



Wednesday, June 7, 2006

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

Queer Issues Symposium: Why Keep Pride Alive?
Presented by Joe The Tax Guy

The Hamilton Pride Festival's Annual Queer Issues Symposium will be taking place in The Hamilton Room of The Hamilton Central Public Library located at 55 York Boulevard on Wednesday, June 14th, 2006 starting at 6:30pm. An eclectic mix of speakers from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Straight (But not narrow!) communities will explore the question: Why keep PRIDE alive? This event is free and all are welcome. The Hamilton Central Public Library is wheelchair accessible.

"Hamilton Pride Festival Inc. is very excited to showcase a panel of activists that includes trailblazers from both the past and present," says Hamilton Pride Festival Chair Jae Adams, "As we look over ten years of consecutive Pride celebrations in Hamilton, we realize that there are so many individuals we must acknowledge and thank who gave a voice and presence to a community that often can become invisible. Having the committee which organizes The Hamilton Pride Festival examine whether the event should even exist seemed both slyly ironic and a little subversive. I know this discussion will be lively, controversial and thought provoking. An event you won't want to miss!"

Queer Issues Symposium Schedule:

6:00pm: Doors Open. Hamilton's GLBT Archives presented by Michael Johnstone will be on display for the public to view and enjoy.

Archivist: Michael Johnstone

Michael Johnstone is a Hamilton native and a graduate of McMaster University, where he was president of the McMaster Students' Union. He became active in the gay rights movement in 1976, as a member of Gays of Ottawa and for a time was secretary of their Political Action Committee, which acted as the Coordinating Office of the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Rights Coalition. After returning to Hamilton, he became a founding member of Hamilton United Gay Societies (HUGS) and later was a founding director of the Hamilton AIDS Network for Dialogue and Support (HANDS), now the Hamilton AIDS Network. In 1982, with Michael Dorman, he co-founded the Hamilton Lesbian and Gay Archives as a depository for material on lesbian and gay history in the local area. He is now looking for other members of the community who would be interested in collecting oral histories of older lesbians and gay men.

6:30pm: Welcome & Introductions

Moderator: Lyla Miklos (www.lylamiklos.com)

Born on Baffin Island in 1974. Became a Hamiltonian in 1982. Came out of the bisexual closet in 1996. Member of The Hamilton Pride Festival's organizing committee since 1997. Lyla is an award winning media professional, activist, actress, vocalist, writer, and sci-fi fan. Lyla has been a member of Mohawk Pride, The GLBT Advisory Committee for The City of Hamilton, The Toronto Bisexual Network, Bisexual Women of Toronto, The Q Continuum, and Strengthening Hamilton's Community Initiative.

6:40pm: Panel Discussion

Panelists:

Chris Borst

New to Hamilton, Chris Borst is a past member of the Toronto Bisexual Network, the Healthier Sex Network and the Ethical Lover Poly Discussion Group. He was heavily involved with the June 13th Committee, which responded to the police raid on Toronto's Bijou theatre and other acts of police brutality against the GLBTQ community. Chris sits on the Board of Directors of Hamilton's new LGBTQ Community Wellness Centre and is involved with local poly groups.

The Honourable Scott Brison (*www.scottbrison.ca*)

Scott Brison is serving his fourth term as the MP for Kings-Hants, Nova Scotia. Scott is one of a very small number of "out" politicians representing Canadians in the House of Commons. Under the Martin Liberal government, he served as The Minister of Public Works and Government Services, and Receiver General of Canada, and in doing so was the youngest member of cabinet. Scott is currently in the very competitive leadership race to lead the Liberal Party of Canada. Scott Brison is a firm believer in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and wants to lead a Canada where there are limitless opportunities and no glass ceilings regardless of gender, sexual orientation, religion or race.

Mary Cahill

A Lesbian woman, born in Quebec, Mary moved to Hamilton in the mid-70's. Her Gay and Lesbian Activism started in the late 70's with McMaster University's Homophile Association. In 1982 Mary became one of the founding members of The Hamilton United Gay Societies (HUGS) which later evolved into The Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Hamilton (GALA). Mary was involved with both HUGS & GALA for over 15 years. As well, Mary, along with Nick Mule, co-facilitated a mixed Gay & Lesbian support group out of the GALA offices, which used to be located out of The Windsor Hotel (now know as Lush). Mary is a practicing Psychiatric Nurse. Currently she is studying substance abuse counseling. Mary has been with her partner Erika for over eight years and is a proud step-mom and step-grandma.

cole gately

cole has been working and living in Hamilton for 17 years. During that time he has participated in a plethora of community initiatives in the queer and feminist communities in Hamilton and Toronto. She works with people experiencing homelessness, and is a member of the board of the LGBTQ Community Wellness Centre in Hamilton. He is turned on by the constant evolution and fluidity of what it means to be queer and is interested in challenging stereotypes within the queer community itself.

