

200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trades 1807 - 2007
CMAST Commemorative Events



Dr. Afua Cooper at CMAST launch - February 11, 2007 - City Hall Rotunda

Mayor David Miller presents CMAST founder, Dr. Afua Cooper, with Proclamation for the International Day for the Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade - February 11, 2007 - City Hall Rotunda



Mayor David Miller, Artist Sandra Brewster and Dr. Afua Cooper unveil official CMAST logo - February 11, 2007 City Hall Rotunda



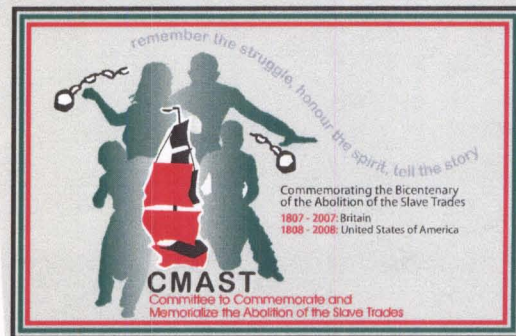
Dr. Afua Cooper speaking on Slavery in Canada - March 25, 2007



Dr. Ray Winbush, author of *Should America Pay? Slavery and the Raging Debate on Reparations*, speaking at CMAST Bicentenary lecture - March 25, 2007



Audience members look on as Dr. Ray Winbush speaks on Slavery and Reparations - March 25, 2007 - William Doo Lecutre Hall, University of Toronto



CMAST
 Committee to Commemorate and
 Memorialize the Abolition of the Slave Trades

On 25 March 1807 Britain legally ended its trade in African human beings and brought to a close its 270-year participation in one of the most horrific experiences in human history. The profits from the slave trade enabled Britain to build the strongest economy in the world, dominate global commerce, and conquer much of the known-world. In short, British might and power rested upon the slave trade.

Yet Britain was not the only nation involved in the buying and selling of African bodies. Other nations such as Portugal, Spain, the United States, Brazil, France, Holland, Scandinavia, and Brandenburg Germany were also involved in this crime against humanity, and from which they reaped huge profits. It has been estimated that the various slave trades brutally and forcibly removed upwards of 75 million Africans from their homelands. Those who survived ended up in an atrocious form of chattel slavery in the Americas. The European slave trade was largest forced migration in human history.

The year 2007 marks the bicentenary of this Abolition, (2008 marks the American Abolition) and the world community is poised to memorialize this momentous occasion. At the end of November 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to commemorate the 200th anniversary and designated 25 March

2007 as the International Day to mark this event. The Resolution “recognized the slave trade and slavery as among the worst violations of human rights in the history of humanity, bearing in mind, particularly, the scale, duration and lingering impact.” The UN further acknowledged that, “the institution of slavery is at the heart of profound social and economic inequality, hatred, bigotry, racism and prejudice which continue to affect people of African descent today.” Canada was one of the member countries that supported the Resolution.

With that in mind, the Committee to Commemorate and Memorialize the Abolition of The Slave Trades (hereafter known as CMAST) was formed to spearhead events in Canada, especially in Toronto, the Greater Toronto Area and Ontario wide. The importance of the Canadian commemoration lies not only in the fact that Canada as member country supported the Resolution but also because, as a colony of France and Britain, Canada participated in the slave trade, and also practiced the institutionalized enslavement of African people. Further, Canada played a seminal role in bringing about the abolition of slavery. It is therefore of critical importance to bring knowledge of the slave trade, slavery, and the various abolitions to the Canadian public. Moreover, the UN Resolution urged member states to “educate and inculcate in future generations,

an understanding of the lessons of history and consequences of slavery and the slave trade.”

CMAST is made up of persons from all walks of life, including media, academia, business, labour, government, youth and senior groups, religious groups, and artists. It will mark the anniversary through performances, lectures, film festival, symposia, exhibits, and other activities. It will also collaborate with local, national and international partners to commemorate and memorialize these events.

For more information on our upcoming events and bicentenary news please visit our website at www.cmast.ca

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