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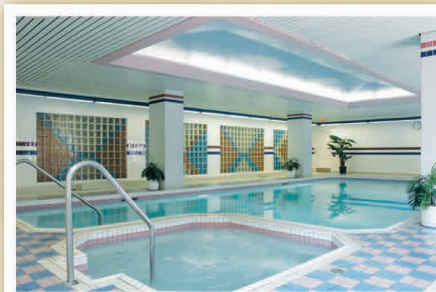
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## From the Publisher

Publisher



(Continued from our springplay! 2014 issue; to read part one visit [pinkplaymags.com](http://pinkplaymags.com) to download our previous issue.)

**With WorldPride coming to Toronto only mere weeks away, anticipation is high for the glitter, the parties, the fabulous performances, the human rights conference, the parades, and so much more.**

WorldPride is about our global pride in being brothers and sisters of a big LGBTQ+ community. It is the reason I began in the previous issue of PinkPlayMags telling you my own personal story as a gay man born in Kuwait, to a Lebanese/Italian family. In this edition I will talk a little more about childhood and teen years, and arriving in Canada at the age of 19.

While living in Kuwait, our summers consisted of a ton of travel. We visited many of the Arabic countries, from Lebanon, to Egypt, Iraq, Syria, and Jordan. However, my favourite spots for vacationing, which we visited many times, were Greece and England.

Greece to me was magical. I always found it to be incredibly beautiful, great vibe of the people, and so very very sexy (of course as a gay teen boy I didn't have the chance to do much about the sexy part). Greece taught me how people can live carefree, laugh a lot, and party on patios, at theme parks, and in movie theaters, until the sun rises. I haven't been back since we came to Canada, but I always say that is one country I would love to retire to.

England was all about culture, a lot of rain, very elegant, and my teen self spending endless hours on a park bench, under an umbrella, on cloudy days, reading one book after another, and dreaming about my life and what I wanted to do or be when I grew older.

What I wanted to do was the minute that I hit 19 years old, was move to Canada where we had some of our uncles living. I wanted to be part of the LGBTQ+ community.

I was an avid reader of everything, and I read much about what was happening in North America, the gay rights movement, Stonewall, San Francisco, the '70s, Harvey Milk, the Toronto Bathhouse Raids, and more.

I wanted to be part of that; I wanted to discover a community that I could finally and truly belong to.

So the decision was made to move to Toronto, where I would go to college to continue my education. I have always wanted to be in media and advertising, and Toronto had some great opportunities for that. Plus it sounded like a lovely city and was known worldwide. My family decided to move as well. Until then, I had not come out to them yet. I did so about a year after our arrival, and am thrilled to say they truly surprised me. Growing up I always thought once they found out about my sexual orientation they would disown me, I mean come on we're talking a family that is Catholic, Lebanese, Italian. The odds weren't stacking up in my favour.

I have an incredibly loving and supportive family. As you read in this and the last issue, I am a product of many influences, cultures, and backgrounds. I am a blessed guy.

Toronto was all what I imagined it to be. It has given me education, a country that I feel I belong to, and a life that I dreamt of while sitting on those park benches in England.

The LGBTQ+ community became home for me. I got immersed in it, I got involved, and I had a wonderful career in media for 27 years, along with friendships, romance, laughter, and good times. More importantly it has given me a chance to make difference by joining my community in the fight for our rights and acceptance.

Many people will join us for WorldPride from around the world. People who don't have the community we have here, or the freedom that we enjoy and sometimes take for granted. This year has been especially challenging for our brothers and sisters globally. Let's welcome them all to our town with open arms and a big Canadian smile. Let's share our stories and our history with them, with hope that we inspire them to fight for what is rightfully theirs: the right to be respected, and to live happy and safe lives.

To those visiting Toronto, I truly hope your stay is a pleasant one, and that you even in a small part get to experience the Toronto LGBTQ+ community that I fell in love with years ago.

Happy WorldPride 2014!

**Antoine Elhashem**  
**[publisher@pinkplaymags.com](mailto:publisher@pinkplaymags.com)**



# summerplay!

**Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, Leather, and Queer  
Community Seasonal from PinkPlayMags  
Free • Summer 2014**

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### COVER:

***WorldPink... The World Is Ours***

**Cover Photography** Cat Grant

**Concept & Direction:** Antoine Elhashem

### On the Cover:

**Kinnon Mackinnon, 29 yrs**

Kinnon is a transman powerlifter. He will be competing  
August 2014 at the Gay Games in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Debbie Cerullo, 43 yrs**

A former competitive gymnast & dancer, Debbie is a grade  
school teacher & Naturopath. She continues her love of  
sports by playing in both women's soccer & ball hockey  
leagues.

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## From the Editor

# Editor



**WorldPride is here! Picture me yelling "YAAAAYYYYY!" while waving my arms frantically in the air like Kermit the Frog on *The Muppet Show*. He's been my hero ever since he sang "The Rainbow Connection." (If you have no idea what I'm talking about, what is wrong with you?! Seriously, go right now and look up *The Muppet Show* on YouTube!)**

We're hosting the world for Toronto's biggest, bestest bash of the year. How exciting! And judging from all the talent that will grace the various stages, to the brilliant minds that will participate in the Human rights Conference, there will be much to do, many new things to experience and a horde of LGBTQ+ people from around the globe to meet. Put on your best smile and ready your warmest hug.

Between our covers we've got a great overview of the festival. Jeffrey introduces us to some of the spectacular entertainment on deck (page 23), Andrea speaks to Brenda Cossman on what we can look forward to during the three-day Human Rights Conference (page 10) and Kelly pens an ode to Melissa Etheridge (page 17). A new writer to our pages, Owen does a heartfelt interview with two transgendered sex-workers in Uganda (page 13).

Read about the first ever Nuit Rose (page 38), an LGBTQ+ riff on the popular Nuit Blanche—hopefully a festival that will continue for many Toronto Prides to come. We've got the unofficial WorldPride guide as part of our "In the City" (page 54) and Bryen discovers how quaintly old-world our sister city Kingston is in our travel section (page 28).

It also gives me great pleasure to introduce our newest column: regular contributor cee sando brings you "Tops n'

Bottoms" (page 41), where she'll school you on all things fashion, just in time for the summer season.

In editing this issue there was one word that leapt out at me again and again: courage. In her column "From the Heart" (page 62) my sister, Shelley, quotes fellow yoga teacher, Nigel Walker, who sums up this powerful word so eloquently:

*"Living life from a place of courage means being willing to be vulnerable; to be seen. Courage isn't about being tough or avoiding difficult feelings. Instead, courage is found in our willingness to live fully, with no guarantees. It's speaking your truth, knowing that not everyone will accept it. It's being afraid of something and moving closer to it instead of running away. In this way, being courageous enough to be vulnerable creates space for connection, possibility and incredibly enriching life experiences."*

Each and every one of us who proudly waves the rainbow flag, who identifies as LGBTQ+ lives a life of courage. That is what we celebrate with every Pride. That is what we show the world as we host WorldPride. Courage. It brings to mind the Cowardly Lion from *The Wizard of Oz* singing, "What makes a King out of a slave? Courage! What makes the flag on the mast to wave? Courage!"

Share your courage freely and celebrate fiercely!

Happy WorldPride!

**Jeff Harrison**  
**editor@pinkplaymags.com**



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# WORLDPRIDE HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

by Andrea Houston

**F**For three days during WorldPride, activists from all around the world will come to Toronto for the international human rights conference.

The conference will bring together 170 to 180 activists and human rights defenders from more than 60 countries. It will be an historic moment for Toronto.

It's important to remember that many of the activists and delegates are coming from countries where violent homophobia is a part of daily life and for some it's inescapable. In many countries, consensual gay intimacy is actually a crime. Anti-sodomy laws, colonial relics of many penal codes around the world, still exist in more than 80 countries. In about half a dozen cases, the penalty is death.

Meanwhile, other delegates are fighting for acceptance in countries with extreme hostility from their governments, religious fundamentalism, and navigating through a changing world that, for them, appears to be going backwards for LGBTQ+ rights.

I sat down with one of the organizers of the conference, Brenda Crossman, professor of law and the director of the Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies

at the University of Toronto to chat about what we can expect from the Human Rights Conference.

**Andrea Houston:** This has been a massive conference to organize. Bring me up to speed on the planning so far.

**Brenda Crossman:** There are about 170 to 180 speakers coming from over 60 countries. We are funding 50 of them right now. The closer the conference gets, more organizations are coming forward to request that they bring someone. We expect our numbers to stay consistent.

**AH:** How did you get the word out to activists around the world?

**BC:** The process started with a call for proposals and presentations through every international network our advisory committee had connections to. We just sent out requests as far out into the ether as we could to just see what came back. What came back was over 400 proposals. We went through them all, and made suggestions. Then we did a secondary round with applications for funding. We are really trying to bring activists; people on the ground in Africa, Asia, South America. Then we had to really make some difficult decisions by ranking the top 50 or so for funding. These were

Brenda Crossman







Canadian global HIV-AIDS leader Stephen Lewis.

horrible decisions to have to make. You want to bring all the activists here.

**AH:** Tell me about some of the panels and proposals.

**BC:** We got applications from all around the world. It was really quite spectacular. We have a panel on trans rights in Asia. There's many different panels about Africa, as I expected there would be given the current climate. There is a person from Turkey doing a talk about the rights of transgender sex workers. There's a few panels on sex work. There's quite a few panels on trans issues.

We had to do a bit of outreach to the Caribbean and do more targeted requests for proposals to ensure that entire parts of the world were not being missed. We now have a panel specifically on legislation in the Caribbean. We have panels on LGBT in the media, art activism, tones of stuff on HIV. We have a lot of panels on youth and education issues. We have all the past Pride international Grand Marshals coming back this year. It's really quite remarkable.

**AH:** Are there topics or issues not covered?

**BC:** I know there's going to be the criticism from people that we left something out. It's inevitable. But as I look at this right now, I don't know what we left out. There's certainly some regions that are not well-represented. But remember, we are still getting proposals coming in. I know we have very little from the Arab world, and there's a range of reasons for that, but it looks like a panel is now coming to us.

**AH:** What will the schedule be like?

**BC:** So, as of right now, there will be seven panels happening simultaneously across all three days.



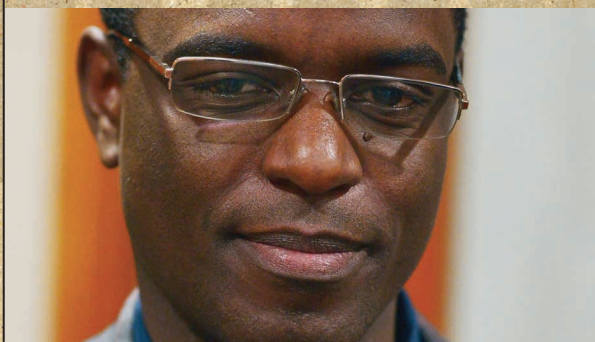
Russian activist and journalist Masha Gessen.

Then each day will have a two-hour plenary session, which will be open to the public. Those will be held in convocation hall.

Imagine how many panels will be happening simultaneously! How do you

choose between going to criminal law and sodomy challenges or a panel on trans people in Asia or a panel on the political unrest in Uganda? That's all happening at one time.

**AH:** Will there be video or audio of the panels,



Ugandan LGBTI activist Frank Mugisha.

so people can catch up on the panels they had to miss?

**BC:** It's all based on resources. Unfortunately we don't have the ability to film everything, but I am working on a way for us to capture what happens here because this is an historic moment. We can't capture it all, but we need a way to capture some. But the part that isn't capturable is what is going to happen in the hallways—the conversations and the discussions between activists.

**AH:** I'm sure there's also serious privacy and safety concerns as well, is that also something you are taking into consideration?

**BC:** Yes, we will certainly have to get signed consent forms. It has to be safe for the individuals who eventually have to go back home. Some folks are working in environments that are safer than others. Not every country is like Uganda. For instance, the sex workers in Thailand don't have the same safety concerns that folks in Africa may have.





Venezuelan trans activist Tamara Adrián.

**AH:** Is there a speaker or panel or story that you are looking forward to the most?

**BC:** I actually feel like each one of these panels are my children. We have just been growing this and fostering them, and we all feel a nurturing over these panels. I'd say that the youth and education panels are particularly near and dear to my heart, also, the activist work coming out of Asia. I'm really excited to see the developments happening in parts of the world we normally don't hear about.

**AH:** This is an international conference, but will there be any focus on domestic issues?

**BC:** This is certainly an event focused on LGBT rights around the world, but it will also speak to LGBT rights in Canada, which is imperfect. You will see quite a few Canadians on the panels, and that really demonstrates how incomplete the work still is. We have been conscious from the very beginning that this conference can't be us saying, 'Look at how great we are', and tell the rest of the world what to do. When you look at the state of trans rights and sex worker issues, Canada actually has a long way to go, and Canada can learn from the rest of the world, so that's an important piece for me.

**AH:** Is there a key question that you want to ask the international activists?

**BC:** 'How can we, as westerners, best support your struggle?' It's not always obvious. I think for us to just pile on and condemn persecution is not always the right strategy, nor is cutting off aid. So, we should be asking them, what money do they want to see cut off? What is the best way for us to help?

I also don't just want to go to them and say, 'Tell me what to do, tell me what to do.' I think it's time to imagine what would a global alliance really look like. But I do think we need guidance on what is the best strategy to support that. Having said that, activists from different parts of the world aren't going to speak with one voice, look at the boycotting of the Olympics. Some folks in Russia were in favour of it, others were against it. Imagine that—queers disagreeing!

**AH:** Are there many Canadian politicians coming to the conference, to speak or listen?

**BC:** Nothing is confirmed yet. There is interest. We are trying to be careful about how and where we put them in the program, but there is certainly interest.

**AH:** It sounds like there will be vital information for, say, John Baird to hear.

**BC:** There's different views on the John Baird question. I don't want the conference to turn into a platform for partisan politics. Also, I don't imagine that politicians at that level would come and just sit and listen to a conference for three days anyway. They are more likely to want a higher profile position, and we don't want to make it about that.

**AH:** Regardless of who is in the audience, I'm sure the activists are pleased to have the chance to tell their stories. That in itself is powerful.

**BC:** Absolutely. Just telling of stories and bearing witness to people telling stories is the most important, and most powerful, thing. It will be a truly remarkable event.

