



# Western

Centre for Research on  
Migration and Ethnic Relations

Winter Colloquium  
Series 2015

## ***“Place, Space, and Memory: An Aboriginal Community’s Perspective on Migration, Identity, and Heritage”***



The important history of this region’s role in the Underground Railroad has emerged in several academic studies, highlighting a proud Canadian tradition of providing refuge to the oppressed that has helped shape the nation’s identity. During the Antebellum era in the United States, various individuals and groups organized a network of secret safe houses and avenues of escape for slaves seeking freedom; but what role did specific First Nations communities play in establishing a haven for these refugees escaping a life of persecution? Across several decades, some 30,000 people found refuge in Canada, mainly in Southern Ontario, and this story must include the sacrifice and commitment of the peoples of the New Credit First Nation, whose contributions to the rich history of the Underground Railroad have yet to be recognized. The emerging recorded oral histories of the Mississaugas of the New Credit offer an opportunity to uncover fascinating details of friendship, sacrifice and hospitality, as their role in this valiant effort forms a critical intersection between the history of Southern Ontario, the struggle against slavery, and a First Nations community.

## Andrew J. McLaughlin

MITACS Senior Research Intern for the Dreamcatcher Project , Ph.D. Candidate University of Waterloo

**4:00pm**  
**Thursday February 26,**  
**SSC 5220**

*Please join us beforehand for  
refreshments at 3:30pm  
in SSC 5230, All Welcome!*

*For More Info email: [Merssid@uwo.ca](mailto:Merssid@uwo.ca)*

*Co-sponsored by :*



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