



**Wednesday, Apr 6, 7:30 pm**

**Rousseau Room - Swansea Town Hall**

**SPEAKER: Rona Arato**

**The Last Train – A Holocaust Story**

**Visitors Welcome! Light Refreshments!**

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



**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

I am pleased to report that the work has been completed on the current phase of the Society's "Archives Improvement" project. The Society's final report was submitted to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) in early March. As this note is being written, we are awaiting a response from the OTF. I wish to extend a sincere thank-you to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their ongoing support over the lifetime of the project, and to all of those Society members who have contributed their time and talents.

With funding in the form of a \$29,400 grant from the OTF, we have purchased computer equipment and software, received archives training, engaged the services of a professional archives consultant, selected and installed specialized archiving software, and started the lengthy process of scanning material in the Society's collection and storing the digitized files on the Society's computer equipment. As we move our operations into the 21st century, we have also started making use of social media to raise the Society's profile and increase accessibility to the Society's collections. The name of our brand-new Twitter account is @Swansea\_History. We invite you to check us out at [https://twitter.com/Swansea\\_History](https://twitter.com/Swansea_History) (note the underscore symbol between "Swansea" and "History").

### **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](mailto:swanseahistoricalociety@gmail.com), and the Society's mobile telephone number is 647-859-3901. Your comments and suggestions are always most welcome.

### **Resource Centre / Archive Schedule**

Starting in February 2016, we have resumed our regular schedule of having the Resource Centre / Archive open to our members and the general public on most Wednesday afternoons between 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm. If you have not visited the room recently, we invite you to come down and have a look. However, since we may not be open every Wednesday, we recommend that you telephone 647-859-3901 to verify that someone will be there to receive you. Visits can also be arranged by appointment at other times.

### **Introducing Sarah**

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Sarah Lowenberg to our volunteer team. Sarah is a Swansea resident and the owner and founder of Avocado Communications. Her company's slogan is "Growing Your Business Online". Sarah has graciously offered to assist the Swansea Historical Society to take advantage of the latest internet technologies (see President's Message above). Her website is [www.avocadocommunications.com](http://www.avocadocommunications.com) and she can be contacted at [info@avocadocommunications.com](mailto:info@avocadocommunications.com) or 416-803-2374.

## Junction Rediscovered - Marg Lyons

On March 12th, twenty-one of us gathered with Neil Ross to begin a ramble that helped uncover many stories having to do with the Junction. Neil is a writer, an actor, a historian and a raconteur extraordinaire! He introduced us to the area by describing the various men and women who first settled this part of Toronto. He spoke of how the word "Junction" meant to him not only the railways but also a place where people from many backgrounds found a safe home. The first mosque, the first synagogue, churches of many denominations - all included in this patch of land, all together. We heard from the fiery William Lyon Mackenzie who dared hope that the people in this new world could expect a democracy similar to that of Britain's; about the land wise Clendenans; the newspaper man, A.B. Rice; the first woman doctor, Minerva Reid. We took a good look at the buildings - the homes, work places, the theatres and houses of worship of these citizens. It was a very special afternoon... Together in the sunshine, listening to the past speak.



## *Future Events*

### April 6, 2016 Meeting **SPEAKER: Rona Arato**

Rona Arato is an award winning author. She was born in New York, and grew up in Los Angeles. She earned a BA in teaching with credentials from UCLA and has taught in Los Angeles, Israel, and Toronto, where she moved to in 1970. Rona's articles have appeared in Canada, the US and England. She has taught creative writing, for the TDSB, and also worked as a public relations consultant, and did business-writing seminars. From 1994-98 she interviewed survivors for Stephen Spielberg's book "Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation". She has written 17 children's books, including "Ten for Freedom, the story of Josiah Hensen." One of her books, "Ten Canadians who made a Difference": won the Ontario Library Association's Golden Oak Award in 2011. She continues to win awards worldwide, and in 2013, one of her books was designated one of the best books by the Canadian Children's Book Centre.

She will present her book on the Holocaust "The Last Train" in which two boys try to hide their mother's illness from their German captors in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, even as they struggle to survive the camp's appalling conditions.

**Saturday, March 19th 7:00 pm Lambton House** – Earth Hour with Heritage York and Green 13 – Entertainment from George Linton, lights out and lantern walk at 8  
<http://www.lambtonhouse.org/Events.html>

**Thursday, March 25th 7:30 pm Montgomery's Inn** – Etobicoke Historical Society Speaker's Night – Kelley Mathews, author of "Eaton Hall: Pride of King Township" speaks on the 72-room, Norman-style chateau in King City called Eaton Hall through the eyes of Lady Eaton, the former Florence McCrea <http://www.etobicokehistorical.com/events.html#sthash.11A9ANBd.dpuf>

**Sunday, March 27th 1:30 pm – Old Weston Road and St. Clair** – Toronto Field Naturalists Walk -- “Canadian National Strangles Toronto” -- Ian Wheal leads a walk on how CN imposed restrictions on the City of Toronto that impacted the growth of western Toronto  
<http://www.torontofieldnaturalists.org/v-walks.htm>

**Friday, April 1st 6:30 pm Lambton House** – Heritage York Pub Night, musicians “Hawk’s Nest Trio” start at 8pm. <http://www.lambtonhouse.org/Events.html>

**Wednesday, April 6th 7:30 pm Village of Humber Heights** – Weston Historical Society – Neil Brochu of the Market Gallery speaks on the Wadsworth Collection in the possession of the City of Toronto

**Tuesday, April 12th 7:30 pm Annette Library** – Author Neil Ross debuts his new historical comedy, “Comedy can be Murder: An Aristophanes Murder-Comedy”

**Thursday, April 28th 7:30 pm Montgomery's Inn** – Etobicoke Historical Society Speaker's Night: The Six Nations and the Great War – Alison Norman of the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs speaks on how Indigenous men and women supported the war effort on the home front and the front lines. <http://www.etobicokehistorical.com/events.html>

**May 4, 2016 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: Hugh Barnett is the Vice-President of the Etobicoke Historical Society and the lead organizer of last September's well-received event, “The Toronto Carrying Place – A Shared Legacy”, centred at The Old Mill. Hugh advises us that he is working on a brand-new presentation – topic to be announced soon.

**Oct 5, 2016 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 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 in October 2016 to speak on the little-known topic of Toronto's association with the U.S. Civil War (1861-1865).

**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 centred around Toronto's western suburbs during the mid-1900s.

**Dec 7, 2016 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speakers: Janice Douglas and Sarah Hall. Janice Douglas is the Deputy 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).



# MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!!

We are now accepting membership fees for 2015-2016, and encourage members to renew early. The membership year runs from September to August. 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



**2015/2016 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**