



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 - Black Business Can Inc. is celebrating Black History Month 2021 (also known as African Heritage Month) with a Twenty Eight Day Challenge for the community. We challenge Windsor-Essex County residents to buy products and services from a Black-owned business each day in February. When you do, hashtag your experience with them on social media #blackbusinesscan2021. In addition, show our local Black entrepreneurs that their contributions are valuable to our community by sharing Black Business Can Inc.'s social media posts highlighting local Black businesses and organizations. For a comprehensive listing of businesses and organizations led by Black, African, and Caribbean residents of Windsor-Essex, please visit blackbusinessontario.ca.

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 Teajai 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 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 9, 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 9, 2021 at 2pm. <https://www.facebook.com/AmherstburgFreedom>

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 16, 2021 – The Transformation Institute hosts a celebration of 25 Years of Black History Month in Canada: Then, Now, and the Future, featuring the Honorable Jean Augustine, the Honorable Tony Ince, Dr. Julius Garvey (youngest son of Marcus Garvey), and Dr. Maulena Karenga (Founder of Kwanzaa) in conversation with Irene Moore Davis. This free event is scheduled 6pm-8pm. To register, please visit [Community Resilience Program: 25 Years Of Black History Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#).

February 16-26, 2021 – Afrofest kicks off Tuesday, Feb 16th! This is the first Afrofest exclusively delivered online to you, @uwindsor! From Feb 16th until Feb 26th, join us in the celebration of the African Diaspora. With special performances from percussionists Saikou, Poetry Slam hosted by TJ, a private dance class with Bizzy Boom, talks with Black advocates & academics, and so much more. We're looking for talented artists for our Poetry Slam and Talent Show! \$25 and \$50 Tim Hortons are up for grabs for selected submissions. This is your opportunity to showcase your work during the events! Learn more and see a schedule of online events at www.uwsa.ca/afrofest

February 17, 2021 – For Black History Month, Rapha Youth Outreach Services will be offering a virtual African Paper Doll Tutorial, 3-4pm. This workshop involves little to no cost and can be done with items found at home. All you need is newspaper, a pen, a piece of cardboard, glue, and paint, if you have it. Register through e-mail, tgamble@raphawindsor.com or text, 519-919-9724.

February 17, 2021 - By the River is a reading series that weaves together people in the communities of Waawiyatanong. This is a gathering of writers from all over Turtle Island. Story is imperative to our collective humanity. By the River empowers and ignites imagination through written and spoken words. Join us on Wednesday, February 17th at 12:30 p.m. for our first online event of 2021, highlighting two important voices: Bob Campbell and Khary Mason. Bob Campbell is a writer, essayist, and former newspaper reporter, based in Flint, Michigan. His debut novel, *Motown Man*, is published by Urban

Farmhouse Press (2020.) Bob's creative nonfiction and essays have appeared in *Belt Magazine*, *Forge Literary Magazine* and *Gravel Magazine*. He is a contributor to Belt Publishing's *Midwest Architecture Journeys*, published in October 2019. Khary Mason, a descendant of Essex County's McCurdy and Thompson clans, is a native Detroiter who has spent half his life with the Detroit Police Department. He is currently a homicide detective. In 2015 Khary attended the College for Creative Studies to further his interest in photography and started to write and perform spoken word poetry. From 2015-2019 Khary was the co-lead of a photography project sponsored by the NJHIA at Princeton University. Khary's multidisciplinary arts and law enforcement background coupled with his early childhood experience allow him to advocate for children of marginalized populations through mentoring, art, and speaking engagements. This reading will be moderated by Irene Moore Davis (All Write in Sin City podcast, BookFest Windsor, and Essex County Black Historical Research Society.) Look for the event link on the By the River Reading Series social media pages.

February 18, 2021 – Join the Essex County Black Historical Research Society virtually for a presentation titled "From Amherstburg to British Honduras: The Extraordinary Life of Miss Alexander." What compelled a young African Canadian woman from Amherstburg to spend over twenty years teaching in British Honduras, now Belize? Our presenter is educator, historian, activist, and past winner of the Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Teaching, Shantelle Browning-Morgan. Presentation and Q & A 7:00-7:35 p.m. followed by ECBHRS business meeting. To register, please visit [From Amherstburg to Honduras: The Extraordinary Life of Miss Alexander Tickets, Thu, 18 Feb 2021 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#).

