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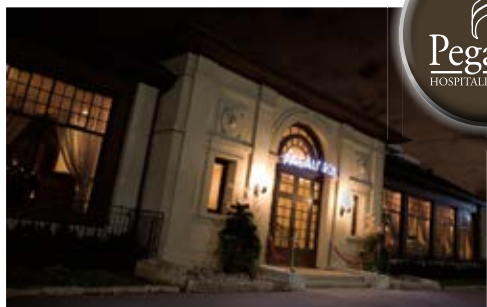
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From the **Publisher**



Happy Birthday to us, and Happy Birthday to Canada. As I sit down to write this letter from the publisher I am filled with a whole lot of emotions. Happy 10 years to our PinkPlayMags, truly a labour of love. Ten years ago, I really wanted to get back into media with something original, something intelligent, a magazine that felt enlightened and spirited, sprinkled with hot visuals, and wrapped up in creative covers. I wanted to create a gift to a community which I truly and deeply love.

I called my friend, talented writer Jeff Harrison, and I said I want you to hear this vision I have for a magazine, and I would love it if you would go with me on this journey, and I want to make you Editor-in-Chief. The rest as they say is history. Two years ago, Jeff passed the torch on to another talented writer in our community who shared our vision, and Bryen Dunn came aboard as our new person at the helm.

PinkPlayMags always felt like a kid that we have watched grow up, and we made sure it did the right thing, be diverse, be hopeful, and be kind. We hope that for the last 10 years you, the readers, our community, and our friends, have also enjoyed taking this lovely journey with us.

Okay I don't want to get too emotional (I honestly can feel tears in my eyes) so let's talk about the fun stuff, CELEBRATIONS. Let me tell you what is happening this year. What better way to celebrate a birthday than by looking back at the past and pondering the future. This year, PinkPlayMags will take you on a journey through the more recent history of our community.

This first issue starts us off in the fabulous and yet not fully realized LGBTQ community of "The 60s & 70s". In summer we will be taking a look at "The

80s & 90s", autumn will be all about "The 2000s", and in winter we will be "Imagining the Future". It's going to be exciting, so buckle up, as we're pulling all the stops to create four collector editions that you will want to keep and read again and again.

A magazine is a visual medium as much as it is a written word. PinkPlayMags' covers over the 10 years have always been meant to be pieces of art, and it warms our heart when we hear from readers who fondly remember past covers. Donnarama holds the record for the number of times she has graced those covers, so this year we invited her and some of her friends to be the star of the four editions. Keep an eye out for what fun stuff we'll be doing with her.

This year we also celebrate Canada's 150th. We've got you covered on that too. Our travel destinations will be distinctly Canadian this year, and some of the columns will address people and community organizations across Canada.

What's a celebration without a PARTY? Get ready to plan your hot outfit and to polish your dancing shoes, because baby come October we're gonna party. Without giving too much away, PinkPlayMags' and Canada's birthday will be celebrated with a MEGA bash that includes a reception and a retrospective of the ten years of our much loved magazine. There will also be performances, drinks, and a dance party with music by hot local DJ's. The event is open to the whole community, and all will be presented with a "Canadian" twist. That's it, that's all what we will say for now.

It's a HAPPY HAPPY year all around, and we would love you to join us in celebrating. THANK YOU so much for giving us the opportunity to work for you, our community, our chosen family, to create a magazine that we hope you have enjoyed over the last decade. Have a great spring..

Antoine Elhassem
Publisher

publisher@pinkplaymags.com

springplay!

**Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, Leather, and Queer
Community Seasonal from PinkPlayMags
Free • Spring 2017**

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Cover The 60s & 70s - Disco Queens

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From the **Editor**

This year we celebrate 150 years since confederation of Canada becoming its own independent nation. As well, we here at PinkPlayMags have a celebration of our own, with this being our 10th anniversary since our first issue was published. We've come a long way since then, having worked with many talented writers who have written on a variety of fascinating topics. What began as an accompanying publication to The Pink Pages Directory, has now grown into a voice of its own.

Here's a few words from the first Editor-in-Chief, Jeffrey Harrison, who takes a look back at the years under his helm.

"We've covered a lot of ground this past decade. We reminisced about the '80s, a tumultuous time to be queer. We explored the many faces of the divine and celebrated the power of women—the mothers, sisters, and daughters in our lives. We told tales to chill the blood; the Monster was born and evolved. We kept fiction alive in our pages, a feat rare these days, and one I'm thrilled to see has continued. We looked at bullying, the birth of pride, diversity, what makes us laugh and scandalous tales of secret affairs and steamy burlesque nights. We've gone on adventures with interplanetary extraordinary superheroes, geeks and nerds. We witnessed the end of the world as the Mayan calendar ended and the world saw great change, change that continues to happen. We've strolled hand-in-hand through the seasons, came



together to celebrate WorldPride, and as always, spoke to you, our readers, From the Heart."

"Passing on the mantle of editor-in-chief was hard to do, but I felt I'd said all I had to say and it was time to give someone else a voice. Happy 10th Anniversary, PinkPlayMags—here's to another phenomenal decade!"

So for the past few years I've enjoyed taking lead editorial for the magazine. We haven't changed much, and all columns remain the same. The thing we do change is the theme of each year. As some might recall, last year we focused on the various stages of life, from childhood to our twilight years. For this issue it's also a time lapse of events, which our publisher has already mentioned.

I've enjoyed my time as Editor, working with some great writers who have continued on with us, and welcoming some new writers to the fold. The most interesting aspect of my role in production is doing the research, and determining what will be the best fit to offer our readers a magazine full of content that makes it interesting and joyful to read.

As for what the future will bring, that is yet to be determined. All I know is that it's an idea that comes from within our publisher's brain, and we as a team are the machine that makes those thoughts come to life.

Please welcome our newest writer Terri-Lynne Waldron, our new Events Editor Sherry Sylvain, and the two editorial interns that helped put this issue together, Breanne Forbes and Geetika Lahar.

I hope you enjoy this look back at our history through these exclusive words and images.

Bryen Dunn
Editor-in-Chief
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Our Queer Beginnings

By Megan Hutton

//There's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation"

Who can forget Pierre Elliot Trudeau's middle finger? That one gesture is emblazoned in the memories of Canadians. An outspoken Prime Minister who let the entire world know how he felt about protesters with just one finger, as the train he was riding in went past Salmon Arm, B.C. on Aug. 8, 1982. Our now Prime Minister, his son Justin, was travelling with him, and was 10 years old at the time. This was just one of the feisty moments in his illustrious career as leader of our country, when he presided from 1968 to 1979, and then again from 1980 to 1984.

Another of his more controversial moments was when he was acting Justice Minister, and proclaimed, "There's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation". This was in reference to his introduction of the Omnibus Bill C-150 in the House of Commons on December 21, 1967. The bill called for massive changes to the Criminal Code of Canada, including the decriminalization of 'homosexual acts' performed in private, and citing, "what's done in private between adults doesn't concern the Criminal Code." Those words, and that attitude, caused a stir and woke

people up to a new era and expression of sexual freedom.

On the heterosexual front, couples were beginning to live openly in common law marriage. Coming out of the "Beaver Cleaver" era where married couples slept in twin beds on television shows, this was daring. The subsequent decriminalization of homosexuality was a major step towards human rights for lesbians and gays. However, it wasn't an easy sell and there were even outrageous suggestions that Bill C-150 was a communist plot. The public's attitude was still suspect of the "homosexual lifestyle." Although the bill was passed by a large majority, it wasn't without its critics.

The 1960s and 1970s were a time of protest and revolution for a broad spectrum of society. The Vietnam War and Woodstock's free-love music festival defined the attitudes of the youth. For many, it was more about having a good time, than about who you were sleeping with. It was a time of discovery and contradictions. The Vietnam War brought a fear of impermanence, and with that, less focus on human behaviour. It was a mellowing out era in contrast to the decades prior. A certain segment of the population were beginning to relinquish the old attitudes from the 50s.



Kristyn Wong-Tam with Rupert Raj



Richard Hudler

Gay men were still the primary focus when lifestyles were being questioned. This made it easier for lesbians to stay under the radar. It was more common and accepted to see women hugging or holding hands. Women also congregated for a myriad of reasons, and it was much easier to be inconspicuous if they were in a relationship. These spinsters or best friends who never married but shared a living space may have been suspect, but they were still able to live their lives in secret. The rise of feminism was a turning point as women became more visible and vocal about their choices, including living openly.

