



**Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, 7:30 pm**

**Rousseau Room - Swansea Town Hall**

**SPEAKER: JEAN MISO on**

**“Our Canadian Military: Past and Present”**

Jean is the author of two books: “*We'll Never Forget*” and “*Their Duty, Our Pride*”.

These books were created to promote positive character attributes and remembrance. They serve to honour our Canadian Military from World War One to the present. These books are products of Canadian workmanship! Each book comes with original songs, composed and performed by Jean.

**Visitors Welcome! Light Refreshments!**

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



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

As noted on the following pages, we have an interesting line-up of speakers scheduled for the rest of 2014 (and into 2015). Canadian history is definitely not boring!! In addition, we are tentatively planning historical walking tours for Saturday May 3 and Saturday June 14 (note change of dates from earlier announcements). All of our events are always open to members and non-members alike. We hope to see you there.

This year we have many historical anniversaries to commemorate. March 6, 2014, was the 180th anniversary of the transition from the Town of York to the City of Toronto in 1834. On March 23rd we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formal opening of the Howard Memorial Gates on Parkside Drive in 1914. The start of World War One (known at the time as “*The Great War*” and “*The War to End All Wars*”) occurred in August 1914, as did the opening of Robert Home Smith's Old Mill Tea Rooms on our Humber River (coincidentally on the same day). The mural in the lobby of the Swansea Town Hall honours the young men from Swansea who gave their lives “For King and Country” in the 1914-1918 War. In earlier times, the Treaty of Ghent was signed in December 1814, ending the War of 1812, although notification of the peace settlement reached North America too late to prevent the Battle of New Orleans, which occurred two weeks later in January 1815.



**Need a Ride to the Meeting?:** If you are in need of a ride in order to attend our monthly meetings, give us a call at **647-859-3901** and let us know. Please leave your name and number **one week prior to the meeting you will be attending** so that we can coordinate accordingly.



**2014 SHS Calendars:** As you are aware, the **2014 calendars** are complete and ready to go! We also have a very small number of 2013 calendars still available for sale in addition to a variety of historical booklets, and the best bargain of all -- bundles of past Swansea Historical Society calendars at the clearance price of \$5 for a baker's dozen of 13 issues, covering the years 1999-2011, all on sale at monthly meetings or over the counter at the Town Hall.

## *Future Events:*



*Sunday afternoon, March 23, 2014:* **“100th Anniversary Celebration of the Howard Memorial Gates”** at the Parkside Drive entrance to High Park. The walking tour and various activities start at 12:45 pm. Parade starts at 2 pm from the zoo parking lot. The celebration will be hosted by the staff of Colborne Lodge and Councillor Sarah Doucette, with the support of many community groups. If you attended the February or March SHS meetings, you will have seen the artwork created by local artist David Crighton. Prints can be purchased and a portion of the proceeds will be donated towards the costs of the anniversary celebration. This promises to be an exciting and memorable event. If you would like to assist at the Society's information table, please let us know.



*Sunday, March 30, 2014:* **“Indoor Garage Sale”** at the Swansea Town Hall (95 Lavinia Avenue) from 10 am to 2 pm. Come and view the treasures on sale. If you are interested in assisting at the Society's information table, please let us know. If you have items you would like to sell, you should contact the Town Hall (416-392-1954) to arrange for renting a table for the day. And don't forget to bring all your large and small outdated electronic equipment to our patio, as iRecycle will be picking up donations of electronic goods and e-waste.



