



Delmore "Buddy" Daye  
**Learning Institute**

*Excellence in Africentric Education & Research*

## **Cultural Education Project**

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**Canada** 

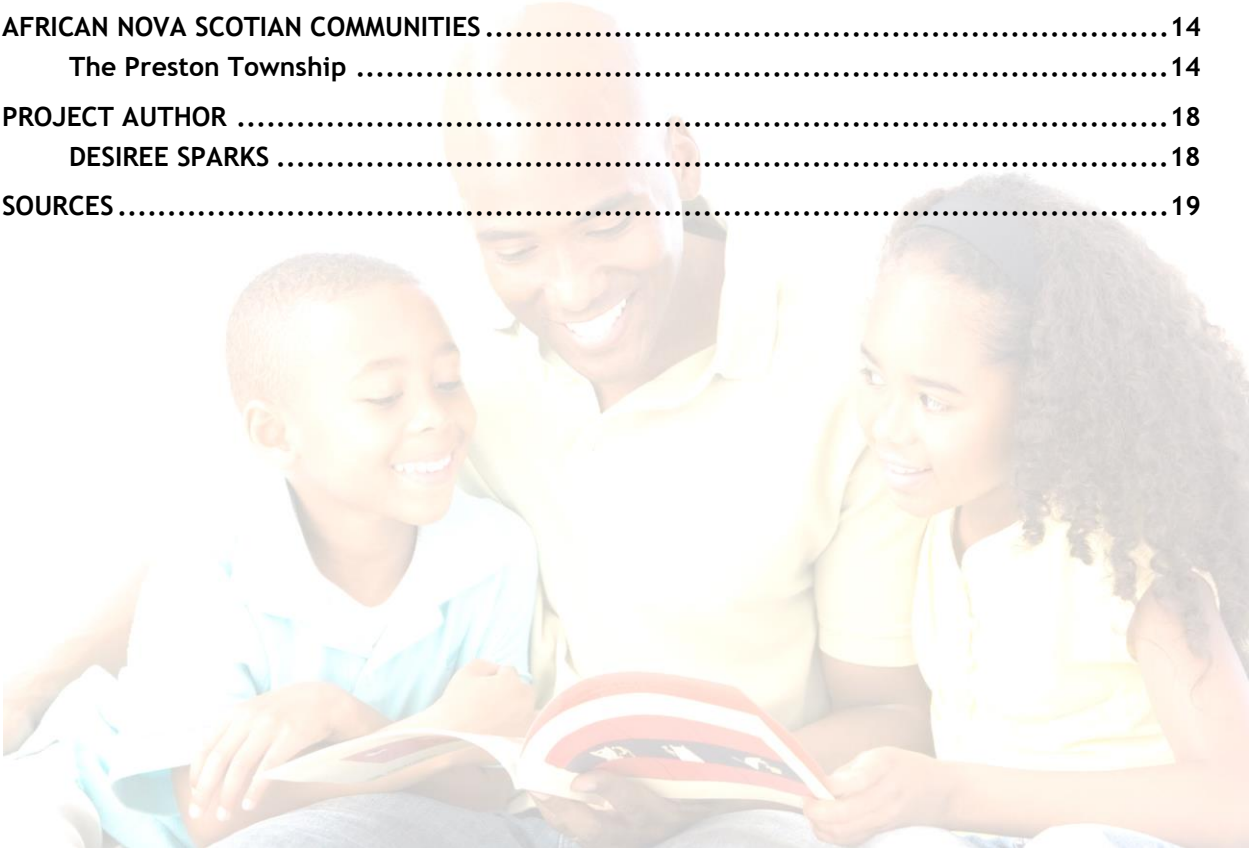




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# HISTORY AND CONTRIBUTIONS

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## AFRICVILLE



### FACTS

- Former Africville residents remember it as a beautiful Black community located along the Bedford basin, in Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- Africville was demolished by the City of Halifax in the 1960s, in an act of racism.
- Africville residents owned their land and homes before they were destroyed by the City of Halifax.
- Some residents were forcibly moved in garbage trucks to public housing units, which they were forced to rent.
- The mayor of the Halifax Regional Municipality apologized for the destruction of Africville in 2010.

