

Working with Libraries:

Community Initiated Black History Month Partnership

Shahnaz Alarna McKie



Celebrating Black History Month:

Collaboration

Exhibit

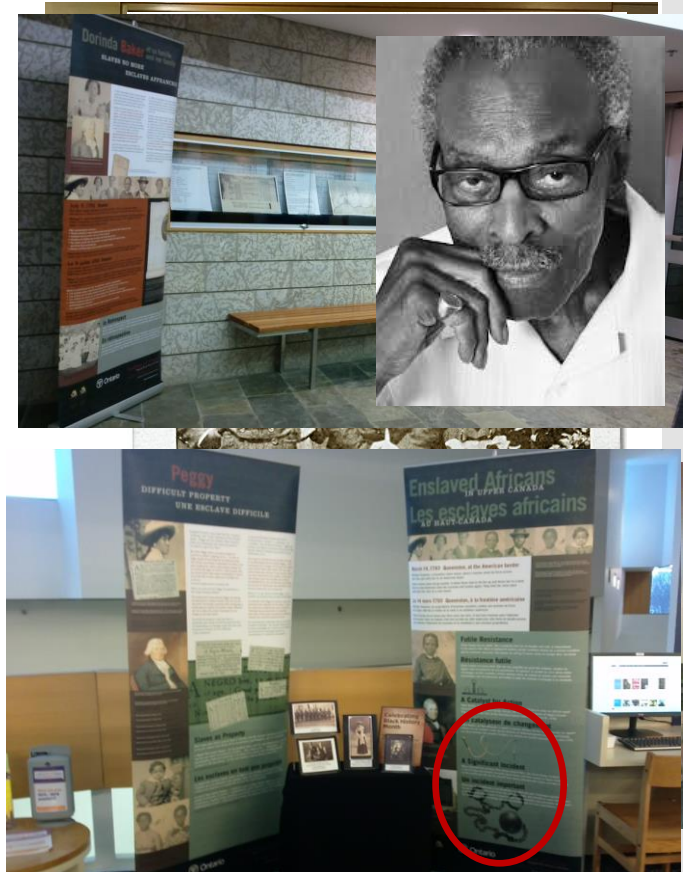
Motivation

- Collaboration
- The Exhibit
 - Reproductions
 - Local Achieves
 - The Archives of Ontario
 - Alvin McCurdy Collection
 - Travelling Exhibit
 - Enslaved Africans in Upper Canada
 - Time Line
 - Limited Text Interpretation
 - Local History
- Motivation
 - Recognized Opportunity
 - Quality
 - Decreased Sense of Belonging



Celebrating Black History Month: Themes & Displays

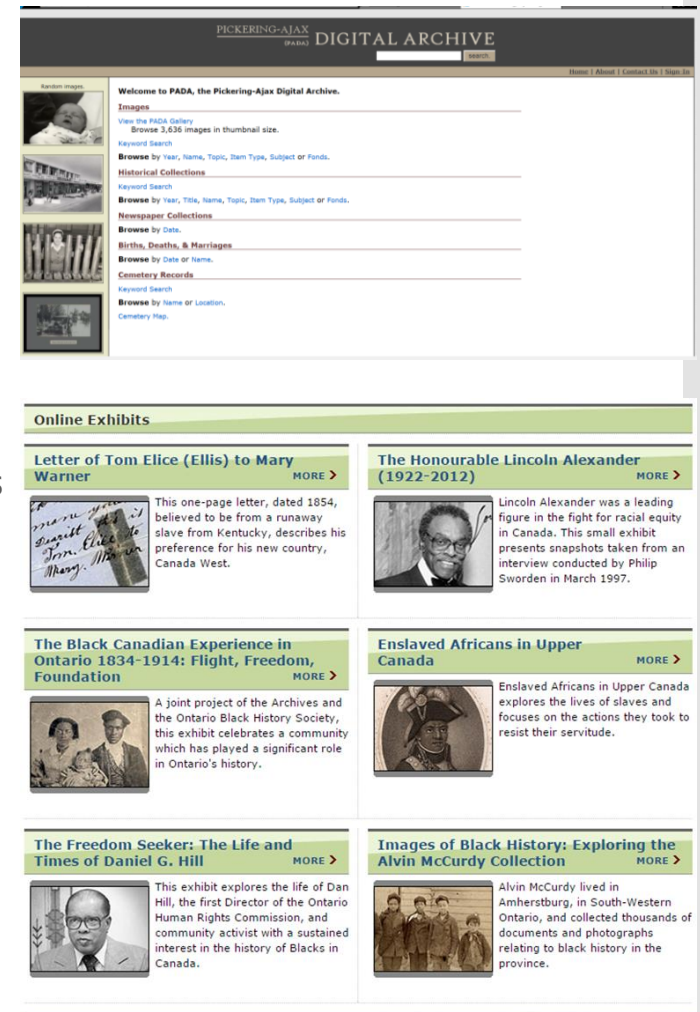
- 4 Themes, 3 Displays
 - Black Youth Experience
 - Local History
 - Armenia Manuel
 - Lincoln Alexander and Education
 - Mature Content



