

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH
2025**



CREATING HARMONY

**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 2025

WHEREAS, throughout our history, Oakville has been strengthened by its diverse and distinctive cultures; and

WHEREAS, people of African and Caribbean descent significantly contribute their progress and success to Canada, Ontario and Oakville; and

WHEREAS, the Black community is a vital element of our town's social and cultural mosaic; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month provides us all the opportunity to remember and celebrate their contributions to our society.

NOW THEREFORE, I HEREBY PROCLAIM February 2025 as Black History Month in the Town of Oakville.

Rob Burton, Mayor
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 support the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton in the kick-off to Black History Month February 2025 on behalf of the Town of Oakville, my colleagues on 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 and continue to enrich Oakville's cultural fabric.

This year's theme of "Creating Harmony" serves as a valuable opportunity for reflection and education. The programming planned strongly reflects our dedication to honouring and learning from the experiences and achievements of the Black community.

We look forward to the performances, events and educational opportunities being offered during the 2025 Black History Month and throughout the year. 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
Parliament
Députée
Oakville

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Constituency

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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

February 2025

Dear Oakville Friends and Neighbours,

During Black History Month, we honour and celebrate the profound contributions that Black Canadians have made to Canada's industries, communities, and cultural heritage throughout our history.

This year's theme of "Creating Harmony" encapsulates the work that the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH) has done to encourage unity, respect, and understanding throughout our community for decades. Since 1977, the CCAH has stood as a pillar of diversity and inclusivity and has connected communities across Halton through a range of activities and programs that showcase Afro-Caribbean cultural heritage.

Our government has always committed to promoting inclusive and diverse communities across Canada, which is why we have taken concrete actions to address the longstanding and systemic barriers that Black communities in Canada face. We have invested over \$872 million in program funding for Black-led organizations serving Black communities and, since 2020, over \$265 million for Black business owners and entrepreneurs to grow their businesses and succeed. We also created the Mental Health of Black Canadians Fund, to help address the physical and mental legacies of racism Black communities have faced within the country.

Our government's commitment to fostering communities that celebrate our differences and address the inequities of our past is unwavering as we continue to work to promote a more harmonious and inclusive future for all Canadians. As we celebrate the contributions of Black Canadians and continue to reflect and learn from our past, we must remember that we all have a role in building a strong and vibrant future in which all Canadians have the same opportunities to succeed and thrive.

As always, my constituency office is open five days a week, and can be reached at (905) 388-2008 or anita.anand@parl.gc.ca if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,



Pam Damoff, M.P.
Oakville North-Burlington



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Saturday, February 1st, 2025

**To the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton in Celebration of
Black History Month 2025**

As we celebrate Black History Month, I want to take a moment to recognize the extraordinary contributions of the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton and the Black community in shaping our community and Canada's history, culture, and values.

This year's theme, "Creating Harmony" reminds us of the importance of unity, understanding, and mutual respect in building stronger communities. It is a powerful call to action for individuals, organizations, and leaders to create meaningful connections and lasting change.

Black History Month is a time to honour those who came before us, acknowledge the ongoing challenges, and celebrate the achievements of Black Canadians who continue to drive progress.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to fostering harmony in our community. Wishing you a meaningful and inspiring Black History Month.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pam Damoff".

Pam Damoff, MP
Oakville North-Burlington

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ADAM VAN KOEVERDEN, M.P.
MILTON

February 1, 2025

It is an honour to join Black communities in Halton to celebrate Canada's 30th 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.

This year's theme, "*Creating Harmony*", underscores the importance of fostering unity and understanding across communities. It is an invitation to reflect on the remarkable achievements, vibrant cultures, and rich heritage of Black and Afro-descendant communities who have been instrumental in building a stronger, more inclusive Canada.

I am thrilled to support the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH) and their outstanding efforts to commemorate this month with an exciting lineup of events. This year, the CCAH will focus on their four pillars of education, culture, community, and harmony through a series of celebrations in collaboration with organizations across Halton.

As a public servant, I draw inspiration from leaders like the Honourable Jean Augustine, as well as my colleagues, the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, the Honourable Marci Ien, the Honourable Greg Fergus, MP Michael Coteau, MP Arielle Kayabaga, and MP Emmanuel Dubourg. These trailblazers have paved the way for future generations, inspiring them to make significant contributions in politics, arts, health, business, and more.

I would also like to commend the CCAH for their steadfast dedication to celebrating and uplifting Black communities through education and engagement. Their work enriches our region and exemplifies the very essence of harmony.

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", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Adam van Koeverden, M.P. for Milton



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Hon. Karina Gould

Member of Parliament
Burlington

Dionne Downer
Executive Director, Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CAAH)
2302 Bridge Road
Oakville, ON
L6L 2G6

February 2025

Dear Dionne 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 – Creating Harmony – reminds us of the importance of understanding and collaboration within the Halton community.

It is important we support the diverse voices, cultures, and experiences that contribute to a stronger, more inclusive society. By fostering respect, embracing differences, and working together, we can build a harmonious future that honors the past and empowers future generations.

Black Canadians have played a vital role in shaping our Canadian history and identity, standing as pillars of leadership in communities from coast to coast. The Black communities' contributions, both locally and internationally, have been fundamental in upholding Canada's core principles of freedom, justice, and equality. Through their efforts, they have helped make Canada a more inclusive and prosperous nation for everyone.

