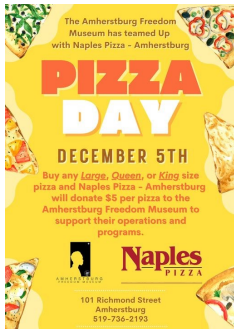




Stories



**Pizza Day
December 5th:
Enjoy a Savoury
Treat for a Good
Cause**



**Christmas at the
Museum Returns
December 8th**



**Preserving Their
Legacy and
Memory: A
Conversation with
Kaitlyn Ellsworth**

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
www.amherstburgfreedom.org

December 2024



Happy Holidays!

Due to the ongoing strike at Canada Post, holiday cards will not be distributed in the traditional manner this year. All of us at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum wish you and your families the very best this holiday season.

AMHERSTBURG FREEDOM MUSEUM
BLACK HISTORY
universal inspiration.

Donate Today!

Your generous support enables the Amherstburg Freedom Museum to continue providing vital Black history education and programming, preserving a legacy that inspires and informs future generations.

Postal Disruption

During the Canada Post Postal Strike, the Amherstburg Freedom Museum would like to reassure our supporters that holiday donations can be made:

- Online
- E-transfer
- At The Museum
- Over The Phone

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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The Amherstburg Freedom Museum would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to both **Charitable Gaming Windsor** and **Paradise Gaming Centre** for their continued support. Through 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 about how Charitable Gaming supports non-profits and local communities across Ontario, please go to <https://charitablegaming.ca/>



A Tasty Way for Amherstburg Residents to Support the Museum

The Amherstburg Freedom Museum has teamed Up with Naples Pizza - Amherstburg

PIZZA DAY

DECEMBER 5TH

Buy any Large, Queen, or King size pizza and Naples Pizza - Amherstburg will donate \$5 per pizza to the Amherstburg Freedom Museum to support their operations and programs.



AMHERSTBURG
FREEDOM MUSEUM

Naples
PIZZA

101 Richmond Street
Amherstburg
519-736-2193



Christmas at the Museum returns December 8th

THE AMHERSTBURG FREEDOM MUSEUM PRESENTS

Christmas at the Museum

Tickets
\$30

FEATURING:

BLACK KIDS IN ACTION &
TRADING PLACES

December 8th, 3-5pm

NAZREY AME CHURCH
277 KING STREET, AMHERSTBURG
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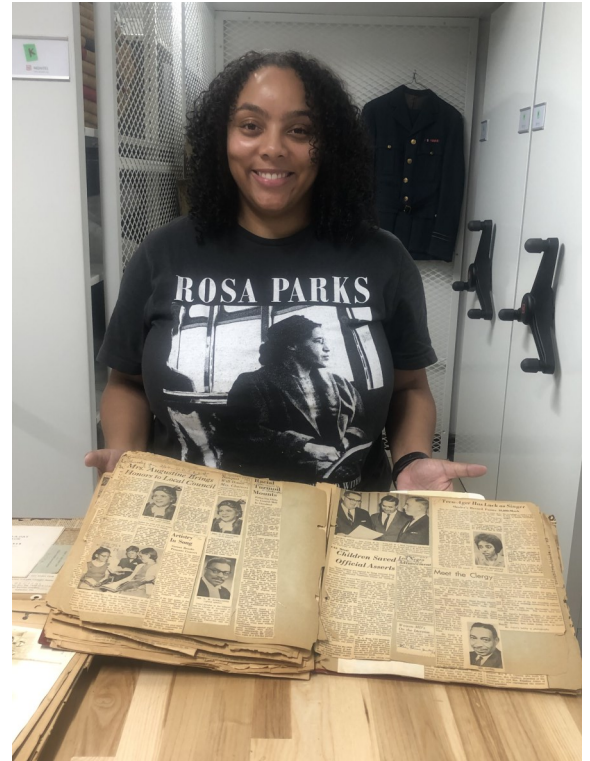


Preserving Their Legacy and Memory: A Conversation with Kaitlyn Ellsworth

Local educator and community leader Kaitlyn Ellsworth has been spending a considerable amount of time at the Museum this autumn as she has been completing the practicum requirements for her Archival Administration program through Wayne State University.

Kaitlyn Ellsworth is a sixth-generation Underground Railroad and Black Loyalist Descendant from Windsor, Ontario. Kaitlyn is attending Wayne State University for the Master of Library and Information Science degree with an Archival Administration Certificate. She is a student archivist, memory worker, and **historian** specializing in Black Diasporic peoples and Black ways of Knowing.

Despite her busy schedule which includes her graduate program, full-time work, and a great deal of community engagement through voluntary roles, Kaitlyn found some time to be interviewed for this month's newsletter, to our delight.



AFM: What led to your decision to enroll in the Archival Administration program at Wayne State University?

