



The TALKING DRUM

Stories



***A Message
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Curator***



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SOLD OUT!***



***2019: A Year in
Review***

About Us

The Amherstburg Freedom Museum is a curated archive that preserves and shares Amherstburg's stories of the Underground Railroad, and the compassion and solidarity it took to make this network possible.

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January 2020



A Message from the Curator

I would first like to take this time to say thank you for all of the ways that you have supported the Museum throughout 2019, whether you donated, volunteered, attended an event or shared our posts on social media. We could not have gotten to where we are without you and this year's successes are not just ours, but yours as well.

At the start of 2019, through the support of a capital grant of nearly \$120,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation were able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to the museum complex including; the renovations of the main gallery and entry – with the improvement of a new lighting system, windows, and technological updates. The museum roof was also replaced – along with the roof of the Taylor log cabin, which also had protective siding added to help preserve the structure. We are proud of the Museum's new look and are thankful for your continued support.

This year we have hosted over 2,000 visitors from all around the world from as far away as New Zealand, Uganda, Tokyo, Lebanon, Ghana, Scotland, Finland, Thailand and all over Canada and the United States.

One of our most exciting initiatives in 2019 was the launch of our Freedom Achievers Program, which includes a mentoring program that has recruited successful achievers as mentors in professional fields such as First Responders, S.T.E.M., Arts & Entertainment, Education, Legal, Medical, Business & Finance. Our program also includes a High-Profile Speakers Series called "Achieving Freedom in the 21st Century" that welcomes at least four diverse high-profile community builders to discuss the challenges they faced and how they challenged issues such as racism, gender inequality and homophobia to create positive change. We were thrilled to host our first guest Dwane Casey, Coach of the Detroit Pistons, who helped us kick-off the Freedom Achievers Program back in October. We are excited about our upcoming speakers in 2020 and hope that you will join us!

As we welcome in the New Year, I am asking you to please consider supporting the museum by renewing your relationship with the museum for 2020. The museum's strength comes from you, our subscribers. Your loyal support is vital to our mission to preserve and present Black history and culture. Your options for subscribing and donating are at the back of this issue.

We welcome you to explore the changes the museum has undergone in 2019 and invite you to attend the exciting events we have planned throughout 2020! Thank you for enabling us to continue to 'Share Our Stories'.

With sincere thanks,

The Talking Drum

The Talking Drum is published monthly by the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. Contributions, story ideas, suggestions and feedback are always welcome. Please contact Mary-Katherine Whelan at curator@amherstburgfreedom.org

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Christmas at the Museum SOLD OUT!

Thanks to your amazing support, Christmas at the Museum SOLD OUT!!! It was a Motown Christmas in the Nazrey A.M.E. Church and the evening's events included a fantastic performance from TJN Experience who brought in the holiday season with Motown Classics, and Black Youth In Action Performing Arts program who entertained our guests with an additional performance of Christmas songs.

A big thank you to all of the guests who came out to support the museum, including Amherstburg Town Councilors Donald McArthur, Pat Simone and Mike Prue, in addition to our amazing sponsors, Detroit Memorial Park Association and James H. Sutton Funeral Home. We would also like to extend thanks to Marlene Crepp, Ruth Bridgen, and Bev Bridgen who graciously contributed to our dessert buffet and provided the prizes for a small silent auction. Also, thank you to Pat Neely-McCurdy and Barbara K. Smith for helping with set up and donating the raffle prizes. We truly appreciate all that you do! A final thank you to everyone who brought in canned goods. Because of you, we gave a donation of canned goods, leftover treats and \$40 to the Amherstburg Mission. Happy Holidays!





Christmas at the Museum SOLD OUT!





2019: A Pictorial Year in Review

2019 has been a year of many successes. On March 5, 2019 an exciting new beginning for the Amherstburg Freedom Museum was put in motion when we began renovations to the permanent gallery, exterior of the Taylor Log Cabin and the roof. These renovations were made possible thanks to a generous capital grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation which consisted of almost \$120,000. We are proud of the Museum's new look and are thankful for your continued support.





2019: A Pictorial Year in Review

Ribs and Ragtime was our first sold out event of the year and we had perfect weather, fantastic entertainment from Black Orchid and a delicious meal from Car Barn Broaster Chicken.





2019: A Pictorial Year in Review

Guests dressed for the red carpet for our Emancipation Gala and a highlight was the paparazzi line. Say cheese!



We also couldn't have picked a more beautiful day to host our Walter Perry Emancipation Golf Classic.





2019: A Pictorial Year in Review

One of our most exciting initiatives in 2019 was the launch of our Freedom Achievers Program, which includes a mentoring program and High-Profile Speakers Series called “Achieving Freedom in the 21st Century” that welcomes diverse high-profile community builders to discuss the challenges they faced and how they challenged issues such as racism, gender inequality and homophobia to create positive change. We were thrilled to host our first guest Dwane Casey, Coach of the Detroit Pistons, who helped us kick-off the Freedom Achievers Program back in October. We are excited about our upcoming speakers in 2020 and hope that you will join us so that we can keep the conversation going.





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