The African Canadian experience in the War of 1812 is a topic lamentably underrepresented in scholarly and popular literature. *We Stand on Guard for Thee: African Canadian Experience in the War of 1812* is a forum for scholars, students, educators, community historians and members of the public to explore the important role played by African Canadians in this, the last war fought on Canadian soil. This workshop is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.
Thursday, May 10, 2012

6:30 – 9:30 pm  Reception and Conference Inauguration (with refreshments)

Conference Chair: Michele Johnson, Department of History, York University

Welcoming Remarks: Paul Lovejoy, Director, Harriet Tubman Institute, Canadian Research Chair in African Diaspora History and Distinguished Research Professor, York University

Naming of Workshop Honorary Patron
Wilma Morrison, Order of Ontario and Honorary Doctorate, Brock University

The Hon. Jim Bradley, MPP (St. Catharines), Deputy Government House Leader and Ontario Environment Minister

The Honorable Brian McMullen, Mayor of St. Catharines, Ontario

The Honorable Paul Dyster, Mayor, Niagara Falls, New York

Brian Merrett, CEO, War of 1812 Legacy Council, Niagara

Bonnie Rose, Executive Vice-President, Niagara University (US), Chair, Education Committee, Niagara War of 1812 Legacy Council

Public Session: Gareth Newfield, scholar and author, Canadian War Museum
‘Free Men of Colour’: The Coloured Corps during the War of 1812

The coloured Corps, a small unit of African Canadian militiamen, served on the Niagara frontier during the War of 1812, including the Battles of Queenston Heights and Fort George. During the Bicentennial, it has received considerable attention and become symbolic of the experiences of African Canadians, yet much of its history is subject to misconceptions. This presentation examines the military history and myths of the Coloured Corps, presenting a compelling yet accurate picture of this unique unit’s service during the War of 1812.

Musical Presentation: Diana Braithwaite and Chris Whiteley, “Sugar and Gold: The UGRR in Canada”

Film Launch: Conestogo Bound: The Black Pioneers of Wellington County, by writer/producer/director Diana Braithwaite, for “Breaking the Chains: Presenting a New Narrative for Canada’s Role in the Underground Railroad,” a project of York University’s Harriet Tubman Institute and the Augmented Reality Lab,
WE STAND ON GUARD FOR THEE:
THE AFRICAN CANADIAN EXPERIENCE IN THE WAR OF 1812

Faculty of Fine Arts, with community partners from across Ontario, funded by
the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2012

8:00 am: Registration and Light Breakfast
8:30-9:00 am: Workshop Introduction, Presentation of Program, and Greetings
Michele Johnson, Conference Chair, Department of History, York University
Paul Lovejoy, Director, Harriet Tubman Inst., Canadian Research Chair in African
Diaspora History, Distinguished Research Professor, York University
Murray Wickett, Chair, Department of History, Brock University
Karolyn Smardz Frost, Senior Research Fellow, Harriet Tubman Institute, York University

9:00-10:45: Panel 1 – The African Canadian Experience during the War of 1812
Moderator: Murray Wickett, Chair, Department of History, Brock University
Panellists: Wayne Kelly, Manager, Public Education and Community Development, Ontario Heritage
Trust, "A Rallying Point: Black Troops in Early Ontario".
Ronald J. Dale, War of 1812 Bicentennial Project Manager, Parks Canada Agency, "For
Freedom, Home and Loved Ones Dear: The Battle of Queenston Heights, October 13,
1812".
Peter Meyler, historian & author, "Partners in Obscurity: the Coloured Corps and the
First Nations".
Thomas Malcomson, historian & author, George Brown College, “The Search for Black
Sailors on the Great Lakes during the War of 1812”.

10:45-11:00: Break
11:00-12:30: Panel 2 – People, Places and the African Canadian Wartime Experience
Moderator: Donna Ford, President, Central Ontario Network for Black History
Panellists: David States, genealogist, heritage consultant & retired historian for Parks Canada,
Halifax, "Uncovering the Presence of Blacks in the Military from Maritime Canada in the
War of 1812".
Guylaine Petrin, genealogist & librarian, “The Home Front: Wives of Black Soldiers in the
War of 1812”.
Karolyn Smardz Frost, Senior Research Fellow, Harriet Tubman Institute, “The Past
Through Tomorrow: The War of 1812 and the Underground Railroad”.
**12:30-1:30:** Lunch and Launch: the Honorable Jean Augustine, Privy Council of Canada, Fairness Commissioner for Ontario
“Breaking the Chains: Presenting a New Narrative for Canada’s Role in the Underground Railroad”.

