

## Bermuda Archaeology Takes Centre Stage at International Archaeology Conference

### - Archaeology Research Project Launched to Focus on St George's -

Three speakers from Bermuda will be presenting at a daylong Symposium on Bermuda archaeology on Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the wreck of the Sea Venture and settlement of Bermuda. The symposium is part of the 2009 Annual Conference of the Society of Historical Archaeology (SHA), which is taking place this week in Toronto, Canada.

Entitled "From the Still-Vexed Bermoothes": Celebrating the Archaeology of Bermuda 400 Years On", the Symposium includes 17 presentations on Bermuda's heritage, delivered by archaeologists from across the globe. The two speakers from Bermuda are Dr. Edward C. Harris from the Bermuda Maritime Museum, and Richard Lowry from the Bermuda National Trust (BNT).

Chaired by Dr. Marley Brown III from the College of William and Mary, and Brent Fortenberry from Boston University, the Symposium is dedicated to the memory of Professor Norman Barka, who died in April 2008. Professor Barka made a significant contribution to Bermuda archaeology through his excavations of the Island's fortifications.

"This Symposium will showcase the important archaeological research conducted in Bermuda from forts to shipwrecks, from historic houses to heritage management," says Dr. Harris, Executive Director of the Bermuda Maritime Museum. "It is a fitting tribute to Norman Barka and a great way to celebrate our Island's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Richard Lowry, Chairman of the BNT's Archaeology Committee adds: "The Symposium will also provide the opportunity to launch the St. George's Archaeology Research Project (SGARP) which over the next five years will conduct, collect and coordinate all archaeological research in St. George's and make this information available to the public online."

The SGARP Advisory Board includes academic heavyweights such as Dr. Edward Harris, Dr. Marley Brown III, Professor Mary Beaudry of Boston University and Dr. Clarence Maxwell of Millersville University. SGARP was conceived by Brent Fortenberry and Richard Lowry and is a principle research collaboration between the Bermuda National Trust and Boston University.