

RCH Newsletter



Another year is upon us... How are you going to teach students?

***“Be the change you want to see in the world”
-Mahatma Gandhi***

I think about this quote a lot as this new year begins. We as educators have quite a lofty task ahead of us every day. We deal with a lot and have one thing after another come up and put onto our plate. I look forward to the work that I am doing and think about the following question to help guide me in my work: “Am I being the change that schools, students and community need?” I will continue to ask myself this throughout the year and encourage you to do the same. We have students that need your help. They need you to be flexible and go outside of our comfort zone in order to provide the supports we need. I am starting my year first by self-evaluating myself. Unless we know who we are and what we believe, we will not be able to create change for our students. As you begin your 2015, I hope that you also join me in taking an introspective look at yourself and seeing how you can change to create change.

What are some of the things going on with RCH

Transgender Guidelines:

In December, the Department put out the Transgender Guidelines. During January, I will be attending training sessions and bringing professional development to our board. To read the guidelines, you can go to the RCH page on the SSRSB webpage as well as the Department of Education webpage

School Planning Around Cultural Proficiency With Building Administrators:

This month I will be meeting with all of our cohort schools within the strategic plan in order to plan for this year and into next year.

Parent, Mi'kmaq Studies and African Canadian Studies Sessions:

I am currently setting up three sessions. The intent of these sessions is to provide teachers with a chance to work with like content teachers that they may never get the chance to and for parents to have an opportunity to talk about sustaining positive education for their students.

IMPORTANT DATES COMING

**JANUARY 11:
SIR JOHN A.
MACDONALD DAY**

**JANUARY 17:
RAOUL WALLENBURG
DAY**

**JANUARY 19:
MARTIN LUTHER KING
JR. DAY**

**JANUARY 27:
INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF COMMEMORATION
OF THE MEMORY OF
VICTIMS OF THE
HOLOCAUST**

**JANUARY 31:
CHINESE NEW YEAR**

**FEBRUARY:
BLACK HISTORY
MONTH: THIS IS A
CELEBRATION OF THE
CONTRIBUTIONS MADE
BY PEOPLE OF AFRICAN
DESCENT. THE PURPOSE
IS TO CREATE AN
UNDERSTANDING OF
BLACK HERITAGE.**

**IF THERE IS AN IMPORTANT DATE COMING UP THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ON THE CALENDAR, PLEASE CONTACT ME AND I WILL ADD IT ON FOR THE NEXT MONTH.

WELCOME OUR NEW STUDENT SUPPORT WORKER CORBIN HARTT!

CORBIN WILL BE WORKING OUT OF PARK VIEW EDUCATION CENTRE AS HIS HOME SCHOOL, BUT WILL ALSO BE WORKING WITH THE STUDENTS AT:

- BAYVIEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL
- BLUENOSE ACADEMY
- FORREST HIGHTS COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Though he is at these schools, he is available to work with other schools and students. Corbin comes with a rich background in Mi'kmaq culture and will be working with students to bring a deeper understanding of the culture. he has background with:

Building wigwams, fleshing/stretching hides, building drums and playing drums, Mi'kmaq language, and the Petroglyph's. In addition, he is a player of the native flute. He brings a strong enthusiasm for this position and I know he looks forward to working in schools.

ASK THE RCH COORDINATOR...

---Have you ever wondered, "Is he just sitting in his office?"

---Are you interested in what I do?

My goal is to be in school, classrooms, and meet students. I have been in our SSRSB schools this year and continue to share my vision of a culturally competent school/classroom. If you would like for me to come to your school and speak, please let me know. Please call me in to speak to individual classrooms/small groups, run teacher PD, or whatever mixture you can think of.

I will come in and talk about: culture; race/diversity in classrooms; culture in curriculum; embedded day focus'; my teaching in Africa; what we say and how we say it; Cultural Proficiency; creating a culture of acceptance in the classroom; and more.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

TAKE THE CHALLENGE TO GET YOUR STUDENTS INVOLVED

CHALLENGE 1

INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP PROJECT:
HAVE YOUR STUDENTS INTERVIEW A
COMMUNITY ELDER ABOUT AFRICAN
HERITAGE.

CHALLENGE 2:

HAVE STUDENTS WRITE A SHORT
ESSAY ABOUT A NOTABLE AFRICAN
NOVA SCOTIAN... AND SHARE WITH
OTHERS

CHALLENGE 3:

ADD KNOWLEDGE TO YOUR
WEBPAGE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS. GET
STUDENTS INVOLVED IN MAKING THE
COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL AWARE.

