

Cultural

ASSETS OF NOVA SCOTIA

African Nova Scotian Tourism Guide







Come visit the birthplace of Canada's Black community. Situated on the east coast of this beautiful country, Nova Scotia is home to approximately 20,000 residents of African descent. Our presence in this province traces back to the 1600s, and we were recorded as being present in the provincial capital during its founding in 1749.

Come walk the lands that were settled by African Americans who came to the Maritimes—as enslaved labour for the New England Planters in the 1760s, Black Loyalists between 1782 and 1784, Jamaican Maroons who were exiled from their home lands in 1796, Black refugees of the War of 1812, and Caribbean immigrants to Cape Breton in the 1890s. The descendants of these groups are recognized as the indigenous African Nova Scotian population.

We came to this land as enslaved and free persons: labourers, sailors, farmers, merchants, skilled craftspersons, weavers, coopers, basket-makers, and more. We brought with us the remnants of our cultural identities as we put down roots in our new home and over time, we forged the two together and created our own unique cultural identity.

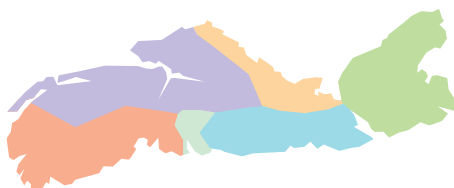
Today, some 300 years later, there are festivals and gatherings throughout the year that acknowledge and celebrate the vibrant, rich African Nova Scotian culture.

We will always be here, remembering and honouring the past, living in the present, and looking towards the future.



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See page 64 for detailed map.

Websites of the community partners:

Black Loyalist Heritage Society
www.blackloyalist.com

African Nova Scotian Music Association
www.ansma.com

Africville Museum
www.africvillemuseum.org

Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia
www.bccns.com

Glace Bay Universal Negro Improvement Association
www.unia.webs.com

Valley African Nova Scotian Development Association
www.vansda.ca

African Nova Scotian Tourism Network

The African Nova Scotian Cultural Tourism Strategy aims to enhance exposure and attendance to Black historical and cultural sites in Nova Scotia. The project is guided by a steering committee consisting of six community partners: Black Loyalist Heritage Society, African Nova Scotian Music Association, Africville Museum and Interpretive Centre, Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia, Glace Bay Universal Negro Improvement Association, and Valley African Nova Scotian Development Association. These members represent cultural and tourism sites and organizations from across Nova Scotia. Also on the steering committee are the Black Business Initiative (a provincial business development organization), Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Nova Scotia Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism, and the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs.

Each group provides a voice from a particular geographic area of the province, and collectively they share a common vision towards making the African Nova Scotian experience a tourism destination to remember and revisit. The network also acknowledges all those from various other organizations and communities that have worked on The Black Heritage & Culture Liberty! Destination Nova Scotia Brochure and other past projects promoting African Nova Scotian Cultural Tourism. Too long a list to name, the network recognizes all past contributions and look forward to continuing the vision.

The information in this guide is designed to show you just how accessible a cultural heritage-inspired visit can be for you.



Day Trips

Any of the locations situated within a two-hour drive of the Halifax Regional Municipality can be part of a one-day excursion.

For an overnight adventure you could leave Metro Halifax and drive along Highway 101, visiting the many sites along the Annapolis Valley route and the Mathieu Da Costa African Heritage Trail—Hantsport, Three Mile Plains, Annapolis Royal, and Weymouth Falls. You will then stop over in Yarmouth in Southwest Nova Scotia before embarking the next day along Highway 103, stopping in Birchtown, Shelburne, and Liverpool as you make your way back to Metro.

To cover the northeastern portion of the province you can take a leisurely drive along Highway 102 to Truro then transfer over to Highway 104 and continue on to Amherst and Springhill. Travel time to Amherst is approximately 2 hours, so this could be an easy day trip.

If the rugged hills are calling you, go the other direction on Highway 104, stopping in New Glasgow and Pictou en route to the Canso Causeway and Cape Breton, with a side trip to Guysborough. You can overnight in any of the lodgings that dot the Island and then embark on a tour of the many sites of Cape Breton's Black history—Sydney, Glace Bay, and the Fortress of Louisbourg—before beginning your journey back to Metro.

Overnight Trips – Any of the locations which are further than a two-hour drive from the Halifax Regional Municipality can be part of an overnight excursion. There are dozens of B & B's and smaller motels throughout Nova Scotia which can provide accommodations. For locations and rates please visit NovaScotia.com or check the Doers' & Dreamers' Guide for more information.



Halifax

Permanently settled in 1749 by the British, Halifax is the largest city in the Atlantic Provinces and is one of the key ports in eastern North America. On the peninsula, Halifax Central, known as Halifax's North End, used to be the Old North Suburbs. This was the core of the city, and it was where the concentration of people of African descent resided, on Creighton, Maynard, Charles, Maitland, Gerrish, and Brunswick streets and Belle Aire Terrace.

This community is the birthplace of James R. Johnston, Nova Scotia's first African Nova Scotian lawyer, the Black Educators Association, and the Black History Month Association.

The spiritual centre of the community was the Cornwallis Street United Baptist Church, with the social and entertainment mecca being the Gerrish Street Hall, located in the heart of the community. In its heyday the Gerrish Street Hall played host to jazz legends such as Lionel Hampton and Louis Armstrong.





For close to 200 years and counting, land and homes owned by Blacks have been found in this area. With its unique identity Halifax's North End is more like a village within a city, where people will smile at strangers and gladly strike up a conversation with others going about their day.

The Freedom Schooner *Amistad* docked in Halifax on July 24, 2008, where it officially launched the Black Loyalist 225 celebration at the 25th Africville reunion. On July 29, the *Amistad* was officially welcomed to Halifax before taking part in a parade of sail along with other tall ships in the harbour.

To celebrate this milestone the African Nova Scotian Music Association established the Arts and Culture Freedom Festival, incorporating arts and crafts, urban music, gospel service, cultural foods, and more. It is ANSMA's intent to grow this festival's profile each year.





Halifax

Africville Museum

5795 Africville Road (formerly called Service Road, formerly called Campbell Road)

The Africville Museum is housed in a reconstructed replica of the Seaview United Baptist Church, which was the heart and soul of Africville until it was demolished by the city of Halifax in the middle of the night. Africville Road runs along the shore of the Bedford Basin, and the museum is visible from the MacKay Bridge and the Bedford Highway.

The museum gives a brief overview of the history of Africville, from its inception to its eradication. Inside the walls of the replicated church you will find beautiful panels that are suspended from lines mimicking the clotheslines that were so prevalent in Africville. The panels display written words, which tell the story of Africville; maps, indicating where various homesteads were located; pictures, which give the viewer a glimpse of what Africville looked like at various stages; and a timeline of Africville. You will also find information about the Africville Genealogy Society.



There are picnic tables and benches where you can sit down and enjoy the beautiful view of the Bedford Basin and the calming presence of the area.

*Open Tuesday–Sunday 10:00 am–4:30 pm (summer);
for off-season hours call or check our website
Entrance fees: children (0–5) free, students \$2,
seniors \$3, adults \$3.50.
Parking at the museum is free.
Phone 902.455.6558
www.africvillemuseum.org*



Cornwallis Street United Baptist Church

5457 Cornwallis Street

Called the “Mother Church” of the African United Baptist Association, the Cornwallis Street United Baptist Church was founded by Rev. Richard Preston in 1832. Reverend Preston was an enslaved African American from Richmond, Virginia, who escaped and came to Nova Scotia in search of his mother. He was instrumental in the formation and furthering of the Black Baptist tradition of the province from 1816 to 1861.

In 1854, Reverend Preston founded the African Baptist Association (later to become the African United Baptist Association), Canada’s oldest Black organization. Preston was ordained on May 19, 1832, and served for 30 years as pastor of Cornwallis Street Baptist Church.

