

THE COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

Conserve nature, preserve life



TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

QUEEN'S PARK: TRASH HOUSE RESTORATION

THE QUEEN'S PARK Refurbishment Project continues with the restoration of the historic Trash House. The restoration process includes the removal and replacement of the existing roof, the stabilization of the existing wall and the removal and replacement of the existing columns.

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THE FITTS VILLAGE Esplanade underwent a transformation over the past year as part of the National Conservation Commission's (NCC) commitment to preserve numerous facilities across Barbados.

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FITTS VILLAGE FACILITY UPGRADES

GM'S MESSAGE



Mr. Ryan Als
General Manager (ag.)
National Conservation Commission

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DURING THE MONTH of November, Barbadians all over the world beam with pride that intensifies as the days inch closer to November 30th. With this pride, the National Conservation Commission's (NCC) hardworking and industrious team toil to create a country that we can all be proud of and love.

For us, love of country is akin to self-love, and this is what inspires and motivates us to create and enhance beautiful spaces in our beloved country.

Let us be idealistic and imagine for a moment – how would you like to see Barbados?

My imagination paints a vibrant picture of fields, gullies, hills, and waterways free of litter and the remnants of discarded tyres, stoves, refrigerators, and dead animals.

Imagine driving along the roadways and the drains are cleaned, sides of the roads are manicured and each corner has a colourful garden. Wouldn't that be nice?

Imagine in each community and in your backyard, there are fresh vegetable gardens that not only add nutritional value to our lives, but is also fertile ground for us to teach our children how to sow seeds that will nourish their future. Wouldn't it be wonderful to develop a love for nature and bond with family at the same time?

Imagine going to the beach, park or open spaces with friends to relax and exercise, take advantage of the great weather that people travel to Barbados to enjoy.

Imagine how relaxed, energetic and happy you would feel to have this in your routine. Wouldn't that be awesome?

We have all these wonderful things, nice places to relax and enjoy. Let us treat our country and ourselves with the love and respect we deserve.

Give thanks to those who have gone before us, who loved us and this paradise we call home. Imagine how you want our country to be and let's do our best to conserve nature and preserve life.

QUEEN'S PARK: TRASH HOUSE RESTORATION



The Trash House in Queen's Park is under construction.

THE QUEEN'S PARK Refurbishment Project continues with the restoration of the historic Trash House.

Acting General Manager of the National Conservation Commission (NCC), Ryan Als, said that the restoration process includes the removal and replacement of the existing roof, the stabilization of the existing wall and the removal and replacement of the existing columns.

"The trash house has been in disrepair for a few decades due to the sinking foundation and the deterioration of the roof and supporting walls. It's intricate caved limestone slab wall and mini fountain had to be preserved," he explained.

The preservation of its authenticity, Als added, has been paramount to the restoration process.

"The work executed thus far included the removal of the roof and six of the eight

existing columns, the excavation of the floor preservation and stabilization of the back wall and adjoining columns and the casting of a ring beam on all columns," he outlined. The team's current focus is the construction of the roof, which was previously delayed due to extensive rainfall.

"The trash house is a historical treasure that has taken time to restore as the preservation of every treasured stone has to be reused in the process," he said.

Als added that the Commission has partnered with entities such as the Barbados Museum and Historical Society to ensure that the historic gem is returned to its former glory.

The Queen's Park Refurbishment Project commenced in July, 2021 and several areas have been restored including the Trident Fountain, the Band Stand and the walkway from the Band Stand to the Clock House.

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

THE TRASH HOUSE IN QUEEN'S PARK RESTORATION PHASES



The Trash House in Queen's Park - August, 2022



The Trash House in Queen's Park - February, 2023

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

THE TRASH HOUSE IN QUEEN'S PARK RESTORATION PHASES



The Trash House in Queen's Park - August, 2023



The Trash House in Queen's Park - August, 2023

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

THE TRASH HOUSE IN QUEEN'S PARK RESTORATION PHASES



The Trash House's roof - November, 2023



The Trash House's roof - November, 2023

FITTS VILLAGE FACILITY UPGRADES

The Fitts Village Facility is more fit for purpose after upgrades

THE FITTS VILLAGE Esplanade underwent a transformation over the past year as part of the National Conservation Commission's (NCC) commitment to preserve numerous facilities across Barbados.

