

# ***We Recommend...Black History Month***

## **Black Heritage Collection Library Guide**

The Black Heritage Collection was started in 1989 and is the first of its kind in York Region. It was established in response to the needs of the local community. While the emphasis of this collection is on Black Canadian and Caribbean literature, history, and culture, it also includes materials about the Black experience in general as well as African literature and Afro-American materials.

Whether you are a serious researcher or a recreational reader, the Black Heritage collection has something for you. There are materials pertaining to the history of Black people in Canada as well as about contemporary Black life. The collection also includes books that portray Black culture through its arts, crafts, poetry, drama, and fiction, as well as CD's and DVD's. There are materials that will appeal to both adult and children's interest levels. This guide offers a sample of the materials in the collection.

Black Heritage materials are also available at all branches of Vaughan Public Libraries. The main collection is located at the Dufferin Clark branch. Non-fiction items are indicated as "BH" (Black Heritage) in the library catalogue.

You can find items through our catalogue, either in the library or online, by using an author's name, title of work or subject keywords such as "Blacks Canada" "Black Canadians" "African Americans" or "Caribbean Area".

Staff will be pleased to assist you in using this collection during open hours, and welcome inquiries by phone, letter, fax, and via the E-mail Librarian feature on the Library website.

Any inquiries regarding the collection should be made to:

Dufferin Clark Library  
1441 Clark Ave. West  
Thornhill, Ontario  
L4J 7R4  
Telephone: (905) 653-7323  
Fax: (905) 660-7202

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## **History**

### **Black and Bluenose: The Contemporary History of A Community**

Saunders, Charles / BH 971.600496 Sau

*A history of the Blacks in Nova Scotia.*

### **Black History: Africa the Caribbean and the Americas**

Sadler, Rosemary / BH 909.0496 Bla

*This book explores the compelling story of Africa and its people and includes a special focus on the Canadian diaspora experience.*

### **Blacks in Deep Snow**

Thompson, Colin / BH 971.200496 Tho

*A concise history of Black Canadians with an emphasis on those in Western Canada.*

### **Emancipation Day: Celebrating Freedom In Canada**

Henry, Natasha L. / BH 326.8 Hen

*The passage of the Abolition of Slavery Act on August 1, 1834 ended slavery in the British Empire. This book provides a look at how this freedom was celebrated in Canada.*

### **Kids Book of Black Canadian History**

Sadler, Rosemary / BH J 305.896071 Sad

*From the first Black person who came to Canada about 400 years ago to the most recent wave of African immigrants this book provides an overview into an often overlooked part of Canadian history.*

### **The Hanging of Angelique: The Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Old Montreal**

Cooper, Afua/BH 971.428014092 Angel-C

*The true story of a twenty-nine year old slave who was hanged in Montreal in 1734 for allegedly starting a fire that engulfed over forty buildings. One of the oldest firsthand accounts of a slave's story.*

### **The Road To Now: A History of Blacks in Montreal**

Williams, Dorothy W. / BH 971.42800496 Wil

*A thorough account of the history of Blacks in Montreal from the founding of the territory up to the present day.*

### **Towards Freedom: The African-Canadian Experience**

Alexander, Ken / BH 971.00496 Ale

*More than just a history of Black Canadians, this book also documents their achievements, their success in breaking down barriers placed before them, and the impact they have had on Canadian society. Especially useful for students.*

### **Trials and Triumphs: The Story of African Canadians**

Hill, Lawrence / BH J 971.004036 Hill

*Good introduction for young children to the history of Black Canadians.*

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## **The Blacks in Canada: A History**

Winks, Robin W. / 971.00496 Win 1997

*In depth historical account of Blacks in Canada from the seventeenth century to the late twentieth century.*

## **The Underground Railroad: Next Stop, Toronto!**

Shadd, Adrienne L. / BH 971.354100496 Sha

*Offers new insights into the lives of Black people who made Toronto their home after they had immigrated to Canada in the last century.*

