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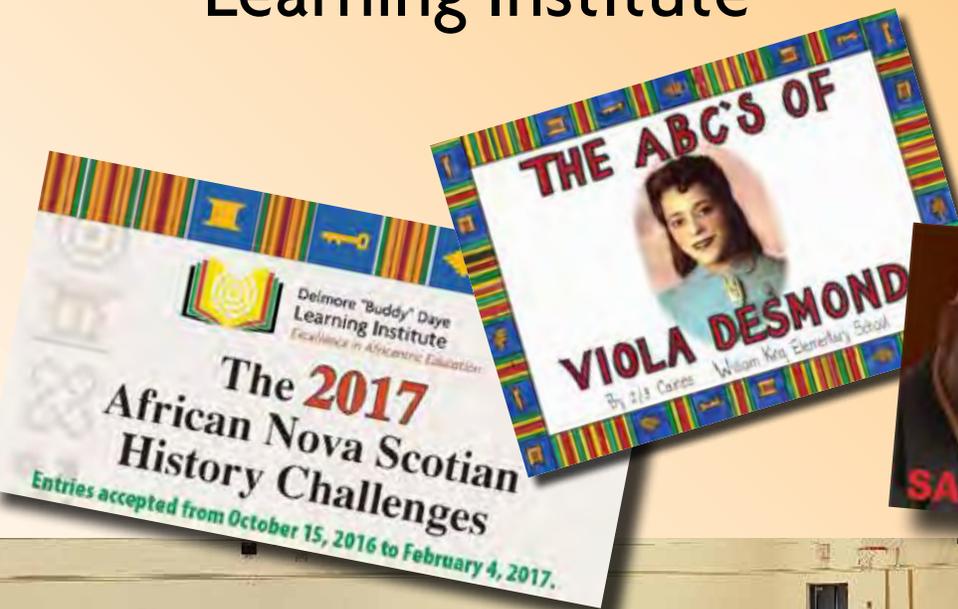
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Community Update – Winter/Spring 2017



Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute



Dr. Wanda Robson



Dr. Wanda Robson

After raising five children and retiring from a career as a lab technician, Wanda Robson decided to pursue a life-long ambition - to earn a university degree. In 2000, at 74 years young, she enrolled at Cape Breton University (CBU) and in 2004, graduated with her BA (English concentration). While she was at CBU, Wanda began to realize the significance of her sister, Viola Desmond's, courage in 1946 when Viola challenged racial segregation at a New Glasgow theatre. This act of bravery has had a monumental impact on African Nova Scotian history.

"All I ever wanted was an acknowledgement and apology for my sister's unfair treatment that day. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that Viola would be embraced as an icon of the Canadian civil rights movement."

Thanks largely to Wanda's passionate and tireless efforts, Viola has received many posthumous honours. Wanda accepted an official apology and free pardon for Viola in 2010. Viola's image has graced a Canadian stamp. Her portrait now hangs in Government House and there is a ferry named in her honour. In 2018, Viola's image will appear on the Canadian \$10 bank note.

Fittingly, on October 27, 2012, Dr. Wanda Robson received an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Cape Breton University.



Chair’s Message: Jocelyn Dorrington

Desmond”. Written by elementary school students for students, the ABC’s of Viola Desmond illustrates the basic history of Canadian icon and courageous civil rights advocate, Viola Desmond.

In partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, we have officially published this wonderful and important resource, which is now used by all Grade 3 classes in Nova Scotia.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. George Frempong, our new Director of Research. Dr. Frempong will lead our research activities allowing us to delve deeper into data that relates directly to African Nova Scotian learners. The results will inform actions designed to positively impact the outcomes of our learners.

On behalf of the Board, I’d like to congratulate Paul Ash, former DBDLI board Member, who was recently named the first school board superintendent of African descent in Nova Scotia. Paul begins his new role with the Tri-County Regional School Board in April.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that after a long and exhaustive search, the DBDLI has purchased a building that will become our **new home in 2018**. Located at 5450 Cornwallis Street, we are fortunate to have found a facility that allows us to remain in the North-end community while enabling us to meet our current needs and future growth.

Have a great spring and I look forward to reconnecting with you at our Report to the Community in June.

Welcome to this edition of the Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute Community Update Newsletter. I hope that you have had a great start to this new year and that you were able to participate in and experience the many events that took place over African Heritage Month.

