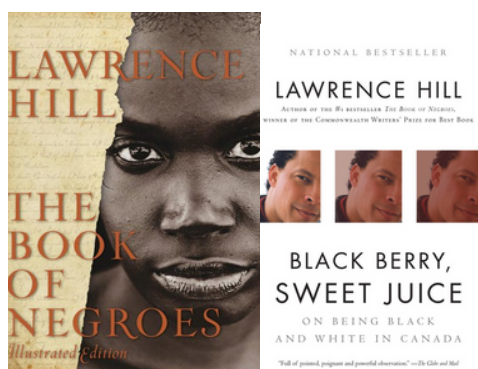


# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE

FEBRUARY 28, 2022

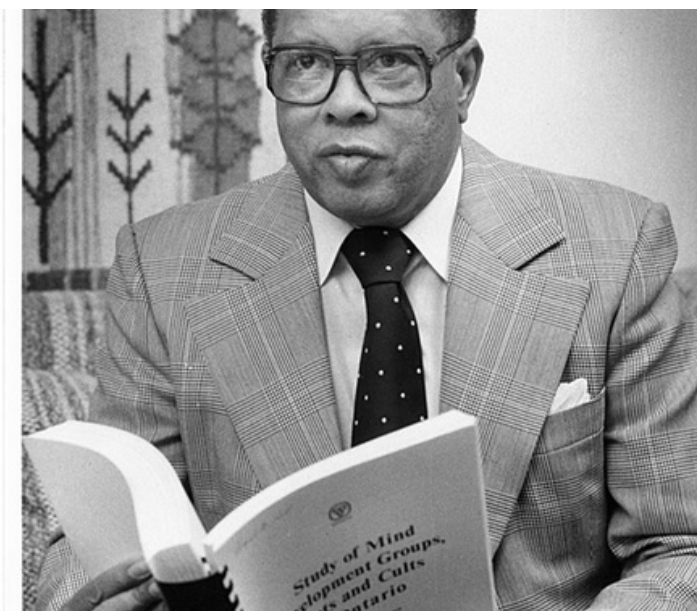


## CREATING POSITIVE IMPACT THROUGH THE ARTS

All of Hill's children went on to follow their dreams in the arts, and became inspiring Black Canadians. We encourage you to take the time to explore the work of these talented and influential artists.

Dan Hill went on to become a singer and songwriter, while Lawrence Hill became a journalist and novelist, writing several books, including one you may know, *The Book of Negroes*. Karen wrote several poems and stories. You can find some of her work on the Archives of Ontario's website.

*Images taken from  
lawrencehill.com*



*Image: Daniel G. Hill fonds,  
Reference Code: F 2130-9-2-13, Archives of Ontario, 10027959*

## ADVOCATE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: DANIEL G. HILL

Daniel Grafton Hill came to Canada from the United States hoping to find less discrimination and more acceptance. What he did find was that, although Canada during the late 20th century was considered more accepting, there still existed a lot of prejudice and a more covert type of racism. For example, he and his wife encountered difficulty finding a place to rent and found that landlords would lie about availability once they would meet with him. But Hill came with a determination to create a better life for himself, his family and Black communities and equal opportunities for everyone.

Having graduated from the University of Toronto with a PhD in social work earlier, in 1962 he was appointed the first director of the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) and later, the Chairman.

**Continue on page 2...**

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

KING HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE

---

FEBRUARY 28, 2022

---

## ADVOCATE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: DANIEL G. HILL

...Continued from page 1

In this role, he took the time to actually get to know the people who filed complaints and as a result, established bonds and became loved by many. In 1973, after serving for many years for the OHRC, he left to start his own business, Daniel G. Hill & Associates, which was the first of its kind in Canada. Hill, along with his associates, provided advice to many, including the Government of Ontario and the City of Toronto. Hill also published a book, *The Freedom Seekers: Blacks in early Canada*, in 1981, which quickly became very popular. In 1984, he became the Ombudsman for Ontario.

In this newsletter, we have highlighted only a few of Hill's accomplishments. Make sure to check out the Archives of Ontario's online exhibit on the life of Daniel G. Hill, "The Freedom Seeker: The Life and Times of Daniel G. Hill," to learn more about how one man fought for what's right.



*Daniel G. Hill and his family.*

*Image: Daniel G. Hill fonds,  
Reference Code: F 2130-9-2-11, Archives of Ontario, I0027965*