

# Preserving the Rainbow

by Lyn McGinnis

Looking back on the many things I have done to build bridges between the Queer and straight community, one of the absolute highlights was my being part of the documentary 'Rainbow Reflections,' created by local filmmaker Melissa Sky.

The Grand River Rainbow Community Historical Project was begun on March 14, 2011 by Jim Parrott, saying "by late 2011, it became clear that an obvious gap in the historical materials was oral-history narratives." In January, 2012, Jim and old friend Melissa Sky had an idea. In February 2012, it was announced,

"The Grand River Rainbow Historical Society and Femme Fatale Creations are excited to announce that we are launching an initiative called Rainbow Reflections. This partnership aims to create a new documentary and set of video interviews of people sharing their memories of local rainbow history."

Jim Parrott recalls "reaching out to potential interviewees in Waterloo-Wellington; Ali Scott worked on developing interview questions.

Melissa began filming interviews in November and completed virtually all of them by December."

In the 2014 book, 'Out Proud: Stories of Pride, Courage, and Social Justice' by Douglas Gosse, Melissa wrote an article titled, 'Making History, Making Community: One Canadian Lesbian Story.'

"Becoming a mother and growing older myself inspired a curiosity about history that lead me to start working with the Grand River Rainbow Historical Society to create a feature-length documentary, called Rainbow Reflections, to capture

local queer history. I began videotaping oral history interviews of everyday people in the region, asking them what it had been like to be LGBTQ in Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge or Guelph in the 60s and beyond. I was flooded by their stories. I lost my composure behind the camera more than once, trying to hold onto all these gorgeous, painful, funny and courageous stories."

Rainbow Reflections had its official premier on Thursday, January 9, 2014, at Little Bean Coffee Bar in Kitchener. Subsequent to this were other public viewings including at UW, WLU, University of Guelph, Rainbow Reels Festival and a Region of Waterloo initiative called 'Dialogue on Diversity.' At all these events there were opportunities for public discussion after the film.

I can attest to far more showings in smaller settings. This film has been a staple for years at Medix School, which trains people to work in public health fields. I also know of a group of disabled persons who used it to fuel their own discussions about community and social justice.

I was recently asked how someone could order a copy only to discover the original stock is sold out and Melissa has yet to find a new supplier. There are fifty copies of this community treasure in circulation, with only ONE copy in the SPECTRUM lending library, along with a single copy in the Waterloo and Kitchener library systems.

I urge community members able to part with a personal copy to donate it to SPECTRUM, and hope a new batch is soon produced for the thousands still needing to see it, in this community and beyond.



## SPECTRUM Rainbow Community Calendar

The **Rainbow Community Calendar (RCC)** is a monthly publication serving the LGBTQ community of Waterloo Region. It is named in tribute to the **Pink Triangle Community Calendar** created in 1989 by community activist Lisa Simkins. The **RCC** is issued by the **Rainbow Community Calendar Collective**, an action group of **SPECTRUM-Waterloo Region's Rainbow Community Space**. Print copies are available at SPECTRUM, ACCKWA, and various bars, clubs, cafés et cetera in Waterloo Region.

Online at: <http://ourspectrum.com/rainbow-community-calendar/>

Send events to: [info@ourspectrum.com](mailto:info@ourspectrum.com) by the 20th of each month.

SPECTRUM's **Resource Centre and Drop-in Space** is in Unit 210 at 283 Duke Street West, Kitchener, N2H 3X7 (corner of Duke Street West and Breithaupt). Park on Breithaupt Street side of the building, near the loading dock. Go in the Duke Street entrance, up the stairs, through the door, down the hallway to Unit 210.

**Website:** <http://ourspectrum.com/> **NEW!** (with hours of opening and much more)

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/SpectrumCommunitySpace>

**Twitter:** [@our\\_SPECTRUM](https://twitter.com/our_SPECTRUM) **E-mail:** [info@ourspectrum.com](mailto:info@ourspectrum.com) **Phone:** 226-779-9695

### November Events

**Starting November 1**

**Queercraft – a Queer Crafting Group.**

6-8 PM, Tuesdays: **November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.** Bring your portable craft to SPECTRUM!

**Starting November 2**

**OlderAdultsGroup.** 7-9PM, first and third

Wednesdays of the month – **November**

**2** and **16** at SPECTRUM. We see things

differently as we age. Priorities shift.

Social circles change. Join us in a

**new** discussion and social group for

older LGBTQ adults. And if you are

concerned about whether the group is a fit for you, then try it out to see. Lately, we have been sharing stories about our lives. We will also continue to think about what kinds of discussions and activities we might like to have in future. We hope that this will be a step in the direction of creating a community support for us as we age.

**Starting November 3**

**Trans Peer Support Group.** 7-9 PM

on the first and third Thursday of the

month. **November 3** and **17.** New day

- new time - new facilitators. A safe and

normalizing environment for anyone

identifying in the trans/gender variant umbrella at SPECTRUM. More information: [trans@ourspectrum.com](mailto:trans@ourspectrum.com)

#### Starting November 3

**Rainbow Connections - Kitchener meetings**, 7-9 PM first and third Thursdays of the month: **November 3, 17**. LGBTQ and Mental Health Group Main Floor, Self Help Alliance, 67 King St E. Kitchener. If you will be late, please contact us in advance so we know when to let you in. Also note that there is now a 15 minutes time-period that we can let you in, otherwise it becomes disruptive to group. We will be in the downstairs room, so ring the downstairs doorbell to be let in. Call 519-570-4595 to speak with either Jasmina, ext. 4052, or Brenda, ext. 4061 to verify meeting date and time, or for more information.

#### Starting November 4

**day5games**. 7-11 PM **November 4, 11, 18, 25** at SPECTRUM. Join us as we gather at our space to play board and card games, assemble jigsaw puzzles and fiddle with constructions in an informal atmosphere.

