

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024



CELEBRATING  
CULTURE AND  
HISTORY

CANADIAN CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF HALTON  
EDUCATION | CULTURE | COMMUNITY | HARMONY





Office of the Mayor  
Town of Oakville  
1225 Trafalgar Road  
Oakville, Ontario L6H 0H3  
Tel: 905-338-4173  
Fax: 905-815-2001  
mayor@oakville.ca



## Proclamation

### Black History Month February 1st, 2024

**WHEREAS**, throughout its long history, Ontario has been characterized and strengthened by its diverse and distinctive cultures; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month, was first recognized in Ontario in February 1993, to commemorate legislation that prohibited the importation of slaves into Upper Canada and on in 1995 the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, people of African and Caribbean descent have significantly contributed to Ontario's and Oakville's progress and success while making important contributions to Canadian society; and

**WHEREAS**, the Black community remains a vital element within our town's social and cultural mosaic; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month continues to provide an opportunity to remember and celebrate the contributions of African and Caribbean Canadians to our society.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, Rob Burton, Mayor of the Town of Oakville, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM** February 2024, as Black History Month in the Town of Oakville.

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Mayor Rob Burton  
Town of Oakville



**Office of the Mayor**  
**Town of Oakville**  
1225 Trafalgar Road  
Oakville, Ontario L6H 0H3  
Tel: 905-338-4173  
Fax: 905-815-2001  
mayor@oakville.ca



## **GREETINGS FROM MAYOR BURTON**

I am pleased to join the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton in kicking off Black History Month 2024 on behalf of the Town of Oakville, my colleagues on the Town Council and Oakville residents.

Our town takes pride in recognizing and celebrating the diverse contributions of our African and Caribbean community members. Their contributions have enriched Oakville's cultural fabric.

This year's theme, 'Celebrating Culture and History,' strongly reflects our dedication to honoring and learning from the experiences and achievements of the Black community. It serves as a valuable opportunity for reflection and education.

I commend the CCAH for your tireless efforts in organizing these essential cultural events throughout the year. The CCAH plays a crucial role in promoting understanding and harmony across Oakville. The Town of Oakville continues to develop our Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility Multi-Year Plan to further the town's efforts to being an inclusive workplace and community where everyone feels they belong. The plan will be the first formalized town-wide plan for Oakville.

We look forward to the performances, events and educational opportunities offered in the Black History Month 2024 program, I anticipate engaging and enlightening experiences for all.

Please accept my best wishes for a very successful and memorable Black History Month!

Yours very sincerely,

**Rob Burton**  
Mayor, Town of Oakville



**ANITA ANAND**  
MEMBER OF  
PARLIAMEN TOAKVILLE

February 2024

Dear Oakville Friends and Neighbours,

Throughout Black History Month we reflect on and celebrate the remarkable contributions of Black Canadians to industries, communities, and cultural heritage in Canada and around the world. It is without a doubt that Canada's greatest strength blooms in its diversity, and organizations like the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH) continue to play a critical role in sharing Black history and fostering more inclusive spaces for everyone.

Our government is committed to building inclusive communities and addressing the inequities of our past and present. At the Treasury Board Secretariat, we are working to create a workplace that addresses and prevents harassment, discrimination, and violence. More specifically, in recognizing that Black public service employees can face barriers in career advancement, as well as distinct mental health challenges, we are working to co-create a Black Mental Health Fund and programs to address other barriers in the workplace. Additionally, we announced a panel of experts that will provide recommendations to the government on the design and creation of a new restorative engagement program (REP) for public service employees. Through the REP we will find ways to address harm and promote healing for all employees, including Black employees who have reported experiencing harassment, discrimination, and violence in the workplace.

Since 1977, the CCAH has stood as a pillar of inclusivity, and connected communities across Halton through a wide range of activities and programs that showcase African Heritage. As we celebrate the contributions of Black Canadians and continue to learn from our past, let's remember that everyone has a role to play in building a strong and inclusive future.

As always, my constituency office remains available at (905)388-2008 or [anita.anand@parl.gc.ca](mailto:anita.anand@parl.gc.ca) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Hon. Anita Anand,  
Member of Parliament, Oakville



**Pam Damoff, M.P.  
Oakville North-Burlington**



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

Thursday, February 1st, 2024

**To the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton in Celebration of Black History Month 2024**

From an excerpt of Poem No.4 by Ijeoma Umebinyuo: “You call me ‘sister’/ not because you / are my blood / but because / you understand / the kind of tragedies / we both have endured...” The Black experience can be unique in both history and culture, but in many cases can provide a sense of unity and empowerment through community.

Black History Month embodies the life, legacy, and beauty of Black individuals in the past, present, and future who are creating or have created space, hope and inspiration for many generations to come. This year’s theme is *‘Black Excellence: A Heritage to Celebrate; a Future to Build’* which brings a light to embracing a proud heritage, forging a future of endless possibilities. Celebrating achievements of every Black woman, man and child and building a legacy of strength and unity.

The continued presence and leadership in our community of the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton is vital in ensuring that Black history and culture is recognized, shared, and celebrated. Thank you for your dedication and hard work in bringing Black history and culture to life during Black History Month and beyond.

