



Windecker Road Films  
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Clerk, County of Haldimand  
45 Munsee St. N  
Cayuga, ON N0A 1E0

Re: Delegation before CiC, December 10th, 2019

My name is Graeme Bachiu and I am the owner and filmmaker at Windecker Road Films, an independent TV/film production company operating in Haldimand County. I am writing to you to request to appear before council on December 10th, 2019 in the matter of requesting financial support for a 6 part documentary TV series I am producing in 2020, *The Black Settlers of Canfield*.

This series explores the stories of the black settlers of Canfield through the experiences of their descendants and touches on themes of inclusivity, diversity and respect that were both historical foundations of the community in Canfield and still values Haldimand County prides itself on today. Some of the stories within this series have national and international significance and have, thus far, not yet reached an audience.

As part of the research for this project I have partnered with Sylvia Weaver who was instrumental in the installation of the Canfield black settlement marker and has given numerous, popular public talks about the history of the black settlers in Canfield. I have met with Heritage Haldimand who have expressed their support for this project and have generously contributed \$300.00 towards the production.

As part of the series I will be featuring county facilities, such as the Canfield Community Hall, the Cayuga Library and Heritage Centre, as well as interviewing and collaborating with museum staff. At the conclusion of the project I will be donating "hard" copies to each library branch in Haldimand as well as the county archives with an exclusive license for use.

I have negotiated a broadcast license with Bell Media for *The Black Settlers of Canfield* to be aired on Bell's Fibe TV1 streaming service in the fall of 2020, reaching 1.8 million subscribers in eastern Canada and Manitoba. With this license comes roughly 75% of the funding for the project and I have been actively pursuing supplementary funding through sponsorships.

As far as I can tell, this is the first broadcast series produced in Haldimand, by a Haldimand County production company and producer which features uniquely Haldimand stories. Where possible, I am hiring Haldimand crew and creatives to assist me in this project.

I am requesting Haldimand County support *The Black Settlers of Canfield* with \$5000.00 contribution. In exchange, I will create a fifteen second advertising bumper consistent with county branding for inclusion in each episode, cite the county's financial support and partnership in the closing credits of each episode, promote and advertise the county's support and involvement in the project over social media, feature county facilities and staff within the body of the series and, as mentioned, donate "hard" copies of the final project with an exclusive license to each county library branch and the county archives.

*The Black Settlers of Canfield* is a landmark production for Haldimand County with the potential to reach a motivated, urban audience with its positive message about the quality of life in our community.

Please consider this request to appear before council on December 10th, 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Bachiu', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Graeme Bachiu  
Filmmaker



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Windecker Road Films is embarking on an exciting initiative in 2020. A new, 6-part documentary TV series entitled *The Black Settlers of Canfield* will air on Bell Fibe TV1 in the fall of 2020. Windecker Road Films has secured funding for this documentary TV series project and we are asking interested individuals and businesses to contribute to this production via sponsorship to fill the funding gap.

In the mid-1850s Canada was the land of freedom for escaped slaves from the southern United States and many of these freedom seekers found a welcoming home amongst the pioneers of Canfield, a village in Haldimand County. Canfield provided a place of inclusivity, diversity and respect for these black settlers and their descendants, some of whom would become artists, soldiers, businessmen and paragons of their community. *The Black Settlers of Canfield* explores these stories and uncovers links to broader narratives with national and international significance.

Director and producer Graeme Bachiu has over 25 years of documentary film and TV experience and in 2018 was awarded Best International Director at the Georgia Documentary Film Festival. Graeme's films often feature personal stories and he is especially drawn to interesting characters in the area in which he lives.

Bell Fibe TV1 (a division of Bell Media) is one of the most watched broadcast streaming platforms in Canada with a subscribed base of 1.8 million in Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and Canada.

*The Black Settlers of Canfield* is the first broadcast TV series produced in Haldimand, by a Haldimand production company, with Haldimand residents about uniquely Haldimand County stories.

In addition to portraying the values of inclusivity, diversity and respect that met the early black settlers to Haldimand and still exists to this day, *The Black Settlers of Canfield* will also feature a number of local landmarks, including the Cayuga Library and Heritage Centre, Ruthven Park National Historic Site, the Canfield Community Centre and the Canfield Black History Cairn. Production is scheduled to begin in January, 2020.