.....

*Andrea Houston is a journalist and advocate specializing in queer and trans human rights. She recently co-founded #ENDhatelaws, a coalition of activists fighting to end the criminalization of homosexuality. In 2012, she was named Honoured Dyke by Pride Toronto.*





# CLASS IS KEY TO UGANDAN LGBTI

# FIGHT



by Owen Sheppard

It's a dusty, downhill motorcycle ride into the slums of Bwaise, a few kilometres from the central business district of Uganda's capital city, Kampala. Here an estimated 300,000 working-class and unemployed people fold themselves and scarce belongings into cement-built houses each little larger than a rental storage unit. The rooms swelter under sun and their own corrugated steel roofs.

Bad Black is an activist, HIV-positive trans woman and sex-worker who has lived in a five-by-five paces Bwaise house for the past seven years. Being trans in religiously conservative Uganda has never been easy. But conditions have deteriorated in the weeks following President Yoweri Museveni's February 24, 2014 signing into law of the Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA), popularly known as the "Jail the Gays" Bill.

"Neighbours always threatened us," Bad Black explains. "When the president signed the bill, it got worse. People were celebrating on the road. We spent two weeks indoors here."

She shares the house with fellow trans woman Nature, and Bad Black's own supportive sister who poses as her straight girlfriend. The two trans women restrain their public self-expression and wear men's clothing—transphobes having burned their tighter-fitting attire on the drying line. The arrangement is meant to dupe neighbours into believing Bad Black and Nature have "quit gay life."

All the same, we cannot traverse the couple hundred metres from road to house without bearing the muttered insults of a passer-by.

"You hear, we have been abused," Bad Black announces, hopping down lane-ways laced with open sewers. Her house flooded last night and we almost cancelled the interview. Now we find her back-alley room set to rights: slab floor swept clean, property chocked up on blocks or stacked atop the gloomy cot where we perch to speak.

"[It's] 70,000 per month," murmurs Bad Black when asked the cost of rent in Ugandan Shillings. That's about USD 27.00. "With sex work, we don't earn a lot. A day, you might get



Bad Black and Nature by Owen Sheppard

5,000 [approx. USD 2.00]. For eating, you have to pay rent, me I'm on meds."

Nature sits in thoughtful silence. She too is HIV-positive.

"We used to pay the landlord three months in advance," Bad Black remembers. "We were the only ones paying that. He was homophobic, but because of our payments he was happy with us. They think *kuchus* have money," she says, using the Luganda word for "queer". "They say we're bad people, yet when they collect money from us they'll not say we're bad."

In Bwaise, as in other working-class Ugandan communities, the struggle against homophobia and transphobia seems far removed from the courtrooms and hotel conference halls of the anti-AHA legal struggle. Down in the streets, the danger of assaults, kidnappings, and disappearances are immediate and commonplace for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersexed (LGBTI) people. For Bad Black, the international media has overplayed the AHA's importance.

"It will never help us, whether it is defeated or not," she says. "The police may not arrest us, but the people on the ground started hurting us even before the Bill was tabled. Still people will hurt us."

Indeed, the confused wording and secretive process behind the AHA's passing have led many Ugandans to believe they are legally empowered to attack or kill LGBTI people. Trans people face special problems of visibility that make it hard to "go back in the closet" during troubled times.

What is more, Bad Black says the international community's response to the AHA has not adequately considered the needs of poor LGBTI people.

"Where we stay we have very many diseases, especially



malaria," she explains. "Malaria tabs are expensive. If they cut the aid, there will be no way we can get free services. Maybe other people can get free services because they are not *kuchus*, but we the *kuchus* shall suffer a lot."

The fear is shared by Geoffrey Ogwaro, Co-Coordinator of the Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law (CSCHRCL). His organization spearheads the legal struggle against the AHA.

"Aid that is very obviously going to be used by the elite in government should be cut, but aid that is clearly channelled toward the vulnerable, the needy people, should not be cut," he proposes. "A lot of this aid that passes through the government is embezzled anyway."

But the position is not universal. Emma, real name withheld, is a lesbian and activist with an LGBTI organization that was forced underground following the AHA signing. She spoke to me from hiding in a middle-income suburb of Kampala, where she is afraid to leave her house because some family members have threatened to behead her.

"We have a country [Uganda] that is saying a certain group shall not be eligible to access certain services," Emma remarks about the possibility of aid cuts to health or education. "If we're all choosing to deny rights to a people, let's all suffer the consequences."

Uganda's heavily aid-dependent economy has already felt the squeeze of international sanctions. In the month following the bill signing, the Ugandan Shilling lost almost 4.6% against the US Dollar, perhaps in response to the World Bank's February 27 announcement withholding a USD 90 million loan from the government.

These are serious blows to a country with a per capita income of USD 506.00, according to World Bank figures. In Bad Black's view, politicians incite homophobia to distract the public from economic realities shared by *kuchu* and *non-kuchu* alike.

"We have an issue of corruption, we have an issue of oil," she lists off. "We've forgotten everything. People were complaining about healthcare, but now they've diverted their minds to homosexuality."

Vincent Kyabayinze, Executive Director of East Africa Visual Arts, a human rights organization focusing on gender and sexual minorities, sees a clear political motivation behind the AHA.

"If you're going to stand for presidency, [President Museveni] will say, 'you, you're a gay man,'" he argues. "So you will go and sleep in prison for six months. By the time you're out, the campaigns are done."

But for Bad Black and Nature, the main battle against homophobia won't be waged during the next general elections slated for 2016, nor in the Constitutional Court of Uganda where on March 11 the CSCHRCL filed a petition against the AHA. Rather, the struggle will be won or lost in the streets, where poor *kuchus* live and work alongside their straight peers.

"We have tried to sensitize people," Bad Black explains, describing how she and Nature work with neighbours in Bwaise. "We used to call doctors from Mulago Hospital to do

HIV tests free of charge."

The program was open to all and operated once every three months until it was defunded. The trans women then joined a local women's theatre group, overcoming prejudice through performing talent. Bad Black and Nature began to collaborate with the women on community projects.

"Where we stay used to be very dirty," Bad Black says. "We cleaned the whole place with them. Everyone was very happy."

Nature picks up the story. "They were like, 'Eh, those gay people are there cleaning each and every thing. They're not bad people.' So some started liking us from that."

Despite widespread bigotry, sensitization efforts have borne important fruit. Bad Black relates how police once canvassed neighbours to denounce her and Nature.

"We spent seven days in custody in 2012. There's a lady there, we call her Auntie. This lady knew everything about us, but she insisted, 'You're wrongly accusing them. They just help people. They invite doctors and they carry out blood tests for HIV.'"

This kind of solidarity is hard-won and far from universal. But for Bad Black and Nature, homophobia is best fought by building cooperation around issues rooted in social class. Their approach demands support from outside Uganda, which thus far Bad Black says has been channelled into an increasingly professionalized LGBTI movement.

"[Westerners] focus only on the people they know, the big activists," she asserts. "They should try to understand the people at the grassroots."

Far from Bwaise in the city's silent suburbs, a gentle rain begins against Emma's metal roof. It will soon become a downpour under threatening skies. Hunched behind her weary smile, Emma explains why homophobia in Uganda should matter beyond both national borders and the international LGBTI community.

"Today they are starting with the LGBTI people and discussing how people should have sex," she says. "But there's going to come a time when they'll pick on another minority group. Next time they'll pick on the disabled people, next they'll go for the albinos. There has to be a stop to it."


Nature has remained quiet through much of our conversation in sunny, baking Bwaise. When she chooses to speak, it is from painful experience.

"We're all having the same blood," she observes. "The blood is red."

Owen Sheppard is a writer, journalist, and award-winning filmmaker based in Toronto and Nairobi, Kenya. Visit his website at [www.owensheppard.com](http://www.owensheppard.com) to read his in-depth report on grassroots LGBTI Uganda.







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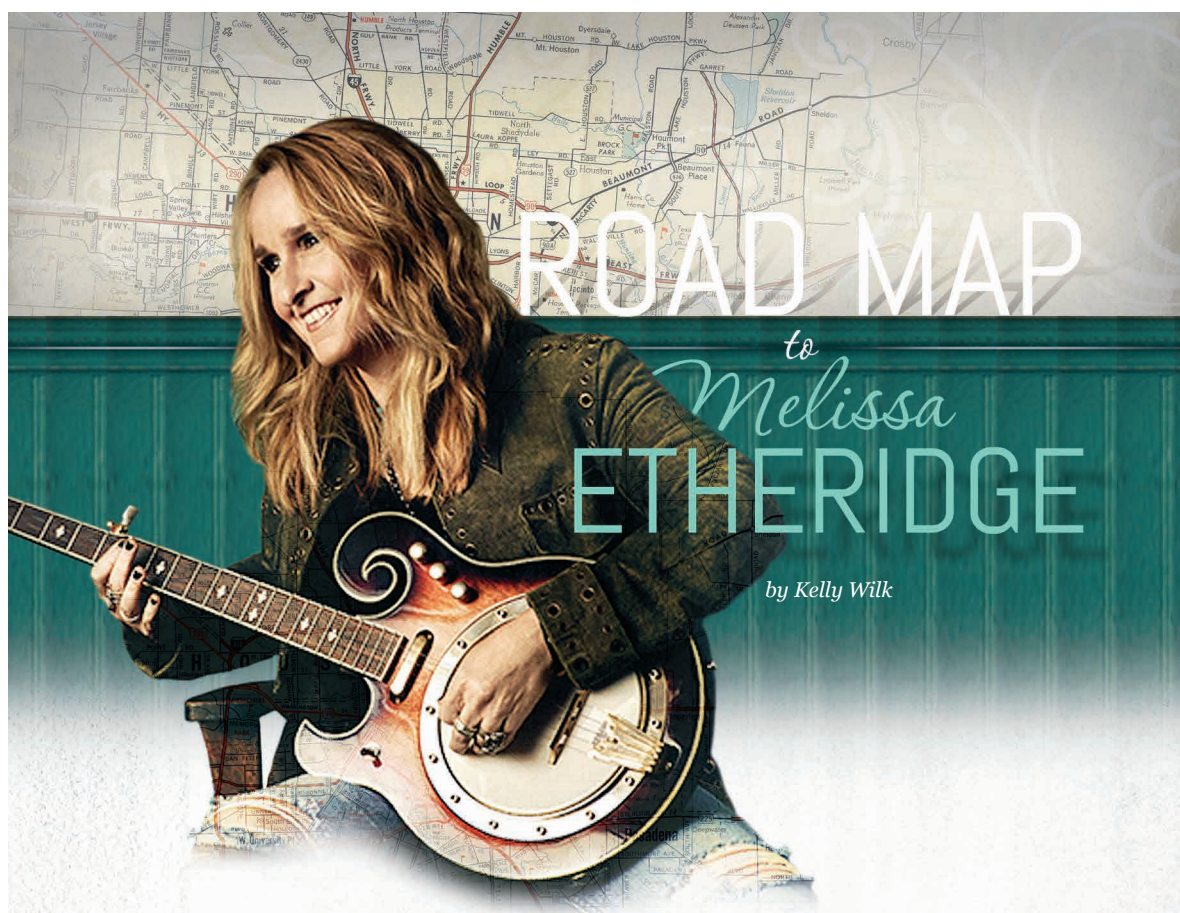
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**What's in my rear view.** When I came out in 2005 nothing made me happier than celebrating Pride. I had been in the closet since high school and doing the Dyke March felt like having hundreds of personal supporters I didn't even know. It was a monumental relief to be surrounded by scores of people who had experienced some or all of the same isolation, shame and fear I had, and now, the same joy.

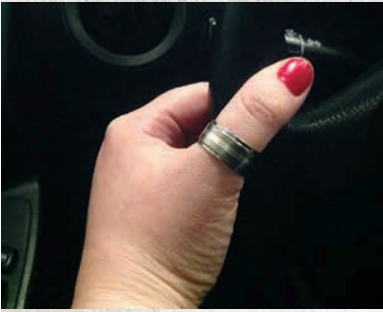
Etheridge's prominent role in this year's WorldPride has evoked a host of memories for me. What is it about artists who come into your life? I can't think of a time I was metaphorically lost without thinking about what was on the radio. My wife Kara was a hardcore Etheridge fan. On a trip to Cape Breton she had ample opportunity to sing me, "Sleep while I Drive" as I could never stay awake when I was pregnant. Listening to her voice singing was profoundly comforting. On November 11th, 2011 my wife died and this song felt like the most corporeal link I had left to her other than

my 19 month old son. When I played it at her funeral, it solidified the place Etheridge had in my heart. When I got back on the road, so to speak, I looked into the rear view at everything that was, slid Kara's titanium plated wedding ring on my left thumb dyke style and drove, with a song that was less like music and more like blood the way it moved through my veins.

### Road-trip for Rockers

Etheridge has been my soundtrack in times of loss and in times of joy. This has made me think about





the power of music. What makes us reach for it in moments of need and how does it fortify us in life? Music captures and communicates in ways words alone cannot.

Etheridge, born May 29 1961, in Leavenworth, Kansas, started playing guitar and writing her own music at 8, her first gig was at 12. The sultry, voluptuous growl to her voice was evident from the start. She listened to Bruce Springsteen, thinking, "I wanna sing, I wanna scream, I wanna stand up, I wanna you know, write, I wanna tell everybody how I feel." She also told Laurence Watts of *Pink News*, that she never missed the Oscars during high school. "It wasn't so much the Oscar I wanted, more the opportunity to talk to the world." And talk to the world she did...and got an Oscar to boot!

After a year at Berklee College of Music and gigs at Boston's piano bars, she moved to L.A. She was hired in 1984 as a songwriter for A&M Records. Island Records signed her in 1986 and in 1988 she cut a self-titled album and ticked off her first Grammy nomination (of 15) for "Bring Me Some Water."

Etheridge's understanding of the awesome power of music is a given. My interest, however, is not just that she spoke to the world, but what she said. I like to think Etheridge fell out of the womb waving a rainbow flag

and gurgling rock anthems, but her orientation was a conundrum to the music world. It wasn't until Chris Blackwell, former producer/founder of Island Records, saw her at a lesbian bar that her identity was considered. Etheridge wanted to clear everything up. She made the interesting choice to announce her orientation on the political world stage at "The Triangle Ball," in celebration of Bill Clinton's beginning of term. She felt it was important to support this coming out by releasing a second album that year which included the song "Yes I Am." Etheridge has been flapping the rainbow colours ever since!

