



# The EDGE Program

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EMPOWER . DEVELOP . GROW . ENGAGE

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## Cotillion Ball

Delta Toronto East Hotel

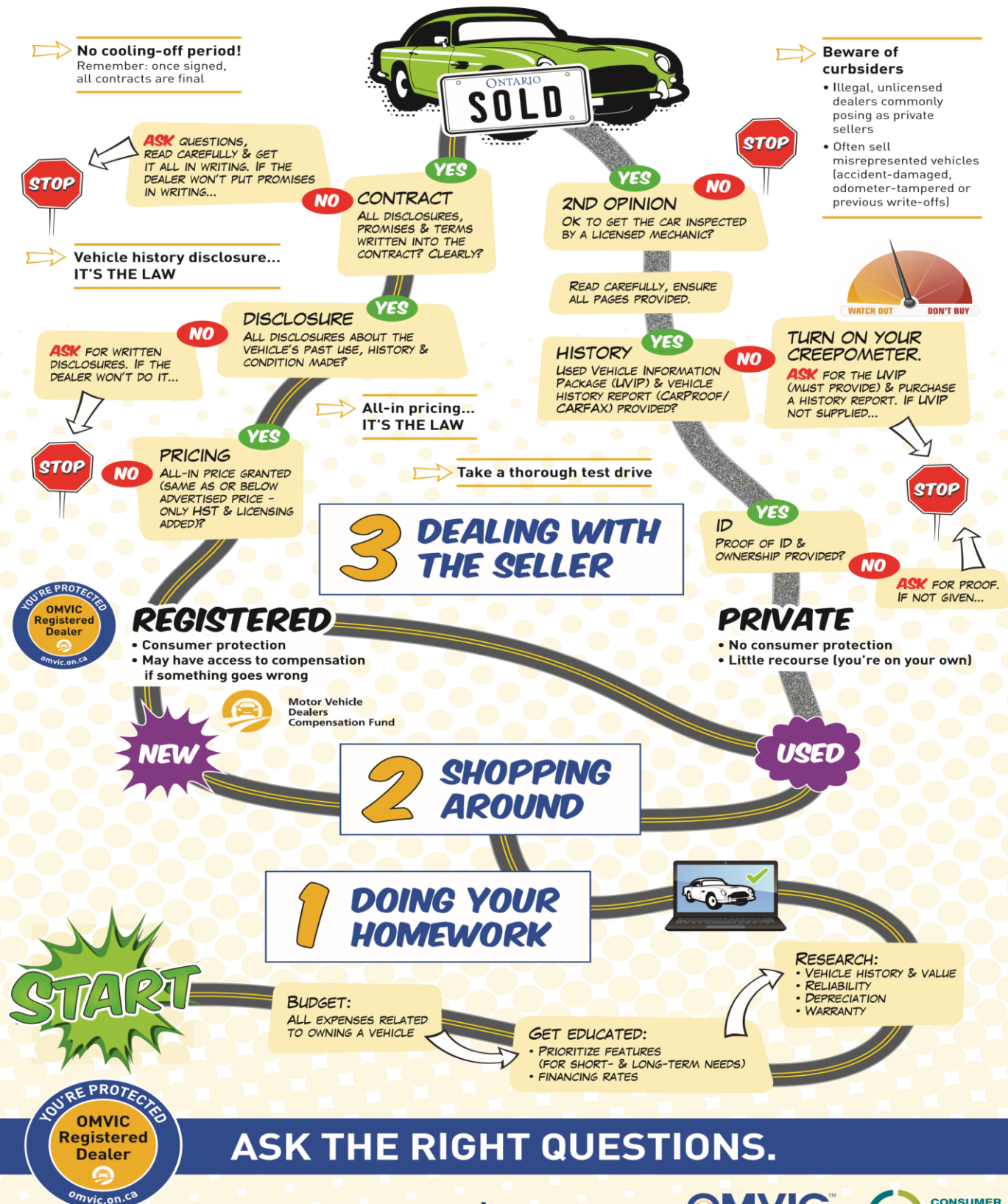
SATURDAY JULY 22, 2017



[takeetheedge@gmail.com](mailto:takeetheedge@gmail.com) | [edgeprogram.net](http://edgeprogram.net)

# The Road to Buying a Car in Ontario

Ontario consumers are faced with a number of big decisions when buying a car. Whether buying from a private seller or an OMVIC-Registered Dealer, ask the right questions along the way to protect yourself & make an informed purchase.



# *The EDGE Program*

*Presents the EDGE Ball*

—2017—

## MESSAGE FROM THE 2017 **EDGE** PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE

The 2017 EDGE Program Planning Committee is pleased to welcome you to this prestigious event. Thank you so much for coming. A lot of devotion has been poured into making this night a success and we sincerely trust that you will enjoy every minute of this exciting evening.

The youth in our society need the tools to succeed in this world and we are here to help them to achieve this goal. Our mission is to provide a forum for them to excel in their undertakings; to gain self confidence, and to become amazing and independent individuals in the ever-changing world's landscape. So, it is with this in mind that a program was devised to complement the general academic curriculum to which our youth are accustomed. The programs offered - to name a few - Dining Etiquette and Social Graces, Financial Planning, Public Speaking, Tools of Engagement, Ballroom Dancing, Navigating your Career Path – have all contributed to the preparation of the participants' entry into a world of challenges with confidence and self-esteem. Supported by you, our program will continue to develop, grow and empower our youth to strive for success in their chosen fields. And for this we thank you.

To our Debutantes, Beaux and Juniors: to give you a competitive EDGE as you venture out into the world of opportunities, we ask that you apply the learning experiences gained from The 2017 EDGE Program to your lives to help strengthen your resolve to be the best you can be in your future undertakings.

PAY IT FORWARD BY SHARING YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.

*2017 EDGE Program Planning Committee*



**Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario**

July 22, 2017

### **A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER**

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone attending tonight's ball and congratulate all graduates of the EDGE program.

A lot of devotion has been poured into making tonight such a success. As you don your gowns and tuxedos to celebrate your accomplishments, take pride in your achievements. Your commitment to self-enrichment empowers you to explore life's opportunities with the poise and tenacity it takes to pursue your dreams and realize your potential.

I commend the mentors, community leaders and volunteers involved in the success of this program. By creating an environment in which youth can grow more confident and develop their social and professional skills, you demonstrate your commitment to enriching the lives of young people in your community.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable ball!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen Wynne".

**Kathleen Wynne**  
**Premier**



### Message from the Mayor

It is my esteemed pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the EDGE program's EDGE Ball.

The City is proud of organizations that are committed to making a difference. I thank everyone participating in this fundraising event for your contribution to the well-being of our communities.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for a memorable event and continued success.

