



The TALKING DRUM

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AFM Board President Monty Logan Attends Senate of Canada Black History Month Reception

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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March 2024



Black History Month Kick-Off Recap

On January 26th, we co-hosted the Windsor-Essex Joint Black History Month Kick-Off with the Essex County Black Historical Research Society and the Windsor West Indian Association featuring the theme 'Radical Collaboration.' The evening's program was split into three parts: Pre-Colonial History, Enslavement and Reconstruction, and Contemporary History. Jada Larkin, Erik E-tomic Johnson, and Hailey Chase did a fantastic job acting as emcees for each section, and the performances from drummer/poet Teajai Travis, poet Erik E-tomic Johnson and singer Florine Ndimubandi were amazing.

To highlight the Kick-Off theme, examples of Radical Collaboration in our community's history were shared including organizations such as the Windsor West Indian Association and the Caribbean Centre, the Windsor and District Black Coalition, and The Black Council of Windsor-Essex. Also mentioned were other examples including the True Band Society and early anti-slavery Societies, The Central Citizens' Association, The North Star Cultural Community Centre, The Coalition for Justice, Unity and Equity, and Black Women of Forward Action to name a few. The audience's knowledge was also tested with trivia questions.

We would also like to thank the event sponsors whose generous support made this event free to the public. Thank you Black Women of Forward Action, Arbor Memorial, Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor Inc. and the University of Windsor Office of Human Rights, Equity, and Accessibility, in addition to patrons who also donated. Additional thanks to AFM Board Director Cari-Lynn Ristic for representing the Museum, Irene Moore Davis for representing the Essex County Black Historical Research Society, and to the planning committee for all of their hard work in planning this event. Also, to Storm Cloud Bakery for providing the delicious treats and to everyone who came out to support this event!



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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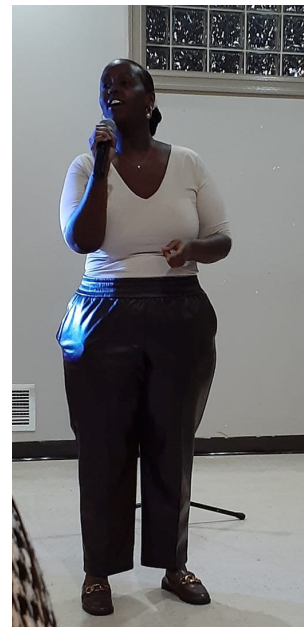
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Black History Month Kick-Off Recap





Centuries of Progress: A Celebration of Black History Month

The Amherstburg Freedom Museum teamed up with the River Bookshop again this year to host *Centuries of Progress: A Celebration of Black History Month* which included several Black History Month activities throughout February. Here is a recap of each event.



On February 1st, the Amherstburg Freedom Museum was packed as we hosted the Amherstburg book launch of *Black Activist, Black Scientist, Black Icon: The Autobiography of Dr. Howard McCurdy* with AFM Board Director Dr. Brenda McCurdy and author/poet Dr. George Elliott Clarke with moderator Sheila Barker. They shared so many amazing memories of Dr. McCurdy and his accomplishments. Two of his children Leslie and Brian were also in the audience and shared their own memories of their father. Such a great night!

Centuries of Progress: A Celebration of Black History Month continued on February 3rd with a SOLD OUT concert "Singing with Flo" which was performed by the amazingly talented Florine Ndimubandi and the Windsor Symphony Orchestra with Maestro Francisco Hernandez Bolanos. It was amazing to see all the kids in the audience having so much fun! Thank you to Richard and Colleen Peddie for generously sponsoring this concert.





Centuries of Progress: A Celebration of Black History Month

On February 10th, we welcomed a group of very talented young artists to dKs Studios to participate in a youth art class with artist Dennis K. Smith. The kids had a lot of fun!



We had a fantastic turnout for the panel discussion "A Conversation About Women's Empowerment and Community Engagement" which was hosted on February 17th. We are so grateful to the amazing panelists Executive Director of Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor Inc. Rose Anguiano Hurst, Black Student Support Co-Ordinator University of



Windsor Kaitlyn Ellsworth, Actor, Playwright, Choreographer and President of The Black Council of Windsor-Essex Leslie McCurdy and Author, Educator, Historian and President of the Essex County Black Historical Research Society Irene Moore Davis. They each shared their experience,

thoughts, successes, and challenges they've faced. It was a really powerful discussion. Additional thanks to Amherstburg Freedom Museum Board Director, Cari-Lynn Ristic who acted as moderator and to everyone who attended.