Etheridge established herself not just as a lesbian, but a supporter of political campaigns she valued. This proved a potent concoction for her future as an artist/activist who has used her influence and music to aid a multitude of causes, not the least of which was her commitment to gay rights. Because of the homophobic response by Russian Officials during the Sochi Olympics, LGBTQ+ equality was placed on a world stage. Etheridge's response to this has been massive and I feel her involvement in WorldPride 2014 is an acknowledgement for the work she has done, and the importance she garnered in the queer community.

## The Personal is Political

The Personal is Political was a popular phrase used as a "feminist rallying cry, especially during the late 1960s and 1970s" ([www.womanshistory.about.com](http://www.womanshistory.about.com)). Given Etheridge's Joplin like proportions, I think no historical statement exemplifies her better. And her deeply soulful, gravely sound, combined with her willingness to channel her emotional experiences makes her appealing to such

“  
*It wasn't so much the Oscar I  
wanted, more the opportunity to  
talk to the world.*  
”

a diverse audience. In an interview with CNN she said “I learned very early on that I could write truths. I could write about sadness or anger, where I couldn’t actually speak it” (www.biography.com). The power of creativity combined with Etheridge’s panache for bearing her soul made her an iconic gay singer.

The release of “Scarecrow” from the album *Breakdown* in 1999, was to commemorate the torture and death of Matthew Shepard. This tragedy coincided with the anticipated arrival of her first son. Her long-time love, Julie Cypher had already given birth to a daughter, Bailey Jean (1997) and they were waiting for Beckett (1998) both were the biological children of David Crosby.

It was the artist/activist who wrote these lyrics but the mother was leading the charge. “But they tortured and burned you, they beat you and they tied you, they left you cold and bleeding, for love they sacrificed you.” I feel this song is a huge testament to the power of music and the way that it can clearly speak anguish so the world can hear it. It is a horrifying that these kind of violent and painful acts of aggression occur, but a part of the collective healing is how we bring it to light, how we remember.

Part of being proud is standing in defiance of such atrocities. We’ve made progress here in North America, but horrific homophobic events continue to take place around the world. WorldPride is about showing the world we are proud members of this larger collective, that we will continue to stand together in recognition of our human rights, and to celebrate the courage that it takes for us to be ourselves.

Etheridge and Cypher split in 2000 and Etheridge penned

a memoir *The Truth Is: My Life in Love and Music*, in 2001. She met actress Tammy Lynn Michaels (featured in the *L-Word*). The two enjoyed a commitment ceremony in 2003. Etheridge continued to allow her personal struggles into the spotlight, regardless of any criticism she might face. Yet her road was about to get infinitely more difficult as nothing gets more personal than a brush with death.

In October 2004 Etheridge was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent treatment. She had a full recovery, never letting it derail her commitment to her art and her need to speak honestly. Whatever the challenge of terminal illness, Etheridge maintains her experience was a gift, an opportunity re-prioritize her life. It was my own wife, Kara, who originally told me the story of Etheridge’s triumphant return at the 2005 Grammy Awards. Etheridge joined Joss Stone for a Janis Joplin tribute that raised the entire audience to their feet.

“She had gone through chemo, she had no hair and it was the first time she had sung since she went into recovery,” Kara told me. “I’m sure she was afraid she wouldn’t be able to do it but she gave’er anyways.” I recently watched the video again of her belting out the thunderous version of “Piece of my Heart” and when she smiled into the microphone and sang “And when you hold me in your arms I’m singing once again” my own heart split in half. One side was beating for Etheridge; the other for my wife.

Etheridge continued to lead the parade with the phenomenal anthem “I Run for Life” written for “Race for the Cure” and lent her support to a Hurricane Katrina MTV telethon with “Four Days.” She also became the mother of twins, carried by Michaels, born in 2006. Etheridge followed another personal, political

“  
*Part of being proud is standing in  
defiance of such atrocities.*  
”



directive producing the Oscar winning song “I Need to Wake Up,” for Al Gore’s environmental documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*. I find it beautifully ironic, that Etheridge accepted an Oscar for best song in 2007, on a world stage thanking her lesbian wife and her four children. Just being herself she unconsciously represented same sex marriage. Anyone who is out and/or visibly queer can automatically be a political statement—a “personal political” statement, but political none the less.

## The Road Less Travelled

In 2010 *Fearless Love* hit the airways. She went on to debut as a talk show host on The Melissa Etheridge Radio Show, winning her a Gracie Award. In 2012 Etheridge released her eleventh album, *Fourth Street Feeling*. However the moment that in my mind put love and the personal politic back in the headlines was her 2014 “Uprising of Love.”

Russian officials blatantly disregarded the Olympic charter Principle 6 against discrimination and Vladimir Putin denied this allegation saying it was just not couth to talk about homosexuality or support it around young Russian citizens. I believe the phrase was, “but stay away from the children.” What a way to spread hate. It has been compared to the 1936 Olympic Games in Germany that allowed Hitler’s views onto the world stage. Etheridge stewed over how to speak out against this and in true form, wrote a song.

“I’m going to rise above, and going to believe that love is love.” Her “Uprising” message to the queer community of Russia was one of encouragement. Scores of people, including a celebrity coalition stood behind it. Proceeds went directly to The Russian Freedom Fund. And really is it so surprising that love in all its various forms is at the heart of this movement? When I think about love and all the ways it has changed my world and the way I feel about myself, I am so grateful.

Etheridge has been the perfect musical companion, to inspire my own voice and power. “A sacred force created me, in that I had no choice. Gave me my heart

and who it loves, my arms to hold gave me a voice.” Having a voice gives you an opportunity to speak the truth and the truth is, we are who we are, we have inalienable human rights to live our lives. WorldPride is an opportunity to remind the world of that, and remind ourselves.

Etheridge’s passion and conviction have not only made her a phenomenal artist and activist, but a role model and leader who inspires hope. And who better to take back that world stage for the opening celebration of WorldPride 2014 on June 20th at Nathan Phillips Square. You can bet your sweet ass I will be there to raise my voice! Until then I am going to hit cruise control and say, Melissa, thank you for keeping me company in the dark. I will continue singing “My intentions are true, won’t you take me with you, and baby you can sleep while I drive.”

.....  
*Kelly Wilk is a freelance writer, Reiki Master and Reflexologist ([www.feetmatter.ca](http://www.feetmatter.ca)). She is also a woman processing the death of her 35 year old wife. To heal she has invented a seriously disheveled super hero version of herself and started a blog. To read her soggy Thursday capers go to [www.captaingrief.com](http://www.captaingrief.com) and be ready to laugh and cry along with her!*



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# worldpride Headliners

When it comes to entertainment, there is something for every taste. Over the course of the ten day festival, WorldPride will present musical genres from rock, pop, dance, hip hop, R&B, country, traditional, folk, retro, disco all live on ten free-to-attend, all-ages, open-air stages. I grabbed a moment with the maestro responsible for bringing together this all-star line-up for the inside scoop: WorldPride's Arts & Culture Manager, TK.

*by Jeffrey Luscombe*

## Melissa Etheridge

"We have been pursuing Melissa for a number of years," says TK, "but the scheduling just didn't work. So we were thrilled that Melissa could come this year and be a part of WorldPride. She has a new album coming out and a great new song, "Uprising of Love." It's like the planets aligned this year."

The Grammy-winning singer, known for hits such as "Come To My Window" and "I Want to Come Over," will be performing at the WorldPride 2014 opening ceremonies in **Nathan Phillips Square on June 20**



**at 7:30pm.** And it's going to be huge.

Ms. Etheridge is looking forward to sharing her anthem "Uprising of Love," with 100% of all proceeds from the song going toward the Russia Freedom Fund which contributes to LGBT activists in Russia.

"The lyrics of 'Uprising of Love' came from such a personal and passionate spot in my soul and I'm more than excited to share this anthem with the world," says Etheridge. "Love is intangible and unpredictable, but it's the one feeling that is universally experienced and desired by all."



## Tegan and Sara

Tegan and Sara will be performing at the closing ceremonies on **June 29 at Yonge-Dundas Square at 5pm** following the parade. Their 13-year career has seen them build an avid global following, and after winning Single of the Year, Group of the Year and Pop Album of the Year at the 2014 JUNO Awards, the two sisters from Calgary are the perfect choice to close the WorldPride.

"How amazing is Tegan and Sara?" asks TK. "We are really pleased to present them at WorldPride. They are queer community members and we are very excited to present this free show. That's non-ticketed event. Zero dollars. That's free free free!"

And the talented twins are geared up for WorldPride. "We attended our first Toronto Pride in 1999! YUP—we're THAT old!" says Tegan Quin. "Since then we have had the pleasure of celebrating Pride in Toronto with friends too many times to count. But this year is extra special! It's WorldPride in Toronto! And WE are going to be there. Not just wandering around drinking lemonade and checking out the festivities this time. We're actually playing this year! We couldn't be more proud to be involved! See you there!"

"It's funny," says TK, "before we announced that Tegan and Sara were coming to WorldPride we were being bombarded with angry emails from people saying 'What's wrong with you? Why haven't you booked Tegan and Sara?' and people were demanding that they be part of WorldPride. So it was great when we finally made the announcement. Everyone is thrilled! But, like all these great WorldPride events, we strongly encourage people to get to these spaces early."

## k.d. lang

Canadian JUNO Award and Grammy Award winning singer k.d. lang, known for hits including "Constant Craving" and "Miss Chatelaine," will perform at the **WorldPride Awards Gala on June 25**, a fundraiser in support of Camp fYrefly. Hosted by Canadian



philanthropist Salah Bachir, this ticketed event will honour global leadership with the presentation of the WorldPride Awards.

Lang, who came out as a lesbian in a June 1992 article of *The Advocate* is a gay icon and champion of LGBT causes. "I'm proud to be a Canadian because we embrace and celebrate diversity," says lang. "I will be celebrating WorldPride

2014 in June and I'm inviting everyone to join the festivities in Toronto. It is an honor to be part of this international festival that brings people together from around the globe. Let our diverse freak flags fly!"

"We are so pleased to stand together to honour leaders and future leaders in the LGBT community," says Kate Daniels, WorldPride Gala Co-Chair. "This once-in-a-lifetime event helps shine a light on Canada's position in promoting the importance of LGBT rights as human rights."

Joining k.d. lang for the WorldPride Awards Gala will be comedian, jazz vocalist, Broadway diva, actor and writer Lea DeLaria, who was described as "every inch a star" by the *New York Times*.

For Awards Gala ticket information see the WorldPride website.

## Carole Pope

Multiple JUNO award winning Canadian singer-songwriter Carole Pope is a veteran and a favourite performer at Toronto Pride who returns to perform at "Retro World" on **Bud Light South Stage June 27**.

Pope is one of the first openly lesbian entertainers in the world to achieve mainstream fame, first as a member of the band Rough Trade (who's hits include the smoldering sexy classics "High School Confidential" and "All Touch") and then as a successful solo artist. For WorldPride 2014 Pope will debut songs from her forthcoming EP *Lesbians in the Forest*.

"I'm excited to be performing at WorldPride in Toronto," says Pope, "because over the years I've watched the city evolve into a leader in North America in furthering the rights of GLTBQ people."

## Parachute Club

Joining Carole Pope for “Retro World” is one of Canada’s favourite Canadian ‘80s bands, Parachute Club, who will return to Pride on **June 27 on Bud Light South Stage**. The Parachute Club has a new remix of “Rise Up” coming out in June, along with a remix of “At the Feet of the Moon.” Their appearance at the festival will be celebrating the anniversary of the very first public performance of “Rise Up,” which took place on a Pride Toronto stage in 1983.

On the night of this performance WorldPride will also be honouring Lynne Fernie, filmmaker and lyricist of “Rise Up.” Lead singer, Lorraine Segato also has a new solo project, *Invincible Decency*, slated for release in autumn 2014.

“Berlin featuring Terri Nunn will also be appearing at the show,” says TK. “The band recently reformed and is out on the road supporting their very danceable newest album *Animal*. We’re looking forward to a night of favourites and brand-new songs shared with artists whose music has inspired thousands of LGBTQ2SA\* folks around the world.”

## Carly Rae Jepsen

“Pop Goes Pride,” a special presentation featuring Carly Rae Jepsen. Hosted by MTV’s Lauren Toyota and Phoebe Dykstra, “Pop Goes Pride” will take over **TD Wellesley Stage on June 27** to kick off the WorldPride 2014 Streetfair.

“We are so excited to welcome multiple JUNO Award Winner Carly Rae Jepsen to our roster of world-class Canadian talent performing at WorldPride,” says TK. “Carly Rae’s talent and positive energy—not to mention her very public support of LGBT communities—make her an excellent addition to our growing list of superstar headliners.”

“As an artist who believes in equality for all people, it is an absolute honour to perform at WorldPride,” says Jepsen. “I’m proud to be a citizen of a country that has been a leader in marriage equality and gay rights.”

## Deborah Cox

The **Official WorldPride 2014 Toronto Opening Ceremony on June 20** will also feature Deborah Cox, in a co-production with the TD Toronto Jazz Festival, bringing its 27 years of artistic arrangement together with WorldPride 2014, producing the most fabulous kickoff Pride Canada has ever seen. Deborah Cox will also perform a full concert experience at **TD Wellesley Stage on June 28**.

Cox is JUNO winning and Grammy Award nominated Canadian R&B singer-songwriter and actress. She has had 12 number-one hits on Billboard’s Hot Dance Club Play chart and her 1998 song, “Nobody’s Supposed to Be Here,” spent a record 14 weeks on *Billboard’s* Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Singles & Tracks.

“Miss Cox is fantastic,” says TK, “and a great supporter of Pride

Toronto. She supported Toronto throughout our bid for WorldPride 2014 and even went with us to Florida as part of our presentation. She helped us win. So it was our pleasure to book her again for WorldPride.

## Martha Wash

Martha Wash, “The Original Weather Girl,” whose voice will rain down timeless pop and dance classics will perform at the **OLG Central Stage on June 29** where attendees will also find crowd stopping International DJ’s David Morales and Quentin Harris.

Wash has been responsible for some of the top-selling, most recognizable pop hits of the ‘80s and ‘90s. Besides the gay pop classic, “It’s Raining Men,” you can hear Wash’s incredible voice highlighted in C&C Music Factory’s “Sweat (Everybody Dance Now)” and Black Box’s “Strike It Up.”