As a Canadian, the Member of Parliament for Burlington and the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, I commit to continuing to listen, learn, and work to combat anti-Black racism in all forms. There is still much work to be done, and the federal government remains dedicated to advancing this effort.

Thank you to the CCAH 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

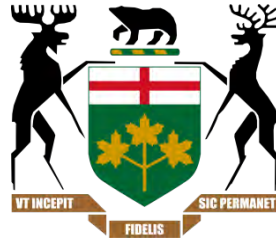
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<http://karinagouldmp.ca>



Greetings from Stephen Crawford, Member of the Provincial Parliament

It is my honor and privilege to extend warm greetings to the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton as you celebrate Black History Month 2025 under the theme “*Creating Harmony.*”

This year’s theme is a powerful reminder of the importance of fostering unity and understanding in our communities. Through your unwavering dedication to the pillars of education, culture, community, and harmony, the CCAH continues to create spaces that inspire connection, celebrate diversity, and promote inclusion across Halton Region.

I am grateful for the tireless efforts of the CCAH and your collaborating organizations in advancing these important conversations and initiatives. Your leadership is instrumental in shaping a community where harmony is not just a theme but a lived reality.

As Member of Provincial Parliament for Oakville, I am proud to stand with you in celebrating Black History Month 2025. I commend the CCAH for your vision, dedication, and ongoing commitment to enriching our community.

Wishing you a successful launch celebration and a month filled with impactful events that inspire lasting change.

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



EFFIE TRIANTAFILOPOULOS, MPP
Oakville North–Burlington

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Please accept my warm greetings and best wishes to all those celebrating Black History Month 2025.

This year's theme of "creating harmony" brings to mind a quote by the late Maya Angelou "Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope".

This quote by Ms. Angelou, whose poems often emphasized the power of love and its ability to overcome barriers, perfectly reflects the spirit of creating harmony through connection and resilience and captures the essence of the great work that the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton does in our community.

The Region of Halton is one of the largest urban centers for immigration in Ontario. In fact, the black community has deep roots here as we were a main destination of the Underground Railroad, offering refuge to enslaved individuals seeking freedom in Canada.

Black History Month offers us all an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of eminent citizens like Alvin Duncan, a WWII veteran and historian whose research in Canadian Black history resulted in permanent heritage exhibits in the Oakville Museum and James W. Hill, an escaped slave who led approximately 800 African Americans to freedom in Oakville through the Underground Railroad.

And then of course there is the glorious trailblazing path of Lincoln Alexander. Not only was he Canada's first Black MP, but also the first Black person to serve in a vice-regal position in Canada as Ontario's Lieutenant-Governor.

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

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

It's through this recognition that we gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the unique contributions that the Black community brings to Ontario and Canada.

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

Sincerely,

Effie Triantafilopoulos MPP
Oakville North-Burlington

Zee Hamid
MPP - Milton



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Dear friends,

February marks Black Heritage Month. It is a time to ensure we shed light to honour the achievements of Black Canadians, both past and present and to celebrate the rich and diversified tapestry of the Black community.

As the MPP for Milton Riding, I am proud that we are home to a diverse and thriving community, and that vibrant organizations such as the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH) continue to play a vital role in promoting Black history, fostering inclusivity, and celebrating the rich traditions of the African and Caribbean diaspora. Their work in education, cultural awareness, and advocacy ensures that we learn from our past while building a stronger, more inclusive future.

Our government is committed to equity, opportunity, and representation. We are expanding initiatives that remove barriers to success, whether in the workforce, education, or public life. Programs like the Black Youth Action Plan and economic empowerment grants support young Black leaders, entrepreneurs, and professionals in achieving their goals. We also recognize that systemic challenges persist, and we remain dedicated to addressing discrimination and inequities while creating meaningful opportunities for all Ontarians.

As we reflect on the impact of Black Canadians past and present, let us celebrate their contributions, immerse ourselves in their stories, and continue working toward a more just and equitable society. Their resilience, leadership, and achievements have shaped our province and country in profound ways.

Black history is Canadian history—not just in February, but every day. Wishing you a meaningful and inspiring Black Heritage Month. Reach out.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zee Hamid".

Zee Hamid, MPP for Milton Riding



Message from Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr

I extend my best wishes to the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH) as you kick off celebrations for Black History Month.

On behalf of Regional Council, I would like to thank the Board of Directors and volunteers at the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton for the incredible work you do in our community to promote equity, diversity and inclusion. You help foster cultural understanding and promote positive change and belonging in Halton through the many educational programs and events you offer each year.

Black History Month is a great opportunity to learn about and honour the deep cultural and historical contributions and achievements of Black Canadians in Halton and Canada. Black History Month is a time to elevate the Black voices of the past, present and future. By learning more about the traditions and experiences of all people and voices, we help build a more inclusive and welcoming community. Halton's social, cultural and economic development is strengthened when we are inclusive, seek all perspectives, and value everyone who calls Halton home.

Thank you once again to the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton for organizing tonight's event and for your decades of service that keep Halton a great place to live, grow and thrive.

