

Marcus Mosiah Garvey reminds us that, “...A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.” Learning about our origin, our culture, our history is a vital part of the development of our identity and self-esteem, as it allows us to have a better understanding as to who we are. Cultural education serves to promote self-respect. It engenders a sense of pride and bond with other members of our community with whom we are connected at the roots, at the beginning.

Evelyn Myrie

#### Bio

Evelyn Myrie has held numerous leadership positions in government, business and the non-profit sector with a strong focus on helping organizations translate their mission into action. She has been an independent businesswoman—owning one of Hamilton’s first African art galleries in Ontario. She has served as regional program director at Status of Women Canada where she was responsible for administering federal funding program to advance women’s equality. Evelyn worked as the executive director of the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion where she launched the city’s first diversity conference and recognition program and in 2014 led the establishment of *DiversecityonBoard program* in 3 cities across Ontario. As founding director of Peel Newcomer Strategy Group, she has led the development of a new immigrant settlement service delivery model for Peel region. For more than 15 years, Evelyn has been a columnist with The Hamilton Spectator Editorial page where she wrote on current affair issues including human rights and social justice issues. She recently hosted her own show on cable 14 TV —“Singing Her Praises” which featured women who are making a difference in the Hamilton. She is also a regular commentator on CHCH, CTS, and CBC Hamilton.

In 2015 Hamilton’s Urbanicity Newspaper’s listed Evelyn on its top 30 community Influencers. Evelyn was recently named one of the 100 *Accomplished Black Canadian women in Canada —an initiative led by Dr. Jean Augustine.*

Evelyn is the cofounder of the Rev. John C. Holland Awards —an annual program that recognizes the achievements of African Canadians in Hamilton and area. Since its inception in 1996, the JCH Awards has presented more than \$110,000 in scholarships to assist youth in pursuing their educational goals. In recognition of Evelyn’s leadership of the JCH awards, at the 2016 awards ceremony, Hamilton city councilor Matthew Green announced the establishment of the Evelyn Myrie’s Political Action Award — an annual scholarship for young women who are driving change in their community.

Evelyn has extensive community leadership—serving on numerous boards and committees including but not limited to the following :

- City of Hamilton Cultural Round Table
- Pan Am Host Committee
- Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council
- Hamilton Black History Committee
- Harry Jerome Scholarship Fund Committee
- African Canadian Legal Clinic
- United Way of Burlington Hamilton
- Social Planning and Research Council
- Hamilton Black History Committee
- Stewart Memorial Church 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chair

The community has recognized her accomplishments with several awards for leadership, including Woman of the Year in Public Affairs, the Phenomenal Woman award, and the Queen Elizabeth II Golden and Diamond Jubilee medals. In 2011, Evelyn was inducted into Hamilton's prestigious Gallery of Distinction.

Evelyn is a mother to 1 and a grandmother to 3 lovely children. She finds time to run, travel and read.