



The Essex County
Black Historical
Research Society



AMHERSTBURG
FREEDOM MUSEUM

2019 Windsor-Essex Black History Month Activity Schedule

Essex County is rich in Black history. Canadians of African descent have played important roles in the cultural, political, social, and economic progress of our communities. Our region has been populated by people of African descent from the 18th century, when free Black Loyalists as well as enslaved Africans were among the area's early residents; to the 19th century when formerly enslaved African Americans and free people of colour streamed into this area by the thousands, fleeing either bondage or oppression; to the modern era when immigrants from the continent of Africa and the Caribbean made this region their new home.

Here are some of the Black History Month events happening around our region.

Friday, February 1st: Join us on Friday, February 1st at 7:00 p.m. for Black history highlights, poetry and music, featuring Arts Collective Theatre, Teajai Travis, Mbonisi Zikhali, the Hidaya Diaspora Junior Dance Group, All Nations Full Gospel Church True Worship Ministry, and the release of the 2019 Black History Month activity schedule for Windsor-Essex. This free event is taking place at the Caribbean Centre, 2410 Central Avenue, Windsor, and is hosted by the Essex County Black Historical Research Society, the Windsor West Indian Association, and the Amherstburg Freedom Museum with support from Morris Sutton Funeral Home, Women's Enterprise Skills Training, and the City of Windsor. We will publicly recognize the importance of Black History Month as well as encourage the community to participate in the array of Black History Month events happening locally. For more information, contact ecbhrs@gmail.com or (519) 890-4316.

February 1st-28th: \$1 off admission per person to celebrate Black History Month at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum (277 King Street, Amherstburg.) To claim the discount, tell us when the Nazrey African Methodist Episcopal Church National Historic Site of Canada was built and by whom, when you purchase your ticket. This discount is only available in February and only if the correct response is given. Hint: In 1848, people fleeing enslavement in the United States built this church by hand. Hours of operation: Tues-Fri 12 pm – 5 pm, Sat & Sun 1 pm – 5 pm. Admission: Normally \$7.50/adult, \$6.50/student or senior. For more info, contact 519-736-5433 or visit www.amherstburgfreedom.org or social media sites: Facebook.com/amherstburgfreedom; Twitter @AburgFreedom

February 1st-28th: The Amherstburg Freedom Museum presents a temporary exhibit, *Rarely Seen*. The community is invited to view a selection of recently acquired and rarely seen artifacts from the collection, showcasing items that rarely get a turn in the spotlight and the stories they share. The museum is located at 277 King Street in Amherstburg. Hours of operation: Tues-Fri 12 pm – 5 pm, Sat & Sun 1 pm – 5 pm. Admission: Normally \$7.50/adult, \$6.50/student or senior. For more info, contact 519-736-5433 or visit www.amherstburgfreedom.org or social media sites: Facebook.com/amherstburgfreedom; Twitter @AburgFreedom

February 1st-15th: Visit one ten park: a working space (110 Park St. W. in Windsor) for a community quilt making project and art installation entitled "Black History is Humanity's History." Visit the one ten park: a working space Facebook page for hours of operation.

February 2nd-25th: Visit the Windsor Public Library, Central Branch (main floor, 850 Ouellette) to see a free display regarding Black history in Essex County, presented by the Essex County Black Historical Research Society. The Central Branch is open Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m. All branches of the Windsor Public Library have ample reading material about Black history, too: visit www.windsorpubliclibrary.com.

February 2nd-May 26th: Visit the Chimczuk Museum and learn about ancient Egypt and its amazing civilization. The Chimczuk Museum, 401 Riverside Drive West, will host *Egypt: A Gift of the Nile*, a travelling exhibit from the Royal Ontario Museum.

Explore an ancient civilization that flourished for thousands of years. The Nile River Valley of 5,000 years ago was the birthplace of a remarkable collection. Protected from foreign invasion by vast deserts and sustained by fertile soil along the river, the ancient Egyptians developed from a simple agricultural community into a sophisticated society. Under a system of divine kingship, this Egyptian civilization lasted thousands of years and contributed strongly to the later cultures of the Mediterranean and Europe. Access to the exhibit is included in general admission fees. Visit museumwindsor.ca for details.