## ACTIVITY

1. Imagine that you are a long-time resident of Africville who has just been informed that you have to move out. Write a letter to the editor expressing your thoughts about moving and about the fate of Africville.

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2. Visit the [Africville Heritage Museum](#). Explore Africville grounds.
3. Research Eddie Carvery, the longstanding protestor, also known as “The Hermit of Africville.”

## CHECK THIS OUT!

- Online Canadian Encyclopedia reading: *Africville*  
<https://thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/africville>
- *Remember Africville* Video: 34:39 in length  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28cvg6iD71A>
- *Africville: The Black community bulldozed by the city of Halifax* Video: 2:02 in length  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=14&v=2SwNa0H4s0s&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=14&v=2SwNa0H4s0s&feature=emb_logo)

## RESPONSE QUESTION

If your community was completely destroyed and family home bulldozed by the officials from the City of Halifax, what action could you take to stop this?

**“If you wish to move mountains tomorrow, you must start by lifting stones today.”  
-African Proverb**

## VIOLA DESMOND



Challenge: Find one of these bills!

### ACTIVITY 1: READING + COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

The year was 1946. Viola was on her way to Sydney, when her car broke down in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. While waiting to have it fixed, she went to a movie theatre. That decision changed her life.

#### No Blacks Allowed

Viola Desmond was a successful Black businesswoman from Halifax. She ran a beauty salon in her hometown.

The New Glasgow movie theatre she went to was segregated. That meant floor seats were reserved for whites and Blacks were expected to sit in the balcony.

Ms. Desmond wanted to sit close to the screen. She was short, and her eyesight was not very good. She tried to buy a floor seat but was refused. So, she bought a seat in the balcony. It was one cent cheaper.

After purchasing a balcony seat, Ms. Desmond decided to sit in the whites-only area anyway. She settled into a seat.

Theatre staff called the police. They dragged Ms. Desmond out of the theatre. She spent the night in jail.

### **Charged ... and Found Guilty**

Viola Desmond was fined \$20.00 plus court costs, allegedly for defrauding the Government of a one-cent amusement tax.

Viola sat in the lower section against theatre orders. She was charged and found guilty of not paying the Province the one cent difference in tax for a downstairs seat.

Determined not to accept this unjust verdict, she decided to challenge it.

Viola challenged the courts. This was one of the first times a Black woman in Canada had challenged laws that were unfair to Black people.

She fought all the way to the highest court in Nova Scotia. In the end, she lost the case. Yet, she inspired generations of Black people to stand up for their rights.