## **Viola Desmond Won't Be Budged**

Warner, Jody Nyasha / BH J 971.6004960092 Desmo-W

*A true story of a woman from Nova Scotia who refused to give up her seat in a movie theatre for being black. She is an unsung hero of the North American struggle against injustice and racial discrimination whose story deserves to be widely known.*

## **Contemporary Life**

## **A Place Called Heaven: The Meaning of Being Black in Canada**

Foster, Cecil / BH 305.896071 Fos

*Explores the realities of being Black in Canadian society.*

## **Being Black: Essays**

Prince, Althea / BH 305.896071 Pri

*Essays on contemporary Black Canadian culture.*

## **Black Berry Sweet Juice: On Being Black and White in Canada**

Hill, Lawrence / BH 305.80440092 Hill

*Autobiographical account by a noted writer on the subject of racial identity in Canada.*

## **Black, White and Jewish**

Walker, Rebecca / 973.04960730092 Walke

*The daughter of famed African-American writer Alice Walker, Rebecca Walker writes about her experiences of growing up biracial in a race obsessed society.*

## **The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother**

McBride, James / BH 974.71004960730092 McBri

*James McBride uncovers the secret history of his mother's past and comes to understand his mother and himself better by doing so.*

## **Race Matters**

West, Cornel / BH 305.800973 Wes 2001

*One of the most eloquent voices in America's racial debate.*

## **Rude: Contemporary Black Canadian Cultural Criticism**

Walcott, Rinaldo / BH 305.896071 Rud

*Uncovers the complexities of Black life and Black living.*

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## **The Stranger: Barack Obama In The White House**

Todd, Chuck / 973.932092 Obama-T

*Presents a behind-the-scenes narrative of President Obama's first term that explores how his pre-presidency status as a Washington outsider has been both an advantage and disadvantage and how his decisions are setting the stage for future politics..*

## **Culture**

### **African Art**

Rea, William R. / BH 709.6 Rea

*Good overview for adults and older children to the history of African art.*

### **The African Kitchen**

Stow, Josie Stow and Jan Baldwin / BH 641.596 Sto

*Lots of glorious photos enhance this book of African recipes.*

### **Black Like Who; Writing Black Canada?**

Walcott, Rinaldo / BH 305.8960871 Wal

*A ground-breaking study of Black Canadian culture.*

### **Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella**

Souci, Robert D. San Souci / J 398.22 Cinde

*A version of Cinderella from Martinique.*

### **Kwanzaa Crafts**

Corwin, Judith Hoffman / BH J 745.5941 Cor

*Crafts and recipes that children can make for Kwanzaa.*

### **Testifyin': Contemporary African Canadian Drama**

Sears, Djanet / BH 819.254080896 Tes v. 1

*A remarkable collection of writing for the stage.*

### **The Schomburg Center Guide to Black Literature: From the Eighteenth Century to the Present**

Valde III, Roger M. / BH 809.8896 Schom

*Ready reference source on authors, works, characters, themes, topics and literary theories relating to Black literature.*

# ***We Recommend...Black History Month***

## **Research Tools**

### **African American Culture and History: A Student's Guide**

BH REF 973.00496073 Afr v 1-4,

*Informative encyclopedia on the history and culture of African Americans.*

### **African American Firsts**

Potter, Joan / 920.009296073 Pot

*A fascinating account of little known African-American achievers.*

### **Black Heroes of the 20th Century**

Smith, Jessie Carney / BH 920.009296073 Bla

*Essays on the lives of African American men and women who have made a difference with their lives.*

## **Great Fiction**

### **Adults**

### **At the Full and Change of the Moon: A Novel**

Brand, Dionne / BH FIC Brand

*In 1824, on the island of Trinidad, Marie Ursule, queen of a secret society of militant slaves called the Sans Peur regiment, plots a mass suicide. It is also the beginning of a new world, because she cannot bring herself to kill her small daughter, Bola, whom she smuggles away from the estate in the early dawn light.*