“It is not Ms. Wash’s first time at Pride Toronto,” says TK. “And we are so pleased she is returning for WorldPride. Everyone loves that classic giant voice. From beginning to end she’s electrifying!”





## David Morales & Quentin Harris

Grammy winning, American house music DJ David Morales will be performing for his second time at WorldPride on **June 28 at the OLG Central Stage**.

"David Morales is a house music innovator," says TK. "We are thrilled to have him back to Pride. Every one of his shows is a banger!"

Opening for David Morales is Quentin Harris, a New York City-based house music producer and DJ.

## Crystal Waters, Hercules and Love Affair, Neon Hitch

Looking to dance? Then head down to TD Wellesley Stage the night of June 28.

"Dancing in the streets is a political act for the LGBTQ2SA\* communities," says TK. "It is an expression of joy, of freedom—freedom often denied to us in communities and countries all around the world."

Crystal Waters is an American singer best known for her string of domestic and international number one dance hits in the 1990s, including her 1991 signature smash, "Gypsy Woman (She's Homeless)," which garnered her three American Music Award nominations.

Hercules and Love Affair is a musical project from New York based DJ Andy Butler with hits that include "Blind" and "You Belong." "Hercules and Love Affair is a fantastic collective," says TK. "They are an incredible dance band appearing for the second time at Pride."

This will be British dance-pop diva Neon Hitch's first time at the festival; she is probably best known for her hit "Poisoned with Love," which appeared in MTV's *Teen Wolf*.

## Chely Wright

There is always a healthy helping of country, traditional, and folk music at Pride in Toronto, and WorldPride 2014 will have even more at the **Bud Light South Stage on the afternoon of June 28th at 2pm**.

"I think they do us a disservice by thinking all we listen to is disco," TK says. "We have a pretty robust country lineup, everything from traditional to bluegrass. We're calling it the 'Gay Ole Opry'."

Academy of Country Music Award winner, Chely Wright is known for huge country hits like "Single White Female" and "Shut Up and Drive." In May 2010, Chely Wright became one of the first major country music performers to publicly come

out as lesbian with the release of her Lambda Literary Award-Nominated memoir *Like Me*.

"We are so pleased to have out and popular country artists like Chely Wright, Amanda Rheaume, Steve Grand and Mark Jacob join us for WorldPride 2014," says TK. "Our stories connect us across borders and generations, and these artists are sure to deliver with powerful story telling, strong vocals, and dynamically strummed guitar."

## Steve Grand

Country singer Steve Grand will be performing at the **Opening Ceremonies in Nathan Phillips Square on June 20**. Grand, one of America's first openly gay country singers became an internet sensation in 2013 when his self-funded music video, "All-American Boy," went viral on YouTube. Now, with almost three million views, Grand has become a bona fide country star. *Buzzfeed* placed the video on its list of the "24 Most Brilliant Music Videos from 2013," and *Out* magazine named Grand to its annual "OUT 100" list of the year's most compelling LGBT people.

"Grand is a young beautiful gay man," TK says. "And he is sensational!"

For ten days, Toronto will be completely transformed, set across ten open air stages, turning parks into performance arenas, and incorporating the major arts and culture institutions and organizations from across the city. Last year's Pride Week played host to more than 200 artists from Canada and around the world, and welcomed more than 1.2 million guests, making it larger than Chicago's Lollapalooza and rivaling Calgary's Stampede for the title of Canada's largest festival.

"WorldPride connects all the Prides from around the world with one voice," says TK. "We are all in the struggle together. Look at how the city and institutions have come on board to support us with funding. From Scarborough to Etobicoke and from Peel and York regions we will have events. It has been a lot of work but we have a fantastic team. We think about the end game—to give two million people a great time and have this incredible experience they aren't going to forget. Maybe for some people it will be a life-changing event. Can you imagine what it would be like if WorldPride was your first pride. How amazing would that be?"

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*Jeffrey Luscombe is a freelance writer and author of the novel* *Shirts and Skins*. *He is also the creator and author of The Gay Groom blog* ([www.jeffreyluscombe.com](http://www.jeffreyluscombe.com)).





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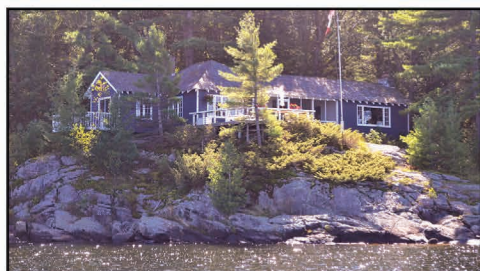
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# Kingston

ONTARIO

*Quintessentially Queer*

*by Bryen Dunn*



For those seeking a quick escape, Kingston, Ontario offers colonial charm within a cosmopolitan city—just the right mix of culture, cuisine, and coiffure. In addition, there are plenty of queer themed events happening including Kingston Pride, Queen's Pride, and the ReelOut Queer Film and Video Festival ([www.reelout.com](http://www.reelout.com)). Given its central location within the Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa triangle, this makes for a great getaway whether it's for a night, a weekend, or longer.

Dominated by Queen's University, the demographics change dramatically during the summer when students typically leave and the tourists arrive. The main downtown shopping and dining area is Princess Street, which is filled with plenty of cafés,

## *Arts and Culture*

The arts also play an integral part of the city's composition, with the historic Grand Theatre ([www.kingstongrand.com](http://www.kingstongrand.com)) often featuring campy productions. Recently *A Beautiful View*, written

*“For those seeking a quick escape, Kingston, Ontario offers colonial charm within a cosmopolitan city”*

independent shops, restaurants, and bars. While there's not currently a gay bar in the city, the Sleeping Goat Café proudly displays the rainbow flag year round, and is a great place to hang, meet the locals, and get inside information on what's happening around town.

There are many things Kingston is well known for, many of which are based around politics and prisoners. The historic Fort Henry is an iconic fortress that dominates the skyline on the opposite shore of the river ([www.forthenry.com](http://www.forthenry.com)). Originally constructed for the War of 1812, the present day location was built during the 1830's as a surveillance watch post for American troops. It was later used to hold POW's before becoming a National Historic Site of Canada, and a top visitor attraction for the city. Today the site offers daily tours, special events, and one of the most unique dining experiences on Kingston's largest waterfront patio. As well, this summer a new series of wine tasting events will be taking place at the Battery Bistro.

The recent closure of “The Pen” means this historic complex is up for discussion as to how it will be repurposed. Word has it that the waterfront will be opened to the public, and the remainder of the buildings could become retail or even hotel space. The city is easy discovered by foot, bike, trolley, or even helicopter. There are currently over 20 National Historic Sites located in the region, and several museums worth visiting, including the Penitentiary Museum which takes a historical look at Canada's Federal penal system.

by gay Canadian playwright Daniel MacIvor was presented, which was followed one evening by a symposium organized by Theatre Kingston Artistic Director, Brett Christopher. The symposium brought together community members to share stories and discuss the LGBTQ friendliness of the city. Kingston musicians Kris and Dee were invited as panellists. The openly gay folk-pop duo were married in 2005 and have been writing and performing as a duo since 2007. They have two summer gigs coming up in the city. The first on June 21st is at the annual Skeleton Arts Festival ([www.artskingston.ca/index.cfm/skeleton-park-arts-festival](http://www.artskingston.ca/index.cfm/skeleton-park-arts-festival)), a nine-day multi-disciplinary outdoor arts event, and the second is a more intimate gig on July 31st on the outdoor courtyard of Pan Chanco Bakery and Café.

The city fully embraces its artistic community, showcasing works in museums and galleries, theatres, and outdoor festivals. While some may cater specifically to the tourists, there are several independent spaces and productions to be found off the beaten path as well. The J.K. Tett Centre ([www.tettcentre.org](http://www.tettcentre.org)) is set to re-open this summer as the Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning, a unique destination that brings together artists, students, and the community. Developed in collaboration between the City and Queen's University, this arts cluster will also feature the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts, which will include a recital hall and theatre, rehearsal space, a screening facility and classrooms.

## *Summer and Pride*

This year, Kingston Pride ([www.kingstonpride.ca](http://www.kingstonpride.ca)) is celebrating its 25th anniversary with two weeks of programming throughout



the city, between May 30th and June 15th. Planned events include a Gender Illusion Contest to choose Mr. and Miss Kingston Pride, as well as bingo, movie screenings, a theatre presentation, comedy show, boat cruise, village fair, and of course, a parade and plenty of drag. In addition to Kingston's Pride events, there are several communities in the region that have also recently launched their own pink infused summer events. The third annual Summer Solstice: Pride in the 1000 Islands takes place the weekend of June 20th at Joel Scone Heritage Park in Gananoque ([www.prideinthe1000islands.com](http://www.prideinthe1000islands.com)). It will include a drag hosted bus tour of the region, a theatre production of *She Loves Me*, a *Rocky Horror Picture Show* themed boat cruise, and a staged reading of a new Canadian play, *Bed and Breakfast*, a comedic look at a gay couple who inherit a family home in a quiet tourist town. On Saturday the 1000 Islands hosts the only Pride Flotilla Parade in Canada, followed by an afternoon of entertainment on the waterfront. The more energetic bunch can also join the morning Pride Ride, and cycle their way over from Kingston. As well Brockville Pride holds their week-long festivities July 12th to 19th, and Belleville's Pride in the Park happens on July 5th at West Zwicks Centennial Park.

Other summer events to consider are the Limestone City Blues Festival ([www.kingstonblues.com](http://www.kingstonblues.com)), which takes to the streets, patios and nightclubs each August. The following month brings world-class authors in for Writer's Fest ([www.kingstonwritersfest.ca](http://www.kingstonwritersfest.ca)), celebrating Kingston's place as Canada's most literary town, home of the first novel, the first cookbook, and the first mystery thriller. The city also boasts Canada's longest continually running farmer's market at Springer Market Square right behind City Hall, where Confederation was first celebrated on July 1st, 1867.

## History and Sir John A. Macdonald

Kingston cherishes its place in history as the First Capital of a United Canada and the limestone-lined streets make it easy to step back in time. Sir John A. Macdonald's upcoming Bicentennial in 2015 will bring forth several initiatives in honour of Canada's first Prime Minister and the Father of Confederation. Visitors can already begin their homage with the "In Sir John A's Footsteps" walking tour that visits Bellevue House where he resided, City Hall where several prominent paintings hang, City Park where a monument is erected in his honour, and several other significant points of interest. In addition, true historians should check out his gravesite at Catarqui Cemetery where an annual memorial service is held on June 6th, the day of his death. Many locals also gather at

his monument on his birthdate of January 11th, to sing "Happy Birthday", "O Canada" and "God Save the Queen."

Well known for his affection to booze, there's even a placard in an alley outside the Kingston Brewing Company



([www.kingstonbrewing.ca](http://www.kingstonbrewing.ca)) annotating it as a favourite place for MacDonald to relieve himself after imbibing at the local watering holes. Future plans include a City Hall retrospective, a collection of public art projects, and the development of additional Sir John A. Macdonald-themed exhibits, programs and events.

The city is an aquatic playground, ideally situated at the confluence of the Cataraqui River, St. Lawrence River, and Lake Ontario. There's also the nearby Rideau Canal with its series of locks that can be traversed all the way to Ottawa. This makes for another unique way of discovering history. Daily boating excursions are offered by 1000 Island Cruises, from the 90-minute Discovery Cruise to the longer three hour Heart of the Islands Cruise ([www.1000islandscruises.ca](http://www.1000islandscruises.ca)). There are also evening Sunset Discovery Cruises, Lunch and Dinner Cruises, as well as regular themed event cruises offering everything from live bands to DJ dance parties. The company will also book private charters and wedding cruises, and have hosted a same sex wedding in the past. Another suggestion is to take a short 20 minute free ferry ride to Wolfe Island, home to quaint villages, amazing cycling, and a fantastic summer music festival ([www.wolfeislandmusicfestival.com](http://www.wolfeislandmusicfestival.com)).

## Wining and Dining

When it comes to food, it's a diner's paradise with literally hundreds of fine restaurants to choose from, and most offering some form of outdoor seating in the summer months. A few noted recommendations are Le Chien Noir Bistro ([www.lechiennoir.com](http://www.lechiennoir.com)), offering French bistro classics and modern farm-to-table comfort foods. Another noted Kingston institution is Chez Piggy ([www.chezpiggy.com](http://www.chezpiggy.com)), tucked away in

a tiny courtyard in the centre of downtown that's reminiscent more of Europe than North America. Opened in 1979 by Zal Yanovsky, the former Lovin' Spoonful guitarist and singer, the restaurant continues to offer an experience that blends grace and gusto, taste and imagination. Their menu continues to fascinate the locals and attract the tourists.

Located within the Delta Waterfront Hotel, Aqua Terra by Clark is definitely worth a visit ([www.aquaterrabyclark.com](http://www.aquaterrabyclark.com)). Opened by Clark Day, a local legendary chef, entrepreneur, and all around nice guy that some have called "a bear", he truly believes in the buy local ethics that are so common these days. The spectacular waterside views make this the perfect spot for beginning the day with breakfast, a restful respite for lunch, or a lingering dinner watching the sunset. The menu consists of locally sourced meats, poultry, fish, and dairy products, all prepared and presented

in a deliciously tasteful manner. Prix-Fixe options are available for both lunch and dinner, and most anything can be paired with either an Ontario VQA wine from nearby Prince Edward County, or a significant international selection. The Sunday Brunch is also worth the

indulgence. Another morning suggestion that offers a unique Kingston experience are the 1950's deco Morrison's Diner, a popular hangout for students and the hung-over crowd.

One must-stop thirst quencher is the Kingston Brewing Company, which is Ontario's oldest brew pub and Canada's oldest wine-producing pub. Beers, wines, ciders and sodas are all made on the premises. Walking through the front door is like walking into a beer museum, with memorabilia and photos displayed throughout.

The building itself is an 1800's-era brick and stone originally used as a telegraph office, and the original vaults are still in use today. Food is pub standard with added unique twists and beer often used in many of the



recipes. An outdoor courtyard and street-front patio are most inviting in the hotter summer months.