Yours truly,



John Tory  
Mayor of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
100 QUEEN STREET WEST, TORONTO, ONTARIO M5H 2N2



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<https://edgeprogram.net>





## Toronto Police Service

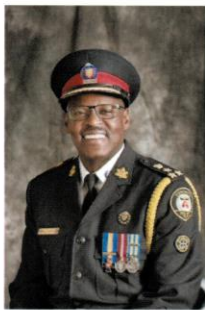
40 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. M5G 2J3  
(416) 808-2222 FAX (416) 808-8202  
Website: [www.TorontoPolice.on.ca](http://www.TorontoPolice.on.ca)



Mark Saunders  
Chief of Police

File Number: .....

### Message from the Chief of Police



On behalf of the Toronto Police Service, I would like to extend greetings to everyone attending the 2017 EDGE Program Cotillion Ball.

The EDGE Program was created for the worthy purpose of developing an enrichment program for young people. The program is committed to promoting and encouraging innovative and positive changes by offering young women and men the tools necessary to excel and become leaders of the community.

The Cotillion Ball celebrates the accomplishments of these young people. I would like to acknowledge and thank the Organizing Committee for their continued support of this annual event. All of you should be commended for your dedication and commitment to the youth of our community.

I extend my sincere congratulations to all participants and wish you an enjoyable evening!

Best wishes!

*Mark Saunders*

Mark Saunders, O.O.M.  
Chief of Police

## JONATHAN HOOD

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Jonathan Hood is a former CFL athlete, motivational speaker, youth mentor, corporate coach and business owner.**

At the early age of 23, Jonathan began his professional football career after being drafted to the Edmonton Eskimos. Later, he went on to play for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in 2010, and finally the Toronto Argonauts in 2013. What started off as a love for the game quickly turned into a passion for speaking when he and his teammates began making appearances at public school engagements.

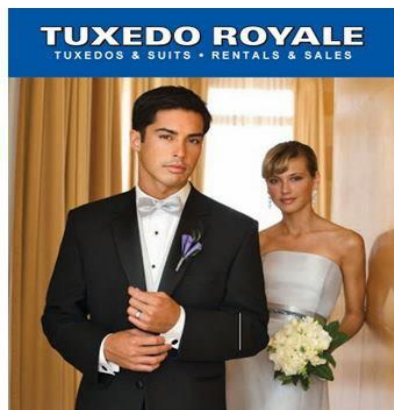
A natural born leader, Jonathan quickly realized his ability to influence. In 2011, he founded [Ahead of the Game](#), a [youth mentorship program](#) designed to empower youth and promote positive change. Since then, he and his team of facilitators have appeared at over 25 schools across the Greater Toronto Area and serviced over 1000 kids, youth, and young adults. Ahead of the Game quickly garnered a high success rate, with 91% of regular attendees not only passing classes, but attending sessions more regularly, actively engaging in participation, and having less negative interactions in the classroom, as well.

Now, Jonathan uses his gifts to inspire both youth and corporate professionals alike to reach their highest potential and #GetAfterIt. He can also be found speaking at corporate events, conferences, business fundraisers, educational facilities and much more.

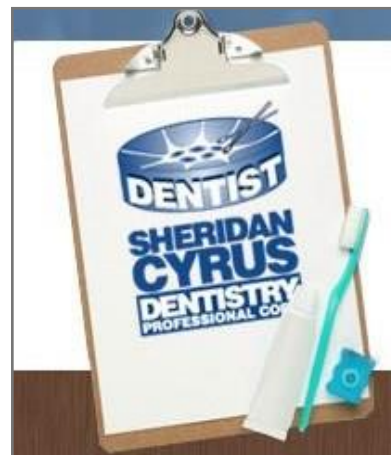
Jonathan has been mentored under the leadership of business professionals such as John Maxwell and CFL Hall-of-Famer Michael 'Pinball' Clemons. He graduated from St. Francis Xavier University with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Psychology. He also holds a Master's degree from The University of Western Ontario in Kinesiology/Sports Psychology.



*Jonathan Hood*



Jason Slaney  
Email: [jslaney@tuxedoroyale.com](mailto:jslaney@tuxedoroyale.com)  
Telephone: 416-738-4239





## PROGRAM

Host Introduction of Chairs	Roderick Brereton
Welcome	Patricia Gloudon – on behalf of the 2017 EDGE Program Planning Committee
Anthems – O Canada and Lift Ev’ry Voice	Perfect Cadence
Grace	Janet Jackson, 2017 Committee Member

## DINNER AND DESSERT SERVICE

Musical Interlude	Courtenay Frazer and Perfect Cadence
Becoming	Joan Smith, 2017 Committee Member
Official Greetings	Roderick Brereton
Juniors Welcome Presentation	Junior Participants 2017
Official Presentation and Introduction	Debutantes, Beaux and Junior Participants 2017
Grand Entrance March	Debutantes, Beaux and Junior Participants 2017
Keynote Address	Jonathan Hood
Dance Presentation	Debutantes, Beaux 2017
Acknowledgements	Roderick Brereton
Dance Performance	Children and Youth Dance Theatre
Who is the EDGE?	Daveisha Francis, 2017 Debutante
Presentation of Trophies and Certificates	Joan Smith and Donna Jennings, 2017 Committee Members
Announcement of Debutante and Beau of the Year	Patricia Gloudon, Heron Amanuel and Troy Harryman
Final Dance	2017 Debutantes and Beaux
Dancing	DJ; Perfect Storm



## COURTENAY FRAZER, “PERFECT CADENCE”

### FEATURE BAND

Courtenay Frazer is a pianist with a wealth of stylistic knowledge.

He has been singing and playing instruments in the church since 1986, winning district and regional Teen Talent competitions for group ensembles, as well as piano solos at the church he attended - Driftwood Church of God. Courtenay went on to play keyboards for a country folk band, The Haltons, directed by his late father, Wesley Frazer. His journey soon took him into other arenas of music, where he began singing for the Gospel quartet “Surrender”, a well-known group on the Toronto Gospel music scene.

Courtenay’s diverse musical inspiration can be attributed to his deep appreciation for the music of such Gospel greats as Thomas Whitfield, Daryl Coley, The Clark Sisters and Ben Tankard, as well as his affinity for the artistry of the top Jazz players known as Oscar Peterson, Herbie Hancock, Art Tatum, and Chick Corea. His love of music encouraged him to study at Humber College of the Performing Arts where he completed studies in the Art of Jazz in 1999. In the same year Courtenay formed *Perfect Cadence*, a Gospel Jazz Group which encompasses the traditional make up of Bass, Drums, and Keys.

Since then, Courtenay has moved into challenging yet inspiring territories of music that have allowed him to bring new light to Gospel Jazz, embracing the feel of Smooth Jazz, Fusion and other realms of music.



