

The Funeral Advisory Society of Hamilton & District (Hamilton Memorial Society)

Celebrating our 31st year of service!

P. O. Box 89026, Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4R5, 905-389-8240

www.hwcn.org/link/fashd

Vol. 30, Spring, 2002

2002 Public Information Session and Annual Meeting
Monday, May 6, 2002, 7:30 p.m. Hamilton Public Library
55 York Blvd.

Forensic Pathologist - Medical Detective

Speaker: Dr. David E. L. King, MBBS, FRCPC, DMJ Path

We frequently read or listen to news reports about investigations of possible or confirmed cases of homicide. Witnesses are summoned, testimony is given about what was seen or heard about the event. In addition, the deceased is also subject to examination as to cause of death and perhaps the circumstances under which death occurred. The accuracy of this information can be critical in determining guilt or innocence. For this evidence, we rely on the expertise of medical doctors who have chosen to specialize in forensic pathology. Dr. King's distinguished medical career in this field spans some forty years, beginning in England, and, since the 1960's, here in Canada.

During the past 30 years he has performed approximately 9000 medical/legal autopsies, including over 350 cases of homicide. Dr. King has given evidence as an expert medical witness some 600 times in courts in Britain and in Canada. In some cases he has been advisor to the crown, and in others, to the defense. His expert opinion has been sought in numerous other civil and criminal cases involving homicides, as well as cases of assault, where victims are living persons. Come and join us for what promises to be a fascinating insight into the work of a forensic pathologist.

Everyone Welcome! Free Admission Refreshments will be served

Chairman's Message - from Pearl Davie

First, a big "thank you", to the Board of Trustees who faithfully attend the meetings and take care of the business of the society during the year. Shirley McGinley continues her efficient work as Treasurer. Our newest board member, Jake den Hartog, is doing an excellent job as Secretary (with able assistance from his spouse Jeannine Gauthier). Trustees Eileen Hayhoe, Dorrie Morgan and Jim Sackville continue their valuable input and assistance. We regret that Eleanor Carment will step down in May after completing her second three-year term; we will miss her insight and ideas.

We rely on Miriam Kramer, our membership secretary, to look after our membership records and

produce the newsletter, with quiet efficiency and good humour. I extend a sincere "thank you!" to our front line telephone volunteers who continue to offer answers and assistance to our members and to the public when they call us.

We're on the Net!

Secretary Jake has developed a website and E-mail address for the society, at no cost to the society, as part of the Hamilton Community Network. You can visit our site at:

www.hwcn.org/link/fashd

Thanks to FASHD member Steven Nagy, for helping us take advantage of this opportunity.

IF YOU TRIED TO CALL US: Our answering machine was out of order for part of December and January, but is now repaired and running again. We apologize to anyone who could not reach us during that time.

During the “down time”, I did receive some calls from people who had used the Federation of Ontario Memorial Societies’ website, and subsequently became members.

Most of our new memberships have resulted from “word of mouth” recommendations to family and friends; we thank all those members who have spoken out about the advantages of belonging to our society. Memorial societies, operating on a tight budget, continue to provide information on funeral and cemetery costs and requirements. Our existence depends on the commitment of volunteers and the enthusiasm of our members. Could you lend a hand in some way? by standing for a term on the board, or making a voluntary contribution. If you can, please use the coupon provided. **A sincere thanks to all our supporters!**

IN MEMORIAM: We extend condolences to the wife and family of Bill Rayner of Oakville, who died recently. Bill served two terms on our board; designing our Vital Information Record, and working on other projects.

Funeral Advisory Society Trustees:

Pearl Davie, Chair	
Shirley McGinley, Treasurer	Eileen Hayhoe
Jake den Hartog, Secretary	Dorrie Morgan
Eleanor Carment	Jim Sackville

Telephone Committee:

Maureen Wright, Verna Stanek, Launa Ganann,
Len and Ruth Metcalfe, Connie Dunnett.

