Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/

celebrating the lives and times of rainbow folk in Grand River country

Guelph Gay Equality Newsletter → Guelph Gay & Lesbian Equality Newsletter → Guelph Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Equality Newsletter

Publishing History: Issued by Guelph Gay Equality (GGE) from 1977, May - 1990, August. Issued by Guelph Gay & Lesbian Equality (GGLE) from 1990, September - 1993, April. Issued by Guelph Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Equality (GGLBE) from 1993, May - 1995, September.

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GUALTY EQUALTY

NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL 1990



Discovering ourselves HIV-positives

drag

Graffiti artist helps AIDS patients

In Memory

DEATH OF A SAINT James St. James, Canada's longest living person with AIDS, died in March, just a few days before the sixth anniversary of his diagnosis.

In a television interview, last year, the outspoken St. James admitted that he is a person of faith and that that is what keeps him going — knowing that there is a God that will one day make things right again. Jim's story is told in a book by June Callwood, called *Jim: A Life With AIDS*.

Toronto Sun 032890

GRAFFITI AND AIDS Keith Haring, a New York graffiti artist, died of AIDS in February but his work lives and is remembered. In particular, his art is helping Canadian people with AIDS. In an auction planned for April 1 in Montreal, Haring's work was to be up for sale. The proceeds are slated for Canadian Actors Fight AIDS, a fund which financially assists anyone ever involved in theatre; and an AIDS housing project in Montreal.

Haring was encouraged to participate in this fund raising scheme by Canadian photographer Martin Roy, who met Haring back in 1984 when Roy bumped into the artist while he was illegally making chalk drawings in New York subway stations.

Toronto Star 031490

MAYOR, MOLE AND AIDS Simcoe Mayor Jim Earl has little sympahty for people who contract HIV in ways other than blood transfusions. This attitude is bad enough in a time when Canadian blood supplies are screened and blood transfusions, within a fraction of a percent, are risk free. The story, however, does not end there.

The Mayor was responding, though narrow mindedly, to the requests of Bill Mole. Mole wanted to hang a banner across a city street proclaiming his intent to walk around the world to raise money for AIDS. The Mayor said No.

The Guelph Gay Equality has also been approached by a representative of Mole's. This is where the story takes a turn and I'm torn between who is worse, the Big Cheese or the Rodent!

You see, it would seem that Mr. Mole has quite a reputation and the AIDS committees from Waterloo and Guelph, through Toronto and Ottawa have decided not to endorse Moles's efforts. Why? Because Mole has refused, been unwilling, or unable to produce and/or provide budget information which would detail where the money is to be spent. Further, the World Health Organization, (WHO), is aware of Mole. The WHO, it is alleged, is to receive half of the monies raised, and has not received any money to date.

We will try to keep you informed, but until further details are provided of Mr. Mole's intent, we strongly encourage the membership and interested public to **beware of the BM Mole campaign.**

Toronto Sun 032890

GENERAL MEETING We will have a general meeting of the membership on May 8, 1990 at 8:00 p.m. in U.C. 536 to discuss a proposal to change the name of the group. The intent is to use more inclusive language in the name.



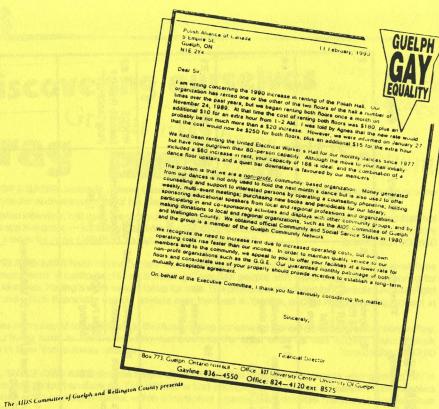
AIDS COMMITTEE OF GUELPH AND WELLINGTON COUNTY SUITE 202, 73 DELHI STREET, GUELPH, ONTARIO N1E 6L9 TELEPHONE (519) 763-2255

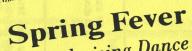
HOURS: MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

DEBORAH AZIM, SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR



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Saturday		Production of Congress of Cong	WOODS Toronto Zoo 9 AM ***	WOODS Learn the Rope (Rock Climbing) ****	1986 (200) 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
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Thursday	Gaywire 7-8 PM CIUT 89.5 FM GEM Movie Night	Gaywire as above	Gaywire as above	Gaywire as above GEM Peel AIDS Meeting	ederick St. Mall, Kit
Medineday		We are everywhere CRU 93.3 FM 12:30 & 5:15 PM	The state of the s	We are everywhere as above	* Call Brian for details 741 *** ** WOODS April Fool Hike 1 PM Meet at Frederick St. Mall, Kitchener *** Call Lisa for details 579 ***
S. again	mand organization	Qu. Ad says case	Carrier and	A de rebessi	or de la company
Tuesday	GGE Movie Night "Romanoe" 8 PM UC536	GGE Easter Surprise 8 PM UC 536	GGE Social Night 8 PM UC 536	GGE Bowling 8 PM UC 536	* Call Brian for defails 741- ** WOODS April Fool Hike 1 F *** Call Lisa for details 579-
Monday	N .	WOODS Bowling & Billiards 7:00 p.m. ***	A STATE OF COMMENTS OF COMMENT	A	8
	the contract of the property is	•		2	8
Sunday	Grand River ** Free Spirit Community Church 2 pm Robins Nest Cambridge **	GRFS as above	GRFS as above HAPPY EASTER	GRFS as above	GRFS as above





