



THE TALKING DRUM



Jan 2009 Volume 11 No1

GENERAL EDITION

The talking drum (aka dondo, adondo, atump, or gan gan) is a variable pitch pressure drum that has been used for centuries as a tool for communication within and between West African rural communities. By squeezing and beating the drum simultaneously the dondo can be made to mimic the syllables and intonations of human speech.

There are two editions of THE TALKING DRUM. This general edition is distributed to former members, museum guests, friends and the general public. There is a special version for museum members.

Christmas at the Museum: A Jewel in the Snow



Christmas at the Museum was a Black Cultural experience, providing the audience with an experience of African American gospel music and storytelling in the African tradition. Fortunately the winter storm came the day before, giving us time to shovel and salt walkways and have the parking lot plowed. By evening the walks were ready for visitors. About 40 people attended; the church can accommodate 100.



Museum President, Lyle Browning, welcomed the guests; Lt. Col Lawrence Millben, Retired, served as Master of Ceremonies.

Energetic gospel music was delivered by The Faithfully Four, a quartet who describe themselves as "four brothers from four different walks of life, all going in the wrong direction had it not been for the salvation of Christ." The singers performed *a capella*, offering their testimonies between selec-



tions. They engaged the audience in rhythmic hand clapping and toe tapping.

Storyteller La'Ron Williams is a member of the Detroit Association of Black Storytellers. His promotional literature says, "He has performed in a wide variety of settings, and for a wide range of audiences, and brings stories which don't simply entertain, but which also help to build community and teach very important lessons about life. When La'Ron performs,



the line between audience and performer disappears. Everybody becomes an active part of the event. He always wears traditional African clothing, he always sings, he always plays music, and he always has a good time! We're sure you will, too!"

We did. With jingle bells on his ankle, his hair in graying dreadlocks, and dressed in a black top decorated with shells, he drummed, sang, and charmed his audience with an animated story of Anansi, the spider, and provided a lesson in American Black history. He drew the audience into participating in his presentation.



THE TALKING DRUM

is the newsletter of the

North American Black Historical Museum & Cultural Centre, Inc.

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Administrator

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A quartet composed of instrumental music teacher, Andrew Shaw, and three of his General Amherst High School students accompanied a Carol Sing. They also added to the festive atmosphere by playing carols before the program and afterward, as the audience exited the Nazrey A.M.E. Church. A reception in the museum's cultural centre allowed the audience to mingle with the perform-

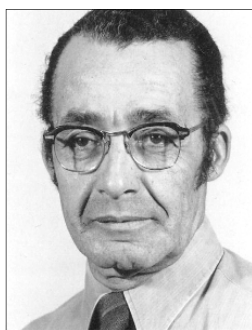
ers and enjoy beverages and dessert treats donated by Sobey's Bakery Shop of Amherstburg.

We missed you. Try to join us for Christmas at the Museum next year for an experience of Kwanzaa!



Hugh Burnett - An Unsung Canadian Hero

PART 2



Between 1950 and 1953 the National Unity Association (NUA) contacted such powerful labour organizations as the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the Jewish Labour Committee of Canada. They gained the attention of prominent social activists: Dennis McDermott, Stanley Grizzle, Bromley Armstrong, Ben Kayfetz of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Rabbi Abraham Feinberg of Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto, Donna Hill with the Toronto Joint Labour Committee of Human Rights, and politician David Lewis, a young lawyer at the time. These influential allies helped persuade members of the Ontario government to act.

In April of 1954, the Fair Accommodation Practices Act was passed by the Ontario Legislature and came into effect June 5 of the same year. The act ensured that complaints about discrimination in public places would receive investigation, conciliation and where applicable, charges would be laid. That was not the end but the escalation of what author John Cooper in his book aptly called a Season of Rage.

Between April 1954 and Novem-

ber 1955, the NUA sent black patrons into Emerson's and McKay's restaurants requesting service. The restaurant owners repeatedly ignored the law and refused them service. Media attention intensified as Bromley Armstrong, Stanley Grizzle, Gord Donaldson among others poured into the town so as to catch Dresden law-breakers in the act and testify against them in a trial that took place on December 8, 1955. Gord Donaldson told the story in the Toronto Telegram. Soon, to the town's horror, the rest of the country watched while the fight for racial equality in Canada played out on the streets of Dresden.

