

# SWANSEANEWS

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



Wednesday, Oct 3, 2018, 7:30 pm

Rousseau Room - Swansea Town Hall

**SPEAKER: Trevor Parkins-Sciberras and David Reigate**

**Tales of Toronto's Transit**

**Visitors Welcome! Light Refreshments!**

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



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**Please note: The Annual General Meeting and Elections will start at 7:30 pm promptly, to be followed immediately by the speaker.**



## **President's Message:** by Bob Roden, President

Our May meeting was the last formal meeting before the summer break. Our programme of monthly meetings with invited speakers will resume in October, and we are looking forward to another exciting year. Please refer to the “Future Events” section in this Newsletter for details. We also invite you to check out our recently introduced on-line “Events” page at [swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/events](http://swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/events).

The October meeting will include the Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) 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. Prior experience and knowledge of local history, although desirable, are not requirements. We will be pleased to “show you the ropes”. In addition to the traditional management positions, we also have room for “Members-at-Large”, who may not have any specific ongoing responsibilities, but are willing to attend meetings and help out from time to time.

Having said that, we have a number of key positions that need to be filled for the coming year.

After 10 years on the Executive, Linda Symsyk has decided it is time for her to step away. For the past 6 years, Linda has “worn 3 hats” as our Vice-President, Archives / Resource Centre Director, and Representative to the Toronto Historical Association. We owe Linda a tremendous debt of gratitude for all her work on behalf of SHS over the years. In moving forward, there is, of course, no requirement for one person to take on all three of these roles. It just worked out that way in Linda's case.

Also, we need a Secretary to replace Margaret Lyons, who resigned last fall. The job essentially involves recording minutes at our monthly meetings and Executive meetings. With today's technology, there is no longer a requirement for the Secretary to read out the meeting minutes, or to handle other people's correspondence. You may have noticed that we skipped the business portion of some of our recent members' meetings, because there was no one present to take minutes.

In summary, if the Society is to continue operating, it is essential that members come forward with a willingness to take on these responsibilities. So, 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, preferably before the October 3 AGM.




### ***Website Page of the Month***

This month's page is Membership: [swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/about-swanssea-historical-society/membership](http://swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/about-swanssea-historical-society/membership)

## MEMBERSHIP

Help support the Swansea Historical Society!

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SWANSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  2018 / 2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
(The membership year runs from Sep – Aug)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP		LIFE MEMBERSHIP	
Individual.....	\$15.00	Individual.....	\$250.00
Family.....	\$20.00	Family.....	\$500.00
Corporate.....	\$25.00		

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, thank  
*Please send to: Swansea Historical Society Membership Secretary, 95 Lavinia Avenue, Box 102, Toronto, Ontario M6S 3H9*

As of September 1, 2018, we are in a new membership year. (Starting a few years ago, 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 renew now for the 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.

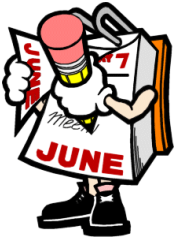
**Your fees help to offset many of the costs incurred by the Society in its ongoing operations.**



### **Historical Photo of the Month**

Did you know that Dorothy Hague was the first female head of a municipality in Ontario? She moved to Swansea soon after its incorporation in 1926, became involved in the locality, and was elected to the Village Board of Education in the 1930s and eventually came to be known affectionately as “Madame Chairman”. After the end of World War II, she was elected to the Council of the Village of Swansea and later elected as the first woman Reeve (Village Mayor) in the late 1950’s, the office she held until 1962. The Dorothy Hague room at Swansea Town Hall is named in her honour.





## **2018 Swansea Community Calendars**

There are still a few copies of the 2018 calendar available for sale at the reduced price of \$4.00. We also have bundles of calendars from a selection of previous years, still at the bargain price of \$5.00. We expect to have calendars for 2019 ready in time for the November 7 SHS meeting. Calendars and other SHS publications can be purchased at any of our meetings or over-the-counter at the office of the Swansea Town Hall.



## **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](mailto:swanseahistoricalsociety@gmail.com), and the Society's cell number is 647-859-3901. Your comments and suggestions are always most welcome.

As noted above, we are pleased to report that our website [www.swanseahistoricalsociety.ca](http://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](http://www.swanseatownhall.ca). We invite you to visit us on Twitter at [@Swansea History](https://twitter.com/Swansea_History) or [@historyonhumber](https://twitter.com/historyonhumber) or on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/swansea\\_history](https://www.instagram.com/swansea_history).



