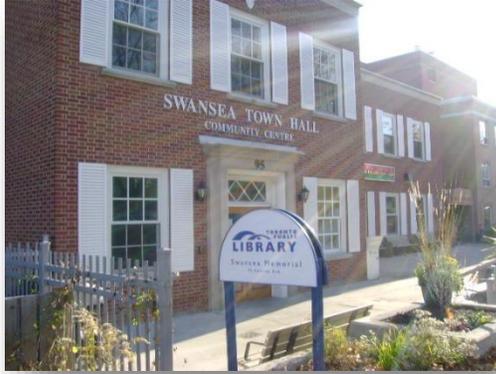
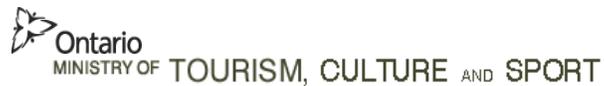


SWANSEA NEWS

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



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



Follow us!



Twitter: [@swansea_history](https://twitter.com/swansea_history) Instagram: [@swansea_history](https://www.instagram.com/swansea_history) Website: swanseahistoricalsociety.ca



Message from your Executive Regarding COVID-19

We are sorry to have to inform you that we have made the difficult decision to cancel all meetings of the Swansea Historical Society for the remainder of 2020. We trust you will understand the need to take this extreme step, which we had been delaying in the hope that more progress might have been made by now in the battle against COVID-19. However, new infections and new deaths continue to be reported daily, and there is widespread concern about the likelihood of a “second wave” in the fall. The Swansea Town Hall is still closed to the public, and scheduled events there are subject to stringent restrictions. Many of us are uncomfortable participating in indoor events at this time, and our October speaker has asked to be rescheduled to 2021. (We will not even be holding face-to-face meetings of the Executive for the foreseeable future).

As you may know, we already had to cancel the Swansea Historical Society meetings for April and May, 2020, as well as the annual historic walking tour in June 2020. We will be working to reschedule all of the speakers whose presentations have been disrupted by COVID-19, with the hope that we will be able to resume our normal meeting schedule in the new year, starting with Wednesday, February 3, 2021. (Traditionally, the Swansea Historical Society does not hold meetings in January). Of course, all arrangements must be treated as tentative at this time, given the uncertain future trajectory of the pandemic.

Unfortunately, the Archives will also remain closed to the public until further notice. We will advise you when regular Wednesday opening hours can be resumed. For now, we will do our best to respond to email or telephone requests for information, although our answers may be delayed somewhat because we have limited access to our files at the Swansea Town Hall.

In the meantime, we invite you to continue following 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 on 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 through the SHS website. Our mailing address is 95 Lavinia Avenue, Box 102, Toronto ON M6S 3H9. Your comments and suggestions are always most welcome.

PLEASE CONVEY THE ABOVE INFORMATION TO ANYONE WHO MAY NOT BE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER.



Governor Simcoe Walking Tour

Now that Toronto is in “Stage 3”, we are confident that it will be safe to proceed with the annual Governor Simcoe historic walking tour on Saturday, September 26, 2020, if there is sufficient interest. This FREE guided tour retraces a portion of Simcoe's 1793 expedition up the Toronto Carrying Place portage route. As in past years, Part 1 of the tour will start at 9:30 am at the Rousseau plaque (8 South Kingsway, beside the Petro Canada station). After a break for lunch on Bloor Street, Part 2 will start at 1:00 pm at the Alex Ling Fountain (north-west corner of Bloor and Jane Streets). This is an outdoor event, but we will be asking participants to wear masks and observe physical distancing for added protection. We are also requesting advanced registration by email or telephone. If you think you might be interested in participating, please let us know that you are thinking of joining us for Part 1, or Part 2, or both Parts, as this will facilitate contact tracing if necessary, and it will allow us to assess the level of interest.



HistoricTO and Montgomery's Inn Walking Tours

The interiors of Toronto's History Museums are closed to the public until further notice. “HistoricTO” has been created to provide opportunities to learn about local history from a new perspective, and with stories that might be less familiar, while helping to reduce the spread of COVID-19. HistoricTO is a time-ticketed, guided neighbourhood walking-tour experience that connects Toronto's communities by providing equitable and inclusive access to local history, heritage, and land-based learnings at Toronto History Museums. The program has been designed following the “COVID-19 Guidance for Cultural & Heritage Institutions and Attractions” from Toronto Public Health.

As part of HistoricTO, Montgomery's Inn at Dundas Street West and Islington Avenue is offering walking tours daily from Wednesday through Sunday until September 4. The tours are 60 minutes in length, starting at 11:00 am, 12:30 pm, 2:00 pm, and 3:30 pm. Admission is pay-what-you-can, with a suggested donation of \$10.