*Weekly Services: Sunday at 11:00 am
Phone 902.429.5573
www.cornwallisstreetbaptist.ca*





Halifax

Melville Island

Located on the Northwest Arm

The complex on Melville Island was a holding place for enemy prisoners during various periods throughout its existence. In 1815, the prison complex served as a quarantine station for 100–200 Black refugees of the War of 1812. These formerly enslaved persons eventually settled in the Halifax–Dartmouth area.

On May 30, 2005, a commemoration was held at Melville Island to mark this historic location and its place in Canada/US history. Surrounding Melville Island is the Northwest Arm; on this body of water early Black settlers played the game of ice hockey.

Today the property is the home of the Armdale Yacht Club.



Army Museum, Halifax Citadel National Historic Site

Entrance by vehicle on Sackville Street

Housed in the Cavalier Building of the Citadel is the Military Museum with exhibits depicting Nova Scotian military history, including edged weapons and firearms, a display dedicated to the No. 2 Construction Battalion, Canada's only all-Black battalion, and the all-Black 104th Pioneer Regiment.

*Open May–October; November 11 (Remembrance Day)
Phone 902.422.5979*

Aberdeen Bus Tours and Charters

Much more than sightseeing, we offer unique and refreshing African Nova Scotian cultural tours. Tours can include a visit to the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia, historic homes, and Black churches. The suggested duration of this tour is about two hours including photo stops.

*Phone 902.850.3377, info@aberdeenbustours.ca
www.aberdeenbustours.ca*





Dartmouth

Like its sister city Halifax, Dartmouth has had a long history of en masse waves of immigration from the continent of Africa. Among the first were the Black Loyalists, 1782–1785, many of whom homesteaded in 18th-century Preston until 1792, when they relocated to Sierra Leone, West Africa.

Next came the Trelawney Maroons. These courageous people evaded capture by the British in their Jamaican homeland and relocated in Nova Scotia to be free of aggression against them. Following a few years of unrest and dissatisfaction with Nova Scotian society, the majority of the Maroons, like the Loyalists before them, left for Sierra Leone in 1800.

The final wave of immigration occurred when Chesapeake Bay-area Blacks left the United States following the War of 1812. Arriving in Nova Scotia in 1813, they put down roots in the core of the city on Crichton Avenue, Park Avenue, Prince Albert Road, Commercial Street, and Victoria Road. Others settled in Preston on the homesteads vacated by the Loyalists and Maroons.

Eleven kilometres east of Dartmouth are the communities of Cherry Brook/Lake Loon, North Preston, and East Preston, which were once included within the British Township of Preston. Approximately 150 Black Loyalist families were



among the first settlers, followed by the Jamaican Maroons and then the Black Refugees from the War of 1812. Although the majority of the first two groups, the Black Loyalists and the Jamaican Maroons, left Nova Scotia and relocated in Sierra Leone in West Africa, descendants of these groups still reside within these three communities. You will find a well-established tradition of basket-weaving and quilting and, as in most of the Black communities across the province, the Baptist faith is at the core of the communities. If you happen to visit Citadel Hill while visiting Halifax, be sure to take note that members of the Jamaican Maroons assisted in the reconstruction of the Fortress after their arrival to the city in 1796.

African Nova Scotian Music Association

Since its inception in May 1997, ANSMA has attracted more than 80 local musicians and music industry professionals as active association members. ANSMA is a member of the Music Industry Association of Nova Scotia and is currently working on behalf of African Nova Scotian musicians to forge strategic links and partnerships with other significant music industry organizations – ECMA, CARAS and UMAC.

www.ansma.com





Dartmouth

Victoria Road United Baptist Church 36 Victoria Road

The Victoria Road United Baptist Church, formerly Dartmouth Lake Church, was established in 1844. Originally located on Crichton Ave in the heart of Dartmouth's Black community, in 1905 the church was hoisted on rollers and pulled up the street by horses to its present location on Victoria Road. Recognized as a Heritage Site by the City of Dartmouth Heritage Advisory Committee.

Weekly Services: Sunday at 11:00 am
Phone 902.469.8576
vrubc@ns.sympatico.ca

Cherry Brook United Baptist Church 292 Cherry Brook Road

Weekly Services: Sunday at 11:00 am
www.cherrybrookchurch2ns.aliantzinc.ca





Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia

10 Cherry Brook Road

In 1972, Rev. Dr. William P. Oliver recognized the need for a cultural educational centre that would both reflect and inspire the Black communities throughout Nova Scotia.

It took a little more than a decade, but the community made Dr. Oliver's dream a reality. The multi-functional Black Cultural Centre opened in 1983. Ever since, the Centre has fulfilled its role by partnering with many other organizations on a year-round basis. The Centre tells the history of Nova Scotia's Blacks and the rich history of our communities.

The Black Cultural Centre invites you to explore the history and heritage of African Nova Scotia. Their goal is to educate and inspire; their mandate is to protect, preserve and promote Black Culture in Nova Scotia. There is a museum of history, a library, and a resource centre, as well as a meeting place for the community. Whatever your interest or background, you'll find they have something for you.

Open year-round: Monday-Friday and weekends during the summer. Call or visit website for more details. Gift shop, wheelchair accessible, and free parking Phone: 902.434.6223, toll free 1.800.465.0767, www.bccns.com



Dartmouth

North Preston

Main Street, Highway 7, Lake Major Road

Driving time from Metro approx. 25 minutes

If you turn off Highway 7 onto Lake Major Road and continue along, within a few minutes you will find yourself in the community of North Preston. This is the largest indigenous Black community in the province of Nova Scotia, with a population of approximately 3,500–4,000.

Within the community you will see the Nelson Whynder Elementary School, the North Preston Daycare Centre, a volunteer Fire Department, and the North Preston Recreation Centre. On the grounds of the Recreation Centre at the front facing Simmonds Street is the cenotaph inscribed with the names of fifty-eight African Nova Scotian veterans. For walking enthusiasts there is a walking trail that borders on Lake Major Road.

Each year the annual North Preston Days community festival is held, including a community parade. Known for its moving church services and spirited congregations, North Preston has plenty of homegrown singing talent to stir your soul on any given Sunday morning at the Saint Thomas Baptist Church.

Saint Thomas Baptist Church

33 Simmonds Road, North Preston

Weekly services: Sunday at 11:00 am



East Preston

Main Street, Highway 7 (Exit 17)

Driving time from Metro approx. 30 minutes

On the far east of the three communities you will find East Preston. In its early days East Preston was known for its farming of both produce and livestock. Many of its residents would make the long horse-and-cart ride to downtown Dartmouth to sell their produce and baskets.

Two of the province's more widely known artisans are basket-weavers who are also mother and daughter: Edith (Drummond) Clayton (1920–1989), and Clara Gough, both of whom carried on the tradition passed on to them by the elder women. Some of their work is on display at the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia.

In 1816, an escaped slave named Richard came to Nova Scotia from Richmond, Virginia, in search of his mother. After his long trek, a weary and worn Richard found his mother living in East Preston. Richard took his surname (Preston) from the community where he was reunited with his mother. After becoming an ordained Baptist Minister, Rev. Richard Preston went on to be one of the most significant figures in African Nova Scotian history.





Dartmouth

East Preston United Baptist Church 206 Upper Partridge River Road

Weekly services: Sunday at 11:00 am

Black Heritage Tours

This tour company was created by husband and wife team Matthew and Carolyn Thomas in 1995, as they felt the rich culture and heritage of African Nova Scotia needed to be shared more widely.

Sites on the tour include the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia; the location of the Maroon Hall and the tombstone commemorating the lives of the Jamaican Maroons; Black Churches and communities where connections are presently being made with descendants of the Underground Railroad, Black Loyalists and refugees. All tours are narrated by trained and informed tour guides.

