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From the **Publisher**



**My relationship with fashion can likely be broken down into three parts of my life.**

As a kid and young teen, dad was the one who shopped and approved what we wore (for real). Dad comes from a very prim and proper family, so I was the 9-year-old who had to dress in suits, usually in brown and greys. Two colours, that when I was young, I swore not to wear again when I was allowed to make my own choices. However, later in life I started liking brown and grey again.

In high school I looked as if Duran Duran, George Michael, Madonna, and Boyd George had a kid. In college I looked like someone from a John Hughes film, I was VERY colour coordinated, with colourful belts that had to match my socks, or I would not go to school.

Then I came out into the community, and during my early days of clubbing and

going out, I just went for the slutty look (think Daisy Duke hot shorts). Then came the circuit party look, the track pants and baseball cap look, the gym bunny look, the leather look, and the businessman look.

Now I guess my look is just a combination of looks, or whatever I feel like. I don't follow labels, or trends; I go with the feel and image I want to be viewed as.

I guess that's what I like about a lot of peeps in our community. A straight girl friend of mine said that "men in the straight community all look like they were dressed by the same stylist". If you call that "style". LOL I'm kidding, I love my straight guy friends. but she says "gay men and queer peeps are more about individuality when it comes to fashion."

Celebrate your individuality, whomever you may be. Happy Pride!

**Antoine Elhashem**  
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# summerplay!

Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, Leather, and Queer  
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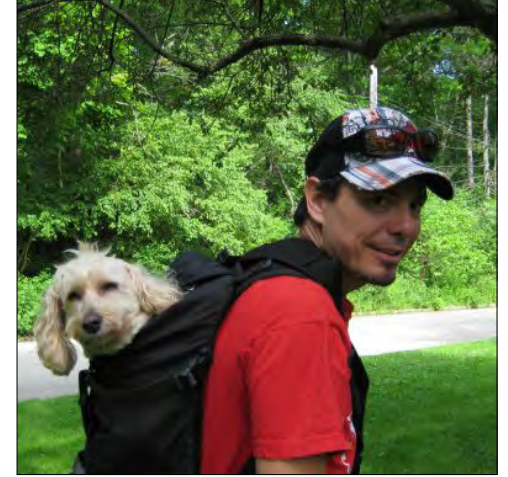
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## From the Editor



Our 2021 *Pop Culture* editorial continues with a look at how *Fashion* has been influenced by LGBT individuals throughout the years. Aaron Rothermund provides a detailed look back to the early work of **Chanel, Dior, and YSL**, to the emerging talent of **Valerie Steele, Nina Spade, Pierre Davis, and Rory Pozzolo.**

In our second feature, writer Melissa MacMullin takes a look at how the fashion industry is adapting to sustainable practices, aiming to reduce the carbon footprint of production. She chats with some of Canada's innovative leaders in the profession, such as **Symone Sheane**, Creative Founder of *Boii*, **Rae Hill** of *Origami Customs*, and **Blaine Lunsford** of *Prairie Honey Creative.*

As pandemic restrictions continue to loosen, our *Travel* feature spotlights **Kingston, Ontario** and the **Gananoque/1000 Islands** area as a perfect weekend getaway, that's both historic, and hip. From top notch dining and accommodations, to an abundance of outdoor pursuits, and LGBT-friendly events, make it your destination of discovery. Our *Fiction* piece is titled *When*

*You Get A Chance*, about the adventure of two cousins making a road trip to Toronto Pride, written in tandem by **Tom Ryan** and **Robin Stevenson.** Our *Hot Artist* feature is with **Run The Crown**, a queer fashion line based in Toronto that breaks down the barriers of gender. With *Community Cornerstone*, we get an update on the revised 2021 **PWA/Friends for Life Bike Rally**, which will take place in three different cities as separate two-day events.

Be sure to check our quarterly horoscopes, and our event listings which remain mostly virtual, compiled by our Events Editor, **Sherry Sylvain.** The always inspiring *From The Heart* column is written by **Mychol Scully**, our Creative Director, who also designs this publication for us. A special thank you goes to our cover illustrator, **SK Dymont**, who once again has created a colourful depiction of our community. Finally, be sure to check out our special **Pride Supplement** for a listing of activities to make everyone feel proud.

Enjoy the read!

**Bryen Dunn**  
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# LGBTQ2S+ Representation in Fashion

By Aaron Rothermund

For the LGBTQ2S+ community, style develops in response to the intersection of cultural identities, while challenging the idea of gender and sexuality.

How we display our socially constructed appearance is a complex series of habitual patterns performed daily to reveal our inner truths.

Fashion as we know it emerged with the rise of the middle class, and the industrial revolution. **Joanne Entwistle**, writer of *The fashioned body: Fashion, dress & modern social theory*, notes “Fashion and dress are linked to social change, tracing the historical rise and development of fashion in the West, creating gender hierarchies and labour exploitation.”

In the 18th Century, the word “dandy” emerged describing someone with exaggerated attention to personal appearance and social status. Although the infamous trials of the flamboyantly dressed **Oscar Wilde** linked dandyism to homosexuality, **George**

**Bryan Brummell** was thought to be the pioneer of the movement. “Beau” as he was called by the Prince of Wales, was ironically famous for not wearing frilly lace, powdered wigs, and high heels. Brummell’s conservative style and dark tones would lead the way for the modern style of masculine dress.

During the early 20th century French designers **Gabrielle ‘Coco’ Chanel**, and **Madeleine Vionnet** set the beauty standard, until Italian-born designer **Elsa Schiaparelli** captivated the attention of America and Europe. She infused erotic fantasies with surrealist designs including a purse in the shape of a telephone, and ‘the speakeasy dress,’ which provided a hidden pocket for a flask.

During World War 2, a wave of socio-cultural transformation swept over the land. Women were being absorbed into masculine culture, which included wearing slacks and working blue-collared jobs. Due to the cyclical life of fashion trends and the slow progression of non-binary culture, many genderqueer folks elected to wear contrasting traditional styles.

In 1945, French fashion designer, **Pierre Balmain** opened the fashion house *Balmain* with his companion, Danish designer **Erik Mortenson**.

Balmain was a leading practitioner of the ‘New French Style’, the ‘Jolie Madame Style.’ Balmain believed, “dressmaking is the architecture of movement,” and his designs are remembered for sophistication and elegance.

