



Wednesday, April 26, 2006

## Stand Up! Stand Out! Stand Proud! Celebrating a Decade of PRIDE in Hamilton!

### Hamilton Pride Festival Inc. seeks nominations for The 2006 Pride Awards

“Hamilton Pride is proud to present our Third Annual Pride Awards,” says Hamilton Pride 2006 Chair Jae Adams, “This is an opportunity for us to salute the businesses, community groups and individuals who not only give back to the GLBT community, but make Hamilton an even more dynamic, rich and vibrant city to live in.”

Nomination for all categories will be accepted until 5pm EST on Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Hamilton Pride Festival Inc. must receive nominations via post c/o The AIDS Network, 135 Rebecca Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hamilton, Ontario, L8R 1B9 or via e-mail at [info@hamiltonpride.com](mailto:info@hamiltonpride.com).

Please include, if possible, the following in your nomination package: biographical or background information on your nominee, letters of support, media articles and current contact information on both the nominator and nominee. All winners will be presented with commemorative plaques at the awards banquet and will be further honoured at the annual Pride Parade on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Please note that Hamilton Pride Festival Inc. and its Board of Directors are ineligible to be nominated for any 2006 Pride Awards.

Hamilton Pride Festival Inc. will present The 2006 Pride Business, Citizen, Group and Youth of The Year Awards at The Hamilton Pride 2006 Gala Reception, which will be taking place on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006 from 7pm to 10pm in the Centre and East Ballrooms of The Sheraton Hamilton Hotel.

Hamilton Pride’s annual Gala Reception will also include a Silent Auction and entertainment provided by Kathy as “Bette Midler” and Nancy as “Cher”. All proceeds from the Silent Auction will be evenly split with The AIDS Network and The Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

The Sheraton Hamilton Hotel is located at 116 King Street West in downtown Hamilton, Ontario. This event is free and open to the public. All are welcome. Suggested dress is dress-casual. The Sheraton Hamilton Hotel is wheelchair accessible.

**Business of the Year:** This award honours a business that has made significant contributions to improving the lives of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) people in the Greater Hamilton community. The Business can be GLBT owned and/or operated and/or provide services or merchandise specifically directed towards the GLBT community. The winner of the Business of the year award will be named the official sponsor of the Pride Parade.

**Citizen of the Year:** This award honours the contributions of an individual who has made significant contributions to improving the lives of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) people in the Greater Hamilton community. Possible qualifications may include exemplary leadership skills, significant achievements and accomplishments, extensive volunteer activities, the development of new or innovative ideas, or overcoming a significant challenge or adversity. This award may include posthumous nominees. The winner of the Citizen of the year award will be the Co-Grand Marshall of the Pride Parade.

**Group of the Year:** This award honours an organization that has made significant contributions to improving the lives of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) people in the Greater Hamilton community. The Group can be a not-for-profit, charitable organization, agency, support group and/or social club. The winner of the Group of the year award will lead the Pride Parade as Hamilton Pride's honoured group.

**Youth of the Year:** This award honours the contributions of a youth (Age 25 and under) who has made significant contributions to improving the lives of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) people in the Greater Hamilton community. Possible qualifications may include exemplary leadership skills, significant achievements and accomplishments, volunteer activities, the development of new or innovative ideas, or overcoming a significant challenge or adversity. The winner of the Youth of the year award will be the Co-Grand Marshall of the Pride Parade.

**Past Honorees:**

**2005**

**Business:** La Jardinère Flower Market

**Citizen:** Deborah Stinson

**Group:** The Imperial Court of Hamilton-Wentworth

**Youth:** Ryan Campbell

**2004**

**Business:** The Werx

**Citizen:** Suzanne Foreman

**Group:** The AIDS Network

**2003**

**Citizen:** Bernie Marcoux

**2002**

**Group:** The Golden Horseshoe Leather Association

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**Contact:** Jae Adams (Chair - Hamilton Pride Festival Inc.)

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