We’ve ushered in 2017 with some great advancements of our mandate, highlighted by our community engagement and publishing activities, which are enabling us to reach more of our audience in relevant, meaningful and sustainable ways.

The African Nova Scotian History Challenges were once again an overwhelming success. The quality and quantity of the submissions exceeded our expectations again this year. The Awards ceremony was attended by students from every region of the province. Congratulations to all of this year’s award participants and recipients; your submissions were inspiring.

These Challenges have not only raised the bar on educating and engaging our youth and educators on African Nova Scotian history, but they are producing incredibly special results. Our publishing team recognized the opportunity to more broadly share last year’s submission from the Grade 2/3 class at William King Elementary School called the “ABC’s of Viola

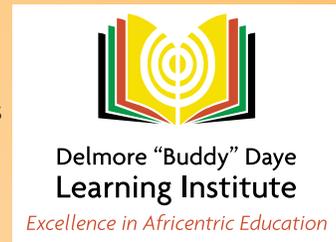


OUR ROLE

As an Africentric Institute, the DBDLI creates educational change and genuine opportunities for learners and communities of African ancestry to reach their full potential.

Educational research is vital to achieving our vision. We conduct and disseminate learnings from that research providing policy analysis that informs policymakers, educators, parents and the general public on how to best improve educational opportunities and outcomes for Nova Scotian learners of African descent.

The Institute works directly with African Nova Scotian / Canadian organizations, communities, government partners, and educational institutions to identify, develop and implement educational and community capacity enhancement policies, programs and services.





CEO's Message: Sylvia Parris

The past few months have been exceptionally active for the DBDLI. I am proud that we have been able to lead and partner on some amazing events that engaged our communities and youth from across the province.

The creativity and resulting work of this year's African Nova Scotian History Challenges was amazing. The Award ceremony, held on February 24, hosted 500 attendees. It was an honour to have the Hon. Lt. Governor John Grant and Mrs. Grant, former LG Mayann Francis, Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard and DBDLI Board Members present the awards and burseries to the 40 Winners and Honourable Mentions.

The *ABCs of Viola Desmond* children's book has proven to be an incredibly successful collaboration with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. We hosted a celebration of the book recognizing its inspirational young authors and illustrators, and teachers at William King Elementary School on March 7, 2017. The students received a copy of the hardcover book, which was signed by Dr. Wanda Robson, who was present at the celebration event.

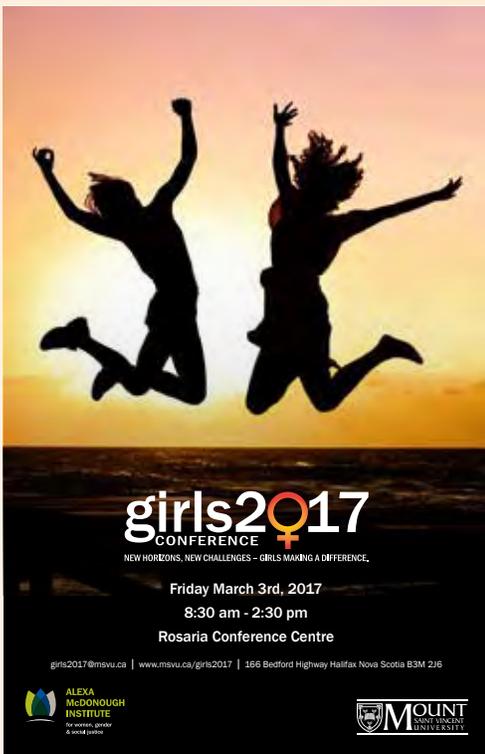
The return of Coach Carter was held February 11-12. Working with several community organizations, we delivered a two-day event that held something for everyone. Coach Carter delivered his compelling messages at a variety of venues in both Halifax and Dartmouth to a cross-section of our community that included more than 300 youth, parents, teachers and coaches. His interactive and engaging style left its mark on those who came to experience his special brand of motivation.

Our research activities continue to grow. The invitation for membership in the African Nova Scotian Researcher Directory and African Nova Scotian Evaluator Directory is ongoing. The Researchers of African Ancestry Roundtable has developed into the Researchers of African (Black) Ancestry Network. This network is co-led by DBDLI and the James R. Johnston Chair.

We also co-hosted a Researchers Panel at the NSCC IT Campus on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017, which is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/ojiLLO8DUc0>.

