

**BLACK**

**HISTORY**

**MONTH**

**FEBRUARY 2023**



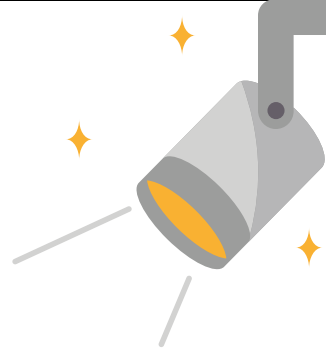
## Why do we recognize Black History Month?

Black History Month is an opportunity to reflect on the contributions and achievements Black Canadians have impacted their communities. This is an opportunity to understand their histories, perseverance, their triumphs and reflect on what more needs to be done.

## 2023 - "Ours to Tell" & "Black Resistance"

The 2023 theme for Canada's Black History Month is "Ours to Tell," and the U.S. theme is "Black Resistance." It is time to actively listen to the stories of resilience, and the ongoing fight against racial inequality that Black Canadians and African Americans have experienced throughout history, and in present time.

## Spotlight! Joseph C. Harrison



Joseph C. Harrison was born in 1814 on the Hemmingway plantation in Boston, Massachusetts. He escaped at the age of 14 and renamed himself Harrison, removing the name his owner had given him. In 1855 Harrison and his family purchased a farm in Waterloo County and made Stratford their home. They ran a dry cleaning and barber/hairdressing business located at 106 Downie Street. [Stratford & District Historical Society](#)



**BLACK**

**HISTORY**

**MONTH**

**FEBRUARY 2023**



## Ways to Engage:

### Listen to:

- [A Change Is Going to Come](#) by Sam Cooke
- [What's Going On](#) by Marvin Gaye
- [Say it Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud](#) by James Brown
- [Little Brown Girl](#) by Ebony Jenae
- [This is America](#) by Childish Gambino
- [Freedom](#) by Beyonce ft. Kendrick Lamar
- [Portraits of Black Canadians](#) (CBC)

### Watch:

- [Being Black in Canada](#) (YouTube)
- [Living in Colour](#) (YouTube)
- The Porter (CBC Gem)
- The Book of Negroes (CBC Gem)
- Passing (Netflix)
- When They See Us (Netflix)
- Mercy (Netflix)
- Black Panther (Disney +)
- Hidden Figures (Disney +)
- Summer of Soul (Disney +)

## Reflection:

In a 2021 study from York University, 96% of Black Canadians noted racism as a concern in their workplace. 78% indicated that the racism faced at work is severe. Ask yourself...

- Are you listening to others who may not look or think as you do?
- How can you remove systemic barriers in your everyday work?
- What can you do on a small scale to effect change?