



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
*Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey*

## **MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Friday, February 8, 2019*

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### ***BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATED AT ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ACROSS THE DISTRICT***

During the month of February, Canadians have the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of black Canadians and reflect on their stories, experiences and accomplishments.

“Throughout the year, but especially during the month of February, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board will highlight a selection of curriculum and community resources which celebrate and honour Black history and offer students opportunities for learning,” says Deb Crawford, Director of Education.

With a focus on faith, curriculum, history and local events, classroom teachers will help connect students to Black history using a wealth of resources available through the Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society, Uncle Tom’s Cabin Museum, Buxton Museum and the Sarnia Historical Society.

Many schools will also be planning educational excursions to some of these important local institutions.

For more information, please refer to the St. Clair Catholic District School Board’s Black History Month newsletter, which is attached. To arrange a school visit, contact the Supervisor of Communications.



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FEBRUARY IS...

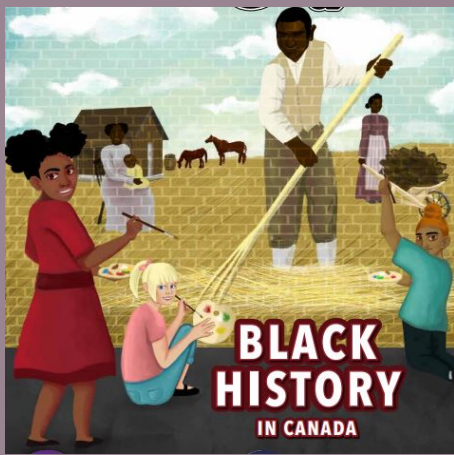
# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During the month of February, Canadians have an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of black Canadians and reflect on their stories, their experiences, and their accomplishments. The St. Clair Catholic District School Board has pulled together a selection of curriculum and community resources that honor Black History and offer opportunities for learning.

## FAITH

"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the full staircase." (Martin Luther King Jr.)

Throughout the month of February, schools will begin each day with a reflection on Black History and how it connects with Catholic Education ([link here](#)). Stemming from the morning reflections, classrooms are encouraged to use the teaching of the day into further discussions with students. The United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015 to 2024) encourages us to "promote greater knowledge of and respect for diverse heritage, culture and contribution of people of African descent to the development of society".



## CURRICULUM

Teaching students the importance of tolerance is a year-round priority. Black History Month provides an opportunity to help students dig a little deeper into just what it means to accept others and the role that acceptance plays in cultivating a culture of kindness inside the classroom. Check out the resource links and ideas throughout this newsletter to bring the important achievements, past and present, into the classroom and engage in critical discussions this month and all year.

## HISTORY

Black History Canada provides resources on the history of Canada's Black Community. This site provides an in depth teaching guide along with interactive resources and activities to support the teaching and learning of Black Canadian History. In addition to the teaching guide, the website offers an interactive timeline to use in the classroom: 1600-1700; 1700-1800 1800-1900; 1900-Present

## LOCAL EVENTS

Black people have lived in what we now know as Canada since the 1600s. For over 400 years, Black men and women have contributed to all areas of society. They have fought a fight for racial equality, a fight that has benefited all Canadians.

**Feb. 1 : Learn more about Viola Desmond**  
11:00 am ([click here to find out more.](#))  
Black Mecca Museum inside the WISH Centre, 177 King St. E, Chatham

**Feb 15: Teaching Black History in Canada—A Workshop**  
8:45 am - 3:00 pm  
Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site  
29251 Uncle Tom's Road, Dresden

**Feb 18: A Chatham Kent Tapestry : A Visual History to 1950** by Jim & Lisa Gilbert Book Signing and Presentation  
10:30 am - 11:45 am  
Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site, 29251 Uncle Tom's Road, Dresden

**Feb 21 : Martin's Big Words, CK Black Historical Society & Black Mecca Museum** ([click here to find out more](#))  
6:30 pm  
Chatham Kent Public Library

**Feb 24: A Snapshot in the Family Album**  
3:00 pm  
North Buxton Community Church,  
21991 AD Shadd Rd, North Buxton

# CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Bring the Museum to your classroom! The Chatham Kent Black Historical Society will bring the virtual museum to your classroom and engage within your classroom discussions with you and your students.

