



Rainbow Newsletter

from the Rainbow Service Organization RSO

www.rainbowservice.org

June 2011 edition

Rainbow Service Organization Annual General Meeting and Social

Tuesday June 21st, 7 pm

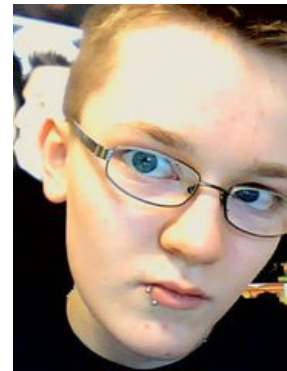
The Cannery Art Centre, 168 Hunter St. W., Peterborough

Business Meeting and Social 7- 8pm

Guest Speaker and Discussion 8 - 9pm:

Jake Mcphee
youth activist and musician

"Becoming Jake:
A Journey to Manhood"



Snacks and refreshment will be available

RSVP on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=199526470093388>

Upcoming Events: also on www.rainbowservice.org. email events to rso@rainbowservice.org)

Sunday June 12th: Q-Bowl 2-4 pm

Bowling social gathering for LGBTQ, allies and friends.
5 and 10 pin and nice shoes! \$6.50 for shoe rental and two games.
Bowlerama – Brookdale Plaza at 845 Chemong Road
RSVP on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=207222425981600>



Saturday June 18th - Q-Brew 3-6 pm

Social gathering for LGBTQ, allies and friends for fun and games!
The Spill – 414 George St. N., Peterborough
RSVP on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=116195041802988>



Thursday June 23th – PARN's Annual General Meeting

Lions Club Community Centre, 347 Burnham Street, Peterborough, Ontario.
Doors will open at 4:30pm and the meeting will start at 5:00pm
More info: Peg Town at peg@parn.ca or 705-749-9110, extension 202



June 24 - July 3rd - Toronto Pride - details at www.pridetoronto.com

Saturday July 16th: Q-Tini Social "Jumpin' July" Edition 7-9 pm

Summer gathering for LGBTQ, allies and friends – come get shaken and stirred!
The Sapphire Room - 137 Hunter Street, Peterborough
RSVP on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=204821312894618>



September 17th to 25th - Peterborough Pride

Keep checking the website: www.peterboroughpride.ca for updates
To get involved please email volunteer@peterboroughpride.ca

Local Youth wins Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line Award

We are thrilled to report that on Friday June 10th, Jake Mcphee, a local Peterborough youth activist and musician was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Trans Youth Visibility Award at the **Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line 13th Annual Community Youth Awards** ceremony in Toronto. RSO is happy to be part of recognizing Jake's impressive and ongoing positive contributions to his school and the community. Congratulations Jake and we look forward to seeing you at our AGM on June 21st.

The Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line is a free service provided by youth for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, queer and questioning youth. Peer support is provided via toll-free phone, an online forum, and email exchange. To learn more and provide your support go to <http://www.youthline.ca>

Out and Proud! Challenging Hate Is Every Worker's Job

Folks – this was passed on to me by one of the Positive Space Champions at work and I thought I should share it as it reminded me of the work still to be done. Thanks to the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) for their statement on 2011 International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. Here are some excerpts. (Rick Lambert, RSO Chair)

On May 17, 1990, homosexuality was removed from the International Classification of Diseases of the World Health Organization (WHO). However, after more than two decades, trans-identified people still are denied basic human rights in Canada. Around the world, the LGBT community continues to experience oppression and discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity/expression and on the grounds of their race, ethnicity, sex, linguistic background, ability, economic circumstances or any number of other factors.

"Despite winning a number of key victories in recent decades, many challenges continue to face the LGBT community," said OFL President Sid Ryan. "With no Criminal Code or human rights protection from discrimination and harassment on the basis of sexual identity and expression in any Canadian jurisdiction except for the Northwest Territories, trans-identified people are shamefully left without basic legal rights."

While constituting 10.2 per cent of the LGBT workforce, trans-identified people continue to:

- Live in fear of violence, intimidation, job loss, destitution and incarceration at far higher rates than other sectors of the population;
- Be denied basic public services, medical treatment, human rights and respect afforded all other citizens of Ontario; and
- Be dangerously misdiagnosed by health professionals and front line workers alike.

The **Rainbow Service Organization (RSO)** is committed to promoting, advocating, and celebrating the interests of the Queer, Questioning, Lesbian, Bisexual, Two-Spirited, Transgender, and Gay community. **RSO** is a volunteer-run, non-profit community organization based in Peterborough, Ontario since 1993.

During the last legislative session, the OFL fully endorsed Bill C-389 and called upon parliamentarians to provide basic human rights for trans-identified people. After a successful vote to approve the bill, its passage into law was thwarted when a federal election was called. The OFL is committed to working with the LGBT community and allies to ensure introduction and successful passage of similar legislation in the next session of Parliament and similar changes to the Ontario Human Rights Code.

The OFL is actively working with coalition partners to secure other important protections for LGBT people at home and abroad. In Ontario, where three-quarters of LGBT students report feeling unsafe at school, the OFL continues to work with EGALE Canada, youth groups and teachers' unions to challenge harassment, bullying and discrimination. Internationally, more than 80 countries continue to criminalize homosexuality and in seven of these countries it is punishable by death. The OFL is working with the Canadian Labour Congress and the international community to support countries that provide safe haven for LGBT people escaping persecution.

"LGBT workers have made significant gains, but even legal rights cannot guarantee dignity and social equality. Many LGBT workers continue to face discrimination and violence both in the workplace and in society," said OFL Solidarity and Pride Vice-President Stephen Seaborn. "The responsibility lies with each of us to create positive space and challenge homophobia and transphobia, and other forms of discrimination such as racism, sexism, ableism, and classism."

Read the entire Press Release here:

http://ofl.ca/index.php/news/index_in/out_and_proud_challenging_hate_is_every_workers_job/

Some online resources

Trans Rights and Equality: A good primer from the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) provided by Kaitlin Acres, former RSO Board Member and Advisor on Trans issues:

<http://www.rainbowservice.org/archives/trans%20rights%20and%20equality%20-%20instant%20primer.pdf>

Human rights in Ontario – Gender Identity: A webpage of the Ontario Human Rights Commission: http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/issues/gender_identity

Will you get involved?

We are looking for volunteers for our working committees and Board of Directors to help with public relations, advocacy, fundraising, and organizing events. Help us improve the quality of life in your community. To learn more email us at rso@rainbowservice.org.

To learn more about RSO and apply for or renew your membership, go to our website or click this link to download our pamphlet: www.rainbowservice.org/archives/RSO_Pamphlet.pdf

RSO Newsletter is produced quarterly and more - send articles, ideas, and questions to:

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1742, Peterborough ON, K9J 7X6

Email Address: rso@rainbowservice.org Webpage: www.rainbowservice.org

RSO FACEBOOK Group: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=11420896797&v=wall>