

# SWANSEA NEWS

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



**Wednesday, Oct 4, 2017, 7:30 pm**

**Rousseau Room - Swansea Town Hall**

**SPEAKER: Jack Gibney**

**The Heyday, Demise, and Future of Sunnyside**

**Visitors Welcome! Light Refreshments!**

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



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**Please note: The Annual General Meeting and Elections will start at 7:30 pm promptly, to be followed immediately by the speaker.**



## President's Message: by Bob Roden, President

I am pleased to report that we have completed another very successful year. It has been a particularly eventful year in the heritage community, as we have been celebrating the Sesquicentennial – the 150th Anniversary of Canada's Confederation. In addition to our usual ongoing activities, here are some of the things your Society has achieved in the past 12 months.

In June, the Swansea Historical Society was recognized by Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo at her annual Community Appreciation Gala. Cheri presented us with a framed certificate, which will be on view at our October meeting. The certificate reads: *“As your Member of Provincial Parliament, I am pleased to recognize your service and dedication in the riding of Parkdale-High Park. **Thank You, Swansea Historical Society** For the exemplary contributions you have made and continue to make championing the preservation and promotion of the Swansea community. Your organization enhances the local area and makes Parkdale-High Park a great place in which to live”.*

Also in June, Marilyn Boustead, Marjorie Horeis, Lance Gleich, and Wallace Boustead received Volunteer Service Awards from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. These people rose to the occasion and answered the call for help in 2012 when the Society was in a state of turmoil. Thank you Marilyn, Marjorie, Lance, and Wallace for your many contributions to our organization over the past five years, and hopefully into the foreseeable future. We hope the experience has been as rewarding for you as it has for the Society.

We conducted 3 historical walking tours. In May, under the auspices of the Jane's Walks programme, we led a walk to Sculpture Hill in High Park, marking the 50th anniversary of the public art which was installed in 1967 – Canada's Centennial year. As part of Heritage Toronto's walking tour programme, we conducted two tours of Eastern Swansea, one on our traditional June date and one in late August. The June walk attracted more than 100 participants, and the August walk attracted almost another 100. We have also taken over responsibility for the annual re-enactment of Governor Simcoe's 1793 expedition, a walking tour that Madeleine McDowell had organized and led every year since 1998. The 2017 Governor Simcoe walk will take place on Saturday, October 7, and we invite you all to join us. Thank you to Lance for organizing and leading all of our walks.

Working with a group of local historical societies, we participated in the August 2017 staging of “Walk the 6 West: History on the Humber” commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Canada's Confederation. Six theatrical presentations highlighting a variety of historical figures were mounted in Étienne Brûlé Park, and 4 guided walking tours along the Humber enabled viewers to watch each of the vignettes in turn. Even though the weather was threatening at first, more than 400 visitors attended. We thank the Province of Ontario and various private donors for financially supporting this highly successful event.

See <https://bloorwest.snapd.com/events/view/1074831> or <https://etobicoke.snapd.com/events/view/1074822> for a selection of photographs taken by Susan Roden.

Also in August, and under the auspices of the City of Toronto's “Arts in the Parks” programme, we presented a Sesquicentennial Authors' Symposium in High Park. Twelve local writers,

including Canada's Parliamentary Poet Laureate George Elliott Clarke and SHS members Bianca Lakoseljac and Will O'Hara, read excerpts from their work.

I am happy to report that we now have speakers booked through most of 2018.

At the October 4 Annual General Meeting, those members in attendance will be electing an Executive to serve for the next twelve months. After the 2015 AGM, Margaret Lyons stepped forward to take on the vacant position of Secretary. Margaret has done a superb job for the past two years, but she has advised us that she is not able to stand for reelection, and so the Secretary position is vacant once again. We thank Margaret for all her work on behalf of the Society, and we are pleased that she will be staying on the Executive as a member-at-large. The Secretary position involves recording minutes from our members' meetings, Executive meetings, and AGM. We hope someone out there will be willing to take on this important role.

