



# The Preserver

## BLACK CULTURAL CENTRE FOR NOVA SCOTIA NEWSLETTER

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### #2 Construction Battalion Commemorative Ceremony



On Saturday, July 11, hundreds of civilians and military participated in our 16th Annual Ceremony in Pictou, Nova Scotia, commemorating the No. 2 Construction Battalion, Canada's first and only all Black Battalion.

Our keynote speaker, Rear Admiral Paul Maddison, Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic/Joint Task Force Atlantic delivered an enthusiastic message honouring the World War I Battalion and encouraging modern efforts to make Canadian society fully inclusive. The Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, The Honourable Mayann Francis and Brigadier-General Dave Neasmith reminded the assembly that the men of No. 2 Construction Battalion were outstanding pioneers in the march to equal opportunity and fair practices in Canada.

The featured entertainment provided by the trio of Bowden Brothers (Dennis, Brian and Edward) of New Glasgow included the debut performance of an original poem composed by Capt. (ret'd) George Borden which they sang to a familiar tune. That special musical salute is a fitting tribute to the Black Battalion.

### President's Corner

Dr. Leslie H. Oliver



Hundreds of guests, including Her Honour, Mayann Francis, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, gathered in Pictou for our 16th Black Battalion Memorial on July 11, 2009.

I was honoured on behalf of the Black Cultural Society to recognize the debt that we owe to those who willingly placed themselves in harm's way to serve the higher goals of our society. The members of the No. 2 Construction Battalion were remembered with respect for the determination that made them trailblazers. In World War I, they and their officers broke down destructive stereotypes that had impeded the destined evolution of Canadian society into one of equal opportunity with equal shares for all. Speeches, wreaths and salutes were presented to honor those and other Canadian fighters for freedom and justice. The Canadian Forces wish to take ownership of the commemoration of the Black Battalion we trust that they will give full respect to that noble task.

### UP-HOME EXHIBIT COMES TO BCC !



Ms. Shauntay Grant and Ms Susan Tooke have created an exciting exhibit based on Ms. Grant's award winning poetry book, titled "Up Home". This exhibit is expected to be on display at the Black

Cultural Centre starting in September for the Fall season. Currently being exhibited at the N.S. Art Gallery this superb collection of illustrations used in Ms. Grant's book are an insightful look at the people and place of the historic Black Community of North Preston, Nova Scotia.

Please take the opportunity to come and see "Up-Home" at the Black Cultural Centre. You'll be glad you did ! Stay tuned for more details.

### Black Cultural Society of Nova Scotia

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Saturday September 19, 2009**  
**10:00 AM**

**Black Cultural Centre**  
**1149 Main Street,**  
**Dartmouth, NS**

All Welcome: General Public  
and Society Members.

**Call us for details**  
**1-800-465-0767**  
**www.bccns.com**



*The Amistad*

On July 18, 2009, Dr. Bishop and I had the pleasure of welcoming the tall ship Amistad to Nova Scotia. The Dartmouth waterfront was busy with people as the captain and crew of this historic vessel were greeted. The ship reminds us of a monumental moment in North America when African individuals from Sierra Leone were recognized by decision of the United States Supreme Court as humans with human rights. The Amistad case had dealt a serious

*continued on next page...*

**President's Corner continued**

blow to the wretched slavery system of kidnap, enslavement and inhumane treatment that had lasted for centuries.

At the time of the Amistad court battle, around 1841, our African Nova Scotian ancestors had already been settled as free citizens here and in Sierra Leone for over 50 years. But I expect that they would have been delighted to see that their friends and family who were still in the U.S. were getting closer to being recognized as humans. The Amistad continues to be a symbol of the great need for people everywhere to fight for our rights and to help others who are struggling to be heard.

September 19, 2009 will be our AGM and Board election. If your membership needs to be renewed, you should look after that right away so that you can participate in the AGM. The Centre continues to receive a flow of enthusiastic visitors. We attempt to make sure that each of them has an enlightening visit. We are thankful for the energetic work of our four Summer Students who provide a superb guest welcome and tour.

**People @ the BCC**

*A brief profile of staff, and volunteers who help make the operations at the Black Cultural Centre successful.*

**Matthew Byard**

Matthew Byard is an African Nova Scotian student at Dalhousie University. Born in Halifax, he has roots in Gibson Woods – where his mother was born and raised –, as well as the Black community in Truro known as the “The Island” - where his father is from and where Matthew spent much of his childhood.

In April of 2008, Matthew followed in his parents' footsteps by graduating from Dalhousie's Transition Year Program (TYP), a program designed to help African Canadian and Aboriginal students gain entry into university. In September, he will be entering into his second post-TYP year of University where he plans to study Political Science and French.

In addition to his summer position at the Black Cultural Centre, Matthew works for the Dalhousie Black Student Advising Centre as an assistant event planner and as a co-editor for the “Africvoice” newsletter. He was also recently appointed to the position of Black Student Community representative on Dalhousie Student Union council.

**Samuel Provo-Benoit**

My name is Samuel Provo-Benoit. I am nineteen years old and I was born in Halifax Nova Scotia. I'm the grandson of Samuel & Ivory Provo. I reside in the community

of North Preston, Nova Scotia. I am employed with the Black Cultural Centre for the summer.

I am in my second year of University at Saint Mary's University, where I'm studying for my Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Social Work. I graduated from Auburn Drive high School in 2008. I am a member of Saint Thomas Baptist Church in North Preston, and I am a member of many organizations and choirs within the church.

My future endeavours are to receive my Bachelor of Arts degree, than get involved with Youth social work or, Christian social work within my church.

**Recipe Corner****East African Sweet Pea Soup****INGREDIENTS**

2 cups chopped onion  
2 tsp minced garlic  
1 tsp grated fresh peeled ginger  
1 tsp salt  
1/4 tsp cayenne pepper  
1/2 tsp ground black pepper  
1 tsp ground coriander seeds  
1 tsp ground cumin seeds  
1/4 tsp ground cardamom  
1/8 tsp ground cloves  
1/4 tsp cinnamon  
1 tsp turmeric  
2 tomatoes, chopped  
1 sweet potato, diced  
3 1/2 cups water  
3 cups fresh green peas

**DIRECTIONS**

Braise/deglaze onions and garlic in a pot for 5-10 minutes. Mix in the ginger, salt, and all spices and cook for a few minutes, stirring often. Add tomatoes and sweet potato, stir. Add 1 1/2 cups of water, stir. Bring soup to a boil, reduce heat, cover, and simmer for 5 minutes. Add 2 cups of the peas and simmer, covered, for 10 minutes. Remove from heat and add remaining 2 cups of water.

Puree in batches in a blender until smooth. return to the pot, add the last cup of peas, and cook on medium heat for 3-5 minutes.

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& New Members****Recent Donors**

Ed White  
Joyce Ruck  
Lesline Alleyne

**New Members**

Ivory Provo  
U. Rowland Taylor

*Thank You For  
Your Support !*

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Become A Member of the  
Black Cultural Sociey / Centre

Call us for details  
1-800-465-0767  
[www.bccns.com](http://www.bccns.com)

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