Girls Conference 2017

Now in its sixth year, this annual conference is held in celebration of (and during) International Women's Week. Held at Mount Saint Vincent University, the conference welcomed junior and senior high school girls from across the province as well as university and college women. The conference provided an opportunity for girls and young women, aged 12-18, to learn together, in a safe space, about human rights, social justice issues and other issues relevant to them. Guest speakers included Reeny Smith and performances by Know Thyself (KTS).



Dr. George Frempong appointed as DBDLI's Director of Research

We are pleased to confirm the appointment of Dr. George Frempong as DBDLI's Director of Research.

Dr. Frempong is highly regarded in the fields of research and policy. He has a strong history of success in communicating research to inform policy decisions.

He received his Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction and his M.A. in Mathematics Education, both from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Prior to obtaining these advanced degrees, he earned a B.Sc. in Physics from the University of Science and Technology in Ghana.

Dr. Frempong's work with the DBDLI is expected to substantially enhance DBDLI's capacity and capability in both education policy and research. His demonstrated expertise includes several published bodies of work, success with grant applications, mentoring junior researchers, and extensive leadership in engaging communities.

Dr. Frempong has conducted research with the Canadian Research Institute of Social Policy, Human Science and Skills Development Council (HRSDC), Canada and MESA, and the School of Policy Studies at Queens University. He has taught at York University and the University of New Brunswick, at both the Undergraduate and Graduate levels.

He can be reached at george.frempong@dbdli.ca. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Frempong to the DBDLI Team.



Paul Ash Becomes the First African Nova Scotian School Board Superintendent.

Congratulations to Paul Ash on his appointment as the Superintendent of the Tri-County Regional School Board in Southwest Nova Scotia. He is the first African Nova Scotian to serve in this role.

Previously the Director of the African Canadian Services Division at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, he was also a member of the DBDLI Board from 2012-15.

Paul has been working in education for close to 27 years, both in the classroom and as an administrator. He worked with the Black Learners Advisory Committee (BLAC) as a Regional Educator during the development of the BLAC Report.

In his new role, Paul's extensive experience collaborating with African Nova Scotian communities and his in-depth understanding of the education system will provide invaluable perspectives for both learners and educators.

DBDLI Presents the ANSMA Lifetime Achievement Award

The African Nova Scotian Music Association's 19th Awards Show celebrated Canada's 150th Anniversary featuring a special tribute to Portia White.

Broadcast by Eastlink TV, this year's sold out event was held at the Spatz Theatre in Halifax and showcased the incredible musical talent from our community.

Special guest, Jully Black, wowed the crowd making it an event not to be missed.

The DBDLI has been a proud platinum award sponsor and presenter of the Lifetime Achievement

Award for the past three years. This year's recipient was Portia White, the first Black Canadian Concert singer to earn international acclaim. Her award was received by family representative, Mr. Gerald Clarke.



Welcome Roger Holness - DBDLI's new Projects Coordinator.

Roger Holness joined the DBDLI team in February for a term position as Projects Coordinator. In this role, he is further enhancing DBDLI's connection with the provincial school boards' Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights (RCH) Coordinators and board-designated Student Support Workers.

He has begun working with the Africentric Career Exploration Steering Committee (a partnership between DBDLI, BBI, the Dept of Labour and Advanced Education, and VANSDA) and will lead the Africentric Career Exploration Project, scheduled for this May. He will also be working on the Africentric Mentorship and Leadership Development program, targeted at African Nova Scotian youth in the public school system.

Understorey Magazine Writers Program

The DBDLI has partnered with Understorey Magazine in an initiative that cultivates stories of African Nova Scotian women and girls. The project provides workshops for writing and visual art/craft by women and girls in African Nova Scotian communities, as well as recent immigrants of African descent. From the submitted work a special digital and print issue of Understorey Magazine will be produced, dedicated to the writing and visual art by women and girls either from or living in the African Nova Scotian community along with recent immigrants of African descent.

Containing approximately 15 written and 15 visual art pieces that reflect a diversity of voices including age, writing experience and geographic location in Nova Scotia. The initiative will showcase works from this talented segment of our population. A call for stories and visual art by women of African descent in Nova Scotia has been announced and the completed digital issue will be released in late 2017.

**African
Nova
Scotian
Women**

A Call For Stories
Seeking written stories and visual art by
women of African descent in Nova Scotia.

