



WELCOMING A NEW GENERATION of seafarers

There is something ironic about the fact that the Cayman Islands has a long seafaring history yet to date - no marina. While a significant percentage (70%) of the world's pleasure yachts are registered here, it's very rare to see any of them visiting primarily because there is nowhere for them to tie up and access the usual amenities that they have available at other ports of call such as power, water, fuel, sewage pump out and wireless internet.

However, things are set to change as The Barcadere, a new full service marina on the North Sound, opened at the end of 2008, heralding a new era for boaters in Cayman. Not only will this new George Town marina offer a safe haven for yachts, it is likely to change the way the yachting world views the Cayman Islands as a potential destination. Although the man behind the project, Neville Scott, expects that it will be the local community that is likely to utilise the facilities first, in time he hopes to see international yachts frequenting the marina as a base for enjoying vacations in Cayman, as a part of a wider established itinerary of waypoints throughout the Caribbean.

"Somewhere along the line Cayman stopped being a waypoint for pleasure vessels, despite its long maritime history," said Scott. "We are now trying to create a port of call for yachts where we can once again welcome international mariners to our shores. Barcadere is a word used by Caymanians for centuries, and has its origins in the French language, it is synonymous with the Spanish word Embarcadero, denoting a place where mariners embark and disembark on maritime voyages. This area has been known as the George Town Barcadere since the 1700s."

He explained that with the reintroduction of immigration and customs facilities it would constitute a whole new

tourism product, and being literally seconds from the airport it offers a perfect location for overseas yacht owners to moor their vessels and maintain easy access. However, even before international yachts start frequenting The Barcadere Scott envisages it being popular with local boaters. Not only will they be able to keep their boats in a relatively safe, secure and convenient facility with access to an unprecedented range of services, they can also opt to join the new George Town Yacht Club, something which Scott sees as being very significant to the boating community.

"As I understand it, some 70% of the world's pleasure yachts are registered to the Cayman Islands Shipping Registry, and have



the identifier of George Town across the transom, yet, until now there was no George Town Yacht Club," he said adding that everyone who has a yacht registered with the Cayman Islands Shipping Registry will be invited to become a member, as well as those who are using the marina facilities, and the wider Cayman boating population. Scott explained however, that The Barcadere will be much more than a marina, and while he says the entire development is first class and exclusive, it will not be elitist, but will welcome all comers.

He explained that once complete there will be a state of the art ValvTect Marine fuel station with roadside and dock side fuel dispensers and sewage pump out. Every slip will feature individually metered power and water facilities. The George Town Yacht Club will have its own private club house, with a restaurant, full changing room facilities with showers & lockers and available concierge service. As well as a three storey commercial building with both retail and Class A office space available for lease, all right on the waterfront with a view of the marina and the North Sound.

One of the earliest places cited in Cayman's history books as part of the original land grant in the Cayman Islands by the British Crown dating back to 1735, The Barcadere is special to Scott who coming from one of Cayman's earliest settler families, says even his own ancestors may have embarked or disembarked at the original Barcadere. Once home to the turtle crawls just down from the old turtle soup canning factory, as well as the original immigration and customs office; which served as the first airport for the PBY Amphibious airplanes flown by Owen Roberts, whom the current airport is named after, has played an important part in Cayman's development and Scott hopes it will again.

Although the site was already filled

before he purchased it, Scott says it was in a terrible state of disuse and had become a virtual dump. Since cleaning it up, the environment has played a significant part in the ethos of the entire design, construction and future operation of the project. The new landscape will be created using local species and during construction he has kept marine disruption down to the absolute minimum. Using the for US Green Marina certification methods as his benchmark and aiming for LEED rating on the development, Scott says he has invested in sustainable building materials and is using equipment that will not interfere with the marine environment, as well as installing water recycling systems, solar power and other energy efficient equipment in the upcoming phases of the development.

Home to Scott's Marine's new showroom and service center there is also additional retail and commercial space available that Scott hopes will see The Barcadere flourish into a truly world class marina community. With all the necessary equipment and services that serious and not so serious yachters would expect at a full service marina, boat yard, plus multilevel dry storage facilities, Scott says this will be a mecca for the modern mariner. Above all however, it is the fulfilment of a dream to bringing The Barcadere back to life for a new generation of seafarers.

