



## Stories



### A Recap of Dr. Amadou Ba's Facebook Live Presentation



### We March For Justice



### A Donation to the Amherstburg Food & Fellowship Mission

## 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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July 2020



## A Recap of Facebook Live Presentation with Dr. Amadou Ba

On Friday, June 19th the Amherstburg Freedom Museum hosted its second Facebook Live presentation with author and lecturer Dr. Amadou Ba. He presented "The Forgotten History of the Contribution of Black Slaves and Soldiers to the Building of Canada, 1604-1945," which is also the title of his recent book that is currently being translated to English. Dr. Ba discussed the contributions of Black military figures and highlights included, the War of 1812, the Rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada, WWI and WWII.



If you missed Dr. Ba's presentation, it can still be viewed on our Facebook page— <https://www.facebook.com/AmherstburgFreedom/videos/3198015973621806/> Dr. Ba also recommended a list of books.

- Amadou Ba, *L'histoire oubliée de la contribution des esclaves et soldats noirs à l'édification du Canada (1604-1945)* - Currently being translated to English
- Marcel Trudel, *Canada's Forgotten Slaves: Two Centuries of Bondage*
- Velma Carter and Lovero (Lee) Carter, *The Black Canadians – Their History and Contributions*
- Colin Thompson, *Blacks in Deep Snow - Black Pioneers in Canada*
- John Cooper, *Season of Rage. Hugh Burnett and the Struggle for Civil Rights*
- Tim Cook, *At the Sharp end: Canadian Fighting the Great War, 1914-1916.*
- Killian Crawford, *Go Do Some Great Thing: The Black Pioneers of British Columbia*
- Sean Flynn Foyn, *The Underside of Glory; Africanadian Enlistment in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1914-1917*
- John N. Grant, *The Maroons in Nova Scotia.*
- Lawrence Hill, *Trials and Triumphs. The Story of African-Canadians*
- Gwen Hooks, *The Keystone Legacy: reflections of a Black Pioneer*
- Mathias Joost, "2e Bataillon de construction, historique des opérations", *Revue Histoire Militaire du Canada*, Vol. 16, num. 3, été, 2016
- W.A. Spray, *The Blacks in New Brunswick*

### 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](mailto:curator@amherstburgfreedom.org)

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Aanand Ayrta



## A Message From The Board of Directors & Staff

Dear Amherstburg Freedom Museum Supporters,

For the last 45 years, the Amherstburg Freedom Museum has been dedicated to serving the community, sharing Canada's significant Black History with the world. Amherstburg resident Melvin "Mac" Simpson believed that social, economic, and educational problems could be addressed more effectively by people with a greater self-awareness and pride in their own history. Therefore Mac Simpson, with the assistance of other significant community builders, created the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. They too experienced racism in their lifetime just as countless generations before and after them. This is a painful part of Canada's past that has always existed but has just recently received increased attention. We, as a community, have always known that this racism existed, and it has persisted because there are those who are either comfortable with the status quo or are unwilling to speak out. Now is the time to be uncomfortable and to speak up.

Anti-Black racism is something that has continued into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, affecting every country, province and state, even persisting in the smallest of communities. It exists in our educational institutions through what is and is not taught, through hiring processes, business practices, in healthcare, in laws and policies, and in the community as a whole, particularly through everyday micro aggressions. Right now, there is a movement that is happening, but we can't afford to lose momentum. Some progress has been made, but there is so much more to do. We must continue to speak out against all forms of racism, support Black businesses, charities and organizations, and start educating ourselves so that misinformation does not continue. We must also ensure that lawmakers and government officials follow through with their promises of more inclusive laws and policies that will change society for the better.

The Amherstburg Freedom Museum Board of Directors and Staff are committed to continuing to educate the public about Canada's hidden Black History. We are dedicated to challenging myths that exist in our nation's history by continuing to offer educational tours and inclusive programming and by connecting the community with local heroes. This is in addition to sharing the history of both recognized and lesser known Black figures on our social media platforms and in the local family histories that are shared on our website. Our Freedom Achievers Mentorship Program and Speakers Series has also made a positive impact by connecting young persons of colour with community builders that will help guide them down a successful career path and show them that their goals are achievable.

