

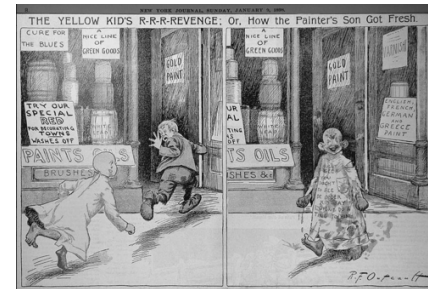
The Provincial Freeman Newspaper wrote about the issues that the Black community was facing during the 1850's, like putting an end to slavery in the United States of America and equal rights*.

Think about some bad things that are happening today either at school, in the country or around the world. Write a few sentences below about what is happening and what we can all do to help.

*Equal Rights: every person regardless of gender, skin colour, religion, nationality, disability, or identity should not be discriminated against and should be treated as equals.

Another addition to newspapers after the Provincial Freeman Newspaper was finished being published was comic strips. The first comic strip was published in a newspaper in 1896 and soon after became an extremely popular addition to newspapers.

Here is a sample of one of the earliest comics: *The Yellow Kid*



Now it's your turn to create a four-panel comic strip.

In the city of Chatham there is a statue of Mary Ann Shadd at the BME Freedom Park, located at the corners of Princess Street and Wellington Street East. The bronze bust of Mary Ann Shadd was created by artist, Artis (Shreve) Lane who is a descendent* of Mary Ann Shadd. Artis was born in North Buxton and is descendent not only of the Shadd family but also of freedom seekers who emigrate to Canada on the Underground Railroad. Much of the Shadd family also called the North Buxton community home.

Below is a colouring version of the bronze bust of Mary Ann Shadd for you to colour.



*Descendent: is a person's child, their children's children, their nieces, their nephews, cousins, and anyone related to them who is born after them.

Mary Ann Shadd's Newspaper had an image on the masthead* of most issues (see the two samples below).

If you had your own newspaper what image or logo would you have in the masthead? Draw it below.



*Masthead: part of the name/title of a newspaper, found at the top of a newspaper.

To keep newspapers running, advertisement space was sold to local businesses, like the ad below for the Charity family’s shoe store. The Charity’s store was in the same block as the Provincial Freeman Newspaper, on King Street in Chatham.

Use the space underneath the ad to draw your own advertisement for a pair of new shoes or boots.



Local poet, James Madison Bell like his friend Mary Ann Shadd was an abolitionist* and often wrote poetry. Mary Ann would even publish some of his poetry and speeches in the Provincial Freeman Newspaper.

Use the space below to write a poem of your own.

*Abolitionist: a person who wants to stop and end (abolish) slavery.

Though the first time a word search appeared in a newspaper was over 100 years after the Provincial Freeman Newspaper was published, starting in 1968* we began to see word search puzzles appear in newspapers.

See if you can complete the one below.

The Provincial Freeman Newspaper Word Search

P J X A D A E H T S A M R R
N R L R X U A M D Q F L V C
J P A C Z V X C I Y R K M Z
N F D C E M S W T Y R F L Q
O R D O I I A I O E U N O F
T E A V S S R H H V E S D Z
L E H Z W A M S T W H F V M
A M S J H Z I G S A Y X K Z
Y A A C V L F P J J H W K C
U N M P B V A D Y V J C W K
H A Q U U P H H O T D U B T
Y A P J E V W U X U J X C V
I S F R U S I P O E T R Y D
T S I N O I T I L O B A W G

