

# Blacks continue to face struggles today

From page 18.

Or Mary Ann Shadd, who spearheaded the education of freed slaves and their children in Canada.

And she stressed Dr. Anderson Ruffin Abbott, the first Canadian-born black doctor to graduate from the University of Toronto in 1862, was instrumental in building Yonge Street and Toronto.

"I'm very proud of my heritage. We are courageous and resourceful people. The hardships only make us work harder... When you look at what these people went through — and people today say it is tough, I appreciate that each generation has its problems but, if you work with your problems, just look at what you can do," she said.

Pat Howell, a social worker and president of the Markham African Caribbean Association, also stressed the struggles faced by her role models.

She has been inspired by the accomplishments of celebrated talk show host Oprah Winfrey, who rose to fame despite a history of abuse.

"She has gone through so much and look at where she is," she said.

"Sometimes, if you don't have the right parenting, things can go wrong, but you can rise above it."

That's why the Markham African Caribbean Association helps young people rise to success by raising money for scholarships for post-graduate students.

The association also has a liaison committee with York Regional Police, helping with talks for youth and making recommendations for improvements in policing.

"We are making strides. Fortunately, we have great relationships with the town and the police. But we still have a long way to go," she said.

Howell noted there are still struggles for blacks today and points out it wasn't too long ago that there were major obstacles.

According to a Black History website, between 1619 and 1926, those of African descent were classified as a race that had not made any contribu-

tions to human civilization. They were continually dehumanized and considered non-citizens.

The effects of that mindset lasted long after that. Paul Thomas, a member and past-president of the Richmond Hill Rotary Club who hails from Jamaica, also stressed it's still an uphill battle for blacks striving for success.

"If there's a crime committed by a black person, it's all over the papers. There's a lot of negative publicity and not enough emphasis on the positive," he said.

"That's why Black History Month is so important. If you don't bring it out to the forefront, you'll never hear about it... If we look at the stories of our grandparents, we have done quite a bit, but we still have a long way to go."

His role models include Marcus Garvey, who spearheaded the Back to Africa nationalist movement and founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association to foster worldwide unity among blacks, civil rights leaders Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King and South African leader Nelson Mandela, who was prominent in the non-violent defiance campaign against South Africa's Apartheid laws.

Thomas has worked with youth as a director with the York Centre for Children, Youth and Families and as a past warden with St. Mary's Anglican Church.

Through the Richmond Hill Rotary Club, he's helping to organize a Caribbean Night on April 29 at the Bayview Hill Centre with a live Caribbean band and traditional foods.

Proceeds will go toward the club's project to eradicate polio and for a disaster fund and water project in Kenya.

The Markham African Caribbean Association has several events planned for Black History Month, including Roy's book launch Feb. 20, an awards night to honour black community leaders Feb. 22 at noon at the Markham Civic Centre and a Black History celebration Feb. 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Milliken Mills High School.

# Registration

**MATH CLASSES**  
ONGOING REGISTRATION

- Worldwide KUMON MATH Program in Markham
- Individualized Self-Learning at \$70 per month
- Mastery of Basic and Advanced Math Skills
- Featured in *Time*, *Newsweek* & *CNN* for its outstanding results

Call or come by today! HIGHWAY 7 EAST - MARKHAM  
**KUMON** 415-8666  
 MATH & READING CENTRE 16TH AVENUE - McCOWAN  
 LEARNING HOW TO LEARN 946-0929

**MOMS & COMPUTERS**

Warden/Hwy. # 7  
905-475-2856

- One to one personalized training
- Learn at your own pace
- Overcome computer phobia in 6-8 hours
- Intro. to computers, word processing, Spreadsheets and much more!
- Learn Computers to:
  - Get back in the job market
  - Help your kids with their school assignments
  - Computerize your family business
  - Browse the internet!
  - Communicate with your friends via E-mail

**Taoist Tai Chi Society of Canada**

**OPEN HOUSE**  
 Sunday February 13  
 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Registration accepted for beginner class starting  
 Wed. February 16, 7:00-9:00 pm  
 Wed. March 1, 10:00-noon  
 70 Main St. Markham, directly behind the Pizza Pizzeria

For more information  
 Call 905-471-5619 or 416-656-2110

**Open House at Markham Co-op Preschool**  
 Tuesday February 15th  
 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Various morning programs for 2-1/2 - 5 yr olds  
 Enrichment programs in afternoons

**Box Grove Community Centre**  
 7651 Ninth Line, Box Grove  
 Tel: (905) 294-6430

## Focus on Faith

# Valentine custom dates back to A.D. 496

Beheaded 3rd century saint's love lives on in the 21st century

Valentine's Day is named after a third century saint who was beheaded on February 14, A.D. 269.

