

Dennis Scott

Dennis owns and operates a business-consulting firm where he provides consulting services for recruitment, executive coaching and strategic planning. As a principle in the firm, Dennis' life long focus for finding the positive in all situations shines through with clients and colleagues alike. Dennis has applied this philosophy to his role as Chair for the Halton Black History Awareness Society and he is an inspiration to all people to move forward positively and progressively. Dennis leads by example when it comes to diversity and he remains a role model for all of the Festival committee.

Dennis' vision, as Chair of the Halton Black History Awareness Society is to support implementation of Canadian Black History into the educational system. " A common denominator of all resolutions towards alleviating "psychological distress", culture fear, intimidation, assault, crime, anger, pain and discrimination, is through educating culture diversity. It is also important to prepare our youth, and adults, especially our leaders and educators, for the reality of diversity growth towards an inclusive society."

Through the promotion of arts, literature, music, and speaker engagements this can be achieved benefitting the disenfranchised (mixed race families. internal and external cultural relations), self-knowledge (personal history and heritage), inclusivity (the value of culturally collaborative achievement), diversity management (appreciating equally the best individual for empowered progression) and human value integrity (leaving people better than you found them and resurrecting humane individual, family and community values).

Dennis, as Chair of the Emancipation Festival, has converted the "Struggle Continues" concept" to one of "Celebrating Emancipation" and appreciating the "Circle of Life". The Festival has grown from less than 100 in 2001 to over 2600 in 2007; developed International regard; developed long standing partnerships towards Black History Education and Culture awareness; developed partnerships with World Vision, and numerous community/historical/cultural and business entities in enabling historians, authors, musicians, families, and associates to have a voice on Black History & Culture in Canada.

Dennis' vision is that the history books be rewritten to include "true and complete" history; we should not forget our past roots and ancestry and those who got us here; individuals and groups work in collaboration for everyone's best interests; multiculturalism and integrity is truly appreciated and, that we continue to learn, especially about ourselves and each other.

Dennis takes pride in that his five children are descendents of at least seven cultures and that their learning is multinational, multicultural and knowledgeable in their history, roots and cultures, thanks to the multitude of role models about them.

Bio:

Chair: Chair, Halton Black History Awareness Society, an evolution of the 10 year Burlington Black History Awareness committee with focus on multicultural integration and Canadian Black History Awareness and Education.

Emancipation Celebration Festival (3 days), Owen Sound, Ontario (2001 - 2011)

Longest continuous running event in Grey Bruce Counties

Longest continuous running Emancipation Celebration in North America

Developed forum for the promotion of Black Canadian artists, musicians, authors and historians.

Chair: Emancipation Grey County Black History Event (2 days – Teaching leaders how to teach minority education - Education, Genealogy and Canadian Black History forum)

Co Founder and Executive Director: International Emancipation Children's Fund – Fundraising with focus for underprivileged local and African children. Instrumental in working with World Vision which saw a number of African Children adoptions

Former Board of Directors, John Holland Awards, Hamilton, Ontario

Partner with SilverShoe Historical Society in the restoration of the Bethel-Union Pioneer Cemetery, Township of Clearview, Ontario. Presented "Northern Star" monument on site, on behalf of the Emancipation Festival, honouring the "*Bicentennial of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade*".

Initiator of Adventure Cycle Underground Railroad tour, in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh's Centre for Minority Health, 2007 and 2008, 2028 mile Underground Railroad Tour from Mobile Alabama which "put Owen Sound on the International map" Owen Sound Mayor, Ruth Lovell – One tour brought 112 bicyclists, ages 8 to 80, to the 2007 Emancipation 145th Celebration. This tour won the prestigious American Trails Partnership Award in 2008.

Initiator of the two-month Annual Black History Art Exhibit at Grey Roots Museum & Archives, Owen Sound Ontario, Canada (2003)

Council Representative, Huron College, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario

Co-President Owen Sound Collegiate and Vocational Institute, Owen Sound, Ontario

Substantial fundraiser towards the resurrection of the BME Church, Owen Sound, Ontario (2006)