It's interesting to see how words we once used have a different connotation than in those decades. In the 60s and 70s the word "lesbian" wasn't often heard. We were all described as being gay, men or women. Over the past five years, I've been invited to speak with groups within the queer community at one of our local universities. At one of these sessions I used the word "dyke", and a silence fell over the room. It appears that the word "dyke" is considered offensive to some of the younger generation. It was also interesting to note that these young people still experienced the fear of rejection around disclosing their sexuality to their parents - no different from prior decades.

Trans Activism

One of Canada's foremost educators and activists knows this well. Rupert Raj always felt he was a

boy who was born into a girl's body. He described his Indian-born father as being androgynous, which may have meant him becoming a real ally when he disclosed his feelings to his parents at the age of sixteen. Tragically, Rupert's parents were both killed in a car accident three months later. Who knows how different his journey would have been if his father had been there for him.

Rupert's four siblings were separated as a result of their parent's untimely death, however he maintained a lasting friendship with his only sister. With his parents deceased, an older brother also took Rupert to New York to meet with an endocrinologist, and he was given his first testosterone shot. From there, the rest is history as they say.

Rupert's many awards, achievements and accolades are well known. From starting the organizations, "The Foundation for the Advancement of Canadian Transsexuals" (FACT) and the "Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation", his achievements are worldwide and impressive. He recalls that while still in university, but not yet publicly out, he asked a professor if he could do a presentation on transsexualism. The professor told him the class probably wouldn't get it, because they barely understood homosexuality. Considering the fact that gay sex was still illegal, Rupert was ahead of his time by beginning to raise awareness and address the rights of trans individuals.



Reverend Brent Hawkes

Having recently met Rupert, the scope of his work and public acknowledgment was apparent at his recent 65th birthday celebration at 519. Rupert joked that he was now trans-saturated with over 45 years as a trans-activist. Many friends and former colleagues spoke on behalf of Rupert's work in many different areas. Kristyn Wong-Tam, a Toronto city council member said Rupert "listens with his heart." He was honoured by City Hall for his contributions, and the Catholic Children's Aid talked about Rupert being the first openly trans person to work within the agency.

Rupert saved personal mementos throughout his life, as Elspeth Brown from the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives (CLGA) said, "the collection is monumental in terms of trans history, not just in Canada, but worldwide." Amazing legacy by a humble man. He has a book of poetry due out soon, as well as contributions to many other books and videos. In 2007 he was awarded the City of Toronto Access & Equality Human Rights Pride Award, and his portrait is included as part of the CLGA collection in Toronto.

"When those are the places I want to go."

Another pioneer of note from this time period is Richard Hudler. Originally from Chicago, he is now 74 years young, and has lived in the same condo since he arrived in Toronto. He still remains active in the community, and is the chair



Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau

for Queer Ontario. His early days in Chicago as a gay man were very secretive. He said if gay bars existed they were not easy to find. He met his first lover via a straight bar. While there, this one bisexual individual warned Richard about the perils of going onto certain streets, because there were gay men out there. Richard laughed and said, "Then those are the places I want to go."

He said after a trip to Europe where he'd met his next lover, they both moved to Canada. Richard worked in hospitals in London, Ontario, and Brampton. In 1971 Richard was one of the organizers of the Homophile Association of London Ontario (HALO) club. It was the forerunner to numerous other organizations to benefit the community. When Richard moved to Toronto he continued his advocacy work. All of this advocacy work has contributed greatly to the rights that our community has today. His portrait is also in the CLGA. One idea - a thought turned into action - moved both Rupert and Richard to care enough to devote their time and energy to fighting for all.

"You are going to burn in hell, because of your sexuality and lifestyle"

Brent Hawkes has been at the forefront of changing the face of organized religion for our community for many years. Initially the church community was closeted. Many had come from

places where religion was used to condemn them personally. It wasn't an easy transition for some members of the community to go from, You are going to burn in hell, because of your sexuality and lifestyle, to It's okay now, we are going to form a church community. Some members felt betrayed, especially those who had been brought up in fundamental churches. Their trust around anything to do with religion just wasn't there.

Hawkes said that at the beginning of M.C.C Toronto, the church community was adamantly against marching in the Pride parade because many members thought it was "too radical". Today, the religious contingent is one of the largest in the parade, comprised of many faiths. Some members of our community are also staying with the churches they grew up in, as many have become inclusive.

Asked how he thought the community had changed over the past four decades, he responded, "There have been dramatic changes. In the beginning many people were angry, because so much of the homophobia was religious based. In those tumultuous times of change there was no visible religious support, and all religions were branded as the enemy. One of M.C.C Toronto's early jobs was to bring spirituality back to the community again. That's why I always wore a pink triangle along with my clerical collar."

Hawkes says the advantages of M.C.C. for our community are still very necessary for some of the population. "M.C.C Toronto is a safe place for everyone, regardless of faith." The church stresses being vibrant, inclusive, and progressive. He said when some people had given up on traditional religion and were looking for something else, there were few options for a church with those three attributes. As witnessed at M.C.C. Toronto's Christmas Eve services at Roy Thompson Hall, it is inclusive, vibrant and spiritually progressive!

Hawkes is likely best known for performing the first same-sex marriage in Canada, after advising the government of his intentions to proceed even though it was not legal. Banns were published in the church, as per the rules, and this circumvented the government's involvement. In 2002 Hawkes

won a court case against the City of Toronto, that declared it was illegal to discriminate against two individuals of the same-sex wanting to marry. More importantly, a year later he had accomplished a huge win for same-sex marriage, as it became legal in the province of Ontario. This is a sure sign of progression, and persistence!

lesbian love

When the Hite report came out, it was one avenue for us to explore the reality that we weren't alone. The report validated our feelings and attraction to the same sex. Lorraine Lederer, a lesbian women who grew up during that era, was also aware of society's negative attitudes towards same-sex relationships. After her first intimate encounter with a women in the 70s, she tried to put the experience out of her mind. Even though she lived in Los Angeles and was aware of gay males, she said lesbians weren't as visible. Lorraine and her wife Mary have been together for over 30 years now, and have two daughters from Peru, Jessica and Katrina.

The Trudeau legacy

Who would have thought that any of this would have been possible viewing it from the 60s? Perhaps Mr. Pierre Elliott Trudeau? Unfortunately he passed away September 28, 2000, less than a month before his 81st birthday, and is not here to see the results of those initial changes he spearheaded back in the late 1960s. However, today his son carries on his legacy of openness and diversity, and in 2016 he became the first Prime Minister to ever march in an official Pride Parade!

Megan is a Poet, Playwright, and Short Story writer, who has published numerous articles on relationships. She read from the Anthology "Dykeywords" at Toronto's first "Word on the Street," and she's currently working on a poetry collection and a short film.





by Jerry Schaefer

LGBT artists have used a variety of strategies over the years to cover up their sexuality, as many talented gay and lesbian performers would often be overlooked and under-appreciated if word got out.

The 60s and 70s were a time when being queer made you an outlaw, and hiding in plain sight was the only option to pursue. Pop culture in those decades was not made for, or by, gays and lesbians. Not openly, anyway. Most people had no idea that Rock Hudson and Doris Day were secretly the Will and Grace of their time! (Or they did and looked the other way.) But by 1974, sexual conventions were fluid enough that NFL quarterback Joe Namath was okay with appearing in a pantyhose commercial wearing the product. Slowly, people started coming out of the closet.

Let's celebrate some of the LGBT pioneers that paved the way for all Canadians.

Film

Because of the Motion Picture Production Code, most Hollywood movies in the '60s had straight characters played by straight men and women. Masculine women and effeminate men were cast in comic roles or played sick and twisted villains who met a bad end.

Alfred Hitchcock used the unspoken subtext of homosexuality to create unease in the viewer. As a result, *Rope* (1948), *Strangers on a Train* (1951), and *Psycho* (1960) had gay characters...who were also crazy and criminal. Thanks, Hitch.

Although few movies were being made in the Great White North, we must toast "Winter Kept Us Warm" (1965) – the first English-language Canadian film ever screened at Cannes. Director David Secter made this story about two male college students who become close friends,



until a woman intervenes and the sexual tension between the boys boils over. The limitations of Sector's shoestring budget are obvious, but what it lacks in cinematic slickness, it makes up with charm.

