

Cape Breton & Nova Scotian Community Organizations Promoting Black Music

BY WADE PFAFF

Whether you listen to Hip Hop, Reggae, R&B, Soul music, Jazz, Country, Rock, or even Gospel, Cape Breton and Nova Scotia have had many great Black musicians worthy of attention and praise. Many of the organizations which support these artists began as regional start-ups and some have grown into national and international institutions promoting African Nova Scotian talent. The regional and Nova Scotian governments have collaborated with some of these organizations, but many more groups are maintained and promoted by dedicated individuals who value the quality of what they are hearing and are helping to create a more profitable and equitable climate for struggling Black artists, young and old. The province's Black immigrant population continues to flourish with growing community support, and their music traditions have attracted public curiosity. Even small Nova Scotian communities have embraced African musicians, their traditions, dance, and instruments. Talented artists across Canada are also choosing Nova Scotia and Cape Breton as their home base because of the province's natural and human charms. In every corner of Cape Breton and Nova Scotia, you will find Black musicians and their traditions. Since the stunning career of Portia White in the early 20th century, universities still continue to support and promote young musicians from the Black diaspora, and the special events held in venues across the province highlight Nova Scotians' commitment to sharing their rich variety of Black music traditions.

The resources listed below have been sorted into categories for the reader's convenience. Follow the links provided for additional information on each person, organization, event, venue, online group, class, service, historic site, educational facility, community service, location, article, or video.

WADE PFAFF

• 'BALA' CONTENT RESEARCHER & CONTRIBUTOR



Wade Pfaff has interests ranging from Canadian Black history research, to studying and playing music from the trans-Atlantic diaspora, to developing arts and culture programs for marginalized youth. After completing a Bachelor of Community Studies degree and a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Cape Breton University, where he was greatly influenced by Dr. Graham Reynolds, he went to Halifax to obtain a Master of Arts in Social Anthropology at Dalhousie University under the supervision of Dr. Afua Cooper.

A dynamic lecturer and lifelong learner, Wade continues to study the relationship between the music of trans-Atlantic Black cultures (especially Jazz and Blues) during the early 20th century, and improvements in the civil rights of Blacks and people-of-colour that came later in the century in Canada.

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Music and Film Organizations



[African Nova Scotian Music Association \(ANSMA\)](#)

🏠 10 Cherry Brook Rd, (Main Level: Black Cultural Centre), Cherry Brook, NS B2Z 1A6

☎ (902) 404-3036

ANSMA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development, promotion and enrichment of African Nova Scotian Music. The purpose of ANSMA is to increase the amount of African Nova Scotians participating in the Canadian Music Industry and give them the support and recognition that is lacking. ANSMA is the only association in Nova Scotia that is dedicated solely to the development and promotion of African Nova Scotians artist and musicians.

The most pressing objective that ANSMA had was getting involved with the East Coast Music Association because there was hardly any representation of African Nova Scotians during the ECMA award show. ANSMA pressed extremely hard and worked very diligently to help artist gain exposure and recognition that they were well deserving of and now there is a Black Vibes Showcase which is put on by ANSMA and ECMA that takes place during the ECMA weekend, this showcase is designed for artist to put their music and themselves in the spotlight.

The African Nova Scotian Music Association also seeks to give local artist advice on professional development, provide for them a viable social network with professionals in the music industry, as well as seminars, workshops and conferences where artist can gather and explore musical concepts and expand their musical inclinations.



Halifax Black Film Festival

Halifax Black Film Festival (HBFF) celebrates African Heritage Month. This Festival is dedicated to giving unique voices in cinema the opportunity to present audiences with new ways of looking at the world. HBFF is a dynamic, refreshing and audacious Festival whose ambition is to encourage the development of the independent film industry and to promote more films on the reality of Black people from around the Globe.

> [Official Website](#)



Sketch Kidd Productions

Halifax Broadcasting & Media Production Company

> [Facebook Page](#)



arcadiatv: Documentary producers

Television production company with a special interest in ocean related documentary series and specials

🏠 301-6454 Quinpool Road, Halifax, NS B3L 1A9



RPM PRODUCTIONS

Imaginative Creativity

🏠 1360 Bedford Highway, Halifax, NS B4A 1E2



902 Post Inc.

Established, independent post-production boutique specializing in picture finishing & the creation of digital cinema

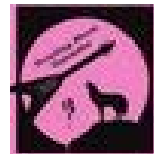
🏠 204 - 5475 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, NS B3J 3T2



Creative Atlantic

Film and TV production company passionate about producing meaningful documentary, drama, comedy, and kids' shows

🏠 Agricola St., Halifax, NS



Howling Moon Karaoke

When you want to sing popular songs using the most top-quality background audio.

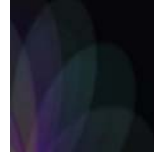
🏠 2182 Gottingen St., Halifax, NS

> [Facebook Page](#)



[Oakridge Film Productions](#)

🏠 33 OakRidge Drive, Halifax, NS B3T 1S8



[Sutram Pictures](#)

A Halifax-based film production company

🏠 6248 Allan St., Halifax, NS B3L 1G9



In My Own Voice (iMOVE) Arts Association

Youth organization delivering arts and technology-based programs to marginalized youth and adults

> [Facebook Page](#)



[The 902 - HXIR - Halifax & Area Internet Radio](#)

24/7 Internet Radio Station

[Listen Live](#)

🏠 North End Halifax, Halifax, NS



[HalifaxEntertainment.ca](#)

Halifax Nova Scotia Entertainment Information Website

halifaxentertainment.ca

🏠 1685 Argyle St., Halifax B3J 1L8



106.9 Got-A-Voice FM

GotAVoice is a program of In My Own Voice Arts Association (iMOVE)

🏠 2439 Gottingen St., Halifax, NS

> [Facebook Page](#)



SG ENTERTAINMENT

[SG Entertainment](#)

Shadowgear-gaming is a page for the you-tuber featuring updates from shadow gear as well as his latest videos and live streams.