Presentation: Caitlin Fisher, Canada Research Chair in Digital Culture, Faculty of Fine Arts, and Andrew Roth, Augmented Reality Lab, York University, with Natasha Henry, Harriet Tubman Institute.

Announcement: Karolyn Smardz Frost, Senior Research Fellow, Harriet Tubman Institute, York University and Naomi Norquay, Faculty of Education, York University

**1:30-3:00:** Panel 3 – *Teaching and Learning the African Canadian Experience in the War of 1812*

*Moderator:* Michele Johnson, Department of History, York University, Director, "Spotlighting and Promoting African Canadian Experiences" (S.P.A.C.E.)

*Panellists:* Adrienne Shadd, historian, curator & author, “Future Directions for Researching the Black Experience in the War of 1812”.
Hilary Dawson, historian & genealogist, Harriet Tubman Institute, “Forward to the Past: Clues to Researching the War of 1812”.
Natasha Henry, educator, historian & author, Harriet Tubman Institute, York University, “Teaching and Learning the African Canadian Experience in the War of 1812”.

**3:00-3:30:** Open Mike and Questions from the Floor
Wilma Morrison, a lifelong promoter of Niagara’s Black history, was named to the Order of Ontario in 2011. This is the highest civilian honour the Province of Ontario bestows on its residents. She recently received an honorary doctorate from Brock University. For years, Dr. Morrison has tirelessly educated people about Niagara’s role in the Underground Railroad. She serves on The Central Ontario Network for Black History and is also Founder, Past President and still an active member of the Niagara Black History Association. A local historian of Niagara’s Black history and culture, Wilma was instrumental in saving the Niagara Falls British Methodist Episcopal Church from being sold and possibly demolished. She spearheaded the establishment of the Norval Johnson Heritage Library, a full lending library with over 1,500 volumes dedicated to Black History, now housed in the St. Catharines Public Library. In 2008, she received the Lieutenant Governor’s Ontario Heritage Award, recognizing her years of devoted service to the cause of public education about Black history.

Michele Johnson is currently Associate Professor in the Department of History, York University, where she has served as the coordinator of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program, and is the former Associate Director of The Harriet Tubman Institute. Michele directs a new initiative, "Spotlighting and Promoting African Canadian Experiences" (S.P.A.C.E.), which seeks to highlight the presence and contributions of persons of African descent in Canada over the last 400 years. Her research interests include issues of gender relations, race/radicalization, labour and domestic slavery and service in Jamaica/the Caribbean, the United States and Canada. She is co-investigator with Paul Lovejoy and Caitlin Fisher in the SSHRC-funded project, Breaking the Chains: Presenting a New Narrative for Canada’s Role in the Underground Railroad.
We Stand on Guard for Thee:  
THE AFRICAN CANADIAN EXPERIENCE IN THE WAR OF 1812

DIRECTOR, HARRIET TUBMAN INSTITUTE,  
YORK UNIVERSITY  
PAUL LOVEJOY

Paul E. Lovejoy is Distinguished Research Professor, Department of History, York University, and holds the Canada Research Chair in African Diaspora History. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, Director of the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples, and a member of the UNESCO “Slave Route” Project (Section du dialogue interculturel). He is Editor of the Harriet Tubman Series on the African Diaspora for Africa World Press. His recent publications include Slavery, Commerce and Production in West Africa: Slave Society in the Sokoto Caliphate (2005), Ecology and Ethnography of Muslim Trade in West Africa (2005), Slavery, Islam and Diaspora (2009), Repercussions of the Atlantic Slave Trade (2010), and Crossing Memories: Slavery and African Diaspora (2011).