*Courtenay Frazer*

**SW**  
Sandra Whiting  
SPEAKER | STORYTELLER | EVENT HOST

*Lets Talk*

“

STORY  
PERFORMANCE

*Storytellers rule the World!*

BOOK SANDRA  
Sandra Whiting Associates | Toronto, ON  
Email: [info@sandrawhiting.ca](mailto:info@sandrawhiting.ca) | Phone: 416 573-1375



# *The EDGE Program*

## *Presents the EDGE Ball*

—2017—

### THE EDGE PROGRAM AT OMVIC

The OMVIC (Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council) is Ontario's Vehicle Sales Regulator. OMVIC enforces the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act and other consumer protection statutes for the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services. OMVIC's mandate and role is to maintain a fair and informed marketplace by protecting the rights of consumers, enhancing industry professionalism and ensuring fair, honest and open competition for registered motor vehicle dealers. This is achieved by maintaining strict dealer/salesperson registration requirements; inspecting all Ontario dealers (new and used); providing free complaint handling to consumers; developing/delivering consumer and dealer education/awareness programs, and investigating and prosecuting industry non-compliance and illegal sales (curbsiding). OMVIC's partnership with The EDGE Program began in early 2014 and has proven to be a highly rewarding experience.

In June The EDGE Program organized a retreat for students which included numerous workshops. OMVIC presented a workshop on Office Etiquette – a topic whose importance is not always appreciated or understood. We are pleased to report that the students were motivated, engaged and came prepared with important questions.

This year's summer placement student is Dominique Hunte who joined OMVIC's Registration team in early July. In the fall, Dominique will be attending University of Ottawa's Biomedical Science Program in the extended French stream. Dominique is respectful, eager to learn, professional and always brings a positive attitude to work. All the placements have been extremely successful, and we look forward to further strengthening the relationship between OMVIC employees and The EDGE Program.

The EDGE Program has demonstrated itself as a valuable and worthwhile initiative for the young people in the GTA area and for OMVIC, and we look forward to continuing this important partnership.

*Lesley Goldthorpe*

Human Resources Manager, OMVIC



Contact us at: (647) 977-7485 10  
[taketheedge@gmail.com](mailto:taketheedge@gmail.com)  
<https://edgeprogram.net>

## RODERICK BRERETON

HOST



*Roderick Brereton*

Roderick is an African-Canadian raised in Toronto, Ontario. Roderick has a vested interest in diversity and social cohesion. From an early age he had a passion for behavioral science and social change. Attending York University and graduating with a BA in Sociology, he thereafter completed comprehensive training in Anger Management, Conflict Resolution, Change Management, Facilitation and Mental Health Wellness/Recovery.

Roderick provides professional well experienced consultation to communities, schools, groups, teams, corporations, non-profits and individuals. He manages bringing about various aspects of change in prosocial development, education and advancement. He is known for being a speaker, trainer and innovative social subject matter expert. His ability to provide resolve based services addressing the complex challenges of racialized and first nations communities set him apart from other companies.

In addition to his studies, Roderick has also written and produced urban music since the 1980's. In 2007 Roderick and his production team produced the Best Reggae recording receiving a prestigious Juno Award. His experience in the music industry has taught him how to infuse popular culture to engage effectively. Combining his formal training and experiential learning, he develops self-

empowering pro-social change strategies. Roderick is the founder and owner of the conflict/change management consultancy Urban Rez Solutions. He has worked extensively since 2000 directing capacity building initiatives.



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<https://edgeprogram.net>



DEBUTANTES, BEAUX



JUNIORS

## THE 2017 GRADUATES



*Kelise Allum*

### KELISE ALLUM

**SPONSOR** Janet Jackson  
**SCHOOL** Francis Libermann Catholic School  
**HOBBIES** Listening to music  
**CAREER GOALS** To be Child and Youth Worker

#### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Inspirational quote: "Everybody's path is different. All you can do is stay patient, trust with time, and remain humble"



*Andy Anyaele*

### ANDY ANYAELE

**PARENTS** Andy(Sr.) and Comfort Anyaele  
**SPONSOR** Serena Thompson  
**SCHOOL** Centennial College  
**HOBBIES** Playing basketball  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Computer Technician

#### PERSONAL COMMENTS

I am grateful for The EDGE Program at this stage in my life. I love interacting with my fellow participants and especially the committee.

### KIANNA MACAULAY

**PARENTS** Ronke Macaulay  
**HOBBIES** Running, swimming, soccer

#### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Kianna's favorite color is blue. She loves to eat tacos and Nutella sandwiches (not at the same time). When she's not at school Kianna enjoys playing soccer and running. She broke the Ontario relay record in midget track winter games.



*Kianna Macaulay*





*Shalyah Mullings*

## SHALYAH MULLINGS

<b>PARENTS</b>	Sandra Richards and Uriel Mullings
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Rosa Berdejo-Williams
<b>SCHOOL</b>	Newtonbrook Secondary School
<b>HOBBIES</b>	Dance, playing soccer, track and field
<b>CAREER GOALS</b>	To become a Nurse

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

I would like to thank Ms. Andrea Douglas for introducing me to this program first as a “Little Sister” and now I have become a Debutante. I would also like to thank my sponsor, Rosa Berdejo-Williams, for making sure everyone attends the workshops on the weekends on time. Building my confidence was a big part of this program and I will take this experience with me wherever I go in life.



*Marcus Arauz*

## MARCUS ARAUZ

<b>PARENTS</b>	Silvia Argentina Arauz
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Rosa Berdejo-Williams
<b>SCHOOL</b>	Vaughan Secondary School
<b>HOBBIES</b>	Playing basketball, soccer, baseball, hockey, volleyball, track and field
<b>CAREER GOALS</b>	To own my own construction company

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

I enjoy playing sports very much. One day I hope to start my own construction company and work with my brother. Thank you to my Sponsor, Rosa, for introducing me to this amazing program.

## JENEILIA JOHNSON

<b>PARENTS</b>	Collette Myers and Jay Johnson
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Dr. Cyrus
<b>HOBBIES</b>	Dancing, reading, swimming

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Jeneilia’s favorite colors are pink, purple and blue. She loves to eat oxtail, spaghetti and meatballs and ice cream (but not at the same time). When she’s not at school Jeneilia loves to play with her cousin and friends. Thank you to Andrea Stewart for always being there.



*Jeneilia Johnson*



*Sierra Campbell*

## SIERRA CAMPBELL

**PARENTS** Debzra McAlpin  
**SCHOOL** Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School  
**HOBBIES** Dance, photography  
**CAREER GOALS** To become an Entrepreneur

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

I am 17 years of age and attend Notre Dame Secondary School where I am working towards my high school diploma. I love to spend time with my family and friends enjoying life with laughter. In my spare time I love dancing and taking photographs. After high school I want to attend college or university to get a degree in business. I hope to become an entrepreneur and travel the world.



*Tyreke Small*

## TYREKE SMALL

**PARENTS** Arlene Faulknor-Henry  
**SPONSOR** Ariel Hylton  
**SCHOOL** Thistletown Collegiate Institute  
**HOBBIES** Dancing, playing sports  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Psychologist and also work with underprivileged children. I would like to own my own business.

