



## Stories



**Amherstburg  
Freedom Museum  
Presents No. 2  
Construction  
Battalion photo to  
Local Legion**



**Ribs & Ragtime!**



**“On Account of  
Darkness:  
Shining Light on  
Race and Sport”  
with Ian  
Kennedy**

## 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)

**May 2022**



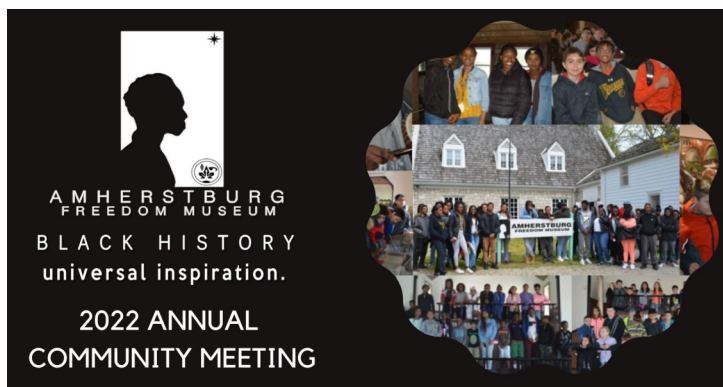
## AFM Presents No. 2 Construction Battalion Photo to Legion

On Tuesday, April 26th, the Amherstburg Freedom Museum presented a framed photograph of the No. 2 Construction Battalion, the first and only all-Black Battalion in Canadian military history, to Metropolitan Branch 594 of the Royal Canadian Legion. This is the first of several framed photographs we hope to have on display in local Legion branches.



Pictured: Morris Brause, First Vice President of Branch 594, Amherstburg Freedom Museum Vice President Barbara Porter and 594 Branch President Tom Friesen

## Annual Community Meeting



Mark your calendars! The Amherstburg Freedom Museum is having its Annual Community Meeting on Saturday, May 14th at 11am. The meeting will happen online. [Click](#)

[here to join the meeting](#) or call [+1 647-749-7645](tel:+1647-749-7645) Phone Conference ID: 346 545 848#

## 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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Collections and Research

PART-TIME  
Aanand Arya  
Tamiwa Kanyenda





## Ribs & Ragtime

Happening Saturday, June 11th—Ribs and Ragtime! For tickets, go to <https://e.givesmart.com/events/r6k/>

# RIBS AND RAGTIME

HOSTED BY THE AMHERSTBURG  
FREEDOM MUSEUM

**4PM-8PM**  
SATURDAY JUNE 11, 2022  
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FEATURING  
**RENEE KING-JACKSON**

**TICKETS \$60**

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED ON  
OUR WEBSITE OR AT THE MUSEUM

AMHERSTBURG  
FREEDOM MUSEUM

THIS YEAR WE ARE  
HONOURING THE NO. 2  
CONSTRUCTION BATTALION,  
CANADA'S ONLY BLACK  
REGIMENT

EACH GUEST IN  
ATTENDANCE WILL RECEIVE  
ONE REPLICATED CREST\*

\*WHILE SUPPLIES LAST, SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED

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## No. 2 Construction Battalion Essay Contest

The Amherstburg Freedom Museum has had such a great response to our No. 2 Construction Battalion Essay Contest that we've extended the submission deadline to **May 10th**.

See poster for details.



**During this year's Ribs & Ragtime event on June 11, 2022, The Amherstburg Freedom Museum will honor the No. 2 Construction Battalion.**

**In recognition of the only all-Black unit in Canadian military history, we are inviting youth, 12 – 20 years of age, to participate in an essay contest sharing the history of the Battalion and its impact on Canada.**

**The Contest Winner will Receive:**

- Two (2) Free Tickets to Ribs and Ragtime**
- An opportunity to share their essay at the event**
- \$100 Amazon Gift Card**



