

Black History Month 2008

Minding Our Health, Building a Community

Some were born here. Others came from distant lands.
They are pioneers, leaders, educators, entrepreneurs,
sports heroes and cultural icons.
They have all marked Canadian history and society.
**Let us honour their talent, contributions and
achievements now and always.**

Black
History
Ottawa



Myrtha Lapierre moved to Canada in 1956 from Haiti to study nursing. Since then she has become a health care advocate, a nursing professor and a mentor.

Anderson Ruffin Abbott was the first Black Canadian to become a physician after being granted a medical licence from the Medical Board of Upper Canada in 1861.



BLACK HISTORY OTTAWA



Library and Archives
Canada

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Canada

About Black History Ottawa

Black History Ottawa (BHO) is a non-profit, community-based organization that works towards the empowerment and unity of the Black community as an integral part of the National Capital Region. It is the central organizer and driving force behind Black History Month (BHM) every February in Ottawa, celebrating the contribution of people of African descent to the Canadian mosaic. This year's theme, "Minding Our Health, Building a Community," promotes the importance of health towards building a vibrant, productive community. This theme serves to celebrate the achievements of Blacks in the fields of medicine and health care while showcasing public health care agencies and volunteer-led community organizations which promote healthy lifestyles and disease and injury prevention. Black History Ottawa acknowledges the support of the Library and Archives of Canada, the City of Ottawa, CTV Ottawa, CHUO 89.1FM, and BlackOttawa411.com.

Black History Ottawa Board of Directors

President: Godwin Ifedi

Vice President: June Girvan

Community Relations Officer: Sarah Onyango

Treasurer : Jean-Marie Guerrier

For more information: bhottawa@yahoo.ca / www.blackhistoryottawa.org

Black History Month 2008

Friday, February 1, 2008

Black History Month Opening Ceremony

Library & Archives of Canada

(395 Wellington Street)

6:30 – 9 p.m.

Free Admission

Donations to Black History Ottawa gratefully accepted.

An evening of inspiration and entertainment - reflecting the theme "Minding Our Health, Building a Community" - to highlight the importance of health in building a vibrant community. Included is the official presentation of the 2008 Black History Ottawa Community Builder Awards, the unveiling of exhibits on the abolition of slavery and displays highlighting local community organizations.

Special Guest: Mayor Larry O'Brien

Information: bhottawa@yahoo.ca or

613-851-5257

Black History Ottawa acknowledges the kind generosity of the Library & Archives of Canada for this event.

Saturday, February 2, 2008

I Am Part of Black History

Marion Auditorium,

University of Ottawa

5 – 10 p.m.

Admission: \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door

A celebration of Black History through drama, music, dance and poetry. Local and out-of-town performers – Jerzee, Honey, Doughla City and more. Presented by the University of Ottawa and Algonquin College Black Students' Associations.

Information: 613-824-8637, 613-852-4718, 613-720-9959 or

stachenfrederick@sympatico.ca

Monday, February 4

Ottawa Police Service Black History Month Celebration

Ottawa Police Service Headquarters
(474 Elgin Street)
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Free Admission

Come and join the Ottawa Police Service as it raises its Black History Month banner in celebration of Black History Month. Music and refreshments provided.

Buses #5 and #6.

Information: 613-236-1222, extension 5011
or Coburnz@ottawapolice.ca

Tuesday, February 5

Film: The Three Dumas

(French with English subtitles)
Canadian Museum of Civilization
(100 Laurier Street, Gatineau)
7 - 9 p.m.
Theatre Admission: \$5

This documentary retraces the incredible life story of Alexandre Dumas, the grandson of a slave, who overcame all the obstacles of prejudice to become one of France's most celebrated literary giants. In partnership with Trenhorne Films of England.

Information: 819-776-7000,
1-800-555-5621 or web@civilization.ca
TTY: 819-776-7003
www.civilization.ca

Tuesday, February 5

Film: Ezra

Library & Archives of Canada
(395 Wellington Street)
6:45 p.m.
Free Admission
Donations to Black History Ottawa and Colours of Africa gratefully accepted.