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

"I believe in human beings, and that all human beings should be respected as such, regardless of their colour." – Malcolm X There are three wonderful women in my life whom I would like to thank: my aunt, Leonie Falconer, for introducing me to this program; my cousin, Ariel Hylton, for sponsoring me in this once in a life opportunity, and my wonderful mother, Arlene Faulknor-Henry, for always being a big supporter in my life. Without her encouragement I would not have accomplished all I have so far in my life. "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." – Dr. Seuss

## ALANNA VALLADAES-FOUNTAIN

**PARENTS** Dezerray Fountain and Quinn Valladares  
**SPONSOR** Liz Valladares-Pereira  
**HOBBIES** Playing with her brother, playing outside, watching shows on her tablet, playing games

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Alanna's favorite colors are blue and purple. She loves to eat roti and poutine! When she's not at school Alanna enjoys going to the jumping gym with Kwame, playing with her baby brother and, best of all, she loves taking naps!



*Alanna  
Valladares-Fountain*



*Daveisha Francis*

## DAVEISHA FRANCIS

**PARENTS** Dave and Aisha Francis  
**SCHOOL** Ajax High School  
**HOBBIES** Reading, cooking  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Speech Pathologist

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

I am a kind-hearted, intelligent person who has five siblings whom I love dearly, as well as my parents and nephew. I absolutely love to read, especially realistic fiction and historical fiction novels. I also love to cook and sing. After high school I plan to move to England to attend the University of Sussex for studies in neuroscience. Further down the road, I plan to become a speech pathologist. I have learned a lot from The EDGE Program and I am now more social and open with my opinions. I have also been able to meet and make friends with my fellow classmates. The EDGE has been a positive experience for me.



*Justin Bennett*

## JUSTIN BENNETT

**PARENTS** Dalton and Nicole Bennett  
**SCHOOL** Stephen Leacock Collegiate Institute  
**HOBBIES** Video games, computers  
**CAREER GOALS** Work in progress

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

I have learned a lot from The EDGE Program and I am now more social and open with my opinions. I have also been able to meet and make friends with my fellow classmates. The EDGE Program has been a positive experience for me.

## ALYSSA HUNTER

**PARENTS** Natalie Nesbeth-Hunter and Andrew Hunter  
**HOBBIES** Dancing, reading

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Alyssa's favorite color is blue. She loves to eat mangoes, ackee and saltfish and dumplings (but not at the same time). When she's not at school Alyssa enjoys gymnastics and swimming.



*Alyssa Hunter*



*Simone Pennant*

## SIMONE PENNANT

**PARENTS** Rodney and Andrea Pennant  
**SCHOOL** St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School  
**HOBBIES** Playing guitar, shopping, hanging out with friends  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Paediatric Nurse or a Child and Youth Care Worker

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

My favourite quote is from the bible, Joel 2:25 "God can restore what is broken and change it into something amazing. All you need is faith."



*Jevoy Lawrence*

## JEVOY LAWRENCE

**PARENTS** Bridget Lawrence  
**SPONSOR** The EDGE Program  
**SCHOOL** Pickering High School  
**HOBBIES** Soccer and Cricket  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Welder

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

I am here to participate in The EDGE Program. I find it very interesting so far. Basically I have learned that participating in this program will help me achieve my goals in life and communicate well with others.

## DAIJAH DANIEL

**PARENTS** Dionne Campbell and Richard Daniel  
**HOBBIES** Dancing, gymnastics

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Daijah's favorite color is peach. She loves to eat pizza! When she's not at school Daijah enjoys gymnastics in the backyard.



*Daijah Daniel*



*Nevaya Francis*

## NEVAYA FRANCIS

**PARENTS** Ovie Onagbeboma  
**SCHOOL** Michael Power Secondary School  
**HOBBIES** Dancing, sports, track and field  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Lawyer or Marketing Manager

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

I love sports and I love to dance. I've been dancing since I was 3 years old and competitive dancing since I was 8 years old. I want to attend York University for a Bachelor of Commerce degree and apply to law school when I graduate post secondary school, or become a Marketing Manager after high school. The EDGE Program was very beneficial and helped me in so many ways. I have more confidence now and I have been taught proper etiquette, so that I may present myself in a respectful, appropriate manner in a setting where I can use the skills I have learned. This program developed my communication skills and I gained a new set of friends with whom I can network in the future. I also learned the value of money and how to budget; how to create a resume and a cover letter, and how to present myself at a job interview.



*Kristopher Caine*

## KRISTOPHER CAINE

**PARENTS** Sharon Gillies  
**SCHOOL** Humber College  
**HOBBIES** Cooking, playing basketball  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Nurse and then a Doctor

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

This program was very insightful for me. It has helped me to communicate with others, learn more about myself and practising the right things toward my personal development. My goal in life is to make a change in the world by touching as many peoples' lives as I can, by giving them a good impression of myself so that I may help those who are unable to help themselves. I hope to do that by becoming a Nurse and then a Doctor. "Keep trying, keep reaching, keep dreaming!"

## MAKAYLA KEDROE

**PARENTS** Taniesha Thompson and Cassius Kedroe  
**HOBBIES** Dancing, swimming, creating crafts

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Makayla's favorite color is blue. She loves to eat curry crab, curry goat and mangoes (but not at the same time). When she's not at school Makayla enjoys swimming, making new crafts and playing with her cousin.



*Makayla Kedroe*





*Kyanna Lual*

## KYANNA LUAL

**PARENTS** Alma Lual  
**SPONSOR** The EDGE Program  
**SCHOOL** Phillip Pocock Catholic Secondary School  
**HOBBIES** Reading, cooking, listening to music  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Teacher or a Psychologist

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

I want to thank my beautiful and wonderful mother for all her sacrifices and her faith in me.



*Nicolas Arauz*

## NICOLAS ARAUZ

**PARENTS** Silvia Argentina Arauz  
**SPONSOR** Rosa Berdejo-Williams  
**SCHOOL** Vaughan Secondary School  
**HOBBIES** Playing basketball, soccer, volleyball, track and field  
**CAREER GOALS** To become an architect

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

I love my family (brother, nephew, cousins, grandparents and mom) very much. Participating in the program has allowed me to become more involved in community initiatives which is something I enjoy very much.

## KIARRA MACAULAY

**PARENTS** Ronke Macaulay  
**HOBBIES** Running, swimming, gymnastics

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Kiarra's favorite color is purple. She loves to eat cheese pasta and cheese pizza. When she's not at school Kiarra enjoys swimming and running. She broke the Ontario relay record in midget track winter games.



