

# *Cotillion Ball*

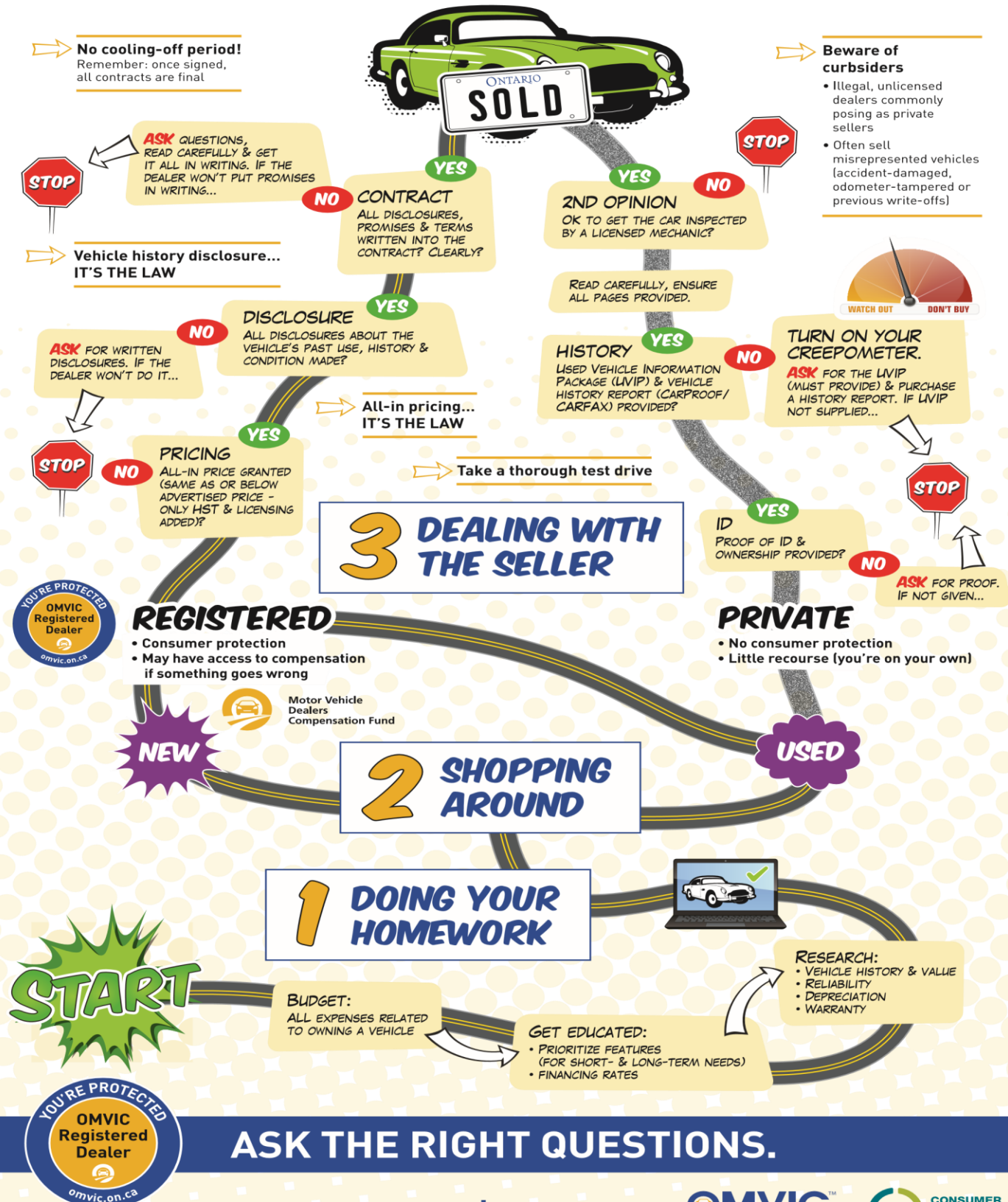
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SATURDAY | JUNE 23, 2018



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# *The EDGE Program*

*Presents the EDGE Ball*

—2018—

## MESSAGE FROM THE 2018 **EDGE** PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE

The 2018 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 2018 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.