Deadline: September 1, 2017

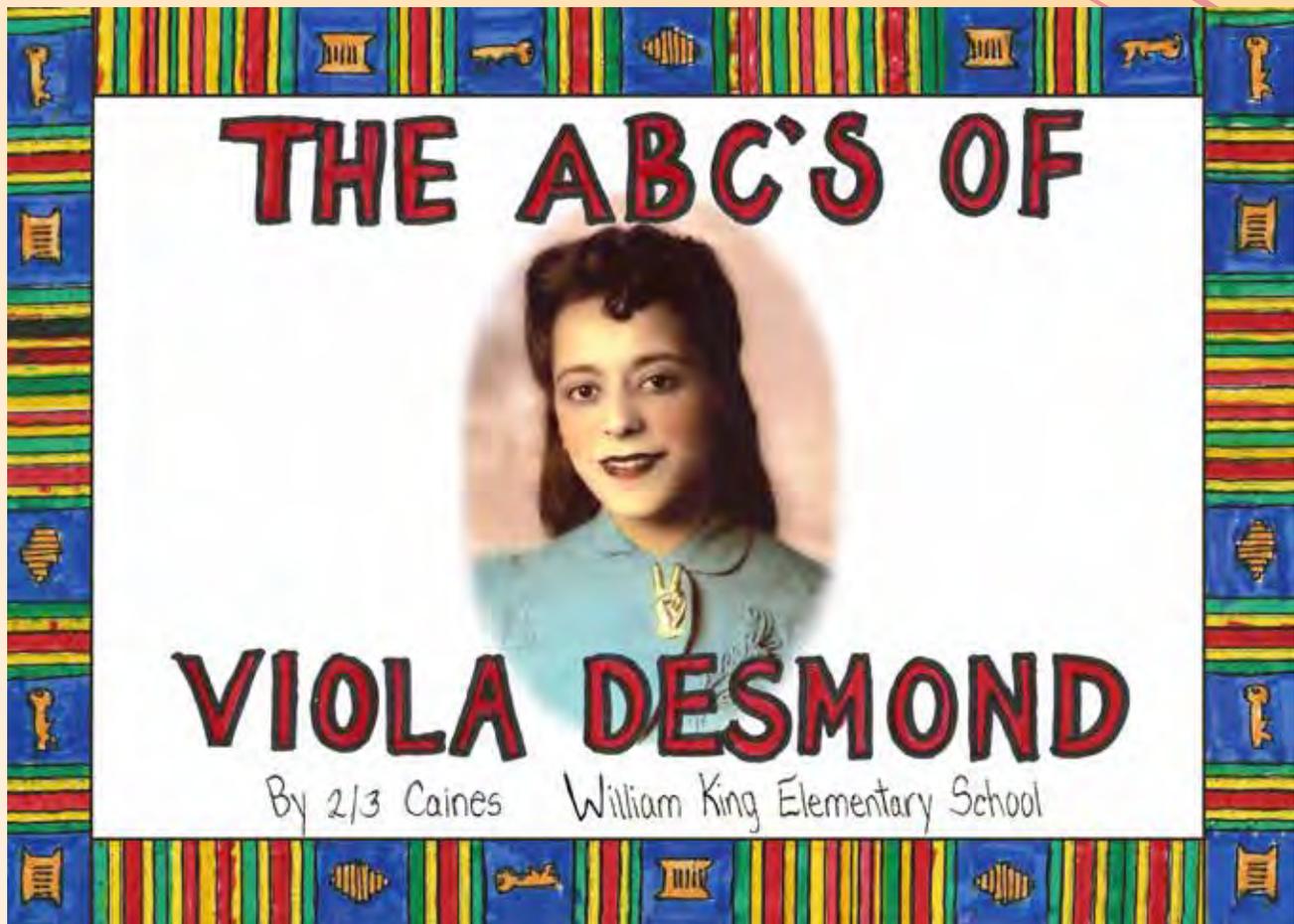
Details: understorey.magazine.ca

Delmore "Buddy" Daye
Learning Institute
Supporting African Nova Scotian
Education

Understorey
MAGAZINE

Alexia
McDUGALL
INSTITUTE
The women speak
A voice exists

For additional information visit www.understoreymagazine.ca and click on Submissions, Issue 12



The *ABC's of Viola Desmond* Thank You Event at William King Elementary School

On March 7, the DBDLI connected with an amazing group of children and their parents at William King Elementary School (WKES). To thank them in a very special way, we invited Dr. Wanda Robson (Viola Desmond's sister) to address the student body and recognize each student involved in the creation of *The ABC's of Viola Desmond*, a truly unique learning resource written and illustrated by WKES Grade 2/3 students.

