

Adam Vaughan

Toronto City Councillor: Ward 20 ~ Trinity-Spadina

Black History Month Update

February 2009



February is Black History Month, a time to honour and celebrate the achievements of people of African heritage and acknowledge their contributions to the social, political, economic and cultural life of Toronto.



Workers on Jarvis Street

Photographer: F.W. Micklethwaite
City of Toronto Archives, Series 376, File 1, Item 23



**Women in front of YWCA's Ontario House
698 Ontario Street ca. 1912**

Photographer: William James
City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1244, Item 71.22

Toronto has had a Black population from its earliest days as a settlement. United Empire Loyalists, Americans escaping enslavement, rural Canadians moving from Nova Scotia or southwestern Ontario, Jamaicans following economic opportunities, Somalis and Ghanaians establishing themselves in a new land— each individual and each community has contributed to the growth of Toronto as a unique city.

Unfortunately, Ward 20's January newsletter contained an error about Black History Month's official launch. **The launch will NOT take place on February 5**, as was mistakenly reported in the newsletter sent out January 21. We apologize for the error.

Black History Month provides additional opportunities to learn about the experiences of Black Canadians and the vital role they played throughout history. While this year's official launch took place on January 30, many more opportunities to participate in Black History Month events and festivities await. Here is a list of events happening in and around Ward 20 this month.

For more information, and to find out how you can take part, please visit www.toronto.ca/blackhistory

Mackenzie House celebrates Black History Month



The Black Press in Canada West – An Exhibit

When: Saturdays and Sundays in February
12 to 5 p.m.

Where: MacKenzie House,
82 Bond Street

Back by popular demand, this exhibit focuses on the literature and newspapers of the Black community in Ontario, past and present. Learn of the trials and triumphs of authors and publishers such as Henry and Mary Bibb and Mary Ann Shadd Cary. After viewing the exhibit, print a souvenir book mark with a quote from Mary Ann Shadd Cary, publisher of the newspaper *The Provincial Freeman*.

In the Footsteps of the Black Victorians – A Walking Tour

When: Sunday, February 22, 1 to 3 p.m.

Where: Mackenzie House,
82 Bond Street

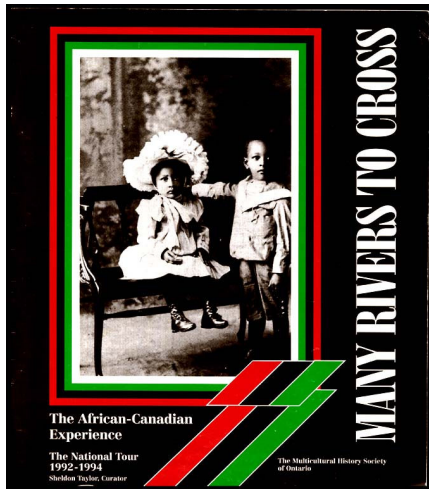
Discover Black History in Toronto by walking through parts of Old York where African-Canadians carved a community through struggle and triumph. Learn about different Black leaders such as Mary Ann Shadd Cary, the first Black female editor in North America, and William Peyton Hubbard, a City of Toronto Alderman and Acting Mayor.

Please call 416-392-6915 for further details.

Admission to these events is:

Adults \$5.71*
Seniors & Youths \$2.59*
Children: \$2.36*
(*plus GST)

Many Rivers to Cross: The Toronto Journey, 1900-1950 - Photo exhibit



When: February 11 to 16, 2009
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: St. Lawrence Hall, 157 King St. E.

St Lawrence Hall often hosted antislavery events. In 1793, Governor John Graves Simcoe had introduced the first anti-slavery act in the British Empire, making Toronto an important link in the Underground Railroad. This exhibit consists of 55 period photos and artefacts.

To view the online exhibit, visit:
<http://www.ourroots.ca/e/toc.aspx?id=9211>

Mask – City Hall Rotunda

When: February 2 to 6, Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Where: City Hall rotunda, 100 Queen St. W.

Visit the City Hall Rotunda to view the exhibit MASK. The theme of this exhibition is based on a poem by Joan Butterfield. MASK is curated in co-operation with the Association of African Canadian Artists.

Toronto Public Library

The Toronto Public Library is hosting a number of Black History Month Events across the city. Check out their website for a full listing at:

http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/pro_black_history.jsp

Black History Month Conference @ the library Co-Sponsored with Youth-Assisting-Youth (YAY)

When: Saturday, February 7, 2009
Registration at 12:30, Conference from 1 - 5 p.m.

Where: North York Central Library, Auditorium



Featuring: Dwayne Morgan from Up from the Roots, Stacey McKenzie from Walk This Way, Anne-Marie Woods, aka Amani, from Imani Enterprises and a special guest performances by the Black Ice Step Team & Famous and Toronto-based writer/producer, Charles Officer, and teen actor, Daniel J. Gordon, of NURSE. FIGHTER.BOY, a CFC (Canadian Film Centre) Feature Film Project, will expand your knowledge and your mind at this conference.

To register, call 416-395-5660. Free. Age 12 and up.

The Little Black Schoolhouse - Film & Discussion Toronto premiere screening of Sylvia Hamilton's poignant documentary, with music by Joe Sealy.

When: Tuesday, Feb. 10, 7-9 pm
Where: North York Central Library, Auditorium

This is the story of those who studied and taught at Canada's racially segregated Black schools, depicting the struggle of African Canadians to achieve dignity and equality through education. Q&A to follow.

Register for free tickets by calling 416-395-5660 (Society & Recreation Dept., 3rd floor). Limited seating.

For more information: http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/pro_black_history.jsp

Contact us

If you have a concern about your community or the ward that you would like to discuss with Councillor Vaughan or our staff team, please call the office at 416-392-4044 or contact us by email: councillor_vaughan@toronto.ca

Subscription information

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