



MUNICIPALITY *of the*
COUNTY *of* KINGS

African Heritage Month Proclamation Event Celebrates Legacy in Action

Feb. 10, 2025

A month-long celebration of brilliance and resilience is well underway in Kings County.

Students, educators, dignitaries, special guests, and community members gathered in Council Chambers for the annual African Heritage Month Proclamation Event hosted by the Municipality of the County of Kings on Feb. 7. The evening celebration kicked off with the rhythmic beats of the IMANI drummers and a libation ceremony led by local student Santeano Barrows.

“In learning about African heritage, we recognize and acknowledge the resilience, strength and creativity of African Nova Scotians,” said Krishinda McBride, Coordinator of African Canadian Education Services for Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education.

It’s important to continually reflect on “what has been, what can be and what is” to acknowledge the pressing need for determined efforts to promote and protect human rights, McBride added.

“The discussions and studies of African Nova Scotian contributions offer inspiration and knowledge to students and communities of the determination and resilience of our African ancestor role models, role models who have overcome discrimination and inequalities to embrace their identities and communities.”

Coltrane Hughes spoke about the sense of belonging that encourages students in the Africentric Cohort at Horton High School to embrace their identity.

“We are a family. We are here to support and push each other to grow,” Hughes shared.

Hughes commended Cohort mentors for listening, guiding, and inspiring.

“Our small class sizes create an environment where asking for help feels natural and the sense of community is truly special. It’s a space where Black students, like myself, feel comfortable, supported and free to express ourselves without fear of judgement.”

The provincial theme for African Heritage Month in 2025 is "Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance."

“It is only by acknowledging the painful parts of our past, as well as celebrating our achievements, that we can determine how far we’ve come and figure out how much further we must go,” said Diversity Kings County Chairperson Coun. Christina Sappington.

Municipality of the County of Kings Mayor Dave Corkum proclaimed February 2025 as African Heritage Month in the Municipality and thanked representatives from the Province of Nova Scotia and neighbouring town councils in Kings County for attending to show their support.

“It’s a privilege to see so many people here,” Corkum said.

African Nova Scotian Affairs Deputy Minister Tracey Thomas said folks pushing forward and breaking barriers today are contributing to a rich history of resilience.

“African Nova Scotians have been here for over 400 years and, from that time until now, they have contributed to the infrastructure and economic wealth of the towns and cities they helped to build but, from which, they could not benefit,” said Thomas.

“Let us endeavour to honour and offer gratitude to those ancestors of African descent who came before us to this land.”

Coun. Everett MacPherson reflected on lessons learned from others in his 40 years of working in public education.

“We live in a world where Eurocentric beliefs, practices, values and customs are most prominent,” said MacPherson in offering closing remarks on behalf of Diversity Kings County.

“I’ve been fortunate to have been influenced and educated by several prominent individuals of African descent who have helped me better understand the importance of diversity, inclusion, equity and social justice. We are much richer and complete as individuals and community citizens when we are able to open our minds and spirits to experience and accept a multicultural and just perspective on community and the world in general.”

MacPherson stressed the importance of kindness and compassion in thriving communities.

“We can only be happy and successful if those around us are happy and successful, too,” he said.

For more remarks about African Heritage Month and a poem recital by local student Alexi-Jade Smith, check out this [video recording of the Municipality’s African Heritage Month Proclamation Event](#). The full proclamation read by Mayor Corkum can be found [here](#).