### **Beloved**

Morrison, Toni / BH FIC Morri

*Pulitzer Prize winning story of the strange things that start happening when a former slave takes in a girl named Beloved.*

### **Daughters Who Walk This Path**

Kilanko, Yedije / FIC Kilan

*Morayo, a spirited and intelligent girl grows up in a traditional family in modern-day Nigeria, but her sheltered life is shattered when her family welcomes a distant and troubled cousin into their home.*

### **Dollbaby**

McNeal, Laura Lane / Fic McNea

*Ibby Bell, a naïve, spirited teenager arrives in New Orleans in the midst of the racial turmoil of the 1960s*

### **Kindred**

Butler, Octavia / FIC Butle

*Dana, a modern American black woman, is summoned repeatedly back in time to the antebellum pro-slavery south to help one of her ancestors. As her stays become longer and more arduous she fears she will not make it back again to her own time.*

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## **Lover's Leap**

Smith, Horane Smith / BH FIC Smith

*This is a Jamaican story of two slaves whose love for each other became a legend.*

## **On Black Sister's Street**

Uniwge, Chika / BH FIC Uniwg

*Four very different women have made their way from Africa to Brussels but a murder tears apart their fragile world.*

## **The Book of Negroes**

Hill, Lawrence / FIC Hill

*Follows the life of one black woman from when she was captured as a child in Africa, sold into slavery in South Carolina, escaped to Nova Scotia as a Black Loyalist, then returned to Sierra Leone with other freed slaves.*

## **The Number 1 Ladies' Detective Agency**

FIC McCal / PB McCal Mystery

*Immediately upon setting up shop in a small storefront in Gaborone, Botswana, Precious is hired to track down a missing husband, uncover a con man, and follow a wayward daughter .*

## **Till I'm Laid To Rest**

Ellis, Garfield / FI C Ellis

*A young woman leaves Jamaica to start a new life in the United States.*

## **Children**

### **A Mighty Big Imagining (Our Canadian Girl, Rachel #1)**

Kositsky, Lynne / J-PB Our Series

*Rachel's new freedom in Nova Scotia is marred by the cold weather and barren land.*

### **The House of Dies Drear**

Hamilton, Virginia / J-PB Hamil

*A black family tries to unravel the secrets of their new home which was once a stop on the Underground Railroad.*

### **Old Mikamba Had A Farm**

Isadora, Rachel / BH JP Isado

*Old Mikamba lives on an African game farm in this version of the classic nursery song "Old MacDonald". Children are introduced to a menagerie of African animals and their sounds.*

### **If I Just Had Two Wings**

Schwartz, Virginia Frances / BH J FIC Schwa

*Phoebe, Liney, and two children escape their plantation and set out on the secret passage north to freedom.*

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## **Nzingha, Warrior Queen of Matamba**

McKissack, Patricia C. / J FIC Royal Historical Fiction Series

*The diary of thirteen year old Nzingha, a sixteenth century West African princess who loves to hunt and hopes to lead her kingdom one day against the invasion of the Portuguese slave traders.*

## **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**

Taylor, Mildred / BH YA FIC Taylo/YA-PB Taylo Classic

*The Newbery Award winning story of one African American family fighting to stay together and strong in the face of brutal racist attacks, illness, poverty, and betrayal in the Deep South of the 1930s.*

## **Run Away Home**

McKissack, Patricia C / J FIC McKis

*In 1886 in Alabama an eleven year old African American girl and her family befriend and give refuge to a runaway Apache boy.*

## **Still I Rise: A Graphic History Of African Americans**

Laird, Roland Laird / BH Graphic Novels YA –PB Laird 2009

A graphic novel showing how throughout history African Americans have persevered despite overwhelming odds.