Sincerely,

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

Gary Carr
Halton Regional Chair

Launch Program

WELCOME	Lesley Forbes, Master of Ceremonies
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	Jennifer Luxmore-Begin, Indigenous Women's Collective, Grandmother's Voice
PROCLAMATION	Mayor Rob Burton, Town of Oakville
NATIONAL ANTHEM	CCAH Steel Band
DIGNITARY GREETINGS	Halton Region Town Mayors reflecting on Black History Month
MUSICAL PERFORMANCE	Natasha Waterman, Soloist
DIGNITARY GREETINGS	Provincial and Federal Government reflecting on Black History Month
MUSICAL PERFORMANCE	CCAH Steel Band & Parang Ensemble
KEYNOTE PRESENTATION	Dr Natasha Henry-Dixon, Assistant Professor, Department of History, York University
MESSAGE FROM CCAH	Sheldon Williams, Board President, CCAH
DIABETES PROGRAM & MATERNITY CARE ACKNOWLEDGMENT	Melissa Farrell, President & CEO, Halton Healthcare
MESSAGE FROM SPONSOR	TD Bank Group
MUSICAL PERFORMANCE	Kevin Adams & Voices of Praise
CLOSING REMARKS	Richard Pinnock, Board Vice President, CCAH

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

Launch celebration will be broadcast on COGECO's YourTV on February 11, 2025 at 8:00 pm. More dates will be posted on our website.



Presenters

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Lesley Forbes is a published author, entrepreneur, corporate training professional, and the CEO and Lead Female Voice Talent of Forbes Voice Over. Teaching and helping others develop their skills are her passions. She has facilitated hundreds of training programs and initiatives for major telecommunications companies in Canada, including Sprint Canada, Rogers, and Fibernetics. Recently, Forbes Voice Over was awarded the Best Telephony Voice Services Provider for 2025 by the Business Vision Canadian Business Awards.

Her memoir, titled “Never Perfect, Always Blessed: My Journey to Wholeness,” recounts her life experiences as a young Black working single mother who was propelled into a spiritual awakening after losing her mother to Alzheimer’s disease.

Lesley designed and launched the *Voice for the Soul* workshop to foster open discussions about self-love and spirituality while equipping participants with tools for daily self-empowerment. For the two consecutive years, she has hosted this workshop for the Leaders in Training groups at the CCAH Summer Camp, as well as for other organizations that support youth. Her goal is to continue hosting these workshops and to integrate self-love and emotional intelligence initiatives in high schools and nonprofit organizations.

<https://linktr.ee/Lesley0227>

Presenters

KEYNOTE PRESENTER



Dr Natasha L. Henry-Dixon is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at York University. The 2018 Vanier Scholar is researching the enslavement of African people in early Ontario.

Her publications include *Emancipation Day: Celebrating Freedom in Canada* (June 2010), *Talking about Freedom: Celebrating Freedom in Canada* (2012) and several entries for the Canadian Encyclopedia on African Canadian history. She has developed educational resources for several projects on the Black experience in Canada.

Through her various professional, academic and community roles, Natasha's work is grounded in her commitment to research, collect, preserve, and disseminate the histories of African Canadians.

<https://profiles.laps.yorku.ca/profiles/henryn/>

HEADLINE PERFORMANCE



Kevin Adams and his team **Voices of Praise** are a Professional music ministry that strives to be cultured and diverse, not limited to denominations, nations or race.

They are international recording artists that have been nominated for a JUNO and won various awards nationally and internationally.

KAVP just recorded their 6th album called "Phase 2: The Redeemed Project" and are looking to release it in the spring of 2025.

<https://kavpmusic.com/about/>

Presenters



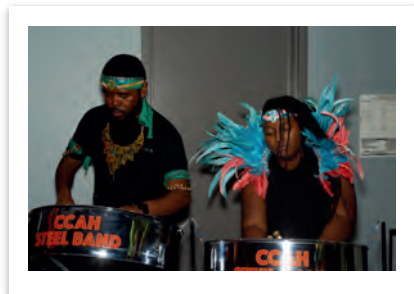
CCAH Parang Ensemble include Roger Gibbs, Tricia Constantine-Joefield, Brenda Baille, Victor Khan, Robin Wason, Leslie-Ann Stewart, Maureen De Varennes, Edwin Terry.

Roger Gibbs began his music career in Barbados at age 14 as lead singer/guitarist with The Merryboys, inspired by his older brother Chris, bassist for the legendary Merrymen. At age 18, he joined Sandpebbles – a popular Caribbean dance band with hits still playing in the Caribbean today.

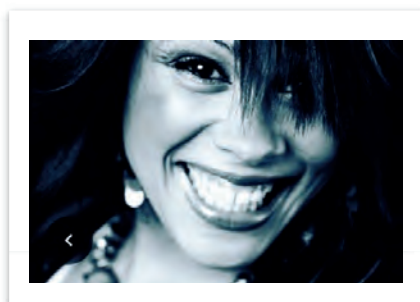
He is a highly accomplished writer, producer and performer of Calyso music and Caribbean folk song traditions. He collaborates with various local musicians, has produced several CDS, and performs locally and internationally. He is very active in the production of Caribbean events in Toronto and Ontario and advocates traditional Caribbean art forms. Roger has been supporting CCAH for 15+ years.



CCAH Steel Band players include Denise Als, Richard Cornelius, Janelle Brathwaite, Ryan Dean, Osayi Constantine-Joefield, Kaiyra Constantine-Joefield.



Talented panists, **Denise Als** and **Richard Cornelius**, have been teaching our community about the origins of the steel pan 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.



