

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY

MON	1	Watch: Black Soul "Commemorate the beginning of Black History Month with Martine Chartrand's award-winning animated short, <i>Black Soul</i> , which dives into the heart of Black culture with an exhilarating trip through history. Watch as a young boy traces his roots through the stories his grandmother shares with him about the events that shaped their cultural heritage".
TUE	2	This Day in History CLICK HERE On February 2, 1956, The Toronto Board of Education voted to withdraw the book titled "Little Black Sambo" from its city schools. Written in 1889, the book tells the story of a young boy who fought off tigers in the jungle; however, the book's offensive character names, which were considered derogatory racial epithets, combined with caricaturized illustrations of Black people were determined to be harmful and discriminatory to generations of Black youth.
WED	3	Reflect: CLICK HERE "That this House take note of the important contribution of Black Canadians to the settlement, growth and development of Canada, the diversity of the Black community in Canada and its importance to the history of this country." - <i>Honourable Jean Augustine</i> Augustine was the first Black woman to be elected to the House of Commons in 1993. In 1995, she put forth a motion before Parliament to recognize February as Black History Month, which passed unanimously.
THU	4	Event: Freedom City – Uncovering Toronto's Black History Virtual Exhibit CLICK HERE Organized by the Toronto Public Library, Freedom City is the collective tale of a people on a journey toward freedom, transcending generations and borders. At the most intimate level, this is a story of individuals and families who found a new home in Toronto.
FRI	5	Watch: Journey to Justice "This documentary pays tribute to a group of Canadians who took racism to court. They are Canada's unsung heroes in the fight for Black civil rights. Focusing on the 1930s to the 1950s, this film documents the struggle of 6 people who refused to accept inequality. Featured here, among others, are Viola Desmond, a woman who insisted on keeping her seat at the Roseland movie theatre in Nova Scotia in 1946 rather than moving to the section normally reserved for the city's Black population, and Fred Christie, who took his case to the Supreme Court after being denied service at a Montreal tavern in 1936. These brave pioneers helped secure justice for all Canadians".
SAT	6	Event: Freedom City – Uncovering Toronto's Black History Virtual Exhibit CLICK HERE Attend the 14th Annual Durham Black History Month Virtual Celebration, organized by the Cultural Expressions Art Gallery. This year's virtual celebration titled, FEAST of Black Excellence, will come to life over the course of the event to showcase different aspects of the Black experience.
SUN	7	Reflect: CLICK HERE "And the rhetoric, the resistance and the seriousness and the pageantry of Black resistance is something that I truly appreciate. Because we're not just pushing back. We're showing how our light is inside. Like we're letting that light out." - <i>Desmond Cole</i> Cole is a Toronto-based Black activist, freelance journalist and author of bestseller and award-winning book, <i>The Skin We're In</i> , which chronicles systemic anti-Black racism and Black resistance in Canada throughout the year 2017.
MON	8	Read: 12 Black History Books CLICK HERE Check out this reading list by the Festival of Literary Diversity for Black History Month.
TUE	9	Shop Local CLICK HERE Check out Afrobiz.ca, Canada's most comprehensive directory of Black-owned businesses and entrepreneurs.
WED	10	Listen: Province of Jamaica CLICK HERE Province of Jamaica explores Caribbean migration to Canada and the legacies of Black activists in Canadian history.
THU	11	Watch: Ninth Floor "Director Mina Shum makes her foray into feature documentary by reopening the file on a watershed moment in Canadian race relations – the infamous Sir George Williams Riot. Over four decades after a group of Caribbean students accused their professor of racism, triggering an explosive student uprising, Shum locates the protagonists and listens as they set the record straight, trying to make peace with the past".
FRI	12	Reflect: CLICK HERE "We must open the doors and we must see to it they remain open, so that others can pass through." - <i>Rosemary Brown</i> Brown was the first Black woman to be elected to a provincial legislature in Canada.
SAT	13	Listen: Crash Course on Black Nurses CLICK HERE Crash Course on Black Nurses, which explores the history of Black nurses in Canada and why many of these women had to travel to the U.S. for their education, as well as the story of the Black Cross Nurses.
SUN	14	Learn: Noteworthy Historical Figures CLICK HERE This curated list from the Government of Canada highlights the contributions of Black individuals who have shaped Canadian heritage and identity.