*2018 EDGE Program Planning Committee*



## Toronto Police Service

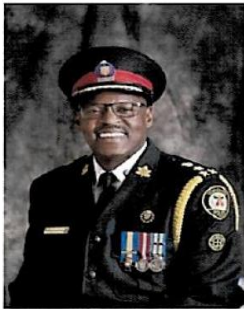
40 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. M5G 2J3  
(416) 808-2222 FAX (416) 808-8202  
Website: [www.TorontoPolice.on.ca](http://www.TorontoPolice.on.ca)



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 a warm welcome to everyone attending the EDGE Cotillion.

The EDGE program is unique in that it provides the opportunity for young people to learn social and professional skills that complement the curriculum offered in a traditional learning environment.

To the graduates – you are our most important asset. Confidence, self-esteem and continuous personal development all contribute to a sense of empowerment that will serve you well as you move through life. I am proud of you for engaging in, learning and graduating from this program. Have a wonderful time as you celebrate your accomplishments.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the mentors, community leaders and volunteers who work diligently to provide an innovative program that impacts lives in our communities. I commend you for taking the time to enrich, inspire and empower young Black men and women.

Sincerely,

*Mark Saunders*

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





HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

**Gary Anandasangaree**

Member of Parliament  
Scarborough—Rouge Park



June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

**Greetings from Gary Anandasangaree**

**Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Rouge Park, Toronto, Canada**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome those of you who are gathered here this evening for the *2018 EDGE Cotillion Ball*.

Since its inception, the EDGE Program has encouraged black youth from our community to reach their true social and professional potential. EDGE youth draw their strength from four fundamental pillars: Empowerment, Development, Growth and Engagement, and quickly acquire the skills necessary to become the next generation of visionary community leaders.

I would like to thank the staff and volunteers at the EDGE Program who continue to improve the lives of local black youth and congratulate those of you graduating from the EDGE Program this evening!

I look forward to the continued success of the EDGE Program for many years to come!

Yours very truly,

Gary Anandasangaree  
Member of Parliament  
Scarborough-Rouge Park

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[taketheedge@gmail.com](mailto:taketheedge@gmail.com)  
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## RANDELL ADJEI

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Randell Adjei is a spoken word practitioner & Edutainer who uses the spoken word to empower through Edutainment.**

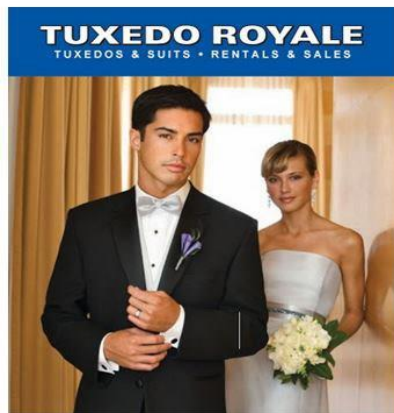
Randell is the founder of one of Toronto's largest youth led initiatives; Reaching Intelligent Souls Everywhere (R.I.S.E Edutainment). The beat of his Art was found after years of being lost. He found himself by turning his struggles around to inspire others.

Randell is also an Inspirational Speaker, Community Organizer and a MaRS DD - Studio Y Cohort 2 fellow. He is 1 of 4 coaches involved in the Toronto Public Library (Poetry Saved Our Lives) project. A featured performer on TEDxUTSC and has opened up for Terry Crews, Paul Mooney, Maestro Fresh Wes and many more.

Randell is the recipient of the Identify & Impact Street Level Advocate Awards by the Toronto Youth Cabinet, Black Canadian Awards - Best Spoken Word award winner. Randell was also named CBC Metro Morning's Torontonion of the Year in 2015 and NOW Magazines Local Hero in May 2017.



*Randell Adjei*



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





## PROGRAM

Host Introduction of Program Chair	Sandra Whiting
Welcome	Patricia Gloudon – on behalf of the 2018 EDGE Program Planning Committee
Anthems – O Canada and Lift Ev’ry Voice	Perfect Cadence
Grace	2018 Committee Member

## DINNER AND DESSERT SERVICE

Musical Interlude	Courtenay Frazer and Perfect Cadence
Becoming	Rosa Berdejo-Williams, 2018 Committee Member
Official Greetings	Sandra Whiting
Juniors Welcome Presentation	Junior Participants 2018
Official Presentation and Introduction	Debutantes, Beaux and Junior Participants 2018
Grand Entrance March	Debutantes, Beaux and Junior Participants 2018
Keynote Address	Randell Adjei
Dance Presentation	Debutantes, Beaux 2018
Acknowledgements	Sandra Whiting
Dance Performance	Children and Youth Dance Theatre
Who are the EDGE	Sierra and Tyreke, 2017 Beau and Debutante of the Year and Jameeka 2014 Debutante
Presentation of Trophies and Certificates	Joan Smith and Donna Jennings, EDGE Program Volunteers
Announcement of Debutante and Beau of the Year	Patricia Gloudon, Sierra Campbell and Tyreke Small
Final Dance	2018 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

*Let's Talk*

“

STORY  
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BOOK SANDRA

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# *The EDGE Program*

## *Presents the EDGE Ball*

— 2018 —

### 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>

## SANDRA WHITING

HOST



*Sandra Whiting*

Sandra Whiting has been at the epicentre of activity and change in Toronto's African Canadian community for over thirty years.

She has worked with, among others, The Black Business and Professional Association, the Jamaican Canadian Association, The YWCA, Factory Theatre, Obsidian Theatre, The Caribbean Cultural Committee, as VP of Culchaworks and currently presides as President of PACE Canada.

As a writer and storyteller, Sandra uses the arts as a vehicle for change. She was awarded the Harry Jerome Award for Community Leadership in 2002, has received the JCA Award and the Gleaner Awards for Community Service.

Born in Kingston Jamaica, Sandra now runs her own Event Planning Business - SWA Associates (Sandra Whiting Associates) - and is a storyteller, M.C., and Inspirational speaker.



*EDGE Family*





DEBUTANTES, BEAUX



JUNIORS



## THE 2018 GRADUATES



*Kiana Thompson*

### KIANA THOMPSON

**PARENTS** Donna and Nicholas Thompson  
**SPONSOR** Jae Vidal-Thompson  
**SCHOOL** University of Waterloo  
**HOBBIES** Online gaming, practicing saxophone, reading  
**CAREER GOALS** To be improve the correctional system and to inspire those in the system to become their best self

#### PERSONAL COMMENTS

*"Follow your heart!"*



*Dominic Lewis*

### DOMINIC LEWIS

**PARENTS** Andrene and Carl Lewis  
**SCHOOL** Humber College  
**HOBBIES** Sports, video games and art  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Graphic Designer

#### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Trust in the Lord with all thy heart and lean not onto thine own understanding, with all thy way acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path – Proverbs 3:5

### AVA JEFFREY

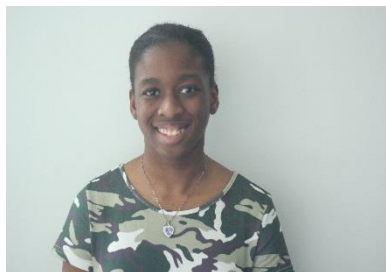
**PARENTS** Jessie Jeffrey  
**HOBBIES** Dancing and listening to music

#### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Ava's favorite color is pink. She loves to eat rice and chicken. When Ava grows up she hopes to one day become a Dance Teacher.



*Ava Jeffrey*



*Latesha Thompson*

## LATESHA THOMPSON

**PARENTS** Janine and Nicholas Thompson  
**SCHOOL** Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute  
**HOBBIES** Basketball and listening to music  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Mechanical Engineer

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

"The only person you should be better than is the person you were yesterday." – Unknown  
My parents, as well as The EDGE Program, have taught me to strive for personal improvements and I thank them for that and this life long experience. It is important to understand and embrace your culture even when others do not and The EDGE has done exactly that so thank you!



*Cairo Peters-Firebrace*

## CAIRO PETERS-FIREBRACE

**PARENTS** Cheryl Firebrace  
**HOBBIES** Art, reading, gaming and learning  
**CAREER GOALS** To become an Animator

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

"It'll be alright I'm the end, and if it's not alright it's not the end" - Kevin Bishop

## JUSTINE MILLER

**PARENTS** Gail and Ervin Miller  
**HOBBIES** Reading and playing outside

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Justine's favorite color is purple. Justine loves to eat sprinkled donuts. When old enough, Justine hopes to one day become and Pediatric Doctor.



