

SWANSON NEWS

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



Wednesday, May 4, 7:30 pm

Rousseau Room - Swansea Town Hall

SPEAKER: Hugh Barnett

King George's War

and the Lake Ontario frontier, 1744-1750

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

After an eventful and exciting year, the May 4 meeting will be our last formal meeting before the summer break. We will start up again in October with our Annual General Meeting and elections. In the meantime, we will be participating in several neighbourhood events, which we invite you to attend, including various guided historical walking tours. See "Future Events" for details.

Looking ahead to the Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and elections in October, I want to remind you that 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 with your Society!!

Summer Schedule for the Resource Centre / Archive

Please note that the opening hours for the Resource Centre / Archive will be reduced during the months of June, July, and August. You are more than welcome to visit us during the summer months. However, in order to ensure that one of our volunteers will be present to escort you, we recommend that you contact us at least a few days in advance to make an appointment. (Although we make every effort to respond promptly to incoming messages, it's not always possible to check our Canada Post mail and telephone and e-mail messages every day).

Swansea Historical Society Contact Information

There are various ways you can contact your Society. Our mailing address is 95 Lavinia Avenue, Box 102, Toronto, Ontario M6S 3H9. You can send e-mails to swanseahistoricalociety@gmail.com, and the Society's telephone number is 647-859-3901. Your comments and suggestions are always most welcome.



Future Events

Thursday April 28, 2016 Etobicoke Historical Society Meeting, 7:00 for 7:30 pm, Montgomery's Inn, 4709 Dundas Street West at Montgomery Road Speaker: Alison Norman on “The Six Nations and the Great War” – How indigenous men and women supported the war effort a century ago on the home front in Canada and in the front lines in Europe.

Wednesday May 4, 2016 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Hugh Barnett on “King George's War and the Lake Ontario Frontier, 1744-50”. Hugh 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”, which was centred at The Old Mill.

While many of us might be familiar with such seminal colonial American conflicts as the Seven Years' War, Queen Anne's War, and the American Revolutionary War, other events – such as the lesser known King George's War of 1744 – have been largely forgotten by the majority of today's Canadians and Americans, whose ancestors' lives were directly impacted by these imperial struggles. Ignored by most modern historians, little has been written on the subject of King George's War, a conflict that pitted the French and British colonial empires, as well as their Indigenous allies, against each other in North America from 1744 to 1748. Why should we care about King George's War? Join us on May 4th to hear Hugh Barnett discuss this forgotten conflict, including the role of the Toronto Carrying Place, the Lake Ontario frontier, and the war's impacts on other colonial developments, not least of which was the expansion of new fortifications on the site of today's City of Toronto.

Hugh Barnett is also a co-founding member and current board member of Humber River Shakespeare, a professional theatre company based out of Etobicoke. Hugh holds a Masters in History from the University of Toronto, where his research focused on King George's War, and some of the political developments that arose out of this conflict. Hugh is currently pursuing a Masters of Teaching degree at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, with a research focus on teacher integration of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit perspectives in the classroom.

Thursday, May 5th 7:30 pm Annette Library – West Toronto Junction Historical Society annual general meeting.

Friday, May 6th 6:00 pm Lambton House – Heritage York Pub Night – Roast beef sandwiches at 6:30 pm, music starts at 8:00 pm with John Dorsey

Friday May 6th through Sunday May 8th - Jane's Walk Festival. Local historical walks include: Saturday May 7th 10:00 am – Beaty Parkette -- “Take a Walk on the Sunnyside” -- The Sunnyside Historical Society presents what happened to the Sunnyside Amusement Park and why.

