

# Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

[www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/](http://www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/)

*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*

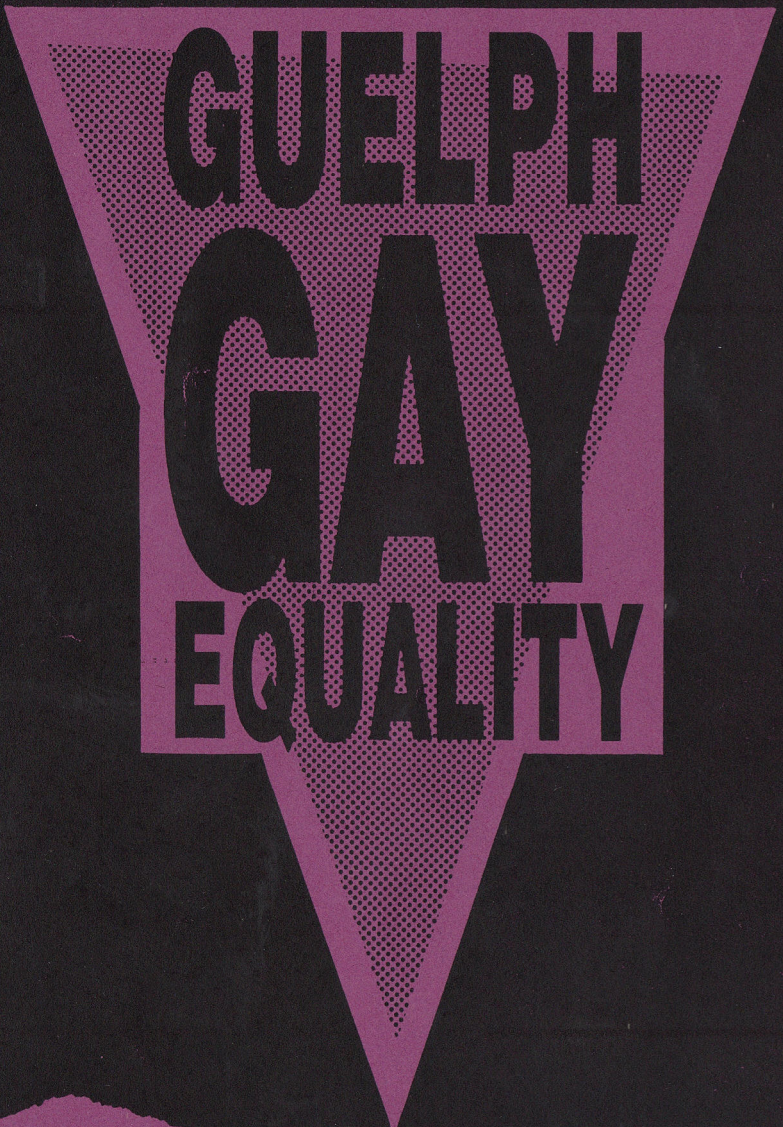
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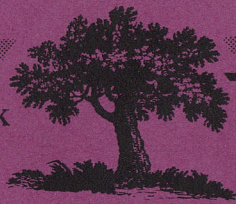
**GUELPH  
GAY  
EQUALITY**

**NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER 1989**

## AIDS report

AIDS AWARENESS WEEK

OUR CHALLENGE



**THE GGE TURNS SWEET SIXTEEN** In October, the G.G.E. celebrates its 16th birthday with a huge slab of cake at the Hallow'een dance. For those of you who are not familiar with G.G.E.'s history, and for those of you who are but care to take a nostalgic trip, the following represents the birth and growth of Guelph Gay Equality.

On September 20, 1973 a letter in the Ontario suggested that the University of Guelph needed a gay organization. Four letters followed the next week, calling the University a "sexually repressed" environment. With the help of the Ontario the authors of these letters decided to form the executive of Guelph's first gay group - the University of Guelph Homophile Association (U.G.H.A.). In a few weeks the U.G.H.A. was accredited by the Central Student's Association (C.S.A.) and was granted an operating budget. On October 24 the U.G.H.A. was officially born with its first General Meeting, attracting 30 people. On Hallow'een gays first descended on the Bullring. Weekly meetings began and a public forum on homosexuality was presented with speakers from the Community Homophile Association of Toronto, the Gay Alliance Towards Equality, and the Body Politic.