When Spanish fashion designer, **Cristóbal Balenciaga** removed the waist, and widened the shoulders on the female form, he sparked a fashion-evolution. In 1955, Balenciaga designed the tunic dress, which later developed into the chemise dress. Other postwar contributions included the high-waisted dress, the balloon skirt, and the no-seam coat, crafted from a single piece of fabric.

*“Fashion fades, style is eternal.”  
- Yves Saint Laurent -*

Around the same time, **Christian Dior** exploded onto the Paris fashion scene flaunting luxury during wartime restrictions. Inspired by Balmain, Dior created the popular ‘New Look,’ which highlighted cinched waists, and rounded shoulders. After Dior’s sudden death in October 1957, **Yves Saint Laurent** became the head designer and introduced the trapeze dress in his first collection. In 1961, Yves Saint Laurent launched his own label with his partner and lover, **Pierre Berge**. Saint Laurent outfitted women in sheer blouses, jumpsuits, blazers, and smoking jackets. His adaptations of tuxedos for women garnered him fame, and he introduced the pea coat to the runway.

In the 1960’s, **Valentino Garavani** opened a fashion house in Rome and met **Giancarlo Giammetti** and a long-lasting loving relationship began. Valentino’s first international fashion show took place in 1962, and his romantic influence spread world-wide. Throughout the 1970’s, Valentino spent most of his time in New York City, and he became known for his bright red dresses.

This was a defining moment in U.S. fashion, as New York-based designers were finally being taken seriously by Europeans. Considered one of the major American designers, **Roy Halston Frowick** rose to international fame when he designed Jacqueline Kennedy’s pillbox hat in 1961. Halston’s comfortable yet glamorous urban lifestyle line redefined fashion by allowing the fabric to form its own shape. Halston created the matte jersey halter top dress,

and re-introduced pants to women with his stylish ultra-suede suit.

American designer and activist, **Bill Blass** designed luxurious garments made from intricate fabrics and bright colours. Blass was a favourite of the First Lady, Nancy Reagan and was credited with bringing back the cocktail dress in 1975. In 1976, **Willi Smith** and his business partner, **Laurie Mallet** launched the fresh fashion label *Williwear*. He was the youngest designer to be nominated for a *Coty Award*, and used his intersectionality to boost streetwear in American mainstream culture, paving the way for other Black queer designers including **Christopher John Rogers**, **LaQuan Smith**, and **James Flems**.

Although fashions and laws change, the LGBTQ2S+ community cemented many styles and statements, including influences of disco, S&M, and modern drag. When the HIV/AIDS crisis hit America in 1981, it marked a turning point in queer culture, as countless cherished muses, designers, partners, and clients fell ill, or died. Fashion brands began to create charitable foundations, and speak out, emphasizing that gay rights are human rights.

In 1984, **John Paul Gaultier** reimagined masculinity with his line of controversial skirts for men and pushed the boundaries of fetish with the iconic women’s corset with cone bra. In the early 1990’s, he dressed Madonna in S&M inspired outfits for her *Blond Ambition* tour, and created the unisex fragrance, *JPG by Gaultier*, that followed the designer’s idea of sexual fluidity. At this time, Italian designer **Versace** became an international sensation. His work “combined luxurious classicism with overt sexuality,” which was often seen in “brazen defiance of the rules of fashion.” Versace invented super-light chainmail called ‘Oroton’, and is credited as inventing the “supermodel” craze of the 1990’s.

In 1992, **Alexander McQueen** became a leading fashion label, and from 1996-2001 he was the creative director of *Givenchy*. He was bold about his sexuality and married his partner **George Forsyth** in an extravagant ceremony, before same-sex marriage was legal. McQueen is best-known for “bumsters”, the skull-scarf and the armadillo shoe. His use of multi-media in fashion shows gave us holograms of ghostly models, robots spray-painting dresses, and implied golden showers.

After two years of working for designer **Marc Jacobs** at *Perry Ellis*, American fashion designer and film director **Tom Ford** and his longtime partner, fashion journalist **Richard Buckley**, moved to Milan. Ford dedicated his energy designing women's fashion for *Gucci*, and in 1994 he was promoted to Creative Director. Ford was criticized for using hyper-eroticism in his creations, which included shaving a 'G' in a model's pubic hair and using full frontal nudity in advertisements for YSL's male fragrance. After resigning from Gucci in 2004, Ford returned with his luxury-oriented Tom Ford brand, which includes eyewear, menswear, and fragrances.

*"For many years, gays and lesbians were hidden from history"*  
- Valerie Steele -

"For many years, gays and lesbians were hidden from history," says **Valerie Steele**, director and chief curator of *The Museum at The Fashion Institute of Technology*, "By acknowledging the historic influence of gay designers, and by emphasizing the important role that fashion and style have played within the LGBTQ community, we see how central gay culture has been to the creation of modern fashion."

Drag appeared out of necessity and ran the gamut of hodge-podge to haute-couture. Originally reserved for predominately white males in stage plays, drag was used as a tool to undermine gender roles, or to live out one's fantasies. For the contemporary drag scene, most gender performers conceive and construct their own outfits, or work directly with designers to achieve the polished style they crave. Notably, **Nina Spade** collaborated with **Amber Watkins** on looks for *Canada's Drag Race* winner **Priyanka's** feature in *Gay Times Magazine*, and has made several pairs of Priyanka's question mark earrings.

In an industry that has been often inclusive of the queer community, it's also been conflictually exclusive of the trans community. When androgyny is presented on the catwalk, it's mostly through the eyes of mainstream culture, so the subjects are often thin models born biologically female, with short hair. Trans men and masculine non-conforming people continue to be the fashion industry's most underrepresented demographic.

*"The playing field isn't level in the world, and it's even more difficult in fashion"*  
- Pierre Davis -

In 2015, **Pierre Davis** released the genderless fashion line *No Sesso*, and in 2019 was the first trans person to show at *Fashion Week*. "It's a lifestyle that encompasses fashion, our parties, embroidery workshops, or just hanging out and feeling that sense of community," Davis remarked. It's important "that all people of all intersectional identities are given a fighting chance regardless of their identity. The playing field isn't level in the world, and it's even more difficult in fashion."

