The History of Africville

Africville was founded in the mid-18th century. Africville was home to predominantly Africans. It was a Nova Scotian community for more than 150 years before the City of Halifax relocated the community between 1964 to 1970.

Africville became a prosperous seaside community, but the City of Halifax demolished it in the 1960's in what many said was an act of racism. After decades of neglect and the placement of undesirable services there such as a dump.

By the 1960s, many white Halifax residents referred to Africville as a slum built around the dump by scavengers. Seeing Africville as a "slum" formed an important part of the public acceptance of Africville's destruction Africville's school was closed in 1953 as Nova Scotia de-segregated its education system. The city has developed the land into the Seaview municipal park (now named Africville Park.) Which has become an annual place of pilgrimage for the Africville Genealogical Society, an organization of former residents and their descendants.

The community of Africville and its former residents are an important part of Nova Scotia's history and culture. That is why Africville is being honoured on Heritage Day, Monday, Feb. 17.

Quick Facts:

The population of Africville grew to 400 residents after the Second World War.

in 1967, the final property in Africville was expropriated and demolished in 2010, Halifax Regional Municipality Mayor Peter Kelly apologized for the destruction of Africville with a commitment to build a replica church. A replica of the Seaview church was built as a museum in 2012. The Museum is in Africville Park.

The Museum

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AFRICVILLE

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