

pinkplaymags
presents

winterplay!

Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, Leather, and Queer
Community Seasonal • Winter 2017
free copy

CHICAGO • TORONTO • MONTRÉAL

MEN'S ROOM

VISION • GROOMING • FETISH

**ON THE GO?
TAKE US
WITH YOU!**

Download the
PinkPlayMags PDF
from our website.

**Pink
Play
Mags
10**

**CANADA
150**

Imagining the Future

In this edition we take a look at our queer future,
from aging to travel to gay everything!

— 5 UNIQUE VENUES —

BERKELEY

EVENTS



**WEDDING CELEBRATIONS IN A HISTORIC SETTING.
CELEBRATE WHO YOU ARE AND WHO YOU LOVE
AT THE BERKELEY BICYCLE CLUB ON JARVIS**

INFO@BERKELEYEVENTS.COM 416.361.9666 BERKELEYEVENTS.COM

MENTION PINKPROMO WHEN BOOKING

pinkplaymags

presents

A Home Improvement Special Presentation



Are you ready to Renovate, Restore and Refurbish in 2018?

Let our experts in the industry help you create your own unique style, and choose the designs that fit your home's personality.

Read more at www.PinkPlayMags.com/home-improvement

With guest Home Improvement contributors

Karen Klurowicz, Nick Vatalaro, Michael Lehtikainen, Noreen MacRae

Get your home ready for 2018!




SANDRA DEE
 FURNITURE REFINISHING

1019 Toy Ave Unit 3
 Pickering, ON L1W 3N9
 (905) 426-5992
info@sandradeerefinishing.com
www.sandradees.com

Gator Custom Windows Ltd
 your complete window and door store



Harold Schaffrath
 Doors and Windows
 Professional Installation

299 Danforth Road Tel: 416.691.5400
 Scarborough, Ontario M1L 3X2 Fax: 416.691.8810
www.gatorwindows.com



City Wide Roofing

Serving the G.T.A. For Over 40 Years

**Commercial
 Residential
 Industrial**

Bonded, Licensed & Insured
 Family Owned & Operated Since 1974

Specializing in:

- Flat Roofing • Tar & Gravel
- Shingles • Slate Repair
- Maintenance & Inspections
- All your roofing needs & repairs
- Ice & Snow Removal off roofs

(416) 690-1430
(416) 266-8953
quotes@citywideroofing.ca
www.citywideroofing.ca

RENO VATIONS RUTH

[SPECIALIZING IN OLDER]
 [DOWNTOWN TORONTO HOMES]

www.renovationsruth.com
info@renovationsruth.com

416.535.1015



**Marsh's Stoves
 & Fireplaces** Since 1948



COMFORT • CONTROL
 EFFICIENCY • STYLE
 CONVENIENCE • VERSATILITY

Over 70 units on display with
 professional installers on staff and many
 years of knowledge you can count on. 

3322 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ontario
 Tel: 416.762.4582
info@marshs.ca

From the **Publisher**



So here we are folks. We have arrived at the conclusion of the year when we celebrated 10 years of PinkPlayMags.

It's quite the milestone. Media, and especially print media in Canada is normally challenging, but then you add to that equation LGBTQ media, and you really see why we are so excited about celebrating a decade with you.

THANK YOU for loving us so much that you continue to pick up our magazine, read it, enjoy it, and message us to tell us how you love reading PinkPlayMags cover to cover. Over the years we have heard from readers with messages like "PinkPlayMags is small enough to fit in my purse, but big enough to show the world how great our community is", or "this is my favourite magazine, as every edition is unique and exciting, I can't wait to pick up a new one every three months."

We tried our best to create a very unique magazine, one that makes our community proud. It takes us a couple of years to flesh out each concept or theme, and months of hard work to put each edition together. This is not your average magazine; we promise you that we never waver on striving to give you a great magazine to read with every new edition. What better way to wrap up this year's theme than by "Imagining Our Future". So far this year we looked at the 60s & 70s, the 80s & 90s, the 2000s, and now we cast our eyes at the next phase of our LGBTQ community.

Where are we going? Well, start reading and find out on the pages to come.

On November 3rd we celebrated our anniversary with a huge dance party at '1871' Berkeley Church. I want to thank MOJO Toronto, Arabian Knights LGBTQ, and Miss Opulence for being our partners on that event, and a big thank you to all the great DJs and performers who entertained us that evening, and of course to all of you who attended and danced the night away with us. I also must thank two great businesses who are huge supporters of our media and our community, Presidential Gourmet Fine Catering, and Healthy Planet, for their sponsorship of our celebration.

But nothing can ever happen, without the most amazing people whom I have had the pleasure of working with for the past 10 years, every single person who contributed to PinkPlayMags in any way, thank you for believing in my vision.

With that said, it's time to unwind for the Holiday Season, and come back fresh and rested for 2018, where, of course we will be taking you on another exciting journey, and a new theme. You just have to wait and see what's next!

Antoine Elhashem
Publisher
publisher@pinkplaymags.com

winterplay!

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

Publisher/Creative Director: Antoine Elhashem

Editor-in-Chief: Bryen Dunn

Art Direction and Production: Mychol Scully

Contributors

Writers: Cheryl Costello, Joey Viola, Raymond Helkio,, Bryen Dunn, Jerry Schaefer, Kelly Wilk, Kristyn Dunnion, Sherry Sylvain, Mychol Scully, Julie Antoinette, Antoine Elhashem



Cover The Future of Queer

Concept + Direction Antoine Elhashem

Digital Collage Mychol Scully

Cover Model Francis Gaudreault

Our cover model is gay entrepreneur Francis Gaudreault, owner of The Men's Room fashion, fetish and grooming outlets, director of Pit Bull Events and unabashedly OUT personality.

Published by

INspired Media Inc.

Operating INspiredcreative (www.inspiredcreative.ca), and publishers of The Pink Pages Directory, PinkPlayMags, theBUZZ, and The Local Biz Magazine.

President..... Antoine Elhashem
General Manager..... Kim Dobie
Advertising Consultants..... Carolyn Burtch, Michael Wile
Counsel..... Jerry Herszkopf Law

Mailing address

205-1691 Pickering Parkway, Pickering, ON L1V 5L9

To contact us

416.926.9588 Toronto 905.231.9722 GTA

In this issue

- 11 The Future of Aging
— Cheryl Costello
- 16 Back to the LGBTQ+ Future
— Joey Viola
- 20 The Future of Gay Everything
— Raymond Helkio
- 23 Travel: Railing in the Future
— Bryen Dunn
- 31 Fiction: Tarry This Night
— Kristyn Dunnion

Regular features

- 29 Hot Artist: Ori Dagan
— Jerry Shaefer
- 37 Community Cornerstone: Rainbow Camp
— Kelly Wilk
- 39 WINTER in the City
— Sherry Sylvain
- 44 From the Heart
— Mychol Scully
- 48 Winter Horoscopes
— Julie Antoinette
- 50 Looking Back: Antoine Elhashem

Websites

www.inspiredmediainc.com

www.thepinkpagesdirectory.com

www.pinkplaymags.com

www.thebuzzmag.ca

We'd love to hear from you. Please send comments, questions or any other matters to publisher@thepinkpagesdirectory.com

For advertising inquiries

advertising@thepinkpagesdirectory.com

Notice Inspired Media Inc., its divisions, publications, the editors, authors, photographers, salespersons, graphic and production artists shall have neither liability nor responsibility to any person or entity with respect to monetary or emotional loss or damage caused, or alleged to be caused, directly or indirectly, by the information or claims contained in this Publication.

Furthermore the opinions of the writers expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publishers.

Full copyrights reserved. Any copying of material in this publication in whole or in part is prohibited and legal action will be taken, unless authorized in writing by the publishers.

From the **Editor**

So here we are, wrapping up the final issue of 2017, which also happens to be the 10th anniversary of this publication.

That's 10 years of producing a print publication, which in 2007 was a challenge to take on, and in 2017 it is a great achievement to have survived and to still be producing original content that our readers want.

I've been the travel columnist for more than half this time, under the lead of our previous Editor-in-Chief, Jeff Harrison, who had been at the helm of the publication since the very first issue. One day Jeff told me he made the decision to step aside as he wanted to pursue other interests. He then asked me if I'd be interested in taking over his responsibilities. I was delighted that he had chosen to offer me this role, and after further discussions, I accepted the challenge. So here I am today, continuing the legacy that Jeff and our publisher, Antoine Elhashem, conceptualized and brought to fruition.

In this, our final instalment that looks at queer life throughout modern time, we have the opportunity to look further beyond where we are at today. Ever wonder what the future will look like? Sure there are those who make predictions, but can anyone really envision what the future has in store for us? Looking back in time, George Orwell's *1984* novel and *The Jetsons* cartoon, proved to be eerily close at predicting some of where we are at



today, especially the reality of Big Brother monitoring our every move.

For our features, we have Cheryl Costello taking a look at what aging might look like for the future of our community, while writers Joey Viola and Raymond Helkio each take a more lighthearted look at how they each envision what the future may look like, with input from various local community members.

Our travel feature is titled, *Railing in the Future*, and gives a snapshot of how rail travel is currently experiencing a resurgence, and how it maybe the future of travel. Jerry Shaefer chatted with local jazz musician, Ori Dagan, about his latest release, while Kelly Wilk discovers the joys of Rainbow Camp in northern Ontario. Our fiction excerpt is a must-read from *Tarry the Night*, written by Toronto's Kristyn Dunnion.

We also have *Horoscopes* by Julie Antoinette, *From The Heart* by Mychol Scully, and *Event Listings* by Sherry Sylvain. Finally, we close out this series with a *Looking Back* piece written by our publisher, Antoine Elhashem, who looks back from the future to present day. Whatever the future may hold, here's hoping it takes a positive direction for all, and we'll be celebrating another 10 years of publications in 2027!

Bryen Dunn
Editor-in-Chief
editor@pinkplaymags.com



Your Service & Installation Experts!

**COMMERCIAL
INDUSTRIAL
RESIDENTIAL &
INSTITUTIONAL**

- Service Work & Maintenance
- Distribution Services, Wiring, Panel Boards & Motors
- Lighting & Lighting Retro-Fits
- New Constructions, Renovations & Additions
 - Fire Alarm Systems
 - Back up Generators



31 Elford Blvd.
Toronto, ON M8Z 2L3
www.trademarkelectric.com
info@trademarkelectric.com
tel: 416-236-5678
fax: 1-866-886-5812
ECRA/ESA licence #7002124



Beaver Valley Stone

Family Owned and Operated Since 1989



A wide selection of natural stone and precast concrete products
Your one stop shop for Natural Stone & Cultured Stone Veneers

- Flagstone • Masonry products • Interlocking • Cultured stone • In-Lite LED Lights
- Aggregates • Bulk/bag road salt • Retaining walls • Accessories • Kichler LED Lights

www.beavervalleystone.com

t: 905-886-5787 or t: 416-222-2424

Main Office & Yard: 8081 Woodbine Ave. SE Corner Woodbine/407
Office & Yard: 125 Langstaff Rd E., SE Corner Yonge/Hwy 7-407

Manufacturing Plant: 12350 Keele St., Maple

We Deliver!



bquiet

SOUNDPROOF WINDOWS

Canada's only manufacturer of Soundproof
Windows & Doors, Condo Approved

1.877.475.9111 • 905.475.9111 • info@bquiet.ca • www.bquiet.ca

ENCORE

home improvements

The Best Windows & Doors at
Affordable Prices Guaranteed

1.800.461.7644 • 905.470.0750

info@encorewindows.com • www.encorewindows.com

500 Alden Road, Unit 6, Markham, ON, L3R 5H5

WETBASEMENTS.COM

G.J. MacRae

FOUNDATION REPAIR

Family Operated Since 1975 • Standardized Pricing



Licensed Specialists In

- Basement Waterproofing
- Window Wells - Crack Repair
- Weeping Tile - Sump Pumps
- Structural Foundation Repair
- MacRae Vibropak Underpinning

TRANSFERABLE WARRANTY

Available all Year

See us on FB, Twitter and Youtube

905.824.2557

MISSISSAUGA

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Watch for John and wetbasements.com
on the HIT TV show "Holmes on Homes"

Taking Care of the Heating and Cooling Needs of the Niagara Region Since 1950



Service Experts

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

CALL US TODAY!

