

Taking  
History  
Home:

MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE



**BLACK CREEK**

**PIONEER VILLAGE**

— Toronto and Region Conservation Authority —



Canada is a great place to live! But things haven't always been so easy. Sometimes it takes a special kind of person to make a difference so that the community we live in can be better for everyone.

Let's find out how one incredible Canadian took this idea to heart all the way back in the 1850s!



Mary Ann Shadd was born in 1823 in the United States, where millions of African Americans were being held as slaves.

Shadd moved to Canada in 1850, where slavery had already been abolished, and immediately set to work on making a difference!

PROSPECTUS  
OF THE  
**PROVINCIAL FREEMAN**  
And Weekly Advertiser.

~~The Provincial Freeman will be devoted to Anti-Slavery, Emigration, Temperance and General Literature. The organ of no particular Political Party, it will open its columns to the views of men of different political opinions, reserving the right, as an independent Journal, of full expression on all questions or projects affecting the people in a political way; and reserving, also, the right to express emphatic condemnation of all projects, having for their object in a great or remote degree, the subversion of the principles of the British Constitution, or of British rule in the Provinces.~~

~~Not committed to the views of any religious sect exclusively, it will carefully observe the rights of every sect, at the same time that a reservation shall be made in favor of an existing difference of opinion, as to the views or actions of the sects respectively.~~

As an advertising medium, as a vehicle of information on Agriculture,—and as an enemy to vice in any and every conceivable form and a promoter of good morals, it shall be made worthy of the patronage of the public.

M. A. SHADD, Publishing Agent.

ALL LETTERS, whether intended for publication or on Business, must be addressed, *post-paid*, to M. A. SHADD, Toronto, C. W.

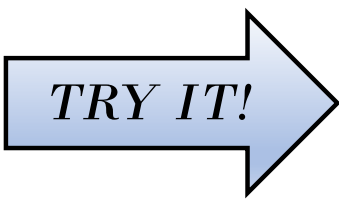
In 1853, Mary Ann Shadd became the first black woman in North America to start her own newspaper!

Shadd ran the *Provincial Freeman* out of Toronto and other Ontario towns. She made the decision to use her power of writing for good, letting her readers know all about the unfair treatment of black people and providing hope for change!

Mary Ann Shadd wasn't just a journalist. She was also a teacher and a lawyer who fought for the rights of women and black people!

Watch *Remembering My Roots* for more information on Mary Ann Shadd:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDR1p6E-T50>



**Mary Ann Shadd knew the hard work that went into making a newspaper in the 1800s. Setting up the type meant learning how to read backward!**



**Can you read the phrase shown above? If you're having trouble, try holding your screen up to a mirror and see what you see!**

**To learn more about how  
printing was done in the  
1800s at a village like Black  
Creek, watch this video!**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvtj\\_-CSTyg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvtj_-CSTyg)



***FINAL ASSIGNMENT!***

**Use the Internet to find three other Black Canadians who worked hard to make a difference in their community.**

**Who are they?**

**What challenges did they face?**

**How did they respond to their challenges?**

**Why do you think each is important?**

**And Finally...**



**What special skill do you have that you could use to make a difference in your community?**