### **A Powerful Symbol**

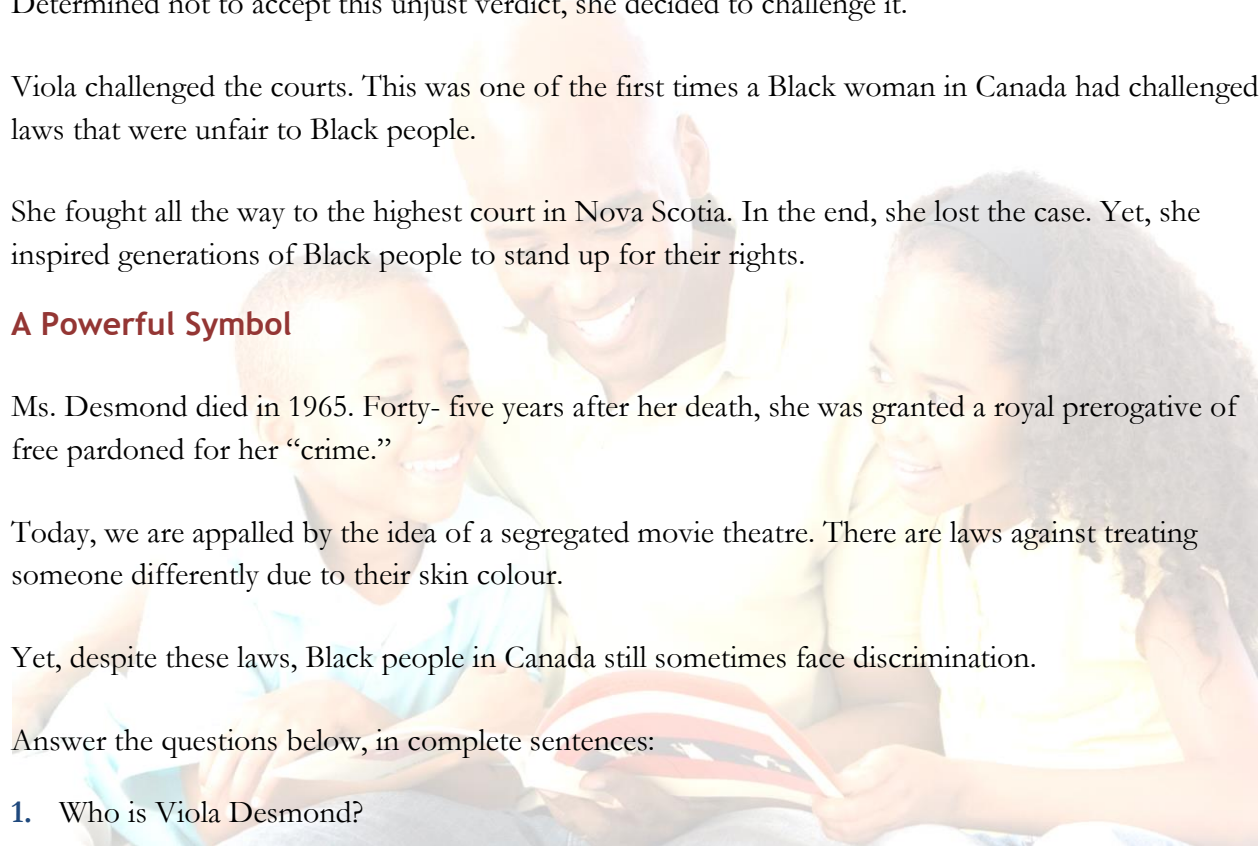
Ms. Desmond died in 1965. Forty- five years after her death, she was granted a royal prerogative of free pardon for her “crime.”

Today, we are appalled by the idea of a segregated movie theatre. There are laws against treating someone differently due to their skin colour.

Yet, despite these laws, Black people in Canada still sometimes face discrimination.

Answer the questions below, in complete sentences:

1. Who is Viola Desmond?
2. What does it mean when a movie theatre is “segregated?”
3. Why did Viola Desmond want a floor seat at the movie theatre?
4. What happened when Ms. Desmond refused to leave her seat? Why?



## ACTIVITY 2: DESIGN YOUR OWN VIOLA DESMOND BILL

Why might Viola Desmond have been selected to appear on the new 10-dollar bill. Why is she important and how might she reflect Canada?

