

**Honouring the past, empowering the future:
Black History Month in Durham Region**

Whitby, Ontario – The following statement is being issued on behalf of John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer for The Regional Municipality of Durham:

"This year marks 30 years of celebrating Black History Month in Canada—a time to honour the voices, resilience and achievements of Black Canadians whose leadership has shaped our past, influences our present and inspires future generations.

Black History Month is both a celebration and call to action: to confront anti-Black racism and foster meaningful change. It's an opportunity to reflect on the legacy of those who paved the way and acknowledge the systemic barriers that persist today.

Diversity is our strength, and we strive to create communities where everyone feels valued, respected and included. This work begins by listening to lived experiences, engaging in honest dialogue and working together to eliminate barriers to equity.

In partnership with Durham Regional Police Services, local municipalities and community partners, the Region will host our annual Black History Month event: "Together We Rise Durham: Legacy ignites the path for youth to lead the future." This theme honours those who came before us while recognizing the power and potential of youth to drive change.

We invite you to join us on February 3 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Milestone Christian Centre (610 Monarch Avenue, Ajax) for an inspiring evening featuring the Legacy Café—a welcoming space where young people and elders come together to share stories, learn from each other and celebrate Black heritage."



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CELEBRATING 30 years of BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Honouring black brilliance across generations - from nation builders to tomorrow's visionaries.



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**Clarington Mayor's Statement
on Black History Month**

Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster has issued the following statement.

"Black History Month is an inspiring opportunity for all of us to celebrate the remarkable achievements and lasting impact of Black Canadians. As we honour the strength, excellence and leadership of Black communities, we deepen our understanding and build a more inclusive Canada."

This year's national theme, '30 Years of Black History Month: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations – From Nation Builders to Tomorrow's Visionaries,' celebrates three decades of officially recognizing Black History Month in Canada. Here in Clarington and across Durham, this is our time to recognize the amazing contributions and achievements of our Black residents who shape our community in countless ways.

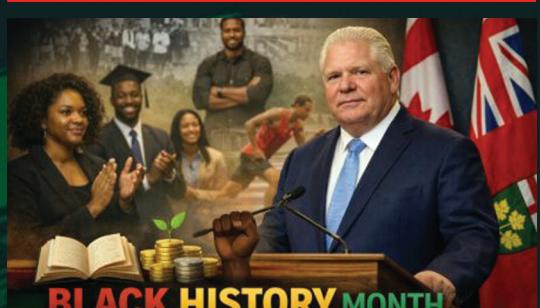
We invite everyone to join us at our Black Vendor Village on Saturday, February 21, as we come together to celebrate Black excellence and the diversity and values that make Clarington a welcoming and inclusive place for all."

**City of Oshawa celebrates
Black History Month**

February is Black History Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the history, contributions, and leadership of Black communities in Canada and in our local community.

It's an opportunity to reflect on the ongoing work needed to advance equity, inclusion, and belonging across the city.

Community members are encouraged to learn more, engage with local initiatives, and take part in activities that highlight Black history and experiences.



Premier Doug Ford issued the following statement to mark the beginning of Black History Month:

"Black History Month is an opportunity to reflect on the many ways Ontario's Black community has helped strengthen our province and our country."

From arts and culture to business, public service, sports and community leadership, the Black community's legacy of perseverance and resilience is integral to the fabric of Ontario.

Black History Month is also a chance to learn about the history and experiences of Black Canadians and stand together against discrimination and racism in all its forms.

To support this work, our government is proud to invest in innovative programs that expand opportunities for Black youth, entrepreneurs and newcomers, as we build a stronger province for all of us. Starting in September 2026, Ontario's curriculum for Grades 7, 8 and 10 will also require students to learn about the exceptional contributions and history of Black Canadians who helped build Canada.

This month and every month, I encourage everyone in our province to take time to learn about and celebrate the lasting contributions of Ontario's Black community."