
PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oakville ON, January 25, 2024

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Black History Month 2024 Launch: Celebrating Culture and History

The Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH), with the financial support of TD Bank Group, Government of Canada and Town of Oakville, will be hosting our **annual Black History Month (BHM) 2024 launch on Thursday, February 1 with reception at 6:00 pm and show from 6:30-8:00 pm** at the Oakville Centre for Performing Arts (OCPA).

This year's event includes a keynote speech by Producer and Director Anthony Sherwood, who will review his passion for shedding light on Oakville's Black History, as well as performances by Juno award winner Jully Black, singer Geri Defoe, Arthouse Children's Choir, Girl Power'd dancers and a student poem. Land acknowledgement will be given by Elder Stephen Paquette. Prior to the show there will be a 30-minute reception featuring the sounds of the CCAH Steel Band. Don't miss this great opportunity to celebrate culture and history.

Our theme this year is "Celebrating Culture and History" as it represents our ongoing commitment to bring the community together and acknowledge the rich and abundant Black history in Halton for February and beyond.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased through the OCPA Box Office [here](#).

CCAH is pleased to acknowledge the support of TD Bank Group with the BHM2024 launch.

"Music and storytelling shared through the lens of Black lived experiences helps shine a light on long-standing systemic barriers and can spark meaningful conversations about the past, present and future. Through the TD Ready Commitment, our corporate citizenship platform, TD is proud to support the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton in amplifying the diverse voices of Black artists, celebrating the rich tapestry of Black culture, and connecting communities through unique and inclusive experiences." - Latanya Housen, Regional Manager, Black Community Business Development, Metro West, TD Bank Group

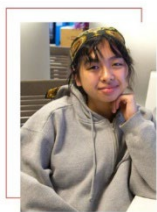
"This year's theme for Black History Month, 'Celebrating Culture and History' highlights and honours the profound contributions that Black Canadians have been making to Canada's industries, communities, and cultural heritage for centuries. The Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton serves as a pillar of Black empowerment every day, and in doing so is fostering more inclusive communities that celebrate the richness and diversity of Black history." - Honourable Anita Anand, Member of Parliament, Oakville

BHM2024 Events Sponsored by:



Lots of FREE events! A complete list of CCAH BHM2024 events is provided below and is accessible on our dedicated BHM2024 webpage: [BHM2024 - CCAH - Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton](#)

BHM Flag and Logo



CHARLENE PURA

Junior Designer, Sheridan Student Union
Second Year, York/Sheridan Design Program

WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION FOR THE BLACK HISTORY MONTH IDENTITY?

"My goal for creating the BHM identity was to commemorate black history in a vibrant way. I wanted to be able to create something that is timeless and relevant as black history month should continue to be. BHM is about celebrating a very dynamic past and present, and so I wanted to depict that through a more dynamic design."



**Black
History
Month**

Charlene is one of our Junior Designers here at Sheridan Student Union and is a second year student in the York/Sheridan Design Program.

In 2020, our Black History Month logo was designed by Charlene Pura, a Sheridan College student as part of a CCAH-sponsored initiative with Sheridan. We then had it developed into a flag that was present at event venues and schools. The Oakville Town Hall and Halton Regional Police Service flew the flag throughout February. We look forward to raising the flag for 2024.

February 1-February 29: Explore the Essence of a People: Celebrating Black History Month through Art | Oakville Town Hall | Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre (QEPCCC) | Curator: [Joan Butterfield](#)

Our Black History Month art exhibits aim to illuminate the captivating beauty and essence of a people. Featuring visually stunning works, these exhibits celebrate the profound richness of our culture. Carefully curated, each piece serves as a visual representation, offering a platform for sharing, connecting, and engaging with one another. Meticulously designed to empower and instill pride in our cultural heritage and traditions. Join us on this journey to explore the vibrant tapestry of our people through the expressive lens of visual art. Town Hall and QEPCCC exhibits are self-guided, but private tours can be requested at QEPCCC via info@ccah.ca.

February 1-29: The Underground Railroad: Next Stop, Freedom & Legacy Voices | Oakville Museum | 8 Navy St, Oakville | Contact julie.hawryszko@oakville.ca with questions

Explore Oakville's relationship with the United States in the context of the Underground Railroad. Learn about how Oakville Harbour played a significant role in the journey to Canada for many freedom seekers. Key figures in the Oakville Underground Railroad story are introduced through the exhibition *Freedom, Opportunity and Family: Oakville's Black History*, and excerpts from the multimedia presentation *The Underground Railroad: Next Stop Freedom* as well as more contemporary stories from the CCAH documentary *Legacy Voices*.

