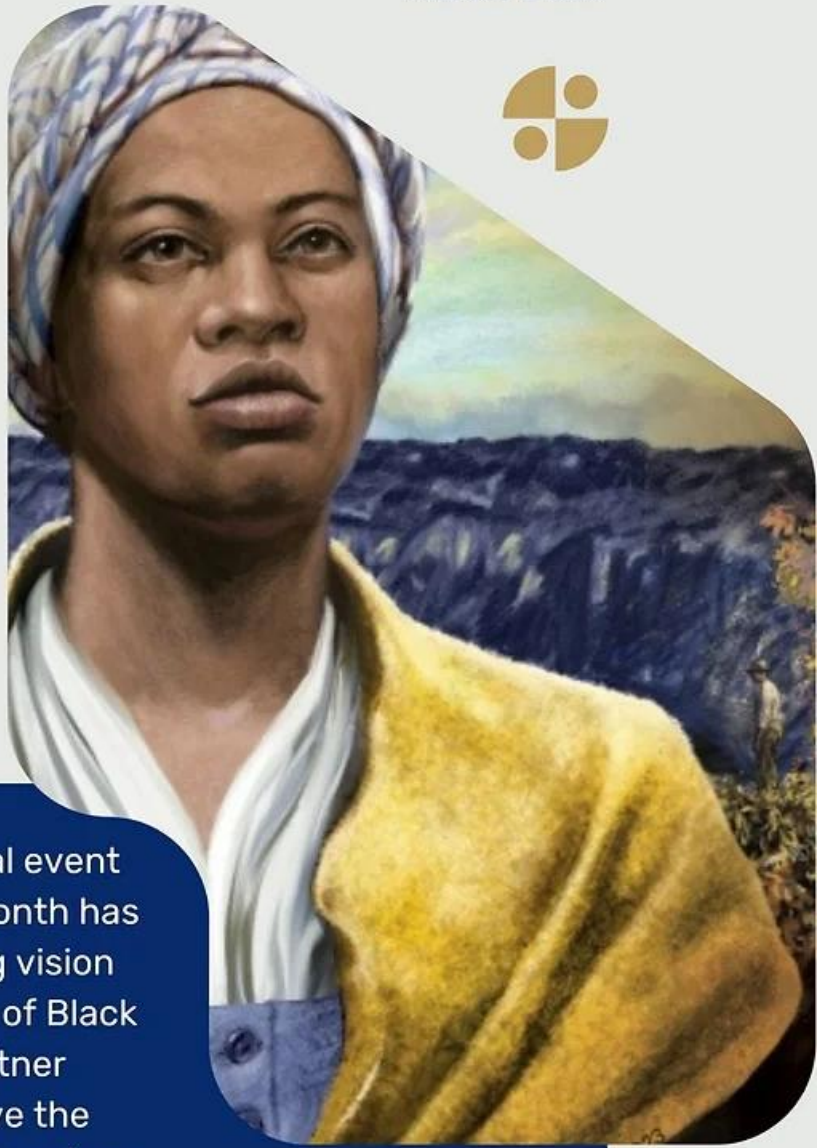
Black History Ottawa
Newsletter

March 2023

Black History Month 2023

A Legacy Worth Preserving, Celebrating & Creating



What started off as an annual event to celebrate Black History Month has transformed into a year-long vision of challenging the exclusion of Black Canadians in every field. Partner with us as we seek to improve the experiences of Black Canadians from the classroom to the boardroom.







THIS ISSUE

Monthly Recap

Take a look at the events and programs we held within the last month.

2023 & Beyond

We are just getting started! Stay tuned for the new youth mentorship program and city collaborations that are coming up quickly.

Award Recipients

Find all the award winners and their citations in this edition of the newsletter!

Proclamation

Read the 2023 Black History Month Proclamation and join us in celebration!

BACK TO BUSINESS AS USUAL

After two years of virtual programming, Black History Ottawa is back to hosting and participating in projects throughout the city - in person!

