

E-NEWSLETTER

Dufferin County Canadian Black Association E-Newsletter

ASK THE EXPERTS OFF TO A GREAT START

The Dufferin County Canadian Black Association (DCCBA) and its leadership team is thrilled to report that the success experienced by the organization has continued right into 2021!

We started the year in January with a bang with our Ask Our Expert Series with Andrew E. Guy on Personal Branding. That successful event was followed by the importance of Voter Engagement in February with our expert Velma Morgan. In March, our expert Suranji Fernando presented on buying, selling and investing in Real Estate. The month of April, we were fortunate to have internationally acclaimed Tristan Barrocks present on the topic of Digital Storytelling.

With each event, we continue to see a growth in registrations from across Canada and the United States. DCCBA is proud to see that its content continues to provide value locally and abroad.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Ask The Experts off to a great start • 1*
- February was Black History Month • 1*
- DCCBA Scholarship Program • 2*
- Community Advocacy • 2 & 3*
- Online Store • 3*
- Membership Benefits • 3*
- Thank You to our Partners • 4*

We encourage all of our members to visit the website for future Expert Series that will not disappoint! If you are a business and would like to sponsor our Ask Our Expert Series, please contact us at info@dufferincountycba.org.

FEBRAURY WAS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

DCCBA was honoured to partner with the Museum of Dufferin (MOD) to put on the Juried Photography and Art Exhibition. The community was asked to provide work on the theme of Solidarity In My Community following the social justice movement in Canada and around the world in the summer of 2020.

The submissions were judged by DCCBA President, Alethia O'Hara Stephenson, Director of Choices Youth Shelter, Althea Alli, Shelburne Deputy Mayor, Steve Anderson, Museum of Dufferin Curator, Sarah Robinson, Shelburne Artist, Mercedes Erazo and Professional Photographer, Korby Banner. In the Art Category, the Student Award Winner was Abigail Willie for Eyes on the Allies. The Juror's Choice Award went to Alexis Quilatan for A Blooming Community and the Best in Show went to Daniel Forrester for Behind the Red Bars. In the Photography Category, the Student Award went to Kiara Mooney for Don't Be Quiet. The Juror's Choice Award went to Jennifer Brown for Sisters and the Best in Show Award went to Kiara Mooney for Integrated.

All the winners were announced at the Live Youtube "Solidarity In My Community" Panel Discussion with Juno Award Winner Kardinal Offishall, Juno Award Winner, Maestro Fresh Wes, Actor Kevin Hanchard, Poet Nadine Williams, DCCBA President, Alethia O'Hara Stephenson, Shelburne Deputy Mayor, Steve Anderson, MP Kyle Seebach, MPP Sylvia Jones and Dufferin County Warden Darren White, with special guest video message from the Honourable, Dr. Jean Augustine held on February 20th

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

DCCBA is proud to partner with a number of organizations and individuals to provide scholarships to a graduating high school or current post secondary student in Dufferin County.

Scholarship applications are currently open.

Deadline to apply is May 17, 2021.

www.dufferincountycba.org/scholarship

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

Schools – Protecting our youth

Part of the mandate for DCCBA is to provide advocacy for the Black Community in Dufferin County in particular combating Anti-Black Racism and all forms of Systemic Discrimination. In February, DCCBA was proud to advocate on behalf of a resident in Dufferin-County when a youth was exposed to hurtful racist materials while in the classroom. DCCBA's quick response leveraging our partnership with the Upper Grand District School Board was able to get the material immediately removed from all schools and an apology issued to the family.



Juror's Choice Winner "sisters" by Jennifer Brown

DCCBA is determined to celebrate Black History 365 days of the year and is looking forward to its next project with the MOD in June of 2021 to showcase the rich Black legacy past and present in Dufferin County.

"Be passionate and move forward with gusto every single hour of every single day until you reach your goal."

Covid-19 inequities

In March, DCCBA recognizing that the Black community along with other racialized groups were at heightened risk of contracting Covid-19 with severe outcomes, wrote to MPP Sylvia Jones and Public Health Officer for Dufferin-Caledon-Wellington-Guelph Dr. Nicola Mercer to take immediate steps to prioritize these groups when considering vaccination. DCCBA's President Alethia O'Hara Stephenson and Shelburne Deputy Mayor Steve Anderson subsequently had meetings with MPP Jones and Dr. Mercer and were left with assurances that high risks groups would be the focus of Phase 2 of the vaccine roll-out.

Anti-Asian Hate

Recently around the world and in Canada we have unfortunately seen the rise in hate crimes against the Asian community. While the Mandate of DCCBA is to advocate on the behalf of the Black community, this organization and its members refuse to stand idle in the face of such atrocities. DCCBA was proud to use its platform providing a statement calling for an immediate end to Anti-Asian racism while affirming our commitment to stand in solidarity with our cherished Asian community members.

If there is an issue you believe that DCCBA can lend a voice to, please send us a email at info@dufferincountycba.org.

MARCH MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

We are pleased to announce the winner of our March Membership drive contest is Kim C. Kim is the lucky recipient of an OOFII Hoodie from local student entrepreneur Tyrell Harris and a bonus gift from Her.Sass, another local student entrepreneur Tyra Harris. Tyrell's products have been worn by celebrities and influencers globally and featured on various news outlet including, Breakfast Television.

Thank you Tyrell and Tyra for your support.

OPENING OF OUR NEW ONLINE STORE

DCCBA recently opened its online store where you can get the hottest branded items for the entire family. Please visit our [Store](#) to purchase your very own DCCBA T-shirts, mugs, notepads and more.



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

We are pleased to share that all DCCBA members are entitled to a special membership perk through the partnership and support of Smile Corner Dental Orangeville.

NEXT ISSUE

Please look out for our next issue in August of 2021. To learn more about DCCBA, become a member or make a donation to support our community initiatives, please visit our website at www.dufferincountycba.org.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS AND REGISTERED BUSINESSES FOR THEIR SUPPORT

DCCBA is happy to announce that our partners, membership and registered businesses continues to grow in 2021. We are truly honoured by the continued support and would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of our newest allies.

Dufferin County
Town of Shelburne
Flato Developments Inc.
Fieldgate Homes
Toronto Caribbean Newspaper
Operation Black Vote Canada
Kuinua Consulting
Benjamin Law
Cariati Law
Headwaters Communities in Action
Ontario Clean Water Association
Town of Grand Valley
Township of Amaranth
Crozier Consulting Engineers
Orangeville Public Library
Georgian College Orangeville
Ebony Occasions

Family Transition Place
Dufferin Child and Family Services
Shelburne Driving School
Shelburne Family Chiropractic
Museum of Dufferin
Community Living Dufferin
Dufferin News
Upper Grand District School Board
Shelburne Public Library
Andrew E. Guy
Town Tees
Streams Hub
Dufferin Peel Catholic District School
Board
Smile Corner Dental Orangeville