

SWANSEA NEWS

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



Wednesday, May 7th, 2014, 7:30 pm

Rousseau Room - Swansea Town Hall

SPEAKER: *Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock*

on “125 Years Strong: Journeying into the Future at Morningside-High Park Church”

Visitors Welcome! Light Refreshments!

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





President's Message by Bob Roden, President

Members who attended the April 2nd meeting may have noticed some new equipment in use. The Swansea Historical Society recently purchased a lap-top computer and digital projector, using a portion of the funds in our Trillium Foundation grant. Speakers should no longer have to bring their own bulky projection equipment, as in most cases we can handle presentations stored on digital media such as memory sticks or CDs. Also, we now have a convenient outreach tool for taking our own presentations to other venues. Thanks to Lance for selecting and ordering the equipment on-line, and to Andrea for managing the delivery.

Yes, we are gradually moving into the world of 21st-century technology. We also intend to create a web-site for the Swansea Historical Society. In the meantime, for up-to-date information about the Society and the Swansea community, please refer to the Swansea Town Hall's web-site: www.swanseatownhall.ca.

Our May 7th meeting will be the last formal meeting for the season. It has been another exciting and challenging year for the Swansea Historical Society. We are fortunate that some very enthusiastic volunteers have stepped forward to allow the Society to continue functioning on an even keel. We have had a superb line-up of speakers and a consistently good turnout for our monthly meetings. Our Executive meetings have been a lot of fun, and certainly never boring!! I want to thank most sincerely all those who have helped out over the last 12 months. We couldn't have managed without you, and I hope we can continue to count on you in the future.

As we look forward, we recognize we can't just sit back and rest on our laurels. There are still some jobs that need to be filled, and we always have to be prepared for the possibility that some people may not be able to continue in their present roles. In the run-up to next October's Annual General Meeting and elections, I am extending this request to all of our members. Please think about how you might be able to contribute to the ongoing success of the Swansea Historical Society, and please speak with me, or any of your Executive members, if you have any ideas or questions. If you feel you can't take on a continuing responsibility, we are always delighted to accept people as "members-at-large" -- attendance at Executive meetings is optional, and all we ask is that you be willing to be called upon from time to time to assist with specific events or projects.

I am thrilled to have the support of such a fantastic Executive, and I know we can look forward with confidence to another interesting and productive year.



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 As you are aware, the **2014 calendars** are complete and ready to go! We also have a very small 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 1999-2011, all on sale at monthly meetings or over the counter at the Town Hall.

Future Events:



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.



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 Grandfield** will return to Swansea to address a topic related to Remembrance Day and the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of War in 1914. Details to be determined.



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 the last persons to be hanged in the Don Jail.



Heritage Toronto/Swansea Historical Society Annual Walk on Saturday June 14th - "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, the 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. Start time is 1:30pm and participants can 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.

(*PLEASE NOTE: IN A DEPARTURE FROM TRADITION, THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL WALK WILL BE ON THE SECOND SATURDAY IN JUNE.)



Saturday May 3rd, 2014-Jane's Walk-Swansea Edition

The Village of Swansea continues to maintain a strong identity despite its amalgamation into Toronto in 1967. What conditions allowed this to happen? Are ongoing changes in the community threatening that identity? With a dose of historical perspective, we'll pass some of the sites that demonstrate what has changed and is changing in Swansea and talk about what it may mean. The walk will begin at 6.30pm at Swansea Town Hall on the patio, and head southwest toward Southport Drive. Visit <http://www.janeswalk.org/canada/toronto/swansea-past-and-present/> for more details.

There are other Jane's Walks in the general area and all over the city that may be of interest to our members. Explore more options at <http://www.janeswalk.org/canada/toronto/>.