KE: I initially enrolled in the Master of Library and Information Science degree with an archival administration certificate thinking the archival aspect of the program would not be the focus of my degree but supplemental to broaden job prospects. But that changed when I took my courses out of sequence and interacted with Intro to Archival Administration in my first semester in the program. I quickly realized the archival administration portion of the degree perfectly mixes my love for history and preserving history more so than librarianship. I am a bookworm and love to read so I thought librarianship was my route, but that quickly changed. After this degree, I will have the knowledge to work in libraries but will end up in the archive.

AFM: Why is it important to build and maintain archives that reflect the experience of Black Canadians and other peoples of the African Diaspora?

KE: It's extremely important to build and maintain archives and archival materials, especially related to Black people. Black people have been excluded from the historical record, excluded from telling our own stories, recording our own stories, preserving and conserving our own stories, and sharing our own stories. The information professions along with those who have traditionally been considered historians is a glaringly white field that has contributed to whose stories have been allowed to be told and preserved. Because of this, archives have not done a very good job overall of archiving Black histories. This is why information institutions such as the Amherstburg Freedom Museum are so incredibly important.



An institution specifically concerned with preserving Black histories ensures my family history and my family's existence is documented along with other Black peoples from the community. When we focus on what is considered the history from below, marginalized peoples' stories and histories, true history is revealed.

AFM: People of African descent are severely underrepresented in the archivist's profession. What challenges does this underrepresentation present, and why should more people of African descent pursue this career path?

KE: It's pretty wild there are under 30 Black archivists in Canada, and I will be among that exclusive group. It's an honour, but it's also upsetting when you think about it. Because I attend Wayne State in Detroit, one of the Blackest cities in America, I have had regular access to Black archivists but once I cross back onto Canadian soil, Black archivists are few and far between. The University of Windsor recently hired Antoinette Seymour, a Black archivist. She is one of the only academic librarian/archivists in Canada. Library and information sciences aren't a widely promoted field of study in general. But it's important to recognize that there are still elders within the Black community alive today who were excluded from library spaces. Black peoples in North America were not able to enter into many libraries in North America due to racist Jim Crow Segregation laws. For there to be Black archivists and librarians in the first place only one generation after that, is a revolutionary act.

Black people engage in memory work and cultural production differently. Many of our histories have been passed down through oral histories. A subsection of archival administration is Black Archival Practice, which explains the necessity for Black archivists to engage in memory work to engage in reparative work within the archives. There has been a lot of work around reparative description and access, anti-racism work within the archives, and work to diversify the field, but ultimately, when a Black ethic of care is applied to an archivist's Black archival practice, archives begin to look different. Black ways of



knowing and knowledge production look different so it's important for Black peoples to enter into the information professions and archive profession to ensure Black cultural production is preserved from a Black-centred perspective.

AFM: Can you share a little bit about the materials on which you've been spending most of your time to date at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum? What has been the most exciting or surprising content you've encountered so far?



KE: I'm excited to be working on digitizing several scrapbooks from The Hour-A-Day Study Club. These scrapbooks have severe embrittlement, discoloration, damage due to rusted staples, deteriorated adhesive, tearing, and more. The scrapbooks are a beautiful snapshot into

history and are an example of Black peoples' knowledge production and preservation efforts. I've learned so much more about The Hour-A-Day Study Club working with these materials and appreciate how these women preserved stories and newspaper articles from the African Diaspora. It's extremely interesting to see what was deemed important to preserve and how careful they were to do so in a scrapbook form. I'm also working on other projects to accession, describe, and catalogue printed photographs and entering them into Past Perfect, an information profession cataloguing software. Most of these photographs are of the Museum and the Nazrey Church renovation. I'm also working on other projects to accession, describe, and catalogue printed photographs and entering them into Past Perfect, an information profession cataloguing software. Most of these photographs are of the Museum and the Nazrey AME Church renovation.



I've worked with The Hour-A-Day Study Club scrapbook several times to research about The Hour-A-Day Study Club, so I knew what to expect with what has been preserved in the scrapbooks. I've appreciated learning just how much activism the ladies of The Hour-A-Day Study Club participated in outside of the regular programs of the Club. The scrapbooks are like stepping back into time and it's amazing what these ladies decided to preserve.

AFM: Overall, what are you hoping to accomplish during your practicum experience at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum?

KE: This practicum is giving me hands-on experience in an archive that goes beyond theoretical

knowledge. I'm hoping to finish digitizing The Hour-A-Day Study Club's scrapbooks and related materials to ensure that history is preserved forever. This particular project is important to me as my great-grandmother Ethel Bishop was a founding mother of The Club. My great-grandmother Ada Ellsworth was a lifetime member, and my grandmother Elsie Bishop and Aunt Nancy Bishop were long-time members and I have been a member since 2016. Both sides of my family have contributed to the ongoing legacy of The Hour-A-Day Study Club, so it is an honour to also aid in preserving a part of their legacy and memory as well.





A holiday gift idea!



