



Proclamation
Viola Desmond Day
July 6th, 2025

WHEREAS, Sunday, July 6th is Viola Desmond's Birthday. The Black Beauty Culture Association and the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission are marking the occasion with a celebration at Sullivans Pond in Dartmouth.

Viola Desmond was a courageous Canadian civil rights leader, businesswoman, pioneer in the Black Beauty Culture and trailblazer who, on November 8, 1946, challenged racial segregation by refusing to leave a whites-only area of a theatre in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia.

Her arrest, unjustified conviction, and subsequent efforts to seek justice brought national attention to racial discrimination in Canada and served as a catalyst for the civil rights movement in this country. Viola Desmond's legacy continues to inspire generations of Canadians to stand up against injustice, inequality, and racism in all its forms.

In 2010, the Government of Nova Scotia granted Viola Desmond a posthumous Royal Prerogative Mercy Free Pardon, recognizing that her conviction was a miscarriage of justice and an act of racial discrimination. In 2018, Viola Desmond became the first Canadian woman to appear alone on a regularly circulating Canadian banknote, the ten-dollar bill, symbolizing her lasting contribution to the advancement of human rights and dignity.

We also remember her late Sister, Dr. Wanda Robson, who championed Viola Desmond's innocence and educated millions of Canadians about historical racism. The Halifax Regional Municipality is committed to equity, inclusion, and the recognition of the vital contributions of Black Canadians to the social, cultural, and historical fabric of our community and country.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Andy Fillmore on behalf of the Halifax Regional Council, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 6th, 2025, as "Viola Desmond Day" in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Dated at Halifax, Nova Scotia
this 6th day of July, 2025



Andy Fillmore
Mayor