SPECIAL GUESTS  
THE HON. JEAN AUGUSTINE, PRIVY COUNCIL OF CANADA AND FAIRNESS COMMISSIONER OF ONTARIO

The Honorable Dr. Augustine was born in Grenada and came to Canada in 1960. She attended the University of Toronto, where she earned Bachelor of Arts and Master of Education degrees. After many years in public education, Dr. Augustine became the first African Canadian woman elected to the House of Commons, and served in many important offices including that of Deputy Speaker of the House, Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister. She retired from politics after 17 years of service, and was appointed the first Fairness Commissioner for Ontario in March 2007. She was named to the Order of Canada in 2009. Dr. Augustine has donated her archival and parliamentary materials to York University’s Faculty of Education, and has spearheaded fundraising efforts to establish The Jean Augustine Chair in Education in the New Urban Environment.
The Hon. Jim Bradley, MPP (St. Catharines),
Deputy Government House Leader and
Ontario Environment Minister

Jim Bradley was first elected to represent St. Catharines in the Ontario legislature in 1977. He is currently the Deputy Government House Leader and Minister of the Environment. Previously he served as Minister of Transportation, Minister of Tourism and has held several other important cabinet positions.

Before his election to the legislature, Jim was a teacher with the Lincoln County Board of Education and has served as a member of the St. Catharines City Council. He recently supported the Private Member’s Bill 35, “The Major-General Sir Isaac Brock Day Act, 2012” that would proclaim October 13 of every year as a day to honour Brock's tremendous leadership during the War of 1812.

The Honorable Paul Dyster,
Mayor, Niagara Falls, NY

Paul Dyster was born and raised in Niagara Falls. He has a PhD in International Relations and Law from John Hopkins University, and spent the first half of his career as a college professor. He directed the Catholic University of American’s International Affairs Program, and worked on arms control negotiations for the State Department in Geneva, Switzerland.

From 2000 to 2003, Paul served on the Niagara Falls City Council. After an unsuccessful 2003 mayoral bid, he served as president of the board of the Niagara Arts and Cultural Center, president and chairman of the Niagara Experience Center, and on the executive board of the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper. In 2005, he became chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Niagara River Greenway Commission, and in 2006 he was named Citizen of the Year by the Niagara Gazette and Conservationist of the Year by the Niagara Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club.
We Stand on Guard for Thee: 
The African Canadian Experience in the War of 1812

The Honorable Brian McMullen 
Mayor of St. Catharines, Ontario

Raised in Niagara Falls, Mayor McMullen has lived in St. Catharines for 30 years and received his post-secondary education at Brock University and Niagara College. Mayor McMullen’s political career began in 1988 when he was elected to St. Catharines City Council to serve the residents of the Grantham Ward until 1997. He was elected in 2000 to serve on Niagara Regional Council. He was elected Mayor of St. Catharines in 2006 and is currently serving his second term. The day after Mayor McMullan began his second term he floated the idea that St. Catharines should host a Black History Interpretive Centre, a concept that is steadily gaining in momentum, with the assistance of the Mayor’s Advisory Committee for Black History, most members of which are with us here today.

Brian Merrett

Brian Merrett, CEO of War of 1812 Legacy Council Niagara, is a native of Niagara Falls, and served as the Regional Chair from 1991 to 1997. For almost 20 years, he represented his constituents at the local council level; seven years as an alderman; and 12 years on Regional Council with six as the Regional Chair. He was also the Chair of the Niagara 911 committee that was responsible for the implementation of the region-wide emergency telephone system. He received the Niagara Award for Community Contribution in 1997. In 1998, he was appointed to the Niagara College Board of Governors. He served as Chairman of the Niagara Parks Commission from 1997 to 2003. Brian started with the Legacy Council (LC) in August 2010 and has since established a coordinating committee in both Erie and Niagara County, and has secured funding on many levels for the LC’s Canadian and U.S. operations.

Bonnie Rose

Bonnie Rose is Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Niagara University, Lewiston, New York, where she has been employed since 2002. Previously she was Vice President Academic at Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology and President of W.S. Kubiski & Associates Ltd., a consulting firm serving such clients as universities and colleges engaged in large-scale transformation efforts. She also consulted on federal and provincial programs involved in implementing social change and innovation, often working with community groups. She is currently the Chair of the Education Committee for the Niagara War of 1812 Legacy Council.
We Stand on Guard for Thee:  
The African Canadian Experience in the War of 1812

SPECIAL MUSICAL PRESENTATION  
AND FILM LAUNCH

Dianna Braithwaite & Chris Whiteley

Diana Braithwaite is a descendant of African American families who came to Canada on the Underground Railroad and pioneered in the vast wilderness north of Guelph, known as the Queen's Bush. She is a singer, filmmaker and playwright, and has been dubbed a “national treasure” by Bluz FM radio host Danny Marks. A gifted and captivating performer, Diana was chosen by Sarah McLachlan to open Lilith Fair at the Molson Amphitheatre before 18,000 people. Her talent, and authentic blues shows have led her into the company of such stalwarts as Mel Brown, Albert Collins, John Lee Hooker and Jeff Healey. Appearances at shows in Massey Hall in North America, concert halls and festivals in the U.K. and Europe led to her reputation as a world class blues singer.