Entrepreneur Paul Fortier is the man behind Jessup Food and Heritage ([www.foodandheritage.com](http://www.foodandheritage.com)), which operates Battery Bistro at Fort Henry and Renaissance Event Venue. His latest addition is the Sir John A Pub ([www.sirjohna.ca](http://www.sirjohna.ca)), which boasts having the largest selection of draft beers, Scottish single malts, and blended whiskies in the downtown core. The Scottish style pub was once the law office of Sir John A. Macdonald, and today reflects that bygone 19th century era style making it the perfect spot to gather, gab, and grab some late night grub or weekend brunch. Fortier spent several years in Toronto where he could quite often be found at the infamous Zelda's on Church Street grabbing a pint and watching the drag shows. By default, this may make it the unofficial homo hangout in the city. Let's all raise a glass to Sir John, eh!




*Bryen Dunn is a freelance journalist based in Toronto with a focus on tourism, lifestyle, entertainment and community issues. He has written several travel articles and has an extensive portfolio of celebrity interviews with musicians, actors and other public personalities. He's willing to take on any assignments of interest, attend parties with free booze, listen to rants, and travel the world in search of the great unknown. He's eager to discover the new, remember the past, and look into the future.*

Photos by: Bryen Dunn and  
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## Hot Artist

by Andrew Vail

WorldPride 2014 Toronto is just weeks away and the city is already beginning to buzz with anticipation—and there certainly is much to anticipate. There will be hundreds of thousands of visitors and revellers from around the city and around the world celebrating, dancing, marching and joining hands in an event of global LGBTQ+ unity. They will also be dazzled by a very ambitious undertaking called Nuit Rose.

Nuit Rose is a celebration of WorldPride 2014 Toronto through local queer contemporary art. Conceived and organized by the Throbbing Rose Collective, Nuit Rose will feature an array of art, music, performances and exhibitions by dozens of local LGBTQ+ artists, curators and producers. “We had two things that we wanted to achieve with WorldPride that would be different from a regular Pride event,” explains event co-organizer Francisco Alvarez. “One was that events would be held across the city, and second, we wanted to populate the full ten days of the festival, not just the last three days when Church Street is closed.”

To that end, Nuit Rose will take place in two main neighbourhoods of Toronto, the Church/Wellesley Village and the burgeoning queer mecca of Queen Street West. “The original idea was to just have Queen West, but then as we talked about it more, we thought, ‘There’s going to be a lot of activity on Church Street anyway, why don’t we try to do it in the two locations,’” Alvarez continues. “That’s how the idea was born. I invited James Fowler [fellow co-organizer] and a couple of other friends to meet and see if the idea was interesting. Everybody responded really well

# NUIT ROSE

A queer contemporary art event celebrating WorldPride 2014

JUNE 21 | TORONTO

so we formed a collective of artists and curators and arts administrators.”

Among the venues participating in the Village portion of Nuit Rose will be the 519 Church Street Community Centre, both the inside space and in Cawthra Square Park, as well as partner

BIA members who will host art installations, starting June 21st. Queen West will be the bigger hub. “On Queen we have the strip from MOCCA, who will be showing a collection of Salah Bachir’s work,” elaborates Fowler. “It goes all the way down Queen Street to the Gladstone. The Gladstone traditionally does an exhibition called ‘That’s So Gay’ and this year’s will be curated by Throbbing Rose Collective member, Syrus Marcus Ware.” Fowler will also be having an exhibition of his own work in the Queen West location.

One of the many highlights will be a night-time light parade that will move along the Queen West strip. The impetus for this parade was born out of a desire to return to more organic, grassroots Pride activities. “We decided to do the night-time parade where all participants will have either costumes or be carrying

James Fowler





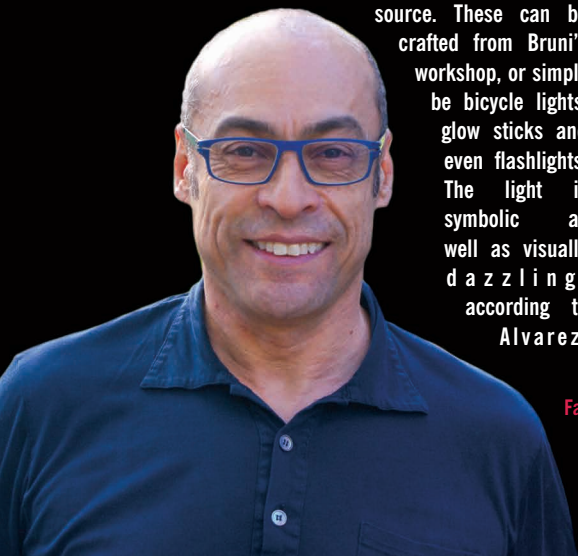
Cocoons by Joey Bruni

items that would be emitting light, that will be the theme. Joey Bruni is going to be the artistic director of the parade," explains Alvarez.

"Joey is designing these beautiful, large, light-emitting cocoons that are made out of giant willow branches and rice paper," Fowler continues. "He'll be doing an afternoon workshop that anyone can participate in to make one for themselves. Then afterwards they can stake them down in the ground in the area to become its own installation after the parade."

The idea is that anyone who wishes to join the parade may do so, bringing their own light source. These can be

crafted from Bruni's workshop, or simply be bicycle lights, glow sticks and even flashlights. The light is symbolic as well as visually d a z z l i n g , according to Alvarez.



Francisco Alvarez

"Light has always been a way of shining a path, of mentorship for new people who are coming to the community," he says. "The youth in the community who are looking for a path cut for them, or learning about their history. We really thought about some of the things that happen in other festivals, where there's lots of branding and the big trucks, things that are needed for big parades like that. This parade is really going back to the roots of what the earlier parades might have looked like."

Another exciting addition to the festivities will be the participation of the iconic Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence who, Fowler hints with a laugh, "May be doing some 'learning new vocabulary' and teaching the participants a new song, a camp song, that might be in keeping with who they are what they're about." There is even talk of a travelling art bus featuring the Sisters.

Nuit Rose promises to be a multi-dimensional, interactive and entertaining celebration of the creativity and diversity of Toronto's queer community and will no doubt be one of the highlights of WorldPride Toronto 2014. For more information, keep checking their website: [nuitrose.wordpress.com](http://nuitrose.wordpress.com).

.....  
Andrew Vail is a Toronto-based writer who has been active in the local queer scene since the early 1980s. He is currently working on the project [queers50.com](http://queers50.com).





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# TOPS *and* BOTTOMS

## Dear Dinah

by cee sando

**D**inah oh Dinah... we've been doing this on and off thing for the past few years, but I really must admit that this most recent springtime tryst we enjoyed was absolutely mind blowing! Many doubt the validity and possibility of long distance relationships, but judging from the way our passion has grown over the years, I truly appreciate the place we are at now! Thank you for reminding me of the beauty and diversity within the LGBTQ community... we are all so different, we do not all look alike and no you cannot identify if a woman is lesbian or not just by looking at her!

Earlier this month, I spent a glorious weekend in the middle of the Palm Springs desert, half naked enjoying amazing live music. No, I was not at Coachella... I was at the annual Dinah Shore Weekend! On April 3rd to 6th, I was invited to attend Mariah Hanson's Club Skirts Dinah Shore Weekend to report on fashion at the festival as I have for the past few years.

The irony of reporting on fashion at an event where festival goers opt to don as little as possible (read: pasties, bikini bottoms and not much else) is not lost on me... but I wouldn't have it any other way! After all, hanging out with thousands of half-naked women along with the likes of 'celesbians' like Tegan and Sara, Mary Lambert, Evelyn "Champagne" King, Leisha Hailey, Kate Moening, and DJs like Dirty Rich Kidd, Euphoric and Angie Vee really ain't a bad way to spend a gorgeous weekend in the middle of spring!

I was initially overwhelmed upon stepping foot on site at the Hilton Palm Springs for the first of many Pool Parties. Every year I have the same thought: how are there this many gorgeous and fun lesbians in the world, let alone, in Palm Springs? To my delight, the general uniform at

the event was 2 piece bikinis (tops optional), with a couple glamour breaks for an all-white party followed by an all-black party, where guests dressed up for a night of great musical entertainment—specifically a private concert with Miss 'Fancy' herself Iggy Azalea and rap heavyweight Eve.



**Pool party attendees.**



**Eve in concert. Photo courtesy of Club Skirts Dinah Shore Weekend.**

Though it was hard to keep track of individual outfits on the thousands of women from all over the world who attended the festivities, the numerous red carpet photo ops gave everyone an opportunity to get their 15 minutes of fame, whether they were donning a classic LBD (little black dress) and sky high heels or a perfect fitting suit or even that itsy bitsy teeny weeny yellow polka dot bikini.

Though 'vacation wear' is inevitably different from daily fashion choices, this was no sweatpants, fanny packs and flip flops affair, not that there weren't more than a few stylish fannies & flip flops spotted poolside. An interesting phenomenon I witnessed was the way that guests displayed





**Iggy Azalea on the red carpet.**

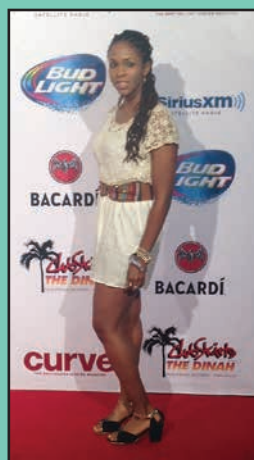
their personal style even while wearing the least clothing possible. There were the glam queens in string bikinis and stilettos; pinups in high-waisted bikini bottoms and bandeaus ornamented with head wraps, platforms and cat-eye liner; or the edgy punks with their black studded 2-pieces, creepers, sheer black cover ups, and tonnes of heavy metal chains and bangles. And of course there were the many 'natural' accessories, like tattoos.

While some queer women do, how many of us "straight-looking" women are sick and tired of hearing: "But you don't LOOK gay." A comment that leaves us all wondering what the hell looking gay entails. It seems that mainstream culture would have you believe that all queer women have short hair, and are partial to plaid (I love a great flannel myself). These ridiculous ideas are not only outdated

they are downright disrespectful! Luckily, these outdated ideas around queer-visibility are changing. Queer female-visibility on television has increased exponentially since *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *The L Word* (which admittedly has its own identity issues, but that's another article) and in shows such as *Degrassi*, *Glee*, *Chicago Fire*, *Lost Girl*, *True Blood* and *Pretty Little Liars*.

Since there are few events like Dinah Shore Weekend and none at quite this size, drawing an international audience, the weekend is always a special and unique experience. Next year The Dinah turns 25, so I can only imagine what is in store!

Arts & lifestyle writer, wardrobe stylist and unicorn cee (@theartofwor) is inspired by international travel, the ocean, runner's high, sashimi and that perfectly put together outfit.



**Me, cee, on the red carpet.**



**Moening Haley. Photo courtesy of Club Skirts Dinah Shore Weekend.**

are über fashionable, mainstream media would have you think that women who choose the company of other women are somehow lacking in taste and style; however, after peeping the many looks along with a wide variety of gender identities represented at that resort in the middle of the dessert, anyone would be thinking differently. With everything from street-wear loving studs and military boot butches to blinged-out mega high-femmes, one would be hard pressed to hold onto such a narrow and limiting notion.



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**Excerpt from *Threaded Through Time* (Book One)**

by Sarah Ettritch

"For those who were born before or after their time..."

That described Pam. She'd always felt that she'd been born too late—there was no chivalry in the world anymore.

She'd only wanted to commune with the universe while reading a "moon rhyme" in the antique book she'd purchased from the local New Age shop. She had not

expected guests—especially not Jasper and Margaret, summoned one hundred years into the future by the rhyme just as Jasper was proposing to Margaret.

Now the displaced visitors insist that they be returned to 1910, and Pam and her roommate Robin agree. But the rhyme won't work until the next moon cycle, and in the intervening month, forbidden love blooms between Pam and Jasper, and Robin and Margaret.



Still covering her face, Margaret nodded. The conversation would be excruciating, but she desperately wanted what she didn't deserve: Robin's forgiveness. "I know what you must think of me," she said, removing her hands from her face but avoiding Robin's eyes. "I would—"

Robin cut across her. "If we're going to have an honest conversation about it, let me say something first."

Certain that she was about to hear exactly what Robin thought of her, Margaret clenched her hands on her lap and braced herself. "All right."

"Okay, bear with me, because I don't know what words you're using right now for people who are attracted to members of their own sex."

"I am not a deviant!" Anger, shock, and a touch of fear had Margaret quaking inside.

"I am," Robin said.

Flabbergasted, Margaret gaped at her. How could she sit there and admit it so calmly and unapologetically? Robin? No, she couldn't be. Margaret had lived with her for a month. She would have known, spotted signs of Robin's sickness. Robin was normal—but did dress like a man. Then again, so did Pam at times, and so had many of the women strolling along the boardwalk and shopping in the crafts store. "You're lying! Why? Are you trying to provoke me into saying that I am? I'm not! Something happened to me when I travelled through time. I—" She hesitated. "I have never felt for a woman what . . ." Oh, what was the point of denying her feelings for Robin? The kiss had already betrayed her. "What I feel for you. It won't happen again."

"I'll go back to 2010 and you'll go back to normal? For your sake, I wish that were true."

"It is!"

"So up to this point, you've only ever been attracted to men?"

A reflexive and vehement *yes!* died on her tongue as the many times she'd sat bewildered and confused during those conversations with her friends came rushing back. She'd never experienced what they

described—until Robin. If she was a deviant—she wasn't, but if she entertained the hypothetical notion for a minute—why had she never been attracted to any of her girlfriends?

She balled a handful of her dress within her hands as another memory surfaced: her loneliness and despair when Ruth's family had moved to Montreal. Mother had chided her, told her that she had plenty of other friends and that she and Ruth could write to each other. But as Ruth quickly forged new friendships, her letters became few and far between, then stopped altogether. Hurt that Ruth had so easily cast her aside, Margaret's longing had turned to resentment. She'd rashly cut up Ruth's letters and thrown them into the trash, only to regret it later. But when she and Ruth had sometimes linked arms when out for a walk, Margaret hadn't reacted in the same way she had with Robin. Had she been too young? Or had she not allowed herself those feelings in her time, but had in 2010, where she'd expected—wrongly—that anything she felt and did would have no bearing on her real life back in 1910.

"I read the last entry in your diary. I know you don't feel anything for Jasper. Well, not anything you should feel for the man you're engaged to, anyway." Robin sipped her tea.