“Come see for yourself and allow us to share the half that has never been told.”—Carolyn G. Thomas, President

1900 Highway 7, Suite 701, East Preston
Phone 902.462.2011
umoya@accesswave.ca





Family Names Metro Halifax/Dartmouth/ Preston

Adams, Allison, Anderson, Bauld, Beals, Bernard,
Boyd, Brown, Brooks, Bundy, Byers, Cain, Carter,
Carvery, Chandler, Clarke, Clayton, Colley,
Crawley, Crawford, David, Davis, Daye, Deleon,
Diggs, Dixon, Downey, Drummond, Earle, Evans,
Ewing, Fairfax, Fletcher, Flint, Fowler Fraser,
Gannon, Glasgow, Golar, Grant, Gray, Grosse,
Hamilton, Harris, Howe, Husbands, James, Jarvis,
Johnson, Johnston, Jones, Loppie, Lucas, Mantley,
Marsman, Meikle, Oliver, Parker, Parsons, Riley,
Sampson, Saunders, Simmonds, Skinner, Skeir,
Slawter, Smith, Sparks, Steed, Symonds, Thomas,
Tolliver, Turner, Tynes, Whiley, White, Whynder,
Williams, Willis, Wilson Wright, Wyse



Hammonds Plains / Upper Hammonds Plains

Highway 1 or Hammonds Plains Road

Driving time from Metro approx. 30 minutes

This area is composed of four different settlements: Pockwock, Camp-Town, Kehoe, and Upper Hammonds Plains. People in this area are mostly descendants of War of 1812 refugees. In this community you will find Community Hall, a former African school, home of the Whiley Box Factory (former cooperage c. 1812) and Emmanuel Baptist Church (org. 1845).

Located in the Upper Hammonds Plains community you will find the Madeline Symonds Middle School, named for the first Black to graduate from the Provincial Normal College (1928), which would later become the Nova Scotia Teacher's College in Truro. Upper Hammonds Plains also has the first and only all-Black volunteer Fire Department in Canada (incorporated 1964).



Emmanuel Baptist Church

633 Pockwock Road, Upper Hammonds Plains

Weekly service: Sunday at 11 am

Phone 902.835.2472

www.office@ebchurch.ca

Beechville

Highway 3 or St. Margaret's Bay Road

Driving time from Metro approx. 20 minutes

Settled by Black Refugees from the War of 1812, Beechville (formerly known as Beech Hill) can be found just off Highway 3. Award-winning documentary filmmaker Dr. Sylvia Hamilton was born and raised in Beechville.

Beechville Baptist Church

1135 St. Margaret's Bay Road

Weekly service: Sunday at 11 am

Phone 902.876.7942

www.bbchurchclerk@hotmail.com

Lucasville

**Highway 213 (Hammonds Plains Road),
Lucasville Road**

Driving time from Metro approx. 20 minutes

This community was established by a splinter group from the Upper Hammonds Plains area. Many of the residents were people who worked with the land, resulting in strong and vibrant farming community.

Lucasville United Baptist Church—619 Lucasville Road

Weekly service: Sunday at 11 am

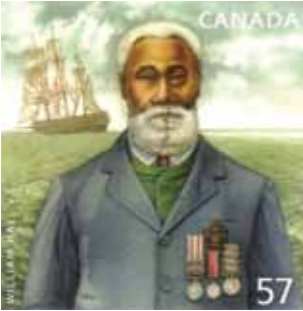
Phone 902.865.9047

Maroon Hill, Middle Sackville

Highway 102 (Cobequid Road or Beaver Bank exit)

Driving time from Metro approx. 20 minutes

Formerly the small community of Boydville, settled by Christian Maroons who relocated to Sierra Leone with the larger group of Maroons in 1800.



Cobequid Road

Highway 102 (Cobequid Road exit)

Driving time from Metro approx. 20 minutes

You will also find the community of Cobequid Road in the Lower Sackville area.

*Cobequid Road United Baptist Church
Weekly service: Sunday at 11:00 am
Phone 902.865.8253*

Goffs

Highway 102 (Exits 5 & 6)

Driving time from Metro approx. 20 minutes

This community, situated behind the Halifax Stanfield International Airport, was founded in 1891. It is served by the Guysborough Road Baptist Church, Oldham Road, Goffs.





Liverpool

Highway 103, Highway 3, Route 331

Distance from Metro Halifax 147 km (1 hr 45 min)

The history of the community of Liverpool is a long one. Most families originally settled at Mersey Point, previously known as Black Point. On the west side of Liverpool Harbour is where the Black families were settled. Most of the early land allotments occurred between 1759 and 1765. One of these early landowners was an African woman named Barbara Cuffy.

Western Head, on the outskirts of Liverpool, is the birthplace of Terrence “Tiger” Warrington. A sign at Western Head honours this Queens County native and his feats as a 1930s champion boxer.

Queens County Museum

109 Main Street, beside Perkins House

A vast array of exhibits including African Nova Scotian content.

Thomas Raddall Research Centre

109 Main Street, beside Perkins House

A genealogical research centre; come search your Nova Scotian roots through over 300 reels of microfilm.

*Open year-round: June 1–
October 15, Monday–Saturday
9:30 am–5:30 pm, Sunday
1–5:30 pm; off-season
Monday–Saturday
9:00 am–5:00 pm
Phone 902.354.4058*





Shelburne

Highway 103 (Exit 27)

Driving time from Metro approx. 223 km (2 hr 30 min)

Under the leadership of Col. Stephen Blucke, of the all-Black regiment the Black Pioneers, the land for the settlement of Port Roseway (present-day Shelburne) was cleared. Colonel Blucke also oversaw the design and building of the town. Blucke and the other Black Loyalists were not permitted to live in the town and were instead restricted to the outskirts of the surrounding area; they established the community of Birchtown.

Among those Loyalists was David George, the first Black Baptist pastor/minister in Canada. His Shelburne Baptist Church is the second-oldest Baptist Church in Canada, and his ministry marked the beginning of the Black Baptist Church in Canada. Reverend George's preaching style attracted both Black and White followers.

Born in the then British colony of Virginia, Reverend George came to Nova Scotia as a Black Loyalist who had supported the side of the British against the United States during the American Revolutionary War (1776–1783). When it became clear that the British Government was not going to honour its commitment and promises to the Black residents, a petition was delivered to the British monarch by Thomas Peters and, as a result, almost half of the African Nova Scotian population relocated to Sierra Leone in West Africa.



Shelburne County Museum

20 Dock Street

Shelburne was settled in 1783 by over 3,000 Black and white Loyalists. The museum presents displays and artifacts of these early times, progressing forward through time. There is an impressive collection of materials related to Black history. Friendly hosts will guide and advise you.

*Open year-round: June 1–October 15, 9:30 am–5:30 pm daily; off-season Tuesday–Saturday 2:00 pm–5:00 pm
Phone 902.875.3219*

Shelburne County Genealogical Research Centre

168 Water Street

The centre has extensive genealogical files and historical records.

*Open year-round: Monday–Saturday 9:00 am–5:00 pm (reduced hours in winter)
Research \$5/day (non-members)
Phone 902.875.4299*





Birchtown

Black Loyalist Heritage Site

Old Birchtown Road, west of Shelburne on Highway 103 (Exit 27)

Distance from Metro Halifax 223 km (2 hr 30 min)

One of Canada's best-kept secrets: herein lies the largest free Black settlement in the 1780s, where people voted with their feet for freedom.

This unique historical site is nestled on beautiful Birchtown Bay on the western shores of Shelburne Harbour, the third-largest natural harbour in the world. The Black Loyalist Heritage Society offers the perfect "time out" spot. If you have ancestors who escaped slavery in the 1780s and made their way to Nova Scotia, this is one place to do your genealogical digging.

Children can run through the well-maintained Black Heritage Trail while other family members sit at the picnic site on the banks of the bay and enjoy the view as the fresh sea air heals the soul. Take a step out of the present into the slower pace of the past.

Featured on this site are a museum housed in a restored late 19th-century one-room schoolhouse, a historic Anglican church, a Black burial ground, a heritage walking trail, a gift shop, and genealogical/historical research services (available at the Society's offices).



