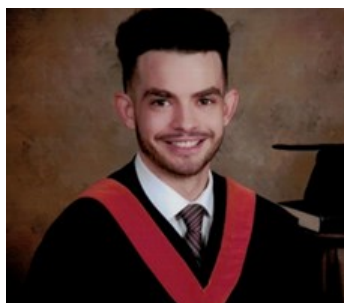




Stories



2022 Windsor-Essex Black History Month Activity Schedule



Freedom Achiever Spotlight — Andre Mulder



Quilt of Valour

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

February 2022



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Essex County is rich in Black history. Canadians of African descent have played important roles in the cultural, political, social, and economic progress of our communities. Our region has been populated by people of African descent from the 18th century, when free Black Loyalists as well as enslaved Africans were among the area's early residents; to the 19th century when formerly enslaved African Americans and free people of colour streamed into this area by the thousands, fleeing either bondage or oppression; to the modern era when immigrants from the continent of Africa and the Caribbean made this region their new home.

Here are some of the Black History Month events happening around our region... mostly online this year.

January 28, 2022 - The annual Windsor-Essex Black History Month Kick-Off will be happening virtually, Friday, January 28th, 7:00-9:00 p.m. EST, featuring Black history highlights, poetry, and music. With a focus on Celebrating Black Women of Excellence this year, this free event is hosted by the Essex County Black Historical Research Society, the Windsor West Indian Association, the Amherstburg Freedom Museum, and Black Women of Forward Action. We will publicly recognize the importance of Black History Month as well as encourage the community to participate in the array of Black History Month events hosted locally this year. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2022-windsor-essex-county-joint-black-history-month-kick-off-tickets-244635680907>.

January 29, 2022 – Join the Nile Valley Foundation on Saturday, January 29th, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. EST for Maafa: Our Stories, a Global Conversation with hosts Irene Moore Davis and Denise Williams. Featured panelists appearing live from both sides of the Atlantic will include Dr. Afua Cooper, Dr. George Dei, Rosemary Sadlier, Nii Koney, Naa-Amerley Asante Armar, and Dr. Tolu Oloruntoba, 2021 Governor General's Literary Award Winner for Poetry. To participate, no pre-registration is required. Zoom Meeting ID: 982 2150 7168, Passcode: 0220222.

January 29-30, 2022 – The Black Canadians for Cultural, Educational, and Economic Progress presents Virtual Africana, January 29th 3:00-6:00 p.m. EST and January 30th 4:00-6:00 p.m., an online event to celebrate African culture featuring speakers, entertainment, and more. Funded by the Government of Canada. Email bcceepwindsor@gmail.com for more information.

January 30, 2022 - The Ontario Black History Society will host its annual Black History Month Kick-Off with the theme "Home" virtually at 4:00 pm. We'll be taking the time and space to consider the idea of home. We'll talk about Black & Indigenous solidarity, how and why Black people call Canada home, and finding the perfect home for the new Black Canadian museum envisioned for Toronto. The program will feature community recognition profiles/annual awards, Black history highlights, entertainment, and so much more, with keynote speaker Ginelle Skerritt and host Arlene Duncan. To register, please go to <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2022-obhs-black-history-month-kick-off-tickets-200095700627>. (Note: if you are outside the Greater Toronto Area, please choose the tickets that do not include meal delivery.)

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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2022 Windsor-Essex Black History Month Activity Schedule

February 1, 2022 – Visit the Amherstburg Freedom Museum to view a display about the No. 2 Construction Battalion, in addition to a separate display featuring the Honourable Lincoln Alexander, in celebration of his 100th birthday.

February 1-28, 2022 – The social media channels of the University of Windsor Leddy Library will feature 28 Days, 28 Books to Read... daily recommendations from community members for great reading on Black history and culture. The digital event will publish one recommendation on its social media channels each of the 28 days in February, then collect all the titles into a spot on its collections page to serve as a resource after the month has ended.

February 1-28, 2022 – Follow the University of Windsor website and social media channels for news about the many excellent virtual events planned for Black History/Black Futures Month... weekly trivia contests, a special presentation by alumnus, artist, and newly inducted member of the Order of Canada Robert Small, a fireside chat with distinguished Black/African/Caribbean alumni, a virtual performance and live Q & A with Leslie McCurdy, the annual Afrofest celebration, and more!

February 1-28, 2022 – Follow Black Women of Forward Action on Facebook and Instagram for 28 Days of Inspiring Black Women, 28 daily social media posts shining a light on some of the best and brightest women of Black/African/Caribbean heritage in Canada today.