905.937.6011

ServiceExpertsNiagara.ca

WE SERVICE ALL MAKES AND MODELS, 24/7

© 2017 Service Experts LLC. Service Experts and the Service Experts Heating & Air Conditioning logo and design are registered or common law trademarks of Service Experts LLC.

PROMO CODE: 34365-18



*No two
of us are alike.*

A MEMORIAL SERVICE
SHOULD REFLECT THAT.

Our memorial services
capture the unique essence
of each person.

Dignity[®]
MEMORIAL

✧ LIFE WELL CELEBRATED™ ✧

ROSAR-MORRISON

FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
TORONTO

JERRETT

FUNERAL HOMES
NORTH YORK • SCARBOROUGH
THORNHILL • TORONTO

ANDREWS

COMMUNITY FUNERAL CENTRE
BRAMPTON

GIFFEN-MACK

FUNERAL HOMES
TORONTO • WEST HILL

TRULL

FUNERAL HOMES
TORONTO

DignityToronto.ca

844-502-5904



Registered trademark of CARP, used under license.
Dignity Memorial is a division of Service Corporation
International (Canada), ULC.

RETIRE-AT-HOME
SERVICES

**Customized Home Care
for Injuries or Illness**

For over 20 years, Retire-At-Home
has provided home care services
that help people remain safe at
home during illness or injury!

**Call Today for a FREE
Consultation!**

Halton Region 1-888-509-9394
oakville@retireathome.com
www.retireathomehalton.com

“We’ll suit you”

Established 1958

Tom's
Place

toms-place.com
f TomsPlaceTO

We'll suit you.

Bay Street • 416-366-9225
357 Bay Street (@ Temperance) **HOURS: M-F 10-6**

Kensington Market • 416-596-0297
190 Baldwin Street (just west of Spadina)
HOURS: M-W 10-6 • Th-F 10-7 • Sat 9:30-6 • Sun 12-5



The Future of Aging

By Cheryl Costello

We mark birthdays with cakes, candles and celebrations, but seldom do we see the smoke wafting from freshly blown out candles and align this as our mortality. It's a bit taboo to think about the future because for our community, especially now, doing so brings more questions than certainty. Will our aging elders be treated with the same respect and dignity that they fought for, in order to get to where the current generation is today?

For Toronto writer and activist, **Joie Lamar**, aging is “a time of preparation and retrospection. Did I prepare properly for the latter part of my life? And if not, how can I put that all in place, quickly?” There are more serious tones to that level of introspection too, especially given that the current climate of LGBTQ2+ acceptance is at times, moving forward, then backwards, before moving forward once again. Lamar went on to further state that, “It is also a time of spiritual security. That involves feeling safe and free to be me, to express my love for my wife, to have a legally accepted relationship, and to feel at peace in the community.”

According to The 519's *Still Here, Still Queer* resource guide, there are greater risks for LGBTQ2+ older adults in general, let alone when they enter long term care facilities. The



Joie Lamar

dangers include, “the threat of being ‘outed’, experiencing caregiver neglect because of their sexual identity, and denial of lived identity.” The numbers and data currently paint a picture of a future that is not yet prepared for generations currently closing in on mid-life.

James Dubro, former producer at CBC, and professional crime writer, said, “The major problem in older LGBTQ living spaces is that individuals aren’t attended to by LGBTQ caregivers. Much still needs to be done to achieve this. In twenty years many middle-aged LGBTQ people will be seniors, so they need to act now for themselves in the future.”

There are however, some solutions, including Toronto’s Fudger House, a long-term care facility situated near Church Street’s Village. The presence of one solution raises more questions for eldercare facilities outside of such a centrally located hub and gathering place for the community. What about individuals living outside of Toronto or other urban areas that are typically known for being safer for LGBTQ2+ people?

Young people living outside of Toronto see this lack of safe spaces as a central piece of LGBTQ2+ eldercare in the coming years. “Spaces are especially unsafe for LGBTQ2SA+ folks because these spaces weren’t meant for us and weren’t created for us. We have to share space with people who often take up more space than us. We have to take up

more space and claim them as our own to make them safer. We’re tired of explaining ourselves and our experiences to people who don’t understand our lived experiences; people who ultimately decide what these spaces look like and who they include,” explains Dubro.

The future looks brighter for Joie Lamar, however, who spoke of the readiness for LGBTQ2+ aging populations, “I believe they want to be. It is being discussed more now than ever. We are a very caring, bright, creative, dedicated, and close community. I believe it will be ready, if it is not yet so.”

This period in the community’s history however, with its rise in racism and anti-LGBTQ2+ rhetoric, demonstrates that there is little room for the luxury of simply not understanding one another. Rather than general concerns about aging, typified by the passing of years and its wear on the body, Lamar’s forthright concern is, “that laws will regress, making our lives, love, or even marriage illegal again, at a time when we are too old to continue fighting.”

The future is hard for youth to wrap their heads around despite optimism, according to **Christopher Karas**, an activist who is currently suing Canadian Blood Services for





their discriminatory MSM blood ban. “I think it’s difficult for us to think about the future, and what we should be doing now to ensure it includes us in the future, when we’re focused on doing all that we can to make today better.” He goes on to say, “We’re fighting right now, for a future that includes us.”

It’s unclear exactly what the future will hold and what it might look like for the LGBTQ2+ community. The 519’s *Still Here, Still Queer* report highlights the way that older “service users often have to engage in educational work and self-advocacy when accessing supports, resulting in additional stress and risk.” Karas added to the concerns the report highlights, stating, “I want to know that there’s a safe space for me so that I don’t have to go back in the closet, especially if my partner has passed away.”

Empirical data aside, the present movements unfolding reveal that the greatest challenges may not be from the outside, but from within. People facing discrimination as a result of their intersecting identities are holding the community accountable. This should unify before it divides, but the fight for rights and freedoms is ongoing, and Karas stated that, “It’s hard to think forward and ahead, because we’re so wrapped up in the present moment and how we still aren’t fully free now. We have to be free before we can think too far ahead.”

Lamar defers to her experiences growing up alongside the Stonewall riots in New York, “I can remember being young and disagreeing with the older community of my time. I thought they were dinosaurs. Most of them were so afraid back then.” She highlights the importance of being present for the discomfort most try to avoid, after a lifetime of feeling the discomfort of living in a world that discriminates against them. “The conversations, although often quite heated, continued. We knew that implosion would weaken us as a community, and while fighting the world we also fought against fracture by talking. We had many clandestine community conversations, in town-hall like settings, in dark building basements, hearing everybody out.”

If statistics and reports show that there’s a great deal of work to be done to ensure safety for the LGBTQ2+ aging population, then coming together in recognition of differences and advocating for those causes too, seems the logical conclusion. There are however, many polarized sentiments about movements and groups like Black Lives Matter Toronto, of which Dubro states as having, “strong allies in the senior community, yet some resent their seeming usurpation of Pride. These differences





though, can be worked out, but some older critics cannot be reasoned with and cannot be in effective dialogue with younger activists who support BLTMO.”

Building on this need for effective dialogue, Lamar states, “The only way to bridge the divide is to converse, without judgment and name calling. We need to discuss the goal and consider everyone’s solution. We need new blood, fresh ideas, future thinking, young politicians and young activists. And we, the older generation, need to hand over the reigns to those we know will include our needs and wants in the fight of many.”

There are many more milestones ahead for the LGBTQ2+ community where aging is concerned. There is however, something profound in the recognition that before coming together meaningfully, the community first had to come apart, so that any steps forward included everyone’s steps, rather than a privileged few.

Lamar concludes, “It is always important to *know* your history before you can *make* history. Know our mistakes so that you don’t repeat them, and acknowledge our successes so you can build upon them.”

So while we’ve made great strides here in North America, the future remains uncertain for many individuals around the world. We must all continue fighting for each other to truly become equal beings on a global level. We must look at the future as opportunity, and let the leaders of today carry the torch forward for those who began the rally.

Still Here, Still Queer

The 519’s *Handbook for Affirming LGBTQ Older Adults, Still Here, Still Queer!* showcases the important work being done by and for LGBTQ older adults in Toronto. The handbook supports fostering affirming spaces and services for LGBTQ older adults, and presents best practice recommendations for the inclusion of LGBTQ older adults through the use of case studies and educational resources. It is informed by the lived experiences and organizing work of older LGBTQ communities and their allies.

Fudger House

Fudger House provides quality and safe care to residents in a warm and welcoming home within a diverse neighbourhood, promoting an inclusive, affirmative and LGBT friendly environment, and striving to encourage residents to be themselves, take pride in who they are, and enjoy life in an open, dignified, respectful place. The home believes that everyone has the right to quality care that respects their culture, ethno-racial background, family tradition, community, language, all sexual orientations and gender identities, spiritual beliefs, and traditions.

Feel free to reach out to talk books, well-being, spirituality, gratitude and making the world a better place on Instagram @cherylalisoncostello and Twitter @cherylacostello.



WE'RE STILL HERE FOR YOU After the Funeral



The series of tasks you face after a loved one's death can be overwhelming—but we are here to help. With our Extended Funeral Care™ service, one of our dedicated

professionals will assist you with all the time-consuming estate paperwork. Let us handle the details, so you can focus on healing.



RIDLEY
FUNERAL HOME
SINCE 1921

3080 Lake Shore Blvd. West
ridleyfuneralhome.com

©Nunn Shannik Preneed Solutions

Want to learn more about
our value-added services?

Let's talk.

Call (416) 259-3705 today.



Midtown Dental

Proudly serving the community since 1997.
Call today for your free consultation!

Dr. V. Ramlaggan & Associates
20 Bloor Street East, Unit R4
Toronto, ON M4W 3G7
416.966.DENT (3368), midtowndental.ca



CLEARVIEW

PLASTIC SURGERY

YOU. Only. Better.

State-of-the-art surgical and non-surgical cosmetic procedures.
www.clearviewplasticsurgery.com
info@clearviewplasticsurgery.com
416-445-8439



Sacred MEDICINE WAYS

Cultivating Self Worth and Confidence with Indigenous Wisdom



When a spirit is broken it loses the knowing that it is worthy, valued, and deserving. Indigenous wisdom reignites the fire within us that helps us accept and love ourselves.


During this one day workshop you will: receive insight, guidance, and direction on how to begin healing your spirit.

Begin unfolding your inner healing.

