

For over 150 years, Africville in Halifax was home to hundreds of Black Nova Scotians. Many settlers came from the U.S. to escape slavery via the Underground Railroad.

City authorities neglected the community, failing to provide basic services such as plumbing, sewage, garbage pickup and electricity for Africville, exacerbating poverty and health issues. Despite these problems, Africville was a vibrant community.

In the 1960s, developers wanted the land, so, under the guise of “progress” and “renewal” Africville was condemned, its houses demolished and its residents forcibly relocated.

In 1996, it was designated a national historical site. In 2002, the United Nations declared the destruction of Africville by the City of Halifax to be a human rights violation.

In 2010, the city of Halifax agreed to compensate evicted descendants and their families.

Africville is an important symbol of anti-racism and Black identity. A park now exists where Africville once stood and a reunion is held there every summer to commemorate the struggle and the spirits of a community that inspired Black people across the country.



# February is Black History Month



George Dixon, the first world boxing champion, was born in Africville.



Portia White, contralto and teacher, achieved international fame as a classical concert singer.



When the City of Halifax destroyed Africville they destroyed the birthplace of ice hockey, Canada's national sport.

