# **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

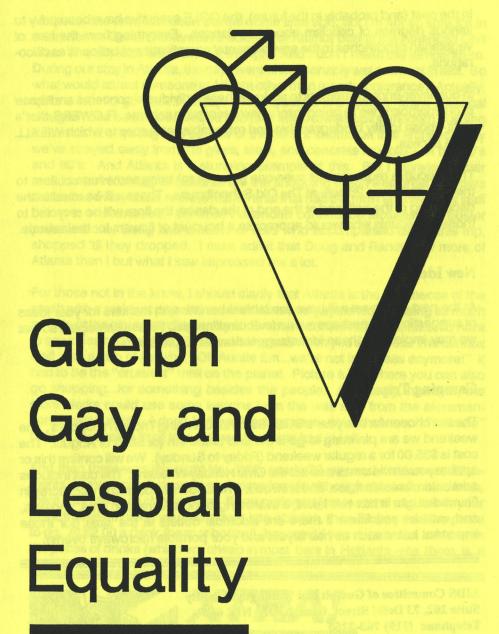
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**Newsletter for July 1991** 

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

# Wall Flowers?

In the past (and probably in the future), the GGLE executive have been privy to various degrees of criticism about our dances. Everything from the lack of vegetarian sandwiches to the environmental complication of balloons as decorations.

In our never-ending attempts to address these individuals' concerns and those of our members, we're going to try a new decorating scheme. FLOWERS, that's right--those totally biodegradable and renewable resources to which WE ALL have access.

The executive requests that everyone (attempt to) bring some form of flora to the next dance on 26 July at The Old Schoolhouse. These will be used in the decorating of the hall, and at the end of the dance, the flora will be recycled to those individuals who would appreciate a bouquet of flowers for their abode.

# **New Ideas**

At the next dance we will have available a banner with markers for your ideas or suggestions (or perhaps even a few compliments). Please participate so that we may implement these ideas/suggestions at future dances.

# **Camping Trip**

The site chosen for this year's GGLE Summer Camping Trip is The Cedars. The weekend we are planning to go is the 2nd to the 4th (or 5th?) of August. The cost is \$35.00 for a regular weekend (Friday to Sunday). We will confirm this or update you on the cost since it is the Civic Holiday Weekend. The cost includes admission, breakfast, ice, and firewood. The Cedars is located on 325 acres in Flamborough. It has two lakes, a swimming pool, a recreation area, showers, and we'll let you know if there are electrical outlets at the sites (for those important items such as hair dryers and your portable microwave ovens).

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



## Hotlanta

Hotlanta--the term has been coined some time ago, but I'm not so sure it's in reference to General Sherman's burning of Atlanta during the American Civil War. The city was definitely hot though. And I don't mean the temperature. During our stay in Atlanta, the days were unseasonably wet and cool in fact. So what would attract someone to Atlanta other than a work conference? Actually, quite a lot. I'd go back in a day. The cityscape is a delight. Many classical designs have been incorporated into new office towers using modern building materials. If anything can be said of the 90's, it should be that architecturally we've strayed away from the glass, steel, and concrete monoliths of the 70's and 80's. And Atlanta is a stunning example of this. But I digress. Other reasons for returning to Hotlanta are the shopping which was great, the bars that suited every taste, and the restaurants that had the most attentive wait staff I've ever encountered. So while I attended conference lectures and poster presentations, Doug and a friend of ours who accompanied us on this trip. shopped 'til they dropped. I must admit that Doug and Randy saw more of Atlanta than I but what I saw impressed me a lot.

For those not in the know, I should clarify that Atlanta is the gay mecca of the south with a resident population of lesbians and gays encompassing as much as 30% of the city according to some. Even at a conservative estimate, I'd have to say it was no less than 25%. And it showed when you shopped. The Lennox Mall was a hub of activity: "Oh Auntie Em...we're not in Kansas anymore!" It had to be the "cruisiest" mall on the planet. Picture a bar where you can also go shopping...for something besides the people. Admittedly, however, the store clerks could use some lessons from the wait staff from the aforementioned restaurants. I don't believe I've ever encountered so much "attitude" before. But aside from that, a good time was had by all.