The level of animosity between whites and blacks became so heightened some black people questioned the wisdom of continuing the fight. Hugh's life and the safety of his family were threatened. His decision to obtain a gun after numerous anonymous threats turned out to be a wise one. One night while his family slept, Hugh heard men outside whose apparent intention was to burn down his house. He appeared at the door with the gun and threatened to shoot. The men left but they did not leave him in peace. His carpentry business, which had been thriving, was boycotted.

On January 14, 1955, McKay and Emerson were convicted of breaking the anti-discrimination law, but a County Court judge known to be racist in his views overturned the case. In

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Donations 2009

based on
charitable tax receipts issued in 2008-09

Koolini's (Sep 08)

Amherstburg CIBC

Sobeys Bakery Shop (Dec 08)

Jacobs, Kenneth B

Alexander, Philip H.

Alexander, Philip V.

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Allen, Daniel & Pamela

Association of Universities &
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Bray, Joan (Dec 08)

Brown-Johnson, Ivy

Davis, Rodney & Irene Moore

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Greenaway, Nancy

Grizzle, Stanley

Handsor, Gerald

Harris, Donald & Janice

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Hill, James R.

Hurst, Marva (Dec 08)

Johnson, Fred

Johnson, Giovanna (Dec 08)

Kasurak, Valerie

Larkin, Lois (Dec 08)

Marshall, Madame Justice Lauren

McCurdy, Leslie (Dec 08)

Millben, Lawrence

Paul, Ross

Proctor, Wanda (Dec 08)

Shepherd, Delores

Shreve, James

Shreve, Waynard & Eleanor

Simpson, Mr. & Mrs. Robert

Slopen, Jeffrey

Smith, Barbara K. Hughes

Westmoreland-Traoré, Hon. Jua-
nita

White, Rosa

Thank you

The Houses of Buxton

A Legacy of African Influences in Architecture

This is the first book to give credit to people of African heritage for their contribution to domestic architecture. The research is based on settlements in the New World. In each settlement the settlers built their house types from the memory brought from their country of origin. Credit has been given to the English, French, and Dutch for their house types and characteristics, though here in the beginning of building America no credit was given to people of African heritage.

In the seventeenth century the first settlers who came to the New World to form settlements brought the memory of how they built in the Old world. Africans were captured people who became property, were brought to provide free labor, and did not form settlements. House types developed that were very different from those of the Native peoples. They are known as English, French, Dutch, vernacular structures that were expressions of the Gothic styles of Europe which was the trend of that time. These styles all had similar characteristics. At this point there were fewer enslaved Africans; they became property and they were not allowed to build dwellings expressing their needs from their country of origin. If they did they were made to take them down.

In the eighteenth century things changed. Large numbers of captured people were brought from the West Indies and many different regions

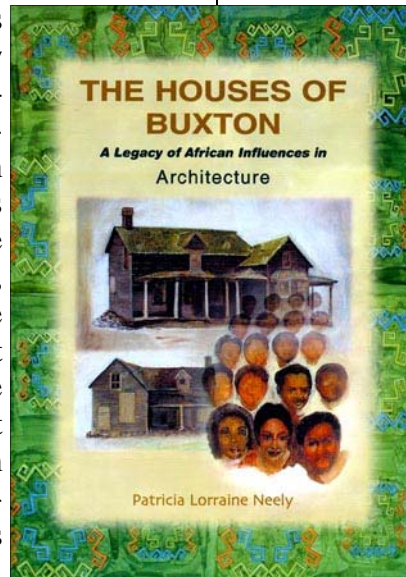
along the west coast of Africa to South Carolina and put into bondage. Products provided by slaves and their labor created the wealth for the settlers. Land was no longer a measure of wealth. Wealth was determined by the number of slave owned. The enslaved Africans were in some cases the majority of the population. They became the main labor force and were put right out to build houses. They did not go through the seasoning process of earlier slaves to break their will so they would serve a master. To prevent the Africans from conspiring they were divided away from family and from those speaking the same language. They did not know the European languages. They had a large range of interpretations from limited directions and new materials; therefore, they built from the memory brought from their country of origin. During this time a large variety of small house types emerged with similar characteristics in the English, Dutch, and French colonies which all became European colonials without European prototypes. The one constant in each of the colonies was enslaving people from Africa as the main labor force.

