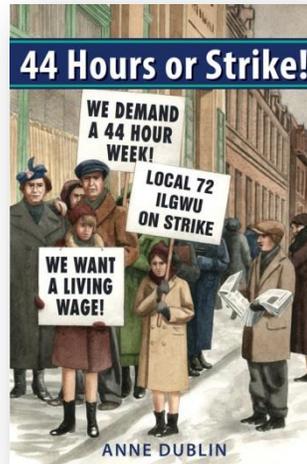


SWANCO NEWS

SWANSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 95 LAVINIA AVENUE, TORONTO, ON, M6S 3H9



Wednesday, May 3, 7:30 pm

Rousseau Room - Swansea Town Hall

SPEAKER: Anne Dublin

44 Hours or Strike!

Visitors Welcome! Light Refreshments!

*The Swansea Historical Society thankfully acknowledges
funding grants from the following provincial bodies:*



Follow us!



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Please note: The speaker will start at 7:30 promptly. If there is a business meeting, it will start at 7:15.



President's Message: by Bob Roden, President

The Swansea Historical Society meeting on May 3, 2017, will be the last formal meeting before the summer break. We will start up again in October with the Annual General Meeting and elections. In the meantime, it is shaping up to be a very busy summer. We have been advised by Heritage Toronto that tentative plans for a “Parks Past” event have been canceled, at least for this year, but there are many more things in the works that I am sure you will enjoy.

For example, various walking tours are scheduled from May through October. As in past years, Doors Open Ontario will run from April to October. In addition, many organizations are planning special events in 2017 to mark the Sesquicentennial – the 150th anniversary of Confederation, when four British colonies came together to create the Dominion of Canada in 1867. For the complete list of 2017 Heritage Toronto walking tours, see

[heritagetoronto.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Online HT tours AODA.pdf](http://heritagetoronto.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Online_HT_tours_AODA.pdf)

Of particular interest to our members, a “consortium” of local historical societies, including your SHS, has received a Sesquicentennial grant from the Province of Ontario. A working committee, with representatives from each of the participating societies, is hard at work preparing for “Walk the 6 West... HISTORY ON THE HUMBER”. This one-day celebration, on Saturday afternoon, August 5, 2017, will feature a set of dramatic productions highlighting historical figures, staged at sites along the Humber River within easy walking distance of one another. See also “*Future Events*” below. We hope to see you there!

Thank you for your continuing support for the Swansea Historical Society. As always, all SHS events are open to members and visitors alike, so please feel free to bring a friend (or, better still, a few friends and relatives).



In Sympathy

We were deeply saddened to learn that Nicholas Doran passed away on March 23, 2017. Nick joined the Swansea Historical Society in 2004. He served faithfully for more than twenty years on the Board of Directors of the Etobicoke Historical Society, including five years as the EHS President between 1997 and 2002. His many contributions to the heritage community will be greatly missed. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Doran family.



Doors Open Ontario

We are pleased to report that the Ontario Heritage Trust will be offering its highly successful Doors Open programme again in 2017. Many of our readers are no doubt familiar with Doors Open Toronto, which has been running each year since 2000. This year's edition is scheduled for the weekend of May 27-28, 2017. In past years, approximately 150 sites across the City of Toronto have been opened to the public. For those who are interested in venturing beyond our city, there are 45 Ontario communities participating this year at various times during the season, starting with Guelph Doors Open on April 22 and finishing up with Halton Region Doors Open on September 30 and October 1. Details vary from one community to another. Typically, each community holds its event on a Saturday and/or Sunday, with most sites being open from 10 am to either 4 pm or 5 pm. All attractions can be visited free of charge. Whether you are interested in architecture, history, or local culture, the programme provides a great opportunity to get out for a day or a weekend and view noteworthy attractions. For more details, see doorsopenontario.on.ca



Swansea Historical Society Contact Information

There are various ways you can contact your Society: mail to 95 Lavinia Avenue, Box 102, Toronto ON M6S 3H9; email to swanseahistoricalsociety@gmail.com; or at 647-859-3901. Your comments and suggestions are always most welcome. Information related to the Swansea Historical Society, and other local organizations, is posted on the website of the Swansea Town Hall – www.swanseatownhall.ca. Also, we invite you to visit us on Twitter at twitter.com/Swansea_History or Instagram at www.instagram.com/swansea_history. (Note the underscore “_” between “Swansea” and “History”).



