

# Hamilton Black History Council

Proud organizer of the 29th Annual



## 2025 YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INFORMATION

Application deadline: January 10, 2025

The following is provided for **information purposes only**, to help support a strong online application available through:  
[www.johnhollandawards.com/applications](http://www.johnhollandawards.com/applications)

### **SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY DESCRIPTIONS:**

#### **SECONDARY:**

##### **Audre Lorde LGBTQ2S+ Scholarship**

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 LGBTQ2S+ community is a personal decision. HBHC honours one's decision to identify openly or to decide not to do so at all. If the applicant wishes to keep their application and awarded scholarship (if applicable) private, this must be communicated by email to [jchaselection@hbhc.ca](mailto:jchaselection@hbhc.ca). The applicant may also opt out of accepting the scholarship at the event and also has the option of appointing someone to accept on their behalf, with appropriate consent. The External Selections Committee will take appropriate measures to safeguard the privacy of the applicant. Additionally, the Committee will only communicate with the applicant by way of their preferred email address.

**Sponsored by: General Community Donors**

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##### **Dampthey Scholarship for Civic Leadership**

Kojo Dampthey is an avid civic leader who has worked tirelessly to make Hamilton a better city for all residents. From 2018 to 2023, Kojo was the Executive Director of the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion (HCCI). During his time as the Executive Director, he was instrumental in supporting Black youth through the Black Youth Mentorship Program in partnership with the Hamilton Wentworth District School board. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kojo worked with community organizations, community health experts, residents, and academics to raise the issues of health equity, vaccine confidence and the importance of Public Health. Kojo is also an established musician who has contributed to the Hamilton music scene by running festivals where emerging Black Indigenous People of Color artists could share their talents with an audience. Kojo advocated successfully to have musicians paid fairly when they performed at any city event.

This scholarship is given to a secondary student who has demonstrated community leadership and civic engagement in their school, workplace, neighbourhood, or community. The individual must work collaboratively to bring about transformational change.

**Sponsored by: Kojo Dampthey**

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##### **Dr. Ethilda "Tilly" Johnson "Business/Entrepreneurship" Bursary**

Jamaican born, Dr. Ethilda "Tilly" Johnson was the first Black vendor at Hamilton's Farmers Market and successfully operated her business for four decades. In 2002, Johnson was awarded an honorary doctorate from McMaster University

and, in 2006, she was inducted into the Hamilton Gallery of Distinction for her role as a community leader and successful entrepreneur. In 2014, Illuminence Magazine awarded Dr. Johnson with the "Legacy of Merit Award" in recognition of her legacy and invaluable contributions to youth and community development. (Tilly died August 19, 2016, ON)

This bursary is awarded to an individual who is pursuing studies in business and/or whose goal is to be an entrepreneur.

**Sponsored by: May-Marie Duwai Sowa**

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#### **General Achievement Bursary**

This bursary is given to an individual who has excelled academically and has made a positive impact in their school and community.

**Sponsored by: General Community Donors**

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#### **Good Shepherd Health and Social Services Scholarship**

Good Shepherd has been a compassionate presence in the Hamilton community for the past 60 years. Its work is based on a fundamental belief in providing hope and restoring dignity to the city's most vulnerable citizens through programs that seek to tear down barriers and establish a path to a stable and healthy life.

This scholarship is granted to an individual whose school and community contributions best exemplify the values of compassion, hope and dignity and who has shown an interest in pursuing a career in health or social services.

**Sponsored by: Good Shepherd**

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#### **Hamilton Steelworkers Area Council "Community Matters" Scholarship**

The Hamilton Steelworkers Area Council has taken on the mantra "**Community Matters**", a principle which drives its work in the community in organizing barbecues, working with community hubs and several charities, serving the homeless and those in need, hosting The International Day For The Elimination of Racial Discrimination, among other volunteer-driven activities. As a means of fostering the spirit of community, the Council strongly encourages youth to become active members of their communities through effective volunteerism.

This scholarship is granted to an individual who best exemplifies the spirit of "Community Matters" through volunteerism with agencies or groups dealing with those most in need in our community.

**Sponsored by: Hamilton Steelworkers Area Council**

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#### **Immigrants Matter Bursary**

The Immigrants Matter bursary honours the important contributions that immigrants make to the Hamilton community while acknowledging the unique challenges they may face during the settlement process.

This bursary is given to an individual who is an immigrant to the City of Hamilton. Preference is given to an individual who demonstrates financial need and has overcome difficulty in settling within the community.

