

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

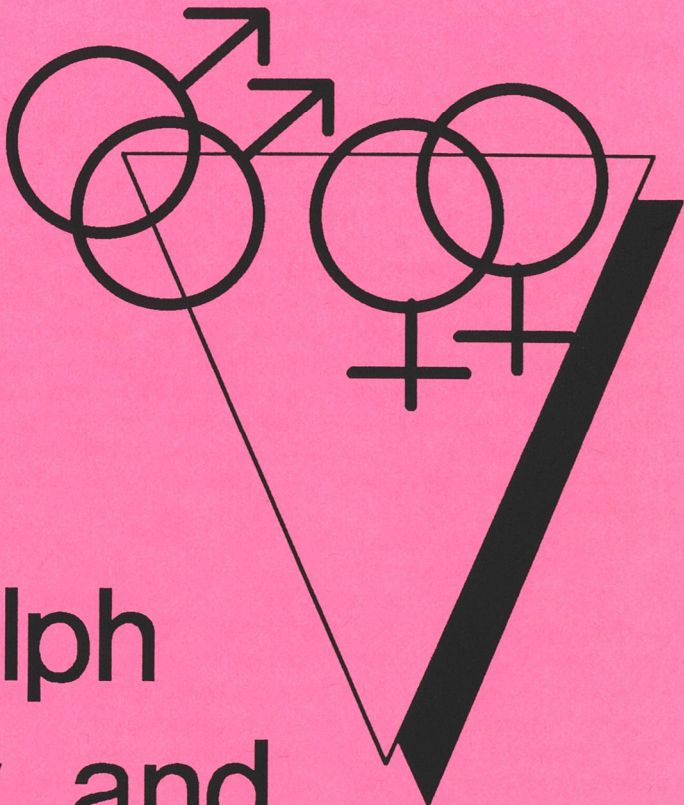
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Guelph Gay and Lesbian Equality

Newsletter for June 1991

Recycle or pass along to a friend when you're finished reading this newsletter.

News

Everyday Everywhere A New Decade of Pride

This is the current year's theme for Lesbian and Gay Pride Day to be celebrated in Toronto 30 June 1991 (the last Sunday of June as well as part of the Canada Day long-weekend). Of significance is that the day, as a result of a 13 November 1990 decision by Toronto City Council, is finally being recognized. This, in addition to the fact that this is the tenth year anniversary of Pride Day in Toronto, should make this a "must see & do" event. As part of the day's activities, the GGLE will be staffing a table (as we did last year--and no I do not wish to stand there all day folks!) as well as have members march in the parade. Lynda has offered to make a new banner for us since last year we had not yet voted to accept our current name and therefore could not march under a new banner. While it still seems to be a long time from now, Pride Day is rapidly approaching and we need your commitment to help staff the table. Last year just over 20 members from Guelph joined the thousands of people in attendance. Let's try to do better than that. Let's show people that we have an active Lesbian and Gay community in Guelph (and that we know how to have a good time!).

Peter

Homophobia...still alive and well in Guelph

While it was interesting to note that there were few responses, positive or negative, to the article on Guelph homosexuals in the "Lifestyles" column of *The Guelph Daily Mercury*, it is of significance that the one letter that was sent in indicated that homophobia is still alive in Guelph (lest you think otherwise). The letter, which did not appear in *The Mercury* because the author failed to include their address or phone number (nor was it in the phone book), is included here as it was submitted to share with you what some of our neighbours think.

Dear Editor

We found the article on "Guelph" homosexuals in your "Lifestyles" supplement, tasteless

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 to 5:00 pm
Deborah Azim, Support Co-ordinator



- far from adequate fare for "normal" public consumption.

The writers' (sic.) attempts to equate homosexual coupling, with that of normal marital union, was ludicrous in the extreme, as is any government or mentality, that might back any efforts. With lines like "wanting to hold hands...daring to show their love...", If you chose to listen, I'm certain you would have heard a collective gag, across the whole of Guelph!

If you, or your writer, are looking for a podium for your personal sexual choice, I do hope that in future, you will keep it out of print, for it is neither relevant, nor moral, to the vast majority. Devoting three pages to the sanctioning of aberrant sexual practices in a family newspaper, is not only stupid, its (sic.) disgusting.

