

TALL SHIPS ATLANTIC CHALLENGE 2009



CHANGING LIVES THROUGH OCEAN ADVENTURE

December 2008

2009 promises to be one of the most exciting years in Bermuda's history. The celebration of our country's 400th Anniversary of Settlement is a time to reflect on our amazing journey. The events planned throughout the year in recognition of the Anniversary will showcase our Island's achievements and recognize the hundreds of Bermudians who have made major contributions throughout the ages.

The Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge in June will be the signature Anniversary event. Tall ships race across the Atlantic about once every decade but they do not always stop in Bermuda, so this makes 2009 very special indeed. These magnificent sailing ships are symbolic of Bermuda's success as a nation. The arrival of the tall ships fleet brings the entire community together in so many ways to take advantage of the challenges of ocean adventure on a tall ship, the excitement of being involved as a volunteer during the event, or simply the thrill of seeing these vessels in our harbours and sailing along Bermuda's coastline in the Parade of Sail.

Sail training offers the opportunity of a lifetime to our young people and encourages them to challenge themselves by working in a totally different environment. They learn skills that they would not otherwise acquire by working as part of a team. They gain self-confidence, self-esteem and along the way, make many new friends. It is all about youth development and an investment in our youth is an investment in Bermuda's future.

I encourage the entire community of Bermuda to become involved with the Tall Ships Festival in June of 2009. In particular I encourage our young people to sign up as trainees – no prior sailing experience is needed and financial support will be available as required. It is an opportunity that simply cannot be missed.

John M. Wadson
Chairman
Tall Ships Bermuda