



Wednesday, December 4th, 2013, 7:30 pm

Rousseau Room - Swansea Town Hall

SPEAKER: ALAN SKEOCH on

"Why Teach History? Transferring Wisdom and Life's Lessons Obtained Through Learning and Teaching History"

Visitors Welcome! Light Refreshments!

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





President's Message: by Bob Roden, President

This is our last Newsletter for 2013. Looking back, it has been a most interesting and exciting year for the Swansea Historical Society. We had a line-up of interesting and informative speakers. In addition to our Annual Historical Walk of Swansea, for the first time we conducted a community walk under the auspices of the Jane's Walk programme. Our "new look" Newsletter has proved to be popular with our readers. The "Swancestry" feature has elicited positive feedback from our members, as well as from some non-members. The Society's finances are in good shape, and our membership remains strong. Several members of the Executive have been working diligently to make the material in the Archives more accessible, and visits to the Archives have been growing. Once again, we have produced a Swansea Community Calendar for 2014, and I would encourage all our readers to purchase at least one, if you have not already done so. With the selection of historical photographs and listings of community events throughout the year, the Calendars make excellent Christmas gifts for family and friends!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed in so many different ways to the success of the Swansea Historical Society in 2013.

We hope to see you at the December 4 meeting, when my long-time friend Alan Skeoch will be bringing his story-telling skills to the Town Hall. As for 2014, we already have a full complement of interesting speakers scheduled for the whole year. On behalf of your Executive, Susan and I wish to extend our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.



Ontario Historical Society: This year, our parent organization, the **Ontario Historical Society**, is celebrating its 125th anniversary and the 100th anniversary of the construction of its current headquarters, the historic John McKenzie House in North York. Since 1899, the OHS has been publishing a scholarly journal "*Ontario History*". As of April, 2013, 325 issues had been published, with well over 2,000 articles written by some of the province's greatest historians. To mark the two anniversaries, the OHS has undertaken an ambitious project to digitize all past and future issues of *Ontario History* and make this vast treasure trove of historical information available on-line. A drive has been launched to raise \$125,000 with the theme: "The Ontario Historical Society: Preserving 125 years – Our legacy for the Next 125". For more information, see the web-site www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/125th.



In Memoriam: We were saddened to learn that Swansea Historical Society member **Muriel Sides** passed away on Tuesday, November 19, 2013. Muriel was a long-time resident of Swansea and active for many years in the Swansea Horticultural Society. We extend our sincere condolences to Muriel's family and friends.



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: We are happy to announce that the 2014 calendars are complete and are ready to go! Some members regularly buy extra calendars for gifts, so here's an opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping. We also have a very limited 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 through 2011 ... all on sale at monthly meetings or over the counter at the Swansea Town Hall.



Donations to the Swansea Historical Society:

Did you know that the Swansea Historical Society is a **registered charitable organization**? As such, the Society can issue tax receipts for any donations received. In addition to cash donations, tax receipts can also be issued for items donated to the Archives collection, once those items have been formally appraised. Also, as a way of ensuring the Society's viability in the longer term, we encourage our members to consider leaving a legacy to the Swansea Historical Society.

Future Events:



Wednesday, February 5th, 2014 Meeting: SPEAKER: Eva Stachniak, discussing Catherine the Great of Russia. Behind every great ruler lies a betrayal. The author of ***The Winter Palace***, Eva Stachniak, will immerse you in the other world of Catherine the Great (1729-96). Eva's novel brings to light Catherine during her earliest days in court, all from the point of view from Barbara, a cunning royal spy. Copies of our guest's book will be available for purchase at the end of the discussion.



Wednesday, March 5th, 2014 Meeting: A speaker from Colborne Lodge will relate the intriguing story of John and Jemima Howard, who lived in Colborne Lodge and bequeathed to the City of Toronto the spectacular property we now know as High Park. We will also hear about plans for the March 23, 2014, event, which will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the High Park gates on Parkside Drive in 1914 ... Save the date, as the March 23 celebration promises to be a memorable occasion!!



Wednesday, April 2nd, 2014, Meeting: **SPEAKER:** Jean Miso, presenting a potpourri of interesting stories related to Canada's military. Jean's presentations usually include a performance of a selection of the songs she has personally composed.



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.



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

JOIN US FOR A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE!

Here is another photo from the archives. Even if you THINK you might know someone or something about the picture, 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)