

BCRC Newsletter



Black Community Resource Centre

Volume 4, Issue 1

March 2005

Special points of interest:

2005 marks the 10th anniversary of the Black Community Resource Centre.

BCRC is a non-profit growing resource-based organization that strengthens the capacity of communities by providing professional support to organizations and individuals in need.

The Centre is committed to helping Black youth rekindle their dreams, and to achieve their full potential.

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Executive Director's Message

February's Black History Month undoubtedly kept many of us quite busy in our efforts to attend as many of the interesting exhibitions and events that were planned in celebration of Black culture and heritage. This year, BCRC held a joint Black History month event with inobe productions. On February 27 many of our friends joined us at COCO Café, a spoken word extravaganza that showcases young talent in Montreal. It was quite a successful night. Youth performers expressed themselves through conscious, thought-provoking art that made all in attendance proud of our heritage and evolution as a community. BCRC will also be co-sponsoring the March COCO Café event which will be held at Jello Bar on Sunday March 27th. We encourage our

readers to support young artist in the community by attending this worthwhile event.

Until then, please take the time to peruse the many informative articles about important personages who have positively impacted our community. In this issue we commemorate the lives of Malcolm, Rosemary and Charlie whose untimely deaths were in February, and we celebrate the life and continuing work of Nelson Mandela who was released from prison after 36 years in confinement in February of 1990.

Sharon Springer
Executive Director
March 2005

Martin Luther King Day In Montreal



As the New Year began, Montreal City Council "took two important steps" in honouring two very important leaders in history who fought for social justice, inclusion and human rights.



The council adopted a resolution making every third Monday in January 'Martin Luther King Day in Montreal'. Montreal is the first city in Canada to official recognize the contributions of Martin Luther King Jr., by officially observing his birthday and his historic commitment to social change.

City Council "also formalised a motion of the Ville Marie Borough naming a park downtown for Toussaint L'Ouverture". In keeping with the memories of these two important figures in history, we thank the City Council of Montreal for their continuous work in promoting social justice and human rights.

We Remember Biddle, Brown, Ruck...



The month of February should never be the only month where Black history is mentioned, nor should it be the only time we remember the many people of African descent and their contribution to human kind and the progress of our community.



“I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.”

Mandela’s words while on trail in 1964.
He was released from prison Feb.11.1990.



Top row left to right: Charles Biddle Sr., Dr. Rosemary Brown, Senator Calvin W. Ruck.

Middle row left to right: Wangari Maathai, Kofi A. Annan

“\$20 million for 20 million children affected by HIV / AIDS”



“Over 2.4 million HIV-infected women give birth each year. Each year, there are 600,000 newly infected infants; 9 out of 10 of these are in Africa. In fact, of the children living with HIV, over 90% acquired the infection from their mother”

Director General and founder of Zerf Productions, Dr. Wilhelmina Fredericks has launched a health campaign for children in Africa living with HIV / AIDS in 2004.

Climbers brace the elements and climb “5 mountains on 4 continents in the next 5 years to raise \$20 million.”

The first stop was mount Kilimanjaro located in Tanzania, in September 2004. This year Climbers will have the honour of attempting another climb of Kilimanjaro in September 2005.

Source:

www.kilimanjaro2020.com

Five members from Montreal’s Black community, will be attempting the climb of Kilimanjaro in September, and will be holding several fundraising events throughout the City of Montreal in order to raise funds for “medicine, equipment, food, educational material, computers, books, and clothing directly to the people and the hospitals, with minimal government involvement.”

For more information on how you can support Kilimanjaro 2020 please visit the website: www.kilimanjaro2020.com to learn more and make an online donation.

For more information on how you can support climbers from the Black community contact Suzanne Babb: 514.603.1862.

Nova Scotia Government creates Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs



Dr. Carrie M. Best; journalist, author, poet and human rights activist.