February 1-28, 2022 – Join Black Business Can for the Buy Black 28 Day Challenge throughout Black History Month. There will be a showcase of Black-owned businesses on Facebook and Instagram that you can learn about, visit, and enjoy with your family. Visit blackbusinessontario.ca, <http://facebook.com/blackbusinesscan> or <http://Instagram.com/blackbusinesscan>

February 1-28, 2022 - Windsor Public Library offers collections that celebrate Black heritage, encourage diverse and unique voices, and consider the historical significance of Black activists from around the world. In honour of Black History Month, WPL has created a resource calendar featuring relevant books, ebooks, and audiobooks written by Black authors or featuring Black characters, for readers of all ages. The calendar includes materials in: **Adult Fiction/Adult Non-fiction, YA Fiction/YA Non-fiction, Children's Fiction/Children's Non-fiction; DVDs and CDs also included.** Pick up a hard copy at John Muir while supplies last or send an email to Zina (email below) for an electronic copy. CONTACT: Ms. Janet Brown and Zina Hirmiz 519-255-6770 EXT:7700 ZHirmiz@windsorpubliclibrary.com. LOCATION: John Muir Branch, Windsor Public Library.

February 4, 2022 – The University of Windsor presents a lecture by Dr. Rosalind Hampton of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, titled "Plotting Black Studies in Canada," Friday, February 4th at 10:00 a.m. EST. Please look for the registration link at <https://www.uwindsor.ca/dailynews/2022-01-21/speaker-explore-role-black-studies-canada> and do sign up in advance. Dr. Hampton's areas of teaching and graduate student supervision include Black radical thought; arts and creative practice; Black women's life writing; Black learners in Canada; and critical ethnographic and arts-informed methods of inquiry. Her 2020 book *Black Racialization and Resistance at an Elite University* examines racialized social relations in Canadian higher education through a study grounded in Black people's experiences at McGill University since the late 1950s. Expanding on this work, her current research projects examine Black student activism and coalition building in the late 20th century, Black studies initiatives at Canadian universities since 2015, and critical-creative praxis in Black studies research and pedagogy. The event is the second in the Distinguished Speaker Series in Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Pedagogies, presented by the Office of the Vice-President for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. It will run on the Microsoft Teams platform and is free to attend.

February 10, 2022 – The University of Windsor Alumni Association presents Black Excellence in the Media, a virtual event, Thursday, February 10th at 3:00 p.m. on zoom. This year, we celebrate Black Excellence in the media by highlighting the achievements of our distinguished alumni. Panel is moderated by Dwanita Peele BSc '11, BA '11. With special guests: Alison Duke BHK '89, MHK '91, Co-founder OYA Media Group, Jermain Franklin BA '89, TSN, Anchor at SportsCentre and Alain P. Authur, Executive Producer for Caribbean Vibrations TV Ltd. Register here: <https://events.attend.com/f/1383794587>

February 10th-25th, 2022 – Currently, Afrofest 2022 will take place at the University of Windsor February 10th-25th, but could change to virtual if necessary. Afrofest is presented by the University of Windsor Students' Alliance with aid from the university's Black student groups and organizations. The African Diaspora Festival is a week-long celebration and consists of various cultural and educational activities that document and celebrate the contributions made by peoples of African descent to the world. The focus of this year's festival is community solidarity and mental health. Many events touch upon academic, creative, leisurely topics meant to push forward the discussion of anti-Black racism and resistance. An updated schedule on the Afrofest website and promotional Instagram will be provided soon. Stay tuned!



2022 Windsor-Essex Black History Month Activity Schedule

February 12, 2022 – On Saturday, February 12th at 2:00 p.m., Black Women of Forward Action will host a virtual book reading and Q & A with Habiba Cooper Diallo, author of *#BlackInSchool* (University of Regina Press, 2021.) *#BlackInSchool* is Habiba Cooper Diallo's high school journal, in which she documents, processes, and resists the systemic racism, microaggressions, stereotypes, and outright racism she experienced in Canada's education system. Her words will resonate with some, but should shock, appall, and animate a great many more into action towards a society that is truly equitable for all. Habiba Cooper Diallo was a finalist in the 2020 Bristol Short Story Prize, the 2019 Writers' Union of Canada Short Prose Competition, and the 2018 London Book Fair Pitch Competition. Habiba lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she is pursuing a master's degree in public health. Follow the Black Women of Forward Action social media channels for registration info or contact BWFA at bwfa.info@gmail.com.

February 13, 2022 - The Windsor West Indian Association's annual Black History Brunch is happening 12:00-5:00 p.m. at the Caribbean Centre, 2410 Central Avenue, Windsor. Admission \$25. For information, call (519) 945-0213 or e-mail wwiavp@bellnet.ca.

February 17, 2022 – Join the Essex County Black Historical Research Society online for a presentation by Shantelle Browning-Morgan and Kimberly Simmons. They'll be describing the international Underground Railroad curriculum which has been developed by the Detroit River Project in partnership with the University of Michigan and which will be piloted in schools both in Michigan and Ontario. Happening at 7:00 pm EST. To register for this event, please e-mail ecbhrs@gmail.com.