Sunday, February 3rd: *Oh Happy Day! A Gospel Celebration* will be presented on Sunday, Feb. 3rd at 4:00 p.m. at the Chatham Capitol Theatre, 238 King St. W. in Chatham. Internationally acclaimed Canadian tenor Ben Heppner is joined by Canada's premier gospel ensemble, the Toronto Mass Choir, in a joyous celebration of traditional and contemporary gospel music, including "Amazing Grace," "This Little Light of Mine," "Ain't Got Time to Die" and "Oh Happy Day." An uplifting concert of joyous music, electrifyingly performed! Ticket Price: \$25-\$45. Visit <http://chathamcapitoltheatre.com> for tickets and information.

February 4th: Afrofest, the University of Windsor Students' Alliance African Diaspora Festival, returns to the university Feb. 4th-8th. Afrofest 2019 consists of various cultural and educational activities that document and celebrate the contributions made by peoples of African descent to the world. On Monday, February 4th, in the CAW Commons, enjoy opening ceremonies at 12:00 p.m., drumming lessons at 1:30 p.m., the Taste of Diaspora with African and Caribbean cuisine at 4:00 p.m. (\$5.00 per plate) and Art Expressions, a paint night workshop at 6:00 p.m.

February 5th: Afrofest, the University of Windsor Students' Alliance African Diaspora Festival, continues. Enjoy a Mental Health and Culture seminar at 1:00 p.m. in Alumni Auditorium, a discussion about De-Bunking the Black Skin Barriers/stigma and oppression based on varying Black skin tones at 3:00 p.m. in Alumni Auditorium, an HIV and AIDS awareness discussion at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Chambers, and a free screening of *Soul on Ice* at the HK Building, Room 140, at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 5th: Attend a free screening of *Soul on Ice* presented by the Faculty of Human Kinetics at the University of Windsor, Room HK 140 on Feb. 5th, 6:45 p.m. The film by Damon Kwame Mason presents and retells the unknown contributions of Black athletes in ice hockey. Special dedication at 6:45, film starts at 7:00 p.m. Presented in association with AfroFest and the UWSA. Donations will be collected for the Chatham Kent Black Historical Society.

Wednesday, February 6th: Afrofest, the University of Windsor Students' Alliance African Diaspora Festival, continues. Enjoy "Politically Black," a discussion about activism and politics in Alumni Auditorium at 12:00 p.m., "Da Kink in My Hair," a natural hair workshop in the CAW Commons at 2:00 p.m., "Let's Talk: Black Womxn," a discussion on Black feminism, self-love, allyship, and more at 4:00 p.m. in the Alumni Auditorium, a game night at 5:30 p.m. in the CAW Commons, and "Know Your Rights," a seminar hosted by a police officer and a lawyer at 7:30 p.m. in Alumni Auditorium.

Thursday, February 7th: Afrofest, the University of Windsor Students' Alliance African Diaspora Festival, continues. Enjoy a Black photography exhibition in the CAW Commons at 1:00 p.m., "Let's Talk About Diversity," a discussion about LGBT people of African descent and the lack of diversity in LGBT spaces, in the Board Chambers at 2:00 p.m., "Men in Black," a discussion about what it means to be a Black man in today's society, at 5:00 p.m. in Alumni Auditorium, and "Get Bizzy with Bizzy Boom," a dancehall infused dance class led by Bizzy Boom in the Movement Room, Jackman Building at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 7th: Adult Art Class celebrates Black History Month at the Sandwich Library, 331 Sandwich Street in Windsor, Thursday, Feb. 7th, 10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m. In celebration of Black History Month we will be inspired by the spectacular powerful work of Bermuda-born Canadian artist Joan Butterfield. All supplies will be provided. For information contact Ms. Janet C. Brown, (519) 255-6770 ext. 7700 or jbrown@windsorpubliclibrary.com.

Thursday, February 7th: Children's Black History Month Challenge at the Sandwich Library, 331 Sandwich Street in Windsor, Thursday, Feb. 7th, 3:00-4:30 p.m. Join the Library Live Children's Club for our annual Black History Month Challenge! Discover and learn more about the amazing men and women throughout history who have made a marked impact on your present and future. For information contact Ms. Janet C. Brown, (519) 255-6770 ext. 7700 or jbrown@windsorpubliclibrary.com.