CHALLENGE 4:

BRING IN A GUEST SPEAKER TO
YOUR CLASSROOM. A SCHOOL
SPEAKER IS GREAT, BUT A SMALL
AUDIENCE IS BETTER AND MORE
INTIMATE FOR LEARNING.

CHALLENGE 5:

TAKE A TRIP! TAKE YOUR
STUDENTS TO A PLACE THAT
SPECIALIZES IN THE HISTORY OF OUR
AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN COMMUNITY.
THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PLACES, JUST
ASK.



LOOKING FOR A SPEAKER?

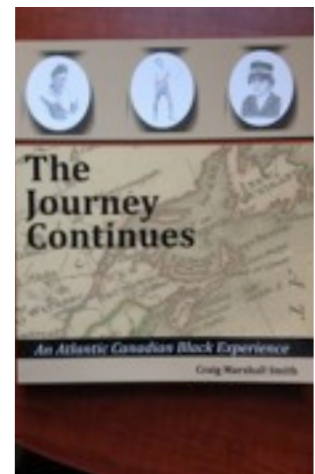
CONTACT CRAIG MARSHAL SMITH, AN AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN AUTHOR

Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia writer Craig Marshall Smith is a multi-published author who has been collecting and chronicling African Canadian achievements and accomplishments for over twenty-years. He has published 3 books:

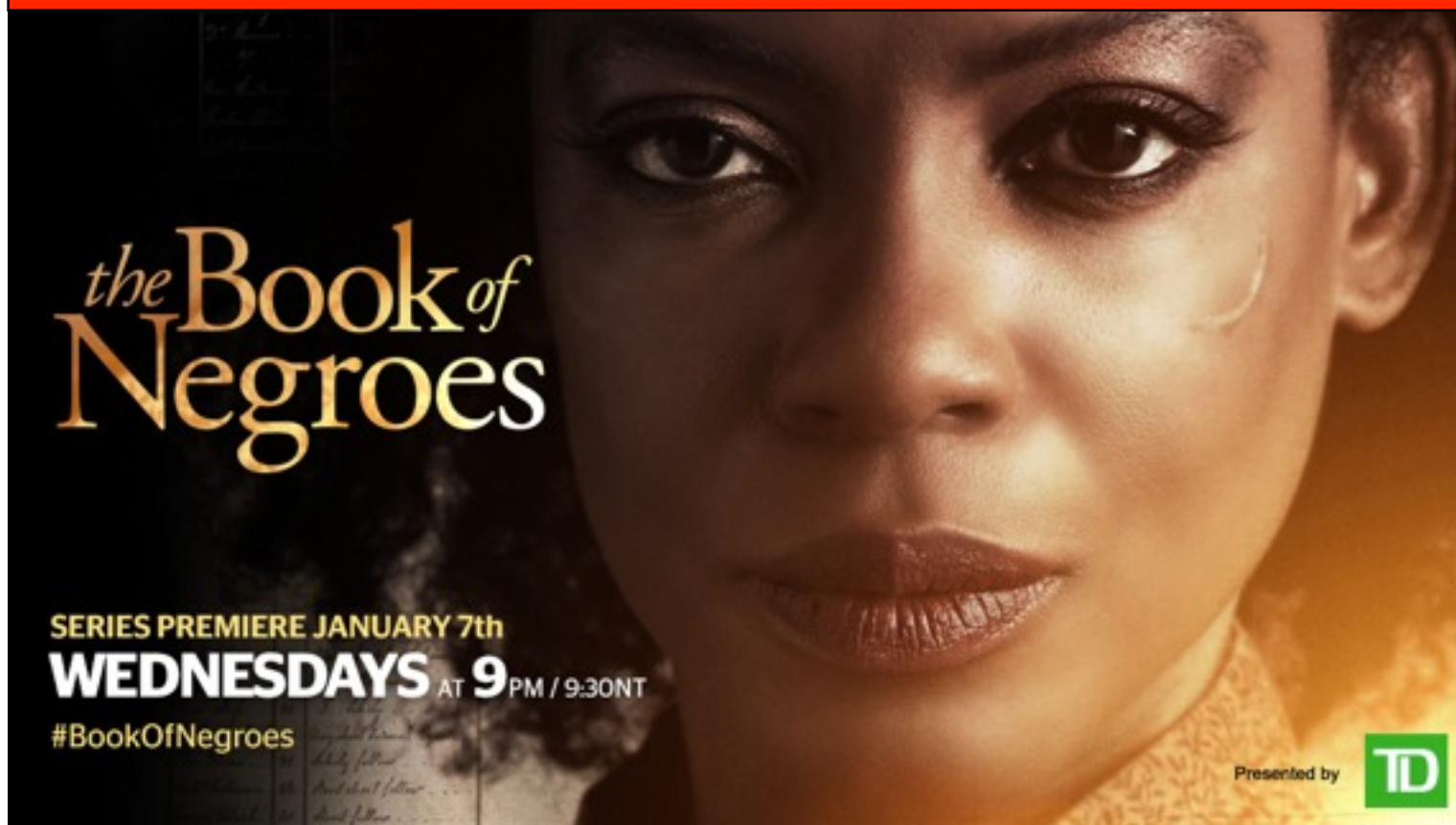
- *The Journey Continues - An Atlantic Canadian Black Experience*
- *The Ultimate African Heritage Quiz Book*
- *You Had Better Be White By Six A.M.*

