

SWANSON NEWS

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



Wednesday, Dec 4, 2024, 7:30 pm

Rousseau Room - Swansea Town Hall

SPEAKERS: Trina Josdal and Amy Lintunen

The “Her-Story” of Tap

*The Swansea Historical Society thankfully acknowledges
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President's Message: by Bob Roden, President

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.

The October meeting included a successful Annual General Meeting and Elections. In addition to the Board members who were re-elected in October, we are very pleased to welcome Fereshteh Hashemi to the SHS Executive. Fereshteh is a long-time resident of Swansea, and she has expressed a particular interest in working with the SHS Archives.

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



Future Events



Monthly SHS meeting, Wed. Dec. 4, 2024, 7:30 pm: Speakers: Trina Josdal and Amy Lintunen – “*The ‘Her-Story’ of Tap*”. Women have played a huge role in ensuring tap dance was able to bridge the gap from the 1970s into today's era of technology. From producing documentaries to organizing the first tap-dance festivals, women have ensured the art form could thrive by bringing tap dancers from the vaudeville era with their wealth of experience and history to the next-generation dancers.

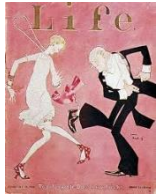
This past spring, Amy & Trina invited Brenda Bufalino, who at 86 years young is considered one of elders of the genre, to come and teach at Swansea School of Dance as well as perform a unique show at Runnymede United Church that highlighted her lineage. As long-time mentees of Brenda, as well as studying under other legendary woman in tap dance - Dianne Walker, Jane Goldberg, Dorothy Wasserman-Anderson, Barbara Duffy, and others - Amy & Trina will be carrying on the oral tradition of tap, passing on their learnings on the 'her-story' of tap. And, of course, get ready to tap your feet along with them, as Amy & Trina bring a little pizzaz as they perform some of the historic repertoire shared down the generations by so many amazing women tap dancers who came before them.

Trina Josdal & Amy Lintunen are co-directors of Vintage Taps, a vaudeville-inspired tap-dance company. They are dance instructors at Swansea School of Dance and active members of the community.

Given the nature of the topic, which will include music and live dance, we suggest the event will be best experienced in-person, on-location. We will offer our usual hybrid format for those unable to attend in-person. The Zoom connection will be open by 7:15 pm on December 4, and the evening's program will start at 7:30 pm.



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.



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!



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 submitted to the Province of Ontario.

We are pleased to remind you that the Swansea Historical Society can now accept payments electronically. E-transfers directed to swanseahistoricalociety@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 Herne Hill: swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/swansea-history/photos/



Herne Hill, the home of John Ellis was located on the height of land that is now Woodland Heights. Via Swansea Historical Society



Historical Photo of the Month

Sam The Record Man, Bloor & Jane 1978.





Swansea Historical Society Contact Information

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 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

We are pleased to announce that the 2025 Swansea Community Calendar is now available. As in recent years, the price has been held at \$10.00. Some of our members like to buy multiple copies, as they can be great Christmas gifts.

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.



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