Natasha Waterman is a Canadian singer-songwriter known for Her debut album, 'Long Road,' and has garnered attention for her songwriting, having penned songs for other Canadian artists such as Melissa O'Neil and Kalan Porter.

She weaves tales of love, loss, and longing into her music with a voice that shimmers and soars. Her songs are a tapestry of folk, soul, and R&B, resonate deeply with listeners, inviting them to journey through her introspective and emotionally charged world.

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 Trinidad-born artist Beverly Tang-Kong's painting entitled "The Spirit of Angels." This artwork was incorporated into the CCAH logo. Ms Tang-Kong passed away in 2017.



Beverly Tang Kong

-
- (1) 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.
-
- (2) 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.
-
- (3) 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.
-
- (4) 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

Sheldon Williams
President



Richard Pinnock
Vice President



Horace Saunders
Treasurer



Pamela Chase
Member



**Paula Simmons-
Wint**
Secretary



Ryan Smith
HRPS Community
Liaison



Rajan Sandhu
Legal Counsel



Saud Juman
Member



Staff Members

Dionne Downer
Executive Director



Marny Bruce
Manager



James Fraser
Youth Outreach
Coordinator



Enoch Oppong
Youth Outreach
Coordinator



Denise Als
Steelman Instructor



Roger Gibbs
Parang Instructor



Event List

Lots of FREE events! All events are free and in-person unless otherwise indicated. A complete description of CCAH Black History Month 2025 events is provided on our dedicated webpage at ccah.ca/BHM2025

FEBRUARY 1 - 28

Harmony: An Art Exhibition Celebrating Black Excellence | Oakville Town Hall | Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre (QEPCCC) | Curator: [Francesca Durham](#)

This year's theme is "Harmony" and serves as a tribute to unity, respect, and understanding within our diverse community. Harmony speaks to the profound and vibrant legacy of Black history and culture, weaving together the unique stories, struggles, and triumphs of the Black diaspora. Through this exhibition, we delve into the harmonious balance of past and present, resilience and hope, and individuality within collective identity. Town Hall and QEPCCC exhibits are self-guided, but private tours can be requested at QEPCCC via info@ccah.ca.

FEBRUARY 1 - 28

The Underground Railroad: Next Stop, Freedom & Legacy Voices | Oakville Museum | 8 Navy St, Oakville | Contact preeya.nayee@oakville.ca with questions

Through virtual tours, digitized artifacts, hands-on activities, stories, and a live interactive video presentation, this inquiry-based education program helps students immerse themselves into historical experiences that offer unique opportunities to experience our shared living heritage. 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 documentaries Legacy Voices and Legacy Voices 2.

JANUARY 24 - APRIL 30

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 8 Oakville elementary schools as part of the Black History Month. Community Classroom will continue until April to support with another 8 performances.

FEBRUARY 1 - 28

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; Rotherglan Elementary.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

Calypso and Caribbean Folk Music | Halton Catholic District School Board and Halton District School Board | Private event

In-person musical performance and discussion about the history and influence of Calypso and other Caribbean folk music. CCAH Parang instructor and Calypso historian, Roger Gibbs, demonstrates the various instruments. There will be two school performances.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31 @ 10 AM

Black History Month Flag Raising | Oakville Town Hall | By invitation

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

Event List

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1 @ 1:00 PM

Museum Walking Tour: Oakville and the Underground Railroad | Oakville Museum | 8 Navy Street | Ages 18 and older | [Registration here](#).

This event is being offered by the Oakville Museum. This unique indoor/outdoor tour offers a fascinating glimpse into the history of the Underground Railroad in Oakville. First, see the exhibit "Freedom, Opportunity, and Family: Oakville's Black History." Then, watch the exciting multimedia presentation "The Underground Railroad: Next Stop Freedom," which tells a true story about escaping from slavery. The tour ends with an outdoor walk highlighting the local history of Oakville and the Underground Railroad.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 @ 2:00 pm

Black History Month Art Gallery Opening | In-person | Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre | Free; Register here: [2025 Black History Month Gallery Opening Tickets, Sun, 2 Feb 2025 at 2:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Join us as we open a month-long celebration. This year's theme is "Harmony" and serves as a tribute to unity, respect, and understanding within our diverse community. Harmony speaks to the profound and vibrant legacy of Black history and culture, weaving together the unique stories, struggles, and triumphs of the Black diaspora. Through this exhibition, we delve into the harmonious balance of past and present, resilience and hope, and individuality within collective identity. Some artists will be available for Q&A. Some artists will be available for Q&A.

Caribbean-inspired finger foods to be served by Oakville Fish and Chips. Curator: [Francesca Durham](#).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3 @ 10:00 am

Black History Month Flag Raising | Halton Regional Police Service Headquarters | By invitation

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3 @ 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Black History Month Launch | In-person | Oakville Centre for Performing Arts | Tickets \$15 | [Purchase tickets here: 2025 Black History Month Launch](#)

This ticketed event will include the following: Emcee Lesley Forbes; keynote speech by historian and professor Dr. Natasha Henry-Dixon, who will speak to her research about the histories of African Canadians; performances by gospel choir Kevin Adams & Voices of Praise, singer Natasha Waterman, a collaboration with CCAH Steel Band and Parang Ensemble. Prior to the show there will be a 30-minute reception. Don't miss this great opportunity to create harmony among the community.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

CCAHA Steel Band | Halton District School Board | Private event

Our CCAHA Steel Band will be performing at Florence Meares Elementary School as part of our Black History Month programming.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Government of Canada's 2025 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.

