

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

Celebrating our 37th year of Service!

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

www.hwcen.org/link/fashd

Vol. 35, Spring, 2008

2008 Public Information Session and Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 6th, 2008
7:30 p.m.

Hamilton Public Library
55 York Blvd.

NATURAL BURIAL

Speaker: Michael Salisbury, President, Natural Burial Co-operative
Michael is the founding member and current president as well as
Principal of Earthartist Landscape Architecture, a design firm specializing
in planning and design of natural cemeteries.

Michael Salisbury will speak on the history and current status of the natural burial movement in Canada and other countries. Natural burial is an environmentally sustainable funeral alternative, which embraces the natural cycle of life. The advocates of natural burial believe that it helps to renew our environment while providing friends and family with an enduring, meaningful ritual.

The 2005 CBC Newsworld documentary 'Outside the Box' featured Salisbury's work in their story on the natural burial movement in Canada. Plan to attend this meeting and remember that friends and relatives are always welcome. They do not have to be a member as everyone is encouraged to come out.

Everyone Is Welcome! Free Admission

Past Chair's Message – from Alena Gabel

I'd like to thank all board members, telephone volunteers and membership secretary for their devotion during the past year. Due to an illness in the family I had to step down as Chair at the end of '07. Fortunately our Vice-President Karen Laposa agreed to be Acting Chair until this year's Annual General Meeting.

Attendance at our annual meetings has been fairly constant at about 35-40 people, most of whom are members. There have been exceptions where we have enjoyed a much larger crowd. However we would like to see a substantial increase this year and are appealing to our members to invite other family members and friends. A lot of valuable information is shared at these meetings and they offer an excellent opportunity to discuss your end of life wishes with those family members and friends. These meeting are meant to keep our membership informed about current issues that affect the death care industry. **We need your support, without you none of this is possible!**

Regards, Alena

Acting Chair's Message – from Karen Laposa

As Acting President, I want to take this opportunity to thank the membership and enjoy working with the Board on your behalf. However, while not taking this responsibility lightly, I have agreed to stay on until our May meeting at which time it is my desire that a new President is nominated or volunteers for the position. I have enjoyed serving the needs of FASHD members.

Karen

Funeral Advisory Society Trustees*:

Karen Laposa, Acting Chair
Jake den Hartog, Treasurer
Martin Dooley, Secretary
Jean Wheeler
Pearl Davie

*Alena Gabel resigned from the Board November'07

Telephone Volunteers:

Len Metcalfe, Verna Stanek,
Jean Wheeler, Maureen Wright

Membership Secretary: Miriam Kramer
Assistant: Eileen Hayhoe

Nominees are needed for the Board of Trustees

Please consider a greater involvement in the life of your society. There are six board meetings a year with congenial directors. Your input will help shape the future of our society.

The bylaws of the society require a total of seven trustees and we are currently in need of two more board members. Please consider standing for the Board of Trustees, or nominating another person whom you feel would be a good board member. There is no remuneration but genuine satisfaction in serving the membership and promoting the work of the society. Send the coupon in the newsletter or email funeralsociety@hwcen.org

Think of this as an opportunity to learn more about your society and how the death care industry operates in Ontario. During the past year your board members have discussed many matters of concern to the society.

Membership report

We were pleased to welcome 32 new members in 2007. Five people transferred in from other societies and two people transferred their memberships elsewhere. We were sad to receive word of the deaths of twenty-one members and extend sympathy to their families and friends. ** Please remember to notify the society if you change your address – each year nearly 100 newsletters are returned because members have moved. If you need to notify us or require more information, give our telephone volunteers a call @ 905-389-8240.

Our Finances

Our income is derived from three sources, one-time membership fees, donations and interest. In 2007 we received \$1,100.00 in membership fees, \$1265.00 in donations and \$197.30 in interest. Our main expenses are the telephone, printing of the newsletter, postage and rental for our meeting rooms.

Thanks to your generous donations, expenses exceeded income by only \$300, which was the lowest in the last ten years. As always, we depend on the donations of our members to balance our books.
Thank you for your ongoing support!

NEW!

The Board is considering setting up an 'IN MEMORY' column in the annual newsletter. If a member wishes to make a donation of any amount to the society in memory of a loved one, the name(s) will be published in this column. Please let us know if you think this would be a good idea, so we can set up for the 2009 Newsletter. THANKS!

PLEASE REMEMBER that donations toward the financial health and continuing work of the society at any time are greatly appreciated.

