

February 01, 2010

Dear Community,

February is Black History Month, a month-long celebration highlighting the many achievements and valuable contributions made by peoples of African descent to science, world history, culture and civilizations.

In continuing the Black History Awareness series at Ryerson University, we have designated March 4th, 2010 as **2nd Annual Viola Desmond Day Award Ceremony**. This event will build on the theme of **A Celebration of Strong Black Canadian Women** at Ryerson and those up and coming young Black women who are considering Ryerson as their post-secondary institution of choice following graduation.

The 2010 Viola Desmond Day event will showcase talent from students, staff and faculty while raising awareness of the diverse and little-known stories and contributions of past and present Women of African descent in the building of Canada. We will showcase the lives of various Strong Black Women from Canadian History in whose names the awards will be handed out. This year we honour the memories of:

Ms. Emma Stark – A slave who with her husband saved enough money to buy their freedom and settled in Nanaimo, British Columbia in 1874 where she set up her own one-room log cabin school.

Reverend Addie Aylestock – born in Glenallen, Ontario who in 1951 became Canada's 1st ordained Black female Minister.

Ms. Marie-Joesph Angelique – a slave woman who was accused of starting the fire that burned Montreal in 1734 – a crime that she only confessed to under excruciating torture.

Ms. Viola Desmond – A Nova Scotian business woman who in 1946 refused to give up her seat in the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. She was jailed over night, charged and fined \$20.00 for tax evasion! Her case solidified the Black community in its fight against racial segregation in Canada. (This happened ten years before Ms. Rosa Parks refused to give up her historic seat on that Montgomery, Alabama bus).

During the evening, the Black History Awareness Committee at Ryerson will recognize 4 individuals who have contributed significantly to the promotion of Black Canadian History or worked tirelessly to positively raise the profile of the Black community at Ryerson and in the greater community. Awards will be given to a faculty member, a staff member, a current Ryerson student and a local area high school student who is likely to study at Ryerson University.

Also the evening will include dinner and entertainment from Grammy award winning artists Sharon Riley and Faith Chorale; Dr. Afua Cooper, Author of “The Hanging of Angélique: The Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Old Montréal”, local High School and Ryerson University Students

Presentation of Awards:

The awards will be presented to the recipients at the ***Viola Desmond Day: A Celebration of Strong black Canadian Women Ceremony***, on **Thursday, March 4th, 2010, at Ryerson University (The Commons – POD 250)**. The awards will be presented by last year’s award winners and our distinguished guests. The winners will receive a beautiful trophy in recognition of their contribution to promoting Black History Awareness in Canada.

We thank you for your support and look forward to your participation in this project.

Darrell Bowden
Ryerson Black History Awareness Committee

This event is sponsored by the Ryerson Student’s Union, the United Black Students of Ryerson, the Trimentoring Program, the First Generations Project and the Office of Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Services.

General Eligibility Criteria

All nominees for the Viola Desmond Day Black History Awareness Award must:

1. Eligibility Criteria for the faculty and Staff Award:

Each nominee in the Faculty and Staff category must:

- § Be of Black/ African descent;
- § Reside in the greater Toronto region;
- § Have enriched Ryerson's/ Toronto's diversity through initiatives promoting Black history and multiculturalism;
- § Be an active leader in her community who has made a positive difference in areas such as human rights multiculturalism and community-building;
- § Have a minimum of 5 years of volunteer background and/or activist/advocacy experience with the Black/ African-Canadian community.

2. Eligibility Criteria for Student Award

Each nominee in the Student category must:

- § Be between 13 and 17 years of age (High School category)
- § Be between 17-25 years of age (College/University category)
- § Be a current full-time student at an Ontario secondary school student accepted/or awaiting admission to Ontario university or community college;
- § Be a positive role model and advocate of the Black/ African-Canadian community;
- § Be an active leader in her community who has made a positive difference in areas such as human rights, multiculturalism and community development.

Selection

Recipients will be selected by the BHA Committee and their decision shall be final.

Nominations

Nominations for these 4 awards will be accepted until February 15, 2010.

Nominations must be **submitted by e-mail**. The following information is required:

NOMINATION FORM (see attachment)

1. Full Name of Nominee
2. Full Mailing Address of Nominee
3. Telephone number of nominee
4. E-mail address of nominee
5. Profession of nominee (if applicable)
6. Occupation and recent Employment History
7. Name of School
8. Grade/Year
9. List education achieved by nominee
10. Achievements by nominee (awards, citations)
11. List any publications or other significant bodies of work produced by the nominee
12. Outline significant contributions to the community
13. Nominator's full name
14. Nominator's full mailing address
15. Nominator's telephone number
16. Nominator's relationship to nominee

Submit completed forms to:

E-mail: blackhistory@ryerson.ca

Subject Line: Nomination - 2010 Viola Desmond Day Award Celebration

Deadline:

Nomination forms must be received at the e-mail address listed above no later than **5:00 p.m., February 15, 2010**

2nd Annual Viola Desmond Day Awards NOMINATION FORM

(All nomination forms must be received by the end of business February 15th, 2010
and submitted via e-mail to blackhistory@ryerson.ca)

Full Name of Nominee	
Full Mailing Address of Nominee	
Telephone Number of Nominee	
Email Address of Nominee	
Profession of Nominee (if applicable)	
Occupation and Recent Employment History	
Name of School	
Grade/ Year	
List Education Achieved by Nominee	
Achievements by Nominee (awards, citations)	i.
	ii.
	iii.
	iv.
List any publications or other significant bodies of work produced by the nominee	
Outline Significant Contributions to Ryerson and the Community	
Nominator's Full Name	
Nominator's Full Mailing Address	
Nominator's Telephone Number	
Nominator's Relationship to Nominee	