February 1-29: Oakville Early Black History | QEPCCC | Halton Schools

Traveling exhibition created by the Oakville Museum; displays with pictures and cultural information. Participating schools: St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School; Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School; Bishop P. F. Reding Catholic Secondary School; E.J. James Public School; St. Catherine of Alexandria; Garth Webb Secondary School; Abbey Park Secondary School

Wednesday, January 31 @ 10:30 am: Black History Month Flag Raising | Oakville Town Hall

Mayor Rob Burton will raise the flag alongside Members of Council and Black-led community organizations.

Thursday, February 1: Oakville Matters, Season 8, Ep 1 | YourTV Studio | Burlington

Oakville Mayor Rob Burton interviews CCAH President, Andrew Tyrrell about Oakville's Black History and 2024 Black History Month Events.

Thursday, February 1 @ 1:00 pm: Black History Month Flag Raising | Halton Regional Police Service Headquarters

The Halton Region Police Service will raise the flag alongside Black-led community organizations.

Thursday, February 1 @ 5:00 pm: Interview | Halton News | YourTV Halton

Nikki Wesley of Halton News on YourTV, interviews Andrew Tyrrell, President of CCAH, about upcoming events planned for Black History Month 2024.

Thursday, February 1 @ 6:00 – 8:00 pm: Black History Month Launch | In-person | Tickets \$10 | Purchase tickets here: [Black History Month 2024 Launch Celebration \(oakvillecentre.ca\)](https://oakvillecentre.ca/black-history-month-2024-launch-celebration)

This ticketed event will include the following: Keynote speaker Anthony Sherwood, who will review his passion for shedding light on Oakville's Black history; land acknowledgment by Elder Stephen Paquette; musical performances by Juno award winner Jully Black, Whitney Houston Tribute artist Geri Defoe and CCAH Steel Band; and youth performances by the Arthouse Children's Choir, Girl Power'd dancers and a student poem. Our theme this year is "Celebrating Culture and History".

Friday, February 2: Community Classroom CCAH Steel Band | Halton Catholic District School Board and Halton District School Board

As part of the Oakville Community Foundation's Community Classroom initiative, the CCAH Steel Band will be performing at: Oakwood Public School, Brookdale Public School, and Heritage Glen Public School.

Sunday, February 4 @ 2:00 pm: Black History Month Art Exhibit Opening | In-person | Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre | Free; Register here: [2024 Black History Month Gallery Opening Tickets, Sun, 4 Feb 2024 at 2:00 PM | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-black-history-month-gallery-opening-tickets-sun-4-feb-2024-at-2-00-pm)

Join us as we open a month-long celebration of Afrocentric Art and Artifacts. Artists will be available for Q&A. Caribbean-inspired finger foods to be served by Chef Romaine of Access Gourmet and non-alcoholic beverages provided by Nickel Brook Brewing Co. Curator: Joan Butterfield.

Monday, February 5: Interview with Melissa Davis | Oakville Chamber of Commerce

For their *Members of the Chamber* podcast, the Oakville Chamber will be sitting down with Melissa Davis, President of [Ugly Dukling](#), to discuss her incredible entrepreneurial journey, her thriving business, and advice she has for aspiring entrepreneurs. Ugly Dukling is an influential lifestyle brand boutique that collaborates with iconic brands, blockbuster films & celebrities to create limited edition collections. Special curated keepsake pieces are launched through pop-ups, creating exciting, memorable experiences. The episode will air mid-February 2024.

Monday, February 5 @ 4-30-7:00 PM: Clef Notes to Canvas | In-person | Halton Hills Youth Centre Acton | Hosted in partnership with the CCAH, Halton Hills and Hillsview Active Living, and facilitated by local artist Omar "Oms" Hopkinson | Supplies provided; no experience necessary | Private event

This is an interactive art session, where creativity, music and awareness meet. The first part of the program focuses on "The Struggle" whereby participants allow the mood of the music to evoke feelings that are translated onto the canvas. The second part focuses on the "Freedom" of creativity whereby participants allow music to influence exploration and expand upon the initial artwork created.