> [Website](#)



RadStorm

Radstorm is a collectively run not-for-profit events and art space. **Radstorm is also home to other projects and resources, such as the people’s fridge, the people’s photocopier, the people’s kiln.**

🏠 2177 Gottingen St., Halifax, NS

> [Website](#)



LOVE

LOVE supports youth to thrive through programs and healthy relationships that build emotional intelligence and help overcome challenges with greater resilience, heightened skills, and the confidence to be leaders.

🏠 205 - 2171 Gottingen St., Halifax, NS



Anchor Archive Zine Library

A collectively-run, non-profit library with over 7000 zines from the local area and around the world.

> [Website](#)

🏠 2177 Gottingen St. Halifax, NS



Canadian Beats Media

An online music publication dedicated to promoting Canadian music

> [Website](#)

The Indie Music Archive

An archive for indie music which is no longer available. Much of the content is from my personal collection of tapes and CDs from bands which no longer exist.

> [Website](#)



GigSalad

An online marketplace for booking bands, performers, speakers, and services for events, parties, and gatherings.

> [Website](#)

NEWS

- > Call for Applications: The Fabienne Colas Foundation's [Being Black in Canada program](#)
- > [6 Black-Owned Canadian Indie Labels](#) (and Why There Are So Few)
- > [Black-Owned Canadian Businesses You Can Support Right Now](#)
- > [A Toronto Hip-Hop Professor Made a Playlist of Canadian Protest Songs](#)
- > [VIDEO: Glace Bay rapper hits mark with COVID-19 song](#)
- > [Combining a Love of Hip-Hop and History from the Comfort of Home: Meet Alex Kuchma](#)
- > [Anti-Racist Organizations in Canada You Can Support Right Now](#)
- > [902 Hip Hop, the recipient of the Creative Industries Fund 2020](#)

The Creative Industries Fund invests in Nova Scotia registered cultural businesses focused on global exporting and supports not-for-profits and social enterprises focused on development of the culture sector outside of Nova Scotia.

Church Resources



New Horizons Baptist Church

New Horizons is a proud member of the [African United Baptist Association of Nova Scotia \(AUBA\)](#), founded by the Reverend Richard Preston. Preston dubbed the then Cornwallis Street Baptist the “Mother Church” of the Association. The AUBA is a member of the [Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada \(CBAC\)](#), comprised of nearly 500 Baptist churches in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland-Labrador. New Horizons is also affiliated with the [Halifax Region United Baptist Association \(HRUBA\)](#), and the [Baptist World Alliance \(BWA\)](#).

> [Facebook Page](#)

New Horizons Baptist Church
African Heritage Month Service
Featuring
The NHBC Baptist Youth Fellowship
and Our History in Narrative and Song with
Linda Carvery & Henry Bishop
February 28, 2021 @ 12 Noon
We meet at St. Matthew's United Church
1479 Barrington Street, Halifax
COVID-19 Protocols are practiced
Seating is limited.
Please register to attend at:
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/february-28-12pm-african-heritage-month-service-tickets-140346005681>

[description needed]



[The Awakening Souls Youth Choir](#) formed in 2007 to showcase and promote young talent in the community. Nominated at the East Coast Music Award for 2012 African Canadian Recording of the Year for their CD “God is Love,” the choir performs uplifting spiritual music combined with modern rhythm and blues.

[Upper Big Tracadie](#) is a small rural African Nova Scotia community. For five days in the summer the children that call **UBT** “down home” collaborated with media artists to create a video that explores their community past, present, and future.

> [Learn more](#)



Lighthouse Church Undercurrent Youth Centre is here so the youth of Glace Bay and surrounding areas have a safe and fun place to hang out, meet friends, play sports, music and more.

> [Facebook Page](#)

The DRUM is a widely read newsletter produced by the Tracadie United Baptist Church which circulates in the communities of Upper Big Tracadie, Lincolnville, Monastery, Rear Monastery, Sunnyville, Bolyston, Mulgrave and surrounding areas. Mary Desmond, editor.



Cherry Brook United Church

Our mission is to demonstrate the love of God by equipping disciples to share the Gospel.

> [Facebook Page](#)



Chapel Choir of Acadia University

Treble Choir, comprised of students and members of the community, which sings for Sunday evening services and numerous concert performances during the school year.

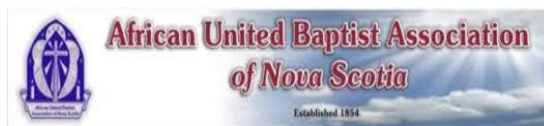
> [Learn more](#)

> [Facebook Page](#)



[Greenville United Baptist Church](#)

🏠 726 Greenville Rd, Greenville, NS B5A 4A8



> [Official Website](#)

🏠 10 Cherry Brook Road, Cherry Brook, Nova Scotia B2Z 1A8

☎ (902) 434-8837



[New Horizons Baptist Church](#)

🏠 5457 Cornwallis St., Halifax, NS B3K 1B1

☎ (902) 429-5573



[Windsor Plains Community Hall](#)

🏠 4839 Three Mile Plains Cross Rd,
Windsor, NS B0N 2T0



Africville was settled in about the 1840s by people from the Black Refugee communities of Hammonds Plains and Preston.

🏠 Africville, NS B3K



[Tracadie United Baptist Church](#)

Tracadie United Baptist Church was planted in 1787 because Loyalist, Maroon, and Immigrants in the region were denied the freedom to worship or be baptized in a local church.

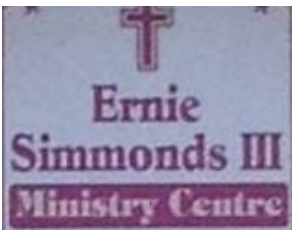
🏠 474 Highway 16, RR#1, Monastery, NS
B0H 1W0

☎ (902) 232-3495



[African Bethel Cemetery](#)

🏠 Greenville Road, Greenville, NS



[Ernie Simmonds III Ministry Centre](#)

🏠 984 North Preston Rd, North Preston,
NS



[Greenville Church Cemetery](#)

Established in 1853. There are no remaining markers to visibly identify it as a burial ground.