*Kiarra Macaulay*



*Zoe Amponsah*

## ZOE AMPONSAH

**PARENTS** Keble and Maria Amponsah  
**SCHOOL** Emily Carr Secondary School  
**HOBBIES** Acting, listening to music, soccer  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Corporate Lawyer

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

I joined The EDGE Program to connect with other teens who are like-minded and within my community and culture. Through the workshops I have gained important and necessary information for my personal and professional future development, as well as life skills that will continue throughout my years.



*Oshane Walker*

## OSHANE WALKER

**PARENTS** Nadine Keen  
**SPONSOR** The EDGE Program  
**SCHOOL** Winston Churchill Collegiate  
**HOBBIES** Playing music, basketball  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a musician or Neuroscientist

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

"I am who I am."

## ALIYAH GLOUDON

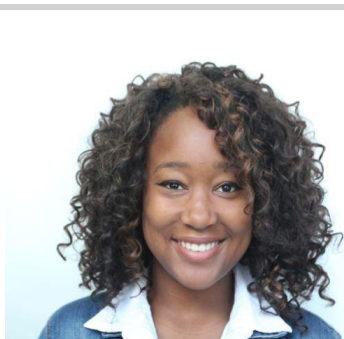
**PARENTS** Dean and Angela Gloudon  
**HOBBIES** Dancing, drawing, creating crafts

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Aliyah's favorite color is lime green. She loves to eat hotdogs! When she's not at school Aliyah enjoys playing with friends, soccer, catching snails for the garden, and hiking with her family.



*Aliyah Gloudon*



*Dominique Hunte*

## DOMINIQUE HUNTE

**PARENTS** Dave and Wynette Hunte  
**SCHOOL** Pierre Elliot Trudeau High School  
**HOBBIES** Soccer, dancing  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Dermatologist

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

I am currently graduating Pierre Elliot Trudeau High School and I aspire to become a Dermatologist. Next year I will be attending the University of Ottawa's Biomedical Science Program in the extended French stream. Thank you to all The EDGE Program members for this impactful experience and, as always, mom and dad for your unwavering support. "Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." – Romans 12:2NIV



*Akinshaye Bedeau-Bennett*

## AKINSHAYE BEDEAU-BENNETT

**PARENTS** Terri Bedeau  
**SCHOOL** Runnymede Collegiate Institute  
**HOBBIES** Music, fashion, sports, cooking  
**CAREER GOALS** To explore the areas of Culinary Arts or Fashion Design

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

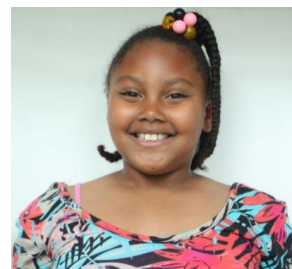
As a participant in The EDGE Program, I consider myself to be one of the lucky ones. At first, I wasn't sure what to expect, but, over time, I realized that this was an experience unlike any other. I've had the opportunity to meet new people and to learn new skills. I've participated in workshops that have helped me to develop both personally and professionally. Many thanks to the organizers, my sponsor, and my family for their continued support and encouragement. My advice to the young men and women ... Give The EDGE a chance. Open your mind. Try something new. You will not be disappointed.

## ALYSSA BAKSH

**PARENTS** Sharifa Baksh  
**HOBBIES** Dancing, creating crafts

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Alyssa's favorite color is pink. She loves to eat pizza! When she's not at school Alyssa enjoys dancing, singing and painting.



*Alyssa Baksh*

Special thanks to our 2015/2016 EDGE Program Debutante and Beau of the year:

## HERON AMANUEL

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

"The starting point of achievement is desire" - Napoleon Hill.



## TROY HARRYMAN

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

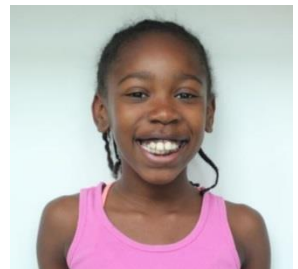
The hard work and success I have in life isn't only for me but for all the people around me, especially those who have done so much for me in the past.



## JASMINE GRANT-CAMPBELL

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain!  
#danceitout #nevermissachancetodance





## MEET THE ORGANIZERS



The **EDGE** Program Planning Committee is a group of dedicated volunteers who share in the vision of the **EDGE** philosophy: **Empower. Develop. Grow & Engage** our young people. In addition to these volunteers past graduates and supporters assist in making the program have an **EDGE**!



*Patricia Gloudon*

## PATRICIA GLOUDON

**Organization Role:** Co- Chair

**Career:** Retired; Funds Director at Scotiabank, 40 years and 9 months of service

**Personal Comments:** Together with education, we believe that style, etiquette, and leadership are vital skills for success; our focus is on teaching our participants the poise and tenacity that will help them make powerful and lasting first impressions. I am so proud to be a part of this program that changes and impacts young lives.



*Lance Wilson*

## LANCE WILSON

**Organization Role:** Co-Chair

**Career:** Semi-Retired; Consultant in the dental industry developing strategic plans for dental and health care professionals

**Personal Comments:** This Program is all about giving back into the community and “paying it forward”. My children have been through the program and it has had an amazing impact...the young people come out of the program with the “Tools for Success”.



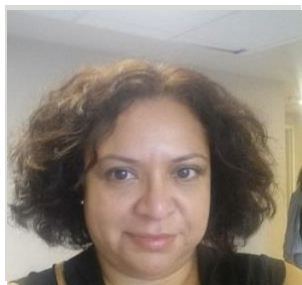
*Tracy Grant*

## TRACY GRANT

**Organization Role:** General Manager, Operations Planning

**Career:** Business Analyst at Bell Canada, 19 years of service

**Personal Comments:** As a community, we need to bond together to build up our children so they feel empowered to go after their dreams because we are here supporting and encouraging them to shine. The EDGE is their extended family and we remain connected offering assistance in any way we can.



*Rosa Berdejo-Williams*

## ROSA BERDEJO-WILLIAMS

**EDGE Organization Role:** Community Partners Liaison and Grant Writer

**Career:** Program Coordinator for York University Transition Year Program, 14 years of service

**Personal Comments:** I volunteer for The EDGE because the program represents all the values I believe in and provides the necessary life skills to help succeed in today's competitive work field.



*Courtney Roberts-Lawes*

## COURTNEY ROBERTS-LAWES

**EDGE Organization Role:** Mentor/Workshop Facilitator

**Career:** Writer, Product Marketer, Thomson Reuters,

**Personal Comments:** As a graduate of this program, I've witnessed its benefit and impact on a young person's life firsthand. Participation requires youth to break out of their shells and exude confidence in various environments, which they don't learn in conventional classrooms. The program is about building lasting relationships, networking and doing what it takes to get noticed; life skills that are necessary to succeed in the workforce in the world.