The government of Nova Scotia has created the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs (OANSA), with Wayn Hamilton as Executive Director at the helm. Nova Scotia continues to lead the way for a proactive race relations agenda by seriously addressing the “unique needs of African Nova Scotian communities.”

The rich African heritage of Nova Scotia dates back to the Mathew Da Costa (circa 1604), and includes people from the African Diaspora; Portia White (Opera singer) and Dr. Carrie Best (founder of The Clarion) to mention a few.

The province is home to 48 communities of African decent, and according to the 2001 census the African Nova Scotia population was 19,670.

African Nova Scotian communities have struggled with wide spread racial discrimination, cultural biases, and institutional racism. Where numerous recommendations, submissions and reports clearly outlined the problems with means and ways of establishing concrete measures. Among institutional racism lays the facts that “few African Nova Scotian public servants hold managerial positions”, and only 2.23 per cent of African Nova Scotians are employed by the provincial public service. To date, there are no Nova Scotia MLAs of African descent.

The mission of OANSA is to ensure that the socio-economic needs of African Nova Scotians, and their communities are met with sustainable development initiatives.

Its vision is “to promote and facilitate positive change on behalf of Nova Scotians of African descent,” which would mean that all divisions of government and OANSA will be working together in establishing short term results with long term affects.

OANSA mandate:

- To create and promote an integrated approach within government on matters related to the African Nova Scotian communities in the province.
- To represent the interest of the province in intergovernmental initiatives and negotiations on matters integral to the interests of African Nova Scotians.
- To provide research analysis and policy advice on African Nova Scotian issues.
- To develop communication strategies and public education initiatives to increase understanding within the province of African Nova Scotian, culture, heritage, and community issues.

OANSA’s website is currently under construction. BCRC will provide the link to OANSA once it is available. In the meantime, let us celebrate the fact that African communities of Nova Scotia have a voice at the government table.

The Month of March

- March 8, International Women’s Day
- March 21, World Poetry Day
- March 21, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- March 21-28, Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination
 - March 25, Good Friday
- March 27, Easter Sunday, World Theatre Day, **COCO Café “SMACK DOWN”**
 - March 28, Easter Monday
- March 31, Aboriginal Achievement Awards

Please note: do not hesitate in letting BCRC know of community events taking place in and around Montreal

BCRC CELEBRATED BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT COCO CAFÉ



Hostess: Mahalia "Miss Thang" Verna

The Black Community Resource Centre in collaboration with inobe productions celebrated Black History Month at Coco Café at the well known Jello Bar lounge.

Since 1996, inobe productions (www.inobeproductions.com) has been producing Coco Café, "the longest running night of spoken word in Montreal" and indeed Canada.

What is Coco Café? "A show. A stage. A venue. Blacks and their friends can come together to perform, exchange ideas, meet, greet and collaborate."

BCRC and Montrealers will be at Coco Café **"SMACK DOWN"**, on **Sunday March 27th**, as we celebrate the many talents of our youth, who speak to us in their own artistic styles, on issues that brought us to our feet in applause to hear more words of wisdom.

We are thankful to inobe productions for providing this vital outlet to our young Black artists of Montreal for the last nine years, and we look forward to celebrating their 10th year anniversary with youthful vitality and style

**Coco Café with Mahalia "Miss Thing" Verna
&
DJ Franky Selector**

**Jello Bar, 151 Ontario St. East (corner du Buillon)
Metro Saint Laurent or Berri-UQAM**

**Doors open at 7pm
Show starts at 8pm
\$8 at the door**

BCRC Recommended Reading List

Austin Clarke (2003) - [The Polished Hoe](#) (Amistad; ISBN:0060555653, 480pp)

Cecil Foster (2005) - [Where Race Does Not Matter: The New Spirit of Modernity](#) (Penguin Canada Paperback; ISBN:0143017691, 224pp)