“Ezra” is the first film to give an African perspective on the disturbing phenomenon of abducting child soldiers into the continent's recent civil wars. It was awarded the Grand Prize at the 2007 Festival Panafricain du Cinema à Ouagadougou (FESPACO), Africa's largest and most

prestigious film event, and was selected for the International Critics' Week at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival. Directed by Newton Aduaka. A partnership between Partnership Africa Canada, Black History Ottawa and Colours of Africa.
Information: 613-237-6768,
bhottawa@yahoo.ca or ca@pacweb.org

Tuesday, February 5

Black Umfolosi

National Arts Centre
(53 Elgin Street)
7 p.m.
Admission: \$30

Loved the world over, Black Umfolosi performs a capella with marvelous harmonies, gospel singing and the captivating gumboot dancing of South Africa. Their performance is filled with fun and joyful enthusiasm and never fails to mesmerize audiences by encouraging them to come on stage and join in the performance. Their style of Imbube music (or township a cappella) is a unique sound that is both uplifting and meditative, focusing on a wide range of themes that are important to Black Umfolosi and the people of Africa.

Information: 613-947-7000 or
info@nac-cna.ca
Toll-Free Number: 1-866-850-ARTS

Wednesday, February 6

Career Fair

Job Connect, St. Lawrence College
of Ottawa (71 Bank Street, 5th Floor)
Public Service Information Session:
10:30 a.m. – Noon
Career Fair: 2 – 6 p.m.
Free Admission

Featuring the Public Service Commission, Ontario Provincial Police, H & R Block, MaxSys Consulting and Staffing, Canadian Forces, Fairweather, Dell Canada and many more employers. Please bring your resume. A partnership between Job Connect, Black History Ottawa and LASI-World Skills.
Information: 613-232-0022, extension 1601
or jcottawa@sl.on.ca

Thursday, February 7

Evening at the Museum with Kellylee Evans

Canadian Museum of Civilization
(100 Laurier Street, Gatineau)
7:30 p.m.
Theatre Admission: \$20

An evening of urban jazz with singer Kellylee Evans. With a smooth style that slides through jazz, soul, R & B, blues and world music rhythms, Kellylee's calming sound speaks volumes.

Information: 819-776-7000,
1-800-555-5621 or web@civilization.ca
TTY: (819) 776-7003
www.civilization.ca

Friday, February 8

Celebration of Diversity

Library & Archives of Canada
(395 Wellington Street)
7:30 p.m.
Admission: \$15 in advance or \$20
at the door

A lively and energetic presentation of the sounds and rhythms of Africa, cultural dances, drumming, traditional songs, belly dancing and much more!
Presented by the African Heritage Centre and the Elimu Project.

Information: 613-789-1991 or
africanheritagecentre@gmail.com
www.elimuproject.com

Friday, February 8

Carleton University Black History Month Show & After Party

Alumni Theatre, Carleton University
6 p.m.
Admission: TBA

"Dreams: Each Endeavouring, All Achieving" — a celebration of Black History through music, dance, drama, poetry and more. Presented by the Race, Ethnicity & Culture Hall at Carleton University.

Information: 613-520-2600, extension 1621,
613-261-3231 or rec_hall@cusaonline.com

Saturday, February 9

Tropical Showcase

(Music, Culture, Health)
Sandy Hill Community Centre
(250 Somerset Street East)
4 – 7 p.m.
Free Admission
Donations to Sickle Cell Disease Parents' Support Group gratefully accepted.

An evening of music, culture, fashion and food from Africa and the Caribbean. Health promotion displays on physical activity, nutrition and healthy lifestyles.

Information on risks of disease and injury, sickle cell disorder, cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, etc. Take the opportunity to check your blood type. Special performances by SIFA choir, Heru drummers and drama by the Street Team. A partnership between Ottawa Public Health, Black History Ottawa, Canadian Blood Services, Sickle Cell Disease Parents' Support Group and First Words.
Information: 613-580-6744, or
godwin.ifedi@ottawa.ca

Saturday, February 9

H'Sao: A Family; A Band (in French)

Christ Church Cathedral
(420 Sparks Street)
8 p.m.
Admission: \$35

H'Sao embodies a blend of cultures and influences with a magnetic appeal combining gospel, soul, jazz and R & B in outstanding performances.

Information: 613-567-1787

Sunday, February 10

Christ's Chapel Bible Church Annual Black History Celebration

Christ's Chapel Bible Church
(2285 St. Laurent Blvd, Block "A" /Unit 7)
10 a.m.

Guest speaker: CBC Radio's Adrian Harewood (host, All In A Day)
Theme: "Passing the Torch"
Information: 613-749-0991

Sunday, February 10 & Saturday, February 16

ON TV - Rogers Cable 22:
Caribbean Calendar
11:30 a.m.