#### Starting November 5

**SPECTRUM Saturday Symposium** 2-5 PM Saturdays, **November 5, 12, 19, 26**. We meet Saturday afternoons to discuss a topic of interest to our community. Ideas for topics will usually come from participants and be posted here ahead of time. Our inaugural meeting was held Saturday, June 18, 2016 at 2 PM. The group dynamic is expected to change weekly as each topic will likely attract a different crowd, though one is not expected to be of a particular bent to attend. All are welcome every Saturday. Attendees are free to participate or not in the discussion according to their own temperament. You need not be an expert on anything to contribute as we are all here to learn from each other. We emphasize speaking about your own experiences. Come with an open mind. The group is mildly moderated at SPECTRUM.

2

#### Starting November 6

**Friends of Dorothy Bowling League Event**. 1:15pm practice; 1:30 - 4pm bowling, Sundays: **November 6, 13, 20, 27**, at Brunswick Frederick Lanes, 385 Frederick Plaza, Kitchener.

**ORG-SPECTRUM's Outdoor Recreation Group**. Sundays. Events alternate between Lite and Regular:

**November 6** - 1- 5 PM, public wash-room benches, Victoria Park, David Street at Jubilee Dive and Courtland Avenue East, Kitchener.

**November 13** - 2-4 PM, Preston Memorial Auditorium, Hamilton Street at Bishop Street, Cambridge.

**November 20** - 1-5 PM, Moses Springer Arena, Lincoln Road, Off Weber Street North, Waterloo.

**November 27** - 2-4 PM, Kitchener Public Library, Central Branch, Queen Street North, Just off Weber Street East, Kitchener.

For more information: 519-503-9313.

#### Starting November 7

**Rainbow bereavement support group** **Mon. Nov. 7** 1:30-3:30. **Wed. Nov. 17** 6:00-8:00 PM. All LGBTQ caregivers, spouses, friends suffering loss. 298 Lawrence Ave. Kitchener. Call 519-743-4114 ext. 117. [barb@hospicewaterloo.ca](mailto:barb@hospicewaterloo.ca)

#### Starting November 8

**OK2BME Youth Group**. 6-7:30 PM Alternate Tuesdays- **November 8, 22** More information: <http://ok2bme.ca/>

#### Starting November 9

**Transgender Peer Support Group**. (new) 7-9 PM on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. **November 9** and **23**. For individuals who identify as transgender and questioning. Self Help Alliance, 67 King Street East, Kitchener. Call 519-570-4595 to speak with either Jasmina, ext. 4052, or Brenda, ext. 4061 to verify meeting date and time, or for more information.

#### Starting November 10

**Rainbow Newcomers** Thursday, **November 10**, Wednesday, **November 23** at SPECTRUM. A place for LGBTQ-identified immigrants and refugees to social-

ize with each other and with LGBTQ people who have been in town for a while, and discuss issues related to being a newcomer to Canada. More information: [RainbowNewcomers@gmail.com](mailto:RainbowNewcomers@gmail.com)

#### November 10

**Waterloo Region, Let's Talk. Pulse, Orlando November 10**, 6:30-8:30 PM at the main branch of Kitchener Public Library. Join us in a public panel discussion featuring activists and scholars from the LGBTQ and Islamic communities, to discuss challenges and approaches to reconciling the coexistence of queer and religious identities within Canada's cultural mosaic. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1728362217488973/>

#### November 15

**Waterloo - Wellington - Perth PFLAG, Parents Family and Friends Peer-Support Group** 7-9 PM on the third Tuesday of the month. **November 15**. Are you having difficulty coming to terms with the sexuality, gender identity or gender expression of someone close to you? Join us in a warm, welcoming and safe place for all family and friends of people of the LGBTQ community at Pre-School Room, Downtown Community Centre, 35-B Weber Street West, Kitchener. More Information: <https://www.facebook.com/PFLAG.WWP>

#### November 24

**Sexual Health Awareness Drop in** 5-8 PM on the fourth Thursday of the month. **November 24**. Sponsored by ACCKWA at SPECTRUM, 283 Duke Street West, Unit 210.

**SPECTRUM Reading Circle** 6:30-8 PM on the fourth Thursday of the month. **November 24**. In our Reading Circle we read short stories and articles aloud on the spot; no prior reading is required. Then we reflect on what we have read. We often spend longer discussing the literature than we do reading it. Participants are encouraged to bring readings.

Join us for this exploration of LGBTQ literature and what it means to us personally at SPECTRUM.

#### November 27

**Trans Fams Event**. 4pm, **November 27** (Sunday). Are you interested in meeting other families with Trans and Gender Independent Kids? Want to join our family and others for some fun activities? Contact Holly for more info at: [hbmathers@gmail.com](mailto:hbmathers@gmail.com)

#### November 29

**Good Laughs**. 7 PM until closing, last Tuesday evening of the month: **November 29**. A safe space for trans people to explore their identity in the community; open to allies as well at Symposium Café, Waterloo (corner of King and Erb) - back room. More information: [goodlaughs81@gmail.com](mailto:goodlaughs81@gmail.com)

## The Places of Our Past

The Grand River Rainbow Historical Project (an action group of SPECTRUM) is interested in gathering information on the buildings/locations in Waterloo Region that were an important part of our past. We are looking for folks who have photos of old haunts in the area back in the day - also folks who are willing to speak to Historical Project Team Members about their memories of those buildings and locations. Because some of these old buildings have already been destroyed (for example, Club Ren) or significantly altered, we need photos from the past to preserve this part of our local history. We will return the originals to you. If you can help, please contact Jim Parrott at: [president@ourspectrum.com](mailto:president@ourspectrum.com)



3