

National Historic Events of Canada

No. 2 Construction Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force Black Railway Porters and their Union Activity

National Historic Person of Canada

Portia May White

National Historic Site of Canada

Africville
R. Nathaniel Dett British Methodist Episcopal Church

Les événements historiques nationaux du Canada

Deuxième bataillon de la construction (C.E.C.)
Les employés noirs des chemins de fer et leur mouvement syndical

Personnage historique national du Canada

Portia May White

Les lieux historiques nationaux du Canada

Africville
Église British Methodist Episcopal R. Nathaniel Dett

TRAVELLING ON

POUR SUIVRE LE CHEMIN

The 20th Century

Le 20^e siècle

Highlights of the Century

In the 20th century, several Black Canadians have been associated with designations of National Historic Persons, Sites and Events. These are people who have contributed courage, idealism and talent to Canada's social fabric.

Événements marquants du siècle

Au 20^e siècle, plusieurs Canadiens de race noire ont fait partie d'une série de désignations de personnages, de lieux et d'événements historiques nationaux. Ce sont des personnes qui ont contribué à forger le tissu social canadien par leur courage, leur idéalisme et leur talent.



Service
During the First World War, after much advocacy on their part, Black Canadians were recruited for the No. 2 Construction Battalion; the band is shown here. It was the first all-Black regiment raised in Canada.

Service
Pendant la Première Guerre mondiale, à la suite de maintes revendications de leur part, des Canadiens de race noire ont été recrutés dans le deuxième bataillon de la construction. On peut voir la troupe ici. Il s'agit du premier régiment levé au Canada uniquement composé de personnes de race noire.



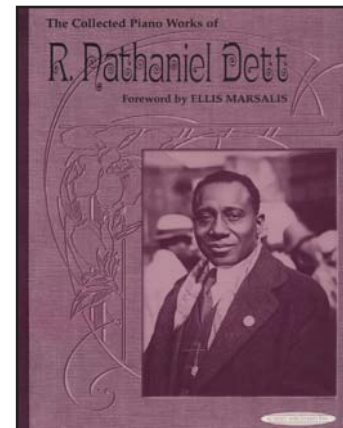
Labour
The Railway Porters Union consisted mainly of Black members. They fought valiantly – and successfully – to improve labour conditions for their profession.

Travail
Les membres du mouvement syndical des employés des chemins de fer étaient principalement de race noire. Ils luttèrent avec vaillance et réussirent à améliorer les conditions de travail prévalant dans leur profession.



Music
Portia May White (1911-65), who began singing in her father's church choir in Halifax, went to New York in 1941 and caused a sensation with her extraordinary voice.

Musique
Portia May White (1911-1965), qui a commencé à chanter dans le chœur de l'église de son père, à Halifax, se rendit à New York en 1941, où sa voix exceptionnelle fit sensation.



Composition
Nathaniel Dett (1882-1943) was famous in both Canada and the US for piano and choral compositions created around Black musical themes.

Composition
Nathaniel Dett (1882-1943) s'est rendu célèbre au Canada ainsi qu'aux États-Unis grâce à ses compositions pour chœur et piano inspirées de thèmes tirés de la musique noire.



Africville was settled from the 1820s by African Canadians seeking work in Halifax. In the 20th century, as a town without water or services, it was an emblem of Black settlement at the periphery of white society.

Community at the Edge

Once the site of a historic Black Canadian community on the outskirts of Halifax, Africville was demolished in the 1960s and its people relocated. Africville is now a symbol to Black Canadians of the need for vigilance in defence of their institutions.



By the 1960s, the community was home to some 800 residents. The town had its own businesses – like this grocery store – a school and a church (Seaview United, above).



The people of Africville – who despite difficulties had together created a cohesive community – were relocated to social housing between 1964 and 1967.



Despite protests – this one in the Seaview United African Baptist Church – the community was dismantled. A campaign for redress has emerged.



In the 1960s, a new bridge was planned between Halifax and Dartmouth, along with port expansion. Africville was in the way.

[Below] Today, Seaview Park is a place of pilgrimage for former residents of Africville and their descendants.

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