

FUNERAL INFORMATION SOCIETY OF OTTAWA 2007 NEWSLETTER

In Support of Simplicity, Dignity and Moderate Cost in Funerals

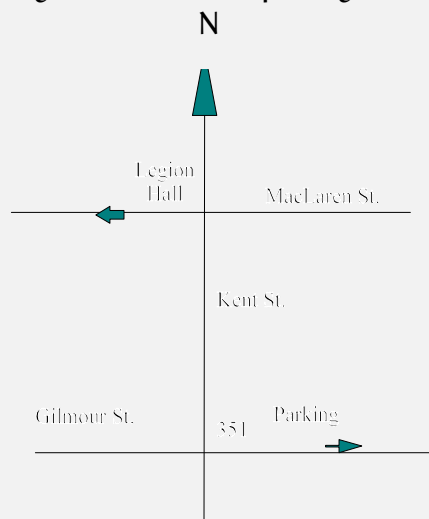
P.O. Box 32057 at 1386 Richmond Road, Ottawa, K2B 1A1
Telephone: (613) 828-4926
www.myfuneralplan.org/ottawa.htm

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, 5th June, 2007, 7:30 pm

Legion Hall (downstairs/elevator available), 330 Kent St at MacLaren St (NW corner).

Parking on-street or free parking lot off Gilmour behind the Legion National Hdqtrs 351 Kent.



Agenda

1. Welcome (Mary Nash)
2. Minutes of the 2006 AGM (Gillian Macdonnell)
3. President's Report (Mary Nash)
4. Treasurer's and Auditor's Report (Art Read)
5. Appointment of Auditor (Art Read)
6. Election of Board for 2007/2008 (Willy Dyck)
7. Other Business
8. Adjournment

Tentative Programme

Anne Lester, RN, In-Hospital Organ and Tissue Donation Coordinator, Ottawa Hospital.

Proposed Slate of Officers

Mary Nash
Art Read
Willy Dyck
Gillian Macdonnell
Werner Daechsel
(More names are needed)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In line with this Society's aim of keeping funeral costs in a reasonable range, we have this year continued to lower the cost of operating the Society. In this vein we have decreased our telephone expenses to less than half of last of year (from about \$50 per month to about \$20 per month.) We are also initiating, with a request in this newsletter, a move to distribute the newsletter by email in the future. This year we hope to send it to over 160 members in this manner. We encourage other members with emails to get in touch with us. More about this elsewhere in this Newsletter.

We have continued to work at the provincial level, with the Federation of Ontario Memorial Societies (FOOMS) by two of us (Art Read and Gillian Macdonnell) attending the FOOMS annual conference in Sept. 2006. Your society has also given a financial contribution to the legislative committee of FOOMS, which is busy ensuring that the voice of the consumer is heard in drafting new legislation concerning the operations of the funeral industry. Two members of the Board, Mary Nash and Werner Daechsel, have attended meetings of the Gift of Life Committee initiated by the First Unitarian Church in Ottawa to help increase organ donations. In connection with this, several Board members have also participated in the Kidney Foundation Run in Sept 2006 and the Living Ribbon event in downtown Ottawa on April 26, 2007. The idea of green burial continues to grow in Canada, with a recent article in the April 2007 issue of Harrowsmith magazine.

Mary M. Nash, President

EMAILING THE NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS - WE NEED YOUR EMAIL!

In order to save money and expedite mailing, your Board of Directors has decided to start sending out the annual newsletter by email. We hope you will agree to participate in this trial and beyond. Please let us know if you agree to this by responding by email to Art Read at abread@travel-net.com or Gillian Macdonnell at gmak@magma. Thanks for your help and continued support.

THANK YOU ...

Throughout the year but particularly after the newsletter has gone out, FISO receives donations from members. We sincerely thank you for your continued support of the Society. Even though we have not included donation envelopes with the newsletter this year, we encourage you to donate at any time. Every little bit helps.

The work of the Society is carried out entirely by volunteers,

many of whom serve on the Board. We wish to thank all Board members for working so hard for the Society during the past year and say goodbye and thank-you to those Board members whose term has ended - Sylvia Butt, Therese Caron, Agnes Friesen, and John Todd. Thanks to John Nash for helping out occasionally with the technical computer use and communication. This newsletter would not be possible without the able assistance of Eric Clyde who gathers the items and does the layout. Thanks again, Eric.