The Internet's free dissemination of information has been turning fashion into equitable opportunities to create inclusive clothing with sustainable practices. **Rory Pozzolo** learned to design and sew to protest the fashion industry and its wasteful practices. In 2017, Rory created *Mr. Fabulous Designs* from rescued textiles to prevent any contribution to throwaway culture.

Fashion traditionally reflects the daily lives of mostly wealthy heterosexual women through the perspective of mostly privileged homosexual men. As style changes to reflect the current times, fashion will follow, allowing diverse designers to be inclusive of all genders, ethnicities, and body types. Black trans designers are among the most oppressed, and they should be supported instead of marginalized. Rebuilding a foundation for fashion includes lifting up trans and/or BIPOC designers with an eye on intersectional bias, fair compensation, and a safe work environment.

Aaron Rothermund wrote, directed, and produced two plays, *Ambiguous* and *Charming Monsters*, and made three films in the Script to Screen program at Centennial College. Since graduating Aaron co-directed the film, *Surprise in the Night* and produced, *Baby Fever*, which will be released in 2022.



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# Goodbye Fast Fashion: Shifting Towards a Sustainable Future

By Melissa MacMullin

**Fashion is ranked as the third highest polluting industry in the world. Think about that!**

Fast fashion is the biggest culprit, stressing the earth's resources and putting human welfare at risk with its staggering pollution rates. Textile made of non-biodegradable fabric can sit in a landfill for 200 years, and as Canadians, we send 82 pounds of material waste per person to the landfill annually. Slow fashion is quality-made garments of sustainably sourced materials that are not mass produced, yet constructed with the environment and its inhabitants in mind.

Fashion sustainability, as a design philosophy and movement has been around for over five decades, but only recently has the consumer demand for items stemming from the industry's willingness to shift towards ecological integrity and social responsibility become a priority. We as consumers are the driving force, and the fashion industry will follow.

Today, there is an increasing abundance of designers and brands helping to evolve and redefine sustainability by producing capsule pieces of organic fibres, upcycling old garments into new pieces, practicing fair trade, incorporating vintage items, using locally made and sustainably sourced materials, turning to natural dyes, and revolutionizing waste consciousness.

"There has been a huge shift towards sustainability that I believe is due to the demand and want from consumers for transparency so they can make better decisions," expressed **Symone Sheane**, Creative Founder of *Boii*, a sustainable fashion brand of hand-picked, hand-crafted recycled textile waste and natural fibre-based materials made in Calgary, Alberta. "With each Boii piece I aim to make a positive and ethical impact, while breaking the stigma of recycled, upcycled, reused, and sustainable materials." To date, Boii has diverted 271 pounds of textile waste from landfills and the ocean. Currently each piece is made to order as to reduce unwanted waste from overstock.

**Rac Hill** (they/them) of *Origami Customs*, a Montreal-based queer brand producing custom lingerie and swimwear pieces for all genders (and non-conforming individuals), is an ethical company that uses sustainable closed-loop manufacturing, deadstock fabrics, regenerative bamboo, and recycled polyester. "Sustainability (more than just the buzzword) was integrated into our company from the get-go. From fabric choices to hiring practices, to the physical studio itself, we take into account not just the environmental impact of our actions, but the ethical and social ramifications, as they are intrinsically tied," states Hill. "The main component of our community sustainability action is supporting Indigenous sovereignty originations working to return land to its original stewardship. We feel this is by far the largest step we, as settlers, can take to offset our environmental impact."

Artist and budding designer, **Blaine Lunsford** of soon-to-be-launched *Prairie Honey Creative*, works with various innovative methods of bundle dyeing by implementing natural plant technology and raw materials, such as fresh indigo extract, wild roses, turmeric, eucalyptus, tree bark, rust, hibiscus, mulberries, and compost colour from avocado pits or onion skins on organic fibres and recycled pieces.

"Prairie Honey was born in the jungles of Thailand while I lived there for half-a-year. During this trip, I had also travelled to Sri Lanka and experienced both the beauty of traditional textiles in a whole new way, and witnessed mass garment waste along with its impact on communities and earth. I taught myself the process of natural dyeing during this time, and learned about the creation of synthetic dyes along with the harm they cause by polluting our water sources. When I came home, I launched and created pop-ups of old clothing I had sourced through thrifting and scouring second-hand shops, cleaning, and prepping them accordingly to finally dye over with plant dyes. Through this work and play, I was able to integrate awareness pieces about ecological fashion," Lunsford explains.

We've come a long way but there is still an outstanding downfall when it comes to consumer awareness regarding pollution, toxic chemicals, inequitable labour practices, exhausting energy resources, and water waste in fashion. Loving the planet needs to take precedence over and above our



own wants and desires. We are one with the planet. If the planet suffers, then so do we. It's not only the clothing manufacturers and designers who are at fault, we must also look at the part we play when we avoid reusing, recycling, or upcycling older pieces instead of shamelessly discarding.

Reality as it stands today, leads us to acknowledge that we must make a conscious shift towards sustainable fashion now, or risk depleting the earth's resources, and irreversibly causing damage to the planet, and to the health of the human beings and animals that reside on it – now and for generations to come.

Melissa MacMullin is a freelance content writer and journalist for leading publications. A strong distinct queer Canadian voice with pride and purpose. Author. Screenwriter. Performer. Part-time adventurer.







# Pride Toronto Listings

**June 25 @ 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

## Trans Pride

Toronto's Trans Rally and March is a welcoming space for all Trans people, non-binary people, friends of, and allies who rally and march together. This year, due to COVID-19, they are celebrating in a virtual space for an hour of speakers, performers and community engagement.

**June 25 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

## brOWN//out

brOWN//out is a community space for south Asian queer and trans artists: singers, poets, dancers, drag and burlesque artists, musicians and more.

**June 25 @ 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

## Catalyst

Catalyst is a Virtual Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer Variety Show featuring contemporary Indigenous storytelling, art, and performance.

**June 25 @ 9:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

## YES YES Y'ALL

One of Toronto's most inclusive Queer bashment parties around, YES YES YA'LL has solidified itself as a Toronto institution, with heavy emphasis on Hip Hop, R&B, Dancehall and Soca.

