

Introduction of Dr. Karolyn Smardz Frost

Dr. Karolyn Smardz Frost is a historian, archaeologist, and award-winning author. She is an adjunct professor at Acadia and Dalhousie Universities. In 2012, she was honored to be appointed the Bicentennial Visiting Professor for Canadian Studies at Yale University. She is a research fellow for African Canadian history at the Harriet Tubman Institute, at York University, she also works with the Archaeology Lab at the University at Buffalo, researching Underground Railroad sites in Niagara Falls, New York.

Her teaching focuses on primary research methods, public history and archaeology, urban and cultural history, and the creation of public memory. She is engaged in investigating the direct connections between Loyalist-era slavery and the University of King's College, Nova Scotia, in collaboration with noted African Nova Scotian historian David W. States.

Karolyn's personal research programs explores African American / Canadian transnationalism during the era of the New England Planter migrations to Maritime Canada. She is investigating the life and times of Liverpool merchant Simeon Perkins, preparing to write his biography in the context of the West Indian trade and associated issues of race and slavery in Maritime Canada.

Karolyn's book "**I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad**", represents more than 20 years of archaeological and historical research and is based on the life and times of freedom-seekers, Thornton, and Lucie Blackburn. This was the first book on African Canadian history to win the Governor-General's Literary Award for Non-Fiction.

Her newest book, **Steal Away Home**, tells the true story of the enslaved Cecelia Jane Reynolds, who was only 15 when she arranged her own flight to freedom via Niagara Falls. This book won the Speaker's Award for the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and the J.J. Talman Award as the best book on Ontario history over a 3-year period. This book under contract to become a 5-part-mini-series for television by Conquering Lion Productions.