As we continue to move forward with Mac Simpson's vision for the Museum and the community, we want to offer our support and services to maintain this worldwide movement because we want to be part of these positive changes happening and because Black Lives Matter.

In Solidarity,

*Amherstburg Freedom Museum Board of Directors and Staff*





## We March For Justice

On Sunday, June 14th people gathered in Amherstburg for "We March For Justice" which was a march against racism. Participants walked down Richmond Street to King, where they passed the Amherstburg Freedom Museum, and ended at Amherstburg Town Hall.

If you're looking for ways to help, please support Black charities, Black history museums, Black organizations and Black businesses. It is also crucial to educate yourself so that misinformation doesn't continue. Here are some book suggestions to help you start learning more about the significant contributions



of Black Canadians, but also the injustices that have and still occur. This is not a complete list but is instead a starting point for people to educate themselves.

- North to Bondage*** - Harvey Amani Whitfield
- Canada's Forgotten Slaves***- Marcel Trudel
- The Hanging of Angelique*** - Afua Cooper
- We're Rooted Here and they can't pull us up*** - edited Peggy Bristow
- ***A Fluid Frontier*** - ed. Karolyn Smardz Frost
- ***Emancipation Day*** - Natasha Henry
- The Black Loyalists*** - James Walker
- ***Deemed Unsuitable***- R. Bruce Shephard
- Under the North Star***- Donald Simpson
- The Black Battalion*** - Calvin Ruck
- Go Do some great thing*** -Crawford Kilian
- The Journey From Tollgate to Parkway*** - Adrienne Shadd
- Policing Black Lives*** - Robyn Maynard
- They Call Me George: The Untold Story of Black Train Porters and the Birth of Modern Canada*** - Cecil Foster
- A Fly in a Pail of Milk: The Herb Carnegie Story*** - Herb and Bernice Carnegie
- My name's not George: The story of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters*** -Stanley G. Grizzle



***We want to send out a HUGE thank you to everyone who has made donations to the museum and has followed us on our social media pages. We are truly grateful for your support which helps us keep Mac and Betty's dream alive. Thank you!***



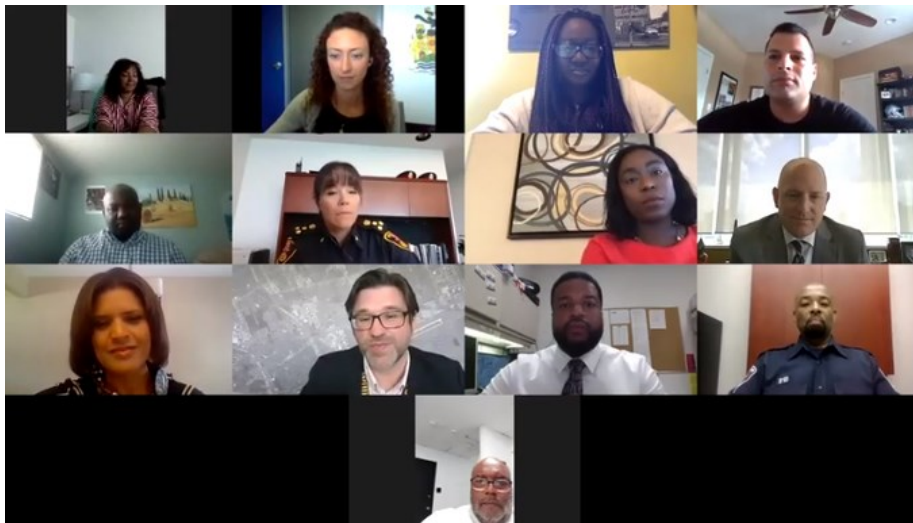
## A Donation to the Amherstburg Food & Fellowship Mission

On Friday, June 5th Amherstburg Freedom Museum Board Vice-President Barb Porter and Board Director Sheneese Johnson visited the **Amherstburg Food & Fellowship Mission** with a donation from the Museum's Board of Directors and Staff. We appreciate what the mission does and wanted to give what we can. If you would like to donate to the



Amherstburg Mission, here is a link to their website <https://aburgmission.ca/> or call (519) 736-9140. Even a small donation can make a big impact!

