

# Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

[www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/](http://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*

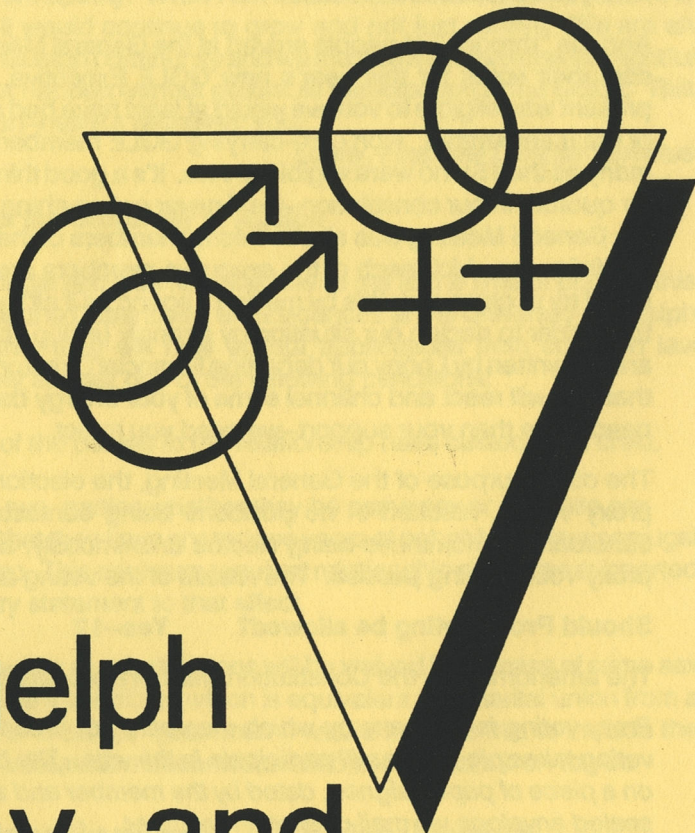
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# Guelph Gay and Lesbian Equality

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Newsletter for April 1991

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### And your new executive is....

And the "thongs" of people arrived at the General Meeting (5 March 1991) to cast their votes for this year's new GGLE Executive. Actually, if everyone present was eligible to vote we would at least have had a better representation of the membership. Non card-carrying GGLE members numbered almost as many as the 15 who were eligible to vote. It's a good thing we do not have rules for quorum in our constitution--we'd never get anything done. The purpose of the General Meeting was also to inform members of the status of the separate portfolios for which each of the executive members are accountable. While I could try to gloss over this by making it sound as if all's well, I will leave it to you the reader to decide our situation by strongly urging you to read the following article, written by Lonny our departing Financial Director. After reading it I hope that you will react and channel some of your energy back into the GGLE. We need more than your support--we need you to act.

The other purpose of the General Meeting, the election and the vote to allow proxy voting, resulted in no positions being contested by more than one candidate, all nominees being elected unanimously, and the motion to allow proxy voting being passed. The results of the voting are as follows:

**Should Proxy voting be allowed?      Yes--12      No--3**

The amendment to the Constitution will therefore read:

*Proxy voting is a means by which members not present at a meeting where voting takes place can still participate in the vote. The ballot should be written on a piece of paper, signed, dated by the member and sent to the meeting in a sealed envelope via mail or another member.*

### The 1991-92 GGLE Executive is as follows:

<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Reggie</b>	<b>Education Director</b>	<b>Alan</b>
<b>Financial Director</b>	<b>Jennifer</b>	<b>Dance Director</b>	<b>Nicole</b>
<b>Co-Activities Director(s)</b>	<b>Calreen</b>		<b>(re-elected)</b>
<b>(one position still vacant)</b>		<b>Publicity Director</b>	<b>Peter *</b>

\* This position was not contested. The GGLE Constitution allows executive

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AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County  
Suite 202, 73 Delhi Street, Guelph, ON N1E 6L9  
Telephone (519) 763-2255



Hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Deborah Azim, Support Co-ordinator

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members to maintain their portfolio for two consecutive one-year terms without having to be re-elected for their second term if they decide to continue their position.

Let's give this year's executive all our support. They're going to need it in the face of these current recessionary times and the current slump the GGLE is facing. Afterall, if we wish to improve on the level of our service, we'll need your input.  
*Peter, Publicity Director*

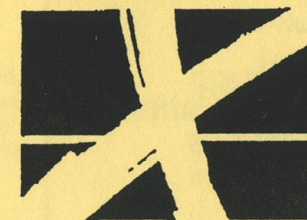
### Where do we go from here?