Future Events

Saturday April 22, 2017 Earth Day Walking Event, 2 pm “Unearthing Stories of Lost Wendigo Creek”. Green 13 and Toronto Green Community will celebrate Earth Day with a walk along the path of the lost Wendigo Creek. Meet at 2 pm in Malta Park, at the corner of Dundas Street West and St. John's Road. The walk will finish in High Park. wtjhs.ca

Saturday April 22 and Sunday April 23, 2017 Battle of York Weekend at Fort York, 10 am to 5 pm Honour the 204th anniversary of the Battle of York, fought on April 27, 1813. The fort comes alive with musket-firing demonstrations, Georgian cooking in the Officers' Quarters kitchen, site tours, and period animation. Kids can try “Falling in” for an 1812-era soldiering drill.

Thursday April 27, 2017 Etobicoke Historical Society Meeting, 7:00 for 7:30 pm, Montgomery's Inn Speaker: Michael Wilcox – “Photographs and Letters from

Canadians at Vimy". Wilcox is a Program Assistant at Historica Canada where he is developing an educational video series on the Battle of Vimy Ridge. He holds a PhD in Canadian history from the University of Toronto and has previously worked at the Dictionary of Canadian Biography. <http://www.etobicokehistorical.com/events.html>

Tuesdays May 2, 9, 16, and 23, "Toronto 1910: Tales of Our Past", noon to 1 pm, Barbara Frum Toronto Public Library, 20 Covington Road Readings and slide shows featuring excerpts from a new series of historical-fiction novels. May 2 – Clergy and Convicts; May 9 – Grocers and Gangsters, May 16 – Politicians and Pressmen, May 23 – Healers and Humanitarians. Call 416-395-5440 to register.

Wednesday May 3, 2017 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Anne Dublin – "44 Hours or Strike!" At 10 am, on February 25, 1931, more than 500 women of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union stopped their work, halted their machines, and walked out of factories across the city, initiating a lengthy and bitterly-fought strike in Toronto's garment industry. Anne will speak about the research and writing of this historical novel, which won the 2016 Canadian Jewish Literary Award.

Thursday May 4, 2017 West Toronto Junction Historical Society Annual General Meeting Annette Street Library www.wtjhs.ca

Weekend of May 5 - 7, 2017 Jane's Walks Jane's Walk Festival weekend, featuring community walks all over the city, see www.janeswalk.org/canada/toronto/. Of particular local and historical interest are walks on the Baby Point Heritage Conservation District, Sculpture Hill in High Park as it was constructed in 1967, and remnants of the Toronto Suburban Railway in the (northern) Junction.

Saturday May 6, 2017 Function in the Junction, 5 pm, Masonic Temple, 151 Annette Street Presented by the Junction Residents Association in support of Green 13, this event includes a reception, sit-down dinner, auctions, live music, and an opportunity to see the interior of the Masonic Temple. Advance tickets \$45 at the Annette Library, 145 Annette Street or Latitude 44 Gallery, 2990 Dundas Street West. Admission after 8 pm is just \$5. www.junctionra.ca/function-junction-2017

Thursday, May 11, 2017 Lambton House (4066 Old Dundas Street) 7:30pm – Heritage Talk @ Lambton House features Madeleine McDowell on Agnes Dunbar Moodie, 1833 – 1913: A Woman's Life in Early Canada. Agnes was born in Cobourg, the first Canadian child of Susannah Moodie and her husband Sheriff John Dunbar Moodie. She was twice married, experiencing life in many places and levels of society. She is buried with her children in St James Cemetery. www.lambtonhouse.org/Events.html

Sunday May 14, 2017 Aggie's Annual Wildflower Walk, 1:30 pm Presented by the Toronto Field Naturalists, and led by SHS member Madeleine McDowell, this guided tour on Mothers' Day will start in the historic Lambton House, 4066 Old Dundas Street, with a talk about Agnes Moodie Fitzgibbon and her 1866 botanical illustrations. Following the walk through the Humber Valley, the group will return to Lambton House for tea.