*Donna Jennings*

## DONNA JENNINGS

**EDGE Organization Role:** Editor-in-Chief

**Career:** Retired from the Broadcasting Industry after 30 years.

**Personal Comments:** There is so much talent in the Black community and the purpose of The EDGE Program is to help our Youth to develop both their latent and identified talents that will channel them into an ever-changing society with confidence, pride and self-esteem. They need guidance toward a sense of purpose and this program is the perfect conduit to help them to achieve those goals. My advice to our 2017 graduates is: Be true to yourself. Be who you are. Care not what others think you should be.



*Liz Valladares-Pereira*

## LIZ VALLADARES-PEREIRA

**EDGE Organization Role:** Youth Services Co-ordinator

**Career:** Supervisor of Social Workers, 35 years of service

**Personal Comments:** My daughter was a debutante many years ago. Since then my god daughter and two grandchildren have also taken the program. The EDGE encourages black youth to aspire to be the best they can by equipping them with life skills, introducing them to a network of black professionals and uplifting them with positive reinforcement. The night of the ball is magical as you see confident transformed individuals who are happy, proud and engaged. The sky is the limit for our graduates!



*Serena Thompson*

## SERENA THOMPSON

**EDGE Organization Role:** Community Outreach Coordinator

**Career:** Sickie Cell Advocate

**Personal Comments:** It's been a fulfilling journey to watch the Beaux and Debutantes flourish in The EDGE program and I can't wait to work with them in the community throughout the year. Congratulations to everyone and enjoy your Graduation Ball.



*Jameeka Murdock*

## JAMEEKA MURDOCK

**EDGE Organization Role:** Choreography Assistant, Admin Officer Edge Youth Alumni

**Career:** Performing Arts Student, George Brown College

**Personal Comments:** I enjoy assisting with the workshops (dining etiquette and dance choreography). It has been a lot of fun getting to know the new debutantes and beaux and I congratulate them for completing the 2017 EDGE Program.



*Jasmyn St. Hilaire*

## JASMYN ST. HILAIRE

**EDGE Organization Role:** Vice-president, Edge Youth Alumni

**Career:** Fashion Management Student, George Brown College

**Personal Comments:** I am a former debutante of The Edge Program graduating in 2014. I was recently voted into George Browns colleges student Union as The Casa Loma Campus Director for the 2017/2018 term. I have gained so much in my time with the Edge and it excites me to be able to mentor the youth who come into our program in a positive manner. My one wish is that through the Edge we are able to help all our youth reach their full potential. *Never forget to 'leave a little sparkle everywhere you go!'*



*Brianna Hylton*

## BRIANNA HYLTON

**EDGE Organization Role:** President, Edge Youth Alumni

**Career:** Business Law Student, Ryerson University

**Personal Comments:** As the 2014 debutante of the year, now turned President of the EDGE Youth Alumni Committee, nothing makes me happier than to see more and more of my peers complete this program. EDGE helped me to grow and discover my full potential and self-confidence. My goal is to encourage more youth to do the same. Taking initiative and working towards personal development is really what gives you an EDGE in life, and I hope all of this year's participants find success in all of their future endeavours by drawing on the lessons they've learned with us. To the EDGE graduates of 2017: Congratulations! You did it! I wish you all the best and hope you all continue to be the best you that you can be.

## WHAT PARENTS HAVE SAID...

*"I would like to thank everyone involved in the amazing retreat we had with the youth from the E.D.G.E. program; June 8-10, 2017. What an amazing group of youth and what an amazing energy of love and kindness we were able to generate(AWESOME). It is with this in mind that I would like to ensure that we stay connected as cultural caregivers of the most precious cargo we have; our youth." - Much joy, Coach Grant, Camp Oneness*

\*\*\*

*"This program has transformed my daughter to know the importance and value of believing in herself and her abilities, of being more social and of becoming an active and responsible member to society." – D. McAlpin, Ajax, ON*

\*\*\*

*"The EDGE Program is both useful and necessary for youth in our community. I have seen great improvement in my child since she enrolled in the program. The workshops and facilitators convey a wealth of important information to participants, who are now equipped with knowledge they will take with them throughout their journey to Success. "It takes a village..." Thank you to The EDGE Program Committee." - M. Amponsah, Vaughn, ON*

\*\*\*

*"This is such an amazing program. I will definitely recommend this program continue to receive LAEN promotional support for the next round. My boys have really gained a lot from being a part of this process" - S.Arauz, Toronto, ON*

\*\*\*

*We are most delighted that we decided to enroll Dominique in the EDGE Program! This opportunity has encouraged our daughter to showcase her natural grace and has been instrumental in teaching her how to network and sell her strengths. The EDGE Program's values align perfectly with what we as parents have taught Dominique and what we envision her becoming in the future. The excitement that she expresses when discussing what she learned in the various workshops is in itself, rewarding. Dominique has been emboldened to continue to strive for excellence and with the support of the EDGE Program's teachings, she is further prepared to start her post-secondary career. Going forward, we have no doubt that Dominique is more equipped to grab a hold of every opportunity that benefits her success as she propels forward into adulthood. We are so proud of her and grateful that this program exists within Toronto's Black community and that we can celebrate her growth not only as a family, but as a village tasked with raising our children to be the best version of themselves. Thank you EDGE Program for giving Dominique this exceptional experience. DW.Hunte, Ajax, ON*

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Congratulations the EDGE program for giving our youth the edge!  
"An investment in knowledge pays the best dividends." - Benjamin Franklin