**June 26 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm**

## Dyke Pride

The Toronto Dyke March welcomes all self-identified Dykes, Trans Dykes, non-binary Dykes and any other Dyke to join virtually. Being celebrated as a landmark of Pride Month for many years and will remain as resilient as ever with a host of performers, speakers, and community activists.

**June 26 @ 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm**

## ASL Programming

A celebration of Queer d/Deaf ASL artists. Closed Captioning will be available for this event. ASL Interpreters can be booked by contacting [office@pridetoronto.com](mailto:office@pridetoronto.com) a minimum of five (5) days prior to the event. Thank you to the TD Ready Commitment for their support in presenting ASL Interpretation for Pride 2021

**June 26 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

## Pride Live

Toronto has an incredible scene of 2SLGBT2Q+ vocalists, musicians, and performers. In this one hour much music video style production they showcase some of Toronto's top live talent.



Traditionally, the Pride Parade runs from the corner of Church St and Bloor St all the way down Yonge St, to a crowd of almost 2 million festival goers.

In 2020, Pride Toronto produced their first Virtual Pride Parade with over 55,000 viewers watching at home and with 2 billion potential media views.

In honour of Pride Toronto's 40th anniversary, they are excited to showcase the heroes of the Toronto Queer and Trans community while featuring community-driven events and programming.

Go to [prideguide.online](https://prideguide.online) to click on the links for the live events of your choosing.

**June 26 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**

**Drag Ball**

Watch the 2021 Drag Ball from the comfort of home and catch some of the city's finest drag queens, kings, and gender performers.

**June 26 @ 9:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

**Yohomo**

Yohomo celebrates 40 years of Pride with music, dancing, and performance. Tune in and twirl with Yohomo DJs - Armand Digidoyo and Phillippe - Teesh, a special performance from MANGO, and wild dancing from Tygr Willy and Ferrera Rose!

**June 27 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

**Pride Parade**

It's been 40 years of Pride in Toronto! This year's digital parade will be a one-hour production honoring Pride Toronto history, highlighting key Toronto talent and foster community.

The Toronto Pride Parade is about celebrating diversity and the variety of life in Toronto while respecting the differences amongst our citizens and visitors through creating an inclusive experience for all.



**June 27 @ 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm**

**Closing Ceremony: Revolution**

The Revolution has not been Streamed. Looking back at the '90s through music, poetry and dance. Using what we have learned to move up into the future and to bring us one step closer to ending the BIPOC and 2SLGBTQ+ struggles we all faced.

**June 27 @ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

**Blockorama 23: Black is Love**

As the largest and longest-running stage at Pride Toronto's annual festival Blockorama has a vibrant 23-year history. Celebrating local Black performers and spotlights a focus on Black Love, self care, harm reduction, and community. Join your favourite blocko DJ's, drag, ballroom and musical performers at Blockorama: Black is Love.



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# Pride Around the WORLD

The covid situation makes it unpredictable what Pride 2021 will look like. At the moment the expectation is events can take place in the second half of the year. But most probably there will be still limitations and restrictions.

Please review location websites for current updates.

## NYC Pride

June 27, 2021

[www.nycpride.org/events](http://www.nycpride.org/events)

## Seattle Pride

June 26 – June 27, 2021

[www.seattlepride.org](http://www.seattlepride.org)

## San Diego Pride

July 10 – July 18, 2021

[www.sdpride.org](http://www.sdpride.org)

## Amsterdam Pride

August 6 – August 8, 2021

[www.amsterdamgaypride.nl](http://www.amsterdamgaypride.nl)

## Montreal LGBTQ Pride

August 9 – August 15, 2021

[www.fiertemtl.com/en](http://www.fiertemtl.com/en)

## World Pride Copenhagen

August 21, 2021

[www.copenhagen2021.com/worldpride](http://www.copenhagen2021.com/worldpride)

## Pride Winnipeg

September 3 – September 12, 2021

[www.pridewinnipeg.com](http://www.pridewinnipeg.com)

## Miami Beach Pride

September 10 – September 19, 2021

[www.miamibeachpride.com](http://www.miamibeachpride.com)

## Nashville Pride

September 11 – September 12, 2021

[www.nashvillepride.org](http://www.nashvillepride.org)

## Pride London (UK)

September 11, 2021

[www.prideinlondon.org](http://www.prideinlondon.org)

## Kona Hawaii Pride

September 17 – September 19, 2021

[www.konapride.com](http://www.konapride.com)

## Las Vegas Pride

October 4 – October 11, 2021

[www.lasvegaspride.org](http://www.lasvegaspride.org)

## Phoenix Pride

November 6 – November 7, 2021

[www.phoenixpride.org](http://www.phoenixpride.org)

## Whistler Pride

January 23 – January 30, 2022

[www.whistlerpride.com](http://www.whistlerpride.com)



Kingston, Ontario is located on the eastern end of Lake Ontario, and along the mighty St. Lawrence River with its plethora of tiny(1000) islands.

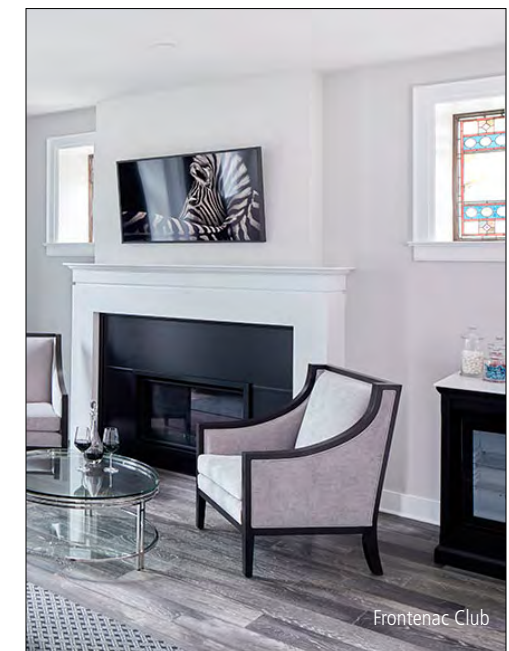
With just over 100,000 inhabitants, it has a small city vibe with an abundance of natural surroundings, making it a perfect weekend getaway for those living within the parameters of the Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal triangle.

