#### **Grand River Rainbow Historical Project**

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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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# EQUALITY

NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE 1990



AIDS IS A HUMAN CONDITION, RATHER THAN A DISEASE OF LIFESTYLES OR RISK GROUPS. THE WORD MUST GO FORTH THAT PEOPLE WTIH AIDS ARE OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, LOVERS AND FRIENDS, PEOPLE JUST LIKE US. BECAUSE WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE. THEY ARE US.

BELINA MAISON P.L.W.A. GLOBE & MAIL, JUNE 6, 1989

**LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE DAY 1990** This year's Pride Day is fast approaching and is certain to be a success. The theme that has been selected for this years's LGPD is "By all means necessary". At the last GGE executive meeting, we tried to decide what the intent of the theme was and the consensus seemed to be that all of us should strive for acceptance of Gays and Lesbians everywhere **by all means necessary**. Having never attended this event personally (I suppose we can all be virginal at something!) I'm looking forward to going. I'll be staffing a booth (it's a better location for taking pictures of the parade I hope) along with anyone willing to volunteer. On Tuesday, June 19th, there will be a special organizational meeting for Pride Day. Please plan to attend. Peter.

**WHAT'S IN A NAME?** The GGE has existed for many years with its current name, but recently its membership proposed that we should enter the 90s with a more gender inclusive name. At the General meeting held May 8th a number of suggestions were made — some rather tongue in cheek. HOG (Homosexuals of Guelph) may be indicative of the "Aggie" flavour at Moo U but it may be just too much of a reminder of that "wonderful" slogan: The University of Guelph — where men are men and sheep are nervous! Oh well, different farm animal but it's the thought that counts. Besides, we are after all a community service organization and our name should reflect this.

The members in attendance at the May 8th meeting suggested we could exist without "Equality" in our name for reasons that it sounded too militant or that Lesbians and Gays were fighting for equality amongst ourselves. Some differing opinions on this have been expressed to myself so I will voice these here. While some may argue that "Equality" may sound too militant, the GGE has been accused of just that, as well as being not militant enough. However, the equality that we are fighting for is truly for all people, ultimately, regardless of their sexual orientation. But as that is still somewhat of a holy grail, we could more realistically say that we are struggling for equality with our heterosexual counterparts. Perhaps, as others suggested, we should enter the 90's not only with more gender inclusive language but also with a name that breaks away from the past. To that end we could proceed in a new direction. And lastly, either for nostalgic reasons or historical ones, we could maintain part of the original name to indicate our ties to our past as well as looking to the future. Thus five proposals have been suggested:

- 1. GALG Guelph Area Lesbians & Gays
- 2. GGLA Guelph Gay & Lesbian Association
- 3. GLG Guelph Lesbians & Gavs
- 4. GGL Guelph Gays & Lesbians
- 5. GGLE Guelph Gay & Lesbian Equality

Since this name change will encompass a change to our constitution, the proposed amendment to the constitution will read as follows:

#### Article I: Name

The name of the organization shall be (insert ONE of the above five options).

On Tuesday, July 10th, a General Meeting will be held to decide the name you would like to adopt. The above suggestions need not be exhaustive but they do give us an adequate selection form which to choose. So in all faireness to the GGE, do COME OUT and cast a ballot for a name that will carry the GGE into the next (gasp!) millenium.

Peter.



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





"SO HOW COME THE BIRDS AND BEES DON'T GET AIDS?"

#### LOOKING AHEAD

July 10 July 25 - 29 August No monthly dance for GGE or GEM Meeting to vote on name change Camping trip to Tobermory No monthly dance for GEM

**GGE T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST** The competition was fierce...but we have a winner. The 1990 Pride Day edition of the GGE T-shirt will be coming to you soon.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, printing the design on a T-shirt/tank top requires some adjustments be made to the artwork to facilitate standard printing practices. We of course attempted to maintain the integrity of the design with as few changes as possible. You will notice that the final version will be printed with the design either on the front of the shirt or on the back. For those shirts having the design on the back, the slogan "Our pride with your's" will appear on the front left side (chest level). This slogan has been typeset to match the wave on the back.

The shirts are currently being printed therefore their cost has not yet been determined. Barring any complications, the shirts should be available well in advance of Lesbian and Gay Pride Day 1990!

WE ARE EVERYWHERE This radio talkshow is featured on CFRU 93.3 FM at 12:30 and 5:15p.m. Look for the specific dates in our calander. The focus of past shows has been to interview people on their experience of coming out, dealing with discrimination and other topical issues.

A NEW FEATURE As you noticed in this month's newsletter, we are featuring a regular column from the AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County (ACGWC). Thanks should go to Marnie Neve, Education Co-ordinator for ACGWC, who contributed to this month's issue. Future columns will include a variety of subjects that are sure to be informative and entertaining.

**WOODS EVENTS** Woods go cycling every Thursday (6: p.m.). The meeting point is the Zehrs plaza parking lot in Waterloo at Fisher-Hallman and Erb Street.