Thursday, May 25 2017 7:30 pm Montgomery's Inn (4709 Dundas Street West), 7:30 pm

– The Etobicoke Historical Society presents author Bianca Lakoseljac speaking about her new novel, *Stone Woman*—set in Toronto's High Park with scenes in Yorkville and Parkdale. *Stone Woman* is a story of Blossom's unconventional family of five women, whose lives are bound by a Vietnam War draft dodger, David, immersed in the hippie subculture of Toronto. During the 1967 Art Symposium in High Park, a large block of marble which was to be used for one of the sculptures disappears from its site, and the mystery of the stolen piece becomes the focus of speculation in the Toronto arts community. The novel ends in 2017, with a fictional portrayal of a Sesquicentennial celebration in Toronto. <http://www.etobicokehistorical.com/events.html>

Saturday-Sunday, May 27-28, 10:00 am-4:30 pm Doors Open Toronto. A special highlight occurs at Montgomery's Inn (4709 Dundas Street West) and Lambton House (4066 Old Dundas Street) called *Captured on Canvas: Exploring our past through the work of Clara Harris*. Original paintings by early 20th-century artist Clara Harris (1887-1975) will be displayed in a two-site pop-up exhibition at the Inn and Lambton House. These works by a local artist who exhibited with the Group of Seven demonstrate the great changes that have taken place in the local landscape, and how the arts have helped to tell the story of Canada's evolution. <http://montgomerysinn.com/current-events/>

Saturday, June 3, 2017 SHS Annual Walk, 1:30 pm, 2178 Bloor St. W. Historic walking tour of eastern Swansea, presented by the Swansea Historical Society and Heritage Toronto. Explore the eastern part of the former village of Swansea, once an isolated area and summer escape from Toronto. Learn about the distinct history of this piece of "country in the city," including stories of how Catfish Pond got its name, why Swansea resisted annexation to Toronto, and why—despite not being under prohibition—you couldn't get a drink south of Bloor until the 1990s. Start Point: Runnymede Library (2178 Bloor St W); End Point: The Queensway and Ellis Avenue. Cost: \$10 donation suggested.

Saturday, August 5, 2017 "Walk the 6 West... HISTORY ON THE HUMBER" This signature event is being planned by a group of local historical organizations to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Province of Ontario and the Dominion of Canada. Funding has been approved in the form of a grant from the Province of Ontario, and preparatory work is currently under way. Six short historical vignettes will be staged at sites along the Humber River between Dundas Street and Bloor Street, including Lambton House, Étienne Brûlé Park, and King's Mill Park. Each production will be repeated, allowing viewers to walk from one site to another during the course of the afternoon. This is an event not to be missed! More details to follow in next month's Newsletter, and in local news outlets.

Sunday, August 27, 2017 SHS / Heritage Toronto Walk, 1:30 pm, 2178 Bloor St. W. Historic walking tour of eastern Swansea, presented by the Swansea Historical Society and Heritage Toronto. This will be a repeat of the June 3 walking tour. See above for details.

Wednesday October 4, 2017 SHS Annual General Meeting & Elections, 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: to be announced.

Saturday, October 7, 2017 Annual Governor Simcoe Walk A walking tour in western Swansea, presented by the Swansea Historical Society, following the route of Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe's 1793 expedition up the Carrying Place portage route. Tentative date. Details to follow.

Wednesday November 1, 2017 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall
Speaker: Jack Gibney – “The Heyday, Demise, and Future of Sunnyside”. Through historical photographs, humorous skits, and dramatizations, a troupe from the Sunnyside Historical Society will give a presentation covering noteworthy events from various time periods, as well as the unique architecture of the Sunnyside area of Toronto.

Wednesday December 6, 2017 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall
Speaker: Bianca Lakoseljac. Bianca is a High Park resident and author, who will speak to us about her latest novel “Stone Woman”, the story of a family of five women whose lives are bound by a Vietnam War draft dodger from the hippie “daze” of Toronto. The novel ends in 2017, with imagined Sesquicentennial celebrations in Toronto.



MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!!

As of September 1, 2016, we are in a new membership year. (The membership year now runs from September to August). The annual fees are still \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family. If you have not already paid your dues for 2016-2017, please complete the form below at your earliest convenience and submit the form with your payment. Dues can be paid at any of our meetings, or you can send payment to: 95 Lavinia Avenue, Box 102, Toronto, M6S 3H9. [Your fees help to offset many of the costs incurred by the Society in its ongoing operations.](#)



SWANSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



2016/2017 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
(The membership year runs from Sep – Aug)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Individual..... \$15.00 _____
Family \$20.00 _____
Corporate \$25.00 _____

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Individual..... \$250.00 _____
Family \$500.00 _____

Family Name: _____ Given Name(s): _____ Membership Number: _____

Street Address: _____ Apartment Number: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal code: _____

Home Telephone: (_____) _____ Business Telephone: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____ Please use e-mail for my newsletters: Yes No, thanks

Please send to: Swansea Historical Society Membership Secretary, 95 Lavinia Avenue, Box 102, Toronto, Ontario M6S 3H9