Wednesday, February 7@ 11:30 am: Finding Freedom on the Sixteen | Hosted in partnership with CCAH and Halton Region Police Service | By invitation only

The amazing story of former enslaved African Americans from the State of Maryland and Louisiana who fled in search of freedom to the small town of Oakville, Ontario in Canada. During the mid 1800's, these early Black settlers helped reshape the future of Oakville and made significant contributions to the history of Canada. *Finding Freedom* is produced in association with CCAH and features its own archived pictures of past president and interview with current president. The CCAH founder was a descendant of the Duncan family, one of the first Black families that settled in Oakville as part of the Underground Railroad. It was an official selection for the Baltimore International Black Film Festival 2023 and won Audience Choice – International Feature.

Wednesday, February 7@ 6:00 pm: Government of Canada's 2024 Official Black History Month Celebration | Hosted by Heritage Canada | By invitation only

CCAHA will be in Ottawa to celebrate Canada's official recognition of February as Black History Month.

Thursday, February 8: Community Classroom CCAH Steel Band | Halton Catholic District School Board and Halton District School Board

As part of the Oakville Community Foundation's Community Classroom initiative, the CCAH Steel Band will be performing at Oodenawi Public School and St. John Paul II Catholic Elementary School.

Saturday February 10 @ 10:00 am: Storytelling experience for children: Mhina's Gift | In-person | Oakville Public Library | Glen Abbey Branch | [Family Storytime: Community Building and Storytelling - Oakville Public Library \(opl.on.ca\)](#)

Join the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton and Strengthen Hands for a community building and storytelling experience with featured author, Cameile Henry, as we celebrate Black History Month. In this family-friendly event, children come together to foster connections and celebrate diversity through engaging activities and captivating stories. Featured book is "Mhina's Gift" which highlights the bravery and friendship and celebrates courage and the importance of embracing our unique gifts.

Saturday, February 10 @ 1:00: Clef Notes to Canvas | In-person | Studio at the Halton Hills Public Library and Cultural Centre, Georgetown | Hosted in partnership with the CCAH and Halton Hills and facilitated by local artist Omar "Oms" Hopkinson | Supplies provided; no experience necessary | Ages 16+ years | Free; Register here: [Clef Notes to Canvas - Halton Hills Tickets, Sat, 10 Feb 2024 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

This is an interactive art session, where creativity, music and awareness meet. The first part of the program focuses on "The Struggle" whereby participants allow the mood of the music to evoke feelings that are translated onto the canvas. The second part focuses on the "Freedom" of creativity whereby participants allow music to influence exploration and expand upon the initial artwork created.

Saturday, February 10 @ 1:00 pm: Storytelling experience for children: You Make a Difference | In-person | Burlington Public Library | Tansley Branch | Free; Register here: [You Make a Difference - Burlington Public Library \(bpl.on.ca\)](#)

Join the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton and Strengthen Hands for a community building and storytelling experience with featured author, Cameile Henry, as we celebrate Black History Month. In this family-friendly event, children come together to foster connections and celebrate diversity through engaging activities and captivating stories. Featured book is "You Make a Difference" which highlights the achievements and contributions of Black Canadians, promoting awareness of Black history and inspiring children to learn about diverse role models.

Sunday, February 11 @ 1:00 pm: Interfaith Harmony: Sharing our culture and history | In-person | Hosted in partnership with CCAH, Shaarei-Beth El Congregation of Halton and Interfaith Council of Halton | Shaarei-Beth El Congregation | Free; Register here: [Interfaith Harmony: Sharing Our Culture & History Tickets, Sun, 11 Feb 2024 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Celebrate culture and history through two documentaries: CCAH's own "Legacy Voices" and No Silence on Race's "Periphery" followed by group discussions. CCAH's Parang Ensemble will also perform. Free luncheon provided featuring Caribbean and Jewish foods.

Tuesday, February 13 @ 12:00 pm: Oakville's Black History | In-person | EATON Industries | Private event

CCAHA will present to EATON staff as part of their BIPOC Canada iERG Black History Month celebrations. Discussion to include the rich history of Oakville from the Underground Railroad to the connection of descendants of original Black settlers in Oakville to the founding of the CCAH.

Tuesday, February 13: Community Classroom CCAH Steel Band | Halton Catholic District School Board and Halton District School Board

As part of the Oakville Community Foundation's Community Classroom initiative, the CCAH Steel Band will be performing at E.J. James Public School.

