

# BCRC Newsletter



Black Community Resource Centre

Volume 4, Issue 3

September 2005

## *Special points of interest:*

**2005 marks the 10th anniversary of the Black Community Resource Centre. Come celebrate with us on November 10th.**

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**“The rate of HIV/AIDS infection among Black Canadians continues to climb, while that of White Canadians continues to decline”  
- Palpitations, March 2005, Vol. 3, No. 1  
([www.palpitations.ca](http://www.palpitations.ca))**

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## Executive Director's Message

As the summer season comes to a close, the staff and Board of BCRC hopes that our readers enjoyed the warm weather and restful holiday.

BCRC's fall activities are in full swing. Our fall line-up of workshops will predominately focus on HIV/AIDS education. These workshops are in collaboration with AIDS Community Care Montreal (ACCM) and are offered free of charge to the Montreal community. In keeping with our commitment to youth in Montreal, BCRC is also working with Black community organizations to hold information sessions with their leadership youth groups on Youth and HIV/AIDS. We feel strongly that education is vital to positive sexual health.

BCRC is also in the process of outreaching to schools. We will be working with schools to help educate students about the Quebec labour force and their educational and career opportunities. So many of our youth know little about the variety of interesting job opportunities available to them. We will also be working with schools in a more general way to support them in their efforts to increase student participation.

Finally, I would ask that all of our readers highlight Thursday November 10th in their calendars, as we will be sending out invitations for Soul Reflections, a wine and food tasting experience that friends and family will be invited to in celebration of 10 years of hard work and success within the community.

Sharon Springer  
Executive Director

## HIV/AIDS & The Black Community

- *Black Canadians accounts for the highest proportion of reported AIDS cases among non-White groups\*\**
- *In 1998, Black Canadians represented 5.3% of positive HIV test reports with known ethnicity. This figure rose to 10.8% in 2003\**
- *[Between 1998 and June 30, 2004] people whose HIV infection was attributed to heterosexual exposure represented the largest proportion of positive HIV test reports among Black Canadians (85.5%)\**
- *Black females are at a higher risk of contracting HIV/AIDS than any other segment of the female population in Canada\*\**

(cont. pg 2)

## HIV/AIDS Cont.

- *Informal volunteer reporting indicates that 70 per cent of the mother-infant transmissions in recent years were among women from Africa and the Caribbean...overall, the rate of HIV infection is 20 times greater in the Caribbean community and 60 times greater in the African Community\*\**
- 
- *At a global level, youth have been greatly affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic as an estimated 10 million people aged 15 to 24 years are now living with HIV. Half of all new infections worldwide are occurring among young people\**
- *In 2003, females accounted for 42.5% of positive HIV test reports among those aged 15 to 29 years. This proportion has been consistent since 1999\**
- *Over 80 per cent of Black Canadians are infected via heterosexual exposure\*\**

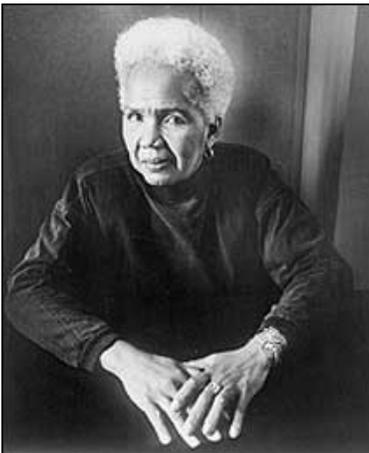
The Canadian Youth, Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Study (CYSHHAS) was conducted in 2002 with 11,074 students, ages 12, 14 and 16, in grades 7,9 and 11. Many students thought there was a vaccine to prevent HIV/AIDS while many others think there is cure.

During the Fall, BCRC will hold four HIV/AIDS awareness sessions. "Education is vital to positive sexual health". We encourage our readers to contact us for further information.

\*Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (2005) - 'Ethnicity Reporting for AIDS and HIV in Canada: Aboriginal and Black Communities Demand Attention' (Public Health Agency of Canada; [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/hast-vsmt/](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/hast-vsmt/), pp.45-50).

