

THE AMHERSTBURG FREEDOM MUSEUM

# TALKING DRUM

NEWSLETTER



Feature Story

## International Women’s History Month: Celebrating Local Women with Global Impact

While Canadians observe Women’s History Month in October—coinciding with the October 18, 1929 landmark decision in the “Persons Case” when Canada’s highest court of appeal determined that women were indeed “persons”—most of the world celebrates Women’s History Month in March, with special emphasis on International Women’s Day, March 8th.

From our perspective at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum, it is always a good time to celebrate women. In this issue of *The Talking Drum*, we’ll be shining a spotlight on some of the phenomenal local women who may not be “household names” but whose past contributions have made them historical figures worthy of research, study, and commemoration. (More on page 3.)



Upcoming Events

### Paint Night Fundraiser

Join the Amherstburg Freedom Museum for an evening of creativity and community. Support the museum’s ongoing programming while you paint, laugh, and enjoy great company!

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 pm at Cramdon’s Tap & Eatery. **\$40 Early Bird Rate tickets before March 31<sup>st</sup>: get your tickets online at amherstburgfreedom.org.**

### Bus Trip to St. Jacob’s

We’re excited about our next bus trip fundraiser with Southland Travel on May 9th. Enjoy a day trip to beautiful St. Jacobs including a buffet lunch, the famous Farmer’s Market, and shopping in the village. A great way to kick off the Mother’s Day weekend! Book by April 27<sup>th</sup> please. To register, please call Southland Travel at 519-776-9336.

**See page 7 for more details!**

### The Talking Drum

The Talking Drum is published by the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. Contributions, story ideas, suggestions, and feedback are always welcome. Please contact us at [curator@amherstburgfreedom.org](mailto:curator@amherstburgfreedom.org), 519-736-5433, or 1-800-713-6336 toll free.

### Museum Board and Staff

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### Images on the right: Celebrating International Women's Day in Windsor

On Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, Amherstburg Freedom Museum Board members Barbara Porter, Monty Logan, Dr. Brenda McCurdy, and Cari-Lynn Ristic along with Assistant Curator Irene Moore Davis were pleased to support the Women's Enterprise Skills Training International Women's Day Gala.

Read more about just a few remarkable local Black women from the past, beginning on page 3.



### 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.

### Stay in Touch

- ✳ [www.amherstburgfreedom.org](http://www.amherstburgfreedom.org)
- ✉ [curator@amherstburgfreedom.org](mailto:curator@amherstburgfreedom.org)
- ☎ 519-736-5433
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Follow the Amherstburg Freedom Museum on our social media channels: Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X, and YouTube!

*"Black History, Universal Inspiration."*

### Community Spotlight

#### Thank you, Charitable Gaming Windsor & Paradise Gaming Centre.

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, enabling us to offer meaningful programming, content, and

exhibits that share the significant history of Freedom Seekers, Black settlers, and subsequent generations of Black community members here in our region. Thank you, Charitable Gaming Windsor and Paradise Gaming Centre as well as all the volunteers and patrons who support these fundraising efforts.



For more information about how Charitable Gaming supports non-profits and local communities across Ontario, please visit [www.charitablegaming.ca](http://www.charitablegaming.ca).

## Focus: International Women's History Month

### Celebrating Local Women with Global Impact

Born in Chatham in 1860, **Mary Branton Tule** moved to Amherstburg as a teenager and quickly rose to prominence as an active member of First Baptist Church Amherstburg. Dedicated to service, she became President of the Women's Home Mission Society of Amherstburg at a young age. She would go on to attend Spelman College before journeying to South Africa as a National Baptist Convention missionary, teaching there from 1897 until 1911.

After marrying a Bantu missionary named John Tule, in 1911, she founded the Mary Branton Tule School in Cape Town. When the South African government implemented unjust measures such as the resettlement of ethnic communities under the guises of managing epidemics in crowded areas, restricting Black missionaries' access to Black populations for fear that they would spread messages about racial equality, or laws such as the Natives' Land Act of 1913 which disenfranchised and dispossessed indigenous Black populations while reserving nearly 90% of South Africa's land for whites only, Mary and John Tule spoke out.