Chris Whiteley, was born in Kansas, and moved to Toronto as a youth. There he met the great blues legend Lonnie Johnson who taught and encouraged him. During the late 1970s, Whiteley toured and recorded with Leon Redbone, appearing with him on Saturday Night Live. He also worked with the legendary Chicago piano player Blind John Davis, who had been the house piano player at Bluebird Records. Whiteley has won numerous Maple Blues Awards as both songwriter and horn player of the year, and a Jazz Report Magazine Blues Album of the Year Award. In 2010, Whiteley received the prestigious Blues With a Feeling Award for lifetime achievement in the blues.

Braithwaite and Whiteley present authentic, vintage blues while they continue to expand their horizons internationally and please audiences young and old. Giving back to the community, they have performed their original presentation about the Underground Railroad for over 40,000 students across Canada.
Ronald J. Dale attended the University of Guelph where he studied 18th-century British Military and First Nations history. He has been employed by Parks Canada for 37 years as a planner, site superintendent, and historian. Ron is currently serving as the project manager for the War of 1812 Bicentennial. His publications include: Niagara-on-the-Lake: Its History and its Festival; The Invasion of Canada: Battles of the War of 1812, and The Fall of New France.

Presenting: For Freedom, Home and Loved Ones Dear: The Battle of Queenston Heights, October 13, 1812

When the US declared war on Britain on June 18, 1812, the British were uncertain of how the Militia of Upper and Lower Canada would react when asked to fight against the Americans. In Upper Canada many of the militiamen were relatively recent American immigrants to British North America. Major-general Isaac Brock, commander of British forces in Upper Canada knew that if the Canadian militia would not stand, his small force of Regular Army soldiers and First Nations allies would not prove sufficient to repel a serious American invasion. The British would have to retreat to the stronghold of Quebec and perhaps lose the Province of Upper Canada. At the Battle of Queenston Heights on October 13, 1812, Brock was killed by the invading Americans early in the action but may have died with the satisfaction of seeing the Niagara and York militiamen, including the small company of Runchey’s Corps, fighting alongside the British regulars to resist the American landing. By day’s end, the British regulars, First Nations allies and the Upper Canadian militiamen stood victorious on the heights. To the British, this showed that Canadians would fight and therefore the Regular Army should continue to make every effort to defend Upper Canada against further American invasions.

In many ways, the Battle of Queenston Heights was one of the most significant chapters in the history of the War of 1812.

Hilary J. Dawson is a genealogist and historical researcher who has worked in museums in the UK and Canada, including Wilberforce House, Hull, UK. Her research into nineteenth century Etobicoke Township (now part of Toronto, Ontario) uncovered a previously unknown Black presence. In 2002, the Etobicoke Historical Society presented her with the Jean Hibbert Award.
for her contribution to Etobicoke’s history. Hilary has recently been working on *Breaking the Chains: Presenting a New Narrative for Canada’s Role in the Underground Railroad*, a project of the Harriet Tubman Institute and Augmented Reality Lab of the Faculty of Education at York University.

**Presenting: Forward to the Past: Clues to Researching the War of 1812**

How can we find out more about the lives of African Canadians during the war, and after? This presentation will suggest some resources to tap for information about this tumultuous time, from contemporary documents to memoirs and local histories, located in both archives and online. Each has its limitations, but even the smallest authentic detail can help in the writing of the next chapter in War of 1812 research.

**Caitlin Fisher**

*Caitlin Fisher* was awarded the Canada Research Chair in Digital Culture in 2004 Her primary research investigates the future of narrative through explorations of interactive storytelling and interactive cinema in Augmented Reality environments. She is a co-founder of the Future Cinema Lab, dedicated to the exploration of new stories for new screens, and Director of the Augmented Reality Lab in the Faculty of Fine Arts at York. In the AR Lab, she is working to construct and theorize spatial narrative environments and build expressive software tools for artists. She is a co-investigator with Drs. Lovejoy and Johnson in the SSHRC-funded project, *Breaking the Chains: Presenting a New Narrative for Canada’s Role in the Underground Railroad*.