**Submit entries by May 10, 2022 to:**  
**[curator@amherstburgfreedom.org](mailto:curator@amherstburgfreedom.org)**





Mac Simpson Award

# Looking For Financial Help For College or University?



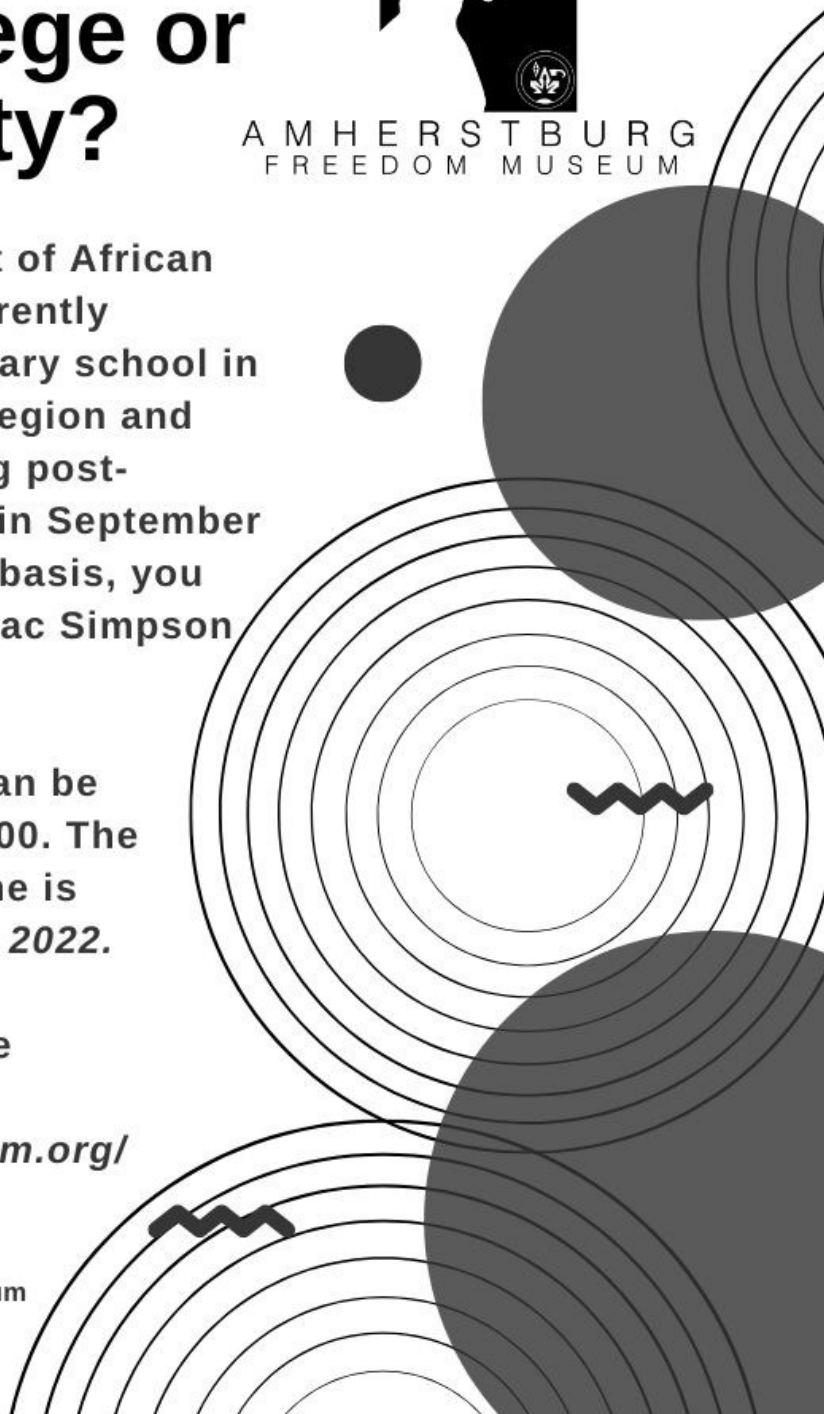
AMHERSTBURG  
FREEDOM MUSEUM

If you are a student of African descent who is currently attending a secondary school in the Essex County region and will be commencing post-secondary studies in September 2022 on a full-time basis, you can apply for the Mac Simpson Award!

Eligible students can be awarded up to \$1,500. The submission deadline is *Thursday, June 30, 2022.*

Applications can be downloaded at  
***[amherstburgfreedom.org/  
scholarships](https://amherstburgfreedom.org/scholarships)***

Amherstburg Freedom Museum  
519-736-5433  
[amherstburgfreedom.org](https://amherstburgfreedom.org)





## On Account of Darkness: Shining Light on Race & Sport

Join us on Thursday, May 19th at 2:30pm for our next Black History Series Presentation “On Account of Darkness: Shining Light on Race and Sport” with Ian Kennedy. To join, go to <http://ow.ly/L6qv50lxnk3>

**Amherstburg Freedom Museum Hosts**

# ON ACCOUNT OF DARKNESS: SHINING LIGHT ON RACE AND SPORT



A Presentation by Author Ian Kennedy



**HAPPENING THURSDAY,  
MAY 19TH AT 2:30PM**

To join, go to  
<http://ow.ly/L6qv50lxnk3>





## Vice President Barbara Porter's Connection to the No. 2 Construction Battalion in BizX Magazine



THE WAY IT WAS

### Black History Month In February

By Andrea Grimes

On the battlefields of Vimy and the Somme, Canada achieved its respected place on the world stage. Although these battles were a success, victories came at a cost — a reminder of how our Canadian troops earned a reputation for their courage and bravery; for their discipline and sacrifice under enemy fire.