Tuesday, February 13 @ 2:00 pm: CCAH Steel Band Performance | Allendale Long-term Care | Milton | Private event

Our CCAH Steel Band will be warming up the residents with some Caribbean music.

Friday, February 16 @ 12:00 pm: Black History Explorers | In partnership with Oakville Museum, Oakville Public Library and CCAH | Oakville Museum | In-Person | Free; Register here: [Black History Explorers - Oakville Public Library \(opl.on.ca\)](#)

Explore local Black history with museum staff on a family-friendly exhibit tour; enjoy storytime with the Oakville Public Library; and get creative in a craft corner with the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton. Come ready to explore and get creative!

Saturday, February 17 @ 11:00am: Storytelling experience for children: Melanin in Me | In-person | Halton Hills Public Library | Georgetown Branch | Free; register here: [Storytelling Experience for Children: Melanin in Me \(hhpl.ca\)](#)

Join the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton and Strengthen Hands for a community building and storytelling experience with featured author, Cameile Henry, as we celebrate Black History Month. In this family-friendly event, children come together to foster connections and celebrate diversity through engaging activities and captivating stories. Featured book is "Melanin in Me" which celebrates diversity by exploring the concept of melanin and how it affects skin color. It encourages children to appreciate their own and others' unique characteristics.

Saturday, February 17 @ 2:00pm: Storytelling experience for children: Melanin in Me | In-person | Milton Public Library | Main Branch | Free; Register here: [Storytelling Experience with Children: Melanin in Me - Milton Public Library - Milton Public Library \(ON\) \(libcal.com\)](#)

Join the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton and Strengthen Hands for a community building and storytelling experience with featured author, Cameile Henry, as we celebrate Black History Month. In this family-friendly event, children come together to foster connections and celebrate diversity through engaging activities and captivating stories. Featured book is "Melanin in Me" which celebrates diversity by exploring the concept of melanin and how it affects skin color. It encourages children to appreciate their own and others' unique characteristics.

Monday, February 19: Family Day at QEPCCC with Steelpan and Parang | In partnership with Town of Oakville and CCAH | QEPCCC | In-Person | Free; Drop-in | Details to come

Join us for a family-friendly event in celebration of Family Day. Our Steelpan and Parang players will showcase their talents followed by trying instruments. Arts and crafts available as well.

Tuesday, February 20: Community Classroom CCAH Steel Band | Halton Catholic District School Board and Halton District School Board

As part of the Oakville Community Foundation's Community Classroom initiative, the CCAH Steel Band will be performing at 3 Oakville schools: St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary School, Falgarwood Public School, St. Gregory the Great Catholic Elementary School.

Wednesday, February 21 @ 11:00 am: Lunch and Learn | Resonance of Resilience: Celebrating Black History Month | In partnership with Halton Equity Diversity Roundtable | QEPCCC | In-person | Free; Register here: [Event Details & Registration | Halton Equity Divers \(hedroundtable.com\)](#)

Join us for an illuminating Lunch and Learn event celebrating Black History Month with Lucky Stickz and their immersive Harmony In Innovation Steelpan Presentation. This workshop offers a unique opportunity to honour Black history by delving into the cultural significance of the steelpan—an instrument deeply rooted in African and Caribbean heritage. Experience the story of resilience and innovation behind the steelpan, reflecting the essence of Black history and offering inspiration for overcoming modern challenges. Over lunch, you will engage in conversations highlighting the strength of diversity- fostering an inclusive culture where everyone feels valued and heard. This event promises a journey of cultural empathy, historical resilience, and a celebration of diversity, making it the perfect tribute to Black History Month.

Thursday, February 22 @ 1:00 pm: Village of Tansley Woods | Burlington | Private event

CCAHA and Chef Garfield Houston, Open Appetite Catering, will be serving free Caribbean meals to staff of the long-term care facility to recognize their efforts with supporting our vulnerable seniors during these challenging times. Non-alcoholic beverages provided by Nickel Brook Brewing Co.

Thursday, February 22 @ 5:00 pm: Finding Freedom on the Sixteen | In partnership with Oakville Chamber of Commerce and CCAH | Film.ca Cinemas | Private event

The amazing story of former enslaved African Americans from the State of Maryland and Louisiana who fled in search of freedom to the small town of Oakville, Ontario in Canada. During the mid 1800's, these early Black settlers helped reshape the future of Oakville and made significant contributions to the history of Canada. *Finding Freedom* is produced in association with CCAH and features its own archived pictures of past president and interview with current president. The CCAH founder was a descendant of the Duncan family, one of the first Black families that settled in Oakville as part of the Underground Railroad. It was an official selection for the Baltimore International Black Film Festival 2023 and won Audience Choice – International Feature.

