

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4th, 2008

Vaughan Public Libraries celebrates Black History Month with programs, displays and the “Black History Through Art” exhibit by the Association of African Canadian Artists.

VAUGHAN, ONTARIO... Vaughan Public Libraries' (VPL) **Black Heritage Collection** emphasizes Black Canadian and Caribbean literature, history and culture. It was the first collection of its kind in York Region set up in response to the needs of the local community in 1989. Other materials in the collection examine, describe or depict the experience of Black people in general, including African literature and Afro-American materials.

VPL's collection continues to grow and contains recreational reading for all ages as well as study and research resources. The collection is consulted by students at all levels of education, by authors researching a particular topic or person, by parents and teachers, as well as by the casual browser.

Additional information is available on the ELibrary at www.vaughanpl.info. There are links to high quality, Librarian evaluated Web sites on a variety of Black Heritage topics plus a **Library Guide** and **We Recommend** booklists prepared by VPL librarians on a variety of Black Heritage related topics. Displays of relevant library materials are available at each branch.

Program Listings

Black History Month Story time

In celebration of Black History Month Vaughan Public Libraries presents local educator and storyteller Angela Royes. Join Angela for an exploration of Caribbean history with connections to Canada through poetry, story telling and singing. For families with children ages 5 and up. Please drop in.

-Tues., Feb. 19, 7:00 – 7:30 pm @ Dufferin Clark Library, 1441 Clark Ave. West, Thornhill

-Sat., Feb. 23, 11:00 – 11:30 am @ Maple Library, 10190 Keele Street, Maple

Black History Through Art Exhibit

The **Black History Through Art** exhibit features original works by members of the Association of African Canadian Artists. Curator Joan Butterfield, a well-known artist specializing in three-dimensional decoupage, coordinated the exhibit. The Association of African Canadian Artists is a not for profit artists' association dedicated to the support and development of African Canadian artists at home and abroad. Formed in 2005, the organization is operated by African Canadian artists, for African Canadian artists. Its goals are to promote African Canadian art as Canadian art, and to provide resources, support and tools to assist African Canadian artists to find their way in the Canadian and International art industry.

On display, Feb. 1-28 @ Dufferin Clark Library, 1441 Clark Ave., W., Thornhill.

Partial List of Recommended Books, Music, and CDs**Adult Fiction****Lover's Leap**

by Horane Smith

Based on a Jamaican story of two slaves whose love for each other became a legend.

**Available at Dufferin Clark Library*

The Book of Negroes

by Lawrence Hill

Follows the life of one black woman from when she was captured as a child in Africa, sold into slavery in South Carolina, escaped to Nova Scotia as a Black Loyalist, then returned to Sierra Leone with other freed slaves.

**Available at Bathurst Clark Resource Library and Dufferin Clark Library*

Junior Fiction**The House of Dies Drear**

by Virginia Hamilton

A black family tries to unravel the secrets of their new home, which was once a stop on the Underground Railroad.

**Available at Ansley Grove Library, Bathurst Clark Resource Library, Maple Library, Pierre Berton Resource Library*

Underground to Canada

by Barbara Smucker

Classic story of two young girls' flight from slavery via the Underground Railway.

**Available at Dufferin Clark Library, Maple Library, Pierre Berton Resource Library.*

Junior Picture Books

Amazing Grace

by Mary Hoffman

Although a classmate says that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she is black, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to do.

**Available at Bathurst Clark Resource Library, Dufferin Clark Library, Maple Library, Woodbridge Library*

Black All Around

by Patricia Hubbell

An African American girl contemplates the many wonderful black things around her, from the inside of a pocket where surprises hide, to the cozy night where there is no light.

**Available at Pierre Berton Resource Library*

Adult Non-Fiction

A Place Called Heaven: The Meaning of Being Black in Canada

by Cecil Foster

Explores the realities of being Black in Canadian society.

**Available at Bathurst Clark Resource Library, Dufferin Clark Library, Maple Library and Pierre Berton Resource Library*

The Hanging of Angelique: The Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Old Montreal

By Afua Cooper

The true story of a twenty-nine year old slave who was hanged in Montreal in 1734 for allegedly starting a fire that engulfed over forty buildings. One of the oldest first hand accounts of a slave's story.

**Available at Bathurst Clark Resource Library, Dufferin Clark Library, Maple Library, Pierre Berton Resource Library*

Junior Non-Fiction

Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella

by Robert D. San Souci

A version of Cinderella from Martinique.

**Available at Bathurst Clark Resource Library, Dufferin Clark Library*

Trials and Triumphs: The Story of African Canadians

by Lawrence Hill

Good introduction for young children to the history of Black Canadians.

**Available at Dufferin Clark Library*

DVDs

Cool Runnings

The story of four Jamaicans who have an impossible dream – competing in the Olympics in bobsled racing.

**Available at Woodbridge Library*

Dreamgirls

A trio of black female soul singers cross over to the pop charts in the early 1960s.

**Available at Ansley Grove Library, Bathurst Clark Resource Library, Dufferin Clark Library, Kleinburg Library, Maple Library, Pierre Berton Resource Library, Woodbridge*

CDs

A 75th Birthday Celebration

by Oscar Peterson

**Available at Ansley Grove Library, Bathurst Clark Resource Library, Kleinburg Library, Maple Library*

B'day

by Beyonce

**Available at Ansley Grove Library, Bathurst Clark Resource Library, Kleinburg Library, Woodbridge Library*

Vaughan Public Libraries has seven locations serving Concord, Kleinburg, Maple, Thornhill and Woodbridge. For more information on programs and services, contact 905-653-READ (7323) or visit the ELibrary at www.vaughanpl.info.

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