

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

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**GUELPH
GAY
EQUALITY**

NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL 1990

Discovering ourselves

Quarantine of 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 sympathy 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 minded, 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 Mole'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 Bill 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

**A
 PLAY**

APRIL 1990

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Grand River * Free Spirit Community Church 2 pm Robins Nest Cambridge **	2 GRFS as above	3 GGE Movie Night "Romance" 8 PM UC536	4 We are everywhere CFRU 93.3 FM 12:30 & 5:15 PM	5 Gaywire 7-8 PM CIUT 89.5 FM GEM Movie Night	6 GEM Dance, Clark Hall 161 Lakeshore W. Mississauga	7 WOODS Toronto Zoo 9 AM ***
8 GRFS as above	9 WOODS Bowling & Billiards 7:00 p.m. ***	10 GGE Easter Surprise 8 PM UC 536	11 We are everywhere as above	12 Gaywire as above	13 GGE Dance Polish Hall 5 Empire St 9 PM - 1 AM	14 WOODS Learn the Rope (Rock Climbing) ***
15 GRFS as above HAPPY EASTER	16 GRFS as above	17 GGE Social Night 8 PM UC 536	18 We are everywhere as above	19 Gaywire as above	20 GGE Dance Polish Hall 5 Empire St 9 PM - 1 AM	21 WOODS Learn the Rope (Rock Climbing) ***
22 GRFS as above	23 GRFS as above	24 GGE Bowling 8 PM UC 536	25 We are everywhere as above	26 Gaywire as above GEM Peel AIDS Meeting	27 GGE Dance Polish Hall 5 Empire St 9 PM - 1 AM	28 WOODS Learn the Rope (Rock Climbing) ***
29 GRFS as above	30 GRFS as above	* Call Brian for details 741 ** WOODS April Fool Hike 1 PM Meet at Frederick St. Mall, Kitchener *** Call Lisa for details 579				

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 GAY 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 Newsletter.

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 way.

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 individual 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 disciples from stereotypes and cultural prejudices. 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.

11 February, 1990

GUELPH GAY EQUALITY

Polish Alliance of Canada
 5 Empire St.
 Guelph, ON
 N1E 2Y4

Dear Sir:

I am writing concerning the 1990 increase in renting of the Polish Hall. Our organization has rented one or the other of the two floors of the hall a number of times over the past years, but we began renting both floors once a month on November 24, 1989. At that time the cost of renting both floors was \$180 plus an additional \$10 for an extra hour from 1-2 AM. I was told by Agnes that the new rate would probably be not much more than a \$20 increase. However, we were informed on January 27 that the cost would now be \$250 for both floors, plus an additional \$15 for the extra hour.

We had been renting the United Electrical Worker's Hall for our monthly dances since 1977 but have now outgrown their 80-person capacity. Although the move to your hall initially included a \$60 increase in rent, your capacity of 188 is ideal, and the combination of a dance floor upstairs and a quiet bar downstairs is favoured by our members.

The problem is that we are a non-profit, community based organization. Money generated from our dances is not only used to hold the next month's dance but is also used to offer counseling and support to interested persons by operating a counselling phone line, holding weekly, multi-event meetings, purchasing new books and periodicals for our library, sponsoring educational speakers from local and regional professions and organizations, participating in and co-sponsoring activities and displays with other community groups, and making donations to local and regional organizations, such as the AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County. We obtained official Community and Social Service Status in 1980, and the group is a member of the Guelph Community and Social Service Network.

We recognize the need to increase rent due to increased operating costs, but our own operating costs rise faster than our income. In order to maintain quality service to our members and to the community, we appeal to you to offer your facilities at a lower rate for non-profit organizations such as the G.G.E. Our guaranteed monthly patronage of both floors and considerate use of your property should provide incentive to establish a long-term, mutually acceptable agreement.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I thank you for seriously considering this matter.

Sincerely,

Financial Director

Box 773, Guelph, Ontario N1H 6A8 - Office: 837 University Centre, University Of Guelph
 Gayline: 836-4550 Office: 824-4120 ext. 8575



The AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County presents

Spring Fever A Fundraising Dance

Saturday, April 7, 1990

at The Loft

1 Carden Street, Downtown Guelph
 (just west of Memorial Gardens)

**9 p.m.
 to 1 a.m.**



Tickets:
 \$5.00 Advance
 \$7.00 at Door

Advance Tickets Available from:
 AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County 73 Delhi Street, Suite 202, Guelph, Ontario (519) 763-2255
 The Bookshelf, 41 Quebec Street, Guelph, Ontario (+\$06 handling charge)

Held Under Authority of a Special Occasion Permit
 Proceeds in support of the AIDS Committee's work with persons affected by HIV infection in this County

**DS:
 SAFE**



XTRA!

**Your key to Toronto's
 lesbian and gay community**

Available at the Bookshelf Cafe, Quebec St.,
 Guelph and the GGE office.

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, GLOW and CLGRO affiliated activities and GGE newsletter free in the mail. Get yours today, only \$12.00. Help support the GGE!

GGE 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

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Within The City



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STAFFED MONDAY THRU THURSDAY, 7:30 -9:30 PM

☐ THE GAYLINE ☐ 836-4550 ☐