And in 1977, Canada produced the first drag film to ever have a mainstream release: "Outrageous!". Craig Russell's hilarious character work is top notch, and if you haven't seen the movie yet then we have to ask: Are you sure you're queer? Because we may have to revoke your membership card.

Theatre

LGBT artists have always been welcome in the theatre, but plays addressing gay subject matter were rare. One powerful exception is Canadian John Herbert's 1967 play "Fortune and Men's Eyes". This challenging story was inspired by Herbert's own experience in prison, after being arrested in 1947 for wearing women's clothing. The story addressed the brutal realities of gay life in a Canadian jail, and criticized the penal system that allowed this cruelty.

Although the play was work-shopped at Stratford, it was deemed too controversial to stage. It debuted in New York and toured American cities before finally playing in Toronto. In 1971, director Harvey Hart produced the film version.

The year 1978 saw the founding of Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, now Canada's oldest surviving theatre company dedicated to LGBT content. One of its first productions was founder Sky Gilbert's "Angels in Underwear". The Nightwood Theatre was formed a year later, and



today it remains Canada's oldest professional women's theatre company. One of its early hits was lesbian playwright, Ann-Marie MacDonald's, "Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)".

Music

In the 60s, "Toronto the Good" was a clean and sober city where LGBT stood for "Let's Guzzle British Tea." Stores and bars closed every Sunday, but on other nights, the Yonge Street strip was hopping with clubs. There's a chance that revelers might have passed an elegant black man wearing a woman's wig, makeup, and a flashy sweater set. The Sapphire Tavern played host to a passionate R&B singer named Jackie Shane, whose sexual orientation was anything but secret, and he was definitely not hiding it.

Born in Nashville, Shane settled in Toronto for an extended engagement with Frank Motley and the Hitchhikers. Patrons were entranced by the charismatic singer whose androgynous voice and gender-bending fashions added even more excitement to his take on such R&B classics like "Walking the Dog", and "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag."

During instrumental breaks, Shane preached about romance, relationships, and his love of



chicken. His artful phrasing of William Bell's "Any Other Way" turns the tune into a delightful declaration of his own orientation: "Tell her that I'm happy, tell her that I'm gay, tell her that I wouldn't have it, any other way." That song gave Shane a number one hit on the Toronto Top-40 radio charts

During the 1970s, Hogtown's queer community was marching and making noise, especially at night when disco reigned in clubs like The 511, Chez Moi, the St. Charles Tavern, and The Parkside.

In 1978, four powerful gay singers came together as The Nylons (Claude Morrison, Paul Cooper, Marc Connors, and Denis Simpson). The lineup changed over time to include other great vocalists like Billy Newton-Davis and Micah Barnes, and their contribution to Canadian music has been undeniable.

Literature

World War II was a boom time for books. Publishers printed cheap, mass-market paperbacks for soldiers. Later, paperbacks moved to racks in drugstores and bus terminals. Among the many pulp fiction novels on display were stories with queer content.

So how do you advertise books about illegal sex without upsetting horses and ministers? Titles with code words like, "forbidden," "strange," and "twilight" served as a wink and a nod to those in the know. The picture on the cover did the rest.

Ian Young's excellent study, "Out in Paperback: A Visual History of Gay Pulp" (2007), explains the subtleties involved in designing a book cover that suggests risqué content. Although the images there often misrepresented the book's content, many are treasured today for their retro charm and campy appeal.

Around 1964, American obscenity laws loosened up and pulp titles became more...expressive. Some made enthusiastic use of the exclamation point: All Dick!, Butt boy!, Buttrustle! Cover blurbs bellowed boldly (Muscle Boy — "They got their kicks from forbidden feats of strength!").

Some titles aimed for more literary heights, like "The Sexual Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", "Cockwork Orange", and "The Assman Commeth". You just have to respect the epic scope of a book titled, "My First Million Inches".

Over time, LGBT authors stopped using pseudonyms and more significant literary works emerged. In 1964, Scott Symons, an openly gay writer, attacked the Canadian establishment with his novel "Place d'Armes". The story is known for queer sex scenes and inflammatory language. It's said the content reflected Symons' own stormy life.

Jane Rule was an even earlier pioneer of lesbian-friendly literature in Canada. Five years before homosexuality was decriminalized, and after twenty-two rejections, she published her first novel, "Desert of the Heart", which was later made into the 1985 film "Desert Hearts".

For LGBT readers, queer pulp fiction was a way to connect with a community through stories that, in some ways, validated their own experience. As gay and lesbian writers and themes became more accepted in the mainstream, the pulps declined. But companies like Vancouver's Arsenal Pulp Press still reprint pulp classics, as well as modern works by queer authors.

And who knows? Maybe pulp fiction will rise again someday and we'll see titles like, "A Mouth Full of Trouble", "The Land That Pants Forgot", and "The Milk Man Was a Lady".

So whether your sights are set to be the most OUtageous stage performer, or penning your first theatre production, there's no better time than now to make your mark. Sing for the moment, and aim for the sky. May your next novel be proudly displayed front and centre at your local bookstore. As our queer idol Jackie Shane sang back in the 1960s, is there any other way?

Jerry Schaefer is a Toronto actor and writer whose work has appeared on CBC radio and television.



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PROUD HISTORY

A PEEK INTO THE LIFE OF ARTIST BRUCE EVES

by Kelly Wilk

When they say art imitates life this could not be truer than for the art of photography.

This artistic capturing of life is a small window into the world, and in the case of the historical photography of Bruce Eves, it was a window into a passionate and controversial past of portraying gay life in the 1970s, a time when many just wanted to throw that window shut.

“The issues today are different, and in a way they are more challenging, because with tolerance comes blandness. At that time in the early to mid-70s there was a current of activity among groups and individuals who were like the grandchildren of Warhol, working parallel to conceptual artists – the Cockettes, John Waters, Gilbert and George, Charles Ludlam, Jack Smith (and me)”, he smiles.

“We were Warhol plus gay liberation, and society was very harsh in dealing with gay people. Lack of job protection, the fraught relationship with police, and more interestingly the art world was notoriously homophobic, and I’d venture to say it still is. So for anyone to make gay issues a central part of their art practice, it was quite radical at the time”, he explains.

He cites the following examples. “At the time I was making a series of theoretical drawings for proposed environmental installations involving bodily fluids, and the only one that was actually realized was a room-sized floor-installation of semen. I also participated in a Kensington Arts Association (KAA) project to produce a series of multi-camera broadcast quality videotapes, with



the goal of having artist-made videos shown on television. It was intended to be an S & M fashion show, but the camera crew stormed out in protest at the appearance of a man naked except for boots, leather vest, and chaps.” The screen shot here is from the couple of minutes that was taped.

KAA later moved to the much larger John Street location, which operated until 1976, at which point the Duncan Street flagship location opened, and the Centre for Experimental Art and Communication (CEAC) was officially born. Eves recalls, “This was a ground-breaking event in the history of Canadian art, as it was the first time in history that an artist-run centre in Canada, and a queer-Marxist-dominated one at that, purchased a permanent home thanks to a \$55,000 grant from





Wintario. It was at this time that I was hired as assistant programming director.” (seen above) looking distressingly twinkish, with programming director Amerigo Marras in this 1977 photo by Peter Dudar.

Part of the mandate of CEAC, was to facilitate international exchanges and performance art tours in Europe. “In the late spring of 1977, I participated in the second performance art tour of Europe, followed by an invitation to participate in the Free International University’s Violence and Behaviour workshop at Documenta VI in Kassel, Germany. While unrecorded, my lecture on homoeroticism and the simulacra of violence in punk and leather/S&M, aroused much hostility from the audience in attendance. At the after-party, well-known member of the German art collective Fluxus, Joseph Beuys, launched into a series of demeaning and contemptuous impersonations of his invited guests, then stuck his tongue down my throat. I’m probably one of a dwindling number of men who has been aggressively kissed by an actual card-carrying Nazi,” smirks Eves. I am next to Beuys at the far left (above), videotaping the proceedings.