G.G.E.'s first dance, floated with a loan from the Homophile Association of London, Ontario, was held on campus in the Game's Room of Lambton Hall. The dance was almost cancelled by a homophobic Hall Counsellor, but persuasive discussion by the U.G.H.A. executive and the C.S.A. allowed for a successful dance, attended by over 100 people from Guelph and surrounding communities. By February 1974 regular dances were held in an upstairs room of the Royal Hotel; by late spring these dances were held every Friday night. The facility left much to be desired but enough money was generated to purchase a sound system, office supplies, and to start G.G.E.'s library.

In March of 1974 the U.G.H.A. staffed a "kissing booth"/information centre during College Royal, handing out several dozen cookies and tarts to cautious but supportive onlookers. Office space was provided, first in Massey Hall, then the second Floor of the new University Centre. In June, gay demonstrators upstaged Pierre Trudeau at a liberal rally in Guelph, calling for the Prime Minister's attitude on gay rights. Labour Day saw delegates sent to the 2nd Annual National Gay Conference (N.G.C.) in Winnipeg, and in December a delegate was sent to the 1st International Gay Conference in Scotland. Also in the fall of 1974 the U.G.H.A. joined with various women and racial groups to call for a censure of a sexist, racist and anti-gay residence newsletter; members also began to speak in classrooms and residence halls.

U.G.H.A. marched for and contributed to festivities for the International year of the Woman in February of 1975. The group also confronted the publishers and editors of the Guelph Daily Mercury for refusal to publish U.G.H.A. advertisements. In April delegates attended the founding meeting to the Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario (C.G.R.O., now C.L.G.R.O.) who then held their first conference in Guelph. The 24-hour Gayline was established in June, while in July delegates were sent to the 3rd Annual N.G.C. in Ottawa. The end of 1975 saw a forum on homosexuality held at the Public Library.



AIDS COMMITTEE OF GUELPH AND WELLINGTON COUNTY  
SUITE 107 73 DELHI STREET GUELPH, ONTARIO N1E 6L9  
TELEPHONE (519) 763 2255

HOURS: MONDAY AND THURSDAY, 5 - 7 PM

AI  
PLAY

In January of 1976 weekend training sessions began for Gayline volunteers, assisted by psychology services from the University and by the Guleph Distress Centre. In April the name Guelph Gay Equality was adopted to better reflect the political awareness and pride of the group. A full-time employee was hired for three months, thanks to a grant from the University's Department of student affairs, to implement a membership drive, organize the office and library, and to generally develop the group's structure. Dances were held regularly at various localities, including a hockey arena; pot-luck dinners were also a regular event. The G.G.E. began visiting gay inmates at the Guelph Correctional Centre, and was closely involved with the Sex Education Committee of the Department of Student Affairs. The "August Club" - an after-hours gay disco - was opened in the Royal Hotel but was not very successful, closing in March of the following year. Weekly meetings covered a wide range of topics: gay art; poetry readings, V.D. and health care, S & M; transvestism; feminism; coming out (attended by parents of gays); music; films.