As a Canadian-born missionary, Mary Branton Tule was not merely striving to spread the gospel but to work alongside those experiencing colonial oppression.

In 1922 after a speaking tour in Europe and North America, the Tules found that they were banned from returning to South Africa. Undaunted, they relocated to Liberia, where Mary Branton Tule established another school in Monrovia. Mary Branton Tule passed away there in 1923.

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On March 24, 1853, the very first issue of *The Provincial Freeman* rolled off the press in Windsor. It was the creation of **Mary Ann Shadd**, who had arrived in Windsor in September 1851 to establish an integrated school in former military barracks that were being used as temporary lodgings for recent Underground Railroad arrivals.

Born free on October 9, 1823 in Wilmington, Delaware, the eldest child in a family of abolitionists, and educated in Pennsylvania, Mary Ann Shadd was already a seasoned teacher with experience accumulated in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware by the time she relocated to Windsor as a single woman in her twenties, inspired after having attended the North American Convention of Colored Freemen in Toronto earlier that September.

Shadd's school in Windsor was remarkable, but the launch of her newspaper was even more so: she became the first Black woman to publish a newspaper in North America. This was in addition to writing *A Plea for Emigration; or Notes of Canada West* which was published in 1852, and her relentless advocacy for numerous causes including the abolition of slavery, temperance, women's rights, and education.

After leaving Windsor, Mary Ann Shadd Cary lived in Toronto, Chatham, Detroit, and Washington, DC, where she passed away on June 5, 1893, having graduated from Howard University late in life and practiced for a time as an attorney.

In 1994, Mary Ann Shadd Cary was designated a Person of National Historic Significance in Canada; she is also an inductee of the U.S. Women's Hall of Fame. In 2024, she was honoured with a Canada Post stamp (of which you can currently view a large replica at the museum!) While there is only one known photograph of Mary Ann Shadd Cary, she has inspired many artistic tributes across North America. Locally, these include a sculpture by Donna Jean Mayne in downtown Windsor, commissioned by the University of Windsor and located at the corner of Chatham and Ferry St; the Sandwich Black History Murals by Jermaine and Darrell Baylis on Sandwich Street in Paterson Park; the Windsor Snapshots mural by Christy Litster on Church Street outside Art Windsor-Essex; and the Reaching Out mural for which Donna Jean Mayne served as lead artist, located at the corner of Wyandotte and McDougall. Far beyond Windsor-Essex, Shadd Cary has received honours including a school, a street, a heritage plaque, and a mural in Toronto; the Mary Ann Shadd Cary Centre for Journalism and Belonging at Carleton University; the National Newspaper Award for Columnists awarded annually in her honour; and a U.S. Postal Office in her home state of Delaware.



**Dr. Mary Fitzbutler Waring** was born on or around November 1, 1870 in Amherstburg. Her parents were Dr. William Henry Fitzbutler and Dr. Sarah Helen McCurdy Fitzbutler. After moving with her family to Kentucky, she attended normal school and engaged in a brief teaching career before choosing to study medicine at the Louisville

National Medical College (which her parents had founded) and subsequently, the National Medical College of Chicago. Among her other accomplishments, Dr. Waring was also an activist and protegee of Ida B. Wells-Barnett. She was also heavily involved in Black women's organizations and from 1933 to 1937, served as the tenth President of the National Association of Colored Women, which was founded by leading women such as Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Mary Church Terrell. Prior to becoming President, Waring had served as chair of the NACW's Department of Health and Hygiene, a role through which she spent a great deal of time touring and lecturing on health-related issues to audiences of Black women. Dr. Waring passed away in Chicago on December 3, 1958.

was born in Amherstburg to John Alexander and Annie Crawford. She was a devoted educator who followed in the footsteps of her father, John Alexander, who taught at the King Street School in Amherstburg, just down the street from the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. After teaching in several schools in Southwestern Ontario such as S.S. No. 9 in Maidstone (now Lakeshore) and S.S. No. 11 in Colchester South, Ethel Alexander worked for many years as a missionary teacher in Belize (British Honduras) beginning in the summer of 1922 and remained there until 1950. She passed away in 1974 in Toronto.