Below is a suggested itinerary to plan your next adventure to the region.

### Friday

It's easy get to Kingston by vehicle, with the downtown core located just minutes from the 401 Highway. Other convenient travel options include VIA Rail and Megabus, both which stop in the centre of the city. Whatever you decide on, aim to arrive by noon to have the remainder of the day to explore.

In terms of accommodations, the newest and swankiest place to lay your head for the night is the **Frontenac Club**. Check in to one of their fully renovated and spacious themed rooms, each unique





The Tragically Hip



Kingston Penitentiary

as the building itself, which dates back to 1800s when it operated as a private member's club. The new owners have envisioned a return to the days of yore, offering exclusive access for those in the know. Rooms have king-size beds, oversized washrooms with tub and shower, high ceilings and large pane glass windows, along with a bar fridge, sitting area, and fully digitalized amenities. Some rooms have an outdoor terrace, and the music themed room is top notch. A full breakfast is included in the room rate, and there's an onsite restaurant and gastrobar (**The Bank**) that serves both lunch and dinner, along with awesome cocktails. There's also a wine cellar that's located within a former bank vault which can be booked for smaller private dining.

Once checked in, take a stroll three blocks over to the centre of the city, and explore the great array of [shopping](#) and [dining](#) options on and around Princess St and the [downtown](#) area around King and Brock. A couple dining recommendations are [Everly](#) for a fine dining experience, and [Atomica](#) for a more casual vibe. A must stop is [Aquaterra](#) located within the Delta Hotel, with beautiful views of the city and the surrounding waterways, and they make a great Lobster Roll.

### Saturday

Grab breakfast at the hotel, or nearby [Morrison's Restaurant](#), then make your way over to [Springer Market Square](#) and [Public Market](#) where vendors offer everything from fruits, veggies, and flowers, to local crafts and other specialties. The remainder of the day can be spent exploring the city's famous attractions, such as [Fort Henry](#), [the Penitentiary](#),

and the famous [1000 Islands Cruise](#). The most efficient, economical, and convenient way to accomplish this is by picking up a [K-Pass](#), that not only includes admission savings, but also trolley transportation to get from one to the other. The Pass is available for 24-72 hour duration, and even includes a 3-hour bike rental, and dining discounts at many local restaurants.

After a full day of sightseeing adventures, pop back into the Frontenac to freshen up and grab a drink at The Bank, before heading out to dinner and a night on the town. Kingston is well known for its local [music scene](#), and there's no shortage of places to catch a live band, or dance the night away.

### Sunday

Grab breakfast and check out, then take in more sites if you still have time left on your K-Pass, otherwise try your hand kayaking, or rent a bike from [Ahoj](#) and take the [free short ferry ride](#) over to **Wolfe Island** to do some stress free cycling. Another option might be to take in one of many [local craft brewers](#) that are thriving in the city, or spend a day outdoors at the local [beaches](#), [parks](#), or [hiking trails](#).

Kingston is a very open and gay-welcoming city, in part due to the yearly influx of university students, and also an abundance of individuals who moved there from larger cities for a more relaxed vibe. They have their own [queer film festival](#), [Pride](#), and several other events, such as [Beers For Queers](#).

### Gananoque and The 1000 Islands

Although smaller in size, the nearby town of [Gananoque](#) is a great way to spend a day or

overnight as well. Considered the gateway to the [1000 Islands](#), it also has plenty of outdoor activities both on water and land, and several dining and accommodation options.

A must visit for a wonderful meal, or a luxurious overnight stay, is [The Woodview Inn & Graydon's Restaurant](#). Owned by partners in life and work, John and Steve, this historic 19th century mansion has 12 themed and unique suites which are located either on the second floor of the main property, or within self-contained units directly adjacent. The design is classic Victorian, with all the updated amenities of today. Graydon's is the best spot in town for a fine dining experience, with everything from seafood and steaks, to pastas and vegetarian dishes.

For those wanting an outdoor experience other than the [1000 Islands Cruise](#), it's an easy bike ride along the paved multi-use 1000 Islands Parkway from Gananoque to the historic village of [Rockport](#). There are a few stops that can be made along the way for breaks, or short hikes, such as [Landon Bay Centre and Ecological Reserve](#), with its network of trail systems. Once in Rockport, make time to grab a bite or drink at [Cromwell's Pub](#), or there's the option of taking an [Islands Cruise](#) from here as well. After your ride back, you'll want to reward yourself with a nice cold one from [Gan Brewing Company](#).

For those seeking a more economical accommodation option, book into the [Ramada Provincial Inn](#), conveniently located adjacent to the 401 access, and the entrance to the 1000 Islands Parkway. Before leaving, make sure to grab breakfast at [Laverne's Eatery](#), a funky diner paying ode to all

things kitsch and retro. Their breakfast burritos are highly recommended.

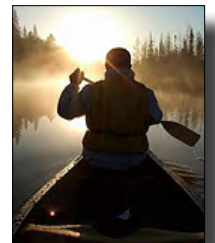
### Canal Cruising

For those with a bit more time, a tour of the [Rideau Canal](#), is a bucket-list experience. The [Kingston Mills](#) locks are the first four of a long series that extends all the way to downtown Ottawa. [Le Boat](#) offers houseboat rentals that are available to anyone with a valid driving license, whether you have boated before or not. The knowledgeable team will set you up with your floating accommodations, provide you with all the operational and safety instructions required, and all you need to do is hop aboard and enjoy this unique Ontario experience. One way rental options are available, and the boats are fully equipped with cooking facilities, or there are numerous places along the route to stop and grab a bite as well.

### More Info

[South Eastern Ontario Kingston Tourism](#)

Bryen Dunn is a freelance journalist based in Toronto with a focus on tourism, lifestyle, entertainment and community issues. He has written several travel articles and has an extensive portfolio of celebrity interviews with musicians, actors and other public personalities.



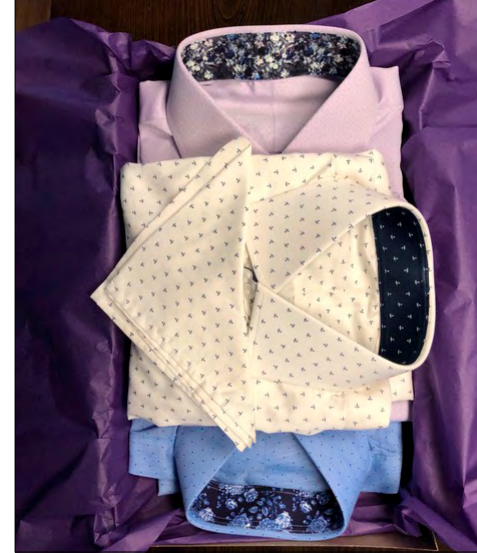
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“My clients come to me for suits mostly, and I love it. I enjoy guiding my clients through the colours, the fabrics, and helping them choose the details and finishing touches. They get excited by the process and that excitement is infectious. And once they try on their suit, and the smile comes across their face, I can see how thrilled they are about the suit, but also about their upcoming wedding. It’s an incredible honour to be a small part of such an important day for them.”

“The retail clothing experience, for most people, is terrible,” explains Jared Colautti of Toronto’s Run the Crown.

Jared has long had an interest in style, and focuses more on the individual than on prevailing fashion trends. “Style is exciting though because it’s unique to the individual. I’m always humbled that my clients rely on me for style advice, and of course I’m happy to help them. I’m also inspired when I see someone with a great sense of personal style. Something that I can tell is unique to them and their character.”

“Walking from one store to the next, searching through racks to find something you like, only to try it on and realize it doesn’t fit, or worse, that the item makes you feel self-conscious about your body.”

Like many other businesses, the pandemic has greatly affected *Run the Crown*, and possibly changed the fashion industry significantly. Jared is frank—but hopeful. “The pandemic has definitely killed my business (for now) and may have killed fashion completely. Working from home has become normal, and so has a much more casual style of work wear.”

The clothing and fashion industries have long followed the gender binary. Male clothes and female clothes—very rarely is there opportunity for anything in between. But society is changing and people, including trans and gender non-conforming folks need access to clothes that fit and look great.

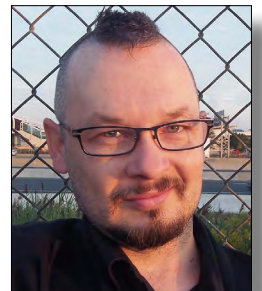
Whether through work wear or outfits for formal events, the need for quality, self-representative clothing will always be there, and Colautti’s engaging and caring approach for the queer community will always be needed.

Colautti started *Run the Crown* not to sell suits, but to give people confidence. By offering masculine clothing—particularly suits for weddings and formal occasions—tailor made to fit a woman’s or trans man’s body, Jared hopes to help people feel good about themselves and how they look.

**Run The Crown** - 767 Gladstone Ave, Toronto ON  
[www.runthecrown.com](http://www.runthecrown.com) 647.291.9345.

By recognizing the importance of individual style and the significant impact personal comfort has for people of the queer community, Jared spends time with clients to understand their clothing needs and then works with workshops to craft works of fashion art. This connection resonates throughout the relationship.

Jon Pressick is a writer who focuses on sex and sexuality. View his work at [sexinwords.ca](http://sexinwords.ca)



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Mark lives in Halifax, and Talia in Victoria. They are both queer, but they soon realize that's about all they have in common. When the two cousins are brought together in Ontario for their grandfather's funeral, they decide to sneak away to attend the Pride festivities in Toronto.

The novel is written by alternating the voice of the two characters between each chapter. The following excerpt is from Chapter 14 (Talia)

I reach the end of the driveway at the same time he does, and I bang both my hands against his window. "Mark, wait!"

He looks pissed off, but he stops and rolls down the window. "What now?"

"Where are you going?"

"Nowhere. Just a drive, all right?"

Paige sticks her head in the open window. "Why do you have your duffel bag, then? Are you running away?"

My eyes fall on the stuffed duffel sitting on the back seat. "Mark?"

He groans, bangs his head back against the seat, and shuts off the engine. "Fine. Yes. I'm out of here."

"Uh, no. I don't think so," I say.

"Just for a couple of days," he says. "I need to get away, all right? That asshole Darren . . ."

I nod. "I know. It sucks. But—"

"And it's Pride weekend," he says. "I've always wanted to go to Toronto Pride. And we're so close . . ."

Toronto Pride. My heart does a weird extra beat. "You're . . . you're going to Toronto?"

"Was going to," he says. "But I suppose you'd be straight on the phone with my mom, complaining that I abandoned you and Paige and my all my cottage-related responsibilities . . ."

Toronto. Erin. Toronto Pride. It's all less than a three-hour drive away. And we have a car. I can't believe

Fiction

I'm even considering this, but the words are out of my mouth before I can change my mind. "Not if you take me with you," I say.

Paige straightens up and plants her hands on her hips. "Hello? Hello? You guys can't leave me here. I'm ten years old, remember?"

Mark is looking back and forth from me to Paige and then back to me. His forehead creases and I can practically see his dreams dying, clear as little rainbow-tinted thought bubbles bursting above his head. Gay bars, nightclubs, up all night dancing with cute guys? Nope, he'll be hanging out with his sister at the rainbow bouncy castle.

"Of course we can't," I say. "You're coming, too, Paige. Let's go pack our bags." I hold out my hand to Mark. "Keys, please."

He looks wounded. "You think I'd take off? You don't trust me to wait?"

I just stand there, hand out.

He turns off the ignition and drops the keys in my palm. He looks like a kicked puppy, but I push my guilt aside. I'm still pissed about the "social justice warrior" shit he said earlier. As if caring about social justice is a bad thing. It actually makes my heart race just thinking about it—but I guess we'll have plenty of time to talk about that on our way to Toronto.

Oh my god. We're going to Toronto. WE ARE GOING TO TORONTO.

Provided with permission by Running Press Kids, 2021. Available from [Hachette Book Group](https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/).

Tom Ryan is the award-winning author of six books for children and teens. Born and raised in Inverness, Nova Scotia, he currently lives in Halifax with his husband Andrew and their awesome dog.

Robin Stevenson is the author of more than twenty books for children and teens, and currently lives on the west coast of Canada with her partner and their son.



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PWA Friends for Life Bike Rally

The annual Toronto People With AIDS Foundation (PWA) Friends for Life Bike Rally is in its 23rd year.

