

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

Publishing History: Issued by **Guelph Gay Equality (GGE)** from 1977, May - 1990, August. Issued by **Guelph Gay & Lesbian Equality (GGLE)** from 1990, September - 1993, April. Issued by **Guelph Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Equality (GGLBE)** from 1993, May - 1995, September.

Copyright Permission: Copies of individual issues of this *Newsletter* have been reproduced with the kind permission of its copyright holder, **Guelph Queer Equality (GQE)**. This permission is part of a broad agreement to grant the **Grand River Rainbow Historical Society** copyright permission to reproduce publications of **Guelph Queer Equality** under its current and prior names back to its inception in 1973 (**University of Guelph Homophile Association → Guelph Gay Equality → Guelph Gay & Lesbian Equality → Guelph Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Equality → Guelph Queer Equality**). No further reproduction is permitted.

Digitized Files: After the PDF file has displayed, we suggest that you **set your viewing window to a fairly large size** and then **adjust the PDF magnification** so that the text can be read comfortably.

Telephone Numbers & Email Addresses: These documents were published many years ago. Please do **NOT** use them as a source for telephone numbers or email addresses for local businesses or agencies. Reliable sources for that kind of information include <http://www.canada411.ca/> and other search engines on the Internet.

Redaction: Certain parts of the digitized text have been **blacked out** in accordance with our [Redaction Policy](#). The **Grand River Rainbow Historical Society** maintains a separate collection of unmarked (unredacted) copies of the issues of this magazine for consultation as necessary.



Guelph Gay and Lesbian Equality

Newsletter for September 1991

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

AIDS...How the statistics have been used to lie to us

"The Federal government has consistently misled Canadians about the risk of getting AIDS and continues to do so, say a University of Western Ontario professor and a Toronto epidemiologist." So begins a lengthy two-part article in *The Hamilton Spectator* (24-26 August/91) in which the newspaper has stated that we all (the media, advocacy groups, and the government) are guilty of perpetuating this lie. The article is summarised as follows.

The Federal Centre for AIDS has admitted it has no conclusive data proving that AIDS in Canada has spread sexually from women to men. This would be the only route which allows AIDS to spread throughout the general population. Toronto epidemiologist Eric Mintz says that although public education campaigns would have us believe we all have an equal chance of contracting AIDS, the actual chance of contracting AIDS for most adults is no more than dying in a commercial airline crash (about three in one million). When one looks at gay males in Canada, they are 200 to 300 times more likely to contract AIDS than heterosexuals.

Often cited studies suggest that in third world or developing countries heterosexual transmission is closely linked to widespread sexually transmitted diseases, genital ulcers, and poor health care. None of these situations, however, are significant problems in most of North America. Third world and developing countries are moreover populated by a substantial number of uneducated people, a situation which makes it difficult to talk to them about a virus when they have no technical knowledge of it.

In many Canadian poster campaigns,

there has been a tendency to "homogenize the risk of sex acts and the risk of AIDS." Unprotected anal intercourse is still very common amongst gay males. It is also practised by up to 20 percent of heterosexual couples. This activity results in a far greater risk of torn tissue and consequently of HIV getting into the blood stream, especially for the receptive partner, than with unprotected vaginal intercourse. The homosexual male therefore who engages in unprotected anal sex is consequently at greater risk for contracting AIDS than his heterosexual counterpart will be having unprotected vaginal intercourse. Unfortunately, government advertising has essentially equated the risks involved for both activities.

The gay population was the first group to contract AIDS when it first appeared in

Counselling for Gays and Lesbians

Relationship problems?
Low Self-Esteem?
Coming-Out?
Stressed-out?
Confused? Depressed?
Addicted to sex?