Event List

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7 @ 7:30 pm

Sounds and Pressure: Reggae in a Foreign Land | In-person | John Elliot Theatre, Georgetown | Hosted in partnership with Halton Hills and National Film Board | Free; Register here: [Sounds and Pressure Reggae in a Foreign Land](#)

At the height of the golden age of reggae, some of Jamaica's brightest stars left their homeland behind to shine their light in an unlikely hub of Caribbean creativity: Toronto. Getting their sound to catch on in Canada wasn't easy. These innovators of rhythm and rhyme had to work against racism, scarce resources, and an industry that stigmatized reggae music. But that didn't stop them from transforming the city into a reggae hotspot. With a powerful message of love and a revolutionary spirit behind them, these visionaries face the pressure head on - and thanks to them, you can still feel the infectious beats of Bathurst Street and Eglinton Avenue reverberating all over the world.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 @ 1:30 pm

Museum Walking Tour: Oakville and the Underground Railroad | Oakville Museum | 8 Navy Street | Ages 7-17 plus adult caregiver | Register [here for Ages 10-12](#). Register [here for Ages 13-17](#).

This event is being offered by the Oakville Museum. This unique indoor/outdoor tour offers a fascinating glimpse into the history of the Underground Railroad in Oakville. First, see the exhibit "Freedom, Opportunity, and Family: Oakville's Black History." Then, watch the exciting multimedia presentation "The Underground Railroad: Next Stop Freedom," which tells a true story about escaping from slavery. The tour ends with an outdoor walk highlighting the local history of Oakville and the Underground Railroad. Please dress appropriately for the outdoor walk. Our first floor is accessible, and we offer a video tour of the second floor.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Parent Involvement Committee Conference | Halton District School Board | By invitation only
CCAHA will be onsite at the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Conference showcasing community engagement and resources for families with students in the HDSB.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 @ 1:00 pm

Creating Harmony: Sharing our Stories & Folktales | 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: [Creating Harmony: Sharing our stories & folktales Tickets, Sun, 9 Feb 2025 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Celebrate harmony and culture through intercultural storytelling followed by group discussions. Enjoy stories from Kesha Christie of Talking Tales: <https://talkintales.ca/>. We will also have stories told by community members from CCAH and Shaarei-Beth El Congregation. CCAH's Parang Ensemble will perform. Free luncheon provided featuring Caribbean and Jewish foods.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Calypso and Caribbean Folk Music | Halton Catholic District School Board and Halton District School Board | Private event

In-person musical performance and discussion about the history and influence of Calypso and other Caribbean folk music. CCAH Parang instructor and Calypso historian, Roger Gibbs, demonstrates the various instruments. There will be two school performances.

Event List

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

CCAH Steel Band Performance | Extencicare, Georgetown | Allendale LTC, Milton | Private event

Our CCAH Steel Band will be warming up the residents of Extencicare and Allendale with some Caribbean music.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12 @ 11:00 am

Lunch and Learn | Harmony and Belonging: Celebrating Black Excellence Through Art | In partnership with Halton Equity Diversity Roundtable and Halton Regional Police Service | QEPCCC | In-person | Free; Register here: [Harmony and Belonging: Celebrating Black Excellence Through Art | Halton Equity Divers](#)

Join us for an inspiring Black History Month lunch and learn event where we explore the powerful intersection of art, identity, and community. This engaging event features a dynamic panel discussion and a showcase of local Black artists who use their craft to unpack the theme of belonging in Halton Region.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Interview with Jennifer Hosten | In partnership with Oakville Chamber of Commerce

We're thrilled to welcome a very special guest to the podcast: Jennifer Hosten, who made history as the first woman of color to be crowned Miss World in 1970. Her victory took place during the height of the women's liberation movement in the United Kingdom. Jennifer's remarkable journey is brought to life in the feature film *Misbehaviour*, which will be screened during Black History Month by the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton. In this episode, we have the privilege of sitting down with Jennifer to discuss her groundbreaking win, her experience with the film, the incredible achievements she's pursued since her time as Miss World, and much more. Link to podcast coming soon.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12 @ 5:00 pm

Oakville Chamber After Hours | Private event

Oakville Chamber of Commerce will be holding their monthly After Hours at Film.ca to celebrate Black History Month.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 @ 9:00 am

Black History Month PD Program | In-person | QEPCCC | \$10; Register here: [Black History Month PD Day Program Tickets, Fri, 14 Feb 2025 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Join the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton as we celebrate Black History Month for students who have a PD Day. Registration is required for both juniors aged 6-8 years and seniors aged 9-11 years. Calypso historian Roger Gibbs will provide a musical workshop and Oakville Museum will provide an education presentation. We will also have games and crafts to keep participants active and engaged. We have limited capacity.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

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. We will also have our curator available for tours of the gallery.