The work executed at this picturesque facility in Fitts Village, St. James included the rebuilding of the Gazebo inclusive of several design changes and the upgrading of the seating area adjacent to the gazebo.

NCC's Acting General Manager, Ryan Als, said repairs to the sea wall and beach access pathway, the enhancement of the washrooms and the construction of storage rooms were also executed as part of the preservation

work.

The construction of hardscapes and complementary landscaping will soon commence to complete the beautification aspect of the process.

Als said that the Commission recognized the importance of the area for visitors and locals who often come to photograph the sunset and a leisure spot for the community and sought to minimize disruption to their access.

"The challenging aspect of this project was that this work had to be done while persons still utilized the space and for the vendors present to ply their trade. We thank the public for their patience," he added.



Fitts Village Gazebo in Fitts Village, St. James

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

FITTS VILLAGE GAZEBO ROOF IN JULY, 2022



Front view of the Gazebo's roof in July, 2022.



Side and partial back view of the Gazebo's roof in July, 2022.

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

FITTS VILLAGE GAZEBO IN JULY, 2022



Side view of the Fitts Village Gazebo in July, 2022.



Partial view of seating area in July, 2022.

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

FITTS VILLAGE GAZEBO IN OCTOBER, 2023



Partial front and side view of the Fitts Village Gazebo in October, 2023.



Back view of the Fitts Village Gazebo in October, 2023.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Meet NCC's Assistant General Manager, Mr. Wayne Jones



TO MAKE US love our country, our country ought to be lovely.

Assistant General Manager of the National Conservation Commission (NCC), Wayne Jones, adopted this quote as his mantra over 25 years ago – during his early years with the Commission.

The quote, by the late Edmund Burke, Irish statesman, economist, and philosopher, is etched in Jones' mind and has guided his career at NCC.

Jones, who is also the head of the Field Services Department, vividly recalled that the quote was once at the bottom of NCC's letterhead in italics, where he first saw it.

While he noted its sentimental value to his career, Jones alluded to his upcoming 29th anniversary at the Commission on December 17th, 2023, with a smile on his face.

"I started in the role of Senior Executive Officer with responsibility for personnel and administration and reported to the General Manager. My mentor was Michael Thompson, the previous Senior Executive Officer, and he provided guidance on how to execute my duties in this role," Jones explained.

As he gazed across the picturesque National Botanical Gardens with his left hand propped under his chin, Jones said that he spent most of his early years 'in the field' and this exposure enhanced his understanding of the department's intricacies.

His transition to the post of Assistant General Manager years later was therefore 'not difficult', as he credited the guidance provided throughout his previous years as the necessary steps that paved the way for his current path.

Today, Jones is 'an administrator and a guide'

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Jones is optimistic about NCC's future



Wayne Jones is also the Head of the Field Services Department at the Commission.

for the staff of the Field Services Department and ensures that they execute their tasks and meet their targets in accordance with the Commission's rules, procedures, and protocols.

"I approach each case on its merit... The flexibility with which I operate is to give persons from the ground up the opportunity to share their views, then I pool the ideas and share with all staff to ensure the best way is approached," he explained.

Jones believes that the empowerment of staff through retooling efforts and training opportunities has played a critical role in the Commission's dynamic talent pool becoming 'more technical' over the years.

"We have more qualified persons in horticulture, landscaping and agriculture now that play key roles within the organization and these qualifications have particularly enhanced the Commercial Department, while the technical assistance came to the fore in the

Field Services Department," he explained.

As he visibly beamed with pride, the former singer of the Emmanuel Four Gospel Quartet said he was pleased with this development as it has positively impacted the ebb and flow of the organization.

To further support the Commission's conservation and preservation efforts, the father of four urged the staff to acquire more qualifications and training in beach conservation, horticulture, landscaping, and dendrology. He also urged young persons to pursue their interest in these areas.

While Jones hinted that his 30th year at the Commission 'is likely to be my last', he noted that 'it is good to see the younger people on the management team like Mr. Als and Ms. Jessamy come into their own'.

Prior to joining the Commission, Jones was employed at the Barbados Water Authority (BWA) for ten years and has been a civil servant for 39 years.