Confidential Sessions \$60

Male Counsellor, M.A.Sc.
(Psych. and Human Relations)
(519) 823-8080
Guelph
Ask for Norm

North America. When it began to spread amongst heterosexuals it was mostly amongst haemophiliacs, prostitutes, and IV drug users who shared needles. That this population included women and non-gays set the stage for gay activists to demand that AIDS no longer be strictly linked to gays. What followed in Canada over time was a sanitized government campaign that identified everyone of being equally at risk. The stats however are very clear. Some 80 percent of all individuals dying as a result of AIDS in Canada, over the last decade, have been gay males. When looking at the number of new cases of Ontario women who are HIV positive, their numbers have plateaued since 1987 at just under 100 cases per year.

Sadly, as a result of the homogenized risk group campaign in Canada, many young gay males are unaware of their potential risk. Conversely in many European countries, where the governments are more socially progressive, funding is targeted at the high-risk groups. While some people have been loathe to identify specific high risk groups for AIDS, the stats have shown that they do in fact exist. "We are not saying AIDS is no risk to most Canadians, just that people should know the true scope of it. We are not saying people should stop using condoms; they protect against disease and unwanted pregnancy as well as AIDS. We are also not saying people with AIDS are unimportant. We

feel strongly that funding should be aimed at those in need, and the afflicted be cared for. The AIDS risk is not shared equally, but our compassion must be." *In this month's newsletter, several of the GGLE Executive have included a brief article outlining each of their portfolios. We have done this to inform the membership of our roles as well as to acquaint new members with ourselves. I hope you find this useful and informative.*

Financial Director: Jennifer

Hello people! This is your friendly Financial director, Jenn. Once again the word of the month (the year perhaps) is MONEY!

My short and also longterm goals as YOUR GGLE Finance Director is to pay our bills and maintain a somewhat more comfortable financial status than we presently occupy. My third responsibility is being open to any input or suggestions for fundraising ideas. We survived the summer partly due to our garage sale in May. Hence we are having another one the 14th of September. Volunteers are needed. More ideas and suggestions are very welcome!

The major ways the GGLE earns money is through membership sales and regular dances. Right now, I'd like to talk about GGLE memberships. Presently, they cost \$12. per year. Semi-annual sales of 1



XTRA!

Your key to Toronto's
lesbian and gay community

\$10. per membership are also offered. A GGLE membership allows you to receive our monthly newsletter (wrapped discretely of course), reduced admission (\$2.00) to our dances and to borrow GGLE library books. The deduction your membership provides will pay for itself when you attend only six of our dances. And as always, your money is an investment in a worthwhile cause--the GGLE!

My second concern is presently due to our shaky financial status (we are surviving on a month-to-month basis in a BIG way), I have composed a wish list for the GGLE. A wish list--items of necessity--that are needed by the group. Donations of these items would be greatly appreciated.

- pens, pencils (for Gayline and office use)
- tape (masking and clear)
- thumb tacks
- blank and ruled paper
- stamps (for mailing out bills, etc)
- artwork and/or posters for the office
- subscription to XTRA (Rites is currently paid for by a member!)
- books, magazines of gay/lesbian/bi interest
- taped VCR movies
- donations for various bills (i.e. phone bill).

So talk to me. I would like to hear from you all!

Jenn

Education Director: Alan

Salutations to one and all. I'm the Education Director for the GGLE (You can call me Al). If you've ever called the Gayline [(519) 836-4550], you've probably wondered who the people are at the other end of the line who answer many questions on a variety of topics. Questions such as,

"Are there any Gay bars in Guelph?" to more complicated ones like, "How do I tell my wife I'm gay?" It's also part of my job to coordinate these dedicated volunteers and to ensure the line is being run properly. The line averages about four calls per night while our taped message receives over 1000 calls per year. The line is staffed Monday to Thursday from 7:30 until 9:30 pm.

Earlier this year, the Buddy System was introduced and already it has helped several people. The Buddy System is designed to help people who are just coming to terms with their sexuality. The person requesting the "Buddy" is paired with someone, who is already comfortable with their own sexuality, until they feel more comfortable with being lesbian or gay. The "Buddy" is there to answer questions about being gay or lesbian and to make "Coming Out" a non-threatening positive and productive experience. Confidentiality and honesty are the key to the system. The pace at which a "Buddy" helps their "buddy" is decided upon jointly and is supervised by myself to ensure that the system is conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect. If you think you require a "Buddy" or would like to be one, please call the Gayline and leave your name and number.

