

SWANSEA NEWS

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



ANNUAL WALKING TOUR: Saturday, June 2nd 2018

START TIME: 2:00 pm - The walk will start at Bennett Park, and finish at Swansia Town Hall

TOPIC: Community and Recreation in Swansia

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



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President's Message: by Bob Roden, President

Our May meeting was the last formal meeting before the summer break. In addition to the “Jane's Walks” which took place the first weekend in May, we are planning guided walking tours for the summer months. Our programme of monthly meetings with invited speakers will resume in October. In the meantime, there will be lots going on across the City and the Province. Please refer to the “*Seasonal Programs*” and “*Future Events*” sections in this Newsletter for details. We also invite you to check out our new on-line “Events” page at <http://swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/events/>.

The October meeting will include the Society's Annual General Meeting and elections for the Executive to serve for 2018-2019. We are always more than happy to welcome new faces with fresh ideas onto the Executive. In particular, we need a Secretary to replace Margaret Lyons, who resigned last fall. We also have room for “Members-at-Large”, who may not have any ongoing responsibilities, but are willing to attend meetings and help out from time to time. Prior experience and knowledge of local history, although desirable, are not requirements. Please give some thought as to how you could contribute to the operation of your Society. If you are interested in getting involved, or you know someone you would like to nominate for a position on the Executive (with that person's permission), please contact me or any of the current Executive members.



Wanted

Police historian Steven Green is looking for any information, photos, or artifacts related to the Swansea Police Force. If you had a family member on the Force, he would love to document your stories or take photos of any artifacts in order for him to publish an article on this subject. Steven can be contacted at 416-873-8893 or by email at walkthebeat@sympatico.ca.



Seasonal Programs in 2018

Doors Open Ontario offers free week-end visits to contemporary and historic sites in 35 communities across Ontario between April and October. (Doors Open Toronto takes place on May 26 and 27). For details, see www.doorsopenontario.on.ca

Heritage Toronto's 61 guided walking tours cover various areas of the City between May and October. To cover the costs of the program, donations of \$10.00 per person per tour are “encouraged”. Copies of the *Tours Program* booklet can be picked up from TD Bank branches or downloaded from

heritagetoronto.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/HeritageToronto_Tours_Web.pdf

Royal Ontario Museum “ROMWalks” 48 walking tours of Toronto between May and October encompass the diverse aspects of Toronto's vibrant neighbourhoods including history, architecture, arts of all varieties, education, and more. Most tours are free. For

additional information regarding scheduled walks, download a copy of the [ROMWalks brochure \(PDF\)](#) at

https://www.rom.on.ca/sites/default/files/imce/romwalks2018_web.pdf



Future Events

In addition to the following list, please note that our new “Events” webpage contains an up-to-date list of Swansea Historical Society events and community events. See swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/events .

Saturday-Sunday, May 26-27, 2018 Toronto Doors Open. For details see www.doorsopentoronto.on.ca or www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/festivals-events/doors-open-toronto .

Friday June 1, 2018 Heritage York Jane’s Walk “The Last Expressway” 6:15 pm, starting from Lambton House, 4066 Old Dundas Street. Participants will gather at the Lambton House and walk over to the Canadian Pacific railway tracks to view the passage of the last “piggyback” train (trailers on railroad cars) before its cancellation, then return to the Lambton House for Pub Night. For those who wish to attend only the Pub Night, doors will open at 6:00 pm, with the traditional roast beef sandwiches on sale, and music by Jane Drake starting at 8:00 pm. As always, there is no cover charge for Pub Night!

Saturday June 2, 2018 SHS Annual Guided Walking Tour, 2:00 pm, starting from Bennett Park, just west of the High Park Subway Station, and finishing at the Swansea Town Hall, 95 Lavinia Avenue. This year's theme “Community and Recreation in Swansea” will feature locations where residents of Swansea relaxed and built community. The starting point is next to the former site of the High Park Mineral Baths, where local residents enjoyed the swimming pools and diving towers for many years.

Wednesday June 6, 2018 Weston Historical Society Meeting, 7:30 pm, Village of Humber Heights Retirement Home, 2245 Lawrence Ave. W. Jordan Bimm will speak on Toronto’s and Weston’s contributions to aerospace.

Thursday June 14, 2018 Heritage York History Night, 7:30 pm, Lambton House, 4066 Old Dundas Street Lieutenant-Colonel Phil Harton will speak on the subject of the historic “Governor’s Road” (*aka* Dundas Street).

Saturday September 29, 2018 Governor Simcoe Reenactment Walking Tour Part 1, 9:30 am, starting from the Rousseau Site, 8 South Kingsway, (south of the Petro Canada station). In September 1793, Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe left Lake Ontario exploring possible transportation routes northward to the Upper Great Lakes, starting with the ancient “Carrying Place” portage route that follows the Humber River. In this annual event, the Swansea Historical Society re-traces the first day of Simcoe’s journey. Participants are welcome to experience just the morning walk as far as Bloor Street, the afternoon walk north toward Eglinton Flats, or the entire day (bring a lunch or try a restaurant in Bloor West Village during the break). [Please note that the date for this guided walk has been moved to September 29, to accommodate the Governor's busy schedule].

Saturday September 29, 2018 Governor Simcoe Reenactment Walking Tour Part 2, 1:00 pm, starting from the Alex Ling Fountain, north-west corner of Bloor & Jane. As noted above, participants are welcome to experience just the morning walk as far as Bloor Street, the afternoon walk north toward Eglinton Flats, or the entire day (bring a lunch or try a restaurant in Bloor West Village during the break). [Please note that the date for this guided walk has been moved to September 29, to accommodate the Governor's busy schedule].

Wednesday October 3, 2018 SHS Annual General Meeting & Elections, 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speakers: Trevor Parkins-Sciberras and David Reigate – *“Tales of Toronto Transit”*. Join local transit enthusiasts Trevor Parkins-Sciberras and David Reigate for an enjoyable and interesting presentation on the history of Toronto transit. In addition to an extensive collection of photographs of transit vehicles past and present, Trevor has also created an amazing display of scale models of TTC vehicles using Lego. *Please note that this is a change from the speaker originally announced for October 3.*

Wednesday November 7, 2018 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Barbara Dickson – *“Bomb Girls: Trading Aprons for Ammo”*. Author and speaker Barbara Dickson has lived in Scarborough for more than 50 years. Imagine her surprise when she learned there were over four kilometres of abandoned tunnels under the city, less than a kilometre from where she lived. Her presentation offers a unique glimpse into the lives and hearts of the courageous and dedicated Canadian women who worked in a top-secret World War Two munitions factory.

Wednesday December 5, 2018 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Plum Johnson – *“They Left Us Everything”*. Plum Johnson is a Canadian writer raised in Oakville, who won the RBC Taylor Prize in 2015 for her memoir *They Left Us Everything*. In it, she describes discovering history in what parents leave behind, and about the importance of preserving it to make sense of the past.



Swansea Historical Society Contact Information

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

We are pleased to report that our website www.swanseahistoricalsociety.ca is now operational. Information related to the Swansea Historical Society and other local organizations is also posted on the website of the Swansea Town Hall – www.swanseatownhall.ca. And, we invite you to follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!!

As of September 1, 2018, we will be in a new membership year. (The membership year now runs from September to August). The annual fees are still \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family. We invite you to beat the rush and renew now for the upcoming 2018-2019 year. 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 of the costs incurred by the Society in its ongoing operations. As an added bonus, any new memberships received between now and August 31 will be automatically applied to the 2018-2019 membership year.



SWANSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



2017/2018 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