



## Stories



### Ontario's Southwest Black Tourism SPARK Program



### Dr. Brenda McCurdy Speaks at Bookfest Windsor



### Christmas at the Museum!

## 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)

November 2023



## Ontario's Southwest Black Tourism SPARK Program

On October 11th, Ontario's Southwest Black Tourism SPARK Program was officially launched at an in-person event at Di-va's Delite Caribbean Restaurant in Windsor. Amherstburg Freedom Museum Board Vice President Barbara Porter, along with other community members, has been providing feedback for this program and offered suggestions about how to engage and support underrepresented stakeholders. This program encourages Black entrepreneurs, Black-owned small businesses, and Black-led non-profits and community groups based in Ontario's Southwest to share new tourism ideas for the region. Selected applicants will receive \$3,000 in seed funds, \$2,000 in tech adaptation support, mentorship and additional partner support to help get them started. **Anyone interested, must apply by November 22, 2023.** For more information visit [www.tourisminnovation.ca/OSWBlackTourism](http://www.tourisminnovation.ca/OSWBlackTourism)

### 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

- Monty Logan, President
- Barbara Porter,  
Vice- President
- Sheneese Johnson,  
Treasurer
- Shawn Harrison, Secretary
- Philip H. Alexander,  
Director
- J. Trisha Bray, Director
- Dr. Gregg French, Director
- Yolanda Holder, Director
- Dr. Barbara Hughes Smith,  
Director
- Dr. Brenda McCurdy,  
Director
- Cari-Lynn Ristic, Director

#### STAFF

- Dr. Lorene Bridgen-Lennie,  
Assistant Curator
- Mary-Katherine Whelan,  
Curator/Manager of  
Collections and Research

#### PART-TIME

- Aanand Arya
- Taylor Blackmere



## AFM Board Director Dr. Brenda McCurdy Speaks at Bookfest



AFM Board Director Dr. Brenda McCurdy and Author Dr. George Elliott Clarke—Photo courtesy of Bookfest Windsor

On Saturday, October 14th Amherstburg Freedom Museum Board Director Dr. Brenda McCurdy and Author Dr. George Elliott Clarke officially launched the book *Black Activist, Black Scientist, Black Icon: The Autobiography of Dr. Howard D. McCurdy* at Bookfest

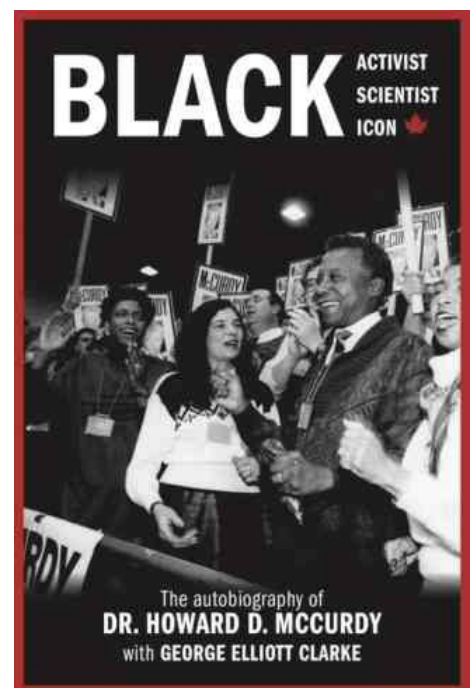
Windsor. Sadly, Dr. Howard McCurdy passed away before his book was published, which is why Dr. Clarke assisted in its completion. In the introduction of the book, Dr. Clarke states “Dr. Howard McCurdy is the author of this autobiography. Period. But in July 2017, seven months before his decease, he requested that I edit this work, which was already progressing toward a conclusion.”

At the event, Dr. Brenda McCurdy and Dr. Clarke answered questions from moderator, Sheila Wisdom, and the audience, about the book and Dr. Howard McCurdy’s life.

If you missed their October talk, stayed tuned for February at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. Details to follow!

You can purchase a copy of *Black Activist, Black Scientist, Black Icon: The Autobiography of Dr. Howard D. McCurdy* here [https://nimbus.ca/store/black-activist-black-scientist-black-icon.html?](https://nimbus.ca/store/black-activist-black-scientist-black-icon.html?fbclid=IwAR2Xr4kmDGzHOJdXQ3uLmkY76fcbP2g18T9HFRxiPBJW7XcaUBidxCMIeY)

[fbclid=IwAR2Xr4kmDGzHOJdXQ3uLmkY76fcbP2g18T9HFRxiPBJW7XcaUBidxCMIeY](https://nimbus.ca/store/black-activist-black-scientist-black-icon.html?fbclid=IwAR2Xr4kmDGzHOJdXQ3uLmkY76fcbP2g18T9HFRxiPBJW7XcaUBidxCMIeY)





## Christmas at the Museum!

Join us for Christmas at the Museum on Wednesday, December 6th at 7pm in the Nazrey Church featuring Josh Johnson! Generously sponsored by Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. For tickets, please visit

<https://amherstburgfreedom.org/CAM/>

THE AMHERSTBURG FREEDOM  
MUSEUM PRESENTS

# Christmas

AT THE MUSEUM

WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER  
**6<sup>TH</sup>**  
STARTS 7 PM

