



Monday, June 12, 2006

Stand Up! Stand Out! Stand Proud!
Celebrating a Decade of PRIDE in Hamilton
Presented by The Imperial Court of Hamilton-Wentworth

Hamilton Pride Festival Inc. Announces The 2006 Pride Awards Nominees

The Hamilton Pride Festival's Annual Pride Awards will be taking place at The Hamilton Sheraton Hotel located at 116 King Street West on Thursday, June 15th, 2006 starting at 7pm. This event will honour the Pride Business, Citizen, Group and Youth of the year. A Silent Auction will be held during this event with all proceeds being donated to The AIDS Network and The Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. Entertainment will be provided this year by Nancy Tromm as Cher and Kathy Thompson as Bette Midler. This event is free and open to the public. All are welcome. Dress code is semi-casual. The Hamilton Sheraton Hotel is wheelchair accessible.

"Every year I am blown away by the accomplishments and achievements of Hamilton's GLBT Community," says Hamilton Pride Festival Chair Jae Adams, "We are truly blessed with a wealth of talent and passion from individuals and organizations that enhance and enrich our GLBT Community in countless ways. This year our nominations really have a sense of history and context with both posthumous nominees who broke new ground and paved the way and youth nominees who continually find even more barriers to dismantle."

Gala Reception Schedule of Events:

7:00pm: Doors open, Welcome & Greetings, Silent Auction starts, complimentary refreshments served, and Cash Bar opens

- **Welcome Message: MC Betty Anne Thomas – Director, The AIDS Network**
- **Opening Address: Jae Adams – Chair, Hamilton Pride Festival 2006**
- **Greetings: Brian McHattie – Councilor - Ward 1, City of Hamilton**

Featured Silent Auction Items: framed and signed Queer as Folk poster, signed Brokeback Mountain script, lunch date with Mayor Larry DiIanni, VIP guest appearance on CH News with Movie Critic Alex Reynolds, signed copy of Mark Tewksbury's autobiography Inside Out: Straight Talk from a Gay Jock, and more.

All proceeds from the silent auction will be evenly split between The AIDS Network and The Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

7:30pm: Entertainment provided by Nancy Tromm as Cher

Nancy Tromm

Professional vocalist Nancy Tromm has been a successful celebrity tribute artist for almost a decade. Nancy has performed in various venues across the United States and Canada, doing ongoing tours at

many major tourist attractions, convention centers, festivals, and sports venues, for companies such as American Express, Remax, and Toyota. Nancy has also performed at several private functions, special events, and community festivals. Nancy was invited to join the prestigious roster of talent by the most famous tribute company in the world - Legends in Concert based in Las Vegas. On a personal note, Nancy is also a dedicated costume designer and seamstress. Her unique panache and flair for fashion comes alive through her costumes designs, ranging from perfectly hip to totally outrageous.

8:15pm: The 2006 Pride Awards presented by VIA Rail

- **Certificates presented to all nominees.**
- **Award Plaques, Prizes from VIA Rail, Bouquets from La Jardinère Flower Market, and Congratulatory Certificates from local area politicians presented to all winners.**

8:45pm: Entertainment provided by Kathy Thompson as Bette Midler

Kathy Thompson (www.purevoicepower.com & www.kathythompsononline.com)

For over three decades Kathy has given performances and speaking appearances numbering into the thousands: clubs, festivals, corporate events, private functions, television, film and recordings. She has been a composer, leader of the RSVP jazz quartet and a Top 40 Band, performed with many of Toronto's finest musicians, done jingles, comedy improv, voice-overs and has been an acclaimed celebrity impersonator getting her start with Legends in Concert, Las Vegas. She is a graduate of the National Institute of Broadcasting, an Advanced Bronze Toastmaster public speaker, and is achieving her certificate as a Teacher of Adults. Today, Kathy still performs jazz and writes songs. When she's not *cavorting and kibbutzing* as Bette, most of her time is spent privately coaching pop singers and vocal groups, as well as providing speech and voice training seminars for businesses. Since 2005 she has been delivering "voice make-over" classes at Centennial College and The Learning Annex. Her company is called PURE VOICE POWER.