Sincerely,

Pam Damoff, MP  
Oakville North-Burlington

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE  
16 Hugh Lane  
Milton, ON L9T 2C6  
T: 905-693-7046



OTTAWA OFFICE  
830 Valour Building  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
T: 613-992-7046

**ADAM VAN KOEVERDEN, M.P.**  
MILTON

February 1, 2024

I'm honoured to join Black communities in Halton to celebrate Canada's 29<sup>th</sup> official Black History Month. Since the Honourable Jean Augustine, the first Black woman elected to the House of Commons, introduced an unanimously passed motion in 1995, we recognize February as Black History Month.

Black History Month is truly a time to honour the trailblazers who came before us, amplify Black voices, and acknowledge the profound achievements of the Black community that have contributed to our history, and helped create a more inclusive and equitable nation.

This year's theme is "Celebrating Culture and History", calling us to acknowledge and honour the extraordinary accomplishments, vibrant cultures, and heritage of our Black and Afro-descendant communities. In my role as a public servant, I look towards individuals such as the Honourable Jean Augustine, as well as to my colleagues, the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, the Honourable Marci Ien, The Honourable Greg Fergus, MP Hedy Fry, MP Michael Coteau, MP Arielle Kayabaga, and MP Emmanuel Dubourg as sources of immense inspiration. They have paved the way forward for the next generations, encouraging future Black Canadians to continue making incredible impacts on politics, academia, sports, health, sciences, business, and the arts.

Thank you especially to Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH), who work tirelessly to uplift and showcase the strengths of Black communities through education and engagement. Your dedication and passion have made our community a much better place, and for that I extend my sincerest gratitude.

Black history is Canadian history, and all year-round, Black Canadians continue to help us develop into a stronger, beautifully diverse country.

Happy Black History Month!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam van Koeverden".

Adam van Koeverden, M.P. for Milton



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

*Hon. Karina Gould*

Member of Parliament  
Burlington

Andrew Tyrell  
President, Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CAAH)  
2302 Bridge Road  
Oakville, ON  
L6L 2G6

February 1, 2024

Dear Andrew and the CCAH team,

Each February, we mark Black History Month – a time to reflect on the significant contributions and achievements of Black Canadians. The theme, Celebrating Culture and History, represents the opportunity to both celebrate the triumphs while also addressing systemic inequalities with historical roots.

Black Canadians have helped shape our nation's history and collective identity and stand proud as leaders in communities across the country. Whether on the global stage or here at home, the Black community has defended Canada's core values – values like freedom, justice, democracy, and equality. Their work has helped transform Canada into a more inclusive, strong, and prosperous country for all of us.

We know that diversity is our strength, and we need to do more to achieve real equality – no matter the colour of your skin or where you come from.

As a Canadian and Member of Parliament for Burlington, I commit to continuing to listen, learn, and work to combat anti-Black racism in all its forms. More still needs to be done and the federal government remains committed to this work.

Thank you for the important work that the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton does for our community and for bringing us together this month, and every month of the year, to connect as a community and celebrate diversity, inclusivity, compassion, and resilience.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Karina Gould  
Member of Parliament  
Burlington

<i>Ottawa</i>	<i>Constituency Office</i>
Room 606, Justice Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6 Tel.: 613-995-0881 Fax.: 613-995-1091	777 Guelph Line Suite 209, Burlington, Ontario, L7R 3N2 Tel.: 905-639-5757 Fax: 905-639-6031
Karina.Gould@parl.gc.ca <a href="http://karinagouldmp.ca">http://karinagouldmp.ca</a>	



### **Greetings from Stephen Crawford, Member of the Provincial Parliament**

As we embrace the 2024 Black History Month, I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to everyone involved in the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH) and its celebration of culture and history.

This year's theme, "Celebrating Culture and History," resonates deeply as we acknowledge and honour the diverse and rich contributions of the Caribbean, Black, and African communities. It is a time to reflect on our shared histories, celebrate achievements, and look forward with hope and determination.

The CCAH's commitment to the pillars of education, culture, community, and harmony is a beacon of inspiration, promoting unity and understanding within our community. The array of events planned are not just a celebration, but an essential part of our ongoing journey towards inclusivity and mutual respect.

May this year's Black History Month be a time of learning, celebration, and growth for all. I look forward to the continued success of the CCAH and the vibrant contributions it makes to our community.

Wishing you a fruitful and enlightening Black History Month.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Crawford".

**Stephen Crawford,  
Member of Provincial Parliament  
Oakville**



**EFFIE TRIANTAFILOPOULOS, MPP**  
Oakville North–Burlington

2525 Old Bronte Road,  
Suite 570  
Oakville, ON L6M 4J2

E: [effie.triantafilopoulos@pc.ola.org](mailto:effie.triantafilopoulos@pc.ola.org)  
T: 905-825-2455

Please accept my warm greetings and best wishes to all those celebrating Black History Month 2024.

This year's theme of "Celebrating Culture and History" brings to mind a quote by the late Nelson Mandela: "Art has the power to change the world, the power to inspire, the power to unite people in a way that little else can".

It is critical that we, as a province, continue to build our collective understanding of Caribbean, Black and African cultures through history, art, literature, and music.

The Region of Halton is one of the largest urban centres for immigration in Ontario and the black community comprises a sizable portion of our population and continues to contribute significantly to the prosperity and fabric of our region.

