



Royal Bank

**NEWS**

## **Champs Fleurs residents benefit from RBC's Blue Water Project**

**Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, June 7, 2016:** Residents of Champs Fleurs in north Trinidad have openly welcomed an initiative by RBC Royal Bank to beautify and uplift the David Nakhid Recreation Ground with the planting of a variety of trees on the perimeter of the field.

Driven by parent company Royal Bank of Canada's Blue Water Day global outreach programme, more than 80 employees of RBC Royal Bank put on gloves and worked forks, hoes and shovels as they joined hands with residents of the Mt. D'Or community to plant some 200 trees on Saturday, June 4.

The RBC Blue Water Project is an historic, wide-ranging, 10-year global commitment to help protect the world's most precious natural resource: fresh water. Blue Water Day was celebrated on Thursday, June 2.

"We are delighted that RBC has come to the aid of our community. It is costly to maintain, and far more to beautify, a park like this. The trees we are planting here today will not only beautify the ground, they will also serve a more important lesson, especially for the youth of this community. They will learn how to protect and preserve the environment.

"When the trees mature, they will serve as shade for recreational and social activities. The young people will be able to play their sports and games in an enhanced setting and the community can use the park for a range of activities," said Fitzroy Browne, President of the Champs Fleurs West Community Group, which is in charge of looking after the ground.

Sharon Holder, who joined her husband, Franklyn and other residents, in the RBC Blue Water Project, expressed the hope that the initiative "would plant seeds that would help to motivate the youths of the community toward a positive lifestyle".

Located in Mt. D'Or, Champs Fleurs, the park is named after former national football captain, David Nakhid. From as early as 7 am, members of Team RBC converged at the ground and joined forces with the Champs Fleurs residents in planting a variety of trees, including oleanders, ginger lilies and durantas.

Among them was RBC Royal Bank Regional Operating Officer, Joann Gomes, who captured the true spirit of volunteerism as she marshalled the RBC forces. "Water is one of the world's most precious natural resources, fundamental to life on our planet. Now, more than ever, protecting such a vital part of our existence is a responsibility that we owe not only to ourselves, but to generations to come. Trees are very essential for protecting our fresh water resources. The trees we are putting down here today will help to protect the watershed in this community. And we share the view of the residents that this Blue Water Project would jumpstart many positive activities for the community," Gomes said.

In the sister isle, 25 RBC employee volunteers planted a kitchen garden and created a decorative garden at the entrance of the St. Nicholas Primary School. Students and their parents gave a helping hand and a donation was presented to the school.

Since 2007, RBC has pledged nearly C\$ 44 million to more than 740 charitable organisations worldwide that protect watersheds and promote access to clean drinking water, with an additional C\$8.8 million pledged to universities for water programmes.



*RBC Royal Bank's Jesus Pazos, Head, Business Banking (third from left) gets assistance from colleagues and Champs Fleurs West Community Group members, including President Fitzroy Browne (left), as he prepares to plant a sapling at David Nakhid Recreation Ground to mark RBC Blue Water Day on June 4.*





*Employees of RBC Royal Bank celebrate their efforts after planting some 200 trees at David Nakhid Recreation Ground in Champs Fleurs as part of RBC's Blue Water Day on June 4.*



*These RBC volunteers seem pleased with their efforts as they plant a tree during RBC's Blue Water Day activity at David Nakhid Recreation Ground, Champs Fleure, on June 4.*



*Residents of Champs Fleurs join forces with RBC Royal Bank volunteers in the tree-planting project at David Nakhid Recreation Ground on June 4.*

#### **About the RBC Blue Water Project**

The RBC Blue Water Project is a historic, wide-ranging, 10-year global commitment to help protect the world's most precious natural resource: fresh water. Since 2007, RBC has pledged more than C\$47 million to 760 charitable organizations worldwide that protect watersheds and promote access to clean drinking water, with an additional \$8.8 million pledged to universities for water programs.

The RBC Blue Water Project is focused on supporting initiatives that help protect water in towns, cities, and urbanized areas. For further information, visit [www.rbc.com/bluewater](http://www.rbc.com/bluewater).

#### **About RBC in the Caribbean**

With more than 100 years of dedicated service to the region, RBC has a presence in 17 countries, with 77 branches serving more than one million clients. As one of the Caribbean's leading diversified financial services companies, RBC provides personal and commercial banking, wealth management, corporate and investment banking, insurance and trust and asset management services to a wide range of clients, including individuals, small businesses, general commercial entities, regional and multi-national corporations and governments. For more information, please visit [rbc.com/caribbean](http://rbc.com/caribbean).

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