How could Robin sit there and drink tea as if they were discussing the weather? The conversation was tying Margaret in knots. "If you were a man, I would feel the same way about you. I'm—I'm attracted to you, not your—" Margaret hunched her shoulders "—body."

"I told myself that at first, too. But when I kept being attracted to only, uh, women-persons, I had to admit that the woman part was important. And if what you're saying is true, wouldn't you be attracted to Jasper? You seem to like him and enjoy yourself when you're out with him, so if it's all about the person and not whether they're a man or a woman, why aren't you attracted to Jasper?"

"Why aren't I attracted to everybody whose company I enjoy, then?" Margaret snapped. "I should be in love with half of Toronto!" Her face flushed. She'd said too much!

Robin held up her hands. "Hey, you're the one who's

claiming you're attracted to the inner person, not me."

"And you claim you're a—" No, she wouldn't use such a disparaging term for Robin. "One of those people, yet you told me you want to get married."

"I do, eventually. To a woman."

"Now you're being ridiculous!" Tears sprang to Margaret's eyes. "Think what you will, but don't laugh at me. I am sorry, I truly am. I don't know why I feel what I feel for you, just that I do. I'll understand if you never wish to see me again, but I..." She swallowed. "I would ask your forgiveness. If you could extend me that one kindness. I wish I hadn't revealed how I feel because I'd hoped you'd remember our time together fondly, but I suppose that's no longer possible. Please, forgive me, and then I'll leave you alone. You can tell Jasper and Pam that I wasn't feeling well and went to the main house."

Her soul bared, Margaret stared at her teacup and waited for Robin to absolve her of her sin and ask her to leave. Either way, she'd have to live with her indiscretion for the rest of her life. Most people regretted transgressions in their pasts. She'd regret a transgression that had taken place in the future, and one for which she could never make amends. Years after her body had been returned to the earth, Robin would think ill of her. The clothing Margaret had lovingly knitted for her wouldn't be worn and evoke cherished memories, but be discarded, an unpleasant reminder of a kiss Robin would rather forget.

When Robin leaned forward and rested her elbows on the table, Margaret wanted to flee the house so she wouldn't have to listen to words that would cut. But this may be the last time they spoke, and her desire to remain with Robin was too strong. She was truly lost.

"You don't need my forgiveness, Margaret. You didn't do anything wrong. You surprised me when you kissed me, but that's not a cardinal sin." Robin raised her hand when Margaret twisted toward her. "And I wasn't being facetious when I said I'd marry a woman. A lot's changed—will change over the next hundred years. I can marry a woman, back in 2010. And if I do get married, that's exactly what I'll do. It's also why I need to get back. Here, I'm a deviant and would

constantly have to hide who I really am. At home, I can be me. Sure, there are still those who wish we'd go away, but there will always be idiots." Her face lit up with amusement. "That hasn't changed, and probably never will."

It was as if Robin were speaking a foreign language. She could marry a woman? She didn't have to hide her deviance? But she had. "If that's true, why didn't you tell Jasper and I about yourself?"

"There was no need—or at least, I thought there wasn't. If everything went according to plan, you were only going to be with us for a short time. I honestly didn't have to hide anything. I don't conduct secret rituals in the study every night or anything like that. I didn't volunteer the information, that's all." Robin shrugged. "I had the advantage of knowing about your time, about what the attitudes are toward so-called sexual deviance. I figured you and Jasper wouldn't be comfortable sharing a home with a, uh, deviant. I didn't want to create a tense atmosphere."

Margaret admitted that if Robin had told them when they'd first arrived, they probably would have treated her rudely.

"Unfortunately you're a deviant in your time, though I wouldn't call you that."

"What would you call me?" Margaret asked. She understood why Robin raised her eyebrows. While Margaret couldn't suddenly embrace her deviance, she wouldn't deny it, either, especially when this could be her only opportunity to have a truly honest conversation about a part of herself that nobody else would ever understand or accept. She didn't want to squander it.

"A lesbian."

How queer! "The meaning of the word must have changed. We don't use it that way. Lesbianism, yes, but we don't refer to such women as lesbians."

Robin's mouth twitched. "Women like me, you mean?" Her brow furrowed. "I read about the history of the word once. Give it a few more years."

Yes, to Robin, this was history. Yet it wasn't, because the future hadn't happened yet. Was Margaret wrong



for wishing that Robin's history would ultimately become Robin's present? Her conscience shouted, Yes! It was the height of selfishness to wish such a thing for Robin, to want her trapped in a time when her kind—their kind—were, at best, mentally ill, and at worst, filthy sinners whom God and respectable folk rejected. Jasper and Pam had better find that book, and soon. "Does Pam know about you?"

"Of course."

They'd shared a bed! Was Pam feigning her attraction to Jasper, perhaps to protect herself and Robin? "Is Pam . . . like you?"

"No! Pam's as straight as they come."

"What do you mean?"

"Heterosexual." Then, when Margaret shook her head, Robin added, "Attracted to men and only men."

Oh. "Does your family know?"

Robin's face grew wary. "Yes."

Margaret recalled Robin's distress after the dinner with her father. "Is that why you and your father don't get along?"

Robin heaved her shoulders. "One of the reasons, yes."

"But you said things have changed."

"I also said there are still idiots." She waved a dismissive hand. "But if it weren't that, he'd find something else to criticize."

"What about your mother?"

"She doesn't care."

Robin sounded so bleak that Margaret wasn't sure if she meant that her mother didn't care about her deviance or her in general. When Robin drank some tea, Margaret did the same, wanting to finish it before it grew cold. She set the cup back in its saucer and tried to sort out the multitude of questions running through her mind. One in particular begged to be asked: how did Robin feel about her? Dare Margaret ask it?

Robin eyed Margaret's empty cup. "If we're to do the sensible thing, you'll go to the main house, as you said, and then never come to see me again."

Shocked and wounded, Margaret stiffened and blinked back tears. Robin would send her away? Then . . . she must not feel the same way, and Margaret was a fool. It was too late to mask her distress, but she lowered her head anyway and wiped her eyes with her hand.

"I'm thinking about what's best for you," Robin said softly.

A glimmer of hope welled within her. "Then answer one question, and answer it honestly. Do you want me to leave and never come back?" Not brave enough to face Robin, she kept her head down. But when no answer came, she looked up.

Robin stared at her, chewing her lip. Was she searching for more diplomatic words than a simple yes? Perhaps she was weighing the merits of lying to avoid hurting Margaret's feelings—after all, assuming they found the book, she'd soon be gone. Or did she want Margaret to stay, but was struggling to put aside her desire for what she believed would be best for Margaret? "Answer me honestly," Margaret said again, in case her latter guess was correct.

After what felt like an eternity, Robin sighed. "I don't want you to leave."

*Sarah Ettritch writes science fiction, fantasy, and mystery stories featuring strong female characters. She lives in Toronto.*





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## Community Cornerstones *by Karen Fulcher*



# The 519 COMMUNITY CENTRE

**I**t's hard to imagine the Village without the existence of the brown brick building at 519 Church Street with the same name as its address. Interestingly the building, built in the early 1900s, had a not-so inclusive history.

"The building went from The Granite Club to The German Association to The 48th Highlanders and

then the City bought it under pressure from the neighbourhood," he told me. "If you look back to The 519's founding, we were created by a bunch of neighbours who wanted a place to come together and organize."

From being YukYuks' first location in the basement and the start of comedians' careers including Jim Carey's first standup routines, the building has housed a lot more laughter and inclusivity since.

But the 519 is so much more than bricks. On any given day, in one room of the building there can be workshops on bondage safety and in another room, parents of gay kids, and in another, straight-identified folks in a neighbourhood planning session. The bricks enclose a community with a number of differences, but they share the space in a friendly, equitable and mutually supportive way.

The programs and communities at the centre are like bubbles in a bath, growing or popping or dissolving,



but always responding to what's going on in the present. Other organizations' ultimate goal is to not be around anymore. Because they are issue-based organizations, once they solve the issue, their purpose disappears. The 519's goal is to stick around by responding to the ever-changing issues in our community by creating a new bubble of support.

"The bulk of the programming [here] is run by the community. We've got over 80 community-led programs that offer anything from dance to political organizing groups from 12-step programs to peer support programs, yoga, parenting..." says Cutler. "It's really quite diverse and it changes and shifts based on what issues are important to people."

Clearly the community sees this as valuable. The building expanded by 40% in 2010 and is already full again. "This neighbourhood is about 40,000 people, 96% live in high-rise or mid-rise condos or apartments, over half live alone, so the risk of social isolation is severe. [People] want to know that there are non-transactional ways they can connect—where you don't have to buy a beer or a coffee to meet people," Cutler explains.

One big bubble is The 519's newcomer and refugee program. Over the course of five years it went from a handful of refugees who provided peer support to each another, to becoming a program that now sees hundreds of people every week. The 519 responded to the trend by getting short-term funding from the United Way for one full-time staff to help support the program's growth.

The 519 also forayed into a capitalistic framework by opening the popular restaurant Fabarnak. Cutler elaborates, "Our trans people and youth are not getting jobs, and the community said, 'let's try and create employment for them while at the same time, making money and doing good business.'"

"We also heard from the community that the park next to us wasn't welcoming so we worked with a group to develop programming there like yoga and concerts and movie nights," he added.

Inseparable from the community it serves, Cutler explains that The 519's work "requires a certain way of thinking to enable people to do the work, not take it over, or to make it a staffed event. To really get people fully engaged in it."

But it isn't just the Village residents that have an invested interest. The 519 has about 8,000 members

from all over the city and "It unofficially serves as a tourism information centre for the village. Lots of people drop by to pick up the magazines and events listings to find out what's going on," says Cutler.

The wildly successful Green Space returns again this year for WorldPride celebrations with programming from Thursday to Sunday June 26-30, and will draw thousands for its unique and fabulously fun events ([greenspaceto.org](http://greenspaceto.org)).

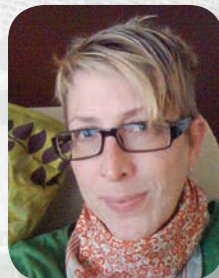
The 519 is already looking to planning for the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games starting July 2015. "We're working to make the Games the most LGBT-inclusive games in history," declares Cutler.

As the pavilion "Pride House" for the Games, The 519 will be a destination location. There will be receptions and events that celebrate athletes, para-athletes, a place to watch the games, art and archival installations about LGBTQ+ and sports communities as well as speaking and educational events about the major issues our communities face.

"The growing momentum of health and wellness of our community begins with the Games and moves forward to the Athletic Centre breaking ground after 2015," says Cutler. The Athletic Centre is meant to engage more trans communities, women, youth in sport and recreation. "Everyone from a reluctant spectator to an elite athlete in the same space allows us to promote body, gender, and athletic diversity and use the space [in a way that allows] conversations that need to happen."

Want to get involved? Make a donation, become a member, volunteer, reach out and support people who are doing the work, talk to others and not just over social media. Visit [the519.org](http://the519.org).

.....  
*Karen works as a corporate communications professional and a freelance writer. She prefers being free to explore and write about things beyond policy and procedure and nearer possibilities and play.*







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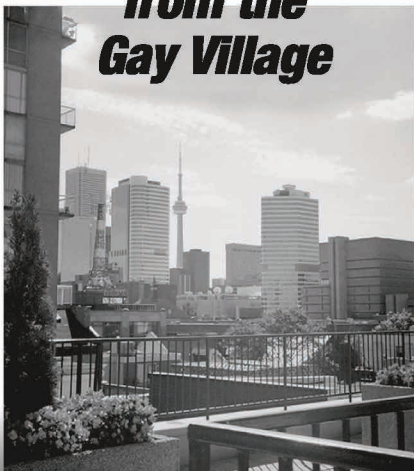
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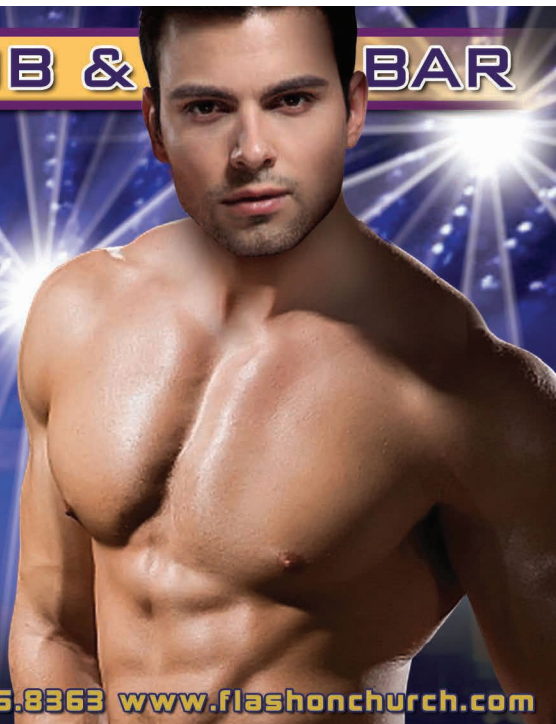
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# WorldPride GUIDE



**June 20 - 7pm**

## **WorldPride 2014 Opening Ceremony**

**Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen Street West, Toronto**

One incredible night of spectacle, substance and celebration in Nathan Phillip's Square. Featuring performances by Melissa Etheridge, Deborah Cox, Steve Grand and more!

**June 25 - 6:30 pm**

## **WorldPride Gala and Awards**

**Arcadian Court, 401 Bay St, 8th floor, Toronto**

Join Pride Toronto for an unforgettable evening, as we honour leaders in the global LGBTQ movement with the WorldPride Awards.

**June 25-27 - 9 am**

## **WorldPride Human Rights Conference**

**Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies 15 King's**

**College Circle, Toronto**

An exciting gathering of activists, artists, educators, journalists, policymakers, students, and others engaged in LGBTTIQQ2SA\* human rights around the world. The conference provides a unique opportunity for a global dialogue about LGBTTIQQ2SA\* human rights, ranging from performances to presentations, politics to policies, and activists to academics.

**June 17th to 29th - 12 pm**

## **The Sex Offensive**

**Event Location: Propeller Centre for the Visual Arts, 984 Queen Street West, Toronto**

A juried international open call art exhibit celebrating the accomplishments of the LGBTQ communities across the world and addressing the challenges that remain.

