

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

*Celebrating our 38<sup>th</sup> year of Service!*

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

[www.hwcen.org/link/fashd](http://www.hwcen.org/link/fashd)

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**2009 Public Information Session and Annual Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 12th, 2009**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**First Unitarian Church**  
**170 Dundurn St. South, Hamilton\*\***

## "BRAIN HEALTH – A KEY TO HEALTHIER LIVING"

**Presenter: Karen Robins, Education Co-Coordinator, Alzheimer Society of Hamilton and Halton**

Karen Robins has 20 years experience in the field of geriatric care. From front line work in community settings to long term care, from staff supervision to caregiver counseling she has been helping seniors in a variety of roles. Karen will provide 'An Overview of Dementia and Brain Health'. As baby boomers age, some have experienced the 'sandwich generation' issues and are now looking into their own brain health.

This is an opportunity to better understand the brain, how it ages and what happens when things go wrong. Her topics will include detection, treatment and support services for family and friends.

***Everyone Is Welcome! Free Admission***

\*\* For the past several years the annual meeting has been held at the Main Branch of the Hamilton Public Library. This year while the library is undergoing renovations, our meeting will be held at the First Unitarian Church on Dundurn St. South. There is ample free parking, and the church is conveniently located close to transit service.

Bus service is along King Street if coming from the east and Main Street if coming from the west, with just a short walk to the Church – and Locke St. bus service close at hand.

***Bring a Friend! Refreshments will be served***

### **Chair's Message – from Pearl Davie**

Following the 2008 annual meeting, I was elected Chair of the Board of Trustees of FASHD – recycled again! It has been very rewarding work with an excellent group of Trustees. Martin Dooley is our Secretary who attends every meeting, prepares the minutes and sends out correspondence. Jake den Hartog is our Treasurer who faithfully records fees and donations and pays the bills. Ruth Roe, Sharon Stewart and Marianne Walters are newer board members who have taken a real interest in the society and willingly take on new duties as the need arises. Not on the board but serving as our Membership Secretary for many years is Miriam Kramer who records new members, sends out membership kits and maintains our records. Eileen Hayhoe fills in as membership person if Miriam is away. Telephone volunteers Len Metcalfe. Verna Stanek and Jean Wheeler are the first contact most members have with the society and continue their good work. My sincere thanks go out to all these great people who keep the society running smoothly throughout the year.

This is a very congenial group and I encourage members to stand for election to the Board of Trustees. We are now operating with a board of six members although our by-laws require seven. We meet six times a year to discuss members' concerns, review our co-operating funeral providers and decide on the future of the society and the content of the annual Newsletter.

Again this year a past board member/chair, Alena Gabel, prepared the newsletter for the Board and membership and we offer sincere thanks for her excellent efforts.

**Nominees are needed for the Board of Trustees – please consider a greater involvement in the life of your society. Only six board meetings a year with congenial directors and an opportunity to become involved and learn more about death care in Ontario.**

## Benefits of FASHD Membership

Several presentations have been made in the past months to community organizations and church groups on the value of pre-planning funeral arrangements and talking about them with family and friends. Of course the benefit of FASHD membership was discussed. However, word of mouth is our most important public relations tool. We ask that all of you speak with those close to you to help ensure they will prepare and preplan for the arrangements of their choice.

## Membership Report

It was a pleasure to welcome 47 new members in 2008. Two people transferred in to the Society and two others transferred to other societies. We were sorry to receive word that 28 members have died, and we extend sympathy to their families and friends.

From our newsletter mailing, about 66 letters were returned because members had moved. If you are planning a move, AND if you want to remain on our mailing list, please give us your new address.

We now have 61 members who read our newsletter on line. This saves us \$61.00 per year. If you also would like to read the newsletter on line, please send us an email message saying YES I DO to [funadsoc@yahoo.ca](mailto:funadsoc@yahoo.ca). This way we will get your email address. Thank you for helping us to become more profitable.

## 2008 FASHD Annual Meeting Summary

Martin Dooley introduced Mike Salisbury, President of the Natural Burial CoOperative, who spoke on the topic "Natural Burial – Giving Life back to the Earth". He gave an interesting presentation on the history of the natural burial movement and the current state of options in Ontario. The talk was followed by a question and answer period and thanks from Martin Dooley on behalf of all present.

## Funeral Advisory Society Trustees 2008-9

Pearl Davie, Chair  
Jake den Hartog, Treasurer  
Martin Dooley, Secretary  
Sharon Stewart  
Ruth Roe  
Marianne Walters

## Telephone Volunteers

Len Metcalfe, Verna Stanek, Jean Wheeler

## Go Green – Read Our Newsletter Online

Every year the cost of printing the newsletter and sending it out in envelopes with first class postage (so post office will return it to us if member is not at the address we have on file) continues to rise. If you would like to receive the newsletter on line, please email that message to [funadsoc@yahoo.ca](mailto:funadsoc@yahoo.ca). With this procedure we obtain your email address for the newsletter.