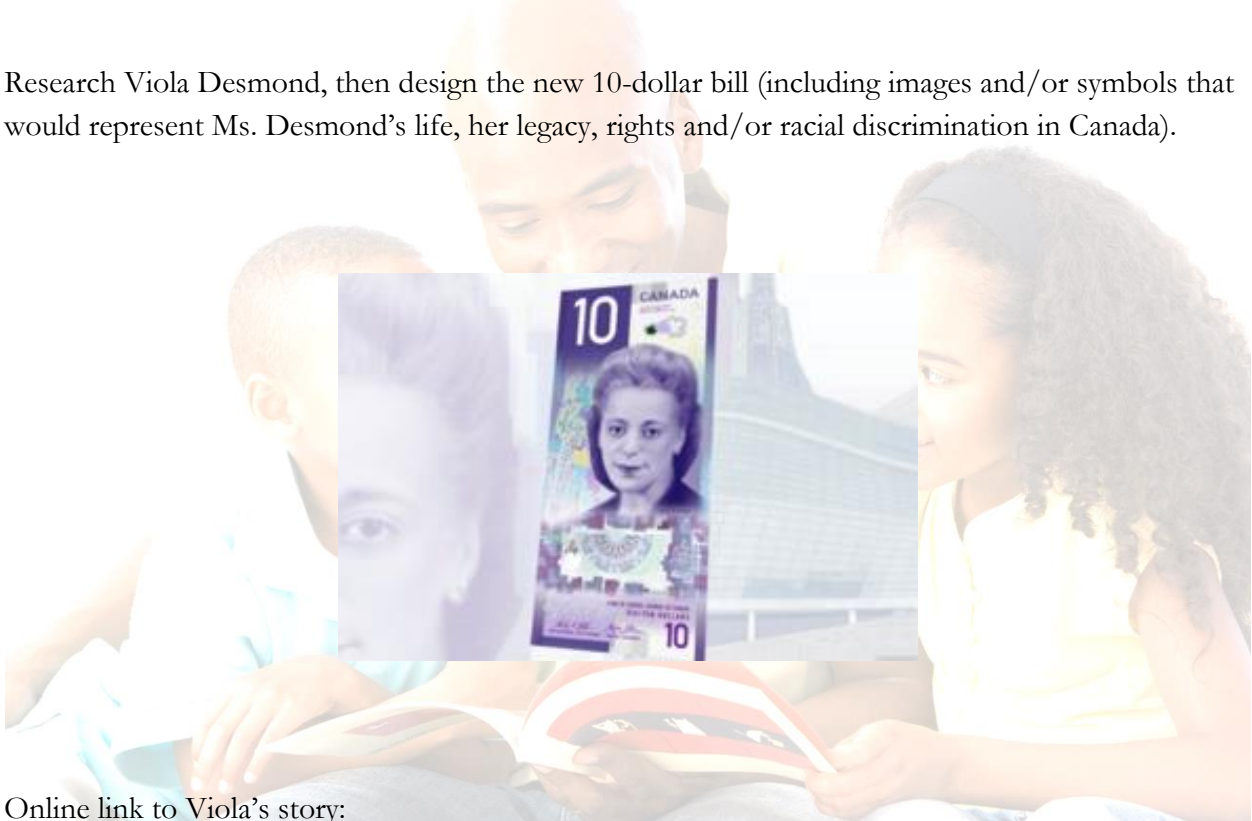
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Review the Bank of Canada’s criteria for selecting and designing a bank note series. Pay close attention to how they “reflect Canada”

<http://www.bankofcanada.ca/banknotes/principles-bank-note-design>

Research Viola Desmond, then design the new 10-dollar bill (including images and/or symbols that would represent Ms. Desmond’s life, her legacy, rights and/or racial discrimination in Canada).



Online link to Viola’s story:

<https://opentextbc.ca/abealfreader4/chapter/the-story-of-viola-desmond/>

**“Money, if you use it, comes to an end; learning, if you use it, increases.”  
-African Proverb**



## ARTS AND CULTURE

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### SHAUNTAY GRANT



Award-winning Canadian poet and children's writer

**Shauntay Grant** is a Canadian writer and storyteller from North Preston, Nova Scotia. She is also an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Dalhousie University, and Halifax's third poet laureate. Shauntay is a descendent of Black Loyalists, Jamaican Maroons, and Black Refugees who came to Canada during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Her love of language can be traced back to her storytelling roots in Black Nova Scotia through historic traditions and culture. She has written many children's books, such as, *Up Home*, which illustrates the special memories of her childhood growing up in such a tight-knit community. This book shows the strong community connection of the people of North Preston and gives some insight into its rich history which dates back to over 400 years.