Read our Newsletter Online

Every year the cost of printing the newsletter and sending it out in envelopes with first class postage (to guarantee its return if a member is not at the address we have in the file) continues to rise. If you would like to receive the newsletter on line, please email that message to funadsoc@yahoo.ca With this procedure we obtain your email address for the newsletter. This is like making a \$1.00 donation every year; and assists in cutting costs to serve you better.

POWER OF ATTORNEY – POA

We hope our members have appointed an attorney for their property and/or personal care. If you haven't, the society can send you a booklet of forms from the Ontario Government, or you can call 1-800-366-0335 to obtain one. Your attorney(s) has/have a serious obligation to act in your best interests and can be called to account for his/her actions. You can put limits on what they can do regarding your property and care. If you choose to appoint an institution (e.g. a trust company) they will charge a fee. If you appoint an individual they are legally entitled to compensation but you can limit or increase the amount. As long as you are mentally competent you can revoke or revise the powers of attorney if you are no longer happy with the arrangement.

FEDERATION of ONTARIO MEMORIAL SOCIETIES

At the Sept. '07 FOOMS conference, Hamilton's Pearl Davie was re-elected as president and Miriam Kramer as secretary. Issues discussed included the safety of body parts and tissue used for transplant after the incident in the U.S. where some were illegally and improperly removed and distributed. The Trillium Gift of Life Network says Ontario tissue banks can supply only some 8% of tissue needs. The balance comes from other provinces or the U.S. Health Canada is preparing protocols for registering all suppliers of tissue to Canada.

Memorial Societies summarized their traditional functions as: consumer advocacy, providing information to enable consumers to make dollar-savings choices, consumer defence, lobbying, and providing access to choices and compassionate listening. A new role was also identified - promoting greener, responsible disposition of remains. It was discussed that a new mission for societies may be to support choice that honours the dead while serving the needs of the living, which is ecologically as well as emotionally responsible.

FEDERATION of ONTARIO MEMORIAL SOCIETIES cont.
This new funeral legislation is expected to permit alternatives to casket burial or cremation such as freeze drying or woodland forest burial. These methods will emit fewer contaminants to soil or air.

FOOMS-FCA – Legislation Committee continues its efforts with the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services toward ensuring enhanced consumer protection in the legislation governing the after death care industry. It is hoped the **Funerals, Burials and Cremation Services Act** will be proclaimed sometime in 2008 so that regulations can be enforced for the public's benefit. Pearl Davie & Albert Gruno

JOINT ACCOUNTS

Joint accounts with right of survivorship between a parent and child can lead to problems when the parent dies, unless it is clear whether the parent intended the assets in the account to be a gift to the child, or whether they are to be considered part of the total estate. If there are several heirs, disputes can arise. Make sure there is a written record setting out the parent's intentions for the disposition of the account after his/her death.

JOINT BILLING of Utility bills, etc.

It is important to have utility bills directed to both parties sharing the house or apartment. If the bills are directed to only one party and that person dies, the survivor may be faced with 'new customer' charges from the utility firm just to continue the service. Both names must be listed on the account to avoid any interruption of service. Even in cases where the utility company agrees to forgo the new account fee when the surviving spouse is not jointly listed, it can be overwhelming when dealing with this issue after the death of a spouse. Carefully examine all your bills and make this necessary change immediately to avoid any future problems or additional fees.

2007 Annual Meeting

Martin Dooley introduced Samantha Winemaker of McMaster University, who spoke on "Palliative Care: The Availability And Resources For Those Diagnosed With An Incurable, Progressive Illness". An interesting and informative presentation was followed by a question and answer period. Martin thanked the speaker on behalf of all those present.

Seniors Beware:
Criminals often target older persons because they can have large sums of money due to life savings. Seniors can be lonely and seek companionship, so they tend to let down their guard and allow people into their homes and personal lives. Call your local police department for more info on Senior Scams.

We'd like to know –

The Board of Trustees is concerned whether the FASHD is meeting the needs of its membership. Let us know by emailing us at funeralsociety@hwcnc.org

- If you have had a positive experience in the past few years with a funeral provider in carrying out arrangements for a loved one, please let us know.
- If you have had a less than positive experience, we would also like to know so we can give it our attention. You can send your comments to P.O.Box 89026, Hamilton L8S 4R5 or email us.

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Considering donating your body to science? For up to date information on "Body Bequeathals" visit the McMaster University Anatomy Department website, mcmaster.ca/anatomy/bequeathals or telephone 905-525-8140 ext.22273.