Event List

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Black Excellence Symposium | Halton Catholic District School Board | Private event

CCAH will be part of the HCDSB's day-long symposium celebrating Black excellence for secondary students.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 @ 10:00 am

CCAH Reading Corner – Backpack Launch | In partnership with Milton Public Library | Main Branch | Free; Registration required: Coming Soon

Join the CCAH and MPL as we celebrate children's books written by Black authors that have been featured as part of our partnership Reading Corner program with MPL since 2021. Engage with authors and participate in craft activities. This parented family-friendly program is geared towards children under 10 years old.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24 @ 6:00 pm

Misbehaviour | In partnership with Film.ca, Visit Oakville, Oakville Chamber and Sheridan | Film.ca Cinemas | In-Person | By donation; Registration required: Misbehaviour Film Event - CanadaHelps

Join us as for a screening of *Misbehaviour*, a 2020 British comedy-drama film about a group of women that hatched a plan to disrupt the 1970 Miss World beauty competition in London. The winner that year was Oakville resident, Jennifer Hosten, a native of Grenada. She was the first woman of colour to win that competition. Ms Hosten trained with the BBC and was a broadcaster and airline stewardess before winning the 1970 Miss World competition and will be onsite for Q&A. The film is directed by Philippa Lowthorpe, from a screenplay by Gaby Chiappe and Rebecca Frayn, from a story by Frayn. The film stars Keira Knightley, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Jessie Buckley, Keeley Hawes, Phyllis Logan, Lesley Manville, Rhys Ifans and Greg Kinnear. Watch trailer [here](#).

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Treaty Day – Poetry Contest Winners Announced | Oakville Community Foundation and Debwewin Oakville | Contest details here: Debwewin Allyship Poetry Contest – Debwewin – the Oakville Truth Project

Winners of the As part of the Grateful Treaty Person and Acts of Allyship Campaign, R. Stacey Laforme shares his poem "Nii jii", which means "friend" in Anishinaabemowin and invites post-secondary students to share, in their own words what Allyship or friendship feels and looks like to them. This can be done through poetry, spoken word, rap or song. The contest is open to all Oakville, Sheridan College and MCFN post-secondary school students, with multiple winners to be announced. Submissions are open from January 6 to February 14, 2025. Winners will be announced by February 28.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

CCAH Steel Band | Halton District School Board | Private event

Our CCAH Steel Band will be performing at MM Robinson Secondary School as part of our Black History Month programming.

School Programs

The school programs listed below are offered year-round, not just for February. 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 preeya.nayee@oakville.ca with questions. Free for Grade 6 Oakville HDSB and HCDSB.

b) In-School Steelpan Music Discussion and Performance - Oakville schools only

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 a limited number of HDSB and HCDSB elementary schools in Oakville for BHM2025.

c) Virtual Steelpan Music Demo (15 mins) and Mini Concert (15 mins) - All Halton schools

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.

d) Finding Freedom on the Sixteen - Grade 7 & 8 - All Halton schools

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. Register with the Oakville Community Foundation's Community Classroom.

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 Preeya Nayee at 905-845-6601, ext. 5043 or email preeya.nayee@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. Calypso and Caribbean Folk Music with Roger Gibbs

In-person musical performance and discussion about the history and influence of Calypso and other Caribbean folk music. Calypso historian, Roger Gibbs, demonstrates the various instruments such as the ukulele, cuatro, guitar or selection of percussion instruments, hand drumming and marimboula (box bass). This presentation is educational while entertaining. Session is 45 minutes. COST: \$450. CCAH to cover 50% of costs during February.

School Programs

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 Board of Directors Past 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 \(vimeo.com\)](#)

School Programs

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: \$450 for the art instructor; paint supplies and easels are additional costs if these materials can't be sourced by the school. CCAH to cover 50% of costs during February. View trailer: <https://vimeo.com/501981160/03340c694a>

8. 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. CCAH 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: \$450 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.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH ART EXHIBIT



Dreaming Forward
by Komi Olat

Presented by



OAKVILLE
CHAMBER

Sheridan



VISIT
OAKVILLE



Curator
Francesca Durham



TD READY
COMMITMENT

Canada

Harmony: An Art Exhibition Celebrating Black Excellence

Main Gallery
QEPCCC, Oakville
February 1-28

Oakville
Town Hall
January 13 - April 30



The Office of Mayor Marianne Meed Ward
CITY OF BURLINGTON

To the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton for Black History Month 2025:

The history of Burlington often begins with the story of Joseph Brant, a Mohawk chief who fought alongside the British during the American Revolutionary War. To reward his service, the British gave him a tract of land, which now covers Burlington. Joseph Brant is accordingly referred to as the founder of Burlington. Before moving to Burlington in 1784, Joseph Brant owned Black slaves, possibly as many as 30 people. When he moved to Burlington, he brought his slaves along with him.

The Emancipation process started in Burlington when one of these slaves was seen screaming at a bounty hunter abductor, due to the Fugitive Slave Act in the U.S. Two local parliamentarians witnessed this, and tabled the 1793 *Act Against Slavery*, which abolished new slaves being brought into Canada.

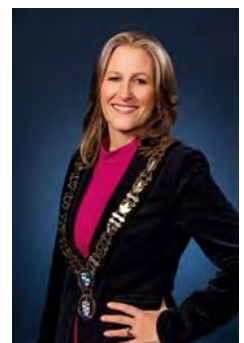
The theme of *Creating Harmony* through the lens of Black History Month resonates as a call to honour our painful past. It means recognizing the struggle, triumphs, and truth of our history, ensuring that these stories are remembered and meaningfully retold.