ABOLITIONIST
CHATHAM
CHARITY
FREEMAN
M A SHADD
MASTHEAD
NEWSPAPER
POETRY
PUBLISHER
RACISM

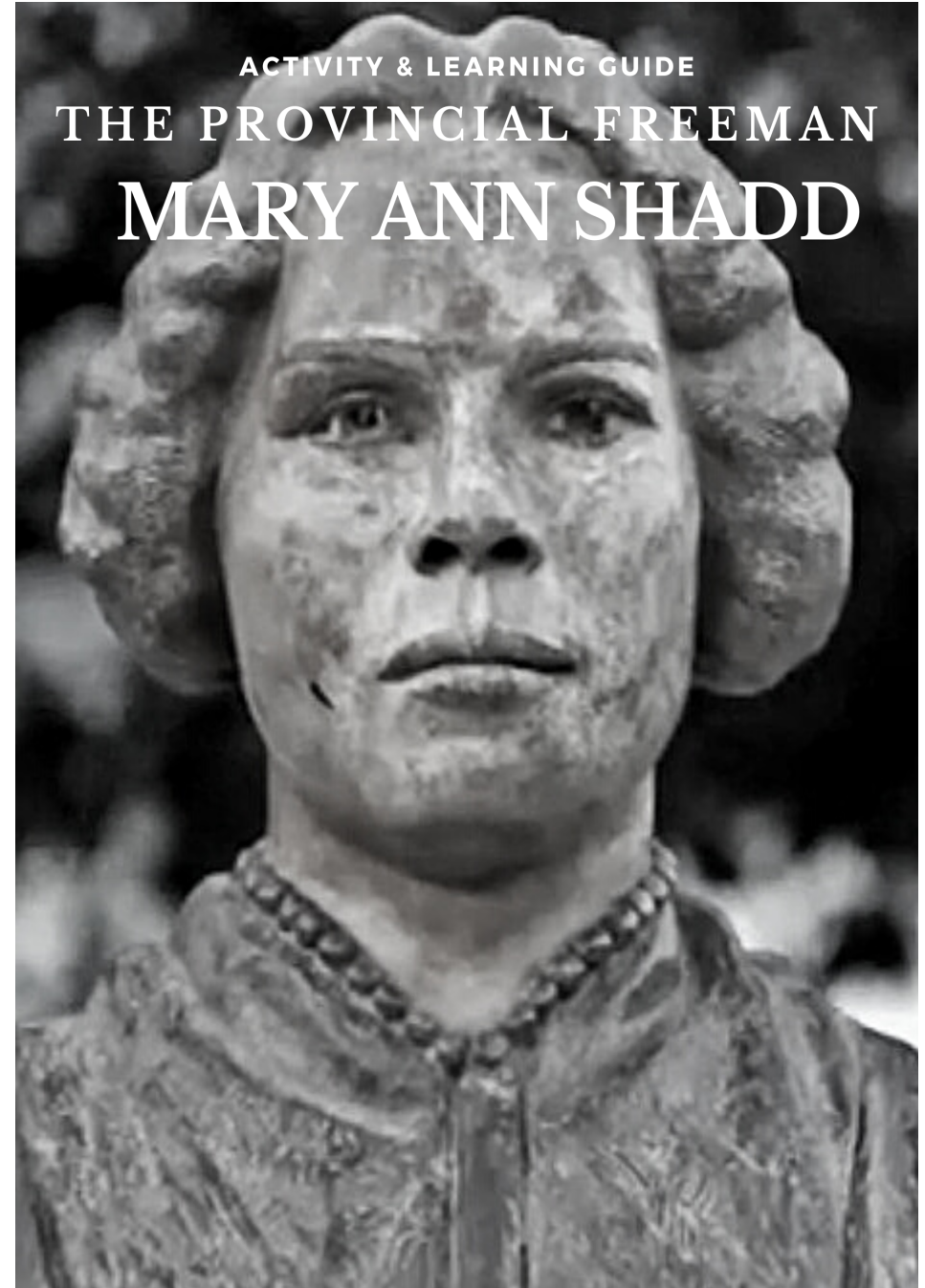
The Provincial Freeman Newspaper’s tagline was “Devoted to Anti-Slavery, Temperance* and General Literature” and would later become “Self-Reliance is the True Road to Independence”.

What would the tag line be for your own newspaper?

*In 1968 Norman E. Gibat unexpectedly invented the Word Search game.

*Temperance: moderation, avoiding, and/or controlling one’s own behaviour.

ACTIVITY & LEARNING GUIDE
THE PROVINCIAL FREEMAN
MARY ANN SHADD



Activities and book created by Samantha Meredith, 2023
for The Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society & Black Mecca
Museum



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