

February is recognized as Black History Month when the accomplishments of Black Canadians, past and present are highlighted. We were unable to put something in our Winter newsletter to acknowledge the contributions of the black members of our community. We hope that creative words of a young writer who we may hear more from in the future makes up in a small way what we should have done in February. We hope that members find these words to be up-lifting.

## LOVE LETTER TO MY EYES



MY DEAR EYES,

You have seen my world change and have been the window to my soul. You have seen the beauty of Jamaica, the warmth of the sun and the crashing of the waves on the shores of beautiful beaches. You have also seen the pain and the struggle of leaving it all behind, as I immigrated to Canada in order to join my mom who had migrated a few years earlier, hopefully, in search of a better life...which she never found...and...witnessing and experiencing the pain of that.

Through it all, you have been my constant companion, never faltering in your support and understanding. You have seen the tears of homesickness and the joy of accomplishment. You have seen the struggles of adapting to a new culture and the intrigue of exploring my new home in Canada and its expansive frontiers.

As we stand here on this beach, hair tossing in the wind, gazing out at the endless horizon about me, I realize that you, my dear eyes, have not only been my companion, but also my guide. You have shown me the way forward even in the darkest of times. You have helped me to see the beauty in the world and in myself. You have helped me to see the possibilities of the future and the memories of the past.

You have been with me through every step of my journey, and I am so grateful for you. You have been my witness through all the joys and sorrows, the laughter and the tears. You have seen me grow and change and you have always accepted me for who I am. Through the years, you have grown older, yet you have never lost your sparkle, your beauty and your spirit. You are a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and to the strength of love.

So, as we look to the future, I know that you will continue to be by my side. You will see the world through new eyes and new perspectives and you will continue to help me to see the world in new lights...with continually new vibrations. I promise you, my dear eyes, to always take care of you, to always see, to revel in and to appreciate the beauty in the world around me and in myself.

With Deep Gratitude and Love,  
YOUR GRATEFUL OWNER,  
HOPE M LOCKE



Hope M Locke migrated to Toronto, Canada in 1974 from the beautiful island of Jamaica. Hope loves to write stories, poetry, taking nature photography, travelling and cultural explorations. Hope also loves to discuss the philosophy of life's journey and she loves to inspire others. Hope had her first published article at age 9.

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# LOVE POEM TO MY FEET

Dear Feet,

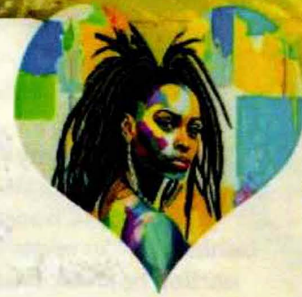
From Jamaica's sandy shores,  
To Canada's icy cold,  
You have carried me through,  
The struggles of being bold.

Through immigration hurdles,  
And the long journey ahead,  
You have treaded on with courage,  
And filled my heart with hope instead.

Through the streets of a new land,  
You have walked me to my dreams,  
With every step you have taken,  
My future more brightly beams.

I stand here and gaze at Lake Ontario,  
With gratitude in my heart,  
For the love and support,  
You have given me right from the start.

**CHEERS TO YOU WITH LOVE, MY DEAR FEET  
YOUR GRATEFUL OWNER  
HOPE M LOCKE**



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