Date: Saturday February 10th 2018
Time: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Location: 1200 Bay Street, Lower Level Conference Room
Instructor: Sachl, Flying Eagle Medicine Woman
Cost: \$175 +HST

1200 Bay Street Lower Level, Suite 100
Toronto, Ontario M5R 2A5
647-930-1832 • info@sacredmedicineways.com
sacredmedicineways.com

The Baldachin Inn



™ Family Dining ™ Weddings ™
™ Conferences ™ Overnight Accommodations ™
™ Romantic Getaways ™ British Pub ™
™ Courtyard Garden Patio ™

111 St. Lawrence St. Merrickville, Ontario
www.baldachin.com • 343.925.0229 • baldachininn@gmail.com



BACK TO THE LGBTQ+ FUTURE

by Joey Viola

In recent years, when it comes to domestic and international acceptance, tolerance, and law protections, many believe our colourful and eclectic LGBTQ+ community has taken two steps forward, three steps back.

Here in Canada, full humanitarian rights have been granted to every member of the community. Still, many people are vocal in relaying the importance of equality within the majority of our population. Toronto alone is responsible for one of the biggest Pride demonstrations on the planet, and it continues to break records annually. The largest Trans March gathering in the world took place in Toronto last year, June 2016. This year the Toronto Trans March celebrated the passing of Bill C-16, where the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code were updated to include the terms “gender identity” and “gender expression.”

With the resurgence of racism, sexism, homo/transphobia and neo-Nazism in America (under the new president’s influence), Canada’s “progressive blueprint” has been under a magnifying glass. Queer folk here, although among the most privileged in the world (when it comes to tolerance and human rights), are still vastly discriminated

against across the country, and across the planet. Everyday. The only crime on the rise in Canada, according to Statistics Canada, are hate crimes targeting the LGBTQ+ community: “LGBT Canadians are the most targeted in this category, experiencing 86% of sexual orientation-motivated hate crimes.”

There are so many intricate and complicated details surrounding a person’s sexuality and/or gender identity that one person or even a group of people cannot fully represent everyone under the LGBTQ+ umbrella. What we can do is start small. We need to figure out what we can all do to help understand what it is we need from each other going forward.

I reached out to some members of the Toronto LGBTQ+ community in hopes of finding some approaches and mentalities that can help dismantle the prejudice we all face in our everyday lives. In order to truly progress, we have to find a common ground and then stand on it together. If not, where are we headed as a community? What can we do to ensure that the importance of our freedoms and livelihoods of the future do not get lost in the heteronormative fray of society of today?

Inter-Community & Outside Bullying

“We are so diverse,” says Kelly Dear, an award winning teacher, writer and public speaker. “I would hope that one day we would stop oppressing ourselves and each other by moving towards



Kelly Dear



Scarlett Bobo

acceptance and honouring our differences. If we all had the same voice, there would be no harmony.” Kelly is optimistic of the community’s progression; “I always see, hear and feel progress. We have to keep the momentum going.”

Drag Queen Scene

“I see so much progress within the drag community everyday,” says local full-time drag performer and pageant winner, Scarlett Bobo (Matty Cameron). “Unfortunately there are fewer bars to perform at in Toronto, and it literally feels like the world is splitting at the seams, but the drag community is more colourful and powerful and vibrant than it’s been in a long time! We are flourishing with new talent: bio queens, bearded queens, artsy queens! SO many avenues and styles and aesthetics! Drag is already politically incorrect - in all the best ways - so we are out here stomping our heels in the right direction. Who knows how long it’ll take for people to hear us coming, but we are unavoidable! I’m really excited to be a part of this ever growing queer community.”

HIV/AIDS

“Our community needs easily accessible and affordable healthcare services for everyone, regardless of our need, income or sexuality. It is hard enough being gay / bi / queer / trans, but having to find a healthcare provider who is understanding and knowledgeable about LGBT health would be a great assistance to discuss everything from mental health, HIV risk, STIs,

transitioning, and more,” says Dr. Michael Fanous, HIV pharmacist and owner of medsEXPERT.ca.”

“Most of my friends had to figure things out themselves, including safer sex practices, what does Undetectable mean, where can I get PrEP / PEP / HIV treatment, and more. Unfortunately, there isn’t a Gay 101 course about everything you will need to know as an educated queer person, but many AIDS service organizations do offer courses and resources on these topics. Another great resource is a trusted LGBTQ healthcare provider, and I work hard to share credible information everyday at facebook.com/medsexpert.”

“I see a lot of progress happening in Canada, and specifically Ontario, in regards to LGBT health. One of the achievements that my colleagues and I have witnessed is the increase in HIV & PrEP awareness among gay men. In fact, my ALLIES AGAINST STIGMA team saw the largest turnout of gay men at this year’s AIDS Walk 2017 where we raised money for a great organization and also demonstrated at the provincial legislature (Queen’s Park). Less than two weeks later, the Ontario government announced they would cover PrEP on the provincial formulary! This is a big win for HIV prevention in this province. We are also hoping more people will hear the message that ‘U = U’ (Undetectable equals Untransmittable), as more and more studies find that HIV+ people on treatment are not a risk to others.”



Michael Famous

LGBTQ Nightlife/Bar Scene

“Bars and nightclubs should be a place where everyone is welcome. There should be spaces specific to the sub-communities, like Lesbian and Trans, but also places where all letters of the community are welcome. Allies too,” Kerolos Saleib, founder of the popular Toronto event, Arabian Knights LBTBQ, says.

“I’ve noticed a change in the nightlife and bar scene, and unfortunately it’s not for the best. It seems that there is huge segregation and judgment among one another. Too many spaces have become a place where white cis-gender gay men take precedent. Racism within the community seems to have increased and a lot of people coming into the city from outside of Toronto, whether they are immigrants, refugees or just moving from one city or province to another, seem to voice the same complaint: Toronto isn’t a welcoming city and the gays are very cold unless you sleep with them.”

“Toronto is the most multicultural and diverse city in the world, but there is still a lot of work to do integrating Lesbians, Bisexuals, Trans, and PoC Queers into a community that is so dominated by white-centric gay male representation,” Kerolos notes, referencing the complaints of many PoC Queers, including the Black Lives Matter Toronto movement.

“We need to better educate ourselves and one another. Too many people seem to think that because Toronto is so progressive, we don’t have to

fight for our rights anymore. We are forgetting that the younger generation of LGBTQ+ is growing up in a different time with a different experience. We get over 80,000 newcomers to the city every year. If we stop what we are doing, we will fall back again, and that’s what is happening. There’s a fear to reveal your HIV/AIDS status because of an ongoing and increasing stigma on people living with disease and LGBTQ+ people of colour feel like they don’t belong. Where do we draw the line on this? When do we decide that our job is done... We don’t! We keep going. What I am doing with Arabian Knights LGBTQ for instance, is making sure there is an HIV/AIDS organization present at the event promoting the options of PReP, safe sex and harm reduction. I’m proud to be providing a safe space where LGBTQ+ Middle Easterners can celebrate their culture with one another and their allies. Social events make a difference by being more intimate and interactive within the community.”

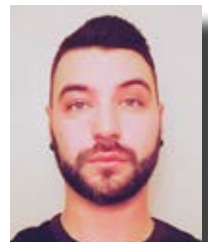
When there is still so much work to do from within, you can’t help but wonder what comes next for the marginalized and overbearingly misunderstood Queer folk of North America. How can we take steps into a promising Queer future? The answer is really quite simple. It’s called respect.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T. They aren’t just lyrics.

When a proverbial shoe drops on any one member of our community, especially the most alienated, we all face long-term ramifications. It proves increasingly more efficient to help lift one another up in the face of prejudice. This way, we can produce a positive change within our community (and hopefully society) where everyone truly is embraced and celebrated.

As for the future, let’s all help to lift one another up, because none of us are truly liberated until we ALL are!

Joey Viola is the Cofounder of MoJo Toronto and an LGBTQ community leader who utilizes his passion and flair for the art of writing by bringing a fresh perspective in reviewing entertainment and advocating for equality, tolerance, and social/political justice.





Dentistry
in the Beach™

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

- General & Cosmetic Dentistry
- Digital X-rays (lower radiation)
- Non Mercury Fillings
- Full Smile Makeover
- Same Day Crowns

416.694.8144
shieldsdds@gmail.com

330 Kingston Road Toronto, ON M4L 1T7
DentistryInTheBeach.com

skin deep Inked
Tattoo Studio

345 Danforth Avenue
Walk-ins Welcome
416.462.0533

All Female Artists
♂♀♀
Saving Everyone!

1-855-87-PRIDE (774331)

PRIDE LINE
DURHAM
let's talk it out

Helpline:
1-855-87-PRIDE (774331)
Hours of Operation:
4pm – 10pm 7 days/week
Office: 905-430-3531 x34
Office fax: 905-430-1381
www.dlthos.com/durham.com

Prideline Durham
"Providing support for LGBTQ issues in Durham Region"
306 Brock Street North, Whitby, ON L1N 4H7

Discover Toronto in The Pink Pages Directory

Visit

**thepinkpagesdirectory.
com**

for information about
advertising with us!



Bernardo Funeral Homes

Dufferin
2960 Dufferin Street
Toronto, Ontario
(416) 789-7661



Albion
855 Albion Road
Etobicoke, Ontario
(416) 747-7231

THE FUTURE OF GAY EVERYTHING

by Raymond Helkio

Looking Forward from the 17th Century

Imagine a bunch of 17th century aristocrats indulging on a lavish feast complete with endless goblets of wine and drunken proclamations that serve to solidify their privileged place in the world. It's easy to view these people as archaic in their ideals, or even barbaric in their attitudes, but it's worth remembering that one day we too will be looked upon as archaic in some ways. There's no getting around the fact that in another one thousand years we will be reflected on by the current culture, and it stands to reason that they, like our 17th century brothers and sisters, might view some of our beliefs as absurd.

For example, we'll all feel foolish when we learn Paul Bellini and Michael Musto are the same person and have been controlling gay media as we know it. Sandra Bernhard, Elvia Kurt and Ellen will go on tour and inspire a Broadway musical, including an annual festival of lesbians, hosted by Whoopi Goldberg and attended by millions. Now, read on for more futuristic predictions and possibilities.



The RuPaul Channel & The Runway Act

RuPaul's Drag Race will become its own 24-hour channel and cities nationwide are forced to elect or appoint at least one drag queen to council following the city's attempted licensing of all drag queens. The uproar would later become known as the largest upheaval in queer history, followed by a successful government lawsuit resulting in the *Runway Act* forcing employers to recognize runway as a legitimate right. New legislation will also require employers to answer a drag queen's request for a runway with only "Yes, how long?"

Woody's Franchise Inspires New Competition Category at The Gay Games

In the future Woody's/Sailor becomes a franchise bringing the Best Chest and Best Ass contest to gay men around the world, and paving the way for it to become an official sport at the Gay Games. Fly nightclub is turned into condominiums themed after Queer As Folk and features an exact replica of Club Babylon, complete with wax statues of club goers, bartenders, and even a coin operated wax replica of Sofonda Cox.

What's In An Acronym?

A committee of three hundred people convene in an effort to agree on a new acronym to replace the ever expanding "LGGBBTTQQAAPP" to the "=" symbol. This suggestion has divided gay communities worldwide, and cities that rejected

the rainbow were shamed by the United Nations with the issue of a “Bad Unicorn” designation.

The Future of Art

Art as we know it will implode once we learn that Keith Cole has been in a perpetual performance state since birth. The cultural shock and disbelief throws Canada’s art community into a crisis, but ultimately inspires *The Keith Cole Political University Of Augmented Reality & Café*, which is dedicated exclusively to performance artists and those who love them. One of Peter Lynch’s earlier works gets rediscovered and turned into a travelling Cirque du Soleil show starring Elton John and Anderson Cooper.