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In the nineteenth century many freedom seekers traveled the Underground Railroad to Canada. Canada abolished servitude in 1834. In the mid-nineteenth century the newcomers formed settlements and built architec-

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Allen, Kareem
Allen, Nancy
Allen, Nneka
Allen, Pamela & Daniel
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Jacques, Patricia
Johnson, Dorothy
Johnson, Fred

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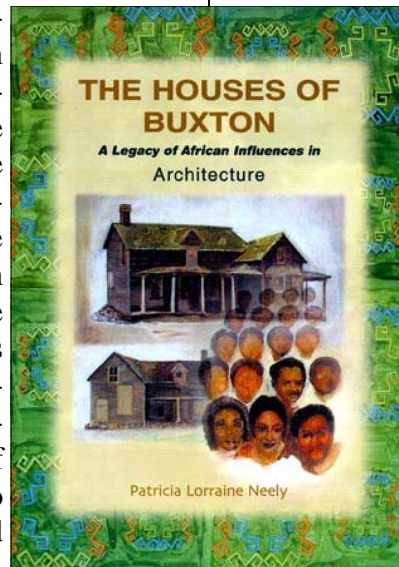
(Continued from page 3)

ture. Proof of Architectural elements, without European prototypes, being linked to the African continent became evident in the mid-nineteenth century when freedom seekers, escaped on the Underground Railroad, came into Ontario Canada and established settlements. In Canada house types were built free from the domination of the European culture. Two independent settlements, one European and one the Buxton settlement of African descendants, in the township of Raleigh were compared. There were great differences found in how each settlement built their dwellings. In the settlement of free black settlers two forms were identified which made up the structures. The forms were traced back to Africa to confirm their legacy. One form was previously established by a scholar as a shelter of the Yoruba culture in Nigeria. The other form was an innovation of European and African influences which developed from borrowing and modifying as the people from Africa built for the Europeans while enslaved. In the white settlement along Talbot Road one form dominated; that form was the Georgian house type which followed the trend of the time. The Buxton settlement with its black builders, not following any particular European trend, and building from the memory they brought from Africa, made it possible to recognize and identify African influences which remain today in the housing environment and in house types throughout the Black Diaspora.

Patricia Lorraine Neely

About the Author:

Patricia has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Interior Design and a Masters degree in Environmental Design and Housing from Michigan State University in East Lansing Michigan. Patricia Neely is a retired professor from St. Clair College of Windsor Ontario. In 1970 she founded the Interior Design Program. Through the courses, she taught Architecture for 25 years. She also worked with University of Windsor students during the summer, while on the city Local Architectural Conservation Committee. They designed booklets for walking tours featuring 19th century house styles which are used by the Windsor Chamber of Commerce. She became a consultant on the restoration of Uncle Tom's Cabin of the Dresden Historical Site and the Log Cabin of the Freeman Walls Underground Railroad Site. She has made power point presentations from the east coast to the west coast and has books in many U.S. University Libraries as well as Canadian.



Become a
museum
booster!

Forward
**THE
TALKING
DRUM**
to your friends.



(Continued from page 4)

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Kamen, Mary
Kazurak, Valerie
King, Alfonso
Larkin, Lois J.
Leveque, Rich & Esther Browning & family
Levett, Michael
Logan, Florence
Logan, Linda
Marshall, Madame Justice Lauren
McDonald, Colin
McIntyre, Leonard
Meloche No Frills
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Mensah, Alex
Millben, Corey Antoine
Millben, Lt. Col. Lawrence
Milburn, Ada
Miller, Wreford & Janisse Browning & family
Mohamed, Mohamed H.
Moore Davis, Irene
Morris, Cleata
Neely-McCurdy, Patricia
Newell, Annita
Olbey, Leona
Paul, Ross
Poppe, Gail
Pulley, Shirley & Bill
Rawlings, Justice Micheline
Reader, Carol A
Robinson, Martell
Scott, Mr. & Mrs. Bruce & family
Shreve, James
Shreve, Waynard & Eleanor
Simmons, Christina
Simpson, Betty
Simpson, Mr. & Mrs. Robert
Smedick, Lois K.
Smith, Joan H
Smith, Mr. C W
Sodade, Bunmi
Sovran & Greenaway
Stedwill, Kathy
Steele, Frieda M
Sutherland, Norma
Taylor, Ron & Judy
Thompson, Harlis J.
Thrasher Sales & Leasing Ltd,
Tiessen, Peggy & Larry
Timake, Anastasia
Tucker, E. Bruce
Underwood, Rebecca
Uwayeau, Joseph
West Moreland, Juanita
Wright, Roberta Dr.
White, Patricia
White, Rosa

