

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. Items are indicated as "BH" (Black Heritage) in the library catalogue.

You can find items through our catalogue, either in the library or online through our ELibrary, 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 ELibrary.

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

by Charles Saunders

BH 971.600496 Sau

A history of the Blacks in Nova Scotia.

Blacks in Deep Snow

by Colin A. Thompson

BH 971.200496 Tho

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

Bromley, Tireless Champion for Just Causes: Memoirs of Bromley L. Armstrong

by Bromley Armstrong

BH 971.304092 Armst

The memoirs of Armstrong's life's work in the pursuit of social justice and dignity for all in Ontario and Canada.

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

By Afua Cooper

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 first hand accounts of a slave's story.

The Road to Now: A History of Blacks in Montreal

by Dorothy W. Williams

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.

Kids Book of Black Canadian History

by Rosemary Sadlier

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.

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Towards Freedom: The African-Canadian Experience

By Ken Alexander

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

by Lawrence Hill

BH J 971.004036 Hill

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

The Underground Railroad: Next Stop, Toronto!

by Adrienne L. Shadd

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.

Contemporary Life

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

by Cecil Foster

BH 305.896071 Fos

Explores the realities of being Black in Canadian society.

Being Black: Essays

by Althea Prince

BH 305.896071 Pri

Essays on contemporary Black Canadian culture.

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

by Lawrence Hill

BH 305.80440092 Hill

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

Black, White and Jewish

by Rebecca Walker

BH 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.

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[The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother](#)

by James McBride

BH 974.71004960730092 McBri

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

[Condoleeza Rice](#)

by Linda R. Wade

BH J 355.033073092 Rice-W

A biography of the first African American woman Secretary of State.

[The Measure of A Man: A Spiritual Autobiography](#)

By Sidney Poitier

BH 791.43028092 Poiti

The Academy Award winning actor's look at what has influenced his performances and his life.

[Race Matters](#)

by Cornel West

BH 305.800973 Wes 2001

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

[Rude: Contemporary Black Canadian Cultural Criticism](#)

ed. by Rinaldo Walcott

BH 305.896071 Rud

Uncovers the complexities of Black life and Black living.

[What Obama Means – For Our Culture, Our Politics, Our Future](#)

by Jabari Asim

BH 973.932 Asi

This book shows what the Obama presidency means to Americans of all backgrounds showing how African-American performers, athletes, rhetoricians and leaders laid the groundwork for Obama and how Obama turned the old civil rights model of African-American leadership on its head.

[Culture](#)

[African Art](#)

by William R. Rea

BH 709.6 Rea

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

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[The African Kitchen](#)

by 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?](#)

by Rinaldo Walcott

BH 305.8960871 Wal 2003

A groundbreaking study of Black Canadian culture.

[Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella](#)

by Robert D. San Souci

BH J 398.22 Cinde

A version of Cinderella from Martinique.

[Kwanzaa Crafts](#)

by Judith Hoffman Corwin

BH J 745.5941 Cor

Crafts and recipes that children can make for Kwanzaa.

[Testifyin': Contemporary African Canadian Drama](#)

ed. by Djanet Sears

BH 819.254080896 Tes v. 1

A remarkable collection of writing for the stage.

[The Vintage Book of African American Poetry](#)

ed. Michael S. Harper & Anthony Walton

BH 811.0080896073 Vin

African American poetry from the eighteenth century to the twentieth century.

Research Tools

[African American Culture and History: A Student's Guide](#)

BH REF 973.00496073 Afr v 1-4, 6

Informative encyclopedia on the history and culture of African Americans.

[African American Firsts](#)

by Joan Potter

BH 920.009296073 Pot

A fascinating account of little known African-American achievers.

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[Black Heroes of the 20th Century](#)

ed. Jessie Carney Smith

BH REF 920.009296073 Bla

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

[The Blacks in Canada: A History](#)

by Robin W. Winks

BH 971.00496 Win 1997

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

[The Schomburg Center Guide to Black Literature: From the Eighteenth Century to the Present](#)

ed. Roger M. Valade III

BH REF 809.8896 Schom

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

Great Fiction

Adults

[At the Full and Change of the Moon: A Novel](#)

by Dionne Brand

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](#)

by Toni Morrison

BH FIC Morri

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

[Lover's Leap](#)

by Horane Smith

BH FIC Smith

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

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[Now Is the Time to Open Your Heart: A Novel](#)

by Alice Walker

BH FIC Walke

An oft-married author leaves her current lover and starts on a journey of self-discovery that is paralleled by his similar journey.

