



Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH)

Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre
2302 Bridge Road, Oakville, Ontario L6L 2G6
Tel: 905 825 8695
Email: Andrew@ccah.ca
Web: www.ccah.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2020 Oakville, Ontario, Canada

2020 Halton Black History Month Free Events Hosted by the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH) will warm up even the coldest days in February!

Oakville, Ontario (January 31, 2020) - The Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton in partnership with the Oakville Museum, Oakville Community Foundation, Canadian Heritage, Sheridan College and TD Bank Group, will be hosting the Black History Month Kick-Off Celebration on Thursday February 6th. The 2020 theme "Our Journey" is a demonstration of the fundamental relationship of Black History to the Halton Community, a celebration of Black Culture for all members of the Halton Community. The event is open to the public. **Admission is free.**

This kick-off event features traditional and contemporary Black art forms celebrating the rich cultural heritage of African people including exhibitions of Oakville's Early Black History, African- Canadian art and posters from Sheridan College student projects. The winners of the CCAH visual art and creative writing contests for \$1,500 in scholarship money to Sheridan students will be announced. The CEO of the Oakville Hospital Foundation will also be in attendance to accept a \$25,000 CCAH donation.

Official Kick-Off participants will also enjoy Caribbean finger foods and live performances including:

- Remarks from Rob Burton, Mayor, Town of Oakville
- Singing Our Own Song Choir
- John Campbell Soul Band
- Guest Speaker: Winston LaRose
- CCAH Steelpan Band
- Author Evan Winter

Participants may also have a facilitated tour of the Joan Butterfield Art Exhibit: Our Journey from 6pm – 6:30pm. This will provide an opportunity to see what contemporary Black artists are addressing through their work and the relationship to traditional African art forms. The exhibit will remain at the Oakville Town Hall until February 29th.

Event Location: Oakville Town Hall, 1225 Trafalgar Road
Date: Thursday February 6, 2020
Time: Reception at 6:00 pm | Mainstage at 6:20 pm
Admission: Free
Media Contact: Event Coordinators, Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH)
Nathalie de Caen ndecaen@hotmail.com
Andrew 905.825.8695 andrew@ccah.ca
Sheldon (in Milton) 647.986.7489 Sheldon@ccah.ca

See complete CCAH Black History Month Calendar of Events attached.



Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH)

Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre
2302 Bridge Road, Oakville, Ontario L6L 2G6
Tel: 905 825 8695
Email: Andrew@ccah.ca
Web: www.ccah.ca

About the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH):

The CCAH combines arts, culture and heritage activities to enhance the community's knowledge of diverse cultures and strengthen appreciation of all cultures that make up the diversity of Oakville and Halton. The CCAH also provides outreach to schools in the region with programs based in history of African heritage and culture. Every February, they produce a number of activities related to Black History Month. The CCAH partners with a number of other organizations to provide a wide range of youth leadership and seniors programs. For information about the organization and programs provided to youth, adults, and seniors throughout the year please visit ccah.ca Visit www.ccah.ca for more details.

"In celebration of Black History Month, I am extremely pleased to announce federal government funding to the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton. This funding seeks to recognize the contributions of Black Canadians in our society. The more we learn about each other, the stronger our community becomes. I look forward to celebrating the importance of Black culture and history in our Halton community."

**Anita Anand, MP Oakville
Minister of Public Services and Procurement**

"We are proud to support the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton in kicking off Black History Month celebrations through the TD Ready Commitment. Using traditional and contemporary Black art forms, this series of month long events recognizes our people, our culture, and our history, while helping us shape the stories we want future generations to share."

Naki Osutei, Associate Vice President, Social Impact, TD Bank Group.

Sponsored by:

Funded by the Government of Canada

Canada



**TD READY
COMMITMENT**



**oakville
community
foundation**



Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH)

Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre
2302 Bridge Road, Oakville, Ontario L6L 2G6
Tel: 905 825 8695
Email: Andrew@ccah.ca
Web: www.ccah.ca

Complete Listing of CCAH Black History Month Free Events:

February 1- 29 (excluding Mondays): The Underground Railroad: Next Stop, Freedom! Oakville Museum | 8 Navy St, Oakville | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

In this exciting and moving multi-media presentation, the ghost of Deborah Brown tells the true story of her heroic flight from a life of slavery in Maryland to her new life of freedom in 19th-century Toronto.

February 1- 29 (excluding Weekends): African Canadian Art Exhibition – “Our Journey” Oakville Town Hall | 1225 Trafalgar Rd, Oakville | 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Curated by celebrated artist Joan Butterfield, this exhibit includes 50 artworks at the Oakville Town Hall by contemporary African Canadian artists; facilitated tours of the exhibit available.

January 30 – February 20: Oakville Community Foundation Community Classroom: Elementary School Steelpan Drumming Workshops (12 performances): Holy Family School; St. Mary School, St. Teresa of Calcutta School; St. Marguerite d’Youville School; West Oak Public School; Sunningdale Public School, St. Luke School; Our Lady of Peace School; and St Joan of Arc School.

Members of the CCAH Steelpan Band provide a live performance, a narrative and a key instruction of the instruments. The performances also provide for dialogue and discussion on the history and art of steelpan drumming.

February 4: Diana & Chris perform “All About the Blues” at the Village of Tansley Woods Retirement Residence, Burlington 4100 Upper Middle Rd I 3:00 pm -4:00 pm

All About the Blues is a lively interactive musical performance featuring songs, slides and the spoken word. The music and history themed show was created by multiple Maple Blues award winning artists Diana Braithwaite and Chris Whiteley who during the performance educate and entertain audiences while taking them on a musical journey back in history to discover the early origins of Blues musicians and the music they performed.

The presentation is educational while being entertaining. Throughout the performance, Diana and Chris talk about the history of the blues and then give examples by performing songs and telling stories that relate to the music, historical times and cultural experience of this over one-hundred-year-old celebrated musical art form.

February 5 (Closed event): Diana & Chris perform “All About the Blues” at Thomas A. Blakelock High School, Oakville 1160 Rebecca Street I 8:30 am – 9:30am

February 6: Official Black History Month Kick-Off Event. Oakville Town Hall | 1225 Trafalgar Rd, Oakville | 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

February 7 (Closed event): Diana & Chris perform “All About the Blues” at St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School 1550 Nottinghill Gate, Oakville | 1:30 pm – 2:30pm



Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH)

Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre
2302 Bridge Road, Oakville, Ontario L6L 2G6
Tel: 905 825 8695
Email: Andrew@ccah.ca
Web: www.ccah.ca

February 7: Burlington Caribbean Connection Black History Month event. Port Nelson United Church Hall, 3132 South Drive, Burlington | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

February 9: Sunrise Seniors Living Residence, Burlington I 5401 Lakeshore Rd I CCAH Community Parang/Creole players Interactive Concert | 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

This is a CCAH group formed in 2017 as a result of a music program Federal grant for seniors and is led by professional Calypsonian **Roger Gibbs** (Toronto). Their repertoire is traditional Caribbean folk music, like Calypso and parang – traditional music from Trinidad & Tobago. They have performed at local music events and in seniors' homes.

February 9: Art Hive Open Studio at the Village of Tansley Woods Retirement Residence, Burlington 4100 Upper Middle Rd I 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm:

Join us for this new and innovative Black History Month project. facilitated by accomplished visual artist **Camille King, MA, UWI**, Participants will create art in a relaxed and informal setting. Offered in partnership between CCAH, The Hive and the Oakville Museum, this open-studio style workshop will offer a unique, inclusive blend of art-making. At its heart, an Art Hive is about inclusion, respect and learning. Participating allows individuals to connect with others, make art and build relationships in a welcoming place.

February 10: Sheridan College - Sheridan Student Union Black History Month Pop-Up Music Concert. The SSU will be holding an interactive musical performance by **John Campbell** in the SSU Atrium as part of Black History Month celebrations. Hosted by Sheridan Student Union (SSU) Sheridan College | 1430 Trafalgar Rd, Oakville | SSU Atrium | 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

John Campbell has been composing and performing since his childhood and now is very active in the local music scene in Toronto. John recently played the leading role in the acclaimed stage musical “Dreamgirls” which appeared in a number of venues. John has a long list of musical accomplishments and continues to give solo and group performances at numerous venues including, Massey Hall, Roy Thompson Hall, Revival, Bar Italia, and the Rosewater Supper Club.

February 10: Town of Milton Black History Month Proclamation Milton Town Hall 150 Mary Street, Milton | TBA

February 11: Roger Gibbs Inter-Active Music Therapy at the Village of Tansley Woods Long Term Care Residence, Burlington 4100 Upper Middle Rd I 1:30pm – 2:30pm

February 15 (Closed event): Art Hive Studio at Acclaim Health Seniors' Day Program, Oakville Trafalgar Campus K-Wing I 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

February 17: Family Day with CCAH. QEP Community & Cultural Centre | 2302 Bridge Rd, Oakville | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Steelpan music by CCAH Steelpan Band from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm and Roger Gibbs with the CCAH Seniors Parang/Creole group perform 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

February 18: Roger Gibbs Inter-Active Music Therapy at the Village of Tansley Woods Long Term Care Residence, Burlington 4100 Upper Middle Rd I 1:30pm – 2:30pm

**Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH)**

Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre

2302 Bridge Road, Oakville, Ontario L6L 2G6

Tel: 905 825 8695

Email: Andrew@ccah.ca

Web: www.ccah.ca

February 19 (Closed event): Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School Black History Month Concert

Featuring: Njacko Backo and Kalimbas. 2420 Sixth Line, Oakville | 10:00 am – 11:00 am

A native of Cameroon, Njacko Backo has a lifetime of practice in capturing the subtlety of dance and storytelling with his music – an essential part of the African performing arts. His programs for children and youth draw on parallels and differences between Canadian and African family life. Njacko is very active in the arts community as a performer and educator and has contributed to CCAH programs in the past.

February 19 (Closed event): Oakville/Burl/Milton Fire Services Lunch ‘n Learn. Featuring: Karolyn Smardz-Frost, Keynote Speaker. Topic: Digging for the Promise Land. Music by Roger Gibbs | 12:00 Noon - 1:30 pm

Karolyn Smardz Frost is a Canadian historian, archaeologist, and professor of history. She has a bachelor's degree in Archaeology, a master's degree in Classical Studies and a PhD in Canadian History. She was one of the founders of Toronto's Archaeological Resource Centre which provides archaeological education to school children.

Roger Gibbs has recorded three CD's featuring his band Shak Shak. He describes his music as Caribbean Acoustic, a contemporary blend of his Calypso and folk Caribbean roots. In 2012 he received a special award from Toronto Caribbean Carnival Festival for his contribution to calypso in Canada.

February 19: Sheridan College Black History Month Movie Screening. Documentary about the Sir George Williams Riot in 1969 entitled “Ninth Floor” at 1430 Trafalgar Rd, (Sheridan Trafalgar Campus) Room B125. This will include a facilitated discussion led by Sheridan faculty and speakers from the local Black Community to share perspectives and experiences. Start time 7:00 pm

February 20 (Closed event): Halton Regional Police Services Lunch ‘n Learn. Featuring: Karolyn Smardz-Frost, Keynote Speaker. Topic: Digging for the Promise Land. Music by Roger Gibbs at HRPS Headquarters 2485 North Service Rd. West, Oakville | 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

February 22: Art Hive Open Studio Oakville Museum, 8 Navy St, Oakville | 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

February 23: Milton Public Library – Black History Month Interactive West African and Afro-Caribbean Drumming Event. Featuring: Njacko Backo and Kalimbas at Work. Milton Public Library | 1010 Main St E, Milton, Bandura Lounge. | 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

February 24 (Closed event): St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School - Caribbean Cooking Class for students (2 classes) Featuring Chef Delvon Greene 1550 Nottinghill Gate, Oakville | 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

February 24 (Closed event): Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School – Caribbean Cooking Class for students (1 Class) Featuring Chef Delvon Greene 2420 Sixth Line, Oakville | 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

February 25 (Closed event): Roger Gibbs Inter-Active Music Therapy at Acclaim Health Seniors’ Day Program, Oakville Trafalgar Campus K-Wing I 11:00 am-12:00 noon



Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH)

Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre

2302 Bridge Road, Oakville, Ontario L6L 2G6

Tel: 905 825 8695

Email: Andrew@ccah.ca

Web: www.ccah.ca

February 25: Roger Gibbs Inter-Active Music Therapy at the Village of Tansley Woods Long Term Care Residence, Burlington 4100 Upper Middle Rd I 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

February 29: Art Hive Open Studio (Children aged 6yrs to 12yrs) Sherwood Community Centre and Library
6355 Main Street West, Milton I 1:00 pm -3:00 pm

For more information please contact Nathalie de Caen ndecaen@hotmail.com Event Coordinator or Andrew 905.825.8695 andrew@ccah.ca or Sheldon (in Milton) 647.986.7489 Sheldon@ccah.ca

Visit www.ccah.ca for more details.