



Rainbow Newsletter

from the **Rainbow Service Organization RSO**
www.rainbowservice.org

Spring 2008

Upcoming Events: (details in the event listing on www.rainbowservice.org)

Queer Town Hall Meeting – Monday April 7th, 7-9pm at Peterborough Library, 345 Aylmer St. Join us to express your concerns about safety in the city and to learn about the development of the Peterborough-Lakefield Community Police Service Liaison Program with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Communities.

A Taste for Life – April 25th details at www.atasteforlife.org/peterborough/Taste_Frames_1024.htm or by contacting PARN at 749-9110.

International Day Against Homophobia – May 17th – details at <http://www.homophobiaday.org>
The theme this year is healthcare and homosexuality and ensuring appropriate access and care.

Durham Pride – June 14th – details at www.durhampride.org (Peterborough Pride is Sept 13/14!)

RSO has a New Email Address and a Facebook page

The email address for RSO is now rso@rainbowservice.org. Please change it on any distribution lists you have. If you send an email to our old address after April 2nd it will bounce back. If you forget the new one you can always find it by going to our website at www.rainbowservice.org

Our website will remain our main web presence with its events listed and links but we have added a Facebook page (search on “Rainbow Service Organization”) to act as a portal to users of that social network that would not normally go directly to our website. RSO run events will be given special promotion and we have membership on other LGBT related pages in the area.

New Medical Officer of Health coming in June

Dr. Rosana Pellizzari will be starting in her new position as the Medical Officer of Health for the city and County of Peterborough in June when Dr. Garry Humpheys retires. Dr. Pellizzari is currently the Planning and Policy Director and Associate Medical Officer of Health at Toronto Public Health.

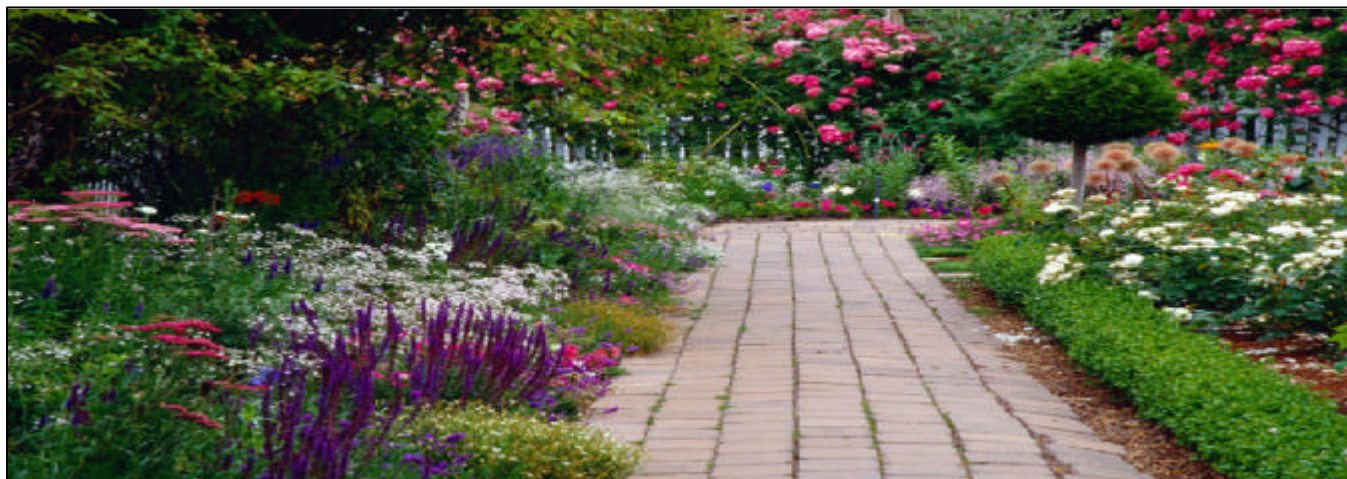
RSO will be working with our partners at PARN (your community AIDS Resource Network) and others to support our joint interests in light of the coming change in leadership at the Health Unit. We will be pushing for truly anonymous testing at the sexual health clinic and other improvements to the services available to the LGBT community.

RSO Secures Core Funding for 3 years

RSO has been approved to receive funding through the **City of Peterborough Community Investment Grant program** for the next three years. The \$3000 per year will provide vital core funding and allow the organization to move ahead on efforts to work with partner organizations and individuals to improve the quality of life for LGBT and associated members of our community. Although RSO has received grants in the past few years, this is the first multi-year grant. “The grants represent 1/3 of our budgeted revenue with the rest coming from memberships, fundraising and events throughout the year” says Rick Lambert, RSO Chair. “We really appreciate the support this represents from our city leaders” he added.

Rainbow Service Organization is Blossoming!

It is never too soon to be thinking about summer! Again this year RSO has partnered with Veseys, a reputable Canadian plant product company, to bring you a bit of help with your garden. In return, if you purchase bulbs, plants, or seeds, much needed funds will go to RSO to help provide programs and events for the LGBT community. When you think of your garden please think about ordering through us!



The deadline to order is **April 18th**. Products will be received by mid-May. Place your order and also talk to your friends and family about this great opportunity. Thanks for your support!

View the colour brochure at the link on our website (www.rainbowservice.org) and contact us at rso@rainbowservice.org if you have questions or are interested in putting in an order.

Get Involved and be the Change

Rick Lambert, RSO Chair

You have heard the expression “Be the Change you want in the World” and although it sounds a bit grand it is at the core of most of our acts of charity and volunteerism. So what is the change you want?

The Rainbow Service Organization is entirely volunteer run and consists of people in your community who, through their collective effort, hope to make this a better community to live in. Their “contributions” come in many forms; through their membership, assistance in planning and running events, committee membership, ideas, advice and guidance, board membership, or simply through a donation or a kind word of support. I invite you to learn more about the RSO and consider how you can help out.

Please see the brochure linked to the front page of our website and email or mail us to tell us how you think you could be part of the change we are trying to make. In case you are interested, RSO Memberships run yearly from April 1st and renewals for 2008/09 are now due! Cheers & Happy Spring!

Thanks for some recent volunteer efforts:

Gisele Lalonde – Gisele recently facilitated the development of new values statements for RSO.

Barry Boyce – Although he is no longer on the RSO Board, Barry continues to volunteer including managing the door at the MELT dance in February.

Shirley Switzer – Shirley organized the “Paris at Sunrise” dinner event on March 29. In addition to a nice evening out, the event raised funds for both RSO and PARN’s Rainbow Youth Coalition (RYC).

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.