**GLLOW EVENTS** GLLOW has a regular volleyball league that meets Thursdays (7 to 9 p.m.) at Eastwood Collegiate, 760 Weber Street East, Kitchener. Call 844-GLOW (4569) during staffed hours for details of this and other special summer events.

| 36       | WOODS<br>Camping<br>Devil's Glen<br>Provincial Park<br>**(July 1/2) | GGE 29 Dance Polish Hall 5 Empire St. 9 PM - 1 AM  | 28 Gaywire as above               | 27   | GGE<br>BBC: River Side<br>Park<br>6:30 p.m.               | 25                           | GRFS as above 24 Lesbian & Gay Pride Day 1990 WOODS BBQ Cambridge 4:00p.m.*  |
|----------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|--|
| 23       |   | 23   | 21<br>Gaywire<br>as above         | We are everywhere as above                     | GGE 19 Pride Night Organization for Pride Day 8 PM UC 536 | <del>-</del>                 | GRFS as above  |
| <b>5</b> | WOODS<br>Canoe Trip<br>Grand River**                                | GEM Dance, Clark Hall 161 Lakeshore W. Mississauga | Gaywire as above                  | 13   | GGE<br>Social Night<br>8 PM UC 536                        | =                            | GRFS as above 10 GGE Car Rally 2:30 p.m. UC536 WOODS Cycling Paradise Lake** |
| ဖ        |   | œ  | Gaywire<br>7-8 PM<br>CIUT 89.5 FM | We are everywhere CFRU 93.3 FM 12:30 & 5:15 PM | GGE 5<br>Movie Night<br>"Foreign"<br>8 PM UC 536          |                              | Grand River Free Spirit Community Church* 2 pm Robins Nest Cambridge*        |
| N        |   | _  |                                   |  |   | * Call Brian for details 741 | * Call Brian<br>** Call Lisa   |

#### MISCELLANEOUS AFFAIRS/EVENTS

**WEDDINGS — OH NO!** It's spring. Well the weather is occasionally pretending to be but that doesn't matter. What could be further from our minds at the moment than that popular past-time in June: weddings. The event where we bring with us our socially acceptable dates because we just don't want to make waves. This, in spite of our friends saying they accept us for whom we are — sure! All that aside, what are we to do if we want to get married to a same-sex partner? In a not so recent Ann Landers column (hardly the ultimate authority but it was a good read) she presented a cross-section of the type of responses she received on the same-sex marriage issue. Generally, people responded 2 to 1 against legalization of same sex marriages. Here is what some said:

EAU CLAIRE, WIS.:I vote NO. The notion that members of the same sex should have the rights and privileges of normal couples is outrageous. I am not a religious fundamentalist, but I believe that homosexuality is morally wrong. Those faggots should go back in the closet where they belong.

CHICAGO: The family unit is the core of civilization. This means parents and children. When homosexuals can be biologically altered so that they can produce a child I will vote YES. Until the, I'm voting NO.

CHARLESTON, W. VA: If society had not placed such a stigma on homosexuality, I would have been able to face myself as I truly am instead of living a lie, marrying a wonderful woman and messing up her life.

MIAMI: Allowing homosexuals to marry is insane. Why give this special privilege to a segment of society that has given us AIDS?

BATON ROUGE: It is time America (and Canada!) stopped being afaid of (and feeling threatened by) people who are different. This goes for members of minority groups, those who are physically handicapped and individuals whose sexual preference is not that of the norm. As far as I'm concerned, same-sex couples should be allowed to marry.

The Spectator 22 11 89

**AIDS EDUCATION PROGRAM** I am pleased to introduce myself as the Education Co-ordinator of the AIDS Committe of Guelph & Wellington County. Upon joining the team at ACGWC in early March I was immediately challenged into action to translate and disseminate the overwheling deluge of information about AIDS being generated today. Research is ongoing and everchanging on every aspect of issues such as anonymity, discrimination, alternative therapies - just to name a few.

The topic of AIDS is a controversial one, often emotionally charged with fear and denial. Mankind is threatened by an unknown commodity, and challenged to overcome it. To date we do not have a cure, and until we have a vaccine, the primary means of prevention and control of the virus is education.

The Education Program at the ACGWC is designed to develop, implement and evaluate AIDS Awareness Programs, custom tailored for the wide range of social groups residing in Wellington County. These audiences include, for example, young adults, women and children, rural groups, homosexuals, intravenous drug users, healthcare professionals, to name only a few.

The individual focus of these diverse groups can be varied, but the basic message is the same. We provide factual, no nonsense information about HIV and AIDS - the myths, the fears, the discrimination, the pain, and, the reality.

The basic AIDS Education program is designed to be flexible to allow the emphasis of specific areas such as Tramsmission, Prevention, Safter Sex Practices, Health and Nutrition, Workplace Policies, Human Rights - depending on the needs of the target audience

Requests have been forthcoming from various community groups, employers and educational systems for specifically designed programs to fit the need of their organizations. Volunteers are joining to participate in fulfilling the need of the AIDS Education in our area. Together we are striving to meet the demand for a clear, concise, yet sensitive approach to removing the fear through an awareness of the facts and the personal chocies.

Consequently, there is a constant flurry of activity here at the Committee offices. Anyone interested in participating in any of the multitude of activities/projects in the Education, Fundraising or Support Programs is invited to call 763-2255 for more detailed information.

Marnie Neve

**Education Co-ordinator** 

DS: SAFE

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

**JUNE 1990** 



**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 GGE!

**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.

#### **Manfred's Meadow Guest House**

Dear GGE Members.

We offer an all-inclusive resort about an hour from Guelph that's open year round. Stay in our century old log house, pine-panelled rooms.

Enjoy our 100-acre farm, hot tub, sauna. Feast on home-cooked meals with fresh bread, eggs, honey. Write or phone for a brochure. See you this

write or phone for a brochure. See you summer at Manfred's Meadow.

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#### DEADLINE

Submissions for the next newsletter must be received by: June 19, 1990

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