Reverend Lynn Godfrey

Rev. Lynn Godfrey has recently joined the ministry team at Centenary United Church. She is excited to be part of this dynamic and accepting religious organization where Hamilton's GLBT community is openly welcome. Her role at Centenary includes welcoming newcomers, enabling volunteers and keeping in touch with people in the community. Born in Vancouver, and the youngest of five, Lynn spent most of her childhood on a small dairy farm near Caledonia. Lynn is married with a teenage daughter, two adult step-children, two grandchildren and another on the way.

Gord Jackson

Gord is a native Hamiltonian, born and raised in the city's east end. He has written on GLBTQ issues for Mayday Magazine, Clue Magazine, The Winnipeg Gay and Lesbian Resource Centre, and The Hamilton AIDS Network Newsletter. A Christian by faith, Gord was a member of The Worship Committee and the Board of Directors at MCC Winnipeg and was also active with MCC Toronto and MCC Christos. He is currently spearheading Prism Parenting, a support group for GLBTQ parents as well as working on his autobiography, "A View from the Balcony."

Ian Jarvis

Ian Jarvis is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and is currently employed as the Community Programmer for Hamilton Artists Inc, a non-profit artist run centre. Ian is a video artist who has produced over 40 films. His work has played on television and has appeared in countless gay and lesbian film festivals around the world. His subjects have ranged from radical AIDS politics to cross-dressing. In the past Ian has been actively involved with groups such as Inside/Out, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Aids Action Now, and Queer Nation.

Joe Oliver

Joe first moved to Hamilton in 1984 and shortly thereafter came out of the closet. He jumped head first into Gay & Lesbian activism with his first affiliation being The Hamilton United Gay Societies (HUGS). Later, Joe became an integral part of Hamilton's very first Pride Celebration presented by The Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Hamilton (GALA), which was called Festival 91. This monumental event included seminars, dances, movie screenings, gala reception, church service and picnic. GALA requested a proclamation from the City of Hamilton to recognize the event. This request was refused by then Mayor Bob Morrow. As a result, Joe spearheaded a human rights complaint against the Mayor on behalf of GALA. Finally in March 1995 The Ontario Human Rights Commission ruled in GALA's favour. As a result Mayor Morrow was order to pay \$5,000 to Joe Oliver and also proclaim Gay Pride Week in June 1995. Joe now lives in the town he was born and raised in - Lindsay, Ontario.

Susie Robinson

Susie is a polyamorous land dyke lesbian. In 1987 she became one of the founding members of The Hamilton AIDS Network for Support and Dialogue (HANDS). From 1981 to 1990 she was a member of The Hamilton United Gay Societies (HUGS). Later she became a member of The Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Hamilton (GALA). For over seven years she volunteered and organized Hamilton's Gayline, a support and outreach volunteer run organization that provided peer support to Hamilton's Gay and Lesbian community. Throughout the 1980's she organized a Lesbian Social Group and chaperoned a Gay and Lesbian Youth Group.

Cecilia Tamez

Cecilia, a Queer Latina, was born and raised in Victoria, Mexico. In 1986 she moved with her family to Canada. From 1998 to 2004 Cecilia was a student at McMaster University. While a student she was heavily involved in McMaster's GLBT Centre. In her role as Senior Volunteer she organized fundraisers, provided peer support, and managed special projects. Cecilia regularly spoke with high school students throughout the Hamilton area on GLBTQ issues while at McMaster. She also created a documentary about GLBTQ life at McMaster called "Campus Queer" which she often screened while speaking with students on GLBTQ issues. From 2003 to 2005 she was the Co-Host of Queer Radio Hamilton on 93.3 CFMU. Currently, Cecilia lives in Toronto and works for a financial dot com.

8:15pm: Q&A with the audience and panelists

8:50pm: Thanks & Closing Remarks

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; **Thursday, June 15:** Gala Reception; **Friday, June 16:** Mambo Italiano, Women's Dance; **Saturday, June 17:** Rally, Parade, Festival, Mambo Italiano, 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:** Molson, Piccadilly Circus, Polar Ice, The Werx, The City of Hamilton; **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, Peartree Graphics; **Bronze:** Alliance Atlantis, Great Glasses, Nancy Rancourt, Pierik's Cycle, Reardon's Deli Counter, Stirling Print-All,

Transit Gallery, Wattronix, www.lylamiklos.com; **Community Partners:** The Bean Bar, Chez Bon Bon, Cupcakes, ellenoire, Fitz & Co., Framing and Arts Centre Dundas, Greensville Gourmet, Holt Renfrew, The Players' Guild of Hamilton, Precious Things N More Inc., Tamu Tamu, Wheelworks Pottery

- 30 -

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