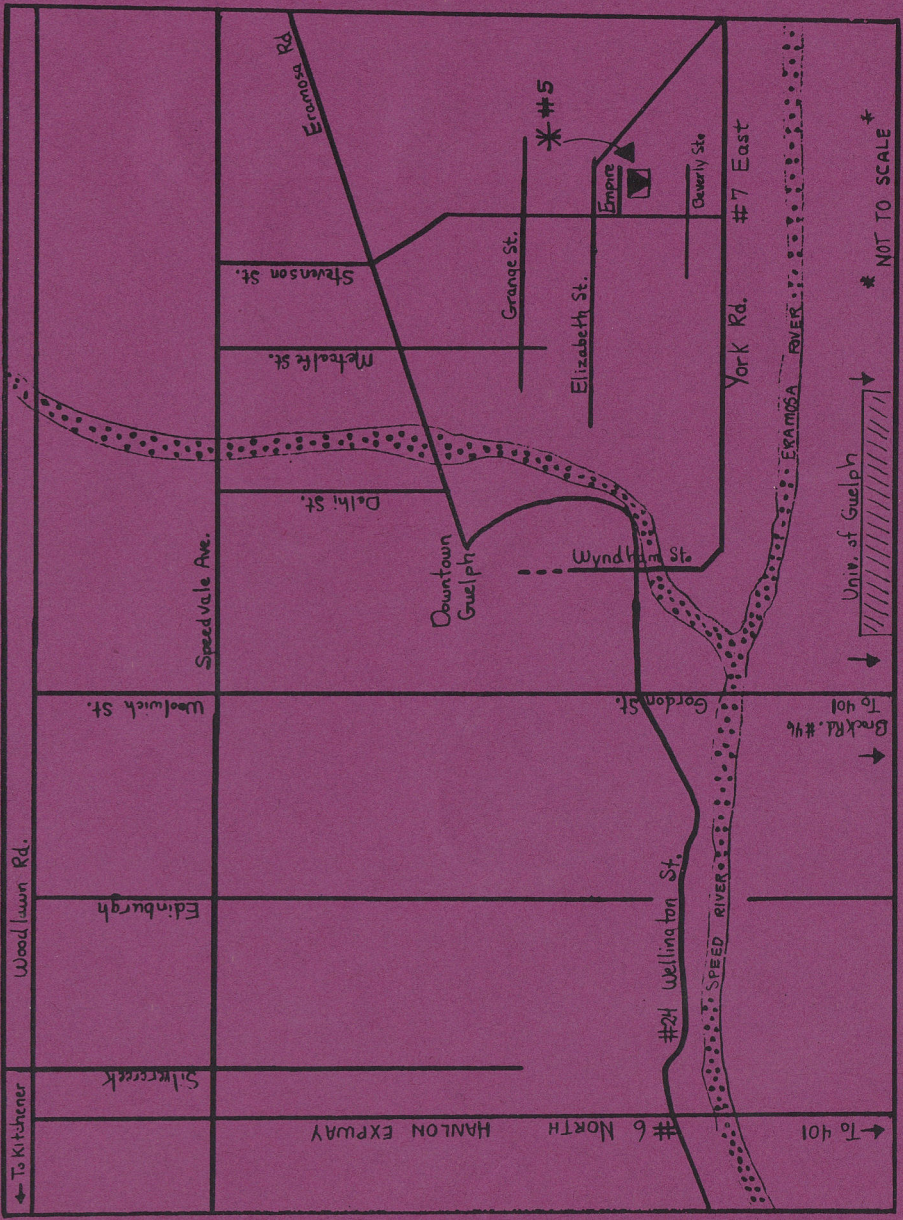
The spring of 1977 saw the beginning of a regular newsletter and the dances held at the "Schoolhouse" (United Electrical Worker's Hall). In June, Anita Bryant's campaign against gays prompted a letter-writing blitz and rallies in Toronto. Gayline hours were extended, and in July a delegate was sent to the 5th Annual N.G.C. in Saskatoon. The year 1978 brought the first successful woman's dance; a gay youth group; and attendance at the 6th Annual N.G.C. in Halifax. In 1979, the G.G.E. was involved with C.G.R.O. in lobbying the government to include sexual orientation in the Human Rights Act, and also protested (and ended) the distribution in Guelph of the anti-women and anti-gay American Fundamentalist tabloid, "Today's Student".

A major step in G.G.E.'s struggle for recognition and acceptance was granting of Community Social Service Status in 1980 which allowed organization and functioning independent of the C.S.A.'s regulations. The early 1980's saw continued weekly meetings and monthly dances, as well as special events: hosting "Experience '81", a resource-sharing conference for lesbians and gays; a highly successful Pink Triangle Dance on campus in Peter Clark hall in conjunction with "Experience '81", co-hosting the conference "Understanding Homophobia" in 1983; a fund-raising dance in 1985 for the International Gay Association Conference in Toronto. A new constitution was drafted 1982, and the "Silvercreek Society" was formed in 1985 to raise money to cover court costs surrounding the Silvercreek Park washroom scandal.