**Sponsored by: Refuge Newcomer Health**

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#### **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.

**Sponsored by: McMaster University Political Science Department**

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### **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 metre 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 an individual who has accomplished significant achievements in sports leadership.

**Scholarship Partner: Mount Olive Lodge #1**

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### **Reverend George Horton Scholarship**

Reverend George Horton was born in 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 served at many Hamilton churches, including Stewart Memorial. (*Died 26 February 2017, Hamilton, ON*)

This scholarship is given to an individual who has shown interest in the area of Law or Religious/Cultural Studies.

**Sponsored by: General Community Donors**

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### **STEM Scholarship**

The closely related fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) require greater representation from Black communities. The STEM scholarship seeks to encourage Black youth with a curiosity and interest in STEM to explore the possibilities and find a place for themselves in STEM-related fields.

This scholarship is given to an individual who has demonstrated interest in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

**Sponsored by: General Community Donors**

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### **Tune-In Foundation Bursary**

Dejehan (Luckystickz) Hamilton is a singer-songwriter, recording artist and one of the leading steelpan/percussionists in Canada who has worked with such legends as Harry Belafonte, Brian Mcknight and Chili (of TLC) and others. He has developed into an international award-winning and dynamic motivational speaker focused on youth/youth influencers and also works directly with youth locally by connecting them with resources that support their overall health and well-being. As the Founder and Executive Director of the Tune In Foundation, an organization focused on youth empowerment through music education across the globe, Dejehan has worked to positively impact those who are marginalized through targeted programming, one of which is participation in the annual Musica Palooza Camps throughout Ontario.

This bursary is given to an individual who is pursuing studies in music or the arts and/or who has used their talents to ignite creativity in others.

**Sponsored by: Tune In Foundation**

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### **YWCA Young Woman Trailblazer 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 a young woman who is pursuing studies in a field that closely aligns to advancing women's issues.

**Sponsoring Partner: YWCA Hamilton**

## **POST-SECONDARY:**

### **Evelyn Myrie “Political Action” Bursary**

Evelyn Myrie is one of the co-founders of the Reverend John C Holland Awards. She has held 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. Evelyn 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: MP Matthew Green**

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### **Marlene Thomas “Community Advocacy” Bursary**

Inspired by the co-founder of the Reverend John C Holland Awards, Marlene Thomas, this bursary encourages youth and young adults to take action in their communities and choose an educational pathway that further supports their work. Marlene Thomas led 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. Ms. Thomas currently serves as Chair Emerita of Hamilton Black History Council in recognition of her steadfast leadership during her tenure as chair.

This bursary is given to an individual who has demonstrated considerable impact in the area of community advocacy.

**Sponsored by: Hamilton Black History Council**

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### **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.

**Sponsored by: Gowling WLG**

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### **Mature Student Scholarship**

HBHC recognizes that life circumstances may alter a person’s educational pathway. As a result, an individual may access post secondary education later in life, making them a Mature Student.

This scholarship is awarded to an individual who is attending college, university or trade school for the first time and has not been enrolled in full-time secondary school studies for the past two years.

**Sponsored by: General Community Donors**

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Please ensure all of the following documents and requirements are available **BEFORE** starting your application. **ALL required supporting documents must be attached** to this online application at the time of submission. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

### **APPLICATION CHECKLIST:**

- Letter of Recommendation** - One (1) Letter of Recommendation from a member of your school staff or a community organization. Send this **template** to the person providing the letter. This is the only template that will be accepted.
- Personal Statement** - in 250-300 words, describe how your achievements, experiences and goals make you well-suited for the scholarship/bursary for which you have applied
- School Transcript/Record** - Secondary students must submit current transcript and first semester mid-term report card. Post secondary students must submit a current transcript, including all marks up to December 2024.
- Pictures** - Submit 3 high resolution JPG pictures: 2 formal, 1 with family or friends

### **A. ELIGIBILITY:**

To apply for the 2025 Reverend John C. Holland Awards, all applicants must attest that they meet ALL of the following eligibility criteria at the time of submission:

- I self-identify as a person of African or Caribbean descent.
- My principal address is within the City of Hamilton.
- I am between the ages of 16 and 24 years of age (unless specified otherwise in the award description)
- I am a Canadian Citizen, Permanent Resident or Convention Refugee.
- I am a Grade 12 or post-secondary student and will be attending or returning to a post-secondary, trade or technical institution in the 2025/2026 academic year. (Applicants returning to secondary school or deferring their enrolment are not eligible)
- I understand that if selected as a winner, I must provide proof of my enrollment in a post-secondary, trade or technical institution for the 2025/2026 academic year in order to receive my award funds.