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## THE 2017 EDGE PROGRAM - WORKSHOPS AND FACILITATORS

WORKSHOPS	FACILITATORS	BIOGRAPHIES
Navigate your career path	Tanya Dacres	Tanya is a Senior Manager People Strategy at Sapient Razorfish.
Health and Wellness	Dr. Nadine Thornhill	Nadine is a member of the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counsellors and Therapists; The Sexuality Information Council of Canada and The Centre For Sex Education. She holds a Doctor of Education in Human Sexuality, with a concentration in child and adolescent sexual development.
Tools of engagement (Etiquette)	Joanna Parris	Joanna is a Certified expert in Image, Etiquette and Lifestyle Management. Founder of Etiquette Nanny, Joanna has been teaching etiquette, manners and first impression for over 10 years
Civic Duties	Yvette Blackburn	Yvette currently holds a Bachelor of Education, Major Bachelor of Criminology and a Bachelor of Arts (political science). Yvette is a Grade5 teacher at Macklin Elementary School in Scarborough
Selling You	Janielle Mckoy	Janielle is an eclectic wardrobe stylist, visual display artist and now advocate for youth and adults living with Dyslexia. She is known for her effortless take on style and let's her clothes tell a story. Styling for the past 15 years, Janielle is known as one of the most influential forces working in fashion today.
Financing Freedom	Kris Daley	Kris is a Senior Analyst, Statutory Reporting at BMO. Kris conducts variance analysis, investigating any significant variances with data sources including lines of businesses. Kris received his Master of Science in Accounting and Bachelor of Science in Economics and Accounting at the University of West Indies.
Kemetic Yoga	Vonette Ford	Vonette is a Kemetic Yoga instructor working in the Toronto area. Kemetic Yoga originates in Africa and assists participants with transcending self.
Office Etiquette	Lesley Goldthorpe	OMVIC - Human Resources Professional with over 15 years of experience with expertise in employee relations, recruitment and selection, performance management and STD/LTD/WSIB claims management.
Resume Writing	Jacquie Daniels	Jacquie is an Employer Consultant for CareerLink Employment services. Jacquie is a youthful, experienced HR trainer and carries an extensive in computer technology.
Public Speaking	Hugh Simmonds	Through public speaking and storytelling, Hugh has empowered executives, entrepreneurs, transitioning professionals and students to uncover their passion, unfold their purpose and share the power of their story. Hugh is passionate about people, processes and digital media platforms that inspire individuals and highlight the power of public speaking, storytelling and relationships as a sensory narrative.
Rites of Passage/ Black History	Coach Grant Williams	Head Coach of Sully's Boxing Gym, grew up in the downtown Toronto area in a family of 14 children. With a solid background as a community leader – Founder of The Canadian Youth Project, a career in the Canadian Army as a Drill Instructor for the Recruit School of Canada, and a Boxing Coach in the 2004 Olympic Games in Greece.
Career Panel	Nadine Spencer	Nadine is the CEO of BrandEQ Agency. When she's not in the office Nadine is an adventure capitalist, making the most of life and all it has to offer.
Career Panel	Dr. Violet Rawlings	With 20+ years of experience in Nursing, Dr. Rawlings has worked in diverse settings ranging from Emergency care to Trauma, Critical Care, Intensive Care, Acute Medicine to Rehabilitation, Community and Long-Term Care as an RN, Nurse Manager, Facilitator, Program Lead, and Clinical Nurse Specialist. She's also the Chairperson for various Quality Improvement Programs and Nursing Advisory Committees.
Career Panel	Frederick Lewis	Frederick is an Entrepreneur Pipe Fitter Welder who works with hydraulic systems and plumbing
Career Panel	Dean Gloudon	Dean is a Senior Consultant at CGI. Currently working on both Active and Directory BCS Citrix Teams. Dean's role has typically been system integrator. Working with clients to integrate new software/product from within the client's network. More recently clients are spending less time installing new software and more time on system maintenance.

## WORKSHOPS AND FACILITATORS CONTINUED...

WORKSHOPS	FACILITATORS	BIOGRAPHIES
Career Panel	Courtenay Frazer	Courtenay has been singing and playing instruments in the church since 1986, winning district and regional Teen Talent competitions for group ensembles, as well as piano solos at the church he attended - Driftwood Church of God.
Career Panel	Dennis Nelson	Denis is a Director of Building Services working for a Property Developer for the past 30 years. Dennis is responsible for the operations of commercial office buildings located in Toronto and surrounding areas.
Career Panel	Safiya Rose	Safiya was called to the Ontario Bar in 2014. She earned her Honours Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto in 2006, and her Juris Doctor from Osgoode Hall Law School in 2012. She practised criminal law for 2 1/2 years, and now works as a Consultant for Deloitte LLP. Prior to law school, Ms. Rose's interest in social justice lead her to volunteer and eventually work full-time at a multi-care facility for homeless men between 2006 and 2009. In her spare time, she enjoys regular and intense aerobic activity, and spending time with family. Her faith is very important to her, and is the driving force behind all of her career-oriented endeavours.
Career Panel	Karlene Ebanks	Karlene has been an Educator with the Toronto District School Board and is entering her 20 <sup>th</sup> year in teaching. Most of her career has been in the West Toronto teaching and building in the city's most vulnerable communities. Also having taught in Atlanta, Georgia, her experience and knowledge is extensive in the area of equity and inclusive education, in addition to special education. She has been a Course Director at York University for the Urban Diversity Education Program in the Faculty of Education and has been a part of a select group of participants in the AQ Consultation Committee for Ontario College of Teachers. Currently she is teaching in the intermediate division at Alexander Stirling PS but also spent 4 years teaching at Heritage Park PS also in the Malvern area.
Career Panel	Jacqui Steer	Jacqui (a retired educator) was employed by the Durham District School Board for 29 years. During that time, she has worked as a classroom teacher, Special Education Facilitator, Vice- principal and principal in a number of schools as well Staff Development Officer at the district office. Jacqui implemented the district's new teacher induction programme and coordinated workshops designed to meet the needs of new teachers. In addition, she worked with district teams to recruit new teachers to the board. Jacqui has served on a variety of equity and leadership committees and community board of directors.





## ANDREA DOUGLAS

### DANCE EDUCATOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER

Andrea Douglas, educator, dancer and choreographer, received her training at The Guyana National School of Dance, the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica, York University Faculty of Fine Arts and the University of Toronto. Ms. Douglas has trained and performed with legendary Caribbean dancers including Eduardo Rivera of Cuba, and Rex Nettleford of Jamaica.

A former dancer with the Guyana National Dance Company and the National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica, Andrea is the Artistic Director of the Children and Youth Dance Theatre of Toronto, a community-based Dance Academy for underserved children. She is currently an Administrator with the TDSB and an avid advocate for Arts in Education and Integrated Arts as a Differentiated Instruction process.

Andrea was the resident choreographer of the Applause Institute Cotillion Ball, and continues as resident choreographer with The EDGE. She has facilitated Lecture demonstrations, presentations and Dance workshops at local and international Conferences and Dance Summits. Andrea is the proud recipient of the 2013 Harry Jerome Award of Excellence in the Arts.



*Andrea Douglas*



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## RETREAT





## WORKSHOPS



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### SPONSORSHIPS

Patricia Gloudon	The EDGE Program Planning Committee
Stanley Julien	
Jane Haladay	

### DONATIONS

Shirley Brown
---------------

### CREDITS

Malvern Methodist Church	Workshop Facilities
Sheldon Jones; Perfect Storm	Disc Jockey
Massiel Sanchez	Make-up Artist
Shay Brown	Make-up Artist

### SPECIAL THANKS TO

Scotiabank	Yearbook printing
Tracy Grant	Yearbook Design, Layout and Typesetting
Nadine Spencer; BrandEQ Agency	Logo, Website Design and Yearbook Cover
Sandra Whiting	Program Consultant and Luncheon Host

### THE 2017 EDGE PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE

Patricia Gloudon	Liz Valladares-Pereira	Donna Jennings
Tracy Grant	Rosa Berdejo-Williams	Delorean Klien
Joan Smith	Maureen Simpson	Courtney Roberts-Lawes
Serena Thompson	Leonie Falconer	Jennifer Matherson