## Our Finances - Jake den Hartog-Treasurer

Income exceeded expenses by about \$400 in 2008. This was mainly due to an increase in memberships. The Board of Trustees also decided to hold their bimonthly meetings in their own homes to avoid the huge increase in meeting room rental fees. This move is working out well and will save the society \$200.00 per year. No question though – we need your ongoing support to operate a balanced budget.

Members donated \$1305 in 2008, \$1100 in 2007, \$1600 in 2006. Many thanks to all these generous donors – past and present. Please use the enclosed donation form and accept our sincere thanks for your gift. **We value your continued support!**

## FOOMS-FCA Annual Meeting 2008

Federation of Ontario Memorial Societies-Funeral Consumers Alliance - At its Annual Meeting last October, the Federation again elected Hamilton's own Pearl Davie as President.

It was agreed that FOOMS has two main goals. One is providing input and representation into the legislative & regulatory processes, through the work of the Legislation Committee, which played a role in developing the funeral legislation now in effect and has been involved in the drafting of the new law and regulations which are still in the works.

The second goal is providing support to societies by developing & sharing consumer information on the range of death care goods & services and how to plan for and access these services. This now falls to a "Spectrum of Choice" committee, examining choices which are or could become available for funeral celebrations and disposition of remains.

FOOMS received an offer of a donation from a former president of our society towards an annual award for best essay by a Grade 12 student on the benefits of planning a simple funeral. Working out the details is taking time; it is hoped to offer the award this year or next.

***The FOOMS-FCA 2009 Annual Meeting will be held again at Scarboro Mission, Toronto, on September 18, 19, 20.***

### What to Do When a Death Occurs:

If the deceased was a memorial society member and filled out pre-arrangement forms (or a similar detailed list) and filed them with a funeral director, many decisions about the funeral will have been made. Ideally, the deceased gave a copy of the form to a family member, or to the executor. Still, there will be many details left for family and/or friends to handle. If the deceased also left a completed Vital Information Record, that should help with many of the following items:

1. Call the funeral provider, giving the name of the deceased, location of the body, and mention if the deceased was a memorial society member. Set up an appointment to decide time and place of funeral and/or memorial service.
2. Go to the funeral provider with the pre-arrangement form copy, if available, and any prepayment receipts for the funeral and/or cemetery plot. If possible, bring birth and marriage certificates of the deceased.
3. Ask the funeral director or transfer service operator to give you several copies of the Death Certificate as it is required when applying for insurance/death benefits.
4. Make a list of family, friends, employer or business colleagues to be informed, by phone, if appropriate. Also prepare a list of distant relatives or friends to be notified, either by mail and/or printed notice.
5. Notify lawyer and executor. Select pall bearers (including honorary) if desired. Prepare obituary (optional). This may include age; place of birth; date and cause of death; list of immediate family; occupation; academic degrees; memberships; military service; achievements; other appropriate information.

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### FOOMS-FCA – Legislation Committee

Our Legislation Committee continues its efforts with the Ontario government to ensure enhanced consumer protection in the legislation governing the after death care industry. Since the review of the Funeral Directors and Establishments Act and the Cemeteries Act began in 2000, the Legislation Committee has worked on legislation and regulation with the policy people during four changes of ministries, five Ministers and four Deputy Ministers!

Many submissions have been made to the government on behalf of the citizens of Ontario in matters relating to funerals, burials and cremation services and access to alternatives. It is hoped the **Funerals, Burials and Cremation Services Act 2002** will be proclaimed early in 2009

6. Decide where *in memoriam* donations be directed. Plan for disposition of flowers after funeral; call the intended recipient to confirm they can be accepted. Arrange for family members or friends to answer the door or phone; keep a notebook to record all calls.
7. Delegate someone to be at home during the funeral service because this is a favourite time for attempted break-ins.
8. Coordinate supplying of food for the first few days. Other requirements such as cleaning could perhaps be done by friends or a maid service.
9. Check life and casualty insurance and death benefits, including CPP (these must be applied for) and affiliations – credit or trade union, fraternal, military, motor club, etc.
10. Promptly check all debts and installment payments. Some may carry insurance clauses that will cancel them. If there is to be a delay in meeting payments, consult with creditors and ask for more time.
11. If deceased lived alone, notify all utilities, landlord, and tell post office where to send mail. Canada Post will forward a deceased's mail for six months without charge. Take precautions against thieves.
12. Notify the Funeral Advisory Society if deceased was a member; we will update our records.