**June 27th – 7 pm**

### **Clean, Sober & Proud**

**Paul Kane Parkette, Wellesley Street just West of Church Street**

A substance free space for everyone. Festivities include live performances on the stage, holistic services and confidential recovery meetings. The space provides clean and sober fun as a great alternative! Come on out to the Clean Sober & Proud space, sit on the lawn and enjoy the shows.



**Friday June 27th –**

**June 28th & June 29th –**

**10 am to 5 pm**

### **Family Pride**

**83 Alexander Street, southeast corner of Church and Alexander streets**

Family Pride is a kid-friendly zone at the festival open to children and their families or guardians with activities and entertainment geared to kids and families and is located at the Church Street Junior Public School.

**June 27th – 10 am**

### **CAMP FIRES: THE QUEER BAROQUE OF LÉOPOLD L. FOULEM, PAUL MATHIEU AND RICHARD MILETTE**

**Gardiner Museum, 111 Queen's Park, Toronto**

Camp Fires: The Queer Baroque of Léopold L. Foulem, Paul Mathieu and Richard Milette explores the concept of "Camp" as manifested in the works of three important francophone Canadian ceramic artists.

**June 27th – 11 am**

### **WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SEEN PHOTOGRAPHY AND QUEER VISIBILITY**

**Ryerson Image Centre - Main Gallery, 33 Gould Street, Toronto**

Guest Curated by: Sophie Hackett

This exhibition takes a closer look at rich photographic records, and the ways photographs have served to bring to light a sense of collective characteristics, experiences and ambitions for queer communities.

Featuring a broad range of materials from the Black Star Collection at Ryerson University, the Canadian Lesbian + Gay Archives (Toronto), and other prominent collections in the United States and Europe, this range of photographs argues for the continued validity — necessity, even — of making queer people visible, collectively and individually.

**June 27th – 11 am**

### **GENERATIONS OF QUEER**

**Onsite [at] OCAD University, 230 Richmond Street, Toronto**

Robert Flack | John Greyson | Elisha Lim | Kiley May  
Curated by: Lisa Deanne Smith

This exhibition centres on storytelling; creating a dialogue between the works of two senior artists and two younger artists who have come into queer discourses as beneficiaries of the activism of their pre-decessors.

**June 27th & 28th – 11 am**

### **Ross Watson Exhibition**

**IX Gallery, 11 Davies Avenue #101, Toronto**

This exceptional solo exhibition is the first in Canada for the celebrated Australian artist, who loves and knows Toronto well, and whose art has been included in the Toronto International Art Fair. "I'm excited to see friends and collectors of my art again in Toronto, which has many great things in common with Melbourne — art, cuisine and multi-culturalism."

**June 27th – 12 pm**

### **YMCA "RISE UP and TAKE PRIDE" workshop**

**Toronto Central Grosvenor St YMCA Centre, 20 Grosvenor Street, Toronto**

90 minute workshop with activities and discussions that encourage participants to think critically about homophobia and heterosexism.

Delivered by T.E.A.C.H. (Teens Educating and Challenging Homophobia) team members. All ages are welcome

**Friday June 27th – Rally at North Stage – 7 pm**

### **Trans March**

The Trans March is one of the largest events of the trans communities in the GTA. Since it began in 2009, the Trans March has provided a place for trans identified people to rally, to stand up and come together in solidarity. It is a community focused event providing a safe space for trans people.

**June 28th – 9 am**

### **The International Asexuality Conference**

**Rogers Communications Centre, 80 Gould St, Toronto**

This one day conference will include panels and workshops by leading asexual activists and educators such as David Jay, the founder of the Asexual Visibility and Education Network, and Sara Beth Brooks, the founder of Asexual Awareness Week. There will also be talks on the history of asexuality, and workshops.

**June 28th – 10 am**

### **Celebrate Our UFCW Canada Pride**

**Sheraton Centre Hotel - Civic Ballroom and Foyer, 123 Queen St. W., Toronto**

Open to all UFCW members, families, friends, community activists and community organizations.

Enjoy music, arts, cultural activities with refreshments and snacks for attendees.

Find out about WorldPride festivities via information booths on site and learn about what your union is doing to make a difference for our LGBT communities and with our national partners.





**June 28th – 11 am**

### **SS Steamworks**

The River Gambler Pier 31, 333 Lakeshore Blvd East, Toronto

4-hour cruise around the harbour on the River Gambler, which has Toronto's largest open deck dance floor with live DJ.

2 cash bars and an indoor lounge — mix & mingle and experience the city in a whole new way.

Boat sails promptly at 12 noon, rain or shine. Boarding begins at 11:30 a.m. -- Don't miss the boat!

**Saturday June 28th**

### **Dyke March**

12:30pm Sign-Making in Allan Gardens

1:30pm Rally in Allan Gardens

2:00pm Dyke March

The Dyke March is a grassroots event where women and trans people in LGBTTIQQ2SA communities take over the streets of Toronto. Not just a parade — it is a political demonstration; a moment to revel in the strength, diversity and passion of LGBTTIQQ2SA women and trans community.

**Saturday June 28th – 2 pm**

### **Fruit Loopz**

Alexander Parkette, 12 Alexander Street, Toronto

Fruit Loopz Youth program is a festival of arts, words and ideas for youth by youth. It is a community collaboration presented by Pride Toronto and programmed by Supporting Our Youth (SOY) aiming to build stronger

connections and create a home base to a vibrant community of queer and trans youth. Everyone is welcome at this FREE family-friendly, drug- and alcohol-free, youth-focused space. ASL interpretation and wheelchair access.

**June 28th – 2 pm**

### **Community Mural Project – Celebrating Queer & Trans Newcomers**

Allan Gardens, 19 Horticultural Ave, Toronto

Community Mural Project – Celebrating Queer & Trans Newcomers! Explore your creativity. Share your story. Collaborate in community. Open to all Queer & Trans Newcomers, Immigrants, Refugees and Non Status Folks.

**June 28th – 5 pm**

### **Franco Village**

Allan Gardens, 19 Horticultural Ave, Toronto

Le samedi 28 juin, les francophones et francophiles de partout pourront converger vers le l'espace francophone situé de Allan Gardens.

**June 28th – 9 pm**

### **Two Tasty Ladies presents "Hey Lady! It's PRIDE!"**

Keating Channel Pub & Grill, 2 Villiers Street, Toronto

Two Tasty Ladies Catering and Events presents "Hey Lady! It's Pride!" featuring Shawnee

This WorldPride affiliated event includes Miss Brittany Scott opening for SHAWNEE followed by DJ CAT to dance us into the wee hours.

**June 29th – 11 am**

### **MCC Toronto's CHURCH ON CHURCH STREET**

South Stage, 436 Church Street, Toronto

Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto's PRIDE Service with Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes. Joyful music of the Choir featuring special guests. Amazing service every year. All welcome!!!

**June 29th – 11 am**

### **Ross Watson Exhibition**

IX Gallery 11 Davies Avenue #101, Toronto

This exceptional solo exhibition is the first in Canada for the celebrated Australian artist, who loves and knows Toronto well, and whose art has been included in the Toronto International Art Fair. "I'm excited to see friends and collectors of my art again in Toronto, which has many great things in common with Melbourne - art, cuisine and multi-culturalism."



**June 29th – 11 am**

### **MCC Toronto's CHURCH ON CHURCH STREET – A WorldPride Affiliate Event**

South Stage 436 Church Street, Toronto

Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto's PRIDE Service with Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes. Joyful music of the Choir featuring special guests. Amazing service every year. All welcome!!

**June 29th – 11 am**

### **Landed: Together in Canada**

The RBC Emerging Artists Project Gallery in the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre 189 Yonge St., Toronto

Landed: Together in Canada is a multimedia installation by Toronto-based artist Sarah Foy. The installation tells stories of same-sex binational couples who immigrated to Canada because they could not live together in the United States. The project explores how these couples struggled to stay together, how they decided to immigrate to Canada, and how recent changes in U.S. law will (or will not) affect their plans for the future.

**June 29th – 1 pm**

## **WorldPride Parade**

Join us for the largest Pride Parade Canada has ever seen! That's right — due to overwhelming enthusiasm from our communities, parade entrants have surpassed expectations and they are starting the parade an hour early!

This year, Toronto celebrates 34 years of Pride and the excitement of hosting WorldPride 2014. From the corner of Church St and Bloor St all the way down Yonge St to Yonge-Dundas Square.

**June 29th – 2 pm**

### **DJ & Diva Central**

OLG Central Stage, Church & Maitland Streets, Toronto

DJ & Diva Central fires up for a full three days of programming at OLG Central Stage. In the heart of Toronto's Village neighbourhood, a parking lot is transformed into an open-air clubbing experience featuring a non-stop rotation of DJs and divas. Open from Friday 27 June to Sunday 29 June, "DJ & Diva Central" features DJ/Producers David Morales, Barry Harris, Quentin Harris, Hector Fonseca, Cajmere Wray and a very special vocal performance by 'the original Weather Girl', Martha Wash.

**June 29th – 2 pm**

### **Dirty Disco**

Bud Light South Stage, 436 Church Street, Toronto

Pandemonium in a parking lot! Featuring Canadian EDM icons delivering their annual message of mayhem with very special guest Dave Audé.

**June 29th – 3 pm**

### **North Stage Sunday**

North Stage Intersection of Church Street & Isabella Street, Toronto

Our North Stage is a jam packed weekend of performers and DJs from Toronto's diverse Trans\* and gender-independent communities.

**June 29th – 5 pm**

### **WorldPride 2014 Toronto Closing Ceremony**

Yonge-Dundas Square, 1 Dundas St E, Toronto

An incredible showcase of live performances including Tegan and Sara and awards in the heart of downtown Toronto after the WorldPride 2014 Parade, culminating in a free concert not to be missed!

This is just a small sampling of the events being held at WorldPride 2014, please see WorldPride 2014 official site for a full list of events [www.worldpridetoronto.com](http://www.worldpridetoronto.com)

For more events happening around Toronto, see our "Summer in the City" Feature.





# SUMMER in the CITY

by Ori Dagan

Toronto has been gearing up for WorldPride 2014 for years now, and by the time this magazine goes to print many of us are feeling enough excitement to warrant an exclamation mark! After all, Pride celebrations in this city have, in recent years, been “out of this world” and this year the world will be here! If the programming planned by Pride Toronto wasn’t enough, tourists will be able to also enjoy the Toronto Jazz Festival (June 19-28), which coincides so perfectly with WorldPride that there will be several joint presentations. On June 20, Opening Night will feature rock star Melissa Etheridge paired with Deborah Cox, and on the second weekend, the Hard Rock Cafe will house Broadway (see Winterplay 2014) on Friday June 27 at 10pm and one very cool band performing two shows on Saturday, June 28:

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Kelly and the Kellygirls

Co-Presented by Toronto Jazz Festival and Pride Toronto  
June 28

10pm and 11:30pm  
Hard Rock Cafe, 279 Yonge Street  
1-855-985-5000  
\$25

- Toronto's R.Kelly Clipperton is a modern day Renaissance Man with
- an impressive skillset. Musician, photographer, costume designer,
- playwright, actor, and in-demand hairstylist, he has been the
- visionary and bandleader for Kelly & the Kellygirls since 2003.
- “I balance everything because I plan to, it really is that simple,”
- says Clipperton. “I’m not an idle person, I’m constantly on the
- move and everyday life is scheduled down to the minute with
- styling, writing and rehearsing music, shooting for a new series



of photos—I just book it all in. I've been making quite a few short films of late and when I start editing those I become seriously obsessed—I love it! My poor husband knows that he's going to lose me to the edit suite for a bit."

Kelly and the Kellygirls, currently a 7-piece band, features original compositions by Clipperton. Clearly not one to be generic, this man's music fuses elements of ska, swing, mariachi, reggae and

flamenco; the group is known for a dramatic stage of theatrics when performing live.

The latest album by the band features Clipperton duetting with the legendary Carole Pope. "Carole and I met a decade back doing shows together around the country," he says. "She lives in New York now and I sent her a note last year saying I wanted to do a duet with her on this new album I was writing. When I wrote 'Vodka & Cynicism' I just knew it was perfect for us. Thankfully she loved it."

The two shows at Hard Rock Cafe are bound to be memorable—do not miss the sweet vibrations of these incredible musicians.

**TIP:** Check out Kelly and the Kellygirls' awesome music videos on YouTube, including "Vodka & Cynicism" featuring Carole Pope!

## TORI AMOS

August 8

8pm

Massey Hall, 178 Victoria Street

416-872-4255

\$69.50 - \$89.50

Speaking of electric performances and unconventional artists, later this summer Tori Amos fans will be treated to one of her epic live performances. Amos, who was voted one of the best live performers of all time by *Rolling Stone*, has been touring relentlessly since 1991 and is known for her energized, soul-charged concerts. Her first performances at the age of 13, were at gay bars, where she was chaperoned by her Methodist minister father, and over the years her fierce support of LGBTQ+ rights have made her a gay icon. The singer, songwriter, pianist and alternative rock goddess is currently touring in support of her 14th studio album, *Unrepentant Geraldines*.

**TIP:** This show is almost sold out, so get your tickets now!



## LET'S SWING DANCE!

Thursday Nights

The 519, 519 Church Street

[www.swinginout.ca](http://www.swinginout.ca)

Swing Dancing is becoming increasingly popular in Toronto. The go-to place to check it out is the Dovercourt House (805 Dovercourt Road) where Swing Toronto hold a weekly Saturday Night Dance. For those looking to dance specifically in a queer positive space, Swingin'OUT is Canada's first LGBTQ+ swing dance club. Founded in July 2000, they are a non-profit, volunteer-run group that offer swing dance classes for beginners and experienced dancers in the heart of Toronto's gay village. Classes are held on Thursday evenings at The 519 Community Centre. Swingin'OUT does Lindy Hop and other dances from the '30s swing era like Blues, Charleston, and Balboa, as well as the Shim Sham Shimmy and the Jitterbug Stroll, striving to provide a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for all. Beginner class is a 7-week series, no dance experience or partner required; also beyond basics, intermediate and advanced classes are available.

## ALEX PANGMAN AT THE RESERVOIR LOUNGE

July 3, August 7, September 4

7 - 9pm

Reservoir Lounge, 52 Wellington Street East

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

\$5 Cover

Speaking of Swing—we are very lucky in Toronto to have a singer who has truly earned the title of "Canada's Sweetheart of Swing!"