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 - On Thursday, February 18 at 6:00pm, another virtual talk will be delivered by Elise Harding-Davis, a prominent local African Canadian Heritage Consultant. Harding-Davis will discuss Essex County's Lost Black Cemeteries and guide viewers to explore 13 African Canadian cemeteries in Essex County. Her talk will help tell the tales of Black pioneers, freedom fighters, and escaped slaves, all of whom become part of the "Black thread in the Canadian tapestry." This presentation will be published to the Town of Essex YouTube account and Facebook page.

February 21, 2021 – The Windsor West Indian Association's annual Black History Tea is happening virtually at 1pm. Discussion topic: Canada's Systemic Racism. Participate via Zoom. Meeting ID: 989 1705 9722. Passcode: WWIA2020.

February 22, 2021 - The [Department of English and Creative Writing](#) is Proud to Announce The University of Windsor 2021 Writer-in-Residence: Poet **Cecily Nicholson**. Cecily Nicholson's Inaugural Public Reading takes place online on Monday Feb 22nd, 7:00 – 8:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. The event is open to all. Online event [link is available here](#). Cecily Nicholson's Inaugural Reading and Launch of her Writer-in-Residency at the University of Windsor, includes some extra guests: "Homage riffs" to celebrate Cecily Nicholson's arrival will be delivered as part of the event by English and Creative Writing senior undergrads **Brandon Cormier** and **Rawand Mustafa** and by graduate student **Jade Wallace**. As

well, **Fred Wah**, former poet laureate of Canada, and Governor General's Award winner, will engage Cecily Nicholson in a conversation about poetry and poetics to conclude the event. Wah is author of over twenty volumes, including the latest, *Music at the Heart of Thinking*, a book forty years in the making, and *Scree: The Collected Earlier Poems, 1962-1991*.

February 25, 2021 – The University of Windsor Alumni Association hosts a panel discussion, “Celebrating Alumni Connections,” 3-4pm. A distinguished panel of Black alumni share their life experiences and discuss ways to get involved with the University of Windsor during these virtual times. This alumni panel is hosted by Dwanita Peele, BSc Chemistry '11, BA Political Science '11, and features Tamara Lopez, BA Psychology '04, Brian Danso, BComm '12, and Osi Nriagu, BComm '05, BEd '07. Register at [Alumni Connections Panel \(attend.com\)](#).

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 26, 2021 – The University of Windsor Alumni Association hosts “Celebrating Excellence – A Conversation with Bryant McBride and Jermain Franklin.” Bryant McBride is an executive with the National Hockey League and producer of the movie *Willie* – a documentary about hockey legend Willie O'Ree. Jermain Franklin is an anchor at TSN's SportsCentre in Toronto and a graduate of UWindsor's Communication Studies program (BA '99.) Join Bryant and Jermain as they talk about the making of *Willie*, and their shared love of hockey and running. Alumni will have the opportunity to enjoy a complimentary viewing of the movie at their convenience. Register at [Celebrating Excellence - A conversation with Bryant McBride and Jermain Franklin \(attend.com\)](#).

February 26, 2021—The Amherstburg Freedom Museum will host a virtual art auction. See their social media pages for more details.

February 27, 2021 – On Saturday February 27th from 5:30-7:00pm, [Beauty is Me](#) (BiM) group member workshop and educator [Princess Small](#) will present and facilitate a virtual presentation titled *The Black Crown: Our History is in our Hair*. The presentation will shine a light on the illustrious history of Black hair and will chronicle the journey of Black hair throughout history and highlight some of the struggles faced by Black men and women when they wear their hair in all its naturalness. You can join via zoom by clicking this [link](#).

February 28, 2021 – The young people of the Windsor West Indian Association, Black Boys Code, and the Youth Connection Association will offer a virtual event titled “The Best Way to Predict the Future Is to Create It,” 11am-1pm. Guest speakers: Jeremiah Bowers, Fardozva Kusow, Mariam Tolson-Murthy, with presentations by Claudius Thomas, Yohance Henry, Djimon Henry, and Ajani Henry. Zoom Meeting ID: 742 134 0691. Passcode: WWIA2020. Co-sponsored by the Windsor West Indian Association and University of Windsor Women's and Gender Studies

March 9-10 – Nigerian Canadians for Cultural, Educational and Economic Progress (NCCEEP) will host a free virtual event March 9 and 10, 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. The first day will feature virtual tours of local Black historical sites; the second will feature information and entertainment. Visit the NCCEEP’s Facebook page for more information.

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 @ecbhrrs**



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