February 26-March 1: Finding Freedom on the Sixteen | In partnership with Halton District School Board, Halton Catholic District School Board and CCAH | Film.ca Cinemas | In-Person | Private event

The CCAH is working directly with the HDSB and the HCDSB for viewing times for secondary school students February 26-March 1.

Monday, February 26 @ 1:00 pm: Allendale Long-Term Care | Milton | Private event

CCAH and Chef Garfield Houston, Open Appetite Catering, will be serving free Caribbean meals to staff of the long-term care facility to recognize their efforts with supporting our vulnerable seniors during these challenging times. Non-alcoholic beverages provided by Nickel Brook Brewing Co.

Monday, February 26: Finding Freedom on the Sixteen Public Premiere | In partnership with Sheridan and CCAH. We acknowledge the Oakville Community Foundation for their support with this project. | Film.ca Cinemas, Oakville | Tickets \$5; Purchase here: [Finding Freedom on the Sixteen Tickets, Mon, 26 Feb 2024 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

The amazing story of former enslaved African Americans from the State of Maryland and Louisiana who fled in search of freedom to the small town of Oakville, Ontario in Canada. During the mid 1800's, these early Black settlers helped reshape the future of Oakville and made significant contributions to the history of Canada. *Finding Freedom* is produced in association with CCAH and features its own archived pictures of past president and interview with current president. The CCAH founder was a descendant of the Duncan family, one of the first Black families that settled in Oakville as part of the Underground Railroad. It was an official selection for the Baltimore International Black Film Festival 2023 and won Audience Choice – International Feature.

Wednesday, February 28 @ 6:30 pm: Land and Legacy | Oakville Community Foundation, Debwewin, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation | Film.ca | Free; Register here: [Land and Legacy: Celebrating Black History Month & Oakville's Treaty Day Tickets, Wed, 28 Feb 2024 at 6:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

To commemorate Black History Month and acknowledge Oakville's Treaty Day, the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton and Debwewin Oakville have partnered for a joint film screening on February 28th. This event will be the premiere of two film series. *Legacy Voices 2: New Generation* showcases the Black experience through the firsthand accounts of four individuals as they discuss their experiences of living in the Halton Region and explore how they will leave a legacy. This is a follow-up to the award-winning documentary *Legacy Voices. The Debwewin Oakville Truth Series* is a collection of videos which explores the themes of reciprocity and reconciliation through three separate perspectives; our connection to the land, the recognition of historical treaties and our connections with one another. The event will feature the two screenings and will be followed by a live Q & A moderated by Oakville Festival of Film and Art's Wendy Donnan.

Saturday, March 2 @ 4:30 pm: CCAH Steel Band Performance | Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation | MCFN Community Centre | Private Event

As part of Treaty Day celebrations, CCAH Steel Band will be performing at the Mississauga of the Credit First Nation Reserve. CCAH is honoured to be involved with initiatives that bring together our communities and celebrate longstanding culture and history in our area.

Saturday, March 9 @ 12:00 pm: Black History Explorers | In partnership with Oakville Museum, Oakville Public Library and CCAH | Oakville Museum | In-Person | Free; Register here: [Black History Explorers - Oakville Public Library \(opl.on.ca\)](#)

Explore local Black history with museum staff on a family-friendly exhibit tour; enjoy storytime with the Oakville Public Library; and get creative in a craft corner with the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton. Come ready to explore and get creative!

HALTON REGION SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The school programs listed below can be offered for remote class learning. All programs are in English. If your school is interested in offering one of these programs, please contact info@ccah.ca to book any school program.

