

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH RESOURCE PACKAGE



Exploring Rhythm, Soul, Art and History

# BHM RESOURCE PACKAGE

The purpose of this Black History Month Resource Package is to provide school boards with accessible, engaging, and culturally relevant programming that centres Black history, excellence, and lived experience within a Canadian context. This package is designed to support educators in delivering meaningful, age-appropriate learning opportunities that go beyond surface-level recognition and instead foster deeper understanding, pride, and critical connection to Black contributions past and present.

Through interactive workshops, historical storytelling, arts-based learning, community partnerships, and culturally responsive resources, this package empowers students to explore Black history as an ongoing, living narrative. It aims to inspire confidence in Black students, build empathy and awareness among all learners, and help schools create inclusive spaces where identity, creativity, and social responsibility are celebrated year-round—not only during Black History Month.



# OAKVILLE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION COMMUNITY CLASSROOM



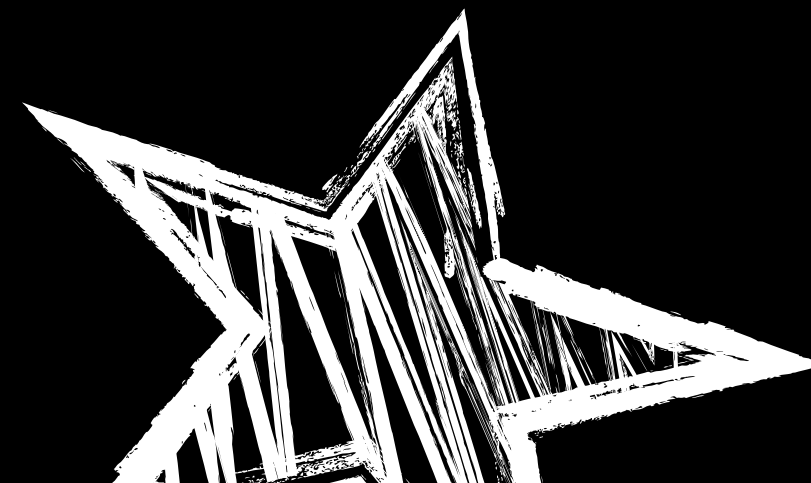
**THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD: NEXT STOP, FREEDOM & LEGACY VOICES**

**OAKVILLE MUSEUM – VIRTUAL PROGRAM (GRADE 6 ONLY | HDSB & HCDSB)**

This virtual, inquiry-based education program invites Grade 6 students from the Halton District School Board (HDSB) and Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) to explore Oakville's powerful connection to the Underground Railroad. Through interactive virtual tours, digitized artifacts, hands-on learning activities, storytelling, and a live guided video presentation, students are immersed in meaningful historical experiences that bring local Black history to life.

Students will examine Oakville's historical relationship with the United States during the era of the Underground Railroad and learn how Oakville Harbour played a key role in the journey to freedom for many freedom seekers. The program highlights important local figures through the exhibition Freedom, Opportunity and Family: Oakville's Black History, along with excerpts from the multimedia presentation The Underground Railroad: Next Stop Freedom and contemporary perspectives featured in the CCAH documentary Legacy Voices.

For The Underground Railroad inquiries: [carolyn.cross@oakville.ca](mailto:carolyn.cross@oakville.ca)





# BLACK HISTORY MONTH FILM FEATURES

## ‘On A Sunday at Eleven’

Written & Directed by Alicia K. Harris this film follows A young Black girl navigates exclusion in her all-white ballet class, reclaiming her beauty and power in an ethereal and unapologetic celebration of Blackness.

[On A Sunday at Eleven Film Trailer](#)

## ‘PICK’

PICK is a short, fictional drama about Alliyah, an 11-year-old girl who wears her afro to school for the first time, on picture day. The film follows her as she deals with subtle racist comments and microaggressions. Eventually, it comes time to take her personal photo. Alliyah is faced with the decision of wearing her hair in its natural state or tying it up.

Based on real conversations and events, the film will challenge the viewer to reflect on their role as a bystander, or even a perpetrator, of these common microaggressions in their own lives. A microaggression is a subtle, offensive comment or action directed at a minority or marginalized group, that is often unintentional or unconsciously reinforces a stereotype.

