



# The OUTbox

A PUBLICATION OF OUTniagara 

Fall Edition  
September 2010

## 2010 Pride in Niagara Festival

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### Flag raising at St. Catharines city hall



An enthusiastic crowd applauds and takes pictures as the rainbow flag is hoisted to the top of the pole.

### Our Rainbow Flag

By Michael Lukacsy

Thirty-two years ago,  
In its inaugural appearance  
Our rainbow flag was flown

On June 25<sup>th</sup> 1978,  
Gay Freedom Day in St. Francisco,  
Our rainbow flag was flown

Reflecting diversity in our community  
And symbolizing  
Red for life  
Orange, healing  
Yellow, sunlight

Green, nature  
Blue, serenity  
And violet, spirit  
Our rainbow flag was flown

Since then, together, we assemble and unite  
To celebrate the strength and accomplishments  
Of brave, courageous and valiant souls

We thank you and honour you, Gilbert Baker  
As we gaze above with hearts beaming  
Our rainbow flag flies...

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**2010 Pride in Niagara Festival** ...continued from page 1



**Melissa Gray, Brian Kremen and St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan**



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# 2010 Pride in Niagara Festival ...continued from page 2



**Melissa Gray, JoAnn Theobald, St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan**

## Award of appreciation



Brian Scriver and Joan Wiley hug after Brian was recognized for his tireless contribution to OUTspoken, a radio show on CFBU. The last show aired in March 2010. The award was presented at the beginning of Pride event in June at Envy Lounge.

## The Ed Eldred Award



Joan Wiley, third from left, relaxes with friends after receiving the inaugural Ed Eldred Volunteer of the Year Award from Pride Niagara at the end-of-Pride event at Envy Lounge.



# Community Health Centre opening interim site

The Greater St. Catharines Community Health Centre's (GSCCHC) interim site is projected to open in December 2010, with construction beginning this August.

The interim site, located at 145 Queenston St., represents a very important step in a journey initiated by the St. Catharines community in 2007. It is the product of a collaborative effort on the part of residents, health and social service providers, the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (HNHB LHIN) and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. The interim site will offer a holistic approach to improving the health of individuals, families and communities. An interdisciplinary team of highly qualified physicians, nurse practitioners, health promoters, outreach workers, social workers and dieticians will address physical health needs as well as consider how health promotion, illness prevention, the social determinants of health, and community well-being all relate to the overall health of individuals.


George Kurzawa, Chair of the CHC Board points out that "Community Health Centres are a local strategy supportive of a research-based call to address all the social determinants of health. The overall goal is to ensure that each and every one of us has the capacity to live healthy lives."

While interim site construction is underway the GSCCHC will be providing primary health care services at 145 Queenston St., suite 100 as well as through various points of service such as social service agencies and schools in St. Catharines.

"Community Health Centres play a vital role in Ontario's health care system," said Juanita Gledhill, chair of the HNHB LHIN. They are designed for people in our communities who experience barriers in accessing primary health care services. These barriers may be due to a variety of considerations including language, culture, income, isolation and others. Admission priority will be given to those residents who do not currently have a primary health care practitioner and to those who experience barriers.

The Greater St. Catharines CHC will serve the citizens of St. Catharines, with an emphasis on several priority populations identified through an extensive community engagement process. These will include isolated seniors, sexually and gender diverse residents (lesbian, gay, and bisexual, transgender or LGBTQ), persons who are homeless/under-housed, people with mental health and addiction issues as well as concurrent disorders, and at risk children and youth.

Coletta McGrath, executive director for the centre, notes that "the interim site is a critical component of a longer term process that, thanks to funding from the current provincial government and the dedicated efforts of community members, will culminate in the opening of a permanent centre for St. Catharines in the future. In the meantime, McGrath notes "access to primary health care will increase through Suite 100 at 145 Queenston St., our points of service, and our interim site. They will serve as essential first steps as the GSCCHC continues to work towards our vision of a healthy and engaged community that participates, collaborates, celebrates and grows."



**It is the product of a collaborative effort on the part of residents, health and social service providers, the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (HNHB LHIN) and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. The interim site will offer a holistic approach to improving the health of individuals, families and communities.**

# Grimsby GSA Café a huge success



An evening that included dinner, information, entertainment and insight at Grimsby Secondary School was attended in April by close to a hundred guests.

Endorsed by the school administration and organized by the Gay-Straight Alliance at the high school, the event was intended to “try and create acceptance for LGBTQ issues in the community but also to celebrate how far we have come.”

Students in the choir and improv theatre entertained those in attendance, and selected speakers shared their

experiences. They included GSA students, a former student, a parent, and representatives from Transgender Niagara, Rainbow Youth Niagara and Niagara Pride Support Services.

Following are the comments from two of the GSA students.