*Justine Miller*



*Lisa Avila-McGregor*

## LISA AVILA-MCGREGOR

**GUARDIAN** Fany Gaete and Ines Avila  
**SCHOOL** Madonna Catholic Secondary School  
**SPONSOR** Rosa Berdejo-Williams  
**HOBBIES** Reading, swimming, listening to music and being with family  
**CAREER GOALS** To do well in my chosen career path

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Although I did not want to be in this program at first, I'm glad to have done it. In this program, I've developed long lasting friendships/connections. A big thanks to my sponsor Rosa for pushing me to do the program. The EDGE Program has taught me how to stay focussed and keep my eye on the prize.



*Jonathan Mbiya*

## JONATHAN MBIYA

**GUARDIAN** Patsy Mignott  
**SCHOOL** St. John Paul II  
**HOBBIES** Playing basketball and being active  
**CAREER GOALS** To attend George Brown College in the fall

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

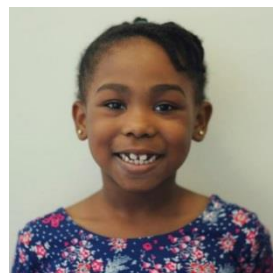
This program has been good, I have learned a lot, made new friends and had a great time!

## JADE MILLER

**PARENTS** Gail and Ervin Miller  
**HOBBIES** Playing and coloring

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Jade's favorite color is yellow. Jade loves to eat brownies. When old enough, Jade also hopes to one day become and Pediatric Doctor.



*Jade Miller*





*Sherika Moore*

## SHERIKA MOORE

**PARENTS** Brittney and Rowan Simpson  
**SCHOOL** Humber College  
**HOBBIES** Hanging out with friends, baking, listening to music and astrology  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Pastry Chef

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

"Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind." - Dr. Seuss



*Lance Delfish*

## LANCE DELFISH

**PARENTS** Yvonne and Eric Delfish  
**SCHOOL** Francis Libermann Catholic High School  
**HOBBIES** Sports, biking and playing music  
**CAREER GOALS** To run my own business and to be a recognized DJ in the industry

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

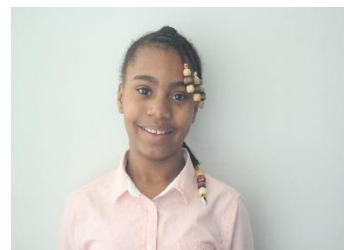
"Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fall and get back up again." – Nelson Mandela

## MATEA WILSON-WRAITH

**PARENTS** Shoshanna Wilson and Maurice Wraith  
**SPONSOR** Jean Maloney  
**HOBBIES** Reading

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Matea's favorite color is green. She loves to eat sushi. One day Matea hopes to become a Doctor or the Prime Minister of Canada



*Matea Wilson - Wraith*





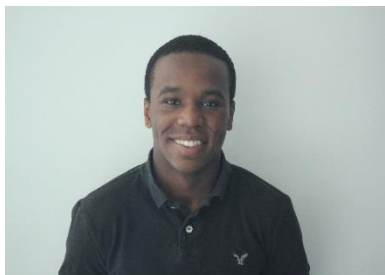
*Aalayah Lynch*

## AALAYAH LYNCH

**PARENTS** Joycelyn Lynch  
**SCHOOL** Stephn Leacock  
**HOBBIES** Reading, writing, poetry and playing soccer  
**CAREER GOALS** To complete high school by 2020 and graduate from post secondary

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain.



*Jurious Miller*

## JURIOUS MILLER

**PARENTS** Gail and Ervin Miller  
**SCHOOL** Carleton University  
**HOBBIES** Soccer, reading, sleeping and hanging out with friends  
**CAREER GOALS** To hold a career in finances

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

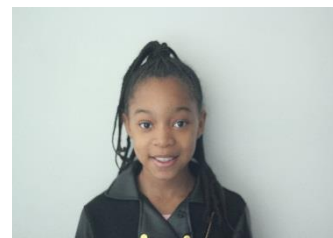
"Focus" – Coach William Grant

## NEVAEH DOWNEY

**PARENTS** Alicia Downey  
**SPONSOR** Gale Ellis  
**HOBBIES** Arts and crafts

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Nevaeh's favorite color is violet. She loves to eat chicken soup. Nevaeh dreams of one day becoming a professional tennis player.