B. Shorr

It's letters like this that make me angry. Should I insist that heterosexuals refrain from kissing in public or from holding hands? Should I condemn them for assuming that because I haven't indicated my gay lifestyle that I must be waiting for the right woman to come along? Should I insist whenever I see a heterosexual couple celebrating their marriage, with their flotilla of honking cars, they stop parading their sexuality? Put in this perspective, I have found people who were at first vocal about their homophobic tendencies to quickly become more enlightened. Unfortunately, B. Shorr does not fit into this category. His/her opinions are indicative of a narrow-minded bigot. Some people have presented valid arguments why I should not print letters like this. I hope, however, that by printing such a letter, more people will become sufficiently angry to take action. If we give it enough time [Can anyone spare a century or two?], perhaps we can make an impact on people such as the author of the above letter.

Peter

Gay bar ownership disputed

For those of you who regularly go to Circles in Kitchener, you might be interested to know that the bar, while it appears to be otherwise, is not a gay-owned establishment. So what you say. Exactly, so what. But what you should also be aware of is that while it is straight-owned, certain of its owners are very open about their homophobic attitudes. The following letter to the editor which appeared in the 23 March 1991 issue of the *Kitchener-*

The 13th Annual Sexuality Conference University of Guelph

17 June 1991--Speakers from the GGLE have been invited to address a group of professionals on issues and concerns of particular interest to Lesbians and Gay males. A limited number of extra seating is available to GGLE members. Please contact either Alan or Reggie for further information.

June 1991

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Phone Numbers of Interest

GGLE--GAYLINE	(519) 836-4550	GLOW	(519) 884-GLOW [4569]
GGLE--Office	(519) 824-4120 ext.8575	GRFS	(519) 570-████
GEM	(416) 278-████	PFLAG (Mary Jones)	(416) 457-████
WGLA--GAYLINE	(519) 438-4329	ACGWC	(519) 763-2255
ACCKWA	(519) 741-8300		

						1
2 Grand River Free Spirit Community Church Service held at Unitarian Fellowship House 7:00pm 136 Allen St. E., Waterloo Call GRFS office for any changes	3	4 GGLE Movie Night 8 pm UC 536	5 GLOW Night Modern Languages Bldg. Room 104, University of Waterloo 9 'til 11pm	6 Gaywire CIUT 89.5 FM 7 'til 8 pm GEM Coffee House Unitarian Hall 84 S. Service Road Mississauga. 8 pm	7	8
9 GRFS as above	10	11 GGLE Discussion Night 8 pm UC 536	12 GLOW Night as above	13 Gaywire as above GEM as above	14 PFLAG Meeting Sharing 8 pm Christ Church 4 Elizabeth Street North (Elizabeth & Queen W.) Brampton	15
16 GRFS as above	17	18 GGLE Barbeque 6 pm Riverside Park	19 GLOW Night as above	20 Gaywire as above GEM as above	21 Summer Solstice (First Day of Summer)	22
23 GGLE Car Rally GRFS as above <hr/> 30 1991 Lesbian and Gay Pride Day!!! GRFS as above	24	25 GGLE Pride Day Preparations 8 pm UC 536	26 GLOW Night as above	27 Gaywire as above GEM as above	28	29

Waterloo Record demonstrates this: [Please note that text was high-lighted by the GGLE to emphasize certain points.]

The Feb. 20 Record carried two stories about a Kitchener murder with homosexual connections. To add a gay perspective to the story, the Record included interviews with several members of the gay community.

One of these interviews was with Thomas Riedel, the self-professed owner of Circles, a gay bar. This is a major error on your part, as Circles is owned entirely by a public company, 894531 Ontario Inc. The entire ownership of this company is **straight**, which causes significant concern among the gay community. The president of this corporation is Greg Sloan of Cambridge. He and the other major shareholder, Dale Storer, are the controlling forces in this corporation. Both of these men are **straight**.

Thomas Riedel is not, and never has been, the owner of this bar. He acts as a figurehead and token representative of the gay community, but he is not an owner. He does not represent the views of the ownership of Circles: The Club. He speaks for himself, not for the ownership of the club. No meeting of the shareholders of 894531 Ontario Inc. has ever given Riedel the authority to speak for the corporation, or to pass himself off as the owner of the bar. As a shareholder, and officer of the corporation that owns Circles (I am the treasurer), he certainly does not speak for me.

In future, I wish that you would be far more discerning in your reporting, and not credit ownership where it is not due.

