



BLACK HISTORY SPECIAL EDITION

MAGMA
Multicultural Association
of the Greater Moncton Area



AMGM
Association multiculturelle
du Grand Moncton

AN INVITATION FROM THE PRESIDENT—BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATIONS



Each February Canada celebrates the incredible historical, cultural and economic benefits to this country that have been made from members of the black community. We've made huge strides in recognizing their contribution, yet much more needs to be done in highlighting this part of our heritage.

In keeping with this spirit, this month's edition is dedicated to a select handful of historic figures that have helped to make Canada what it is today, together with an outline of the celebrations MAGMA has planned!

MAGMA's past president James "Skip" Talbot has been an enormous driving force over the years in putting on events to raise community awareness of black history and culture, so when his granddaughter Danielle approached us and said she would like to organize activities at Crandall University for her fellow students, we instantly knew we had a wonderful opportunity. Crandall has been kind enough to invite us to use their beautiful facilities and support to host the event, and so this year's event is looking bigger and better than ever.

It's therefore my great pleasure to officially invite you to our upcoming Black History Month celebrations.

As we feel it's important to celebrate both culture and history, we have two nights of events, all hosted at **Crandall University** (333 Gorge Rd Moncton), **and all for free!!**

Culture Night (Thursday Feb 20)

Bring the whole family for a free evening of fun!

Culture Village (6–7 p.m., Stultz Hall Commons North (next to Corrie's Café)): Come and get hands-on with African culture. From traditional face-painting and children's games to photographic exhibitions and samples of authentic African cuisine, come and explore the displays.

Culture on Stage (7–8 p.m.), Brinton Auditorium 173, Murray Hall: The entertainment moves on stage with fashion, African dance workshops and our special performing guests, the Ruddick Family.

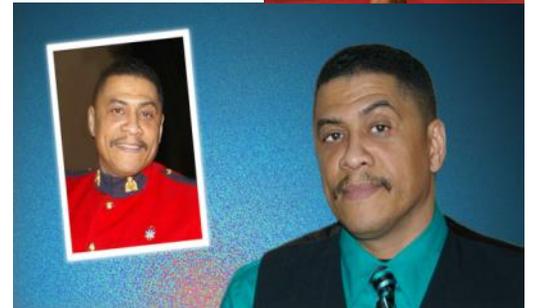
History Night (6:00 p.m. Thursday Feb 27)

Stultz Hall Lecture Hall 177 (across from Corrie's Café)

Visiting author Craig Smith has been a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) since 1997. He has served as the RCMP Diversity Policing Analyst for Nova Scotia, and was recently promoted to the rank of Sergeant-in-Charge of the Crime Prevention & Victim Services for the Halifax District.

He is best known for his activities on behalf of youth and black history, including helping to create the YMCA's first policy on race relations, multiculturalism and affirmative action in Atlantic Canada.

He is also well-known for his published works, and in his presentation he will be exploring the themes of his books *The Journey Continues* (a chronology of significant events in Atlantic Canadian black history) and *You Had Better Be White By Six AM—The African Canadian Experience in the RCMP*.





CANADA—THE REFUGE FROM SLAVERY

Josiah Henson—The Real Life Uncle Tom

Josiah Henson was born a slave on June 15, 1789 in Charles County, Maryland, and was sold three times before he reached the age of eighteen. However, there was a bright light—he was told he could purchase his freedom. By 1830, Henson had saved the impossible sum of \$350, but after giving his master the money he was told that the price had increased to \$1,000.

Cheated of his money, Henson decided to escape with his wife and four children. After reaching Canada, Henson formed a community where he taught other ex-slaves how to be successful farmers, and eventually wrote an autobiography, *The Life of Josiah Henson* (1849). American abolitionist Harriet Beecher Stowe read this, and was inspired to write her powerful and controversial novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The book was revolutionary, selling more copies than any novel of the entire 19th century, and is generally credited as a major influence on the anti-slave sentiment that led to the US Civil War and subsequent emancipation of slaves.



Mary Ann Shadd—The Voice of a New Community

Mary Ann Shadd was born a free black on October 9, 1823, in Wilmington, Delaware. When the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act threatened to return free northern blacks and escaped slaves to bondage, Shadd moved to Windsor, Ontario. Here, in 1851, she established a school to accommodate the influx of black refugees from the United States.

In 1853 Shadd established the *Provincial Freeman*, a weekly paper designed to cover the lives of Canadian blacks and promote the cause of black refugees to Canada. The first black woman in North America to edit a weekly paper, Shadd complemented her active anti-slavery efforts and editorials with articles on women and their contributions.

At a time when it was still uncommon for women to speak in public, Shadd lectured frequently in the United States against slavery and for black emigration to Canada in an effort to keep the paper viable. Despite her efforts, the *Provincial Freeman* fell victim to the economic depression of the day and ceased publication in 1858.

After her husband's death in 1860, Mary and her two children left Canada. Mary became a recruiter in the Union army during the American Civil War, and later a school principal. Finally, at age 60, she attained a law degree to further assist in her struggle for the rights of blacks and women.