The ABC's of Viola Desmond was submitted to the 2016 African Nova Scotian History Challenges and was a deserving recipient of a Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute Award for Excellence in African Nova Scotian History. The book showcases the history of Canadian icon and courageous civil rights advocate, Viola Desmond.

With input from the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and insightful advice from Dr. Robson, the book was published in hard cover form specifically to meet the needs of elementary level readers. This important resource is now used by all Grade 3 classes in Nova Scotia. The event was attended by parents and family members who were very proud of their children.

To purchase your copy of *The ABC's of Viola Desmond* go to our website at www.dbdli.ca.

Coach Carter's Return to Halifax

This past February, the DBDLI, with the support of our partners and several community groups, brought Coach Ken Carter <http://coachcarter.com/> back to Halifax, in celebration of African Heritage Month.

A renowned inspirational speaker who is widely known for the 2005 film he inspired, entitled **Coach Carter**, he first visited Halifax 10 years ago when he wowed audiences as the keynote speaker at the Black Business Initiatives' Summit.

We were thrilled to re-introduce Coach Carter to our community. He met many new faces and reconnected with people who met him when he was here the first time sharing their stories of success.



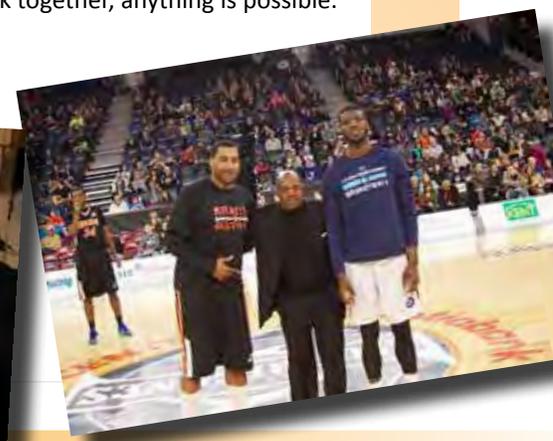
We had several objectives in bringing him back:

- to excite our youth and help fuel their dreams as they work to realize their full potential, and
- to provide a compelling platform to connect African Nova Scotian success stories in education and entrepreneurship

We worked with our partners to develop a roster of exciting events, over his two-day visit, that engaged parents, coaches and, most importantly, our youth.

Coach Carter met with African Nova Scotian athletic coaches at the Nova Scotia Sports Hall of Fame. This was followed by an engaging and highly interactive Youth Session, where some 250 African Nova Scotian youth saw and felt the Coach's inspirational message first hand. We wrapped up the day taking the youth to the Halifax Hurricanes' game that evening at which Coach provided the team with a pre-game pep talk. Not surprisingly, the Hurricanes won their game. Every youth in attendance received a "We Been Here" T-Shirt and a Coach Carter CD.

On the Sunday, Coach attended a St. Thomas Baptist Church (North Preston) service in the morning. From there, we escorted him to the North Branch Library to meet with the 902ManUp group and more youth from the area. Dinner was served with a special dessert surprise as we joined in singing Happy Birthday to Coach. The final event of the day was the Parent Session held at the Black Cultural Centre. The session was incredibly well attended in spite of the snow. Coach took the time to get up close and personal with the folks in attendance. He emphasized that if we, as a community, all work together, anything is possible.





Congratulations to the 2017 African Nova Scotian History Challenges Award Recipients

At a special ceremony celebrating African Nova Scotian History, Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable J.J. Grant, presented awards to recipients of the 2017 DBDLI Awards of Excellence in African Nova Scotian History.

The Awards were presented to students whose submissions of various written and creative platforms best exemplified the contributions that African Nova Scotians have made to the history, heritage and culture of our province.

Thank you to all of this year's Challenge participants and congratulations to the 2017 DBDLI Awards of Excellence in African Nova Scotian History winners.