Friday, February 8th: Afrofest, the University of Windsor Students' Alliance African Diaspora Festival, continues. Enjoy an afrobeats infused dance class led by the ADL Dancers of Toronto at 1:00 p.m. in the Voice Room, Jackman Building, a discussion panel with Black male and female students at 3:00 p.m. in the CAW Commons, "Fashion Forward," a fashion show featuring Black designers' pieces and featuring a step performance by S.T.A.N.D. at 4:30 p.m. in the CAW Commons, "Love

Languages,” a showcase of Black talent at 6:00 p.m. in the Hum Café (\$5-7), and “Afrodisiac,” a 90s themed after party hosted at Imperial Night Club at 10:00 p.m. (music by DJ KyDD, \$5.)

Sunday, February 10th: The Windsor West Indian Association’s annual Black History Brunch is happening on Sunday, February 10th, 12:00-5:00 p.m. at the Caribbean Centre, 2410 Central Avenue, Windsor, featuring delicious Caribbean cuisine. For information and tickets call (519) 945-0213 or e-mail wwia2410vp@bellnet.ca. Tickets are also available at the door. Adults \$20.00 per person; children 12 and under \$10.00.

Friday, February 15th: *Teaching Black History in Canada* is a workshop for educators taking place at Uncle Tom’s Cabin Historic Site, 29251 Uncle Tom’s Road, Dresden, Friday, Feb. 15th, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. This workshop is designed to provide Junior/Intermediate (Grade 3-10) educators with the tools and resources to help them incorporate Black history into a more inclusive curriculum. The training will be led by Black history curriculum specialist, educator, author, historian, and Ontario Black History Society President Natasha Henry, BA (Honours), B.Ed., M.Ed., OCT. Pre-registration is required: registration closes February 13, 2019. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. For more information, please contact Steven Cook at steven.cook@heritagetrust.on.ca or call (519) 683-2978. www.uncletomscabin.org

Friday, February 15th: The Windsor West Indian Association will host a free movie night, featuring *The Wiz*, Friday, Feb. 15th at 6:30 p.m. at the Caribbean Centre, 2410 Central Avenue, Windsor. Snacks will be available for purchase. For information call (519) 945-0213 or e-mail wwia2410vp@bellnet.ca.

Saturday, February 16th: The UNIFOR Local 444 Aboriginal and Workers of Colour Committee will host a Black History Month Celebration, Saturday, Feb. 16th 1:00-5:00 p.m. at 1855 Turner Road in Windsor. The event will feature a soul food dinner, arts and entertainment, poetry/spoken word, guest speakers discussing history, silent auction, 50/50 draw, and raffles. Featured artists include Leslie McCurdy and Teajai Travis. Tickets are only \$10.00. For further information contact Local 444 Hall at (519) 258-6400 or Yvonne Browning-Coates, Chair, at (519) 819-5342.

Saturday, February 16th: Elite Events presents *I Choose Love* Saturday, Feb. 16th, with performances at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m., at the Roth Centre for the Performing Arts, located inside SHO Studios, 628 Monmouth Rd. in Windsor. *I Choose Love* is an inspirational production of love, loss, and healing through faith, inspired by the works of Lauryn Hill and other influential R & B, Afrobeats, and gospel artists, featuring Toronto award-winning dance company Artists in Motion, with choreography by award winning choreographer Shameka Blake and poetry by Elle. Tickets are \$35.00 and are available on Eventbrite.com. For reservations or information contact myeliteevent@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 16th: Omoluabi Newspaper will present *Principles in Black History*, featuring dance, spoken words, drama, history, and much more, Saturday, Feb. 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the WFCU centre, 8787 McHugh Street. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free. For information contact 226-260-6238, 519-988-6725, or 519-551-8048. Omoluabi Newspaper is funded by the Ontario Government as a Violence Prevention Campaign Initiative.