## **Future Events**

In addition to the following list, please note that our new “Events” web page contains a more complete and more up-to-date list of Swansea Historical Society events and local community events. See [swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/events](http://swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/events).

**Saturday, September 22 and Sunday, September 23, 2018 Weston Neighbourhood** Weston Heritage Weekend highlights “Roots, Rocks and Pioneers”: See [heritageweston.com](http://heritageweston.com) for details, but note the archaeological identification clinic Saturday at 9 am and the historical walk Sunday at 1:30 pm.

**Thursday, September 27, 2018 Etobicoke Historical Society Speaker’s Night 7:30 pm**  
**Montgomery’s Inn** “A Royal Presentation: Curating the Dress Collection at Kensington Palace” with Alexandra Kim, now a curator with the City of Toronto.

**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 retraces 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's Transit”*. Join local transit enthusiasts Trevor and David 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. Trevor was born and raised in the Junction, and continues to live there today. He has been touring the city, teaching transit history to retirement homes, museums, and even to the blind. Trevor also recently became an educational partner with the TDSB, and is available to give presentations in schools. Dave was born and raised in nearby Etobicoke-Lake Shore, and has been a dedicated member of the Halton County Radial Railway for 25 years. Dave and Trevor are both members of the West Toronto Junction Historical Society. *Please note that this is a change from the speaker originally announced for October 3.*

**Thursday, October 4, 2018 West Toronto Junction Historical Society Meeting, 7:00 pm, Annette Library** “An Evening with Christopher Moore” Neil Ross conducts a live interview with award-winning historian Christopher Moore.

**Thursday, October 11, 2018 Heritage York History Night Lambton House** “Hurricane Hazel Night” Cherri Hurst of Weston Historical Society will talk about Hazel’s impact on the Town of Weston and the tragedy of Raymore Drive.

**Friday, October 12, 2018 Heritage York Pub Night, 6 pm, Lambton House** Featuring Shaolin Temple Pilots. Doors open at 6 pm with roast beef sandwiches on sale, music at 8:00 pm, and no cover.

**Saturday, October 13, 2018 Toronto Field Naturalists Hurricane Hazel Walk, 10 am.** Meet at the Old Mill subway station at for a look at the impact of Hurricane Hazel, ending at the Lambton House at noon for tea.

**Thursday, October 18, 2018 Etobicoke Historical Society Speaker’s Night 7:30 pm, Montgomery’s Inn** “Toronto’s 1918 Spanish Flu Epidemic” with historian Jamie Bradburn [Note week change for EHS starting this month]

**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 km of abandoned tunnels under the city, less than a km 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.

**Wednesday February 6, 2019 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: Gregory Klages – *“The Many Deaths of Tom Thomson”*. In 1917, shortly before his 40th birthday, the renowned Canadian landscape artist, Tom Thomson, died under mysterious circumstances in Canoe Lake, Algonquin Park. Was it accidental, or was he a murder victim? Author Gregory Klages will talk about Tom Thomson and the various theories that have been proposed to explain Thomson's untimely death.

**Wednesday March 6, 2019 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: John Maniezzo – *“When Swansea Was Dry”*. Did you know that the sale of alcoholic beverages was prohibited in the Province of Ontario between 1916 and 1927, or that some municipalities, including Swansea, were “dry” for even longer periods of time, under a provision known as “Local Option”? A restaurant partly in Swansea and partly in York Township could serve alcohol in the back half but not the front half. For many years it was thought that the south side of Bloor Street between Jane and Runnymede was legally “dry”, when in fact it was not. John Maniezzo will talk about these and other quirky stories as he explores the history of alcohol sales in Swansea and its neighbouring municipalities.

**Wednesday April 3, 2019 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: Kelly Mathews– *“The Road to Marylake”*. In 2018, we enjoyed a most entertaining talk by author Kelly Mathews on the subject of Lady Flora Eaton's lavish country estate in King Township. We are delighted that Kelly will be returning to talk about the subject of her latest book which deals with “Marylake”, the neighbouring country estate of Sir Henry Pellatt, better known as the builder of Casa Loma. (For those wishing to check out these historic properties, the Eaton estate is now the King Campus of Seneca College, while the Pellatt Estate is now the site of the Shrine of Our Lady of Grace. The two properties are north of the 15<sup>th</sup> Sideroad and west of Dufferin Ave).



## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL!!**

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### **SWANSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



### **2018/2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (The membership year runs from Sep – Aug)**

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

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