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- Unlimited free admissions for one year
- Invitation to preview exhibition openings
- 10% off all items in museum store, name listed in monthly newsletter
- Introduction to the museum's genealogy research library.

amherstburgfreedom.org/subscribe



The Price of Freedom: Documenting John Anderson's Journey to Justice



CALLING ALL ARTISTS OF COLOUR

Join ACT & The Amherstburg Freedom Museum in workshoping *The Price of Freedom*, a new play by Carlos Anthony on John Anderson's journey to justice in 18th-century Canada.

November 17 to December 18
Sundays - 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Wednesdays - 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

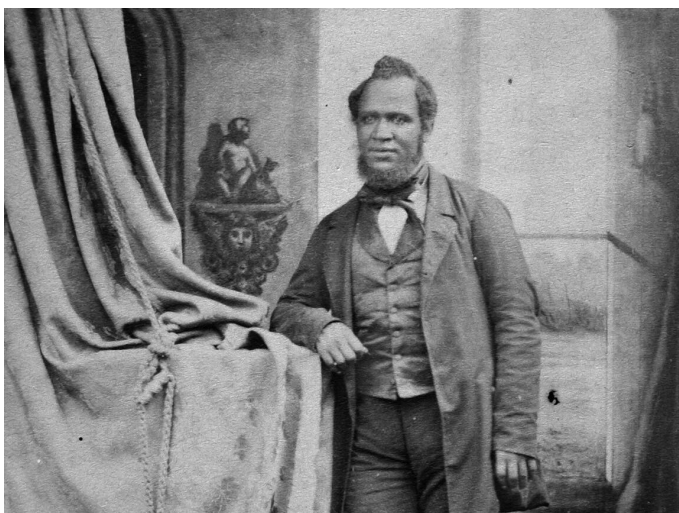
The Amherstburg Freedom Museum has several events planned for Black History Month. Preparations are underway for the February 2025 premiere of a brand new stage play in collaboration with Arts Collective Theatre. Written by playwright Carlos Anthony, *The Price of Freedom* is centered on the John Anderson case.

The project was initiated by Museum Vice President Barbara Porter and ACT leads Chris Rabideau and Moya McAlister. Porter along with Curator/Administrator Mary-Katherine Whelan, Assistant Curator Irene Moore Davis, and Curator Emeritus Elise Harding-Davis have been among the community members gathering with Arts Collective Theatre board members, creative and production team members, and playwright Carlos Anthony to offer input.

Born enslaved in Missouri, John Anderson killed a man in self-defence along his Underground Railroad journey to Canada in 1853. Years later, his dramatic extradition case was a source of controversy for many members of the Canadian public as well as cause for concern for freedom

seekers who had valid reasons to fear a dangerous new legal precedent that could threaten their own liberty.

The workshoping process has provided ACT and the playwright with the unique opportunity to have ongoing feedback from historians and community members of Black heritage as the play inspired by John Anderson's journey to justice is developed. If interested in signing up to be part of this process, please email info@actwindsor.com.





Upcoming Events



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AMHERSTBURG FREEDOM MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

2024-2025

277 KING STREET, AMHERSTBURG, ONT
COUNTDOWN TO CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

DEC
8

Christmas At The Museum

3-5pm, Nazrey A.M.E. Church

FEB
'25

Black History Month Programming

Black History Programming in partnership with the River Bookshop

FEB
28

ACT Presents - The Price Of Freedom

February 28 - March 2, The Capitol Theatre

SPRING
'25

Freedom Achievers

Date TBA. Mentorship & Speaker Series

JUNE
14

Ribs & Ragtime

4pm, Grounds of the Amherstburg Freedom Museum

AUG
9

Walter Perry Emancipation Golf Classic

8am, Coachwood Golf & Country Club

SEPT
20

50th Anniversary Celebration

Join us as we Celebrate 50 Years of Black History Education

AMHERSTBURGFREEDOM.ORG | 519-736-5433 | 1 800-713-6336



Frankenmuth bus trip

Thanks to Southland Travel and to everyone who participated in our bus trip fundraiser on November 23rd. Participants had a wonderful time visiting Frankenmuth, Michigan... all for a great cause, the Amherstburg Freedom Museum's fiftieth anniversary programming.



Remembrance Day Wreath Laying

On

November 11th, Amherstburg Freedom Museum Vice President Barbara Porter had the honour of once again presenting a wreath to commemorate Black Canadian veterans at the Remembrance Day ceremony at Windsor's Cenotaph. Barbara also represented the Museum in an interview with Amy Dodge for CBC Windsor Morning. <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-106-windsor-morning/clip/16108024-federal-funding-available-commemorate-wwi-battalion-made-black?share=true>

Did you know? The Amherstburg Freedom Museum's permanent exhibit contains excellent resources on Black Canadians in the military... particularly those connected to Amherstburg. When visiting, we encourage you to reflect on the display and the military service of so many courageous Black community members.





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\$35 Adults (age 23-64)

\$120 Family (family of 5)

\$100 to \$499 SUPPORTER

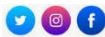
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In Memoriam

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

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