



CONGRATULATIONS STUART!

Stuart Hayward, President and Chief Advocacy Officer of BEST, was honoured to receive the **Queen's Certificate and Badge of Honour** for a lifetime of service to the community, especially for services to the preservation of Bermuda's natural environment. June 2015.



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

New Directorships:

Mr Drew Pettit
Director of Conservation Services
was appointed Acting Director of the Environment.

Jonathan Starling
Greenrock.

We very much look forward to future opportunities to work together with their respective organizations.

>>>>> South Basin Dredging <<<<<<

The dredger came, completed its work on the North Channel and has gone on its way. There was some amazing footage taken by Andrew Stephenson of the dredger and its 2 barges at work. If you haven't seen the photos check them out at:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.phpfbid=10153391403323392&set=pcb.10153391410848392&type=3&theater>

The images prompted a lively on-line discussion on silt, sediment and sediment plumes. BEST remains concerned that insufficient research and consultation took place regarding the landfill at South Basin as well as the proposed interim and end uses. Marine maintenance yards (one of the proposed end uses) are industrial areas with industrial, and toxic waste. Should this area of Dockyard, originally an important sea grass bed for turtles and juvenile fish, nesting area for our severely stressed (and ironically named) Common Terns, become an industrial yard?

The Supreme Court hearing on our appeal of the Minister's South Basin decision took place on November 9th and 10th. We await Chief Justice Kawaley's final judgement. In a preliminary hearing BEST was awarded a Protective Costs Order based on the significance to public interest of elements of our appeal.

St George's Hotel and Casino:

The go-ahead for the new hotel has been given and includes permission for a casino. Very little information has been forthcoming on how gambling will be developed in Bermuda. Research into gambling (and a resulting Position Paper) was undertaken by BEST, in 2013, when it first became a major issue and much of what was written then remains valid and of concern. The paper, titled The Gamble of Gaming, is available on the BEST website:

http://best.org.bm/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=47&Itemid=56

The hotel developer's local agent made a presentation to BEST recently to put us in the picture in regard to the plans.

Cell Towers:

BEST continues to monitor the applications and is interested to learn more from the Regulatory Authority about the information being made available as it relates to antenna/tower installations already in place and to the ongoing monitoring of RF emissions.

Bermuda Botanical Gardens Maintenance Yard:

The 'Take Back Our Park' Group had a meeting with Minister Cannonier and his technical staff and are waiting for answers to questions regarding our concerns.

Plastic Pollution:

The **Bermuda Marine Debris Taskforce**, of which BEST is a member, has spent considerable time and effort collecting information on marine waste and hopes to have results published by the end of the year. The group collaborates with a number of international organizations in collecting data and looking for ways to reduce plastic pollution in the marine environment. The toll on ocean life from plankton to whales is horrendous and solutions must be found. The BEST Facebook page frequently posts articles on this topic, and if you missed it the following gives excellent practical steps everyone us can take every day:

<http://www.onegreenplanet.org/environment/simple-actions-that-might-save-our-worlds-oceans-from-plastic/>

The BUZZ:

We were delighted to be invited to attend the Bermuda National Trust's FarmFest at 'Devondale'. The second BEE Friendly brochure, focusing on alternatives to pesticides, was published in time to be distributed at the event, and the stall attracted plenty of interest. Preliminary reports by beekeepers suggest that the local bee population has done much better this year. Glyphosate, the active ingredient in the weed-killer Round-Up, continues to be in the news internationally. Research into the local affects of glyphosate that was to be undertaken during the 6-month ban on importation has, as far as we know, not been concluded. We are seeking clarification on what will happen at the end of the 6-month period.



Climate Change Conference:

Despite the devastating attacks in Paris recently, the Climate Change Conference is still scheduled to take place from November 30th - December 10th. A huge number of activities are taking place worldwide to encourage leaders to take meaningful and sustainable actions to ensure our one and only home, Planet Earth, remains a safe refuge for all its wondrous and varied inhabitants!

Please join in the rally being held on the steps of **City Hall from 12:30 - 1:30 pm on Friday, 27th November**. Visit the BEST website www.best.org.bm for more information on climate change and the worldwide events.

As always, your thoughts, comments, ideas on any of the above are most welcome. We look forward to hearing from you directly. Or join the conversation by visiting us for updates on local issues and information on a variety of environmental topics at:

www.best.org.bm

<https://www.facebook.com/BEST.Bda>

<https://twitter.com/BESTBermuda>

BEST regards,

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** We hope you enjoy our new look bulletin!*



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