🏠 726 Greenville Road, Greenville, NS



[Zion United Baptist Church](#)

Zion Baptist Church is the spiritual home to a community whose roots in Truro extend back to the late nineteenth century.

🏠 454 Prince Street, Truro, NS B2N 1E7

☎ (902) 895-6744



[Victoria Road United Baptist Church](#)

Built in 1853, Victoria Road United Baptist Church is a simple wood framed Gothic chapel.

🏠 36 Victoria Road, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 2V9

☎ (902) 469-8576



[Birchtown School](#)

🏠 23 Birchtown Road, Birchtown, NS



[Saint Philip's African Orthodox Church](#)

🏠 34 Hankard St, Whitney Pier, NS B1N 2C2

☎ (902) 567-1220

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

MANNING MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Sunday January 31

Chapel Worship Service 7:00 p.m. launching Black History Month. Guest Preacher, Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary of the United Church of Canada

Wednesday February 3

Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
An African in the Bible, the Queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10: 1-13)

Sunday February 7

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday February 10

Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
An African in the Bible, the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8: 26-40)

Thursday February 11

African Heritage Month Webinar
**Black Perspectives in Ethics:
An Interdisciplinary Conversation**

Saturday February 13

Pre-Lent Retreat 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m..
Supporting Those Who Suffer
Inspired by the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola

Sunday February 14

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday February 17

Ash Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Christian Thinker, Howard Thurman, Christian Mystic

Sunday February 21

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday February 24

Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
African American Christian Thinker Shawn Copeland, Roman Catholic Lay Woman Theologian

Saturday February 27

Feature on race and Church Music
**Crossovers in the Music of Spirituality and Culture:
a conversation on race, reciprocity
and cultural appropriation**

Sunday February 21

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.
Ending Black History Month Celebrations. Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Rhonda Britton, Pastor New Horizon Baptist Church.

[description needed]



Resources on African Nova Scotian Church History, Community, and Spirituality

Created by Halifax Public Libraries

[Cherry Brook United Baptist Church](#) Celebrating Our 90th Anniversary, 1902-1992 Book - 1992

[Three Nova Scotian Black Churches](#) A Collection of Historical Essays Book - 1990

[The Moral, Political and Religious Significance of the Black Churches in Nova Scotia](#) by [Paris, Peter J.](#) Book - 1989

[Victoria Rd. United Baptist Church](#) 36 Victoria Rd., Dartmouth, N.S Book - 1989

[Emmanuel Baptist Church, Upper Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia, Canada](#) by [Clayton, Willard P.](#) Book - 1987

[From Generation to Generation](#) Bi-centennial of the Black Church in Nova Scotia, 1785-a Synopsis-1985 by [Oliver, Pearleen](#) Book - 1986

[Born With A Call](#) A Biography of Dr. William Pearly Oliver, C.M by [Thomson, Colin A.](#) Book - 1986

[Whatever your Will, Lord](#) A Brief History Written in Commemoration of the 139th Anniversary of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Upper Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia by [Clayton, Willard Parker](#) Book - 1984

[A Brief History of the Coloured Baptists of Nova Scotia, 1783-1895](#) by [McKerrow, Peter Evander](#) Book - 1976

[A Brief History of the Colored Baptists of Nova Scotia, 1782-1953. In Commemoration of Centennial Celebrations of the African United Baptist Association of Nova Scotia, Inc](#) by [Oliver, Pearleen](#) Book – 1953

[Colored Zion](#) The History of Zion United Baptist Church & the Black Community of Truro, Nova Scotia by [Sealey, Donna Byard](#) Book - 2000

[Black Insights](#) Book - 2009

[Immanuel](#) by [Nova Scotia Mass Choir](#) Unknown - 20--?

[Heaven](#) by [Nova Scotia Mass Choir](#) Music CD - 1998

[He Never Failed Me Yet](#) by [Nova Scotia Mass Choir](#) Music CD - 1995

[A Scattering of Seeds](#) Captain of Souls Rev. William White DVD - 1998-2001

[One God One Aim One Destiny](#) African Nova Scotians in Cape Breton by [Weeks, Joan](#) Book - 2007

[Lord You Brought Me A Mighty Long Way](#) An African Nova Scotian Musical Journey Unknown - 1998

[Song of the Spirit](#) 150th Anniversary Beechville United Baptist Church by [Oliver, Pearleen](#) Book - 1994

[From Slavery to Freedom](#) The Life of David George, Pioneer Black Baptist Minister by [Gordon, Grant](#) Book - 199

African Resources



[Ghanaian Association of Nova Scotia](#)

The Association was formed 1989 in response to the increase in size of the Ghanaian community in Nova Scotia.

🏠 28 Greenpark close, Halifax, NS B3S 0A1

☎ (902) 452-8587



African Diaspora Association of the Maritimes
United We stand in Diversity, Democracy, Prosperity & Peace.

African Diaspora Association of the Maritimes

ADAM's mission is ensuring that people of African descent in the Maritimes have cultural, social, political and economic opportunities.

🏠 3200 Kempt Rd, #202, Halifax NS B3K 4X1

☎ (902) 404-3670

**MARITIME CENTRE FOR AFRICAN DANCE
(MCAD INC.) Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
782.234.7161**

The Maritime Centre for African Dance (MCAD), most recently noted for performing at President Obama's African Inaugural Ball, was formed in 2005, is an organization dedicated to teaching, sharing and promoting African Culture through the art of dance



<http://thegoatworks.com/>

have travelled and studied in West Africa and travelled across North America with Master drummers and dancers from Guinea:



TD Halifax Jazz Festival Presents:



<https://www.wontanaradrumdance.ca/>

The Goatworks is Atlantic Canada's leading drum shop specializing in West African instruments and accessories. With more than 35 years behind us we continue to devote ourselves to the study of technique, history and proper construction of these wonderful instruments. We

Famoudou Konate, M'Bemba Bangoura, Seickou Keita, and Mohamed Kalifa Kamara.

Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia
(ISANS) 6960 Mumford Road, Mumford Professional Centre, Ste 2120 Halifax, NS B3L 4P1. 866-431-6472

Wontanara Drum & Dance Workshop
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021 AT 10 – 11 AM EST



Wontanara: Tel. 902-999-6315



TRADITIONAL GUINEAN DANCE Experienced instructors, Mohamed and Marielle offer you an immersion and a rewarding experience in the culture of Guinea, West Africa.

DUNDUN DANCE



This is an active dance class which involves drumming with sticks on dundun drums whilst



dancing around the drum. You don't need to be a dancer or a drummer to do this class.

KIDS CREATIVE DRUM & DANCE

Children will learn to sing, move, dance, and learn rhythms while promoting self-confidence, multiculturalism, cooperation, improvisation, creativity, and musicality. The first part of the class will be devoted to learning to play traditional Guinean rhythms on instruments such as the djembe, the dundun and the shaker, and the second part will consist of traditional dances of Guinea.

OTHER SPECIALTY CLASSES... We also offer African Cooking classes, Intro to Susu or Malinké Language classes, and Mandingo Singing classes. <https://ansa.novascotia.ca/calendar/event/african-drumming-dance-stories-songs-maritime-centre-african-dance>

AFRICA FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND CULTURE

Sackville Landing on the Halifax Waterfront
 Friday, July 20th, 4pm - 10pm
 Saturday, July 21st, 11:30am - 10pm
 Sunday, July 22nd, 11:30am - 8pm

2018 PERFORMERS INCLUDE:

- Carson Downey Band
- Conquerors for Christ Band
- Kenyan Simba Zambezi Acrobats
- Master Drummer Amadou and Djeli Sira Band
- Mapou Ginen Group
- Dicko Fils Band
- Remesha Burundi Drumming
- Marius Vitry and the African Vibrations Band
- Africa Drumming
- Bobomusique Band
- Maritime Center for African Dance
- Cultural Dances
- DJ and Lots More

SPONSORS INCLUDE...

www.afacs.org

Come experience traditional and modern African dance & drumming offered by the Maritime Centre for African Dance. These workshops are hands-on and engaging. African dance,

drumming, storytelling and Afro-Beats (modern drumming) are the main workshop elements.

[African drumming, dance, stories & songs at Maritime Centre for African Dance](#)

Organizer: Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library

<https://halifax.bibliocommons.com/events/5ce82fa47b22853100dc9925>

Saturday, March 2, 2019

10:30 to 11:30 AM

**New Glasgow Public Library;
182 Dalhousie Street**

New Glasgow NS.

Cost: Free.

The Africa Festival of Arts and Culture is an annual festival that showcases the unique cultural heritage and artistic works of people of African descent.

<http://www.afacs.org/>

Enjoy a morning program with the Maritime Centre for African Dance with Traditional and modern African Dance, Drumming, and Storytelling. This workshop is hosted by MCAD Instructors and is open to ALL ages!!! Come out and try it, as we celebrate African Heritage Month together.



**African Dance & Drum
Workshop: Maritime Centre
for African Dance Saturday,
August 10, 2019**

**10:30AM – 11:30AM Sackville
Public Library**

West African drumming workshop hosted in Truro



**The Drum Runners group performing in 2016,
on Inglis Street in Truro.**

TRURO, N.S. – Ted Powell has yet to visit West Africa, but he has been drumming West African rhythms for close to 20 years. “We’re an amateur drumming group, having fun and enjoying the experience.” Powell belongs to the Drum Runners group in Truro, along with 15 other active members.

<https://www.saltwire.com/lifestyles/west-african-drumming-workshop-hosted-in-truro-151968/?location=nova-scotia>

The Drum Runners meet a few times a month to practise playing the West African drum Djembe. They perform locally a couple of times a year and have been doing so since 2004. The Drum Runners music usually originates from Guinea, Mali and Senegal in West Africa. There will be a West African Drumming workshop on Saturday at the Douglas Street Recreation Centre, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Powell helped organize the event and Glenn Fraser, a professional hand drummer from Halifax, will be leading and teaching the basics of djembe drumming.

Celebrating Nova Scotia’s African heritage in Pictou County

<https://www.saltwire.com/news/celebrating-nova-scotias-african-heritage-in-pictou-county-180588/>

Sam Macdonald Jan 25, 2018. Across the province, more than 100 events are taking place to honour the rich history of African Nova Scotian heritage. In Pictou County, one such event will be an African drumming and dance workshop, hosted by the New Glasgow Library, in conjunction with the Maritime Academy for African Dance. The event will feature traditional and modern African dance, and live African drumming. The theme is “Educate, Unite, Celebrate, Community,” and encourages all Nova Scotians to learn about a significant aspect of our history through plays, spoken word performances, museum exhibits, public library events and workshops.



2019 Afrifest: Africa Festival of Arts and Culture

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: [DEVELOP NOVA SCOTIA](https://downtownhalifax.ca/event/2019-afrifest-africa-festival-arts-and-culture)
<https://downtownhalifax.ca/event/2019-afrifest-africa-festival-arts-and-culture>

The [Africa Festival of Arts and Culture](#) is an annual festival that showcases the unique cultural heritage and artistic works of people of African descent living in Nova Scotia.

