



**Wednesday, Apr 4, 7:30 pm**

**Rousseau Room - Swansea Town Hall**

**SPEAKER: Garfield Portch**

**The Founding of the Toronto Post Office in the 1800s**

**Visitors Welcome! Light Refreshments!**

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



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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

I am pleased to report that the Swansea Historical Society is alive and well. We have money in the bank and our membership is growing. We have a very interesting lineup of speakers scheduled through to December, we are planning guided walking tours for the summer months, and we are starting to book speakers for 2019. Please refer to the "Future Events" section in this Newsletter for details. In particular, we invite you to check out our new "Events" page at [swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/events](http://swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/events). There, you will find an up-to-date list of Swansea Historical Society events, community events, our past speakers, and a list of our past guided historical walks. And do follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for historical Swansea photos and other updates.



### **Website Page of the Month**

This month's page is Volunteer! [swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/about-swanea-historical-society/volunteer](http://swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/about-swanea-historical-society/volunteer)

#### **VOLUNTEER**



*Helping in the Garden - Bill Small working in the family garden in Swansea. Read [Memories of Swansea By William Small](#) (Booklet No. 5).*

#### **Volunteer!**

The Swansea Historical Society is a registered charity – and all of its work is done by a small group of dedicated volunteers. We can always benefit from more help and fresh ideas!

Previous experience is not a requirement, and you don't have to be an expert in local history in order to participate. Attendance at monthly Executive meetings is desirable, but not mandatory.

We have some vacancies that need to be filled listed below. 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. Or, perhaps you know of someone you would like to recommend (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, and fresh ideas are always welcome!

## ***Historical Photo of the Month***

“Bloor St. Humber River, 1920” - Source: Swansea Historical Society Archives.  
Photographer unknown.



### ***Resource Centre / Archives Visits***

In order to make the best use of our volunteers' time, we ask that anyone wanting to view items in the Society's “Resource Centre / Archives” request an appointment by telephoning 647-859-3901. We ask that you try to give us at least a few days' notice, as the SHS telephone is not continuously monitored. Also, if you can give us an indication of what you are looking for, we can let you know whether a visit is likely to be productive. The preferred times for opening the Archives are on Wednesday afternoons between 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm. However, appointments can also be arranged for other times, if Wednesday afternoons are not convenient.



### ***2018 Swansea Community Calendars***

The 2018 calendar is now available for purchase at monthly meetings and over the counter at the Town Hall. The price is still \$8.00, as in past years. Also, for those who enjoy looking at historic pictures, we still have some 2017 calendars for sale at a reduced price, as well as individual calendars and bundles of calendars from previous years.



## ***In Memoriam***

Bea McClelland has gone home.

It is a term used by Scouters when one has passed away. Bea passed away on January 24, 2018. Bea and her late husband Tom were long-time residents of Swansea before moving to Alderwood, although she considered Swansea home. Tom worked for Stelco Swansea works for many years. Tom and Bea owned and operated Mason Trophy. Their places of business were on Kennedy just south of Bloor, Bloor and Windermere and finally on Jane St. Bea taught Sunday School and was active at Morningside Presbyterian Church in the 127<sup>th</sup> Scout Group there. For many years both Tom and Bea were very active in Scouting in the Brule and Lakeshore areas. Bea headed up a Scout Group at the Hospital for Sick Children. Once a week she and a very caring group of volunteers would head down to the hospital. The children would come to them in wheel chairs and sometimes Bea would go to them. For this work she was awarded the Silver Wolf, which is the highest award of service in Scouts Canada. Bea would often say it wasn't work going there. It was her pleasure.



## ***Future Events***

In addition to the following list, please note that our new "Events" webpage contains an up-to-date list of Swansea Historical Society events and community events. See [swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/events](http://swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/events).

***Thursday March 22, 2018 Etobicoke Historical Society Meeting, 7:00 for 7:30 pm, Montgomery's Inn, 4709 Dundas St. W. at Islington Ave.*** Speaker: Denise Harris: "Etobicoke: Past and Present in Pictures". Denise is a former President and currently the official Historian of the Etobicoke Historical Society. Her illustrated talk will focus on the former Township of Etobicoke as it progressed from forests and farms to the suburbs and industry of today's urban environment. Old photographs of historic places will each be followed by a picture of the same place taken today. Come and see how Etobicoke has changed over the past 150 years!

***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.

***Thursday April 5, 2018 West Toronto Junction Historical Society Meeting, 6:30 for 7:15 pm, Annette Street Library, 145 Annette Street*** Speaker: John Beram on the early days of the Canadian automobile industry. If you missed the February meeting of the Swansea Historical Society, here is another opportunity to attend John's presentation.

***Friday April 6, 2018 Heritage York Presents Pub Night*** Doors Open 6:00 pm, music at 8:00 pm Lambton House. Musical Performer: Panda Band

**Saturday April 7, 2018 Heritage York Presents Cultural Heritage Landscapes, 2:00-4:00 pm** Lambton House Panelists: Victoria Lister Carley and Pleasance Crawford on a revisiting of 20th century landscapes through the paintings of Clara Harris.

**Thursday April 12, 2018 Heritage York History Night 7:30 pm Lambton House** “The Anonymous Panel” Speaker: Brian Mooney, Chair of the Etobicoke York Preservation Panel

**Thursday April 26, 2018 Etobicoke Historical Society Meeting, 7:30 pm, Montgomery’s Inn** Speaker: Maureen Jennings on “Murdoch’s Toronto.”

**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.

**Friday May 4 to Sunday May 6, 2018 “Jane's Walks”** Details to be announced.

**Saturday June 2, 2018 SHS Walking Tour** Details to be announced.

**Saturday September 29, 2018 Governor Simcoe Reenactment Walking Tour** Details to be announced. [Please note that the date for this guided walk has been moved from September 22 to September 29, to accommodate the Governor's busy schedule].

**Wednesday October 3, 2018 SHS Annual General Meeting & Elections, 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker to be confirmed.

**Wednesday November 7, 2018 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: Barbara Dickson – “Bomb Girls: Trading Aprons for Ammo”. Author and speaker Barbara Dickson has lived in Scarborough for more than 50 years. Imagine her surprise when she learned there were over four km of abandoned tunnels under the city, less than a kilometre from where she lived. Her presentation offers a unique glimpse into the lives and hearts of the courageous and dedicated Canadian women who worked in a top-secret World War Two munitions factory.

**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.



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

As noted above, we are pleased to report that our website [www.swanseahistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.swanseahistoricalsociety.ca) is now operational. Information related to the Swansea Historical Society and other local organizations is also posted on the website of the Swansea Town Hall – [www.swanseatownhall.ca](http://www.swanseatownhall.ca). And, we invite you to follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



## MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!!

As of September 1 2017, we are now 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, Box102, 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**