[Pick Film Trailer](#)





# IN-PERSON STEELPAN MUSIC DISCUSSION AND PERFORMANCE

This live, in-school steelpan workshop led by CCAH's professional instructors offers students an engaging introduction to the history, cultural significance, and sound of the steelpan through both interactive learning and live performance. During this 45-minute session, students explore the origins of the instrument, its connection to Caribbean culture, and its role in global music, while actively experiencing rhythm, creativity, and musical expression.

This workshop promotes diversity, inclusion, and cultural appreciation while supporting students' artistic, social, and cultural development. Through the Oakville Community Foundation's Community Classroom Project, up to 15 elementary schools within the Halton District School Board (HDSB) and Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) in Oakville are fully funded to receive this program for Black History Month. CCAH is working directly with both school boards to coordinate program delivery.

For inquiries: [enoch@ccah.ca](mailto:enoch@ccah.ca)



# OAKVILLE'S BLACK HISTORY VIRTUAL TOUR

Halton Region has a rich history of Black presence, spanning both early settlement and contemporary community life. This virtual tour ensures these stories are remembered and shared. Event will be hosted by OPL and CCAH staff will be putting together and delivering the presentation.

Participants will explore significant sites connected to Oakville's Black heritage, with a focus on:

- Kerr Village
- Bronte Harbour

Date: Feb 25, 2026

Time: 7-8pm

Location: online via Zoom

For ages 13+

Registration Link: [Oakville Black History Virtual Tour Registration Link](#)





# **BELONGING AND RACIAL IDENTITY IN HALTON (2022) – TEACHER RESOURCE**

This community-led report and accompanying video series are the result of a comprehensive local survey that gathered the perspectives and lived experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour who live, work, and spend time in Halton Region. The 2022 report serves as a follow-up to CCAH's landmark 2003 publication, *Growing Up Black in Oakville*, offering updated insights into the current social, cultural, and institutional climate.

To make the findings accessible and classroom-ready, a two-part video series has been created and introduced by the President of CCAH. The videos explore key topics including inclusivity in education, cultural representation and displays, workplace inclusion, healthcare, and the rebuilding of the justice system. Each video also presents recommendations and discussion prompts to support critical classroom dialogue and reflection.

These videos are designed as educator resources to support equity-focused learning and meaningful student discussion.

Running Time: Part 1 – 6 minutes | Part 2 – 4 minutes

Inquires: [enoch@ccah.ca](mailto:enoch@ccah.ca)





# OAKVILLE MUSEUM – THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Students explore Oakville's role in the Underground Railroad and its connection to the United States, learning how Oakville Harbour served as a key entry point to freedom for many freedom seekers. Through the exhibition Freedom, Opportunity and Family: Oakville's Black History and the multimedia presentation The Underground Railroad: Next Stop Freedom, students are introduced to important local figures and stories.

## Curriculum Links:

Social Studies | History & Geography

Heritage & Identity

Grades: 5–8

Duration: 2 hours | Available: Year-round

Cost: \$7.78 per student

Accessibility: Multimedia presentation is on the second floor (stairs only).

Booking Contact: Carolyn Cross – [carolyn.cross@oakville.ca](mailto:carolyn.cross@oakville.ca)







# BLACK HISTORY POSTERS

**PRESENTED BY OAKVILLE MUSEUM | SCHOOL RENTAL &  
PURCHASE OPTION**


Schools can access a set of professionally designed informational banners developed by the Oakville Museum that connect directly to the museum's exhibit displays. These banners provide students with educational insight into Oakville's early Black history and highlight significant people, places, and moments within the local Black community.

The set includes 14 full-colour posters, each measuring approximately 75 cm x 30 cm, making them ideal for school hallways, libraries, and learning spaces during Black History Month and beyond.