9:45pm: Silent Auction Ends

10:00pm: Doors and Bar Close

10:00pm: Pride Awards After-Party at The Oz Lounge (formerly The Rainbow Lounge) at 30 King Street East. "Meet & Greet" with the cast of Mambo Italiano, live DJ and more.

2006 Pride Award Nominees

Business

The following businesses have made a significant contribution to improving the lives of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) people in the Greater Hamilton community. All nominees will receive a commemorative certificate. The winner of the 2006 Pride Business of the year award will receive a commemorative plaque and will be named the official sponsor of the Hamilton Pride Parade.

Don Cameron and Wesley Wait, the owners of La Jardinère Flower Market, The 2005 Pride Business of The Year, will present this award.

Cedars Campground (www.cedarscampground.com)

Cedars Campground is located in Millgrove, Ontario. Serving the GLBT community and its interests, it is situated on 130 unspoiled, partially wooded acres atop the Niagara Escarpment. The owners have created a dynamic community that acknowledges the environment, sports and recreation, employing many

members of the GLBT community. Cedars Campground is proud to be one of the largest and longest operating GLBT campgrounds in North America, serving the community for over 20 years.

Central Spa Hamilton (www.centralspa.com)

The Central Spa Hamilton has become a destination for men from Buffalo to London. Formerly known as The Warehouse, it was the setting of a controversial “raid” in the summer of 2004. A serious rift between the City, Police and the GLBT community resulted. Taking all the negative attention in stride current owner Chris Srnicek, took the high road and offered to pay the legal fees of the men who were arrested, joined the GLBT Police Task Force, and transformed the bathhouse into a trendy location with a strong client base. The Central Spa provides a safe space for men to explore their sexuality in a non-judgmental environment. Central Spa has even hosted some special women only bathhouse events too.

The Embassy Nightclub (www.embassy-nightclub.com)

The Embassy Nightclub has been serving Hamilton and the surrounding GLBT community for over 13 years. Not only is the bar a great place to relax with a tasty cocktail, it also has fabulous drag shows, wild clubby dance weekends, special events and parties. The Embassy Nightclub has raised money over the years for many charitable organizations such as The AIDS Network and The Good Shepherd. It’s no wonder that The Embassy Nightclub keeps going strong as one of the hubs of Hamilton's GLBT nightlife.

Great Glasses (www.greatglasses.ca)

Great Glasses has stores throughout Southern Ontario, with two locations in Hamilton. Great Glasses provides excellent service, knowledgeable staff and cutting edge computer technology. Great Glasses has been a generous supporter of several GLBT organizations including Hamilton Pride and The AIDS Network. Its staff reflects our diverse community and its management team have been praised for creating a positive work environment that mentors and guides their employees into fulfilling careers.

Citizen:

The following individuals have made significant contributions to improving the lives of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) people in the Greater Hamilton community. All nominees will receive a commemorative certificate. The winner of the 2006 Pride Citizen of the year award will receive a commemorative plaque and be named the Co-Grand Marshall of the Hamilton Pride Parade.

Jae Adams, Chair of Hamilton Pride Festival 2006, will present this award.

Anne Cassel (*posthumous nominee*)

Anne Cassel was a tireless feminist and queer activist near the very beginning of queer consciousness and organizing in Hamilton. A founding supporter of The Hamilton United Gay Societies (HUGS), active in The Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Hamilton (GALA) and a long-time board member of The Hamilton AIDS Network for Dialogue and Support (HANDS). Anne also helped to organize lesbian and gay dances, a lesbian support group, a queer youth support group, coffee houses, pre-pride lesbian backyard parties, and rap group. At 23, she was Hamilton's youngest nurse manager. Into her retirement years she continued working with The McMaster University Medical Centre providing support for women who had endured sexual assault. Anne was a visible and vocal member of the LGBT community back when being out was not only brave, but also dangerous.