Be sure to stay updated with us online! On Facebook & Instagram we've grown our following and have participated in multiple online campaigns such as Remembrance Day, Kwanzaa, Martin Luther King Day, Lincoln Alexander Day and of course, for our Black History Month events.

Black History Ottawa

@blackhistoryottawa

Black History Ottawa

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2023 RECAP

JANUARY 28
OPENING CEREMONY

FEBRUARY 7
COMMEMORATIVE HOCKEY GAME

FEBRUARY 12
CHILDREN'S STORIES

FEBRUARY 13
BLACK HISTORY APPRECIATION NIGHT

FEBRUARY 23
THE GRADUAL END OF SLAVERY TALK

UPCOMING PLANS

RAILROAD TO SUCCESS YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

HISTORY IN THE STREETS

ISLAND ON FIRE (2ND WORKSHOP) - MARCH 25TH

HEALTH SEMINAR - APRIL 15

2023 OPENING CEREMONY

On January 28, we held our 2023 Black History Month Opening Ceremony at the National Gallery of Canada. It was a well-attended event in which deserving individuals and organizations were recognized for community-building work and advocacy.

Some of the highlights of the event included Ottawa mayor Mark Sutcliffe reading his first Black History Month proclamation, a special re-enactment of the Chloe Cooley story, accompanied by the unveiling of this year's Canada Post stamp, a poignant poem written and performed by Maya Spoken, and stellar performances by singers Lisa Gaye-Pryce and Kolaa DVN.













HOCKEY MANIA WITH BHO

On February 7, Black History Ottawa hosted its third Annual Commemorative Hockey Game in tribute to the Coloured Hockey League of the Maritimes (CHLM). This was the second one to be held at the Canadian Tire Centre. Established in 1895, the CHLM was an all-Black ice hockey league founded in Nova Scotia. This year's commemorative game celebrated the 128th anniversary of the CHLM and included players from Ottawa, Montreal, Calgary, Toronto and Maine. Four former Ottawa Senators players also participated in the game.







On February 13, Black History Ottawa co-hosted a Black Hockey History Appreciation Night at the Ottawa Senators vs Calgary Flames game at the Canadian Tire Centre. The arena was filled to capacity for this special night honouring the legacies and contributions of Black Canadians to the game of hockey. The Ceremonial puck drop included Tom Barber as well as participants in the African Hockey Association's children's program. Black History Ottawa also set up a large display in the foyer providing spectators with valuable information on the history of Black people in Canada. The night ended with a great win by our Ottawa Senators!

CHILDREN'S STORIES FROM THE DIASPORA

On February 12, BHO presented another virtual edition of its popular Children's Stories from the Diaspora program, which celebrated its 20th anniversary this year. The program's founder, Xochi Bryan, sent a congratulatory message from the U.K. and readers from across the city shared inspiring stories of Black empowerment and identity in a variety of beautifully illustrated books such as "I Promise" by NBA star Lebron James and "The Hockey Jersey" by J.L. Richards. The session is available on you YouTube page for young audiences to watch as often as they wish!



LECTURE SERIES

Black History Ottawa partnered with the University of Ottawa and the AfriCanadian Searchers to produce a lecture series that ran throughout the month. The series included great speakers such as Dr. Awad Ibrahim, Dr. Lotfi Ben Rejeb and Sean Foyn. These lectures focused on the Black experience in Canada, slavery and the American Civil war, and the involvement of persons of African Descent in the First World War.

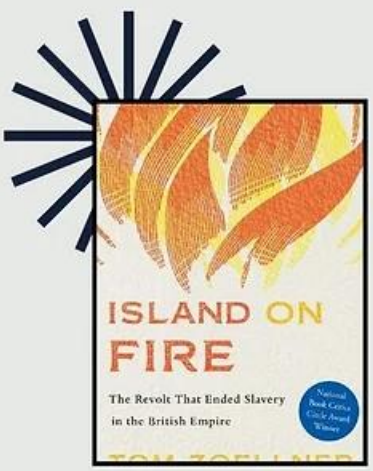
GRADUAL END OF SLAVERY TALK

In collaboration with the Historical Society of Ottawa, Black History Ottawa hosted an evening virtual talk entitled 'The End of Slavery in Canada' focusing on important events and individuals such as Chloe Cooley, who paved the way for the first proclamation of the abolition of slavery within Canada. Accomplished community leaders and educators June Girvan and Glenn Sweazy led this discussion.