FEATURING MUSIC FROM  
**JOSH JOHNSON**

**TICKETS \$30**  
MUSIC, REFRESHMENTS &  
SILENT AUCTION



SPONSORED BY  
**THE WRIGHT**

NAZREY AME CHURCH  
277 KING STREET, AMHERSTBURG  
AMHERSTBURGFREEDOM.ORG





## A Tradition of Service: Black Military Presence in Amherstburg

Amherstburg Freedom Museum  
Hosts



### A Tradition of Service: Black Military Presence In Amherstburg

A presentation by  
Fort Malden National Historic Site  
Visitor Services Team Leader  
Caitlin McClure and  
AFM Curator/Administrator  
Mary-Katherine Whelan and  
Assistant Curator,  
Dr. Lorene Bridgen-Lennie

November 9th, 2023 at 2pm

To join on November 9th, please go to  
<https://ow.ly/Ku3E50Q1gel>

In recognition of Remembrance Day, our November Black History Series guest speakers are Fort Malden National Historic Site Visitor Services Team Leader, Caitlin McClure and AFM Curator/Administrator Mary-Katherine Whelan and Assistant Curator, Dr. Lorene Bridgen-Lennie. Their presentation, "A Tradition of Service: Black Military Presence In Amherstburg" will discuss the current (joint) exhibit about Black military service in the War of 1812 and the Upper Canada Rebellion.

To join on November 9th, please go to <https://ow.ly/Ku3E50Q1gel>

## Thank you Charitable Gaming Windsor & Paradise Gaming Centre

Charitable Gaming.



Community Good.

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)



**Become a Subscriber and Bingo Volunteer!**



*Become a  
Subscriber*

◆ Senior - \$20 ◆ Student- \$25 ◆ Adult - \$35 ◆ Family - \$120

<https://amherstburgfreedom.org/subscribe/>

**AMHERSTBURG FREEDOM MUSEUM**

*Black History, Universal Inspiration*



*Become a Bingo  
Volunteer*

For More Information and To Volunteer,  
Please Contact Dr. Phil Alexander  
[phil.alexander@amherstburgfreedom.org](mailto:phil.alexander@amherstburgfreedom.org)

# Subscribe Today!



## Give a Gift, and Preserve History!

Donate to help us to preserve, protect, and display historic treasures. Every gift is tax-deductible in Canada or the United States.

### General subscriber benefits include:

Unlimited 1 year free admissions, Invitation to preview exhibition openings, 10% off all items in museum store and name listed in monthly newsletter (with permission), introduction to genealogy research library.

**\$20 Seniors (age 65+)**

**\$25 Students (age 5-22)**

**\$35 Adults (age 23-64)**

**\$120 Family (family of 5)**

### **\$100 to \$499 SUPPORTER**

All the above plus a beautiful Certificate of subscription, suitable for framing, that recognizes your participation as a Member.

### **\$500 to \$999 CONTRIBUTOR**

All the above plus an invitation to one special event, one exhibition opening or subscriber-only event.

### **\$10,000+ Legacy**

All the above plus recognition on Museum's Donor Wall. Plus two tickets to all events and recognition on our social media pages.



**A registered charitable organization in Canada and the United States.**

It all starts with a subscription...

Become a subscriber today!

### Primary member name:

Mr. Ms. Miss. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

### Second member name:

Mr. Ms. Miss. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

### Mailing address:

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State \_\_\_\_\_

Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/business phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Email address:

\_\_\_\_\_

### Payment information

Total subscriber dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Fund donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Check date \_\_\_\_\_

### Payable to Amherstburg Freedom Museum



Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Security code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your support!**



## Our Supporters

Gerard Aching  
Nancy Allen  
Gayle Allinotte  
Kit Andres  
Joanne Baylis  
Patrick Baylis  
Elsie Bishop  
Charlie Bray  
Joan (Trisha) Bray  
Zainia Brockett  
Janisse Browning-Miller  
Shantelle Browning Morgan  
Janet Burch  
Terryll Chase  
Marlene Crepp  
Debi Croucher  
Irene Moore-Davis  
Lloyd Dean  
Kim D. Elliott  
Helen Geddes  
Leroy Gray  
Locketa Gray  
Mary Habib  
Janice Harris  
Edith Helm  
Ute Hertel  
Raquel Hurst  
Hallee Hurst  
Judy Jackson  
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  
Tim McAllister  
Violet McAllister  
Cleata Morris  
Reuben Munday  
Colleen Peddie  
Richard Peddie  
Shirley Pulley  
Colleen Reid  
Joyce Robbins  
Carolyn Robinson-Dungy  
Carolyne Rourke  
Donna Scott

Claudia Shreve Allen  
Frank Simone  
Allen Simpson  
Jessie Dianne Smith  
Patricia Smith  
Colleen Sterling  
Norma Sutherland  
Marilyn Sutton  
Mable Thomas  
Harlis Thompson  
Sharon Thompson Anderson

Anastasia Timakis  
Karen Tinsley  
Rebecca Underwood  
Janet Willoughby  
Debora Wynn

### **Group Subscriptions:**

Hour-A-Day Study Club  
James H. Sutton Funeral Home  
Detroit Memorial Park Association Inc.

### **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,  
Ristic Family:  
Cari-Lynn, Goran, Isabella, and Matteo  
White Family:  
Gary, Leticia, Karen, Janet, Christopher, Steffanie  
Beverly Pegues-Tucker & Dr. James Tucker

### **Contributor Subscription**

Wanda Juricic

### **Supporter Subscription**

Paul McAllister & Mayrai Rosapo Leachman  
Chris & Terry Porter  
Dr. Christina Simmons & Dr. Bruce Tucker

### **In Memoriam**

In Memory of Freemont Nelson — Jo-Anne & Remo Mancini

**To renew your subscription or to make a donation, please call the Museum at 519-736-5433. Subscription dues and donations 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 come.**