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NEW and RENEWED MEMBERS

Allen, Nancy
Dennis, Elaine
Dennis, Frances
Ellsworth, Agnes
Grizzle, Stanley
Houston, Cecil
Kamen, Mary
Marshall, Madame Justice Lauren
Thompson, Harlis J.
Underwood, Rebecca

Howard Avenue (Windsor, ON) The Monument to the Son of an Ex-slave

There's a colour to Windsor street names that isn't always appreciated. For example, how many in the city know Howard Avenue was named after a man just one generation removed from slavery? One in a thousand, maybe. Yet it's only a quarter-century since he died as was revealed in a "25 Years Ago" item on this page at the weekend:

"Edwin Howard died at his home in Windsor, aged 90. The son of an ex-slave, he had lived in Windsor for more than 50 years, operating a truck garden at the corner of Tecumseh Road and Howard Avenue, the street which was named after him."

This invited a glance at his more detailed obituary, which related that his father bought freedom for himself, thereby ensuring freedom for his chil-

dren as well.

Perhaps the carpet-bagging days of reconstruction in the South following the American Civil War were not to Edwin's liking. Essex County in the early Seventies and after farming in several places finally settled sown at what is now Tecumseh and Howard.

There he grew garden produce, and apparently peddled it, because it's said he became well known in the district; so well known that his name was given to the street.

Somewhere in Windsor Grove Cemetery, where he was buried, a stone may mark his grave. Certainly one should. But if not, he can't be said to have fared too badly, for in that busy thoroughfare, Howard Avenue, he has a pretty fair monument."

Newspaper article – Source/author unknown

Fundraising Benefit for the
North American Black Historical Museum

Sunday, Jan. 18, 2009
2 pm - 4 pm

Pasta!

for the Museum

Entertainment - Door Prizes - Silent Auction

at Duffy's Tavern
306 Dalhousie in Amherstburg
Limited seating

adults \$20 each
their children & teens, free

Ticket DEADLINE: Fri., Jan. 16th
Reserve tickets at 519-736-5433
or nabhm@mnsi.net

Pasta! For the Museum

Entertainment includes:

ASHA GINARDAND, singer
and
TONY METRO,
comedian.



Among the **Silent Auction** items will be:

• A basketball autographed by
CHERYL
FORD, # 35 of
the Detroit
SHOCK, and



• A baseball, auto-
graphed by KEN
GRIFFEY JR,
formerly of the
White Sox, now a
free agent.



(Continued from page 2)

February 1956 McKay was again found guilty. McKay threatened to take his case to the Supreme Court of Ontario but never did. In the spring of the same year, Hugh's business collapsed, and he was forced to leave Dresden to provide for his family.

On November 16, 1956, a group of National Unity Association members were served in Morley McKay's restaurants. Hugh, then residing in London Ontario, was elated to hear the news.

Hugh Burnett died in 1991. When historian James Walker from the University of Waterloo eulogized him, Professor Walker stated that Hugh did for Canada what Martin Luther King did for the United States--a decade before it happened south of the border. He referred to Hugh as an unsung Canadian hero.

Ontarians are proud to have been the first province in Canada to institute a Human Right's Code, but few are aware that much of the content of our Human Rights Code originated in the Fair Accommodations Practices Act. Most Canadians are unaware of the nation-changing event that took place in Dresden and the pivotal roles played by Hugh Burnett and the National Unity Association.

The peaceful and dignified manner in which these unsung Canadian heroes conducted themselves as they overcame racism was typically Canadian and is perhaps the reason it has been so easy to overlook their struggle. Rather than cling to the myth that racism never existed in Canada we should be both

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VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED	
Job Title	PHOTOGRAPHER
Objectives	To provide photographs to enhance museum publications
Skills	Understands basic principals of composition: centre of interest, storytelling, foreground, background, etc.
Duties & Responsibilities	To own and maintain one's own digital camera. To take digital photos, by appointment, at museum events. To obtain and record the names of primary subjects in photos. To respect the request of people not to be photographed. To download photos from camera to computer and provide jpeg images to the museum.
Lines of Communication	You will work directly with the Curator/Administrator.
Orientation & Training	The Curator/Administrator will provide guidance about the purpose of each assignment and how the photos will be used.
Times Needed and Place of Work	On occasion, at the museum or other sites where museum events are taking place; by appointment.
Commitment Required	Six months.
Benefits	10% discount on tickets for special events and gift shop purchases. Two free museum passes for friends and family. Letter of reference and commendation. Invitation to Volunteer Appreciation events. Photo credit when image is published.
Special Considerations	Dealing with the public can be a challenging experience. Difficult situations should be referred to the Curator/Administrator.
Satisfactions	Seeing your work published. Making a valuable contribution to the public image of the museum. Invaluable experience in public relations.
Contact Information	Kenn Stanton, Curator/ Administrator 277 King St., Amherstburg, ON, N9V 2C7 519-736-5433 nabhm@mnsi.net

