



Office of the Mayor

Town of Oakville

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PROCLAMATION
Emancipation Day
August 1, 2022

***WHEREAS**, our province passed an act committed to the abolition of slavery on July 9, 1793 and slavery was abolished by the British Parliament across the British Empire on August 1, 1834; and*

***WHEREAS**, many of Oakville's new citizens arrived in Oakville as a result of its important terminus in the Underground Railroad and its home to many abolitionists, including Captain Robert Wilson; and*

***WHEREAS**, for nearly 50 years following the American Civil War, escaped slaves, abolitionists and their descendants gathered in George's Square on the first weekend in August to celebrate the abolition of slavery – a tradition which has been continued by Oakville's annual picnic; and*

***WHEREAS**, in recognition of the struggle for human rights, the rich heritage and contributions given to Canada by Black Canadians, including those who arrived by the Underground Railroad, the Governments of Canada and Ontario enacted bills to proclaim August 1 Emancipation Day; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Town of Oakville is committed to be a place where the rights and freedoms of all its citizens are respected, protected and celebrated; and*

***WHEREAS**, Town Council permanently designated the August Civic Holiday as Emancipation Day in Oakville.*

***NOW THEREFORE**, I, Rob Burton, Mayor of the Town of Oakville, **DO HEREBY PROCLAIM** August 1, 2022, as **Emancipation Day** in the Town of Oakville.*

Mayor Rob Burton,
TOWN OF OAKVILLE