## **The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963: A Novel**

Curtis, Christopher Paul / J-PB Curti

*The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.*

## **Underground to Canada**

Smucker, Barbara / J-PB Smuck

*This is a classic story of two young girls' flight from slavery at a plantation in Mississippi via the Underground Railway.*

## **For Your Listening and Viewing Pleasure**

### **Beyonce** (CD)

Beyonce / CD Popular Beyon

### **The Promise** (CD)

Cox, Deborah / BH CD Popular Cox

### **Magna Carta Holy Grail** (CD)

Jay-Z/ CD Popular Jayz

### **Thriller 25** (CD)

Jackson, Michael / CD Popular Jacks 2008

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## **Unapologetic** (CD)

Rihanna / CD Popular Rihan

## **Ladies Sing the Blues** (CD)

Various artists / CD Jazz Blues Lad

## **Yeezus** (CD)

West, Kanye / CD Popular West

## **12 Years A Slave (DVD)**

DVD Fic Twelve

*In pre Civil War United States, Solomon Northup, a free black man from upstate New York, is abducted and sold into slavery.*

## **42: The Jackie Robinson Story** (DVD)

DVD FIC Forty

*The life story of Jackie Robinson and his history-making signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers .*

## **Cool Runnings** (DVD)

DVD FIC Cool

*The story of four Jamaicans who have an impossible dream – competing in the Olympics in bobsled racing.*

## **Sparkle** (DVD)

DVD FIC Spark

*Three sisters form girl group and soon become local sensations with major label interest, but fame becomes a challenge as the close-knit family begins to fall apart.*

## **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner** (DVD)

DVD FIC Guess

*Academy Award winning actor Sidney Poitier stars in a film about interracial marriage in the 1960s.*

## **Madea's Witness Protection** (DVD)

DVD FIC Madea

*A Wall Street investment banker has been set up in a mob-backed Ponzi scheme, forcing him to be put under witness protection with his entire family in Madea's house down South.*

## **The Help** (DVD)

DVD FIC Help

*In Mississippi during the 1960s Skeeter, a southern society girl, returns from college determined to become a writer, but turns her friends' lives, and a small Mississippi town, upside down when she decides to interview the black women who have spent their lives taking care of prominent southern families. Aibileen, Skeeter's best friend's housekeeper, is the first to open up, to the dismay of her friends in the tight-knit black community.*

## **Remember the Titans** (DVD)

DVD FIC Remem

*Two coaches must overcome their differences to turn a group of young men into a winning football team.*



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## **Roots** (DVD)

DVD FIC Roots, episodes 1-2, 3-4, 5-6

*Based on the book by Alex Haley which chronicles an African American's search for his heritage.*

## **The Brothers** (DVD)

DVD FIC Broth

*Four friends begin to question women and relationships when one of them announces impending nuptials.*

## **Ebony** (Magazine)

A magazine for both men and women, Ebony offers features on relationships, family, entertainment, sports, financial matters, black history and current affairs.

## **O: the Oprah Magazine** (Magazine)

*The Oprah Magazine has something for every woman: articles on health, relationships, beauty and fashion, home décor as well as profiles of "Phenomenal Women".*

## **Recommended Websites**

### **Black Facts Online**

<http://www.blackfacts.com/>

*An online resource for Black History information.*

### **Black History Canada**

<http://blackhistorycanada.ca/>

*Provides access to an abundance of information concerning Black History and the history of slaves in Canada.*

### **Canada Noir**

<http://pages.infinit.net/puissant/CanadaNoir/home.html>

*This site offers links to other websites that contain African Canadian content in relation to Literature, Education, Business, News and Entertainment. It also features the Canada Noir online Bookstore.*

### **On The Road North: Black Canada And The Journey To Freedom**

<http://www.museevirtuel-virtualmuseum.ca/edu/ViewLoitCollection.do?method=preview&lang=EN&id=2999>

*Explores the journey many Black people took to escape slavery in the United States and travel to freedom in Canada.*

### **Ontario Black History Society**

<http://www.blackhistorysociety.ca/>

*This society, located in Toronto, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study, preservation and promotion of Black history and heritage. The site has an excellent list of useful links.*