



**Black Loyalist**  
**HERITAGE CENTRE**  
— PRESENTED *by* EMERA —  
A PART *of* THE NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM

## 2023 NEWSLETTER



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2022 was a year of change and growth. I am pleased to have been voted into my second term as President. It gives me immense pleasure and excitement to lead the Black Loyalist Heritage Society and I thank the Board of Directors.

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I am pleased to welcome our newest members to the Board of Directors of the Black Loyalist Heritage Society being Laurie Jacklyn, David Levy, Darren Jacklin, Paul Blades and Belle Goulden. These individuals bring with them years of experience in varying business, workplace, sport, community support, and volunteering. We welcome you and thank you for your support.

I encourage you to visit our website, which we are updating to feature bios of Board of Directors and staff.

The Society is incredibly pleased and honored to have brought into the organization our new Executive Director, Andrea Davis. We are thrilled to have Andrea leading our Centre not only in our community; but representing us all throughout the Province, Canada, and Internationally. Andrea's achievements in moving our community forward are astonishing and we as Board and community support her one-hundred percent.

I thank our staff at the Centre for another year of dedication which welcomes all visitors and provides them with an eye-opening experience and new perspective.

In closing, I thank you all for your continued support of the Society and Centre as we move forward in our commitment as Members and Staff to advance the mission of the Black Loyalist Heritage Society.

Best Regards,

*Darlene N. Cooper. President of the Black Loyalist Heritage Society*

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## AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2023

February is African Heritage Month. This year's African Heritage Month theme for the province of Nova Scotia is "Seas of Struggle: African Peoples from Shore to Shore". This theme outlines the struggles people of African descent faced from the shores of Africa to the shores of Nova Scotia. Recognizing that the one thing that has remained constant in our history is the Atlantic Ocean. The long-standing history of people of African descent in the development of Canada, the sea has played a vital role. This theme explores the struggle and adversity that was overcome and examines the effects of slavery and seafaring of African Nova Scotians. The theme also aligns with the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015–2024. The goal of DPAD is to strengthen global cooperation in support of people of African descent, increase awareness and the passage towards presence in all aspects of society.


To celebrate African Heritage Month the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre has a line-up of free events throughout the month.

You're invited to the  
**AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH  
 PROCLAMATION 2023**


*this years' theme...*  
**SEAS OF STRUGGLE**  
*African Peoples from Shore to Shore*



Wednesday, February 1 at 11:00AM  
 at the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre




**Free African Heritage Month Film Screening**



**JOHN WARE  
 RECLAIMED**

Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 6:30PM  
 Black Loyalist Heritage Centre

*This film contains explicit language, viewer discretion is advised.*




**AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH  
 SERVICE & SOCIAL**  
*with Reverend & Donna Fells*

Join us for a spiritual service and gospel songs in  
 honour of African Heritage Month,  
 followed by a community social and meet & greet.

Sunday, February 26, 2023  
 1:00PM - 3:30PM




**African Heritage Month Proclamation, February 1 at 11:00AM**

Join us as we launch African Month 2023 with our annual proclamation. The proclamation will feature performances by Akaya Shand and the Hillcrest Choir;

remarks from the Black Loyalist Heritage Society, Municipality of the District of Shelburne and Municipality of Barrington; reading of the African Heritage Month proclamation; and the unveiling of the provincial poster.

This event is presented in partnership with the Municipality of the District of Shelburne and Municipality of Barrington.

**Film Screening: John Ware Reclaimed, February 9 at 6:30PM**

John Ware Reclaimed follows filmmaker Cheryl Foggo on her quest to re-examine the mythology surrounding John Ware, the Black cowboy who settled in Alberta, Canada, before the turn of the 20th century. Foggo's research uncovers who this iconic figure might have been, and what his legacy means in terms of anti-Black racism, both past and present.

Runtime: 73 minutes.

**Content warning: Please note this film contains explicit language. Viewer discretion is advised.**

This event is presented with the support of the National Film Board of Canada.

**African Heritage Month Service & Social, February 26 at 1:00PM**

To cap off our African Heritage Month celebrations, we have invited Reverend Fells and Donna Fells to offer a special service at the Centre. For anyone who attended our Journey Back to Birchtown celebration last July and experienced Reverend Fells' gospel service, they will know this is an event not to be missed!

Following the service we will host a community social/meet & greet.

**We hope to see you at the Centre in February!**

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## **NEW YORK TIMES: A Journey Through Black Nova Scotia**

This summer the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre was featured in a New York Times article by Shayla Martin. The piece focused on the rich African culture and history of Nova Scotia, and the grass-roots movements which are bringing it to the forefront.

A highlight of the article is the interview with Andrea Davis, Executive Director of the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre.

Also featured in the article are the Africville Museum, and Elevate & Explore Black Nova Scotia.

[Click here to read the article on the New York Times website.](#)

## Journey back to *Birchtown*

Journey Back to Birchtown returned in person in July, 2022. Though a slightly different format from previous festivals, visitors enjoyed a great series of activities and performances at the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre.



Highlights from Journey Back to Birchtown 2022 include the Takin' BLK Market, Africadia Geocaching Launch, Archaeological Demonstration, and Gospel Celebration featuring Reverend Fells & the Sanctified Brothers.

# SAVE THE DATE

August 5 - 6, 2023

Be sure to stay tuned as we are busy planning Journey Back 2023. This year marks the 240th anniversary of the Black Loyalist landing in 1783, and we have a great lineup planned to celebrate.

# AFRICAN *Nova Scotian* SEAFARING PROJECT

**Black Loyalist**  
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**FISHERIES**  
MUSEUM  
OF THE  
ATLANTIC  
A PART OF THE NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM



**COMING SOON!**

# African Nova Scotian Seafaring Exhibit

In partnership with the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic, and the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia, the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre has been working to create a special travelling exhibit highlighting the rich history and contributions people of African descent have brought to Nova Scotia's seafaring story.

If you would like more information on the project, or would like to contribute your voice and perspective to the project, please contact:

[braden@blackloyalist.com](mailto:braden@blackloyalist.com)

or visit: [ans-seafaring.ca](http://ans-seafaring.ca)

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

A reminder that Black Loyalist Heritage Society memberships renewals are due for 2023.

If you are not currently a member of the society, why not consider joining?

We offer three classes of membership:

**Individual - \$20**

**Family - \$25**

**Organization/Business - \$40**

Benefits of membership include a gift shop merchandise discount and voting privilege at the Society's Annual General Meeting.

Membership in the Black Loyalist Heritage Society also provides an opportunity to meet people who share the same history and experiences; an opportunity to recollect and share history and contribute to the body of knowledge collected about our ancestors; and to actively promote leadership and mentors in our community.

Membership can be purchased or renewed online by [clicking here](#).

**Our mailing address is:**

119 Birchtown Road, Shelburne NS B0T1W0

**Our telephone number is:**

(902) 875-1310



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