Major events in the festival include arts, crafts, visuals and performing arts of people of African descent. Artists participating in the festival are diasporas from Nigeria, Ghana, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gambia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Togo, Uganda, Somalia, Burkina Faso, Congo, Ivory Coast, Caribbean and African Nova Scotian Community. Artistic work includes arts and crafts, drumming, jazz, hip-hop, gospel music, stand-up comedy, literature, food, and much more. Notable performers this year includes: Carson Downey, Master Drummer Amadou Kienou and Djeli Sira Drummers from Burkina Faso, Bobo Musique from Montreal, Ramesha Drums from Burundi, Dicko Fils, Mapou Ginen, Mose and Frtiends, Congolese Dancers, and various African cultural dances, Food, Arts and Crafts. The festival is open to the public free of charge; come to celebrate and showcase our unique cultural heritage. **EVENT DATE: 19/07/19 TO 21/07/19 HALIFAX WATERFRONT: SACKVILLE LANDING 1655 LOWER WATER STREET HALIFAX NOVA SCOTIA CANADA**

[Annapolis Valley-based school taps into natural rhythms to promote healing and empowerment.](#)
Wednesday, September 2, 2020 - 09:45AM By Lisa MacSween. <http://nshealth.ca/news/annapolis-valley-based-school-taps-natural-rhythms-promote-healing-and-empowerment>



Dr. Henry Bishop shows a student how to play the djembe drum.

Djembe drums could often be heard in the hallways of Clark Rutherford Memorial School

in the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia. Known for their strong, repetitive rhythms, Djembe drums are part of West African heritage. “The goal of this program is to provide students with an engaging and culturally responsive enriched program,” said Madelene Embree, Music, Reading Recovery and Early Literacy Support teacher and facilitator of the program. The project was envisioned by Dr. Bishop. “This [djembe drumming] is old age ancient knowledge and wisdom, and we are using it with new intervention processes,” explained Dr. Bishop

Other Black Organizations



United Nations General Assembly declared January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2024 the UN International Decade for People of African Descent.

International Decade for People of African Descent begins Oct 17, 2016

African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Timeline - December 23, 2013



October 19, 2016 **United Nations Working Group of Experts meets with the African Nova Scotian Organizations at the Black Cultural Centre**

- After this meeting over 30 ANS organizations decided to work collaboratively on issues that affect our community.
- The African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition (DPAD) was created and meets monthly

January 2017 **The African United Baptist Association (AUBA) in conjunction with Dalhousie Legal Aid called for an immediate ban on street checks and were supported by DPAD.**

April 28, 2017 **DPAD presents to the Deputy Ministers**

August 16, 2017 **United Nations releases: Report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent on its mission to Canada.** DPAD calls for Canada to recognize the UN Decade and its recommendations

September 2017 **Creation of the Justice Strategy Working Group (JSWG)**

November 2017 **World Café Community Consultation**

January 30, 2018 **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announces that the government of Canada will officially recognize the UN decade. Commits \$25 million to capacity building in the African Canadian Community**

May 8, 2018 **Nova Scotia officially recognizes the UN Decade and announces work on a provincial action plan**

September 2017 – August 2018 **DPAD continues to work on the issue of street checks, begins to develop governance document and receives funding for an office, a Program Coordinator, Office assistant.**

May 30, 2018 **DPAD meets with the Liberal Caucus**

December 2018 **DPAD supports the Health Association of African Canadians' (HAAC) work in the creation of a position to support the African Nova Scotian Health Strategy**

December 2018 **Creation of the Community Services Working Group (CSWG)**

December 2018 **DPAD forms the Health Strategy Working Group (HSWG)**

March 27, 2019 **Department of Justice places a moratorium on street checks but the Minister of Justice's directive still permits illegal street checks to continue.**

March 2019 **Wortley Report on Street Checks data is released.** DPAD calls for an immediate ban.

May 2019 **DPAD asks NSHRC for independent legal review on street checks**

September 2019 **DPAD presents to the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner on Human Rights**

September 2019 **Nova Scotia's Action Plan in Response to the International Decade for People of African Descent (Count Us In) is released**



October 21, 2019 **Independent legal review deems street checks illegal**

October 21, 2019 **Department of Justice bans streets checks**

December 10, 2019 **ANSDPAD is awarded a Nova Scotia Human Rights Award**

March 2020 **Part of planning committee for the National Black Canadians Summit. Michaëlle Jean Foundation**

Present **DPAD Coalition continues to support community and address on-going issues such as:**

- Truro: Watching deer while Black
- Shelburne: Well and clean drinking water
- Yarmouth: First celebration of African Heritage Month
- Digby: Ujamma Fisheries
- Ongoing issues in policing and justice

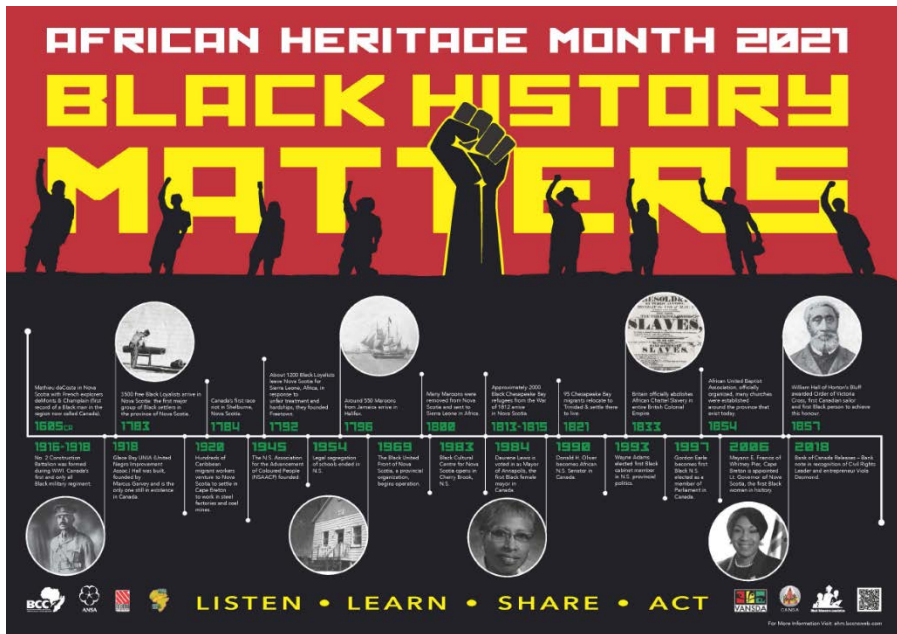


AFRICAN CANADIAN ONLINE

The Centre for the Study of Black Cultures in Canada, York University, Toronto, ON

This site provides information on African Canadian artists and their work, links to other Canadian resources on the web, and updates about the activities of the Centre. The Centre endeavours to serve as a stimulus to and focal point for faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students, as well as independent scholars who are pursuing research in African Canadian Studies at York and elsewhere. The Centre sponsors conferences, events, and ongoing research projects.