And worth noting, is that Burlington was the first city in the world to acclaim August as Emancipation Month, which recognizes the struggle for human rights and the rich contributions made by Peoples of African descent.

Last year, I was honoured to join the Town of Oakville and the City of Burlington to proclaim Black History Month.

Among other celebratory and cultural events, I was privileged to join in the celebration of the life and legacy of CCAH's long-time leader Veronica Tyrell with her son, and your current President, Andrew, when the Town of Oakville dedicated a park in north Oakville in her name. Truly a lasting legacy of her commitment to our community. And I was equally honoured to join CCAH for a special screening of "Finding Freedom on the Sixteen", a documentary by award-winning filmmaker Anthony Sherwood that explores the history of African-descendant communities around Oakville Harbour.

Black culture encompasses a rich tapestry of traditions, art, music, literature, and cuisine. By celebrating Black culture, we gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the unique contributions that the Black community brings to Ontario and Canada. It is a vital aspect of building a society that values and respects the contributions of all its members.

Black History is Ontario History. Black History is Canadian History.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Effie Triantafilopoulos".

Effie Triantafilopoulos MPP  
Oakville North-Burlington

## Message from Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr

I would like to congratulate the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton on its 2024 Black History Month celebrations and educational events.

On behalf of Regional Council, I thank you for your efforts to support diversity and positive change in Halton. Black History Month provides us with an opportunity to learn about and honour the deep cultural and historical contributions and achievements of Black Canadians in Halton and Canada.

Halton Region's social, cultural and economic development is strengthened when we are inclusive, seek all perspectives, and value everyone who calls Halton home.

In reflecting on this year's theme 'Celebrating Culture and History', I appreciate the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton's efforts to increase awareness of the diversity within our community and make the lives of Halton residents culturally richer. 'Celebrating Culture and History' means learning about the great traditions and experiences of all people, and including all voices in our understanding of Halton and Canada.

Thank you once again for organizing the programs and celebrations for this year's Black History Month. By appreciating each other's differences, embracing diversity and being more inclusive, we make Halton a great place to live, work, raise a family and retire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Carr".

Gary Carr  
Halton Regional Chair





# HALTON REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE



One Vision One Mission One Team

January, 2024

On behalf of the Halton Regional Police Service, I am honoured to support this year's Black History Month and the many related events, sponsored by the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton.

Black History Month is an opportunity for all of us to recognize and honour the enormous contributions that the black community has made across all sectors in Canada. It is also an opportunity to heighten our focus on building an inclusive and equitable society where we all have the opportunity to prosper, grow and ultimately succeed.

Our Service is committed to building upon the many incredible partnerships we have established. These partnerships have enabled us to better understand and meet the needs of the communities we serve, and to do our part to promote the cultural diversity our Region is known for.

Our Service is proud of our partnership with the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton and look forward to many collaborative opportunities in the future.

Diversity is our strength.

Stephen J. Tanner  
Chief of Police



# Launch Program

<b>Welcome</b>	Masters of Ceremonies: Alicia Sullivan, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Program and Outreach Advisor, CCAH
<b>Land Acknowledgement</b>	Elder Stephen Paquette
<b>Proclamation</b>	Mayor Rob Burton, Town of Oakville
<b>National Anthem</b>	Geri Defoe
<b>Dignitary Greetings</b>	Members of Parliament reflecting on Black History Month
<b>Student Poem</b>	Jane Asante-Tutu & Fara Olawale, St Francis Xavier Catholic Secondary School
<b>Musical Performance</b>	Arthouse Children's Choir
<b>TD Bank Group</b>	Message of support, TD Bank Group
<b>Dance performance</b>	Girl Power'd
<b>Keynote Speech</b>	Anthony Sherwood, Actor, Director & Producer
<b>Message from CCAH</b>	Andrew Tyrrell, President CCAH
<b>Message from OHF</b>	Melissa Farrell, President & CEO, Halton Healthcare; Mary McPherson, CEO, Oakville Hospital Foundation
<b>Musical Performance</b>	CCA H Steel Band
<b>Musical Performance</b>	Jully Black
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	Alicia Sullivan

**Thank you to the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts and Falling Motion for support with the development of our event.**

**NOTE:** Launch Celebration will be aired on COGEGO's YourTV on Sunday, February 11 at 8:00 pm

*More dates will be posted on our website*



# Presenters



## KEYNOTE PRESENTER

**Anthony Sherwood** is an award-winning actor, director, producer, playwright and social activist whose career spans over forty years in stage, television and films. He has worked with such stars as Henry Fonda, Sidney Poitier, Martin Sheen, Burt Reynolds, Jamie Lee Curtis, Christopher Reeves and Jessica Alba. Sherwood has worked with such illustrious film directors as Sidney Lumet (nominated for 5 Oscars), Ted Kotcheff (executive producer of "Law & Order") and Michael Crichton, (creator/writer "ER" and "Jurassic Park").

Mr. Sherwood was born in Halifax and is a seventh generation Black Canadian and has a deep commitment to telling stories from African-Canadian history. He worked as a consultant for the Government of Canada on a number of projects including: "Follow the North Star" for Department of Canadian Heritage, a documentary to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of British Imperial Act of 1833 – The Act to Abolish Slavery in the British Empire. The show was presented in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

On July 9, 2022, Anthony Sherwood served as Master of Ceremonies for the Government of Canada's official apology to the Black soldiers of No. 2 Construction Battalion and their descendants. The apology was delivered by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. It was the first apology given by the Federal Government to the Black community of Canada.