Celebrating Black History Month:

Community Access to Resources

- Access to Resources
 - Online Databases
 - Pickering Ajax Digital Archive
 - Archives of Ontario
 - Black History Resources
 - Local Archives
 - Tweedsmuir Community History Books
 - Community Space
 - Knowledge Institutions



Ajax

Location

Population

Demographics

Vision

- Location
 - Region of Durham between Whitby and Oshawa
- Population
 - Approximately 109,600
- Demographics
 - 36% Culturally Visible
- Vision
 - A vibrant and caring community where people and history connect.



Working with Libraries

Ajax Public Library

- Ajax Public Library

Mission Statement

The Ajax Public Library is the gateway to information and resources that improve the quality of life, foster life-long learning, encourage community involvement, and meet the varying educational and social needs of all members of its communities, within available resources

Strategic Priorities

- Current customers and non-customers will increase their awareness and use of the Library's services.
- Customers of the Library will be satisfied with its services.
- The Library's collections will be current and relevant to the needs of its customers.
- The Library will further increase its value to the diverse community of Ajax, including newcomers, youth (children/teen), older adults, and commuters by providing services and resources that meet each group's most important needs.
- Customers will have access to computers and the Internet, without unreasonable restrictions or fees, to ensure they can take advantage of resources and services available on the Internet.
- Customers will have safe and welcoming spaces to meet and interact with others or to read or work quietly.

Hours and Locations

Main Branch Information

Working with Libraries

Strengths

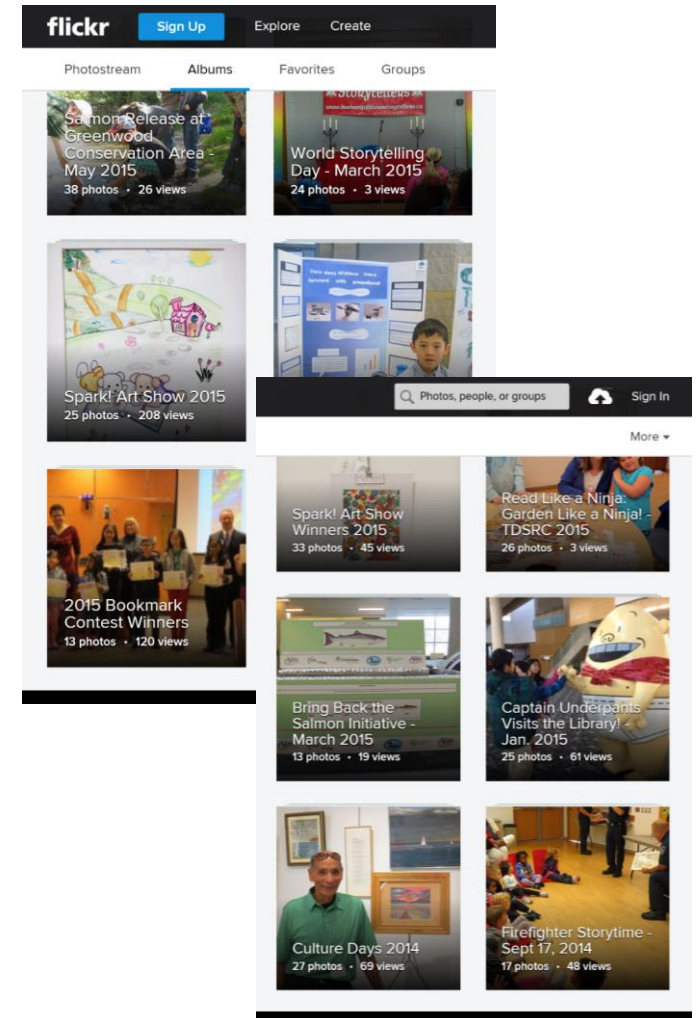
- Strengths
 - Knowledgeable & Professional Staff
 - Strong Relationships with Community Organizations
 - Exhibit Aids
 - Existing Audience
 - Accessible
 - Free



Working with Libraries

2014

- 2014
 - 351,996 Visitors
 - 26 Cultural Partners and 4 Education Sector Partners
 - 1,633 Program Sessions, Many executed with partners
 - 24% Increase
 - 34,786 Program Participants
 - 22% increase



Working with Libraries

Demand & Resources





- Demand / Resources
 - Community Groups
 - Cultural Associations
 - Patrons
 - Library Programs
 - Internal Strategic Goals
 - Community Expectations
- Challenges
 - Specific Roles and Tasks
 - Daily Operational Procedures
 - Barrier to Cohesive Theme
 - One Point of Contact - Advocate
 - Reflection of the Community


September/October 2015



WHAT'S ON

TEENS & TWEENS

Follow Us    



Back to School Movie Party: *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*
 Wednesday, Sept. 16
 6-9 p.m. Main Branch

Kick off the school year with a free screening of the blockbuster, *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*, based on the bestselling book by *Jesse Andrews*, before it's available on DVD!