On March 14, 1888, Ethel Alexander



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Did you know we now reach over 600 subscribers every month?

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It's a great way to support this newsletter while getting your brand in front of a loyal, engaged audience. Interested?

Reach out to us at [curator@amherstburgfreedom.org](mailto:curator@amherstburgfreedom.org) and we'll provide all the details.

**Advertising Deadlines**

Summer Issue:  
Content due June 1st

Fall Issue:  
Content due Sept. 1st

Winter Issue:  
Content due Dec. 1st

| Feature              | Mission Partner (Primary Supporter)          | Community Supporter (Standard Ad) | Friend of the Cause (Classified Logo)                     |
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| Investment per issue | \$250 per issue                              | \$125 per issue                   | \$50 per issue  |
| Annual 10% discount  | \$900 annually                               | \$450 annually                    | \$180 annually  |
| Placement            | Top header                                   | Middle of newsletter              | Bottom of newsletter                                      |
| Content              | Logo + 150-word story or "mission spotlight" | Logo + 75-word caption            | "Thank you, supporters" section: Logo + website link only |
| Exclusivity          | Only 1 available                             | Max 3 per issue                   | Unlimited   |
| Social media         | 1 dedicated post                             | Mention in group post             | N/A   |

## Barbara Porter Named to 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women

Speaking of women worth celebrating, our Museum Board Vice Chair Barbara Porter has recently been announced as a member of the 2026 class of the 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women. The induction ceremony will take place in Toronto on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Born in Windsor, Ontario, Barbara Porter spent a more than thirty year career as a Registered Nurse, with service at the Wellesley Hospital (Toronto,) Grace Hospital, Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital, and Windsor Regional Hospital (Windsor,) occupational nursing for Lenore Simpson Agency/Ford Motor Company (Windsor) and teaching nursing courses at St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology (Windsor.)

She also served as a Clinical Resource Nurse/Preceptor at Windsor Regional Hospital, as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, as the Diversity Officer for the Ontario Nurses' Association (local bargaining unit) for over twenty years, and on the ONA Provincial Diversity Committee for two years. Her service coincided with a period of tremendous conflict for nurses and other professionals from underrepresented, equity-seeking communities and she was called upon frequently to mediate challenging disputes regarding matters of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Barbara mentored many emerging professionals as well as supervising many students on clinical placement and is proud of the impact she has had on so many women and young people of diverse backgrounds.

Barbara began volunteering at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum in 2014 and has served on the Board since 2016. She is best known as a voice advocating for greater recognition of the No. 2 Construction Battalion, particularly the men from Windsor, Southwestern Ontario, and Western Canada who participated valiantly. As a descendant of multiple family members who served, Barbara has given numerous talks as well as media interviews and has presented framed

## Amherstburg Freedom Museum Scholarships: 2026 Application Deadline Is May 1st

Please visit [amherstburgfreedom.org/scholarships](https://amherstburgfreedom.org/scholarships) for more details.

**2026**

**AMHERSTBURG FREEDOM MUSEUM**  
**Scholarship Opportunities**

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 2026 on a full-time basis, you can apply for a selection of scholarship opportunities. **Scan the QR codes to access the applications.**

**Apply Today!**

- ✔ Deadline May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026
- ✔ Visit [amherstburgfreedom.org/scholarships](https://amherstburgfreedom.org/scholarships) for more information
- ✔ Check each application for eligibility requirements

519-736-5433 | [amherstburgfreedom.org/scholarships](https://amherstburgfreedom.org/scholarships)

Amherstburg Freedom Museum  
Mac Simpson Award 2026

Amherstburg Freedom Museum  
The Maturine-Romain Award 2026

Amherstburg Freedom Museum  
Juanita Year Wood, Florence Logan, Esther Nolan Award 2026

Amherstburg Freedom Museum  
Nancy M. Allen Award 2026

photographs of the Battalion for permanent display at local branches of the Royal Canadian Legion where the No. 2 Construction Battalion was not previously recognized or honoured. She also served on the working group which planned for the public apology from the Prime Minister of Canada regarding the inequitable treatment of the men of the No. 2 Construction Battalion, and is now leading the process of planning educational programming and a marker to honour the No. 2 Construction Battalion locally.

