



Stories



***Launch of
Freedom
Achievers
Program with
Dwane Casey a
Huge Success!***



***Remembrance
Day Tribute:
Kenneth
Jacobs***



***A Motown
Christmas***

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.

277 King Street,
Amherstburg, ON N9V 2C7
Phone: 519-736-5433
Email:
curator@amherstburgfreedom.org
www.amherstburgfreedom.org

November 2019



Dwane Casey and the Freedom Achievers Program Launch

WE SOLD OUT!!! The room was a packed for Detroit Piston's Coach Dwane Casey at the launch of our Freedom Achievers Program on October 12th. A big thank you to everyone who attended including Amherstburg Town Councillors Patricia Simone and Don McArthur, and members of the Amherstburg Community Foundation, President Richard Peddie, Lori Wightman and Linden Crain. Additional thanks to everyone who promoted and donated to this initiative. We are truly grateful for your support. A final thank you to Coach Dwane Casey for sharing lessons and advice, and encouraging people to "Teach the truth. Teach acceptance. Teach inclusion."

There's still work to be done for our next guest speaker and we need your help to make it happen. Even the smallest donation can help us reach our goal of \$39,000. To learn more and to donate, go to <https://amherstburgfreedom.org/> or <https://www.amherstburgfoundation.org/>



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

277 King Street,
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A Remembrance Day Tribute: Lieutenant-Colonel Kenneth Jacobs

This November 11th we recognize the bravery of countless African Canadians who made significant sacrifices for their country. As a tribute to their bravery, we are going to highlight a local hero. Lieutenant-Colonel Kenneth Jacobs was born on September 16, 1923 in Windsor. The son of a WWI veteran (James Jacobs), Kenneth grew up in the Windsor area and served in the Canadian army during WWII. Lieutenant-Colonel Jacobs attended Prince Edward Public School and then Kennedy Collegiate Institute in Windsor and graduated from Assumption College with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of Toronto.



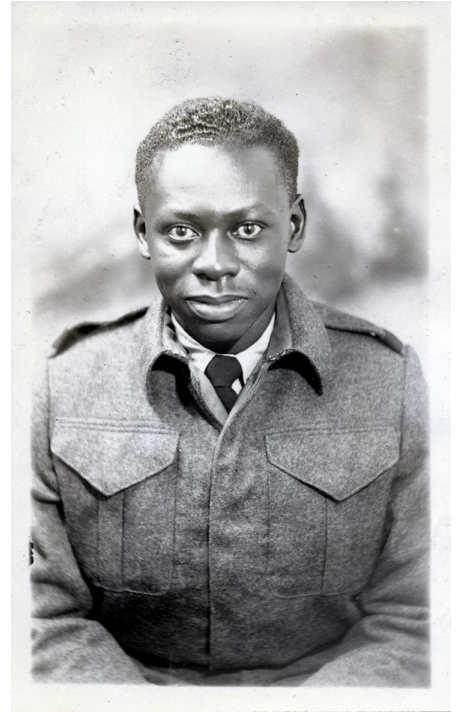
He also became the first Black social worker at the Children's Aid Society of Toronto and

following his time with Children's Aid, enlisted in the Air Force. He reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1976, the first Black Canadian to reach that level, and went on to become the first Black Canadian to have a career as a flying officer. After

24 years of service, Jacobs retired in 1988 with the rank of Wing Commander.

The bravery of countless African Canadian soldiers should not just be remembered on November 11th, but throughout the year. To learn more about Kenneth Jacobs and other courageous soldiers, we encourage you to visit the Amherstburg Freedom Museum to see our display commemorating their courageous service.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jacobs was a good friend of Mac Simpson, founder of the Museum, and was generous supporter of the museum. Be sure to visit the museum where we have a display about Kenneth Jacobs achievements.





A Motown Christmas!