In September 2022, the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia presented Anthony Sherwood with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal.

Anthony Sherwood has dedicated his life to informing and educating audiences on many important global issues. He has been a guest speaker at many events and learning institutions across North America and abroad.

<https://anthonysherwood.com/>



# Presenters



## HEADLINE PERFORMANCE

**Jully Black** is a true Canadian Icon. Named as one of 'The 25 Greatest Canadian Singers Ever', (CBC Music) she has been dubbed 'Canada's Queen of R&B Soul' by fans and industry leaders alike. As a platinum selling recording artist, her music career has yielded multiple singles reaching the Top 10 pop, R&B and dance music charts. She has taken home Juno and Gemini Awards, earned innumerable industry accolades and was hand selected to sing for the Queen of England. With her powerhouse vocals, hilarious personality and love of people, Jully Black truly is everyone, and unlike anyone. Her passion for philanthropy has taken her from the shantytowns of Bangladesh to the villages of South Africa and all across Canada. As a woman of faith, she champions important causes and uses her career as a platform to celebrate and inspire the greatness that lies within each of us.

As a songwriter, Jully has touched the hearts of her fans with her extensive music catalogue, her compositions for industry heavyweights such as Destiny's Child and Nas, and on collaborations with songwriter, musician and performance titans such as Ian Thornley (Big Wreck). She has shared the stage with superstars such as The Black Eyed Peas, Kanye West, Bon Jovi, Celine Dion, Elton John, Alicia Keys, Etta James and Juno Breakthrough Artist, Jessie Reyez, to name a few.

Jully is a major presence in the Canadian media and entertainment industry. As former host and correspondent for CTV's *etalk*, Jully was chosen to interview global megastars such as Jay-Z, Oprah Winfrey, and former President Bill Clinton. Her music has been featured in film and television and she has personally appeared on, co-hosted and been featured on numerous national television programs and speaking platforms including the sizzling and immediately viral CBC 'Canada Reads' 2018 appearance, a much lauded TED Talk, the Global TV feature 'The First Time I Was Called A ...', CTV's 'Canadian Idol', and City TV's 'Breakfast Television'.

On December 17, 2021, Jully was inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame (PILLARS OF EXCELLENCE - Arts & Entertainment).

<https://jullyblack.ca/home>



# Presenters



**Geri Defoe**, a vocalist born in the UK and raised in Mississauga, has a deep passion for vintage music dating back to the 40s, Motown, and the works of jazz icons like Ella Fitzgerald, Nancy Wilson, and Nat King Cole. She first gained recognition by singing the National Anthems at the Toronto International Air Show for seven years before expanding into acting, where she shone in productions like "Ragtime", "Hairspray," and "All Shook Up." In 2013, she began performing a tribute to Whitney Houston, turning it into a captivating show that toured Canada, the USA, Mexico, and the UK. Her heartfelt portrayal of Houston, including renditions of #1 hits like "I Will Always Love You," consistently receives standing ovations. Geri has collaborated with Ray Charles Tribute Artist Frank Rondell and was a background vocalist for Elvis Tribute Artist Steve Michaels, touring across Ontario for seven years. Inspired by caring for her elderly parents for the past decade, Geri now aims to bring joy and inspiration to the elderly through her voice by performing at Retirement and Long Term Care Homes throughout the GTA. Join Geri on a musical journey that transcends time.

<https://www.geridefoe.com/>



**CCAHL Steel Band** players include Denise Als, Richard Cornelius, Jasmine Als, Janelle Brathwaite, Shanna Joseph and Odean Kelly.

Talented panists, **Denise Als** and **Richard Cornelius**, have been teaching our community about the origins of the Steelpan and the variety of sounds that they make for over 10 years. They continually educate about culture and its relationship with the steelpan yet always entertain with pan classics and pop favourites.

They are featured panists in our Community Classroom Program in partnership with the Oakville Community Foundation. Through the educational videos, they teach about the origins of the steelpan as well as the different musical techniques. This virtual program has over a thousand elementary students in the Halton District School Board and the Halton Catholic District School Board participate annually.





# Presenters



**ArtHouse** is a Halton charity offering FREE arts-based programs to young people age 7-17 who may have no access to extra-curricular activities. Since 2009, ArtHouse has delivered over 800 programs to more than 11,000 participants at 94 locations.

The arts influence confidence, social inclusion, better mental health and can lead to successful career choices. ArtHouse provides safe and supportive spaces for expression and learning opportunities for our children and youth that can propel them into a future full of hope.

<https://arthousehalton.com/>



**Girl Power'd** is a gymnastics and dance program meant to build the self-esteem and the self-love for young girls who identify as black. Our goal is to educate and create a safe, sacred space for these girls in a fun engaging way. Gymnastics, Cultural dance, and self-expression is the perfect match to do this. African dance has history, intention and meaning. As these girls are moving, they will be able to understand that each movement has a purpose. They will be learning their heritage as they dance and move. In this environment, both gymnastics and dance are the catalyst for personal and emotional stability and growth. It is a dynamic art form that can provide opportunities for careers and community engagement for our participants who choose to pursue it more seriously.