Drag & The Queen

In one thousand years, Michelle DuBarry will still be alive and considered to be wealthier than the actual Queen of England. Her anti-aging beauty products and books sweep the nation becoming the national standard for optimal aging, replacing even M•A•C cosmetics. Queen Elizabeth will have been replaced by Scott Thompson, who becomes the first person to successfully undergo a cyber-genetics treatment, which essentially leaves the person in a suspended state of bliss known as Buddy Cole syndrome. Pharmaceutical companies clamoured to patent the effect, but the formula was eventually deregulated and included within the yearly vaccination program. Glitter is officially listed as a valuable commodity on stock exchanges around the globe, forcing drag queens to resort to sequins, and in some cases diamonds. Dollarama’s city-wide are bought out by a drag consortium known as Diva’s On A Dime, while Patricia Aldridge’s *Take A Walk On The Wild Side* kiosks surpass Starbucks locations two to one.

Science Invents A Real Unicorn, The Rainbow Flag Gets a New Makeover, and Pride Toronto Announces The World’s First All-Year Annual Festival!

A Toronto scientist discovers a gene leading to the formation of the world’s first unicorn, but ultimately the finding backfires resulting in a population explosion of unicorns outnumbering squirrels and raccoons combined. Toronto celebrates Pride Month by inspiring the world’s first Pride Year celebrations, which exist as a permanently closed section of the city when revellers engage in a never-ending party and a parade route that forms a continuous loop around the city core. The rainbow flag undergoes a makeover when a collective of queers surreptitiously called for a secret vote, ultimately leading to the flag being changed to a dark shade of taupe.

The Gay Agenda, Exposed!

Perhaps the biggest historical blunder we may not realize is it’s discovered that there is in fact a “gay agenda”, and the founder and leader is Dan Savage who has been building up his army of “savages” by communicating through a highly sophisticated code he embedded within his columns. Savage Warriors as they are known in underground circles, have been slowly amassing in preparation for world domination.

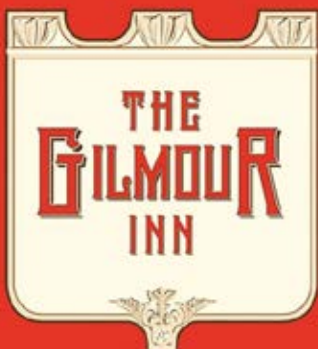
Grindr Gets Real & JD Gets A New Spokesperson



Grindr will be available as a virtual reality app that puts you right in the middle of any fantasy you wish, and can be activated without the knowledge of those around you. Lesbian app Scissr explodes onto the marketplace after a successful take-over by U-Haul and Home Depot. Patricia Wilson of *Buddies In Bad Times Theatre* is hired as the face of Jack Daniels, and her band Crackpuppy goes on a world-tour spreading peace and love— straight up.

Raymond Helkio is an author, director and filmmaker. He graduated from the Ontario College of Art & Design University and is co-founder of The Reading Salon.
www.raymondhelkio.com
www.thereadingsalon.ca





Edwardian elegance.
Modern comfort.

431 Gilmour Street,
Ottawa, ON

LOCAL: 1 (613) 236-9309
TOLL-FREE: 1 (800) 658-3564
www.thegilmourinnbedandbreakfast.com
info@thegilmourinn.com

DIAMOND
LIMOUSINE

Your Royal Ride
Prestige limousine service
for all your events!



905-706-8171
limo@diamondlimo.ca
www.diamondlimo.ca

Customized Travel Planning

Group Management

All Inclusive & LGBT Tours

River, Ocean & Gay Cruises

Destination Weddings

Experiential Travel

Private Charters



Travel Your Way

TotalAdvantage & RAINBOW HIGH VACATIONS
Travel & Tours

416-240-7700
800-419-1635

welcome@totaladvantage.com
TotalAdvantage.com/LGBT





Canadian Train Travel

Railing in the Future

by Bryan D.

With the advent of affordable automobiles and the advancement of commercial aircraft in the 1960s, passenger rail travel began a sharp decline in Canada. As years passed, many of the unused railways were turned into multi-purpose rail-to-trail corridors, used by bikers, hikers, and casual strollers.

Fast forward another couple of decades, with gas prices continuing to skyrocket and airline surcharges out of control, along with an overall general concern for the environment, and what we're seeing is an upswing once again in passenger train travel.

Not only is there a resurgence in trains used for travel, but also a slew of novelty tours that are popular for people of all ages. While most think of summer as peak travel time, train travel is a year-round adventure, and there's even some trains that go all out for the holiday season upon us. Canadian Pacific Railway has an annual **Holiday Train** that chugs its way across Canada and into the United States, making stops at hundreds of villages, towns, and cities. This year it featured the *Spirit of Tomorrow* car, which was part of the *Canada 150 Train*. Since it launched in

1999, it has raised more than 13 million in cash, along with collecting four million pounds of food for local food banks in communities along CP's routes. It made its stop here in Toronto on November 28th, where the public joined the celebrations, including live music from Colin James and Emma-Lee.

Another holiday themed rail adventure close to Toronto is the **Waterloo Central Railway**, which offers both the *Polar Bear Express* and *Santa Train* over the holiday season. *Polar Bear Express* departs St. Jacobs, Ontario for a one hour round-trip journey to the North Pole. Upon arrival, Santa and his helpers greet passengers and then board the train, where each child is given the first gift of Christmas – a silver sleigh bell. Chefs aboard each car lead passengers in singing Christmas carols on the ride back. Unlike the daytime *Santa Train* which lasts closer to two hours, these night time adventures relive the magic of the story complete with hot chocolate and treats. This Steam Locomotive diesel train also operates year round, offering passengers the opportunity to visit the Mennonite regions of St. Jacobs and Elmira, with their thriving outdoor farmer's markets in the summer.

South Simcoe Railway operates the *Santa Claus Express*, where guests climb aboard a vintage 1920's diesel locomotive train for a special visit with Santa himself. The *H.C.W. Steam Train* also operates from May and October, offering half-day excursions aboard Canada's only operating



European steam engine, along this scenic 63km route between Hull, Quebec, and Wakefield, Ontario. **Ontario Northland** operates their own year-round service between Moosonee and Cochrane, making for a wonderful day trip, especially in the picturesque fall and winter seasons of the north. They also offer a special *Christmas Train* throughout December. The Station Inn Hotel offers overnight accommodations for those wanting to spend a bit longer time in the country. Be sure to take time to tour the First Nations' communities of Moosonee and Moose Factory, both old Hudson's Bay trading posts

Beyond the holiday season, there are many other niche operators that service outlying communities and offer unique travel experiences throughout the year across the country, and many can be found right here in Ontario. **The Agawa Canyon Train** begins and ends in Sault Ste. Marie, and along the route passengers experience the beauty of the Canadian Shield, and specifically an area that the famed *Group of Seven* artists famously depicted in their paintings. There are trestles, trees, water, and wildlife to be enjoyed throughout the journey. There's also a layover before the return journey that allows passengers to take several trails to view some amazing waterfalls. This past year the inaugural **Rainbow Train** took place, organized specifically for the local LGBT community members.

The **Credit Valley Explorer** departs Orangeville with excursions along the edge of the Precambrian Niagara Escarpment that takes in the beautiful Hills of Headwaters by way of a wonderful trestle bridge crossing. The **Halton County Radial Railway** streetcar in

Milton, commemorates Toronto's radial railroads (1917-1948) along a preserved 2 km stretch of the original Guelph Line. There's also a small museum onsite. **Port Stanley Terminal Rail** runs from the Lake Erie resort village of Port Stanley, through the scenic Kettle Creek Valley, and back. Be sure to have a look at the vintage circus car. Huntsville has the **Portage Flyer** running along the scenic Muskoka River, with passengers able to experience a classic steam train aboard vintage open-sided coaches. A manual turntable is used to reverse the engine on the return trip, and guests can enjoy the *Muskoka Pioneer Village* and museum. **York Durham Heritage Railway** offers the chance to ride heritage railway tracks through the rolling hills and river valleys of the Oak Ridges Moraine, with departures out of Uxbridge. Check websites for individual schedules and operating season.

In Quebec, **Train de Charlevoix** operates a seasonal tourist train from June to October, between Quebec City and La Malbaie, with other stops available in between, such as the quaint artistic town of Baie-Saint-Paul. *Le Massif de Charlevoix* is a magnificent ski resort offering breathtaking views of the St. Lawrence River, and it was just announced that the region will be getting Canada's first four-season *Club Med* resort, set to open in the next couple of years. There's also *La Ferme* accommodations for those not wanting to make the return journey in the same day. As well, **Oxford Express** departs Sherbrooke, Québec passing by several lake and mountain vistas that form the Eastern Townships. Guests can choose between the dining car or panorama lounge seating. Highlights include a stop at Merry Point on Lake Memphremagog.



Further west, Manitoba's **Prairie Dog Central Railway** is one of the oldest regularly scheduled vintage operating steam trains in North America, and it has seasonal summer service between Inkster Junction Station and the communities of Grosse Isle and Warren, where there's a short stop-over before its return journey. Real train buffs might want to book the upgraded ticket that allows passengers to ride in the Caboose. **Alberta Prairie Railway** offers round trip excursions between Stettler and Big Valley, complete with on board live entertainment and country buffet. There's also special themed trains throughout the season for theatre and music fans, as well as special foodie trains.

The **Nelson Electric Tramway Society's** restored 100+ year old electric tramway operates out of Nelson, British Columbia, following the Kootenay Lake waterfront from the Prestige Lakeside Resort to Lakeside Rotary Park. The **Kettle Valley Steam Railway** traverses the Okanagan Valley with its abundant vineyards, departing out of Summerland, British Columbia, with live entertainment and themed departures. **Kamloops Heritage Railway** offers open-air cars and train robbery reenactments, among other themed events. The **Underground Mining Railway** out of Kimberley, British Columbia winds its way through the narrow Mark Creek Valley and dark cavernous tunnels, complete with a live mining show.

Vancouver Island's two-car **E&N Line** connects several small towns with more to be added in the future. There are currently stations in Duncan, Nanaimo, Parksville, Qualicum, and Courtenay, providing beautiful views while crossing ancient trestle bridges. Tourists can also board the **Alberni Pacific Railway**, a completely restored

1929 Baldwin ex-logging locomotive at the original 1912 CPR Station, and ride out to the McLean Mill National Historic Site, a preserved 19th century sawmill and lumber camp. The track winds through Port Alberni, as well as the surrounding forests and glacial peaks. There's also rail/bike and overnight packages available.

The **White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad** is one of the coolest (pun intended) rail excursions Canada has to offer, travelling between Carcross, Yukon and up into Skagway, Alaska. Built in 1898 during the Klondike Gold Rush, this narrow gauge railroad is an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. There are numerous routes that traverse this mountainous region, offering breathtaking views throughout. It's also great for hikers and campers who can get off along the way, and explore this remote area of the country by foot, before hopping back on to continue their rail journey another date. Don't forget your passport if you're planning to enter Alaska, and be sure to check out the **Whitehorse Waterfront Trolley**, a circa 1925 yellow streetcar that makes a series of stops along downtown's Yukon River shore.

While all these individual rail operators make for fun and exciting day excursions, some might want to consider a longer trek, perhaps even a cross country adventure. **VIA Rail Canada** was established in 1977, when Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau deemed it a Crown Corporation, and thereby mandating it to service outlying communities across the country. Now, 40 years later, the company is servicing more passengers than ever with their revolving travel package offerings, competitive fares, and on board amenities.



