



CCAH continued to remain steadfast to its commitment to the 4 Pillars: Education, Culture, Community, and Harmony, and the momentum gained in 2022 surged into 2023, leading to expanded outreach and impact across Halton. From captivating musical performances and an unprecedented number of events for Black History Month, to impactful tutoring and community engagement programs, CCAH was at the forefront of promoting diversity, empowering Halton's Black community and fostering cultural awareness, understanding and inclusion.

At the top of 2023, filming of **Legacy Voices 2: The Next Generation** began. This documentary by CCAH and Falling Motion is the sequel to the initial and award-winning Legacy Voices documentary. The inspiration behind the series was to provide BIPOC seniors with a platform to share their knowledge and experiences. It also provides opportunities for seniors to build new friendships with other seniors in the community and translate knowledge to younger generations through sharing of stories, life experiences, and personal histories.

In January, the Oakville Rotary Club presented Andrew Tyrrell, CCAH President, with the Paul Harris Fellow Community Award. Eight community recipients were recognized for giving back to the community and reflecting the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

In partnership with the Halton District School Board (HDSB), CCAH provided invaluable tutoring services to 398 students from January to June, free of charge. Tutors worked, in person and virtually, with students across Halton assisting in priority subjects such as math, literacy, English, French, and science. The program officially closed in June 2023.

Throughout the year, CCAH organized an array of Steelpan and Parang intergenerational classes and performances for the community. There were over 40 performances in 2023, which reached audiences totalling over 5,500 people. These well attended events not only entertained but also served as platforms for cultural exchange and celebration while engaging diverse communities across the region.

February welcomed **Black History Month**, with the 2023 theme of Connecting Communities, CCAH did exactly that! Throughout the month, CCAH provided various events and opportunities across Halton Region to promote and celebrate Caribbean culture and history. CCAH would like to acknowledge its staff and many volunteers, supporters, and key funders, including Canadian Heritage and TD Bank, for helping CCAH reach a record-high number of participants (over 250,000) and a record-high number of programs/events delivered (45 live and 50 virtual through our digital assets). Broadcasting events through Cogeco's YourTV across Halton supported CCAH efforts in enhancing accessibility and reaching many diverse audiences.

Over the months of March and April, CCAH attended and proudly supported various events with community partners. The first was the Afro-Caribbean Market with HDSB and Roots Community Services, where CCAH had a booth and provided Steelpan entertainment.

LEGACY VOICES 2 NEW GENERATION



As part of [Debwewin Oakville](#), CCAH attended the Treaty Day Celebration with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation at their community centre on First Nation reserve in Hagersville. In addition, CCAH, in partnership with Oakville Choral Society, had the Parang ensemble collaborate for their “Forward Together: A Celebration of Black History and Culture in Oakville” at St. Johns United Church with 200 people in attendance.

In May, we hosted our **Reading Corner** as a Storyteller Edition at Milton Public Library. Families gathered in person and listened to personal stories of speaking up combined with tales of Anansi. Featuring Devan Sandiford, Kesha Christie, and Rita Cox and in partnership with Storytelling Toronto and support from the Canada Council for the Arts. We held a Mother’s Day brunch in Oakville where 100 families connected to celebrate community and mothers.

June saw the community plant flowers and vegetables with the second year of CCAH’s **Community and Harmony Garden**. The official Grand Opening of the garden, attended by CCAH Staff and Board, Oakville Chamber of Commerce, Oakville Mayor Rob Burton, Sheridan, Oakville Community Foundation, Cogeco’s YourTV, followed in August.

CCAH participated in the historic Mayor’s Picnic in Oakville, to continue to foster community connections and promote cultural diversity. In addition, virtual access to Legacy Voices 2: The Next Generation began as part of the Oakville Festival of Film and Arts, expanding the reach of the intergenerational storytelling initiative.