Membership Secretary: Miriam Kramer

*“Epitaph from Potterne, Wiltshire:
Here lieth Mary, the wife of John Ford.
We hope her soul is gone to the Lord.
But, if for Hell she has changed her life,
She had better be there, than be John Ford’s
wife.”*

“Death in a Multicultural Society”

Our 2001 Annual Meeting featured speakers from the First Nations, Buddhists, Islam and Hindu communities, describing their attitudes towards death, and funerals.

Among the First Nations, when a person dies, the chief contacts the Clanswoman, who gathers the Clan Mothers who dress the body and prepare food for feasting. “Food is life”. The night before burial, there is a wake, with drums and dancing, after which the drum stick is broken to signify leaving this world. After one year, a second feast severs final ties to this world.

Buddhists believe in rebirth - as another person, with a good person returning to a better life. A round-the-clock vigil over the deceased is observed for two to seven days, and mourners bring flowers and wreaths. A priest presides over a ceremony at burial or cremation, at which a cup is filled to overflowing to indicate the merits of the deceased. A week later there is a meal and more merits given, repeated again after three months.

Followers of Islam believe all guidelines for life are found in the Koran; upon death, everyone goes to a life of eternity, after being called to account for misdeeds.

Death care is a responsibility of the entire community. A casket is not necessary for burial; the deceased is wrapped in white cloth, and interred as soon as possible. A three-day period of mourning and condolences follows.

Hindus believe in reincarnation, so a long period of mourning is not needed, because the person has entered a new life, depending on his/her previous behaviour. Traditionally, the funeral is held on the day of death (not usually possible here), followed by cremation. The deceased is provided with water and food for the journey to the new life. After four days the ashes should be placed in the Ganges River.

All speakers said that cards or visits of condolence are acceptable ways to express sympathy for a death.

*Epitaph from Ashover, Derbyshire:
“To the memory of David Wall, whose superior
performance on the bassoon endeared him to an extensive
musical acquaintance. His social life ended on the 4th of
December, 1796.”*

Our Sincere Thanks to Members Who Made Donations to the Society!

Your generosity has been instrumental in making it possible to print and distribute this newsletter.

People have asked us...

CASKETS: If one purchases a casket directly from a retailer (e.g., casket store), is a funeral home required to use that casket at the funeral? The answer is "yes"; it is the consumer's choice. The funeral home cannot levy any additional charges for using a casket purchased elsewhere.

RELIABILITY OF CREMATORIES HERE: there is little likelihood of local crematories following the unethical practices which have shocked and grieved people in the U.S. Strict rules of procedure govern treatment of the deceased, and identification of cremated human remains.

CEMETERY PLOTS: Some members have been given misinformation when they have wanted to sell a cemetery plot. The Cemeteries Act 1991 requires cemeteries to buy back any plots they have sold, but at the *original price* paid, less the 35% or so designated for "care and maintenance". In most cases this buyback does not financially benefit the individual. It would be better, if possible, to arrange a transfer of the plot to a family member or friend. The cemetery, however, can gain, by reselling the plot at current prices - unfortunately, it's one of the little "glitches" in current legislation.

Include obituary costs in your funeral planning budget.

An obituary notice serves to advise people of a death and of any funeral plans. It is not a free service, and is not included in our Type A or B funeral prices. Current rates in the *Spectator* are \$4.39 (plus tax) per printed line, per insertion. Most notices contain at least twenty lines, and are run for two or three days,

which will cost nearly \$200., plus a fee to the funeral director if he/she composes and places them.

Epitaph from Pentewan, Cornwall:
"In this here grave ye see before ye, Lies buried up a dismal story. A young maiden who was crossed in love, and taken to the realm above. But he that crossed her, I should say, deserves to go t'other way."

