



Stories

About Us



Freedom Achievers Spotlight, Traya Mulder!

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.



Emancipation Celebration Photo Recap!



Walter Perry Emancipation Golf Classic Photo Recap!

277 King Street,
Amherstburg, ON N9V 2C7
Phone: 519-736-5433
Email:
curator@amherstburgfreedom.org
www.amherstburgfreedom.org

September 2023



Freedom Achievers Spotlight!

Back in 2019, the Amherstburg Freedom Museum launched its Freedom Achievers mentorship program and we are so proud of all the mentees who have gained helpful advice and made connections on their journey to career success. Among those that we would like to highlight is Traya Mulder who has lived in Amherstburg all her life and is currently attending Liberty University in Virginia where she is studying to become a Civil Engineer. This summer Traya worked as an intern for the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA), which is completing the Gordie Howe International Bridge. She graciously participated in an interview so that we could share her story. Traya's position at the WDBA is a Project Controls Coordinator who helps to mitigate risks/problems related to the project, in addition to sending out reports on those issues and assisting the Risk Manager with their tasks. According to Traya, this internship was very hands on and interactive, and she experienced this role in both the office (filing reports, participating in team calls, etc.) and going on-site to talk with engineers and construction workers to see what was going on in 'real life.' She enjoyed seeing both sides of this job.



When asked how her connections to the Amherstburg Freedom Museum's Freedom Achievers Mentorship Program (in addition to her own merits and accomplishments) helped her in achieving this position, Traya shared that she received help from several people. Traya was introduced to the Freedom Achievers Mentorship Program in 2022 when she received not only the Mac Simpson Award Scholarship, but also the Maturine-Romain Scholarship, which were awarded at our Freedom Achievers event featuring Dr. Hadiya Roderique. Several months later, following the completion of Traya's first year of courses, a professor suggested that she do a summer internship. Traya was unsure of where to begin looking for an internship, so she asked her father (who is a Freedom Achievers Mentor). He suggested that Traya reach out to Cari-Lynn Ristic who is an Engineer, but also a Board Director at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum and a Mentor in our Freedom Achievers Program. Cari-Lynn sent Traya links and information about possible internships, but also got her in touch with Paul McAllister who

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

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

Marcia Pivotte,
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
Najla Khalil



Freedom Achievers Spotlight!

works as a Project Controls Manager for Ontario and is also a Mentor in our program. Paul sent Traya information and shared her resume which assisted a great deal in helping her get the internship position. Traya said that “in the beginning, I wasn’t sure where to go, so having all these mentors there definitely helped a lot.”

When asked what got her interested in this career path, Traya had a really interesting explanation. In grade 8 she got a concussion and was not allowed to watch tv, which meant that she needed another form of entertainment. Her solution: her brother’s LEGOs. Traya found that she really enjoyed building things, and then taking them apart only to build something else. Over the years, Traya has also enjoyed helping her dad with renovation projects, so when it came time to choose her field of study, Traya’s mother suggested construction because of her love of building. Before committing to this, Traya researched construction jobs and civil engineering appeared as an option. Traya said that she never thought of LEGOs as a reasonable job path, but when you realize the root of it (that she liked to build things) then she found her answer.

Traya was also asked about the experience she gained from this internship and how she thinks it will help with her future career goals. She responded that she “can’t even describe the value of the experience of working there [WDBA] over the summer, not just for my resume, but also the knowledge I’ve gained of engineering in a real-world scenario.” Traya said that she’s learned about the different materials, the way that bridges are built and things you don’t even think about when it comes to building bridges, including the business side of things such as dealing with sub-contractors, companies, health and safety, the financial side of things, etc. In addition to this experience, Traya said that her time at the WDBA is a great addition to her resume because she only started the internship when she was 18. She added, “To only have one year of university experience and to be working on such a massive project at that age is not a common thing.” Traya also believes that the connections that she’s made have been valuable as well.



In addition to all of these benefits, Traya will always remember playing pick-up soccer with team members on Tuesday nights. Another highlight for Traya was that she, along with all of the team members, got to sign one of the bridge beams which Traya said was “cool because you got to work on it, but it’s a different thing to say that your name is actually on the bridge. Even though the public can’t access the beam, you know it’s there.” Traya added that team members also got to walk on the bridge deck where the cars are going to go and toured the US side of the bridge, which was an amazing moment.

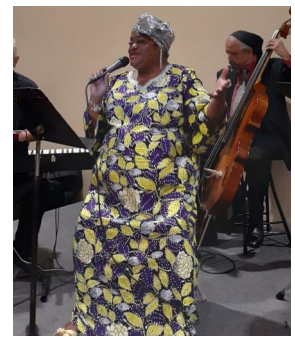
To end, we’ll leave you with advice from Traya to other Freedom Achiever Mentees as they pursue their career path. She encourages other Mentees to take advantage of opportunities and just try. She added not to be deterred because of your age or level of experience/qualifications, and to start looking for opportunities as soon as you can. A final piece of advice she shared is “to reach out. Everyone has a certain level of contacts so start asking family and friends and that could lead to something.” Fantastic work Traya!