He goes on to explain how one of his pieces created 39 years apart, which when united in marriage with a more recent piece, questions some of our most basic assumptions. “The first work, written not long before being sexual assaulted by Beuys, consists of a grumpy and waspish account of two evenings on the town at the legendary Parkside Tavern in 1977. On its own it’s not of insignificant historical interest, but combined with the second more politically provocative work from 2016, the paradox of present realities in conflict with nostalgic longing comes to the forefront.”

“The intent of embedding the incendiary position that things were better when everyone hated us, within a murky and confrontational image, is not only to malign the magnificence that a certain degree of normality has been allowed to envelop our lives, but it is also about mourning some of the things we’ve sacrificed in achieving our state of grace. We have allowed, even welcomed, the wholesale corporate sponsorship of our existence, the benevolence of which doesn’t lead to more freedom and creativity, but leads to less,” he continues.

He remembers this piece being displayed as part of Nuit Rose 2016, and how two individuals in particular, an older woman and her much younger friend were heatedly arguing. “The younger woman would have none of it. The very idea that gay life before her birth may have had anything to offer was not only an absurdity, it was an insulting dismissal of her world-view. Her much wiser companion disagreed...loudly! Later, a man turned away in tears, not old enough to have been to that wonderful dump of a tavern, but perhaps in silent agreement with the older woman in believing that contemporary urban gay life is perhaps...a bit sterile and over-designed?”

I will be the first to admit that today’s modern life does have a cleanliness aspect that precipitates a preference for control that is certainly at odds with say, a wall full of bodily fluids. As a queer mom I wrestle with this modern notion, but I am finding that in this allergy-besieged, immune-deficient world of mess I live in, it gets harder and harder to achieve or aspire to cleanliness, even though it is a definite virtue. It is real. It is life. It doesn’t apologize for itself. It is human expression and many times, it is art. Now, where’s my camera?

Kelly Wilk appeared in *Beer and Butter Tarts Vol.1* by Stained Pages Press. She is an avid blogger on *The High Flying Adventures of Captain Grief* (www.captaingrief.com) and currently *The Ginger Menace* (www.pinkplaymags.com) and *Brave. Creative.Me.* (www.bravecreativeme.com).



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Ottawa 2017 Bursting with Canadian Pride

With 2017 being the 150th anniversary since Canada's confederation, we've decided to dedicate every travel article this year to a different Canadian destination. While I won't divulge the remaining three destinations, I can let you know that we chose Ottawa to begin with, as it will be the epicentre of celebrations, with literally thousands of special events planned throughout the entire year.

While Ottawa is notably known for its history that's steeped in politics, the city also offers visitors an opportunity to discover many cultural pursuits, outdoor activities, amazing dining and accommodation options, shopping, and nightlife. What sets Ottawa apart from other destinations celebrating Canada's 150th is that they're planning a full 12 months' worth of celebration under the banner of Ottawa 2017, with some never-before-seen/ never-seen-again options like La Machine's giant robotic spider and dragon roaming the streets between July 27 and 30 (a North American

first), and Ignite 150, a series of 17 epic stunts that will be taking place randomly throughout the year at various locations. There's also Inspirational Village, a make-shift performance space in the heart of the bustling ByWard Market, where a variety of events will be created within restored shipping containers.

Kontinuum is a free multimedia time-travel experience in an underground subway station (a world first) operating all summer long. This will be happening at the new Lyon station, which will be part of Ottawa's new 2.5 km long underground LRT Confederation Line. Guy LaFlame, Executive Director of Ottawa 2017, and mastermind behind all the year's special programming, calls this "the nucleus of all programs that uses the coolest, cutting edge Canadian technology. It will stimulate the imagination with artistic creation that provides a look at the future of Canada."

Other events happening throughout the year include, Ottawa Welcomes the World, where some 75 diplomatic missions will celebrate their culture at free parties across the city from March through until December, or Canada's Table where 1,000 people can dine at one long outdoor table in August, with cuisine provided by both the

by Bryen Dunn



top 10 local and Canadian chefs. Other unique dining experiences include Sky Lounge, which will take flight between July 7 to 22, hoisting 22 participants nearly 50 metres in the air high above the city to enjoy breathtaking views while enjoying fine wines and delicious dishes. The Interprovincial Picnic on July 2 takes place on the historic Royal Alexandra Bridge that connects Ontario and Quebec, where diners can reserve their spots to lay out their picnic wares. Agri 150 is a series of dining events that lets participants explore the rural regions beyond the city limits, by offering wine and bike tours, farm-to-table dining, and more throughout the summer.

Another cool annual event is Bank Street Glowfair that happens this year on June 16 and 17. Bank Street from Slater to James Street will be closed to vehicle traffic and opened to a magical world of music+light+art. For two days and nights Glowfair transforms Ottawa's retail hub into a non-stop celebration of cutting edge music, mesmerizing entertainment, and dazzling street performers.

From the wildly popular 'silent disco' and hottest bands, to electrifying installations and décor, Bank Street is also where the newly branded "Gay Village" is also located. The first-ever Canadian gay protest (We Demand) was held on Parliament Hill in Aug 1971, only two years after

New York City's famous Stonewall Riots (1969), and four years after gay sex was decriminalized by the federal government (1967). I found it quite interesting that despite the city's queer history, it was only within the past couple of years (2011) that Ottawa adopted a gay village.

Apparently there was no official "village" prior to this designation, so the City started branding the Bank Street area accordingly. Throw in a few street markers and murals, colourful flags, and a couple rainbow coloured sidewalks, and there you go, a pop-up village! The only thing is there's not really anything overly gay about the street or surrounding area otherwise. There are a few LGBT operated businesses along the strip include – Stonewall, Venus Envy, Clover, Stroked Ego, and Wilde's – however, most of the bars and nightlife are scattered throughout the city. It somewhat defeats the purpose of all the branding - unless it's a build and they will come approach, perhaps?

That may well be the case, as the newly branded Ottawa Capital Pride has also relocated their festivities back to the area. The Pride organization recently did a complete re-organization after falling into collapse due to mismanagement two years back, and the event nearly didn't happen until a group of concerned community members decided to take hold the reigns and ensure it did. Thankfully things did come together, and with the support and partnership of the Bank Street BIA and the City of Ottawa, the 30th anniversary of Pride was an astounding success.

Under the guidance of Tammy Dopson, Chair of Ottawa Capital Pride, one of the key changes made within the new organization was to bring the action back to the Bank Street area. The parade now runs along Bank before turning and looping back, making a full 360 degree trek and keeping all festivities nicely contained within a few blocks. "I wanted it to have a feel of the original Toronto Pride Parades, where everything is focused along one street:", Dopson says. The "Village" area now encompasses a six block stretch along the Bank Street corridor between Nepean to James Streets. The entire BIA area covers a six-by-two block radius of between Wellington to Catherine

Streets (north to south), and Kent and O'Connor Streets (west to east), and Dopson plans to have entertainment remain within those borders. This year's Ottawa Capital Pride takes place August 21 to 27, and promises to be bigger and better than last year as it continues its comeback.

As well, the Bank Street BIA is currently working on a new project to build on the initial designation as the Village, by creating an historical narrative of the LGBT community in Ottawa, particularly along Bank Street. According to Executive Director, Christine Leadman, The Village Legacy Project is being spearheaded by Glenn Crawford, who plans to build the Village experience through several phases. Some of the elements of the project include a walking app that highlights key buildings, activities, businesses, and other noteworthy items of interest."

So other than Bank Street, where does one go to find a bit of year-round Capital queer nightlife? There are a few LGBT owned bars, and several inclusive ones that have queer nights. It seems there's a lot of creative types that have taken it upon themselves to make their own fun events, which can happen anywhere, anytime. Here's a few tips on places that aren't on the typical tourist radar.

Zaphods Beeblebrox (of just Zaphods with the locals) is an institution in Ottawa's nightlife. This dive-bar recently celebrated 25 years in business, and while during that time it has changed ownership a couple of times, the vibe remains the same. This is a place where all our welcome with no judgment. So whether you are there to catch the latest underground indie act, dance the night away with top local DJ's, or win the prize of a lifetime at Sunday Night's long-running Trailer Trash Bingo, there's fun to be had. Be sure to say hello to the charming bartender, Zebra-Pants, behind the bar!

Drag Queen Karaoke at Shanghai Restaurant (in Chinatown), 651 Somerset Street West.