Caribbean Calendar's February Black History Month segment will be dedicated to a historical look at the role of the Black media in Ottawa over the past 30 years. Join us as we explore the vital role our Black media has played in solidifying the community over the past three decades. Information: Sonja Hanisch, Community Producer at sonjah@rogers.com

Sunday, February 10

3-on-3 Basketball Competition

University of Ottawa, Monpetit Hall
(85 University Private)
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Free Admission

Basketball competition by male and female teams from Algonquin College, University of Ottawa, Carleton University and La Cité Collégiale.
Information: 613-884-8637 or
stachenfrederick@sympatico.ca

Sunday, February 10

Children's Stories in the Diaspora

Ottawa Public Library, Nepean Centrepointe Branch, Children's Program Room
(101 Centrepointe Drive)
2 – 4 p.m.
Free Admission

Learn African and Caribbean folk songs and listen to readers from the black community share children's stories written by black authors. Books from the library will be on display and a local bookseller will have books for sale on site. All are welcome to attend this family event.

A partnership between Ottawa Public Library, Black History Ottawa and Ottawa Police Service.
Information: bhottawa@yahoo.ca or
613-851-5257

Monday, February 11

Cathedral Arts Lecture: New Economic Partnership For Africa

Speaker: Robert Fowler
Christ Church Cathedral
(420 Sparks Street)
6 p.m.
Admission: \$35

Robert Fowler served as Canada's ambassador to the United Nations and Italy and was Foreign Policy adviser to three Prime Ministers. He was also the Prime Minister's Personal Representative for the G8 Summit and for Africa.
Information: 613-567-1787

Tuesday, February 12 to Thursday, February 14

Captain of Bundu

Glashan Public School
(28 Arlington Street)
7:15 p.m.
Admission: \$6 adults and \$3 for children.

The drama chronicles the life of Richard Pierpoint, a true Canadian hero, who survived his enslavement in colonial America to fight for Butler's Rangers with the British during the American Revolution. He moved to Canada and at the age of 70 initiated the formation of Captain Runchey's Company of Coloured Men, who heroically fought on the Canadian side in the War of 1812.
Information: 613-239-2264 or
Rick.Desclouds@ocdsb.ca

Wednesday, February 13

Films: "A Generation of Orphans" and "Women: The Face of Aids"

Library and Archives Canada
(395 Wellington Street)
7 - 9 p.m.

"A Generation of Orphans" is a 30-minute documentary about six orphans in Africa and the grassroots organizations working on their behalf.

"Women: The Face of AIDS" is a 30-minute documentary tracing the stories of five courageous HIV-positive women in sub-Saharan Africa and the grassroots organizations supporting them. Both films are Ottawa premieres and were directed by Liz Marshall of the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Information: bhottawa@yahoo.ca or 613-851-5257

Thursday, February 14

Hugh Masekela and the Chissa All-Stars

Dominion-Chalmers United Church
(355 Cooper Street)

8 p.m.

Admission: \$42 reserved, \$35 general admission

Hugh Masekela's extensive career is deeply linked to and influenced by the politics of his homeland, South Africa. Ever since he was first given a trumpet in 1954 by Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, Masekela has played music that closely reflects his beginnings as a little boy in Witbank. The street, church, migrant labour work and political protest songs, along with the sounds of South Africa's diverse ethnic culture, form an intrinsic part of his musical roots. His story is intertwined with vivid portraits of the struggles and sorrows, the joys and passions of his country.

For more biographical information:

<http://zar.co.za/masekela.htm>.

Information: 613-235-5143 or

www.ottawajazzfestival.com

Friday, February 15

Black Youth Conference Day

Woodroffe High School

(2410 Georgina Drive)

8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Admission: \$10 for students

This annual event gathers black youth from across the Ottawa school system in order to engage them in conversation, empowering them to be active participants in the discovery, manifestation and articulation of their visions for themselves, the black

community and the world. Sponsored by 3Dreads and a Baldhead and the WHS Black History Club.

Information: 613-755-5295 or threedreadsandabaldhead@msn.com

Saturday, February 16

Spotlight Africa

Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre

(300 avenue des peres blancs)

4 - 8 p.m.

Admission: \$5

African Fair, Exhibition, Food & Fashion show. Come and experience the sights and sounds of Africa with cultural dances from Cameroon, Congo, Rwanda and Burundi.