Asked for her reaction upon learning that she would be a 100ABCWomen inductee,



Barb says that she is thrilled, not only to receive personal recognition, but to shine a light on the Amherstburg Freedom Museum and on Black Canadians of Underground Railroad heritage. "I view this as an opportunity to highlight the significant contributions of freedom-seekers and the Underground Railroad descendant community. While we welcome everyone, so often when the stories of Black Canadians are told, whether in the media or elsewhere, the focus is on more recent immigrants of Caribbean and African ancestry and our presence here through the generations, our struggles and our accomplishments are forgotten."

"Barb is a deserving 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women honoree because of her decade of dedicated leadership and service," says Museum Board Chair Monty Logan.

"Over the past ten years on the Board, she has played a critical role in leading fundraising efforts that have helped sustain and grow the organization's mission. Barb has also been instrumental in spearheading initiatives that promote the history and legacy of the No. 2 Construction Battalion, ensuring that this important chapter of Black Canadian military history continues to be recognized and remembered. Above all, her unwavering commitment to ensuring we continue to 'Share Our Stories' has strengthened awareness, pride, and understanding of Black history within our community."

The 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women (100ABCWomen) organization was founded by the Honourable Jean Augustine, Dauna Jones-Simmonds, and Dr. Denise O'Neil Green in 2016. Every two years, 100 Black women from across Canada are selected for induction from a

long list of worthy nominees. The initiative produces a biannual book, and maintains a database to increase the visibility of achievement-oriented Black women from a wide variety of fields, promote networking opportunities, and create a sense of sisterhood. Multiple times per year, "fireside chats," virtual panel discussions open to anyone and featuring inductees from particular fields or areas of expertise, are held.

Several previous 100ABCWomen inductees have connections to the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. They include Curator Emeritus Elise Harding-Davis, Assistant Curator Irene Moore Davis, and past Board Members the Honourable Madame Justice Micheline Rawlins, Shantelle Browning-Morgan, and Yvette Blackburn. Joining Barbara Porter this year as 2026 inductees are past Board Members Patricia Neely-McCurdy and Marium Tolson-Murty.

## Celebrating Authors

April includes both International Children's Book Day (April 2<sup>nd</sup>) and World Book Day (April 23<sup>rd</sup>). Thus it is a perfect time for the Museum to feature two amazing Black Canadian authors: Dr. Cheryl Thompson and Nikki Clarke.

Join us online for a virtual book launch with Dr. Cheryl Thompson, author of the new work *Staging Blackface in Canada* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press) Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 5 pm Eastern. Log on via Microsoft Teams at <https://tinyurl.com/msdaht3>

Join us in person at the Museum on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 4:00-6:00 pm for a book signing with Nikki Clarke, author of children's books *The Black Canadian History Coloring Book* and *The Paper Clip Princess*. This will be a family-friendly event: feel free to bring kids along.

PLEASE JOIN  
THE AMHERSTBURG FREEDOM MUSEUM  
FOR A  
VIRTUAL BLACK HISTORY  
PRESENTATION AND BOOK LAUNCH  
FEATURING CHERYL THOMPSON

TUESDAY, APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2026  
5 PM EASTERN

ON TEAMS:  
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MEETING ID: 272 848 469 254 96  
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BLACKFACE  
IN CANADA**

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VARIETY SHOWS,  
AND RACIAL ACTS  
IN AN AGE OF IMITATION,  
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BLACK CANADIAN HISTORY  
COLORING BOOK  
HEROES OF PAST AND PRESENT  
COMPILED BY NIKKI CLARKE

**Book  
Signing  
with  
Nikki Clarke**

Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>  
4:00-6:00 pm  
Amherstburg Freedom Museum  
277 King Street, Amherstburg

**Tickets for these events are available now!**

On April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, join us for a paint night fundraiser on April 15<sup>th</sup> at Cramdon's Tap & Eatery. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, enjoy a fun and relaxing bus trip to St. Jacob's! These are two amazing ways to support the work of the Museum.



