



The Essex County  
Black Historical  
Research Society



## 2019 Windsor-Essex Black History Month Activity Schedule

Essex County is rich in Black history. Canadians of African descent have played important roles in the cultural, political, social, and economic progress of our communities. Our region has been populated by people of African descent from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when free Black Loyalists as well as enslaved Africans were among the area's early residents; to the 19<sup>th</sup> century when formerly enslaved African Americans and free people of colour streamed into this area by the thousands, fleeing either bondage or oppression; to the modern era when immigrants from the continent of Africa and the Caribbean made this region their new home.

Here are some of the Black History Month events happening around our region.

**Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>:** Join us on Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for Black history highlights, poetry and music, featuring Arts Collective Theatre, Teajai Travis, Mbonisi Zikhali, the Hidaya Diaspora Junior Dance Group, All Nations Full Gospel Church True Worship Ministry, and the release of the 2019 Black History Month activity schedule for Windsor-Essex. This free event is taking place at the Caribbean Centre, 2410 Central Avenue, Windsor, and is hosted by the Essex County Black Historical Research Society, the Windsor West Indian Association, and the Amherstburg Freedom Museum with support from Morris Sutton Funeral Home, Women's Enterprise Skills Training, and the City of Windsor. We will publicly recognize the importance of Black History Month as well as encourage the community to participate in the array of Black History Month events happening locally. For more information, contact [ecbhrs@gmail.com](mailto:ecbhrs@gmail.com) or (519) 890-4316.

**February 1<sup>st</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>:** \$1 off admission per person to celebrate Black History Month at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum (277 King Street, Amherstburg.) To claim the discount, tell us when the Nazrey African Methodist Episcopal Church National Historic Site of Canada was built and by whom, when you purchase your ticket. This discount is only available in February and only if the correct response is given. Hint: In 1848, people fleeing enslavement in the United States built this church by hand. Hours of operation: Tues-Fri 12 pm – 5 pm, Sat & Sun 1 pm – 5 pm. Admission: Normally \$7.50/adult, \$6.50/student or senior. For more info, contact 519-736-5433 or visit [www.amherstburgfreedom.org](http://www.amherstburgfreedom.org) or social media sites: Facebook.com/amherstburgfreedom; Twitter @AburgFreedom

**February 1<sup>st</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>:** The Amherstburg Freedom Museum presents a temporary exhibit, *Rarely Seen*. The community is invited to view a selection of recently acquired and rarely seen artifacts from the collection, showcasing items that rarely get a turn in the spotlight and the stories they share. The museum is located at 277 King Street in Amherstburg. Hours of operation: Tues-Fri 12 pm – 5 pm, Sat & Sun 1 pm – 5 pm. Admission: Normally \$7.50/adult, \$6.50/student or senior. For more info, contact 519-736-5433 or visit [www.amherstburgfreedom.org](http://www.amherstburgfreedom.org) or social media sites: Facebook.com/amherstburgfreedom; Twitter @AburgFreedom

**February 1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>:** Visit one ten park: a working space (110 Park St. W. in Windsor) for a community quilt making project and art installation entitled "Black History is Humanity's History." Visit the one ten park: a working space Facebook page for hours of operation.

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>:** Visit the Windsor Public Library, Central Branch (main floor, 850 Ouellette) to see a free display regarding Black history in Essex County, presented by the Essex County Black Historical Research Society. The Central Branch is open Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m. All branches of the Windsor Public Library have ample reading material about Black history, too: visit [www.windsorpubliclibrary.com](http://www.windsorpubliclibrary.com).

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>-May 26<sup>th</sup>:** Visit the Chimczuk Museum and learn about ancient Egypt and its amazing civilization. The Chimczuk Museum, 401 Riverside Drive West, will host *Egypt: A Gift of the Nile*, a travelling exhibit from the Royal Ontario Museum.

Explore an ancient civilization that flourished for thousands of years. The Nile River Valley of 5,000 years ago was the birthplace of a remarkable collection. Protected from foreign invasion by vast deserts and sustained by fertile soil along the river, the ancient Egyptians developed from a simple agricultural community into a sophisticated society. Under a system of divine kingship, this Egyptian civilization lasted thousands of years and contributed strongly to the later cultures of the Mediterranean and Europe. Access to the exhibit is included in general admission fees. Visit [museumwindsor.ca](http://museumwindsor.ca) for details.

**Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>:** *Oh Happy Day! A Gospel Celebration* will be presented on Sunday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at the Chatham Capitol Theatre, 238 King St. W. in Chatham. Internationally acclaimed Canadian tenor Ben Heppner is joined by Canada's premier gospel ensemble, the Toronto Mass Choir, in a joyous celebration of traditional and contemporary gospel music, including "Amazing Grace," "This Little Light of Mine," "Ain't Got Time to Die" and "Oh Happy Day." An uplifting concert of joyous music, electrifyingly performed! Ticket Price: \$25-\$45. Visit <http://chathamcapitoltheatre.com> for tickets and information.

**February 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>:** Afrofest, the University of Windsor Students' Alliance African Diaspora Festival, returns to the university Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. Afrofest 2019 consists of various cultural and educational activities that document and celebrate the contributions made by peoples of African descent to the world. Afrofest promotes unity on campus, celebrates the journey and progression of black history, as well as engages in cross cultural exchange. Afrofest is a fusion of intellectual discussion, film, fashion, and artistic and musical talent. For details, visit <http://www.uwsa.ca/uwsa-services/afrofest/>.

**Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>:** Attend a free screening of *Soul on Ice* presented by the Faculty of Human Kinetics at the University of Windsor, Room HK 140 on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:45 p.m. The film by Damon Kwame Mason presents and retells the unknown contributions of Black athletes in ice hockey. Special dedication at 6:45, film starts at 7:00 p.m. Presented in association with AfroFest and the UWSA. Donations will be collected for the Chatham Kent Black Historical Society.

**Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>:** Adult Art Class celebrates Black History Month at the Sandwich Library, 331 Sandwich Street in Windsor, Thursday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m. In celebration of Black History Month we will be inspired by the spectacular powerful work of Bermuda-born Canadian artist Joan Butterfield. All supplies will be provided. For information contact Ms. Janet C. Brown, (519) 255-6770 ext. 7700 or [jbrown@windsorpubliclibrary.com](mailto:jbrown@windsorpubliclibrary.com).

**Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>:** Children's Black History Month Challenge at the Sandwich Library, 331 Sandwich Street in Windsor, Thursday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-4:30 p.m. Join the Library Live Children's Club for our annual Black History Month Challenge! Discover and learn more about the amazing men and women throughout history who have made a marked impact on your present and future. For information contact Ms. Janet C. Brown, (519) 255-6770 ext. 7700 or [jbrown@windsorpubliclibrary.com](mailto:jbrown@windsorpubliclibrary.com).

**Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>:** The Windsor West Indian Association's annual Black History Brunch is happening on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-5:00 p.m. at the Caribbean Centre, 2410 Central Avenue, Windsor, featuring delicious Caribbean cuisine. For information and tickets call (519) 945-0213 or e-mail [wwia2410vp@bellnet.ca](mailto:wwia2410vp@bellnet.ca). Tickets are also available at the door. Adults \$20.00 per person; children 12 and under \$10.00.

**Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>:** Join the Essex County Black Historical Research Society on Thursday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for a presentation on local African Canadians' involvement in the American Civil War. The discussion will take place at the United Way, 300 Giles Blvd. E. in Windsor, followed by the monthly meeting of the ECBHRS. Admission is free.

**Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>:** *Teaching Black History in Canada* is a workshop for educators taking place at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site, 29251 Uncle Tom's Road, Dresden, Friday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. This workshop is designed to provide Junior/Intermediate (Grade 3-10) educators with the tools and resources to help them incorporate Black history into a more inclusive curriculum. The training will be led by Black history curriculum specialist, educator, author, historian, and Ontario Black History Society President Natasha Henry, BA (Honours), B.Ed., M.Ed., OCT. Pre-registration is required: registration closes February 13, 2019. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. For more information, please contact Steven Cook at [steven.cook@heritagetrust.on.ca](mailto:steven.cook@heritagetrust.on.ca) or call (519) 683-2978. [www.uncletomscabin.org](http://www.uncletomscabin.org)

**Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>:** The Windsor West Indian Association will host a free movie night, featuring *The Wiz*, Friday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Caribbean Centre, 2410 Central Avenue, Windsor. Snacks will be available for purchase. For information call (519) 945-0213 or e-mail [wwia2410vp@bellnet.ca](mailto:wwia2410vp@bellnet.ca).

**Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>:** The UNIFOR Local 444 Aboriginal and Workers of Colour Committee will host a Black History Month Celebration, Saturday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> 1:00-5:00 p.m. at 1855 Turner Road in Windsor. The event will feature a soul food dinner, arts and entertainment, poetry/spoken word, guest speakers discussing history, silent auction, 50/50 draw, and raffles. Featured artists include Leslie McCurdy and Teajai Travis. Tickets are only \$10.00. For further information contact Local 444 Hall at (519) 258-6400 or Yvonne Browning-Coates, Chair, at (519) 819-5342.

**Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>:** Elite Events presents *I Choose Love* Saturday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, with performances at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m., at the Roth Centre for the Performing Arts, located inside SHO Studios, 628 Monmouth Rd. in Windsor. *I Choose Love* is an inspirational production of love, loss, and healing through faith, inspired by the works of Lauryn Hill and other influential R & B, Afrobeats, and gospel artists, featuring Toronto award-winning dance company Artists in Motion, with choreography by award winning choreographer Shameka Blake and poetry by Elle. Tickets are \$35.00 and are available on Eventbrite.com. For reservations or information contact [myeliteevent@gmail.com](mailto:myeliteevent@gmail.com).

**Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>:** Omoluabi Newspaper will present *Principles in Black History*, featuring dance, spoken words, drama, history, and much more, Saturday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the WFCU centre, 8787 McHugh Street. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free. For information contact 226-260-6238, 519-988-6725, or 519-551-8048. Omoluabi Newspaper is funded by the Ontario Government as a Violence Prevention Campaign Initiative.

**Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>:** On Family Day, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:30-11:45 a.m., enjoy a presentation and book signing celebrating *A Chatham-Kent Tapestry: A Visual History to 1950* by Jim and Lisa Gilbert, at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site, , 29251 Uncle Tom's Road, Dresden. Beginning with records preserved from the mid-19th century, *A Chatham-Kent Tapestry* carefully curates photographs from the Chatham-Kent Museum and other community archive collections, as well as surviving negatives from the Chatham Daily News, to tell the remarkable story of one of the oldest communities in Upper Canada. Jim and Lisa Gilbert have been bringing local history to life for almost 40 years, in Chatham-Kent. They have won local, regional, national and international awards for their radio shows, newspaper columns, historical presentations and heritage programming. Following the presentation, join the authors at Union Block Bakery, downtown Dresden's newest eatery, for a specially priced luncheon. For more information, please contact Steven Cook at [steven.cook@heritagetrust.on.ca](mailto:steven.cook@heritagetrust.on.ca) or call (519) 683-2978. [www.uncletomscabin.org](http://www.uncletomscabin.org)

**Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>:** JUNO-nominated singer-songwriter Khari Wendell McLelland brings his *We Now Recognize* tour to Phog Lounge, 157 University Avenue West, Thursday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 p.m. Experience the redemptive power of song and story this Black History Month. Following the great success of *Freedom Singer* – which in 2017 and 2018 toured to 15 cities across Canada – Project: Humanity is once again teaming up with Khari Wendell McClelland who has created a dazzling new suite of songs in a brand new show *We Now Recognize*, a timely concert that explores the power of apologies, the nature of community and the redemptive potential of music. *We Now Recognize* will tour six Canadian cities in celebration of Black History Month 2019. *We Now Recognize* is generously supported by presenting sponsor TD Bank Group. What is the value of an apology? What makes an authentic apology? Khari is creating a musical storytelling performance that weaves a path toward deeper and more heartfelt relationships amongst the varied peoples and communities of Canada and – in his distinct way – brings us together around music and questions of justice. Tickets are available through Eventbrite.ca (\$25.00 + \$6.12 fee + HST.)

**Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>:** The African Community Organization of Windsor invites you to a Black History Month Celebration featuring African cultural fashion shows, dance groups, a dinner with Canadian and African dishes, an awards presentation, and a dance, Friday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Serbian Centre, 6770 Tecumseh Rd. E. in Windsor. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. All proceeds will support ACOW's projects in the community. The theme is "Africans in Windsor building bridges from the untold plight and stories, moving forward in unity." Tickets for adults are \$45.00 prior to Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>/\$50.00 after Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> and at the door for adults; tickets for students are \$35.00 prior to Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>/\$40 after Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> and at the door. For tickets call (226) 346-1324, (226) 349-2358, (226) 246-6766, (519) 992-9693, (519) 817-4752, or (226) 260-4273.

**Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>:** *Viola Desmond: The Play* will be presented on Friday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at Sandwich Teen Action Group, 3735 King Street in Windsor. This is a free event for Black History Month 2019, presented by children and youth, supported by the Ontario Black Youth Action Plan and under the direction of historian Elise Harding Davis. For information, call (519) 300-3623.

**Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Good People United against Racism and Intolerance will host a Unity Gala at Caesars Windsor, Augustus Ballroom, 377 Riverside Drive West, Saturday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Presentations, dinner, and dancing. Tickets \$85.00. The gala is an opportunity for all good people from all ethnic groups, religious backgrounds, organizations, unions and the entire spectrum of movements for social and economic justice to commemorate the 400th Year Anniversary of the first documented enslaved Africans to arrive in North America as well as to show support and take a stand against racism and intolerance. Tickets are available at [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca) or call 647-497-7242 or visit [bhmcampaign.com](http://bhmcampaign.com).

**Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>:** The Windsor West Indian Association's annual Black History Tea is happening on Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Caribbean Centre, 2410 Central Avenue, Windsor. Come for tea and vibrant Black history discussion! Admission by donation. For information call (519) 945-0213 or e-mail [wwia2410vp@bellnet.ca](mailto:wwia2410vp@bellnet.ca).

**Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>:** The Buxton National Historic Site & Museum and Buxton's Next Generation are pleased to present *A Snapshot in the Family Album*, an opportunity to learn more about the Boswell family, the Hanson family, the Morris family, the Steele family, and the Timbers family, Sunday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the North Buxton Community Church.

**Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>:** 4th Wall Music presents "Celebrating Black Composers," February 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at the Capitol Theatre. Tickets available at [www.4thwallmusic.com](http://www.4thwallmusic.com), at Biblioasis bookstore, or at the door. Irene Moore Davis discusses the influence of music on Windsor's rich and diverse history. Join Detroit-based violinist Velda Kelly along with Windsor pianist Mike Karloff and soprano Shahida Nurullah to explore the fascinating lives and music of black composers from the 1700s to present including Joseph Boulogne, Le Chevalier de Saint George, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, William Grant Still, Shelton Brooks and Scott Joplin.

**Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>:** 4th Wall Music presents "Celebrating Black Composers," February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum, 277 King Street in Amherstburg. Tickets available at [www.4thwallmusic.com](http://www.4thwallmusic.com), at the museum in advance, or at the door. Irene Moore Davis discusses the influence of music on Windsor's rich and diverse history. Join Detroit-based violinist Velda Kelly along with Windsor pianist Mike Karloff and soprano Shahida Nurullah to explore the fascinating lives and music of black composers from the 1700s to present including Joseph Boulogne, Le Chevalier de Saint George, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, William Grant Still, Shelton Brooks and Scott Joplin.

**February through March 10<sup>th</sup>:** Visit the Thames Art Gallery, 75 William Street North in Chatham, for the exhibit *What Motivates Her?* through March 10<sup>th</sup>. Learn about black feminism in an exciting new exhibit at the gallery with artists Allyson Mitchell and Madelyne Beckles. Together they strive to make thought provoking, eye-opening, powerful work about feminism, sexuality and social stigmas. Thinking through intersectional queer feminist embodiments and new materialism, they have created an interactive, sensorial environment in the gallery informed by pop culture, deconstruction and feminist gestures. Their artwork often leverages traditional domestic practices, using recycled materials and imagery, including craft techniques and found objects. Using a destabilizing humour, this collaboration also addresses complicated negotiations facing artists engaged with politics and identity today, particularly when the impetus is on bringing gender and racial inequality into focus. Visit <https://www.chatham-kent.ca/ThamesArtGallery> for hours of operation and other details.



AMHERSTBURG  
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**Keep up to date on 2019 Black History Month events happening in Windsor-Essex County!**

Visit <https://amherstburgfreedom.org/black-history-month/> for the latest and most accurate information.



Follow **BlackHistoryWindsor @ecbhrs**



Look for updated event and activity listings at our **Black History Month Windsor-Essex** Facebook page.