MON	15	Read: CBC ArtsBlack Light CLICK HERE This column, led by Amanda Parris, "is an intentional space to challenge, critically engage and shine a spotlight on art and popular culture that is created by and/or centres Black people."
TUE	16	Learn: Awakenings CLICK HERE Launched by the City of Toronto, the Awakenings program is a virtual series of art projects by Black, Indigenous and artists of colour that explore untold stories, awaken a new perspective and invite the public to join the conversation.
WED	17	Listen: Henceforward CLICK HERE The Henceforward is a podcast that reflects on the relationships between Indigenous people and Black peoples on Turtle Island, exploring issues such as settler colonialism and anti-Black racism, aiming to "reconsider the past and reimagine the future."
THU	18	This Day in History CLICK HERE On February 18, 1868, Canadian Harriet Gibbs Marshall was born. Marshall was the first Black person to complete the piano program at Oberlin Conservatory of Music in 1889.
FRI	19	Watch: The Road Taken "This 1996 documentary takes a nostalgic ride through history to present the experiences of Black sleeping-car porters who worked on Canada's railways from the early 1900s through the 1960s. There was a strong sense of pride among these men and they were well-respected by their community. Yet, harsh working conditions prevented them from being promoted to other railway jobs until finally, in 1955, porter Lee Williams took his fight to the union, winning the right to work in other areas. Interviews, archival footage and the music of noted jazz musician Joe Sealy (whose father was a porter) combine to portray a fascinating history that might otherwise have been forgotten".
SAT	20	Listen: Black Queer and Trans Excellence CLICK HERE Featuring Syrus Marcus Ware, a Toronto-based visual artist, activist and educator, this candid and profound conversation discusses Canada's history of Trans violence, activism in Toronto and the importance of centering Black Trans voices in the movement.
SUN	21	Event: SAY IT LOUD Canada Summit: Celebrating Black Pride and Cultural Identity CLICK HERE The initiative showcases Black youth who as artists, founders and trailblazers, challenge anti-Black stereotypes and subsequently leave a positive impact on all communities across Canada.
MON	22	Read: Children's Books CLICK HERE Teach young people about Black history with the Toronto Public Library's compilation of children's books highlighting the achievements and experiences of Black people in Canada and elsewhere. The selected titles - a variety of picture books, fiction, and non-fiction - are either written by Canadian authors or touch on a portion of the experience of Black people in Canada.
TUE	23	Event: Author Talk with Eternity Martis – They Said This Would Be Fun (7:00 – 8:00 pm EST) CLICK HERE Eternity Martis discusses her book and the experiences that created it. In her debut memoir, the award-winning journalist gives us an honest inside look at the racist and sexist attitudes that plague modern day campus life. As she pursued her degree, Martis faced everyday microaggressions and racist attacks while still trying to navigate the pressures of student life. The book is a look at the daunting task of how students of colour have to continue to fight for space and recognition within the Canadian education system.
WED	24	This Day in History CLICK HERE On February 24, 2010, the mayor of Halifax apologized for the destruction of Africville, a historic Black neighbourhood in Nova Scotia, in 1962.
THU	25	Watch: Remember Africville "Africville, a small black settlement, lay within the city limits of Halifax, Nova Scotia. In the 1960s, the families who lived there were uprooted and their homes demolished in the name of urban renewal and integration. Now, more than twenty years later, the site of the community of Africville is a stark, under-utilized park. Former residents, their descendants and some of the decision-makers, speak out and, with the help of archival photographs and films, tell the story of that painful relocation".
FRI	26	This Day in History CLICK HERE On February 26, 1851, the Anti-Slavery Society of Canada was formed "to aid in the extinction of Slavery all over the world."
SAT	27	Reflect: CLICK HERE "Awareness of one's roots, of one's own place on the arc of history is critical. My life is intimately intertwined between South and North, between lands of resistance, and the legacies of formidable struggles." - <i>Michaëlle Jean</i> Jean came to Canada as a Haitian refugee in 1968 and later became Canada's first Black Governor General from 2005 to 2010.
SUN	28	Learn: 365 Days and Ways to Celebrate Remarkable Black Canadians CLICK HERE Developed by the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO), this website features a collection of resources to support teachers and students in learning about Black history beyond the month of February!

2021

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See where experience takes you.