**AMHERSTBURG FREEDOM MUSEUM**

# Paint Night

*Unleash your creativity with a splash of inspiration!*

**April 15, 2026 6:30PM**  
**Cramdon's Tap & Eatery**  
**2950 Dougall Ave, Windsor**

**Early Bird Rate**

**Tickets: \$40 per person**

**Tickets After March 31st**

**Tickets: \$45 per person**

**What's Included**

- Step-by-step painting session guided by a local artist
- All painting supplies provided
- Supporting the Amherstburg Freedom Museum, fun, laughter, and a masterpiece to take home!

**Register now!**  
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/afm-paint-night-fundraiser>



**Your Voice Matters!**

**Help Us Document Our Story: Call for Contributors**

History isn't just found in books; it lives in our families, our neighborhoods, and our shared memories. We are looking for guest contributors to share their voices with our 600+ readers in upcoming issues.

We are seeking pieces on:

- Family and Community Archives: The story behind a precious heirloom or photograph(s).
- Local Legends: Spotlights on unsung Black figures in our region.
- Reflections: Personal essays on what Black heritage means to you today.
- Research: Summaries of historical findings or genealogy tips.

Your voice matters. You don't need to be a professional historian to contribute—just someone with a story to share.

Want to submit an idea? Please email [curator@amherstburgfreedom.org](mailto:curator@amherstburgfreedom.org) with the subject line "Contributor."



**AMHERSTBURG FREEDOM MUSEUM**

**SOUTHLAND TRAVEL**

## St. Jacobs Bus Trip

### Saturday, May 9, 2026

**A Fundraiser for the Amherstburg Freedom Museum in Partnership with Southland Travel**

Day trip from Windsor to St. Jacobs! Enjoy a Schmidtsville buffet lunch, the famous Farmer's Market, and village shopping. Book your spot for a fun-filled day!

**\$169.00 Per Person**

**Last Day To Book is April 27, 2026.**

Call Southland Travel at 519-776-9336 to secure your spot today!



Follow the Amherstburg Freedom Museum on our social media channels: Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X, and YouTube!

## On the International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery, a U.N. Resolution Recognizes the Transatlantic Slave Trade as the “Gravest Crime Against Humanity”

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the United Nations General Assembly voted on a resolution proposed by Ghana to recognize the Transatlantic Slave Trade as the “gravest crime against humanity.” The resolution also called for reparations.

A total of one hundred twenty-three nations supported the resolution. Three opposed it (the United States, Israel, and Argentina.) Fifty-two countries abstained, including the United Kingdom, multiple European countries, and Canada.

The Transatlantic Slave Trade resulted in the abduction and sale of at least 12.5 million Africans between the fifteenth and nineteenth century, with repercussions that persist to this day, including racial disparities and ongoing experiences of anti-Black racism throughout the Americas.

To date, the Netherlands is the only European nation to have issued a formal apology for its role in slavery.

“Today, we come together in solemn solidarity to affirm truth and pursue a route to healing and reparative justice,” said Ghana’s President John Dramani Mahama, speaking on behalf of the African Union. “The adoption of this resolution serves as a safeguard against forgetting.... Let it be recorded that when history beckoned, we did what was right for the memory of the millions who suffered the indignity of slavery.”

While the Amherstburg Freedom Museum tells the stories of freedom



*Enlarged replica of the 2025 Canada Post stamp honouring Marie-Joseph Angelique, in the Museum’s main exhibit*

seekers and those who collaborated with them to resist the unjust system of slavery, as well as the many accomplishments and contributions of Underground Railroad descendants, the Museum also presents facts related to the over 200 years of enslavement of both African and Indigenous peoples within Canada. Under both the French and British colonial regimes, thousands of people of African descent were enslaved across the lands now known as Canada, often under brutal conditions that were legally sanctioned at the time.

The first recorded enslaved African in what is now Canada was Olivier LeJeune, who appears in the records in 1628 as an enslaved child originally from Africa who survived only until 1654. Numerous towering historical figures considered “founders” of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island—as well as communities within them, such as Sandwich, Windsor, and Amherstburg—held people of African descent in bondage.