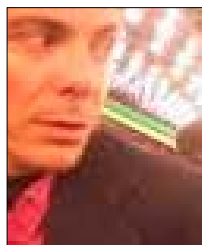
VIA Rail's *Canadian* service runs several times a week in peak season, with limited service during winter months, linking Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Jasper, and Vancouver, and several communities in between. The entire journey takes four nights aboard the 1955-built stainless-steel coaches along Canadian National Railway's original line. The *Hudson Bay* route is a two-day Winnipeg to Churchill, Manitoba trek along the shore of Hudson Bay, offering passengers the opportunity to see beluga whales in summer, and polar bears in fall. Also, the Montreal to Halifax route aboard the *Ocean*, is a great leisurely alternative to flying, especially during winter months when air travel is often disrupted by weather conditions. Dome cars provides great sunrise and sunset opportunities aboard both the *Canadian* and *Ocean* routes. The two-day Jasper-to-Prince Rupert route is aboard refurbished 1950s carriages, and the *Budd Car* from Sudbury to White River, Ontario is another scenic journey like no other.

VIA Rail offers several travel options, which includes economy and first class, as well as a variety of sleeping accommodations from simple berths to full size suites. *CanRail* passes offer great flexibility and value for economy seat travel over specified amounts of time. Fairmont Hotels partnered with VIA Rail for Canada's 150th birthday by offering the **Great Canadian Railway Adventure**, a 20-day customized, luxury train trip that travels across Canada between British Columbia and Quebec, and includes accommodations, day tours, attraction passes, and transfers. Hurry though as it's only offered until the end of the year. It makes for a great last minute Christmas gift for the traveller on your list.

Finally, **Rocky Mountaineer** is a private operator that offers some amazing travel packages that includes transportation, hotel accommodations at each overnight stop, on board meals, luggage transfers, and attraction passes. Trains travel from late spring to early fall season, with three different categories of service. As the name alludes to, travel is on the west coast only, giving passengers an opportunity to experience the beauty of the Rocky Mountains aboard the only passenger train operating on the more southern Canadian Pacific Railway route, which operates between Banff and Vancouver.

As for what the future of rail travel may hold, Toronto based company, *TransPod*, is currently working on a plan to develop **Hyperloop**, a land-based high-speed system that uses transport pods the size of rail cars, which then travel through vacuum powered pipeline-like tubes. The goal is to offer travel between Toronto and Montreal that takes only 30 minutes for the entire journey, which means the pod would need to travel at speeds of around 1,000 km/h. So as we prepare for the next generation of travel to arrive, why not sit back and enjoy Canada's current rail revival, which could very well be the future already upon us.

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



ESTD  2002

CAROLINE

- CELLARS -

FAMILY ESTATE WINERY



1010 Line 2, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
www.CarolineCellars.com 905.468-8814
 Open daily year-round. Follow us on Facebook
 and Twitter for news and events.



The Infinite Knot
 - Crochet Creations by Julie -
 Gifts - Custom Design - Instruction



647.258.5297
julieapples@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/theinfiniteknot

COMING SPRING 2018

SOMETHING BIG IS HAPPENING



Real Food, Real Wellness & Real Community Since 1983.

www.thebigcarrot.ca

LOCATION • HOSPITALITY • VALUE

Wake up with a smile!







Downtown Ottawa, walking distance to the Rideau Canal and all major sites



BOOK NOW: 1.800.236.8399
SuiteDreams.com | 180 Cooper St.

Booking.com
 Award of Excellence

WE ARE PET FRIENDLY!

*A menage a trois
of sexy wines for your
New Year's Eve Party
(and brunch the morning after)*



Remy Muscadet

Seafood meet your match! Pale straw with greenish tint; crisp citrus apple nose with minerality and some lemon orange zest; light, crisp and dry.

Remy Rose d'Anjou

Light salmon colour; spiced strawberry and citrus aromas; light bodied with crisp hints of red cherry fruit; barely off-dry with fresh strawberry fruit flavours and refreshing finish.

Remy Touraine

Sauvignon Blanc

True Sauvignon! Clear pale straw colour; citrus, grass, gooseberry and light mineral aromas; dry, light body; fruit and citrus flavours with balanced acidity.

Find us at your local LCBO. Please enjoy responsibly.

Hot Artist



Ori Dagan's talent is scat singing and it's all over his latest work, *Nathaniel: A Tribute to Nat King Cole*. The album showcases Dagan's brilliant baritone, but it's also a jazz-first production at its finest.

So how did Ori Dagan become the Canadian king of bibbity-bing? Well, he blames the American queen of jazz and swing: Ella Fitzgerald. "It's her fault, it's all her fault!" he claims over coffee in Liberty Village.

"I started to sing along and it just grabbed me. ... I became addicted to jazz." This came after years of studying classical piano. "It was mostly scat singing that I loved. It was kind of universal and anyone could get it because it was fun." But learning the skill required many years of serious study and practice. "It really is (about) using your voice as an instrument, and pretending you are one and taking a solo."

Dagan's mastery of scat singing is evident on previous albums — *S'Cat Got My Tongue* (2009) and *Less Than Three* (2012) — where he lent his instrument to a wide range of styles.

"I did some songs in my native Hebrew, I did a Madonna song, I did a Lady Gaga song, Elton John, I just tried to push myself out of the box. And I wrote this tune called 'Googleable,' which was my first music video." But not his last — the next, "Clap on the 2 and the 4," won an award at the New York City Jazz Film Festival.

Dagan's love of Nat King Cole's music began when his producer and co-writer, Nathan Hiltz, introduced him to the singer's early music. "I really connected with it. It's beautiful. ... And I heard a song where he was scat singing and it blew my mind."

Nathaniel: A Tribute to Nat King Cole includes fresh takes on Cole classics, along with five new

Dagan-Hiltz compositions that complement Cole's lyrical and musical styles. "I'm always pushing myself to be in the moment and bring something new," Dagan says. "And that, to me, is what jazz is."

Instrumental breaks by Nathan Hiltz (guitar) and Mark Kieswetter (piano) are both subtle and stirring. Ross MacIntyre (bass) sets a hasty pace that makes you forget "Unforgettable" was written as a leisurely ballad. Mark Kelso (drums) and Magdelys Savigne (percussion) carry the band with flawless rhythm. Add national treasure Jane Bunnett (soprano sax), and there's nothing more to ask.

Dagan's creative team produced a video for every song on the disc. His partner, Leonardo Dell'Anno, oversaw the production with several directors working in various film styles. A few video highlights include, "Lillette", an upbeat number with a couple dancing across rooftops, "Sweetheart", which takes a stroll along the beach with a sweet young couple, and "Darling Je Vous Aime Beaucoup", that shows couples getting tattoos together and talking about how they met.

Duets include, "Straighten Up and Fly Right", which has award-winning scat singer Sheila Jordan showing Dagan how to do Coney Island up right, while "Pretend", shows Dagan singing with Alex Pangman in a remarkable throwback to the '30s, and "Complexion", featuring Bunnett's gorgeous sax, introduces clips of civil rights marches.

Like Nat King Cole, Ori Dagan has a smooth delivery that hides the hard work, so the singing sounds effortless. Listening to — and watching — this visual jazz album may be the easiest thing you do all week. Treat yourself!

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



Kirk J. Cooper

Barrister, Solicitor, Notary

Serving our community for 25 years

Real Estate • Wills and Powers of Attorney
Estate Administration and Planning
Immigration and Refugee Law • Same-sex issues



Back in the Village:

37 Midland Street, Toronto Ontario M4Y 1C8
T: 416-923-4277 F: 416-923-0010

info@cooper.legal www.cooper.legal

HERNDER ESTATE WINES



Daily Tasting and Tours on weekends at 1 pm
Join Hernder Estate Wines Select Wine Club and have
2 bottles of wine delivered to your door monthly!
See our website for details.
Open all year round, seven days a week

1607 8th Avenue Louth, St. Catharines, ON L2R 6P7
(905) 684-3300 • www.hernder.com



Neighborhoods Monthly Spotlight

[pinkplaymags](http://pinkplaymags.com)

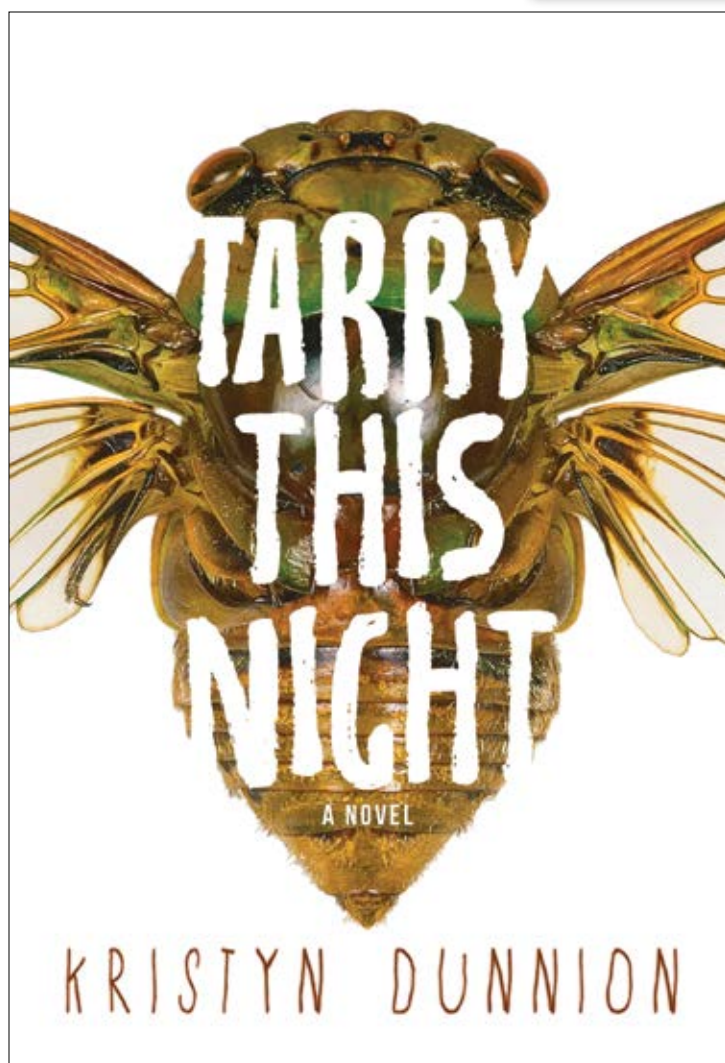
A new feature on
PinkPlayMags.com
highlighting a different
business every month



TORONTO GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Proudly celebrating
our 19th season!

fortechorus.ca



“Tarry This Night” is a powerful dystopian novel set during a new American civil war, about a polygamist cult leader and his followers. In this eerily relevant, cautionary tale, a civil war is brewing in America. Below ground, a cult led by the deluded and narcissistic Father Ernst is ensconced in an underground bunker, waiting out the conflict. When the “Family” runs out of food, Ruth, coming of age and terrified of serving as Ernst’s next wife, must choose between obeying her faith and fighting for survival. Cousin Paul, sent topside to scavenge for food, may return with proof that it is safe for the Family to ascend again. But is it enough to invest all hope in Paul’s unlikely return? In this unsettling modern take on the Lilith tale, spirited women resist their racist, sexist culture and, in so doing, become outlaws. Family members navigate a secretive and deadly arena where faith eschews autonomy and righteousness precludes mercy. With an unwavering eye, “Tarry This Night” dares to imagine the unthinkable that is present day America, offering a place for resistance and hope for a new and better world.

