



The Essex County
Black Historical
Research Society



AMHERSTBURG
FREEDOM MUSEUM

2021 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... mostly online this year.

January 29, 2021 - The annual Windsor-Essex Black History Month Kick-Off will be happening virtually at 7pm, featuring Black history highlights, poetry, dance, and music. This free event is hosted by the Essex County Black Historical Research Society, the Windsor West Indian Association, and the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. 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. Guest artists will include Teajai Travis, Florine Ndimubandi, Kionna Wilson, Brett Logan, Nadine Manroe, Hidaya Diaspora Junior Dance Group, and Black Kids in Action Performing Arts Group. Register at [2021 Windsor-Essex Joint Black History Month Kickoff Tickets, Fri, 29 Jan 2021 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#).

January 31, 2021 - The Ontario Black History Society will host its annual Black History Month Kick-Off "History...Who Are We!" virtually at 1pm. The program will feature community recognition profiles, Black history, entertainment, museum tours and so much more. To register, please go to [2021 Black History Month Kick-Off - History...Who We Are! Tickets, Sun, 31 Jan 2021 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite](#).

February 1, 2021 - The River Bookshop is happy to partner with Amherstburg Freedom Museum to bring together a display celebrating Black History Month in windows of the River Bookshop (located at 67 Richmond Street, Amherstburg). The window displays will feature Black authors and books that talk about racial equality. Look for the moving artifacts that the Museum has loaned us for our displays. The River Bookshop is open for curbside pickup 12-5pm daily, online and phone orders welcome! For more information, please visit www.riverbookshop.com

February 1, 2021 - The River Bookshop is happy to partner with Amherstburg Freedom Museum to feature a curated selection of books with a broad range of titles in celebration of Black History Month which can be purchased online at www.riverbookshop.com. Readers that purchase any of these books during the month of February will qualify for a draw to win one of three Amherstburg Freedom Museum t-shirts. The River Bookshop is open for curbside pickup 12-5pm daily, online and phone orders welcome! For more information, please visit www.riverbookshop.com

February 1-28, 2021 – Museum Windsor will feature a series of Facebook posts which will highlight various parts of their Black history-related collections throughout the month of February. Follow Museum Windsor on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MuseumWindsor>.

February 1-28, 2021 – The Windsor Public Library, John Muir Library at 363 Mill Street is offering a calendar for the month of February featuring Windsor Public Library resources honouring Black history. The public can pick up the calendar and discover Black History Month resources for children, youth, and adults. For information contact Ms. Janet Brown, 519-255-6770 ext. 7700 or jbrown@windsorpubliclibrary.com.

February 1-28, 2021 – February 2021 marks the 87th anniversary of the Hour-A-Day Study Club, Canada's oldest African Canadian women's organization. The Club is launching an \$87 for 87 Scholarship Drive. Community members are encouraged to donate \$87 to commemorate the 87th anniversary of the Hour-A-Day Study Club. Donations help the Club in their efforts to help Black students pursue their post-secondary education goals. Donations at houradaystudyclub.donations@gmail.com are welcome. In addition, 2021 scholarship applications for Underground Railroad descendants are now available at www.houradaystudyclub.org or can be requested at the.hour.a.day.study.club@gmail.com.

February 2, 2021 – Join Mayor Drew Dilkens as the City of Windsor recognizes Black History Month with a virtual event, including a special announcement, 10:00am-11:00am. Featured guests include Tejai Travis, Irene Moore Davis, Poet Laureate Mary Ann Mulhern, John Elliott, Michelle Staadegaard, Elana Freeman, and Councillor Fabio Costante. Look for the link on the City of Windsor web site and social media pages.

February 2, 2021 - The Amherstburg Freedom Museum will host NSCAD University Canada Research Chair in Transatlantic Black Diasporic Art and Community Engagement, Dr. Charmaine A. Nelson, on their Facebook page. She will present "Enslaved and Free Black Presence, Experience and Representation in Quebec Winter." Happening Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 2pm. <https://www.facebook.com/AmherstburgFreedom>

February 4, 2021 – Dr. Ingrid Waldron, Director of the Environmental Noxiousness, Racial Inequities, and Community Health Project (ENRICH) at Dalhousie University will offer a virtual talk, "Mapping Racial Geographies of Violence on the Colonial Landscape," at 4:30pm February 4, 2021. Dr. Waldron has been Director of ENRICH for eight years, investigating the socio-economic, political, and health effects of environmental racism and other public infrastructure inequalities in Mi'kmaq and African Nova Scotian communities. Her work was the subject of the 2019 Netflix documentary, *There's Something in the Water*. The 2021 Distinguished Lecture of the Windsor Yearbook of Access to Justice is presented by the Cities and Climate Action Forum, Windsor Law, and the Windsor Law Centre for Cities. Register for this Zoom event by going to bit.ly/A2Jlecture.