## Windsor Black Lives Matter Panel Discussion



On Friday, June 19th a Black Lives Matter panel discussion occurred between community leaders and Mayor Drew Dilkins.

If you missed the panel discussion here is the link to watch <http://ow.ly/5MFy50AkPol>

The City of Windsor also recently released an online survey to gather input from the community in order to help stop systemic racism. To participate in the survey, go to <http://ow.ly/jDLQ50AkQmb>



## Museum Re-Entry Plan

While we aren't quite ready to re-open yet, we want to thank you in advance for your patience as we get through this together. **Be sure to check out our Facebook page and website where we will announce our re-opening date.** We can't wait to see you all again, and share our collections in a safe and responsible way!

**Please check out our re-entry plan & ask us any questions you might have.**



### HOW DO I BOOK MY VISIT?

Please call the museum at 519-736-5433 during regular business hours to choose your preferred date and time of visit.

### HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN VISIT AS A GROUP DURING ONE TIME SLOT?

The maximum number of people in a group per time slot is 8 people.

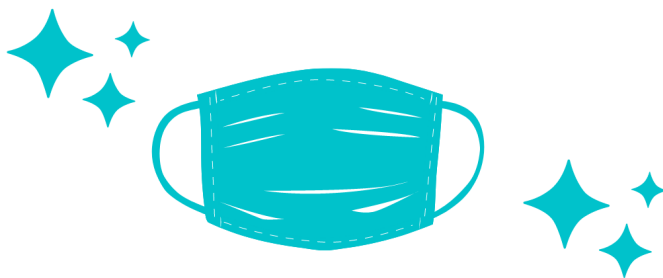


### HOW LONG IS A TIME SLOT?

Time slots are 50 minutes each with scheduled cleaning between visits.

### WHAT IS THE COST OF ADMISSION?

Seniors & Students: \$6.50  
Adults: \$7.50  
Children Under 5 FREE



### MASKS MUST BE WORN

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit has issued a class order making face masks mandatory at commercial establishments.

If you do not have a mask, we can provide one for you! You will not be allowed in the museum without a mask.



### ENHANCED VISITOR SAFETY

The safety of both visitors and staff is our top priority. Scheduled cleaning of touch points and washrooms will take place between visits.

Hand sanitizer is available. Interactive components have temporarily been removed. Donations and ticket purchases may be made with credit or debit.

*We can't wait to see you!*

# Subscribe Today!



## Give a Gift, and Preserve History!

Donate to help us to preserve, protect, and display historic treasures. Every gift is tax-deductible in Canada or the United States.

### General subscriber benefits include:

Unlimited 1 year free admissions, Invitation to preview exhibition openings, 10% off all items in museum store and name listed in monthly newsletter (with permission), introduction to genealogy research library.

**\$20 Seniors (age 65+)**

**\$25 Students (age 5-22)**

**\$35 Adults (age 23-64)**

**\$120 Family (family of 5)**

### **\$100 to \$499 SUPPORTER**

All the above plus a beautiful Certificate of subscription, suitable for framing, that recognizes your participation as a Member.

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All the above plus an invitation to one special event, one exhibition opening or subscriber-only event.

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All the above plus recognition on Museum's Donor Wall. Plus two tickets to all events and recognition on our social media pages.



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**Thank you for your support!**





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### **In Memoriam**

**Anna Louella (Talbot) White - In Loving Memory - Your  
Son, Gary L. White (\$250 donation)**

**To renew your subscription or to make a donation, please  
call the Museum at 519-736-5433. Subscription dues and  
donations support exhibitions and the daily expenses of  
operating the Museum. Whether you visit once a month or a  
few times over the year, you enjoy the benefits of  
subscription and your support helps to ensure that this  
incredible Museum will remain a vital source of history,  
culture and inspiration for generations to come.**