WANTED -- NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Many hands make light work - a cliché but so true. Your Society needs new people to step up to Board. Currently we are looking for 5 new Board members to serve a term of two years. The work is not difficult. We have about 4 board meetings a year held in members' homes, one usually in the pleasant surroundings of the rural Ottawa valley. Former Board members are welcome to re-enlist. Without more people on the Board, effective representation of your wishes in this important area of consumer interest will become more difficult and could possibly stop in Ottawa. Please contact Willy Dyck at 613 623 7075, or wdyck@ncf.ca for further information.

DESIGNATED TRANSPLANT FACILITATOR by Werner Daechsel

We have become aware that some people falsely assume that their signature on a donor card guarantees that their organs will be considered for donation. It is our understanding that in the Netherlands, legislation enacted in 1998 provides that a citizen consent on the prescribed form cannot be overruled by the family when the citizen dies. However, it can be overruled by family when a person between the ages of 8 to 18 dies and has signed an organ donation form (yes, one can sign a form at that age). Our advocacy is that consideration be given to providing a legislative basis for a citizen to appoint a Designated Transplant Facilitator who could not be overruled by the family. Such a designated friend, relative or neutral third party (similar to a power of attorney) would supersede the hierarchy of proxies who may give consent on behalf of a potential post-life donor for post-mortem removal of his or her organs and/or tissues.

In support of increasing the number of potential donors, we are also advocating expense reimbursement for living donors. At present, in British Columbia,

there is a fund to assist living donors with the costs they incur in donating an organ. At the moment, there is no such help in Ontario. We caution our readers that this is NOT paying a donor for their organ but paying for items such as transportation and lodging while undergoing pre-operative tests or lost wages during the recovery period if the donor's employer does not provide compensation.

DO YOU....?
by Art Read

1. Do you want to transfer your pre-paid funeral arrangements?

Hulse, Playfair & McGarry have advised us: "We want you to know that should any of your members who have funeral arrangements with a conglomerate company wish to transfer their arrangements we will absorb any administration fee levied."

2. Do you or your family feel that you would benefit from professional services after the funeral?

Tubman's offers a "Post Care Program" at no extra cost, designed to help you deal with the numerous estate related details.

3. Do you have an up-to-date list of funeral providers and the prices they have quoted this Spring?

If you are a Society member, just ask, and you shall receive.

4. Do you like the idea of a green burial?

It is not as easy to obtain as you might think, so let's all tell funeral providers and cemeteries alike, what we want in this regard. It won't happen otherwise.

5. Do you have any comments about the information that we send to new members?

Is it adequate? Is it easy to understand? We find that only about half of new members complete the pre-arrangement documents. Why is that? Turn on your computer and send your thoughts to Art Read (fb281@ncf.ca or abread@travel-net.com)

SCATTERING OF CREMATED HUMAN REMAINS

by Pearl Davie, February 2007

(Reprinted from: Federation of Ontario Memorial Societies, Funeral Consumers Alliance)

For the past number of years, information provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources as well as under the Funeral Directors and Establishments Act 1990 and the Cemeteries Act, Revised, individuals may scatter cremated human remains as follows:

On Crown land, public waterway or private property, given permission of the owner.

During the review of legislation and regulation, the Legislation

Committee of the Federation consistently stressed that the public must retain the right to scatter cremated human remains on an individual basis and not be restricted to scattering within a licensed cemetery for which, of course, a charge would be levied by the industry. This right has been retained as follows:

Under the new Funerals, Burials and Cremation Services Act 2002, (awaiting proclamation) individuals will retain the right to scatter cremated human remains as follows:

(a) on land, including land covered by water, if the consent of the owner of the land where the remains are to be scattered has been obtained,

(b) subject to clause (c) , on unoccupied areas of Crown land and on Crown land covered by water OR

(c) on land that is Crown land, including land covered by water, in provincial parks and conservation reserves, if the consent of the Minister of Natural Resources has been obtained.