Revenues from slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade helped to establish Canadian universities such as McGill and Dalhousie. Proceeds from trade in slave-produced goods helped to establish major Canadian financial institutions we now know as CIBC (Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce) and Scotiabank (Bank of Nova Scotia.)

And as Natasha Henry has written, “Very few Canadians are aware that at one time their nation’s economy was firmly linked to African slavery through the building and sale of slave ships, the sale and purchase of slaves to and from the Caribbean and the exchange of timber, cod, and other food items from the Maritimes for West-Indian slave-produced goods” *Emancipation Day: Celebrating Freedom in Canada* (2010). Eric Williams (September 15, 1911–March 29, 1981), renowned Caribbean historian and first Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, wrote in his book *Capitalism and Slavery* (1944) that “the Newfoundland fishery depended to a considerable extent on the annual export of dried fish to the West Indies, the refuse or ‘poor John’ fish, ‘fit for no other consumption.’” Thus saltfish, a cheap, durable protein from Atlantic Canada, became a staple in the cuisine of Caribbean cultures, resulting in dishes such as Jamaican ackee and saltfish and Trinidadian buljol.

Over the past several years, the Amherstburg Freedom Museum’s Curator Emeritus Elise Harding-Davis has spearheaded courageous conversations as well as a petition drive requesting that the Government of Canada apologize for slavery. To date, there have been federal apologies for historic wrongs against many other equity-seeking communities. However, as Harding-Davis has stated, Black Canadians have received no apology for the centuries of enslavement that happened here in Canada.

*Transatlantic Slave Trade display in the Museum’s permanent exhibit.*



## Jane's Walk Tours Return

The Amherstburg Freedom Museum will once again host two walking tours as part of the annual Jane's Walk Festival. Join Mary-Katherine Whelan and Irene Moore Davis on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> for either or both of these *free* tours, two of the more than sixty learning experiences the 2026 Festival is making available across Essex County over three weekends in late April and early May. To participate, you *must* pre-register at <https://www.windsorjaneswalk.ca/2026>.

### It Happened In Amherstburg: Black History In Amherstburg

Saturday, April 25th from 2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

Event type: Jane's Walk - guided walking tour

Starting Location: Amherstburg Freedom Museum

Explore Black settlement and activity in Amherstburg, with a focus on the lives of freedom seekers (those escaping enslavement and persecution in the United States) and their descendants who built their lives in our region.

### Beyond the River: The Underground Railroad & Black Community in Amherstburg

Saturday, April 25th from 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Event type: Jane's Walk - guided walking tour

Starting Location: Essex County Library, Amherstburg

Step back in time and explore the rich Black history of Amherstburg on this guided walking tour. Along the way, you will learn about the Underground Railroad, the Black residents who built a thriving community, and the notable businesses and individuals who shaped Amherstburg's history.

The 2026 Jane's Walk Festival includes Black history tours and talks in Windsor and Harrow, too. To view the complete 2026 festival schedule, please visit <https://www.windsorjaneswalk.ca/2026>.



SAVE THE DATE!



AMHERSTBURG  
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BLACK HISTORY  
universal inspiration.

# RIBS & RAGTIME

## SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH, 4-8PM

Our annual garden party on the museum grounds, featuring live music and barbeque in honour of Amherstburg's very own Shelton Brooks.

Tickets

\$60

Special guest: Christian Vagh

[amherstburgfreedom.org/event](https://amherstburgfreedom.org/event)

## Museum to host two Canterbury ElderCollege courses

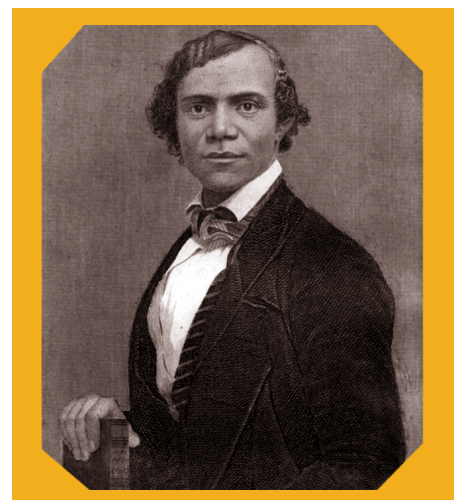
The Amherstburg Freedom Museum is hosting two Canterbury College ElderCollege courses at the Museum (277 King Street, Amherstburg) this spring.

