

“It has been spread abroad that ‘Uncle Tom’ is coming, and that is what has brought you here. Now allow me to say that my name is not Tom, and never was Tom, and that I do not want to have any other name inserted in the newspapers for me than my own. My name is Josiah Henson, always was, and always will be.” –Josiah Henson, Glasgow, Scotland, 1877 (from Uncle Tom’s Story of His Life).



Celebrate Emancipation Day

and debut of new site name



Tracy Cain



Amaria Phillips



Reverend Terrence Vick



Kwame Delfish



Susan Cooke Soderberg



Heritage Singers Canada

Join us for Emancipation Day at Uncle Tom’s Cabin Historic Site – an annual celebration of hope and freedom commemorating the end of slavery in the British Empire. This year is extra special as we unveil a new name that better reflects the true history of the site.

Presenting sponsor



29251 Freedom Road, Dresden, Ontario, N0P 1M0



For more information, please visit our website at heritagetrust.on.ca/reclaiming.

School and group bookings available year round by appointment. The museum is owned and operated by the Ontario Heritage Trust.



@OntarioHeritageTrust



@ONHeritage



@Ontario-Heritage-Trust





Josiah Henson and his second wife Nancy Gambrell Henson, photographed in Glasgow, Scotland, 1877.

Photo:
Metro Toronto Reference Library

An estimated 30,000 Black refugees from slavery in the United States fled to Canada along the silent tracks of the Underground Railroad – a network of people who aided these refugees as they followed the North Star to freedom. One of these freedom seekers was abolitionist, preacher and author Josiah Henson.

After escaping to Upper Canada (now Ontario) from slavery in Maryland and Kentucky, Josiah Henson established himself as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, travelling the clandestine network of paths and safehouses in reverse. In his role as conductor, he rescued 118 enslaved people.

Schedule of activities

Debut of new name – Join us for the unveiling of the new site name at Noon.

10:40 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.

Amaria Phillips – Amaria Phillips is the co-founder and President of Concordia University's Black Student Union. She'll present two original works of poetry.

10:50 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Tracy Cain – Gospel musician Tracy Cain is a 5th generation Black Canadian with roots in North Buxton, St. Catharines and the Queen's Bush settlement. Her warm, smooth vocal stylings are influenced by gospel, jazz and R&B.

11 a.m.

Reverend Terrence Vick – Great-great-grandson of Josiah Henson, Reverend Terrence Vick will bring remarks on behalf of the Henson family.

11:15 a.m. and 1:50 p.m.

Kwame Delfish – An artist and designer commissioned by the Canadian Mint to design the Underground Railroad commemorative coin for Black History Month 2022, Delfish will speak about his creative process and his work in commemorating Black history and the Underground Railroad.

11:55 a.m.

Susan Cooke Soderberg – A public historian and freelance writer from Maryland, Soderberg is the author of an upcoming biography entitled **The Real Josiah Henson: One Man's Journey from Enslavement to Celebrity.**

11:55 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Heritage Singers Canada – A crowd favourite, Heritage Singers Canada return to Emancipation Day to conduct a musical journey from slavery to freedom.

10:30 to Noon

Culture Craft: An art activity for kids.

12:15 p.m.

Remarks and unveiling of new name.

Lunch is available for purchase, with food from and desserts from **Sidestreet Youth Centre.**

All day

An Enduring Dawn: A photographic exhibition of Dresden's Black presence in the 19th century.