HERITAGE DAY

Black History Ottawa was one of several community and heritage organizations with exhibits at the annual Heritage Day celebration which took place at City Hall on February 21. This year the theme chosen by the city and co-presenting organization Capital Heritage Connexion was "Recovering and Connecting Ottawa's Heritage – Stronger Together". Local historian Tom Barber joined BHO to present archives, photos, posters, and memorabilia providing a glimpse into little known aspects of Black life in Ottawa and Canada.





ISLAND ON FIRE WORKSHOPS

Starting this February, over the course of three months, readers have been invited to a three-part book club on Tom Zoellner's "Island on Fire: The Revolt That Ended Slavery in the British Empire". Through this workshop led by knowledgeable special guests, participants discover how a small uprising in Jamaica led to the end of slavery in the British Empire.

SO WHAT'S UP NEXT?

RAILROAD TO SUCCESS
YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROJECT

Coming up this March we will have a full rollout of our RailRoad to Success youth mentorship program aimed at supporting and impacting the lives of young Black Canadians throughout the city. This is a culturally relevant program designed to promote positive experiences for those ages 15-19 by creating the space for workshops, training, learning, and fun. More details will be made available soon!

HISTORY IN THE STREETS

Stay tuned for the History In the Streets program which will soon become available on our site and in person. Be ready to discover the history behind important street names and other landmarks within the greater Ottawa region.

DONATE!

February (Black History Month) may be over but our work continues on.

We thank you and appreciate your donation to Black History Ottawa.
Your generosity will allow us to continue the work of raising awareness of the many contributions of Black Canadians, to speak up against racial injustice and marginalization and to support the extraordinary movement that is transforming society for the better.
Together we will make a difference!

RBC YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



ABIGAIL JACKSON

For her leadership and community engagement as a Youth Worker at the Boys and Girls Club, and for her volunteer work at women's shelters as well as her support of various social justice initiatives in the community.



YANAMINAH THULLAH

For her leadership and community engagement, specifically, her contributions as President of the Black Student Leaders' Association at the University of Ottawa, alongside various other advocacy achievements.



FANTA SOUARE

For her leadership and community engagement as a volunteer at multiple community centres and summer camps, as well as her work for the city's mentorship program and Planned Parenthood's Insight Theatre program.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



FELICITE MURANGIRA

For her leadership and community engagement, specifically, her role as ACB health promoter and advocate, as well as her engagement and support of new immigrants to Canada, alongside many other community engagement and advocacy initiatives.



CARL NICHOLSON

For his leadership and community engagement, specifically his role as Executive Director of the Catholic Centre for Immigrants, and Co-Chair of the Community and Police Action Committee as well as his stellar record of effective advocacy alongside various volunteer commitments.



FITZROY REID

For his leadership and community engagement, specifically, his role in donating food to seniors' residences and the Food Cupboard, as well as his longstanding support for the Boys and Girls Club, alongside many other community engagement achievements.

PRESIDENTS AWARD



BEN WEISS

In recognition of his work in support of The UN Decade for Peoples of African Descent, and as a Lead with the Black History in Ottawa Streets initiative and related commemorations linked to the abolition of slavery.

JOHN G. DENNISON AWARD



SYLVIA PARRIS-DRUMMOND

In recognition of her leadership and excellence in showcasing Canada's Black History through educational and community-based activities linked to the Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute.

J'NIKIRA DINQINESH-EVERY CHILD IS SACRED COMMUNITY BUILDER AWARD

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Presented with gratitude to the entire staff to honour and celebrate their Legacy Service to the most vulnerable of our sacred generations.

