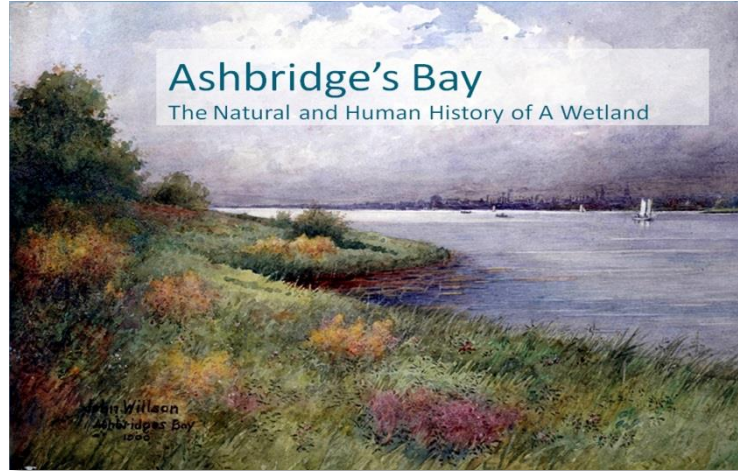


SWANSEA NEWS

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



Wednesday, Mar 2, 7:30 pm

Rousseau Room - Swansea Town Hall

SPEAKER: Joanne Doucette

Ashbridge's Bay – The Natural and Human History of a Wetland

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

By the time you read this Newsletter, work will be winding down on the current phase of the Society's "Archives Improvement" project. With funding in the form of a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, 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. It has been a long and arduous journey. I wish to extend a sincere thank-you to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their ongoing support, and to all of those Society members who have contributed their time and talents.

For a number of years, our room in the Ravine Level of the Swansea Town Hall has been known as the William Small Memorial Archives Room. In fact, the room contains much more than an Archive. Your Society has also accumulated an extensive collection of historical artifacts, photographs, memorabilia, publications, etc. We now feel it is more appropriate to refer to our operation as the "Swansea Historical Resource Centre / Archive", while maintaining the William Small Memorial designation, in memory of the late Swansea Public School teacher who served as the Society's historian for many years. At the same time, in keeping with the Town Hall's preferred approach to identifying rooms within the building, the room itself has been tentatively named "The Swansea Room".

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.



Future Events

Feb 25, 2016 Etobicoke HS Meeting, 7:00 for 7:30 pm, Montgomery's Inn, 4709 Dundas St. W.
Speaker: Peter Vronsky. "The Battle of Ridgeway – The American Fenian Invasion and the 1866 Battle that Made Canada". Some 22,000 Canadians were mobilized in June 1866 to fight the Fenian invaders, and the resultant state of national emergency led to Canadian Confederation the following year.

Feb 28, 2016 2:00 pm, Lambton House – Heritage York Speaker – Rita Deverell, Canadian Association of Broadcasters Hall of Famer and Social Activist, will talk about Black History Month in a talk entitled "Black and Optimistic Regardless" <http://www.lambtonhouse.org/Events.html>

Mar 2, 2016 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Joanne Doucette. "Ashbridge's Bay – The Natural and Human History of a Wetland". Joanne is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario in history. She has led walks and given talks on local history and nature for over 25 years for organizations such as the Toronto Field Naturalists and Heritage Toronto. She is the author of "Pigs, Flowers and Bricks: A History of Leslieville" and a founder of the Leslieville Historical Society. She posts on their Facebook page frequently. Her website is www.leslievillehistory.com and she can be emailed at liatris52@sympatico.ca.

Joanne will give an overview of the natural and human history of Ashbridge's Bay using paintings, photographs and maps. "For many of us, water simply flows from a faucet, and we think little about it beyond this point of contact. We have lost a sense of respect for the wild river, for the complex workings of a wetland, for the intricate web of life that water supports." - Sandra Postel, *Last Oasis: Facing Water Scarcity*, 2003

Mar 3, 2016 7:30 pm, Annette Library – West Toronto Junction Historical Society Meeting – Rona Arato on 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. <http://wtjhs.ca/2016/02/10/march-3rd-meeting-the-last-train/>

Mar 4, 2016 6:30 pm, Lambton House – Heritage York Pub Night, musicians TBA; music starts at 8. <http://www.lambtonhouse.org/Events.html>

Mar 13, 2016 2 pm, Keele 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>

Mar 19, 2016 7:30 pm, Lambton House – Earth Hour – Lights out at 8, candle-lit walk

Mar 25, 2016 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>

Mar 27, 2016 2 pm, Windermere and the Queensway – Toronto Field Naturalists Walk – Lower High Park Walk – Ian Wheal leads a walk on natural and human history in southern Swansea and High Park. <http://www.torontofieldnaturalists.org/v-walks.htm>

Apr 6, 2016 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Rona Arato – "The Last Train". At the April 2015 SHS meeting, Rona Arato delivered a most interesting and informative talk on "Josiah Henson and the Underground Railway". We are delighted that she has accepted our invitation to return to Swansea with a talk based on an incident from World War Two.

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