- Read the story, *Up Home*, by Shauntay Grant

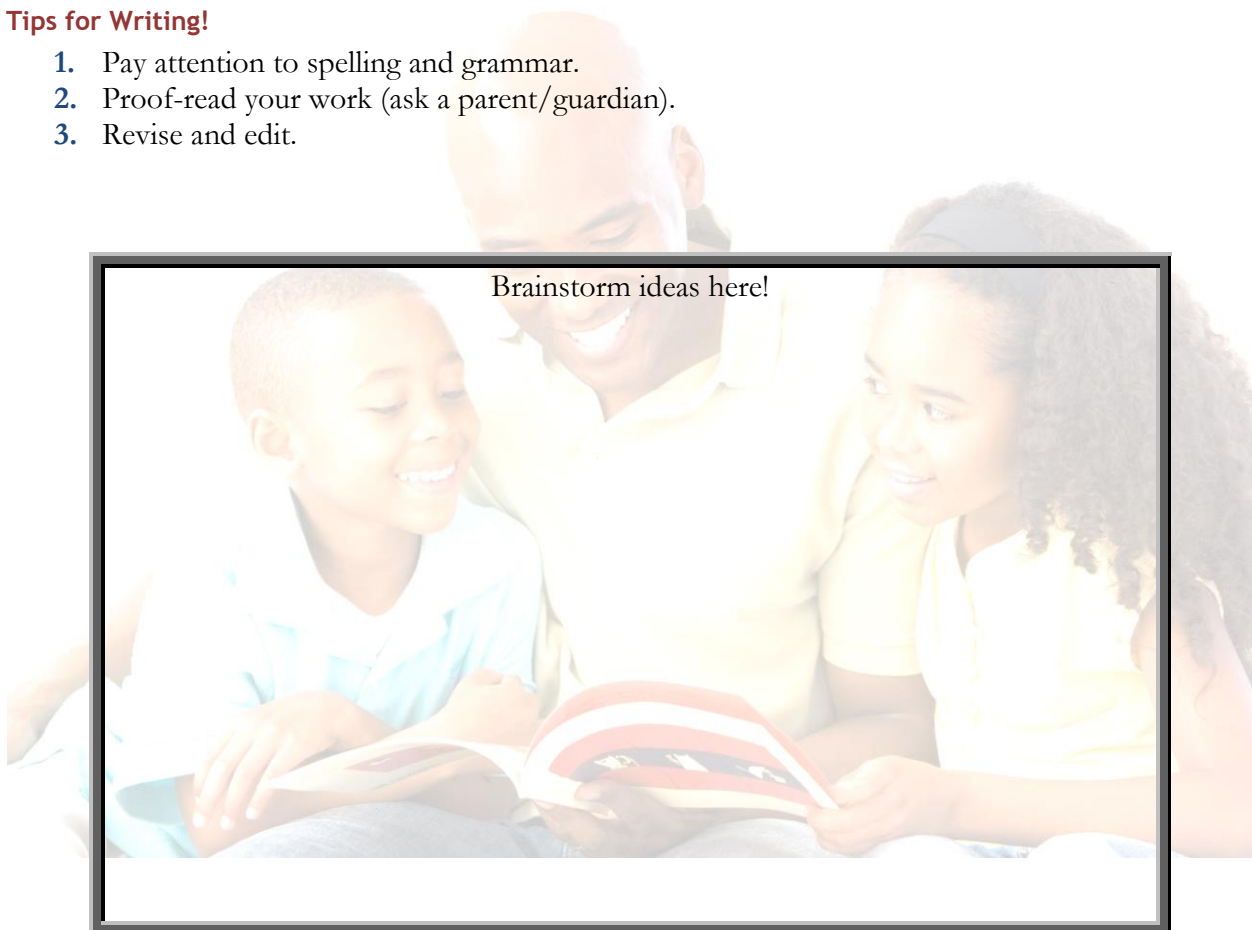
#### ACTIVITY

- Each person carries varying childhood memories of the people, places, and events that shaped and re-shaped our lives. It is true that we will never know who we are if we do not know where we come from. In this very complex world, it is important that we take the time to pause, reflect, and share our personal experiences, and pride in our communities. This lesson will encourage you to collect and record your own rich memories of home through writing, art, and music.
- Share and talk about *Up Home*, then take a real (or imaginary sensory) journey through the community.

- What can you see, feel, hear, smell, taste and touch?
  - Where would you begin your journey?
  - Who might you meet along the way?
  - Where might you stop to play ... to rest ... to meet others?
  - What special places would you pass?
- Create a personal poem, rap or spoken word piece and prepare a collage of images based on the walk (or mental journey) –use textile, print, paint, 3-D objects, etc.

### Tips for Writing!

1. Pay attention to spelling and grammar.
2. Proof-read your work (ask a parent/guardian).
3. Revise and edit.



Listen to the audio of Shauntay's book, *Africville*:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8PxEAfCRrQ>

**“It takes a village to raise a child.” -African Proverb**

## KIRK JOHNSON



Kirk Johnson is a retired Canadian professional boxer.