Contact Information:

Samantha Meredith

info@ckblackhistorysociety.org



The Sarnia Historical Society will also connect across classrooms to bring the story of Peter Pennington in this linked article and Elizabeth Workman in this excerpt from his novel: Keeping the Peace: 160 Years of Policing the Imperial City by Phil Egan, (to be published by the Sarnia Historical Society in Fall 2019), to you and your students.

Contact Information: Phil Egan

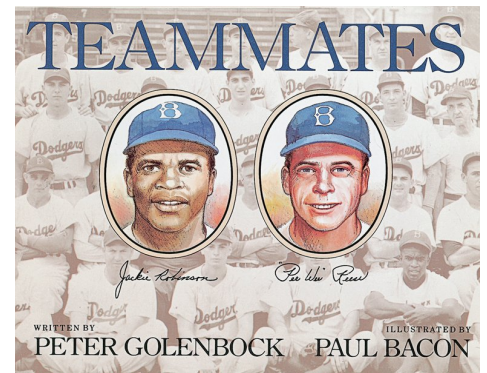
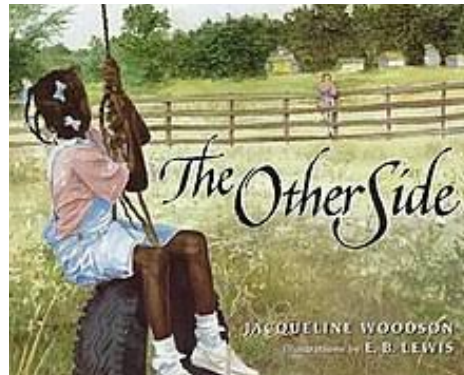
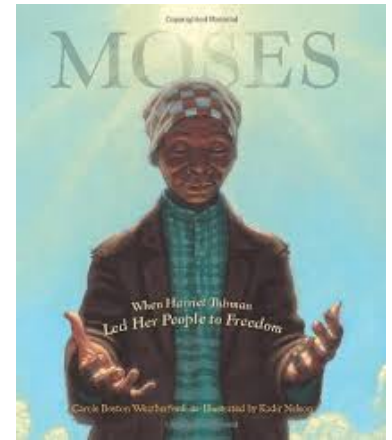
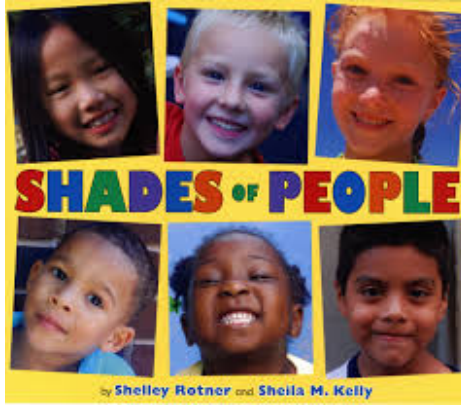
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The Buxton National Historical Site and Museum offers educational programming through online educational classroom kits, hands on and interactive experiences at the museum, and visits from the museum into the classroom.



# READING TO CONNECT CONCEPTS



This [List of Books](#), currently in most schools, focus on developing an understanding of key concepts such as tolerance, courage, diversity, respect, kindness, and love, among other important concepts to uncover with students. [Christopher Paul Curtis](#) is a local author who will connect in classrooms and responds [online](#) to his reader's questions.

Kayak Magazine also provides great stories and examples of the ways Black Canadians helped to build and shape this country. Check out this [PDF](#) of the magazine along with this [Educational Package](#) for use in the classroom.

Black History through poetry offers a way to bring voice along with critical thinking about complex social issues into the classroom. Also consider using images and [Quotes](#) to provoke student thinking and reflection.

Please see this [Overview](#) of Critical Literacy and Black History for ideas about connections across the curriculum.

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Explore the following links for more information:

[Chatham Kent Black Historical Society](#)

[Uncle Tom's Cabin](#)

[Buxton Museum](#)

[The Underground Railroad](#)

[CBC Kids: All About Black History Month](#)

