

Ontario Black History Society's AGM on November 9, 2020 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Part A : Welcome and Introduction

- OBHS's Vice president- Mawuli Chai, was the host
- Mawuli thanked everyone for attending
- Various testimonials from community partners and OBHS members that highlighted the work that the OBHS is doing to preserve and promote Black Canadian history
- Former OBHS intern - Rasia States did the land acknowledgment
- Juliard Student William Leathers performed the Last Post and Reveille
- In Memoriam for OBHS members who passed away in 2020
- Natasha Henry did the Ancestral Acknowledgement
- The President's remarks were made by Natasha Henry
- Her presentation covered a variety of areas: solid maintenance of operations; successfully delivery of programming, e.g., the annual Kick off brunch sponsored by TD Bank ; the annual Emancipation Day commemoration virtual with funding from Canadian Heritage ; Black History month presentations across Ontario, donation of funds to to support the Jamaican Canadian Association's free meal delivery program to provide meals to seniors and other vulnerable community members during the COVID-19 pandemic; online Leaders of Tomorrow's conference for Black youth; the launching of a new OBHS website; the #BlackedOutHistory campaign done in collaboration with the DDB agency which highlights the need to make Black History mandatory in Canadian classrooms form K-12; the goal to establish a Black history museum / cultural centre in Toronto ; OBHS's many sponsors were formally acknowledged
- Natasha's full remarks can be read by clicking on this link [President's Remarks](#)

Part B: Secretary Reading of 2019 Minutes

- The OBHS secretary read the minutes from the 2019 OBHS AGM
- The minutes were approved
- The full text can be found by clicking this link [AGM2019 minutes](#)

Part C: Treasurer's Financial Report

- The report was done in a Draft/Unaudited form
- This is due to the fact that the OBHS has decided to do a full audit report in collaboration with the *PYC – Prentice Yates & Clarke*
- *Doing a full audit will enable the OBHS to qualify additional grants which have increased in number due to the Covid 19 pandemic*

- *In addition, a full audit will help to fully prepare for the 2020-2021 year end, as well as prepare for the formal launch of the Capital Campaign in an effort to raise enough money to create long awaited African Canadian Museum & Cultural Centre*
- *There was a modest increase in profit for the OBHS as compared to 2019*
- *Though the OBHS's office is closed due to Covid 19, expenses continue to be incurred*
- *The OBHS was able to secure a Capital grant which helped the organization to upgrade its electronics and do office renovations*
- *The treasurer would like to retain the services of PYC – Prentice, Yates & Clarke for auditing purposes, and Greysuit Advisors for bookkeeping*
- *The full treasurer's report can be read here [Treasurer's Report](#)*

Part D : OBHS Museum Initiative

- A major goal of the OBHS is to establish a Black History Museum in Toronto
- The aim of the OBHS is to raise 3.5 million dollars
- The Ontario Black History is accepting donations earmarked for our museum capital campaign and general donations online through Canada Helps.
- People are encouraged to visit the OBHS website and get more information on ways to donate and become members of the OBHS

Part E: OBHS Member Feature :Hon . Jean Augustine

- The Honourable Jean Augustine will be given the key to the City of Vaughan for her tireless commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion
- Jean played an instrumental role in having African Heritage month formally recognized at the federal level
- Jean Augustine was also the first African Canadian woman to be elected to Canada's House of Commons
- Jean Augustine said a few words
- She stressed to participants the importance of becoming OBHS members

Part F: OBHS Board and Question and Answer Period

- The two year terms of Vernon Hendrickson and Linda Carter were renewed
- Paul Evans will take over as treasurer from Dorothy Abbott
- The current OBHS Board members were formally introduced

- A key takeaway from the Question and Answer period is that the OBHS is moving in the right direction
- A location for the Black Historical Museum is being explored - downtown core
- The OBHS is in process of cataloguing its resources (Collection management)
- OBHS resources are in storage
- OBHS has a new logo developed by Channon's husband
- The new logo was extremely well received
- Upcoming OBHS events were announced , e.g, Nov 27, 2020 Leaders of Tomorrow Conference , the Jan 31, 2021 OBHS BHM virtual kick off event , Emancipation Day in August 2021
- Participants were encouraged to follow OBHS on Instagram , Twitter and YouTube
- OBHS is in the process of revamping its website
- A memorial celebration service on Sat, Nov 14 at 11:30 am was announced for Elizabeth (Betty-Anne) DeShield.
- The AGM came to an end
- Linda Carter had a social for Board members after the end of the AGM