If you are interested in having Craig come to individual classes, he has said that he is willing and able to do so. Please contact him for the months of January and February. In addition, if you would like a copy of his book, please contact the office of RCH.

craig.smith@rcmp-grc.gc.ca




**UPCOMING EVENT ON CBCTHAT CAN HELP
BRING BLACK HISTORY MONTH INTO SIGHT.**



the **Book of
Negroes**

SERIES PREMIERE JANUARY 7th
WEDNESDAYS AT 9 PM / 9:30NT

#BookOfNegroes

Presented by 

Abducted from her village in West Africa, eleven-year-old Aminata Diallo is forced into a slave coffle and must endure a horrific ocean crossing. She is brought to a South Carolina plantation where she makes herself useful by using midwifery skills learned at her mother's side, all the while keeping the attentions of her jealous slave master, Robinson Appleby, at bay. Soon after Aminata reencounters Chekura, a fellow slave from West Africa, they are married in a clandestine ceremony. When their first baby is brutally abducted and sold by

For other resources on this upcoming series premier, go to:

<http://www.cbc.ca/bookofnegroes/>

BLACK HISTORY MONTH APPROACHES... DON'T WAIT



PASSAGES CANADA

Black History Month is coming up!

Invite a [Passages Canada speaker](#) to share his or her personal story of Black Canadian heritage & identity, FREE of charge!



Topics include:

**Black Canadian History | African Heritage | Racism & Discrimination |
Human Rights & Social Justice | and more!**

Please [submit your request online](#) by **January 15, 2015**. Requests are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. If a speaker is not available in your area, speakers may be available via videoconference (Skype).

PLEASE GO TO: <http://passagestocanada.com/invite-a-speaker/>

RESOURCES:

BLACK HISTORY IN CANADA

BELOW IS A LINK TO SOME VERY GOOD INFORMATION AROUND BLACK HISTORY IN CANADA. PLEASE CLICK AND TAKE A LOOK.

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/collection/black-history-in-canada/>

STORY ARCHIVE:

AT THE SITE BELOW YOU WILL FIND AN ARCHIVE OF STORIES THAT COME FROM THE AFRICAN DESCENT PERSPECTIVE:

<http://passagestocanada.com/story-archive/>

Drum Making Workshop

Give the gift of music and culture this year. A registration to this great workshop will provide your loved one with the opportunity to construct a traditional Mi'kmaq drum. Suitable for all ages.



In partnership with Waterdancer Mi'kmaq Arts
One Heart Wellness Services is offering
a Drum Making Workshop

Todd Labrador (One who dances on water) is a self taught Mi'kmaq artisan who was raised on the Wildcat reservation in Queens County. He makes traditional hand drums, baskets, birch bark art and more.

Todd's art can be seen as far away as Europe. In 2005 he built a 13 foot birch bark canoe in France. In 2010 he took part in the Olympic art show held in Vancouver by helping to design the sculpture now erected at the base of the Whistler mountain Luge run.

Todd also demonstrated the building of a 15 foot canoe at Kejimikujik National Park.



Session Details

When: March 21, 2015 at 1:00 pm

Where 74 Bristol Avenue, Liverpool

Who: Todd Labrador

Price \$300.00 (includes everything needed to make your 14 inch diameter drum).

Registration required by **January 22, 2015** (To prepare hides and frames)

For more information or to register:

902-212-2532 (Donna)

902-212-2011 (Dominique)

Email: 1heartwellnessservices@gmail.com



The Courage to **REMEMBER** **THE HOLOCAUST 1933-1945**

"Hope lives when people remember."- Simon Wiesenthal



**200 Holocaust photos that cannot be seen
anywhere else in the world ...**

The Atlantic Jewish Council in partnership with
the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
presents the Simon Wiesenthal Center exhibit,
"The Courage to Remember".
January 12th - 30th, 2015

Location:

Nova Scotia Archives
6016 University Ave.
Halifax, NS

Hours of Operation:

Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Wed. Evening 4:30 - 9:00 pm
Sat. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm