

SWANSON NEWS

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



Wednesday, Oct 5, 2016, 7:30 pm

Rousseau Room - Swansea Town Hall

SPEAKER: John Beram

Toronto's Association with the U.S. Civil War

Visitors Welcome! Light Refreshments!

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





President's Message: by Bob Roden, President

We have had a very eventful and exciting year, and I want to extend a sincere thank-you to all those who made it happen. In addition to our long-standing programmes and activities, we partnered with other local organizations in conducting two major commemorative events. In September 2015, working with the Swansea Area Ratepayers Association, we hosted an event in the parkette on Riverside Drive, celebrating 8,000 years of Swansea history. Thank you to Sydney Reimer for her leadership role in this undertaking. Also in September 2015, we participated with several local historical societies in commemorating the 400th anniversary of Étienne Brûlé's arrival in the Swansea area, in an event that included a morning of scholarly lectures at The Old Mill, and a selection of theatrical productions in the parks along the banks of the Humber River in the afternoon. In February 2016, we completed the work on our multi-year "Archives Improvement" project, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and we submitted our final project report to the OTF.

Next year, 2017, will be Canada's Sesquicentennial – the 150th anniversary of Confederation. Meeting with other local historical societies, we have been discussing ideas for marking this important milestone in our nation's history. One suggestion which has been gaining traction lately is a series of travelling theatrical productions, and we are hoping to obtain government funding to cover a portion of the costs. Our colleagues at Heritage York (based at the Lambton House on Old Dundas Street) have agreed to take on the lead role in this initiative. Please let us know if you have any thoughts on things that we and our sister organizations could consider doing to celebrate the Sesquicentennial.

The Swansea Historical Society will start up again on October 5 with our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and elections, and we have a full slate of interesting speakers confirmed for the 2016-2017 programme year. Looking ahead to the AGM and elections, I want to remind you that we are a volunteer organization, and we can always benefit from more help and fresh ideas. Some of us have served for several years on the Executive. As much as we enjoy the camaraderie, we feel the interests of the Society would be best served if we could plan to move on before passing our "best before" dates. In addition to filling jobs with ongoing responsibilities, we are also happy to welcome people on-board as "Executive Members Without Portfolio", who may be asked to participate in specific initiatives from time to time. Attendance at monthly Executive meetings is desirable, but not mandatory. Previous experience is not a requirement, and you don't have to be an expert in local history in order to participate. Please give some thought as to how you could contribute even a small amount of your time and talent, and let us know of any ideas you might have. And, don't be surprised if someone approaches you about getting more involved with your Society!!



Summer Schedule for the Resource Centre / Archive

As we move into the fall season, we plan to resume the regular opening hours for the Resource Centre / Archive in the lower level of the Swansea Town Hall,

namely from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm most Wednesdays. You are more than welcome to visit us during these times. However, in order to ensure that one of our volunteers will be present to escort you, we recommend that you contact us at least a few days in advance to make an appointment. (Although we make every effort to respond promptly to incoming messages, it's not always possible to check our Canada Post mail and telephone and e-mail messages every day).



Swansea Historical Society on Social Media

For some time now, information related to the Swansea Historical Society, and other local organizations, has been posted on the website of the Swansea Town Hall – www.swanseatownhall.ca . Thank you to Town Hall staffer Carol Walmsley for her assistance in this initiative. We suggest that you check the website from time to time to keep abreast of events at the Town Hall and in the Swansea community.

Your Society has recently entered the 21st-century world of social media in other ways, as a means of spreading our message to a wider audience. The name of our brand new Twitter account is @Swansea_History. As a first step, we invite you to take a look at our very own Twitter feed at: https://twitter.com/Swansea_History !! (Note the underscore “_” symbol between “Swansea” and “History”). You don’t need to join Twitter to view the tweets. We are also now on Instagram, at https://www.instagram.com/swansea_history . (As above, there is an underscore “_” symbol between “swansea” and “history”). Please check us out and let us have your feedback.

We also expect to have a Facebook presence established soon. Thank you to our newest Executive member, Sarah Lowenberg, for spearheading these developments. If any of our readers have experience with social media, we would be delighted if you could get involved and share your knowledge with us.



Swansea Historical Society Contact Information

There are various ways you can contact your Society. Our mailing address is 95 Lavinia Avenue, Box 102, Toronto, Ontario M6S 3H9. You can send e-mails to swanseahistoricalociety@gmail.com, and the Society's mobile telephone number is 647-859-3901. Your comments and suggestions are always most welcome.



Future Events

Thursday Sep 15, 2016 7:30 pm Lambton House (4066 Old Dundas Street). Heritage York History Night features Jordan St. John, author of “Lost Breweries of Toronto.” There won't just be auditory history - there will also be consumable history in the form of a beer tasting with Junction Craft Brewing.

http://www.lambtonhouse.org/ESW/Files/2016_September_Heritage_Talk_Beer_St._John.pdf

Tuesday Sep 20, 7:00 pm LAMP (185 Fifth St) – The New Toronto Historical Society presents John Beram on the history of the Union Stockyards in the Junction
www.newtorontohistorical.com

Thurs Sep 22, 2016 Etobicoke Historical Society Meeting, 7:00 for 7:30 pm, Montgomery's Inn, 4709 Dundas Street West at Montgomery Road Speaker: Ed Butts on “Simon Girty: The 'White Savage' of the American Frontier, or Loyalist Hero”. In U.S. history books, Simon Girty (1741-1818) is considered a villain even worse than Benedict Arnold. In Canada he is regarded as a Loyalist hero. He stands out as one of the few white men who championed the indigenous peoples' fight to halt American expansion into their ancestral lands.

