



Wednesday, Feb 5, 2025, 7:30 pm

Rousseau Room - Swansea Town Hall

SPEAKER: Hilary Dawson

Finding 19th-Century Black History in Toronto

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

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President's Message: by Bob Roden, President

To members and friends of the Swansea Historical Society, we extend our best wishes for health and happiness in the New Year. For those members who may have been affected by the strike at Canada Post, we are pleased that we can get back to “business as usual” for this month's Newsletter.

Since October 2023, we have been holding “hybrid” monthly Swansea Historical Society meetings, using the “Zoom” on-line conferencing tool, which gives participants a choice of attending in-person at the Swansea Town Hall, or connecting on-line using Zoom. We believe this hybrid format should be good for everyone, including those who are comfortable now with in-person meetings and those who prefer to participate from a distance. Unfortunately, we ran into technical problems which prevented people from participating on-line in the December 2024 meeting. We apologize to those who were inconvenienced, and we will be working to have those problems resolved in time for the February 2025 meeting.

Please pass the information in this Newsletter on to anyone you think might be interested.

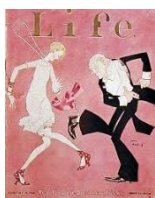


Future Events



Monthly SHS meeting, Wed. Feb 5, 2025, 7:30 pm: Speaker: Hilary Dawson – “*Finding 19th-Century Black History in Toronto*”. February is Black History Month, and we have invited Hilary to share her interesting and little-known stories concerning the contributions of Toronto's Black community in the 1800s. Hilary spoke to the Swansea Historical Society on a related topic more than 20 years ago, and we are delighted that she will be returning in February.

Assuming that December's Zoom issues can be resolved, the February meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format so that participants can attend in-person at the Swansea Town Hall or connect on-line using the Zoom tool. Zoom links will be provided closer to the meeting date. The Zoom connection will be open by 7:15 pm on February 5. If possible, we suggest that on-line participants start tuning in as soon as the link is open, so that we can be ready to kick off the meeting at 7:30 pm.



Monthly SHS meeting, Wed. March 5, 2025, 7:30 pm: Speaker: Lianne Harris Racioppo – “*Life in the Roaring Twenties*”. The decade of the 1920s was a unique time in human history. It was a time of new inventions, new freedoms, and new trends in music, dance, fashions, etc. It was a time to cut loose and celebrate the ending of World War One – supposedly “The War to End All Wars”. Sadly, the celebrations were cut short by the 1929 Stock Market Crash and the ensuing “Great Depression” of the 1930s, all of which led us to World War Two in 1939. We

look forward to an entertaining and informative presentation by Lianne Harris Racioppo, who we anticipate will be appearing in costume!



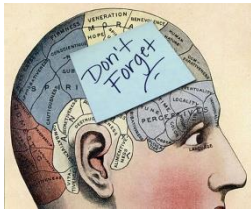
Other Upcoming Events: Please mark your calendars for the following dates in 2025:

Wednesdays April 2 and May 7 – Swansea Historical Society monthly meetings – speakers to be confirmed

May 2, 3, 4 – Jane's Walk Festival – various locations around the City

Saturday, June 7 -- Swansea Historical Society annual guided walking tour (tentative date)

Saturday, September 27 -- annual Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe walking tour (tentative date)



Memory Game: Historical maps preserved in the SHS Archives indicate that many streets in the Swansea area (possibly including yours) have had their names changed at least once over the years. For example, eight names which appear on old maps of Swansea are listed, in alphabetical order, in the left-hand column below, under “Previous Street Name”. Can

you match the previous street names in Column 1 with the current names of those same streets in Column 2? Hint: To make it interesting, we have randomized the order in which the current street names are listed. In just 2 of the 8 cases, the Current Street Name is shown below in the same row as that of the corresponding Previous Street Name. In the other 6 cases, the Current Street Name is shown in a different row from that of the corresponding Previous Street Name.

Previous Street Name	Current Street Name
A. Bertha Street	1. Runnymede Road
B. Chestnut Avenue	2. Durie Street
C. Craig Street	3. Beresford Avenue
D. Elizabeth Street	4. Coe Hill Drive
E. Oak Avenue	5. Kennedy Avenue
F. Park Road	6. Deforest Road
G. Runnymede Gardens	7. Ostend Avenue
H. Thompson Street	8. Verbena Avenue

Answers can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.