Since 1986 attendances at meetings and dances have grown. The weekly meetings continue to attract new faces and included: visits by a priest, lawyers, parents and friends of Lesbians and Gays (P.F.L.A.G.), the Metropolitan Community Church, and the AIDS Committee of Cambridge and Kitchener-Waterloo (A.C.C.K.-W.); safer sex workshops; and AIDS discussions. Activities included camping, cycling, bowling, a car rally, whitewater rafting, BBQ's and Canada's Wonderland. The G.G.E. staffed booths at Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, and at the Health Fair and AIDS Awareness Days on campus; hosted some of C.L.G.R.D.'s meetings; and gave talks at Human Sexuality and Family Studies classes, and at Stonehenge Therapeutic Community. Dances continue to grow in popularity, held mostly at the U.E.W. Hall but also at the Polish Hall and the Loft. T-Shirts were printed with G.G.E.'s new logo and for Pride Day '89. The G.G.E. was interviewed on U. of T.'s radio programme "Gaywire", and produced a regular show, "We are Everywhere", on U. of G.'s radio station CFRU. The Gayline is still a popular medium for peer counselling, while advertisements were placed in the Guelph Tribune, the Ontario, the Peak, the Guelph Daily Mercury, and on Cable 8 TV. Letters of protest were written concerning the government's feet-dragging to include sexual orientation in the Human Rights Code, Britain's Local Government Bill-Clause 28, and anti-gay slogans on the University's "Sounding Board" and discriminatory letters in the Ontario. Letters of support were sent to the AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County (A.C.G.W.C., the founding group of which included members of G.G.E.), Gay People at Carleton, the Gay and Lesbian Association at Simon Fraser, and James Egan and John Nesbit in their fight for spousal benefits. Donations were made to Womynly Fund, C.L.G.R.O., A.C.G.W.C., Gay and Lesbian Appeal, A.C.C.K.-W., P.F.L.A.G. and the John Damien Trust Fund. The book and video libraries now included many up-to-date titles on such topics as AIDS, religion and relationships.

Guelph Gay Equality is steadily maturing but the group still has lots of room to grow. Many plans are in the works but suggestions and participation by the membership is essential for continued success - this is your group and the direction it takes is in your hands. Help make the 90's successful, fun, and safe. Lonny

**AIDS - RISK DROPS** The risk of becoming infected with the AIDS virus from a blood transfusion is on the decline. According to the American Red Cross the odds of coming in contact with the virus has declined from one in 28,000 in 1987 to approximately one in 35,000. We should also note that there has never been any risk involved in donating blood. Toronto Sun 100598



**EMPIRE ST - 32ND 379 TO 401**

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Gaywire 7 - 8 p.m. CIUT 89.5 FM		
MCC Services 2 PM Robins Nest			GGE Movie Night 8 p.m. UC 536		"	WOODS Games Night Cambridge ****	
MCC as above			GGE Social Night 8 p.m. UC 536		"	GGE 24 Dance at 9 p.m. Polish Hall 5 Empire St. IBoth Floors! ****	
MCC as above			GGE* Guest Speakers PFLAG 8 p.m. UC 536	WOODS Volleyball 7:45 p.m. ***	"		
MCC as above			GGE** Bowling Night 8 p.m.		"	**Bring your parents & friends **Town & Country Bowlerama 3 Victoria St. N. ***WOODS - Call Lisa for info at 879- <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">XXXX</span> ****See Map for directions	

\*\*Bring your parents & friends  
\*\*Town & Country Bowlerama  
3 Victoria St. N.  
\*\*\*WOODS - Call Lisa for info at  
879-XXXX  
\*\*\*\*See Map for directions

**NEVER AGAIN** is a short story by a GGE member who's pen name is Jason North. Jason's story will run in three parts and be completed in the January 1990 newsletter. Enjoy. (part 1)

My astrophysics text lies open on the coffee table. I have been doing astrophysics all afternoon, because I will scream if I have to think about Patrick dying in that hospital bed. He is dying, and there is absolutely nothing I can do.