- The Bloor West Village Association will lead a Bloor West walk starting at Runnymede Station at 10 am both Saturday May 3rd and Sunday May 4th:

<http://www.janeswalk.org/canada/toronto/bloor-west-village-century-development-heritage-and-community/>

- Our member Madeleine McDowell will be leading her "Jane and Annette, Friends Forever" walk Saturday May 3rd at 12noon:

<http://www.janeswalk.org/canada/toronto/jane-and-annette-friends-forever/>

- And Neil Ross of the West Toronto Junction Historical Society will be leading a "Junction of the Canadian Dream" walk Saturday May 3rd at 2:30:

<http://www.janeswalk.org/canada/toronto/junction-canadian-dream-hangin-out-history/>

(And if you choose your walks carefully, it is possible to do all of the above walks in one day!)



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: (_____) _____

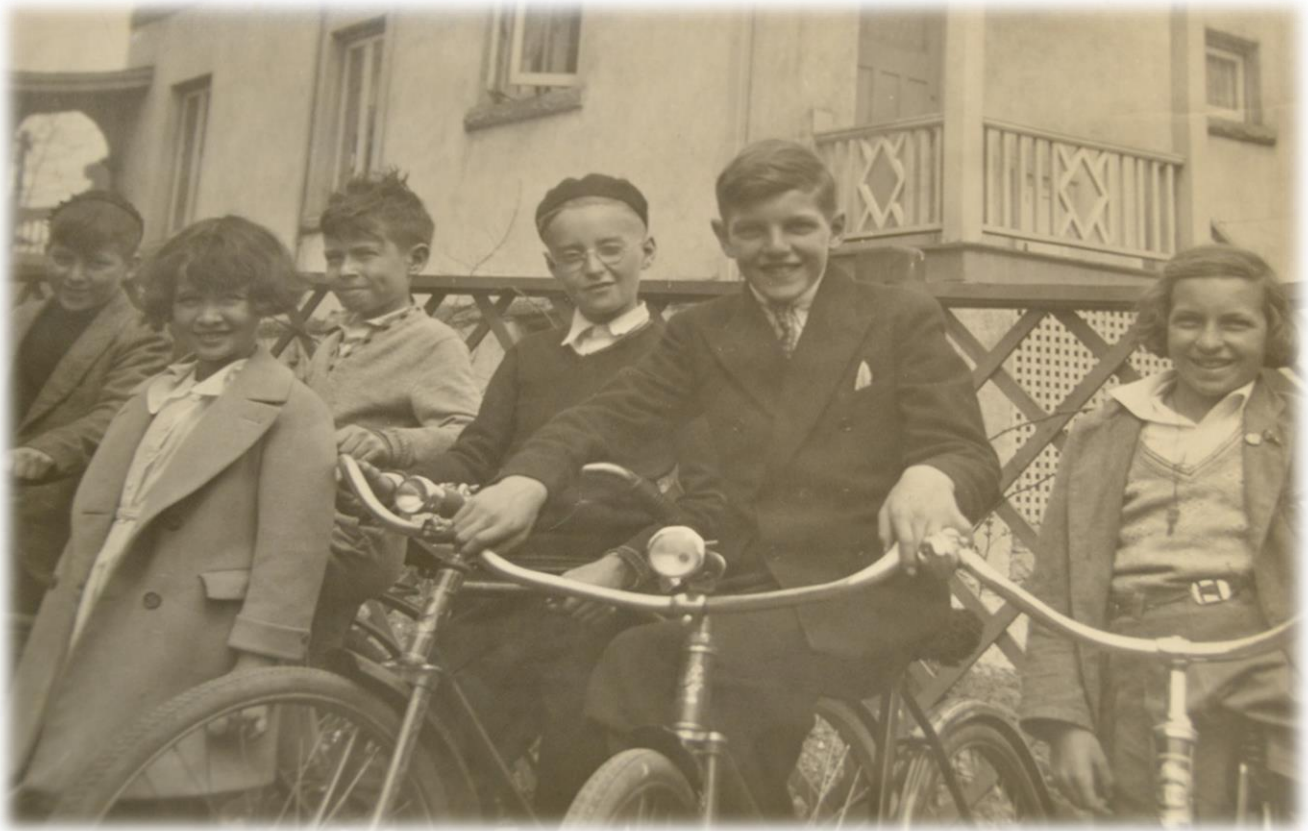
E-Mail: _____ Please use e-mail for my newsletters: Yes No, thanks

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!

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)