Lauren “Laury” Lagan (*posthumous nominee*)

Laury Lagan passed away unexpectedly last July after many years of active volunteer support of Hamilton’s GLBT Community with organizations such as Hamilton Pride, The AIDS Network, and The Lesbian Peer Support Group at The Women's Centre. Laury was a proud mother and grandmother and helped raise her autistic grandson with her training in Special Needs Development. A vocal proponent of

Harm Reduction among street populations Laury was a volunteer with Wesley Urban Ministries, working in their Christmas Store and serving meals to the needy at Centenary United Church. She later went on to work as a school crossing guard when her physical disabilities prevented her from taking on full-time employment. As her health permitted she continued to volunteer her time with countless dances, socials, festivals and wellness events often finding women needing a gentle ear.

Deirdre Pike

Deirdre Pike is a Social Planner with the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton. Through her strong leadership as Chair of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton, several projects that connect the City with the GLBTQ community have been implemented. These projects include community needs consultations, promoting the national day against homophobia, and linking the committee to other groups, organizations, and individuals who seek to secure respect and equality. Deirdre also chairs the board of a new community project started through her collaboration with Ronn Mattai - the LGBTQ Community Wellness Centre. She has acted as the Development Coordinator for the CWC, building an organization from the ground up. She also facilitates a weekly Lesbian Support Group. Deirdre strongly advocates for our community and works hard to foster equality and enable positive change for individual persons and for the community as a whole.

Irene Taylor

Irene is a wonderfully giving person. Born in Scotland, she moved to Hamilton when she was five. She has worked for The Hamilton Community Care Access Centre for over 25 years. She has always had her hand in volunteering. She was a volunteer with The Hamilton AIDS Network for several years, lending her support to individuals and manning many a booth at local community fairs. Irene established the Hamilton chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and has been running the organization on her own since 1994. She daily receives calls and emails for her support often going out of her way to help anyone struggling with GLBT issues. Irene has helped hundreds of people better accept sexual diversity in the broader community.

Group:

The following groups have made significant contributions to improving the lives of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) people in the Greater Hamilton community. All nominees will receive a commemorative certificate. The winner of the 2006 Pride Group of the year award will receive a commemorative plaque and will lead the Hamilton Pride Parade as Hamilton Pride's honoured group of 2005.

His Most Imperial Sovereign Majesty Emperor XI Robert E. Valentine of The Imperial Court of Hamilton-Wentworth, The 2005 Pride Group of The Year, will present this award.

The Anne Cassel Memorial Nurses' Education Fund

The Anne Cassel Memorial Nurses' Education Fund was set up after the death of Anne Cassel, a tireless feminist and queer activist at the very beginning of queer consciousness in Hamilton. The Anne Committee is composed of seven core members and countless other volunteers, all lesbians, who were significantly influenced by Anne. The Anne Committee holds fundraisers in the community to raise enough money to become a foundation through Hamilton Health Sciences. Their purpose is to send sexual assault nurses to further education. Many of these nurses are employed part-time and do not get a chance to attend conferences and courses. The Anne Committee's members have continued Anne's famous women's pre-pride backyard party in her actual backyard each year. They have hosted trivia nights, dinners and many other events. The women of the Anne Committee care deeply about women who have experienced sexual assault, as it was an issue close to the heart of their great friend and mentor.

Centenary United Church (www.centenaryunited.ca)

Centenary United Church has created a spiritual home where the GLBT community can feel safe and welcome. Centenary Church was born in 1866 and became a United Church of Canada in 1925. In 1955, with the amalgamation of Wesley United, Centenary created what is now known as Wesley Urban Ministries, a 24-hour shelter for the support of persons "living on the edge." Centenary became an affirming church in 2002, one of approximately 30 such United Church congregations across Canada. Centenary is a community of Christians who have chosen to make a public commitment, to being a safe and positive family of faith, which extends acceptance, offers support, and seeks divine justice for anyone, and especially for persons who are marginalized in our society, such as those with chronic illness, those with extraordinary challenges, be they physical, emotional or mental, and those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Advisory Committee for The City of Hamilton

The GLBT Advisory Committee for The City of Hamilton makes recommendations about policies, procedures and guidelines, which address the needs and concerns of GLBT people. The committee has made a number of contributions to our community, including financial support of the Pride Pages community listings, sponsorship of Pride festivals, advocating for greater support and improved services for GLBT people, supporting the initiative for a community wellness centre, organizing Anti-Homophobia events, facilitating community forums and more. The committee continually educates and increases awareness of issues affecting the GLBT community and develops interrelationships amongst City departments and various levels of government.