Lawrence Hill (2001) - [Black Berry, Sweet Juice: On Being Black and White in Canada](#) (HarperCollins Publishers Ltd., ISBN: 0002000202, 246pp)

Toni Morrison (2003) - [Love](#) (Knopf Publishing Group; ISBN:0375409440, 208pp)

Alice Walker (2004) - [A Life](#) (W. W. Norton & Company; ISBN:0393058913, 538pp)

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)

**Bible-Way Pentecostal Church
&
Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre**

**Host their first joint community initiative coinciding with
The 2005 National Volunteer Week**

**Volunteer Management Workshop
'Retaining and Developing Volunteers'**

Thursday, April 21, 2005

1PM-5PM

**Georges-Vanier Cultural Centre
2450 Rue Workman (corner Vinet)
Free of charge**

For more information contact Irmeli: 514.931.6265 ext.31 before April 15th, 2005



**Black Theatre Workshop
Community Play - 'Shifting Ground'**

The project 'Shifting Ground' encourages people to participate in performing stories from our communities, in collaboration with professional theatre artists. Do you want your voice to be heard? Have you always dreamed of being an actor? Or in working behind the scenes of a theatre show? If so, then 'Shifting Ground' is for you. Come out to free workshops, have fun, get creative.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED (WE KNOW YOU ARE) PLEASE CONTACT US AT 514.932.1104 ext 224 or visit us on the web: www.blacktheatreworkshop.ca.

BCRC 2005 Winter / Spring Workshop Series

Thursday, March 24: Sustaining a worth while database (10h-16h)

Wednesday, April 6: Board Efficiency (18h-20h15)

Thursday, April 21: Introduction to public relations (10h-13h)

All workshops are free of charge

Workshops will take place at Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi CDN

6555 Ch. De la Côte-des-Neiges, suite 235

Light refreshments will be served

For further information & to register please contact BCRC

GET INVOLVED

BUILDING A COMMUNITY WITH A NEW GENERATION

The N.D.G. Black Community Association is proud to offer their programs and services for the 2005/2006 session **GET INVOLVED** as a volunteer, or participate in one or as many programs for you, teens, young adults, and the elders. Help shape and build our community. The programs we are now offering:

- Piano (Private Instruction half or full hour)
- Cake Decorating (Beginners)
- Cake Decorating (Advanced)
- Basketball all ages (Instructional, Teams, open gym)
- Basketball (5 years to 10 years old instructional)
- French Courses (Beginners / Intermediate) 10 weeks/ 2 times per week/ 2 hours per session.
- Computer Courses (Beginners) 5 weeks/ 2 times per week/ 2 hours per day
- Karate (Group Instruction)
- After School Program (Mondays to Fridays 3pm to 5pm) includes Arts and Crafts
- Pan Program (learn how to play, Seniors invited)
- Aerobics (seniors VERY low impact)
- Computer Courses (SENIORS BASIC) how to be comfortable

Please call the N.D.G. Black Community Association to register and inquire about our price fees, schedule times, or for private donations with tax receipts.

Coming soon

**Our 25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Invitational Basketball Tournament
July 7th to July 11th 2005**

Ask for Winston Murray Coordinator of Programs and Services @ 514.481.3598, **Monday to Friday
12PM to 5PM**, or email us at NDGBCA@qc.aibn.com

Caring & Helping Hands - 5th Annual Banquet

'Serving the Community with Caring & Helping Hands'

Saturday, April 30th, 2005

St. Kevin Church Hall

5600 Côte-des-Neiges

Buffet Dinner

Cocktails starting at 5PM

Donation of \$40

With musical talent from The Children of God's Kingdom Choir & Musicians

Guest speaker: Ms. Brenda Rowe

For more information & how to make your donation contact: 514.490.1148

Keep watch for Caring & Helping Hands 8 week Musical Summer Camp, registration to begin this Spring - "come join a camp that makes a difference"

BLACK COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

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

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

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