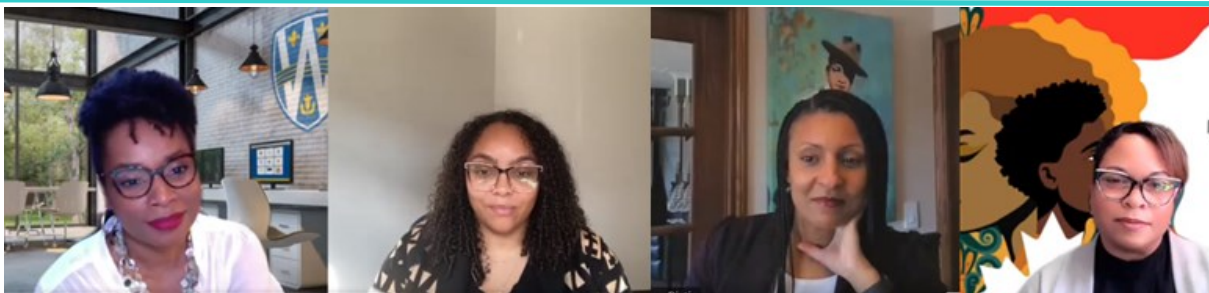


Centuries of Progress: A Celebration of Black History Month

Centuries of Progress: A Celebration of Black History Month concluded on February 23rd with an amazing performance from the Windsor Symphony Orchestra led by conductor Robert Franz, and featuring incredibly talented baritone Korin Thomas-Smith. The Nazrey AME Church was filled by a 22-piece orchestra! Thank you to Richard and Colleen Peddie for generously sponsoring the concert and to the River Bookshop team for partnering with us to host events throughout February.



Culture, Advocacy, and Education: A Panel Discussion with The Hour-A-Day Study Club



We are so grateful to members of The Hour-A-Day Study Club for participating in a panel discussion as part of the Amherstburg Freedom Museum's Black History Series in February. HADSC President Marium Tolson-Murtt, Treasurer-Scholarship Trust Fund Kaitlyn Ellsworth, Treasurer, General Account Cari-Lynn Ristic, and Member Tramaine Brown spoke about the organization's history, their motivations for joining and their current activities including their upcoming gala on November 9th in celebration of the HADSC's 90th Anniversary. To watch the panel discussion, please visit our YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ey1RvHeCbY>

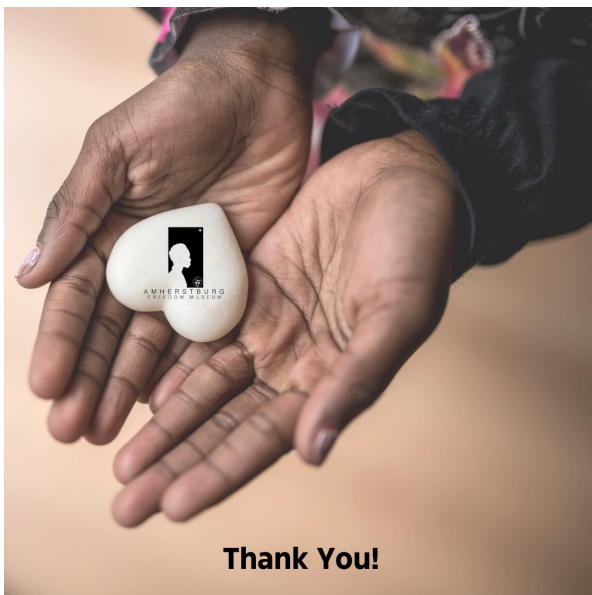


Hockey Night In Amherstburg!

At the February 3rd game for the Amherstburg Admirals Junior Hockey team, Amherstburg Freedom Museum Board President Monty Logan was on the ice with Assistant Captain Jady Brown for a ceremonial face-off in honour of Black History Month. Let's go!



Thank You!



Thank You!

The Amherstburg Freedom Museum would like to extend a BIG thank you to everyone who generously donated as part of our Black History Month appeal in February. Your support assists with the maintenance and upkeep of the Museum. Thank you!

If you would like to donate to the Amherstburg Freedom Museum, please visit <https://amherstburgfreedom.org/donate/>



AFM Board President Attends Senate of Canada BHM Reception



On February 6th, Amherstburg Freedom Museum Board President Monty Logan had the privilege of attending the Senate of Canada Black History Month Reception. He had the pleasure of meeting Senator Dr. Sharon Burey who formally invited Monty, in addition to



the First Black Speaker of the House of Commons in Canada Greg Fergus and Master of Social Work Field Education Coordinator at Carleton University Allison Everett Campbell (pictured in pink) who was joined by two other members of the MSW Program at Carleton.

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!

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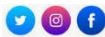
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