



## Stories



**And the t-shirt  
contest winner is  
... Melah Mulder!**



**Recap of AFM  
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Presentation by  
Bernice Carnegie**



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Joint Black  
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Kickoff!**

## 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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**March 2021**



## And the t-shirt contest winner is ... Melah Mulder!

The Amherstburg Freedom Museum is excited to announce that the winner of our t-shirt contest is Melah Mulder! We recently interviewed Melah and want you to learn more about this impressive young person. Melah is 13 years old and she attends St. John the Baptist Catholic Elementary School in Amherstburg. Melah loves to read and write, in addition to doing independent research projects outside of school, including a project she recently did on poet Phillis Wheatley. She also dances competitively and does track and field. Her interest in art comes from when she was a little girl, drawing dress designs in her sketch book that she bought from the Dollar Store.

Melah heard about the Amherstburg Freedom Museum t-shirt contest from her father who saw the contest on the Museum's Instagram page and shared the details with Melah. When asked how she created her design, Melah said that she made a few sketches and looked on the internet for photo clipart, which she then printed out and drew overtop to create her design. Melah explained that her design includes an image of Harriet Tubman on the front, with the North Star directing Freedom Seekers to freedom, along with the Canadian flag because "when I think of Canadian Black history, I think of freedom." Melah adds that the winding path is meant to represent obstacles freedom seekers faced.

We also asked Melah what inspired her design and she said the book *Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History* provided her with stories and quotes that acted as inspiration for her design. She also said that the song "Stand Up" from the film *Harriet*, sung by Cynthia Erivo, also inspired her because of the lyrics calling people to freedom.

Melah loves Black history and said that if she could interview one historical Black figure it would be Harriet Tubman and she would ask about her struggles and what she's been through. Melah chose Harriet Tubman because her story is so inspiring and when she thinks of strong Black women, she thinks of Harriet Tubman who helped numerous people get to freedom and acted as a spy during the Civil War.



### 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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## And the t-shirt contest winner is ... Melah Mulder!

We also asked her if there was a local figure that she wants people to learn more about and she said John Freeman Walls, who is one of her ancestors who escaped to Canada, coming through Amherstburg, and settling in Puce. Melah recommended the book *The Road that Led to Somewhere* by Dr. Bryan Walls if anyone would like to learn more.

Melah would like to be a teacher when she grows up because she loves education and wants to “feed young people’s brains.”

Melah remembers bringing home her activity book from school and explaining the contents to her mother, in addition to sharing random facts at the dinner table. We can say for certain that her students will be lucky to have Melah as their teacher.

Our final question to Melah was “What message do you want you t-shirt to convey” and she responded that “You should be proud that you are Black.” Melah added that Black Canadians and Americans have gone through, and continue to go through, so much but, at the same time, they have overcome so much and that is something to be proud of. Melah said “don’t ever be ashamed to be Black, if anything we should be more proud.”

To purchase a t-shirt, please call 519-736-5433.



Front

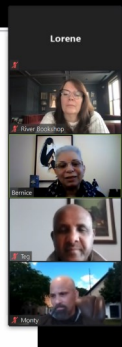
Back



## Recap of AFM & River Bookshop Presentation by Bernice Carnegie



scoring in life – a diversity change agent



There was a great turnout for Bernice Carnegie’s Black History Month Presentation which we hosted in partnership with the River Bookshop. Bernice Carnegie is the daughter of hockey hero Herb Carnegie who was one of the greatest hockey players to never play in the NHL because of racism which prevented him from ever being signed. Bernice spoke about her father and the challenges he faced which is documented in *A Fly in a Pail of Milk: The Herb Carnegie Story* which, in

the rereleased version, includes Bernice’s “Lessons passed on from father to daughter.” Bernice also shared her family’s history and her own activism including her role as an educational speaker, serving as President of the Bernice Carnegie & Associates Inc., and co-founding the Herbert H. Carnegie Future Aces Foundation which promotes positive leadership, deters bullying, and supports safe school’s initiatives. We are so grateful to the River Bookshop for partnering with us and to Ms. Carnegie for sharing her family’s significant story.





## Recap of Windsor-Essex Joint Black History Month Kickoff

The Windsor-Essex Joint Black History Month Kick Off, hosted by Essex County Black Historical Research Society, Windsor West Indian Association and Amherstburg Freedom Museum may have been virtual this year, but the evening's program was filled with so many talented performers!

The evening's program featured fantastic performances by Teajai Travis, Florine Ndimubandi, Kionna Wilson, Brett Logan, Nadine Manroe, and Black Kids in Action Performing Arts Group. There were also greetings from ECBHRS President, Irene Moore Davis, Windsor West Indian Association's Herma Brown, and Amherstburg Freedom Museum Curator, Mary-Katherine Whelan.

Throughout the night, Irene Moore Davis also gave a history of different plaques and monuments that celebrate Black History in Windsor-Essex including Mary Ann Shadd Cary, James L. Dunn, the Walker house, the Tower of Freedom & the Gateway to Freedom, Reaching Out Mural, and the Henry and Mary Bibb plaque.

Thank you to everyone who watched!





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Amherstburg Freedom Museum would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to **Charitable Gaming Windsor** and **Paradise Gaming Centre** for their continued support. Throughout the years, they have helped us keep the Museum open and running, and allowed for us to continue to offer our programming throughout the pandemic. Thank you!





## A Call for Board Directors & Fundraising Committee Members

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Attention Community Members! Are you looking for a great way to give back to your community? We have a great opportunity for you! The Amherstburg

Freedom Museum is looking to take on more Board Directors and/or those interested in being on our Fundraising Committee.

To apply, contact [curator@amherstburgfreedom.org](mailto:curator@amherstburgfreedom.org)

## The Perfect Gift

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Are you looking for the perfect gift for friends and family? We're here to help. The Amherstburg Freedom Museum is offering this embossed bag tag that features the Amherstburg Freedom Museum logo. Put it on your luggage, golf bag, backpack or purse. The possibilities are endless!

All you have to do is **give a donation of \$35** and this bag tag will be yours, along with a \$15 tax receipt. The tag has a brown leather strap and a nickel medallion with Amherstburg Freedom Museum logo surrounded by a border of leather. The medallion with surrounding leather (not including the strap) measures 88.9mm x 77.6mm. To order, please call **519-736-5433**. Quantities are limited. Happy shopping!

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**Anna Louella (Talbot) White - In Loving Memory - Your  
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