



The Preserver

BLACK CULTURAL CENTRE FOR NOVA SCOTIA NEWSLETTER

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FREEDOM STONE UNVEILING



Pictured above (l-r) Dr. Leslie Oliver, Ms. Alma Johnston, Hon. Keith Colwell, MLA and Mr. Peter Stoffer, MP

On Thursday, October 15 at 11:00am the Black Cultural Society officially unveiled its' new outdoor monument; the "Freedom Stone" !

In honour of Democracy 250 legacy projects this historic occasion was created with the generosity of Honourable Keith Colwell, MLA Preston who designated funds to establish this marker on the grounds of the Black Cultural Centre. The stone concept and layout was designed by Dr. Henry Bishop and Russell Grosse. Fabrication and construction was completed by MacLeod Monuments, Henry Taylor and Moose Construction.

The concept and vision behind the creation of this marker tells a story. Two concrete pillars, hold between them a large rectangular polished slab of granite, which represents the strength and determination of our ancestors. When face-viewed left side pillar to right side pillar it represents the path travelled from our past towards our future. The granite stone represents the connection between our heritage with the carved inscription: Dedicated to the Memory of Our Ancestors in their Quest

for Liberty. This is meant to be an enduring testament to the freedom seekers and perseverance of Black people.

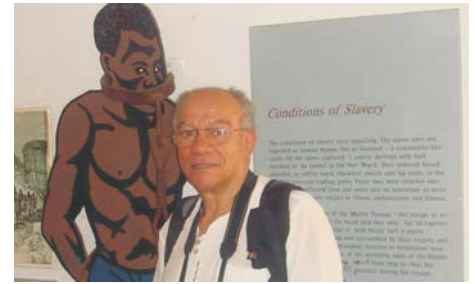
A good attendance of community and government officials witnessed this ceremony, a prayer of hope was offered by Ms. Alma Johnston, Moderator of African United Baptist Association. Dr. Leslie Oliver, President of the Black Cultural Society gave official remarks on the event significance. Students from Graham Creighton Jr. High School sang the Black Anthem "Life Every Voice". Mr. Peter Stoffer , M.P. Sackville / Eastern Shore gave glowing comments. Mr. David Hendsbee , HRM councilor offered words of wisdom. Hon. Keith Colwell, expressed his pride and satisfaction in having this legacy marker put in place at the Centre.

The unveiling was performed by Hon. Kieth Colwell and Dr. Leslie Oliver to loud enthusiastic applause by all !

Please come and see The Freedom Stone, it's an unique structure to behold.

President's Corner

Dr. Leslie H. Oliver



Dr. Leslie Oliver - Albrede Museum, Gambia

October was an exciting month with lots to inspire our lives as African Nova Scotians. Three recent events that inspired my thoughts were addressing the Wolfville Historical society on early Black settlement, unveiling the "FREEDOMSTONE" and the starting a 5-week stay in The Gambia.

With substantial help from my wife, Sharon, I wove the story of our ancestors' early years into a presentation that gave the Wolfville Historical Society a new interpretation of that period. Perhaps *Preserver* readers know other groups who are ready to have their old beliefs challenged by our version of our story. The Centre's great resources can help expose them to realities of our past and present. I encourage our Board Members, staff and friends to consider speaking engagements to spread the word.

On October 15th we unveiled our beautiful "FREEDOM STONE". Installed in a bed of Nova Scotia beach stones, it reminds visitors to the Centre of the hard work, endurance and perseverance of our people in Nova Scotia. . It commemorates people of

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President's Corner continued

African heritage arriving on rocky shores, extracting thousands of stones to turn barren land into gardens, pastures, hay fields and webs of stone walls throughout their communities. Their beautiful lives were spent shaping the stones for freedom and now this beautiful stone gives us back a memory of ancestors far away in time and space whose strong spirits still guide us. Freedom was something they dreamed of and died for. In Nova Scotia they found a democratic system of people determined to govern themselves in a fair, structured and impartial manner. We will use the "FREEDOM STONE" as a gathering point for future heritage celebrations.

A third inspiration came while landing in Banjul airport, West Africa on October 22. My flights from Halifax through Newark and Brussels were long and cramped yet all the while I kept thinking about the personal significance of staying in Africa with the culture and heritage that we claim but have never experienced. Saint Mary's University has sent me to The Gambia as a professor to teach a Computer Science course in their Gambian outreach program. I expect to find the legacy of this trip for me will be a renewed commitment to encourage young people to reap the benefits of living in this land of plenty. I'll have to think more about that after I return home.

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Tourism, Culture and Heritage

Senator Oliver Meets U.S. President

Our Black Cultural Society Founding President, Senator Donald Oliver was pleased to meet U.S. President Barack Obama in September 2009. Senator Oliver accompanied Prime Minister Stephen Harper on his visit to Washington.

**Spicy African Sweet Potato Soup****Ingredients**

- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 sweet potato, peeled and diced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 cup chunky salsa
- 1 can garbanzo beans, drained
- 1 cup diced zucchini
- 1/2 cup cooked rice
- 2 tablespoons peanut butter

Heat the oil in a stockpot over medium heat. Saute onion, sweet potato, and garlic until onion is soft. Turn down heat if necessary to prevent burning.

Stir in the chicken broth, thyme and cumin. Bring to a boil, cover and simmer for about 15 minutes. Stir in salsa, garbanzo beans and zucchini. Simmer until tender, about 15 minutes.

Stir in the cooked rice and peanut butter until the peanut butter has dissolved.

Serve hot with pita chips and a green salad.

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& New Members****Donors**

Alexa McDonough

*Thank You For
Your Support !*

Join Us !

Become A Member of the
Black Cultural Society / Centre

**Olympic Torch Relay**

Wednesday November 18, 2009

1pm Black Cultural Centre
1149 Main Street, Dartmouth, NS

**Annual Christmas Concert**

Saturday December 12, 2009

7pm Black Cultural Centre
1149 Main Street, Dartmouth, NS
Tickets: \$10.00 Adults / \$5.00 Students

Call us for details

1-800-465-0767

www.bccns.com