Inns were at the very center of their respective communities, providing conviviality and shelter, food and drink, and a safe place to share stories and ideas. The tour will cover the Montgomery farm, and offer an opportunity to meet some of the people, from First Nations people to settlers, who traversed the grounds of Montgomery's Inn and the neighbouring Thomas Riley Park, including Chinese market gardeners like Willie Chung who was born at the Inn in 1937, and farm hands like Joshua Glover whose flight to freedom along the underground railway would galvanize the abolitionist movement in the United States and inspire the formation of the Republican Party. The walk features an exploration of nearby Mimico Creek, and includes a gentle paved slope and a short walk up a grassy hill.

To register please visit montgomerysinn.streamintickets.com/events/Walking-Tour. For more information on this tour and walking tours offered by other City of Toronto History Museums, see www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/history-art-culture/museums/plan-your-museum-visit



Welcome Our New Treasurer – Wendy Board

We are pleased to report that long-time SHS member Wendy Board has volunteered to take on the position of Treasurer, effective as soon as the handover from Wallace Boustead can be completed. We welcome Wendy to our Executive and we ask that you give her your full support. Once again, we will have a husband-and-wife team on the Executive, as Wendy's husband, Richard Fogel, has been our Newsletter Editor and Publicity Coordinator since 2014.

Thank you, Wendy, for agreeing to take on this important job on behalf of our members.

Thank you, again, to Wallace for all your work as Treasurer for the past 8 years. We are pleased that you will be continuing on the Executive as a “member-at-large”.



Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Elections

In a normal year, the Annual General Meeting and Elections would be held as part of the October monthly meeting. Since the October 2020 meeting has been canceled, other arrangements will have to be made. In the meantime, the current Executive will continue to serve, with a mandate to add new Executive members if required.



Swansea Community Calendars

Copies of the 2020 version of the ever-popular Swansea Community Calendar are still available for purchase at the reduced price of \$5.00. We are planning to produce a 2021 calendar, which will be priced at \$10.00 – availability date to be announced. While the Town Hall is closed, and in the absence of face-to-face meetings, orders can be placed by email, telephone, or regular mail to have calendars mailed to you by Canada Post. If you live close by, we may even be able to arrange to have your calendars hand-delivered!



Financial Update

The principal sources of income for the Society are membership fees, publication sales, donations, and government grants. Since March 2020, these sources have essentially dried up. On the other hand, except for ongoing items such as insurance, telephone, and internet, our expenses have also been lower than usual, so our finances are still under control.

In June, we submitted an application to the Government of Ontario for the annual “Heritage Organization Development Grant”. We hope to receive word soon regarding this grant, which has been providing \$1,545.00 in financial support to the Society each year. In August, we applied to the Federal Government's “COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Heritage Organizations”, which could potentially provide up to \$5,000.00 to make up for income lost as a result of the COVID-19 lock-downs.

We would also be grateful for any financial support our members can provide. The Swansea Historical Society is a registered charity, qualified to issue tax receipts for donations.



Website Page of the Month

This month's page is Swansea

History: swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/swansea-history

HOME NEWS ▾ EVENTS ▾ SWANSEA HISTORY ▾ PUBLICATIONS ▾ ABOUT ▾ CONTACT ▾

Swansea History

View south from from the Ellis grounds on Herne Hill shows the car barns for Lakeshore Street Cars (left), the Brydson house and the West Toronto Junction Pumping Station – and Lake Ontario. Mr. Brydson was the foreman of the Chapman Ice Company and his home (white) was on the right side of Ellis Avenue. The Brydson home was for a period of time the post office for Swansea. Farther down on the west side of Ellis Avenue was the West Toronto Junction Pumping Station which piped water up Ellis Ave, Kennedy Ave and Runnymede to the Junction. Photo by R. C. Smith from the A. Adamson Collection, Ontario Archives via Toronto Library.



Historical Photo of the Month

This is just one of many local historical photos in our 2020 Swansea Community Calendar. More

information: swanseahistoricalsociety.ca/publications/calendars/



Morningside Avenue showing the home of R. C. Smith and Morningside Presbyterian Church as it appeared between 1891 and 1915
(Swansea Historical Society Archives)



Membership Fees

As of September 1, 2020, we will be in a new membership year. In a normal year, the annual fees are \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family.

Because of the extraordinary current circumstances, we are extending a special offer to our members. Effective immediately, any renewals or new memberships will be considered valid for a two-year term, from September 1, 2020, to August 31, 2022, at the one-year rate. In the absence of monthly meetings, 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.



SWANSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



2020/2022 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