<http://www.yorku.ca/aconline>



[African Heritage Month Information Network](#)

The African Heritage Month Information Network (AHMIN) produces an educational poster that is distributed and displayed across the province in community gathering centers, schools, churches, government offices and businesses.

10 Cherry Brook Rd, Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia, Cherry Brook, NS B2Z 1A8

(902) 434-6223



[Africa Festival of Arts and Culture Society](#)

1 Sprucewood Court, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2W 6E7 (902) 462-4350 The mission of AFACS is to encourage and foster successful exposure and community awareness of African arts and culture in Nova Scotia.

African Nova Scotian Directory: <https://ansd.ca/listing/africa-festival-of-arts-and-culture-society.html>



MAKE THE CONNECTION

[Mary Preston Historical Society](#) 1950 Highway # 7, East Preston, Nova Scotia B2Z 1E9 (902) 434-4841

[Congress of Black Women of Canada/ Preston, Cherry Brook, Lake Loon & area](#) P.O Box 21005, Shoppers Drug Mart, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2W 6B2 (902) 435-3949 The Congress of Black Women of Canada is a voluntary non-profit organization which is dedicated to improving the welfare of Black women and their families in their local communities.



[Black Ice Hockey and Sports Hall of Fame Society](#)

NS. The organization was established as a not-for-profit organization on May 27, 2009 in the Province of Nova Scotia. The mandate of the organization is to promote awareness of the roles played by Blacks in Hockey and other notable sports.

culture, African Nova Scotian history is deep and storied. Today, there are 50 African Nova Scotian communities throughout the province of Nova Scotia. Almost 21,000 African Nova Scotians call this province home, contributing to the rich diversity that defines Nova Scotia. African Nova Scotian Affairs contributes to government decision-making and facilitates positive change on behalf of African Nova Scotians. It also works in partnership with departments, agencies and other organizations to develop solutions that support the ongoing well-being of African Nova Scotians. ANSA is an advocate for African Nova Scotians, encouraging dialogue and involvement between government and the community. Through the efforts of ANSA, voices have a means to be heard and the aspirations of African Nova Scotians can be achieved.



Honourable Tony Ince Minister of **African Nova Scotian Affairs** is working with government to serve African Nova Scotians. As a founding



[Jamaican Cultural Association of Nova Scotia \(JCANS\)](#) Halifax, Nova Scotia [\(902\) 477-8478](#)

The mission of the Jamaican Cultural Association of Nova Scotia (JCANS) is to preserve and promote Jamaican historical and cultural heritage within Nova Scotia.

[Descendants of African American Enslaved Living in Nova Scotia](#) 90 Martin Lake, Lake Echo, Nova Scotia B3E 1B3, Canada [902 488-6355](#) We are not for profit organization committed to making a difference in our communities, through education, employment and community development.



[Africville Museum & Heritage Trust](#) 5271 Africville Rd, Halifax, B3K 2R9 [\(902\) 455-6558](#)

The Africville Heritage Trust, which is a not-for-profit organization, was established in 2010 to manage the Africville Memorial Project, including the Museum and the Africville Interpretive Centre.



[Department of Education - African Canadian Services](#) 2021 Brunswick Street, Brunswick Place, Box 578, Halifax B3J 2S9 [\(902\) 424-3151](#) The African Canadian Services Division is located within the Public Schools Branch of the Nova Scotia Department of Education.



[Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq Initiative](#)

6061 University Avenue, Dalhousie University Schulich School of Law Rm. 32, Halifax, B3H 4R2, [\(902\) 494-1542](#) The Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq (IB&M) Initiative at the Schulich School of Law was established in 1989 to increase representation of Indigenous Blacks and Mi'kmaq in the legal profession in order to reduce discrimination.



[Association of Black Social Workers](#) 1018 Main Street, Akoma Family Centre, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2W 4X9 [\(902\) 407-8809](#) ABSW is a volunteer charitable organization consisting of Black Social Workers and Human Service Workers throughout the province.



<https://vandsa.ca/> VANSDA'S mission is to improve the quality of life for African Nova Scotians and other citizens in the Annapolis Valley by creating Partnerships in Employment, Training and Economic Development. Our focus is on increasing employment opportunities for marginalized and other community members.



[Cultural and Academic Enrichment Program](#) 2136 Gottingen Street, Halifax, NS, , Halifax, B3K 3B3 [\(902\) 424-7036](#) The Cultural and Academic Enrichment Program, offered to African Canadian children, is a supplementary educational program initiated by African Canadian parents.



[Black Educators Association](#) 2136 Gottingen Street, Halifax, NS B3K 3B3 [\(902\) 424-7036](#)

The Black Educators Association (BEA) was founded in 1969 to assist African Nova Scotian communities develop strategies toward an equitable education system.



[Africentric Learning Institute](#) Nova Scotia info@alinovascotia.ca ALI is committed to promoting Africentricity as a philosophy for the advancement of African peoples through education and thought leadership. ALI school features lectures, panel discussions, videos, articles and the like written and produced by local and international proponents of Africentricity.



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

[Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21](#)



[East Preston Empowerment Academy](#) 206 Upper Partridge River Dr, East Preston, Nova Scotia B2Z 1H3 [\(902\) 434-2255](#) EPEA began as a traditional Adult Learning Programme, and was then expanded to include a preparation course

for the Graduate Equivalency Diploma (GED) Exam.



[Afrikan Canadian Heritage & Friendship Centre](#) 27 Green Street, P.O. Box 19, Guysborough, B0H 1N0 [\(902\) 533-4006](#) The Centre holds numerous valuable resources recording the history and heritage of African Nova Scotians in the Guysborough and Strait regions, established in 2001 and runs under the Strait District School Board.



[Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute](#) 5450 Cornwallis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 1A9, Canada [\(902\) 407-3200](#) As an Africentric Institute, the DBDLI creates educational change and genuine opportunities for learners and communities of African ancestry to reach their full potential.



[North Preston Community Centre \(HRM\)](#) 44 Simmonds Road, North Preston, NS B2Z 1A3, [\(902\) 462-4230](#)



[Menelik Hall Community Center](#) 88 Laurier Street, Whitney Pier, NS B1N 2B5 [\(902\) 562-](#)

[0172](#) The name “Menelik” was derived from an African Prince.



[Whitney Pier Youth Club](#) 111 West St., Sydney, NS B1N 1S2 [\(902\) 567-0240](#) The Whitney Pier Youth Club Society (WPYC) is a youth oriented, non-profit registered charity serving minority and underprivileged youth.



[Infinitus](#) Nova Scotia. To Empower Youth, Individuals & Communities to Embrace their Limitless Potential™



[Black Business Initiative](#) 1660 Hollis Street, Centennial Building, Suite 1201, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1V7, [888-664-9333](#) The BBI is committed to growing a Black presence in a diverse range of business sectors including high-tech, manufacturing, tourism, and the cultural sector.



[Community Enhancement Association](#) 105B Walker St, Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 3H9 [\(902\) 893-1911](#)



HAAC.CA

[Health Association of African Canadians \(HAAC\)](#)

10 Cherry Brook Road, Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia, Cherry Brook, NS B2Z 1A8 [\(902\) 405-4222](#) The HAAC formed in 2000 to address African Canadian health issues and system inequities affecting health. 778 Victoria Road, Sydney, NS



[United African Canadian Women Association](#)

3200 Kempt Rd, Suite 202, Halifax, NS B3K 4X1, [\(902\) 457-0812](#) The United African Canadian Women’s Association of Nova Scotia (UACWA) was formed in May 1996.



[The Upper Big Tracadie Seniors Action Club](#) has members from Upper Big Tracadie, **Lincolntonville**, Rear Monastery and Sunnyville. Formed in 2011, the group preserves the culture and heritage of the area. A new undertaking is their community garden serving over 24 families.



[Tatamagouche Centre: A Learning & Retreat Conference Centre with an Activist Ethos](#)

259 Loop of Route 6, Tatamagouche, NS B0K 1V0 [902-694-3215](#) Overlooking beautiful Tatamagouche Bay, where two rivers merge, our year-round facility is located at a gathering place that was used for thousands of years by First Nations, and later by the Acadians.



[East Preston Senior Citizens Club](#) 24 Brooks Dr,
East Preston, NS B2Z 1G1 [\(902\) 462-3690](tel:9024623690)



[Black Student Advising Centre of Dalhousie University](#) 1321 Edward St, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3H5, [\(902\) 494-6648](tel:9024946648) The Black Student Advising Centre supports all black students of African descent in pursuit of post-secondary education at Dalhousie and the University of King's College.



[The Cumberland African Nova Scotian Association](#) 24 Crescent Avenue, Amherst, Nova Scotia B4H 1V1, [\(902\) 661-1509](tel:9026611509) The vision of



[Wallace Lucas Community Centre](#) 596 Lucasville Rd, Lucasville, Nova Scotia B4B 1R9 [\(902\) 865-0944](tel:9028650944)



Black to Business magazine provides updates to our community on business development activities, celebrates successes in our business community through individual and business profiles including youth, and provides access to a variety of resources. <https://www.bbi.ca/b2b-magazine>



[Halifax Cop Watch](https://www.facebook.com/HalifaxCopWatch/) www.facebook.com/HalifaxCopWatch/

A page to post news and information about the Halifax Regional Police and Citizen rights issues - completely from a citizen

CANSA is that all citizens, including persons with disabilities, African Nova Scotians and youth at risk be respected and grow socially, economically and culturally in Cumberland County.



[East Preston Family Resource Centre](#) 1900 Highway 7, East Preston, NS B2Z 1M2 902-462-7266

It truly does take a village to raise a child. With that in mind, the East Preston Family Resource Centre began our journey in 1993, by simply offering parenting and information classes in the community.

