

Wednesday, Feb 4, 2015, 7:30 pm

Rousseau Room - Swansea Town Hall

SPEAKER: Will O'Hara

**Author of "Enemy Arrows: Toronto in the Year 1420"
on "Life in West Toronto before European Contact"**

Visitors Welcome! Light Refreshments!

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





President's Message: by Bob Roden, President

Happy New Year!! As we head into 2015, I am pleased to report that we have an interesting line-up of speakers confirmed for the next several months. We hope you will be able to join us at our monthly meetings at the Swansea Town Hall – and please bring a friend (or a few friends and relatives). All of our events are always open to members and visitors alike. In addition to our monthly meetings, we are making tentative plans to conduct historic walking tours in the Swansea area. Also, various local organizations are planning events to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Étienne Brûlé's 1615 journey down the "Toronto Carrying Place" portage route. In our school days, we learned that Brûlé was the first European to set foot in the Swansea area and the first to view Lake Ontario. A famous sketch by C. W. Jefferys shows "Étienne Brûlé at the Mouth of the Humber", presumably at a point on the height of land near today's Riverside Drive in Swansea.

We are still working to fill some spots on the Executive, including "members-at-large" with no specific ongoing responsibilities. If you have any interest in getting more involved, please contact me or any of the Executive members.



In Sympathy We were deeply saddened to learn that Dr. Laurie Morgan passed away on Friday, January 2, 2015, in his 94th year. Laurie is survived by his wife Muriel, their five children, Bruce, Scott, Heather, Brenda, and Kathryn, and their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews. Laurie tended to many Swansea residents with care and compassion in his medical practice. Initially, he was the only general practitioner in Swansea, and he not only made house calls, but he also participated in the delivery of many Swansea-ites. For many years, both Laurie and Muriel served with distinction on the Board of Directors of the Swansea Historical Society. Laurie arranged for the speakers for the Society's monthly meetings and Muriel provided the refreshments. At one of our meetings, Laurie was the featured speaker, as he showed photographs from a walk he had taken along the route of the historic Belt Line Railway. In 2012, Laurie and Muriel both received 20-year Volunteer Service Awards from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, recognizing their long and dedicated service to our Society. In 2011, some of us had the pleasure of meeting the extended Morgan family, as Laurie and Muriel both celebrated their 90th birthdays. (They were born just two weeks apart). On September 22, 2013, about 150 family and friends gathered at the Church of the Messiah as Laurie and Muriel renewed their marriage vows while celebrating their 70th Anniversary together. Shortly before Christmas, I had a pleasant chat with Laurie, never imagining it would be the last opportunity. He will be truly missed!! Laurie was a sincerely religious man, and he looked forward to his passing as a new beginning. On Tuesday, January 6, 2015, Reverend Tay Moss of the Church of the Messiah conducted Laurie's funeral service at Turner & Porter on Bloor Street and his interment at Park Lawn Cemetery. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Muriel and her extended family and friends.



In Sympathy We were saddened to learn that SHS member Flo Calwell passed away on Saturday, January 10, 2015, with her family surrounding her. Flo had been living at the Bonham Residences next door to the Town Hall, and she enjoyed attending the Society's monthly meetings whenever her health permitted. Recently she had been spending weekends out of town at the homes of her children: Bonnie, Janet, Susan, and Robert. Flo was a member of Windermere United Church for a couple of decades and very active there in her younger years. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations in Flo's name be made to Windermere United, the church she loved. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Flo's extended family and her many friends.



In Sympathy Long time Swansea resident Irene Cook passed away Jan 13 2015 at the age of 96. She and her family were very active members of Windermere United Church for many years.