NOTE: There is a transportation charge made for pickup and delivery of the body.

"BIG DEATH – Funeral Planning in the Age of Corporate Deathcare" is a new book by Doug Smith of Manitoba – Lots of interesting information on the funeral industry and the many changes due to corporate takeovers of funeral homes/businesses. Published by Fernwood Publishing @ 18.95 plus taxes/postage – www.fernwoodpublishing.ca

Estate Planning – Wills – etc.
If you plan to include charitable bequests in your will, take the time to get the precise name of the charity you want to help: e.g. several organizations may solicit funds for the same health issue (the registered charitable number would be helpful) and many churches have similar names (so the location should be given). If your executor cannot determine which one is correct, it will take time and your money to get the matter resolved.

Assets which may be overlooked
Many businesses and credit card companies offer loyal customers benefits of cash, air miles, etc. Some of these can build up to values of thousands of dollars. In the sad event you don't live to use them, your survivors may be able to have them transferred or you can designate a beneficiary and record that information with the company.

FLASHBACK – 20 years ago -The FASHD Spring 1998 Newsletter featured this little gem:

Someone said the structure of an organization is made up of four bones:

1. **Wishbones**, who spend their time wishing someone else would do the work
2. **Jawbones**, who do all the talking but little else
3. **Knucklebones**, who knock everything that anyone else does, and
4. **Backbones**, who get the work done.

The Nominating Committee of the society would welcome the names of some backbones!

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE for MEMBERS ONLY		for ANYONE (no charge) upon request *
Members Information Handbook	\$5.00	Powers of Attorney Kit – with forms
Replacement Pre-Arrangement Forms	\$5.00	Readings for a memorial service
Co-Operating Funeral Providers Price List –	free	Preparing for Approaching Death-palliative care
Replacement membership card	free	“Funeral Planning 101”
Vital Information Record	free	“ What to do when a death occurs”
Executor checklist	free	Organ donor information
		*donation toward cost of postage appreciated

List of Cooperating Funeral Providers, Spring 2007:

Marlatt Funeral Home & Cremation Centre	615 Main St. East, Hamilton	L8M 1J4	905-528-6303
Marlatt Funeral Home & Cremation Centre	195 King St. West, Dundas	L9H 1V5	905-627-7452
Markey-Dermody Funeral Home	1774 King St. East, Hamilton	L8K 1V7	905-547-1121
Cresmount Funeral Home Ltd.	322 Fennell Ave. East, Hamilton	L9A 1T2	905-387-2111
Truscott, Brown & Dwyer Funeral Chapel	1309 King St. East, Hamilton	L8M 1H2	905-549-2417
Dodsworth & Brown, Robinson Chapel	15 West Ave. North, Hamilton	L8L 5B9	905-522-2496
Donald V Brown Funeral Home	36 Lake Ave., Stoney Creek	L8G 3N3	905-662-2948
Smith’s Funeral Homes	485 Brant Street, Burlington	L7R 2G5	905-632-3333
Beckett-Glaves Funeral Homes	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	96 West Street, Brantford	N3T 3E7	519-759-2211
Ballard-Minor Funeral Home	315 Broad St. East, Dunnville	N1A 1G4	905-774-7277
Ward Funeral Homes	109 Reynolds St., Oakville	L6J 3K4	905-844-3221
Canadian Cremation & Burial Services Ltd.	1919 King St. E, Hamilton	L8K 1V9	905-545-8889
Affordable Burial & Cremation	697 Mohawk Rd. East, Ham.	L8W 3J6	905-389-2998
National Cremation Society	2289 Fairview St Unit 319, Burlington	L7R 2E3	905-631-3128 1-866-627-9474

I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THE LIFE OF THE SOCIETY

AS A BOARD MEMBER * OR HELPING WITH MAILING OR P.R. *

Name _____

Address _____ **City** _____

Postal Code _____ **Phone** _____ **Email** _____

***You can attend one of the regular board meetings as a guest if you would like to check it out!**

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

TO: Funeral Advisory Society, P.O. Box 89026, Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4R5 905-389-8240

***Please check the appropriate box/boxes

I enclose \$.....as a voluntary donation to the society **Please send a Receipt:.....**

I enclose \$35.00 to become a Lifetime FASHD Member

Name Telephone

Address City/Town

Postal Code Email Address

I enclose \$..... for the following publications.....

N.B. Photocopies or handwritten copies of this form are acceptable. Questions, Concerns, Comments, can also be included.