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### MISINFORMATION

In any business arrangement clients may not always be told the truth about their goods and services. In the death care sector, when misinformation may be given due to lack of knowledge or perhaps a desire to close a sale, the impact on the bereaved or a person doing preplanning is much more serious, given the stress of the situation. We endeavour to keep our membership advised and so offer the following:

\*A new member went to a co-operating funeral home to preplan arrangements. He was told that unless he prepaid at the time, the pre-arrangements would not apply at time of need and would have to be negotiated again. **Not True.** *If an arrangement is not prepaid the prices/cost will increase to whatever applies at the time of need but the arrangements stand as planned and should be kept on file and in force by the funeral provider.*

\*During a presentation to a church group we learned two people had been told by a cemetery salesperson that it was illegal in Ontario to be buried without a concrete vault (currently priced at around \$2000). **Not True.** *An individual cemetery may require, in their by-laws, that a vault be used, but over half the cemeteries in the province are municipal, religious, or very small and not all require vaults. If a person is told a vault is required by the cemetery they should ask to see the portion of that cemetery's by-laws relating to vaults.*

**MISINFORMATION\*\* continued**

\*Further, some local people have been told that the scattering of cremated remains other than in a licensed cemetery is illegal. **Not True.** Individuals may scatter ashes on 'unoccupied crown land, crown land covered by water and on private property given permission of the owner'. Scattering can be done in a conservation area given permission of the Ministry of Natural Resources. No one may make a charge for individual scattering.

\*\*If you have any questions regarding the validity of Information you are given, please call the Funeral Advisory Society of Hamilton and District, or the Board of Funeral Services which administers funeral legislation or the Registrar of Cemeteries.

**We'd like to Know-**

The board of Trustees is concerned whether FASHD is meeting the needs of its members. Please send us a note to PO Box 89026 or [funeralsociety@hwc.org](mailto:funeralsociety@hwc.org) If you have had a positive experience in the past few years in carrying out arrangements for a loved one, please contact us at [funeralsociety@hwc.org](mailto:funeralsociety@hwc.org) or mail. If you have had a less than positive experience, we would like to know that also so we can give it our attention. Please send your comments to P.O Box 89026 Hamilton, ON, L8S 4R5

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**List of Cooperating Funeral Homes, Spring, 2009:**

**Owned by Alderwoods Corp (Service Corporation International)**

Marlatt's Funeral Home & Cremation Centre	615 Main St. East, Hamilton, L8M 1J4	(905)528-6303
	195 King St. West, Dundas, L9H 1V5	(905)627-7452

**These funeral homes owned by Service Corporation International (SCI)**

Markey-Dermody Funeral Home	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 Dwyer Funeral Chapel	1309 King St. East, Hamilton, L8M 1H2	(905)549-2417
Thorpe Brothers' Funeral Home Co. Ltd.	96 West Street, Brantford, N3T 3E7	(519)759-2211

**Owned by the Trillium Corporation**

Dodsworth & Brown, Robinson Chapel	15 West Ave. North, Hamilton, L8L 5B9	(905)522-2496
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**These two funeral homes are owned by a local company, BGF. Holding Inc.**

Bay Gardens Funeral Homes	1010 Botanical Dr., Burlington, L7T 1V1	(905)527-0405
	947 Rymal Rd. East, Hamilton L8W 3M2	(905)527-0405

**This is a family-owned funeral home**

Donald V. Brown Funeral Home	36 Lake Avenue Dr., Stoney Creek, L8G 3N3	(905)662-2948
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**This funeral home is owned by Donald Scott Smith**

Smith's Funeral Homes	485 Brant Street, Burlington, L7R 2G5	(905)632-3333
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**These funeral homes owned by the Estate of Gordon C. Glaves**

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

**Owned by 1683110 Ontario Inc.**

Ballad-Minor Funeral Services Ltd.	315 Broad St. East, Dunnville, N1A 1G4	(905)774-7277
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**Owned by Kingward Investments Ltd. & Terralta Holdings Ltd.**

Ward Funeral Homes, Oakville Chapel	109 Reynolds St., Oakville, L6J 3K4	(905)844-3221
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**This transfer service is locally owned**

Canadian Cremation & Burial Services Ltd.	1919 King St. East, Hamilton, L8K 1V9	(905)545-8889
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**This transfer services is owned by the operators under 2020733 Ontario Ltd.**

Affordable Burial & Cremation Services Ltd.	697 Mohawk Rd. East, Hamilton L8T 3P7	(905)389-2998
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**Please Note** - The Board considered the request of **Bay Gardens** to be added to our list and approved of the addition. Also note that **National Cremation Society** has been deleted as we have been advised this firm is no longer operating in Canada. We were assured that anyone who had made arrangements with this firm was notified. *At the 2008 annual meeting of the Federation of Ontario Memorial Societies a policy was approved that memorial societies should add the ownership of funeral providers to their lists to advise members if an establishment is privately or corporately owned.*

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**PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE for MEMBERS ONLY**

Members Information Handbook	\$5.00
Replacement Pre-Arrangement Forms	\$5.00
Co-Operating Funeral Providers Price List –	free
Replacement membership card	free
Vital Information Record	free
Executor checklist	free

**For ANYONE (upon request \*)**

Powers of Attorney Kit – with forms	free
Readings for a memorial service	free
Preparing for Approaching Death-palliative care	free
“Funeral Planning 101”	free
‘What to do when a death occurs’	free
Organ donor information	free

*\*a donation toward cost of postage for any free item is appreciated*