The LGBTQ Community Wellness Centre

The LGBTQ CWC, which started as a collaboration between Ronn Mattai and Deirdre Pike, was formed in Fall 2005. Ronn wanted to turn the brutal gay bashing against him in 2004 into an impetus for positive and progressive change. After consulting with family, friends, and community members, Ronn decided that a portion of the money donated to him by countless individuals should be used to create a place where the LGBTQ community could find access to resources that would improve their health and wellness. The CWC recently received a grant from Trillium, struck its inaugural board and will soon hire a Program Coordinator. Its goal is to create a physical space that focuses on the health and wellness of LGBTQ people - a community wellness centre that brings queer Hamiltonians together in healthy and positive ways. Pilot projects focusing on youth and parenting are already underway along with an anti-homophobia campaign.

The McMaster GLBTQ Centre (www.msu.mcmaster.ca/glbt)

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (GLBTQ) Centre is a service provided by the McMaster Students Union. The GLBTQ Centre's primary mandate is to act as a place where individuals can access resources, support and contacts pertinent to issues surrounding gender and sexual identities. It also operates as a safe space for individuals who may identify themselves as either/or Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Asexual, Two-Spirited, Heterosexual, Questioning and other diverse sexual, gender and social identities. With the help of its members, the GLBTQ Centre provides numerous services for the McMaster Community. These include, but are not limited to Peer Support, Newcomers Forum, The Ally Program, Womyn's Issues, Interfaith and Cross-Cultural Bridging, Monthly Newsletter, Social Events, Referrals, Health Awareness, Political Advocacy, Training Programs, Scholarship of Excellence, Anti-homophobia training, and online message board.

Youth:

The following Youths (age 25 or younger) have made a significant contribution to improving the lives of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) people in the Greater Hamilton community. All nominees will receive a commemorative certificate. The winner of the 2005 Pride Youth of the year award

will receive a commemorative plaque and be named the Co-Grand Marshall of the Hamilton Pride Parade.

Ryan Campbell, The 2005 Pride Youth of The Year, will present this award.

Jodi & Louise (www.myspace.com/jodiandlouise)

Louise Carey, originally from Ireland, is a seasoned performer, having fronted rock bands Streetcrab and Cypher. Hamiltonian since birth Jodi Correia is a talented musician and songwriter. The harmonious combination of Jodi & Louise, was first born in 2003 when Louise met Jodi at one of Hamilton's GLBT establishments - The Embassy Nightclub. Performing together for the past three years their music has been described as original, haunting and beautiful by fans. Jodi & Louise sold out their debut CD, How am I not myself, which they wrote, recorded, mixed and manufactured all on their own. Jodi & Louise finished 10th out of 451 bands on American Idol Underground's Most Played Song Competition. They are members of Artists with a Conscience, a group that works to stop online predators by promoting the safe use of social networking services over the Internet. They are members of Female Musicians Online, a group that supports Females in the Music Industry. Jodi & Louise have also created an online store called LoJo Designs, which showcases edgy GLBT clothing.

Erika Reid

Erika has just completed her third year in the Social Work and Psychology program at McMaster University. Erika has been a volunteer with the GLBTQ Centre at McMaster University for several years. Last year she organized a week of activities for McMaster's Pride Celebrations, which included a drag show, speakers, and a women-only sex toy party. Currently, she is the Co-Secretary on the Board of Directors of the GLBTQ Community Wellness Centre. Erika was a placement student at the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton. Through that placement she became an invaluable assistant to the development of the successful Trillium grant proposal for the GLBTQ Community Wellness Centre. Erika's young, bisexual female voice has been an essential piece of GLBTQ work both at McMaster University and in the larger community.