A Fundraising Dance

Saturday, April 7, 1990

at The Loft 1 Carden Street, Downtown Guelph



Tickets: \$5.00 Advance

\$7.00 at Door

AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County, 73 Delhi Street, Suite 202 Guelph, Ontario (\$19) 763-2255

The Bookshelf 41 Oueboo Street Guelph, Outside Street Street Guelph, Outside Street Advance Tickets Available from:

Held Under Authoris of a Special Occasion Permit

Proceeds in support of the AIDS Committee a work with persons affected by HIV infection in this County

MISCELLANEOUS AFFAIRS/EVENTS

NEW RATES Remember the rates for admission to the dances have changed (see March newsletter) — a reflection of rising costs.

Members of G.G.E. \$2.00 Affiliated Memberships \$3.00

Non-Members \$4.00

Welcome to the 90s!

ON RELIGIOSITY AND BEING QAY it was several months ago when I was asked to make a written contribution to our Newsletter. Then, I did decline for many reasons - I didn't have time, I have nothing of real value to write, etc. And also, I was afraid.

Yet, I got up enough courage to compose these few thoughts into sensible English for the present

So, here's my story. From my very early days of childhood I was lead to Church and Sunday school. Being from a strongly conservative Slavic family, going to Church and a heritage language school were mandatory. For many of you it was probably the same. We all must have fond and not so fond memories of growing up, albeit knowing that we were somewhat different.

Already in high school (HCI, Toronto), I began to really notice that I was strongly attracted to boys. Heaven forbid me to come out then, life would have been unbearable; my high school produced highly motivated people destined for academia. On the other side, I was still very attached to my 'old world' culture, language and Church. What a deadlock - being gay and having strong cultural and religious convictions!

At that point, it was for me only one way out - either to be 100% (or as close as possible) gay or 100% first generation hyphenated Canadian and church-going. It was almost too simple. But, things did not turn out. I tried to burn each end of the candle separately. For some time I enjoyed being just a gay man, at other times I took in my cultural background, began going back to Church and tried to forget my gayness. Well, people, it just did not work out in my case to try to live by two separate worlds! I had to, and did, find another

I even asked myself: are you really happy (no pun intended!)? My response was negative. I felt that the times when I did not attend Church and participate in my ethnic community I felt something was missing. Also, when I forced myself to forget my attraction to the same sex, something was missing. I was not a happy camper, but becoming angrier. At whom - definitely God, the Church, my parents, my ethnicity, other societal agencies and organizations. At any rate, I had to do something to relieve my growing anger.

A thought came into my mind one day - why not integrate my gayness and my desire to be part of an ethnic group and the Church. For the longest time, I had been waging an internal war that I was losing. Great new idea but could I live up to it? For the last three years I have lived a very fulfilling life as a gay person and a member of my Church and ethnic community. Believe me, it is difficult. Many lonely moments, many fun times.

As a devout believer I would like to end my story with a few lines from Father McNeills's book The Church and the Homosexual, (Boston: Beach Press, 1988)

Christ had an extraordinary ability to meet the individal as a unique person; where others saw a class, a type, a sexual inferior, Christ manifested the ability to encounter the person with understanding and love. He also frequently expressed the desire to free his desciples from stereotypes and cultural prejuduces. Christ refused to establish his identity and accomplish his mission by means of violence, called on his disciples to be men of peace, resisting injustice by their own suffering (146-147)

To all who have read this story I wish best wishes and success in forthcoming exams or in your chosen field of work. Thank you.

Peace and love, Oleh.





NIK TURK'S ALTERNATIVE TOP FIVE

- 1. Enjoy the Silence Depeche Mode (2)
- 2. Getting Away With It Electronic (1)
- 3. Vogue Madonna (-)
- 4. Get Up! (Before the Night is Over) Technotronic (3)
- 5. Policy of Truth Depeche Mode (-)
- (-) indicates chart position last month

GGE MEMBERSHIP A GGE membership entitles you to *reduced* (\$2.00) dance admission, voting privileges, discounts at GEM, GLLOW and CLGRO affiliated activities and GGE newsletter free in the mail. Get yours today, only \$12.00. Help support the GGEI

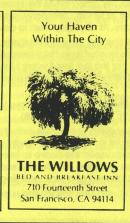
QGE T-SHIRTS Would you like your very own GGE T-shirt? They cost \$10.00. See Marty and get your GGE T-shirt.

PUBLICATIONS The GGE office receives regular issues of Xtra, Rites, RFD, LGYT newsletter, HUGS newsletter, HALO newsletter, GLO Niagara newsletter, GO Info and several others. Check out these and our library - all available in the GGE office.

DEADLINE

Submissions for the next newsletter must be received by: April 20, 1990

The GGE Newsletter is published monthly by the GGE. Typesetting and Layout by CSA Graphics. Editing, Marty Russell. (Editor Emeritus) and Peter F. (Publicity Director)





STAFFED MONDAY THRU THURSDAY, 7:30 -9:30 PM THE GAYLINE 336-4550