Information: 613-824-0480 or

info@spotlightafrica.org

Saturday, February 16

"What A Sinting! Miss Lou and Jamaica"

Free Admission

A historical narrative of the introduction of patois (Jamaica's dialect) by Miss Lou (Louise Bennett) to Jamaicans through prose, poetry and song as well as her contribution to Canada. Presented by the National Institute of Jamaican-Canadians. Information: 613-226-8085

Saturday February 16

Toronto Mass Choir: The Concert Of Life

The Bronson Centre (211 Bronson Ave.)

7 p.m.

Admission: \$10 per adult in advance,

\$15 per adult at the door,

free admission for children 6 & under (one child per adult)

Get \$2 off admission if you bring canned goods or non-perishable items for the Ottawa Food Bank.

Melodies of Praise Church in association with Micah Records, Compassion Canada, UrbanArts Alliance. CHRI 99.1 FM presents the Ottawa CD release of Juno-Award winning artist TORONTO MASS CHOIR, featuring PROSPER & GPM.

Guest Artists: Trevor Dick, Pastor Richard J. Brown, Jenna Burke and more.
Information: 613-296-8233

Saturday, February 16

Conference and mentoring session

(in French)

LaBerge room, Ramada Plaza/Manoir du Casino Hotel, opposite the Hull casino
(75 Edmonton Street, Gatineau)

3:00 – 6:00 p.m.: Conference and mentoring

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. : Networking

Free admission and parking

Organized by: Fondation Afro-Canadienne/Assemblée des Afro-Canadiens
Conference to increase awareness about socioeconomic and cultural commitment to the community.

Theme: Assuming a leadership role in your community and in a new environment.

Information: 613-263-2376 or

819-777-1441

Tuesday, February 19

Launch of African Diaspora Association of Canada

National Press Club (165 Sparks Street, Rooms 2-1 and 2-2)

*Access on Sparks Street – Booth Building

6 – 9 p.m.

Free Admission

The launch is intended to introduce the organization and its goals to the African Canadian community in particular, and Ottawa and Canada in general.

Ambassador Amina Salum Ali, the representative of the African Union to the U.S.A., will deliver the keynote address on African Diaspora issues.

Information: 613-841-4868 or

mmolepo@gmail.com

Thursday, February 21

Annual Reconciliation Day in Ottawa

Library & Archives of Canada

(395 Wellington Street)

6:30 - 9 p.m.

Free Admission

This year's theme is "Human Colours Of The Sun. Honouring the sacred ancestral skin we're in."

Presented by J'Nikiria Dinqinesh Education Centre in collaboration with Library and Archives Canada

Information: 613-241-0743 or

edutrack@trytel.com

Friday, February 22

A Black History Month Affair

Library & Archives of Canada

(395 Wellington Street)

7:30 p.m.

Admission: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, \$5 at the door for children under 10

Cultural and musical celebration featuring International Gospel Singer Joseph Niles and local artists drumming, interpretive dancing, folk singing, rapping and much more plus Fashions of Africa.

Presented by the National Council of Guyanese

Information: 613-823-8322 or

NCGuyanese@rogers.com

Friday, February 22

Royal Commonwealth Society, Ottawa Branch 20th Commonwealth Humanitarian Gala Dinner

Crowne Plaza Hotel (101 Lyon Street)

6 - 9:30 p.m.

Admission: \$80.00 with \$25 charitable tax receipt

Over the past 20 years, the Commonwealth Humanitarian Gala has raised over \$180,000 for Commonwealth countries and causes through the voluntary efforts and dedication of Society members. CARE Canada, one of Canada's leading international development organizations, has been selected as this

year's Commonwealth Humanitarian Organization and all proceeds will go to its programs, including relief and micro-credit programs in Jamaica.
Information: 613-747-7318,
rcsca@magma.ca or chenderson@delphi.ca

Saturday, February 23

Concert: Art Songs, Sacred Songs and Songs of Freedom

Canadian Museum of Civilization
(100 Laurier Street, Gatineau)
7 p.m.

Admission: TBD

Anna S. Williams presents "Art Songs, Sacred Songs and Songs of Freedom" - a musical journey celebrating the humour, wit, warmth and indomitable spirit of Blacks worldwide. Special Guests include Neema Mugala and Stella Haybukai (both from Malaika), Paulo Mugarura, John Geggie, Linsey Wellman, Alvaro di Minaya and Juno-Award winner Joe Sealy.
Information: Anna S. Williams at 613-322-4317.

All events are in English, unless otherwise indicated.
Please note that this information was correct at the time of posting and may be subject to change or cancellation without notice. Please check for updates at www.blackhistoryottawa.org.