

Notice of 63rd Annual General Meeting

Sunday, November 29, 2020 1:00 pm Online (Zoom) Meeting

Volunteers ...

Thank you! Via our poll, several of our members are interested. Please send an email to info@fams and we will be in touch ♥

Member's Login / Voila! Members Tab

If you have not logged into FAMS (using your email + created a unique password), you are missing out on our member's documents and handbook- which is invisible until you login.
(fams.ca icon in upper right hand corner)

What has FAMS done in the last year?

We provide unbiased advice regarding funerals planning. Memorial society work is just as necessary today as it was decades ago. We have firsthand experience of our member's issues to attest to this need.

Pre-paid vs Pre-arranged

Statistically most funeral providers offer insurance versus accepting payment in advance. Advance payment requires the funeral home to maintain trusts which are registered by the BAO. If no monies are paid, there is no obligation to the funeral home or consumer as there is no contract.

FAMS Current Board

Chair: Ellen Papenburg
Treasurer: Miriam Kramer
Secretary: Sheila Middleton
Gov't Relations: Pearl Davie
Green Burials: Judith Wouk
Member: Jim Sannes
Member: Joyce Orchard
Member: Reno DeHaan

Retiring this AGM:

Past Chair: Margaret Adamson
Trustee: Doug McCann
Trustee: Al Gruno
Tel Volunteer: Lisa Gayk

In Memoria:

Vice-Chair: Shirley Zinman

Newsletter

Disruption has come to our lives. The planned Annual General Meeting (AGM) was slated for May in the Royal Botanical Garden's (RBG) meeting room. We were offered splendid meeting rooms, free parking, and full access to enjoy the gardens before and after our meeting. Tiptoeing through the tulips was a lovely concept.

We are mostly enjoying a spectacular fall with unfortunately more restrictions and bad news. A short time ago travel outside the Greater Toronto Area felt like freedom ... you could sit in a restaurant! Things have changed - now many other Canadians across the country are adapting to increasing public restrictions and measures.

FAMS has come a long way in the past year. Our memberships are now automated, and the ongoing cost of our application is offset by eliminating paid administrative support. Communications using our "new tools" is now an investment in time and teamwork - no printing, no stamps, no expensive mail returns. FAMS is finding new supporters and past members are rediscovering our society.

On the agenda

- Reports from the Board
- Speakers:
 - Carey Smith, CEO Registrar - Bereavement Authority of Ontario
 - Mark Richardson, Green Burial Society of Canada & Manager of Cemetery Services, City of Niagara Falls
 - Pearl Davie, Past President, The Federation of Ont. Memorial Societies - Funeral Consumer Alliance (FOOMS-FCA)
- Speakers panel with Q & A

Show up in your pajamas (or tux), grab a beverage (sun is over the yardarm) and join us for the 63rd Annual General Meeting.

Please feel free to contact FAMS with any questions or concerns either at our email address - info@fams.ca, or phone at 416-241-6274.

Thank you - we appreciate your support.

FAMS Board of Trustees



CTRL + CLICK TO FOLLOW ZOOM LINK → Meeting November 29, 2020 1:00 pm

The agenda and reports will be appended November 28th (Also available in Members tab at FAMS.ca)

Media Links:

Eco-death Takeover: Changing the Funeral Industry

A video by the author of the book "Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?" (recommended reading)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWo2-LHwGMM>

28 minutes, very informative and entertaining.

Article in The New Yorker: Some ways that I'm O.K. dying

by Mike Birbiglia

<https://www.newyorker.com/humor/daily-shouts/some-ways-that-im-ok-dying>

Short excerpt:

"I feel like I am O.K. with some versions of my own death. Like, maybe I go for a nice long walk, then I have dinner with my wife and daughter, maybe a phone call with an old college friend, and then a meteor hits the earth.."

There is one last death scenario I'd be O.K. with. To recap, so far it's:

- 1. Dinner with my family and then a meteor.*
- 2. Simon & Birbiglia followed by explosion."*

Article in The Globe and Mail: Ontario eyes move to digital wills

by Christine Dobby (Corporate Law Reporter) Globe and Mail

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-ontario-eyes-converting-emergency-pandemic-measures-on-wills-into/>

Intro excerpt:

"Changes made during the pandemic, including virtual signing and witnessing, could become permanent.

Ontario is considering converting emergency pandemic measures on signing wills electronically into permanent legal reforms and some lawyers are urging the province to make fully digital wills a reality."

From The New York Times: 'We're Going to See What Else the Word Funeral Can Mean'

"As the coronavirus pandemic limits people's ability to mourn, they are finding new ways to say goodbye."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/05/us/coronavirus-dilemmas-mourning.html?smid=em-share>

And from The Toronto Star: Why I am asking the Supreme Court to protect 10 public cemeteries

Created as a public trust, but now controversially, and I believe wrongly operated by its board and management as a private company. It is time for the cemetery's status to be legally clarified, and rightfully returned to the citizens who paid for it.

<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/2020/10/26/why-i-am-asking-the-supreme-court-to-protect-10-public-cemeteries.html>