*Nevaeh Downey*





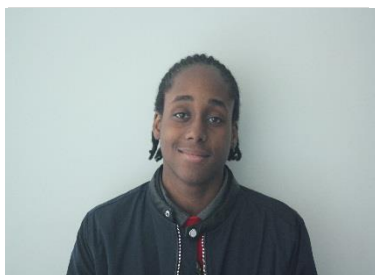
*Mayte Berdejo-Williams*

## MAYTE BERDEJO-WILLIAMS

**PARENTS** Rosa Berdejo and Shawn Williams  
**SCHOOL** St. Edmund Campion Secondary School  
**HOBBIES** Playing with animals and talking with friends  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a Mechanic, Veterinarian or Teacher

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

"You either die a hero or live long enough to see yourself become a villain". – Harvey Dent



*Randol Guerrier*

## RANDOL GUERRIER

**PARENTS** Nathalie Guerrier and Bruyere Massillon  
**SCHOOL** Ulysse Guerrier  
**HOBBIES** Playing basketball and listening to music  
**CAREER GOALS** To obtain a position in the music industry

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

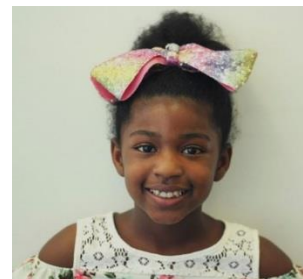
Thanks to The EDGE Program, I was able to meet new people and make new friends. I enjoyed the workshops and I hope to apply all the knowledge I obtained.

## 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*



*Taelor Coleman*

## TAELORE COLEMAN

**PARENTS** Donna-Marie Spence and Mark Coleman  
**SPONSOR** Andrea Douglas  
**SCHOOL** Emery Collegiate Institute  
**HOBBIES** Dance  
**CAREER GOALS** To work in the criminal justice system

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

I would personally like to thank Andrea Douglas and Rosa Berdejo-Williams for allowing me to have this opportunity. "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies" – Proverbs 31:10KJV



*Tristan Reefer*

## TRISTAN REEFER

**PARENTS** Allison and Andrew Reefer  
**SCHOOL** Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School  
**HOBBIES** Cooking, reading and writing  
**CAREER GOALS** To become a police officer

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

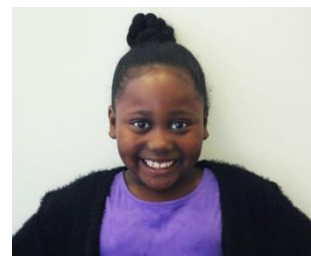
I would like to thank my wonderful Aunty Patsy for convincing me to join this program. I have met many wonderful people I am sure I can call me friends. I would also like to thank my mother and father for helping me get my life back together over the course of this year. I would also like to thank the awesome people that ran this program for giving me all the amazing memories and knowledge I am sure I won't be forgetting.

## TENIELE COLEMAN

**PARENTS** Donna-Marie Spence and Mark Coleman  
**HOBBIES** Art

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

Teniele's favorite color is pink. Teniele loves to eat fried chicken. Teniele hopes to become a Princess one day.



*Teniele Coleman*

Special thanks to our 2017 EDGE Program Debutante and Beau of the year:



## SIERRA CAMPBELL

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

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

## TYREKE SMALL

### PERSONAL COMMENTS

The edge program was a wonderful experience to be apart of. As the 2017 beau of the year, I am happy that I had the chance to be apart of this years program to help the committee, fellow beaux and debutantes. This program was a great learning experience and I hope to be apart of it in the future years.

"A man who stands for nothing will fall for anything." - Malcolm X





## 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:** 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.



*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.



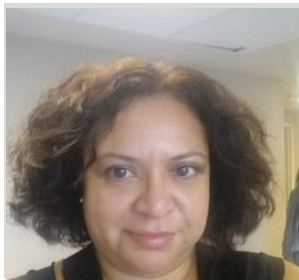
*Serena Thompson*

## SERENA THOMPSON

**EDGE Organization Role:** Community Outreach Coordinator

**Career:** Sickle Cell Advocate

**Personal Comments:** it has been a fulfilling journey to watch the Beaux/Debutantes flourish in The EDGE program, and I cannot wait to work with them in the community throughout the year. Congratulations to everyone and enjoy your Graduation Ball.