<https://girlpowerd.com/>



**Fara Olawale** and **Jane Asante-Tutu** are Grade 12 students at St Francis Xavier Catholic Secondary School in Milton. Jane is an aspiring writer and poet and Fara is an aspiring doctor. They are both Senior Executive in our school Black Student Union and are very passionate the art of poetry. Together they will be performing an original poem titled 'Precipitation & Storm Water'.



# Four Pillars

The members of the CCAH support what we call the four pillars of our organization: (1) **Education**; (2) **Culture**; (3) **Community**; and (4) **Harmony**.

These four core values are beautifully captured in local artist Beverly Tang-Kong's painting entitled "The Spirit of Angels." This artwork was incorporated into the CCAH logo.



Beverly Tang Kong

**Education:** The CCAH works closely with the Halton Region schools to create a positive impact among the students who are directly engaged in our exhibits and programs throughout the year.

**Culture:** The CCAH has established a steel band program that involves the broader community - people of all ages and backgrounds - and creates the opportunity to discover the joy of music in a unique way that is fun and easy to learn. Other programs include New Horizons for Seniors, Parang, Sizzlin' Halton Caribbean Cooking, a library Reading Corner focusing on Black authors in Milton, and Black history bike and walking tours in Oakville.

**Community:** The CCAH participates in numerous community events including the Black History Month, Emancipation Day, Culture Days and the Carousel of Nations. The goal is to ensure that the larger community is aware that the Caribbean community is committed to contributing to the Halton community.

**Harmony:** The CCAH participates and sponsors research studies that help provide insight and better understanding of Halton's Black community. The CCAH partners with the Halton Regional Police Service to co-deliver diversity and youth-focused programs.

# Board of Directors

**Andrew Tyrrell**

President



**Sheldon Williams**

Vice President



**Richard Pinnock**

Youth Leadership



**Katherine Dottin-Adams**

Treasurer



**Paula Simmons-Wint**

Secretary



**Ryan Smith**

HRPS Community Liaison



**Pamela Chase**

Member



**Saud Juman**

Member



**Rajan Sandhu**

Legal Counsel



QEP Community and Cultural Centre | 2302 Bridge Road, Oakville, ON, L6L 2G6 | [info@ccah.ca](mailto:info@ccah.ca) | [www.ccah.ca](http://www.ccah.ca) |

 @CANADIANCARIBBEANASSOCIATIONOFHALTON

 @ccahofficial

 Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton

# Staff Members

## Alicia Sullivan

Diversity and Inclusion



## Marny Bruce

Outreach, Programs and Communications



## Jessica Kaitting

Launch Event



## Julie Stone

Funding



## Raquel Beals

Youth Outreach  
Coordinator



## Luke Burston

Office Supervisor



## Denise Als

Steelpan Instructor



## Roger Gibbs

Parang Instructor



QEP Community and Cultural Centre | 2302 Bridge Road, Oakville, ON, L6L 2G6 | [info@ccah.ca](mailto:info@ccah.ca) | [www.ccah.ca](http://www.ccah.ca) |

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 @ccahofficial

 Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton

# Event List

Lots of FREE events! All events are free and in-person unless otherwise indicated. A complete description of CCAH Black History Month 2024 events is provided on our dedicated webpage at [cch.ca/BHM2024](http://cch.ca/BHM2024)

## FEBRUARY 1 - 29

### Explore the Essence of a people: Celebrating Black History Month through Art Oakville Town Hall | Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre

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. Town Hall and QEPCCC exhibits are self-guided, but private tours can be requested at QEPCCC via [info@cch.ca](mailto:info@cch.ca). Curator [Joan Butterfield](#).

## FEBRUARY 1 - 29

### The Underground Railroad: Next Stop, Freedom & Legacy Voices Oakville Museum | 8 Navy St, Oakville

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. Please direct inquiries to [julie.hawryszko@oakville.ca](mailto:julie.hawryszko@oakville.ca)

## FEBRUARY 1 - 29

### Oakville Early Black History Queen Elizabeth Park Community & Cultural Centre | Halton Schools

Traveling exhibition created by the Oakville Museum; displays with pictures and cultural information.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

### Black History Month Flag Raising Oakville Town Hall | 1225 Trafalgar Rd, Oakville

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

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

### Black History Month Flag Raising Halton Regional Police Service Headquarters | 2485 North Service Rd W, Oakville

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

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

### Oakville Matters, Season 8, Episode 1 Halton YourTV

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



# Event List

## **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1 @ 5:00 PM**

### **Interview | Halton News | YourTV Halton**

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

## **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1 @ 6:00 PM**

### **Black History Month Launch**

**Tickets \$10 | Purchase tickets [here](#)**

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**

**Queen Elizabeth Park Community & Cultural Centre | Register [here](#)**

Join us as we open a month-long celebration of Afrocentric art and artifacts curated by Joan Butterfield. 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.

## **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 PM**

### **Clef Notes to Canvas**

### **Halton Hills Youth Centre Acton | 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.



# Event List

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 @ 11:30 AM

### **Finding Freedom on the Sixteen**

#### **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**

CCAH 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**

#### **Oakville Public Library | Glen Abbey Branch | Register [here](#)**

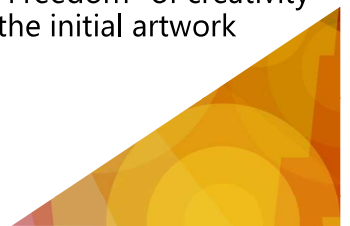
Join us and Strengthen Hands for a community building and storytelling experience with featured author, Cameile Henry, as we celebrate Black History Month. In this family-friendly event, children come together to foster connections and celebrate diversity through engaging activities and captivating stories. 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 PM

### **Clef Notes to Canvas**

#### **Studio at the Halton Hills Public Library and Cultural Centre, Georgetown | Register [here](#)**

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.





# Event List

## **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 @ 1:00 PM**

### **Storytelling experience for children: You Make a Difference Burlington Public Library | Tansley Branch | Register [here](#)**

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 CCAH, Shaarei-Beth El Congregation of Halton, Interfaith Council of Halton | Register [here](#)**

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 @ 2:00 PM**

### **Oakville's Black History EATON Industries | Private event**

CCAH 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 Oakville Museum, Oakville Public Library and CCAH | Oakville Museum | Register [here](#)**

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.



# Event List

## **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 @ 11:00 AM**

### **Storytelling experience for children: Melanin in Me Halton Hills Public Library | Georgetown Branch | Register [here](#)**

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 @ 2:00 PM**

### **Storytelling experience for children: Melanin in Me Milton Public Library | Main Branch | Register [here](#)**

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 Town of Oakville and CCAH | QEPCCC | Drop-in**

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**

### **Resonance of Resilience: Celebrating Black History Month Halton Equity Diversity Roundtable & CCAH | QEPCCC | Register [here](#)**

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. Over lunch, you will engage in conversations highlighting the strength of diversity- fostering an inclusive culture where everyone feels valued and heard. This event is a perfect tribute to Black History Month.



# Event List

## **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

### **Finding Freedom on the Sixteen**

#### **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. 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**

#### **Halton District School Board, Halton Catholic District School Board and CCAH**

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**

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.

## **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26 @ 6:00 PM**

### **Finding Freedom on the Sixteen Public Premiere**

#### **Sheridan, Film.ca and CCAH | Film.ca Cinemas, Oakville | Tickets \$5; Purchase [here](#)**

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.



# Event List

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 @ 6:30 PM**

**Land and Legacy**

**CAAH, Oakville Community Foundation, Debwewin, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation | Register [here](#)**

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**

**CAAH 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**

**Oakville Museum, Oakville Public Library and CCAH | Oakville Museum | Register [here](#)**

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.



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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)

### 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)

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


Pre-recorded, these vibrant and informative sessions about Steelpan has been designed for elementary students but may be used for secondary levels. Register with the Oakville Community Foundation's Community Classroom: [Steel Pan Demonstration and Mini Concert – Community Classroom \(theocf.org\)](https://theocf.org)

### d) Belonging and Racial Identity in Halton

Community Classroom will celebrate Black History Month with the launch of a brand new mini-series that follows along with the recently released report [Belonging Report - CCAH - Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton](https://theocf.org). Register with the Oakville Community Foundation: [Belonging and Racial Identity in Halton Mini-Series \(Teacher Resource Only\) – Community Classroom \(theocf.org\)](https://theocf.org)

## 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](https://theocf.org) Contact Julie Hawryszko at 905-845-6601, ext. 5043 or email [julie.hawryszko@oakville.ca](mailto:julie.hawryszko@oakville.ca)



# School Programs

## **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.

## **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.

## **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. 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.

### **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.

## **6. 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.

## **7. 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.





# School Programs

## 8. 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 change. 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. 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. View Trailer: [Legacy Voices 2 Official Trailer \(vimeo.com\)](#)

## 9. (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.





***The Office of Mayor Marianne Meed Ward  
City of Burlington***

Dear Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton,

On behalf of the City of Burlington, I would like to thank the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton for their important work in highlighting Black history for our region. Our history is full of remarkable individuals who fought for their freedom, travelled through the Underground Railroad, and established themselves in southern Ontario with entrepreneurship, courage, and resilience.

The City of Burlington is a strong supporter of the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton, and is passionate about commemorating Black history. As Mayor, I am proud that Burlington was the first city in the world to acclaim August as Emancipation Month. This was an initiative I championed through a partnership with the Halton Black History Awareness Society. We raise the Pan African Flag at Burlington City Hall every year in honour of this proclamation, and to celebrate both Emancipation Day and the International Day for People of African Descent.

One of my five pillars as Mayor of Burlington is to promote community pride, so everyone feels welcome and included. Understanding Black history and honouring Black culture is fundamental to this. Thank you again to the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton for their significant contributions to our community. We are dedicated to the goals of CCAH and together celebrate Black culture and history in our region.

Best wishes for a fantastic event!

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward  
City of Burlington





G.A. (GORD) KRANTZ  
Mayor

THE CORPORATION OF  
THE TOWN OF MILTON  
150 Mary Street  
Milton, Ontario  
Canada L9T 6Z5

905-878-7252  
Fax 905-878-5927  
www.milton.ca



### Mayor's Message

This year, under the theme of "Celebrating Culture and History", The Town of Milton recognizes the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton's (CCAH) pivotal role in recognizing Black History Month across Halton.