That the homosexual community is of a fickle nature is an understatement. Such behaviour is most evident in relation to volunteer organizations such as the GGLE.

When I took on the position of Financial Director in 1987, participation in the group was at what was probably an all time low. Fortunately, enough members joined in my commitment and we formed a complete executive committee. Many changes have occurred in the past four years, changes which led to record number of people attending meetings and record amounts of profit made at dances, but, as the homo cycle dictates, we are again at a low point of patronization.

People either are not aware or seem to forget or ignore the fact that the GGLE is a non-profit organization that relies on volunteers, and one that survives with money generated from dances. We do not receive government or university funding, the amount of money from memberships is low--we only average around 60 paying members, T-shirt sales are seasonal, and the amount of money from donations is negligible. It is simple reality that if the dances are not well attended then we do not make enough money to pay our operational costs.

Our largest single expense, other than gross dance expenses which are covered by a permanent float, is publishing our newsletter, even though we reduced the cost by using a desktop publishing system. The next highest costs are meetings, the Gayline, and advertising. If we are to realize our objectives of advancing self-awareness, self-acceptance, and community awareness of



# XTRA!

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# April 1991

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 GGLE Movie Night: Orientations Co-sponsored with WRC 8 pm UC 536	3 GLOW Night Modern Languages Bldg. Room 104, University of Waterloo 9 'til 11 pm	4 Gaywire CIUT 89.5 FM 7 'til 8 pm  GEM see below	5	6 ACGWC & ACCKWA Cabaret/Dance 8 pm The Loft 1 Carden St., Guelph Tickets are \$8.00 in advance or \$10.00 at the door
7 Grand River Free Spirit Community Church Call GRFS office for location of service	8	9 GGLE Social Night 8 pm UC 536	10 GLOW Night as above	11 Gaywire as above  GEM Coffee House Unitarian Hall 84 S. Service Road Mississauga. 8 pm	12 PFLAG Meeting Sharing 8 pm Christ Church 4 Elizabeth Street North (Elizabeth & Queen W.) Brampton	13
14 GRFS as above	15	16 GGLE Discussion Night Relationships 8 pm UC 536	17 GLOW Night as above	18 Gaywire as above  GEM as above	19	20
21 GRFS as above	22	23 GGLE Games Night Family Feud 8 pm UC 536	24 GLOW Night as above	25 Gaywire as above  GEM as above  ACCKWA Dreaming--A Musical Call ACCKWA for details	26 GGLE Dance The School House 611 Silvercreek Parkway Guelph 9 pm 'til 1 am ACCKWA Dreaming	27 ACCKWA Dreaming
28 GRFS as above	29	30 GGLE Spring Alive T-SHIRT CONTEST !!! 8 pm UC 536	<b>Phone Numbers of Interest</b>  GGLE--GAYLINE (519) 836-4550 GGLE--Office (519) 824-4120 (ext.8575) GEM (Gary) (416) 332- WGLA--GAYLINE (519) 438-4329 ACCKWA (519) 741-8300  GLOW (519) 884-GLOW [4569] GRFS (519) 570- PFLAG (Mary Jones) (416) 457- ACGWC (519) 763-2255			

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gays and lesbians in Guelph, then we must maintain the above outreach costs. When funds are low executive members often pay bills out of their own pockets, waiting until after the next dance for reimbursement; something which becomes difficult when the dance only makes \$63.75 as it did in February.

As dances made more money, we were able to pursue strategies designed to reach and/or accommodate more people, such as a better newsletter, more advertising, donations to community organizations, new books, sponsorship of a GGLE member to attend Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights of Ontario (CLGRO), and a larger dance hall. And there we are, back to the dance issue again. Increased popularity of the Schoolhouse dances necessitated that we find a larger hall to accommodate more people and to avoid running out of beer a recurring problem because of the hall-size dependency of our liquor license. A sure lesson in frustration is to search for a hall in Guelph suitable to the needs of a group such as ours. Yet, for various, reasons, the Polish Hall, which costs twice as much to rent as the Schoolhouse, was not appreciated by our patrons, resulting in smaller and smaller profits. We have had to cut costs by reducing activities, cancelling subscriptions (it was ridiculous anyway paying over \$35 a year for XTRA when readers could donate their free copies when finished), and moving back to the Schoolhouse. While I appreciate the nostalgia of the Schoolhouse, the previous problems still exist.