For swing dancing and live music, one of the best places to go is the Reservoir Lounge (52 Wellington St. East). My favourite time to go is when Alex Pangman performs on the first Thursday of every month from 7-9pm (the music continues at 9:45pm with the awesome Mary McKay,



who I also recommend, especially if you love the blues!) Alex Pangman has one of the most beautiful voices in this land, and a wonderful life story to match. Cystic Fibrosis had her down to 25% lung function and things were bleak when, through the courtesy of love and science, a donor came through and she underwent a double-lung transplant. Her life was saved and so, to the delight of many fans, was this woman's voice. Alex's courageous story has already inspired many to consider organ donation, and she is an advocate for [www.beadonor.ca](http://www.beadonor.ca). Her performances are full of joy, beauty, sensitive storytelling and above all, swing that is pure and sweet, thanks very much to her band, the Alleycats. The Reservoir is known for swing dancing but many just come for the music, the food and the drink; Peter at the bar is one of the finest bartenders around!

**TIP:** Alex Pangman's recordings are amazing gifts to take home!

## TORONTO FRINGE

July 2 to 13

Various venues including Tarragon and Factory Theatres

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

\$11; some have free programming

The Toronto Fringe is part of the "Fringe movement": a worldwide network of indie theatre festivals. The productions are selected through a lottery, so anyone can put on any show, without having to pass through a jury. Fringe is where theatre students can mount their first production outside of school, where emerging artists can get their big break, and where established artists can test out new work. It's a festival where audiences come for the adventure and the community as much as for the plays themselves. Since 1989, Toronto Fringe has grown considerably, this year featuring 148 shows in 35 venues—with a total of more than 1,100 performances. Toronto Fringe celebrates its 25th anniversary this year so you can expect big parties!

**TIP:** Toronto Fringe is launching an app this year, download it now!

## SHAKESPEARE IN HIGH PARK

June 26 to August 31

8pm (no shows on Mondays)

High Park Amphitheatre, High Park

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

Pay-What-You-Can, suggested \$20

Toronto audiences have enjoyed this summer tradition at beautiful High Park in the city's west end for over 30 years. This year, two of the Bard's plays will be performed: the musical comedy *As You Like It*, which features more songs than any of Shakespeare's works, Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays; and his bloodiest, most violent work, *Titus Andronicus* Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturday evenings. Two-time Dora award winning actor Nigel Shawn Williams will direct



*As You Like It*, and the Stratford Festival's Keira Loughran will take a stab at *Titus Andronicus*.

**TIP:** For the second year in a row, guests will be able to book tickets in advance in order to reserve a premium picnic spot for \$25 by booking online.

## FOOD SUMMERLICIOUS

July 4 to 20

Over 200 restaurants across T.O.

[www.seetorontonow.com/annual-events/summerlicious/](http://www.seetorontonow.com/annual-events/summerlicious/)

For two mouth-watering weeks in July, savour delicious three-course prix fixe menus served at close to 200 of Toronto's top restaurants. Really it's an opportunity for Torontonians to celebrate the wealth of amazing food choices we have—probably more choices than anywhere in the world when it comes to cuisine, and always new places are opening up. Lunch and dinner prix fixe menus, including starter, entree and dessert, range from \$15 to \$45. Try something new at Summerlicious!

**TIP:** Follow #LiciousTO on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

## CONCLUSION

Much like each season represented by this publication, all good things must come to an end. It has given me great pleasure to share my favourite aspects of Toronto with you readers for the past year, but as I will be focusing my energy more towards writing, recording, teaching and performing music, this will be my last column for PinkPlayMags. Please stay connected with me on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/LikeOriDagan](http://www.facebook.com/LikeOriDagan)), Twitter (@oridaganjazz), and my website ([www.oridagan.com](http://www.oridagan.com)). Special thanks to Editor-in-Chief, Jeff Harrison, for the opportunity—much love and respect to the entire PinkPlayMags team and our loyal readership!

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From the Heart

# COURAGE

Recently, on a break between clients at my clinic, I sat down and picked up one of the magazines we have lying around the office. *MacLeans*, January 20, 2014: "What Happens When Your Son Tells You He's Really a Girl. How parents, kids, teachers and doctors are navigating the new world of gender fluidity," p.38. The cover photo blew my mind and my heart—a beautiful headshot of Olie Pullen, age 11, born a boy, but now moving into the identity of a girl. I just couldn't believe the incredible courage this young person and her parents have to be put on the front cover of a national magazine. Would she be harassed? Attacked? Scrutinized? I felt both afraid for her and her family and awed by her example of "outness."

I instantly flipped to the article and read it. I was reminded that not only do young people have to find the courage to be true to their souls, but their parents also have to find it, or risk losing the opportunity to become an ally. Akiko Asano, also quoted in the *MacLeans* article, spoke about her son Matthew, who spent some time as Mathéa, and now as Mat, felt: "The idea of 'curing' Mat was 'instinctively not right'." She listened to her heart not her fear.

One afternoon sitting in the window of the Herb and Spice healthfood store eating, I gazed out at the street scene. I was on Bank Street, Ottawa, in the section considered to be the gaybourhood. Across from me is After Stonewall, the bookstore, and Wicked Wanda's. The window display in Wicked Wanda's seemed to have

“

The word courage contains the French word, “coeur,” which means “heart.”

”

changed. Upon closer inspection it seemed be moving. Three models were in the window, showing off some of the garments available in the store: a voluptuous woman, with only black tassels on her nipples, a balding gent in a leather codpiece, and another woman...well, I couldn't quite see what she was, or was not wearing from where I sat. They changed poses every minute or so, and seemed to be having a relaxed, friendly time.

They held signs up which read: “Beauty comes in all sizes.” A police car pulled up, and they disappeared. Turned out the cops were only checking in with a store clerk at the hair salon next door. The whole time I felt like going over to Wanda's and telling the models they rocked...but maybe I didn't quite have the courage to be on unfamiliar turf.

I called up an old friend in Montréal last weekend. It's been almost 10 years since we connected, but we ran into each other in the street in Ottawa a bunch of months ago, and agreed to reconnect. He is married now, and they have adopted a nine-month-old baby boy through child services. Of course this little guy, who is now 18 months old, has a traumatic past. They will have to navigate that with him as they go. What is it like for LGBTQ+ parents I wonder, who raise children with the spoken or unspoken whispers from the mainstream of “will the child grow up confused without parents in traditional sex roles?” It takes courage to be a straight parent, but to be a non-traditional parent you need to be a pioneer.

Last night, I went to a yoga class in Ottawa. My fellow yoga teacher, Nigel, was leading a prana vinyasa style class. Two friends played live music in the background. Nigel introduced the theme for the practice that night: vulnerability.

“Living life from a place of courage means being willing to be vulnerable; to be seen,” he said. “Courage isn't about being tough or avoiding difficult feelings. Instead, courage is found in our willingness to live fully, with no guarantees. It's speaking your truth, knowing that not everyone will accept it. It's being afraid of something and moving closer to it instead of running away. In this way, being courageous enough to

be vulnerable creates space for connection, possibility and incredibly enriching life experiences.”

I tensed up a bit when he started to rap on the theme, and checked around the room at the 50 or so people. I wasn't sure this tender approach was going to fly with this sporty 20-30 something group. But Nigel stayed beautifully open and held the space with no flinching or retreating. He was radiating with joy working from his heart.

The word courage contains the French word, “coeur,” which means “heart.” But bravery has always been a part of the LGBTQ+ experience. One is either mastered by their fear and stays in, or overcomes it and comes out. The very act of having to discover, admit, and own an identity that isn't the one handed to you by mainstream society, is an ordeal that takes place on all levels, physical, mental, emotional, social, spiritual. From walking down the street holding hands with your partner, to marching in the first Pride parades almost three decades ago, there has always been a risk of attracting anything from a sneer to an attack. Courage is everywhere in the LGBTQ+ community.

And then there are all the people in countries other than Canada, where the fear and oppression are so out of control, places like Russia, Uganda and the Middle East, where it is considered illegal for them to just be who they are.

Even here in Canada, we all know, deep down in our survival radar, all we need to do is walk into the wrong bar, in the wrong town, at the wrong time, and there is mortal danger. The rate of isolation, harassment, depression, addiction, self-mutilation and suicide among gay kids is higher, and is highest among all populations in trans/queer/gender fluid people. As more and more LGBTQ+ folk, like Olie Pullen, wear their hearts on their sleeve, their courage is electrifying the globe, and building Canada into a stronger and stronger example for the rest of the world. Maybe what it really means to celebrate Pride is to have Courage.

*Shelley A. Harrison is an Energy Healer in Ottawa. She graduated from the Barbara Brennan School of Healing 4-year professional training and has been working in private practice for over 10 years. She visits Toronto regularly to see clients and visit her brother, Jeff, the editor of this magazine. You can write Shelley at [fromtheheart@pinkplaymags.com](mailto:fromtheheart@pinkplaymags.com) or visit her at [www.doveheart.ca](http://www.doveheart.ca)*





# Summer Horoscopes

by Noanie

## Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

The wheels are turning and you are now headed in the right direction. You have made a conscious decision to see only the good in your life and in the world. Because of this new found awareness, more of what you are looking for shows up at your door. Enjoy abundance in all areas of your life.

## Taurus (Apr 21 – May 21)

Your stagnation has lifted and it's all systems go. It is almost as if you have transitioned into a new found knowledge base where many ideas and thoughts have entered your mind and you see the world through glasses of endless intelligence and understanding. This expansion of knowledge is now eager to express itself in its entirety.

## Gemini (May 22 – Jun 21)

You are the receiver of great knowledge and a sense of knowingness in many areas of life. Your years of mind expanding research and late nights reading through endless information, as well as your observation of other leaders has given you a profound understanding of what is needed for this economy to succeed. You are gifted with this abundance of perception so that you can become an example to all those that follow you.

## Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

Passion and excitement are the words that I hear whisper from your lips. It is these feelings that give you the confidence to step into your own strength. The mask that you once wore lays lifeless on the floor and you step forward without fear, proud to honour the power that has become you.

## Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22)

Old patterns still linger and it is time to look towards father figures in your life for support and guidance. This may be a male figure that you respect and not necessarily your own father. Draw on this person for information and work alongside him for understanding; learn to pattern your own life after his success. Take on a mentor, as it is said we learn best by example rather than by trial and error.

## Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 23)

You continue to hold the wand of victory dearest Virgo. You are experiencing breakthroughs in all levels in relation to creativity, insight and perception. Luck still rides with you everywhere you go. Take a moment to appreciate and be grateful.

## Libra (Sep 24 – Oct 23)

As the Ego falls off your radar screen, your self-love turns its sights on shining outward towards those people that you adore. Your loyalty to deep emotional relationships defines all that is good for you now at this time. You are rewarded with a sense of wonder and happiness. Learn that it is the gift of giving totally and openly to others that reaps the benefits of true completeness and utter bliss.

## Scorpio (Oct 24 – Nov 22)

The Phoenix has risen. You have received the gift of honest communication. It is time to express and explore this gift of verbal expression as you have the ability to make a difference in the lives of many. You are an artist of all levels of connecting, be it music, written word, painting, or speech. Time to take the stage young Scorpio and echo the truth.

## Sagittarius (Nov 23 – Dec 21)

Total confidence and self-worth motivate you at this time. You are rewarded for your achievements and you move forward with the ability to generate accolades towards others. This star quality that you exhibit allows you to explore something new and exciting, so enjoy life without limits.

## Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Self-doubt stands in the way of you walking down the path of happiness and success. You are letting past fears get in the way of your future. As you replay old hurts and patterns, you allow the cycle to keep generating the same results. Know that even negative things that happen have elements of good within them. It is time to have faith in all that you do.

## Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

I congratulate you on your new endeavour. You have come a long way to get where you are now today, and in this moment. Your accomplishments have come with great honesty and integrity, and I ask you to keep those traits in the forefront as you move into your incredible future.

## Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

Look back ten years to a time where you may have been financially or emotionally ruined. Today you are remembering that time and it is the filter in which you are seeing the present moment. Allow these old fears concerning money and love to fade away. If you do not, they will taint your current successes.

Written by Noanie (aka Earthgirl) of Earthgirl Holistic Healing Centre. A country girl with a city heart and an incredible intuition to boot, Noanie connects with her intuitive process allowing her to guide you gently into your futures. The doors that swing easily are the doors that you must enter. The doors that are locked should stay locked. Look for open doors. Namaste



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# Looking Back



## WorldPride

WorldPride is an international event that celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered issues on a global scale through parades, festivals and other cultural activities, from arts and entertainment, to parties, lectures and symposiums. It is organized by InterPride.

InterPride is an international LGBT entity that has been in continuous operation since the 1980s. It was officially incorporated in the State of Texas, of all places. Surprising, no? I guess that makes cowboys, cowgirls and gender-neutral horse riders the un-official InterPride ambassadors.

Geared towards networking, education and mentoring, InterPride boasts a membership of more than 160 Pride Organizations, with worldwide representation from more than 162 cities in over 35 countries.

In April 1981, Pride Coordinators Rick Turner, from San Francisco, and Marsha H. Levine, from Boston, met at "Call to Unite"—a gay and lesbian leadership conference in Los Angeles. The two started an organization then known as NOLAG: National Organization of Lesbians and Gays. Focusing on common issues that faced their individual Pride Organizations, they found that their connections with the New York and Los Angeles Pride committees were a boon for problem solving. They both felt that this trading of information and resources was vital and looked to develop it into a potential ongoing network.

A year-and-a-half later, Levine sent out a call for the First Annual Conference of the National Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators (NAL/GPC) to meet in Boston. With the aid of Doug Moore, San Diego's Gay Pride Committee chairperson, and donations from Los Angeles and Boston Pride Committees, the first comprehensive mailing list was created.

On October 9th, 1982, in the historic Hill House brownstone on famous Beacon Hill, members from Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, San Diego and San Francisco Pride committees gathered. The meeting site was just down the road from the renowned Freedom Trail. That gathering set the foundation for the eventual creation of WorldPride.

From 2014, the 45th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, WorldPride will be held on a five-year cycle. The inaugural festival was held in Rome in 2000. Jerusalem hosted in 2006, London in 2012, and Toronto won the bid for 2014. The rainbow torch will then be passed on to Madrid, once the last of the glitter has been thrown, the last round of drinks has been bought and the last dance has been danced.

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