February 4, 2021 – The Arts Council Windsor & Region presents a panel discussion, "When We Say It – How to Talk About Anti-Black Racism" at February 4, 2021 at 7pm, featuring participants Dr. Natalie Delia Deckard, Camisha Sibblis, and Josh Lamers along with moderator Talysha Bujold-Abu. "When We Say It" is a gathering of community and cultural leaders, an opportunity to hear feedback in how we (as BIPOC individuals and allies) define, approach, and continually challenge anti-Black racism. Register at [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).

February 9, 2021 - Amherstburg Freedom Museum Assistant Curator, Dr. Lorene Bridgen-Lennie, will present "From the Outside Looking In: Paying Tribute to Essex County's Black Canadian Families" to the Essex County Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. Happening at 7pm. To register for this event, click [here](#).

February 10-28, 2021 – The Coalition for Justice Unity Equity "Youth in Action Club" presents a virtual showcase on the Coalition for Justice Unity Equity Facebook page and on the www.cjue.org web site, "2nd Annual Wall of Fame with a Twist!" Each day the page will feature posters created by youth, inspired by their favourite historical figures.

February 16, 2021—The River Bookshop is happy to partner with Amherstburg Freedom Museum in hosting a presentation by Bernice Carnegie, the daughter of hockey hero Herb Carnegie and author of the book, *A Fly in the Pail of Milk*.

February 18, 2021 - Amherstburg Freedom Museum Curator/Administrator, Mary-Katherine Whelan and Assistant Curator, Dr. Lorene Bridgen-Lennie will join a panel discussion hosted by the Ontario Black History Society, along with representatives from the Guelph Black Heritage Society, North Buxton Museum, and Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site. They will discuss topics such as the existence of Black heritage, the history of each Museum, the work that they do, and the importance of supporting them and working together to preserve Black history. Happening at 7pm. Link can be found on Amherstburg Freedom Museum social media pages.

February 18, 2021 – Join the Essex County Black Historical Research Society online as we welcome special guest presenter Lisa Lee, all the way from Madagascar! Originally a Detroit, Ms. Lee is a descendant of the Lee family of Windsor-Essex County. She will present a talk on the lives of the Lees in slavery and freedom. Happening at 7pm. To register for this event, please e-mail ecbhrs@gmail.com.

February 21, 2021 – The Windsor West Indian Association's annual Black History Tea is happening virtually at 1pm. For information, call (519) 945-0213 or e-mail wwiavp@bellnet.ca.

February 22, 2021—The Amherstburg Freedom Museum will host a virtual art auction. See their social media pages for more details.

February 25, 2021 – Join the Ontario Heritage Trust for a free virtual event, Heritage Matters with Esi Edugyan, 5pm. Bestselling author and two-time Scotiabank Giller Prize winner Esi Edugyan will offer an exclusive talk on her internationally acclaimed novel *Washington Black*, touching on the themes of Black heritage, identity, belonging, and displacement. The broadcast will include a virtual visit to Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site and a question-and-answer segment with Edugyan that features questions from youth and leaders from Ontario's Black heritage community. Space is limited so pre-registration is required. Register at [Heritage Matters Live with Esi Edugyan - Ontario Heritage Trust](#).

February 26, 2021 - Black Kids in Action Performing Arts Group will perform a monologue titled "How did we get here?" on their [YouTube Page](#).

February 27, 2021 – Nigerian Canadians for Cultural, Educational and Economic Progress (NCCEEP) will host a free virtual event, 6-7:30pm, focused on The Principles of Omoluabi, including courage, hard work, humility, goodwill, communication skills, and respect. Join in a virtual celebration of the past as well as the history being created today for future generations, with history highlights as well as arts and

cultural performances. For information and registration please contact NCCEEP at ncceepwindsor@gmail.com.

February 28, 2021 – The young people of the Windsor West Indian Association, Black Boys Code, and the Youth Connection Association will offer a virtual presentation titled “The Best Way to Predict the Future Is to Create It,” 11am-1pm. For information, call (519) 945-0213 or e-mail wwiavp@bellnet.ca.

Note: This activity schedule is a living document.



Keep up to date on 2021 Black History Month events happening in our region!

Visit amherstburgfreedom.org for the latest and most accurate information.



Follow **BlackHistoryWindsor @ecbhrs**



Look for continuous updates on the **Black History Month Windsor-Essex** and **Essex County Black Historical Research Society** Facebook pages.