List of Cooperating Funeral Homes, Spring, 2002:

J.B. Marlatt Funeral Homes (1985) Ltd.	615 Main St. East, Hamilton, L8M 1J4	(905)528-6303
	195 King St. West, Dundas, L9H 1V5	(905)627-7452
Markey-Dermody Rosedale Chapel	1774 King St. East, Hamilton, L8K 1V7	(905)547-1121
Cresmount Funeral Home Ltd.	322 Fennell Avenue East, Hamilton, L9A 1T2	(905)387-2111
Truscott, Brown and Dwyer Funeral Chapel	1309 King St. East, Hamilton, L8M 1H2	(905)549-2417 or 905-6161
Donald V. Brown Funeral Home	36 Lake Avenue Dr., Stoney Creek, L8G 3N3	(905)662-2948
Smith's Funeral Homes	485 Brant Street, Burlington, L7R 2G5	(905)632-3333
Beckett-Glaves Family Funeral Centre	88 Brant Ave., Brantford, N3T 3H3	(519)752-4331
Hill & Robinson Funeral Home	30 Nelson St., Brantford, N3T 2M8	(519)752-2543
Thorpe Brothers' Funeral Home Co. Ltd.	96 West Street, Brantford, N3T 3E7	(519)759-2211
Ballard-McDonald Funeral Services Ltd.	315 Broad St. East, Dunnville, N1A 1G4	(905)774-7277
Ward Funeral Homes, Oakville Chapel	109 Reynolds St., Oakville, L6J 3K4	(905)844-3221

TO: THE FUNERAL ADVISORY SOCIETY, P. O. BOX 89026, HAMILTON, ONTARIO L8S 4R5

I ENCLOSE \$..... as a voluntary donation to the Society Please send a Receipt:

NAME..... ADDRESS

CITY/TOWN..... POSTAL CODE TELEPHONE

Questions, Complaints, Comments; request for additional publications (see reverse)

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Funeral Legislation may be revised- report from the Federation of Ontario Memorial Societies - Funeral Consumers Alliance (FOOMS-FCA):

In 2001, the Ministry of Consumer and Business Services undertook a review of the "Funeral Directors and Establishments Act 1990" with a view to making major changes. The FOOMS-FCA Legislation committee, along with other consumer groups and members of all segments of the industry; funeral directors, transfer services, casket retailers, cemeteries, monument dealers, etc., participated in a series of meetings of a "Bereavement Sector Advisory Committee". These meetings were chaired by retired superior court Judge, the Hon. George Adams and members of the Marketplace Standards branch, MCBS. Memorial societies were represented by Pearl Davie, Hamilton, Chair of FOOMS' Legislation

Committee, and Elly Elder, Toronto society. They insisted that any new legislation must include increased consumer protection, against deceptive practices and for freedom of choice; and called for creation of a Code of Ethics for the Bereavement Sector. As a result of these meetings, a report was submitted to the Minister, the Hon. Norman Stirling, who has reviewed it. There is no official word at this time on the progress of new legislation but the Federation will be advised when action is taken by the provincial government.

The participation of memorial society members in the legislative process provides a compelling reason why memorial societies are important; they are the only consumer group with an extensive knowledge of the funeral industry as it relates to Ontario citizens.

Are you a PFC?

Don't be a PFC (Procrastinator First Class) when it comes to completing your funeral arrangements, discussing them with family and friends and filing them with a funeral home. The "arrangements" include details. While it is important to make such major decisions as burial or cremation, service with or without body present, etc., there are many lesser decisions to consider. For example, where should *in*

memoriam donations to be directed; do you want special music or readings for a service; if cremation, what should be done with the cremated remains? Don't leave your family to face an array of difficult (and maybe expensive) choices .

*Epitaph in an Edinburgh cemetery:
"Erected to the memory of John McFarlane,
Drowned in the water of Leith,
By a few affectionate friends,"*

Publications available, for Members Only:

Member's Information Handbook \$3.00
Replacement Pre-Arrangement Forms \$4.00

Replacement Membership Card - Free
List, Cooperating Funeral Directors Prices - Free

For Anyone, (at no charge) upon request:

Society Brochure - Membership Application
"Consumer Information, Facts About Funerals"
"Vital Information Record"
"Readings for a Memorial Service"
M.O.R.E. Organ Donor Card

"Preparing for Approaching Death", palliative care article, North Central Florida Hospice, Inc. 1996
Powers of Attorney Kit, Ontario, with forms
N.B.: this latter item is costly to mail; a donation towards postage would be appreciated.

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP THE SOCIETY: As a candidate for nomination to the Board of Trustees _____

With publicity or other volunteer role: _____

Community group(s) that should know more about the Memorial Society are: _____

Please send me the following publications: