

2022 A YEAR IN REVIEW

The year began with hesitancy regarding public gatherings. Accordingly, the CCAH approached in-person activities in a cautious manner. But, with each passing month in 2022, programs and activities increased to what may be considered the busiest and most impactful year in the charity's history.

The 2022 Black History Month theme was "Imagining Futures." This represented a powerful opportunity for the community to reflect upon the challenges of the previous two years and to consider how a better tomorrow could look. A small gathering of performers and organizers met at the Oakville Centre for Performing Arts and recorded performances for the kickoff event which was streamed on Cogeco TV throughout the month of February with viewership of over 100,000 people. Black History Month saw over 40 events which included 5 programs specifically curated for students of the Halton Public and Catholic School Boards. CCAH also partnered with Black Mentorship Inc. on the closing event where both organizations jointly celebrated their achievements, cultures, and communities.

In an effort to keep the community safe, the CCAH distributed over 1100 boxes of COVID-19 rapid antigen tests to families in Oakville in the month of February.

In March, CCAH began preparing for a new Day Camp Program for summer 2022. CCAH received funding for this initiative through the Ontario Trillium Foundation which enabled us to offer the program without cost to campers and their family. Sponsors included the Halton Region, the Town of Oakville, Oakville Community Foundation and Food for Life. The CCAH Day Camp was a Black-led program for racialized and marginalized families living in Halton Region with children between the ages of 6 to 12 years old. The camp was offered in Oakville at the CCAH headquarters located at Queen Elizabeth Park Cultural and Community Centre (QEPCCC) on Bridge Road and had a rich medley of onsite and offsite activities for participants. The program was a success with 40 children attending the camp each week for 8 weeks from July 6 – August 26.

CCAH steelpan in-person classes resumed in March 2022 and have been consistently at capacity since then. On June 12, the CCAH Spring Concert was held at the QEPCCC Black Box Theatre. Performances were given by members of the Steelpan classes & the Parang band. The event was well attended with over 150 people attending.

In late Spring, CCAH in partnership with the Halton District School Board started offering complimentary tutoring to support learning recovery and renewal in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Forty-seven students received support in the first cohort. The program was well organized and yielded positive results prompting the school board to continue into Fall 2022 during which time 111 students registered to receive tutoring support. In January 2023, the tutoring program grew to 120 students.

Continuing with the busy summer activities and initiatives, CCAH opened the CCAH Community & Harmony Garden in mid-June. The garden is located in the green space behind the QEPCCC in Oakville and several garden plots were open for community use. Courtesy of Town of Oakville Greenhouse, advanced plants were made available for free in June to transplant to garden plot. We were fortunate to have the expertise of Halton Environmental Network to make our first growing season a success.



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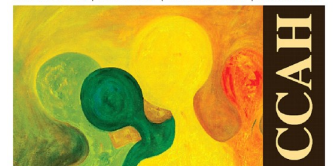
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Over the years CCAH has partnered with Employment and Social Development Canada to help young people between the ages of 15 and 30, particularly those facing barriers to employment, get information and gain the skills, work experience and abilities they need to transition successfully into the labour market. CCAH hired 6 students through this program to support with summer initiatives.

In 2020, the CCAH pledged \$25,000 to the Oakville Hospital Foundation to fund a Halton diabetes compassionate care program at the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. By July 2022, we raised nearly \$8,000 to support this worthy cause, and to date we have raised over \$14,000.

The Youth Leadership Summer Program has been led through ongoing partnerships between CCAH and the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) for many years. The program provides a learning opportunity for high school students (grades 9-12) while obtaining Community Engagement Hours. An in-person session was held on July 23 at the Halton Regional Police Service Headquarters in Oakville. New in 2022 was the addition to the workshop of various Oakville Hospital department staff, and the recruitment branch of the Canadian Armed Forces. The recording from the program was subsequently offered virtually to youth who were unable to attend the in-person session. In total, 90 youth registered for the program.

On July 30, the CCAH in partnership with the Oakville Public Library, Oakville Museum and Visit Oakville offered guided tours of Bronte Harbour and Kerr Village sites showcasing Oakville's Black heritage.

On August 1, Emancipation Day celebrations took place in Oakville and Milton. The CCAH partnered with the Oakville Museum to present a lively in-person cultural event in Oakville where free meals were served, and entertainment was enjoyed by over 200 people. The CCAH in partnership with Arts Milton, Milton Public Library and ACCH (African Caribbean Council of Halton) hosted an in-person event for in Milton where free meals were served, and entertainment was enjoyed by over 100 people.

On July 27, the park at 3183 Buttonbush Trail was dedicated in memory of the late Veronica Tyrrell, an exemplary community leader. An event was hosted by His Worship Mayor Rob Burton with attendance from members of Oakville Town Council, Halton Regional Council and many supporters of Veronica. In addition, the Mayor proclaimed August 27 as Veronica Tyrrell Day in Oakville.

Also in August, several CCAH members were recognized with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal for outstanding community service. These include Andrew Tyrrell, CCAH President, Sheldon Williams, CCAH Vice-President, Denise Als (CCAHA steelpan instructor) and Joe Brathwaite (CCAHA member).

By the end of summer, the CCAH music program performed at over 20 long term care facilities, retirement residences and public venues throughout the region with a combined audience of over 2,000.

CCAHA participated in the town of Oakville's Culture Days on October 2 by offering Steelpan and Parang sessions to community members who wanted to watch or try the music programs.

In November, a 4-part financial literacy program for youth was offered. This program was run in partnership with Roots Community Service and targeted high school students. From 10 high schools, 35 students registered for this program.



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The Belonging and Racial Identity in Halton Report was published in October. It used both quantitative and qualitative data to better understand what can be done to cultivate a greater sense of belonging and inclusion for Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) in Halton Region. This report was a culmination of work by Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton, Mending the Chasm and the Oakville Community Foundation partnered with Sheridan. We're grateful to all the community organizations and Halton residents that assisted in the data collection.



On December 4, CCAH celebrated its Annual Holiday Concert and its 45th Anniversary. The usual strong cultural performances of the Steelpan and Parang groups were showcased, and a local Black artist Paul Dias exhibited original artwork. There were 170 community members in attendance.

As a charitable organization, CCAH's work is made possible through donations and funds raised through grants and private donations. On December 12, the CCAH was part of the Oakville Community Foundation's GIVEOakville campaign. GIVEOakville is an online crowd-funding platform that amplifies community support, and helps organizations to achieve their fundraising goals. CCAH raised \$25,000 from this effort.



The CCAH Reading Corner is in its second year and has been a successful partnership with Milton Public Library bringing Black authors and children together virtually to enhance their love of reading.

In support of front-line workers caring for seniors, the CCAH distributed 485 chef-prepared meals to staff at long-term care facilities in Halton.

One of the last significant items for 2022 was the casting call and auditions for the Legacy Voices documentary project sequel. CCAH and Falling Motion sought BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) Seniors (aged 60+), currently living or have lived in Halton Region, to be part of the sequel. The filming took place at multiple locations in January and the film is scheduled to be screened in March 2023.



CCAHA is thankful for the support that we enjoyed in Halton Region over the past 45 years. Without members, community partners, funders and volunteers our work would not have been possible. We're looking forward to your continued support in 2023.



Sincerely,

**Board of Directors
Canadian Caribbean
Association of Halton**



Back row: Saud Juman, Rajan Sandhu, Sheldon Williams, Richard Pinnock
Front row: Andrew Tyrrell, Paula Simmons-Wint, Katherine Dottin-Adams, Pamela Chase
Missing: Ryan Smith Photo Credit: Nikki Wesley

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