I cannot even fight back. I have been a pacifist, been committed to the ideals of love and non-aggression for so long that I have forgotten how to fight. Why did they have to murder the man I love?

Hold the scream down, Jason, try to regain your serenity. Hold the scream in, no matter that to deny emotions is bad for your health. If you break down now, then you will not be able to handle any news that comes.

I curse you who beat the life out of him. Five of you to attack one unarmed man? Watch your steps from now on, for I will be behind you until I strike. Then it's a dagger I will make of my hatred, and your hearts that it shall find.

No! Violence is not the way. Hatred breeds hatred, this is something I learned long ago. But it is becoming harder and harder to forget revenge. Wait, I tell myself. hope and pray that Patrick will pull through this, and that we will be together.

My hand trembles as I lift my cup. I have drunk so much herbal tea today that I feel my bladder will explode. When I put the cup down I cover my eyes with my hands. The tears are lurking there, behind my closed eyelids. But I must be strong; I can not, will not, let those tears fall.

"Are you sure you don't want a glass of wine?" Mrs. Hudson asks.

Mrs Hudson has spent all afternoon in the living room of our apartment, rocking and knitting. And she has been watching me over the click of the needles.

Earlier she offered me a glass of the special wine she is saving for her grandson's graduation. I refused. It should be drunk on a festive occasion.

More importantly, I want to face whatever happens with a clear mind.

The phone rings and I leap at it, nearly knocking over the coffee table. I have been lunging for the phone for two days, ever since Patrick was hospitalized. Both Mrs. Hudson and Brian have learned not to get in my way.

"Hello" I cry, hoping that it's Patrick telling me it's all a practical joke. He does things like that sometimes. Perhaps it is our doctor, telling me that Patrick will live. Goddess, let it be!

It's neither. It is my mother. Damn.

"Mother," I insert a false note of cheer into my voice. "How are you? Yes, I'm still living at Patrick's."

My mother babbles on for a few seconds. Then she starts in on the real reason for her call.

"Mother, I wish you wouldn't call Patrick that. Yes, I know we are living in sin. Did you ever stop to think that I might like it?"

Mrs. Hudson has stopped rocking, her needles stilled.

"Mother! The man is dying. Do you understand that? What? Well, if he's going straight to hell then so am I! With any luck it will be soon!"

The bells inside the body of the telephone give a startled ghost of a ring when I slam the receiver down. I stare at it, clinging on inner reserves of strength to fend off the urge to run screaming from the house.

Mrs. Hudson resumes her rocking. "The next time she calls, let me talk to her."

We do not have long to wait. Five minutes later, almost to the second, the phone rings again. I listen to my mother's dithering for a moment, then wordlessly hand the receiver to Mrs. Hudson.

Mrs. North? This is Mrs. Hudson, I'm Jason's landlady, and I want to say a few things to you. What business is it of mine? Jason and Patrick are like my own children, and I hate to see anybody hurt them. Yes, I said hurt.

Jason and Patrick are very much in love. Patrick is hanging on by a thread and Jason is an absolute wreck. The poor boy is very distraught, and you are not helping matters. In fact, you are doing positive harm. I suggest you not call back until you are willing to act like a true Christian. Good day, Mrs. Jones."

"We're like children to you?" I ask when Mrs. Hudson hangs up.

"Of course you are," she says. "Brian too."

When I first moved in with Patrick, I thought Mrs. Hudson didn't approve of us. She didn't say more than four curt words to me. Then she invited the two of us down to dinner. When Patrick was out of the room she confided in me that she was delighted that he had

found someone. Mrs. Hudson told me that Patrick has been wishing for a lover for years, and she was glad it was me: "You will be good for him." she had said.

"Mother is going to be furious," I say.

"I'm furious with her. Imagine the nerve! You're her son and the man you love is dying and she says he's going to Hell? Hmph."

She resumes her knitting and my attention drifts off again. I stare at the coffee table with the book and the calculator, the cup with herbal tea in it. I was doing the same sorts of things when I first met Patrick, back when Brian and I were room-mates. A long time ago.

