



Black Loyalist HERITAGE CENTRE

PRESENTED by EMERA
A PART of THE NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM



Journey back to Birchtown

On June 5th, 2015 the long awaited event "Journey Back to Birchtown" kicked off with CTV news broadcasting live in Birchtown. Many people from all over the world travelled to Shelburne County to witness the official opening of the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre and to participate in the two day event.

Day 2 began with tours of the building, a keynote address delivered by John Franklin of the Smithsonian followed by Lawrence Hill, Deborah Hill and the Honorable Tony Ince, Minister of Communities Culture & Heritage and Gerald Keddy MLA.

The weather just did not cooperate that day but the spirits were not dampened as buses arrived from all parts of Nova Scotia. Cars

lined the sides of the road leading into Birchtown while visitors were bussed to and from the Centre, by Ambassador Tours.

Pride was on the faces of all who attended. Shelburne County folks, Deputy Minister, Executive Director and staff from Nova Scotia's Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, ACOA, Municipality of

Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, Canadian Heritage, BLHC staff and Directors, friends and our many volunteers.

This day was celebrated with some of the best acts of the African Nova Scotia community.



Lieutenant Governor Visits Birchtown

On August 12, 2015 Their Honours visited the Birchtown Cultural Day Camp which is held twice throughout the summer months. Each week-long consisted of various cultural activities such as arts and crafts, food &

active living lifestyles from around the globe. The children who attended the day camp prepared homemade lemonade for Mr & Mrs. Grant and their Aide de -Camp Craig Smith.

Later they were greeted

by a tour guide and had an opportunity to explore the new Centre, followed by a delightful visit with Board members and a light snack before heading back to Halifax.

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Black Leader Summit—June 8 to 10, 2015

On the heels of the successful North America broadcast of The Book of Negroes and the start of the International Decade for people of African Descent 2015-2024 as sanctioned by the United Nations, Hon. Micheal Coteau, Ontario Minister of Tourism, Culture & Sport & Hon. Tony Ince, NS, Minister of Communities, Culture & Heritage announced the inaugural Black Government Leaders Summit in Canada.

"This Summit will be unprecedented & historic meeting of Black federal & provincial government leaders in Canada to discuss challenges, exchange ideas & seize opportunities," said Minister Coteau. Subsequently, our Centre hosted the 1st Summit, this being a fitting recognition of historic Birchtown as the largest settlement of free Blacks be-

tween 1783 and 1792.

"We felt this was the ideal setting for the summit," said Minister Ince. "The Black Loyalist Heritage Centre, and indeed Birchtown, is sacred ground for people of African descent."

The objective of the Summit was to promote equity & discuss best practices in the design of programs that will embrace opportunities and address current day realities for African Canadians. The Summit agenda included an extensive discussion on governance models that facilitate leadership within minority communities & increase awareness of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent. The Director of Programs & Communication, of the Michaelle Jean Foundation, Peter

Flegel discussed ways to empower Canadian youth to use the arts for advancing the aims of the International Decade.

The 13 Black Government Leaders at the Summit included:

- Honorable Tony Ince, Nova Scotia
- Mr. Stephen Gough, Nova Scotia
- Honorable Michael Coteau, Ontario
- Honorable Mitzie Hunter, Ontario
- Mr. Granville Anderson, Ontario

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A good name is better than a nice scent. (Burji, Kenya) Proverb

The meaning of this Burji Proverb is that a good reputation is better than precious things. No matter what the difficulties a person has, a good reputation is of great importance. The proverb urges people to maintain good relations with others in our society because it will be of importance during times of need

Biblical Parallels

Ecclesiastes 7:1: "A good name is better than fine perfume; and the day of one's death is better than one's birthday."

Proverbs 22:1: "A good name is more desirable than great riches, and loving favor is better than silver and gold."

The Times of African Nova Scotians—Volume Two Launched

The Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute launched the second edition of the African Nova Scotian Times in Sydney and Birchtown, NS in October 2015. Volume two explores the history of Black communities throughout NS. Where they are located, who are the founders of these communities, and what happened to these communities. Senior contributors to this edition include George Elliott Clarke, Dr. Sylvia Hamilton, Dr. Walter

Borden and Dr. Geraldine Browning, who are descendants of founding families of their own communities.



Black Roots—Black History by George Borden

Just off this fast morning highway
On your way to Yarmouth town
Turn left at twenty—seventh exit
To my surprise...what I found
A few short miles along the way
From the corner of my eye
A structure of cultural design
To my surprise, I did spy.
Spellbound was I to see this sight
Prompting me to pen this ode
Alerting all—what you may find

Should you drive up Birchtown Road
There in full view on "hallowed
ground"
A proud "black" museum stands
Mid modest homes of proud black
folks
On once was "granted" settler land.
A virtual shrine for all to see
The life and times of "black folk"
'till now, an unknown history
And what they achieved "of note"

These loyalist blacks-some once were
slaves forces to depart from dangers

And travel to a foreign land
Where they became "____" strang-
ers.
Yet they endured hard times and cold
ill _____ in every way,
As their descendants did survive
To welcome this very day,
So should taste our seaside shore
For sights and sounds and "other
stuff"
Include a drive up Birchtown Road -
See our "Diamond-in-the Rough."