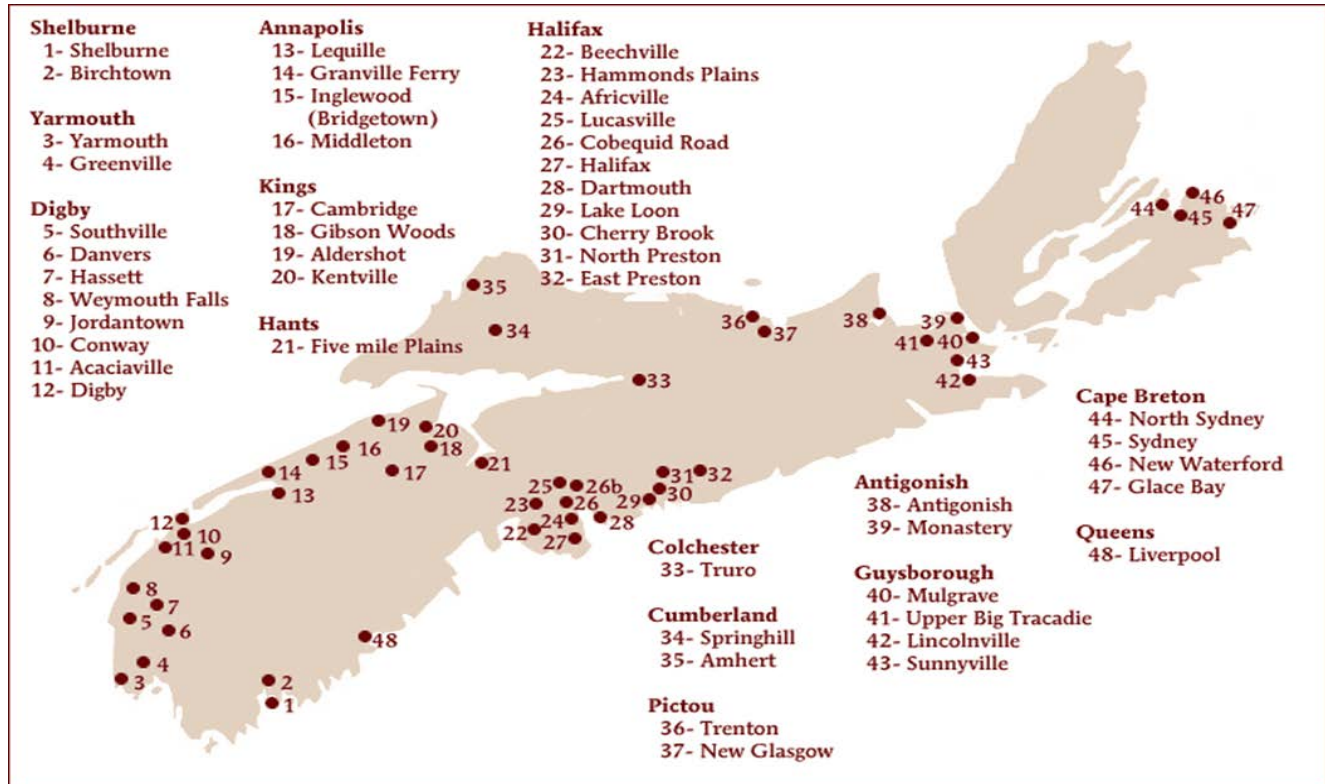


[Council on African Canadian Education, CACE](#) 2021 Brunswick Street, P.O. Box 587, Halifax. CACE is the outgrowth of the Black Learners Advisory Committee (BLAC).

perspective and free from official oversight or in official police communications.

Events

Black Settlements in Nova Scotia: <https://novascotia.ca/museum/blackloyalists/settlement.htm>



sydneytorentoreunion2020@gmail.com

SYDNEY TORONTO REUNION 2020 POSTPONED!

The Reunion committee has been closely watching the COVID-19 pandemic and has regretfully decided to postpone this year's events. We would like to extend a heartfelt apology to all that have made plans to attend. We are POSTPONING not canceling and are hoping (should circumstances allow) to host the event in the first week of August 2021.



<https://symphynovascotia.ca/concerts-and-tickets/concerts/2020-2021/the-nova-scotia-youth-orchestra-online/> The Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra proudly presents a collaborative, online-only concert experience from some of our province’s finest young musicians!



<http://www.halifaxjazzfestival.ca/>

CELEBRATING AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The TD Halifax Jazz Festival is partnered with the [Halifax Public Libraries](#) bringing great FREE

events in celebration of African Heritage Month. To be live-streamed on [Facebook Page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#).



In This Place - African Nova Scotian Art Exhibition

National Black Canadians Summit March 20–22
4th Floor Halifax Convention Centre 1650 Argyle St, Halifax

Sponsored by The Michaëlle Jean Foundation

An exhibition of African Nova Scotian art from across the province featuring works by Justin Augustine, Beverly Bowden, Chrystal Clements, Pemberton Cyrus, Louise DeLisle, Letitia Fraser, Angel Gannon, Edith MacDonald- Brown, Wendilee Poitras, Lester Sykes, Alex Thuk; Avery Crawley Jonathan Cromwell; Clara Gough; Julian Covey. Curator David Woods. Michaëlle Jean Foundation

www.fmjf.ca



ANSMA Annual Awards Show

<https://ansa.novascotia.ca/calendar/event/20th-annual-ansma-awards-show-gala>



East Coast Music Awards

<https://www.ecma.com/>



<https://capebretonjazzfestival.com/musicians>

Cape Breton Jazz Festival 2020 Schedule

Location: The Convent 37 Nepean St./George St. Sydney, NS

September 11 and 12 7:30 pm:

The Bill Stevenson Piano Trio with Bill Stevenson, Geoff Arsenault, and Tom Easley. Opening Act: Carl Getto Jazz Trio featuring vocalist Janet Bickerton.

(AHMIN) is a partnership with:

- African Nova Scotian Affairs
- the Black Cultural Society
- African Nova Scotian Music Association
- African Nova Scotian North-Central Network
- African Heritage Month Southwest Network
- Africville Heritage Trust
- Black Educators Association
- Black History Month Association



Cape Breton Jazz Festival



The African Heritage Month Information Network

- Cumberland African Nova Scotian Ass.
- Valley African Nova Scotian Development Association
- Halifax Regional Municipality's African Nova Scotian Integration Office
- Guysborough, Antigonish Strait African Regional Network

The **2021 African Heritage Month** theme, Black History Matters: Listen, Learn, Share and Act, recognizes the important legacy of people of African descent and the long-standing history in the development of Canada.

The theme brings focus and increased awareness of racialized issues and calls on us to listen, learn, share and act to make society a better place. Nova Scotia has over 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep, and complex history dating back over 400 years. African Heritage Month provides us with another opportunity to celebrate our culture, legacy, achievements, and contributions of people of African Descent .

Black History Month in Canada



In the past, the contributions of African Canadians have been acknowledged informally. Nova Scotian efforts include:

- 1985 – The official opening of Black History Month at the Halifax North Branch Library
- 1987 – First meeting of the Black History Month Association
- 1988 – First Black History Month in Nova Scotia
- 1996 – Black History Month renamed to African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia

Some of these actions have influenced Canada to act on a national level:

- 1995 – The House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month following a motion introduced by the Honourable Jean Augustine, the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament.
- 2008 – The Senate officially declared February as Black History Month. Nova Scotia Senator Donald Oliver, Q.C., was the first Black Canadian appointed to the Senate. His motion was the final parliamentary procedure needed for Canada's permanent recognition of Black History Month.

AHMIN selects the theme and promotes African Heritage Month events and produces an educational poster that is distributed and displayed in community centers, schools, churches, government offices, and businesses.