



## Stories



**Say Hello to our  
Canada Summer  
Jobs  
Employees!**



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Internship  
Program**



**Walter Perry  
Emancipation  
Golf Classic**

## 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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**August 2023**



## Say Hello to our Canada Summer Jobs Employees!

**Jordyn** — My name is Jordyn and I am thrilled about joining the team at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum as a historical



interpreter for the 2023 summer season. I am a fast tracked high school graduate from Kingsville district high school and will be attending St. Clair college this upcoming September in there Advertising and Marketing communications program. With six

years of experience working within the historical and tourism industry, I have gained many skills and knowledge on local history, and in interpreting and presenting history in a captivating and engaging manner. This upcoming summer I hope to use the skills that I have learned throughout my career to pivot and make many meaningful contributions to the museum and the community! As an individual of African Canadian descent, this opportunity holds a special place in my heart, as it allows me to dive deeper and connect with the rich history of my ancestors, and share their stories with others. During my time at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum I also hope to get the chance to better understand and explore the narratives of resilience, strength, and courage that tens of thousands of Freedom Seekers showed and acted on each day in hopes to seek freedom and a better life. As I begin my work as a Historical interpreter I hope to take full advantage of connecting myself and our community with the amazing histories and stories that this museum holds as I will have the privilege of immersing myself in stories that not only shaped our past but continue to inspire and educate future generations of our community.



### 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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## Say Hello to our Canada Summer Jobs Employees!



**Taylor** — My name is Taylor and I'm delighted to be working with the Amherstburg Freedom Museum this summer! I am a graduate student at the University of Windsor, currently pursuing my Masters in History. I completed my bachelor's degree in History at the University of Windsor as well. My research interests lie in studying the identity formation of the underground garage rock music scene in Detroit from the 1970s to the 1990s. My role this summer is to assist as a museum cataloguer. My responsibility will consist of cataloging material such as artifacts, photos and documents. Additionally, I will be responsible for photographing, scanning and filing digital images of photos, slides, and documents in the museum's collection. I am very passionate about local history and I feel very fortunate to be able to share that with the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. I am excited to uncover the rich history of individuals who sought freedom in Amherstburg and to highlight the stories of those who have made significant contributions to the town's heritage.



**Melah**—My name is Melah and I am a 15 year-old summer student at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum with the role of an Interactive Tour Guide. I am an honour student at Saint-Thomas of Villanova and I will be in Grade 10 this coming fall. A little bit about me is that I grew up as a competitive dancer, and have also participated in school sports such as track and field, and am very active in other school activities as well. I was the lead in my school play of High School Musical, and I am also a member of my school dance team. I also love to read and write, and I am very passionate about my academics and always find opportunities to learn new things. As a child, my parents always taught us about Black History and I got really passionate about learning it when I was around 8 years old. I now have a diverse collection of books, stamps, postcards, letters all about Black History. For my career, I would like to be a history professor at a university where I can educate people on the histories of different races in the world, which is why this summer job is very exciting and important to me. I also have many personal links to the Amherstburg



Freedom Museum. In 2021, for example, I won the Museum T-shirt Design Contest and gave a speech at the annual Emancipation Day Celebration. I also have family stories about the AME Church, and the Taylor Cabin directly through my grandparents, Wilbur and Cynthia Mulder. So I have been very excited to work at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum for the summer to continue to further my knowledge of African Canadian history and be able to share that knowledge with new and interesting people, every day!



## Local Black History Internship Program

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Last fall, Amherstburg Freedom Museum Board Director and University of Windsor Professor, Dr. Gregg French created the Local Black History Internship Program, a partnership between the University of Windsor and the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. According to Dr. French, we want students to take the “skills they learned inside the classroom and apply them in a practical way in the field.” Thanks to funding from a Mitacs Accelerate Program grant and generous support from the Amherstburg Freedom Museum Board of Directors, we were able to hire University of Windsor student Karleigh Kochaniec. She conducted secondary research at the University of Windsor, under the supervision of

Dr. French, from January to April and has been working at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum since May under the supervision of Assistant Curator, Dr. Lorene Bridgen-Lennie. For Karleigh’s project, she is using the family history series, which is researched and written by Dr. Bridgen-Lennie, to map out Black settlement in Essex County during the 19th century. According to Dr. Bridgen-Lennie, “what we are trying to do is show how much progress occurred in the post-Underground railroad period, after Freedom Seekers arrived in Essex County. Things did not just stop once Freedom Seekers arrived; businesses were established, schools and churches were built, and organizations were created. Karleigh’s project will highlight this progress.”

Karleigh’s final project will be on display in the Amherstburg Freedom Museum’s permanent gallery beginning at the end of August, with a digital map that can be accessed online. This digital map will go further in depth to share more sites of activity, but also more details about those locations. “It is our hope,” says Bridgen-Lennie, “that sharing these details on the digital map will help visitors feel more connected to these significant areas of settlement. Karleigh says she is “excited to see where this research takes me, and I hope people will enjoy my exhibit just as much as I have enjoyed the research process so far.” You can read more about the internship program in the article “Internship pairs history students with museum” which appeared in the UWindsor Daily News <https://www.uwindsor.ca/dailynews/full-issue/2023-07-10>

### Thank you Charitable Gaming Windsor & Paradise Gaming Centre

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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 programming that shares the significant history of Freedom Seekers and Black settlers in this region. Thank you! For more information and how Charitable Gaming supports non-profits and local communities across Ontario, please go to [charitablegaming.ca](http://charitablegaming.ca)



## Puttin' On The Glitz

Join us on Friday, August 4th at 6pm for 'Puttin' On The Glitz'—Emancipation Celebration Dinner & Dance! For more information, please visit our website [amherstburgfreedom.org](http://amherstburgfreedom.org)

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# Walter Perry Emancipation Golf Classic

Join us on August 12th for the Walter Perry Emancipation Golf Classic. For more information and to register, please go to <https://amherstburgfreedom.org/golf-classic/>



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