*Benno W. Rosinke
Kitchener*

Whether the club is straight- or gay-owned, for me, is a moot point. Of course it would be nice if a bar catering to the gay community is owned by one of its members or, instead, by someone who is gay-positive but themselves straight (as is the case at Gustos in St. Catharines). But that Circles is owned by, if Mr. Rosinke's description is any indication, a collection of homophobic individuals interested only in making a profit at the expense of the gay community, is a deplorable situation. In his letter, Mr. Rosinke stated that Mr. Riedel does not speak for him. If Mr. Rosinke is actually speaking for all the owners of Circles then I can only express my displeasure with this by no longer attending regular functions at Circles.

Peter

Everyday Everywhere

A New Decade of Pride

Lesbian and Gay Pride Day

Sunday, 30 June 1991, Toronto

Church Street will be closed from Gloucester to Alexander Streets for Live performances, Information booths, the Parade and more

Miscellaneous Affairs/Events

Press Release

from CLGRO--Coalition for Lesbian & Gay Rights in Ontario

Newly available from CLGRO is a leaflet on washroom and park arrests. Aimed primarily at lesbian and gay groups dealing with washroom and park arrest in their communities, the leaflet provides:

- some background and context for the use of parks and washrooms by gay men as meeting places;
- description of the procedures involved in washroom/park surveillance;
- some comments on police motivation;
- notes on dealing with the media; and
- hints for the effects arrests may have on the men arrested and the resources that they may need.

The leaflet has been written by Richard Hudler of HALO (the Homophile Association of London Ontario) produced with money donated to CLGRO by RTPC, the Right to Privacy Committee, when it disbanded earlier this year.

Copies of this leaflet can be obtained at the GGLE office and of course from CLGRO.

The Garage Sale

The yard and bake sale held on 11 May was a success. The sale made a total of \$487.58. "Thank yous" are in order to all those who donated items and who helped on the day of the sale, especially Geoff V. for donating his "old" car, which brought in \$300.

I would also like to thank David S., David W., Peter C., Jennifer, Rob, Peter & Doug, Tim & Paul, Alan, Stephen, Shawn, and Greg. A special thanks to Tim & Paul for letting us use



XTRA!

Your key to Toronto's
lesbian and gay community

Available at the Bookshelf Cafe, Quebec Street, Guelph
and at the GGLE office.

their yard and home as the venue. The GGLE is hoping to have another yard sale in the fall, but only if there are more people involved. If you are interested, please talk to one of the executive members.

Reggie
Executive Director

Donation to our Library

A hardcover copy of the fifteenth anniversary edition of *Rubyfruit Jungle*, by Rita Mae Brown was recently donated to the GGLE library. Thanks Jenn. Come up to the office if you are interested in borrowing it.

Looking Ahead

Dances

There WILL be a dance for the month of July but NOT for the months of June or August. The location and date will be the Schoolhouse on the last Friday of the month (as per usual).

Car Rally

So what exactly is a car rally anyway? A car rally is nothing other than a scavenger hunt on wheels. The thing that makes the GGLE Car Rally unique is that it is organized by fags and dykes and its participants are the same. That in itself should allow one to speculate the potential for havoc this may cause. But it's a lot of fun and that's the other purpose of a car rally. So on Sunday, 23 June, plan to set aside an afternoon (I'm guessing because I haven't been told yet how long it will take) for the 3rd annual GGLE Car Rally.

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GGLE Newsletter

The GGLE Newsletter is published monthly by the **Guelph Gay and Lesbian Equality**, P.O. Box 773, Guelph, ON, N1H 6L8; (519) 824-4120 ext 8575. All submissions to the newsletter are welcomed and will be considered for publication. Opinions expressed in any articles or letters are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the GGLE executive or its membership. Direct your submissions or any inquiries c/o **The GGLE Executive** to the above address. Please note that names of contributors should be included but will not be used without their express consent.

Deadline

Submissions for the next newsletter must be received by **18 June 1991**.

Monthly Advertising

All camera ready advertising will be considered for inclusion in the newsletter. For inquiries into monthly advertising rates, please send your correspondence c/o **Peter Fryns** to the above address. The GGLE reserves the right to limit the amount of advertising sold in the newsletter.

The GAYLINE (519) 836-4550
Staffed Monday through Thursday
from 7:30 to 9:30 pm
Office Phone (519) 824-4120 (ext. 8575)
