

Funeral director elected OFSA president



NEW PRESIDENT. Cathie Turner was recently elected president of the Ontario Funeral Service Association. *Photo by Matt Driscoll*

BRACEBRIDGE — The Turner family has been a lynchpin of the local funeral services industry for years, and now they are using their experience at the provincial level.

Cathie Turner, who owns Reynolds Funeral Home - Turner Chapel along with her husband Bruce Turner, was recently named the president of the Ontario Funeral Service Association (OFSA).

Established in 1883, the OFSA pursues the interests of several hundred independent and family-operated funeral homes across the province.

"Our primary role is to be an advocate for smaller and independent providers in Ontario," said Turner last week. "We look at legislature ... and government regulations to ensure that rules are fair across the industry."

The OFSA also works to help educate the public. To that end they launched their "loss, grief and growth" program in Grimsby-area schools this September. The program is designed to help teachers, students and parents better understand and cope with loss, and not strictly as it pertains to death.

"The school board has said a program like this was long overdue. In fact, they said they wished they'd had it sooner," said Turner.

Elected president of the association in September, Turner will serve a one-year term of office. During that time she said she is expected to act as a spokesperson for OFSA and to ensure assistance is provided to member firms.

She noted that OFSA will host a conference at Red Leaves next September, which should draw roughly 200 people to the area.

Turner and her husband have owned Reynolds Funeral Home for 16 years, as of last week. The business has a long history in Bracebridge, having been passed down from

owners to employees since 1898. The home moved to its current site on the corner of Mary Street and Manitoba Street in 1961.