2023 PROCLAMATION

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February 2023

WHEREAS, Black History Ottawa's theme for Black History Month, 2023, is ***Our Canadian Story: Legacies Worth Preserving, Celebrating and Creating;*** and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Our Canadian Story will include "ubuntu" inspired, community partnerships commemorating the 5th anniversary of Ottawa's March 21, 2018 adoption of The United Nations Decade for People of African Descent: Development. Recognition. Justice, led by UNESCO; the 230th anniversary of Upper Canada's July 9, 1793 Bill to abolish slavery in Upper Canada; and the 190th anniversary of the August 28, 1833 Act Against Slavery to abolish slavery in the British Empire, including Canada;

THEREFORE, I, Mark Sutcliffe, Mayor of the City of Ottawa, do hereby proclaim **February 2023 Black History Month** in Ottawa.

MOIS DE L'HISTOIRE DES NOIRS

Février 2023

ATTENDU QUE le thème choisi par l'organisme Black History Ottawa pour le Mois de l'histoire des Noirs 2023 est ***Notre histoire canadienne : un héritage qui mérite d'être préservé, célébré et créé;*** *et*

ATTENDU QUE *Notre histoire canadienne* comprendra en 2023 des partenariats communautaires, inspirés du principe de l'ubuntu, célébrant le 5e anniversaire de l'adoption par Ottawa, le 21 mars 2018, de la « Décennie des personnes d'ascendance africaine : reconnaissance, justice et développement » des Nations Unies, dirigée par l'UNESCO, le 230e anniversaire de la *Loi du 9 juillet 1793 visant à restreindre l'esclavage dans le Haut-Canada*, et le 190e anniversaire de la *Loi du 28 août 1833 sur l'abolition de l'esclavage* au sein de l'Empire britannique, notamment le Canada;

PAR CONSÉQUENT, je, Mark Sutcliffe, maire de la Ville d'Ottawa, proclame par la présente **février 2023 Mois de l'histoire des Noirs** à Ottawa.

Mark Sutcliffe
Mayor / Maire

City of Ottawa, 110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa ON K1P 1J1 Ville d'Ottawa, 110, avenue Laurier ouest, Ottawa ON K1P 1J1

WE THANK ALL OF OUR GREAT VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS

Voices For Change Presentation

Chloe Cooley played by: Jayeur Joseph
Peter Martin: Renford Thomas Sr.
William Grisley: Daniel Stringer
John Graves Simcoe: Ben Weiss
Narrator: Liam Quiring-Nkindi

Other Contributors

Nathan Hall
Denise Isaacs
Tarrah Mauricette
Fadhill Samba
Kaija Thaggard
Sean Foyn
Sharon Guerrier
Joyce Smith
Sandra Ngodo
Micaiah Brathwaite
Eyasu Aman
Perassim Galatia
Bob Dawson
Jacquie Dixon
Emma Weller
Fitzroy Reid
Lisa Gaye Pryce
Leila Thermonvil
Aaron Robinson
Ottawa Senators
BIA Media
Scott Doran
Rabbi Idan Scher
Steve Fex
Kwesi Bourne
Nick Semanyk
Devon Reid
Shaun Van Allen
Marc Switalski
Perry Bellegarde
Ian Madden
Jay-Zeus Mbarushimana
Gracie Sacca
Ray Madden
Lawrence Greenspon
Jacob McIssac
Aubrey Haynes

Llew (Lew) Ncwana
Garth Gutteno
Paul Slagamoise
Pascal LeClaire
Bryan Richaruoun
Chris Evelyn
Einard Jean-Francois
Nick Ngwafusi
Reed Erickson
Rev. Anthony Bailey
David Giannini
Pat Kavanagh
Patrick Delle Palme
Alysha Reid
Dawson Reid
Ian Sprott
Ian Fergus
AfriCanadian Searchers

WE GIVE A BIG THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

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Together we will make a difference!

MEET THE TEAM



June Girvan • President
Jean-Marie Guerrier • Vice President-Treasurer
Sarah Onyango • Community Outreach Officer
Joanne Robinson • Events Coordinator
Godwin Ifedi • Past President

Ruth Aman • Project Officer
Gioberti Francois • Digital Specialist

