

## Impact & Result



**BHM2024**  
**45 Events**  
**30 Community Partners**



**49 Music Performances**



**6000 Youth Served**  
**780 Youth Volunteer Hours**



The Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH) kicked off 2024 with renewed energy and a continued commitment to its four pillars: Education, Culture, Community, and Harmony. This year was a transformative one, marked by exciting new leadership and milestones, and an unwavering focus on enriching Halton through programs and events that celebrate and promote Black heritage and culture.

### Black History Month: Celebrating Culture and History

February brought an array of events for **Black History Month** under our theme, Celebrating Culture and History. CCAH hosted a standout kickoff event featuring performances and presentations by Juno and Gemini award-winner Jully Black, and talented performers Anthony Sherwood, Geri Defoe, the ArtHouse Children's Choir, Girl Power'd Dancers, and the CCAH Steel Band. The month-long variety of community events and celebrations also included curator Joan Butterfield's Explore the Essence of a People exhibit at Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre and Oakville's Town Hall; screening of the documentary Finding Freedom on the Sixteen; partnering with Debwewin Oakville to premiere two impactful series: Legacy Voices 2: New Generation and The Debwewin Oakville Truth Series. Our deepest gratitude goes to our volunteers, partners, and funders—including Canadian Heritage, TD Bank, Cogeco's YourTV, Town of Oakville, Visit Oakville, Sheridan and Oakville Community Foundation. Special thanks to MP Pam Damoff for recognizing CCAH in the House of Commons for our contributions to promoting Black history and culture.

### Music and Cultural Performances

Throughout the year, CCAH delivered a variety of intergenerational Steelpan and Parang music classes, culminating in 49 vibrant performances for students in classrooms, seniors in residences and long-term care facilities, and community event attendees. A highlight was the CCAH Steel Band's collaboration with the Oakville Wind Orchestra for free performances at Bronte Heritage Waterfront Park, made possible by the Bronte BIA. These events, alongside appearances at the Bronte Farmers Market and Block Party, and Civitan Farmers' Market showcased the joy and cultural richness of Caribbean music.


### Education, Children & Youth

We engaged with 30+ schools in Halton through programs such as music performances, cultural mentorship and youth empowerment sessions, culinary workshops, and film screenings. Our **Youth Leadership Summer Program**, supported by Halton Regional Police Services, Sheridan College, and other partners, had nearly 70 youth engaged in workshops on cultural identity, career development, and community building. CCAH's third annual **Summer Day Camp** hosted 315 children across eight weeks in July and August. Thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation and Canada Summer Jobs Program for making this possible. With funding from United Way of Halton and Hamilton, our **Leaders in Training** Program had 20 youth explore leadership skills and gain practical experience as future camp counselors.

 [info@ccah.ca](mailto:info@ccah.ca)

 [www.ccah.ca](http://www.ccah.ca)

 [@ccahofficial](https://www.instagram.com/ccahofficial)

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**7000 Community Members Served**

**160 Community Volunteer Hours**



**8 Summer Events**

**15 Summer Staff**



**47 years in the community**



## Community Engagement & Celebrations

Our annual **May Soirée** was a celebration of Caribbean culture featuring keynote speaker Hon. Greg Fergus, Speaker of the House of Commons, and musical performances by two-time Juno award winner Sonia Collymore. Proceeds supported CCAH's children and youth programs. Thank you to the 250+ attendees for making the evening so much fun!

The **Community and Harmony Garden** flourished this year under the guidance of Halton Environment Network, and the addition of a Pollinator Garden, thanks to support from OakvilleGreen – and of course the many dedicated volunteers. CCAH was onsite for the Oakville Mayor's Historical Picnic engaging with the community and supporting the preservation of Oakville's history. Thank you to the Oakville Historical Society for organizing this annual event. CCAH was also on-site at Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre to celebrate Canada Day this year, providing musical entertainment to the community during the traditional pancake breakfast. Thank you to Town and Regional Councillor Jeff Knoll and MP Anita Anand for the invitation. For our annual **Emancipation Day Celebrations**, we started with the unveiling of a plaque honoring CCAH founders Icilda Bailey and Veronica Tyrrell at our Community and Harmony Garden. The celebrations continued with a picnic at Oakville Museum, featuring live performances, family activities, and we hosted our walking and bike tours exploring Oakville's Black history. We ended the summer with our annual celebration of **Veronica Tyrrell Day** at the park dedicated in her name. CCAH Board President, Sheldon Williams, and Board Vice President, Richard Pinnock, presented the Oakville Hospital Foundation with a cheque for \$25,000 as part of our longstanding relationship and pledge with the Oakville Hospital Foundation. Funds will be used to support the Halton Diabetes Compassionate Care Program. Two Board Members were recipients of the King Charles III Coronation Medal for significant contributions to Canada through community service and achievements: Richard Pinnock, was recognized by Pam Damoff, MP Oakville North-Burlington, and Pam Chase was recognized by Karina Gould, MP Burlington.

## Moving On & Looking Ahead

We saw two Board Members retire in June: Andrew Tyrrell and Katherine Dottin-Adams—a heartfelt thank you for your years of dedicated service! In August, we marked a pivotal moment in CCAH's history as we officially welcomed our first Executive Director, Dionne Downer, bringing her visionary leadership to our organization. Thank you to the Foundation for Black Communities for their support of our growth and in partially funding this important new role.

As we reflect on an incredible year of growth and transformation, CCAH is grateful for our supporters, volunteers, partners, and the Halton community. Together, we've celebrated cultural heritage, educated and empowered youth, supported seniors and fostered inclusivity.

On the road to our 50th anniversary, we invite you to join us in shaping the future. Your voices and contributions will guide our strategic plan as we set the foundation for the next 50 years. Here's to an exciting 2025 and beyond, as we continue to build a community enriched by diversity and shared understanding.


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