The following statement reflects the bitter realities of WWI: "In those few minutes," said Canadian Brigadier-General **Arthur Edward Ross**, "I witnessed the birth of a nation."

In the face of growing casualties, Canada soon realized that not enough men could be raised to replace citizen soldiers of the **Canadian Expeditionary Force**, the fallen, or the many battle-traumatized soldiers who were coming home broken beyond recognition.

According to the **Canadian War Museum**, (refer to: [WarMuseum.ca/collections/artifact/1026595](http://WarMuseum.ca/collections/artifact/1026595)), "As voluntary recruitment began to wane, the Canadian government passed the Military Service Act on August 29, 1917. As such, Canada's previous recruitment restrictions had been eased, which allowed some visible minorities to enlist."

Of those lads who were driven by their deepest capacity for patriotism, many were second and third-generation Black Canadians from Windsor and Essex County who never gave "doing their bit" a second thought.

When U.S. President **James Madison** signed a declaration of war against Great Britain on June 12, 1812, Black Canadians took the fight to the enemy alongside British



Canada Post issued this commemorative stamp on January 14, 2016 in recognition of Black Canadian Veterans who served with No. 2 Construction Battalion in WWI. The stamp features an archival photograph of some of the unit's members against a backdrop of tall conifers. Photo courtesy of Canada Post © 2016

militia, French settlers and Indigenous peoples to defend our Canadian border along the south shores of the Detroit River.

When the 20th century took Canada to the front, another generation of Black Canadians wanted to "join the ranks" however; many came face to face with the reality that prevailing racial attitudes within the military denied Black Canadians the privilege to serve on an equal footing.

It wasn't until the establishment of the **No. 2 Construction Battalion** that Black Canadians became a unit of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. As such, in contributing to Canada's military presence, the Veterans of the No. 2 Construction

Battalion led the way for Black Canadians to support Canada's military presence, not only in the Great War, but also in subsequent conflicts.

In retrospect, as much as racial intolerance against Black Canadian soldiers added another dimension to the stains and strains of WWI (where many families on the home front cried the same tears), many families also understood why our Black Canadian lads were driven by their convictions "for all the right reasons."

"My maternal grandfather, **Alfred Augustus Tudor** and my two maternal great-uncles, **James Woodson William Lockman** and **Jerome Wellington Lockman**, served with the battalion," says **Barbara Porter**, a retired Registered Nurse (35-year career) and current Vice-President of the **Amherstburg Freedom Museum**, 277 King Street, Amherstburg and online at: [AmherstburgFreedom.org](http://AmherstburgFreedom.org).

Recognizing the demonstrated strength of perseverance by our Black Canadian Veterans of all stripes (who gave up a piece of individuality to become a part of something larger than themselves), intrinsically becomes central to fostering a commitment to building on the legacy of remembrance, to value the strength of diversity, and to promote inclusion in this generation and those to follow.

"Preserving our Black Canadian history through education serves as a vital platform to connect to this generation, something that our youth can be proud to know that Black Canadians were (and continue to be) a big part of our Canadian military heritage and establishing Canada's identity," states Porter. "If we don't come forward and speak of these legacies, history will be lost." **X**  
*As a civilian Veterans Advocate, Andrea Grimes was presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Governor General's Medal for her volunteer service to Veterans and a number non-profit organizations supporting Windsor's military families' network.*

As featured in



February 2022



## Volunteers Needed

The Amherstburg Freedom Museum is looking for volunteers for our upcoming Ribs & Ragtime fundraiser (June 11, 2022). To volunteer, please call 519-736-5433.

AMHERSTBURG FREEDOM MUSEUM

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

3-8PM  
**11**  
JUNE

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

 **RIBS & RAGTIME!**

277 KING STREET, AMHERSTBURG  
TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CALL  
**519-736-5433**

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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