FIELD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Conserving and maintaining NCC's facilities across Barbados



Wayne Jones (left) sharing a light moment with Melvin Bennett (right) at NCC's Codrington House Headquarters.

the department's functions.

While he alluded to the importance of the exterior and beautification aspects of the facilities, Husbands said that the Department's team also factors in the activities that are likely to be hosted at the Commission's facilities, during the planning phase of the restoration process.

Using the King George V Memorial Park as an example, Husbands explained that it is a popular choice among Barbadians for various activities including social events, picnics, and yoga classes.

This Facility's dancehall and kitchenette areas are patron-friendly and Husbands believes that this enhances its visually-appealing feature.

The Plumbing and Electrical Division, one of the Department's sections, that play a critical role in executing its mandate.

In the next feature, we will learn more about this Division.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP of Wayne Jones, the Field Services Department conserves and maintains NCC's facilities, play parks, open spaces and beaches across Barbados with a staff complement of 300 persons.

NCC's Senior Electrician, William Husbands, explained that the Department's role is not exclusive to landscaping services and general maintenance.

The building of swings, Husbands added, as well as seesaws, picnic tables and benches are for the play parks and retail purposes are among



NCC's Senior Electrician, William Husbands.

THE PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL DIVISION IS BRIGHTER AND BETTER!

Acting Head of the Division, William Husbands, sheds light on its work flow.

THE PLUMBING AND Electrical Division of the Field Services Department is one of the major arteries that supports the department's operations at NCC's facilities across the island.

William Husbands, Acting Head of the Plumbing and Electrical Division, explained that its main objective is ensuring that its seven staff members' duties are executed in alignment with its comprehensive maintenance plan – inclusive of preventative measures – to avert instances of costly repairs.

The Division also ensures there is adequate lighting and potable water at the Commission's facilities.

Its three priority locations, Husbands added, are Oistins Bay Gardens, Dover and Rockley Beach, which have kiosks for vendors and craftsmen, with Oistins being of the highest priority.

"We place a special focus on Oistins Bay Gardens on a weekly basis. The maintenance at this location, which includes the cleaning of grease traps and soak aways, becomes very aggressive due to the high volume of commercial activity in the area," he said.

Given the intricacies associated with the Depat's objectives, Husbands indicated that the introduction of weekly workshops in partnership with key stakeholders have been highly beneficial to the staff.

"We had some areas that needed to be changed from a cultural standpoint and practices that needed modifications therefore, we have the workshops on



William Husbands, Acting Head of the Plumbing and Electrical Division.

Mondays for about 45 minutes to address some key areas," he explained.

These areas, Husbands added, include preventative maintenance, plumbing and electrical pumps, water storage systems in the area of leak identification, troubleshooting of pumping systems and the recognition of problem areas.

The staff members have also acquired hands-on experience with troubleshooting and have learned more about electrical and plumbing solutions with the support of drawings and literature.

"The plumbers are now more confident based on what they have learned, and they even make [electrical] connections now to pressure switches and isolators," Husbands proudly declared.

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RETOOLING AND BOLSTERING THE DIVISION



William Husbands checking the water storage tanks at NCC's Headquarters.

The workshops, which Husbands described as 'engaging, interactive and practical', are part of an ongoing retooling effort to keep the staff abreast of industry trends and technological developments.

An added boost for the department has been the acquisition of equipment including a pool vacuum for the lake, submersible pumps as well as a truck with the requisite electrical and plumbing fittings, tools, devices, and a compressor.

"The Division is grateful to NCC's management team – particularly Mr. Als and Mr. Jones – for recognizing the importance of this equipment and transportation, which can transport all seven staff members of the department, this is very appreciated," he said.

Husbands added that the workers are more motivated to execute their duties, which are now completed at a higher standard.

"Their identification of the problems is more accurate; they speak with more assertion and confidence, and they are now problem solvers. Before we more used to talk about it but now we more move to solve it," he affirmed.

Tips for the proper disposal of fats, oils and grease

- Avoid the disposal of fats, oils and grease via the kitchen drains.
- Use a paper towel/napkin to remove excess oils and grease from cookware and containers before washing at the sink.
- Use warm water to help keep the drains clear of any excess fats, oils and grease.
- Replace sink strainers every three months.
- Implement a grease disposal plan with preventative practices.



NCC'S GARDEN CENTRE'S PRODUCTS

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