



## *Reaching the Un-Reached*

Africville, a historic Black community in Halifax, Nova Scotia, has a rich and complex history. Established in the mid-18th century, Africville was founded by Black Refugees, including formerly enslaved African Americans who escaped from the United States and were resettled in Nova Scotia by the British. The community was self-sufficient, with residents working as laborers, fishermen, and Pullman porters.

The community was centered around the Seaview African United Baptist Church, established in 1849, which played a vital role in the social and spiritual life of Africville's residents. Despite facing systemic racism and neglect from the City of Halifax, Africville thrived, with a peak population of around 400 residents in the 1960s.

However, in the 1960s, the City of Halifax forcibly relocated Africville's residents to make way for industrial development, citing "urban renewal." The community was demolished, and residents were moved to public housing, leading to a significant loss of cultural heritage and identity.

The history of Africville is significant for young Black Canadians, as it represents the resilience and determination of Black communities in the face of systemic racism and oppression. The community's legacy continues to inspire civil rights activism and advocacy for racial justice in Canada.

Some notable residents of Africville include Rocky Jones, a civil rights leader, and Eddie Carvery, an advocate who protested the community's destruction. Edith MacDonald-Brown, considered Canada's first documented Black woman painter, was also born in Africville.