- Professional boxing champion from North Preston, Nova Scotia.
- Competed from 1993 to 2010 and challenged once for the WBA heavyweight title.
- Represented Canada at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.
- In 2003, he successfully sued the Halifax Regional Police for racism and discrimination.
- Johnson had been pulled over 28 times over a period of 5 years, without cause, while driving in Halifax.
- Johnson was awarded \$10,000 in damages for the racial profiling case.
- The Halifax Regional police were also ordered to create a scholarship in Johnson's name. This scholarship is awarded annually to a student from North Preston.

### TERMS TO KNOW

#### Racial Profiling

An action that relies on stereotypes about race, color, ethnicity, to single out a person for closer scrutiny, rather than on reasonable suspicion.

#### Carding

A police practice involving stopping people and collecting personal information, such as their name, address and phone number, even if they are not suspected of a crime!

## QUICK ACTIVITY

1. Kirk Johnson represented Canada at the 1992 Olympics where?
  - a. North Preston, Canada
  - b. Barcelona, Spain
  - c. Halifax, Nova Scotia
2. What is racial profiling?

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3. Kirk Johnson won the racial profiling case that involved the Halifax Regional Police and was awarded a sum of money. How much money did Kirk receive?
  - a. \$4,000.00
  - b. \$100.00
  - c. \$10,000.00
4. In addition to the money, the Halifax Regional Police force was ordered to do what else to settle the case?

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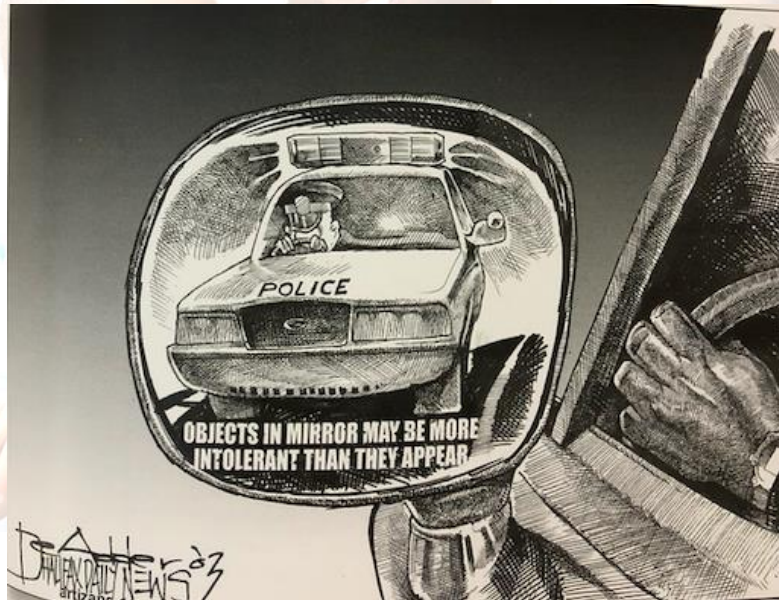


Figure 1. A Political Cartoon on Racial Profiling that appeared in the *Halifax Daily News*.

This political cartoon makes a statement about racial profiling.

What is the message of this cartoon? How does the cartoon make you feel?

## Did you know?

A political cartoon is a cartoon that makes a point about a political issue or event. A good political cartoon makes you think about current events (sometimes controversial) happening around the world, but it also tries to persuade or sway your opinion toward a certain point-of-view.

## ACTIVITY

- Think of a political issue or event.
- Create your very own political cartoon! (Use the space in the box below)



## DEEPER THINKING

What measures can authorities take to reduce the number of racial profiling incidents?