1. Oakville Community Foundation Community Classroom

a) Oakville Museum for Grade 6 Oakville HDSB and HCDSB students only

The Underground Railroad: Next Stop, Freedom & Legacy Voices | Oakville Museum | Virtual only | Contact julie.hawryszko@oakville.ca with questions. Free for Grade 6 Oakville HDSB and HCDSB. Please register your Grade 6 class with the Oakville Community Foundation: [Underground Railroad \(Registration Required\) – Community Classroom \(theocf.org\)](https://theocf.org/Underground-Railroad-Registration-Required)

b) In-School Steelpan Music Discussion and Performance

A live and in-school workshop with CCAH's steelpan instructors where students learn about the steelpan and enjoy a performance; session is about 45 minutes. **COST:** Free for 10 HDSB and HCDSB elementary schools in Oakville for BHM2024. Please complete this form if you are interested in having an event at your school: [Steel Pan Demonstration \(In-School Performance\) – Community Classroom \(theocf.org\)](https://theocf.org/Steel-Pan-Demonstration-In-School-Performance)

c) Virtual Steelpan Music Demo (15 mins) and Mini Concert (15 mins)

Pre-recorded performance and workshop to be securely broadcast via the Ministry of Education portals. **Cost:** Free. This is an alternative to the in-person option. Register with the Oakville Community Foundation's Community Classroom: [Steel Pan Demonstration and Mini Concert – Community Classroom \(theocf.org\)](https://theocf.org/Steel-Pan-Demonstration-and-Mini-Concert-Community-Classroom)

d) Belonging and Racial Identity in Halton (Teacher Resource)

To support the findings in the 2022 report and present them in a way that is digestible, accompanying videos, that CCAH President provides an introduction to, have been created. Topics include Inclusivity in Education, Cultural Displays, Inclusivity in the Workplace, Healthcare, Rebuilding the Justice System and more. The videos also outline several recommendations and include Discussion Topics. *These videos are teacher resources.* Running time: Part 1 is 6 minutes; Part 2 is 4 minutes. **Report:** [Belonging Report - CCAH - Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton](https://ccah.ca/Belonging-Report) **Cost:** Free. **Register here:** [Belonging and Racial Identity in Halton – Community Classroom \(theocf.org\)](https://theocf.org/Belonging-and-Racial-Identity-in-Halton)

2. Oakville Museum and the Underground Railroad

Students will explore Oakville's relationship with the United States in the context of the Underground Railroad. Oakville Harbour played a significant role in the journey to Canada for many freedom seekers. Book your group visit by filling out the [Oakville School Bookings Form](#) Contact Julie Hawryszko at 905-845-6601, ext. 5043 or email julie.hawryszko@oakville.ca

3. Black History Posters

Schools can be provided with informational banners developed by the Oakville Museum that relate to the displays within their exhibits. These provide educational information about Oakville's early Black history. There are 14 posters in total; each is approximately 75 cm x 30 cm. **COST:** \$100 rental in February; \$200 to purchase. *CCAH has a limited number in stock and ready to be delivered.*

4. Finding Freedom on the Sixteen

The amazing story of former enslaved African Americans from the State of Maryland and Louisiana who fled in search of freedom to the small town of Oakville, Ontario in Canada. During the mid 1800's, these early Black settlers helped reshape the future of Oakville and made significant contributions to the history of Canada. *Finding Freedom* is produced in association with CCAH and features its own archived pictures of past president and interview with current president. The CCAH founder was a descendant of the Duncan family, one of the first Black families that settled in Oakville as part of the Underground Railroad. It was an official selection for the Baltimore International Black Film Festival 2023 and won Audience Choice – International Feature. **NOTE:** The CCAH is working directly with the HDSB and the HCDSB for viewing times for secondary school students February 26-March 1 at Film.ca in Oakville. Please contact your Board directly to arrange. Running time: 67 minutes.

View Trailer: [Official Movie Trailer - Finding Freedom \(vimeo.com\)](https://vimeo.com/official-movie-trailer-finding-freedom)

5. Diana Braithwaite and Chris Whiteley

a) Blues and Jazz with Christ and Diana: Pre-recorded musical performance featuring jazz songs, and the spoken word created by multiple Maple Blues award winning artists Diana Braithwaite and Chris Whiteley. During the performance, they educate and entertain audiences with a musical journey through history to discover the early origins of jazz and the current music they performed. This 30-minute presentation is educational while entertaining. Program suited for elementary and secondary students. **Cost:** Free; funding by community grants and private donations

b) Celebrate Canada's Black History with Diana Braithwaite: This 30-minute upbeat video for students provides an overview of Black history in Canada by focusing on amazing and proud stories about outstanding African Canadian legends from coast to coast with musical performances. Program suited for elementary and secondary students. **Cost:** Free; funding provided by community grants and private donations.