Saturday May 7th 2:00 pm – Alex Ling Fountain at Bloor and Jane – Lance Gleich and Hugh Barnett reprise “Legends of the Toronto Carrying Place” walk along the southern end of the Carrying Place talking about what we learned from last year's 400th anniversary of Brûlé's purported trip through Toronto

Sunday May 8th 11:30 am – Montgomery's Inn -- “Stories of Thomas Montgomery's Farm Along Mimico Creek” -- Human and natural history of the Mimico Creek Valley

Sunday May 8th 1:30 pm Lambton House – Aggie’s Wildflower Walk -- Join Madeleine

McDowell and the Toronto Field Naturalists at the Lambton House at 1:30 for an informative walk and talk about our community’s wildflowers past and present. Stay for tea after the walk. See <http://www.janeswalk.org/canada/toronto> for more

Thursday, May 12th 7:30 pm Lambton House – Heritage York History Night -- Join Hugh Barnett as he speaks about the Whitney Haines Mill, which was the predecessor to our area’s Coopers/Lambton and Baby Mills.

Saturday, May 14th 1:30 pm? Lambton House – Lambton Park Community School Area Walk -- Join Madeleine McDowell and Bonita Nelson for a walk and talk about the six memorial trees, which were planted to remember the twelve Lambton Park School students who were lost in World War 1.

Saturday May 28th-Sunday May 29th - Doors Open Toronto. This year's theme “Re-used, Revisited and Revised”, in our part of the city:

- Lambton House open, 10 am-4 pm both days
- Montgomery's Inn open, 10 am-5 pm both days
- Runnymede Public School open, 10 am to 4 pm Saturday, celebrating the school's 100th Anniversary

Saturday June 18, 2016 Bloor West Village Sidewalk Sale, 10 am to 4 pm, Bloor Street West at Durie St . The Swansea Historical Society will once again be staffing an information table. Please let us know if you would be willing to take a shift at the table. No prior experience is required. Our volunteers would be pleased to show you the ropes.

Saturday August 13, 2016 “Sports and Recreation Along Humber Bay” Walking Tour and Plaque Unveiling, 1:30 pm for 2 pm, starting at the Sunnyside Bathing Pavilion, 2019 Lake Shore Boulevard West. This Heritage Toronto tour will be led by members of the Swansea Historical Society, starting at 2 pm. The eastern shore of Humber Bay has come a long way from landfill operations in the early 1900s to today’s string of sports and recreation facilities and parks. Hear about past (and present) elements, including an amusement park and Easter parades, on this historical stroll from the Sunnyside Bathing Pavilion along the Lake Ontario shore-line east of the Humber River. Heritage Toronto will be unveiling two plaques commemorating the Sunnyside Amusement Park before the tour starts. Come for the plaque unveiling; stay for the tour! Arrive by 1:30 pm to take part in both events! The tour will finish at the Argonaut Rowing Club (1225 Lake Shore Boulevard West).

Heritage Toronto tours such as this one are offered on a *Pay What You Can* basis. A voluntary donation of \$5 to \$10 per person is suggested.

Thursday September 8, 2016 Corn Roast & Heritage Fair, 5 pm to 8 pm, Montgomery's Inn, 4709 Dundas Street West at Montgomery Road Always an enjoyable event – the Swansea Historical Society will once again be staffing an information table. Please let us know if you would be willing to take a shift at the table. As above, our volunteers would be pleased to explain things to you if you are interested in participating.

Wednesday Oct 5, 2016 SHS Annual General Meeting & Elections, 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).

Wednesday 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.

Wednesday 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).

Wednesday February 1, 2017 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: to be announced.

Wednesday March 1, 2017 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Rona Arato – "*The Exodus 1947 – The Ship to Nowhere*". Rona will be returning to Swansea with the story of the ship *Exodus 1947* (formerly the US packet steamer *SS President Warfield*). In July 1947, the ship sailed from France with 4,515 Jewish emigrants bound for Palestine, which was then part of the British Mandate. The Royal Navy prevented the passengers from landing in Haifa, and they were returned to camps in Europe. The public outcry over this incident factored into the events that led up to the creation of the State of Israel in 1948. A timely topic now when so many refugee issues are dominating the news!!

Wednesday April 5, 2017 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall 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.

Wednesday May 3, 2017 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Anne Dublin – “The Toronto Garment-Workers' Strike of 1931”. At 10 a.m. on February 25, 1931, more than 500 women of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union (ILGWU) stopped their work, halted their machines, and walked out of sweat shops across the city, initiating a lengthy and bitterly-fought general strike in the Toronto dressmakers' trade.



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