As for myself, I joined the Executive 13 years ago, after serving the Society as an auditor for several years before that. In the spring of 2012, I took on the job of President on an emergency basis when my predecessor resigned very suddenly. I have agreed to allow my name to stay on the Slate of Candidates for the coming year. However, I feel it would be in the best interests of both the Society and me if I could plan to move on in the near future, and I hope a suitable candidate will come forward soon. I have made a commitment that I will provide whatever support and guidance is needed to bring my replacement up to speed.

We are blessed with a very capable and dedicated Executive. Through their hard work and dedication, all of the current Executive members have played important parts in keeping the Society functioning. I want to thank all of the Board members for their many contributions over the years. I hope you, the members of the Society, will continue to support those who will be standing for re-election at the AGM. Also, in preparation for the elections, please give some thought as to how you could get more involved and share your talents with us. Or, perhaps you know of someone you would like to nominate (with that person's permission) for a position on the Executive. In either case, we would like to hear from you. We can never have too much help, fresh ideas are always welcome, and, as noted already, we really need a Secretary!



### **In Memoriam**

On May 24, 2017, Xavier Morgan died tragically in a cycling accident on Lakeshore Boulevard at the age of five. Xavier was the great-grandson of the late Laurie and Muriel Morgan, who were Executive members of the Swansea Historical Society for more than 20 years. We extend our deepest sympathies to the extended Morgan family.

On August 9, 2017, Victor Robert Bennett passed away in Kingston, Ontario. Victor was the father of SHS Executive member Sydney Reimer, and a truly remarkable person with many accomplishments to his credit. We extend our deepest sympathies to the Bennett and Reimer families.

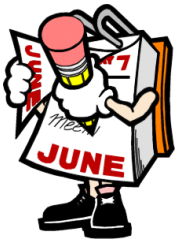


## **Humberside Collegiate 125th Anniversary Celebrations, October 20 and 21, 2017**

Former Humberside students, teachers, staff, and friends of Humberside are encouraged to participate in the school's 125th Anniversary celebrations. Plans include events at Humberside on Friday, October 20 (5:00 pm to 10:00 pm) and Saturday, October 21 (8:30 am to 5:00 pm), and also a Pub Night with finger food and cash bar Saturday, October 21 (6:00 pm to 2:00 am) at the Lithuanian House, 1573 Bloor Street West (just west of the Dundas West subway station).

Anyone who is interested in attending is strongly encouraged to preregister online by October 10. Those registering by Oct 1 will receive a commemorative tote bag filled with goodies. The \$20.00 registration fee for the weekend includes admittance to the school on Friday and Saturday, and all events at the school. Late registrations and walk-in fees are \$25.00. The entrance fee for the Pub Night is \$15. You must be a registered attendee in order to buy Pub Night tickets, which will not be available at the door.

For more information and to register for this event, please visit [www.hcialumni.org](http://www.hcialumni.org).



### **2018 Swansea Community Calendars**

We are planning to have "hot-off-the-press" copies of the 2018 calendar available for sale at the November 1 meeting. The price is still \$8.00, as in past years. The calendars, with their historical photos and listings of community events, make great Christmas gifts!! Also, for those who enjoy looking at historic pictures, we still have a few 2017 calendars for sale at a reduced price, as well as bundles of calendars from previous years.



### **Swansea Historical Society on Social Media**

Executive member Sarah Lowenberg has continued to grow the Society's small (compared to some international celebrities), but devoted, following on social media, and we have received very positive reviews. As of the latest count, our Twitter account [@swansea\\_history](https://twitter.com/swansea_history) active since March 2016, now has 532 followers, and our Instagram account [@swansea\\_history](https://www.instagram.com/swansea_history), active since June 2016, has 222 followers. In connection with the August 5 event on the Humber, Sarah has created a second Twitter account [@historyonhumber](https://twitter.com/historyonhumber), and that account, active since June 1, 2017, has already attracted 133 followers. We invite you to visit these sites, and we encourage you to register as a follower so that you can be alerted to the latest postings.

Through our social media accounts, your Society now follows a total of almost 500 accounts, so that we can keep in touch with developments in other organizations. Also, if all goes according to plan, we expect to have the Society's own website launched in the coming months.