*Museum open June–September, daily 11 am–5 pm;
office, gift shop, and grounds open seasonally;
off-season visits by appointment only.*

*Picnic area with washroom facilities; on-site parking
Phone 902.875.1310; fax 902.875.1352;
toll-free 1.888.354.0772 www.blackloyalist.com
www.destinationliberty.org/*

Yarmouth

Highway 103 or 101

Distance from Metro Halifax 304 km (3 hr 35 min)

If you drive in a westerly direction from Halifax along either Highway 103 or Highway 101, you will end up in the town of Yarmouth. Documents indicate that African Nova Scotians were found living in Yarmouth around the 1750s. They immigrated primarily as persons enslaved to the New England Planters who originally settled in the Annapolis Valley region. When Yarmouth was officially established, Blacks were listed as residing in the town. When Canada's first race riot took place in Birchtown/Shelburne, many of the fleeing Blacks relocated to Yarmouth.

Yarmouth was also home to the African Nova Scotian singing group the Mission-Aires. Composed of four first cousins, this group performed in Montreal at Expo '67 and in 2009 they received the Pioneer Award from the African Nova Scotian Music Association.

Yarmouth County Museum & Archives 22 Collins Street

A restored wall mural that was painted by noted local African Nova Scotian painter Lester “Les” Sykes is on display at the Yarmouth County Museum. The mural was removed from the Hubert Brush Centre just prior to the centre's demolition.

*Open year-round: June 1–October 1, Monday–Saturday
9 am–5 pm, closed Sunday; October 4–May 30,
Tuesday–Saturday 2 pm–5 pm
Phone 902.742.5539
www.yarmouthcountymuseum.ednet.ns.ca*





Greenville

Highway 103 or 101

Distance from Metro Halifax 293 km (3 hr 30 min)

A seven-minute drive from Yarmouth you will find the Black community of Greenville, which was originally settled as Salmon River in 1820. Greenville has three cemeteries located within the community, which help to trace the history of the community and its former residents. The African Bethel Cemetery is located on the site of the former African Bethel Church. At the Greenville Community Centre you will see artifacts and photographs from this historic community.

Family Names South Shore

Acker, Bailey, Bruce, Cromwell, Croxen,
Davis, Farmer, Grant, Guy, Hartley,
Herbert, Jacklyn, Nickerson, Smith,
Sylvie, Warrington, Washington, Wesley



Mathieu Da Costa African Heritage Trail

True to its namesake, the Mathieu Da Costa African Heritage Trail invites visitors to explore our rich African heritage through a series of bilingual interpretive panels. Mathieu Da Costa was an interpreter and navigator of African descent who travelled around the Atlantic throughout the late 1500s. His achievements are recognized at the historic site of Port Royal. Each stop on the trail is a celebration of African Nova Scotian culture and history that has been cultivated by unique individuals and strong communities but is too often forgotten.

This adventure into history includes recognition of the lives and achievements of Rose Fortune, Canada's first female police officer, Ben Jackson, a Loyalist who, after building a life in Nova Scotia, returned to the United States and fought with the Union during the Civil War, and Dr. W.P. Oliver, the nationally recognized educator, orator, and spiritual leader.

Black history in the province isn't only about outstanding individuals; the trail also features the communities of Inglewood, Gibson Woods, and Windsor Plains, and recognizes the African United Baptist Association (AUBA), which serves as a spiritual stronghold for community members throughout the region.

To continue its tradition of celebrating "firsts," the Mathieu Da Costa African Heritage Trail is the first trail in Canada that recognizes African history and culture through a series of interpretive panels. The trail also offers visitors a perfect opportunity to spend time in the gorgeous Annapolis Valley.



Five Mile Plains/ Three Mile Plains

(Outskirts of Windsor)

Highway 101

Distance from Metro Halifax 64 km (50 min)

Early enslaved African settlers arrived with New England Planters from Rhode Island, who took over lands following the expulsion of the Acadians (1755). This area of Nova Scotia is known for its gypsum mining and for being the birthplace of Commonwealth and Canadian welterweight boxing champion Clyde Gray in the 1970s.





Hantsport

Highway 101, Highway 1

Distance from Metro Halifax 75 km (1 hr, 5 min)

On the grounds of the United Baptist Church in Hantsport you are sure to see a cairn commemorating one of Canada's brave naval heroes—William N. Hall (1821–1904). Born in Horton, Nova Scotia, William Hall was the first Canadian sailor and the first Nova Scotian to be awarded the Victoria Cross for valour. This medal is the highest honour bestowed by the Canadian Forces to those persons who have demonstrated bravery beyond the call of duty. William Hall displayed this quality. On November 16, 1857, while serving on HMS *Shannon*, Hall was part of a crew that placed a 24-pounder gun near the angle of the Shah Nujjiff at Lucknow. Fighting was so intense that after some time the only two men who were able to stand their ground were the ship's commanding officer and Hall. With utter disregard for his own welfare, Hall kept loading and firing the gun until the wall had been breached and the "Relief of Lucknow" was assured. In 2010, the Canada Post Corporation released a commemorative stamp to honour Hall and his accomplishments.

Gibson Woods

(Centreville Area)

Highway 101, Route 359 or Route 221

Distance from Metro Halifax 102 km (1 hr 15 min)

Once known as "Gentlemen's Bridge," Gibson Woods was renamed after the influential Gibson family who settled in the region. Early documents record a Black settler by the name of George Gibson purchasing forty acres of land in 1804 for a king's fortune of 40 pounds. Gibson died in 1847 at a healthy 93 years of age. It is believed that Gibson was a Black Loyalist.

You can find Gibson Woods Community Centre and Gibson Woods United Baptist Church near Centreville.

Gibson Woods United Baptist Church

8368 Highway 221

Weekly Service: Sunday at 11:00 am

Phone 902.835.2472

Bridgetown Granville Ferry Lequille

Highway 101, Highway 1

Distance from Metro Halifax 203 km (2 hr 15 min)

Come view the commemorative plaque to Rev. Richard Preston, founder of the African United Baptist Association in 1854. Originally called the African Baptist Association, the AUBA is Canada's oldest Black organization. Their first meeting was held at Granville Mountain. Its creation under the leadership of Reverend Preston brought together all of the existing Black Baptist churches in Nova Scotia and gave them a platform by which to address the social, economic, and educational issues of the day.



Inglewood

Highway 101 (Exit 19)

*Distance from Metro Halifax 203 km
(2 hr 15 min)*

A provincially designated Historic Site. In front of the Inglewood United Baptist Church (org. 1874) at 321 Bay Road, you'll find a monument commemorating Rev. David George and Rev. Richard Preston. Reverend George, founder of the Silver Bluff Church, South Carolina, USA, escaped slavery during the American Revolution and brought his faith to Nova Scotia. Reverend Preston, founder of the Cornwallis Street Baptist Church, organized the African Baptist Churches into the African Baptist Association (ABA) in 1854. This organization is now known as the African United Baptist Association (AUBA).





Annapolis Royal

Highway 101, Highway 1

Distance from Metro Halifax 203 km (2 hr 15 min)

The spirit of entrepreneurship was well demonstrated in the early 1800s by Rose Fortune, who ran a baggage-handling business in Annapolis Royal. An eclectic figure, she donned a man's coat and a white cap, topped by a man's felt hat. She would transport baggage from incoming boats to any destination around the town. She also had in her possession a small walking stick which she would use should "some ignorant sod" fail to jump instantly out of her way. A well-respected citizen of the town, Rose Fortune is recognized as the first police woman of African descent in North America.

Take a stroll down lower St. George Street, the oldest town street in Canada, and listen for the voices of the past. Mind you keep a wary ear open for the footsteps of Rose and be sure to move out of her way! Canadian history was made in Annapolis Royal when a descendant of Rose Fortune, Daurene Lewis, was elected mayor in 1984. Pop into Fort Anne, a National Historic Site, erected around 1629.

Fort Anne National Historic Site

Phone 902.532.2397

www.pc.gc.ca/fortanne



Conway/Jordantown Acaciaville

(Digby area)

Highway 101

Distance from Metro Halifax 228 km (2 hr 35 min)

Present-day Digby was first known as Brindleytown. Thomas Peters was a community leader in the Digby area whose influence also extended throughout Nova Scotia and into New Brunswick.