\*\*Tricia Hylton (2005) - 'A Looming Crisis' (Palpitations; Volume 3, No.1, [www.palpitations.ca](http://www.palpitations.ca)).

## THE ROSEMARY BROWN RESOLUTION



On Tuesday September 6, 2005 the Côte des Neiges - Notre Dame de Grâce Borough Council adopted a resolution to rename the park situated on the corner of avenue McLynn and Vézina, in Côte des Neiges, 'Parc Rosemary Brown'.

Since February 2004, Marvin Rotrand, Montreal City Councillor for the Swondon district has been pushing to have the City of Montreal officially honour Ms. Brown; with the support of community organizations and public officials.

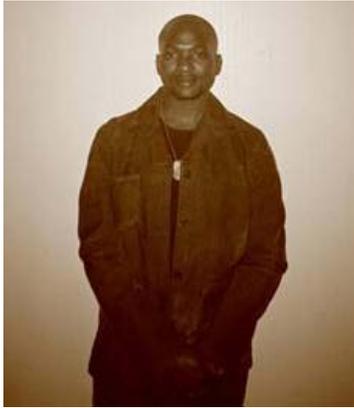
The resolution now goes before City Council to be "rubber stamped" for approval. According to Mr. Rotrand, "[Montrealers] have been promised by the clerk office locally [that City Council will vote on the Rosemary Brown resolution] no later than November."

Rosemary Brown had a distinguished career in Canadian politics and was equally committed to human rights and social justice.

In one of her more memorable quotes she states; "women should enter politics to bring about change. It's a tough arena and an unpleasant one, the sacrifices called for can be only justified on the grounds that we are indeed making the world, or our community, a better place than it is."

For more information on the Rosemary Brown resolution please contact Mr. Rotrand's office at 514.872.4863.

# Howard Parchment... 'Beyond Words'



Writer and spoken word artist Howard Parchment unveiled his second book 'Letters of Devotion'.

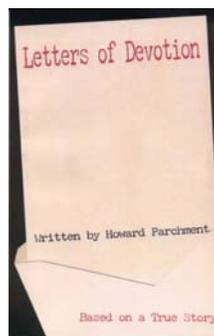
A Canadian with "sizzling Caribbean roots" his writings reflect his North American experience and reveal his inner self.

He is a physiology major with a theatre arts background. He is also a regular poet on the COCO CAFÉ stage, held every last Sunday of the month at Jello Bar.

It is through his latest work that Howard "has found his voice and destiny."

You can check out his books at [www.bbotw.com](http://www.bbotw.com), and for more information on the poet, send your emails to [hparchment@fido.ca](mailto:hparchment@fido.ca).

A heartfelt moment, our talk was sweet.  
I care for you from hands to feet.  
Words can't complete the thought.  
I care for you like how  
The planet cares for the sun.  
My world revolves around you.  
You are always there.



You have broken through the clouds,  
Into new depths, places I hold sacred.  
A fire burns for you in my soul.  
My body transmits codes ancient as time.  
Myself, I am spellbound.  
Making love to you  
is poetry beyond words.

## BCRC Recommended Reading List

Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (2005) - 'Ethnicity Reporting for AIDS and HIV in Canada: Aboriginal and Black Communities Demand Attention' (Public Health Agency of Canada; [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/hast-vsmt/](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/hast-vsmt/), pp.45-50).

Tricia Hylton (2005) - 'A Looming Crisis' (Palpitations; Volume 3, No.1, [www.palpitations.ca](http://www.palpitations.ca)).

Howard Parchment (2005) - Letters of Devotion: Based on a True Story (Infinity Publishing; ISBN:0741425181).

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Grace-Edward Galabuzi (2001) - Canada's Creeping Economic Apartheid: The economic segregation and social marginalization of racialised groups (CSJ Foundation For Research and Education, [www.socialjustice.org](http://www.socialjustice.org)).

Cheryl Teelucksingh & Grace-Edward Galabuzi (2005) - Working Precariously: The impact of race and immigration status on employment opportunities and outcomes in Canada (The Canadian Race Relations Foundation; <http://www.crr.ca>).

## THE BLACK COALITION OF QUEBEC CONFERENCE

THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS WITH EDUCATION!