Harmony requires an honest reckoning with the past—acknowledging systematic racism, oppression, and the barriers Black communities have faced in our region. It's about creating space for truth-telling as a foundation for healing. I'm proud that Burlington was the first city in the world to acclaim August as Emancipation Month, an initiative I championed with the Halton Black Awareness Society.

Harmony isn't the absence of difference but the presence of mutual respect and shared purpose. To me, *Creating Harmony* is a reminder that while history shapes us, it is our shared humanity and collective action that will determine how we move forward together. Thank you to the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton for your vision, leadership, and service to our community.

Sincerely,

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 "Creating Harmony", 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



THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA PRESENTS

SOUNDS & PRESSURE

REGGAE IN A FOREIGN LAND



AN ANTHOLOGY SERIES FEATURING

JERRY BROWN

NANA MCLEAN

JOHNNY OSBOURNE

LEROY SIBBLES

ROY PANTON

YVONNE HARRISON



ONSCREEN | MOVIES at the John Elliott Theatre

Friday, February 7 at 7:30 p.m.
FREE, general seating

Tickets are FREE and are available in advance from the JET box office or online. For more info or to get your tickets visit www.haltonhills.ca/theatre or call the box office 905-877-3700. We gratefully acknowledge our partnership with the NFB.





HARMONY & BELONGING

CELEBRATING BLACK EXCELLENCE THROUGH ART

SCHEDULE

11:00 AM | REGISTRATION & GALLERY TOUR

11:30 AM | ARTIST SHOWCASE & PANEL DISCUSSION

12:30 PM | CLOSING REMARKS, RAFFLES & GALLERY TOURS

A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT 11:30 AM.

ARTISTS & PANELISTS

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| AKIL MCKENZIE | PAUL DIAZ |
| KOMI OLAF | ENOCH OPPONG |
| KRISTEN ALLICOCK | MIRIAM LEA |

FEBRUARY
12, 2025

11:00 AM -
1:00 PM

QUEEN ELIZABETH
PARK COMMUNITY &
CULTURAL CENTRE



HALTON EQUITY & DIVERSITY
ROUNDTABLE



Artwork Credit: Komi Olaf



HALTON REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

One Team - People First

January 2025

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

As celebrations kick off across our region and from coast to coast, I wish to personally thank the CCAH for your continued leadership and advocacy, and for paving the way for those who come after us to understand and appreciate the many and valued contributions Black Canadians have made to our nation's history and culture.

While we take this month to honour the courage, time, and tremendous talents of so many Black men and women who have shaped our country and very fabric of our communities, so too do we reaffirm our commitment to doing all we can to build an inclusive, harmonious, and equitable society for all. Our work is not done but by continuing to work together, united in this common purpose, we can achieve great things.

We are immensely grateful to the CCAH for your longstanding partnership, and for sharing your knowledge, experiences, and perspectives with us. We are a better police service, and Halton is a stronger and richer community, because of you.

May this Black History Month be one of reflection, inspiration, sharing, and joy. We wish you all the very best.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. J. Tanner".

Stephen J. Tanner
Chief of Police



February 1, 2025

Happy Black History Month!

The Oakville Community Foundation extends its greetings and well wishes to the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH) as you champion local celebrations and learnings in the community for Black History month.

We are so proud to once again feature CCAH's Steelpan Music Discussion and Performance, as well as the award-winning film, Finding Freedom on the Sixteen, for local students as part of our Community Classroom initiative with both the Halton District School Board and Halton Catholic District School Board.

Our organizations have a strong history of collaboration on many projects and we are continuously grateful for the leadership, thoughtfulness and important work that CCAH brings to our community, ensuring that *no one is left behind*.

Congratulations and thank you for all of your hard work!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy Rinella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Wendy" and "Rinella" being capitalized and prominent.

Wendy Rinella
CEO, Oakville Community Foundation



Making Local Education Even Better!

Community Classroom's **FREE** arts, culture, heritage, and environmental programs are available to Oakville's publicly-funded elementary school students.

[SUPPORT COMMUNITY CLASSROOM](#)



Community Classroom Learning Platform

COMMUNITY CLASSROOM IS NOW OPEN FOR 2025!

Programs are available for all HDSB and HCDSB schools.

Virtual Steelpan Music Demo and Mini Concert (Registration Required)

OAKVILLE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

- VIRTUAL- Available for all Halton Schools, JK to Grade 8.



Steelpan Music Discussion and Performance (Registration Required)

CANADIAN CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF HALTON

- IN SCHOOL- Available for Oakville schools only. JK - Grade 8

Finding Freedom on the Sixteen (Registration Required)

OAKVILLE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

- VIRTUAL: Grade 7 & 8 students at all HDSB and HCDSB schools.



Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

PD DAY PROGRAM

FEB 14

9AM-4PM

\$10 per child

ccah.ca/bhm2025/

Junior:

6-8 years

Senior:

9-11 years



QEPCCC, 2302
Bridge Rd, Oakville



905-815-6184
info@ccah.ca



presents



Reading Corner with the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton

February 22, Main Library, 10:00 am

In partnership with the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH) we invite families to join us for a morning featuring readings from Black children's authors.

Drop-in; no registration is required!