## **Swansea Historical Society Contact Information**

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

We expect to have our website [www.swanseahistoricalociety.ca](http://www.swanseahistoricalociety.ca) operational soon. Also, information related to the Swansea Historical Society, and other local organizations, is posted on the website of the Swansea Town Hall – [www.swanseatownhall.ca](http://www.swanseatownhall.ca). Also, we invite you to visit us on Twitter at [@Swansea\\_History](https://twitter.com/Swansea_History) or [@historyonhumber](https://twitter.com/historyonhumber) or on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/swansea\\_history](http://www.instagram.com/swansea_history).



## **Future Events**

**Thursday, September 14, 2017 Heritage Talk 7:30 pm, Lambton House (4066 Old Dundas St)**  
Trevor Parkins-Scriberras with “The History of the Toronto Transit Commission and Toronto Street Railways.” [www.lambtonhouse.org](http://www.lambtonhouse.org)

**Thursday, September 14, 2017 West Toronto Junction Historical Society, 7:30 pm, Annette Library (145 Annette Street)** Leanne Daly and Rahemah Siddiqui, on the Indigenous archaeological sites in and around The Junction including the Seneca village of Teiaiagon at Baby Point and various controversial burial effigy mounds. <https://wtjhs.ca/>

**Thursday, September 28, 2017, Etobicoke Historical Society, 7:30 pm, Montgomery's Inn (4709 Dundas St W)** Hillary Dawson on “Finding 19th Century Black History in Toronto.” Dawson, an historical researcher who has worked in a number of museums in the UK and Canada including Montgomery’s Inn, will give an overview of a hundred years of history from the time of slavery in the Town of York to the election of Toronto’s first Black alderman in 1894 with stories of people of African descent who lived in Toronto and Etobicoke in the 19th century, the communities they lived in and the issues and challenges they faced. [www.etobicokehistorical.com/events.html](http://www.etobicokehistorical.com/events.html)

**Wednesday October 4, 2017 SHS Annual General Meeting & Elections, 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: Jack Gibney and the Sunnyside Historical Society – “The Heyday, Demise, and Future of Sunnyside”. Through historical photographs, humorous skits, and dramatizations, a troupe from the Sunnyside H.S. will give a presentation covering noteworthy events from various time periods, as well as the unique architecture of the Sunnyside area of Toronto. [Please note that this is a change from the date originally announced for the Sunnyside presentation].

**Thursday, October 5, 2017, West Toronto Junction Historical Society monthly meeting, 7:30 pm, Annette Library (145 Annette Street)** Program TBA. <https://wtjhs.ca/>

**Saturday, October 7, 2017 Annual Governor Simcoe Walk, 9:30 am and 1:00 pm** A walking tour in western Swansea, presented by the Swansea Historical Society in costume, following the route of Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe's 1793 expedition up the Carrying Place portage route. Governor Simcoe will be portrayed by SHS President Bob Roden. Part 1 will start at 9:30

am from the Rousseau site, 8 South Kingsway (north of the Queensway and south of the Petro Canada station), finishing at Bloor Street. After a short break for lunch, the group will reassemble at 1pm at the Alex Ling Fountain (north-west corner of Bloor and Jane) and continue north. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch, or try one of the many excellent restaurants in the Bloor-Jane area.

**Thursday, October 12, 2017, Heritage Talk, 7:30 pm, Lambton House (4066 Old Dundas St)**  
“Bailey Bridges of Hurricane Hazel.” <http://www.lambtonhouse.org/>

**Friday, October 13, 2017, Heritage York Pub Night, 6:00 pm, Lambton House (4066 Old Dundas Street)** Featuring “Just Us”. As always, doors open at 6 pm with roast beef sandwiches on sale, and music at 8:00 pm and no cover! <http://www.lambtonhouse.org/>

**Thursday, October 19, 2017, North York Historical Society, 7:30 pm, North York Civic Centre (5100 Yonge St)** In collaboration with the Dictionary of Canadian Biography, the North Toronto Historical Society, and the City of Toronto's MomentO Canada 150 program, presents a special lecture on the stormy life of William McDougall to explore the whirlpools and riptides of political life in Toronto and the Dominion of Canada 150 years ago, with Governor-General’s Award-winning historian Christopher Moore. <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/william-mcdougall-dreams-and-disappointments-of-a-confederation-era-politician-tickets-37288718561>