Ebola Orphans by A. Sizwe Adekayode

Nova Scotia has done it again! For the 2nd year in a row, Birchtown & Halifax have teamed up to raise over \$12,500 for the victims of the West African Ebola epidemic. Sponsored by fight Ebola NS, last year's event sent \$12,083 to Doctors without Borders who have been working tirelessly, day in & day out, to save the lives of thousands of infected people

This year's event took place on Oct.24th, at the Halifax Commons and

Birchtown, Nova Scotia and has realized \$12,500 to date for the orphans of Ebola: the children who lost their parents to the deadly disease. The main sponsors included the Black Loyalist Heritage Society, Sierra Leone Canadian Association, Kwacha House Cafe, Liberian Society of NS & ACEP International: a Halifax based social business. The funds will go the Rotary clubs in Guinea, Liberia & Sierra Leone for the upkeep, nurturing and overall well being of the

effected children.

While Ebola is no longer front page news, its impact continues to reverberate throughout the 3 most impacted countries. Their health, educational, sanitation and social infrastructures, minimal at best before the epidemic began, have now become much overburden and in some cases, utterly devastated. Most vulnerable of all are the children who lost their parents. They number an estimated 12,000: a 70%

Cookbook Campaign

The Shelburne County Cultural Awareness Society in 1995 composed its 5th Anniversary Cookbook which included favorite recipes from friends, supporter & members. The cookbook has been a favorite in many homes for 20 years.

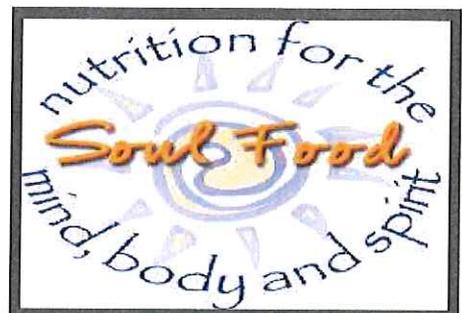
The Black Loyalist Heritage Society is updating their cookbook included in this edition will be interesting stories and photos from the past from as many

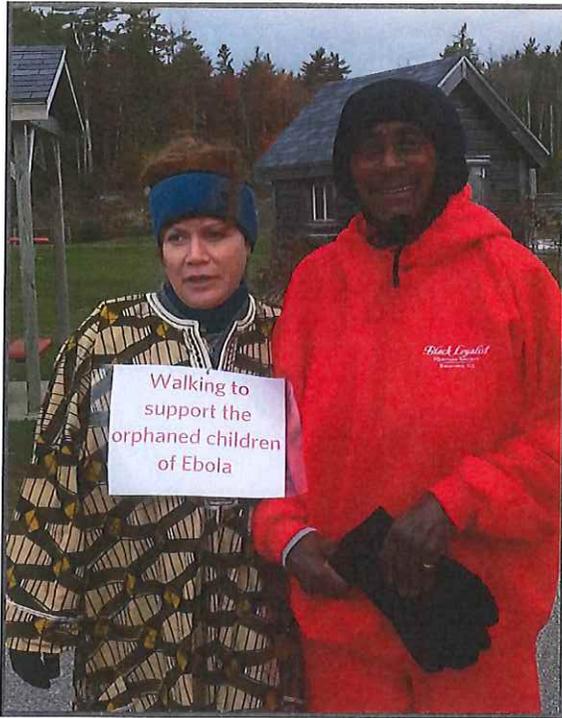
Black Communities who would be interested in submitting stories, photos and of course recipes.

We are asking individuals who may be interested in contributing to the cookbook to send photo, stories & recipes to Arlene Butler our Programming & Outreach coordinator,

arlene@blackloyalist.com

We look forward to hearing from you!





Ebola Orphans *cont'd*

increase over last November's figures of 3,500. We feel for every last one of them!

The walkathon featured a competition among its participants dubbed "Friendly but Deadly". Its objective was to boost enthusiasm for soliciting pledges. The assortment of prizes included a \$100.00 shopping spree, one night's stay at MacKenize's in Shelburne plus free admission into the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre in Birchtown. The winners are Mamawa Kamara (most pledges honored) Jackie Race (most pledges honored per capita) A. Sizwe Adekayode (highest amount raised) Shari Shortliffe (highest amount raised per capita) Winnie Benton (most inspired walker) Kwacha House Café crowd (most creative turnout) Arlene Butler for BLHC (top gold sponsor) & Liberian Society of Nova Scotia (top silver sponsor).

"On behalf of our gold & silver sponsors, we take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers & donors for their support. Your selflessness is truly humbling! We now call on Nova Scotian's business community, politicians, churches, synagogues, mosques, Buddhist temples, Hindu shrines, Santarians, social clubs, community organizations or educational institutions to match our total, dollar for dollar. This will enable us to make a meaningful impact on the lives of those exceedingly unfortunate children".



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Black Leader Summit *cont'd*

- Senator Anne C. Cools, Ontario
- Senator Don Meredith, Ontario
- Mr. Maka Kotto, Quebec
- Mr. Tyrone Benskin, Quebec
- Ms. Sadia Groguhe, Quebec
- Mr. Emmanuel Dubourg, Quebec
- Honorable Hedy Fry, BC
- Mr. David Sheppard, Alberta

Scott Mullin, Vice President Community Relations, TD Bank Canada Group commented on the announcement saying "As early contributors to the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre's capital campaign, TD is a proud supporter of this inaugural summit and is committed to promoting the history, heritage & culture of Birchtown, NS".

The Black Leaders Summit was presented by TD Bank Group.