Excerpt from “Stink Town”

Today in the bunker, Rebekah is missing the sun, the sky, and most of all, the rich black earth. Tending the large gardens, delighting at her daily discoveries as plants mature and offer their bounty. Even turning the compost—hard work, smelly, not for the squeamish. Pitching straw, turning organic matter, rats sometimes scurrying, disturbed in their nests. She misses the complex aromatic layers: decaying produce mixed with the sweet soil. Sometimes a putrescence of liquid rot, a sure sign of imbalance— she would even miss that if they didn’t get the occasional septic problem below. Early spring and late into fall, they used to spread the fields with compost-enriched manure, and that heavy perfume declared itself all across the county. It clung to their hair and clothes. Manure caked their boots and could hardly be scrubbed from the stained knees of their work pants.

On their bi-monthly shopping trips, Rebekah remembers townspeople sometimes holding their noses and drifting away from them, like they were lepers. One such trip—Rebekah was about nine, long after her accident and before her now-exiled

sister went completely wild—a boy hollered, ‘Stink Town, Stink Town,’ and his friends laughed, pointing. Stink Town was sprayed on road signs near their property in black paint, and twice drunken boys vandalized the church and the side of the barn. Her brothers would have beaten them, but that day, it was just Mother Deborah, Mother Mary, Mother Susan, and the girls. Rebekah’s face burned with shame. Her sister marched over to the vandals, dragging Rebekah in her tightened grip. They could have been cousins, she and the town boys looked so much alike: pale, dirt-smudged, and freckled, with terrible teeth and vacant, almost cruel, blue eyes. The one who yelled looked unsure, possibly afraid of Rebekah’s sister, who fairly vibrated with rage. His sneakers were worn thin, holes at the tips where his dirty toes poked through. The boys were no better in the stink department: musk and sweat and unwashed clothes laced with undertones of greasy chicken, boiled cabbage.

The standoff broke when her sister spat into one stunned face. Rebekah watched the frothy white spittle drip down the bridge of his turned-up nose. Then she was dragged by the wrist through the lot of them, into the air-conditioned grocery store behind. Bright lights made Rebekah blink. Her skin prickled with cold. Her sister strode to the taboo junk-food display rack, tore open a bag of Cheetos, and crammed handful after handful of the bright orange twists into her mouth while everyone watched. Silence, but for the song playing over the store speakers. Neil Diamond, her sister later confessed—how did she know? Gagging, still chewing, swallowing, stuffing more in, eyes watering, nose running, mixing with the orange crumbs that stained her face and fingers. Nobody stopped her. She threw down the empty bag and stalked out, past the disbelieving cashiers and lines of astounded shoppers, out into the parking lot and around the corner. Rebekah had to run to catch up. She found her in the alley, bending behind a dumpster, vomiting a great orange rush onto the asphalt.

Poor beautiful, brave Ezzie.

“Why do we have to be freaks?” her sister gasped. And a few minutes later, “Let’s go home.” She wiped the drool from her mouth with a sleeve.

Father Ernst roared when he heard. He whipped and locked her sister in the shed again. Pulled all of their teens from the local high school, claiming they could learn what they needed at home. He said, "Government lies and liberal thinking are ruining this great country, and I'll not contribute to America's demise." Henceforth, the girls studied domestic and culinary arts, plus herbal remedies with Memaw, animal husbandry with Mother Susan, and beekeeping with Mother Deborah. Compost and gardening was with Mother Mary. The boys had other pursuits: barn and fieldwork, weaponry, machinery, working the generators and pumps, electrical and carpentry. Boys learned to build and girls, to maintain.

From then on, only the men went into town. It wasn't a hardship, not really, since the rules softened whenever they left. Memaw opened the church windows and played piano for hours, everything in her repertoire. Picnic lunches were made from leftovers, and the children ran wild. In summer, the women stripped down to their slips and lay in the sunny yard like cats. One rainy day, Mother Mary brought the forbidden box from hiding—a small black-and-white television with spindly antennae. She plugged it in and they crowded around, cooing and clapping. They watched a cat and mouse cartoon that Memaw remembered from her childhood—The Tom and Jerry Show—agape, completely transported, and then a remake of Pépé Le Pew, a skunk in heat hounding a small black cat.

Memaw shut it off. "Nothing funny about being chased by a Tom," she said, and that was that. No more secret talking box.

Kristyn Dunnion is a queer Canadian author of adult, young adult, and juvenile literary fiction. Previously published works include, *The Dirt Chronicles* (Arsenal Pulp Press), a 2012 Lambda Literary Award Finalist and an American Library Association Over the Rainbow selection. She also appears in *The New Guard V*, *subTerrain Magazine*, *Cosmonauts Avenue*, and *The Tahoma Literary Review*. She's also an experienced arts educator and youth mentor, a housing advocate for psychiatric survivors, and a healthy food activist for vulnerable community members. Her desire—to be a positive force for social change—is integrated in all of her work. Dunnion is also a vegan witch and an urban gardener who plays bass for Toronto rock n'roll heart throbs, Bone Donor.



SPECIALIZING IN EUROPEAN PASTRIES

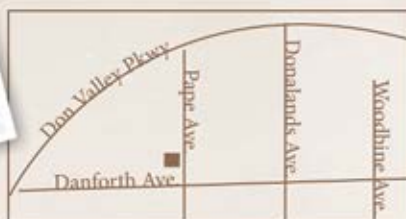
Serano

BAKERY

since 1994



830 Pape Ave., Toronto
(416) 462-2735
www.seranobakery.com



pg

Less Roasting, More Hosting.

contact Presidential Gourmet Catering for all your holiday feeds.
(416) 466 7272 • info@presidentialgourmet.ca • presidentialgourmet.ca



RAINBOW CAMP

by Kelly Wilk

“I wish they had that when I was a kid.”

Everyone says this about their youth, but for those questioning their sexuality or gender, this statement is particularly poignant.

I did not feel safe enough to come out in high school. If there had been a place I could have gone to let go of the fear of telling the truth, perhaps I would have come out and saved myself a lot of agony. If there had been a place like **Rainbow Camp**, I would have been a much happier camper too.

Growing up the social opposition to exploring sexuality and gender can be fierce. I spoke with founder **Harry Stewart**, one of those folks who said, “I wish I had...”, who has since taken action on behalf of others, along with Director (for 2018) *Devon Paolini*, and Program Director, *Stephanie Voyer*. For two weeks of the summer two groups (ages 12-14 and 15-17) of LGBTQ youth have a place to escape this culture of fear and shame.

“A lot of the kids are high risk, so we have a social worker come in. They have to write and say why they want to come to camp, and our coordinator is made aware of what’s going on with them. Most of the councillors have come from social work programming so they can be aware of our campers needs,” says Stewart.

Rainbow Camp is a registered charity with 60% educational programming, with 100% focus on fun. A place where kids can enjoy and play freely, helping to alleviate any feelings of depression or anxiety. Just east of Sault Ste. Marie, on the shore of Lake Huron, there is everything you would expect a summer camp to have, like canoeing, sing-along evenings, and early morning swims. However only a camp for queers can offer the opportunity to learn how to put a new face on with the help of a fabulous drag queen, or conduct a burial ceremony for deceased identities and names, which is a vital

component given that around 90% of their kids are trans identified and most vulnerable to abuse.

“I find most of our kids are coming because they feel alone. I used to think it was just rural areas, but

we get city kids who just have never been able to approach some of these organizations they have access to,” Stewart explains. “Watching these kids change even in the five days here at camp it makes me think about how it will affect their lives to come. This is how one experience makes

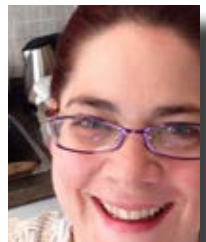
an absolute difference as they decide how to be themselves in a world that sometimes wishes they would just go back in the closet.”

Bolstered by a recent fundraising event by actor/comedian *Colin Mochrie* and his wife *Deb McGrath*, who are the proud and supportive parents of their trans daughter, Kinley, the Camp is working toward a permanent home, full-time staff, and weekend programming, but they need your help. If you were one of those queer kids wishing for a place like this, it’s time to pay it forward, and change the life of one queer or questioning kid forever.

Camp registry opens January 1st, 2018 for August 2018 dates.

www.rainbowcamp.ca
www.welcomefriend.ca
www.helpainbowcamp.ca

Kelly Wilk is a freelance writer and single mom to a six-year-old, red-headed, Irish, Aries boy who is growing up way too fast. Follow “The Ginger Gent” on PinkPlayMags blog page, and Brave. Creative. Me at www.kellywilk.ca.



DOES YOUR BMW NEED A TUNE-UP?

- 3 BMW Factory Technicians On Staff!
- The owner, formerly a BMW Service Manager at Beach BMW
- Make an appointment - info@autotrend.net
- See our website for **specials**

AutoTrend SPECIALIZING IN BMW'S

1203 Broadview Avenue
(just South of O'Connor)

416.696.2277

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.autotrend.net

Advertising Account Consultant

INspired Media Inc., the publishers of **The Pink Pages Directory** (Canada's largest and most trusted LGBTQ Business Directory for 28 years), along with **theBUZZ** and **PinkPlayMags** magazines, and producer of the talk show **On the Couch**, has openings for an **Advertising Account Consultant in Toronto.**

Contract position
Commission-based
Independent

Includes prospecting to and connecting with potential new clientele on both a local and national level

Minimum 2 years experience in sales with print/online or other forms of media preferred

Proven strong sales skills, excellent verbal, written and interpersonal skills

Please submit resume to **INspired Media Inc.**
inquiries@inspiredcreative.ca



TZATZIKI



337 DANFORTH AVE, TORONTO, ON M4K 1N7
T. 416-546-4444 - villagepie.ca

873 PAPE AVE, TORONTO, ON M4K 3T6
T. 647-350-3333 - tzatziki.ca

MORTGAGE ASSOCIATES
ONTARIO

Making Mortgages Make Sense

2 mortgage professionals working with you to solve your mortgage needs

First time buyers Home Purchase Refinance Investment properties

Home Equity take out for debt consolidation Spousal payouts Bad credit mortgages

Let our expert advice and experience guide you through the process

Give us a call today and take advantage of our special offer of \$500 on closing

CALL NOW 1-800-874-1076 or visit us online at

pridemortgages.ca

Mortgage Associates Ontario Inc.

Lic # 12340



Bobby Kay
Mortgage Agent
Lic # M15001221



Tristan Kirk
Mortgage Broker
Lic # M14000545



by Sherry Sylvain

Les Ballet Jazz de Montréal: Dance Me

December 15, 2017 - 8:00 p.m.

Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, 1 Front St. E., Toronto

Leonard Cohen's songs are poetic evocations of the songwriter's unerring insights into the human experience. Inspired by his music, and using a selection of his most beloved songs, renowned choreographers create a spectacular new multimedia work commissioned especially by the Artistic Director of BJM. Dance Me will evoke in "five seasons" the grand cycles of existence, as described in the music and poems of Leonard Cohen, a brilliant observer of our era, interpreted through the dazzling dancers of BJM.

www.sonycentre.ca

Tip: Recommended to review Cohen's music in advance of attending the show to better inform oneself of context and structure.

Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights

Through January 31, 2018

Queen Victoria Park, 6345 Niagara Pkwy, Niagara Falls

The Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights has become a holiday tradition for over one million visitors from around the globe. Join in for spectacular light displays, the Fallsview Sound and Light Show, Holiday Lights Tours, and over 2 million lights displayed along the Niagara Parkway, Dufferin Islands and throughout Niagara Falls.

www.wfol.com

Tip: Wear warm clothes, bring a thermos with a hot drink, cash for the street food vendors, and always think about foot wear – warm, comfy, and water-proof.



Christian Dior Exhibition

Through March 18, 2018

Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto

Explore the brilliance behind Christian Dior's dramatic creations that revived the Paris haute-couture industry after the devastation of the Second World War. Drawn from the ROM's extensive collection from the first ten years of Christian Dior (1947 to 1957), this exhibition offers captivating insights into the creative process and mechanics of the fashion industry in Paris during a pivotal time. The exhibit celebrates the House of Christian Dior's 70th anniversary, and features over one hundred objects, including thirty-eight breathtaking designs from daytime to evening wear for grand occasions.

www.rom.on.ca

Tip: You can't buy any of these fabulous creations, however I suspect there should be some lovely (less expensive) related items available in the gift shop.



New Years Eve at Toronto City Hall

December 31, 2017 - from 8:00 p.m.

Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen St. W., Toronto

Join the final send-off to the year-long celebration of Canada's 150th birthday – TO Canada with Love!

The countdown to 2018 features an exhilarating evening of entertainment with dynamic DJ's, live electronic music, site animations, a DJ skating party and a stunning fireworks display at midnight. Admission is FREE at this alcohol-free event.

www.facebook.com/Toronto-New-Years-Eve-2018-2015093765371660

Tip: Dress warmly and go with a group of great friends. Skate rentals available on site.

ROM New Year's Eve

December 31, 2017 - from 9:00 p.m.

Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto

Ring in the New Year with #ROMNYE, and dance the night away while enjoying delectable bites and drinks. Celebrate with special access to the spectacular exhibition Christian Dior, presented by Holt Renfrew, as well as live bands, DJs, and, of course, a sparkling toast at midnight.

www.rom.on.ca

Tip: Definitely a dress to impress event, but maybe bring some comfy shoes for the trip home. Think "designated driver" or another form of safe transport to and from.

Toronto International Boat Show

January 12 to 21, 2018

Enercare Centre, 100 Princes' Blvd., Toronto

Boating is a lifestyle – a way to connect with family, escape the stress on land, and experience the unique freedom of being on the water. From fishing to cruising and family fun there are boats for every lifestyle, activity and budget. The nine-day show is a once-a-year chance to compare makes and models, secure insurance and financing, and gear up with the latest accessories - all at one place. The event features Canada's largest indoor lake and hundreds of amazing exhibitors.

www.torontoboatshow.com

Tip: There is parking; but in my experience it can be hard to find a good spot, although it is indoor. This is an event for which you might want to take TTC or the GO. Lots of walking, regardless.

Abilities Expo Toronto

January 19 to 21, 2018

The International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga

For nearly 40 years, Abilities Expo has been the go-to source for the community of people with disabilities, seniors, veterans, healthcare professionals, and their families. Every event offers new technologies, new possibilities, new solutions, and new opportunities to change your life. Stop by to discover ability-enhancing products and services, play a few adaptive sports, learn new dance moves, attend informative workshops and much more.

www.abilities.com

Tip: Expect "accessible" parking to be in high demand. Be patient with seniors and people with more restricted mobility.

Modern Bride Wedding Show

January 21, 2018 - noon to 6:00 p.m.

The International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga

The Modern Bride Wedding Show has the experts that can assist in planning the wedding of your dreams. Bringing you over 100 amazing exhibitors ranging from expert consultants and photographers, to decor and cake designers. There's also an exclusive Fashion Show showcasing the latest exquisite bridal gowns, evening dresses, tuxedos and accessories. The first 100 brides receive an exquisite Gift Bag full of wedding discounts and free gifts from exhibitors and sponsors.

www.modernbrideweddingshow.com

Tip: No guarantee; but I hope some modern brides to wear a tux or a nice suit, and the vendors to be offering same-sex couples advice.

Classic Albums Live: Led Zeppelin - Zeppelin IV

January 26, 2018 - 8:00 p.m.

Rose Theatre, 1 Theatre Lane, Brampton

Released in 1971, Zeppelin IV was the fourth studio album released by Led Zeppelin. With more than 37 million copies sold, this is one of the bestselling albums of all time and has often been labeled as one of the greatest albums of all time. From the success of well-known hits such as "Stairway to Heaven," "Rock and Roll" and "Black Dog," this album became the third-highest certified album at 23x platinum.

www.rosetheatre.ca

Tip: When you are wildly singing along with many of the songs, try to keep your voice down. Also, keep your chin down to avoid strain on your throat.



The Wizard of Oz with Live Orchestra

February 17 & 18, 2018

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto

Join the Toronto Symphony Orchestra to journey over the Rainbow and down the Yellow Brick Road to the Emerald City. Every scene of this classic movie's timeless enchantment is enriched with the unique glories of a live accompaniment.

www.tso.ca

Tip: *Maybe bring a handkerchief for the inevitable tears, and your inner "Toto" should remember, "there's no place like home".*

Bananarama - The Original Line Up Tour

February 23, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

Danforth Music Hall, 147 Danforth Ave., Toronto

This British female pop music vocal group was formed in London in 1981, by friends Sara Dallin, Siobhan Fahey, and Keren Woodward. Their success on both pop and dance charts earned them a listing in the Guinness World Records as the all-female group with the most chart entries in the world. In addition to their chart success, they are also known for their vocal style, generally singing in unison, rather than in harmony like most vocal groups.

www.ticketmaster.com

Tip: *Try to get the Meet and Greet or VIP Package. I've recently seen them on British television and you should be prepared for a show that still sounds as good as their original heyday.*



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.



Take Your Business Higher!

Join other GLBT business owners and professionals in Ontario and help create a stronger voice for our community.

Combine knowledge, resources and economic influence with a broader business network that shares your unique perspective.

Visit our website for more info about Membership and Networking events
www.oglcc.com



**ONTARIO GAY AND LESBIAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

WWW.UGLCC.COM

OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS



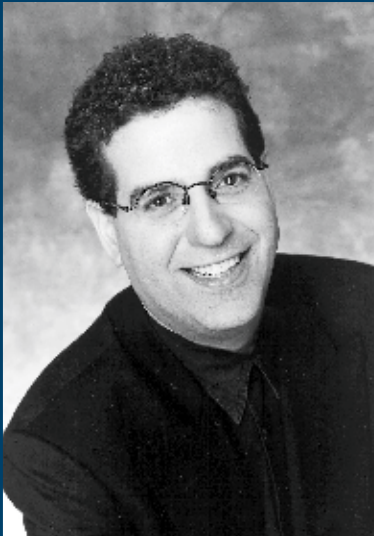
**Supporting LGBT+
Businesses & Entrepreneurs
across Canada**

**Advocacy
Supplier Diversity Program
Networking & Events
Education**

**Learn more at
cglcc.ca**

1-866-300-7556 x33 | office@cglcc.ca

“PROTECT YOURSELF!”



Criminal Defence

- Bail Hearings
- Drug Offences
- Drunk Driving
- Assault, Theft
- Robbery

Lawsuits

- Civil
- Commercial
- Collections
- Wrongful Dismissal
- Negligence
- Personal Injury
- Real Estate Litigation
- Family Law

Tel: 416.869.0707 Fax: 1.905.433.0507

Cell/Text: 416.442.5888

e-mail: jherszkopf@on.aibn.com

197 Spadina Avenue, Suite 402, Toronto, ON M5T 2C8

FREE CONSULTATION

Jerry Herszkopf – Barrister & Solicitor

SEASON 4



With Your Host
Antoine Elhashem

Reporters
Cat Grant
& Boyd Kodak
with Adé Johnson's
"Youth Corner"



Recorded before a Live Audience at Berkeley Bicycle Club



ROGERS tv
the **BUZZ**TV You **Tube**
WWW.THEBUZZ.TV
WWW.ONTHECOUCH.CA



From The Heart

By Mychol Scully

This series of articles started in the Spring with reminiscences of a boy who was inspired by a vision of the future as presented in LIFE magazine. That young boy's REAL future is both more and less than he imagined. This future includes recognition of the civil rights of LGBTQ+ citizens. Marriage equality. Celebrities, politicians and other role models that would have helped that young boy figure out his place in the world.

This future includes electric cars, desktop 3D printers and conversations about trips to Mars. It also includes an alarming increase in fetishistic nationalism, intolerance, racial and sexual violence.

Utopia and dystopia are the extreme ends of a cultural continuum. No civilization or society has ever been (and perhaps can never be) solidly at one end of that spectrum or the other. Life is both more chaotic and inherently more organized than that.

If mathematics is a poetry that describes the physical universe, then the fractal algorithms that calculate the contours of human behaviour might offer us some insight into this dynamic flux between utopia and dystopia. Both Eastern and Western esoteric traditions reflect many of the same principles of dynamic balance that contemporary quantum science and chaos theory describe. Turbulence gives way to entropy as everything winds down to the universe's ultimate heat death.

What are we to make of all this, then? What value can we extract from what does, at times, seem pointless existence?

I choose to believe that there's a bigger game at play here. Like a children's kaleidoscope, in the magical, mesmerizing, symmetrical interplay of bits of coloured glass and mirrors set at precise angles, there are moments of brilliant flashing light and other moments of complex darkness. At its heart, a kaleidoscope is about *the movement* from light to dark and back again.



Whether Trump is in the White House or not, whether the President of Chechnya steps down or not, the sun still appears to rise every morning, the Earth races through the void in its elliptical track and the human spirit soars.

I choose to believe there's a spiritual perspective to the light and the dark that supersedes the transient vagaries of our day-to-day existence. The more we focus our individual personal energy on kindness and joy, the better able we are to navigate our lives with grace.

I choose to believe that small acts of graciousness and generosity of spirit can have a powerful impact on the societies in which we participate.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

I've commented many times in the past that we seem to live in a "culture of complaint." Whether we're complaining about the weather, current political leadership or the latest wacky fashion trend, it seems that we seek connection with our peers by sharing our complaints about everything under the sun.

Imagine a world where we establish intimacy and connections with our fellow human beings by sharing the things we enjoy about life. Imagine a world where casual conversations with friends, family members and strangers focused on the things that bring us joy and happiness.

Imagine each one of us being the source of a positive, rippling wave of acceptance and celebration.

Imagine THAT future and do your part to make it so! I'm wishing all of you a New Year filled with grace and joy.

Mychol Scully is Senior Art Director for INspired Media Inc. publications PinkPlayMags, theBUZZ, The Local Biz Magazine, and The Pink Pages Directory. Mychol is available for thoughtful conversation or lascivious teasing anytime at mychol@mychol.com.






Striker Sports Bar

Toronto's LGBT Sportsbar
All inclusive. All the time
Rookies Welcome

31 St Joseph Street
Toronto, ON. M4Y 1J8
www.strikertoronto.com



Need a DJ?
Need a Hostess?
Let us handle your party.

Find us on Facebook!

Jade Elektra DJ Relentless

TORONTO - NEW YORK

RE

RELENTLESS
ENTERTAINMENT



If it's **LGBTQ** it's in one of our magazines!