**Thursday, October 26, 2017, Etobicoke Historical Society, 7:30 pm, Montgomery's Inn (4709 Dundas St W)** Barbara Dickson on “Bomb Girls...Trading Aprons for Ammo!” During WW2 over 21,000 patriotic men and women worked with high explosives filling munitions for the Allied Forces at a top-secret facility located in Scarborough. Over 170 buildings comprised the site, along with over 4 km of secret tunnels which remain as mysterious today as they were over seventy-five years ago. This presentation provides an in-depth narrative about the girls behind the guns and will appeal to every Canadian who honours those who fought for their freedom, both on the battlefield and at home. <http://www.etobicokehistorical.com/events.html>

**Wednesday November 1, 2017 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: John Sewell – “How We Changed Toronto in the 1970s, and How it has Changed Since”. John Sewell was elected as a City Councilor in 1969 and served as the Mayor of the City of Toronto from 1978 to 1980. He will speak about how development pressures were dealt with during a time of rapid change in our City. His thoughts and perspective from the 1970s are particularly relevant today as we are faced with ever-growing development issues that threaten the very fabric of our neighbourhoods. Mayor Sewell will be available to sign copies of his book after the presentation.

**Sunday December 3, 2017 High Park Walking Tour, 10:30 am to 12 noon** “High Park Through the Ages”. A guided tour to be led by Dave Berndorff. Meet at 10:30 am at the benches across the road from the south side of the Grenadier Restaurant in the middle of High Park.

**Wednesday December 6, 2017 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: Bianca Lakoseljic. Bianca is a High Park resident and author, who was the lead organizer of the Sesquicentennial Authors' Symposium in High Park in August. She 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.

**Wednesday February 7, 2018 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: John Beram – “The Beginnings of the Canadian Auto Industry”. John Beram, a local history enthusiast and story-teller, will return to Swansea to discuss the early days of the automobile industry in Canada, with special reference to the role of West Toronto in the development of the industry.

**Wednesday March 7, 2018 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: Kelly Mathews – “Eaton Hall: Pride of King Township”. Shortly after the 1922 death of department-store heir John Craig Eaton, his widow Lady Flora Eaton had a palatial 72-room country estate built on the family's King City property. Rediscover an enchanting and bygone age with the life and history of Lady Eaton and her grand Eaton Hall, where she hosted many dignitaries including visiting British royalty.

**Wednesday April 4, 2018 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: Garfield Portch is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada – Canada's national stamp club since 1887. He will speak to us about the intrigues and politics involved in the establishment and operation of the Post Office in the Town of York, and subsequently the City of Toronto, in the 1800s.

**Wednesday May 2, 2018 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: Gay Gooderham. The Gooderham and Worts families emigrated from England in the early 1830s to the Town of York, shortly before it became the City of Toronto. Over the following 75 years, these families created the largest distillery in the world, centred on the area we now know as Toronto's “Distillery District”. Many significant landmarks associated with the Gooderhams survive in Toronto today. Gay Gooderham will share the fascinating story of her family, and also talk about her work in creating an online website [www.gooderham-worts.ca](http://www.gooderham-worts.ca) that includes a family tree with photos, documents, and stories.

**Wednesday October 3, 2018 SHS Annual General Meeting & Elections, 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: SHS Board Member and author Thelma Wheatley will return to the podium to talk about the subject of her latest book “Brown on White: Mixed-Race Marriage in Toronto in the 1960s”.

**Wednesday December 5, 2018 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: Plum Johnson – “*They Left Us Everything*”. Plum Johnson is a Canadian writer raised in Oakville, who won the RBC Taylor Prize in 2015 for her memoir *They Left Us Everything*. In it, she describes discovering history in what parents leave behind, and about the importance of preserving it to make sense of the past.



## **MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!!**

As of September 1, 2017, 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 2017-2018, 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**



### **2017/2018 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***