

# Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

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*celebrating the lives and times of rainbow folk in Grand River country*

## *Guelph Gay Equality Newsletter → Guelph Gay & Lesbian Equality Newsletter → Guelph Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Equality Newsletter*

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# Guelph Gay Quality

DECEMBER 1983

## CHRISTMAS BANQUET UPDATE

Tickets for our first annual Christmas Banquet and Dance are on the move, and it looks like this event will be GGE's best effort to date.

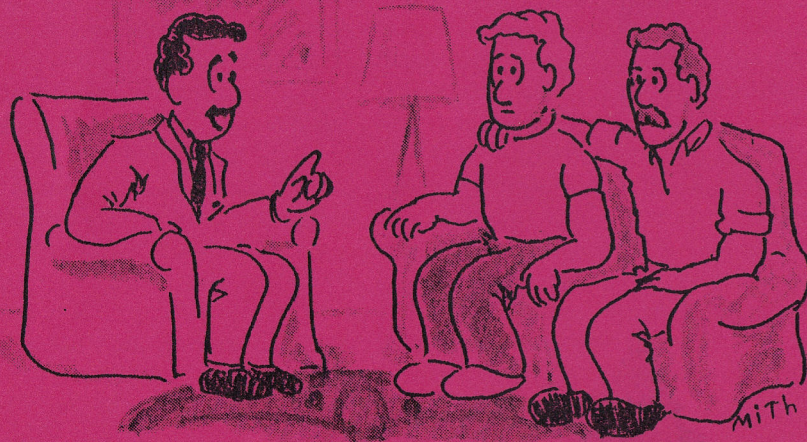
Mary Ann is gearing up for her offering and if you saw the menu in last month's Newsletter, I'm sure you'll agree that the dinner will be one to remember.

In addition to the dinner, through the evening, we will be giving away door prizes and we may even have a visitor dressed in red, so get your list ready!

For those who attend the Banquet, we will also, in addition to having a cash bar, have a variety of Dinner Wines available (bottles only), which can be purchased for LLBO price + \$1.00.

If you are planning to attend the Banquet and Dance, you should get your tickets **NOW**. The deadline for obtaining tickets to this event is December 11. No tickets

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*"Which of you plays the role of feminist in your relationship?"*

can or will be sold after the 11th of December, so don't procrastinate, do it now.

In order to obtain your tickets, see Jim or David or call the Gayline 836-4550 Monday to Friday, 7:30 to 9:30.

See you there!!

#### WILL AIDS SPREAD TO THE FAMILY?

Although AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) has been labelled the "Gay Plague" by the media, it affects other groups including Haitians, intravenous drug users and blood users (such as hemophiliacs).

Of the 50 AIDS cases reported in Canada as of October 31, 1983, there were seven women diagnosed with the disorder. An AIDS research report in the New England Journal of Medicine last May indicated that six of seven female partners of men with AIDS have shown signs of the disease. This should not be surprising, as the immune systems of men and women are virtually identical.

Will AIDS spread into the family? It has probably been there for quite some time. Married men who lead an active double gay or bisexual life are a high risk group because their sexual encounters are frequently anonymous. Those married men who mix business with

gay pleasure when visiting large American and Canadian cities should let their doctor in on their secret.

Various anti-gay groups such as the Moral Majority Inc. in the U.S. and Positive Parents in Canada are demanding that gay sex be made illegal again. Their goal, to use fear to push gay men and lesbians back into the closet is liable to make AIDS as common a family problem as chicken-pox. If gay sexuality were driven underground, gay and bisexual men would once again resort to parks and washrooms to make contacts. AIDS will be much easier to understand and control in a well-informed gay community than in an anonymous sexual underground.

Your best defence against AIDS is:

- \* know the symptoms and tell your doctor that you are gay
- \* take precautions - eliminate anonymous encounters, avoid mixing blood and semen, use condoms
- \* maintain your health - balanced diet, rest, exercise, avoid drug and alcohol abuse
- \* educate yourself, gay friends and others about AIDS
- \* volunteer time and money to support our brothers with AIDS

For more up-to-date facts about AIDS, write to:

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AIDS Committee of Toronto, Box 55, Station F, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2L4 or call 416-926-1626.

#### AIDS BABY

Miami (AP) -- So many offers have poured in from the United States and Europe to help a homeless baby with AIDS that officials "have given up tallying," as preparations begin to pick foster parents for her. The 14-month old girl, suffering from the disease that breaks down the body's immune system has spent five months in Jackson Memorial Hospital's pediatrics ward.

Her father has abandoned her, and her 33-year-old Haitian mother died of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome three weeks ago. Originally state health officials said fear of the disease caused about 20 foster homes to reject the tot, but after her plight was publicized this week, offers of assistance have poured in from as far away as England, Norway and California.

Officials "have given up tallying" the number of foster care offers for the frail, wide-eyed little girl expected to survive no longer than three years, said Jay Kassack, District administrator for the Florida Department of Health and rehabilitative services. More than 60 calls from Florida and nearly 200 from other states, Canada and Germany

had been recorded, he said. Kassack said newspapers in England and Oslo, Norway, also have inquired about the toddler, one of the fewer than 100 children Nationwide with AIDS.

Social workers are starting the formal process of identifying prospective foster parents through home studies and interviews, Kassack said. It will take at least two weeks to place the child, he said.

The girl, affectionately called "Pumpkin" by the hospital's staff, was admitted in June with symptoms that doctors described as "failure to thrive." But because she was not acutely ill, hospital officials three months ago began trying to place her in foster care so her bed would be available for a sicker child.

State officials were anxious to move her out of the private room, where her care has cost nearly \$60,000.

AIDS isn't highly contagious, but doctors believe the illness can be transmitted through intimate contact and that the baby probably got the disease from her mother.

"The child is doing well right now," said Pediatrician Dr. Gwen Scott. "She has no acute illness, but will require love, care and stimulation to improve her developmental status."

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL  
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

the gayline 836-4550

## COMING EVENTS

- Tue. Dec. 6: VIDEO MOVIE NIGHT  
Feature film, "Without a Trace"
- Thur Dec. 8: GENERAL MEETING  
A general meeting of GGE to discuss upcoming events and to set policy for the organization. All members are requested to attend. Anyone not a member, but interested in GGE is welcome. Rm. 441 U.C. at 8 PM
- Tue. Dec. 13: MUSIC NIGHT  
An evening of Music, Wine and Cheese.
- Sat. Dec. 17: CHRISTMAS BANQUET AND DANCE  
Our first annual Christmas Banquet and Dance. 611 Silvercreek Prkwy., Guelph at 6 PM. Tickets \$15.00. Ticket deadline is December 11. Ticket price includes Dance following at 9 PM.
- Sat. Dec. 17: DANCE  
Our monthly Dance at the Schoolhouse, 611 Silvercreek Prkwy., Guelph. Members \$1.50, non-members \$3.00. Starts at 9PM. NOTE CHANGE OF DAY
- Tue. Dec. 20: COFFEEHOUSE  
An informal evening of conversation and a chance to meet new friends. Refreshments available.
- Tue. Dec. 27: MEETING CANCELLED
- Tue. Jan. 3: VIDEO MOVIE NIGHT  
Feature film "Flashdance"
- Tue. Jan. 10: COFFEEHOUSE  
An informal evening of conversation and a chance to meet new friends. Refreshments available.

ALL EVENTS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ARE HELD  
IN ROOM 536, U.C. BLDG., U. of G. AT 8 PM.