



## Stories



***Dress For the  
Red Carpet—  
Emancipation  
Celebration  
2019***



***Walter Perry  
Golf Classic***



***Freedom  
Achievers  
Program***

## 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](mailto:curator@amherstburgfreedom.org)  
[www.amherstburgfreedom.org](http://www.amherstburgfreedom.org)

**September 2019**



## Dress For the Red Carpet—Emancipation Celebration 2019

Guests dressed for the red carpet at our Emancipation Celebration on August 2nd. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the museum including MP Tracey Ramsey, MP Cheryl Hardcastle, MPP Lisa Gretzky, MPP Percy Hatfield, and members of Amherstburg Town Council - Mike Prue, Patricia Simone and Don McArthur, in addition to the Windsor Police and the staff of Arbor Memorial. We are also grateful to **TD Bank** and **LiUNA! 625** for their generous sponsorship. Additional thanks to all of our volunteers who made the evening a success!

The evening's program was led by our amazing MC and Board Director Dr. Brenda McCurdy and there were several highlights including a presentation and performance from ACT, the AFM Legacy Hero Award which was given to the late Alton C. Parker and accepted by his granddaughter Cherie Steele Sexton, and fantastic music from the band Sound Drive. We also had the pleasure of awarding our Mac Simpson Academic Scholarship to three amazing students - Hallee Kejick, Lyric Davis and Manar Kowa. What a fantastic night!



### 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)

277 King Street,  
Amherstburg, ON N9V 2C7  
519-736-5433 or  
800-713-6336 toll free

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Philip H. Alexander,  
Secretary

J. Trisha Bray, Director

Tom Hurst, Director

Dr. Barbara Hughes Smith,  
Director

Gary Jean, Treasurer

Sheneese Johnson,  
Director

Monty Logan, President

Dr. Brenda McCurdy,  
Director

Barbara Porter,  
Vice- President

David Van Dyke,  
Director

#### STAFF

Lorene Bridgen-Lennie,  
Assistant Curator

Mary-Katherine Whelan,  
Curator/Manager of  
Collections and Research

#### PART-TIME

Teiana Harris





## Dress For the Red Carpet—Emancipation Celebration 2019







## Walter Perry Emancipation Golf Classic







## Photography Exhibit

---

Our Summer employees, Hallee and Erin, researched early photography and created this display for visitors to enjoy. Highlights include the different types of photography, Black-owned photography studios, and female photographers. Stop by to take a look! Attention subscribers! Free admission is included in your subscription. **Not yet a subscribers? Sign up today by filling out a subscription form included in the *Talking Drum*.**



## A Special Visit

---



On August 21st, we had some very special guests visit the museum. The grandchildren of Museum founders, Betty and Mac Simpson, Richard and Janisse, in addition to Janisse's son, Cyrus, stopped in to say hello. It was great to catch up and hear their memories of the Museum and Mac and Betty. Thanks for visiting!



## 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 are partnering with the Amherstburg Community Foundation on this event and we are thrilled that Dwane Casey, Head Coach of the Detroit Pistons, will kick off our High-Profile Speakers Series, but 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](http://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](mailto:monty.logan@amherstburgfreedom.org)



## Subscribe Today!



### Your Subscription Benefits include:

- Monthly "Talking Drum" Newsletter
- Free Admission to the Museum (including temporary exhibits)
- Free Guided Tour (by appointment only)
- Name published in monthly list of subscribers (with permission)
- 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.*



### Subscription Form

Please return to:

Amherstburg Freedom Museum

277 King St.

Amherstburg, ON, N9V 2C7

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type: ☐ Adult (\$35)

☐ Senior (\$30)

☐ Student \$20)

☐ Family of Five (\$75)

☐ Non-Profit (\$75)

☐ Business (\$85)

Enclosed please find my cheque for:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I prefer to phone 519-736-5433 and pay by credit card.

☐ I will renew online at  
[www.amherstburgfreedom.org](http://www.amherstburgfreedom.org)

☐ You have my permission to print my name in a list of subscribers in the TALKING DRUM newsletter

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## Our Supporters

Gerard Aching  
Nancy Allen  
Gayle Allinotte  
Elsie Bishop  
Charlie Bray  
Joan (Trisha) Bray  
Janisse Browning-Miller  
Terryll Chase

Marlene Crepp  
Irene Moore-Davis  
Lloyd Dean  
Leroy Gray  
Locketa Gray  
Donald Harris  
Janice Harris  
Edith Helm  
Paul Hertel  
Ute Hertel  
Raquel Hurst  
Ivy Johnson  
Milo Johnson  
Sheila Johnson  
Thomas Karle  
Carol Laforet  
Dileana Larkin  
Lois Larkin  
Brian Lennie  
Richard B. Leveque  
Florence Logan  
Linda Logan  
Wayne Logan  
Hazel MacDonald  
Connie Mathieson  
Cleata Morris  
Reuben Munday  
Colleen Peddie  
Richard Peddie  
Shirley Pulley  
Colleen Reid  
Joyce Robbins  
Carolynne Rourke  
Donna Scott  
Claudia Shreve Allen  
Frank Simone  
Allen Simpson  
Frieda Steele  
Norma Sutherland  
Marilyn Sutton  
Mable Thomas  
Harlis Thompson  
Sharon Thompson Anderson

Rebecca Underwood  
Glendora Watkins  
Gary L. White Family  
Janet Willoughby  
Debora Wynn

### Group Subscriptions:

Caesars Windsor  
Distinguished Women of International Services  
Hour-A-Day Study Club  
James H. Sutton Funeral Home  
Meloche's No Frills  
Past Masters in Hair

### Family Subscriptions:

Bridgen, Ruth and Sam

Dipasquale Family

Gbadamosi Family:

Babatunde, Mojisola, Oiuwadamilola,

Goldin Family:

Harold, Shirley, Ephraim, Malique, Phyllis Oppen

Hurst Family:

Maynard, Marva and Monique Hurst

Taylor Family:

Ronald Taylor, Judith Taylor, Andrea Taylor-Butts, Tim Taylor,

**To renew your subscription, please call the Museum at 519-736-5433. Subscription dues 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**