



## **Grey Roots commemorates Black History Month with a film festival, Black history exhibit, school tours and events**

### **For Immediate Release – January 31, 2009**

Every February Grey Roots Museum & Archives celebrates Black History with a variety of offerings leading up to the launch of our *Northern Terminus Journal*. The centrepiece of the festivities is the exhibit *From Slavery to Freedom: African-Canadians in Grey County* open now. This community exhibit honours the contributions made by African-Canadians and their descendants through personal recollections, photographs, and artefacts. This Grey Roots original exhibit will remain on display until March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

The Black History Month Documentary Film Festival held in the Grey Roots Theatre features films such as *Speakers for the Dead* and *Voice of the Fugitive*. Four films will be shown over four weekends, starting on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Movie times are at 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday (except for February 28<sup>th</sup>, see below). The Film Festival is free with admission to Grey Roots.

Schools are welcome to join in the Black History Month festivities by booking a tour at Grey Roots. Programs for elementary grades include learning what life was like for slaves and how they made their escape to freedom in Canada. Exploring the symbolism of the Underground Railroad and making symbols of freedom are also activities in the half-day program. Junior students will research and present findings to their classmates on key issues and contributions of our Black community through the years.

To round off the events for the month, on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 1:30 p.m., Grey Roots Museum & Archives launches Volume 6 of the *Northern Terminus Journal*. The *Northern Terminus Journal* is a publication devoted to celebrating Black History. The afternoon will feature a presentation with readings, followed by musical entertainment with the talented Bobby Dean Blackburn Trio. The new book by Bonita Johnson de Matteis, "Threads," will also be launched at this event. Refreshments and admission to the launch are FREE.

Grey Roots' celebration of Black History is expanding this year with the Grey County Black History Event on April 24-25, 2009, now being held at Grey Roots for the first time. Grey Roots will also host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Emancipation Festival Art Show opening July 17, 2009, and present a Speakers Forum in conjunction with the Emancipation Celebration Festival on July 31, 2009.

**About Grey Roots Museum & Archives:**

Grey Roots Museum & Archives has grown and developed into a unique facility from the County Museum's beginning in 1955 and the later establishment of a County Archives in 2000 in order to promote and preserve the heritage of Grey County. With the consolidation of the Grey County Museum, Grey County Archives, and Tourism in 2004, Grey Roots has become a multi-faceted attraction. Innovative and informative interpretive programs and demonstrations, rotating exhibits, a heritage village, archival resources and superior customer service come together to create an exciting and educational visitor experience.

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Grey Roots Museum & Archives

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