(The reason for the last provision is to restrict individuals from carrying out the scattering in areas where there are campgrounds or recreational facilities or where there is frequent public use. The Federation will consult with the MNR to help ensure there is a reasonable process for obtaining such consent and that this condition of consent is not used to unduly restrict private scattering.)

The FBCS ACT 2002 also stipulates, with respect to land for scattering on a regular basis

No person shall maintain or set aside land to be used for the purpose of scattering cremated human remains unless that person is licensed as a cemetery operator and the land is within a cemetery. (This is so individuals will not set aside portions of private property to be used for other than occasional scattering.)

No person shall charge a fee for the use of land for scattering cremated human remains unless the person is a licensed cemetery operator and the scattering takes place on land within a cemetery. (This is to ensure no individual doing private scattering is charged a fee.)

The Federation is providing this information for memorial society members and the public to ensure that they are aware of their rights with respect to individual scattering of cremated human remains.

WHAT NOT TO DO WHEN DEATH OCCURS

by Willy Dyck

Our FISO website (www.myfuneralplan.org/ottawa.htm) lists one full page of things to do when death occurs. The internet lists over 17 million pages of what to do when death occurs. I would like to point out one thing we ought not to do when death occurs. Do not call 911. Deaths in the home can be sudden and unexpected. What sometimes happens in a home is that a person is suddenly found dead and the survivors, not knowing what to do, will dial 911. This, of course, brings on all the bells and whistles: the police, the ambulance, the emergency response team, etc., causing an unnecessary burden on resources and great confusion. In such a case, it is better to call your doctor or a funeral home. They would appraise the situation over the phone and make the proper arrangements.

But how would you know that your spouse is really dead? If you share a bed with your mate you may notice that he or she is rather cold to the touch if death occurred sometime during the night.

Death, by definition, is the cessation of all vital functions of the body such as breathing, heartbeat, and brain activity (including the brain stem). In addition, the most obvious signs of death include no pupil reaction to light, no response to hot or cold stimulation, no jaw and gag reflex (just put your finger into the throat), no response to pain. In a hospital there are more sophisticated, instrumental tests to determine whether a person is really dead.

Of course, there are situations where it is necessary to call 911 or the police if you can. In case of accidents or criminal activity, that is the first thing you would do if you could.

We could add such silly things such as pretending it did not happen, getting drunk, or running away, to the list of what

not to do but you, the readers, can probably think of a few more items to add to this list.

HUMANIST ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

The Ottawa Branch of the Humanist Association of Canada offers a funeral service for non-believers as an alternative to the traditional forms. Greater attention will be paid to the life of the deceased person, making it a celebration of their stay on earth. The service is dignified and reminisces on past relations, stressing love, the beauty of life, our existence as part of nature, and the naturalness of death.

For more information, please call Sheila Ayala, Humanist Association of Ottawa, 738-7720

DEATH AWAY FROM HOME

If death occurs in the USA the contact number 802-482-3437 will give your survivor(s) the number of the nearest cooperating memorial society funeral home. This funeral provider will in turn try to contact the funeral home in Canada (likely through the home society) where your prearrangement is on file, to determine what your wishes are and then carry them out as best circumstances will permit.

The "in Canada" number 416-241-6274 is that of the Toronto Memorial Society. They will connect with the home society who will contact the funeral provider with whom you are registered and advise them of the death. In the event prearrangement filing is still pending, your survivor(s) will be advised of the names of local cooperating funeral providers, and they will have to then decide who they wish to use.

Condensed Statement of Revenue & Expenditure - Dec 31, 2006

Revenue	2006	2005
Membership dues	1065	1168.00
Donations	1950	1890.00
Interest	513.20	441.60
Other	34	25.00
Totals	3562.20	3524.36

Expenditure

Newsletter printing & postage	1183.51	1205.10
Other communication costs	1039.63	1341.60
Honorarium	0	900.00
Other	517.45	486.24
Totals	2740.59	3932.94

Condensed Statement of Assets & Liabilities - Dec 31, 2006

Current Assets	11483.94	10793.82
Liabilities	0	0
Surplus Total	11483.94	10793.82