In operation since 1971, Shanghai Restaurant is Ottawa's oldest Chinese restaurant and is home to Karaoke Queen China Doll, and her long-running Saturday night Karaoke-mess. Be forewarned, there's definitely no prerequisite to be able to sing



a single note, but get there early to take in all the action.

Definitely off the beaten path, but definitely worth the trek, is a visit to Ola Cocina (62 Barette). This tiny Mexican cantina is a scream, which usually comes from the mouth of owner Donna Chevrier. It's not uncommon for her to be walking around greeting, and (verbally) assaulting her regulars, and the banter then continues back and forth. The food is all prepared in house, the portions are generous, and the prices are very reasonable. Look for pictures of baby Justin (Trudeau) on the walls, as this was/is one of his local go-to restaurants.





Buildings, which will be exceptionally spectacular to be at on Canada Day this year. The Centennial Flame on the lawn facing the Centre Block was lit in 1967 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Confederation of Canada. Fifty years later, and the flames of Ottawa are shining as bright as ever!

Images courtesy of Ottawa Tourism.

Tourism Resources

Ottawa 2017 www.ottawa2017.ca

Ottawa Tourism www.ottawatourism.ca

Bank Street BIA www.bankstreet.ca

LGBT Resources

Capital Pride www.ottawacapitalpride.ca

Ottawa's Queer History

www.ottawaqueerhistory.blogspot.ca

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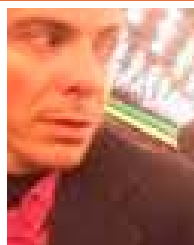
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Also, search the web for events by the likes of Sashay, a diverse group that throws seasonal parties featuring guest DJ's and special performances, and Queer Mafia who throws down dance parties such as Oh My Jam, and community events that "unite Ottawa's queer and social justice networks." There's also Queering 613, who's mandate is to "amplify and explore Ottawa's queerness", with events like Queers and Beers, a monthly pop-up that hits up different local breweries each month. For guys who like to groove, check out THROB, a monthly gay underground dance and cruise party that promises "the beats are a little harder, darker, and sexier."

The following bars are all also worth stopping by, but be sure to check their website first to see what type of programming is planned for the night. For instance, at Lookout Bar, although it draws a mixed crowd, Thursdays are usually more men, while Friday's tend to cater to the ladies. Kinky Lounge and Kitchen on the lower level is a funky spot to have dinner, before heading upstairs to dance. They also host their own events and art openings. Also, be sure to hit up HUMP Wednesday's at Mercury Lounge, and karaoke at Swizzles on Friday and Sunday nights.

Of course, there's always Parliament Hill to visit, with free daily guided tours of the Parliament

Bryen Dunn is a freelance journalist based in Toronto with a focus on tourism, lifestyle, entertainment and community issues.





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Hot Artist

by Terri-Lynne Waldron

As the founder of the Glad Day Bookshop here in Toronto, Jearld Moldenhauer's livelihood was selling gay books, but what many might not know about him is that he also had an artistic side as a photographer that now spans over 40 years. Jearld has travelled across the world photographing gay rights movements, diverse cultures, and general nature shots. I had the opportunity to chat with Jearld on his credible life.

You founded the LGBTQ Glad Day Bookshop here in Toronto in 1970 and sold it in 1991. How proud are you of this groundbreaking store and the fact that it still lives on today?

I am about as deeply and radically gay as you're ever likely to meet, and yes I take a certain amount of 'pride' in the fact that most of the gay organizations that I founded are still here today. That not only includes Glad Day Bookshop, but also gay Student Homophile Associations at Cornell University and the University of Toronto, The Body Politic journal, and finally the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives (CGLA).

Where are you today with archiving your photographs?

Each and every day I allocate some time to working with my massive archive of photos. Frankly, it's an overwhelming task, especially when dealing with the pre-digital period film stock material.

How did you get your subjects to consent to being photographed?

Most of the photos of people were taken as spontaneously as possible. When it comes to taking photos of people in different cultures, there are almost always problems. Some cultures are superstitious about photo images. I experienced many problems in India and in Islamic countries, especially when attempting to take pictures of women.

Do you still take photographs today?

Almost every day I take a few photos, mostly of nature subjects, but sometimes of people or places.

Once you get all of the prints digitized, will there be an exhibition where the public can view the photos?

I doubt it, unless I am suddenly 'discovered' by the world.



1. Gay Pride 1973
2. The toucans were the first significant birds that I kept.
3. The Body Collective
4. Photo of Afghani women taken in 1975 in Hera

Originally from Montreal, Terri-Lynne Waldron's professional writing career started in Quebec at the now defunct Montreal Mirror newspaper. Since then, she has freelanced for Chicago's LGBTQ newspaper, Windy City Times, New York's Urban Latino as well as various Canadian publications such as the Toronto Star, Metro, and other publications.





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Marcus McCann



This year our theme celebrates all things Canada, in honour of our nation's 150th birthday since confederation, so we're doing special editions where a few of our regular columns will be focused on the region of our travel destination. For this issue, we spotlight former Ottawa writer Marcus McCann, who was instrumental in that city's literary scene while there.

Marcus McCann gained many of his formative literary experiences while living in Ottawa, where he was director of Ottawa's Transgress Festival, ran the Naughty Thoughts Book Club, and was also a host on CKCU's Literary Landscape radio program.

Half wisecracking tour guide and half flirtatious trick, the poems in *Shut Up Slow Down Let Go Breathe* examine how we respond to overwork, anxiety, and over-stimulation. McCann's third collection speaks to a world that is too busy and too anxious, delivering the material with zero reverence and with loads of self-deprecating, disarming, observational—and sometimes catty—humour. Inviting readers to be his "band mates on life's slutty bus tour," *Shut Up Slow Down Let Go Breathe* marks a fresh new direction in Marcus McCann's poetics. Release date: May 15, 2017 via Invisible Books.

On Not Being Able to Sing

Voice like an underwater turbine choking
on American English. A voice manmade. Rock Hudson

scarred his vocal folds — on purpose, at twenty,
oh Hollywood! — to craft a tone in oratory

like a crew over the next dune thumping on
drydocked
boat hulls. It filled the lake of his singing voice with
slag.

Rock Hudson and The Little Mermaid
have this thing in common. As for me,

I don't have one song I can barter with.
Little, stomped-on harmonica. Puff of noise

you can squeeze from a rabbit with all the melody of
a poem
about Marcus McCann written by Marcus McCann.

Can all coyotes sing, or do some mouth their howls
like I do the national anthem? The song inside me —

not to get heavy — is a theme that circles me
Alzheimerally. If that's a word. I can't always express

the upbeat choruses that tent on the cliff's edge
of my solitary and social selves. I apologize

for smothering the fun out of karaoke. But not really.
I peel packing tape from the skin of audiences:

Imagine the foreboding when, after singing
The Greatest Love of All in rhythmless monotone,

the host calls my name to sing — wait for it —
The Greatest Love of All again in the second set.

Filament, Branching Out

Sex not as gymnastics but as two streams
meeting in a little V — low volts — say, a man is
kneading

my back as if he's grating hard cheese, and his
knuckles

grip a patchy thatch — my body is me
so I agree with its choices, but years ago it picked
for unstructured time a cross between raising Chia
Pets

and weaving, at first, this little tuft asked questions
by raising only one finger, timid,
now it's bold as a glade between farms — say his
pause

resolves in a tug, his face saying
underwater my feet caught a whisper of kelp
and it's unnerving — and I want to say

you are feeling the spindly wings I grew
in second puberty, my unshame, hirsute
abandonment
of the expected script, undepillitated me,

pre-natal hair returned like wisdom
revealed only by a second example— I do not say
aging is applying a dry rub, no — as for him

he pulls as if pulling a raft's ripcord — me as safety
rep,
don, attendant with my warm — warmer — insulated
inner parts — I yelped, not a word, but a syllable, how
could I not?

Poem for Scott Who Gave Me Conjunctivitis

Scrapper, through swollen open lids
before the vanity — cramped, lit
like discount grocery — I tilt my skull back,
squint, scope out this bacterial
shiner Sacré coeur
eye patch. A nightbird
laid a heavy pink shit in my socket.
A camera is a bad eye, my eye
now a bad camera. You cannot see
and also unsee. The microbes
cruising the Jacuzzi of my intra ocular
fluids flooded my rims
under cover of night. I was not attuned
to fences, tracing a scrotal
seam to lay my tongue
like a wet dog inside
your sphincter. Espresso
and muskox flank, dried blueberry
gym bag, allspice, tobacco
flower, flange, newel, rained-on
gravel, olive brine. Heavy
sled on ice moan in octave zero. Privacy
is not a thing in this world,
we're too close. Last night scuppers
naively from me, I am a blown-
out photo, flooded motor, my eye
an ecstatic report of a boatman spotting
light.