Born in Africa, enslaved in North Carolina, Peters escaped to Nova Scotia as part of the Black Loyalist migration. He was instrumental in making the Sierra Leone experience a reality. Peters had previously petitioned the British government to stand by their promise to allot appropriately sized land lots to Black Loyalists and former Black soldiers. Having witnessed no change for the better in government allotment procedures, Peters continued his campaign against the government. He was given three options, which included relocation for those willing to move to Sierra Leone. In January 1792, Peters, along with about 1,200 other African Nova Scotians, set out for Sierra Leone, West Africa.





Delaps Cove Bear River Litchfield



Highway 101, Highway 1

Distance from Metro Halifax 210 km (2 hr 30 min)

The Black settlers of this area came primarily in the 18th century. Former Canadian “Snow Bird” instructor and pilot, retired Canadian Air Force Major Walter Peters, hails from Litchfield.



Weymouth Falls Southville (Danvers) Hassett

Highway 101, Route 340, Southville Road

Distance from Metro Halifax 269 km (2 hr 50 min)

Settled in 1784, Weymouth Falls is the birthplace of legendary boxer Sam Langford, the “Boston Terror” (1881–1956). At age 15 he made his boxing debut in his adopted home of Boston. Only 18 months later he defeated the World Lightweight Champion, Joe Gans. In 1906 Langford took on the Negro Heavyweight Champion, Jack Johnson, in a non-title fight. Although the victory for this battle went to Johnson, Langford earned the respect of Johnson and as a result he would never give Langford a rematch or allow him to fight for his heavyweight title.

At 5’6”, having an arm span over 6 feet and a fist that packed a pulverizing punch, Langford was a formidable opponent. He died in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1956, a year after his election into the Ring Magazine’s Boxing Hall of Fame. He was the first non-champion ever to be so honoured. In 1972, Weymouth Falls erected a plaque to his memory in its community centre. And in 1996, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recognized his contribution to Canadian history by rating Langford as one of the top ten boxers of the 20th century. You can view the Sam Langford Commemorative Plaque along Weymouth Falls Road near the centre.

Southville claims as its own noted African Nova Scotian artist Harold Cromwell. Born in Southville in 1919, Cromwell is considered by some to be one of the most important folk artists in Nova Scotia. For over 40 years Cromwell captured daily life in Weymouth and Weymouth Falls. Several of his works are on display at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.





Springhill

Highway 104

Distance from Halifax 197 km (2 hr)

Springhill is a town steeped in the coal-mining tradition. The Springhill Miner's Museum sits on the site of a former coal mine. Many men of African descent worked the mines—men like Maurice Ruddick, the “Singing Miner.” In 1958, Maurice Ruddick and a number of fellow colliers were trapped underground for eight days during the Springhill Mining disaster, which was referred to as the “Big Bump.” Lady Luck smiled on these men, for they lived to tell their tales whereas many others caught in similar circumstances did not. Come pay tribute to those men of “the deeps.”



Truro

Highway 102 (Exits 13 & 14)

Distance from Metro Halifax 95 km (1 hr 05 min)

African Nova Scotian residents are located in three main areas. The residents of Upper/Lower Ford Street (“the Marsh”) were descendants of Black Loyalists and refugees. Young Street (“the Hill”) has people from a number of different cultural and ethnic diversities. Black Loyalist descendants make up the vast majority of people in the third area, West Prince Street (“the Island”).

Truro is also the birthplace of world-renowned contralto Portia White (1911–1968). To support herself while taking music lessons at the Halifax Conservatory she taught school in Africville and Lucasville. Her national debut occurred in 1941 at the Eaton Auditorium in Toronto, and her international debut came at the Town Hall in New York in 1944. Ms. White considered the highlight of her career to be a Command Performance for Queen Elizabeth II at the opening of Confederation Centre in Charlottetown in 1964. One critic commented that Ms. White “has a magnificent vocal instrument [and] sufficient musicianship and intelligence to do what she wishes with it, [her voice possesses] a purity of tonal quality the like of which one encounters all too seldom.” A monument commemorating Portia White stands on the grounds of the Zion Baptist Church.

Family Names Fundy Shore and Annapolis Valley

Barton, Bright, Clements, Francis, Gibson, Gray, Hill, Jackson, Jewell, Jones, Jordan, Langford, Lawrence, Lewis, Maxwell, Mentis, Middleton, Miller, Mintus, Paris, Parker, Peters, Pleasant, States, Upshaw



Sand Hill (Amherst)

Trans Canada Highway 104

Distance from Metro Halifax 197 km (2 hr)

Today Amherst sits about 2 miles east of the original town. Prior to the town's incorporation in 1889, the multi-ethnic population numbered around 4,000. Most of the African Canadian residents are located in an area called Sand Hill.

Descendants from Sand Hill are able to trace their roots back to the arrival of the Loyalists to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. For more information visit the Cumberland County Museum and Archives or the Cumberland African Nova Scotian Association. For those interested in more artistic endeavors, come 'round to the Alpha Centre and Cumberland County School of the Arts Society. You might also want to look into the history of one of the few African Methodist Episcopal churches in Canada, the Highland African Methodist Episcopal Church (est. 1874), at 236 Upper Church Street.

Although their mandate is primarily focused on employment, the Cumberland African Nova Scotian Association's mission is "To promote education and awareness of African Nova Scotian culture." You can find them on Victoria Street East in Amherst.

Cumberland County Museum and Archives

150 Church Street

Located in "Grove Cottage" (c. 1838); features include exhibits, a genealogy and research room, and gardens.

Open year-round: May–September, Monday–Saturday 9:00 am–5:00 pm; off-season Tuesday–Saturday 9:00 am–5:00 pm. Phone 902.667.2561



Cumberland African Nova Scotian Association

71 Victoria Street East

Phone 902.661.1509

www.cansa.ca

Pictou

Highway 104 (Exits 20 & 21), Highway 106

Distance from Metro Halifax 165 km (1 hr 45 min)

In the 1760s, enslaved Africans arrived with Philadelphia Planters in the Pictou area and settled on what became known as the Philadelphia Grant.

During World War I, Canadian Blacks were initially rejected at enlistment offices across the country. In response to protest, in July 1916 the Canadian military authorized the formation of the No. 2 Construction Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF)—Canada's only segregated Black unit. Originally headquartered in Pictou, the Battalion was moved to Truro later that year. After Armistice on November 11, 1918, the unit returned from its tour of duty overseas. The No. 2 Construction Battalion was officially disbanded on September 3, 1920. The building that once housed the Battalion no longer remains.

A monument commemorating this historic site was later erected. A ceremony paying tribute to these brave souls is held every year in the month of July at the deCoste Centre. The 20th anniversary of this event takes place in 2013.

deCoste Centre

85 Water Street

Phone 902.485.8848; toll-free 1.800.353.5338





New Glasgow

Trans Canada Highway 104

(Exits 23, 24, 25 & 26)

Distance from Metro Halifax 157 km (1 hr 45 min)

Most of the inhabitants of this town are descended from settlers who arrived in the province in the mid-to-late 1700s. Concentrated in the Vale Road area, they have a long tradition of survival and perseverance.

In 1990 the New Glasgow Homecoming Committee started a family-and-town reunion for all current and past residents of New Glasgow and their relatives, near and far. This event occurs every five years in August. People come from all around the globe to mix, mingle, and catch up. If you come during a year when the Homecoming event is not happening you can still meet people by popping into the Ward One Social & Recreation Centre, at the corner of Brother & Tremont streets.

Stroll up the road a bit and visit the Africentric Heritage Park on Vale Road; “. . . erected in loving memory of the first Black Settlers in Pictou County,” it includes a gracefully designed ten-metre tall, glass-peaked pyramid, modeled after the Great Pyramid of Giza, Egypt. Composed of



stones gathered from Africa, Europe, the United States, and Canada, representing the origins of northeastern Nova Scotia's Black community, it is a vision to behold.

Come and read the historical panels telling the story of the people, then sit and listen to the voices in the wind. Over on Washington Street you'll find the Second United Baptist Church, organized in 1903 by Rev. W. A. White (1874–1936).