And, munch on freshly popped popcorn from our new machine!

Synopsis:
 High schooler Greg, who spends most of his time making parodies of classic movies with his co-worker Earl, finds his outlook forever altered after befriendng a classmate who has just been diagnosed with cancer.


Rated PG
 Ages 12 to 19
 Register: www.ajaxlibrary.ca/events or 905-683-4000, ext. 8830

TECH TIME
 Get your hands on new tech

Experience eBooks with the Digital Bookmobile
 Thursday, Sept. 10
 1-7 p.m. Main Branch


Learn how to get eBooks, audiobooks, and more from the Library on the Digital Bookmobile! With instructional videos, interactive computer stations and a fully-loaded gadget gallery, you can experience new ways to enjoy digital books and more. Bring the whole family!

Bring your own device to learn on, or use the devices provided on the Bookmobile. Complete the *Bookmobile Passport* while you visit and you can enter a draw to win a brand new eReader!



eReading with Ease
 Sept. 1 to 30

Search our combined online and Overdrive catalogue together -- at last! Downloading through our new combined catalogue in September and enter to win an eReader! The winner will be announced on Oct. 14. Visit www.ajaxlibrary.ca for more information, or speak with staff at any branch.



Tech Zoo Open House
 Tuesday, Oct. 20
 3-7 p.m. Main Branch

Check out what's new and hot in technology during **Ontario Public Library Week!** Best Buy and Staples will showcase emerging and upcoming technology, just in time for the holiday season.

Program & Event Calendar

« October »

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Working with Libraries

Reflection of Community

- Reflection of Community

Black History Month

Groundhog Day

Family Day

Valentines Day

National Flag of Canada
Day

Homemade Soup Day

Wear Red Day

Send a Card to a Friend
Day

World Cancer Day

Pink Shirt Day

Love Your Pet Day

Tell a Fairy Tale Day

Tu B'Shevat

Lent

Chinese & Tibetan New Year

Wicca celebration of fire,
light & life

Birth of Prophet

Mohammad (2012)

The passing of Buddha
Celebrations of Shiva

Local/Regional Events

**December & January –
Exams & Holidays –**

Extended Hours

**Upcoming Events/
Programming**

Working with Teens

Teen Advisory Committee (TAC)

Meeting TAC - Ideas

- Teen Advisory Committee (TAC)

- Mandate

- Connection to Youth Voice
 - Advise, Represent & Engage in Projects

- TAC - Ideas

- Quotes, Meems
 - Short Facts
 - Younger Children
 - Remove Boundaries
 - Artifact
 - Pictures
 - Notable Figure
 - Local
 - Relatable Information
 - Youth Representation
 - Daily Life*
 - Education*
 - Answers to a conversation



ory Committees | Ajax x

Home About Us Digital Resources Programs Services Membership

Advisory Committees

Teen Advisory Council

The Teen Advisory Council (TAC) is a Library sponsored group of volunteer teens from all Ajax high schools who meet weekly in the Library during the school year.

The mandate of TAC is to:

- advise the library on the provision of services to young adults.
- make suggestions about our young adult collections.
- engage in projects of interest to young adults of its own choosing.
- represent the interests of the Library to their own schools.
- promote literacy among young adults in Ajax.
- be a platform where teens can engage the community and meet other young people in a safe and welcoming environment.
- provide a useful source of volunteers as required by the library on special occasions.

TAC consists of a President, Vice President, and Secretary, Members and a Library Facilitator.

Members elected into one of the three executive positions may serve for one or two years. After two years, they must be re-elected to remain on the executive.

When the Library is looking for new TAC members, information will be posted on the [Jobs & Volunteers](#) page.