July was an exciting time for the children and youth who engaged with CCAH’s summer programming. In 2023, the **CCAH Summer Day Camp** welcomed 40 children and youth ages 6 to 11 for 8 weeks of teachings by Indigenous Elders and local Black Historians, weekly outdoor excursions across Halton Region, swimming and music lessons, and opportunities to tend to the designated plots at the Community and Harmony Gardens while Halton Environmental Network taught them about climate change and sustainable gardening practices.

We piloted a **Leaders in Training** program for youth who have aged out of summer camp but were looking to develop leadership skills towards becoming camp counsellors. We held two sessions in July and August with 20 youth participating and supporting the summer camp through volunteer opportunities.

The longstanding **Youth Leadership Summer Program (YLSP)** was provided in person and in partnership with Halton Regional Police Services to almost 40 youth in grades 9 to 12 via a day of workshops addressing life skills, cultural identity, careers, community engagement and mentorship. YLSP was videotaped and a one-hour version was later broadcast on Cogeco’s YourTV for a wider audience and engagement.

Public events in July included Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre – Pancake Breakfast with MP Pam Damoff and Councillor Jeff Knoll. RBC Mosaic Night at Chubby’s Restaurant, Toronto where RBC raised funds for CCAH’s Day Camp. And the CCAH Black History Walking and Bike Tours with Oakville Public Library, Visit Oakville and Oakville Museum.





Our steel band provided entertainment throughout the summer in the Bronte Harbour and we had a collaboration with the Oakville Wind Orchestra as part of their Sounds of Summer program thanks to support from Bronte BIA.

Emancipation Day Picnics in Milton and Oakville were held in August. Partners included the Town of Milton, Black Mentorship Inc, African Caribbean Council of Halton, Milton Public Library, Arts Milton as well as Oakville Museum, Town of Oakville, Visit Oakville. Attendance was impressive with approximately 440 people celebrating and enjoying free activities which included live entertainment, arts activities, and Caribbean food.



Veronica Tyrrell Day 2023 was celebrated on August 27, 2023, in partnership with the Town of Oakville, Town and Regional Councillors Ward 7 and Oakville Fire Department. A free family event celebrated culture and diversity and recognized the legacy of Veronica Tyrrell as past President of CCAH for 30 years.

September saw CCAH supporting **Truth and Reconciliation Day** events with the Sunrise Ceremony to commemorate the signing of Treaty 14 as part of Debwewin: The Oakville Truth Project held at Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre in Oakville. As well as the RBC and CCAH Truth and Reconciliation event at RBC Lakeshore Branch Oakville with Debwewin Oakville, Oakville Community Foundation, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations.



Towards the end of 2023, Anthony Sherwood's "Finding Freedom on the Sixteen", a one-hour documentary film that brings to life the remarkable history of people of African descent who settled around the Oakville harbour formed by the mouth of Sixteen Mile Creek won the Audience Award -Best International Feature Film at the Baltimore Black International Film Festival (October 2023). The documentary's official premiere will be held during Black History Month 2024 and will be provided to schools in Halton Region free of charge for educational purposes.



CCAHA outreach and engagement with HDSB and Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) provided numerous activities throughout the year. For example, CCAH delivered a Racism and Discrimination presentation to 125 grade 7 and 8 students in Burlington, a presentation to the Parent Involvement Committee Conference (100 people) in Milton, and a Diversity and Inclusion presentation to 300 grade 7 and 8 students in Georgetown. We also piloted a cultural literacy program with author and educator Cameile Henry in Milton for students in grades 1 to 3. Throughout 2023, schools continued to engage with our video cooking series in partnership with local chefs, and provided opportunities for high school students, during culinary classes and for Black Student Union meetings, to participate in Caribbean cooking sessions.



As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2023, CCAH expresses heartfelt gratitude to our supports, partners, volunteers and the entire Halton community. Together, we have made significant strides in promoting diversity, celebrating cultural traditions and histories, and advancing inclusion. We remain committed to advancing these efforts further in 2024 and beyond.