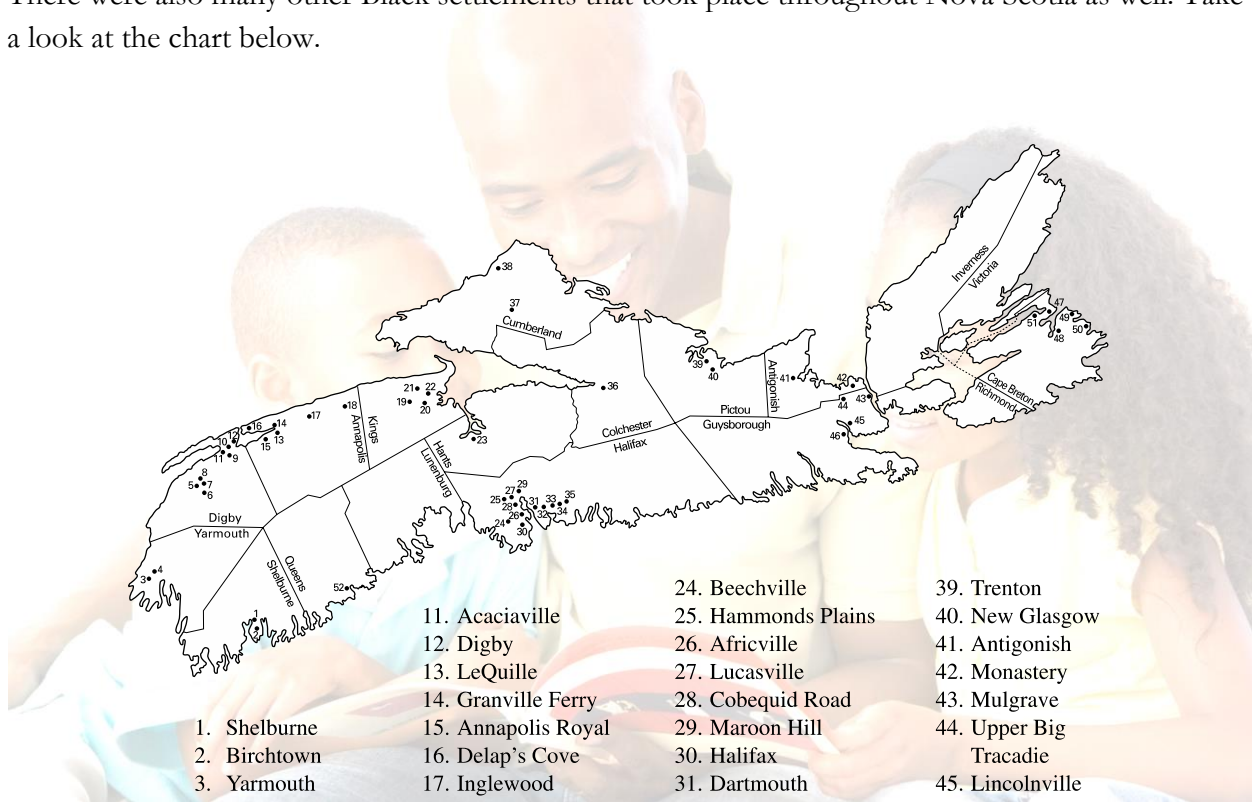
**“Do not look where you fell, but where you slipped.” -African Proverb**

# AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN COMMUNITIES

## THE PRESTON TOWNSHIP

### A HISTORY

North Preston, East Preston and Lake Loon/Cherry Brook were formally known as one area, **The Preston Township**. People from the Preston communities are direct descendants of the Black Loyalists, Jamaican Maroons and the Black refugees, who migrated and settled in the province of Nova Scotia. It is important to note, not all people of African descent ended up in the Preston area. There were also many other Black settlements that took place throughout Nova Scotia as well. Take a look at the chart below.



- |                   |                            |                     |                        |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Shelburne      | 11. Acaciaville            | 24. Beechville      | 39. Trenton            |
| 2. Birchtown      | 12. Digby                  | 25. Hammonds Plains | 40. New Glasgow        |
| 3. Yarmouth       | 13. LeQuille               | 26. Africville      | 41. Antigonish         |
| 4. Greenville     | 14. Granville Ferry        | 27. Lucasville      | 42. Monastery          |
| 5. Southville     | 15. Annapolis Royal        | 28. Cobequid Road   | 43. Mulgrave           |
| 6. Danvers        | 16. Delap's Cove           | 29. Maroon Hill     | 44. Upper Big Tracadie |
| 7. Hassett        | 17. Inglewood (Bridgetown) | 30. Halifax         | 45. Lincolnville       |
| 8. Weymouth Falls | 18. Middleton              | 31. Dartmouth       | 46. Sunnyville         |
| 9. Jordantown     | 19. Cambridge              | 32. Lake Loon       | 47. North Sydney       |
| 10. Conway        | 20. Gibson Woods           | 33. Cherry Brook    | 48. Sydney             |
|                   | 21. Aldershot              | 34. North Preston   | 49. New Waterford      |
|                   | 22. Kentville              | 35. East Preston    | 50. Glace Bay          |
|                   | 23. Three Mile Plains      | 36. Truro           | 51. Sydney Mines       |
|                   |                            | 37. Springhill      | 52. Liverpool          |
|                   |                            | 38. Amherst         |                        |

### QUICK CHALLENGE!

How many African Nova Scotian communities can you name?