Working with Teens

Challenges & Insight

- Challenges & Insight
 - Flexible Attendance
 - Three Meetings
 - Exams & School Come First
 - Three Days
 - When to Take Ownership
 - Contributions
 - Set up Day / Take Down
 - Invaluable to Increasing Public Benefit



Unexpected Outcomes

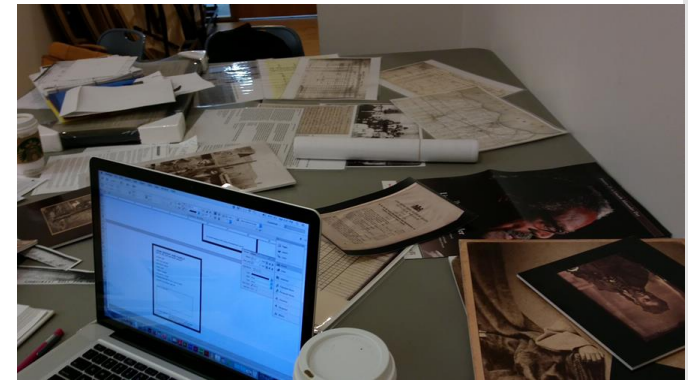
Library

- Unexpected Outcomes
 - First Contact, First Meeting
 - 3 Meetings (1hr) – Set Up
 - Prior Factors Effecting Quality
 - Competition for space
 - Gap in Collection
 - **Not Enough Books?**
 - Takeaways
 - Book list
 - Ongoing Research



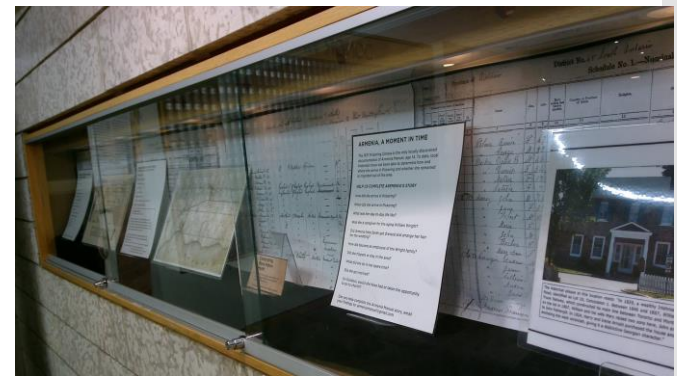
Unexpected Outcomes Project

- Unexpected Outcomes
 - Contributions of other Museum Professionals
 - Natalie Carroll
 - Willingness to Share Research
 - No Negative Comments
 - Other Community Organizations



Considerations

- Difficult Topic
- Level of Contribution
 - Complement vs. Whole Enchilada
- Reasonable Expectations
- Be ready for - Why?
- Digital Image Rights
- Time – pm
- Storage – Future Use
- Neighborhood vs. Community



Considerations

The Plaque



Nuts and Bolts

- Cost
 - Independently Funded
 - Approx. \$320.00
- Emails
 - 1st Email Aug
 - 70 Library
- Time Line
 - August – March
- Traveling Exhibit
 - No Cost – Shipping Included
 - Survey
- Local Archives
 - Neighbourhood Stories
 - Minimal Cost



Realizations & Community Benefits

- Personal Realizations
 - They Got It!
- Internal Realizations
 - Gap in Strategic Priorities / Inclusion
 - Weight – Stop and Question
 - Did we just say that? The Book Collection
- Community Benefits
 - Unearthed Local Story
 - Increased Understanding of a Rich Local History
 - Increased Awareness of Local and Provincial Resources
 - Museum Space within Intimate Neighbourhood Hub
 - Improved Exhibit Quality
 - Increased Sense of Belonging



Measurable Outcomes & Opportunities

- Measureable Outcomes
 - Kudos from Participants, Library Staff, Community Organizations
 - 19,042 visits to main branch
 - 5700 Audience Attendance
 - Invitation to Return
- Opportunity – Museums
 - Introduction / Reintroduction of Museum/Institution
 - 'Personal Invitation' to Visit
 - Hands Museological Experience- Youth
 - Positive Community Impact

Dear Alarna,

Joel and I cannot thank you enough for all your hard work for this year's Black History Month display at the Ajax Public Library's Main Branch.

The display looks phenomenal. **You worked so well with the Teen Advisory Committee to put so many ideas into a cohesive and interesting display. I have already noticed a number of customers looking at it.**

We truly appreciate everything you have done including your time and commitment to the project.

Alarna, our thanks for a job well done.

Regards,
Charlene

*Charlene Johnston
Information Assistant
Ajax Public Library
Main Branch
55 Harwood Avenue S
Ajax, Ontario
L1S 2J6
905-683-4000
ext. 8816
Charlene.Johnston@*

Hi Alarna,

It looks great! Good job getting everything positioned, and the signage is excellent. I agree, see the old title was distracting -- I simply removed the plastic cover and it looks much better now.

I'll pass on your regrets to the group today -- it'll be fun to show off the display to everyone. **I still see customers stopping and reading the documents and viewing the photograph each and every day.**

Cheers,
Joel

Do you know Armenia?

armeniamanuel@gmail.com

Thank you!