Challenge #1 – News Report

Winners:

Trinity Dlamini, Grade 5, West Pictou Consolidated, Lyon's Brook, Pictou County, **Video about Viola**

Joshua Lorde, Grade 3, John W. MacLeod Fleming Tower School, Halifax, **Video "The Power of Boycotting"**

Honourable Mention:

Ian Forsyth School, Grade 6, Dartmouth, Video with Kirk Johnson

Chebucto Heights School, Grade 5/6, Class project, Halifax, **"La Courageuse Viola Desmond", book about Viola in French**

John Bernard Croak School, Grade 4, Class project Glace Bay, **Short essay about Viola Desmond in story book form**





Challenge #2 – African Nova Scotian Communities

Winners:

Abigail Bonnington, Grade 11, Annapolis West Education Centre, **Interview with elder Victor Francis about Lequille**

Makayla Falconer, Grade 11, Millwood High School, Middle Sackville, **Powerpoint and interviews about the community of North Preston**

Honourable Mention:

Teeka Peterson, Grade 11, Sir John A MacDonald School, Upper Tantallon, **Essay about Beechville**

Micah Anderson, Grade 6, Madeline Symonds Middle School, Hammonds Plains, **Video with essay about the community of Upper Hammonds Plains**

Africville Board Game, Grade 4/5, St. Joseph A. McKay School, Halifax

Beechville Diorama, Grade 2, Chebucto Heights Elementary School, Halifax



Challenge #3 – Notable Nova Scotians

Winner:

Chebucto Heights, Grade 4/5, Halifax, **Four clay portraits of Notable Nova Scotians**

Honourable Mentions:

Micaiah Aladejebi, Grade 5, Cavalier Drive School, Lower Sackville. **Notable nomination for Dr. Abdullah Kirumira.**

Keira Way-Hopkins, Grade 5/6, Tamarac Education Center, Port Hawkesbury **Notable nomination for Patricia B. Skinner.**

Paris Downey, Grade 5, Nelson Whynder Elementary, North Preston. **Notable nomination for Reeny Smith**

Ryson Goree, Grade 6, Chebucto Heights School, Halifax **Notable nomination for Randall Thompson**

William McCutcheon, Grade 8, Madeline Symonds Middle School, Hammonds Plains.

Drawing of James Robinson Johnston (description in French)

Karmella Ash, Grade 4, St Stephens Elementary School, Halifax. **Essay on her Grandfather and the No.2 Construction Battalion**





Challenge #4 Top Ten – Sports or Alternative

Winner:

Grade 4/5 class, John Bernard Croak School, Glace Bay, **Top African Nova Scotian Sports Heroes.**

Honourable Mention:

Nathan MacIntyre, Grade 6B, Tamarac Education Centre, Port Hawkesbury, **Top 10 Sports Heroes**

Challenge #5 Short Story – Black Loyalist, Black Refugee

Winners:

Sophia Wedderburn, Grade 9, St. Agnes Jr. High School, Halifax. **Story about Kubwa-Bibi (great-grandmother)**

Ava Forance, Grade 9, Inverness Education Centre Academy, Inverness. **Drawing of Black Loyalist settlement.**



Honourable Mentions:

Darissa Williams, Grade 5, Nelson Whynder Elementary, North Preston. **Painting of St. Thomas Baptist Church**

Rhyza Blandin, Grade 8, Madeline Symonds Middle School, Hammonds Plains. **l’histoire des Afro-Neocossais.**





Challenge #6 Express Yourself

Winner:

Tiona Emmerson, Grade 12, Citadel High School, Painting 'Self Love'.

Honourable Mention:

Shanice Carvery, Grade 6, St. Joseph A. McKay School, Halifax. **Painting, portrait of Viola Desmond**

Emily Johnson, Grade 2, French Immersion, St. Joseph A. McKay School, Halifax. **Quilt poster.**

Raelyn MacIntyre, Grade 6A, Tamarac Education Centre, Port Hawkesbury. **Poem "Bullied for the Color of my Skin."**

Ryan Trenholme, Grade 8, Madeline Symonds Middle School, Hammonds Plains. **Poem in French.**

School Recognition:

Park View Education Centre, Bridgewater

Chebucto Heights Elementary School

St. Joseph A. McKay School

Madeline Symonds Middle School, Hammonds Plains (most French entries)

Special Recognition Award:

Mr. Craig Myra, Principal, Chebucto Heights Elementary School



Departing Board of Directors Member Sheila Lucas-Cole

Sheila Lucas-Cole has been an invaluable member of DBDLI's Board and operations since 2012. Amazingly, her involvement began when the DBDLI was just an idea.