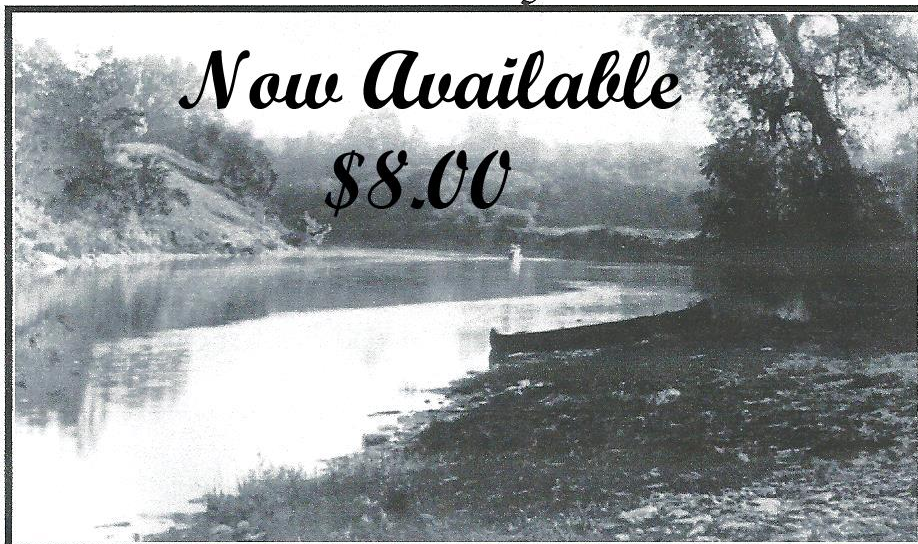


In Sympathy Long time member Thomas James Whillans passed away Jan 10 2015 at the age of 92. Jim was a life-long resident of Swansea and member of the Morningside Presbyterian Church. He actively participated in his community as a member of the Mimico Masonic Lodge and Swansea Historical Society, and volunteered for 15 years delivering Meals-on-Wheels.



2015 SHS Calendars Calendars are now available for \$8! Great Robbie Burns' gift.

*Swansea Historical Society
2015 Community Calendar*



A canoe sat on the banks of the lower Humber River in the 1920's. The 400th anniversary of the first European travel along the Humber River by Étienne Brûlé in 1615 will be extensively commemorated in September 2015.
(Alf Edmonds donation to the Swansea Historical Society Archives)

Future Events



Wednesday February 4, 2015, Meeting **SPEAKER: Will O'Hara**

Will O'Hara's topic will be Life in West Toronto before European Contact. It will be based on research on the Wendat (Huron) people who lived in this area for hundreds of years, long before they were displaced by their eternal enemy, the Iroquois from northern New York State. The story is centred around what is now Baby Point. It covers the Toronto Islands and the Carrying Place Trail to Georgian Bay. This research provided the impetus for Will's novel ***ENEMY ARROWS Toronto in the Year 1420***. For more information about this book you can visit Will O'Hara's web site: enemyarrows.ca

April 1, 2015 Meeting Speaker: Rona Arato – Josiah Henson & Underground Railway

May 6, 2015 Meeting Speaker: Millie Morton – 1-Room Schools & Ontario History

October 7, 2015 Meeting Speaker: John Beram – Canada Packers & the Union Stockyards

November 4, 2015 Meeting Speaker: Terry Reardon – Churchill & Mackenzie King

Monday, January 26, 7:00 pm Jane-Dundas Library. "The Great War Through the Eyes of a Child." SHS member Madeleine McDowell gives the perspectives of two children who lived through World War I.

Thursday, February 5, 7:30 pm Annette Library. **West Toronto Junction Historical Society.** Neil Brochu works at the City of Toronto's Collections & Conservation Centre where the City stores roughly 150,000 artifacts and over 1 million archaeological specimens all related to Toronto's history. His talk will provide an overview of the collection and insight into the conservation challenges presented by such a large and diverse museum collection.

Saturday, February 7, 6:30 pm Lambton House. The Heritage York Annual Dinner-Dance features as its keynote speaker Brent Chamberlain of the Friends of the Pan Am Path. Through arts and culture programming, the Friends of the Pan Am Path strive to balance two core values: local leadership in celebrating communities along the Path and the artistic leadership from South American, Central American and Caribbean artists. Tickets are \$45 by calling: Margo Duncan (416) 761-1819 Michael Freeman (416) 766-6642 or Madeleine McDowell (416) 767-7633.

Thursday, February 12, 7:30 pm Lambton House. Heritage York History Night. Writer of "A Flag for Canada", Rick Archbold.

Thursday, February 26, 7:30 pm Montgomery's Inn. Etobicoke Historical Society. Linda Granfield on "The Unknown Soldier"--if you missed her presentation to the SHS, here's another chance!



MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!!

We are now accepting membership fees for 2014-2015, 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



2014/2015 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

SWANCESTRY

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.



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)