Canada Post is issuing two stamps for Black History Month: Abraham D. Shadd and Rosemary Brown, first black man and woman elected to public office. When buying stamps in February, ask specifically for the booklet of Black History Month stamps. High demand for them encourages Canada Post to continue the Black History Month series in following years, and encourages your local outlet to order more of them, instead of the usual stamps.

Note also that these stamps will be permanent stamps (no denomination indicated), so they can still be used to mail a letter in following years, despite rate increases.

- Jim Shreve

Thank you...

- ...to Wava Jackson, for setting up the buffet and decorating the museum for Christmas at the Museum.
- ...to Mr. Andrew Shaw, instrumental music instructor, General Amherst High School, for bringing students to participating in Christmas at the Museum.
- ...to Anne and Remy Rota, of Sobeys, Amherstburg, for donating sweets for the reception that followed.
- ...to volunteer Terran Fader, who is updating the catalogue to the museum's Resource Library.
- ...to our neighbours, who helped clear snow from our walks.



Community Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11	12	13	14	15	16 TICKET DEADLINE Pasta! For the Museum 519-736-5433	17 Museum Board 10 am At United Way, Windsor
18 Pasta! Fundraiser 2 pm, Duffy's Tavern 306 Dalhousie, A'burg	19	20 Algonquin Club Dinner Meeting @ Fogolar 6:30 - \$25. 519-967-1306	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 BOOK LAUNCH By Bryan Prince @ Buxton Museum 2 - 4 pm 519.352.4799
FEBRUARY 1	2	3	4	5	6 ARTISTS OF COLOUR @ Mackenzie Hall 7 pm Opening	7 ARTISTS OF COLOUR
8 ARTISTS OF COLOUR	9	10	11	12	13	14
FOR A SCHEDULE OF EVENTS SEE http://arawindsor.com/Artists_Of_Colour.html						
15 ARTISTS OF COLOUR	16 ARTISTS OF COLOUR	17 ARTISTS OF COLOUR 5 pm Closing	18	19 Essex County Black Historical Research Society 7 pm United Way, Windsor	20 Video "GLORY" 7 pm @ the Museum Admission: Donation	21
22 Video "GLORY" 2 pm @ the Museum Admission: Donation	23	24	25	26	27 Video "The Little" Black Schoolhouse" 7 pm @ the Museum Admission: Donation	28

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proud and grateful to those who fought in the trenches in order to bring about the freedom we are proud to say epitomizes who we are as Canadians.

It is with humility that I raise the name of this one man and this one organization while so many have gone unrecognized but it is also with great pride

because Hugh Burnett was my father. Sixty years have passed. What better time than now, when government is redressing past grievances, to honour Hugh Burnett and National Unity Association for the work they did in Canada's civil rights movement.

By Patricia Burnett-Patzalek

Become a member of the Museum for 2009

Your membership entitles you to vote at the Annual General Meeting and help set the museum's course.

Your donations help us to:

- Increase museum programs,
- Create new exhibits,
- Provide more Black cultural experiences, and
- Participate in the Underground Railroad Freedom Expo, to be held in Chatham, July 10 - 12, 2009.

Membership/donation envelopes will be available at our **Pasta! for the Museum** event.

2009 memberships have been extended for those who joined after Oct 1, 2008.

Membership Fees:

- Adult..... \$35.00
- Senior..... 30.00
- Student..... 20.00
- Family (5)..... 75.00
- Business..... 125.00

Donation:..... _____

Total..... _____

**Make cheque payable to:
N.A.B.H.M.**



Yes, I would like to renew my membership in the museum for 2009.
 become a member of the museum.

Name: _____ **Phone (day)** _____

Address: _____ **Phone (evening)** _____

City: _____ **Prov/State:** _____ **Postal/Zip:** _____

Email: _____ 0109