This is just the tip of the iceberg of what I'm involved in. I also help get speakers for our meetings, act as a liaison for the AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County, and I am in charge of the Speakers' Committee for the GGLE.

So welcome back everyone from your summer hols. Hope to see you all soon. Peace, love, and happiness. *Alan S.*

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).

September 1991

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																				
1 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	2	3 GGLE Social Night 8 pm UC 536	4 GLOW Night Modern Languages Bldg. Room 104, University of Waterloo 9 'til 11pm	5 Gaywire CIUT 89.5 FM 7 'til 8 pm GEM Coffee House Unitarian Hall 84 S. Service Road Mississauga. 8 pm	6	7																				
8 GRFS as above GGLE Car Rally Meet at GGLE Office Call the Gayline for any changes	9	10 GGLE Welcome Back Social 8 pm UC 536	11 GLOW Night as above	12 Gaywire as above GEM as above	13	14 GGLE Lawn/Yard Sale 61 Albert Street, Guelph 9:00 am 'til 5:00 pm Call the Gayline for directions																				
15 GRFS as above	16	17 GGLE Discussion Night Sexism 8 pm UC 536 Deadline for Newsletter October Issue	18 GLOW Night as above	19 Gaywire as above GEM as above	20	21																				
22 GRFS as above	23	24 GGLE Games Night 8 pm UC 536	25 GLOW Night as above	26 Gaywire as above GEM as above	27 GGLE Dance The School House 611 Silvercreek Parkway Guelph 9 pm 'til 1 am	28																				
29 GRFS as above	30			<p align="center">Phone Numbers of Interest</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>GGLE--GAYLINE</td> <td>(519) 836-4550</td> <td>GLOW</td> <td>(519) 884-GLOW [4569]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GGLE--Office</td> <td>(519) 824-4120 ext.8575</td> <td>GRFS</td> <td>(519) 570-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GEM</td> <td>(416) 278-</td> <td>PFLAG (Mary Jones)</td> <td>(416) 457-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WGLA--GAYLINE</td> <td>(519) 438-4329</td> <td>ACGWC</td> <td>(519) 763-2255</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACCKWA</td> <td>(519) 748-5556</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p align="center">Remember to call the GGLE Gayline for updates on any calendar events!</p>			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) 748-5556		
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) 748-5556																									

Co-Activities Directors: Caireen and Peter

O.K. women, womyn, listen up. This is your group too! We can't let anyone forget it. Granted, we and the men may be worlds apart, but we still have one common interest: Our rights as lesbians and gays. While lesbians and gays confront some separate issues, homophobia is something we all experience. The GGLE allows us to come together in comfort (one would hope), to meet new people and to learn a bit about one another. So far we have planned "Kids in the Hall" video night, a visit from Spouses of Gays (& Lesbians?) and (we hope) a workshop on self-defense. In addition, we are holding two discussion nights; one surrounding the topic of internalized homophobia, and the other dealing with sexism, especially in our community. Oh, and we can't forget BGLAD...ack! So many things to do! Peter and I are your Co-Activities Directors for this year. If you have any suggestions, believe me, your input is welcome.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable (productive, at the very least?) summer. I'm still trying to coax my smoggy lungs back into full working order. Welcome back EVERYONE.

Caireen

Hi, my name is Peter Colwill and I'm the other half forming the Co-Activities

Directors for this year. Although I have been in this position for several months now, I would welcome all help and suggestions. So if you have any, come to the meetings and air them. I hope to see you there!

Publicity Director: Peter Fryns

My most visible responsibilities in this position are editing, producing, and mailing the GGLE Newsletter. I also correspond with other Lesbian or Gay organizations and currently I'm involved with coordinating the GGLE's contribution to the Education Conference we are co-hosting with CLGRO in November. Since much of my time is spent producing the newsletter, I always welcome any membership input to assist with the content. I will elaborate on this issue in my rebuttal to the letter following this article.