Never Straighten Is My Advice

Twilight spreads like nut butters. Ideally
fairy lights. Ideally a breeze carrying neighbours.
Ideally kibbutzing kids at dinner, verdant and pearly
ruffage, rye loaves that flake like stressed pets
and white, red, rose, Burgundy, verde. Like you

sparkling and still. Ideally your feet aren't anvils
but updraft, your brain and heart aren't storms
but transformer and transformer joined by sizzling
wire. Shift work, bawdy work, a firework
is emotional labour. Exegesis. Listening is work

but Kitty I'm tuned to your rumbles.
The future came forward to spook you, light
and smoky as a woman in a green dress saying
Baby in a moment I got booms for you to hear.
Never straighten is my advice. Ideally

a toast that sprawls from voice to voice like a ribbon
you coil and uncoil only because it is soft
And its softness comforts you. Did you ask
for fortune in an accessible format
because it's here. Ideally

disordered ideation. Imagine our adult
daughters colluding. Ideally rest, messes, rest.

Village of the Darned

Days pass like hot air
from an ill-sealed house.

Sky is agitating
for reform. Yesterday's

slight, outlined:
snobby cotton mass
like mold floating on juice

and waiting to be swept up
in the weather.

Not that air wants
anything: it has behaviors.

Amounting to bolts:
pale, layered, aphasic

and accreting
extra humps.
A chart of markets
in the long view. Off

couplings, even.
Soft calendar
to lie on.
Shedding log. I wrote

a Yelp review
of skies:

It's cool to see
where all our power
comes from.

On what prescription
am I? Oh yeah, its vastness!

Dear laundry, each mistake
is a sour smell
I can barely
distinguish.

You see lovers
slide in and away
as if off a continental shelf.

No one should be made
to watch a man choose poor
entertainments.

But you are laziness
piled on laziness
you say meh

with a shit-
rigging shrug.

You will
stay still and still

summer
will come to you!

Marcus McCann is the author of three collections of poetry. His work has been awarded the EJ Pratt Medal and John Newlove Award, and was shortlisted for the Gerald Lampert Award. He was born in Hamilton, lived in Ottawa between 2001 and 2009, and now calls Toronto home. He is part owner of Toronto's Glad Day Bookshop. marcusmccann.com

Photo courtesy Rannie Turingan.





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Community Cornerstone

by *Tammy Dopson*



Ottawa Capital Pride

“The City That Fun Didn’t Forget”

This year our theme celebrates all things Canada, in honour of our nation’s 150th birthday since confederation, so we’re doing special editions where a few of our regular columns will be focused on the region of our travel destination. For this issue, we take you to Ottawa where we spotlight Ottawa Capital Pride.

The Festival has been the National Capital Region’s annual LGBT key Pride celebration since 1985. What started as a protest would eventually become a forum for education on queer community issues, and a celebration of the steps the community has made toward social justice.

Following a turbulent 2014 festival, known as possibly the most spectacular “crash and burn” of the bigger Canadian Pride events, Ottawa was left wondering if Pride would continue in 2015. Then a group of community leaders hit the reset button by creating a new Capital Pride organization. The Board of Directors, along with a determined operations committee, took the helm of the annual LGBT event for the festival’s 30th anniversary celebration.

The road wasn’t smooth for the re-launch, and was marred by an early exit of the festival producer, with a subsequent search for a replacement only a few months before the big event. There was also some criticism and concern for a group that seemingly came out of nowhere to manage the city’s most colourful and queer festival.

Despite the challenges of renewing a defunct organization, the new Capital Pride forged new and renewed partnerships with groups like the Bank Street BIA (where the Ottawa’s LGBT Village is located), and gained the support of the City of Ottawa, and

several sponsors and community partners. With this support the group was able to produce a festival that met with resounding success, and saw an attendance of over 100,000 festival-goers, with the year-end financial solidly in the black.

The new Capital Pride is proud to celebrate the diverse voices within Ottawa’s LGBT community, with partnerships and accessible programming that includes families and youth, with events like the annual Family Picnic. The organization pays tribute to its past with the Human Right’s Vigil, and showcases the broadening queer community’s spectrum at the Capital Pride Parade, Community Fair, and Main Stage programming.

Capital Pride’s 2017 celebration is a fantastic opportunity to visit the city that fun didn’t forget. With a fabulous view of the Parliamentary buildings, you can savour one of Ottawa’s trademark Beaver Tail pastries, or toss back a few cold ones supplied by the many local area breweries. Meet new people who live in the capital of a country that continues to be a beacon of hope for many LGBT communities around the world. The organization is proud to continue their partnership with the City of Ottawa, the government of Ontario, supportive sponsors, volunteers, staff, and the community at large.

This year’s festivities take place August 21-27, 2017, and promises to be the best edition of Ottawa Capital Pride yet.

www.ottawacapitalpride.ca

Tammy left the Nation’s Capital for Toronto as AIDS began its devastation. Now she’s an Ottawa-based Realtor wanting to make a difference in the local LGBT community in her third year as Chair of the new Ottawa Capital Pride.
www.paulrushforth.com



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SPRING IN THE CITY

by Sherry Sylvain

Ah spring, the time of year that groundhog shadows predict either another six weeks of winter, or an earlier return to warmer temps. Either way, we're over the winter hump, and it's time to start thinking gardening and other outdoor pursuits. Spring also tends to be a time of fund-raisers and trade shows, so we've included a few noteworthy ones below.



Third Annual Irish 4 A Cure

March 17 from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Stadium Nightclub, 108 Peter St., Toronto

www.universe.com/events/irish-4-a-cure-2017-tickets-YGVBTQ

\$68.00 each

Irish 4 a Cure is a unique fundraiser, centered on bringing people together to celebrate St. Patrick's Day while raising funds and awareness for Kidney Cancer Canada. Be a part of this magical evening with live entertainment, performances, DJ, open bar, raffles, games and prizes. 100% of proceeds are donated to help increase Kidney Cancer Canada's reach.

Tip: It's an open bar, and although there are complimentary hors d'oeuvres, I'd suggest at least a light dinner first, and a designated driver, cab, car service, or TTC to keep everyone safe and sound after a fun night out for a good cause.

The Memory Ball

April 1 from 9:00 p.m.

Palais Royale, 1601 Lakeshore Blvd. W., Toronto

www.memoryball.org

Tickets \$115.00 to \$225.00

The Memory Ball is back with its Sixth Annual Gala, proudly presented by the Young Leaders Council of the Alzheimer Society of Toronto. This special evening brings together young professionals, community leaders, and local philanthropists in the fight against Alzheimer's disease. Ticket includes an open bar, specialty cocktails and appetizers, live entertainment, DJs, silent auction and more.

Tip: Parking at Palais Royale is across Lakeshore Blvd., so either use the valet, or be prepared for the dash across the road.

Music Without Borders

April 8 from 7:00 p.m.

University of Toronto Schools Auditorium,

371 Bloor St., W., Toronto

www.musicwithoutborder.com/

Tickets \$10.00 to \$25.00

Music Without Borders 2017 is a campaign that draws on the power of the arts to fundraise for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)/Doctors Without Borders, which has been at the forefront of providing humanitarian medical aid around the world. Over the past two years, Music Without Borders has raised more than \$28,000 for MSF through two gala concerts. The concert features music from around the world played by many talented young musicians. This year's campaign is calling on young musicians to submit musical recordings to be featured in a series of MWB podcasts in the spring of 2017.

Tip: Youth writers, artists, filmmakers, programmers, and composers are encouraged to submit original work on various themes of humanitarianism, the power of the arts, one world, service, and youth action. Check the web site to participate or make a submission.

Becel Heart and Stroke Ride for Heart

June 4 from 6:00 a.m.