*Wednesday, April 2nd, 2014, Meeting:* **SPEAKER: Jean Miso** is the author of two books: *“We'll Never Forget”* and *“Their Duty, Our Pride”*. The stories of our Canadian Forces veterans and soldiers provide the reader with positive messages that collectively emphasize the importance of Canadian citizenship; responsibility to self and others; co-operation through teamwork; care for Canadians and others in the world, as well as integrity and respect of self and others. The books each come with original songs that support Remembrance and positive character attributes. Proceeds from the first 3,000-print run of *“We'll Never Forget”* went to the National Legion Poppy Fund and towards the purchase of a monument that honours WW1 Canadian soldiers and was placed on Hill 70 in France on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012. The reprint of this book supports the Juno Beach Centre and the building of the John McCrae statue in Ottawa, and continues to back the National Legion Poppy Fund. Proceeds from *“Their Duty, Our Pride”* are to be donated to the Military Family Resource Centre and the Juno Beach Centre. Jean's books sell for \$22.00 each. To learn more about Jean and her books, we invite you to visit Jean's web-site, [www.jeanmiso.ca](http://www.jeanmiso.ca), and attend our April 2nd meeting.



**Wednesday, May 7th, 2014, Meeting:** **SPEAKER:** **Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock** is the pastor at Morningside-High Park Presbyterian Church. Rev. Dimock will talk about Morningside-High Park's long-time role in the Swansea community, and recent developments bringing the Church into the 21st century, including the installation of solar panels, and all the behind-the-scenes activities that were required to bring that initiative to fruition.



**Wednesday, October 1st, 2014, Meeting:** **SPEAKER:** **Thelma Wheatley** on “Scandal in Early 1900s Swansea/High Park: Eugenics, Class, Abortion, and the Institutionalization of the 'Feeble-Minded'”. Thelma's talk will focus on the institution in Orillia, then called the Asylum for Idiots and Feeble-Minded. In the early 1900s, Toronto was rocked by the scandal of Ruth Dembner, a young woman from a wealthy Swansea/High Park family who lived in the High Park area and had a secret abortion from which she died.

The October 1 meeting will also include the Annual General Meeting of the Swansea Historical Society and election of Board members to serve in 2014-2015.



**Wednesday, November 5th, 2014, Meeting:** **SPEAKER:** Popular speaker **Linda Grandfield** will return to Swansea to address a topic related to Remembrance Day and the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of War in 1914. Details to be determined.



**Wednesday, December 3rd, 2014, Meeting:** **SPEAKER:** **Nate Hendley** on the story of Edwin Alonzo Boyd, the “gentleman bank robber” and leader of the notorious “Boyd Gang” which made front-page news in Toronto in the 1950s. The gang's exploits included a string of bank robberies, the murder of a Toronto police officer, and two daring escapes from Toronto's Don Jail. Two members of the gang were the last persons to be hanged in the Don Jail.





**Heritage Toronto/Swansea Historical Society Annual Walk on Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup>: "Along the Boardwalk of Humber Bay"** Now lined with quiet parks and recreation facilities, the waterfront around Humber Bay was once home to dance halls, the Sunnyside Amusement Park, and a wooden boardwalk where the annual 'Easter Parade' was held. Hear about this area's fascinating past on this walk along the shore east of the Humber River." Start time is still TBD (details to follow in next month's newsletter), but participants can meet at the parkade to the east of the Palais Royale, accessible from the pedestrian bridge at Queen and Roncesvalles.



**MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!!**

We are now accepting membership fees for 2014, and encourage members to renew early. The membership year is the calendar year – January to December. The annual fees are still \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Please complete the form below. 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 costs incurred by the society.**



SWANSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**2014 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

(The Membership Year is the Calendar Year)

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**



# SWANCESTRY

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## *JOIN US FOR A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE!*

We continue to uncover more and more interesting pictures as we work through the archives. Even if you THINK you might know anyone in the photo or where it was taken, please let us know! We will have all pictures featured here at monthly meetings available for you to take a closer look at.



*(We apologize for the picture quality in the printed newsletters.)*

**CAN YOU IDENTIFY ANYONE IN THIS PICTURE OR KNOW WHEN OR WHERE IT WAS TAKEN? DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT THE PICTURE? FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE SWANSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY IF YOU HAVE ANY INSIGHT! (647-859-3901 or [swancnews@gmail.com](mailto:swancnews@gmail.com) )**