Saturday Sep 24, 2016 Simcoe Walking Tour, 9:30 am, 8 South Kingsway (Petro Canada) Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe and the Humber Heritage Committee invite you to join them in retracing the first segment of the Governor's 1793 expedition up the Toronto Carrying Place portage route. The guided walk will start at the Rousseaux site, immediately south of the Petro-Canada station. <http://janeswalk.org/canada/toronto/annual-simcoe-walk>

Thursday, Sep 29, 2016, 7pm – 8:30pm: Development Update: 2442 - 2454 Bloor St W (Humber Theatre). At the September Community Council meeting the mandatory community meeting for the proposed development at 2442 - 2454 Bloor Street West (the Humber Theatre to Riverview Gardens) was approved. This meeting, hosted by the City's Planning Department, will be held at St. Pius X Catholic School (71 Jane St).

Saturday Oct 1, 1:30pm High Park Library (228 Roncesvalles) – Heritage Toronto and the Toronto Public Libraries present “A Veritable Treasure Trove: The High Park Neighbourhood.” This walking tour explores the residential district east of High Park that includes one of the finest collections of Edwardian homes. Learn the story behind the pronunciation of “Roncesvalles” and the story behind the design of the 100-year old High Park Library. <http://heritagetoronto.org/event/a-veritable-treasure-trove-the-high-park-neighbourhood>

Wednesday Oct 5, 2016 SHS Annual General Meeting & Elections, 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: John Beram is a history buff with a special interest in military history. We enjoyed John's presentation on “Canada Packers and the Union Stockyards” in October 2015. John will be returning to speak on the little-known topic of Toronto's association with the U.S. Civil War (1861-1865).

Thursday, Oct 27 7:30 pm Montgomery's Inn (4709 Dundas Street West) – The Etobicoke Historical Society presents Kelly Matthews on “Reviving the History of Eaton Hall.” The estate fueled the local economy and community, supported the Canadian World War II effort and established a firm place in the hearts and minds of the residents of King Township. <http://www.etobicokehistorical.com/events.html>

Friday Oct 28 High Park Library (228 Roncesvalles) –The Sunnyside Historical Society presents the history of Carnegie Libraries. <http://pvhs.info/category/events>

Wednesday Nov 2, 2016 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Swansea Historical Society member, author, and story-teller Dave Cook will return after almost four years with more of his fascinating “*Fading History*” stories about various events centered on Toronto's western suburbs during the mid-1900s.

Wednesday Dec 7, 2016 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speakers: Janice Douglas and Sarah Hall. Janice Douglas is the People's Warden at St. Olave's Church in Swansea, and Sarah Hall is a distinguished Canadian stained-glass artist, with many spectacular installations to her credit, in Toronto and elsewhere. Janice and Sarah will team up to present an illustrated talk about twelve of the glorious windows of St. Olave's Church that were specially designed and created for the parish church by the talented and renowned Canadian artist Yvonne Williams (1901-1997).

Wednesday Feb 1, 2017 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Daniel Laxer – “Music and Dance of the Fur Trade Era, 1760-1840”. Daniel is a graduate student in history at the University of Toronto. His talk will highlight his studies of Canada's music and dance centered on the fur trade era. Daniel is also an accomplished fiddle player, and he will perform some traditional music associated with the time period.

Wednesday Mar 1, 2017 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Rona Arato – “The *Exodus 1947* – The Ship to Nowhere”. Rona will be returning to Swansea with the story of the ship *Exodus 1947* (formerly the US packet steamer *SS President Warfield*). In July 1947, the ship sailed from France with 4,515 Jewish emigrants bound for Palestine, which was then part of the British Mandate. The Royal Navy prevented the passengers from landing in Haifa, and they were returned to camps in Europe. The public outcry over this incident factored into the events that led up to the creation of the State of Israel in 1948. A timely topic now when so many refugee issues are dominating the news!!

Wednesday Apr 5, 2017 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Peter Vronsky. “The Battle of Ridgeway – The American Fenian Invasion and the 1866 Battle that Made Canada”. Some 22,000 Canadians were mobilized in June 1866 to fight the Fenian invaders, and the resultant state of national emergency led to Canadian Confederation the following year.

Wednesday May 3, 2017 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Anne Dublin – “The Toronto Garment Workers' Strike of 1931”. At 10 a.m. on February 25, 1931, more than 500 women of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) stopped their work, halted their machines, and walked out of sweat shops across the city, initiating a lengthy and bitterly-fought general strike in the Toronto dressmakers' trade.

Wednesday Nov 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.



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