Is our financial situation because of squandering or expanding beyond our means? No, we are simply a victim of the waxing and waning of the community's whims. Executive members are volunteers, striving to meet the needs and desires of the gays and lesbians of Guelph. This is difficult to achieve with minimal input from members. We have been accused of being too apolitical and too social. Granted, we must rely on a social activity to make money, but how this money is spent is flexible. These accusations invariably come from individuals or groups who do not attempt to instill change, but would rather sit on the outside and feed the rumour animal.

If you do not agree with our policies or dislike the image we portray, then offer alternatives and see that they are addressed or, better yet, take a position on the executive and make changes yourself.

I know that a major problem is our location at the university. This makes it difficult to reinforce our community social service status and to reach many non-university (or anti-university) homosexuals, but the benefits of free accommodation and of a security system makes for an ideal site at the present time. Eventually, preferably sooner than later, we need to move off campus.

There are many more problems to address and possible solutions to offer, but I get tired of banging the proverbial head on the wall and of seeing good

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suggestions die from apathy. While I am confident that the GGLE will survive, I had hoped that it would continue to grow and not just survive. We are an integral part of the Guelph community and we must strive to exercise our rightful place. This cannot happen without profitable participation in the GGLE. This is your organization--make it represent you.

*Lonny, Financial Director Emeritus*

### **Family Housing at the University of Guelph**

While the current legal text was not available to me at the time of printing this month's newsletter, the Department of Residences at the University of Guelph has announced that they will now accept applications from common law couples who satisfy at least one of the following conditions:

- That one of the parties to the relationship have custody of a child,
- That the two parties whether they be same sex or opposite sex establish that they have shared two years of cohabitation in a conjugal relationship. This minimum required relationship should be supported by a notary statement to that effect.

However, the two years of cohabitations will be waived in the case of same sex couples who provide a certificate which is equivalent to a marital union from a recognized place of worship. [Ed. note: I would imagine this to include the MCC.] As further information becomes available, I will pass it on to you.

## **Miscellaneous Affairs/Events**

### **ACGWC News**

Lonny is now the editor of the AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County (ACGWC) newsletter. Copies of this newsletter are available at the AIDS Committee office (73 Delhi Street, Suite 202) and the GGLE office. If you wish to contribute anything to this newsletter, such as personal experiences, poetry, news articles, notes on visits to other AIDS committees, complaints or suggestions, (i.e. letters to the editor), please feel free to send them to Lonny care of the ACGWC office. We need more input from the homosexual community.

The ACGWC wishes to change its name to one that lends itself to a meaningful and manageable acronym; the word "Committee" does not have to be used in the name. Please submit any suggestions to either Lonny (Editor) or Marnie Neve (Education Coordinator).

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**Looking Ahead**

11 May Yard Sale. We have a yard. Now all we need are items to sell. Go to your closets (you know what it looks like from the inside) and dig out that tennis racquet you never use and that set of tacky crystal brandy snifters that your mother gave you last Christmas. We have storage space for all these gems so let's get to work selling this stuff. As for all you bakers out there, we need baked goods as well (i.e. cookies, squares and tarts etc.).

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July There WILL be a dance for this month but NOT for the month of August. Location and date will be the Schoolhouse on the last Friday of the month (as per usual).

**Membership SALE!!!**

This May, for the entire month (ooohhhh!!), memberships will be available for only Ten dollars. Contact any of the executive to renew yours or to purchase a new membership.

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**Deadline**

Submissions for the next newsletter must be received by 16 April 1991.

**GGLE Newsletter**

The GGLE Newsletter is published monthly by the Guelph Gay and Lesbian Equality, P.O. Box 773, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 6L8; (519) 824-4120 ext 8575. For submissions of articles, advertisement, or general information about the newsletter, direct your inquiries to the GGLE executive at the above address.

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**1991 Monthly Advertising Rates**

Full page	\$25.00
Half page	15.00
Quarter page	10.00
Eighth page	5.00

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**The GAYLINE (519) 836-4550  
Staffed Monday through Thursday**

**from 7:30 to 9:30 pm**

**Office Phone (519) 824-4120 (ext. 8575)**

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