**Donna Ford**

*Donna Ford* is Chairperson of the Central Ontario Network for Black History and a lifelong resident of the St Catharines area. As a docent at the St. Catharines Museum, Mrs. Ford served on the Advisory Committee for the Award-winning Exhibit *Follow the North Star*. She has also been a participant on the City of St. Catharines’ Mayor’s Advisory Committee for Black History which provides advice to Council regarding the feasibility of establishing a national Black history museum within the City of St. Catharines. She serves on the Ontario Trillium Foundation’s Niagara grant review team.
We Stand on Guard for Thee:
The African Canadian Experience in the War of 1812

Natasha Henry

Natasha L. Henry is a Masters of Education candidate in York University's Faculty of Education. She is the author of Talking About Freedom: Celebrating Freedom in Canada (January 2012) and Emancipation Day: Celebrating Freedom in Canada (June 2010). Natasha is an educator, historian, and curriculum consultant, specializing in the development of learning materials that focus on the African Diasporic experience. Natasha is currently the Education Specialist for Breaking the Chains: Presenting a New Narrative for Canada’s Role in the Underground Railroad, and authored the majority of the lesson plans for that project.

Presenting: Lest We Forget: Remembering and Teaching the Black Contribution to the War of 1812 in Ontario Schools
Practices of remembrance such as the bicentenary of the War of 1812 that have a focus on the African narrative can help to broaden the Canadian historical narrative and give voice to the African Canadian pioneer experience. Through the incorporation of the remarkable story of John Baker, a former bondsman in Upper Canada and a War of 1812 enlistee, Natasha will present a constructive curriculum model that, if implemented in Ontario schools, can contribute to ensuring that the education about the African experience in the War of 1812 and in the development of Canada as a nation continues, and that the remembrance practices established for the bicentenary commemoration of the Black participation in the War of 1812 endure for generations to come.

Wayne Kelly

Wayne Kelly is Manager of Public Education and Community Development at the Ontario Heritage Trust. He formerly headed the Heritage Plaque division for OHT, and has many years of experience in heritage management and public education. He is author of "Canada's Black Defenders - Former Slaves Answer the Call to Arms," published in the Beaver (April 1997) and "Race and Segregation in the Upper Canada Militia," in Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research (Winter 2000).

Presenting: A Rallying Point
Black troops played an important role in early Ontario. During the War of 1812 and the Rebellion of 1837, Black volunteers defended Upper Canada from American invasion, supported the British government against insurgents, and protected Black freedom in Canada. They served in army units across the province in a variety of roles as military leaders, soldiers, gunners, artificers, intelligence operatives, support staff and musicians. Black troops also served in a Black unit called the Coloured Corps that fought in the War of 1812 and helped to
keep the peace during the Rebellion of 1837 amidst attempts to overthrow the government. Notably, Black troops also guarded the border until 1850 in the uneasy peace that followed the rebellion. The Coloured Corps became, as one British officer called it, “a rallying point” – one of Canada’s earliest permanent military forces and its longest serving segregated unit.

**Thomas Malcomson**

Thomas Malcomson has taught courses at Toronto’s George Brown College for 27 years, and currently teaches electives on the History of Eugenics, and Genocide. Thomas co-authored *HMS Detroit: The Battle for Lake Erie* and the textbook *Life-Span Development* (now in its 4th edition). His 2007 PhD dissertation dealt with the creation of order and ‘disorder’ on British Naval vessels serving on the North American and West Indies Station during the War of 1812.

**Presenting: The Search for Black Sailors on the Great Lakes During the War of 1812**

The presence of Black sailors among the crews of both the British and American ships on the Great Lakes is difficult to detect, but they were present. More Black sailors are found among the American crews than in the British complements, but this did not necessarily mean a higher level of acceptance of their presence and contributions. In the British Navy being Black was a sub-category of the most critical difference among crew members for manning vessels: that was nationality. This paper will explore the effort to identify the scope of the presence of Black sailors, provide preliminary results of the effort, and touch on the attitudes of the officers in command of the ships towards the racial and national makeup of their crews.