The focus of the CCAH's four pillars of education, culture, community, and harmony resonates with our shared vision of a society enriched by its diversity and strengthened by its unity.

To further understand how Milton celebrates and respects culture and diversity, explore the Town's culture plan, "Here to Stay," which provides a framework that continues to guide equitable, creative and collaborative cultural planning in Milton.

Sincerely,

Gord Krantz  
Mayor, Town of Milton



Acton  
Georgetown  
Esquesing



Town of Halton Hills  
Office of the Mayor



Dear Friends,

I am delighted to have this opportunity to share some thoughts in honour of Black History Month and this year's theme 'Celebrating Culture and History'. This important annual recognition helps us see and appreciate the world from a variety of perspectives and in doing so, builds bridges between individuals and cultures.

We have a responsibility to learn from history and apply this knowledge to foster a culture of collaboration and inclusion that in turn drives progress, justice and equity.

Events such as the one this evening help us see and appreciate the world from a variety of perspectives and in doing so, enriches all our lives.

May you enjoy tonight's celebration.

Sincerely,

Ann Lawlor  
Mayor, Town of Halton Hills

**1 Halton Hills Drive, Georgetown, L7G 5G2**

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905-873-2600 | 1-877-712-2205 | [haltonhills.ca](http://haltonhills.ca)

# EXPLORE THE ESSENCE OF A PEOPLE: CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH THROUGH ART



**February 1-29, 2024**

**Artists featured in North Atrium of Town Hall: Désiré Betty, Omar  
Hopkinson, Paul Dias and Joan Butterfield, Curator**

**Artist featured at QEPCCC Gallery: Joan Butterfield, Curator**





February 1, 2024

Happy Black History Month!

The Oakville Community Foundation would like to extend our best wishes to the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH), as you lead our community in a series of events to celebrate this historic month.

We rely on community organizations like CCAH to provide guidance on issues of belonging and diversity and ensure our community is a place where everyone feels welcome. Collaborating on a variety of initiatives including; Community Classroom, the *Belonging and Racial Identity in Halton* Report and Debwewin: The Oakville Truth Project, has helped us to better engage local residents and reaffirms our commitment to building "a community where no one is left behind."

The Foundation is particularly grateful for the dedication and support of CCAH's President, Andrew Tyrrell, who serves as both a member of our Board of Directors and as a tireless supporter of our community.

We look forward to celebrating our joint commitment to truth and allyship at our Land & Legacy event on February 28th, after a month of incredible events, entertainment, and learning opportunities.

Congratulations and thank you for all of your hard work!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Rinella". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Wendy Rinella  
CEO, Oakville Community Foundation



# Land & Legacy.

Celebrating Black History Month & Oakville's Treaty Day  
February 28th | Film.ca | 171 Speers Rd. Oakville

## LEGACY VOICES 2

## NEW GENERATION



Debwewin

Connection  
*to the* Land

The Nation  
*of the* Future

Reception at 6:30 p.m. | Films begin at 7:00 p.m.



# Sheridan

January 2024

On behalf of Sheridan College, I am proud to support the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton in their events throughout Black History Month each year.

I would like to congratulate the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton for their tireless work to educate and engage the Halton community to celebrate Black and Caribbean culture and history.

Black History Month calls on us all to reflect on the past and challenge ourselves to improve for the future. As an anchor institution in Oakville, I encourage all our students to attend and support Black History Month-related events taking place in our community.

Whether it is creating the Sheridan Black Excellence Committee, or providing greater equity, diversity, inclusion and decolonization opportunities for students, faculty and staff, Sheridan strives to improve every day.

Sheridan is a proud partner with the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton and shares its belief that valuing differences equally is essential to social, cultural and economic growth. We look forward to furthering our relationship in 2024 and beyond.

Sincerely,



Janet Morrison, Ph.D  
President and Vice-Chancellor





ANTHONY SHERWOOD FILMS INC. PRESENTS

# FINDING FREEDOM ON THE SIXTEEN

*The Black History of the Town of Oakville*



Presented by Sheridan and in partnership with Film.ca and CCAH  
Film supported by KIA Communities in Motion, Oakville Lions Club and Oakville Community Foundation



DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER ANTHONY SHERWOOD IN ASSOCIATION WITH CANADIAN CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF HALTON

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ANTHONY SHERWOOD CINEMATOGRAPHER ARSYL VILLARROYA ORIGINAL MUSIC VICTOR DAVIES HISTORIAN KAROLYN SMARDZ FROST, PHD

## FEBRUARY 26



MARCH 2022



# Oakville Hospital Foundation CCAH Update

## Nearly \$8,000 Raised for Halton Diabetes Program

On August 18, 2020, the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH) announced support of Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH) by pledging \$25,000 to fund a Halton Diabetes Program compassionate care program. We are excited to share that since that time, nearly \$8,000 has been raised! We are incredibly grateful for every donor who took the time and care to make a gift.

With more than \$17,000 left to raise, we'd like to share details about this very important program

and hope you will be inspired to help CCAH reach its fundraising goal.

Based out of OTMH, the Halton Diabetes Program provides support for adults with diabetes and their families. Halton Healthcare created this compassionate program for dispensing Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGM) to people with diabetes lacking adequate insurance and financial resources to fund this blood glucose management tool. This program is funded entirely by donations.

