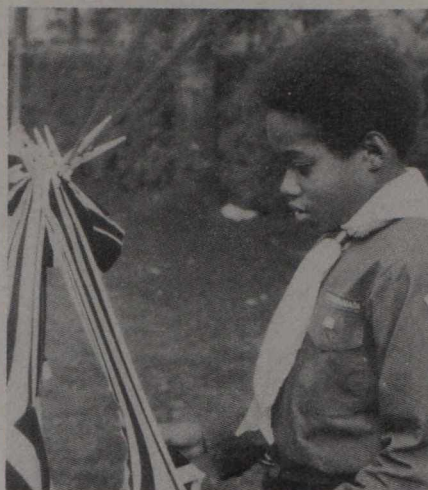


the Laurier era, as well as before the Great Depression and after World War II.

The Maroons, lovers of freedom who had defied both Spanish and English owners in Jamaica, arrived at Halifax in the summer of 1796. After about four years, most of them left for Sierra Leone. The refugee Blacks came from the U.S.A. after the War of 1812. Like the Loyalists before them, they had supported the British cause and, leaving the country of their birth when hostilities ended, headed for the Atlantic region where about 2,000 eventually settled.

The prairie regions, which became Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1905, received some Black settlers among those who migrated to Canada over the turn of the century. The Canadian Government had carried out an extensive campaign to attract settlers both from the U.S.A. and Europe. Black Americans who responded to the call were discouraged by government officials and their agents. Nonetheless, despite difficult barriers, some did get through to begin homesteading in parts of Alberta, such as the Amber Valley settlement.

The most recent Black arrivals in Canada consist of immigrants from the U.S.A. who came to Montreal and Toronto to work on the railroads, as well as groups from the Caribbean. The Americans



arrived during the 1920s, while the bulk of the Caribbean peoples came after World War II. There has been immigration in smaller numbers from other countries, too.

The West Indian element and their descendants now comprise approximately 80% of Canada's Black population, estimated at 300,000. As census data in Canada does not classify people on the basis of race, there are no precise figures.

Today the greatest proportion of Blacks live in the province of Ontario, followed by Quebec and Nova Scotia. With the exception of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and, to a lesser degree, Alberta, where there are still pockets living in rural areas, the Afro-Canadian is an urban dweller. Toronto has a Black population estimated at between 60,000 to 100,000, followed by Montreal with nearly 55,000, of which about 13,000 are French-speaking immigrants who came to Canada mainly from Haiti during the 1950s and 1960s. The Halifax-

Dartmouth area accounts for another 35,400,000.

The Church has been, and still is, a major institution for Blacks in Canada. Black churches are not the result of segregation or discrimination by the majority. Blacks have always been free to worship in the church of their choice, so that the majority belong to integrated congregations. Some preferred, however, to establish their own churches for nationalistic as well as other reasons—a black church has a flavour, a style and form of worship and a function not usually found in others.

Some of the existing Black secular institutions have evolved from the churches. Many tend to reflect national origins, such as clubs and associations named after the various Caribbean islands from which members emigrated. Other groups are organized in different ways and for different purposes. The Coloured Women's Club of Montreal, a social organization formed at the turn of the century, is one of the oldest of its kind in North America. Black political associations as such do not exist. There is no such thing as "delivering the black vote" to any particular party.

Other organizations concentrate on areas such as education, integration of immigrants into Canadian life, housing, employment, youth welfare and commu-

## BLACK FIRSTS IN CANADA

**Lincoln Alexander**—First Black Member of Parliament, 1968.

**Leonard A. Braithwaite**—First Black elected to a provincial legislature (Ontario, 1964).

**Rosemary Brown**—First Black woman elected to any Canadian legislature.

**Anderson Ruffin Abbott**—First Canadian Black to be granted a licence to practise medicine, 1861.

**Dr. Alexander T. Augusta**—First great Black doctor in Canada.

**William Hall**—First Black to receive the Victoria Cross.

**William A. White**—First Canadian Black to receive a

Doctorate of Divinity, 1936.

**Rt. Rev. Wilber K. Howard**—First Black Moderator of the United Church of Canada, 1974.

**Samuel Ringgold Ward**—First editor of 'Provincial Freeman' in Ontario.

**J. A. Robinson**—First President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, early 1900's.

**Johnny Bright, Rolland Miles, Thomas Casey, Herbert Trawick** (First Black professional import in Canadian football).

**Willie O'Ree**—First Black player in the National Hockey League (1950's, 1960's.).