## Cost:

- \$100 rental in February
- \$200 to purchase
- Limited quantities available through CCAH

For Inquiries: [enoch@ccah.ca](mailto:enoch@ccah.ca)





# FINDING FREEDOM ON THE SIXTEEN



## SECONDARY SCHOOLS | PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CCAH

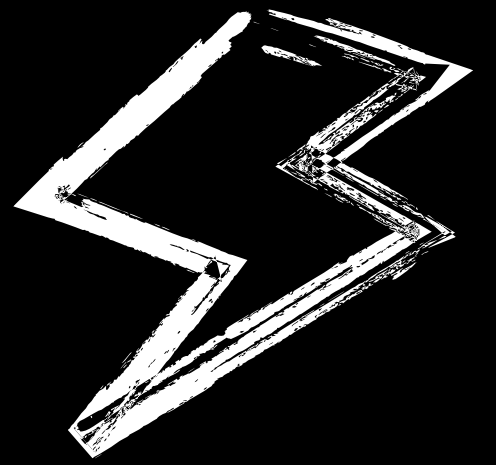
Finding Freedom tells the powerful true story of formerly enslaved African Americans from Maryland and Louisiana who escaped in search of freedom and resettled in Oakville, Ontario during the mid-1800s. These early Black settlers helped shape the future of Oakville and made lasting contributions to Canadian history through their resilience, leadership, and community building.

Produced in association with the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH), the film features archival photographs and a special interview with the organization's current president. The founder of CCAH was also a descendant of the Duncan family—one of the first Black families to settle in Oakville as part of the Underground Railroad. Finding Freedom was an official selection at the Baltimore International Black Film Festival (2023) and won the Audience Choice Award – International Film.

Film Link: [Finding Freedom On The Sixteen](#)

Contact: [enoch@ccah.ca](mailto:enoch@ccah.ca)

# CCA H LEGACY VOICES DOCUMENTARIES



## Legacy Voices (2020):

Created to preserve and share the stories of Black families who immigrated and settled in Halton Region, this documentary highlights their resilience, contributions, and efforts to overcome racism while shaping their communities. Five individuals—Edwin Terry, Pamela Chase, Percival Greenidge, Merle Ling, and Andrew Tyrrell—reflect on their extraordinary journeys. The film has received multiple awards and selections, including Hamilton Film Festival, Canadian Diversity Film Festival, and OFFA 2020.

Running Time: 15 min | Permanent exhibit at Oakville Museum

## Legacy Voices 2: New Generation (2023):

This follow-up continues the conversation with four individuals—Dennis Scott, Edwin Terry, Richelle “Shelle” Papin, and Azelin Philips—highlighting their experiences of life in Halton and the legacies they are building for future generations. Winner of Runner-Up, Audience Choice Award – Best Short Film, OFFA 10 (2023).

Running Time: 15 min

Cost: Free

Contact: [enoch@ccah.ca](mailto:enoch@ccah.ca)



# CLEF NOTES TO CANVAS

This is an interactive art session where creativity, music, and awareness converge. Participants are invited to explore the connections between past and present, engaging deeply with themes of resilience, identity, struggle, and celebration. Through this workshop, participants are encouraged to immerse themselves fully in these concepts, using art as a lens to reflect, express, and connect.

The first part of the program, “The Struggle,” guides participants to translate the mood and emotion of background music onto the canvas, allowing feelings and historical reflections to shape the initial artwork.

The second part, “Freedom,” encourages participants to expand upon their creations, letting music inspire experimentation and creative exploration.

No prior experience is necessary—just an open mind and a willingness to create.

Inquires: [enoch@ccah.ca](mailto:enoch@ccah.ca)





# CCAH SIZZLIN' HALTON COOKING SESSIONS

Designed by CCAH for secondary students in culinary programs, the Sizzlin' Halton cooking series also offers a valuable learning experience for ESL students and those in social justice or hospitality programs. While each episode focuses on Caribbean cuisine, the program emphasizes food as a universal human need and a bridge across cultures. Each chef leads engaging discussions on the cultural, social, and culinary significance of the dishes prepared.

## Virtual Sessions:

- Format: 30-minute pre-recorded cooking demonstration followed by an optional 30-minute live discussion with the chef.
- Content: Six video options featuring four professional chefs, highlighting Caribbean cooking techniques and food culture.
- Delivery: Broadcast via Ministry of Education virtual portals.

## In-Person Sessions:

- Format: 1-hour hands-on cooking sessions at high schools with kitchen facilities.
- Content: Chefs prepare dishes from the Sizzlin' Halton series or custom requests from the school.
- Booking: Requires 2–4 weeks' notice to secure chef schedules and shop for ingredients.
- Cost: \$500 chef fee to cover preparation, travel, and onsite instruction; CCAH subsidizes 25% of the fee during February. Ingredient costs vary and are passed through to the school.

Inquires: [enoch@ccah.ca](mailto:enoch@ccah.ca)