

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Simcoe County Museum to host Black History Month speaker series**

**Midhurst/February 1, 2022** – In honour of Black History Month, the Simcoe County Museum will be hosting a virtual lecture series throughout the month of February. The series will feature expert guest speakers and local historians. Each lecture will explore a different aspect of the long history of Black people in Simcoe County and the Black Canadian experience in general.

<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>Sheffield Park Black History Museum and Heritage Park</b>
<b>Date</b>	Monday, February 7, 2022
<b>Time</b>	1 – 2 p.m.
<b>Location</b>	Virtual
<b>Details</b>	<p><b>Carolynn</b> and <b>Sylvia Wilson</b> will be speaking about Sheffield Park Black History and Cultural Museum near Collingwood and their efforts to recognize the Black history of Grey and Simcoe Counties.</p> <p>Sylvia and Carolynn are direct descendants of early Black pioneers of Simcoe and Grey Counties and co-owners of the Sheffield Park Black History and Cultural Museum.</p> <p>They are both recipients of the 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women Award, the Order of Collingwood and Companion Award, among other awards in recognition of their community and youth initiatives. Carolynn volunteered for over 25 years to restore the Old Durham Road Black Pioneer Cemetery in Priceville, Ontario. Both she and Sylvia have served on the board of the Cemetery Committee.</p>
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>“Several Sides of the Story”</b>
<b>Date</b>	Tuesday, February 15, 2022
<b>Time</b>	1 – 2 p.m.
<b>Location</b>	Virtual
<b>Details</b>	<p><b>Dr. Rita Shelton Deverell</b> will deliver her talk “Several Sides of the Story”, about learning to survive, even thrive, with different truths and different stories about black history and history in general.</p> <p>Dr. Deverell has worked as an academic, broadcaster, television producer, journalist, and theatre artist. She has received numerous awards, including two Geminis, the Black Women’s Civic Engagement Network Leadership Award, and was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2005 for pioneering work in broadcasting. From 2002 to 2005, she served as News Director at the Aboriginal Peoples’ Television Network (APTN), mentoring her Indigenous successor. In October 2021, Dr. Deverell was appointed Chancellor of</p>

Lakehead University, the first person of colour to serve in that role. A native of Texas, she has called Oro-Medonte home for the past 29 years.

### **Registration**

The series is free to join and both individuals and groups can attend. Visit [museum.simcoe.ca](http://museum.simcoe.ca) to register.

### **About the Simcoe County Museum**

Take the Infinite Journey with the Simcoe County Museum, a cultural exploration of our historical past and exciting future. The Simcoe County Museum is owned and operated by the County of Simcoe and offers year round exhibits, events and educational programs for visitors of every age. Visit our website at [museum.simcoe.ca](http://museum.simcoe.ca) for further details. As of February 1, 2022, the Museum is reopen to the public at a reduced capacity. Book your visit online at [museum.simcoe.ca](http://museum.simcoe.ca).

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