Enercare Centre, 100 Princes' Blvd., Toronto

www.rideforheart.ca

Imagine riding, running or walking on the Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway...without vehicles! Thousands of heart-smart riders, runners and walkers in Toronto get to enjoy wide-open highways, and raise funds for heart disease and stroke research in this 30th annual edition. Participants can choose to ride 25, 50 or 75 km; run 5 or 10 km; or walk 5 km.

Tip: Start training last week. Dress in layers for the weather conditions, and stay hydrated.

The Gem Expo

March 17 -19

Hyatt Regency, 370 King St. W., Toronto

www.thegemexpo.com/

\$6.00 per day or 3 day pass for \$12.00

The Gem Expo offers precious and semi-precious stones from master cutters around the world, including rubies, sapphires, emeralds, aquamarine, moonstone, tourmaline, Baltic amber, pearls, beads, and sterling silver jewellery. There will also be a collection of crystal and mineral specimens worthy of any museum or private collector. Many of the vendors also work with healing crystals that can help align your Chakra's to bring positive change to your life, and improve your well-being.

Tip: Prepare to be dazzled, and maybe set a budget before you walk in the doors – or else.

Income Tax Clinic

Thursdays and Saturdays through April 27

(By appointment)

The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St., Toronto

www.the519.org

The Tax Clinic helps eligible individuals (with earnings under \$40,000) who are not able to prepare their income tax and benefits return themselves. Services are by appointment, on Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons, from March through April. Taxes are prepared for current year income only. Appointments can be booked by calling 416-392-6874.

Tip: Have all of your receipts and other documents neatly organized and in order – it will make things faster, easier and more accurate. You wouldn't want to miss out on any refund \$\$, would you?

The Bodyguard – The Musical

Through April 9, 2017

Ed Mirvish Theatre, 244 Victoria St., Toronto

www.mirvish.com/shows/the-bodyguard

Tickets \$50.00 to \$175.00 depending on seating/performance.

This award-winning musical is based on the smash-hit film of the same name. The Canadian premiere features the entire London West End company. Former Secret Service agent turned bodyguard, Frank Farmer, is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker. Each expects to be in charge, neither expects to fall in love.

Tip: Set aside your expectations from the film version and accept that you are watching an entirely different production with different actors. Be prepared for the use of strobe lights, gunshots, strong language and adult situations.



Sousatzka

Through April 9

Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre, 189 Yonge St., Toronto

www.heritagetrust.on.ca/EWG/Home.aspx

Tickets \$60.00 to \$175.00 depending on seating/performance

The world premiere of the new musical *Sousatzka* is based on the original novel *Madame Sousatzka* by Bernice Rubens. Set in 1982 London, *Sousatzka* tells the story of a young musical prodigy torn between two powerful women from vastly different worlds: his mother (a political refugee in a strange land) and his piano teacher (a brilliant eccentric with a shattered past). These two proud, iconoclastic women must ultimately cross cultural and racial divides to find common ground, or else put the boy's bright future in jeopardy. The show features a compelling fusion of South African, eastern European, classical, jazz and contemporary music.

Tip: *If you have any issues with heights, I'd suggest going for orchestra seating, if it's in your budget. If not, borrow some opera glasses for those times you'd really like a good look.*

The Spring Cottage Life Show

March 31 to April 2

The International Centre, 6900 Airport Road, Mississauga
shows.cottagelife.com

Adults – daily pass \$20.00, weekend pass \$28.00

The 24th annual Cottage Life show prepares you for the warmer days ahead. There's information and seminars on buying, selling and renting, cottage cooking, making use of existing flora and fauna, waterside and dock activities, and much more.

Tip: *Free parking is available, as well as free child care. The facility is wheelchair accessible, and a limited number of public use wheelchairs are available from the admissions staff.*

Roxxie's Cabaret

Fridays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

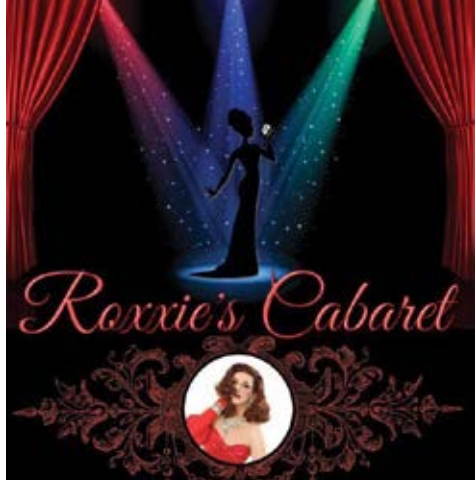
Blyss Nightclub, 504 Church St., Toronto

www.facebook.com/BlyssToronto/

No cover

Join the incomparable cabaret chanteuse, Roxxie Terrain, and accompanist extraordinaire, Adam Weinmann, for an evening of entertainment you won't soon forget at The Village's newest nightspot, Blyss. Roxxie is known for her broad selection of songs from various genres and eras, from the immediately recognizable to more obscure selections – each with a very personalized introduction. Be prepared for irreverent banter and a selection of unplanned guests who just happen to make their way from the audience to the stage.

Tip: *Get a good seat and prepare to stay for the entire show – it's an experience not to be missed. You'll want to make plans with your friends to be back for another installment.*



Ghetto Glam Bingo

Tuesdays from 9:30 p.m.

Pegasus on Church, 489B Church St., Toronto

www.pegasusonchurch.com

Free

Play an evening of not-quite-your-grandmother's Bingo with your unique hostess, D'manda Tension calling out the numbers, along with her surprise guests, including regular visits from Church St. matriarch, Michelle DuBarry. The evening features fabulous prizes from such sponsors as Wybo Vodka, Somersby Cider, and Cafe California Restaurant.

Tip: *The venue is on the second floor, so you might want to bring a Sherpa and recognize that this space is unfortunately not wheelchair accessible. On the other hand, it's a fun space with great staff and a fun evening.*



Events Editor, Sherry Sylvain is a transgender woman who has been working in the LGBTQ community for too many years to count (or admit to), and currently is proud to hold the title of Queen Mum to The Imperial Court of Toronto for 2015/2016.



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SHOT ON LOCATION AT EROTICO IN THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE

I was 10 years old in 1967. Growing up in a hamlet north of Sudbury, Ontario “in the Valley” meant I had little direct contact with the larger social fabric of the world, and no direct access at all to the “REVOLUTION” that LIFE magazine told me was happening EVERYWHERE OUT THERE.

My parents, although not overly literate, had a subscription to LIFE magazine when I was young. It was through that erudite publication that I formed my first impressions of the world that existed outside the prescribed borders of my tiny personal world. In those glossy pages I discovered that men had walked on the Moon! LIFE told me stories of what life was like in the major urban centres; New York, San Francisco and London, England were shimmering cities of infinite promise. It spun breathless stories of how technology would transform our futures in magical ways.

As an artistic and precocious adolescent, I was particularly fascinated by tales of a sexual revolution that was allegedly transforming society just over the horizon. By the age of 12, I was already aware that I “wasn’t like the other boys,” and by the ripe old age of 15, I had determined that I was most definitely bisexual, if not extraterrestrial!

At this point, LIFE Magazine had become for me, not merely a bulletin from beyond my immediate experience, but a siren call that drew me inexorably toward an imagined future where boys like me became men like that... in control of their avant garde lives, living and loving freely and openly, challenging social norms and forging a brave new world of self-expression, sexual exploration and deeply held political and spiritual beliefs.

Imagine my shock and dismay when my first year of secondary school was experienced at a Jesuit boys’ college that required a lengthy bus ride into the “big city” of Sudbury every day! My mother, a good Catholic, had bought our parish priest’s assertion that the local public high school was a pernicious place and that my educational, spiritual and physical well-being depended on my enrolment in St. Charles College in downtown Sudbury, twenty miles away.

Needless to say, that first year of high school did not go well. In elementary school, my artistic nature and precocious personality had endeared me to my teachers, who favoured me with their attention and granted me license to explore the library outside of regularly scheduled classroom visits. At St. Charles College I was quite obviously “not like the other boys,” but where that had been an asset in my earlier educational career, in high school it was as if I had a target painted on my back and the name of the game was Bully the Queer.

Where was the free love that LIFE Magazine had promised me? Where was that society that encouraged and celebrated creative self-expression? Why didn’t my peers read books outside of the specific school curriculum?

