

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JANUARY 12, 2010**

### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

#### **Recommendation**

Councillor Shefman, Chair of the Community Equity and Diversity Committee recommends:

1. That the List of Activities for Black History Month (*Attachment 1*), outlining the activities scheduled to be held in February throughout the City of Vaughan, be received; and,
2. That the proclamation and List of Activities be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online.

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan:

- 4.1 To foster a city with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage.

#### **Economic Impact**

N/A

#### **Communications Plan**

The proclamation of February as Black History Month and the List of Activities (*Attachment 1*) will be posted on the City's website, in community centres, and at Vaughan Public Libraries.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to present the List of Activities (*Attachment 1*) scheduled to be held in February throughout the City of Vaughan in recognition of Black History Month.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

Black History Month is a time to honour and celebrate the achievements of Black Canadians and descent and their contribution to the social, economic, cultural and political life in Canada. It provides an opportunity to learn about and be inspired by the history, pride and strength of African Canadians.

The Community Equity and Diversity Committee promotes the values of dignity and respect. It aims to foster an inclusive society through preservation and education and as such at the February 4, 2009 meeting the Community Equity and Diversity Committee approved the following motion:

That Community Equity and Diversity Committee recommend that February 2009 and subsequent February be proclaimed Black History Month in the City of Vaughan.

The City of Vaughan has in previous years proclaimed February as Black History Month. The proclamation request meets the City's Proclamation policy, as follows:

- (ii) If the event, campaign or declaration is directly related to matters over which the City has jurisdiction or the City directly sponsors the event, campaign or other matter.

In support of Black History Month, there are a number of activities throughout the City of Vaughan that are presented on Attachment 1. Highlights are as follows:

- o **Vaughan Public Libraries:** Each branch will set up a book display together with reading lists to highlight the Black Heritage materials; Author visits will take place on February 9 from 1 – 2 pm and the Dufferin Clark Library and from 10 – 11 am at the Maple Library.
- o **City Playhouse Theatre:** The Spirit of Harriet Tubman will be presented on February 2 at 10 am and 1 pm.
- o **York Regional Police:** Music and art displays will be posted at the Safety Village; Robert Small, guest speaker, will speak on Black History Month on February 1 from 9 am to 12 noon.

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the report will provide:

- **STRATEGIC GOAL:**  
Service Excellence - Providing service excellence to citizens.
- **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**  
Preserve our heritage and support diversity, arts and culture.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council, and the necessary resources to implement this program have been allocated and approved.

#### **Regional Implications**

N/A

#### **Conclusion**

The history of the Black Canadian community is part of the history of our City and the celebration of Black History Month works towards reaffirming our efforts to build an inclusive society. The request to proclaim February 2010 as "Black History Month" and to post the proclamation and List of Activities (*Attachment 1*) on the City's website, community centre and Vaughan Public Libraries is on behalf of the Community Equity and Diversity Committee

#### **Attachments**

1. List of Activities for Black History Month

#### **Report Prepared By**

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Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Alan Shefman  
Chair, Community Equity and Diversity Committee

# Black History Month - February 2010

## Summary of Activities

### City of Vaughan - Community Centres

#### **Dufferin Clark Community Centre:**

A display of the "Tree of Recognition" highlighting prominent Black personalities (i.e. Mercy Garvey, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King) along with a local youth who achieved success with goals. TACCA display boards will also feature Black history and present day personalities.

### City of Vaughan - City Playhouse Theatre

#### **THE SPIRIT OF HARRIET TUBMAN**

February 2, 2010

Show Times: 10:00am; 1:00pm (Running Time: 60 minutes)

Travel back in time and explore the lives of brave women of African descent who shaped change in critical moments in Canada's history. This inspiring solo performance illustrates the power of personal integrity, triumph over racism and the importance of social commitment.

#### **CURRICULUM FOCUS (Grades 6-8):**

**Black History in Canada and U.S., Heroes and Heroines**

### City of Vaughan - Vaughan Public Libraries

In February, each library branch will set up a display together with reading lists to highlight the library's Black Heritage Collection. Reading lists will be available for displays.

#### **Art Display**

***Dufferin Clark Library and Maple Library February 1- 28***

Dion Fitzgerald and Sonia Farquharson, members of the Association of African Canadian Artists, will exhibit their paintings in Maple Library and Dufferin Clark Library respectively throughout February.

#### **Black Heritage Collection**

The Black Heritage Collection, available at Dufferin Clark Library, was started in 1989 and is the first of its kind in York Region. It was established in response to the needs of the local community. While the emphasis of this collection is on Black Canadian and Caribbean literature, history, and culture, it also includes materials about the Black experience in general as well as African literature and Afro-American materials.

#### **eLIBRARY**

During the month of February, the eLibrary will highlight the Black Heritage Collection Library Guide, the "We Recommend" booklists and the "Recommended Links".

#### **Author Visit**

*Dufferin Clark Library, February 9, 1-2 p.m.*

*Maple Library, February 9, 10-11 a.m.*

Canadian author Rosemary Sadlier will speak about Black History Month and will read from two of her latest books *The Kids Book of Black History* and *Black History: Africa, the Caribbean and the Americas*. Rosemary is the author of books that highlight the historical contributions and

experiences of Black people in Canada. She has been the President of the Ontario Black History Society since 1993 and was instrumental in making the celebration of Black History Month a national event in Canada.

### **African & Caribbean Story time**

In celebration of Black History Month, stories that explore African and Caribbean history and culture.

*Ansley Grove Library, February 25, 11-11:30 a.m.*

*Bathurst Clark Resource Library, February 22, 7-7:30 p.m.*

*Dufferin Clark Library, February 2, 7-7:30 p.m.*

*Pierre Berton Resource Library, February 8, 7-7:30 p.m.*

*Woodbridge Library, February 23 10:30-11 a.m.*

### **Book Chats - Non-Fiction**

*Ansley Grove Library*

February 24, 7-8:30 p.m.

Discussion on Dreams from My Father by Barack Obama.

A copy of the book will be provided. Light refreshments will be served.

### **School Boards: YRDSB / YCSDB**

Schools in Vaughan will celebrate Black History Month with displays in the foyer, morning announcements with quotes or music. Black History Month is part of the curriculum for the month of February. Some schools will have an assembly with, guest speakers, author visits and more.

### **York Regional Police**

#### **Black History Month Celebrations at Safety Village**

This annual celebration with music, art displays, limited edition poster unveiling (Black History Month poster) and refreshments is open to the public and offers free admission.

**ROBERT SMALL**-guest speaker and artist creates annual poster and speaks on Black History Month.