



Wednesday, Feb 7, 2018, 7:30 pm

Rousseau Room - Swansea Town Hall

**SPEAKER:** John Beram

**The Beginnings of the Canadian Auto Industry**

Visitors Welcome! Light Refreshments!

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



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**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

2017 was a very busy and exciting year, with many special events celebrating the Sesquicentennial of the Dominion of Canada and the Province of Ontario. This year 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One (also known as “The Great War” – the war that was supposed to end all wars). If you have any ideas of things your Society could do to commemorate this significant historical milestone, please let us know. In the meantime, we have an exciting line-up of speakers scheduled for 2018, and we will soon be booking for 2019.

I am pleased to report that John Meijer has agreed to take on the responsibilities of Auditor for the Swansea Historical Society. By the time you read this newsletter, we anticipate that John will have completed his review of the financial records for the 2016-2017 financial year (which have already been reviewed by Maureen Shortt). We anticipate that Maureen and John will continue to work in tandem in the coming years. Many of our readers know John already in his role as President of the Swansea Area Ratepayers' Association. Thank you, John and Maureen.

We still need a Secretary and a Publications Coordinator. Please give some thought as to how you could get more involved and share your talents with us.



### ***Congratulations***

On November 15, 2017, Parkdale-High Park MP Arif Virani presented a commemorative Canada 150 pin and award to “20 exceptional individuals who have made a lasting impact in our community”. As noted on MP Virani's website, “These pins are not only commemorative of the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation; they were made from the copper roof of the House of Commons itself! This riding, this collection of communities, is comprised of compassionate, engaged, and informed people who make it such an incredible place to live; a place I am proud to represent. This fact truly made it a challenge to select only 20 change makers from our community. But, to me, that is a testament to how profound their impact has been.”

Congratulations to SHS members Madeleine McDowell and Jack Slaughter who were honoured with Canada 150 awards. Rev. Alexa Gilmour, the minister of Windermere United Church in Swansea, was also selected for an award. To see the complete list of 20 Parkdale-High Park “change-makers”, visit

<http://avirani.liberal.ca/news-nouvelles/celebrating-parkdale-high-park-change-makers/>



### ***Swansea Historical Society Website***

We are pleased to report that the Swansea Historical Society's website is now live on the internet. We invite you to have a look at our newest creation and let us know what you think. Any suggestions (or corrections) would be gratefully accepted. To visit the Society's website, simply go to: [www.swanseahistoricalociety.ca](http://www.swanseahistoricalociety.ca) . Kudos to

Executive member Sarah Lowenberg for all of her hard work and creativity in making this happen. Sarah is an IT professional, whose specialty involves assisting her clients to gain benefits from using the internet and social media. She has been a member of our Executive team since March 2016.

Happy surfing!

### ***In Memoriam***



We were saddened to learn that Indra Krishnar passed away on December 11, 2017, at the age of 71. She was born October 24, 1945, in Sri Lanka (formerly known as “Ceylon”). Among her many interests, Indra was a faithful member of the Swansea Historical Society, Swansea Horticultural Society, and St. John's West Toronto Anglican Church. Indra was predeceased by her husband and one son. She is survived by one son and one daughter. We extend our deepest sympathies to Indra's extended family.



### ***2018 Swansea Community Calendars***

The 2018 calendar is now available for purchase at monthly meetings and over the counter at the Town Hall. The price is still \$8.00, as in past years. Also, for those who enjoy looking at historic pictures, we still have some 2017 calendars for sale at a reduced price, as well as individual calendars and bundles of calendars from previous years.



### ***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 [swanseahistoricalociety@gmail.com](mailto:swanseahistoricalociety@gmail.com), and the Society's mobile telephone 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.swanseahistoricalociety.ca](http://www.swanseahistoricalociety.ca) is now operational. Information related to the Swansea Historical Society, and other local organizations, is posted on the web-site of the Swansea Town Hall: [www.swanseatownhall.ca](http://www.swanseatownhall.ca). Also, we invite you to visit us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Swansea\\_History](https://twitter.com/Swansea_History) or Instagram at [www.instagram.com/swansea\\_history](http://www.instagram.com/swansea_history). (Note the underscore “\_” between “Swansea” and “History”).



### ***Future Events***

***Wednesday February 7, 2018 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall***  
Speaker: John Beram – “The Beginnings of the Canadian Auto Industry”. John Beram, a local history enthusiast and story-teller, will return to Swansea to discuss the early days of the

automobile industry in Canada, with special reference to the role of West Toronto in the development of the industry.

**Wednesday March 7, 2018 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: Kelly Mathews – “Eaton Hall: Pride of King Township”. Shortly after the 1922 death of department-store heir John Craig Eaton, his widow Lady Flora Eaton had a palatial 72-room country estate built on the family's King City property. Rediscover an enchanting and bygone age with the life and history of Lady Eaton and her grand Eaton Hall, where she hosted many dignitaries including visiting British royalty. The estate now forms part of the King Campus of Seneca College, where our speaker, Kelly Mathews, is a member of the staff.

**Thursday, March 22 7:30 pm Montgomery's Inn (4709 Dundas Street West)** – The Etobicoke Historical Society presents Denise Harris on “Etobicoke: Past and Present in pictures”.  
[www.etobicokehistorical.com/events.html](http://www.etobicokehistorical.com/events.html)

**Wednesday April 4, 2018 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: Garfield Portch is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada – Canada's national stamp club since 1887. He will speak to us about the intrigues and politics involved in the establishment and operation of the Post Office in the Town of York, and subsequently the City of Toronto, in the 1800s.

**Wednesday May 2, 2018 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: Gay Gooderham. The Gooderham and Worts families emigrated from England in the early 1830s to the Town of York, shortly before it became the City of Toronto. Over the following 75 years, these families created the largest distillery in the world, centred on the area we now know as Toronto's “Distillery District”. Many significant landmarks associated with the Gooderhams survive in Toronto today. Gay Gooderham will share the fascinating story of her family, and also talk about her work in creating an online website [www.gooderham-worts.ca](http://www.gooderham-worts.ca) that includes a family tree with photos, documents, and stories.

**Wednesday October 3, 2018 SHS Annual General Meeting & Elections, 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall** Speaker: SHS Board Member and author Thelma Wheatley will return to the podium to talk about the subject of her latest book “Brown on White: Mixed-Race Marriage in Toronto in the 1960s”.

**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 4 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.



# MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!!

As of September 1 2017, we are now 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. If you have not already paid your dues for 2017-2018, please complete the form below at your earliest convenience and submit the form with your payment. Dues can be paid at any of our meetings, or you can send payment to: 95 Lavinia Avenue, Box102, Toronto M6S 3H9. Your fees help to offset many of the costs incurred by the Society in its ongoing operations.



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**