[Push: A Novel](#)

by Sapphire

FIC Sapph

A self portrait of a black teenager, big, fat and unloved, with a father who rapes her and a jealous mother who screams abuse. For Precious, as she is called, hope appears when a courageous teacher, a young black woman, bullies, cajoles and inspires her to learn how to read.

[Tell Me How Long the Train's Been Gone](#)

by James Baldwin

BH FIC Baldw

At the height of his theatrical career, the actor Leo Proudhammer is nearly felled by a heart attack. As he hovers between life and death, Baldwin shows the choices that have made him enviably famous and terrifyingly vulnerable.

[The Book of Negroes](#)

by Lawrence Hill

BH 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 Coldest Winter Ever: A Novel](#)

by Sister Souljah

BH FIC Soulja

The oldest daughter of a successful drug dealer, young Winter Santiago's life begins to fall apart after her father moves her family from the projects to a mansion on Long Island.

[The Lynching Stream](#)

by Horane Smith

BH FIC Smith

When he learns that his father was lynched, a man leaves his Canadian home to travel to Mississippi to learn why.

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Children

[A Mighty Big Imagining \(Our Canadian Girl, Rachel #1\)](#)

by Lynne Kositsky

J-PB Kosit/J FIC Kosit

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

[The House of Dies Drear](#)

by Virginia Hamilton

J FIC Hamil/J-PB Hamil

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

[If I Just Had Two Wings](#)

by Virginia Frances Schwartz

BH J FIC Schwa/J FIC Schwa

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

[Nightjohn](#)

by Gary Paulsen

BH YA-PB/Pauls/YA FIC Pauls

Twelve year old Sarny's brutal life as a slave becomes even more dangerous when a newly arrived slave offers to teach her to read.

[Nzingha, Warrior Queen of Matamba](#)

by Patricia C. McKissack

J BH FIC McKis/J FIC McKis

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](#)

by Mildred Taylor

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](#)

by Patricia C. McKissack

BH 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.

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[Still I Rise: A Graphic History Of African Americans](#)

By 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](#)

by Christopher Paul Curtis

J-PB Curti/ J FIC 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](#)

by Barbara Smucker

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](#)

[Big Willie Style](#) (CD)

by Will Smith

CD Popular Smith

[808's and Heartbreak](#)

by Kanye West

CD Popular West

[I Am](#) (CD)

by Beyonce

CD Popular Knowl

AN, BCRL, DC, MA, PBRL, WO

[Ladies Sing the Blues](#) (CD)

by various artists

CD Jazz/Blues Lad

[Rated R](#) (CD)

by Rihanna

CD Popular Rihan

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[The Promise](#)

by Deborah Cox (CD)
CD Popular Cox

[Thriller 25](#) (CD)

by Michael Jackson
CD Popular Jacks 2008

[Black Knight](#) (DVD)

DVD FIC Black

A maintenance worker is transported back to 14th century England where he must deal with damsels in distress and an evil king.

[Cool Runnings](#) (DVD)

DVD FIC Cool

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

[Diary of a Mad Black Woman](#) (DVD)

DVD FIC Diary

A couple with a good marriage that seems solid begins to crumble when she discovers her husband's intentions for divorce.

[Dreamgirls](#) (DVD)

DVD FIC Dream

A trio of black female soul singers cross over to the pop charts in the early 1960s.

[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.

[Hustle and Flow](#) (DVD)

DVD FIC Hustl

With help from his friends, a Memphis pimp in mid-life crisis attempts to become a successful rapper.

[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, bonus

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 Business Professional & Entrepreneurs

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

This site's stated goal is to "address equity and opportunity for the Black community in business, employment, education and economic development." It offers training for professionals and entrepreneurs as well as networking opportunities.

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.

Black Pages Canada Inc.

<http://www.blackpages.ca/home.asp>

This site highlights African-Canadian owned businesses in Toronto. As well as a business directory, it also has employment information, an educational guide, and a list of community events.

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.