Chrissy Taylor

Chrissy Taylor, in her final year at McMaster University, has been an active member of The McMaster GLBTQ Centre for the past four years. As the Centre's Ally Coordinator she oversaw the Centre's Ally program, a queer-positive initiative that is committed to ending homophobia on campus. Chrissy was awarded the McMaster Students Union Volunteer of the Year Award for her extraordinary work and was hired to be the McMaster GLBT Coordinator the following year. As Coordinator Chrissy established Ally Welcome Week Representatives who dressed in vibrant pink suits during McMaster's Frosh Week who brought visibility to the Queer community. Chrissy spearheaded McMaster's first Positive Space campaign on campus. As a result Chrissy was awarded a McMaster Diversity Awards for making McMaster a welcoming and inclusive community. Chrissy has been a member of the McMaster Anti-Violence Network, the McMaster Womyn's Issues Network, the McMaster Coalition for Social and Equitable Change, Big Brothers and Sisters of Hamilton, and the McMaster Anti-Homophobia and Heterosexism Committee. Chrissy is the Co-Secretary on the Board of Directors of the newly formed GLBTQ Community Wellness Centre.

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

EVENTS IN BRIEF: Sunday, June 11: Mr. & Miss Hamilton Pride Pageant; **Monday, June 12:** Rainbow Flag Raising, Queer Radio Hamilton; **Tuesday, June 13:** Pass-Da-Pride, The Dating Game; **Wednesday, June 14:** Queer Issues Symposium, Symposium After-Party; **Thursday, June 15:** Gala Reception, Pride Awards After-Party; **Friday, June 16:** Mambo Italiano, Women's Dance; **Saturday, June 17:** Rally, Parade, Festival, Mambo Italiano, Broadway Musical Explosion Concert, Official After-Party; **Sunday, June 18:** Church Service

TICKET SELLERS: Bryan Prince Bookseller, The Comfortable Pew & La Jardinere Flower Market

SPONSORS: Official Presenter: The Imperial Court of Hamilton-Wentworth; **Diamond:** Central Spa, The Ontario Trillium Foundation, VIA Rail Canada; **Platinum:** The City of Hamilton, Molson, Piccadilly Circus, Polar Ice, The Werx; **Gold:** The AIDS Network, Blue Flame, Centenary United Church, The Embassy Nightclub, The GLBT Advisory Committee for The City of Hamilton, Joe The Tax Guy, Karel's Steam Baths, OUT TV; **Host Hotel:** The Hamilton Sheraton Hotel; **Media:** CH TV; **Silver:** Bryan Prince Bookseller, La Jardinere Flower Market, The OZ Lounge, Peartree Graphics, Terraware; **Bronze:** Alliance Atlantis, The Discount Emporium, Ellenoire, Fitz & Co., Dundas Framing and Arts Centre, Great Glasses, Greensville Gourmet, Hamilton Theatre Inc., Nancy Rancourt, Payne Music, Pierik's Cycle, Reardon Meat, Stirling Print-All, Transit Gallery, Wattronix, www.lylamiklos.com; **Community Partners:** The Bean Bar, Chez Bon Bon, Cupcakes, The Players' Guild of Hamilton, Precious Things N More Inc., Tamu Tamu, Vital Planet, Wheelworks Pottery

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CONTACT: Jae Adams – Chair, Hamilton Pride Festival Inc.

WEBSITE: www.hamiltonpride.com

GENERAL E-MAIL: info@hamiltonpride.com

MEDIA E-MAIL: media@hamiltonpride.com

PHONE: (905) 528-0207 x45

FAX: (905) 528-6311

MAILING ADDRESS: c/o The AIDS Network, 135 Rebecca Street, 2nd Floor, Hamilton, Ontario, L8R 1B9