



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
The Cabinet Office

The Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge 2009

In 2009, Bermuda will observe its 400th Anniversary of permanent settlement.

I am delighted that the Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge 2009 will be a highlight of our 2009 summer celebrations and I know that the hospitality of our island community will indeed make this a spectacular event.

The history of our island home is inextricably tied to the sea and we regard Bermuda's participation as a part in this magnificent event as a unique and significant way to embrace our nautical roots, our rich maritime history, our yachting and sailing traditions but most importantly, as an opportunity to provide a cross-section of our young people with an international sail training experience.

The benefits of sail training are well documented and life changing and, through our own Sail Training ship, "*The Spirit of Bermuda*" I have seen the benefits that sail training offers to young people, in particular, the friendships gained amidst the lessons of collaboration, discipline and teamwork on the high seas.

The Government of Bermuda supports the initiative of Tall Ships Bermuda Ltd. to place as many of our young people as possible into trainee roles on ships in one of the race legs.

A special welcome awaits the Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge 2009 skippers, crew and young international sail trainees to our shores in 2009. In fact, we welcome all of our visitors – sailors and land-lubbers alike. Feel the Love, enjoy our hospitality! We will certainly enjoy hosting you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ewart F. Brown'.

Dr. the Hon. Ewart F. Brown
Premier of Bermuda