Peter

A Member Speaks Out....

Let me say that by writing this I do not presume to be speaking for the entire membership. I am but one person with one voice, and my opinion may not be shared by others.

I was not impressed with Peter Fryns' description of his recent trip to Myrtle Beach which appeared in the August newsletter. For those of you not familiar with it, he described how on his way home he observed a couple having oral sex while

driving down the highway. Surely there are matters of greater importance and value that should have been included in the newsletter. Correct me if I am wrong, but a newsletter should be primarily intended to inform the membership. I realize that Peter does a lot of work each month putting the newsletter together and getting it published. In fact, he is quite often the only contributor to the newsletter. But, come on Peter! Where is your taste? Informing us about the gay establishments in Myrtle Beach would have been sufficient!

Perhaps this is just another sign of the apathy of the current GGLE executive and membership. Very few people seem to care anymore [sic.] about the organization, as indicated by lack of submissions to the newsletter, dwindling attendance to meetings, dances and special events, financial difficulties and lack of volunteers. In short, it seems the GGLE is dying.

Fortunately, though, dying does not mean dead. There is still hope. I urge each member to think about what belonging to the organization has done for them--whether it be having been helped while struggling with his/her sexuality, calling the Gayline, provided with a support system or a place in which to socialize and make friends. We have all benefited in one way or another by belonging to the GGLE, and therefore we all owe it to the organization to give something back!

We are living in a world in which

homosexual men and women are discriminated against, mistreated and misunderstood. We need to stick together if this is to change, and maintaining support for the GGLE is one way of ensuring that we will survive and prevail! So start going to meetings on a consistent basis, bring friends, go to dances, volunteer and give your suggestions as to how the GGLE can improve. That is the very least you can and should do for an organization that has helped you so much!

Michael M.

Editor's response....

Firstly, I want to thank Michael for submitting the first original contribution by a non-executive member since November 1990. At least now I've found what it takes to get members to submit a contribution. Prior to and since November 1990 only a handful of members have provided me with articles that they found in other publications to be of interest to a gay or lesbian audience. So Michael is correct in stating that for the most part I have been the sole contributor to this newsletter outside of other executive members who also contribute notices or articles relevant to their portfolios. That hardly seems fitting or representative of a diverse organization such as the GGLE.

As a clarification to readers who may not have read the August 1991 newsletter,

Out in the Classroom:

Lesbians and Gays in Education

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

This conference, which is scheduled for the weekend of the 7th to the 10th of November 1991 at 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.

I wrote the article in question with humour in mind. If Michael thought it was written in bad taste it just goes to show that we don't see eye-to-eye on certain issues. When there are no contributions for a particular issue, I have three choices of what I can write: 1. Something that will offend the least number of people; 2. Something controversial to elicit membership response; or 3. Nothing at all. I think the latter choice would be crass, and although I prefer option two, option one seems to be the trend of the 90's.

To address Michael's concern of what should be included in a newsletter, I cannot disagree with his statement of printing matters of greater importance and value. But if memory serves me correct, in the same issue I also wrote an article on Lesbian and Gay Pride Day 1991 and another on the GGLE camping trip which was cancelled after the newsletter went to print due to lack of interest. Should I interpret his remarks as saying these articles were of lesser importance than the article he found offensive?

If a newsletter is meant to inform its readers, should it not provide them with a choice of articles that hopefully they will not only read but also use as a vehicle for action. And in addition to being informative, can a newsletter not also be entertaining? Or should it simply be a listing of events with their respective dates and times? Michael's letter, if nothing else, showed me

that there are people out there who read the newsletter who care enough to write something criticizing what I do. So while we don't share similar opinions, Michael has provided me with incentive to provide readers with material sufficiently controversial that they will feel compelled to respond.

Peter

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 17 September 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 Mondays through Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm

office phone (519) 824-4120 (ext. 8575)