## PRESTON TOWNSHIP HOMECOMING 2019



The Preston Township Homecoming was created to honor the African Nova Scotia communities of East Preston, North Preston, and Lake Loon/Cherry Brook. This celebration pays tribute to the ancestors who paved the way for so many others to succeed. This event honors the achievements that have been made by people from the Preston area and illustrates how their contributions have influenced the development of these communities over the years. This event provides an opportunity to showcase talents, skills, careers and more, through a host of activities involving people from each of these communities. The homecoming celebrates the rich culture, heritage and history of the three Black communities as bonds are recreated, the same bonds that held these communities together at the time of their arrival generations ago.

### ACTIVITY 1

Choose one historical Black community to research and learn more!

- Does this community still exist?
- Where is this community located?
- Do you have family ties to this community?
- If possible, visit this community, take pictures.

## ACTIVITY 2

Conduct an interview with an elder about their experience growing up in a Black community.

- Come up with 10 interesting questions to ask your chosen community member.
- Record the interview.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/preston-homecoming-township-reunion-cherry-brook-north-preston-east-preston-1.5240004>

## 10 INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



## ACTIVITY 3

Create a piece of artwork to represent your community. Be creative!

- Check out some of the work done by students across the Province, who participated in the DBDLI African Nova Scotian History Challenge! Link: <https://dbdli.ca/community-youth/the-2020-african-nova-scotian-history-challenges/#awards>

**“A family tie is like a tree; it can bend, but it cannot break.” -African Proverb**



# African Nova Scotian Communities

ZBNXAPYWNGGF EZTMYSEG  
 KBOBDGPCQN JROJFUAUAA  
 PTRTLGYNNGOFOLMLRNSF  
 QYTITIU SMRIUMTYGMNTR  
 MGHUMHNY YOSBABPROYPI  
 ENPOPBRCS DNKSPVAUVRC  
 LERJHP EEOBNAAOBVTIEV  
 UWEWQAE EEL OESPNEHLSI  
 CGSBE CMRCMNR YTOWELTL  
 ALTINYHMBHIVOME COEOL  
 SAORTRME OIVLIUIRIONE  
 VSNCQSHORNG IELGNYDDB  
 IGBHMLHFURDTLSLHEVDS  
 LOBTFAQEOTYSRLPEUSIA  
 LWCOGKXQLQHBP AELESGQ  
 EYSWWEYZCBGFR LCV AEBT  
 PCTNTLJ TXRUOAOAAUIYD  
 CMAROO NHILLRML OIDVNX  
 XLNAYOGBBNSWNNLKN IHS  
 JFZLJNUVRA JHVEZSGSEE

Upper Big Tracadie	Three Miles Plains	Hammonds Plains	Weymouth Falls
Lincolnville	North Preston	Guysborough	East Preston
Sydney Mines	Cherry Brook	Gibson Woods	Beechville
Maroon Hill	Africville	Shelburne	Monastery
Birchtown	New Glasgow	Lucasville	Sunnyville
Yarmouth	Mulgrave	Lake Loon	Digby

## PROJECT AUTHOR

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### DESIREE SPARKS



Desiree is a recent graduate of Mount Saint Vincent University, where she obtained her Bachelor of Education degree, in the secondary field, with a major in history and minor in English. Desiree is from Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she was born and raised. She has a deep passion for teaching the younger generation. Through the public education system in Nova Scotia, Desiree remembers learning very little about her heritage. This left Desiree confused about her identity. She now takes every opportunity possible to learn her history and has made it her duty to change this for future generations to come. Desiree is excited to start her dream career as a high school teacher this coming fall!

**“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”  
-African Proverb**

## SOURCES

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The majority of the content included in this information package is sourced from *Black History: Africa, The Caribbean, and the Americas*.