Emancipation Celebration Photo Recap

On Friday, August 4th, we had a great turnout for our annual Emancipation Celebration. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. Everyone dressed to impress for the event's theme of 'Puttin On The Glitz' as they enjoyed a fantastic performance from Renee King Jackson and her band Front Street Jazz while having a delicious meal from the Hellenic Centre. We also honoured the late Fred Thomas with the Legacy Hero Award which honours a pillar of the community who has passed on. Fred Thomas' son Dennis Thomas accepted the award on his father's behalf and shared a few memories. There was also a special appearance from 2x NBA championship player Earl Cureton who said a few words, in addition to signing photographs and taking photos with guests.

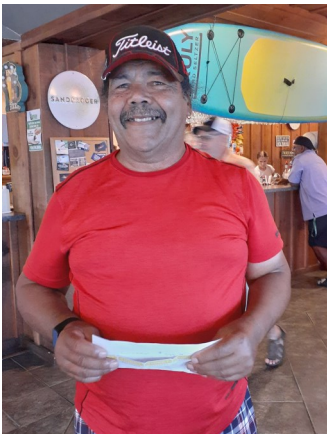
Thank you to Mayor Michael Prue for attending, in addition to members of Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor Inc., The Black Council of Windsor-Essex, and the Windsor Police Force including Chief Jason Bellaire. We are also grateful to our very generous sponsors TD Amherstburg, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and LiUNA 625, and all the people and businesses who donated to our silent auction. We also couldn't have done this without our amazing volunteers and our fundraising committee. Guests can also access event photos here <https://www.flickr.com/.../19628.../albums/72177720310363567> Thank you everyone and we can't wait for next year's celebration!





Walter Perry Emancipation Golf Classic Photo Recap

The rain held off for our annual Walter Perry Emancipation Golf Classic on Saturday, August 12th. We are so grateful to the golfers who came out to support the museum and to our amazing sponsors: Gold Partner –Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Silver Partner - Detroit Memorial Park Association, Bronze Partner - Wanda Shreve of Work with Wanda, and hole sponsors the Digital Dragonfly and Amherstburg Food and Fellowship Mission. Additional thanks to Supporters Richard and Sandy Holland and Solid Foundation Chiropractic. We also couldn't have done this without our amazing volunteers. Congratulations to our Volunteer(s) of the Year Chris Szpak and Annette Nelson. Congratulations also to our 50/50 Winner David Travis and to the Tournament winners Gary Jean, Jake Kelterborn, Jeff Turner, and Will Switalski. Golfers can also access their group photos here <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAQqd1> See you next year!





A Day Trip to Frankenmuth!



Bronner's Christmas Store, Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn, Great Lakes Shopping Outlet, & Meijer

This day will be filled with:

- Exploring Bronner's
- Lunch at the Bavarian Inn
- Exploring Frankenmuth
- Shopping at the Great Lakes Shopping Outlet
- Shopping at Meijer



To register call Paula Rigg from Southland Travel at 519-890-9513 by: **October 16th**

Tour includes transportation by bus AND LUNCH

Bus will be departing from the Amherstburg Freedom Museum at **7:30 am**, and departing from Devonshire Mall in Windsor at **8:00 am**

A valid passport is required!



Heritage Plaque for Nazrey AME Church



On Monday, August 14th Amherstburg Freedom Museum Board Director, Dr. Brenda McCurdy, accepted a heritage plaque which recognizes historic properties in Amherstburg. The plaque was in recognition of the Nazrey AME Church and was presented by Amherstburg Mayor, Michael Prue. The Nazrey Church was built in 1848 and is named after the Bishop Willis Nazrey who assumed jurisdiction over both BME and AME Churches in Canada. The Nazrey AME Church was not only a terminus of the Underground Railroad which welcomed numerous Freedom

Seekers, it was also a school house, community centre and a site of activism where community organizations were created. The Nazrey AME Church received federal designation as a National Historic Site in 1999.

Thank you Charitable Gaming Windsor & 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 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

Charitable Gaming.



Community Good.



"A Tradition of Service" Exhibit Opening

We've partnered with Fort Malden National Historic Site to create the exhibit "A Tradition of Service: Black Military Presence In Amherstburg" which is on display until November 12th.

A Tradition of Service: Black Military Presence In Amherstburg

August 11th - November 12th, 2023



Produced in collaboration with Fort Malden National Historic Site, this exhibition looks at the history of the Black military presence in Amherstburg from 1812 through 1840. The exhibit has been created in two parts and can be viewed across both sites.



Ways To Visit:

On display in person at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum at 277 King Street in Amherstburg. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from noon until 5pm, weekends from 1 to 5 pm.

AND

Visit the exhibit at Fort Malden National Historic Site at 100 Laird Ave S, in Amherstburg from 10 a.m. to 5p.m. daily until September 3rd, 2023.



amherstburgfreedom.org | 519.736.5433

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.