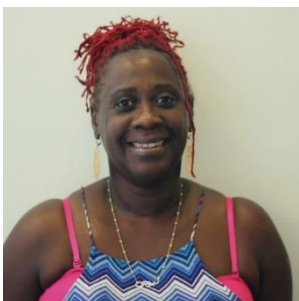
*Rosa Berdejo-Williams*

## 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.



*Leonie Falconer*

## LEONIE FALCONER

**EDGE Organization Role:** Lead Workshop Facilitator

**Career:** Customer Service Associate, Pizza Nova

**Personal Comments:** I volunteer for the EDGE program because I believe in what the program supports. Our youth need this kind of program and what it offers to help them on their life's journey. I have been part of the program for over 20 years. My children, nieces, nephews and cousins have all enrolled in the program and only have positive things to say about it. I am thrilled to be apart of the EDGE program and will continue to support the program to the best of my ability.



*Michele St. Hilaire*

## MICHELE ST.HILAIRE

**EDGE Organization Role:** Prime Workshop Schedule

**Career:** Project Manager, Telus

**Personal Comments:** Creating new experiences, welcoming opportunity and becoming open to possibilities is essential for personal growth. Ensuring that the next generation is well equipped to light the world with their presence is the responsibility of us all.



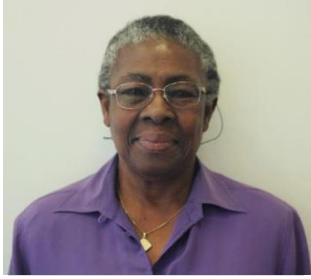
*Liz Valladares-Pereira*

## 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!



*Maureen Simpson*

## MAUREEN SIMPSON

**EDGE Organization Role:** Backup Treasurer and Venue Lead

**Personal Comments:** "The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth."  
- Erasmus



*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.



*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.

## Special thanks to our dedicated program volunteers

Joan Smith

Courtney Roberts

Diane Obermuller

Donna Jennings



## 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; 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**

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*"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**

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*"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**

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*"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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## THE 2018 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)	Maureen Simpson	Dining etiquette and Lifestyle Management.
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.
Career Panel	Kazembe Law	Kazembe and Associates is a law firm in North York with expertise in real estate law, family law, immigration law and wills.
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	Farley Flex	Farley Flex is a Media Consultant, music promoter, artist manager, and motivational speaker. He is best known for being a judge on the reality television series Canadian Idol.

## 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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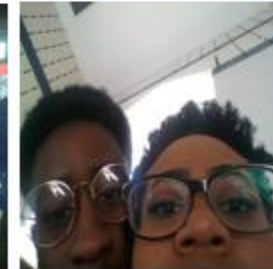
## WORKSHOPS/RETREAT