Harriet Tubman—The Underground Railroad Conductor

Harriet Tubman, a runaway slave from Maryland, became known as the “Moses” of her people and the “conductor” who led hundreds of slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad. In 1850, when the far-reaching United States Fugitive Law was passed, she guided fugitive slaves further north into Canada. When angry slave owners posted rewards for her capture, she continued her work despite great personal risk.

St. Catharines, Ontario (a town close to the border with the United States) was on the route and offered employment opportunities, making it a common destination for the former fugitives, including Harriet Tubman, who lived there from 1851 to 1857. Many of the people she rescued were relatives of those already in St. Catharines including her own parents, brothers and sisters and their families.

Later, Harriet Tubman became a leader in the Abolitionist movement. During the Civil war she worked as a nurse and served as a spy for the Union forces in South Carolina.





OPENING THE SERVICES—LAW AND ORDER

Black in Red—The First Black Police Officers in Canada Rose Fortune

Born into slavery, Rose Fortune relocated to Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, after her family escaped the British colony of Virginia during the American Revolution. She developed a successful business transporting luggage from the ferry docks to Annapolis hotels and homes via wheelbarrow and providing wake-up calls for travellers. Over time, Fortune became known as the first female police officer in Canada—an unofficial title she earned by maintaining order and safeguarding property at the town's wharves.



Peter C Butler III

The grandson of an escaped slave, Peter C. Butler III became the first black police officer in Canada in 1883. His career spanned 50 years, during which he was known as a peaceful man. He sometimes kept local offenders and drunks in his home to keep them off the streets, instead of tossing them into jail. Butler rarely carried a gun—he preferred to keep the peace with only a baton and his large hands instead.

Serving with Honour—William Hall

Victoria Cross recipient William Hall was born in 1827 in Horton, Nova Scotia, the youngest of seven children. His parents, Jacob and Lucy Hall, were former enslaved Americans who had come to Nova Scotia as a result of the War of 1812. Hall grew up on the family farm beside the Avon River, and it is believed that he received some training in navigation, a subject that was being taught to young black males in Halifax at the time.

William launched his seafaring career at the age of seventeen, first joining the crew of an American trading vessel in 1844 as a merchant seaman. In 1852, he enlisted in the Royal Navy in Liverpool as an Able Seaman. Before long, Hall was decorated with British and Turkish medals for his service in the Crimean War.

In 1857, while serving on the HMS Shannon, Hall volunteered with a relief force sent to Lucknow, India, where a British garrison was besieged. Two survived the attack, Seaman Hall and Lieutenant Thomas Young, but only Hall was left standing, and he continued to fight until the relief of the garrison was assured. For this outstanding display of bravery, he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Hall was presented with his Victoria Cross on October 28, 1859, on board the HMS Donegal while the ship sat in Queenstown Harbour, Ireland. With this award, he became the first black person, the first Nova Scotian and the first Canadian sailor to receive this outstanding honour.





CHANGING THE RULES



Viola Davis Desmond—Canada's Rosa Parks

Viola Davis Desmond was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and ran her own beauty parlor and beauty college in Halifax. On November 8, 1946, while waiting for her car to be repaired, she decided to go see a movie in the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow. She refused to sit in the balcony, which was designated exclusively for blacks. Instead, she sat on the ground floor, which was for whites only. She was forcibly removed and arrested.

Viola was charged with federal tax evasion, and found guilty of not paying the one-cent difference in tax on the balcony ticket. She was sentenced to 30 days in jail and paid a \$26 fine. The trial mainly focused on the issue of tax evasion and not on the discriminatory practices of the theatre. Dissatisfied with the verdict, the Nova Scotia Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, with Viola's help, took the case to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. The conviction was upheld.

More recently, on April 15, 2010, the province of Nova Scotia granted an official apology and a free pardon to Viola. Premier Darrell Dexter also apologized to Viola's family and all black Nova Scotians for the racism she was subjected to in an incident he called unjust.

Leonard Braithwaite—Canada's First Black Provincial Legislator

Leonard Braithwaite was raised in the Kensington Market area of Toronto during the Depression and served in the RCAF in the Second World War. He attended the University of Toronto, where he earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree. He earned a Master of Business Administration from the Harvard Business School, graduating in 1952, and graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1958, followed by a career in law.

He was the first black lawyer elected as a member of the Governing Council of the Law Society of Upper Canada. Braithwaite was the first black Canadian in a provincial legislature when he was elected in Ontario in 1963. He served as a Liberal member of the Ontario legislature from 1963–1975. In his first speech to the legislature he spoke out against racial segregation in Ontario schools. Soon after, the Ontario government repealed the law that allowed school segregation.

In doing so he became a leading voice in the move to integrate racial communities more completely and harmoniously, leading both blacks and whites in an education debate that transformed the opportunities for black Canadians that followed.

In 1998, Braithwaite was invested as a Member of the Order of Canada. He was appointed to the Order of Ontario in 2004.