On August 16, 2010, at the New Glasgow Africentric Heritage Park, there is a commemorative plaque honouring the African Nova Scotian trailblazer Viola Desmond, who is often called "Canada's Rosa Parks." Desmond was arrested and jailed overnight on November 8, 1946, at New Glasgow's Roseland Theatre for sitting downstairs in the theatre's "Whites Only" section.

A group of African Nova Scotian women in New Glasgow are continuing to pass on the stories of yesterday by forming the Vale Quilters. These women, who are gaining notoriety with their craft, are carrying on traditions and creating new memories which will last a lifetime.





Tracadie Area

Trans Canada Highway 104, Highways 344 & 16
Distance from Metro Halifax 239 km (2 hr 55 min)

First settlers to this region were Black Loyalists. In 1787, Thomas Brownspriggs and 74 other Black Loyalist families were granted 3,000 acres of land in what is known today as East Tracadie, Antigonish County. This land grant, one of the earliest and largest parcels of land actually granted to Nova Scotia's Black settlers, lies on the east side of (Big) Tracadie Harbour near an area also settled by Acadians. Make your way to Barrio Beach and look upon the waters of St. George's Bay where some of the people fished to maintain a livelihood. Along the East Tracadie Road you can turn onto a small road that leads to Little Tracadie, present-day Linwood, another area where "People of Colour" were settled. Coming out of East Tracadie, cross into the rolling countryside of Rear Monastery. This region, and cross-country to Guysborough on the Marine Drive, is well known for producing good fiddlers, like Joe Izzard and George Reddick, who crafted his own fiddle and played for the Queen. Joe Izzard's fiddle is on display at the Black Cultural Centre.

Family Names Northumberland Shore

Ash, Borden, Bowden, Bowen, Bowles,
Byard, Cooke, Desmond, Dorrington, Elms,
Gabriel, Gero, Halfkenny, Henry, Izzard,
Jackson, Jewell, Jones, Jordan, Lee, Mapp,
MacLean, Martin, Morris, Paris, Parris, Pelly,
Ruddick, Reddick, Sheppard, Talbot





Isaac's Harbour

Highway 7

Distance from Metro Halifax 250 km (3 hr 30 min)

As you travel along Highway 7 from Dartmouth towards Guysborough you will pass Isaac's Harbour, which is named for Isaac Webb, an early Black settler in the community.

Guysborough

Trans Canada Highway 104 (Exit 37),
Highways 344 & 16

Distance from Metro Halifax 275 km (3 hr 15 min)

A large group of Black Loyalists settled here at Chedabucto Bay in 1784 after fire swept through and destroyed their Port Mouton settlement during the winter. In 1785 they were joined by African-Americans emigrating from Florida. Amid considerable adversity, these brave souls persevered, to become one of the longest continuous lines of early settlers. They dispersed to numerous communities in the Tracadie area, later making their way to New Glasgow, Truro, and Cape Breton. Others stayed on to build the community of Sunnyville. While in Guysborough, check out the Afrikan Canadian Friendship Centre, where you will find photos and other artifacts that tell the story of Guysborough and the surrounding communities.



Old Court House Museum

106 Church Street

At this site you can research county history to assist you with finding your roots, and view artifacts of the past.

*Open June–October, Monday–Friday 9:00 am–5:00 pm,
Saturday & Sunday 10:00 am–5:00 pm
(and by appointment) Phone 902.533.4008*

Sunnyville

Highways 344 & 16

Distance from Metro Halifax 275 km (3 hr 15 min)

Just outside Guysborough you'll find a hamlet where African descendants formed the community of Sunnyville. Churches on site are the African United Baptist (formerly the Morning Star Baptist Church) and Grace Baptist Church.

Manchester

Highway 16

Near Guysborough you will also find this area, which was once settled by Black Loyalist descendants.

Boylston

Highway 16

An early Black Loyalist population existed here. The area offers a breathtaking view of the Chedabucto Bay and the harbour can be seen from atop the hill of Boylston Provincial Park. Picnic and camping facilities are also available at this site.



Mulgrave

Highway 104, Highway 344

Mulgrave has a visitor information centre, picnic facilities, and a boardwalk.

Lincolnvile & Lincolnvile Loop

Trans Canada Highway 104, Highway 16

Distance from Metro Halifax 260 km (3 hr 10 min)

Formerly known as Little Tracadie, on the border were lands settled by “Persons of Colour” following the Loyalist influx. Presently a farming and fishing community, it is served by the Lincolnvile Community Centre and the Tracadie United Baptist Church. The Lincolnvile School, one of the last segregated schools in Nova Scotia, closed in 1984.

Upper Big Tracadie

Trans Canada Highway 104, Highway 16

Distance from Metro Halifax 250 km (3 hr)

Turn off Highway 104 onto Highway 16 and you’ll find yourself in Upper Big Tracadie, where many of those who were listed on the land grants with Brownspriggs eventually settled. Go to the summit of Upper Big Tracadie, off Daye Road, and look out over the entire expanse of an area that once belonged to Black Loyalists. Let your eyes take in the breathtaking rustic beauty of a land that still holds the secrets of the past. On Highway 16 find the Tracadie United Baptist Church & Community Centre.





Family Names Eastern Shore

Ash, Borden, Bowden, Byard, Clyke, Desmond,
Elms, Gero, Jordan, Jewell, Mansfield, Medley,
Mintus, Paris, Pelly, Reddick





Louisbourg





Trans Canada Highway 105, Highways 4 & 22

Distance from Metro Halifax 417 km (4 hr 50 min)

Settled by the French in 1713, the fortress was France's bastion of defense in the New World until 1758, when it was conquered by British forces. During this 45-year period of French reign, the Fortress of Louisbourg became "home" to the approximately 300 persons of African descent who were enslaved there by the French.

The Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site is one of the largest national historic reconstructions in North America. Walk the streets of the past, eat in "period" style with all the trimmings of the day, and experience the humming of this town that hearkens back to a time of soldiers, washerwomen, mariners, gentry, fishermen, servants, indentured servants, and enslaved Africans.

One of the central characters in the story of Louisbourg is Marie Marguerite Rose, who arrived as an enslaved African in 1736. While adjusting to her new life and surroundings, Marie Marguerite learned to speak French and made herself familiar with the culture and customs of her new home. Following nineteen years of enslavement, Marie Marguerite acquired her freedom from naval officer Jean Loppinot.

With her freedom in hand, Marie Marguerite went forward and opened a tavern in Louisbourg, gaining respect as a good businessperson and entrepreneur. She also took a husband at this point in her life, marrying a Mi'kmaq man, Jean Baptiste Laurent. In 2011, the federal government unveiled an exhibit at the fortress to honour the life of this amazing woman.

Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site 259 Parks Service Road

Open May–October, seven days a week,

9:30 am–5:00 pm

Phone 902.733.3552

www.pc.gc.ca/louisbourg



Glace Bay

Trans Canada Highway 105, Highway 4

Distance from Metro Halifax 417 km (4 hr 50 min)

Like other parts of Cape Breton, Glace Bay has a strong legacy in mining. According to the Cape Breton Miners' Museum, by 1873 there were eight coal companies operating in Cape Breton. The miners were paid from 80 cents to \$1.50 per day and the boys were paid 65 cents. To man the mines, many companies enlisted labour from other parts of the province and from abroad. Some of those tempted by the prospect came to Glace Bay from the West Indies and worked in the steel industry and in the mines. These individuals brought with them strong socio-political views and well-honed survival skills. In the 1920s, as Marcus Garvey's movement for the repatriation of Africans of the Americas to Africa gained ground, the West Indian immigrants to Cape Breton adopted his stance. They built Universal Negro Improvement Association halls in Whitney Pier, Glace Bay, and New Waterford. Although the movement in Nova Scotia was more popular with West Indian immigrants to Cape Breton, it did have the impact of encouraging pride in their heritage for many of African descent. While in town, put on a hard hat and some protective clothing and go underground, deep into the Ocean Deeps Colliery (coal mine) at the Cape Breton Miners' Museum.