## MISCELLANEOUS AFFAIRS/EVENTS

### NIK TURK'S ALTERNATIVE TOP FIVE

1. PERSONAL JESUS. - Depeche Mode (2)
  2. RUN. - New Order (1)
  3. DRAMA. - Erasure (-)
  4. THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA. - Michael Crawford and Sarah Brightman (5)
  5. I GOT A BIG DICK. - Maurice Joshua (-)
- (-): indicates chart position last month

**CASEY HOUSE DONATION** Over the past year I have embarked on a journey of self-discovery. I have enjoyed a renewal such that I literally feel I have been born again. This voyage has contained many surprises that have continually kept me in awe of the process of life. There is a special person who has helped me in my adventure and who I would like to thank. You have shown me the light in myself! In your name I will donate \$100. to Casey House. Stefan B.

**GGE MEMBERSHIP** A GGE membership entitles you to a free GGE dance admission, voting privileges, discounts at GEM, GLOW and CLGRO affiliated activities and GGE newsletter free in the mail. Get yours today, only \$12.00. Help support the GGE!

**GGE T—SHIRTS** Would you like your very own GGE T—Shirt? They cost \$10.00. See Marty and get your GGE T—shirt.

**PUBLICATIONS** The GGE office receives regular issues of Xtra, Rites, RFD, LGYT newsletter, HUGS newsletter, HALO newsletter, GLO Niagara newsletter, GO Info and several others. Check out these and our library — all available in the GGE office.

**NEW DANCE LOCATION** Polish Hall, 5 Empire St. Guelph, 9 p.m.

DS:

SAFE



**XTRA!**  
Your key to Toronto's  
lesbian and gay community

Available at the Bookshelf Cafe, Quebec St.,  
Guelph and the GGE office.

**IS THERE FREE "OUT OF TOWN" SPACE?** Hello from Brampton-Bramalea all you dedicated Guelphites! I know, I know you thought you'd finally gotten me out of town. Technically I'm out of town alright, right in the heart of a booming suburbia. If you're broke like I currently am, your best bet is to stay right in Guelph.

Holy cow, one needs a money tree around here! There are twice as many money pests here to chew up your cash.

Overall its quite livable, that is, if you don't tell your auto-insurance company about it. Anyway with time the advantages of being closer to Toronto will become apparent, I think? Luckily I work even further out of town. The drive up to the Holland-Bradford Marsh everyday to work is quite okay. It's hilarious to see all those poor people driving into Toronto while I'm leaving in the morning. Travelling each day through small towns like Nobelton is just a tad better than the big parking lot of T.O. Understatement of the month!

So what's happened to all the gay football fans anyway? Gosh I leave town for not only a month and the Gryphons start to lose. C'mon guys & gals. Okay, I know its a hopeless cause but I'll never give up I guess... Hey Brad, how about those Tiger-Cats, eeh gad?! As I sit here watching Monday night football I reminisce about the many cool autumn days out in Guelph. I guess I'm still a little homesick? I think this a natural reaction considering I haven't run into any people quite as unique. Right Miss Borneo? Hey Shawn, how's your leather fetish these days, you just can't hide it anymore?! And guess what: Lonny & Dwight are smuggling killer bees into Ontario. I'm going to have to send the apicultural police after you guys! And to top it all off, Toronto is a buzy with news that Guelph has its very own Phantom...but where's the opera; Park Ave. perhaps?

Anyway, I guess I'll stop wasting valuable newsletter space. A fond hello to everyone out in Guelph. We have this silly expression up in Bradford: "The Bradford bunch; the sweetest crunch". Now what do you think this describes? When you go to the grocery store & figure it out maybe you'll think of silly me, the mad driver from hell.

Jim

## DEADLINE

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER MUST BE RECEIVED BY:  
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The GGE Newsletter is published monthly by the GGE. Typesetting and layout -  
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## RITES

A magazine for  
lesbian + gay  
liberation with a  
feminist bent!

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**STAFFED MONDAY THRU WEDNESDAY, 7:30 - 9:30 PM**

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