



Rainbow e-Newsletter

from the Rainbow Service Organization RSO

www.rainbowservice.org

January 2008

Happy New Year Everyone!

Rick Lambert, RSO Chair

I think I can say that even though we are almost through January! 2007 was a great year with many independent events going on to keep the LGBT community connecting. The Charter of Rights turned 25 and we celebrated our freedom at the 5th Peterborough Pride along with all the LGBT organizations and allies in the area.

The Rainbow Service Organization is all about creating community. We have recently been looking at the values that reflect the needs of our community and are working on how we can best operate in alignment with them. Greater sensitivity to issues that matter to the queer community will require ongoing efforts that engage folks out there. We need help to make it happen so if you are interested in getting involved in any way or providing ideas please feel free to email me at rick@rainbowservice.org

This is the first of hopefully regular e-newsletter from RSO as we try to keep our members and friends up to date. Your comments are quite welcome.

Upcoming events:

January 25/26/27 – Travelling World Community Film Festival (Peterborough)

This year there are 4 LGBT themed films to check out. Over 60 films to see!

For details go to: <http://www.rainbowservice.org/archives/000206.html>

February 1 - TQC ART SHOW and SALE (sale is optional!)

Any visual art medium is welcome in the theme "Learning To Be Me: A Look at Intersecting Identities". All Queer, Questioning, and Allied artists are welcome to submit work! For more info: <http://www.trentqueercollective.ca>

February 16 – MELT! – Spoken Word and DANCE! - Open-stage thendance with

DJ Jarret (from Pride Dance). Market Hall, 9pm-2am, \$5 entry, All-ages event.

Any proceeds will support the programs of RSO and the Rainbow Youth Coalition

For details go to: <http://www.rainbowservice.org/archives/000205.html>

February and March – RSO Vesey Flowers Sales – If you are interested in buying or helping sell bulbs, flowers, or seeds email rso@pipcom.com. Proceeds to RSO.

September 13/14 – Peterborough Pride 2008 – Mark your calendar!

Organizing for 2008 is underway. See www.peterboroughpride.ca for the latest developments and if you want to help email peterboroughpride@yahoo.ca

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For more LGBT related info, to tell us about an event, or to check out our event listings, go to www.rainbowservice.org.

Peterborough Transgender Day of Remembrance 2007

Report by Kaitlin Acres

The second annual Transgender Day of Remembrance took place on Tuesday November 20th. This event originated in San Francisco to mark the violent death of Rita Hestor, it was a Hate Crime, she was killed for who she was, a transgender person. She was killed in 1998, and the first memorial was held in 1999. Since that time Transgender Days of Remembrance have been held in more and more cities around the world. Peterborough held its first memorial in 2006. This year's event was organized by the Rainbow Service Organization, the Trent Queer Collective, and Transmission.

As last year, the memorial was held in the evening at the City Hall. Approximately 50 people gathered in the lobby of City Hall for a programme which began with opening remarks in which the significance of the event taking place at City Hall was emphasized. Following the introduction, Mr. Caleb Nault, a Master's degree candidate from York University, gave an informative presentation of his experiences dealing with various Government, Banking institutions and Medical Doctors. The information indicated a very difficult time of his life. However it was presented in a very positive manner with considerable humour. It was an excellent presentation.

Giles Benaway, with Trent Queer Collective then directed the assembled outside where candles were lit and Giles read a poem written for the occasion. This was followed by a period of silence.

It is expected that this recognition and naming of hate based violence will take place again on November 20th 2008. In the future it is hoped that such an event will become simply a memory of the past and not recognition of a present reality.

Welcome!

Steve North – Lead contact person at FAQS (Fleming Association of Queer Students) this year. You can contact Steve at FAQS@flemingc.on.ca

Joe McLoughlin – The lead organizer for the "[Film Festival of Pride](#)"(FFP) 2008 edition scheduled again this year for the week before Peterborough Pride weekend. Joe works at CHEX Television here in Peterborough. Those interested in becoming involved in the FFP can contact Joe at filmfestpride@hotmail.com

Dave Toby – New owner of "The Spill" on George Street who is making this funky venue the new cool LGBT (Queer) friendly place to hang out in Peterborough. For more info go to www.thespill.ca

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Trent University Research Project

Are you a queer-identified woman? Interested in sharing your experiences of identity and place in Peterborough?

