

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### February 2019

---

- WHEREAS:** throughout its history, Bradford West Gwillimbury has been characterized and strengthened by its diverse and distinctive cultures;
- WHEREAS:** people of African descent have made significant contributions to the betterment of our society, and play a vital role within our social and cultural mosaic;
- WHEREAS:** Black History Month was first recognized in Ontario as February 1993, marking the 200th anniversary of the passage of legislation prohibiting the importation of slaves into Upper Canada;
- WHEREAS:** John Graves Simcoe, Upper Canada's first lieutenant governor, initiated the abolishment of slavery in Canada;
- WHEREAS:** Black people – both free people and slaves seeking their freedom via the Underground Railroad – traversed this area to settle in Simcoe County;
- WHEREAS:** Black History Month continues to provide the opportunity to remember and celebrate the contributions of African Canadians;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

that His Worship Mayor Rob Keffer and Members of Council proclaim February 2019 as BLACK HISTORY MONTH in the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury.

### PLEASE JOIN US FOR TWO SPECIAL EVENTS

The BWG Diversity Group will be hosting two Black History Month Events in the Zima Room of the BWG Public Library at 425 Holland St. W. Both events are free and all are welcome.

- Saturday, February 2, 1-4 p.m. – family celebration with storytelling, crafts, games, drums, and refreshments
- Wednesday, February 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m. – creative exhibit featuring visual and written art