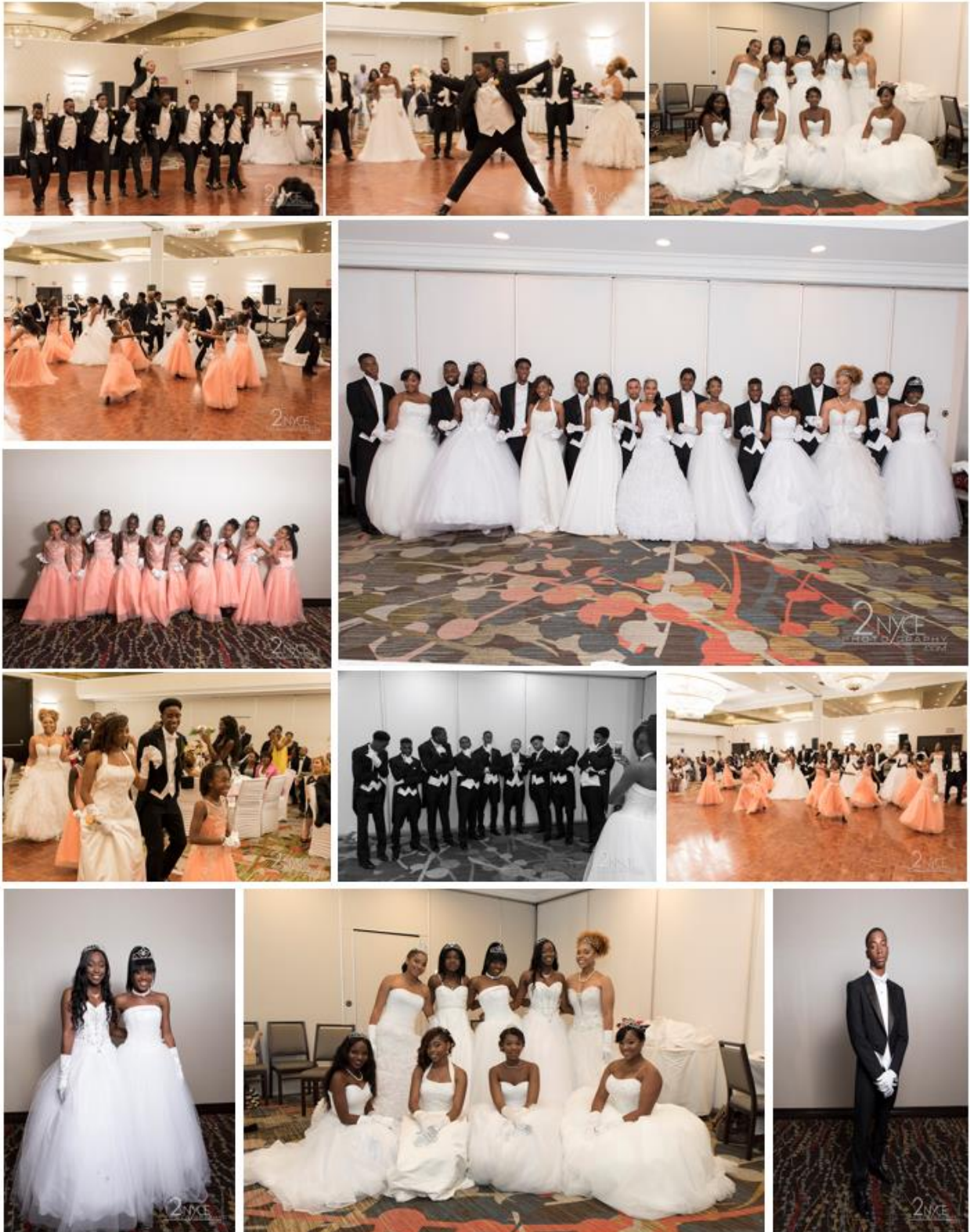
## IN THE COMMUNITY

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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2017 EDGE BALL



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## SPONSORSHIPS:

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Patricia Gloudon

The EDGE Program Planning Committee

Stanley Julien

Oliver Williams

## DONATIONS:

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Kazembe Law

Vaughn African Canadian Association

Shirley Brown

## CREDITS:

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Malvern Methodist Church

Workshop Facilities

Lorraine Delsol

Make-up Artist

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

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Scotiabank

Yearbook printing

Tracy Grant

Yearbook Design, Layout and Typesetting

Nadine Spencer; BrandEQ Agency

Yearbook Cover Artwork

Sandra Whiting

Luncheon Host

## THE 2018 EDGE PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE

Patricia Gloudon

Leonie Falconer

Michele St. Hilaire

Tracy Grant

Rosa Berdejo-Williams

Liz Valladares-Pereira

Serena Thompson

Maureen Simpson

Joan Smith

Brianna Hylton

Jameeka Murdock

**\*\* *Special thanks to Coach Grant Williams, Camp Oneness* \*\***

## NHI Congratulates the EDGE Program Graduating Class of 2018



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# BECOMING

Invest in a future of boundless possibilities. Sponsor a Debutante, Beau or Junior Participant for The EDGE Program.


Debutante: Program \$300

Beau: Program \$300

Junior Debutante: Program \$150

Payment can be made via: Cash, Cheque, Visa, MasterCard or American Express

“I am where I am because I believe in all possibilities.” – Whoopi Goldberg

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<b>City/ Province:</b>		<b>Postal Code:</b>	
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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	Kemetic 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/>

*IN YOUR OWN WORDS...* \_\_\_\_\_



## Lead through inspiration

Empowering diverse youth to become the leaders of tomorrow is a priority for Scotiabank and part of our belief in promoting a culture that encourages everyone to reach their full potential.

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.