Glace Bay Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA)

35 Jessome Street

The Glace Bay UNIA is an organization whose objective is to promote the heritage of African Nova Scotians and acknowledge the role Blacks played in the growth and development of Glace Bay. The UNIA was formed in Glace Bay in 1918 by Albert Francis, who arrived from the Barbados in 1916 and worked in No. 16 Colliery in New Waterford. He formed the group in his backyard. The first charter of the association was granted in 1920 and, with money raised by members over the years, a hall was erected in 1932. In 1938 Marcus Garvey, the founder of the





original Universal Negro Improvement Association, spoke at this hall and others in Sydney and New Waterford at the invitation of local members of the various chapters of the UNIA.

Today, members of the local UNIA are doing their best to uphold the memory of the people who sustained their Black community over the decades, by raising funds to preserve the hall that was built by the first Black settlers in Glace Bay back in 1932. Through educational, cultural, and recreational means the Glace Bay UNIA aims to promote African Nova Scotian culture in the same hall visited by Marcus Garvey some seventy years ago. The museum located in the upper portion of the hall houses artifacts and photographs documenting local history. During the summer the UNIA holds a summer camp for community youth.

Open 9:00 am–4:00 pm
Phone 902.842.5389
www.unia.webs.com





Whitney Pier

(Sydney area)

Trans Canada Highway 105, Highways 4 & 22

Distance from Metro Halifax 400 km (4 hr 20 min)

In the early 1900s many immigrants came to Cape Breton as laborers to work for the Dominion Iron and Steel Company. Blacks from the West Indies were among many cultural groups recruited to work in the coke ovens and most settled in Whitney Pier. Among the immigrants to settle were West Indian Blacks from Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, Guyana, and other Caribbean locations. Other Black settlers came from smaller Nova Scotia centres such as Guysborough and Tracadie. The plant hired individuals accustomed to tropical climates on the premise that they would be able to withstand the hot conditions associated with the steel-making. One group of immigrants originally from the West Indies came over from Alabama but did not stay long as the harsh bitter winters were too difficult for them. Following the first group of wage labourers, there arrived a group of West Indians who established small businesses in the community of Whitney Pier. They were proud owners of grocery, book, and jewelry stores, and provided other services such as shoemaking, tailoring, carpentry, and plastering. The immigration also brought professionals from West Indies to Canada. One of the more socially prominent immigrants was Doctor Alvinus Calder, a native of Grenada and a graduate of McGill University, who set up a practice in Whitney Pier. A lawyer named F. A. Hamilton, from Barbados, practiced law in Sydney and published a province-wide weekly newspaper about Blacks called *The Gleaner*.



Religion

The West Indians formed different social organizations and worshipped in the churches of their choice. The early West Indians worshipped at St. Cyprian's, St. Albans, Trinity United, the United Mission, and St. Philip's African Orthodox Church. St. Philip's became the focal point of the Black West Indian community. It is also the only African Orthodox parish in Canada.

<http://shunpiking.com/bhs/longwalk.htm>

[http://www.cbv.ns.ca/Departments/](http://www.cbv.ns.ca/Departments/ProgramsStudentServices/P-6/AHM_files/Page288.htm)

[ProgramsStudentServices/P-6/AHM_files/Page288.htm](http://www.cbv.ns.ca/Departments/ProgramsStudentServices/P-6/AHM_files/Page288.htm)

Menelik Hall 88 Laurier Street

Menelik Hall was named for the famed and respected King Menelik II of Ethiopia, who reigned from 1865 to 1913. In 1896, King Menelik led his forces to defeat the Italians in their bid to colonize Ethiopia. The Hall, which opened in 1936, was used predominantly by members of the West Indian community as a meeting place for those involved in social activism. It was here that Marcus Garvey, who established the UNIA, brought his global message in the 1930s. Located on the corner of Laurier and Tupper streets, the Hall also served as a theatre for performance pieces.

Several works of art depicting respected community members decorate the wall of the hall. Whitney Pier has produced several outstanding individuals who have left their mark on Canadian history. Of note, Nova Scotia's first Black Lieutenant Governor, Mayann E. Francis, was born and raised in Whitney Pier.



St. Philips African Orthodox Church

57 Hankard Street

African Canadians are linked predominantly with the Baptist denomination, but there are other denominations within the Christian ideology that have worshippers of African descent. The African Orthodox Church is one of these alternatives. Founded in the United States in 1921 by Antiguan-born George Alexander McGuire, a branch was established in Sydney, Nova Scotia, later that same year. St. Philip's core ideal was, and continues to be, the promotion of the Christian belief system and the strengthening of the identity and pride of her congregation which consists primarily, but not exclusively, of people of African descent. The Church addresses all aspects of the individual, from spiritual to social. The Church is registered as a Provincial Heritage Property Site.

Phone 902.567.1220

Whitney Pier Historical Society Museum

88 Mount Pleasant Street

The "Pier" was settled by immigrants who came to work the mines and steel factories. This museum was opened in tribute to those settlers.

*Open June–October, Monday–Saturday;
off-season by appointment
Phone 902.564.9819*

New Waterford

Highway 105, Highway 28
Distance from Metro Halifax 420 km (5 hr 30 min)

Many of the African Nova Scotian men who lived in Cape Breton were also employed as miners. Take a moment of silence for the 298 miners killed over the years at local colliers at the Colliery Lands Park. Picnic area available.



Mabou, Inverness County

Highway 104, Highway 19

Distance from Metro Halifax 323 km (3 hr 45 min)

Here is a rare thing indeed—a monument for a former slave, one of Mabou's first settlers! Pegg, as she was called, was born into slavery in Georgia, USA, around 1770. She came to Nova Scotia with a Loyalist family in 1784. Pegg died in 1815, a free woman, and was buried in the Mabou First Settlers Graveyard on the Rankinville Road. A monument to her memory was erected in 1999 by the descendants of the family who had enslaved her.

Mother of Sorrows Church

South West Ridge Road

Close by the graveyard is a miniature Mother of Sorrows church, erected in memory of the pioneers of the Mabou area. Inside the Church is a shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Seven Sorrows.

Family Names Cape Breton

Alleyne, Ash, Best, Bishop, Borden, Braithwaite, Brewster, Brooms, Byard, Campbell, Cambridge, Crawford, Desmond, Elms, Farmer, Francis, Gero, Green, Hamilton, Innis, Lawrence, Lucas, Miller, Moe, Parris, Reddick, Sheppard, Skeete, Skinner, Smith, Talbot, Toussaint, Waterman
Worrell, Yakimchuk



Annual Events

January

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration—Share the Dream / Halifax

February

African Heritage Month celebrations / Provincial African Nova Scotian Music Awards Show / Halifax

March

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Gospel Concert & Church Service / Various locations

April

*Black Cultural Centre Annual Anniversary Dinner / Dartmouth
Annual Black Vibes Showcase*

May

Provincial Black Basketball Tournament / Halifax & Dartmouth

June

Stan Rogers Folk Festival / Canso

July

*No. 2 Construction Battalion celebration / Pictou
Africville Reunion / Africville
Founder's Day Weekend / Shelburne
Halifax Jazz Festival / Halifax
Nova Scotia Bluegrass & Old Time Music Festival / Bible Hill
UNIA host summer camps for youth*

August

*Sydney & Whitney Pier Reunion / Cape Breton
New Glasgow Reunion / New Glasgow (held every 5 years)
Dutch Mason Blues Festival / Truro & Bible Hill
North Preston Days / 2nd weekend in Aug
Provincial Black Golf Tournament / Truro
Halifax Natal Day Celebrations
Freedom Festival Natal Day Weekend
African United Baptist Association Annual Conference
Marcus Garvey Days Celebration in Glace Bay
UNIA host summer camps for youth*

September

*African Nova Scotian Arts & Freedom Festival / Dartmouth
Atlantic Film Festival / Halifax*

Did You Know?

In 1891, Halifax boxer George Dixon became the first Black athlete to win a world title in any sport.

Ben Jackson of Lockhartville, Nova Scotia, served in the American Civil War as a substitute for Lewis Saunders. Jackson served in the US Navy aboard the USS Potomac, North Carolina and Richmond.

There were 107 members of Canada's No. 2 Construction Battalion during World War I, who were African Americans.