Monday, February 18th: On Family Day, Feb. 18th, 10:30-11:45 a.m., enjoy a presentation and book signing celebrating *A Chatham-Kent Tapestry: A Visual History to 1950* by Jim and Lisa Gilbert, at Uncle Tom’s Cabin Historic Site, 29251 Uncle Tom’s Road, Dresden. Beginning with records preserved from the mid-19th century, A Chatham-Kent Tapestry carefully curates photographs from the Chatham-Kent Museum and other community archive collections, as well as surviving negatives from the Chatham Daily News, to tell the remarkable story of one of the oldest communities in Upper Canada. Jim and Lisa Gilbert have been bringing local history to life for almost 40 years, in Chatham-Kent. They have won local, regional, national and international awards for their radio shows, newspaper columns, historical presentations and heritage programming. Following the presentation, join the authors at Union Block Bakery, downtown Dresden’s newest eatery, for a specially priced luncheon. For more information, please contact Steven Cook at steven.cook@heritagetrust.on.ca or call (519) 683-2978. www.uncletomscabin.org

Thursday, February 21st: In lieu of its normal monthly meeting, the Essex Count Black Historical Research invites you to attend the Windsor Launch of Cecil Foster’s latest book, *They Call Me George*, at 7:30 p.m on Feb. 21st at Biblioasis (1520 Wyandotte St. E.)

Smartly dressed and smiling, Canada’s Black train porters were a familiar sight to the average passenger—yet their minority status rendered them politically invisible, second-class in the social imagination that determined who was and who was not

considered Canadian. Subjected to grueling shifts and unreasonable standards—a passenger missing his stop was a dismissible offense—the so-called Pullmen of the country's rail lines were denied secure positions and prohibited from bringing their families to Canada, and it was their struggle against the racist Dominion that laid the groundwork for the multicultural nation we know today. Drawing on the experiences of these influential Black Canadians, Cecil Foster's *They Call Me George* demonstrates the power of individuals and minority groups in the fight for social justice and shows how a country can change for the better.

Cecil Foster is a leading author, academic, journalist and public intellectual. His work speaks about the challenges that Black people have encountered historically in Canada in their efforts to achieve respect and recognition for their contribution to what is now a multicultural Canada. He highlights their fight for social justice and human dignity. In particular, Foster addresses the issues of immigration in his critical discussions on who is a Canadian in the ever-evolving social narrative toward a genuine multicultural Canada.

Thursday, February 21st: JUNO-nominated singer-songwriter Khari Wendell McLelland brings his *We Now Recognize* tour to Phog Lounge, 157 University Avenue West, Thursday, Feb. 21st at 8:00 p.m. Experience the redemptive power of song and story this Black History Month. Following the great success of *Freedom Singer* – which in 2017 and 2018 toured to 15 cities across Canada – Project: Humanity is once again teaming up with Khari Wendell McClelland who has created a dazzling new suite of songs in a brand new show *We Now Recognize*, a timely concert that explores the power of apologies, the nature of community and the redemptive potential of music. *We Now Recognize* will tour six Canadian cities in celebration of Black History Month 2019. *We Now Recognize* is generously supported by presenting sponsor TD Bank Group. What is the value of an apology? What makes an authentic apology? Khari is creating a musical storytelling performance that weaves a path toward deeper and more heartfelt relationships amongst the varied peoples and communities of Canada and – in his distinct way – brings us together around music and questions of justice. Tickets are available through [Eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca) (\$25.00 + \$6.12 fee + HST.)

Friday, February 22nd: The African Community Organization of Windsor invites you to a Black History Month Celebration featuring African cultural fashion shows, dance groups, a dinner with Canadian and African dishes, an awards presentation, and a dance, Friday, Feb. 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at the Serbian Centre, 6770 Tecumseh Rd. E. in Windsor. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. All proceeds will support ACOW's projects in the community. The theme is "Africans in Windsor building bridges from the untold plight and stories, moving forward in unity." Tickets for adults are \$45.00 prior to Feb. 14th/\$50.00 after Feb. 14th and at the door for adults; tickets for students are \$35.00 prior to Feb. 14th/\$40 after Feb. 14th and at the door. For tickets call (226) 346-1324, (226) 349-2358, (226) 246-6766, (519) 992-9693, (519) 817-4752, or (226) 260-4273.