A Trent University student is doing research on queer women's perceptions of space and place in the downtown area of Peterborough. She is looking for interview participants who are queer women, residents of Peterborough, and have an interest in discussing Peterborough's downtown culture as it relates to queer experience and identity.

The study involves two parts. First, participants will be given cameras to take pictures of places and spaces that are meaningful to them. Secondly, participants will share their photographs, reflections, and stories in small discussion/focus groups. Time frame: Ready to start in December, aiming for discussion groups in January, 2008. If you are interested and/or would like more information please contact Sandy at (705)742-5635 or via email at sandytremlay@trentu.ca

Organ Donations Rejected

Egale and other sources

New Health Canada regulations that ban gay men from donating their organs slipped through unnoticed in December. Even the head of Canada's largest organ transplant program at Toronto's University Health Network, Dr. Gary Levy, didn't know about the changes. The new regulations will ban any men who have been sexually engaged with another man in the previous five years. The rejections are based solely on sexual orientation rather than on unsafe sexual practice. Health Canada is essentially telling Canadians that unprotected sex is safe as long as you aren't a gay man.

Egale Canada believes that the regulations are discriminatory and should be suspended. Health Canada should be making sure the regulations stop unsafe organ transplants not creating a situation where healthy viable organs will be thrown in the garbage.

- Let Health Canada know how you feel: Call the Minister's Chief of Staff, William King at 613-957-0200 or email him at: william_king@hc-sc.gc.ca
- Contact the minister's constituency office too!
Toll free: 1-866-375-8669. Email: Clement.T@parl.gc.ca
- Or sign the "[Petition to Repeal the Ban of Organ Donations By Sexually Active Gay Men](http://www.petitiononline.com/gayban/petition.html)" at link: <http://www.petitiononline.com/gayban/petition.html>

Just in: George Smitherman, the country's only gay health minister, went on the attack Wednesday against an "offensive" Health Canada advisory penned by "wonky bureaucrats" that seeks to exclude homosexual men from becoming organ donors. [Read Article](#) at Yahoo! Canada News.

Safety in Schools and Elsewhere

The recent survey regarding violence in Toronto schools and the suicide of a gay teen in the GTA recently are reminders of the potential for violence and oppression against those in the LGBT community.

On December 10th, Egale Canada launched a national student survey to look at homophobia and transphobia in Canadian Schools. The survey targets students in grades 8 through 12 and aims to document the realities of life at school for straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, Two Spirit, intersex, queer, and questioning (LGBTTIQ) students, including the kids of LGBTTIQ parents. The information from this survey will provide educators and policy makers with information that will enable them to make Canadian schools safer and more respectful places for our youth. Help us get the word out. Check it out online at www.climatesurvey.ca

You can also learn more about Egale's "Safer Schools Campaign" at this website: <http://www.egale.ca/index.asp?lang=E&item=1176>

Closer to home there is considerable effort being made to support youth in schools and generally. Gay-Straight Alliances in schools and the youth drop-in, a program of the Rainbow Youth Coalition (RYC) are part of that effort. For more information go to the RYC website at: <http://www.rainbowyouth.ca/>

Also, the Police Liaison Committee (it actually has a more complicated name) continues it's work here in Peterborough to build a working relationship between the queer community and Peterborough Lakefield Community Police Service to support our safety. Thanks to Kevin Forrest and reps from RSO, Trent Queer Collective, Rainbow Youth Coalition, the Police and others for this work. Stay tuned for developments this spring.

Study: Bisexuality is a 'third orientation' -- at least for women

At the link below you will find an interesting article about a study that was done recently exploring the nature of bisexuality:

<http://seaqwa.com/blogs/qnews/archive/2008/01/17/study-bisexuality-is-a-third-orientation-at-least-for-women.aspx>

RSO Website Slowly Improving

Check out our website (www.rainbowservice.org) when you get a chance. You can view the Peterborough Pride video from YouTube, download information, find an event, or link to other sites of interest. We try to update it regularly.

We are looking for help to improve the site and make it a "one-stop" source for information for the "queer" and questioning community. If you can help or know a keen person who can, let us know at rso@pipcom.com.

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