



Co-founded in 2019 by  
Michèle Newton & Shelly Skinner

## Tonight's Making Change event kicks off Black History Month

'Barrie's population is starting to boom. And while it won't be a major urban centre, it certainly has many more visible minorities than ever before,' Newton says. 'How great is that where we can learn and grow with each other?'

about 2 hours ago by: [Shawn Gibson](#)



Michele Newton, left, and Shelly Skinner get ready to help kick off Black History Month tonight. Shawn Gibson/BarrieToday

Black History Month begins today and two change-makers in the community are celebrating the month with a kick-off celebration this evening.



# Making Change

- Making Change is an ad-hoc organization of community volunteers.
- Launched in 2019 by changemakers Shelly Skinner and Michèle Newton
- Grown to include a team of volunteers who are coordinating the Making Change Black History Month activities and events for 2020.
- Led by a community of Black women.

CITY HALL  
70 COLLIER STREET  
TEL. (705) 792-7900  
FAX. (705) 739-4265  
www.barrie.ca



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BARRIE  
Mayor's Office

P.O. BOX 400  
BARRIE, ONTARIO  
L4M 4T5

## PROCLAMATION

I, JEFF LEHMAN, Mayor of the City of BARRIE,

do hereby proclaim the month of

**February 2020**

as

### **Black History Month**

**WHEREAS;** As Barrie's population becomes increasingly more diverse, "Making Change Across Simcoe County" encourages our community to recognize Black History Month as an opportunity to embrace diversity and foster inclusion; and

**WHEREAS;** Black History Month is a time to learn about the stories and many important contributions of local Black Canadians to the settlement, growth and development of Simcoe County, and about the diversity of Black communities in Canada and their importance to the history of this country; and

**WHEREAS;** During Black History Month, Canadians celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians who have and continue to do so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, nation it is today.

**THEREFORE,** I, Jeff Lehman, Mayor of the City of Barrie, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2020 as "Black History Month."



Jeff Lehman  
Mayor



## Our Focus

- Our goal is to spark broad community interest and foster conversations around inclusion and diversity.
- Through our initiatives centred around Black History Month, Making Change embraces the community values that connect us as people, bring us closer together, and encourage us to support each other.
- It's really about community togetherness.

# Art Engagement Project

Making Change in our community through art expression.

Making Change invited **Grades 4-12 students** to participate in a community **Art Engagement Project**. The project encourages students to:

- **Explore** and celebrate the past and present contributions of Black Canadians;
- **Reflect** on how we can overcome racism and discrimination by making change;
- **Create** their expressions of making positive change through art, dance, music, theatre; and,
- **Share** their creations in the community during Black History Month. In March work will be displayed in the Barrie City Hall Rotunda.



<http://facebook.com/makingchangeSC/>

**EXPLORE REFLECT CREATE SHARE**

# Voices of Black Women in Business



- Diversity and inclusion. Two terms that all businesses need to be thinking about or begin to think about when it comes to moving the dial forward for growth and success.
- An experiential business panel focused on how to include diversity in the workplace.
- Hear from five Black women professionals on their contributions to their respective fields and ideas to attract diverse talent to Simcoe County.

PRESENTED by:



**THURSDAY, FEB 13**  
**11 am - 2 pm**

**Cost: \$15 includes lunch**

Keynote and panel discussion:

- workplace reflections
- key contributions
- ideas to attract diverse talent

**SANDBOX CENTRE**  
**24 Maple Ave., Barrie ON**

In partnership with



## **BLACK WOMEN IN BUSINESS**

**An Executive Keynote and Panel**

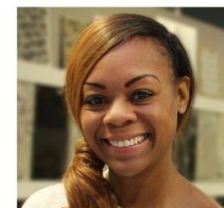
**Keynote Speaker**



**Claudine Cousins**  
**C.E.O.**  
**Empower Simcoe**



**Alicia Samuel**  
**Vice President IT -**  
**Longos**



**Stephanie Gourlie**  
**Owner - Discount**  
**Granite Plus**



**Wendy Vincent**  
**Director -**  
**Konvo Media**



**Shelly Skinner**  
**Owner - Shelly**  
**Skinner Events**

Supported by

**ROGERS tv.**

**Konvo**  
media



# Black History Month Celebration



In partnership with the City of Barrie, Making Change will celebrate February's Black History Month in Barrie on Saturday, February 29, 2020.

- Showcasing speakers, artists, musicians and poets from across Simcoe County
- Highlights the role of diversity and inclusion in honouring the past, embracing the present and supporting the future.
- Invites people to experience Simcoe County in new, refreshed and encouraging ways.



JOIN US!

TICKETS: \$20

29 FEBRUARY 6-10 PM

@FIVE POINTS  
THEATRE, BARRIE

IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH:



BLACK + BLUES



THE FEELIN' GOOD BAND

SKETCHES OF  
BLACK MUSIC



GWYN BEAVER + SHAWN PITRE

All Welcome!

LIVE MUSIC  
EXHIBITS  
FOOD +  
MORE



# Collaborations – Our Mosaic Lives



- Our Mosaic Lives is a social change platform exploring identity, diversity and inclusion.
- To spark discussion on diversity and inclusion, Michèle Newton launched Community Conversations, a quarterly interview series run through Our Mosaic Lives and in partnership with Barrie Public Library.
- Making Change cross-promotes the event

The poster is for a 'Community Conversations' event titled 'Better Together'. It features a portrait of Titi Akinsanmi, a woman with long braids, smiling. The text 'Better Together' is written in a large, elegant script font. Below it, a subtitle reads 'Examining our role as global citizens to inspire, inform, involve and impact our world.' The event is scheduled for 'MON. FEB 24' from '7:30-8:30pm' at the 'BARRIE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 60 Worsley St., Barrie ON'. The poster also mentions 'an interview with TITI AKINSANMI, Global Thought Leader, Policy Expert, Speaker'. At the bottom, logos for sponsors and partners are displayed: 'Proudly sponsored by AMICA LITTLE LAKE', 'In partnership with Barrie Public LIBRARY', and 'Supported by ALLEGRA ALLEGRA MARKETING • PRINT • MAIL' and 'Konvo IT/DESIGN'. A small 'OUR MOSAIC LIVES' logo is in the top right corner of the poster frame.



# Partnerships & Support



## Next steps

Coming up:

- Hold three successful Black History Month Events
  - Art Engagement project
  - Voices of Black Women in business
  - Making Change – Black History Month Celebration

Future:

- Find grants and community support
- Consider forming a not-for-profit





We'd be happy to answer your questions.

Michèle Newton & Shelly Skinner