And then there was the night-life. With nearly 30 gay and lesbian establishments, some exclusively male and some female although most admitted both, there was plenty to choose from. If you preferred just to stand and talk to your friends while drinking yourself slowly into oblivion, then **Blakes** was the place to go. At \$2.00 a drink (beer or booze!), how could you miss it. But aside from the prices of drinks (which are cheap in most bars in Hotlanta--yes there is a



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God) it was a bar with friendly atmosphere. One of the nicest bars in Atlanta wasn't a full-time gay establishment, however. We attended an AIDS benefit at Petrus, an old theatre that had been converted into a bar. From the lofty ceilings still decorated with paintings, the stage with a glass-wall back drop, to the Roman style fountains outside, it was a stunning example of utilizing an old building for a different purpose. If you're more into dancing, there's the Armory and the Metro but if you're an all night party animal get ready for Backstreet and The Cove. Both are open 24 hours all weekend long and both serve alcohol during all opening hours. Rumour has it though that The Cove attracts more of a rougher crowd than does Backstreet. And if you felt that you wanted to go somewhere where YOU are the star, you could always go to Burkhart's and participate in a Karaoke Night. It's quite simple: You get on stage and sing to some pre-selected tune and make an absolute fool of yourself.

But Atlanta has more to offer than just bars. It has theatre, jazz clubs, a symphony orchestra, art galleries, the Atlanta Braves (is that Baseball or Football--my loathing for these sports is showing its colours), and of course the 1996 Olympics. According to Charlie Brown, the "Queen of Atlanta" (the one who lives there; not the one who snubbed Atlanta on her Royal visit of the U.S .-sorry Lizzie but them's the facts), the '96 Games will be a chance for the Atlanta Lesbian and Gay community to stand up to the city. As we all know, when a city hosts such an international spectacle, the city rabble, the prostitutes, the vagrants along with its other undesireables (spelled h-o-m-o-s-e-x-u-a-l-s) will be run out of the city if at all possible. Bars will be closed on false pretences and life will be made difficult for the lesbian and gay community. They may have a fight ahead of them if what Charlie Brown says is correct. So if after hearing this you still want to go to Atlanta and you decide to take their form of the TTC, called MARTA (it's cleaner AND safer), and you get out at one of the stops where Peachtree Street is to the east, Peachtree Place is to the south, and West Peachtree Street is to the west, you'll know you've arrived at your destination. Then find yo'self a copy of Etcetera Magazine (their XTRA) and ya'll have a gay ol'time ya'hear. [I just couldn't resist. I heard the drawl for two weeks.]

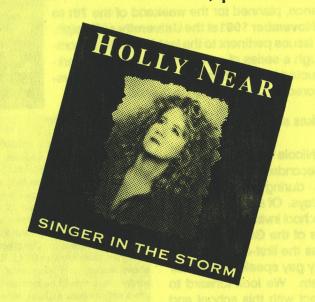
Next month I'll talk about the second leg of our trip--Myrtle Beach, SC. Peter.

How was Lesbian and Gay Pride Day 1991 for you?

Was it everything you thought it would be?

Feel free to tell me your experiences so that we may share it with others in next month's newsletter.

# An Intimate Evening With Holly Near With John Bucchino, pianist



Sunday October 6, 1991 8pm Humanities Theatre University of Waterloo

All seats \$18
Reserved Seating

Tickets On Sale Now at the
University of Waterloo Humanities Theatre
Box Office (519) 885-4280
and the
ACCKWA Office (519) 748-5556

Presented by: The AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener-Waterloo and Area (ACCKWA) as part of AIDS Awareness Week, 1991 (October 6-12).

# Out in the Classroom: Lesbians and Gays in Education

# A three-day conference on lesbo/homophobia in the education system

This conference, planned for the weekend of the 7th to the 10th of November 1991at the University of Guelph, will address issues pertinent to the lesbian and gay community through a series of panel discussions and workshops conducted by individuals from the education system. Sponsored by CLGRO and co-hosted by GGLE.

# RITES A magazine. for lesbian t-gay liberation wilk a feminist bent! SUBSCRIBE! \$16/10 issues Box 65, Station F Toronto, Onfario M44 2L4

## **GGLE** makes some inroads

Last month, Nicole was invited to Norwell District Secondary School to speak to students during their sexuality awareness days. Of significance was the fact the school invited Nicole under the auspices of the GGLE. Another first: this was the first-ever introduction of openly gay speakers into their school system. We look forward to further contact with this school and hope that they will invite both a male and a female speaker next year.

# **Looking Ahead**

#### Dances

There will not be a dance in August. We will resume with our schedule of monthly dances once the summer is completed.

### **GGLE** Newsletter

The GGLE Newsletter is published monthly by the Guelph Gay and Lesbian Equality, P.O. Box 773, Guelph, ON, N1 H6L8; (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 16 July 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)