6. CCAH Legacy Voices Documentary

Halton Region has a rich history of Blacks in the community that should not be forgotten. CCAH has designed and developed two film projects to highlight contemporary Black history in Halton Region. CCAH President, Andrew Tyrrell, is the Executive Producer of these films.

a) Legacy Voices (2020) five voices describe their extraordinary journey of immigration and settlement in the Halton Region. Often the only Black families in their community, they found strength in overcoming racism and worked for changed. The CCAH presents a Falling Motion production featuring Edwin Terry, Pamela Chase, Percival Greenidge, Merle Ling, and Andrew Tyrrell. It was an official selection for four film festivals: Hamilton Film Festival – Canadian Market 2020; Canadian Diversity Film Festival 2020; Quinte Canadian Filmfest 2020; an Honourable Mention at Film for Peace 2020; and Best Short Film at OFFA 2020. Running time: 15 minutes. **NOTE:** This documentary is also a permanent exhibit

at the Oakville Museum viewed on a standing kiosk. **Cost:** Free View Trailer: [Legacy Voices Official Trailer on Vimeo](#)

b) Legacy Voices 2: New Generation (2023) Join the conversation with four individuals as they discuss their experiences of living in Halton Region leaving a legacy for children so that others may follow. This is a follow-up to the award-winning documentary Legacy Voices. The CCAH presents a Falling Motion production featuring Dennis Scott, Edwin Terry, Richelle “Shelle” Papin, and Azelin Philips. This document won Runner Up Audience Choice Award for Best Short Film OFFA10 2023 (Oakville Film Festival). Running time: 15 minutes. **Cost:** Free View Trailer: [Legacy Voices 2 Official Trailer \(vimeo.com\)](#)

7. Clef Notes to Canvas

Facilitated by local artist Omar "Oms" Hopkinson | Grade 9 – 12 | 2.5 hours. This is an interactive art session, where creativity, music and awareness meet. The first part of the program focuses on "The Struggle" whereby participants allow the mood of the background music to evoke feelings that are translated onto the canvas. The second part focuses on the "Freedom" of creativity whereby participants allow music to influence exploration and expand upon the initial artwork created. No experience necessary.

Cost: \$400 for the art instructor; paint supplies and easels are additional costs if these materials can't be sourced by the school. *CCAHA to cover 50% of costs during February.* View trailer: <https://vimeo.com/501981160/03340c694a>

8. (Un)healthy Youth Relationships

Presented by Radius Child and Youth Services, in this workshop for secondary students, youth will learn about the different types of abuse and how unhealthy relationships can begin. We will cover several “red flags” or warning signs that could be indicators of an abusive or unhealthy relationships. Statistics regarding types of abuse in different populations will be presented, as well as the impact of abuse on victims. Finally, we will talk about how you can help a friend who might be in an unhealthy relationship, and where the person perpetrating the abuse can seek help.

9. Sizzlin’ Halton Caribbean Cooking Sessions

Sessions are designed for English Secondary students but are also an excellent opportunity for ESL students and participants in social justice or hospitality programs. These can be virtual or in-person.

Virtual

These are 30-minute pre-recorded sessions followed by an optional live/virtual discussion (30 minutes) with the chefs regarding food and cooking styles unique to the Caribbean. There are six video options to choose from among four chefs. Virtual sessions are broadcast via the Ministry of Education virtual portals. **Cost:** \$200 for video and virtual chef discussion; unlimited number of students/classes per session. *CCAHA to cover 50% of costs during February.*

In-person

All chefs are available for in-person sessions at high schools equipped with kitchens. Foods prepared can be from the Sizzlin’ Halton series (6 episodes) or at the request of the school. As all chefs are professionals, booking requires 2-4 weeks’ notice to block calendars and shop for ingredients. Sessions

are generally 1 hour. **Cost:** \$400 fees for Chef to purchase ingredients, pre-event prep, travel, and onsite time. CCAH to cover 50% of Chef fees during February. Expenses for ingredients will be charged as a pass-through and will vary depending on the food prepared.

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About the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CAAH):

The CCAH is a registered charity that promotes that unity in diversity, full and active participation, unbiased inclusion, and the capacity to value differences equally are essential to the social, cultural, and economic growth of Halton Region. The CCAH also provides outreach to schools in the region with programs based in Black history and culture.

Every February, the CCAH hosts activities related to Black History Month. Year-round we partner with community organizations to provide a wide range of youth leadership and seniors programs. For information about our organization and programs provided to youth, adults, and seniors throughout the year, please visit www.ccah.ca

For more information, please contact:

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Visit www.ccah.ca for more details about the CCAH.