



HALIFAX WOMEN'S
HISTORY • SOCIETY

Halifax Women's History Society Newsletter

[#BreakingTheBronzeCeiling](#)

Winter 2020

A Statement from the HWHS Board Regarding Walmart-HRP Racial Violence

The recent incident of Santina Rao, a black woman from Halifax, being accused of stealing and violently pushed to the ground by police while her children watched, was a horrific attack against Santina's personhood and dignity.

Research shows that racial discrimination has a long history of being perpetuated against women and men of colour in this province. As historians and women, we must speak out. We call on the Halifax Regional Police to take immediate action to address the culture of racism perpetuated within the force. We call on the Mayor and HRM administration to engage with Walmart and other businesses to provide advice and tools to create a workforce that is not discriminatory. We call on the Minister of Justice to take concrete action against discriminatory acts to better protect individuals and affected communities. Finally, we call on Nova Scotians to stop being bystanders and to take action that will drive change.

Halifax Women's History Society

Sharon MacDonald, Chair

Annual General Meeting & Recipe Sharing Event

Local Council of Women House
989 Young Ave, Halifax, NS B3H 2V9
Meeting at 1pm, event to follow

Bring your favourite family recipes to be scanned.
Refreshments to be served.

Email halifaxwhs@gmail.com or call 902-483-5240 to
confirm your attendance.



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Round Up

- Juanita Pleasant of Kentville, Nova Scotia has designed a [2020 calendar](#) where each day has an entry about black history, both locally and globally.
- Neptune Theatre ran Andrea Scott's play inspired by Viola Desmond, [Collateral Damage](#), from February 5-23.
- The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 has a temporary exhibit on [Jamaican Nova Scotian connections](#) from Maroons to the present day.
- After months of debate, discussion and resistance, Halifax's old Central Library on Springarden Road [has been designated an historic property](#). While that is not a complete guarantee that the site won't be demolished, it is a significant obstacle to that end. The space had been used as the burying grounds for the nearby poor asylum. Thousands of poor and disenfranchised people are still buried there, and the least we can do is show them the respect in death that they did not receive in life.
- Krista McCracken wrote a piece on [embroidery as an historical source](#), focusing on one work by Rachel Barrett of the African School in Halifax.
- Sylvia D. Hamilton, public historian, African Nova Scotian and filmmaker, won the 2019 [Governor General's History Award for Popular Media](#): The Pierre Burton Award.
- On March 31, Bob Chaulk [is giving a talk](#) at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic about the sinking of the SS *Atlantic* in 1873 and specifically about the women on board. In opposition to the "woman and children first" motto we have come to expect, no women and only two children survived.
- Dr. Louise Cabert is giving a talk to the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society on March 18 called ["Women Challenging the Constitution: New Evidence"](#) about the consitutional crisis of 1980-1981.

experience of non-fictional Acadian women.

- HWHS board member Kirby Ross [published a piece](#) in the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society Journal on Pictou women in shipbuilding during the Second World War.
- On February 5, HWHS board member Bridget Graham presented in fellow HWHS Board Member Brenda Hattie's Introduction to Women's Studies class on reproductive health, rights and justice. Bridget is [a full spectrum doula](#) (certified Labour & Birth and Abortion, certifying Postpartum) with Doula Training Canada and Abortion Support Services Atlantic.

What We're Reading

- *Before the Parade: A History of Halifax's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Communities, 1972-1984* by Rebecca Rose
- *Africville: A Novel* by Jeffrey Colvin
- *What She Ate: Six Remarkable Women and the Food that Tells Their Stories* by Laura Shapiro

Want to keep receiving updates? Make sure to let us know if there are any changes to your contact information!



"The Volunteers/Les Bénévoles"
Sculpted by Marlene Hilton Moore

Contribute to the Halifax Women's History Society!

We are proud to say that the society has successfully erected the first historical monument celebrating women in Halifax, but we still have much to do. If you would like to be a part of our future endeavours, consider making a donation to the society. Any amount helps, and we are always appreciative of community support.

To donate via Pay Pal, please follow this link to our website:
<http://halifaxwomenshistory.ca/donations/>

Founded in 2013, the Halifax Women's History Society (HWHS) researches and makes known the untold story of the remarkable contributions that women have made to the history of Halifax. "A Woman on the Waterfront" was the Society's first project.

Membership is available for anyone who wishes to support us. Lifetime membership is \$25 for adults and \$5 for students, purchasable by paypal on our [website](#).

Women's work is too often invisible to the public, especially in the history of the Second World War, which focuses on men and rarely mentions women's volunteer work. Without the work of countless volunteers, Halifax would not have been able to meet the needs of the huge influx of people into the city or support the military personnel and their families who made Halifax home during the war. There are more than 100 cairns, steles, sculptures and plaques in Halifax. Less than a dozen are of female figures and most of these are from mythology or are symbolic. A monument — The Volunteers/Les Bénévoles — to women volunteers honours them and provides public acknowledgement of their numerous contributions.



Newsletter Submissions

Have something you would like to see in our next newsletter or on our blog? An event, news story, picture, piece of writing or historical figure that is relevant to our cause? Please send us the information and we would be delighted to consider it. We are always looking for contributions of 300-700 words to our bi-weekly blog.



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