Director of Development, Anthony Johnson, states that it's a crucial fundraiser for the PWA as the organization is largely funded by private organizations.

"The Rally began in 1999 as an idea between David Linton and Danny Nashman, who were looking for a way to address a funding crisis at PWA. In that first year, twenty-four cyclists and a few friends in a support van raised \$45,000 for the foundation. Since then, thousands of riders and crew have raised over \$18 million dollars over the last two decades. The organization has also partnered with two new AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) - HIV/AIDS Regional Services of Kingston (HARS), and AIDS Community Care Montreal (ACCM) - thereby extending the Bike Rally's reach and help."

The PWA offers services like *Essentials Food Market* to their clients, or *community members*, as they are referred to. "Sometimes," says Johnson "it's the difference between eating and not. I began working at PWA last year, and this will be the first year that I actually ride. I would say that the real work is done by the volunteers, as they devote thousands of hours of hard work to make this event happen. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and elbow grease are what make the event happen."

The way one can cope in the world is severely impacted when you are living with HIV. For this reason the PWA works to provide peer support to community members, with help in navigating the medical system, the world of medication, and even more urgently, assisting newcomers to this

country who have been diagnosed. Depending on the assistance they need, they can even provide some financial support "to buy a coat or pay a bill, anything that helps," adds Johnson.

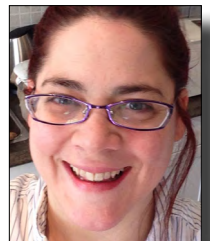
To help someone is to try and understand them, and for this reason the PWA has changed the way that they approach clients as AIDS itself has changed since the 1980's. There has been a rise in cases for heterosexual woman, and they also consciously work with Indigenous and communities of colour to align with them. "The cookie cutter approach doesn't work here," says Johnson.

For our wider community right now to support those affected with HIV, the ride will go on. It will operate in the context of public health recommendations. They are still forming a plan as to what that will look like, and are considering a shortened three-day Rally, or various local two-day rides. The decision will be made in early June, and updated on the website. The small number of riders in a socially-distanced formation are easily organized, with the only major difference being the absence of public gatherings.

"People have told me about lots of amazing moments on the ride, especially the candlelight evening when people tell stories about the way in which HIV has impacted their lives. These stories are powerful reminders of why we do the ride," concludes Johnson.

Due to the continuing COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 Rally will take place the weekend of August 14 to 15, with three separate rides in Toronto, Kingston or Montréal, Those interested can participate as a [1-Day Rider](#), [2-Day Rider](#), [Crew](#) or Virtual Rider. More info can be found [here](#).

Kelly Wilk is a freelance writer and single mom to red-headed, Irish, Aries boy who is growing up way too fast. Follow their adventures on PinkPlayMags' parenting blog "The Ginger Gen", and also on Kelly's own website and blog, Brave. Creative. Me at [www.kellywilk.ca](http://www.kellywilk.ca)



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In the meantime there have been several creative virtual events taking place online.

Please check our sister site's listings of events that are happening from a screen near you [www.thebuzzmag.ca/events](http://www.thebuzzmag.ca/events)

Our regular events print section will return as soon as venues start reopening.

Let's all stay safely connected.



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From The Heart

By Mychol Scully

It has become something of a stereotype that fashion and gay men “go together.”

*Queer Eye For the Straight Guy*, *Project Runway* and a host of other television, film and literature productions have cemented the notion that there’s something about gay men that draws them to the world of fashion.

There may be some objective reality to this impression, but not necessarily what you would expect. Creativity, flamboyance and “over the top” design do seem to be the purview of the homosexual sensibility, but I would suggest that there’s something else at play here.

In a world where being your authentic self might garner negative attention, bullying and even physical violence, gay men in particular have had to develop “protective camouflage” to secure their safety. It’s an aphorism that “the clothes make the man” and this is even more relevant in the context of that protective camouflage.

The clothes we wear communicate who we think we are and/or how we want the world to perceive us. Clothing design and fashion trends help to shape that communication, offering us a chance to stake a claim for our performative identity, whether our goal is to blend in with the heteronormative society we move through, or plant a flag on the hill of our chosen identity.

Make no mistake, clothing is both armour for, and advertisement of, our identities. As Seth Godin has written many times, “people like us do things like this.” It’s a way to identify with our tribe, creating a shared vernacular that sets us apart from “the masses” while simultaneously gathering us together in like-minded groups.

Fashion in its most extravagant iterations can also be weaponized to create a protective bubble, possibly challenging potential aggressors to “sashay away.” This can be a tricky business, but if you’ve ever been confronted by an annoyed drag queen, you’ll know what I’m talking about.

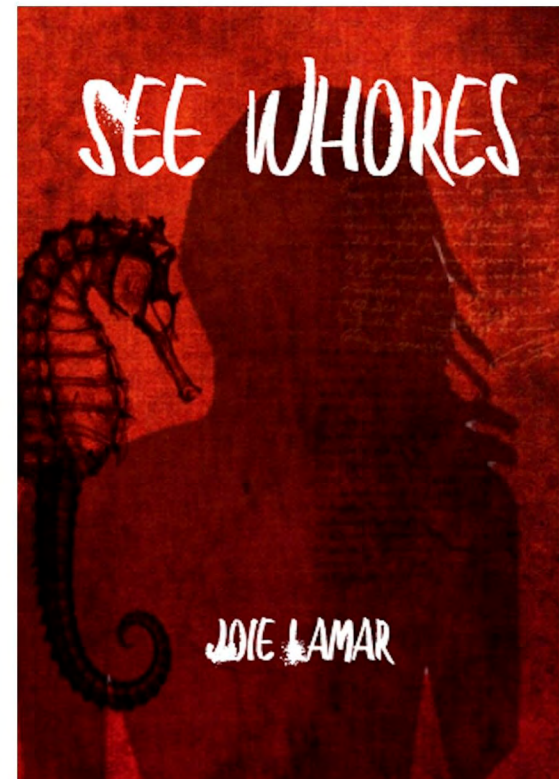
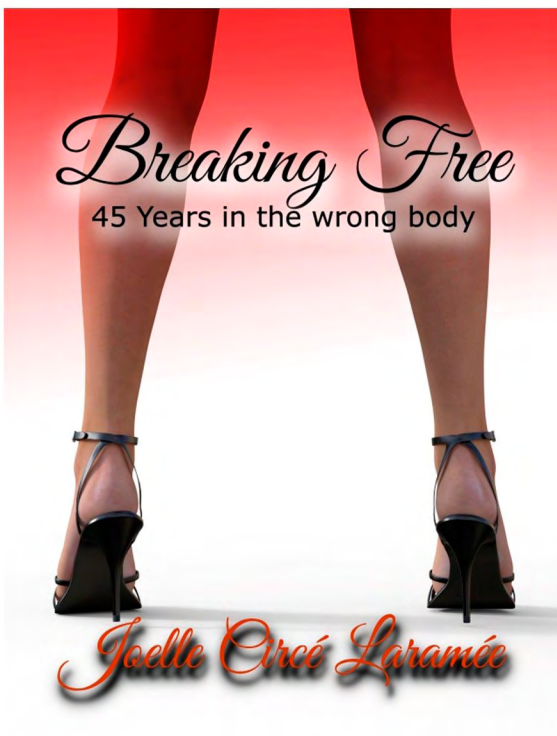
This whole dynamic is, of course, not limited to gay men. Everyone in society is using their clothing to mediate their engagement with the societies they’re embedded in. It’s just that gay men seem to have elevated this whole thing to an entirely new level.