February 23, 2022 – Black Business Can will offer a panel discussion about federal procurement including a Q & A session, February 23rd at 6:30 p.m. EST. Look for details on the Black Business Can website and social media channels: blackbusinessontario.ca, <http://facebook.com/blackbusinesscan> or <http://instagram.com/blackbusinesscan>

February 25-26, 2022 – The Coalition for Justice Unity Equity and Sandwich Teen Action Group will present a free viewing of great Black history movies and art displays, Friday, February 25th and Saturday, February 26th at 3735 King Street, Windsor ON. Come view to amazing movies in our movie theater. Children's art displays! Social distancing and masks. Call 519-300-6535 for more information or visit the Coalition for Justice Unity Equity Facebook page and the www.cjue.org web site.

February 26, 2022 - Black Kids in Action Performing Arts Group will perform "Telling Our Story: Black History Month" on their YouTube page, February 26th at 7:00 p.m. EST. Donations e-transferred to bkiayouths2019@gmail.com will be gratefully accepted.

February 26, 2022 – Kim Elliott invites the community to a reading and Q & A regarding his novel in progress, titled *Windsor West: SEEDS*, February 26th at 7:00 p.m. EST. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85988451887?pwd=dDJYWVWIESVIMMnFieDYxXppUkJsQT09>. Meeting ID: 859 8845 1887, Passcode: 189309.

February 26, 2022 – Join the Amherstburg Freedom Museum as they partner with the Windsor Express Basketball Team on Saturday, February 26th at the WFCU Centre. Tickets are \$30. For more information, please call the Amherstburg Freedom Museum, 519-736-5433.

February 26-27, 2022 – On February 26th (times TBD) Nigerian Canadians for Cultural, Educational and Economic Progress will host a tour of Black historical sites. On February 27th, NCCEEP will host a virtual Omoluabi Black History event featuring entertaining performances, guest speakers, and youth presentations. Funded by the Government of Canada. For more information, follow NCCEEP's social media channels or contact NCCEEP at ncceepwindsor@gmail.com.

February 27, 2022 - The Windsor West Indian Association's annual Black History Tea is happening 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Caribbean Centre, 2410 Central Avenue, Windsor. Admission by donation. For information, call (519) 945-0213 or e-mail wwiavp@bellnet.ca.

February 28, 2022 – Join the Amherstburg Freedom Museum for their next Black History Series Presentation. February's guest speaker is Dr. Maria Hammack who will share information about Black women involved in the Underground Railroad in Mexico and Canada, both as Freedom Seekers and Underground Railroad Operatives. Follow their social media pages and/or website for details and updates.

Note: This activity schedule is a living document.

Visit amherstburgfreedom.org for the latest and most accurate information.



Freedom Achievers Spotlight

Name: Andre Mulder

Age: 23 years

Education: Bachelor of Applied Science, with Honors in Mechanical Engineering - Automotive Option from the University of Windsor

Hometown: Harrow, ON

Parents: Everet and Rachael (Winter) Mulder

Question: Why did you decide to study engineering?

Answer: My curiosity. I wanted to know how things around me worked. To understand how society is built and learn ways of how to make it better in the future.



Question: What were the benefits of participating in a co-op program while in university?

Answer: The co-op experience was invaluable. You get exposed to exactly what you're going to do after graduation in different fields so you're not stuck working in a job that you thought you would want. The biggest benefit is the connections you can make during the work term so that you can find positions after graduation. I was able to complete three different co-op terms with two different employers.

Question: Now that you're graduated, what's it like being part of the "corporate workforce"? Is it what you expected?

Answer: I am a Brakes System Design and Development Engineer at Stellantis. It's a big step up in responsibility. Your work means more than just a grade in the system. Working remote (due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic) versus being on-site in an office setting is different than expected.



Andre on the golf course.

Question: What do you like to do in your free time?

Answer: Biking, golfing, skiing. Learning about and working on cars when I can.

Question: If you could have a conversation with one historical Black figure, who would it be and what would you say or want to talk about?

Answer: Jackie Robinson. I like sports and he was one of the big leaders to push Black people into professional sports. I'd want to know how he was able to keep his composure competing in a sport that was not welcoming of Black people. Just how he pushed through and succeeded.

Question: What advice would you give to high school students that are preparing to enter university?

Answer: Choose something that you enjoy learning which makes it fun and the motivation to learn easier. Find a group of people that you can work



Quilt of Valour



Do you know of any living Black Veterans who served in WWII? They may be entitled to a Quilt of Valour in recognition of their service. For more details, please contact the Amherstburg Freedom Museum, 519-736-5433.

A Call for Board Directors & Fundraising Committee Members



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**

Thank you Charitable Gaming Windsor and Paradise Gaming Centre



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!

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