (2022), and being named Bermuda’s International Woman of the Year (2021), among others. Her pivotal role in shaping the technological landscape of Bermuda positions her as a key figure in driving the island’s future towards an era where tech education and equal opportunities are at the forefront.

As a Grand Marshal for the 2025 Bermuda Day Parade, Coral Wells is not only celebrated for her remarkable achievements but also for her leadership in guiding Bermuda into a future where technology, education, and inclusivity are paramount. Her journey is a testimony to the influence of vision, resilience, and the transformative power of technology in society.



Eugene O'Connor

Bermuda’s Esteemed Kite Master and Cultural Guardian

Eugene O'Connor Sr., affectionately known as the Bermuda Kite Master, has significantly contributed to the island’s cultural heritage through traditional kite making for over eight decades. Born with a knack for creativity and innovation, Eugene Sr. began his craft at the tender age of 7, passionately turning it into a legacy synonymous with his name.

With a meticulous hand and an undying love for his craft, Eugene Sr. has created over a thousand kites

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every Easter season, becoming a cherished figure within the community and beyond. His dedication to preserving this integral part of Bermudian culture has earned him the esteemed Awareness Award from the Bermuda National Trust. Eugene's commitment goes beyond

craftsmanship; he is a mentor and educator, eager to pass on his knowledge and skills to younger generations. His book, *The Art of Kite Making*, released in 2018, aimed to immortalize the craft, featuring detailed instructions and a collection of photographs that encapsulate his journey and the beauty of traditional Bermudian kites.

Eugene Sr.'s journey into the world of kite making began with humble materials and a curious mind, crafting kites from fennel sticks and pond weed, and later, wood from crates and crepe paper wrappers from the fruit shipping boxes that graced our shores, his creativity bound by no limits. His skill and artistry soon caught the attention of the community, turning his hobby into a sought-after commodity.

Over the years, Eugene Sr. has evolved his process, from hand-making kites for local stores to sharing his craft locally by conducting several workshops at hotels, art galleries and visiting many schools across the Island to international platforms, showcasing the vibrancy of Bermudian culture to the world. Despite choosing a career outside of kite making — working in Bermuda's once-thriving movie theaters as a chief projectionist for The Island Theatre, The Rosebank Theatre and later in sanitation for the Department of Works and Engineering — Eugene Sr. held fast to his passion for his craft.

Now, at 90, Eugene O'Connor Sr. continues to create, inspire, educate and maintain the tradition of Bermuda Kite making. Ensuring the kite, a symbol of freedom, creativity, and community, remains a beloved fixture in Bermudian skies. His life work and passion not only celebrates the art of kite making but also embodies the spirit of innovation, tradition, and cultural preservation.



Glenn Jones

A Distinguished Career in Communication and Influence

Glenn Jones is a seasoned professional with a multifaceted background encompassing 25 years in media, public communications, and tourism marketing across the United States and his beloved homeland, Bermuda. As a trusted evening anchor at NBC Boston since November 2021, Glenn has manifested a commitment to excellence within one of America's most competitive media markets —Boston, Massachusetts—garnering a prestigious New England Region Emmy Award for his insightful reporting. His exceptional storytelling and journalistic skills also led to recognition and accolades during his tenures in both the Springfield, Massachusetts, and Fort Myers, Florida media markets.

Prior to his return to television, Glenn's career spanned an influential 15-year interval in Bermuda's public sector, including tourism. His strategic acumen came to the fore as press secretary to Bermuda's Premier, where he orchestrated local and international communications with a masterful touch. He played a pivotal role at the Bermuda Tourism Authority (BTA) for five years, culminating in a 15-month period as its interim CEO. During a transformative time at the BTA, Glenn was instrumental in formulating Bermuda's multiyear national tourism plan, a blueprint that ambitiously reoriented the island's aspirations within the hospitality sector.

Glenn's leadership extended to Bermuda's hosting of the America's Cup in 2017—a month-long sailing spectacle broadcast globally – as well as to the execution of a landmark spectator-attended PGA Tour

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event amidst the pandemic—a testament to exceptional planning and resilience.

His tenure as general manager at MediaHouse further exemplified his flair for navigating diverse media channels, reinforcing his stature as a communications powerhouse.

In Boston, Glenn's humanitarian spirit shines. As a tireless volunteer, he has worked with Action for Boston Community Development to help uplift families out of poverty, and supported initiatives aimed at youth literacy, advancement for Black males, and opioid crisis interventions. His contributions to the community were recognized when he was named to GetKonnected's List of Most Influential Men of Color in Boston in 2023. Glenn's esteemed career has set him apart, locally and abroad, as a professional of immense accomplishments who balances personal ambition with strengthening communities and the social advancement of others.

An alumnus of Emerson College, Glenn resides in Boston with his wife Camille, where their love for Bermuda is authentic and infectious.



McKenzie-Kohl Tuckett

Championing Change and Empowering the Next Generation

McKenzie-Kohl Tuckett, 21, is a dynamic leader, advocate, and soon-to-be Bachelor of Laws graduate from the University of Bristol.