Alliance. When I hear alliance, I think of a group of people working together towards one goal. That goal, here at GSS, is fighting homophobia, which is a big problem here. Many of my friends experience acts of homophobia on a daily basis. It breaks my heart sometimes when I can't be there to support and stick up for them. I'm a part of the GSA, but a lot of people don't realize that GSA stands for: Gay-Straight Alliance! I want to support my friends who are bi, gay, lesbian, trans, and questioning. These are the friends who experience homophobia. Who are we to judge what makes other people happy? I still don't understand what the big deal is. — **Kristyn Morin**

Since coming out to my friends at school, some things have definitely changed, one of those of those things being language. When I walk into a classroom or down a hall, I hear the words that people whisper. To them these are just words. However these words hold more power to them than they realize. Those words hurt. Imagine feeling different like you will never fit in. Being a teenager is already difficult on its own, but when you are put down because of your sexuality, something you have no control over, it can make you feel even worse. Words can never be erased, they are always inside you. Words are power. Now the question is: what are you going to do with that power? — **Nathan Lee**

## Relay for Life



Members of Team OUTreach take a break after setting up the team site.



Kyle McGiverin, president of Brock Pride, is awash in rainbows as a member of Team OUTreach in this year's Relay for Life at Brock University.

# Landmark trans study begins to publish results

The following is the first round of information released from an extensive provincewide study of trans issues in Ontario. More information will be released as it becomes available.

## Who are Trans People in Ontario?



### Trans PULSE E-Bulletin

Volume 1, Issue 1

July 26, 2010

Trans PULSE is a community-based research project investigating the impact of social exclusion and discrimination on the health of trans people in Ontario, Canada. Funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, this project is a partnership between researchers, trans community members, and community organizations committed to improving health outcomes for trans people. We hope that health professionals, policy makers, trans communities and allies will use the results of this research to remove barriers, create positive changes, and to improve the health and well-being of trans people.

#### Background

Our knowledge about who trans people really are is unfortunately still very limited. Many studies have focused on only those who attend certain clinics, or seek out hormone treatment or sex reassignment surgeries.(1,2) More recent studies have tried to capture what trans people "look like" by surveying people in other venues.(3) Trans PULSE has taken a unique snapshot of trans people across Ontario - people with a range of identities, relationships with their bodies, and personal beliefs about the necessity of physical transition. The information we present was collected using a unique research method that would allow us to take the most statistically accurate picture of trans people possible in Ontario.

#### Our Approach

Surveys were completed by 433 trans people age 16 or over who live, work or receive health care in Ontario, Canada. To increase accessibility, participants completed their surveys either online, via paper copy, or by telephone with a language interpreter. To participate, individuals indicated that they fit under the broad umbrella term of "trans" and were not required to have begun a social or medical gender transition.

#### Key Findings and their Impact on Policy and Practice

While previous studies conclude that for every person on the female-to-male spectrum, there are three male-to-female individuals, (1,2) our findings suggest that trans people in Ontario are about equally split. In terms of sexual orientation, participants identify across a broad range of sexual orientation identities, which is consistent with other research.(4) Our results also show that while a high percentage of Ontario trans people have post-secondary education, their income levels do not reflect this. The majority are living below the poverty line, and only 7% report personal annual incomes over \$80,000.

	FTM <sup>a</sup> %	MTF <sup>b</sup> %	Total %
<b>Gender spectrum</b>			
Female-to-male	—	—	56
Male-to-female	—	—	47
<b>Age</b>			
16-24	43	25	34
25-34	32	27	29
35-44	14	18	16
45-64	12	24	18
65+	0	6	3
<b>Place of birth</b>			
Canada	79	84	81
Outside of Canada	21	16	19
<b>Region of residence</b>			
Eastern Ontario <sup>c</sup>	13	15	15
Central Ontario	8	26	17
Metropolitan Toronto Area	45	23	32
Western Ontario	27	25	27
Northern Ontario	6	11	9
<b>Education</b>			
< High school	14	11	13
High school diploma	21	12	16
Some college or university	25	31	28
College or university degree	32	40	36
Grad/professional degree	8	6	7
<b>Personal annual income</b>			
<\$15,000	53	47	50
\$15,000 - \$29,999	21	21	21
\$30,000 - \$49,999	20	19	16
\$50,000 - \$79,999	3	12	7
\$80,000 +	3	11	7

a. Female-to-male or transmasculine spectrum, includes those identifying as gender queer  
 b. Male-to-female or transfeminine spectrum, includes those identifying as gender queer  
 c. Includes several who live in Quebec, but work or receive healthcare in Ontario  
 \* Please note: These represent statistical estimates that have a margin of error; please use caution when interpreting these numbers



# LGBTQ items of interest

From the *Globe and Mail* about the effectiveness of lesbians as parents.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/with-two-moms-the-kids-are-all-right/article1666493/>

From *Xtra* magazine, an interesting perspective by Ivan E. Coyote.

[http://www.xtra.ca/public/Vancouver/A\\_words\\_worth-8870.aspx](http://www.xtra.ca/public/Vancouver/A_words_worth-8870.aspx)

Funny video that says it all.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9gbOKwOh68>

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## **We want to hear from you!**

The submission deadline for the December 2010 issue of The OUTbox is Saturday, Nov. 27.

Tell us all about the recent activities of your organizations; send in poetry, photos or opinion pieces; submit items for our Passages column that marks and celebrates milestones in people's lives – weddings, births, deaths, adoptions, graduations, new jobs, and so on.

Don't be shy.

Items can be sent to [outbox@outniagara.ca](mailto:outbox@outniagara.ca)

We look forward to hearing from you.