## Maternal Child room dedicated to CCAH in honour of the ongoing support of past President Veronica Tyrrell.



November 9, 2023

Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton  
2303 Bridge Road  
Oakville, Ontario L6L 2G6

Dear Members of the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton,

I am writing to express the Foundation's gratitude for your outstanding commitment to exemplary and equitable patient care at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. Your recent accomplishment of fulfilling a \$25,000 pledge, two years ahead of schedule, is remarkable and heartwarming.

The impact of your recent pledge is far reaching. Because of donors like the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton, the hospital is able to provide Continuous Glucose Monitors to diabetics who may not have the financial resources or adequate insurance to afford this vital blood glucose management tool. Patients across Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Georgetown, Mississauga, Hamilton, and Brampton have benefitted from this compassionate program.

For over three decades, the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton and the Oakville Hospital Foundation have developed a partnership rooted in mutual goals and a commitment to community wellbeing. Your partnership has made a lasting impact on the health and well-being of our community and is an example for other community groups to follow.

We look forward to celebrating the completion of this pledge and sharing the impact of your support at the February 1, Black History Month kick-off celebration.

With sincere gratitude,

Mary McPherson, CFRE

Chief Executive Officer  
Oakville Hospital Foundation



February 2024

On behalf of the Oakville Hospital Foundation, I extend heartfelt congratulations to the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH) for their exceptional commitment to celebrating Black History Month in our community.

This year's theme, "Celebrating Culture and History," ignites the spirit of honouring the rich tapestry of traditions that shape our shared history. At Oakville Hospital Foundation, our mission is to create an inclusive, welcoming, and accessible giving environment, understanding the diverse experiences and backgrounds of Oakville's vibrant residents. This month holds special significance as we pay tribute to the profound contributions and achievements of Black individuals throughout the history of our hospital.

In commemorating Black culture and accomplishments in Canada, I want to publicly express my deep gratitude to the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton for their enduring support of Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. CCAH has been a steadfast and generous partner, contributing significantly to world-class community healthcare. A special acknowledgment goes to Andrew Tyrrell, a valuable member of our Board of Directors. Andrew's leadership, dedication, and unwavering support have been instrumental in advancing our mission and enhancing the well-being of the Oakville community.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity, CCAH. Best wishes as we collectively celebrate this special month, embracing and cherishing the cultural tapestry that defines us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary McPherson", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mary McPherson, CFRE

Chief Executive Officer  
Oakville Hospital Foundation  
3001 Hospital Gate, Oakville, Ontario L6M 0L8



On behalf of Visit Oakville staff and Board of Directors, we extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton's Black History Month celebrations.

The Canadian Caribbean Association has curated a wonderful line-up of events and exhibits throughout the month that explore the rich and deep-rooted Black history in Oakville; a history dating back to the 1830s when African Americans arrived via the Underground Railroad.

Visit Oakville is a proud annual sponsor of the Emancipation Day picnic and is pleased to extend our partnership to include Black History Month. Aligned with our mission; 'to make people fall in love with Oakville', we look forward to continued collaboration with the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton.

Visit the Oakville Museum, Queen Elizabeth Park Cultural and Community Centre, and Film.ca to enjoy art, exhibits and the award-winning film "Finding Freedom on the Sixteen" that documents how early Black settlers reshaped the future of Oakville and beyond. Visit CCAH's website for more ways to learn in February.

And let's keep celebrating. Through self-guided tours, permanent exhibits, and community events like the Emancipation Day Picnic, visitors and residents can enrich themselves year-long.

Congratulations to Andrew, Marny and the team at the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton on what we know will be another successful Black History Month and thank you for your tireless work focused on education, culture, community, and harmony that creates a better Oakville for everyone.

Sean O'Meara

Chair of the Board, Visit Oakville





VISIT  
OAKVILLE

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# EXPLORE BLACK HISTORY AT THE OAKVILLE MUSEUM

[VisitOakville.com](http://VisitOakville.com)





# RESONANCE OF RESILIENCE CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

 February 21, 2024

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

 Free Admission



Queen Elizabeth Park Community & Culture Centre, Oakville



Lunch Provided

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.



Scan to Register. Or visit us online at [www.hedroundtable.com](http://www.hedroundtable.com)





# 2024 May Gala

Saturday, May 11, 2024

Tickets on sale soon!

CELEBRATING CULTURE & HISTORY

Education | Culture | Community | Harmony



2 x Juno Award Winner  
Sonia Collymore  
& more!



## INVEST IN BIPOC YOUTH

Consider supporting CCAH youth programming. Your sponsorship will positively impact local BIPOC children and youth living in Halton who experience various barriers. Help them to:

- ✓ Foster a positive sense of self through culturally-enriching experiences
- ✓ Build self-esteem, feelings of empowerment and belonging through connecting with peers and role models who share related cultural and ethnic backgrounds
- ✓ Enhance pride to embrace and celebrate their cultural heritage and contribution to Canada
- ✓ Build social and leadership skills to enhance employability and pursuit of post-secondary studies

CONTACT US TO SPONSOR NOW!



905-815-6184  
info@ccah.ca  
www.ccah.ca

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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024

## CELEBRATING CULTURE AND HISTORY



### THANK YOU TO OUR LAUNCH SPONSORS



TD **READY COMMITMENT**

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### THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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