It wasn’t long before I sat down with my parents to patiently explain that although I would complete my first year at St. Charles to spare them any embarrassment, I would not



be returning there for my Grade 10 classes. I required them to enrol me in the local public high school (literally across the street from our house) and would complete my secondary school program there.



The formality of my manner, coupled with the assertion that if they didn't agree to my request then I would definitely be putting myself up for adoption by a more informed and cooperative set of parental units, left them little choice in the matter.

The remainder of my high school years were spent creating a miniature version of the glorious fantasy world that LIFE Magazine had suggested was my birthright. Drama Club was an important part of that fabrication, as were multiple art, mathematics and English literature classes. Although I still experienced being ostracised by many of my peers, I was able to assemble around myself a like-minded cadre of misfits and outcasts that allowed all of us to feel like there WAS a place for us in the world. The Valley wasn't Haight-Ashbury or The Castro, but our little corner of it was as close as one could hope for under the circumstances.

Those faded issues of LIFE Magazine no longer enthrall me. The modern world is simultaneously more fabulous and more terrifying than anything I read about in those pages. But the power that publication had to shape a young queer's vision of what might be possible in a person's life stayed with me. I am grateful for the life I've lived and continue to live. I remain optimistic about what the future may hold. That combination of gratitude and positive anticipation is, in my opinion, the most powerful formula for happiness.

Thank you, LIFE, for being there.

Mychol Scully is Senior Art Director for INspired Media Inc. publications PinkPlayMags, theBUZZ, The LocalBiz Magazine, and The Pink Pages Directory. He is also Webmaster for all of INspired Media's Internet properties. Mychol is available for thoughtful conversation or lascivious teasing anytime at mychol@mychol.com.





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Spring Horoscopes

Aries (March 21st – April 20th)

Newton's 3rd Law states that "Every action has an equal and opposite reaction". These principles will apply especially strongly this Spring for you. Love may bring hate, creation may bring destruction, beginnings may bring endings, spending may bring wealth! Everything has its shadow side and everything has its full cycle of expression.

Taurus (April 21st – May 21st)

You are being asked to trust more this Spring. The more you do, the more you will be shown trustworthiness. But of course, this applies to yourself as well. Trust your inner voice and it will reaffirm back to you how right you always knew you were! That is, if you are quiet enough to listen...

Gemini (May 22nd – June 21st)

Time for a spring makeover! All things are new for you in this (*numerologically speaking*) number 1 year of 2017. It's a good time to start a workout routine to tone and invigorate, get a new wardrobe, a new haircut, a new car, a new home, or a new relationship! Whichever area of your life is screaming for a re-do, the planets say go for it.

Cancer (June 22nd – July 22nd)

Your private affairs need to be kept private and free from meddling unless you enjoy being gossiped about. Not everyone is as trustworthy as they appear, so it's best to act with reservation and observe quietly. Many surprising details will be revealed to you if you act with prudence, especially regarding your own confidences.

Leo (July 23rd – August 22nd)

No rest for the wicked? You busy little bee, you never stop! You are advised to take a spring break to restore your strength. Perhaps someplace sunny, as the Sun is indeed your ruling planet! Bring loved ones with you and enjoy quality memorable time together. Leave your work at home. It won't abandon you, don't worry.

Virgo (August 23rd – September 23rd)

Your ex is feeling the spring fever and wants to weasel their way back into your life. Remember why things didn't work out though? There is more to a relationship than physical attraction. There must be emotional exchange and intimate communication. Don't let yourself get bored and lonely again.

Libra (September 24th – October 23rd)

The seasonal transition from winter to spring has made you feel appropriately, "under the weather", Libra. Give yourself some time out and ask for some TLC from loved ones. Plenty of rest and sunshine will get you through. The universe understands, Autumn is more your cup of tea.

Scorpio (October 24th – November 22nd)

You're not accustomed to appearing so transparent, Scorpio. Hiding out and silently brooding in a dark corner is more your comfort zone. But lately, it's been very difficult to hide your feelings, try as you might. Come out of hiding and show your true self to your loved ones. They love you just as you are.

Sagittarius (November 23rd - December 21st)

Delegate. Delegate. Delegate. Let this be your mantra, Sagittarius. The universe did not elect you to fix everyone's problems. Yes, of course, you know just the right thing to do in each situation and just how to do it. However, there is value in allowing others to learn and experience problem solving for themselves. You must become comfortable trusting others with their own lives.

Capricorn (December 22nd – January 19th)

You've been patient and have waited without complaint for a long time for your good news to come. However, by now your patience grows thin and you're sick and tired of waiting. But you must persevere and know that if you want something strongly enough, you will most definitely have it. Perseverance is your thing Capricorn. You know you got this. You didn't choose to be a Capricorn for nothing!

Aquarius (January 20th – February 19th)

Are you confused because you don't know what you truly want? This may be interfering with your happiness. It may be valuable to seek positive advice and insight from a trusted friend or counsellor, someone who you know is a good soundboard. Your soul is nudging you to listen up. It says, "Human desire can never be quenched. It's what keeps evolution ever expanding on its course." Therefore, its best to listen to what your desires are expressing if you care at all about humanity. And I know you do, ever-futuristic Aquarius.

Pisces (February 20th – March 20th)

Is it time to fall in love Pisces? If you haven't had love for awhile, you know that you need it in your life to inspire you to accomplish great things. What are your ideal qualities in a partner? I see you taking a nice hot candle-lit bubble bath while bringing to mind all these special qualities that you require in a mate. Do this as many times as required. Rinse and repeat. The universe is listening and is ready to take your order.

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. As above, so below.





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EVERYBODY IN.

Looking Back

by Kelly Wilk

The Body Politic was a Toronto-based monthly magazine that existed from 1971 to 1987, and was one of Canada's first significant publications to play a prominent role in the development of the LGBT community. The Body Politic was twice charged with publishing obscene material, in 1977 for Gerald Hannon's article "Men Loving Boys Loving Men", and again in 1982 for Angus MacKenzie's article "Lust with a Very Proper Stranger". The following is a photo essay compiled by Hannon from his images taken during that time period.

Obscene: The Latest Issue

"It was such a hippy, counter-culture cartoon.

It showed a very explicit blowjob as a drawing. We thought it was

funny," says Hannon about Ronald Rand's comic strip that Herald Hedd ran in The Body Politic. "Then the police came round and said, 'you can't do that.' We didn't want to face criminal charges, but we eventually did anyway."

Kiss In (*For an article on impact of gay affections in public. Ed Jackson and Merv Walker volunteered to shock Yonge Street.*)

The police used to visit the hidden room at The Parkside Tavern. There was a basement washroom; management

and police used an adjoining utility room as a spy hole through what looked like a ventilation grill. It was only when The Body Politic began publicizing this sort of thing that word got out,



because most people who got arrested weren't able to openly reveal it at the time.

Hanlans Point: 1972 Gay Picnic

In the early, giddy days of gay lib you felt like you could rule the world, with not much sense of danger that came later. There were a couple hundred

people at the first picnic, so the more power we got, the more dangerous we must have seemed to the police. Protests demanding inclusion of sexual orientation within the Ontario Human Rights Code began at this time.



Protest: Beland Honderich (*Editor of the Toronto Star and printer of The Body Politic.*)

The Toronto Star refused to print a classified ad for subscriptions to The Body Politic, and while the magazine won an Ontario Press

Council ruling that the Star's refusal of the ad had been discriminatory, the Star retaliated by discontinuing The Body Politic contract with its printing subsidiary Newsweb Corporation.

Yvonne (mother) and Gerald Hannon at backyard party

My mother was the cleaning lady in a hospital, and eventually she fell in love with another woman who worked there as the laundry lady. They decided

to run away together. My abusive father followed them on the train hoping to stop them, but he had a heart attack and died. I think my coming out helped my mother make up her mind to be honest with herself as well.



See Kelly Wilk's bio on page 21.

Disco Queens



During the time that my recording career seemed to be in a slump a music called disco came on the scene and literally took over radio stations as well as having radio stations created to play it which sort of negated my music as well as that of some of my peers.

Dionne Warwick

God had to create disco music so I could be born and be successful.


Donna Summer

Disco music in the '70s was just a call to go wild and party and dance with no thought or conscience or regard for tomorrow.

Martha Reeves

Disco is just pop music you can dance to.

Sheena Easton



The body ACHIEVES what the mind BELIEVES.

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