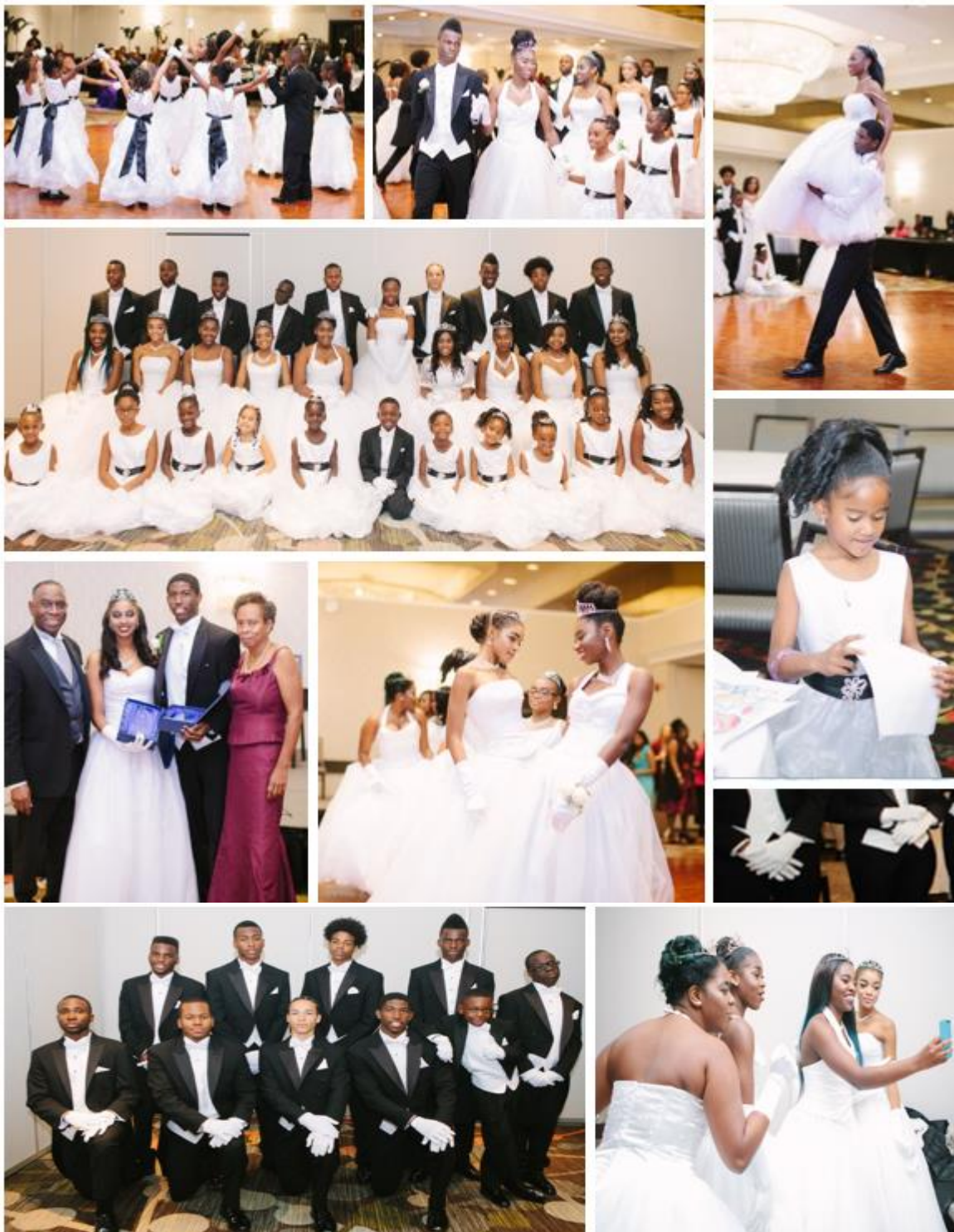
### THE 2017 EDGE ALUMNI COMMITTEE

Brianna Hylton	Jameeka Murcock	Jasmyn St. Hilaire
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**\*\* Special thanks to Coach Grant Williams, Camp Oneness\*\***



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2015 EDGE BALL





## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2015 BALL CONTINUED



## THE EDGE PROGRAM

Fundraising Luncheon

### EVENT PROGRAM

Welcome	Program Co-Chairs - Patricia Gloudon and Lance Wilson
Introduction	Master of Ceremonies
National Anthem	
Grace	

### SERVING OF BRUNCH

Musical Dance Presentation
Musical Medley
"Why we do what we do" Part 1
Story Telling
"Why we do what we do" Part 2

### SERVING OF DESSERT

Presentation
Introduction of the Committee
Raffle/Door Prizes
Closing Remarks







## BECOMING

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Beau: Program \$300

Junior Debutante: Program \$150

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<b>Payment Details:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque	
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## THE EDGE PROGRAM

The **EDGE** Program offers Black youth - male and female between the ages of 16 and 20 - a unique, transformative experience that **Empowers** them to **Develop** and **Grow** their social and professional **Engagement** skills.

The **EDGE** provides diverse workshops that expose participants to information and techniques not offered in a conventional classroom. Designed to empower and motivate, The **EDGE** Program engages participants in a variety of leadership workshops, team-building exercises and includes a weekend retreat.

The **EDGE** Program is conducted in a safe, non-judgmental environment where mutual respect and support for their peers are promoted. As participants travel through this journey, we quickly establish the importance of adapting the skills and techniques they will gain while participating in the program.

Workshops are conducted during the spring - ending early summer. The **EDGE** concludes with a formal presentation ball where participants are re-introduced to their family and friends as graduates of our program.

Workshops offered in the Program are:

Ballroom, Hip Hop/Jazz and Modern Dancing	Leadership and Time Management
Canadian Black History	Public Speaking
Career Panel "Lived-it" Discussions	Resume Writing
Civic Duties	Selling You
Dining Etiquette and Social Graces	Social Media – Your Digital Footprint
Financial Planning	The Law and You
Health and Wellness	Yoga

Graduates have an opportunity to continue learning through our pre-arranged work internships and volunteering. We are aware that in today's world a strong drive to succeed is one of the most valuable gifts a young person can have, and increasingly one of the hardest to achieve. Technical skills may get you the interview, but without social graces and a strong work ethic, getting the job will be an overwhelming task.

We are committed to helping our community's young people to develop skills and attitudes that will support their future goals. We do our utmost to help participants find their inner spark and fan it into a bright flame.

We encourage you to give financial support to this program so that youth may enjoy the benefits of this transformational experience. Their involvement in The **EDGE** is just a small investment that will earn big dividends.

The cost of the Program:

Debutantes and Beaux (ages 16-20): \$300.00

Junior Debutantes (ages 6-9): \$150.00

For further information, please contact:

(647) 977-7485

[taketheedge@gmail.com](mailto:taketheedge@gmail.com)

<http://edgeprogram.net/>

## NHI Congratulates the EDGE Program Graduating Class of 2017



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Scotiabank is proud to support the Youth Development Program and Cotillion Ball in their goal to help young people develop tools for success. When we invest in young people, we invest in our shared future.

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