During Pride season, I challenge you to step up to the plate in your fashion choices and “Let Your Freak Flag Fly!”

Mychol Scully is Senior Art Director for INspired Media publications *PinkPlayMags*, *theBUZZ*, *The Local Biz Magazine*, and *The Pink Pages Directory*. Mychol is available for thoughtful conversation or lascivious teasing any time at [mychol@mychol.com](mailto:mychol@mychol.com).



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# Summer Horoscopes

JULY 2021 to SEPTEMBER 2021

by Julie Antoinette

## Aries (March 21 – April 20)

The end of an era has come and it is marked by the departure of something symbolic of that era. You are now in a transition phase where you must rest and recalibrate before venturing out to forge a new era. Much like the cocoon phase between caterpillar and the butterfly. Get ready to spread your wings.

## Taurus (April 21 – May 21)

History repeats itself when we carry the past into the present. You may find yourself at the beginning of a fresh new chapter. But you keep looking back and remembering old pain. If you really want to start this chapter fresh, grieve the past fully. Feel it and heal it! Leave the grief behind in its proper place and start your new chapter with a clean slate.

## Gemini (May 22 – June 21)

It's time to ensure all of your documents are in order. Are bills paid? Insurance updated? License plates renewed? Income taxes filed? There is a push for your administrative duties to be attended to. You'll feel a load off your mind, a sense of order and will be glad you attended to these items later on.

## Cancer (June 22 – July 22)

It's time to re-establish a connection with an old friend. For some reason, life got in the way and you've both lost touch. A good long chat will acquaint you with what recently has seemed to be missing in the mirror – a fragment of yourself left behind to be rediscovered. This friend will hold up the mirror for you.

## Leo (July 23 – August 22)

You have taken on a hefty amount of responsibility over the years. You are now presented with another decision that will add more responsibility and rearranging of your affairs to accomplish. Take the time to weigh carefully what is to be gained and lost, for both the short term and long term. Consider each angle of this decision before moving forward. There are some hidden insights to consider.

## Virgo (August 23 – September 23)

You've been through a long and drawn out arduous ordeal that has just recently come to an end. Looking back on it all, you recognize that although there were some ugly moments endured, you can now spot the silver linings that were present throughout. It all makes sense in a way that you could never have imagined. Appreciate this as one of life's little gifts.

## Libra (September 24 – October 23)

In a strange twist of fate, you find yourself at the receiving end of numerous apologies. They seem to be flooding in from all directions. What could this mean? Consider that the universe is presenting you with the gift of forgiveness. Asking for and receiving forgiveness is a rich experience. Now you are on the other end of the forgiveness-spectrum. Recognize how healing validation and release can be.

## Scorpio (October 24 – November 22)

You turn over all of the "shouldas, wouldas and couldas" in your mind constantly. There's no use wanting the past to be different. That is out of your control. You would do well to stop torturing yourself wishing the past would change. Consider the ways you will show up differently for yourself moving forward in all the ways you didn't show up in the past. You will then give yourself the opportunity to look back and feel satisfied.

## Sagittarius (November 23 - December 21)

You've been thinking of acquiring a new pet recently, regardless of whether you already have pets, or even if you've never considered yourself an animal lover at all! It's been nudging you. You have no idea how your life will change as a result. Your new best friend is waiting to meet you.

## Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Boxes long left for storage in the attic, garage and basement are calling to you. They contain memories of long ago. Not only of your life, but extended family members and loved ones who have come before you. Dig them out and take a trip down memory lane. Piece the story together. You will emerge richer for it.

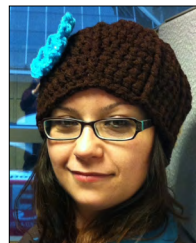
## Aquarius (January 20 – February 19)

Lately you've longed for a time long ago when life was simpler and people were different. A feeling of nostalgia calls you from another decade to relive its glory days. Life today is unrecognizable from the past. There is an element of daily life from long ago that is still relevant today. Find this element and incorporate it into your daily routine. If you do this, you will feel more balanced and anchored.

## Pisces (February 20 – March 20)

Health concerns are on your mind. Your body is giving you warning signs but you've been putting them off. Think about it, would you do this with your car when the "check engine" light comes on? That would be unwise – and potentially very costly. Tend to your business now so that you may continue to tend to your life later.

Julie is a Sociology and Psychology graduate, a Psychotherapy Intern and a lifelong student of the psyche. She seeks to relay intuitive messages of guidance from the collective astrological archetypes.



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# SEASON SEVEN

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ON the COUCH | Community Parties



ON the COUCH | Miss Conception



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A photograph of two women in a gym setting, performing sit-ups on a dark mat. The woman in the foreground is wearing a black sports bra and red and black shorts, with her hands behind her head. The woman in the background is wearing a grey sports bra and grey leggings, also with her hands behind her head. The gym background includes wooden boxes and a blue mat.

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to make this  
planet a  
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