**Peter Meyler**

Peter Meyler is a historian and co-author of *A Stolen Life: Searching for Richard Pierpoint* (1999). He also edited *Broken Shackles: Old Man Henson from Slavery to Freedom* (2007). Peter has written numerous articles about Ontario’s Black history which have appeared in such publications as *The Beaver*, the *Toronto Star, Share* and *Families*, and lectures widely on African Canadian heritage issues.

**Presenting: Partners in Obscurity: Coloured Corps and Indians**

From: *A Stolen Life, Chapter 6*: In a former industrial district on downtown Toronto, at the corner of Wellington and Portland Streets, is a small park built on what was once the old garrison burial yard for nearby Fort York. In the park stands a monument in the shape of a truncated obelisk. Erected on July 1, 1902, plaques on each of the four faces identify the
infantry, cavalry and various other specialist regiments which served in the War of 1812. On the south-west face are listed the regiments which served during the war on the “western frontier,” that part of Upper Canada west of Kingston. Crowded into the bottom corner at the very end of the list, so cramped that it appears as if added in afterthought, are listed the “Coloured Corps & Indians.” The Africans and Native Canadians, allies in war, remain as partners in obscurity.

Gareth Newfield

Gareth Newfield holds an Honours degree in History from York University, and a Master’s degree in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester. He is currently working on the Canadian War Museum’s forthcoming War of 1812 exhibition, and has previously worked on Bicentennial development projects with Parks Canada. He is the author of a number of ground-breaking articles on military history, and has a special interest in the history of the Coloured Corps.

Presenting: 'Free Men of Colour': The Coloured Corps During the War of 1812

The Coloured Corps, a small unit of African Canadian militiamen, served on the Niagara frontier during the War of 1812, including the Battles of Queenston Heights and Fort George. During the Bicentennial, it has received considerable attention and become symbolic of the experiences of African Canadians, yet much of its history is subject to misconceptions. This presentation examines the military history and myths of the Coloured Corps, presenting a compelling yet accurate picture of this unique unit’s service during the War of 1812.

Guylaine Petrin

Guylaine Petrin BA, MLS, completed her Masters in Library Science at the University of Toronto. She has worked in public, special and academic libraries. She is currently a reference librarian at Glendon College, York University, and is an avid genealogist and historical researcher with a special interest in African Canadian history. Her research mostly concentrates on Upper Canada and principally York County. She especially likes to uncover the untold stories of women and forgotten pioneers. Guylaine is currently researching a major biography of the Long family, among the earliest permanent Black settlers of Toronto.

Presenting: The Home Front: Wives of Black soldiers in the War of 1812

This presentation will briefly discuss some of the sources for women’s history during the War of 1812 in general, and how to use them to research the wives of the soldiers in the Coloured Corps. The paper will address specifically the evidence for the lives of Catherine
We Stand on Guard for Thee:
The African Canadian Experience in the War of 1812

Waters, wife of Humphrey Waters of Niagara, Sarah Long of York and Betsey Cokeley of Markham.

Kathleen Powell

Kathleen Powell has been working in the heritage field for almost 20 years. She has worked in various capacities at McFarland House, Laura Secord’s Homestead and the Mackenzie Heritage Printery and Newspaper Museum. She spent 9 years as the Museums Manager of the Niagara Falls Museums and is now the Supervisor of Historical Services and Curator at the St. Catharines Museum and the Morningstar Mill. She is currently the Past-President of the Ontario Museum Association.

Presenting: The Presented Past: Public History and Inclusivity in Museums

Public History is all about how we tell our history outside of academia – in movies, books, museums, and public spaces. It is the history as told by each person in their own unique and personal way. It is this “public history” that is changing the way that people experience historic sites and museums, and is creating a shift in the dynamics of the museum, which has traditionally been seen as the bastion of our collective memory. How museums have responded to this shift will ultimately affect how successful they will be in creating experiences that are inclusive. Inclusivity is about creating congregant spaces where everyone’s story will find a place and where all are welcome to share their own experiences within a framework that is no longer simply object-focused, but which embraces the life behind the artifact.

