

## Black History Comes Alive in Winnipeg

By Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Andre Sheppard, HMCS CHIPPAWA Recruiting Petty Officer



In the spirit of the Centennial of the Navy, HMCS CHIPPAWA, in conjunction with the 17 Wing Defence Diversity Advisory Group for Visible Minorities, is celebrating Black History Month with the *Canadian Blacks in the Military* display wall. The wall covers 300 years of Canadian Blacks' dedication to serve their country with military service.

The wall and book, *For My Country, Black Canadians on the Field of Honour*, cover the history of Blacks in the military as well as in Canada from the Colonial Period through WW I, WW II and the Post-War Period. Depicted on the wall are numerous historical facts, including William Hall, the first Canadian Navy man, the first Nova Scotian and the first Black of any nationality to win the Victoria Cross for military valour in Canada and in the Commonwealth; Petty Officer Haynes, the first Black to join the



Royal Canadian Navy, Chief Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Raymond Lawrence, the first Black Coxswain of a Canadian warship (HMCS ANNAPOLIS) and Naval Reservists Chief Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Perry Colley of HMCS SCOTIAN and Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Andre Sheppard of HMCS CHIPPAWA.

The wall along with the book are being displayed in defence establishments and schools in the Winnipeg area for the month of February.

Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sheppard is touring around the city with the wall and giving presentations to various organizations telling of the struggles, challenges and accomplishments of our black serving members. The wall is receiving rave reviews and great interest from high school teachers and students.

Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Andre Sheppard, CHIPPAWA's Recruiter and a member of the 17 Wing Defense Diversity Advisory Group, says that growing up black in Canada and being in his 32<sup>nd</sup> year in the Navy, there is so much history on the wall that was never taught in Nova Scotia schools. This is the first time he has seen the wall since its inception. He smiled and commented on how young he looks and how much hair (no grey ones) he has on his picture, which is on the wall. 📷



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