Nova Scotian Reverend Dr. William Harvey Golar/Goler has three churches named after him in South Carolina.

African Nova Scotian men established the Colored Hockey League of the Maritimes on the lakes and ponds throughout Nova Scotia.

Famous Cotton Club dancer and second wife of Duke Ellington, Mildred (Dixon) Ellington's parents were from Nova Scotia.

The father of Canadian military Jeremiah Jones walked to freedom from Kentucky to Nova Scotia. He settled in East Mountain just outside Truro.



Genealogical Search for Roots?



Where to Start:

Nova Scotia Public Archives

www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm—Searches at Archives site include: Book of Negroes / Exit list of Black Loyalist to Sierra Leone / Black Settlements in NS / African Nova Scotians / Vital Statistics / War of 1812 Records

Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia

www.bccns.com

Africville Genealogy Society

www.africville.ca/society

Black Loyalist Heritage Society

www.blackloyalist.com

Halifax North End Memorial Library Vertical File

2285 Gottingen St (no online access)

Routes to Your Roots

www.novascotiaroots.com

Universal Negro Improvement Association

www.unia.webs.ca/earlyhistory.htm

African Nova Scotian Historical Time Line

- 1606** Mathieu Da Costa part of exploration party of Samuel de Champlain
- 1686** La Liberté, a negro mentioned in a census of 1700 to 1758 Africans at Fortress of Louisbourg
- 1749** Africans settle Halifax with Cornwallis group
- 1750s** Africans arrive in province with New England Planters
- 1775–1783**
Arrival of Black Loyalists; main contingent arriving in 1783
- 1792** Emigration of a major portion of Black Loyalist settlers to Sierra Leone, Africa (1196 persons destined to emigrate)
- 1796** June: 543 Trelawney Maroons arrive from Jamaica aboard three transports
- 1800** October: Emigration of most of the Maroons to Sierra Leone, Africa. Some remain and settle Maroon Hill (Boydville)
- 1807** Slave trade abolished in British Empire; institution of Slavery itself persists
- 1813–1815**
2,000 Black Refugees from the War of 1812 in the United States arrive in Nova Scotia
- 1821** April: 95 Black Refugees emigrate to Trinidad
- 1834** Institution of Slavery in British Colonies abolished; it is no longer legal to enslave people

African Nova Scotian Historical Time Line

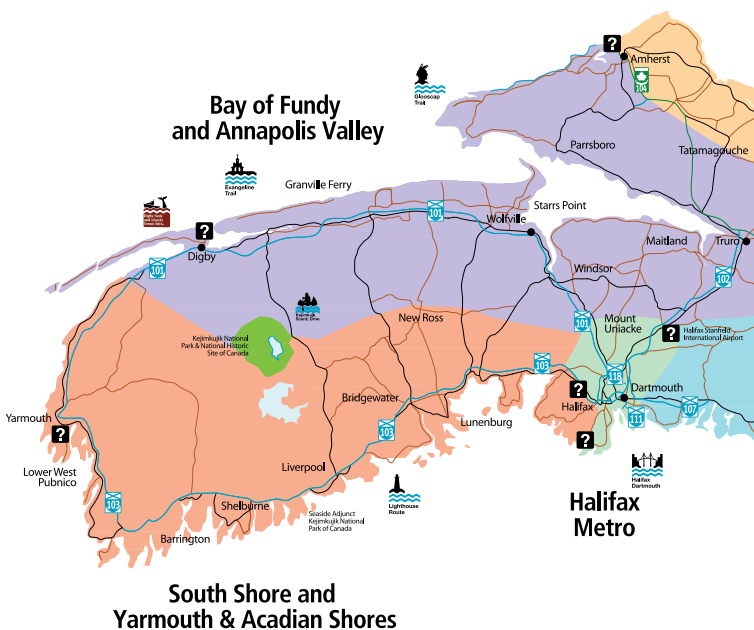
- 1854** African Baptist Association formed at Greenville Mountain
- 1857** William Hall granted Victoria Cross
- 1895** The Colored Hockey League of the Maritimes is established
- 1916** The all-Black No. 2 Construction Battalion formed to serve in World War I
- 1921** The Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children holds its official opening
- 1946** Viola Desmond is arrested in the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow for sitting in the “whites only” section of the theatre
- 1954** Segregated schooling abolished in Nova Scotia; many schools still remain segregated after this date due to the geographical location of many Black communities
- 1964–70** Africville community demolished and residents relocated to make way for a second bridge and the container terminal
- 1969** Black United Front established following visit to Halifax by members of the Black Panther Party
- 1971** Seventeen-year-old African Nova Scotian Sandy Seale is murdered in Sydney, Cape Breton, and a national inquiry into whether or not justice is blind in Nova Scotia is launched
- 1976** Paula Fairfax becomes the first African Nova Scotian to win the Miss Nova Scotia Pageant
- 1983** The Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia begins operation

- 1984** Black History Month events & celebrations officially begin in Nova Scotia
- 1985** New Glasgow native James Calbert Best is appointed Canada's High Commissioner to Trinidad & Tobago
- 1993** Wayne Adams becomes the first Black representative elected as a member of the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly
- 1994** The Black Learners Advisory Committee releases the BLAC Report
- 1996** The Black Business Initiative begins operation
- 1998** Yvonne Atwell, first Black woman elected to the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly
- 2000** Nova Scotia native Dr. Adriane Dorrington receives the prestigious White House Millennium Award for her work in International Education
- 2003** African Nova Scotian Affairs officially becomes a Provincial Government Department
- 2006** Whitney Pier native Mayann E. Francis becomes the first African Nova Scotian to serve as Lieutenant Governor
- 2007** The African Heritage Month Information Network is formed to coordinate provincial programming and events
- 2010** Viola Desmond is granted a posthumous Free Pardon for unlawful arrest in Roseland Theatre; Nova Scotia hosts the African Diaspora Heritage Trail Conference
- 2012** The Africentric Learning Institute is officially launched

Cultural

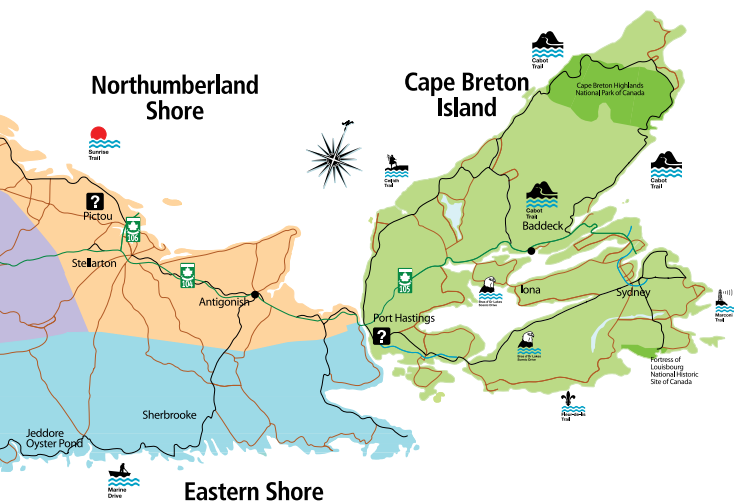
ASSETS OF NOVA SCOTIA

African Nova Scotian Tourism Guide



Africans who migrated to Nova Scotia came from many different ethnic groups of Mother Africa. Because the institution of slavery sought to eradicate the memory of the culture of the homeland much of what is remembered comes to us cloaked in music, song, games and stories.

The Adinkra ideographic and pictographic symbols are found everywhere. Throughout this guide you will find these symbols and their meanings. Each symbol is used to transmit the cultural values of the People. They are used as political commentary by African Nova Scotians and are visible at special events and celebrations held throughout the year.



HALIFAX METRO REGION

6

SOUTH SHORE AND YARMOUTH & ACADIAN SHORES REGIONS

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BAY OF FUNDY & ANNAPOLIS VALLEY REGION

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NORTHUMBERLAND SHORE REGION

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EASTERN SHORE REGION

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CAPE BRETON ISLAND REGION

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