Andrew Roth

Andrew Roth is the technology manager of the Future Cinema Lab at York University in Toronto. As an artist and researcher, he has collaborated in interactive installations, augmented reality experiences, and the creation of tools for digital media artists. He has presented work at ISEA 2008 (co-presented with G. A. Rhodes) and ISMAR 2011. Formerly an instructor in the Interactive Arts and Sciences department Andrew is also a research assistant in the Augmented Reality Research Lab at Brock University, St. Catharines. His current research involves the use of augmented reality as a participatory learning tool and the use of graphical programming languages as an interface to hybrid tracking technologies.
Adrienne Shadd

Adrienne Shadd is a historian, curator, and author living in Toronto. A descendent of Abraham Doras Shadd, a prominent abolitionist in the mid-19th century, and a collateral descendant of Mary Ann Shadd Cary, Adrienne is a noted historian specializing in the heritage of African Canadians, particularly in Ontario. She has conducted research for films including CBC's acclaimed Freedom's Land and for exhibits such as the main presentation at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden, Ontario. She is the author, coauthor and editor of several books and articles including the first book on Toronto Black History, The Underground Railroad: Next Stop, Toronto! with Karolyn Smardz Frost and Afua Cooper. Her most recent volume, The Journey from Tollgate to Parkway: African Canadians in Hamilton, was published in 2010 by Dundurn Press. Adrienne is a member of the team researching the lives and experiences of people who came to Canada in the Underground Railroad era for Breaking the Chains: Presenting a New Narrative for Canada’s Role in the Underground Railroad.

Presenting: Future Directions for Researching the Black Experience in the War of 1812

This paper will address the focus for the research on which the educational materials for the next phase of Breaking the Chains: Presenting a New Narrative for Canada’s Role in the Underground Railroad will be based. It will look at themes and potential sources for the research of the Black experience in the War of 1812 and its aftermath.

Karolyn Smardz Frost

Karolyn Smardz Frost is an award-winning author who specializes in the study of the Underground Railroad. An archaeologist and historian with a passion for public education, she holds a PhD in the study of Race, Slavery and Imperialism from the University of Waterloo. Karolyn’s landmark biography of fugitive slaves Thornton and Lucie Blackburn, entitled I’ve Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad (2007), won the coveted Governor General’s Award for Non-Fiction.

A Senior Research Fellow at the Harriet Tubman Institute, Karolyn teaches primary research in African Canadian history. She was a 2010 finalist for TVO’s Best Lecturer Competition, and in 2011 was honoured with the Ian Greene Award from York University’s student council as the best professor in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies. For the 2012-2013 academic year she will be the Bicentennial Visiting Professor in Canadian Studies at Yale University.
**Presentation:** The Past Through Tomorrow: The War of 1812 and the Underground Railroad

What is the connection between the War of 1812 and the fabled Underground Railroad? Earlier generations of scholars dated the first substantial migration of freedom-seekers into Canada to the immediately post-War of 1812 period. They attributed this to returning American soldiers, whom they believed spread news throughout the slave states regarding Black freedom in British North America. This paper suggests that enslaved servants accompanying the Kentucky volunteers in the invasion of Upper Canada may be the missing link in this explanation, and may even have been part of the later migration themselves.

**David States**

David States is an historian and genealogist who specializes in African Canadian history and genealogy of the Maritime provinces of Canada. Mr. States previously worked as an historian for Parks Canada in the Atlantic Regional Office from 1991 to 2009. Currently he is a private consultant, offering historical and genealogical research and presentations.

**Presenting:** Maritime Canadian Blacks in the War of 1812

This presentation will focus on the wartime experience of several specific African Canadians whose presence, service and experience have gone unnoticed in the historical writings on the War of 1812. The history of the post-war migration of the Refugee Blacks of the War of 1812 to the Maritime Provinces of Canada is reasonably well known. The story of African Canadian service in the War by Blacks from Ontario is also quite well known. Not many people are aware that Blacks from the Maritimes also participated as combatants in some of the battles of the War around the Great Lakes region during those difficult years.

**Murray Wickett**

Murray Wickett is the Chair of the Department of History at Brock University and is a specialist in the field of comparative race relations in the United States. His book entitled Contested Territory: Whites, Native Americans and African Americans in Oklahoma, 1865-1907, was published by Louisiana State University Press in 2000. It was nominated for the Frederick Jackson Turner Award by the Organization of American Historians in 2001. Dr. Wickett is currently working in the field of comparative race relations in Gold Rush era California.