At that time the law of the Roman Empire required the worship of

mythological gods and of the Emperor himself as a god. Valentine had come to know the true God and refused to bow to these political and cultural demands.

Valentine was particularly concerned that children would have opportunity to know the truth and so spent much of his time teaching them the stories of Christ Jesus.

When he was arrested for his faith and disobedience to the Roman law the children he had taught began

to write little love notes and push them between the bars of his cell window.

**Valentine was encouraged to know by this gesture that the love he had taught the children had taken root in their hearts.**

Valentine was encouraged to know by this gesture that the love he had taught the children had taken root in their hearts.

For his faith in Jesus Christ, Valentine was beheaded on Feb. 14, A.D. 269. In A.D. 496 Pope Gelasius I named February 14th St. Valentine's Day.

The children's love notes gave rise to the exchange of Valentine's Day greetings in the

15th century. And we have inherited the custom ever since.

God's Valentine greeting for us is written throughout the Bible. John 3:16 is a good example: "God so love the world that He gave us His uniquely-begotten Son (ie. virgin born) and anyone who believes in Him... has everlasting life."

February 14, and in fact, every day is a good time to share your love with family and friends, and to rejoice in God's love for us.

*Happy St. Valentine's Day!*

**ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH**  
 32 Main St. N. Markham - 294-0351  
 SUNDAY SERVICE - 10:00 A.M.

**"The High Cost of Loving"**

There is a startling variety of meanings used, and often confused, when we use the term "love". For some people, *to love* means to possess. The lover expects to get something in return for his or her efforts. For example, possessive love is lurking in the lyrics of this popular love song: "I'd like to gain complete control of you, and handle even the heart and soul of you."

In contrast, there is a type of love that does not demand anything in return. In this sense, *to love* means to relate to a person not only as s/he is, but as the other person *could be*, and so *to love* is to seek to set a person's potential free. In the Christian scriptures it is this type of liberating love that God has for humanity. And, it is this type of love that humans are called to extend to each other.

Of course, liberating love carries with it the cost of vulnerability, of openness to hurt, rejection, and betrayal. Yet, only by being vulnerable and daring to pay the cost can we really open ourselves to one another, and to the love of God that liberates our potential to be truly human.

Dr. Frederick A. Styles

**CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH**  
 131 Main St., Unionville 474-0183  
 Visit us at [www.unitedchurch.com](http://www.unitedchurch.com)  
 Services 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
 "What A Friend"  
 A warm welcome awaits you.

**MARKHAM MISSIONARY CHURCH**  
 Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada

**Sunday, February 13, 2000**  
 9:30 a.m. Family Christian Education Hour  
 10:55 a.m. COMMUNION  
 Pastor Thurton speaking  
 6:30 p.m. Pastor Thurton speaking

Please call church for information regarding other programs available to you and your family.

5438 Major MacKenzie Dr. E. Markham (905) 294-5081

**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 20 Union St., Unionville - 477-1731  
 (Near Hwy. 7 & Main)  
 Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
 Worship - 10:30 a.m.

**CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
 A FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

**A Church To Call Home**

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. "Love - Commitment at the Core"  
 Pastor Mark Lowrie

Service in Cantonese also at 11:30 a.m.

8176 McCowan Road (just south of Hwy. 7) Markham, ON - Tel. 905-475-7695  
 Home of Centennial Child Care Centre

**The Lion's Den**  
 Christian Book Shoppe

Serving Your Family and Church  
 115 Main St. North Markham Village Tel: (905) 472-8412  
 Diana Whitehead

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**  
 A warm welcome awaits you.

Please join us Sundays at 11 a.m. for Worship, baby care & church school

143 Main St. Markham (905) 294-4736

To advertise your church services please call **Susan O'Brien 294-2200**  
 All Faiths Welcome