Your SHS Executive: We are anticipating that a number of key Executive positions will become vacant between now and August 2025 (the end of the current programming year). If your Society is to continue functioning, we need more volunteers. Please let us know if you would like to explore ways that you could become more involved in the operation of your Society, or if you can think of

someone we might approach. The future of our Society is in your hands. We need to hear from you now!!



HMCS Swansea “Cap Tallies”: The frigate HMCA Swansea, named after our former village and supported by Swansea residents, served in the Royal Canadian Navy during World War 2. It had the distinction of sinking more enemy submarines than any other Canadian warship. Long-time SHS member Steven Green has graciously donated a box of Cap Tallies from HMCS Swansea to our

Society. Cap Tallies are the silk ribbons, embossed with the ship's name, which sailors wore on their caps as a means of identification. As a fund-raiser for the Society, and while quantities last, we are offering these ribbons for sale for \$10.00 each. We expect these will appeal to collectors of Swansea memorabilia and military memorabilia.



Financial Notes: As we progress through our 2024-2025 financial year, our Treasurer, Wendy Board, has reported that our finances are healthy, and our application for the annual Heritage Organizations Development Grant (HODG: historically \$1,545 per year) has been approved by the Province of Ontario.

We are pleased to remind you that the Swansea Historical Society can now accept payments electronically. E-transfers directed to swanseahistoricalsociety@gmail.com will result in a direct deposit to the SHS bank account at Scotiabank. This e-transfer approach can be used to pay membership fees, purchase publications, make donations to the Society, etc. (As a registered charity, the Society can provide tax receipts for donations). We invite you to give it a try. In order to assist our Treasurer with her accounting, if you are sending money by e-transfer, please use the “message” area to identify the purpose of your payment.



Website Page of the Month

This month's page is Runnymed & Bloor:

swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/swansea-history/photos



Laying tracks in 1917 at Runnymede and Bloor, in front of CIBC (now McDonalds). Via Toronto Archives and Swansea Historical Society.



Historical Photo of the Month

Howard's grocery store, 33 Lavinia Ave, 1913.





Communicating With Your Society

You can follow our activities through the Society's website www.swanseahistoricalsociety.ca and the website of the Swansea Town Hall www.swanseatownhall.ca . You can also follow us on Twitter ("X") at twitter.com/Swansea_History or Instagram at www.instagram.com/swansea_history .

If you wish to contact us, the Society's mobile telephone number is 647-859-3901, and you can send e-mails to: swanseahistoricalsociety@gmail.com or swancnews@gmail.com or through the SHS website. Our mailing address is 95 Lavinia Avenue, Box 102, Toronto ON M6S 3H9. However, for urgent items, we suggest that you use email or telephone where possible, since we have only occasional access to our mailbox at the Town Hall. Your comments and suggestions are always most welcome, and please let us know of any developments that may be of interest to the Society and its members.



2025 Swansea Community Calendars

This is a friendly reminder that the 2025 Swansea Community Calendar is now available. As in recent years, the price has been held at \$10.00. Calendars can be purchased at any SHS events or over-the-counter at the Swansea Town Hall. We can also respond to orders placed by telephone or email, in which case we can send you the calendars by Canada Post, or perhaps drop them off if you are in the area.



"Memory Game" Answers: How many of these street names were you able to match up? According to the information in our Archives:

- A. The former Bertha Street is now (2.) Durie Street
- B. The former Chestnut Avenue is now (8.) Verbena Avenue
- C. The former Craig Street is now (3.) Beresford Avenue
- D. The former Elizabeth Street is now (1.) Runnymede Road
- E. The former Oak Avenue is now (7.) Ostend Avenue
- F. The former Park Road is now (6.) Deforest Road
- G. The former Runnymede Gardens is now (4.) Coe Hill Drive
- H. The former Thompson Street is now (5.) Kennedy Avenue



Membership

As of September 1, 2024 we are in a new membership year which extends to August 31, 2025. Some of you have already paid your membership for 2024-2025, and we thank you. If you have not yet paid your membership fees for 2024-2025, we invite you to do so at your earliest convenience. Fees can be paid at any SHS events, or payments can be sent to: 95 Lavinia Avenue, Box 102, Toronto, M6S 3H9, or fees can be paid electronically by e-transfer to: swanseahistoricalsociety@gmail.com . As requested above, in order to assist our

Treasurer, please use the "message" area to indicate whether your e-transfer payment is for a single membership, family membership, and/or donation, etc.

Your fees help to offset many of the costs incurred by the Society in its ongoing operations. If you are reading this and you are not already a member of the Swansea Historical Society, please join us so that you can be added to our mailing list and help support this worthy cause.



SWANSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**2024/2025 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