Abimbola Anifowoshe



Cameile Henry



Ekiuwa Aire



Janine Carrington



Olamidotun Votu-Obada



Sean Mauricette



February 3, 2025

On behalf of the Oakville Hospital Foundation, it is my honour to celebrate the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton's (CCAH) dedication to our community as we gather for this year's Black History Month event, Creating.Harmony.

This year's theme beautifully reflects the strength that emerges when diverse voices unite in pursuit of shared goals. At the Oakville Hospital Foundation, we are deeply committed to fostering harmony within our donor community—ensuring everyone feels welcomed, supported, and valued.

As we reflect on the contributions of Black Canadians in shaping our collective story, I want to thank CCAH for your enduring partnership. Your support over the years has helped advance several vital initiatives at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, from supporting the new Oakville hospital campaign to enhancing the maternal child program and, most recently, improving diabetes care for Halton. Together, we are helping our community thrive by ensuring access to exceptional healthcare close to home.

A special thank you also goes to Andrew Tyrrell, a valued member of our Board of Directors. Andrew's leadership and commitment inspire us all and serve as a reminder of the incredible impact that arises when individuals and organizations work together for the greater good.

Thank you, CCAH, for continuing to elevate our community through your advocacy, generosity, and celebration of culture. As we celebrate Black History Month, let us all embrace the spirit of Creating.Harmony—cherishing the rich tapestry of our community while working hand-in-hand to create a brighter, healthier future for all.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary McPherson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mary McPherson, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer
Oakville Hospital Foundation

Sheridan

January 2025

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.

This year's theme, Creating Harmony, reminds us of the importance of working together to foster understanding, unity, and inclusion in our communities. I want to congratulate the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton for their unwavering dedication to educating and engaging the Halton community in celebrating Black and Caribbean culture and history.

Black History Month invites us to honor the past, celebrate achievements, and challenge ourselves to build a more inclusive community. As an anchor institution in Oakville, I encourage all our students, faculty, and staff to participate in the Black History Month events taking place on our campuses, in our communities, and beyond.

At Sheridan, we remain committed to initiatives that promote equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization. From creating the Sheridan Black Excellence Committee to expanding opportunities for collaboration and dialogue, we continuously strive to cultivate an environment where everyone can thrive.

Sheridan is proud to partner with the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton and shares its vision of valuing differences equally as a cornerstone of social, cultural, and economic growth. We look forward to continuing this meaningful partnership in 2025 and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Morrison", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Janet Morrison, Ph.D
President and Vice Chancellor

KEIRA
KNIGHTLEY

GUGU
MBATHA-RAW

JESSIE
BUCKLEY

KEELEY
HAWES

WITH
LESLEY
MANVILLE

WITH
RHYS
IFANS

AND
GREG
KINNEAR



MISS WORLD 1970: THE LAUNCH OF A REVOLUTION

MISBEHAVIOUR

BASED ON THE INSPIRING TRUE STORY

FEBRUARY 24

Sheridan



OAKVILLE
CHAMBER

VISIT
OAKVILLE

film.ca
cinemas



Scan for
tickets





On behalf of the team at Visit Oakville, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton's Black History Month celebrations.

CCAH has curated a wonderful series of events and exhibits that highlight the rich Black history of Oakville and the broader region. This year's theme, "Creating Harmony," reflects values that both Visit Oakville and the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH) hold dear—community, inclusivity, and collaboration.

We are proud to sponsor this important celebration and encourage everyone to visit the Oakville Museum and the Underground Railroad exhibit, Queen Elizabeth Park Cultural and Community Centre and the exhibit Harmony: An Art Exhibition Celebrating Black Excellence, and Film.ca to experience the film "Misbehaviour."

Let's carry the spirit of Black History Month beyond February. With self-guided tours, permanent exhibits, and vibrant community events like the Emancipation Day Picnic, there are countless opportunities to celebrate and learn year-round.

Congratulations to the team at the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton for organizing another outstanding Black History Month and creating a more inclusive and harmonious Oakville.

Rebecca Edgar

Rebecca Edgar

Executive Director

Visit Oakville



VISIT
OAKVILLE



EXPLORE BLACK HISTORY AT THE OAKVILLE MUSEUM

Discover Oakville's Black history and experience exhibits that pay tribute to those who shaped the town's vibrant and diverse community. Scan the QR code to download our Visitor Guide and start learning about all this lakeside town has to offer.



CANADIAN CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF HALTON

EDUCATION ~ CULTURE ~ COMMUNITY ~ HARMONY



Black History Month



Reading Corner



Youth Leadership



Leaders in Training



Scholarships & Awards



School Programs



Summer Camp



May Gala



Veronica Tyrrell Day



Community & Harmony Garden



Emancipation Day Picnics



Black History Tours



Film Screenings & Discussions



Steelpan Classes & Performances



Parang Classes & Performances



info@ccah.ca



www.ccah.ca



@ccahofficial



Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton



Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton



Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton



Save the date



Join us as we celebrate community, culture & history with a Caribbean night of entertainment, cuisine & good vibes!

CCAH *May Soiree*

A fundraiser for CCAH Youth & Children Programs

CREATING HARMONY
Saturday, May 3, 2025
OE Banquet and Conference Centre
6:00 PM
\$150 Per Person
\$1300 Per Table of 10

Tickets on sale soon

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2025



CREATING HARMONY

THANK YOU TO OUR LAUNCH SPONSORS



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