AMHERSTBURGFREEDOM.ORG

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DECEMBER
11TH



AMHERSTBURG
FREEDOM MUSEUM

Christmas At The Museum:

A MOTOWN CHRISTMAS

FEATURING "TJN EXPERIENCE"

7PM

**TICKETS
\$30**

NAZREY A.M.E CHURCH
277 KING STREET
AMHERSTBURG



The Hour-A-Day Study Club 85th Anniversary Luncheon



Happening Saturday, November 9th, at the Ambassador Golf Club, The Hour-A-Day Study Club will celebrate the 2019 scholarship recipients and the 85th Anniversary Luncheon. Enjoy a delicious meal, great entertainment, a silent auction and Guest Speaker Dave Watkins, the 2007 Recipient of the Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching! For ticket information, contact the.hour.a.day.study.club@gmail.com or call/text 519-995-5248 or on Eventbrite.

Shelley Harding-Smith



It is with sadness that we share the news that former board member, activist, educator and pioneer Shelley Harding-Smith passed away on Friday October 4th, 2019. We are sending love to the family and friends of Shelley Harding-Smith during this difficult time.

According to her sister, Elise Harding-Davis "She believed, 'education is the portal to active and productive participation in society.' Her personal commitment to life-long learning enabled her to graduate from St. Clair College and enjoy a rewarding career as Canada's first African-Canadian Female Master Electrician (1978). She was among fourteen apprentices trained by her father Morris Harding, who owned/operated Harding Electric with his wife Ruth. Shelley helped pioneer women's entry into non-traditional occupations for skilled trades and technology. She owned/operated Harding-Smith Electric and was also employed at Chrysler Canada-Skilled Trades, the City of Windsor, WICK and Boblo Island as an Electrician and taught skilled trades courses in Windsor's high schools.

While representing Wards 1,2, and 9 when elected Trustee with the Greater Windsor/Essex District School Board, Shelley successfully introduced a Black Studies Teachers Guide. A community activist, she was passionate about preserving all aspects of heritage. Shelley sat on several boards-the North American Black Historical Museum (presently the Amherstburg Freedom Museum), First Nations Metis, Inuit Council, Friends of the Court – Mackenzie Hall and The Hour-a-Day Study Club. Amongst many awards she received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Caucus of Colour Award.

She hosted a yearly neighbourhood children's Christmas cookie-making party and mentored numerous youths, encouraging them to take up skilled trades. Shelley created a bursary fund honouring of her parents. She took risks, worked smart and fiercely advocated for Black equality."



Freedom Achievers Program—Donate Today!

BLACK HISTORY, UNIVERSAL INSPIRATION

Dear Freedom Achievers Supporter,



The town of Amherstburg has one of Southern Ontario's richest histories, especially when discussing its significance on the Underground Railroad. The Amherstburg Freedom Museum's Nazrey A.M.E. Church was a haven for countless African Americans fleeing enslavement and offered these newcomers the assistance they needed to start their new life in freedom. This Church remains a tribute to the bravery and perseverance of Black settlers.

It was Mac and Betty Simpson's dream to build a museum that preserved our heritage and shared Black history with the world. They 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. Our goal is to share this impactful history with people of all ages, which is why we hosted The Amherstburg Freedom Summit that welcomed young persons of colour and asked them to discuss the challenges they face, but also solutions to create positive change.

A prevailing suggestion was a mentorship program and speaker series, which is why we have created the Freedom Achievers Program. Our initiative includes a mentoring program that will recruit successful achievers as mentors in professional fields such as First Responders, S.T.E.M., Arts & Entertainment, Education, Legal, Medical, Business & Finance. The mentoring sessions will provide insight into career options and actively engage with mentees. We will also host 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 have partnered with the Amherstburg Community Foundation on this event and in October, hosted our first guest speaker, Detroit Piston's Coach, Dwane Casey, but in order to continue our speakers series we need your help to make this happen. Even the smallest donation can help us achieve our goal of \$39,000. To donate, go to amherstburgfreedom.org or call the Museum, 519-736-5433. Let's work together to create a path to success for the youth of Essex County.

Sincerely,

Monty Logan

President, Amherstburg Freedom Museum
monty.logan@amherstburgfreedom.org



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- Invitation to Annual Community Meeting
- Access to genealogy research library

Please note that as of January 2014, we cannot provide a tax receipt for subscription dues. Should you prefer a tax receipt, please indicate that you wish to make a donation instead. Subscription privileges will not apply.



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