

SWANSEA NEWS

SWANSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 95 LAVINIA AVENUE, TORONTO, ON, M6S 3H9



ANNUAL WALKING TOUR: Saturday, June 14th 2014

START TIME: 1:30 pm - Meet at the parkette to the east of the Palais Royale, accessible from the pedestrian bridge at Queen and Roncesvalles

TOPIC: "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, 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. Meet at the parkette to the east of the Palais Royale, accessible from the pedestrian bridge at Queen and Roncesvalles. Walk Volunteers from Heritage Toronto will also be joining us! Visit <http://heritagetoronto.org/event/along-the-boardwalk-of-humber-bay/> for more details. Our annual Swansea Historical Society walking tour this year will be led by SHS Executive members Lance Gleich and Samantha D'Odorico. We will end at the mouth of the Humber River. (*NOTE: IN A DEPARTURE FROM TRADITION, THIS YEAR'S WALK WILL BE ON THE 2nd SATURDAY IN JUNE.)

Visitors Welcome! Light Refreshments!

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





President's Message by Bob Roden, President

We hope to see you at the annual walking tour on Saturday June 14. After an eventful and exciting year, this will be our last formal event before the summer break. We will start up again in October with our Annual General Meeting and elections.

We are a volunteer organization, and we can always use more help and fresh ideas. Some of us have served for several years on the Executive. Much as we enjoy the camaraderie, we feel the interests of the Society would be best served if we could plan to move on before passing our "best before" dates. In addition to filling jobs with ongoing responsibilities, we are also happy to welcome people on-board as "executive members without portfolio", who may be called upon to participate in specific initiatives from time to time. Attendance at monthly Executive meetings is desirable, but not mandatory. 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. And, don't be surprised if someone approaches you about getting more involved.



Change to the Membership Year Some members have found it confusing that the Society's membership year is different from the fiscal year and programme year. So, to bring everything into alignment, your Executive has decided that henceforth the membership year will run from September 1st to August 31st. When you renew your membership this fall, your card will indicate 2014-2015, and your new membership will run to August 31, 2015.



Proposed Amendments to the Society's By-Laws Two amendments to the Society's By-Laws have been proposed by your Executive (see following paragraphs for details). Each of these amendments will be debated and voted upon (separately) at the Annual General Meeting on October 1st, 2014. The full text of the Society's Constitution and By-Laws will be available at the October 1st meeting, and will be provided upon request to any members who wish to review the documents before the meeting.

By-Law Amendment #1:

We have been advised that, for security reasons, it would be desirable to implement a screening process for nominations to the Society's Executive. To facilitate such a process, we propose to add the sentence "The Nominating Committee shall receive written nominations not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the Annual General Meeting." to ByLaw V(a) and remove the sentence "Further nominations can be made from the floor, providing the nominee has agreed, in writing if absent, to accept nomination." from ByLaw V(b).

By-Law Amendment #2:

Currently, the fees for each of the membership categories are specified in the By-Laws. This means that any adjustment to the fees requires a formal notice and a By-law Amendment that has to be voted on by the membership at an AGM. We think that is unnecessarily bureaucratic. We propose to remove 5 sentences of the form "The ... fee for ... Membership shall be ... dollars (\$...). from By-Law I(a), paragraphs 1 through 5, and add a new paragraph 6, "The annual fees for categories 1, 2, and 3, and the one-time fees for categories 4 and 5 shall be reviewed and established annually by the Executive Committee".



In Sympathy We were saddened to learn that Sally Dillon passed away on April 23, 2014 at Princess Margaret Hospital after a lengthy battle with cancer. Sally had been a member of the Swansea Historical Society since 1998, and she was also a long-time member and Past-President of the Swansea Horticultural Society. A memorial was held on April 26, at the Swansea Town Hall Residences.



A Fond Farewell As your newsletter editor and publicity coordinator, I wanted to bid a fond farewell to the Swansea Historical Society executive and membership. With new career commitments I have made, I must pass the torch. It has been a very enlightening 2 years working with the society, and I have learned a great deal about the wonderful community we live in! However, I will remain a member of the society. I know the current stewardship of the SHS is in very good hands and will guide this committed group well into the future for years to come. All the best! - Kathleen Krisciunas



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.



Archive Room Summer Schedule For anyone interested in visiting, the Swansea Historical Society Archive Room will be open the first and third Wednesdays in June, July and August from 5:30-7:30. An appointment can be made by phoning the Swansea Historical Society cell phone number at 647-859-3901.



2014 SHS Calendars

The 2014 calendars are almost sold out so don't miss out on your copy! They are now only \$4 each. We also have a very small number of 2013 calendars still available for sale (\$2 each) 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 are on sale at monthly meetings or over the counter at the Town Hall.



New Plaque at the Swansea Town Hall

In the 2000 Millennium year, a stained glass window was installed in the stairway of the Town Hall, marking the relationship between Swansea, Ontario and the City of Swansea, Wales. Because the plaque describing the window had deteriorated over the years, one of our members has graciously donated a beautiful replacement plaque. At our May 7th meeting, the plaque was formally presented to Mr. Jack Slaughter, the Chair of the Town Hall Board of Management. We invite you to have a look at the new plaque the next time you visit the Town Hall, and we extend a heartfelt "thank you" to our anonymous donor.



Future Events:



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 Granfield** will return to Swansea to discuss “The Unknown Soldier: The World Honours Those ‘Known Only to God’”. At the end of the First World War, Canada and other nations had to come to terms with immense grief. Millions of soldiers had been killed. Burials were swift and ‘over there’. Not every man could be identified. The creation of Tombs of the Unknowns in more than 15 countries offered the bereaved one bit of consolation. But how would the honoured ‘unknown’ for a nation be selected? Join us and see at this illustrated presentation.



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 among the last persons to be hanged in the Don Jail.



BEFORE I READ THE VERDICT, I'D
LIKE TO INVITE EVERY ONE TO MY
PLACE FOR A BARBEQUE AFTER.



MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!!

We are now accepting membership fees for 2014, and encourage members to renew. 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

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.



(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)