## B. PERSONAL INFORMATION

<b>Full Name:*</b>	<b>Pronouns:</b>
<b>Date of Birth (must be 24 years or older):</b>	
<b>Principal Address: (must be in the City of Hamilton): *</b>	
<b>Mailing Address (if different from principal address):</b>	
<b>Primary Phone Contact:*</b>	
<b>Email Address:*</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> I understand that all email communication will be sent to the address I have provided above. I agree to check this email regularly and to reply to any messages promptly. I have saved <a href="mailto:jchaselection@hbhc.ca">jchaselection@hbhc.ca</a> and <a href="mailto:johnhollandawards@gmail.com">johnhollandawards@gmail.com</a> in my contact list as safe emails.	
<b>Current Enrollment: Name of High School/College/University/Apprenticeship/Trade Institution: *</b>	
<b>Indicate your Canadian residency status (at the time this application was submitted):*</b>  ____ Canadian Citizen                      _____ Permanent Resident                      _____ Convention Refugee	

## C. SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY SELECTION:

Winners are announced at the Awards Gala held in-person on Saturday February 24 2024. Applicants are required to be present at this event, unless otherwise arranged.

Scholarships range from \$1000 - \$2000, and bursaries are \$500. Funds are issued directly to the post-secondary educational institution to which you have been accepted or currently attend, unless otherwise requested and agreed upon.

Descriptions for all of the scholarships and bursaries are available at [www.johnhollandawards.com/applications](http://www.johnhollandawards.com/applications).. Please review before making your selection.

**SECONDARY - You must be in Grade 12 to apply \***

- Audre Lorde LGBTQ+ Scholarship
- Dampney Scholarship for Civic Leadership
- Dr. Ethilda Johnson Business Bursary
- General Achievement Bursary
- Good Shepherd Health and Social Services Scholarship
- Hamilton Steelworkers Area Council Community Matters Scholarship
- Immigrants Matter Bursary
- Lincoln Alexander Breaking Down Barriers Scholarship
- Raymond G. Lewis Sports Leadership Scholarship
- Rev. George Horton Scholarship
- STEM Scholarship
- Tune In Foundation Bursary
- YWCA Young Woman Trailblazer Scholarship

**POST-SECONDARY - You must be attending or returning to a post-secondary institution to apply \***

- Dampney Scholarship for Civic Leadership
- Evelyn Myrie Political Action Bursary
- Marlene Thomas Community Advocacy Bursary
- Nelson Mandela Social Justice Scholarship
- Mature Student Scholarship

**The Selection Committee of JCHA may select you for a scholarship or bursary it determines more closely aligns with the information provided in your application. Do you accept?\*** \_\_\_\_ Yes or \_\_\_\_ No

## D. ACADEMIC, COMMUNITY, EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

List up to three (3) academic, community and extra-curricular activities that you achieved or participated in within the last two (2) years\*

Academic and Extracurricular Activities	Brief Description of Activity and Role
1.	
2.	
3.	

If applicable, list up to three (3) awards and recognitions you have received from your community or school within the last two (2) academic years\* Make sure to include the name of the award/achievement, who issued the award, a brief description of the award/achievement, and the year the award was received

Name of Award/Achievement (include who issued the award)	Brief Description of the Award/Achievement (also include the year the award was received)
1.	
2.	
3.	

**E. PERSONAL STATEMENT** - In 250-300 words, please write your personal statement highlighting how your achievements, experiences and goals make you well-suited for the scholarship/bursary for which you have applied. Share as much as you think is relevant for the Selection Committee to evaluate your achievements. \*

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**F. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION** (Attach all of the following to the online application)

- HIGH RESOLUTION PICTURES** - Upload three (3) high resolution JPG pictures of yourself: 2 formal, 1 with family or friends
- LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION** - Upload one (1) Letter of Recommendation from a member of your school staff or a community organization (please use this template).\* Browse Files
- CURRENT TRANSCRIPT** - all applicants must upload a current transcript. For post-secondary students it must include all marks up to December 2024. Browse Files
- MID-TERM REPORT CARD** - Secondary Students must upload their first semester mid-term report card. Browse Files

**G. CONSENT:**

I consent to my name being shared with my school/institution to make them aware of my nomination.

\_\_\_\_ Yes or \_\_\_\_ No

**Applicant Signature:\*** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:\*** \_\_\_\_\_