Whether it is showcasing businesses, exposing new talent or bringing you the latest entertainment news...
INspired Media has a publication for you! Grab yourself a tea and check us out today.

pink pages
25th Anniversary Edition

winterplay!

the Buzz

www.thepinkpagesdirectory.com www.pinkplaymags.com www.thebuzzmag.ca

Inspire AWARDS 2018

Let's TOGETHER Celebrate Our LGBTQ Community

Nominate Those Who INSPIRE You

LGBTQ Person of the Year
RBC LGBTQ Youth of the Year
LGBTQ Positive Business of the Year
Inspiring Community Organization of the Year
Charles Roy Award for Activism in HIV/AIDS
TELUS LGBTQ Innovator of the Year
LUX Award for the Arts
Lifetime Achievement

#INSPIRElove



Nominations for 2018 open October 15, 2017
Nominations close January 18, 2018

www.inspireawards.ca

Winter Horoscopes

Aries (March 21 – April 20)

You're very generous. You know it and others know it. The thing is, you've not been responsible with your liberal approach to giving. It's time to take inventory of your outgoing energy and resources. Consider the ways you've been throwing your pearls before swine.

Taurus (April 21 – May 21)

As the cooler weather rolls in, you find yourself searching for a few more creature comforts to add to your arsenal of decadence. You're known for your enjoyment of the finer things and this season's theme is "Comfy-Cozy". Think woolly afghans, plush cowl, mitts and scarves, artisan hot cocoa (with cinnamon) and chalet-getaways.

Gemini (May 22 – June 21)

Someone is watching closely to verify whether you will keep your word on a promise made. The problem is, you say so many things that it's difficult to remember all you've said. Not to mention all of the directions your attention takes you. Perhaps keeping a voice recorder handy will keep you reminded – and accountable. A motto to live by: Under-promise and over-deliver.

Cancer (June 22 – July 22)

Taking care of everyone else has finally caught up with you, Cancer. Many have benefitted from your support, service and welcoming presence. This season urges you to receive care and support from others that you may replenish your soul. Observe the give and take rhythm of the tides of your breath. Nature knows that energy must flow both ways. Give yourself permission to receive.

Leo (July 23 – August 22)

Brand new projects are underfoot! Plans are laid and drawn. Supplies are ordered and workers are at the ready. You find yourself in a "nesting phase" where you are undergoing preparations for a welcoming of some sort. Your life is about to change in a way that will be unrecognizable a few months from now. You will be most pleased.

Virgo (August 23 – September 23)

No one can argue that you take utmost care of your health, Virgo. You voraciously research information from top sources so that you are armed with knowledge, which you apply diligently. Your health is trying to convey a message to you about the condition of your inner world. What you must learn to read is the language of your body. It speaks in metaphor. The work of Louise Hay may help guide you.

Libra (September 24 – October 23)

Ever graceful and charming, you've laboriously built the perfect image of likeability. Your ruler Venus requires it. But everyone has a shadow side Libra, and as the bearer of Scales, you must acknowledge yours. Do you dare uncover your ugly side? If you are brave enough, let the book, "The Shadow Effect" by Deepak Chopra, Debbie Ford and Marianne Williamson be your manual.

Scorpio (October 24 – November 22)

The winds of change are here for you this season, Scorpio. They will bring something new, and carry away something old. You'll know it by the time the winds are calm (i.e. the storm settles). Could it be a job? A relationship? A health issue? Whatever the case, the sure thing is that it will bring a brand new circumstance and a brand new you.

Sagittarius (November 23 - December 21)

We know how gregarious you are Sagittarius. You love people and have more friends than any other sign of the Zodiac. You love people and people love you. But there seems to be a change lately in your social circle. You've noticed friends falling away. Some are just out of contact and others are displaying behavior you frankly don't wish to be in the presence of. Perhaps you are the one that's changing.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

You observe everything but keep most of it to yourself. Maybe you don't want to be confrontational or maybe some things are better left unvoiced. You must be careful what you do with these unspoken words and feelings. Locked in the heart for too long, they begin to form an internal prison over time, which could affect your wellbeing. Journaling is best. Pour the contents of your heart there. The pen is mightier than the sword.

Aquarius (January 20 – February 19)

Someone you wronged in the past is haunting your thoughts. You're a different person now and would never behave the way you did then. But when you think of the ones you love, the anxiety sets in about the encounters they may have with people such as you were. A ritual of forgiveness may help release you. Perhaps a letter of apology that remains unsent.

Pisces (February 20 – March 20)

Decision time approaches for you Pisces. It's time to turn over a new leaf. Before you do, many internal closets require a thorough cleaning and dusting. You don't want to enter a new cycle with skeletons in tow. In her book, *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, Marie Kondo suggests keeping those items which "spark joy". Say "thank you and goodbye" to the rest.

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.





Real Compassion. Real Relief. Since 2005.
Toronto Medical Compassion Clinic
 125 Church Street, Toronto ON M5C 2G5
info@medicalcompassionclinic.com
www.medicalcompassionclinic.com
647-291-0420



The Professionals
Moving & Storage Ltd.
www.movingtoronto.com

Specialists in Residential, Corporate & Institutional Moves
Estate Distributions, Storage, Furniture Bank Pickups and more
Packing & Moving Services / Both local and long distance

**Now in our
36th Year!**

**542 Mt. Pleasant Rd.,
416-922-9595**



IBMA
INTERNATIONAL
BROKER
ASSOCIATION
Since 1982



CFIB
CONFEDERATION
OF
FEDERATIONS
Since 1982



IATA
INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
OF
AIR
TRANSPORT
ASSOCIATIONS
Since 1945

**2877 Bloor St. W.
416-239-3737**

Special Discounts to Repeat Clientele!

Pricing for Supplies 30-40% LESS than our Major Competitors!


One Quick Stop for all your Packing, Moving & Storage Needs

FREE PARKING • FREE DELIVERY

**Fully Licensed & Insured
WSIB Certified**



**THE
BOX
SPOT**
Packing & Moving Supplies
www.boxspot.com



See you May 2018 for a Special
CONTACT Photography Festival Exhibit:
"Urban Matador" - Angel Torres

The
CONTINENTAL
Established 1992 ★ *Dance Club* ★

Your Dance Metamorphosis - FUN step by step!

**Join our valued team partners,
instructors & specialists today!**

- ▶ **Rent our venue**
- ▶ **Motivating dance lessons**
- ▶ **Inspiring dance shows**
- ▶ **Private/group/corporate rates**
- ▶ **No drop-ins, phone bookings
only, 30 min. free consultation**

BRIAN TORNER, Director
T: 905.624.6595
3141 Wharton Way, Mississauga

theCONTINENTALDANCECLUB.com

Looking Back

by Antoine Elhashem

Alright dear readers, housework is done, and the place is ready for the dinner I am having for friends next week to ring in the New Year, 2062. Time for a break.

While I am sitting here sipping a tea, my thoughts wander back to 2017, the year we celebrated the 10th anniversary of PinkPlayMags.

It was a crazy year; a reality show joke became the president of the U.S.A. (thankfully it wasn't long before he was arrested for treason and sentenced to life in prison). Back then we also were still worried about wars, global warming, terrorism, nuclear arms, and other ridiculous things, that we should have known better how to solve after a few thousand years of civilization. Thankfully, eventually we learned, and before it was too late.

Society still had to deal with hunger and homelessness. Women were still being treated as second class citizens in many parts of the worlds, even in North America we had issues with equal pay for women for the same jobs men did. Is that crazy or what? Well, it's been so long since we had to worry about any of that.

One of the most important and impactful discoveries from 2017 was when a PhD candidate from Queen's University, Caitlin Miron (28 at the time), discovered a novel DNA binder that was the solution to "switching off" cancer cells and preventing them from spreading. With cancer, and soon after HIV, and other diseases eradicated, life as we knew it had completely changed, as we no longer had to worry about death for any other reasons than growing old naturally.

Our community also had its issues, we still were using the term LGBTQ, rather than what we now use: human. We still had to deal with equality issues, inclusion and diversity issues. But our community being always at the forefront of the fight for human rights and



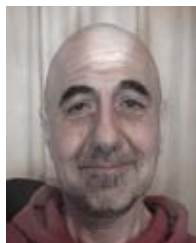
progress, had a world wide townhall meeting in 2049, and came to an agreement that solved EVERYTHING.

So, the world is pretty good right now. Our specie seems to have learned how to save itself, earth, and other species from doom. If there are other civilizations in other galaxies far far away, they would be very proud of us.

Soon we will be celebrating 45 years of PinkPlayMags with a huge bash on Mars. Don't forget to enter the contest to win a free flight to the party, only 10 lucky winners will be selected. And just like we did for the 10th anniversary I mentioned at the start of this letter, once again we will be partnering with MOJO Toronto, Arabian Knights, and Miss Opulence, bless their hearts, Monty Tiara, Joey Viola, Kerolos Saleib, Ade Johnson, and Mykel Hall, they're still going strong for older people.

I must be going dear readers. I've got to go for a jog, and I think I'll take my robot dog with me. It's good to be 95 and alive.

Antoine Elhashem is President of INspired Media Inc. and Publisher of PinkPlayMags, theBUZZ, LocalBiz Magazine, and The Pink Pages Directory. He is also host and producer of the popular television series *On The Couch*.



Alta Corporate Car Limousine Service



For All Your Transportation Needs Contact

Cesar A. Espinola
cesar@accls.ca
416 834 4477

Alta Corporate Car Limousine Service



Healthy Planet

health foods . supplements

sports nutrition . beauty

1000+ ITEMS ON SALE DAILY UP TO 50% OFF

NUTRITIONISTS ON DUTY TO SERVE YOU BETTER

SENIORS DAY DISCOUNT

5% OFF

EVERY TUESDAY &
THURSDAY

VISIT US

BRAMPTON

Hwy 410 & Queen St.
150 West Dr., Unit 18
905-457-6565

BURLINGTON

Fairview St & Walkers Line
1-3500 Fairview St.
905-639-7580

DANFORTH

Danforth & Carlaw
568 Danforth Ave.
416-465-9998

EAST SCARBOROUGH

Lawrence & Markham
3434 Lawrence Ave. E.
416-289-0808

ETOBICOKE

Islington & Queensway
1000 Islington Ave., Unit 3
416-259-5197

LEASIDE

Leaside Village
95 Laird Drive
416-422-0505

MARKHAM

McCowan & Hwy 7
8567 McCowan Rd.
905-209-7474

MISSISSAUGA

Dixie & Dundas
1425 Dundas St. E. Unit 1
905-361-1020

NORTH YORK

Bathurst & Sheppard
588 Sheppard Ave. W.
416-398-2444

OAKVILLE

Hwy 403 & Dundas St. W.
2501 Hyde Park Gate, Unit C2
905-829-0999

PICKERING

Brock Rd. & Kingston
1725 Kingston Rd., Unit 14
905-239-7922

RICHMOND HILL

Yonge & Elgin Mills
10520 Yonge St., Unit 20
905-884-8771

SCARBOROUGH

Parkway Mall
85 Ellesmere Rd., Unit 1
416-510-8576

SOUTH SCARBOROUGH

Eglinton Town Centre
8 Lebovic Ave., Unit 3B
416-750-7979

STOCKYARDS

Stock Yards Village
1980 St. Clair Ave. W., Unit C109
416-902-7750

WEST OAKVILLE

Dorval & QEW
210 North Service Rd. W.
905-815-1118

WHITBY

Dundas & Thickson Rd.
80 Thickson Rd. S, Unit 3
905-444-9500

healthyplanetcanada.com

LIVE LIFE HEALTHY