Friday, February 22nd: *Viola Desmond: The Play* will be presented on Friday, Feb. 22nd, 6:00 p.m. at Sandwich Teen Action Group, 3735 King Street in Windsor. This is a free event for Black History Month 2019, presented by children and youth, supported by the Ontario Black Youth Action Plan and under the direction of historian Elise Harding Davis. For information, call (519) 300-3623.

Saturday, February 23rd: Good People United against Racism and Intolerance will host a Unity Gala at Caesars Windsor, Augustus Ballroom, 377 Riverside Drive West, Saturday, Feb. 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Presentations, dinner, and dancing. Tickets \$85.00. The gala is an opportunity for all good people from all ethnic groups, religious backgrounds, organizations, unions and the entire spectrum of movements for social and economic justice to commemorate the 400th Year Anniversary of the first documented enslaved Africans to arrive in North America as well as to show support and take a stand against racism and intolerance. Tickets are available at www.eventbrite.ca or call 647-497-7242 or visit bhmcampaign.com.

Sunday, February 24th: The Windsor West Indian Association's annual Black History Tea is happening on Sunday, February 24th, 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Caribbean Centre, 2410 Central Avenue, Windsor. Come for tea and vibrant Black history discussion! Admission by donation. For information call (519) 945-0213 or e-mail wwia2410vp@bellnet.ca.

Sunday, February 24th: The Buxton National Historic Site & Museum and Buxton's Next Generation are pleased to present *A Snapshot in the Family Album*, an opportunity to learn more about the Boswell family, the Hanson family, the Morris family, the Steele family, and the Timbers family, Sunday, Feb. 24th at 3:00 p.m. at the North Buxton Community Church.

Sunday, February 24th: 4th Wall Music presents "Celebrating Black Composers," February 24th at 4:00 p.m. at the Capitol Theatre. Tickets available at www.4thwallmusic.com, at Biblioasis bookstore, or at the door. Irene Moore Davis discusses the influence of music on Windsor's rich and diverse history. Join Detroit-based violinist Velda Kelly along with Windsor pianist Mike Karloff and soprano Shahida Nurullah to explore the fascinating lives and music of black composers from the 1700s to present including Joseph Boulogne, Le Chevalier de Saint George, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, William Grant Still, Shelton Brooks and Scott Joplin.

Monday, February 25th: 4th Wall Music presents "Celebrating Black Composers," February 25th at 6:30 p.m. at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum, 277 King Street in Amherstburg. Tickets available at www.4thwallmusic.com, at the museum in advance, or at the door. Irene Moore Davis discusses the influence of music on Windsor's rich and diverse history. Join Detroit-based violinist Velda Kelly along with Windsor pianist Mike Karloff and soprano Shahida Nurullah to explore the fascinating lives and music of black composers from the 1700s to present including Joseph Boulogne, Le Chevalier de Saint George, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, William Grant Still, Shelton Brooks and Scott Joplin.

February through March 10th: Visit the Thames Art Gallery, 75 William Street North in Chatham, for the exhibit *What Motivates Her?* through March 10th. Learn about black feminism in an exciting new exhibit at the gallery with artists Allyson Mitchell and Madelyne Beckles. Together they strive to make thought provoking, eye-opening, powerful work about feminism, sexuality and social stigmas. Thinking through intersectional queer feminist embodiments and new materialism, they have created an interactive, sensorial environment in the gallery informed by pop culture, deconstruction and feminist gestures. Their artwork often leverages traditional domestic practices, using recycled materials and imagery, including craft techniques and found objects. Using a destabilizing humour, this collaboration also addresses complicated negotiations facing artists engaged with politics and identity today, particularly when the impetus is on bringing gender and racial inequality into focus. Visit <https://www.chatham-kent.ca/ThamesArtGallery> for hours of operation and other details.



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Keep up to date on 2019 Black History Month events happening in Windsor-Essex County!

Visit <https://amherstburgfreedom.org/black-history-month/> for the latest and most accurate information.



Follow **BlackHistoryWindsor @ecbhrs**



Look for updated event and activity listings at our **Black History Month Windsor-Essex** Facebook page.