ElderCollege offers lifelong learning for ages 55 and up. Participants pay an annual membership fee of \$15 + HST as well as individual course fees. For more information or to register, visit [www.eldercollege.ca](http://www.eldercollege.ca) or call (519) 253-3000 ext 4944 or ext 4901.

**Slavery, the Underground Railroad, Resistance, and Abolition in the Detroit River Region**, with Irene Moore Davis, Mondays 9:30am-12pm, April 13-20 \$39.55 (\$35 + HST)

**From a Different Viewpoint: A Look at Local Black History**, with Barbara Porter, Tuesdays 9:00am-12pm, May 5-12 \$50.85 (\$45 + HST)

*Pictured on the right: Freedom seeker, abolitionist, and publisher Henry Bibb*



## Celebrating Thirty Years of Black History Month in Canada

Black History Month 2026 was a busy time for the Amherstburg Freedom Museum staff and volunteers as always! We began once again with the Black History Month Kickoff, our annual collaboration with the Essex County Black Historical Research Society and Windsor Essex Caribbean Association. We ended the month with a lively trivia night at WindsorEats (featuring signature cocktails in honour of James L. Dunn and Ada Kelly Whitney!) as well as a presentation and trivia quiz at a Windsor Essex Community Health Centre event. In between, the month was packed with fun and enlightening activities.



Voices and Verses, featuring poets Paulina O’Kieffe and Erik E-Tomic Johnson, was co-hosted with the River BookShop.



Through Flowers for a Cause, Fashion Week Windsor and Chapter Two Brewing Company raised money for the Museum. Pictured here: Fashion Week Windsor Creative Director Stephen Drouin with Museum Board Member Cari-Lynn Ristic.



Board Member Dr. Brenda McCurdy (pictured here with the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister Responsible for Official Languages) represented the Museum at the Government of Canada’s Black History Month Reception, held in Ottawa. Prime Minister Mark Carney also attended and spoke.

Staff made numerous presentations, from an in person visit to Amherstburg Public School to a presentation and trivia quiz hosted at the Windsor Essex Community Health Centre’s Black History Month Celebration to a virtual presentation for 800+ federal employees.

Board members also pitched in with Black History Month presentations. Special thanks to Vice-Chair Barbara Porter for an early morning (7:15 am!) presentation to the Rotary Club of Windsor-St. Clair, while Board Member Cari-Lynn Ristic and Committee Member Chris Porter hosted a Freedom Achievers’ Program Career Spotlight at Holy Names High School. As a Fire Captain and New Program Launch Manager in the automotive industry, they shared their educational and professional journeys with the students.



Thanks to the Windsor Express for hosting a Museum fundraiser during which Board Chair Monty Logan had the honour of the ceremonial ball toss.

Thanks as well to The Beer Store for facilitating donations for both the Museum and Black Mental Health Canada throughout February.

Museum staff fielded plenty of media requests during Black History Month, including an interview on CBC Afternoon Drive. Special thanks as well to our partners at AM 800 and CKBG who aired numerous Black history spots composed and recorded by the Museum staff.

Many tour groups visited the Museum in February—including this class from James L. Dunn Public School.



Particularly in this year, with the 30th anniversary of Canada’s federal recognition of Black History Month and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Carter G. Woodson’s creation of Negro History Week, Black History Month was something special to celebrate. A reminder, however: Museum staff and volunteers are always happy to make presentations or host tours, year round! Feel free to reach out for assistance at any time.

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

## AMHERSTBURG FREEDOM MUSEUM

*Black History, Universal Inspiration*

# Become a Bingo Volunteer

For More Information and To Volunteer, Please go to

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