

Oliver Bowen

by Greatness Ossai

Have you ever heard of the CTrain? It's basically the Calgarian version of a subway. Did you know that it was made by a black individual? Oliver Bowen, a black civil engineer, built this amazing system. He was a great Champion for Calgary and Alberta. Oliver was a significant part of Canadian history, and I will tell you about it.

Oliver Bowen was born on December 21, 1942 in Amber Valley, Alberta. He was born to Eva and Obadiah Bowen. He had two sisters, Norma and Shirley Bowen, and two brothers, Lois and Dennis Bowen. Amber Valley was a settlement created by black people. These people were trying to escape the Tulsa Massacre, so they created a settlement 170 km north of Edmonton. They came from Oklahoma, Texas and many other southern states located in the US.

Due to racial discrimination, Oliver Bowen grew up with a strong work ethic. This made him excel in school. Later on in his life, Oliver graduated from the University of Alberta in 1965. He moved to Calgary to work in the public transit department in the same year. Oliver was tasked with designing the CTrain, a line of trains that went throughout Calgary. The system started service in 1981. We still use the system today. The CTrain currently has two routes, known as the Red and Blue lines, with a third line being built in the future. After working with the City of Calgary for 12 years, he became the manager of the light rail transit division.

Oliver Bowen, after accomplishing many things in his life, died on January 1, 2000. Oliver was so successful, the City of Calgary decided to name a light rail transit maintenance facility in his honour, named the Oliver Bowen Maintenance Facility. Oliver Bowen definitely earned this honour. Many people work at the maintenance facility right now. The building is a

storage, a Light Rail Transit(LRT) repair shop, and a bus repair shop that works for Calgary Transit.

Oliver Bowen Reflection

Oliver Bowen connects to me in many ways. One of them is because he experienced many hardships, but he still managed to be successful in life. He is one of the most successful black engineers to live in and be born in Alberta. Black people were disregarded at the time, so it was very difficult for him to make it in life. Despite this, he still managed to break past these barriers and become the civil engineer that he was. This is a great achievement, especially in his time.

Another way he connected to me was his job. He designed the CTrain, like an architect designs a building. I might want to be an architect when I grow older, so Oliver Bowen inspires me. He was asked to design an entire train system the same year he stepped out of university. That is a great accomplishment, which is why he connects to me.

One other way that he connects to me is that he did something great. He managed to design an entire train system. That is an amazing achievement. Calgary would be very different if he hadn't built the train. Many people use the train today and don't even recognize him for it. However, his creation was very useful for Calgarians.

Oliver Bowen inspired me to push back the barriers that might be holding me back. He is a wonderful role model. He inspired me to never give up, and to work hard. Oliver Bowen was very hardworking and because of that, he made it in life. He encouraged me to pursue my dreams, no matter what difficulties or hardships that come my way. That is why I'm convinced that Oliver Bowen is a champion of Calgary, Alberta and furthermore, Canada.

Bibliography Graphic Organizer

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