Her DBDLI roots go back to the early days when there was a groundswell movement to reform how the education system was serving the African Nova Scotian community. As a founding member of the Black Learners Advisory Committee (BLAC) and a Board member for the entirety of its mandate, she was directly involved in the formulation of the organizations that would ultimately be tasked to right the wrongs.



Her roots in education development and service has benefitted the collective community. Sheila was an original member of the Council on African Canadian Education (CACE), serving on its Executive for a number of years as the Chair of Finance. She was a member of the Black Educators Association (BEA) for more than 35 years, where she served several terms as President and in various executive positions including the Chairperson of the Operations Committee.

Sheila arrived at the DBDLI at just the right time. Bringing her extensive knowledge, depth of experience and passionate commitment to our mandate, she has served our organization tirelessly sitting on the Finance, Human Resource and Communications Committees, providing insightful guidance. Prior to the hiring of DBDLI's CEO, Sheila

was the Board representative that oversaw DBDLI's office operations.

Though she is no longer on the Board, Sheila continues to lend her support to the DBDLI in the role of Consultant, as the Institute embarks on the move to its new location, a true reflection of her passion to this important cause and its evolution.

Most recently, Sheila has been selected to receive a 2017 HRM Volunteer Award - a recognition she so fittingly deserves.

Thank you Sheila, for your knowledge, your vision and your sage counsel. Your impact on the DBDLI as a place of importance will be felt for many generations to come.



Partner Profile - African Canadian Services Division

The African Canadian Services Division (ACSD), located with the Student Equity and Support Services Branch of the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, was established in February of 1996 to implement the Department's response to the BLAC Report on Education, (December 1994, Volumes 1-3).

The ACSD partners with all levels of government, the post-secondary system, and community agencies to help carry out its mandate, in conjunction with the Council on African Canadian Education (CACE), the Black Educators Association (BEA) and the Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute (DBDLI). CACE is both instrumental and vital to promoting the rights and interests of African Canadians by providing recommendations to the Minister on programs and services in public schools and adult education. BEA delivers the Regional Educators and Cultural Academic Enrichment Programs across the province. The DBDLI is responsible for supporting African Nova Scotian learners across multiple areas including Africentric research and education.

Through its key partnerships, the ACSD develops programs, resources, and materials that promote a deeper understanding of African Canadians and their history, heritage, culture, tradition, contributions to society, and the recognition of their origins as Africans.

The African Canadian Services Division aspires to:

1. redress educational inequities by acquiring adequate resources to respond significantly in redressing the educational needs of African Canadian students, parents and adult learners.
2. respond effectively to current educational needs of African Canadians on issues such as accessibility, achievement, and school-to-work transitions among others.
3. coordinate research with the DBDLI and integrate educational strategies and models that are effective in improving the educational achievements of students of African Nova Scotian descent.



Cornwallis Street Baptist Church to Change its Name

Cornwallis Street Baptist Church is undergoing a process to select a new name, in an effort to remove any connection to Edward Cornwallis. Although Cornwallis founded Halifax in 1749, soon after he issued a bounty on Mi'kmaq men, women and children.

Church members accepted a motion to change the name of the Church in support of the Mi'kmaq community. Rev. Rhonda Britton said the new name will be decided after a church committee evaluates naming suggestions put forward

by members of the church, after which a shortlist of names will be voted on.

The new name will be unveiled in the summer of 2018 to coincide with renovations at the church.

Passing the Torch: Viola Desmond as a Symbol of African Nova Scotian Women's Leadership

As part of International Women's Day 2017, a Lunch and Learn Panel Discussion was held at City Hall. The theme for the event was: Be Bold for Change - African Nova Scotian Women in Leadership. Organized and facilitated by Kesa Munroe Anderson, a panel discussion was conducted that included guests: Sylvia Parris, Dr. Susie Brigham, Barb Hamilton Hinch, Rosella Fraser and Guyleigh Johnson.



African word meaning

Akili ni mali - "Intelligence is an asset."

Mtoto umleavyo ndivyo akuavyo - Swahili- "A child grows up (exactly) the way you bring him/her up."

If you have an interest in knowing more about the DBDLI and what role you can play in helping to improve the academic achievement of African Nova Scotia learners and educators, contact us.

Call us at **902.407.3200**, or check out our website at **www.dbdli.ca**