

Hamilton Black History Committee
Proud Organizers of
Reverend John C Holland Awards

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Scholarships and Bursaries

Scholarships and bursaries are awarded for the purpose of pursuing studies at a post-secondary or trade institution. Applicants returning to High School are not eligible.

Eligibility

- Applicant must identify as being of African Descent
- Applicant must be 16-24 years of age, (or as otherwise specified*) at the time of the application deadline
- Applicant must have an academic average of at least 70%
- Applicant must have demonstrated a commitment to service in their school and or community
- Applicant must be attending/returning to a post-secondary or trade institution in the 2019/2020 academic school year
- Applicant must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or Convention refugee and, the City of Hamilton must be their principal residence

Applicant must submit a completed application with supporting documents to be considered for a scholarship or bursary:

Youth Scholarship Application Form
Two Letters of Recommendation (must be from school staff and/or community members/organizations)
Personal Essay (in approximately 400 words, describe how your achievements, experiences and goals make you well-suited for the scholarship/bursary for which you have applied)
School Transcript/Record (most current at the time of submission)
Video/Video Clips/Photos (up to a two-minute creative illustration of your achievements and/or aspirations. You may also attach photos, as appropriate)

Scholarship and Bursary Description

Audre Lorde Scholarship – LGBTQ2S

Audre Geraldine Lorde was a black writer, feminist, womanist, lesbian, and civil rights activist, who dedicated both her life and her creative talent to confronting and addressing the injustices of racism, sexism, and homophobia. (*Died 17 November 1992*)

This scholarship is given to an individual under the age of 29 who is pursuing post-secondary education, has made significant contributions to the community, and who identifies as LGBTQ2S. HBHC recognizes and respects the fact that identifying as a member of the LGBTTI2SQ community is a personal decision. HBHC honours one's decision to identify openly or to decide not to do so. If the applicant wishes to keep their application and awarded scholarship (if applicable) private, this must be indicated on the application. The External Selections Committee of HBHC will then only disclose the application and any awarded scholarship information to the nominee, where applicable, and those selecting the successful applicant. Further, the External Selections Committee will only communicate with the applicant by way of their preferred email address.

Sponsored by: Ruth Cameron

Evelyn Myrie “Political Action” Bursary

Evelyn Myrie is one of the co-founders of the Reverend John C Holland Awards. She has held numerous leadership positions in government, business and the non-profit sectors, with a strong focus on helping organizations translate their mission into action. She has been an independent businesswoman, served as program director at Status of Women Canada, and was the executive director of the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion. She was also a founding director of Peel Newcomer Strategy Group. Myrie has been an active political figure in the community.

This bursary is given to the individual who has shown outstanding leadership in Political Action within the community.

Sponsored by: Matthew Green

“Girls Rock” Scholarship

YWCA Hamilton strengthens the voices of women and girls, broadens their choices, builds dynamic leadership and provides essential and meaningful services that promote safe, inclusive, and equitable communities.

This scholarship is given to the young woman who is pursuing studies in a field that closely aligns to advancing Women's Issues.

Sponsoring Partner: YWCA Hamilton

Lincoln Alexander “Breaking down Barriers” Scholarship

Lincoln MacCauley Alexander, CC, QC, OOnt, lawyer, parliamentarian, public servant, chancellor and Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. Alexander was the first Black Canadian Member of Parliament, Cabinet Minister and Lieutenant-Governor (Ontario). There are schools and a parkway named in his honour. *(Died 19 October 2012 in Hamilton, ON).*

This scholarship is awarded to an individual who has demonstrated leadership on issues related to breaking down systemic barriers.

Marlene F.S. Thomas – “Community Advocacy” Scholarship

Inspired by the co-founder of the Reverend John C Holland Awards, Marlene F.S. Thomas, this scholarship encourages youth and young adults to take action in their communities and choose an educational pathway that further supports their work. Thomas ran the Hamilton Cultural and Ethnic Mosaic Association, Equality For All organization, and served as the co-chairperson with Mayor Robert Morrow for the Hamilton Mayor’s Committee against Racism and Discrimination.

This scholarship is given to the individual who has demonstrated considerable impact in areas of community advocacy.

Nelson Mandela “Social Justice” Scholarship

Nelson Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician, lawyer and philanthropist, who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. After decades of false imprisonment, he became the country's first black head of state and President of the African National Congress. Mandela is widely regarded as an icon of democracy and social justice. He received more than 250 honours—including the Nobel Peace Prize. *(Died 5 December 2013, Johannesburg, South Africa)*

This scholarship is given to an individual who has demonstrated leadership on issues related to Social Justice.

Raymond G. Lewis “Sports Leadership” Scholarship

Raymond Gray Lewis was a Canadian track and field athlete, and the first Canadian-born Black Olympic medalist. Lewis was nicknamed *Rapid Ray* for his speed on the track. He excelled in 100, 200, 400 and 800 meter distances in high school and captured 17 national high school championships (including a record four in one day) while a student at Hamilton's Central Collegiate. *(Died 15 November 2003, Hamilton, ON)*

This scholarship is given to the individual who has accomplished significant achievements in Sports Leadership.

Sponsored By: Mount Olive Lodge

Reverend George Horton – “Law Enforcement” Scholarship

Reverend George Horton was born in Zeelandia, Guyana. Horton lived an adventurous life that included serving as a police officer in Guyana, earning a master's degree at New York University and becoming Hamilton's first Black Police Chaplain. As a pastor, Horton worked at many Hamilton churches, most recently Stewart Memorial. (*Died 26 February 2017, Hamilton, ON*)

This scholarship is given to an individual who has shown interest in the work of Law Enforcement.

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Nominations are invited for the following awards:

- Business & Professional Achievement Award
- Community Service Award
- Arts

Eligibility

- Applicant must identify as being of African Descent
- Applicant must be 24 years of age or older
- Applicant must have demonstrated a commitment to service in their community
- Applicant must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or Convention refugee and, the City of Hamilton must be their principal residence

Business and Professional Achievement Award

The Applicant must currently be involved in the business sector and demonstrate excellence in a profession.

Criteria to be considered will include:

- Significant contribution to the business community through a record of outstanding achievements
- Evidence of leadership in business and or profession
- Contribution to new ideas that may have informed best practices and added to the general body of knowledge in the applicant's field

Community Service Award

The applicant must have a record of voluntary community involvement and service and must have contributed to the development and advancement of the Hamilton community.

Criteria to be considered will include:

- Measurable impact that enriched the community
- Demonstration of commitment and dedication
- Exceptional volunteer service through community organizations

Arts, Arts Industry & Entertainment Award: (In Memory of the late Jackie Washington)

Like Jackie Washington, the applicant must demonstrate outstanding achievement in the arts.

Criteria to be considered will include:

- Outstanding practitioner in the Performing Arts (Dance, Theatre, and Multi-disciplinary groups); Visual and Media Arts; Literature and Publishing; Film; and Video and Television
- Evidence of commitment to the arts and cultural industries through arts planning and promotion

CONFERRED AWARDS

An Award of Merit may be conferred by the Hamilton Black History Committee (HBHC) in the following two categories:

Award of Merit

- To an individual, institution or organization, within the Black Community who, in the opinion of the HBHC, has rendered meritorious and outstanding service at the local, provincial or national levels.

Ally Award

- To an individual, institution or organization in the City of Hamilton who, in the opinion of the HBHC, has rendered meritorious and outstanding support to the Black community.

Details may be updated as appropriate.