A former Head Girl at Warwick Academy, McKenzie-Kohl is a skilled public speaker and debater, who has represented Bermuda on the international stage since her first overseas competition in 2017. Notably, in 2021, she placed 15th overall in the World Individual Debate and Public Speaking Championships. That same year, she won the University of Bristol Law Society's First Year Debate Championships.

While her competitive public speaking career is one to be proud of, she etched her name into Bermuda's history books as the first Bermudian to deliver an address in the UK House of Commons, in November 2022. Nominated by Bermuda's Speaker of the House, McKenzie-Kohl's speech highlighted the importance of creating opportunities for the island's young people, especially post-tertiary education.

As a former Youth Premier of Bermuda's Youth Parliament, and a current member of the National Youth Policy Working Group, this was an example of McKenzie-Kohl's advocacy for Bermuda's young people on the global stage. McKenzie-Kohl is also an Assistant Director of Future Leaders Bermuda, an organisation dedicated to equipping young leaders with the skills necessary to make a positive impact in Bermuda and the world.

McKenzie-Kohl believes in using one's voice to empower. As a member of the WeSpeak Teen Committee, she contributes to this vision, encouraging young women to use their voices to inspire confidence.

As a Bermuda Government Scholarship recipient and Walkers Legal Scholarship Award recipient, McKenzie-Kohl's academic success is matched by real-world experience. Studying at the University of Bristol, ranked in the top 10 in the UK, she has taken advantage of countless opportunities. In addition to serving as a Student Advisor in the university's Law Clinic, in 2023, she was the recipient of the International Internship Scholar Award for her summer legal internship at leading law firm Global Vietnam Lawyers, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. She was also selected to study abroad for her penultimate year at the University of Hong Kong, ranked #2 in Asia. Upon receiving the highest graded research paper in the LLM course, 'Equality and Non-Discrimination,' McKenzie-Kohl was invited to participate in a mini

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pupillage at Pantheon Chambers in Hong Kong.

McKenzie-Kohl Tuckett isn't just preparing for the future, she's shaping it. She eagerly anticipates returning to the island, where she will begin her legal career with Walkers (Bermuda) Limited. As concluded in her speech in the House of Commons, she aims to support the creation of an opportunity-rich island, "to ensure that Bermuda's youth can call home, home." His legacy is further enhanced by his association with fellow track and field luminaries, Troy Douglas and Nicky Saunders. Together, they form the revered 'Three Musketeers' of Bermudian athletics, a golden generation that continues to inspire and captivate sports enthusiasts worldwide. Throughout his impressive career, Brian's unwavering passion, exceptional talent, and remarkable achievements have firmly established him as a trailblazer in Bermudian track and field and a true icon in the world of athletics.



Seldon Woolridge

Fusing Arts, Culture, and Financial Acumen

Seldon Woolridge has significantly shaped Bermuda's cultural and arts scene as the co-founder of Troika Bermuda, an organization known for its deep commitment to growing local talent through outstanding theatrical shows. He has been crucial in transforming the island's performing arts landscape. His dedication to advancing the arts and enhancing community life has made him a prominent champion for using arts as a means for social improvement and unity.

Since Troika's inception in 2009, Seldon has played a key role in creating a supportive environment for Bermuda's youth, providing free arts based programming. Troika, currently under the direction of Seldon and Shoa Wolfe, has produced successful productions like 'Once On This Island,' 'Beauty and the Beast,' 'The Color Purple,' and 'Sarafina!'. His work has gone beyond entertainment, acting as a vehicle for education, inspiration, and connecting deeply with Bermudian culture.

In addition to his contributions to the arts, Seldon is currently employed as a Principal in AML/ATF Risk Analytics & Policy at the Bermuda Monetary Authority, applying his financial and compliance expertise to safeguard Bermuda's financial sector's stability and integrity. His dual roles highlight a unique combination of creativity and analytical skills, showcasing his holistic approach to contributing to Bermuda's growth in various sectors.

As the Director of NOVA Mas, a prominent Bermuda Carnival band, Seldon also excels in blending cultural festivities with strategic financial planning. His efforts support the entertainment industry and celebrate Bermuda's heritage, aiming to create inclusive experiences for audiences both in Bermuda and beyond.

Seldon's journey into the arts began early with his involvement in the charity Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education: Youth to Youth Program, providing him with a creative outlet and a path away from potential adversities. Today, he is acknowledged for his artistic endeavors and his vital role in strengthening Bermuda's arts, finance, and cultural landscapes.

Seldon Woolridge's influential work positions Bermuda at the forefront of innovation and cultural vitality, demonstrating that the future is now, through his considerable financial contributions and his relentless commitment to the island's prosperity and arts sector.







SPECIAL THANKS

Carlita Lodge

Acting Director, Department of Culture

Aden Peets

Cultural Programme Manager, Department of Culture

PARADE MARSHALS

The Royal Bermuda Regiment

ADDITIONAL THANKS

Department of Culture Staff
Department of Communications
CITY

City of Hamilton
The Media Maven

**FILL IN OUR
POST-PARADE
SURVEY!**



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