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THURSDAY  
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Tobi Oyedele, co-winner of the HBHAS essay contest, stands at Oakville Harbour, where many Black slaves landed after being hidden in cargo ships arriving from the U.S.

Graham Paine/Metroland

## EXPLORING HALTON'S BLACK HISTORY

### STUDENTS SHARE INSIGHT VIA NEWLY-ESTABLISHED ESSAY CONTEST

KATHY YANCHUS  
kyanchus@metroland.com

Winners of the Halton Black History Awareness Society (HBHAS) inaugural essay con-

test began their project unaware of the educational journey on which they were about to embark.

Open to high school students of the Halton District and Halton Catholic District school boards

— in Halton Hills, and across the region — the task was to delve into the "Black experience in Halton."

"I was very unaware of this history," said Tobi Oyedele, a Grade 11 Bishop Reding Second-

ary School student, co-winner of the contest, along with Jackson Carter, an 18-year-old recent graduate of Burlington Central Secondary School. "I did not really know of the extraordinary individuals in Halton."

When Jackson read the essay subject matter, he said he was at a loss as to where to begin.

"The extent of my background

See HALTON'S, page 7

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