Conference On Reflection On High Dropout Rates Within The Black English Speaking Community

Sponsored by The Black Coalition of Quebec

Date: Saturday, October 1, 2005

Place: Royal Vale School

5851 Somerled Ave. (corner Draper) Bus 102, Metro Vendôme

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*“...this conference will present a series of workshops that will explore the relationships between school, students, parents, community organizations, as well as the Ministry of Education in Quebec. The workshops will be animated by various community figures who will offer a variety of recommendations that should please all the participants.”*

\*\*\*\*\*

For conference details, 514.489.3830

## BTW OPENS 2005-2006 SEASON



BTW “is Canada’s longest standing Black professional theatre company.”

Moreover, the Theatre celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Vision Celebration Gala which will be held January 28th, 2006. The Theatre itself has been in existence for 35 years.

The Vision Celebration Gala is an “elegant and glamorous affair celebrating excellence in the performing arts and honouring one who has given to the community.”

This season, BTW says farewell to outgoing Artistic Director Rachael Van Fossen. In the words of the new appointed Artistic Director, Tyrone Benskin, “Rachel has guided the company with passion and commitment for four seasons, integrating community development programming into the company’s professional theatre activities.”

The Black Theatre Workshop opened its 2005-2006 season with an exciting stage lineup filled with humor, community involvement, spoken word and history. For more information about the season, Vision Celebrations and membership visit their website - [www.blacktheatreworkshop.ca](http://www.blacktheatreworkshop.ca).

**Dear Readers,  
Please do not hesitate  
in letting the BCRC team know what events are taking  
place within your organization. We will gladly post the info on our website, ebulletin and / or newsletter  
You can email or fax us  
[bcrc@qc.aira.com](mailto:bcrc@qc.aira.com) or 514.342.2283**

## 2005 Fall Workshop Series

**Monday, October 3**

HIV/AIDS 101: Awareness Session (10h-13h)

**Thursday, October 6**

Public Relations II with Dehja Carrington (10h-12h)

**Tuesday, November 1**

Training Session on HIV/AIDS Discrimination (10h-13h)

**Monday, November 14**

Sexual Health and Self Esteem (10h-12h)

**To Be Confirmed (November)**

Caribbean & African Women Made Vulnerable to HIV/AIDS (10h-13h)

**Monday, December 5**

Financial Resource Management For Non-Profits(10h-13h)



**All HIV/AIDS awareness sessions are held in collaboration with  
AIDS Community Care Montreal (ACCM)**

### PLEASE NOTE

The following workshops are by group appointments only with a min. attendance of 10 individuals

ABCs FOR VOLUNTEER  
BOARDMEMBERS

&

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

All workshops are free of charge at BCRC

Registration deadline is ONE WEEK before the actual workshop

Light refreshments will be served

For further information—please contact BCRC

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*Supporting Youth, Building Communities  
A "Holistic Approach"*

[WWW.BLACKYOUTHPROJECT.ORG](http://WWW.BLACKYOUTHPROJECT.ORG)

The Centre undertook a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of Black youth aged 0-30 and their families; this approach is called the "Holistic Project." Through a multi-intervention (holistic) approach, the Black Community Resource Centre helps young Black, English-speaking individuals fully participate in mainstream society.

The adoption of this approach recognizes that youth can have many needs (e.g., social cultural, health, education, economic, ect. ) and that all these needs must be addressed in order for the youth to reach their maximum potential.

The Centre provides information and resources to both organizations and individuals within Montreal. In addition, we provide programming to Black youth in a manner which takes into account their many and complex needs.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- **We encourage our readers to visit BCRC's website for upcoming events in Montreal, BCRC publications, and much more.**
- Please do not hesitate in letting the BCRC team know what events are taking place within your organization. You can email or fax us.
- **Also check out our Black History web links and see what history holds.**

**OUR FUNDERS:**

- Human Resource and Skills Development Canada; Multiculturalism; Official Languages Branch



- Emploi Québec; Fonds Jeunesse du Québec; Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'immigration; Ministère de l'Emploi de la Solidarité Sociale et de la Famille; Office Québec-Amériques pour la jeunesse

**Disclaimer:**

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