

Spirit of Bermuda set to sail to Island

By Ruth O'Kelly-Lynch

Bermuda's tall ship, *The Spirit of Bermuda*, left Maine yesterday and will undergo tests before beginning her maiden voyage to the Island.

Approximately 3,000 people attended the launch, some 300 of whom were Bermudians. The Minister of Education, Terry Lister, was also on hand for the launch ceremony.

The 112-foot three mast schooner will be used as a classroom at sea. It will be used by a variety of groups and will have structured courses which are intended to enhance the students while connecting them with Bermuda's nautical history.

"Bermuda, like so many communities, has large scale youth

development problems," Alan Burland, Chairman of the foundation said. "We want to be known as a community that really cares about our youth and took meaningful steps to assist them. We are partnering with our schools and recreational organizations towards a large scale, sustainable, solution."

He said the ship would benefit many people between the ages of 14 and 20. He added that the aim was to teach the "whole kid".

"She (the ship) will accommodate a classroom of students, 24 at a time, providing balanced and applied education, character development and team building. Our training involves world class methods, experiential learning and proven teen development programmes."

The Captain, Chris Burke, explained that the ship has been purpose built to suit Bermuda's environment and the activities expected to take place on it.

To build the large ship the Foundation spent \$5.7 million, 4.9 of which has already been raised. The Foundation's executive director, said they hope to have the remaining money raised by January 2007.

On September 2 all crew members will board the ship in Portland, Maine and begin their voyage to Bermuda. It is expected to take 28 days and the ship is hoping to arrive on September 30. For more information visit www.bermudaship.org



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Govt. targets unsafe walls

By Stacey Smith

Unsafe wall structures around the Island are being targeted for repair by the Ministry of Works and Engineering and Housing, with work crews being engaged last week in repairs to a wall in an area of Valley View Lane, Pembroke where 75 of the more than 250 unsafe wall structures are located.

Having been made aware of residents' concerns for safety, workmen have put temporary barriers in place in the area until the work can resume. Ministry officials said that the wall had posed a safety concern for some time, and that private

land owners responsible for the structure had been advised by the Ministry to rectify the problem.

However it was in the interest of public safety that the Ministry stepped in to hasten repairs to the structure.

Ministry officials also explained that repair work has slowed down on this structure pending specific approvals from the Bermuda Electric Light Company (Belco) as there are points in the area which are unsafe.

Meanwhile, in regard to unsafe wall structures Island-wide, the Ministry has identified well

over 250 such walls in need of repair, with 75 of the walls being in Pembroke parish alone.

As a result, the Ministry is reminding the public to report any walls or rock cuts on public or private roadways that they consider to be in a dangerous condition. The Ministry is addressing those that fall under the Ministry's remit and in such instances where the walls are the responsibility of the private land owners, the Ministry actively encourages these individuals who have received letters advising them of the dangerous condition of their rock cuts and walls to undertake repair works as quickly as possible.

Bermuda flights not affected by new BA security

By Ruth O'Kelly-Lynch

British Airways flights to and from Bermuda will not be affected by a new directive, but others will.

BA announced yesterday that it had complied with a directive from the BAA plc, formerly the British Airports Authority, to reduce short haul flights by 20 percent today at London's Heathrow airport.

The request was made to ease congestion at the airport caused by new security measures brought on after a plan to blow up numerous planes was discovered and 22 individuals were arrested.

Thirty-nine short-haul flights

have been cancelled today, including all domestic flights excluding ones to Jersey, for more information go to www.ba.com. British Airways has also cancelled five long-haul flights. BA005 to Tokyo, BA203 to Detroit, BA280 to Detroit, BA49 to Seattle and BA45 to Montreal have all been delayed and rescheduled.

The airline has also warned that flights which do take off will probably experience delays. All customers on cancelled flights can rebook, re-route or get a full refund.

The BA flight to Bermuda is still expected to arrive at 6:45 this evening and leave to return to London at 8:15 p.m.

BERMUDA SHORTS

Passports needed for US

Bermudians will need a passport to enter the United States by air or sea from January 8 next year.

The US Department of Homeland Security and State announced the change in a statement released on Friday.

The new rule applies to citizens of Bermuda, the US, Canada and Mexico entering the rest of the western hemisphere and was originally due to come into force on January 1.

The US is asking for comments from the public on the plan. They can be made before September 24 by visiting <http://a257.usa.mactech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/clocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/06-6854.htm>.

Two break-ins in Pembroke

Two Pembroke residences and a Warwick home were broken into on Saturday.

Police reported that early Saturday morning an unknown culprit stole coins from a Stowe Court, Pembroke residence. Later that day a resident of Point Shares Road told Police that a robber stole three gold rings.

Police also attended a reported burglary at a Tamarind Vale home in Warwick. The thief stole \$500 in cash from the home.

Burglar stole gold chain

A burglar stole a gold coloured chain and football pendant, a gold ladies engagement ring and \$24 from a Cameron Close, Smith's Parish home on Thursday.

And Police are also investigating the theft of 100 Euros from a Middle Road, Smith's home on Thursday morning.



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land owners responsible for the structure had been advised by the Ministry to rectify the problem.

However it was in the interest of public safety that the Ministry stepped in to hasten repairs to the structure.

Ministry officials also explained that repair work has slowed down on this structure pending specific approvals from the Bermuda Electric Light Company (Belco) as there are utility poles in the area. Once approvals have been received from Belco, repair works will resume.

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over 250 such walls in need of repair, with 75 of the walls being in Pembroke parish alone.

As a result, the Ministry is reminding the public to report any walls or rock cuts on public or private roadways that they consider to be in a dangerous condition. The Ministry is addressing those that fall under the Ministry's remit and in such instances where the walls are the responsibility of the private land owners, the Ministry actively encourages these individuals who have received letters advising them of the dangerous condition of their rock cuts and walls to undertake repair works as quickly as possible.